
From: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> on behalf of Stephanie Benton
[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
To: Charlotte Bennett; Melissa DeRosa
Sent: 6/19/2020 9:50:11 PM
Subject: Re: What I didn't get to say to you before you left

Wow. Thank you. But, lady, it doesn't happen with out you. As a wise man says, we are one. XO

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Charlotte Bennett

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 3:47 PM

To: Stephanie Benton; Melissa DeRosa

Subject: What I didn't get to say to you before you left

Steph and Melissa -

Thank you for demonstrating to me (and the world) what it means to be a woman in New York. Thank you for your hard work and your leadership. Thank you for saving lives. Thank you for leading by example. You are the foundation of this state and this country. You will forever be my role models. I am in awe. I am proud. I am thankful.

Sent from my iPhone

EXHIBIT

1

Date: Saturday, February 27 2021 11:32 AM
Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am
From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com>;
Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Judith Mogul
[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa
CC: [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi
[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen
(esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>;

Her meaning the independent counsel

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 11:21 AM Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com > wrote:
WY to much I

And who is her team?

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 10:49 AM Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com > wrote:

Recent claims that I made sexual advances toward women in the workplace are untrue.

I have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennet and the work she did for the state. In addition, understanding what she survived previously in her life, I would only want her to feel supported and valued. I never meant to be anything but supportive and constructive and I am sorry and deeply regret that she felt anything otherwise.

I have a different perspective on the dynamics of our interactions however I absolutely respect a woman's right to speak out.

I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, thorough and independent investigation to review these matters. We will fully comply with her team on all matters and I am directing all state employees to do the same.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 10:28 AM Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

We have nothing but respect for Ms Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued. The Governor never meant to be anything but supportive and constructive and he is sorry if he in any way aggravated her situation. I have a different perspective on the dynamic presented here and believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside.

EXHIBIT

2

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:22 AM

To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Dani Lever

Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

Plus Dani

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS)

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:05 AM

To: Melissa DeRosa

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian; Judith Mogul; Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: Re: Sorry - most up to date for the 9am

Another approach from Judy

I respect and appreciate people who dedicate their lives to public service and people who work for the state of NY. The recent claims that I made sexual advances or engaged in sexual harassment – are unfounded and untrue. I have been in public service for years. I believe that the people have a right to know the truth. I am going to be hiring an independent law firm to conduct a review and these and any other related allegations. In the interim, I would request that people refrain from jumping to conclusions and wait until the review is complete.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2021, at 9:04 AM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

During Ms. Bennett's time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive; as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the

Governor said he would be happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice to proclaim her truth. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing real friendships and healthy loving and positive emotional relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tattoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that he was lonely and ready for a girlfriend and that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aide and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. In that interview, Ms Bennett said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor sexually harassed her or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. The Governor's intention was consistent with Ms. Bennett's initial impression: he was being 'paternalistic'.

We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued. The Governor never meant to be anything but supportive and constructive and he is sorry if he in any way aggravated her situation.

We believe the best way to affirm the truth in this and the matter involving Ms Boylan is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:32 AM

To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian

Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)

Subject: priv confidential - pls review this draft for the call [REDACTED] is putting on

Sorry read this version -->

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice to proclaim her truth. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing real friendships and healthy loving and positive emotional relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tatoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that he was lonely and ready for a girlfriend and that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. In that interview, Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor harassed her in any way or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct. We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel, including Ms. Boylan.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:05 AM
To: Josh Vlasto; Peter Ajemian
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

A different approach:

Ms. Bennett came to work in the governor's office for a short period of time.

During her time in the office, she told the Governor that she had been a victim of sexual assault and then started an organization to promote awareness of sexual assault. She explained that her alma mater had denied her allegations of sexual assault after an investigation and that her family was not fully supportive of her exposing the allegations. Ms. Bennett said she came to the Governor's office because of his work protecting sexual assault victims, especially against universities. The Governor sensed she was still suffering from the trauma and tried to be supportive as Ms Bennett says, he was 'paternalistic' and they had a 'mentor-mentee' relationship.

At one point Ms Bennett said she would be giving a keynote speech on the issue of sexual assault; the Governor said he would happy to help her with it. He thought it could be cathartic and encouraged her to own what happened to her and use her voice. The Governor tried to be supportive and suggested developing healthy friendships and supportive relationships, exercise and therapy to help her in moving forward. The Governor tried to lighten her spirits. At one point, Ms Bennett said she was thinking of getting a tatoo. The Governor said his opinion was that she would find it was a mistake later in life and that she should at least do it where it would be hidden. Ms. Bennett said she was reviewing the Governor's incoming mail and many women were interested in dating him, and he joked that she should screen the mail and find him good candidates.

At one point Ms Bennett approached an aid and requested to be transferred to a position she previously

expressed interest in with the health team. The aide then proactively set up a meeting with the Governor's special counsel, a former federal prosecutor, for a formal interview. Ms Bennet said she had shared personal information with the Governor which she now regretted and felt uncomfortable. She was asked specifically if she felt the Governor harassed her in any way or if there was any improper contact and she said no. She was asked if she felt there should be any further action to determine if the Governor did anything improper; Ms. Bennett said no. Ms. Bennett's initial impression that the governor was being 'paternalistic' and a 'mentor-mentee' was and remained correct. We have nothing but respect for Ms. Bennett and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived previously in her life, we would only want her to feel supported and valued.

We believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel.

From: Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com >
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Peter Ajemian
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Lis Smith; Melissa DeRosa; Richard Azzopardi; Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Seems right to me

Comes in a release I imagine with a sentence or two about the person picked?

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 7:45 AM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

Relooping Josh

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:18 AM

To: Lis Smith

Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi

Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

Sounds right. One tweak in caps for clarity.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Lis Smith

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:52 AM

To: Peter Ajemian

Cc: Melissa DeRosa; Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Stephanie Benton; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock; Richard Azzopardi

Subject: Re: privileged / confidential / draft

removed "complex" and reworked a little:

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state. Understanding what she survived PREVIOUSLY IN HER LIFE, I would only want her to feel supported and valued. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 12:39 AM Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com > wrote:

Additional option:

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state. Understanding what Charlotte survived the way I do, I never would have said anything to her that didn't make her feel supported and valued. I believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review complex matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 11:39 PM Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

Understanding this needs work, here's an initial draft to discuss.

I have nothing but respect for Charlotte and the work she did for the state, and I have tremendous sympathy for what she had been through in her life. I regret and am saddened that she felt anything other than supported and valued at work, as I want nothing but the best for her. I have a different perspective on the dynamic presented here and believe the best way to get to the truth is through a full, fact-based and independent investigation by an outside counsel who has the expertise to review complex matters like this one and can recommend remedial steps if warranted.

On Feb 26, 2021, at 8:40 PM, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov > wrote:

Plus Chris Cuomo

Sent from my iPhone

To: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]
From: Judith Mogul [/O=NYEC/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5DA2632596FB4016A2FACBD65E5C9CEB-JUDITH MOGUL]
Sent: Mon 3/1/2021 8:36:44 PM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: Re: Privileged.

Ty

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2021, at 8:35 PM, Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Judith Mogul
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:33 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa
Cc: Jeffrey Pollock; Stephanie Benton; Josh Vlasto; Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: Privileged.

Is there a dial in?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2021, at 8:22 PM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

we are on for 830

From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Stephanie Benton; Melissa DeRosa; 'Josh Vlasto'; Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever
Cc: Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Subject: Re: Privileged.

I need to feed [REDACTED] but happy to do a call tonight after 8 or 830 or so.

Jeffrey Pollock
President
D [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
My pronouns: he, him, his

From: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:15:46 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; 'Josh Vlasto' [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: Privileged.

[EXT EMAIL]

New one. Watch out for a call to happen son please and thank you.

EXHIBIT
3

For the Governor to say at a press conference tomorrow:

Let me address recent complaints made by several women about my behavior in the work place.

First, let me be clear. I've never touched anyone inappropriately. I've never made inappropriate advances. And I never intended or believed I ever made a person feel uncomfortable. But I understand that is not what this is about.

Sexual harassment is a question of what a person perceives and feels as "unwelcome and uninvited", not necessarily what another person does or intends.

I apologize deeply to anyone who felt my actions made them feel uncomfortable. I fully understand it wasn't my intention but their feeling and perception that is relevant. I understand Charlotte Bennett perceived me to be making unwanted advances. That was not my intention at all, but quite the opposite. Ms. Bennett had told me about her experiences as a victim of sexual assault. She told me that she wanted to set up a not for profit organization to advance survivor's rights, and I said I applauded her efforts and that I would be helpful. She asked me to help her on a speech to her alma mater which she believed had whitewashed her allegations. I told her I would and I did. We discussed possible strategies to have the alma mater right their wrong, and for her to achieve justice against her abuser, as she felt her abuser had not been held accountable. Ms. Bennett said to me that she had wanted to join the administration, in part, because of our efforts to stop universities from covering up sexual assault on campuses.

Ms. Bennett reportedly said her initial impression was that I was trying to mentor her, and she was right. To the extent she felt that impression changed, I apologize, because that was not my intention and it never did. I applaud her efforts and her commitment. My only intention was to be supportive and constructive.

To be totally clear, I never inappropriately touched Ms. Bennett nor intended any advances. In retrospect, I should have never engaged in conversations with Ms. Bennett. I should have referred her to someone who was in an appropriate position to be of assistance to her. And again, I apologize to Ms. Bennett for making her feel uncomfortable in any way.

I believed the people I work with on a daily basis were more comfortable with me and my personality and we had a more informal relationship. I understand now that for some, I was wrong.

There is no doubt that some people misinterpreted my behavior and that is on me.

I understand that for some, my customary behavior may be too familiar and forthcoming. I do pat some men and women on the cheek or the face on occasion. I do greet people hello or say goodbye with a hug or a kiss. I do kiss women hello or goodbye. I do kiss men hello or goodbye. I often greet staff, friends and colleagues this way. I did an event in Queens the other day – I hugged the Assembly members and the pastors. That is my usual custom. I have a picture hanging in my office kissing Al Gore. I've kissed Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins hello. I kiss some reporters hello. You can go online and find pictures of me kissing and hugging hundreds of people. At least prior to COVID. If I ever get a sense that people are standoffish I respect that.

At work sometimes I am playful and make jokes that I think are funny. I realize now, some people do not find them funny. I do, on occasion, tease people in a good natured way and I do use nicknames. I call Robert Mujica the Sphinx. I call [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I say Dr. Malatras is not really a doctor, I call Beth Bethesda. I do it in public and in private. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. I have teased people about getting married or not getting married. I've teased men about their dress. Upon reflection, I sometimes refer to women I work with as "honey". I mean it only as a term of endearment, but I see how it could be interpreted as patronizing. I mean no offense.

I understand that in today's environment that type of behavior may not be considered appropriate by all. Customs change and the level of sensitivity has changed and that what might have been usual custom in the past is now found by some to be insensitive or too personal. I understand the norms have changed. I want to be hyper vigilant and exemplify that change.

I've always treated women with the utmost respect and never intended anything else. I have three young daughters and I am sensitive to how they are treated and I would never want anyone to treat my daughter with less than total respect.

