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STATEMENT OF SHERRY VILL:

It was Spring of 2017. I lived in Greece New York, a suburb of Rochester. Lake Ontario had flooded our homes on the lakeshore. On Monday May 28, 2017 Governor Cuomo planned a visit to our neighborhood to survey damages and have a press conference.

I came home from work to see all this commotion going on. I was asked by a staffer if I would allow the Governor to come into my home and view our damages, and I agreed.

Governor Cuomo went into my house with my husband and son along with his staff and some Town officials. I came in shortly afterward and when I walked in I said to the Governor; "do you think we should have to live like this?" That's when the Governor looked at me, approached me and took my hand and pulled me to him. He leaned down over me and kissed my cheek. I was holding my small dog in my arms, and I thought he was going to pet my dog but instead he wedged his face between the dog and mine and kissed me on the other cheek in what I felt was a highly sexual manner. I wasn't expecting that at all. He said "that's what Italians do, kiss both cheeks". I felt shocked and didn't understand what just happened, but I knew I felt embarrassed and weird about his kissing me. I am Italian, and in my family, family members kiss. Strangers do not kiss, especially upon meeting someone for the first time.

The Governor's staff started to walk out of the house. Governor Cuomo lagged behind them. He stopped and turned to me and said "You are beautiful". That made me feel even more uncomfortable. I felt as though he was coming on to me in my own home.

The Governor and his staff proceeded to view the damage outside on the side of the house. I purposely did not follow because I felt uncomfortable given what had just

happened in my living room. I walked out the front door and stayed in the front of the house away from them.

After seeing the damage, the Governor then circled to the front of the house where I was standing. He then approached me. He took my hand and said, "Is there anything else you want?" I did not know how to respond. He then leaned down on top of me and while still holding one of my hands he forcibly grabbed my face with his other big hand and kissed my cheek, again in a very aggressive manner! I felt like I was being manhandled, especially because he was holding my face and he was kissing my cheek again. I could not use my other hand to stop him because he did it so quickly and also I was still holding my dog with my other hand.

The way he looked at me, and his body language made me very uncomfortable. I felt that he was acting in a highly flirtatious and inappropriate manner, especially in front of my family and neighbors. He is almost 6 feet tall. I am approximately 5 feet tall. He towered over me. There was nothing I could do.

When the Governor left I thought the craziness was over. However, to my surprise, within days I received a call on my voicemail from Governor Cuomo's staff. The woman on the other end said Governor Cuomo was having an event in town naming the place and time and asked if "I" would like to attend. Notably she did not say my husband and I, or my family and I, only specifically me. I purposely did not respond to the invitation. I felt very uneasy about that call. I was the only one that received the call and the personal invite from the Governor. Then, to top it off, the Governor sent me a letter and pictures. The pictures featured the Governor and me, and the letter was addressed ONLY to me! More Alarms going off! The whole thing was so strange and inappropriate and still makes me nervous and afraid because of his power and position.

This had a long term effect on me. Many neighbors and customers kept saying that I was the Governor's new girlfriend, and other similar comments, which I did not like at all.

I have been in business for many years and routinely interact with male customers and vendors. I know the difference between an innocent gesture and a sexual one. I never felt as uncomfortable as I did the day that Governor Cuomo came to my home. His actions were overtly sexual, highly inappropriate, and disrespectful to me and to my family.

The Governor's actions have continued to bother me, and I have expressed that to my family many times in the intervening years. However, I was always afraid to report it. I am still afraid of him, but I am no longer willing to remain silent and that is why I am coming forward today.

Sherry Vill
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Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred