



To the Editor,

May 31, 2020 was a day like no other in Santa Monica's history. Every resident and local business owner deserves answers about what happened, and, importantly, what we can do to make sure it never happens again. And they deserve those answers as quickly as possible.

Your January 23 article contains a number of troubling inaccuracies regarding our effort to bring the answers to our residents and businesses who deserve them. For their benefit, please allow me to accurately lay out the true facts of our admittedly fumbled after-action review process:

1. Immediately following the devastating events of May 31, review was planned in two phases: an after-action review conducted by the Santa Monica Police Department, followed by review and any follow-up investigation deemed appropriate by an independent entity.
2. On its own initiative, the Santa Monica Police Department hired an outside agency, Field Command, to support its production of its internal after-action report. Field Command was hired by and reported to former Chief Cynthia Renaud, not Interim City Manager Lane Dilg and not Interim City Attorney George Cardona.
3. SMPD never produced a final report to City leadership by August as initially promised. To the contrary, former Chief Renaud indicated to all of us that SMPD's draft "report" remained incomplete and unavailable.
4. I was not satisfied with this and I joined fellow Councilmembers at our next possible meeting to officially remove the after-action review process from the authority of the police department and instead directed that an independent agency produce a complete and fact-based after-action report.
5. The Interim City Manager did not make this decision. It was City Council that pivoted in order to receive a full, thorough, and accurate report as quickly as possible.
6. OIR Group's independent after-action report is now in progress with community listening sessions as part of the process.
7. All Field Command materials have been provided to OIR Group and information in those materials will be incorporated in the final report.

Has this taken too long? Yes, and for this I apologize to the people of Santa Monica. But I have said from the beginning that we can't rush to justice.

For anyone in our community who would like updates on OIR Groups progress, please visit www.santamonica.gov/may31afteraction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Himmelrich".

Sue Himmelrich
Mayor of Santa Monica