For Immediate Release

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Brea City Council and Mayor Marty Simonoff use Police Department to Attack and Defame Brea School Board Member Keri Kropke

Claim Charges Official City Actions are Unprecedented Political Retribution

Brea, CA. – Brea School Board Trustee, Keri Kropke, filed a government tort claim on election day against the City of Brea and Mayor Marty Simonoff, for directing the police department to misuse official city resources to write a false and defamatory summary for a malicious political vendetta to harm her and her reelection to the Brea School Board.

The claim charges Interim Brea Police Chief Adam Hawley falsely accusing Ms. Kropke of saying derogatory and profane language at Brea Police Officers during a Black Lives Matter protest in July, 2020. The letter also falsely implied Ms. Kropke used racially charged language to insult a Brea Police Officer. Ms. Kropke’s photos, videos and witnesses will support this.

The summary exposed Ms. Kropke and her 8-year-old son to vicious online and in person attacks causing severe personal, political and professional damage. They have caused her to fear for her child’s safety and inflicted emotional distress that have damaged her reputation as a respected elected official.

“I am a public-school teacher, the granddaughter of an LAPD Officer and the proud mother of an African American child,” stated Ms. Kropke. “I respect police officers and all public servants. I have also fought for communities of color, my entire career, in and outside of my classroom and will continue to do so without intimidation.”

With knowledge the police summary was false, and in an unprecedented move, Mayor Simonoff worked with city manager, Bill Gallardo to direct the public to the city website to access the summary about Ms. Kropke to validate the City’s false version of events.

Ms. Kropke witnessed the Brea Police Department handcuff and surround a sobbing, homeless African American man who was accused of taking a muffin. As officers were leaving, Ms. Kropke provided an eyewitness account of the man being racially profiled and slandered with an “N word.” The officer “recorded Ms. Kropke’s account and strangely reported it” to Brea Police Officials who had surreptitiously been building “a file” on Ms. Kropke.

Coincidentally, when Mayor Simonoff was a police captain in Huntington Park, he was named in a lawsuit by his boss, police chief Contesetto for a “publicly released and distorted and contentious report of their aforedescribed conduct, all with the intent and purpose of impairing and destroying plaintiff’s credibility, reputation, employment and career,” as reported in the Los Angeles Times. Scott Seiden, Contesetto’s attorney, “noted that Simonoff was in line to fill Contessotto’s position.”

Los Angeles Times Article

See attachment for Keri Kropke government claim against City of Brea
See attachment for Interim Brea Chief of Police Report