

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

**TOMS RIVER BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT #2**

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

**SILVERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
#1**

15 Kettle Creek Rd.

Toms River, NJ 08753

And

TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP

33 Washington Street

Toms River, NJ 08753

And

OCEAN COUNTY

101 Hooper Avenue

Toms River, NJ 08753

And

ROBERT SINNOTT

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

MICHAEL COCCO

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

RICHARD GORMAN

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

TIMOTHY CARSON

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

KEVIN W. BRITTON

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

MICHAEL WILSON

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

DAVID H. SEIDERS

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

JOSEPH DUFF

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

RICHARD HEROY

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

JOHN KEATING JR.

257 Warner St.

Toms River, NJ 08755

And

JOHN CAROLAN
257 Warner St.
Toms River, NJ 08755

And

BRIAN TILLOTSON
257 Warner St.
Toms River, NJ 08755

And

TOM MORRIS, JR.
257 Warner St.
Toms River, NJ 08755

And

STEVE HENRY
257 Warner St.
Toms River, NJ 08755

And

GUS BAXES
257 Warner St.
Toms River, NJ 08755

And

GARY TATTERSALL
257 Warner St.
Toms River, NJ 08755

And

JOHN DOES (A-Z)

And

ABC CORPORATIONS (A-Z)

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, John Doe 1, John Doe 2, and John Doe 3, by and through their attorneys, Anapol Weiss, hereby file this Complaint against Defendants, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District # 2, Silverton Volunteer Fire Company # 1, Toms River Township, Ocean County, Robert Sinnott (“Sinnott”), Michael Cocco (“Cocco”), Richard Gorman (“Gorman”), Timonthy Carson (“Carson”), Kevin Britton (“Britton”), Michael Wilson (“Wilson”), David H. Seiders (“Seiders”), Joseph Duff (“Duff”), Richard Heroy (“Heroy”), John Keating, Jr. (“Keating”), John Carolan (“Carolan”), Brian Tillotson (“Tillotson”), George Rosko (“Rosko”), Tom Morris, Jr. (“Morris”), Steve Henry (“Henry”), Gus Baxes (“Baxes”), Gary Tattersall (“Tattersall”), John Does (A-Z), and ABC Corporations (A-Z), and aver as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This case exposes a horrific pattern of sexual abuse and institutional failure within the Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 and Toms River Fire District 2.
2. For over two decades, Defendant Robert Sinnott, a high-ranking fire official, systematically preyed upon young volunteer firefighters, subjecting them to repeated sexual assaults, harassment, and exploitation. Sinnott had intimate knowledge of the bounds of the law as a former law enforcement officer.
3. It also culminated in retaliation.
4. The abuse occurred not only at Sinnott’s residence but shockingly, in full view of others at the firehouse, demonstrating the brazen nature of his conduct and the climate of impunity that existed within the department.

5. The Plaintiffs in this case are three courageous current and former volunteer firefighters who endured unconscionable sexual violations at the hands of Defendant Sinnott, however disturbingly there are many others.

6. These young men joined the fire department with aspirations of serving their community, only to be betrayed by the very institution they sought to support.

7. The sexual abuse they suffered ranged from forced masturbation and groping to violent physical restraints and assaults, often under the guise of “training” or “demonstrations” for work serving the Defendants through a company Sinnott said was meant to educate police officers to prevent them from being hurt.

8. Even more appalling than Sinnott’s predatory behavior is the systemic failure of the Toms River Fire District 2, its Board of Commissioners, and other officials, including named Defendants, to protect these vulnerable young men.

9. Despite ample evidence and opportunities to intervene, the Defendants willfully disregarded and ignored Sinnott’s abuse, effectively endorsing his criminal misconduct through their inaction.

10. Their negligent onboarding and training practices, willful blindness, and outright conspiracy to conceal Sinnott’s crimes perpetuated a cycle of abuse that has scarred the Plaintiffs for life.

11. This lawsuit seeks not only to hold Defendant Sinnott accountable for his reprehensible actions but also to expose the systemic failures that allowed this abuse to continue unchecked for years.

12. It aims to bring justice to the Plaintiffs who have suffered immeasurable harm and to effect meaningful change within the fire department to ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

13. The Plaintiffs bring this action under various legal theories, including assault and battery, negligence, violations of the New Jersey Civil Rights Act, and other state law claims.

14. They seek compensatory and punitive damages for the severe physical, emotional, and psychological trauma they have endured, as well as for the lasting impact on their personal and professional lives.

15. Importantly, this case is not just about the individual acts of one predator, but about the collective failure of an institution to protect those under its care.

16. It stands as a stark reminder of the dire consequences when those in power choose to protect their reputation over the safety and well-being of those they are meant to serve.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

17. This Court has Jurisdiction over this action pursuant to N.J. Stat. § 10:6-2.

18. Given that each Plaintiff's injuries resulted from the commission of a crime of a sexual nature, notice is not procedurally required to institute this suit. *See* N.J.S.A. § 59:8-3(b).

19. Venue is proper in Ocean County pursuant to N.J. Court Rule 4:3-2(a) and (b), because the actions arose in Ocean County.

PARTIES

20. Plaintiff John Doe 1 is an adult individual residing in New Jersey.

21. Plaintiff John Doe 2 is an adult individual residing in New Jersey.

22. Plaintiff John Doe 3 is an adult individual residing in New Jersey.

23. Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 was and continues to be a corporation and/or other jural entity authorized to conduct business, and conducting business, in the State of New Jersey with its principal business address located at 257 Warner St., Toms River, NJ 08755.

24. Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 was and continues to be a corporation and/or other jural entity authorized to conduct business, and conducting business, in the State of New Jersey with its principal business address located at 257 Warner St., Toms River, NJ 08755.

25. Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 was and continues to be a corporation and/or other jural entity authorized to conduct business, and conducting business, in the State of New Jersey with its principal business address located at 15 Kettle Creek Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753.

26. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 owned, managed, controlled, or were otherwise responsible for the operation of Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, a volunteer fire department.

27. Defendant Toms River Township is a municipality organized and existing under the laws of the United States and The State of New Jersey with a principal business address located at 33 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ 08753.

28. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Toms River Township supervised and controlled Defendants Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1.

29. Defendant Ocean County is a government entity organized and existing under the laws of the United States and The State of New Jersey with a principal business address located at 101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753.

30. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Ocean County supervised and controlled Defendants Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1.

31. Defendant Robert Sinnott ("Sinnott") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein as the Assistant Chief, and other positions of authority over Plaintiffs, and at all times, acting within the scope of his employment with Defendants at all times relevant.

32. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott was acting under the color of state law.

33. Defendant Michael Cocco ("Cocco") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Captain and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

34. At all relevant times, Defendant Cocco was acting under the color of state law.

35. Defendant Richard Gorman ("Gorman") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a First Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

36. At all relevant times, Defendant Gorman was acting under the color of state law.

37. Defendant Timothy Carson ("Carson") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Business Administrator and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

38. At all relevant times, Defendant Carson was acting under the color of state law.

39. Defendant Kevin W. Britton ("Britton") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Chairman and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

40. At all relevant times, Defendant Britton was acting under the color of state law.

41. Defendant Michael Wilson ("Wilson") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Clerk and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

42. At all relevant times, Defendant Wilson was acting under the color of state law.

43. Defendant David H. Seiders ("Seiders") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Assistant Clerk and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

44. At all relevant times, Defendant Seiders was acting under the color of state law.

45. Defendant Joseph Duff ("Duff") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Treasurer and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

46. At all relevant times, Defendant Duff was acting under the color of state law.

47. Defendant Richard Heroy ("Heroy") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms

River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Commissioner At-large and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

48. At all relevant times, Defendant Heroy was acting under the color of state law.

49. Defendant John Keating, Jr. ("Keating") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as the Chief and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

50. At all relevant times, Defendant Keating was acting under the color of state law.

51. Defendant John Carolan ("Carolan") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a 1st Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

52. At all relevant times, Defendant Carolan was acting under the color of state law.

53. Defendant Brian Tillotson ("Tillotson") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton

Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a 1st Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

54. At all relevant times, Defendant Tillotson was acting under the color of state law.

55. Defendant George Rosko ("Rosko") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a 1st Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

56. At all relevant times, Defendant Rosko was acting under the color of state law.

57. Defendant Tom Morris, Jr. ("Morris") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a 1st Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

58. At all relevant times, Defendant Morris was acting under the color of state law.

59. Defendant Steve Henry ("Henry") was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a 1st Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

60. At all relevant times, Defendant Henry was acting under the color of state law.

61. Defendant Gus Baxes (“Baxes”) was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a 1st Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

62. At all relevant times, Defendant Baxes was acting under the color of state law.

63. Defendant Gary Tattersall (“Tattersall”) was and continues to remain a servant, agent, and/or employee of Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, working therein, at times, as a 1st Lieutenant and acting within the scope of his employment at all times relevant hereto.

64. At all relevant times, Defendant Tattersall was acting under the color of state law.

65. For purposes of this complaint, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, Sinnott, Cocco, Gorman, Carson, Britton, Wilson, Seiders, Duff, Heroy, Keating, Carolan, Tillotson, Rosko, Morris, Henry, Baxes, and Tattersall shall be collectively referred to as “TR Fire District 2.”

66. At all relevant times, TR Fire District 2 was responsible for the recruitment, hiring, training, supervision, discipline, retention, termination, and promotion,

of the firefighters and members in leadership acting as servants, agents, and/or employees of Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, inclusive of all Defendants named herein.

67. Defendants John Does (A-Z) were, at all relevant times hereto, agents, employees, representatives, servants, and/or workers of Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and/or Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 and were involved in the management and operation of Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 and the hiring, supervision, and retention of its members, including the individual Defendants named herein.

68. At all relevant times, Defendants John Does (A-Z) were acting under the color of state law.

69. The identification of these individuals is not known by Plaintiffs at this time in the absence of discovery.

70. Plaintiffs reserve the right to substitute the name(s) for those agents designated as John Does when and if such information becomes available.

71. ABC Corporations (A-Z) were, at all relevant times hereto, incorporated associations, corporations, or other jural entities that owned, operated, managed, oversaw, employed or otherwise controlled Defendants Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, and its members, including the individual Defendants named herein.

72. The identification of these jural entities is not known by Plaintiffs at this time in the absence of discovery.

73. Plaintiffs reserve the right to substitute the name(s) for those jural entities designated as ABC Corporations when and if such information becomes available.

