THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

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SC Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Bentley D. Price

Appellate Case No. 2020-000936

Skip Hoagland, ... Appellant,

v.

John Tecklenburg, in his official capacity, the City of Charleston, and the City of Charleston Police Department, ... Respondents.

RECORD ON APPEAL

VOLUME 3

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A Correct.

Q That's indicating that you don't believe there needed to be more stringent provisions in the contract because you know the chamber, you know the people in the chamber they're your friends, your neighbors, and you trust them; isn't is that fair?

A My statement here was based on their board of directors. Their board of directors are highly respected individuals in our community. The CFO of the board of the chamber at that time had been the former CEO of our hospital. This man had an incredible career.

And when you look at all of them, they all do. I mean, and they're all people that we know, too. This isn't a board of individuals that are just names on a piece of paper that I could never identify with because I had never been around them. These are individuals in my community that I've known in so many different capacities who I do believe are outstanding individuals. And I don't believe that they would ever sit back and let an organization that they serve on the board of commit fraud. And that was simply what I was trying to convey.

Q Can I ask you to more direct your answer to the question I asked which is, isn't it the case that your speech indicates you didn't need more stricter auditing

and compliant provisions in the contract because you trusted the people at the Chamber of Commerce as your friends and neighbors?

A You know, that can certainly be your interpretation of it, Mr. Brewer.

Q It's certainly feasible that other people interpreted your speech that way as well; correct?

A I wouldn't know.

Q In fact, it's really the case that if you think about it, Mr. Hoagland accused you of having Charlie Clark write your speech. That's somebody else writing your speech; correct, somebody besides you? Fair?

A Correct. He accused me of having a chamber employee write my speech.

Q And Steve Riley readily admits that the information that came in his speech came directly from the chamber, doesn't he?

A I don't know if he admits that. I'm sure he says that some of the data and information did come from chamber documents.

Q So somebody else did in fact type your speech. It did in fact include data that came from the Chamber of Commerce and you have a speech here that says you're not going to require stricter auditing provisions because you trust the people in the chamber because they're your

friends and neighbors.

And is it fair to say that that's the information that was available to Skip Hoagland when he accused you of lying and saying that someone else, probably Charlie Clark, the vice president at the chamber wrote your speech?

A I don't believe any of this information about Steve sending me my own personal notes, have a conversation with him, was available to Mr. Hoagland until after discovery. There was nothing that suggested that anyone had helped with what I wrote that night.

Q Now, you would admit that someone who is -- excuse me. You would agree that Mr. Hoagland's entitled to his opinion that you're not fit for your job at the Boys and Girls Club; correct?

A He's certainly entitled to an opinion.

Q And you agree with me that someone who's a liar and corrupt is unfit to be a role model for children?

A I would agree with that.

Q And you agree that someone would have the right to tell the Boys and Girls Club if they knew something that affected the integrity of the position of the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club?

A I believe if they had proof that there was actually something that affected the Boys and Girls Club they

would certainly have the right to do that.
Q Now, prior to this chamber contract coming up, let's switch back to the chamber of contract for a second. The Town of Hilton Head had been giving accommodations tax money to the Chamber of Commerce for 40 years without really any contractual obligated oversight; correct?
A Without a contract. Not without oversight. We had always, always had a marketing plan, a budget that was always vetted by the ATAX committee and then presented to the town council. And after the year was over, the chamber came back and again presented to the ATAX committee the return on the investment which was also presented at the council meeting. So it was not that there was never any oversight. There just was not a formalized contract.
Q Now, the DMO contract was a contentious issue for a segment of the town, wasn't it?
A Yes.
Q The key issue was transparency with the DMO contract negotiations between the town and the chamber, wasn't it?
A Transparency was part of it.
Q In fact, when you ran for mayor in 2018, you actually demanded more transparency from the Chamber of

Commerce than what was included in that contract?
A I did.
Q You actually demanded after Mr. Hoagland made his comments to you, you then later took the position that the contract should be terminated and that the Chamber of Commerce should produce quarterly reports that they weren't previously producing about how the ATAX money was spent?
A I never took a position that the contract should be terminated. I suggested that based on a Supreme Court ruling regarding FOIA and the fact that the Chamber of Commerce was not considered a public body and that the court had said the spending of the money then would need to be handled at the local level. And once that ruling came down, I just made the recommendation at a council meeting that we ask the chamber to provide quarterly statements of how that money was spent.
Q Was that the ruling on Skip Hoagland's lawsuit against the Chamber of Commerce?
A It was.
Q So Skip Hoagland had started a lawsuit against the Chamber of Commerce demanding that the chamber produce its financial pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act; is that fair?
A Well, he started a lawsuit demanding that the

Chamber of Commerce be considered a public body and be required to adhere to FOIA which he lost. The higher courts ruled that that was not the case.

Q He won at the trial court level; right?

A He did. But the Supreme Court level said that they would not have to be considered a public body.

Q And the net effect of the Supreme Court's decision was to say in fact that transparency that Mr. Hoagland was demanding should be there, but it's the town's responsibility to make sure it happens not the chambers; correct?

A Correct.

Q And so you ended up taking a position in your mayoral race it was directly reflective of the efforts that Mr. Hoagland made to demand more transparency regarding how accommodations tax monies are spent; fair?

A I did it before my mayoral race. I did it as soon as the Supreme Court ruling took place. I -- once I realized that the Supreme Court had said that the fiduciary responsibility for those funds was at the local level, I made the motion at a council meeting that we asked the chamber to provide those. Not to cancel their contract, not to change them as the organization, but just to provide what the Supreme Court was suggesting that we needed to do.

Q Now, prior to 2015, the year of this hearing, Mr. Hoagland was one up if not the most vocal advocate of a contract between the Hilton Head Island -- Town of Hilton Head Island and the chamber in order to protect the transparency of accommodations tax dollars; isn't that correct?

A He was, yes, definitely one of the most vocal.

Q I want to jump for a second when Mr. Hoagland reached out to you first. And you went through a series of emails with Mr. Hoagland where he, I think you said tried to influence your position or your vote?

A Correct.

Q Now, someone who has an interest and reaches out to an elected official to educate them, that's generally just called lobbing, isn't it?

A I guess you could use that word for it.

Q And you agree that it's not uncommon for members of your electorate to reach out and try to influence your vote on positions they care about?

A It's not uncommon for them to call and ask to talk to me about issues that they're concerned about, for sure.

Q Ms. Likins, could you look at Court's Exhibit 1 which is the deposition that I handed you earlier. Could you please turn with me to page 93. And let me

know when you're there, please.
A Got it.
Q Thank you. And if you would go with me to line 5. Question actually starts at 3, but I'm going to start midway down where it says, "We had a discussion." Are you with me?
A Okay.
Q All right. "We had a discussion earlier today that you said quite often citizens call you and attempt to influence your vote in the discussion we had about lobbing; correct?" What was your answer?
A "That is correct."
Q "So there's nothing uncommon about someone calling you or reaching out to you to influence your vote that's what electorate and citizens and people do about issues they care about, issues they care passionately about; correct?"
A Correct.
Q Thank you. Now, you went over that you had refused to meet with Skip Hoagland regarding the chamber contract. But, in fact, earlier in the year, you had met personally with Bill Miles and he sent you information about the chambers' position as the DMO; correct?
A Yes. I believe that Mr. Miles came by the Boys and

Girls Club to take a look at our First Tee facility that was getting ready to open and I think it was in the April or May timeframe. Could have been May. And he dropped off an article that was, of course, positive about how well they were doing with the ATAX funding. This had nothing to do with the contract. And as a matter of fact, the contract and even having a contract for the chamber was never discussed at our council meetings among us until June of that year.

And council member McCann at that point brought forward the idea of considering a contract. And then we voted to go into negotiations and it was assigned to the F&A committee. So Mr. Miles was not coming to meet with me or talk to me about the contract. There wasn't even a contract out in the air as a consideration at that point in time.

Q You mean between April of 2015 and November of 2015 there was nothing moving forward or being suggested about a contract, is that your position?

MR. WALKER: Objection. That is not at all what she said. She said at the time she met with him the contract was not in the works.

THE COURT: Sustained.

Q Let me go back and re-ask it.

Didn't you meet with Bill Miles in March of 2015?

A Probably.
Q Bill Miles is the president of the Chamber of Commerce, isn't he?
A Yes, he is.
Q Bill Miles communicated to you in person and directly about the chambers' role as a DMO and as a -- and how it spends ATAX dollars; correct?
A He provided me a document about the ATAX dollars and how well the chamber was doing with them.
Q Was an article that was fluffing the chamber basically; correct?
A Sure. Yes, it was.
Q Now that obviously is intended to influence your position regarding a further chamber contract that lets the chamber be the DMO for the Town of Hilton Head?
A Mr. Brewer, at the time there was no chamber contract discussion even taking place. Bill Miles nor I at that moment in time even knew that we would be entering or talking about a contract because it was never brought forward for consideration until June of that year.
Q This meeting with Mr. Miles was only four months before your first communication with Skip Hoagland where you refused to met with him; correct?
A I guess if you do the math, somewhere in there.

Q Now, right around that same time, I said you meet with Bill Miles in March of 2015, but around April of 2015, the First Tee organization and the Boys and Girls Club together were getting a little bit of press and publicity because you guys were getting ready to open up a knew facility; right?

A We were doing a ground breaking on the First Tee which is another nonprofit organization that actually works beside the Boys and Girls Club and is on joint land that we share.

Q So the Boys and Girls Club effectively sponsored this knew nonprofit entity called the First Tee which is going to help disadvantaged children get to learn golf basically, is that fair?

A Well, the Boys and Girls Club definitely sponsored the First Tee to help establish that organization on the island. The history of that goes way back to the 1980s where the town multiple times tried to establish a First Tee organization. They wanted it because we have no public golf courses on our island and there so many children who don't have the ability to learn the game of golf or even experience playing the game of golf.

And the First Tee is also an incredible youth development organization that teaches character building and life skills, so it fit perfectly in line with what

the Boys and Girls Club supports. There had been land that was donated years ago adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club land. And this was donated land to the Town of Hilton Head Island with specifications, a requirement that that property be used in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club to provide additional recreational activities for the children of our community.

Another component of land adjacent to that went into bankruptcy. The town purchased it for $250,000 and with that mass of land decided that that would be an excellent place to finally build an organization that they had looked to bring to that community since the 1980s.

Q The lease for that land back to the Boys and Girls Club so that you could -- the Boys and Girls Club could then share it or lease it or however you did it with the First Tee came up in April of 2015 and then again in June of 2015 leading up to these November 2015 votes; correct?

A The actual lease, yes, it did. The purchase of that land was done in 2013. And you can go back and read the press release that went out with the purchase of the land where Mr. Riley is quoted specifically saying we are purchasing this land to use in conjunction with our donated land to be able to provide this for the

community.

Q But it wasn't until 2015 that the public found out that the town was going to lease it to the Boys and Girls Club for one dollar for 50 years; isn't that correct?

A I would imagine that that would be the timeframe. It took us over a year to get the chapter license.

Q Whether --

A And if I can also just make a comment about the lease and the dollar. The Town of Hilton Head is a very limited government because of the size of our island. For example, we don't have a parks and recreation department. Years ago when the government was formed, one of the things that they decided to do was to partner with nonprofit organizations to provide those types of amenities to the community. This was not the first time this was done. Costal Discovery Museum which sits on Honey Horn land is a nonprofit and it's the same exact lease where they have a land lease.

Our island rec center is the same way. The town owns it and a nonprofit organization gets to use the facility to provide those amenities to the community. And even after the First Tee lease was done, the town has done it again since then with Mitchelville Preservation Project. So that Mitchelville Beach is now

being leased to that organization for a dollar a year to provide those cultural amenities. This is a practice that's been long standing in the town so that it's able to galvanize the nonprofit resources to help provide these amenities to our community.

Q But isn't the reality that the public gets to see in the year leading up to your vote, the town giving a benefit of one dollar lease for 50 years to the Boys and Girls Club of which you are the executive director and which you are also a member of town council?

That is information that is available to the public that your voters and people who speak at these town council meetings can see and have in their heads as they are judging and criticizing you based on your votes at the November of 2015 DMO contract?

A But, Mr. Brewer, the same information about what we're doing with that land and why we're doing it and how long we had been working to do it is also made available to the public. The public was very clear about what we were doing with that property.

And as a matter of fact, the person who was really the greatest advocate for that was a gentleman named Bill Ferguson who I served on town council with early on because it was his ward. The Boys and Girls Club sits right in his ward and that was something he wanted for

his community. All of that had been out in the public for years.

Q Now the town of -- the Boys and Girls Club and the First Tee also take accommodation tax money, don't they?

A The Boys and Girls Club has a event called "Pedal Hilton Head" that is a biking event and we receive $20,000 just to market that event. And that event is extremely important to the Town of Hilton Head Island because we receive a gold standard for being a bike friendly community. We're only one of two on the entire southeast coast that has that standard. And in order for a community to qualify for that there has to be a public biking event. And that is the public biking event that allows us to qualify for that standard. An we just happened to be the benefactors of that.

Q Just for brevity, if and when I ask a yes or no question, if you'd please do us the favor, answer my question with a yes or no and then please feel free to explain your answer afterwards; is that fair?

A Thank you for that clarification.

Q Thank you. I do appreciate that.

So, to go back, but the First Tee also takes accommodation tax monies from the Town of Hilton Head, doesn't it?

A Yes, they do. They qualify for those ATAX

funding's because they operate a public small course facility that is open to all of our residents, but all of our tourists, too. And many tourists take advantage of using that facility.

Q So let me make sure I got this straight. Accommodations tax monies are public monies; right?

A They're bed tax monies.

Q That is a public tax dollar that belongs to everyone; right?

A That's correct.

Q You testified earlier that the Boys and Girls Club doesn't receive public funding, but that's not correct based on our testimony right here; correct?

A I'm sorry. I didn't think about ATAX. The Boys and Girls Club does not receive any governmental funding for our operations of our organization. We receive no direct money from the town, the county, the state, the federal government. That one event receives ATAX money.

Q In fact, just following the meeting with Bill Miles and the announcement regarding the lease for one dollar for 50 years, the First Tee actually got the Town of Hilton Head to give it $150,000 in April of 2015, didn't it?

A The First Tee was granted a community grant from the town for $150,000 to start that organization. And,

again, it's a general practice within the Town of Hilton Head Island that organizations that are nonprofit can come forward and ask for grant funds and those funds can be granted for community assets.

Q Consistent with my prior request, is the answer, yes, that the First Tee received $150,000 from the Town of Hilton Head in April of 2015?

A I'm sorry, I thought I said, yes, to begin with.

Q Thank you. I do appreciate that.

In fact, when the First Tee and the Boys and Girls Club worked with the town on the lease, the law firm that they were working with was Mr. Alford's law firm; correct?

A Yes. Mr. Alford represented the town in those days.

Q And this all would have been information that still would have been available to the public, available to people who wanted to do research about how people are connected on the island and how that might influence their votes leading up to the November 17, 2015 vote; correct?

A I'm sorry. What information are you talking about? I don't believe the negotiation between the land lease that Mr. Alford's firm was working on was in any way published. It was certainly brought to council at some

point so that it was approved and it would have been made a public document.

Q In other words, it would have been the town -- people in the town would have a way to know that Mr. Alford was working for the town, was working with you in your private capacity with the Boys and Girls Club and the First Tee organization and your entities to acquire this land for one dollar for 50 years leading up to the vote of November 17, 2015, wouldn't they?

A Mr. Alford was working on behalf of the town and we had an individual, Mike Briggs, who was the chairman of our board who's a former attorney working on our side to work out the lease.

Q I asked you a question, I'm going to switch gears to a more general set of questions about doing business in town with people you know. But if -- you have testified previously if people perceive that you're doing favors for your friends, that's something that the town and people in the town could easily see as corruption; correct?

A I'm sorry. Could you repeat that question?

Q Sure. If people perceive that you are doing business or favors for yours friends that could be seen as corruption; right?

A Well, are you talking about favors in the realm of

my position as council person?

Q Yes, ma'am.

A Well, I guess if I was doing something that I am doing for one person and wouldn't do for someone else, that could be seen as corruption.

Q Ms. Likins, would you turn to me to page 225 of your deposition. Looking at line 7.

A Okay. I've got it.

Q Now, I'm going to start, I'm going to play a video that starts with line 7.

MR. WALKER: Your Honor, we object. This doesn't seem to be the proper use of a deposition. Her answer is consistent with what she just said. She said, I suppose if I was doing something for one person and not another --

THE COURT: I sustain the objection. He certainly hasn't laid the proper foundation to impeach somebody by prior inconsistent statement.

MR. BREWER: I'll move on. No worries, Your Honor.

Q Let's move -- let's talk about the Boys and Girls Club and the allegation that you were unfit for your job at the Boys and Girls Club.

If someone was the director for the Boys and Girls Club, it's important to the community if the citizens and the public knew information that was important to

the integrity of that position; correct? I'll rephrase it. Let me ask --

A I don't understand what you're asking me.

Q Sure. Let me rephrase it. If people out in the public, citizens, had important information regarding the integrity of the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club, it would be important for the citizens to share that information with the Boys and Girls Club, wouldn't it?

A I believe that if someone had factual information that showed questionable integrity by the director of the club, then certainly the board would want to know about that.

Q And we discussed earlier that you believe that being a liar and being a corrupt -- corrupt as a politician very well fits that bill; correct?

A Well, if you're a liar and you're corrupt, yes, absolutely.

Q Although, the funny thing about that is those are all opinions, aren't they?

A Well, I think that you could substantiate that someone is corrupt or you could substantiate that someone is a liar if you actually had evidence. It wouldn't have to be an opinion if you had evidence, it would be fact.

Q To the extent that Mr. Hoagland called the Boys and Girls Club with what he thought was important information, you don't have any idea whether Mr. Hoagland truly believed that he was doing the right thing or not, do you?

A I have no idea what Mr. Hoagland thinks.

Q That's an important inquiry before the Court today is what was Mr. Hoagland's subjective belief his state of mind?

THE COURT: That is not an important inquiry to the Court today, so let's move forward. Okay. That's important potentially for defamation. That's been settled. So let's go forward. I'm not concerned about that.

MR. BREWER: I understand.

Q In terms of the emails that Mr. Hoagland did send out that you've introduced into evidence today, by and large these emails are -- go out to basically town council persons, other politicians in the area, a couple of newspaper reporters, and the Boys and Girls Club members, is that about the extent of the reach of those emails?

A Different ones go to lots of different people, it's hard to say. I mean, clearly the people that you mentioned are usually almost always copied on them.

Q And in your case, every one of these emails have a substantive information from Mr. Hoagland about the DMO contract and his belief about how various politicians including yourself have betrayed the trust of the public in some way by voting in favor of that contract; correct?

A They pretty much all have something to do with his opinion about the contract.

Q And you certainly believe that Mr. Hoagland is passionate about his political views; correct?

A I would say that passionate would probably be a good word to describe it. I might would say fanatical.

Q Now, you mentioned and went into some detail about the reasons you filed the lawsuit and about the use of town monies to pay for the lawsuit; correct? You went into that with Mr. Walker earlier.

A Correct.

Q And in going into that, I mean, you actually didn't even really think about filing the lawsuit, the town just kind of did it for you, didn't they?

MR. WALKER: Object to the form of the question.

THE COURT: Overruled.

MR. WALKER: I don't know what he's saying.

THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead.

Q You didn't even put any thought, you were asked

questions about all the thought and the reasons you filed this lawsuit, but the fact is you didn't really even think about filing the lawsuit because the town just did it for you?

A Well, no. I went and met with Mr. Alford and explained the situation that I was in and talked to him about everything that Mr. Hoagland had done and said what can we do to get this stopped? I have to get this stopped. I can't continue to allow my board to be abused and harassed like this and they're not going to be able to continue to keep me if this happens. And so with the guidance of my counsel, we filed the lawsuit.

Q Do you remember giving a different answer in a prior deposition of June 6, 2018 in the lawsuit entitled, *Skip Hoagland verses Kim Likins*?

A I'm sorry, I don't. I mean...

MR. BREWER: Your Honor, permission to approach?

THE COURT: Yes. Make that is a Court exhibit in this case, please, sir. Although, what's the case number on that case?

MR. BREWER: Case number is CA917CV1374-RMG.

THE COURT: That will be Court's Exhibit Number 2.

(WHEREUPON, Court's Exhibit Number 2 was marked and entered)

Q I'm handing you what's been marked Court's Exhibit

2 which is your deposition. If you would please turn with me to page 27 and let me know when you get there.

A Okay. I'm here.

Q Now, I'm looking at line 7. Just let me know when you're there.

A I'm here.

Q All right. "Did that not seem peculiar to you that you were initiating a lawsuit with no idea of how your lawyers were supposed to get paid?"

And was it your response, "As I stated before other than this stucco lawsuit, which was years ago, I'd never been involved in a lawsuit. I relied totally on the legal advice of counsel of the town. When this happened I reached out to Steve Riley, our town manager, because it was directly associated with my position as a council person. Steve reached out to our attorney. I met with him, explained what happened, and from that point forward they took care of it. I frankly didn't think about it. I mean this was directly associated with the town."

Wasn't that your prior testimony?

A Well, I think that that was what I was just trying to explain happened. I'm not understanding what you're saying is different than what I just testified about. That's exactly what I did.

MR. WALKER: Your Honor, at this time are we entitled to publish the other portions that are directly pertinent to that? I understand under the rule we can.

THE COURT: Yes, sir, you can under the Doctrine of Completeness.

MR. WALKER: Thank you very much.

EXAMINATION BY MR. WALKER:

Q Ms. Likins, do you have the deposition still in front of you?

A Yes, sir.

Q And would you go down to page 28, line 1. The question was, "You first went to Steve Riley via telephone?"

And would you read your answer that goes from line 22 to 21, please?

A Yes, sir.

"I believe I called Steve and I may have called Gregg also. I don't know that I got either one of them. I might have had to leave a voice mail. I do remember reaching out and then either Steve called me back or Gregg called me back. And I went to Gregg's office and sat down and explain to him what happened. What led up to that occurring was I had walked into work one morning and the Chairman of the Board of the Boys and Girls Club as well as the Chairman of the Board of the Lowcountry

called to meet with me first thing and I went in. They came" -- it says, "this came." I think it meant, "They came to my office, sat down and said we need to discuss with you what just occurred over the last couple of days. And that's when they shared with me the phone calls that were being made and what was being said and done. And that -- and they actually, one of them being an attorney himself, said, 'you need first thing to call the town and to reach out to the town's attorney.' And so based on that advice that is exactly what I did."

MR. WALKER: Thank you.

RESUMED CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. BREWER:

Q In terms of the issue of the town paying attorney's fees which Mr. Walker discussed with you when he published the advertisement for Mr. Hoagland from June of 2016. I mean, people, taxpayers, voters, could consider that a violation of the public trust or corruption, couldn't they?

THE COURT: Just go forward. That's part of the motion in limine and we decided on -- I decided last week -- and, for the record, I initially told Mr. Brewer and his client that I was going to let them, in fairness to your client, address the issue of attorney's fees in further consideration my basis for changing my mind, which I did, was that it did not -- it was not one of the

elements in Plaintiff's case in any of her causes of action against Mr. Hoagland nor part of the equitable case against Mr. Hoagland nor was it included in any of the defenses raised by Mr. Hoagland. It was not relevant to this cause -- to this case and it certainly is more prejudicial than probative; and, therefore, I'm excluding it and I continue to exclude it. If you would move on, please, sir.

MR. BREWER: Thank you, Your Honor. And just for the record, we went into it because it was addressed in the advertisement that was published which I believe was Exhibit 105 or 108.

THE COURT: Say that again, please.

MR. BREWER: I believe it was -- that information was published by the Plaintiff in Exhibit either 105 or 108 which is the June 2016 advertisement which is --

THE COURT: So you felt like he opened the door?

MR. BREWER: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Very limited then. I agree with that.

MR. BREWER: Thank you.

Q So to go back an re-ask the question I just asked a second go.

Don't you believe that people could consider it a violation of public trust that the town paid your attorney's fees?

A I think that people understand that the town paid my attorney fees because this case was to protect the due process of law. I don't believe that anybody would feel like it is right that an individual could harass and threaten and do the types of things that Mr. Hoagland did to me to try to influence my vote or either punish me for voting the way that I voted. If that happens, then we don't have any due process of law anymore. And I can tell you, no one would want to run for council and sit in that seat.

Q Would you please turn with me in your deposition to page 252. And when you get there, this is the question I asked. Didn't you previously answer differently when your deposition was taken back in June -- excuse me, September of 2017. Looking at the question starting at line 5 and looking down to your answer on line 15.

A Did you want to read it? Do you want me to read it?

Q Sure. The question at line 5 is, "Don't you -- would you agree that people might see that as a violation of public trust or an act of corruption in and of itself?"

And your answer at line 15 was, "People could certainly see that;" correct?

A That is correct. And I went further on to say that

"I can tell you that it has been made public and that I have not had one person contact me about being concerned about it."

Q And, in fact, the use of taxpayer dollars for your own private purpose is unconstitutional, isn't it?

MR. WALKER: Object to the form.

THE COURT: Sustained. Let's move forward, please.

MR. WALKER: And we also have a court ruling that it was permissible.

THE COURT: That ruling is not binding. It's on another issue and I don't -- it doesn't matter for these proceedings. But I sustain your objection and he's going to move forward and change from the issue of attorney's fees, please, sir.

MR. BREWER: Thank you, Your Honor.

Q I mean, at the end of the day, you don't have any evidence that Mr. Hoagland knows for a fact whether you're a liar or whether you tell the truth; correct?

A Well, I certainly have evidence that Mr. Hoagland two times publicly stated that I was a good person and that I certainly lived up to high standards. So I would be surprised to think that he felt differently if he had come before council and publicly stated that twice leading up to the vote of this contract.

Q You answered that question differently in September

of 2017, didn't you?

If you would please turn with me to your deposition on page 220.

A Yes.

Q The question at line 15 is, "Ms. Likins, I'm going to ask you again, what evidence do you have or do you intend on presenting to a jury that Mr. Hoagland knows for a fact that you are not a liar and that you always tell the truth?"

And your answer at line 22 was, "I don't know of any;" isn't that correct?

A That is correct. And at that time, I didn't. I had not gone back and looked at all of the videos in detail. And so I was telling you the truth.

But I can tell you that I have reviewed all of them now and I do know that twice he publically stated that I was a good person.

Q And, in fact, didn't he also write to your employers that you might be a good employee, but you failed him as a politician, you failed him in the public trust, and that reflects poorly on your job?

A He did write that, yes.

Q So, in other words, it's not inconsistent for Mr. Hoagland to think you might be a good person, but that by being a liar or a corrupt politician that that

is a poor reflection on your private life? That's his position; right?

A It could be his position. He hasn't shown anything that actually factually shows that I'm a liar or a corrupt politician.

Q But it's your burden today; correct, to prove otherwise? It's not his burden, it's yours; right?

THE COURT: Argumentative. Move forward on another issue, please, sir.

MR. BREWER: Thank you, Judge.

Q Ms. Likins, you are, just to move back real quick to the Boys and Girls Club and I'll finish up my questions with you. You are in fact the public face of the Boys and Girls Club at Hilton Head, aren't you?

A I'm certainly one of the public faces for sure.

Q I mean, nobody has a higher profile with the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head Island than you do, do you?

A Probably Stan Smith. But I would say that I certainly am up there.

Q If you turn with me in your deposition to page 71.

A Got it.

Q In September of 2017, I asked you at line 20, "There is no one else who has more public -- has a higher public profile in the Hilton Head Island unit

than you do; correct?"

And your answer at line 25 was, "That is correct;" isn't that fair?

A That is.

Q And, in, fact you're the face --

MR. WALKER: Excuse me. Your Honor, we would ask to also publish the exchange right before that.

THE COURT: Let me ask both of you, I mean, that's got such little significance in this case to me. I would ask both of you to move forward from something -- go to something that's more relevant to what we're dealing with here. But to the extent that you want the whole thing in the record, I would say --

MR. WALKER: With that comment, I'll sit down --

THE COURT: Just put the lines on the record for me.

MR. WALKER: The lines that we would publish are page 71, line 2 through line 13. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

Q My follow-up question is simply, you're the face of the Boys and Girls Club at Hilton Head Island; correct?

A Correct.

Q It's your responsibility to seek out publicity on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club at Hilton Head Island; correct?

A It's certainly my responsibility to make sure that

we market the good things that we do.

Q And you have the most media coverage of any other position than any of your board members at the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head Island; correct?

A That would be correct.

Q And you are a public person for the Boys and Girls Club, aren't you?

A I'm an employee of the Boys and Girls Club.

Q You are in the public for the Boys and Girls Club, aren't you?

A I am in the public sometimes for the Boys and Girls Club. A very -- that is a very limited part of my job. I'm responsible for running the organization.

MR. BREWER: Your Honor, I don't have any further questions for Ms. Likins at this time. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. How long are you going to be on redirect?

MR. WALKER: Maybe a minute.

THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead. Excellent.

MR. WALKER: I will try to even do it in less than a minute.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WALKER:

Q You were asked some questions about recipients of emails. Have the recipients of Mr. Hoagland's emails gone beyond those that were described to you by

Mr. Brewer?

A Absolutely.

Q Have they included people like Judge Dukes? Have you been copied on those?

A Yes. Our state representatives, our governor, SLED, sheriff's office. There are emails that have over 300 individual's names in them.

Q Can you think of any conceivable limit to the people that he has sent emails to or would send emails to?

A No. None at all.

MR. WALKER: Thank you.

MR. BREWER: Objection. Speculative, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Sustained. Thank you, ma'am. Would you stand down.

Do you have any other witnesses?

MR. WALKER: We do, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You do?

MR. WALKER: We're going to have Mike Briggs who's going to testify. We also have a Marv Lich, a short deposition. And we may publish or give to the Court, we aren't going to read it, some excerpts from Mr. Hoagland's deposition.

THE COURT: Okay. Let's take about an hour break and then we'll back at two o'clock and we'll resume at

that time.

MR. WALKER: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you guys.

(Lunch break)

(WHEREUPON, the Exhibits were remarked to their proper numbers. Court's Exhibit Number 1 is the deposition; Defendant's Exhibit Number 1 is the notice letter; Defendant's Exhibit Number 2 is the email; Defendant's Exhibit Number 3 is the attachment; Defendant's Exhibit Number 4 is the speech)

THE COURT: Call your next witness.

MR. LINTON: Your Honor, the Plaintiff has two deposition transcripts that we're going to publish portions of. And one of them is a shorter witness and we've combined our designations and the Defendant's countered designations and we will read them.

The other one is a longer -- Mr. Hoagland's deposition. And since this is a bench trial and not to use up too much of the Court's time, we had talked about just submitting the designations to the Court to review as needed.

THE COURT: Sure. So just make those your next sequential exhibits then, please. Identify them if you would, please, sir. Thank you.

MR. LINTON: Yes, Your Honor. The first is the

deposition of Marv Lich.

MR. BREWER: I want to say out loud, during my examination, we needed to at some point correct the exhibit issue. Where I was referring to exhibits, but they were technically incorrect as they had started and I don't know how the Court wants to do it --

THE COURT: At the end remind me and we'll go back and make sure we correct that. And I'm sorry I wasn't more clear with that, madam court reporter. That's my fault.

MS. SPIRES: That's fine. I redid them at lunch.

THE COURT: Do you want to say on the record and just say what they are.

MS. SPIRES: Sure. That deposition is Court's Exhibit 1, the second deposition is Court's Exhibit 2. And then the Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce is Defendant's Number 1. The email on November 17th is Defendant's 2. And Defendant's 3 is the attachment. And Defendant's 4 is the speech.

MR. BREWER: Thank you.

MR. LINTON: Your Honor, would you like Mr. Lich's original deposition be a Court's exhibit or our next exhibit?

THE COURT: Well, since you are making it witness testimony, let's make it an exhibit for you guys. But

just make the original your next sequential --

(WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 36 was marked and entered)

DEPOSITION OF MARV LICH PRESENTED BY MR. LINTON:

MR. LINTON: So this is Plaintiff's Exhibit 36 designations and counter designations from Marv Lich's deposition taken on October 26, 2016.

"Q So you're here today because of that subpoena?

A Yes, I am.

Q" --

THE COURT: Hang on. Hang on. Let me catch up with you. 36?

MR. LINTON: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Which would be your designations and the counter designations by the Defendant?

MR. LINTON: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Do you have an extra copy of that I can follow with?

(Mr. Linton hands the Court a copy)

THE COURT: I'm sorry.

MR. LINTON: Your Honor, this is the entire deposition, but it only has highlights for Plaintiff's designations.

THE COURT: Okay. Great. All right. Go ahead, I'm

sorry.

RESUME DESIGNATIONS BY MR. LINTON:

"Q And I think you said right before we went on the record that you're moving soon?

A Yes, we are. In fact, the moving van is loading us tomorrow and Friday. So we are moving to Davidson at that time.

Q North Carolina?

A North Carolina.

Q Have you worked while you've been in Hilton Head?

A No, not for money.

Q So you've been retired?

A I've been retired since 2000.

Q And are you involved with the Boys and Girls Club?

A Yes, I am.

Q And what position do you currently hold?

A My current position is president of the Boys and Girls Club of the Lowcountry.

Q And have you held other positions within that organization?

A Yes, I have. I started on the board in 2003 and held all kinds of positions, chair jobs; and then I was the president of the Hilton Head Boys and Girls Club

in fiscal 2013 and '14.

Q And could you explain to me the difference between the Hilton Head Boys and Girls Club and the Boys and Girls Club of the Lowcountry?

A Sure. The central organization is the Boys and Girls Club of the Lowcountry. And that consists of about six clubs: Hilton Head is one of them, Bluffton, Jasper, what we call north of the Broad and Shelton is part of that, and also the Bridges School. So the Lowcountry is a 501(c)(3) charter that is responsible or all the clubs.

And then the Hilton Head Club is just one of the six clubs that report to -- the presidents report to me, and then the unit directors report to another individual.

Q And when did you first meet Kim Likins?

A Approximately 5-1/2 years ago when she went to work for the Hilton Head Boys and Girls Club.

Q Have you ever been in a position where you have evaluated Kim Likins' job performance?

A Yes, I have when I was the president of the board of the Hilton Head Club.

Q And what were the results of those evaluations?

A Well, confidentially she had a very high

rating, excellent performance, one of the top performers in the total organization.

Q Does part of that evaluation include evaluating whether she is fit to continue in that position?

A Yes, it does.

Q And how is that evaluation undertaken?

A Well, we have -- it is a, if you would, a roots up kind of input system on that. The board gets together and shares inputs and the executive committee for the board then takes those inputs. The executive committee is made up of about ten people and, then the executive committee, which I was a part of as the president of the club, we would review that. And then we would take our recommendation to Chris Protz, who is the immediate boss of people like Kim Likins, the unit directors, and then we would sit down and share and evaluate and make the final evaluation; the president and Chris Protz would do that for the unit directors.

Q So as a member of the board you are more of the field team for evaluating her performance?

A Yes, that is true.

It's an unusual setting because it is a dotted line to the unit directors. The board has a dotted line to the unit directors.

Q What do you mean by dotted line?

A It means that the unit director is not pointing directly into the board. The unit director points directly into Chris Protz the CEO. That is a unique way they are set up in the Lowcountry in terms of the boys and girls organization.

Where you may have other metropolitan areas it might be a different format.

Q And what was the evaluation of Kim Likins' fitness to continue in her position on the three evaluations that you were involved with?

A It was outstanding evaluations.

Q Does that involve an evaluation of her integrity?

A Yes. Well, that is part of it.

Q Have you ever met Mr. Hoagland, Skip Hoagland the Defendant in this case?

A No, I have not.

Q And have you spoken to him?

A On the phone.

Q When was that?

A Sometime around December 5 or 3, somewhere in that area, I received a phone call from an individual who identified himself as Skip Hoagland.

Q And what phone did you receive the phone

call on?

A On my home phone.

Q And what did Mr. Hoagland tell you?

A Mr. Hoagland indicated that he wanted to talk to me about and demand that Kim Likins the executive director of the Hilton Head Club be fired because she was a liar and because she was unfit to take care of kids and that was the initial statement that he made to me.

Q And did he elaborate on what he meant by that?

A Well, he went into a lot of details on it. He talked a lot about it in a very strong language. I don't remember all the details because I was just set back by that type of call.

My experience is pretty deep in the fortune top 100 company, I was in senior management for 34 years. I was a Navy officer, and I had not received a phone call like that; not anywhere close.

Q Do you remember any of the details of what he told you?

A Just a lot of over and over about how she was a liar, and how unfit for the kids and we needed to fire her. It was that kind of theme as I recall.

Q Did he provide any facts to substantiated those claims?

A No. I think evidently he had -- as you know Kim Likins is part of the town council of the Town of Hilton Head, and from what I gather he was very disturbed, very upset about a contract that she voted in favor of for the Bluffton and Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce. And so that is my impression he was talking about that. He just felt very, very strongly about what he was saying and he was very vocal about it.

Q That information about him being upset that she had not voted the way he wanted to, did you get that from your conversation with him on the phone?

A I don't remember all of that coming up in the conversation. I don't remember because to be very candid with you it was going on a long time, a lot of heavy words about that, you know. I was just taken aback. It was a Friday afternoon as I recall when I received that call. So I don't remember if it came up, or if it was something I realized along the way. I think I was aware. He asked me if I was aware of some things about who he was. I said I knew a little bit about him, but I hadn't followed it that closely.

Q What did you know about him?

A I saw some things in the press about some things he was going on with the city. I saw a little bit of that along the way. That was what I -- that is what I

knew about. I didn't know that much because I didn't pay that much attention to it.

Q So during the conversation did Mr. Hoagland explain to you why he was telling you that Kim Likins was a liar?

A I don't recall what kind of explanation he had, because he had a very strong tone about him. He wanted her fired because he was talking about how much of a liar she was and how unfit and how dangerous it was for our kids, you know, based on -- so I don't remember exactly.

Q The same question, but with respect to her being dangerous to be around children.

Were there any -- did he tell you why it was dangerous that she be around children?

A Not that I recall.

Q Do you remember how long the call lasted?

A I don't remember the total amount of time. It was fairly lengthy in terms of at least five, ten minutes. Kind of the same language over and over.

Q What did you say on the call?

A One of the things I said I don't think I -- I would appreciate it if you did not involve the Boys and Girls Club, because I couldn't understand how they would be involved as a nonprofit organization. We have worked

hard on this island with the nonprofit organization. I did say that.

Based on everything he was saying I didn't feel it was appropriate for him to be attacking the Boys and Girls Club, because they're not involved in this situation.

Q But why did you feel like the Boys and Girls Club was being attacked?

A Because he wanted her fired and he called her a liar. Called her -- when she did not have the ability to relate well with kids, you know, that wouldn't reflect on her donors and everybody else and our donors don't feel that way.

Q Go ahead.

A I was just saying I mean she comes -- all of her contacts that she has had we have always had excellent, positive reports. The donors love her. And so that would impact if he continued to do the Boys and Girls Club thing -- that would impact -- could impact Boys and Girls Club which I felt was unfair.

Q Did you say anything else on the call?

A Not that I recall. I did say towards the end of the conversation that we -- I would meet with the appropriate people, I would review with them his comments and would evaluate it, and if we needed anymore

information I would call him back.

Q Do you know of anyone else from the Boys and Girls Club that got a call?

A As I recall I think the president of the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head got called, Mike Briggs.

Q Did you talk to him about that call you received?

A Yeah, when the call happened on Friday afternoon when I received it, we the following week I convened a meeting with the president of the Hilton Head board, Mike Briggs and Chris Protz; and we reviewed the situation and talked about any phone calls that might have got, and together we worked through the situation.

Q What do you mean you work through the situation?

A We worked through it and decided that based on everything we heard that we would contact our legal counsel in Atlanta, Georgia, which we did, advised them of the situation just like I would in the corporate world; and we had an agreement with them that if anything further occurred we would turn it over to them.

It was their advice to us, they're our legal counsel, they're very powerful in the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club is a very powerful

organization, so we had a lot of confidence in them. So that is the way we worked.

Q When you say if anything else happened you would turn it over to them, what do you mean by that?

A If we had anymore phone calls from him or from the press or from anybody else, they would contact -- they would work with our legal counsel.

Q And what was the reason for that?

A The reason for that is that this is just a good operating policy by an organization that is run I think from the standpoint that they know what they are doing.

Q And what was significant about these phone calls that would merit that type of reaction?

A Well again, I would go back to my experience as an officer in the Navy and 34 years in the Eli Lilly Company, I've never received any kind of phone call like that in my life. So that phone call is very alarming to get from somebody who demands, who has no involvement or authority to be involved in assessing a person, demands that you would fire somebody. That is a very -- that was very upsetting to us.

Q So it sounds like you took the call very seriously?

A Yes, we did. Very seriously.

Q Was your -- did you investigate the allegations that were made in the phone call?

A We reviewed our assessment of Kim Likins and everything we knew, and we had nothing that we could come up with that would be any indication at all that there was any problems. So everything that he was saying to us, we did not have any documentation. We did not have anything that would suggest there was any issues.

Q But did you endeavor to confirm that?

A Yes, we did. That is why we convened a meeting, tried to look at all the facts.

Q When Ms. Likins started was she the director of the Hilton Head Island unit? Or was she in a different position?"

MR. LINTON: This is over now on page 63.

"A She was the unit director of the Hilton Head Boys and Girls Club.

Q And is that the position she holds today?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q So in terms of positions that she has never had a promotion, because she is the highest level she can already be at at that individual club?

A When you talk about promotions, not a promotion in job title.

Q That is correct.

A But she has been rated very high in overall performance, and so she has been able to gather above average salary increases when appropriate.

Q To your understanding given that I know you don't have the details in front of you and we understand that and I understand that, is Kim Likins, whether the top number is 85 or 86 or 84, whatever the exact figure is, is Kim Likins currently at the top of the allowable salary threshold for a unit director at the Hilton Head Club level?

A She is in that upper category for excellent performance.

Q Sure, that is what I'm asking, to your knowledge for the years that you have been involved are you aware of a review that you were involved in where Kim Likins did not get a raise, whether because of budgetary constraints or performance issues?

A Here is how I will answer it, I know that she has been rated at top performance each of her years.

Q You mentioned earlier something about saying that Ms. Likins was a danger to the Boys and Girls Club.

Do you have a specific recollection of Mr. --

A Pardon me. I said what?

Q That she was a danger to the Boys and Girls

Club?

A I never said that.

Q No, no, that Mr. Hoagland said that?

A Oh.

Q Do you have a specific recollection of him saying that she was a danger to the Boys and Girls Club?

A Sorry, I misunderstood you.

Yes, I do, because. And I don't -- that is a conversation over a year ago. Quite some time.

But I do remember a lot of discussion on his part about she is very, very dangerous. You guys need to fire her right now. I remember that and talked very heavily about that.

Q And then you would expect that to the extent your unit directors' involvement with the community is an asset to the Boys and Girls Club in terms of their fundraising activities?

A I do believe that and for her it has been a major asset and the board believes that.

Q Would you agree that if you had a unit director engaging in activity or conduct that was unbefitting or unbecoming of that position at one of your unit clubs, that you would want citizens to report that conduct to you as her employer?

A If that was occurring we would welcome

somebody's report. They would have let us know. We would investigate. That is my answer.

If somebody came to us just like when he came to us, we sat down and evaluated, and I told you what action we took.

Q And is that actually the goal of the Boys and Girls Club is to have high visibility and exposure in the community because in theory that will return donors and donations to the crowd?

A Our major goal is to serve the kids that need us most in the area that we serve. That is our number one goal.

We raise funds to be able to accomplish that. So it is all about the kids with us, okay? That is the most important thing.

Q In order to raise funds to finance your main objective --

A Right.

Q -- which is taking care of boys and girls you have to have a marketing and high visibility presence in the community in order to raise those funds; correct?

A We have a high awareness in the community. We don't spend much money on marketing.

Q And to the extent it is your responsibility to make sure that you place people in the unit director

positions that will also have high visibility and high awareness in the community?

A That is our goal, and we feel we have accomplished that goal very well in Hilton Head.

Q And so generally speaking the Boys and Girls Club is not operating quitely, secretly, and behind closed door? You are trying to operate very publicly? You are trying to let people know what you do, and you expect people like Ms. Likins, your unit directors, to be the leaders of making sure the community knows what the Boys and Girls Club is doing for the community; correct?

A That is true. All our leaders are doing that including myself. That is what we are trying to do.

Q Both in terms of anything Mr. Hoagland has said about Ms. Likins in public, in newspaper articles, at town council meetings, in any advertisements in any newspaper, or to you or any members or directors or supervisors at the Boys and Girls Club, has anything Mr. Hoagland said had any affect on you or anyone you know at the Boys and Girls Club opinion of Ms. Likins?

A No.

Q Has anything that Mr. Hoagland has said, and I will kind of repeat it over and over, but town council meetings, and newspapers, in newspapers ads, or to you or other board members or supervisory person at the Boys and

Girls Club, have any of those comments by Mr. Hoagland changed your opinion regarding Ms. Likins?

A My answer to that is no. And my second answer is that we don't -- I have not spent any time getting into the details of what little bit of what I have seen in the paper. It is very disappointing to me, the whole thing.

Q When I asked you a minute ago whether your opinion had changed of Ms. Likins, as I understand it you believe Ms. Likins has a very -- you believe the organization Boys and Girls Club has a very high opinion of Ms. Likins?

A Yes.

Q You believe the Boys and Girls Club has a very high opinion of Ms. Likings' reputation?

A Yes.

Q Would you agree that Ms. Likins is in a somewhat of a public figurehead role for the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head?

A Yes, to some degree. Yes. Any unit director of our clubs is in a public role.

Q She is in someway the face of the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head?

A One of the faces, along with our 44 board members who are highly qualified, by the way.

Q With regards to Ms. Likins or with regards to the unit director in general, if the Boys and Girls Club of the Lowcountry lost confidence in a unit director's ability to have a positive reputation in the community, that would affect the Boys and Girls Club decision to keep a unit director in that position, wouldn't it?

A Yes, sir. And the first time we had any signs of any indication that somebody was not performing an outstanding manner, we would begin the process of working with them.

Q Since Mr. Hoagland has been making statements about Ms. Likins in the paper and town council meetings or to you and the Boys and Girls Club directly, have you noticed any drop in donations?

A No.

Q But certainly the words he used with you were in the context of Ms. Likins's service for you as the Boys and Girls Club; right?

A Well, when he called her a liar --

Q Yeah --

A And he called her unfit for the kids, no, that was just language he wasn't qualified to say about, because he didn't know what she was doing for us at the Boys and Girls Club. I didn't say any of that.

Q I mean you would agree with me --

A It upset me that one of our employees was being called all of those names who we think a lot of. It is very unusual. I got to tell you in my 34 years as an officer in the Navy and as a senior management person in the Eli Lilly Company I have never had any phone call anywhere close to that, and I managed probably 5,000 people over my career.

Q In general if somebody had -- in general if somebody was in fact unfit to be around boys and girls, the Boys and Girls Club would want to know that; correct?

A We would be way on top of that, believe me.

Q But the answer to my question is, yes, you would want to have that information?

A Yes. If somebody has something we would develop it and go from there. But we are very much aware of what our employees are doing."

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

MR. LINTON: And, Your Honor, the next deposition is a deposition of the Defendant Skip Hoagland.

THE COURT: Okay, sir.

MR. LINTON: And we would mark that as our next exhibit and call him. And unless the Court could like them read, we've agreed that we would submit them to the Court.

THE COURT: Just submit it. I'd just assume read it, if you don't mind.

(WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 37 was marked and entered)

MR. LINTON: And with that, Your Honor, is Plaintiff and Defendant's designations here. I'm just going to pass those up separately.

THE COURT: Great. Has she marked those yet or -- oh, she's marking just the whole thing. Okay. Good.

(WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit Numbers 11, 21 and 23 was marked for identification)

MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, we would call -- Plaintiff calls Mike Briggs.

THE COURT: Mr. Briggs, would you come around, please.

MICHAEL BRIGGS,

being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. ALFORD:

Q Good afternoon, sir.

A Good afternoon.

Q We met. My name is Gregg Alford and you are?

A Michael Briggs.

Q All right, sir. Would you please introduce yourself to the Court and tell the Court who you are and

where you reside?

A My name is Michael Briggs. I'm a retired lawyer. I live on Hilton Head Island. At the time of the events that we're going to discuss today, I lived in Bluffton in a private community out there. But we've moved back to the island.

I grew up in Alaska. Grew up on a homestead that my dad had about 13 miles outside of Anchorage. I went to school -- elementary school, high school, and college in Alaska and then went to Duke University Law School where I graduated in 1965.

I returned to Alaska. Practiced there for 23 years. Followed that with a ten year stint in Houston, Texas; four years in Washington, D.C., and the last five years of my practice was on Hilton Head as general counsel for a company called Care Core that was -- by the time I left that company I was headquartered here in Bluffton.

Q All right, sir. Are you involved with the Boys and Girls Club?

A I am.

Q All right, sir. Are you married?

A I am. I'm married to my lovely wife Mary.

Q Do you have any kids?

A Between us we have seven boys and twelve

grandchildren.

Q Okay. And your boys are adopted?

A Three of our -- I got to count them. Four of our seven kids are adopted.

Q All right, sir. What do you do at the Boys and Girls Club?

A Well, currently, I'm just a board member and chairman of the clubs capital SWORN.

Q All right, sir. Let me ask you this, when and how did you first get involved with the Boys and Girls Club? Why that? What happened?

A I retired from Care Core in 2009 and was looking for something to do with my time because I was still relatively young then. I suggested to my wife that I might want to do something for the Boy Scouts. Because I had had a really great relationship. Was a scout for many years in Alaska.

She said before you do that, go see the Boys and Girls Club. Which I did and was frankly blown away. Their mission. Their service to these needy kids impressed me. And from that point on, I was sold.

Q You're not involved actively, you're a donor?

A I am a donor.

Q Okay. Sir, how did you meet Kim Likins?

A My first job at the Boys and Girls Club, my first

position there was as more development chair which is the organization that deals with attracting and vetting potential board members. In that role, I was one of the members of a panel who interviewed candidates to replace our outgoing executive director. Kim was one of those candidates.

Q And in your interviews, why did y'all pick -- I guess you picked Kim, why?

A Well, frankly, she was far and away the most qualified candidate. She had been executive director at the Sandbox which serves kids. Kim would have to explain exactly what they do, but it involved kids.

She was passionate about kids. Obviously, cared for kids. Our mission is to serve. Our mission at the Boys and Girls Club is to serve kids and really the most needy kids in Beaufort County. And for that matter, Jasper County.

Q All right, sir. And what kind of programs do you offer -- does the Boys and Girls Club offer?

A Well, it's all after-school program. We have arrangements with the elementary school and high school and middle school. They deliver kids from the school directly to the club. And our programs include sports which includes tennis, basketball, golf now through our association with First Tee. We have a pond for fishing.

A variety of things. And we have arts and cultural programs. We have a relationship with an organization that provides a violin program for our kids. These kids have never seen a violin, let alone played one.

Q Do you -- how about do you feed the kids?

A We do feed the kids. We feed the kids two meals a day. Let me back up one step. These kids, about 70 percent of them, and, again, Kim can correct me, are on what's called free and reduced lunch at school. Which means that they come from the very most needy groups in the community.

So we feed them a wholesome meal, lunch and dinner in the summer. Just dinner in the -- during the winter months. And then through our relationship that we have with an organization called "Second Helpings," we actually get -- gather food which we make available to the children to take home, for instance, on a Friday so they will actually have wholesome meals over the weekend.

Q All right, sir. Do you care about it?

A I care very greatly about it, yes.

Q Is your care reflected in the care you took in hiring this lady, Ms. Likins?

A Again, Ms. Likins was -- Ms. Likins was the most qualified candidate. Has done an absolutely wonderful

job as executive unit director of the Hilton Head Boys and Girls Club.

Q When you all hired her, did she hold any political offices?

A No.

Q So she wasn't on the town council when you hired her?

A She was not.

Q She wasn't hired for any type of relationship?

A She was not.

Q All right, sir. Is she good with kids?

A I'm sorry.

Q Is she good with kids?

A She's terrific with kids.

Q Do you feel she is safe --

A She has children of her own. She relates to kids. She very often can be found, for instance, hugging kids, talking to kids.

Q Nurturing?

A Nurturing the kids. Yes, thank you.

Q All right, sir. When did you first hear about Mr. Hoagland and what was your first knowledge of Mr. Hoagland?

A Well, you can't live on Hilton Head Island without hearing a little bit about Skip Hoagland --

Mr. Hoagland. He is variously described in the press as a gadfly as an outspoken critic of the town council. So just by reading press accounts, occasionally watching sometimes the council's meetings, maybe all the time the council's meeting are on TV. I certainly watched some of those meetings on occasion, so I was aware of what --

Q All right, sir. And how would you describe generally your impression of his demeanor, how he acts?

A He was very vocal in his criticism of the town council particularly in relation to its relationship with the Chamber of Commerce.

Q All right, sir. And was he nice?

A Nice would not be the term I would use to describe him.

Q What term would you use?

A He tends to be in my opinion a little bit abusive -- well, a lot abusive.

Q Accusatory?

A Accusatory. Loud. Bombastic.

Q So with that background, what's the first contact you ever had with Mr. Hoagland?

A First direct contact I had with Mr. Hoagland was a telephone call that I took at my home early in December of 2015.

Q At your home telephone?

A Home telephone, that's correct.
Q Sir, after that call, did you -- was an affidavit prepared pretty much right after that?
A Very shortly after that, yes.
MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, if I may approach the witness to refresh his recollection?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.
MR. ALFORD: Does the Court care for one?
MR. BREWER: December of 2015?
MR. ALFORD: Yes.
Q Now, sir, if you'd take a moment to look at that and just refresh your recollection.
A This is the one dated in June, Mr. Alford.
Q I'm sorry. Did I pass you the wrong one? Well, it talks about your phone call with him; right? In paragraph 3. You prepared an affidavit in June as well; correct?
A It does, yes.
Q Let me get that before you. All right, sir. Here you go. I apologize.
MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, I apologize, I don't have another copy. When he finishes that you can pass it to him, I just want him to refresh his recollection.
THE COURT: Sir?
MR. ALFORD: This is his prior affidavit I handed

him the wrong one, but just to refresh his recollection and then he can pass it to the Court.

Q Does that refresh your memory, sir, about the phone call?

A It does.

Q All right, sir. So with that assistance, you get a call on your home telephone?

A I did.

Q Have you ever spoken to Mr. Hoagland before this?

A Not before that.

Q Tell us about the conversation. Tell the Court about the conversation.

A He identifies himself as Skip Hoagland. And he asked whether I knew who he was and I said, yes, sir, I do know who you are. I'm familiar with you. He then indicated that he was calling me to demand that Kim Likins be fired as executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head Island.

Q He got right to it?

A He got right to it. And this was a fairly short phone call, frankly. And he said that he was making that demand because she was a liar and was unfit to be around children.

Q What were you thinking? I mean, what did you think?

A I was frankly shocked. Nonplussed. I had no idea why anyone would demand that a person of Kim's quality be fired.

Q All right, sir. After that call -- at this time you're head of the board; right?

A I am, but for about two months had been president of the board.

Q So you're the new president of the board, Mr. Lich has moved up in the chain of command?

A That's correct.

Q All right, sir. As an officer or someone with duties to the organization, what did you do? What did you think you needed to do?

A I felt I at least had to make a thorough examination of the allegations and share with other officers of the organization what I had learned. So I reached out and talked to Marv Lich who is my immediate predecessor's president of the board and had moved his, Mr. Alford mentioned on to be a president of the Lowcountry board.

He and I then talked with Chris Protz who is -- his title is chief professional officer which is --

Q Mr. Protz is an employee?

A Mr. Protz is the employee of Boys and Girls Club of the Lowcountry which is the 501(c)(3) organization.

Q All right, sir. And I'm going to now pass you what we've marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 21. But I will tell you, I think we have a better copy here in this notebook. Because the one we've marked --

MR. ALFORD: And, madam court reporter, I will try to substitute that with you later.

Q It's not very pretty. Well, is that any better?

A Not really. But we can make do with this one.

Q All right, sir. Take a moment and look at that, if you would. And do you recall receiving this email?

A I do.

Q All right, sir. What's the date on it?

A Appears to be December 8th, which would have been roughly a week after the phone call.

Q Okay. And can you tell -- it's kind of hard for me to tell, but can you tell who all it went to?

A It's sent to -- I can't read the first one. It's sent to Marv Lich. It's sent to -- copies to -- it looks like all the members of town council.

Q Okay. What's the subject line?

A Subject line is "Re: Kim Likins town council and Boys and Girls Club employee must be terminated/lawsuit on chamber and town council coming soon."

Q All right, sir. And can you read the first -- can you read the email for us, please, sir?

A Sure.

Q "I look forward to a response on what action Boys and Girls Club will take and certainly willing to meet with all of you for more info on this case and lawsuits that will be filed. Depositions, discovery, etc. Kim Likins will be disposed and she will become part of a full page -- part of full page ads and I am sure covered by the press for her proven lie, deception, and conflict. I have cc'd David Bennett and he is aware not just -- not just Kim Likins, but others lied and deceived us --

MR. ALFORD: If you don't mind, I can skip him to another portion, Your Honor, just to speed it along, would that be okay?

THE COURT: Sure.

Q Sir, if you would, flip to the second page, the last full paragraph "As I explained to all of you," just read that part.

A "As I explained to all of you I have huge respect and see great needs for the Boys and Girls Club and the only reason I did not join or donate lately was because of Kim Likins and honestly never approached in the past. She was so corrupted by others, she was the only town council member that refused to call me to discuss this chamber issue. I reached out to Stan Smith to ask her

to call me and she refused! As I explained to you and reason I contacted you was I did not want the good name and importance of Boys and Girls Club tainted by an employee's bad action -- actions. We have an ethics committee and state laws on code of conduct. We have many in violation of this in Beaufort County like Kim Likins, Lisa Sulka, and a few others. Jeff Moss included and to date has escaped. My case will be different with Bill Miles and this chamber as I just want to talk and send emails, but actually on to file -- actually file a lawsuit. This is why so many Escape justice as others are scared to fight, have no financial means, or are not willing to take the time and spend the money. It takes money and action to fight corruption not just words, press, and emails. That eventually resulted in slowly just going away as people wear on and give up. Thx."

Q Okay. Now, so you get the phone call December 2nd?

A Correct.

Q On December 2nd on behalf of the organization, what did you do on behalf of the organization? You're in a leadership role, what did you do?

A The first thing I did was call Marv, my immediate predecessor.

Q Marv, what did you get --

A Marv Lich who is the president of the Lowcountry board. He and I talked to Chris Protz who is the chief professional officer. And then either Marv and I or all three of us initiated a call to legal counsel in Atlanta with -- where the headquarters of the Boys and Girls Club of America resides.

Briefed them on what was going on. Asked them for advice. Their advice essentially was keep us posted. See you later.

Q All right. Let me ask you this, did you also conduct any type of internal investigation to find out among your board had other people been contacted and gathered that kind of data?

A I did at some point a little bit later. I reached out to my fellow board members. Because I had learned that Mr. Hoagland had contacted a number of other board members. I asked them to forward copies of any communications that he had had with them to me and asked them to please stop emailing each other.

Q All right, sir. Mr. Hoagland referenced Stan?

A Yes, sir.

Q Stan Smith, tennis shoe? Tennis guy?

A Stan Smith heroic American tennis player.

Q And famous shoe?

A And a famous shoe.

Q Yes, sir.
A A very long term -- long time member of the board of the Boys and Girls Club.
Q Founder?
A Actually founder and the chairman of the original capital SWORN that raised the money that built the facility we're in.
Q All right, sir. I'd like to show you what's marked as Plaintiff's 11 and take a moment to look at that, if you would.
A Yes.
Q Sir, is this something you got in the course of your investigation when you contacted Mr. Smith?
A Yes. I got this post December 2, 2015. This is dated October 28, 2015.
Q Wait a minute. So all the way back in October before you ever -- before he ever reached out to you or Marv, he's reaching out to Stan?
A That's correct.
Q Okay. And -- so October 28th, and I hate to ask you to do it, sir, but would you mind just reading the first paragraph?
MR. BREWER: Objection, Your Honor. This document is not relevant to this witness.
THE COURT: I'm sorry.

MR. BREWER: This document is not relevant through this witness. This is a email between Mr. Hoagland, Stan Smith, and Kim Likins as opposed to the witness who is currently testifying.

THE COURT: I agree with that.

MR. ALFORD: Well, Your Honor, if I just briefly respond to you.

THE COURT: Briefly respond.

MR. ALFORD: This is a business record. He conducted an investigation on behalf of his organization. He gathered these records in the course of his --

THE COURT: I sustain the objection.

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. Thank you.

Q Sir, if you'll just put that exhibit down I would appreciate it.

All right, sir. Did you ultimately after your investigation and your consultation with national, did you respond to Mr. Hoagland? I'm going to pass you Defendant's 23 (verbatim), did you respond to Mr. Hoagland?

A I did.

Q All right, sir. And would you mind reading for us your response to Mr. Hoagland?

A Yes. On December 10th in an email dated or an email that was sent at 4:18. I said,

"Your demand that Kim Likins be terminated from her position at the Hilton Head Island Boys and Girls Club has been considered and is hereby rejected. Ms. Likins is an outstanding employee and has the complete support of the officers and board of the club."

Q All right, sir. While all this was going on --

MR. ALFORD: And, Your Honor, at this point, I would move to admit 21 and 23.

MR. BREWER: No objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Say that again, please.

MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, at this point I would move to admit Exhibits 21 and 23.

THE COURT: That's the one we just went over a second ago?

MR. ALFORD: Those are the first one and third, Your Honor, not the middle one that the Court asked me not to.

THE COURT: All right. Those would be admitted.

MR. ALFORD: Thank you, sir.

(WHEREUPON, Plaintiff's Exhibit Numbers 21 and 23 were entered)

Q All right, sir. While you're going through all this and you're doing these things, did there come a time when you talked to Kim about it?

A We did.

Q Okay. You and Mr. Lich?

A Marv Lich and I, yes.
Q So, let me back up. There's an organization, did it bother you as kind of the head of the organization were you concerned? Were you worried?
A Anytime you're involved in an organization that is under attack which I considered this to be, yes, of course, I was concerned.
Q Were you concerned about -- and it took time and resources of your organization to deal with it; right?
A It did.
Q Okay. So while this is going on, did you and Marv talk to Kim, tell us about that conversation.
A We talked to Kim. She explained to us what I had already gathered from the press coverage of this dispute that there was a difference of opinion between Ms. Likins and Mr. Hoagland on whether or not she had made some sort of promise to him. She convinced us that she had not made any kind of promise that she had violated. And as far as I was concerned that was the end of it.
Q Meaning, when you talk about a promise or disagreement, involving her duties as a town council person?
A Duties as a town council person in respect to the contract or relationship between the town council and

the Bluffton -- the Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce.

Q Didn't have anything to do with the Boys and Girls Clubs?

A Absolutely not.

Q All right, sir. And what was Kim's reaction? I mean, how was she?

A Kim is in my opinion a person of the highest possible moral character. So when someone calls her a liar and unfit to be around children, she reacted badly to that. She was devastated. At this point in time, of course, our meeting with Kim two or three times a week often just --

Q For what?

A -- general relationship as president of the board and unit director. She probably doesn't want me to say this, but she was more than once in tears over this subject.

Q It's been tough for her, this character assassination, hasn't it?

MR. BREWER: Objection, Your Honor.

A Again, given her --

THE COURT: I'll sustain that objection. Rephrase it.

MR. ALFORD: I'll withdraw that question.

Q The things that he said to her, what was she most worried about?
A She was worried about any impression given to the community that she was not fit to be around kids.
Q She was worried about hurting the club?
A Well, the kids are the club, so, yes.
Q And since Mr. Hoagland made his statements, is she still affected by it?
A I would say until this is all behind her if it ever is behind her, yes, she is still affected by it.
Q Do you think she's afraid of him?
A I think she's afraid --
MR. BREWER: Objection, Your Honor. Relevance.
THE COURT: Sustained.
MR. ALFORD: Withdrawn.
Q Sir, has she told you she's afraid of him?
A Has she told me what?
Q That she's afraid of him?
MR. BREWER: Objection. Leading.
A I don't recall her using those exact words.
THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead and answer.
Q What impression did you have of her?
A Of her?
Q How she felt about him? What did she say?
A As I said earlier, she was devastated that someone

would call her conduct particularly in her contact with relation to kids into question.

Q Sir, the Boys and Girls Club, what is it? Doesn't have anything to do with the program, do they?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Has he ever donated?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Have you ever heard of him coming on the property?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Have you ever heard him coming and observing in anyway having anything to do to observe Ms. Likins and her conduct --

A No, sir.

Q Do you worry that if Mr. -- on behalf of the organization, do you worry that if Mr. Hoagland isn't stopped from continuing to just have absolute freedom to attack Ms. Likins and, therefore, indirectly attack the club, do you believe it's going to hurt the club?

MR. BREWER: Objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Sustained.

MR. ALFORD: I'll withdraw and re-ask it. Thank you.

Q What do you worry about with respect to Mr. Hoagland and the club?

A The obvious issue is we raise roughly 1.1 million

dollars a year to keep the doors of the club open. To the extent that people like Mr. Hoagland create an erroneous and bad impression of the club in the eyes of the public, there is a risk that it will be more difficult, if not impossible, to raise the funds we need to keep the doors open.

Q That would be irreparable harm, wouldn't it?

THE COURT: We're not here on behalf of the club. We're only here on behalf of Ms. Likins individually.

MR. ALFORD: Thank you. I'll withdraw that question.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Q Sir, the dispute that, at least as you understand it, Mr. Hoagland has with Ms. Likins, it's political; right?

A That's my impression.

Q And yet the Boys and Girls Club and Ms. Likins at her job have been involved in it?

A Absolutely.

Q Thank you, sir. Please answer any questions Mr. Brewer has.

MR. BREWER: May it please the Court, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. BREWER: Thank you.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. BREWER:

Q Mr. Briggs, how are you doing today?
A I'm doing just fine. Thank you.
Q Good. I know Ms. Likins had a good past year for the Boys and Girls Club. I think the Boys and Girls Club was just recognized as being the, what, organization of the year by the Chamber of Commerce just this past year?
A That's correct.
(WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Number 5 was marked for identification)
MR. BREWER: Your Honor, I'm approaching the witness with what's been marked for identification as Defendant's Exhibit 5. This is a print off --
THE COURT: If you have an objection, state it, please, sir.
MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. I have an objection on the grounds of hearsay. This is a newspaper article.
THE COURT: Okay. Why would that not constitute hearsay?
MR. BREWER: I'm asking -- basically to refresh his recollection. It's a posting about the Boys and Girls Club.
THE COURT: That's not how you refresh recollection by newspaper articles. I sustain the objection.
Q Mr. Briggs, Ms. Likins was actually pictured

accepting the photograph on stage for the Boys and Girls Club just this past year for the award they got for organization of the year from the chamber; is that correct?

A That's correct.

MR. ALFORD: Your Honor -- that's fine.

Q Has the Boys and Girls Club to your knowledge hasn't suffered under Ms. Likins since 2015 whenever these statements by Mr. Hoagland were made about Ms. Likins; correct?

A I have no way of knowing to what extent, if any, the donations have lessened. But we continue to keep the doors open.

Q You were sitting here while Mr. Litches -- or Lich's, I'm sorry, testimony was read in where he was asked and answered that donations haven't dropped at all, would you is have any reason to disagree with that?

A That deposition was taken in 2016.

Q Right. Do you have any reason to disagree with that testimony?

A I don't. I don't know if there's anyway of measuring that.

Q Now, Mr. Alford asked you a question just a little while ago regarding Ms. Likins whether Mr. -- Ms. Likins's dispute with Mr. Hoagland was political.

And I think your response was, I wasn't sure what one had to do with the other. Her political dispute with Mr. Hoagland had to do with the Boys and Girls Club; is that fair?

A It's a fair characterization of what I think, yes.

Q Now, to the extent that you testified about that, it's my understanding that Ms. Likins is fairly well-known around the island as both a former council person and as the Boys and Girls Club executive director; is that correct?

MR. ALFORD: I would object. That calls for speculation. Fairly known by whom?

THE COURT: Let me stop for a second. We're talking about a permanent injunction or restraining order for an individual. So I know I referenced to her being somewhat of a public figure, and I've let you guys go, but I will remind both sides of this case we're dealing with an individual claim for a permanent injunction and we don't need to go all around the damage or alleged damage to the boys club and girls club or anything along those lines because it's irrelevant to this case. Okay.

