

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Marvin H. Dukes III, Circuit Court Judge

Appellant Case No. 2025-001031
Case No. 2021-CP-07-01085

R.V. Resort and Yacht Club
Owners' Association, Inc.,
Securitas Services, Inc., Mike
Morales, and Sunset, Inc.,

Respondents,

v.

Turner's Marina, LLC,

Appellant.

Record on Appeal
Volume IV

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1 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2 FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
3 BEAUFORT COUNTY

4 TURNER'S MARINA, LLC,

5 Plaintiff,
6

7 vs. CASE NO. 2021-CP-07-01085
8

9 R.V. RESORT AND YACHT CLUB
10 OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.;
11 SECURITAS SERVICES, INC.;
12 MIKE MORALES; and SUNSET, INC.,

13 Defendants.
14

15 BEFORE THE
16 HONORABLE:

MARVIN H. DUKES, III

17 DATE:

APRIL 11, 2024

18 TIME:

3:50 P.M.

19 LOCATION:

20 BEAUFORT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
21 MASTER-IN-EQUITY
22 BEAUFORT, SC

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1 THE COURT: All right, then. Good
2 afternoon. We're here in 2021-CP-07-01085. This
3 is Turner's Marina, LLC, versus R.V. Resort and
4 Yacht Club, et al. Today we have several motions
5 associated with the meaning and interpretation
6 and efficacy of a mediated settlement agreement
7 and dismissal of all claims and counterclaims
8 with prejudice which will appear, I'm sure, as an
9 exhibit from all parties' motions. That
10 agreement appearing to have been signed on the
11 13th day of December, 2023.

12 Did I understand that the
13 plaintiff's motion was the first filed; is that
14 correct?

15 MR. TAYLOR: You -- you did.

16 THE COURT: Then I'm happy to hear
17 from you, sir.

18 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, thank you
19 very much. Tom Taylor on behalf of Turner's
20 Marina. Judge, we are here today about the
21 mediated settlement agreement which is in front
22 of the Court. You have a copy of it I believe,
23 Judge. This mediated settlement agreement was
24 entered into on December the 13th following what
25 was, Your Honor, the longest mediation I have in

1 been in, and was a total of more than 15 hours.
2 We begin at 10:00 A.M. and we finished at 2:30
3 A.M., left Beaufort here that night.

4 Your Honor, during the terms of the
5 mediation, there were -- it was a lot of
6 back-and-forth between mediation. One of the
7 most interesting things is that Mr. Turner and I
8 had been putting together a draft of a proposal
9 and it was sent to the mediator at 10:00 P.M.
10 that evening after 12 hours, and it has been
11 attached to an affidavit of Neil Turner. Because
12 what we're here about today, Your Honor, is the
13 parties', excuse me, discussion about what the
14 Section 9 paragraph on the mediated settlement
15 agreement means.

16 That provision reads the 1984
17 easement recorded at Book 397 at Page 1612 will
18 be updated to include granting access to the
19 Association, owners of the property, and each of
20 their guests, lessees, invitees, and licensees to
21 Parcel B. The parties agree that Parcel B is
22 referenced in Plat Book 148 at Page 60. Parcel B
23 being basically property that is owned by
24 Turner's Marina.

25 The most interesting thing, Your

1 Honor, and the most I think determinative thing
2 to any dispute over this issue is shown in what
3 I'm handing up to be Mr. Lizzi's letter to me of
4 December the 19th. And I'm handing Chris and
5 Russell both a copy of that. And, Your Honor,
6 you will see --

7 I'm sorry, Russ, that must not have
8 printed on the right -- front page.

9 You will see, Your Honor, that six
10 days after the mediation agreement was entered
11 into Mr. Lizzi wrote me on behalf of the
12 Association and said: Regarding the modification
13 of the easement, paragraph 9 of the settlement
14 agreement grants access to the Association,
15 owners of the property, and each of their guests,
16 invitees, and licenses to Parcel B. There are no
17 restrictions to this access specified in the
18 settlement agreement. It was agreed to in
19 mediation.

20 This additional access was granted
21 to resolve the dispute on access to the
22 recreational facilities in Parcel A, as well as
23 to resolve the issues with lot owners being
24 trespassed when going across Parcel B whether
25 walking or by vehicle. Please ensure that the

1 updated easement affords the access we agreed to,
2 and has a copy of the referenced plat attached.

3 And, Your Honor, we then on
4 February the 2nd forwarded to Mr. Lizzi and the
5 Owners' Association a proposed amended easement
6 which specifically provides, Your Honor, as I'm
7 handing up, a new easement with a plat that shows
8 of key importance, Your Honor, the entry and the
9 exit on the amended easement.

10 MR. PATTERSON: Do you have copies
11 of what you've given the Court?

12 MR. TAYLOR: I do.

13 And, Your Honor, for comparison
14 purposes, I think it's important that the Court
15 be aware that this is what I'm handing up now,
16 and, Judge, I'll give a copy to the court
17 reporter, this is the original recorded easement,
18 sir. 1984 original recorded easement. This is
19 the easement which provided access to the
20 campground, Judge, from Jenkins Island Road.

21 And the terms of that easement are
22 expressed. It provides that the grantor is
23 granting and selling to the grantee a permanent
24 nonexclusive right-of-way across the paved on --
25 over and across the paved roads located on that

1 certain property owned by the grantor now owned
2 by Mr. Turner. The easement is granted to allow
3 and facilitate general access from the entrance
4 of the R.V. Resort to the boundary of the lots by
5 those persons or entities who are owners of the
6 property.

7 That's clear. The recorded 1984
8 easement is clear as a bell, and it provides that
9 all the campground lot owners have access common
10 across Turner's Marina's land to enter into the
11 campground.

12 A dispute arose, Judge, during the
13 past three years over access to what is known as
14 the leased area. There's a 99-year lease area
15 that the Association granted to Mr. Turner.
16 You're familiar with that lease and that was at
17 the heart of this lease dispute. Our position
18 has always been that there was no right reserved
19 in that lease because it is an exclusive lease.
20 It says exclusive lease on it. And it is --
21 there is nothing that the Association had the
22 right to do to grant access to others to that.
23 The only caveat was that lot owners were allowed
24 to use it in conjunction with Mr. Turner.

25 This dispute, of course, arose,

1 Your Honor, because Sunset came into the case,
2 petitioned to be admitted into the case, and got
3 a temporary retraining order that provided that
4 Turner's Marina had to allow access across its
5 property to the customers of Sunset because the
6 Association had failed to ever provide them with
7 any type of written easement or any access to it.
8 We contended that there was no access to it and
9 that the restaurant people needed to do what they
10 had always done, Judge, which was park on Jenkins
11 Island Road until the lot owners got together and
12 convinced the State to put up no trespassing
13 signs and no parking signs there so that no one
14 could park there. All in an attempt, we believe,
15 Your Honor, to hurt Mr. Turner's business.

16 But to get back to easement issue
17 here, Judge. The dispute before we went to
18 mediation was that the Association and the Sunset
19 restaurant people did not have a platted easement
20 that would allow them access across Turner's
21 Marina's land to get to the restaurant, and so we
22 have given them that. And that is what now the
23 Association wants to convert into, Judge, nothing
24 less than a full license to run amuck by
25 everybody all over Turner's Marina's private

1 land. And it's just bizarre.

2 It reminds me very much of the year
3 and a half ago time that we sat here and we
4 negotiated and resolved the entire case --

5 MR. LIZZI: I'm sorry. I'm going
6 to object to that, Your Honor.

7 MR. TAYLOR: -- and then they
8 backed out of that. And the Court understands
9 that, and I'm not going to say anything more
10 about it.

11 MR. LIZZI: I'll just object to
12 that.

13 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, you
14 know --

15 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: -- sustain. So go
17 ahead.

18 MR. TAYLOR: But it's as clear as
19 it can be that the intention of the mediation was
20 to provide when -- when Turner's Marina agreed
21 early in the mediation to allow there to be some
22 access to its exclusive leasehold, then we -- we
23 went the rest of the day and worked on all the
24 additional issues that there could be to this.

25 Judge, there's just -- it's almost

1 bizarre to be arguing about an easement not
2 having a terminus and an entrance, because, under
3 the law in South Carolina as in most other
4 states, any easement has to -- that isn't a
5 pertinent easement -- and there's no question
6 that's what this is under South Carolina law --
7 has to have a terminus. It has to have a
8 connection to the benefited land, and that is
9 exactly what we have proposed in this matter.

10 But somehow, somebody has come up
11 with the idea that they now wish to have this
12 interpreted to be a full -- again, Judge, what
13 would have to be called in South Carolina --
14 license for every lot owner in the -- in the
15 campground to come on Turner's Marina's docks,
16 walkways, boardwalks at any time they want to for
17 the purposes of loitering. They do not benefit
18 Turner's Marina when they do this. They do not
19 provide any benefit whatsoever economically. And
20 they -- they increase the risk to us
21 substantially of people being on the land.

22 Now, there will be some argument, I
23 believe, about some assertion of trespass and how
24 this was meant to cure the trespass. Your Honor,
25 that's exactly right because the first thing out

1 of Mr. Patterson's mouth when he entered into the
2 case was that we were keeping his people from
3 coming to the restaurant and we were accusing
4 them of trespassing. That has always been the
5 issue here in this case was whether or not the
6 lot owners or the guests of the restaurants were
7 allowed to come Turner's Marina's land in order
8 to access the leasehold. And by virtue of these
9 lengthy negotiations, we all came to an agreement
10 that the restaurant owner -- that the restaurant
11 customers would have certain designated parking
12 spaces during certain designated times and that
13 for -- that in exchange for that, they would have
14 access and a platted easement to come across and
15 access it.

16 In no way was there ever any
17 indication that there was going to be some carte
18 blanche opened up access to all of Turner's
19 Marina's property because it is just something
20 that is not a part of the campground. The
21 Association wants to present this as being a
22 unification where somehow the campground and the
23 marina are all one unit, and, Judge, that's just
24 not legally what it has ever been. Mr. Turner
25 owns this privately and it's his lot.

1 The easement recorded in 1984 was
2 agreed to be amended and that amendment has been
3 proposed and the Association and Sunset are
4 refusing to agree to it.

5 As the Court will see from the
6 affidavit of Mr. Turner and the attached email
7 that was sent, Judge, there were by and large
8 over 13 hours, there were seven items resolved
9 and then in the last three hours there were four
10 additional items resolved.

11 This is, Your Honor, nothing more
12 than an attempt to change the overall terms of
13 the mediated agreement and we would -- we would
14 propose, Your Honor, that the Court order the
15 Association to move forward with the signing of
16 the easement that we have drafted and given them.
17 It provides for the access that they wanted, and
18 it provides ease of access across Turner's
19 Marina's property to get to the two places that
20 they need to get to. One is the campground and
21 the other is the leasehold property interest.

22 And, Your Honor, there are no more
23 restrictions in the proposed easement than in the
24 original, and they did not negotiate for any more
25 access whatsoever. Your Honor, the argument I

1 anticipate you will hear is that Turner's Marina
2 in exchange for a -- as Mr. Sibley actually wrote
3 in the -- in an affidavit, which is complete
4 misrepresentation, there -- there was some
5 agreement that there would be an exchange for
6 cutting Turner's Marina's rent in half. That
7 there would be this expanded easement. And,
8 Your Honor, that's simply not the case. What
9 happened was early on in the mediation when it
10 was first agreed that Turner's Marina would agree
11 that the exclusive agreement easement was no
12 longer going to be exclusive, then at that point
13 in time the Association agreed to reduce his
14 rent. And that is all there was to it, and
15 completely straightforward.

16 The addition of the thought that
17 came either days or weeks or months afterwards to
18 convert this idea of the easement into a license
19 is just not within South Carolina law. It is not
20 appropriate that an appropriate easement could be
21 that way. It has to have some type of entrance
22 and terminus, and this is the only way that it
23 could possibly be appropriate.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

25 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor --

1 MR. LIZZI: Can I go on this one,
2 on the easement?

3 MR. PATTERSON: All right. That'd
4 be -- I'm aware of what we talked about.

5 MR. LIZZI: Oh, well.

6 MR. PATTERSON: You said --

7 MR. LIZZI: They're doing his
8 motion right now.

9 MR. PATTERSON: All right. Go
10 ahead.

11 MR. LIZZI: I mean, they're doing
12 his motion first.

13 THE COURT: But, I mean, you can
14 segue straight into yours if you want because
15 it's --

16 MR. LIZZI: Okay.

17 THE COURT: -- two sides of the
18 same coin I'm guessing, right?

19 MR. PATTERSON: Go ahead if that's
20 what you want to do, but I've got --

21 MR. LIZZI: No, we can just segue
22 into ours. We're going to have Russell go first
23 on part of ours.

24 THE COURT: Whatever you-all would
25 like to do.

1 MR. LIZZI: Okay. Okay.

2 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor,
3 Mr. Taylor did not discuss or reference the
4 second issue that we had between the parties.
5 There is an issue and primarily Mr. Lizzi's going
6 to address the easement issue.

7 The second issue is the amendment
8 to incorporate into a binding document to be
9 recorded all the provisions and changes to the
10 99-year recorded lease. And I'm going to touch
11 based with just the 99-year lease issues at this
12 point.

13 The provisions of the settlement
14 agreement that you have, the mediated settlement
15 agreement, that must be put in a recorded
16 document. Since they've changed or modified a
17 99-year lease between Turner and POA and involve
18 an interest or a restriction on the use of land
19 are as follows.

