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On November 12, 2014 the Inspector General for the city of New Orleans released a shocking report indicating that the Special Victims Unit for the City of New Orleans and particularly five detectives that were in that unit had failed to properly investigate hundreds of cases involving allegations of rape and various forms of sexual abuse. The report covered a period from 2011-2013.

Today we are here with our client who made a report that she was raped in her hotel room in March 2014 during Mardi Gras. The detective that was assigned to investigate her case was one of the five detectives named in the Inspector General's report.

Our client came to New Orleans with her husband from Texas. At the time she was 39 years old. This is the third year in a row that they had attended Mardi Gras because they loved New Orleans and the Mardi Gras celebration. They stayed at a local hotel. On the night of Mardi Gras, at a time when her husband was out of the room, our client alleges that she was forcibly raped by a security guard employed by the hotel.

The rape was reported to the hotel and to the police and our client was transported to a hospital where she was given a rape kit and her injuries were observed and documented. There was obvious bruising to her chest, throat, arms and her thighs and what appeared to be hand prints on both her arms and sides. Her husband spoke to the doctors at the hospital who confirmed that the rape kit appeared to be consistent with someone who had been forcibly raped. The hotel room where the rape occurred contained evidence of blood which was

photographed. There was blood on the bed which had seeped through to the mattress cover and the mattress. While she was at the hospital a Detective from the Special Victims Unit took a report.

The following day our client and her husband left New Orleans and returned to their home. Our client is a mother and homemaker. Her husband is a doctor.

For the next week they tried to find out the status of the investigation. Finally, the Detective told our client that they were going to close her case because they had concluded that it was consensual. He did not indicate how they had come to that conclusion or what facts supported the conclusion. He did say that they were able to identify the alleged rapist through DNA. The detective told our client's husband that he had spoken to the accused individual and because he said it was consensual that was the end of it. Our client's husband repeatedly tried to reach the Detective's supervisor without success.

We are here today to meet with detectives from the new Special Victims Unit and to find out what information they have gathered. We want to cooperate with them in every way so that a proper investigation can be done and so that we can obtain justice for our client.

I am outraged that in 2014 this rape victim has been treated with such disrespect and that her case and the cases of hundreds of other victims of sex crimes and sexual abuse have been so mishandled and that those detectives who were entrusted by the public with that special duty to investigate crimes against women and children failed to properly document and investigate the serious crimes that were perpetrated against victims. What has happened in New Orleans is a national scandal and is deserving of scrutiny at the highest level. Violence against women must be taken seriously. If it is not properly investigated when victims are brave enough to go to law enforcement the result will be that sexual predators will

receive the message that they have a license to prey upon vulnerable victims with impunity because the law will protect them rather than the victim.

We have a 2pm appointment today to meet with Commander Paul Noel and his team to discuss the case. Hopefully this will lead to an arrest and prosecution.

There is a saying that justice delayed is justice denied. Our client has been denied justice but, it is not too late for justice to prevail and for the perpetrator to be arrested and prosecuted. We will not rest until there is justice in this case.

Gloria Allred

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