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TOWN OF PAMPLICO

PAGE 01/08

To: Aiki Haley (843) 734-5167

From: Christina Molen

Sub: Fired While Under

The State of Emergency

Copy: 1-8 pgs

10/2/2015

Dear Nikki Halcy,

My name is Christina Moten. I currently live at 309 South Elm Street in Pamplico SC 29583. My home number is (843) 493-1035; (843) 409-3055 is my cell phone number. I'm writing to make a complaint against Mr. Andy Ard, the owner of the BP Raider Station located here in Pamplico at 848 North Pamplico SC 29583. I was fired from my job while we were under the state of emergency, let go because I am an African American. To my knowledge, I am the first African American to be employed at the BP Raider Station while under the ownership of the Ard's. When I was hired they were unaware of my race. I turned in my application for employment nearly two years prior to being hired; I don't have what is considered to be a typical African American name. I was also hired without going through an interview. I simply received a phone call from the store manager Mrs. Misty Johnson asking me if I was still looking for work. When I told her yes, she told me to just come on to work and that is exactly what I did.

Mr. Andy Ard and I have a little bit of a history. He and I met because he was trying to intrude on his employees, to steal my water. He was contracted to pressure wash the units in the housing development where I live. He did not come with his own water supply. They were using the water of the tenants without asking. Shortly after this occurred, I ironically received the call about employment. I did not know that Mr. Ard owned the store until days after I had started working. We were introduced by Misty when he came in one shift while I was working. Andy trying to steal water from me was an ongoing joke while I worked there. Something Andy reminded me of just about every time I saw him. He somehow thought the whole thing was funny.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, I was scheduled to work from 4-closed. I was awoken by a text, which I still have, at 12:30pm from Misty asking me if I could come in early. This was because

my Caucasian coworker was allowed to go home to her family due to the storm. I told Misty sure, I had a couple things to do first and then I'll be right in. I was unaware of just how bad the roads were until I got out and started driving. I almost flooded out my car trying to get to the job. Once I arrived, I called Mist and told her I could not stay. I had to get back home to my children. I am a single mom of four. My sixteen year old can deal with the basic things, but nothing like the issues we were forced to deal with associated with the flooding. Misty told me that she had been on the phone with Andy for over an hour trying to get him to shut the store down but he wouldn't do it. She also said that she was urging him to at least come down to the store to see what things were like for himself; maybe that would push him to shut the store down. She told me to call him and express to him what I told her. Before I could get off the phone with her, he walked in the door. I immediately told Andy what I told Misty. He kept telling me, "No, were just going to wait and see what happens first." I kept pledging with Andy, "Whatever you need me to clean and/or break down let me know so I can get it done while I'm here, but I cannot stay." People were coming in one after the other telling of how horrible things were quickly getting. When I was told of a road closing, over flooding, and bridges flooded out I told Andy. The other cashier and I were having all kinds of problems with the registers, gas pumps, and drive offs, and each time I let Andy know. Once the sheriff came to the store, pulling a boat on the back of his truck on his way to save people, he told us the extent of the storm and I again pleaded with Andy one last time. He angrily raised his finger and pointing at me in an aggressive manner. He said to me, "If you want to work there, than you just better work!" I went back in the store, got some tissue to wipe my eyes, grabbed my keys, and went home to my children. When I got in the car I called misty and informed her on what just took place. While on the phone with her driving home, I went into a full blown panic attack. In just that short amount of time the

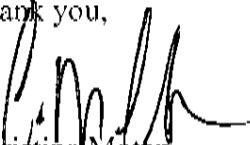
roads I normally travel around my home were ~~un-drivable~~. I had to back up quite a few times before I was able to find a safe way home. Once I ~~did~~, I got off the phone with Misty. My family's right down the street in my housing development had to be evacuated. I was so afraid; unsure when or if we too would need to leave our home. On the morning of October 5<sup>th</sup>, I received a phone call from Misty telling me that Andy said that I was fired and that I was not to ~~come back~~. I was scheduled to work that day. I asked was Patsy fired as well. I was told no, Andy said it was ok for her to go home to her family. Misty told me she tried to talk to Andy, tell him it wasn't right, but there was nothing that she could do about it.

