



PRESS RELEASE

September 11, 2020

The fact that women are not believed when they bring forth accusations against people of power is nothing new. The fact that the backlash is worse for women of color who speak truth to power is also nothing new. Mr. Hummel's press release today is further evidence of the backlash suffered by women of color who accuse historically white institutions, like the Deschutes County District Attorney's office, of discrimination. At best, Mr. Hummel's decision to issue this press release showed extraordinarily poor judgment by a public servant. At worse, it was defamatory and in bad faith.

First, Ms. Troncoso rejects the "independent" investigation. The investigation was far from independent because it was done by a career defense attorney who specializes in defending those accused of discrimination in claims brought by victims. Furthermore, the investigator works at the same former firm as the Deschutes County attorney who hired him and was certainly paid thousands of dollars for his report and his opinion. Thus, this is far from "independent." You get what you pay for. Also, this was not even the first investigation done into this matter by Deschutes County. Human Resources did a previous investigation and spoke to numerous witnesses who corroborated Ms. Troncoso's allegations back when Ms. Troncoso was still employed. The DA's office has not released the results of that investigation likely because it is unhelpful to them. Instead, it decided to pay thousands of dollars, unnecessarily, for a new investigation to bolster its denials, manipulate the public and further malign Ms. Troncoso for having the fortitude and bravery to come forward.

Second, the investigation, while hugely biased, did corroborate the bulk of her concerns. Even with heavy redactions, the investigation corroborated discussion of inappropriate comments about Plaintiff's body and whether she was hired because Hummel found her attractive. The investigation corroborated that there were false rumors about Ms. Troncoso's personal life and other allegations. The investigation did not look at whether men were subject to similar comments because such an inquiry would be unhelpful to Mr. Hummel. The investigation corroborated that people knew about the racist mug and did nothing about it. Lastly, and most importantly, the investigation corroborated there was significant pushback by staff when they were directed to provide extremely limited services to Spanish speaking victims. The investigation corroborated that numerous employees, in numerous contexts, said words to the effect of, "This is America, we speak English"; the final straw that resulted in Ms. Troncoso, a native Spanish speaker, in leaving employment.

Against this backdrop, it was a very poor choice to issue this press release in response to

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concerns a women of color with the bravery to stand up to a historically white institution and bring forth claims of discrimination. Mr. Hummel's tone-deaf response shows he lacks the judgment and foresight to lead the DA's office through this difficult time. He should resign, immediately.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers off to the right.

Matthew C. Ellis, Attorney for Jasmyn Troncoso