74. All of the above Defendants are referred to as “Defendants” in the aggregate.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

75. Founded in 1951, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 is a volunteer fire department in Toms River Township, Ocean County, New Jersey dedicated to protecting the lives and property of their neighbors.

76. Defendant Toms River Fire District #2 owns, operates, maintains, and/or is legally responsible for Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1.

77. Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, composed of leadership including Defendants Sinnott, Cocco, Gorman, Carson, Britton, Wilson, Seiders, Duff, Heroy, Keating, Carolan, Tillotson, Rosko, Morris, Henry, Baxes, and Tattersall oversees all operations at Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1.

78. As noted above, Defendants Ocean County, Toms River Township, Toms River Fire District #2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, Sinnott, Cocco, Gorman, Carson, Britton, Wilson, Seiders, Duff, Heroy, Keating, Carolan, Tillotson, Rosko, Morris, Henry, Baxes, and Tattersall are referred to, collectively, as “TR Fire District 2” or “Toms River Fire District #2”.

79. For over 70 years, Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 has purported to dedicate itself to the noble pursuit of safeguarding its community from hazardous conditions including fires, motor vehicle accidents, natural disasters, and all accounts of harm.

80. TR Fire District 2 boasts a longstanding history of valor and public service, with its volunteers bravely stepping into harm’s way to protect their community.

81. Over 100 volunteers work with TR Fire District 2 to provide the highest standards of service and keep all residents in the district safe.

82. But tragically, TR Fire District 2's proclaimed values of selflessness and bravery have been overshadowed by its shocking and sordid past involving the sexual abuse of its volunteer firefighters.

83. Specifically, for decades Defendant Robert Sinnott subjected Plaintiffs to predatory grooming, alarming harassment, and horrific abuse.

84. Defendant Sinnott was lauded and respected by TR Fire District 2 leadership, and given access and control to every aspect of the fire house, including new gear, technology, website control, social media control, control of cameras, control of the Bylaws Committee, and control and influence over the percentage system for each firefighter, which impacts their pension status.

85. TR Fire District 2 directly endorsed Defendant Sinnott's sexually deviant misconduct.

86. Beginning in the early 1990s, Defendant Sinnott used his position of power at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 as a hunting ground to access young men, like all herein Plaintiffs, a group of courageous current and former volunteer firefighters, and subject them to repeated sexual abuse, assault, manipulation, predation, and harm.

87. For over two decades, Defendant Sinnott preyed upon the young and vulnerable Plaintiffs through his serial acts of sexual abuse.

88. Described more fully herein, Defendant Sinnott's sexually violative misconduct included forced masturbation, groping, and repeated sexual violations accomplished through unlawful physical restraint, aggravated assault, and battery tactics.

89. Shockingly, on several occasions Defendant Sinnott abused Plaintiffs in full view of others, inclusive of Leadership, at the firehouse, a brazen display of his untouchable status.

90. TR Fire District 2 knew of, had reason to know of, or was otherwise on notice of Defendant Sinnott's sexual misconduct and directly endorsed the despicable actions of Defendant Sinnott by facilitating this preventable pattern of sexual abuse, assault, manipulation, predation, and harm.

91. TR Fire District 2's negligent actions and inactions included grossly negligent hiring practices, willful and discriminatory blindness to evidence of abuse, unconscionable retention of a known sexual predator, and an outright institutional conspiracy to conceal Defendant Sinnott's crimes.

92. TR Fire District 2 abandoned, and continues to abandon, its core duty to protect its members in favor of perpetuating sexually violative and human right violations through active complicity and fraudulent concealment.

93. At all relevant times hereto, all Defendants had duties and obligations to protect Plaintiffs, including, but not limited to:

- a. To protect the safety and well-being of volunteer firefighters;
 - b. To properly screen, hire, train, and supervise employees and leadership;
 - c. To implement and enforce policies against sexual and physical harassment and abuse;
 - d. To investigate complaints of misconduct thoroughly and impartially;
- and

- e. To provide a safe working environment free from sexual and physical harassment and abuse.

94. TR Fire District 2 failed in its duties and obligations, including, but not limited to:

- a. Failing to properly screen Defendant Sinnott before hiring and/or promoting him;
- b. Ignoring or dismissing reports and signs of Defendant Sinnott's abusive behavior;
- c. Failing to implement or enforce adequate policies to prevent sexual abuse;
- d. Not properly supervising, improperly retaining, and failing to properly oversee Defendant Sinnott or restricting his access to vulnerable firefighters; and
- e. Failing to investigate complaints against Defendant Sinnott thoroughly.

95. Defendant Sinnott failed in the following duties and obligations, including, but not limited to:

- a. To maintain professional conduct;
- b. To respect the physical and emotional boundaries of subordinates;
- c. To use his authority responsibly and ethically;
- d. To adhere to department policies and legal standards, should they exist;

- e. To adhere to all applicable laws, ordinances, and policies, practices, procedures, and protocols; and
- f. To protect and mentor and/or not abuse and assault young firefighters under his supervision.

96. Defendant Sinnott failed in his duties and obligations in many ways, including by:

- a. Physically and/or sexually assaulting and abusing multiple volunteer firefighters;
- b. Abusing his position of authority to exploit vulnerable individuals, agents, employees, and/or community volunteers;
- c. Violating local, state, and federal laws, inclusive of criminal laws; and
- d. Creating a hostile, discriminatory, and unsafe work environment;

97. Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County failed in following their duties and obligations, including failing:

- a. To oversee, supervise, and control TR Fire District 2's operations;
- b. To ensure proper policies and procedures were in place for volunteer fire companies to prevent abuse;
- c. To respond to and investigate complaints or signs of misconduct;
- d. To provide adequate resources for proper management and oversight of fire districts;
- e. Creating a hostile, discriminatory, unsafe, and retaliatory work environment; and

- f. To ensure compliance with federal, state, and local laws regarding volunteer fire companies.

98. All Defendants failed Plaintiffs, including by failing:

- a. To report known or suspected abuse within the organization;
- b. To adhere to and enforce department policies and procedures;
- c. To maintain a safe working environment for all firefighters;
- d. To prevent discrimination, hostility, and retaliation within the workplace;
- e. To cooperate with investigations into misconduct;
- f. To use their positions responsibly to protect vulnerable individuals.
- g. Failing to report known instances of abuse;
- h. Assisting in covering up, complying with, and concealing Defendant Sinnott's misconduct;
- i. Contributing to a culture that allowed abuse to continue;
- j. Failing to enforce policies designed to prevent abuse or other unlawful and/or criminal acts; and
- k. Neglecting their duty to protect their staff, inclusive of Plaintiffs.

99. The failures, acts of misconduct, and omissions, by all Defendants directly and proximately caused the injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiffs as described herein.

100. As a result of the negligent actions and inactions of Defendants, Plaintiffs have experienced significant emotional and psychological distress, damage to their personal relationships, reputational harm, loss of professional opportunities, and economic losses.

101. Defendants' unlawful and outrageous conduct merits punishment and compensation to the fullest extent available under the law, including compensatory and punitive damages, costs, and attorneys' fees for the severe and permanent personal injuries, medical expenses, pain, suffering, emotional distress, mental anguish, and humiliation caused by Defendants' unlawful, intentional, reckless, grossly negligent, and negligent acts.

John Doe 1

102. John Doe 1 joined the Silverton Volunteer Fire Company in 2014 after he graduated college.

103. Defendant Sinnott was a large part of the reason John Doe 1 joined the Silverton Fire Company.

104. In 2012, right before Superstorm Sandy, Defendant Sinnott came to John Doe 1's parents' house where the TV in his mother and stepfather's room was off-gassing, which tripped the carbon monoxide alarm, and Sinnott responded to the emergency call.

105. At the time, Defendant Sinnott was also a police officer in Island Heights, New Jersey, where John Doe 1's best friend resided and helped his family with a medical incident.

106. During Superstorm Sandy, John Doe 1 saw firefighters doing so much for the community that he began to be inspired to join the firehouse himself so he could do his part to help.

107. Defendant Sinnott encouraged John Doe 1 to join, and in 2013, John Doe 1 began the process to apply to join the fire company.

108. John Doe 1 officially joined the Silverton Volunteer Fire Company in 2014.

109. Defendant Sinnott built trust with John Doe 1 by taking him in the Chief truck to bars, restaurants, and other firehouses.

110. In 2017, as he had done to many others, Defendant Sinnott asked John Doe 1, who was 24 years old at the time, for help creating an educational session he was going to be presenting, which he told John Doe 1 was to help educate police officers on the right way to use handcuffs.

111. At this time, Defendant Sinnott was the Fire Chief and therefore under the authority, power, control, and agency of Defendants.

112. Defendant Sinnott told John Doe 1 that he needed him to pose for photographs of handcuffing for a PowerPoint presentation.

113. Defendant Sinnott told John Doe 1 that it was very important that he have accurate photographs for the presentation, because if handcuffing was not done correctly, the perpetrator could slip the handcuffs.

114. Defendant Sinnott offered to compensate John Doe 1 for his assistance with the photographs.

115. John Doe 1 felt uneasy about the request, but agreed because he believed he could trust Defendant Sinnott as the Fire Chief.

116. Defendant Sinnott and John Doe 1 agreed that they would take the photographs at John Doe 1's parents' house while they were not home, where John Doe 1 lived at the time.

117. John Doe 1's parents' house was only a few blocks from Defendant Sinnott's house.

118. When Defendant Sinnott arrived at John Doe 1's parents' house, he began asking John Doe 1 questions about his cell phone.

119. John Doe 1 told Defendant Sinnott that he had just been on the phone with his girlfriend.

120. Defendant Sinnott took John Doe 1's cell phone away from him without John Doe 1's knowledge or consent.

121. John Doe 1 was wearing a shirt and baggy sweatpants, because he had recently had knee surgery and needed to wear clothing that fit over his knee.

122. Defendant Sinnott asked him if he could wear something tight, and John Doe 1 said he did not want to change his clothes.

123. Defendant Sinnott made clear to John Doe 1 that the bagginess of his sweatpants bothered Defendant Sinnott.

124. Defendant Sinnott then handcuffed John Doe 1's hands in front of him, demonstrating what he was going to do.

125. Defendant Sinnott then moved behind John Doe 1 and handcuffed John Doe 1's hand behind him.

126. Defendant Sinnott then told John Doe 1 to kneel, and then to lay down, which John Doe 1 thought was weird.

127. Defendant Sinnott then handcuffed John Doe 1's feet, which John Doe 1 did not know was going to happen.

128. Defendant Sinnott began taking photographs of John Doe 1

129. Defendant Sinnott then told John Doe 1 to get up.

130. John Doe 1 could not get up due to his knee injury.

131. Defendant Sinnott then lifted John Doe 1 into a standing position and began groping him over his body and throwing him around.

