

A message from:

Mayor Jerry Sanders



Earlier this morning, I held a news conference to answer Mike Aguirre's charges of "corruption" against me and to address various Sunroad issues. During the first portion of the news conference, I was honored to be joined by a number of highly distinguished law enforcement and judicial officials; their names appear below.

Since I took office, I have attempted to work cooperatively with our City Attorney, to avoid conflicts with him that would obstruct progress in getting our city back on track financially and organizationally. Before I was elected, the City Attorney had demonstrated an ability to obstruct and disrupt city operations. I hoped to avoid this problem during my administration. Despite my efforts, our relationship recently deteriorated when Mr. Aguirre accused me of "corruption," a charge he leveled in retaliation for requiring him to manage his office with the same fiscal accountability that I demand from all city departments.

As a man who has dedicated himself to upholding the rule of law, I do not take words like "illegal" or "corrupt" lightly. I don't - and I won't - toss these words around. To me, they mean something. That's why I made the determination that I must address Mr. Aguirre's abuse of discretion.

I want to assure our citizens that I have done nothing unlawful nor have I acted in a corrupt fashion.

I take this accusation so seriously that I have asked the State Attorney General to evaluate Mr. Aguirre's unfounded charge of corruption against me. I want, and I think the citizens of our community deserve, a dispassionate assessment of the charges made by Mr. Aguirre. I am confident that this evaluation will conclude that I have acted properly. The Attorney General has accepted my request; a copy of his office's letter to me can be found below.

It is fine to disagree on issues and on the decisions that each of us make in the discharge of our responsibilities. The city has a number of issues that are contentious and on which people of good judgment can disagree. Such disagreement is proper and is healthy. It is entirely another thing to abuse the authority of your office in order to intimidate and/or silence those who disagree with you; to abuse the authority of your office to achieve your political objectives--no matter how high-sounding they are.

Sunroad Developments

Public safety has and always will be my first priority. As such, I vigorously support the City's prosecution of the case against Sunroad so that the Centrum 12 office building is reduced in size to 160 feet and no longer poses a danger to the public. No one who knowingly violated FAA regulations should get a free ride. It's clear that Sunroad knowingly violated the very clear advice of the FAA to limit the building to 160 feet.

I have directed DSD to issue a full Stop Work Order on the entire project. As a result of my memo yesterday to the City Attorney asking for a legal opinion from the law firm representing the City, I will issue a full stop work order on this project. I am relying on the City Attorney's advice that the City is on firm legal ground in directing that this stop work order be issued.

I call on Sunroad to do the right and honorable thing and simply re-engineer the building to meet the 160 feet height limit. I call on Sunroad to act immediately and do what's in the best interests of our community. Bring down the building now to 160 feet! As I have stated previously, no occupancy permits will be issued until this matter is fully resolved.

Guests at Mayor's News Conference:

Sheriff Bill Kolender

District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis

Police Chief Bill Lansdowne

Executive Assistant Police Chief Bill Maheu

U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of California, Steve Stafford

Judge Jesse Rodriguez, a former Superior Court Judge and now the Assistant District Attorney

Undersheriff Bill Gore, a former head of the FBI's San Diego Field Office

Dan Dzwilewski, the immediate former head of the FBI San Diego Field Office

Chief Rick Emerson from Chula Vista, president of the San Diego Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association

Justice Howard Weiner, formerly of the State's 4th District Court of Appeal

Paula Robinson, Chief of Investigations for the San Diego District Attorneys Office

Attorney David Noonan, Former San Diego County Bar Association president and current president of Volunteer Attorneys

Click the following link to see a full copy of my remarks:

http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/pdf/sunroad_press_remarks_6_21.pdf

Click the following link to see a copy of my letter to the Attorney General:

http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/pdf/letter_to_ag.pdf

Click the following link to see a copy of the Attorney General's Office to me:

http://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/pdf/letter_from_ag.pdf