20 If you go down the agreement,
21 Section 1 talks about a change in the rent.

22 Section 2 has very, very specific
23 use restrictions in granting of rights over 23
24 designated parking spots for the duration of the
25 99-year lease.

1 Section 3 has a restriction that
2 you cannot have overnight parking.

3 Section 4 says that -- talks about
4 restrictions on the use of the bathroom. That's
5 in the first floor of the two-story building.

6 Section 5 talks about use
7 restrictions on pool and sets forth an
8 enforcement process.

9 Section 6 says that: Grants
10 specific authority to the Association to
11 reconfigure the 23 spaces, details the process,
12 talks about who has what rights upon
13 redevelopment.

14 And then it says that neither
15 Sunset or the Association can interfere with
16 Turner's use and operation of a trash dumpster
17 next to that.

18 Section 7 is an acknowledgement by
19 Turner that affirms that the restaurant and the
20 ship store are not part of the 99-year lease, but
21 are controlled by the Association.

22 But it also imposes a use
23 restriction on the real property that is part of
24 the ship store. It can't be used for commercial
25 purposes.

1 Section 8 states that Turner's is
2 the rightful holder of the 99-year lease as
3 modified by the settlement agreement.

4 Section 10 is a use restriction on
5 Turner's property that he will not use, hire or
6 employ armed security guards. That's a use
7 restriction like a covenant.

8 Section 11 and 12 are use
9 restrictions on putting up gates on Mr. Turner's
10 property.

11 Number 11 says he will not
12 undertake any efforts to erect a vehicle gate in
13 the interior of his property.

14 And section 12 says if he tries to
15 put an entrance gate -- a gate at the entrance,
16 he must give us 30-days' notice prior to doing
17 that. Again, those are use restrictions.

18 Based upon our position, all of
19 these points involve a lease that is greater than
20 12 months in duration or an interest in land or
21 rights and restrictions on the land on
22 January 8th, 2024.

23 Mr. Lizzi, I'm going to hand up a
24 package of exhibits I'm going to refer to, and
25 I'll hand a copy of counsel. And I'm going to

1 hand one to the Court, and I'm going to walk
2 through --

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 MR. PATTERSON: -- these lease
5 issues.

6 THE COURT: Now, do we have copies
7 for our court reporter --

8 MR. PATTERSON: I have --

9 THE COURT: -- so far? Okay.

10 MR. PATTERSON: I'm going to give
11 her my copies before I leave.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 MR. PATTERSON: All right. So I'm
14 going to turn to what happened after the mediated
15 settlement agreement as far as the lease.

16 Exhibit 4, if you'll turn to that. I'm sorry, a
17 little out of order, it's January 18th.

18 Mr. Lizzi sent a proposed Second Amendment to the
19 99-year lease which simply set forth almost
20 verbatim the terms and conditions that impact the
21 lease that I just went through. Okay? Didn't
22 add any other language, didn't change the
23 language. I -- I -- it's basically has in a
24 recordable document all the changes to the lease
25 that were agreed in the settlement agreement.

1 I pointed out in our motion, and
2 I'm pointing out to the Court, we mistakenly left
3 out Section 11 and 12 of the settlement agreement
4 dealing with the gate in this proposed second
5 amendment. So with part of our request from the
6 Court if you agree with our arguments, we need to
7 include the restrictions on the gate in
8 Section 11 and 12 to this proposed second
9 amendment, which is Exhibit 4 of the package I
10 handed you.

11 And if you'll look at what is
12 included, we have a second amended to lease,
13 which you can go back through and it's basically
14 cut and paste of the settlement agreement. Then
15 it has an Exhibit A, which is the photograph that
16 designates the 23 parking spaces. This was part
17 of the settlement agreement. And so we had to
18 have a way to identify the spaces we're talking
19 about in the recorded lease.

20 Then the next, Exhibit 1, is the
21 actual original recorded 99-year lease.

22 Exhibit 2 to that package was the
23 first amendment of October 1981.

24 And then I have attached just to
25 make it easy for the other side to review three

1 of the referenced plats. And it's been pointed
2 out to me that the last reference plat I have a
3 typo as recording information. It should be 148
4 at 60 not 148 at 160.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. PATTERSON: So we sent this
7 package as far as the lease provisions to the
8 other side tracking verbatim what was in the
9 settlement agreement. In response, we received
10 Exhibit 5 from Mr. Taylor, which is February 2nd,
11 2021 -- '24. And, as to the lease, he is saying
12 that there is -- this is the first paragraph of
13 his letter deals with the lease. He says there's
14 no need to do an amendment lease, there's no need
15 for recorded documents. The only thing that they
16 did want to have recorded is his reduction in
17 rent.

18 And so as far as many of the other
19 terms, he said all we need is a letter from
20 Mr. Turner which he attached which cut and pasted
21 some of the provisions that I went through, but
22 it's not in recordable form. And even his letter
23 does not deal with Section 7 the restaurant and
24 ship store is not part of the lease, no armed
25 security guards and nothing as to the gates. And

1 he attached -- he basically took my Word version
2 or a Word version of the second amended lease,
3 took everything out except section 1, the rent.
4 The one thing that benefited him, he said, yeah,
5 I want to get that recorded. Okay? So nothing
6 else is recorded.

7 So the Court is very well aware of
8 probably the century goal longstanding
9 South Carolina law as shown in the recording
10 statute which I've attached, and I know you're
11 very familiar with it, as Exhibit 3. That
12 basically says, and it said forever: Any leases
13 between a landlord and tenant longer than
14 12 months has to be recorded to be valid against
15 third parties. And then it said: Generally, all
16 instruments in writing conveying an interest in
17 land have to be recorded to be valid against
18 subsequent purchaser.

19 And that's obviously why all use
20 restrictions, covenants. That's why this 99-year
21 lease was recorded because that has to be
22 recorded if it's going to be enforceable against
23 anybody from the date of recording forward.

24 All of the provisions that we have
25 listed are all amendments or changes to the

1 99-year lease. They all involve an interest in
2 real estate. They all grant rights in real
3 estate where they provide use restrictions.
4 There's absolutely no question for any of those
5 provisions to be enforceable, they have to be
6 recorded.

7 So why are we worried about that?
8 Other than to be, you know, competent lawyers,
9 that you see something that needs to be recorded,
10 you take the steps to record it. We're not
11 changing a single word in the settlement
12 agreement. All we're doing is that's what you
13 agreed to, let's put it -- record it so it
14 complies with the statute.

15 The one reason we're worried about
16 it, Mr. Turner here has already tried to sell
17 this marina as shown in Exhibit 1. He testified
18 at his deposition in 2018 he tried to sell the
19 marina for \$8,600,000. And Exhibit 15A is a very
20 detailed sales brochure where he tried to do
21 that.

22 Obviously, he might have the marina
23 under contract to sell today. We don't have any
24 way of knowing. And if he does sell it, and we
25 don't have these lease provisions recorded, then

1 we're going to be out of luck trying to deal with
2 the new owner. He's going to say, I'm only bound
3 by what's recorded at the courthouse. All of
4 these things, the gates and parking and
5 everything -- all that, a lease that's over a
6 year and it's an interest in land and you didn't
7 get it recorded, you're out of luck. You can't
8 enforce it against me.

9 The other reason we're worried
10 about it is since the sale in 2019, in two
11 thousand -- just a few months ago, October 2023
12 as shown by Exhibit 2, Mr. Turner made a proposal
13 that he signed to the County that run the
14 Daufuskie ferry. You've probably seen it. It's
15 made the news quite a bit because certain people
16 aren't very happy about how he's running it.
17 That's not the point of why I'm bringing it up.

18 If you look at Page 2 and 3 of his
19 proposals to the County, he was going -- he
20 proposed that his marina be the disembarkment
21 point for the thousands and hundreds of thousands
22 over the year of people that would go to and from
23 Daufuskie. They'd all go right through this
24 parking lot we're talking about and these roads
25 in the R.V. Resort. And he proposed that the

1 County deed over to him the public road right
2 next to it so he could convert that to parking.

3 And he also said Hilton Head offers
4 all the amenities bathrooms. Well, right now
5 there's only one bathroom and that's under the
6 restaurant.

7 And we're talking about -- I don't --
8 Judge, I don't know if you've been over to Hilton
9 Head lately since they've changed the marina, but
10 there are hundreds of cars parked using this
11 Daufuskie ferry in a parking lot they're using on
12 Pinckney Island. So that would be literally
13 hundreds of thousands of people going through
14 this property that we just did this agreement on.
15 All right?

16 Fortunately or unfortunately the
17 County accepted his bid and he's running the
18 ferry, but they didn't accept at this point his
19 proposal to run it out of his marina. Who knows
20 if that's going to change. Okay?

21 So, at this point, it's certainly
22 in the realm of possibility that he could sell
23 the marina or do some other business deal that
24 dramatically impacts this settlement that we've
25 reached. And if it is not recorded, we have zero

1 protection against third parties.

2 The -- these provisions must be
3 placed on record, and we don't care if we call it
4 an amended lease or we call it an agreement
5 affecting title. But it's got to be recorded to
6 be valid and enforceable. And that's all we're
7 asking. We're not asking to change a single
8 provision in the settlement agreement, we just
9 want it to be recorded.

10 THE COURT: Thank you so much for
11 that.

12 MR. PATTERSON: And I'm going to
13 let Mr. Lizzi talk about, and I may add some
14 comments in on the easement agreement that
15 Mr. Taylor just talked about.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 MR. LIZZI: And, Your Honor --

18 MR. PATTERSON: 4A is which unit?

19 THE COURT: Y'all keep track of
20 what we're going to end up giving our court
21 reporter.

22 MR. PATTERSON: All right. Go
23 ahead.

24 MR. LIZZI: The reason why
25 Mr. Taylor was here first on -- I guess first to

1 the courtroom, like -- but I'd hand this to the
2 Court. We sent a letter on February 16th
3 outlining and asking him to approve our amended
4 and restated easement as well as the amended
5 lease. And gave him a time frame to respond by
6 and the -- we received no response except a filed
7 motion or -- and that was just a peremptory
8 motion that was filed on his part.

9 But, Your Honor, South Carolina
10 law, and this is in my brief, is clear. Unless
11 an agreement is ambiguous, unless an agreement
12 has two different meanings, there will be no
13 parol evidence and -- and, you know, I -- I
14 applaud Mr. Taylor trying to interject parol
15 evidence and in has just left the clear meaning
16 of these -- of this document. The language in
17 this mediated settlement agreement and dismissal
18 of all claims and counterclaims with prejudice,
19 especially as to the easement.

20 And Paragraph Number 9 is clear. A
21 1984 easement recorded at Book 397 at Page 1 --
22 1612 will be updated to include granting access
23 to the Association, owners of property, and each
24 of their guests, lessees, invitees and licensees
25 to Parcel B, end quotes. The parties agree that

1 Parcel B is referenced in plat book 148 at
2 page 60.

3 Now, we did have a -- a typo on our
4 amended easement and restatement that was
5 presented to him only as to that one term.

6 MR. PATTERSON: It's 4A,
7 Exhibit 4A --

8 MR. LIZZI: Yeah.

9 MR. PATTERSON: -- where you sent me
10 an email?

11 MR. LIZZI: Yeah.

12 And, Your Honor, this is the actual
13 amended --

14 MR. PATTERSON: He has that.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. PATTERSON: You're referring to
17 Exhibit 4A --

18 MR. LIZZI: 4A.

19 MR. PATTERSON: -- for the court
20 reporter?

21 MR. LIZZI: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Which, again, we -- our
23 court reporter doesn't have any exhibits yet, so.

24 MR. PATTERSON: I'm going to hand
25 her all the exhibits before the end of this

1 hearing.

2 THE COURT: Okay. We'll go through
3 it before we close the record.

4 MR. LIZZI: And, Your Honor, our
5 amended and restated easement just tracks the
6 language clearly of -- of the agreement.
7 Your Honor, there is no other interpretation.
8 They've attempted to interject parol evidence and
9 he tried to interject that Mr. Turner --
10 Mr. Turner was drafting a document. Well, any
11 conversations and any other things going on prior
12 to the signing of the agreement are concerned
13 merged into that document as long as the document
14 itself is unambiguous and clear -- has a clearer
15 meaning. There is no clearer meaning to this.

16 Parcel B, they went -- it went
17 twice. It says Parcel B and then we went on to
18 describe what Parcel B was. So there was no --
19 there was no interpretation of where this
20 easement was being granted.

21 And if we want to look back at --
22 historically, historically when they advertised
23 this resort in the beginning, it showed use of
24 all this property. The people were using all of
25 the -- had access to the --

1 MR. TAYLOR: Judge, I object to
2 that because the Court has already ruled that
3 inadmissible in our earlier case.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. TAYLOR: And it's complete
6 hearsay.

7 THE COURT: Well, anyway, just move
8 on, if you would. Thanks.

9 MR. LIZZI: So, Your Honor -- and
10 there were trespass notices given and there was a
11 reason for the -- the R.V. Resort Association to
12 want to make sure that the -- their owners,
13 guests and lessees and invitees were able to
14 enjoy the resort, enjoy walking down to the
15 water, and weren't being given trespass notices.

16 And Mr. Taylor brought up and
17 showed the Court the original lease. And,
18 Your Honor -- the original easement. And, Your
19 Honor, in the original easement it was clear, it
20 had the word paved roads. Even -- he even
21 circled it when it was given.

