

This is Jamestown Mayor Dwaine Heinrich. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the false claim made against me for sexual assault. Sexual assault is a serious matter and should be handled as such. False claims of sexual assault such as this are also serious. This is not the first time our community has been a victim of the Fargo Cesspool known as Valley News.

I have lived in North Dakota since 1978. I have worked with many women at my regular job as well as in volunteer organizations, service and fraternal clubs. In my work I have been in hundreds and perhaps thousands of homes in North Dakota. You will not find one person who will accuse me of improper conduct during all of those years.

Anyone can make a false report to the police. The police will investigate. This is how the system works. I have worked with a number of news organizations and most in my experience do want to at least consider if the stories have any validity. Apparently this is not the case with Valley News.

So, this story is not complicated. Last Saturday at about 7:00 or 7:30pm I believe I stopped over to The Office Bar to visit with a friend I had not seen for some time. I was there I believe about 15 minutes. At some point a person came over and started talking directing comments to me. This person was dressed in mens clothing and a baseball cap and I really did not know if it was a man or woman.

The person started getting more aggressive in tone and was making a number of complaints including things like I should be able to say exactly how many people work at the State Prison where they said they worked. This went on for some time until I realized that this person was not interested in any type of legitimate conversation but rather was trying to create a scene. At that point I said this conversation is over, here is my card, call me when you are sober. This person pushed away my attempt to provide my card and phone number and began saying that I assaulted her. I still was not sure if this person was a male or female but regardless there was no assault.

The Bar had a number of patrons at the time. I am sure there were a number who saw the episode and that none except the person I believe was with this person and who I believe was in on this would backup her false claims.

I am proud of Jamestown and the work I have done here. There is no doubt in my mind that this was politically motivated as I am running for re-election. I believe that I need to be approachable and will continue to be out and about in the community.

I was an Army First Sergeant in Vietnam when I was 20 years old. I started my own business here in Jamestown when I was 32 years old. Many people have tried to bully or intimidate me into not doing my job properly over those many years, none have ever been successful nor will this person be successful.

Thank you Jamestown and North Dakota. You have known me too long to believe this false story.