I've asked the Attorney General to engage an independent professional firm to review any allegations.

In the meantime, I want to take additional action going to bring in a private firm to train all my staff, myself included, as to the highest standards of appropriate workplace interaction.

I also want to engage a firm that will be available to any employee who wants to make a complaint but may feel uncomfortable going through formal government channels.

I understand that life evolves and behavior evolves and I want my government to illustrate the best practices and the highest level of professionalism.

I'm confident that when people understand the facts of this situation, post the AG's review, they will understand the full context for my behavior. Again, I never touched anyone inappropriately, made advances inappropriately, or intended to make anyone feel my behavior was inappropriate. Again, to the extent I did make people feel uncomfortable, I apologize and I will learn from this and be the better for it.

We will do this and we will attend to the important work of the state. We are at a critical juncture with COVID and vaccinations and rebuilding. To my political adversaries, who would like to score political points during this time, I ask them to wait for the results of the Attorney General's report so that we have facts on which to base an opinion. I also ask them to fulfill their public duty, there is much work to do in the meantime and I will not be distracted from that work. We have important decisions to make and I will fight for what is in the best interest of the people of the State of New York.

From: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; 'Josh Vlasto'; Christopher Cuomo; Dani Lever
Cc: Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Subject: RE: Privileged.

This is not for email. We should either discuss this or something else, but this is not editable.

From: Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; 'Josh Vlasto' [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Christopher Cuomo [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Dani Lever [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>
Subject: Re: Privileged.

[EXT EMAIL]

+some people

this would be for presser tomorrow

From: Stephanie Benton
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; 'Josh Vlasto'
Cc: Judith Mogul; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Melissa DeRosa
Subject: Re: Privileged.

Plus Linda and M

From: Stephanie Benton
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 5:02 PM
To: 'Jef Pollock'@globalstrategygroup.com; 'Josh Vlasto'
Cc: Judith Mogul
Subject: Privileged.

Draft.

For the Governor to say at a press conference tomorrow:

Let me address recent complaints made by several women about my behavior in the work place.

First, let me be clear. I've never touched anyone inappropriately. I've never made inappropriate advances. And I never intended or believed I ever made a person feel uncomfortable. But I understand that is not what this is about.

Sexual harassment is a question of what a person perceives and feels as "unwelcome and uninvited" and if a person feels that way, despite the intent, that is wrong.

I've worked with hundreds of men and women over the years and no one ever told me that I made them feel uncomfortable.

But I understand that's not the point either.

I apologize deeply to anyone who felt my actions made them feel uncomfortable. I fully understand my intention was irrelevant and that their feeling and perception is all that is relevant. I understand Charlotte Bennett perceived me to be making unwanted advances. That was not my intention at all, but quite the opposite. Ms. Bennett had told me about her experiences as a victim of sexual assault. She told me that she wanted to set up a not for profit organization to advance survivors' rights, and I said I applauded her efforts and that I would be helpful. She asked me to help her on a speech to her alma mater which she believed had whitewashed her allegations. I did. We discussed possible avenues to force the alma mater to right their wrong, and for her to achieve justice against her abuser, as she felt her abuser had not been held accountable. Ms. Bennett said to me that she wanted to join the administration, in part, because of our efforts to stop universities from covering up sexual assault on campuses. Ms. Bennett repeatedly said her initial impression was that I was trying to mentor her, and she was right. To the extent she felt that impression changed, I apologize, because that was not my intention. I applaud her efforts and her commitment. My only intention was to be supportive and constructive. To be totally clear, I never inappropriately touched Ms. Bennett nor intended any advances. However, again, it is her perception that matters. In retrospect, I should have never engaged in conversations with Ms. Bennett. I should have referred her to someone who was in an appropriate position to be helpful. And again, I apologize to Ms. Bennett for making her feel uncomfortable in any way.

There is no doubt that my usual custom is to try to bring levity and distraction to the stress of the workplace. How I act in private is how I act in public. I do tease people. I do joke around. I do try to be personable and friendly. I do try to show people I appreciate and like them. I understand as Governor, people can feel intimidated by the position and I always try to keep that in mind.

I believed the people I work with on a daily basis were more comfortable with me and my personality and we had a more informal relationship. I understand now that for some, I was wrong. While no one ever said to me I made them feel uncomfortable, I understand that is also irrelevant.

There is no doubt people misinterpreted my behavior and that is on me.

In addition, situations without context can be misleading. The press reported that I told a female reporter at the New York State Fair, while eating a sandwich, that "you have to eat the whole sausage". They inferred a sexual innuendo. In truth, visiting Gianelli's sausage stand at the State Fair is a political custom. I have done it for many years. I had brought my daughters to the Fair and told them before the event that as a sign of respect, it was important that they finish the entire sandwich to show that they enjoyed it. In fact, after we purchased the sandwiches we sat down at a table and myself and my daughters finished our entire sandwiches. It was not just a political gesture; the sandwich was also excellent. However, what I said to my daughters is the same statement I had made to the reporter. There was no inference beyond that.

In my conference room, I have many artifacts, gifts from my father, Bill Clinton, Ted Kennedy, and others. I have done hundreds of tours in the conference room and I always show a cigar box that was given to me by Bill Clinton. There is no inference beyond the obvious, it is a memento from my eight years in the Clinton administration.

Melissa DeRosa is a topflight professional and probably the most qualified person I have ever served with. We are friends and have worked together for ten years. We go to meetings, events, and to dinner on many occasions. Our relationship is professional, collegial and as true friends. To suggest anything else demeans women in the work place. I have gone to dinners with all prior Secretaries – Steve Cohen, ██████████, Larry Schwartz – and no one has raised any inferences.

I understand that my customary behavior may be too familiar and forthcoming. I do greet people hello or say goodbye with a hug or a kiss. I do kiss women hello or goodbye. I do kiss men hello or goodbye. I often greet staff, friends and colleagues this way. I did an event in Queens the other day – I hugged the Assemblymembers and the pastors. That is my usual custom. I have a picture hanging in my office kissing Al Gore. I've kissed Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins hello. I kiss some reporters hello. You can go online and find pictures of me kissing and hugging hundreds of people. At least prior to COVID. If I ever get a sense that people are standoffish I respect that.

At work sometimes I am playful and make jokes that I think are funny. I realize now, some people do not find them funny. I do, on occasion, tease people in a good natured way and I do use nicknames. I call Robert Mujica the Sphinx. I call ██████████ ██████████, I say Dr. Malatras is not really a doctor, I call Beth Bethesda. I do it in public and in private. You have seen me do it at briefings hundreds of times. I have teased people about getting married or not getting married, teased men about their dress. I mean no offense. Upon reflection, I sometimes refer to women I work with as "honey". I mean it only as a term of endearment, but I see how it could be interpreted as patronizing.

I understand that in today's environment that type of behavior may not be considered appropriate. Customs change and the level of sensitivity has changed and that what might have been usual custom in the past is now found by some to be insensitive or too personal. I understand the norms have changed. I want to be hyper vigilant and exemplify that change.

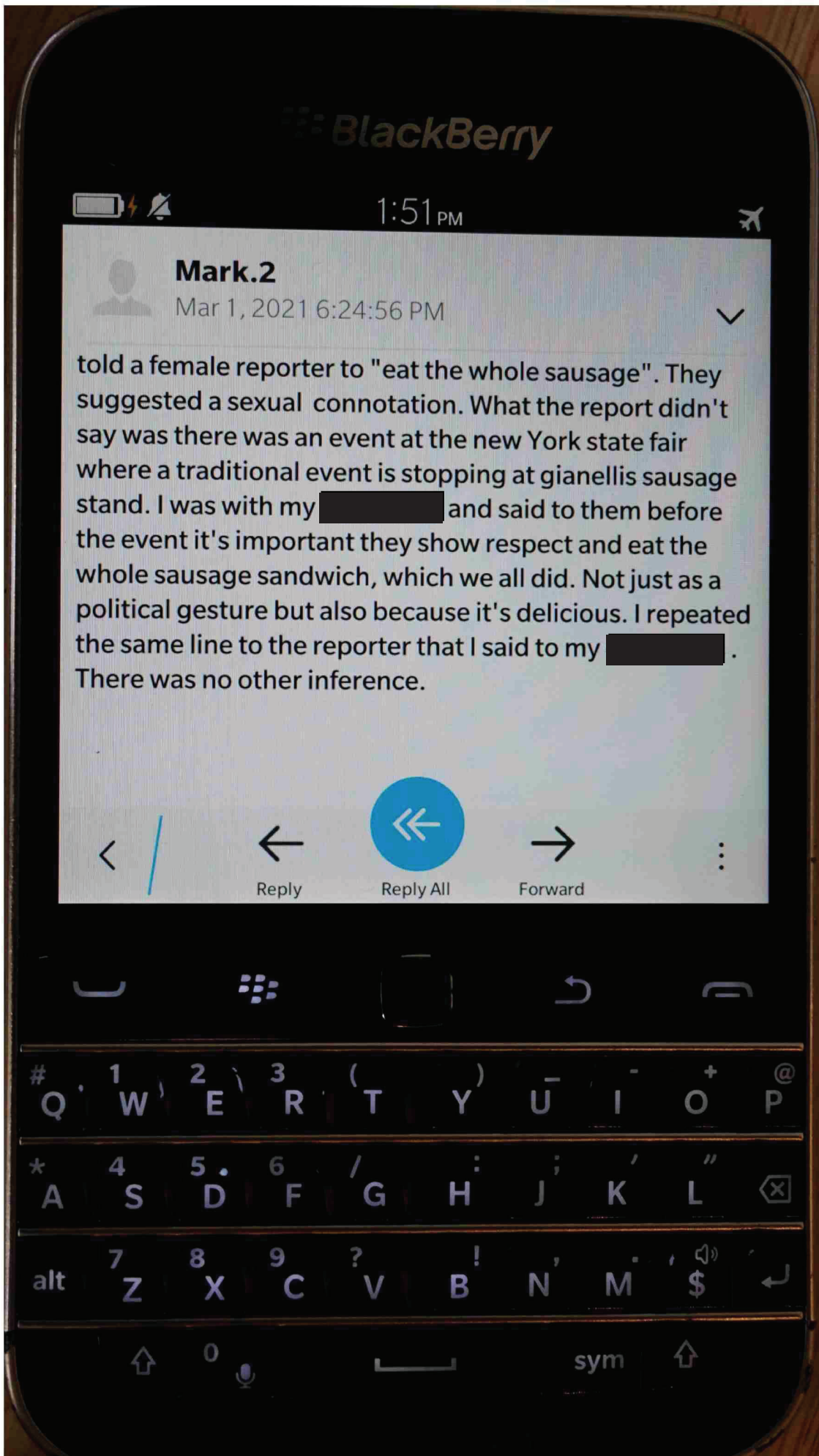
I've always treated women with the utmost respect and never intended anything else. I have three young daughters and I am sensitive to how they are treated and I would never want anyone to treat my daughter with less than total respect.

I've asked the Attorney General to engage an independent professional firm to review any allegations. In the meantime, I want to take additional action: I'm going to bring in a private firm to train all my staff, myself included, as to appropriate workplace interaction. I also want to engage a firm that will be available to any employee who wants to make a complaint but may feel uncomfortable going through formal government channels.

