

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR HARDWICK**

Re: Calling on New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo to Resign from Office

WHEREAS, when allegations first became public in December 2020 by women alleging that New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo had sexually harassed them, some elected officials called on Governor Cuomo to resign immediately, but others urged caution and awaited the results of an investigation ordered by State Attorney General Letitia James; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General commenced an investigation following a March 1, 2021 referral from the Executive Chamber, pursuant to New York Executive Law Section 63(8), for Attorney General James to select independent lawyers to investigate “allegations of and circumstances surrounding sexual harassment claims made against the governor;” and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2021, the Office of the New York State Attorney General issued a 168-page report outlining the results of an independent investigation into allegations that Governor Cuomo had sexually harassed multiple women; and

WHEREAS, according to the Attorney General’s Office, their investigators interviewed 179 individuals which included the women who had complained, current and former members of the Executive Chamber, State Troopers, additional state employees, and others who interacted regularly with the governor; and

WHEREAS, that Attorney General report found that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women between 2013-2020, and violated State and Federal laws and written policies of his office; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General’s report detailed “unwanted and inappropriate groping, kissing, hugging, and comments that accusers called “deeply humiliating, uncomfortable, offensive, or inappropriate”; and

WHEREAS, the report also found that the Governor’s Office was “rife with fear and intimidation” that enabled “harassment to occur and created a hostile work environment”; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General’s report found that the “Governor and his senior staff took actions to retaliate against at least one former employee for coming forward with her story”; and

WHEREAS, the report stated that the Governor’s actions and his staff’s retaliation against a former employee for coming forward violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the New York State Human Rights Law, and 42 U.S. Code § 1983, in addition to the Executive Chamber’s own equal employment policies; and

WHEREAS, since the report was issued, elected officials and leaders from both political parties have urged the Governor to accept responsibility and to step down from office; and

WHEREAS, in a taped message issued several hours after the Attorney General's report was issued, the Governor denied the allegations, dismissed critics, and combatively attacked the investigation, but said he had hired a sexual harassment expert to train himself and his staff in sexual harassment policies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that given the New York State Attorney General's report and findings that Governor Andrew M. Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women, including employees subordinate to him, the Erie County Legislature calls on Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to resign from office immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event the Governor declines to resign, this Honorable Body calls on the New York State Assembly's Judiciary Committee to expeditiously finish its inquiry into the Governor's actions and for the Assembly to commence an impeachment proceeding against the Governor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor to the Secretary to the Governor, to the Attorney General, to the State Comptroller, and to the President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the State Assembly.

Fiscal Impact: None.