



July 12, 2013

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**STATEMENT AND ADVISORY OF MEDIA AVAILABILITY: MAJORITY LEADER ATKINS CALLS ON MAYOR FILNER TO RESIGN**

Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins made the following statement calling for the resignation of San Diego Mayor Bob Filner. She will be available to media at 4 pm today. Details below.

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“It is with regret, but with strong resolve, that I call for Mayor Bob Filner to either come forward and declare his innocence or resign immediately. Sexual harassment is incompatible with public service. Mayor Filner is the CEO of a government organization of almost 20,000 employees, at least half of whom are women. With his admission yesterday of mistreatment of the women on his staff, I believe he can no longer lead this city.

We would not tolerate this from a CEO or senior government employee. We would not tolerate this if his actions were homophobic or racist. We cannot tolerate the mistreatment of women in the workplace.

I have dedicated my career to social justice and speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Last year I stood with Women for Filner because I believed in Mayor Filner's progressive vision for our city. Today I stand with the women who have been victims of sexual harassment, both in this instance and throughout our society.

I hope Mayor Filner is sincere about and successful in his personal efforts to improve his attitudes and behavior, but again, I do not think he can continue to serve as mayor.”