



State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives  
STATE CAPITOL  
Santa Fe

February 26, 2019

Mr. Raul Burciaga  
Director, New Mexico Legislative Council Service  
411 State Capitol  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

HAND DELIVERED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RE: REPORT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT INVOLVING JEFF STEINBORN  
- CONFIDENTIAL COMPLAINT -

The undersigned State Representatives served as members of one or more subcommittees of the interim Legislative Ethics Committee in the recent inquiry regarding Representative Carl Trujillo. During the course of our work on the Trujillo matter, it was revealed that another New Mexico legislator—Representative Jeff Steinborn—very likely engaged in sexual harassment approximately four years ago. Under the Legislature’s Anti-Harassment Policy, and consistent with the Legislature’s recent mandatory ethics training, we believe we have a duty to notify you of this situation and recommend it for investigation.<sup>1</sup> Insofar as Mr. Steinborn was a State

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<sup>1</sup> Anti-Harassment Policy of the New Mexico Legislature (January 15, 2018).

Representative during the time in question, and insofar as he currently serves as a State Senator, we confidentially present this matter to you for referral to the leaders of either the New Mexico Senate or the New Mexico House of Representatives, whichever chamber you believe has jurisdiction, or perhaps both.<sup>2</sup>

The testimony presented below is contained in depositions made under oath in the Carl Trujillo case and are the basis for the complaint regarding Mr. Steinborn. These depositions are publically available at [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov), the official website of the New Mexico Legislature.

I. DEPOSITION OF ELISABETH JENNINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO (APNM) AND ANIMAL PROTECTION VOTERS (APV)  
(NOVEMBER 5, 2018)

Page 66:

**"Q. (By Mr. Loman [attorney for Mr. Trujillo]) Well, let me ask you, was there some other incident of sexual harassment that was going on around the same time that Mr. Abram would have been taking notes for?** [Mr. Abram is the human resources director for APNM]

"A. Laura did say something else about another incident, and it was unrelated to the Carl Trujillo incident.

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**"Q. She reported that she was sexually harassed by another person?**

"A. Yes.

**"Q. Another legislator?**

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<sup>2</sup> "If the person making the complaint is anyone other than a legislative employee, the person making the complaint shall report it to the Director of the Legislative Council Service or the chief clerk. If the complaint is against a member of the House, the person receiving the complaint shall report it to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the floor leaders of the House; if the complaint is against a member of the Senate, the person receiving the complaint shall report it to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the floor leaders of the Senate." Anti-Harassment Policy – Complaints against a member of the legislature.



"A. Yes.

**"Q. Okay. Was that during this March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting?**

"A. Yes.

**"Q. Okay. And who was that? What did she tell you?**

"A. I'd prefer not to answer that.

**"Q. Okay. Based on what?**

"A. It's not my story to tell.

**"Q. Okay. What was it that she told you then?**

"A. I'd prefer not to answer that.

**"Q. Okay. So at some point around the same time Laura told you that she was sexually harassed by another legislator, and you're refusing to tell me what she told you and who the legislator was; is that true? Do I have all that correct?**

"A. I'd prefer not to answer, yes."

Page 69:

**"Q. [by Mr. Loman] ...Okay. Whatever this other incident was, with whomever it was, why did Ms. Bonar write an open letter about Carl Trujillo this year and not about this other person?**

"A. I don't know.

**"Q. Okay. Has Ms. Bonar ever told you about any other incidents where she felt like she was sexually harassed in any other way than what we've talked about with Carl Trujillo and whatever's redacted here?**

"A. No. I don't remember anything else.

**"Q. Okay. When did this other incident occur? What year?**

"A. I don't know.

**"Q. [Referring to a note being consulted during the deposition] Over on the side -- and I'm going to reach across and point it out to you—I can make out 2014 in that bit that's redacted [but still legible]. Was she telling you this happened—this other incident occurred in 2014?**

"A. I don't know, but certainly it's plausible since there's a date there. I honestly don't remember.

**"Q. Okay. Then going down, we have more notes that are not redacted. It says, "Most concerned about Carl," and it says here, "Was not interested in any apology." So now we're talking about multiple incidents."**

II. DEPOSITION OF DANIEL ABRAM

(NOVEMBER 9, 2018)

Page 16:

**"Q. (By Mr. Loman) Okay. Mr. Abram, I just handed you five or six pages which we've marked as Exhibit 1 to this deposition. And these are some handwritten notes. Are these your handwritten notes? (Note: Exhibit 1 marked.)**

"A. They are.

Page 35:

**"Okay. All right. Then looks like you started a new note on your notepad there still dated March 16<sup>th</sup>, right?**

"A. Yeah, and that's when she relayed that after that last incident, he [Trujillo] ceased communications, stopped returning calls to her – from her and kind of stopped communicating with APV.

