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UNION-TRIBUNE

July 21, 2007

Who was responsible for the Sunroad debacle?

According to "Sunroad review clears city officials" (Local, July 20), Mayor Jerry Sanders halted construction of the Kearny Mesa office tower after the building was already 20 feet above the Federal Aviation Administration limit of 160 feet, and eight months after he first learned of the problem. Eight months after he first learned of the problem? And yet, the 40-page report, conducted and paid for (\$25,000) by the Mayor's Office, found no proof of criminal wrongdoing. What about just plain wrongdoing? What about ethics? What about integrity? After all, the "review" was headed by the mayor's own "ethics and integrity unit."

The mayor later said he would work to see that these same mistakes do not happen again. That shouldn't be hard.

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, am I not the mayor of all? So then help me, mirror on the wall, who should I put the blame on, who has an office, down the hall?"

CHARLIE JONES
La Jolla

Orchids to the Union-Tribune for the July 20 editorial "Poor judgment" which rightly states that Sanders must hold city officials Jim Waring and Marcela Escobar-Eck accountable. These are public servants who placed the health and safety of future inhabitants of the Sunroad building at risk as well as the pilots and passengers using Montgomery Field.

Onions to the mayor and Jo Anne SawyerKnoll, head of Sanders' ethics and integrity unit, for having the audacity to put out such an oblivious smoke-and-mirrors report that states, "No evidence was found whatsoever of conspiracy, fraud, corruption, illegal conduct, violation of any federal or state law or regulation or improper influence by or of any city staff."

In a corporation with any integrity, Waring and Escobar-Eck would have

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To be considered for publication, a letter must include an address, daytime phone number and, if faxed or mailed, be signed. It may be sent to Letters Editor, The San Diego Union-Tribune, Post Office Box 120191, San Diego, CA 92112-0191, faxed to (619) 260-5081 or e-mailed to letters@uniontrib.com. Letters submitted may be used in print or in digital form in any publication or service authorized by the Union-Tribune Publishing Co.

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been told to clean out their desks and escorted to the nearest exit months ago. Sanders, however, will most likely let them keep on, thumbing their noses at public safety, encouraging rampant development and collecting their present high salaries and future pension benefits at taxpayers expense.

JARVIS ROSS
San Diego

So the Mayor's Office has investigated itself and found it is not guilty of any corruption or wrongdoing. What a surprise. I feel so much better. Following District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis' declaration that the mayor is, along with herself, as pure as the driven snow, I am now convinced that this really is the best of all possible worlds (apologies to Voltaire). My only lingering concern is that my grandkids, in kindergarten and second grade, could probably have come up with a better story than San Diego's top politicians.

RANDY FRIED
Point Loma

Regarding the Sunroad fiasco, "the report chastises Development Services employees for failing to understand Federal Aviation Administration rules and for failing to force Sunroad to halt construction of its 180-foot building earlier.

It also blames the City Attorney's Office for providing untimely legal advice and poor communications between various departments at City Hall and outside agencies.

The investigators assign no responsibility to top city leaders or to Sanders himself, other than misstatements the mayor made in June that were prepared in error by his staff."

So, our city officials and city employees aren't crooks, they are just incompetent. Boy, I sure feel better.

BRYAN HERRING
San Diego

Sunroad knows what the supreme authority, the Federal Aviation Administration, has said. The only way for it to rebuild any kind of public respect or image is to stop playing games and do the right thing: take the building down to 160 feet, and let everyone move on to more important things.

BILLY E. DAVIS
Scripps Ranch

I have been following the city's gyrations with Sunroad efforts to enforce the Federal Aviation Administration's height limits, I have been expecting a couple of additional outcomes.

Some years back, there was a lot of consternation in the papers and on local TV about the height of the parking structure in the final approach to Lindbergh Field. The solution there was to tell pilots to suck it up and deal with it. If Sunroad's building is lowered, how about the parking structure?

JIM DODD
San Diego

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