



City of Huntington Park Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 22, 2021

City of Huntington Park's response to Assemblymember Reggie Jones- Sawyer's ethnic bias and false comments on an investigation regarding identity theft and information breach

Huntington Park, CALIF. (Thursday, April 22, 2021) - The City of Huntington Park is disappointed in Assemblymember Reggie Jones- Sawyer's recent comments during Assemblymember Rob Bonta's confirmation hearing for Attorney General. He alluded that Huntington Park and surrounding Southeast cities are compromised due to corruption.

Quite the opposite, the City of Huntington Park was a victim of an information breach, which led to an arrest. An active investigation started when on Thursday, April 8, 2021, the City became aware of a large-scale security breach of electronic financial records at Huntington Park City Hall.

The breach was intercepted and contained by the City's IT Department. The Huntington Park Police Department initiated a criminal investigation. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Bureau was requested to assist with the investigation and is now the lead agency. The FBI never "raided" the City's Finance Department, as falsely stated by Jones-Sayer.

The source of the breach was determined to be a City Hall employee. The City employee, 48 years of age, has been arrested and booked on felony charges.

Due to the nature of the investigation, the City placed six employees from the Finance Department on a paid administrative leave pending the criminal investigation results. Personnel matters of the City are confidential, and the City will provide no additional comment. Any questions concerning the Sheriff's Department investigation should be directed to their office.

In the confirmation hearing, Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer made additional uninformed and misleading allegations. One of the factless claims Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer stated was an "8-million-dollar wire transfer to New York to for God knows what". It is disappointing that a life-long elected official, who should understand public finance, alludes to the misappropriation of public funds without verifiable evidence.

The truth is clear. City of Huntington Park's wire transfer is an investment in US Treasury Bills, a common practice in municipal finance consistent with the City's investment policy.

The City demands that Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer retract his false and unfounded statements. The statements are groundless, irresponsible, and unbecoming allegations. As an elected official entrusted to represent the hard-working communities of South

East Los Angeles with honesty and without ethnic bias, it is his duty to ensure his comments are well-informed.

The City of Huntington Park and its' officials denounce and condemns any behavior involving the security breach of electronic financial records and recognizes the need to maintain public confidence.

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