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5 ETHICS COMMISSION
6 CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
7

8 In the Matter of Charges Against
9 ROSS MIRKARIMI,
10 Sheriff, City and County of San Francisco.
11

**DECLARATION OF CALLIE
WILLIAMS**

12 I, CALLIE WILLIAMS, declare:
13

14 1. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein, except for those matters set
15 forth on information and belief, which I believe to be true, and if called to testify, I can and will
16 testify competently as to all matters set forth herein.

17 2. I am employed as an elementary school teacher in a public school district in the San
18 Francisco Bay Area.

19 3. I live on Webster Street in San Francisco, and have lived in the same building for
20 almost four years. I live in the same building where Ross Mirkarimi and Eliana Lopez live with
21 their son. The building is a tenancy in common with four units. My unit is directly above theirs.
22 Initially I had little relationship with Ross or Eliana beyond being neighbors, but about a year ago, I
23 became friends with Eliana. I really liked Eliana and she was always kind and affectionate. We
24 were not very close, though. At one point, we discussed working together to teach free art classes to
25 the community, and I was happy about the prospect of getting to know her better.

26 4. During the period of time Ross, Eliana and their son lived together in the unit below
27 me, I could hear movement and noises in their unit, including when their son ran around the house.
28 Prior to December 31, 2011, I would on occasion hear arguments between Ross and Eliana,

1 including fights when it was clear their son was present. Once I heard Ross yell, "Get the fuck out."
2 I have never personally seen Ross acting physically abusive towards Eliana. I had not been worried
3 for Eliana's safety before I spoke with Eliana on January 4.

4 5. On December 31, 2011, I was not at home during the incident between Ross and
5 Eliana that Eliana later told me about – the incident that led to the criminal case against Ross.

6 6. On January 4, 2012, I was out all morning. I returned home and I went out the back
7 door of my unit to the back stairwell and started cleaning up and moving stuff around. My dog came
8 out and was running around making noise. Just after that, around 1:00 p.m., Lopez came up the
9 stairs and approached me. She was in a serious somber mood, which was different from her mood
10 when I usually saw her, which is more bright, lively, and happy. She asked if I'd heard her and Ross
11 fighting on December 31, 2011. I told her I hadn't been home. She said she thought I was home
12 then and seemed very surprised when I told her I wasn't at home then.

13 7. Eliana then described the fight she had with Ross as a serious one including physical
14 abuse. She told me that the fight had started in the car on the way to lunch. Eliana said that
15 Mirkarimi grew extremely irate when they were discussing something, and that the fight continued
16 the whole drive back to their apartment and then continued inside the home. Eliana told me that she
17 entered the house first and locked the door while Mirkarimi was still on the outside. Mirkarimi
18 pounded on the door to get in. Eliana did not tell me if he eventually got in by using his own key, or
19 if she let him in. Eliana told me that while the fight was going on inside the home, she was hoping I
20 could hear it. At this point during our conversation she looked up and put her hands in a prayer
21 position and said, "Callie can hear me. Callie will call the police." She said that believing I was
22 above her made her feel safe. She said, if I'm in trouble, Callie will call the police. Eliana then told
23 me that during the fight she ran out of her house into the street, screaming, to get away. She
24 commented that she must have looked crazy when she did that.

25 8. Eliana said Mirkarimi had injured her arm during the fight. She told me Mirkarimi
26 had grabbed her hard enough to leave the bruise. She actually showed me her bruise later in our
27 conversation.
28

1 9. During this conversation, Eliana informed me that she was thinking about divorcing
2 Ross. She said she had talked with a divorce lawyer. Eliana told me that her son witnessed the
3 entire fight and that he later told her "Daddy made a boo-boo on Mommy's arm." She was upset
4 when she was telling me about this. Lopez told me that Mirkarimi didn't want counseling. She said
5 she was worried because she didn't want their son to grow up in an abusive environment. Eliana
6 described things that had been happening over a longer period of time in their marriage, not just on
7 December 31. She said that verbal abuse by Ross took place frequently. Eliana told me that the
8 recent December 31 incident wasn't the first instance of physical abuse perpetrated on her by Ross.
9 Another incident had occurred in March 2011. Eliana said the incident in March 2011 involved
10 physical abuse as opposed to merely verbal abuse. She was very specific to say that December 31
11 was the second time Ross was physically abusive with her.

