



City of Commerce Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor John Soria Responds to Libelous December 28th Cerritos News Story

COMMERCE, CALIF (January 9, 2020) –City of Commerce Mayor John Soria denounces content of two Cerritos News stories critiquing his bold leadership on one of California’s fastest growing industries. The December 28 2019 news article informs that an earlier story where Cerritos News spoke ill of the Mayor’s leadership to incite cannabis regulations for the city prompted an internal investigation at the Mayor’s place of work.

Mayor Soria stated: “I am disappointed to learn that a story from Hews News Media or Cerritos news prompted an investigation of my workplace. I categorically and unequivocally serve the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department with pride and value my job. My leadership and role as a Councilmember have never compromised my work ethic and so I plan on working with legal counsel to work through this investigation. I fully and completely plan to cooperate.

I continue to dutifully and with courage serve the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department as a Law Enforcement Technician for over 22 years. My hard work and loyalty to the Department have been a source of pride to my family, friends and neighbors and one of the reasons I was elected to the City Council.

Consistently, Cerritos News editorial positions and story selections favor specific interests that mix facts and frame borderline questionable statements as truth. The blog’s premise is based on poor sourcing and the spreading of conspiracy theories that later must be retracted after being widely shared to major news outlets. As part of my commitment to the truth, I am reviewing my options with legal counsel to put Los Cerritos News on notice that in the City of Commerce, the truth matters.

I would like the citizens of Commerce to know the facts: which are that as Mayor of Commerce I have spearheaded the effort for the city to comply with state cannabis regulations and bring forth diverse revenue streams. These efforts are crucial especially when there are significant policy changes such as regulations against the Commerce Casino, which could result in a budget reduction of over 16-18 million dollars for the City. That is why I have also led the charge against the Attorney General’s recommendations to regulate card clubs and personally testified in Sacramento last month.

I am also ensuring that the Citadel expansion efforts result in hundreds of good jobs for our residents, community members, as well as opportunities for our youth. I continue to identify open park space projects to meet our recreational goals and I have asked staff to streamline development goals to meet our housing needs as well as encouraging innovative economic development efforts in our city.

Furthermore, I have put forth an aggressive task force of City staff to analyze our budget and recommend alternative revenue generators to continue to provide high quality vital services that our local families enjoy. Our budget funds the aquatics program, senior programs, and the future new civic center. I am also looking into bringing more law enforcement services to supplement our public safety efforts and identifying community programs such as computer and information technology jobs for our youth. I will continue to serve diligently in both my roles as Mayor of the great City of Commerce and as a Law Enforcement Technician in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Thank You."

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