

**GLORIA ALLRED** STATE BAR # 65033 NATHAN GOLDBERG,

JUL 22 2013 AN11:45

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### Attorneys for Plaintiff, IRENE McCORMACK JACKSON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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IRENE McCORMACK JACKSON.

Plaintiff,

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO; ROBERT "BOB") FILNER, an Individual, and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO:

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION-SEXUAL HARASSMENT (Violation of Gov't Code §12940 et seq.)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

#### PRELIMINARY FACTUAL STATEMENT

- Plaintiff IRENE McCORMACK JACKSON (hereinafter referred to as **1**. "Plaintiff" or "Ms. McCormack Jackson") is, and at all relevant times mentioned herein was, a resident of the County of San Diego, State of California.
- Plaintiff Ms. McCormack Jackson is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant CITY OF SAN DIEGO is, and at all times relevant herein

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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 was, a municipality organized and existing under the laws of the State of California doing substantial business in the County of San Diego, State of California. City of San Diego employs more than five employees and is engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of <u>California Government Code</u> § 12926.

- 3. Plaintiff Ms. McCormack Jackson is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that Defendant ROBERT ("BOB") FILNER, (hereinafter "FILNER") is an individual who at all relevant times herein was a resident of the County of San Diego. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is informed and believes that at all relevant times herein FILNER was the Mayor for Defendant City of San Diego and as such, a managing agent of Defendant City of San Diego.
- 4. The true names and capacities, whether individual, associate or otherwise, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 25, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff McCormack Jackson, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible in some manner for the events and happenings referred to herein, and caused injury and damage proximately thereby to Plaintiff as hereinafter alleged. Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend this complaint to show the true names and capacities of the Defendants designated herein as DOES when the same have been ascertained.
- 5. Whenever in this complaint reference is made to "Defendants, and each of them," such allegation shall be deemed to mean the acts of Defendants acting individually, jointly, and/or severally.
- 6. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, each of the Defendants was the agent, servant and employee, co-venturer and co-conspirator of each of the remaining Defendants, and was at all times herein mentioned, acting within the course, scope, purpose, consent, knowledge, ratification and authorization of such agency, employment, joint venture and conspiracy.

- 7. On November 6, 2012, Defendant Robert Filner edged out Carl DeMaio to become the Mayor of San Diego, the 8th most populous City in the United States. In his first press conference following the election the Mayor-elect promised to bring a divided city together. He said he wanted to have an administration that would be inclusive of minorities and women. He presented himself throughout the mayoral campaign as a supporter of women's rights.
- 8. At his first news conference following his election Defendant Mayor-elect Filmer introduced his fiancée, Bronwyn Ingram, as his first lady. (However, on July 8, 2013, she announced via email to a group of her supporters that the engagement had been called off and "the relationship was over.")
- 9. On January 7, 2013, Defendant Mayor Filner held a press conference to announce the appointment of his staff which consisted of 24 individuals, more than half of them female, one third of whom were Latino and twenty-five percent of whom were African Americans. He described the two dozen appointees standing behind Defendant Mayor Filner at the press conference as his "core team." He said that the first requirements were competence, effectiveness and experience.
- 10. Standing right behind Defendant Mayor Filner that day was a proud Irene McCormack Jackson, the Mayor's newly appointed communications director. Other appointees included Donna Frye (since resigned), who would be in charge of open government and transparency, Vince Hall, Filner's new Chief of Staff (since resigned) and Allen Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff (since resigned).
- 11. In introducing Plaintiff McCormack Jackson, the Defendant Mayor Filner pointed out that she had recently left a 9-year career as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Port of San Diego. He stated that her vast experience at the Port and her prior experience as a working news person would be invaluable in making the City a driving economic engine in the future. What Defendant Mayor Filner did not mention was that Plaintiff McCormack Jackson had taken a \$50,000 pay cut in order to take this job with his administration. She believed in what the Mayor had publicly put forth as his

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vision for San Diego's future. Ms. McCormack Jackson believed in Defendant Filner, plain and simple.

