



TODD SPITZER

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Supervisor Todd Spitzer's Statement on Lawsuit by On-Line News Outlet

(Orange County, CA) — Government transparency and public safety are among my paramount concerns as an elected official. I wrote the draft document central to this case with the intention of editing further and ultimately distributing it for publication. I submitted this early draft to the County Public Information Officer for review. She advised me that certain statements in the document could expose the County to legal liability because I specifically referenced the subject's mental state. Based in part on her professional advice, I decided not to continue with the opinion piece.

Regarding the events on April 3, 2015 at Wahoo's Restaurant, I took appropriate caution as a situation developed that was threatening to both to me personally and other customers in the restaurant given that it involved an unstable individual and a sharp edged potential weapon. Relying on my training as a former ten year reserve police officer for LAPD, I properly called 911 for Sheriff's Department assistance and legally detained the subject after seeking his permission. When Deputies arrived, the matter was resolved without incident. If I encountered the same situation, I would take the exact same actions.

Beyond the incident report, Sheriff's Deputies took no legal action and the subject did not file any complaint or legal claim. The Sheriff of Orange County reviewed the incident herself and concluded it warranted no additional action. I have been permitted to carry a concealed weapon for nearly twenty years without incident and my permit remains intact and unaffected. I have never been denied a permit.

After the incident, Wahoo's owner Wing Lam invited me back to visit the restaurant and personally thanked me. I was presented with a plaque of appreciation for protecting his customers and employees.



Wahoo's owner Wing Lam personally thanked Supervisor Todd Spitzer for his actions in protecting customers and presented Supervisor Spitzer with a plaque of respect and appreciation after the April 3, 2015 incident

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