22 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, I want
23 to correct that. I think I circled that --

24 MR. LIZZI: Oh, okay.

25 MR. PATTERSON: -- as part of the

1 lease long ago. Not --

2 MR. TAYLOR: I'm glad -- I'm glad
3 to take credit for it.

4 MR. PATTERSON: Long ago, not for
5 this hearing.

6 THE COURT: That's all right. It
7 was circled sometime after it was filed.

8 MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Fair -- fair enough.

10 MR. LIZZI: There is a circle
11 around the one I have.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 MR. LIZZI: But it does emphasize,
14 whoever circled it, that it only dealt with the
15 paved roads and limited the access by the resort
16 R.V. Association and lot owners as to what he
17 believed is access to other parts of Parcel B.
18 He trespass noticed people on it. That was part
19 of the lawsuit. And if the agreement -- and if
20 they wanted the agreement to limit that, then it
21 should have been in the four corners of the
22 agreement.

23 Because the agreement itself is
24 just clear. There's no ambiguous terms. And --
25 and we don't get to parol evidence. We don't get

1 to see what he drafted at 10:30 and said that he
2 emailed to somebody. We don't get the -- any
3 evidence as to what he thought and what --
4 when -- it's a clear precise language in the
5 agreement.

6 Your Honor, we believe that the --
7 that the Court should adopt the amended -- and we
8 will fix the mistake as to the page number -- but
9 the amended and restated easement because it just
10 sets forth verbatim what the parties agreed to.
11 It made no different -- it made no -- we took no
12 liberties as to add or delete anything from the
13 agreement.

14 And, Your Honor, we are not here to
15 relitigate or take these parties and make them
16 endure a longer mediation, because this seems
17 like it's trying to get a second bite of the
18 apple --

19 MR. TAYLOR: Sure does.

20 MR. LIZZI: -- or buyers remorse as
21 to what happened in the mediation. Parcel B is
22 clear. There's -- we have the page number, we
23 have the book number, and we have the
24 description, and there's no ambiguity whatsoever.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, I just
2 want to add a couple of points and then we'll be
3 done with our side. Keep in mind, this is a
4 16-hour mediation. Every single comma, word,
5 provision in this settlement agreement was
6 reviewed carefully by a large number of people,
7 including Mr. Turner and his attorney. It's
8 signed by all the parties and his attorney.
9 There's nothing ambiguous about Section 9. It
10 couldn't be written any more clearer. There
11 is -- you are not allowed to go look at any other
12 document or affidavit, you have to look at the
13 four corners. And it has recording information
14 of the original easement, and it says that's
15 going to be updated, which means amended, and it
16 says that each of these guests, the Association,
17 the owners, the guests, the licensees are granted
18 access to Parcel B. That's -- that's the
19 easement. They're granted access. And they
20 define what Parcel B is, which is all of the land
21 Mr. Turner owns. And that's dot, period, end of
22 discussion.

23 You can't -- what Mr. Turner is
24 asking you to do is, yeah, I signed that and my
25 attorney signed it, but really what that meant

1 was access -- and I want to add the words paved
2 roads. I want to do that now after my 16-hour
3 mediation. You don't have -- Judge, you don't
4 have the authority to do that. He doesn't have
5 the power to do that. If that's what he wanted
6 to put, he could have done that in the 16 hours.

7 And if you decide to do that, I
8 mean, then this whole settlement agreement means
9 nothing. And the Court had -- I don't know how
10 many hours and hundreds of millions of dollars of
11 training mediators and getting everybody to do
12 the mediation and making sure we have signed
13 settlement agreements and passing a rule that
14 says you got to have a signed settlement
15 agreement, and we do all that and we have a
16 signed settlement agreement but now they want to
17 say, well, that doesn't mean it's the end of the
18 story. Well, it is the end of the story.

19 I want to also correct two or three
20 comments opposing counsel said as to the '84
21 easement, which is attached as one of our
22 exhibits and it's recorded 397 at 16-11. It was
23 the third exhibit Mr. Taylor handed up. He said
24 that's an exclusive easement. It's not labeled
25 exclusive easement. The word exclusive is not in

1 the easement. It's not an exclusive easement.

2 If you look at the second
3 paragraph, it says: Grantor grants, bargain,
4 sell, and grantee are permanent nonexclusive
5 easement, so it is not an exclusive easement as
6 represented.

7 Then let's look at who was
8 getting -- what was the purpose of the easement?
9 It was not just the one purpose that opposing
10 counsel said to provide access from the entrance
11 to the lots. It does say that. But then it
12 says -- it has -- then it says: And to the
13 licensees of grantee employed to operate and
14 maintain the improvements constructed on the
15 property in Exhibits A and B and their employees.
16 All right? That's talking -- the improvements is
17 the club -- the two-story building, what was then
18 a tennis court, a ship store, a pool. So there
19 are two groups of people that were specifically
20 granted access over the paved roadways and
21 Parcel B. Okay? We already had those rights
22 going in. We didn't need -- we don't need --
23 even though I say you don't go outside the four
24 corners of the document, and I'm not waiving that
25 argument because I think that's the end of the

1 discussion.

2 But if you did go to the outside of
3 it, why would -- why would we have another -- and
4 negotiate for 16 hours and get the same rights we
5 already have back in 1984 over paved roadway. We
6 didn't, that's why it doesn't say paved roads in
7 that.

8 Let's look -- the last thing I'll
9 add is this affidavit that Mr. Turner had gotten.
10 What he has an affidavit of, apparently
11 10:30 P.M. he sent an email to the mediator that
12 none of -- none of the defendants saw, and it has
13 a draft of a settlement agreement, and he has
14 something about an easement. Nobody on our side
15 ever saw that. Nobody on our side ever agreed to
16 it. If you compare his settlement agreement to
17 what was actually signed, there's many, many,
18 many, many, many changes. That document means
19 absolutely nothing. It's four and a half hours
20 before the final settlement agreement was done.
21 All right?

22 So I guess I've never heard of a
23 party sending emails to the mediator during
24 mediation, but -- since we're all there. But, if
25 that were the case, we could -- we could say, oh,

1 look at my notes, I told the mediator that we
2 wanted A, B, and C at 11:00. Well, then who
3 cares what you want and who cares what your
4 position was. The only thing in mediation is
5 what did you finally sign with your attorney.
6 And what they finally signed could not be more
7 clearly stated.

8 And they now have realized once we
9 sent them on Exhibit 4A an easement agreement
10 that tracked the exact language of Line 9,
11 they're saying uh-uh, we -- we don't like the
12 deal we negotiated over 16 hours, we got to get
13 out of it. And that's what the genesis of this
14 motion is.

15 Thank you.

16 THE COURT: All right. Happy to
17 hear from your, sir.

18 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, thank you.

19 Judge, first, as to the points
20 Mr. Patterson was making at the end. Of course,
21 the exclusiveness I was talking about earlier was
22 the lease -- was the 99-year lease and I think
23 the record will show that. I never asserted and
24 do not assert that the easement was an exclusive
25 easement, because it's printed right there that

1 it's not.

2 Second, Your Honor, what
3 Mr. Patterson just read to you, it's important to
4 actually look at. Because, again, the recorded
5 1984 easement says it's granted to allow and
6 facilitate general access from the entrance of
7 the R.V. Resort to the boundary of the lots by
8 those persons or entities who are owners of the
9 property. That's what it provided for. What we
10 negotiated for was an additional access to the
11 leased area, the 99-year lease area, which is
12 what they had complained they did not have and
13 that's what they got out of this.

14 Judge, if they had wanted to take
15 out the provisions concerning paved roadways,
16 then it would have been easy for them to have
17 done that. Again, we're talking here about a
18 very straightforward premise that says the
19 easement will be updated to include granting
20 access to the Association, owners, their guests,
21 invitees to Parcel B. And then that is
22 completely cleared up by Mr. Lizzi's
23 December 19th letter which says: As was agreed
24 to in mediation, this additional access was
25 granted to resolve the disputes on access to the

1 recreational facilities in Parcel A as well as to
2 resolve the issues with lot owners being
3 trespassed when they are going across Parcel B
4 whether walking or by vehicle.

5 Mr. Lizzi knew it then. I don't
6 know what changed his mind about it later. I can
7 guess, but my -- my thought at this moment,
8 Your Honor, is clear that we negotiated and it
9 all works together because Mr. Turner has now
10 agreed to the non-exclusivity of the 99-year
11 lease. Mr. Patterson's clients have parking
12 spaces that are designated at certain times and
13 places. And we all know that this is exactly
14 what the easement is.

15 And, again, Your Honor, I would go
16 back to reminding the Court that the easement --
17 an easement requires a terminus. You cannot have
18 a generalized walk-all-over-my-property-type
19 easement. And nobody here is arguing that that
20 is the case. This easement was intended to be
21 extended to that, and that is simply the way that
22 has to be read and has to be operated.

23 Judge, as to Mr. Patterson's
24 motion, we have no objection after the
25 explanation from by him as to the recording of

1 the document that will basically be the one that
2 he sent us. There is no reason whatsoever to add
3 into that any provisions concerning anything
4 about the gate. Mr. Patterson said he had left
5 off Numbers 11 and 12 about the gate. Of course,
6 no one would argue seriously that that would in
7 any way impact the lease agreement. That's got
8 nothing that has to be recorded in there. It's a
9 personal commitment by Mr. Turner. Turner's
10 Marina commits not to use higher -- excuse me,
11 that it shall not undertake any efforts to erect
12 a vehicular gate. That would not run with
13 anything later should the property be transferred
14 or sold. It just resolved the dispute here that,
15 for whatever reason, the Association did not want
16 Mr. Turner to have a gate to protect his marina.

17 But we do not have an objection to
18 Mr. Patterson having the recorded easement
19 provisions that he talked about earlier as long
20 as they are tracking exactly with what the
21 agreement is and do not include anything new
22 that -- now, apparently, about the gate because
23 that's got nothing to do with the lease.

24 MR. PATTERSON: Can I real quick
25 comment?

1 THE COURT: Sure.

2 MR. PATTERSON: So I can understand
3 what was just said. We sent the proposed lease
4 four or five months ago, January 18th, 2024, and
5 y'all have had a chance to review it. Are you
6 telling me that as written, you don't have any
7 changes and you agree to that proposed lease of
8 January 18th of 2024?

9 MR. TAYLOR: From what we can see
10 as we sit here today as long as it tracks, which
11 I believe you being an honest man, Mr. Patterson,
12 that it tracks the settlement agreement, then no.
13 If not, we'll look at it and be glad to get back
14 to the Court.

15 MR. PATTERSON: All right. Your
16 Honor, I would just say it was sent January 18th.
17 They had four months to see if it tracked.
18 They -- I explained to them why we needed a
19 recording. And I'm glad they're doing it, I just
20 want to have an understanding either they like --
21 it's acceptable or it's not. If what they're
22 saying is we're going to look at it and we if
23 it's acceptable, then that's one thing. But I
24 heard him say we think it's acceptable.

25 MR. TAYLOR: I said as long as it

1 tracks the mediation agreement, Russell, which I
2 believe is what you represented to the Court it
3 does.

4 MR. PATTERSON: Well --

5 THE COURT: Why don't you just take
6 a few days and look at it and --

7 MR. TAYLOR: Sure.

8 MR. PATTERSON: The last point,
9 Judge, is there's no logical basis to carve out
10 the gates. It's a use -- restriction on the use
11 of land just like everything else that's in that
12 settlement agreement, and if it's not recorded,
13 he could sell it to a related entity, he could
14 have the property foreclosed, the bank could have
15 and they could put a gate up, or he could sell it
16 to a third party like he's tried to do and they
17 could put gates up and there's nothing we can do
18 about it. They'll say, well, you should have got
19 that recorded. We'll say, yeah, it should be
20 recorded. It's a restriction on the use of land
21 and it needs to be recorded or it's not any good.

22 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor -- excuse
23 me, Chris. I didn't realize you were going to
24 chime in. Pardon me.

25 MR. LIZZI: Yeah, just one thing.

1 Your Honor, this was Exhibit 2 as
2 to our motion. And this is a letter, the letter
3 that Russell -- Mr. Patterson was just speaking
4 of. And it also sets forth that we believe that
5 all of Parcel B was included. And, as I stated
6 before, he tries to take my letter in December
7 right after it where we were -- we were trying to
8 first draft a document to tell the Court and try
9 to use that as extrinsic evidence and try to
10 modify the written agreement. The written
11 agreement is the agreement, Your Honor. It's
12 clear, unambiguous, and South Carolina law
13 requires that it be taken by its four corners.

14 And, Your Honor, the Supreme Court
15 of this state took it upon themselves in 2021 to
16 update and clarify Rule 43(k) to make sure that
17 it was clear that when we have the party and
18 counsel in a mediation and they sign an
19 agreement, that that's the agreement and it's
20 enforceable. And this agreement is unambiguous,
21 clear on its face, and we request that it be
22 adopted and that our amended and restated
23 easement be adopted by the Court with that one
24 revision as to the page number.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else

1 from anybody?

2 MR. PATTERSON: Nothing,
3 Your Honor. I -- before we go off, I do want to
4 tell the parties what documents I'm giving to the
5 court reporter to make sure everybody is in
6 agreement.

7 THE COURT: Yeah, let's make sure
8 everyone has their documents. Why don't we go
9 off the record for a second, so y'all can sort
10 those out.

11 We'll be off the record for a
12 second.

13 (Off-the-record conference.)

14 THE COURT: Back on.

15 And then has Tom seen them?

16 MR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, can I
19 provide the following documents to be put in the
20 record that were referenced and provided to the
21 Court.

22 THE COURT: Yes, please. Why don't
23 we do them one at a time just so our court
24 reporter can get a sticker on them.

