

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KERNER SETTLES SPD LAWSUIT

FOR AN APOLOGY

May 2, 2019

A day before Federal Court ruled on a Motion for Summary Judgment to have Kerner's case against SPD dismissed, Kerner called the City's defense attorneys hired under a \$65,000 contract issued by the Seattle City Attorney's Office to defend the case. Kerner let the attorneys at Christie Law Group know she was willing to drop the case at no additional cost to either party involved.

Despite already having written a response opposing the Defendant's motion, Kerner forewent filing one. Why? According to Kerner, the answer is astonishingly simple, "It all came down to an apology."

Weeks before the Motion was filed, East Precinct Sergeant Raguso, who was in charge of overseeing and handling the incident in question, called Kerner, apologized, acknowledged alleged SPD violations in her Complaint, and ensured her that it has significantly influenced the Department's approach to investigating all allegations of assault.

Kerner states:

"Mistakes are only failures when we refuse to take responsibility and miss out on the opportunity to learn from them. We need to foster a system in which allegations against public officials at every level and within every City Department do not view complaints against them as an attack, but rather a chance to reflect on how we can use such feedback to make ourselves and our communities better."

While Kerner could have remained silent on this incident, Kerner felt a civic responsibility to shine light on this matter due to a concern other allegations of assault have been mishandled or dismissed entirely due to presumptions made by responding officers.

According to Kerner, the Lawsuit was never about money or winning.

"The purpose of filing this Complaint was to ensure that nothing of this sort ever happens to anyone else. What was the point the public might ask? The point was to make one, and given recent awareness of an estimated 100-150 prolific violent repeat offenders responsible for 3,500 crimes, Kerner has faith her message was received."

Kerner commends Scott Lindsay and other Seattle Civic leaders for tracking the activities of these individuals. Kerner also fully supports Presiding Municipal Court Judge McKenna for bravely speaking out on the Repeat Offender Report when other elected City Officials chose to remain silent.

While the City could have demanded Kerner repay the City Attorney's Office for the fees incurred defending her case, Kerner squandered that opportunity just a day before the Court's ruling. Kerner and the City's defense team drafted and were prepared to file a Joint Resolution later that afternoon to have the case dismissed, "In the spirit of cooperation... and with no additional costs imposed on either party".

Kerner states:

"Sometimes the universe has a way of working things out. I hope the City of Seattle forever remembers that an apology and sincere promise to do better the next time is in some instances all that is needed to save thousands of tax dollars".

Kerner is prepared to face backlash from the public and is anticipating accusations of this release being misconstrued into a 'publicity stunt' or attempt at 'political gain'. Kerner will let that matter be tried in the proper Court of Public Opinion—as it should be.

Kerner's complaint will remain on her campaign website and so will the videos of Responding Officer's on her YouTube channel. While Kerner fully forgives all officers involved and all other City Departments involved, she will not forget this incident and hopes the City of Seattle doesn't either.

Kerner's last words in regards to these events:

"This is now there for the record. To anyone and everyone who has ever witnessed or experienced any type of assault or form of harassment and believes they were invalidated for any discerning factor, do NOT stay silent. We ALL deserve respect and protection."

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