



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

November 9, 2021

Mr. Jeff Light
Publisher and Editor, San Diego Union-Tribune
600 B Street, Suite 1201
San Diego, CA 92101

Sent via email

Re: Letter of November 4, 2021, from Jean-Paul Jassy

Dear Mr. Light,

I was surprised to receive a letter from the San Diego Union-Tribune's attorney regarding the letter I sent to you at your request on the SDUT's coverage of 101 Ash Street and related litigation.

When we spoke on zoom on October 15, 2021, I made clear that my goal in speaking with you directly was to open lines of communication so that the SDUT's stories are accurate and unbiased.

I asked for a correction of a recent story that revisited the fabricated Footnote 15 in a confidential Burke Williams Sorensen Report and reached conclusions that were not supported by law or fact. You commented that the footnote was obviously fabricated because the style of it did not match that of other footnotes in the Report. You insisted that I put my concern in writing. I pushed back because I did not have time to commit to that exercise. You said this was how retractions were handled, and referenced a law requiring that effort. Although I admitted I was not familiar with that law, I complied with your request and summarized our discussion in a letter to you dated October 19, 2021. At no time did I threaten litigation, and at no time did our conversation become tense or unpleasant. I felt heard, respected, and hopeful that our talk would lead to a stronger working relationship between the SDUT and my Office.

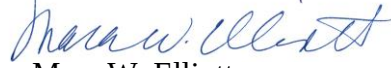
The day after I sent the requested letter to you, the City received a California Public Records Act request for communications between you and me and members of our respective staffs, as well as information on Zoom meetings between us. This seemed more than coincidental, and I contacted you to let you know as a courtesy.

I have now received a strongly worded letter essentially threatening to litigate any potential defamation claim I may bring.

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I am mystified by the actions leading to Mr. Jassy's letter, and disappointed that my effort to collaboratively engage with you was handled in this manner.

Sincerely,



Mara W. Elliott
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