I understand that life evolves and behavior evolves and I want my government to illustrate the best practices and the highest level of professionalism.

We will do this and we will attend to the important work of the state. We are at a critical juncture with COVID and vaccinations and rebuilding. To my political adversaries, who would like to score political points during this time, I ask them to wait for the results of the Attorney General's report so that we have facts on which to base an opinion. I also ask them to fulfill their duty, there is much work to do in the meantime and I will not be distracted from that work. We have important decisions to make and I will fight for what is in the best interest of the people of the State of New York.

I'm confident that when people understand the facts of this situation, post the AG's review, they will understand the full context for my behavior. Again, I never touched anyone inappropriately, made advances inappropriately, or intended to make anyone feel my behavior was inappropriate. Again, to the extent I did make people feel uncomfortable, I apologize and I will learn from this and be the better for it.



Mark.2

Mar 1, 2021 6:24:56 PM

told a female reporter to "eat the whole sausage". They suggested a sexual connotation. What the report didn't say was there was an event at the new York state fair where a traditional event is stopping at gianellis sausage stand. I was with my [REDACTED] and said to them before the event it's important they show respect and eat the whole sausage sandwich, which we all did. Not just as a political gesture but also because it's delicious. I repeated the same line to the reporter that I said to my [REDACTED]. There was no other inference.



Reply



Reply All



Forward



EXHIBIT

4

BlackBerry



1:51 PM



Mark.2



Account: PIN Peer-to-Peer
Folder: Inbox

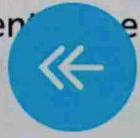
To

Stephanie Benton

Context and fact is also important. A press report said I told a female reporter to "eat the whole sausage". They suggested a sexual connotation. What the report didn't say was there was an event at the new York state fair



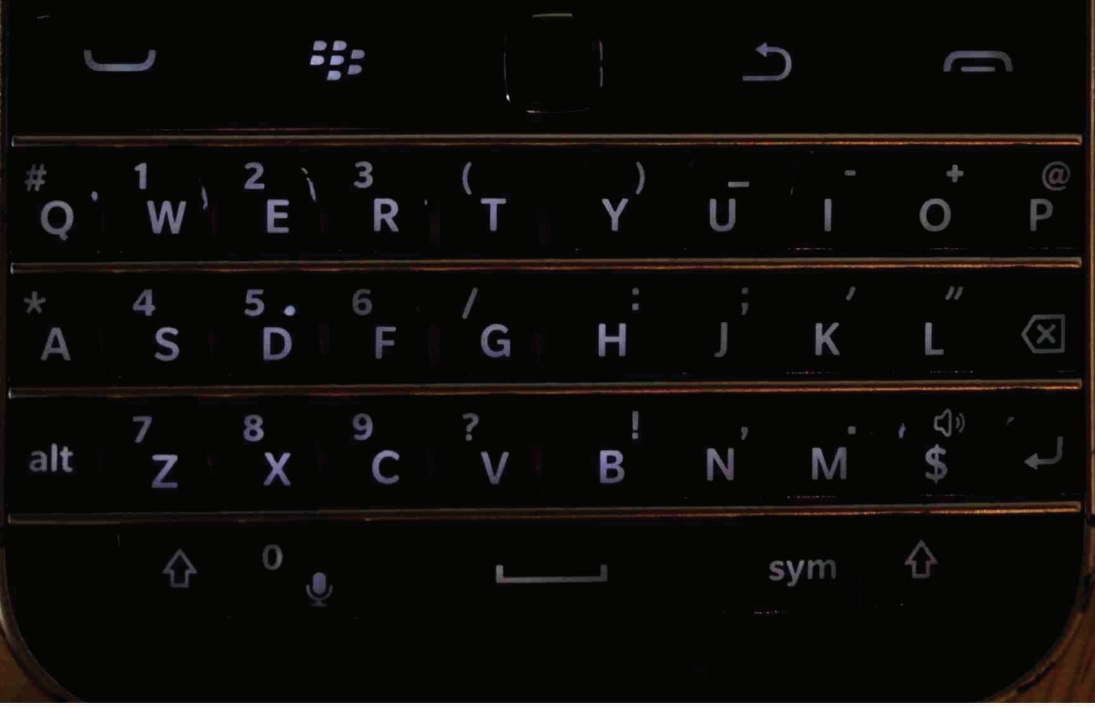
Reply



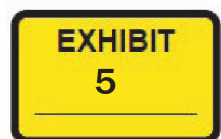
Reply All



Forward

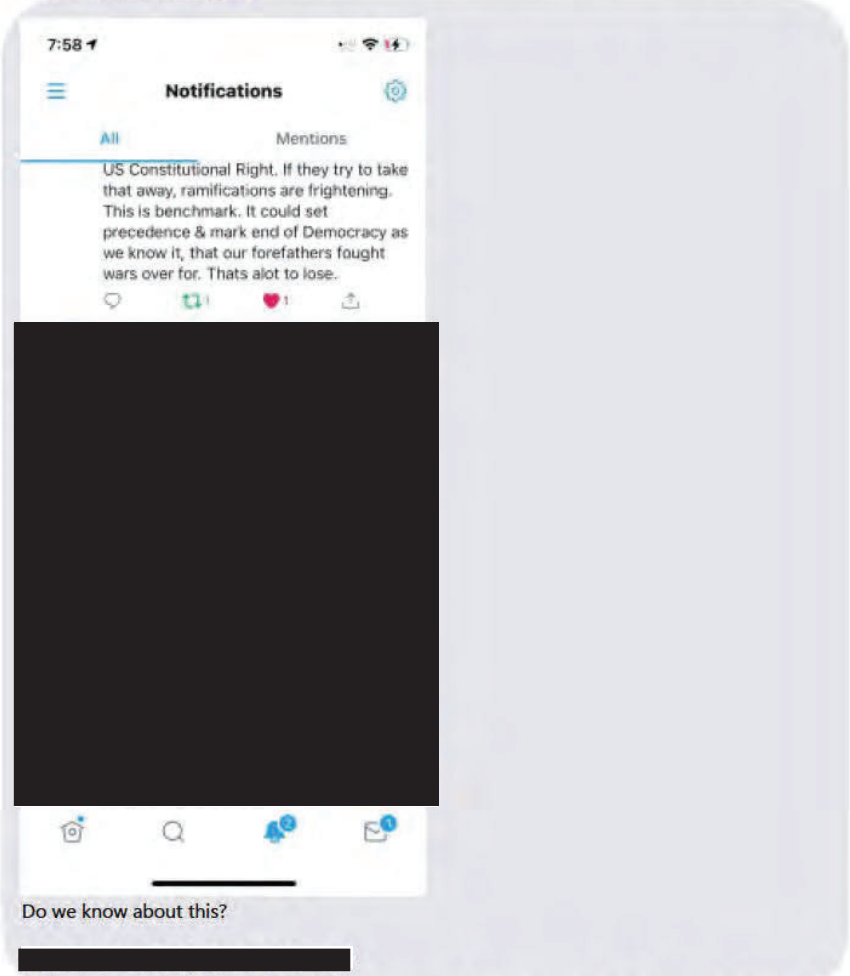


Messages exported from: iPhone (Stephanie Benton)
With: Group Chat: Melissa ([REDACTED]). Madeline Cuomo ([REDACTED])



3/13/2021 8:28 PM (Viewed 3/14/2021 7:41 AM)

Madeline Cuomo (██████████)



3/15/2021 11:42 AM (Viewed 3/15/2021 11:49 AM)

Madeline Cuomo (██████████)


Getting good feedback with folks seeing poll. Talking more about a path to come back now than all doom and gloom.


Start Date March 2, 2021 1:26:05 AM UTC

End Date March 2, 2021 8:49:26 PM UTC

Chat Annabel Walsh <+ [REDACTED] (Sms)>, Annabel Walsh <+ [REDACTED]
Account (Mms)>, Dani Lever <+ [REDACTED] (IMessage)>, Stephanie Benton
t <+ [REDACTED] (IMessage)>, Dani Lever <+ [REDACTED] Stephanie
Benton <+ [REDACTED] (Sms)>, Dani Lever <+ [REDACTED] (Mms)>,
Annabel Walsh <+ [REDACTED] (IMessage)>, Dani Lever <+ [REDACTED]
(Sms)>, Stephanie Benton <+ [REDACTED] (Mms)>, Annabel Walsh
<+ [REDACTED] Stephanie Benton <+ [REDACTED]

Dani Lever <+ [REDACTED] (IMessage)>

 [~/Library/SMS/Attachments/74/04/8A1A784E-4B0B-436A-AB05-C057FFD76F6C/IMG_2658.jpeg](#) 01:26:05

 [~/Library/SMS/Attachments/53/03/D84CAFE0-1FCD-4975-A613-4CA8468962C4/IMG_4162.jpeg](#) 01:26:53

Annabel Walsh <+ [REDACTED] (Sms)>

 Also Steph is in the photo too 01:30:39

But just happy and blond 01:30:45


Dani Lever <+ [REDACTED] (IMessage)>

 Steph I preferred when we dialed in together for security 01:31:02

Stephanie Benton <+ [REDACTED] (IMessage)>

 No I'm not where? 01:31:22

Annabel Walsh <+ [REDACTED] (Mms)>

 [~/Library/SMS/Attachments/53/03/12436ACA-F37E-476F-85B1-D4B6B9BD9457/IMG_1416.PNG](#) 01:32:12

Stephanie Benton <+ [REDACTED] (IMessage)>

 Can u call me together pls pls pls 20:49:26

7:49

LTE 



Send Message



Re:

Alyssa McGrath

Sat 12/28/2019 9:28 AM

Confidential - Contains Personal Information

To: Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>;

Yes, thank you Stephanie.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 28, 2019, at 8:23 AM, Stephanie Benton <[REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov> wrote:

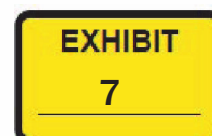
Can u format and print these 2 letters for him.

For office..."dear [REDACTED], your presence in the office has been a perfect fit. Your are highly talented,uniquely knowledgable, product focused and everyone loves you. It's all good. We will be done when we end poverty and injustice or when the people say they have had enough of us. Until then onward and excelsior!

NeXT

Dear Karen, I am glad to hear you are doing better. I never doubted your strength and resilency. You went through quite a [REDACTED] and I am sure you are trying to make sense of it. Reflection is good anyway, even if spurred by an [REDACTED]. We have more road behind us then ahead of us. It's wise to look back and learn. I try to gain perspective and acknowledge mistakes and try to do better and make better what I can. It is sad that our relationship deteriorated. I always had the highest respect for you and never meant to communicate anything less. It got complicated with [REDACTED] and when you went to work with DeBlasio it became impossibly complicated. Looking back I can see why things happened but it's still sad. We move forward. You have always been focused on doing the right thing and fighting the good fight. And you have always been good at it. I hope you take some pride in what I have done because you are a big part of who I am and what I believe. Most of all I hope you are at peace with everything. Best for the holidays.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.



AM00084

RE: Re Letters

Alyssa McGrath

Mon 12/30/2019 12:48 PM

To: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>;

Cc: Executive Assistant #2 [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>;

Will do. Thank you.

