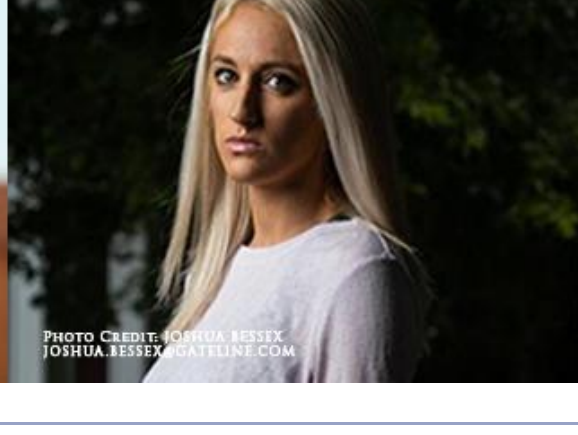


Friday Evening, August 9, 2019



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
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MRFF CLIENT'S HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RABBI CORROBORATED BY SECOND VICTIM



THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE COVERS SECOND WOMAN'S ALLEGATIONS

Second woman comes forward with allegations of harassment against Tacoma rabbi

By: Craig Sailor

Friday, August 9, 2019

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

Another woman says she is the victim of harassment from Tacoma Rabbi Zalman Heber.

Kim Shomer, 50, a Tacoma attorney, said she **suffered a year of harassing text messages from Heber**, the leader of the Chabad of Pierce County. The harassment culminated in the rabbi requesting a hug, which was a violation of the tenets of her faith, she said.

Shomer and her husband, Spencer Freeman, 49, were both members of the Chabad until they formally split from the Orthodox Jewish center in December when they learned of **similar behavior Heber allegedly inflicted upon the Jewish wife of a soldier at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Traci Moran.**

[...]

Moran's allegations against Heber came to light during an Army investigation into JBLM chaplain Capt. Michael Harari. The Morans allege Harari breached their confidentiality after they asked him for advice about Heber's alleged sexually overt messaging. Harari banned them from the base synagogue and Heber filed a restraining order against them.

[...]

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

PREVIOUS 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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