12 10. During this conversation, Eliana said that Ross had told her that he was a very
13 powerful man. As Eliana described it, Ross made this comment in the context of trying to
14 intimidate her from reporting his abuse of her, or to intimidate her about him using his power to get
15 custody of their son. I am positive that she described it in connection with one of these two things.
16 I have heard media reports about Ross stating that his "powerful" comment referred to powerful
17 child custody laws, not to him being a powerful man. That is inconsistent with what Eliana
18 described in our conversation on January 4. That never came up in my conversation with Eliana
19 and that is not how Eliana described Ross's "powerful man" comment to me, or her own reaction to
20 his "powerful man" comment. The way that Eliana described Ross's "powerful man" comment was
21 that he was trying to intimidate her with his political power. Eliana told me that when she heard
22 Ross say this to her to intimidate her, it reduced her feelings toward Ross. This was also in the
23 context of her discussing why she was considering a divorce.

24 11. I have a personal experience with Ross threatening to use his political power.
25 During the course of our tenancy in common, I had one argument with Mirkarimi about water
26 damage and mold in his unit. Mirkarimi had told me he had rejected a bid from a contractor to
27 perform work on the water damage in his unit in part because it was too expensive. I informed him
28 that I had a contractor performing work on my unit (for a different reason) for whom I could vouch

1 and who I would refer to him if he wished. I informed Mirkarimi that I had told the contractor
2 working on my apartment the amount of the bid Mirkarimi had previously rejected. He grew irate
3 when I mentioned this and said what I had done was “stupid” because they could then use that bid
4 amount, which was too high in Mirkarimi’s view, to bid more than they might have bid without that
5 information. During the conversation where he was insulting me for sharing the bid information he
6 said if he wanted he could call the Department of Building Inspection and have the whole building
7 “shut down” for mold and water damage.

8 12. During our January 4 conversation, Eliana told me that because of the bruise, Ross
9 was scared she was going to go to police. She said that Ross hadn’t gone to work on January 3, but
10 he had the next day. Eliana said that on the morning of the January 4 (that morning), Ross had been
11 calling her frequently checking on her. She said that over the past few days, he kept asking her,
12 “How’s your arm?” and telling her, “Don’t tell anyone.” Eliana said that Ross had taken her down
13 to Monterey two days before, where they’d stayed overnight, to keep her quiet.

14 13. During our January 4 conversation, Eliana said Ross was controlling about money
15 and did not allow her to have much. My personal knowledge of the details of this are limited.
16 There was one occasion when Eliana wrote me a check for Nutcracker tickets that I arranged to get
17 for them; I don’t know if her name was on the check. All of the financial dealings I have had
18 involving the building, which is a tenancy in common, have been directly with Ross.

19 14. During our January 4 conversation, Eliana said she was going to the hospital to have
20 them check the bruise because she needed medical attention. She showed me a bruise on her upper
21 right arm. It looked like imprints from three fingers. The bruise was still clearly visible and purple-
22 ish when I saw it. I pointed out that the hospital might call the police because of mandatory
23 reporting laws, and Eliana hesitated.

24 15. Toward the end of our January 4 conversation, Ross appeared on the back steps
25 wearing a suit. He asked Eliana what she was doing, and Eliana said she was talking to me. Ross
26 asked Eliana to let him know when she came back inside, and then he went back inside. When he
27 went back inside, Eliana said to me, “See, he’s scared I’m going to talk.” I told Eliana that I
28 admired her for not keeping quiet, because most people in her situation would just keep quiet. Our

1 discussion shifted to how much she loved her son, and she asked for recommendations for books for
2 Theo to learn to read in English.

3 16. At 7:13 PM on January 4, Eliana sent me an email that said "All I told today is
4 confidential. Don't repeat please." I wrote back that I wouldn't repeat anything. My impression at
5 the time was that she wanted me to not repeat the story to private citizens. At 7:47 PM on January
6 4, Eliana sent me another email that said, "Don't talk to the police if they ask you." I found this
7 request not to speak to the police to be surprising and disturbing.

