



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Mesnard Releases Sexual Harassment Report and Announces Remedial Action

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker J.D. Mesnard (R-17) today released the [investigative report](#) on sexual harassment allegations against Representatives Don Shooter (R-13) and Michelle Ugenti-Rita (R-23). Speaker Mesnard also announced several actions in response to the report and scheduled a press conference for 4:00 p.m. to discuss those actions.

The [report](#) concluded that there is credible evidence that Representative Shooter violated the House of Representative's policy against sexual harassment. The report did not find credible evidence that Representative Ugenti-Rita violated House policy.

Speaker Mesnard reacted to the report by outlining several remedial actions:

- Speaker Mesnard is permanently removing Representative Shooter from all committee assignments effective immediately.
- Speaker Mesnard will furthermore introduce a resolution on the House Floor censuring Representative Shooter for his behavior.
- Speaker Mesnard will propose augmenting the House rules, which carry the force of law, to require a formal anti-harassment policy by which all Members must abide.
- Speaker Mesnard will also propose adding a House rule requiring a formal behavioral code of conduct for all Members.
- Speaker Mesnard will establish a bipartisan panel of Members to fully and transparently develop the behavioral code of conduct for House members.
- Speaker Mesnard, in his capacity as Speaker, will develop a code of conduct that will apply to all House staff.
- Speaker Mesnard will formalize a Human Resources Department for the House.
- Speaker Mesnard will prohibit the consumption of alcohol on House premises.

Speaker Mesnard will hold a press conference this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in House Hearing Room 1 to discuss the remedial actions he has taken.

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