

Contact: Gloria Allred  
Phone: 323-653-6530  
Email: [gallred@amglaw.com](mailto:gallred@amglaw.com)

**Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Nurse Trying to get Help from Mayor Filner For Marine Injured in Iraq**

Today we have sent a letter to San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith on behalf of our client Michelle Tyler, asking him to open an investigation into sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior by Bob Filner in the performance of his official duties as Mayor of San Diego

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Ms. Tyler, a licensed vocational nurse, met with Mayor Filner seeking his help with the Veterans Administration for a disabled Marine, Katherine Ragazzino who was injured while serving in Iraq and spent 18 months in a hospital as a result of her injuries. The Mayor seemed to be willing to provide the help that was being requested, but at a price. The Mayor made it clear that the price for the help that was being sought was Ms. Tyler's being willing to engage in a personal and sexual relationship with the Mayor. In other words Mayor Filner wanted Ms. Tyler to help him fulfill his sexual needs if she wanted his help for a deserving war veteran. That is not only disgusting, but a complete abuse of power that should not be tolerated by the electorate.

Ms. Tyler first met with Mayor Filner in 2011 when he was a Congressman. However, Ms. Tyler was still trying to get help for Ms. Ragazzino in 2013 and therefore requested a meeting with the Mayor which was scheduled for June 11 2013 at 2:30 p.m. in the Mayor's office.

Present at the meeting were the Mayor, Katherine Ragazzino and a representative on behalf of veterans. The meeting commenced with the veteran's representative informing Mayor Filner about the issues Ms. Ragazzino was having with the Veterans Administration. Ms. Tyler requested on behalf of Ms. Ragazzino that the Mayor help facilitate a face to face meeting with the Veterans Administration rater and a senior executive of the San Diego office of the Veterans Administration. Mayor Filner turned to the veteran's representative and said "get it done".

Immediately thereafter, the Mayor turned to Ms. Ragazzino and the veteran's representative and stated "please step out, you don't need to hear this." Thereafter Ms. Tyler was alone with Mayor Filner in his office.

The Mayor sat back in his chair and said "wow, you are really magnificent". The Mayor started rubbing Ms. Tyler's arm and stated "relax, you are incredible. I will help your veteran. I want you to go out to dinner with me and spend time with me." The Mayor leaned forward and asked "you are not married are you?" Ms. Tyler responded that she is in the midst of obtaining a divorce and the Mayor replied "good". Ms. Tyler was taken aback by Mayor Filner's behavior and suggestion and responded by telling the Mayor that she was at the meeting solely to help Ms. Ragazzino and attempt to resolve the issues Ms. Ragazzino was having with the Veterans Administration. Mayor Filner stated "I am going to help her [Katherine] and I want you to spend time with me". The Mayor then picked up a piece of paper that contained Ms. Tyler's personal information that she was required to complete in setting up the appointment with the Mayor and the Mayor asked "is that your phone number that I can call you at?" Ms. Tyler was stunned and responded "I am here to focus on Katherine". Mayor Filner persisted and stated "I am going to help her but I would really like to be seen in public with you, you are really something". Mayor Filner asked Ms. Tyler "will you go to dinner with me if I help your Marine. Can I call you?" Ms. Tyler was shocked at Mayor Filner's behavior and she told him that she needed to leave his office. The Mayor then said "if we were not here in my office I would like to kiss you". Ms. Tyler responded by telling the Mayor that he should focus on Ms. Ragazzino's issues and again told the Mayor that she had to leave, where after Ms. Tyler stood up and as she was exiting his office, the Mayor told her "I am going to call you".

It is shocking that Mayor Filner would use the power of his office to attempt to set up dates with individuals seeking his help. Many people ask for help from their elected officials. To use his power as the Mayor of the City of San Diego to satisfy his sexual needs is clearly improper and should not be tolerated.

This case is extremely serious as it involves conduct by Mayor Filner in the performance of his duties that clearly shows his abuse of his power and his penchant to use his office to satisfy his sexual needs. We would hope that the City Attorney will conduct a prompt investigation into this matter and determine what actions may be appropriate given the gravity of the misconduct that has been engaged in by the Mayor.

In addition, I think it's time for the City to post a warning sign outside of the Mayor's office, warning women to proceed at their own risk. They should be told that the Mayor is in his office and danger may lie ahead if they enter.

Gloria Allred  
Attorney at Law  
Representing Michelle Tyler  
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