

Gil Cabrera:

- Failing to prosecute a domestic abuser because you blew the statute of limitations is an unforgivable act for a prosecutor. Victims of domestic violence were told their cases were not being pursued, but according to the UT article, none of these victims were told the reason was the City Attorney Office's failure. If this is true, this only compounds the harm done to these victims and makes it less likely they will have the ability to come forward again. Protecting victims is the most important thing a prosecutor does. The office let these victims down. Under my leadership, we will never do that. Making sure victims of domestic violence have a strong advocate in the City Attorney has been something I have been discussing since I launched my campaign. This is another example, in addition to the loss of focus in the office on the Family Justice Center, of why we need someone with this issue as a priority.

- In terms of management changes... First, we would make sure that we are routinely tracking the number of cases being referred to the office versus what cases are being brought by the office (this is something that can be done with their current Case Management System) so that we can track whether there is a problem or delay in the issuance of cases. Second, we will institute an internal system that deputies or staff that see failures in the system can report those anonymously to an Assistant City Attorney that is outside the chain of command that is having the problem and those Assistants will be charged with investigating these issues to make sure nothing is falling through the cracks due to management failures in other divisions.

- I have talked about making sure we have greater transparency throughout the City Attorney's Office. I would have first personally told the victims why we failed them — something it appears did not happen — and then made sure we did everything we could to make sure they were not abused again. Then I would have released the information about the failures to the media/public near the time it happened. In other words, I would not have waited until the media found out about it several months later. This may have created some liability issues for the office, but you have to be transparent, as a public official of your failures — it is the only way you can be held accountable.

At what point would you, as city attorney, confront the public with such a "grave and troubling" as the city attorney called it, revelation?

- As soon as our investigation was done, the victims were notified and informed and the personnel actions were taken, I would have spoken with the public about it. I question whether we would have ever heard about this failure if the investigative reporters had not picked it up — and that is not how I would be running the office.