

January 4, 2012

Alder Brian Solomon
2148 West Lawn Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

Dear Alder Solomon,

You have been investigated by the Department of Justice, Dane County District Attorney's office, and the City of Madison for alleged sexual assault and sexual harassment of a city of Madison employee. While no formal charges have been pursued, the criminal investigation confirmed the allegations, with the assistant District Attorney specifically stating, "I absolutely believe Ms. [REDACTED]'s account of what happened when she awoke in bed. There is no doubt in my mind that Ms. [REDACTED] did not consent."

We understand that the District Attorney's office has decided not to pursue charges, calling the decision a "close call." We recognize that too often in cases of sexual assault, charges are not filed for reasons such as the difficulty in proving that an assault with no witnesses occurred and the jury's likely reaction to the many myths that still exist around sexual violence. No amount of previous consensual activity – including kissing or other physical contact – and no amount of alcohol consumption can substitute for specific consent for further sexual activity. Without consent, it is sexual assault, regardless of whether charges are filed.

We have waited patiently for you to do the right thing on your own by resigning from your seat on the Madison Common Council. You have not. We have read, along with the general public, the details of the allegations and subsequent investigations. We now have two government reports, and we have no doubt that you acted inappropriately and abused your position of authority. We also believe you broke the law, regardless of the lack of criminal charges.

We find your actions highly disconcerting. Here are three examples highlighting our concerns:

1. On the night of the alleged assault, you followed Ms. [REDACTED] into the women's bathroom at a local bar and only left after one of your colleagues asked you to. You deny this happened, despite eyewitness accounts from neutral parties.
2. You admit to having to carry Ms. [REDACTED] part of the way from the bar to her car at the end of the night because she was too drunk to walk. Yet, you insist that she was not intoxicated two hours later when you arrived at her home where the alleged assault took place. The Department of Justice disagrees that Ms. [REDACTED] was sober at the time of the alleged assault. Given her behavior and her physical stature, it is not reasonable to claim that she would have become sober within 2 hours.
3. You sent Ms. [REDACTED] harassing emails while she was sitting across from you working for the city during a city council meeting. Ms. [REDACTED] ignored your emailed advances, but you continued by commenting on her looks and asking her what she was doing after work.

You have not expressed any remorse. In fact, in personal conversations, you have vehemently denied that you ever did anything wrong, stating, "I have never, not for one second of any minute, ever treated her with anything other than the greatest amount of respect and care that I give to every single person I have ever met on this earth." Given the eyewitness accounts and the documented emails, we find your personal statements to be both disturbing and disingenuous.

Additionally, when asked what you would do differently if you could go back, you reply that you would change nothing and could in fact pursue another person in the same manner because you have done nothing wrong. We find this statement shocking, and it raises concern not just for your past activity but for your future ability to interact with city employees and others in your official capacity on the City Council.

As fellow elected officials, women's rights advocates, and citizens of Madison you are elected to represent, we are compelled to take a stand and demand accountability for your actions. We request that you resign your position as Alderperson effective immediately.

Sincerely,

Lisa Subeck, City Council Member

Bridget Maniaci, City Council Member

Steve King, City Council Member

Chris Schmidt, City Council Member

Tim Bruer, City Council Member

Mark Clear, City Council Member

Carousel Bayrd, County Board Supervisor, sexual assault survivor, and District 10 constituent