



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
GREETINGS

TO: Jeffrey Pollock

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, under Executive Law § 63(8), N.Y. Civil Practice Law and Rules § 2302(a), and/or other statutes, to deliver and turn over to the Special Deputies to the First Deputy Attorney General, on **the 2nd day of July, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.**, or any agreed upon adjourned date or time, at One Liberty Plaza, 38th Floor, New York, New York 10006, all documents and information requested in the attached Schedule in accordance with the instructions and definitions contained therein.

TAKE NOTICE that the Attorney General deems the documents and information commanded by this Subpoena to be relevant and material to an investigation and inquiry undertaken in the public interest.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Your disobedience of this Subpoena, by failing to deliver the documents and information requested in the attached Schedule on the date, time and place stated above or on any agreed upon adjourned date or time, **may subject You to penalties and other lawful punishment** under Executive Law § 63(8), New York Civil Practice Law and Rules § 2308 and other statutes.

EXHIBIT

1

WITNESS, The Honorable Letitia James, Attorney General of the State of New York, this 23rd day of June, 2021.

By: 

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By: /s/ Anne L. Clark

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SCHEDULE

A. General Definitions and Rules of Construction

1. “All” means each and every.
2. “Any” means any and all.
3. “And” and “or” shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of the Subpoena all information or Documents that might otherwise be construed to be outside of its scope.
4. “Communication” means any conversation, discussion, letter, email, call, text message, instant message, memorandum, meeting, note or other transmittal of information or message, whether transmitted in writing, orally, electronically or by any other means, and shall include any Document that abstracts, digests, transcribes, records or reflects any of the foregoing.
5. “Concerning” means, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, relating to, referring to, describing, evidencing or constituting.
6. “Custodian” means any Person or Entity that, as of the date of this Subpoena, maintained, possessed, or otherwise kept or controlled such Document.
7. “Document” is used herein in the broadest sense of the term and means all records and other tangible media of expression of whatever nature however and wherever created, produced or stored (manually, mechanically, electronically or otherwise), including without limitation all versions whether draft or final, all annotated or nonconforming or other copies, electronic mail (“email”), instant messages, text messages, Blackberry or other wireless device messages, voicemail, calendars, date books, appointment books, diaries, books, papers, files, notes, confirmations, accounts statements, correspondence, memoranda, reports, records, journals, registers, analyses, code (*e.g.*, C/C++/C#, SQL, JavaScript), algorithms, code repositories (*e.g.*, GitHub), commit messages, audit logs, data or databases (*e.g.*, Oracle, postgres or other SQL or non-SQL systems), plans, manuals, policies, telegrams, faxes, telexes, wires, telephone logs, telephone messages, message slips, minutes, notes or records or transcriptions of conversations or Communications or meetings, tape recordings, videotapes, disks, and other electronic media, microfilm, microfiche, storage devices, press releases, contracts, agreements, notices and summaries. Any non-identical version of a Document constitutes a separate Document within this definition, including without limitation drafts or copies bearing any notation, edit, comment, marginalia, underscoring, highlighting, marking, commit messages, or any other alteration of any kind resulting in any difference between two or more otherwise identical Documents. In the case of Documents bearing any notation or other marking made by highlighting ink, the term Document means the original version bearing the highlighting ink, which original must be produced as opposed to any copy

thereof.

8. “Entity” means without limitation any corporation, company, limited liability company or corporation, partnership, limited partnership, association, or other firm or similar body, or any unit, division, agency, department, or similar subdivision thereof.
9. “Identify” or “Identity,” as applied to any Document means the provision in writing of information sufficiently particular to enable the Attorney General to request the Document’s production through subpoena or otherwise, including but not limited to: (a) Document type (letter, memo, etc.); (b) Document subject matter; (c) Document date; and (d) Document author(s), addressee(s) and recipient(s). In lieu of identifying a Document, the Attorney General will accept production of the Document, together with designation of the Document’s Custodian, and identification of each Person You believe to have received a copy of the Document.
10. “Identify” or “Identity,” as applied to any Entity, means the provision in writing of such Entity’s legal name, any d/b/a, former, or other names, any parent, subsidiary, officers, employees, or agents thereof, and any address(es) and any telephone number(s) thereof.
11. “Identify” or “Identity,” as applied to any natural person, means and includes the provision in writing of the natural person’s name, title(s), position(s), any aliases, place(s) of employment, telephone number(s), email address(es), mailing addresses and physical address(es).
12. “Person” means any natural person, or any Entity.
13. “Sent” or “received” as used herein means, in addition to their usual meanings, the transmittal or reception of a Document by physical, electronic or other delivery, whether by direct or indirect means.
14. “Subpoena” means this subpoena and any schedules or attachments thereto.
15. The use of the singular form of any word used herein shall include the plural and vice versa. The use of any tense of any verb includes all other tenses of the verb.

B. Particular Definitions

1. “Complainant” means Jessica Bakeman, Charlotte Bennett, Lindsey Boylan, Karen Hinton, Ana Liss, Alyssa McGrath, Anna Ruch, Sherry Vill, and any other individual who has made any Complaints known to You, any member of the Executive Chamber, or the public, whether anonymously or otherwise. For the avoidance of doubt, to the extent additional allegations come to light following the issuance of this Subpoena, individuals who make such allegations should be included in this definition.

2. “Complaint” means any and all complaints, allegations, comments, accusations, or other statements of workplace misconduct, sexual harassment, sex- or gender-based misconduct, or other behavior or comments of a sexual, abusive or otherwise inappropriate or uncomfortable nature, whether made formally or informally.
3. “Executive Chamber” means the Executive Chamber of the State of New York, including but not limited to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and all other officers, directors, supervisors, personnel, employees, secretaries, interns, fellows, agents, contractors, consultants, representatives, and attorneys of the Executive Chamber, or any other Persons associated with or acting on behalf of the foregoing, or acting on behalf of any predecessors, successors, or affiliates of the foregoing at any point during the relevant time.
4. “Governor” means the New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.
5. “New York Attorney General” or “Attorney General” means the New York State Office of the Attorney General.
6. “Respondent,” “You,” or “Your” means Jeffrey Pollock, and any agent, attorney, or other representative associated with or acting on behalf of You at any point during the relevant time.
7. “State” or “New York” means the State of New York.

C. Instructions

1. Preservation of Relevant Documents and Information; Spoliation. You are reminded of Your obligations under law to preserve Documents and information relevant or potentially relevant to this Subpoena from destruction or loss, and of the consequences of, and penalties available for, spoliation of evidence. No agreement, written or otherwise, purporting to modify, limit or otherwise vary the terms of this Subpoena, shall be construed in any way to narrow, qualify, eliminate or otherwise diminish Your aforementioned preservation obligations. Nor shall You act, in reliance upon any such agreement or otherwise, in any manner inconsistent with Your preservation obligations under law. No agreement purporting to modify, limit or otherwise vary Your preservation obligations under law shall be construed as in any way narrowing, qualifying, eliminating or otherwise diminishing such aforementioned preservation obligations, nor shall You act in reliance upon any such agreement, unless a Special Deputy to the First Deputy Attorney General confirms or acknowledges such agreement in writing, or makes such agreement a matter of record in open court.
2. Possession, Custody, and Control. The Subpoena calls for all responsive Documents or information in Your possession, custody or control. This includes, without limitation, Documents or information possessed or held by You or any of Your officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, consultants,

divisions, affiliates, subsidiaries or Persons from whom You could request Documents or information. If Documents or information responsive to a request in this Subpoena are in Your control, but not in Your possession or custody, You shall promptly Identify the Person with possession or custody and notify that Person of the Person's obligation to preserve such Documents and provide them to You for production.

3. Documents No Longer in Your Possession. If any Document requested herein was formerly in Your possession, custody or control but is no longer available, or no longer exists, You shall submit a statement in writing under oath that: (a) describes in detail the nature of such Document and its contents; (b) Identifies the Person(s) who prepared such Document and its contents; (c) Identifies all Persons who have seen or had possession of such Document; (d) specifies the date(s) on which such Document was prepared, transmitted or received; (e) specifies the date(s) on which such Document became unavailable; (f) specifies the reason why such Document is unavailable, including without limitation whether it was misplaced, lost, destroyed or transferred; and if such Document has been destroyed or transferred, the conditions of and reasons for such destruction or transfer and the Identity of the Person(s) requesting and performing such destruction or transfer; and (g) Identifies all Persons with knowledge of any portion of the contents of the Document.
4. No Documents Responsive to Subpoena Requests. If there are no Documents responsive to any particular Subpoena request, You shall so state in writing under oath in the Affidavit of Compliance attached hereto, identifying the paragraph number(s) of the Subpoena request concerned.
5. Format of Production. You shall produce Documents and information responsive to this Subpoena in the format requested by the Office of the New York State Attorney General, as set out in Attachments 1 and 2 or as otherwise agreed upon.
6. Databases. To the extent that any data responsive to the requests herein is maintained in an electronic repository of records, such as a detailed transcription report, such information should be produced by querying the database for responsive information and generating a report or a reasonably usable and exportable electronic file (for example, *.csv and/or *.xls formats) for review. If it is not possible to export data in this format, You must make the database available to the undersigned for meaningful inspection and review of the information.
7. Existing Organization of Documents to be Preserved. Regardless of whether a production is in electronic or paper format, each Document shall be produced in the same form, sequence, organization or other order or layout in which it was maintained before production, including but not limited to production of any Document or other material indicating filing or other organization. Such production shall include without limitation any file folder, file jacket, cover or similar organizational material, as well as any folder bearing any title or legend

that contains no Document. Likewise, all Documents that are physically attached to each other in Your files shall remain so attached in any production; or if such production is electronic, shall be accompanied by notation or information sufficient to indicate clearly such physical attachment.

8. Manner of Compliance – Custodians/Search Terms/Technology-Assisted Review. Prior consultation with the Special Deputies to the First Deputy Attorney General is required concerning selection of custodians for document searches (whether electronic or otherwise) or for use of search term filters, predictive coding or other forms of technology-assisted review. The Office of the Attorney General reserves the right to approve, disapprove, modify or supplement any proposed list of custodians, search terms, and/or review methodology. The selection or use of custodians, search term filters, and/or technology-assisted review in no way relieves You of Your obligation to fully respond to these requests for Documents or information.
9. Document Numbering. All Documents responsive to this Subpoena, regardless of whether produced or withheld on ground of privilege or other legal doctrine, and regardless of whether production is in electronic or paper format, shall be numbered in the lower right corner of each page of such Document, without disrupting or altering the form, sequence, organization or other order or layout in which such Documents were maintained before production. Such number shall comprise a prefix containing the producing Person's name or an abbreviation thereof, followed by a unique, sequential, identifying document control number.
10. Privilege Placeholders. For each Document withheld from production on ground of privilege or other legal doctrine, regardless of whether a production is electronic or in hard copy, You shall insert one or more placeholder page(s) in the production bearing the same document control number(s) borne by the Document withheld, in the sequential place(s) originally occupied by the Document before it was removed from the production.
11. Privilege. If You withhold or redact any Document responsive to this Subpoena on ground of any privilege or other legal doctrine, You shall submit with the Documents produced a statement in writing under oath, stating: (a) the document control number(s) of the Document withheld or redacted; (b) the type of Document; (c) the date of the Document; (d) the author(s) and recipient(s) of the Document; (e) the general subject matter of the Document; and (f) the legal ground for withholding or redacting the Document. If the legal ground for withholding or redacting the Document is attorney-client privilege, You shall indicate the name of the attorney(s) whose legal advice is sought or provided in the Document.
12. Your Production Instructions to Be Produced. You shall produce a copy of all written or otherwise recorded instructions prepared by You concerning the steps taken to respond to this Subpoena. For any unrecorded instructions given, You shall provide a written statement under oath from the Person(s) who gave such

instructions that details the specific content of the instructions and any Person(s) to whom the instructions were given.

13. Cover Letter, Index, and Identifying Information. Accompanying any production(s) made pursuant to this Subpoena, You shall include a cover letter that shall at a minimum provide an index containing the following: (a) a description of the type and content of each Document produced therewith; (b) the paragraph number(s) of the Subpoena request(s) to which each such Document is responsive; (c) the Identity of the Custodian(s) of each such Document; and (d) the document control number(s) of each such Document. As further set forth in Attachment 2, information must also be included in the metadata and load files of each production concerning the identity of each Document's custodian, as well as information identifying the particular Document requests and/or information to which each document is responsive.
14. Affidavit of Compliance. A copy of the Affidavit of Compliance provided herewith shall be completed and executed by all natural persons supervising or participating in compliance with this Subpoena, and You shall submit such executed Affidavit(s) of Compliance with Your response to this Subpoena.
15. Identification of Persons Preparing Production. In a schedule attached to the Affidavit of Compliance provided herewith, You shall Identify the natural person(s) who prepared or assembled any productions or responses to this Subpoena. You shall further Identify the natural person(s) under whose personal supervision the preparation and assembly of productions and responses to this Subpoena occurred. You shall further Identify all other natural person(s) able to competently testify: (a) that such productions and responses are complete and correct to the best of such person's knowledge and belief; and (b) that any Documents produced are authentic, genuine and what they purport to be.
16. Continuing Obligation to Produce. This Subpoena imposes a continuing obligation to produce the Documents and information requested. Documents located or created, and information learned, acquired or created, at any time after Your response is due shall be promptly produced at the place specified in this Subpoena.
17. No Oral Modifications. No agreement purporting to modify, limit or otherwise vary this Subpoena shall be valid or binding, and You shall not act in reliance upon any such agreement, unless a Special Deputy to the First Deputy Attorney General confirms or acknowledges such agreement in writing, or makes such agreement a matter of record in open court.
18. Time Period. Unless otherwise specified, the time period covered by this Subpoena shall be from January 1, 2013 forward.

D. Documents to Be Produced

1. Any and all Documents relating to any Complaint concerning the Governor or anyone in the Executive Chamber or the Governor's staff, including but not limited to any Communication relating to any response (whether public or private) to a Complaint.
2. Any and all Documents concerning any Complainant, including but not limited to any Communication relating to any statement made or information provided to the media or the public.
3. Any and all Documents concerning Communications with any current or former member of the Executive Chamber relating to any Complaint concerning the Governor or any public or private response to any such Complaint.

ATTACHMENT 1
Electronic Document Production Specifications

Unless otherwise specified and agreed to by the Office of Attorney General, all responsive documents must be produced in LexisNexis® Concordance® format in accordance with the following instructions. Any questions regarding electronic document production should be directed to the Special Deputy to the First Deputy Attorney General whose telephone number appears on the subpoena.

1. **Concordance Production Components.** A Concordance production consists of the following component files, which must be produced in accordance with the specifications set forth below in Section 7.
 - A. ***Metadata Load File.*** A delimited text file that lists in columnar format the required metadata for each produced document.
 - B. ***Extracted or OCR Text Files.*** Document-level extracted text for each produced document or document-level optical character recognition (“OCR”) text where extracted text is not available.
 - C. ***Single-Page Image Files.*** Individual petrified page images of the produced documents in tagged image format (“TIF”), with page-level Bates number endorsements.
 - D. ***Opticon Load File.*** A delimited text file that lists the single-page TIF files for each produced document and defines (i) the relative location of the TIF files on the production media and (ii) each document break.
 - E. ***Native Files.*** Native format versions of non-printable or non-print friendly produced documents.
2. **Production Folder Structure.** The production must be organized according to the following standard folder structure:
 - data\ (contains production load files)
 - images\ (contains single-page TIF files, with subfolder organization)
 \0001, \0002, \0003...
 - native_files\ (contains native files, with subfolder organization)
 \0001, \0002, \0003...
 - text\ (contains text files, with subfolder organization)
 \0001, \0002, \0003...
3. **De-Duplication.** You must perform global de-duplication of stand-alone documents and email families against any prior productions pursuant to this or previously related subpoenas.
4. **Paper or Scanned Documents.** Documents that exist only in paper format must be scanned to single-page TIF files and OCR’d. The resulting electronic files should

be pursued in Concordance format pursuant to these instructions. You must contact the Special Deputy to the First Deputy Attorney General whose telephone number appears on the subpoena to discuss (i) any documents that cannot be scanned, and (ii) how information for scanned documents should be represented in the metadata load file.

5. Structured Data. Before producing structured data, including but not limited to relational databases, transactional data, and xml pages, you must first speak to the Special Deputy to the First Deputy Attorney General whose telephone number appears on the subpoena. Structured data is data that has a defined length and format and includes, but is not limited to, relational databases, graphical databases, JSON files, or xml/html pages.

A. Relational Databases

1. Database tables should be provided in CSV or other delimited machine-readable, non-proprietary format, with each table in a separate data file. The preferred delimiter is a vertical bar “|”. If after speaking with the Special Deputy to the First Deputy Attorney General and it is determined that the data cannot be exported from a proprietary database, then the data can be produced in the proprietary format so long as the Office of the Attorney General is given sufficient access to that data.
2. Each database must have an accompanying Data Dictionary.
3. Dates and numbers must be clearly and consistently formatted and, where relevant, units of measure should be explained in the Data Dictionary.
4. Records must contain clear, unique identifiers, and the Data Dictionary must include explanations of how the files and records relate to one another.
5. Each data file must also have an accompanying summary file that provides total row counts for the entire dataset and total row counts.

B. Compression

1. If Documents are provided in a compressed archive, only standard lossless compression methods (e.g., gzip, bzip2, and ZIP) shall be used. Media files should be provided in their original file format, with metadata preserved and no additional lossy encoding applied.

6. Media and Encryption. All documents must be produced on CD, DVD, or hard-drive media. After consultation with the Special Deputy to the First Deputy Attorney General, Documents may also be produced over a secure file transfer protocol (FTP) or a pre-approved cloud-based platform (e.g., Amazon Web Services S3 bucket). All production media must be protected with a strong, randomly generated password containing at least 16 alphanumeric characters and encrypted using Advanced Encryption Standard with 256-bit key length (AES-256). Passwords for electronic documents, files, compressed archives and encrypted media must be provided separately from the media.

7. Production File Requirements.

A. *Metadata Load File*

- Required file format:
 - ASCII or UTF-8
 - Windows formatted CR + LF end of line characters, including full CR + LF on last record in file.
 - .dat file extension
 - Field delimiter: (ASCII decimal character 20)
 - Text Qualifier: þ (ASCII decimal character 254). Date and pure numeric value fields do not require qualifiers.
 - Multiple value field delimiter: ; (ASCII decimal character 59)
- The first line of the metadata load file must list all included fields. All required fields are listed in Attachment 2.
- Fields with no values must be represented by empty columns maintaining delimiters and qualifiers.
- **Note:** All documents must have page-level Bates numbering (except documents produced only in native format, which must be assigned a document-level Bates number). The metadata load file must list the beginning and ending Bates numbers (BEGDOC and ENDDOC) for each document. For document families, including but not limited to emails and attachments, compound documents, and uncompressed file containers, the metadata load file must also list the Bates range of the entire document family (ATTACHRANGE), beginning with the first Bates number (BEGDOC) of the “parent” document and ending with the last Bates number (ENDDOC) assigned to the last “child” in the document family.
- Date and Time metadata must be provided in separate columns.
- Accepted date formats:
 - mm/dd/yyyy
 - yyyy/mm/dd
 - yyyymmdd
- Accepted time formats:
 - hh:mm:ss (if not in 24-hour format, you must indicate am/pm)

- hh:mm:ss:mmm

B. *Extracted or OCR Text Files*

- You must produce individual document-level text files containing the full extracted text for each produced document.
- When extracted text is not available (for instance, for image-only documents) you must provide individual document-level text files containing the document's full OCR text.
- The filename for each text file must match the document's beginning Bates number (BEGDOC) listed in the metadata load file.
- Text files must be divided into subfolders containing no more than 500 to 1000 files.

C. *Single-Page Image Files (Petrified Page Images)*

- Where possible, all produced documents must be converted into single-page tagged image format ("TIF") files. See Section 7.E below for instructions on producing native versions of documents you are unable to convert.
- Image documents that exist only in non-TIF formats must be converted into TIF files. The original image format must be produced as a native file as described in Section 7.E below.
- For documents produced only in native format, you must provide a TIF placeholder that states "Document produced only in native format."
- Each single-page TIF file must be endorsed with a unique Bates number.
- The filename for each single-page TIF file must match the unique page-level Bates number (or document-level Bates number for documents produced only in native format).
- Required image file format:
 - CCITT Group 4 compression
 - 2-Bit black and white
 - 300 dpi
 - Either .tif or .tiff file extension.
- TIF files must be divided into subfolders containing no more than 500 to 1000 files. Where possible documents should not span multiple subfolders.

D. *Opticon Load File*

- Required file format:
 - ASCII
 - Windows formatted CR + LF end of line characters
 - Field delimiter: , (ASCII decimal character 44)
 - No Text Qualifier
 - .opt file extension

- The comma-delimited Opticon load file must contain the following seven fields (as indicated below, values for certain fields may be left blank):
 - ALIAS or IMAGEKEY – the unique Bates number assigned to each page of the production.
 - VOLUME – this value is optional and may be left blank.
 - RELATIVE PATH – the filepath to each single-page image file on the production media.
 - DOCUMENT BREAK – defines the first page of a document. The only possible values for this field are “Y” or blank.
 - FOLDER BREAK – defines the first page of a folder. The only possible values for this field are “Y” or blank.
 - BOX BREAK – defines the first page of a box. The only possible values for this field are “Y” or blank.
 - PAGE COUNT – this value is optional and may be left blank.
- **Example:**
 ABC00001,,IMAGES\0001\ABC00001.tif,Y,,,2
 ABC00002,,IMAGES\0001\ABC00002.tif,,,,
 ABC00003,,IMAGES\0002\ABC00003.tif,Y,,,1
 ABC00004,,IMAGES\0002\ABC00004.tif,Y,,,1

E. ***Native Files***

- Non-printable or non-print friendly documents (including but not limited to spreadsheets, audio files, video files and documents for which color has significance to document fidelity) must be produced in their native format.
- The filename of each native file must match the document’s beginning Bates number (BEGDOC) in the metadata load file and retain the original file extension.
- For documents produced only in native format, you must assign a single document-level Bates number and provide an image file placeholder that states “Document produced only in native format.”
- The relative paths to all native files on the production media must be listed in the NATIVEFILE field of the metadata load file.
- Native files that are password-protected must be decrypted prior to conversion and produced in decrypted form. In cases where this cannot be achieved the document’s password must be listed in the metadata load file. The password should be placed in the COMMENTS field with the format Password: <PASSWORD>.
- You may be required to supply a software license for proprietary documents produced only in native format.

ATTACHMENT 2
Required Fields for Metadata Load File

FIELD NAME	FIELD DESCRIPTION	FIELD VALUE EXAMPLE¹
DOCID	Unique document reference (can be used for de-duplication).	ABC0001 or ###.#####.###
BEGDOC	Bates number assigned to the first page of the document.	ABC0001
ENDDOC	Bates number assigned to the last page of the document.	ABC0002
BEGATTACH	Bates number assigned to the first page of the parent document in a document family (<i>i.e.</i> , should be the same as BEGDOC of the parent document, or PARENTDOC).	ABC0001
ENDATTACH	Bates number assigned to the last page of the last child document in a family (<i>i.e.</i> , should be the same as ENDDOC of the last child document).	ABC0008
ATTACHRANGE	Bates range of entire document family.	ABC0001 - ABC0008
PARENTDOC	BEGDOC of parent document.	ABC0001
CHILDDOCS	List of BEGDOCs of all child documents, delimited by ";" when field has multiple values.	ABC0002; ABC0003; ABC0004...
DOCREQ	List of particular Requests for Documents to be Produced in the subpoena	1; 2; 3 . . .
INTERROG	List of particular Requests for Information or interrogatories in the subpoena	1; 2; 3 . . .
COMMENTS	Additional document comments, such as passwords for encrypted files.	

¹ Examples represent possible values and not required format unless the field format is specified in Attachment 1.

NATIVEFILE	Relative file path of the native file on the production media.	.\Native_File\Folder\...\BEGDOC.ext
SOURCE	For scanned paper records this should be a description of the physical location of the original paper record. For loose electronic files this should be the name of the file server or workstation where the files were gathered.	Company Name, Department Name, Location, Box Number...
CUSTODIAN	Owner of the document or file.	Firstname Lastname, Lastname, Firstname, User Name; Company Name, Department Name...
FROM	Sender of the email.	Firstname Lastname < FLastname @domain >
TO	All to: members or recipients, delimited by ";" when field has multiple values.	Firstname Lastname < FLastname @domain >; Firstname Lastname < FLastname @domain >; ...
CC	All cc: members, delimited by ";" when field has multiple values.	Firstname Lastname < FLastname @domain >; Firstname Lastname < FLastname @domain >; ...
BCC	All bcc: members, delimited by ";" when field has multiple values	Firstname Lastname < FLastname @domain >; Firstname Lastname < FLastname @domain >; ...
SUBJECT	Subject line of the email.	
DATERCVD	Date that an email was received.	mm/dd/yyyy, yyyy/mm/dd, or yyyymmdd
TIMERCVD	Time that an email was received.	hh:mm:ss AM/PM or hh:mm:ss
DATESENT	Date that an email was sent.	mm/dd/yyyy, yyyy/mm/dd, or yyyymmdd

TIMESENT	Time that an email was sent.	hh:mm:ss AM/PM or hh:mm:ss
CALBEGDATE	Date that a meeting begins.	mm/dd/yyyy, yyyy/mm/dd, or yyyymmdd
CALBEGTIME	Time that a meeting begins.	hh:mm:ss AM/PM or hh:mm:ss
CALENDDATE	Date that a meeting ends.	mm/dd/yyyy, yyyy/mm/dd, or yyyymmdd
CALENDTIME	Time that a meeting ends.	hh:mm:ss AM/PM or hh:mm:ss
CALENDAR DUR	Duration of a meeting in hours.	0.75, 1.5...
ATTACHMENTS	List of filenames of all attachments, delimited by ";" when field has multiple values.	AttachmentFileName.; AttachmentFileName.doc x; AttachmentFileName.pdf; ...
NUMATTACH	Number of attachments.	1, 2, 3, 4...
RECORDTYPE	General type of record.	IMAGE; LOOSE E- MAIL; E-MAIL; E-DOC; IMAGE ATTACHMENT; LOOSE E-MAIL ATTACHMENT; E- MAIL ATTACHMENT; E-DOC ATTACHMENT
FOLDERLOC	Original folder path of the produced document.	Drive:\Folder\...\...\
FILENAME	Original filename of the produced document.	Filename.ext
DOCEXT	Original file extension.	html, xls, pdf
DOCTYPE	Name of the program that created the produced document.	Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Corel WordPerfect...
TITLE	Document title (if entered).	
AUTHOR	Name of the document author.	Firstname Lastname; Lastname, First Name; FLastname
REVISION	Number of revisions to a document.	18

DATECREATED	Date that a document was created.	mm/dd/yyyy, yyyy/mm/dd, or yyyymmdd
TIMECREATED	Time that a document was created.	hh:mm:ss AM/PM or hh:mm:ss
DATEMOD	Date that a document was last modified.	mm/dd/yyyy, yyyy/mm/dd, or yyyymmdd
TIMEMOD	Time that a document was last modified.	hh:mm:ss AM/PM or hh:mm:ss
FILESIZE	Original file size in bytes.	128, 512, 1024...
PGCOUNT	Number of pages per document.	1, 2, 10, 100...
IMPORTANCE	Email priority level if set.	Low, Normal, High
TIFFSTATUS	Generated by the Law Pre-discovery production tool (leave blank if inapplicable).	Y, C, E, W, N, P
DUPSTATUS	Generated by the Law Pre-discovery production tool (leave blank if inapplicable).	P
MD5HASH	MD5 hash value computed from native file (a/k/a file fingerprint).	BC1C5CA6C1945179FE E144F25F51087B
SHA1HASH	SHA1 hash value	B68F4F57223CA7DA358 4BAD7ECF111B8044F86 31
MSGINDEX	Email message ID	

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH SUBPOENA

State of _____ }
County of _____ }

I, _____, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am employed by Respondent in the position of _____
_____;
2. Respondent's productions and responses to the Subpoena of the Attorney General of the State of New York, dated _____, 20____ (the "Subpoena") were prepared and assembled under my personal supervision;
3. I made or caused to be made a diligent, complete and comprehensive search for all Documents and information requested by the Subpoena, in full accordance with the instructions and definitions set forth in the Subpoena;
4. Respondent's productions and responses to the Subpoena are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief;
5. No Documents or information responsive to the Subpoena have been withheld from Respondent's production and response, other than responsive Documents or information withheld on the basis of a legal privilege or doctrine;
6. All responsive Documents or information withheld on the basis of a legal privilege or doctrine have been identified on a privilege log composed and produced in accordance with the instructions in the Subpoena;
7. The Documents contained in Respondent's productions and responses to the Subpoena are authentic, genuine and what they purport to be;
8. Attached is a true and accurate record of all persons who prepared and assembled any productions and responses to the Subpoena, all persons under whose personal supervision the preparation and assembly of productions and responses to the Subpoena occurred, and all persons able competently to testify: (a) that such productions and responses are complete and correct to the best of such person's knowledge and belief; and (b) that any Documents produced are authentic, genuine and what they purport to be; and

9. Attached is a true and accurate statement of those requests under the Subpoena as to which no responsive Documents were located in the course of the aforementioned search.

Signature of Affiant

Date

Printed Name of Affiant

* * *

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20__.

_____, Notary Public

My commission expires: _____



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
GREETINGS

TO: Jeffrey Pollock
c/o Matthew Levine
Phillips Nizer LLP
485 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, pursuant to Executive Law § 63(8) and New York Civil Practice Law and Rules § 2302(a), to appear and attend before the Special Deputies to the First Deputy Attorney General, on July 9, 2021 at 9:00 AM, or any agreed upon adjourned date or time, at One Liberty Plaza, 38th Floor, New York, New York 10006 to testify in connection with an investigation into allegations of and circumstances surrounding sexual harassment claims made against Governor Cuomo, or any matter that the Attorney General deems pertinent thereto.

TAKE NOTICE that the Attorney General deems the testimony commanded by this Subpoena to be relevant and material to an investigation and inquiry undertaken in the public interest.

TAKE NOTICE that the examination may be recorded by stenographic, videographic and/or audio means.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Your disobedience of this Subpoena, by failing to appear and attend and testify on the date, time and place stated above or on any agreed upon adjourned date or time, **may subject You to penalties and other lawful punishment** under Executive Law § 63(8), New York Civil Practice Law and Rules § 2308 and/or other statutes.

EXHIBIT

2

WITNESS, **The Honorable Letitia James**, Attorney General of the State of New York,
this 30th day of June, 2021.

By:  _____
Joon H. Kim
Jennifer Kennedy Park
Abena Mainoo
Special Deputies to the
First Deputy Attorney General
[REDACTED]@ag.ny.gov
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@ag.ny.gov
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ag.ny.gov
[REDACTED]

By: /s/ Anne L. Clark _____
Anne L. Clark
Yannick Grant
Special Deputies to the
First Deputy Attorney General
[REDACTED]@ag.ny.gov
[REDACTED] ag.ny.gov



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Settings

Thread

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan

Most toxic team environment? Working for @NYGovCuomo.

Jerry Avenaim @avenaim · Dec 5, 2020
Name the worse job you've ever had.

1:00 PM · Dec 5, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1,252 Retweets 311 Quote Tweets 9,293 Likes



Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 5, 2020
Replying to @LindseyBoylan
I've had many jobs. Waitressing at @Friendlys as a teenager was an infinitely more respectful environment. Even when I had bad customers who tipped poorly.

24 54 884

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 5, 2020
If people weren't deathly afraid of him, they'd be saying the same thing and you'd already know the stories.

26 85 1K

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 5, 2020
Seriously, the messages and texts I receive when I speak the truth about this...it's a whole book of people who have been harmed.

9 53 860

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 5, 2020
Don't be surprised that it's the same small group of white people sitting alongside him at every presser. The same group that he has had by him the whole time, doing his dirty work. If you're not one of those handful, your life working for him is endlessly dispiriting.

13 70 914

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 5, 2020
I tried to quit three times before it stuck. I've worked hard my whole life. Hustled - fake it till you make it style.

That environment is beyond toxic. I'm still unwrapping it years later in therapy!

20 39 776

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 5, 2020
And I'm a privileged person. I could opt out and eventually did. I shudder to think what happens to others. It pisses me off so much.

7 26 672

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 5, 2020
Yes I did not sign whatever they told me to sign when I left. Nope!

29 30 936

Marcella L. Simonetta @marcellalaluna · Dec 5, 2020

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Relevant people

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan
Mom. Progressive P
4 a Livable City. Fm
& Urban Planner. C
Manhattan Boroug

Andrew Cuomo @NYGovCuomo
Father, fisherman, n
enthusiast, 56th Go

Jerry Avenaim @avenaim
Award winning pho
Fashion, Celebrity, /
-Chicago Native -Lc
Mental Health Advc

What's happening

Entertainment · LIVE
Happy birthday, Tom Holla
Trending with Tom Holland

Music · Trending
JUST ANNOUNCED
17K Tweets

Trending in United States
HELP THE BEAR
People react to a viral TikTok
fearlessly pushing a bear aw
before running inside to pro
4,843 Tweets

COVID-19 · LIVE
**New York: COVID-19: New
updates for New York**

Holidays · 1 hour ago
**Pride Month celebrations k
across the world**
Trending with #pride LGBTQ

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People on Twitter are the first to know.



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- Lindsey Boylan** @LindseyBoylan · Dec 8, 2020

Yesterday was an extremely weird day, responding to the news world finally waking up about the whispers they have heard about @NYGovCuomo over the years. It's worse than the gossip, by far.

My hope is he is on notice and won't harm more people, especially women.

22 174 1.1K
- Lindsey Boylan** @LindseyBoylan · Dec 8, 2020

I have very important work to do getting elected so I can help my city recover and my people be heard.

I will not be spending my days responding to the trauma men like @NYGovCuomo have caused every day in power.

Instead I'm getting back to my work.

4 20 265
- Lindsey Boylan** @LindseyBoylan · Dec 8, 2020

But, you better believe I'll be listening to what I hear out there, @NYGovCuomo. And if other women decide to come forward I will back them up and elaborate.

For now, I am getting back to my important work that made me willing to live in hell so long working for you.

5 40 335
- Lindsey Boylan** @LindseyBoylan · Dec 8, 2020

When we let our abusers, or onlookers, dictate the conversation we lose. I will not be stopped. I will not be deterred. I will not be minimized and truncated in history as someone that was victimized by a famous and powerful man the world kept elevating.

I will fight.

20 55 442

Replies

- D'Abbey-Bonacci** @lordgrand7 · Dec 8, 2020

Replying to @LindseyBoylan and @NYGovCuomo

I hope things go well for you @LindseyBoylan. There are women across the globe that have suffered trauma from powerful men. Sadly, it's an enduring reality for too many women. I don't know your story, but I'm acutely aware what trauma inflicted by powerful men can do. Stay strong

1 2 27
- Sandra Rios** @sabulosaa · Dec 8, 2020

Replying to @LindseyBoylan and @NYGovCuomo

????? unbelievable #StrongerTogether

3
- Roger** @Roger2dot0 · Dec 8, 2020

Replying to @LindseyBoylan @es_indivisible and @NYGovCuomo

What are you talkin about?

1

View more replies

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Relevant people

- Lindsey Boylan** @LindseyBoylan

Mom. Progressive M
4 a Livable City. Fmi
& Urban Planner. C
Manhattan Borough
- Andrew Cuomo** @NYGovCuomo

Father, fisherman, n
enthusiast, 56th Go

What's happening

- Music · LIVE

It's Travis Scott's birthday

Trending with [Travis Scott](#), [Astro](#)
- Trending in United States

BOYFRIEND REVEAL

4,131 Tweets
- Trending in United States

Josh Duggar

Former reality television star arrested by federal agents in Thursday, TMZ reports

Trending with [19 Kids and Count](#)
- COVID-19 · LIVE

COVID-19: News and upda

New York
- The New York Times** · Ye

'Disaster Girl' is 21 now an

made \$500,000 off the me

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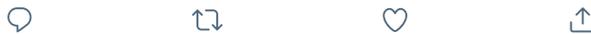
Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan

My first experience of workplace sexual harassment was when my mom got her first real office job after graduating from college when I was in high school.

She was so excited to be taken "seriously." Her bossed isolated her and kissed her. She never had that type of job again.

8:49 AM · Dec 13, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1,085 Retweets 375 Quote Tweets 7,614 Likes



Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 13, 2020 Replying to @LindseyBoylan

It was then how I learned how hard it is for women. How hard this world can be for us when we are trying to be taken seriously and help our community. How easily jerks can destroy the lives of women.

58 327 3.7K

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 13, 2020

And I promised myself I would never let those kind of guys win. I would work hard my whole life to put myself in positions of power to change things. To end the violence & corruption. Give voice to the voiceless.

I am not stopping. I refuse. I will never give up.

110 378 3.8K

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 13, 2020

Yes, @NYGovCuomo sexually harassed me for years. Many saw it, and watched.

I could never anticipate what to expect: would I be grilled on my work (which was very good) or harassed about my looks. Or would it be both in the same conversation? This was the way for years.

2.5K 13.8K 27.6K

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 13, 2020

Not knowing what to expect what's the most upsetting part aside from knowing that no one would do a damn thing even when they saw it.

No one.

And I *know* I am not the only woman.

203 1K 7.5K

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan · Dec 13, 2020

I'm angry to be put in this situation at all. That because I am a woman, I can work hard my whole life to better myself and help others and yet still fall victim as countless women over generations have. Mostly silently.

I hate that some men, like @NYGovCuomo abuse their power.

714 2K 11.1K

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Relevant people

Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan Mom. Progressive M 4 a Livable City. Fm & Urban Planner. C. Manhattan Borough

What's happening

World news · Yesterday Chinese government says t first human case of H10N3 flu is unlikely to spread

Trending in United States Concorde 1,700 Tweets

Music · Trending Olamide 24.2K Tweets

COVID-19 · LIVE New York: COVID-19: New updates for New York

BuzzFeed News · Last nig Tulsa Raised Millions of Do To Memorialize The 1921 Massacre. Not Much Went The Black Community.

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People on Twitter are the first to know.

EXHIBIT

4

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Tweet



Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan

To be clear: I have no interest in talking to journalists.

I am about validating the experience of countless women and making sure abuse stops.

My worst fear is that this continues. And as @FKAtwigs said yesterday, my second worst fear is having to talk about and relive this.

10:00 AM · Dec 13, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

111 Retweets 63 Quote Tweets 1,396 Likes



Chris Bold @fingertrick · Dec 13, 2020

Replying to @LindseyBoylan and @FKAtwigs

Sometimes you need to do you. I hope you feel and others are helped by you sharing with your platform.

1 Retweet 2 Likes



Erick From Twitter (Sifting through reality) @Er... · Dec 13, 2020

Replying to @LindseyBoylan and @FKAtwigs

Valid point.

Either way, journalists will want to hesitate discussing certain stories like these even when the truth is in front of their face.

That's how others go on to relive certain experiences in the dark.

2 Retweets 5 Likes

Show replies



Marissa Vonáye @marissavonaye_ · Dec 13, 2020

Replying to @LindseyBoylan and @FKAtwigs

I believe you of course, but won't it be hard to get around talking about it since you're running for office? Especially since it's a serious allegation against one of the most well-known political figures in the country?

Retweet Like Share



Victims Rights NY PAC @victimsrightsNY · Dec 13, 2020

Replying to @LindseyBoylan and @FKAtwigs

Are there other reports of this? 💔

1 Retweet 4 Likes



Dmkorpiable @korpiable · Dec 13, 2020

Me thinks she has some explaining to do.



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Relevant people



Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan

Mom. Progressive M Fighting 4 a Livable Govt Official & Urb Candidate 4 Manha (She/Her)



FKA twigs @FKAtwigs

What's happening

Gaming · LIVE

Summer Game Fest 2021

Trending with Elden Ring, #SummerGameFest

Video games · Trending

Call of Duty

27.6K Tweets

Video games · Trending

IT'S REAL

96.5K Tweets

COVID-19 · LIVE

New York: COVID-19: New updates for New York

The New York Ti... · 2 h

Starbucks is running low on ingredients

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My story of working with Governor Cuomo



Lindsey Boylan Feb 24 · 8 min read

“Let’s play strip poker.”