- That day Defendant Filner said in referring to his core team, "They all know 12. what they're getting into." Plaintiff McCormack Jackson thought that was a true statement. She thought that what she was getting into was an administration that would be dedicated to improving the lives of San Diego residents. She thought that the Filner administration would be doing great things for the people of the City of San Diego and that she would play a part in that historic effort.
- 13. Instead, in the short time that Defendant Filner has been Mayor, Robert Filner has disgraced himself and the office he holds, by engaging in numerous instances of sexual harassment. If Plaintiff McCormack Jackson had known what she was "really getting into" she never would have left her position at the Port of San Diego.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

## (Sexual Harassment in Violation of California Gov't Code §12940 et seq. Against All Defendants and DOES 1-25)

- Plaintiff McCormack Jackson repeats and realleges by reference each and 14. every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 13 and incorporates the same herein as though fully set forth.
- Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was previously employed as the Vice 15. President of Public Policy for the Port of San Diego. In that capacity, she earned \$175,000 a year. After Defendant Filner was elected Mayor for Defendant City of San Diego, Plaintiff resigned her position as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Port of San Diego and accepted the position of Communications Director for Defendants, at a salary reduction of \$50,000 a year, because she is an idealist and felt that the new administration would be doing good things and she wanted to be a part of it. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson believes in public service. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson began employment with Defendants on January 3, 2013.

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- 16. On January 25, 2013, Defendant Mayor Filner was giving a "State of the City" address. The speech was supposed to begin at 6:00 p.m. However, they were running late. As the Communications Director, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was backstage with Defendant Filner. Plaintiff said to Defendant Mayor Filner, "Don't worry Mayor, you will do a great job." Defendant Mayor Filner replied in sum or substance, "I would do a better job if you gave me a kiss."
- 17. The following month, February 2013, Defendant Mayor Filner decided to crash the City Attorney's Press conference. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was in an elevator with Defendant Mayor Filner along with the police officer assigned to Defendant Mayor Filner. The police officer was fixing his handcuffs. The Mayor put a headlock on Plaintiff and said, "you know what / would like to do with those handcuffs?" Plaintiff extricated herself and immediately changed the subject.
- 18. In or about late February/early March 2013, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson, Defendant Mayor Filner and his assigned police officer got into an elevator. As they were getting into the elevator Defendant Mayor Filner realized that he had forgotten his jacket. The police officer offered to go back and get it. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson got into the elevator with Defendant Mayor Filner.
- 19. As soon as the elevator doors closed, Defendant Mayor Filner pulled Plaintiff McCormack Jackson toward him while placing his arms around her without her consent. He said in sum or substance, "you know you are beautiful. I have always loved you. Someday I know that you are going to marry me. I am so in love with you. Wouldn't it be great if you took off your panties and worked without them on?" Plaintiff was aghast and pushed him away. Defendant Filner then stated "Come on. Give me a kiss." When Plaintiff turned away, without her consent, he kissed her on the cheek. Mayor Filner only ceased trying to kiss her when the elevator stopped and a staffer got in with them.
- 20. The first Saturday in April 2013, Defendant Mayor Filner opened the lobby of City Hall to meet with anyone who wanted to speak with him for a few minutes each.

 As the Communications Director, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was required to be at this event. Defendant Filner had been meeting with constituents for a while and decided to take a break. Defendant Mayor Filner is known to love chocolate doughnuts. Plaintiff pointed out to Defendant Mayor Filner that there were some chocolate doughnuts available.

