

November 16, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley  
Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

**Re: State Trooper Leon Craig Porter, behavior unbecoming for a State Trooper, Personal and Professional**

Dear Governor Haley:

My name is Avril Wilson and I met State Trooper, Leon Porter when he stopped me for speeding in Orangeburg County on August 3, 2011, Ticket Number F209269. During the stop he inquired about where I worked and lived but, excited to get to my new job, that didn't mean anything at that time to me. I worked in Orangeburg and lived in Columbia so I didn't know where the ticket should be paid and I missed the court date. A colleague contacted Trooper Porter and he informed her to have me contact him directly so I did.

That's how it all began but at present, Trooper Porter was residing at my home located at 205 Northview Road, West Columbia, South Carolina. Due to his many proven deceptive and manipulative ways, I ended the courtship with Trooper Porter in April 2016 and I had him sign both a rental and promise to pay documents in July 2016. Because he had been so deceptive through the years, I honestly had no way and no one to verify anything he did or said because I knew no one who knew him as he claimed he had few friends. After learning of his latest deception from his high school friend who is also a pastor, I couldn't take it any longer. I had been deceived and I finally had proof. He constantly denied and deflected when attempting to get to the truth of any matter. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of our courtship, he continued to reiterate the we were starting fresh and I was to let go of the past since we were starting over. His Chevy Truck had been impounded during the divorce because he had taken out a loan he was unable to repay timely. When we resumed the relationship, at some point he was contacted by Big Foot Towing and they informed him that if he did not pay in full by a certain date, they would take full possession of the vehicle.

He coerced me into giving him the \$1,100.00 needed to secure his vehicle stating he could not be expected to solely drive his patrol car. I did loan him the \$1,100.00 because he said he would pay me back and I have proof of an agreement stating such that bares both our signatures. He also staged an abrupt move to vacate my home on September 26, 2016 and failed to provide me with a 30-day written notice as agreed upon which is verifiable by the signing of both our signatures on July 1, 2016 which states he will pay \$500.00 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Trooper Porter paid the mortgage monthly because I paid the expenses for all food, all other house expenses and the insurance for both vehicles. To date although I have repeated reminded him of the agreement he signed and he also made a copy of for his record, he has yet to provide the written notice thus continuing to incur fees for the abrupt move. Trooper Porter purposely and willfully attempted to escalate his botched abrupt move by contacting Lexington County Sheriff's Department and stated that I would not allow him to get his things when he willfully

moved from my home while I was away at work and had no knowledge whatsoever that he was moving.

Because he has failed to provide a 30-day notice as agreed, he now owes for the months of October and November. I purchased bicycles for my son's and I and during the time he, too wanted one so we could all ride together. Trooper Porter signed an agreement stating that he would reimburse me the \$600.00 portion I paid for the bicycle and now he states that he isn't paying again violating the terms and conditions of the signed agreement. Trooper Porter has gained financially in every way he could after being left with nothing after his divorce thus causing him to gain financially and leaving me in a financial crisis. As anyone of responsibility knows, when you live off of two incomes and one suddenly is gone without planning it makes things more difficult. Trooper Porter used me to rescue him over and over financially and now has left and refuses to restore what he has taken from me through manipulation and deceit although I have written signed proof.

I attempted to file Civil charges on Trooper Porter with Orangeburg County Magistrate's Office because I was informed by his management that was where he resided. When I filed the charges on October 27, 2016, Trooper Porter was present that day on business and in uniform. I approached him and asked if he would agree to pay me the money owed so that I didn't have to pay money to get money back from him. His exact words were, "Do what you have to do." Trooper Porter has taken so much and did so in a very manipulative and deceptive way. From inception he lied while in uniform and has continued to use me financially and betray any trust that was given.

When the officer attempted to serve Trooper Porter at his place of business, Troop 7 Post B in Orangeburg County, Trooper Moore informed me that since I did not have Trooper Porter's current address, I could have him served at work. Trooper Porter purposely avoided the Service and never returned the fellow officers call when he contacted him via telephone to attempt to serve him. This act in and of itself shows that Trooper Porter has little to no compassion professionally and personally for people. His behavior has been that of a common criminal versus one of a State Trooper who took an oath to have moral and integrity in his actions with others.

I ask that your office look into this matter as the holidays are steadily approaching, I have children and I am a single mother and I desperately need the money owed by Trooper Porter. I have bills to pay and he should not be allowed to take from someone so viciously and not be required to make full restitution to them without them having to expend more funds taking him to court to get reimbursed. Especially since he did such acts knowingly and willfully which is supported by his signature on all documents.

I am not in a position to file and spend another \$80.00 to get Trooper served as he continues to avoid due process by leaving my address as the address he has on record. He's already done so and had someone contact the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office and state that he does not reside in Orangeburg County but failed to say anything to me when I filed the papers as he was present that day and in uniform. Now the case has been thrown out, he has bought more time thus causing me more money and longer to get restitution for money clearly owed by the

documents he agreed to by signing his signature. He is purposely leaving me and my children in financial crisis!!

Please help!

Avril Wilson  
803-553-7355

The rest of the beginning.....

When I contacted Trooper Porter about the ticket, the call ended after I learned of where the ticket should be paid. Trooper Porter called me back later that day and informed me that he was working and would be looking for me when I was to return home joking that I shouldn't speed. We laughed about the reference and continued to talk. He then informed me that he was a single male and I informed him that I was going through a divorce and was looking for a room-mate. He then responded that he too was looking for a place to live because he lived in a half-way house because his divorce took a lot out of him financially and he had no place to live.

As we continued to get to know one another, he came to visit me on or around October 2011 and was in uniform each time he visited for the first few months. During those visits we shared more information about ourselves, he informed me he couldn't be a sub-standard person and be a State Trooper, he reiterated that he lived in a half-way house when I inquired about where he lived for the second time and admitted being embarrassed about having to admit such. Being that he comes across as the nicest sincerest person you would ever meet, I informed him that he had nothing to be embarrassed about and that I, too, was starting over. From that point on, I was sold and manipulated to believe, he was the nicest State Trooper I could ever meet.

On or around April 2012, Trooper Porter moved into my home because during our talks I mentioned that I wanted a room-mate and from what he informed me about him, an honorable Trooper, an honest single man of honor, and integrity, I allowed him to move into my home with me and my two sons who were about 9 and 10 at the time. The room-mate situation never got off because Trooper Porter began making advances towards me that allowed me to believe that he was interested in a relationship so thus began our courtship.

Sometime in 2014, Trooper Porter began to inform me that he was actually married. At this point, his wife of 19 years had finally filed for a divorce! From what I learned from his neighbor of just as many years, his wife took so long to file because she thought her husband would return to his family which is also stated in Trooper Porter's divorce documents. When Trooper Porter and I communicated about these facts, he now explained that his wife knew they had been "planning" to divorce for some time and that she was "trying" to make life difficult for him by lying about the same. He said he was dishonest because he didn't want to lose the relationship we developed. At this point, Trooper Porter had asked me to marry him, he developed a parent/child relationship with my sons and I was so involved in the relationship and entranced by the unknown manipulations, I believed Trooper Porter and began assisting him with finalizing