

Cuomo Continues to Challenge His Accusers as Moving Trucks Are Loaded

With Gov. Andrew Cuomo set to leave office in a few days, his lawyer again challenged the credibility of the inquiry that led to his departure.



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Four days before his resignation takes effect, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo presented another broad defense of his behavior toward women, trying to impeach the credibility of some of those whom a damning report by New York’s attorney general found he sexually harassed.

Mr. Cuomo’s personal lawyer, Rita Glavin, said at a briefing on Friday that the attorney general’s report was riddled with errors and omitted potentially exculpatory evidence, including testimony, photos and documents, that she said contradicted or cast doubt on some of the women’s accounts.

In her 22-minute presentation, Ms. Glavin said she planned to submit a letter to the attorney general, Letitia James, asking that Ms. James “make corrections, include material omissions and supplement the record” with evidence that Ms. Glavin said had been left out of the report.

“The report has to include evidence that was favorable to the governor that the investigators were told about,” Ms. Glavin said, adding that the document should “be made fulsome.”

In a statement responding to Ms. Glavin's remarks, Delaney Kempner, a spokeswoman for Ms. James, defended the investigation's integrity, saying it "was exhaustive, thorough and without outside influence, period."

Mr. Cuomo, a third-term Democrat, has not spoken publicly since his announcement last week that he was resigning, but Ms. Glavin's remarks provided the latest glimpse of how he may continue to fight the fallout from the report after he leaves office.



Rita Glavin, Mr. Cuomo's lawyer, sought on Friday to dismantle some of the claims included in a damning report that found he had sexually harassed 11 women. Office of the Governor of New York

In continuing to defend himself, Mr. Cuomo appears to have settled on a twofold strategy: salvage his now-stained legacy and confront the continuing investigations into the sexual harassment claims by the State Assembly and local prosecutors.

As intent as he may be on not leaving office without a fight, Mr. Cuomo has kept a relatively low profile in his final days as governor. This week, he filed retirement papers with the state, signed bills that had lingered on his desk and pardoned or commuted the sentences of 10 incarcerated people.

On Friday, U-Haul trucks were seen outside his current residence, the 40-room Executive Mansion on Eagle Street in Albany, where a Cuomo has resided for two of the past four decades. (His father, Mario M. Cuomo, was also a three-term Democratic governor.)

It is unclear where Mr. Cuomo will move — he does not own property — but he is considering renting a house in Westchester County, according to a person close to him. He has lived in Westchester before, with his ex-wife, Kerry Kennedy, and with his former partner, Sandra Lee.

Ms. Glavin, who emerged as Mr. Cuomo's chief defender after Ms. James released the report on Aug. 3, also had not spoken publicly since the governor announced his resignation, which becomes official Monday night.

Her presentation on Friday highlighted many of the points she made immediately before Mr. Cuomo announced his resignation on Aug. 10. At the time, Ms. Glavin said that the report was crafted to fit a "predetermined narrative" and that the governor "had been convicted in the media."

On Friday, she sought to dismantle the claims made by some of the 11 women whose allegations were included in the 165-page report. In doing so, she often cited circumstantial evidence that did not necessarily disprove those claims.

Ms. Glavin homed in, for example, on allegations made by Virginia Limmiatis, an energy company worker whom Mr. Cuomo met on a rope line at a conservation event in May 2017, according to the report.

Ms. Limmiatis was wearing a shirt with her employer's name on it, and the report said Mr. Cuomo had run "two fingers across her chest, pressing down on each of the letters as he did so and reading out the name of the energy company as he went."

Seeking to rebut Ms. Limmiatis's account, Ms. Glavin displayed one of many photographs that were taken at the event, which she said did not include a rope line. The photo, Ms. Glavin argued, showed a grinning Mr. Cuomo brushing Ms.

Limmiatis's shoulder with his left hand, not her chest with his right hand, as the report said.

Mariann Wang, Ms. Limmiatis's lawyer, responded by saying her client had told several witnesses at the event, and in subsequent days, that Mr. Cuomo "had touched her breasts and that it was profoundly upsetting and humiliating." Those witnesses, she said, provided statements under oath to the investigators hired by the attorney general.

"His attorney falsely implies that they have photos depicting the entire interaction with Ms. Limmiatis," Ms. Wang said of the governor. "But the photos do not depict the interaction of inappropriate touching that Ms. Limmiatis testified to."

Ms. Wang added that Mr. Cuomo's "attacks should be seen for what they are: the desperate efforts of a bully down and alone, incapable of taking responsibility for the harm he's caused and determined to get back on top through more manipulation and evasion."

In another instance, Ms. Glavin said the report had incorrectly described how another woman reportedly said Mr. Cuomo touched her rear end.

Ms. Glavin displayed an email written by the woman, who has not been named publicly, that said Mr. Cuomo "tapped my butt cheek two times (to quick pats) with what felt to be the palm of his hand."

Ms. Glavin said the interaction had been described in a more damaging manner in the report, which said Mr. Cuomo "tapped it twice, and then grabbed her butt."

Ms. Glavin also said she would submit new information to investigators that would undermine the credibility of Charlotte Bennett, 26. Ms. Bennett, a former aide to Mr. Cuomo, has said that when they were alone in the governor's office last year, he asked whether she was monogamous or had sex with older men. Ms. Glavin did not disclose details of the information "out of respect" for Ms. Bennett.

In a statement, Ms. Bennett's lawyer, Debra Katz, said that "smearing Charlotte, as his lawyer did today, is actionable post-employment retaliation."

Also on Friday, The Daily News published a column by Richard Azzopardi, a senior adviser to the governor, who wrote that Mr. Cuomo had been “railroaded” by Ms. James, a Democrat who is considered a possible candidate for governor next year but who has not said she plans to run.

“The fix was in and an election was overturned on flimsy evidence and twisted process,” Mr. Azzopardi wrote. “Whatever you think of Andrew Cuomo, that is a loss for values we are supposed to cherish.”

Ms. Kempner, in her statement responding to Ms. Glavin, took issue with those in Mr. Cuomo’s camp who continued to challenge the credibility of the investigation and the women who have accused the governor of improper behavior.

“We cannot allow survivors of sexual harassment to be further traumatized by these continued attacks, lies, and conspiracy theories,” Ms. Kempner said.

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