

CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE

JUNE 21, 2013

STATEMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY JAN GOLDSMITH REGARDING MAYOR'S USE OF POLICE FORCE AGAINST CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Having reviewed the transcript and statements from many of those present, I now have a good understanding as to what transpired at the Closed Session of the San Diego City Council on June 18, 2013.

I take issue with those who have characterized this as a “feud” between Mayor Filner and me. This is not a “feud.” This has been a continuous attempt by the Mayor to thwart my office’s ability to do the job I was elected to do. It started on January 2, 2013 at our first business meeting when he very loudly proclaimed that he is not bound to keep our office apprised of matters or follow our legal guidance. This petulant and uncooperative behavior has not stopped. We have done nothing to warrant such treatment. Mayor Filner simply does not want to be constrained by the law.

Now Mayor Filner has escalated tensions to the breaking point by using the City’s police force against my number two lawyer, Executive Assistant City Attorney Andrew Jones, a man of the highest honesty, integrity and character who I respect and admire. This was a cruel act with no basis in law. It was an extreme abuse of power that should never be tolerated in a free and democratic society. Filner has gone far over the line of decent behavior in a civilized society. We will have more to say about this issue next week on the steps we will be taking.

Please contact Mike Giorgino at (619) 533-5671 or mgiorgino@saniego.gov for more information.