

Date: 9/20/22

REVISED REPORT

Item No. 34

City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: September 20, 2022

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER CERVANTES

WARD: All Wards

SUBJECT: CITY OF RIVERSIDE OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING JULY 30, 2022 INCIDENT.

ISSUE:

Consideration of the Riverside City Council to issue an official statement in the form of a press release, outlining the facts surrounding the July 30, 2022 event at the Historic Courthouse.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve issuing a press release outlining the facts surrounding the event that occurred on July 30, 2022 and clarify that no City Councilwoman was involved in the incident where several abortion rights protesters defaced public property in the City jurisdiction. Attached is a draft outline that would be released by the City.

BACKGROUND:

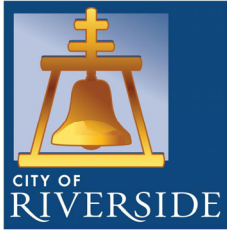
On Saturday July 30, 2022 a group of abortions rights protesters defaced the historic Courthouse causing damage to the building. Riverside County Sheriff, Chad Bianco posted a public message via social media platforms implying that a Riverside City Councilwoman was involved and/or supported the incident located in Downtown, City of Riverside. Sheriff Bianco's statements were ill-informed and placed all three Councilwomen in potential danger as they received numerous threatening communications due to the wrongful misinformation. According to spokesperson Ryan Railsback of Riverside Police Department, video evidence from the Riverside Police Department Officer's body cam corroborates the information that no City Councilwoman was involved in the incident.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the City General Fund as a result of the proposed action.

Prepared by:

Clarissa Cervantes
Councilmember, Ward 2



News Release

City of Arts & Innovation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sep. 21, 2022

Contact:

City of Riverside Releases Official Statement Regarding July 30, 2022 Incident

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – In response to a public message posted by Sheriff Chad Bianco regarding the Courthouse incident that took place on Saturday, July 30, 2022, the Riverside Police Department has confirmed that no Riverside City Councilmembers were involved in the Abortions Rights event that led to the vandalism of the historic courthouse located in the city's jurisdiction.

On Saturday, July 30, 2022 - A group of abortions rights protesters damaged the historic courthouse which led to the arrest of several members of the group. It has been confirmed that no Riverside City Council Members were investigated, involved, or arrested.

On Sunday, July 31, 2022 - Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco posted a public message on social media platforms implying that a Riverside City Councilwoman was involved and/or supported the incident located in Downtown Riverside. The Sheriff later posted on social media platforms that the Councilwoman he referred to was Councilwoman Clarissa Cervantes. Sheriff Bianco's statements were ill-informed and placed all three Councilwomen in potential danger as they received numerous threatening communications caused by the wrongful misinformation.

Councilwoman Cervantes publicly denied at a City Council Meeting and elsewhere any participation in the protest or providing support to the protesters. According to spokesperson Ryan Railsback of Riverside Police Department, video evidence from the Riverside Police Department Officer's body cam corroborates the information that Councilwoman Cervantes was not involved in this incident.

For additional details contact _____.