MR. BREWER: Certainly, Your Honor. And if the Court is satisfied --

THE COURT: But I overrule your objection to the extent that it calls for her general reputation in the

community. Go ahead.

MR. BREWER: Thank you, Your Honor.

Q Certainly you're familiar with the fact that Ms. Likins has been featured in publications around the island regarding her role jointly as both the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club and a town council person and has been celebrated around the island in these kind of publications; right?

A She certainly has generated her share of press, yes.

Q Okay. And that's occurred even since Mr. Hoagland's statements or publications about her back in 2015; correct?

A That is correct.

Q If I can ask you to refer to, I think it was marked as Exhibit 21. Do you have that document, sir?

A I have Exhibit 21, yes.

Q Would you turn with me to the second page. And run down with me to the sentence that states, "We have many." Do you see that?

A I'm sorry, "We have many"?

Q Yes. "We have many in," that sentence. I want to get you to the right place.

A Can you point to me the paragraph?

Q Yes. One, two, three, looks like the fourth full

paragraph. The paragraph starts with "I did not want the good name of the Boys and Girls Club."

A Exhibit 21?

Q That's what I have.

MR. BREWER: May I approach the witness, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

Q This is what I have marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 21. Yes, sir. Directing your attention to this sentence right here.

THE COURT: Exhibit 21, as I have it, is a December 8, 20 --

A Yeah. We were on the same page. It's just in the middle of the paragraph. I'm sorry.

THE COURT: I got you.

MR. BREWER: It is. I'm sorry about that.

Q I'm asking you about the sentence. It says, "We have many in violation of this in Beaufort County like Kim Likins, Lisa Sulka, and a few others. Jeff Moss included and to date has escaped."

Jeff Moss was the Beaufort County superintendent of schools?

A He was.

Q Lost his job for creating a nepotistic position for his wife?

A Lost his job, I wouldn't -- I don't recall.

Q Were you aware that Mr. Hoagland was partly responsible for filing the ethics charges against Jeff Moss that got him -- lost him his job?

A I have no knowledge one way or the other.

Q You don't have any knowledge one way or the other if during this same timeframe that that around the date this email was sent to you that he had filed an ethics complaint against Jeff Moss for being a poor role model for the boys and girls --

A I have no knowledge one way or the other.

Q Now, I understand in your email response back to Mr. Hoagland, you immediately responded that Ms. Likins was, of course, not going to be terminated and that you effectively said the same thing to the papers and to the public at large that Ms. Likins had the full confidence in the Boys and Girls Club; correct?

A The only quibbles -- well, two quibbles. One, it wasn't exactly immediately, it was eight days after the initial phone call.

Q I understand.

A And, secondly, I have no recollection of speaking with the press.

MR. BREWER: Your Honor, may I approach the witness?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. BREWER: Can I mark this exhibit as Defendant's

Number 6.

(WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Number 6 was marked for identification)

MR. BREWER: Your Honor, I'm approaching Mr. Briggs with a copy of a newspaper article --

MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, if I may interpose an objection. It's a newspaper article. I would have a hearsay objection.

THE COURT: I couldn't hear you. I'm sorry.

MR. ALFORD: I would offer a hearsay objection, Your Honor. It's a newspaper article.

MR. BREWER: I'm offering it to refresh his recollection about the quote he made.

THE COURT: That's not how you refresh recollection, but it is responsive to him saying I didn't speak to the press. So, go ahead.

MR. BREWER: That was my point, Your Honor. Thank you.

Q This is Defendant's Exhibit 6, it's an article from December 11, 2015. Mr. Briggs, if I can turn your attention to the second page of this article --

A Excuse me. Where you got it highlighted?

Q Yes, sir. Where it has your name quoted. I'm just asking, you clearly publicly declared that, of course, you aren't going to terminate Ms. Likins, and you said

you would look into the matter and then reported to the press obviously we're not going to fire Ms. Likins; is that correct?

A I don't see the word "obviously" that you got highlighted.

Q Last line. "I met with people here at the club and we're obviously not going to fire Kim Likins."

A I'm sorry. Yes, that's what it says.

Q Okay. Now, I understand that you were also on the board of the First Tee; is that correct?

A For -- until I took over as president of the club, yes.

Q And you served on that board like Gerald Walker and other people; is that correct?

A Gerald was one. It's been a while ago, I can't remember the others.

Q Generally speaking, it was the First Tee's position that it had been able to achieve the success it did in part because of putting the right people in the right place and having the right connections with the right people; is that correct?

A Excuse me.

Q Well, let me re-ask that question. I mean, it was the First Tee's position that the things it had been able to get done was because the First Tee happened to

get people who had influence in the ability to get things done?

A Are you quoting from something that I said?

Q I'm just asking you was that the board's position?

A I have no recollection of that being the board's position.

Q Now, you were part of back and forth communications with the success of the First Tee and Ms. Likins and other members of First Tee in terms of getting this 50 year one dollar lease executed on behalf of the town; right?

A I was involved in that, yes.

Q And, in fact, it was the First Tee's position that even though Ms. Likins had recused herself from the vote on that lease, that it was her tireless work promoting the First Tee that got that lease deal done; correct?

A You seem to be quoting from something that I don't have in my hand.

Q I'm just asking if that was the position in the First Tee?

A I have no recollection of that sort of statement being made. I suppose it's possible or was. You're quoting from something.

Q This will be Exhibit 7, I think. Defendant's Exhibit 7.

THE COURT: Let's take about a five minute break. Let me see counsel in my chambers, please.

Sir, you can step down. Do not talk to anybody about your testimony.

(There was a short break taken)

THE COURT: Come back around, please, sir. I just want to put on the record that I asked counsel back in my chambers and it is my habit, I want to put the substance of our communications on the record. And if anybody wants to add to, strike from, or explain anything that I say, you certainly have a right to.

But I just wanted to reiterate to counsel that this is a restraining order and also chastise a little bit because the timeframe it's taking to do this, but also acknowledged that everybody came here geared up to do a jury trial and all of a sudden at the last minute they were able to resolve it due to great efforts of the counsel before the court. And so they did alleviate that aspect of the case and I do appreciate that much. But I asked counsel to kind of stick to the points at hand.

Now, first, from Plaintiff's counsel, do you want to add, subtract, or qualify anything I said?

MR. WALKER: That was spot on, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Brewer?

MR. BREWER: Nothing, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. Are you ready to proceed?

MR. BREWER: Yes, sir. I think just for cleanliness of the record, I think the only thing I'd like to do is just re-ask my final question and them I'm done after that.

THE COURT: Good. Thank you.

RESUME CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. BREWER:

Q Mr. Briggs, I approached you with an exhibit a little while ago.

A What are you looking for?

Q It was -- I thought you had it on you?

A You gave me two newspaper articles.

Q I thought that I handed up -- actually, it's okay.

MR. BREWER: Your Honor, I'm fine based on our conversation before. I was going to clean it up, but we're good. I withdraw my question.

THE COURT: Now you got that far. Go ahead and find it and make it an exhibit and then we're okay.

MR. BREWER: Thank you, Judge. I was carrying it with me in chambers. I'm sorry.

(WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Number 7 was marked and entered)

Q Mr. Briggs, this is Defendant's Exhibit 7. And I was just going to ask you briefly, this is an email

chain of April 22, 2015 that involved you, Kim Likins, and others that were in the First Tee organization; is that correct?

A I'm certainly copied and certainly relates to the First Tee.

Q And I was just going to ask you at the bottom if you see that last paragraph that starts with the word "Approval," do you see that?

A I'm sorry. Starts with the word "Approval"?

Q Yes. I'm sorry. Right there. Do you see that?

A What's the question?

Q I was just going to ask you if it was your understanding through this email chain that approval of both the town lease and the lease of $150,000 from the town to the First Tee happened without any presentation, question, or comments from the board and that that was partly attributed to the success of Ms. Likins?

A You know, I have no recollection of this at all. This is five years ago. I'm sorry.

Q I understand.

MR. BREWER: No further questions, Your Honor. Thank you so much.

THE COURT: Thank you very much. Anything in reply?

MR. ALFORD: No. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: May this witness be excused?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

MR. WALKER: Your Honor, we don't have anymore exhibits, but I do have a thumb drive with Exhibit 13 which is the video clip we watched in our case in chief and I was going to hand that to the court reporter with the Court's permission.

THE COURT: Absolutely. Thank you, sir. That's Number 13?

MR. WALKER: Yes, sir. It was already admitted. Thank you.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. LINTON: Your Honor, I just want to be certain that I moved in 36 and 37 into evidence, the two depositions and would so move.

THE COURT: Yes, sir, you did.

MR. LINTON: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. WALKER: That's it from the Plaintiff, Your Honor. We rest.

THE COURT: Very good. Let's just reserve all arguments until after the presentation of your case, okay.

Mr. Brewer, are you ready to go forward?

MR. BREWER: Yes, sir. We have one witness that we're going to call which is Mr. Peter Buonaiuto.

PETER BUONAIUTO,

being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. BREWER: Briefly, Your Honor. I'm sorry.

THE COURT: No problem.

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BREWER:

Q Mr. Buonaiuto, could you please introduce yourself to the Court.

A My name is Peter Buonaiuto. I'm from Hilton Head Island at the time that this all started, now living in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Q Can you tell us briefly, do you still live in Hilton Head?

A I live in Bluffton.

Q Bluffton. What do you do for a living?

A I have a company that is in the software as a service business for cash logistics, serve people on ATM machines, et cetera.

Q And how do you know -- or do you know Skip Hoagland and do you know Kim Likins, and, if so, how?

A Yes. I know both of them. I moved to the island in 2001. I believe at the onset I knew people that knew Skip. I did not know Skip very well. He and I are very much total ends of the spectrum. He is, you know, a sportsman, a hunter, that type of thing and does that

regularly. We cross paths only very seldomly in our circles.

Now, in about 2008, after I started a company here, I found that I really was butting up against the Chamber of Commerce as my biggest competitor. And it was probably going on for a number of months and I, you know, was adamant to speak with the chamber. I had a couple of discussions with them. And then I saw an ad that Skip Hoagland had run in about 2008, I believe, and I reached out to Skip. I said, you know, finally there's somebody that sees things the way that I do that the chamber does not act like a business organization or association, but rather is actually competing with the chamber.

So I took a different tact with Skip and went in a very methodical way and tried to reach out to the chamber and have them meet with me, et cetera.

But over time, Skip and I would be found fighting on the same purpose of trying to make sure that we had transparency in making sure that the chamber was not competing with its members, that type of thing. And I myself have come before town council on numerous occasions to voice my opinion which are not Skip's opinion. They may align in some ways, but I am my own person. I came up learning what I found to be

injustices and he came up his track learning them as well and we approach them differently.

Q In 2015 leading up to the vote on the DMO contract, can you very briefly just tell us from your prospective what the concern was from yourself and to the extent that you're aware of what Mr. Hoagland's concern was?

A Well, there's never been an agreement -- a written agreement between the chamber and the town which we found mysterious and this has been going on for like four decades. There was really no oversight and I overheard a couple of people say there's oversight looking at a marketing budget, that type of thing. But no one had ever done a deep dive.

And I had done a lot of research, so I had found and what I have learned is that other marketing -- destination marketing organizations throughout the country were given kind of the same funding year after year after year nobody looking into it. And we found probably a dozen or more cases where the forensic type audit was the only way that they could have found that something was going on. And it wasn't that they had to see something that was nefarious, but to not just to accept an annual audited financial statement. And we found things that were very, very bad and many communities lost millions and millions of dollars of tax

dollars.

So I was very vocal in saying, need to get an agreement. We've got to get an agreement that has teeth. This is, you know, probably starting in very early 2013, '14 of that kind of, you know, cry before going before town council. And, finally, I think with the mayorship of David Bennett, we for the first time got an ear that, yeah, we should have an agreement. We should follow our procurement things.

So we felt that things were moving in the right direction. So it wasn't the town council that said, hey, we really need to get an agreement with the chamber. They were voices -- persistent voices like myself and Skip Hoagland saying, we need to get an agreement, we need to have teeth into it, and we need to have auditing capabilities.

Q When the contract eventually was disclosed to the public, did it have the kind of teeth you were looking for?

A Not at all.

Q Let me show you what's been marked as Defendant's Exhibit 1. Do you recognize what Defendant's Exhibit 1 is?

A Yes.

Q What is that?

A This is an announcement we saw in the paper that was after months and months of knowing that town council was meeting with the chamber to get an agreement in place and was delayed many times. And then finally, it said that, "First glimpse this week of a draft of a highly anticipated contract between Hilton Head and it had been a closely guarded details of the proposed thing.

Town council intends to vote on the contract at its next meeting November 17th and council members said Tuesday they want concerned residents to bring their comments and questions to council then."

So I'm reading that. This is very important. I was really happy to see that when it came out.

Q What did you do to get ready for the November 17, 2015 town council meeting?

A I did what many other people in the community did was that they took it seriously. You know, we're getting what we asked for. And, you know, there might be people think that there's only one lone voice of Skip Hoagland or maybe two, Peter Buonaiuto along the same lines.

But there are many others there. And I'll tell you at that November 15th meeting that did take place, there were over 15 people of the community that came, they

were prepared as I did to say these are the things we need to look at in that agreement. These are things that you've been doing wrong over the past 40 years, it's time to get them corrected. And many, many good points were brought up by citizens of Hilton Head. Some of them had lived on the Hilton Head for 30 plus years, so we're very interested in doing the right thing.

Q I'm going to stop you right there and I'm going to skip and ask you a question and I'm going to come back to that meeting.

Would you grab that notebook in front of you which is the Plaintiff's set of exhibits and turn to Exhibit 21.

A Yes.

Q And just flip through that for a second and tell me if you recognize it?

THE COURT: What number is that?

MR. BREWER: Plaintiff's 21. I apologize, Your Honor.

MR. WALKER: It's 22.

MR. BREWER: It's 22, I'm so sorry. I read the tab wrong.

A 21 was -- I couldn't read it.

Q I read the wrong tab. I'm sorry. It's Plaintiff's 22. It was previously introduced.

Do you recognize the attachment to the email?
A I'm looking at a PowerPoint document.
Q Okay. Of Al Parish?
A Yes.
Q Do you recognize that attachment?
A Yes, I do.
Q How do you recognize it?
A I recognize it because I did the cut and paste into a PowerPoint on that myself.
Q I'm going to lead into that and I'm going to ask you some real brief questions. You just bear with me and then I'll let you explain it.
Did -- you created the attachment for Exhibit 22; is that correct?
A Yes, I did.
Q Did Skip Hoagland ask you to create that document?
A No, he did not.
Q Did Skip Hoagland pay you to create that document?
A No, he did not.
Q Did you create that document in conjunction or collusion with Skip Hoagland in any way?
A No, he did not.
Q All right. So now I want you to go back to the meeting of the December -- November 17th of 2015 --
A November 17th.

Q -- and I'm going to ask you this question.
A Uh-huh.
Q Did you hear Kim Likins give a speech or a presentation at that November 17, 2015 town hall meeting?
A Yes, I did.
Q Okay. Is Ms. Likins's comments at that speech related to the Al Parish document you're holding?
A Yes, it is.
Q Okay. Can you tell us what happened and what Ms. Likins said and then I'll ask you a question about how that document got created.
A Stop me if I get into areas that are beyond that. But what I'm going to say is that this was a very anticipated day. This was kind of the pinnacle of a number of years trying to get this agreement done. And we felt that, yeah, they're going to look at it and they want public comments and we're going to make sure that everybody gets their say and they're going to do it right rather than do it quickly.

So as I said, it was a packed house, probably 200 people. One side of the house 100 people. The other they were on the chamber's side. Another 100 that were there as citizens and it was a day long or many hours long of people cheerleading for the chamber and

concerned citizens getting up who had done their homework, come prepared to that meeting to say here are specific items in this agreement that you need to change.

And I think I, you know, recently went back and looked at the video through and there are probably 13 of them including two council members from the county council and two council members on that active council that said there's no need to rush this through. There's no need to do it today. There hadn't been an agreement for 40 years and there was no need especially after all of that public input that it shouldn't have been received as it was provided in the real good faith that the council members would take that information and make the agreement better.

But instead, what we found, what I found, and others there were very disappointed that it was -- and I wrote about it later it was a sham. It was a bait and switch. It wasn't come here with your comments and help us make the agreement better. It wasn't. It was to me, it was almost conspiratorial in that I believe that the four people that voted for three, four are going forward with the agreement did so with the knowledge that they would vote for it that day regardless of what the public provided in comment.

Q How does that relate to your concern or interest in the notice that was published in the paper in *The Island Packet* about this meeting and people coming with comments? How do those two connect?

A Maybe I didn't quit understand the question.

Q Sure.

A The invitation to the public?

Q Yes. Yes. What was the connection between those two concepts that the concept that they made up their mind before they got there and the invitation?

A Yeah. I mean, I don't -- I'm pretty astute especially for this subject matter and even after being in that meeting for several hours, I had no expectation that they were going to vote on that especially after all the comments that had been given. And as many of the people there said, take your time, there's no need to rush this. And that's not what happened.

And then it was four people down the line that read -- previously prepared commentary why they were voting for it did not listen to the community and their recommendations for making the agreement better. So that was a really -- a really -- a moment that I was really enraged internally. I think many people were.

Q Specifically regarding Ms. Likins, what did she say at that meeting that led to the development of that

document?

A Yeah. Like it continued to ring in my ears as she had been reading them, I was sitting there stunned that, you know, those prepared statements were there. And as I had even said prior to the vote in my -- at my comments, I said, we have to stop doing things based upon feelings. And that was directed from me towards Ms. Likins. Because that always seemed to me she was always doing things based upon feelings and very lavish in her praise about the chamber and her friends there and they're wonderful people and I wanted to make sure we don't do things based upon feelings. We have to do things based upon the facts.

And when she read that, you know, well, the reason I'm doing this is because these are people that I worship with. These are people that my kids go to school with. These are people that we do sports with. These are people, so therefore they're such wonderful people that I love and trust them and there's no way that I'm making the wrong vote on that.

Q So now tell me, how did that lead to the creation of the Al Parish document that is attached to Exhibit 22 -- Plaintiff's Exhibit 22?

A So just to understand my state of mine at the time, after several years of trying to get this agreement

pushed to that point and with the naivete, I guess, of me and at least 15 other people who did the work that day to go out there and to present their comments to find that it was just a flush of the toilet. It was already been predetermined, it was preordained and that was a very frustrating thing.

So you said what drove me to that? I started looking not just of Ms. Likins, but I did it for Tom Lennox. I did it for Bill Harkins. I did it for John McCann. And, you know, just looking, this can't be a one off. I felt that there would be something in their history and say, you know, here's a review about this person, I work with them, and, you know, their cage, whatever. But -- and I just felt that there would be some evidence that something like this had been done before.

But I think the reason I was able to find something on Kim and not the others, I think the others were older in age and I don't think they had quite the digital footprint perhaps and I did find this almost right away.

Q So when you say, "I felt something like this happened before," what's "this" that you found?

A Their behaviors in their previous lives of either converse or other decisions that they may have made.

MR. BREWER: Madam clerk, can I get this switched

over to my presentation.

(The Clerk complies)

Q Mr. Buonaiuto, where did you get the information that you used to make up the PowerPoint about Al Parish?

A I found it. I believe it was *The Post and Courier* archives of the story or somewhere. It was very easy to find, Likins, and...

Q It was information that was already out there?

A Yes.

Q So these are clips from *The Post and Courier* you got off Google?

A Yeah. This took me five minutes to do for just copy, pasting, and then I did add some of my own commentary there.

Q All right. And what was the purpose of the slide? What was it you were trying to prove?

A I guess it was self-vindication. You know, this is, you know, this shows me that somebody would make a decision be very loosey-goosey not only with their own personal funds, but if there was some personal funds in there that loosey-goosey just imagine what they're doing with the public trusted funds.

So, you know, why -- just I wanted to research. I wanted to find out more about these people that made that decision that day because I was really ticked off.

And I think a lot of other people were, too, that they went ahead with the vote.

Q I'm going to show you a portion of Ms. Likins's speech up on the screen that has been previously admitted into evidence as Exhibit 4.

Is this the portion of her speech that concerned you when creating the Al Parish slide?

A It seems to be a little condensed from what I've talked about, what I talked about which what he actually said was on tape that you can see. But, yes, those are basically all the comments that -- condensed.

Q And how did Skip Hoagland get a hold of that presentation?

A This presentation?

Q The slide show. The Al Parish PowerPoint.

A I emailed it to him and just kind of like, you know, tongue and cheek and I just said, you know, but -- and I put very bold and I even looked at it recently, December 3rd I sent it. I had been just enraged over, you know, days since that meeting, found that, and I just said to Skip, you know, do not share this, forward this to anyone. Just for your own kind of personal enjoyment basically.

Q Now, he didn't again ask you to send it, didn't pay you to send it?

A No.

Q Okay. Did you even come up with a concept with Skip Hoagland of comparing Ms. Likins to Al Parish in anyway -- or excuse me, linking her to Al Parish?

A No. I just felt that this was proof positive that, you know, her judgement on doing things based upon friendships and things like that was...

Q Did you think that this, the information of that slide show was reflective in some way on her bonafides or her credibility as a politician or a town council person?

A Yeah. As a flaw in judgement. Yes.

Q Let me ask you, I want to show you one more document, please.

Did you subsequently publish an op-ed in *The Island Packet*?

A Yes. Let me qualify that. I didn't call to publish it. Somebody heard me give this speech at a meeting -- at the town council meeting. I think it was the next following town council meeting after that November 17th meeting. And *The Packet* had someone contact me and asked if they could print that and I said that they could. I gave them permission.

MR. BREWER: Can we mark this as Exhibit -- this will be 8.

(WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Number 8 was marked for identification)

Q I'll hand you what's been marked as Defendant's Exhibit 8.

Is that the op-ed which is effectively your speech to town council that was republished in *The Island Packet* on December 6, 2015?

A Do you want me to read it?

Q I'm just asking you is that what this is?

A Oh, yes, it is.

Q What's the title of this?

A "Guest Opinion: 'Good Ole Boys and Girls' turn town council meeting into sham."

Q Okay. Is that phrase "Good Ole Boys and Girls," is that from your speech?

A It was near the end of my speech, yes, I did characterize --

Q How did you come up with that?

A I just felt it was an ole boys club and I think we really see that evident in our local politics here. And then when it was also Kim Likins it was the deciding vote it became to me a double entendre that it was the good ole Boys and Girls Club and it also had association with her being affiliated with the Boys and Girls Club as well.

Q Did you have any meeting with Skip Hoagland about that title or about that connotation?
A Not at all.
Q So you kind of linked up Ms. Likins, the Boys and Girls Club, and what was going on with the DMO contract just all on your own?
A Yes.
Q Did it have anything to do with any of the news or any publicity Ms. Likins might have had in the previous year?
A No.

MR. BREWER: Your Honor, that's all the questions I have for Mr. Buonaiuto.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. ALFORD:

Q Sir, would you agree that even with what your disagreement was with town council and how they voted and those things that calling Ms. Likins's employer and trying to get her fired in saying that she's dangerous around children crosses the line; do you agree with me?
A Only that you phrase it in that was I angry because she didn't agree with me? I was angry because she didn't do what I felt was the proper due diligence and I felt the same way about the other three people.

Now, I think -- would I call her employer, I

probably would not.

Q Yes or no, sir. Do you think it crosses a line to call her employer and tell them that she is dangerous to be around children?

MR. BREWER: Objection, Your Honor. I let Ms. Likins finish when she tried to pull the same thing with me and I let Mr. -- I'd like Mr. Buonaiuto to finish his testimony.

THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead.

Q Yes or no, please, sir. To call her employers because of a political dispute, to call her employers and say she is dangerous to be around children; do you think that crosses a line?

A If it was a threat --

Q Yes or no, sir?

A Okay. I would think it has to be qualified, but I will say, yes, for political -- you're saying because he did it for political reason or --

Q This circumstance right here. You were angry -- Mr. Hoagland was angry, you were angry about what took place at the meeting; right?

A Yes.

Q Do you think it would cross a line for Mr. Hoagland to call her employer and say she's dangerous to be around children when she works at the Boys and Girls

Club?
A I would say if there is no --
Q Yes or no?
A Well, I can't because there's not -- there are a lot of shades of gray. And I'm saying that if -- I wouldn't want my child, I would not want to be mentored by Tom Lennox, Bill Harkins, John McCann or Kim Likins based upon the decisions of that day. So do I feel it would be wrong? I would probably say, hey, I might have made the call at some point.
Q Sir, do you recall giving a deposition in a matter entitled "Peter" -- how do I pronounce your name again, sir?
A Bon-a-u-to.
Q *Peter Buonaiuto verses David Bennett, the town, Bill Harkins, Kim Likins, Lee Edwards, John McCann, Tom Lennox, Marc Grant, Steve Riley, and Brian Hulbert*; do you recall giving that deposition?
A Yes, sir, and I remember my answers on that.
Q You remember the answer you gave the question I asked you?
A I kind of qualified it as then as well. And you did push me on it and I think it had more to do with threats and it would threatening be --
Q I tell you what, sir --

THE COURT: Let him ask his question before you explain it, okay, sir?

A Certainly.

MR. WALKER: Your Honor, I'd like to mark --

THE COURT: Let's make that a Court Exhibit, please, sir.

(WHEREUPON, Court's Exhibit Number 3 was marked and entered)

Q Before we get into that deposition, Mr. and Mrs. Hoagland pay you money to write ads, write speeches, and file complaints and lawsuits for them, don't they?

A No, not all those. No.

Q Well, do they pay you to write ads?

A In the past they have.

Q Did they finance your lawsuit?

A They have loaned money for that lawsuit. Yes.

Q All right, sir. If you would be kind enough to turn to page 60 of that deposition. All right, sir. I'm on page 60, line 17.

Question -- well, line 15. Question, "She was unsafe to be around children?"

Your answer, "Okay."

Line 17, "Do you think that crosses a line?"

Would you mind reading your answer out of the

deposition, sir?

A You said, "be safe around her," was that your question just a few moments ago?

Q Sir, I'm asking you to look at your deposition.

A Okay. "I think that cross the line if it was said to be safe around her."

Q Keep going.

A "Because I don't think she would present any safety issues with children."

Q I will let you read the whole thing, keep going.

A Okay. "But on the same token, I will tell you that in infamous November 17th meeting made me think very differently of Ms. Likins, Mr. Harkins, Mr. Lennox, and who am I missing, Mr. McCann."

Q All right, sir. So the day that you gave this deposition, in the suit that you were loaned money by the Hoagland's to file, you answered that you thought it crossed the line to say she was dangerous; right?

A You said, "unsafe."

Q Unsafe. Danger. Unsafe. Yes or no, what does it say?

A Again -- okay. I think there is qualification hearings to what that means. I don't -- I'd like to know what you said just a few moments ago. What word did you use? Unsafe or dangerous or what was it?

Q Okay. We'll go slow then. On line 15, if you follow along with me. I asked you a question, "She was unsafe to be around children?"

Your answer was, "okay"?

A My answer just before that was "to be around children or to be mentoring children." And then on --

THE COURT: No, sir. Stop. Let him ask the question then you respond, please, sir.

Q I'll go up there with you.

Line 13, your answer, "To be around children or to be mentoring children?"

Question, "She was unsafe to be around children?"

Your answer on line 16. "Okay."

Line 17, "Do you think that crosses a line?"

Please read your answer.

A Okay. "I think that crosses the line if that was said to be safe around her."

Q Keep going.

A "Because I don't think she would present any safety issues with children. But on the same token, I will tell you that the infamous November 17th meeting made me think very differently of Ms. Likins, Mr. Harkins, Mr. Lennox, and Mr. McCann."

MR. WALKER: Nothing else for this witness, Your Honor.

MR. BREWER: No further questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. May this witness be excused?

MR. BREWER: Yes, he may.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir. All right. Any further witnesses, Mr. Brewer?

MR. BREWER: Not from the Defense, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything in reply?

MR. WALKER: One moment. None, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. Guys, let me ask Mr. Walker, for we all know the TRO factors, what are the elements in the task for a grant of a permanent restraining order or injunction?

MR. WALKER: Your Honor, I believe that the elements are that there is irreparable harm and there is not an adequate remedy at law. And my partners, if we can get you a case and recite it directly. And that there -- go ahead. I'm going to turn to Mr. Linton here.

MR. LINTON: Your Honor, I believe the elements would be a showing of irreparable harm, that there's no adequate remedy at law. And that the injunction is necessary. I think that's it. Irreparable harm --

THE COURT: Hasn't there been -- and I had my law clerk look and quite frankly, and I don't have the clear answer yet. But the cases I recall seems to be a balancing test that I would gage in as to any detriment

to Mr. Brewer's client, harm to the Plaintiff or benefit to the Plaintiff, and in what costs associated with that balancing. And clearly that's not a clear statement of those elements, but it's something along those lines. Do you know, Mr. Brewer?

MR. BREWER: The case I was looking at, Your Honor, was *State Record verses State*. And that's a prior restraint First Amendment injunction case. It's a media case. And there is a balancing factor in that. And basically it's balancing those elements along with are there other more -- are there other means that would achieve the restraint that the Court would seek.

It's a drastic remedy. Shouldn't be entered into likely. And I certainly would propose to the Court that I also think the same clear and convincing standard and the -- and the constitutional actual malice standards would also apply here, but we are still dealing with his free speech. And so I don't see how that initial threshold test for Mr. Hoagland doesn't still apply here.

THE COURT: Well, I appreciate that. I noted in somewhere in the readings that your own client called her a public official because of her duties with the city, but called her a private individual with regard to her work with the Boys and Girls Club.

Again, and this is thinking out loud because I need

to do some more research on the case, but it seems to me, you know, you have adequate remedies at law requirements and that is in some part satisfied by the fact that there was a settlement in the case of these other causes of action. But at the same time, it kind of falls along the lines of nuisance cases when it keeps happening, happening, and happening, and happening. There is no adequate remedy of law because of the excessiveness and the vexatiousness of the conduct in that you're being required to bring a slander defamation invasion of privacy type suit just after some point just doesn't work.

MR. WALKER: Well, that's where we are, Your Honor. Because she would have to be bringing cases again and again and again and then it would continue. And her goal is not to be compensated for damages for every time he reaches out. Her goal as you described it is a restraining order because of the insistent conduct. And you were absolutely right, Your Honor, it's not about the injury or what happens at the Boys and Girls Club, it's her life and that's two dimensional. It's her life as an individual and her employment.

And we are not saying he can't go out in the public form. He is totally free to do that. What we're asking is that we have demonstrated that she is affected by this

and it's continued and it's on and on. It is repeated. It goes on just as he sends emails to everybody else. And he just wants -- she just wants him to stop doing it to her, harassing her, and her employer.

And we are not asking for damages or anything about the Boys and Girls Club and the compensation that we have, the settlement was over here on the legal side for the money damages. But we're talking on a future basis. And as Your Honor said, although there was and we heard a case that Mr. Brewer said there was a prior restraining order on a permanent injunction, I don't think the test is the same as a preliminary injunction.

You're right, the Supreme Court needs to say there was a balance of the equities. And then was a case in 2011 where they said it's really not balance of the hardships anymore because that was getting -- that was not a success of likelihood on the merits, irreparable harm, and no adequate remedy of law, and other equitable considerations.

So we think on a permanent injunction, you know, you put aside success on the merits because we aren't doing it pendente lite up to the time of trial and it would be just as Your Honor said is there irreparable harm that is not -- can't be satisfied with a lawsuit for damages every time. And we think we've established that and we

would ask for it to be fairly narrow. That he be restrained from not contacting her employer or its board and then he should not contact or harass Plaintiff.

Whatever he wants to go out and do in the world, that's up to him. If he wants to go to the press, whatever. But we just want her life to be in peace from this day forward.

MR. BREWER: What I would say in response, Your Honor, is briefly that there's been no evidence presented that Mr. Hoagland has reached out to Ms. Likins's employer or the Boys and Girls Club since that window in 2015.

THE COURT: She testified that it happened, if I recall, within the last couple of months, four different occasions.

MR. BREWER: She received an email in the last couple of months.

THE COURT: Sir?

MR. BREWER: She said she received an email.

THE COURT: Right. But your statement was that either her employee or her and that's not correct.

MR. BREWER: I'm sorry. I intended to say her employer. The Boys and Girls Club or her employer Mr. Briggs, Mr. Lich, no one else has heard from him since then.

I do believe he is -- she has received an email, but I don't believe it's been calling her unless they want to produce it, but I have not seen it saying that she's unfit for her job. I think it's the same issues that we've been concerned about with the illegal and unconstitutional use of tax monies and the payment of the lawsuit and I know he feels very strongly about those issues. And to that extent, Your Honor, I certainly would like to protect his right to be able to speak freely in the public forum if that includes emails, that includes Ms. Likins, then so be it.

But I don't think there's any evidence that he's been attempting to have her fired, that he's been calling her unfit to be around children, or that he's reached out to her employer since that window in 2015 and here it is 2020. And that would be my response to that.

MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, may I be heard?

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. ALFORD: Okay. I'll tell you, the Court may recall we had a contempt hearing --

THE COURT: And I have the order sitting up here.

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. And that was essentially contempt of the gag order that you had previously issued. And we're prepared to go forward with some additional materials on the follow-up contempt.

And the reason I talk to you about that, not to get into that argument is, he, Mr. Hoagland -- Mr. Hoagland day one agreed to a temporary injunction.

THE COURT: That's under the masters order?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. Actually, it was in this courtroom, but the master did it. I believe it was next door actually. So we had an agreement on that. He waits and then in late June, he runs the same ads saying she's not fit. So we had to come back, make him pay 3500 bucks or something, you know, and promise not to do it anymore. Then you did a gag order and then he violated that. And, Your Honor, he hasn't stopped.

THE COURT: I will say that I don't necessarily agree -- disagree with that. When I looked in the paper this morning and happened to see where he was making comments to the press, I know you haven't seen it, and I know you didn't counsel him, Mr. Brewer, but apparently he --

MR. ALFORD: Well, Your Honor, I can tell you, Mr. Brewer's -- and it kind of made me wonder about the attorney confluent resolute mess on that, but Mr. Brewer's copied on a bunch of these emails. Maybe not the ones he was sending me at like one o'clock in the morning telling me the FBI's going to come get me tonight. I said tell him to bring pizza.

But anyway, you know, I'm serious. So that's what these emails are. Mr. Brewer's copied on a number of them where he is straight up. And so I guess that's the problem that we have.

THE COURT: Well, he is straight up --

MR. ALFORD: Violating your order, Judge. And --

THE COURT: How many of those occurred prior to me finding him in contempt? How many were after?

MR. ALFORD: This stack right here.

THE COURT: Sir?

MR. ALFORD: These are all after.

THE COURT: All after?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. And I'll tell you that this isn't all of them. This is what --

THE COURT: How many of those went to Ms. Likins? I'm not asking you for a number. Did most of them go to her?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. And, I mean, so here is one, this is the two column on last weeks. I'm sure the FBI and SLED, and all those guys, they're all talking.

THE COURT: Let's do this.

MR. ALFORD: I guess -- I'm sorry, sir.

THE COURT: I want to hear you more on the contempt that we're getting ready to do in just a second.

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. But I want to talk about the

injunction for a moment because that's really what we want.

THE COURT: Well, and you've two guys arguing against one, so -- but go ahead and make it brief.

MR. ALFORD: Well, I'm not real smart, but I'm only half of a guy.

THE COURT: Okay. Two and a half. Go ahead.

MR. ALFORD: So what I'd say, Your Honor, is this, the point of a permanent injunction and there is a balancing. Of course, there's a balancing. One person's right to do something verses anothers right to be protected from it. That's when you've kind of got to say, okay, does this guy have a right to continually attack her at her job. She isn't even a public figure anymore. How long? How long does it go on? And should we just file a new lawsuit every time he sends out an email? We're not going to do that. I mean, what do you do?

And the guy, I respectfully, Your Honor, the high/low in my view on you issuing an injunction if you do, I mean, if you did, the high/low on how fast it is before he violates it, it's going to be fast, I think. Sorry. Just like he did your gag order. Just like he did the TRO he entered into. Do I think that -- and that troubles us. I mean, you heard Kim's testimony. She's

scared nothing is going to be able to stop him anyway, but we've got to try. Otherwise, why do we have this building here? What are we doing? I mean...

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Let me just say this and this is my inclination is to grant the permanent restraining order. I think that -- I want somebody to give me the current state of the factors that I need to consider. But it seems very clear to me from the time I began this suit through today that what Mr. Hoagland as well as this witness out here today, rightfully/wrongfully, I'm not saying that their feelings about the relationship with the chamber and this MDO (verbatim) arrangement, whatever it is, is inappropriate. But they lost and it seems like the public was about equally split on what the idea was.

I think that Mr. Hoagland's being insensitive about the city paying for Ms. Likins's fee is appropriate. I think that that's inappropriate. I don't care what any other court has held. I can't see that ever being ever appropriate. But that has nothing really to do with this because that happened way after the fact and after the fact that he made these comments and continuing the courses of attack against Ms. Likins.

First, my law clerk reminded me, I want -- the gag order that I issued before ends today. Okay. The former

gag order. There's no purpose in having it. The reason I wanted it was for pretrial publicity to keep the jury pool clean. That's no longer the need.

I'm just looking through some of my notes that the crux, again, of Mr. Hoagland's complaint or efforts was to not have this, you know, he had this sweetheart deal a contract between the city and the chamber in that there be a forensic audit of the prior spending by the chamber. And when he contacted or I thought was of Ms. Likins, he said I want to talk to you about this. I want to see if we can, you know, keep you from voting for this. But and we're willing to give you a contribution to the Boys and Girls Club. And I know Stan Smith very well.

He's clearly using the stick and carrot approach with her and when she didn't bite down on that hook that he was throwing at her, he engaged in a campaign of intimidation against her that was totally uncalled for.

I tell you, the first time I read through the comments he made to her employer about not necessarily being a liar, which is bad, and I think is per se a violation under the rules of general damages in the case, but when she -- when you said she's not fit to be around boys and girls, the innuendo I had was that was some kind of solation problem. I mean, it could be read that, you know, as he tries to argue through you, Mr. Brewer, that

she's morally corrupt in bankrupt, et cetera, et cetera.

But, you know, that in and of itself there's all kinds of ways you can interpret that. But one thing you can't get away from is he's challenging her in the performance of her job. And that falls directly in the line of the prohibited acts in the per se. I mean, you don't take any innuendo to know that he's doing that. It's just -- and for him to call these people up and continue to hit her and hit her and hit her by calling the attorneys, the board's attorney, the board members to engage in conduct that we'll talk about in a minute with her attorneys with this Court where he had a disregard for anything anybody was telling him. And he still does. In my view. Based on his comments to the paper. I think that that places Ms. Likins in a position that was -- we were talking about earlier that she may have some adequate remedies in bringing him back for a rule to show cause. She may be able to bring him back for money damages. But the sheer number of the times he's done it and his sheer disregard to the orders being issued to him and the consequences of that makes me believe that he's not going to ever stop.

And I think you're probably right, Mr. Alford, we'll be back here again or somebody will be back here again because he doesn't think he's subject to going to jail.

And we're going to address that in a minute, too. Okay.

But I want -- so I'm telling you these things that I'm looking at. Because if he had a legitimate comment against this lady maybe at the very beginning because she was a public official that caused -- that caused him to start in the first place was an official act denying what he was wanting. But even then, his comments was just so over the top, it's just not -- it goes before fair -- it goes well beyond any fair comment he can make. It's not hyperbole in this case. And I know that's more defamation issues.

But clearly now, this lady although she may be the figure head of the Boys and Girls Club, I don't think she -- she's certainly not a public figure. She may be potentially a public official. I think she would be more of a limited public official if she casts herself into an argument involving the Boys and Girls Club that is a public import, et cetera, et cetera. So my point being is that I think that I'm going to grant the permanent restraining order.

MR. WALKER: We'll prepare an order, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I want you to give me some factors on that.

MR. WALKER: We will.

THE COURT: And I want to look at it. I want you to

give me just a brief memoranda on it so I can look at it --

MR. WALKER: We'll do that.

THE COURT: -- and make sure I haven't changed my mind which as Mr. Brewer knows I'm subject to do.

MR. WALKER: We'll do our best, Your Honor. And we'll get you that ASAP. Thank you.

THE COURT: Yes, sir. But --

MR. WALKER: Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Now, those being said and done, I want to go to the issue of contempt.

MR. BREWER: May I ask procedurally so I can protect the record, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I need to make them pay a bond which would be minimal in this case because of the conduct being -- is that what you were going to ask about?

MR. BREWER: Well, actually I was going to ask a couple of things real quick just because of the way testimony ended and we jumped right into this.

Do you mind if I stand for a second?

THE COURT: You can sit or stand. Let me do this while I'm thinking about it because I was going to build a safeguard in there for her that I was going -- if he violates it, the permanent restraining order or injunction. A potential defense that I want to have

built in there because of the First Amendment safeguards is that if he can establish that she was a public -- or a limited public official and it matters -- and it involving matters that would make her a limited public official, that may be a defense to him then found in contempt of the Court's order -- restraining him. Okay.

Now that being said, go ahead.

MR. BREWER: Well, what I was going to ask, Your Honor, and this is just me trying -- this is an unusual course of conduct of this trial.

THE COURT: It is.

MR. BREWER: And on the record, I want to make sure I preserve my rights in case my client would like to appeal these decisions.

THE COURT: I didn't give you a chance to argue motions or anything on this case.

MR. BREWER: Well, that's what I was going to say. I wonder, one, if it would be appropriate to ask the Court to let me request the Court for a directed verdict in favor of the Defendant. And then if the Court wants to render its ruling, I would then request -- subsequently then request a Rule 59(e) motion to reconsider and then subsequently to your ruling on that would get ten days. But I think the case law is pretty clear that's the order I have to jump through. And so

just to make -- because we've jumped back and forth --

THE COURT: I agree.

MR. BREWER: -- if the Court would allow me to jump through those hoops so I can kick those triggers for the Court of Appeals if the Court would indulge me that way.

THE COURT: And do you want to make a motion for involuntary nonsuit which is essentially what you're looking at now since it's a nonjury matter?

MR. BREWER: That's correct, Your Honor. At this time the Defendant would move for a voluntary nonsuit, dismiss the case that no reasonable fact finder or bench could find in favor of the Plaintiff on the remaining issue of injunctive relief. I certainly know what the Court's response is going to be, but I appreciate you allowing me to procedurally make that motion.

THE COURT: And I'm going to let you submit a written motion, too, within ten days to go along with the --

MR. BREWER: For my 59(e) motion to reconsider?

THE COURT: You can do it if you feel like you need to additional grounds for your motion for a nonsuit you can do it in writing within ten days.

MR. BREWER: Okay.

THE COURT: Obviously, your Rule 59 will be due within ten days after the written formal order which I'm

going to request at some point.

MR. BREWER: Okay. And so ten days after my receipt of the order on the voluntary nonsuit I'll have ten days for the 59(e) --

THE COURT: You have ten days from today to give me a written motion for involuntary nonsuit setting forth your basis of your motion.

MR. BREWER: Okay.

THE COURT: I'm going to ask Plaintiff's counsel within that same timeframe give me your memo about the factors. Okay. Then I'm going to issue a Form 4 order then you don't need to do your 59 motion until and I'll put in the Form 4 until, you know, I ask somebody draw a formal order. It may be you, but I don't think so.

MR. BREWER: So 59(e) will be due ten days --

THE COURT: After the formal order.

MR. BREWER: The formal order?

THE COURT: Right.

MR. BREWER: Formal written signed one?

THE COURT: Right.

MR. BREWER: That will come --

THE COURT: Not the Form 4. Okay.

MR. BREWER: Okay. All right. And then at that point then I guess I will --

THE COURT: Then you just got to go up on appeal.

Now, just a minute. I've already held Mr. Hoagland in contempt. But, you know, I held back sentencing for purposes of, you know, how he acted for the remainder of the trial.

MR. BREWER: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Also, I held in abeyance whether or not I would sentence him criminally or civilly because it's two different things.

MR. BREWER: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And I think that probably you'll have two different timeframes. I can't advise you at all, but if it's a criminal contempt, you know, it's a ten day trigger and if it's civil contempt it may be a 30 day trigger. I don't know. That's something I can't answer it. Okay.

MR. BREWER: I don't either, Your Honor.

THE COURT: But he's in contempt, so he's going to find one or the other. I can promise you. Okay.

MR. BREWER: Okay.

THE COURT: I can tell you, I've never had a case in the time I was a lawyer and since I was judge where I had somebody who totally disregarded anything whatsoever. I don't know whether Mr. Hoagland was flying high because of some perceived success against the school district person, but, I mean, it was clear he knew.

And it was clear when we had phone conferences about the fact that Mr. Hoagland was violating the gag order and was sitting there sending Mr. Alford, and who a bunch of other people, messages that were a clear violation of the order. We had a conference.

I remember you telling me you can't restrain his First Amendment rights. I said I can stop him commenting in this case. And that was my intent. That's why I stopped him.

Then we get -- before we can get back to court, he's emailing me personally along with everybody else. I've never seen such a thing. I quite, frankly, thought about putting him in jail right then and there. But I felt like as a better -- it might be a little more prudent to let him sit back and have that hanging over his head because maybe he would in fact play prettier for the rest of the trial. Obviously, I was wrong.

Now, that being said, Mr. Alford, I want you, if you would, to make those -- did you download those for purposes of making those exhibits for this hearing?

MR. ALFORD: I filed them about five minutes ago.

THE COURT: You did?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. I will be happy to pass it up. I just e-filed the affidavit and the exhibits.

THE COURT: Okay. I would -- I want that to be a

part of the record of this hearing. This is a hearing for the punishment phase of the contempt.

MR. ALFORD: May I approach?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, I guess this would be Plaintiff's or a Court's?

THE COURT: Make this a Court exhibit because this is part of the --

MR. ALFORD: It is my affidavit e-filed today.

THE COURT: Have you had a chance to look at it?

MR. BREWER: He just showed it to me. He said it was his only copy.

THE COURT: Take a minute and look at it. I want to do the same thing and I'll let you respond to it.

MR. ALFORD: The affidavit is essentially the same one I filed a long time ago, just the date's changed. It just says, I received these emails.

THE COURT: You received x, y, z?

MR. ALFORD: Yeah. And they're attached. And I also put the Court's order --

MR. BREWER: I'm not going to dispute he's over the age of 18, Your Honor.

MR. ALFORD: Way over.

THE COURT: Do you have an affidavit of fees with regard to the time spent and dealing with the sole issue

of contempt and any punishment associated with that?

MR. ALFORD: I do not at this juncture, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Can you get that for me?

MR. ALFORD: We can. Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Mr. Linton, can you get that for me?

MR. LINTON: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: How long do you need?

MR. LINTON: Would the same ten days be okay?

THE COURT: Yes, sir. If you can do that, great. Would you pass that forward and let me look at it.

THE COURT: Let me ask you this, Mr. Alford, when was the last time -- Mr. Alford, the last time that you -- based on your review of the communications by Mr. Hoagland to either Ms. Likins or you or anybody else, when is the last time he engaged in this pattern? I mean, because, Ms. Likins, if I'm not mistaken, did you not testify, ma'am, that he contacted you within the last two or three months four times?

MR. ALFORD: Your Honor, these are the -- this was testimony affidavits, so you can hold these while she marks, but I think it was like last week.

MS. LIKINS: I think last week.

THE COURT: Last week.

MR. ALFORD: I think so. Your Honor, that's not all of them, you know. I mean --

THE COURT: Well, you know, let me tell you something, I'd like to have as many supplement in the record to show the total disregard that he has had for this COURT and any orders emanating from this COURT.

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. If I would be allowed that ten day period to go back and haul them in.

THE COURT: Yes, sir. Now, for the record, I can sentence him up to six months and not afford him a jury trial.

MR. BREWER: Okay.

THE COURT: Okay. And I'm telling you now that I'm not going to sentence him over six months. I am going to sentence him.

MR. BREWER: I understand.

THE COURT: Okay. And let me put on the record, too, that when we met this morning, Mr. Brewer was very much objecting to me proceeding with this hearing today as to the contempt. I thought that's what I heard. And felt like it wasn't appropriate to go forward today with this. But -- and I'm going to let you be heard on it. But how old is your client?

MR. BREWER: My client is, I think he's 71 -- 72. 71, 72, somewhere in that range, Your Honor. I can verify it for you pretty quickly.

THE COURT: Well, you know, my dad will be 93 and he

plays golf every day, so I'm not that overly concerned about it.

MR. LINTON: I think he turns 72 this Friday. Friday the 13th.

THE COURT: Here's the problem that I have. I'm thinking that I'm going to sentence him criminally and I want to be heard on that. Because that way I can have an order issued and turn it over to probation and have them or somebody carry it out. If I don't, from civil standpoint, it's liable to sit downstairs and not do anything.

MR. BREWER: Okay.

THE COURT: My inclination is I'd rather have it be civil so he can purge himself of his contempt and then be done with it. But here's -- do you have anything you want to say in your client's defense?

MR. BREWER: Your Honor, as the Court rightfully brought up, we, of course, object to any contempt proceedings going forward. Certainly my client believes that he has First Amendment rights. That his belief and I don't mind telling you, Your Honor, his belief is that the initial gag order was improper, was a violation of his First Amendment rights there. Because the Court held that order in abeyance, there was not a final order to, you know, appeal at that time or anything. And that now

that the Court's coming to render a sentence on that or a decision on that --

THE COURT: Well, let me make sure that we're clear and put on the record. Now, I issued a contempt order for violations of the gag order. I didn't hold the gag order in abeyance at all. But the contempt I held punishment.

MR. BREWER: Fair, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Is that correct?

MR. BREWER: I guess that is correct, Your Honor. I apologize.

THE COURT: That's all right. I just wanted to make sure we're right.

MR. BREWER: But in any case, he feels like his First Amendment rights were violated. He had several ongoing -- and if the Court will remember, way back when Your Honor first got involved actually, we had hearings to amend the pleadings and add in a counterclaim. And his attorney --

THE COURT: Cases that were pending in Federal Court?

MR. BREWER: That's right. There was another case pending in Federal Court and Your Honor ruled -- well, because that other case was pending in Federal Court we're going to let you go on with that one. Well, his

position was that this has all been brought in one case, so be it, he had another case out here in Federal Court that was on very interrelated issues that he had the right to free speech about.

THE COURT: You know, and some of that very well may be included in some of his ranting's and ravings, but I can tell you some of the ones that stand out to me are his emails to Mr. Alford telling him what a crook he is and his law firm is. Essentially, telling me things along the same lines. I don't know that he actually said that to me, but he said, I remember it seemed pretty disparaging remarks, but it has nothing to do with the other suits. It has nothing -- it has to do with his belief that he's not bound by a gag order and he can say anything about anybody at anytime he wants to.

MR. BREWER: With all due respect --

THE COURT: Now, he's just wrong on that. Okay.

MR. BREWER: With all due respect to the Court, I'm not here to endorse the substance --

THE COURT: And you haven't the whole case. I understand that.

MR. BREWER: -- of my client's speech; however, I am doing the best I can to try to protect his First Amendment rights to state the things that he believes that are political, that he feels strongly about, and

feels passionately about. And I think the -- what I just gave the Court about his belief about there being ongoing litigation should be able to comment about is really at the core and crux of any and almost all of emails the Court's received. And we hope that the Court looks at Mr. Hoagland in that light mercifully and we appreciate the Court's mercy in that respect.

THE COURT: All right. I'm going -- this is going to be criminal contempt. It's going to be twofold. First, I'm going to find that Mr. -- I'm going to sentence Mr. Hoagland because he's already been found to be in contempt to 60 days and $2500 fine suspended to $1,000 fine and service of 100 hours public service. That public service, if he intends to do it, will start within 30 days from the date of the order that's filed in this matter.

MR. BREWER: How does that -- just because I don't practice --

THE COURT: I know he's down in Argentina. He needs to come back home.

MR. BREWER: How does that -- I just don't -- that language, I'm unfamiliar with. So it's -- he's sentenced to 60 days, $2500 fine, suspended to $1,000. And that's not my normal language.

THE COURT: I know and that's -- if you've ever

looked at a sentencing sheet that's what you have is kind of a bifurcated sentence. But anyway, what I'm going to do is let him not have to serve his time if he starts his public service within 60 days -- I mean, within 30 days.

Tell you what, and my law clerk will draft this order. Okay.

MR. BREWER: Okay.

THE COURT: Now, of that 100 hours, for every .1 -- 1.666 hours of public service he works, he will knock out one day -- no, every 1.666 days, he'll knock out --

MR. WALKER: You had it right the first time.

THE COURT: Okay. For every 1.666 hours of public service he works, he will knock out one day of his jail sentence of 60 days. Okay. But he's going to have to have this done within six months; right. Unless you petition me to get an order for good cause. Okay.

He's also going to have to pay part of the -- he's going to have to pay Plaintiff's attorney's fees incurred solely for the purposes of bringing the rule to show cause and establishing contempt and sentence. That aspect will be civil. Okay. Not criminal. And he will have -- I tell you what, you will have 30 days to get your affidavit in. If you want to file the right to cross examine Mr. Alford or Mr. Linton, you don't have any -- you don't have any input on this case, Mr. Walker,

do you on that part? You do?

MR. WALKER: After hearing what you just said, I know I didn't.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to let Mr. Alford be the lead filer for everybody over there. Okay.

MR. ALFORD: Bring it on.

THE COURT: If you want to cross examine then you have to ask to cross examine within ten days.

MR. BREWER: And that would be the purpose of which would be to cross examine the veracity of the submission, I guess, the affidavit and any of the supporting documentation?

THE COURT: It's just like any other time that you have attorney's fees being awarded in a case, they have a right -- you have the right to cross examine as to what's being requested. If they saying I worked this time and you know they didn't or it goes to something else, whatever.

MR. BREWER: I get that. I wanted to make sure that didn't cross any civil and criminal world as I understood what the Court wanted.

THE COURT: Just to award attorney's fees will be civil.

MR. BREWER: I heard you say that.

THE COURT: And then after 60 days, you know, the

difference between civil and criminal is that he will serve the criminal. Civil he can purge himself by making the payment or doing whatever he's told to do.

MR. BREWER: Okay.

THE COURT: Got me. All right. And I think I can do that. To the extent I can't, then I can't. But I think I can.

All right. You going to get me that. We'll work on the order.

Any other matters from the Plaintiff that I need to bring up? I need to address.

MR. WALKER: None, Your Honor.

MR. BREWER: Nothing from the Defense right now, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Guys, thank y'all. I appreciate it. Take care.

(WHEREUPON, Court's Exhibit Number 4 was marked and entered)

- - -END OF REQUESTED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD- - -

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF BEAUFORT)

I, KATHERINE A. SPIRES, Registered Professional Reporter for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and the evidence introduced in the trial of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Court of Common Pleas for Beaufort County, South Carolina, on the 9th of March, 2020.

I do further certify that I am neither of kin, counsel, nor interest to any party hereto.

April 14, 2020

Katherine A Spires

Katherine A. Spires

Registered Professional Reporter

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

KIM LIKINS,

Plaintiff,

vs. CASE NO. 2015-CP-07-02937

C. C. "SKIP" HOAGLAND,

Defendant.

VIDEO
DEPOSITION OF: KIM LIKINS

DATE: September 27, 2017

TIME: 10:53 AM

LOCATION: Johnson & Davis, PA
10 Pinckney Colony Road
Building 200
Bluffton, SC

TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Defendant

REPORTED BY: KELLY B. BAEKELANDT, Court Reporter

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR., & ASSOCIATES

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ALSO PRESENT:

C. C. "Skip" Hoagland

(INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

(DFT. EXH. 1, Documents contained on USB, was marked for identification.)

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Good morning. We are now on the record. Today's date is September 27th, 2017. The time is approximately 10:53 AM. This is the video deposition of Kim Likins taken by counsel for the defendant. The location today is 10 Pinckney Colony Road in Bluffton, South Carolina. My name is Douglas Browne, legal videographer representing A. William Roberts, Jr. & Associates. I am familiar with the Rule 30(h) pertaining to videotaped depositions.

This deposition is taken in the matter of Kim Likins versus C. C. Hoagland. Case Number 2015-CP-07-2937 [sic].

Counsel present, please introduce yourselves for the record.

MR. ALFORD: Gregory Alford, I represent Kim Likins.

MR. LINTON: John Linton, also Kim Likins.

MR. BREWER: Barrett Brewer, Skip Hoagland.

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: In accordance with Rule 30(h)(3), the witness has the right to be

shown the videotaped deposition unless waived by the witness and the parties.

Would the court reporter please swear in the witness and we may begin?

KIM LIKINS

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Ms. Likins, how are you doing today?

A. Not too bad, thank you.

Q. Good, good, good. My name is Barrett Brewer. I represent Skip Hoagland. We've met a number of times before in this case and we're here to take your deposition in the lawsuit that you filed against Mr. Hoagland. Have you ever given a deposition like this before? And when I say like this, where you're under oath in a lawsuit?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Can you tell me what the -- let -- let's get an idea how many. How many depositions have you given before?

A. One.

Q. All right. And what was the prior context of the deposition you've given before?

A. My husband and I were in a lawsuit with

our builder over a stucco issue.

Q. Okay. All right. And do you remember the name of the builder, like IE the name of the defendant you sued in that case?

A. I do not, I'm sorry.

Q. Okay. How long ago was it?

A. Let's see, probably 15 years ago.

Q. Okay. In Beaufort County?

A. Yes.

Q. And do you remember who your attorney was?

A. John Chakeris.

Q. Oh, okay. So were -- were there other plaintiffs other than you?

A. No.

Q. Okay. Was it John and Phillip Segui?

A. I don't remember who else, I just remember John.

Q. Okay. All right. And did your husband -- your husband is a witness in this case. Did he give a deposition too?

A. He did.

Q. All right. And you are talking about John Chakeris out of Charleston, right?

A. Yes, sir.

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Q. Okay. Gotcha. And did you guys resolve that case or try it?
A. We resolved it.
Q. All right. And it was a Beaufort County matter?
A. I believe so.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. I mean, since I live here --
Q. Right.
A. -- I would assume that it was. I know he was from Charleston.
Q. The home was located --
A. But the home was here, yes.
Q. Okay. Gotcha. All right. Well, you probably heard this when you gave the deposition 15 years ago, but I'm going to tell you again. The South Carolina Supreme Court requires me to tell you that I'm going to ask you a series of questions, it will be far ranging about anything from your background to this incident and to any of the -- the myriad facts that might surround the incident that you've sued Mr. Hoagland over. If at any time you don't understand a question I'm asking you, please just ask me to rephrase it or ask it a different way. If you give me a response, I'm

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going to presume it's the most truthful and correct answer the question I asked you. Is that fair?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Fantastic. And from time to time, you know, I always say these things start off really formal and they tend to evolve to more casual as we go through the day and if you hear me asking you to give me a yes or no answer it's because I heard you say uh-huh or huh-uh or shake your head and I just need to make sure the court reporter has a word that they can write down.
A. Okay.
Q. All right.
A. I'll do my best to remember that.
Q. No worries. No worries. All right. So tell me a little bit about yourself. Are you from the Hilton Head Beaufort County area originally?
A. No, sir.
Q. Okay. Where -- where are you from originally?
A. I was born in North Carolina.
Q. Where at?
A. Just outside of Salisbury.
Q. Okay. And I know that you are a Tar

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Heel like myself, so you graduated college there what year?
A. '83.
Q. Okay. And what did you have a degree in?
A. Communications.
Q. And I'm going to decide which way to take this, whether it's through work or through how you got --
A. Sure.
Q. -- here, but when did you get to Hilton Head after you graduated from college?
A. The first time?
Q. Well, I guess I'm look -- looking to see when you settled and got --
A. Oh, I'm sorry.
Q. -- started to live here?
A. When I married my husband.
Q. Okay. What's your --
A. And that was 1994.
Q. Okay. And what's your husband's name?
A. Steven Likins.
Q. And what does Steve do for a living?
A. He owns a timeshare resell company.
Q. Okay. All right. And does -- do you

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and Mr. Likins file joint taxes?
A. We do.
Q. All right. And are you a part owner in the company?
A. No, sir, I'm not.
Q. Do you have any ownership in any of the timeshares themselves jointly or otherwise?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. Obviously, because you file taxes jointly, I'd assume it's fair to say that you and your husband share and benefit from the income either that you receive from your private jobs or from the Town as well as from his timeshare business?
A. I would assume that to be true.
Q. Is -- is that the only business that he's in is the timeshare rental business?
A. Yes.
Q. All right.
A. Well, actually it's the resale.
Q. Oh, resale --
A. Resale.
Q. -- I apologize. And given I -- I don't have a ton of familiarity with that. How does that work as opposed to say selling homes for a living?

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A. It's very similar, just with timeshares if someone purchases a timeshare and they reach in a point in their life where they no longer desire to own it and they want to resell it --

Q. Okay.

A. -- they go to a broker like my husband who does that.

Q. All right. And is he a -- is he a licensed real estate agent?

A. He is.

Q. All right. Is he in --

A. He's a broker.

Q. Okay. And he owns his own brokerage company?

A. He does.

Q. Did you meet Mr. Likins in North Carolina or down here?

A. Down here.

Q. Gotcha.

A. On vacation.

Q. Well, let's talk -- let's -- let's get up to that vacation real quick. Tell me about -- you graduated from UNC with a degree in communications in '83.

A. Right.

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Q. You met your husband down here on vacation in '95. What did you do between '83 and '94?

A. Lived in Atlanta.

Q. Okay. Doing what?

A. I worked for a company called McKesson Corporation.

Q. And can you spell that for me?

A. M-C-K-E-S-S-O-N.

Q. All right. And what is that company?

A. It's got several divisions. I worked in the division that is healthcare information technology, so basically we sold software to hospitals.

Q. All right. And what was your position?

A. I worked there for 20 years, so I had numerous positions --

Q. When you --

A. -- throughout that time period.

Q. When you exited, what was the highest position you reached?

A. The highest position I reached was prior to exiting. The highest position I reached was an executive salesperson.

Q. Okay.

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A. That, of course, required travel basically five days a week, so when my oldest son was probably three or four, I was going to leave the company and they asked me to stay and just kind of work on special projects. So I was still employed for several years after that, but it was not at the capacity that I had prior --

Q. Okay.

A. -- priorly been.

Q. So what year did you leave?

A. 2003.

Q. Gotcha. So you at one point were working in Atlanta for McKesson Corporation, met your husband, moved here and still worked for McKesson Corporation --

A. Absolutely.

Q. -- from Hilton Head?

A. I was a telecommuter for nine years.

Q. And one thing we'll have to do that's -- that's a little unusual for how people normally have a conversation, is the court reporter has to write down what both of us say so if I'm finishing a question but you know what my question is and you try to answer it, you're going to talk over me and I'll try to refrain from talking over

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you, but we're just trying to make her life a little easier if that's okay.

A. Okay. Thank you.

Q. No worries. Again, it's lot like a conversation, just a little bit different. Now, is Mr. Likins your first husband?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. I hate always asking ladies what their age is, but what -- what's your date of birth, if you don't mind, please?

A. 10/19/1960.

Q. Okay. And since you guys have submitted some medical records in relation to this case, I need to get your social security number so I can match it up against any medical record subpoenas I might receive. What's your social security number?

A. 251-15-6582.

Q. Okay. All right. Now, I also understand, as you said earlier, you have children?

A. I do.

Q. Okay. And how many children do you have?

A. Two.

Q. What are their ages?

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A. My oldest son Ben is 21 and my youngest son Alex is 17.
Q. Okay. All right. The 21 year old I assume his full-time residence is still here in Beaufort County even though he goes to school?
A. Yes.
Q. IE, all his mail I'm sure still comes to your house, right?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Other than your two children and your husband, do you guys have other extended family -- I say extended, do you have other family here in the Beaufort County area?
A. No.
Q. Where is your husband from originally?
A. Pennsylvania, Allentown.
Q. Okay. All right. Give me -- tell me briefly about how -- how you and your husband met. I don't need the big long story, but just kind of the thumbnail sketch, if you don't mind.
A. I met my family here one summer for vacation, we took a Marriott timeshare tour, and my husband was a sales executive for them and he happened to be our sales executive and I bought a timeshare from him.

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Q. So timeshare, free luggage, and a relationship, right?
A. I guess you could put it in those words.
Q. All right. So tell me, you -- after you met in 1994, you got married when?
A. We got married in '94. I guess it was '93 when we actually met.
Q. Okay. Gotcha. All right. So you moved down here, you continued to work for McKesson Company [sic] until 2003. When McKesson Company [sic], when that position ended or you left --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- and -- and I think you said you left because it had to do with travel and your availability with raising your children?
A. Correct.
Q. All right. So what did you -- did you keep working after that?
A. I did. I actually started my own company.
Q. Okay. What year was that in?
A. It was the same year, 2003.
Q. Okay. And what was that company?
A. It was called Island Friends.

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Q. Okay. And what is Island Friends?
A. It was a publishing company.
Q. Is that LLC? Is that Inc.? Is that corp? What is that?
A. LLC.
Q. Okay. And it is registered here in South Carolina?
A. No longer. It's -- I mean, it was but I closed the company a couple of years ago.
Q. Okay. So it existed from 2003 until 2015?
A. Probably.
Q. All right. And, I'm sorry, what did you say it did?
A. It was a publishing company.
Q. All right. Were you the sole owner of it?
A. I believe that my husband owned it with me.
Q. Okay. And was he involved in the business?
A. No.
Q. What kind of publishing company was it?
A. I published two children's books, so I -- it was a self-publishing company. I wrote two

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children's books and published them through Island Friends.
Q. I did not realize we had a celebrated author here --
A. I --
Q. -- great.
A. -- I wouldn't call it celebrated.
Q. And tell me about the books you wrote.
A. The first one was called Charlie's Perfect Day.
Q. Okay.
A. And the second one was called Charlie's Special Friends. And they were early childhood children's books about a family of alligators that lived on Hilton Head and got to enjoy all the wonderful things that kids and families do here.
Q. That's great. Now, did you -- when you wrote these books, did you -- you published them -- so if you had the publishing company, you published them yourself?
A. Yeah, it's called self-publishing.
Q. Right. Which means you went through what would today be like an Amazon self-publishing type --
A. Probably. It was way before that.

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Q. Yeah, Xlibris, so on, one of those companies I guess?
A. Yeah, I'm not familiar with those.
Q. Okay. And did you sell those books here in local bookstores, I guess?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you appear locally to promote your book in, I don't know, public library, children story hours, things like that?
A. I don't recall ever being at the library. There were times that I was at the bookstores that sold them.
Q. To sign copies?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. What else did you -- in that time frame, what else would you have done that was promotional for your book here in the Hilton Head Island area -- or your books, I apologize?
A. I mean, I don't know what else I did promotional. I had fliers --
Q. All right.
A. -- that people could -- could give out or stores could give out about the book.
Q. Okay. Did you ever do public readings of the books?

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A. I did.
Q. Okay.
A. I --
Q. Where did you do that at?
A. At Hilton Head Christian Academy --
Q. Okay.
A. -- where my children went to school.
Q. All right.
A. I think I also did one at Providence Presbyterian, which is a preschool.
Q. Okay. Well, certainly something to be proud of. Were you ever featured locally in the -- I don't know what all the -- besides The Island Packet, I don't know what all the -- the local weeklies around here might be, but were you ever featured in any publications here in Beaufort County over those books?
A. I was.
Q. Tell me about those.
A. There was a story in The Island Packet about, you know, a local mom who wrote a children's book. And -- and I believe there was also in Hilton Head Monthly, similar type of story, just highlighting the fact that there was a children's book about Hilton Head.

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Q. Okay. And I know you might not remember the exact dates of publication, although you might still have the articles, I'll ask you about that in a second --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- but when about would those articles have been published about you?
A. They would have been the years that the books came out --
Q. Okay. Around about --
A. -- and that was, let's see, I think 2003 was when the first one came out --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and then 2004 probably for the next one.
Q. All right.
A. It was somewhere right in that time period.
Q. And after your last book in 2004, did you ever write any more books?
A. No, I didn't.
Q. Okay. Did you move into a different career at that point?
A. I did. I -- in -- around 2005 I became the executive director of the Sandbox Children's

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Museum.
Q. Okay. And what is that?
A. Children's Museum is kind of an interactive educational play place for usually children who are under six years old.
Q. Okay. Is that a nonprofit?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. So as one of your functions as executive director for a nonprofit, did you have to engage in fundraising?
A. Yes.
Q. Fundraising --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- is generally I'm sure the same for a lot of people, it involves you getting out in the local community?
A. Correct.
Q. Shaking a lot of hands, right?
A. I -- I -- I guess.
Q. Getting to know people who have money, resources, and funds who would be donors, correct?
A. Correct, uh-huh.
Q. Speaking at public appearances on behalf of the executive director of the Sandbox -- or, excuse me, on -- on behalf of the Sandbox

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Children's Museum?
A. Yes.
Q. And I'm assuming as executive director, in order to raise money part of your job is not only to raise -- is -- is to raise your profile publicly on behalf of the Children's Museum; is that correct?
A. I would say as an executive director you want to represent --
Q. Sure.
A. -- the organization.
Q. But the organization expects Kim Likins to be out in the public and out and talking about the Children's Museum, correct?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. You can go ahead and answer.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And -- and actually that will probably happen a lot today, they'll object to the form and unless I re -- tell you I'm going to rephrase the question, you just go ahead and answer. Okay. And alternatively unless Mr. Alford tells not to answer, you'd be expected to answer, okay?
A. Okay. I'm sorry, can you repeat that for me?

