

Sabrina Brennan, SMC Harbor Commissioner
Aug 19, 2020 Harbor Commission Regular Meeting

Agenda Item C, Closed Session: “Significant exposure to litigation, one potential case-claims brought by Sabrina Brennan”

Closed session Agenda Item C implies that I’ve filed a lawsuit against the Harbor District. To be clear, I have never threatened the District with litigation and I do not have a lawsuit against the Harbor District. I do not have an attorney and I’ve never had an attorney contact the District on my behalf.

The Harbor District’s Harassment Policy (6.2.5) strictly prohibits harassment of any kind.

On numerous occasions I’ve been subjected to sexual harassment that includes inappropriate bear hugs, sexual orientation harassment that included crude questions about lesbian sex and retaliation by three elected members of the current Harbor Commission who are paid employees.

The District’s harassment policy defines abusive conduct as sexual harassment, sexual advances, verbal and physical conduct that is threatening, intimidating, humiliating, or behavior that undermines a person’s work performance. Offensive visual conduct includes pictures, artwork and cartoons. Offensively suggestive or sexually explicit communications include invitations, email and jokes among other things. All of this behavior is strictly prohibited.

Retaliation is also prohibited. The District’s policy states that the most important protection for employees is freedom from retaliation after making a harassment complaint.

I’ve experienced harassment and retaliation for many years while serving as a Harbor Commissioner and I’ve reported it as required by District policy. Today, I’m doing that once again because I don’t want current and future employees to experience the stress and pain caused by a prolonged pattern of workplace harassment and retaliation.

In summary, I’ve experienced retaliation by Commissioners Nancy Reyering and Virginia Chang Kiraly. Together, they have worked to silence me regarding a multi-year pattern of sexual harassment that I was subjected to by Commissioner Tom Mattusch.

The sexual harassment I experienced includes the following:

- Mattusch invited me to go camping. He asked me to camp in his tent on a safari hunting trip in Africa. I rejected his unwelcome invitation. To be clear, he has publicly admitted to inviting me on the camping trip.
- Mattusch emailing me unwelcome and highly inappropriate pornographic photos. I was disgusted by his behavior. He publicly admitted to emailing me pornography.
- Mattusch repeatedly asked me about lesbian sex while attending board training conferences.
- Mattusch gave me bear hugs that were unwelcome and uncomfortable.
- After repeatedly rejecting Mattusch's sexual behavior on numerous occasions he showed up at my home uninvited and repeatedly told me to resign from the board of Harbor Commissioners.
- Around the time the sexual harassment stopped I was subjected to years of retaliatory behavior by Mattusch and Virginia Chang Kiraly and later by Nancy Reyring.
- At the July 15, 2020, Harbor Commission meeting Mattusch made a number of untrue and malicious statements. His slanderous and defamatory allegations were intended to harm and silence me. Mattusch made untrue statements alleging "extortion" and "violence on gays" among other untrue remarks. He also claimed that his untrue statements could be verified by the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney and the FBI.
 - Video clip July 15, 2020, Harbor Commission meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzYAC8ZFLKU&feature=youtu.be>

The closed session meeting tonight represents systemic injustice and does nothing to correct a pattern of workplace sexual harassment and retaliation at the Harbor District.