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Statement of Gloria Allred

This week the L.A. Times published an important article about Rick Caruso's seven hour deposition which was taken in the lawsuit brought by many sexual assault victims of Dr. George Tyndall, who was for many years an Ob/Gyn doctor who examined students at the University of Southern California (U.S.C.).

I read this article with interest because my law firm and I represented 72 victims of Dr. Tyndall and U.S.C. in the lawsuit, and a number of them in the criminal justice process. In addition, I supported the students in their protest at U.S.C.

Throughout the litigation, many of my clients expressed to me that a major goal in pursuing justice in this case was for them to learn why U.S.C. failed to protect them after the school was given notice of complaints from students that Dr. Tyndall was conducting himself during medical examinations of students in ways that were inappropriate and worse.

Victims wanted and deserved answers to their important questions from the school that they loved, and on which they relied to tell them the truth.

Many were encouraged when Rick Caruso, who was on the Board of Trustees at U.S.C. and became the President of the Board, promised that there

would be an investigation by the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, and that when it was completed, it would be released to the public and the victims.

He raised the hopes of victims, who simply wanted the truth, but then he cruelly broke his promise to them later, leaving many of them feeling betrayed by him and the university that he represented.

Our clients want answers from Rick Caruso, not broken promises. Mr. Caruso should have taken and should still take steps to assure that the report is released.

Let's examine the excuse that Mr. Caruso expected the victims to believe for why the investigative report would not be released to them.

The L.A. Times report stated that Caruso alleged "that the decision was based on concern about victims." Experts, he has said, "told the trustees that the detail could retraumatize Tyndall's patients."

If retraumatizing victims was the true reason for hiding the report from the victims, why did U.S.C. never give that reason to the victims?

Learning the truth would have helped many victims to heal. If some might have been retraumatized by it, they could have decided for themselves if they should read it or not. It is not for Mr. Caruso to patronize victims and make that decision for them. They, not Mr. Caruso, should have the right to decide if they want to read the report. We never have nor ever would ask Mr. Caruso to protect victims from the truth.

Mr. Caruso was simply trying to side with victims with the hope that it would advance his political career and help him to get elected as Mayor of Los Angeles.

We know this old political trick, and that is why we are calling him out today.

We do not need a Mayor who leaves behind him a trail of broken promises and a number of victims who are further traumatized by his double talk.

His apology does not help. If he was truly apologetic, then he should have taken steps to release the report which he had promised the victims would be released.

Mr. Caruso has spent countless millions trying to sell himself to the voters of Los Angeles.

Yes, money matters but the truth matters even more. Victims matter. Promises matter. This election matters. It is time for Karen Bass, a woman who has advocated for U.S.C.'s investigative report to be released to victims, to be elected as Mayor of Los Angeles.

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