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Q. Sure. I guess what I'm asking you is the -- the -- the Sandbox Children's Museum would expect you to be out in the public eye on its behalf raising awareness about the Sandbox Children's Museum so that it can, one, receive foot traffic and, two, receive public funding and donations for people, correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I'm not sure what your definition of out in the public is, but -- but, yes, certainly on behalf of the museum I would attend events and meet with donors.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Well, we'll probably talk about that a lot today, so let's go ahead and get that out of the way. What's your definition of out in the public eye?
A. I mean, I'm not sure what a definition of the public eye is. I -- I would imagine a position where just about anybody in the public could see or know what you're doing.
Q. Okay. Obviously, if you're out promoting --
A. Uh-huh.

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Q. -- in public the Children's Sandbox [sic] Museum, you're trying to bring publicity to the Children's Sandbox [sic] Museum, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And as the executive director, you are the top person responsible at that organization for generating publicity, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And as the executive director during that time frame you worked there, you are, in fact, the face of the Sandbox Children's Museum in the public, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. I say that because, obviously, a company, the -- whether it's a nonprofit or not, the Sandbox Children's Museum isn't a living person, right, it's not -- it can't go out and speak on behalf of its own corporate self, it has to have a representative, right?
A. Sure.
Q. And so when you appear in public, when you appear in the newspapers, when you appear at events, it is Kim Likins on behalf of the -- as executive director on behalf of the Sandbox Children's Museum; is that correct?

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A. That's correct.
Q. How many years were you in the public eye as executive director of the Sandbox Children's Museum, from 2005 through when?
A. I believe it was close to three years.
Q. And were you the executive director for that entire time frame?
A. I'm sorry. Yes, I was.
Q. No worries. And tell me, when you left that position, where did you go from there?
A. I actually left that position to be a full-time mom.
Q. Okay.
A. I obviously still had my children's books and so that was just a little bit of work. It was primarily just, you know, filling orders when people ordered them. And I did that for several months.
Q. Okay. So several months, so that didn't take up all of 2008 or 9 I guess and you went back to work somewhere else?
A. I did.
Q. Okay.
A. I think it was probably maybe nine or ten months and then I --

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Q. Okay.
A. -- went to work part time for Main Street Youth Theater.
Q. All right. What is Main Street Youth Theater -- Theater?
A. Main Street Youth Theater is an organization that basically provides opportunities for community youth to participate in live theater.
Q. Okay. And what was your position there technically, your title?
A. I was the executive director.
Q. All right. So, as I understand it, it's the same position that you had with the Sandbox Children's Museum, but, having worked for a nonprofit myself, I'm assuming they didn't have the funds to pay someone to be an executive director full time which is why you had a part-time position?
A. Well, I -- I -- I would say you're correct, they didn't have the funds. But it really was a part-time position because at that point in my life I wasn't interested in working full time --
Q. Sure.
A. -- I just wanted to work part time. And my job was a little bit different in the sense

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that I didn't oversee the operations, they had other individuals who were responsible --
Q. Right.
A. -- for that. My position was primarily PR and marketing and resource development.
Q. Okay. And in that context, PR, marketing, resource development, that's really most of what we talked about that you did other than the operational aspects for the children's -- the Sandbox Children's Museum, correct?
A. Yes, that is correct.
Q. And -- and let's just kind of split that in two things to make sure we're having the same conversation here, but the operational aspect would be running the day-to-days of the business, right?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. That's right? I need you to say yes.
A. Oh, I'm sorry, yes.
Q. That's okay.
A. Yes.
Q. And it's no big deal, you don't have to say it to the camera, I just need the court reporter to hear you say yes or no, all right?
A. Okay.

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Q. And I'll remind you and it's going to happen again, don't worry. So when you're running the day-to-day -- day operations, you're making sure the employees show up, they do their job, that the things that you're supposed to be doing to fulfill the missions of the organization are being done, right?
A. That is correct.
Q. And then the other side is what we spent a lot of time talking about with the Sandbox Children's Museum where you spend time out in the public eye performing PR, making sure the community is aware of this resource, aware that it's there so that they come, they attend, they helps raise ticket sales, and also helps you in fundraising when it's time to do your annual or multiyear or fundraising events to raise money for that organization?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. That's just such a long -- well, I'm just going to object to the form.
MR. BREWER: Thank you.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. You can answer.
A. Can I just clarify? I'm sorry --

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Q. Sure.
A. -- at the Sandbox Children's Museum, I was responsible for all of those activities, the operations --
Q. Yeah.
A. -- and the, as you defined, the other component, the resource development, the marketing. At Main Street, I was just the resource development marketing individual.
Q. And that's my point. And my -- my point is the things we talked about at Sandbox, we focused on what your -- your public duties were a lot, we didn't talk much about what your day-to-days were. So in that context, the function, even if the time you spent was a little different, the function and role of being in the public eye for the Sandbox Children's Museum is similar if not identical to the function and role you played for the Main Street Theater in terms of raising money and raising public awareness for that entity?
A. Yes, similar.
Q. And in that context, that also required you to be out in the public eye, correct?
A. Correct.

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Q. To attend events and be the face of the Main Street Theater?
A. Correct.
Q. To help raise money for the Main Street Theater?
A. Correct.
Q. Which meant making yourself available and making people with funds who might donate aware of your presence?
A. Correct.
Q. Being out in the community, correct?
A. Correct, uh-huh.
Q. And both with the Children's Museum of the Sandbox -- Sandbox Children's Museum and with the Main Street Theater, I would assume you probably worked a lot with people at the Town of Hilton Head?
A. Not really.
Q. Okay. Did you work with people at the Chamber of Commerce?
A. Not -- not very --
Q. Okay.
A. -- much. The only connection with the Town for either organization is that both organizations did apply and receive ATAX funding.

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Q. Okay. And to that context, that would answer the question I was asking, you would have to appear before ATAX committee members?
A. Correct.
Q. To ask for the monies?
A. Yes.
Q. And then subsequently when that recommendation, whether it was an up or down recommendation, went -- went before town council, you would likely appear before town council to ensure you got those funds and the vote went through?
A. I don't recall appearing before town council. Usually council discusses that without having individuals come forward.
Q. Okay.
A. I'm sure I would have probably been in the room during the discussion listening to it.
Q. Did you ever during your time working for Sandbox Children's Museum and the Main Street Youth Theater spend time lobbying either ATAX committee members or town council persons to approve funding for the organizations that you represented?
A. What do you mean by lobbying?

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Q. Well, let's take a step back. You're on town council now, right?
A. Correct.
Q. Would you say that people lobby you under your definition of it? And we'll -- I'm going to ask you what that is in a minute.
MR. ALFORD: Yeah, I'm going to object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I mean, I'm not sure lobbying seems like a -- a broad were. Do individuals speak to me about their desires about issues? Absolutely.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. How do you define lobbying? I mean, you -- you would agree that lobbying is something that's pretty pervasive in the political context, right, even at the local level like -- like you serve on?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know how you determine if something is pervasive. I don't feel as though that I'm frequently lobbied by individuals in the community. Absolutely if someone is passionate about something, they will

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reach out to me to talk to me about it or they may come forward or they may send e-mails.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Do you consider that a form of lobbying?
A. Again, I'm not sure what your definition of lobbying is. I -- I define it more as someone who has an interest and they want to share their thoughts and feelings and -- and educate you about something.
Q. Okay. So to make sure we're on the same page, you define lobbying as someone who has an interest and wants to reach out to an elected politician to educate them about it, correct?
A. Sure.
Q. Under that definition, are you lobbied by your constituents?
A. Yes, sometimes I am.
Q. On behalf of the Sandbox Children's Museum and the Main Street Theater, did you lobby either ATAX committee members or town council members to approve funding for the organizations you represented?
A. I don't recall reaching out to town council members or ATAX committee members other

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than participating in the presentations.
Q. During your years with either the Sandbox Children's Museum or the Main Street Youth Theater, were you ever either featured or quoted in any local publications whether that be online publications or print media publications?
A. I'd imagine that I was.
Q. Give me an idea how many times do you think you appeared in the paper on behalf of Sandbox Children's Museum or the Main Street Theater? And, again, either online, in print media, whether it be The Island Packet or a Hilton Head Island Monthly -- Monthly or its equivalent.
A. Well, you have to remember in those days there wasn't a whole lot of online. I would say probably less than five.
Q. Okay.
A. Maybe ten if it was online. I just can't remember in the Main Street days if that was online or not.
Q. When did your time as executive director for the Main -- Main -- is it Main Line or Main Street?
A. Main Street.
Q. Main Street Youth Theater, when -- you

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started in 2009 is that what you said?
A. Roughly somewhere in there.
Q. So 2009 through when? You said three years, I think?
A. Yes, through I believe it was the summer of 2011.
Q. Okay. All right. So summer of 2011 you I'm assuming resigned your position with the Main Street --
A. I did.
Q. -- Youth Theater?
What did you -- what did you do after that?
A. I was a mom again --
Q. Okay.
A. -- for a while until I applied and received the job as the director of the Boys & Girls Club on Hilton Head. And that was in the fall of 2011.
Q. And between the summer of 2011 and fall of 2011, that's the time when you said you were a mom again for a little bit, right?
A. Right.
Q. Right.
A. Uh-huh.

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Q. During all those years that you had children and they were enrolled in school I understand, did you send them to a local private school here?
A. They did [sic].
Q. Okay.
A. They went to preschool at First Presbyterian Day School --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and then from there to Hilton Head Christian Academy.
Q. Okay. And is that a -- Hilton Head Christian like a K through 12?
A. It is.
Q. Okay.
A. Yes.
Q. And I understand you've been very involved with that institution over the years, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. All right. Have you been head of the PTA? Do they have PTAs? I don't know.
A. They have parent/teacher fellowships --
Q. Oh.
A. -- so it's very similar to a PTA. But,

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no, I was -- I was never the head. I actually was on the PTA board.
Q. Okay. You were involved in the -- involved in that institution consistently while all your children were in school there, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And so, gosh, you had two kids there, so it'd be more than 12 years, so they were three years apart, so 15 years?
A. Almost four and half years apart.
Q. Okay. Four and a half years apart, so what's that math, 12 plus 4 -- 16 and a half years that you've had children in that school?
A. That -- that would be accurate.
Q. And would you say that amongst the other parents and teachers and administrators involved in that school --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- that you would be well known to those people?
A. Some years more so than others.
Q. Sure. You were very involved --
A. (Nodding head up and down.)
Q. -- is that correct?
A. At different times I was involved, yes.

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Q. If there were fundraising activities, you were obviously very good at PR, marketing, and fundraising, you -- I'm sure you participated in fundraising activities on behalf of the school?

A. I didn't really do a lot of fundraising for the Christian Academy unless it was -- involved with my children selling Christmas paper --

Q. Okay.

A. -- or things like that.

Q. What -- what would be your involvement publicly with that school that we haven't discussed that you would have been involved with?

A. I was on the board --

Q. Okay.

A. -- of the Christian Academy.

Q. Gotcha.

A. And I was chairman of the board for I believe it was two and a half years, may have been three years.

Q. Now, I have young children who aren't at that stage yet, but I'm assuming that being chairman of the board of the Christian Academy is a -- probably a slightly higher up the food chain position than head of the parent/teacher fellowship. Does that sound right?

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A. I would imagine so, yes.

Q. Okay. You're -- and, in fact, as chairman of the board, you are defacto the head of the institution for the years that you're the chairman; is that correct?

A. Well, it's a governance policy board, so --

Q. Okay.

A. -- we had no responsibility whatsoever in association with families or children --

Q. Sure.

A. -- or other teacher employment. The headmaster of the school reported to the board and that was it.

Q. You weren't educating the children as chairman?

A. No.

Q. But as chairman of the board and as a member of the board, outside of the administrative professionals hired to run it, you were, again, the public face of the -- the school in --

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- in the community, correct?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

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THE WITNESS: I would not say that I was the public face of the school. Of a school, the headmaster is --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay.

A. -- the public face. Very few people can often even define who's on a board.

Q. Okay. Did you in your years as a board member and chairman of the board of the private school your children attended --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- did you ever make public appearances on behalf of the school?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Okay. Were you ever in the years that you were a board member or chairman of the board of the private school your children attended, did you ever -- were you ever featured or quoted in any publication whether it be online or in print media?

A. Possibly.

Q. How many children on average attend that school K through 12?

A. It varies from year to year. Usually roughly around 400.

Q. Okay. I -- I really don't know much about the schools here in the area. Is it one of many K through 12 level private schools here in the area or one of a few?

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A. Oh, one of a few.

Q. And so if you're a parent or a person here in Hilton Head Island, you would likely be familiar with your school because it's one of only a handful of private schools here on the island?

A. If you're interested in Christian education, I would imagine that you would be. Beyond that, there's probably little reason that you would necessarily know that much about the school.

Q. Okay.

A. Most of the kids on the island do attend public school.

Q. Okay. All right. So tell me about in 2011 when you began working for the Boys & Girls Club, what was the position you took?

A. The director of the Hilton Head Island unit.

Q. All right. So, as I understand it, to make that down briefly if I can --

A. Sure.

Q. -- there's -- I might say it

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incorrectly, it's the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry; is that correct?
A. That is the 501(c)(3).
Q. And it subdivides into units. There's a Hilton Head Island unit?
A. Correct.
Q. There's a Bluffton unit?
A. Correct.
Q. Is there another unit in that hierarchy?
A. Yes, Jasper --
Q. Jasper.
A. -- has a club and Beaufort has several clubs.
Q. Okay. IE the county or the town?
A. Oh, we're not associated with -- oh -- oh, you mean just in the county at --
Q. You said Beaufort has several clubs --
A. Yeah.
Q. -- are you referring to the town -- the city of Beaufort or the county of Beaufort?
A. The county of Beaufort. There's two or three clubs that are housed at different schools in Beaufort County.
Q. Okay. So there would be somebody in

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charge of the entity which is the executive -- well, excuse me, the -- the -- the lowcountry -- God, how do I say that right -- the Boys & Girls Club of the -- of the Lowcountry, correct?
A. The executive director.
Q. All right. And you -- that's a separate position than yours; is that correct?
A. Correct.
Q. All right. And as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of -- of the Hilton Head Island unit of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry, were your responsibilities much the same as they were for the Sandbox Children's Museum?
A. Very much so.
Q. Except clearly this is a much larger and more prevalent institution here on the island, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Give us an idea, how many people -- actually, let's do it a different way. Give me an idea, what was the annual budget you worked on at the -- the Sandbox Children's Museum versus the average annual budget you worked on for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry?

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A. Sure. The annual budget when I left the Sandbox was probably around 250, maybe not even that high, maybe 225.
Q. $225,000 --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- is that correct?
A. The budget at my Boys & Girls Club is around a million.
Q. All right. So four times bigger, right?
A. That's a fair statement.
Q. And the money that -- that you work off for the Boys & Girls Club, that comes from a combination of both donations from private entities and citizens as well as funds -- grants or awards you might get from state, county or federal government; is that correct?
A. No.
Q. Okay. How am I wrong?
A. You are correct in that it receives funding from private citizens. We receive no government money from the state, from the county or from the town.
Q. Okay. Is it your statement that the online budgets from the Lowcountry [sic] Boys &

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Girls Club do not show in their -- in their budget that they received any federal grant money of any kind or state grant money or county grant money or city grant money at all?
A. I couldn't speak to the Lowcountry budget. I'm not responsible for it and I'm really not privy to it. They may show that they received some federal money because I believe there are clubs maybe in the Jasper area that qualify for some type of federal funding. I will say that my club has received USDA reimbursement.
Q. Okay.
A. So when --
Q. Which means what, exactly?
A. It just means that for every child that I feed --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- a healthy snack in the afternoon --
Q. Okay.
A. -- the government will reimburse --
Q. Okay.
A. -- a certain -- like 73 cents or whatever it is person child.
Q. Okay. And so is that to say if -- and I'm only asking this question because I have looked

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online at the --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- budget that's printed --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- for the public to look at for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry and it does show federal funding --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- going towards the Lowcountry [sic] Boys & Girls Club. Are you saying that in your position as executive director of the Hilton Head Island unit, that you can say without any doubt that no -- except for the FDA monies you mentioned that none of that federal money ever trickled its way down to your unit?
A. I would have to see what the federal funding is that's on there that you're speaking of.
Q. Well, that's an easy --
A. But to -- I mean, to my knowledge, the only other thing that I can even remotely think of is certainly not this past year and I don't believe the previous year, there is some national federal money that runs through Boys & Girls Club of America --
Q. Uh-huh.

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A. -- through a program I think it's called OJP or --
Q. Okay.
A. -- something like that for juvenile prevention to -- for certain programs that the low country received and was able to provide individual clubs. Hilton Head has not qualified for that funding --
Q. Okay.
A. -- over the last few years.
Q. And -- and, to your credit, as I understand federal funding, it's typically earmarked which means it has to be used for relatively specific items that come along with the -- the grant.
A. Absolutely.
Q. Generally speaking, that kind of money doesn't go into your general operation fund; is that correct?
A. Oh, it does, it goes into the general operating fund to run the programs that are -- are -- you know, that it's there to fund.
Q. Right. But not the general overhead of the operation itself, IE paying your salary?
A. Well, I've -- no. I mean, it -- it

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would cover a salary, someone who might be doing the program's salary --
Q. Right.
A. -- would be included in that --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- but not to cover my salary.
Q. Okay. So then let me back out and ask the question a different way. So is it my understanding that 100 percent of the operational budget of the Hilton Head Island unit of the low -- of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry comes from donations, whether that be from entities like corporations and businesses or private individuals?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer if you can.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And fundraising, I'm -- because it's kind of the same thing.
A. I was going to say, we do an awful lot of fundraising.
Q. But fundraising is essentially a form of donation, right?
A. Well, it is, yeah. So, I mean, businesses, foundations, individuals, those are the primary sources of the -- of the funding.

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Q. And those monies are used to fund the -- what I'm thinking of as the general operation of the Boys & Girls Club which would include things like your salary; is that correct?
A. Portions of them are. I mean, sometimes those monies are restricted and given for a very particular program like --
Q. I understand.
A. -- like we have a -- a reading enrichment program. If someone wants to donate to that, the funds go directly to that.
Q. Right. They can limit and earmark donations if they want to --
A. Absolutely.
Q. -- but absent that, it goes into a general fund which can cover general operational expenses?
A. Correct.
Q. To go back to the analysis to the Sandbox Children's Museum, are you also as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club the face of the Boys & Girls Club for Hilton Head Island?
A. For Hilton Head, yes.
Q. And stated another way, are you the

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public face of the Boys & Girls Club here on Hilton Head Island?
A. I mean, I would certainly say that if the Boys & Girls Club would have any type of, you know, public event that we would participate in then, yes, I would usually be there.
Q. If -- generally speaking, if the newspapers were looking for quotations or looking for -- to interview somebody about something the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry is doing, they would generally look to you here on Hilton Head Island?
A. Yes, if it was Hilton -- if it was associated with our club.
Q. In fact, one of your positions and one of your responsibilities as marketing and PR which you mentioned earlier is to actually seek out that type of publicity on behalf of your organization; is that correct?
A. Sure.
Q. That includes speaking at public events?
A. Yes.
Q. That includes being generally well known around the island, correct?

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A. Well, I wouldn't necessarily say that I'm well known around the island because I'm the director of the Boys & Girls Club. More people on the island don't even know that we have a Boys & Girls Club.
Q. You certainly -- let's go back and -- and ask that a different way. I understand that you -- what you're trying to imply is that not enough people may know about the Boys & Girls Club but it's actually your job as face of the Boys & Girls Club to do your best to ensure that everyone on the island does know about it, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Whether or not you're successful in that task or not?
A. Correct.
Q. And one of the primary vehicles for you doing that is being out in the public on behalf of the organization, correct?
A. I -- yes, I mean, I'm out in the public, you know, when there's events that the Boys & Girls Club participate in and -- and I represent the club.
Q. Okay. In all the years with any of your -- you're still the executive director of the

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Boys & Girls Club of the Hilton Head Island --
A. Yes.
Q. -- unit, right?
A. I am.
Q. So we've effectively since leaving what I'll call the -- the -- the private sector, meaning for profit sector, right --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- and entering into your career as either an author, nonprofit executive directors [sic] or to the extent you work at all with your husband in his timeshare business --
MR. ALFORD: Object to --
THE WITNESS: I don't work --
MR. ALFORD: -- the form.
THE WITNESS: I don't work with my husband on the timeshare business.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. I -- I'm not a realtor. I've -- I've never done any business through my husband's timeshare company.
Q. All right.
A. And I have no ownership in it.
MR. ALFORD: Barrett, do you mind if we

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take a short break so I can use the restroom?
MR. BREWER: Yeah, no worries, man.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We will now go off the record. The time is approximately 11:41 AM.
(A recess transpired.)
(The Court Reporter read the question commencing on page 52 line 5.)
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. The time is approximately 11:54 PM -- or AM, I'm sorry.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. All right. Let me ask you this, Ms. Likins: With regard to your position with the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry, when did you first become involved with --
MR. BREWER: Well, scratch that.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Isn't it fair to say that you eventually became involved in organizing The First Tee organization on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry?
A. I'm not understanding. Can you ask me that question a different way?
Q. Sure, I'm happy to. During your time as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of

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the Lowcountry, didn't you get involved with The First Tee organization either organizing it or incorporating it or getting it off the ground or launching it, whatever phrase you'd like to use?

A. Okay. First of all, I'm not the executive director of the lowcountry. I just want to clarify that. I'm the unit director of the Hilton Head Island --

Q. I understand.

A. Because you asked in terms of as the executive director of the lowcountry did I do that, so I just want to clarify. And as the unit director of the Hilton Head club, yes, I was involved in helping bring The First Tee to Hilton Head Island.

Q. Wouldn't it be fair to say that you were actually instrumental in leading that charge in bringing The First Tee to the Hilton Head Island area?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I was certainly one of many that worked very hard to --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure.

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A. -- bring The First Tee to Hilton Head.

Q. Wouldn't it be fair to say that in terms of the initial organization stages, that you were one of the most quoted people in the paper about that entity?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: I couldn't say that I was the most quoted. There was a director or chairman of the board and I would imagine that he might have been quoted more than me, but I can't say for sure. I was --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure.

A. -- certainly quoted --

Q. Sure.

A. -- yes.

Q. And isn't it fair to say that the drive of a lot of the articles was how this was an idea that had been back in the -- some years ago and had been put on the shelf and you found these plans for this First Tee of The Lowcountry and dusted them off and actually brought this back to the surface?

A. I did find the plans and I shared with Steve Wilmot who is the director of the Heritage Classic Foundation that I had found them. To be

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honest with you, I -- I really had no idea what they were. And he shared with me that it had been a project that had been around the community for many years and many people had worked on it, they had just not been able to actually bring it to fruition.

Q. Okay. Isn't it true that you also made public appearances on behalf of The First Tee in terms of launching it and raising money for it?

A. Yes.

Q. Isn't it true that you also helped to raise money for The First Tee in terms of launching it and bringing it here to Hilton Head?

A. Yes.

Q. All right.

A. And that was all in my capacity of [sic] the unit director of the Hilton Head club.

Q. Sure. And -- and -- and by -- we can just go ahead and say this: If for some reason I've shortened the Boys & Girls Club and call you the executive director, I'm just talking about the Hilton Head unit.

A. Okay.

Q. Is that fair?

A. Okay.

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Q. It just might be a mouthful and maybe to help move this along a little bit I might shorten it up a tad.

A. That's fine. I just didn't want it to be incorrect.

Q. No worries. Thank you so much for correcting. All right. Tell me about when you first got involved in politics.

A. I ran for office I believe it was in the fall of 2010.

Q. Okay.

A. I think we file in August and our elections are in November.

Q. Are your elections here for town council partisan or nonpartisan?

A. They're nonpartisan.

Q. They're nonpartisan --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- is that correct?
Is that a yes?

A. Yes --

Q. In other --

A. -- I'm sorry.

Q. -- words you -- you don't run as a republican or a --

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A. Correct.
Q. -- democrat?
A. Yes. Yes. Yes.
Q. Are you a registered member of the republican or democratic party?
A. I believe I am a registered member of the republican party.
Q. Gotcha. Are you a member of any political groups?
A. I am a member of the League of Women Voters.
Q. Okay. Is that a nonpartisan or a partisan entity?
A. It's nonpartisan.
Q. Okay. Is that the only -- other than town council, a member of the republican party, and the League of Women Voters, are you a member of any other political organizations?
A. Not that I know of.
Q. Other than the Boys & Girls Club, Town of Hilton Head, and the political organizations we just discussed, the republican party and the League of Women Voters, what other organizations are you a member of?
A. I'm a member of the Greater Island

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Council.
Q. Okay. What is that?
A. It's a community organization of individuals that basically just want to help support and make the community a better place.
Q. All right. Is that all politicians? Is it not politicians?
A. Oh, no --
Q. Citizens?
A. -- it's just general citizens --
Q. Okay.
A. -- of the community.
Q. All Hilton Head Island, Beaufort, lowcountry, what are we talking about?
A. I'm not sure. There could be Bluffton members. I -- it's -- it's primarily island members --
Q. Okay.
A. -- but I certainly couldn't say that there isn't someone who lives somewhere else.
Q. And are you a member or do you serve in some type of executory -- or executive role?
A. I don't serve in any executive role. I'm just a member.
Q. Okay. What other organizations are you

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a member of?
A. I'm a member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church.
Q. Okay. And do you serve in any type of leadership function or on any committees in -- with St. Andrews [sic] Methodist Church?
A. I teach Sunday school.
Q. Okay. All right. Any other organizations or institutions that you're a member of?
A. And you're talking currently, right?
Q. I am talking currently, but if there are some -- hold on -- if there are some that you're not -- that -- that you have been members of let's just go back to since two thousand --
A. Let me -- can I finish this one first?
Q. You sure may.
A. Okay. And then the only other one is The First Tee of The Lowcountry, I am on their board.
Q. Okay. All right. So how about since let's say 2013, what other institutions, organizations or memberships have you been a part of here that we didn't just talk about?
A. Possibly the Christian Academy board

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during that time period, but I can't say for sure. But it -- it -- it was somewhere in there.
Q. So from 2013 to now, we've talked about all the entities that you've been a member of and participated in and belonged to?
A. All that I can think of, yes.
Q. Okay. Are you a member of the Chamber of Commerce?
A. My Hilton Head Island club as an organization is a member of the Chamber of Commerce.
Q. What about as a town council member, are -- are you also a member as a town council member?
A. I believe that the Town of Hilton Head is also a member of --
Q. Okay.
A. -- the Chamber of Commerce.
Q. And have you ever participated in any committees or leadership positions within the Chamber of Commerce?
A. I -- I don't know that I've participated in any leadership positions. I have done things. Like they have a leadership kind of institute that individuals can go through and --

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Q. Leadership Hilton Head?
A. Yes. Yes. They have a junior one and a regular one.
Q. Okay.
A. And I have been asked to speak at both of them and --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and so I have done that previously.
Q. When -- now, when did you speak at both the Leadership Hilton Head's Junior and otherwise?
A. Could have been last year, could have been the year before.
Q. Okay.
A. I've -- I've spoken at both of them a couple times. I believe each of them have one day that they focus on government as well as a day they focus on community organizations and so I've been asked different times to speak on each.
Q. And so to make sure I've understood, you've been asked to speak to Leadership Hilton Head just to shorten it up --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- in both -- as both a executive director of the Boys & Girls Club and as a town council member?

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A. I can't say I've spoken in both fashions. It's usually one or the other.
Q. That's what I mean. In general, you've given at least two speeches, one was town council related, one was Boys & Girls Club related?
A. That's correct.
Q. Do you keep copies of the speeches you give?
A. No, I usually just talk off the top of my head.
Q. Okay. You don't usually do outlines, draft outlines, anything like that?
A. If it's something specific that I'm giving an update on, I may do a PowerPoint presentation.
Q. Okay.
A. For example, if I'm going to talk about maybe council initiatives, I would put that together and have a slide showing them.
Q. Do you know, does the Chamber fund those speeches?
A. I don't believe so.
Q. Okay. All right. With town council, do you serve on any committees?
A. Yes.

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Q. Tell me about that.
A. I serve on the community services committee as --
Q. Community services?
A. Uh-huh. As the chairperson. I serve on the public planning committee as just a regular council representative. I serve on the finance and administrative committee as a regular representative. And I currently sit on the venue committee as a council representative. That's a citizen committee. And so often when we have citizen committees we have a council person just -- it's a nonvoting position. More just a report back of activity position.
Q. What is the community services committee?
A. It's a town formal committee that's a standing committee that takes up issues that have anything to do with services in our community.
Q. Okay. Services the government provides you mean?
A. Yes, uh-huh.
Q. What about the public planning committee, what does that do?
A. Basically they deal with any type of

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planning issues. If, you know, there needs to be zoning changes or LMO changes, which is our land management ordinance, or if we're, you know, looking at trying to, you know, develop or change a piece of property, things like that.
Q. Would it be fair to say that both the public planning committee and the finance committee are two of the higher profile committees here with the Town of Hilton Head?
A. You know, from -- I -- that depends. I -- I feel like I spend a whole lot more of my energy and time on the community services committee, but it just may simply be because we have some pretty large council initiatives that are running through that --
Q. Sure.
A. -- committee right now where at other times maybe the other committees were more high profile because they were higher, you know, initiatives going through them.
Q. Sure. It --
A. I think that's a variable thing.
Q. Generally speaking, I mean, if things are going to make news --
A. I'm sorry?

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Q. I'm sorry. Generally speaking, if things are going to make news, right --
A. Right.
Q. -- it's going to be things like the development that the developers are going to build, it's going to be people complaining about zoning changes or it's going to be about the finance committee's approval about how the budget is going to be either passed or approved for the year, those are the things that get a lot of attention in the local press I'm assuming, correct?
A. They certainly get a lot of attention, but there's a whole lot of other things that do as well.
Q. I understand. You've been on town council for how many years now?
A. Seven.
Q. And so you're in the middle of your second term or the end of it?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. When do you come up for re-election?
A. Next August.
Q. When do you have to declare whether you're going to run for office again?
A. Well, I'm sorry, the re-election would

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be in July. I'm sorry, I -- I come up -- I would announce if you're [sic] going to run it would be next August.
Q. Okay. I'm missing the time on that. You announce next August for an election the following November?
A. Correct, yeah.
Q. Okay. So --
A. I'm sorry, you file. It's really -- I mean, you can announce --
Q. Sure.
A. -- any time you want to, but the filing period in our town is in August --
Q. Okay.
A. -- for a November election.
Q. Do you intend on rerunning?
A. I haven't made that decision.
Q. Have you -- I know you -- you ran unopposed the first time, right?
A. No, I -- I -- I ran the first time with one opponent and then I ran unopposed the second time.
Q. Gotcha. Generally speaking have you found your time serving as a town council member rewarding?

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A. Yes.
Q. As a town council person -- I'm sorry, I was making a note, let me ask that question --
A. That's okay.
Q. -- again. As a town council person, I'm assuming you have come to have some basic understanding regarding the issue of free speech and First Amendment rights; is that correct?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. I would assume that we can agree that at the local level having the -- having people have an opportunity to be heard before local government is really a cornerstone of our constitutional form of government --
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- would you agree?
MR. ALFORD: Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I think it's a very important right.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And as an elected representative of the Town of Hilton Head, you would agree that you have no desire to abrogate or to limit anyone's First

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Amendment free speech rights, correct?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I have no desire to limit someone's freedom of speech rights.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. As a member of the republican party, do you endorse or back our current president Donald Trump?
A. I have mixed emotions about our president.
Q. One second, let me grab something. Do you believe that you're a public official?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: In the capacity of serving on the town council of Hilton Head Island, yes.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Do you believe that you're a public person?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I'm not sure what you -- I understand what you mean by a public person. I'm not a movie star. I'm not someone who's

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recognizable.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. You don't believe you're recognizable here in Hilton Head Island?
A. To someone that I haven't met or has not been involved in -- I mean, I -- I -- you know, I guess possibly, I just don't think of myself like that.
Q. How many votes did you get in your -- either of your elections?
A. Oh, I have no idea, but it was certainly less than a thousand.
Q. Okay. Out of how many people who voted, do you know?
A. I have no idea.
Q. How many people full time live here in Hilton Head?
A. I believe our residency is between about 38 and 40,000.
Q. Do you take a position that you are not a public person in all capacities of your life?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I'm certainly not a public person in all capacities of my life, no.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. You'd agree with me that your capacity as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club here in the Hilton Head unit, that's a public position?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Our [sic] responsibilities at the Boys & Girls Club are to oversee the operations of the organization. There may be times that I am in public for events or representing them, but it is a very small amount of the time that I work.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I'm not asking you a question about the ratio of what you do in the public versus what you do in your office at the Boys & Girls Club. I'm asking that in your position as an executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head, there is no one else who has more public -- has a higher public profile in the Hilton Head Island unit than you do, correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: That is correct.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And that is one of your primary responsibilities that we discussed earlier is to be the public face for the Boys & Girls Club here in the Hilton Head Island unit?
A. It is a responsibility. It would not be considered a primary responsibility when you look at everything else that I have to do.
Q. If the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island is unable to raise money, you're unable to do any of those other functions that you have to do, correct?
A. Oh, correct, yes.
Q. So putting the -- the cart before the horse here, right, or the chicken before the egg, however you want to look at it, the primary function of a nonprofit is to raise money so that it can do the good work --
MR. ALFORD: Object --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- that it does, correct?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: The primary responsibility of the board of directors of a

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nonprofit --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- is to raise the money --
Q. Okay.
A. -- so that an organization can do what it does. And I have an amazing board --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and they do an unbelievable job of fundraising. And I can assure you that having someone like Stan Smith on my board who is out in public frequently and shares our gala and is on stage has far more responsibility in bringing in those types of funds --
Q. Okay.
A. -- than I do.
Q. Would you agree with me that you get more media coverage in your position with the Boys & Girls Club than any of your board of directors members do?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: What limited media coverage we get, I would say you're probably correct.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. What -- how would you describe the segment of the nonprofit industry that -- that you serve here in Hilton Head?
A. My constituents, is that what you're talking about --
Q. Well, I --
A. -- the children that we serve?
Q. Well, I guess what I'm asking this, I mean, you can have all kinds of nonprofits in the world, right?
A. Correct.
Q. You can have some that help the homeless? You can have some that have a religious bent to it or a --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- Christian bent to it. I'm asking you, how do you describe the -- the segment of the nonprofit industry you serve -- you serve? What do you guys do?
A. Youth development.
Q. Okay. In the world of youth development here on Hilton Head Island --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- in the nonprofit world, is there a

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bigger fish in the pond than the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head?
A. Oh, absolutely.
Q. Okay. And who is that?
A. The Island Rec Center.
Q. Okay. Island Rec Center is a government entity or is that a nonprofit entity?
A. It's a nonprofit just like we are.
Q. Okay. So they're the number one dog, you guys are the number two dog?
A. Absolutely.
Q. Okay. Do they operate with a larger budget than you guys do?
A. Much larger.
Q. Okay. Do you feel like that in general you have to -- this might be a word you might not like -- but do you feel like you might have to compete for fundraising dollars against the Island Rec Center?
A. No. We fundraise in very different ways.
Q. To go back to a question I was asking you earlier --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- do you believe that you are a --

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that you are a public person for the Boys & Girls Club?
A. I think I've answered that many times.
Q. I'm asking the question again.
A. Yes.
MR. ALFORD: I'm sorry --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. If you can answer it, please.
A. I -- I am in the public, yes, for the Boys & Girls Club.
Q. Okay. And since we talked about ratios --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- how much time out of your life do you spend either working for the Boys & Girls Club or performing your Town of Hilton Head duties?
A. Are you asking me in hours?
Q. Just whatever you feel comfortable. Percentages, hours.
A. Well, I mean, I -- my job at the Boys & Girls Club is full time, so, I mean, I pretty much always work at least a 40-hour week for the Boys & Girls Club.
Q. Okay.
A. It's not a traditional 40-hour week,

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because, obviously, I have other town responsibilities at different times during the day, but I certainly make sure that if I miss any work because of that it's made up either earlier in the day, later in the evening --
Q. Okay.
A. -- or on the weekends.
Q. Do you generally have town responsibilities, appearances, committee meetings, whatever that might be almost every day of the week?
A. No.
Q. Okay. How many days of the week do you think you spend performing your responsibilities on behalf of the town?
A. Well, we have two town council meetings a month --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- generally.
Q. Okay.
A. And then each of the committees usually meets once a month.
Q. Okay.
A. And then if there is an issue that I feel like I need to study up on or might be

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extremely important to my constituent base, then I will often attend committee meetings that I'm not on the committee but just sit in and listen. And then of course there's time that you meet with your constituents or return e-mails.

Q. Would you agree with me that the First Amendment allows persons to voice their opinion or voice statements about any public person so long as the person making the statement does not have factual information that the statement they made is untrue?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. You may answer.

MR. ALFORD: -- if you can.

THE WITNESS: I don't know that the First Amendment states that.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Huh. Would you be surprised to find out if -- that it does?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Not necessarily.

BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. Let's talk for a minute -- all right. Talk to me for a second about your lawsuit -- actually, one more question before I get into that actually. Have you ever been arrested or convicted of any crimes for any reason?

A. No.

Q. Are you claiming any emotional, mental anguish or distress as a result of this incident you're suing Mr. Hoagland over?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever in your life dealt with mental anguish, emotional distress or any type of psychological either disorder, mental health condition or anything that you've ever seen a physician for or treated for medically?

A. You're asking me if I have had any of those conditions prior to all of this?

Q. That's correct.

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Okay. Have you ever taken any type of medication that would be used to treat those types of disorders? Gosh, depression medication, Prozac, anything like that?

A. No.

Q. Okay. Tell --

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A. I have -- I have actually been prescribed them before --

Q. Okay.

A. -- but I've never taken them.

Q. Okay. You've been prescribed them when?

A. Several years ago. I have a medical condition called mitral valve prolapse --

Q. Okay.

A. -- and so I have heart palpitations that sometimes rare up and --

Q. Okay.

A. -- I was having a -- a period where it was fairly consistent and so I had a doctor suggest that that might be helpful.

Q. Okay. And what physician prescribed that for you?

A. Wayne Johnson.

Q. Do you see both a Dr. Johnson and a Dr. Sack?

A. Dr. Sack is my primary physician.

Q. Okay. And Wayne Johnson is what kind of physician?

A. I don't normally see Wayne anymore. I have a history with Wayne and so I did see him at

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one point over the last couple of years because of the stress that I was under.

Q. What type -- type of doctor is he?

A. General practitioner.

Q. Why do you see Dr. Johnson versus Dr. Sack if they're both general practitioners?

A. Because Dr. Johnson is also my husband's doctor. And because of the stress, it was not just myself but my husband as well.

Q. Okay. So you would go see your husband's doctor with him to treat you even though that's not your -- your doctor?

A. No, I did not see my husband's doctor.

Q. Okay. I'm not following, I'm --

A. Okay.

Q. -- so sorry.

A. Dr. Johnson is my husband's doctor --

Q. Okay.

A. -- so he -- when my husband sees him, he's the individual that -- that my husband talks to --

Q. Okay.

A. -- about any health issues or if he has any stress. And Wayne knows me as well and so at one point I went to see Wayne to talk to him about

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how this was affecting me and how it was affecting my husband and how it was affecting our relationship --

Q. Okay.

A. -- because Wayne is the individual that connects all of us.

Q. Okay.

A. My husband's never seen Dr. Sack.

Q. But you only see Dr. Johnson because of this incident, right?

A. Most recently, yes. Years past he was my doctor --

Q. Oh, okay.

A. -- but I changed when I went to work for the Boys & Girls Club because they provide insurance that Dr. Sacks [sic] takes.

Q. I understand. Okay. So Dr. Johnson has been your family practitioner in the past?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. When did you stop seeing Dr. Johnson and when did you start seeing Dr. Sack?

A. I stopped seeing Dr. Johnson after I went to work for the Boys & Girls Club. I'm not sure if it was in 2012 or 2013.

Q. Okay.

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A. It was somewhere in that time period where I started receiving insurance.

Q. What is the insurance -- are you on the town's insurance or what --

A. No.

Q. -- insurance are you on now?

A. Boys & Girls Club.

Q. Boys & Girls Club.

A. Yeah.

Q. And what is that insurance?

A. Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Q. All right. And what about when you were under -- when you were seeing your husband's physician Dr. Johnson, what was the insurance you were on then?

A. I believe we had Blue Cross, some form of Blue Cross at that time, but I can't say for sure.

Q. Okay.

A. Dr. Johnson doesn't take the insurance that I have from the Boys & Girls Club. If I went to him, it would be out of network.

Q. Okay. Even though it's -- he -- he also -- your husband has Blue Cross Blue Shield?

A. Uh-huh.

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Q. So you both have Blue Cross Blue Shield but Dr. Johnson won't take your brand of Blue Cross Blue Shield or whatever the specific policy is?

A. Well, and my husband still choses to go to Dr. Johnson regardless of whether he's in network or not.

Q. I understand. Okay. What other physicians have you seen let's just say in the past 15 years other than Dr. Johnson and Dr. Sack for any reason? And I don't mean just dentists, but physicians, medical doctors that you've seen.

A. Oh, wow. In the last 15 years? I mean, I have an OB/GYN.

Q. Okay. Who is your OB/GYN?

A. Dr. Blusewicz.

Q. Okay. Doctor -- is that a female or a male?

A. Female.

Q. Is she here locally?

A. On Hilton Head, yes.

Q. Do you know the name of the practice?

A. It's something women's care, but I -- I -- I can't --

Q. Okay.

A. -- I can't remember exactly.

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Q. All right.

A. And I -- I am sure that I have seen other -- I mean, Dr. Blusewicz didn't deliver my children, so there were other female doctors in practices that I saw.

Q. I'm with you.

A. So there might have been someone that I saw in the last 15 years besides her.

Q. Do you -- I know my wife has both a family physician which is my doctor --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- and an OB/GYN and she sees the family physician rarely because she primarily uses the OB/GYN for primary care. Do you use your OB/GYN for your primary care at -- in any way or at any time or have you strictly only seen her in relation to pregnancy and --

A. Yes.

Q. -- giving birth?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay.

A. Yeah, Dr. Sack is my primary care physician.

Q. And then what about -- so point being, any other physicians other than Dr. Sack, Dr.

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Johnson, and Dr. Blusewicz that you've seen in the last 15 years for any type of health condition that you can think of?

A. When I had my -- some of my battles with my heart issue --

Q. Yes, ma'am.

A. -- I was sent to a cardiologist. It's been such a long time, I believe his name was Dr. Lawton.

Q. Okay. All right. What kind of physician was he again, I'm sorry?

A. Cardiologist.

Q. All right. Okay. Anybody else you've seen?

A. You don't care about like opthamologists or dentists or anything like that?

Q. No, I'm looking for medical doctors.

A. Okay.

Q. No offense to those physicians.

A. Yeah. Yeah.

Q. I'm not looking for podiatrists either, but --

A. Yeah, I'm sorry, I'm just trying to -- 15 years is a long time, I'm just trying to remember if there's --

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Q. It's okay.

A. -- if there's anybody else.

Q. Well, I'm primarily looking for if you had major health issues you followed, if you changed physicians at any time, any of that kind of stuff.

A. Yeah. No, I'm a pretty healthy individual. The only other -- I -- I also saw a doctor for a couple of months Dr. Nettles I believe his name is.

Q. Okay.

A. And he's a neurologist out of Beaufort.

Q. Okay. And what did you see him for?

A. I have something called burning mouth syndrome.

Q. Okay. And I do apologize, I've not heard of that. What is -- what is that syndrome?

A. Yeah, it's very unusual. It's similar to individuals who have diabetic nerve issues with their feet where they have burning feet --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- and mine just happens to be in the region of my mouth.

Q. Okay. So it's a -- I've -- I've always heard of that sa like a peripheral neuropathy type

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thing, but it's the same thing?

A. It's very -- very similar, yes.

Q. Okay. All right.

MR. BREWER: May I have a couple exhibit stickers, please?

Thank you.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. All right. I'm going to mark Exhibit 2, which is the summons and complaint that you served Mr. Hoagland with with attached exhibits, okay?

(DFT. EXH. 2, Summons and Verified Complaint and attachments, was marked for identification.)

THE WITNESS: Okay.

MR. BREWER: And I've got an extra copy if y'all want one.

MR. ALFORD: Yeah, we might share one, if you don't mind.

MR. BREWER: Sure.

MR. HOAGLAND: I need to go to the bathroom. I'm sorry.

MR. BREWER: Do we -- do you want to take a break?

MR. HOAGLAND: I need a quick -- just a

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quick break, I'm sorry.

MR. BREWER: Off the record.

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We will now go off the record. The time is approximately 12:33 PM.

(Off-the-record conference.)

(A recess transpired.)

(Mr. Linton exited the room.)

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. The time is approximately 12:56 PM.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. All right. I've handed you a copy of your complaint and I do want to ask you about that.

A. Okay.

Q. And we're going to use that as a framework though to go through the rest of the deposition. But before I do that, let -- let me -- I want to read you something and ask you if you -- ask if you agree with it. The present advertisement -- well, excuse me, I apologize, that's actually not what I wanted to read. I apologize. I have it.

All right. Debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open and may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public

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officials.
Do you agree that that is a correct and true statement?
MR. ALFORD: I'll object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Well, I certainly can't comment on the correctness of it, because I'm -- I'm not sure where it's from. I mean, it -- it sounds like it could -- could be a constitutional type statement, I -- but I don't know for sure.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Well, it is. I'll tell you what it is and I'm going to ask you your opinion because it's about basically you as a town council person, right? This is Justice William J. Brennan who wrote the majority opinion for the New York Times versus Sullivan case, which is the standard for the case which we're here about today.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. And in that case he was talking about what the First Amendment stands for and its place in public debate. And I'll state it again. He said, debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open, and that it may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes

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unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials.
A. And your question is do I agree with that?
Q. Do you agree with that?
A. I mean, it's -- it's open to considerable interpretation, so I'm not saying that I can necessarily agree with every single word in there. But I -- I -- I do believe that public issues should have public debate and I acknowledge that sometimes they become heated. What I don't believe is that anyone should be able to lie about things.
Q. Okay. Let's talk about that. How do you define a lie?
A. When you claim something to be factual or true and it's not.
Q. And do you believe that opinions can be lies or are opinions just that, opinions?
MR. ALFORD: I'll object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I think an opinion can be a lie.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. I'm going to ask you to go

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through the complaint, but I want you to tell me in your own words what your lawsuit against Mr. Hoagland's about.
A. Mr. Hoagland for whatever reason has decided to target me personally. He -- he initially started by trying to influence my vote on an issue that he's very passionate about. And -- and when it was time for the vote, he went further to even threaten me in writing that if I did not vote the way he wanted me to vote, that he would cause harm to me personally. And then when I didn't vote the way he wanted, he tried to get me fired from my job. He maliciously went after my employment.
Q. Okay.
A. And in the midst of doing that, he falsely accused me of being a liar, of being unfit for the work that I do, and most importantly, to suggest after all of the years that I have worked for and with children in this community, that I should not be allowed to be around children. That's how awful of an individual I am.
Q. Okay.
A. And he did this by going to the head of my boards [sic] of directors, the board of

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directors of the lowcountry and even calling my boss.
Q. Okay. Let's break that down for a second. When Mr. -- you say Mr. Hoagland tried to influence your vote. We had a discussion earlier today that you said quite often citizens call you and attempt to influence your vote in the discussion we had about lobbying, correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. So there's nothing uncommon about someone calling you or reaching out to you to influence your vote, that's what electorate and citizens and people do about issues they care -- issues they care passionately about, correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. Do you have any doubt whatsoever that Mr. Hoagland is passionate about the political issues he believes in?
A. No doubt at all.
Q. Do you have any doubt in your mind whatsoever that Mr. Hoagland believes every single word he says?
A. I have no idea what Mr. Hoagland believes.
Q. Okay. One way or the other. He might

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believe it to be true, he might believe it to be false, you have no idea one way or the other and will not testify any different way at trial, correct?

A. I have no idea what he believes.

Q. Okay. Do you have any reason to believe that Mr. Hoagland thinks that anything he has said concerning you is false?

MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm sorry. You're going to have to repeat that one --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure.

A. -- because I don't think I followed you.

Q. I'm going to baby step it. Are you aware of any information that Skip Hoagland had available to him that would lead him to believe that you are not a liar?

A. I don't know what information Mr. Hoagland had available to him.

Q. Okay.

A. I've never spoken to Mr. Hoagland.

Q. Do you intend on testifying at trial

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that Mr. Hoagland had information available to him that would lead him to believe you are not a liar when he made those statements?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Please ask me again, I'm sorry.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure. Let me -- I'm going to go back and let's -- let's try to -- I'm going to work through a -- an example real quick --

A. Okay.

(Mr. Linton entered the room.)

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- okay?

We talked about Donald Trump a little while ago, okay?

A. Oh, when you asked me --

Q. Remember I asked you about him?

A. Yes. Uh-huh.

Q. Do you remember during the election that there was an allegation that Donald Trump's charitable organization was maybe not really a true charitable organization, maybe it was basically just a -- a front for a tax write off for him, that

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he wasn't really using it for charitable purposes?

A. I'm not really familiar with that.

Q. Don't remember that at all?

A. I mean, I -- I remember --

Q. Okay.

A. -- that he had a charitable organization, but I really don't remember the discussion around it.

Q. If -- if someone said that Donald Trump's charitable organization was a fraud and that he had fraudulently created that charitable organization, do you believe that's a defamatory statement?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: If saying that he was a fraud?

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. That he had created -- that he had fraudulently created this charitable organization? That it wasn't a real charity, in other words. Do you agree that's -- do -- do you take the position that's defamatory if a citizen of the United States says that?

A. I mean --

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MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I think it's -- you know, it's -- it's a negative thing to say --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure.

A. -- a bad thing to say. Talking about someone's charity or their organization, I'm not sure if unless it's -- you're directly associating it with him, if it's defamatory.

Q. Okay. So let me just say it another way. What if somebody calls Donald Trump a liar or a fraud or corrupt --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- do you believe that's defamatory under the First Amendment?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I mean, if you're speaking about Donald Trump as a public figure and the work that he does as a public figure, certainly citizens have the right to, you know, say negative things about him.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. What about not as a public

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figure, what if I say -- well, one, let me ask: Are you trying to make the distinction that there's a difference between someone wearing their hat as a public figure and someone not wearing their hat as a public figure?

A. Well, I completely understand that as a public figure you have a higher standard of tolerance with someone saying things merely because as you -- you read, you know, there -- there has to be open discussion and dialogue in the public --

Q. Sure.

A. -- and sometimes that can become heated. And I realize that Mr. Hoagland has the right as a public figure to call me names and say he doesn't like me or that I'm never going to get elected again, he's going to make sure of that. I mean, those are all things that he certainly has the right to do.

Q. Okay.

A. And I've never tried to stop him from doing that.

Q. Well, actually, didn't you file this lawsuit and seek an injunctive action against him to actually do just that, to stop him from saying things about you that you didn't like?

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A. No, I filed my lawsuit and received an injunction to stop him of crossing over the line of me being a public figure to my private life.

Q. Okay. That's --

A. Mr. Hoagland tried to get me fired from my job --

Q. Well, let's talk --

A. -- from what I do every day to help take care of my family.

Q. Okay. Let's talk about that for a second. Do -- are you taking the position that as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head that that's private?

A. Yes, that is my private job.

Q. Well, what is a private job? I don't know if I understand what that term is.

MR. ALFORD: Object to the --

THE WITNESS: It's --

MR. ALFORD: -- form. Answer --

THE WITNESS: -- it's --

MR. ALFORD: -- it if you can.

THE WITNESS: It's the same thing you have for employment.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay.

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A. I go to work to make money to take care of my family just like everybody else does.

Q. Okay. So when you're out being quoted in the paper on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, do you believe that's private in the paper?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I mean, being quoted in the newspaper for the Boys & Girls Club is part of my job.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. And I'm asking, aren't you out in the public and aren't you presenting yourself, Kim Likins, to the public on behalf of the girls club -- Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island every day that you go to work?

A. Not every day, but -- but often, yes.

Q. So isn't it true that your job as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club is in the public eye?

A. No.

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: Absolutely not.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Huh.

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A. There are components of my job at the Boys & Girls Club that affords me or forces me to be in the public, but the Boys & Girls Club is my private work.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay.

A. It's what I do to take care of my family.

Q. Do you believe that the law allows you to distinguish between some parts of your job with the Boys & Girls Club and other parts of your job with the Boys & Girls Club?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: I have no idea what you're talking about distinguishing between public and private parts --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Well --

A. -- of my job.

Q. -- isn't that what you just said? Didn't we -- didn't you just -- hold on, I'm asking this question now.

A. Okay. Sorry.

Q. Didn't you just make an effort to distinguish between the part of your job with the

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Boys & Girls Club of -- of Hilton Head that's public where you're in the public eye speaking to newspapers and magazines, speaking to people in the community, presenting yourself as the public face for that entity, and then, by the same token, change that around and say but it's also private?

MR. ALFORD: Object --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Didn't --

MR. ALFORD: -- to the form.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- isn't that what you just tried to get across?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Let me clarify myself again.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Please do.

A. My job is private. I go to work every day to make a living for my family.

Q. Okay.

A. That is not in the public arena. The majority of the work that I do at the Boys & Girls Club is behind the doors overseeing operations or

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working in PR and marketing or fundraising. There are times as a Boys & Girls Club director that I may be quoted in the newspaper or I may be standing in public as their representation, but that does not turn my private job into something that is a public affair.

Q. And do you believe the law is consistent with your belief on that?

MR. ALFORD: Object --

THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

MR. ALFORD: -- to the form.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Huh. Do you believe that as a public elected official that somehow that there is -- the law distinguishes between someone's First Amendment rights to speak publicly about you in any capacity?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, do I believe that --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure.

A. -- I mean, that --

Q. I mean, as --

A. -- someone should be allowed, is that

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what you're saying?

Q. Sure.

A. I'm sorry.

Q. I mean, don't you think that a public elected official that that -- being in that position entitles a citizen to make public comments about you, defamatory or not, in any aspect of your life?

A. No, absolutely not.

Q. Okay.

A. I mean, you can certainly in a public arena talk about my public life as a town council person and whether you think I'm good at it, bad at it or whatever, but you cannot cross the line and try to get me fired and that is what Mr. Hoagland did.

Q. So let me get this straight, when you've run for public office, you've never once in your elections referenced the fact that you're executive director of the Boys & Girls Club ever?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Okay. So when I ran for office, I never referenced the fact --

BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. That you were --

A. -- that I was --

Q. -- executive director --

A. -- the director?

Q. -- of the Boys & Girls Club.

A. That is probably an accurate statement because I ran for office and I wasn't the director of the Boys & Girls Club until late October.

Q. Okay.

A. I can't imagine that at that point in time there would have been any reason to even say anything about it. I started my job. The second term I was unopposed and I didn't have to run for an election.

Q. Okay. So you don't believe that people rely on your -- even in the second election where you were unopposed, don't you believe that people rely on the fact that you are in the public sphere as a executive director of the Boys & Girls Club as part of their reliance on you and part of the reason they cast a vote for you to begin with?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: No one voted for me. I wasn't even on the ballot in the second election.

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I was unopposed. If you're unopposed you're not even on the ballot.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. You don't think that the -- that your performance in your job should be relevant for people to consider in looking at you as -- as a public figure?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, you're going to have to restate that one. I --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Sure.
A. -- didn't follow you on that.
Q. If you lied and cheated in your job and that became known publicly, do you expect the voters have a right to consider that in an election?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: They certainly have a right to do whatever they would want and I would imagine that they would consider that.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Wouldn't you agree that for public

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officials in generally [sic] running for election or holding public office that often their private life is part of the voter's consideration or part of the electorate's consideration for whether or not that public office is fit for service or that --
MR. ALFORD: Object --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- or that public servant is fit for service?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: I think that voters typically know very little about an elected person's business life.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Let's talk for a second. What about let's talk about when Barack Obama was running for office. Do you remember people making comments and it being a public issue about whether or not he was a Christian or a Muslim? That was an issue during at least one if not two of his elections.
MR. ALFORD: I -- I -- I'm going to object to the form. Is there a question?
MR. BREWER: I asked if she remembered

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that.
MR. ALFORD: Okay.
THE WITNESS: I --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. The answer would be yes, I do or no, I don't.
A. Yes, I do.
Q. Okay. Do you believe that that is off limits to discuss someone's religious beliefs in connection with their holding public office? That's their private life, right?
A. Correct.
Q. So are you saying it's off limits, that no one can discuss that, correct?
A. People can discuss whatever they want to discuss --
Q. Okay.
A. -- Barrett.
Q. Well, if I call Barack Obama a Muslim and he's not, did I defame him?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. You can answer the question.
MR. ALFORD: -- if you can.

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THE WITNESS: I don't know. I mean, I -- if you called him something that he's not and it isn't even a derogatory thing, which a Muslim isn't, then I can't imagine why.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Well, don't you believe that there are some people in this country that do find that to be a derogatory thing?
A. Well, there --
MR. ALFORD: Object to --
THE WITNESS: -- probably are --
MR. ALFORD: -- the form.
THE WITNESS: -- some people.
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Isn't it --
MR. BREWER: And, in fact, how about this, I am okay with you objecting and I want you to have the chance to and I will immediately give you that if you can wait until after my question is asked so I don't have to -- so we don't have to spend all day so I have to reask it so it's on the video.
MR. ALFORD: That's fine.
MR. BREWER: If you can hold -- and we

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can either do one of two things. I can preserve your objections to the form as contemporaneous by agreement. If you want to wait until we -- until I get to the end of a phrased question and you can --

MR. ALFORD: Well, I would like to wait --

MR. BREWER: -- she can answer.

MR. ALFORD: -- until you get to the end of a phrased question.

I would like for you to wait until I have an opportunity to decide whether I want to object.

THE WITNESS: Okay.

MR. ALFORD: And we'll do it that way. I agree with you, we don't need to be stepping on each other.

MR. BREWER: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Just means -- it means -- hopefully means I don't have to go back and do it over and over again. So --

MR. BREWER: Madam court reporter, can you remind me of the question I was just asking? I'm so sorry.

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(The Court Reporter read the question commencing on page 109 line 6.)

MR. BREWER: Thank you so much.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. I think the question I was trying to get to is certainly when people bring up during Barack Obama's presidential election that he's a Muslim, they're doing that to cast dispersions against him, correct?

A. I would imagine so.

Q. Okay. And your belief then is that if that's false, that he's not a Muslim, that's derogatory, that's defamatory, and that Barack Obama should have been able to file an injunction against those persons to keep them from making those statements as defamatory, correct?

A. That is not true -- correct.

Q. What is the difference between someone making public comments about Barack Obama's private religious beliefs as a public -- against him in a public election as a public figure and Skip Hoagland making comments about your fitness for service with the Boys & Girls Club as a public figure?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

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Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Mr. Hoagland didn't just make public comments about me. Mr. Hoagland called my bosses.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay.

A. He said that I was a liar.

Q. Okay.

A. He said that I should not be allowed to be around children and that I was unfit for my job and --

Q. Okay.

A. -- demanded, demanded that I be fired. He suggested to my employer that I am a danger, that I am harmful to be around the children that I serve.

Q. Okay.

A. That is private.

Q. All right. So let's talk about that for a second. Did Skip Hoagland ever use the word that you are a danger to children, yes or no?

A. To -- to my knowledge, he did.

Q. Okay. Is that in one of these affidavits from Marvin Lich or --

A. I believe it was in Marv's deposition.

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Q. Okay.

MR. ALFORD: Barrett, were those in the attachment that you gave us?

MR. BREWER: They should be.

MR. ALFORD: Okay. I was just trying to find it. I -- I see e-mails and stuff. I don't see affidavits.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. This is Exhibit 3 I'm handing you. This is the definition -- deposition of -- excuse me, affidavit of Marv Lich that you attached to your complaint. It's also attached in Exhibit 2 you have there. Where in that affidavit does it say --

(DFT. EXH. 3, Affidavit of Marvin Lich, was marked for identification.)

MR. ALFORD: Do you have a copy for me?

MR. BREWER: I do.

MR. ALFORD: Thank you.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Where in that affidavit does it say that Skip Hoagland said you were a danger to children?

A. It doesn't say it here.

Q. Okay.

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A. It says it in his deposition.
Q. But you filed this lawsuit before that deposition, didn't you?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. So you filed the lawsuit without even having the knowledge that Mr. Lich now added language to say that Skip said you were a danger, so that's not really what this is about, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Because if that was the case, that'd be in the affidavit and it'd be in your complaint.
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: I don't know why the word wasn't used in the affidavit. I know that Mr. Lich made it very clear --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- that Mr. Hoagland used that word to him --
Q. Okay.
A. -- repeatedly.
Q. Well, what do you think -- let's -- let's just go back. One, has your job ever been in danger? I mean, have you ever -- everything I've

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seen from the deposition of Marv Lich to the public statements made by Mike Briggs to the paper have indicated that your job has never been in danger. Would you agree with that?
A. Oh, no, absolutely not. I would say the moment Mr. Hoagland called my employers and did what he did, my job became endangered.
Q. Do tell, because that is certainly not what's been published by your employers. Did they tell you something different?
A. Oh, I -- I know that my employers stood beside me --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- and they did not terminate me, but that doesn't mean that there was not a consideration or a discussion about the fact that I who had always been an asset to this organization had just now become a liability --
Q. Okay.
A. -- because of what Mr. Hoagland was doing.
Q. Who told you that?
A. I'm stating that as fact.
Q. That's why I'm asking, who told you that.

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A. I didn't need anybody to tell me that, Barrett.
Q. Okay. So --
A. I'm an employee. I understand and appreciate that organizations have reputations, particularly nonprofits. They cannot afford to be attached with anything of question of behavior. Particularly if you are a youth-serving organization and someone is questioning your ability to be around children.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Five minutes, counselor.
MR. BREWER: Do you want to go ahead?
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Sure. This concludes Video Number 1 in the video deposition of Kim Likins. The time is approximately 1:24 PM. We are now off the record.
(A recess transpired.)
(DFT. EXH. 4, Affidavit of Michael G. Briggs, was marked for identification.)
(DFT. EXH. 4, Plaintiff's Supplemental Answer to Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories, was marked for identification.)
(Two Defendant's Exhibit 4s were marked for identification.)

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THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. Today's date is September 27th, 2017. The time is approximately 1:35 PM. This is Video Number 2 in the video deposition of Kim Likins.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Ms. Likins, what we were just discussing earlier is I'm asking you a -- a simple question, no one at your organization has ever told you that your job was in danger, correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. And, in fact, the opposite is true. If I look on page -- this is Bates Number 667 of Exhibit 1 to the deposition. (Indicating.) Isn't it true that Marv Lich publicly stated the board of directors will meet next Tuesday where they expect to formally reject Hoagland's suggestion. Briggs said the club has an extremely positive relationship with Likins since she became director in 2001. And in this quote above, Briggs says: I said I'd look into the matter and get back with him. That's Mr. Hoagland. I met with people here at the club and we're obviously not going to fire Kim Likins.
Isn't that what was publicly stated?
A. That was stated by Mr. Brigg [sic],

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right.
Q. And Mr. Brigg [sic] is effectively your boss, right?
A. He was president of the board at the time, that is correct.
Q. Okay. Okay. I'm getting to the right section. Let me show you this quote real quick. In an e-mail from Michael Briggs on Page 663 --
A. Is that on the screen?
Q. It is, it's coming right now.
MR. ALFORD: And this is in your stack?
MR. BREWER: This is in Exhibit 1.
MR. ALFORD: I'm sorry, this is the -- the Dropbox you gave us?
MR. BREWER: That's correct.
MR. ALFORD: Page 663?
MR. BREWER: That's correct.
MR. ALFORD: Bear with me.
(Mr. Linton exited the room.)
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Isn't it true that Michael Briggs told you Ms. Likins is an outstanding employee and has the complete support of the officers and the board of the club. And that's exactly what Mr. Briggs told Skip Hoagland on December 10th, 2015 in reply

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to Mr. Hoagland reaching out to them?
A. That is an accurate statement from Mr. Briggs to Mr. Hoagland and I was very fortunate that I had a board that was willing to stand behind me and had enough belief in me to allow me to continue to do the work that I do every day.
Q. Okay. Well, let me ask you a question: Certainly Mr. Hoagland's entitled to his opinion that you're not fit for your job, right? I mean, he's entitled to that opinion, right?
A. Yeah, everybody is entitled to an opinion, I said that earlier.
Q. All right. And there's nothing -- nothing wrong with him having that opinion, right?
A. I wouldn't say there's -- that there's not anything wrong with having that opinion, but he certainly can have it.
Q. Well, you don't agree with it, but there's nothing illegal about someone having that opinion or nothing that's -- nothing that is defamatory about that opinion, correct?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Mr. Hoagland is entitled to have his opinion. What he is not entitled to do

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is to call my bosses --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- at the Boys & Girls Club, demand that I be fired because I'm a liar, I'm unfit for my job --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and I'm unfit to be around children. That is what he's not allowed to do.
Q. What -- what sway does Mr. Hoagland have with your board? I mean, does -- is Mr. Hoagland a board member at the Boys & Girls Club?
A. Of course he's not a board member at the Boys & Girls --
Q. So --
A. -- Club.
Q. -- he doesn't get to make that demand, does he?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: He has made an unfalse [sic] accusation to a board of a nonprofit --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- that is completely responsible --

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Q. Okay.
A. -- for the members of its association.
Q. Okay.
A. And the accusation is that the person leading that organization is unfit to be around the children that they serve. That is a huge, huge accusation to make --
Q. Okay.
A. -- to a nonprofit. And of course any board based on their responsibilities is going to take that seriously.
Q. Okay. Let me ask you this: If someone is a liar and if someone is corrupt, do you agree with me that that person may not in fact be fit to be the leader of an organization of boys and girls?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Go ahead and answer it.
A. If they're a liar and they're corrupt then, yes, I would agree that they --
Q. Okay.
A. -- they may not be fit to run that organization.
Q. So there's nothing wrong with expressing the opinion that if someone is a liar

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and corrupt that then that person is unfit to be around boys and children -- boys and girls, that -- that's a -- that's a fair critique protected by the First Amendment; is that correct?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

Please answer --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Go ahead.

MR. ALFORD: -- if you can.

THE WITNESS: That is not what Mr. Hoagland did.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. I'm asking --

A. He did not suggest if. He said that I was unfit --

Q. Okay.

A. -- to be around children --

Q. Well, when I get --

A. -- and unfit for my job.

Q. When I get to that question, you can answer it then. I'm asking this question: If someone calls your employer and says that -- that if a person -- excuse me, let me go back another step. If someone expresses the opinion that if someone is a liar and corrupt that they are unfit

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for a job leading children -- leading an organization benefiting children, you would agree with that?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, I totally didn't follow you on that.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. It's okay. It was just a baby step of the -- of what we just discussed. You agree with me that someone who is a -- who is a liar and is corrupt is unfit to be around children is what I understood you to say earlier?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. Yes.

Q. You also agree with me that it's usually an opinion whether someone is a liar or corrupt, correct?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: Not necessarily.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay.

A. I would suggest if someone is going to say that someone else is a liar or corrupt --

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Q. Okay.

A. -- that they would have something factual to substantiate that on.

Q. Okay. But that's not the law of the First Amendment, is it?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Right? I mean, is it the law that, in fact, they have to have facts available to them showing them otherwise and otherwise they can make the statement --

MR. ALFORD: I object --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- about a public figure?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

Please answer if you can.

