

Deposition of Witness
(Section 120.20 CPL)

KINGSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)
) Eric F. Coppolino
COUNTY OF ULSTER) ss. _____
) (Deponent)
)
CITY OF KINGSTON)

Of 302 Clinton Avenue, Kingston NY, Age 43 years Occupation realtor, states as follows,

I, Kathleen Griffin, being 43 years of age, having been born on [REDACTED] and residing at [REDACTED], Kingston NY do make the following statement to Officer Allison Kari of my own free will with no promises or threats being made to or against me.

I moved to uptown Kingston in August of 2014. I am not sure the first time I met Eric Francis. Uptown is small and being new I met a lot of people and a lot of people came up and talked to me when I went out. I don't have the best facial recognition, but I am certain Eric had tried to engage with me on several occasions before some time around the fall of 2014 one night at BSP he told me he was a photographer and asked if he could take my picture some time. This seemed like a really creepy request. I am 43 and have spent most of my adult life in the art world, so I am not unaccustomed to any kind of professional artistic engagement. This seemed like a weird old guy with a gross line.

I later asked about him to a few people I know and they said yes that in fact that was his MO. After this I told both my brother who lives with his wife in uptown and my new boyfriend. Both of them know or know of Eric Francis. The next time EF tried to engage with me I causally repeated that I wasn't really interested in getting to know him in any way. We had two more encounters at Outdated coffee shop that were relativey calm but I again told him when he came over to leave me alone. At this point it became clear that Eric was enjoying the fact that I did not want to speak with him. By October of 2015 I was part of the O positive Festival and was painting a mural outside on front street where I was working in public view and had to finish for a deadline. Eric again came over and began asking me questions. At this point my boyfriend who was aware he was bothering me saw him and drove his truck up on the sidewalk got out of his car and very directly told Eric Francis to stay away from me. At this point I began avoiding Outdated Coffee shop for a few months.

In the year prior it had been one of my favorite places to go, but I was sick of being harrassed. About four months later I started going back. I was in line one day and felt something in my hair, it was Eric Francis's nose. I was deeply disturbed to find he was smelling my hair. I yelled out get away from me you creep. A month later when I went again he came up to me and said, "I can see you." At this point I stopped going again for a while. The problem is I am a writer and much of Kingston's cultural interactions and people I interact with frequent Outdated, including people I met at Word Café - a writing seminar. Last year summer I was sitting outside with my dog when Eric Francis came up to me, cornering me in my seat. "I want me meet your dog." He said, at that point I stood up and yelled "how many times do I have to tell you to stop sexually harrassing me." He then stood up embarrassed and said, "I don't even know you." At that point I went to the owner of Outdated and told her I was being constantly and actively harrassed by Eric. Whenever he sees me he comes up and engages me or moves into my space just to show me that he can. He walks up behind me or sits facing and staring at me.

When I joined Kingston Writers Studio I told the founder, Sari Botton that it was on the condition that he not be allowed in as a member. She told me that two other women had made the same request.

Last time I went to Outdated after not going for some time I was with my sister in law, who went in before me, when I went to the back to get my coffee Eric again came back and tried to corner me but she blocked him and we left.

About two months ago I was contacted by some other women who have had a hard time with Eric Francis. We came together and shared our first hand accounts of stalking and various forms of sexual harassment. We formed MeToo Kingston. Since this time over 20 people have come forward to share their first hand

accounts of sexual harassment and bullying by Eric Francis. This has resulted in his firing from the Omega Center, Radio Kingston and an investigation at the Chronogram. Eric apparently found out about our MeToo Group and says he has a mole. This is obviously true and he is very angry. He knows I am part of this group.

Last week my girlfriend invited me to lunch at Dominicks, we sat outside and he walked past three times staring me down, the last time when he walked past our table and stepped out into the street he shouted "Fuck you!" at the top of his lungs.

Through our private email group I scheduled a meeting at 6:00 at Kingston Writers Studio. Only people involved with Kingston MeToo would know about it, it is a private locked building. When I showed up to unlock the door and was standing in the doorway alone when Eric walked up behind me walking close to where I was opening the door until I could get inside and slam the locked door behind me. He remained staring at me the whole time.

This man is scary and will not leave me alone. He is obviously so obsessed that he is reading my private emails and showing up when I am supposed to be places. He physically has invaded my personal space on several occasions, cornering me and putting his face in my hair. I am asking for your help and protection before this becomes worse.

Thank you for your time.

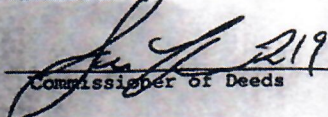
Kathleen Griffin

I have read the foregoing statement and I swear that it is true as to the times, facts, and places contained herein to the best of my knowledge and belief.


NOTICE; False statements made herein are punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor pursuant to section 210.45 of the Penal Law.

Sworn to before me this 29 day of May, 2018


Witnessed by


Commissioner of Deeds

Signature of Deponent


Kingston, NY 12401

Address


Telephone