

Elon Musk Defiant As Judge Orders Him to Explain Tesla Tweets

A federal judge has ordered Tesla chief Elon Musk to explain by March 11 why he should not be held in contempt for what the Securities and Exchange Commission described as a violation of a settlement deal last year, **reports** the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

“Musk tweeted Feb. 19 that Tesla would make around 500,000 cars in 2019,” writes the *Chronicle*’s **Melia Russell**. “Later that day, he sent a follow-up tweet saying that number represented Tesla’s ‘annualized production rate at end of 2019’ and it would only roll about 400,000 cars off the manufacturing line this year.”

Bloomberg **explains** that Tesla’s internal system to have an in-house lawyer vet Musk’s tweets didn’t work in this case because his “social-media minder didn’t bless” the Feb. 19 post:

The sitter – whose official title at Tesla is alternately Disclosure Counsel or Designated Securities Counsel – did step in after seeing the offending tweet and arranged to meet Musk to draft a clarifying post.

Read the *SF Chronicle* article.