I should have been shocked by the Governor’s crude comment, but I wasn’t.

We were flying home from an October 2017 event in Western New York on his taxpayer-funded jet. He was seated facing me, so close our knees almost touched. His press aide was to my right and a state trooper behind us.

“That’s exactly what I was thinking,” I responded sarcastically and awkwardly. I tried to play it cool. But in that moment, I realized just how acquiescent I had become.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has created a culture within his administration where sexual harassment and bullying is so pervasive that it is not only condoned but expected. His inappropriate behavior toward women was an affirmation that he liked you, that you must be doing something right. He used intimidation to silence his critics. And if you dared to speak up, you would face consequences.

That’s why I panicked on the morning of December 13.

While enjoying a weekend with my husband and six-year-old daughter, I spontaneously decided to share a small part of the truth I had hidden for so long in shame and never planned to disclose. The night before, a former Cuomo staffer confided to me that she, too, had been the subject of the Governor’s workplace harassment. Her story mirrored my own. Seeing his name floated as a potential candidate for U.S. Attorney General — the highest law enforcement official in the land — set me off.

In a few tweets, I told the world what a few close friends, family members and my therapist had known for years: Andrew Cuomo abused his power as Governor to sexually harass me, just as he had done with so many other women.

As messages from journalists buzzed on my phone, I laid in bed unable to move. I finally had decided to speak up, but at what cost?

Parts of a supposed confidential personnel file (which I've never seen) were leaked to the media in an effort to smear me. The Governor's loyalists called around town, asking about me.

Last week, Assemblymember Ron Kim spoke out publicly about the intimidation and abuse he has faced from Governor Cuomo and his aides. As Mayor de Blasio remarked, "the bullying is nothing new." There are many more of us, but most are too afraid to speak up.

I'm compelled to tell my story because no woman should feel forced to hide their experiences of workplace intimidation, harassment and humiliation — not by the Governor or anyone else.

I expect the Governor and his top aides will attempt to further disparage me, just as they've done with Assemblymember Kim. They'd lose their jobs if they didn't protect him. That's how his administration works. I know because I was a part of it.

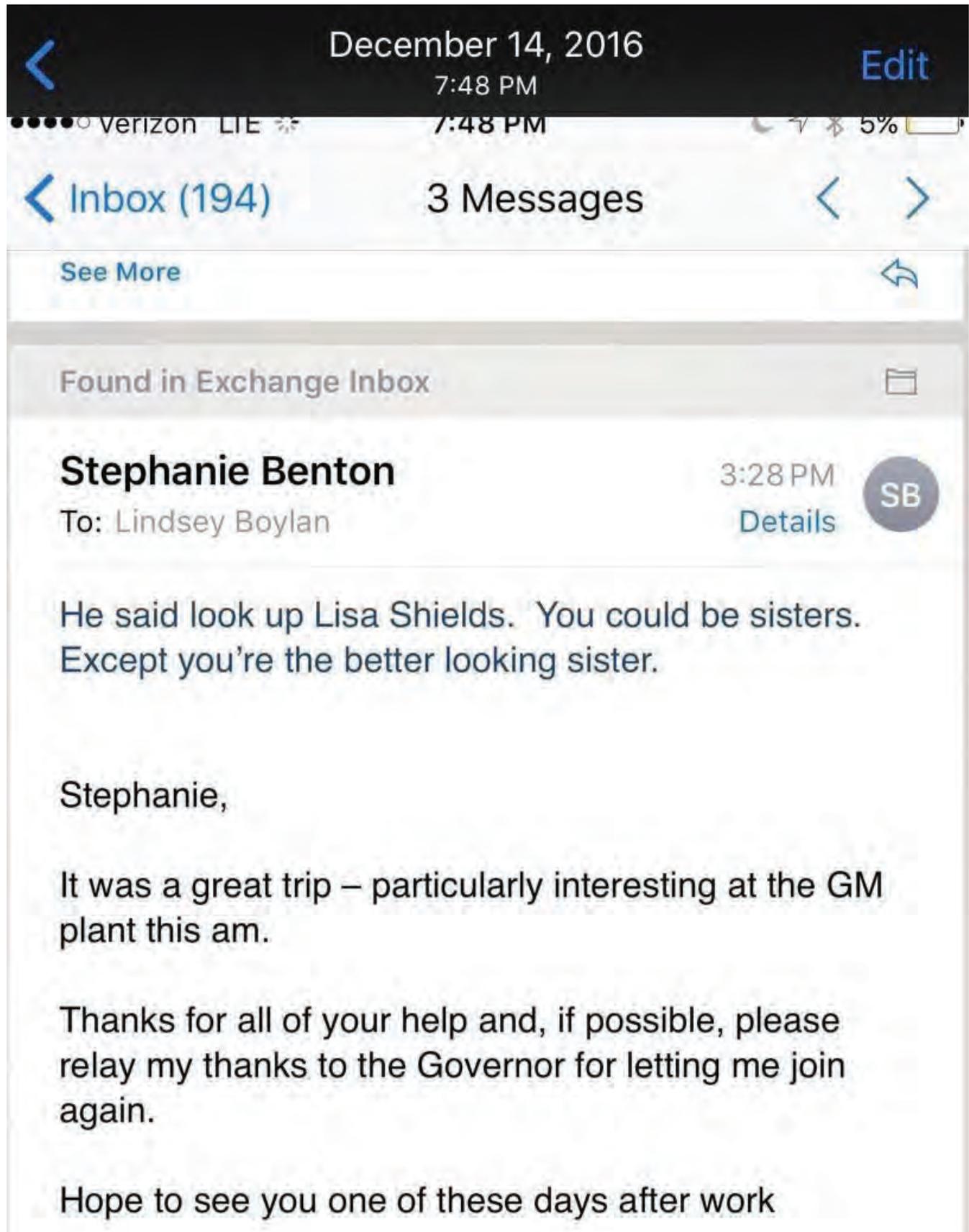
I joined state government in 2015 as a Vice President at Empire State Development. I was quickly promoted to Chief of Staff at the state economic development agency. The news of my appointment prompted a warning from a friend who served as an executive with an influential civic engagement organization: "Be careful around the Governor."

My first encounter with the Governor came at a January 6, 2016, event at Madison Square Garden to promote the new Pennsylvania Station-Farley Complex project. After his speech, he stopped to talk to me. I was new on the job and surprised by how much attention he paid me.

My boss soon informed me that the Governor had a "crush" on me. It was an uncomfortable but all-too-familiar feeling: the struggle to be taken seriously by a powerful man who tied my worth to my body and my appearance.

Stephanie Benton, Director of the Governor's Offices, told me in an email on December 14, 2016 that the Governor suggested I look up images of Lisa Shields — his

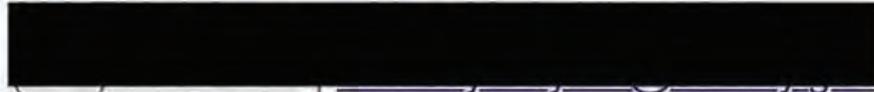
rumored former girlfriend — because “we could be sisters” and I was “the better looking sister.” The Governor began calling me “Lisa” in front of colleagues. It was degrading.



All my best,
Linds

Lindsey Boylan
Chief of Staff

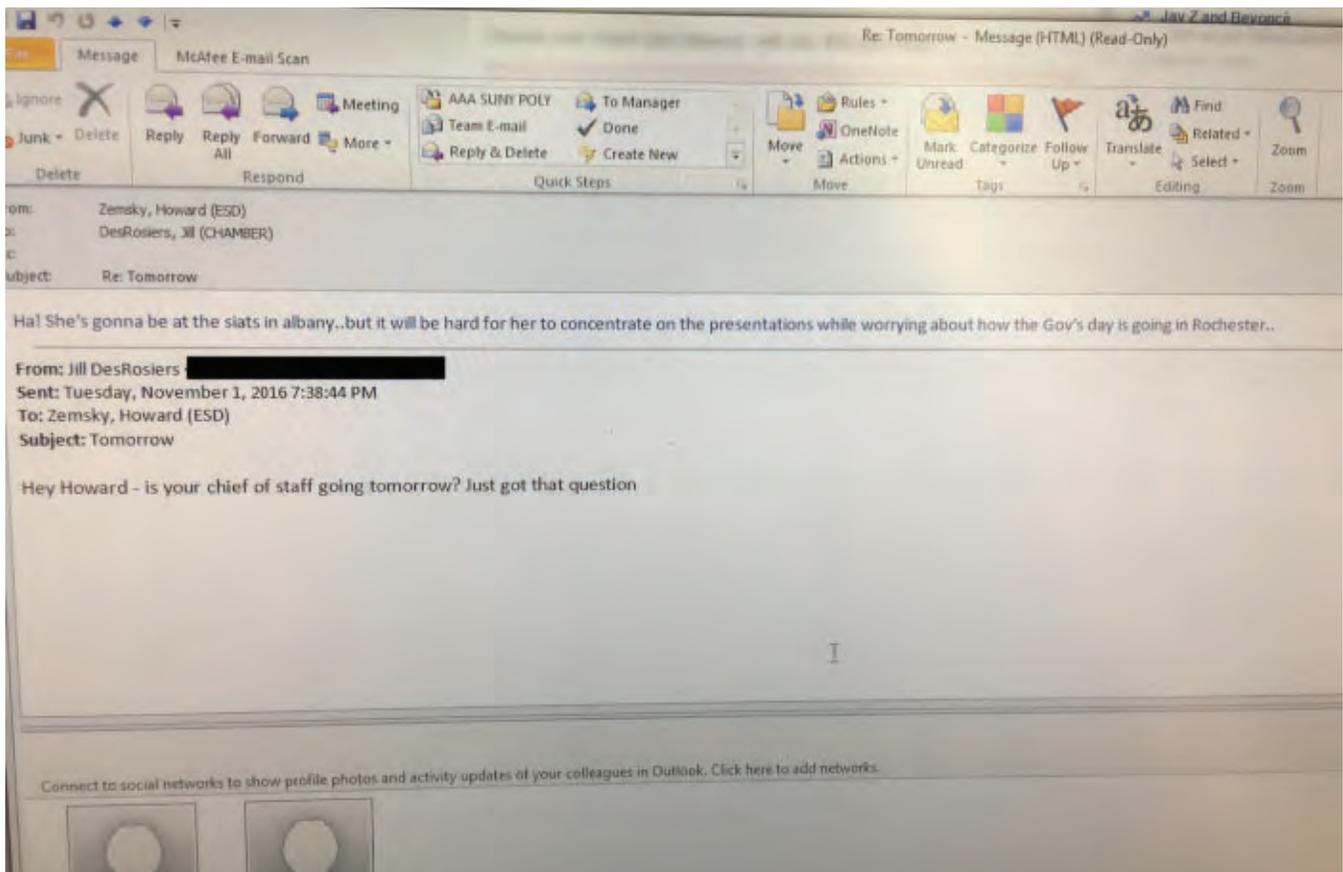
Empire State Development



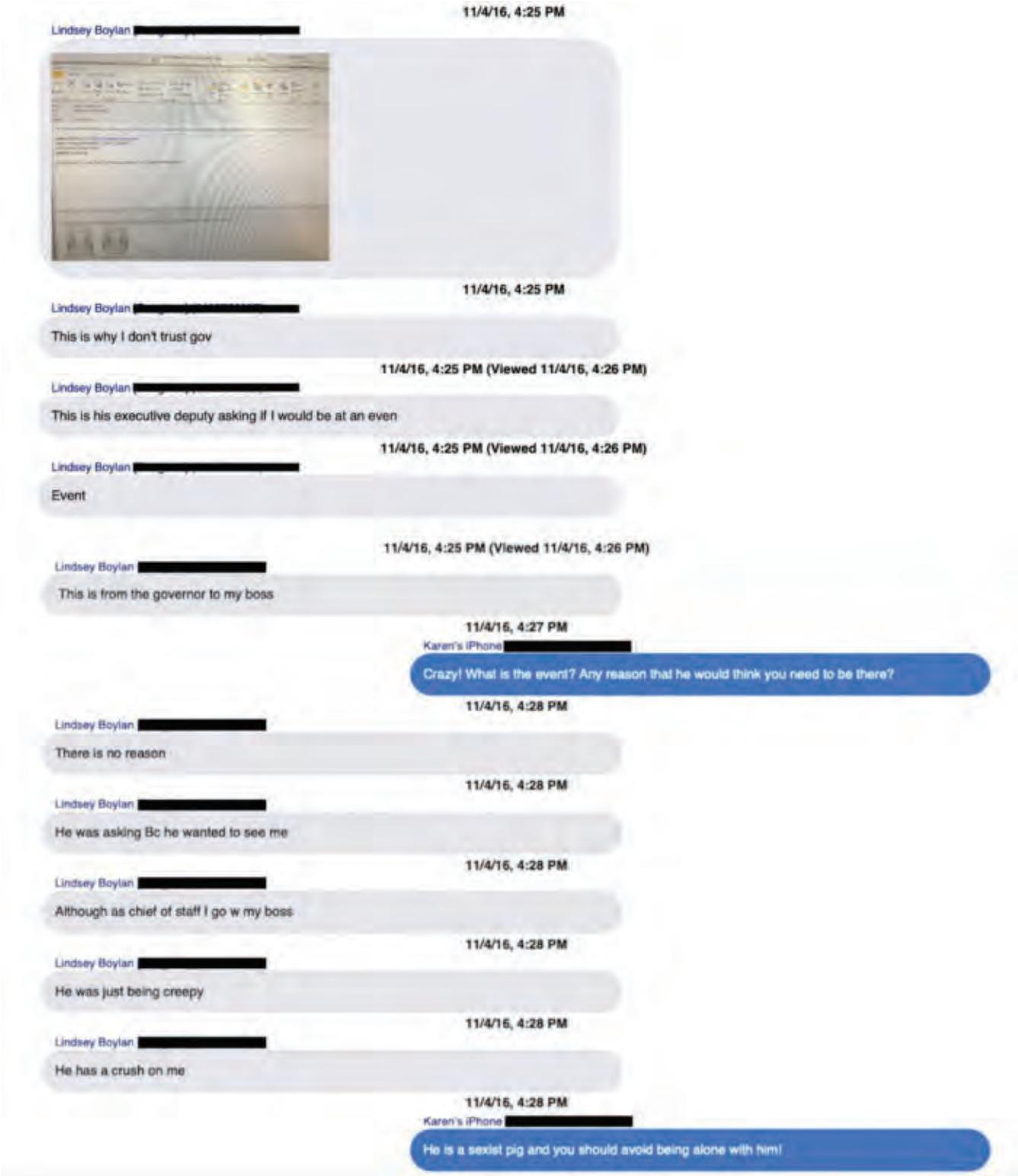
www.esd.ny.gov

The Governor's staff was directed to tell me I looked like his rumored former girlfriend.

I had complained to friends that the Governor would go out of his way to touch me on my lower back, arms and legs. His senior staff began keeping tabs on my whereabouts. "He is a sexist pig and you should avoid being alone with him!" my mother texted me on November 4, 2016.



The Governor's senior staff member emailed my supervisor about my whereabouts.



I shared my concern with my mother at the time.

The Governor's behavior made me nervous, but I didn't truly fear him until December 2016. Senior State employees gathered at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany to celebrate the holidays and our year's work. After his remarks, the Governor spotted me in a room filled with hundreds of people waiting to shake his hand. As he began to approach me, I excused myself from coworkers and moved upstairs to a more distant area of the party.

Minutes later, I received a call from an unlisted number. It was the Governor's body person. He told me to come to the Capitol because the Governor wanted to see me.

I made my way through the underground connection that linked the Plaza to the Capitol. As the black wrought-iron elevator took me to the second floor, I called my husband. I told him I was afraid of what might happen. That was unlike me. I was never afraid.

I exited the elevator to see the body person waiting for me. He walked me down the Hall of Governors. "Are there cameras here?" I asked him. I remembered my mother's text warning the month before. I worried that I would be left alone with the Governor. I didn't know why I was there. Or how it would end.

I was escorted into the Governor's office, past the desks of administrative assistants and into a room with a large table and historical artifacts. The door closed behind me. It was my first time in his Albany office. The Governor entered the room from another door. We were alone.

As he showed me around, I tried to maintain my distance. He paused at one point and smirked as he showed off a cigar box. He told me that President Clinton had given it to him while he served as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. The two-decade old reference to President Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky was not lost on me.

The Governor must have sensed my fear because he finally let me out of the office. I tried to rationalize this incident in my head. At least he didn't touch me. That made me feel safer.

His inappropriate gestures became more frequent. He gave roses to female staffers on Valentine's Day and arranged to have one delivered to me, the only one on my floor. A

signed photograph of the Governor appeared in my closed-door office while I was out. These were not-so-subtle reminders of the Governor exploiting the power dynamic with the women around him.

In 2018, I was promoted to Deputy Secretary for Economic Development and Special Advisor to the Governor. I initially turned the job down — not because I didn't want the responsibility or work but because I didn't want to be near him. I finally accepted the position at the Governor's insistence with one requirement — I would keep my old agency office and remain on a separate floor from him and his inner circle.

The Governor's pervasive harassment extended beyond just me. He made unflattering comments about the weight of female colleagues. He ridiculed them about their romantic relationships and significant others. He said the reasons that men get women were “money and power.”

I tried to excuse his behavior. I told myself “it's only words.” But that changed after a one-on-one briefing with the Governor to update him on economic and infrastructure projects. We were in his New York City office on Third Avenue. As I got up to leave and walk toward an open door, he stepped in front of me and kissed me on the lips. I was in shock, but I kept walking.

I left past the desk of Stephanie Benton. I was scared she had seen the kiss. The idea that someone might think I held my high-ranking position because of the Governor's “crush” on me was more demeaning than the kiss itself.

After that, my fears worsened. I came to work nauseous every day. My relationship with his senior team — mostly women — grew hostile after I started speaking up for myself. I was reprimanded and told to get in line by his top aides, but I could no longer ignore it.

On September 26, 2018, I sent a mass email informing staff members of my resignation.

There is a part of me that will never forgive myself for being a victim for so long, for trying to ignore behavior that I knew was wrong. The Governor exploited my weaknesses, my desire to do good work and to be respected. I was made to believe this was the world I needed to survive in.

It was all so normalized — particularly by Melissa DeRosa and other top women around him — that only now do I realize how insidious his abuse was.

After my tweets about the Governor in December, two women reached out to me with their own experiences. One described how she lived in constant fear, scared of what would happen to her if she rejected the Governor's advances. The other said she was instructed by the Governor to warn staff members who upset him that their jobs could be at risk. Both told me they are too afraid to speak out.

I know some will brush off my experience as trivial. We are accustomed to powerful men behaving badly when no one is watching. But what does it say about us when everyone is watching and no one says a thing?

Telling my truth isn't about seeking revenge. I was proud to work in the Cuomo Administration. For so long I had looked up to the Governor. But his abusive behavior needs to stop.

I am speaking up because I have the privilege to do so when many others do not. No one should have to be defined or destroyed by this kind of sexual harassment. Nor should they be revictimized if they decide to speak their own truth.

I hope that sharing my story will clear the path for other women to do the same.

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:17:06 PM
To: +Peter Ajemian +Linda Lacewell +Rich Azzopardi Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; StephanieBenton Cell [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Steve Cohen
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:17:06 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

I suggested to Melissa that we have one chain on which we share breaking news or developments- vs many different chains

EXHIBIT

6

MORAN00000322

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:17:16 PM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell; +Steve Cohen; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; +Judy Mogul; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi; Dani [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:17:16 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

This should be where tweets or stories are flagged

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:28:40 PM
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi; +Linda Lacewell; Stephanie BentonCell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul; JeffPollock [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:28:40 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Should we get people putting out statements?

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:28:57 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
+Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]
+Linda Lacewell +Rich Azzopardi +Steve Cohen Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
+Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:28:57 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

who do you have that is supportive

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:29:11 PM
To: +Linda Lacewell +Rich Azzopardi Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]
+Peter Ajemian Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:29:11 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Former people who are in the chamber

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:29:20 PM
To: +Linda Lacewell Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]
+Peter Ajemian Dani [REDACTED] BethGarvey [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Lis Smith [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:29:20 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

who would say these things are not true

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:29:43 PM
To: Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell +Rich Azzopardi +Steve Cohen +Peter Ajemian
Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:29:43 PM -05:00 : Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

That would not be my inclination

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:29:56 PM
To: +Rich Azzopardi Lis Smith ([REDACTED]); +Steve Cohen Maggie Moran ([REDACTED]@kivvit.com); Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:29:56 PM -05:00 : Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] [13 parties]

Unless they have direct knowledge of something

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:32:05 PM
To: +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com];
Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Steve Cohen Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
+Rich Azzopardi
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:32:05 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Yeah those statements usually don't do anything.

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:32:21 PM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; StephanieBenton Cell [REDACTED]
+Steve Cohen Dani [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Linda Lacewell +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:32:21 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith <[REDACTED]> [13 parties]

Like i would make sure you have a list of people you know who have his back, b/c we may need to call on them at some point for something

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:32:38 PM
To: +Steve Cohen +Rich Azzopardi +Linda Lacewell +Peter Ajemian Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Stephanie BentonCell [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:32:38 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

what about legislators ? women's leaders? have you taken t heir temperature?

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:33:45 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi +Steve Cohen Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian +Judy Mogul Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:33:45 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Has anyone talked to Freedlander today?

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:33:52 PM
To: +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:33:52 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

He texted me. I can call him- let me know

Message

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:46:35 PM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:46:35 PM -05:00 : Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]> [13 parties]

Robbie Kaplan is the best play right now



Message

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:46:45 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] BethGarvey [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell +Peter Ajemian Lis Smith [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:46:45 PM -05:00 : Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] [13 parties]

Get it out and refer everything to that

Message

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/24/2021 8:47:11 PM
To: +Linda Lacewell Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Lis Smith [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi +Peter Ajemian Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul +Steve Cohen Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/24/2021 3:47:11 PM -05:00 : Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Facts are fact

Chat #	From	To	Body	Timestamp: Time
9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	We made a mistake yesterday w this entire response	2/25/2021 10:54:08 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	What did you mean by this	2/25/2021 10:54:14 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Jef has talked me off of it but i feel like we didn't go hard enough	2/25/2021 10:54:53 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Oh god	2/25/2021 10:55:04 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	I couldnt diaageee more w u	2/25/2021 10:55:12 AM(UTC-5)

9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Going hard has gotten you guys to where you are now	2/25/2021 10:55:32 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Which is a very bad place	2/25/2021 10:55:38 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	You could go hard if you want to keep ruining his reputation	2/25/2021 10:56:21 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	I also agree that the Biaggi thing was idiotic	2/25/2021 10:56:53 AM(UTC-5)
9	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	I know jef told me my instincts have been off on this	2/25/2021 10:56:55 AM(UTC-5)

9	+ [REDACTED] Lis Smith	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Yes I would agree with him on that	2/25/2021 11:02:46 AM(UTC-5)
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Chat #	From	To	Body	Timestamp: Time
154	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa	+ [REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi + [REDACTED] Peter Ajamian + [REDACTED] Lis Smith + [REDACTED] Dani Lever + [REDACTED] Jeffrey Pollock + [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto + [REDACTED] Maggie Morran + [REDACTED] Linda Lacewell Work Cell + [REDACTED] Steve Cohen + [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton + [REDACTED] Beth Garvey + [REDACTED] Judith Mogul + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Do we think worthwhile to get sign on letter	2/25/2021 4:25:19 PM(UTC+0)
154	+ [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa	+ [REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi + [REDACTED] Peter Ajamian + [REDACTED] Lis Smith + [REDACTED] Dani Lever + [REDACTED] Jeffrey Pollock + [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto + [REDACTED] Maggie Morran + [REDACTED] Linda Lacewell Work Cell + [REDACTED] Steve Cohen + [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton + [REDACTED] Beth Garvey + [REDACTED] Judith Mogul + [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	From former female staffers?	2/25/2021 4:25:25 PM(UTC+0)

154	+ [Redacted] + Melissa DeRosa	+ [Redacted] Rich Azzopardi + [Redacted] Peter Ajamian + [Redacted] Lis Smith + [Redacted] Dani Lever + [Redacted] Jeffrey Pollock + [Redacted] Josh Vlasto + [Redacted] Maggie Morrان + [Redacted] Linda Lacewell Work Cell + [Redacted] Steve Cohen + [Redacted] Stephanie Benton + [Redacted] Beth Garvey + [Redacted] Judith Mogul + [Redacted] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	[Redacted] offering to organize	2/25/2021 4:25:32 PM(UTC+0)
154	+ [Redacted] + Jeffrey Pollock	+ [Redacted] Melissa DeRosa (owner) + [Redacted] Rich Azzopardi + [Redacted] Peter Ajamian + [Redacted] Lis Smith + [Redacted] Dani Lever + [Redacted] Josh Vlasto + [Redacted] Maggie Morrان + [Redacted] Linda Lacewell Work Cell + [Redacted] Steve Cohen + [Redacted] Stephanie Benton + [Redacted] Beth Garvey + [Redacted] Judith Mogul + [Redacted] Melissa DeRosa (owner)	I think it's a good idea	2/25/2021 4:26:57 PM(UTC+0)

154

+ [redacted]
Lis Smith

+ [redacted] Melissa
DeRosa (owner)
+ [redacted] Rich Azzopardi
+ [redacted] Peter Ajamian
+ [redacted] Dani Lever
+ [redacted] Jeffrey Pollock
+ [redacted] Josh Vlasto
+ [redacted] Maggie
Morran
+ [redacted] Linda
Lacewell Work Cell
+ [redacted] Steve Cohen
+ [redacted] Stephanie
Benton
+ [redacted] Beth Garvey
+ [redacted] Judith Mogul
+ [redacted] Melissa
DeRosa (owner)

I don't think they do much? But I guess no harm

2/25/2021
4:27:17
PM(UTC+0)

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/26/2021 4:51:17 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Maggie
Moran [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
+Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/25/2021 11:51:17 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]
Attachments: IMG_5056.jpeg

EXHIBIT
10

MORAN00000434



Charlotte Bennett

434 Likes



Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

Kaitlin · -1d ...

Replying to @jessemckinley
@NYGovCuomo and @LindseyBoylan

It's very very difficult to hear anything on the helicopter unless you were seated close to the Governor

1 replies 2 likes

Kaitlin · -1d ...

The emotional reaction I had to this is overwhelming. I admire your bravery @LindseyBoylan and I stand by you in solidarity.

Lindsey Boylan @Lindsey... · -1d

Today I am telling my story. I never planned to share the details of my experience working in the Cuomo administration, but I am doing so now in hopes that it may make it easier fo...

3 likes

Jesse McKinley @jessemckinley · 1d ...

INBOX: "NYGOVCUOMO ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF \$4.3 MILLION SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SERVING NEW YORKERS FACING HOMELESSNESS"

I think this is going to be a tough day t
get coverage for this

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/26/2021 4:51:49 AM
To: Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen
+Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell +Judy Mogul +Rich Azzopardi Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/25/2021 11:51:49 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

Look at the likes from kaitlin [REDACTED] and charlotte

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
Sent: 2/26/2021 12:32:21 AM
To: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov]; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov]; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Maggie Moran [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2805c61da550463db5e5679e7960c576-mmoran]
Subject: PRIV AND CONFIDENTIAL

External [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov)

[Report This Email](#) [FAQ](#) [Protection by INKY](#)

Please review - i'll set a call to go through this at everyone's earliest convenience

From: Stephanie Benton
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul
Subject: Privileged.

Draft.

Let me address the situation with Ms. Boylan and let me start by establishing the facts. I never contacted her inappropriately. There was never a discussion about strip poker on the plane. There were four people on the plane, all within earshot, and no one heard the comment because it was not said. There are not even any cards on the plane. As far as knees or feet or legs making contact during the flight, anyone who has been on the very small state plane knows that you are sitting across from each other and facing each other, making it virtually impossible not to be in incidental physical contact. There are also people sitting two feet across the aisle from you.

In my conference room which is where Ms. Boylan says I showed her artifacts, I often show people artifacts including gifts from Bill Clinton, Native Americans and my father, and historical mementos. It is, if you will, a standard tour. Many of you have seen it. The articles' significance is not beyond that which is apparent. The door is always open to my conference room because Stephanie sits about 10 feet away and this way she can hear me and I can hear her so we can communicate. I can hear her on the phone so I know who is calling. The only time the door is ever closed is basically when we are having a leaders meeting or a large staff meeting.

EXHIBIT
11

The door of my office in New York City is always open also for the same reason, whoever is sitting outside is always about 10 feet away and can relay calls, etc. In some ways I do this for my protection also. If anyone says anything inappropriate, I have a witness.

Ms. Boylan held an important position and I always thought I had a good, professional and mutually friendly relationship with her. I would have said we were on very good terms. She showed talent. Ultimately, she had issues with a number of female staff members which were beyond my control and resolved by the counsel and HR office. They ultimately decided not to offer Ms. Boylan continued employment. At no time in discussions with anyone, including the HR staff, did Ms. Boylan suggest any inappropriate behavior by me.

Ms. Boylan asked me to intervene on her behalf to get her job back and I could not. I did not speak to Ms. Boylan since she left 3 (?) years ago. She did, unsolicited, tweets that she supported my reelection. Later she did email my staff complaining that election rule changes the state made negatively impacted her campaign for Congress at the time. The implication was the staff directed them at her. That was not true. They were statewide reforms.

Ms. Boylan says I touched her back and arm. I don't remember it but this may very well have been incidental. In general, my customary behavior is to greet people hello or say goodbye with a hug or a kiss. I kiss women hello or goodbye, I kiss men hello or goodbye. I often greet staff and friends this way. I did an event in Queens the other day. I hugged the Assemblymembers and the pastors. In truth it is my usual custom. I've kissed Speaker Heastie and Senate Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins hello. I have a picture hanging in my office kissing Al Gore. You can go online and find pictures of me kissing and hugging hundreds of people. At least prior to OCVID. A hug does make contact with an arm and back. I never had anyone say that my behavior was inappropriate. Sometimes I get a sense when people are standoffish and I respect that.

At work sometimes I am playful and make jokes that I think are funny. Some people do not find them funny. I do, on occasion, tease people in a good natured way and I do use nicknames. I call Robert Mujica the Sphinx. I call [REDACTED], I say Dr. Malatras is not really a doctor, I call Beth Bethesda. I do it in public and in private. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. I have teased people about getting married or not getting married, I've teased men about their choice of ties. I mean no offense and only attempt to add some levity.

I also understand that customs change and that humor has changed, and that sensitivity has changed and that what might be usual custom in the past is now found by some to be insensitive. I understand that. I want to be hyper vigilant and exemplify that change.

I never meant any disrespect to Ms. Boylan and I am sorry if I made her feel uncomfortable. I am also sorry the relationship with the staff in the office did not work out.

People have commented on my office and staff. There are women who say that I am a demanding boss and my team is demanding and expects excellence. There are men who say that I am a demanding boss and that my team is demanding and expects excellence. They are right. There are ex-employees who say they worked in my office and found it difficult and stressful and they couldn't take it. I understand that. It is a high pressure environment and we work seven days a week. The majority of my senior staff are females – but male or female, it is a very intense, serious, grueling environment. And we believe the people of the State of New York deserve the best possible service, and we work obsessively to deliver the best service.

My staff are tough, motivated and top quality. My office is not for the faint of heart or those who are uncomfortable with high pressure and difficult circumstances. It certainly is not for everyone and, at the same time, my team won't accept working with just anyone. They want a high performing, high producing team. For these people who didn't like working with my team, I understand it. It is very hard.

At the same time, I doubt you will find an elected official who has a longer serving staff of higher quality people. Just look at the situation during COVID. Larry Schwartz, former Secretary to the Governor, I've worked with for 30 years. Steve Cohen, former Secretary to the Governor – 30 years, [REDACTED] Linda Lacewell came back from California. Jim Malatras, 14 years. [REDACTED], Rich Azzopardi. People have left positions in the republican bodies to come join my team, Robert Mujica, Kelly Cummings and Beth Garvey.

##

In terms of conversations with legislators and politicians, I have a different attitude. Government is a serious business. The stakes are very high and making progress is often a fight and I believe I was elected to fight for the people. That's what I told them I would do. Indeed, that was my slogan. There is no change without a fight. Overturning the status quo is hard, but people demand change and I promised to deliver it. Marriage equality doesn't pass without a fight. The \$15 minimum wage doesn't pass without a fight. A woman's right to

choose doesn't pass without a fight. Passing a budget doesn't happen without a fight. Building an airport is a fight. Defeating COVID is a fight. I find some politicians are more interested in preserving the status quo or their own political careers and that some politicians are more interested in making headlines than headway. Conflict between politicians is inevitable if you actually want to get something done.

I also hold politicians responsible. A politician who lies or attacks my integrity or accuses my administration of a crime, I will not take lightly. Nor should I. Nor should society. It is illegal. It is defamation.

Politicians who are incompetent, self-serving or lazy at their jobs are hurting people, I believe they should be called out. I believe that is my job. These situations can get heated. That is the nature of the business. These are elected officials who are go along and get along but then no changes will be made and I believe that brand of politics fails their public duty.

Theodore Roosevelt said,

"Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords."

"No man is worth calling a man who will not fight rather than submit to infamy or see those that are dear to him suffer wrong."

"It is the doer of deeds who actually counts in the battle for life, and not the man who looks on and says how the fight ought to be fought, without himself sharing the stress and the danger."

Barack Obama said,

"Hope is not blind optimism. Hope is that thing inside us that something better awaits us if we have the courage to reach for it, and to work for it, and to fight for it.

And to be totally frank, yes I challenge the press. When you are misleading the people, I call you on it.

Also, as far as judgement of my leadership is concerned, New Yorkers watched it for 10 years and for hundreds of hours last year. Good, impatient – annoyed. They watched it all. I'm not perfect and they know it. But they know who I am – truly, and who I fight for.

This is not to say rudeness is ever acceptable. One can be direct and straightforward, but not rude. For any person who felt my staff or myself was rude to them, or for anyone who was offended, I apologize.

These issues today do not operate in a vacuum but rather a vortex. Presidential politics, political extremism, many ongoing campaigns, COVID fatigue, lack of legislative involvement, economic stress.

It is all in the mix. COVID is politicized. The March 25 memo and nursing homes is politicized. Medical professionals' endorsements of the strategy are dismissed by political operatives. Party politics is politicized with extremes on both sides. I will work hard to bring down the temperature and focus on what we are elected to do – manage COVID, vaccinate New Yorkers and rebuild New York.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Date: Friday, February 26 2021 12:56 PM

Subject: RE: Priv and Confidential

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >

To: 'Lis Smith' [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >;

Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED];

Lis look at this draft

Let me address a couple of matters. First, the situation with Ms. Boylan and let me start by establishing the facts. I never physically touched her inappropriately. There was no discussion about strip poker on the plane. There were four people present on the plane, all within earshot, and no one heard the comment because it was not said. As far as knees or feet or legs making contact during the flight, anyone who has been on the state plane knows that you are sitting across from each other and facing each other, making it virtually impossible not to be in incidental physical contact. There are also people sitting less than two feet across the aisle from you.

Ms. Boylan says I gave her a tour of my conference room—I often show people historical artifacts that I have collected overtime including gifts from Bill Clinton, Native Americans, my father, and historical mementos. It is, if you will, a standard tour. Many of you have seen it. The articles' significance is not beyond that which is apparent. The door is always open to my conference room because Stephanie sits about 10 feet away and this way she can hear me and I can hear her so we can communicate. The only time the door is ever closed is when we are having a legislative leaders meeting or a large group meeting.

The door of my office in New York City is always open also for the same reason, whoever is sitting outside is always about 10 feet away and can relay calls, etc. In some ways I do this for myself. If anyone says anything inappropriate, I have a witness.

Ms. Boylan held a significant position and I always thought I had a good, professional and mutually friendly relationship with her. She showed talent and was hardworking. Ultimately, she had a number of issues with colleagues and subordinates which were resolved by the counsel and HR office that led to her departure and subsequently resulted in their decision not to offer Ms. Boylan continued employment. At no time in discussions with anyone, including the HR staff, did Ms. Boylan suggest any inappropriate behavior by me.

I have not spoken to Ms. Boylan since she left 3 years and 5 months ago. She did,

unsolicited, tweet that she supported my reelection and our administration's policies and team after she left the administration. On March 14 of last year, she did text members of my senior staff regarding an Executive Order that she believed negatively impacted her campaign for Congress at the time. The implication was the staff directed the policy at her candidacy directly. She was upset but her perception was not true. They were statewide reforms to address challenges of the pandemic.

Ms. Boylan says I touched her back and arm. I don't remember it but this may very well have been incidental. In general, my customary behavior is to greet people hello or say goodbye with a hug or a kiss. I kiss women and men hello or goodbye. I often greet staff and friends this way. I did an event in Queens the other day. I hugged the Assemblymembers and the pastors. In truth is it my usual custom. I have a picture hanging in my office kissing Al Gore. I've kissed Speaker Heastie and Senate Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins hello. Sometimes I kiss some reporters hello. You can go online and find pictures of me kissing and hugging hundreds of people. At least prior to COVID. A hug does make contact with an arm and back. Sometimes I get a sense when people are standoffish and I respect that. At no time did I kiss Ms. Boylan on the lips.

I spend most of my life at work and colleagues are often also personal friends. At work sometimes I am playful and make jokes that I think are funny. Some people do not find them funny or appropriate — my children tell me it's me being awkward. I do, on occasion, tease people in a good natured way and I do use nicknames. I call Robert Mujica the Sphinx. I call [REDACTED], I say Dr. Malatras is not really a doctor, I call Beth Bethesda. I do it in public and in private. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. I have teased people about getting married or not getting married, I've teased men about their choice of ties. I mean no offense and only attempt to add some levity and banter to what is a very serious business.

I also understand that customs change, and that sensitivity has changed and that what might be usual custom in the past is now found by some to be insensitive or too personal. I understand that norms have changed. I want to be hyper vigilant and exemplify that change.

I never meant any disrespect to Ms. Boylan and I am sorry if I made her feel uncomfortable. I am also sorry the relationship with the staff in the office did not work out.

People have commented on my office and staff. My staff are tough, motivated and top quality. My office is not for the faint of heart. It is high pressure, high stress, with high demands, and difficult circumstances. It certainly is not for everyone. There are men and women alike who say that I am a demanding boss and my team is demanding and can be hard charging. They are right. It is a high pressure environment and we work seven days a week — it is very intense, serious, and grueling. And we believe the people of the State of New York deserve the best possible service, and we work obsessively to deliver the best service.

At the same time, I doubt you will find an elected official who has a longer serving staff of higher quality people. Just look at the situation during COVID. Larry Schwartz, former Secretary to the Governor, I've worked with for 30 years. Steve Cohen, former Secretary to the Governor – 30 years, [REDACTED] Linda Lacewell came back from California. Jim Malatras, 14 years. Melissa DeRosa, [REDACTED], Rich Azzopardi. They are intensely dedicated and committed to the mission. We are a bipartisan administration and have staff who crossed the aisle to come join my team, including Robert Mujica, Kelly Cummings and Beth Garvey.

##

In terms of conversations with legislators and politicians, I have a different attitude. Government is a serious business. The stakes are very high and making progress is often a fight and I believe I was elected to fight for the people. That's what I told them I would do. Indeed, that was my slogan since my Attorney General days. There is no change without a fight. Overturning the status quo is hard, but people demand change and I promised to deliver it. Marriage equality doesn't pass without a fight. The \$15 minimum wage doesn't pass without a fight. A woman's right to choose doesn't pass without a fight. Passing a budget doesn't happen without a fight. Building an airport is a fight. Fighting racism is a fight. Defeating COVID is a fight. I find some politicians are more interested in preserving the status quo or their own political careers and that some politicians are more interested in making headlines than headway. Conflict between politicians is inevitable if you actually want to get something done. These situations can get heated. That is the nature of the business.