25 MR. PATTERSON: Okay.

1 MR. LIZZI: Just brief description.

2 MR. PATTERSON: Let's go off the
3 record.

4 (Off-the-record conference.)

5 (Plf. Exhibit No. 1 marked for
6 identification.)

7 (Plf. Exhibit No. 2 marked for
8 identification.)

9 (Plf. Exhibit No. 3 marked for
10 identification.)

11 (Dft. Exhibit No. 1 marked for
12 identification.)

13 (Dft. Exhibit No. 2 marked for
14 identification.)

15 (Dft. Exhibit No. 3 marked for
16 identification.)

17 (Dft. Exhibit No. 4 marked for
18 identification.)

19 (Dft. Exhibit No. 4A marked for
20 identification.)

21 (Dft. Exhibit No. 5 marked for
22 identification.)

23 (Dft. Exhibit No. 6 marked for
24 identification.)

25 THE COURT: So back on the record.

1 Organized the exhibits. And, Mr. Patterson, you
2 have both the Plaintiff's and Defendants'
3 exhibits in your hand if -- I believe. Were
4 there some Plaintiff's exhibits in there too?

5 MR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

6 THE COURT: If you would just --
7 brief summary as you can and hand them over the
8 court reporter in order, please.

9 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. Plaintiff's
10 Exhibit 1 is a December 19th, 2023, letter from
11 Mr. Lizzi to Mr. Taylor.

12 Plaintiff's Exhibit 2 is a
13 February 22nd, 2024, letter from Mr. Taylor to
14 Mr. Lizzi.

15 Plaintiff's Exhibit 3 is a 1984
16 easement recorded at 397 at 16-11.

17 Defendants' Exhibit 1 is a portion
18 of a July 13th, 2023, deposition of Mr. Turner.

19 Defendants' Exhibit 2 is a ferry
20 proposal dated October 20th, 2023, by Mr. Turner.

21 Defendants' Exhibit 4 is a
22 January 18th letter from Mr. Lizzi to Mr. Taylor.

23 Exhibit 4A, as in apple, is an
24 email of January 31st, 2024, from Mr. Lizzi to
25 Mr. Taylor.

1 Exhibit 5 is a February 2nd, 2024,
2 letter from Mr. Taylor to Mr. Lizzi.

3 And Defendants' Exhibit 6 is a
4 February 16th, 2024, letter from Mr. Lizzi to
5 Mr. Taylor.

6 THE COURT: All right. Those are
7 all admitted without objection.

8 (Plf. Exhibit 1 in evidence.)

9 (Plf. Exhibit 2 in evidence.)

10 (Plf. Exhibit 3 in evidence.)

11 (Dft. Exhibit 1 in evidence.)

12 (Dft. Exhibit 2 in evidence.)

13 (Dft. Exhibit 3 in evidence.)

14 (Dft. Exhibit 4 in evidence.)

15 (Dft. Exhibit 4A in evidence.)

16 (Dft. Exhibit 5 in evidence.)

17 (Dft. Exhibit 6 in evidence.)

18 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, briefly --

19 THE COURT: Yeah, go ahead, please.

20 MR. TAYLOR: -- for the Plaintiff.

21 Thank you.

22 Judge, just a few points. Judge,
23 first I want to point out a couple things. First
24 you heard when Mr. Lizzi was discussing the issue
25 of what his clients want, you heard him talk

1 about how they want to be able to walk down and
2 enjoy the water. Again, Your Honor, just
3 reemphasizing the point that I have made all
4 along. There's nothing about an easement that
5 provides anything like that. An easement is a
6 designated right in land to cross someone's land
7 to go another place. They're looking for a
8 license or a total overall right of access to
9 Mr. Turner's property at any point in time. They
10 basically think that the campground is the entire
11 property with the marina included, and as we know
12 from a long, long trial that's simply not the
13 case.

14 Your Honor, secondly, you heard
15 Mr. Patterson I believe say that if the
16 interpretation of the easement is not the way
17 they want it to be done then perhaps it's not
18 even worth it and why did we bother. Well,
19 Judge, our position is that the amended
20 assessment does grant access to Parcel B just
21 like it says in the mediated settlement agreement
22 in the exact same way as the 1984 does with the
23 exception that it provides access with the other
24 property they own.

25 And, Your Honor, finally on behalf

1 of the Petitioners, we ask the Court if the Court
2 is inclined to consider even seriously the idea
3 that this reading of the mediated settlement
4 agreement offers a license to every lot owner
5 there could ever be to come upon Mr. Turner's
6 land at any point in time, then clearly what we
7 have is a mutual mistake in the formation of this
8 agreement and we would move the Court to set the
9 agreement aside in total.

10 We are prepared today to tender the
11 remaining portion of Mr. Turner's lease payments
12 that were reduced from January, and we can set
13 the case for trial. But we do not believe that
14 there is any way that Mr. Turner could live with
15 this, would never have mediated to it, and
16 certainly it was not our understanding of what
17 the mediation was.

18 MR. LIZZI: Briefly, Your Honor.
19 Your Honor, I -- I guess I'm old because I can --
20 I -- I can't even tell you how many times I've
21 heard that argument out of -- out of parties who
22 have had a buyers remorse from an agreement. But
23 that's why I think our Supreme Court in its
24 wisdom went back and made it clear with their --
25 with -- with their amended language to Rule 43(k)

1 that if you've got your lawyer, that's your day
2 to have your interpretation, that's your day --
3 and you sign this agreement -- and this
4 agreement's clear and this agreement doesn't have
5 multiple meanings. That the law and in citing
6 the -- a contract is ambiguous when the terms of
7 the contract are reasonably susceptible to more
8 than one interpretation. And that's
9 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
10 versus Town of McClellanville 345 S.C. 617, 623,
11 and 550 S.E.2d 299, 302, a 2001 case.

12 The language is clear. There's --
13 there's no second interpretation, Your Honor.
14 And we can't simply say we made this agreement,
15 we decided that we don't like it, so let's go
16 back to trial. Well, the system in the state of
17 South Carolina would be ground to a halt if every
18 litigant who signed a mediated agreement could
19 just simply say, oh, that's not what I meant.
20 I -- I want out of it, Judge. I'll give them the
21 money. I'll give them whatever.

22 This is what this system's for.
23 This is why we got mandatory mediation. They
24 didn't just do it for -- you know, for us to
25 spend some more of our client's money and time

1 and effort. This was a -- I commend the mediator
2 on this. I have never had a mediator who was
3 willing to take the arduous task that this
4 mediator did.

5 But, Your Honor, this agreement is
6 good, it's enforceable, and there's no motion
7 before this Court to set it aside and -- and we
8 believe that it should be enforceable as written.

9 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, the
10 last thing I'll say is they're not even arguing
11 it's ambiguous. And if it's not ambiguous, you
12 don't have any authority to change the terms of
13 what's written, so.

14 THE COURT: Sadly, of course, y'all
15 can't agree on what's written.

16 MR. TAYLOR: That makes it, Judge,
17 if there's an argument, that makes it ambiguous.
18 Judge, access was -- access to Parcel B was given
19 just like it is set in the mediated settlement
20 agreement and we so move the Court to set it
21 aside if the Court is inclined to read it that
22 way.

23 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. And we would
24 ask that any such motions be made in writing --

25 MR. LIZZI: Writing.

1 MR. PATTERSON: -- with the
2 appropriate --

3 MR. LIZZI: Notice.

4 MR. PATTERSON: -- motion and
5 notice of hearing, et cetera.

6 MR. TAYLOR: Of course that's not
7 what -- that's not what the rules provide, Judge.
8 A motion may be made in open court or must be
9 made in writing with other --

10 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. I disagree.
11 I disagree for this type of motion. This isn't a
12 trial, and he's had plenty of time. He -- he
13 realized there might be a mistake the day we sent
14 an easement agreement back in January that didn't
15 coincide with what he thought. For months
16 they've known we've had this dispute, and the
17 first time we hear about a mistake -- there's no
18 evidence of mutual mistake. There might be some
19 evidence of a unilateral mistake. But they've
20 had months to file a motion to overturn because
21 of a mistake, and they didn't. They filed a
22 motion to enforce it.

23 And so we think it's too late to do
24 that. But, obviously, we -- we object to any
25 kind of oral motion along those lines now for the

1 record.

2 THE COURT: Let me ask y'all a
3 quick question. May have completely different
4 opinions about all of this. When I look at the
5 original easement, it is obviously restricted to
6 the paved roads only it appears, if I'm reading
7 the right one.

8 MR. TAYLOR: You are.

9 THE COURT: Those that may access
10 the easement are, what, owners of the property or
11 any interest in the property, their guests,
12 lessees, invitees, licensees of grantee employed
13 to operate and maintain the improvements
14 constructed on the property, so a wide range of
15 people could access. And, in the change, it is
16 Association, the owners of the property, each of
17 the guests lessees, invitees, and licensees.

18 So not really a change there,
19 right?

20 MR. LIZZI: Correct.

21 MR. PATTERSON: Can you state that
22 another way, Judge? Because I'm not sure I
23 follow what you're saying.

24 THE COURT: I'm trying to figure
25 out what is to be updated. And so when I look at

1 the easement itself, the -- I'm sorry, the
2 original easement.

3 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: And I read who has the
5 ability to cross this easement or utilize this
6 easement, it has persons and entities who are
7 owners of the property described in B or any
8 interest thereon or portions thereof, their
9 guests, lessees, invitees, licensees of grantee
10 employed to operate and maintain the improvements
11 constructed on the property described in
12 Exhibits A or B, and their employees, grantees,
13 successors in assigns, and property managers. So
14 a fairly wide range of individuals who are
15 permitted under the original easement --

16 MR. PATTERSON: Correct.

17 THE COURT: -- to utilize the paved
18 roads in the original one.

19 MR. PATTERSON: Right. But the
20 point is where it says to maintain the
21 improvements constructed on the property
22 described in Exhibit A.

23 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

24 MR. PATTERSON: Exhibit A is the
25 property owned currently by Mr. Turner.

1 Exhibit B is the entire marina complex. And the
2 improvements on Parcel B they're talking about is
3 the restaurant and ship store. So this easement
4 granted -- already granted lot owners and the
5 people that were running the businesses that were
6 leased by the POA, the restaurant and the ship
7 store, and the people that were running the pool
8 to not -- to go all the way over to not -- to use
9 the paved roads to get to these -- their
10 amenities. That's why it referenced the
11 improvements constructed on Parcel B.

12 So 1984, everybody had a right to
13 walk on any of these paved roads and go to the
14 restaurant, go to the pool, go to the ship store,
15 to get in and out of the resort. Okay? So under
16 the Plaintiff's contention of what exhibit -- of
17 Section 9 of the settlement agreement had, we
18 wouldn't get any additional rights. We already
19 have the right to go over any of the paved roads
20 to get to anything that's involved with the POA
21 and their amenities under the 1984, because
22 that's why it said -- references improvements.

23 THE COURT: So what do you contend
24 this gives you?

25 MR. PATTERSON: In 1984 we had the

1 right just to walk on the paved roads --

2 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

3 MR. PATTERSON: -- to -- any paved
4 road basically in that complex as long as we were
5 going to the marina or we were going in and out
6 to any lot or we're going to the pool or the ship
7 store. Okay? That's what this said. What was
8 negotiated is now you're not -- the word paved
9 roads in the mediated settlement agreement
10 doesn't exist because it's no longer limited to
11 paved roads.

12 Part of that is people were walking
13 on the sidewalks and Mr. Turner and his people
14 said you don't have the right to walk on the
15 sidewalks, you only can walk on the paved roads
16 so we're going to give you a traffic ticket and
17 we're going to call the sheriff. Now, that's why
18 these new rights were done, it -- it's not
19 limited in any way. We can go anywhere we want
20 in Parcel B for access.

21 We can't go hang around on the
22 pool -- on the fuel dock because that's not
23 granting us access. We can't mess up his
24 business by camping out. We have to be using it
25 for access. But we can go anywhere on his

1 property, the sidewalk or cut across the grass to
2 walk, do a shortcut, that's what we gained in the
3 mediated settlement agreement. New rights that
4 we did not have. He wants to limit us to the
5 exact same rights we already had, paved roads.
6 But he didn't use the word paved roads. He
7 didn't put any limit on the access over Parcel B.

8 MR. TAYLOR: Judge, what
9 Mr. Patterson conveniently overlooks is the
10 wording that says this easement is granted to
11 allow and facilitate general access from the
12 entrance of the R.V. Resort and Yacht Club, which
13 we all would agree is on Jenkins Island Road, to
14 the boundary of the lots by those persons or
15 entities. And we all agreed the boundary to the
16 lots is where the roadway goes into the
17 campground.

18 Mr. Patterson wants you to think
19 that this was already everything there. It
20 simply was not. That was what was the basis of
21 the fight over access to the leasehold. And we
22 gave them a platted access to cross Parcel B to
23 the leasehold which we all negotiated and gave
24 away certain rights that were exclusive to
25 Turner's Marina there. That's what they gained,

1 Your Honor.

2 They didn't gain free-for-all
3 across the property anywhere. And everybody that
4 can read this knows it's from the access of the
5 roadway there. And what it is, if you interpret
6 it any other way, you're just going to have
7 everybody doing what Mr. Lizzi said which was
8 going down and enjoying the views of the water
9 and hanging around anywhere on the marina
10 property they want to go and that was never the
11 intention of the original easement nor this one.

12 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, I'm
13 going to hand you 29 at 184, it's already an
14 exhibit. And I'll point out that is the property
15 description for Parcel B. Okay? When it says
16 Parcel B, the whole place.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. PATTERSON: Okay?

