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Safe at Home is California's address confidentiality program administered by the Secretary of State's office. The program provides a free post office box and mail forwarding service designed to help victims and survivors of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault

start new lives in peace and provide added protections to their overall safety plans. Program participants may request city and county agencies to use their designated Safe at Home mailing address.

Between on or about 2005 and 2020, the City of Bakersfield uploaded county grant deeds to the Internet revealing the addresses of most residents, including survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence, in violation of the state's Safe at Home Statute.

The City of Bakersfield has denied numerous claims requesting that they remove these addresses from the Internet. What's more offensive is that the City of Bakersfield threatened to sue victims who pursue legal action intended to protect their confidential address and safety.

As a survivor of domestic abuse and sexual violence, we are horrified and deeply disappointed with Christian Clegg, Jena Covey, and members of the council. The city has failed us. You are furthering a culture of silence and misogyny that has allowed the mistreatment of women to flourish.

In a culture that is so deeply rooted in sexist tradition in which women practically become numb to sexual harassment because it is so common; when even women often do not support fellow women who are abused or harassed because few of them want to be considered troublemakers or rabble rousers; Bakersfield needs to think outside the box to find solutions rather than blaming and attacking victims.

Until and unless the city takes responsibility for its misconduct; rather than blaming and threatening victims, we will not change this culture. Bakersfield will continue to enable serial predators and abusers, and victims of violent crime will continue to be raped and abused again, with no support for protecting their safety.

I am signing the petition calling for Mr. Clegg, the City Council and the Board of Supervisors to take constructive action. Take action or resign. I urge you to put yourselves in the shoes of the average victim, powerless, and shamed into silence. Please think of them and close this sad chapter in our community's history. To wait any longer is to welcome the next generation of Kern victims.

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