I also hold politicians responsible. A politician who lies or attacks my integrity or accuses my administration of a crime, I will not take lightly. Nor should I. Nor

should society. It is illegal. It is defamation. It does a disservice to the public.

The public doesn't trust politicians as a class – their integrity or capacity – and I try my best to restore the trust.

And to be totally frank, yes I challenge the press. I learned it from watching my father, who spent hours on the phone arguing in a raised voice with Jimmy Breslin and Jack Newfield. Sometimes it's bruising but I grew up believing it was part of the process.

This is not to say rudeness is ever acceptable. One can be direct and straightforward and truthful, but not rude. For any person who felt my staff or myself was rude to them, or for anyone who was offended, I apologize. The heat of battle does not excuse rudeness.

As far as judgement of my leadership is concerned, New Yorkers watched it for 10 years and for hundreds of hours last year. Good, impatient, annoyed, confrontational. They watched it all. I'm not perfect and they know it. But they know who I am – truly, and who I fight for.

These issues today do not operate in a vacuum but rather a vortex. Presidential politics, political extremism, many ongoing campaigns, COVID fatigue, lack of legislative engagement, economic stress.

It is all in the mix. COVID is politicized. The March 25 memo and nursing homes is politicized. The hearing yesterday had ad hominem attacks against Dr. Zucker and cited political polemics but no facts disputed his judgment. He followed the CMS and CMS still has their guidance in place. Yes, information to the public was slow but the circumstances were obvious and the grieving families were caught in the crossfire. Forget the drama. Follow the facts. Party politics is politicized with extremes on both sides. There is polarization within each party also – a new dynamic. I will work hard to bring down the temperature and focus on what we are elected to do – manage COVID, vaccinate New Yorkers and rebuild New York.

Thank you

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com >
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >
Cc: Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; **Josh Vlasto** [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential

Melissa I thought th plan was now not to do this

On Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 11:00 AM Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com > wrote:

This doesn't feel different. I think someone needs to stop and do an outline of what needs to be accomplished. And if it were me, it would start with contrition not Boylan

Jeffrey Pollock
President
D [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
My pronouns: he, him, his

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 10:27:55 AM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; **Josh Vlasto** [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Dani Lever < [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Jeffrey Pollock < [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential

[EXTEMAIL]

My edits:

Let me address a couple of matters. First, the situation with Ms. Boylan and let me start by establishing the facts. I never physically touched her inappropriately. There was never a discussion about strip poker on the plane. There were four people crammed on the prop plane, all within earshot, and no one heard the comment because it was not said. As far as knees or feet or legs making contact during the flight, anyone who has been on the very small state plane knows that you are sitting across from each other and facing each other, making it virtually impossible not to be in incidental physical contact. There are also people sitting less than two feet across the aisle from you.

Ms. Boylan says I gave her a tour of my office— I often show people historical artifacts that I have collected overtime including gifts from Bill Clinton, Native Americans, my father, and historical mementos. It is, if you will, a standard tour. Many of you have seen it. The articles' significance is not beyond that which is apparent. The door is always open to my conference room because Stephanie sits about 10 feet away and this way she can hear me and I can hear her so we can communicate. The only time the door is ever closed is when we are having a legislative leaders meeting or a large group meeting.

The door of my office in New York City is always open also for the same reason, whoever is sitting outside is always about 10 feet away and can relay calls, etc. In some ways I do this for my protection also. If anyone says anything inappropriate, I have a witness.

Ms. Boylan held a significant position and I always thought I had a good, professional and mutually friendly relationship with her. She showed talent and was hardworking. Ultimately, she had a number of issues with a number of colleagues and subordinates which were resolved by the counsel and HR office. They ultimately decided not to offer Ms. Boylan continued employment. At no time in discussions with anyone, including the HR staff, did Ms. Boylan suggest any inappropriate behavior by me.

I have not spoken to Ms. Boylan since she left 3 years and 5 months ago. She did, unsolicited, tweet that she supported my reelection and our administration's policies and team after she left the administration. On March 14 of last year, she did text members of my senior staff regarding an Executive Order that she believed negatively impacted her campaign for Congress at the time. The implication was the staff directed the policy at her candidacy directly. She was upset but her perception was not true. They were statewide reforms to address challenges of the pandemic.

Ms. Boylan says I touched her back and arm. I don't remember it but this may very well have been incidental. In general, my customary behavior is to greet people hello or say goodbye with a hug or a kiss. I kiss women and men hello or goodbye. I often greet staff and friends this way. I did an event in Queens the other day. I hugged the Assemblymembers and the pastors. In truth is it my usual custom. I have a picture hanging in my office kissing Al Gore. I've kissed Speaker Heastie and Senate Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins hello. Sometimes I kiss some reporters hello. You can go online and find pictures of me kissing and hugging hundreds of people. At least prior to COVID. A hug does make contact with an arm and back. Sometimes I get a sense when people are standoffish and I respect that. At no time did I kiss Ms. Boylan on the lips.

I spend most of my life at work and colleagues are often also personal friends. At work sometimes I am playful and make jokes that I think are funny. Some people do not find them funny or appropriate — my children tell me it's me being awkward. I do, on occasion, tease people in a good natured way and I do use nicknames. I call Robert Mujica the Sphinx. I call [REDACTED], I say Dr. Malatras is not really a doctor, I call Beth Bethesda. I do it in public and in private. You have

seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. I have teased people about getting married or not getting married, I've teased men about their choice of ties. I mean no offense and only attempt to add some levity and banter to what is a very serious business.

I also understand that customs change, and that sensitivity has changed and that what might be usual custom in the past is now found by some to be insensitive or too personal. I understand that norms have changed. I want to be hyper vigilant and exemplify that change.

I never meant any disrespect to Ms. Boylan and I am sorry if I made her feel uncomfortable. I am also sorry the relationship with the staff in the office did not work out.

People have commented on my office and staff. My staff are tough, motivated and top quality. My office is not for the faint of heart. It is high pressure, high stress, with high demands, and difficult circumstances. It certainly is not for everyone. There are men and women alike who say that I am a demanding boss and my team is demanding and can be hard charging. They are right. It is a high pressure environment and we work seven days a week — it is very intense, serious, and grueling. And we believe the people of the State of New York deserve the best possible service, and we work obsessively to deliver the best service.

At the same time, I doubt you will find an elected official who has a longer serving staff of higher quality people. Just look at the situation during COVID. Larry Schwartz, former Secretary to the Governor, I've worked with for 30 years. Steve Cohen, former Secretary to the Governor – 30 years, [REDACTED] Linda Lacewell came back from California. Jim Malatras, 14 years. Melissa DeRosa, [REDACTED], Rich Azzopardi. They are intensely dedicated and committed to the mission. We are a bipartisan administration and have staff who crossed the aisle to come join my team, including Robert Mujica, Kelly Cummings and Beth Garvey.

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It is all in the mix. COVID is politicized. The March 25 memo and nursing homes is politicized. The hearing yesterday had ad hominem attacks against Dr. Zucker and cited political polemics but no facts disputed his judgment. He followed the CMS and CMS still has their guidance in place. Yes, information to the public was slow but the circumstances were obvious and the grieving families were caught in the crossfire. Forget the drama. Follow the facts. Party politics is politicized with extremes on both sides. There is polarization within each party also – a new dynamic. I will work hard to bring down the temperature and focus on what we are elected to do – manage COVID, vaccinate New Yorkers and rebuild New York.

Thank you

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/26/2021 6:00:29 PM
To: +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
+Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/26/2021 1:00:29 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Again this is just to get to agreed upon language



Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/26/2021 6:00:36 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Steve Cohen Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul +Linda Lacewell
Subject: 2/26/2021 1:00:36 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

That stays in his voice

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/26/2021 7:43:37 PM
To: +Rich Azzopardi, Dani [REDACTED], Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], +Steve Cohen, +Linda Lacewell, +Peter Ajemian, Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/26/2021 2:43:37 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Lis can u do a once over on that draft

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/26/2021 9:00:58 PM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] MaggieMoran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/26/2021 4:00:58 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Yes

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:21 PM
Subject: [Chat #3055]
From: Dani Lever <[REDACTED]>
"+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]"; + [REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell];
+ [REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];
Attachments: IMG_3816.jpeg

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto
ICCID:
[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT
14



Coming your way Inbox



Lindsey C. Boylan 2:53 PM



to [redacted] me v

Annabel and Dani,

I have often thought of you recently and what sad, depressing, and soulless people you both are. I thought about you when I have spoken with victims recently and how followers like you enable the worst harms of humanity. It's just so depressing to think about you both. It must be even more depressing to be you.

Lindsey Boylan

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/features/a35725702/lindsey-boylan-speaks-out/>

Reply
 Reply all
 Forward

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:26 PM

Subject: [Chat #3056]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
"; + [REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

So she's harassing and bullying u?

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3057]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

That's correct

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3058]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Should we give this to someone?

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3059]

From: Dani Lever <[REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell];
+ [REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

No

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3060]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Doesn't exactly make her sympathetic

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3061]

From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

No

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3062]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

But it's worth thinking about how to use it at some poi t

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3063]

From: Dani Lever <[REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell];
+ [REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

This isn't about Lindsey anymore

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #3064]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Not now.

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:34 PM

Subject: [Chat #3072]

From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

I don't think we can use the Lyndsey email unless she begins to get more traction.

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto
ICCID:
[REDACTED]



Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:34 PM

Subject: [Chat #3073]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

And she isn't

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, March 4 2021 03:34 PM

Subject: [Chat #3074]

From: Rich Azzopardi <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

I think we fight with what we got

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

FEBRUARY 27, 2021 | Albany, NY

Statement From Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

STATEMENT

Statement From Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

"Ms. Bennett was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID. She has every right to speak out.

"When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her and her ongoing efforts to create an organization that empowered her voice to help other survivors, I tried to be supportive and helpful. Ms. Bennett's initial impression was right: I was trying to be a mentor to her. I never made advances toward Ms. Bennett nor did I ever intend to act in any way that was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.

"This situation cannot and should not be resolved in the press; I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full and thorough outside review and I am directing all state employees to comply with that effort. I ask all New Yorkers to await the findings of the review so that they know the facts before making any judgements. I will have no further comment until the review has concluded."

STATEMENT FROM BETH GARVEY, SPECIAL COUNSEL AND SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR

"Ms. Bennett's concerns were treated with sensitivity and respect and in accordance with applicable law and policy.

"The matter was promptly escalated to special counsel. Ms. Bennett received the transfer she requested to a position in which she had expressed a long-standing interest, and was thoroughly debriefed on the facts which did not include a claim of physical contact or inappropriate sexual conduct. She was consulted regarding the resolution, and expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the way in which it was handled.

"The determination reached based on the information Ms Bennett provided was that no further action was required which was consistent with Ms Bennett's wishes.

"Although in no way required by law, the Governor has requested an independent review and all staff will cooperate in that endeavor. Former Federal Judge Barbara Jones will lead the review."

EXHIBIT
16

Translations

Bengali Translation বাংলা অনুবাদ	
Chinese Translation 中文翻譯	
Haitian-Creole Translation Tradiksyon kreyòl ayisyen	
Korean Translation 한국어 번역	
Russian Translation Перевод на русский язык	
Spanish Translation Traducción al español	

Contact the Governor's Press Office

Contact us by phone:

Albany: (518) 474 - 8418
New York City: (212) 681 - 4640

Contact us by email:

PressOffice@exec.ny.gov

From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]
Sent: 2/27/2021 8:46:41 AM
To: DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Ajemian, Peter (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
CC: Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Benton, Stephanie (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Cohen, Steven (ESD) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov]
Subject: RE: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My two thoughts:

- 1) Don't know why we need the first line which almost feels dismissive to talk about her length of service in the office
- 2) I think we should discuss whether or not there is any language of contrition. It was in the short paragraph last night and it's now gone from here.

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:40 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>
Subject: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

[TEXT EMAIL]

Sorry read this version -->

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

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EXHIBIT

17

reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that he was lonely and ready for a girlfriend and that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. In that interview, Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor sexually harassed her or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct.

We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to affirm the truth on this and the matter involving Ms Boylan is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:32 AM

To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: priv confidential - pls review this draft for the call [REDACTED] is putting on

Sorry read this version -->

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Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:05 AM

To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

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Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Peter Ajemian
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Melissa DeRosa; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Seems right to me
Comes in a release I imagine with a sentence or two about the person picked?

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 7:45 AM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Relooping Josh

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:18 AM
To: Lis Smith
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Sounds right. One tweak in caps for clarity.

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From: Lis Smith
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:52 AM
To: Peter Ajemian
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

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Additional option:

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On Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 11:39 PM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Understanding this needs work, here's an initial draft to discuss.

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state, and I have tremendous sympathy for what she had been through in her life. I regret and am saddened that she felt anything other than supported and valued at work, as I want nothing but the best for her. I have a different perspective on the dynamic presented here and believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review complex matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Feb 26, 2021, at 8:40 PM, [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Plus Chris Cuomo

Sent from my iPhone

Date: Saturday, February 27 2021 12:15 PM
Subject: RE: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am
From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygrouop.com >
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>;

When she came to me an dopened up aout being a sexual assault victim and discussed very personal details about how it shaped her life, I also shared details. I always wanted to make her feel supported and valued. We shared a lot of personal information. I never had any intention/last thing I ever wated was to make her feel in any of the ways that are being reported. Something good about her. When she came to me, and opened up about what she had survived and how it had shaped her, we talked about what it meant to her and the decisions she wanted to make going forward. I shared some of the troubles in my own life. I never said anything that I wanted other toi make her feel valued and supported. This situation should not or can not be resolved in the press and I wont engage in any kind of litigating the facts in the press. The only way people can have confidence is an independent investigation and i direct all employees to cooperate

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Cc: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygrouop.com >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

[EXTERNAL]

Recent claims that I made sexual advances toward women in the workplace are untrue.

I have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennet and the work she did for the state. In addition, understanding what she survived previously in her life, I would only want her to feel supported and valued. I never meant to be anything but supportive and constructive and I am sorry and deeply regret that she felt anything otherwise.

I have a different perspective on the dynamics of our interactions however I absolutely respect a woman's right to speak out.

I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, thorough and independent investigation to review these matters. We will fully comply with her team on all matters and I am directing all state employees to do the same.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 10:28 AM Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

We have nothing but respect for Ms Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued. The Governor never meant to be anything but supportive and constructive and he is sorry if he in any way

aggravated her situation. I have a different perspective on the dynamic presented here and believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside.

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:22 AM

To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Dani Lever

Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

Plus Dani

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS)

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:05 AM

To: Melissa DeRosa

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

Another approach from Judy

I respect and appreciate people who dedicate their lives to public service and people who work for the state of NY. The recent claims that I made sexual advances or engaged in sexual harassment – are unfounded and untrue. I have been in public service for years. I believe that the people have a right to know the truth. I am going to be hiring an independent law firm to conduct a review and these and any other related allegations. In the interim, I would request that people refrain from jumping to conclusions and wait until the review is complete.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2021, at 9:04 AM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

During Ms. Bennett's time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive; as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

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We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued. The Governor never meant to be anything but supportive and constructive and he is sorry if he in any way aggravated her situation.

We believe the best way to affirm the truth in this and the matter involving Ms Boylan is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

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Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:32 AM

To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: priv confidential - pls review this draft for the call [REDACTED] is putting on

Sorry read this version -->

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To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

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Subject: RE: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am
From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com >;
Tried to relate to her struggles by sharing some of my own

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Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:50 AM
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Cc: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

[EXT EMAIL]

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From: Peter Ajemian

EXHIBIT

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NYAGV003843

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:22 AM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Dani Lever
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Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

Another approach from Judy

I respect and appreciate people who dedicate their lives to public service and people who work for the state of NY. The recent claims that I made sexual advances or engaged in sexual harassment – are unfounded and untrue. I have been in public service for years. I believe that the people have a right to know the truth. I am going to be hiring an independent law firm to conduct a review and these and any other related allegations. In the interim, I would request that people refrain from jumping to conclusions and wait until the review is complete.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2021, at 9:04 AM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

During Ms. Bennett's time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive; as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice to proclaim her truth. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing real friendships and healthy loving and positive emotional relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tattoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that he was lonely and ready for a girlfriend and that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with

the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. In that interview, Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor sexually harassed her or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. The Governor's intention was consistent with Ms. Bennett's initial impression: he was being 'paternalistic'.

We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued. The Governor never meant to be anything but supportive and constructive and he is sorry if he in any way aggravated her situation.

We believe the best way to affirm the truth in this and the matter involving Ms Boylan is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:32 AM

To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: priv confidential - pls review this draft for the call [REDACTED] is putting on

Sorry read this version -->

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice to proclaim her truth. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing real friendships and healthy loving and positive emotional relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tatoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that he was lonely and ready for a girlfriend and that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. In that interview, Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor harassed her in any way or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct. We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel, including Ms. Boylan.

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:05 AM

To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

A different approach:

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing healthy friendships and supportive relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tatoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was

reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor harassed her in any way or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct. We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com >
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Peter Ajemian
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Melissa DeRosa; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Seems right to me
Comes in a release I imagine with a sentence or two about the person picked?

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 7:45 AM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

Relooping Josh

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:18 AM
To: Lis Smith
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Sounds right. One tweak in caps for clarity.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Lis Smith
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:52 AM
To: Peter Ajemian
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov);

Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi

Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

removed "complex" and reworked a little:

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived PREVIOUSLY IN HER LIFE, I would only want her to feel supported and valued. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 12:39 AM Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com > wrote:

Additional option:

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state. Understanding what Charlotte survived the way I do, I never would have said anything to her that didn't make her feel supported and valued. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review complex matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 11:39 PM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

Understanding this needs work, here's an initial draft to discuss.

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state, and I have tremendous sympathy for what she had been through in her life. I regret and am saddened that she felt anything other than supported and valued at work, as I want nothing but the best for her. I have a different perspective on the dynamic presented here and believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review complex matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Feb 26, 2021, at 8:40 PM, [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

Plus Chris Cuomo

Sent from my iPhone

Date: Saturday, February 27 2021 02:17 PM

Subject: RE: Current Statement

From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >

To: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >;

Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com >;

And why are we changing "have never made sexual advances toward women in the workplace" to this one which just says Ms. Bennett? I would think he would like the broader denial?

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:09 PM

To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >

Cc: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com >

Subject: Current Statement

[EXT EMAIL]

Statement draft:

Ms. Bennett has every right to speak out. She was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID.

When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her and her ongoing efforts to create an organization that empowered her voice to help other survivors, I tried to be supportive and helpful. Ms. Bennett's initial impression was right: I was trying to be paternalistic towards her and help mentor her. I never made advances toward Ms. Bennett nor did I ever think that I was acting in any way that was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.

This situation cannot and should not be resolved in the press so I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, thorough and outside review and I am directing all state employees to comply with that effort. I will have no further comment until the review has concluded.

EXHIBIT
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From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]
Sent: 2/27/2021 2:21:08 PM
To: Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov]; Ajemian, Peter (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
CC: Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Benton, Stephanie (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Cohen, Steven (ESD) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov]; Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Ajemian, Peter (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Subject: RE: Current Statement

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I retract my last comment about the broader one. But I still think unless paternalistic is in the story we should change. And if it IS in the story I might even put it in quotes? Peter?

From: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Current Statement

[EXT EMAIL]

Minor grammatical to next to last sentence.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Peter Ajemian
Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo; Peter Ajemian; Dani Lever
Subject: Current Statement

Statement draft:

Ms. Bennett has every right to speak out. She was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID.

When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her and her ongoing efforts to create an organization that empowered her voice to help other survivors, I tried to be supportive

EXHIBIT
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and helpful. Ms. Bennett's initial impression was right: I was trying to be paternalistic towards her and help mentor her. I never made advances toward Ms. Bennett nor did I ever think that I was acting in any way that was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.

This situation cannot and should not be resolved in the press so I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full and thorough outside review and I am directing all state employees to comply with that effort. I will have no further comment until the review has concluded.

From: "Peter Ajemian" [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Sat, 27 Feb 2021 15:52:15 -0500 (EST)
To: "Melissa DeRosa" [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: "Judith Mogul" [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; "Richard Azzopardi" [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; "Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)" [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; "Lis Smith" [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; "Josh Vlasto" [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; "Jeffrey Pollock" [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; "Stephanie Benton" [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; "Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)" [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; "Dani Lever" [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; "Beth Garvey" [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: Privileged. Final package I'm sending to Times

He's got it.

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 27, 2021, at 3:48 PM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Good go

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa
Cc: Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Jeffrey Pollock; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Dani Lever; Beth Garvey
Subject: Re: Privileged. Final package I'm sending to Times

plus beth

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa
Cc: Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Jeffrey Pollock; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Dani Lever
Subject: Privileged. Final package I'm sending to Times

Statement from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Ms. Bennett was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID. She has every right to speak out.

When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her and her ongoing efforts to create an organization that empowered her voice to help other survivors, I tried to be supportive and helpful. Ms. Bennett's initial impression was right: I was trying to be a mentor to her. I never made advances toward Ms. Bennett nor did I ever intend to act in any way that was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.

This situation cannot and should not be resolved in the press; I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full and thorough outside review and I am directing all state employees to comply with that effort. I ask all New Yorkers to await the findings of the review so that they know the facts before making any judgements. I will have no further comment until the review has concluded.

Statement from Beth Garvey, Special Counsel and Senior Advisor to the Governor

Ms. Bennett's concerns were treated with sensitivity and respect and in accordance with applicable law and policy.

The matter was promptly escalated to special counsel. Ms. Bennett received the transfer she requested to a position in which she had expressed a long-standing interest, and was thoroughly debriefed on the facts which did not include a claim of physical contact or inappropriate sexual conduct. She was consulted regarding the resolution, and expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the way in which it was handled.

The determination reached based on the information Ms Bennett provided was that no further action was required which was consistent with Ms Bennett's wishes.

Although in no way required by law, the Governor has requested an independent review and all staff will cooperate in that endeavor. Former Federal Judge Barbara Jones will lead the review.

Additional background

On background regarding rape comment:

Aides said the Governor was trying to help Ms. Bennett find strength in acknowledging her experience and her voice after she had asked him for feedback on a speech she was preparing.



On background regarding the tattoo:

Aides said that at one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tattoo, and the Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden.

On background re the letters:

Aides said that the Governor was joking around with Ms. Bennett when she told him she was reviewing his correspondence and there were many fan letters from people asking for a date.

On Feb 27, 2021, at 3:42 PM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Peter give this as well:

Aides said that the Governor was joking around with Ms. Bennett when she told him she was reviewing his correspondence and there were many fan letters from people asking for a date.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Judith Mogul
Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Jeffrey Pollock; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo
Subject: Re: Barbara Jones agreed to do it subject to fast conflicts check

this is fine - give these

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Judith Mogul
Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Melissa DeRosa; Jeffrey Pollock; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo
Subject: Re: Barbara Jones agreed to do it subject to fast conflicts check

Updated w background point on the tattoo —

On background regarding rape comment:

Aides said the Governor was trying to help Ms. Bennett find strength in acknowledging her experience and her voice after she had asked him for feedback on a speech she was preparing.

On background regarding the tattoo:

Aides said that at one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tattoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden.

On Feb 27, 2021, at 2:04 PM, Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

On Feb 27, 2021, at 1:37 PM, Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Rich it has to be independent - that is a trigger word in these types of internal investigations. You can't use your regular counsel - it had to be "independent" meaning not beholden or entrenched.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2021, at 1:34 PM, Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Again, I'd use outside instead of independent it's a trigger word

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS)
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:31 PM

To: Peter Ajemian

Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Melissa DeRosa; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo

Subject: Barbara Jones agreed to do it subject to fast conflicts check

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2021, at 1:30 PM, Laceywell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov> wrote:

Ms. Bennett's concerns were treated with sensitivity and respect and in accordance with applicable law and policy.

The matter was promptly escalated to special counsel. Ms. Bennett received the transfer she requested to a position in which she had expressed a long-standing interest, was thoroughly debriefed on the facts and consulted regarding the resolution, and expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the way it which it was handled. The determinations reached at the time were that no further action was required and Ms. Bennett did not wish to pursue the matter further.

Although in no way required by law, the Governor has requested an independent investigation and all staff will cooperate in that endeavor. Former federal judge Barbara Jones will lead the investigation.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2021, at 1:24 PM, Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Jesse just added this:

In a text message she sent to a friend, Charlotte recounted that ~~she~~ had said on June 10: "How can we do this? Do you want to stay or should we find you something outside?"

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Richard Azzopardi

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:17 PM

To: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto

Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Laceywell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo

Subject: Re: latest draft

Minor grammar edit

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Lis Smith

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:15 PM

To: Josh Vlasto

Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Laceywell (dfs.ny.gov); Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo

Subject: Re: latest draft

Sorry I dont' want to litigate this over email, but having just heard melissa read the statement over the phone, i feel like the second sentence/paragraph feels out of place.

Ms. Bennett has every right to speak out. She was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID. When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her, I tried to be supportive and helpful. The last thing I would ever have wanted was her to feel any of the things that are being reported.

Let me be clear, I have never made sexual advances toward women in the workplace. But this situation should not and cannot be resolved in the press so I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full and thorough outside investigation. I have asked XYZ to lead this investigation and I am directing all state

employees to comply with her team.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 12:51 PM Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Bennett has every right to speak out.

Let me be clear, I have never made sexual advances toward women in the workplace.

Ms. Bennett was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID. When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her, I tried to be supportive and helpful. The last thing I would ever have wanted was her to feel any of the things that are being reported.

This situation should not and cannot be resolved in the press so I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, thorough and independent investigation. I have asked XYZ to lead this investigation and I am directing all state employees to comply with her team.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 12:37 PM Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Bennett has every right to speak out.

Let me be clear, I have never made sexual advances toward women in the workplace.

Ms. Bennett has been a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID. I appreciate and respect the work she has done for us. When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her, I tried to be supportive. I never intended to be anything but supportive and helpful and the last thing I would ever have wanted was her to feel any of the things that are being reported.

This situation should not and cannot be resolved in the press so I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, thorough and independent investigation. I have asked XYZ to lead this investigation and I am directing all state employees to comply with her team.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 12:23 PM Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

apologies
use this version

Recent claims that I made sexual advances toward women in the workplace are untrue.

When Ms. Bennett came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault victim and how it shaped her, I tried to be supportive and relate to her sharing struggles in my own life. I never intended to be anything but supportive and constructive and I am sorry and deeply regret that she felt anything otherwise.

I have a different perspective on the dynamics of our interactions however absolutely respect a woman's right to speak out.

This situation should not and cannot be resolved in the press. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, thorough and independent investigation to review these matters. I have asked XYZ to conduct this investigation and I am directing all state employees to comply with her team.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 12:21 PM Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

Recent claims that I made sexual advances toward women in the workplace are untrue.

When Ms. Bennett came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault victim and how it shaped her, I tried to relate and be supportive, including sharing struggles in my own life. I never intended to be anything but supportive and constructive and I am sorry and deeply regret that she felt anything otherwise.

I have a different perspective on the dynamics of our interactions however absolutely respect a woman's right to speak out.

This situation should not and cannot be resolved in the press. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, thorough and independent investigation to review these matters. I have asked XYZ to conduct this investigation and I am directing all state employees to comply with her team.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 8:40 AM Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Sorry read this version -->

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice to proclaim her truth. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing real friendships and healthy loving and positive emotional relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tattoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that he was lonely and ready for a

girlfriend and that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. In that interview, Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor sexually harassed her or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct.

We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to affirm the truth on this and the matter involving Ms Boylan is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:32 AM

To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: priv confidential - pls review this draft for the call [REDACTED] is putting on

Sorry read this version -->

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice to proclaim her truth. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing real friendships and healthy loving and positive emotional relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tatoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that he was lonely and ready for a girlfriend and that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. In that interview, Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor harassed her in any way or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct. We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel, including Ms. Boylan.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:05 AM
To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Laceywell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

A different approach:

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing healthy friendships and supportive relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tattoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aide and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor harassed her in any way or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct. We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Peter Ajemian
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Laceywell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Melissa DeRosa; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Seems right to me
Comes in a release I imagine with a sentence or two about the person picked?

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 7:45 AM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Relooping Josh

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:18 AM

To: Lis Smith

Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi

Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Sounds right. One tweak in caps for clarity.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Lis Smith

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:52 AM

To: Peter Ajemian

Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi

Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

removed "complex" and reworked a little:

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived PREVIOUSLY IN HER LIFE, I would only want her to feel supported and valued. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 12:39 AM Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

Additional option:

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state. Understanding what Charlotte survived the way I do, I never would have said anything to her that didn't make her feel supported and valued. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review complex matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 11:39 PM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Understanding this needs work, here's an initial draft to discuss.

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state, and I have tremendous sympathy for what she had been through in her life. I regret and am saddened that she felt anything other than supported and valued at work, as I want nothing but the best for her. I have a different perspective on the dynamic presented here and believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review complex matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Feb 26, 2021, at 8:40 PM, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Plus Chris Cuomo

Sent from my iPhone

To: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov); Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Cc: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov]
From: Judith Mogul [/O=NYEC/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5DA2632596FB4016A2FACBD65E5C9CEB-JUDITH.MOGLU]
Sent: Sat 2/27/2021 4:00:49 PM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: Re: Current Statement

actual answer should be - but need to clear this - that we will set no limits on the scope of the review and that Judge Jones will determine the appropriate scope of the review

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Richard Azzopardi; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Josh Vlasto
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: Current Statement

What is the answer to this question?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.
From: Richard Azzopardi
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Josh Vlasto
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Peter Ajemian; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: Current Statement

Maybe we say wideranging review? All I'm saying is that this will be the first followup.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.
From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS)
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Josh Vlasto
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Peter Ajemian; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: Current Statement

Rich; Although in no way required by law, the Governor has requested an independent review and all staff will cooperate in that endeavor. Former Federal Judge Barbara Jones will lead the review.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2021, at 3:02 PM, Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Spoke to MDR
This clause has to come out

nor did I ever think that I was acting in any way that was inappropriate

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 2:56 PM Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Ms. Bennett was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID. She has every right to speak out.

When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her and her ongoing efforts to create an organization that empowered her voice to help other survivors, I tried to be supportive and helpful. Ms. Bennett's initial impression was right: I was trying to be a mentor to her. I never made advances toward Ms. Bennett nor did I ever think that I was acting in any way that was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.

This situation cannot and should not be resolved in the press so I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full and thorough outside review and I am directing all state employees to comply with that effort. I will have no further comment until the review has concluded.

From: Judith Mogul
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:49 PM

EXHIBIT

23

To: Peter Ajemian; Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Melissa DeRosa; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever
Subject: Re: Current Statement

paternalistic is not a good think it means patronizingly looking down on someone - I think we mean paternal if we are going to say anything like that at all

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Melissa DeRosa; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever
Subject: Re: Current Statement

The word "paternal" is NOT in the copy. She referred to him as a being like a "father figure" at one point when she first started working there.

On Feb 27, 2021, at 2:21 PM, Jeffrey Pollock <[\[REDACTED\]@globalstrategygroup.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com)> wrote:

I retract my last comment about the broader one. But I still think unless paternalistic is in the story we should change. And if it IS in the story I might even put it in quotes? Peter?

From: Richard Azzopardi <[\[REDACTED\]@exec.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov)>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa <[\[REDACTED\]@exec.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov)>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[\[REDACTED\]@dfs.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov)>; Peter Ajemian <[\[REDACTED\]@exec.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov)>
Cc: Lis Smith <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>; Josh Vlasto <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>; Jeffrey Pollock <[\[REDACTED\]@globalstrategygroup.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com)>; Judith Mogul <[\[REDACTED\]@exec.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov)>; Stephanie Benton <[\[REDACTED\]@exec.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov)>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[\[REDACTED\]@esd.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov)>; Christopher Cuomo <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>; Peter Ajemian <[\[REDACTED\]@exec.ny.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov)>; Dani Lever <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>
Subject: Re: Current Statement

[EXT EMAIL]

Minor grammatical to next to last sentence.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Peter Ajemian
Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Christopher Cuomo; Peter Ajemian; Dani Lever
Subject: Current Statement

Statement draft:

Ms. Bennett has every right to speak out. She was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID.

When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her and her ongoing efforts to create an organization that empowered her voice to help other survivors, I tried to be supportive and helpful. Ms. Bennett's initial impression was right: I was trying to be paternalistic towards her and help mentor her. I never made advances toward Ms. Bennett nor did I ever think that I was acting in any way that was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.

This situation cannot and should not be resolved in the press so I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full and thorough outside review and I am directing all state employees to comply with that effort. I will have no further comment until the review has concluded.

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 3:01:24 AM
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul +Peter Ajemian Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen Maggie
Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 10:01:24 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]
Attachments: Screenshot 2021-02-27 at 10.00.05 PM.jpeg

EXHIBIT
24

MORAN00000597



Tweet



Karen Hinton
@KarenHinton



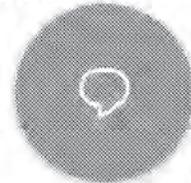
Charlotte Bennett isn't a liar.
@JesseMcKinley 's story proves that.
Why is @melissadderosa - a very smart woman who rose from press secretary to the Governor's Secretary, the top job in administration - defending #Cuomo? In 2021, women should stand together.
#MeToo 🙏 is important.

 **Peter Giunta** @PeterGiunta · 2h

Correct me if I am wrong, but @LtGovHochulNY, @SenGillibrand, and @SenSchumer have been silent on ALL of the sexual harassment claims made against @NYGovCuomo, as well as the @KarenHinton story.

As a matter of fact, Schumer has been silent about the nursing home cover-up too.
[twitter.com/tipmahoney/sta...](https://twitter.com/tipmahoney/status/1411111111)

Show this thread



Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 3:04:54 AM
To: Dani [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
+Judy Mogul +Linda Lacewell Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie
Moran [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen +Rich Azzopardi Melissa DeRosa
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 10:04:54 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Not putting into writing how I feel about that



FEBRUARY 28, 2021 Albany, NY

Statement from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

"Questions have been raised about some of my past interactions with people in the office.

"I never intended to offend anyone or cause any harm. I spend most of my life at work and colleagues are often also personal friends.

"At work sometimes I think I am being playful and make jokes that I think are funny. I do, on occasion, tease people in what I think is a good natured way. I do it in public and in private. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. I have teased people about their personal lives, their relationships, about getting married or not getting married. I mean no offense and only attempt to add some levity and banter to what is a very serious business.

"I now understand that my interactions may have been insensitive or too personal and that some of my comments, given my position, made others feel in ways I never intended. I acknowledge some of the things I have said have been misinterpreted as an unwanted flirtation. To the extent anyone felt that way, I am truly sorry about that.

"To be clear I never inappropriately touched anybody and I never propositioned anybody and I never intended to make anyone feel uncomfortable, but these are allegations that New Yorkers deserve answers to.

"That's why I have asked for an outside, independent review that looks at these allegations.

"Separately, my office has heard anecdotally that some people have reached out to Ms. Bennett to express displeasure about her coming forward. My message to anyone doing that is you have misjudged what matters to me and my administration and you should stop now - period."

Contact the Governor's Press Office



**Contact us by
phone:**

Albany: (518) 474 - 8418

New York City: (212) 681 - 4640



**Contact us
by email:**

Press.Office@exec.ny.gov

Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 03:20 PM
Subject: Re: statement final
From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
To: Chris Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com>;
Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Linda A Lacewell
(dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Melissa DeRosa
CC: [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi
[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>;

I can't seem to dial back in
C

On Sun, Feb 28, 2021 at 3:13 PM Chris Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com > wrote:

“Questions have been raised about some of my past interactions with people in the office.

I spend most of my life at work and colleagues are often also personal friends. I never intended to offend anyone or cause any harm.

sometimes I am playful and make jokes. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. My only desire is to add some levity and banter to what is a very serious business.

I now understand that my interactions may have been insensitive or too personal and that some of my comments, given my position, made others feel in ways I never intended. I'm sorry and feel deeply embarrassed about that.

Separately, my office has heard anecdotally that some people have reached out to Ms. Bennett to express displeasure about her coming forward. My message to anyone doing that is you have misjudged what matters to me and my administration and you should stop now - period.”

EXHIBIT
26

On Feb 28, 2021, at 3:11 PM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

“Questions have been raised about some of my past interactions with people in the office.

I spend most of my life at work and colleagues are often also personal friends. I never intended to offend anyone or cause any harm.

sometimes I am playful and make jokes. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. My only desire is to add some levity and banter to what is a very serious business.

I now understand that my interactions may have been insensitive or too personal and that some of my comments, given my position, made others feel in ways I never intended. I’m sorry and feel deeply embarrassed about that.

Separately, my office has heard anecdotally that some people have reached out to Ms. Bennett to express displeasure about her coming forward. My message to anyone doing that is you have misjudged what matters to me and my administration and you should stop now - period.”

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:07 PM

To: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >

Cc: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Chris Cuomo ([REDACTED]@gmail.com) <[REDACTED]@gmail.com >

Subject: Re: statement final

I now understand (not know)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 28, 2021, at 3:05 PM, Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

“Questions have been raised about some of my past interactions with people in the office.

I never intended to offend anyone or cause any harm. I spend most of my life at work and colleagues are often also personal friends.

At work sometimes I think I am being playful and make jokes that I think are funny. I do, on occasion, tease people in what I think is a good natured way. I do it in public and in private. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. I have teased people about their personal lives, their relationships, about getting married or not getting married. I mean no offense and only attempt to add some levity and banter to what is a very serious business.

I know understand that my interactions may have been insensitive or too personal and that some of my comments, given my position, made others feel in ways I never intended. I acknowledge some of the things I have said have been misinterpreted as an unwanted flirtation. To the extent anyone felt that way, I'm sorry and feel deeply embarrassed about that.

That's why I have asked for an outside, independent review that

looks at all of this. To be clear I never touched anybody and I never propositioned anybody, but these are serious allegations that New Yorkers deserve answers to.

Separately, my office has heard anecdotally that some people have reached out to Ms. Bennett to express displeasure about her coming forward. My message to anyone doing that is you have misjudged what matters to me and my administration and you should stop now - period.”

Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 01:27 PM

Subject: [Chat #2333]

From: Dani Lever <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; +[REDACTED] [Liz Smith];

Never ok to flirt with someone who works for you in your 20s

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]



Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 01:30 PM

Subject: [Chat #2334]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Liz Smith];

Nope

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, March 14 2021 09:43 AM
Subject: [Chat#1445]
From: Chris Cuomo [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]; [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; [REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; [REDACTED] [Liz Smith];
Attachments: IMG_9859.jpeg

Have you seen this? Is it fake?

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:
[REDACTED]



All

Mentions

US Constitutional Right. If they try to take that away, ramifications are frightening. This is benchmark. It could set precedence & mark end of Democracy as we know it, that our forefathers fought wars over for. Thats alot to lose.



Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:13:14 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] BethGarvey [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Stephanie BentonCell [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian +Linda Lacewell +Judy Mogul JoshVlasto [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:13:14 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]
Attachments: __Library_SMS_Attachments_ff_15_7A4420DB-F13C-4377-A675-F58179ADE65A_95C7D8C8-8838-41C8-B661-C24776C8FA4A.pluginPayloadAttachment

<https://twitter.com/maggienny/status/1365811052559167492?s=21>





Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:13:20 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:13:20 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

what can I say to Maggie here

Message

From: +Rich Azzopardi [+ [REDACTED]]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:13:44 AM
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Judy Mogul Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell
[REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:13:44 PM -05:00 Rich Azzopardi -> [13 parties]

Don't ask me.

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:20:17 AM
To: +Linda Lacewell Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton
Cell [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul +Rich Azzopardi +Peter Ajemian Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Dani
[REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:20:17 PM -05:00 : Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

why not off say independent could choose to review if she wanted?