132. John Doe 1 became extremely uncomfortable and told Defendant Sinnott to stop.

133. Defendant Sinnott refused to stop and said he was almost done and it wouldn't be much longer.

134. John Doe 1 remembered that he had a backup cell phone for his construction work, separate from the cell phone Defendant Sinnott had taken away from him.

135. John Doe 1 began shouting at his cell phone's artificial intelligence feature, instructing it to call his girlfriend.

136. When that happened, Defendant Sinnott became panicked and began taking the handcuffs off John Doe 1 and questioning why he had two cell phones.

137. Defendant Sinnott then threw a couple hundred dollars on John Doe 1's bed and left the home.

138. After this experience, John Doe 1 felt very uncomfortable around the firehouse.

139. In 2024, John Doe 1 learned that Defendant Sinnott had been spreading false rumors about him throughout the firehouse.

140. John Doe 1 learned that Defendant Sinnott had been telling people that John Doe 1 was "shady" and "not trustworthy."

141. Defendant Sinnott had begun telling John Doe 1 that he was "shady" soon after the 2017 assault, but John Doe 1 did not learn that Defendant Sinnott was telling other people this about him until 2024.

142. In 2024, John Doe 1 also learned that Defendant Sinnott had falsely told several people that John Doe 1 was a “drug dealer.”

143. Since 2019, John Doe 1 has been unsuccessfully trying to get a job as a paid firefighter.

144. When Defendant Sinnott learned that John Doe 1 was trying to get a job as a paid firefighter, he became upset.

145. Defendant Sinnott is extremely well-connected in the New Jersey fire and police communities, and, upon information and belief, he has spread false rumors about John Doe 1 to prevent him from obtaining a paid firefighter position.

146. John Doe 1 fears Defendant Sinnott, as he held such significant control over the volunteer firefighters. Defendant Sinnott was responsible for information technology (IT) for the firehouse, set the passwords for all of their email addresses, and has access to their Social Security numbers and other sensitive information.

147. John Doe 1 has suffered and continues to suffer severe emotional distress due to Defendant Sinnott having unfettered access to photographs of him when he was handcuffed and vulnerable, and has continued carrying two cell phones to this day to try to keep himself safe.

148. At no time did Defendants do anything to prevent, investigate, or punish Defendant Sinnott for his abuse, battery, and/or assault of John Doe 1 and any others Sinnott abused and/or assaulted before and after him.

149. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants’ actions and inactions, as outlined herein, John Doe 1 has suffered and continues to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress,

embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; loss of relationships; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing his daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

John Doe 2

150. John Doe 2 joined the Silverton Volunteer Fire Company as a volunteer firefighter in 2018 when he was 19 years old.

151. At that time, John Doe 2 was going through a very difficult period in his life, struggled with a loss of closeness in his relationships, and was very emotionally vulnerable.

152. At this time, Defendant Sinnott was the Chief of the Fire Company and therefore under the authority, power, control, and agency of Defendants.

153. When John Doe 2 met Defendant Sinnott, he was just a kid looking for a father figure. Upon joining the firehouse, John Doe 2 immediately connected with and became close to Defendant Sinnott. Defendant Sinnott's position as fire chief and a well-respected member of the community made John Doe 2 feel safe.

154. At the time, John Doe 2 felt that having a relationship with Defendant Sinnott was like having a relationship with the mayor. John Doe 2 thought Defendant Sinnott would help turn John Doe 2's upbringing around and help him become a successful member of the community with Defendant Sinnott's guidance.

155. Defendant Sinnott would take John Doe 2 to bars and to dinner together and would take him on ride-alongs in his police car and fire chief's car in the middle of the night.

156. John Doe 2 wholeheartedly trusted Defendant Sinnott and quickly came to view him as a father figure.

157. John Doe 2 believed Defendant Sinnott was helping to train him, but he later realized that Defendant Sinnott had been isolating him.

158. Defendant Sinnott made John Doe 2 believe that everyone in the Silverton Fire Company hated him. He made him believe that the Company was out to get him and that nobody wanted him there.

159. John Doe 2 was often openly referred to as "Bob's boyfriend" by members of the Company, but he never understood why.

160. Defendant Sinnott was very physical with John Doe 2 and other younger volunteers. He liked to display his dominance physically by constantly grabbing John Doe 2, forcing him into uncomfortable positions, and making inappropriate comments while doing so. Defendant Sinnott would then claim he was joking.

161. Defendant Sinnott became fixated on John Doe 2's location and who he was with. Defendant Sinnott was always questioning where John Doe 2 was and who was there. Defendant Sinnott would often show up to John Doe 2's location unannounced, like he was keeping tabs on John Doe 2.

162. Defendant Sinnott would constantly interject himself into personal relationships in John Doe 2's life, which further isolated John Doe 2, and led him into severe depression.

163. Defendant Sinnott used John Doe 2's abusive family background to interject himself as a father figure and create an environment emotional dependency which he ultimately used to gain control of John Doe 2.

164. It got to the point to where John Doe 2 truly believed that Defendant Sinnott was the only person in his life that he could trust.

165. Starting in 2021, Defendant Sinnott asked John Doe 2 multiple times to pose for handcuffing photographs for use in a class he was teaching, which John Doe 2 did not agree to.

166. In around August 2022, Defendant Sinnott again asked John Doe 2 to pose for photographs and told him he would pay him to do it.

167. At the time, John Doe 2 was having significant financial struggles, and needed the extra money Defendant Sinnott was offering him, so he agreed.

168. When John Doe 2 told his girlfriend at the time about the request, she told John Doe 2 she thought the request was weird and tried talking John Doe 2 out of it.

169. Defendant Sinnott was also emotionally manipulative of John Doe 2 and would emotionally punish him if he did something Defendant Sinnott did not ask.

170. For these reasons, John Doe 2 decided to go ahead with assisting Defendant Sinnott over his girlfriend's objections.

171. John Doe 2 went to Defendant Sinnott's house for the photography session, where they initially went out for a ride on Defendant Sinnott's boat.

172. Defendant Sinnott had told John Doe 2 to bring multiple changes of clothes, including baggy clothes and a tight outfit.

173. When they returned to Defendant Sinnott's home after the boat ride, Defendant Sinnott made John Doe 2 change into the different outfits in his bathroom before beginning the photography session in Defendant Sinnott's basement.

174. Defendant Sinnott handcuffed John Doe 2 and began taking photographs of him.

175. Defendant Sinnott then picked John Doe 2 up off the ground and began jabbing at his sides and being rough with him.

176. John Doe 2 began to feel uncomfortable.

177. Defendant Sinnott then began rubbing John Doe 2's shoulders while standing extremely close to him, which made John Doe 2 even more uncomfortable.

178. Defendant Sinnott began asking John Doe 2 inappropriate personal questions, which made John Doe 2 feel even more awkward and uncomfortable.

179. This was not the first time Defendant Sinnott had asked John Doe 2 inappropriate personal questions, as Defendant Sinnott frequently asked John Doe 2 overly personal questions about his relationships.

180. Defendant Sinnott then went behind John Doe 2, placed him in a headlock, and began choking him.

181. During this portion of the assault, Defendant Sinnott was grunting and grinding his pelvis into John Doe 2's backside.

182. During this portion of the assault, Defendant Sinnott also forced John Doe 2 to touch Defendant Sinnott's genitals while John Doe 2's hands were cuffed behind his back.

183. Defendant Sinnott eventually released John Doe 2 and gave him three hundred dollars.

184. After the assault, Defendant Sinnott began ignoring and alienating John Doe 2.

185. John Doe 2 invited Defendant Sinnott to a swearing in ceremony, and he did not come. This made John Doe 2 feel alone, isolated, and ashamed.

186. As an impressionable young man, who was abused as a child and teenager, John Doe 2 thought this behavior was normal.

187. John Doe 2 lost friendships, family relationships, became depressed, and lived in isolation due to Defendant Sinnott's actions, while falsely claiming to have John Doe 2's best intentions at heart.

188. In 2024, John Doe 2 began hearing rumors about Defendant Sinnott handcuffing other members of the fire company, and he learned that Defendant Sinnott had done the same thing to a number of his peers, including one of his best friends.

189. John Doe 2 was devastated when he realized that Defendant Sinnott had been abusing not only him but a number of his friends and colleagues.

190. The abuse has negatively affected John Doe 2's self-esteem and ability to build and maintain relationships with other people.

191. At no time did Defendants do anything to prevent, investigate, or punish Defendant Sinnott for his abuse, battery, and/or assault of John Doe 2 and any others Sinnott abused and/or assaulted before and after him.

192. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' actions and inactions, as outlined herein, John Doe 2 has suffered and continues to suffer great pain of mind and

body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; loss of relationships; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing his daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

John Doe 3

193. John Doe 3 formally joined Silverton Volunteer Fire Company in 2017 after spending time around the fire house and meeting Defendant Sinnott in 2016.

194. John Doe 3 deeply valued his role as a volunteer firefighter at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company and grew to trust Defendants TR Fire District 2 and Sinnott over the years.

195. After so many years serving his community as a volunteer firefighter at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company, John Doe 3 could never have anticipated the horrors to come.

196. Defendant Sinnott built trust with John Doe 3 by taking him in the Chief truck to bars, restaurants, and other firehouses.

197. Because of this, it became commonplace for John Doe 3 to get in a vehicle with Defendant Sinnott without question.

198. In early to mid 2023, Defendant Sinnott began regularly sexually assaulting John Doe 3, who was 27 years old at the time.

199. The first time it happened, in approximately March 2023, John Doe 3 went to Defendant Sinnott's car to put construction items in front of a fire hydrant.

200. While John Doe 3 was in Defendant Sinnott's car with him, Defendant Sinnott groped his chest.

201. Defendant Sinnott then groped John Doe 3's belly.

202. Defendant Sinnott then placed his hand on John Doe 3's groin.

203. Each time John Doe 3 tried to move, Defendant Sinnott grabbed his shoulder and restrained him.

204. John Doe 3 tried to blow it off and told himself that Defendant Sinnott was just joking around.

205. About a month later, another assault happened, and Defendant Sinnott again groped John Doe 3's groin.

206. These instances occurred in front of firehouse cameras owned and operated by the Commissioners.

207. Defendant Sinnott's repeated sexual harassment and assault of John Doe 3 included forced sexual touching, forced hugging, aggressive groping, and forcible restraint.

