SUPPLEMENT TO INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

RE: MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY / HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION AT LA QUINTA LIBRARY ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

January 9, 2019

Prepared For:

Gregory P. Priamos, Esq.
County Counsel
County of Riverside

Attorney-Client
Confidential Communication
I. **INTRODUCTION**

The primary Investigative Report in this matter was submitted to Gregory P. Priamos at approximately noon on January 7, 2019. After the report was submitted, at approximately 2:30 p.m. on January 7, 2019, Sarah Hassan, Ms. Maria Hassan’s daughter, contacted me via email to apologize that she was not available sooner and stated that she was still available to talk if I was still interested. Mr. Priamos agreed that Ms. Hassan should still be interviewed. I therefore set up a telephone interview with Ms. Sarah Hassan on January 8, 2019. That interview was recorded and transcribed. The transcript is attached to this Supplemental Report.

II. **SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH SARAH HASSAN**

Overall, Ms. Sarah Hassan did not state anything that would lead me to change the Findings of the primary Investigative Report. Her comments did strengthen the conclusion that Minerva Ochoa did get into the specifics of the resident’s complaint at the event on September 15, 2018 because Ms. Sarah Hassan very clearly recalled that her mother told her after the performance was over, but while they were still at the event, that a resident had complained about the group waving their Mexican flag and celebrating Mexico when they are in America and they should be speaking English. There would not have been any other way for Ms. Sarah Hassan to have known this information other than if Ms. Maria Hassan was aware of it at the time of the event. Ms. Sarah Hassan was certain that she learned about the resident’s complaint at the actual event.

Ms. Sarah Hassan acknowledged that changes to the program consisted solely of a change to the flags and the speech that a student was going to give. She stated that she was expecting to celebrate Mexican Independence Day since that was what her mother had told her they would be celebrating and since they were doing the celebration on the actual day that Mexico celebrates its independence. Ms. Sarah Hassan lives in the City of Coachella and did not see the flyers posted at the La Quinta Library before the event. Ms. Aguilar-Galceran told her that she never received a response from the City to her email. Ms. Sarah Hassan did not report or complain about this event to anyone else.

On Monday, September 17, 2018, she told a co-worker, Melissa Aguilar-Galceran, about what happened at the event because Ms. Aguilar-Galceran was a resident of La Quinta and Ms. Sarah Hassan felt that the City would listen to what Ms. Aguilar-Galceran had to say more, given that she was a resident.

At the event, Ms. Sarah Hassan saw that someone (likely Ms. Ochoa) spoke to her mother about something before the performance was going to start and her mother appeared upset. She later learned from her mother that Ms. Ochoa had told her that they were asked to change the music and the flags. Ms. Sarah Hassan was confused and did not understand why such a request would be made given that whoever invited them to perform had to have known the type of music and dancing that they do. Ms. Sarah Hassan also saw her mother speaking with other parents at the end of the performance, but she was not present and did not hear what her mother was saying.

Ms. Sarah Hassan was upset that the children had to go through this. Although her son
who participated (first grade) did not necessarily understand what was happening, she was very offended that someone would be upset about children performing their dances while expressing their heritage.

Ms. Sarah Hassan was primarily upset that the Mayor (or someone from the City) never apologized for what happened. She stated that even if it was a misunderstanding, or the City was not responsible for the changes, she still expected the City (since the library is in the City) to address the issue and apologize to the children. She felt that if such an apology had been given, this matter would not have continued. She sees that there are a lot of entities involved but ultimately, if something happens in the City, then the Mayor should be responsible and should address the issue. She felt the Mayor was only interested in telling everyone that she was not responsible.

This concludes this Supplemental Report.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODRUFF, SPRADLIN & SMART
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

BY:
BARBARA RAILEANU, ESQ.

Enclosure