19 THE COURT: This is B in the
20 original easement.

21 MR. PATTERSON: No.

22 THE COURT: No. Okay.

23 MR. PATTERSON: This is --
24 Parcel B -- hold on a moment -- is the property
25 that is owned by Mr. Turner which he actually

1 owns just a very small piece of property. And
2 that's shown at 57 at 168. And let me get it
3 down before it's confused.

4 THE COURT: Well, here, this is the
5 one I was using. (Indicating.)

6 MR. PATTERSON: That's fine. Okay.
7 So he only owns this, which is this parcel right
8 in here. (Indicating.) All right? All the rest
9 of it, he doesn't own. Okay?

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. PATTERSON: So let's just walk
12 through what this easement says. Paved roads
13 located on Exhibit A. Exhibit A is -- look at
14 Exhibit A. It says plat book 29 at 184, which is
15 this, but then it has the metes and bounds. And
16 if you went through the metes and bounds, it
17 would be the same as Parcel B. Okay? All right?

18 So it says -- so now we're clear on
19 what everything is. It says we're going to give
20 you an easement over the paved roads located on
21 Exhibit A, all right, which is Parcel B, all
22 right, that little stretch right here.
23 (Indicating.)

24 But then -- hold on a minute.
25 Paved roads, so any paved roads that are on there

1 we can get from here to get to our lots. But
2 then it says it's granted to facilitate a general
3 access from the entrance by those persons who are
4 owners of the property on Exhibit B.

5 MR. TAYLOR: It's right here.
6 (Indicating.)

7 MR. PATTERSON: Right. And
8 Exhibit B is all of the entire property. All
9 right?

10 MR. TAYLOR: Right here.
11 (Indicating.)

12 MR. PATTERSON: Remember, here is
13 Exhibit B. (Indicating.)

14 THE COURT: All right. It's not in
15 here, though?

16 MR. PATTERSON: No, that's not
17 Exhibit B. Exhibit B is this -- it's a defined
18 document.

19 THE COURT: Right.

20 MR. TAYLOR: That's where it is,
21 Russell.

22 MR. PATTERSON: No, sir. Here's
23 Exhibit B, it's everything. (Indicating.)

24 THE COURT: You're saying Exhibit B
25 includes this? (Indicating.)

1 MR. PATTERSON: Yeah, here --
2 here's the definition of Exhibit B, Judge, 29 at
3 184. (Indicating.)

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. PATTERSON: All right? So
6 it's -- it's the entire -- what I would call the
7 entire resort. And it says: You have the right
8 of a paved road in Exhibit A. But then it says
9 you also have the right to general access from
10 the entrance to the boundaries of the lots or
11 other areas of owners of property on Exhibit B or
12 any interest, guests, license, invitees to
13 operate and maintain the improvements constructed
14 on the property described in Exhibit A, which is
15 Mr. Turner's property, and B, which is the whole
16 place.

17 We have improvements, which is the
18 restaurant and the ship store and the pool and
19 the tennis courts on Exhibit B. That's why it
20 says Exhibit B. So we have -- already have the
21 right to go from here to there under -- in 1984.
22 (Indicating.)

23 His interpretation is you have to
24 get rid of the -- Exhibit B and leave it out.
25 And his interpretation is, oh, we only had access

1 to get to right here and we had to stop. That's
2 not what the document says. It says Exhibit B,
3 which is 29 at 184. (Indicating.)

4 And so that's why we're saying we
5 already had the right to get all the way to all
6 our amenities in the 1984 easement, not just to
7 the lots.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 MR. TAYLOR: Judge, if you read
10 that, you'll see that the description that
11 Mr. Patterson actually talks about when he says
12 Exhibits A and B is not an easement of access.
13 It's a description of the people who are allowed
14 to use the platted easement which is to
15 allow/facilitate general access from the entrance
16 to the boundary. And then it describes who those
17 people are, and it says: And licensees of
18 grantee employed to operate and maintain the
19 improvements constructed on the property. So it
20 is a definitive term as to who can use the basic
21 easement that was given. It's not an expansion
22 to any A and B whatsoever. It says who has
23 rights to the platted easement that is set forth
24 there as running from the entry of the roadway to
25 the -- to the lots. That's it.

1 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. Your Honor,
2 I would disagree. But I would also point this
3 out. It doesn't matter if they thought they were
4 giving us new rights or that we thought we
5 already had rights and now we want to get a
6 little more rights. That's going outside the
7 four corners of the document. All right? So
8 just like you can't rely on Mr. Turner's
9 affidavit as to some email he may or may not send
10 a mediator four and a half hours before we reach
11 a settlement, you really can't rely on even our
12 argument that this -- the rationale of why we
13 have the language the way it is, because you're
14 now going beyond the four corners. And if
15 there's no ambiguity in the document, you don't
16 have to look at either one of these issues.
17 You're not allowed to look at any of them.

18 THE COURT: All right. Well, I've
19 got some reading to do it sounds like. Thank
20 y'all for a very interesting afternoon. Is there
21 anything else for this record?

22 MR. LIZZI: No, sir. Except
23 contact for the court reporter, and I'll get that
24 afterwards, Judge.

25 THE COURT: Okay. All right, then.

1 Hearing nothing else, that will conclude the
2 record.

3 (The hearing concluded at
4 5:06 P.M.)

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1
2 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
3

4 I, KELLY B. BAEKELANDT, Registered
5 Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and
6 for the State of South Carolina at Large, do
7 hereby certify that I correctly reported the
8 within-entitled matter and that the foregoing is
9 a full, true and correct transcription of my
10 shorthand notes of the testimony and/or other
11 oral proceedings had in the said matter.

12 I further certify that I am neither
13 related to nor counsel for any party to the cause
14 pending or interested in the events thereof.

15 Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed
16 my official seal this 25th day of May, 2026, at
17 Bluffton, Beaufort County, South Carolina.
18
19
20

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22 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER
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My Commission expires
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25

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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2021-CP-07-01085

TURNER'S MARINA LLC,
Plaintiff,

vs.

R.V. RESORT AND YACHT CLUB
OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.,
SECURITAS SERVICES, LLC,
MIKE MORALES, and SUNSET,
INC.,

Defendants.

-----/

Hearing
Before the Honorable Marvin H. Dukes, III

Via Webex

Date: May 8, 2024

Time: 2:28 p.m.

Reporter: Theresa D. Saxon
Hilton Head, South Carolina
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- - -

I N D E X

Reporter's Certificate.....22

1 MR. PATTERSON: Judge, this is Russell
2 Patterson. I had on my calendar we were
3 going to discuss the remaining issues on the
4 -- another Turner case, 1085, about the
5 disputed settlement agreement reached in
6 mediation. I may -- may have it wrong on my
7 calendar. I don't know.

8 THE COURT: What were the -- the
9 remaining issues -- I'm sorry, you're --
10 you're right. I completely forgot about
11 that. That's the restaurant issues. Right?

12 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Your Honor. I
13 submitted a short memo this morning, but the
14 remaining two issues, the first issue about
15 the interpretation by which amended easement
16 agreement was consistent with the agreement,
17 you already ruled that the one that the
18 restaurant and the POA submitted was
19 consistent with the mediated settlement
20 agreement. That left only two issues left,
21 and that is the amendment to the lease and
22 the agreement concerning security guards
23 and -- armed security guards and gates, so
24 that's what I was prepared to argue is about
25 the lease -- there are two different

1 versions of that -- and then also, to talk
2 briefly about the provisions on the armed
3 guards and gates.

4 THE COURT: I thought there was an
5 agreement as to the no armed guards, but
6 maybe I'm wrong.

7 MR. PATTERSON: No, sir. There's a
8 disagreement.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. TAYLOR: Well, there's only --
11 there's only a disagreement, judge, as to
12 whether or not that applies to the later
13 potential purchasers of the property or
14 whether or not this was, as we contend, a
15 personal agreement by Mr. Turner to not have
16 armed guards in order to try to act in good
17 faith and work with them.

18 MR. PATTERSON: I'll be happy to
19 discuss both issues if you want, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Yes. Okay, go ahead. I'm
21 happy to hear from you.

22 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. As far as the
23 lease issue, Your Honor, I attached in the
24 memo I submitted this morning the
25 April 17th, 2024, version of the lease,

1 which is attached as Exhibit 1 to my memo.
2 And it basically tracks almost verbatim from
3 the settlement agreement about parking
4 spaces and all the other provisions that
5 dealt with the lease.

6 Plaintiff's counsel, on May 7, finally
7 responded with specific feedback to that,
8 and they made two changes. And the first
9 change is in section 6. In the last
10 sentence, they added this language, and I'll
11 read from it. I'll read six. This talks
12 about the -- the use of the restaurant and
13 the ship's store, and then they added a
14 sentence, "Landlord agrees" -- the landlord
15 would be the POA -- "agrees that the
16 restaurant space would be limited to only
17 operate during the hours of Tuesday through
18 Sunday, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Sunday,
19 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m." All right. So
20 basically, he's trying to impose hours of
21 operation.

22 In the settlement agreement, there is
23 no provision that says that's the only times
24 we're going to operate. And, in fact, if
25 you look at the settlement agreement,

1 section 2 where it's talking about different
2 parking spaces, section 2C and 2D talk about
3 we can use these -- those spaces 24/7/365.
4 So it's clear that there was never an intent
5 to put a time period of when our business
6 could operate, because those spaces we can
7 use every day of the year, 24/7.

8 There was a definition of business
9 hours as far as the use of certain other
10 spaces, where we would not have 24/7 use of
11 some of the spaces, and that's where the
12 term business hours is defined. All right.
13 And so there -- there are three references
14 to business hours that talk about and that's
15 a defined term in the settlement agreement,
16 but all -- the use of the business hours was
17 always in relation to specific parking
18 spaces. There is no language anywhere that
19 says that Sunset or the POA agreed that the
20 restaurant would only be open during certain
21 time periods. So that's a completely new
22 provision that no one ever agreed to, and
23 that is not found in there.

24 The second item added is in section 7
25 at the last sentence. The Plaintiff

1 added -- where it's talking about the
2 interpretation of the 1981 lease, Plaintiff
3 has added: "Landlord acknowledges the
4 laundry room, mail room, and the exercise
5 room are all parts of the lease space and
6 under the sole control of the tenant."

7 No such language is in the settlement
8 agreement. And, in fact, those three rooms
9 are not even mentioned in the settlement
10 agreement. So this is another new provision
11 that was never found in the settlement
12 agreement and not agreed by the parties. So
13 those are your two changes that the
14 Plaintiff has attempted to insert that we
15 strongly contend is not in the settlement
16 agreement.

17 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Go ahead, please.

19 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, this is almost
20 humorous, in the fact that we have a
21 position that has been taken by the
22 association and Sunset in regards to
23 paragraph 9 on the easement and whether or
24 not they could convince the court, which
25 they have, that there was an agreement that

1 there was access to be given to all of
2 Parcel B. And you may recall, Your Honor,
3 that Mr. Patterson has said at least a dozen
4 times in the previous arguments that it says
5 what it says, it is what it says, and it
6 says what the words are that we are to live
7 by. That was the basis that the court used
8 to render its verbal decision on saying that
9 Turner's Marina's private property is going
10 to be opened up as basically a license for
11 all of the association members and their
12 guests.

13 Now, Sunset and the association want to
14 take the language of paragraph 6, which says
15 that the parking spaces will be reserved for
16 the restaurant during business hours, and
17 then it goes on to say, "as used in this
18 agreement, business hours are agreed to be
19 Tuesday through Sunday, 5:00 p.m. till
20 10:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:30 -- Tuesday
21 through Sunday, and from Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
22 to 2:00 p.m."

23 Judge, there couldn't be anything, any
24 wording any clearer than the fact that those
25 are the business hours that were agreed to

1 for the restaurant, and it is written as
2 they argued about in the -- in the
3 transmutation of the easement, that is
4 exactly what it says, and that is how the
5 business hours were defined.

6 As to the second issue, judge, it's
7 very clear that there was -- as you read the
8 mediated settlement agreement, it provides
9 specifically -- and, judge, I'm finding the
10 provision of it -- in paragraph 8: "The
11 Association and Sunset acknowledge and
12 affirm that Turner's Marina is the rightful
13 holder of the 99-year lease, and the rights
14 and responsibilities arising therefrom not
15 otherwise addressed in the settlement
16 agreement, and they agree to not bring upon
17 the lease property any means of restricting
18 lessee from use and enjoyment of the
19 leasehold property."

20 This entire case, Your Honor, was about
21 what rights the lease extended to Turner's
22 Marina for the 99 years. We have always
23 contended that the lease says exactly what
24 it says, which is that it's for certain
25 portions of the clubhouse complex: "The

1 described recreational facilities, together
2 with all appurtenances, tenements, and
3 hereditaments, and together with all
4 improvements, buildings, and structures."

5 So what happens, Your Honor, is they
6 came in at the mediated settlement
7 agreement, they got what they wanted in a
8 confirmation from Mr. Turner that the
9 restaurant was not part of the lease and
10 that the ship's store was not part of the
11 lease -- although the association agreed not
12 to use any commercial interest therein --
13 and everything else was agreed to be
14 Turner's. That's what it says. And that
15 includes all of the rest of the recreational
16 building, which is what we included within
17 the proposal Mr. Patterson drew up to make
18 it clear.