THE WITNESS: Apparently that is the law.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. So what information did Skip Hoagland have available to him --

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

Answer if you can.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- that you can point to that would

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have shown him that you, in fact, were not a liar?

A. I have no idea what information Mr. Hoagland had in his hands or possession at the time that he called my employer --

Q. Okay.

A. -- and said that I was a liar and that I was unfit for my job --

Q. Okay.

A. -- and unfit to be around children.

Q. Well, let's talk about -- let's go through Paragraph 6 of the complaint, I want to talk about that. Paragraph 6 of your complaint, which is Exhibit 2 I believe --

A. Okay.

Q. -- sets forth the basis of allegations, right? And it looks like midway down it says that Mr. Hoagland -- among other things, defendant has publicly stated and published to third parties that plaintiff has conflicts of interest on town council, that in her employment with the Boys & Girls Club -- and in her employment -- excuse me, let me rephrase that. Among other things defendant has publically stated and published to third parties that plaintiff has conflicts of interest on town council and in her employment with the Boys &

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Girls Club. That's the first allegation in your complaint, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Then the second allegation is that he said you were a liar, right?
A. Yes.
Q. That he said that you were corrupt?
A. Yes.
Q. That you had violated the -- the public's trust; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And that she is not fit for her job or position on town council?
A. Correct.
Q. All right. Now, it -- the actual complaint doesn't say anything about whether or not Mr. Hoagland said anything about being fit to -- to work for the Boys & Girls Club, correct?
A. Well, it says I'm not fit for my job, that is the Boys & Girls Club.
Q. For her job or position on town council, oh, you see those --
A. Yeah, but it says --
Q. -- as being separate.
A. -- my job.

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Q. I'm with you. Okay. All right. Do you agree that people in the community are entitled to the perception that you may have conflicts of interest with either the Chamber of Commerce -- well, let's say the Chamber of Commerce?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: No, I -- I don't agree that --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- that people in the community that I have a conflict of interest with the chamber.
Q. Let me ask you a different question: Don't you agree that someone's entitled to have that opinion or belief?
A. Certainly they're entitled to have it.
Q. How would you factually disprove that you don't have a conflict of interest with the Chamber of Commerce in your position on town council?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Please answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: Could you help me understand what you mean by conflict of interest?

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Are you speaking in terms like a -- a state ethics definition of conflict of interest?
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I'm actually reading your complaint, so better -- better -- better question is to tell me what you mean by it. I -- I'm just reading the words you wrote down.
A. The words I wrote down are the things that Mr. Hoagland has claimed about me --
Q. Okay.
A. -- over and over and over again in e-mails and verbally.
Q. Okay. So you agree then for a statement to be defamatory it has to be false, right?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. It's not defamatory if it's true, right?
A. That's correct.
Q. Okay. How do you prove that you don't have a conflict of interest with the Chamber of Commerce?

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MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know that I need to prove that I -- that I don't have a conflict. I -- I mean, every single time I have a vote on council, I have to weigh in from the state ethics standpoint of if I have a conflict. Meaning if I or someone in my family would receive any type of financial gain based on how I would vote. And I have never not recused myself --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- if I believed that there was any type of conflict of interest.
Q. Okay. So are you stating that Skip Hoagland has alleged that you receive financial benefit directly from the Chamber of Commerce?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Just try to answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: No.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. So let's go back. So he says you have a conflict of interest?
A. He claims that I have a conflict of interest.

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Q. So for that to be false, what -- what would Skip Hoagland need to know or what would anybody need to know for you -- for that statement to be false? How would you prove that?

MR. ALFORD: I object --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. I didn't ask whether you need to, which is what you answered earlier, I want to know how do you prove that?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I'm so confused, Barrett, with what you're asking me.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure.

A. I can't answer that question.

Q. Let -- let -- I'm going to go back through it.

MR. ALFORD: I'm not -- I'm -- I'm sorry, it's --

MR. BREWER: I know you're going to object.

MR. ALFORD: -- almost 2:00 -- no, no, worse than that, it's almost 2:00 and I'm hungry so --

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MR. BREWER: Okay.

MR. ALFORD: -- I want to take a break because there's food out there. Let's take ten minutes --

MR. BREWER: Okay.

MR. ALFORD: -- and we can come back to it.

MR. BREWER: That's fine.

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We will now go off the record. The time is approximately 1:47 PM.

(A luncheon recess transpired.)

(Mr. Linton entered the room.)

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. The time is approximately 2:12 PM.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. All right. I was asking you about Paragraph 6 of Exhibit 2 I believe, which is the complaint.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And we were going through the -- the several categories of complaints that you had about Mr. Hoagland and what you claimed to be defamation in this case. And the first one we were talking about before we went on [sic] the record was conflict of interest. Okay. And you were telling

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me you didn't understand the question I was asking, so let me go back --

A. Okay.

Q. -- and ask it a different way.

A. Okay.

Q. Do you believe that when Mr. Hoagland says you have a conflict of interest on council it's pretty clear that he's talking about a conflict of interest with the Chamber of Commerce, correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And it's pretty clear he's talking about the Chamber of Commerce because of a vote that you had on the contract between the Town of Hilton Head and the designated marketing organization contract with the Chamber of Commerce?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And -- and you would agree with me that when that came up, that was a pretty contentious issue in town in general, right?

A. For a segment of the population, yes.

Q. In fact, transparency was one of the key issues with the DMO contract between the Town and the Chamber of Commerce, correct?

A. As far as the discussions of the

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contract?

Q. That's correct.

A. Yes.

Q. And, in fact, transparency was a big enough political issue that when Mayor Bennett had been -- he came in office, what, the year before, two years before?

A. Let's see. Probably -- probably.

Q. This is a --

A. Yeah, he did.

Q. -- vote in November 2015.

A. '15, yeah, so probably two years before that.

Q. I mean, wasn't it one of his primary political campaign platforms, increased and improved transparency with our government?

A. Yes --

Q. And --

A. -- I believe so.

Q. -- to the extent -- so -- so clearly, you know, I know you ran opposed once and ran with some -- ran with a -- unopposed in another election, but isn't it fair to say that most politicians jump onto certain political platforms because it's something that they feel or believe is

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something the town is concerned about or that their constituents are concerned about?

MR. ALFORD: I'll object to the form. Please answer if you can.

THE WITNESS: I would agree that there would be a -- a certain number of constituents that might have concerns about an issue like transparency.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Now, you agree that transparency is important, right?

A. Absolutely.

Q. And when we talk about transparency, what we're talking about is having the average citizen understand how their government operates, right?

A. Well, and having conversations in the public.

Q. Sure. That goes hand in hand with under -- a citizen understanding how our government operates, right?

MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Well, I mean, it's really hard for me to know if a citizen truly understands

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something or not. The goal would certainly be for our citizens to be able to understand things, but whether citizens always do or not --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Sure.

A. -- I mean, I don't know.

Q. But transparency is giving them the opportunity to understand, isn't it?

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. And most important or one of the most important pillars of that is having citizens or an electorate or -- or people in an area understand how government spends their tax dollars, correct?

A. I agree with that.

Q. The DMO contract completely surrounds the issue of accommodations tax dollars, correct?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: As far as I know.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. The DMO contract -- that's a designated marketing organization --

A. Right.

Q. -- contract, right?

A. I understand.

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Q. No, I'm not trying to explain it to you, I'm just trying to lay this out --

A. Okay.

Q. -- in baby steps --

A. I'm sorry.

Q. -- so I apologize if you -- if you think I'm --

A. No, I --

Q. -- talking down to you.

A. No, I just wanted you to understand that I knew what a DMO was.

Q. No, no, I'm speaking in terms in case anyone ever hears these questions --

A. Sure.

Q. -- and they don't understand --

A. Okay.

Q. -- just like how we want the -- the citizens to understand their government, right?

A. Right, right.

Q. I'm trying to explain it. So the designated marketing organization is the statutorily designated entity that can spend accommodations tax dollars, correct, on behalf of a town?

A. Yes.

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Q. And what accommodations tax dollars are are basically the dollars that come into Hilton Head Island through tourism effectively, mostly through hotel rooms, they call it a bed tax sometimes, right?

A. That's correct.

Q. And those dollars, a certain percentage of them, are statutory required to go back to the town so that the town can give those to a designated marketing organization so that that entity can spend those tax dollars promoting the town for tourism to basically reinvest that money so more people keep coming to visit?

A. That is correct. It's 30 percent.

Q. All right. So is it -- obviously, as I understand our statute, our statute allows a Chamber of Commerce to be a designated marketing organization, correct?

A. Yes.

Q. But it does not require it to be a designated marketing organization, correct?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: As far as I understand it.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. In fact, the town could decide to enter into a contract with any entity to be a designated marketing organization and give those monies to that organization to spend on behalf of the town; is that correct?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Only if that organization meets the criteria --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- established by the state.
Q. Right. Now, has the Town ever gone through a procurement process to identify a recipient of ATAX monies, a potential recipient, other than the Chamber of Commerce?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. Isn't it fair to say that some people might think that's an appropriate thing for a town to do, to go through a procurement process, which is basically a public bidding process by which other entities can make themselves available to compete for those dollars?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

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Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I -- so I understand what -- what you're describing. The difference is through ATAX, really any organization that qualifies can submit an application to the ATAX committee to be looked at and if that committee deems appropriate any of those monies, a portion or all of them could be awarded to another organization. It's not a procurement type of process. It's a granting type of process where there's an application --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- and there's a criteria --
Q. All right.
A. -- and once all of that is met then there is a citizen body of marketing experts of the industry who then vets those applications --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- and to the best of their ability makes a recommendation for council to act upon.
Q. Right. That's the ATAX committee, right?
A. That is correct.
Q. However, town council doesn't have to

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abide by what ATAX committee says, correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. We're going to come back to it in a minute, but there is this chamber app, an application, right, that basically it's the -- it goes on your phone to help you --
A. Oh, that --
Q. -- find restaurants?
A. -- kind of app. Not an application, application.
Q. Right, an app --
A. Yes. Yes --
Q. -- like a phone app.
A. -- I understand what you're saying. I understand. Yes.
Q. Okay. There -- there's a chamber app out there, right?
A. There is.
Q. And the Town approved that chamber app even though the ATAX committee recommended against it, correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. All right. So just because a group of marketing professionals says one thing or another doesn't mean you guys have to abide by it, you can

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vote whatever way you want?
A. You are correct.
Q. Okay. Now, where I'm going with that is ultimately there is a portion of the electorate here in Hilton Head Island that questions whether or not the Chamber of Commerce should be receiving these ATAX monies unless they make the -- the spending of that money transparent to the community and the electorate, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I -- I believe that is definitely true for some of the constituents in the community.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. All right. So certainly it's fair to say that before -- this contract was a DMO contract from 2015 that you guys signed and it was the very first contract that the Town and the Chamber of Commerce ever entered into, isn't it?
A. That is correct.
Q. However, how long has the Town of Hilton Head been giving ATAX monies to the Chamber of Commerce as a DMO?
A. Whenever it started. I don't know the

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total number of years, but...
Q. But it's been that long, right, that you don't know even --
A. Yeah.
Q. -- how many years?
A. Yes. Way before I was on council.
MR. HOAGLAND: 35, 40.
THE WITNESS: Mr. Hoagland is probably accurate.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Mr. Hoagland spoke up, he says he thinks it's been 35, 40 years that the Town was giving -- how much a year on average does the Chamber of Commerce receive as a DMO on ATAX monies?
A. Probably close to 2 million --
Q. Okay.
A. -- now.
Q. So $2 million has been going on average to the Chamber of Commerce without any type of contract and that means without any written requirements for how that money is to be spent, how the Town is to oversee the spending of that money or otherwise for how citizens will be guaranteed of some type of transparency and oversight for the

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spending of those monies?
MR. ALFORD: Object to form. Please answer the question if you can.
THE WITNESS: You're -- you're exactly right, there wasn't a contract. And so there was nothing written that substantiated specific outcomes or measurements --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- that needed to be associated with that. There clearly I believe is state law that defines how that money must be spent.
Q. Sure.
A. And -- and then as a part of our process, there is a very lengthy grant application that the -- or business -- I'm sorry, not grant application, business plan that the Chamber puts together for the Town and presents to the ATAX committee and then to council on how they intend to spend the money. And then after that money has been spent, they would come back and do the same thing, report back to the ATAX --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- commission on how the money was spent and then also report back to us.

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Q. Right. But there was no -- that -- you're basically in that situation as a town council person or as a citizen of Hilton Head, completely reliant on what the Chamber tells you they did with that money, correct?
A. That's -- that's correct.
Q. In fact, that means there's no way for a citizen or the Town of Hilton Head government to verify how that money was spent prior to the entry of this contract, correct?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: Well, we -- we certainly could answer those questions and -- and I'm -- I mean, I can't recall specifically, but I'm sure that there were times that as council members or as ATAX committee members, they may have asked questions like, you know, what's the RevPAR rate this last year, the occupancy rate, you know, how did we do this year in comparison to Myrtle Beach, you know, those types of things.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Well, let's be -- let's be realistic. Isn't what most people are concerned with when we talk about how our tax dollars are spent is whether

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or not that money is being either, one, spent in our best interest or, two, whether there's fraud involved in the spending of that money, i.e., does it go to something it shouldn't go to?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I would imagine that those would be the two most important things.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I mean, I -- you know, I think about the newspaper this past week. God, there's two members of Donald Trump's cabinet that have been in the paper recently. One was Mnuchin and the -- the model wife from Scotland --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- and then the -- is it Price who's the Homeland Security director. And they've been under immense scrutiny for whether or not they're using government-funded plane travel and jets for their own private purposes; isn't that correct?
A. (Nodding head up and down.)
Q. You're aware of that --
A. Correct.
Q. -- right?
A. Yes. Yes, I have seen that in the --

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Q. Okay.
A. -- headlines. I have.
Q. So -- so to go to that -- and that's my -- my point is that is really what our citizens are concerned about when they want to know about how our tax dollars are being spent is are you going out to lavish dinners, are you spending it on airplane rides, are you funding salaries you shouldn't be funding; isn't that fair?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I certainly agree with you that our citizens do care about the way that we spend our money.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. So my point being that before 2015, and we will get to the contract --
A. Okay.
Q. -- but before 2015 there was no way for the government -- there was no system in place for anyone to verify how money was being spent unless a council person happened to ask, gosh, what was the PAR rate last year which doesn't even really get to that question I presented to you?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

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Please answer the question if you can.
THE WITNESS: You're correct.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. So for 40 years the town has been giving approximately $2 million a year, I'm sure inflation has affected that, I'm sure it was less way in the beginning, but for about $2 million a year to the Town of Hilton Head Island -- excuse me, the Town of Hilton Head has been giving about $2 million a year to the Chamber as the DMO and before the contract was entered into isn't it your recollection that Mr. Hoagland was one of if not the most vocal advocates of a contract between the Town and the Chamber of Commerce in order to -- to basically vet and verify these kinds of issues?
A. Yes, he was.
Q. And as a result of this vociferous -- and I don't want to say -- let me rephrase that question.
MR. HOAGLAND: Tenacious efforts.
MR. BREWER: I don't want you to say a word, okay?
MR. HOAGLAND: I'm sorry.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. As a result of Mr. Hoagland speaking up

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and speaking loudly about that issue as a -- and -- and also with other citizens being vocal about that issue --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- as well as I know Mayor Bennett having an interest in that issue, a contract was then negotiated and -- and passed, right?
A. That is correct, yes.
Q. And that contract does have what's called an auditing provision in it, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. Now, I'm getting to the issue about the conflict of interest. I haven't left that. We're coming back to it.
A. Okay.
Q. But what I'm ultimately getting at is wasn't Mr. Hoagland's biggest complaint about the contract leading up to the November 15th, 2015 town council meeting that ostensibly started all this, right, wasn't his biggest complaint that the auditing provision was not tough enough?
A. That was clearly probably his biggest issue, yes.
Q. And given Mr. -- you -- you clearly have disagreements with Mr. Hoagland, but you can't

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deny that he was promoting an issue of transparency and asking the Town of Hilton Head to put tougher provisions for how we audit or check or verify how the Chamber of Commerce is spending taxpayer dollars?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Yes, he was. Yes.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And -- and Mr. Hoagland doesn't benefit in any way personally that you can think of by asking for tougher audits on Chamber of Commerce, does he?
A. Not that I know of.
Q. So, as best you can tell, that interest is purely a political interest on his own behalf?
A. As best I can tell.
Q. Now, there is a provision for an audit in there --
A. That is correct.
Q. -- but the -- as I understand it, and tell me if I'm wrong, doesn't the Chamber of Commerce get to select its own auditing firm?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: I believe that they do.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. In other words, just like a lawyer might hire an expert that benefits its client --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- the Chamber could hire an accountant that could run the books whatever way they want and you would have no way to know otherwise?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: Well, actually there is a portion of the contract that allows us to hire an accountant to review their accountant's opinion --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- to substantiate one way or another of where the -- whether they think that it is, you know, accurate and true.
Q. Okay.
A. And -- and, frankly, that's a lot better than if we were the ones looking at it. Because as you know from my degree, I don't have a degree in finance. I couldn't possibly look at something and know. But to be able to have an expert who can look at it and then tell us I think was the most important thing to be able to put in

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there.
Q. Wouldn't it be a more stringent standard for the Chamber of Commerce to pass into that contract if the Town had to select the auditor of its choice or the CPA firm of the Town's choice that the Chamber of Commerce must use? You don't -- you skipped that process, right? The -- the -- the same monies would be paid for the same audit except the town gets to choose who it is to make sure it's not a friend or someone who's overly friendly to the Chamber of Commerce?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I know that we put in there that, you know, the accounting firm needed to, you know, be a regular certified firm that followed all accounting rules and practices and procedures and so...
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. I'm listening. And I'm asking a different question. Wouldn't it have been a more stringent check and balance procedure for the Town to have put in -- negotiated into the contract a provision that the Town would select the auditor of its choice to prevent any type of buddy-buddy

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association between whom the Chamber selects to audit its own books?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: It would be a more stringent process.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And, in general, more stringent processes tend to guarantee better transparency, don't they?
A. You could assume that. One could assume that.
Q. If a citizen believed that the Town opted for less stringent requirements on the Chamber of Commerce, you can understand why a citizen might have a problem with that, right?
A. I could understand why they would want to voice their opinion that they felt like that we weren't making it stringent enough.
Q. I mean, it seems like a really simple concept that citizens would want more transparency versus less transparency, correct?
A. I --
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Answer it if you can.

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THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And if a more stringent contract requirement equals more transparency and a less stringent audit or contract requirement equals less transparency, then the DMO contract that the Town and you voted for on November 15th, 2015 was for less transparency and that's why Mr. Hoagland was mad, correct?
A. I don't --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know specifically why Mr. Hoagland was mad. I know that Mr. Hoagland did not want us to engage in a contract with the Chamber.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Now -- but he didn't actually argue up until that November 15th vote not to sign any contract, he was arguing about an auditing -- and not only auditing but a FOIA provision and those are the two issues that are well documented in all the e-mails that we've been through and you've received as a --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

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Answer -- I mean, you're -- you're -- do you want to show us the e-mails? I'm sorry, you keep --

MR. BREWER: So you're limited to speak --

MR. ALFORD: Do you want to take this outside --

MR. BREWER: No, actually, I don't. I want you to not speak -- have speaking objections. If you'd like --

MR. ALFORD: Okay.

MR. BREWER: -- to let --

MR. ALFORD: Not a problem.

MR. BREWER: -- and I'm actually okay --

MR. ALFORD: Not a problem.

MR. BREWER: I'm -- I'm conducting this. If you have an objection to the question, you ask -- you -- you do it.

MR. ALFORD: I have an objection to the form.

MR. BREWER: You can object every time you want. Please let me finish the question --

MR. ALFORD: Go ahead.

MR. BREWER: -- and then you can voice that and then if we have to take it up later, we

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take it up later.

MR. ALFORD: Good enough.

MR. BREWER: What was my question? I'm sorry. I almost should have asked for like the running -- you know, the running transcript.

(The Court Reporter read the question commencing on page 153 line 18.)

MR. BREWER: Okay. Thank you. That's -- I just wanted to remember where I was.

THE COURT REPORTER: That's fine.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Let me go back and re-ask the question.

A. Okay. Please do. Thank you.

Q. You're welcome. Isn't it fair to say that Mr. Hoagland didn't want you -- the Town to sign this contract not because he didn't want the Town to sign any contract but because it didn't have stringent enough auditing provisions, correct?

A. I believe that was at -- at least one of the reasons he didn't want us to sign it.

Q. One of the other reasons is it didn't have a FOIA request provision and we're going to talk about that in a second.

A. Okay.

Q. Isn't that fair?

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A. I believe that's correct.

Q. So let's talk about both those two things. FOIA is the Freedom Of Information Act, it's a federal act, right?

A. That's correct.

Q. And is it also responsible for improving transparency between the citizens and their government by allowing citizens to make simple requests to the government to produce all their records so that citizens can look at them themselves and look over the shoulders of your -- their elected officials?

A. That is correct.

Q. Now, isn't there a fair argument that the town -- the Chamber of Commerce has been fighting Mr. Hoagland for years on replying to FOIA requests over its administration of these ATAX dollars?

A. I know -- I know that there has been a FOIA issue between the Chamber and Mr. Hoagland and I'm assuming it has to do with the ATAX dollars, but I -- I -- I don't know the details --

Q. Okay.

A. -- of his lawsuit.

Q. But you're -- you're not aware that the

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Chamber has ever provided details for how it spends ATAX dollars under a Freedom Of Information Act request, right?

A. I don't believe so.

Q. But don't you think that it's fair that a private -- even though it's a -- even though the Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit and it's not a governmental entity, that to the extent it's spending our taxpayers dollars, that it should have to provide documentation to the citizens of how it's spending our taxpayer dollars?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it.

THE WITNESS: You're asking me is it fair for --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Isn't that --

A. -- them to do that?

Q. Isn't that -- isn't that right, shouldn't the Chamber of Commerce be producing documentation about how it spends our taxpayer dollars the same way our government would have to produce documentation of how it spends our taxpayer dollars?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

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Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: And I believe that they -- they do and I believe that's something that they -- that is provided now in the contract.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. The contract actually doesn't have a provision that says they have to respond to FOIA, right?
A. Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't realize you were attaching it to FOIA. I just thought you meant that they should be accountable for those -- those dollars.
Q. So let me re-ask the question.
A. Okay.
Q. The Chamber of Commerce does not provide the same documentation the Town of Hilton Head would under a FOIA request for how it spends tax dollars, right?
A. I believe that is correct.
Q. But don't you think they should? If any entity is spending our tax dollars, shouldn't that entity be responsible to the same level of scrutiny that our federal government is responsible or our state government is or our town?
MR. ALFORD: I -- I object to the form.

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THE WITNESS: I --
MR. ALFORD: Please answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: -- I think that has to come down to the definition of whether the organization is a public body or not.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. There -- you know, there's currently an order from the circuit court in South Carolina saying that the Chamber does need to respond to those FOIA requests, right?
A. Correct, I understand that.
Q. So -- so our courts do agree with that, right?
A. At this time, yes.
Q. But even though Mr. Hoagland wanted the Town to vote for a FOIA provision, you did not -- you and the other town council members did not agree with that and voted for the contract despite its lack of a FOIA provision, correct?
A. We did.
Q. Okay. Now, just that by itself, all right, isn't it fair that a town person who thinks that you voted for less transparency has a right to voice their displeasure with that?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

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Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I think that they certainly have the right to come before us as a council and say that they disagreed with the way we voted.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Don't you agree that if you have personal relationships in the Chamber of Commerce with people high up in the Chamber of Commerce and that you voted for contracts with less transparency that that by itself is enough to give a citizen taxpayer the belief that you might have a conflict of interest?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I have no idea what you mean by personal relationships.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Answer the question to begin with and then I'll -- I'll -- I'll go ahead and define it. Define -- let's go back.
MR. BREWER: Tell me -- read my question back to me, because I'm going to baby step it and I want to ask the exact some question, please.

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(The Court Reporter read the question commencing on page 160 line 7.)
MR. ALFORD: And her response?
(The Court Reporter read the answer commencing on page 160 line 16.)
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. All right. So we're going to come back to that question. Do you agree with me that you have personal relationships with executive members of the Chamber of Commerce?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: No, I don't know what you mean by personal relationships. Are you asking me if I know them?
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I mean, are we really having a hard time with the term personal relationship?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. You would never use that term to describe any relationship you have with anybody, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: Oh --
BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. Just --
A. -- of -- of course I would. I would --
Q. Then how would you use it?
A. -- I would use that term to -- to describe, you know, many individuals that I'm particularly close to or know very well.
Q. So -- so you do --
A. That --
Q. Go ahead.
A. That would not be the way that I describe my relationships with whoever you're speaking of in the Chamber.
Q. So you consider -- well, let's just use -- use this: Do you agree that you have a close personal relationship with Charlie Clark?
A. I do not.
Q. Huh. You do not believe that you and Charlie Clark have -- your families have gone on vacations together?
A. Our families have never been on vacation together.
Q. Huh.
A. My son and Charlie Clark's son and my husband and her husband have been together with a group of kids that have gone skiing together, but I

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wasn't there and it wasn't a family vacation, it was friends from school.
Q. You've never been over to -- been to have dinner with Charlie Clark or her family?
A. Never.
Q. Never had wine with Charlie Clark or her family?
A. I have never been to Charlie Clark's home. She's never been to my home. I don't even know where Charlie Clark's home is. I have had lunch with Charlie Clark a few times and I have had dinner with Charlie Clark a few times in public places.
Q. Now, you and Charlie Clark have known each other for a number of years, correct?
A. I would say we've known of each other, yes. Our children started school together at a relatively young age and I don't -- and I don't know exactly what age that was.
Q. In two --
MR. ALFORD: I'm sorry, what document are you on again?
MR. BREWER: I'm going -- I'm telling you.
MR. ALFORD: Okay.

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MR. BREWER: I haven't had a chance to ask the question yet.
MR. ALFORD: Well, before you ask the question about a document, I'd like to know what document it is, if you don't mind, so I can look at it. And if I would like, I will take the time to go and speak with client outside about the document.
MR. BREWER: I don't know that you have that right necessarily, but let's talk about it.
MR. ALFORD: Okay.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. This is --
MR. ALFORD: What doc --
MR. BREWER: I'm --
MR. ALFORD: What is it? 148?
MR. BREWER: Are you going to give me a chance to talk? No, it is not. Yeah, it's -- no, it's 148 at the bottom, that's right.
MR. ALFORD: Thank you.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. All right. This is an e-mail between you and Charlie Clark on March 15th of 2011; is that correct?
A. That looks to be correct.

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Q. All right. You served on the selection committee for Designation Television Commercials with the Chamber of Commerce?
A. Yes, it was a -- it was a one-time meeting.
Q. Okay. Does your relationship with Ms. Clark go back farther than that?
A. 2011?
Q. Yes.
A. I certainly knew Mrs. Clark before 2011.
Q. So then subsequently Charlie Clark served on the board of the Boys & Girls Club, correct?
A. She did serve on the board of the Boys & Girls Club.
Q. You work closely with board members of the Boys & Girls Club, right?
A. I often work closely with board members of the Boys & Girls Club. I did not work closely with Mrs. Clark. She was not on the board very long after I became employed.
Q. Charlie Clark is submitting e-mails to you in December of 2011 about wanting to join the exploration for The First Tee entity, correct?

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MR. ALFORD: I'm sorry, Barrett, could -- would you mind as you go through these documents giving us where you're going, the numbers, because you dropped these on us late last night.

MR. BREWER: 2-4 -- actually, these -- y'all have had these.

MR. ALFORD: Well, I'm saying, you -- you identified them to be used in the deposition last night.

MR. BREWER: 241.

MR. ALFORD: Okay. Bear with me a moment. Hold on before you answer any questions.

If I'm correct, it was like 2,800 documents. Barrett, is that the number you've put on us?

MR. BREWER: Of documents that have already been produced to you by and large, yes, and that are either public record or part of Ms. Likins' public personal identity. Nothing y'all haven't seen, in other words.

MR. ALFORD: All right. Let me get to it.

MR. BREWER: If that's what you mean by dropped on you.

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MR. ALFORD: What's that?

MR. BREWER: If that's what you mean by dropped on you.

MR. ALFORD: Well, I meant the documents you were going to identify for the deposition under the rule.

MR. BREWER: Well, actually, I identify all -- all documents we've ever exchanged. That's a large number, but let's be fair.

MR. ALFORD: All right. 241.

MR. BREWER: Could we go -- let's do it off the record for one second.

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We will now go off the record. The time is approximately 2:45 PM.

(A recess transpired.)

(The Court Reporter read the question commencing on page 165 line 23.)

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. The time is approximately 2:53 PM.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. Ms. Likins, we are on question 241 -- or Page 241 of the PDF.

MR. BREWER: And I'm actually going to make things a little bit easier for you, Gregg. Is that easier?

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MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir, thank you.

MR. BREWER: All right. Good. You're welcome.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. All right. Back in 2011, Ms. Clark served on the board of the Boys & Girls Club and was asking to get involved with The First Tee organization that you were spearheading, correct?

A. The board put together kind of an exploration committee or launch committee, I can't remember exactly what the -- the words were, and Mrs. Clark did express her interest in being part of that subcommittee of the board of the Boys & Girls Club.

Q. Okay. Now, subsequent to that, you and Ms. Clark socialized together at chamber galas, correct?

A. I certainly would see Ms. Clark at chamber galas. We rarely socialized. She's responsible usually for that event and I don't recall ever really seeing her out socializing during the event.

Q. Okay. This is Document 224, it's an e-mail between you and Ms. Clark --

A. Uh-huh.

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Q. -- on February 28th, 2012. Hey, Kim, got your voicemail. Working on the draft. Should have it to you this week for review. Will that work? Also checking schedules with Bill and the Upshaws for the gala.

Now, is that your gala, the Boys & Girls Club or is that the Chamber gala? There's two different galas, right?

A. There are two different galas. I would believe that that would be checking with them for my gala, but I -- I -- I truly can't say for sure --

Q. Okay.

A. -- what it is.

Q. Bottom line, a gala is a big ball, right?

A. Yes, uh-huh.

Q. And in the world of government functions, chamber -- Chamber of Commerces, nonprofit organizations, this is one of the big events for each entity they have each year, right?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. Usually black tie?

A. Yes.

Q. Usually alcohol, dinner, and the whole

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nine yards?
A. Yes.
Q. All right.
A. With hundreds and hundreds of people in attendance.
Q. In fact, Ms. Clark as -- Ms. Clark does PR and is a spokesman or spokesperson for the Chamber of Commerce, correct?
A. I believe she is.
Q. So one of the things she would help you do is ghostwrite letters that you could use in your fundraising campaigns, right?
A. No, that's not accurate.
Q. Okay.
A. Mrs. Clark didn't ghostwrite anything. Ms. Clark was serving on the board and she had been asked by the board --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- to draft a letter that we call support a child --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- which is a fundraising initiative that is board driven solely. I'm not involved --
Q. Okay.
A. -- as far as giving names or soliciting

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from anyone. The board themselves chooses their own friends, all I do is identify a child and the board also chooses someone on the board to -- to work to write the letter. Mrs. Clark was apparently chosen that year at that time to do it.
Q. But doesn't the letter that goes out have your name on it?
A. To all of the donors?
Q. Yes.
A. I don't -- you know, I -- I can't say for sure, but I don't believe the -- the support a child letter has my name on it because it's board driven. I believe that letter would have the chairman of the board's name on it. There are many letters that do have my name. When donors give money in general --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- then all of those letters do have my name. I'd have to see the exact letter that you're talking about.
MR. ALFORD: Where are we headed?
MR. BREWER: I'm going to tell you in just a second. I'm going to decide if I'm going to ask about it. All right. This is 234.
MR. ALFORD: Thank you.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. This is an e-mail chain from March 20th of 2012 to you and Ms. Clark discussing attending one of the galas getting together for lunch; isn't that correct?
A. Yes, she's asking me if we can have lunch. I'm not available and saying could we do it another week the next week.
Q. Okay. I'm going to 215. Didn't you and Ms. Clark work later in 2012 on the -- the Pedal 4 Kids event that was, as I understand, is that an event that the Chamber of Commerce and the Boys & Girls Club are involved with together?
A. It's a Boys & Girls Club fundraising event and the chamber is denoted as one of the sponsors. When I say sponsor, it's not a financial sponsorship. The only reason there is a partnership is that our community has been designated a gold level bike friendly community --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- that that was an award for the community that the bike advisory committee worked on securing along with the chamber. And one of the requirements to receive that award is to have a public community bike event and Pedal 4 Kids

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fulfills that requirement. So that's the only reason that the chamber even says that they're a sponsor. They have no involvement other than that.
Q. Okay. Going to Document 194. In 2013 --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- isn't this -- you're writing Charlie Clark February of 2013, thanks, Kim, Tom and I will be attending the gala. That's you and your husband; is that right?
A. No.
Q. Tom -- who is Tom?
A. My husband's Steve.
Q. Oh, I'm sorry. Who's Tom?
A. Where are you? I'm sorry, I was looking up at the top.
Q. Oh, I'm sorry, I apologize.
A. Okay.
Q. I read it the wrong way. Charlie Clark, thanks, Kim, Tom and I -- is that her husband --
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. -- will be attending the gala.
A. Okay.
Q. And that's your gala, I assume, the

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Boys & Girls?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. They say where they're going to be sitting. So that's her coming again after she's already off the board in 2012 coming back to your gala and communicating with you personally about it, correct?
A. She is communicating with me personally about it to let me know that she's going to be in attendance as a former board member. And it's not unusual that our former board members attend our galas. Charlie, like almost all of them, have a heart for the organization and want in one way or another to continue to serve and -- and support it.
Q. Then in 2014 you and Sandy -- Sandy West -- this is 164. You and Sandy West and -- oh, I'm sorry --
A. What is that --
Q. -- it's the wrong one. I typed in the wrong one. I must have. I apologize.
A. It says 164 down there. (Indicating.)
Q. How did I get that one wrong? There's got to be another one. I must have typed that one in wrong.
MR. ALFORD: 193?

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. So this is 193. February 5th of 2014. This is discussing, again, getting together with Charlie Clark to discuss a junior board idea which is something y'all were putting on at the Boys & Girls Club?
A. Sandy West who's on our board had come from a community where the -- a nonprofit that she served on had a junior board, which was younger business and just family, individuals that would help support the larger board. And because the chamber had a junior leadership class, Charlie -- I'm sorry, Sandy asked me to reach out to Charlie to see if we could meet with her to --
Q. Okay.
A. -- talk about how they recruited and if they might be interested in talking to those individuals as far as joining nonprofits in the community.
Q. I appreciate the explanation, but the only question I had is you were looking to get together for lunch with Charlie Clark and Sandy West on February 25th, 2014 to discuss the junior board idea; is that correct?
A. Oh, yes. Uh-huh.

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Q. Thank you.
MR. ALFORD: Where are you heading? One --
MR. BREWER: 190.
MR. ALFORD: 190, thank you.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. February 3rd, 2014. Obviously your children were in school together, right?
A. That's correct.
Q. And this is you saying -- talking about your kids. I guess they're wanting to go to school together and you're hoping they both go to University of South Carolina so you can get season football tickets and tailgate with each other, that being Ms. Clark's family, correct?
A. Yes, that we would see each other at the football game where our kids might be in school.
Q. And I think you get the point, she's clearly more than an acquaintance, isn't she?
A. I never said she was just an acquaintance.
Q. All right. So I can go through the rest of them if we want -- actually, I do want to do one more. This is 100. I actually skipped a

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few years. I can go through the rest of them if we need to. This is at the bottom, they read up. (Indicating.) Hey, Kim, are y'all going to Belton this year? I don't -- what is Belton?
A. It's where the state tennis tournaments are held.
Q. Okay. No, maybe next year. This is from you. Wishing Cameron good luck. That must be her child?
A. Yes.
Q. I'm bummed -- this is her to you. I'm bummed, I was hoping for a glass of wine and some quality time with the Likins clan.
Wouldn't that be your family?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Let's maybe catch up over lunch. Are you around on Monday? If not, let me know what works for your schedule.
Is that correct?
A. That's exactly what you read.
Q. You clearly had a personal relationship with Charlie Clark, didn't you?
A. Mr. Brewer, I have a casual relationship with Charlie Clark just like I do hundreds of other people on Hilton Head Island.

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Our children have been in school together. They have played sports together. I have had lunch with Charlie Clark in the 15 or 17 some years that I have known her probably less than seven times. I have never been to her home.

Q. Okay.

A. She has never been to my home. I've never celebrated a birthday. I don't even know when her birthday is. I know her as well as I know hundreds of other people on the island because our lives have crossed paths --

Q. Sure.

A. -- because we were a small community. I am not close friends with Charlie Clark and nor do I consider having a personal relationship with Charlie Clark.

Q. You would agree with me that people on the outside of your relationships with hundreds of people might see these e-mails to be a close relationship and therefore a conflict of interest in any vote you might have with the Chamber of Commerce, don't you?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I don't agree with that.

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I don't think that there's anything in here that would suggest that I have a conflict of interest.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. I'm not saying that. What I'm asking is don't you think that some people in the constituents of your electorate might believe based on the level of relationship you have with Charlie Clark that you do have a conflict of interest, whether it's true or not?

A. I have no idea.

MR. ALFORD: Object to the --

THE WITNESS: I have no idea.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. Have you ever heard the concept that some people here in the Hilton Head area or Beaufort County that there's a sense that there are some people who are in the club, in other words, in the circle of people who kind of get things done and wheel and deal and people who are not in the club, people who don't have that kind of access?

A. Are you referring to a specific club? I mean, if there's a club that you're talking about, I can let you know if I know about it. But, I mean, hypothetically if you're saying there's a in the club.

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Q. Sure. Let me -- let me be a little more -- since -- since we're being very literal about it, let me go back. Do you agree that there are some people who don't feel like they have the same level of access to their politicians as others here in town?

A. No. No. We -- as a -- as a matter of fact --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- as a community, we have public comment at every single one of our town council meetings and any citizen can call up and speak to the council. We also have on our website all of our phone numbers and e-mails and any constituent that desires whether they're my own constituents or just general citizens in the community have access to me.

Q. Okay. One second. Huh. Okay. Going to 38 now.

MR. ALFORD: Thank you.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Who's Rick Caporale?

A. He is on the Beaufort County Council.

Q. Huh.

MR. ALFORD: Is there --

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MR. BREWER: I don't think that's the right one actually.

MR. ALFORD: Is there a way that you're doing that that I can do that where you just put in the number?

MR. BREWER: Oh, well, are you using it through -- go off for one second.

MR. ALFORD: I mean, I --

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We will now go off the record. The time is approximately 3:10 PM.

(Off-the-record conference.)

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. The time is approximately 3:11 PM.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Who's Rick Caporale?

A. He's on county council.

Q. Okay. So he's a local politician here in Beaufort?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. This is an e-mail I found from Rick Caporale and it says: I recall a statement I heard way too often during the 12 years I served on Beaufort County Board of Education. The phrase was we don't do it that way around here. Some folks actually looked me in the eye and smile

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when they said it. It was their way of saying I was on the outside, in their opinion always would be while they were on the inside. Many of the folks who use that phrase spoke as if it was something to be proud of, a badge of honor or membership sort of like saying this is our turf and you don't belong here. We were in the club, but you are not.

Have you ever heard a sentiment like that here? I mean, this is not a citizen, this is a -- an elected politician here in Beaufort County. You -- that doesn't sound familiar to you at all?

A. I mean, I've -- I've clearly I'm sure seen that e-mail if it's part of the production, but as far as there being some type of informal club that you're in or you're out of in the community, I don't know anything about it.

Q. Okay. I -- I -- you know, and I'm not literally talking about a membership. I mean, this is a metaphor, I think you would --

A. I --

Q. -- agree, right?

A. -- I understand that. I appreciate what you're saying.

Q. All right.

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A. I -- I do. I'm just saying that, I mean, I don't feel like I'm personally in inside -- inside some type of in community club or crowd.

Q. Okay. So you -- you don't -- can't even recognize that people in this community might feel that way about their elected politicians and about the connection which you perceive is a small town and people working with each other because you cross paths so often that other people in the outside might perceive that as you having an inappropriate relationship with people that they don't have and they have an access to, therefore it's a conflict?

A. I have --

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I have never had anyone ask me about that and I've never had a constituent or anyone suggest to me that that were the case.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. And so you can't even understand that being a legitimate sensibility, that someone in this county or this town, a sentiment they might have?

A. I can't appreciate how you can say that

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you don't have access to an elected official as least from the town's standpoint because we do anything and everything that we can to make sure that our constituents have access to us.

Q. Now, let me -- let me kind of wrap it back up. I mean, clearly in leading up to the vote on the DMO contract, I mean, you had Bill Miles reaching out to you personally about the town's -- or, excuse me, about the chamber's service under the ATAX -- services as a DMO under the ATAX provisions, right?

A. You'd have to show me something. I don't know what you're talking about --

Q. Okay.

A. -- specifically.

Q. All right. But you -- but you -- before I show it to you, are you denying that Bill Miles ever reached out to you personally --

MR. ALFORD: Objection.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- about the chamber's role with the ATAX committee?

MR. ALFORD: Objection.

THE WITNESS: I'm saying I don't know. If you have something to show me then I'd be happy

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to take a look at it and let you tell me --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. I actually want to know the answer. I don't have to show you anything right now. I want to know, has Bill Miles ever reached out to you personally about the chamber's role as a DMO and its services under the ATAX provisions of our statutes?

A. Are you talking about leading up to the contract negotiations, did Bill Miles reach out to me? I mean, I'm trying to understand what frame of reference that you're talking about.

Q. Let -- let me break it down even more. Have you ever personally received an e-mail from Bill Miles ever?

A. Oh, I'm sure I have.

Q. Okay.

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever personally received an e-mail from Bill Miles about the chamber's service as a DMO organization?

A. I don't know. I mean, I get thousands and thousands of e-mails, so I truly have no idea if I have or not.

Q. Okay. Going to 369. March 27th, 2015.

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This is Bill Miles to you, right?
A. (Nodding head up and down.)
Q. Is that a yes?
A. That's correct, yes.
Q. Okay. And that is before the DMO contract, correct, which is voted on in November 2015?
A. Yes, that's -- that's March.
Q. Okay. And the contract was being negotiated between March 2015 and November 2015, correct?
A. I have no idea when it was started. The contract was worked on through our finance and administrative committee at the town and I was not a member of that committee.
Q. All I'm asking is between the date of March 27th, 2015 and the date the contract was voted on, it had been negotiated, correct?
A. I'm saying I don't know when they started negotiating it, Barrett. I mean, it very well could have been.
Q. I didn't ask when they started. I mean, they could have started four years before, but, I mean, clearly the contract was being negotiated in the nine months leading up to the

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vote at some point, correct?
A. The contract was being negotiated leading up to the vote but I don't know that it was nine months. It could have been six months. I -- I'm saying that I'm not a part of that committee and I don't know when they started their deliberations.
Q. If it was six months before it would be within -- I mean, this is really a simple question, this is -- I want to make sure we're on the same page. I'm asking a very clear question. Between the date of March 27th, 2015 and March [sic] 15th, 2015, the DMO contract was negotiated, correct? Sometime during that nine-month period it had been negotiated, correct?
A. Sometime.
Q. Thank you. This is before the contract was entered into, correct, this e-mail?
A. It is definitely before, yes.
Q. Bill Miles saw you personally at the Boys & Girls Club, correct?
A. I can't tell from that e-mail whether it was at the Boys & Girls Club or not. It could have been. Based on the time period, I would imagine it might have been at The First Tee

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groundbreaking.
Q. Sure. Which happened in -- that groundbreaking was right around April, end of March 2015 right?
A. I believe so.
Q. And The First Tee groundbreaking, that facility is nestled right next to the Boys & Girls Club, right?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. In fact, y'all probably consider it the same campus, don't you?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: I mean, we obviously share things like sidewalks and a parking lot.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Sure. Attached is the article we discussed, so that morning you --
A. I'm sorry, which article?
Q. I'm -- I'm going through this right here. We're going to get there.
A. Okay.
Q. I'm asking you about the e-mail right now. From this e-mail --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- which is 369 of the production --

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A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- do you disagree or do you deny that you and Bill Miles discussed an article as documented in this e-mail? I'll show you the article, you can either remember it or not, I'm asking you do you deny that this is true, that you and he had this discussion he says you had?
A. I don't recall if we had a discussion. I mean --
Q. Okay.
A. -- he says that he attached an article we discussed. I don't even know what article you're talking about, so I can't tell you that I know that we discussed it.
Q. Okay. Let's go look at it. This is the next page up, 370. Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce makes big impact on island. Let me blow it up, I'll let you read it. Sorry, it's a little too big. All right. It keeps wanting to move. All right. Attracting visitors to Hilton Head Island is a big job and the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton -- gosh, I'm sorry about that. It's because I'm holding it, I'm sorry.
All right. Attracting visitors to Hilton Head Island is a big job and Hilton Head

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Island/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce is a big part of that effort. The chamber receives 30 percent of the Hilton Head Island lodging tax which helps pay for their marketing plan. That's ATAX monies that it's referring to, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. Wednesday the chamber met with the town's accommodations tax advisory board to discuss how they would use that money. Their Hilton Head Island destination marketing plan covers a wide spectrum from social media strategies and digital media campaign which in turn helps boost the revenue of businesses and hotels in the area.

Isn't this article about the Chamber of Commerce and its use of accommodations tax monies?

A. It -- it sounds that -- as though it is, yes.

Q. Do you deny that you and Bill Miles in March of 2015 met personally at your facility and discussed what was in this article, which is the Chamber of Commerce's use of accommodation tax monies?

A. Yes, I absolutely deny that.

Q. Can you think of a different reason why Mr. Miles would have written you this e-mail saying

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you did?

A. I would imagine and I can't recall exactly, but I would imagine because Bill -- Mr. Miles was at the groundbreaking --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- that he spoke to me outside at the groundbreaking where there were hundreds of other people and wanted me to take a look at obviously this article.

Q. Okay.

A. And I'm sure I said I'd be happy to and he said he would send it. I never had a meeting with Mr. Miles about sitting down talking about this article.

Q. I mean, isn't that just parsing words? I mean, you're saying that you and Mr. Miles probably did meet together and that you probably did discuss this article?

A. No, sir, I'm not. I'm saying that in a crowd of hundreds of people Mr. Miles may have spoken to me and asked me if I would take a look at something. He probably said, did you see it? And I probably said, no, I haven't. And he probably said, great, I'll send it to you.

Q. Well, what did this have to do with

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you?

A. I'm on town council.

Q. Okay.

A. He probably just wanted me to read it.

Q. Okay. No reason why, he just said, here, check out this article, have you seen it and just sent it on to you and that'd be the end of it?

A. Well, I'm sure it's because it apparently is a positive article.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. I mean, you yourself spoke earlier --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- about the fact that individuals want to educate us on things.

Q. Sure.

A. And so if Mr. Miles felt like that this was something that I hadn't seen on my own and he wanted me to see it, then he can send it to me.

Q. Now, Mr. Miles was at the groundbreaking for First Tee because you invited him there, correct?

A. He was invited because he was part of the Chamber of Commerce. He was the head of the Chamber of Commerce. That's typically what you do at groundbreakings. That is nothing unusual.

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Q. I'm -- what do you mean you -- what's typically what you do, invite the Chamber of Commerce president to a groundbreaking?

A. As well as any other --

Q. Okay.

A. -- community leaders and dignitaries.

Q. But the Chamber of Commerce was actually part of the initial launch committee for The First Tee organization, weren't they?

A. The Chamber of Commerce along with the Town of Hilton Head, the Heritage Foundation, and the Town of Bluffton wrote support letters for The First Tee to receive the license for a First Tee application. It is a very rigorous process and one of the requirements is that you have community support by those agencies.

Q. In fact, you actually worked with Charlie Clark about the support letters, didn't you?

MR. ALFORD: Where are we? Three --

MR. BREWER: This is 364. This is -- hold on, this is --

MR. ALFORD: 364.

MR. BREWER: Make sure I got the right one here. There it goes. 365. Wrong one, I'm

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sorry. Next page up.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. 365. This is from the Town of Bluffton to you at the bottom. Per your request attached is a letter from Mayor Sulka addressed to the supporters of The First Tee program.
A. That's correct.
Q. You forwarded that on to Charlie and said -- this is April 1st, 2014 --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- could the chamber write a similar letter for us in support of The First Tee?
A. That's correct. She is the head of marketing and communications for them. And just like we reached out to the Heritage Foundation --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- the town, the Town of Bluffton, we reached out to our Chamber of Commerce --
Q. Sure.
A. -- so that we could be able to provide all of those letters to the First Tee National to show that we had community support and unity for that organization.
Q. Now, the Chamber of Commerce didn't have to support The First Tee, did it?

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A. Certainly not.
Q. Certainly had -- in your position as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head, having relationships with people is part of what helps you get things like this done, right?
A. Asking a Chamber of Commerce to support a youth development organization --
Q. Sure.
A. -- doesn't take anybody special. I mean...
Q. So they'll write these for anybody then, which means why did it really help you in the application process?
A. I'm not saying that they will write it for any organization.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. It would have to be an organization that they would deem to be worthwhile for our community. And I'm assuming that they believed that The First Tee would be a great organization for our community to have and that's why they were willing to write the letter. If I just called them up and said, oh, I want you to support X, Y or Z that made absolutely no sense or had no community

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value, no, I don't think that they would have written the letter.
Q. Was The First Tee up and running at that point? I mean, it wasn't even open then, was it?
A. I don't -- I'd have to look, but I don't -- I don't --
Q. I mean --
A. No, I don't believe based on the date that it was.
Q. Right. So, I mean, they don't know anything about the organization other than what you've told them, right?
A. I have no idea. I would assume that before they endorsed an organization that they would have done some research on it. And there is plenty of information about The First Tee. It's all over.
Q. There wasn't a First Tee here in Hilton Head?
A. No, there is a First Tee National where you get your chapter license from.
Q. It doesn't mean your organization is going to be a good one. They're taking your word on it. It's your relationship they're trusting;

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isn't that true?
A. They're not trusting -- trusting my relationship. I wasn't asking them to trust me about anything. We were asking them to endorse the idea of bringing a First Tee nonprofit --
Q. Right.
A. -- organization to our community and the Boys & Girls Club board was supporting that initiative.
Q. Sure.
A. And that's all that we were asking. They certainly had the right to say no.
Q. Of course they did, but they didn't, did they?
A. No, they didn't. And it's a great organization. It made sense for them to say yes. It does wonderful things for the youth of our community.
Q. We can go through the remainder of the e-mails if you want, but, I mean, you clearly have ties with people at the Chamber of Commerce, whether it be Bill Miles, Charlie Clark or any of the number of people I've got e-mails of you -- of you working with --
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the

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form and answer it.
MR. BREWER: Read me my question back, please, so I can ask it again. I didn't get...
(The Court Reporter read the question commencing on page 197 line 19.)
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. So we can go back through the remainder of all the e-mails you have with the Chamber of Commerce if you want, but it's clear that you had a relationship with Bill Miles as the president, Charlie Clark as the -- the main spokesperson there, that other people there just don't have, I mean, here in the community? That's a -- between your position as town council member and as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club, you have an ongoing relationship with those people, correct?
A. I don't have an ongoing relationship. I don't actively work with these individuals on any type of daily basis. I know these individuals just like I know hundreds of other individuals and that I work with hundreds of others -- of individuals in our community.
Q. That's not the right one. Huh. That's fine. All right. This is your version or your

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Word statement --
MR. ALFORD: 250 --
MR. BREWER: 2546.
MR. ALFORD: 2546.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. This is from your computer and it's the statement you read the night you voted for the DMO contract for the Beaufort -- or Bluffton Chamber of Commerce?
A. That's correct.
Q. All right. I have deep respect for the chamber board of directors and its employees. These individuals both past and present have been and continue to be respected, responsible, and successful business owners and operators who are also our neighbors and friends. They are people whom we know, work with, serve with, worship with, coach with, and often interact with on a daily basis. Many of our children have grown up together. We've been in each other's homes. I have deep respect for their business expertise and their commitment to our community.
I mean, that's effectively Charlie Clark you're describing there, isn't it?
A. I'm not referring to any individual.

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I'm speaking in generalities. What I was trying to express that evening is that we were not a metropolitan city of 100,000 people where there is a board of directors of our chamber that none of us have any idea who they are or what they do or have ever interacted with them. We are a community of 38,000 people and many of us on that council or many people in the community have interacted with board members and employees in our everyday lives. And I had no reason to suspect that they were not handling their fiduciary responsibilities as they should. There was nothing that was pointing that they were not doing that.
Q. So -- go ahead.
A. And that was the point that I was making.
Q. So just because you believed that doesn't mean that other citizens of this community aren't entitled to think that the relationships we just went over caused you a conflict of interest and caused you a blind eye, because clearly we know these people, we've been in each other's homes, our children have grown up together. Maybe not everyone in the community thinks that's sufficient and think [sic] that those kind of relationships

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are a conflict of interest and the First Amendment protects our right to believe that, doesn't it?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know if the First Amendment protects your right to believe that or not. I can just certainly tell you, Barrett, that if we were never able to vote on anything because we had individuals in our lives that we cross paths with whether it was through our children or through a -- a club on the island, we would never be able to vote on anything.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Don't you agree if you have a personal relationship with people high up at the Chamber of Commerce and you vote for a designated marketing organization contract with the chamber that provides for less transparency to our citizens and taxpayers, don't you believe that's enough to give some people a reasonable belief that you have a conflict of interest because of those relationships?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: You're asking me if I

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believe something and the facts that you're stating are just simply false. You're asking me to say that I believe that there's a conflict of interest if I have or someone has strong personal relationships and that is just simply not the case. I did not have strong personal relationships with chamber members.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. That is not what I'm asking and I will ask the question again. I am asking: Don't you agree if you have personal relationships with people at the chamber as we've just painstakingly been through and you vote for a contract with the Chamber of Commerce that provides for less transparency, that people are entitled to believe to their own beliefs that you might have a conflict of interest? I'm not asking whether it's true, I'm asking whether the First Amendment protects people having that belief?

MR. ALFORD: And I object to the form of the question. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I have no idea if the First Amendment protects that belief.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. And don't you believe that people

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should have the right to express that belief?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I believe that people in the public rim [sic] have the right to express their beliefs.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Let's go to the second one, that you're a liar. Okay, so let's talk about that real quick.

MR. BREWER: I need -- I need the version of this statement -- where is the one that -- give me the one that -- that one right there. (Indicating.)

MR. ALFORD: Are you okay? Do you want a break or anything?

MR. BREWER: Yeah.

THE WITNESS: No.

MR. BREWER: Huh-uh. I want the version -- that -- is that it? It's the statement -- our version of the statement. The one -- the one that we wrote down. Where did I put that?

MR. ALFORD: Do y'all want to just take a short break, just a few minutes?

MR. BREWER: I can. Yeah, one of the

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ones I have is blanked out.

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes Video Number 2 in the video deposition of Kim Likins. The time is approximately 3:36 PM. We are now off the record.

(A recess transpired.)

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. Today's date is September 27th, 2017. The time is approximately 3:55 PM. This is Video Number 3 in the video deposition of Kim Likins.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. All right. Ms. Likins, we just took a break. I have queued up the video from November 17th, 2015, which is the town council meeting where the DMO contract was voted for.

A. Okay.

Q. And I have queued this up to 2 minutes 55 -- 2 hours 55 seconds and 11 minutes [sic] of a three-and-a-half hour video and it's off the town's website.

A. Okay.

Q. You've seen this before, right?

A. Yes.

Q. And you --

A. Yes.

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Q. -- and this is actually the portion when you speak.

A. Okay.

Q. I'm going to play it and I'm going to let you finish your portion and then I'm going to ask you some questions about it. Is that okay?

A. Okay.

Q. Perfect. Thank you.

(A recording of the Hilton Head Town Council meeting on November 17, 2015 was played.)

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. All right. Ms. Likins, you said at the beginning of that video that you had written your comments down because you didn't want to forget anything. Okay. And, clearly, the way you read that was intended to communicate to the audience that you had written your notes down during that hearing while listening to everybody speak; isn't that correct?

A. No --

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: -- that's not correct.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. In fact, these weren't really even your notes, they were Steve Riley's notes, weren't they?

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MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: They were my words and Steve Riley's words that he originally typed but not in this form. He sent me some of these and then I took this and put this together in my words on my computer before I came to the meeting.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. The vast majority of these thoughts that are in your comments on 2546 actually came from Steve Riley to you in an e-mail before you ever composed this, correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. So they weren't all your notes and they weren't all your thoughts, they were your town administrator's thoughts?
A. No, Mr. Riley and I had had breakfast the morning before and we talked about the meeting and I was talking to him about the key points that I wanted to be able to make and he typed them down for me because I didn't have anything to write on and he -- and there was some information that I wanted to be added so that I would understand, for example, how many DMAI organizations were four star and he told me that he would get that information

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and forward it to me. It is not unusual that a town manager and council member discuss things that are going on within the town. It's one of the reasons that we have our monthly lunches together so that he can update us on things and we can ask for clarification on things and that was all that we were doing at our breakfast.
Q. So let's just be real clear. When you made this comment and you read this speech out to the Town of Hilton Head, you didn't say that you and Steve Riley wrote it together, you said they were your comments, correct?
A. They were my comments.
Q. And -- but you didn't mention anything about Steve Riley writing these notes for you, correct? And I'm now showing you 2545. These are the notes that Steve Riley sent you in an e-mail the day before, correct?
A. They are the notes, correct.
Q. And by and large, you literally cut and paste at least three quarters if not all of that, put it in your notes, and then you added some things to tie it together?
A. The majority of the things that Steve Riley typed that morning at breakfast were from me,

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not from him. We had a conversation jointly and he was the one writing the notes down and then sent them to me so that I could take them and compose the words that I wanted to state that night.
Q. Okay. So let me ask: Do you think it's unreasonable if -- if you go out there and say -- and read this statement and you read it and it sounds like these are notes that you're taking there at the hearing, that they're all your words and then you find out later that actually you got most of this in an e-mail from your town manager, someone could interpret that as you telling a lie, couldn't they?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: No, I wasn't telling a lie.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I didn't ask if you were telling a lie, I asked could someone interpret that as you telling a lie, that's what I asked?
MR. ALFORD: And I object to the form. Please answer if you can.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And you may ask [sic] it -- answer it.
A. I'm sorry, you're going to have to ask

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me again. I'm so confused with how you're asking --
Q. That's okay.
A. -- your questions.
Q. You told the -- you said in that video I've written my comments down because I didn't want to forget anything.
A. That is correct. That is correct.
Q. There's an e-mail sending most of your comments attached to something from Steve Riley, the town manager, correct?
A. Correct, which were my comments that were written down.
Q. If someone --
A. They were not Steve Riley's comments, they were my comments that were written down.
Q. Okay. Can I ask my questions without you --
A. Sure.
Q. -- interrupting me now?
A. Sorry.
Q. That's okay. There is nothing indicating that you wrote these comments that came from Steve Riley in 2545 other than what you're telling us today, right?

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A. There's nothing indicating that.
Q. Okay.
A. I'm telling you that.
Q. That's fine. Thank you for telling me that. Now, let me ask the questions based on the documents I have. You would agree with me that the documents I have show that Steve Riley sent you an e-mail two days before with the vast majority of the comments you put in your speech on November 17th, 2015, correct?
A. It appears so.
Q. And if you told the Town of Hilton Head that those were your comments that you had written down, somebody could interpret that as a lie whether you believe that's true or not --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- correct?
MR. ALFORD: Please answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: I suppose they could.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Let's talk for a second about PDF 475. This is an e-mail from July 12th, 2016 that was sent to you from Martin Gleason to you, David Bennett, David Ames, Jane Joseph, and Nancy Paris.

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Let's talk about this real quick. Who's Martin Gleason?
A. I believe you're referring to a gentleman known as Marty Gleason. He's a constituent of mine.
Q. Okay. David Bennett is the mayor, right?
A. That's correct.
Q. We know who you are. Who's David Ames?
A. David Ames is also on council with me.
Q. And who's Jane Joseph?
A. Jane Joseph is a citizen in our community. She serves as co-chair -- or as the assistant chair of our venue committee.
Q. Okay. Is Martin Gleason, does he serve in -- in -- with the government in any way?
A. No.
Q. Okay. Nancy Paris, who's Nancy Paris?
A. I believe that that's Marty's --
MR. HOAGLAND: Marty -- that's her, he works for the town.
THE WITNESS: I believe that's Marty's daughter.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. And it looks like the e-mail

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they sent was clips of an interview with Steve Riley, your town manager, when he was interviewing for the Davenport, Iowa job, right?
A. Okay. Yeah.
Q. And you remember this e-mail, right?
A. I do. I do.
Q. Okay. And so on July 12th, 2016, let's see, Nancy Paris, his daughter, wrote to Marty Gleason quoting, yep, that's the headline of this article that appeared in the Quad City Times in Davenport. It showed up in my daily Google news feed. He also goes on to say I get lied to once a week, maybe once a day Riley said. Our staff deals with people who aren't necessarily upfront, honest, and of good character. But in this job, the customer is always right and entitled to their day and you have to let things roll off your back.
This was sent to you because this article could well be interpreted as Steve Riley suggesting that people he works with in the town government lie to him and are not honest with him, correct?
MR. ALFORD: I object --
THE WITNESS: I --
MR. ALFORD: -- to the form.

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THE WITNESS: -- I have no idea if that's what Steve Riley was suggesting. It could -- it could just as easily mean that individuals come in all the time wanting certain things or complaining about their neighbors or somebody else getting treatments that they don't and he's saying this is a challenge as far as my job is concerned. There's often constituents that disagree with each other.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Let's see, let -- let's read the article actually. Steve Riley confessed in his interview with Davenport civic leaders Tuesday morning that he has not always gotten along with leaders in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Do you think he's talking about random people coming into the town or talking about people who serve on town government?
A. Oh, well, my assumption reading that is that it probably is town government.
Q. Okay. So that's certainly setting the context for this, right? He mentioned his current personality conflict with Hilton Head's Mayor David Bennett but said that it's not his reason for wanting to relocate to Davenport after a quarter

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century as the island's town manager. Serving five mayors, multiple council members, and countless other local leaders he said he has dealt with many conflicts and moved on. Next page.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Quote, I get lied to once a week, maybe once a day, Riley said. Our staff deals with people who aren't necessarily upfront, honest, and of good character but in this job the customer is always right and entitled to their day and you have to let things roll off your back.

Isn't it fair that the context of this article is that Mr. Riley is talking about people in town leadership?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

Answer if you can.

THE WITNESS: I have no idea who Mr. Riley was talking about. I wasn't there. I don't even know if the newspaper took this part of a statement that he made and then 30 minutes later added another part of a statement that he made.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Right. Well, let's -- let's -- let's just take that to the obvious next step. Don't you agree with me that someone reading this could

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interpret that town leadership, which is members of town council, are not honest with Steve Riley?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I am sure that there possibly could be people that could.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. And you are on town leadership, aren't you?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. And you've worked with Steve Riley every day for how many years?

A. I don't work with Steve every day, but I've worked with Steve for seven years. And if you think that Steve thinks I'm a liar, why don't you just ask him.

Q. I appreciate the commentary and if I ask that question you can give me that answer later. Thank you so much. My question is: Isn't it reasonable that people might think a town council person such as yourself don't always tell the truth, especially when your town manager is quoting in a town -- in a newspaper that that might be the case?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

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Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: No, I don't think it's reasonable.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Huh.

A. I don't think that reasonable people think that way.

Q. Well, let's go back and let's do this a different way.

A. Okay.

Q. What evidence is -- I'm showing you evidence that someone might think that you don't always tell the truth. I --

A. There's nothing in this evidence that suggests --

Q. I --

A. -- that Mr. Riley is even talking about me, Mr. Brewer. You're not showing any evidence to suggest that someone might think that.

Q. Actually, you just said that -- that -- someone could think that, so let's -- we're actually backtracking now. So let's go back. Given that you previously told me that someone could believe Steve Riley was talking about town leaders, which you are one of them.

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A. That I am.

Q. Okay. What I'm trying to ask you is what evidence does Skip Hoagland have that you are always truthful and you have never told a lie?

A. I have no idea what evidence he has.

Q. So you have nothing you're ever going to -- you're never going to be able to tell a jury that Skip Hoagland had evidence before him that you've never told a lie; is that correct?

A. I don't know.

Q. Is there something you anticipate coming upon between now and the time of trial that I don't know about?

A. I don't know.

Q. Is that to say that as of today you do not have any evidence that Skip Hoagland knows that you always tell the truth?

A. I don't know.

Q. I'm sorry, you're going to have to do better than that. What do you mean I don't know --

A. I --

MR. ALFORD: Object -- is there --

THE WITNESS: I've answered the question three times.

MR. ALFORD: Please.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. No, no, no. I'm asking --
MR. ALFORD: Please. You can ask the question, you have to answer it, but please --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. When I get I don't know in a case that you're filing as a lawsuit, okay --
A. Okay.
Q. -- you are alleging that Skip Hoagland knows for a fact that you're not a liar, that's what this complaint says, that's what --
MR. ALFORD: I object -- I object to your characterization.
MR. BREWER: Thank you for objecting.
MR. ALFORD: Because it doesn't say that.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And I'm -- it is. If you as a public official sue a man for defamation who says something about you in public that you are saying he knows for fact is false, that is what the law is, that's what your complaint says. I am asking you what evidence do you have that Skip Hoagland knows you're not a liar for a fact and that you always tell the truth?

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MR. ALFORD: I'm --
THE WITNESS: This case is not about what Mr. Hoagland has done to me in a public arena. This case is about Mr. Hoagland going beyond the public arena, calling my bosses, telling them, demanding them, that I should be fired because I am a liar and I am unfit for my job --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- and should not be allowed to be around children. This is not about Mr. Hoagland standing up in front of town council and saying Kim Likins lied about X or Y.
Q. All right. So let's go from there, because you just said it. I'm talking about Mr. Hoagland saying you're a liar to your boss. So I'm asking you again: What evidence do you have that Skip Hoagland doesn't -- has information to believe that you are not a liar or that you tell the truth at all times? What evidence do you have?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form of the question. Barrett, I -- I -- let's stop right here. I would ask you to lower your voice with her, please. Please.
MR. BREWER: I am glad to --

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MR. ALFORD: Please.
MR. BREWER: -- lower my voice with Ms. -- Ms. --
MR. ALFORD: Please.
MR. BREWER: -- Likins. I would like to ask her to please answer my questions and not raise her voice at me.
MR. ALFORD: And -- and I respect that, but it's -- it's -- it's incumbent upon you to treat her civilly and it's incumbent upon her to answer your questions and she's going to do so, but let's -- let's take it down a notch or we'll walk out of here.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Ms. Likins, I'm going to ask you again: What evidence do you have or do you intend on presenting to a jury that Mr. Hoagland knows for a fact that you are not a liar and that you always tell the truth?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know of any.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Thank you. What evidence do you have that Mr. Hoagland has -- let me ask the question

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again. What evidence do you have that Mr. Hoagland knows for a fact that you do not have conflicts of interest on town council and with the Chamber of Commerce?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know of any.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Let's talk about corruption for a second. Going to 793. Do you agree with me that -- turn this around here. Do you agree with me that the concept of corruption in politics is not strictly limited to receiving monies for a vote?
A. I -- I don't understand what you're talking about. I can't agree with you on anything that I don't understand what you're talking about.
Q. Okay. Well, how do you define corruption. That's what is in your complaint, that Mr. Hoagland defamed you by calling you corrupt so you have to have an understanding of what it is because you believe it's false. So what does it mean?
A. He believes that I am engaging in acts that are illegal.

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Q. Okay. I mean, that's not actually what it says. It says corrupt, right? It doesn't say the word in your complaint or anywhere that you've -- you've got or in any e-mail or anything you're -- you're going to put before a jury that Mr. Hoagland has said you did something, quote, illegal; is that correct?

A. The word illegal's not used. I'm suggesting and saying when you ask my definition of corrupt that that's what I believed --

Q. Okay.

A. -- is implied.

Q. Now, what I want to ask you is, isn't it true that not all people believe corruption is necessarily an indictable offense? In other words, something you can go to jail for. I mean, it might be just actions or politicians serving their own self-interests in a way that is distasteful to people. Isn't --

MR. ALFORD: Object --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- that fair?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

Please answer it if you can.

BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. I'm going to show you this in a second.

A. Sure it might be that someone would think that.

Q. Okay. This --

A. Or feel that way.

Q. This is an article -- you know NPR, National Public Radio?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And you've probably heard of this guy before, Peter Overby, he's one of their correspondents. He's been there for years. Wrote an article back in 2015 called Beyond Quid Pro Quo: What counts as political corruption? All right. And right here -- oh, sorry, hold on, that's the wrong -- I went -- I actually didn't go to the right page. I apologize, let me go back.