**"Q. Okay. And then the bottom line there, I can make out, "Jeff: He came out of restroom." Does that have anything to do with this?**

"A. No, no, and the only thing – the only thing that has to do with this is underneath where I've scratched out notes, that didn't relate to this issue. I left that in where it says, "Most concerned about Carl."

III. EXHIBIT 1 TO DEPOSITION OF DANIEL ABRAM

This exhibit involves notes made by Daniel Abram and exhibited during his deposition (see attachment). On the left side of one particular page, it says, "Steinborn INCIDENT." There is also a margin note of "[2014]". It is clear that the subject matter is an encounter Ms. Bonar reported having with Jeff Steinborn at the Roundhouse. The written notes are legible even though an attempt was made to obscure them. This material is posted on the New Mexico Legislature website. In the main, the notes are as follows:

"Steinborn INCIDENT

"[2014]

"Steinborn outside house majority office



"15 to 20 lobbyists standing around

"grabbed my face and kept saying my name

" 'did that in front of other people intentionally to make them feel something was going on between us'

"I wanted to talk to Steinborn and say 'that really wasn't cool'

"did not end up doing that [-] still during session & got the feeling it wouldn't be perceived as helpful to our work"

Taken together, these statements indicate that Ms. Bonar communicated to Elisabeth Jennings and/or Daniel Abram that she [Bonar] was sexually harassed by Representative Steinborn sometime in 2014.

#### IV. INTERVIEW OF LAURA BONAR (JUNE 7, 2018)

Ms. Bonar corroborated the account regarding Mr. Steinborn in an interview with Tom Hnasko conducted on June 7, 2018. Ms. Bonar mentioned that she had had an experience with a legislator as follows:

Pages 45 - 47:

"[I] was standing in a hallway, outside a committee room, and a legislator came out of the bathroom" – "he gave me a hug, someone I know" – "He put his hand on my face and just sort of held my face. It was a really weird, uncomfortable moment. I was cornered, and he just kind of kept saying my name and looking at me.

**"Q. Abusive, right?"**

"A. ...This other legislator, yes, I mean, he's in a position of power—the way it happened in front of other people, other people that thought something was going on. It was.... I had disgusting comments made to me by staff.

Page 49:

"[It] felt abusive" (the holding of the face) and "the impact on me was extremely negative."

The above material was redacted and withheld from the Subcommittee, presumably at Mr. Hnasko's or Legislative Council Service's direction. Concerned about the references in the depositions to a sexual harassment incident involving a legislator named "Jeff" and the "Steinborn INCIDENT" heading in Mr. Abram's notes<sup>3</sup>, several Subcommittee members exercised due diligence and requested an opportunity to see the original, unredacted transcript of the Laura Bonar interview.<sup>4</sup> The members who viewed the transcript at Legislative Council Service were not allowed to have or make a copy of the Bonar interview, so one member took brief notes. The material cited above is thus approximate, not precisely verbatim. There appears to be a discrepancy about the "Steinborn incident"—e.g., whether it happened outside a committee room or outside the majority office. Perhaps there were multiple episodes?

Under all of the circumstances outlined above, we believe we have an obligation not to ignore the testimony of Elisabeth Jennings, Daniel Abram, and Laura Bonar. We recommend that the Legislative Council Service begin the process of investigating the Jeff Steinborn incident. We further recommend that the LCS not involve Mr. Tom Hnasko in this inquiry, as his decision to withhold certain information from the Subcommittee is problematic and was possibly unethical.

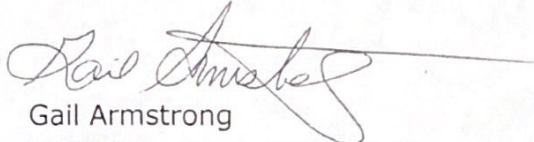
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<sup>3</sup> Exhibit No. 1 of the Daniel Abram deposition was posted very belatedly by LCS on the Interim Legislative Ethics Committee's website link. In fact, an exhibits link was not available on the website until after Subcommittee members questioned its nonexistence.

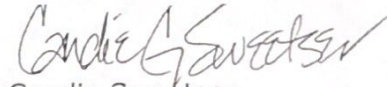
<sup>4</sup> "Report offensive conduct. Encourage others to report. Treat all complaints seriously. Document and report the complaint as soon as possible. Do not ignore a rumor of sexual harassment." From *Preventing and Correcting Harassment*, presented by Patricia Salazar Ives to New Mexico legislators at the state Capitol, January 14, 2019.



