

Statement in response to former employee's allegations:

This morning, I became aware of allegations from a former employee alleging that she was sexually harassed over six years ago. I do not take these allegations lightly and wish to respond.

I have known this former employee and members of her family for years prior to her beginning employment in the Prosecutor's Office in 2011. While I adamantly disagree with her assessment of the events that occurred in 2013, I feel as though I should provide some context to her claims.

Several members of local law enforcement, including myself, attended a national conference in Chicago in 2013. In the evenings, following the conference, our group met for dinners in various social settings. For months leading up to this conference, this employee confided in me about issues in her personal life. One evening, we met after dinner. My intention was to chat and to catch up with an old friend.

I adamantly deny making any advances toward her. She told me later that I had made her feel uncomfortable. That was never my intention.

We talked at length the following morning. I told her then and I will reiterate now that if I made her uncomfortable in anyway, that was not my intention and, I apologize.

For six years after this alleged incident, this former employee continued to work for the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office in various roles. Her employment was terminated in January. At that time, she was an employee of the Adult Protective Services Unit within our office. The decision to terminate her employment for cause was made by her immediate supervisor. When presented with that decision, she chose instead to resign.

There is a legal process for addressing these types of claims that provides due process and a legitimate opportunity to respond. Due to the fact that these allegations involve our office's employment of this individual, I am not at liberty to discuss this matter further.