MR. ALFORD: You want to go to the next one? 93?

MR. BREWER: Well, hold on. It's right back here is where it is. I'm sorry, I went too far back.

MR. ALFORD: You're on 86?

MR. BREWER: I'm going to 87 -- 90 -- give me one second. Let me find the right page. There it is. All right. Somehow the title page

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got moved to the back of the article and I apologize. It's the same article I was quoting.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. All right. All right. So this is a quote from a gentleman in this article who is a law school professor. And it says this gentleman's name is Zephyr Teachout, a law professor at Fordham School of Law. Teachout, who ran for governor of New York in last year's democratic primary against incumbent Andrew Cuomo says the founding fathers didn't see corruption as a specific indictable offense. Today, she says, Americans who aren't lawyers or politicians often -- often see it the same way as a corruption of the system. Someone is corrupt when they're in public office just for their own interests, she says. This is why you see sort of a broad belief that congress is corrupt even though there's very little evidence of quid pro quo.

Do you recognize this as a sentiment that might be out there in the public?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

Answer if you can.

THE WITNESS: I really have no idea. I -- I mean, I've never seen this article before.

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I don't know who this law professor is. I -- you know.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. I'm just asking you your personal beliefs now.

A. People certainly could.

Q. Okay. So certainly you think if -- if people perceive that you're doing favors for your friends that you otherwise wouldn't do outside of having relationships with people, that that might be seen as corruption?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: If that were the case.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. You mean, as far as you're considered, appearances mean nothing, right? There's only absolute truth and no one gets to judge you as a politician on appearance --

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- is that what I understand you to say?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

Please answer if you can.

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THE WITNESS: No.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. So you do agree that as a politician people often do -- your electorate, your citizens, the people who vote for you often do judge you on perceptions whether that be true or false or fair or not?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: That could be true.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And if someone sees that you voted for a DMO contract that provides for less transparency rather than more with individuals that you have a relationship with that you may not have with other members of the electorate, that they might see that as evidence of corruption?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: It could be true.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And that -- what evidence are you aware of that Skip Hoagland knows for a fact that you're not corrupt in any sense of the word, whether that be as a literal crime or in the more casual way

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that this article refers to?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know of any.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Thank you. I appreciate that. Let's talk about in that same vein the use of taxpayer dollars to pay for your attorney's fees in this action. Okay. You agree that it's unconstitutional for you to use taxpayer dollars to pay for your own private litigation?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form of the question. In fact, I'd like to take a moment and consult with my co-counsel.
MR. BREWER: Okay.
MR. ALFORD: Don't answer that until we get back.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We will now go off the record. The time is approximately 4:23 PM.
(A recess transpired.)
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. The time is approximately 4:31 PM.
MR. ALFORD: I just objected and my -- I object to the form of the question. I'm going to ask the witness to try to answer it. I would also

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caution the witness not to go into matters of attorney/client privilege or things that you've discussed with your attorneys.
MR. BREWER: And I'm not asking what you discussed with your attorneys.
MR. ALFORD: So I guess you want to restate the question and --
MR. BREWER: (Gesturing.)
(The Court Reporter read the question commencing on page 227 line 6.)
MR. ALFORD: And I object to the form. I instruct you to answer it, but be cautioned not to disclose things that you have discussed with your attorneys.
THE WITNESS: To my knowledge, that's not true.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. So you do know that it's unconstitutional to use taxpayer dollars for a private purpose, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form of the question. If you can answer, please do.
THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, repeat the question again.
BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. Sure. You're aware that it's unconstitutional to use taxpayer dollars for your own private purpose, right?
A. Yes.
Q. And this lawsuit is for your own private purpose, right?
A. No.
Q. Okay. So aren't you asking a jury to award you money from Skip Hoagland for this defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And if you were awarded money in excess of the attorneys' fees you spent, wouldn't you keep that money?
A. I don't know.
Q. Well, I mean, you're in the lawsuit. I mean, why wouldn't you know that? What do you -- what else might you do with that money?
A. I don't know what I might do with it.
Q. Even if you gave it away, that's for your benefit in giving it away, right? It doesn't benefit the taxpayers?
A. I'm sorry, if I gave what away?
Q. Well, let's -- I understood that the

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last -- as the -- as the last FOIA request for what the attorneys fees spent on this matter was for was around $200,000. Do you agree with that?

A. Yes.

Q. It's public information.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Let's say that you got a verdict for $250,000. That would be 200 -- that would be $50,000 in excess of the attorneys' fees you've spent so far, right?

A. That math is correct.

Q. And as you understand lawsuits, that money goes to you personally, it doesn't go to the town because the town's not a plaintiff, right?

A. That's correct.

Q. So you would then be benefiting by $50,000 personally from the taxpayer-funded lawsuit that we're in right now?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: Not necessarily.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. I -- I don't see any other way around that. You'll have to explain that to me.

A. I mean, I don't -- I don't know if I would get that money or if that money may go

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somewhere else.

Q. I -- I'm asking you to presume it and I'm asking you why would you be in a -- you're in a lawsuit and you don't think you're going to get that money? Like where else would you think it would go?

A. I don't know.

Q. You have no idea?

A. Might be given to someone else.

Q. By who? That's something -- I'm kind of missing that. There -- there's only you and Skip Hoagland, right? So you have sued Skip Hoagland. Who is going to give the money to someone else? Are you saying you would?

A. Perhaps.

Q. Okay. But even if you got the money and gave it to someone else, that's the benefit to you, it was your money to give away, right? I mean, were -- that's pretty logical and pretty common sense?

A. It would -- it would be my money to give away.

Q. Right. And -- and you would take the tax write-off for it, right, if you donated it?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

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BY MR. BREWER:

Q. You'd take a tax write-off, right? I mean, that's the way this works.

A. I would presume, yes.

Q. Okay. So you would get a benefit from it in other words, right?

MR. ALFORD: And I object to the form. Go ahead and answer.

THE WITNESS: I presume, yes.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. And don't you agree it's unconstitutional for taxpayers to pay for you to get the personal benefit that goes to you only?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: Not in this situation.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Why is that?

A. Because this situation has to do with my public office.

Q. Okay. So how does it have to do with your public office because you kept telling me it has to do with Skip Hoagland attacking your private job, so I'm missing the boat there.

A. He only attacked my private job because

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I'm in public office.

Q. Okay.

A. Skip Hoagland would care less about me if I did not have the opportunity to vote on that contract. If I were just the director of the Boys & Girls Club right now --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- and had no public office whatsoever --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- Skip Hoagland wouldn't know my name and he wouldn't care who I was. He only tried to take my job away as a means of punishing me because I did not vote the way he wanted me to vote on a public matter.

Q. Okay. So you agree that these two things are entwined. It's actually not so much that it's just about what Skip Hoagland did to your private job, you're actually claiming this is so much about your public service that the town is obligated to pay your attorneys' fees just to sue Skip Hoagland so that you can get the benefit of the money, right?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. Go ahead.
A. It is only intertwined because Mr. Hoagland stepped over into my private life. If Mr. Hoagland had kept this in the public arena and all he did was want to talk to me in the public saying that I should not be elected and that I made a bad decision on voting for the chamber contract, then it certainly would have been his right to do that.
Q. So to go back to our discussion about presidents, no one can say anything personal about a president or think anything or make public comments about, you know, their jobs? So let's -- let's take --
MR. ALFORD: Object --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- that for a second and I'll scratch that. I'm going to ask a different question.
Do you remember when Barak Obama ran for president a couple years ago and people really discussed his community service activism before he ever ran for public office and the fact that he had associated with a professor who may have had socialist groups? Do you remember that? They called them terrorists I think.
A. I -- I'm sorry, I don't -- I don't

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remember it. I don't doubt that it happened, I just can't --
Q. Okay.
A. -- honestly say that I remember it.
Q. Sure. Assuming that was not true, do -- should those people have been sued by Barack Obama? Is that --
MR. ALFORD: I object --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- do you think that was protected by the First Amendment or not?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Those people had the right in the public forum to say what they wanted. They did not go and personally call Barack Obama's employers and demand that they be fired and suggest that the reason they should be fired is because they have lied and that they are crooks --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- and that they should not be around children --
Q. But that --
A. -- which is exactly what Mr. Hoagland

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did do.
Q. So if he stepped into your private realm, as you allege, then why shouldn't you have to pay for your own attorneys' fees?
A. Because he only stepped into my private realm because of my public office. As I stated before, Mr. Brewer, if I was just Kim Likins director of the Boys & Girls Club and Mr. Hoagland needed nothing of me, he would not know who I am.
Q. So the taxpayers owe you because Skip Hoagland stepped into your private realm because you're an elected official is that what I understand?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: The taxpayers should protect the due process of democracy. The taxpayers need to know, we all need to know that our elected officials cannot be bribed, they cannot be threatened, and they cannot be punished to the point that they would vote contrary to where their conscious would tell them to vote and that is what Mr. Hoagland has tried to get me to do.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And how does putting money in your

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personal pocket help the taxpayers do that?
A. This is not about putting money in my personal pocket.
Q. Are you saying right now that you will not ask any jury -- jury for any money in this lawsuit?
A. No, I am not saying that.
Q. Are you saying that you will not ask a jury for any money in excess of monies you have already spent on attorneys' fees so far?
A. No, I am not saying that.
Q. So then you are, in fact, saying that you're asking the taxpayers to put money in your personal pocket?
A. I am asking the taxpayers to protect the due process of our law. Mr. Brewer, I can tell you right now, there is nobody that I know in this world that would ever run for office if they believed any citizen could dream up any fantasy in the world that they want to have and call up their employers and spew it out and demand that that person be fired because they say it is the truth regardless of whether they have to show any facts at all. This is protecting the process. No one is going to be willing to be a civil servant in any

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type of government if this were allowed to happen. This public is protecting this process so that when their representatives step forward to cast a vote on something, they can be confident that that vote is because that representative believes what they're voting on is the right thing to do. Not because they're afraid, not because someone has bribed them, and not because someone has threatened them.

Q. How does putting cash in your pocket help protect due process? I'm -- I'm not following that logic.

A. I'm not following your question.

Q. How does putting cash in your pocket protect due process of democracy is what you've called it?

A. I don't know what you even -- I don't understand what you're asking me.

Q. How does making money for Kim Likins protect due process? You just said that you're asking for money from -- you -- you have asked the taxpayers to fund your lawsuit against Skip Hoagland in which you're going to ask for money in excess for your attorneys' fees that will benefit you and that somehow because the money is going to

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come back and benefit you that that will protect due process. How is that?

A. I don't know.

Q. Isn't it fair to say that the -- if the taxpayers believe that their money is going to pay for a lawsuit that puts money in your pocket, that that in itself might be an act of corruption?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

THE WITNESS: I don't know what they would think.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. I mean, isn't it true that town lawyers started working for you before the town even -- before the town council even approved to hire lawyers for you?

A. Yes.

Q. So before town council even voted on whether its lawyers could work for you, they already started working for you, correct?

A. That is true.

Q. So isn't that a violation of due process in and of itself?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.

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THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Well, why is that? I mean, how do things happen like that? How do you -- how do you get to have the taxpayers start paying for your attorneys' fees before the town council even had a chance to vote on it yet?

A. It was an extenuating circumstance.

Q. Do tell me, what's that?

A. Mr. Hoagland was harassing my board members. He was calling them and demanding that I be fired. He was printing untrue statements about me in the newspapers. He was barraging individuals throughout the community with e-mail after e-mail after e-mail.

Q. Okay.

A. The harassment was going on and on and --

Q. Okay.

A. -- on. If I could sum that time period of my life up in one word, it would have been torture.

Q. Okay. You mean even though --

A. And it needed to be stopped. And it was directly associated with the fact that I voted

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the way he did not want me to vote on the chamber contract.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. And so the only defense that I had was to go to my town manager and go to my town attorney and explain the situation. And based on my attorney's recommendation, we sought to -- to -- to stop this activity.

Q. Well, that's not actually true, is it, because you have Mr. Alford who works for the town and you have Mr. Linton, and I'm not asking you what you talked to them about, but you've known Mr. Linton for years because he helped you out with the Al Parish scandal, correct?

A. I've never met Mr. Linton in --

Q. You never --

A. -- my life before this.

Q. Who's the attorneys that helped you out with the Al Parish scandal?

A. I didn't have any attorneys that helped me out with the Al Parish scandal.

Q. Okay. You never had anyone represent you in terms of trying to get money back from Al Parish?

A. I didn't have anyone represent me

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personally.
Q. Okay.
A. I mean, it was a fraud case --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- and so I guess the securities...
Q. Exchange commission?
A. Yeah, I'm sorry.
Q. It's okay.
A. Sought to recover whatever --
Q. Okay.
A. -- damages came out of that Ponzi scheme but I never personally had an individual attorney.
Q. Okay. But don't you think that would have been the appropriate way to go is to hire you an attorney if you thought you were attacked privately in your personal capacity as you say, wouldn't most normal people have to hire their own attorney and not use taxpayer dollars to do that?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know. I think it would probably -- I -- I mean, I think everyone would feel as -- as though we did, it had to do with a public matter. I mean, if that's the case

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and if every single one of us would have to be responsible for something like this happening, then every single one of us would have to have unlimited finances and I don't. Again, as a -- as a regular citizen running for office and to serve your community, you should be able to do it freely and not have to worry that somebody is going to take your job away from you or that you're going to have to have hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend yourself just simply because someone wants to make up something about you.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. What did he make -- I'm sorry, we've -- we've asked real quick, I've been going through this what evidence you have that Skip Hoagland has to believe that you're not a liar and not corrupt and you're saying he made something up, so what evidence do you have again? Do you have any? I mean, you're saying he made it up but you're saying there's no evidence he has that's not true, so I'm -- I'm not following.
A. I don't believe that he's produced any evidence that is true.
Q. Okay. But that's his right under the First Amendment about a public official though,

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going back to that, right?
A. I -- and I understand that --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: -- and you continue --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: -- to talk about it as being a public official, but he came after me in my private job and it is not his right to come after me in a private job and to slander me and libel me and say things that he has absolutely no proof of --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- whatsoever.
Q. So you don't really care about anything he said in the public, you only care -- the only thing this lawsuit's about is the statements that he specifically made to your employers, correct?
A. Oh, I care about what he said to my employers and I care what he published publicly about my employment.
Q. Okay.
A. I mean, if he wants to publish something publicly, as I said before, about me as a council member, he certainly has the right to do

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so. But he cannot publish things all over our community about me and my private business that he has nothing to substantiate the truth.
Q. If -- if I believe that -- remember Donald Trump had that thing, Trump University?
A. Yes.
Q. And that was kind of like -- alleged it was a fraud?
A. Yes.
Q. If I go say that publicly to third people, if I call Trump University and say Donald Trump's a fraud for Trump University, do you think he could sue me for that?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Do you think he should be able to sue me for that?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know if he can sue you.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Well, if he can't sue me for that, how can you sue Skip for this?
A. I --

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MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: I said I don't know if he can sue you.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. So he might not be able to and you might not be able to sue Skip for this under the First Amendment, correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: That's a possibility.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Let's talk about if -- if you were just looking to get Mr. Hoagland to stop calling your employers -- you got an injunctive action against him, right?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. And, as I understand, he had an attorney that consented to it early on, right?
A. Yes, he did, Mr. Hoagland did.
Q. Okay. You could have just stopped right there, right? Like you didn't actually have to keep suing Mr. Hoagland for money, did you?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: It was a temporary

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injunction --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- which we saw very quickly that Mr. Hoagland broke --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and which he did pay damages for --
Q. Sure.
A. -- because he broke it.
Q. Sure.
A. And so of course we needed to make sure that it was going to be permanent and that he was going to realize that it was unlawful for him to be able to do this.
Q. Okay. So let me -- let's do this again. You got $200,000 in attorneys' fees out there, right? And as I understand those attorneys have now stopped, they're kind of capped right around that number; is that correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. So if Mr. Hoagland agreed to a permanent injunction and you got attorney -- those attorneys' fees paid back so you could pay the town back --
A. Correct.

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Q. -- then you don't think the taxpayers should have paid any more money to put more cash in your pocket, do you?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: You mean then the taxpayers turn around and pay me, is that what you're asking me that I think?
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. No, no, let -- let me just go through it one more time real quick. I mean, you believe you have -- you believe you have an obligation to pay the -- the attorneys' fees back, don't you?
A. Absolutely.
Q. And if you don't win -- this is the thing I'm going get to, if you don't win a lawsuit against Mr. Hoagland, do you believe you're still responsible for those monies?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
THE WITNESS: No, I don't.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Do you have an agreement with the town over those attorneys' fees, like a written document? Now, I don't -- I don't mean -- I don't mean with the attorneys. Do you have an agreement

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with the town over your attorneys' fees?
MR. ALFORD: I -- I object to the form. I'm going to instruct you not to answer because it involves the fee agreement.
I'm happy to talk with you about that --
MR. BREWER: Well, hold on, but I'm asking a different question. I'm asking -- you can instruct her not to answer but I want to be really clear.
MR. ALFORD: Yep.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I am not asking about any agreement you have with your attorneys. I'm asking what agreement do you have with the Town of Hilton Head, no attorneys, just the town over -- over Hilton Head paying your attorneys' fees?
MR. ALFORD: Go ahead and answer it.
THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Where is that agreement? It's not been provided to me so far.
A. I don't have anything. It -- it -- and I -- and I guess maybe I'm incorrect in calling it an agreement --

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Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- I'm -- because I'm not sure what it's referred to, but I do know that the council passed an ordinance basically --
MR. ALFORD: A resolution.
THE WITNESS: A resolution, I'm sorry, I got the wrong word. A resolution documenting how the fee structure would be and it was made public.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Yeah, I do remember seeing that but it didn't have terms. It didn't say what they were going to do, how much they'd pay, whether you had to pay it back, it didn't say anything about that. So is there not a written documentation other than what's in the public record about it?
A. No, that's the only thing I have.
Q. So is -- is that date in December -- December 15th, is that right --
A. No.
Q. -- 2015?
A. No.
Q. Okay. When --
A. This was more recent.
Q. When was this?
A. I don't recall the date exactly.

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MR. ALFORD: I'd be happy to give you a copy. I think it was within the last month.
THE WITNESS: Probably so, the last month or two.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Do tell. Yeah, I've not see that. Tell me what you know about it. I've not heard anything about that. So they passed a -- the town passed a resolution about your attorneys' fees a year and a half after you started taking that money from taxpayers?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. You -- you -- you can understand that -- don't you think that's something the town council should have passed before they ever let you get a dollar to pay your attorneys' fees?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
THE WITNESS: I don't know when the best time for that would have been.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I mean, don't you think it's best to have the terms of an agreement upfront before you have the taxpayer -- before you get the taxpayers' money?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. You

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can answer the question.
THE WITNESS: That would be the best situation, I'm sure.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. And don't you -- would you agree that people might see that as a violation of public trust or an act of corruption in and of itself?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. It's okay.
MR. ALFORD: Answer it if you can.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I mean, whether or not you agree with it, I mean, certainly people could see that, right?
A. People could certainly see that. I can tell you that has been made public and I have not had one person contact me about being concerned about it.
Q. Okay.
MR. BREWER: I'll ask -- we'll ask -- we'll ask in a bit.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. When -- so that was in the last month. So your last town council was -- this would be the last town council meeting then or two council

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meetings ago?
A. No, it would have been before that. It wasn't at the last council meeting.
Q. Okay.
A. And in this time of year we've only had one a month.
Q. Okay. I just had that page pulled up to get to your video, so I guess we can look that up real quick. Was it done at the end of the meeting, do you know?
A. I would imagine so.
Q. Okay.
A. Because it came out of executive session and usually when something is going to be voted upon after an executive session it's done at the end of the meeting.
Q. Did you attend that executive session or did you recuse yourself from that meeting?
A. I recused myself. I was not in the executive session at all.
Q. Okay. So I'm looking -- would it be September 9th or August 1st or July 18th?
A. August maybe.
Q. Okay.
MR. ALFORD: Do you want me to just get

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you a copy of it?
MR. BREWER: I do, but I'd like to look at it real quick.
MR. ALFORD: All right.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Oh, I see, so I did hear about the contingency fee agreement being reached. All right. So this is Number 13 it sounds like to the agenda from August 1st, 2017. Mrs. Likins moved to appoint the following individuals to the newly established culture and arts -- no. Mr. Harkins moved that the town council for Town of Hilton Head adopt a resolution modifying the attorney/client arrangement with the Alford Law Firm and the firm of Walker, Gressette, Freeman, and Linton for the representation of Mrs. Likins in regard to her suit about C. C. Hoagland from an hourly billable arrangement to a 30 percent contingency arrangement with the proceeds of any recovery being disbursed as follows: 30 percent to the attorneys' fees, repayment of all amounts expended by the Town of Hilton Head Island, and any remaining balance to Ms. Likins.
So as of two months ago, the town has approved to actually -- that you can put money in

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your pocket as a result of this after you pay the town back; is that --
A. Yes.
Q. -- correct?
What were the terms before that? I guess that's what I was getting to. So this is the only agreement as of a month ago --
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to that. We submitted that in camera to the court and that's one of the things --
MR. BREWER: Y'all submitted y'all's attorneys' -- your -- your agreement with Ms. Likins to the court. I'm asking --
MR. ALFORD: And --
MR. BREWER: -- for her agreement.
MR. LINTON: And with the town.
MR. ALFORD: -- and with the town. And with the town.
MR. BREWER: Okay. But I'm not asking for the agreement all three of you signed, I'm asking for her agreement with the town.
MR. ALFORD: And I'm telling you it's all contained therein.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. So you have an agreement with the Town

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of Hilton Head that you've not provided to me because you had your lawyers sign onto it; is that correct?
MR. ALFORD: That is a document that we produced to the court in camera which we haven't been able to have a conference call with him yet. Do you follow me?
MR. BREWER: I do.
MR. ALFORD: All right.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. I don't want to know about what it says about what you're going to do with your attorneys' fees. What did that document say about your arrangement with the town? That's what I keep trying to get. This is -- this is different. I don't want to know about what you and your attorneys' agreement was, I want to know about what you and the town's agreement was. Do -- you understand what I'm saying, right?
A. I don't -- I don't have the document in front of me.
Q. Okay. What was your understanding of it? Like what were they going to do?
A. I don't know that it was spelled out. I think that's why we did the resolution.

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Q. Okay. What about -- I mean, doesn't the town's contract with Mr. Alford say that he's not allowed to represent you guys personally? I mean, isn't that the deal y'all made with him -- with the Alford Law Firm in --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. What about -- I mean, on that note, didn't you hire the McNair Law Firm recently to engage with an issue about Steve Riley?
MR. ALFORD: I -- I object to the form. Are you saying her --
THE WITNESS: I didn't personally hire anyone.
MR. ALFORD: What number are you at, Barrett?
MR. BREWER: 522.
MR. ALFORD: All right. Give me a second.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I'm looking at this from April 22nd, 2016.
MR. ALFORD: All right. What is it?

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What is --
MR. BREWER: 522.
MR. ALFORD: Yeah, I -- I'm having to reload.
MR. BREWER: It's an e-mail from Bill Harkin [sic] to town council. And it says all: Kim and I have each now had a discussion with Melissa Azallion with McNair and I've provided Melissa with the documents she has requested as I've discussed with each of you in an effort to extend the greatest level of courtesy to Steve Riley. Only Kim, John, and I will attend the meeting with Melissa tomorrow at 1:30. I'll ask Melissa to prepare a memorandum summarizing the options for moving forward including her recommendation. The memo will be circulated to each of you. We can discuss next steps at that point. In the interim, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. And then there's a article at --
MR. ALFORD: Are you at 572?
MR. BREWER: That was 522.
MR. ALFORD: Oh, okay, I'm sorry.
MR. BREWER: It's okay.
BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. And then this is at 5225. And this is a newspaper article. This said in a five-page engagement -- this is an article from 9/20/2017. In a five-page engagement letter dated August 18th, 2016 to town council member Kim Likins, McNair attorney Melissa Azallion who works in the firm's Hilton Head office said this letter will confirm our mutual understanding related to the retention of McNair Law Firm to render legal services on behalf of the Town of Hilton Head.
So, I mean, when -- did you personally engage this town attorney or this attorney with the McNair Law Firm to represent who [sic] against Steve Riley and this was not even voted on, was it?
A. I didn't personally engage an attorney.
Q. I mean, the letter says that though, right? It's letter to -- between you and Kim [sic] Azallion?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. It's not the letter, it's an article.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Go ahead.
A. I did not personally engage Melissa Azallion.
Q. Is this statement on PDF 2552 of

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Exhibit 1 accurate, the one that's highlighted?
A. It is -- it is accurate. It's --
Q. Okay.
A. -- it says on behalf of the Town of Hilton Head Island.
Q. Okay. But, I mean, did y'all vote on that? Did the town -- did y'all have a -- an actual resolution in one of your meetings that allowed you to enter that letter?
A. We -- we just did that and I believe -- I don't know if it was --
Q. When was that?
A. At -- at our last council meeting or the -- or the one before.
Q. Prior to the date of the letter?
A. It was after the date of the letter.
Q. So you signed a letter again --
A. I signed nothing. It was sent to me.
Q. Okay. So you had not already retained McNair Law Firm as of August 18th, 2016 prior to the town council voting on that, is that right, or did you?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: We had not.
BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. Okay.
A. And we clarified that in our resolution.
Q. Clarified what part, that you had not hired them yet?
MR. ALFORD: No.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Now, McNair Law Firm, that's David Tigges' firm, right?
A. I believe so.
Q. David Tigges is the attorney for the Chamber of Commerce?
A. I don't know if he's personally the attorney. He -- he could be -- or I don't know if it's someone else in McNair.
Q. Okay. He's been heavily involved with the Chamber of Commerce though, right?
A. I know he was formerly the chairman of the board I believe of --
Q. Okay.
A. -- the chamber.
Q. And -- and, in fact, you and -- and David Tigges have been in communication in the past even over this lawsuit dealing with Mr. Hoagland, right?

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A. Yeah, I'm sure that there have been, you know, times that we have communicated.
Q. Okay. And, I mean, he's forwarded you articles dealing with Skip Hoagland by e-mail, right?
A. He has, yes.
Q. And then -- so you have communicated with David Tigges of the McNair Law Firm and when it became time to hire a law firm to deal with an issue with Steve Riley, you guys reached out to the McNair Law Firm and hired the McNair Law Firm, right?
A. We had an -- hired an attorney who works for McNair.
Q. Did y'all -- did y'all put this or the representation for you either in this case or in the Steve Riley out for procurement? In other words, did you have law firms submit applications to you --
A. It wasn't --
Q. -- for presentation?
A. -- required to do for procurement because it was under the dollar amount for procurement.
Q. What is the dollar amount for

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procurement?
A. I believe it's 25,000.
Q. Okay. But this case was $200,000. This isn't under the dollar amount.
A. Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you were asking me about this case.
Q. I'm asking about both of them. So did you send out representation for you in this case for procurement?
A. No.
Q. Well, it's over $25,000, so you should have done that, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: I don't know.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I mean, you just said that.
A. I don't -- I don't know that we had any idea that this case would be more than $25,000.
Q. But you do agree if the town hires people, vendors let's say, and the amount -- the amount of the contract of the service is over 25,000, that's something that should have been put out for procurement so that you and the town can look at whether someone can provide the service, the same or equal service for cheaper, right?

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MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. You can answer if you'd like.
THE WITNESS: We do have a procurement code that says that if something costs more than $25,000...
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. If you didn't follow the procurement code in hiring attorneys in this case that exceeded $25,000, couldn't that be interpreted by somebody as corruption?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: It possibly could.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Isn't it fair that to the extent you've got a cause of action for -- do you know you have a cause of action for tortious interference with a contract, do you know what that is?
A. I believe I understand that it's interfering with my job --
Q. Okay.
A. -- to basically try to cut off my livelihood.
Q. Okay. But you never lost your job, right?

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A. No, I did not lose my job.
Q. It's been a year and a half and, in fact, you -- as I understand it from Mr. Lich are in a better position now than you were even before all this happened, right?
A. I -- my job hasn't changed.
Q. All right.
A. I'm -- I'm in the exact same position that I've always been.
Q. Okay. No -- nothing -- nothing in your file regarding a disciplinary matter, no talking to by your -- your bosses, I mean, everything is up and up in your job, right?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. So you agree that you don't really have a cause of action for --
MR. ALFORD: I object --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- tortious interference with a contract because you didn't actually have a breach of contract?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
THE WITNESS: No, I -- I disagree with you on that --
BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. Sure. Tell me about that.
A. -- because he definitely tried to interfere with my employment. He wasn't successful, I --
Q. That's my point.
A. -- will agree with you on that --
Q. All right.
A. -- he was not successful but he attempted to get me fired and the potential of being fired was there.
Q. All right. Have you had an opportunity -- let's see here. Have you ever seen the documentation that's been provided to I know many people in town council, I can't tell you if you ever got a copy, but about all the other scandals involving Chamber of Commerces around the country who have -- who had forensic audits conducted?
A. The only knowledge I have of that is e-mails that Mr. Hoagland has sent.
Q. Okay. About Palm Beach County; Turlock, California?
A. Those sound familiar.
Q. All right. So you're aware that there's been at least two or three other areas that

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have had to do forensic audits of the Chamber of Commerce and have basically found that taxpayer dollars were being spent for personal purposes?
A. Yes.
Q. And as we discussed with the attorneys' fees and the lawsuit in this issue, spending taxpayer dollars for personal purposes is a bad thing, I mean, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Correct.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. So the audit -- I'm going back to the DMO contract now, but the DMO contract only allows for a financial audit, right, as opposed to a forensic audit?
A. Correct.
Q. And a forensic audit would actually -- you know, if I -- well, let me go back. A financial audit is kind of akin to balancing your checkbook a little bit, right? It just shows that X number of dollars were received and X number of dollars were spent but it doesn't actually show what those dollars were spent on, does it?
A. I believe our contract states that the

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chamber must show the expenditures of the ATAX dollars.
Q. Okay. Have you ever gone and personally looked at the books or looked at the financial audit?
A. Not that I recall.
Q. Do you know if anyone at the --
MR. HOAGLAND: No one has ever seen -- not one board member has ever seen --
MR. BREWER: Okay.
MR. HOAGLAND: No, not one --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Do you know if anyone at the --
MR. BREWER: You don't mean board member, you mean the town council?
MR. HOAGLAND: Not board member, the chamber.
MR. BREWER: I can't ask her that.
MR. HOAGLAND: I mean, nobody has ever seen it.
MR. BREWER: (Inaudible.)
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Have you lost anything financially as a result of what you claim Mr. Hoagland did?
A. No.

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Q. Not suffered in your job, you've had your attorneys' fees paid for by the town, you're not out of pocket anything, are you?
A. Not financially, no.
Q. You've sent me some medical records. Tell me about the medical records for a second. What are -- what are -- what are those showing me?
A. Just two times that I went to my family practitioner and then to Wayne Johnson. It was primarily around the time period that Mr. Hoagland broke the injunction. It was an incredibly stressful time with everything going on with the lawsuit. He was barraging me with e-mails. He published another ad in the Packet suggesting that I shouldn't be allowed to be around children. It happened to be a weekend that my family was visiting and saw the entire full page ad.
Q. Okay.
A. And during that time period, and I'm not someone who typically has headaches, but I had just a constant migraine headache that couldn't go away. And so I went to my family practitioner after several days and, you know, he said, Kim, typically if someone like you presents who's -- looks fairly healthy otherwise, you know, this

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could be something associated with stress or it could be something much more serious, but we --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- typically assume that we're going to treat it as though this is associated with stress. And he asked me, you know, what was going on, if I had anything particularly stressful going on in my life.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. I mentioned what was happening with the lawsuit and he had not actually heard about it and he and I had not discussed it before then. And so we determined at the time that that was more than likely the reason that I was suffering from these headaches and he was going to treat me primarily with pain medicine and suggested that I seek counseling and -- to help me deal with the stress. Recommended someone for me to see.

Q. Okay.

A. I --

Q. Who was that, by the way?

A. Debi Lynes.

Q. Okay. Is Debi -- who Debi Lynes?

A. She's -- she's a psychologist or psychiatrist, I don't really know which --

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Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- her title is.

Q. Do you know where she's at or what her practice is?

A. I don't.

Q. Okay.

A. I know -- I believe she's on Hilton Head, but, I mean, I don't know where her practice is.

Q. How many times have you seen her?

A. I didn't see her.

Q. Oh, okay.

A. No, he -- he -- that was just his recommendation of --

Q. Oh, okay.

A. -- someone to see. And I -- I went and met with Wayne, because Wayne knew me and Wayne knew my husband and I felt like that I could speak with him much more openly and in depth about what I was going through. We had a lengthy conversation. I mean, for a physician it was lengthy. It was probably close to an hour. And he suggested that I go on some type of anxiety medication just to sort of cut the edge off and help me, you know, deal with the stress --

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Q. Okay.

A. -- of what was going on.

Q. And what did you go with?

A. I didn't and I -- and I told him that I didn't. He had recommended something before, as I mentioned, about my heart and I've just never wanted to -- I'm not a big fan of taking a lot of medication if you don't have to.

And so he also suggested that I could continue to come and meet with him, that that might would [sic] be helpful. Gave me some tactics that I could use personally and -- and basically left it at that.

Q. Okay.

A. And I'm much more of a person of faith and so rather than choosing to go to Wayne or to seek help from Debi, I spent more time just meeting with my pastor.

Q. Okay. And who is that?

A. Neil Young.

Q. All right. He's the Methodist pastor you were telling me about?

A. Yes.

Q. And does he have any type of, to your knowledge, counseling degrees of any sort?

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A. No. No.

Q. Okay. I know there's -- sometimes they do.

A. Yeah, they do sometimes, yeah.

Q. Okay. And so tell me what you did with him?

A. Neil and I would just meet and have coffee and he'd just give me the opportunity to kind of talk about things.

Q. Okay.

A. He'd pray with me or whatever I might need at a -- at that particular time.

Q. Did he take any notes, to your knowledge?

A. No.

Q. Okay. And -- and that's kind of related to the previous question, he's not a formal -- I -- I've heard sometimes people using like Christian counselors or people that basically --

A. Yeah.

Q. -- serve in the role --

A. Right.

Q. -- as a psychologist?

A. Yeah. No.

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Q. -- or counselor or --
A. No, I don't believe that he served in that role formally.
Q. Okay. Gotcha. So this is all informal, the way you might go talk to your pastor about anything, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. All right. So how many times did you suffer migraines?
A. I -- I can't say exactly. It was fairly continuous until I received pain medication and -- and then I could take it, it would stop, and off and on I will have some every now -- now and then.
Q. Okay. For -- when you say it was fairly continuous, how long was the period it was continuous from? You said when Mr. Hoagland published the full page ad in --
A. It was leading up to the publication of the ad, because so much had been going on with the case, his e-mails had just been unbelievable that whole time period after the court case had been filed. He was constantly coming to council and yelling and screaming at us meeting after meeting. And so I think it just all built up. I -- I think

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over the course of time --
Q. Okay.
A. -- it just finally hit me.
Q. So do you remember when you first started experiencing the migraines and when did they finally stop?
A. It was all around the June time period.
Q. Okay.
A. I -- I don't remember the exact date of when it started.
Q. Okay.
A. I remember I -- I had had them for, you know, I don't know, five or six days or something, a pretty good while before I called my doctor and it was just un -- unusual. And I think I had to wait a day or two to see him and so it would have been somewhere around that time period.
Q. But not extending past it? Like, in other words, around June of 2016 --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- you started experiencing the migraines --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- and when June was over, when we got into July, you weren't really having problems with

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migraines anymore; is that correct?
A. I've had them now and then. I think I've had my medication, my pain medication prescription refilled one time.
Q. Okay. You've had -- when you say now and again, it's been a little while since June of 2016, how often in the last -- well, not quite a year and a half, a year and three months?
A. I couldn't even wager a guess.
Q. Okay. Once a week? Once a month? Once every several months?
A. I -- I -- I don't know the number. I'm sorry, I don't know the number.
Q. That's okay. Do you remember the last time you had one? I'm not asking you to count so much as I'm trying to get an idea of the continuity of them, if that makes sense.
A. Yeah. Probably about a month ago.
Q. Okay. And do -- when -- when you get one, is it a month or more before you ever have one again or sometimes longer passes?
A. Could be longer, could be less.
Q. Okay. When you have them, how long do they last?
A. Usually not long if I take the pain

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medicine.
Q. Okay. What is the pain medicine?
A. I can't remember.
Q. Okay. Is it a narcotic pain medicine or something different?
A. Yeah, it's a narcotic.
Q. Like an oxycodone or a --
A. I don't think it's an --
Q. Percocet --
A. -- oxycodone.
Q. -- or a hydrocodone?
A. No, it's not.
Q. Okay.
A. I think it was on my record.
Q. Okay. That's okay.
A. But -- but I just -- I'm sorry, I can't remember the name of it.
Q. Okay. I'm going to skip -- I'm -- as you can tell, I'm kind of spotting because we've been through a bunch of things, so I'm going to jump back to something else real quick.
MR. BREWER: Keep your notes, I'm getting to that.
MR. HOAGLAND: Okay.
BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. I want to talk about timeshares and disclosures, okay?
A. Okay.
Q. And -- let me get to it real quick. Going to 2017, so 2-0-1-7.
MR. ALFORD: All right.
MR. BREWER: We were hot and heavy about it earlier.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. All right. Oh, I'm sorry, it's 2-4-2-3, I apologize ahead of time. All right. This is what -- this is 2570 is what it is. This is an e-mail from April 29th of 2017 from the Beaufort Watch Dog to the Town of Hilton Head Island council administrators. It says: This addresses the proposed amendments to the land management ordinance 16.1-103 as it pertains to amending the ordinance allowing lockout units. On March 21st, 2017 the Town of Hilton Head Island council had a first reading of 2017 through 2005 regarding lockouts. A lockout is a unit that can be divided into two separate sections. The owner of a lockout has several options when it comes to renting out a unit. Read the -- rent the entire unit to one party, stay in one half of the unit and

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rent out the other half, or rent both halves to different parties.
Is this an ordinance about lockouts that you voted on?
A. It -- yeah, it appears to be.
Q. Okay. If you vote for a lockout, that means that now timeshare owners have twice the number of rentals they could make, correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Because you literally cut the timeshare in half and you can rent to twice as many people?
A. Oh, you could do that.
Q. Okay.
A. Yes.
Q. In theory, doesn't that increase the potential profitability of the timeshare units?
A. Not necessarily. I mean, you may be able to rent one unit for $10,000 because it's I guess a two or a three bedroom versus if you split them you may still rent one for five and -- I mean one for seven and one for three.
Q. Okay. But isn't that the benefit of this is that it would allow people to potentially make more money on it?

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A. Again, not necessarily.
Q. I'm not saying not necessarily, what I'm asking you is could it allow people to make more money on -- on the rentals?
A. Oh, it could. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Thank you. Your husband owns how many timeshares?
A. I truly don't know how many timeshares he owns.
Q. Okay. Does he own them in the name of a corporation or under his own name?
A. I believe it's in his business.
Q. Okay. Given that this directly affects the profitability of the units that your husband owns in his -- his primary job --
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form, because it's not what it does.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- don't you believe that you should have recused yourself from this vote?
A. My -- no. I mean, this -- this was about a new piece of property and a timeshare that is going to be built. My husband doesn't have any association with that whatsoever and there's absolutely no proof that my husband ever would,

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that he would ever even be involved with a resale at this property.
Q. But doesn't -- don't the lockouts apply to all timeshares in Hilton Head?
A. No.
Q. Just this particular one?
A. It was just -- it was just here. The timeshares that my husband owns do not have lockout capabilities.
Q. Okay. So let's talk about -- 2-5-2-6 is the document I want to go to. And this is the disclosure that you made on -- I'm trying to find the date here. 5/17/17 just a month after that letter was written, that e-mail was written by the Beaufort Watch Dog. You listed your income from the Town of Hilton Head, you listed that you get an income from the Boys & Girls Club, and you listed Hilton Head Timeshare Rentals -- Resales. Is that your husband's business?
A. That's my husband's company.
Q. Okay. Skillets and -- Cafe & Grill. Is that you?
A. No, my sons [sic] work there.
Q. Okay. And Pro Golf Discount?
A. My other son worked there.

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Q. Okay. So you listed income as a potential -- let's go back. These -- this is a state ethics commission form, right?
A. Correct.
Q. And the purpose of it is to let the -- the town and the electorate know where money comes from into your family that so you can have that disclosure out in the public in case there's something you were to vote on that might affect an interest or a financial interest you have?
A. That's correct.
Q. Okay. So your husband has always had Hilton Head Timeshare & Resales?
A. Yes.
Q. But you've never listed it until May 17th of 2017?
A. This was the first year that the ethics commission told us that we needed to list family members. Prior to that the law in the state was just to list our own salary.
Q. But you didn't even list the Boys & Girls Club in the past?
A. That's what I mean, we were only supposed to list our town income and then the -- the law changed to have us include our private

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income as well as our families.
Q. When did that law change?
A. I don't know the date.
Q. Okay. You'd agree with me the state ethics commission forms are public documents that you can get kind of wherever, right?
A. Yes.
Q. And that they are when I say accurate, I mean, they're -- they're forms that you get from the state ethics commission and these are the ones filled out by you, correct?
A. Correct, uh-huh.
Q. And I'm just going through and flipping through the ones -- this is 2016s, 2015s, and it only lists your salary from town council?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. And you believe that is in accordance with current law, both the fact that they previously didn't mention other income and they do now?
A. I believe so.
Q. Has Mr. Likins ever had to go through an IRS audit before?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. Okay. Do you know what the -- the --

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and I apologize, I am skipping around a little bit --
A. Okay.
Q. -- because I'm going through notes. The doctors notes that we discussed, do you know what the total value of the doctors bills you got from seeing your husband's doctor and yours?
A. Probably about $250.
Q. Do you know what the total value of any prescriptions you've had filled are?
A. Probably another $25.
Q. Okay. And do you believe your total out-of-pockets -- when I say out-of-pockets, things that you've had to pay out personally as a result of this incident is -- is no more than $275?
A. From for my medical expenses, yes.
Q. Okay.
A. There's certainly been other expenses.
Q. Okay.
A. I think I've driven to Beaufort I can't tell you how many times. I drove to Charleston for mediation.
Q. Okay. But you had --
A. I --
Q. That's just for -- that's just for the

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lawsuit itself, though, right?
A. Pardon me?
Q. You mean that's just -- going to Beaufort you mean and Charleston for the lawsuit?
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. Okay. But I don't mean as a result of Mr. Hoagland's actions.
A. Well, this lawsuit is because of Mr. Hoagland's actions.
Q. I know, just understand I'm asking by calling out everything you ever do as a direct result, the lawsuit because your attorneys told you you had to be somewhere is a little bit different. So I'm just saying other than driving to court or driving to mediation or meeting with lawyers, the only expenses you've had in this entire case are $275?
A. I believe that's correct.
Q. Now, isn't it true that when you wanted to get the attorneys involved at the beginning, it actually wasn't because of you, it was because you didn't want your board members to be brought in?
A. I don't understand. I -- I wanted to get the attorneys involved to stop Mr. Hoagland from harassing my board members, absolutely.

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Q. Okay. That's my point.
A. But I also wanted to make sure that he didn't get me fired. I mean, in a situation like this, if Mr. Hoagland had become so problematic that it would have been become detrimental to the organization, as much as my board cared about me, they would have probably had no other alternative.
Q. I'm showing you 935, which is an e-mail on December 12th, 2015 --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- that you sent to Lisa Snider. Who is she?
A. She's on the board at the Boys & Girls Club.
Q. All right. And it says: Thank you so much. This is no fun, but I had no choice. He was calling and e-mailing BGC HHI and Lowcountry. It's not fair for these board members to be pulled into this when it has nothing to do with our organization. He needs to keep this in the public realm, not the private. But this doesn't have anything to do with your concern over getting fired, right?
A. I just didn't happen to put that in the e-mail.

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Q. Okay. This -- but this e-mail was about your concern about the board members having to deal with it, right?
A. This e-mail is, yes.
Q. And so just in the context of this e-mail, you were spending taxpayer dollars to make sure the board members didn't have to deal with this, correct?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Answer it if you can.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. It's okay.
A. Yes. Board members who are citizens of my community.
Q. Taxpayer dollars that didn't protect or benefit all taxpayers, correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Might be benefiting all taxpayers. If it prevents this from happening again and makes sure that other individuals won't be afraid to serve -- serve in the public arena because they -- their jobs could be threatened, then it will benefit every taxpayer in our community.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. How does a verdict of dollars in excess of your attorneys' fees against Mr. Hoagland prevent this will -- ensure this will never happen again?
A. I'm sorry, I didn't even understand that.
Q. Yeah. How does -- how does this lawsuit -- how does asking for monetary damages against Mr. Hoagland prevent this from ever happening again, which is what I think you said?
A. I'm not sure that it could ever completely prevent it from happening again, but I certainly think that it would make a precedence or a statement to individuals so that they would understand that there is a limit to what they can do to a public official.
Q. Don't you think that all this would -- really accomplishes is kills free speech?
MR. ALFORD: Object to form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Not at all. Not at all. I -- I've never tried to stop Mr. Hoagland from speaking in the public arena.
BY MR. BREWER:

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Q. Okay. Well, I mean, let's face facts, you're in the public arena, right, we've been through that?
A. As long as I'm in my capacity as a town council, I am in a public arena --
Q. Sure.
A. -- and I'd acknowledge that but I have a private life. My entire life 24/7 seven days a week is not in the public arena. I am a private citizen, an individual, and I desire to have my privacy and it is not allowed to be invaded to the degree that he has done that.
Q. How do you draw the line? Like where -- where is it that you're --
A. I guess we're going to see how a jury decides to draw the line.
Q. And so that's really the issue is, what you're asking, you'd agree that it's not very clear and so as a result of this --
A. Oh, I think it's very --
Q. Hold on --
A. -- clear.
Q. -- I'm not -- I'm not finished with my question. You don't think it's very clear and as a result of this lawsuit you are asking a jury to

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determine what are the hard lines about when you're in -- in the public world and when you're not?
A. Mr. Brewer --
Q. Yes, ma'am.
A. -- I currently have an injunction --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- against Mr. Hoagland.
Q. That he agreed to.
A. I think it has already been made clear and Mr. Hoagland agreed himself that he stepped over the line. That his behavior was beyond what it should have been in a public arena and that's the reason we had to go to a court of law for there to be a decision made on that. And the decision has been made and all I'm asking is for that decision to be made permanently.
Q. Let's be -- be clear, a judge never ruled on this injunctive issue, right?
MR. LINTON: Object to form.
THE WITNESS: No, Mr. --
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.
THE WITNESS: -- Hoagland --
MR. ALFORD: Answer it if you can.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Right?

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A. No, he did not rule.
Q. And --
A. Mr. Hoagland --
Q. -- he --
A. -- agreed.
Q. He agreed to a temporary injunction?
A. He did.
Q. Okay.
A. Yes.
Q. So you're more concerned about the permanent injunction than you are the money, the money doesn't really mean much to you; is that correct?
A. It --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: It was always about the permanent injunction.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. And so if Mr. Hoagland was to agree to a permanent injunction, then you would have no need for a monetary award, correct?
A. Well, apparently I have one now because I have taxpayer dollars that have been spent to defend me so that I could continue to enjoy this

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injunction until it's been decided by a court of law.
Q. Okay. Well, you said if you don't get any money you don't have to pay it back, so it doesn't really matter, right?
A. It matters to me. Those are my constituents.
Q. Okay. Is there interest? Do you have to pay it back -- pay the money back with interest at all or --
A. I don't --
Q. -- it's not in the resolution?
A. -- I don't recall.
Q. Did --
A. I know I've always wanted to make sure that the town was made whole.
Q. Okay. And what happens if -- if Mr. Hoagland was acting within his free speech rights?
A. I guess if that is the decision by a court of law, then I may no longer be able to continue to have the injunction.
Q. Well, I'm thinking about the money. You said you always wanted the money paid back, but you won't -- really you won't pay it back if you don't get Mr. -- money from Mr. Hoagland, will you?

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A. No, I won't. I don't have the ability to pay that back.
MR. HOAGLAND: Huh.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: 15 minutes, counselor.
MR. HOAGLAND: Are you going to be able to finish?
MR. BREWER: Yes.
Go ahead and change out.
I'm going to tell you what I'm doing.
MR. HOAGLAND: Because we're getting --
MR. BREWER: I'm getting -- so let me tell you what I'm doing.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This -- this concludes Video Number 3 in the video --
MR. BREWER: We're going to get finished.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: -- deposition of --
MR. BREWER: I --
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: -- Kim Likins.
MR. BREWER: -- as you can tell, I'm jumping around hitting notes.
MR. HOAGLAND: Yeah.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is approximately --

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MR. BREWER: You can feel it.
MR. HOAGLAND: Yeah.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: -- 5:36 PM. We are --
MR. BREWER: I've got --
THE VIDEOGRAPHER -- now off the record.
(A recess transpired.)
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on the record. Today's date is September 27th, 2017. The time is approximately 5:48 PM. This is Video Number 4 in the video deposition of Kim Likins.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. All right. Ms. Likins, do you remember Jeff Moss?
A. Superintendent of the school --
Q. Yeah.
A. -- district, yes.
Q. He was -- he lost his job because of some --
MR. HOAGLAND: He hasn't lost it yet. I'm sorry, excuse me. Yeah, I just wanted to --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. There was some issues with him and some corruption issues regarding favoritism I guess given to, what, his wife?

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A. I think it was nepotism.
Q. Nepotism, favoritism --
A. Yes. Uh-huh.
Q. -- all the same thing, right?
Did you realize that Mr. Hoagland was somehow involved in calling some of that to people's attention.
A. I believe I saw some things in -- in e-mails about that.
Q. Do you think that Mr. Moss if he is guilty of nepotism that that sets a good standard for children?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: If he's guilty of nepotism, does that set a --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Yeah.
A. -- I'm sorry a what?
Q. Sure. If he -- if -- if Mr. Moss did -- did the things he's accused of, do you think he should keep his position as superintendent of schools?
A. I can't say that I know everything that Mr. Moss was accused of.

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Q. Okay.
A. I mean, the only thing I understand is that there was a position at the school district and his wife was hired for the position.
Q. Okay. I -- I'm -- I'm going to switch gears. I'm asking a hypothetical, okay, it is a hypothetical.
A. Okay.
Q. But if -- if somebody was the executive director for a nonprofit organization such as yours that's important to this community and someone knew something about that person that was -- they felt was important to the integrity of the position, do you think that person would have a right to tell your employers about it?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Certainly people have a right to do things like that.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Do you believe that Mr. Hoagland truly believes at any time that he contacted your employers that he was doing the right thing?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Please answer it if you can.

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THE WITNESS: I have no idea what Mr. Hoagland believed. I -- I don't know.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I know you don't, I'm asking what you believe which is different than what you know.
A. Do I believe that he thought he was doing the right thing?
Q. Yeah, that's what I'm asking you.
A. I believe that he was seeking selfish means.
Q. Okay.
A. I don't think he at any moment in time had any concern about the Boys & Girls Club.
Q. Okay.
A. I think that he wanted to harm me personally --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and that was -- that was his primary motive in doing what he did and he basically said that in his deposition. You know, there were four votes and that's the reason this passed and I'm the only person that he has gone after to this extent in their private -- in their private life.
Q. Did -- did --
MR. HOAGLAND: I guess I'm retired --

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THE WITNESS: And he --
MR. HOAGLAND: -- and didn't have a job. Okay. I am sorry.
MR. BREWER: I have a video, dude.
MR. HOAGLAND: Okay.
MR. BREWER: Stop talking.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. That's what I was going to ask. I mean, did -- are any of the other people who voted, are any of them on a -- are any of -- do any of them have employment? So -- so who are the -- who are the other votes, the -- the other yes votes besides you?
A. Mr. Lennox, Mr. McCann, and Mr. Harkins.
Q. Okay. What are their jobs?
A. I believe Mr. Lennox is full-time retired.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. And I believe Mr. McCann is full-time retired.
Q. Okay.
A. And Mr. Harkins has various business interests.
Q. Is he -- but he's -- when you say

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various business interests, is he working? Like does he go to a day job?
A. He doesn't -- I don't know where he goes to work, but I know that he works frequently and goes out of town.
Q. Does he have an employer?
A. I don't know if he has an employer or if he owns his business interests solely or -- or owns them with other individuals. I've never talked to Mr. Harkins --
Q. Okay.
A. -- personally, I just know that he has frequently mentioned that he was out of town on business.
Q. Okay. Oh, so Mr. Harkins' business interests aren't even here in Hilton Head, are they?
A. Some may be.
Q. Okay.
A. I -- I -- I'm just saying there are times that he has been out of town on business, but he -- he may have business interests here as well.
Q. Okay. I mean, you are -- you are in the -- we discussed that with the Boys & Girls Club you're in a public position with them and as -- as

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the executive director and the face of the institution, right?
A. We discussed the fact that I am the director of the club and that there are times that I have to publicly represent the organization.
Q. Okay. And -- and, in fact, if -- if Mr. Hoagland had contacted you or had contacted the Boys & Girls Club stating his belief that -- that you lied and that you're corrupt, right, and those are his opinions and beliefs --
A. I don't think that's an if question, he did do that.
Q. Okay. But those -- what I'm saying is that those are his opinions and beliefs and he does believe those to be true, why would your -- why -- why would that have endangered your job?
A. Because he demanded that I be fired.
Q. Okay.
A. He was harassing individuals of my board. His behavior was continuing to escalate out of control. He had a mission --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and that was to do whatever he could to destroy me because he had already made the threat that if I didn't vote the way he wanted me

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to vote --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- that I should lose my job and his mission was to force me to lose my job. And if I had become too much of a detriment to this organization, if it had been too challenging to keep me employed because he was calling every one of my board members, harassing all of them --
Q. Okay.
A. -- to the point that they no longer wanted to volunteer and serve on my board, then my board may have had no other choice than to let me go. This organization had to move to a crisis communication mode where they had to be concerned, significantly concerned about the damage that could be done to them in the public arena because of Mr. Hoagland's desire to come after me personally.
Q. The organization gets a benefit off of you being on town council, don't they?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: Not that I know of.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. You don't think that adds to your position at all or adds to the attention they get

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that you're on town council?
A. The Boys & Girls Club doesn't get anything from the Town of Hilton Head. They don't receive financial resources. They don't receive any type of services from the Town of Hilton Head.
Q. If that's true then how come The First Tee organization which is under your umbrella got a 50-year lease for $1 on the land it sits on?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: The First Tee has its own 501(c)(3).
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. That's okay. But you started it, right? And --
A. We helped -- we helped launch it, yes.
Q. And it's -- literally sits -- like if I drive and -- drive to the Boys & Girls Club, The First Tee's right there?
A. Correct.
Q. And you guys share intercommunications with each other, right?
A. We do.
Q. I mean, you're effectively -- even though there's two separate corporations, I mean, that's -- it's really an entity housed underneath

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the Boys & Girls Club, isn't it?
A. It has no formal association whatsoever. Our funds are not commingled. Our databases are not commingled. It has its own executive director. It has its own board.
Q. So, if that's the case, why were you the one involved in getting the lease signed and why were you on e-mails that we can go through following up with Mike Briggs about the status of the lease we just discussed for The First Tee? That's not true. You were very involved in getting the lease -- the $1 lease for 50 years; isn't that right?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer if you can. Just let's...
THE WITNESS: I recused myself from every council decision and discussion associated with The First Tee.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. But I'm asking on your end -- I mean, you would agree with me there's a fair amount of e-mails with you talking inhouse about the lease agreement that the town bought -- got for First Tee? I'm going to 544 -- no, that's the lease itself. Let's go to -- hold on, let's -- we'll do

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this one first. This is 554. All right. This is an e-mail from April 24th of 2015 with you talking with Michael Thoreson [phonetic] and Mike Briggs about easements for the construction at The First Tee facility, right?
A. Yes.
Q. Let's see. This is 520. This is an e-mail from August 15th, 2016 between you and Mike Davis regarding First Tee funding and your recommendations I believe if it's not this one I've got another e-mail where you're talking about how to -- John McCann is on the finance committee; is that right?
A. Correct.
Q. So you're talking about going in front of him for the finance committee and this is your discussion. I've called John McCann and left a voicemail asking about the meeting. All it reads on the agenda for the F&A committee is general discussion regarding First Tee funding.
So you're calling John McCann inquiring in whatever capacity it is about First Tee funding, so it's not completely separate, you do do that?
A. I was calling John McCann to ask him about the agenda of the meeting. Mr. Davis had

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contacted me and he didn't know anything about it being on the agenda and he asked me if I knew why First Tee funding was on the agenda and I didn't and I said I would call Mr. McCann and ask him. It ended up being an error and it was taken off the agenda for that meeting.
Q. Okay. So this is from Gerrold Walker who's -- he is the president of...
A. He used to be chairman of the board of the First Tee.
Q. Okay. To Ken Campbell, Kim Likins, and Mike Davis on April 15th, 2015.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. I received a call from Mike this morning. John McCann called him saying the package he received was incomplete and why would we be submitting an incomplete request. My guess is this is a communications problem and not a content issue. Kim informed me she had the council updates with her last night and planned to hand them off to Steve Riley. Kim, did that happen? I don't think getting more people involved in our town council mission at this stage is wise so I'm asking if the two of you can work this issue. I accept Kim is limited to what she is able to do publicly, but we

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need to get this process under control.

I mean The First Tee works with you on many things they have going on, it's not as easy as saying they're completely separate entities?

A. They are separate entities. And what that means in that e-mail is that they needed something delivered to town council --

Q. Uh-huh.

A. -- I was in the building. They walked over and asked me if I would take them to the council because I was going to town hall and I took them and delivered them.

Q. Okay. Well, let's -- let's -- talk to me about this e-mail then. This is April 22nd, 2015, all in the same time frame. And this is from you to Mike -- to Ken Campbell, et cetera. And it says -- let's see here. Thank you for all -- all for being at the meeting and being prepared to speak if necessary --

A. I'm sorry, where are you? I just want to follow you.

Q. (Indicating.)

A. Okay. Thank you.

Q. I am glad the council was confident with everything that had been done and no

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additional questions at this time. One point of clarification what passed last night was the release of $150,000 and the acceptance of The First Tee updated business plan which was the final requirement for the land lease agreement. Now that it has been accepted, the town attorney along with the town manager had been instructed to finalize the lease.

I mean, you -- this is First Tee business you're discussing, right? I mean, that's not Boys & Girls Club business?

A. Correct.

Q. Okay. And this is all coming from your first -- your Boys & Girls Club e-mail, right?

A. Correct.

Q. You don't have a First Tee e-mail?

A. I don't.

Q. Okay.

A. I serve on The First Tee board.

Q. Okay. But this isn't from a First Tee e-mail?

A. I -- I realize that, but I'm writing this to other board members giving them an update on information associated with The First Tee because I'm on their board.

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Q. Sure.

A. And I have made that public over and over again --

Q. Right.

A. -- and I've made sure that I never voted on anything or discussed anything in executive session regarding The First Tee.

Q. I'm not saying you didn't recuse yourself. Now, here, April 21st, let's see, the lease agreement approval between the town and Boys & Girls Club and the release of the $150,000 town grant to TFTL were all on the agenda. Approval of both of these critical items occurred with no presentation on our part or questions or comments from town council members. Kim Likins recused herself due to a conflict of interest with her position as unit director of BGC. None of the above would have happened without the years of advocacy by Kim, so thank you, thank you, thank you.

All right. So, I mean, that's my point, I'm not saying you didn't recuse yourself, but clearly you used your position with the Boys & Girls Club to advocate with town council or people as necessary on behalf of The First Tee

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organization which you were getting up -- up to speed which is why you had to recuse yourself but these things are interrelated and you are, in fact, using your position and the people you know to advocate to get -- I mean, they didn't even have any questions asked, nothing happened because you helped walk them through the process?

MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

Answer --

THE WITNESS: That is not true. I did not walk them through the process. I never participated in a presentation about The First Tee. All of that was done by other First -- First Tee board members so that I wouldn't have a conflict of interest.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. So the years of advocacy they're talking about you is just nothing, they're not referring to anything at all?

A. Oh, no, no, no, I'm not saying that I have never been an advocate of First Tee. I'm a big advocate of First Tee. I think that it is an absolutely fabulous organization. We are blessed as a community to have one more thing that enriches the lives of the kids of --

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Q. Sure.
A. -- our community. And -- and I absolutely have advocated for that.
Q. And all this happened, the town went and bought a 250,000 piece of land just for The First Tee that you're on the board of and is right beside the Boys & Girls Club that you're the executive director of the Hilton Head Island unit for and leased it back to The First Tee for $1 in the year leading up to this DMO contract renegotiation; isn't that correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Sure, that's correct.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. To go back to a question I've asked you earlier, it's reasonable to believe that someone might see that interconnection and have reason to believe that there were conflicts of interest or that otherwise that that was a corrupt buddy buddy set of behind the doors dealings even if you don't believe that was the case and even if you believe you did the right thing, you can understand that public perception from some people might be otherwise, correct?

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MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Possibly.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Let's talk about the chamber app real quick.
MR. BREWER: Exhibit stickers right here. I'm on...
THE COURT REPORTER: Five.
MR. BREWER: Five. This is Exhibit 5. I only have one copy. I'm going to show it to you all. (Indicating.)
Do you mind if I --
(DFT. EXH. 5, Document entitled App, was marked for identification.)
MR. HOAGLAND: Yeah.
MR. BREWER: I'll have it -- it'll be attached.
MR. HOAGLAND: Okay.
MR. BREWER: Okay. This is Exhibit 5.
MR. ALFORD: That's -- okay.
MR. BREWER: Okay.
MR. HOAGLAND: No, it's --
MR. BREWER: I'm going to --
MR. HOAGLAND: -- that's yours.

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MR. ALFORD: Keep yours.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I'm going to read -- I'm going to read this to you, but it's a quote -- I don't even know where this document came from.
MR. BREWER: I'm going to put this up -- (Inaudible.) What is this?
MR. HOAGLAND: It's -- it's just a --
MR. BREWER: I mean, what is the document?
MR. HOAGLAND: It's -- it's just -- it's just something about the -- it's just something about the app.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Well, I'm going to ask you some questions about the chamber real quick.
MR. HOAGLAND: It's all good. It's actually all relative, but...
MR. BREWER: I know, but I want a single quote.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. What this quote says is from you about the chamber app and I'm going to ask you about it more in a second.
A. Okay.

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Q. I like it because it's selling Hilton Head, councilwoman Kim Likins said at Tuesday's meeting. There's a huge potential for advertising. Okay. Did you make that statement?
A. Probably.
Q. Okay.
A. I mean, I can't say verbatim that that's exactly what I said, but I -- I'm sure I said something like that.
Q. All right. So the chamber app -- was -- was it $200,000 that was spent on that app?
MR. HOAGLAND: Hundred.
THE WITNESS: A hundred.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. $100,000. And, obviously, the town had the opportunity to get that same app made for about $30,000, right?
A. I don't have that knowledge.
Q. And the app --
MR. HOAGLAND: Five local companies.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- the app --
MR. HOAGLAND: At least that.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- was not recommended by the ATAX

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committee, but the town council voted for it anyway, correct?
A. I believe -- yes, I believe that's correct.
Q. I'm going to take you to 276 real quick.
A. Are we moving away from the app?
Q. Nope, this is about the app.
A. Okay.
Q. This is July 16th, 2015. It's an e-mail to you from Lee Edwards.
A. Okay.
Q. Take a look at the attachment which is a note to Tom Gardo from Dan Monroe. Most of it is about a disputed map that the -- map, I think that means to be app -- that the chamber wanted but if you look below and read about his app and website that is what I'm concerned about. It's clear to me the chamber is in direct competition with his business and we gave them the ATAX money to do it. Isn't it true that the Chamber of Commerce is using ATAX dollars on both their website and this app to create space for advertisers that creates revenue back for the chamber and the town doesn't see those revenues

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even though the town -- the tax dollars from the taxpayers are going to -- to help the chamber make that money?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I -- I -- I believe what you're saying is accurate and I believe that the money goes back into marketing for the community. So, in the long run, the -- the town does seek benefits of those monies.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. Most importantly, the money that we spent 100 percent goes directly to the marketing of our community.
Q. The money that we spent being we who?
A. The town, the ATAX money that we provide our DMO.
Q. Okay. How do you know that none of it goes to any salaries of any chamber employees?
A. Part of it does go to administration. When they give us their reports back, they typically show how the money has been spent and there's a portion of it that goes to administration to cover overhead associated directly with the DMO.

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Q. Okay. And if those -- those monies -- let me ask this: Are you aware that the membership dues from the Chamber of Commerce by themselves won't even cover all the Chamber of Commerce executive salaries?
A. I'm not aware of that. I have no idea what membership dues are or what the salaries of those individuals are.
Q. Okay. If you -- has anybody at the Chamber of Commerce -- or, excuse me, anybody at the town council ever gone and looked at the finances or the books for the Chamber of Commerce as it relates to the spending of taxpayer dollars, to your knowledge?
A. I believe that there have been council members who have stated that they have -- have gone in and looked at things, but I -- I cannot say for sure that anyone has.
Q. The statement that you made approving the DMO contract that we've listened to --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- that was on the video and we went over the statement talked a lot about the trust we have in the chamber -- or that you have in the Chamber of Commerce members and that was a

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direct -- that was in direct relationship to your belief that there didn't need to be more stringent requirements for transparency in the contract because we just trust those people, correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: It was a statement that I believe that we had solid components of the contract that were stringent to cover things associated. We had the independent audit that was done, we had the ability to have another auditor look at that audit and verify if we had any problems. I think there was a statement in there that says something about two times a year council members or town manager can go and -- and request to look at things. I mean, I don't remember every detail of the contract, but I believed at that time when I approved the contract that it had enough financial constraints that I was secure with voting for it.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Now, I'm showing this to you -- I'm going to have to rotate this real quick, I'm sorry. All right. This is an article from March 29th, 2014 and it says plans in full swing for Hilton --

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Hilton Head Island's First Tee facility, right?
And -- I got to turn this document. The Ferrees is -- that's like the -- that's the couple that --
A. The Ferrees.
Q. The Ferrees.
A. Jim and Karen.
Q. Ferrees, okay.
A. Yes.
Q. And what was their association with The First Tee?
A. Jim and Karen just had been long-time advocates for having a First Tee --
Q. Okay.
A. -- chapter in Hilton Head. He's a former golf professional, she's a golf pro, and they have a huge passion for golf. And so they were kind of figureheads, so to speak, for the capital campaign for The First Tee.
Q. All right. This says in the highlighted portion on Page 635: Joining the Ferrees on the launch team are the Town of Hilton Head Island, the Town of Bluffton, the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry, the Heritage Classic Foundation, the Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Association, and the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton

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Chamber of Commerce.
I want to tie this together real quick.
What is the launch team? What exactly was that?
A. It was just a group of organizations that formally supported The First Tee's.
Q. Okay.
A. -- chapter license.
Q. Is this what you associated with the e-mails that we went through or discussed where you requested letters of recommendation?
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. Okay. And -- but these were all the organizations in the community that got behind The First Tee and tried to throw their goodwill and weight behind it to get it going?
A. Basically all they did was endorse -- endorse that The First Tee would be a good youth development organization to have for our community.
Q. Okay.
A. There was not anything in particular or special that was done by any of those organizations. They were not in any way directly tied to fundraising or building of the facility.
Q. Okay. Now, the Town of Hilton Head Island, you're a town council member at that time,

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so you're a member of the leadership of that government, right?
A. That's correct.
Q. And I'm listing off the members of this leadership team or this launch team. The Town of Bluffton, you have a good relationship, a close relationship with Lisa Sulka, right?
A. I don't have a close relationship with --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: -- Lisa Sulka.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. I know Lisa Sulka solely because she is the Mayor of Bluffton.
Q. Okay.
A. It's the way I met her and it is primarily the only interaction I ever have with her.
Q. Okay. But she has -- you have e-mails like personal e-mails between you and Lisa Sulka; isn't that correct?
A. There might be one or two e-mails between Lisa and I. I don't know to the nature when you say personal, but I -- I'm telling you

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that Lisa Sulka and I are not in any way personal friends.
Q. Okay. Isn't -- aren't there e-mails between you and Ms. Sulka discussing your December 15th town council meeting and after the altercation with Mr. Hoagland?
A. Could you show me that e-mail?
Q. Sure. But, I mean, isn't it true that she contacted you then?
A. I don't know. I want to see the e-mail so I can clarify that for you.
Q. Okay. You're saying you don't remember one way or the other, she might have, correct? Because I'd -- I'd like to know the answer before I show it to you whether you remember --
A. Oh, she might have, yes. Yeah.
Q. Okay. I'm -- I'm happy to show you things, but I often want to know whether you remember it first. Give me a second, I'm going to get through that.
A. Well, can you show me the e-mail?
Q. I will show you in just a second.
A. Okay.
Q. I'm finishing my other questions first.
So the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry you're

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the executive director of, correct?
A. I'm the director of the Hilton Head club.
Q. The Heritage --
A. And -- and can I just clarify something there?
Q. Uh-huh.
A. You notice that that is the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry --
Q. Okay.
A. -- not the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head, because The First Tee is also of the Lowcountry. It's an organization that expands -- that expands throughout the entire Beaufort County --
Q. Okay.
A. -- as well as Jasper County. So it was not the Hilton Head club that was part of the launch team or that endorsed this, it was the entire lowcountry because First Tee is serving children throughout the entire county.
Q. There's not a separate incorporation for Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head though, is there?
A. No.

