



Subject: URGENT Addendum to Journalistic Grievance: Sensationalist Imagery and Brand Defamation in Online Title Screen for “Safety Guidelines Pacoima”

To: EDITOR, Senior Director of News, Spectrum News 1 SoCal

From: Ron Berinstein, Director, Southern California Aviation United Working Group (SCAUWG.ORG)

Dear EDITOR,

Thank you again for your highly professional, timely response regarding the internal editorial standards review your team has initiated into the July 22, 2026 feature, “Safety Guidelines Pacoima.”

I am writing to you this afternoon on an urgent matter of courtesy to bring to your immediate attention a highly inflammatory, possibly defamatory, and technically flawed title graphic that has just been added to the online internet version of this feature (image attached for your verification).

As a news executive with a distinguished history in standard-setting journalism, I trust you will find this graphic deeply concerning for two distinct reasons:

1. Direct Brand Defamation of a U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Entity

Just like commercial logistics vehicles (such as FedEx or UPS), emergency and auxiliary aircraft feature highly distinct, instantly recognizable federal paint and livery schemes. The graphic deployed by your digital department explicitly isolates a Cessna featuring the iconic red, white, and blue branding of the **Civil Air Patrol (CAP)**—the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

By superimposing the sensationalist headline "**5 CRASHES SINCE 2020**" directly over a recognizable Civil Air Patrol aircraft, the graphic creates an immediate, false public assumption that this dedicated volunteer search-and-rescue organization is responsible for a systemic local safety crisis.

This is not a generic stock image; it is an easily identifiable public service brand. Using this specific livery to serve as the visual poster child for local aviation accidents is harmful, misleading, and crosses from objective reporting into active brand defamation. While there was a single, deeply regrettable mechanical-failure accident involving a CAP aircraft years ago, using their identity to broad-brush five separate multi-entity incidents violate core editorial ethics.

2. Severe Deficit in Technical Accuracy (Fabricated Imagery)

Beyond the harmful ethical implications, the graphic severely undermines Spectrum's commitment to factual accuracy. The thumbnail uses a heavily manipulated, blurred background to depict a fixed-wing aircraft in high-speed flight or takeoff motion. However, upon immediate inspection by any aviation professional, **the physical ground tie-down rope is still clearly and securely attached to the aircraft's wing ring.**

This technical oversight proves that the image is a fabricated, unverified composite designed purely for sensationalist "clickbait" metrics. Depicting a parked, tied-down volunteer aircraft as a runaway hazard in mid-air is beneath the standard of journalism your network claims to represent.

Request for Immediate Remediation

We believe this imagery was an unmotivated oversight by a digital production editor who simply lifted a still frame from the on-camera interview footage with Lieutenant Colonel James Miller. However, the resulting visual is actively damaging to the reputation of local volunteers who dedicate their lives to youth STEM education, search and rescue, and emergency disaster response.

Given that your office has already graciously opened an internal investigation into the structural biases of this segment, we respectfully request that this deceptive and technically flawed title graphic be **removed from all digital and streaming platforms immediately.**

Thank you for your swift attention, leadership, and evaluation of whether the Spectrum News brand needs this standard of inaccurate imagery to be successful.

With the best of regards,

Ron Berinstein

Director, Southern California Aviation United Working Group (SCAUWG.ORG)