19 Again, judge, this is the ultimate
20 goose and gander argument here. Apparently,
21 it was good for us when they wanted to say
22 it says what it says and the association has
23 the right to a license across Turner's
24 Marina's land. But when the mediated
25 settlement agreement says the remaining

1 items, which are that the business hours are
2 from 5:00 until 10:00, Tuesday through
3 Sunday and 10:30 until 2:00 also on Sunday,
4 then those aren't the business hours somehow
5 anymore.

6 Both of the provisions that we
7 requested to be addressed in there are
8 appropriate, Your Honor, and we would ask
9 that the court take our redlined version,
10 which Mr. Patterson has attached to his -- I
11 believe it's attached to it, and order that
12 to be the case, which we are perfectly happy
13 to sign with that lease agreement.

14 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, just
15 briefly.

16 The only time that Turner business
17 hours is referenced in the settlement
18 agreement is directly related to parking
19 spots. And I don't know if you have the
20 mediated settlement agreement available, but
21 paragraph 2 talks about with regards to
22 parking and disputed parking spaces, the
23 areas in question referenced in Exhibit A
24 are attached, and there's 23 spots. And
25 then it goes and talks about each spot.

1 And it says in paragraph B, five and
2 six on B will be short-term parking until
3 5:00 p.m., at which time these spots will be
4 reserved for restaurant patrons and guests
5 during business hours. So that's a defined
6 term. So business hours is a defined term
7 as to five and six.

8 Then it says spot three on Exhibit A
9 will be for exclusive use for the restaurant
10 24/7/365, so that there's no limit for that.

11 And so if it was intended that there
12 was an agreement as to what the -- when the
13 restaurant could be open, it wouldn't make
14 any sense in one paragraph to talk about
15 business hours for spots five and six, and
16 for spots three and four in the next two
17 paragraphs to be 24/7/365. Okay.

18 The only other place that business
19 hours are referenced, Mr. Taylor quoted
20 paragraph six, but of course he only quoted
21 part of it.

22 Paragraph 6 talks about reconfiguring
23 the parking spaces, and in the event that
24 happens, there will be seven new spaces
25 created. And it says: "Up to a maximum of

1 seven new spaces will be reserved for the
2 restaurant during business hours. As used
3 in this agreement, business hours are agreed
4 to be Tuesday through Sunday, 5:00 to 10:00,
5 and Sunday, 10:30 to 2:00."

6 Again, business hours is only used in
7 reference to those seven new spaces, just
8 like business hours in paragraph 2B was only
9 used in reference to spots five and six.

10 There is no separate agreement or
11 separate provision anywhere that says the
12 restaurant will only be operated during
13 certain times or business hours.

14 Business hours, as defined, only has to
15 do with parking spaces. And for them -- for
16 the Plaintiff to try to suggest there was a
17 agreement that we would not operate the
18 restaurant for certain time periods based on
19 that it just doesn't have any basis
20 whatsoever, and it's completely inconsistent
21 with the provisions talking about using
22 other spaces for the restaurant 24 hours a
23 day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

24 The second issue having to do with the
25 language they've added about the laundry

1 room and the mail room and the exercise
2 room, those three rooms are never mentioned
3 in the settlement agreement. If the
4 Plaintiff intended to have control over
5 those in the settlement agreement, it's got
6 to be in the settlement agreement. There is
7 no reference to those rooms. The language
8 he's relying on, paragraph 8, doesn't say --
9 use the word laundry room, mail room, or
10 exercise room. It's not there. It's not
11 anywhere in the settlement agreement. We're
12 not trying to use a different standard than
13 we did with the easement. If there was
14 language as to those rooms, we're bound by
15 it. What he's trying to do is add language
16 that does not exist.

17 And if the parties intended to affirm
18 the Plaintiff's right to those three rooms,
19 it would have been in the settlement
20 agreement. Those three rooms weren't even
21 part of the discussion. We were discussing
22 the ship's store and the restaurant and the
23 parking spaces, and that's what's in the
24 settlement agreement. And there was no
25 agreement as to these other items, and they

1 should not be included in the amended lease.

2 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, that's like,
3 again, interpreting the easement paragraph
4 to say that they shall have access to Parcel
5 B, that's what the wording says, and the
6 settlement agreement says that all Turner's
7 Marina is the rightful holder of the 99-year
8 lease and rights and responsibilities
9 arising therefrom not otherwise addressed in
10 this settlement agreement.

11 That's exactly the same exact argument
12 that Mr. Patterson made to try extend that
13 easement into a license for all of the
14 owners to come on Mr. Turner's private
15 property.

16 THE COURT: All right. Well, let me --

17 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, and certainly
18 the only other thing, Your Honor, I would
19 let the court know is, in the single
20 deposition that was taken in this matter
21 prior to the mediated settlement agreement,
22 Mr. Turner was deposed on 30(b)(6), and at
23 page 130 and 131 when Mr. Patterson was
24 asking him about what he claimed, he said he
25 testified specifically -- and, Your Honor,

1 this was in September of 2023, he testified
2 specifically that certain portions of the
3 clubhouse that were Turner's Marina's were
4 together with all of them -- with all of the
5 furnishings, fixtures -- excuse me,
6 furniture, fixtures, and equipment. And he
7 specifically told them that he was talking
8 about these areas that we are now saying,
9 let's clear this up and put it in the
10 leasehold agreement that is going to be
11 recorded.

12 THE COURT: All right. Well, let me
13 take a look at it with everything else.
14 I'll try to come up with something.

15 When is the restaurant open right now,
16 just out of curiosity?

17 MR. PATTERSON: I don't know exactly
18 what their hours are now, but, you know,
19 they still are in operation; even though
20 they may not be serving people, they've got
21 employees, they've got deliveries, they've
22 got maintenance, they've got repairs, so
23 it's -- people are there all the time. You
24 know, it's a very --

25 MR. TAYLOR: And that's what those two

1 parking spaces that were designated 24/7/365
2 were for, Your Honor. And the restaurant is
3 currently operating from 6:00 till 10:00,
4 Tuesday through Sunday.

5 MR. PATTERSON: But they -- they --
6 under their lease, they have the right to
7 operate whenever they want to, and they
8 never agreed and the issue never came up
9 during mediation of when they would operate.

10 In fact, nobody has ever tried to
11 impose any restrictions even in this
12 litigation of when they can be open or not.
13 It's entirely up to the owner of the
14 restaurant when she wants to be open.

15 To now try to say you put restrictions
16 on certain parking spaces and that somehow
17 means you can't be open is completely
18 illogical and adding words that do not exist
19 in the settlement agreement.

20 THE COURT: All right. Well, let me --
21 let me look at this, because, Russell, I
22 haven't seen what you sent yet. You said --
23 you said you sent something earlier.

24 MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

25 THE COURT: I was with you in another

1 hearing earlier and another -- all kinds of
2 stuff going on today, so --

3 MR. TAYLOR: And, Your Honor, if
4 Mr. Patterson sent that out this morning,
5 we'd certainly like to have five days in
6 order to respond to that.

7 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, it was a
8 supplemental memo, and I emailed a copy to
9 Mr. Taylor. It is not some new motion.
10 It's not some new position. Either side
11 could have submitted a memo today. And I --
12 I don't really see why we need to keep it
13 up. If Mr. Taylor had submitted a memo,
14 that would have been fine, which he did not.

15 THE COURT: Well, I'll give them --
16 I'll give them a couple of days, because
17 we're not going to -- we're not going to
18 meet again til more than five days from now,
19 so, Tom, if you just want to respond briefly
20 to it, that would be fine.

21 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir. Thank you,
22 judge.

23 MR. PATTERSON: What's going to be --
24 the time period for that response is going
25 to be what?

1 THE COURT: Tom, can you have that in
2 by Monday afternoon? Is that doable?

3 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And I've lost track
5 of when we rescheduled this for. What did
6 we say? We're doing Friday, the -- Friday,
7 the 17th, I think?

8 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir, at 2:00 p.m.
9 Yes, sir, it's Friday, the 17th, 2:00 p.m.

10 MR. PATTERSON: That's at 2:00 p.m.,
11 Your Honor?

12 THE COURT: Yeah, 2:00 p.m. Sorry it
13 had to be a Friday afternoon, but that's all
14 we've got left.

15 MR. PATTERSON: Both cases you want an
16 update on?

17 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

18 MR. PATTERSON: Both cases you'll get
19 an update on, the restaurant case?

20 THE COURT: Yes. Yes.

21 MR. PATTERSON: Okay.

22 THE COURT: We will keep updating and
23 meeting and coming up with stuff till we get
24 rid of these statuses. You'll decide where
25 you want to go from there. So, all right,

1 well, good. Y'all have a -- have a great
2 day. I appreciate it.

3 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. Okay.

6 (Whereupon, the hearing
7 was concluded at
8 2:49 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

BEAUFORT COUNTY:

I, Theresa D. Saxon, Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the above county and
state, do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct transcript of the proceedings in this
matter taken by me stenographically at the time
herein-before set forth.

I am not of counsel to any party, nor
interested in the event of this cause.

Theresa D. Saxon

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA * COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 *
 COUNTY OF BEAUFORT * TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

-----X
 TURNER'S MARINA, LLC, *
 *
 Plaintiff, *
 *
 vs. * Case No. 2021-CP-07-01085
 *
 R.V. RESORT AND YACHT CLUB *
 OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; *
 SECURITAS SERVICES, INC.; MIKE *
 MORALES; and SUNSET, INC., *
 *
 Defendant. *
 -----X

January 21, 2025

B E F O R E:

The Honorable Marvin H. Dukes, III, Presiding Judge

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Recorded by: TEC Courtroom

Court Transcriber: Bobbi Fisher, RPR
 SC Official Court Reporter III

I N D E X

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E X H I B I T S

(None.)

COURT REPORTER LEGEND

Dash (--)	Indicates an interruption in speech
Ellipses (...)	Indicates trailing off in speech
(ph)	Indicates phonetic word
[Verbatim]	Indicates the word is said as written
(Indiscernible)[Transcription]	Indicates word(s) is not known due to audio recording quality

P R O C E E D I N G S

THE COURT: All right. We're moving on then to No. 2 on the docket, which is 21-CP-07-01085, Turner's Marina. This one is Turner's Marina versus R.V. Resort and Yacht Club, et al., and this is Motion to Enforce Settlement by Securitas Services, one of the defendants. Let's see. Yes, sir.

MR. SOBOCINSKI: That's me, Your Honor. Evan Sobocinski for Securitas and Mike Morales.

As Your Honor is aware, this is a separate case. We mediated it back in December of 2023, so over a year ago. My clients came to a settlement agreement with the plaintiff. (Indiscernible). We have been trying just to simply get that settlement enforced and executed, and I think plaintiff has (indiscernible) has found a couple of issues between that (indiscernible). There's no reason for my folks to be in this case anymore. I think we've sat through numerous hearings since that mediation had occurred, with lots of costs and wasted resources, and I would just ask (indiscernible).

As far as -- you know, I see Plaintiff has some other motions after this from the same case. Neither of those motions mentions anything about my folks. In fact, even the settlement agreement we had executed is a separate settlement agreement from (indiscernible).

THE COURT: All right. Thank you so much.

Yes, sir?

1 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, in all candor, Judge, what Evan
2 says is correct, and on behalf of Turner's Marina, I don't
3 have a lot of legal argument to make about it other than this,
4 Judge. We have moved -- and if you'll allow me in a moment to
5 discuss -- we have moved to set aside the entire settlement
6 agreement that occurred between Turner's Marina and the Sunset
7 Grille and the Homeowners Association.

8 And, in the event that was to be allowed, then we would
9 probably have to try this case, Judge, and part of that case
10 is related to the security guard issue, which Evan represents
11 Securitas on and that we made a separate agreement for.

12 So the fear of not wanting to take the check that they
13 had sent to us on behalf of Turner's Marina was simply that
14 that could somehow be construed against us later, to not
15 enable us to make that argument at court; because, Judge, our
16 argument is that the Homeowners Association directed Securitas
17 to take certain steps that were in derogation of Turner's
18 Marina's interest and basically tried to put him off of land
19 which he had a legal right to.

20 And if we do end up trying the case, I want to make sure
21 that we have the ability to call the Securitas people and
22 question them, and I have a feeling the Court is going to tell
23 me that the settlement agreement would not bother that, and I
24 understand that. But we don't have a lot of legal argument to
25 make against that, Judge. I'm only moving to set aside the

1 entire agreement, which is what I've been reluctant to do.

2 THE COURT: All right. So the question and your concern,
3 again, with regard to Securitas and not the entire agreement
4 that's the subject (indiscernible) action, has to do with your
5 concern that you would not be able to call a Securitas
6 employee as a witness in an upcoming potential trial; is that
7 correct?

8 MR. TAYLOR: Or that the agreement was somehow being used
9 against us in trial to show that there was arguably not that
10 much damage because they got out of it for X of dollars.

11 THE COURT: Well, I'm not sure that that would be
12 admissible, but that might be for somebody else down the road.

13 So let me ask counsel then: Is that an issue?

14 MR. SOBOCINSKI: For Securitas, it's not an issue. I'm
15 sure we can -- I'm not sure what (indiscernible) he's talking
16 about. They can, obviously, still be under a jurisdiction to
17 appear at trial and give testimony, and I would help cooperate
18 and coordinate that if that is needed.

19 Further, as far as the admissibility of our settlement
20 agreement, (indiscernible) be an issue, and I believe our
21 settlement is confidential (indiscernible) before the Court.

22 THE COURT: Anything -- let's see, Mr. Patterson, you're
23 in this one also; right?

24 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, I represent Sunset Restaurant
25 in connection with that issue. I don't have an objection to

1 them being released. I thought they should have been
2 (indiscernible) their settlement (indiscernible) comply with
3 what they agreed to. So I don't have an objection to having
4 them dismissed.

