

Statement by Jessica Johnson, Chief Legislative Officer for Animal Protection Voters

May 3, 2018

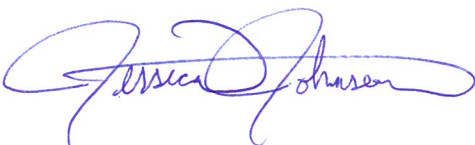
I began working in my current capacity as a lobbyist for Animal Protection Voters (APV) in June 2015. Later that year in 2015, as I was preparing to work in my first New Mexico state legislative session, I had a conversation with Laura Bonar about any advice she could give me regarding working in the Roundhouse based on her past experience lobbying on behalf of APV.

During this conversation, Ms. Bonar warned me to be careful while lobbying in the Roundhouse; for example, to avoid being alone with certain male legislators. One of the legislators she named in this conversation was Carl Trujillo. She did not give me extensive details, but she did share that he made sexual or romantic advances on her, that she rejected his advances but tried to do so in a way that wouldn't offend or embarrass him, and regardless he got angry and afterward he stopped responding to her attempts to contact him regarding legislation. She asked me to keep this story in confidence.

Some may wonder why—up until this point—I have continued to work with and support Mr. Trujillo. My answer includes several reasons:

- I believed it was not ethical for me to share Ms. Bonar's story without her consent.
- I believed that her request for confidentiality was out of fear for retaliation against her personally as well as APV, and that sexual harassment was an inescapable part of the Roundhouse culture.
- I felt that unless and until Ms. Bonar wanted to publicly share her story and/or take action, it was my responsibility to keep my promise to her to keep it confidential and to do my job to the best of my ability—which included aiming to forge a positive working relationship with Mr. Trujillo once he had decided to sponsor pro-animal legislation, just as I would with any other legislator.
- Only in the last few days, with Ms. Bonar going public with what happened to her, have I learned the full extent and severity of Carl Trujillo's sexual harassment against her, as well as the retaliatory impact her rejection of his advances had on legislation that Animal Protection Voters actively supported in 2014 and his refusal to communicate with any APV staff for the remainder of the 2014 legislative session.

It is at this time—now that Ms. Bonar has come out publicly with her story and amidst efforts to damage her credibility—that I feel it is my duty to share that Ms. Bonar alluded to Mr. Trujillo's inappropriate behavior to me in 2015. I have no cause to think she shared her story with me in 2015 for any purpose other than to help protect me from sexual harassment as I was starting my job with APV. Nothing at any point has ever caused me to doubt the veracity of Ms. Bonar's story. At no time have I been in contact with Mr. Trujillo's primary opponent's campaign or representatives, nor have I ever expressed interest in supporting Mr. Trujillo's opponent. I was not involved in Ms. Bonar's decision to publish an open letter nor the timing of her letter. I am expecting that my work in the Roundhouse may become more difficult now that her allegations are public and our organization supports her. Nonetheless, I fully support Ms. Bonar's efforts to hold Mr. Trujillo—a lawmaker that sacrificed animal protection legislation in order to punish a lobbyist for rejecting his sexual advances—accountable for his actions.



Jessica Johnson