208. Defendant Sinnott would frequently rub himself on John Doe 3 and on one or more occasions, Defendant Sinnott forced John Doe 3 to touch Defendant Sinnott's penis and would not allow him to let go.

209. Defendant Sinnott repeatedly attempted to isolate John Doe 3

210. After the abuse began, Defendant Sinnott attempted to get John Doe 3 in the vehicle by making up fake stories about vehicle maintenance or emergencies.

211. He would also ask John Doe 3 to engage in driver training as a pretext to be alone with him.

212. When John Doe 3 stopped agreeing to get in a vehicle alone with Defendant Sinnott, the attempts to isolate him escalated.

213. Defendant Sinnott would drive by, and if he saw John Doe 3's car in the parking lot, he would stop, come inside, and linger for no other purpose than to see what John Doe 3 was doing.

214. During these encounters, Defendant Sinnott would get very close to John Doe 3 and invade his personal space.

215. When John Doe 3 attempted to leave, Defendant Sinnott would follow him out the door and physically grab him from behind.

216. Once Defendant Sinnott had a grip on John Doe 3, he would rub himself against John Doe 3 as John Doe 3 tried to break free.

217. During these horrific interactions, Defendant Sinnott would laugh as John Doe 3 struggled to get away.

218. As a result of Defendant Sinnott's recurrent sexual assault, John Doe 3 felt he had no choice but to speak to the TR Fire District 2 commissioners.

219. In or around May 2023, John Doe 3 reported the assaults to Defendant Keating.

220. Defendant Keating told John Doe 3 to stay away from Defendant Sinnott and not "make it obvious" that "there was an issue" between John Doe 3 and Defendant Sinnott.

221. Upon information and belief, Defendant Keating was a designated mandatory reporter within the fire company.

222. Upon information and belief, Defendant Keating never reported Defendant Sinnott's abuse.

223. In or around mid 2023, John Doe 3 spoke to Defendant Commissioners Carson, Duff, and Britton.

224. The Commissioners made John Doe 3 talk to a prosecutor who was friends with Defendant Sinnott. John Doe 3 did so, but, upon information and belief, the prosecutor never proceeded with charges against Defendant Sinnott.

225. The TR Fire District 2 Commissioners, specifically Defendants Carson, Duff, and Britton advised John Doe 3 to stay quiet and refrain from further discussing or reporting Defendant Sinnott's abuse with anyone other than the Commissioners.

226. Later, John Doe 3 asked to review the camera footage from the assaults, which occurred in front of a parking lot camera, but was told that the cameras were not working on the days the assaults occurred.

227. Defendant Sinnott, as the individual in charge of IT for the firehouse, had full access to the cameras.

228. Upon information and belief, Defendant Sinnott and/or one or more of the Commissioners deleted the footage of the assaults.

229. During the time of the abuse, Defendant Sinnott was the Assistant Chief of the Fire Company and therefore under the authority, power, control, and agency of Defendants.

230. John Doe 3 suffered extreme humiliation and anguish due to both the abuse and Defendant Sinnott's superiors' failure to stop it or hold him accountable.

231. As a result, John Doe 3 did not want to go to work and avoided certain colleagues in the firehouse out of fear and shame.

232. John Doe 3 still volunteers with Silverton.

233. Throughout 2024, John Doe 3 was repeatedly mocked and harassed by other members of the firehouse for coming forward about abuse by Defendant Sinnott. He has repeatedly considered resigning from the firehouse due to the emotional distress the abuse, the ongoing harassment he experiences from some of his peers, and the Commissioners' failure to properly respond has caused him.

234. For example, in August 2024, two members of the firehouse pulled John Doe 3 aside and told him he was a "problem," that some people no longer come to the firehouse because of him, and that some people view him as a "cancer" for reasons they would not explain to John Doe 3

235. These experiences caused John Doe 3 to lose faith in the firehouse's leadership to take the situation seriously and protect others from Defendant Sinnott's abuse.

236. John Doe 3 has also learned of multiple other victims of Defendant Sinnott's abuse, some of whom will not come forward because they are afraid that doing so will ruin their reputations and/or their careers as police and firefighters.

237. At no time did Defendants do anything to prevent, investigate, or punish Defendant Sinnott for his abuse, battery, and/or assault of John Doe 3 and any others Sinnott abused and/or assaulted before and after him.

238. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' actions and inactions, as outlined herein, John Doe 3 has suffered and continues to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; loss of relationships; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing his daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

COUNT ONE – ASSAULT AND BATTERY

Plaintiffs v. Defendant Sinnott

239. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all paragraphs herein as if set forth in full herein.

240. Defendant Sinnott intended to cause a harmful or offensive contact with the bodies of Plaintiffs.

241. Defendant Sinnott intended to put Plaintiffs in reasonable and immediate fear of a harmful or offensive contact with their bodies.

242. Defendant Sinnott's vile acts directly and/or indirectly resulted in harmful or offensive contact with Plaintiffs' bodies, including but not limited to:

- a. Lewdness, pursuant to N.J.S.A § 2C:14-4;
- b. Invasion of Privacy/Observation of Sexual Contact, pursuant to N.J.S.A § 2C:14-9;

- c. Assault, pursuant to N.J.S.A § 2C:12-1;
- d. Negligence;
- e. Recklessness;
- f. Gross Negligence;
- g. Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress;
- h. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; and/or
- i. Other criminal, civil, statutory, and/or rule violations.

243. Defendant Sinnott's contact with Plaintiffs was offensive such that it would offend a reasonable person's personal sense of dignity.

244. The unlawful actions of Defendant Sinnott took place while he was acting in his capacity as an employee and/or servant and/or agent of TR Fire District 2, and while under the color of state law.

245. The unlawful actions of Defendant Sinnott took place while he was acting in his capacity as a superior of the subordinate Plaintiffs, in the context of their employment and/or positions with the TR Fire District 2.

246. Defendant Sinnott used his authority and power, as the superior and supervisor of Plaintiffs, granted to him by Defendants and/or by way of his employment with TR Fire District 2, to coerce, abuse, assault, harass, humiliate, and prey on the volunteer firefighters of Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, inclusive of Plaintiffs, into non-consensual, vile acts.

247. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock,

emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT TWO – ASSAULT AND BATTERY – VICARIOUS LIABILITY

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

248. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

249. Defendants' servants, agents and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, intended to cause a harmful or offensive contact with the bodies of Plaintiffs, and Defendants' servants, agents and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, intended to put Plaintiffs in reasonable and immediate fear of a harmful or offensive contact with their bodies.

250. The actions of Defendants' servants, agents and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, occurred during the course and scope of their employment directly and/or

indirectly engaged in conduct that resulted in harmful or offensive contact with Plaintiffs' bodies including but not limited to:

- a. Lewdness, pursuant to N.J.S.A § 2C:14-4;
- b. Invasion of Privacy/Observation of Sexual Contact, pursuant to N.J.S.A § 2C:14-9;
- c. Assault, pursuant to N.J.S.A § 2C:12-1;
- d. Negligence;
- e. Recklessness;
- f. Gross Negligence;
- g. Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress;
- h. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress; and/or
- i. Other criminal, civil, statutory, and/or rule violations.

251. The contact with Plaintiffs' bodies was offensive such that it would offend a reasonable person's personal sense of dignity.

252. The unlawful contact with Defendants' servants, agents and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, on one or more occasions took place on the premises owned, operated, and/or maintained by Defendants, while servants, agents and/or employees, like Defendant Sinnott, were employees of Defendants, actively working, and within the scope of their employment.

253. Defendants' servants, agents and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, used their status of authority and power, granted to them by way of their employment with Defendants, to coerce Plaintiffs into non-consensual sexual acts, or ignore the Plaintiffs when they complained about being subjected to non-consensual sexual acts.

254. Prior to, or during the predatory grooming and sexually explicit abuses and assaults, described herein, Defendants knew or should have known, of the abusive sexual tendencies of herein referenced Defendants' servants, agents and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, and/or the opportunity for Defendants' employees to abuse their power or authority over Plaintiffs in furtherance of perpetrating unlawful sexual acts upon Plaintiffs.

255. Defendants failed to take reasonable steps and failed to implement reasonable safeguards to prevent, eliminate, and/or avoid acts of unlawful sexual conduct by servants, agents and/or employees, like Defendant Sinnott.

256. As a result, Defendant Sinnott was able to sexually prey for decades, specifically targeting agents, employees, and subordinates of Defendants, like all herein Plaintiffs.

257. Furthermore, at all times relevant hereto, Defendants did not have in place a system or procedure to supervise and/or monitor its employees, such as Defendant Sinnott, to ensure that its employees did not sexually assault the volunteer firefighters, including Plaintiffs.

258. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing

Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT THREE – FALSE IMPRISONMENT

Plaintiffs v. Defendant Sinnott

259. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

260. In the process of sexually assaulting Plaintiffs, Defendant Sinnott intentionally confined Plaintiffs by handcuffing and “hog tying” them to prevent them from standing, moving away, and/or escaping from Defendant Sinnott.

261. Defendant Sinnott also physically restrained Plaintiffs, albeit on separate occasion, by lifting them, pinning them to the ground, and/or choking them in an effort to detain them and prevent them from escaping.

262. Defendant Sinnott acted with the intent to confine Plaintiffs so that he could commit illegal, sexually deviant acts against them.

263. Plaintiffs were conscious of the confinement during the times they were sexually abused by Defendant Sinnott and were harmed by it.

264. Individually and taken together, the above acts and omissions on the part of Defendant Sinnott were both the factual and legal causes of the physical and emotional harm to Plaintiffs.

265. Indeed, as a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**COUNT FOUR – NEGLIGENCE, RECKLESSNESS, AND GROSS NEGLIGENCE –
VICARIOUS LIABILITY (RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR)**

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

266. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

267. Defendants had a duty to protect, and not harm, the Plaintiffs when they were employed with TR Fire District 2 as volunteer firefighters.

