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May 3, 2016

By U.S. Mail & E-Mail: egill@aclunc.org

Elizabeth Gill
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Northern California
39 Drumm Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Re: Foothill High School Prom King/Queen Nominations

Dear Ms. Gill:

This firm represents the Shasta Union High School District (“District”) and responds to your May 2, 2016 correspondence regarding complaints about the prom king and queen nominations at the Foothill High School (“FHS”). The District disagrees with the representations made in your letter regarding the FHS nomination process and hopes to put to rest any concerns you or Ms. Lack may have regarding the same.

The following outlines the FHS procedure for selecting the school’s prom king and queen, now referred to as “prom royalty” without any gender designation. Nominations for prom royalty are submitted by students on an individual basis. It may be the case that people who are nominated are also a couple, however that is not a prerequisite to being nominated. If an individual receives enough votes, they will be a candidate for the prom royalty position, regardless of their gender or the gender of their prom date. The candidates are then selected by vote on prom night by students placing a marble in the jar of the candidate they wish to select. The individual candidates with the most marbles in their jar wins. Each position is voted on in an individual capacity and not as part of a couple, group or pair. This selection process does not discriminate or classify students on the basis of their gender or sexual orientation, but instead provides a neutral method to select a prom king and a prom queen.

It is our understanding that student, Haley Lack received enough votes to be considered a candidate for prom royalty, and will be a candidate for that title on prom night, along with five other students. We are unaware of any school policy or other facts to indicate that Ms. Lack and her date are being denied their right to attend the FHS prom as a couple or that FHS is denying Ms. Lack her nomination for prom king.

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The District supports all of its students and encourages each of them to participate in school events regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Any statements made that suggest the exclusion of Ms. Lack from being a candidate for prom king due to her gender are contrary to district policy and are not reflective of what the Superintendent has directed to happen.

If you have any concerns that further action is needed please contact our office immediately so that we may address them.

Sincerely,

LOZANO SMITH



Anne L. Collins

ALC/kip

cc: (By Email) Jim Cloney, Superintendent, Shasta Union High School District