8 17. The shift in behavior between our 1:00 PM conversation and the 7:45 PM email was
9 odd because at 1:00 PM she was talking openly about the incident. The fact that she was sharing it
10 with me indicated to me that she did not intend on remaining quiet about the incident. Due to the
11 troubling shift in attitude, I was concerned for Eliana, and I wrote her a reply email telling her so at
12 7:13 PM on January 5, stating, "Hi, I'm concerned for you. The policy did come by this evening
13 and asked if I heard anything on the 31st. I honestly didn't, so I said no. I don't think they believed
14 me. I really think you should see a doctor, if you haven't already. I'm sure they will keep it
15 confidential, but you should have some documentation. You have my love and support with
16 whatever you do!" "Policy" was a typo for "police." A true and correct copy of this email chain,
17 with private email address information blacked out, is attached as Exhibit 1.

18 18. Eliana asked me not to talk to the police about this. I gave a statement, though, to
19 District Attorney investigators on January 12, 2012. I felt horrible about sharing the conversation
20 that I had with Eliana. However, I was concerned for Eliana's well-being and safety after her
21 change in behavior, and also concerned for her child. I also thought that Eliana and Ross were
22 saying something very different to the media from what Eliana told me on January 4. I also thought
23 that I should cooperate with law enforcement. When Ross's attorney Lidia Stiglich and her
24 investigator later came to speak with me, I spoke with them too.

25 19. I texted Abe Mertens about the fact that Ivory had spoken with police, and that I had
26 spoken with the District Attorney investigators, because I thought he and Ivory Madison were
27 probably going through the same thing I was going through. The text messages reflect my true
28 feelings at the time that I sent them. A true and correct copy of the text messages about this topic,

1 with telephone numbers blacked out, is attached as Exhibit 2. I purposely never discussed with
2 them what Eliana told me, and they have never discussed with me what Eliana told them.

3 20. I texted Eliana after I spoke with the District Attorney investigators. The text
4 message I sent her reflected my true feelings at the time I sent it. A true and correct copy of the text
5 message is attached as Exhibit 3.

6 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
7 is true and correct. Executed this June 6, 2012 in San Francisco.

8
9
10 
11 CALLIE WILLIAMS

EXHIBIT 1

Search Search Web



Mail Contacts Calendar Notepad What's New? Mobile Mail Options
Check Mail New Mail Search Get the newest Yahoo! Mail

Who's Been Arrested?
Folders
Inbox (16)
Drafts (29)
Sent
Spam (7) [Empty]
Trash [Empty]
My Photos
My Attachments

Previous | Next | Back to Messages
Delete Reply Forward Move...
Mark as Unread | Print

Re: Re:
From: "callie williams"
To:
Friday, January 6, 2012 10:58 AM

Hi,
I read some of the articles that are out. I just want you to know, I have not said anything. I wouldn't do that to you. I'm sure the stress you are going through right now is very hard and I respect your privacy. You are in my thoughts - Callie

--- On Thu, 1/5/12, [redacted] wrote:

From: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Re:
To: "Callie"
Date: Thursday, January 5, 2012, 7:03 PM

Hello Callie, thank you!
We are fine, let me know if something else happen.
Eliana

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: [redacted]
Date: Thu, 5 Jan 2012 18:13:51 -0800
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Re:

Hi,
I'm concerned for you. The policy did come by this evening and asked if I heard anything on the 31st. I honestly didn't, so I said no. I don't think they believed me. I really think you should see a doctor, if you haven't already. I'm sure they will keep it confidential, but you should have some documentation. You have my love and support with whatever you do!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 4, 2012, at 7:47 PM, [redacted] wrote:

Don't talk to the police if they ask you
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: callie williams
Date: Wed, 4 Jan 2012 19:46:45 -0800 (PST)
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Are you home?

--- On Wed, 1/4/12, [redacted] wrote:

From: [redacted]
Subject: Re:
To: "Callie"
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 7:43 PM

Thank you!
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: callie williams
Date: Wed, 4 Jan 2012 19:34:27 -0800 (PST)
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re:

Of course. I will not share this with anyone. I understand. You are not being dramatic at all. I hope you are well - Callie

--- On Wed, 1/4/12, [redacted] wrote:

From: [redacted]

Chat & Mobile Text [Hide]
I am Available
1 Online Contact [Add]
Not Listed? New Chat
0 Mobile Contacts [Add]
You don't have any Mobile Text contacts yet.
Start a Text Message
Settings

My Folders [Add - Edit]
Notes
photos
Synced Message... (...)




Subject:
To: "Callie" [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 7:13 PM

Callie. Please all I told you today is confidential. Please. Don't repeat please. It was to dramatic.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Delete Reply Forward Move...

[Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Back to Messages](#)

Select Message Encoding

 Full Headers

Check Mail New

Mail Search

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