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Q. That's my point, Boys & -- Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head is the same thing as the Boys & Girls Club --
A. I'm just clarifying for you that -- that The First Tee of the Lowcountry goes way beyond Hilton Head.
Q. Okay. But I'm just clarifying for you that this member of the launch team Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry pays your paycheck?
A. Yes, they do.
Q. Okay. So you get a paycheck from the Town of Hilton Head, you get a paycheck from the other member Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry, the Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Association is associated with the Chamber of Commerce, correct, they're a joint venture entity?
A. I don't know their relationship.
Q. Isn't the -- the -- the Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Association associated with the -- the Bluffton and Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce in associating and promoting golf as a tourist destination here?
A. They could be.
Q. And you're a member of the Bluffton and Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce, correct?

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A. My organization is, yes.
Q. But through the Town of Hilton Head and through -- through the Boys & Girls Club, correct?
A. Yes, that is correct.
Q. And how does that work, do they -- do you get an individual membership through your organizations?
A. No.
Q. Okay. Is --
A. The organization is a member --
Q. Okay.
A. -- not individuals.
Q. If the Town of Hilton Head is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the taxpayers are thus responsible for paying the membership, does that not also mean that the taxpayers are also all members of the Chamber of Commerce?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: I don't know that there's any kind of correlation like that.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. It's an organization.
Q. The Heritage Classic Foundation, now what -- what is that again?

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A. It's a nonprofit organization that puts on our annual golf tournament, our large --
Q. Our being...
A. Well, the community. It doesn't belong to us. I mean, it's its own nonprofit, but I guess it sponsors the PGA tour golf tournament that's held here on the island annually.
Q. Okay. It sponsors -- is it a First Tee or Boys & Girls Club that it sponsors?
A. It doesn't sponsor either one of us. I'm talking about --
Q. Oh, I see.
A. -- the -- the big golf tournament, the PGA tour --
Q. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, the one that -- the one in Sea Pines?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay.
A. Correct.
Q. Sorry, it's late in the day, so -- all right.
A. I know.
Q. I'm getting there.
A. Can I see the e-mail?
Q. I'll have to find it. Give me a

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second, please, if you don't mind.
A. Okay.
MR. HOAGLAND: That's really important and it's not -- (Inaudible.) Very important.
MR. BREWER: Okay. I'll get back to it, just give me a second.
MR. HOAGLAND: There's much more -- (Inaudible.) It's very basic. We have much more.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Since you asked, this is 362.
A. (Nodding head up and down.)
Q. You asked me to show you the e-mail. You ask and I shall do.
A. Okay. So, I mean, what -- what of a personal nature is there in this e-mail?
Q. What I --
A. You're -- you're suggesting -- you suggested that I have a close personal relationship with Lisa --
Q. Sure.
A. -- Sulka and that there were e-mails to demonstrate that.
Q. What does this have to do with Bluffton town business or Hilton Head? What does this have to do with business -- what does this have to do

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with your capacity with knowing Lisa Sulka as the mayor of Bluffton?
A. Lisa Sulka is apparently very aware of Mr. Hoagland's behavior --
Q. Okay.
A. -- in association with our council. And she is simply sending me this note stating her feelings about his violations.
Q. Does that -- is that something that is part of her job to do with you? It's not -- in other words, it's not a separated business thing, this is a personal note, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: It has to do with me being on council of Hilton Head. Lisa Sulka is not sending me a personal note about my children playing tennis or where I'm going to dinner Friday night. She's sending me an e-mail directly associated with something regarding my council position.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. That she has no business with. She -- she has nothing to do with Town of Hilton Head. She's a Bluffton resident and the Mayor of

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Bluffton, right?
A. She is.
Q. And --
A. -- that is accurate.
Q. -- so this is not part of her job to reach out to you about something going on with Town of Hilton Head?
A. I don't control what Lisa Sulka does.
Q. You're the one who asked the question, so I'm going down the line of questioning.
A. No, I was just trying to clarify because you insinuated that you had e-mail that suggested I had a personal relationship with Lisa Sulka and I wanted to clarify to you that I don't.
Q. Okay. I'm clarifying that that's not business of the Town of Bluffton or Town of Hilton Head, right?
A. Mr. -- dealing with Mr. Hoagland is definitely associated with the Town of Hilton Head.
Q. Okay. So this is all business right here is what you're saying? This is all business, 362, is what you're telling me?
A. Adds -- clean up your act.
MR. HOAGLAND: (Inaudible.)
MR. BREWER: Well, pull it up. I don't

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have it.
THE WITNESS: What she is speaking about about herself --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- is -- is about her business as mayor.
Q. FYI, good luck tomorrow night. Pass on to Bill Harkins. Right there. (Indicating.)
A. I don't know what that means.
Q. Now, this is the e-mail to you is all I'm showing.
A. Pardon me.
Q. I'm just showing you, ma'am, this is an e-mail to you that has nothing to do with Town of Hilton Head business. Like this is -- y'all aren't conducting business together. This is a note saying, FYI, good luck tomorrow night. Please pass that on to Bill Harkins. That's a personal note, right? Can we agree on that?
A. In your interpretation it's a personal note.
Q. Okay.
A. I -- I said that it has to do with my town business. When she was saying --

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Q. Okay.
A. -- good luck tomorrow night, she meant at our council meeting because she knew that Mr. Hoagland would be coming forward again.
Q. And because that's business that y'all conduct together, council members and mayors of Bluffton call each other about people who might appear as part of their business?
A. No, we don't.
Q. That's my point. You made up your mind about the fact that you were going to vote for the DMO contract before November 17th, 2015, correct?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. Do -- do you actually use the term, the DM -- DMAI good standard in your speech? Do you know what that means?
A. I believe I used it in my speech. I know that it's a national organization that DMOs across the country belong to. It's a professional organization and they establish gold standards for those -- for DMO organizations to operate under.
Q. The -- isn't it fair that the e-mails that were directed saying that you -- you were unfit for your job were directly related to Mr. Hoagland's belief that you lied and you were

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corrupt? If we go back and go through his e-mails, that's what they refer to?
A. I'm sorry, repeat that.
Q. Isn't it true that the -- everything we have in writing regarding Mr. Hoagland's allegations that you're unfit for your job is completely and totally related to you -- his -- his belief that you are conflicted, that you lied, and that you're corrupt; isn't that fair?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: So you're saying do I believe that -- that he believes that all of these things are why he said those things? I'm -- I'm sorry, I'm just having a hard time following you.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. This is 867. We do not need anyone who lies and has conflict leading our Boys & Girls Club or serving on town council.
Is that easier?
A. Okay. What about that statement?
Q. This is everything he's ever said about you being unfit for your job, correct? I'm trying to --
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I'm trying to get to he has never suggested that in any e-mail or otherwise that you are somehow a physical danger to children?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: Oh, he has absolutely said --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- in e-mails, in publication of the newspaper, and to my bosses --
Q. Okay.
A. -- that I am unfit and should not be allowed to be around children.
Q. Right.
A. If someone suggests that you should not be allowed to be around children and that is your primary job then there's definitely a harmful reason for that.
Q. So --
A. And that would simply mean that there would be danger. If there's harm, then there's danger.
Q. So all I'm saying -- so all I'm hearing you say is you interpret that from his statements,

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but he has never -- hold on -- he has never physically said -- said in writing in black and white that you have harmed children physically, like abused them, he's never said that, right?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. He's never accused you of being a pedophile, correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. What -- what other kinds of physical harm are you talking about other than beating children and pedophilia? I can't think of any more but do you -- can you think of some?
A. I have no idea what Mr. Hoagland was suggesting. I just know that Mr. Hoagland called my bosses and he told them that I was a danger --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and should not be allowed to be around children. What his interpretation, what his mindset was about that, I don't know. I can't --

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Q. Okay.
A. -- read his mind, but I know that it was alarming and he was forceful and he was adamant --
Q. Sure.
A. -- that I needed to be removed from my job.
Q. And isn't it true that everywhere you can find, every document, is in this context though --
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- of you being a liar, you being corrupt, but not in the context of you being a literal physical abuser or pedophilic of children, right? (Indicating.)
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Answer if you can.
THE WITNESS: He did not use those words that you just used.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And the only words he ever uses in connection with you being unfit or even being a danger is in connection with you being a liar and you being corrupt and him believing you have a

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conflict and you conflicted the chamber vote --
MR. ALFORD: I --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- isn't that correct?
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: He constantly repeats over and over again that I am a liar --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. That's correct.
A. -- and that I am unfit for my job and that I should not be allowed to be around children. And he verbally indicated to my bosses that I was a danger.
Q. And what are you going to testify at trial that you believe that he meant by that, because you clearly have a belief about it?
A. I believe that he was suggesting to my bosses that I could and would in some way harm the children that I serve.
Q. And do you mean --
A. And I should not be allowed to still be around them because by them allowing me to continue in my job that I was -- that they were putting our children in danger of being harmed by me.

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Q. Okay. And are -- you're going to testify that you believe that was a physical harm or are you going to testify that you believe that's a harm like a bad example?
A. I'm not sure what the harm would be. It's just that he emphasized to them that our children would be in danger and that I could harm them.
Q. Is it fair to say that in conducting your business for town council that you often use your Boys & Girls Club address?
A. I do receive e-mails and send e-mails, yes, off of my Boys & Girls Club computer. I have an Outlook account that has all four of my e-mails so that I can check them.
Q. Isn't it true that people come to visit you at the Boys & Girls Club and discuss business that involves your town council at your place of work?
A. You'd have to give me an example of that. I'm not sure what you're talking about.
Q. I just need you to either tell me it's true or it's not.
A. I'm not sure.
Q. Okay. So it could be true but you have

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no recollection; is that correct?
A. Could be true.
Q. Talk to me about -- I'm going to run through these questions real quick. Do you know of anyone other than Mr. Hoagland who believes and thinks less of you or your reputation as a -- a result of anything Mr. Hoagland has ever said about you?
A. I don't know. I clearly don't think that anyone would necessarily tell me directly --
Q. Sure.
A. -- if they think less of me.
Q. But --
A. So I can't say that I know that there -- that there is or there isn't many people that think less of me.
Q. Okay. I'm asking -- I'm going to say it again, because that answer was not a clear answer to the question I asked. Do you know of any one person who believes that your reputation has been lessened? I'm not asking you that -- if there are people that you don't know about. I'm asking: Do you know of one person who will go up in court and testify that they think less about you or that your reputation has been harmed as a result of

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anything Mr. Hoagland has said?
A. I don't know of anyone.
Q. Okay. We talked about your mental suffering and emotional distress in terms of the headaches. Is there anything else you would testify about your mental suffering and emotional distress that we didn't discuss in the part of the questioning where I asked you about your headaches and going to see the doctor?
A. Oh, absolutely.
Q. Please tell me about that real quick.
A. As I mentioned to you before, the last two years of my life as Mr. Hoagland in association with what he did to force me to seek an injunction and to -- to -- to stop him from doing what he did has been a tremendous, tremendous stress on my life personally, on my family, on my relationship with my husband.
Q. Okay. How is that?
A. Mr. Brewer, I don't even know that I can put into words the mental anguish, the amount of time, the barrage of e-mails, the hostile behavior, the fear and worry, laying awake at night of what he's going to do next, would he take it beyond trying to frighten and harm me, would he do

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something to frighten my children.
MR. HOAGLAND: God.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay. Is that --
MR. HOAGLAND: What did I say or do that was wrong?
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Is there anything else that you would testify about in court that we haven't discussed in the context of your mental suffering and emotional distress that you didn't just go over?
A. I can't think of anything right now. I --
Q. Okay.
A. -- I think one thing I would certainly add is that --
Q. Yes, ma'am.
A. -- while I have been very fortunate that I've had a board support me and stay behind me at the Boys & Girls Club --
Q. Yep.
A. -- I have absolutely no idea how this all has harmed me in my potential of ever securing other employment, because I can certainly see why there would never be an organization that would

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want to take the risk of having someone like me be their employee where they could be subject to their board or their leadership, management, whatever it is, to Mr. Hoagland's behavior. I mean, it's not worth it. It would not be worth hiring me.
Q. So you're not saying that you don't think -- you're -- you're -- to be clear, you're saying someone might not hire you not because of your reputation but because that hiring you may encompass the baggage of having to deal with Mr. Hoagland?
A. Absolutely. 100 percent, absolutely.
Q. But you would agree with me the baggage -- baggage of having to deal with Mr. Hoagland is not in and of itself a damage to your reputation, right, they're two different things?
A. Oh, of course not. I completely disagree with you.
Q. Now, why is -- how -- how does -- how does having to deal with Mr. Hoagland mean that your reputation has been lessened in the context that you just described?
A. Because before Mr. Hoagland, I never had anything that preceded me that would make anyone concerned or leery about my employment.

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I've always had good -- I've never been fired from a job.
Q. Okay.
A. I've -- I've always had good reviews. I mean, what I brought to the table was whatever my experience and expertise was.
Now, going forward, if I ever look for another job and the employer knows about what happened with me and Mr. Hoagland, there will always be the question in their mind could he decide to do this to us? Could he decide --
MR. HOAGLAND: Do what?
THE WITNESS: -- that it's this time again to basically try to make Mrs. Likins' life miserable and in doing so we're going to start doing the -- he's going to start doing the same things here as he did at the Boys & Girls Club. And if that were the case in weighing hiring me versus hiring somebody else who might be equally as capable, someone could easily choose not to do that and I certainly wouldn't blame them because there is no organization, particularly a nonprofit organization, that would ever want to take on this.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. So I guess I'm still having a hard time

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though how that's your reputation. That's -- I understand what you're saying, I literally understand it, but that's not the damage of your reputation though, correct? It's not the board saying, well, Kim Likins is clearly a fraud, a liar, and -- and conflicted of interest. This is what I'm ultimately getting at, the complaint says: That Mr. Hoagland said I have conflicts of interest, I'm a liar, I'm corrupt, and I've violated public policy. And that's what you're claiming the damage to your reputation is, but you're not claiming that's what you think employers will think about you; isn't that right?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer if you can.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Go ahead.

A. I'm not following you, Mr. Brewer. I've been as clear as I can possibly be on how I believe that having Mr. Hoagland do this to me harms my reputation and puts me at risk as a possible employee for a future employer.

Q. I understand what you said. I'm asking you a different question. You are not saying you believe your future employers will believe that you

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are a liar, you are not claiming that you believe your future employers will think that you are conflicted, you are not saying that you believe your future employers will believe you're corrupt; isn't that correct?

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. You can answer it.

THE WITNESS: Possibly. I -- I -- I mean, I -- I don't know how else to articulate it.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Are you concerned in any way -- I mean, I -- I -- I understand everything you said, trust me. What I'm asking -- one of the other things I'm asking in follow up is: You don't really believe that anyone out there in terms of your reputation believes, in fact, that you're a liar or that you're corrupt or that you violated the public trust, you don't really think that's true, do you?

A. Oh, I do believe that there are people out there that would believe that, absolutely. There are many people that don't know me at all personally --

Q. Okay.

A. -- and have no idea and they could very easily read the things that Mr. Hoagland has

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published about me and believe them to be true.

Q. Okay. Do you think it's possible to prove that you are not a liar, that you're not corrupt, and that you were not a conflict of interest on the DMO --

MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. -- vote?

BY MR. ALFORD: Answer if you can.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Okay. How do you --

A. Because it's the truth.

Q. Yeah, but how do you -- I asked is it possible to prove it and I asked -- so what I'm asking is how do you prove it?

A. I don't know how to explain to you how to prove it, but it's the truth.

Q. Okay. All right. Give me --

MR. HOAGLAND: (Inaudible.)

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. What do you expect -- I'm just looking at your witness disclosures real quick.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. What do you expect Bernard Burton to

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testify about?

A. Bernard has been an employee of mine since I've been at the Boys & Girls Club, so he's known me for six years --

Q. Okay.

A. -- and he's seen me, you know, work and interact with children on a daily basis. And so I would suspect that he would testify about the fact that there's no way in his opinion that I would ever be a harm or a danger to the children of our club. And I would suspect that he would testify also that I've done an excellent job in managing and overseeing the organization.

MR. ALFORD: You getting close?

MR. BREWER: Yep, I'm almost done.

MR. ALFORD: Okay. Thank you.

BY MR. BREWER:

Q. Have you seen -- there's an e-mail from Mr. Hoagland, one of -- one of the ones that's out there, that says -- it -- it's actually talking to -- I don't know if it's Mr. Protz or Mike Briggs, but basically saying I don't doubt that Ms. Likins is a good employee, but because she lied and is corrupt, she's unfit for her job.

Have you seen that e-mail?

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A. I believe -- I believe I've seen something to that nature.
Q. Do you believe that's an accurate representation of Mr. -- Mr. Hoagland would believe that's an accurate representation of his beliefs and what he said?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form. Answer it if you can.
THE WITNESS: I don't know what Mr. Hoagland believes. I can't speak to what he believes.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. You mentioned in one of -- a public statement you made, you spent countless hours working on the DMO contract.
A. Correct.
Q. Did you participate in negotiating the terms of it?
A. I don't know if I can answer that.
MR. ALFORD: I can say that, Barrett, that there's an executive session privilege that attaches.
MR. BREWER: Okay.
MR. ALFORD: So there were conversations in executive session --

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MR. BREWER: And I'm not asking what they were, I'm asking did she --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Did you participate in the negotiations of the contract terms?
MR. ALFORD: Do you mean face-to-face with --
MR. BREWER: Yeah, like however --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. I mean, I'm thinking did you take part in negotiating the terms of the contract?
A. I -- I never met with the chamber, met with the chamber's attorneys or anything like that. I participated in the meetings that I was supposed to participate in the town --
Q. Okay.
A. -- so that as a collective body we defined the contract.
Q. Who on behalf of the town negotiated the terms of the contract with the Chamber of Commerce, to your knowledge?
A. Our town attorney.
Q. Would that be Mr. Hulbert or Mr. Alford?
A. Mr. Alford.

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Q. To your knowledge, did any member of town council or any administrator for town council actually participate directly in the negotiations of the terms of the DMO contract?
A. I don't know. I don't know if Mr. Riley did or not.
Q. Okay. We've been over all that. I'm literally just about done.
MR. BREWER: Anything else you want?
MR. HOAGLAND: Oh. (Inaudible.)
MR. BREWER: Oh, okay.
(Inaudible discussion between Mr. Brewer and Mr. Hoagland transpired.)
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Actually, I have this, but I don't want to look for it real quick. But just to follow up, the e-mail I'm referring to from Mr. Hoagland is December 10th of 2015. I can show it to you if you want, it's right here, but it says -- this is the response to Mike Briggs who said your demand that Kim Likins be terminated from her position has been considered and rejected. And then Mr. Hoagland responded, thank you. My position is I will not support any organization that supports or allows its employees to not be truthful or has conflict.

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Mrs. Likins might be a good employee, but her other job as town council failed me and others and feel it's a reflection on her no matter where she works or serves.
You remember that e-mail, right?
A. I do.
Q. Okay. And that was sent to Mr. Briggs?
A. I believe so.
Q. And that in no way suggests any physical harm. That's literally a political ideology about whether or not you tell the truth or not and whether that makes you fit for your job. Isn't that truly the context --
MR. ALFORD: I --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- of these communications from Mr. Hoagland to your employers?
A. In that --
MR. ALFORD: I object --
THE WITNESS: -- e-mail.
MR. ALFORD: -- to the form. Object to the form.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. That's correct.
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form.

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Answer the question.
THE WITNESS: In that single e-mail.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Yes, ma'am. I'm asking, does -- isn't this reflective of his position --
A. I -- I'm answering your question, Mr. Brewer. I'm saying in that e-mail he did not suggest --
Q. Okay.
A. -- that I was a harm to the children of my club.
MR. HOAGLAND: Show us an e-mail. Where is the e-mail? Show it to us.
MR. BREWER: Okay.
MR. HOAGLAND: I need proof.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. And the -- this is in -- I'm just going to ask you to look at one thing. This is Exhibit 4. I'm looking -- this is a document called Plaintiff's Answers to Defendant's Interrogatories dated May 11th, 2017. And this lists out A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, the statements that you're going to rely upon --
MR. BREWER: That's it right here. (Indicating.)

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BY MR. BREWER:
Q. -- that Mr. Hoagland made in support of your -- your lawsuit. Are you aware of any other statements you're going to rely upon to show the jury other than what's listed right here that you are aware of?
MR. LINTON: Is that what you --
MR. BREWER: It's the list you sent me.
MR. LINTON: Okay.
THE WITNESS: I mean, not at this time. I --
BY MR. BREWER:
Q. Okay.
A. -- you know, I -- I don't know all of these numbers, so I don't know everything that it's associated with.
Q. But I'm assuming you've worked with your attorneys to make that list and so therefore it should be an accurate list of everything you're going to rely upon; is that correct?
A. It should -- should be fairly reflective, yes.
MR. HOAGLAND: I'm sorry.
MR. BREWER: Are you done?
MR. HOAGLAND: We could be here for

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days.
MR. BREWER: I'm done.
THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes the video deposition of Kim Likins. The time is approximately 6:47 PM. We are now off the record.
(The witness, after having been advised of her right to read and sign this transcript, does not waive that right.)
(The video deposition was concluded at 6:47 PM.)

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SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT
DEPONENT: KIM LIKINS
DEPOSITION DATE: September 27, 2017
REPORTER: KELLY B. BAEKELANDT
AWR JOB #: 12684
CASE CAPTION: KIM LIKINS vs. C. C. SKIP HOAGLAND
(Please return both Signature of Deponent pages)
I, the undersigned, KIM LIKINS, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing deposition and find it to be a true and accurate transcription of my testimony, with the following corrections, if any:

PAGE	LINE	CHANGE	REASON

SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT (CONTINUED)
DEPOSITION DATE: September 27, 2017
REPORTER: KELLY B. BAEKELANDT
AWR JOB #: 12684
CASE CAPTION: KIM LIKINS vs. C. C. SKIP HOAGLAND

PAGE	LINE	CHANGE	REASON

KIM LIKINS Date

I, Kelly B. Baekelandt, Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify that the deponent was advised of his or her right to read and sign said deposition both verbally and in writing. If the deponent fails to execute and return foregoing Signature of Deponent pages within the thirty (30) days allowed pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure, the original transcript may be filed with the court.

Kelly B. Baekelandt
My Commission expires
June 16, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Kelly B. Baekelandt, Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true, accurate, and complete record.

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

Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 27th day of September, 2017 at Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina.

Kelly B. Baekelandt
My Commission expires
June 16, 2026

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BEAUFORT DIVISION

CALVIN "SKIP" HOAGLAND, Plaintiff, v. DAVID BENNETT, BILL HARKINS, KIM LIKINS, LEE EDWARDS, JOHN MCCANN, TOM LENNOX, AND MARC GRANT, Defendants.

C/A NO: 9:17-CV-1374-RMG

DEPOSITION OF:

KIM LIKINS

Given before Sabre Bridgers, Court Reporter and Notary Public, in the offices of Berry & Carr, 1 Corpus Christie Place, Suite 113, Hilton Head, South Carolina on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 commencing at 2:20 o'clock a.m.

SDB Job # 201833

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(Deposition of Lee Edwards)

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19. Defendant's Answers and Responses to Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories And Request for Production (25pgs) N/R
20. Defendant's Responses to Plaintiff's Requests for Admission (6pgs) N/R

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STIPULATIONS

The Deposition of KIM LIKINS is taken pursuant to Rule 30 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure.

It is stipulated by and between counsel that all objections shall be reserved until the time of trial, with the exception of objections as to the form of the question.

Reading and signing of the deposition is WAIVED by the witness.

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(KIM LIKINS, having been duly sworn, testifies as follows:)

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PORTER:

Q. Ms. Likins, we meet a couple of hours ago when you got here, but will you put your full name on the record?

A. Kimberly Watson Likins.

Q. I understand you have been deposed before by Mr. Brewer, but since this is a separate case I needed the opportunity to depose you here as well. Other than that have you been deposed?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. That's a state court case. I'm sure he gave you the same admonitions, but I'll go through them nonetheless. The federal court requires you to ask me for clarifications, explanations, and definitions while I am the counsel deposing you. Your attorneys are allowed to object to the form of my awesomely worded questions, but you will still need to answer them unless specifically not to. You're not allowed to talk to them off the record about -- well, you can talk to them off the record about the case, about your testimony, but if you do I can ask about it. Do you understand all that?

A. Yes, sir.

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Q. We have a court reporter. She's recording everything we say. To keep a clear record try to let me finish talking before you start and I'll do my best to do the same. If I cut you off don't be afraid to throw something at me and say I ain't done. If you need a break let me know and we'll accommodate you.

A. Thank you.

Q. Is that all fair?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You'll have the option to review and sign. You've seen how that works earlier. And I'll yield you and your counsel to determine that at the end. What did you do to get ready for today's deposition?

A. Nothing.

Q. Did you meet with Lucius and Hugh?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you meet with any other counsel to prepare for today's deposition?

A. No.

Q. Did you look at any documents?

A. Just a while ago when I was sitting here.

Q. Those would be the exhibits I'm going to use?

A. Correct.

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Q. When y'all met did you look at any documents?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. That's fine. Have you talked to anyone else about your deposition here today other than Lucius and Hugh and maybe Gregg?

A. About the testimony or just about the fact that I was coming to it?

Q. I'm not so mush worried about logistical, about the testimony?

A. No.

Q. Is there anything that would hamper your ability whether medical or otherwise to answer my questions here today?

A. No.

Q. Any alcohol in the last 12 hours?

A. No.

Q. I told our first witness I've seen witnesses count on their fingers to discern.

MR. ALFORD: Not in the lase 12 but in the future.

Q. Any alcohol in the next 12 hours? We'll first go through some basic background that's largely for jury pool reasons, so don't feel overly invaded. I don't have a problem with the court reporter blotting out the address and date of birth on the transcript. But

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what is your current street address?
A.
Q. How long have you lived there?
A. Not even a week. Moved last Friday.
Q. Have you lived in Hilton Head the last ten years?
A. Yes, I have.
Q. What's your date of birth?
A.
Q. Are you married?
A. Yes.
Q. To whom?
A. Steve Likins.
Q. What does Steve do?
A. He is a real estate broker on the Island.
Q. And are you also in the real estate business?
A. I am not.
Q. Are you still with the Boys & Girls Club as their Executive Director?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. Any other jobs outside of that?
A. No, other than serving on Town Council.
Q. Do you have any children over 18 who live in the Lowcountry region?
A. Not over 18, I have a 18-year-old.
Q. Okay. And what's your 18-year-old's name?

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A. Alex Likins.
Q. And where does he work if he works?
A. Skillets Cafe.
Q. Do you have any prior husband who would reside in the Lowcountry region?
A. No.
Q. Any kin in the Lowcountry region with last names other than Likins?
A. No.
Q. Okay. What's your maiden name?
A. Watson.
Q. Where are you from originally?
A. Born in Salisbury, North Carolina.
Q. Do you attend a church here in the Hilton Head area?
A. I do.
Q. What church is that?
A. St. Andrew By The Sea United Methodist Church.
Q. Are you in any civic organizations?
A. I am a member of the Greater Island Council. I am a board member of the First Tee of the Lowcountry. Town Council.
Q. Any professional organizations?
A. No.
Q. You on any social media such as the Facebook, the

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Instagram?
A. Oh, yes. Uh-huh.
Q. Have you posted, messaged, commented or otherwise communicated on those sites about this case or Mr. Hoagland in any way?
A. No, not at all.
Q. Tell us a little background on your education? What you went to college for, if you went to college, and when you got that degree?
A. I went to the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. I got a degree in communications and graduated in 1983.
Q. Any further education thereafter?
A. No.
Q. Tell me a little bit about your professional background? What have you done over the years that brought you to the Boys & Girls Club?
A. I started work right out of college for a healthcare informations technology company. I worked primarily in management and executive sales. I spent 20 years with them, then retired so to speak. And then since then I've worked in various non-profit organizations here on the Island.
Q. Your Executive Director position with the Boys & Girls Club, is that paid or unpaid?

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A. It's a paid position.
Q. The next few questions are routine however they're also invasive and I do apologize for that but I ask them of everybody so at least you have people to commiserate with. Have you ever been arrested?
A. No.
Q. Have you been treated for alcohol or drug abuse?
A. No.
Q. Ever admitted into a mental care facility?
A. No.
Q. Ever filed for bankruptcy?
A. No.
Q. Ever been sued in a lawsuit other than this one?
A. No.
Q. Ever sued anybody in a lawsuit other than the Likins v. Hoagland matter?
A. My husband and I were in a stucco lawsuit.
Q. Okay. Was that over a personal residence?
A. Yes.
Q. Any other legal actions you've been involved in other than what we've covered?
A. None.
Q. Other that that deposition you had with Barrett is this the second time you've testified under oath?
A. I believe so. I don't believe I was deposed in

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the stucco lawsuit but I truly can't remember.
Q. That's fair. We'll do, as you saw with Mayor Bennett, if you need to look at Exhibits 1 or 2 these first few questions are going to set the general outline.
A. Okay.
Q. If at any time I ask you a question that you feel you need to refer to one of those documents, I ain't going to ask the next one until you've answered so you take all the time you need; okay?
A. Thank you.
Q. Would you agree with me that on December 3, 2015 you retained private law firms to file the lawsuit Likins v. Hoagland?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
A. Is there a document that references that date?
Q. I think it's in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint and Paragraph 9 of the Answer would correspond to that. The complaint just, you know to brief you, I'm not trying to come off as teaching you, but the Complaint is what we've alleged and the Answer is how y'all have answered it. And the Answer does not reference the December 3rd date? The Complaint does reference the December 3rd date.

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A. Okay. So, I'm sorry. What was the question again?
Q. Why don't we just ask it a different way. In December of 2015 or in November of 2015 did you retain Mr. Alford's law firm to bring the Likins v. Hoagland lawsuit?
A. Yes.
Q. And you agree with me that that lawsuit was filed sometime around December 10, 2015? You'll yield to the lawsuit for the specific date?
A. I believe so.
Q. And you're seeking money damages in that lawsuit?
A. Yes.
Q. If a money judgment is collected in excess of what the Town spent on the lawsuit outside of what's paid to your attorneys what happens to the remainder? Do you receive it?
A. I believe that it's stated that way.
Q. Okay. Do you have to pay the Town if you lose the lawsuit or are unable to collect a judgment for the amount they paid for the lawsuit?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. At the December '15, Town Council meeting were you present when Mayor Bennett stated that Skip Hoagland could no longer speak at meetings on the

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basis that he was not a citizen of the Town of Hilton Head?
A. I was present at that meeting. I don't recall exactly what he stated.
Q. Was it something to the effect of what I just said paraphrased?
A. Probably.
Q. At that meeting there was an Executive Session to discuss, among other things there's a whole bunch of jargon for what it says they were discussing, but to discuss among other things the Town paying for the attorney fees in the Likins v. Hoagland lawsuit? Does that jive with your recollection? And I'm not asking you if you were in the Executive Session, I'm asking you if you understand that was discussed at that meeting?
MR. ALFORD: I am going to object to that.
MR. PORTER: How about I ask it a different way?
MR. ALFORD: Yeah, try. I'm sorry. Yeah, that's cool.
MR. PORTER: Yeah, I mean.
Q. At that meeting was there a discussion on the record after the Executive Session? And they had a

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bunch of legal jargon about what they voted for but among other things what they voted for was to fund your lawsuit?
A. According to the minutes I would believe that's accurate.
Q. Did you know that that was going to come up at that meeting before the meeting?
A. That it would be discussed in Executive Session?
Q. Yeah. Did you know that was going to come up?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you recuse yourself from the entire -- well, not the entire. The first part of the Executive Session was about property stuff. Were you there for the property stuff?
A. As well as I can remember I was there for that part of the Executive Session.
Q. Did you step out when it switched to the latter issue about the funding?
A. I did leave the Executive Session for the discussion of the legal issues.
Q. You had no lawsuits pending against you at that time; correct?
A. No.
Q. I forced you into a double negative. Were there any lawsuits pending against you at that time? You

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answered fine, I asked poorly.
A. Pending against me, meaning that I was being sued at that time.
Q. Yeah. Yes, ma'am?
A. Not to my knowledge, no.
Q. Thank you. Do you know who was involved, who was present at that Executive Session when you left the room other than Council members and Mr. Alford? Well, first let's establish was Mr. Alford in there?
A. Yes.
Q. Who else was in there other than Council members when you left the room?
A. I believe that Town Manager Steve Riley was there and probably Town Attorney Greg Hulbert, but I can't say for sure. I'm not sure if there was anyone else other than the Council members that were present.
Q. And I don't think we need you to object on this one. You don't know what was said in that portion of the Executive Session because you weren't in that portion of the Executive Session?
A. That is correct.
Q. My keen powers logic discerned that. You agree out of Executive Session all the Council members but you voted for and here's the quotation from the minutes which we'll look at: "Personal counsel to

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protect members through legal proceedings from improper and/or unlawful harassment by a third parties". Or were you out of the room when that vote took place too? I know you didn't vote.
A. No. I recused myself and stepped down from dais but I was in the room.
Q. Okay. And that's what they voted for?
A. If that's the way it's recording in the minutes then that would be accurate.
Q. That's fair. We can yield to the minutes. And at that time the personal counsel to protect the only active personal counsel protecting members would be Mr. Alford's law firm representing you in the Likins v. Hoagland matter?
A. I'm sorry?
Q. Sure. The only member you're aware of whose counsel was being paid for by the Town at that time would have been your council in Likins v. Hoagland suit?
A. Correct.
Q. Are you aware of any members having had counsel paid for, for a lawsuit in which they were the plaintiff, during your tenure on Council?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. How long have you been on Council?

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A. Since 2010.
Q. The so-called unlawful harassment in the language of the minutes, that's him reaching out to the folks at the Boys & Girls Club?
A. Well, it's -- it's a lot more than that.
Q. Okay.
A. But, yes, it certainly is inclusive of that.
Q. What else?
A. Well, Mr. Hoagland printed full-page ads in our local newspaper suggesting that I was unfit for my job and that I should not be allowed to be around children. He called my board members and my boss, the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry demanding that I be fired and suggesting that I am a liar. And, again, shouldn't be around children, I'm not fit to oversee the operations or fulfill my job responsibilities.
Q. And was the purpose of the lawsuit as you understand it other than for you to collect -- well, one purpose of the lawsuit is for you to collect money damages for what happened to you; right?
A. The purpose of the lawsuit -- I'm sorry.
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form. Go ahead.
Q. Unless they say don't answer you still answer.

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A. Okay. The purpose of the lawsuit was to protect our legislative process. Mr. Hoagland had previously reached out to me trying to get me to meet with him to discuss issues even suggesting that he would like to make a donation to the non-profit that I worked for. I did not meet with him. He basically threatened and suggested that if I voted any other way than I did on a particular matter that he had significant interest in, then he would do everything he possibly could to disgrace me, to harm me. And that was really what he was attempting to do. And so, the decision to fund this lawsuit was to protect the integrity of the legislative process so that any person who is elected to Council can vote the way they believe that they should vote and the way that their constituents would have them vote on issues and not be pressured in any way to vote based on some individual's biased on an issue.
Q. The children stuff was related to his perception that you had been dishonest in your political dealings; correct?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
A. I have no idea what his rationale was. I just know what he put publically in newspapers and hundreds of e-mails, or e-mails that went to hundreds of people

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and what he spoke directly to my board members.
Q. And to clarify, he never said he would harm you; correct?
A. Physically?
Q. Sure?
A. He didn't say he would harm me physically.
Q. Okay. And with respect to what was said to these folks at the board members at the Blue Cross -- not the Blue Cross -- the Boys & Girls Club, you weren't a witness to those conversations were you?
A. I was not present when he spoke with them. They spoke to me directly about the calls.
Q. And you didn't lose your position because of it; did you?
A. I have not lost my position because of it, because I have a temporary injunction that has prohibited him from continuing to do it. I was in a situation where I became an incredible liability to that organization to the point that they had to meet regarding crisis communication. And probably without this temporary injunction there would have -- there would have been two options. And that would have been for me to either resign from my Council seat or resign from my position at the Boys & Girls Club to protect their interest.

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Q. But your board at the Boys & Girls Club never intended to terminate you as you're aware; is that correct?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
A. I have no idea.
Q. You are aware of no indications that you were ever at risk of being terminated from the Boys & Girls Club?
A. I have no knowledge either way.
Q. And you have no knowledge that they think of you any less sitting here today than they did beforehand?
A. I have no knowledge either way.
Q. And you were present at depositions where they said they never had designs on firing you, these board members; correct?
A. At that time, yes.
Q. And at this time; correct?
A. Yes, at this time certainly not.
Q. And those folks know you and have known you for a while because you've been with the board for how long?
A. Six and a half years.
Q. And they've known you for a while?
A. Yes.
Q. And they know you're good at your job?
A. I believe so.

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Q. And they know you're fit to be around children?
A. I would think that they would not allow me to continue in my position if they felt otherwise.
Q. So as far as directly diminishing your reputation in those eyes of the board members who you served to who Skip made these comments, you have no knowledge of any negative impact that had on their perception of you?
A. I know that Mr. Hoagland tried to get me fired and I have a right to a job as a private citizen.
Q. Sure. Did I cut you off?
A. No.
Q. Okay. Sure. What I was asking you, just to clarify, you don't know that any of these folks that Skip said anything to think any less of you because of what he said; do you?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
A. I don't know one way or another.
Q. That's fair. Where did the money come from for this lawsuit?
A. I don't have knowledge specifically of where it came from. Obviously, it is being paid by the Town of Hilton Head Island, probably out of the general fund.
Q. Did you pay for any portion of the lawsuit prior to the vote?

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A. No.
Q. Okay. What's your understanding of the nature of what you owed to the Alford Law Firm Prior to the vote?
A. I have no knowledge of owing the Alford Law Firm anything. I had no discussions with the Alford Law Firm about payment.
Q. Did you ever have a retainer agreement with the Alford Law Firm? Or there's another law firm that represents you in the case; right? Something and Walker?
A. Yes.
Q. Either law firm, did you have a retainer agreement with them prior to the vote on 12/15?
A. No.
Q. Have you ever singed a retainer agreement with them?
A. I've not.
Q. And was -- I'm not going to ask you that. And you've never been asked to pay a dime for the lawsuit?
A. I've not.
Q. How did you come to the obligation that you were not going to be -- how did you come to the understanding that you were not going to be made to pay for this lawsuit?

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A. How did I come to that understanding?
Q. Yes, ma'am?
A. I knew no knowledge one way or another of it until the Council members came out of Executive Session and made their motion to approve a resolution for it to be covered by the Town.
Q. So, before that happened you knew a lawsuit had been filed on your behalf beforehand; right?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you meet with your attorneys in that lawsuit to go over the Complaint?
A. I met with Mr. Alford.
Q. Okay. And you reviewed the Complaint before it was filed?
A. And I did.
Q. And you believed the allegations in the Complaint were true when they were filed in your name; correct?
A. Yes.
Q. But at that time you had no idea of how the thing was going to be paid for?
A. Having a discussion about it.
Q. So, is that true you had no idea though, or did you know how it was going to get paid for?
A. I'd had no discussions about how the law firm, how they were going to be paid.

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Q. In your stucco lawsuit were you the plaintiff or the defendant?
A. The plaintiff.
Q. And you hired a lawyer?
A. We did.
Q. Was he paid hourly or paid contingently?
A. Contingent.
Q. And in South Carolina contingent fee agreements have to be resolved to writing. Was there a written contingent fee agreement in that case?
A. I'm assuming there was. It's been so long ago.
Q. That's fair. But to your knowledge you had no understanding of an obligation to pay for this lawsuit before the vote and you had not signed any sort of contingent fee arrangement?
A. I had not.
Q. Okay. Sometimes in contingent fee arrangements a client will not pay an advanced fee or a retainer? You didn't pay an advanced fee or a retainer I assume?
A. I did not.
Q. You did not pay consultation fee?
A. I did not.
Q. Okay. Sometimes a client may not pay an advanced fee or a retainer, but they may have a contingent fee agreement wherein the client covers the costs, being

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the court cost, the filing fee, the fees related to good court reporters like we have here. Did you have any idea who was going to be paying the costs of filing and prosecuting your lawsuit at the time it was filed?
A. I did not.
Q. Did that not seem peculiar to you that you were initiating a lawsuit with no idea of how your lawyers were supposed to get paid?
A. As I stated before other than this stucco lawsuit, which was years ago, I'd never been involved in a lawsuit. I relied totally on the legal advice of the Council of the Town. When this happened I reached out to Steve Riley, our Town Manager, because it was directly associated with my position as a Council person. Steve reached out to our attorney. I met with him, explained what happened, and from that point forward they took care of it. I frankly didn't think about it. I mean this was directly associated with the Town. We've relied and always rely on our attorneys to handle things like this and they were taking care of it. That was all that I knew.
Q. So, the first thing you did when you said this happened, this being the Boys & Girls stuff?
A. Uh-huh.

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Q. You first went to Steve Riley via telephone?
A. I believe I called Steve and I may have called Gregg also. I don't know that I got either one of them. I might have had to leave a voice mail. I do remembering reaching out and then either Steve called me back or Gregg called me back. And I went to Gregg's office and sat down and explained to him what had happened. And what led up to that occurring was I had walked into work one morning and the Chairman of the Board of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head as well as the Chairman of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry called to meet with me first thing and I went. This came into my office, sat down, and said we need to discuss with you what just occurred over the last couple of days. And that's when they shared with me the phone calls that were being made and what was being said and done. And they actually, one of them being an attorney himself, said, "you need first thing to call the Town and to reach out to the Town attorney". And so based on that advice that's exactly what I did.
Q. Sure. But you told me you talked to Steve Riley too; right?
A. I did.
Q. Okay. Tell me about your conversation with

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Steve?
A. I -- I don't recall any specifics. I just remember reaching out to find out what I needed to do.
Q. All right. And pause before answering the next question. Well, first, your next conversation after talking with Steve was with Gregg?
A. As I said, I can't remember the order. I don't remember if I actually talked to Steve or Gregg called me back. I reached out to both of them. I don't remember who got back with me. I just remember that Gregg told me to come over to his office and I went over to Gregg's office and sat down and explained to him what happened.
Q. And pause before answering the next question. Tell me about your discussion with Gregg?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to instruct you not to answer that based on attorney-client privilege.
A. Okay.
Q. And that's the exception to the rule. When I object, you answer unless they tell you don't answer and that time they told you don't answer. One of the things you talked about was "unlawful harassment". Do you believe you suffered unlawful harassment?
A. I do.

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Q. When did you come to the belief you had suffered unlawful harassment?
A. When I saw the ad in the newspaper that attacked my private job. I realize that serving in a public capacity that the public has the right to say their opinions about how good or bad I am as a Town Council person. Whether they think that I should be re-elected, or shouldn't be, or whether I'm dumb in the way I vote, any of those things. However, when Mr. Hoagland crossed the line into my private life and started making false accusations and unfounded accusations about my ability to do my job, whether I should be allowed to be around children, and then called my boss and my board members demanding that I be terminated, that was unlawful harassment. I don't believe that there's any person that would ever step forward to serve and become a public servant if they believed that their livelihood could be taken away like that.
Q. Did you ever make a police report of unlawful harassment?
A. No.
Q. One of the things in here, we -- we -- and I think you just kind of indirectly referred to it in one way or another, was that some of this stuff comes

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with the territory of being in public office?
A. I understand that, yes.
Q. And while you as a public official may think certain things are off limits, people in the public -- let's use an example from modern I wish it was fiction -- we've got a president right now who people in the public talk about his business interests, his family, and you agree that those people are able to talk about Mr. Trump's business interests and his family; correct?
MR. LAFITTE: Object to the form.
MR. ALFORD: I object to the form, please answer.
Q. In your opinion?
A. President Trump is a full time politician. I serve in a very limited public position. I am a private citizen who has a job and I have a right to have that job protected and to not have anyone who has unfounded facts try to get me fired.
Q. Do you have any reason to believe -- let me rephrase. Based on your understanding of your board Skip had no ability to take away your job; correct?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
A. He personally didn't have the ability to get rid of my job. However, he could have created and was

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attempting to create a situation that would have made it difficult if not impossible for them to keep me in my job.
Q. And you haven't --
A. And that was his ultimate goal.
Q. But you haven't lost any employment whether perspective or otherwise based on Mr. Hoagland's actions?
A. No, because Mr. Hoagland's action were stopped based on my court order, my temporary injunction.
Q. Let's circle around my analogy about tweeter in chief. Your belief is that the difference in people's ability to talk about a public official like Mr. Trump versus a public official like you, is that he's full time and you're part time? Did I understand your answer correctly?
A. What I was trying to say is that I also have a right and do have a private life. I am not 24/7 a public official. And Mr. Hoagland stepped into my private life trying to get me fired from my job. And I believe that that is unlawful harassment and that it is not legal for him to do that, to try in an attempt in particularly to influence my vote. It's not that Mr. Hoagland just said something that he doesn't like about me. Mr. Hoagland tried to influence my vote on

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an issue that he was passionate about and that is not something that he can legally do.
Q. Based on what law?
A. Based on our legislative process.
Q. Okay. Is there a particular citation or is that? And I get that I'm the lawyer; okay? I'm not trying to out lawyer you. But when you say things like unlawful and illegal, you're saying that based on your belief of how the law is or should be, not any understanding of specific provisions of law; is that correct?
A. Yes, that's correct.
Q. That's fair. You were at the 1/19/16 meeting, the January meeting about a month later, where Skip wanted to speak and the Mayor said you're not going to speak and I'm paraphrasing. You can fix it. But basically that thing happened and then there was a vote and he did speak?
A. Correct.
Q. What do you recall about what happened prior to the break? Well, first, I don't know if my question included the break. There was a break before he got to speak; right?
A. I believe he started speaking or I can't remember if he started or finished or, but there was a break.

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The Mayor called a recess. We stepped out and then came back.
Q. What do you recall before the break?
A. I can't. Like I said, I can't recall if Mr. Hoagland had begun speaking at that time. I -- I believe that he had because I believe that that's why the Mayor called the break because Mr. Hoagland was addressing individuals dressing down individuals of Council in his speech.
Q. What conversations do you recall having during the break?
A. I don't recall having any conversations during the break.
Q. Do you recall meeting with other Council members during the break?
A. I don't recall having a meeting at all during the break.
Q. Do you recall interacting with other Council members during the break?
A. I'm sure that we spoke to one another or certain ones spoke to each other in the hallway. It was primarily a time when the Mayor was seeking legal advice and we were waiting.
Q. Okay. So, some of y'all were in the hallway and the Mayor was in a room seeking legal advice?

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A. I don't know if he was in a room or if he was in the hallway too.
Q. Okay.
A. I just know he --
Q. Could y'all hear the legal advice?
A. I don't recall.
Q. Could you see the mayor?
A. I -- I can't remember.
Q. Okay.
A. I mean there -- there might have been several people standing around when Mr. Hulbert was -- was speaking.
Q. So it was Mr. Hulbert, so you know it was Mr. Hulbert giving him legal advice?
A. I believe so.
Q. And who do you think was standing around, your fellow Council members?
A. Yes.
Q. Were y'all chatting about Hoagland when you were standing around?
A. I don't recall.
Q. Do you agree that wasn't in Executive Session?
A. Yes.
Q. And when you say your Council members, you mean a healthy amount of them, more than four or y'all were

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in the hallway?
A. I don't know how many were in there. Some could have gone to the restroom. I stepped aside. I believe I was standing by myself a good amount of the time but it was not a meeting.
Q. Is there anything you recall about what happened during the break you ain't already told me about?
A. No.
Q. All right. Do you agree that after the break Skip was allowed to speak but capped at three minutes?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you agree that more or less the amount the Town has spent on your lawsuit against Skip Hoagland is $182,000 dollars and something and 22 cents?
A. Yes, it's around that amount.
Q. In the Answer y'all say, your lawyers say that the lawsuit was filed under exigent circumstances due to multiple abusive actions taken by Skip. Have you told me everything about those multiple abusive actions that was a predicate to the lawsuit?
A. Have I told you everything?
Q. Have you told me everything that happened that was predicate to the lawsuit?
A. Pretty much. I mean, I haven't given you every single e-mail and what was stated in every single

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e-mail. I mean there are numerous other things that he did. He didn't just call my board members. He put PowerPoint presentations together, sent e-mails to all of them. Again, continually suggesting that I was unfit for my job and that I should be fired.
Q. And this related to his perceptions about your stance on certain issues as a Town Council member?
A. I assume that's what it was associated with. I don't pretend to be able to read Mr. Hoagland's mind on why he does what he does or says what he says.
Q. I understand. And the initial question was: What multiple abusive actions? So I'm going to try to divide these into camps. Because I respect your answer, you're saying I haven't told you every little detail, but I've given you the Cliff's notes more or less.
A. There you go.
Q. We've got e-mails, the thing in the paper, and contacting the board members. Those three things were the predicate to the lawsuit?
A. Yes.
Q. Very good. Did you select the Alford Firm and the other firm for the lawsuit or were you directed to them by the folks at the Town?
A. The Town selected.

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Q. There's been 48 witnesses listed. Rather than go through those I'd prefer you just tell me outside of -- we've mentioned your name. We've mentioned Brian Hulbert, Steve Riley. Is it Brian or Gregg Hulbert?
MR. ALFORD: Brian.
MR. PORTER: Brian Hulbert.
A. I'm sorry.
Q. You're fine.
A. I think I said Gregg earlier.
Q. Brian Hulbert, Steve Riley, Gregg Alford, you, Skip and Mayor Bennett, about six people. Any other key folks to your understanding that would have knowledge relating to the, I guess, the events that gave rise to you filing your lawsuit?
A. Would you include my board members that actually received the calls from Mr. Hoagland, or my boss who received a call from Mr. Hoagland? Would those be individuals that you would?
Q. I'm asking you would you include those folks I'm going to take that as an affirmative. Anyone other than folks connected to the Boys & Girls Club then? Or have we covered the key folks?
A. No, you've covered the key folks.
Q. Exhibit Number 3 is Mr. Alford's contract renewal with the Town. Do you remember when this Town

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contract was renewed?
A. I mean, I don't remember specifically but I do remember us renewing it and I was on Council during that time period.
Q. There wasn't an open bidding when it was renewed was there?
A. No. No.
Q. Okay. Do you think there should have been an open bidding?
A. Not at that time, no.
Q. Did you think now there should be an open bidding on that contract?
A. I don't know. I mean, Gregg has been the Town attorney for many years. We do an annual review on his work. As long as it's acceptable, which it has been, I don't see any reason that there has to be.
Q. You agree that nowhere in this contract does it talk about filing lawsuits, individual lawsuits on behalf of Town Council members?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
A. I mean clearly it does say that he would perform legal and other services which may be requested from time to time Town Council, the Mayor and Town manager. And I would assume that this would be one of those times.

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Q. Well, if it was one of those times you'd agree with me then that the resolution at the December meeting would have been wholly unnecessary?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
A. Not necessarily.
Q. When did you find out about the Boys & Girls Club's communications that caused you to reach out to Steve and Gregg?
A. The phone communications?
Q. When did you reach out to Steve and Gregg about Skip?
A. The day that my board members came to see me about it.
Q. Do you remember the precise date that was?
A. I -- I don't.
Q. Do you remember the month? Was that 2015?
A. It was 2015, yes.
Q. Was that November? Was that October?
A. It was the week right before that I believe the Council meeting. We worked hard to try to go get a temporary injunction because Mr. Hoagland typically printed full-page ads on the weekend. And it was our belief that he was about to print another full-page ad and so our hope was that we could get a temporary injunction by the weekend so that's why we moved as

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quickly as possible to do that.
Q. So, one of the purposes of the lawsuit then was to stop Mr. Hoagland from publishing an ad?
A. From publishing an ad suggesting again that I am unfit to be around children, and unfit for my job, and that I should be fired.
Q. Yes, ma'am. When you found out about that and contacted Greg was it before or after Thanksgiving?
A. I believe it was after Thanksgiving.
Q. Before that had happened had you had any discussions with anyone about suing Skip Hoagland?
A. No.
Q. Let's look at Exhibit 4?
A. Exhibit 4, okay.
Q. Do you recognize Exhibit 4?
A. Yes.
Q. And Exhibit 4 is the Complaint that was filed on your behalf?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Answer with a yes?
A. Yes. I'm sorry. It is.
Q. You're fine. That's normal. And this Complaint introduces you as Executive Director of the Boys & Girl Club; correct?
A. That is correct.

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Q. And are you suing as a public official or as a private citizen?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer it if you can.
A. I'm not sure. I mean it's such a mixture. I'm suing I'm assuming on my own behalf, but because of what has happened to me as a public official. I mean the lines become very blurry as they cross over.
Q. And I think you've already told me this, but in Paragraphs 9, 12, 19, and I believe 27 and 31 and 35. Well, strike that, 35 is an injunction. And 31 may be injunctive related. Well, no, 31 you're seeking. You're seeking money damages in this lawsuit? How about that question?
A. Yes.
Q. Rather than what I was trying to word, garble out at you.
MR. PORTER: Bear with me for one second.
(Discussion held off the record.)
Q. Number 5?
A. Exhibit 5.
Q. Yes, ma'am. Real quick, nothing in your lawsuit is seeking damages to be paid for the Town of Hilton Head; right? The lawsuit itself does not seek any

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money paid to Hilton Head does it?
A. The lawsuit? No, I don't believe so.
Q. Okay. Exhibit 5 is the check that I submit to you is my understanding was used to file your lawsuit?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. In the memo line it reads "THH/Chamber". THH means Town of Hilton Head; is that correct?
A. I would assume that it would be. I -- this is the first time I've ever seen the check so I don't have any knowledge of why it was written the way it was written.
Q. Did you have any conversations with Bill Miles about your lawsuit before it was filed?
A. No.
Q. Did you have any conversations with Bill Miles about your lawsuit after it was filed?
A. Not that I recall.
Q. Have you ever talked to anyone at the Chamber about your lawsuit?
A. Not that I recall.
Q. Have you ever talked to Lisa Sulka about your lawsuit?
A. Not that I recall.
Q. Do you know if the Chamber had any involvement in the filing of your lawsuit?

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A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. And your lawsuit was filed on December 10th; correct?
A. If that's the date, yes, it looks like.
Q. Was there any press about your lawsuit when it was filed?
A. Afterwards, yes.
Q. How quickly after?
A. I don't recall. It was in the paper probably within the next day or two. Well --
Q. Who did you -- go ahead?
A. I was going to say probably the next day.
Q. Who did you tell about your lawsuit after it was filed?
A. I don't remember specifically. I do know that I did let some of my board members know that we had gone to court and had received a temporary injunction so that hopefully our expectation was that they would not be receiving any additional phone calls from Mr. Hoagland.
Q. Were any of your board members friendly or closely connected with either Lisa Sulka or Bill Miles?
A. No.
Q. Did you tell Lisa Sulka or Bill Miles you had

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filed a lawsuit?
A. I did not.
Q. Did you have anything else, you know, significant going on that you were doing at the time this lawsuit was filed?
A. Can you give me an example of what you're looking for.
Q. Were you doing like a major renovation? You know, something other people would have known about that, you know, "hey, this is what Kim Likins is up to right now"?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form. Even I don't understand what you're saying.
A. I truly don't understand what you're asking.
Q. Did you have anything significant going at the time you filed the lawsuit?
A. I don't understand your term "significant"? Like I was going on a vacation a few weeks after that because it was the Christmas Holidays. Was that significant, getting prepared to go on a vacation? Perhaps?
Q. If it was significant to you perhaps.
A. Yes.
Q. Anything else like that?
A. That's all that I can think of. I'm sorry.

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Q. All right. Let's look at Exhibit 6?
A. Okay.
Q. There's an e-mail from Lisa Sulka to Bill Miles at 2:55 p.m. And it says, "can you send me what Kim Likins is doing?" And we can't see, you know, what the attachment or what the reply is. Any idea if that was about your lawsuit how they knew about your lawsuit at that time?
A. I have no idea. I had no conversations with Bill Miles or Lisa Sulka. I don't even know them that well. And so I can certainly tell you that they didn't learn about my lawsuit from me.
Q. We've talked about them in the -- we'll call it the BLS period, the before lawsuit. Since the lawsuit you had any talks with them about Skip Hoagland? Let's start with Bill Miles?
A. I don't recall anything specific.
Q. Generally, do you recall ever having any general conversations with him about Skip Hoagland?
A. No. I -- I don't see Bill very often. Every once in a while he has said, "hope things are going well" but beyond that that's the extent of it.
Q. What about Lisa Sulka? Any conversations in the PLS period, the post-lawsuit period, with Lisa Sulka about Skip Hoagland?

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A. Not that I recall.
Q. Let's look at Exhibit 7?
A. Okay.
Q. Agenda is typically prepared about 48 hours before a meeting?
A. Correct. Yes. At least 24 hours, yes.
Q. Did you have any involvement in the Executive Session Part B being placed on the agenda?
A. I have no involvement in what goes on the agenda.
Q. When did you become aware that that was on the agenda?
A. I would assume when the agenda came out and was made available.
Q. When did you become aware that that was going to be brought up at the meeting?
A. I don't actually even recall.
Q. Was it before it was brought up did you know that was coming up?
A. I -- I truly don't -- don't recall.
Q. One of the documents we'll look at a minute is a conflict of interest waiver you signed?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Did you sign that before or after that meeting?
A. I believe I signed it after the meeting.
Q. Let's start with Exhibit 8, Section 9, the public

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comment?
A. Okay. Section 9?
Q. It's on the third page. Yes, ma'am.
A. Okay. Do I have the right document? Are we still on Number 7?
Q. No, ma'am. We switched to Number 8.
A. Oh, I'm sorry. You're ahead of me here.
Q. No, you're good.
A. Here we go, okay. Section 9, "Appearance by Citizens"; is that right?
Q. Is Section 9 an accurate statement of your recollection of the meeting? Paragraph 2, is that an accurate statement of your recollection of the interactions between Skip and Mayor Bennett at that meeting?
A. I would have to rely on the reflection of the minutes of the meeting.
Q. Okay.
A. I truly can't remember.
Q. Do you know if Mayor Bennett interject at that point after Skip was done talking or while Skip was talking?
A. I don't recall.
Q. Do you agree with me that you're not aware of any prohibition of non-Hilton Head resident or citizens

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being prohibited from speaking in the public comment section at y'all's meetings, are you?
MR. ALFORD: Object to the form.
Q. Let me rephrase. Are you aware of any prohibition of non-Hilton Head citizens from speaking at the meetings in the public comment?
A. No, I'm not.
Q. Okay. And Hilton Head's, over time in front of you, allowed non-citizens to speak the public comment section other than Skip Hoagland; correct?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
A. I'm assuming that that could be true but I can't say specifically I can determine that there were specific ones.
Q. That's fair. What was your understanding of why Mayor Bennett made this proclamation, if you will, at Section 9 of the 12/15 meeting minutes?
A. I believe because he felt very strongly that Mr. Hoagland was violating our code of conduct so to speak for our decorum of how our meetings are to be handled. He clearly was violating the fact that if a citizen is given the right to come before Council to speak it is stated that they are supposed to address the Council at large, not speak directly to any individual members and call them out by names, which Mr. Hoagland does

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frequently. And so, I think Mayor Bennett felt that that under, you know, his jurisdiction as the person in charge of the meeting that it was inappropriate behavior and he was not going to tolerate it any longer.
Q. You agree that the minutes do not reflect that as being the ground he raised in his proclamation?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form.
A. Yes, I guess so. I mean it -- it -- the minutes reflect that, you know, he was not a citizen of the Island.
Q. And just to clarify, we don't have to look at it, I think we've covered this. This was the meeting where they voted to pay for your lawsuit; right?
A. That's correct.
Q. Exhibit 9, your conflict disclosure. What did you mean by "I've retained a personal counsel?
A. I relied on the legal counsel of the Town to provide the wording for this and so that was their description.
Q. Who helped you with this, Brian or Greg or both or else, other?
A. I actually don't recall.
Q. Is this your handwriting both above and below?
A. No. It's my signature.

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Q. Who wrote this do you know?
A. I don't know.
Q. Had you retained any counsel?
A. Well, Gregg and I had clearly met and sought to seek the temporary injunction.
Q. And what did you mean? Okay. Well, "related to harassment by a third party against me" that's Skip Hoagland; right?
A. That's correct.
Q. When you said "this harassment is related to my service as an elected official, Town Council member" what did you mean?
A. Meaning that Mr. Hoagland did not have any -- any vendetta against me other than the fact that I was a Town Council member who had the ability to cast a vote in a issue that he felt passionately about. And that when I didn't vote the way he wanted then he took it upon himself to punish me or harassed me or torture me, whatever words you want to choose so that I would reconsider that vote.
Q. So, do you agree? Do you believe this is true, this statement that you signed?
A. I do believe it's true.
Q. And you agree with the statement that you signed that Skip Hoagland's harassment was related to your

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service as an elected official, Town Council member?
A. Yes.
Q. And the purpose of this lawsuit was to stop that so-called harassment?
A. It was to stop his harassment in my private world of my employment.
Q. There's an Exhibit 10. There's an e-mail from Lisa to Bill that says "Part Two" forwarding an e-mail from Skip to a bunch of folks. Do you have any knowledge that indeed Lisa Sulka has ultimately sued Skip on her own right?
A. I have no knowledge why Lisa Sulka has done anything. I don't know.
Q. Sure.
A. I've never seen this e-mail before today.
Q. Do you know that she has sued Skip?
A. I read in the newspaper that she had.
Q. Okay. But you, you -- well let me ask it this way. Looking at this e-mail any idea what she means by Part Two?
A. I'm sorry. What paragraph is that?
Q. That's at the very top.
A. Okay.
Q. Before. So she's forwarding an e-mail or copying and pasting an e-mail. I can't really tell. It says

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forward FW.
A. Yeah. Like I said I have no knowledge of this e-mail so I can't even speculate on what she would be talking about or what Part Two would be.
Q. Do you agree this e-mail stating Part Two is sent seven days after your lawsuit was filed and two days after your lawsuit was voted to be funded by the Town?
A. Based on the date, yes.
Q. Let's look at Exhibit 11 which is the 1/19/16 meeting minutes. I'm going to breeze through this. You told me about the recess that was held; right? We talked about that?
A. We did.
Q. You told me everything you recall about that?
A. That is correct.
Q. You told me to the best of your recollection who you could remember being in the hall with you?
A. Correct.
Q. And you told me you couldn't really recall what was said?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. And you came back and voted that indeed Skip could speak; correct?
A. I did.
Q. Sure. What was the basis for your vote that

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indeed Skip could speak?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object on the basis of legislative privilege. She doesn't have to explain why she voted or anything she votes for in the law of South Carolina or the federal law frankly. However, if she wants to tell you she can, but she has executive privilege on why she votes or what she votes for.
MR. PORTER: I think that protects her from legal action on that.
MR. ALFORD: That --
MR. PORTER: Well, how about this?
Q. Do you want to tell us why you voted that way?
MR. ALFORD: She can if she wants.
MR. PORTER: Well let's first ferret out whether she wants to and then get an objection on the record.
A. I'd yield to the advice of my counsel.
Q. Did you get advice from counsel before you made the decision to vote the way you voted?
A. Not that I recall.
MR. PORTER: Have you already objected on the record? I think you did. I cut you off with that question.

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MR. ALFORD: Yeah. I mean.
MR. PORTER: I just want to preserve the record. I ain't going to ask the question again if you think you've already sufficiently objected on the record. I'll ask it again.
Q. Why did you vote the way you voted? Hold on.
MR. ALFORD: And I am going to instruct you, Kim, that you enjoy legislative privilege on that issue. If you want to answer it as to that specific issue you can. So not, that's your decision but if you elect not to you don't have to.
A. Okay. Thank you.
MR. ALFORD: So.
Q. Let's look at Exhibit 12. I think we can run through this. At no time during your tenure has Mr. Alford's law firm's contract ever been rebid; correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. What public purpose is your lawsuit intended to achieve?
A. To protect the integrity of our legislative process.
Q. In your lawsuit with your husband over the stucco and you said that was personal that wasn't related to

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your business; right? His business?
A. That is correct.
Q. He's got his own business?
A. He does.
Q. Has he ever sued anybody on behalf of that business or the business ever had to sue anybody?
A. No.
Q. Do you understand generally that entities such as businesses, and towns, counties, mutual benefit societies can sue and be sued in their own name?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you understand that the Town of Hilton Head has the ability to sue and be sued in it's own name?
A. Yes.
Q. And your understanding as a public purpose was to protect the integrity of the process?
A. Correct.
Q. Any opinion as to why Hilton Head couldn't have sued in its own name to protect the integrity of the process?
A. That was totally left up to our legal guidance and it was their decision. And I had no opinion one way of the other.
Q. All right.
A. I am not an attorney.

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Q. Understood. And I'm not, you know, and that's a fair caveat.
A. Yeah.
Q. Pause before the answer of the next question. Did you have any discussions with your counsel about suing in your name or suing in the name of the Town of Hilton Head?
MR. ALFORD: And I'm going to respectfully instruct you not to answer on the basis of attorney-client privilege.
A. Okay.
Q. What public purpose is served by you getting money out of this thing if you get money out of it?
A. I don't know that there's a public purpose for that. There's a public purpose for the lawsuit to protect the integrity of the process.
Q. And from the get go you've stood to gain money out of the lawsuit? From the time it was filed to even now after? We'll talk about the retainer modification here shortly. But you still stand to make money off the Likins lawsuit if y'all win?
A. If a jury would see fit to award money.
Q. Let's keep going in order.
A. Are we going to Exhibit 13?
Q. No, ma'am. We're skipping a handful. Jump to

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Exhibit 15.
A. Okay.
Q. Those minutes the contract was modified with the Alford Law Firm, did you know that was going to happen before it happened? Did you know that was a topic?
A. I knew when it was placed on Executive Session it would be discussed. I did not know what would happen.
Q. Understood. Were you in that Executive Session for that portion or did you step out?
A. No, I was not. I was out of the room.
Q. Do you understand what brought up the need for that?
A. I think because the lawsuit had gone on as long as it had and the amount had increased to the degree the Council was probably seeking other alternatives.
Q. Sure. You think that but do you have any personal knowledge as to that being the grounds?
A. No, I don't.
Q. Did you put that on the agenda or are you unaware of who put that on the agenda?
A. No. As I said earlier we don't. As individual Council members we don't put things on agendas.
Q. You can request for something to be placed and the Mayor can affirm it or not affirm it? I think that's how most towns works. Is that how y'all work?

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A. We actually have to request publicly and there has to be a certain number of individuals to vote on the Council for it to be put on the agenda, unless it's being put on by the Mayor or the Town manager.
Q. Well, I didn't cover this before, in your experience throughout your tenure as a Town Council woman, every time Council was active it's either done so via the passage of an ordinance or the signing of an authorizing resolution; is that correct?
A. I believe so.
Q. Why? Are those the only two ways y'all can act under ordinances as you understand it?
A. As I -- as I understand.
Q. Do you know if a resolution was indeed signed underlying the funding of your lawsuit or that vote in December of 2015 in general?
A. I assume that it would have been signed.
Q. If it wasn't would that be problematic?
A. I don't really know.
Q. Even under the modification to the retainer you agree you're still in the position to get money? And the word problem I presented, and my pride was hurt that our former witness rejected it because I thought it was pretty succinct, if 70 percent of the amount received is greater than 182,000 something and 22

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cents, you get the amount in excess of the 182K; correct?
A. I believe that's the way it was worded.
Q. And you agree that was an excellent word problem I posed?
A. Yeah, I'll give you credit for that one.
Q. All right. Moving on to Exhibit 16, the retainer. I'm just going to ask you, if y'all lose just to verify for the record or y'all can't collect a judgment, you don't believe you owe anybody anything for the lawsuit?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. And there's been no discussion of you being made to pay for the thing?
A. No.
Q. Would you be able to pay for the thing?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form. Answer it if you can.
A. Yeah, I don't know.
Q. Absent mortgaging one's home --
A. Exactly.
Q. -- could you come up with 182k on the spot? And if you can more power to you.
A. Yeah. No.
Q. It would be difficult to come up with it?

