



Liberal Arts Campus • 4901 East Carson Street, Long Beach, California 90808

Trades, Technology, and Community Learning Campus • 1305 East Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, California 90806

August 7, 2026

Sent via Electronic Mail (dominic.coletti@fire.org)

Dominic Coletti
Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)
P.O. Box 40128
Philadelphia, PA 19106
fire@fire.org 215-717-FIRE

RE: Long Beach Community College District Response to Inquiry

Dear Mr. Coletti,

The Long Beach Community College District (“District”) is in receipt of your July 27, 2026 correspondence regarding Long Beach City College's (LBCC) handling of a student conduct matter involving a student journalist.

First and foremost, the District appreciates FIRE's commitment to protecting freedom of expression and freedom of the press, values that the District also strongly supports. Furthermore, the District recognizes that a free and independent student press is an essential part of the educational experience and an informed campus community. District Policy AP 4500 (Student News Media) affirms students’ rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the press, consistent with California Education Code section 66301. The District remains committed to protecting those rights while also fulfilling its responsibility to provide a safe, respectful, and equitable learning environment on each of our campuses, including LBCC.

Please be advised that the District cannot comment on or discuss the existence, nature, or details of any communications, disciplinary processes, or other actions involving a student. Federal law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), protects the privacy of student education records, and the District is legally required to maintain the confidentiality of student disciplinary matters.

Finally, the District remains committed to fostering an environment where student journalism can flourish alongside a culture of respect, accountability, and journalistic integrity. The District will continue to review its policies, procedures, and training to ensure they support both students’ expressive rights and the District’s legal responsibilities to preserve its standards of conduct and to protect all members of the community.

Sincerely,

Nohel C. Corral, Ed.D.

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