268. Defendants breached their duty clearly owed to Plaintiffs by sexually abusing them and/or failing to protect them from foreseeable harm, with grossly negligent misconduct including:

- a. failing to monitor and/or supervise its employees, servants and/or agents at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1;
- b. failing to have adequate employee supervision at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1;
- c. failing to keep Plaintiffs safe;
- d. breaching the applicable duties under the *Restatement of the Law of Torts (Second)* §§ 219, 317, 314A, 321, 322, 323, and other provisions;
- e. failing to warn Plaintiffs or law enforcement of the peculiar, dangerous and/or unsafe conditions existing upon the premises of Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1;
- f. failing to adopt, enact, employ and/or enforce proper and adequate safety programs, precautions, procedures, measures and/or plans for Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1;
- g. failing to investigate complaints and reports of sexual abuse, specifically complaints made against Defendant Sinnott,
- h. exposing Plaintiffs to unreasonable danger;
- i. preventing foreseeable harm;

- j. failing to provide adequate supervision, training, and/or monitoring of employees of Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1;
- k. failing to provide adequate safety supervision and/or monitoring of volunteer firefighters at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1;
- l. placing a dangerous individual at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, causing an immediate hazard to Plaintiffs;
- m. Permitting Defendants' servants, agents and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, to use their position of authority over volunteer firefighters, like Plaintiffs, by way of their employment through Defendants, to repeatedly gain unsupervised access to Plaintiffs, during which times they perpetrated sexual abuse amongst Plaintiffs;
- n. Deliberately disregarding the known risk of non-consensual sexual activity at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1;
- o. Failing to properly report and/or investigate allegations of sexual abuse;
- p. Failing to protect Plaintiffs from the sexual assault by employees of Defendants, including Defendant Sinnott;
- q. Failing to properly and appropriately screen and/or provide oversight over Defendants' servants, agents, and/or employees, including Defendant Sinnott, for (and with) violent and/or deviant sexual tendencies;
- r. Negligently hiring, supervising, and retaining personnel, such as Defendant Sinnott;
- s. Failing to provide necessary training and/or monitoring;

- t. Failing to take reasonable measures to prevent sexual and physical assaults of firefighters, such as Plaintiffs;
- u. Failing to formulate, adopt, and enforce adequate rules and policies to ensure the safety of employees, such as Plaintiffs, against physical and sexual assault by employees, like Defendant Sinnott;
- v. Other acts or omissions constituting negligence as may be ascertained through discovery and may be demonstrated.

269. The harms, injuries, losses, and damages suffered by Plaintiffs, and that they continue to suffer from, were directly and proximately caused by the negligence, willfulness, wanton, recklessness, and outrageous conduct of Defendants, individually and by and through their agents, servants, and/or employees, which consisted of, among other things, all conduct described more fully herein.

270. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence, gross negligence, willfulness, reckless, and outrageous behavior of Defendants, individually and acting by and through their agents, servants, and/or employees, Plaintiffs have incurred and will continue to incur medical and psychological treatment and services.

271. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other

emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

272. Because of the grossly negligent, wanton, and outrageous conduct as set forth in this Complaint, Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT FIVE – NEGLIGENT HIRING, SUPERVISION, AND RETENTION
Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

273. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

274. Defendants had a duty to provide reasonable supervision of its employees and agents, including Defendant Sinnott.

275. Defendants owed a duty to exercise reasonable care in the selection and retention of employees and/or agents, and to reject and/or terminate the employment of those seeking to abuse and exploit young men.

276. It was reasonably foreseeable that agents and employees of Defendants, including Defendant Sinnott, would sexually abuse the firefighters unless properly supervised and/or monitored.

277. Defendants by and through their agents, servants, and employees knew or reasonably should have known of Defendant Sinnott's dangerous and sexually violative propensities, and/or unfit characteristics.

278. Despite such knowledge, Defendants breached their duty to provide reasonable supervision of employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott, who were in the position of trust and authority as a Chief, Assistant Chief, leader and/or authority figure, able to commit the wrongful acts against Plaintiffs.

279. Defendants failed to exercise reasonable care in the selection of and retention of employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott, by the following:

- a. Persistently and repeatedly failing or refusing to supervise employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott, and/or having a lack of oversight;
- b. Failing to recognize and/or appreciate that their employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott, were manipulating and gaining trust of the volunteer firefighters, such as Plaintiffs, to groom and sexually abuse them;
- c. Failing to recognize and/or appreciate that its employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott, were sexually abusing and/or exploiting and/or having inappropriate sexual relationships with the volunteer firefighters, such as Plaintiffs;
- d. Recklessly, negligently, and/or carelessly failing to observe and supervise Defendants' employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott's inappropriate sexual interactions with Plaintiffs;

- e. Recklessly, negligently, and/or carelessly failing to follow proper policies and procedures that prohibited the criminal misconduct, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and sexual assault between Plaintiffs and Defendants' employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott;
- f. Failing to use reasonable care under the circumstances;
- g. Negligent supervision;
- h. Failing to conduct thorough background checks of and/or provide adequate oversight over employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott;
- i. Failing to contact appropriate references for employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott;
- j. Failing to report and/or investigate reports and/or complaints of sexual misconduct, especially reports and/or complaints of employees and/or agents, like Defendant Sinnott;
- k. Failing to use due care in the selection of Defendants' employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott; and
- l. Failing to use due care in the retention of Defendants' employees and/or agents, including Defendant Sinnott.

280. The harms, injuries, losses, and damages suffered by Plaintiffs and that they continue to suffer from, were directly and proximately caused by the negligent hiring, supervision, and retention of Defendants' employees and/or agents with a known propensity for sexual misconduct, like Defendant Sinnott.

281. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent hiring, supervision, and retention of Defendants' employees and/or agents with a known propensity for sexual misconduct, like Defendant Sinnott, Plaintiffs have incurred and will continue to incur medical and psychological treatment and services.

282. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

283. Because of Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**COUNT SIX – VIOLATION OF THE NEW JERSEY LAW AGAINST
DISCRIMINATION**

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

284. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

285. Defendants, individually or by and through their agents, served as employers, joint employers, integrated employers, and/or aiders and abettors for claims set forth herein under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (“LAD”), N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, et seq.

286. The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (“LAD”), N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq., prohibits discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment, in places of public accommodation and in employment.

287. Defendants Toms River Township, Ocean County, Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 are “employers” within the meaning of the LAD.

288. Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County are government entities subject to the LAD.

289. Defendants Sinnott, Cocco, Gorman, Carson, Britton, Wilson, Seiders, Duff, Heroy, Keating, Carolan, Tillotson, Rosko, Morris, Henry, Baxes, and Tattersall are individuals who aided, abetted, incited, compelled or coerced the unlawful acts prohibited by the LAD, or attempted to do so.

290. Defendants John Does (A-Z) and ABC Corporations (A-Z), upon information and belief, are employers, supervisors, or individuals who aided, abetted, incited, compelled or coerced the unlawful acts prohibited by the LAD, or attempted to do so.

291. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs, as volunteer firefighters, were “employees” within the meaning of the LAD.

292. At all relevant times, Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 is a place of public accommodation within the meaning of the LAD.

293. Defendants' misconduct and/or treatment of Plaintiffs, including discrimination based on gender in places of public accommodation and employment and willful indifference to Plaintiffs' rights, were in violation of LAD, including, but not limited to, subsections N.J.S.A. 10:2; N.J.S.A. 10:5-3; N.J.S.A. 10:5-4; N.J.S.A. 10:5-5(1); N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(a); and N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(f).

294. At all relevant times, Defendants engaged in unlawful discriminatory practices in violation of the LAD including, but not limited to:

- a. Subjecting Plaintiffs to severe and pervasive sexual harassment that created a hostile work environment;
- b. Failing to take prompt and effective remedial action to address known incidents of sexual harassment;
- c. Retaliating against Plaintiffs who reported or opposed sexual harassment;
- d. Failing to implement and enforce effective anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies;
- e. Failing to properly train employees and supervisors on preventing and addressing sexual harassment;
- f. Discriminating against Plaintiffs in the terms and conditions of their employment based on sex; and
- g. Aiding, abetting, inciting, compelling, or coercing acts of sexual harassment and discrimination.

295. All Defendants are liable for Sinnott's conduct under theories of respondeat superior, negligent supervision, and/or aiding and abetting.

296. Defendant Sinnott directly engaged in acts of sexual harassment and sexual assault against Plaintiffs.

297. Defendant Sinnott created and maintained a hostile work environment of which Plaintiffs were forced to suffer through.

298. Defendant Sinnott abused his position of authority to perpetrate and conceal his unlawful acts.

299. Defendant Sinnott retaliated against Plaintiffs who resisted or reported his misconduct.

300. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco and Defendant Tillotson, failed to properly supervise Sinnott and other personnel.

301. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco and Defendant Tillotson, ignored or dismissed reports of Sinnott's misconduct.

302. At all relevant times, the Captain, inclusive of Defendant Cocco and Defendant Tillotson, failed to implement and enforce anti-harassment policies.

303. At all relevant times, the Captain, inclusive of Defendant Cocco and Defendant Tillotson, failed to take prompt and effective remedial action upon learning of the harassment.

304. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, inclusive of Defendants Gorman and Carolan, failed to report known incidents of harassment to higher authorities.

305. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, inclusive of Defendants Gorman and Carolan, failed to protect subordinate firefighters from Sinnott's misconduct.

306. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, inclusive of Defendants Gorman and Carolan, contributed to a culture that allowed harassment to continue unchecked.

307. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, inclusive of Defendant Carson failed to establish and maintain proper anti-discrimination policies and procedures.

308. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, inclusive of Defendant Carson failed to ensure proper training on sexual harassment prevention.

309. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, inclusive of Defendant Carson failed to conduct thorough investigations into reports of misconduct.

310. At all relevant times, the Chairman, inclusive of Defendant Britton, failed to provide adequate oversight of the fire company's operations.

311. At all relevant times, the Chairman, inclusive of Defendant Britton, failed to hold Sinnott and other leaders accountable for misconduct.

312. At all relevant times, the Chairman, inclusive of Defendant Britton, failed to ensure compliance with state and federal anti-discrimination laws.

313. At all relevant times, the Clerk, inclusive of Defendant Wilson failed to properly document and report incidents of harassment.

314. At all relevant times, the Clerk, inclusive of Defendant Wilson failed to maintain accurate records that could have revealed patterns of misconduct.

315. At all relevant times, the Clerk, inclusive of Defendant Wilson failed to ensure that complaints were properly processed and addressed.

316. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, inclusive of Defendant Seiders assisted in the failure to properly document and report incidents.

317. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson failed to bring attention to patterns of misconduct evident in company records.