- 21. Without her consent, Defendant Mayor Filner put Plaintiff McCormack Jackson into a headlock and pulled her along with him as he made his way toward the doughnuts. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson could not get away. His grip was too strong. As Mayor Filner pulled her along, he told her that she was "so beautiful" and that he had loved her for a long time. Plaintiff could not move. He asked her "when are we going to get married. Wouldn't it be great if we consummated the marriage?" All Plaintiff McCormack Jackson could think of to say was, "Sir, you have people out there." He finally released her.
- 22. In late April/early May 2013, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson and Defendant Mayor Filner were going to the "Monthly talk with the Mayor" at the Fox Studios in San Diego when Defendant Mayor Filner came up behind Plaintiff McCormack Jackson, and without her consent, put his arm around her shoulder. Defendant Mayor Filner said in sum or substance, "you are so beautiful. I love you. One day we are going to get married." Defendant Mayor Filner said he was infatuated with Plaintiff and that they were going to be together. "Let's make it happen," he said.
- 23. In June 2013, Defendant Mayor Filner was sitting in a chair reading a proposed press release. He said to Plaintiff McCormack Jackson," Let's just put some exclamation points at the end." As Defendant Mayor Filner got up to leave, with the door to her office open, he said in sum or substance, "you are so beautiful. I am infatuated with you. When are you going to get naked? Come on, give me a kiss." As Plaintiff McCormack Jackson attempted to get Defendant Mayor Filner to leave her office, he kissed her on the cheek. Plaintiff sternly told him that he needed to leave her office. Defendant Mayor Filner replied, "you cannot kick me out. I am the Mayor. I can go

anywhere I want, any time I want."

24. In June 2013, Defendant Mayor Filner went to Sacramento with his Chief of Staff. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is informed and believes that while Defendant Mayor Filner was gone, female staffers approached his Deputy Chief of Staff, Alien Jones about the hostile work environment that the Mayor had created for female employees.

25. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is informed and believes that in the short time that Defendant Mayor Filner had been in office, three women had to be driven home because of his abusive treatment. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is further informed and believes that five schedulers resigned because of Defendant Mayor Filner's behavior. Plaintiff had also confided in Mr. Jones that she too had been thinking about getting another job.

26. The day after Defendant Mayor Filner returned from Sacramento, there was a policy meeting at City Hall. Defendant Mayor Filner walked into the conference room along with his Chief of Staff. As the Communications Director, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was in attendance as was the Deputy Chief of Staff, Mr. Jones.

27. Mr. Jones began to address Defendant Mayor Filner and said in sum or substance, "before we start there is something I need to say. I have known you [Defendant Mayor Filner] longer than anyone here. We have been friends for 35 years. You need to listen to me. You are running a terrible office. You are treating women in a horrible manner. What you are doing may even be illegal. You need to change your ways. You need extreme therapy. In the meantime, let us (referring to his core staff) run the office." Defendant Mayor Filner interrupted him saying, "Allen, you are full of shit. Give me one example." Mr. Jones replied, "Bob, I know your modus operandi. This is how you get people off their point. You interrupt them. I am not playing your game. You need to listen to me." Defendant Mayor Filner then sat back and said in sum or substance, "maybe you [Allen Jones] just do not want to be here." Mr. Jones replied, "You are right, I do not want to be here. I resign."

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- 28. At that moment Plaintiff McCormack Jackson realized that nothing would change. If Defendant Mayor Filner would not listen to his friend and confidante of 35 years, then there was no chance that Defendant Filner was going to stop his sexual harassment of her or stop creating a hostile and intimidating work environment for the other women who worked at City Hall.
- 29. Plaintiff McCormack had been suffering degradation and humiliation at the hands of Defendant Mayor Filner. At that moment Plaintiff realized that Defendant Filner would not cease his behavior and that she could no longer allow/tolerate his behavior. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson stood up and said in sum or substance, "I agree with Allen. You are horrible" and she began walking out.
- 30. As Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was leaving Defendant Mayor Filner said in sum or substance, "Really Irene, give me just one example, I dare you." Plaintiff turned around and said in sum or substance, "Really Mayor -- you want me to do that? How about when you said that I should take my panties off and work without them." Plaintiff McCormack Jackson slammed the door and walked out.
- 31. After Plaintiff McCormack Jackson left that day Defendant Mayor Filner sent an emissary to her which then led to a meeting on June 25, 2013. At that meeting, Defendant Mayor Filner agreed that he had been despicable toward women. He said that he needed help and that he would apologize publicly for what he had done. Defendant Mayor Filner also said that he would get sexual harassment training.
- 32. Defendant Mayor Filner offered Plaintiff McCormack Jackson the opportunity to work for the interim COO in charge of operational communications for the City. Plaintiff had no other employment opportunity and thus accepted the position.
- 33. There were several other occasions where Defendant Mayor Filner placed Plaintiff McCormack Jackson in a headlock without her consent. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant Mayor Filner has done the same to other women.