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A. Correct. It'd have to be a long term payment schedule.
Q. I understand. If you asked me for a 182K I would have to give you an IOU, which as dumb and dumber tells us is just as good as real money. Your conflict declaration is Exhibit 17. Is that your handwriting on this one?
A. That is my handwriting, yes.
MR. PORTER: I wonder if we did that redaction or y'all did. I don't know.
MR. ALFORD: Which one?
MR. PORTER: The signature, it's kind of peculiar. Probably me.
Q. But that's your handwriting in the description on this one?
A. That is correct.
Q. What did you mean when you said "have a personal interest"?
A. Again, I relied on counsel to tell me what I needed to write to make sure that I was covered appropriately.
Q. Which counsel was that on this particular document?
A. I don't recall whether it was Mr. Alford or Mr. Hulbert.

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Q. Pause before answering the follow-up question. What did they tell you?
MR. ALFORD: I would object on the basis of attorney-client privilege. Please don't answer.
Q. You agree with me that you haven't reported the 182K in your financial disclosures?
A. I haven't received 182K.
Q. You agree with me that you haven't reported the 182K paid to fund your lawsuit on your financial disclosures?
A. Yes, I agree with that.
Q. You would agree with me that it ain't been reported on your taxes?
A. Again, I've not received any money to report on my taxes.
Q. You would agree that the 182K that was spent by the Town to fund your lawsuit was not reported on your taxes?
A. That's correct.
Q. You would agree with me that the Town hasn't given you a 1099 or a W-2 for the 182K?
A. That is correct.
Q. And for your, I assume you receive a stipend as a Council member?

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A. That is correct.
Q. As a 1099 as opposed to a W-2; correct? Or is it a W-2?
A. I believe it's a W-2 but I could be wrong about that.
Q. It doesn't matter.
A. But that amount is reported.
Q. Do you know any documents relevant to this case that we have not looked at today?
A. None that I can think of.
Q. Have you engaged in any text message conversations about Skip?
A. No.
Q. E-mails?
A. I have received a lot of e-mails from Mr. Hoagland.
Q. Have you sent any?
A. In association with this lawsuit?
Q. Let's start with that, yes, ma'am?
A. No.
Q. In association with the conduct giving rise to this lawsuit?
A. Possibly.
Q. Would those e-mails have been sent from -- do you have a Hilton Head e-mail as well as a personal

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e-mail?
A. I do and I have a work e-mail.
Q. Which e-mails would those e-mails have been sent from?
A. Possibly my work or my personal e-mail. It was probably my work e-mail.
Q. And your work e-mail is maintained, do y'all have inhouse IT at?
A. We have a volunteer core of IT folks that take care of our e-mail.
Q. Is it Outlook? Is that the e-mail y'all use?
A. It is. Mr. Brewer has copies of any of those e-mails. They were provided through FOIA as well as received through my other lawsuit.
Q. That's fine. I appreciate that.
MR. ALFORD: Ad nauseam.
A. Yeah.
Q. How many times did you meet with attorneys before? Let me rephrase, that's a broad question. How many times did you meet with attorneys about the Likins v. Hoagland lawsuit before the Likins v. Hoagland was filed?
A. I believe only twice. I think I met with Gregg the first time to discuss what happened and then he pulled all the paperwork together. And I think I

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had to go and sign it.
Q. Sign the verification for the Complaint?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Did y'all have any discussions on that second encounter other than, "hey, how are you?" And this sort of thing?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object.
MR. PORTER: Yeah. That's fine. I just wanted to get both encounters on the record. I wasn't trying to sneak it in. That's fair.
Q. Who went with you to the first meeting if anybody?
A. No one.
Q. Who went with you the second time when you signed it if anybody?
A. No one.
Q. And the way you ended up with Mr. Alford and his folks is through referral from the Town?
A. I mean, again, I can't remember if Steve told me to call him or if it was because I called him directly and he called me back. I mean as our Town attorney if there's anything associated with the Town we reach out to him.
Q. Have you been a party to any e-mails or text about Skip from third parties other than Skip other

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than what we've talked about and other than people who are lawyers that you can think of?
A. No.
Q. How about this: Any e-mails and texts you've been a part of about Skip that to your knowledge have not been produced to Barrett?
A. No. No.
Q. That works.
A. Yes, that works.
Q. No security, no collateral of yours on this attorney fees, 182K; correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And you will not have to pay the 182K back if it's not recouped in litigation; correct?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. Do you believe other Council members can sue third parties based on the resolution that was passed in December?
A. I believe the resolution that was passed was passed to protect every one of us that were on Council. And if a situation like this would arise in association with them then absolutely I do.
Q. Okay. Bear with me one second. Would you agree that citizens regularly try to influence your vote?
MR. LAFFITE: Object to the form. You

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can answer.
A. I would say that citizens talk to me about their opinions of how they believe a vote should go. I wouldn't say that they necessarily do things to influence me. They educate me, certainly.
Q. And they're seeking, they're petitioning you to vote one way or another on an issue when they do that?
A. Usually, yes.
MR. PORTER: Let me pow wow with my folks. You can take a break.
(Whereupon, a short break was taken.)
Q. And I am not saying that you are with question number one. But whether or not you are a liar or are corrupt, since you're a council member would be a matter of public concern would it not?
MR. ALFORD: I'm going to object to the form, please answer it if you can.
MR. LAFITTE: Yeah.
A. I would think so.
Q. You brought up your status working for non-profit in one of your campaigns in a YouTube video as one of the reasons voters should elect you, did you not?
A. I don't know of any YouTube video that I'm aware of.
Q. Let me rephrase. You brought up your work in

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non-profits when campaigning as a reason people should vote for you; did you not?
A. I don't know. I'm sure that I, in giving my background spoke about my work in the non-profit. I don't know or recall ever saying that someone should vote for me because of working for a non-profit.
Q. Did you say earlier that there was an e-mail or that there may have been an e-mail between you and Steve Riley after the Boys & Girls Club stuff happened saying, "hey, this happened. What can we do about it or what needs to be done about it? What should I do"?
A. I don't recall that there was an e-mail. I believe I placed a phone call.
Q. Are you a member of the Chamber?
A. The Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island is a member of the Chamber and the Town is a member of the Chamber but I am not an individual member.
Q. Okay. The Boys & Girls Club pays for the Boys & Girls Club membership?
A. That is correct, yeah.
Q. And the Town pays for the town membership?
A. That is correct.
Q. Okay. I've got two more. It turned into eight not six because of those sub -questions?
MR. ALFORD: That ain't bad.

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MR. PORTER: Actually seven. So one more.
Q. Have you ever seen a full accounting of the ATAX money spent by the Chamber?
A. I'm assuming that you're talking about like the most recent year or over over the course of all of the years?
Q. Start big and finish small?
A. Yeah.
Q. But over the course of the years have you ever seen a single accounting of them?
A. I've seen what is typically provided to us as a Council but that's all.
Q. Well, what do they typically provide y'all?
A. They typically give a report to our ATAX Commission on how they have spent or what they have invested in, what the marketing plan has produced. And then that is typically shared with us.
Q. We'll make a full clean eight questions like I said. Is there anything you need to add, amend, or correct from your prior testimony today?
A. Not that I know of.
MR. HOAGLAND: Paul, I get you to come privately on me one more time please just listen to me. Put me on, pick me up?

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MR; PORTER: Do y'all mind?
MR. LAFITTE: No.
MR. ALFORD: No.
MR. PORTER: Let's go off the record two seconds.
(Discussion held off the record.)
Q. Okay. Have you seen any receipts of how they spend their money, the amount of money that's gone to Canada, stuff like that from the Chamber and the ATAX?
A. Receipts? Not that I recall.
Q. Thank you.
MR. PORTER: Nothing further.
MR. ALFORD: Thank you, sir.
MR. LAFITTE: Nothing from us.
(Deposition concluded at 4:04 p.m.)

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
: C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT)

I, Sabre Bridgers, Court Reporter and Notary Public, certify that I did have KIM LIKINS to appear before me at 2:20 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at the offices of Berry & Carr, Hilton Head, South Carolina; that the witness was sworn and cautioned to tell the truth, the pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of the testimony given at that time and place.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or kin to any of the parties to this cause of action, nor am I interested in any manner in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 19th day of June, 2018.

_____
Sabre Bridgers
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: February 2,2020

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT

PETER BUONAIUTO,

Plaintiff,

vs. CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2018-CP-07-02217

DAVID BENNET, Individually and as Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island; BILL HARKINS, Individually and as a Member of the Town of Hilton Head Island; KIM LIKINS, Individually and as a Member of the Town of Hilton Head Island Council; LEE EDWARDS, Individually and as a Member of the Town of Hilton Head Island Council; JOHN McCANN, Individually and as a Member of the Town of Hilton Head Island Council; TOM LENNOX, Individually and as a Member of the Town of Hilton Head Island Council; MARC GRANT, Individually and as a Member of the Town of Hilton Head Island Council; STEVE RILEY, Individually and as Town of Hilton Head Island Manager; and BRIAN HULBERT, Individually and as Town of Hilton Attorney,

Defendants.

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The deposition of PETER BUONAIUTO, a witness in the above-entitled cause, taken pursuant to Notice and agreement, before Ceil Weser, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, at The Alford Law Firm, LLC, 18 Executive Park Road, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, on the 19th day of August, 2019, commencing at or about the hour of 10:01 a.m.

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PETER BUONAIUTO,
having been produced and first duly sworn as a witness, testified as follows:
DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. ALFORD:

Q Sir, good morning. My name is Gregg Alford.
A Hi, Gregg.
Q Have you ever been deposed before?
A Yes, I have.
Q Roughly how many times?
A Three maybe.
Q Do you mind if I ask what they were in reference to?
A Business cases.
Q Matters?
A Dating back to the eighties so ...
Q I got you.
When do you think your most recent one might have been?
A About three years ago. It had to do with a -- this was a case my wife was involved in an auto accident since about three years ago.
Q So you kind of know the rules. She has sworn you in, and she is taking down everything

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we say. I will ask you a bunch of questions. Probably some that are not so good.
If you don't understand my question. Just tell me and I will re-ask it?
A Sure.
Q You have to give yes and no's, so she can take down the words.
A No head nodding.
Q We will work on that. It is not an endurance test. If you need a break tell, me you need a break. I think that is all the kind of formalities I am supposed to throw at you.
So tell me a little bit about yourself, tell me how old you are, where you live, when you grew up. Give me kind of a summary.
A I am 62 years old.
Q Okay.
A I grew up in Connecticut. I lived much of my time in California, as well as much time as in Ohio.
Q Tell me this, where did you graduate from high school?
A Wamogo Regional High School W-a-m-o-g-o, and it is not an Indian name. It is the first two letters of Warren, Morris and

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Goshen, a very small regional high school in Connecticut.
Q So you graduated in what year?
A '75.
Q And then where did you go?
A Right away went to California.
Q And did what?
A I went to college. I went to San Jose State and stayed there for 12-plus years afterwards.
Q Tell me about San Jose State, when did you graduate, what was your degree?
A 1980 and it was in Business Administration, concentration finance, Minor in Economics.
Q And then it sounds like you stayed there for a while?
A Yes.
Q Tell me about that.
A About 12 years. I worked initially out of college on the Pacific Stock Exchange. I traded stock options on the floor for my own account. So if you have ever seen TV shows with everybody screaming on the floor that is what I did.

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Q Like the one on Trading Places?
A Yes.
Q High stress?
A Yeah, and I did that for about three years until the very bottom of the bear market, just before Reagan got elected, and things turned the other way. So timing is everything.
Q Right on.
A So I left at the bottom, unfortunately. But then I went into telecommunications.
Q Tell me where you went from San Jose?
A Well, I am still in San Jose is what I am saying now, so I was in telecommunications there for a number of years.
Q What companies?
A CP National was my first one. It was an old line regulated utility company that got into the unregulated telecommunications, and that was one of the first companies to do that on the West Coast.
And then I went to Sprint, which was not Sprint then. It was U.S. Telecom, and then I was there for the merger of U.S. Telecom and GTE.

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And then I was moved to Kansas City where that headquarters came, and I was in charge of product marketing for all their business services.
Q In that area or the nation?
A In the nation, yeah.
I met my wife in California.
Q How long did you stay in Kansas City?
A About a year and a half.
Q And what did you do after that?
A I was recruited by a company in Ohio called LiTel Communications Company.
Q Where did you go? What did you do?
A I was recruited to be their Director of Product Marketing and at Sprint I had about a half a billion dollar responsibility annually, and this company was more of a start-up company and I had about $142 million responsibility; and we were the first fiber optics companies.
Q How long were you there?
A About three years I believe.
Q And tell me how did that come out? Where did you go?
A Very well, I was recruited again by one of the founders of LiTel started his own

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company, which became Conquest Communications Company.
Q Okay.
A I was a pre-revenue, pretty much pre-employee. I was like the second or third employee, and we built that company from nothing to one of the Inc. 500 companies and stayed there for about ten years.
Q Did you still hold any interest in that?
A It was purchased by a public company and I cashed out in 1997.
Q Tell me what happens after that? Where did you go after that?
A After that I started my own company about a year later. It was one of the first companies in voice over internet protocol and connecting four cities in Ohio.
Q What was that company?
A It was Spata Communications Company.
Q S-p-a-d-a?
A S-p-a-t-a.
Q What did it do?
A We were kind of pre-Vonage. Vonage type of communications.

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Q Meaning you could talk on the computer?
A Over the internet yes, sir. Internet protocol. One of the first ones to do it for businesses, and we did it Columbus, Akron, Dayton, Cincinnati.
Q And what became of that company?
A That company ended up not making it. It started in 1997, and if you recall the big bubble of 2000 we had raised money, but were not able -- many companies had the same fate in 2000 and could not raise any additional funding; but were able to keep some of the knowledge of that, and I started a company here in 2001.
Q So 2001 --
A 2000 I think was the end of Spata, and I said to my wife I think the Ohio winters have been enough and I can start a web business and why don't we move to the place we love the most, which is Hilton Head Island. We have been coming here from the eighties.
Q What is that nexus?
A I woke up one February morning and I said Mary Beth, what are we doing here?
Q When did you first start coming to Hilton Head?

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A 1987 I believe was my first year.
Q Was that your family?
A Yes. My family -- my wife's family before had been coming here probably since the seventies.
Q You thought I like this place better than Cincinnati, Ohio?
A Yes.
Q Did Spata go into bankruptcy?
A Yes, it did.
Q How about any of the other companies? LiTel, any of those?
A No, not LiTel.
Q What was the name of the company that you operated here?
A Send2fax, all one word, LLC.
Q Tell me about that?
A That company was a brand new start-up, and as I said taking somewhat I learned about the Internet protocol for voice. We said if we can't do that, we need a lot of money to do it for voice. Why don't we find a niche market, which I said was fax, which was still big at that time, believe it or not, you might recall. And so the real estate was a big part of that

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and also HIPPA compliant fax. And so we built this company on a shoestring and got some funding by some locals here. Actually not initially, but a year or two after it started.
Q Who were some of your funding people?
A We had Bill Brewer -- I mean not in any order of how much they put in. Nicky Maxey. What was the baseball player friend? I can't think of that.
But it has been a while and actually it grew to probably 20 investors.
Q What happened to that company?
A That company was acquired by Efax, one of the largest providers of faxing that came knocking on our door; and they purchased us for over $8 million and the investors in that got about 8 times their investment in that. It did pretty well.
Q How about you, how did you do?
A I did very well. I cashed out with 1.9 before taxes.
Q And half that after? I am just kidding.
A I am not bragging.
Q No, no.

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A But my fortunes have turned, and we will probably get to that soon.
But in 2007, I had a nice '7.
Q This is '07?
A Purchased '06, but yeah.
Q Got you, by the time the dust settled. Okay, so now we are in '07? Tell me what happens next?
A Like?
Q Where did you go? You sell the company?
A I sell the company.
Q Now you probably don't have a job, bored for a week or two and say I have to do something.
A That is exactly right I. Tried not to do it.
I tried golf. I stayed at home.
I ended up --
Q Your wife wanted you to do something?
A She liked me to be home, but I would say my project first was to digitize all of our VHS tapes from the kids growing up and did that for about two months, and then what am I going to do?

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So I looked at various opportunities and I settled on -- I looked at things that were all web based, of course, that is my background.

Q Your background.

A And then I looked to what was happening with things going off of Yellow Pages, right? The Yellow Pages was the bastion of forever.

Q Advertising?

A Where people advertise, and I said we are going to look at doing this on the web.

And I started -- actually one step before that if I may?

Q Sure.

A It had to do with destination marketing, and I looked at this would be a great place to start that business, which was Hilton Head. The name of that company was Travel TV Network, LLC.

Q And is that still a ongoing entity?

A It is still around and itself does not do any operations or business, but it has other companies --

Q Is it a holding companies?

A -- it is Subsidiaries, if you will.

So as a product of that, I had a

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product named Yellowmarketing.com and we would put all businesses on-line and create a website on-line, a web presence.

And Travel TV Network was to go into all different destination markets throughout the country to promote those and to try to deal with paid advertising for business establishments in those respective places.

Q So you are sort of like instead of advertising the beach and all that, you are advertising the businesses that are around the beach?

A Both, to get people to be interested -- to be interested in the destination and while they are there they are going to be doing those things.

Q Okay.

A As an offshoot of that because things move very fast in this business, Facebook came on the scene at that time. I said, oh, boy, this really changes the game. So we felt that it was very difficult for people to market on those social media sites. You have Facebook, you have Twitter, and you had a couple of others that do that.

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So we built another product called Media Feedia F-e-e-d-i-a.

Q Okay.

A And that was a phenomenal product that we had created, and it allows you to schedule your posts on various social media platforms, content management photographs, all kinds of things. And you can schedule them in advance, so if you want to post something on Facebook or Twitter, and there is a large company that came out the same time as us on that is Tout Suite, and it is a Canadian company. If you know what Tout Suite is, you would know what Media Feedia is.

Q I don't know.

A I don't want to get too much into the weeds.

Q That is okay.

What is going on with Media Feedia?

A It is still around and Media Feedia has been dormant for a number of years, because it didn't get the traction that it needed. We had about 40,000 worldwide customers that signed up for the first three months on a free basis, but free doesn't pay the bills.

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And we tried to convert them and it didn't go so well. So anyway, it is still around, and it is 50 percent ownership of a company that is very active right now that I am involved with.

Q Tell me about that?

A That is called Bosgistics, LLC.

Q Tell me about that.

A That is doing very, very well.

Q What does it do?

A It goes after a very small niche market of people who own ATM machines. There are about half a million ATM machines in the U.S. alone, and about half of them are owned by individuals. So this is a logistics platform for people who own ATM machines to say how much money do I need to put in this machine, so I don't put too much in. I maximize my cash. How do I know if something is wrong with that machine? How do I send my drivers out to fill those machines in the most efficient manner. So that goes under the product name of ATM Boss, but it is Bosgistics.

So Media Feedia, that is really the only thing going on at this time.

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Q But Media Feedia is a holding company for Bosgistics, and the Travel TV Network is sort of the holding company for Media Feedia?
A It is just kind of a lineage of having to zig and zag based upon the market conditions.
Q So 50 percent of it is owned by Media Feedia? Who owns that?
A 50 percent is owned by a company up in the Myrtle Beach area, actually Conway, South Carolina by the name of CalTel C-a-l cap T-e-l, Inc., and they have been around 20-plus years.
Q Who owns that?
A A person by the name of Larry Scott S-c-o-t-t.
Q What else are you doing?
A Well Media Feedia is going to have another life.
Q Right.
A But it will be doing advertising in retail locations. It is called programmatic advertising, so it will see a new life.
Q Yes, sir.
But I mean so -- I didn't mean it in a flippant manner, so I understand do you work daily at Boss?

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A Yes, every day.
Q That is what I am trying to find out.
A Yes.
Q So that is your day job?
A That is what I do full time. I do it most days from 5:00 a.m. to about 7:00 p.m.
Q And that involves kind of managing that platform?
A Yes, and having it developed with software developers.
Q And so did you ever live in Florida?
A No.
Q I don't know why I thought that, but okay.
So you have been here on Hilton Head since about 2001, right?
A That is correct.
Q Have you ever had any other businesses here on Hilton Head?
A I was trying to -- it wasn't a business. It was a nonprofit that we were trying to start up, Hilton Head VCB, Visitor Convention Bureau.
Q Tell me about that.
A That was to -- because there was a lot

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going on. I have been very active in kind of the public forum with the Town Council and with the Chamber and had done a lot of research on that, and what was the impetus of that was that I found very early on with Travel TV Network and Yellow marketing and Media Feedia that my biggest competitor locally was the Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce, so that is what really got in any craw in the very beginning to feel I was competing with a tax subsidized competitor.
Q Okay.
A So that is why I got involved.
So from that point on I became very active and said this is wrong, and I tried to find a way to kind of challenge the local government to say you have a franchise that has been given to the Hilton Head Chamber, they are tax subsidized, they are competing with me, they are competing with very many media companies, and that was the impetus of my involvement.
Q Do you know why they do that?
A I wish I knew why they did that, but they do do it.
Q No, I understand, but I mean have you studied --

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A The Chamber?
Q Why does -- I mean it is accommodations tax money?
A Yes, sir.
Q It is not any other money, right, that they are given?
A Well, some money begets other money.
Q I understand you.
A Right.
Q I am asking you in terms of actual outflow from the governmental entities in South Carolina and the municipalities, why are they giving ATACS money to the Chamber of Commerce?
A I think ATACS is great and not all of it given to the Chamber of Commerce. That is a specific thing we need to look at. So it is a nonprofit organization that has shown its ability to be able to market a destination effectively.
Q Isn't that according to state law? I mean have you studied the state law?
A I am not an attorney, but --
Q No, I understand?
A But I have been deep into it.
Q That is why I am saying it, you are

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aware they are not giving them the money because they want to. You are aware there is a state Statute that says --
A I have no problem with them getting the money.
Q Yeah, but you understand that that subsidy that the Chamber of Commerce gets or the DMO gets is mandated by state law?
A I got you.
Q So wouldn't your remedy be to go talk to the legislature?
A No.
Q Tell me why not?
A Because they entrusted in the municipality themselves and they say you will get this much money. And you take this much off the top and 30 percent goes to the DMO. And then the rest of it goes to supplemental funding and other organizations in the area. So I know how it works.
The problem is that the judiciary responsibility rests with the municipality to make sure that those funds are spent appropriately. And it is not just here. It is not just the State of South Carolina. It

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happens all over the place, and I have found many cases and I have presented this to the Town Council that there are many other communities throughout the country that had had a very laissez fair relationship with the funded organization, and they have found lots of lost tax money through malfeasance, embezzlement, and other things. So I have always been an advocate of saying that we should be work fiduciarily responsible, we should have audits. And I have spoken with the people in Palm Beach about this who went through a very big embezzlement case. I have also spent with time to speak with Mayor of the Sherlock, California and I have presented my evidence to the Town Council, Mayor and Town Manager.
Q And let me ask you, is your concern about the governmental moneys as a competitor, or is it a concern as a tax payor or both? What is happening?
A I would say both, yes.
Q Tell me about it.
A So from the perspective of a competitor, if you will, as a business in the community.

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Q Yeah, marketing?
A Yeah. So just imagine that you running a law firm, and you were trying to get clients and this and that and you are trying to advertise in the Yellow Pages, internet, whatever; and you find it tough to get your customers. What if the town of Hilton Head went to a competitor of yours, every year I will give you a million dollars. I want you to go buy advert's on Google and this and that, you take this and we will give you that because we think that you are better suited to go get customers; and then poor Mr. Alford says hey, how can I compete with this?
Q Right.
And but I guess my -- but in that Statute, the ATAC Statute, isn't there an ability for competitors to arise?
A A very good question.
Q Tell me about it.
A Okay. Within the State of South Carolina law a municipality is permitted to have one or more organizations to do that. Thus, we go back to your question of what were we doing with trying to start this VCB. It says, state

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law says you can have one or more. So we tested that and we were awarded in our attempts, even though we had very good strategy for doing it, said we were just going to focus on the shoulder periods of the tourism year, and that was being really under performing of what the Chamber was doing, we would like a crack at that. So that is why we did that. I would say everybody was realistic. We felt that we have a prayer to get that accomplished, and that is how it turned out; but it was worth a try.
Q Tell me what processes you went through to try to do that.
A First of all, I spoke with many companies here on the island. Even like we raised about 3 or $4,000 from a number of people. We said don't tell the Chamber we are giving you a couple hundred dollars to do that, because everyone is afraid of them and afraid of repercussions, real or imagined, they do feel that way.
So we got about a dozen people to sign a Petition, if you will, to actually go speak with the Chamber and also people signed that yes, I want you to begin this VCB, and we are

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contributing to it; and we want to be a member, if you will. But you know, they were afraid to do it.

Q So you had a dozen people?

(Whereupon, a short break was taken.)

THE WITNESS: So your question was?

BY MR. ALFORD:

Q We were kind of talking about participation --

A I just want to clarify that. It has been a number of years.

Q Okay, sure.

A So there were two things. One is I wanted to get an audience with the Chamber, with top management; and I did send a letter out, I don't remember what year it was, say 2014 -- '13, '14; and I said that -- in order to get in there I wanted to show that they had people in the community that did want me to actually speak with the top management at the Chamber. So I do have signatures from 12, I believe it was, businesses imploring the Chamber to have a meeting with them. So that was one thing.

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Q Okay.

A And then after the VCB started -- there had been more than a dozen that contributed to that, I would have to go back to my records on that.

Q I understand you are rounding.

A I think the round number is probably 3 to 4,000 that was raised and we built a website and that was the end of that.

Q And tell me who else was involved with that effort?

A Let's see, I have a developer who was in charge of doing the website. There were people who were helping to --

Q Can you give us the names.

A James Parrish, who is a person who works with me in my other companies, he is out of Alabama.

Q Okay.

A The nonprofit had to be created, and I did not have the funding to go do that and that was something that was carried out by Cathy and Skip Hoagland.

Q Mr. and Mrs. Hoagland?

A Yes. And there was an attorney that I

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can't tell you who they were right now, that set up that nonprofit organization back then and I spoke with them a few times to clarify --

Q Tell me, did you go to a forum like the --

A The ATAC Committee -- Accommodations Tax --

Q Something?

MR. KEEP: Advisory.

THE WITNESS: Advisory.

BY MR. ALFORD:

Q And tell me about it, so that process I understand you kind of got to kind of like filled out a -- you fill out forms and stuff like that?

A There are a bunch of forms.

Q Can you tell me how that went for you?

A I also compiled a very complete Power Point presentation and went before the committee and presented my case.

Q Okay.

A And it was kind of what was expected. Well, they said you don't have any experience doing this. We said well, we actually do. I own a destination company and we have people

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that we can bring on that can do this. And we actually -- it has just been a number of years, I don't remember the name of the company that had some software that could really help us to do this particularly for the convention business; and presented that we could get all of this put into together a package and to go after that one specific niche market of the shoulder period on the island, which was being under served, if you will.

We said keep the Chamber DMO to do what you want during peak season. Why don't you give us a crumb to see what we could do with it, and it was voted against; and there were some people that said we already have a DMO. We can't have another. And I was trying to express the point that you mentioned that it is state law you can have more than one.

Q ATACS, isn't that when you stay in a hotel?

A ATACS is the accommodation tax, and then there is also for bars, restaurants there is another tax. ATACS is for lodging, yes.

Q And that is sort of the -- do you know how that Statute got started here in South

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Carolina?
A I don't. I think it was about 1897, if I am not mistaken, is that right?
Q Yes, I mean I didn't know this history. It is actually -- what was the guy? John Curry?
MR. KEEP: The bankruptcy trustee for --
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q Him and Angus Cotton and somebody else who went to Columbia to ask them to pass this Statute. They wrote it.
MR. KEEP: And they just said we are just taxing tourists.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q So anyway, that to me, that was interesting to learn that. But anyway, I mean as I understood the way that process worked, you kind of had to like have people on your -- I guess in your organization, I will just use that term, because I guess you were going to be a DMO, in your organization that were in the hospitality industry, is that your reading of it?
A It said you had to be able to demonstrate an ability to do that, and I think I

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could definitely demonstrate an ability do things on the Web to get customers to sign up to do things. Well, the website we built was pretty cool. I don't know if it is still accessible anymore, but it was for people particularly planning meetings. We said we want to go after the meetings market.
Q Conventions?
A Because those happen in the shoulder periods of the season. And we did a thing that they can come in and learn all about the different venues, the square footage of the ballroom at the Westin and pick all the things they want to do and submit a request to the Westin to do that.
So it was demonstrable in my presentation as to what we could and actually had done at that point.
Q But it didn't have a track record?
A It didn't have a track record and not willing to allow the crumbs to be given to somebody that might be able to do something better in those shoulder periods. But as I said --
Q Well, that is subjective, right?

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A On their part?
Q On yours?
A Yes, but no one would know the outcome until someone tried it so --
Q Right, if you are a fiduciary with tax money you want to --
A One thing we said that we are open. You can see our books. And that was one thing that was differentiating for us. We are going to be totally transparent, anything you want to see, come in anytime and see it.
Q Have you ever been to the budget presentation? Have you ever see the ATAC presentation by the Chamber?
A Yes.
Q In fact, all the little -- I say little -- many other organizations who want to get ATAC money have to do presentations?
A I had to go do that too.
Q Like the Italian American guys. I think they were mad -- somebody got mad, I can't remember who it was, but everybody is mad.
MR. KEEP: Well, that is Hilton Head, right?
MR. ALFORD: Really.

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THE WITNESS: They should be happy now our with our sister city in Italy.
MR. ALFORD: That is funny.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q Tell me now how long have you known Mr. Hoagland?
A I knew of him really when I first moved here, because we hung in some circles, but he and I never were chummy. From 2001 when I moved here to 2007 I knew of him. We were not very much alike in the outdoorsy world I have been hunting one time in my life here and it was enough for me. And that is kind of what they do in their full time hobbies from August 15 to January 1st of each year, that is the hunting season. So anyway I only knew him from just other people.
I was drawn to meet Skip Hoagland, I reached out to him in about 2007; and I did that as I saw the full page ad in the Packet and this is right at the time that the Chamber was kicking my butt in the marketplace with their tax funded organization; and I said I have been thinking the same thing for all this time. Skip, I want to meet you --

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Q So he was running ads in '07?
A I think it was '07. '07, '08. Something like that.
Q Yeah, I get it.
A And I didn't even have his phone number. I think I called Nicky Maxey. I said I know you hang out with Skip, do you have his phone number? So I got his phone number, texted Skip and said great ad. I really want to meet with you and talk to you about this, so that was probably the first meeting that we had and that grew from there.
And then he and I -- and I have been very active. And I am not Skip. I have gone in front of the Town Council many times and given speeches about this, and no influence by Skip. He does it his way. I do it my way, but we do have a common thread, in that we feel that there is great injustice being done to businesses on the island through an uneven playing field.
Q And have you ever done any work for him?
A I have, but not until 2017.
So 2007 through 2017, I did all freebie stuff.

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Q Like what?
A I did a lot of things. If you said there were two people kind of shoulder to shoulder just because of the passion that they have --
Q The cause?
A The cause. I was doing lots of it. You know, trying to do my other business. I stayed up late. I wanted to really get into the nuts and bolts of the finances of the Chamber. So I did some really elaborate regression based analysis of where the money came from, where it went, year by year by year. And we -- when I say "we", he and I said let's get some of the other people, the media people to see what is going on and we need to change this.
So that and I may have written for him a couple of speeches. I think we got into where he did more ads. I said Skip, I think your message is being lost in the 4,000 words in your ads, and let's see if we can't made make it a little bit more readable --
Q This would have been from the '07 to '17 period kind of where you were?
A Yes and never charging anything for

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that up until 2017. In 2017 I said look, I can't continue to write speeches for you and writing ads for you. I am going to have to charge you for it.
Q And tell me how that works.
A Cathy Hoagland is the one that I go to on that, and I think that typically there is a draft that Skip had done, and then it goes to Cathy. And Cathy sends it to me and says, can you make this -- turn this into a silk purse, a sow's ear into a silk purse? And then I try to craft my magic on it. And the I send it back and see if there are any revisions on it that we want.
And we charge depending on the size of the ad, depending if it is a speech, or something like that.
Q Sure.
So do you go meet with her or this is done by internet?
A I have met with her a few times, but mostly it is internet.
Q Email?
A Email.
Q Do you ever talk to him on the phone?

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A Yes.
Q So starting in '17 you begin to I guess charge for editing and writing?
A Copyrighting.
Q Copyrighting?
A So sometimes the ad I would even say this is where we need to go. Do you agree with this, Cathy? And this is the point I want to get to, and she probably talked to Skip.
And then I would do the creative and send it to her.
She sent it to the Packet.
Q So it is Miss Hoagland that sends it to the Packet?
A I believe so, yeah. I am usually copied on it.
Q When you get a check from them, is it from the person or from a business? How do they do that? Is it a check?
A I believe it is from Cathy Hoagland specifically.
Q Personally?
A Yeah, personally.
Q And I guess over since '17 to now, how much do you think you have charged them? How

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much have you been paid?
A I did look that up recently. I would say somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000. I would say probably somewhere right around 7500. There were some other things in there that Cathy had asked me to do and that was they had some domain names they were looking to sell. And they had some people and I would help them -- help her to negotiate the deal on that.
So it wasn't all Chamber related stuff. I just wanted to throw that out.
Q No, that is what I want to know. Were you involved with, I guess, the editing or drafting of the ads about Mrs. Likins and the last Chamber one about the -- the one that basically started a lawsuit, were you involved in that?
A I don't believe so. I would have to see which one it was, the one you are referring to.
Q I think it was right after there was a vote on the Chamber contract. There was a full page ad that came out in the weekend paper that said things about I think the Boys & Girls Club and those kinds of things?

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A No, I wrote a -- I don't recall that. I don't recall an ad on that.
But I was published in the paper because of a speech I read at the Town Council that said that, mentioned the good old Boys & Girls Club, which was in reference to --
Q But the not the thing where the kids are?
A I am sorry?
Q You are not talking about where the children are?
A It was a play on words, because I knew that as well. I would say I was saying with the Boys & Girls Club, meaning Likins, McCann, Harkins, and Lennox, who I felt really did an injustice to the public.
And you bring up that meeting of November 17, 2015, and if you would like I can elaborate on that.
Q Yeah, have at it.
A It was a pivotal point. I didn't expect your question to go towards the Chamber and those things, but I would say that -- so imagine from 2007 through 2015, eight years of going in front of Town Council and telling them

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that there is many things going wrong here. You have a Chamber and a DMO that are the same. I don't know how deep you want to get into this. So there are funds that go in, there are public funds, and membership funds from the Chamber and they are commingled in a bank; and money is fungible as you know and you don't know what is going to where. So we said you need to separate that.
So we went to the Town Council and says you have been dealing with this partner, this relationship with the vendor for 40-plus years. You don't even have a written agreement between you and that venture. So it was me and others that were really pushing for a contract. It was never Town Council that said hey, you know what, we should really have a written agreement between us and the Chamber.
I feel very much a part of being the energy to get them --
Q The impetus?
A The impetus, whatever, to get that going.
So year after year after year after year, it is still not happening, still not

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happening, still not happening.
Then in early November you see in the press, oh, we are still working on that behind closed doors between the Chamber and the Town to get an agreement. You will be seeing it soon.
But a week later another article came out and said yes, it will be released by this week. And that Harkins and I thin somebody else was mentioned, said that we really want to get this right. We want to give the public enough time to review it, and to come to the November 17th meeting prepared with comments before we take the vote on this.
Q Okay.
A So I believed them. I did a lot of preparation. Hundreds of people packed that room that day. I think I counted going through the tape that there is about 18 or so individuals, other than myself, that got up there and said really don't sign this agreement the way it is. People who had background's in accounting and legal and whatever said don't -- implored the Council do not sign this agreement today until you make these changes.
So they as I believed that truly our

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comments would be taken into consideration before the opinion was signed, three of the Town Council members voted along the same mind set with us, one being the Mayor Bennett. And what is his name? Edwards and grant, and they all said there is no rush to sign this agreement today. Why don't we listen to what the community has to say. And there were really some good points brought up here today and we really should take them into consideration.

And we said it has been 40 years. Why not wait until the next Town Council meeting in three weeks and -- but there was something afoot behind the scenes.

Q What was it?

A I can't say a hundred percent, but my belief is that it was a done deal before anybody stepped foot in that room.

Q But I mean they didn't really need a contract to give them the money, did they?

A They did not need one -- well, I won't get into procurement law but --

Q We will get to that in a little while.

I am simply saying there is a state law that says you shall give the Chamber of Commerce

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30 percent, you agree with me on that?

A I agree with you on that point.

Q So it doesn't say you shall subject to procurement laws? It is a state law?

A You might want to check on that.

Q We will.

A I am not going to debate you. You are a lawyer. I am not.

Q You are telling me that you studied this stuff?

A Yeah, I did.

Q You have a feeling?

Do you have any evidence at all, I am just curious because I want to know, do you have any evidence at all of anybody on Council doing any criminal, taking a bribe for this Chamber contract? I mean any criminal. I mean seriously, this is serious stuff now.

A I do not have any evidence.

Q And I am just curious, because I would like to know, I guess the other question I would ask you is it sounds to me like you have a position that you are asking elected officials to adopt your position --

A No.

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Q -- About the contract?

A No, I wouldn't characterize it as that.

MR. KEEP: Excuse me.

MR. ALFORD: Sure.

MR. KEEP: Can we go off the record?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, absolutely.

(Whereupon, an off-the-record discussion was held.)

(Whereupon, Defendant's Exhibit Numbers 1 and 2 were marked for identification.)

BY MR. ALFORD:

Q I am going to shift gears a little.

I have handed you a Beaufort County public index and are you Peter? I am terrible pronouncing names?

A Peter M. Buonaiuto, Sr.

Q And you are Senior, okay.

This is a list of lawsuits basically, right?

A I don't know.

Q I will represent to you that this was on a Beaufort County Public Index?

A Is this for bankruptcy?

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Q No, sir.

So if you look at the first one, there is a 2017 case. It looks like it has been dismissed. Common Pleas, something about an injunction and you were the plaintiff.

And here is another 2017, this is probably this case, huh? You filed this case once and then brought it back, right?

A I believe so. You would have to ask my attorney that.

Q Now, there is a '11 case that talks about a judgment of 3927 judgment debt collection.

What would be that, sir?

A I don't know specifically, but I will tell you yeah, I believe I had to file bankruptcy in --

Q Okay.

A -- In 2013 or '14.

Q Okay.

And I guess like I see a foreclosure here and these types of things.

Is that all related to that?

A From about I would say these dates, so about 2010 on we were in very, very rough

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financial straits. I had made a bunch of money in that one company and invested a lot of it in real estate; and we lost it all. We made a small fortune in real estate and started out with a large one. Actually we lost them. Plus, we had other things. I don't know how you want to get into it?

Q Not that far. I am not trying to embarrass you.

A No, no. I am trying to understand. These line items, I really don't know.

Q When did you declare bankruptcy again?

A I think it was finalized in 2013 or 2014.

Q And when did you make the presentation to the ATAC Commission?

A I don't recall. If you have --

Q '15?

A It would probably be '14. I would say it had to have been post the bankruptcy because Mr. Tiggets (phonetic) got up in front of everyone to tell them about that. So it looks to me like a good chunk of these are foreclosure.

(Whereupon, an off-the-record discussion was held.)

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BY MR. ALFORD:

Q You were just clarifying for me that some of those items dealt with foreclosure and things of that nature?

A Yes.

Q Is there anything in there, any other governmental type stuff other than maybe the top one, which is the '17 one, which I think is the earlier case?

A Those are foreclosure.

Q Let me ask you this, have you ever been in litigation other than what we have been kind of dealing with here against governmental entities?

A No, I can't think of anything.

Q Sir, I handed you the Second Amended Complaint, and if you can look at it. This is the Complaint you filed.

Did you have a chance to look at it before it was filed?

A Yes.

Q And you stand behind what is in it?

A I did then. I would imagine I do now. I would like to read it if you would let me.

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Q Absolutely, please.

A Okay.

Q I wanted to make sure you had a chance to read it. I was going to ask you this, Beaufortwatchdog, do you do any work for Beaufortwatchdog?

A I don't do any work for them.

Have I worked with them and -- yes, I can't think of her name at the moment but --

Q Mare or something?

A Yes, Mare M-a-r-e, yes.

Q What do you know about that organization? Like how was it founded? Who pays for it? What is the deal?

A I really don't know. I couldn't tell you.

Q Is Mr. Hoagland active in that?

A Yes, I believe he is.

Q Sir, so this Complaint, let's go through it a little. You allege some facts and when I get to -- are you aware what Mr. Hoagland was saying and doing at the time that Miss Likins -- that the suit was filed?

A Be more specific. But no, I would say --

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Q Are you aware of the things he was saying and the Email's he was sending and the comments he was making to Miss Likins and others about Miss Likins?

A I like most every other person in this town probably have 10,000 -- without exaggeration -- Email's from Skip Hoagland. Do I read them all? No. I may have read something about one of those, but as you know that would be one in tens of thousands.

Q Was this your idea to file this lawsuit or did you talk to Mr. Hoagland about it?

A No, this was my idea.

Q Did you speak to Mr. Hoagland about it?

A Yes, I did.

Q What did you all talk about?

A I felt that this was a big injustice to have public funds used to not defend a Council member. So I come from a business background, and there is Directors and Officers' insurance and all of that, and that is to protect someone who is being sued and to help defend them.

I found this to be a real affront to the public and to me personally that funds would be used to weaponize a political figure to go

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after someone because they didn't like what the person said about them. So to use legal jargon, I really truly think this is a type of slap suit.

Q Okay.

A And I think it has to be stopped.

Q Do you think there is a limit "though" to what people should be allowed to say and threats and things like that against public officials? Do you think there is a limit anywhere?

A I think threats would be bad. Threaten them with harm or something like that. But I think --

Q What if you told someone they needed to be afraid of you, would that be a threat?

A I would say that would be a threat.

Q What if they said they were going to publicly disgrace you, is that a threat?

A I think that is a tough one to answer because if the truth came out and that publicly disgraced somebody, then there is not much you can do about it. The chips may fall where they may.

Q Would it be a threat --

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A If they were untruth's, I think that would be a different answer to the question.

Q Would it be a threat if someone were to tell you they were going to make every effort and spend money to publicly disgrace you?

A I don't know. I don't know if I can answer that. If there was truth behind it, wouldn't you? I mean if you felt that somebody was doing something dishonest and you could prove it, you might do that.

But I think the line is solidly drawn with threatening someone with harm or to use untruth's to defame them.

Q All right, sir.

When I look at your Complaint, I am looking at paragraph 12.

A Okay.

Q If we can go to paragraph 12.

While you are doing that, are you paying Mr. Keep? Or are you paying out of your own money?

A I hired Mr. Keep and I paid Mr. Keep. Now, I did borrow money to do that because I have been in a very bad financial position since about 2010, but I felt strongly that this suit

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needed to be filed.

Q Okay.

From whom did you borrow money?

A I did borrow money from Cathy Hoagland.

Q How much?

A 5,000.

Q And are you paying interest on it?

A I will be. We will see how this goes, and I don't know how much more it will be. I will tally it up and I will repay them.

Q Do you have a Promissory Note?

A I don't have a Promissory Note with them, with her on this.

Q Do you have any kind of writing about it?

A I don't believe there is.

Q Do you know if she ever looked at this lawsuit before it got filed?

A I don't know. I really don't.

Q Did you give it to her?

A I did not.

Q Did you give it to Mr. Hoagland?

A I did not.

Q Let us look at paragraph 12, sir.

Calvin Hoagland, Skip, is a Director of

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Beaufortwatchdog.org, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to transparent and honest government. Skip's organization --

So in your Pleading it sounds like Skip runs Beaufortwatchdog.org? It is his organization?

A Yes, I would say he has a lot to do it with it. You asked me where all the funding comes from. I don't know if he gets funding from other people.

Q I guess I was asking what the structure was and who controls it? And obviously Mr. Hoagland?

A Okay. I would equate Beaufortwatchdog.org with Mr. Hoagland, but that wasn't the question I heard.

Q I apologize.

But to clear that up, what you have in your Pleading here you believe to be accurate?

A Yes.

Q And Beaufortwatchdog.org offers a $30,000 reward to anyone who comes forward with information that leads to the arrest, conviction and imprisonment of a corrupt public official. I am just reading out of your Complaint.

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Are you prosecuting this action to get a reward?
A No, sir.
Q Okay.
Who pays the reward? Where does the money come from?
A You would have to ask Mr. Hoagland or Beaufortwatchdog.org I really don't know. I am not close to Beaufortwatchdog.org. I speak with Mare occasionally, maybe every couple of months about things.
Q Let us talk about it, it seems like in this Complaint you are upset about one thing, that Mr. Hoagland wasn't allowed to speak at a meeting, that his constitutional rights were impaired?
A I don't think it is just the one incident, but yes that was one of them, that it was true. You can see it on tape and then they shut him down and --
Q But he did get to speak?
A Yeah, eventually after whatever. But they tried to stop him speaking.
Q Well, but they ultimately let him speak?

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A Okay.
Q I mean did they?
A They did in that meeting, yes. But they have always tried to hush him up during the meetings. Now, you take this to Bluffton, they are trying to use the same play book here to sue them; and he was taken out by Officers out of that meeting. And he was tried to be stopped -- so what I am suggesting, I understand your question, was he allowed to speak at that time? Will he be able to speak again? Will he be able to speak after a lawsuit like this? Will I be willing to speak in front of Town Council again after this case is heard if she is successful?
Q Well, let me ask you a question, you have seen him speak at a lot of meetings? I am talking about the Town of Hilton Head?
A Yes, any meeting that I have attended that he spoke I did see him, yes.
Q So nobody is stopping him from speaking?
A Did you see him speak in front -- I mean they interrupt him often. And not only there. If you want to carry this to -- and I know this is Hilton Head but --

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Q Would you agree, though, in order to conduct a meeting you have to have some decorum, some rules, some time limits?
A Right, but you have 3 minutes. And they typically will try to stop him within his 3 minutes. You can't say this. You can't say that. I don't think that that is free speech, so that is me. Maybe other people think it is.
But even I got admonished once because I said something. And it is the way I felt and it was free speech, and it wasn't threatening to anyone. I just think there is not free speech in the Town Council and I think this will make it much, much worse to have what I call a slap suit to stop people like Skip or me or anyone else in the community from wanting to get up there and risk being sued for defamation.
Q Okay. But you agreed with me earlier that there is a line?
A There is a line, okay.
Q And I don't think you have ever crossed it?
A I never crossed the line.
Q Yeah, I am not saying that you have.
I am just saying that we as reasonable

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people agree that --
A Right.
Q -- Somewhere in there you can leave free speech and cross into unprotected speech?
A Yes.
Q Okay.
And that speech wouldn't necessarily have to be in the meeting. It could be Email's? It could be phone calls?
A Sure, it could be on social media and all in between --
Q It could be a campaign in different formats?
A Right.
Q Okay.
So your first cause of action is negligence, right? You think they were negligent because they paid her fees, right?
A I think it was misappropriation or conversion would be the term, whatever you -- which section is this?
Q I am on page 5 of 13. It sounds like you think they failed in their duties, misuse, conversion misappropriation, malfeasance, running a legal vendetta?

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A Yes, sir.
MR. KEEP: Gregg, I am sorry but --
MR. ALFORD: Am I reading it wrong?
MR. KEEP: You are unintentionally mischaracterizing.
MR. ALFORD: Okay, I apologize.
MR. KEEP: Official misconduct, South Carolina Code of Laws 8-1-80, which would be --
MR. ALFORD: Oh --
MR. KEEP: -- you know, negligence per se, but breaking a law.
MR. ALFORD: Okay, I agree with that. I agree with that. I appreciate that.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q So you have accused them of official misconduct?
A Yes, sir.
Q And I got to go back and ask this question because you spoke a little bit about defending someone versus prosecuting.
A Yes.

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Q I mean that is a valid point. I would ask you if someone within a corporation or a public entity, as you likened it to D&O insurance, if someone were being attacked because they were doing their job, unfairly attacked, do you think it would be appropriate for a corporation to hire Counsel and protect that person?
A I think it depends on the situation. I don't think I can make it across the board.
Q And that is a fair answer.
Would you say the same about a public official, if someone has crossed that line and is unfairly attacking them?
A I think, notwithstanding what I have said about crossing a line, I would say that the line extends further for a public official.
Q And I would agree with you on that, by the way.
Do you know what claims Miss Likins filed?
A Not specifically, but you can enlighten me.
Q Sure.
A But I would say that she felt Mr.

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Hoagland was defaming her with comments, particularly to her employer I believe is what it was.
Q What do you think about the comments to the employer?
A I wasn't in on the call. I have no idea what was said or was not said. I understand what was alleged to have said is that he said that she was unfit to be --
Q To be around children?
A I don't know. You are saying that.
Q As an issue?
A To be around children or to be mentoring children?
Q She was unsafe to be around children.
A Okay.
Q Do you think that crosses a line?
A I think that crosses the line if that was said, to be safe around her. Because I don't think she would present any safety issues with children. But on the same token I will tell you that that infamous November 17th meeting made me think very differently of Miss Likins, Mr. Harkins, Mr. Lennox. And who am I missing? Mr. McCann.

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Q The guys that voted against your position?
A Well, but that is one way to say it.
The other way to say it was their reasoning for doing it.
Q Either way they voted against your position and you didn't like it?
A No, I would have accepted it if there was some real merit. I would have accepted it if they had taken the consideration of what the public said and come back in a week and voted against it, I would have no problem.
The reasoning was that they brought every person in the community who was interested in this to give comments. When in fact they had already made up their minds prior to the meeting starting. And for the reason that was given by Miss Likins, which I found very offensive and that was that she voted in favor of the contract because people of the Chamber are wonderful people. They are people in our community that we worship with, our kids play together. We have been to each other's home, and I am almost saying verbatim; and I feel that that borders on cronyism. If you are not looking under the

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sheets to say what is going on here, I am just saying I am going to dismiss all that because er are my friends, my kids play with theirs.

And then you have Mr. Harkins who said I made up my mind the night before, these are top people in our community. I think that there is official malfeasance to do that, especially given evidence that I presented to them about other communities that have gone through similar things. And I even spoke to each of those people, the Palm Beach County controller, in Palm Beach Florida who has gone through that with Palm Beach Visitors Convention Bureau and the Mayor of Sherlock, California, who both said you have got to have an agreement, the ability to look at their books, the ability to do an audit.

Q I am sorry, I understand. I didn't mean to cut you off. I know Russ has asked to me to not get too far in the weeds on the Chamber stuff, and I respect that.

MR. KEEP: I got to say I think perhaps you have negligently -- not negligently, sorry -- inadvertently mischaracterized Kim Likins' lawsuit,

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because nowhere in it has he said that she shouldn't be around kids. I mean I have it right here --

MR. ALFORD: That was probably in our motion for an injunction, which we got.

BY MR. ALFORD:

Q Since this was in her lawsuit since Mr. Keep handed it up, are you aware that one of the first things that Miss Likins went after was an injunction to stop Mr. Hoagland?

A Yes.

Q Are you aware he consented to it?

A I don't know about that. I knew that was done and I felt that that is where everything should have stopped. That was done.

Q Are you aware that he only consented -- like he is fighting it. I will consent for now, but I am not going to agree to a permanent injunction, so the fight is still on?

A I am not aware of that, no.

Q Would that matter to you?

MR. KEEP: You can't get an injunction on future speech. There is no such thing.

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MR. ALFORD: Well, I am sorry. We can talk about that later.

BY MR. ALFORD:

Q Are you aware "though" that this case is still going on? The injunction issue is still in front of the Court?

A I am not aware of that, no.

Q Do you think an injunction would be appropriate if someone had crossed a line against a public official, like we talked about that line, which we agreed is further away for a public official, do you think an injunction would be an appropriate remedy to stop somebody from doing it if they threatened to do it?

A I would say yes. Based on that, yes.

Q So that portion of the lawsuit would you agree is appropriate?

A I don't know the details, but if you are saying in general if somebody felt that somebody crossed that line that we are talking about, would it be appropriate for them to file a suit for an injunction against an individual, and I would say yes.

Q And I appreciate that, because that is an important concept to me, because Miss Likins,

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you are mad at her for what she did in her -- you are disappointed, whatever word you want to use?

A I was very angry about her and the three other gentlemen.

Q Fair enough. I didn't want to over characterize it, but I appreciate that.

A Okay.

Q But in that you, I guess what I am saying is that feeling of you being frustrated in what they did and that you didn't take it to the next level and call her boss?

A No, it wouldn't cross my mind to do that.

But I will tell you what, I was very angry and I think if you saw my video in that day you would probably see some lip reading of expletives that I was just flabbergasted.

Q I understand that. I can't see well enough to lip read.

So I guess I would just say, do you think it is improper for the Town to protect her from over the line conduct and go and get an injunction?

A Not the injunction but to --

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Q Okay.
A But to now go to the next step to weaponize her to go and sue -- and let's just make it John Doe, not Skip Hoagland, to go and get funding from the Town to go sue with unlimited funds anyone who says something that they might feel is defamatory, whether true or not. So it is going to make someone like me very, you know, trepidatious to go in front of the Town Council again and voice my opinion because I have a possibility of being sued.
Q Okay, go ahead.
A So what happens with -- I think -- I don't want to be cliche, but the democracy in this Town is under siege if something like this passes to be subjective of saying that he defamed me, and therefore I am going to sue his butt.
And then what happens if there was a real allegation that says somebody -- anybody, truly they did something and they are corrupt, and they did this and da da da. And oh, here comes the wallet from Town we are going to sue them because -- it is just wrong. It is just wrong.

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Q You have lived here since how long?
A 2001.
Q 18 years?
A Yes.
Q Have you ever met anybody like Skip Hoagland before?
A No, and I probably won't ever again. I think he is the most tenacious person I have ever met. Do I agree with his methods and operations? No, I am not like that at all. I am totally the opposite.
Q I can tell.
I guess what I am asking you in the time that you have been here, you vocally criticized the actions of the Town. In fact, you just made reference to lip reading expletives because you were disappointed.
A It was under my breath.
Q I don't care.
But what I want to ask you is there has never been another suit like that filed, has there?
A Well, not everybody is going to --
Q Maybe not everybody is going to cross the line?

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A Maybe that, but maybe everybody is not going to speak their mind.
Q But maybe everybody is not going to cross the line?
A I would say now you put out an example of what you think he said, and we are not seeing that here. If he said that she was a danger to children, I would say that is really crossing the line.
Now and on that same token, would I want Kim Likins, Mr. Harkins, McCann -- and you are going to say it is for my own personal reasons, they didn't vote and see things the way I did, that is not the case. I would vehemently disagree with you that that is the case.
I am saying that because they didn't do the next step of what their job was to do, they didn't do it, I would not want any of those individuals mentoring my kids or my grand kids on ethics or how to operate in government, to be quite honest. I didn't say she wouldn't be safe around kids, but I wouldn't want her mentoring my kid, I wouldn't want Harkins or McCann or Lennox.
Q That is fair.

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Why don't you vote them out?
A They are not all in my district, so I can't vote all of them out.
But I just want to say one thing you said, so everything is accurate, I no longer live in Hilton Head. I live in Bluffton now so --
Q Yeah, I understand. I am not trying to --
So let us keep going a little bit. I know Russ will yell at me if I go too, long, so you think they committed personal misconduct by funding litigation, but you agree that if her allegations are true about danger around kids and all that an injunction would be appropriate?
A Yeah, danger to kids, yeah, I would say that that goes --
Q And it wasn't what she did at the Boys & Girls Club, it wasn't what she did at church, it wasn't what she did anywhere else, it is what she did in her official capacity in Town Council?
A Well, I think most people -- I don't know, but you would have to ask Skip -- but I would say to me she is a very sugary lady. I

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don't have anything with her as being a church going person or a good person in the community. I feel that she failed in her job.

Q And if she were improperly attacked for that job and I say improperly, and if there is evidence of it, I mean people don't bring suits without evidence?

A Yeah, but improper is a subjective term so improperly if he said you didn't do a good job or --

Q That is free speech --

A I say that you did this because you are corrupt, that is free speech.

If he said that plus you are a danger to be around kids, I think that changes it.

Q What if he said before the vote if Kim Likins votes against the forensic audit, Bill Miles and the HHI Chamber, I will ask that she be booted off Town Council and removed from the Boys & Girls Club for violating public trust. So if he were to write to one of her board members and say that, do you think that is proper?

A I wouldn't do it, but I am not sure I can say that that is -- I wouldn't say that that

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is polite. I wouldn't say it is not proper. I would say booting her off the Town Council I think definitely is -- I would probably say that too.

Q Okay, but that is public domain?

A Right.

Q What about the next step, firing her from her job?

A No, I wouldn't go there.

Q Because in your mind, and you are not the judge of it, and I am not either, we are just people talking about things here, so in your mind that might cross that line?

A Yes, sir.

Q All right.

Let's see what if he said Likins should be removed from Council and from her job at the Boys and Girls Club because she is quote, "Unfit to be around children? And quote, "Dangerous for the kids"?

A Dangerous for the kids sounds over the line to me.

Q Appropriate to go file a suit to get an injunction to protect her from that?

A Which she did and he abided by it, I

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guess, right?

Q Well, not really. He did for a while.

What if he said to her, quote, "You will be in my full page ads to publicly disgrace you"?

A I think as long as he left out the part about kids being safe around her and booting her from her job, if he said that for these reasons, that she failed to do her duty as a public official, I think it is fair game.

Q Okay. Let's see, so you are also mad because she didn't talk to the IRS and file a 1099 or something or whatever, right?

A You are talking about a substantial amount of public funds here that I feel that if there really was a resolution that was passed by the Town on January 15th or something like that, 2016, that it would be somewhere where we could all see it. I have never seen it, and I don't know that anyone has done that. I think that --

Q Are you aware they can do oral resolutions?

A It didn't even say -- it seem the minutes did not seem to clarify there was an oral resolution passed. There was a vote, but

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the vote was to consider the payment. It was a vote to consider whether or not the Town would be paying for it, but it didn't say that they were voting for approving that funds be made available to Miss Likins for the suit.

Q All right.

Your next cause of action says violation of 18-13-1326, which looks like about a loan to a candidate, right? You can look at it, it is paragraph 25.

I mean it is about violating -- it is a loan to a candidate, right?

A Okay.

Q Was Miss Likins a candidate at the time that this went on?

A 2015?

Q I didn't tell you that.

A Was the election in 2016 for her?

MR. KEEP: She is still in office, isn't she?

MR. ALFORD: No.

MR. KEEP: When did she end --

MR. ALFORD: She later ran for Mayor and lost.

MR. KEEP: Well, she wouldn't have

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to resign from the Council.
MR. ALFORD: She did.
MR. KEEP: Do you remember when she stopped being, because I don't?
MR. ALFORD: When was the Mayor's race?
Off the record.
(Whereupon, an off-the-record discussion was held.)
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q Do you know whether or not Miss Likins was actively a candidate at the time that you complained about this?
A I thought she was.
Q But if she wasn't, you would agree this code section doesn't apply?
A If she was not a candidate when she received the funds, then I would say it probably wouldn't apply.
MR. KEEP: Gregg, aren't politicians always candidates?
MR. ALFORD: No, only if they are dumb.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q This one I think is your third cause of

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action, the procurement code?
A Right.
Q So you are frustrated that -- tell me what you think about that? What are you trying to say here in this procurement. I know the word procurement.
Are you saying that they didn't --
A What is the number again?
Q Starting at the top, page 7. I think I kind of go down and you kind of get to where I think 33, 34, you are kind of like hey, you shouldn't have entered into this because you didn't do a procurement?
A I do agree with that. And again I am not an attorney, but I have done a lot of research in that for state law and for the Town's ordinances.
Q And are you aware of what 11-1-317, emergency procurement is?
A Not to --
Q Emergency procurement, do you want to look at it?
A Sure.
Q Okay.

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(Whereupon, Defendant's Exhibit Number 3 was marked for identification.)
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q I want to go back in time because you seem upset about this procurement issue?
A Yes.
Q And I am trying to understand.
So do you know about the timing of when these ads were run by Mr. Hoagland? Or when these phone calls were being made?
A Sometime subsequent to November 17, 2015.
Q And that November 17, 2015 meeting was a Tuesday?
A Yes.
Q Are you aware, sir, that after that Tuesday Mr. Hoagland was mad, wasn't he?
A Yes, we all were. Anybody who was there at the meeting.
Q On that side of the ball was mad?
A Not because of the decision, but the way the decision was made, I want to clarify that, at least for myself. I can't speak for Mr. Hoagland.

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Q Or anybody else?
A Right.
Q But there were a group of people with whom you had some community in terms of what you thought was going on, and not saying you adopted their tactics or methods?
A My speech, which was subsequent to that, which was what was published and that pretty much laid out my feelings about that day.
Q And so are you aware that it was that weekend that an ad appeared in the Island Packet, full page, which criticized roundly and soundly Mr. Harkins, Mr. Lennox, Mr. ?
A McCann.
Q McCann and Miss Likins?
A Okay.
Q And in that ad it said that she was unfit for her job at the Boys & Girls Club and that was a full page ad on Saturday?
A Okay.
Q And that during that period of time Mr. Hoagland had been contacting in a angry demanding manner the people on her board and saying things by telephone and by Email, saying things like she is unfit to be around children

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and dangerous for the kids.
Are you aware that was happening in that time frame?
A No.
Q Are you aware, sir, that there wasn't going to be another meeting until not the next Tuesday, but the one after? So there is a time gap, are you aware of that?
A I would say very possibly that time of year, yeah, sure.
Q And you are aware that Mr. Hoagland in his statements told the Plaintiff you will be in my full page ads to publicly disgrace you, and that was in the meeting, and he followed through with that, and indeed he published it in the local newspaper with the headline that his long war with the Council was just beginning?
A I don't remember that, but I believe you.
Q So what I am saying is so here are the Town Council, Miss Likins and the Town manager faced with an attack, which we believe was improper, the Town believed was improper, went over that line, you and I talked about which is further out for a public official?

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A Uh-huh.
Q And you would agree with me that dangerous around kids, that probably goes over it?
A Uh-huh.
Q And had run the ads in the Packet and had threatened to run them again and was contacting board members of the Boys & Girls Club.
Are you aware that this was going on?
A Only from what I have read in other --
Q Okay, if I told you that that was the circumstances and that there was a fear that these things were going to get worse or continue, unless something was done, meaning going further over the line, would you agree that that was somewhat of an emergency to stop that, because you can't take back the spoken word? You can't take back the written word?
A I wouldn't -- probably. I mean I would have to put myself in the shoes of the Town and I would --
Q Or of the individual being attacked?
A I would not probably go nuclear at that point until I saw what was going to happen.

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This is going nuclear. This is going after somebody who is saying things that you don't like to hear.
Now, the only thing I would say if you say I am going to go after your job, I am not sure I still put that in the category of over the line. I wouldn't do it, as I said earlier, but the only thing that I said is going over the line to continue to say that she is not safe to be around children, I think that is the remark that goes over the line for me.
Q Okay.
A This is a very dangerous, slippery slope to go after somebody in the community that has spoken their mind, such as myself, such as many other people.
And I think you are seeing this spread and I know you want to contain this to Hilton Head, but this is kind of the same play book, the page and the play book that is now being played in Bluffton. They have tried to stop Mr. Hoagland from speaking in Beaufort, and I can just see this going everywhere to say that we will pay for anyone to go after someone who disrupts a meeting or says things that they

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don't like to hear, and I think that is the danger I see.
Q I understand that.
Let's say this, these Town Council officers, they are not full time?
A No.
Q I mean they are people that work in the community?
A Right.
Q I mean they are not paid well, do you agree with that?
A Oh, I agree.
Q It is hard to get people to do it?
A Yes, I agree with you.
Q Seriously, arguably that is a problem they have all around the United States, it is hard to get people out of the private sector, really, really the best and brightest?
A Well, why don't we vote for a strong Mayor? You asked me the question, why don't you vote him out. Why don't you vote him in to have a different setup. It is what it is is what I am saying --
Q It is what it is, and so with the framework that we have getting good people to

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put their time in is hard?
A Yes.
Q And it is even harder if there is no limit, if they don't vote the way you like them to on how you can attack them?
A I still don't like that characterization in reference to this and how I might have felt --
Q I am not talking about you. I am talking about Mr. Hoagland.
A To me it was not the way the vote went as far as the count. It is the way that the decision was made to take the vote. So I wasn't clear on that.
Q I understand that. I am not even worried about the vote and all that. It is what it is and everybody's emotions at the time.
The problem is, what you are concerned about in your lawsuit is Mr. Hoagland engaged in some conduct --
A He engaged in --
Q In certain conduct after the vote?
A Okay.
Q Which was to attack her and go after her employers on the board and to run a full

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page ad attacking her and to say she is not fit to be around kids, and that is why the suit was filed. Not because of the vote.
A That is why the Restraining Order was filed. That is why the Restraining Order was filed.
Q Okay.
A Okay. That was done several hundred dollars to file that suit to get him to comply with that.
And then you say now let us take it up a notch and let's go after him, that is the way I see it.
Q All right.
Are you aware of how Mr. Hoagland defended the case?
A How he what?
Q You don't like the number. It is a lot of money?
A Yeah.
Q Are you aware of how that case has been defended by Mr. Hoagland?
A No.
Q Are you aware that he was represented by an insurance carrier?

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A I did know something about that, yes.
Q And that he pretty much used that lawsuit and his insurance carrier's money to depose a lot of Chamber of Commerce people and a lot of others in that litigation?
A I am not aware of how the money was used, no.
Q Well, would you agree with me if that is what it happened it would have increased the cost of the litigation?
A I don't know.
MR. KEEP: One second, my wife is calling me.
MR. ALFORD: Off the record.
(Whereupon, a short break was taken.)
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q But I am saying you made the point, well, if it was just an injunction we could have spent a little bit of money and not had them go crazy, right? Not have to spend all this money?
A Yeah, I am not privy as to what went on after, so I ...
Q So assume for a moment that now Mr. Hoagland has basically a blank check to do

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Discovery and do what he wants to do to go after the people involved in this, and so he used that --
A For the injunction?
Q For the whole lawsuit?
A For the injunction?
Q Yeah, for the whole lawsuit. There is separation in the case.
A I don't know how that works.
Q But let me just say, if I were to tell you that he used his insurance defense lawyers and their funds to conduct Discovery on the Town, on people in the Chamber, and that the Plaintiff's side, Miss Likins' side maybe noticed two or three depositions and he noticed 14, do you understand why the numbers get so skewed?
A I am hearing what you are saying, and I can understand that what you are saying.
Q If what I am saying is correct you can understand it, but you don't know?
A I don't know.
Q So back to the timing, reasonable people can agree or disagree about whether it was an emergency procurement, some people laugh

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at the concept.
MR. ALFORD: For the record note Mr. Keep's laughter.
MR. KEEP: It is wonderfully laughable.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q So but you do agree that there are times?
A I have heard emergency funding for hurricanes that haven't come through. Here is a $100,000 for the Chamber. It doesn't seem like emergency funding to me. I see lots of no bid contracts be given to people, service providers. So there are many of them.
Q There are no big contracts. I would like to get a no bid contract for 10 years for 500,000-plus and --
MR. ALFORD: Off the record.
(Whereupon, an off-the-record discussion was held.)
THE WITNESS: But anyway I feel that the procurement issues precede this issue.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q Okay.

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A And obviously we are saying that in this case, so yes, I say my feeling it would not be an emergency, so I think were valid in this Complaint.
And I would also say that historically many things that I have looked into, including the way the Chamber had a relationship with the Town for that many years with no contract, no oversight, no open bidding, those kinds of thing would say that it is an endemic issue, not just a single issue here.
Q But at the time that this decision was made regarding. You weren't the one taking the incoming fire from Mr. Hoagland, so you really don't know whether or not it was an emergent situation? You didn't even know about the timing?
A I would also have to see what other options could have been before launching a lawsuit.
Q Well, I mean you know Mr. Hoagland. What do you think the options would have been? Call him up and talk to him?
A Maybe.
Q How do you think that would go?

