E-mail 1, **from Jose Moreno**, Friday Sept 25, 2pm
"Urgent Request for Meeting with Community"
To Ashleigh Aitken; cc to 6 nonprofits & Greg Garcia

Good afternoon Mayor Aitken,

I'm writing on behalf of Los Amigos and our community leaders from LULAC, CHISPA, Arab American Civic Council, OCAPICA, OCCCO, and OCCORD.

As a group of organizations with decades-long histories working in the City of Anaheim to support and uplift our communities, we are requesting a meeting with you with a deep sense of urgency.

We request a meeting with you for this coming Monday, Sept. 28, after 3 pm. Our strong preference is to meet with you before the Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept 29th.
The purpose of our request is to be in conversation with you about the allegations levied against you. We have all known you and/or worked with you for over 10 years and are quite concerned about these allegations. The allegations have stirred tremendous anxieties in our communities among our families and our youth, as well as employees and business leaders in our city. Through our work and experiences, we know it is most productive to first engage in dialogue with persons or institutions that have transgressed, or are alleged to have transgressed, the ethos and values of our communities--for us, this means the specter of othering our communities in various forms including racial/ethnic slurs and negative sentiments about communities in those with positions of power.

As leaders of our respective organizations, we seek to engage in conversation with you before determining any actions. Our goal is to uplift and stand firm with our communities when we are othered, while seeking solutions and healing where needed. However, we can only do this when those who transgress, or are accused of othering and transgressing our communities are willing to engage in conversation with us. We are hopeful and optimistic that you will receive this request with the intention it is being sent — to be in dialogue, to listen, and to learn — so that any actions moving forward are taken with care and thought, and in the interest of our communities' health and well-being.

If Monday is not at all possible, we are ready and able to meet later in the week after 3 pm. We will adjust our schedules accordingly. And, as per previous emails, we welcome you to join us at the Los Amigos OC meeting on Wednesday, Oct 7th at 7:30am at the Baja Mexican Grill in downtown Anaheim.

Please reply all to this email to confirm. You can also call or message me at 562.397.9451 to confirm or if you'd like to discuss further.

With hope in our hearts,

Jose Moreno
President, Los Amigos of OC

Ps. I'm cc'ing Interim City Manager Greg Garcia as it is unclear who is assisting your office with communications at this time.

E-mail 2, **from Ashleigh Aitken**, Friday Sept 25, 5pm
To Jose Moreno; cc to 6 nonprofits & Greg Garcia

Dearest Community Leaders,

I have spent some time reaching out to you, and apologize to those that I do not have your personal phone numbers. I welcome a meeting with your organizations, and the opportunity to reiterate that I wholeheartedly deny making any racial or otherwise inappropriate statements. I will not, however, engage with Dr. Moreno as I feel it puts me in an unsafe environment. If you are still willing to sit down with me under those parameters, I would appreciate your time to discuss these very important accusations.

I take allegations like those made against me extremely serious, and they deserve to be fully investigated. I have called for an independent investigation, and will fully participate in order to clear my name and reputation. I must restate: Ms. Ballinas remains my Chief of Staff and a city employee. This is an ongoing personnel matter, and I am under strict limits on what I may discuss. I will certainly not attack her or litigate this through a whisper campaign or through the press.

As a former federal prosecutor, I believe serious allegations should be evaluated based on facts and evidence through a fair and independent process. That is why I am asking the City to retain a truly independent outside investigator of unquestioned integrity to conduct a thorough review of these allegations. I kindly ask that judgment is reserved until all facts are brought forward.

I am already committed to a YMCA event on Monday. I am available Wednesday, 11am-12, or most of Friday. Please email or reach out to me personally at [phone redacted.] I welcome productive dialogue, apologize for any hurt this has caused our community, and look forward to an honest discussion about how to move Anaheim forward.

In solidarity,
Ashleigh

E-mail 3, **from Ivon Pena of OCCORD**, Tuesday Sept 29, 8am
To Ashleigh Aitken; cc to 6 nonprofits & Greg Garcia

Dear Mayor Aitken,

Thank you for your response and for reaching out individually to members of our group. We do, however, want to be direct about our concern with the condition you have placed on meeting with us.

Our original request was made collectively, amongst local organizations including Los Amigos, OCAPICA, OCCORD, LULAC, OCCCO, Arab American Civic Council and CHISPA. Dr. Moreno reached out in his capacity as President of Los Amigos of Orange County and on behalf of a broad group of community leaders and organizations with long-standing relationships with the City of Anaheim and the communities we serve. This was not a request from one individual, nor was it intended to become a series of separate conversations with selected members of the group. We came to you as a collective community–we came to you together–in our desire to help our City and communities.

Given the seriousness of the allegations and the concern they have generated in our communities, we are disappointed that your response would require the exclusion of a member of the very group requesting this dialogue and a member who has worked for decades uplifting our Latino - Mexican-origin communities. It does not escape us that your rationale for trying to exclude Dr. Moreno raises serious racial/ethnic and gendered tropes about Latino men.

As stated in our original letter, our purpose is to listen, to understand, and to have an honest conversation about the serious concerns being raised and the impact this situation is having on the communities we collectively serve and our democratic institution.

We also recognize your call for an independent investigation and your stated intention to participate in that process. We support a process that is thorough, fair, independent, and transparent, and that is not hidden from public view by any potential NDAs that would prevent the public from understanding the situation thoroughly and accurately. At the same time, the existence of an investigation does not eliminate the need for dialogue between community leaders and the City's elected leadership during a moment of significant public concern.

We are genuinely disappointed that you have refused a meeting with us as a community, as we sought to approach this moment with seriousness, transparency, and care for the communities we serve and the trust necessary in our democratic institutions.

We remain determined in our resolve to approach this moment with an eye for dialogue and accountability. Moving forward, we will convene community conversations to provide spaces for dialogue, expression, and substantive ideas. You are welcome to join us, Mayor Aitken. As is our approach, while we may not all be welcome by you at City Hall, you are always welcome to join us in community. In the future, we hope you will meet with all of us in that same spirit.

Sincerely,
Ivon Peña, Executive Director, Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD), and Community Leaders from Los Amigos, LULAC, OCAPICA, Arab American Civic Council, OCCCO, and CHISPA.

E-mail 4, **from Ashleigh**, Tuesday Sept 29,1:30 pm
To Ivon; cc to 5 nonprofits, Jose & Greg Garcia

Dear Ivon,

Thank you for your response to my email last week. Again, I am happy to meet with all these organization collectively in my office. If you cannot accept my invitation to my office with my restrictions, that is your collective choice. But that choice is yours and not mine. You are always welcome in my office.

As a Woman's Studies major, I deeply contest the notion of a static "Latin American gender culture". I also don't subscribe to reverse sexism, as it is a fevered response to women gaining power in the home and outside of it. Women do not have historic institutional power, making your framework indefensible. I would caution accusing me of sexism and racism based on my email. The current movement of Traditional Masculinity and the calls for historic gender roles inside and outside the home is indefensible, and certainly not aligned with my values.

My invitation stands.

Ashleigh