

# BREAKING: WEEKEND EDITION

Saturday Afternoon, August 10, 2019



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
foundation

## MRFF VICTORY!

### RABBI WHO SEXUALLY HARASSED MRFF CLIENT RESIGNS



#### THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE COVERS RABBI'S RESIGNATION

Tacoma rabbi resigns following latest allegations of harassment

By: Craig Sailor

Friday, August 9, 2019

(Excerpts from The Tacoma News Tribune/Emphasis added by MRFF)

The rabbi accused of sending harassing messages to two women **will resign his position Sunday**. It's not clear if he is also stepping down as director.

"I write to notify you that I am **resigning my position as Rabbi** of Chabad of Pierce County effective Sunday, August 11, 2019," Rabbi Zalman Heber said in a statement provided to The News Tribune by his attorney Friday evening.

[...]

The allegations against Heber were outlined in two stories in The News Tribune.

The first, on July 29, **detailed a series of alleged sexually explicit messages sent to the wife of a soldier at Joint-Base Lewis McChord, Traci Moran.**

The second, posted Friday, told of a similar pattern of harassment and an attempt of unwanted physical contact with a Chabad member, Kim Shomer.

[...]

[Click to Read on The Tacoma News Tribune](#)

#### THE SEATTLE TIMES COVERS RABBI'S RESIGNATION

Tacoma rabbi resigns following second woman's allegation of harassment

By: Craig Sailor

Friday, August 9, 2019

(Excerpts from The Seattle Times/Emphasis added by MRFF)

The Tacoma rabbi accused of sending repeated inappropriate messages to two women, and **sexually explicit texts to one of them, will resign his position Sunday.**

"I write to notify you that I am **resigning my position as Rabbi** of Chabad of Pierce County effective Sunday, August 11, 2019," Rabbi Zalman Heber said in a statement provided to The (Tacoma) News Tribune by his attorney Friday evening. It was not clear if he was also stepping down as director of the organization.

[...]

The Seattle Times and The News Tribune late last month detailed the allegations against Heber by the **wife of a soldier at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM).**

In 2018, according to the coverage, after Heber had been sending Traci Moran sexually explicit text and voice messages for almost a month, **she went to Army Chaplain Capt. Michael Harari at JBLM for guidance.**

[...]

[Click to Read on The Seattle Times](#)

#### ORIGINAL TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE COVERAGE OF MRFF CLIENT

Soldier's wife accused a rabbi of harassment. Army chaplain then ostracized her, she says

By: Craig Sailor

Monday, July 29, 2019

(Excerpts from The Tacoma News Tribune/Emphasis added by MRFF)

Two local rabbis — one a chaplain at Joint Base Lewis McChord, the other the leader of a civilian congregation in Tacoma — are under fire for their alleged treatment of an Army soldier and his wife, both Jews living in Pierce County.

Jared and Traci Moran contend Capt. Michael Harari and Rabbi Shneur Zalman Heber **tried to ostracize them from their Jewish community after Traci Moran accused Heber of sending her inappropriate messages** last summer.

Traci Moran said **the messages were of a sexual nature and that she considered them harassment**, allegations Heber has denied through his lawyer.

[...]

The Army launched two investigations of Harari as a result of the Morans' accusations. One found he **made disparaging comments about gay people** that were not in keeping with the character of an Army officer.

I Corps commander Lt. Gen. Gary Volesky wrote in a Feb. 20, 2019, letter to Jared Moran that he was ordering the second investigation to determine whether Harari violated the confidentiality provisions of his position, exceeded his authority **when he had the Morans barred from base religious events, and made false statements.**

Volesky also ordered an investigation into whether Col. Randy Brandt, JBLM senior chaplain, exceeded his authority by advising Harari to "implement a bar," according to the letter, which was provided to The News Tribune by the Morans.

[...]

Frustrated by what they see as stonewalling and obfuscation on the part of the Army and Chabad of Pierce County, **Jared Moran, 31, and Traci Moran, 30, reached out to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation for help.** The nonprofit group is dedicated to civil rights advocacy for active duty military personnel.

"Traci and her family were forced to come to our foundation," foundation president Mikey Weinstein told The News Tribune. "The Army has massively failed Traci."

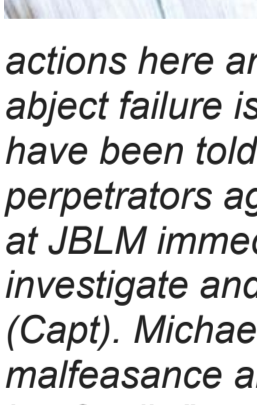
[...]

[Click to Read on The Tacoma News Tribune](#)

#### CLICK TO READ BACKGROUND ON PAST MEDIA COVERAGE OF MRFF CLIENT HARASSED BY RABBI

#### MRFF Founder and President Mikey Weinstein's Statement on Traci Moran's Case

Monday, July 29, 2019



"The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) expresses pride and support for our courageous client, Traci Moran, and her brave family. The United States Army at Fort Lewis and related JBLM agencies have completely and shamefully failed the Morans at their time of most critical and dearest need. The Army has had eight MONTHS to complete appropriate investigations and take appropriate actions here and they have done neither. The best evidence of this abject failure is that the victims here – Traci Moran and her family – have been told absolutely NOTHING as to what has happened to the perpetrators against them. MRFF demands that the Army authorities at JBLM immediately take all appropriate action to expeditiously investigate and visibly punish all of those, especially Army Chaplain (Capt). Michael Harari, who have contributed to the pernicious malfeasance and misfeasance which has befallen Traci Moran and her family."

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#### MRFF Information/Contact:

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