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Today is the last day of Mayor Bob Filner's brief term as Mayor of San Diego. At 5pm PST today, August 30, 2013, San Diego will finally be free of Bob Filner and all the shame that he has brought to the City of San Diego. Now San Diego can finally move forward with an interim Mayor and then with an election of a new Mayor who will hopefully restore respect and dignity to the Mayor's office.

San Diegans deserve a new Mayor who will earn their trust rather than betray it, as Mayor Filner did.

This is a day for celebration and a day for congratulations. The City of San Diego should applaud and commend all of the women who have come forward and demonstrated their courage in speaking out about what they believe was inappropriate conduct by Mayor Filner. We need individuals who will stand up and be counted and fight against injustice. It is never easy to speak truth to power and many people live in fear of challenging elected officials. However, many women took the risk of speaking out against Mayor Filner and their allegations that he had sexually harassed them or that he had engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior with them were a major factor in his demise.

The first woman to come forward and publicly identify herself as a victim of Mayor Filner's sexual harassment was my client, Irene McCormack Jackson. Because of her courage and the lawsuit we filed on her behalf there was a mediation of our lawsuit which led to Mayor Filner's resignation. We especially congratulate Irene for the risk that she took and the courage that she has demonstrated throughout this tumultuous time.

I also want to recognize Michelle Tyler, United States Marine, Katherine Ragazzino and Peggy Shannon for speaking out. Because they were willing to speak out San Diego learned that women were being harassed in City Hall while Bob Filner was Mayor and that a woman seeking help for a constituent from Mayor Filner was at risk and that even a great grandmother could be a target of Mayor Filner's advances.

Finally, we wish to thank the people of the City of San Diego for indicating in recent polls that they wished the Mayor to resign and for starting a recall campaign against him. Because they made their voices heard the San Diego City Council also voted unanimously for Mayor Filner to resign. The people united could no longer be denied and that is why Mayor Filner had no choice but to resign.

Since this is in a sense a going away party for Mayor Filner, I have brought a few parting gifts for him from me.

First, Mayor Filner in his resignation speech denied sexually harassing anyone. For that reason I have with me a wallet size laminated card that the soon to be ex-Mayor can carry in his wallet to remind him of what sexual harassment is. The card is entitled “The facts about sexual harassment” and it contains the definition of sexual harassment as defined by California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). I suggest that whenever Mayor Filner gets the urge to either speak to a woman or touch a woman that he should pull out this wallet size sex harassment card and remind himself of what the law requires of him and that the law prohibits sexual harassment.

Second, Mayor Filner in his resignation speech blamed his demise, in part, on “the hysteria of a lynch mob”. As a parting gift, I have a mirror that he can use and I would suggest that whenever he starts thinking about why he was forced to resign that he just look in the mirror and he will immediately see who was responsible for his downfall. He will not see a lynch mob, but instead only his own face. Hopefully, the mirror will help him to understand that he has only himself to blame for the fact that the people of San Diego wanted him to resign.

Finally, my last going away gift from me is a card that reads, “Dear Bob, Although our time together has been brief, I look forward to seeing you again at your deposition. Good luck. Gloria Allred.”

On a more serious note, Mayor Filner’s term as Mayor of San Diego has been no joke. He has hurt many women. For this reason we are happy to say today that Filner is finished. In the words of my client, Irene McCormack Jackson “Bye Bye Bob. We will not miss you.”

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