From: DeMunbrun, Marshal S

**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 9:29 AM

To: PD ALL OFFICERS

**Subject:** RE: Press Release: El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

## Greetings,

This is the type of story that good officers always hate to see. Allegations like these don't hurt the individual, they tarnish every badge across the nation. We've all seen the negative media and calls to defund and abolish police. There are also movements to remove collective bargaining and qualified immunity. That being said, we *ALL* have to ensure we are making sound decisions, and conducting ourselves at the highest standards both on and off duty. We do not need to give anyone the ammunition to smear our profession.

We've heard the term *victimization* – people placing themselves in positions to become victims. As officers, we have to make sure we are not placing ourselves in positions to be accused! Wearing the uniform doesn't come with perks and privileges, it comes with a great deal of *responsibility and sacrifice*. Do not take it lightly. Given the authority we are entrusted with, it also requires an enormous amount of *discipline*. The discipline to control our emotions and actions, and to always do what's right.

I felt this needed to be said. I do not want our department or officers in the negative limelight, especially when it's preventable. We are better than this.

Please stay safe,

It. DeMunbrun

From: Mack, Diane R. (Police Dept)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 6:34 PM **To:** PD ALL

Subject: Press Release: El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

## El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

Date: 05/16/2021 Time: 10:30 рм

Location: 1776 Cimarron Square / Las Mansiones Apartments

Arrested: 34 –year old Abderrazak Boukhatmi

Victim: 19 -year old female

EL PASO, Texas — Detectives with the El Paso Police Department's Special Investigations Unit arrested a 2 –year veteran of the El Paso Police Department today, after allegations of a sexual assault surfaced. A 19 –year old victim reported on May 16<sup>th</sup>, around 10:30 pm, 34 –year old Abderrazak Boukhatmi forced her to perform oral sex on him when Boukhatmi discovered the victim inside a pool restroom at the Las Mansiones Apartment complex after hours. Boukhatmi was working at the west side apartment complex in an off-duty capacity at the time of the incident. Boukhatmi was taken into custody today and charged with Sexual Assault. He will be booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility on a \$45,000 bond. Chief Greg Allen wants to assure the public that such an abhorrently shameful act by an individual within the ranks of the police department is intolerable and will be investigated swiftly and thoroughly. Boukhatmit was relieved of duty and placed on administrative leave.

From:Phoenix-Cervantes, YdaliTo:DeMunbrun, Marshal S

**Subject:** RE: Press Release: El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 11:31:56 AM

Attachments: image001.wmz

image002.png

With all due respect Sir,

I disagree with some of your comments. The term victimization refers to the deliberate action or process taken by someone to exploit, oppress, or harm another. What you described is Blaming the Victim, which a very common belief based in deeply rooted societal attitudes towards gender inequality.

A better solution to this would be to reevaluate our beliefs and attitudes when it comes to Rape Culture and violence in any form, but especially gender based violence. By doing this we can try to prevent this kind of act from happening because it is always wrong to do so.

If you know of someone who would like more information on this topic or is in need of Victim Services, please have them contact me or any of the VSRT Case Managers.

Respectfully,

*Ydali Phoenix-Cervantes*, CA #T1912 Victim Services Case Manager 911 N. Raynor From: DeMunbrun, Marshal S

To: <u>Phoenix-Cervantes, Ydali</u>
Subject: RE: Press Release: El Pa:

Subject: RE: Press Release: El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:55:02 PM
Attachments: image003.wmz

Attachments: <u>image003.wmz</u> image002.png

I think you misinterpreted the point I was trying to convey. In no way shape or form is anyone blaming a victim. On the flip side, it is the officer we are disappointed in.

Let me explain the context of the term victimization - when people partake in actions or behavior that increase the risk of becoming a victim of a crime. For example, a person walking through a dark alley of a high crime area, alone. Chances are increased they could be victimized.

The same concept would apply to the officers – do not partake in actions or behavior that increase the risk of allegations or violations. The message is intended to advise officers not to partake in risky or questionable behavior that could even be construed as any type of violation. We as a profession need to be smarter.

