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From: **John Ryan** <johnr@kucb.org>

Date: Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 2:15 PM

Subject: Re: Open Letter to the KUCB Board of Directors

Dear Zoya,

I'd like to respond to your open letter to the KUCB board of directors. Lauren Adams forwarded the letter to me since KUCB news stories are the news department's responsibility. In the interest of transparency, we will also post this letter and yours at KUCB.org shortly.

As Lauren told you earlier, she has discussed all your complaints with the KUCB newsroom. After you brought what appears to be a factual error in the reporting to our attention (the statement that the museum materials in your house were found behind a locked door), we made prompt corrections on air and online. Independently, we also added a disclosure, on air and online, that Ingrid Martis had been on KUCB's board of directors until recently. Regrettably, neither Greta Mart nor I was aware of that fact until after the story aired.

Your letter has a number of factual errors and misunderstandings of the way journalism works and the way this story was reported. It also brings up details that you wish we had included but, using our best news judgment, we chose not to. In addition, the letter seems to confuse KUCB's coverage with that of other news outlets on this story.

I won't go through all the inaccuracies in your letter, but suffice it to say that news stories almost always use very small portions of any interview with any source. Journalists exist to sift through detailed information and quickly distill it into concise format for the public. It is our job to leave out the information that only someone intimately involved would care about and to highlight only the most newsworthy information. What seems essential to you, as the person at the center of this controversy, may seem irrelevant to an outsider taking a neutral, disinterested look at it, as we do.

That said, your statement that KUCB "aired only ten seconds" [your emphasis] of a 12-minute interview is simply wrong. Not that counting seconds or words is ever a valid way of evaluating a story, but for your information, the story we aired Oct. 19 on the closing of the museum included 39 seconds of your voice and 32 seconds of Ingrid Martis' voice.

From your first response to Greta's reporting (your phone call in which you insulted her, "I would say shame on you if I thought that word was in your vocabulary,") to your verbal threats of a defamation lawsuit, it seems like your aim is to bully KUCB out of covering this important news story for the community. As a public figure in positions of power, you have to expect scrutiny of your actions. That scrutiny is the most important role of a free press in a democratic society, and we will continue to play that role to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

John Ryan
Interim News Director

cc: KUCB board members; MOTA board members