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### **Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Peggy Shannon and Mayor Bob Filner**

We are here, once again, with yet another Mayor Filner victim. This time he sexually harassed Peggy Shannon.

Peggy Shannon is a 67 year old senior citizen who worked part time 3 to 4 days a week in City hall to supplement her Social Security income. She began working in City Hall in November 2012 when Jerry Sanders was Mayor of San Diego. She worked three to four hours a day at a desk in the lobby in City Hall.

Her job was to help the senior citizens that came to City Hall. She was there to answer their questions and to let them know where they could go to receive services to which they were entitled.

Peggy loved her job until Mayor Filner made her job unbearable.

After Mayor Filner was elected, but before he was inaugurated, Peggy was stationed close to the door that he used and he would quite often come over to talk to her. He made flirtatious comments to her as he was coming into City Hall or leaving. She thought that the Mayor-elect was just being mildly inappropriate.

However, in January 2013, after he was inaugurated, his behavior became worse. Shortly after he became Mayor, as Peggy was leaving work and as Mayor Filner was coming back into the building, he came over to her and suddenly hugged her and kissed her on the lips. Ms. Shannon was in shock. She went home and cried. She could not believe that he would do this to her. She was astounded that the Mayor thought that he had the right to kiss her on the lips without her permission.

Peggy did not know what to do or how to handle the situation. He was the Mayor. She was just a part-time employee living on her Social Security and the

little money that she earned from the City to supplement her income. She felt trapped and powerless.

Thereafter, the Mayor would routinely stop at Ms. Shannon's desk and ask her to feel his hands. When she declined he would grab them and say, "see my hands are smooth."

The Mayor repeatedly asked Ms. Shannon to go out with him. He asked if he could see her socially on the weekends with the apparent intention of starting a relationship with her. She politely declined time and time again. This went on for months. She was fearful that because she declined the Mayor's advances, she would lose her job, which meant so much to her. She enjoyed serving the senior citizens of San Diego and she needed the little extra money that she earned.

Ms. Shannon started to feel depressed and anxious every time that she went to work. The job that she had initially loved became a source of shame and humiliation for her each and every time that Mayor Filner would approach her desk. At times she would see him coming and hide. Other times she was not so fortunate and she would be forced to endure his inappropriate behavior.

Several months ago Mayor Filner once again came to her desk and took her hand without her permission and asked her "Do you think I could go eight hours straight?" He was obviously not talking about work. Peggy replied, "Are you kidding?" The Mayor said "No I can go eight hours". This was too much. Peggy immediately told her supervisor and a co-worker what he had said.

On July 10<sup>th</sup> 2013, the day before the news broke about the Mayor's sexually inappropriate behavior, the Mayor came by Ms. Shannon's desk and said, "Hi, honey".

On Friday July 12<sup>th</sup>, the day after the Mayor made his now famous video apology, he walked by Ms. Shannon and put his finger to his mouth and said, "shhh". Ms. Shannon felt that he was sending a message to her- that she better not talk about what he had done to her or else. She has lived in fear ever since.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> 2013, Peggy filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Investigations Office (EEIO) alleging that Mayor Bob Filner had sexually harassed

her. She asked for a Letter of Apology from the Mayor. The EEO confirmed receipt by issuing a letter to Peggy that same day, July 18<sup>th</sup>, stating that her claim had been “received and reviewed” and that their office would “initiate an investigation of her allegations of harassment.” Peggy has yet to receive that letter of apology from Mayor Filner.

Peggy no longer wishes to live in fear and remain silent about Mayor Filner’s sexual harassment of her. She feels that no matter what the personal consequences to her that she cannot stand by any longer without adding her voice to those that have already come forward and demanded that the Mayor resign.

The Mayor targeted and preyed upon Peggy Shannon, a senior citizen who was employed at City Hall to help seniors. Peggy was there to do her job, but Mayor Filner seemed to think that she was there solely for his sexual pleasure and that she was fair game, even though she never gave him any reason to think that she would be interested in something other than a working relationship with him.

Enough is enough. At this point all Peggy cares about is the betterment of San Diego for her family and the community. In order to achieve that goal, Peggy feels that it is necessary for the Mayor to resign. Peggy doesn’t want any other working women to be subjected to what she has had to suffer.

Mayor Filner, you suggested that you can go 8 hours; but Mayor Filner, we don’t care how long you can go. We just want you **to go** as quickly as possible.

At one point when Peggy was working at City Hall a male co-worker walked by and said hello to Peggy. The Mayor countered with “No, that’s my girl”. Mr. Mayor, Peggy Shannon is not your girl. She never was and never will be. In addition, San Diego no longer wants you to be their Mayor. Your days of fun and games and the sexual harassment of women are over. It is time for you to go!

Gloria Allred  
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Representing Peggy Shannon  
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