



Corazón Pineda-Isaac
Council Member, 2nd District
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Chair

OFFICE OF THE YONKERS CITY COUNCIL
City Hall • Suite 414
40 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10701
Tel. 914.377.6312
Fax 914.377.6309
corazon.pineda.isaac@yonkersny.gov

January 24, 2024
Yonkers Human Resources Administration
Dear Commissioner Moran,

The City of Yonkers has been my employer for the last 10 years and for the most part it has been a job that I love and cherish. As the Council Woman of the 2nd District in the City of Yonkers you must understand how difficult it is to have to write this letter. However, I feel that I cannot remain silent any longer. The workplace in the City Council has become extremely hostile and I must ask that necessary measures must be taken to remedy this situation.

This ongoing problem was first documented on May 6, 2022 when I emailed Majority Leader Diaz directly about comments I personally heard her make about me. In that email I detailed inappropriate remarks she was making about me to her staff member Brentin Bullock. The email which I will attach to this communication quotes the Majority Leader as she criticizes my wardrobe, calls me a “backwards bitch” for being cold during the summer months, and most alarming made a violent threat against me by stating she would “smack the taste out of my mouth”.

I took the approach of addressing it principal to principal in hopes that it would be enough for Majority Leader Diaz to take the necessary steps to correct her behavior. That did not happen. Instead, the behavior has continued and worsened. Here are a few instances:

On July 19, 2023 I attended an event at Spanglish in my capacity as a Council member as I was there to present a proclamation to the Presidents of the Yonkers Vulcan Society and the Guardian’s Association. It was made aware to me by fellow attendees and police officers that as soon as I walked in the Majority leader became enraged by my presence. At one point the Majority Leader even stated that since I had walked in with my sister and multiple cousins that she, too could call in her cousins as to be ready for a physical altercation. Imagine being at a work event and not realizing there’s potential danger to me and my family for just being there. Most recently, former Council President Chuck Lesnick attended the Mayor’s Menorah Lighting at City Hall on December 13, 2023. Mr. Lesnick attempted to

discuss a personnel matter with the Majority Leader and offer advice as a former Member of the council. Majority Leader Diaz once again became enraged, assumed that I was responsible for Mr. Lesnick's actions and proceeded to ask him "did that bitch Corazon put you up to this". Majority Leader Diaz had no regard for guests that were at city hall, for COY employees or respect for the workplace to not use such vile language when referring to me.

On January 2, 2024 the council convened to vote on our new set of rules. I was honest on the floor about my reasons for not supporting the Majority Leader for her leadership role. As you are aware commissioner, I am within my rights to vote as I choose. Professional disagreements should not result in violent threats which create at the very least a hostile workplace. However, that is what transpired at the conclusion of that meeting. My colleagues on the council and some of the staff witnessed the Majority Leader of the Yonkers City Council, the third largest city of New York say that she was going to "slit my throat". Imagine how I felt being made aware of that. Imagine coming to work and having to sit next to someone who has made such violent remarks.

When will this come to an end? When she actually physically harms me or someone else. I am not the first or last person to have fallen victim to Majority Leader Diaz's behavior. I am just the first person to perhaps document it. I strongly believe that Majority Leader Diaz is at a breaking point and her behavior is only going to continue to get worse and more dangerous.

Commissioner Moran, I respectfully ask that the necessary steps be taken to fix this. Everyone should feel safe and comfortable at work. In this moment and for quite some time I have not.

Sincerely,
Corazon Pineda-Isaac