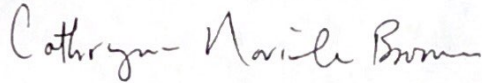
Sincerely,



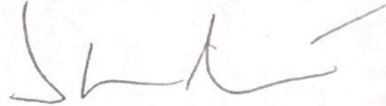
Gail Armstrong  
State Representative, HD 49



Candie Sweetser  
State Representative, HD 32



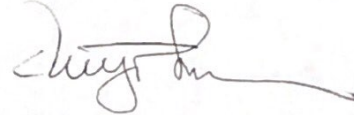
Cathrynn Brown  
State Representative, HD 55



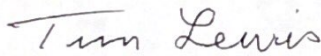
Javier Martinez  
State Representative, HD 11



Kelly Fajardo  
State Representative, HD 7



D. Wonda Johnson  
State Representative, HD 5



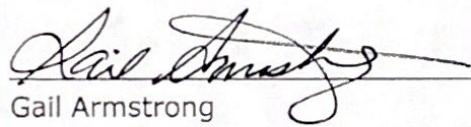
Tim Lewis  
State Representative, HD 60

Joanne Ferrary  
State Representative, HD 37

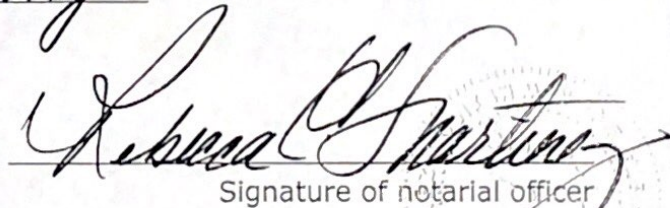
State of New Mexico

County of Santa Fe

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing information is true and correct.

  
Gail Armstrong

Signed and sworn before me on February 25, 2019 (date)  
by Gail Armstrong.

  
Signature of notarial officer

My commission expires: 3.31.19



CLOSED - Laura \*\* Carl Trujillo Issue\_ 022718

What is Poms  
Who talked with and when  
Type up notes RE: all conversations below  
Dates  
Talk to Tom and "Tad" (Theresa)

2/27/18

☐ Laura HR Issue

- National sexual harassment ~~in 2012~~ <sup>in 2012</sup>
- Carl Trujillo
- Not to let it go unaddressed
  - Asked her out to dinner
  - Personal apology

★ 6 years ago  
What is our ethical obligation

Budget

CARL TRUJILLO  
LAURA follow up

obligation to protect

3/2/18  
SPENZ

EXHIBIT  
1

in from that kind of contact

personally  
apology.

- Won't be last time

- if she doesn't ask for  
an apology

→ infers a follow-up  
from Lisa

just says may not have  
a choice but to  
approach him "and breeze it"

- if Lisa does nothing, you are negligent  
"Equivalent of a compliment"

~~No way of knowing what Lisa~~

~~was not interested in~~

~~just you bring to your attention~~

~~"not my place" to know if~~

~~she's interested or not but~~

~~and it's up to you to tell her~~

Lisa will not have a choice.



when you are in a room

alternatively -  
if Laura being  
around him makes  
him that uncomfortable  
she could not go to  
the event & him there

Focus on the Kudos is  
on his actions in support  
of what we do

Next Step: Talk to Steve on the phone with Lisa

3/16/18

Laura follow up meeting (3/16/18)

missgrains expressed to  
Jesse and Karen

Juliana Ku - lobbyist on sexual  
assault (Lisa thought about  
reaching out to her)

Obligation for Bern to make  
sure Laura is not in a space  
to Carl Tanjillo

3/16/18

o 3 incidents (Gore asked James  
to write it up)

- o Concern was about our endorsement  
of him & the ethical standards  
that derive our work
  - concerns about his  
judgement & use of power
  - not interested in talking about  
it publicly

1. 2013 a play of floor vote for  
Credibility bill - ~~James~~ Malcom's  
comment.  
- by myself talking to her  
James who giving him messages

3/16/18

1 cont... he said:  
[2015] "Oh, I didn't realize - are  
you up here all the time?  
we should go have dinner  
sometime"

[2014] 2 he introduced S/N funding bill  
consumer &  
committee into in house ~~committee~~



pub. affairs. (Remember Alcare was the chair)

- Day of hearing, went to sit down next to him in row of chairs

- "Can I sit down next to you?"

- "You can sit down next to by the me any time - at home, at night..."

- Left the room or by the fine

Late I left ← I tried to show no reaction  
I needed to plan a response

[Feb. 5] → he emailed me about the bill

• Was downstairs, in hallway outside house, chamber

• pulled me aside & whispered "When can I meet you this weekend"

3 "My boyfriend's family see this instead of..."

rest of the proceedings APV instead of

2/6/18



- he then stopped returning calls from any of us (definitely from me)



Jeff

he came out of room

1-3 A Aabc

[REDACTED]

⊙ Most concerned about Cool

⊙ Apology Question  
- Was not interested in an apology  
- Does not feel like it would be meaningful.

[REDACTED]