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:20:22 AM
To: +Rich Azzopardi Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul +Peter Ajemian +Linda Lacewell Maggie Moran
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Steve Cohen Dani [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:20:22 PM -05:00 : Jeff Pollock <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

Off record

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:20:27 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]
+Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Linda Lacewell Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian +Judy Mogul Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:20:27 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Yes- that's what I'm asking

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:20:37 AM
To: +Peter Ajemian +Rich Azzopardi +Steve Cohen Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
+Judy Mogul Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:20:37 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Help me help you guys with some of these people

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:21:27 AM
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian +Linda Lacewell +Judy Mogul Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Beth
Garvey [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:21:27 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Yes she can do Lindsey too

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:21:35 AM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell ([REDACTED] +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey ([REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell +Rich Azzopardi +Peter Ajemian
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:21:35 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] [13 parties]

U can say to press

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:21:39 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi BethGarvey [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen +Peter Ajemian Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell +Judy Mogul Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:21:39 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] [13 parties]

Rich and Peter

Message

From: +Peter Ajemian [+ [REDACTED]]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:21:43 AM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul; Dani [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:21:43 PM -05:00 : Peter Ajemian -> [13 parties]

K

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:21:48 AM
To: +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] Melissa
DeRosa [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:21:48 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] [13 parties]

what language can we use specifically

Message

From: Dani [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:22:02 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:22:02 PM -05:00 : Dani [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

And attributed how?

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:22:37 AM
To: +Rich Azzopardi +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Lis
Smith [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:22:37 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

what language should we use

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:22:49 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell BethGarvey [REDACTED]
Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock
[REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Rich Azzopardi Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:22:49 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

can u ask lawyers

Message

From: Dani [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:22:50 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Morah [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian
+Judy Mogul Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Stephanie Benton Cell
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:22:50 PM -05:00 : Dani [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

what rich or Judy said

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:22:51 AM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen +Peter Ajemian Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kiwit.com]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:22:51 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Pls

Message

From: Dani [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:24:20 AM
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen +Peter Ajemian
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:24:20 PM -05:00 : Dani [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

This is what Judy said: "that we will set no limits on the scope of the review and that Judge Jones will determine the appropriate scope of the review." Should we add off the record a line that says that could include Lindsay

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:24:45 AM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi Josh Vlasto [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen
Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:24:45 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Judge Jones has been retained to look at both allegations

Message

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:24:48 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian +Rich Azzopardi
+Linda Lacewell +Judy Mogul Stephanie BentonCell [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Jeff
Pollock [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED];
+Steve Cohen
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:24:48 PM -05:00 : Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Maybe "there are no limits...1"

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:25:01 AM
To: +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Stephanie BentonCell [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock ([REDACTED]); Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:25:01 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Use that

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:25:13 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Dani [+ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:25:13 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Peter and Rich u can give ppl that officially from Beth

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:25:25 AM
To: +Steve Cohen +Judy Mogul Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:25:25 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Can u guys send me what you're using

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:25:34 AM
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
+Steve Cohen [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
+Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:25:34 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

That's it

Message

From: Dani [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:26:03 AM
To: Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Beth
Garvey [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:26:03 PM -05:00 ; Dani <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

This one Lis

Message

From: Dani [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:26:16 AM
To: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell +Rich Azzopardi Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Peter Ajemian
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:26:16 PM -05:00 ; Dani [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

From Beth Garvey

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:26:17 AM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell Dani [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:26:17 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

what if it's more than those two

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:32:31 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell JoshVlasto [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa ([REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul +Steve Cohen
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:32:31 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

ok I got Maggie

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:32:33 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
+Steve Cohen +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul +Linda Lacewell Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:32:33 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

OTR

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:41:28 AM
To: +Rich Azzopardi Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen
Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]
+Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:41:28 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Should we do a check in call

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:41:30 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa ([REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen +Judy Mogul Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey ([REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:41:30 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

At 8

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 2/28/2021 12:41:37 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen +Rich Azzopardi +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
+Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul Stephanie Benton
Cell [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] @kivvit.com]; Dani [REDACTED]
Subject: 2/27/2021 7:41:37 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

k



← Tweet



Maggie Haberman ✓
@maggieNYT

Hard to square Cuomo asking for a review of this claim but not the other one.



Maggie Haberman ✓ @maggieNYT · Feb 27

"His presence was suffocating," she said. "I was thinking that I could recover and have distance but that is so naïve." nytimes.com/2021/02/27/nyr...

6:48 PM · Feb 27, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

22 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 173 Likes



Marika Gerrard @soundgood2 · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

It's amazing how many men seem to have no idea that their advances are just creepy and unwanted



First Nation @FirstNation10 · Feb 27

Counter is that it is just as just as amazing that women who allegedly experience it put up with it as long as they do?



Show replies



Andrae Jones @phenomaj84 · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

Don't you support Trump who has had numerous rape allegations against him? You definitely not the person who should be near this story.



Nate @twiggenstein · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

Now do Trump



This Tweet was deleted by the Tweet author. [Learn more](#)

Show replies



Tom Nabelec @tnabelec · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

This one was covered by the NYTimes that's why



JKDAnthony10 @JKDAnthony10 · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

Absolutely these women should be taken seriously but you certainly didn't take the NUMEROUS Trump accusers seriously.

Why the double standard?



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Relevant people



Maggie Haberman ✓
@maggieNYT

Follow

Washington correspondent for NYTimes, analyst for CNN. RTs don't imply agreement.
maggie.haberman@nytimes.com

What's happening

US national news · 28 minutes ago

The Supreme Court reject Virginia school board's appeal to reinstate transgender rights ban



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Doomguy

Politics · Trending

Dan Crenshaw

Trending with **Gwen Berry**

BuzzFeed ✓ · Yesterday

16 Hollywood Couples Who Were Married Both On Screen And Off



The New York Ti... ✓ · 4 hours ago

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typos of the new york times @nyttypos · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

It makes lots of sense for a couple reasons: this is the second claim and builds on the first, and in this instance the Times reviewed a bunch of corroborating, contemporaneous text messages.

🗨️
↻
❤️ 4
📤



Independent02 @Independent02 · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

good point he should be asking for both

🗨️
↻
❤️
📤



Independent02 @Independent02 · Feb 27

Replying to @maggieNYT

can we agree no one in the republican or democrat party have any moral high ground on sexual harrassment.I lost count how many people have been accused on both sides.that is a problem I see no advantage to try and use it watch who retweets this.

🗨️
↻
❤️ 1
📤

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https://twitter.com/maggi NYT/status/1365811052559167492

2/2

From: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:02 AM
To: Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa; Beth Garvey; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Richard Azzopardi; Judith Mogul
Subject: Fw: STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

Need to deal with this. Gave her [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Barbara's bio and Beth's updated statement but are we changing course this morning?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Dana Rubinstein [REDACTED]@nytimes.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:29 PM
To: Richard Azzopardi; Peter Ajemian
Subject: Fwd: STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

Good evening, Rich and Peter,

On the hook for a morning follow-up to this. Can you comment as to why it makes sense for Barbara Jones, who worked with Steve Cohen, to conduct this investigation, and--more broadly--why it makes sense for the governor to have any role in selecting who conducts the investigation?

Regards,
Dana

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Press Office <Press.Office@exec.ny.gov>
Date: Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 6:41 PM
Subject: STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO
To: [REDACTED]@nytimes.com>



For Immediate Release: 2/27/2021

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

"Ms. Bennett was a hardworking and valued member of our team during COVID. She has every right to speak out.

"When she came to me and opened up about being a sexual assault survivor and how it shaped her and her ongoing efforts to create an organization that empowered her voice to help other survivors, I tried to be supportive and helpful. Ms. Bennett's initial impression was right: I was trying to be a mentor to her. I never made advances toward Ms. Bennett nor did I ever intend to act in any way that

was inappropriate. The last thing I would ever have wanted was to make her feel any of the things that are being reported.

"This situation cannot and should not be resolved in the press; I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full and thorough outside review and I am directing all state employees to comply with that effort. I ask all New Yorkers to await the findings of the review so that they know the facts before making any judgements. I will have no further comment until the review has concluded."

STATEMENT FROM BETH GARVEY, SPECIAL COUNSEL AND SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR

"Ms. Bennett's concerns were treated with sensitivity and respect and in accordance with applicable law and policy.

"The matter was promptly escalated to special counsel. Ms. Bennett received the transfer she requested to a position in which she had expressed a long-standing interest, and was thoroughly debriefed on the facts which did not include a claim of physical contact or inappropriate sexual conduct. She was consulted regarding the resolution, and expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the way in which it was handled.

"The determination reached based on the information Ms Bennett provided was that no further action was required which was consistent with Ms Bennett's wishes.

"Although in no way required by law, the Governor has requested an independent review and all staff will cooperate in that endeavor. Former Federal Judge Barbara Jones will lead the review."

###

Additional news available at www.governor.ny.gov
New York State | Executive Chamber | press.office@exec.ny.gov | 518.474.8418

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Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 02:11 PM

Subject: [Chat #2343]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];

Just give Tish what she wants

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT

31

Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 02:11 PM

Subject: [Chat #2344]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Liz Smith];

I actually think they are

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 02:11 PM

Subject: [Chat #2345]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Liz Smith];

She doesn't want this

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 02:11 PM

Subject: [Chat #2346]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];

Okay I just heard all the people yelling

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 03:57 PM

Subject: [Chat #2347]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];

Did they handle Ag thing yet

----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Sunday, February 28 2021 04:04 PM

Subject: [Chat #2348]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Liz Smith];

No clue

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:20:03 PM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED];
+Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]
Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:20:03 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]
Attachments: Screenshot 2021-03-09 at 12.19.52 PM.jpeg

EXHIBIT

32

MORAN00001471

“Any allegation made – either directly or indirectly – is being forwarded to Joon Kim and Anne Clarke in real time. We are grateful that the AG has chosen two experienced and diligent prosecutors to lead up this review and look forward to cooperating fully so that New Yorkers have all of the facts at its conclusion. The Governor’s previous statement that he has never touched anyone inappropriately stands.”

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:20:12 PM
To: +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran ([REDACTED] +Steve Cohen
Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] StephanieBenton Cell [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Lis
Smith [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Dani [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:20:12 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] [13 parties]

what about this

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:20:49 PM
To: Beth Garvey ([REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul +Steve Cohen Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
MaggieMoran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell
+Peter Ajemian
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:20:49 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

I thought we weren't having that last sentence in there

Message

From: +Linda Lacewell [+ [REDACTED]]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:23:39 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED];
+Steve Cohen; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; Lis Smith [REDACTED];
+Rich Azzopardi; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:23:39 PM -05:00 : Linda Lacewell -> [13 parties]

Clarke isn't a prosecutor

Message

From: +Linda Lacewell [+ [REDACTED]]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:24:05 PM
To: Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:24:05 PM -05:00 : Linda Lacewell -> [13 parties]

Investigators ok

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:24:11 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Linda Laceywell +Peter Ajemian +Rich Azzopardi Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:24:11 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Anne clark

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:24:12 PM
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com];
+Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen +Judy Mogul Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED];
+Linda Lacewell
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:24:12 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

No e

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 5:24:34 PM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell +Peter Ajemian Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 12:24:34 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

otherwise?

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 6:17:48 PM
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell +Steve Cohen Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
+Peter Ajemian Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 1:17:48 PM -05:00 : Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

What do you want with the last sentence. I don't love it but I don't want them saying we didn't address it

Message

From: Dani [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 6:19:19 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul +Rich Azzopardi Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian Jeff Pollock
[REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 1:19:19 PM -05:00 : Dani [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

I would just direct them to his prior comments no?

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 6:25:50 PM
To: Dani ([REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com); Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock ([REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi
Subject: 3/9/2021 1:25:50 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] [13 parties]

saying that seems to confirm the charge

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 6:25:56 PM
To: +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] StephanieBenton Cell [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
+Steve Cohen
Subject: 3/9/2021 1:25:56 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

I don't even get what you're responding to

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 11:30 AM

Subject: [Chat #2727]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; +[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Steve peoples from the ap calling me. Assume I call and talk the political angle?

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]



Date: Monday, March 1 2021 11:31 AM

Subject: [Chat #2728]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Or want someone else to talk to him first?

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 11:54 AM

Subject: [Chat #2729]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

And now the washington post/Michael Scherer

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 11:54 AM

Subject: [Chat #2730]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

I know both of these reporters so happy to do and be careful

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 11:54 AM

Subject: [Chat #2731]

From: Peter Ajemian <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; + [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Yep. Thank you

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 01:39 PM

Subject: [Chat #2736]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Anyone have context for the wa post before I call back?

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 01:39 PM

Subject: [Chat #2737]

From: Dani Lever <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; +[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; +[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell];
+[REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Dawsey may reach out on same narrative

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 01:39 PM

Subject: [Chat #2738]

From: Dani Lever <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell];
+ [REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Was it Dawsey from the post?

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 01:39 PM

Subject: [Chat #2739]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; +[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

No. Scherer

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Monday, March 1 2021 04:21 PM
Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction
From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >;
CC: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Lis Smith [REDACTED];

no hold

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock; Peter Ajemian
Cc: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Richard Azzopardi; Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

Yes

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:20:29 PM
To: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >
Cc: Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Cohen, Steven (ESD) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Dani Lever [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Lis Smith [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

From Beth: "As we said, given the ongoing review by the State Attorney General, we will have no further comment on this or related matters until the review is complete." And then re-up yesterday's statement.

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com >
Cc: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

Review not investigation but ok

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2021, at 4:16 PM, Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com > wrote:

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or

I do not like "out of respect"

I would say:

From Beth: "As we said, given the ongoing investigation by the State Attorney General, we will have no further comment on this or related matters until the review is complete." And then re-up yesterday's statement.

From: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:13 PM

To: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>

Cc: Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

[EXT EMAIL]

Does this work?

From Beth: "Out of respect for the ongoing review by the State Attorney General, we will have no further comment on this or related matters until the review is complete." And then re-up yesterday's statement.

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:03 PM

To: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>

Cc: Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

agreed

From: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:03 PM

To: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>

Cc: Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>

Subject: RE: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

[EXT EMAIL]

I think we need to lean in to – we have an ongoing review now, a referral has been made, no further comment on this or related matters.

From: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:00 PM

To: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>

Cc: Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; 'Jefrey Pollock' <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>

Subject: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

I think we have to refer to yesterday's statement.

From: Jesse McKinley <[REDACTED]@nytimes.com>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:53 PM

To: Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Subject: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

Rich, Peter,

Working on an article with Matt Flegenheimer, who interviewed the main subject, that involves an accusation by a 33-year-old woman, who says that the governor touched her inappropriately at a 2019 wedding (Gareth's, though he is not mentioned), and tried to kiss her even after she had conveyed her discomfort.

The woman, Anna Ruch, is on the record. She said in an interview that the governor put his hand on her bare lower back and after she removed it, the governor asked if he could kiss her, placing his palms on her face against her wishes and drawing closer as she pulled her head away. He then kissed her on the cheek.

There are photos of this moment, some of which are bouncing around Instagram.

I'll reflect the governor's previous comments on the Bennett/Boylan accusations, but can, of course, include any additional comment.

Jesse

--

Jesse McKinley

New York Times

Bureau Chief

Albany

[REDACTED]

C: [REDACTED]

Twitter: @jessemckinley

Skype: [REDACTED]

Instagram: jessemckinley70

From: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
Sent: 3/1/2021 5:37:23 PM
To: DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
CC: Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]; Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov]; Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Cohen, Steven (ESD) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov];
Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

Spoke to Jesse and then to Dean Chang and made our points

Jesse's not the lead and didn't seem that committed

Dean said he understood where we are coming from and assumed he'd be getting a call and acknowledged that in a vacuum it's not a story but said in context of the two prior stories and with this new woman's words it's a story

Story is basically- this is part of a pattern of words and actions by the gov that have made women feel uncomfortable

Here are the quotes – my rec is just refer to yesterday's statement and be done:

“I was so confused and shocked and embarrassed. I turned my head away and didn't have words in that moment.”

“That was the one section of my dress that was open so it was just my bare skin, which of course adds to my discomfort,” Ms. Ruch said. “I promptly removed his hand with my hand, which I would have thought was a clear enough indicator that I was not wanting him to touch me.”

“He said, ‘Can I kiss you?’” Ms. Ruch said. “I felt so uncomfortable and embarrassed when really he is the one who should have been embarrassed.”

“It's the act of impunity that strikes me,” Ms. Ruch said. “I didn't have a choice in that matter. I didn't have a choice in his physical dominance over me at that moment. And that's what infuriates me. And even with what I could do, removing his hand from my lower back, even doing that was not clear enough.”

From: Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa
Cc: Beth Garvey; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Peter Ajemian; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

I would also push back hard on the times here/ this is absurd. In front of dozens of people and with cameras around? At a wedding? This doesn't pass the smell test.

This is not harassment-

On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 4:37 PM Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

OK then let's just leave it alone



not reference review - this wont be reviewed - its not workplace sexual harassment

From: Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 4:33 PM

To: Judith Mogul

Cc: Beth Garvey; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

This also isn't even a thing- sounds like every Italian grand dad at a wedding

Do not do statement Melissa- just refer to comments yesterday

On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 4:29 PM Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes I agree- no further comment

On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 4:28 PM Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

And when he wants to revert to no comment this comment will be thrown back at him. No further comment should mean no further comment

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:27 PM

To: Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED];

Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

You're going to comment on each and every allegation now

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:25:49 PM

To: Cohen, Steven (ESD) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>;

Ajemian, Peter (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>;

Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

I just spoke w lis and she agrees w me

what is the issue?

The Governor has kissed and hugged and posed for photos with men and women alike at thousands of public events for the last 40 years. If that has offended anyone in anyway, it was not his intention. In this instance, there was a photographer less than 5 feet away in a room filled with hundreds of people where he was performing a wedding ceremony.

From: Cohen, Steven (ESD) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Jeffrey Pollock; Beth Garvey; Peter Ajemian; Judith Mogul; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Richard Azzopardi; Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

Agree with No.

On Mar 1, 2021, at 4:23 PM, Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov> wrote:

No

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2021, at 4:21 PM, Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

Can we give this?

The Governor has kissed and hugged and posed for photos with men and women alike at thousands of public events for the last 40 years. If that has offended anyone in anyway, it was not his intention. In this instance, there was a photographer less than 5 feet away in a room filled with hundreds of people where he was performing a wedding ceremony.

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Beth Garvey; Peter Ajemian; Melissa DeRosa; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Judith Mogul; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Cc: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani Lever [REDACTED]; Richard Azzopardi; Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

agreed

From: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

<[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>

Cc: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever [REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith [REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>

Subject: RE: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

[EXT EMAIL]

I think we need to lean in to – we have an ongoing review now, a referral has been made, no further comment on this or related matters.

From: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:00 PM

To: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>

Cc: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; 'Jefrey Pollock' <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>

Subject: privileged & confidential - please see. FW: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

I think we have to refer to yesterday's statement.

From: Jesse McKinley <[REDACTED]@nytimes.com>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:53 PM

To: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Subject: Comment on 2019 wedding interaction

Rich, Peter,

Working on an article with Matt Flegenheimer, who interviewed the main subject, that involves an accusation by a 33-year-old woman, who says that the governor touched her inappropriately at a 2019 wedding (Gareth's, though he is not mentioned), and tried to kiss her even after she had conveyed her discomfort.

The woman, Anna Ruch, is on the record. She said in an interview that the governor put his hand on her bare lower back and after she removed it, the governor asked if he could kiss her, placing his palms on her face against her wishes and drawing closer as she pulled her head away. He then kissed her on the cheek.

There are photos of this moment, some of which are bouncing around Instagram.

I'll reflect the governor's previous comments on the Bennett/Boylan accusations, but can, of course, include any additional comment.

Jesse

--

Jesse McKinley

New York Times
Bureau Chief
Albany

[REDACTED]

c: [REDACTED]

Twitter: @jessemckinley

Skype: [REDACTED]

Instagram: jessemckinley70

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From: Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Jef Pollock
Subject: Fwd: Q's to practice

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lis Smith** <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Q's to practice
To: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Q's
Did you forcibly kiss Ms Boylan?
Did you touch her legs/arms/torso?
Did you tell her you wanted to play strip poker?
Did you say that she looked like a better looking version of your ex girlfriend?
Did you call her Lisa?
Do you think it's appropriate that you compared a female staffer to an ex-girlfriend of yours?
Did you make unflattering comments about the weight of female staffers? Did you bring up their romantic relationships and significant others?
Have you ever had inappropriate relationships with women on your staff?
Do you think other women will come forward?
Do you have regrets about the language you have used toward women in the workplace?
You have a long history of saying inappropriate things to women, like the time you repeatedly told a young female TV reporter that you wanted to see her "eat the whole sausage." Do you believe those comments were acceptable?

From: Executive Assistant #2 <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Lis Smith; Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul
Cc: Executive Assistant #3; Brittany Commisso
Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov
Subject: GAMC call now [REDACTED]



To: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
Cc: Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
From: Jeffrey Pollock
Sent: Wed 3/3/2021 5:54:13 PM
Subject: RE: privileged / draft

You're right. And. I'm wrong/.

From: Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: privileged / draft

[EXT EMAIL]

Team and here..

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Stephanie Benton
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:51 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Lis Smith; Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi; Melissa DeRosa
Cc: Judith Mogul
Subject: RE: privileged / draft

This is end but please decide But or And:

I ask New Yorkers to wait for the facts from the Attorney General's report before forming an opinion.

(But or And) I want you to know that I have learned from this difficult lesson and I am sorry and I will be the better for it.

From: Stephanie Benton
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Subject: RE: privileged / draft

EXHIBIT
38

We're a no on changing two uncomfortables – MDR u want to take run?

Want to change:

I never knew at the time that I made anyone feel

to

I never knew at the time that I was making anyone feel

OK?

From: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:15 PM
To: Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: privileged / draft

I just want to make sure — this is where we landed? I thought we were being more direct than “uncomfortable”

On Mar 3, 2021, at 12:09 PM, Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

I want to address the recent allegations against me. The Attorney General is doing an independent review and I will fully cooperate with that review. The lawyers say I shouldn't say anything until it's over. I understand that. I'm a lawyer too.

But I want New Yorkers to hear from me directly: First, I fully support a woman's right to come forward and I think it should be encouraged in every way.

I now understand that I acted in a way that made people feel uncomfortable. It was unintentional and I truly and deeply apologize. I feel awful about it and, frankly, I am embarrassed by it.

But this is what I want you to know. I never touched anyone

inappropriately, I never knew at the time that I made anyone feel uncomfortable and I never ever meant to offend anyone, hurt anyone or cause anyone any pain.

I want you to know that I have learned from this difficult lesson and I am sorry and I will be the better for it.

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:03 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul Dani [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Lis Smith [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell +Steve Cohen
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:03 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Text me if any need for clean up



Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:03 PM
To: +Peter Ajemian; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul; Dani ([REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com); Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell; +Steve Cohen; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:03 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

what

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:11 PM
To: +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:11 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

I will have him note or speak up

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:13 PM
To: +Rich Azzopardi; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; Beth Garvey ([REDACTED]); Maggie Moran ([REDACTED]@kivvit.com); +Linda Lacewell; MelissaDeRosa [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:13 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Make sure not to look stressed on stage

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:16 PM
To: Dani [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen +Judy Mogul Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:16 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

OK will do

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:19 PM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Dani ([REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi
Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell +Steve Cohen +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:19 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] > -> [13 parties]

Me or him?

Message

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:20 PM
To: +Peter Ajemian; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; +Rich Azzopardi; Dani [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:20 PM -05:00 ; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

He looks good

Message

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:23 PM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]; Stephanie BentonCell [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:23 PM -05:00 ; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

same as always

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:16:24 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:16:24 PM -05:00 ; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

He's solid

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:18:02 PM
To: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; +Judy Mogul; +Linda Lacewell
Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com; Beth
Garvey [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi Dani [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:18:02 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Also, pls pass along spin we want to emphasize

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:18:12 PM
To: +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell Dani [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
+Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:18:12 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

let's settle on that before he finishes

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:18:34 PM
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED];
Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell
[REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED];
+Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:18:34 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

how long is intro

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:18:41 PM
To: +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi
+Linda Lacewell +Steve Cohen Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Dani ([REDACTED]); +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:18:41 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Business as usual

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:18:58 PM
To: +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:18:58 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

HOW LONG

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:19:08 PM
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell +Judy Mogul Lis Smith [REDACTED] ; +Rich Azzopardi
Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] ; +Steve Cohen +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran
[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:19:08 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Probably another 5 mins

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/3/2021 6:19:12 PM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Dani [REDACTED]; LisSmith ([REDACTED]); Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Linda Lacewell Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi
Subject: 3/3/2021 1:19:12 PM -05:00 ; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

ok

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:33 PM

Subject: [Chat #2859]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

This is what chuck said

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT
40

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:33 PM

Subject: [Chat #2860]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Right... only mis step I heard was talking about his own pain... he may be feeling it, but maybe today isn't the day to say it

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:34 PM

Subject: [Chat #2861]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Should he clean up?

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:34 PM

Subject: [Chat #2862]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Don't know how to. I'd leave it

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:35 PM

Subject: [Chat #2863]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

How is this?

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:36 PM

Subject: [Chat #2864]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Tell him to cut

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:36 PM

Subject: [Chat #2865]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Too much

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:36 PM

Subject: [Chat #2866]

From: Peter Ajemian <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; + [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

I now understand...

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:36 PM

Subject: [Chat #2867]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

I'm sorry if anyone felt

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:36 PM

Subject: [Chat #2868]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

What is he doing

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:37 PM

Subject: [Chat #2869]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

And now he is not sounding contrite so let's get back to that

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:37 PM

Subject: [Chat #2870]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Stop

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:37 PM

Subject: [Chat #2871]

From: Liz Smith <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; +[REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Stop

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:37 PM

Subject: [Chat #2872]

From: Liz Smith <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; + [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Tone is not contrite

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:37 PM

Subject: [Chat #2873]

From: Liz Smith <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; + [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

He needs to soften u

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:38 PM

Subject: [Chat #2874]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Remind him to soften

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

June 22, 2021 | 1:36 pm

COVID-19 Updates

The COVID-19 vaccine is here. It is safe, effective and free. Walk in to get vaccinated at sites across the state. Continue to mask up and stay distant where directed.

GET THE FACTS >



GOVERNOR
ANDREW M. CUOMO

MARCH 3, 2021 | Albany, NY

Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript: Governor Cuomo Announces Event, Arts and Entertainment Venues Can Reopen at 33 Percent Capacity Beginning April 2

MEDIA

(/K)

CORONAVIRUS

(/K)

HEALTH

(/K)

PUBLIC SAFETY

(/KEYWORDS/PUBLIC-
SAFETY)

Venues Will Be Able to Host Up to 100 People Indoors and Up to 200 People Outdoors; With Testing, Up to 150 People Indoors and Up to 500 People Outdoors; Social Distancing and Face Coverings Required Domestic Travelers No Longer Required to Quarantine or Test-Out Within 90 Days of Full Vaccination; International Travelers Must Continue to Follow CDC Guidance Beginning March 22, Outdoor Residential Gatherings Expanded to 25 People; Non-Residential Social Gatherings

EXHIBIT

41

Expanded to 100 People Indoors and 200 People Outdoors

5,323 Patient Hospitalizations Statewide 1,047 Patients in the ICU; 735 Intubated

Statewide Positivity Rate is 3.53%

75 COVID-19 Deaths in New York State Yesterday

Governor Cuomo: "We've really made tremendous progress and this is really, really good news. It's not over and we have to continue, but this is very, very good news. Percent of hospitalized is down across the state and that's all good news."

Cuomo: "Everybody wants all restrictions gone. Everybody does. Yes, but you also have to be smart about the reopening. In my opinion, some states are going too far too fast and that is a danger because COVID is still a risk and you relax those restrictions too far, you will see the beast rise up again."

Earlier today, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that beginning April 2, event, arts and entertainment venues can reopen at 33 percent capacity, up to 100 people indoors and up to 200 people outdoors. If all attendees present proof of negative test prior to entry, capacity can increase up to 150 people indoors and up to 500 people outdoors. Social distancing and face coverings will be required by all attendees, as well as strict adherence to all applicable Department of Health guidance.

The Governor also announced domestic travelers to New York State who have been vaccinated no longer have to quarantine or test out within 90 days of their full vaccination.

Governor Cuomo also announced that beginning March 22, residential gatherings of up to 25 people can be held outdoors. Indoor residential gatherings remain capped at 10 people to reduce the continued risk of spread. Also, non-residential social gatherings of up to 100 people can occur indoors and up to 200 people can occur outdoors.

VIDEO of today's remarks is available on YouTube [here \(https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=2688b646-79138f5d-268a4f73-0cc47a6d17e0-0b77cc049775b60b&q=1&e=ed16c59a-c593-497e-bf3d-bf43937478f1&u=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F5i7aoY5th0o\)](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=2688b646-79138f5d-268a4f73-0cc47a6d17e0-0b77cc049775b60b&q=1&e=ed16c59a-c593-497e-bf3d-bf43937478f1&u=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F5i7aoY5th0o) and in TV quality (h.264, mp4) format [here \(https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=e2222a85-bdb9139e-e220d3b0-0cc47a6d17e0-a2f73ade33f0ebce&q=1&e=ed16c59a-c593-497e-bf3d-bf43937478f1&u=https%3A%2F%2Fspaces.hightail.com%2Freceive%2FbX4qhRB99K\)](https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=e2222a85-bdb9139e-e220d3b0-0cc47a6d17e0-a2f73ade33f0ebce&q=1&e=ed16c59a-c593-497e-bf3d-bf43937478f1&u=https%3A%2F%2Fspaces.hightail.com%2Freceive%2FbX4qhRB99K).

AUDIO of today's remarks is available [here \(https://soundcloud.com/nygovcuomo/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-on-the-states-covid-19-response-and-makes-an-announcement-030321\)](https://soundcloud.com/nygovcuomo/governor-cuomo-updates-new-yorkers-on-the-states-covid-19-response-and-makes-an-announcement-030321).

PHOTOS will be available on the Governor's Flickr [page \(https://www.flickr.com/photos/governorandrewcuomo/albums/\)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/governorandrewcuomo/albums/).

A rush transcript is available below:

Good afternoon. From my far right, we have Ms. Kelly Cummings, Director of State Operations, to her left, Beth Garvey, special counsel, to my right, Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner of the Department of Health, to my left, Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor, to her left Robert Mujica, Budget Director of the State of New York, MTA Board Member, CUNY Board Member, many hats.

Good news today - overall state positivity rate 3.53, 75 statewide deaths, still after all this time we still have New Yorkers dying, 75, those families are in our thoughts and prayers. Statewide hospitalizations are down 46, ICU down 29, intubations down 12. This is great news.

Remember what happened - we hit the holiday season. We talked about it, Thanksgiving, holiday season, 37 days, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Christmas, more social gatherings, the number would go up, the number did go up, January 4 it peaks, when you think about it, holiday season is over, New Year's Day, New Year's Eve, it peaks and it has continually dropped. But it has dropped to a level below where it was before it started to peak. So, Christmas, a little bit after Thanksgiving, but before we saw any big increase, about 6,600, go up to 8,000, and now we're down to 5,400. So we've really made tremendous progress and this is really, really good news. It's not over and we have to continue, but this is very, very good news.

Percent of hospitalized is down across the state and that's all good news. New York City is the highest at .04. COVID positivity which plus or minus relates to the hospitalization, Long Island, New York, Mid-Hudson.

What people should get from these slides or these numbers, ask yourself, why is there such a variance within one state? Why is there such a variance in demographic areas that are basically very similar? Why is Central New York, Mid-Hudson, why is Mid-Hudson four times higher than Central New York? These areas, same state, same basic demographics - it is about behavior. It is about behavior. It's about what we do. You take Western New York, 1.9, Western New York for weeks was a trouble area and now it's 1.9 because the community changed. The community adapted. The community heard and this is a function of personal behavior and that's why you're seeing these variances across the state.

You look at New York City, the Bronx is down where it was but 5 percent. It's double Manhattan. Staten Island which was an aberration is now more in line but Staten Island, Bronx, Queens, are all about the same. It is about behavior.

Vaccines, we have big news - just under 5 million vaccines done overall, really good news. We had a White House call yesterday. Johnson & Johnson vaccine has arrived in New York. This is from a practical of view, not a medical of view much easier than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. It's one shot. You don't have to come back for a second shot. You don't have to

schedule a second shot. It doesn't take a second appointment and there is no cold storage for the Johnson & Johnson. So it's a very big deal.

We are expecting an initial tranche each of about 164,000 doses and I'll explain in a moment what I mean by first tranche.

This first tranche which is large will be administered by radically ramping up the vaccination system. We had the Pfizer and Moderna. We were scaled to the Pfizer and Moderna. On top of that the federal government then adds about 160,000 doses which is a lot of doses for the state, so we needed extra ramp up of actual vaccination operations because of this Johnson & Johnson influx. It's good news but we have to then get it in arms as soon as possible. We've taken a number of measures but among them are mass vaccination sites, Yankee Stadium, Javits, State Fair, they're going to go to 24/7 and we want to thank the staff very much that is going to do that because that is a big deal and these are staff that are stretched to begin with. But they'll go to 24/7. You can make an appointment.

That will only last for the duration of that initial first large tranche of Johnson & Johnson. After that first tranche of Johnson & Johnson the production is actually going to slow and lag and then build back up again. So we have this one-time blip, one-time large tranche, good news, then it will slow, then it will ramp up again, but I'll ask Kelly Cummings who has been doing a great job getting these mass vaccination sites to transfer to 24/7 and ask Kelly if she has any additional comments.

Kelly Cummings: Sure. Yankee Stadium will begin operations tomorrow night, Thursday night. The appointments opened this morning. It will be operating with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine during the overnight hours, as the governor said, as the supply lasts. The Javits Center in New York City and the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse will begin operations on Friday night and appointments will open tomorrow, Thursday at 8 a.m. for those two sites.

Governor Cuomo: How many nights will these sites open 24/7 we're not clear yet. It's going to depend on how many people come in for the vaccine. I know there is a pent-up demand. I believe people will show up in the middle of the night to get the vaccine but we're talking several days to a week in that range and then once we run out of the initial tranche of Johnson & Johnson, then it will basically scale back down. We're also using other mechanisms to get out the additional doses: pharmacies, FQHCs, local health departments and hospitals because remember on top of the Johnson & Johnson, we also have an increase in Pfizer/Modernavaccines. The Biden administration has increased the percentage of vaccines about 70 percent since they've taken office. It's really amazing what he has done, but again, the Johnson & Johnson increase is a one-time infusion, then a brief lag in production, then an increase. The overall picture is that President Biden says they'll be a vaccine supply for all Americans by the end of May. Now, that was the — it was the end of July. He is now moving it up to the end of May and that is a very significant increase. Apparently using the Defense Production Act, they have accelerated the production of the vaccine and Johnson & Johnson and Merck have formed a partnership, so Merck is going to help produce a Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Normally, drug companies don't play nice like this, but the President used the Defense Production Act. This is going to dramatically increase the production. This is what's allowing them to move up the schedule until May. The President also says prioritize teachers and he wants the states, and then the local governments directed by the states, to prioritize teachers. I believe President Biden is right. We need children back in classrooms. Children not in classrooms hurts the child, it hurts their socialization, it puts additional stress on the family. Every expert will say it: as soon as you can get children back in the classroom, get them back in the classroom. We have classrooms where the infection rate is much lower than the surrounding community. The teachers need and deserve a right to feel safe. They do, and even before President Biden said this, I said last week local governments must report on how many teachers are vaccinated and coordinate with the school districts to report how many teachers are in the classrooms. In other words, I believe a

teacher could say, "I want a vaccine before I go into to the classroom." OK, how many teachers have we vaccinated and how many are in classrooms? For cities, this information is easy to gather because the city is coterminous with the school district. Other areas, you'll have school districts overlapping counties, so they'll have to call the school districts and get the data. But this is President Biden's point. He wants a prioritization of vaccination for teachers because he wants teachers in the classroom. Now, you have a lot of prioritizations going on in this vaccination process. Nursing home residents were prioritized. Nursing home staff was prioritized. Hospital staff was prioritized, police, teachers, school teachers, so we have a long priority list but I think the President is right. This is about getting kids back into the classroom.

Overall, COVID rates are down as we just went through. Vaccine rates are up, so we continue the smart reopening, right? The graphic that nobody likes. What we have done which has been very smart from day one: report, reopen based on science and data. "I feel this, I feel that." Feelings are nice; facts are better. And we have been calibrating by the science and the data.

On the COVID emergency powers, we worked with the legislature. We have an agreement on a bill, where the legislature can repeal any Executive Order that I issue with over 50 percent, both houses. The COVID emergency powers continue past April 30. When we first did this, we thought the pandemic would be open over April 30. This is a year ago — we said about a year. At that time, it was implausible to think it was going to go beyond the year. It's gone beyond the year and it's not going to end by April 30, so they're going to extend, the legislation extends the emergency power to the point where the federal government declares an end to the pandemic, which the federal government does, it controls funds etc. We have more time in this situation, by and large. We'll give the legislature notice of any changes that we're making five days prior to effect. if it is an emergency change as determined By Department of Health, then it will be a shorter period of time. I don't remember exactly what it was. Do you remember what it was, Beth?

Beth Garvey: [inaudible] We will give notice as soon as possible.

Governor Cuomo: OK, and during the five days, there will be legislative consultation and on the change orders that we make during the five days. And again, whatever order I put in place, the legislature can repeal it in 24 hours or whenever they choose and that's always been the way.

Travel guidance: domestic travelers are no longer required to quarantine or test out within the 90 days of full vaccination. International travelers, you have to continue to follow the CDC quarantine guidelines. Gathering limits, we're going to change and let me go to Rob, who's done a lot of work on this.

Rob Mujica: So, beginning March 22 for residential gatherings, the indoor limit remains the same. The outdoor limit goes from 10 to 25 outdoor, which is consistent with some of the states around us. The social gathering limit for public spaces on indoor events goes from 50 to 100, and then for outdoor events, it will go from 50 to 200, so all of those will still also require social distancing as well as mask requirements. And then beginning on April 2, we started up with opening large event spaces, which was 10,000 or more for arenas starting with the Buffalo Bills. Subsequent to that, last night, the Rangers had a couple thousand people at their game. That's last Saturday, also held a basketball game using those guidelines that we got from the Buffalo Bills. So, following from that for event spaces that are less than 10,000 — those can begin reopening at 33 percent capacity with up to 100 people indoors and again 200 people outdoors. Again, there still will be guidance for social distancing and masks. If we want to go above those limits, you can go up to 150 people indoor with testing requirements for, going from 100 to 150, and then for outdoor events, up to 500 people outdoors with testing. And again, social distancing and face covering will be required by all the attendees.

Governor Cuomo: Rob, can you please mention the Empire Pass program?

Robert Mujica: So on the Empire Pass program, so we have an app that we have been working with IBM on that app, when you get tested, if with your consent the results of that test can be reported automatically to the app and then you can then show proof of a negative test upon entrance to any of these events that require testing. That app has been tested right now, both at Barclays and Madison Square Garden, and those tests have been successful. So once we get the approvals, the app will be available for download on both platforms, on Google, on Apple platforms, people download to their smartphones. And that will allow someone to show the result of their test, whether it be a PCR test, which we valid for up to 72 hours, or rapid test, which will be valid for six hours. In addition, thought, if you don't want to use an app, you will be able to download a paper result of your test that you can then print out and use that to demonstrate your negative test. So again, this is all tested, started with the Bills games, it has been tested at two events recently, the most recent one as early as last night, and that will be available and we'll start rolling that out, again, beginning within a week, and you can use that to go to some of these events when we want to get to the larger numbers, like I said, to go to 250 for indoor events, or up to 500 people for outdoor events.

Governor Cuomo: Great. Thank you very much, Robert. Foundation to reopening, we talk a lot about reopening, and the values, and getting the economy back. Foundation to reopening is public safety. People don't think of it that way, but a community is not going to thrive if people don't feel safe. After the George Floyd murder, we have had localities working on reforming their public safety plans. Mr. Floyd's death was really just a point where there was an explosion of frustration, and we said to every local government we're not telling you what to do, but if you have a public safety department, you have to put everyone at the table, have a collaborative come up with a reform public safety plan.

Cities are doing fantastic work, and creative work. But, not all of them are doing it. If they don't do it and we get to the budget, then they're going to be significant sanctions on the city. Please, you have 29 days, I know it's a hard topic, I know people would rather stay away from it, but public safety is one of the top priorities, for any mayor, for any county executive, any supervisor, public safety's a top priority. Yes it's hard, yes it's sticky, yes it's controversial, but, it's also the job.