From: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:48 PM

To: Alyssa McGrath [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Cc: Executive Assistant #2 [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>

Subject: Re: Re Letters

No have [REDACTED] send them

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Alyssa McGrath

Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 12:45 PM

To: Stephanie Benton

Cc: Executive Assistant #2 [REDACTED]

Subject: Re Letters

Stephanie-

I have 4 letters to send out today including the two you sent me on Saturday when I was at the Mansion. Do you want to review them before I give them to [REDACTED] to send?

Letters are addressed to the following:

Karen Hilton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Alyssa McGrath

Executive Assistant for General Government & Technology

Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
State Capitol, Albany, New York 12224

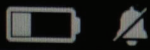
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov

www.governor.ny.gov



AM00089

BlackBerry



12:08 PM



Mark.2

Mar 5, 2021 8:04:36 PM



Original Message

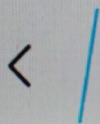
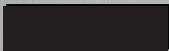
From: AMC

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 7:41 PM

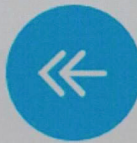
To: Stephanie Benton; Melissa DeRosa; Richard "Rich" Azzopardi; Peter Ajemian

Subject:

Let's do this right on hinton. Google what she said and see if we have the ty letter she just send me after her



Reply



Reply All



Forward

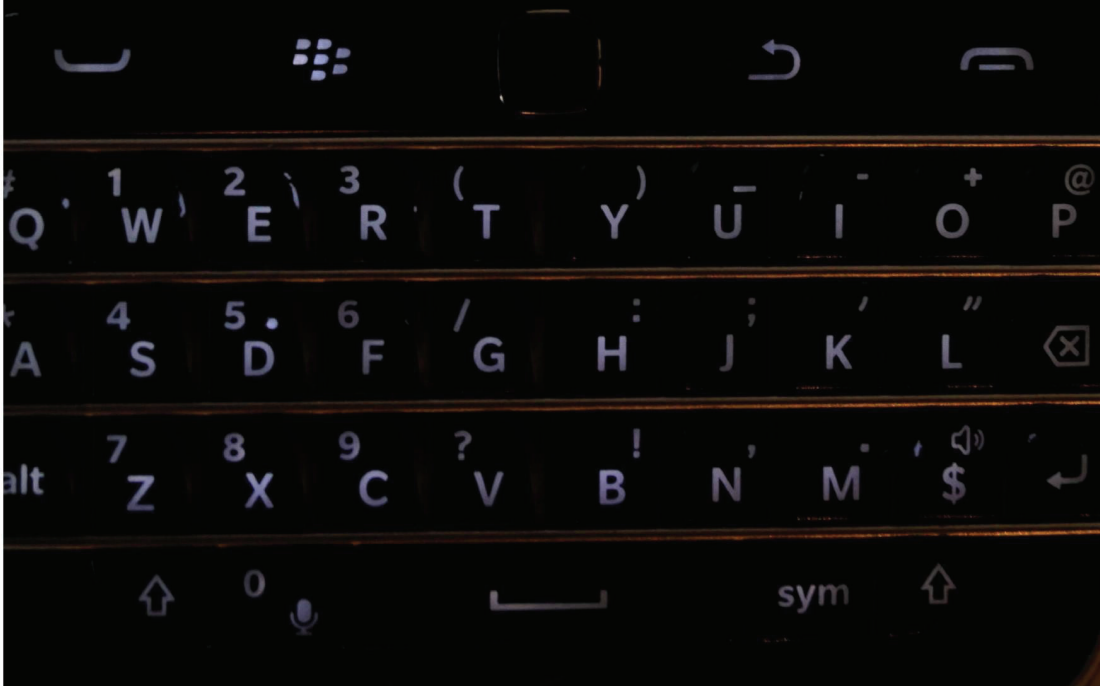


EXHIBIT
9

BlackBerry



12:09 PM



Mark.2

Mar 5, 2021 8:04:36 PM



Did they find it?

Original Message

From: Melissa DeRosa

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 7:48 PM

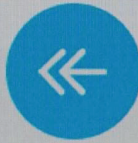
To: AMC; Stephanie Benton; Richard "Rich" Azzopardi;
Peter Ajemian

Subject: Re:

K

Original Message

From: AMC



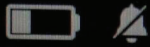
Reply

Reply All

Forward



BlackBerry



12:09 PM



Mark.2

Mar 5, 2021 8:04:36 PM



Peter Ajemian
Subject: Re:

Working on it

Original Message

From: Mark.2

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 7:58 PM

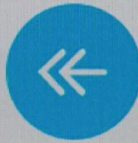
To: Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Richard "Rich"
Azzopardi; Peter Ajemian

Subject: Re:

Did they find it?



Reply



Reply All



Forward



BlackBerry



12:09 PM



Mark.2

Mar 5, 2021 8:04:36 PM



From: Mark.2

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 8:00 PM

To: Stephanie Benton; Melissa DeRosa; Richard "Rich" Azzopardi; Peter Ajemian

Subject: Re:

Is there a database?

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

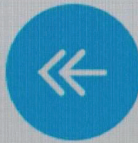
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 7:59 PM

To: Mark.2; Melissa DeRosa; Richard "Rich" Azzopardi; Peter Ajemian

Subject: Re:



Reply



Reply All



Forward



BlackBerry



12:09 PM



Mark.2

Mar 5, 2021 8:04:36 PM



Do they log "personal and confidential"

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 8:00 PM

To: Mark.2; Melissa DeRosa; Richard "Rich" Azzopardi;
Peter Ajemian

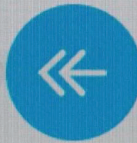
Subject: Re:

Yes. I spoke w [REDACTED]. She's looking now.

Original Message

From: Mark.2

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 8:04:36 PM



Reply

Reply All

Forward



BlackBerry



12:09 PM



Mark.2



Account: PIN Peer-to-Peer

Folder: Inbox

To

Stephanie Benton

Melissa DeRosa

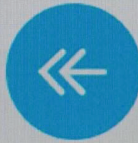
Richard "Rich" Azzopa

Peter Ajemian

Re:

Do they log "personal and confidential"

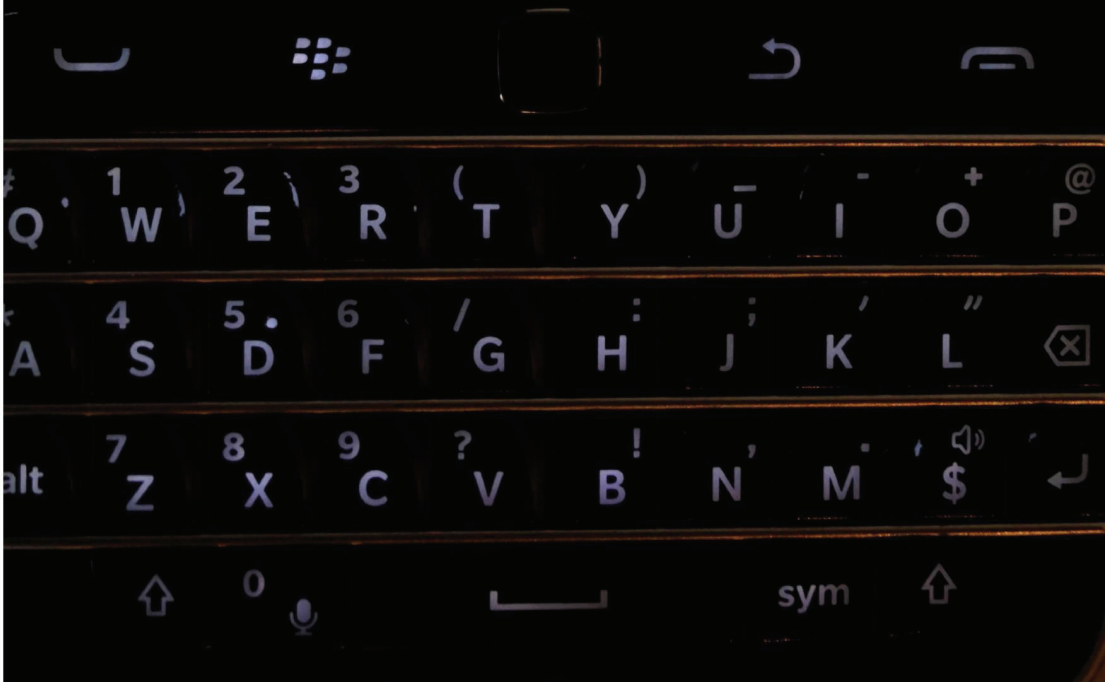
Original Message



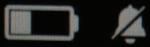
Reply

Reply All

Forward



BlackBerry



12:12 PM



Mark.2

Mar 5, 2021 7:57:54 PM



Original Message

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 7:41 PM

To: Stephanie Benton; Melissa DeRosa; Richard "Rich" Azzopardi; Peter Ajemian

Subject:

Let's do this right on hinton. Google what she said and see if we have the ty letter she just send me after her

[REDACTED]



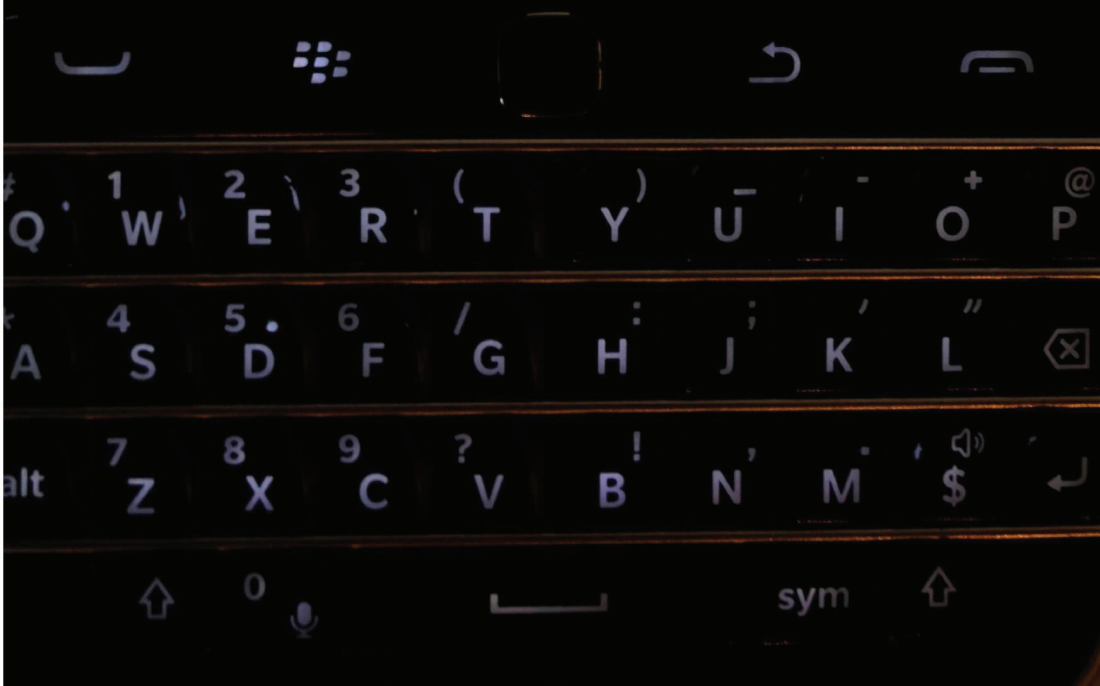
Reply



Reply All



Forward



BlackBerry



12:12 PM



Mark.2

Mar 5, 2021 7:57:54 PM



ago that she never mentions? And then she comes to ny to volunteer on his Governors campaign, and they socialize for years at each others home, and her [REDACTED] works with the governor for years, she flacks for deblasio and attacks the governor daily, writes a thank you letter to the governor recently for helping with her healthcare, she writes a piece last week on "penius power" against the governor but never mentions it and now she announces she's writing a book and concocts this claim? How obvious can lack of credibility and self motivation be?

