

WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW

The October 1 DA letter | Media publicity | Public trust

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S ITEM

How the Fairgrounds should communicate the DA's October 1 findings.

WHAT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ACTUALLY SAID

1. The evidence did not indicate a criminal offense. The DA would not pursue a criminal investigation or charges.
2. Despite several efforts, the DA could not verify the complainant's identity or legitimacy.
3. The DA called the way the complaint was referred "very irregular," especially given the media publicity. It noted such matters historically go directly to prosecutors.

WHAT THE CITY HAS SAID

Voice of San Diego reported on October 13 that Del Mar City Manager Ashley Jones said the City did not investigate the concerns or the individual before referring the matter to outside agencies. That is the City's stated account; it does not establish wrongdoing.

THE REAL HARM

Director Arabo reports damage to his reputation, significant personal legal costs, and distress to his wife and children. After he objected to the posting of their home information, the City's attorney confirmed that its public meeting packet was replaced with a redacted version. The Fairgrounds was drawn into national coverage of a criminal referral, putting public trust in board independence at risk. No measured financial loss to the District has been established.

QUESTIONS THE PUBLIC DESERVES TO UNDERSTAND

Why did this become such a public event? Why not use the direct referral channels described by the DA? What, if anything, was verified before the matter was publicly escalated? These are questions about the process, not findings that City officials created a false complaint.

A CLEAR COMMUNICATION REQUEST UNDER ITEM 6.B

Read the full DA letter aloud. Keep it and the Chair's statement prominently available. Make sure media follow-up explains both the DA's decision and its concern about the unusual publicity. Any separate investigation would need its own properly noticed agenda item.

PUBLIC SOURCES / SUPPORTING RECORD

San Diego DA Public Integrity Unit, letter dated Oct. 1, 2026
Voice of San Diego, Morning Report, Oct. 13, 2026
22nd DAA Board meeting agenda, Item 6.B, Oct. 13, 2026