The light at the end of the tunnel is in sight, but we can't stop driving now. We've had critical moments all through this period, but this is one of the most critical moments, in my opinion. We have a number of things going on. We have a massive ramp-up of the vaccine operation by May. When President Biden says, oh by the way, I've found a way to produce million more doses, that's great news. But, now you have to ramp up a vaccination operation that goes from the end of July to May, in a very large state, which is what New York is. That's a challenge. The variants are still here. Don't think that there isn't an ever-present danger. And these variants are not just here. The variants are created all the time. The virus mutates all the time. And it's very possible that there's a mutation to the virus that is going to require a different type of booster shot. That's why this is so important to get all those vaccines done now, because the vaccines can protect you from the variant. But that is a lingering danger we're dealing with. And then you have the New York recovery, rebuilding, and finances. You know, when you deal with a storm, the first step is the emergency response to the storm. There's a hurricane, keep everybody safe, get people in out of the cold. Second step is, the water recedes and now you see the damage that you have to rebuild. The damage to this state, to this city is extraordinary, and we're going to have a lot of work to do. And this is all happening at the same time. Environmentally, we can't relax too soon. I get it - COVID fatigue. Everybody wants all restrictions gone. Everybody does. Yes, but you also have to be smart about the reopening. In my opinion, some states are going too far too fast and that is a danger because COVID is still a risk and you relax those restrictions too far, you will see the beast rise up again.

Smart. New York tough, smart, united, discipline, loving.

Let me make an unrelated announcement if I can. I want to address the recent allegations that have been made against me. As you probably know, the Attorney General is doing an independent review and I will fully cooperate with that review. Now, the lawyers say I shouldn't say anything when you have a pending review until that review is over. I understand that, I'm a lawyer too, but I want New Yorkers to hear from me directly on this.

First, I fully support a woman's right to come forward and I think it should be encouraged in every way. I now understand that I acted in a way that made people feel uncomfortable. It was unintentional and I truly and deeply apologize for it. I feel awful about it and frankly, I'm embarrassed by it, and that's not easy to say but that's the truth. But this is what I want you to know, and I want you to know this from me directly - I never touched anyone inappropriately. I never touched anyone inappropriately. I never knew at the time that I was making anyone feel uncomfortable. I never knew at the time that I was making anyone feel uncomfortable. I certainly never, ever meant to offend anyone or hurt anyone or cause anyone any pain. That is the last thing I would ever want to do.

I ask the people of this state to wait for the facts from the Attorney General's report before forming an opinion. Get the facts please before forming an opinion and the Attorney General is doing that review. I will fully cooperate with it and then you will have the facts and make a decision when you know the facts.

I also want you to know that, I have learned from what has been an incredibly difficult situation for me as well as other people, and I've learned an important lesson. I'm sorry. I'm sorry for whatever pain I caused anyone. I never intended it um and I will be the better for this experience. Thank you.

Contact the Governor's Press Office

Contact us by phone:

Albany: (518) 474 - 8418
New York City: (212) 681 - 4640

Contact us by email:

Press.Office@exec.ny.gov

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:51 PM

Subject: [Chat #2915]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Should we all jump on phone fast?

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]



Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:51 PM

Subject: [Chat #2916]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

I think spin is getting back to work

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:51 PM

Subject: [Chat #2917]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Sure

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto
ICCID:
[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:52 PM

Subject: [Chat #2918]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Ok

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:52 PM

Subject: [Chat #2919]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Spin is getting back to work

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:52 PM

Subject: [Chat #2920]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Spin is full throated emotional apology

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, March 3 2021 01:57 PM

Subject: [Chat #2930]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; +[REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; +[REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; +[REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; +[REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; +[REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; +[REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Ok cleanup would be on 1) intended (it's not about intent) 2) he wasn't ashamed though I don't really remember how that went

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]



Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/5/2021 1:59:03 AM
To: +Steve Cohen +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi +Peter Ajemian
Subject: 3/4/2021 8:59:03 PM -05:00 : Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Can small group do call w him tomorrow to prep for his press call



Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/5/2021 2:00:03 AM
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; Dani [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/4/2021 9:00:03 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

Yes

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/5/2021 2:00:15 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; +Peter Ajemian; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell; +Rich Azzopardi; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@kivvit.com]
Subject: 3/4/2021 9:00:15 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

Tonight or tomorrow?

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/5/2021 2:01:06 AM
To: +Linda Lacewell; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/4/2021 9:01:06 PM -05:00 ; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

Tomorrow after cbs this morning- no idea what will be said there

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/6/2021 2:52:38 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Rich Azzopardi; Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; +Steve Cohen; Dani [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/5/2021 9:52:38 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]
Attachments: Screenshot 2021-03-05 at 9.52.22 PM.jpeg

EXHIBIT
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MORAN00001159

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
To: Charlotte Bennett
[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Subject: =?Windows-1252?Q?
Re: What_I_didn=92t_get_to_say_to_you_before_you_left?
ft?=
Thread-Topic: =?Windows-1252?Q?
What_I_didn=92t_get_to_say_to_you_before_you_left?=
Thread-Index: AQHWRnJ7tpH3yIwS+Emn84zJ6lICfjqhdjM/
Date: Sat, 20 Jun 2020 12:52:13 +0000
Message-ID: <1592657534199.61976@exec.ny.gov>
References: <0C743813-FB48-4A7A-8BA8-5EA6486903F6@exec.ny.gov>
In-Reply-To: <0C743813-FB48-4A7A-8BA8-5EA6486903F6@exec.ny.gov>
Content-Language: en-US
X-MS-Has-Attach:
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
x-ms-exchange-organization-originalclientipaddress:
67.248.41.100
x-ms-exchange-organization-originalserveripaddress:
10.74.46.234
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="Windows-1252"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
MIME-Version: 1.0

Thanks for this incredible message -- it takes a team to accomplish something like this, and you were very much a part of it :) Hope you enjoy the weekend, M

From: Charlotte Bennett
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Stephanie Benton; Melissa DeRosa
Subject: What I didn=92t get to say to you before you left

Steph and Melissa -

Thank you for demonstrating to me (and the world) what it means to be a woman in New York. Thank you for your hard work and your leadership. Thank you for saving lives. Thank you for leading by example. You are the foundation of this state and this country. You will forever be my role models. I am in awe. I am proud. I am thankful.

Sent from my iPhone

MORAN00001160

Message

From: +Rich Azzopardi [+ [REDACTED]]
Sent: 3/6/2021 2:53:49 AM
To: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Lis Smith ([REDACTED]); +Judy Mogul [+Linda Lacewell Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Maggie Moran
[REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
+Steve Cohen +Peter Ajemian
Subject: 3/5/2021 9:53:49 PM -05:00 :Rich Azzopardi -> [13 parties]

Yup

Message

From: Dani [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/6/2021 3:00:26 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Rich Azzopardi Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen
Subject: 3/5/2021 10:00:26 PM -05:00 : Dani [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Wow

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/6/2021 3:00:44 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell +Peter Ajemian
+Judy Mogul Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]
+Rich Azzopardi +Steve Cohen Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [+REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/5/2021 10:00:44 PM -05:00 ; Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Yeah

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/6/2021 3:01:06 AM
To: +Rich Azzopardi +Linda Lacewell Stephanie Benton Cell ([REDACTED] MaggieMoran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com);
Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Lis Smith [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Peter Ajemian Danj [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/5/2021 10:01:06 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

should I get this out there

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/6/2021 3:01:18 AM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] +Linda Lacewell [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]
StephanieBenton Cell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] +Steve Cohen [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/5/2021 10:01:18 PM -05:00 : Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Nooooo

Message

From: +Linda Lacewell [+ [REDACTED]]
Sent: 3/6/2021 3:01:28 AM
To: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Judy Mogul +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED] @kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Lis Smith [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/5/2021 10:01:28 PM -05:00 ; Linda Lacewell -> [13 parties]

Hold for AG

Message

From: Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/6/2021 3:01:30 AM
To: +Linda Lacewell +Peter Ajemian Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
StephanieBenton Cell [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul +Rich Azzopardi Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
+Steve Cohen
Subject: 3/5/2021 10:01:30 PM -05:00 : Jeff Pollock <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

For the AG

Date: Saturday, March 6 2021 06:32 PM

Subject: Fw: More stuff. Fw: Washington Post- request for comment (on deadline)

From: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

To: Christopher Cuomo <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]

See below -

From: Brittain, Amy

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 6:06 PM

To: Richard Azzopardi

Cc: Peter Ajemian

Subject: RE: Washington Post- request for comment (on deadline)

Hi Rich,

We have worked in these statements into the draft. Thank you for sending.

For awareness, wanted to flag a few other anecdotes that are in the story. Some (Feiner and Kim) are involving situations that have been reported previously, but please let me know if Gov. Cuomo would like to respond to any of these points. Happy to add in responses but would need them ASAP- within an hour or so.

- A HUD political appointee who worked closely with Cuomo told The Post that during meetings, staffers avoided the seats next to him, as though physical distance would somehow protect them from his wrath. She recalled that she witnessed women dissolve into tears and one man's face turn beet red after Cuomo dressed them down. "People were terrified of him," the former appointee said. "You couldn't forget it. Anyone who tells you they don't remember is not telling the truth. Everybody got their turn, including me."
- The accounts of such behavior by Cuomo stretch back decades. Paul Feiner, now the town supervisor in Greenburgh, N.Y., said that when he was Westchester County legislator in the late 1980s, he had a run-in with Cuomo about a transitional housing project that Cuomo wanted to build in the wealthy enclave. Feiner had proposed downsizing the project. He said Cuomo, who then ran a nonprofit development organization, called him and said: "I'm going to destroy your career and break every bone in your body." Feiner said he ended up voting for the full project.
- Bennett's attorney, Debra Katz, noted that Bennett's experience came several years after Cuomo heralded legislative changes in New York - following the height of the #MeToo movement - related to sexual harassment law. "He knows exactly what is against the law and should be done, and he violated it with impunity," she said.
- A high-ranking HUD political appointee recalled a 2000 incident she characterized as so "inappropriate" that it has bothered her for more than two decades. She had only been on the job for about three weeks when she had a meeting scheduled with Cuomo and an official from the Treasury Department. She and the Treasury official were already at the conference table when Cuomo entered the room. She stood to greet him, and she recalled Cuomo walking over - to hug her, then kiss her on the cheek. "I remember being to this day mortified that he had done this to me in front of this official," the woman recalled. After the meeting ended and Cuomo left, the Treasury official turned to ask her how long she and Cuomo had been friends. She responded that she had just started the job. The woman said she did not consider the kiss sexual and did not feel Cuomo was coming on to her. Instead, she said she felt the move was "more like a power trip" designed to establish himself as dominant in front of the Treasury official. "I was so embarrassed, because of course I felt like he was thinking, 'She was just brought on to be a squeeze,'" she said. "It completely diminished me, of course, in the eyes of this person. I have no doubt about that."
- New York State Assemblyman Ron Kim (D) said he was on the receiving end of Cuomo's temper last month after he gave a news outlet a statement criticizing the administration's handling of nursing home deaths linked to the coronavirus pandemic. Kim said he was getting his young daughters ready for bath time when he got a call on his cellphone; it was an operator saying the governor was on the line. "Mr. Kim, are you an honorable man?" was the first thing Cuomo said, Kim said. During a 10-minute call, the governor threatened to destroy his career and reputation if he did not immediately issue a statement walking back his criticism, he recounted.

EXHIBIT

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Kim said Cuomo was yelling so loudly that his wife could hear the governor through the phone and began shaking and crying.

After Kim went public with his account of the call, Cuomo attacked Kim at a news conference, accusing him of improperly soliciting campaign donations.

"I think it's all one interlinked pattern where he feels untouchable," Kim said. "Whether it's verbal or physical abuse, or threatening lawmakers or journalists for doing their jobs, it's come to a level where it's so normalized that he doesn't think twice about behaving that way."

From: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Brittain, Amy [REDACTED]@washpost.com >
Cc: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Subject: RE: Washington Post- request for comment (on deadline)

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

From Peter Ajemian, Director of Communications for the Governor:

Global about work environment

"The people of this state elected the Governor to represent them four times during the last 14 years and they know he works day and night for them. There is no secret these are tough jobs, and the work is demanding, but we have a top tier team with many employees who have been here for years, and many others who have left and returned. The Governor is direct with employees if their work is sub-par because the people of New York deserve nothing short of excellence. ¶"

Re Karen Hinton "This did not happen. Karen Hinton is a known antagonist of the Governor's who is attempting to take advantage of this moment to score cheap points with made up allegations from 21 years ago. All women have the right to come forward and tell their story -- however, it's also the responsibility of the press to consider self-motivation. This is reckless."

Work environment for women

aides pointed out that a majority of senior aides, including secretary, ops-director, counsel, etc are women, many of whom have worked their way up from other positions and were promoted.

Re: language male staffers attributed to the governor: From Rich Azzopardi, Senior advisor to the Governor: "I've been here more than eight years and I have never heard him use coarse language like that."

From: Brittain, Amy [REDACTED]@washpost.com >
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Subject: RE: Washington Post- request for comment (on deadline)

Hi Rich,

I told this to Melissa but we need Gov. Cuomo's comment by 4:30.

Thank you,

Amy

From: Brittain, Amy
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Rich Azzopardi
Subject: RE: Washington Post- request for comment (on deadline)

Hi Rich,

Just wondering when we can expect a response.
Thanks,
Amy

From: Brittain, Amy
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 7:03 PM
To: Rich Azzopardi
Subject: Washington Post- request for comment (on deadline)

Hi Rich,

I'm working with my colleague Josh Dawsey on a piece related to the workplace environment under Andrew Cuomo. We'd welcome the opportunity to interview Gov. Cuomo and to speak to aides close to him who may want to share their own accounts of what it is like to work for him.

Specifically, we plan to report the following:

- Karen Hinton, who worked for Cuomo at HUD, alleges that he summoned her to his dimly lit hotel room and physically embraced her following a work event in 2000, when Cuomo led the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Hinton says that she pulled away from Cuomo but he pulled her back toward his body, holding her before she broke away and left the room.
- Hinton has discussed the allegation in detail, saying that it happened after she left her fulltime job with the agency, when she was working as a consultant for HUD. She said the trip was to California, where she worked with the governor to help arrange press coverage on his media tour.
- Hinton said there was a "power dynamic" at play even though she was a consultant at the time, not an employee. "It was the same to me," she said, adding that was she concerned about the "the personal and professional problems that could have been created." She said she described his move as a "power play" for "manipulation and control."
- Hinton has said that she and Cuomo never discussed the incident after she left his room that night.
- Two male aides who worked for Cuomo over the course of his career say that he berated them with explicit language: sometimes calling them "pussies" and sometimes saying "you have no balls," among other comments.
- Two women, both of whom worked in the governor's office several years ago as young staffers, says that Cuomo quizzed them about their dating lives. They have said they did not view the encounters as propositions but rather as part of an office culture they believed was degrading to young women.
- An additional woman has said that during a meeting with Gov. Cuomo, he insinuated that his male staffer should date her. She said that it was part of a larger pattern of a hostile workplace — defined by blame cast upon others, angry outbursts and a pattern of undermining colleagues — that left her with crippling anxiety and feelings of questioning her self worth.
- Altogether, over 20 former Cuomo staffers have told us in interviews that Cuomo fostered a hostile workplace culture in which he makes searing verbal attacks on subordinates. Some said he seemed to delight in humiliating his employees, particularly in group meetings. Most said they still fear his wrath and his power to destroy careers.
- We are also planning on including comments from other staffers who say they never witnessed abusive behavior.

We plan to include some of Gov. Cuomo's remarks from his Wednesday press conference, and we would welcome the chance to include his detailed responses to these new allegations. Our deadline is 1 p.m. tomorrow.

I'm at [REDACTED] if you have any questions concerning this request.

Best,
Amy

Amy Brittain
Reporter
The Washington Post
[REDACTED] (cell)
[REDACTED]@washpost.com

Date: Friday, March 5 2021 09:05 PM
Subject: [Chat #3202]
From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>
To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]"; [REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi]; + [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];
Attachments: Screenshot 2021-03-05 at 9.04.59 PM.jpeg

#tbt to 2016 me and Pollock gaming out inner circle seating

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT

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Jeffrey Pollock



me Apr 7, 2016



to Jeffrey ▾

██████████ and ██████ again?

Just want to make sure no karen Hinton

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 7, 2016, at 5:08 PM, Jeffrey Pollock
<██████████@globalstrategygroup.com> wrote:

>

> I made sure to put you with ██████ who I know
you like. Oh, and ██████ You get him too.

> I forget the others. I'll look in a bit.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Melissa DeRosa

[mailto:██████████@gmail.com]

> Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 4:32 PM

> To: Jeffrey Pollock <██████████@globalstrategygroup.com>

> Subject: Who is at our inner circle table this year?

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone



me Apr 7, 2016

Just making sure this wasn't one of your funny jokes. A...



me Apr 7, 2016



to Jeffrey ▾

Date: Friday, March 5 2021 09:07 PM

Subject: [Chat #3204]

From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

“Just want to make sure no Karen Hinton”

-----METADATA INFORMATION-----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]

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◆ WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE

Cuomo Faces New Accusations of Inappropriate Behavior From Third Former Aide

Ana Liss says the New York governor asked if she had a boyfriend, called her sweetheart and kissed her hand

By [Jimmy Vielkind](#), [Deanna Paul](#) and [Khadeeja Safdar](#)

Updated March 6, 2021 9:26 pm ET



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ROCHESTER, N.Y.—A former aide of Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he asked her if she had a boyfriend, called her sweetheart, touched her on her lower back at a reception and once kissed her hand when she rose from her desk.

Ana Liss, now 35 years old, served as a policy and operations aide to Mr. Cuomo between 2013 and 2015. She said the actions by Mr. Cuomo were unsolicited and occurred in the first year while she sat at her desk, which was near his office in the Executive Chamber of the New York State Capitol in Albany.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Ms. Liss said she initially perceived Mr. Cuomo's conduct as harmless flirtations. Over time, she said, she has come to see it as patronizing, and she added it diminished her from an educated professional to "just a skirt."

"It's not appropriate, really, in any setting," she said.

In response to questions about Ms. Liss, Rich Azzopardi, a senior adviser to Mr. Cuomo said Saturday: "Reporters and photographers have covered the governor for 14 years

watching him kiss men and women and posing for pictures. At the public open-house mansion reception, there are hundreds of people, and he poses for hundreds of pictures. That's what people in politics do.”

At his last public appearance on Wednesday, Mr. Cuomo said this behavior was customary for him.

“I understand that sensitivities have changed and behavior has changed, and I get it. And I'm going to learn from it,” he said.



Ana Liss displays a pin she earned while working in the governor's office.

PHOTO: LIBBY MARCH FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Ms. Liss is the third former female aide to accuse Mr. Cuomo of inappropriate behavior in the workplace. The two other former aides have said he sexually harassed them. Mr. Cuomo has apologized for making people uncomfortable. He has said he never touched anyone inappropriately.

“It was unintentional, and I truly and deeply apologize for it,” he said Wednesday. “I feel awful about it and, frankly, I am embarrassed.”

Ms. Liss and other current and former administration officials said the governor regularly asked them about their dating lives, touched them and commented about their physical appearance. Longtime staffers told some women they should wear high heels when the governor was in Albany, according to Ms. Liss and other former staffers. Mr. Azzopardi said no one was compelled to wear high heels.

The Journal spoke with more than 30 officials who either work or have worked for Mr. Cuomo during his 10 years as governor. All of those officials, who include current and

former agency heads, described a high-pressure environment where seven-day workweeks were common.

Several people described the working environment as toxic. Many former staffers recalled the governor's actions more endearingly. Once on Valentine's Day, Mr. Cuomo had roses delivered to the female employees, they said. Two women who received the flowers said they appreciated the gesture.

When asked about the criticism of working conditions, Mr. Azzopardi said: "The people of this state elected the governor to represent them four times during the last 14 years, and they know he works day and night for them. There is no secret these are tough jobs, and the work is demanding, but we have a top-tier team with many employees who have been here for years, and many others who have left and returned."

One former aide, 25-year-old Charlotte Bennett, recently said Mr. Cuomo asked about her sex life and whether she had relationships with older men.

Another former adviser, Lindsey Boylan, said in a Feb. 24 Medium post that Mr. Cuomo tried to kiss her on the lips in his office and, during a 2017 flight on his plane, suggested they play strip poker. A spokeswoman for Mr. Cuomo has said Ms. Boylan's accusations are false.

The governor is facing mounting pressure over the accusations, as well as how the state handled Covid-19 in nursing homes. State Attorney General Letitia James is overseeing an investigation into the accusations by Mses. Bennett and Boylan. Federal prosecutors are interested in how the governor's top advisers pushed to alter a Health Department report to include a lower tally of deaths in those facilities, people familiar with the matter said.

Republicans and an increasing number of Democrats have called for Mr. Cuomo's resignation or impeachment, but senior Democratic state lawmakers are resisting until Ms. James's review is complete.



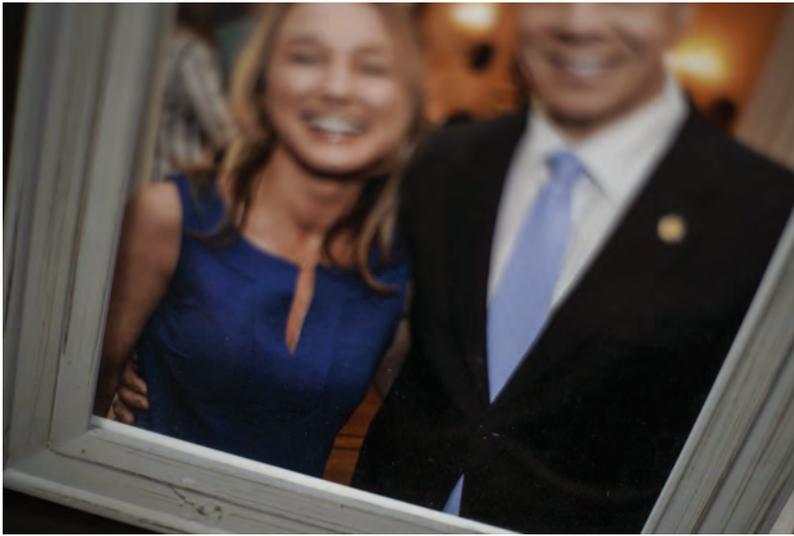
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Ms. Liss said she decided to come forward after Mses. Bennett and Boylan accused Mr. Cuomo of sexual harassment. Ms. Liss said the governor's response to their accusations has been inadequate.

Ms. Liss won a competitive fellowship in 2013 and joined Mr. Cuomo's team to work on economic-development programs. She already had a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and had been working at a business-development firm in Rochester. She said she was proud of her role in the Executive Chamber but was dismayed that the governor never asked her about her work, focusing instead on personal questions or her appearance.



Ana Liss keeps in her office a framed picture of her and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, taken at a 2014 reception, showing his arm around her waist.

PHOTO: LIBBY MARCH FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Ms. Liss recalled working at a May 6, 2014, reception at the Executive Mansion in Albany, which is Mr. Cuomo's official residence. Mr. Cuomo was in a living room on the north side of the mansion's first floor and noticed Ms. Liss, she recalled.

"He came right over to me and he was like, 'Hey, Sweetheart!'" she said.

She said the governor hugged her, kissed her on both cheeks and then wrapped his arm around her lower back and grabbed her waist. They turned to a photographer, who took a picture that shows Mr. Cuomo's hand around her waist.

In the Medium post, Ms. Boylan described a similar encounter with the governor at a Jan. 6, 2016, event at Madison Square Garden. She said Mr. Cuomo stopped to talk with her

after a speech, and she was soon informed by her boss that the governor had a crush on her.

“It was an uncomfortable but all-too-familiar feeling: the struggle to be taken seriously by a powerful man who tied my worth to my body and my appearance,” Ms. Boylan wrote.

Ms. Liss said she never made a formal complaint about the behavior of the governor or anyone else. She said she eventually asked for a transfer to another office.

Ms. Liss said her experience working for the governor prompted her to begin mental-health counseling in 2014. She said she drank heavily that year, and she left the Executive Chamber in 2015 to take a position at Cornell University as a corporate-relations manager. Ms. Liss now works as the director of the Department of Planning and Development for Monroe County in upstate New York.

The Journal interviewed two other Empire State Fellows who said they observed Ms. Liss drinking heavily and skipping social engagements when she worked for the governor.

Peter Walke, a fellow who now serves as Vermont’s environmental conservation commissioner, said in a recent interview that he noticed Ms. Liss became more withdrawn over time.

After the allegations by Mses. Boylan and Bennett, Mr. Walke contacted Ms. Liss. She relayed her own experiences to him, Mr. Walke said.

Ms. Liss said she was proud of the work she did during her time in Albany, and still keeps in her office that picture of her and Mr. Cuomo at the reception. She supports the policies he has enacted.

“I just wish—I wish that he took me seriously,” she said.

Cuomo Under Fire

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo faces investigations of sexual harassment accusations and his handling of pandemic-related nursing home data.

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Claims Against Cuomo: What We Know

How Impeachment Works in New York

A Timeline of the Allegations

Aides Called Former Staffers to Discredit Accuser

Impeachment Investigation by NY State Lawmakers

Charlotte Bennett Accuses Cuomo of 'Predatory Behavior'

Cuomo Accused by Former Aide Lindsey Boylan

—Leslie Brody and Jim Oberman contributed to this article.

Write to Jimmy Vielkind at Jimmy.Vielkind@wsj.com, Deanna Paul at deanna.paul@wsj.com and Khadeeja Safdar at khadeeja.safdar@wsj.com

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Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 4:14:58 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Dani [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul [REDACTED] Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen +Rich Azzopardi
Subject: 3/9/2021 11:14:58 AM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Important call need u guys on



Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 4:16:51 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Judy Mogul +Linda Lacewell Beth Garvey [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi +Peter Ajemian +Steve Cohen Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 11:16:51 AM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Can you guys text the call in

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 4:16:57 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Steve Cohen +Rich Azzopardi +Judy Mogul +Linda Lacewell Dani [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED] +Peter Ajemian Maggie Moran [REDACTED] Josh
Vlasto [REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 11:16:57 AM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Stephanie emailed like 20 numbers

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 4:17:09 PM
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com];
+Peter Ajemian; +Linda Lacewell; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi; +Judy Mogul; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 11:17:09 AM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

Nobody has time to enter that into the phone

Message

From: Lis Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 4:17:18 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]; Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]
Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Linda Lacewell
+Steve Cohen [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Peter Ajemian; +Rich Azzopardi
+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/9/2021 11:17:18 AM -05:00 ; Lis Smith [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

I was in the phone w Chris he and asked to be included

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/9/2021 4:17:29 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; +Linda Lacewell +Judy Mogul Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] Maggie Moran [REDACTED] +Rich Azzopardi Lis Smith [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen Jeff Pollock [REDACTED] Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian Dani [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell ([REDACTED])
Subject: 3/9/2021 11:17:29 AM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

ok

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/11/2021 5:40:25 PM
To: +Linda Lacewell; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Beth Garvey [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen; +Rich Azzopardi; Lis Smith [REDACTED];
+Judy Mogul; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; +Peter Ajemian; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/11/2021 12:40:25 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

Can everyone dial in?

Message

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/11/2021 5:40:26 PM
To: Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]
+Peter Ajemian +Linda Lacewell Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; +Steve Cohen Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dani [REDACTED]; +Rich Azzopardi Beth Garvey [REDACTED]; +Judy Mogul Lis Smith [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: 3/11/2021 12:40:26 PM -05:00 : Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]> -> [13 parties]

[REDACTED]#

Female aide said Cuomo aggressively groped her at Executive Mansion

Governor issues denial, but describes details of woman's account as "gut-wrenching"



ALBANY — A female aide to [Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo](#) alleges he aggressively groped her in a sexually charged manner after she had been summoned to the Executive Mansion late last year, according to a person with direct knowledge of the woman's claims.

The staff member, whose identity is being withheld by the Times Union, had been called to the mansion under the apparent pretext of having her assist the governor with a minor technical issue involving his mobile phone. They were [alone in Cuomo's private residence](#) on the second floor when he closed the door and allegedly reached under her blouse and began to fondle her, according to the source.

EXHIBIT
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The allegations by the female aide, who is the sixth woman to accuse Cuomo of inappropriate behavior, were first reported Tuesday by the Times Union. The additional details describe the most egregious behavior attributed to the governor to date — conduct that could potentially be pursued as a misdemeanor sexual assault charge.

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The person briefed on the case, who is not authorized to comment publicly, said the woman — who is much younger than Cuomo — told the governor to stop. Her broader allegations include that he frequently engaged in flirtatious behavior with her, and that it was not the only time that he had touched her.

The woman's story was revealed within the governor's Executive Chamber on March 3, as staff members watched his first news conference in the week since Lindsey Boylan published [an online essay](#) detailing her own allegations against Cuomo. In the news conference, the governor denied ever touching any women "inappropriately."

Hearing those remarks, the female aide became emotional. At least one female supervisor came to her assistance and asked why she was upset. The female aide subsequently told the supervisor about what she said had been inappropriate encounters with Cuomo, the source said.

In response to the Times Union's questions about the allegations, Cuomo on Wednesday evening issued a statement to the newspaper: "As I said yesterday, I have never done anything like this. The details of this report are gut-wrenching. I am not going to speak to the specifics of this or any other allegation given the ongoing review, but I am confident in the result of the attorney general's report."

State Attorney General Letitia James' office is overseeing [an investigation](#) of multiple harassment allegations against Cuomo.

In the most recent case, at least one of the woman's supervisors reported the allegations to an attorney in the governor's office on Monday.

On Tuesday afternoon, several hours after Cuomo's office had been asked about the matter by the Times Union, the governor said in a news conference, "I'm not aware of any other claim," when he was asked by a reporter about the new story, which by then had been published online. That story included a statement from his acting counsel, Beth Garvey, who said that "all allegations" of sexual

harassment made against the governor were being referred to the attorney general's office.

"As I said last week, this is very simple: I never touched anyone inappropriately," Cuomo said Tuesday. "I never made any inappropriate advances ... (and) no one ever told me at the time that I made them feel uncomfortable. Obviously, there are people who said after the fact they felt uncomfortable."

The woman has not filed a formal complaint with the governor's office.

Aides to the governor on Tuesday said the governor stands by his statements that he never touched anyone inappropriately. They would not explain the governor's statement that he was unaware of the latest allegation against him.

This week, the attorney general's office announced its investigation will be handled by two private attorneys: Joon H. Kim, a former acting U.S. attorney for New York's Southern District in Manhattan, and Anne L. Clark, who specializes in labor law and sexual harassment cases.

On Wednesday morning, the attorney general's office declined to comment in response to detailed questions about how that office, which does not have statutory jurisdiction on any criminal component of the case, would be handled. The March 1 referral letter from Garvey to James authorizing the probe invoked a section of Executive Law that empowers the attorney general's office to conduct a civil investigation with the aid of office subpoenas, but not to pursue a criminal case or to bring the allegations before a grand jury.

If a criminal complaint is made, by Boylan or the female aide who alleges Cuomo groped her at the mansion, those cases could potentially be handled by the offices of Albany County District Attorney David Soares or Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance.



The new allegations that came to light Tuesday immediately intensified the pressure from many lawmakers — including Cuomo's fellow Democrats — for the governor to resign. He had already faced calls to step down from [state Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins](#), and Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie had issued a statement Sunday questioning Cuomo's ability to remain an effective leader.

Republicans in the Legislature have [been more forceful in their remarks](#). Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort on Tuesday characterized the latest allegation as "a disturbing pattern of predatory pattern behavior by Gov. Cuomo, not to mention a pattern of lies and broken public trust."

The initial allegations were made by three women — Boylan as well as Charlotte Bennett and Anna Ruch, who did not work for Cuomo but told the New York Times last week that the governor grabbed her and attempted to kiss her at the 2019 wedding of one of his senior aides, Gareth Rhodes.

Bennett told the New York Times that Cuomo, during an encounter in his Capitol office last June, talked about being lonely during the pandemic and that he had missed being able to hug someone. She said that the governor never tried to touch her. Bennett, in another interview with CBS News, also recounted being alone with Cuomo at the mansion and said that he had asked her probing questions about her personal life but did not touch her.

Debra Katz, Bennett's attorney, issued a statement in response to this story late Wednesday saying the allegations by the female aide are "eerily similar" to Bennett's experience.

"Charlotte was summoned to the Capitol on a Saturday, left isolated with the governor and asked to help him with minor technical issues with his phone. Charlotte reported this behavior and the governor's sexual proposition to his most senior aides, including his Special Counsel, Judith Mogul. In response, those aides failed to report Charlotte's claims to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, as they were legally required," Katz said.

"Had the governor's staff taken Charlotte Bennett's allegations and their legal obligations seriously, perhaps this woman would have been spared of this sexual assault," she added. "That the governor does not deny touching people, but insists he never did it inappropriately, shows he is committed to gaslighting victims and perpetuating these lies. This is exactly how abusers operate."

Over the weekend, in stories published by the Washington Post and Wall Street Journal, two more women came forward and described what they characterized as inappropriate behavior by Cuomo, including Karen Hinton, who worked with the governor more than two decades ago at the U.S. Housing and Urban Development agency.

blyons@timesunion.com

From: Cohen, Steven (ESD) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov
Subject: Re: priv and confidential - pls review asap
Date: March 12, 2021 at 11:37 AM
To: DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com, Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Lis Smith [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov, Laceywell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov, Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov, Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov

Here's the crux after denial —

A rush to judgement is the exact opposite of due process, the exact opposite of our system of government and the exact opposite of what Americans and NYers say they believe in. You either believe in fairness, due process and justice — or you don't. And none of that undermines a person's right to speak their truth or be heard. If those 2 concepts cannot co-exist than what are left with is mob rule or chaos.

On Mar 12, 2021, at 11:17 AM, Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

I understand the pressure and I dont blame these politicians. A lot of these people are my long time friends.

I'm answering to a different standard -- people put me here -- I am focused on doing the job, getting the budget done and getting vaccines in arms.

All women have a right to come forward and I support that right. But I want to be clear: I did not do anything like what is being alleged. I do not know why the person who is saying it is saying it. I am not in a position to argue this in the press — and there is no one who wants these investigations to happen more than I do.

There is due process in this country and I believe when the investigation is over the facts will show that. I made a promise to protect the people of new york and I'm doing that job. Again, I did not do any of the things that are being alleged. You have known me for 40 years. You have elected me Governor thress times. I am asking New Yorker's to have faith in that history and reserve their judgement until the conclusion of the review.

EXHIBIT
52

COHEN000448

From: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Christopher Cuomo; Jeffrey Pollock; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Cc: Beth Garvey
Subject: Fw: Privileged

From: Stephanie Benton
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa
Cc: Judith Mogul
Subject: Privileged

DRAFT GAMC

As I have said before and firmly believe: Women have a right to come forward and be heard. And I encourage that.

But I also want to clear: There is still a question of the truth. I did not do what has been alleged. I will not speculate about people's possible motives but I know, as a former attorney general, there are often many motivations for making an allegation and that is why you need to know the facts before you make a decision. There are two reviews underway. Let them do it. And no one wants them to happen more quickly and thoroughly than I do.

I will not argue this issue in the press. That is not how it is done, but at the same time, it is hypocritical for politicians to say there are serious allegations and then play politics with them. Serious allegations should be weighed seriously – that's why they are called serious. As I have told New Yorkers many times – there are facts and opinions and we must separate the two. Politicians who don't know a single fact, but yet form a conclusion and opinion are reckless and dangerous.

The people of New York should not have confidence in a politician who takes a position without knowing any facts or substance. That's politics at its worst.

Politicians take positions for all sorts of reasons, including political expediency and bowing to pressure. But people know the difference between playing politics, bowing to cancel culture and truth.

Let the review proceed. I am not going to resign. I was not elected by the politicians. I was elected the people. Part of this is I am not part of the political club and I am proud of it.

I made a promise to protect the people of New York and I am doing that job—as I have to eleven years. We have a budget due in two weeks for a state in fiscal crisis, we have to perform 15 million vaccinations and rebuild our state from the bottom up. That is my job, and that is what I am focused on.

EXHIBIT
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You have known me for forty years. You have elected me attorney general, you have elected me Governor three times. Wait for the facts. That is all I am going to say on this topic until the review is complete. I remain 100 per cent focused on my job and serving the people of New York.

Date: Friday, March 12 2021 11:58 AM

Subject: [Chat #3808]

From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED] "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Us Senators are holding. Not moving

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto
ICCID:
[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT
54

The Cruelty and the Casualties

[andrew cuomo](#) 11:38 A.M.

Abuse and Power

Andrew Cuomo's governorship has been defined by cruelty that disguised chronic mismanagement. Why was that celebrated for so long?

By [Rebecca Traister](#)

Governor Andrew Cuomo at a coronavirus briefing in April 2020. Photo: George Etheredge

EXHIBIT

55



This article was featured in [One Great Story](#), New York's reading recommendation newsletter. [Sign up here](#) to get it nightly.

Joel Wertheimer took a job in Andrew Cuomo's administration in February 2017, straight from his position in Barack Obama's White House. He came on alongside almost 30 other new hires, many of whom had also worked for the outgoing president or on Hillary Clinton's campaign and were seeking a progressive professional path through the Trump years. Some saw New York State government as a bulwark against what they feared Trumpism would bring. Others hoped it could be a laboratory for ideas that might become a model for federal policy.

Early in their employment, a few of these staffers were invited to a party at the governor's mansion in Albany. Partway through the bash, there was a roast of Cuomo's top aide, Melissa DeRosa, then the chief of staff but soon to be promoted to secretary to the governor. The roast, said Wertheimer, entailed projecting photos of prominent state officials, "then asking Melissa if she knew their names, and her not knowing." The newcomers whispered and huddled together while everyone else laughed. "We were saying to each other, 'This is fucking weird,' " said one former staffer. "This was not ha-ha funny," Wertheimer explained. "This was, 'You guys are bad at your job!' And, 'You're mean!'"

Four years later, and one year after he began his star turn as "America's Governor," steering his state through COVID via daily, reassuringly matter-of-fact press briefings, Andrew Cuomo's third term as governor of New York is suddenly deeply imperiled. In January, State Attorney General Letitia James released a report showing that his administration had [underreported COVID deaths in nursing homes](#) by as much as 50 percent. In February, liberal State Assembly member Ron Kim, who had criticized the governor in the wake of that report, spoke publicly about how Cuomo called him at home and threatened his career. Then the floodgates opened: His adversary Mayor Bill de Blasio called the bullying "[classic Andrew Cuomo](#)"; state legislators Alessandra Biaggi and Yuh-Line Niou began openly suggesting that the governor's hard-knuckled approach to politics is simply abusive. And since last month, when Cuomo's former aide and candidate for Manhattan borough president, [Lindsey Boylan, published an article on Medium](#) accusing him of sexually harassing and kissing her against her will, [five more women have come forward](#) with tales of harassment, objectification, and inappropriate touching. As of publication, dozens of Democratic members of the State Assembly and Senate, and 11 Democratic members of Congress, have called for his resignation.

That Andrew Cuomo is being characterized by fellow Democratic politicians as a lecherous tyrant who empowers his staff to threaten and intimidate should not, in some ways, come as a surprise. During his decade as governor, he has often strutted his thuggish paternalism while his top aides disparaged those who challenged him. Two years ago, a Cuomo spokesman called three female state lawmakers in his party "fucking idiots." In 2013, Cuomo created the Moreland Commission to investigate public corruption, only to shut it down abruptly less than a year later amid allegations that he had obstructed its work; one of Cuomo's closest associates, Joe Percoco, is serving a six-year term in federal prison on bribery charges.

But until now, none of this left a lasting mark on the governor. If anything, it burnished his reputation: Cuomo was a bully, but he was *our* bully. Over the course of the past year, however, as he took his show national as [Governor Covid](#), the political dynamics in Cuomo's own state were shifting. Now, the venal toxicity that has buttressed his career has, at least temporarily, been exposed for what it is.

