

Mr. Noyes, I represent Ivory Madison, and provide the following statement in connection with your story. My contact information is below. I am in New York at the present time for a speaking engagement and unable to speak with you at this time. Please confirm receipt of the statement.

Statement of Todd A. Roberts, RMKB Lawyers, Counsel to Ivory Madison:

Ms. Madison is not interested in speaking to the press regarding the matter involving her neighbors Mr. Mirkarimi and Ms. Lopez. If Ms. Madison were to respond to every news report of defamatory or inaccurate comments about her made by Mr. Mirkarimi, Ms. Lopez, or their attorneys and representatives, she would have spent the past almost five months doing little else.

In my view, every victim of domestic violence should be able to count on their friends to help them in a time of need, as my client, Ivory Madison, did for Ms. Lopez. Ms. Lopez asked for Ms. Madison's help in specific ways, all of which Ms. Madison complied with, and none of which involved legal assistance or advice. I will address two issues you indicate Ms. Lopez suggests in her interview in Venezuela, claiming that she believed Ms. Madison was an attorney and that her communications were confidential, assertions that are provably false.

In the first few weeks of almost daily coverage of the criminal investigation, in all statements to the press, both Mr. Mirkarimi and Ms. Lopez, and their attorneys and representatives, referred to Ms. Madison as a neighbor and friend. It was not until weeks later that the "attorney/client confidentiality" theory was concocted in a transparent attempt to intimidate Ms. Madison from testifying and to exclude key evidence. The "attorney/client" assertion was nothing more than a baseless legal theory, contrived by the Lopez/Mirkarimi camp to exclude the videotape depicting physical injury and obvious emotional trauma sustained by Ms. Lopez.

The allegation that Ms. Madison misled Ms. Lopez to believe she was a licensed, practicing attorney, that she was Ms. Lopez's attorney, or that any legal guidance or confidentiality was an element of their relationship, is entirely false and completely fabricated after the fact. Ms. Madison never did or said anything that could have led Ms. Lopez to believe any of this; on the contrary, Ms. Lopez was well aware that Ms. Madison was not an attorney, not her attorney, was not able to or interested in providing legal guidance, and that legal confidentiality was not an element of their relationship. There are ample facts, including written communications from Ms. Madison and Ms. Lopez, that prove this.

Further, Ms. Madison is not the only witness to whom Ms. Lopez described the same facts regarding Mr. Mirkarimi becoming violent with her on January 31st, 2011. Nor to whom Ms. Lopez asserted that Mr. Mirkarimi had been violent in a prior incident earlier in the year. In addition, Ms. Lopez encouraged and asked Ms. Madison to communicate with numerous others regarding the incident who might be able to help her protect herself. Ms. Lopez never suggested confidentiality, she asked for help from others. Nonetheless, my client felt that the video created by Ms. Lopez, and the written communications by Ms. Lopez to Ms. Madison, were of a very private nature, which is why, at the time, Ms. Madison was only willing to produce those to the police after being served with a search warrant.

I am proud of Ms. Madison for standing up to the tactics of intimidation and consistent falsehoods communicated by Ms. Lopez, her attorney Paula Canny, and Mr. Mirkarimi. Is this what private citizens who are witnesses of domestic violence can expect when they come forward to hold law enforcement officials accountable? Acts of intimidation, defamation, and unwanted and unjustified negative publicity.

If that is the case, why in the world would anyone bother? Victims of domestic violence need and deserve better.

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon required Mr. Mirkarimi to apologize to Ms. Madison as part of his plea agreement, which I agree was appropriate, and I would add that I think Ms. Lopez owes her one, too.

Todd A. Roberts
Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley PC