5 THE COURT: And I guess back to Mr. Taylor's question:
6 Do you see any issue with -- and that's up to the trial judge,
7 of course, but admissibility of a Securitas employee who would
8 be subpoenaed, I would assume, in this agreement?

9 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, on behalf of Sunset, I don't.
10 I think Mr. (Indiscernible). He represents the POA on that
11 issue. I'll let him --

12 THE COURT: I'm just going down the table here.

13 MR. PATTERSON: Sure.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Lizzi, your thoughts.

15 MR. LIZZI: Your Honor, I don't think it would impede the
16 plaintiff from calling witnesses. While I'm not going to
17 concede any legal arguments on their settlement, I believe
18 that the settlement was the amount that they received most
19 likely would (indiscernible). I believe that there's no
20 prejudice to the plaintiff by enforcing the settlement.

21 THE COURT: And let me make sure I understand. Is that
22 settlement incorporated in the other settlement
23 (indiscernible) talk about, or is it a whole separate
24 settlement?

25 MR. LIZZI: Completely separate document.

1 MR. SOBOCINSKI: And I have a copy if Your Honor would
2 like.

3 THE COURT: I'm sure it's here in the 8,000 pages. No, I
4 appreciate it. If y'all have agreed that it's the
5 settlement -- it's the settlement that was reached, then the
6 only hesitancy you have or concerns you just stated -- and
7 those seem to be resolved.

8 MR. LIZZI: They do, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Then granted on the Motion to Enforce
10 Settlement solely as to Securitas.

11 I understand we have issues with (indiscernible), the
12 balance of settlements (indiscernible).

13 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, may we have 15 days -- if you're
14 going to do a Form 4, can we have 15 days to kind of make sure
15 Evan and I can get exchanged what we need to?

16 THE COURT: Absolutely. Actually, if you'll do the
17 Form 4 and run it by all counsel, that would be fine.

18 All right then. Let's move on. The same case. Motion
19 to Set Aside a Settlement Agreement Due to Mutual Mistake, I
20 assume. And this is the other settlement agreement. This is
21 the December 13th, 2020, settlement; is that correct?

22 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct, Your Honor.

23 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, can I hand up a memo?
24 Because of the issue with the filing -- electronic filing, we
25 actually filed these memos on Friday, which is what the Court

1 ordered, 48 hours before the hearing, and I'm not sure they
2 made it in the e-filing system. So I have an email for the
3 mutual -- I mean, a memo for the mutual mistake and a
4 Rule 59(e). And I've already provided copies to counsel by
5 email so they have it.

6 MR. TAYLOR: And, Your Honor, we do, for the record,
7 object to those memos coming in. Mr. Patterson did file them
8 on Friday at 5:58 PM, which was well into the 48 hours it was
9 notified by the Court of when it should be filed under the
10 (indiscernible).

11 THE COURT: Well, let me do this: I'll figure that out
12 later, but I'm going to put them right here for now. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. SOBOCINSKI: And I understand the plaintiffs have
15 filed nothing in support of their motions.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Mr. Taylor, I'm happy to
17 hear from you, sir.

18 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, this motion, which is to set
19 aside the settlement agreement based on mutual mistake, was
20 originally made verbally and was then made in writing, as you
21 know, on May 7th.

22 Your Honor, the gist of this motion is that there was a
23 mutual mistake of relief by the parties as to the extent of
24 the easement that was supposedly being granted under the
25 settlement agreement. I know the Court will recall there's

1 been extensive argument about this, and what the Court has
2 ultimately ruled, subject to my Motion to Reconsider, which is
3 going to be the last, Judge -- and I know you're going to be
4 happy about that -- is that we believe and Mr. Turner believed
5 that we were agreeing to the amendment of the existing
6 easement in order to put a second terminus on the easement to
7 allow access to the disputed leasehold property. It's as
8 simple as that.

9 And what has occurred afterwards and what the amended
10 lease that the Court has ruled Turner's must sign provides is
11 basically a license to each of the 200 lot owners and their
12 guests to come and loiter upon Mr. Turner's property at any
13 point in time they would like.

14 I did remind the Court that what we have here is a rather
15 unusual situation where people come down to access the RV park
16 on Jenkins Island Road. They make a left. They come on the
17 property that is owned entirely by Turner's Marina. It's
18 known as the marina property. There's never been any dispute
19 about that.

20 There was an existing easement across that, across the
21 roads, and we agreed, by virtue of this mediation, to add a
22 second fork that came off of that easement to go onto the
23 disputed leasehold property, which we reached the agreement
24 about.

25 But when the Court allowed the Homeowners Association and

1 Sunset to convert that easement into what is basically the
2 license to use all of Mr. Turner's property at any time they
3 want for any reason, it became obvious that there was a mutual
4 mistake in entering into this.

5 The (indiscernible) answer is Turner's Marina would have
6 never signed that mediation agreement had they known that an
7 easement was going to be interpreted that was specific as
8 could be, that it was going to be interpreted to allow a
9 license to all 200 lot owners and their guests to simply come
10 upon the marina property, walk around, enjoy the sunset, do
11 all the things that they testified at trial they wanted to do
12 on Mr. Turner's private property. And because of the mutual
13 mistake, we ask that it be set aside.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 Yes, sir?

16 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, I'm going to hand up
17 (indiscernible) that will also be relevant in the Rule 59
18 motion. It's basically just a diagram of the property that
19 the Court is very familiar with.

20 On this motion, Your Honor, I'm representing Sunset and
21 the POA. So let's talk about this motion, Your Honor. Three
22 years of litigation. We mediated this case, if you'll recall,
23 for 16 hours, which has to be some type of (indiscernible).

24 The settlement agreement was signed by all parties,
25 including Mr. Turner and his attorney. Since the settlement

1 agreement, Mr. Turner apparently has got buyer's remorse, and,
2 as you are aware, has made very extensive efforts to get out
3 of the settlement agreement and to change the language in the
4 settlement agreement in both the amended lease that was
5 required under the settlement agreement and the amended
6 easement.

7 The Court, thus far, has rejected all of these efforts
8 for Mr. Turner to renegotiate those provisions, and the Court
9 has adopted the language found in -- as we proposed -- the
10 defendant proposed, for the amended lease and the amended
11 easement with only one exception: (Indiscernible) stated the
12 requirement of recording a separate agreement, (indiscernible)
13 the plaintiffs of record, the obligation for the gates and the
14 armed guards should not be -- that was not part of the
15 settlement.

16 Every other issue and point that Mr. Turner has made to
17 try to renegotiate the agreement, you have denied in two
18 Orders, both August 5th. One dealt with the amended lease and
19 one dealt with the amended easement.

20 Having failed to renegotiate the efforts and to bring it
21 to the Court, he now comes up with this very unusual claim
22 that, after 16 hours, and able counsel and Mr. Turner, who
23 Your Honor is very aware has got quite a bit of legal
24 experience and knowledge, somehow they're saying they signed a
25 document they did not intend to sign.

1 Mr. Taylor never mentioned what the requirements for a
2 mutual mistake are -- and there's a very good reason why --
3 and there's no way they can meet the elements.

4 His evidence of a mutual mistake consists, in his
5 affidavit of April 2nd, he does not state at any time that the
6 settlement agreement in the affidavit is not consistent with
7 the parties' true intent. The word "mistake" does not appear
8 in his affidavit.

9 Instead, he relies upon a draft settlement agreement he
10 prepared during the mediation 3-1/2 hours before the
11 settlement agreement was actually signed, and he said this
12 draft settlement agreement -- this one paragraph on the
13 easement, that's what I intended to find, and I mistakenly
14 signed language that's totally different.

15 There are six reasons why there's no evidence of a
16 mistake. The Court is aware of -- let me back up. There are
17 two elements he must show up under a large, long line of cases
18 that have a mutual mistake to void agreement. The mistake
19 must be in reference to facts upon which the contract was
20 based or where there's an omission or insertion of some
21 material element affecting the subject matter or terms or
22 stipulation to the contract, inconsistent with the true
23 intention of the parties. And then "the mistake must be
24 common to both parties, and by reason of it, each has done
25 what neither contended." There's lots and lots of cases to

1 that.

2 So let's look at the first element, whether there was
3 even a mistake. And so the only evidence they have is
4 Mr. Turner's affidavit where he attaches -- apparently, he
5 drafted a draft settlement agreement during the mediation.
6 And the one he attached is dated -- the time at 3-1/2 hours
7 before the final settlement was done.

8 What might have occurred with Mr. Turner and his attorney
9 in their separate room, 3-1/2 hours before the final
10 settlement, has absolutely no relevance to what the party
11 signed. Okay?

12 There's no evidence of a mistake just based on what he
13 was internally doing in his room with his computer.

14 A draft of the settlement agreement he attached bears
15 little resemblance to the final settlement agreement.

16 Exhibit 2 to our memo is a red line of Mr. Turner's draft
17 settlement agreement done 3-1/2 hours before the final
18 settlement agreement. And there are unbelievably a large
19 number of changes.

20 So to say that the parties were following along with his
21 draft settlement agreement and all of those terms in his draft
22 settlement agreement made it in the final settlement agreement
23 have no basis because they're extremely different.

24 Turner never sent the draft settlement agreement he did
25 3-1/2 hours before to the other side. We've never even seen

1 the document until he filed this affidavit. So it can't be a
2 mistake -- a mutual mistake when one side has never even seen
3 or heard of the language that he's talking about.

4 Again, if you look at the actual language in his draft
5 settlement agreement, they're not talking about a difference
6 in punctuation or an additional word of "and" or "or" where it
7 would be very easy for somebody, after 16 hours, to maybe not
8 pick up that somebody's made a minor change.

9 This isn't a minor change. The language is totally
10 different than what he says he agreed to and what he, as an
11 attorney, actually signed off. He said he agreed to "the 1984
12 easement will be updated to include access (indiscernible)."
13 That's what he said he agreed to.

14 What actually he agreed to -- and his attorney, who has
15 vast experience in these matters, signed off on --
16 (indiscernible) a 1984 easement recorded at Book 397, page
17 1612, will be updated to including granting access to the
18 association, owners of the property, and each of their guests,
19 lessees, invitees, and licensees, to Parcel B. The parties
20 agree Parcel B is referenced in Plat Book 148 and page 60.

21 Parcel B is a pink area that Mr. Turner owns on the
22 diagram. Nowhere in the document that Mr. Turner and his
23 attorney signed is the word "roadway" mentioned, and it's a
24 completely different language.

25 The big reason that there's no mistake is the agreement,

1 as proposed now by Mr. Turner, says it's going to be limited
2 to the rights of (indiscernible) on the roadways.

3 Well, as Your Honor is aware, under the 1984 easement,
4 the POA already has the right to go over all the roadways
5 under that agreement, because that easement typically said
6 "paved roads." All right?

7 So, if Mr. Turner is correct, the parties spent 16 hours,
8 and what the plaintiff is proposed to give to the POA are the
9 exact same rates that he already had since 1984. They got
10 nothing under the new agreement.

11 Why would -- if there's supposed to be no change of an
12 easement, why would you even include it in the settlement
13 agreement? The reason it's included is because the rights
14 changed, and reason the rights changed is Mr. Turner had
15 threatened trespass actions against POA members for going onto
16 his property and they weren't on the paved roadway. That's
17 the POA.

18 And this is in Mr. (Indiscernible) affidavit and
19 (Indiscernible) affidavit, negotiated to remedy this threat --
20 very real threat of Mr. Turner calling the sheriff for
21 trespass. And they expanded. They didn't change the
22 easement; they expanded the scope of it. And no longer is it
23 limited to paved roadway. If anywhere, the property owners
24 are locked in from one -- from their RV lots over to the large
25 recreation building and pool. They don't need to go to

1 Mr. Turner's property and watch the sunset from his dock.
2 They own (indiscernible) waterfront property. What they do --
3 don't want -- the POA didn't want to have this issue of
4 trespass actions all the time, and they negotiated and the
5 parties agreed to it. Very clear.

6 Finally, Turner states in his motion there was a mistake
7 in the settlement agreement because Turner -- this is a quote,
8 "Under the belief, the words of paragraph 9 provided for the
9 preparation of a filing of an amended easement that would
10 follow South Carolina law with a required easement, entry, and
11 terminus."

12 All right. That's nowhere in Mr. Turner's affidavit. So
13 there's no evidence to support that. And we'll be talking
14 about that requirement of terminus (ph) in -- under the
15 Rule 59.

16 But, obviously, the POA has two different properties that
17 connect to the easements so they have not only the required
18 work terminus; they have two. They have two pieces of
19 property that connect to the easement.

20 So under King and Truck, which are the cases I've cited
21 in the brief, there's no evidence of a mistake.

22 And then, even if somehow we got past that, there's no
23 evidence of a mutual mistake. And here's where there's zero
24 evidence, because we have the affidavit of Mr. Sidely (ph),
25 the president of the POA, and Ms. Lockman that said they

1 didn't -- they did not agree to just limited easements to the
2 roadway because they already had that. And they explained why
3 they negotiated new rights. And that's what the language
4 says.

5 As I mentioned before, this internal working document
6 Mr. Turner and his counsel had 3-1/2 hours before the
7 settlement agreement, we never saw it. So how could we agree
8 to something that we never saw? They can't show mutuality.

9 At best, Mr. Turner has made -- has found he made a
10 unilateral mistake, "Welp, I screwed up. I've made a mistake.
11 I signed the documents. My attorney signed a document that I
12 now see I don't really like." That doesn't get you to a
13 mutual mistake and overturn it.

