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Anaheim Police Association Political Action Committee Suspends Endorsement of Mayor Ashleigh Aitken for Re-Election

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Police Association (APA) Political Action Committee (PAC) announced today that its PAC Board voted unanimously to suspend its previous endorsement of Mayor Ashleigh Aitken for re-election as Mayor of Anaheim.

The decision follows the emergence of serious allegations concerning statements and conduct attributed to Mayor Aitken involving a City employee. The APA emphasizes that these allegations are subject to an ongoing investigation and that Mayor Aitken is entitled to due process and a fair process before any conclusions are reached.

“Mayor Aitken should absolutely be afforded due process, and we respect the investigative process that is now underway,” said Cesar Aguilar, PAC Chair for the APA. “At the same time, our endorsement carries significant responsibility. If allegations of this nature had been pending when Mayor Aitken sought our endorsement, we would have likely waited for the investigation to be completed before making a decision. Suspending our endorsement now is consistent with that approach.”

The APA represents more than 400 sworn police officers who live, work and serve within the Anaheim community. The Department itself reflects the diversity of the city it serves, including Latino officers and officers from other minority communities.

“Our members come from many different backgrounds, and we serve a community that is equally diverse,” Aguilar said. “That diversity is an important part of who we are as an Association. We take seriously our responsibility to maintain the trust and confidence of the entire Anaheim community. When serious allegations involving discrimination or inappropriate conduct are raised, it is appropriate for us to step back from an endorsement while the facts are being established.”

The APA stressed that the decision is not a determination of guilt or wrongdoing, but rather a decision to temporarily suspend its political endorsement while the matter is investigated.

“Law enforcement officers understand the importance of due process and allowing investigations to run their course,” Aguilar said. “Our position is intended to respect that process while also ensuring that the APA’s endorsements reflect the values, trust and credibility that our members have worked hard to build within this community.”

The APA PAC has requested that Mayor Aitken remove the Association’s endorsement from her campaign website and other campaign materials while the allegations remain under investigation.

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