Though the multiple scandals erupting in Albany seem to toggle between sexualized harassment stories and evidence of mismanagement, what is emerging is in fact a single story: That through years of ruthless tactics, deployed both within his office and against anyone he perceived as an [adversary, critic, or competitor](#) for authority, Cuomo has fostered a culture that supported harassment, cruelty, and deception. And while some have continued to defend Cuomo's commitment to "creating the perception of strength," and his mastery of "brutalist political theater" (as Mayor de Blasio's former spokesman told the [New York Times](#) last month), his tough-guy routine has in fact worked to obscure governing failures; it is precisely what has permitted Cuomo and his administration to spend a decade being, to borrow Wertheimer's assessment, both mean and bad at their jobs. As one former Cuomo staffer told me, "The same attitude that emboldens you to target a 25-year-old also emboldens you to scrub a nursing-home report."

Cuomo's leadership style often confuses ruthlessness with greatness, abuse with strength. Interviews with dozens of former Cuomo employees and those who have worked with or adjacent to his administration reveal a governing institution that has been run, at times, like a cultish fraternity, and at others, like a high-school clique — a state executive chamber in which the maintenance of power, performance of pecking orders, and pursuit of competitive resentments matter as much as policy. As Wertheimer said of many of those who entered the Cuomo administration alongside him: "People came in, looked around, and did the Grampa Simpson meme; we just turned back around and left." Wertheimer quit seven months after he started. "It's this total toxic masculine bullshit that disguises a very poorly run place."

Cuomo and his top aide, Melissa DeRosa, this past summer. Photo: Lev Radin/Pacific Press/Getty Images

In 2016, Kaitlin, who asked that her last name not be published, was working 9-to-5 for a Democratic congressman and waiting tables nights and weekends in order to make rent and pay down student loans. In the fall, she was offered a job at a lobbying firm that paid her enough to cut back on waitressing to just weekends.

Six weeks after starting her new job, Kaitlin was working at a fund-raiser that her firm was hosting for Cuomo. As the governor left, he stopped to greet staffers of the event; when he approached Kaitlin, she introduced herself and told him that she used to work for a politician. To her surprise and confusion, he replied that she would soon be back in government, this time at the state level. “Then he grabbed me in a kind of dance pose,” she said, while a photographer snapped a picture. “I was thinking, *This is the weirdest interaction I’ve ever had in my life* ... I was like, *Don’t touch me*. Everybody was watching.” Kaitlin recalled feeling uncomfortable and embarrassed in front of her new colleagues — “my whole team of people I’d just met” — who gathered around her after Cuomo walked away, joking “Oh, the governor likes you.”

That same week, Kaitlin received a voice-mail from Cuomo’s office asking her to interview for a job. She had not provided his representatives with contact information; they had found her on their own. She disclosed this to her new bosses, who understood her discomfort but explained that he was the governor and that she would have to take the meeting. When Kaitlin turned to several of her former supervisors and mentors for advice, they repeated the same, explaining that, professionally, she had no choice but to go to the interview and take the job he offered her.

“We all knew that this was only because of what I looked like,” said Kaitlin. “Why else would you ask someone to come in two days after you had a two-minute interaction at a party?”

Once she started, Kaitlin said, there wasn’t much direction about what she was supposed to do, except to “be a sponge,” learn from senior women in the office, and react to the governor’s capricious moods. Some mornings, Kaitlin would hear her BlackBerry ping with the message that Cuomo had left his Mount Kisco home earlier than scheduled; she would have to rush out of the shower to sprint — with wet hair, in heels — across town to be at the Manhattan office, at 633 Third Avenue, when he arrived. On those mornings, he would comment on why she didn’t look put together. “ ‘You decided not to get ready today?’ Or, ‘You didn’t put makeup on today?’ ”

In speaking with 30 women about their experiences with Cuomo, almost all who worked for him commented on the extreme pressure applied by both the governor and his top female aides to dress well and expensively; some were told explicitly by senior staff that they had to wear heels whenever he was around. Kaitlin was still paying off her student loans. “I did what I could with my clothes,” she said,

“and it wasn’t good enough for them. I didn’t have designer stuff.” She remembered wearing a red plaid Gap button-down shirt she’d thought was cute, but the governor remarked that she looked “like a lumberjack.” (According to a Cuomo spokesperson, “There is not now, nor has there ever been, an expectation to wear certain clothing or high heels.”)

The governor never touched Kaitlin inappropriately or made any explicit sexual overtures, she said, but his reactions would sometimes make her feel self-conscious, such as when she asked him if he wanted her personal cell-phone number: “I thought that was a normal thing to offer your boss,” she said, but he behaved as if she’d come on to him. Like other women who have come forward, she remembered him asking questions about her dating life. Once, in Albany, he brought her in to show her a room adjacent to his office; it was cold, and he was standing very close to her in a way that made her feel so profoundly uncomfortable that she remembers shaking.

On a different day, in Manhattan, Cuomo asked her to come into his office and look up car parts on eBay. “He sat at his desk and angled his chair around.” It was a tight space, with Kaitlin standing between the seated governor and the computer he was asking her to work on. “So I was standing there, in a skirt and heels, having to bend over his computer, with him looking at me, and me looking up car parts.” (In response, Cuomo’s spokesperson noted: “The governor is notoriously technologically inept — male and female staffers have for years assisted the governor with his computer.”)

Not long after she started, she said, Cuomo’s people rented out Dorrian’s for a Super Bowl party. At the end of the night, after the bar opened to the public, Cuomo was sitting in the back room talking to a young woman with a dove tattooed on her hand. At a staff meeting the next morning, Kaitlin said, Cuomo asked his aides to find the woman with the dove tattoo and to consider offering her a job. Kaitlin described the uncanny realization that this was likely how it had gone the morning after she’d met him.

After every public event, Kaitlin sorted through photographs of Cuomo posing with guests, selecting images to which he would append personal notes. She said he always paid special attention to pictures of himself with pretty women. If he didn’t like how he looked in them, he would yell at Kaitlin. “I got screamed at for a lot of bad photos,” she told me.

Kaitlin described a culture in which dishonest power plays were frequent. The phones at the office had push-tone keys that would stick, and sometimes she’d

lose a call as she transferred it. She recalled that Cuomo once said, “You can’t figure out the fucking phones — I’m going to end your career.” Miserable, Kaitlin began to consider how she might get out. It was widely rumored the Cuomo administration would impede one’s efforts to find a new job and could get an offer rescinded. “I can’t tell anybody,” Kaitlin says she thought at that time. “But I couldn’t keep doing what I was doing. I’d cry all the time. I thought I didn’t know how to do anything anymore — not even basic life skills.”

Kaitlin did not know whether her experience with Cuomo met the legal definition of sexual harassment, though she did feel that she had been “verbally and mentally abused by him and his staff” and said that she has described the work style — to friends and a therapist — “as a form of coercive control.” When she finally interviewed for a job at the state authority where she now works, she cried.

Over the past few weeks, there has been a slow drip of reporting on Cuomo’s allegedly inappropriate behavior toward women: 25-year-old [Charlotte Bennett](#) told the *Times* that this summer, when she was working for him, he made invasive comments about her experience of sexual assault and suggestively asked whether she would date older men; Anna Ruch recalled him touching her back, grabbing her cheeks and asking if he could kiss her at a wedding; a recently resurfaced video shows Cuomo summoning a television reporter to his table at the 2016 New York State Fair and urging her to “eat the whole sausage,” joking as she takes a selfie of them with a sandwich, “There’s too much sausage in that picture”; most recently, an unnamed Albany staffer has lodged a complaint that the governor put his hand up her shirt after she was called to the governor’s mansion to help him with an IT problem (that complaint has now been referred to the Albany police).





The stream of stories has been both upsetting and disorienting. Some of the reports are clear cut. Others have attempted to force stories of discrimination and misconduct into the rubric of sexual harassment via a blunt tallying of violations that are graded on a scale: a kiss on lips or cheeks; an inappropriate touch at work or at a wedding; a hand on a shoulder or [the small of a back](#). More than three years after the reporting on Harvey Weinstein's violent predation and [the reckoning it provoked](#), we have been conditioned to draw bright lines around certain inarguably bad actions. This has led to a revolutionary shift in workplace culture, ending the careers of many powerful people who had abused women (and men) with impunity, while fundamentally changing our language and understanding of professional misconduct. Still, the very extremity of bad

behavior exposed in the wake of Weinstein has, ironically, limited the conversation around workplace harassment. We are sometimes too quick to apply flat metrics to judge isolated incidents, and thereby miss the opportunity to fully assess and address the harm, inequity, and discrimination that happens on a subtler, but no less pervasive, scale.

Cuomo's treatment of some of the young women who worked for and around him demonstrated a kind of diminishment and tokenization that may take a sexualized form, and may involve objectification and flirtation, but which didn't always entail explicitly sexualized contact or connection. In fact, Cuomo may be a textbook example of how sexual harassment, like sexual assault, isn't about sex at all; it's about power. In Cuomo's case, it was one manifestation of his obsession with performing dominance, emphasizing the gulf of authority between the governor and those around him, making himself feel big and conveying to others that they were small.

[Ana Liss, 35, who told *The Wall Street Journal*](#) of her experiences of feeling devalued by Cuomo, entered his administration fresh from her beloved hometown of Rochester in 2013, full of "Pollyanna thinking," she said, about how to make her state a better place. On one of her first days on the job, she told me, Cuomo approached her and asked, "Do you have a boyfriend?"

He came up with nicknames for her — "Sparky," "Blondie," "Sweetheart," and "Honey" — and, she said, "he was just flirtatious." (Boylan has also claimed the governor called her by the name of a rumored ex-girlfriend he said she resembled; Kaitlin said he called her "Sponge.") Liss remembered an executive assistant in Cuomo's office, someone who had worked in the capital for decades, once telling her, "He thinks you're cute; the governor likes you."

She did find it odd, she said, that "there was nobody that was unattractive. I felt like I was in *Stepford Wives* but with younger women. His briefers were always beautiful, leggy young women right out of college." The same executive assistant advised her, she said, that "when the governor is here, you need to look really good."

During her two-year tenure, Liss was asked to participate in certain special events: a Father's Day party the year Mario Cuomo died and a "pinning ceremony" at the governor's mansion. She was given a state trooper's card and a badge that said EXECUTIVE CHAMBER. She tried to tell herself these trinkets and invitations were merit-based. But, Liss said, "I did know in my heart of hearts that it's because the governor thinks I'm cute." At parties, when Cuomo would

put his hand on her back, she was always torn, she said: “On the one hand, I was like, *Wow, look at me*; then I felt gross about it. I didn’t know if he actually even knew my name. He just thought I looked good in that dress.”

At the time, Liss didn’t think of these experiences as sexual harassment. She still values her mementos: the pin, the badge, the card, and a duffel bag from that Father’s Day party emblazoned with the words CUOMO 52 AND 56. But the governor’s coy remarks during their time working together often left her unsure of what to do or say. “When he looked at you — you know that scene in *Jurassic Park* when the *Tyrannosaurus rex* peeks into the car? It was like that.”

Liss became depressed, lost weight. “I felt gross, like I was just an ornament.” She said that she had “never felt more depleted by the male gaze” than the time she spent in Albany. “Melissa DeRosa had Louboutins, and there were legs everywhere, and I just felt stupid. I was living in a place that was full of people who were mean and predatory. It ground me down to the lowest point of my life, like I was a piece of nothing and my career was going nowhere.”







Brute white patriarchy has been a political norm since the beginning of American politics. New York City, New York State, and the United States of America share rich histories of installing hot-tempered white men in positions of political power and too often seeking comfort in them in moments of crisis or fear. I remember liberal peers talking about the sudden affection they felt for our deranged, fascist then-mayor in the wake of 9/11; I thought a lot about that last spring, when many were describing themselves as “Cuomosexuals.”

Cuomo is an American patriarch connected to a long line of American patriarchs: He is the son of a three-term governor, brother of a CNN anchor; he was married to and had three children with Kerry Kennedy, the daughter of the late New York senator and U.S. attorney general Robert Kennedy, niece of President John Kennedy and Senator Ted Kennedy. He later had a long partnership with Sandra Lee, whose “Semi-Homemade” brand began with a deal at Miramax in 2002; in 2016, Lee [described](#) Harvey Weinstein as “the original ‘Magic Man’ ” and “a catalyst to my career.”

Though Cuomo hasn't been accused of anything like the violent crimes that Weinstein committed, he shares other traits with the [now-imprisoned movie producer](#). For years, Weinstein's famously bad temper and difficult workplace demeanor were understood simply as quirky symptoms of his genius, somehow permissible because everyone knew about them and no one did anything about them; it was just "Harvey being Harvey." Cuomo's behavior has also long been excused as Andrew being Andrew; just a powerful man being powerful. Like Weinstein, Cuomo regularly has people yell for him, including a phalanx of senior women whom he uses as a defensive feminist shield, making sure to note in his first news conference after the allegations that "we have more senior women in this administration than probably any administration in history."

But like the women Harvey empowered at his movie companies, many high up in Cuomo's employ repeat and amplify the kinds of abuses that begin with the boss. Most people I spoke to about their relationships with the governor have memories of being yelled at, threatened, or insulted by senior female colleagues, including Benton, Linda Laceywell, and especially Melissa DeRosa.

Powerful white women have often benefited from, and thus worked to uphold, abusive patriarchal power systems. DeRosa might be a perfect specimen. She is, those who have worked for and alongside her say, the person who has most absorbed from the governor his talent for ferocity and is eerily skilled at conveying his presence and asserting dominance over whomever she's dealing with.

Like her boss, she often does this under the guise of girl power. Both Cuomo and DeRosa, who heads New York's Council on Women and Girls, regularly wield feminist language as a cudgel against feminist critics. On March 8, DeRosa took to Twitter to tout Cuomo's high approval ratings with women as defense against allegations of harassment. And at the briefing when Cuomo first addressed harassment claims, DeRosa was at his side, spouting a word cloud of pseudo-feminist obfuscation about the administration's work to "further women's rights, to expand protections for women in the workplace, maternal health, reproductive health" (claims complicated by the administration's cuts to Medicaid eligibility and long delays in [pushing through the Reproductive Health Act](#)). She touted the number of women appointed to senior staff, claiming that "we've promoted each other and we've supported one another."

But many women who worked with DeRosa recalled her as the opposite of supportive, describing her instead as territorial and unkind. When Kaitlin arrived

at Cuomo's offices, she said, the senior women "didn't like that the governor liked me" and that Cuomo seemed to take pleasure in this. "He would ask, 'How are the mean girls?'" she said. One male staff member told me, "If you weren't in the Melissa, Jill, and Stephanie crew, you didn't really exist." Another woman described an instance in the ladies' room, "when Melissa looked at me; I could not have felt like less of a human being."

In March 2019, Camille Rivera, former political director of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, who had a cordial — if delicate — relationship with the administration, was growing irritated by what she viewed as Cuomo adviser Rich Azzopardi's habit of publicly directing vitriol toward women. When she saw him belittling Andrea Stewart-Cousins on Twitter, she lost patience and replied, " 'This is what happens with men of white privilege; someone else would have been called out for attacking the majority leader of the Senate, who is a Black woman.' "

It was not long before she heard from DeRosa, screaming at her to take her tweet down. The fight got so intense, Rivera said, that DeRosa was yelling, " 'What are you going to do about it?' and I was like, 'You're the one with the black Suburban; you come over here and tell me what you're going to do about it.' " In the midst of their argument, Rivera got a call from her boss, who was in Europe and extremely confused about why he was getting angry calls from high-level state officials. (They agreed that the tweet wasn't worth it; she took it down.) When asked about this event, DeRosa said, "I was defending a staff member who was doing his job and was being maligned. It's well known I've had plenty of tough conversations with men and women over the years, and to attempt to somehow paint this as gendered is demonstrably false."

The administration still seems unaware of the irony: The very point Rivera had been making about Azzopardi — that his white male privilege insulated him from repercussion when he attacked women of color — was proved by the wrath the administration brought down on Rivera, a woman of color.

In 2015, Camonghne Felix was a 23-year-old activist and poet, trying to figure out how to make change in the world after her work with Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter, when a friend told her that the governor was looking to hire a speechwriter who had a background in poetry. Felix imagined that her organizing background would kill her chances.

But [Mario Cuomo had recently died](#), and one of his most famous proclamations had been that you "campaign in poetry; you govern in prose." His son, mourning

a father whose legacy he has long been obsessed with besting, wanted poetry. Felix was told she would be hired within 24 hours of her interview. “I probably wrote about 30 speeches or sets of remarks for him, and I think he used one,” she says now. “My desk was close to his office. He loved to see me, but he didn’t listen to a single word I ever said.”

Felix was the first Black woman to work as a speechwriter for Cuomo and was the only Black person on the press team, where she later worked in communications after accepting that he was never going to use her speeches. “It’s a very subtle form of racialized abuse,” she said. “You know I am beneficial to you. I fill a quota. It looks good on paper, and we made sure to put press releases out. But you don’t intend to incorporate me into government. You just like to show me to people.”

Partway through her tenure, Felix got a new boss, a man she said was treated horribly by his superiors. One day, Felix made a mistake on a press release. “He called me and said, ‘What the fuck is wrong with you? How fucking could you?’ The first thing I thought was, *Oh, this must be how Cuomo talks to him*. Because it didn’t even make sense. It didn’t seem natural to this guy. Like, *I don’t know where you got all that bass in your voice.*”

“Azzopardi, Melissa ... it’s like he inhabits them,” said Bill Lipton, a founder of the Working Families Party. “When they call, you can feel his presence. They’re screaming at you, and either he’s right there or you can feel that he’s just yelled at them and they’re giving it to you.” When asked to provide comment on the claims made in this article, Azzopardi, their spokesperson, responded, “There is no secret these are tough jobs, and the work is demanding, but we have a top-tier team with many employees who have been here for years and many others who have left and returned because they know the work we do matters.”

Felix believed that in certain instances, Cuomo — and certainly the people who worked for him — had good ideas. “But you were never able to implement any of them because the culture within his staff was so violent and corrosive that people can’t get anything done without cheating, without cruelty, without bribery.” Days before news broke that [Cuomo’s staff had altered the nursing-homes report](#), Felix had observed to me: “You have to imagine that people do bad things, corrupt things, because they feel like they don’t have a choice. There’s so much fear all the time. That’s bad because it stops not just progress; it stops government from efficient governing.”

“It’s how you are groomed to do the job,” another longtime administration veteran told me. “If you need to publicly shame someone, that’s okay. If you need to berate someone in front of their peers, that’s acceptable.” She described the explicit ethos as: “Either you can win, or you can lose.”

For Cuomo, many people told me, a big part of winning means lying. “I was taught that it was totally fine to lie,” said Ana Liss. “Even as a peon, I was part of some of the lies and mischaracterization.” After the story of the nursing-home scandal broke, DeRosa was caught on tape acknowledging that data had been hidden to avoid attacks from the Trump administration, and subsequent reporting has shown that she and two of Cuomo’s other close advisers purposefully altered documents to obscure the truth.

“He makes things up like I’ve never seen anyone do before,” said Lipton. “He makes people who disagree with him feel like they’re crazy.” It’s a pattern that — like his narcissism, theatrical bombast, love of cameras, hatred of “experts,” and the fact that, as one national reporter who covered him said, “I don’t think he believes in much, except that he wants to be powerful” — makes Cuomo not the anti-Trump that many imagined him, but rather the 45th president’s Democratic twin. Or, as one person put it to me, they are “the same person” but for “two major exceptions: Fred Trump was Donald Trump’s father, and Mario Cuomo was Andrew Cuomo’s father.”

Cuomo’s Jedi Mind Trick approach to public narrative undergirds his ongoing feud with [New York’s WFP](#). The minor party — which is allowed to cross-endorse candidates, creating pressure from the left without having to run spoilers — has been critical of Cuomo since his first term, when, after running as a progressive, he enacted corporate-friendly economic policy, obstructed Mayor de Blasio’s attempt to tax the city’s wealthiest residents, capped property taxes at 2 percent, and, many of his critics alleged, tacitly allied with state Republicans and the Democratic Independent Conference (IDC), a cabal of conservative Democrats, to keep the State Legislature out of Democratic control. It was an arrangement that — along with the tax caps that kept shrinking the state’s budget — permitted Cuomo to blame the stagnation of progressive initiatives on a snarled Legislature. (Cuomo has long denied that he supported either Republican or IDC control of the Legislature).

In 2014, after almost endorsing his primary opponent, Zephyr Teachout, the WFP cut a deal with Cuomo in which, in exchange for their support, he promised that he’d work to dissolve the IDC, raise the minimum wage, make the Dream Act

state law, and expand abortion access in the state. But he simply didn't follow through on his vows, and in the wake of the WFP's endorsement, he acted like he'd landed a knockout punch rather than submitted to an agreement, telling a reporter, "You either win or you lose, and I won." Cuomo then launched his own minor party, naming it the Women's Equality Party, or WEP, perhaps to confuse voters and sap power from the WFP. Though the WEP endorsed Cuomo over Teachout (a woman) and would in 2018 endorse him over [Cynthia Nixon](#) (also a woman), it branded itself as committed to women's equality by commandeering a pink-striped bus.

When, in 2018, the WFP supported a group of candidates, many of them young, many female, many candidates of color, who finally defeated the IDC and put the Legislature back in Democratic hands, Cuomo responded by raising the threshold of votes that a minor party needs to stay on the ballot. "When we elected a new class of leaders who had a very different orientation to power," said Sochie Nnaemeka, director of the WFP, "the governor struck back by trying to kill the party."

It didn't work. The 2018 cycle would mark a turning point in Cuomo's ability to terrify his would-be challengers into silence and submission.

In 2016, [Alessandra Biaggi](#), a lawyer who had interned for Joe Crowley, worked on the Clinton campaign, and was the granddaughter of the late New York congressman Mario Biaggi, took a job for Cuomo's then-chief counsel, Alphonso David. She entered the administration, she said, thinking, "*I'm a lawyer for the governor of New York, now the progressive beacon of the world.*"

Within a couple of weeks of joining the administration, she was at a party at the governor's mansion. "The governor comes over to me and grabs my elbow," she said. "He didn't say 'Welcome' or 'Thank you for being here.' He said 'Nice dance moves' and walked away." The male colleague standing next to her said, " 'What the fuck was that?' "

Biaggi said that she did not feel in that moment that she was being sexually harassed. "I just felt like it was so weird. That was my first interaction with him, and I didn't know what to think except, *Okay, this is the governor of New York, and I am here to do my job.*"

The job was a lot less beacon-of-progressivism-y than Biaggi had anticipated. She was focused on an immigration bill and on the Reproductive Health Act, which would codify *Roe v. Wade* as state law and expand access to abortion care. Biaggi

and others believed that the law was finally going to pass in the wake of Trump's victory; it was never even brought to the floor. At the time, she couldn't quite figure out why. "Part of what makes Cuomo powerful," she said, "is that there's no information sharing. It allows him to evade responsibility; nobody really knows what's going on."

Biaggi said she asked her boss about it. "I remember Alphonso saying, 'Yeah, you know, that's Albany.'" She was put off by what she saw as a sluggish disconnect from the urgency of the moment, especially within an administration that was supposedly mounting vigorous opposition to Trumpism. "Every day, Donald Trump was pushing some executive order and no one in this office was taking it seriously," said Biaggi. "They were yanking around all the advocates and pretending to care, but nothing ever got anywhere. It was just showmanship, the veneer of governance."

After learning more about the IDC, led by Jeff Klein, the conservative Democrat who had also been accused of sexual harassment by a staffer (a claim he denies), Biaggi had coffee with Mike Gianaris, a Democratic state senator who was understood by members of the administration to be strategizing to unseat the IDC. They discussed the possibility of Biaggi running against Klein. "I was full of rage after 2016, Trump being president, Hillary losing. I was dying to use my brain to do good work."

When members of the administration found out about the coffee, they did not respond warmly. Biaggi's boss, she said, called her 20 times in a single weekend, quizzing her aggressively about her coffee with Gianaris. "The incessantness of the calls was scary," she said. Then, in a Monday meeting, she remembered, her colleagues laughed at the idea of her challenging Klein. "I swear to God that was the moment when I was like, *I don't care, I'm running.*" (David does not recall making 20 calls in one weekend.)

After leaving Cuomo's office to launch her campaign, Biaggi didn't see the governor until August 2018, when they both attended a wedding. "He says 'Hi, Alessandra,' pulls me in, and kisses my head twice and then my eye. He's holding on to my arm, and he looks at my fiancé and says, 'Are you jealous?'" Again, Biaggi said, "I didn't feel sexually harassed. I felt like he was trying to make me feel uncomfortable, to disarm me."

Biaggi won her primary against Klein in September 2018; she didn't hear from Cuomo. But on the day before the general election, she got a call from his office, telling her that the governor wanted to see her. Biaggi brought two campaign

staffers along with her, but Cuomo's staff did not permit them to accompany her into the room, where he was sitting with DeRosa. Biaggi said that most of her conversation with Cuomo was normal and nice, until the end when "his whole demeanor changed and he sat back in his chair, looked at me, and said, 'Tell me again how your grandfather's career ended?'"

Mario Biaggi's career ended with a 26-month prison term for having accepted an illegal gratuity and obstructing justice. Thirty years later, his granddaughter said she stared at the governor of New York and willed herself not to "freak out, because he wants you to freak out." Biaggi felt sure that Cuomo had been conveying a threat, though its specific contours were confusing. "What is he telling me? That he's going to send me to prison? That he's so powerful he could end my career?"

Texts sent from Cuomo aide Melissa DeRosa to State Senator Alessandra Biaggi on May 23, 2020 demonstrate a culture of bullying and harassment. Of this exchange, DeRosa says: "The pandemic was a very stressful time for everyone involved and yes, I was very frustrated."

The sheer amount of interpersonal drama, anxiety, and rancor that former Cuomo staffers described was wholly exhausting, like something from *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Multiple people told me that they began therapy and antidepressants for the first time in their lives while working for Cuomo. Ana Liss said that she "started pursuing mental-health services when I was there because I thought I was going crazy. My parents thought I was going nuts. I was angry and crying all the time, and I went on Lexapro." At one point, she said, "I did call in to a suicide hotline because I felt like such a friggin' nobody."

On December 31, Cuomo lavishly opened Moynihan Train Hall; the \$1.6 billion conversion of the former post office had been overseen by Michael Evans, who had faced steadily mounting pressure to finish it and who took his own life in March 2020. Evans' partner, Brian Lutz, told me that "it would be unfair to lay all of the blame for Michael's death at the feet of Andrew Cuomo. Michael made a lot of choices over the course of his life that served as kindling, but Governor Cuomo and his administration lit the match." The governor, Lutz said, caused his late partner "psychological terror" and made him feel "constantly afraid." In some of the last texts of his life, Lutz said, Michael told him that he was "afraid they would destroy his career." (A Cuomo spokesperson responded that Evans had met directly with Cuomo five times in the three years before his death, cited

appreciative statements made by the governor at the Moynihan Hall, and noted that “he has a plaque in his honor at the station.”)

Those beaten down by the vicious workplace were also depressed that none of their misery was in service of effective governance or better policy. In fact, many told me, there was little interest in policy. “It was policy-making like paint-by-numbers,” said one former staffer. “The goal was superficial, as opposed to changing people’s lives. It was heartbreaking.” That didn’t mean that policy didn’t get enacted, she said, but it was second to and in service of optics. “Someone from the inner circle would call and say, ‘The governor wants to go to Orange County. What can we announce?’ ”

Wertheimer, who put together the governor’s daily briefing book and said that Cuomo rarely even read policy memos, agreed. Cuomo and his senior staff were obsessed, said several sources, with the annual “State of the State” book, which showcased task forces, pilot programs, and funding commitments, some of which were only tenuously rooted in reality. “The whole endeavor seemed to be about size,” said one person who worked on it. “Like if you have a big book, it shows you’re going to do a lot of things.” She said that the notion that “governing was about solving problems and making people’s lives better was not what drove people inside that building ... but when you objected to the shoddiness of a job or refused to do something unethical, it was because you couldn’t hang. I was like, *Fuck you. It’s not that I can’t hang. It’s that you all are terrible people.*”

The idea that you had to be able to submit to abuse in order to work with New York’s executive branch drove out not just staffers but external experts. Andy Byford, the British transportation guru hired in 2018 to update New York City’s crumbling subway system, left just two years later, making it clear that Cuomo had made the job impossible. “I was not going to be allowed to get done what needed to be done,” he told the press at the time. “I just would not accept the fact that my people were being yelled at.”

One former staffer who worked in the administration described a morning on which she’d been awakened at six; she spent the workday, till 11 p.m., too afraid to leave her computer “even to eat or go to the bathroom,” getting steadily castigated over email by DeRosa. A week later, she said, DeRosa came into the office “and introduced herself for the fourth time. I had worked with her for two years at that point.”

Not knowing people’s names wasn’t just incompetence; it was another signal of dominance. When Cuomo ran against progressive law professor Zephyr Teachout

in 2014, he pointedly refused to say her name, make eye contact, or shake her hand at a parade. “It’s embarrassing to have somebody treat you like that, like you don’t exist,” Teachout told me.

It often worked, instilling a conviction in many that they had no worth and that therefore there would be no point in fighting back or speaking out. Most people who spoke for this story told me that they were hesitant to come forward precisely because they could imagine how their accounts would be rebutted by the administration: that no one remembered that they’d even existed. Some who worried about this were staffers who’d worked alongside DeRosa and Cuomo every day for years.

This was how people in the administration were taught to behave, said Camonghne Felix. “You had to subjugate someone.” These are, of course, the strategies that reinforce capitalism and brutal political regimes: Authority is created and strengthened through the diminishment and depletion of others. Too often, those in power wind up spending more time performing muscularity than actually doing whatever it is they’re supposed to be dominant at doing. As Felix said, “The state gets trapped in this cyclical nonsense. You look up and see that nothing is getting done. And not only that: Things are getting broken.”

Protesters in front of Cuomo’s Manhattan office on March 2. Photo: Brittainy Newman/AP/Shutterstock

How could so much of Cuomo’s bad behavior have remained normalized, even admired, through three terms? He has stayed extremely popular with the public, his approval soaring through COVID. Even some of his harshest critics are careful to acknowledge good things about him, mentioning the legalization of same-sex marriage, his work to protect nail-salon workers, an early expansion of Medicaid to undocumented immigrants (he has since pushed punishing cuts to eligibility). Others commend him for closing multiple prisons and his willingness to raise the minimum wage.

But critics point out that many of his accomplishments — including the minimum-wage hike, the eventual passage of the Reproductive Health Act, and his investment in offshore wind — only happened after years of delay, where Cuomo himself played obstructionist as people and the environment suffered, until a time came when glory could redound to him personally.

Cuomo’s conduct could also remain camouflaged in a state capital known for the grotesquely antiquated and unjust hierarchies it thrives on. As one woman who

worked in Cuomo's counsel office early in his tenure told me, "Albany felt like a seedy adult summer camp."

Yuh-Line Niou, a staffer for Assemblymember Kim before winning office herself (doubling Asian American representation in Albany), spoke of how she had her ass grabbed in an elevator by an elected official within her first week in town; she was 27 and also recalled an assemblymember who approached her and Kim at a fund-raiser and said, " 'I can't believe you guys haven't fucked, I would fuck both of you and I would pay to see you two fuck; I would pay to join.' " She said that Kim was so conscious of how much harassment she endured that when they were in Albany, he'd always offer to grab her lunch so she wouldn't have to venture out alone.

If the town is rough, the press corps that covers it doesn't offer enlightened salvation. "You walk into the Legislative Correspondents Association, and it's largely men and largely white men," said Amy Spitalnick, who worked as the New York attorney general's communications director and senior policy adviser from 2016 to 2019. "There are very tangible impacts of that on how our government is covered: what is deemed permissible and what rises to the level of attention. Which is why all of this has been an open secret for so long." There are women in the press corps, but, Spitalnick said, "they can get burned out," in part because of the aggression they face from Cuomo. In 2012, it was reported that the administration kept a 35-page dossier on journalist Liz Benjamin, who two years ago left her job hosting *Capital Tonight*. Another reporter, Lindsay Nielsen, wrote recently about how, in 2017, she left her job covering politics for the Albany-based News10 after five years of "threatening" and "incessant bullying" from the Cuomo administration.

As the story of Cuomo's tactics gets reported in a more critical light, Josefa Velásquez, a 29-year old senior reporter for The City, said that she sometimes considers how some colleagues, including some of those now covering Cuomo's troubles, "never used the power that they had to defend anyone else before this." She's referring to both reporters and some of the governor's advisers. "No one checked him. He's the governor of New York who has consolidated all this power and has all these political allies. But his aides and the men in the press corps, some of them are just as complicit in this behavior."

There are a few hundred people at least — insiders in Albany, in media, in labor — who have known how Cuomo operates for years. And then there are tens of millions who just really love him on TV.

It may have been the television adoration that precipitated the fall. In March, Cuomo began conducting his daily press briefings, performing charismatic calm in the face of panicky instability, ticking off daily numbers to combat the unknown; his updates became a soothing ritual. As Trump lied and tantrumed and overrode experts, Cuomo — a man of similar habits — was received as a competent balm.

His long-simmering power contest with Mayor de Blasio crested in March and into April, as they locked antlers over when to shut businesses, whether to shut schools. In April, Cuomo joked on *Ellen* about people calling themselves “Cuomosexuals,” and in May, appeared on the cover of *Rolling Stone*, solemn pandemic rock star. In a June briefing, he unveiled a foam replica of the COVID curve — “the mountain that New Yorkers climbed” — and in July, his administration printed the NEW YORK TOUGH posters featuring himself and DeRosa, who was labeled “Magnificent Melissa.” In August, he announced a book deal, reportedly worth seven figures, to write about his experience leading through COVID. In October, as his book, *American Crisis*, was published, his name was floated to be Joe Biden’s AG. In November, he won an Emmy for his briefings.

Behind the scenes in those first weeks of COVID, Cuomo was making the unprecedented move of expanding his emergency powers beyond those of any New York governor since Nelson Rockefeller. Into the massive state budget, he inserted an immunity provision for hospitals and nursing homes; the provision had been drafted by the Greater New York Hospital Association, an organization that, in 2018, donated over a million dollars to the New York State Democratic Campaign (which funded Cuomo’s reelection campaign) and was repped by Bolton-St. Johns, a powerful firm where the chief lobbyist is Giorgio DeRosa, Melissa DeRosa’s father. In a particularly bitter irony for those who’d envisioned New York State government as the lab for progressive federal policy, the state’s “gold standard” corporate immunity law would indeed wind up a model — for Mitch McConnell.

Cuomo pooh-poohed “experts” in science and medicine, eventually driving out nine of the state’s top public-health officials. A Columbia University study would show that his dickering with de Blasio and ensuing delay in locking down New York likely cost 17,000 lives. In June, his aides were reportedly altering the nursing-home documents. That same month, Charlotte Bennett alleges that Cuomo was asking her whether or not she had ever had sex with older men.

Just as Cuomo, who had long exerted such punishing and obsessive control over so many, was coming close to what he had always sought — the expansion of his power, the eclipse of his father's legacy, a firm spot on the national stage and in the American imagination — he was starting to lose his grip on the political forces within his own state.

When Biaggi beat Klein in 2018, she was part of a group of new legislators — including Jessica Ramos, Zellnor Myrie, Rachel May, John Liu, Julia Salazar, and Robert Jackson (all backed by the Working Families Party) — who finally rid the state of the IDC. “People are not impressed by political machines anymore,” said WFP’s Nnaemeka. “They are inspired by leaders who are connected to the community.” What is threatening, she said, “to this masculinist closed-door politics is democratic participation, leaders propelled by people and not by institutional ladders ... The day of those politics is over.”

“Part of my healing,” said one former member of Cuomo’s staff, “came when Alessandra won and when she started to confront him and not fear him.” Many in Cuomoland saw the victory of Biaggi as a stand-in for victory over Cuomo himself.

It’s not just the young left wiggling out from under his thumb. After eight years in which State Senate Republicans, with help from the IDC and Cuomo, kept Democrats from control of the Legislature, and their leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins out of budget meetings, Stewart-Cousins is now in power. On March 6, she called for Cuomo’s resignation.

Then there’s Tish James. When James was first elected to City Council in 2003, she was the first candidate ever to win a race solely on the WFP ticket and stayed affiliated with the party through her tenure as public advocate. When she ran for attorney general in 2018, James accepted Cuomo’s powerful backing in exchange for not running on the WFP line. Now in office, she has not behaved like a politician bought and paid for by Cuomo. James released the nursing-homes report and is one of the candidates who could, should Cuomo survive this period, mount a formidable challenge to the fourth term he has been hell-bent on pursuing.

Cuomo is also being challenged by his former staffers, who are now speaking out. They are a reminder that the problem with dismissive assumptions about hierarchical power is that you often underestimate those you are oppressing and overestimate your ability to suppress them; a reliance on divisive mean-girl

machinations can keep you from seeing how women might one day come together to challenge your power.

Niou told me of how long she'd spent, even after winning office in 2016, feeling exactly what Cuomo wanted her to feel: like a nobody. "They could just knock me out, the only Asian woman, and nobody would notice. They've known they can say something and that I have to grin and bear it because I don't have any power over them. That's the stuff they tell you to believe." What's changing, Niou said, "is that I am now part of a cohort of people who are speaking up. And it's starting to matter."

New York's newer model of politics surely is not perfect, nor immune to abuse, nor made of inherently finer stuff; Biaggi is, after all, the product of a political dynasty herself. But it is indisputably built around a different posture toward power.

That posture alters the dynamics of dependence and fear. In very practical terms, these new politicians do not owe Cuomo or his administration anything; their power was gained in spite of him, and while his administration can still starve their districts in retribution, an ability to describe that openly gives them a freedom previous generations have not had. Biaggi told me that she has even blocked DeRosa's number. "I don't want that bad energy," she said.

One impression that emerges from Cuomo's ten years in office is of an immense amount of time wasted. Biaggi said that on the day after Amazon pulled out of its deal to open in New York City, she received a call at 9:30 a.m. from Cuomo, upset at her for having been critical of his handling of the deal. What struck her was that "he was more concerned with calling me than with the aftermath of Amazon leaving. He spends his days yelling at people who say bad things about him, rather than governing."

For an awfully long time, we have accepted the indignities and mediocrity of brute white patriarchy as our only option, both because we couldn't imagine better and because even the act of pointing out that it *should* be better felt futile. And so this kind of power could be petty, corrupt, threatening, skeezy; it could be handsy at weddings and harassing at the office; it could lie and cover up and be sent to jail and still it would be our norm and all we had to turn to in a storm, through a pandemic. We had to pin our hopes on it as a refuge from other, worse brutal white patriarchs. And so we learned to love it, to tune in to its daily briefings and allow its self-assuredness to wash over us.

While I was reporting this article, I spoke to one woman who told me of a time Cuomo hit on her at a party years ago. It wasn't the story of anything illegal, just an invasive and brash move, made a few feet from where his then-wife was standing. She described to me how he'd learned her name before approaching her, how he'd taken hold of her hand and not let go, had whispered close into her ear, how he'd come on to her: "It was clear when he grabbed me that he was used to taking what he wanted."

In an earlier era, I could imagine that line being used in a romance novel, an affirmative description of sex appeal. In this era, in which we have been offered new language, more autonomy, and better therapy, such a description has lost its sexiness for many women, including the woman in question, who did not respond warmly to Cuomo's overture but rather froze, because his attitude — even in this comparatively ordinary interaction — had given her terrible flashbacks to the sexualized violence of her past.

Until this week — when an allegation of groping was referred to police and Democrats in the Legislature initiated the first step toward impeachment — it seemed quite possible that Cuomo's governorship would survive. So far, Cuomo has refused to entertain calls for his resignation, instead requesting an investigation and circulating a statement, which he asked female lawmakers to sign, suggesting that calls on him to step down are tantamount to undermining Tish James. It's a classic Cuomo defensive deployment of feminism and one of many signs that he is not going down without a probably very ugly fight. As he has so often in the past, Cuomo might well win that fight. But with more than 55 lawmakers in his party calling on him to step down, it is harder than it has ever been to imagine him winning a fourth term, or fashioning himself into a national political figure, or continuing to exert the stranglehold on his state and party that he has become accustomed to. In that sense, what we are witnessing, after a year of meteoric rise, is the extraordinary, crashing two-month fall of a man whose power, for a decade, has been almost total.