14 If -- under a unilateral mistake, you have to show
15 evidence of fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or concealment.
16 None of that's there. So they haven't shown a mistake, and
17 they haven't clearly shown a mutual mistake, and this ground
18 should be denied.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 Mr. Lizzi?

21 MR. LIZZI: I concur with Mr. Patterson. I would just
22 point out to the Court that, on February 23rd, 2024, the same
23 plaintiff filed a Motion to Enforce the settlement agreement.

24 And I find it hard to understand why the plaintiff now
25 comes to the Court and says that there's this mutual mistake

1 that there wasn't after they filed a motion to enforce it and
2 didn't get the outcome that they wanted, and now they are
3 trying a separate ground that has no merit. Thank you.

4 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir, briefly, please.

5 Your Honor, Mr. Patterson, who I believe stated that he
6 was representing both Sunset and the POA at this point --

7 MR. PATTERSON: On this motion, I'm representing both
8 defendants, yes. Thank you.

9 MR. TAYLOR: I just want to thank him and thank the POA
10 for the -- clearing up for us what Mr. Patterson said was,
11 that this will be used as an easement and not as a loitering
12 type of license, which is what the wording of it would
13 certainly give us.

14 But, Judge, to respond very briefly to it, the POA -- the
15 COA, actually -- got an absolute extension of the easement to
16 the disputed leasehold area, and to say that there's no use --
17 that nobody ever would have signed it because they got exactly
18 the same thing is simply flat wrong.

19 What they got was the extension of the roadway,
20 confirmation of the right of easement to go to the disputed
21 property.

22 And, Judge, you've seen this on the map several times.
23 That's exactly what they got. But the Court's ruling and what
24 they -- and what you forced Mr. Turner to sign when he had
25 signed, on its face, gives a great deal more rights to these

1 homeowners and there are the lot owners and their guests to
2 simply loiter upon, but Mr. Patterson has now made it clear
3 that they have no intention of doing that.

4 And so, Your Honor, for that reason, we are appreciative,
5 but, again, we believe that there was a mutual mistake on both
6 sides as to the extent of what that easement was going to be,
7 and we ask that the settlement agreement be set aside.

8 Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

10 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, I don't want to fall into the
11 trap of plaintiff counsel's creativity while trying to include
12 some conditions about loitering. That's not -- there's no
13 change that needs to be made in the easement or in your Order.

14 The agreed language in Section 9 of the settlement
15 agreement is what you ordered to be put in the amended
16 easement, and that's what it needs to put. No other
17 conditions about loitering or anything else.

18 And, again, I strongly disagree with counsel when he says
19 the 1984 easement did not give us the rights to go on
20 (indiscernible) on the water where the recreation building is.

21 If you read -- I spent a lot of time reading that
22 document. There was a metes and bounds description, which, in
23 the olden days, that's all we used. And the metes and bounds
24 and that easement said that only the pink properties -- the
25 POA has the right to go over any roadway from the pink

1 properties to go anywhere in the entire resort.

2 Exhibit A to that easement was a metes and bounds
3 description of Turner's property in pink, and the Exhibit B,
4 which was the area where the POA could use (indiscernible) was
5 a map of the entire resort. It included the other yellow area
6 that they owned.

7 So we already had the right to go from one of our
8 properties to the other over the paved roads under 1984, and
9 then we negotiated to be able to go over any part of the pink
10 area.

11 And so, this buyer's remorse issue needs to be rejected.
12 If they can find a mutual mistake in this settlement
13 agreement, no settlement agreement ever made will ever survive
14 a mutual mistake argument if this is a mutual mistake.

15 Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Thank you so much.

17 All right. I'll let y'all know something about that as
18 soon as possible.

19 Onto the same case, which is the 1085 case, a Motion to
20 Alter or Amend Order dated 8/5/24.

21 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you, Judge.

22 Judge, you have before you the motion which incorporates,
23 basically, our arguments. This is a motion asking the Court,
24 basically, pursuant to the authority under 59(e) to reconsider
25 its Orders that are dated August the 5th, and basically, for

1 four reasons, Your Honor.

2 We believe the Court made an error -- a clear error of
3 law in accordance -- it says first, "the plain reading of the
4 settlement agreement sets forth the business hours for the
5 restaurant and restricts the hours of operation of the Sunset
6 Grille."

7 Your Honor will recall that the settlement agreement
8 provides, "As used in this agreement, business hours are
9 agreed to be Tuesday through Sunday, 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and
10 Sunday, 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM."

11 The Court's ultimate Order expanded that to say those
12 were only times that the parking lot -- that the designated
13 parking lot parcels were going to be available but did not in
14 any way supposedly impact Sunset's rights to use or to open up
15 different operating hours.

16 Certainly, again, Your Honor, had we known that this kind
17 of argument was going to be made to try to really tortuously
18 change the language and say, "Oh, that doesn't mean business
19 hours are agreed to be that," it means that you can only park
20 in those specific spaces during those hours.

21 Mr. Turner certainly would never have done that because
22 if Sunset Grille attempts to expand its hours and it's
23 basically a first-come, first-served parking lot, it will
24 totally take away all the rights that Mr. Turner's people will
25 have in order to park in the parking lot.

1 The settlement was agreed to because we knew that, when
2 they parked there at night, most of the marina business would
3 not be there, and we believe this was a clear error of law and
4 ask the Court to reconsider that.

5 And, secondly, Judge, we believe the Court made an error
6 of law in holding that the settlement agreement does not
7 affirm Turner's Marina control over its leasehold interest,
8 including the mailroom, the exercise room, and the laundry
9 room in the recreational building.

10 If you'll recall, Your Honor, the settlement agreement
11 provides Turner is affirmed to control all of the remaining
12 properties not specifically agreed to in this settlement
13 agreement. Those were clearly a part of that, and they
14 clearly, Your Honor, should be affirmed to be in Mr. Turner's
15 control under the lease agreement as has been in existence now
16 for more than I think 40 years.

17 Third, Your Honor, we contend the Court made an error of
18 law in holding that the settlement agreement did not provide
19 that the RV lot owners were not entitled to use the pool
20 located on the leasehold premises. We believe the wording of
21 the settlement agreement is clear that that was the intention
22 of all parties.

23 There is a separate pool that the lot owners have always
24 used within the middle, basically, of the RV lot itself and
25 not over on the leasehold premises that were given to the

1 original declarant and to Mr. Turner by extension of his
2 purchase of those rights.

3 And then, fourth, Your Honor, we continue to contend that
4 the Court made an error in expanding the easement, which we've
5 talked about before. And I will not bore the Court with
6 arguing that again. Mr. Patterson may want to talk about
7 entrances and terminuses, but clearly, every easement in South
8 Carolina has to have an entrance and a terminus, and to
9 interpret it any other way is at variance with all the common
10 law and the previous court rulings that say an easement is for
11 one reason, and that's for people to trans- -- to go across
12 and to walk or drive across the private property of another
13 and not to take any other benefit than that. And we contend
14 the Court has expanded that terribly by the amended easement
15 that we were forced to sign.

16 And for all those reasons, we ask that the Court
17 reconsider those rulings pursuant to 59(e).

18 Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Thank you so much.

20 Yes, sir?

21 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, again, on behalf of the POA
22 and the RV resort, in my memo, I listed 16 different filings
23 that were made in connection with the enforcement of the
24 settlement agreement.

25 Over six months, this Court reviewed carefully all these

1 filings, all of these affidavits and have already -- we had
2 three different theories; one in-person, two status conference
3 hearings where parties made all these arguments, "You boys
4 consider all of these arguments, it was fresh in your mind,
5 and rejected each of those arguments." And I would ask you to
6 reject it again.

7 Very briefly, the business hours of the restaurant, you
8 found that the language in the settlement agreement clearly
9 linked business hours to parking. That's where that language
10 is found. That's what it was talking about, was parking.

11 The parties very easily could have added a
12 (indiscernible): "The restaurant will only be open during
13 business hours," or words to that effect; not in the
14 settlement agreement because that's not what the parties
15 agreed to.

16 The claims of control of additional properties, which is
17 the mailroom, the exercise room, and the laundry room, again,
18 Mr. Turner -- I guess, buyer's remorse -- wants to add
19 language in the settlement agreement that wasn't there.
20 There's no reference to any of these rooms -- specific
21 reference to any of these rooms in the settlement agreement
22 because the parties did not agree to it.

23 Your Order (indiscernible) language was exactly as found
24 in the settlement agreement. You cited a long list of cases
25 for both of those issues that purports (indiscernible) is to

1 enforce the settlement agreement of the parties, not to
2 rewrite it or to make changes. You don't even have the
3 authority to do that if you wanted to.

4 Finally, the lot owners' use of pool, quite an
5 imaginative argument, that the 200 lot owners somehow agreed
6 to negotiate away the rights to use the main pool on the
7 waterfront. There's no language in the settlement agreement
8 that stated that.

9 You found that the non-commercial patrons, which is a
10 term used in the settlement agreement, included the lot owners
11 because they're not commercial patrons.

12 You found that the settlement agreement allowed for the
13 RV lot owners, the 200 members of the POA and their guests, to
14 continue to use the pool. And you also cited the covenants,
15 Section 1245 of the covenants, that expressly gave them that
16 right. And there's nothing in the settlement agreement that
17 indicated an intent to amend the covenants, and the covenants
18 couldn't be amended by a settlement agreement anyhow. There's
19 a separate process to amend the covenants.

20 Finally, as to this argument on the easement, the reason
21 I think it's math, number one, to clarify for me and also to
22 remind the Court, that we have not just one terminus of the
23 easement, but we have two, because the easement goes from one
24 portion of the yellow property, which is the 200 RV lots, over
25 to the recreational building, and it cuts through the

1 plaintiff's property.

2 So we have a terminus on one side where our roadway
3 system abuts it, and then we have another terminus on the
4 other side. We not only have one terminus which is required,
5 but we have two.

6 Again, the amended easement did not create new easement
7 rights; it expanded the scope of the easement. Used to be on
8 the paved road. Now, they simply said you're not limited to
9 the paved roads.

10 And, finally, I would dispute counsel's statement that
11 easements are only used to cut across properties. Easements
12 can be for whatever the parties agree to. You could have a
13 utility easement. You could have a water line easement. You
14 could have ingress and egress easements. There are many, many
15 types of easements.

16 But this easement meets all the requirements of an
17 easement and particularly the one that they raised, the
18 terminus, (indiscernible) your order adopting the amended
19 easement language that you reviewed carefully should be
20 upheld.

21 THE COURT: Anything else from anyone?

22 MR. TAYLOR: Your Honor, just a brief rebuttal.

23 Your Honor, Webster's Dictionary defines "patron" as
24 everybody in the world understands it, which is "a person who
25 gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or

1 activity."

2 The wording that the Court focused on, and that we
3 believe made a mistake with, where he talks about "shall be
4 available" -- of course will be available to all
5 non-commercial patrons for the complex.

6 That clearly extended to the non-commercial being
7 Mr. Turner -- Mr. Turner's people who were coming on for his
8 use there.

9 The "patron" means exactly what it says. It does not
10 mean a lot owner. And there is just no way that should be
11 interpreted to include the lot owners who have traditionally
12 always used the (indiscernible).

13 And, Your Honor, again for those reasons, we ask the
14 Court's consideration to revising the Order of
15 (indiscernible).

16 MR. LIZZI: Your Honor, just briefly?

17 THE COURT: Sure. Go ahead.

18 MR. LIZZI: Your Honor, if the agreement meant to take
19 away and strip the owners from the rights to that pool, it
20 would have included a provision that the Association would
21 have to amend its own covenants, which it is clear that
22 Mr. Turner is subject to.

23 And short of that language being in there, the covenants
24 could not be amended or forced to be amended by the Order of
25 the Court. So I believe that this is a long stretch. He has

1 negotiated away some of the (indiscernible) they made a
2 unilateral mistake on some of these issues and is now trying
3 to grab on and leach onto this issue to have some negotiation
4 power, but it simply isn't there. Thank you, Your Honor.

5 MR. TAYLOR: It would only be a change in the lease,
6 Judge. And that's all we'll say about it. Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you all very much.

8 So, in summary, we've have had, between the two cases,
9 four motions, that three are under advisement. The second
10 one, I understand you're going to draft a Form 4, and run it
11 by all counsel; that one, of course, is granted.

12 Mr. Lizzi, you're going to check with opposing counsel on
13 the trial because I'd really love to have either a full
14 morning or a full afternoon to sit down with counsel about
15 what we've got left.

16 At that point, I will have had an opportunity -- I don't
17 know how many pages these proposed orders are -- but to review
18 fully those proposed orders and (indiscernible) questions
19 about all of that. And, hopefully, I'll have a better idea
20 about these three remaining motions.

21 So let us know. If that doesn't work, I'll try to come
22 up with some other time that works in the near future. I know
23 this has to end; although, based on the history of the
24 property as we all know, it may never end. But at least my
25 part will end.

1 So thank you-all very much.

2 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor, in the nature of "it has to
3 end," we're done with briefing these motions; right? I don't
4 want to get another brief.

5 THE COURT: Please don't (indiscernible) any more
6 pages.

7 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 (The above hearing concluded.)
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Certificate of Transcriber

CASE NAME: Turner's Marina v. RV Resort and Yacht Club

DATE OF HEARING: 1/21/25

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/s/ Bobbi Fisher_____

Bobbi Fisher, SC Official Court Reporter III, RPR

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