From: Phoenix-Cervantes, Ydali
To: DeMunbrun, Marshal S

**Subject:** RE: Press Release: El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

**Date:** Friday, May 21, 2021 8:45:16 AM

Attachments: <u>image004.wmz</u> <u>image001.png</u>

If I have offended you, please know that was not my intention. I am very passionate about domestic violence and sexual abuse/assault. And I completely agree that all law enforcement professionals are viewed by the community as a role models and need to be more cognizant of their actions. Criminal and unethical behavior by anyone in the department tarnishes the public's view and trust.

I agree that everyone should be more cautious when they are in a potentially dangerous situation. Your example of a person walking alone through a dark alley of a high crime area as being at an increased risk of being victimized is very different. This particular case has nothing to do with your context of the term victimization; by your logic of when people partake in actions or behavior that increase the risk of becoming a victim of a crime. The officer in question did not place himself in a position to be accused of misconduct; he admitted to committing a crime and used his position of power to do it. And worse, he does not view that conduct to be wrong. And the victim did not put herself in position to be victim. The blame falls solely on the person who chose to violate the other. And that is why I was concerned about your comment.

Your context of the term victimization is clearly an example of Rape Culture. Sexual violence is not about sex, it's about Power and Control. People who commit these types of crimes do it to exert power over a person they deem to be weaker or less important.

I would love to have a real conversation about this with you and anyone else that is interested. I included some links to some great resources on this topic that explain my point. Take care and have a great day!

https://inside.southernct.edu/sexual-misconduct/facts

https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/11/compilation-ways-you-canstand-against-rape-culture

https://www.csbsiu.edu/chp/rape-culture

Respectfully,

*Ydali Phoenix-Cervantes,* CA #T1912 Victim Services Case Manager 911 N. Raynor From: <u>DeMunbrun, Marshal S</u>
To: <u>Phoenix-Cervantes, Ydali</u>

**Subject:** RE: Press Release: El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

**Date:** Friday, May 21, 2021 9:04:26 AM

Attachments: <u>image002.wmz</u> image001.png

Not offended at all. Again, I think you misunderstood the message conveyed to the officers. It has nothing to do with the victim, or blaming the victim. Further, it does not mean a victim as at fault for any criminal activity.

In a nutshell, it is telling the officers to think about their actions – not to do anything that could even give rise to a possible allegation of wrong doing. Basically, to always do the right thing. I simply used the same concept regarding **placing one's self in positions of increased risk** of something negative to occur. I think you became focused on the "victim" part.

Anyhow, no worries.

From: <u>Carrasco, Rosalynn</u>

To: PD ALL

**Subject:** FW: Press Release: El Paso Police Officer Arrested for Sexual Assault

**Date:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 6:04:16 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

## Partners,

I was hoping this e-mail would be addressed to PDALL by a rank much higher than my own and/or the association since it was sent out to PDALL. As is not the case I want to apologize on behalf of the department for the implications made in the below e-mail.

The word *victimization* had no place being in this e-mail. A rape victim does not place herself in a situation to become a victim. Nor should *responsibility and sacrifice* been used when describing the *enormous amount of discipline* it takes to control our actions as an officer. Not raping someone is not a sacrifice a *good officer* must make nor should one be reminded that not raping someone is doing what's right. Not getting raped is a woman and man's civil right, not a sound decision an officer must make to conduct themselves at the highest standard.

I hope this e-mail was sent with a different intention than the message several officers and civilians as well as myself got from it. I am disappointed that a sergeant is the rank responding to PD ALL that the investigation is ongoing and that the comments this supervisor "needed to say" would have been better kept to himself.

To anyone who may sympathize with the message that was sent, I would like to remind you that many women and men on the department were victims of sexual abuse, specifically as children. They are not at fault for not fighting back or being terrified to come forward.

It saddens me that we tell the public this is an abhorrently shameful act but stay silent when the below e-mail can insinuate sympathy toward rapists.

Please be safe.

Rosalynn