



City of Elgin Office of the City Manager

City Hall • 310 North Main Street • P.O. Box 591
Elgin, Texas 78621

July 8, 2021

Re: **False Allegation(s) made by Stephanie Lippke**

For over a year, the City and I have been subjected to inaccurate, unwarranted, and continuous personal attacks by Stephanie Lippke; most filled with false allegations and misleading statements. It would be impossible for me to even briefly list the number of misleading statements and outright lies told about me and city staff by this individual and her few supporters – mostly behind the cover of social media. Her social media attacks have also gone so far as to even include the children of city employees.

These nonstop attempts to ruin my professional reputation earned over 35 years as a City Manager in multiple cities has also caused great stress and anguish for my wife Mary Ann and our family. If this libelous conduct continues, I will exercise my legal rights to protect my reputation.

The most recent false allegation is an assault claim filed against me by Ms. Lippke. The Elgin Police Department properly recognized that as city employees, they would be compromised as to the integrity of any investigation related to the City Manager. Accordingly, the EPD (not Ms. Lippke) requested assistance from the Texas Rangers on this matter.

Staff tape-recorded the entire meeting when the alleged assault occurred – not secretly – and that recording is a public record and available for all to hear. There is little need for me to review or “explain” what was said; the tape provides a crystal-clear recounting of that. *Given all the circumstances surrounding this situation*, I have no regrets about my conduct or what I said.

The Rangers immediately determined that this allegation did not even warrant investigation. This decision was based solely upon Ms. Lippke’s own statements. **Her own words did not even support her own allegation**. The situation was also reviewed by the District Attorney, who concurred with the Rangers’ assessment. Although not surprised by this outcome, I find it to have been a shameful waste of taxpayer resources to involve these valuable law enforcement agencies in this petty, personal vendetta.

I have tried my best to recognize that certain freedoms are afforded all citizens as it relates to voicing comments about city officials. It is clear to me, however, that many if not most Elgin citizens – and a clear majority of City Council – agree that Ms. Lippke’s attacks have crossed an unhealthy line.

Through her social media tirades, Ms. Lippke has created a sense of entitlement for herself and her attempts to continue to demoralize our City should not be condoned when the supporters of city staff and city operations vastly outnumber the opposition.

These attacks continue to claim a wide range of wrongdoing and threats of pending action on Ms. Lippke’s part. Yet the only “action” we have seen is the assault allegation - and it was immediately rejected as lacking any substance. Ms. Lippke and any of her supporters who have any factual evidence of illegal activity by any City employee should produce it immediately. Quit hiding behind social media - come forward and defend your claims openly, on the record – and not just in a one-sided internet conversation.

It is my hope that Elgin citizens will reject these unwarranted attacks on city staff and work together to create a positive focus on the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for our community.

THOMAS L. MATTIS
City Manager