



**Town of Windsor**  
9291 Old Redwood Highway  
P.O. Box 100  
Windsor, CA 95492-0100  
Main Line (707) 838-1000  
[www.townofwindsor.com](http://www.townofwindsor.com)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 15, 2021**

**CONTACT:**

**Ken MacNab**

**Town Manager**

**Ph. # (707) 838-1000**

[kmacnab@townofwindsor.com](mailto:kmacnab@townofwindsor.com)

**UPDATED 4/15/21**

### **Town of Windsor Updated Statement Regarding Its Response To 2017 and 2020 Email Allegations Involving Mayor Dominic Foppoli**

**Windsor, California** – There have been a number of questions regarding how the Town handled receipt of an email in 2017 that made accusations about then-Councilmember Foppoli.

The most significant questions are:

- Did the Town report the content of the email to the Police Department?
- Why was no investigation conducted at that time?

On April 13, new information came to light which was described by Town Manager Ken MacNab at the April 14, 2021 special Town Council meeting.

#### **2017 Email**

In November of 2017, then-Mayor Debora Fudge received an email from an individual whose name has not been released by the Town in order to protect her identity. The email accuses then-Councilmember Foppoli of inappropriate behavior in 2013 at a guest house at his winery.

Upon receipt, then-Mayor Fudge took the appropriate action of forwarding the email to the then-Town Manager and then-Town Attorney for review and guidance. She also contacted the individual who submitted the email letting her know that she appreciated her bringing this email forward, acknowledging how difficult it must have been and letting her know she was forwarding it to the appropriate people within Town Hall.

The 2017 email was sent to all Councilmembers, including Councilmember Foppoli, who denied the accusations. The Town's leadership team was very focused on and actively discussing the accusation in the 2017 email, viewed it as a high-priority situation, as was trying to determine the best course of action, knowing it was highly sensitive.

Individual meetings took place, including with Councilmembers, with the Town's Human Resources department, with the Town Attorney and with the Town Manager regarding how to respond to the accusations.

As questions arose beginning last Thursday about how the Town handled the matter, current Town officials have worked tirelessly to review all the Town's records and email transactions to learn exactly who received the email and when, and what, if any, actions were taken.

When that electronic records review did not reveal what took place or if the Police Department was made aware of the email, an exhaustive search was undertaken to contact nearly all the individuals who were present at the time to learn as much as possible about the Town's actions.

What arose during these conversations conducted in the days following the Chronicle's initial article was information regarding the desires of the individual who wrote the email. It was recalled that the author expressed her desire to be anonymous in her accusations, that is, to not have the Town reveal her identity, and also that no charges be filed or investigation take place. Officials now understand that the Town did not forward the email to the Police Department in accordance with the author's wishes.

Upon hearing this aspect of the 2017 conversations among staff and Councilmembers, officials felt it was imperative that this recollection be confirmed with the author of the email.

Therefore, officials did obtain confirmation from the individual that she did not want to pursue any criminal action at that time and still does not.

## **2020 Email**

In February of 2020, the Town Manager received an email from a member of the public regarding an upcoming Town Council agenda item that included a statement that the Mayor has been accused rape. The Town Manager promptly shared the email with the Town Council and forwarded it to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the public record. The Town Manager also inquired with the Mayor about the accusations and the Mayor denied they were true. Follow up conversations with individual Councilmembers were held by the Town Manager and Town Attorney. Shortly thereafter, with the support of the Town Council and in consultation with the Town Attorney, the Town Manager presented the 2020 email and the email received by the Town in 2017 to the Police Chief for review. Based on the facts known at the time the 2020 email was received, the Police Department determined the incident did not rise to a level of a crime to open an investigation. Both emails and all related information were also shared with the Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Sergeant, who came to the same conclusion as the Police Chief.

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