

August 10, 2020

**Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96910**

And

**Honorable Tina Muna-Barnes
Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910**

RE: CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Hafa Adai Governor Leon Guerrero and Speaker Muna-Barnes;

As Guam and the nation celebrates the centennial of the 19th Amendment which guaranteed women the right to vote, the question that I ask our local leaders is if our government is doing enough to protect women, especially those who have been victims of crimes. While proclamations such as what Governor Leon Guerrero will be signing on August 21 to celebrate Women's Suffrage, Legislative Resolutions, which I am certain Speaker Muna-Barnes will be presenting, or emotional speeches which I am sure we will be hearing a lot of are nice and fluff, they mean nothing if no actions are pursued.

In recent weeks a female officer of the Customs and Quarantine Agency was assaulted by her male superior, and while there is an ongoing case being investigated by the Office of Attorney General, there is absolutely no outrage from either the Office of the Governor or the Guam Legislature into what has taken place by an individual who was appointed and confirmed by government leaders. Where is the oversight hearing from the Guam Legislature in determining if this agency head should indeed continue in his capacity as the leader of an agency directed with protecting our borders. Where is the concern for this female officer, and questions from lawmakers on her safety?

In recent months, the head of the Guam International Airport Authority surprisingly resigned and did so immediately. While "personal reasons" was cited, there was widespread community uproar, that actions associated with improprieties with a female subordinate were the actual reasons of the resignation. Once again, was there any action from the Office of the Governor or

the Guam Legislature into looking into these matters and assuring that if a victim was indeed in the picture, that she was protected? I find it hard to believe that those “stories” on what may have occurred at the airport did not make it to your desks, and if they did, turning a blind eye would be unwarranted.

I am writing these concerns, not just as a private citizen, but as a victim of domestic violence myself. As someone who has experienced a system which fails to protect victims on a consistent basis, I demand that the Guam Legislature hold oversight hearings on these two agencies to determine 1). What is taking place with these investigations (or even if the GIAA Board conducted one), and 2). What is being done to protect all victims. I also request that Governor Leon Guerrero reassess her decision with the leadership of the Guam CQA for the protection of the female officer and any other female subordinate in the agency.

While I recognize that all parties are innocent until proven guilty, we have known cases of potential victims who are seeing the very government celebrating Women’s Suffrage yet are doing nothing when wrong has been brought upon to female subordinates in the public sector. We have a government proudly taunting Guam’s first female Governor and a super majority of women in the Guam Legislature, yet fails to realize that all that means *NOTHING* if women under their watch continue to become victims.

In closing, I simply ask our leaders to not take these issues lightly. On hand we have an individual who was appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Guam Legislature, and another who answered to the Governor, and was appointed by a Board which was confirmed by Senators. They are public figures, whose salaries are paid by taxpayers, and I am asking that the Guam Legislature and Governor’s Office to do their job and address if victims’ rights have indeed been violated, and if so, what is the solution. Only after due diligence is brought to the table, should proclamations, resolutions and emotional speeches be presented.

Thank you very much for hearing my concerns, and I have left my contact information below if any additional questions arise.

Senseremente;

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Cc: All Media
All Senators