



Judith Estorge  
Chief of Police



February 1, 2023

The Current  
Attention: Christiaan Mader  
[christiaan@thecurrentla.com](mailto:christiaan@thecurrentla.com)

Dear Christiaan,

Over the past year, your publication, The Current, and its reporters have gone through great lengths to cover details and information surrounding the Lafayette Police Department's Executive Protective Unit. And while Article 1, Section 7 of the Louisiana constitution proclaims that "no law shall curtail or restrain the freedom of speech or the press," we would like to remind you and your staff that every person "is responsible for the abuse of that freedom," under this statute.

The reporting on the Mayor-President's executive detail has not only been riddled with false information, but has also been grossly irresponsible. The Current's reporting that the Mayor-President has "full-time security" or that the Executive Protection Unit is provided for only "visiting dignitaries," and, more recently, your reports of "Guillory's security detail nixed" are all false assertions and misinformation. Beyond the blatant disregard for journalistic integrity, these stories have presented information and details that endanger the lives of many. In our present social climate, the Lafayette Police Department is faced with an insurmountable amount of challenges while attempting to protect our community. The Current's reporting has ultimately made this task more difficult.

However, this letter is not a request for journalistic retractions or corrections. It is instead a formal request that The Current refrain from the use of stories and reporting that jeopardizes the Lafayette Police Department's strategies and tactics.

Effective immediately, we, the Lafayette Police Department, will no longer provide information, comments, or statements on the Executive Protection Unit, or any other situations that may reveal our strategies and tactics, compromise our duties, or jeopardize the safety of others. This formal decree has also been extended to the Lafayette Consolidated Government, the Mayor-President's office, the Lafayette City Council, and any of their respective representatives.

It is the policy of the Lafayette Police Department to provide executive/dignitary protection and security under my approval, as Chief of Police, and I would graciously appreciate the latitude and space to assess our needs and make the best decisions for our community and anyone we are tasked with protecting.

Respectfully,

  
Judith Estorge  
Chief of Police