

Interactions with Voice of San Diego

“City Likely to Settle with Ex-Real Estate Adviser For \$9.4M”

March 21, 2023

Question:

I am reviewing the staff report for the settlement vote tomorrow and have some related questions I'd like to get answered asap:

- Is the City Attorney's Office supportive of this settlement? Why or why not?
- Does the City Attorney's Office feel that, if approved, this settlement would appropriately resolve the allegations against Hughes?
- Can the City Attorney's Office shed any light on the reasoning behind Judge Taylor's March 14 orders re: a settlement conference and share any documents he may have shared reflecting this directive?
- Can the City Attorney's Office shed any light on the reason for Judge So's participation in the civil matter?

One more item I'd like to clarify after re-reading the staff report:

- Did Judge So essentially craft this settlement or was it negotiated between attorneys for Hughes and the city?

Response:

In response to your questions, here is a quote from City Attorney Mara W. Elliott:

“The settlement amount represents all of Jason Hughes's ill-gotten gains from the City. It is the same amount the City was seeking in litigation under the state's anti-corruption law, Section 1090, which requires disgorgement of every dollar that is obtained improperly. In addition, the City avoids trial costs estimated at upwards of \$1 million. This is an excellent result and an indisputable victory for the City.”

— Mara W. Elliott
