

CK notes:

12/28/11

Phone call from [REDACTED] On speaker-phone with BC and CK. Cell phone: [REDACTED]

Got background first: Started working for Vito Lopez on October 19th of this year. Hired as legislative counsel to work in his Brooklyn office. She is an attorney, admitted to practice, but the job is primarily that of a community organizer; she works as a contact for constituents and gov't officials, and plans events. Nothing legal, but job posting said preferred JD.

Her first week there, Vito told her she needed to wear high heels. She was wearing flats. She ignored it and laughed it off, but said to us that she feels it was highly inappropriate.

She said that what he says to other employees is horrendous, including comments about their bodies. She heard third-hand about a comment to the COS that she was small breasted and should wear something low cut. She also heard third-hand that he said to another employee to just wear a scarf, wanted to take on a date.

What she heard most – After Vito would make a comment, if the employee didn't respond, he would badger her, yell in a nonsensical way, as punishment.

[REDACTED] said that she heard some things that Vito said to [REDACTED] re/ the hotel; that she was listening to the phone conversation. In her opinion, [REDACTED] was fired as retaliation. [REDACTED] said that Vito fired [REDACTED] 2 or 3 times. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] has on a recording Vito talking about the hotel room, not being emotionally involved, doesn't know if place in the office, etc.

[REDACTED] said he would fire and rehire an hour later, but then he fired her for good, and that the reasons were pretextual. [REDACTED] said that Vito is now playing a game, saying that he didn't fire her, doesn't know why she left, etc.

[REDACTED] believes that Vito is ready to do the same to her. She said that he is worried that someone is recording him. She said the "new COS" is flirtatious and believes her to be the favorite. [REDACTED] also said something about him giving the new COS \$20-\$30 to buy dangly earrings and that he bought her a ring and wanted her to wear it.

[REDACTED] also referenced the discussion Vito had re/ sharing bedroom and PR being a trial period for being his girlfriend.

BC indicated that it would be helpful to write down these incidents and to interpose a complaint, it needs to be in writing. I told her to distinguish what she heard and saw first-hand from those things she heard about third-hand, noting that the latter can be relevant, as well.

[REDACTED] said she had a meeting with him for an hour and he was misrepresenting what she had said in the past. She relayed a conversation she had had with the new COS¹ in which [REDACTED] had said that she wasn't sure they should be asking staff to come in on the Monday after Christmas

¹ [REDACTED] identified her as [REDACTED]

(which was supposed to be a day off) given that employees had been asked to work on Christmas at the senior center and that she didn't know if it was legal. ([REDACTED] says that they don't volunteer -- they are "voluntold" and that if you don't do it he gets really mad at you.) Vito is now changing the tone of that to make it sound like she had said that it was illegal. She thinks he is looking for reasons to get rid of her and that he thinks someone is recording him.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] did have recordings of him harassing her and that she ([REDACTED]) had given her the idea to do it. [REDACTED] stated that there are hours and hours of it.

[REDACTED] stated that Vito had said to her today, "I don't know if you're a good fit for this office" even though he had just promoted her to Deputy Chief of Staff the previous week. The reason he gave her was that she was not involved in her job, and that she was only in it for personal gain. (She had asked for maybe \$10K more in salary.)

[REDACTED] said she would put details in writing and send via email.