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Attachment 7a(3) – Describe Harassment

On Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, my husband and I were attending the monthly meeting of the Democrats of the Desert at the Palm Desert Library on the College of the Desert Main Campus. The guest speaker was Joe Duffle, president of UFCW Local 1167, representing his union to our membership of about 75 in attendance.

During the forum, many members asked Mr. Duffle questions about union membership, how the union was addressing automation, and how they endorse candidates. Mr. Duffle even joked about how he gets emails from members from Temecula who do not like who the union endorsed, but he stated instead of emailing them back a message, he would show up at their work to discuss the matter with them in person.

I asked the following question in the Open Forum (paraphrasing):

I know you are part of the union endorsement process for political candidates, and there are candidates that are supportive of Project Labor Agreements or Project Stabilization Agreements, so help me understand why you endorse candidates that have not been effective in delivering those agreements. Can you explain it to us on how you determine who to support?

Mr. Duffle responds:

We have friends that we support and look at those who do support the Project Labor Agreements, but each union must determine on their own who they will support and who they won't. It's really up to them.

Joe Duffle didn't seem angry or upset at the question and responded very cordially. Then a few more people asked more questions from the audience.

About 3:40 pm, most questions had been asked and the meeting was ending and people began filing out slowly as they tend to socialize with one another, talking with candidates, each other, etc.

Towards the exit door of the room, Joe Duffle stood talking with a person, and then a line of people that wanted to talk to him formed with about 6 people waiting in line. Mary Jane Sanchez, a candidate and former trustee for COD Area 2, was next in line and I was two people behind her. Mary Jane Sanchez said, "hello".

Joe Duffle replies in a hostile manner, "Did you have Joel ask that question of me for you?" She calmly replies, "No."

I could hear Joe Duffle's question as I was just a few feet away, I respond to him in a professional manner, "Mary Jane did not ask me to ask that question, it was something I wanted to know the answer to, as it appears that candidates are not being supported because you're aligned with the Boys".

Duffle responds agitatedly, "What do you mean by the boys?"

I replied in a professional voice, "I think you know what I am saying, you mentioned that you support "friends," yet they have not looked out in the interest of your members." "Are you looking out for the interests of your members or just your friends? This is the type of stuff that we need to clean up, it's corruption and we need to cut it out. And I'm here to help cut it out so it doesn't continue."

Joe Duffle blows up in an instant and starts yelling, "You're threatening to take me out?"

I respond calmly, "No, that's not what I am saying. What I'm saying is it's time to eliminate any corruption."

Joe Duffle yells into my face in a fit of rage, "So, you're trying to take me out? I'll fucking take you out"

My husband, Chris Parman, was close by and went up to both Joe Duffle and I trying to diffuse Joe Duffle's rage by saying "Let's calm down."

All of a sudden, Joe Duffle uses both hands and shoves me backwards onto some folding tables used for fliers, pushing the tables and me several feet back from where the tables were positioned. Joe Duffle keeps yelling, "I'll take you out, you motherfucker, I'll take you out!"

He uses his two closed fist, like fist bumping, and hits me hard in the chest, and then continues, ranting "I'll take you out", then steps back two feet from me while I am lying flat on the table stunned that I have just been physically attacked and lunges again at me with two closed fists and hits me again in the chest and continues ranting, "I'll take you fucking out!"

I yell out in fear, "Someone call the police!"

Joe Duffle then steps back as people in the room are just in shock that he physically attacked me. Joe Duffle storms out of the community room and I was told continued a raging rant in the parking lot to several club members. My husband called 9-1-1 and asks for the police to respond.

Again, this violent, physical battery was done in front of the Palm Desert Mayor Karina Quintanilla, former Palm Springs Councilmember Ginny Foat, and most of the 75 attendees there who were seniors.

I fear he will do what he repeated over and over in a fit of rage, that he would "take me out!" He is approximately 6'4", 240 pounds, and 10 years younger than me.