- 34. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is informed and believes that Defendant Mayor Filner has also engaged in sexually offensive behavior with other female employees.
- 35. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson repeats and realleges by reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 34 and incorporates the same herein as though fully set forth and further alleges that: (1) Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was an employee of Defendant City of San Diego; (2) Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was subjected to unwanted harassing conduct because she is a woman; (3) the harassing conduct was severe or pervasive; (4) a reasonable woman in Plaintiff McCormack Jackson's circumstances would have considered the work environment to be hostile or abusive; (5) Plaintiff McCormack Jackson considered the work environment to be hostile or abusive; (6) Defendant Filner participated in the harassing conduct; (7) Plaintiff McCormack Jackson was harmed; and (8) the conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff McCormack Jackson's harm.
- 36. As a result of the aforementioned conduct, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson has suffered and will continue to suffer pain and suffering, and extreme and severe mental anguish and emotional distress resulting from Defendant Mayor Filner's conduct.
- 37. Defendants are employers in the State of California, as defined in the California Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), California Government Code §12926.
- 38. Defendants' harassment of Plaintiff on the basis of her gender constitutes a violation of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, <u>California Government</u>

  <u>Code</u> §12940 *et seq*.
- 39. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that in addition to the practices enumerated above, Defendants may have engaged in other discriminatory practices against her which are not yet fully known. At such time as such discriminatory practices become known to her, Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint in that regard.

III

40. On July 18, 2013, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson filed timely charges against Defendants with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH") against Defendants Mayor Filner and City of San Diego. Within one year of the filing of this Complaint, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing issued right to sue notices to Plaintiff McCormack Jackson authorizing this lawsuit. True and correct copies of the administrative charges and right to sue letter are attached hereto as Exhibits "A" and "B." Plaintiff McCormack Jackson has therefore exhausted her administrative remedies

- 41. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' willful, knowing and intentional discrimination against her, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson has suffered and will continue to suffer extreme and severe mental anguish and emotional distress. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is thereby entitled to general and compensatory damages in amounts to be proven at trial.
- 42. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' willful, knowing and intentional discrimination against her, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson has further suffered and will continue to suffer a loss of earnings and/or other employment benefits and job opportunities. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is thereby entitled to general and compensatory damages in amounts to be proven at trial.
- 43. As a further, direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of California Government Code §12900, et. seq., as heretofore described, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson has been compelled to retain the services of counsel in an effort to enforce the terms and conditions of her employment relationship with Defendants, and has thereby incurred, and will continue to incur, legal fees and costs, the full nature and extent of which are presently unknown to her. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson will therefore seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint in that regard when the same shall be fully and finally ascertained. Plaintiff McCormack Jackson requests that attorneys fees be awarded pursuant to California Government Code §12965.

<ol> <li>Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is informed and believes, and based thereor</li> </ol>			
alleges, that the outrageous conduct of Defendants described above was done with			
malice, fraud and oppression and with conscious disregard for her rights and with the			
intent, design and purpose of injuring her. Defendants participated, authorized,			
condoned and/or ratified the unlawful conduct of Defendant Mayor Filner. By reason			
thereof, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson is entitled to punitive or exemplary damages from			
Defendant Filner in a sum according to proof at trial.			

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff McCormack Jackson prays that judgment be entered in her favor and against Defendants as follows:

- That Plaintiff be awarded general and compensatory damages, including prejudgment interest, in an amount according to proof at trial;
- That Plaintiff be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit and 2. interest incurred;
- That Plaintiff be awarded punitive or exemplary damages against Defendant Filner in an amount according to proof at trial; and
- That this Court award such other and further relief as the Court deems just 4. and proper.