The brutality that Andrew Cuomo has brought to politics — connected as it has long been to his authority and his ability to take whatever he wants from his staff and his state — has, like his sexualized advances, been drained of a lot of its appeal.

We didn't know we had an alternative. Now, it seems, we might have many.

Additional reporting by Jane Starr Drinkard and Amelia Schonbek.

Date: Thursday, March 11 2021 04:12 PM
Subject: RE: LATEST VERSION FOR THE 4 pm RE: Second go around Beth/ Judy/ Lis? Josh/ Dani please read over. RE: i took a stab at some answers here - see below - priv and confidential
From: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >;
CC: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; 'Lis Smith' [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; 'Dani Lever' [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@GMAIL.COM>; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@politician.com>;

From: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 4:07 PM
To: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov >; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >
Cc: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; 'Lis Smith' [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@GMAIL.COM>
Subject: RE: LATEST VERSION FOR THE 4 pm RE: Second go around Beth/ Judy/ Lis? Josh/ Dani please read over. RE: i took a stab at some answers here - see below - priv and confidential

TYPOS fixed below

From: Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov >; Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov >; 'Lis Smith' [REDACTED]@gmail.com >; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@GMAIL.COM>
Subject: LATEST VERSION FOR THE 4 pm RE: Second go around Beth/ Judy/ Lis? Josh/ Dani please read over. RE: i took a stab at some answers here - see below - priv and confidential

General statement on toxic, hostile, demanding workplace:

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the governor: "The people of this state elected the Governor to represent them four times during the last 14 years and they know he works day and night for them. There is no secret these are tough jobs, and the work is demanding, but we have a top tier team with many employees who have been here for years and many others who have left and returned because they know the work we do matters, a fact that was underscored throughout COVID."

I have a number of further queries related to Rebecca Traister's reported feature. The feature broadly reports on a series of allegations that the Governor has fostered a culture of harassment, cruelty and deception, and that multiple former staffers allege that the atmosphere in the governor's office resembles a high-school clique.

There are a number of queries related to a woman I will refer to as source A:

EXHIBIT
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—Source A says she met the governor in 2016 at a fundraiser for the governor – THIS PERSON WAS RECOMMENDED BY A THEN CONGRESSMAN/FORMER COUNTY CHAIR AS A SMART, SAVVY, RISING STAR – THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE IS ALWAYS LOOKING TO RECRUIT CANDIDATES WHO ARE BOTH SKILLED AND ALSO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS

—as the governor left the fundraiser, source A introduced herself, saying that she had once worked in local government – SEE ABOVE

—the governor replied that she would soon be working in state government – NO RECOLLECTION OF THIS CONVERSATION

—he then took her arms and held her in a pose as if they were dancing while their photograph was taken – THE GOVERNOR TOOK PHOTOS WITH NEARLY 100 PEOPLE AT THAT EVENT – MEN AND WOMEN – ALMOST ALL POSING WITH HUGS, ARM AROUND THE PERSON IN IT THE PICTURE

—the same week, source A received a voicemail from the governor’s office asking her to come and interview for a job – THIS WAS AFTER THIS PERSON WAS RECOMMENDED – SEE ABOVE

—She felt she had been contacted only because of her appearance. – IF THAT WAS HER IMPRESSION, SHE IS WRONG – SHE WAS CONTACTED AFTER HER CURRENT EMPLOYER AND PAST EMPLOYER GAVE HER GLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS

She came in for the interview and asked for a very high salary, one that she expected would make it impossible for the governor to hire her. Instead, she was hired. She believes she was hired solely based on her appearance – SHE WAS NOT HIRED BASED ON HER APPEARANCE, PERIOD. THE SALARY SHE REQUESTED, FROM HOW SHE PRESENTED IT TO US, MATCHED BOTH WHAT SHE WAS MAKING AT HER CURRENT JOB PLUS THE MONEY SHE WOULD LOSE BY NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE A SECOND WEEKEND JOB DUE TO THE TIME DEMANDS OF THE OFFICE

—Once on the job, source A was given little specific direction. The governor instructed her to “be a sponge” and learn from his more senior staff. – SHE HAD A VERY SPECIFIC ROLE, SUPPORTING THE GOVERNOR’S DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE AND ALSO ASSISTING IN MOVING THE BRIEFING PROCESS FORWARD TO ENSURE DEADLINES WERE BEING MET TO GET THE GOVERNOR THE MATERIALS HE NEEDED BY THE TIME THEY WERE DUE; SHE ALSO ANSWERED PHONES, ETC –THE ‘SPONGE’ COMMENT WAS ABOUT ABSORBING AND LEARNING THE PROCESS FROM THOSE AROUND HER.

—certain mornings, source A would receive a message that the governor was leaving home earlier than scheduled, and that she must be in the office when he arrived. She would leave home in a rush, without attending to her appearance as much as she normally might. In these instances, the governor would ask her questions such as “You didn’t put on makeup today?” or “You decided not to get ready today?”

—source A noted that the governor and his top female aides expected that women in the office dress well and expensively. – THERE WAS NOT NOW NOR WAS THERE EVER AN EXPECTATION THAT WOMEN WOULD DRESS A CERTAIN WAY FROM SENIOR FEMALE STAFF – IN FACT, SENIOR FEMALE STAFF DRESS RANGE FROM JEANS WITH BLAZERS TO SUITS TO DRESSES – PEOPLE DRESS HOWEVER THEY ARE COMFORTABLE IN THE OFFICE UNLESS THERE IS A PUBLIC FACING EVENT OR MEETING IN THE OFFICE FOR WHICH THE EXPECTATION IS THAT ALL STAFF – MALE AND FEMALE – ARE DRESSED PROFESSIONALLY

--Source A once wore a red plaid shirt to the office; the governor told her she looked like a lumberjack. IF THIS HAPPENED, IT WAS CLEARLY A JOKE

—Source A asked the governor whether he wanted her personal cell phone number in order to reach her if he needed anything outside of work hours. The governor responded as if she were making a romantic advance, which was not source A's intent — NO MEMORY OF THIS CONVERSATION, BUT IF IT HAPPENED IT WAS CLEARLY A JOKE

—the governor asked source A about her dating life — THE GOVERNOR ASKS MEN AND WOMEN IN THE OFFICE ABOUT THEIR LIVES — IT IS MEANT TO BRING LEVITY AND TAKE THE TEMPRATURE DOWN IN WHAT IS A VERY INTENSE ENVIORNMENT

—one day, Cuomo asked source A to come to his office and look up car parts on eBay. He sat in a chair and turned it toward her, while asking her to work at his computer, which required her to bend over in close proximity to him, while wearing a skirt and heels. — THE GOVERNOR IS NOTORIOUSLY TECHNOLOGICALLY INEPT — HE STILL USES A BLACKBERRY, DOES NOT RUN HIS OWN SOCIAL MEDIA, HAS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF TWITTER, ETC. MALE AND FEMALE STAFFERS HAVE FOR YEARS ASSISTED THE GOVERNOR WITH HIS COMPUTER — IF SHE WAS UNCOMFORTABLE ASSISTING HIM WITH THE COMPUTER, SHE DID NOT LET ANYONE KNOW AT THE TIME

—In 2017, the Governor's campaign office rented out a bar called Dorrian's for a Super Bowl party. At the end of the night, the bar opened to outside patrons, and source A says she saw the governor sitting in the back room speaking to a woman with a tattoo of a dove. The next morning, at a staff meeting, source A remembers that the governor asked aides to find the woman with the dove tattoo and perhaps offer her a job

—source A was often asked to sort through photos after the governor's events and present a selection of images to him. These photos depicted the governor with various supporters, and he would sent them to supporters with personal notes. If the governor did not like how he looked in such photos, source A says that he would yell at her. — AFTER EVENTS, THE OFFICE SENDS OUT PHOTOS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED.

—source A remembers the governor yelling at her when he pressed the wrong button on her phone and mistakenly dropped a call she was attempting to transfer to him — IT IS A HIGH STRESS ENVIORNMENT AND YES, SOMETIMES TEMPERS FLARE WHEN MISTAKES ARE MADE

—source A remembers that the governor asked her to send email messages to several state officials asking them, as she remembers it, "if they liked their jobs" and "wanted to keep them" — WE HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF THIS — WE ASK FOR SOME EVIDENCE THAT THIS HAPPENED

—source A recalls the governor calling her at five in the morning to deliver a list of all the things he wanted her to work on that day. Later, in the office, he claimed that she's gotten all of it wrong. — NO RECOLLECTION OF THIS BUT THE GOVERNOR STARTS WORKING THE MINUTE HE WAKES UP AND SURROUNDS HIMSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO DO THE SAME

—source A heard rumors that the governor's administration would prevent staffer who wanted to leave his office from securing other jobs — THAT WAS AN OLD RUMOR FROM EARLY DAYS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION — THE OFFICE FULLY SUPPORTS THOSE WHO WISH TO MOVE ON, OFTEN FOCUSED ON TIMING TO ENSURE ORDERLY TRANSITION OF DUTIES

—source A considers her experience in the governor's office one of verbal and mental abuse, and describes the work style in the governor's office as one of coercive control — IF SHE FELT THAT WAY, SHE DID NOT CONVEY THAT AT THE TIME AND WE'RE SORRY IF SHE HAD A NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE

—source A recalls that when she first began working in the governor's office, she felt that Cuomo's senior

female staff did not like that the governor seemed to express interest in her. – IF THAT WAS HER INTERPRETATION, IT WAS NOT ACCURATE – THE ONLY THING THE SENIOR STAFF WAS FOCUSED ON WAS GOVERNMENT COMPETENCE AND GETTING THE JOB DONE

She recalls that the governor seemed to enjoy this dynamic, and asked her about “the mean girls”.” That group was generally understood to include Melissa DeRosa, Jill DesRosiers, Stephanie Benton, and Linda Lacewell. Source A recalls that female senior staff would frequently not make eye contact with her when she approach them to converse – AGAIN, THIS IS SILLY, AND WE QUESTION IF THIS WOULD BE WRITTEN ABOUT MEN. AT THE TIME THIS PERSON WORKED IN THE CHAMBER, TOP STAFFERS: SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR, THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR AND STATE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR WERE MEN

The following allegations relate to a woman I’ll refer to as source B:

—Source B worked in the governor’s office as a briefer

—Source B worked late one night, when she was called into an office where the governor was talking about gossip with his scheduler, Annabel Walsh

—Source B remembers that Walsh commented on her dress and asked the governor if he liked it. The governor replied that he did, and asked her to spin around – THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE DENIES THIS ACCOUNT.

The following queries relate to Ana Liss:

—Ana Liss says that the governor frequently called her nicknames such as Sparky, Blondie, Sweetheart, and Honey – THE GOVERNOR USES NICKNAMES FOR MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE.

—Ana Liss says that [REDACTED] once told her that the governor liked her and thought she was cute -- WE WOULD NEED TO ASK [REDACTED] – IF SHE SAID THAT, IT WASN’T BASED ON ANYTHING SHE WAS TOLD

—Liss says that [REDACTED] told her that when the governor was present, she needed to look very good – AGAIN, WOULD NEED TO ASK [REDACTED] BUT IF SHE SAID THIS IT WAS NOT BASED ON ANYTHING SHE WAS INSTRUCTED TO SAY/DO BY ANY OTHER STAFF

—Liss recalls that in December, she received a call from Rich Azzopardi asking her if she had been in contact with Lindsay Boylan – RICH’S ON THE RECORD ON THIS “After Ms. Boylan’s tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up.”

The following queries relate to source C:

—in 2015, source C interviewed for a speechwriting position in the governor’s office and was hired within 24 hours. Source C was given a desk close to the governor’s office. In her time as a speechwriter, she wrote 30 sets of remarks, of which the governor used only one. – THERE ARE MANY MALE AND FEMALE SPEECHWRITERS WHO PREPARE REMARKS FOR THE GOVERNOR AND WHOSE REMARKS HE ULTIMATELY DOES NOT USE. THEIR WORK GENERALLY INFORMS THE FINAL PRODUCT, BUT HE TENDS TO WRITE THE FINAL VERSIONS HIMSELF.

– SIMILARLY, HIS FATHER HAD MANY SPEECH WRITERS BUT ALSO ULTIMATELY TYPICALLY WROTE HIS OWN

REMARKS

—Source C was a Black woman and felt that she was brought into the office as a token rather than as a valued contributor – WE ARE SORRY IF SHE FELT THIS WAY, IT IS NOT TRUE – WE HIRED HER BASED ON HER PAST EXPERIENCE, WHICH INCLUDED SPEECH WRITING.

The following queries relate to Yuh-Line Niou:

—Niou alleges that she was not given assistance obtaining hand sanitizer or masks in the spring of 2020, as Covid-19 was hitting her district

—Niou alleges that she repeatedly requested these supplies, but that the governor’s office responded by telling her that she had not requested them

We do not play politics with COVID, period. In the early days of the pandemic, supplies were limited and we prioritized healthcare intuitions. Once we received more supplies, we expanded our reach. On May 8th, the Assemblymember received 10 cases of 2 oz bottles (500 2 oz bottles) and 25 cases of gallons (100 gallons) of the NYS Clean.

The following queries relate to Alessandra Biaggi:

—in 2016, Biaggi took a job working for Alphonso David

—soon after she was hired, she attended a party at the governor’s office. The governor approached her, grabbed her elbow, and complimented her on her dance moves. –WHEN/WHERE WAS THIS PARTY? WE HAVE NO RECORD OF BIAGGI ATTENDING A PARTY – WOULD LIKE TO TRY TO RUN THIS DOWN BUT CANNOT BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE

—Biaggi left the governor’s office to run for office herself, but saw the governor again at a wedding in 2018. He greeted her, kissed her face, and asked her fiancé, who was standing nearby, whether he was jealous – THIS WAS AT THE GOVERNOR’S NIECE’S WEDDING AND HE WAS JOKING.

—after Biaggi had won her primary election, on the day before the general election, she says she received a call from the governor’s office alerting her that the governor wanted to see her. Biaggi brought two campaign staffers to the meeting, but the governor’s staff did not permit them to go with her into the meeting. At the end of her meeting with Cuomo, which was largely unremarkable, the governor asked her, “Tell me again how your grandfather’s career ended?” She told him that he knew the answer to the question, but he insisted that he did not. She then left the meeting.

—on the day after Amazon pulled out of its deal to open HQ2 in New York, Biaggi says she received a call from the governor at 9:30 am in which he yelled at her for having criticized the deal. – THE SENATE DEMOCRATS OPPOSITION TO AMAZON COST NEW YORKERS THOUSANDS OF GOOD PAYING JOBS – IT WASN’T A SECRET THEN OR NOW THAT WE HELD THEM RESPONSIBLE AND DISAGREED WITH THEIR DECISIONS

There are a series of general queries we’d like comment on:

—It has been widely reported that the governor’s daughter [REDACTED] previously dated a New York State trooper. In the fall of 2020, the trooper was transferred out of the governor’s mansion. Why was the trooper transferred out of Cuomo's office? Do you have a comment for those observers who have speculated that the transfer was intended to intimidate the trooper? THIS TROOPER REQUESTED A TRANSFER. Statement from Beau Duffy,

State Police spokesman [REDACTED] requested a voluntary transfer to Troop B this past May, stating that he wanted to gain more field experience and further his career advancement track to the rank of sergeant. Such requests are routine, and it was granted.”

—a source who I’ll refer to as source D recalls a party at the governor’s mansion in 2017 to which a number of new staff members were invited. During the party, source D recalls that several members of the governor’s staff took part in an extended joke aimed at Melissa DeRosa, consisting of showing DeRosa a series of photographs of prominent state officials and asking DeRosa if she could identify them, which she could not. — MELISSA IS LASER FOCUSED ON HER WORK — SHE IS NOTORIOUSLY BAD WITH NAMES/FACES AND THIS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE LIGHT OF THIS AT AN INFORMAL SETTING.

—source D recalls that the governor was very eager to travel to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, and brought a photographer along on the trip. The governor’s team mistakenly left the photographer behind when they travelled back to New York — THIS WAS NOT A MISTAKE, THE PHOTOGRAPHER STAYED BACK INTENTIONALLY TO UPLOAD PHOTOS, ETC AND TOOK THE NEXT FLIGHT BACK — WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

—several former staffers allege that the governor was interested in public appearances first and foremost, and policy announcements were made in service of those appearances, rather than the other way around — A look at the record shows the exact opposite. Among other policy victories, the Governor passed a \$15 minimum wage, free tuition at public colleges and the strongest paid family leave and gun safety laws in the nation. These are all issues that Washington is still catching up on.

—a former staffer recalls being asked to prepare briefing books for a trip the governor planned to take to Israel. At the last minute, the staffer learned the governor had gotten off the plane to instead travel to a train accident in New Jersey. Her perception was that it was very important that he arrive first. THE GOVERNOR WAS SET TO FLY TO ISRAEL TO PAY RESPECTS TO SHIMON PERES — WHEN HE REACHED THE AIRPORT HE LEARNED THAT A TRAIN ACCIDENT HAD OCCURRED IN NEW JERSEY WITH MANY NEW YORKERS ON BOARD AND POSSIBLE FATALITIES — IT WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION, BUT THE RIGHT ONE TO STAY BACK TO ENSURE NEW YORKERS’ SAFETY AND TO ADDRESS THE EMERGENCY AT HAND. THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE EXPECT.

—another former staffer in the governor’s office recalls a day, two years into her tenure, when she was awoken for work purposes at 4am and worked until 11pm. She spent the whole day at her computer receiving emails from Melissa DeRosa that severely reprimanded her. The staffer did not feel that she could get up to eat or use the restroom. The next day, DeRosa saw this staffer in the office and introduced herself as if they had never before met. This was the fourth such introduction DeRosa had made. — MELISSA DOES NOT REMEMBER THIS BUT READILY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HER WORK DAY GENERALLY STARTS AT 4 AM AND ENDS WHEN HER HEAD HITS THE PILLOW — AGAIN SHE IS NOTORIOUSLY BAD WITH NAMES AND FACES — IF THIS INCIDENT UPSET THIS PERSON, SHE APOLOGIZES.

Cuomo's First Accuser Raises New Claims of Harassment and Retaliation

In her first extensive interview, Lindsey Boylan sheds new light on a toxic workplace, as insiders detail the campaign to discredit her.



On the morning of December 13, 2020, Lindsey Boylan sat in the passenger seat of her family's car, with her husband at the wheel and her six-year-old daughter in the back. She began typing a series of tweets on her phone. Boylan, a former special adviser to New York Governor [Andrew Cuomo](#), had felt increasingly troubled as press reports mentioned Cuomo as a potential Attorney General in the Biden Administration. For more than a year, she had been raising allegations on Twitter that Cuomo presided over a hostile and toxic workplace, initially drawing little attention. A week before, Boylan had tweeted again, and another former Cuomo employee had reached out to her privately, to share a story of being sexually harassed by the Governor. "I felt really responsible for what happened to

EXHIBIT
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this woman, because I didn't do something about it," Boylan told me, in her first detailed interview about her allegations. She saw the stories about Cuomo's political prospects as a cause for urgency.

In the car, she began tweeting allegations that Cuomo had sexually harassed her, too. "@NYGovCuomo sexually harassed me for years. Many saw it, and watched," she wrote. She referenced harassment about her looks and described an unpredictable and intimidating workplace experience. Her husband became aware of the tweets only as the reaction began to build online. "I felt like I was just exploded," Boylan recalled. "And he felt like he was having a heart attack."

As Boylan's disclosures began to draw notice on social media, a group of current and former Cuomo staffers who served as his informal crisis-communications brain trust moved to squash them "in real time," according to one person with direct knowledge of the effort. Members of that group included Melissa DeRosa, a senior aide; Rich Azzopardi, Cuomo's spokesperson; and Steven M. Cohen, a former secretary to the Governor. They circulated Boylan's tweets and held a series of urgent calls. The group had just emerged from a frantic effort to respond to allegations that Cuomo's office had deliberately undercounted *COVID*-related deaths in New York nursing homes. They were "putting that to bed, and then she pipes up. And then it's sort of a big scramble," the person with direct knowledge of the effort told me. "It was, like, what the hell do we do about this?" Cuomo's advisers arrived at a plan to [leak Boylan's personnel records](#), which included allegations that Boylan had bullied colleagues, some of them women of color. "The decision was made collectively," the person with direct knowledge of the effort said. "That these are facts, the reporters should see them."

An intermediary who says that he was not on the calls, Rich Bamberger, a former communications director for Cuomo who now works for the public-relations firm Kivvit, called several reporters and advised them to contact the Governor's office. According to the person with knowledge of the conversations, Azzopardi then sent Boylan's personnel files to reporters. By day's end, several of the complaints about Boylan had appeared in stories, by the Associated Press, the *New York Post*, and the Albany-based *Times Union*. Boylan recalled being stunned by the articles. "I couldn't move. I couldn't breathe," she said. In the ensuing days, Cuomo aides began contacting people who had worked under Boylan—which some of the recipients found intimidating, the *Wall Street Journal* [reported last week](#). Cuomo advisers also considered releasing a letter attacking Boylan's credibility and reputation, drafts of which were [first reported](#) by the *Times* this week. They ultimately decided against releasing the letter. "My life was, you

know, for a period, destroyed,” Boylan told me. In a statement, Beth Garvey, Cuomo’s acting counsel, said, “With certain limited exceptions, as a general matter, it is within a government entity’s discretion to share redacted employment records, including in instances when members of the media ask for such public information and when it is for the purpose of correcting inaccurate or misleading statements.”

Boylan’s allegations largely faded from public view, until last month, when she posted a detailed account of her experience on [Medium](#). Boylan told me, during a series of lengthy interviews, that she decided to disclose her allegations via online posts and initially declined interview requests from journalists because “having someone dissect my trauma is not something I wanted.” She said that the essay took her more than a month to write. “I realized I had to own this experience,” she told me. “It was something I was going to have to talk about eventually.” A series of disclosures about Cuomo from other women, including multiple allegations of harassment and one of groping, quickly followed Boylan’s. “Seeing Lindsey’s story was a huge factor in my decision to come forward,” Charlotte Bennett, a former Cuomo staffer who began publicly discussing her account of sexual harassment by the Governor after Boylan’s Medium post, told me. “Coming forward didn’t feel like a choice—it felt like my responsibility to validate Lindsey’s story and signal to others that it was O.K. to come forward.”

The revelations have left Cuomo’s political future in New York, which he has governed since 2011, in a free fall. He now faces probes by both the New York attorney general, Letitia James, and the state assembly, which this week retained a law firm for that purpose. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and other prominent Democrats in the state congressional delegation have called for the Governor to resign. This week, President Biden, a longtime ally of Cuomo’s, said that the Governor should step down if the allegations are confirmed by investigators. Cuomo acknowledged some of the harassment allegations, saying, “I now understand that I acted in a way that made people feel uncomfortable,” but he maintained that his behavior was unintentional and denied all allegations that he “touched anyone inappropriately.” A spokesperson added, “As we said before, Ms. Boylan’s claims of inappropriate behavior are quite simply false.”

Until December 13th, Cuomo’s grip on power in New York had been near-absolute, a dominance secured at times through his willingness to discredit and intimidate his adversaries. Then Boylan posted her tweets. At first, it seemed as if she would meet the same fate as so many others who had challenged the

Governor. Now, the Cuomo team's response may turn out to be one of its final efforts to frighten an opponent into submission.

Between 2015 and 2018, Boylan served in several government roles, including deputy secretary for economic development. In 2016, she began interacting with Cuomo directly and had her first encounters with a workplace culture under him that she said was rife with bullying and retribution. "It was toxic, and particularly for women," she said. Her description matched those of multiple current and former Cuomo staffers I spoke with, though others told me that the office culture was intense but not inappropriate. Boylan's leaked personnel files reportedly contain allegations that she bullied women who worked with her, including Black women. Several former colleagues of Boylan's, none of whom are Black, told me that they found the claims plausible and said that they had also found Boylan herself to be a hostile presence in the workplace. "I've seen Lindsey do her job well, but I've also had experiences where I felt belittled or bullied by her," a former colleague, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told me. Others disputed that account or said that Boylan's conduct was consistent with a culture where volatility was the norm. "It was a hard place to be," Joel Wertheimer, an attorney who served as Cuomo's staff secretary, told me. "They were nasty and awful." Wertheimer quit after just seven months, dispirited by the environment. He is now a campaign consultant to Boylan, who is running for Manhattan borough president. He added, "I also was not the best version of myself when I was working there."

Boylan said that Cuomo set the tone, ridiculing several of his closest staffers, including Stephanie Benton, the director of the Governor's offices. "I remember, Stephanie had a haircut that he kept making fun of her for all day in front of other people. And she was crying," Boylan said. (Benton, who is still employed in state government, said that Boylan's account was untrue and that the Governor had always treated her well, adding, "If I felt otherwise, I would speak for myself.") Boylan also said that Cuomo repeatedly ranted about another staffer, a young male aide, being "fat." The young male aide, who no longer works for Cuomo, declined to comment on his experience and asked not to be named. Boylan described the workplace culture under the Governor as aggressive and combative. At a party in the pool house at the Governor's mansion, in Albany, Boylan recalled seeing a dartboard bearing a photo of Bill de Blasio, Cuomo's antagonist since he was elected Mayor of New York City, in 2014. "I couldn't believe how brazen that was," she said. (A spokesperson for the Governor declined to comment on the dartboard.)

Boylan had her first interaction with Cuomo after a speech he gave at Madison Square Garden on January 6, 2016, when she was working as the chief of staff at Empire State Development, a state entity that promotes economic growth. She said that he seemed to pay an unusual amount of attention to her. Soon afterward, she said, her boss, Howard Zemsky, told her that Cuomo had a “crush” on her. (Zemsky did not respond to a request for comment.) During the next two years, Boylan said, the Governor repeatedly commented on her appearance and touched her more than she felt was necessary or professional. “He would put his hand on my lower back,” Boylan said, adding that her experiences mirrored those of another woman, Anna Ruch, who [told the Times](#) that the Governor touched her lower back and asked to kiss her at a wedding reception. “He would find a way to, like, touch me in passing—getting on the plane, getting off the plane,” Boylan said. “He frequently stared at my legs.”

Kelsey DePalo, who met Boylan when both attended Wellesley College, told me that Boylan was initially excited to work with Cuomo, but her attitude soon changed. “She would talk about how he was creepy,” DePalo recalled. “We would talk about, you know, how when, if someone opens a door for you, they can open a door, or they can open a door and put their hand on the small of your back. They can lean over to tell you something, or lean over to tell you something and also put their hand on your knee.” She added, “You can sometimes catch someone, like, looking at your outfit in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable. Or commenting on your appearance. And so she would describe how he gave her the creeps, and was very touchy-feely in ways that made her feel highly uncomfortable.”

Another friend, as well as Boylan’s mother and husband, told me that Boylan had discussed similar concerns with them in 2016 and 2017. Boylan’s mother, Karen Boylan, saw the behavior as a pattern. “I hoped she would stay away from him,” she told me. Karen told me that, years earlier, she had quit a job as an accountant at a law firm after her boss sexually harassed her. Boylan was in high school at the time, and told me that her mother’s experience, which she referred to in her first tweets about her harassment allegations, deeply affected her. Boylan’s mother said that she had described the harassment to her daughter to prepare her for what she might face in the workplace. “It was something that we talked about a lot while she was growing up,” Karen told me. “You know, you hope your children learn from this.”

In an e-mail sent on August 4, 2016, Karen wrote, to her daughter, “I was thinking after our conversation last night about Governor Cuomo... I would hate (couldn’t

tolerate) living with a partner or husband who behaved like that with women. It sounds very inappropriate what he says to you too.” Three months later, Boylan forwarded her mother an e-mail in which a Cuomo staffer asked Boylan’s supervisor whether she would be at an event the Governor was attending. “It’s gross,” Boylan told her mother, in a text that day. “I just wish I could be told how great I am based on my intelligence and abilities rather than some dumb thing.” (A spokesperson for Cuomo said that the staffer who sent the e-mail “oversaw events and scheduling, so it was her job to understand what relevant senior members of the team—male and female—would be attending Governor events.”)

Boylan said that the Governor frequently sought her out, sometimes taking her away from substantive responsibilities to fulfill a role she felt was ornamental. The Regional Economic Development Council awards, in Albany, in December, 2016, were the culmination of a year’s work for Boylan. The monetary awards to local businesses and organizations are a part of Cuomo’s economic strategy and were a centerpiece of Boylan’s portfolio. After the awards, a Cuomo aide aggressively pressed Boylan to return to New York City on a helicopter with Cuomo and Maria Bartiromo, a television host, who had spoken at the event. Boylan refused. “He likes to put women next to each other,” Boylan said. “Like we’re part of his tools, or his little, you know, dolls.” (A spokesperson for Cuomo said that the flight arrangements were “not a point of contention.”) A few days later, Benton, the Cuomo aide, e-mailed Boylan, telling her that the Governor had suggested Boylan look up a woman that colleagues had told her was romantically linked to the Governor. “You could be sisters,” Benton wrote. “Except you’re the better looking sister.” (Benton told me, “That was my attempt at banter, not his.”)

At a holiday party held at an Albany convention center later that month, Boylan said, when the Governor approached her, she left the room. That night, she said, the young male aide, whom Boylan said had been bullied, called and told her that the Governor wanted her to come to the Capitol. (The aide declined to comment on the call.) As Boylan walked to Cuomo’s office in the Capitol, she called her husband and told him that she was afraid. In a statement, her husband said that he could “sense absolute terror in her voice.” Cuomo showed her his office, and called attention to a cigar box that he told her was a gift from President Bill Clinton. Since childhood, Boylan had idolized Hillary Clinton. She once waited in line for hours to have a photo taken with her, an experience that she said “changed my life.” Boylan said that the obvious reference to Clinton’s sexual behavior disturbed her, because the Governor knew that she considered Hillary Clinton a role model. “It was deeply distressing,” Boylan told me.

Boylan says that the pattern of inquiries about her and comments about her looks continued through the rest of her time in the administration. E-mails from Cuomo aides reviewed by *The New Yorker* were consistent with that account. Boylan said that the harassment grew more brazen over time. She said that, in October, 2017, as she sat with the Governor on a private plane, he told her, "Let's play strip poker." (In a statement released by the Governor's office, four former staffers listed as being on such flights that month said that they had not witnessed the exchange.) In 2018, in an incident she has not previously disclosed, Boylan attended a meeting on the ground floor of the Governor's mansion. At a press conference that February, Cuomo had proudly showed off his new puppy, a Siberian-Shepherd-Malamute mix named Captain. After the meeting, Boylan said that she made her way toward the entrance with the Governor, and Captain approached her. When the dog jumped up and down near her, Boylan said, she reached out to calm him, and then backed away. Cuomo, she said, joked that if he were a dog, he would try to "mount" her as well. Boylan said that she did not reply. "I remember being grossed out but also, like, what a dumb third-grade thing to say." She added, "I just shrugged it off." A spokesperson for Cuomo declined to comment specifically on the claim, but reiterated Cuomo's denial that he behaved inappropriately with Boylan.

Boylan told me that over time she had become accustomed to such remarks, but she felt that her physical boundaries were crumbling. In an incident in the summer of 2018, which she described in her Medium post, she met with Cuomo one-on-one in his Manhattan office. As she got up to leave, Cuomo moved in front of her. "He blocked me getting out," she told me. Then, as she attempted to move forward, she said, he kissed her on the lips. "It was in no way platonic," she told me. "I was mortified." Her mother, Karen, says Boylan told her about the incident at the time. "Lindsey's way is to either call or text me immediately when things like this have happened, because she's horrified," she said. "She was, like, 'Oh, my God, did anybody see that happen? You know, I'm so embarrassed.'" Cuomo said of the kiss, "This did not happen."

By now, Boylan said, her mental health had deteriorated and she had become more adversarial at the office, responding vocally to harsh comments from a circle of aides loyal to Cuomo, whom she said were known in the office as "the mean girls." She said that group included Melissa DeRosa, the senior aide. (A spokesperson praised DeRosa, calling the label an example of "sexist tropes.") On one occasion, Boylan said, during a call about a work matter, DeRosa screamed at her, "What the fuck did you do?" Boylan said that she told DeRosa, "I'm not

speaking to you,” and hung up the phone. (DeRosa and a spokesperson for the Governor both declined to comment on the interaction.) “I was lighting all these fires,” Boylan told me. “And I think it was the culmination of a very long, destructive period of this dynamic.”

Boylan said that she had not seen her leaked personnel files and was unaware of any specific allegations they might contain. “I don’t want to take anything away from a woman that may have had a negative interaction with me,” she said. But she viewed the release of the files as a calculated effort to discredit her accusations of sexual harassment. “In more than three years that I worked for the administration, I never once had a performance review,” she said. “I’ve never seen an H.R. or personnel file, not just for myself but for any other employee, especially in the executive chamber. There’s no real H.R. function that would be independent of the Governor and his closest aides.” She called the introduction of the alleged workplace complaints into the initial coverage of her harassment claims “victim-blaming bullshit.”

Boylan told me that, beginning that summer, she tried to quit several times. A text from July, 2018, shows that, after one such attempt, DeRosa tried to persuade Boylan to return, writing, “I know it was a tough day today but we hope to see you back here tomorrow with the team helping to get things done.” Boylan resigned that September. “Lindsey’s such a tough person, usually positive and upbeat, but when she left the Governor’s office I saw a change in her,” Kelsey DePalo, her friend from college, said. “You could tell it was upsetting to her, the experience.”

In public, Boylan remained supportive of the Cuomo administration. That November, she retweeted an Op-Ed in the *Times* endorsing Cuomo’s reelection, with applause and thumbs-up emojis. She said that her hesitation to condemn Cuomo publicly reflected the difficulty of working in New York politics without the Governor’s support. “There’s no other place to go,” she said. “When I was a teen-ager, I knew that I wanted to go into government and that this was what mattered to me,” she said. “You can’t leave. If you leave, you are destroyed.”

The uproar that Boylan’s December tweets helped to start has now engulfed her life. She runs her campaign for Manhattan borough president from her West Chelsea apartment while embracing her new role as one of Cuomo’s most public and persistent critics. In addition to her tweets excoriating the Governor and his supporters, she has traded insults with Internet trolls who have targeted her with sexist broadsides. Last Saturday, Boylan and her attorney met for two and a half

hours, via Zoom, with the investigators leading the New York attorney general's probe of the allegations against Cuomo. The investigators, Joon Kim and Anne Clark, sought records, witnesses, and additional details. Boylan said that she will continue to cooperate with the investigation.

She expressed frustration with what she perceives to be a reluctance among some Democrats to demand Cuomo's resignation. She was especially dismayed by Hillary Clinton's response. After Boylan's and other allegations were made public, Clinton issued a statement saying that the allegations against Cuomo are "difficult to read" and "raise serious questions." She emphasized the attorney general's investigation, stopping short of calling for the Governor's resignation. Clinton, Boylan told me, "was the great hero of my life." She said that this was no longer the case. "There's no way you don't know who this man is if you've worked with, or around, him for decades," she added.

Last week, Boylan broke down during a conversation on the telephone with her mother. "She was sobbing uncontrollably. She was in a bad place," Karen told me. "She just didn't feel like she was being supported." Boylan said that she continues to feel that way: "I believe that anyone who is in politics and senior and has been around has heard all of these stories, at the very least, and has seen his lack of control, his lack of concern, his lack of integrity, at a very high level, and they said nothing."

Another factor informed Boylan's decision to first disclose her allegations online, on her own terms. She had been fearful about reporters' willingness to stand up to Cuomo's tactics. Cuomo and his aides were legendary for their bullying of the press. According to a source familiar with the episode, in a February, 2014, off-the-record dinner with the *Times*, Cuomo, after several drinks, began shouting at Susanne Craig, the newspaper's Albany bureau chief, finally telling her, "I'm going to ruin you. As long as I live, I will never speak to you again." Cuomo then stormed out of the restaurant. (A Cuomo spokesperson acknowledged a "tense disagreement" with Craig over an article. He added, "It's no secret that the office has had a number of difficult conversations with reporters over the years—we respect tough reporters and hope they respect us.")

Boylan had personally witnessed Cuomo's belligerence with the press, and it had left a searing impression on her. "I remember being in the car after one of our trips with the Governor and Melissa. And he is obliterating someone on the phone. He's obliterating him," she said. "I'm just assuming it's one of our staffers.

And it was this famous reporter.” She went on, “His main source of power is destroying you in the press.” She paused. “Look what he did to me.”

Date: Sunday, March 14 2021 07:52 AM
Subject: [Chat #1443]
From: Melissa DeRosa <+ [REDACTED]>
To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; + [REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Jefrey Pollock]; + [REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Chris Cuomo];
Attachments: Screenshot 2021-03-14 at 7.36.23 AM.jpeg

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:
[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:
[REDACTED]



Having to talk, and a time

sensitive question



Farrow, Ronan 7:24 AM



to [REDACTED]

Hello Melissa,

I'm working on some reporting about Governor Cuomo and wanted to open a channel of communication. Would be grateful to pick your brain and get as much context from you as possible.

One immediate item I wanted to flag: we're preparing to publish a story that looks at Lindsey Boylan's claims, in which she alleges that you, specifically, leaked her personnel files.

Welcome all information you have, in general and in response to that particular point. For comment on the latter, we'll need your response today.

Happy to talk at any time if helpful. I'm at [REDACTED]

Very best,
Ronan

Sure, I'd be happy to chat. I'd be happy to chat. I am not available today.

↩ Reply ↶ Reply all ↗ Forward

Date: Sunday, March 14 2021 09:22 AM

Subject: [Chat #1444]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]>

To: "+[REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; +[REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; +[REDACTED] [Steven M. Cohen];
+[REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; +[REDACTED] [Chris Cuomo];

This requires a lawyer response obviously

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID:

[REDACTED]



From: Stephanie Benton [redacted]@exec.ny.gov
Subject: Re: Privileged & confidential. Fwd: Time-sensitive comment request
Date: March 14, 2021 at 4:18 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock [redacted]@globalstrategygroup.com, Peter Ajemian [redacted]@exec.ny.gov, Melissa DeRosa [redacted]@exec.ny.gov, Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [redacted]@dfs.ny.gov
Cc: Lis Smith [redacted]@gmail.com, Josh Vlasto [redacted]@gmail.com, Judith Mogul [redacted]@exec.ny.gov, Beth Garvey [redacted]@exec.ny.gov, Richard Azzopardi [redacted]@exec.ny.gov, Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [redacted]@esd.ny.gov, Mitra Hormozi [redacted]@wmhlaw.com

Dial in for 5pm

[redacted]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Jeffrey Pollock
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Melissa DeRosa; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Beth Garvey; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Mitra Hormozi
Subject: RE: Privileged & confidential. Fwd: Time-sensitive comment request

Ok so let's agree to talk at 5

From: Peter Ajemian <[redacted]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock <[redacted]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Melissa DeRosa <[redacted]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[redacted]@dfs.ny.gov>
Cc: Lis Smith <[redacted]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto <[redacted]@gmail.com>; Judith Mogul <[redacted]@exec.ny.gov>; Beth Garvey <[redacted]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi <[redacted]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[redacted]@esd.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton <[redacted]@exec.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi <[redacted]@wmhlaw.com>
Subject: Re: Privileged & confidential. Fwd: Time-sensitive comment request

[EXT EMAIL]

privileged / confidential / draft

Here are some drafts in red for discussion. I will be out of pocket for the next 45 minutes, but can speak at 5pm.

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

Will look like WSJ – about calls that were made and tenor.

Her ongoing and continued claim that those calls were intimidating or intended to suss out what her plans were or cast aspersions about her.

Melissa and Dick and Abby Collins mentioned





4 People >

iMessage
Sun, Mar 14, 2:33 PM

Melissa DeRosa



iMessage





4 People >



Lindsey Boylan ✓
@LindseyBoylan

This. Way to go [@LtGovHochulNY](#)
[@NYGovCuomo](#). Exactly the
pragmatic things we need to change
outcomes and help families succeed.

