



CITY OF CARSON

Also Via email

October 20, 2016

Mr. James Dear
21838 S. Figueroa Street
Carson, CA 90745

Dear Mr. Dear:

At the Carson City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, Mr. Jeffrey Bearman, Manager of Western Medical Group spoke during the audience comments period. As you are aware, Western Medical Group has been the long standing contractor for the City of Carson's Occupational Medical Services. These services include, among other things, pre-employment health and drug screening exams.

During his comments, Mr. Bearman stated that while you were the Mayor of the City of Carson, you allegedly went to Western Medical Group, displayed a badge that appeared to be a "law enforcement official's" badge, which led the lone female employee to believe that you possessed some degree of police power. By doing this you abused your position as an elected official and intimidated her into violating the City's protocol, the medical facility's established medical protocols and the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Mr. Bearman stated publicly that he had never experienced anything like that in his entire career. Since the date of the council meeting, the City has since learned more shocking and disturbing details concerning your visit. Specifically that you came to the medical center in late 2013, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight. You were also accompanied by a woman and demanded that the Western Medical staff conduct a drug screening exam. Apparently, you also had the City's official drug screening request documents and demanded that the staff member email confidential and protected information of city employees to persons not legally authorized to receive this information.

Additionally, it is not clear who the woman was that you escorted to Western Medical. Assuming that woman was an applicant for employment with the City of Carson, it is impossible to determine the legitimacy of the drug screening results that the City received for hiring purposes because we do not know her identity.

The public revelation of your actions in this instance has compromised the integrity of our personnel testing process. These actions were egregious and potentially criminal. The proper steps will be taken to address this situation in the near future.

However, this letter is being sent to you to immediately address the badge issue. In the past elected officials that contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services were once provided with "City Official" badges. Since you have held several elected positions in the City of Carson it is documented that you have received at least one such badge.

As you are aware, these badges closely resemble an official deputy sheriff's badge. Because the badge could easily be mistaken by any reasonable citizen to believe that the holder of the badge has police powers [then] State Attorney General Jerry Brown directed a cessation of the practice of issuing such badges.

In 2012, the Sheriff's Department directed all patrol station commanders to retrieve these badges from all of the elected officials in the Contract Cities. Disturbingly, it has been discovered that you are the *only* city official in the City of Carson that did not return your badge.

You must immediately return your badge no later than close of business, (6:00 p.m.) on Monday, October 24, 2016, return any official city identification that describes you as an elected official in the City of Carson to the City Clerk's Office. And by the same date return the Sheriff's Department's badge to Captain Jason Skeen at the Carson Sheriff's Station located at 21356 South Avalon Blvd., Carson, CA 90745.

Sincerely,



Kenneth C. Farfsing, City Manager
City of Carson

cc: Albert Robles, Mayor
Lula Davis-Holmes, Mayor Pro Tem
Elito Santarina, Councilman
Jawane Hilton, Councilman
Cedric Hicks, Councilman