

Ms. Amber Gurske has issued the following statement in response to the release by the City of Duluth of the investigation report by Attorney Michelle Soldo.

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The report shows I did nothing illegal or unethical, and this has been substantiated by the facts. These findings appear to be consistent with the internal review conducted by the Duluth City Attorney's Office.

I volunteered to help Mayor Reinert, at his request, while he was short several key staff. Volunteers helping during an administrative transition is commonplace. The record shows I asked for nothing and received nothing. But as a result of the story last fall I have been the target for months of near daily online harassment and bullying.

A story based on incomplete information and inaccurate speculation has caused real harm to both me as a person and as a professional. Every part of my life and professional reputation has been drug through the mud online including questions about my ethics, my intelligence, and my private employer. I realize I am not the first woman, or the last, to be subjected to this kind of behavior but things will never improve if we don't call it out, talk about it, and shed light on it.

I am from here. I am a Northlander. I grew up in Brule, graduated from Northwestern, and went to UMD. I studied marketing and political science, and put myself through school working at the Olive Garden. I have a successful career in international business and work with people from over 90 countries. And, I love Duluth.

I have no official or unofficial role with the City of Duluth. But, I am intelligent and pay attention and have the right to my thoughts and opinions just like any other Duluthian. And yes, you will see me with Roger. We enjoy being active and involved in the community, and we enjoy attending events together. Given his schedule it's sometimes the only way we get to spend time together.

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Ms. Gurske has retained a lawyer and now that the full investigation report has been released is considering any legal options.