Dear Ms. [Redacted],

My name is Kristina McKinney and I was forwarded your email concerning Anthony Atienza. I’m an investigator with the Commission and the case manager regarding Mr. Atienza’s case file. I understand your concerns that a teacher alleged to be involved in sexual harassment of female students is still teaching - not only as a parent, but as a member of your community who is concerned for the safety of children. You are correct in that the District has provided information to the Commission regarding allegations of misconduct against Mr. Atienza.

The Commission takes all allegations of misconduct very seriously. The Commission is not associated or affiliated with any District; the Commission is a separate state agency. When allegations of misconduct are received, the Commission conducts its own investigation.

By law, the Commission cannot revoke or ‘flag’ a teaching credential based solely on District information. A credential holder has the right to due process. The allegations against Mr. Atienza and all evidence obtained through an investigation is required to go through a legal review process before the Committee of Credentials. This process takes approximately 6 months. During the legal review process, the Committee determines whether or not there is enough probable cause to recommend an adverse action against a credential holder. Adverse actions include the following: a private admonition, public reproval, suspension of the credential, and up to and including revocation.

For example, if the Committee recommended the revocation of a teacher’s credential, the recommendation would then have to be adopted by the Commission. The credential holder has a right, by law, to appeal the recommendation and request an administrative hearing. If an administrative hearing is requested, the case is forwarded to the California Attorney General’s Office for further review and processing. Throughout this entire process, a credential holder, by law, can continue to teach until his/her case is fully adjudicated.

I realize this email contains a lot of information, but it is meant as a general and simplified overview of the Commission’s process, which the agency is required to follow by law. I would be more than happy to speak with you over the phone if you have any further questions or would like further detail. I will not be in the office tomorrow (3/16), but you can reach me on my cell phone. My contact information is listed below. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristina McKinney

Special Investigator

Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Division of Professional Practices
I am the parent of one of the girls involved in the sexual harassment charges against Anthony Atienza that resulted in his termination from Sweetwater Union High School District in Chula Vista, CA.

You need to know that he is currently teaching other 13-18 year olds in a community theatre program as well as teaching in another school district. He has caused immense trauma to multiple young women and should not be allowed to continue to prey on more victims.

I know that Sweetwater Union High School district has sent the findings of their investigation to you and yet there is no indication that anything is being done about this on your website or if another district or hiring entity was looking for information. As a commission, you have a responsibility to keep our children and any potential victims safe. By not revoking or "flagging" his credential as in the midst of an investigation, you are putting other children at risk.

I will be looking forward to your response by March 20th as to how this matter will be handled.

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