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MURRAY RESIGNS

Fifth man — a cousin — alleges child sex abuse; mayor denies it

'I didn't want him touching me'

TIMESWATCHDOG

By LEWIS KAMB AND JIM BRUNNER
Seattle Times staff reporters

A younger cousin of Seattle Mayor Ed Murray on Tuesday became the fifth man to publicly accuse the mayor of sexual abuse, saying Murray repeatedly molested him as a teenager in the 1970s.

Murray announced his resignation hours after the new allegation surfaced.

Joseph Dyer, 54, a dialysis technician and Air Force veteran, says he was 13 when Murray forced him into sex for about a year while the two shared a bedroom in Dyer's mother's home in the Long Island town of Medford, New York.

"There would be times when I would fake sleeping because I didn't want him touching me," Dyer, a married father who now lives in another state, recalled during an interview with The Seattle Times.

"And that's when he would molest me. And my mother would be right there in the house, she'd be in the living room ... watching TV, at that time it was probably 'M*A*S*H.' And my sisters would be in their rooms, sleeping. And I would be in my room, and he would be in there, molesting me."

Before announcing that he would leave office, Murray on Tuesday denied Dyer's allegation. He said he lived with his cousin, Maryellen Sottile, and her children in New York but did not abuse Dyer. He said there has been a rift in the family for years.

"I did not sexually abuse any of her children," Murray said. "There's a larger backstory between the Murrays and the Sottiles ...

"There's been numerous fights between our two families for many years, and much ugliness. I guess they see me down and out, and they want to finish me off."

Two of Murray's sisters also came to his defense, See > **COUSIN, A8**



BETTINA HANSEN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray announced via a statement on Tuesday that he would resign effective 5 p.m. Wednesday. Murray is shown here in May, when he said he would not run for re-election.

INSIDE: Profiles of the accusers; a timeline of the allegations; the view of our editorial board > **A6-8, 17**
MAYORAL CANDIDATES DEBATE: Coverage of the evening event > **B1**

Leadership now in council's hands

By JIM BRUNNER, DANIEL BEEKMAN AND LEWIS KAMB
Seattle Times staff reporters

For five months, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray rejected calls for his resignation amid allegations he sexually abused teens decades before entering politics.

But Murray couldn't withstand a devastating new allegation from within his own family.

He announced his resignation Tuesday, hours after news emerged that a younger cousin was publicly accusing Murray of molesting him in New York in the 1970s.

Murray, a former Democratic state legislator elected mayor in 2013, didn't appear in public to make the announcement. Instead, he issued a statement saying his resignation would be effective 5 p.m. Wednesday.

"While the allegations against me are not true, it is important that my personal issues do not affect the ability of our city government to conduct the public's business," the mayor said.

He added he was proud of his accomplishments in a long political career, including landmark gay civil-rights laws and enactment of a \$15 minimum hourly wage.

It was a stunning end to a monthslong drama that has seen five men step forward to accuse Murray of sexually abusing them years ago, when they were teenagers.

Since the allegations began to emerge in April, Murray has continued to say he is innocent. Though he ended his re-election campaign in May, Murray until Tuesday had insisted he would not resign, despite calls for his exit.

"The accumulation of these accusations and now coming from a family member just made it essential that he resign," said City Councilmember Tim Burgess.

Council President Bruce Harrell will temporarily serve as mayor and will decide within five days whether

See > , **A6**

Southeast shifts into recovery mode as massive Irma cleanup begins

By JESS BIDGOOD, EMILY COCHRANE AND DANA GOLDSTEIN
The New York Times

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Stressed and exhausted families across the Southeast were assessing the damage from Hurricane Irma on Tuesday, even as flooding from the

storm continued to plague some areas, like Jacksonville, and the worst of its wallop was being revealed in others, like the Florida Keys.

Officials in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina tried to prepare residents for the hardships of re-

covery from the storm. More than 4.7 million Florida homes and businesses remained without power Tuesday, according to state officials, and there were widespread electricity problems in other states as well. At least 56 people have died as a result of the

storm, including at least 13 in Florida, according to The Associated Press.

Weakened now to a post-tropical cyclone, Irma moved toward the Ohio Valley and spread its clouds and rain over a vast area, while blue skies and sticky heat returned to Florida. The White House announced that President Donald Trump, who twice visited Texas after Hurricane Harvey, would visit Florida on Thursday.

Nursing homes and assisted-living facilities in areas without pow-

er struggled to keep residents cool and vital medical equipment operating with backup generators.

Gov. Rick Scott of Florida said Tuesday that the state had shifted its attention to recovery and re-

See > **IRMA, A9**

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