Original Message

From: 3361BFAS



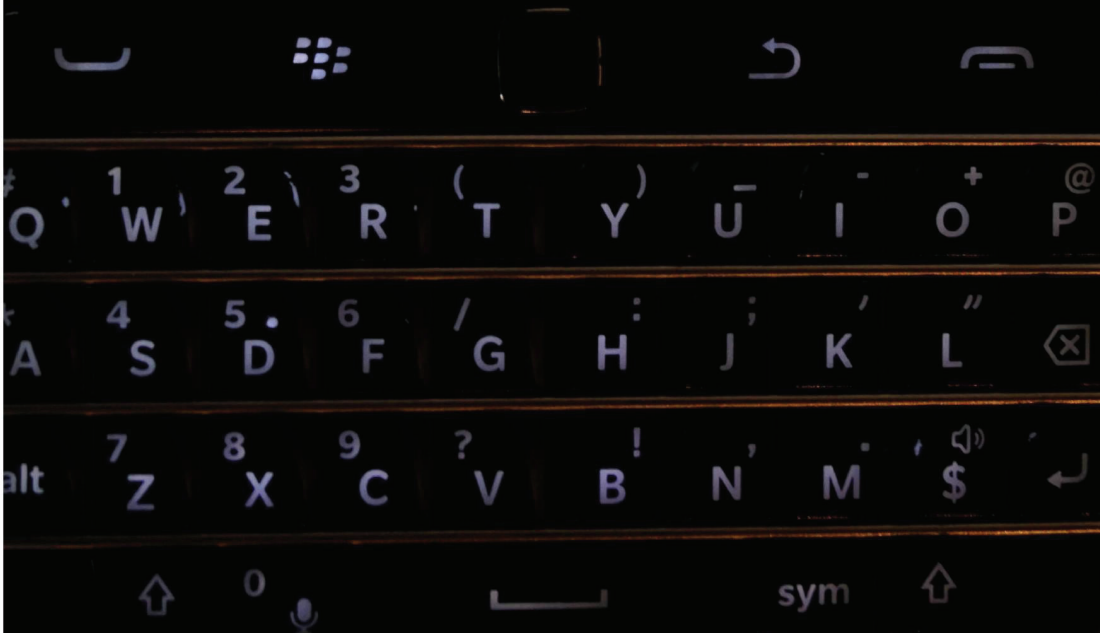
Reply



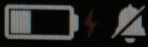
Reply All



Forward



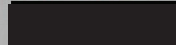
BlackBerry



12:12 PM



Mark.2



Account: PIN Peer-to-Peer

Folder: Inbox

To

Stephanie Benton

Melissa DeRosa

Richard "Rich" Azzopa

Peter Ajemian

Re:

"Karen Hinton is delusional or just lying. A hug 20 years ago that she never mentions? And then she comes to ny to volunteer on his Govern campaign, and they



Reply

Reply All

Forward



unsolicited sorry S.
thou not really sure i am the one owing endless apologies.
angels w you
X

<https://www.instagram.com/██████████>
[Quoted text hidden]

██████████ <██████████@icloud.com>
To: Stephanie Benton <██████████@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 9:59 AM

Good Morning Stephanie,

Hope that you are weathering this hard storm. I don't have adequate words for the upset. As a woman, survivor and former employee I am finding it increasingly hard to stomach the news cycle. I am not someone who even has a tv in house Stephanie. Charlotte Bennett's chronicle is hauntingly familiar. As a then 26 year old employee almost two decades ago, it resonates. Frankly the inappropriate commentary and verbal abuse commonplace then makes the current account look anaemic. It was a different time. Most disturbing in retrospect, his affair with staffer ██████████ so many years ago. She and I were dear friends from Georgetown S. A relationship I had no awareness of when she asked me to "come up for a week". It all makes me sick in hindsight. The hypocrisy, usury pattern, lying and shameful denial. It is hard to read sophisticated accurate language now from Charlotte ie, "being groomed for sex" and not to immediately identify that ██████████ was in the same position 20 years ago. ██████████ and I are no longer friends, damage from the lies regarding this scenario and an organic growing apart. We always were and are very opposite women. The only difference between Charlotte now and ██████████ then....Steph, ██████████ was weaker, more enamoured with power, needy for attention, wanting of fame and a total doormat. Malleable. Charlotte is a product of her generation. Strong. Unwilling to allow abuse. We all owe her a debt of gratitude frankly. As any woman who has worked for Andrew knows the reality of the culture and of him. That the power dynamics are omnipresent, and that humiliation commonplace. I certainly did then, but advocated relentlessly for the good in him. Even after the cut off a year ago. Most gutting Steph is a call he made to me the day he signed the bill re abuse statutes. The date escapes me this morning. I was at the ██████████ in Los Angeles, recouping from renovation hell in ██████████, and I took his call. Drunk, late, charming...."I did that for you...." Steph I held the phone away from my ear and tears flooded my face. It was the only time in my life that I did not feel alone.

Andrew's treatment of me over the past three years is flatly appalling. That on a personal note Steph, you followed his directive of a cut off....broke my heart....that I rose above the strategic handling.....and maintained loyalty.....raised seven figures for Help.....stood by ██████████even him. Integrity to a fault.

My loyalty now is solely to ██████████ and ██████████. The handling of this crisis is appalling, dishonest and grossly out of touch. His treatment of me inexcusable.

Do not let me get dragged into this Steph. Please. I am exhausted and just want to leave New York. Andrew was one of a handful of people I trusted and believed in, and I am destroyed by who he is becoming. It is not his heart.

I hope you got the check and thank you.

There is no tone or outrage here, I am gutted. For the ██████████. For his ██████████. For myself.

With love Steph,

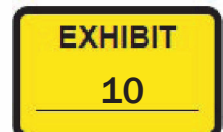
██████████
[Quoted text hidden]

██████████ <██████████@icloud.com>
To: Stephanie Benton <██████████@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 10:25 AM

And Steph the saddest part? Aside from the agony and shame he is putting the ██████████ thru....as his ego continues to destroy his talent....my instinct to save him from himself has never once eroded. Not in 20 years. have always told him the hard truth, even when he viciously attacked me for it. Maybe that is the definition of love. I don't know who is good anymore.

Thank you,





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



No. [Redacted] Redacted in original production [Redacted]
[Redacted] Redacted in original production

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:19 AM

To: Mark.2

Subject:

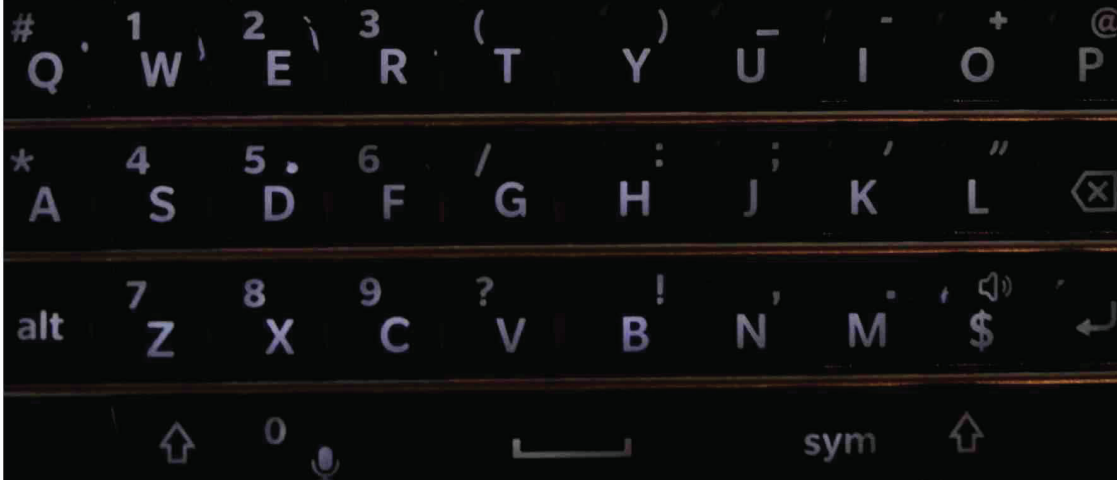
Is [Redacted] staying? I'm trying to find a nurse.



Reply

Reply All

Forward





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:

I will come.

Original Message

From: Mark.2

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:31 AM

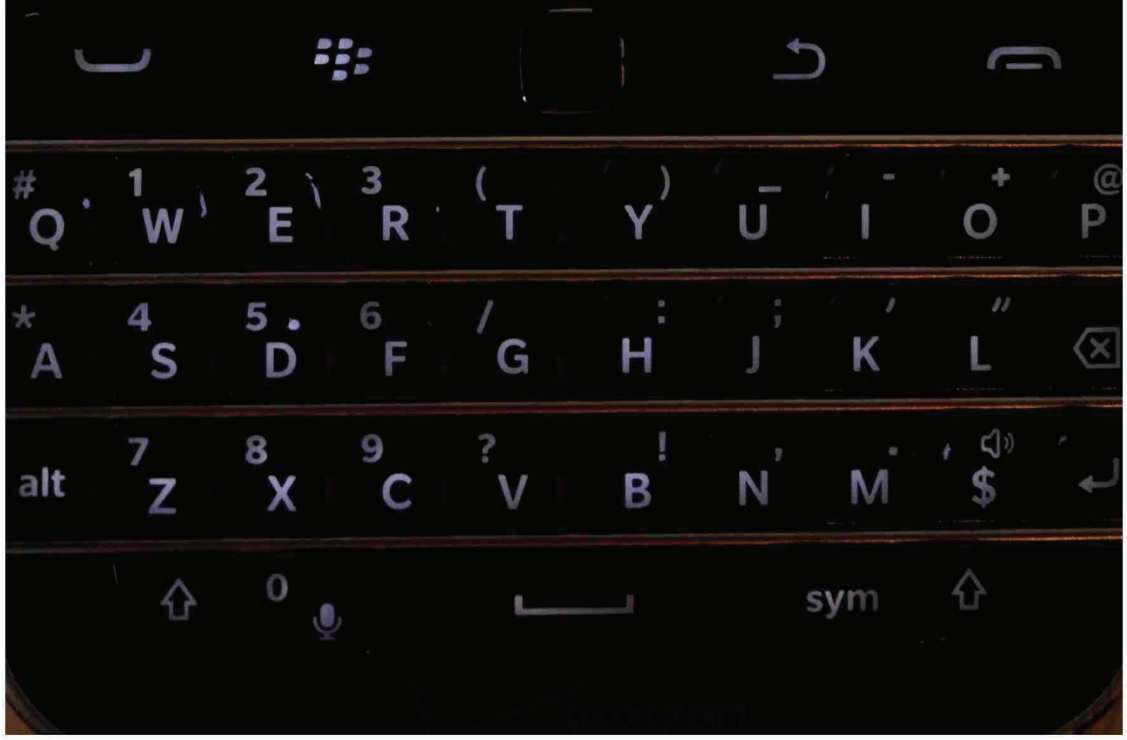
To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

No. [Redacted in original production]

< / << >> > ⋮

Reply Reply All Forward





11:38 AM



Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Original Message

From: Mark.2

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:36 AM

To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

No not u. [Redacted in original production]

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:35 AM

To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:



Reply

Reply All

Forward





11:38 AM



Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



EA #3 better?

