

Center for Victims

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This statement is issued by Lynn Griffin, Board Chair, and Laurie Z. MacDonald, President/CEO, Center for Victims:

At the Center for Victims, we highly regard the privacy of our employees and do not discuss individual personnel matters, including the lawsuit filed by a former employee, who turned to the courts after the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission closed her case involving our organization. The Commission specifically noted that it was unable to conclude that the Center violated any statutes. We believe we acted appropriately in this matter and we intend to defend our organization and its reputation against this lawsuit.

The anonymous letter referenced in the January 10 story aired by WPXI lists a series of highly inflammatory allegations, some of which were raised several years ago by former employees or through other unsigned correspondence. All the allegations contained in the current anonymous letter are unsupported by any evidence and appear to be designed to damage the Center and inhibit its ability to serve its clients. The accusers have never taken advantage of the processes we have in place to address grievances and we are unable to resolve their concerns while they refuse to come forward with evidence or identify themselves.

When concerns were brought to the Center's attention several years ago, our staff and board took them seriously and took formal action. That included investigating the specific complaints, examining the state of employee morale, and reviewing the reasons for staff turnover. The board also expanded its oversight of the organization, including expanded supervision of the organization's management team.

And, even though there was no evidence that any discriminatory activity had occurred, when these negative communications came to us in 2018, we immediately took steps to review and improve internal processes, training opportunities, communications and policies. The Board of Directors actively participated in this process, along with a wide cross-section of staff.

The Center for Victims' Board of Directors takes its fiduciary duties to CV seriously and has taken these steps and more to ensure that the organization is properly managed and upper management is properly carrying out its duties.

The staff at the Center for Victims prides itself on providing an inclusive work environment where discrimination of any kind is strictly prohibited, where employees are treated with dignity and respect, and where it works together to heal trauma, support victims and create social change for a more peaceful community.