DATED: July 22, 2013

ALLRED, MAROKO & GOLDBERG

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COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

EXHIBIT A



#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA | Department of Fair Streptoyment and Islusing

#### COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT

		DFEH MATTER NUMBER 141691-60538
COMPLAINANT Irene Jackson	7 p. 16.	The second section is a second section of the second section of the second section is a second section of the second section of the second section sec
NAMED IS THE EMPLOYER, PERSI	DN, AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR GOVERNMENT ENTITY WHO	D DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ME
RESPONDENT City of San Diego, Robert [Bob] Fliner	ADDRESS 202 C Street San Diego CA 92101	PHONE (619) 236-6220
AGENT FOR SERVICE Jan Goldstein, City of San Diego	ADDRESS 202 C Street San Diego CA 92101	PHONE (619) 236-6220
NO. OF EMPLOYEES 10590	MOST RECENT DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE Jun 20, 2013	TYPE OF EMPLOYER Elected Official/State- Local
CO-RESPONDENT(S)		ADDRESS
Dahad (Dah) Cilear		

Robert [Bob] Filner

202 C Street San Diego CA 92101



STATE OF CALIFORNIA I Department of Fair Employment and Housing

SHPLOYMENT RIGHT TO SUE

## COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT

DFEH MATTER NUMBER 141691-60538

LALLEGE THAT LEXPERIENCED

Harassment

ON OR BEFORE

Jun 20, 2013

BECAUSE OF MY

Sex- Gender

AS A RESULT, I WAS

Deniad a work environment free of discrimination and/or retaliation, Forced to quit, Other subjected to sexual harassment

STATEMENT OF FACTS

I was employed by the City of San Diego as the Director of Communications for Mayor Bob Filner from January 3, 2013 until June 20, 2013, During the course of my employment, I was subjected to sexual harassment by Mr. Filner. Because of the intolerable working conditions, I had no choice but to resign my employment as Director of Communications, Thereafter, I was offered another position in another department which I currently hold.



STAYE OF GALIFORNIA I Department of Patricinployment and Housing

EMPLOYMENT RIGHT TO SUE

# COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT

DEH MATTER NUMBER 141691-60538

SIGNED UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

I wish to pursue this matter in court. I hereby request that the Department of Fair Employment and Housing provide a right to sue. I understand that if I want a federal right to sue notice, I must visit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to file a complaint within 30 days of receipt of the DFEH "Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue," or within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act, whichever is earlier.

I have not been coerced into making this request, nor do I make it based on fear of retalliation if I do not do so. I understand it is the Department of Fair Employment and Housing's policy to not process or reopen a complaint once the complaint has been closed on the basis of "Complainant Elected Court Action."

By submitting this complaint, I am declaring under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, to the best of my knowledge, all information contained in this complaint is true and correct, except matters stated on my information and belief, and I declare that those matters I believe to be true.

Verified by Irene McCormack Jackson, Complainant, and dated on July 18, 2013 at El Cajon, CA.

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STATE OF CALFORNIA: Business: Consumer Services and Housing Aperica

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

COVERNOR EDITUNDO BAOWN JR. DIRECTOR PHYLLIS W, CHEMO

2215 Kauser Drive, Sulle 1001-EIR Grove I OA 1 95759 800-883-1684 Mideachone 916-228-5289 ITTY: 900-700-2320 www.dieh.ca.gov Terrialt: control cententio dieh.ca.gov

Jul 18, 2013



RE: Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue

DFEH Matter Number: 141691-60538

Right to Sue: Jackson / City of San Diego, Robert [Bob] Filner

Dear Irene Jackson:

This letter informs you that the above-referenced complaint was filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) has been closed effective Jul 18, 2013 because an immediate Right to Sue notice was requested. DFEH will take no further action on the complaint.

This letter is also your Right to Sue notice. According to Government Code section 12965, subdivision (b), a civil action may be brought under the provisions of the Fair employment and Housing Act against the person, employer, labor organization or employment agency named in the above-referenced complaint. The civil action must be filled within one year from the date of this letter.

To obtain a federal Right to Sue notice, you must visit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to file a complaint within 30 days of receipt of this DFEH Notice of Case Closure or within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory act, whichever is earlier

Sincerely,

Department of Fair Employment and Housing

Enclosures

cc: Jan Goldstein, Agent for Service for City of San Diego Robert [Bob] Filner Robert [Bob] Filner