

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

May 8, 2008

The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Vitter:

Through this letter the Select Committee on Ethics informs you that it is dismissing without prejudice a July 19, 2007, letter of complaint from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington ("CREW"), through which CREW requested that the Committee "begin an investigation to determine whether Senator David Vitter (R-LA) violated the Senate Rules of Conduct by soliciting for prostitution."*

The Committee has determined that, under the totality of the specific circumstances present in this matter, it is appropriate for the Committee to dismiss this matter without prejudice. These circumstances are that: as alleged in the letter of complaint, the conduct at issue occurred before your Senate candidacy and service; as alleged, the conduct at issue did not result in your being charged criminally; as alleged, the conduct at issue did not involve use of public office or status for improper purposes. Based upon these specific grounds, the Committee has determined that it should not further exercise its jurisdiction over this matter at this time.

In addition, while the Committee has made no factual findings regarding the conduct alleged in the complaint, we note for the record that Deborah Jeane Palfrey of Pamela Martin & Associates, whose services you have been publicly linked to, was found guilty of operating an interstate prostitution ring in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on April 15, 2008. Specifically, Ms. Palfrey was found guilty on all counts in the indictment against her, including operating a racketeering influenced corrupt organization (RICO), money laundering conspiracy, and interstate travel in aid of racketeering. The Committee makes note of these facts in light of your statement on July 9, 2007, in which you acknowledged, "This was a very serious

* On October 1, 2007, your counsel, on your behalf, submitted to the Committee a "Motion/Request for Recusal of Sen. Boxer"; your counsel resubmitted this motion to the Committee on November 27, 2007. You did not allege any facts requiring recusal under the Committee's Rules. Therefore, your "Motion/Request for Recusal of Senator Boxer" has been denied.

sin in my past for which I am, of course, completely responsible.”

The Committee also wishes to make clear that this decision to dismiss this matter without prejudice should not be taken as personal approbation or acceptance by any of the Members of the Committee of the kind of conduct alleged in this matter. In fact, if proven to be true, the Members of the Committee would find the alleged conduct of solicitation for prostitution to be reprehensible.

In dismissing this matter without prejudice, the Committee reserves the right to reopen an investigation should new allegations or evidence be brought to our attention.

The Committee has determined that this letter informing you of its decision will be released publicly.

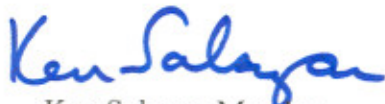
Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairman



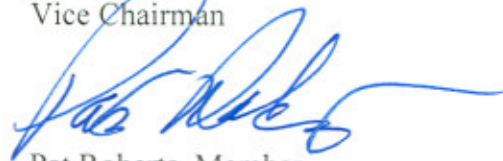
Mark Pryor, Member



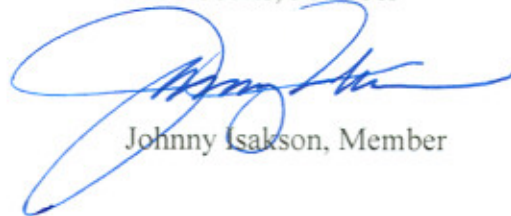
Ken Salazar, Member



John Cornyn
Vice Chairman



Pat Roberts, Member



Johnny Isakson, Member