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Alameda Councilmember Lena Tam Vows Aggressive Fight Against Baseless, Politically Motivated Allegations by Interim Alameda City Manager

Alameda, CA – Alameda Councilmember Lena Tam today vowed to fight baseless allegations made by an attorney hired by Alameda Interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallant.

At the urging of Ms. Gallant, the City Council received a report at a July 6 meeting peppered with unsubstantiated allegations that Councilmember Tam improperly provided city information to various community members and business leaders in Alameda.

“The allegations against Councilwoman Tam are a blatant political abuse of power by her political enemies and city bureaucrats,” said attorney John Keke, retained by Tam to defend against the false allegations. “This is simply an attempt to keep Tam from voting on important City issues. We cannot allow unelected bureaucrats to keep the people’s representatives from doing their jobs.”

“In America, we rely on our elected officials to make matters of policy. In America, we vote to ensure our elected officials perform their duties to their constituents. In America, we do not tolerate run-away bureaucrats who bully and threaten elected officials with abuses of their power,” Keke continued.

The report appears to be political pay back for questions raised by Councilmember Tam and others about Ms. Gallant’s job performance including reports of ‘no-bid’ hiring of outside contractors with City taxpayer funds, including contractors hired by Gallant prior to her abrupt resignation as Desert Hot Springs’ City Manager in 2007.

“I know that I have done nothing wrong and that the truth will prevail,” said Councilmember Tam. “I will not back down from the duties entrusted to me by the voters of this great City under the pressure of misguided and politically motivated actions by a power hungry Interim City Manager. I ask for the continued trust of the constituents who elected me as I diligently defend myself from this unsubstantiated and improper attack.”

Alameda City Staff referred the report to the Alameda District Attorney without affording Councilmember Tam or any of the other individuals named in it an opportunity to comment or defend themselves.

Keker said he will ask that the District Attorney expedite a review of the report submitted by interim city manager Gallant and render a judgment that the report is politically motivated and has no legal merit.

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