

## **The Cheetah's Media Statement**

A disgruntled, fired ex-stripper named Alison Valente has sued the legendary Cheetah, its owner and employees under RICO. The RICO law was never designed to be used this way and Valente's RICO claims are spurious, untrue and malicious. Valente's purpose is two-fold: (1) to seek revenge by shutting down The Cheetah for dismissing her for misconduct and (2) to extract money from The Cheetah through supposedly legal means (she has privately demanded at least \$5,000,000).

The Cheetah has made it perfectly clear to Valente that it will not give in to her extortion-like demands and will not settle the RICO lawsuit just to make it go away. The Cheetah, its owner and employees have worked too hard for too long to make it the premier Gentlemen's Club in the Atlanta area. The Cheetah intends to fight to defend its reputation against the baseless and defamatory RICO lawsuit brought by Valente.

Valente's recent conduct has shown she will go to any lengths to hurt people associated with The Cheetah. In February, the husband of a former dancer at The Cheetah went on trial in Forsyth County for the criminal charges of family violence aggravated assault and battery against his wife. Valente testified at trial as a defense witness for the husband and against his victim-wife, essentially for the purpose of leaving open the possibility with the jury that the wife's physical injuries could have resulted from working at The Cheetah and not from having been strangled and beaten by her husband. Not surprisingly, in spite of Valente's best efforts, the jury convicted the dancer's husband on all charges.

Significantly and shamefully, there is another abundantly clear indication Valente will stop at nothing to smear The Cheetah, no matter who is harmed. In the original version of the RICO lawsuit sent to a lawyer for The Cheetah in October 2016, Valente wrongly and malevolently attacked the character of the Mayor of Atlanta by claiming he had been present in a room at The Cheetah while his assistant supposedly raped a dancer. Now that it has been verified by investigation that the Mayor has never been to The Cheetah, this outrageous claim has morphed into blurred, dubious “alternative facts.”

The Cheetah will not stand by and let Valente misuse the legal system for her own personal revenge and financial gain. Her scandalous, self-serving RICO claims might draw attention in the media, but they won't be successful where it counts, in a court of law.

*From the lead attorneys for The Cheetah: Steve Sadow & Kevin Ward of Schulten Ward Turner & Weiss, LLP*