Kathy Hochul ✓ @LtGovHochulNY · 2/21/19
As part of the #2019WomensAgenda, we want
to provide single parents with the services they
need – including child care and career
counseling – to succeed in college and the
workplace.

9:30 AM · 2/22/19 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

3 Likes



Lindsey Boylan ✓
@LindseyBoylan

Proud to work for a governor who
takes women seriously
[@NYGovCuomo](#) [@NOW_NYC](#)

NOW-NYC ✓ @NOW_NYC · 8/15/18
"Governor, you have delivered for the women
and girls in New York year in and year out."
[#StopChildTrafficking](#) [@NYGovCuomo](#)



iMessage



LS PA MD
4 People >



Lindsey Boylan @LindseyBoylan

Proud to work for a governor who takes women seriously

@NYGovCuomo @NOW_NYC

NOW-NYC @NOW_NYC · 8/15/18

"Governor, you have delivered for the women and girls in New York year in and year out." #StopChildTrafficking @NYGovCuomo

3:05 PM · 8/15/18 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 1 Like



MD

Priv - should we give these to RF?

Jefrey Pollock

Not the hochul one but why not?



They are in the public

Lis Smith

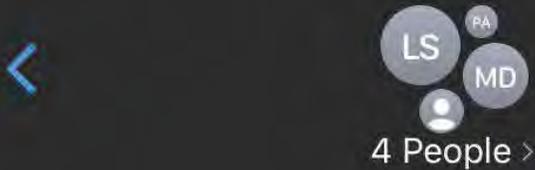
Yes I agree

LS

Why not

Camera App Store iMessage Voice Recorder

App Store App Store Apple Pay Face ID Search Music



NOT:

They are in the public

Lis Smith

Yes I agree

LS Why not

Melissa DeRosa

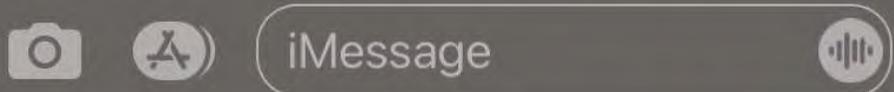
MD Beth any problem?

i don't have a problem but i'm not sure how many of these are "false" that we had to respond to

Lis Smith

LS We're t there some other things- like she was represented by Tara reade lawyer, sent threatening messages

peter i need to get you and brendan on phone together



From: Jeffrey Pollock
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 6:27 PM EDT
To: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]
Subject: my summary

1. From sep to feb, continually tweeted positive things
2. Text messages from her to senior staff in March over petitioning, she viewed it as being directed at her run for Congress. She promised "retribution" and we have screen shots of those texts
3. In the last couple of weeks texted/emailed at least 3 people (Dani, Jim, Annabel) and maybe John M, Bill M) where she said you're a terrible person, who enabled all this. Taunting/bullying
4. In December, after she made the allegations without specifics, and she reached out to people via linkedin and asked if they wanted to talk about time with the Governor. And was done in tandem with a law firm doing the same thing at the same time. She lied about having no interaction with a law firm.
5. New email from 73 year old woman being bullied on twitter who claims Lindsay has called her only client to try to get her fired.
6. She was dismissed from her job for bullying. 3 subordinates. All Af-Am women. One of them ended up [REDACTED] and had to be reassigned.
7. When she was confronted about it, she quit in an email to the whole staff. And then 3 days later she asked for her job back from Alphonso.

Jeffrey Pollock
President

D [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]

My pronouns: he, him, his ([What's this?](#))



From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov
Sent: 3/14/2021 10:35:59 PM
To: Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Ajemian, Peter (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com
CC: Benton, Stephanie (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com; Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov; Cohen, Steven (ESD) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov; Mitra Hormozi [REDACTED]@wmhllaw.com
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

retaliatory how? if u want to cut out the last part and make purely factual fine but how is it retaliatory to respond to her attacks factually?

Lindsey routinely circumvented the senior staff and went directly to the governor which disrupted communication and organization. She was asked many times not to go to the Governor directly but to follow protocol and refused, which was an ongoing source of tension.

From: Beth Garvey
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:33 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

We don't have to make news with that answer it can be spun as retaliatory.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Beth Garvey; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

some changes - what happened to that last answer? that is NOT what we are shipping -- we discussed this extensively and we are answering that question

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: "After Ms. Boylan's tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up."

She accuses Melissa DeRosa of leaking her personal file and questions the legality of the leak. Do you or does Melissa have a response?

EXHIBIT

62

From Beth Garvey, Acting Counsel: "With certain limited exceptions, as a general matter, it is within a government entity's discretion to share redacted employment records, including in instances when members of the media ask for such public information and when it is for the purpose of correcting inaccurate or misleading statements. Given the ongoing review by the State Attorney General, we cannot comment further at this time."

OFF THE RECORD: HOW WOULD LINDSEY KNOW WHO RELEASED IT? WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR HER ASSERTION? WE CAN'T GET INTO SPECS BECAUSE OF THE AG'S INVESTIGATION, BUT PRINTING THAT MELISSA WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE IT TO THE PRESS WOULD BE INACCURATE.

Boylan describes a culture of hostility and bullying under the governor. She and others recall seeing a dart board with a photo of Bill DeBlasio on it while attending a pool party. Do you or the governor have any comment on the dart board and the intentions behind it?

Boylan says, as previously alleged in her Medium post, that the governor fixated on her, tracked her location through aides to an extent she found uncomfortable, and showed a level of interest that she found inappropriate in their interpersonal interactions.

From a spokesperson re Stephanie: "Part of Stephanie's job is to make sure senior staff know how and when they can get in touch with the Governor, and Blackberry pin is how any member of the team would communicate with him." (OFF THE RECORD – see attached email sent out recently to a group when GAMC's number was changed)

Re Jill's email: "Regardless of whatever Ms. Boylan believes, she was in no way being 'tracked' by staff – Jill oversaw events and scheduling, so it was her job to understand what relevant senior members of the team – male and female – would be attending Governor events."

From a spokesperson: "All senior staff receive these kinds of instructions, requests and communications – nothing about these exchanges are unique or interesting in this regard."

She says that she felt objectified and professionally diminished, and recounts an incident at the December 2016 REDC awards during which she says she was ordered to accompany the Governor and Maria Bartiromo on a return helicopter flight rather than remain and continue to engage with her direct-reports on substantive matters.

From a spokesperson: Lindsey was clearly not 'ordered' to be on the flights as she was not on the flight -- this was not a point of contention.

Boylan speaks about what she perceived to be a lack of boundaries between the Governor and female staffers. She says that Stephanie Benton asked her, also at a pool party, whether she had yet been swimming in the pool at the governor's residence.

From a spokesperson: "Stephanie does not believe this is true." If needed Stephanie will say this on the record

On the subject of the "strip poker" comment that her Medium post claimed the governor made on a flight in October 2017, Boylan disputes the group denial and says that Abbey Fashouer Collins was sitting next to her when the comment was made. –

Please refer back to Abbey Collins previous statement which still stands – see below:

In a joint statement, John Maggiore, Howard Zemsky, Dani Lever, and Abbey Fashouer Collins who were on all of these flights with her added: "We were on each of these October flights and this conversation did not happen."

She reiterates her claim that the governor kissed her on the lips in 2018.

From a spokesperson: "This is not true."

On the subject of Melissa, she recounts a convo in which Melissa screamed at her on the phone – in the final days of Lindsey being in her job – July 2018 – when things deteriorated

this is not what

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:15 PM

To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock

Cc: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

we can do more work during fact checking

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:15 PM

To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock

Cc: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

ok. fixing that and shipping

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:12 PM

To: Jeffrey Pollock

Cc: Peter Ajemian; Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

nothing about these exchanges is unique or interesting in this regard."

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2021, at 10:07 PM, Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com> wrote:

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I'm good as long as you all have fully litigated the last point and we don't need to go back to where we were.

From: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:06 PM
To: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>
Cc: Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi <[REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com>
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

[EXT EMAIL]

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: "After Ms. Boylan's tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up."

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From a spokesperson: "As we said before, Ms. Boylan's claims of inappropriate behavior are quite simply false."

On the subject of Melissa, she recounts a convo in which Melissa screamed at her on the phone – in the final days of Lindsey being in her job – July 2018 – when things deteriorated

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the governor: “There is no secret these are tough jobs, and the work is demanding, but we have a top tier team with many employees who have been here for years and many others who have left and returned because they know the work we do matters, a fact that was underscored throughout COVID.”

From: Beth Garvey
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:16 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

I reframed it slightly, it may work at the end as far as contradicting "fear"

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:52 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Beth Garvey; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

also - what does this get us?

This occurred months before Ms. Boylan resigned and then unsuccessfully seeking her job back with the Chamber.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:14 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Beth Garvey; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

Will look like WSJ – about calls that were made and tenor.

Her ongoing and continued claim that those calls were intimidating or intended to suss out what her plans were or cast aspersions about her.

Melissa and Rich and Abbey Collins are mentioned.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: "After Ms. Boylan's tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up."

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Boylan says, as previously alleged in her Medium post, that the governor fixated on her, tracked her location through aides to an extent she found uncomfortable, and showed a level of interest that she found inappropriate in their interpersonal interactions.

Fixated on her – her characterization of him – her interpretation of these events was he was repeatedly inquiring about her and in their own interactions, eye contact, touching, and signaling his interest in ways she found uncomfortable

Incremental new pieces of communiques – from editorial and fact checking standpoint – a cache of communications similar to what we've already seen – Stephanie Benton email from March 2017 sharing the governor's pin, responding to Lindsey getting a bberry, "Smiley face. Feel free to pin gov. he'll be very happy to hear from you." about her being issued a bberry with pin capacity and that's something the gov will be happy about -

From a spokesperson re Stephanie: "Part of Stephanie's job is to make sure senior staff know how and when they can get in touch with the Governor, and Blackberry pin is how any member of the team would communicate with him." (OFF THE RECORD – see attached email sent out recently to a group when GAMC's number was changed)

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LINDSEY WAS NOT EVEN ON THIS FLIGHT – Lindsey was not needed for the return flight and it was not a point of contention.

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Please refer back to Abbey Collins previous statement which still stands – see below:

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She reiterates her claim that the governor kissed her on the lips in 2018.

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On the subject of Melissa, she recounts a convo in which Melissa screamed at her on the phone – in the final days of Lindsey being in her job – July 2018 – when things became really

From a spokesperson: "This occurred months before Ms. Boylan resigned and then unsuccessfully seeking her job back with the Chamber. Lindsey regularly bypassed senior staff and went directly to the Governor against protocol, an ongoing source of frustration that was also disruptive. This led to a heated conversation between her and the Secretary and directly contradicts her current position she was 'afraid' of the Governor."

From: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
Sent: 3/15/2021 4:07:17 PM
To: DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]; Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov]
CC: Benton, Stephanie (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Mogul, Judith (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Mitra Hormozi [REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com]
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

DRAFT

Stephanie - OK?

LB says in 2018 the gov made fun of benton's haircut so often that Benton cried about it in front of lindsey.

From Stephanie Benton: "That's not right. The Governor has always treated me with decency and respect."

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Beth Garvey; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Ok. I'm shipping the updated answer from Gov and Beth's additional line, and I'll tell him I'll have an answer on Rob soon.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Beth Garvey; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

yes and when they walk us through the story i still reserve the right to re-raise the point on the LB argument she and i had

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Beth Garvey; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

So I'm not missing something, it's the one change at the end right?

EXHIBIT

63

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:56 PM

To: Beth Garvey; Peter Ajemian; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)

Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

there were some changes from last night that did make it into the final draft -see highlighted below

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: "After Ms. Boylan's tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up."

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OFF THE RECORD NOTE: How would Lindsey know who released the information? What is the basis for her assertion? We can't get into the specifics because of the AG's review, but it would be inaccurate to say Melissa was the one who gave the information to the press.

Boylan says, as previously alleged in her Medium post, that the governor fixated on her, tracked her location through aides to an extent she found uncomfortable, and showed a level of interest that she found inappropriate in their interpersonal interactions.

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She reiterates her claim that the governor kissed her on the lips in 2018.

From Gov Cuomo: this did not happen.

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Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Jeffrey Pollock; Melissa DeRosa; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
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Prefer this.

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Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 1:53 PM
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Cc: Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi <[REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com>
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Beth, OK?

Additional statement from Beth Garvey, acting counsel: "Due to the ongoing review by the Attorney General, we will not provide any documents at this time."

And then I'm going to say over the phone, off the record there's nothing additional we will provide at this time given the review - if the changes in the future I will of course keep you in mind. And I think it would make sense to move to the fact checking phase and we will see if there's anything further we need to correct or comment on.

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Beth Garvey; Jeffrey Pollock; Melissa DeRosa; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

I'm leaving it out for now and sending the rest

From: Beth Garvey
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 11:02 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock; Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

This is safer, but not without risk- it's all new.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Beth Garvey
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:49 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock; Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Lindsey routinely circumvented the senior staff and went directly to the governor which disrupted communication and organization and was an ongoing source of tension.

I don't think we have said this before.
It's fine if in fact she was asked many times, I thought we didn't know that factually.
Still could be retaliation.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Jeffrey Pollock
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:41 PM
To: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: RE: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Beth look at the version that Melissa just sent which is close to what we said before. That's what I would like to do.

From: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:40 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>
Cc: Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi <[REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com>
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

[EXT EMAIL]

This is new- we haven't said it, and i'm not sure our records reflect this. It's our "recollection" but the records previously released don't have this fact. It is completely relevant, but it can also look like we are inventing facts to suit us.

If, like you said, there's no there there with this story, and we are just pushing back on an anecdote you acknowledged to all of us earlier is true, we are just creating *new* liability for a retaliation claim that is ultimately gov's personally.

So his lawyers should weigh in.

It is purely our discretion to release records or disclose, so motive is what carries this. Is anecdote false? No, it's true, you said it was true, so it is just us taking a shot at her. This is something that creates significant risk. I would say no.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:34 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock; Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Beth Garvey; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

if we cant send this i'd like to understand legally why. we cannot just send the hostile work envior quote which doesnt answer the quesiton

Lindsey routinely circumvented the senior staff and went directly to the governor which disrupted communication and organization. She was asked many times not to go to the Governor directly but to follow protocol and refused, which was an ongoing source of tension - - the opposite dynamic that lindsey now claims.

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Beth Garvey; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Lawyers need to either overrule or not. The lawyers should have the priority on this Melissa

Jeffrey Pollock
President
D [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
My pronouns: he, him, his

From: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:26:50 PM
To: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>
Cc: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi <[REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com>
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

[EXT EMAIL]

The entire point is to make clear that despite the fact that she is saying she was afraid and didn't want to be near him the point is that she was constantly going to him directly

From a spokesperson: "Lindsey regularly bypassed senior staff and went directly to the Governor against protocol, an ongoing source of frustration for members of the staff that was also disruptive. This led to a heated conversation between her and the Secretary and directly contradicts her current position she was 'afraid' of the Governor."

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Beth Garvey; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

i do NOT agree

we are not giving that answer to that question -we need to be direct and factual here

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:15 PM

To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock

Cc: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

we can do more work during fact checking

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:15 PM

To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock

Cc: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

ok. fixing that and shipping

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:12 PM

To: Jeffrey Pollock

Cc: Peter Ajemian; Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

nothing about these exchanges IS unique or interesting in this regard."

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2021, at 10:07 PM, Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com> wrote:

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I'm good as long as you all have fully litigated the last point and we don't need to go back to where we were.

From: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:06 PM

To: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>

Cc: Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Judith Mogul <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

<[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi <[REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com>

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

[EXT EMAIL]

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: "After Ms. Boylan's tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up."

She accuses Melissa DeRosa of leaking her personnel file and questions the legality of the leak. Do you or does Melissa have a response?

From Beth Garvey, Acting Counsel: "With certain limited exceptions, as a general matter, it is within a government entity's discretion to share redacted employment records, including in instances when members of the media ask for such public information and when it is for the purpose of correcting inaccurate or misleading statements. Given the ongoing review by the State Attorney General, we cannot comment further at this time."

OFF THE RECORD: HOW WOULD LINDSEY KNOW WHO RELEASED IT? WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR HER ASSERTION? WE CAN'T GET INTO SPECS BECAUSE OF THE AG'S INVESTIGATION, BUT PRINTING THAT MELISSA WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE IT TO THE PRESS WOULD BE INACCURATE.

Boylan describes a culture of hostility and bullying under the governor. She and others recall seeing a dart board with a photo of Bill DeBlasio on it while attending a pool party. Do you or the governor have any comment on the dart board and the intentions behind it?

Boylan says, as previously alleged in her Medium post, that the governor fixated on her, tracked her location through aides to an extent she found uncomfortable, and showed a level of interest that she found inappropriate in their interpersonal interactions.

From a spokesperson re Stephanie: "Part of Stephanie's job is to make sure senior staff know how and when they can get in touch with the Governor, and Blackberry pin is how any member of the team would communicate with him." (OFF THE RECORD – see attached email sent out recently to a group when GAMC's number was changed)

Re Jill's email: "Regardless of whatever Ms. Boylan believes, she was in no way being 'tracked' by staff – Jill oversaw events and scheduling, so it was her job to understand what relevant senior members of the team—male and female – would be attending Governor events."

From a spokesperson: "All senior staff receive these kinds of instructions, requests and communications – nothing about these exchanges are unique or interesting in this regard."

She says that she felt objectified and professionally diminished, and recounts an incident at the December 2016 REDC awards during which she says she was ordered to accompany the Governor and Maria Bartiromo

on a return helicopter flight rather than remain and continue to engage with her direct-reports on substantive matters.

From a spokesperson: Lindsey was not even on the flight. Lindsey was not needed for the return flight and it was not a point of contention.

Boylan speaks about what she perceived to be a lack of boundaries between the Governor and female staffers. She says that Stephanie Benton asked her, also at a pool party, whether she had yet been swimming in the pool at the governor's residence.

From a spokesperson: "Stephanie does not believe this is true." If needed Stephanie will say this on the record

On the subject of the "strip poker" comment that her Medium post claimed the governor made on a flight in October 2017, Boylan disputes the group denial and says that Abbey Fashouer Collins was sitting next to her when the comment was made. –

Please refer back to Abbey Collins previous statement which still stands – see below:

In a joint statement, John Maggiore, Howard Zemsky, Dani Lever, and Abbey Fashouer Collins who were on all of these flights with her added: "We were on each of these October flights and this conversation did not happen."

She reiterates her claim that the governor kissed her on the lips in 2018.

From a spokesperson: "As we said before, Ms. Boylan's claims of inappropriate behavior are quite simply false."

On the subject of Melissa, she recounts a convo in which Melissa screamed at her on the phone – in the final days of Lindsey being in her job – July 2018 – when things deteriorated

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the governor: "There is no secret these are tough jobs, and the work is demanding, but we have a top tier team with many employees who have been here for years and many others who have left and returned because they know the work we do matters, a fact that was underscored throughout COVID."

From: Beth Garvey

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:16 PM

To: Peter Ajemian; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)

Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

I reframed it slightly, it may work at the end as far as contradicting "fear"

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:52 PM

To: Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)

Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

also - what does this get us?

This occurred months before Ms. Boylan resigned and then unsuccessfully seeking her job back with the Chamber.

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:14 PM

To: Peter Ajemian; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)

Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Beth Garvey; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi

Subject: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

Will look like WSJ – about calls that were made and tenor.

Her ongoing and continued claim that those calls were intimidating or intended to suss out what her plans were or cast aspersions about her.

Melissa and Rich and Abbey Collins are mentioned.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: “After Ms. Boylan’s tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up.”

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Boylan says, as previously alleged in her Medium post, that the governor fixated on her, tracked her location through aides to an extent she found uncomfortable, and showed a level of interest that she found inappropriate in their interpersonal interactions.

Fixated on her – her characterization of him – her interpretation of these events was he was repeatedly inquiring about her and in their own interactions, eye contact, touching, and signaling his interest in ways she found uncomfortable

Incremental new pieces of communiques – from editorial and fact checking standpoint – a cache of communications similar to what we've already seen – Stephanie Benton email from March 2017 sharing the governor's pin, responding to Lindsey getting a bberry, "Smiley face. Feel free to pin gov. he'll be very happy to hear from you." about her being issued a bberry with pin capacity and that's something the gov will be happy about -

From a spokesperson re Stephanie: "Part of Stephanie's job is to make sure senior staff know how and when they can get in touch with the Governor, and Blackberry pin is how any member of the team would communicate with him." (OFF THE RECORD – see attached email sent out recently to a group when GAMC's number was changed)

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LINDSEY WAS NOT EVEN ON THIS FLIGHT – Lindsey was not needed for the return flight and it was not a point of contention.

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From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=69309E35F45E4FDBA42B16AFAEF09ACB-LACEWELL, L]
Sent: 3/18/2021 8:54:34 PM
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
CC: DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]; Mitra Hormozi [REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com]; Ajemian, Peter (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
Subject: Re: Privileged

MDR leave as it was

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 18, 2021, at 8:51 PM, Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> wrote:

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Do not say former disgruntled employees - you can't

On Thu, Mar 18, 2021 at 8:43 PM Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

"Melissa is one of the smartest, most accomplished, and hardest working public servants in government. Former disgruntled employees continuing to reduce her to a stiletto wearing sexist trope is transparent and ridiculous."

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:22 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock; Lis Smith
Cc: Beth Garvey; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa; Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Privileged

Ok?

"Melissa is one of the smartest, most accomplished and hardest working public servants in government. Enough with the sexist name calling."

From: Jeffrey Pollock
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Lis Smith; Peter Ajemian
Cc: Beth Garvey; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa; Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Privileged

Agreed

EXHIBIT
64

Jefrey Pollock
President
D [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
My pronouns: he, him, his

From: Lis Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:03:14 PM
To: Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: Beth Garvey <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Jefrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) <[REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi <[REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com>
Subject: Re: Privileged

[EXT EMAIL]

I'm not sure "name calling" coming from you guys is super credible

Maybe- enough of the sexist name calling

On Thu, Mar 18, 2021 at 7:47 PM Peter Ajemian <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:
Draft

For the Ronan Farrow piece, how about this in response to Lindsey saying Melissa is a "mean girl":

"Melissa is one of the smartest, most accomplished and hardest working public servants in government. Enough with the sexist characterizations and name calling."

Date: Thursday, March 18 2021 11:02 PM

Subject: [Chat #4185]

From: Jeffrey Pollock <+ [REDACTED]>

To: "+ [REDACTED] [Joshua Vlasto (owner)]"; "+Beth Garvey [REDACTED]"; "+Judy Mogul [REDACTED]";
+ [REDACTED] [Liz Smith]; + [REDACTED] [Peter Ajemian]; + [REDACTED] [Rich Azzopardi];
+ [REDACTED] [Melissa DeRosa]; + [REDACTED] [Dani Lever]; + [REDACTED] [Linda Lacewell]; + [REDACTED]
[Steven M. Cohen]; + [REDACTED] [Stephanie Benton]; + [REDACTED] [Maggie Moran];

Ok my read is that it's largely a nothing burger. But it does serve to do what he wanted which is to make her the victim and legitimize her as the first to break the wall.

----METADATA INFORMATION----

Device Owner:

[REDACTED] Josh Vlasto

ICCID: _____

[REDACTED]



Cuomo Faces New Claims of Sexual Harassment From Current Aide

The aide, Alyssa McGrath, accused Gov. Andrew Cuomo of ogling her body, remarking on her looks, and making suggestive comments to her and another woman in his office.



By Jesse McKinley

Published March 19, 2021 Updated April 7, 2021

ALBANY, N.Y. — He called her and her co-worker “mingle mamas.” He inquired about her lack of a wedding ring, she said, and the status of her divorce. She recalled him telling her she was beautiful — in Italian — and, as she sat alone with him in his office awaiting dictation, he gazed down her shirt and commented on a necklace hanging there.

In the latest allegation against Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, Alyssa McGrath, an employee of the governor’s office, described a series of unsettling interactions with the governor, telling The New York Times that Mr. Cuomo wouldogle her body, remark on her looks, and make suggestive comments to her and another executive aide.

Ms. McGrath, 33, is the first current aide in Mr. Cuomo’s office to speak publicly about allegations of harassment inside the Capitol. Her account of casual sexual innuendo echoes other stories that have emerged in recent weeks about a demeaning office culture, particularly for young women who worked closely with the governor.

The most serious accusation against the governor was made by another current aide who has accused Mr. Cuomo of groping her breast in the Executive Mansion. Ms. McGrath said that the aide described the encounter in detail to her after it was made public in a report in The Times Union of Albany last week.

“She froze when he started doing that stuff to her,” Ms. McGrath said, adding, “But who are you going to tell?”

She added that the co-worker, who has not been publicly identified, told her that the governor had asked her not to talk about the alleged incident, knowing that the two women regularly spoke and texted about their interactions with Mr. Cuomo.

“He told her specifically not to tell me,” Ms. McGrath said.

In several interviews conducted over the past week, Ms. McGrath described a pattern of the governor mixing flirtatious banter with more personal comments, as well as a subtle and persistent cultivation of competitive relationships between female co-workers in his office. It was something she said was compounded and protected by a demand for secrecy, and normalized inside the governor’s inner circle.

Ms. McGrath did not accuse the governor of making sexual contact, though she said that she believed that his actions amounted to sexual harassment.

Over the last three years, Ms. McGrath said, the governor had seemingly fostered an unusual work triangle with her and her friend, the co-worker he allegedly groped, blending a professional relationship with unwanted attention. There was paternalistic patter, but also a commandeering, sometimes invasive physicality.

“He has a way of making you feel very comfortable around him, almost like you’re his friend,” Ms. McGrath said. “But then you walk away from the encounter or conversation, in your head going, ‘I can’t believe I just had that interaction with the governor of New York.’”

Ms. McGrath said that it was only after the fact that she found these interactions to be troubling — a sense that grew with each new sexual harassment accusation lodged against the governor, and his blanket denials.

Mariann Wang, a lawyer for Ms. McGrath, said that “this would be unacceptable behavior from any boss, much less the governor,” and that Ms. McGrath’s experience reflected larger issues for women in the workplace in Albany’s corridors of power.

“The women in the executive chamber are there to work for the State of New York,” Ms. Wang said, “not serve as his eye candy or prospective girlfriend.”

Multiple women, including former and current aides, have accused the governor of inappropriate remarks and behavior, including unwanted touching and unwelcome sexual advances.

Mr. Cuomo, 63, has denied any wrongdoing, and has suggested that his relationships with employees he viewed as friends may have been misinterpreted.

On Friday, Rita Glavin, a lawyer for Mr. Cuomo, responded to Ms. McGrath’s allegations by saying that “the governor has greeted men and women with hugs and a kiss on the cheek, forehead, or hand. Yes, he has posed for photographs with his arm around them. Yes, he uses Italian phrases like ‘ciao bella.’”

Ms. Glavin added: “None of this is remarkable, although it may be old-fashioned. He has made clear that he has never made inappropriate advances or inappropriately touched anyone.”

The scandal that has engulfed the governor, leading most of the state’s Democratic leaders to call for his resignation, began with the accounts of two former employees, Lindsey Boylan, a former economic development official, and Charlotte Bennett, an executive assistant and senior briefer.



Charlotte Bennett, who came forward last month, accused the governor of asking her questions that she believed were testing whether she would have sex with him. Elizabeth Frantz for The New York Times

Although Ms. McGrath does not work directly for Mr. Cuomo, she said that she and her co-worker were commonly pulled from the pool of executive chamber assistants to work weekends and at the mansion. Many assistants in the chamber are women, often decades younger than Mr. Cuomo.

Emails reviewed by The Times showed that Mr. Cuomo’s surrogates would often ask Ms. McGrath — who has a young child — and her co-worker to work on weekends at the Capitol building and at the mansion, where the governor lives.

The calls for assistance came from a top scheduling official in the governor's office, home to a large staff of administrative assistants, many of whom are women who earn a base salary between \$40,000 and \$60,000 a year, according to state payroll records.

"Hi gals," read one email sent to the two women on Feb. 29, 2020. "Who can spend a little while with him when he gets back on the book signing project?"

That day — the Saturday before the state's first confirmed case of coronavirus — Ms. McGrath and her co-worker answered that request. They were working alone with Mr. Cuomo in the Capitol when the topic of a planned trip to Florida by the two women arose.

Ms. McGrath was separated from her husband at the time. While chatting with the two women, the governor asked the co-worker — who was married — if she was going to try to meet men and "mingle" while they were in Florida.

The women laughed off the question, as did the governor, but not before giving them a nickname.

"He called us 'mingle mamas' for the rest of the day," Ms. McGrath said.

Two months earlier, on New Year's Eve, Mr. Cuomo asked the co-worker to pose for a photograph with him and send it to Ms. McGrath, she said. The photo, which was reviewed by The Times, shows the governor sitting in a chair at the Executive Mansion with the aide, her face next to his, nearly touching.

The aide's wedding ring is visible on her hand, her arm draped over the governor's shoulder. Mr. Cuomo, beaming, is sitting in a gray sweater and a T-shirt.

Ms. McGrath, whose accounts were supported by contemporaneous texts, emails, social media posts, said she did not understand why the governor had wanted her to see the photo, but she believed it may have been "to make me jealous."

She said that it was common knowledge around the office that Mr. Cuomo would play favorites among female staffers.

"We were told from the beginning that was a typical move of his," she said. "Who was the girl of the week? Who was the girl of the month?"

Ms. McGrath said that her uncomfortable interactions with the governor began not long after she was hired in the middle of 2018. Early the following year, she was called to the governor's second-floor office in the mansion.

While she prepared to start working, Mr. Cuomo asked Ms. McGrath if she spoke Italian — she does not, though she is of Italian heritage — and then made a comment in that language. She later asked her parents what the phrase meant.

"It was commenting on how beautiful I was," she recalled being told. (Ms. McGrath's lawyer said that the governor did not use the term "ciao bella.")

Soon after that experience, Ms. McGrath was called into Mr. Cuomo's office in the Capitol for a dictation session. She was alone and nervous and wanted to do a good job, she said. She sat across from the governor, pen and paper at the ready.

"I put my head down waiting for him to start speaking, and he didn't start speaking," she said. "So I looked up to see what was going on. And he was blatantly looking down my shirt."

The governor noticed her gaze, she said, and then "made a reference, a subtle reference, saying, 'What's on your necklace?' Which was in my shirt."

Ms. McGrath said she felt flushed and embarrassed — "My face turned really hot," she said — but she continued to work. She shared this experience at the time with her co-worker.

Ms. McGrath and her co-worker regularly texted and spoke about the governor. They confided in each other in part because an informal policy prohibited them from speaking to anyone outside the executive chamber about Mr. Cuomo.

“We were told right off the bat, as soon as we walk out of the office or as soon as we walk away from the governor, we were not to say a word about anything to anyone,” she recalled.

At an office Christmas party in 2019, the governor’s attention to her and her co-worker continued.

“He kissed me on the forehead,” Ms. McGrath said. “And in the picture we posed with him that year, he is gripping our sides very tightly.” The Times reviewed a photo of the two women and the governor, with the governor grinning, his hands wrapped firmly around their waists.



Lindsey Boylan has accused Mr. Cuomo of inappropriate behavior, and said last month that he had kissed her on the lips without her permission in 2018. Rob Latour/Shutterstock

Other women, including Ms. Boylan, have accused the governor of giving them unsolicited kisses, something the governor has stridently denied.

Ms. Bennett, 25, told The Times in late February that the governor had asked her questions about her sex life, and concluded that “the governor wanted to sleep with me.” Other current and former aides have spoken about seemingly retrograde requirements such as pressure to wear makeup, dresses and heels. The governor’s office has said there was no dress requirement at work.

The governor has asked New Yorkers to await the outcome of two separate investigations into the harassment allegations, one overseen by the state attorney general, Letitia James, and another by the State Assembly, before making any decisions about his behavior.

On Monday, Debra Katz, Ms. Bennett’s lawyer, said her client had provided more than 100 documents and four hours of testimony to investigators backing up her claims about the governor, including that he created a “sexually hostile work environment” as part of “his deliberate effort to create rivalries and tension among female staffers on whom he bestowed attention.”

Ms. McGrath believes that her proximity to the governor may have stymied other opportunities. When she sought another job in state government in 2019, she was told that the governor's fondness for working with her would interfere with her taking the new position.

She was told, she recalled, that "because I 'help out up front,' I couldn't leave."

Since other allegations against Mr. Cuomo have arisen, Ms. McGrath has continued to go to work. She says that the executive offices are largely quiet, a far cry from the heady days of Mr. Cuomo's pandemic-related popularity, when the halls of the Capitol buzzed with excitement and purpose.

Ms. McGrath said that she watched the governor's first news conference after Ms. Bennett went public in The Times, on March 3, and that she was angry at his insistence that he never "touched anyone inappropriately."

"It makes me really upset to hear him speak about this and completely deny all allegations," she said, saying it left her in disbelief. "And I have no doubt in my mind that all of these accusers are telling the truth."

One of those accusers is her co-worker. Ms. McGrath said she feared retaliation for speaking out, but she and her co-worker had grown upset with themselves for putting up with Mr. Cuomo's behavior for so long.

"Her and I discussed this after the fact and now we're like, 'How did we not see this?'" Ms. McGrath said, still bewildered by her interactions with Mr. Cuomo. "Because it's so blatant and obvious."

Jesse McKinley is the Albany bureau chief. He was previously the San Francisco bureau chief, and a theater columnist and Broadway reporter for the Culture desk. @jessemckinley

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 1 of the New York edition with the headline: Cuomo Facing Another Claim Of Harassment

From: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com> on behalf of Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>
To: Melissa DeRosa; [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/14/2021 3:19:28 PM
Subject: RE: Fwd:

Generally good stuff in here for push back on all fronts. Other than the re-elect and the huge decline on the nursing home data. But generally fine for pushback.

From: Melissa DeRosa <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>
Subject: Fwd:

[EXT EMAIL]

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Melissa DeRosa** <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Date: Sun, Mar 14, 2021 at 2:59 PM
Subject:
To: **Melissa DeRosa** <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

- AMC Fav 43-45 (56-39)
- D 59-30 (78-18)
- R 15-82 (21-77)
- I 38-42 (44-48)
- NYC 55-32 (64-28)
- Sub 38-52 (52-43)
- Upstate 33-56 (49-49)

- Tish 40-14 (36-17)

- Hochul 23-14

- Chuck 49-35

- Gill 43-27 (43-29)

- Assembly 49-25 (45-21)

- Senate 50-28 (47-33)

- Biden 64-30 (65-29)

- Trump 31-66 (26-67)



NY Right Track/Wrong Track 48-38 (48-41)

Job 46-52 (51-47)
D 64-34 (74-25)
R 18-80 (18-81)
I 35-62 (37-59)
NYC 57-40 (60-36)
Sub 38-60 (44-54)
Upstate 38-60 (46-53)

Reelect 34-52 (46-45)
D 46-40 (65-26)
R 13-83 (18-78)
I 28-50 (34-52)
NYC 41-42 (50-38)
Sub 27-59 (46-45)
Upstate 29-60 (41-52)

Handling of Pandemic 60-33 (61-34)
D 76-18 (83-12)
R 27-68 (25-72)
I 58-32 (52-42)
NYC 72-23 (69-24)
Sub 56-37 (56-41)
Upstate 5-43 (56-41)

Rate on Communicate w people: 62-36 (67-33)
Providing Accurate Info 53-44 (61-36)
Handling NH Data 27-66 (39-55)
Reopening 52-45 (48-50)
Vaccine Roll Out 54-39 (48-49)

How much have you heard about the recent reporting of SH allegations against gov Cuomo?

Great deal 48
Some 30
Not VM 12
Nothing 6

Based on what you know so far do you think Gov Should or should not resign?

Yes: 35
No 50

D 25-61

R 64-29
I 32-46
NYC 28-55
Sub 40-46
Upstate 39-47
Men 39-47
Women 32-52
White 41-45
AA 22-69
Hispanic 27-47

Do you think Gov Cuomo has committed sexual harassment?

Yes: 35

No: 24

DK: 41

D – 29-28-43
R – 53-16-31
I – 35-23-42
NYC 27-29-44
Sub 46-18-36
Upstate 37-22-41
Men 36-25-39
Women 35-23-43
Whites 40-20-40
AA 21-40-40
Hispanics 30-29-41

Are you satisfied for how he has addressed it or not?

Satisfied: 57

Not satisfied 32

Not sure 11

D – 64-22

R – 36-57

I 56-29

NYC 66-23

Sub 52-36

Upstate 49-40

Men 54-37

Women 59-27

Whites 54-27

AA 71-18

Hispanics 57-24

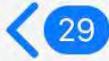
Given the various investigations AC is facing do you think he can effectively do his job

as gov
Yes 48
No 34
No Opinion/DK – 18
D 59-21
R 29-66
I 43-33
NYC 56-24
Sub 41-40
Upstate 44-41
Men 51-37
Women 46-32
White 45-40
AA 61-18
Hispanics 44-29

COVID worst is over 65 (46)
COVID worst is yet to come 23 (36)

--
Melissa D. DeRosa

9:23

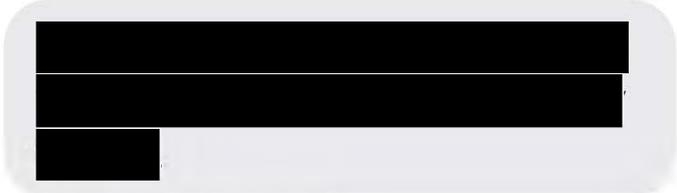
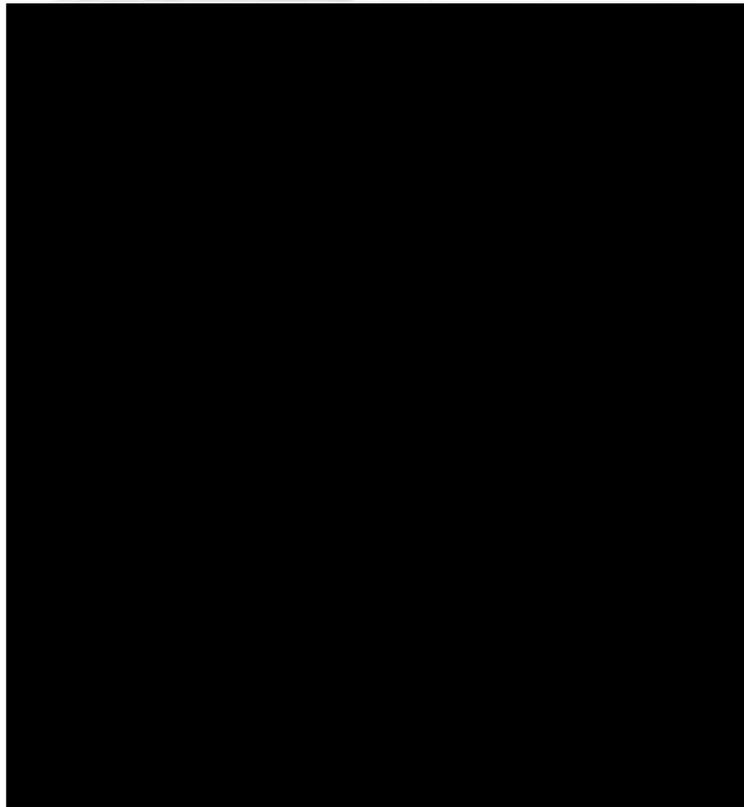


2 People >

Sat, Mar 13, 5:56 PM

Lis Smith

Right wing site



Is how it ends

Sometimes they bluff,
sometimes they do have the
goods



COHEN000513

9:24



2 People >

The [REDACTED] is kinda stupid.

Lis Smith

It isn't

Is*

Just flagging last line

People like roger stone etc
push dirt to this site

LS

Sun, Mar 14, 11:56 PM

Lis Smith

Got this text from a high-profile lawyer in NYC- deals with gender stuff- will protect his anonymity as Steve probably knows him. But he passed along this advice- i'll share with you two, bc don't know the people mentioned in first part:

Maybe a retired, highly regarded matrimonial judge - female; Democrat; liberal. Example: [REDACTED] who used to be the

COHEN000514



iMessage