318. At all relevant times, the Clerk, inclusive of Defendant Wilson failed to ensure proper handling of harassment complaints.

319. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, failed to allocate resources for proper anti-harassment training and policies.

320. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, failed to withhold financial approvals from leaders engaged in misconduct.

321. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, failed to ensure financial transparency that could have revealed misconduct.

322. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, inclusive of Defendant Heroy, failed to provide impartial oversight of the fire company's operations.

323. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, inclusive of Defendant Heroy, failed to advocate for and implement stronger anti-harassment measures.

324. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, inclusive of Defendant Heroy, failed to properly investigate complaints brought to the commission.

325. At all relevant times, the Chief, inclusive of Defendant Keating, failed to maintain a safe and non-discriminatory work environment.

326. At all relevant times, the Chief, inclusive of Defendant Keating, failed to properly supervise Sinnott and other personnel.

327. At all relevant times, the Chief, inclusive of Defendant Keating, failed to take decisive action against known perpetrators of harassment.

328. At all relevant times, the Chief, inclusive of Defendant Keating, failed to implement and enforce strict anti-harassment policies.

329. At all relevant times, the Chief, inclusive of Defendant Keating, failed to implement and enforce strict anti-harassment policies.

330. At all relevant times, the Chief, inclusive of Defendant Keating, failed to implement and enforce strict anti-harassment policies.

331. At all relevant times, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 failed to establish and enforce adequate anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies;

332. At all relevant times, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 failed to provide proper training on sexual harassment prevention and reporting.

333. At all relevant times, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 failed to properly investigate complaints of sexual harassment and misconduct.

334. At all relevant times, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 failed to take prompt and effective remedial action against known perpetrators.

335. At all relevant times, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 failed to provide adequate supervision and oversight of fire company operations.

336. At all relevant times, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 allowed a hostile work environment to persist within the fire company.

337. At all relevant times, Defendants Toms River Fire District 2 and Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 failed to protect volunteer firefighters from known risks of sexual harassment and assault.

338. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 failed to maintain a safe and non-discriminatory work environment.

339. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 to properly screen, hire, and supervise personnel, including Defendant Sinnott.

340. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 failed to implement and enforce effective anti-harassment policies.

341. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 failed to respond appropriately to complaints of sexual harassment and assault.

342. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 allowed a culture of silence and intimidation to persist, discouraging reporting of misconduct.

343. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township failed to provide adequate oversight of the fire district and fire company.

344. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township failed to ensure compliance with state and federal anti-discrimination laws.

345. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township failed to respond to or investigate reports of systemic issues within the fire company.

346. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township failed to implement township-wide policies to prevent discrimination in volunteer organizations.

347. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County failed to provide proper county-level oversight of municipal fire services.

348. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County failed to ensure county-wide compliance with anti-discrimination laws in emergency services.

349. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County failed to investigate or address known issues within the Toms River fire services.

350. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County failed to provide adequate resources or support for preventing discrimination in volunteer fire companies.

351. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to report known incidents of harassment and discrimination.

352. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to participated in covering up or dismissing complaints of misconduct.

353. At all relevant times all Defendants contributed to a hostile work environment through their actions or inactions.

354. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to intervene to prevent known acts of harassment or discrimination.

355. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to cooperate fully with investigations into misconduct.

356. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to provide adequate policies, training, or resources to prevent discrimination.

357. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to properly oversee the operations of the fire district and fire company.

358. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to ensure compliance with anti-discrimination laws in their dealings with the fire services.

359. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to take appropriate action when made aware of issues within the fire company.

360. At all relevant times all Defendants contributed to and/or facilitated the continuation of discriminatory practices through their business relationships with the fire services.

361. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to report known incidents of harassment and abuse.

362. At all relevant times all Defendants failed to protect subordinate firefighters from Sinnott's misconduct.

363. At all relevant times all Defendants contributed to a culture that allowed harassment to continue unchecked.

364. By engaging in this misconduct, each of these Defendants aided, abetted, incited, compelled, or coerced the unlawful discriminatory acts prohibited by the LAD, or attempted to do so, in violation of LAD.

365. Defendant Sinnott directly engaged in acts of sexual harassment and created a hostile work environment in violation of the LAD.

366. Defendants' misconduct was willful, wanton, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' rights under the LAD.

367. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful discriminatory conduct in violation of the LAD, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer severe emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, pain and suffering, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, fright, stress, anxiety, pain and suffering, loss of earnings and earning capacity, economic losses, and other severe personal injuries.

368. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violation of LAD, individually and acting by and through their agents, servants, and/or employees, Plaintiffs have incurred and will continue to incur medical and psychological treatment and services.

369. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

370. Because of Defendants' misconduct as set forth in this Complaint, Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the

local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT SEVEN – N.J.S.A. 10:6-2 – VIOLATION OF THE NEW JERSEY CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

371. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

372. Under the New Jersey Civil Rights Act, “Any person who has been deprived of...any substantive rights, privileges or immunities secured by the Constitution or laws of this State ... may bring a civil action for damages and for injunctive or other appropriate relief.” N.J.S.A. 10:6-2(c).

373. Because of the actions and inactions of Defendants, as described herein, Plaintiffs have been deprived of their rights to equal protection and due process of law protected by Article I, Paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, which provides that “[a]ll persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.”

374. As a proximate result of Defendants’ policies, practices, and customs, the leadership at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, including Defendant Sinnott and the other individual and John Doe Defendants, subjected Plaintiffs to sexual abuse, excessive and unreasonable force, a failure to protect from harm, and other abuses as alleged in this Complaint.

375. Defendants violated Plaintiffs’ constitutional rights when Defendant Sinnott sexually abused Plaintiffs and Defendants took no action to prevent or stop such abuse

despite their knowledge and being on notice of what was occurring at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 and/or by Defendant Sinnott.

376. In addition to deprivations of constitutional rights, Defendants have deprived Plaintiffs of their statutory rights.

377. The acts and omissions by Defendants, as described in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, were the direct and proximate cause of Plaintiffs' damages and injuries and Defendants are therefore liable to Plaintiffs under N.J. Stat. § 10:6-2.

378. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

379. As a results of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the

local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT EIGHT – INTENTIONAL INFLECTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

380. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

381. The conduct of Defendants, including all individually named Defendants acting as agents and employees of Defendants Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, in the course and scope of their employment, was extreme and outrageous so as to intentionally and recklessly cause severe emotional distress, and was the actual, proximate, and factual cause of severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs.

382. The conduct of Defendants was executed intentionally or recklessly, with conscious disregard of the likelihood of harm and/or severe emotional distress.

383. The conduct of Defendants was executed in such a way as to inflict emotional distress and to harm Plaintiffs, emotionally, mentally, physically, and psychologically.

384. Defendants engaged in willful, wanton, reckless, and/or intentional acts as described herein, which caused the injuries described herein.

385. As a result of the Defendants' conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation

and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained and will continue to sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

386. The aforesaid injuries were due to the willful, wanton, reckless, careless, negligent, and/or intentional acts of Defendants and were in no way caused by any act or failure to act on the part of Plaintiffs.

387. As a further result of the willful, wanton, reckless, careless negligent and/or intentional acts of Defendants, Plaintiffs were caused to endure great pain, suffering, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and self-blame and will continue to suffer into the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT NINE – NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTONAL DISTRESS
Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

388. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

389. The conduct of Defendants, including all individually named Defendants acting as agents and employees of Defendants Toms River Fire District 2, Toms River Board

of Fire Commissioners District #2, and Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, in the course and scope of their employment, was extreme and outrageous so as to negligently and recklessly cause severe emotional distress and was the actual, proximate, and factual cause of severe emotional distress to Plaintiff.

390. Defendants' conduct was executed negligently or recklessly, with conscious disregard of the likelihood of harm and/or severe emotional distress.

391. Defendants' conduct was executed in such a way as to inflict emotional distress and to harm Plaintiff, emotionally, mentally, physically, and psychologically.

392. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by subjecting them to repeated sexual assaults and physical abuse.

393. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by using his position of authority to manipulate and exploit Plaintiffs for his own gratification.

394. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs through his pattern of abusive behavior and threats of retaliation.

395. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by willfully ignoring their reports of abuse and allowing the misconduct to continue.

396. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by actively discouraging Plaintiffs from reporting abuse, thereby enabling further harm.

397. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by creating an environment where they felt powerless and unprotected.

398. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to intervene in known instances of abuse.

399. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by contributing to a culture of silence that protected abusers and punished victims.

400. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by neglecting their duty to protect subordinates from harm.

401. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to implement policies to prevent abuse, despite knowledge of ongoing harm.

402. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by prioritizing the organization's reputation over the safety and well-being of Plaintiffs.

403. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by creating an environment where abuse could flourish unchecked.

404. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to take action against known abusers, despite his position of authority.

405. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by actively suppressing complaints and protecting abusers from consequences.

406. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by betraying their trust in the highest level of leadership.

407. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by mishandling and suppressing reports of abuse.

408. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by manipulating records to conceal patterns of abuse.

409. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by contributing to an environment where their complaints were ignored or buried.

410. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by assisting in the concealment of abuse reports.

411. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by failing to properly document and escalate complaints of abuse.

412. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by contributing to a system that silenced and dismissed their experiences.

413. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by allocating funds in a manner that enabled and protected abusers.

414. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by prioritizing financial considerations over the safety and well-being of Plaintiffs.

415. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by failing to use financial oversight as a means to enforce accountability and prevent abuse.

416. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to provide independent oversight to prevent and address abuse.

417. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by dismissing or downplaying the severity of abuse complaints.

418. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by failing to advocate for their protection and justice.

419. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to maintain a safe environment free from abuse and misconduct.

420. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by protecting abusive personnel and retaliating against those who reported misconduct.

421. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by betraying his duty to protect and lead ethically.

422. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by systematically failing to address known patterns of abuse within its jurisdiction.

423. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by prioritizing its reputation over the safety and well-being of its personnel.

424. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by fostering an environment where abuse was tolerated and victims were silenced.

425. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to hold fire company leadership accountable for known abuses.

426. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by actively suppressing complaints and protecting abusers from consequences.

427. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by betraying their trust in the oversight body meant to ensure their safety.

428. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by maintaining an environment that allowed abuse and misconduct to persist.

429. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by fostering a culture of silence and retaliation against those who reported abuse.

430. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by betraying the trust placed in it as a community institution.

431. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to provide adequate oversight of the fire district, allowing abusive practices to continue.

432. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by neglecting its duty to ensure the safety of volunteer personnel within its jurisdiction.

433. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by prioritizing political considerations over the well-being of its community servants.

434. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiffs by failing to provide proper county-level oversight of municipal fire services, allowing abusive practices to persist.

435. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct by neglecting its duty to ensure compliance with laws and regulations designed to prevent abuse in emergency services.

436. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County caused severe emotional distress to Plaintiffs by failing to intervene in known systemic issues within its jurisdiction, leaving them vulnerable to continued harm.

437. As a result of the Defendants' conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained and will continue to sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

438. Plaintiffs' injuries were due to the willful, wanton, reckless, careless, negligent, and/or intentional acts of Defendants and were in no way caused by any act or failure to act on the part of Plaintiffs.

439. As a further result of the willful, wanton, reckless, careless negligent and/or intentional acts of Defendants, Plaintiffs were caused to endure great pain, suffering, humiliation, embarrassment, shame, and self-blame and will continue to suffer into the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT TEN – BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

440. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

441. By virtue of their status as owners and/or supervisors of Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, Defendants bore a fiduciary relationship to its firefighters, including Plaintiffs.

442. Defendants had fiduciary duties to avoid harming the firefighters, including Plaintiffs, and to protect them from harm at the hands of all leaders, members, employees, agents, servants, representatives, and/or ostensible agents hired, certified, assigned, retained, supervised, managed, overseen, directed, administrated, and/or otherwise controlled by and for said Defendants.

443. Defendants breached their fiduciary duties by acting or failing to act in accordance with their fiduciary duties and/or as alleged in this Complaint.

444. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by exploiting his position of trust and authority to sexually abuse them.

445. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott breached his fiduciary duty by prioritizing his own gratification over the safety and well-being of the Plaintiffs under his care.

446. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott breached his fiduciary duty by using his influence to silence and intimidate Plaintiffs, preventing them from reporting his abuse.

447. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to protect them from known risks of abuse within the organization.

448. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, breached his fiduciary duty by ignoring reports of misconduct and allowing abusive practices to continue unchecked.

449. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, breached his fiduciary duty by fostering an environment where Plaintiffs felt unsafe and unable to trust their superiors.

450. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, breached their fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to intervene in known instances of abuse.

451. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, breached their fiduciary duty by contributing to a culture of silence that protected abusers at the expense of victims.

452. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, breached their fiduciary duty by neglecting their responsibility to ensure a safe working environment for Plaintiffs.

453. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to implement and enforce policies to prevent abuse and protect vulnerable members.

454. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, breached his fiduciary duty by prioritizing the organization's reputation over the safety and well-being of Plaintiffs.

455. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, breached his fiduciary duty by neglecting to establish proper reporting and investigation procedures for abuse allegations.

456. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to provide adequate oversight and governance to prevent abuse within the organization.

457. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, breached his fiduciary duty by neglecting to hold abusers accountable, thereby enabling further misconduct.

458. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, breached his fiduciary duty by failing to create and enforce policies that would protect Plaintiffs from known risks of abuse.

459. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by mishandling and suppressing reports of abuse, hindering proper investigation and resolution.

460. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, breached his fiduciary duty by failing to maintain accurate records that could have revealed patterns of abuse and misconduct.

461. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, breached his fiduciary duty by neglecting to ensure that complaints were properly processed and addressed, leaving Plaintiffs vulnerable to continued harm.

462. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by assisting in the concealment of abuse reports and failing to properly document complaints.

463. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, breached his fiduciary duty by neglecting to flag patterns of misconduct evident in company records.

464. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, breached his fiduciary duty by failing to ensure that sensitive information related to abuse was handled appropriately and securely.

465. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to allocate resources for proper training and prevention programs to address abuse.

466. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, breached his fiduciary duty by continuing to fund departments and individuals known to engage in or enable abusive practices.

467. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, breached his fiduciary duty by neglecting to use financial oversight as a means to enforce accountability and prevent abuse.

468. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to provide independent oversight to prevent and address abuse.

469. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, breached his fiduciary duty by neglecting to advocate for stronger protective measures and accountability within the organization.

470. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, breached his fiduciary duty by failing to properly investigate complaints and enforce corrective actions.

471. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, breached his fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to maintain a safe environment free from abuse and misconduct.

472. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, breached his fiduciary duty by neglecting to properly supervise and discipline abusive personnel under his command.

473. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, breached his fiduciary duty by failing to implement and enforce strict policies against abuse and misconduct within the organization.

474. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 breached its fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to establish and enforce adequate policies to prevent abuse within its jurisdiction.

475. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 breached its fiduciary duty by neglecting to properly train and supervise personnel on issues of misconduct and abuse.

476. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 breached its fiduciary duty by failing to address known patterns of abuse and misconduct within its ranks.

477. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 breached its fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to provide proper oversight of the fire company under its jurisdiction.

478. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 breached its fiduciary duty by neglecting to implement and enforce adequate policies against abuse.

479. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 breached its fiduciary duty by failing to hold fire company leadership accountable for known instances of misconduct.

480. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 breached its fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by maintaining an environment that allowed abuse and misconduct to persist.

481. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 breached its fiduciary duty by failing to properly screen, train, and supervise personnel to prevent abuse.

482. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 breached its fiduciary duty by neglecting to implement and enforce effective policies to prevent and address misconduct.

483. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township breached its fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to provide adequate oversight of the fire district, allowing abusive practices to continue.

484. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township breached its fiduciary duty by neglecting to ensure compliance with laws and regulations designed to prevent abuse in public services.

485. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township breached its fiduciary duty by failing to investigate and address known issues of misconduct within its fire services.

486. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County breached its fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs by failing to provide proper county-level oversight of municipal fire services, allowing abusive practices to persist.

487. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County breached its fiduciary duty by neglecting to ensure county-wide compliance with laws and regulations designed to prevent abuse in emergency services.

488. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County breached its fiduciary duty by failing to provide adequate resources or support for preventing abuse in volunteer fire companies under its jurisdiction.

489. As a result of the Defendants' conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered

and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained and will continue to sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT ELEVEN – CIVIL CONSPIRACY

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

490. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

491. Defendants, individually and by and through their employees, servants, and/or agents, knowingly agreed, contrived, combined, confederated, acted in concert, aided and abetted and/or conspired to conceal the unlawful conduct of Defendant Sinnott in the hopes of protecting the name of TR Fire District 2 and to prevent disclosure, prosecution and civil litigation.

492. Defendants, individually and jointly in conspiracy with each other, fraudulently, willfully, and maliciously:

- a. Failed to report incidents of sexual abuse to law enforcement;
- b. Denied the abuse Defendants knew was occurring and aided Defendant Sinnott in evading detection, arrest, and prosecution;
- c. Allowed sexual predators, like Defendant Sinnott, to be employed by Defendants to gain access to young, vulnerable men who he could sexually abuse and exploit;
- d. Failed to warn Plaintiffs of Defendant Sinnott's predatory behavior, which Defendants knew of; and
- e. Failed to recognize and admit to the injuries Defendant Sinnott caused.

493. Based on these actions, Defendants, individually and by and through their employees, servants, and/or agents conspired for the unlawful purpose of concealing and suppressing information about the danger and threat that Defendant Sinnott posed to the firefighters working at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, including Plaintiffs.

494. Defendants placed their own interests ahead of the protection of the firefighters working at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1, including Plaintiffs.

495. Defendants knowingly and willfully aided and abetted the concealment of Defendant Sinnott's sexual abuse of Plaintiffs as described herein.

496. Defendants aided and abetted this scheme to conceal Defendant Sinnott's sexual abuse of Plaintiffs by providing substantial assistance to Defendant Sinnott and TR Fire District 2 including, among other things, all of the misconduct alleged herein Complaint.

497. Without Defendants' substantial assistance, involvement, and participation, the concealment of Defendant Sinnott's sexual abuse of Plaintiffs would not have been possible.

498. Plaintiffs suffered serious injuries and damages as a proximate result of the aiding and abetting of Defendants.

499. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott conspired with other defendants to conceal his pattern of sexual abuse against Plaintiffs.

500. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott conspired to intimidate and silence Plaintiffs to prevent them from reporting the abuse.

501. At all relevant times, Defendant Sinnott conspired to manipulate internal processes to avoid detection and accountability for his abusive actions.

502. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, conspired with other defendants to suppress reports of abuse and protect Sinnott from consequences.

503. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, conspired to maintain a culture of silence that discouraged reporting and protected abusers.

504. At all relevant times, the Captain, including Defendant Cocco, conspired to mislead investigators and other authorities about the extent of abuse within the organization.

505. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, conspired with other defendants to ignore and downplay reports of abuse from Plaintiffs.

506. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, conspired to discourage subordinates from reporting misconduct or supporting victims.

507. At all relevant times, the First Lieutenant, including Defendants Gorman and Carolan, conspired to maintain a facade of normalcy despite knowledge of ongoing abuse.

508. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, conspired with other defendants to avoid implementing effective abuse prevention policies.

509. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, conspired to manipulate administrative processes to shield abusers from accountability.

510. At all relevant times, the Business Administrator, including Defendant Carson, conspired to prioritize the organization's reputation over the safety and well-being of Plaintiffs.

511. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, conspired with other defendants to suppress information about abuse from reaching the public or authorities.

512. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, conspired to use his influence to protect abusers and discredit victims.

513. At all relevant times, the Chairman, including Defendant Britton, conspired to obstruct any external investigations into abuse within the organization.

514. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, conspired with other defendants to alter or destroy records that documented patterns of abuse.

515. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, conspired to mishandle complaints and reports to prevent proper investigation and resolution.

516. At all relevant times, the Clerk, including Defendant Wilson, conspired to provide false or misleading information to investigators or oversight bodies.

517. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, conspired with other defendants to assist in concealing or mishandling abuse reports.

518. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, conspired to maintain inaccurate records that obscured the extent of abuse within the organization.

519. At all relevant times, the Assistant Clerk, including Defendant Seiders, conspired to withhold crucial information from those investigating abuse claims.

520. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, conspired with other defendants to allocate funds in ways that enabled and protected abusers.

521. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, conspired to withhold financial support from initiatives aimed at preventing or addressing abuse.

522. At all relevant times, the Treasurer, including Defendant Duff, conspired to use financial leverage to silence victims or witnesses of abuse.

523. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, conspired with other defendants to prevent independent oversight and investigation of abuse claims.

524. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, conspired to use his position to influence the suppression of abuse reports and protect abusers.

525. At all relevant times, the Commissioner At-large, including Defendant Heroy, conspired to mislead the public and other officials about the safety and integrity of the organization.

526. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, conspired with other defendants to maintain a system that allowed abuse to continue unchecked.

527. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, conspired to use his authority to protect abusers and retaliate against those who reported misconduct.

528. At all relevant times, the Chief, including Defendant Keating, conspired to mislead external authorities about the prevalence of abuse within the organization.

529. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 conspired with other defendants to avoid implementing effective abuse prevention measures across its jurisdiction.

530. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 conspired to suppress information about abuse from reaching the public or proper authorities.

531. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Fire District 2 conspired to protect its reputation at the expense of Plaintiffs' safety and well-being.

532. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 conspired with other defendants to avoid holding fire company leadership accountable for known abuses.

533. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 conspired to obstruct proper investigation and resolution of abuse complaints.

534. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners District #2 conspired to maintain a false image of safety and integrity within the fire services under its oversight.

535. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 conspired with other defendants to maintain an environment that allowed abuse to persist unchecked.

536. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 conspired to discourage reporting of abuse and to retaliate against those who did come forward.

537. At all relevant times, Defendant Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 conspired to mislead the community about the safety and integrity of its organization.

538. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township conspired with other defendants to avoid proper oversight and intervention in known abuse within its fire services.

539. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township conspired to prioritize political considerations over the safety and well-being of volunteer personnel.

540. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township conspired to maintain a false public image of safety and integrity within its emergency services.

541. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County conspired with other defendants to avoid proper county-level oversight and intervention in known abuse within municipal fire services.

542. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County conspired to suppress information about systemic abuse issues within its jurisdiction from reaching the public or state authorities.

543. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County conspired to prioritize political and reputational considerations over the safety and well-being of volunteer emergency personnel.

544. As a result of the Defendants' conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation, sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained and will continue to sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT TWELVE – MUNICIPALITY LIABILITY
Plaintiffs v. Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County

545. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

546. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-68(a), in municipalities without a paid or part-paid fire department, the governing body may contract with volunteer fire companies for the purpose of extinguishing fires. N.J.S.A. 40A:14-68 further states that “the members of any such company shall be under the supervision and control of said municipality and in performing a fire duty shall be deemed to be exercising a governmental function.”

547. Accordingly, the negligent actions and inactions of TR Fire District 2 were an exercise of governmental function resulting in liability for Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County.

548. The conduct described in this Complaint and the systemic failures of TR Fire District 2 demonstrate that Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County failed to properly supervise, control, and discipline Defendants, including TR Fire District 2, which was a driving force behind the sexual abuse of Plaintiffs, which took place over the course of two decades.

549. The conduct described herein and the systemic failures of TR Fire District 2 demonstrate that Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County failed to enforce and promulgate written policies regarding abuse, molestation, and/or neglect, which was a driving force behind the sexual abuse of Plaintiffs, which took place over the course of two decades.

550. By failing to properly supervise, control and discipline Defendants, including TR Fire District 2, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-68, Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County tacitly approved unlawful and constitutional abuse of Plaintiffs.

551. Defendants Toms River Township and Ocean County knew or should have known of the systemic failures of Defendants, including TR Fire District 2, that led to the

sexual abuse of Plaintiffs while they were serving as volunteer firefighters at Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1.

552. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township failed to properly supervise and control TR Fire District 2, allowing a pattern of abuse and misconduct to persist.

553. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township neglected its duty to ensure adequate policies were in place to prevent abuse within volunteer fire companies under its jurisdiction.

554. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township failed to respond appropriately to complaints or signs of misconduct within its fire services, demonstrating deliberate indifference to the rights of Plaintiffs.

555. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township did not provide sufficient oversight of fire district leadership, enabling the continuation of abusive practices.

556. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township failed to enforce state laws regarding the supervision of volunteer fire companies, neglecting its municipal responsibilities.

557. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County failed to provide proper county-level oversight of municipal fire services, allowing systemic abuse to continue unchecked.

558. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County neglected its duty to ensure county-wide compliance with state laws and regulations designed to prevent abuse in emergency services.

559. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County failed to investigate or address known issues of misconduct within the Toms River fire services, demonstrating deliberate indifference to the rights of Plaintiffs.

560. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County did not provide adequate resources or support for proper management and oversight of fire districts within its jurisdiction.

561. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County failed to implement county-wide policies or training programs to prevent abuse and ensure proper conduct in volunteer fire companies.

562. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township's failure to properly supervise, control, and discipline TR Fire District 2 was a driving force behind the sexual abuse of Plaintiffs.

563. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County's failure to provide proper oversight and resources for municipal fire services was a driving force behind the sexual abuse of Plaintiffs.

564. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township's conduct and systemic failures demonstrated a custom, policy, or practice of deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of Plaintiffs.

565. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County's conduct and systemic failures demonstrated a custom, policy, or practice of deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of Plaintiffs.

566. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township knew or should have known of the systemic failures within TR Fire District 2 that led to the sexual abuse of Plaintiffs.

567. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County knew or should have known of the systemic failures within municipal fire services that led to the sexual abuse of Plaintiffs.

568. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township's actions and inactions reflected a conscious disregard for the known risk of sexual abuse within its volunteer fire services.

569. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County's actions and inactions reflected a conscious disregard for the known risk of sexual abuse within municipal fire services under its purview.

570. At all relevant times, Defendant Toms River Township's failure to act in the face of known risks of abuse amounted to tacit approval of unlawful and unconstitutional conduct against Plaintiffs.

571. At all relevant times, Defendant Ocean County's failure to act in the face of known risks of abuse amounted to tacit approval of unlawful and unconstitutional conduct against Plaintiffs.

572. As a result of the Defendants' conduct, as outlined herein, Plaintiffs were violated and forced to undergo vile atrocious acts of sexual abuse and as a result have suffered and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; distrust, anxiety, and distress related to authority figures; depression, nightmares, nervousness, stress, and/or other trauma; mental anguish, humiliation,

sexual dysfunction, embarrassment, insomnia, fear, and other emotional distress; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing Plaintiffs' daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained and will continue to sustain loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

COUNT THIRTEEN – DEFAMATION

John Doe 1 v. Defendant Sinnott

573. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all herein paragraphs as if set forth in full herein.

574. Defendant Sinnott made defamatory statements of fact concerning John Doe 1 when he told members of Silverton Volunteer Fire Company #1 that John Doe 1 was a “shady” and a “drug dealer” who could not be trusted.

575. Defendant Sinnott's defamatory statements were based on the fact that John Doe 1 possessed two phones, a circumstance that Defendant Sinnott maliciously mischaracterized as evidence of drug dealing.

576. Defendant Sinnott's defamatory statements are patently false.

577. John Doe 1 is not and has never been a drug dealer.

578. John Doe 1's possession of two phones was, in fact, a crucial factor in his ability to document and corroborate the sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of Defendant Sinnott.

579. During one instance of sexual abuse by Defendant Sinnott, John Doe 1 was able to use his second phone, providing evidence to substantiate the abuse.

580. Despite the corroborating evidence provided by John Doe 1's second phone, the culture of impunity surrounding Defendant Sinnott within the fire company meant that no one was willing to stand up to him or hold him accountable for his actions.

581. Defendant Sinnott's defamatory statements about John Doe 1 being a drug dealer were particularly triggering and harmful, as they not only damaged John Doe 1's reputation but also served to discredit the very evidence that could have supported John Doe 1's allegations of abuse.

582. Defendant Sinnott actually knew the defamatory statements of fact were false when he communicated them and/or communicated the defamatory statements of fact with reckless disregard of their truth or falsity.

583. Defendant Sinnott's defamatory statements were made maliciously, with the intent to discredit John Doe 1 and undermine any allegations of abuse that John Doe 1 might make against Defendant Sinnott.

584. Defendant Sinnott actually knew the defamatory statement of fact was false when he communicated it and/or communicated the defamatory statement of fact with reckless disregard of its truth or falsity and/or acted negligently in failing to ascertain the falsity of the statement before communicating it.

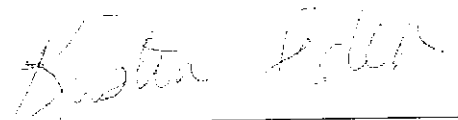
585. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Sinnott's defamatory statements, John Doe 1 has suffered additional and significant harm to his reputation, emotional distress, and professional setbacks, and has had his trauma, related to the Sinnott's underlying abuse of him exacerbated.

586. The defamatory statements have caused John Doe 1 to suffer ongoing and exacerbated emotional distress, anxiety, and fear, exacerbating the trauma he experienced from the sexual abuse itself.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor for compensatory and punitive damages against all Defendants herein, jointly and severally, in a sum in excess of the local arbitration limits, plus allowable taxable costs, interest, delay damages, and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

ANAPOL WEISS

BY:



Kristen Feden, Esquire
Attorney for Plaintiffs

ABDNOUR WEIKER, LLP

BY:



Elizabeth K. Abdnour, Esquire
Megan N. Mitchell, Esquire
Seeking pro hac admission

Dated: March 17, 2025

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury as to all issues.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to R. 4:25-4, Kristin Feden, Esquire, is hereby designated as Plaintiffs' trial counsel in the aforementioned litigation on behalf of the law.

DEMAND FOR ANSWERS TO UNIFORM INTERROGATORIES

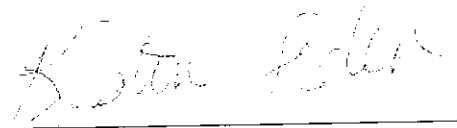
Plaintiffs hereby request that Defendants answer all questions in Uniform Interrogatories Form C and C(2) as found in Appendix II of the Rules governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey within the time provided in accordance with Rule 4:17-4, *et seq.* Plaintiffs further request that all parties supply copies of any and all answers to interrogatories which they have provided to other parties to this action. Please note that this is a continuing request.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO R. 4:5-1

I, Kristen Feden, Esquire, hereby certify that the facts contained in the within matter are not the subject of any other action pending in any other court or of a pending arbitration proceeding to the best of my knowledge or belief. Further, other than the parties set forth in this pleading, I know of no other parties that should be joined in the above action. I also certify that the facts contained in the within matter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If any of the statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

ANAPOL WEISS

BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristen Feden", is written over a horizontal line.

Kristen Feden, Esquire
Attorney for Plaintiffs