Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing my complaints against Mr. Kenneth Howard and others for both sexual harassment and retaliation as well as the four unsworn responses from each of the individual respondents collectively given to you by their same local attorney whom I understand also represents Mr. Kenneth Howard in his pending criminal charges for sexual pandering in Fort Valley, Georgia. I understand thus far no response has been forthcoming from the City of Hinesville, the Mayor or any member of the City Council other than Ms. Vicky Nelson who is a named perpetrator. The only city official who has offered any information or assistance during this process is Ms. Diana Reid, and I have recently learned she is now being treated like a mushroom and kept in the dark. Ms. Diana Reid is being treated unfairly for doing what is right. Ms. Diana Reid is taking the harder right rather than doing nothing, which is the easier wrong. I write this letter to you to correct the record you have begun to establish and to provide additional relevant information.

For clarity and ease of understanding I have organized and I will address my comments toward each of the individuals mentioned in the complaint as follows:

KENNETH HOWARD

Mr. Kenneth Howard engaged in a quid pro quo request for sex in our workplace at City Hall in Hinesville, Georgia. Mr. Kenneth Howard also committed sexual harassment and retaliation for my complaint of sexual harassment made against him. Sexual harassment and retaliation are two distinct, separate and independent unlawful acts. The timely filed retaliation claim was committed by others in addition to Mr. Kenneth Howard. The ultimate and last act of retaliation took place on July 19, 2019, when without my request or notice I was summarily demoted and reassigned to the Community Development Department. Mr. Kenneth Howard also criminally pandered for sex in Fort Valley, Georgia. He used the promise of money to effect his criminal intentions in both locations. But it is not the first time at City Hall in Hinesville that he has abused and misused his official position and used sex to attempt to effect his will against a woman. Mr. Kenneth Howard is a serial sex fiend.

I never asked to be interviewed for the position recited in Mr. Kenneth Howard's response. That is a lie told by Mr. Kenneth Howard.

Over the years Mr. Kenneth Howard has created such a septic environment and condition at City Hall that there cannot be an independent, fair and impartial investigation of the allegations and a ''full and thorough investigation" that Mr. Kenneth Howard calls for unless and until Mr. Kenneth Howard, Ms. Holly Fields and Ms. Niesha Williams are removed from the building and suspended from their positions of influence, power and control over City Hall and the many good employees working there. Ms. Vicky Nelson does not need to have contact with or discuss these matters with other city employees. If it had not been for the timely intervention of Ms. Diana Reid, I still would not have received any meaningful responses to my Open Records Requests. They still contend and maintain there are no notes or memorandum regarding my meeting with Mr. Kenneth Howard to discuss Mr. Kenneth Howard's admission and apology for his sexual harassment of me. The ongoing retaliation has made my life miserable and caused me mental and physical pain and suffering.

COUNCIL PERSON VICKY NELSON

Ms. Vicky Nelson was complicit with Mr. Kenneth Howard and Ms. Holly Fields to retaliate against me. Ms. Vicky Nelson tried to bully me into dismissing my complaint for sexual harassment and my complaint for retaliation because l made a sexual harassment claim against Mr. Kenneth Howard. Ms. Vicky Nelson had no basis in truth or fact to take such action with me. Ms. Vicky Nelson has no authority to speak as a member of the Hinesville City Council and in an inappropriate tone and manner tell me that I was not the victim of sexual harassment and retaliation from Mr. Kenneth Howard or anyone else. In confronting me, Ms. Vicky Nelson was trying to intimidate me and convince me to walk away and forget everything that has happened to me at City Hall. I question Vicky Nelson's personal motives in opposing me and after I heard about her husband's situation, I then knew why she supported Kenny Howard and came after me.

I never approached her, and I never asked her for anything to be done on my behalf. That is a lie told by Ms. Vicky Nelson. Ms. Vicky Nelson is not my City Council Representative and I do not live in her district. There was never any request written or otherwise from me to be moved and relegated without my consent to a meaningless assignment that did not support or qualify me in my established intent, purpose, goal, ambition and action to be a certified HR Specialist. Without notice and without my consent I was transferred to a work assignment that requires me to ask permission to go anywhere in the building to include but not limited to use the restroom and requires that I give a two week notice for any leave I want to take. lt was punishment not a regular lateral transfer and it was designed and executed to push me out of City Hall because of the complaints I made against Mr. Kenneth Howard and Ms. Holly Fields.