We did not get paid with checks that have check stubs. We were paid with checks similar to personal checks. On October the 6<sup>th</sup> I told Misty that I would need something showing my last four pay periods, what I have made to date net and gross, what I have put in federal and state taxes, social security, and a termination letter. I was shocked to read that the termination letter is worded in a manner to keep me from getting my unemployment benefits, within the seven month I have paid nothing in federal taxes, and I have been paying something labeled MS that has not been explained to me. My termination letter is worded as if I was being insubordinate with Andy and that is not true. It states that Andy assured me I would be safe, and I would have a way home. Yes it is true he stated that he would take me home at the end of my shift, but was very arrogant of him. He spoke as if he had some sort of control with this storm. No one knew what was going to happen next, the reason for urging people to stay home and stay off the roads. My concern was for my young children who were home by themselves; something Andy could care less about. After working at the Raider Station, I see that the African American is not viewed or valued as equal members of society. The store is full of surveillance cameras with audio; everything is on tape except for the last time I spoke to Andy. He had gone outside to

sit in his truck. When I came back in the store form speaking to h m, I was clearly upset. I went to the restroom to get tissue to whip my tears. I also let it be known the he had just treated me with my job. I had no other choice and I was treated very unfairly. It was ok for my Caucasian coworker to go home to her family but not me. I have made complaints with the NAACP, the EEOC, and I am currently looking for a lawyer that deals with wrongful employee termination based on racial determination.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my letter and any help that you may give to me and my family in regards to this issue.

Thank you,



Christina Moten

October 7,2015

Raider Station  
848 N. Pamplico Hwy.  
PO Box 579  
Pamplico , SC 29583

To whom it may concern:

Christina Moten was hired to work at the Raider Station on March 2,2015. She worked here until October 4, 2015. She walked out on October 4, 2015 leaving another cashier alone after the owner told her he was working on the situation at hand and was trying to figure out what to do. She was very loud and yelling at the owner of the store while customers were in store. The owner assured her she would be safe, have a way home and he was trying to figure out what was going on. She would not stay to work and was very mouthy and yelling at the owner. If you should have any further question about this matter please call me at (843)-493-2500.

Sincerely,

Misty Johnson, manager

CHRISTINA MOTEN  
Withholdings from March 2015 – October 2015

CHRISTINA MOTEN WORKED FROM MARCH 2, 2015 FROM OCTOBER 4, 2015.  
HER WITHHOLDINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

GROSS :	\$ 7441.60
FEDERAL:	\$ 0.00
CC:	\$ 361.86
MC:	\$ 107.90
STATE:	\$ 0.30
NET	\$ 6872.02

RAIDILL STATION  
848 N PAMPLICO HWY  
PO BOX 579  
PAMPLICO SC 29583

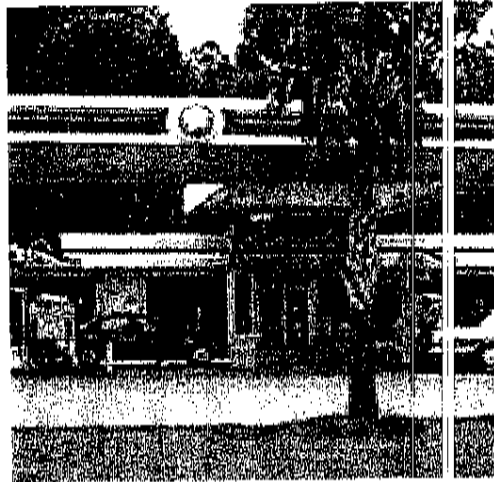
(843) 493 -2500

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS

MISTY JOHNSON, MANAGER

# BP Raider Station

848 N Pamplico Hwy, Pamplico, SC 29583 · (843) 493-2500



My name is Christina and I was a cashier at this BP station. My Caucasian coworker and I both left to go home early to our families on October 4<sup>th</sup> because of horribly flooding. I however was fired the next morning while she still has her job. I know firsthand just how unfair this business can be in regards to the African American community. We are not viewed or valued as equals and we should **NOT** support this business.