

I met Eric Greenway socially in 2022. He pursued a romantic relationship with me, and I agreed to a couple of dates with him. While flattered by his affection, I was not interested in that kind of connection, and I made it clear to him we could be friends but not romantically involved. Close to the end of 2022, Greenway expressed interest in hiring me to work for Beaufort County in a healthcare position. I rebuked his offer many times. He was undeterred and after months working as an outside health consultant with the County, Greenway made an offer that I was unable to refuse. He provided reasonable accommodations for my chronic health condition and clearly outlined my duties. Based on this offer, I accepted the position of Director of Wellness and began work on April 24, 2023.

Just two weeks into my tenure with the County, I attended a party with my significant other. Greenway was also in attendance. He was openly agitated and made it clear that my act of bringing my boyfriend to a social event was offensive to him. After he left the party, Greenway sent a string of emails and text messages directly threatening me and my livelihood. He financially threatened my family and professional associates as well. I was shocked by the behavior.

I expressed my distress to management of Beaufort County and was assured that the matter would be handled. I then made a formal complaint of discrimination and retaliation. The complaint was investigated, and, despite the open threats, no wrongdoing was found on Greenway's part. I then filed a charge with the EEOC for discrimination.

One of the threats that Greenway made – cancelling the contract with my sister-in-law's company – was effectuated in June. Internally, Greenway's threats of financial harm were being carried out by his underlings. The Deputy County Administrator whom I was placed under, started to apply incredible stress and work pressure, took away my accommodations of a flexible work schedule, and demanded an inordinate amount of work in an effort to force my resignation. I take pride in my work, and I believed that I could succeed in this role for the citizens and employees of Beaufort County, so despite the consistent hostility and harassment, I worked tirelessly to perform my job.

I was approached by law enforcement to become the main witness against Greenway in some suspected criminal activity. Although I was hesitant to do so, I agreed and promised to tell the truth about all matters involving Greenway. It is my understanding that the investigation is still underway.

On Monday, July 24, I learned that Greenway was suspended from his position as County Administrator. I was relieved by this, as I believed that the hostility and harassment would end with Greenway out of my chain of command. I was incorrect. Yesterday, July 25, 2023, I was terminated by Greenway's assistant administrator for a pretextual reason. I have no doubt that I was terminated for my reports of harassment, my complaints of the same, and my participation as a witness in the criminal investigation.

These actions have and will continue to have a devastating effect on both my professional and personal life. I make this statement now in an effort to fully illuminate the transgressions of Beaufort County and its agents. Please direct all future inquiries to Tim Lewis with Gibbs & Holmes in Charleston.

Lisa Lynch

July 26, 2023