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:39 AM

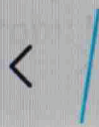
To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:

Redacted in original production

Brittany is on call today. Want her now?

Original Message



Reply



Reply All



Forward





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:12 AM

To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:

I called EA #3. She can do. I'm telling her to head there now.

Original Message

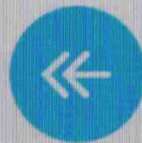
From: Mark.2

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:40 AM

To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

EA #3 better?



Reply

Reply All

Forward





11:38 AM



Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Original Message

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:42 AM

To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

K

Original Message

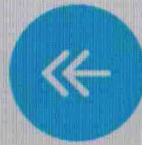
From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:42 AM

To: Mark.2



Reply



Reply All



Forward





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Plz see if u can get [redacted] and [redacted] on the phone with me together this morning.

Original Message

From: [redacted]

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:43 AM

To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

[redacted] Redacted in original production [redacted]

Original Message

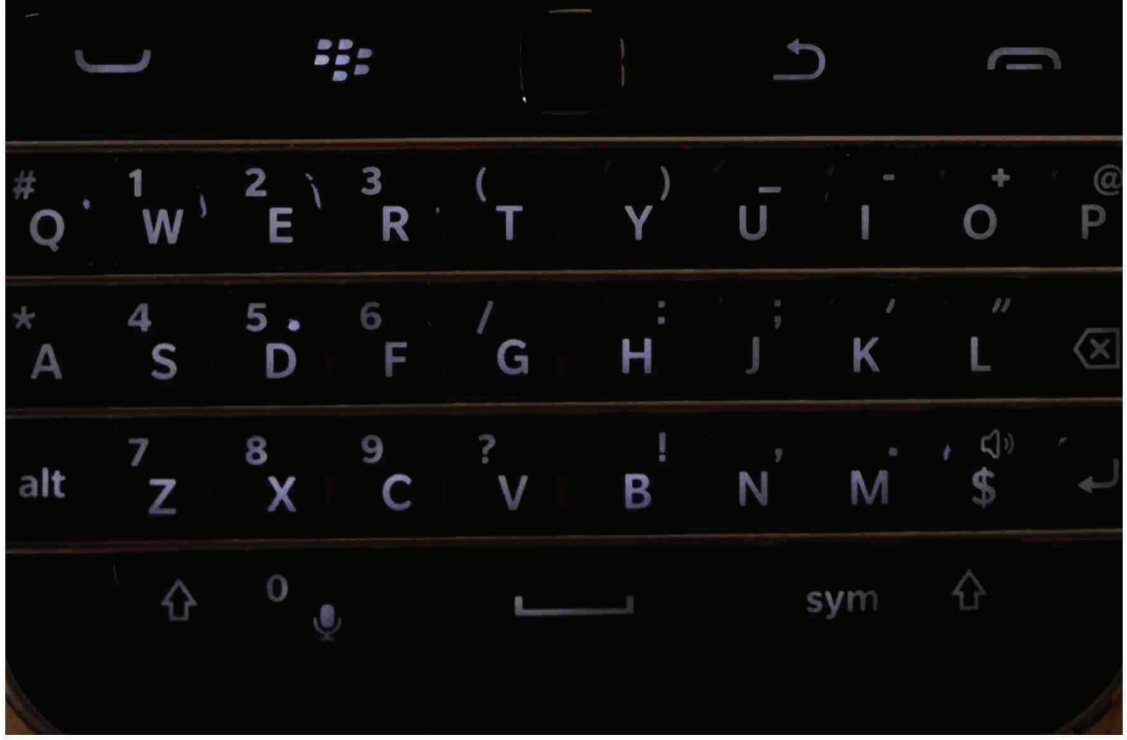
From: [redacted]



Reply

Reply All

Forward





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:

I've called both and texted. Let u know.

Original Message

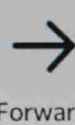
From: Mark.2

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:04 AM

To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

Plz see if u can get [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on the phone with me together this morning.



Reply

Reply All

Forward





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Original Message

From: Mark.2

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:47 AM

To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

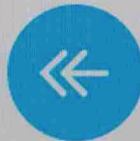
Try them again

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:14 AM

To: Mark.2



Reply

Reply All

Forward





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



How about [REDACTED]

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:49 AM

To: Mark.2

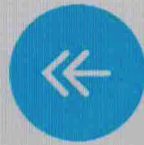
Subject: Re:

[REDACTED] said he's tied up with family stuff this am. They're coming back to me on a time that works.

Original Message



Reply



Reply All



Forward





11:39 AM



Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 11:04 AM

To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:

Tried her again. No answer.

Original Message

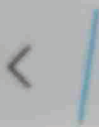
From: Mark.2

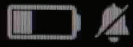
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:51 AM

To: Stephanie Benton

Subject: Re:

How about [REDACTED]





11:39 AM



Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton

Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 11:57 AM

To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:

[Redacted] is skiing w family. Not avail until tonight.

Original Message

From: [Redacted]

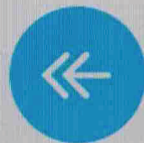
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 11:04 AM

To: Mark.2

Subject: Re:



Reply



Reply All



Forward





Mark.2

Mar 6, 2021 12:13:16 PM



Re:

Tell her reporter is writing now if she can any way call her during lunch [REDACTED] Amy Britain.....that it's inconceivable I forcibly hugged her 20 years ago and she never said anything to anyone and we're friends and then enemies and this never came up. Karen publically said Clinton solicited her why didn't she say me? the book is the only answer.

Original Message

From: Stephanie Benton



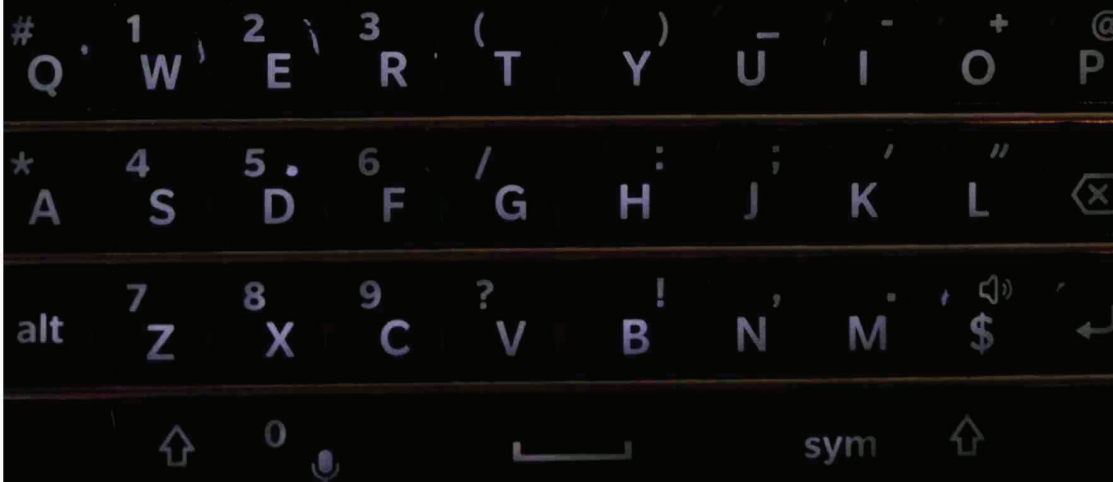
Reply



Reply All

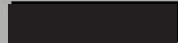


Forward





Mark.2



Account: PIN Peer-to-Peer

Folder: Inbox

To

Stephanie Benton

Re:

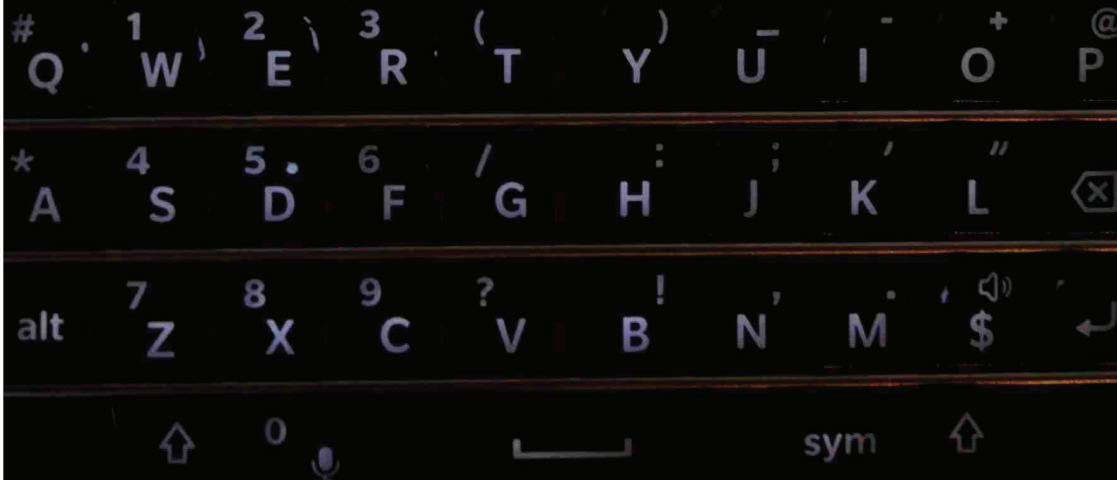
Tell her reporter is writing now if she can any way call her during lunch ... [redacted] Amy Britain.....that it's inconceivable I forcibly hugged her 20 years ago and she never said anything to any [redacted] and we're friends and then



Reply

Reply All

Forward



From: Cohen, Steven (ESD) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov
Subject: Re: Privileged
Date: March 10, 2021 at 6:26 PM
To: DeRosa, Melissa (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov
Cc: Benton, Stephanie (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov, Azzopardi, Richard (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov, Garvey, Beth (CHAMBER) [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov

SC

Preferred version.

As I said yesterday, I have never done anything like this. The details of this report are gut-wrenching. I am not going to speak to the specifics of this or any other allegation given the ongoing investigation, but I am confident in the result of the Attorney General's report.

On Mar 10, 2021, at 6:15 PM, Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov wrote:

It has to say untrue or false

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Cohen, Steven (ESD)
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 6:11 PM
To: Stephanie Benton
Cc: Richard Azzopardi; Melissa DeRosa; Beth Garvey
Subject: Re: Privileged

Take out completely untrue. Rich A version.