Ms. Vicky Nelson has absolutely no care or concern for me either as a city employee or a citizen. In my personal opinion, Ms. Vicky Nelson is only concerned with pleasing and currying favor with Mr. Kenneth Howard in the hope of enlisting his support and influence.

HOLLY FIELDS

Ms. Holly Fields was aware of my complaints against Mr. Kenneth Howard and because of her rumored alleged inappropriate and unprofessional conduct and relationship with Mr. Kenneth Howard she began a course of conduct intended and designed to terminate my employment and remove me from City Hall. My request to have the pre-existing security camera fixed on my work area to protect the security or my desk, files and personal belongings as well as to disprove or eliminate my concerns and complaints although initially authorized was later denied. The police investigation into the unauthorized use and wrongful taking of my notary seal was summarily discontinued. Instead, with knowledge of the adverse effect the new work assignment would have on me personally and professionally I was transferred to the new job without notice or an opportunity to be heard and without my consent. To further degrade and embarrass me, my keys to my office were peremptorily taken from me and I was escorted out of the building. If Ms. Holly Fields remains in the building now any alleged objective investigation will be tainted and handicapped. The cloak of fear and silence will hover over City Hall and there will be continued reluctance by employees to come forward and truly tell what they know without fear of reprisal as is happening to me.

NIESHA WILLIAMS

Ms. Niesha Williams was my friend and work partner. She promised to look after me. I am hurt and searching to forgive her. She knew and has personal knowledge of what Mr. Kenneth Howard and Ms. Holly Fields did to me. Mr. Kenneth Howard promised to fix my pay if I did sexual and other favors for him. Mr. Kenneth Howard fixed Ms. Niesha Williams' pay after the meeting I had with Mr. Kenneth Howard and Ms. Niesha Williams. Mr. Kenneth Howard gave her a two-step pay increase and gave me none but did reassign some of her work for me to do. If I had done what Mr. Kenneth Howard sought of me instead of immediately reporting it to my husband and others, then I guess I might be in a better position instead of finding myself in my current predicament. Ms. Niesha Williams according to Mr. Kenneth Howard was asked to personally sit as a witness and recorder in the hearing I had with Mr. Kenneth Howard and to take the notes or minutes of the meeting. I brought a tape recorder with me to the meeting because I thought everyone needed to be protected and to eliminate any misunderstandings, misapprehensions or mistakes as to what was said and what was agreed to during that meeting. Mr. Kenneth Howard told me emphatically there would be no recording of the meeting. Ms. Niesha Williams stated that she would take the notes of the meeting and that he would keep a copy of the notes and Ms. Williams' would also keep a copy. He told me that I would not be given a copy but that if I ever had reason to need a copy of the notes of the meeting that I could get a copy from him or from Ms. Williams. I have repeatedly asked for a copy of the notes of the meeting and hearing I had with Mr. Kenneth Howard and Ms. Niesha Williams during which he apologized for his inappropriate sexual harassment behavior toward me. To date no notes have been produced and I have been informed no notes exist. Ms. Niesha Williams had a duty to me and the citizens of Hinesville to take and maintain those notes and the record of the proceeding. Such notes and record would be in the best interest of all concerned. She failed me and the citizens of Hinesville miserably.

I described Ms. Niesha Williams above as my friend and work partner. In doing so I know her well and I know that she took pride in her work as a HR person. That is why it totally escapes me that she now denies having made or maintained a record of the hearing with Mr. Kenneth Howard, me and her. That was her primary purpose for being in the meeting. However, I do know that Ms. Niesha Williams had a personal custom and habit of recording and maintaining everything she knew about Mr. Kenneth Howard and Ms. Holly Fields on her phone. Ms. Niesha Williams, please secure and safeguard your phone and its contents for delivery to the investigators. I am sure Ms. Williams is aware that forensic examiners can determine if documents, texts, emails, notes and recordings have been erased or destroyed. The information Ms. Williams retained and maintained on her phone is in the best interest of all concerned and should be shared.

Thank you again for reviewing my concerns and your ongoing investigative reporting. My life is currently hell right now mitigated only by a caring and loving husband, family and friends. Given how I have been treated to date, I now understand and more fully appreciate why women who find themselves in my circumstance elect instead to remain silent rather than suffer the consequences of disclosure.

Danyell Barboa

Hinesville GA

10/22/2019