

## Weigh the choices on possible lawsuits

This is a message to the corporate counsel for the city of Park Ridge in the day care center issue: Christie's Carousel versus the neighbors.

Forget the common sense of the issue of whether the day care center should be there or not be there. Heck, you are attorneys; you don't use "common sense." You use the letter of the law. You advise clients the likelihood of winning or losing a case and the likely cost of losing (whether you think you will lose or not lose) and the cost of defending

See **LETTERS**, page 66

# LETTERS

*Continued from page 59*

the case. You know the city is going to get sued after their decision is made. That's a given.

The real question is:

■ Would you rather defend a case against someone suing for potential property devaluation due to a small day care center operating across the street? How are they going to prove financial damages? Are they going to pay thousands of dollars to hire an attorney to defend their position?

or

■ Would you rather defend a case against a lawsuit from a group of people that can prove financial damages (with cancelled checks) and prove future damages from your client closing their not-for-profit organization? Answer that question in the light that your client gave the day care center the permit to open. Could each parent sue for damages? Do you think one of the children's parents may be an attorney who will offer to do some pro-bono work for the school?

If you lost either lawsuit, which lawsuit would likely earn the winner punitive damages? And what if the school put some arborvities bushes up along the sidewalk side of the playground so as to block the view of the playground from across the street? What are the damages someone will sustain by looking out their window and seeing arborvities?

You are attorneys. You make the call.

**Timothy Janes**  
**Park Ridge**