NOVEMBER 10, 2026 | DIRECTOR HANDOUT

Protecting Board Independence

Individual perspective of Director Mark Arabo - not a statement or finding adopted by the Board or a committee.

THE DOCUMENTED RECORD

- **July 31:** I objected to the online publication of my family home's location and identifying information. An attorney for the City confirmed that the earlier meeting packet was removed from the internet and replaced with a redacted version.
- **October 1:** The San Diego County District Attorney declined to investigate the referral, could not verify the complainant's identity or legitimacy, and criticized the public handling of the referral as "very irregular."
- **October 13:** Several Board members independently expressed concerns about director independence and the District's institutional reputation. This was a discussion, not a formal Board vote.
- **October 23 - November 6:** The District invited City officials to the November Board meeting and requested corrective steps. The City subsequently informed the District that it would not attend and had no further comment.

COLLEAGUES' WORDS FROM THE OCTOBER 13 TRANSCRIPT

- **Frederick Schenk:** "this could have been any one of us." (Transcript p. 104)
- **Elsa Morales-Roth:** "it's really damaging for the institution." (Transcript p. 110)
- **Donna DeBerry:** "I feel like the City of Del Mar owes the board an apology as well." (Transcript p. 105)

REQUEST FOR THE JANUARY 12, 2027 MEETING

- **Renew the invitation** for City representatives to address the Board in public.
- **Notice an action item regardless of attendance** so the Board can consider an official institutional position concerning the referral's handling, independent decision-making, and any appropriate correction or safeguards - after counsel reviews the legal and conflict-of-interest issues.

The City has a responsibility to refer genuine concerns; the District has a responsibility to safeguard its own independent governance. No finding of legal liability or vote is requested today.

Sources: Official Oct. 13 transcript, pp. 104-105, 110; Oct. 1 DA letter; July 31 correspondence with City counsel; Oct. 23 District letter; Nov. 6 City Manager reply. The Nov. 10 agenda lists this update under the CEO Report as an information item.