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## **Statement of Gloria Allred**

Recently, many parents whose daughters were and are still students at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga, California were shocked to learn that children had been secretly videotaped when they used the girls' bathroom and locker room areas at Los Osos High School.

My law firm and I represent many of the girls who are concerned that they may have been videotaped while they were naked or partially naked and were changing their clothes in the bathroom where a hidden camera was found. The girls used that room before, during and after they engaged in a number of high school sports at the school, or as bathroom facilities.

David Arthur Riden had been an assistant football coach at Los Osos high school until recently when he was arrested and criminally charged with child pornography in connection with this hidden camera incident. There is a pre-preliminary hearing scheduled in his case today in San Bernardino County.

While Mr. Riden is being prosecuted, our main focus is protecting and asserting the rights of girls whose naked images may have been captured without their knowledge on videos on the camera that was found in the girls' restroom. In addition, we are concerned that it has been reported that there were multiple electronic devices that were seized by law enforcement from Mr. Riden's home and car that may contain images of these girls.

Many of the girls wake up every day wondering if this is the day when they will learn whether or not their naked image was captured and recorded by the camera.

Both parents and their daughters need answers to be provided to them as soon as possible about these life changing events.

All the girls and their parents deserve but have not yet received answers to the following questions:

- (1) What is the process being utilized to identify victims?
- (2) Who is involved in that process?
- (3) What steps are being taken to ensure that victims are not revictimized by that process?
- (4) Who will view these videos in order to identify the victims?
- (5) How many different girls are captured in the videos ?
- (6) When will the girls and their parents learn if they appear on the secret recordings?
- (7) Were images allegedly obtained by Riden shown and/or distributed to others?
- (8) Is there any evidence that images of the girls were circulated on the internet or offered for sale?
- (9) What is the estimated time period during which female students were secretly taped while attending Los Osos High School?

Today we are sending a letter to the Sheriff and District Attorney of San Bernardino County asking them to open up a dialogue with us and establish a cooperative relationship with us to provide answers to these important questions.

Today, we are also sending a letter to the Superintendent of Chaffey Joint Union High School District not only because the hidden camera was found at Los Osos High School, but also because we are concerned about continued victimization of girls there by other students and the failure of the high school to protect many of the girls after news of the hidden camera incident became public

The District has conceded that “...students have made inappropriate insensitive comments to other students regarding this horrific incident, which has caused further pain.”

Despite the District’s acknowledgement that inappropriate comments have been made the District has not taken meaningful measures to ensure that my clients and other students are not further victimized by their fellow students.

For example, the school has been made aware that the entire girls water polo team, i.e., victims of the taping scheme, were taunted with literal cheers of “Free Riden” from the football team while those young women were practicing yoga on the school lawn. Some members of the football team asked victims why they (the victims) were “so upset” because, they said “its just some free booty pictures.” Although that incident was witnessed by a team parent and reported to school officials, nothing appears to have been done. One boy is reported to have stood up in class and openly chanted “Free Riden” with no apparent consequences. Parents and their daughters deserve to know what steps the school is taking to stop the bullying and taunting of these girls.

The students and their parents also want to know whether students will be questioned at Los Osos High School without a parent being present. Specifically, are students being questioned by law enforcement at the high school without parents even being notified?

On behalf of my clients, I am also seeking to work cooperatively with the District to ensure that students and their parents are provided with appropriate information, to ensure that the process being utilized protects the students’ privacy rights, and to protect the students from hostility from their fellow students and allow them to continue their education.

We are hopeful that the District Attorney, Sheriff, and the District will answer our many questions and address our concerns. We await their response.

Gloria Allred  
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September 8, 2021