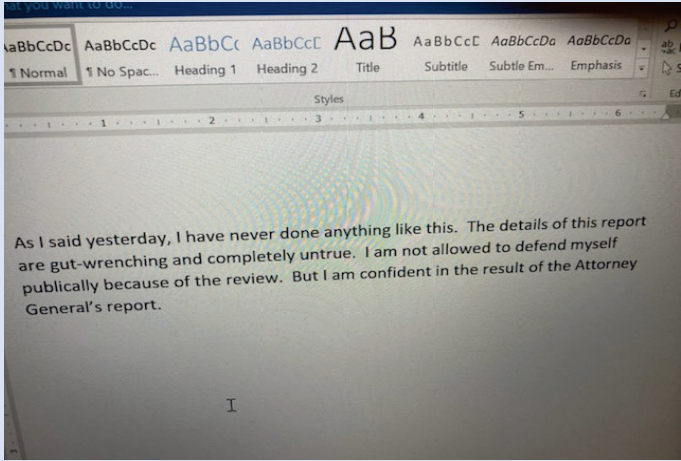
On Mar 10, 2021, at 5:57 PM, Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov wrote:

As I said yesterday, I have never done anything like this. The details of this report are gut-wrenching and completely untrue. I am not allowed to defend myself publicly because of the review. But I am confident in the result of the Attorney General's report.

IMPORTANT: This e-mail message and any attachments contain information intended for the exclusive use of the individual(s) or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is proprietary, privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any viewing, copying, disclosure or distribution of this information may be subject to legal restriction or sanction. Please immediately notify the sender by electronic mail or notify the System Administrator by telephone [REDACTED] or e-mail [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov and delete the message. Thank you.

EXHIBIT
12

COHEN000642

Chat #	From	To	Body	Timestamp: Time
317	Stephanie Benton	Melissa DeRosa (owner) Steve Cohen Rich Azzopardi Melissa DeRosa (owner)		3/10/2021 10:48:28 PM(UTC+0)
317	Rich Azzopardi	Melissa DeRosa (owner) Steve Cohen Stephanie Benton Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Steph can you send to me on exec email	3/10/2021 10:53:25 PM(UTC+0)
317	Rich Azzopardi	Melissa DeRosa (owner) Steve Cohen Stephanie Benton Melissa DeRosa (owner)	Steve let me know if ok	3/10/2021 10:53:32 PM(UTC+0)

317	<p>[REDACTED] Steve Cohen</p>	<p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton</p> <p>[REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi</p> <p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	<p>Hold. Would rather say "I am not going to speak to the specifics of this or any other allegations given the ongoing investigation" instead of not allowed to defend myself.</p>	<p>3/10/2021 10:57:17 PM(UTC+0)</p>
317	<p>[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton</p>	<p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Steve Cohen</p> <p>[REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi</p> <p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	<p>Is that from Sharon and Robbie?</p>	<p>3/10/2021 10:59:03 PM(UTC+0)</p>
317	<p>[REDACTED] Steve Cohen</p>	<p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton</p> <p>[REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi</p> <p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	<p>I have never done anything like this and this is gut wrenching. Drop untrue.</p>	<p>3/10/2021 10:59:23 PM(UTC+0)</p>

317	<p>[REDACTED] Steve Cohen</p>	<p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton</p> <p>[REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi</p> <p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	No Sharon. Can't Robbie. Trying her again.	3/10/2021 10:59:44 PM(UTC+0)
317	<p>[REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi</p>	<p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Steve Cohen</p> <p>[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton</p> <p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	As I said yesterday, I have never done anything like this. The details of this report are gut-wrenching. I am not going to speak to the specifics of this or any other allegation given the ongoing investigation, but I am confident in the result of the Attorney General's report.	3/10/2021 11:01:20 PM(UTC+0)
317	<p>[REDACTED] Rich Azzopardi</p>	<p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Steve Cohen</p> <p>[REDACTED] Stephanie Benton</p> <p>[REDACTED] Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	Steph can you make sure he sees this I am running out of time	3/10/2021 11:02:15 PM(UTC+0)

317	<p>Rich Azzopardi</p>	<p>Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>Steve Cohen</p> <p>Stephanie Benton</p> <p>Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	Like minutes	<p>3/10/2021 11:02:21 PM(UTC+0)</p>
317	<p>Steve Cohen</p>	<p>Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>Stephanie Benton</p> <p>Rich Azzopardi</p> <p>Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	Fine. Ok.	<p>3/10/2021 11:02:55 PM(UTC+0)</p>
317	<p>Stephanie Benton</p>	<p>Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p> <p>Steve Cohen</p> <p>Rich Azzopardi</p> <p>Melissa DeRosa (owner)</p>	Change investigation to review	<p>3/10/2021 11:04:36 PM(UTC+0)</p>

317

Rich
Azzopardi

Melissa
DeRosa
(owner)

Steve Cohen

Stephanie
Benton

Melissa
DeRosa
(owner)

Ok then I'm going

3/10/2021
11:04:55
PM(UTC+0)

To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov]; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com]
Cc: Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com]; Judith Mogu [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov]; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov)[REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov]; Mitra Hormozi [REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com]
From: Melissa DeRosa[O-NYEC/OU-EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=MDEROSA]
Sent: Sun 3/14/2021 10:35:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

retaliatory how? if u want to cut out the last part and make purely factual fine but how is it retaliatory to respond to her attacks factually?

Lindsey routinely circumvented the senior staff and went directly to the governor which disrupted communication and organization. She was asked many times not to go to the Governor directly but to follow protocol and refused, which was an ongoing source of tension.

From: Beth Garvey
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:33 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

We don't have to make news with that answer it can be spun as retaliatory.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Beth Garvey; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

some changes - what happened to that last answer? that is NOT what we are shipping -- we discussed this extensively and we are answering that question

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: "After Ms. Boylan's tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up."

She accuses Melissa DeRosa of leaking her personnel file and questions the legality of the leak. Do you or does Melissa have a response?

From Beth Garvey, Acting Counsel: "With certain limited exceptions, as a general matter, it is within a government entity's discretion to share redacted employment records, including in instances when members of the media ask for such public information and when it is for the purpose of correcting inaccurate or misleading statements. Given the ongoing review by the State Attorney General, we cannot comment further at this time."

OFF THE RECORD: HOW WOULD LINDSEY KNOW WHO RELEASED IT? WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR HER ASSERTION? WE CAN'T GET INTO SPECS BECAUSE OF THE AG'S INVESTIGATION, BUT PRINTING THAT MELISSA WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE IT TO THE PRESS WOULD BE INACCURATE.

Boylan describes a culture of hostility and bullying under the governor. She and others recall seeing a dart board with a photo of Bill DeBlasio on it while attending a pool party. Do you or the governor have any comment on the dart board and the intentions behind it?

Boylan says, as previously alleged in her Medium post, that the governor fixated on her, tracked her location through aides to an extent she found uncomfortable, and showed a level of interest that she found inappropriate in their interpersonal interactions.

From a spokesperson re Stephanie: "Part of Stephanie's job is to make sure senior staff know how and when they can get in touch with the Governor, and Blackberry pin is how any member of the team would communicate with him." (OFF THE RECORD – see attached email sent out recently to a group when GAMC's number was changed)

Re Jill's email: "Regardless of whatever Ms. Boylan believes, she was in no way being 'tracked' by staff – Jill oversaw events and scheduling, so it was her job to understand what relevant senior members of the team—male and female – would be attending Governor events."

From a spokesperson: "All senior staff receive these kinds of instructions, requests and communications – nothing about these exchanges are unique or interesting in this regard."

EXHIBIT

14

She says that she felt objectified and professionally diminished, and recounts an incident at the December 2016 REDC awards during which she says she was ordered to accompany the Governor and Maria Bartiromo on a return helicopter flight rather than remain and continue to engage with her direct-reports on substantive matters.

From a spokesperson: Lindsey was clearly not 'ordered' to be on the flights as she was not on the flight -- this was not a point of contention.

Boylan speaks about what she perceived to be a lack of boundaries between the Governor and female staffers. She says that Stephanie Benton asked her, also at a pool party, whether she had yet been swimming in the pool at the governor's residence.

From a spokesperson: "Stephanie does not believe this is true." If needed Stephanie will say this on the record

On the subject of the "strip poker" comment that her Medium post claimed the governor made on a flight in October 2017, Boylan disputes the group denial and says that Abbey Fashouer Collins was sitting next to her when the comment was made.

Please refer back to Abbey Collins previous statement which still stands – see below:

In a joint statement, John Maggiore, Howard Zemsky, Dani Lever, and Abbey Fashouer Collins who were on all of these flights with her added: "We were on each of these October flights and this conversation did not happen."

She reiterates her claim that the governor kissed her on the lips in 2018.

From a spokesperson: "This is not true."

On the subject of Melissa, she recounts a convo in which Melissa screamed at her on the phone – in the final days of Lindsey being in her job – July 2018 – when things deteriorated

this is not what

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:15 PM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

we can do more work during fact checking

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:15 PM
To: Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov); Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

ok. fixing that and shipping

From: Lacewell, Linda A (DFS) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:12 PM
To: Jeffrey Pollock
Cc: Peter Ajemian; Beth Garvey; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

nothing about these exchanges IS unique or interesting in this regard."

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2021, at 10:07 PM, Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com> wrote:

ATTENTION: This e-mail came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I'm good as long as you all have fully litigated the last point and we don't need to go back to where we were.

From: Peter Ajemian [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:06 PM

To: Beth Garvey [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Stephanie Benton [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Jeffrey Pollock [REDACTED]@globalstrategygroup.com>; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@dfs.ny.gov>
Cc: Lis Smith [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Judith Mogul [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Richard Azzopardi [REDACTED]@exec.ny.gov>; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov) [REDACTED]@esd.ny.gov>; Mitra Hormozi [REDACTED]@wmhlaw.com>
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

[EXTERNAL]

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: "After Ms. Boylan's tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up."

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Please refer back to Abbey Collins previous statement which still stands – see below:

In a joint statement, John Maggiore, Howard Zemsky, Dani Lever, and Abbey Fashouer Collins who were on all of these flights with her added: "We were on each of these October flights and this conversation did not happen."

She reiterates her claim that the governor kissed her on the lips in 2018.

From a spokesperson: "As we said before, Ms. Boylan's claims of inappropriate behavior are quite simply false."

On the subject of Melissa, she recounts a convo in which Melissa screamed at her on the phone – in the final days of Lindsey being

in her job – July 2018 – when things deteriorated

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the governor: “There is no secret these are tough jobs, and the work is demanding, but we have a top tier team with many employees who have been here for years and many others who have left and returned because they know the work we do matters, a fact that was underscored throughout COVID.”

From: Beth Garvey
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:16 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

I reframed it slightly, it may work at the end as far as contradicting "fear"

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Peter Ajemian
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:52 PM
To: Melissa DeRosa; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Beth Garvey; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Re: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

also - what does this get us?
This occurred months before Ms. Boylan resigned and then unsuccessfully seeking her job back with the Chamber.

From: Melissa DeRosa
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:14 PM
To: Peter Ajemian; Stephanie Benton; Jeffrey Pollock; Linda A Lacewell (dfs.ny.gov)
Cc: Lis Smith; Josh Vlasto; Judith Mogul; Beth Garvey; Richard Azzopardi; Steven Cohen (esd.ny.gov); Mitra Hormozi
Subject: Priv and Confidential - CURRENT DRAFT

Boylan alleges that former and current aides and allies of the Governor have retaliated against her in a variety of ways, including making calls about her.

Will look like WSJ – about calls that were made and tenor.
Her ongoing and continued claim that those calls were intimidating or intended to suss out what her plans were or cast aspersions about her.
Melissa and Rich and Abbey Collins are mentioned.

From Rich Azzopardi, senior advisor to the Governor: “After Ms. Boylan’s tweets in December, she, and her lawyers and members of the press began reaching out to former members of the Chamber, many of whom never worked with her. Those former members of the Chamber called to let various staff people know and convey that they were upset by the outreach. As a result, we proactively reached out to some former colleagues to check in and make sure they had a heads up.”

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Boylan says, as previously alleged in her Medium post, that the governor fixated on her, tracked her location through aides to an extent she found uncomfortable, and showed a level of interest that she found inappropriate in their interpersonal interactions.

Fixated on her – her characterization of him – her interpretation of these events was he was repeatedly inquiring about her and

in their own interactions, eye contact, touching, and signaling his interest in ways she found uncomfortable

Incremental new pieces of communiques – from editorial and fact checking standpoint – a cache of communications similar to what we've already seen – Stephanie Benton email from March 2017 sharing the governor's pin, responding to Lindsey getting a bberry, "Smiley face. Feel free to pin gov. he'll be very happy to hear from you." about her being issued a bberry with pin capacity and that's something the gov will be happy about -

From a spokesperson re Stephanie: "Part of Stephanie's job is to make sure senior staff know how and when they can get in touch with the Governor, and Blackberry pin is how any member of the team would communicate with him." (OFF THE RECORD – see attached email sent out recently to a group when GAMC's number was changed)

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On the subject of the "strip poker" comment that her Medium post claimed the governor made on a flight in October 2017, Boylan disputes the group denial and says that Abbey Fashouer Collins was sitting next to her when the comment was made.

Please refer back to Abbey Collins previous statement which still stands – see below:

In a joint statement, John Maggiore, Howard Zemsky, Dani Lever, and Abbey Fashouer Collins who were on all of these flights with her added: "We were on each of these October flights and this conversation did not happen."

She reiterates her claim that the governor kissed her on the lips in 2018.

From a spokesperson: "As we said before, Ms. Boylan's claims of inappropriate behavior are quite simply false."

On the subject of Melissa, she recounts a convo in which Melissa screamed at her on the phone – in the final days of Lindsey being in her job – July 2018 – when things became really

From a spokesperson: "This occurred months before Ms. Boylan resigned and then unsuccessfully seeking her job back with the Chamber. Lindsey regularly bypassed senior staff and went directly to the Governor against protocol, an ongoing source of frustration that was also disruptive. This led to a heated conversation between her and the Secretary and directly contradicts her current position she was 'afraid' of the Governor."



3:59 PM



To: Mark.2

Mar 14, 2021 1:08:59 PM



Going to push 115 a little bit. Group on phone re Ronan article now includes some of the 115.



Edit



Reply All



Forward



EXHIBIT
15

Tab 155
Chamber_AG_00035768
Titled “Q&A”

Privileged and confidential / Draft

I want to address the recent allegations against me. The Attorney General is doing an independent review and I am cooperating with that review, and the lawyers say I shouldn't say anything until it's over. I understand that. I'm a lawyer too. But I want New Yorkers to know this: I fully support a woman's right to come forward and I think it should be encouraged.

I now know I acted in a way that made people feel uncomfortable. I feel very badly about that and frankly I am embarrassed. It was unintentional and I truly, deeply apologize. To be clear, I never touched anyone inappropriately. I never made any inappropriate advances. And I never intended to make anyone, ever, feel uncomfortable.

I ask the people of New York to wait for the Attorney General's review before they make a decision on my behavior – until they know the facts.

But in the meantime, we have a very important job to do – all of us — we must defeat COVID and we will defeat COVID, and we will do it together.

It has been the honor of my life to be elected three times by the people of ny to lead the people of this state. It's a job i take tseriously. And i am going to continue to fight

The responsibility of governing this state is one i have never taken lightly.

Q&A

Did you kiss Lindsey Boylan?

No, as I said I never touched anyone inappropriately.

Do you think it was appropriate how you spoke to your 25-year old staffer charlotte bennett?

As I said before, I now understand that there are things I've said that upset people and for that I'm sorry. There's a review by the attorney general that will look at the facts and we will cooperate with that fully.

Do you think it's appropriate how you engaged with Anna Ruch?

It was not my intention to be inappropriate. My usual custom is to greet people

There have been bipartisan calls for you to resign. How do you respond?

I was elected by the people to do a job including managing this pandemic and the economic recovery. I'm focused on that job and I have no intention to resign.

Should you step aside for the sake of government functioning?

No. I have an important job to do, especially in the middle of covid. Vaccine, economy is recovery, etc.

If you don't resign are you still committed to running for a fourth term?

Today's not a day to talk about politics.

The legislature is stripping you of emergency powers. Do you agree with their approach?

The covid pandemic isn't over and it won't be for some time. We're working with the leg on a bull that will extend emergency powers past April 2021. We are talking about may use July — continue the directives I've done — we would give notice on the extensions — they would continue to have a right to override

Have you ever had an inappropriate relationship with anyone on your staff?

No.

Have you ever had an intimate relationship with anyone on your staff?

No.

You passed sexual harassment policies into laws and did all this work with MeToo, but your private actions contradict that. How do you square that?

Passing those law was incredibly important to me.

I now understand...

the AG is doing a full, independent review of the facts

We will await the public report on that review

I believe my office handled these affairs appropriately, however there is a review by the AG and we are fully cooperating with that review.

Did you take your sexual harassment training this past year?

Every time it was required I took it.

[REDACTED]

Charlotte said you “engaged in manipulative tactics to diminish allegations, blame victims, deny wrongdoing and escape consequences. It took the governor 24 hours and significant backlash to allow for a truly independent investigation.” ?

As I said before, I now understand that there are things I’ve said that upset people and for that I’m sorry. There’s a review by the attorney general that will look at the facts and we will cooperate with that fully.

de Blasio said: “I was very troubled by the Gov’s apology – sexual harassment is serious matter – he gave a non-apology – I’ve been going through the training cycle with other folks at city hall – no, I do not feel there was ever a situation when I made someone uncomfortable – what he did was disgusting and unacceptable and I do not conceive it being possible in my life and my staff and I cannot think of a decent human being doing that”. what’s your response to that?

Mayor de Blasio and I have had our disagreements over the years but today is not a day for politics.

You called on Schneiderman and Vito Lopez to resign. how do you square you rush to Jude

There is no comparison between these situations at all. That said, I now understand that there are things I’ve said that upset people and for that I’m sorry. There’s a review by the attorney general that will look at the facts and we will cooperate with that fully.

You said Brett Kavanaugh should take a lie detector test after allegations of sexual misconduct came out. Will you take one?

These are two wholly different situations. The AG is doing a review - she will get the facts and make them public.

The AG came to the conclusion that outside counsel was the appropriate course of action. When i was AG, i also came to that conclusion on multiple occasions. I trust the AG to do the review.

Why did you ask Janet DiFiore to participate in the selection process? Wasn't that an effort to interfere in the process?

There seems to be a pattern of receipt, obstructing investigations like the Moreland commission and you seem to be doing that again here.

The AG is doing doing a full, independent review. I trust that process.

Why did your office go through all these iterations rather than just give it to the AG. You've been AG./ Do you not trust her?

My office considered a number of options. We landed in the right place.

Have you spoken to the AG?

You endorsed Tish in the 2018 race. What[s your current relationship?

We have a respectful working relationship.

Why didn't you just go to the AG. Do you think she has a political motivation?

My office considered a number of options and we landed in a place where

What were you thinking talking to this girl who said she was a victim of rape and told you this whole story

As I said before, I now understand that there are things I've said that upset people and for that I'm sorry. There's a review by the attorney general that will look at the facts and we will cooperate with that fully.

At least one woman who made complaints about you was shuttled off to another part of state government

You reassigned women who spoke out. Is it fair to say that women are being punished when they come forward to say that feel uncomfortable?

I believe the staff handled it correctly. And the AG is doing a full, independent review and I am confident that will be borne out.

How do you justify the work atmosphere that made it seem like this was a grooming agency

I don't manage the staff. The staff manage the staff.

I'm proud of the work I've done for the people of the state of ny. I'm proud of my staff.

You said you wanted to release the letter on nursing homes. Where is it?

Why did it take so long to apologize and why did it take so long for you to speak publicly?

We responded in real time and the fact is I'm here to tell you I'm sorry. I apologize to anyone I have hurt. There's a full, independent review by the AG and we are fully cooperating with that.

Do you think people are overreacting and your actions are just your custom?

You never denied what Charlotte said in her allegations? Are they credible allegations?

###

Message

From: Linda Lacewell [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/8/2021 10:35:04 PM
To: Lis Smith [REDACTED]; Peter Ajemian; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]; Rich Azzopardi; Judy Mogul [REDACTED];
Stephanie Benton Cell [REDACTED]; Jeff Pollock [REDACTED]; Steve Cohen; Melissa DeRosa [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; Maggie Moran [REDACTED]@kivvit.com; Josh Vlasto [REDACTED]; Dani [REDACTED]; Beth
Garvey [REDACTED]
Subject: 3/8/2021 5:35:04 PM -05:00 : [REDACTED] -> [13 parties]

She says: mansion parties 2015 got rowdy, [REDACTED] ^{Senior Staffer #3} was picked up drunk and naked



Name	Msg #	From	To	Body	Timestamp: Time
Mean Girls	2363	+ [REDACTED] Dani Lever	+ [REDACTED] Melissa Derosa Annabel Walsh Steph Benton Jill DesRosiers Andrew Ball [REDACTED]@gmail.com Dani Lever (owner)	https://twitter.com/lindsey_boylan/status/1091431730727321601?s=21	2/2/2019 8:39:28 AM(UTC-5)
Mean Girls	2364	+ [REDACTED] Steph Benton	+ [REDACTED] Dani Lever (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa Derosa Annabel Walsh Jill DesRosiers Andrew Ball [REDACTED]@gmail.com Dani Lever (owner)	Well now we've heard from the real authority.	2/2/2019 9:30:04 AM(UTC-5)
Mean Girls	2365	+ [REDACTED] Jill DesRosiers	+ [REDACTED] Dani Lever (owner) + [REDACTED] Melissa Derosa Annabel Walsh Steph Benton Andrew Ball [REDACTED]@gmail.com Dani Lever (owner)	Didn't she help negotiate it?	2/2/2019 9:34:29 AM(UTC-5)
Mean Girls	2366	+ [REDACTED] Dani Lever	+ [REDACTED] Melissa Derosa Annabel Walsh Steph Benton Jill DesRosiers Andrew Ball [REDACTED]@gmail.com Dani Lever (owner)	Yup	2/2/2019 9:51:18 AM(UTC-5)