

Memo to: Daniel Abrams and Lisa Jennings

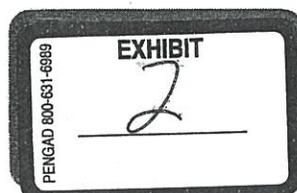
From: Laura Bonar

Regarding: Sexual harassment

I was harassed by Carl Trujillo in a series of escalating comments. Trujillo's first comment was vague. As I was dropping off materials to him on March 8, 2013, related to animal cruelty legislation he was carrying in the state legislature, he asked if I stayed in Santa Fe, I responded yes, and he smiled and said, "We should have dinner..." It was strange. I felt like he was asking me out, but he was married, and we were in the middle of intense work to strengthen the animal cruelty statute. I was temporarily on the House floor before the representatives were called into session and there was no one else close by, but other legislators, staff, and lobbyists were coming into the room. This was the day the House floor would debate the animal cruelty bill Trujillo was sponsoring that year, HB224. By that point in the session, I had worked with Trujillo for several weeks, mostly while Animal Protection Voters' (APV) executive director Lisa Jennings and/or others were in the same room. The bill had passed through two committees earlier in the session and we were strongly supporting him, as we did with all bill sponsors. I hoped he was implying dinner with me and my boss. I gave a non-committal response and left to attend to other work for the bill.

Trujillo's second comment was on January 28, 2014, as I was preparing to be an expert witness for another bill he was sponsoring to fund spay/neuter, HB20. As the bill's first House committee hearing was starting, I asked Trujillo if I could sit next to him in the first row, and he said yes. As I sat down, he leaned close and said quietly into my ear, "You can sit next to me any time...over dinner...together...". He may have used other suggestive phrases as well, like "by the fire" or "on the floor". I was shocked and I tried to shut myself off from what he was saying/trying to get across. We were in a formal setting, sitting in front of a room of state representatives, committee staff, and audience members for a committee hearing for a bill to bring more spay/neuter funding to communities in need across the state. I focused on my notes and then HB20 was called and Trujillo and I took seats in front of the committee. I believe Trujillo had the bill introduction I had drafted for him in front of him to read and we both answered questions from committee members. The bill was passed out of committee and he left.

After that, I realized Trujillo would very likely escalate his behavior. I rehearsed a response, one that I hoped would protect me and not make him feel bad, as I understood he was in a higher position of power. I practiced so I would not be silent out of shock if something else happened. I tried to avoid him and focus on other aspects of my work. But later during the 2014 session, our paths crossed in one of the curved hallways in the lower level of the Roundhouse, outside the floor, and he pulled me aside and quickly asked, "When can we meet?" I responded with my rehearsed line about having a boyfriend and having to take care of sick family. I understood that he was asking for some kind of sexual encounter, but I tried to act like I didn't. I tried to "play

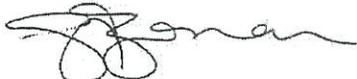


dumb" and hoped he would leave me alone. He did not say anything in response, but his face was expressive, showing what looked like frustration and hurt as I walked away.

After I did not cooperate with his request to meet, Trujillo became increasingly uncommunicative with the APV team. He was sending a message that if I wasn't accommodating his request for sexual favors, the work I cared about would suffer. Trujillo stalled work he was leading regarding spay/neuter, one of APV's priority issues. Eventually APV worked with another legislator to secure spay/neuter funding that session.

I felt ashamed, diminished, and vulnerable as these incidents happened, and sad and pretty helpless at how common and accepted this type of behavior was at the legislature. These incidents contributed to my decision to not pursue an offer to be APV's legislative director.

It is disappointing and disheartening how Carl Trujillo has taken animals on as an issue and has been considered an APV champion. He abused his power. I do not trust him, and I wonder how many other people have had similar (or worse) experiences with him.

Signature: 

Today's date: *March 19, 2018*