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A Have you tried?
Q Do you think you would get yelled at?
A I am not afraid of people yelling at me, but I would probably try to ameliorate the situation to try to find some common ground.
Q After the damage had been done?
A I mean we can't go into this after the fact to say what we could have or should have done or what the outcome would have been.
But I would have said rather than to start something that is going to possibly deter the public from participating in the local government, which this will make me never speak in front of Town Council again, okay? It will spread like wild fire. It is already spreading to Bluffton and Beaufort. It is going to happen. And if you are okay with that and say that the means justify the ends, or however that goes, then maybe it is all worth it for you all. I think it is a slippery slope and I think it is wrong.
Q I agree it is a slippery slope. And I think that is why people have to be careful about it. I don't disagree with you. What I am saying to you is, isn't there that other side of

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the coin that if you have got someone that is so disruptive and so disrespectful and crosses those lines, that you have to do something about it. I mean how are you going to have a meeting?
A Let me put this to you, and I don't know how you fall along the political spectrum, let's just say here is the President of the United States who is called a racist every day, a rapist, a misogynist, a xenophobe, of doing all these things, should we be using our tax dollars to go after everyone that says those things about him every day?
Q Well --
A Is that an emergency? Does it stop him from doing his job daily?
Q Well, I guess that is the difference because that is his full-time job.
A I don't think that is the difference.
Q Well, that is okay.
A He chose to become that President of the United States.
She chose to run for Town Council. She knew that it was a low paid job before she did it. It wasn't a surprise to her --
Q Did she know she would accused to be a

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danger around kids, do you think that is okay?
A You are using that one example.
Q I think it is a pretty good one.
A I probably wouldn't run because I am not going to take flack from -- it is not worth it to me, but she felt it was worth it to her.
Q So free shots at her?
A I don't think many people get free shots, you are calling it free shots. I think most people treat her with respected deference.
Q Do you think Mr. Hoagland does?
A I think in his own inimicable way he does.
Q Come on --
A No, I think he is honest. I think he is honest.
Q Well, he says what he thinks?
A Yeah, he says what he thinks.
Q He says what he thinks is true, whether or not he knows it is true?
A You would have to ask him.
Q Let me ask you this, are you aware of him ever doing any research into whether or not she is dangerous around children?
A I am not.

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Q The Fourth Cause of Action.
MR. KEEP: Didn't Pontius Pilate say what is truth?
MR. ALFORD: But he washed his hands and sealed his fate.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q Oh, Barratry, so you are mad because the Barratry stirring up baseless litigation against Skip, but also by paying for it.
Barratry, now, it seems to me with all due respect that you might be filing this lawsuit on behalf of Skip?
A I don't -- I don't fully see how that -- I am not an attorney. My attorney drafted this up based upon comments that I made about how I felt. I couldn't tell you the definition of Barratry at this point.
(Whereupon, Defendant's Exhibit Number 4 was marked for identification.)
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q I mean with all due respect Miss Hoagland gave you the money for this suit?
A Lent, Mrs. Hoagland.
Q I am sorry, I am not trying to be

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disrespectful.
She loaned you the money for this suit without a note?
A Because I couldn't pay it. Had I had the money I would have put my own money into it.
Q And you seem to be complaining about things that were done to Skip, stirred up baseless litigation against Skip; not letting Skip speak, even though he did?
A Well, I think he is the only example we have of that so far, but I think you will see more.
Q Okay.
Have you seen any more?
A Bluffton.
Q No, I meant here?
A Not so far, but I expect it; especially my perception is that if this is successful, then you will see it over and over again.
Q But you don't feel like the way you filed this lawsuit could be perceived as Barratry, since you seem to be filing it for Skip?
A I am just filing this for me. I am paying for this suit.

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Q Okay.
A I had to borrow the money to do it temporarily, and I will repay Cathy for that loan.
Q How much do you owe her now?
A 5,000.
Q I want to show you what I will mark as Exhibit 5.
(Whereupon, Defendant's Exhibit Number 5 was marked for identification.)
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q Would you mind taking a second to look that over, sir.
(Whereupon, an off-the-record discussion was held.)
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q Back on the record, sir, Mr. Hoagland filed a lawsuit in State Court, which is remarkably similar to the suit you filed.
A Okay.
Q In terms of the Causes of Action and the claims and those things.
That case got removed to the Federal Court.

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A Okay.
Q Okay? This is an Order from the Judge in Federal Court dismissing that lawsuit.
A Okay.
Q I will say this so I am clear, this Order is being appealed by Mr. Hoagland and his attorneys.
So arguably it could come back if that makes any sense to you.
A Okay.
Q But were you aware of this?
A No.
Q You weren't aware that a Federal Court has basically passed on the issues you raised in your lawsuit?
MR. KEEP: Wait a minute now. This lawsuit isn't against the Town. I am sorry. It is an unintentional mischaracterization. This suit isn't against the Town spending a great deal of money suing a private individual.
MR. ALFORD: I am sorry. Could I -- number 1, I will agree with you that it doesn't mention the Town.
THE WITNESS: Who is the attorney

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on the other side?
MR. KEEP: It is not me.
MR. ALFORD: Mr. Keep is not -- it is now Barrett Brewer is doing the appeal. Before that Mr. Hoagland's lawyer was someone else. The lawyers defended Mr. Bennett, Mr. Harkins, the Town Council members, they were sued individually.
THE WITNESS: I just want to be sure that I don't say anything that is wrong. This is a question I have. I can't ask my attorney but --
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q You can take a second and ask him. I don't care if you want to ask him.
MR. KEEP: Well, that is improper.
MR. ALFORD: I am just trying to get to the way things are.
MR. KEEP: Of course I don't want my client to think I am a potted plant.
THE WITNESS: What would you like to do, because I have a question about this --
BY MR. ALFORD:

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Q I guess what I am asking is --
MR. KEEP: I have to say, Gregg, this lawsuit has nothing to do with my client's lawsuit.
MR. ALFORD: Can I? Can we talk about it a later?
MR. KEEP: Sure.
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q So I guess what happened is Mr. Hoagland brought a suit against the Town Council members individually?
A Okay.
Q For violating his right to free speech, for signing the contract with the attorneys, entering -- like you are complaining about signing the contract, right, with the attorneys? The procurement issue?
A Yes.
Q And you are upset about his free speech violations that you complained about?
A Yes.
Q So those two issues appear to have been passed on by this Federal Court?
A Okay.
Q Were you aware of that?

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A I might have some recollection. I mean there is a lot of lawsuits.
Q Okay.
A I am going to be asked to be a witness at one coming up, and that is why I thought that was this one. That was going to be my question. It is not this one. It is -- I do believe it is the Likins' defamation.
Q Who contacted you?
A That attorney you mentioned.
Q Mr. Barrett Brewer?
A Yes, sir.
Q Did you all talk for a while?
A Yes.
Q What did you all talk about?
A To be prepared to be there on the week of September 9th, I believe.
Q What else did you talk about?
A He asked me -- I mean I don't know what I can tell you.
MR. ALFORD: Well, off the record.
(Whereupon, an off-the-record discussion was held.)
BY MR. ALFORD:
Q What did you and Mr. Brewer talk about?

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A Okay, he contacted me I would say maybe a month ago. And he said you are aware of the defamation lawsuit between Mrs. Likins and Skip Hoagland, and I said I am aware of. I am not intimately aware with the details. And he did tell me that he would be putting me on his witness list and to be prepared with those dates and to see if I would available, that is one thing. And I said yeah, I would be around.

And then he asked me kind of my involvement with things in the past and the Town and stuff like that. So I did share with him many of the things I have shared with you today.

Q Anything you talked to him about that we haven't talked about?

A Not that I can recall.

Q Thank you. I am done.

THE COURT REPORTER: Mr. Alford will take the original and an electronic copy of the deposition.

Mr. Keep will take an electronic copy.

(WAIVED SIGNATURE.)

(Whereupon, the deposition of Peter Buonaiuto was concluded at 12:01 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA:
BEAUFORT COUNTY:

I, Ceil Weser, CSR and Notary Public in and for the above county and state, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony was taken before me at the time and place herein before set forth; that the witness was by me first duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that thereupon the foregoing testimony was later reduced by computer transcription; and I certify that this is a true and correct transcript of my stenographic notes so taken.

I further certify that I am not of counsel to either party, nor interested in the event of this cause.

Ceil Weser

Ceil Weser, CCR
Notary Public
Beaufort, South Carolina

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF BEAUFORT Kim Likins, Plaintiff, v. C. C. "Skip" Hoagland, Defendant.	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CASE NO.: 2015-CP-07-2937 **SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT OF GREGORY M. ALFORD**

Personally appeared before me Gregory M. Alford, who being duly sworn, testifies as follows:

1. I offer this Affidavit as testimony, under oath and under penalty of perjury, stating and affirming that I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, that I am competent to testify to the matters set forth herein, and that all statements included herein are truthful and accurate.
2. My name is Gregg Alford. I am over the age of eighteen. I am an attorney at the Alford Law Firm, LLC.
3. Along with Trenholm Walker and John P. Linton, Jr., I represent the Plaintiff in this action, which was filed on December 10, 2015.
4. Attached hereto are true and accurate copies of e-mails I have received from the Defendant C.C. "Skip" Hoagland. The e-mails show the sender, intended recipients, and the date and time the e-mails were sent.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Gregory M. Alford

Sworn this 29 Day
of January 2018

V. Allison

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: V. ALLISON
Notary Public, State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires 5/19/2026

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E-Mail #6

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ELECTRONICALLY FILED - 2018 Jan 29 5:12 PM - BEAUFORT - COMMON PLEAS - CASE#2015CP0702937

From: CC Hoagland
To: gregg@alfordlawsc.com; bill miles; Barrett Brewer; david tigges; stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; mdukes@bcgov.net; edukes@lcre.com; jwiendl@sonesta.com; paula@phbethea.com; John P. Linton, Jr.
Cc: davidb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; Tom Lennox; JohnM@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; WilliamH@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; David Ames; KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; brianh@hiltonheadislandsc.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter to the editor on the Crook Bill miles and Hhi chamber refusing Foia - Crook Gregg Alford Town Lawyer says I am a trouble maker—He needs to be fired and booted off this island!
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 3:18:44 PM

I want to be clear. I will fight any gag order that violates my federal rights or my Florida state citizen rights. I am in 7 lawsuits and will file another one against the Town of Hilton Head soon. Regardless of gag order on just one lawsuit, I have no gag order on my others. Gregg, you, crook Steve Riley and Brian Hulbert used and committed theft of Town general public tax funds to become a private corporation chamber member. Most all of this council went to the chamber ball to wine and dine on tax payers dime, correct???? Yes, David Tigges calls this the annual meeting. Mr Weindl, I don't lie..I never called you a weisel. I have never claimed anyone is a danger to anyone. I have never bribed anyone. I don't lie?
All my emails are and will be about all my lawsuits, not just one gagged lawsuit. I honestly only care about one thing and one thing only - full transparency, not he said, she said and all the sick twisted lying games. Tired of hearing about people's fear of me and guns. Mr Alford, if anyone is unstable, it's you with your delusional paranoia. This is caused by an extreme case of self guilt. **Delusional disorder** is a mental illness in which the patient presents delusions, but with no accompanying prominent hallucinations, thought disorder, mood disorder, or significant flattening of affect.[1][2] Delusions are a specific symptom of psychosis. Delusions can be "bizarre" or "non-bizarre" in content; non-bizarre delusions are fixed false beliefs that involve situations that *could* potentially occur in real life, such as being followed, shot or poisoned. Apart from their delusions, people with delusional disorder may continue to socialize and function in a normal manner and their behavior does not necessarily generally seem odd. However, the preoccupation with delusional ideas can be disruptive to their overall lives "and lives of others"..

To keep trying to make or paint me as some guy people fear, is crazy and will backfire on you. Mr Alford, you are simply a lying, crooked, incompetent and corrupt lawyer to me and you don't exist. You are just an illegal lawyer and have no standing and should not be allowed to represent any council member individually and in violation of your Town lawyer contract and worse, profit your crooked pocket. You should not be allowed in our depositions, worse to try and provoke me and shot the finger bird, never imagined a lawyer existed like this. You spread rumors about canceled weapons and danger, and intentionally even made the court reporters to be scared of me intentionally to harm me. What did you tell them for them to be scared of me ????you are the danger to yourself. Get help.

Your legal services as Town lawyer for over 14 yrs and pocketing over 4 m also violates procurement, by not giving opportunity to other honest lawyers. You and Brian Hulbert should both be fire and sued for malpractice by the Town. You have done nothing but create problems for everyone with bad and incompetent legal advice. When I operated my companies, you would have never qualified to be my lawyer.

I guess unfortunately I have to be in more depos with you on my next lawsuit where I sued you this time. The tide has turned.

Can't wait to hear more about secret hiring of McNair law firm, 150 k on hurricane Irma, and who is a member of the chamber you and your cronies Riley and Hulbert using general public tax monies that were secret, not approved and was an unconstitutional misuse and theft of public funds. You seem to have a habit of hanging around public funds. I see the only way to fix this is,

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versus just the Town council wining and dining on tax payers dime privately, all tax payers are now members and wine and dine, and more importantly we all get access to the chamber books, right? Seems greed has caused crook Bill Miles problems, you use public funds, you open yourself up to public scrutiny. I now claim all tax payers are members and will ask a tax payer to sue for a legal ruling. The question is simple, if Town council are members all tax payers are members, how is it possible an elected public servant official can use your public tax monies for private benefit and claim he / she is a private chamber member and you the tax payer whose money council used is not? How is it Town Council is a member and claims to be for transparency and not asking Bill Miles and Ray Deal for access to the accounting under the SC non profit corporation act laws? How is it this Council will not even demand a forensic audit or defund until it does. Our councils are doing nothing but facilitating and allowing theft as accomplices and co-conspirators.

Mr Alford, don't go running to the Judge with more lies. My emails are not about a gagged lawsuit. I assume there will be 10 lawsuits before it all ends. I feel very sorry for anyone who gets associated with you. I guess the one satisfaction I get from all this is now watching you have to work for free as your punishment, with zero chance of being paid and I assume soon fired or disbarred and forced to pay back all the stolen monies you received for your illegal legal fees. You could not be trusted with a low level job at Walmart. My final question is, how does a judge gag me dealing with you, if you are illegal, criminal and in violation of the Town lawyer contract and legal services procurement? What exactly have I violated? Have I ever lied?

Lastly Gregg, perhaps we both need to get a physical and mental evaluation to see who is more physically and mentally fit like President Trump just did? Add a lie detector test?

Polygraph results not **admissible**as evidence in criminal **courts**, per R. V. ... However, results of **polygraph** examinations are **admissible in civil** and labor **courts** at the discretion of the judge. The following are **court**citations wherein **polygraph** results were admitted as evidence.

No Thanks

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland
US cell 843-384-7260
Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

Begin forwarded message:

From: Skip Hoagland <shoagland@me.com>
Date: January 18, 2018 at 12:04:34 AM EST
To: Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com>, bill miles <bmiles@hiltonheadisland.org>, stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov, Cary Corbitt <CCorbitt@seapines.com>, jwiendl@sonesta.com, Will Folks <will.folks@gmail.com>, david@myrtlebeachsc.com, "Thenerve.org Rick" <rick.brundrett@gmail.com>, paula@phbethea.com, Weston Newton <wnewton@jsplaw.net>, psommerville@bcgov.net, mdukes@bcgov.net,

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Subject: Letter to the editor on the Crook Bill miles and Hhi chamber refusing Foia - Crook Gregg Alford Town Lawyer says I am a trouble maker—He needs to be fired and booted off this island!

In my 40yrs as a full time resident I have never seen nor imagined so much corruption and anyone more corrupted or crooked than Bill Miles Hhi chamber , Town Lawyer Gregg Alford, Steve Rikey. I can promise you a forensic audit will result in prison 100%. I stake my 50
Yr business career on this and will pay a 50k fine to Bill miles or Gregg Alford if I am wrong pay me a dollar, as my satisfaction greater than money, will be to watch Bill miles and others go to prison.



On Jan 17, 2018, at 8:53 AM, Skip Hoagland <shoagland@me.com> wrote:

> Alert !!!! Unfortunately this article doesn't mention the fact BCSD uses the same auditor as Berkeley Schools for its cookie cutter audit, not designed to catch fraud, theft and embezzlement !!!!!!! Also note audit firm in Columbia JW hunt company Bobby Creech connected and now

working for Webster Rogers accounting firm &Ray Warco on Hilton head Bill Miles chamber accountant, same firm that did Charleston Audit, ties to Berkeley Chamber, Bill Miles and Paula Bethea gave chamber citizen of the year award to Ray Warco Bill miles accomplice accountant. So much corruption it's hard to keep up with the tangled commingled web.
http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article194991854.html
I predict prison for both Jeff Moss and Bill Miles and accountants. Only one reason they both fight so hard and even refuse to volunteer to a forensic audit. GUILTY !!!

We have massive corruption, dysfunction, incompetence and crooks running our county.

Forensic audits are by design to ""keep good people good, good people from going bad and bad people to be good""

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland
US cell 843-384-7260
Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

On Jan 17, 2018, at 7:33 AM, Skip Hoagland <shoagland@me.com> wrote:

> Houston / Hilton Head we have a problem read below. Al Capone and his gang alive and well in Beaufort county.
>
> http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article194991854.html
>
> Just a matter of time ! We now know no one has seen the books or a detailed audit of any institution or non profit Chamber in Beaufort county.
>
> Not one School board member
>
> Not one Chamber board member many lied. Steve Birdwell Sea Pines President never seen the books!
>
> Not one Town council member Lennox , Harkins, Mccaan all lied said they went to chamber offices to see accounting. All liars!
>
> Cary Corbit Sea Pines employee we now discover in business with Chamber Bill miles avoiding Irs Ubit with LCGOA (Low-country Golf owners association) Brad Marra Atax Committee involved and yes past publisher of

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Island Packet Sara Bortons husband Brett Borton and tied to Jane Upshaw past chancellor of USBC.Usbc participated in tourism studies that did performance metrics for the chamber that can not be proven so the chamber could get more Atax funds. This association leaders schemed to destroy and put Marc Frey out of business. Bill Miles and David Tigges Lawyer involved. Steve Riley Town manager connected. Steve Riley secretly hired David Tigges to represent him, David Tigges controlled the Dmo chamber contract to avoid audits, Steve Riley secretly funneled 150k to Bill Mikes for hurricane Irma? Steve Riley secretly used general tax funds to join the Hilton head chamber for years paying top level member dues. All council members approved tax funds to fund chamber apps and websites to profit 400 k salaries, theft, misuse, forms of embezzlement, fraud, Irs tax code violations etc.

No one has seen the books of the
Town of Hilton Head
Town of Bluffton
Town of Beaufort
Beaufort Chamber

The Greater Bluffton Chamber is the only organization that agrees to comply to Foia, Non profit corporation act laws, audits and full disclosure, Procurement!!!!

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland
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On Jan 16, 2018, at 10:42 PM, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com> wrote:

http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article194991854.html

E-Mail #7

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From: CC Hoagland
To: To: McIntosh, Lawton Law Clerk; Lawton Secretary McIntosh; gregg@alfordlawsc.com; John P. Linton, Jr.; Barrett Brewer; Bess DuRant; KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; mdukes@bcgov.net; edukes@lcre.com
Cc: Attorney General Alan Wilson Attorney General Allan Wilson; Sled Paul Grant Sled Paul Grant; shamm@ethics.sc.gov; mburchstead@ethics.sc.gov; dpascoe@scsolicitor1.org
Subject: Likins versus Hoagland —-an Illegal criminal lawsuit created by Corrupt Lawyer Gregg Alford and his Town cronies
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 12:01:30 AM

Your honor, Marvin Dukes should have never allowed this gag order. Gregg Alford and Kim Likins should have been arrested along with others behind this planned and schemed theft to silence me and my free speech rights and profit their pockets.
The only gag order is this lawsuit, I have 5 plus lawsuits all involving many of the same people. How do you separate this? In fact I have a federal lawsuit on this case against the Town with no gag order???
Gregg Alford can not be allowed to get away with this. This 200k tax payers monies to fund a private council members lawsuit should have never been allowed to proceed by Marvin Dukes, and Likins and Alford should have again been arrested. There is nothing normal about this case, including this email, that is warranted and needed. To all my lawyers knowledge, this type of secret theft of tax monies to sue a citizen has never happened before in the 200 yr history of SC. No one including even judges I have talked to have heard of this happening.

This entire Likins case is a result of my fight against chambers to stop competing against their members and to open their books to tax payers under Foia and open their books to their own members under SC non profit corporation act laws. In other words full transparency. Ms Likins lied and refused to do what's right and I made sure everyone knew what she did as an elected public official , who are held to higher standards than citizens.
I have been kicked out or denied membership in 5 chambers in SC. First time in 200 yr history that this has happened to a business man in good standing.

Further, lawyer Russ Keep, my lawyer, was refused as well and put us on the same level as a strip club.

Bottom line is lawyer Alford committed an illegal criminal act, I did not and find myself having to stop attacks on my character and forced to defend myself. Kim Likins already admitted she would not have filed this lawsuit with her own money.

I don't lie and I ask this gag order that was wrong, and does not include my other 4 lawsuits not only removed, but ask that my last fine of $4500 that I also paid, that went into lying crooked Alfords pockets,be returned. I want a hearing ASAP and I ask our authorities to get involved.

Further your honor, you must read the emails and see the desperation of lawyer Alford who is either playing a sick game to shed light on me as a bad guy, to take the light off him, or he truly suffers from a mental disorder call delusional paranoia. Perhaps a combination of both.
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delusional_disorder

If we can't solve this gag order among ourselves, I want to have my lawyers appeal this and if need be, to the Supreme Court if I can. How do you gag a man who has never lied and is defending a lawsuit funded by stolen tax monies? It's insane. So many laws have been broken by Lawyer Alford, who i assume has been getting away with what ever he wanted for last 14 yrs as Town Lawyer. Important, Please also note Mr Alford is also in violation of his Town

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contract, and was not allowed to represent a single council person, only the entire body???? In other he should not even be involved or sending this, nor sitting in on depositions. Futher the last two Mayors on record questioned his legal contract for 14 yrs and paid over 4 million in legal fees, with no procurement laws followed giving opportunities to other lawyers and law firms. He was allowed to do this with his crook friend Town managers. I have asked law enforcement to do a forensic audit on this town looking at theft, fraud, embezzlement, and kick backs and pay offs. Many examples of this online. Also the recent Fbi raid on the Berkeley County SC chamber and School CFO theft of 386k, I helped facilitate. This will not be my last and will keep sending info as I can to authorities. Your honor read these two links to help you understand the hundreds of millions of tax abuse, your taxes and all citizens in SC.
https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/uploadedFiles/Publications/Alerts/alert_dec06_auditor.pdf

https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/uploadedFiles/Public_Funds/conv_ctr_audit_report.pdf

https://www.yankeeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Ending-Corruption-and-Waste-In-Your-Public-School.pdf

When I caught Alford in this tax theft, he attempted to call it a bank loan to escape. He is so crooked and incompetent he did not realize this made it even worse as an attempted cover up..

Not only did Alford violate state and federal banking laws and regulations - he had no agreement with Likins on how to pay back, no collateral, no interest, competes with private banking, puts a citizen at an unfair competitive disadvantage to defend against unlimited tax monies from his own money. They are both trying to profit from the proceeds, not the tax payer if they win. She says if she loses she will not pay it back. They want """"me to pay their theft back"""". This will never happen, over my dead body. So I ask if Kim Likins can use tax monies to sue for private use, can I use tax monies to defend for private use. Ask lawyer Alford this. Since I am not paying nor my insurance company, who is paying back the money Alford?? Who and what branch of the law will force them to pay back the 200k??? What happens if they don't pay it back ???

This has caused my wife and I countless hours to defend this. It has caused severe damage, having our 50 yr perfect insurance record destroyed and our insurance company cancel our policy leaving us uninsured in our retirement. This is not something you plan on at 70 yrs old after working for 50 yrs. This fight is not about Ms Likins who defamed herself, it's about silencing a critic who was exposing their corruption. They committed Barratry, Champerty, Slapp and also being sued by me for violating my 1st amendment and Alford attempted to violate my 2nd Amendment and used the fact I have a concealed weapons permit and carry a gun to scare all the court reporters and make me look like a danger to others. This man is sick. Plus he shot a finger bird at me to antagonize me. Again, nothing normal about this extremely abusive criminal illegal case.

Thanks. I hope we can settle this and move forward. Your Honor, I tried the nice approach for 20 yrs and it did not work. I fight for transparency under Reagan Principal - Trust but Verified. I fight for you and the jury to stop the theft, embezzlement, fraud to millions of our tax monies. I am perhaps the last man standing and citizen that would dedicate his time at 70 and his families money to give back to this county and community.

I have many supporters:

http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article38019903.html

Am I to assume this thief Alford and his co-conspirators and accomplices committed, will be not only allowed to steal tax monies and escape, but send a message to others in the state it's ok
to sue citizens with tax monies if you don't like what they say?? It also say it's ok to unconstitutionally misuse tax funds for private purposes, which the recent Supreme Court case says it's not ok and you can't use public funds, for private purposes that is not for the public good, use and purpose.

Am I to assume they will escape arrest, prosecution and prison and the honest man who caught them red handed stealing gets gagged and futher made to look like the bad guy? Certainly your Honor ,you are a much smarter and better man than this, and after taking 20 mins to read all, will clearly see how bad this all is. Your Honor, ask Alford to tell you one thing I have lied about or done wrong ? Assume I am 80% correct versus 100% . Still Not bad!!
Appreciatively,
Skip Hoagland

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E-Mail #8

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From: CC Hoagland
To: mdukes@bcgov.net; gregg@alfordlawsc.com; Barrett Brewer Chris Nickels; John P. Linton, Jr.; lmcintoshlc@sccourts.org
Cc: edukes@lcre.com; Will Folks; Thenerve.org Rick; Brian Tolley; Stephen Fastenau; Alex Kinkaid; Lucas High; david@myrtlebeachsc.com; Attorney General Alan Wilson Attorney General Allan Wilson; dpascoe@scsolicitor1.org
Subject: Judge Dukes in conflict and must be removed from local cases involving government and chambers
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018 1:28:54 PM

Judge Dukes you recused yourself from my Beaufort Chamber case for good reason, because of all your local connections and the fact your brother is associated with the Beaufort Chamber.

No cases involving Chambers or local government issues should be heard by you, and in fact all cases involving Local government abuse must be moved from this county and especially from your court. How can anyone get a fair trial with you as the judge when you are friends with so many people who are involved in the Chamber cases and, your brother himself voted to kick me out of the Beaufort chamber?

You need to be removed from Peter
Buonaiuto case filed against Hh town council for theft of 200k in tax payers funds, directly related to my federal case and the Likins case and your friend Town Lawyer Gregg Alford. This case is represented by Lawyer Russ Keep who was also denied membership in the Hilton head Chamber. I was kicked out of the Beaufort chamber by your brother ED Dukes ??? Judge Dukes you are related to lawyers Weston Newton and Wes jones, tied to SC Prt and Bill Herbkersman HB 3931, Duane parrish, Ed Riggs SC Terc , Jim Merrill, Helen hill laundering and much more incestuos connections and corruption.

You must get off the Craig Malloy case I am supporting for violations to procurement and abuse to the disabled by Gary Kubic and Josh Gruber Beaufort county government. Happy to meet you with Law enforcement or anyone else to discuss all. Marvin we are watching you very closely and the cases you get assigned ??????

E-MAIL #9

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From: CC Hoagland

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Subject: Re: Todays Paper HB 3931 Hoagland is right Chamber a scam —Hoagland demands polygraph test—Hoagland calls Town Lawyer Alford a Delusional Paranoid —-Hoagland claims Town is Illegal /criminal and allowing theft of our pubic tax monies

Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018 4:20:21 PM

Judge McIntosh / Judge Dukes, there are no rules or policies when a citizen is sued with the illegal criminal use of public tax funds for private use, and worse called a bank loan. My gloves are off!!

To begin, I want law enforcement to act and make arrests, I want this suit tossed out of the court system. How about this idea, since everything else is illegal, lets all meet with the lawyers, judges and FBI? I think at this point, try anything to see if the legal system even works.

I am considering just ending this and let you Judge McIntosh, make the decision with the FBI, on who's guilty versus a jury. The jury will just be overwhelmed on who goes to prison, who pays what fines based on SC law, who pays the 200k pubic tax money theft back to Hilton Head tax payers; Kim Likins, Gregg Alford, Steve Riley and their cronies, all Town council members who schemed this, Skip Hoagland from his empty pocket, Skip Hoaglands' insurance company that has claimed they will not pay, SC insurance fund to rob more tax payers money to pay back robbed money?

I will be in Florida with family, who like me worked hard and honestly their entire life to retire in peace. I never imagined my asking for simple transparency for how public tax monies are spent under SC foia laws, non profit corporation act laws, independent audits from public officials, Chambers CVBS would create this type of criminal attack on me. All I did was tried to tell the truth to Kim Likins employers on her actions as a public official, how this council voted for transparency and never imagined I would find myself, my family, my credibility as a past 40 yr resident and business man of Hilton Head attacked.

I never imagined my own insurance company would cancel our insurance and all this illegal criminal use of tax money would destroy my wife and I perfect 50 yr insurance record, and now canceled as a high risk since we used the insurance to pay our defense, some 200k. Now even threatened to be sued by our insurance company to not cover any award giving to Kim Likins to pay back her theft and worse, use any excess tax funds to go into her pocket and the lawyers. The lawyers now are working on contingency after they were forced to stop being paid with stolen tax monies for Ms Likins private use. It's all so criminal, and it further puts me at a financial competitive disadvantage having to pay in the beginning from my pocket to defend myself against unlimited stolen public tax monies. To make it worse for my tirades on trying to expose all this corruption, I get a $4500.00 gag fine by Judge Dukes and his buddy Alford, to go into Alfords and Kim Likins pocket, and I want this money/ theft paid back to me. Not only does this case need to be tossed out, but criminal lawyer Alford and all his cronies need to explain all to the FBI, IRS, Sled. This illegal criminal act violated the proper constitutional use of tax funds, violated state and federal banking laws, no contract with Likins on how she would pay it back. Likins said she is not paying it back, she lied on video Nov 17 2013, there is no interest on loan, no income tax paid on 200k by Likins. Alford is in violation of his Town Lawyer contract and procurement for his legal services for 15 yrs and paid over 4 m in legal fees, caused countless hours of stress and time for me to defend myself. Again, destroyed my

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insurance record and left my wife and I currently uninsured as of Feb 1.

Add this criminal act created by Town lawyer and getting all of Town council to conspire and scheme with him to silence and destroy my fight and exposure on more transparency of public tax funds, also caused violations of Barratry, Champerty, Slapp, First Amendment, and reason for my federal lawsuit, many lawsuits and the local citizen lawsuit filed by a good friend for this illegal criminal theft of 200k in tax funds. To date no law enforcement, judge, Mayor, Town Council or many lawyers are acting on this or even speaking up on and seems all in fear. Therefore, I must take extreme measures with tirades to get this the attention it needs. Acting nicely does not work, I tried that 20 yrs ago.

Question for me is how do I get the best justice and result? Is this by continuing playing in this illegal SC system and keep trying to defend my credibility as a nasty tactic by the other side to win, take the spotlight off them, so they can keep stealing tax money, or tell everyone in SC to go to opposite of Heaven and let the Judges, FBI, Sled and the crooks and illegal criminal Town lawyer Gregg Alford figure it out? Judge McIntosh/ Judge Dukes, who I assume are also friends, I will wait to hear what happens next. I can tell you at 70 yrs old and a man who does not break laws, I have zero to lose and only win. At my age the only thing serious is my health, more fishing and hunting, not this case and SC insanity.

Judge McIntosh what will you do?

Judge Dukes, I also want you off the local tax payers lawsuit case filed by Peter Buonaiuto ASAP and also the Craig Malloy case for violations to procurement and disabled people, I am supporting.

Judge McIntosh I think I am walking away from this case, if I do not like the results of your hearing on all this. Wish I could attend and watch crook Alford pitch all his lies and say what ever he can to keep his non socks rear end from going to prison with all his buddies and clients.

I have had all the SC fun and corruption I can stand. I will be in Florida, let me know what you and the FBI, IRS, DOJ, Sled, AG, Solicitors, SC Ethics commission, my honest lawyers and criminal Gregg Alford all decide, and if you decide to fine me, put me in jail and let the crooks escape, send it all to me in Florida for a response. I can tell you, if anyone thinks they will keep gagging me, violating my 1st or 2nd Amendment rights, it will not happen.

Judge McIntosh / Dukes:
Do you feel I am a liar, a danger, "read all below". Does this seem like it's all a conspiracy and untrue?

I have asked all the lawyers - what part of what I say is untrue, they have no answer. They just attack my credibility in desperation to paint me as a liar and the bad guy, to shed light off the real issue which is, no transparency to public tax monies? Judge, I fight for you, the jury, FBI, IRS, Sled agents and all tax payers, as we all pay taxes and all our tax money is being stolen and unconstitutionally misused.
Would the facts change even if I was a liar? All I ask is a chance to present my case and meet with all law enforcement agencies to tell my story and these agencies confirm my facts and evidence presented. Is this too much to ask to protect your tax monies. Assume I am 80% right.

"""Hoagland is right, and many tax payers agree with him. No one has seen the Chamber accounting. Town council has lied, all been part of allowing unconstitutional misuse of our tax funds by Town Manager Steve Riley and Town lawyer Gregg Alford. There have been over 20 articles, letters to the editors on the Town council allowing no audit of Bill Miles. All, note as Hoagland discovered, the council members also used public tax money secretly to join the private chamber corporation as a

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town council member, and attend a private party "Chamber Ball" to wine, dine on tax payers dime in conflict. Hoagland claims this is another lawsuit as using tax payers money to join, then all tax payers should be members, not just council and all tax payers should have rights to total access of Chamber financial records under the SC non profit corporation act laws. He is also correct that Council is not seeking this transparency as well as a Town tax funded Chamber member. Why not? Council keeps protecting Bill Miles / Ray Deal, Chamber controller, from a forensic audit and keeps handing the chamber money and some supplement funds in secret. As Hoagland states, an arrest will more than likely happen in Beaufort county, once a Berkeley SC Chamber FBI type raid occurs. It is reported Mr Hoagland helped to facilitate this as well""".

Jugde McIntosh, I do not care about my fate, Kim Likins' fate, Bill Miles' fate, this cases' fate. This is not about us, it's about full transparency, no tricks like puppet Bill Herbkersman is attempting with HB3931, to allow our public tax monies to keep being stolen and abused with no transparency or independent audits for the next 100 yrs. Crook lawyer David Tigges and all his SC Chamber cronies are behind this. Again, FBI can end this and all they have to do is interview me and follow my road map of incestuos SC corruption.

Judge, I understand normal procedure. I understand this is not normal to cc Judges involved in all these cases. Nothing is normal about a citizen being sued with public tax monies as well. If I just sit back and play by some normal SC judicial system set of rules and let others get away with all this, without full exposure, I feel I could be another victim of corruption and a failed legal and political system in SC. I love SC and the hunting and fishing I have enjoyed for 40 yrs, but also glad I am now retired, a Florida resident, part time SC and removed myself years ago from any attacks by crooks in SC.

Judge, read below and educate yourself on why we must have Facs (Forensic Audit Committees) set up in every city in SC, made up of retired volunteer and working CPAs with audit backgrounds. These committees then would turn over their findings to the FBI / IRS and other agencies based on what's found. Read links on how to audit a School superintendent, Chamber head and his accountant, read the recent raid by FBI on Berkeley County SC Chamber and School CFO theft of 386k. Read how to audit Steve Riley HHI Town Manager, Town lawyers Gregg Alford, Brian Hulbert. It is my 100% belief once Facs, FBI and audits are done, many will be facing the same result as Berkeley. We need honest authorities, judges and lawyers in this state, to come to reality and have the guts to do what's right. I congratulate the FBI on the first raid and forensic audit on 2 - SC institutions in 200 yr history of SC. Imagine, right out of the gate first SC city and crimes were committed and prison the result. Just the tip of the iceberg in a state where 40 members of the general assembly have been criminally charged. Judge McIntosh / Judge Dukes, do you both think this was just an isolated case?

http://abcnews4.com/news/crime-news/fbi-investigating-berkeley-county-chamber-of-commerce

https://www.google.com/amp/amp.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article194948434.html

https://www.yankeeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Ending-Corruption-and-Waste-In-Your-Public-School.pdf

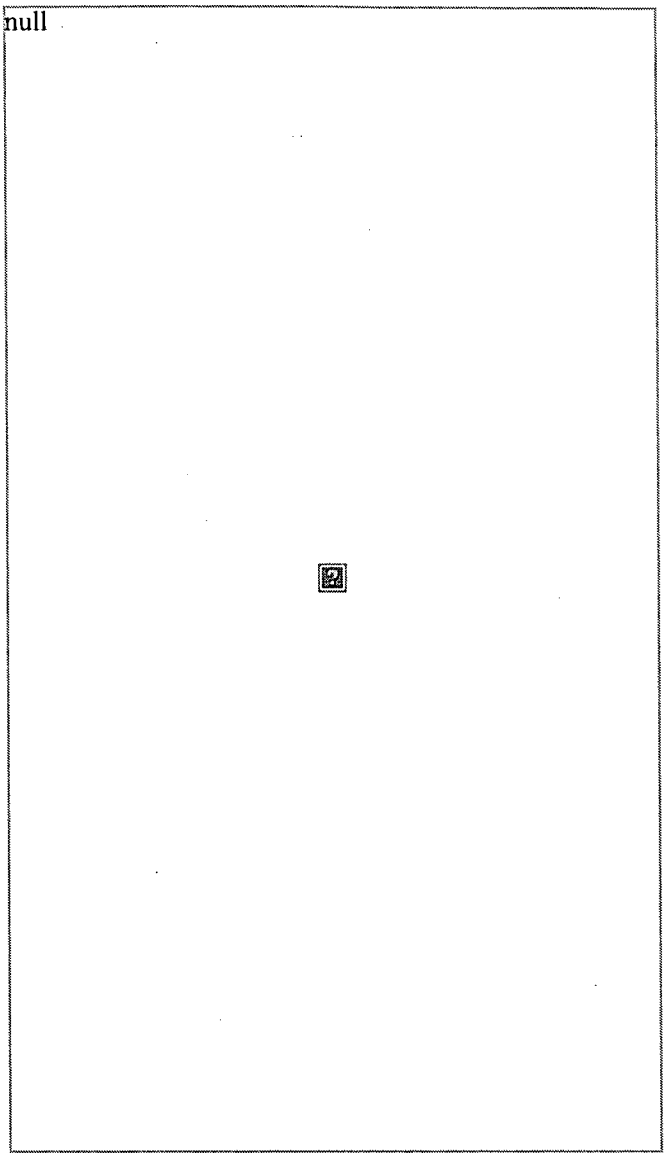
https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/uploadedFiles/Publications/Alerts/alert_dec06_auditor.pdf

Again, never in the history of the USA has any institution, state or non profit, like the Hilton Head Chamber or the Beaufort School Superintendent refused to be audited or volunteer to an audit, and then forced to an audit, and escaped wrong doing and most of the time prison. THATS A FACT!!! Opinions can be a fact or not. A fact is a fact and always true. People lie, numbers don't lie. Reagan Principal, Trust but Verified. Not the current SC good ole boys and gals meaning or understanding

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of this.

null



SC LIE DETECTOR TEST
Hoagland will volunteer to lie detector test and expect others who he accuses of lying to do the same.
https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c053.php

https://www.blr.com/HR-Employment/HR-Administration/Lie-Detector-Tests-in-South-Carolina

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Ed Dukes, his brother kicked Hoagland out of Beaufort Chamber. Judge Dukes related to Rep Weston Newton, tied to SC PRT and Bill Herbkersman HB 3931. Connected to Jim Merrill, Duane Parrish, head of SCPRT, Ed Riggs Terc are all tied to Helen Hill Charleston Cvb, Brad Dean Myrtle Beach chamber, Bill Miles Hilton Head chamber, Berkeley chamber just raided by FBI, all stealing tax money, all violating IRS Ubit. Much much more to this incestuos story!!!

Judge Dukes was forced / recused off Hoagland's lawsuit for conflicts. We now find out Judge Dukes has been assigned to Peter Buonaiuto's lawsuit against the Town of Hilton Head for illegal misuse and theft of 200k in public tax monies to sue Skip Hoagland. Judge Dukes needs to be removed ASAP.

Judge Dukes has been assigned to another case Skip Hoagland is supporting and that is for Craig Malloy, for an abuse by Gary Kubic and Josh Gruber for retaliation against a whistle blower for exposing procurement violations and exploration of disabled people.

Gregg Alford has accused me of being a danger to people to try and discredit me and put the light on me versus the real issues. He claims I was a danger because I refused to allow him to make up lies and try to say I, as a legal concealed weapons permit holder, had no right to conceal my gun in legal lawful places and then told and scared Court reporters and others. He has even coached it seems, to get his clients witness to lie and say I said Kim Likins was a danger to children as a pedophile, which is one of the reasons I want a polygraph test. He got another witness to lie to say I said I am a rich guy and if you fire Likins I will give you money. They claim they deleted the voice mail and have no emails. Fact is, I send hundreds of emails and say everything and anything I believe to be true and factual.

There is so much corruption, lies, secrecy and theft involved in this SC tangled web, it's hard for anyone to imagine it's all happening and I can make this claims.

Forensic audit, forensic audit, forensic audit. If Skip Hoagland is a crooked corrupted liar, lock him up!!
He has already agreed to a 1m fine if wrong and would leave SC. If Bill Miles, Ray Deal, David Tigges, and this chamber has nothing to hide, why will they, Jeff Moss Superintendent of Schools, Steve Riley Town manager not just volunteer to a forensic audit??

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland

US cell 843-384-7260

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https://www.blr.com/HR-Employment/HR-Administration/Lie-Detector-Tests-in-South-Carolina

On Jan 19, 2018, at 12:01 AM, CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Your honor, Marvin Dukes should have never allowed this gag order. Gregg Alford and Kim Likins should have been arrested along with others behind this planned and schemed theft to silence me and my free speech rights and profit their pockets.
> The only gag order is this lawsuit, I have 5 plus lawsuits all involving many of the same people. How do you separate this? In fact I have a federal lawsuit on this case against the Town with no gag order???
> Gregg Alford can not be allowed to get away with this. This 200k tax payers monies to fund a private council members lawsuit should have never been allowed to proceed by Marvin Dukes, and Likins and Alford should have again been arrested. There is nothing normal about this case, including this email, that is warranted and needed. To all my lawyers knowledge, this type of secret theft of tax monies to sue a citizen has never happened before in the 200 yr history of SC. No one including even judges I have talked to have heard of this happening.
>
> This entire Likins case is a result of my fight against chambers to stop competing against their members and to open their books to tax payers under Foia and open their books to their own members under SC non profit corporation act laws. In other words full transparency. Ms Likins lied and refused to do what's right and I made sure everyone knew what she did as an elected public official , who are held to higher standards than citizens.
> I have been kicked out or denied membership in 5 chambers in SC. First time in 200 yr history that this has happened to a business man in good standing.
>
> Further, lawyer Russ Keep, my lawyer, was refused as well and put us on the same level as a strip club.
>
> Bottom line is lawyer Alford committed an illegal criminal act, I did not and find myself having to stop attacks on my character and forced to defend myself. Kim Likins already admitted she would not have filed this lawsuit with her own money.
>
> I don't lie and I ask this gag order that was wrong, and does not include my other 4 lawsuits not only removed, but ask that my last fine of $4500 that I also paid, that went into lying crooked Alfords pockets,be returned. I want a hearing ASAP and I ask our authorities to get involved.
>
> Further your honor, you must read the emails and see the desperation of lawyer Alford who is either playing a sick game to shed light on me as a bad guy, to take the light off him, or he truly suffers from a mental disorder call delusional paranoia. Perhaps a combination of both.
> https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delusional_disorder
>
> If we can't solve this gag order among ourselves, I want to have my lawyers appeal this

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and if need be, to the Supreme Court if I can. How do you gag a man who has never lied and is defending a lawsuit funded by stolen tax monies? It's insane. So many laws have been broken by Lawyer Alford, who i assume has been getting away with what ever he wanted for last 14 yrs as Town Lawyer. Important, Please also note Mr Alford is also in violation of his Town contract, and was not allowed to represent a single council person, only the entire body???? In other he should not even be involved or sending this, nor sitting in on depositions. Futher the last two Mayors on record questioned his legal contract for 14 yrs and paid over 4 million in legal fees, with no procurement laws followed giving opportunities to other lawyers and law firms. He was allowed to do this with his crook friend Town managers. I have asked law enforcement to do a forensic audit on this town looking at theft, fraud, embezzlement, and kick backs and pay offs. Many examples of this online. Also the recent Fbi raid on the Berkeley County SC chamber and School CFO theft of 386k, I helped facilitate. This will not be my last and will keep sending info as I can to authorities. Your honor read these two links to help you understand the hundreds of millions of tax abuse, your taxes and all citizens in SC.
https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/uploadedFiles/Publications/Alerts/alert_dec06_auditor.pdf

https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/uploadedFiles/Public_Funds/conv_ctr_audit_report.pdf

https://www.yankeeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Ending-Corruption-and-Waste-In-Your-Public-School.pdf

When I caught Alford in this tax theft, he attempted to call it a bank loan to escape. He is so crooked and incompetent he did not realize this made it even worse as an attempted cover up..

Not only did Alford violate state and federal banking laws and regulations - he had no agreement with Likins on how to pay back, no collateral, no interest, competes with private banking, puts a citizen at an unfair competitive disadvantage to defend against unlimited tax monies from his own money. They are both trying to profit from the proceeds, not the tax payer if they win. She says if she loses she will not pay it back. They want """"me to pay their theft back"""". This will never happen, over my dead body. So I ask if Kim Likins can use tax monies to sue for private use, can I use tax monies to defend for private use. Ask lawyer Alford this. Since I am not paying nor my insurance company, who is paying back the money Alford?? Who and what branch of the law will force them to pay back the 200k??? What happens if they don't pay it back ???

This has caused my wife and I countless hours to defend this. It has caused severe damage, having our 50 yr perfect insurance record destroyed and our insurance company cancel our policy leaving us uninsured in our retirement. This is not something you plan on at 70 yrs old after working for 50 yrs. This fight is not about Ms Likins who defamed herself, it's about silencing a critic who was exposing their corruption. They committed Barratry, Champerty, Slapp and also being sued by me for violating my 1st amendment and Alford attempted to violate my 2nd Amendment and used the fact I have a concealed weapons permit and carry a gun to scare all the court reporters and make me look like a danger to others. This man is sick. Plus he shot a finger bird at me to antagonize me. Again, nothing normal about this extremely abusive criminal illegal case.

Thanks. I hope we can settle this and move forward. Your Honor, I tried the nice approach for 20 yrs and it did not work. I fight for transparency under Reagan Principal - Trust but Verified. I fight for you and the jury to stop the theft, embezzlement, fraud to

millions of our tax monies. I am perhaps the last man standing and citizen that would dedicate his time at 70 and his families money to give back to this county and community.

I have many supporters:
http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article38019903.html

Am I to assume this thief Alford and his co-conspirators and accomplices committed, will be not only allowed to steal tax monies and escape, but send a message to others in the state it's ok
to sue citizens with tax monies if you don't like what they say?? It also say it's ok to unconstitutionally misuse tax funds for private purposes, which the recent Supreme Court case says it's not ok and you can't use public funds, for private purposes that is not for the public good, use and purpose.

Am I to assume they will escape arrest, prosecution and prison and the honest man who caught them red handed stealing gets gagged and futher made to look like the bad guy? Certainly your Honor ,you are a much smarter and better man than this, and after taking 20 mins to read all, will clearly see how bad this all is. Your Honor, ask Alford to tell you one thing I have lied about or done wrong ? Assume I am 80% correct versus 100% . Still Not bad!!
Appreciatively,
Skip Hoagland

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E-MAIL #10

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From:	CC Hoagland
To:	To: McIntosh, Lawton Law Clerk; Lawton Secretary McIntosh; gregg@alfordlawsc.com; John P. Linton, Jr.; Barrett Brewer; Bess DuRant; KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; mdukes@bcgov.net; edukes@lcre.com; Trenholm Walker; jparker@pmped.com; lsulka@townofbluffton.com; Terry Finger; morlando@townofbluffton.com
Cc:	Attorney General Alan Wilson Attorney General Allan Wilson; Sled Paul Grant Sled Paul Grant; shamm@ethics.sc.gov; mburchstead@ethics.sc.gov; dpascoe@scsolicitor1.org; davidb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov; stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov
Subject:	Re: Likins versus Hoagland —an Illegal criminal lawsuit created by Corrupt Lawyer Gregg Alford and his Town cronies—Lisa Sulka tied in!
Date:	Monday, January 22, 2018 10:58:49 AM

Short recap. The conflicted Gag order by Judge Dukes with Lawyer Alford was to not mention Boys and Girls club which I like others, want to protect, it's a worthy cause. What I did not agree to was 4500 more theft to me as a fine. Because the ad in newspaper and even articles included that fact. Hard to cover every detail with 7 lawsuits and more coming all with the same people "not gagged"

The rest is fair game for my federal lawsuit and other lawsuits, again mostly tied to same people. My federal lawsuit is not gagged, suing all the same town council members including Ms Likins for 10m in damages to me and my family for the 200 k in theft, which caused me far more damages than Ms Likins who has no damages. She infact damaged herself not me, I was just a messenger of truth and facts.

Any attempt to Gag me will be a Federal 1st Amendment violation and I will take all actions available to me. Again I want the gag order dropped and my 4500 back.

Judge McIntosh, have crook Lawyer Alford list all the violations and lies I have committed? Again Lawyer Alford is the criminal not me.

Mr Linton and Mr walker crook Alford is using you both as his puppets and now you both are working for free. You best walk away because you both will not get paid by me or my insurance company for this illegal criminal theft, and suggest you force Alford to start paying you now from his pocket. I hope we don't find out Steve Riley and Gregg Alford are shifting tax payers funds to keep paying Linton and Walker. This is one of many reasons I want Fbi Irs involved since we can't get to all the nasty potential criminal details an fbi investigation and forensic audit will uncover.

Ms Likins said she is not paying this 200k back and assume her irs income taxes as well. Who is paying this 200k theft/ illegal Town bank loan? Alford ? God ? Who and how ?
What was the loan agreement????

Mr Parker you are being used as a free lawyer puppet as well by lying full time Realestate agent / part time Mayor Lisa Sulka and Lawyer Finger for her frivolous lawsuit against me. I also hope when an investigation is launched you are not being paid with tax money? Mr Parker you will not get paid by me or my insurance company, so I suggest you get Ms Sulka to start paying you or walk away. Lawyer Terry Finger and this Town is being sued for refusing Foia, also sued for the damage you did to me removing me with police from my professional speech to council addressing facts and truth. Also Mr Parker, I highly suggest you talk to your client on emails we have with her tied to Kim Likins and much more. I am sure your free legal service is appreciated by Ms Likins and Mr Finger.

Best thing to do with Likins case is arrest crook Alford and others involved and toss this case out and move on to next. Thanks 2018 will be a very good year for SC and all tax payers. Remember I fight for everyone who pays taxes, for more proven transparency on how our pubic tax monies are used, even the lawyers who sue me and the judges and jury's who hear these cases.

I have bced Irs criminal div and FBI , DOJ as well. Will be interesting to see how all this turns out. Good news for me as a 70yr old retired Florida resident I have nothing to lose and only gain by

exposing all this corruption in SC, where I lived and worked for 40 yrs and still enjoy living part time. It's a great state, with many good honest people, it's just the crooked officials and crooked lawyers like Alford that make it so bad.. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland
US cell 843-384-7260
Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

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him, or he truly suffers from a mental disorder call delusional paranoia. Perhaps a combination of both.
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delusional_disorder

If we can't solve this gag order among ourselves, I want to have my lawyers appeal this and if need be, to the Supreme Court if I can. How do you gag a man who has never lied and is defending a lawsuit funded by stolen tax monies? It's insane. So many laws have been broken by Lawyer Alford, who i assume has been getting away with what ever he wanted for last 14 yrs as Town Lawyer. Important, Please also note Mr Alford is also in violation of his Town contract, and was not allowed to represent a single council person, only the entire body???? In other he should not even be involved or sending this, nor sitting in on depositions. Futher the last two Mayors on record questioned his legal contract for 14 yrs and paid over 4 million in legal fees, with no procurement laws followed giving opportunities to other lawyers and law firms. He was allowed to do this with his crook friend Town managers. I have asked law enforcement to do a forensic audit on this town looking at theft, fraud, embezzlement, and kick backs and pay offs. Many examples of this online. Also the recent Fbi raid on the Berkeley County SC chamber and School CFO theft of 386k, I helped facilitate. This will not be my last and will keep sending info as I can to authorities. Your honor read these two links to help you understand the hundreds of millions of tax abuse, your taxes and all citizens in SC.
https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/uploadedFiles/Publications/Alerts/alert_dec06_auditor.pdf

https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/uploadedFiles/Public_Funds/conv_ctr_audit_report.pdf

https://www.yankeeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Ending-Corruption-and-Waste-In-Your-Public-School.pdf

When I caught Alford in this tax theft, he attempted to call it a bank loan to escape. He is so crooked and incompetent he did not realize this made it even worse as an attempted cover up..

Not only did Alford violate state and federal banking laws and regulations - he had no agreement with Likins on how to pay back, no collateral, no interest, competes with private banking, puts a citizen at an unfair competitive disadvantage to defend against unlimited tax monies from his own money. They are both trying to profit from the proceeds, not the tax payer if they win. She says if she loses she will not pay it back. They want """"me to pay their theft back"""". This will never happen, over my dead body. So I ask if Kim Likins can use tax monies to sue for private use, can I use tax monies to defend for private use. Ask lawyer Alford this. Since I am not paying nor my insurance company, who is paying back the money Alford?? Who and what branch of the law will force them to pay back the 200k??? What happens if they don't pay it back ???

This has caused my wife and I countless hours to defend this. It has caused severe damage, having our 50 yr perfect insurance record destroyed and our insurance company cancel our policy leaving us uninsured in our retirement. This is not something you plan on at 70 yrs old after working for 50 yrs. This fight is not about Ms Likins who defamed herself, it's about silencing a critic who was exposing their corruption. They committed Barratry, Champerty, Slapp and also being sued by me for violating my 1st amendment and Alford attempted to violate my 2nd Amendment and used the fact I have a concealed weapons permit and carry a gun to scare all the court reporters and make me look like a danger to others. This man is sick. Plus he shot a finger bird at me to antagonize me. Again, nothing normal about this extremely abusive criminal illegal

case.

Thanks. I hope we can settle this and move forward. Your Honor, I tried the nice approach for 20 yrs and it did not work. I fight for transparency under Reagan Principal - Trust but Verified. I fight for you and the jury to stop the theft, embezzlement, fraud to millions of our tax monies. I am perhaps the last man standing and citizen that would dedicate his time at 70 and his families money to give back to this county and community.

I have many supporters:
http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article38019903.html

Am I to assume this thief Alford and his co-conspirators and accomplices committed, will be not only allowed to steal tax monies and escape, but send a message to others in the state it's ok
to sue citizens with tax monies if you don't like what they say?? It also say it's ok to unconstitutionally misuse tax funds for private purposes, which the recent Supreme Court case says it's not ok and you can't use public funds, for private purposes that is not for the public good, use and purpose.

Am I to assume they will escape arrest, prosecution and prison and the honest man who caught them red handed stealing gets gagged and futher made to look like the bad guy? Certainly your Honor ,you are a much smarter and better man than this, and after taking 20 mins to read all, will clearly see how bad this all is. Your Honor, ask Alford to tell you one thing I have lied about or done wrong ? Assume I am 80% correct versus 100% . Still Not bad!!
Appreciatively,
Skip Hoagland

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E-MAIL #11

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From: CC Hoagland
To: McIntosh, Lawton Secretary (Tammy Jennings)
Cc: Gregg Alford; Barrett Brewer; Barrett Brewer; Vicki Allison; McIntosh, Lawton Law Clerk (Clair Hollingsworth); Lindsay Smith; John P. Linton, Jr.; Trenholm Walker
Subject: Re: Kim Likins v. C.C. "Skip" Hoagland 2015-CP-07-2937
Date: Friday, January 26, 2018 5:50:18 PM

I put off my trip to my home in Florida where I need to be to take care of my 94 yr old mother to relieve my sister. I changed to accommodate everyone for this Tuesday, I must leave by next Friday at latest for 25 days. I am here all of March / April and will accommodate everyone. In fact I have always accommodated and never tried to change a date or act like I am more important than all the lawyers.

Honestly what we have here in simple terms, and question is what is worse, an unconstitutional misuse and theft of pubiic tax funds and fraudulent bank loan to sue a citizen, or a 70yr old retired man who called an elected official a liar and said like Jeff Moss Superintendent of schools who also lied , they are both held to higher standards, and might make good employees, but I feel not fit or qualified to lead the young developing minds of boys and girls. I stand by this.

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It's not a good situation for any of us and is causing many problems, that could have been avoided if Greg Alford was not involved and should not been involved under his Town contract. Yes he is in violation of this your honor. If Ms Likins hired her own lawyer and funded this lawsuit from her pocket all would be fine. She has every right to do it this way, but when you use public tax payers money for anything, it changes the ball game. The Supreme Court ruled last year you can't use public tax funds for private purposes and worse private profit that is not in the public good, use and benefit. Anyone should understand this.

Judge I am sorry we are all caught up in the middle of this. Never my intent, nor ever thought this would happen to me or anyone.

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wife and I good 50 yr insurance track record, and now considered high risk and uninsurable as of Feb 10. Our premiums to get the same type insurance if we can even find it, would be cost prohibitive.

Ms Likins said she would have never filed this lawsuit if funded from her pocket, and she and Alford said they are not paying the 200k back to tax payers? So now what and who does pay this back? Who is liable and responsible to pay it back ? Me? Alford ? My insurance company, SC insurance fund ? others involved?
Thanks

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland
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> Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
> (843) 842-5500

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> > In depo right now but there will be a break soon for lunch. Would you like me to call your office when we break or otherwise tell the attorneys that we need to break so I can call in?
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** "McIntosh, Lawton Secretary (Tammy Jennings)" <lmcintoshsc@sccourts.org>
> > **Date:** Friday, January 26, 2018 at 12:05 PM
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Subject: RE: Kim Likins v. C.C. "Skip" Hoagland 2015-CP-07-2937

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Subject: RE: Kim Likins v. C.C. "Skip" Hoagland 2015-CP-07-2937

Judge McIntosh,

I have spoken with Ms. Likins attorney John Linton and we have agreed that due to the other pending motions on Wed., the fact that I am switching firms to open my own practice as of last week, and the need to spend sufficient time briefing the law by both sides. We came to this realization while having a pre-brief discussion earlier this week as to how we both saw the case and the issues.

If the Court is agreeable, we would be more than happy to reconvene with the Court at its pleasure, and I am happy to travel to see Your Honor, wherever you are sitting, though I have not asked John if his client is amenable to having the hearing out of Beaufort.

If this is amenable to the Court, please let us know how the Court would like for us to proceed. Given our 2 p.m. hearing time, and the other 3-4 other motions we have to deal with, I believe this is the best course of action. Please let us know how to proceed.

Barrett

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Barrett R. Brewer
Licensed in SC

126 Seven Farms Drive, Suite 200 | Charleston SC | 29492-8144
Phone: 843 577 2026 | Fax: 843 722 2867| Mobile: 843 224 2416

Website: www.clawsonandstaubes.com | Email: bbrewer@clawsonandstaubes.com | Follow us: Facebook | LinkedIn | Location: Map

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From: Vicki Allison [mailto:vicki@alfordlawsc.com]
Sent: January 16, 2018 3:25 PM
To: lmcintoshlc@sccourts.org; lmcintoshsc@sccourts.org
Cc: Barrett Brewer; Lindsay Smith; John P. Linton, Jr.; Trenholm Walker; Gregg Alford
Subject: Kim Likins v. C.C. "Skip" Hoagland 2015-CP-07-2937

Good Afternoon:

Gregg Alford asked me to forward a copy of the attached Memorandum Of Law in Support of Motion for Contempt/Rule to Show cause and Supplement to Motion (with exhibits) to Judge McIntosh. This Memorandum will also be e-filed today. Please let me know if you have any problems opening the document or you have any questions. Thank you!

Vicki K. Allison
Alford Law Firm, LLC
18 Executive Park Road, Bldg. 1 (29928)
P.O. Drawer 8008
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
(843) 842-5500
(843) 842-8400 fax

This firm collects debts for mortgage lenders and other creditors. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. However, if you

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have previously received a discharge in bankruptcy, this message is not and should not be construed as an attempt to collect a debt, but only as an attempt to enforce a lien.

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To ensure compliance with the requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. federal tax advice contained in this communication (including the attachments) is not intended or written to be used, for the purpose of (a) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (b) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or tax-related matter[s]. To provide you with a communication that could be used to avoid penalties under the Internal Revenue Code will necessarily entail additional investigations, analysis and conclusions on our part. Thank you.

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E-MAIL #12

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Subject: Re: Kim Likins v. C.C. "Skip" Hoagland 2015-CP-07-2937
Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018 6:24:37 PM

Tammy to address the Alford -Hoagland problem:

This has been ongoing since this all began. I have been mad and frustrated, from the very beginning, for his lead role in all this unlawful attack on me using tax money, mad at his representation of Kim Likins individually in violation of his own Town Lawyer contract, and his hiding of town records in defiance of our rights to access town records in this case under discovery claiming attorney client privilege. And no legal authority has acted to fix this.

Gregg and I have both been guilty of cat and mouse games, with facial expressions during depos. I have despised his dirt tactics and making up lies his clients seemed coached to say in depos, and his recent attempt to paint me as a gun toting potentially dangerous person. Plus add a mistress. This would only be done in a desperate attempt to shed a bad light on me and off the fact he committed crimes I did not. None of this is about me, or Alford it's about what I said and Kim Likins did. It's about the local chamber not being transparent with use of our public tax monies, and competing unfairly against their members. It's about Kim Likins and this Town council not enforcing transparency of our tax funds.

The latest I feel he crossed the line, and like Kim Likins as an elected official held to higher standards in their conduct. During a line of questioning In one of the depos, a question was asked by Mr Brewer I liked and looked at Alford nodding my head yes and he flipped me the bird close to his chest quickly no one saw, this caused me to flip out with my words like on the football field,versus no response in a more civilized Depo. I regret I allowed him to antagonize me to that point. It however was not that bad, as I just said the words and stayed sitting in my chair calmly. The good news is these depos are over and now we can end this in trial and all move forward to the next lawsuits. I can promise you any future Depos with Gregg, I will not allow him to antagonize me, nor will I do this to him. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland
US cell 843-384-7260
Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

On Jan 26, 2018, at 5:36 PM, CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com> wrote:

> I put off my trip to my home in Florida where I need to be to take care of my 94 yr old mother to relieve my sister. I changed to accommodate everyone for this

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Phone: 843 577 2026 | Fax: 843 722 2867|
Mobile: 843 224 2416

Website: www.clawsonandstaubes.com **| Email:** bbrewer@clawsonandstaubes.com **| Follow us:** Facebook | LinkedIn | **Location:** Map

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Cc: Barrett Brewer; Lindsay Smith; John P. Linton, Jr.; Trenholm Walker; Gregg Alford
Subject: Kim Likins v. C.C. "Skip" Hoagland 2015-CP-07-2937

Good Afternoon:

Gregg Alford asked me to forward a copy

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of the attached Memorandum Of Law in Support of Motion for Contempt/Rule to Show cause and Supplement to Motion (with exhibits) to Judge McIntosh. This Memorandum will also be e-filed today. Please let me know if you have any problems opening the document or you have any questions. Thank you!

Vicki K. Allison
Alford Law Firm, LLC
18 Executive Park Road, Bldg. 1
(29928)
P.O. Drawer 8008
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
(843) 842-5500
(843) 842-8400 fax

This firm collects debts for mortgage lenders and other creditors. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. However, if you have previously received a discharge in bankruptcy, this message is not and should not be construed as an attempt to collect a debt, but only as an attempt to enforce a lien.

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our part. Thank you.

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From: Skip Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Likins Kim
Cc: mike mcdonnell
Subject: Meeting or phone call

Kim would you please give me or Mike a 20 min meeting or phone call. I would like to share the latest facts with you on our Chamber /cvb . Thx.

Also what can I do to help the boys and girls club ? Stan Smith is a long time friend of mine and know he is very involved thx

Sent from my iPhone please excuse all misspellings and typos.



From: Skip Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 11:54 AM
To: Harkins Bill; Likins Kim
Cc: tom gardo; mike Mcdonnell; Gerard Mahieu; Marc Frey; Glenn Davis; dale augustine; john mallett; brit barker; tony santagati; <dan@media360.com>; Eric Esquivel; Lennox, Tom; Grant Marc; McCann John; Lee Edwards; Bennett, David; sarah borton; Gina Smith
Subject: Important people to call to confirm facts for town council

It was others who discovered we had no contract with this Chamber and handing them millions unchecked for years !!!! Do others not deserve some recognition or thanks for this ?

Bill / Kim you and other town council members have a fiduciary responsibility to follow facts not opinions . You and other council members have been furnished all by professionals and been offered to answer any questions you have with facts ? I and others have offered to debate on facts ? Tom gardo has been given all info 384-0692 to give to you , Bennett and other council members . Tom is one of the most respected individuals on Hilton head island and I consider Lee Edwards the same .

Tom/ lee please confirm that Steve Riley has not blocked this email from town servers . I think this has happened and all town council is simply not getting info . Thx

Facts eliminate Skip Hoagland and Bill miles and all others Look at facts not propaganda . Don't shoot the messenger please . "Facts"

1. Smoking gun and main point
1.7 million of town cost cost to invest this money exceeds 50% ??

2 . 300k app Town council issues 100k why ? Cost 30k part of responsive website much less . Bill you are 70 and I am 67 and reason I hired smart young guys to understand this . How can council approve something they don't understand ?

3. Audit what is wrong with asking and doing an audit ? Some Town council members said they inspected chamber ledgers and all was ok ? How is this possible based on palm beach audit ?

4 . Contract signing before an audit ? A contract with no provisions of audit , performance , foia and no monies used for profit ventures or ventures like a 100k that has zero to go with the function of a dmo ? Public monies must be used to Benefit entire community not just some ? Why would reasonable audit provisions be allowed to be eliminated ????

5 . If town council after being fully educated and being offered to be fully educated on all facts and choses to deny and not act on those facts than where do we end up as a community ? Is it not easier to do what's right than wrong ? Again I ask what part of any of this does anyone not understand ? Call Tom gardo Call Lee Edwards , Call me , Call Bill Miles , contact others on this email privately ? To date the only person to deny facts and refuse transparency is this Chamber and its leadership yes or no ? And if yes why ? What as a council are you going to do to enforce transparency and accountability ?

Thx

Sent from my iPhone please excuse all misspellings and typos.

From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Meeting or phone call
Date: March 22, 2016 10:37:58 AM EDT
To: cathy hoagland <hhi@hargray.com>





Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell [redacted]
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: Likins Kim <Kim.Likins@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>
Date: July 14, 2015 at 6:46:42 PM EDT
To: Skip Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting or phone call

Dear Mr. Hoagland,
Thank you for your calls and emails. I apologize for not responding sooner. With respect to the matter regarding the chamber/VCB, if you have material that you believe is important for town council to consider, I would ask that you present it in writing to the full council so that we will all have the benefit of the information.

Since there seems to be difference of opinions surrounding the town and the chamber/VCB's relationship, I am not comfortable meeting privately with anyone regarding this matter lest it be perceived a lack of transparency. I hope you can appreciate my position regarding this issue and know that I am always willing and interested in hearing from the citizens of Hilton Head Island.

I think it is great that you want to help the Boys & Girls Club. Stan is a huge supporter and longtime board member. I am sure he would love to have the opportunity to discuss with you the needs of the organization and how you can best be of assistance.

Thank you,
Kim



From: Skip Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 9:59 PM
To: Likins Kim
Cc: Lennox, Tom; Grant Marc; Bennett, David; tom gardo; Lee Edwards; McCann John; Harkins Bill
Subject: Re: Meeting or phone call

Kim all other board members except Bill Harkins have taken my calls and just ask you hear me out for 10 mins . You hit the nail on the head ,when you say "difference of opinions" and this is the problem opinions not facts . What we need is a vote by council on facts and I have provided all facts when the chamber has presented none . I ask for a vote and proper representation based on facts not Skip Hoagland or Bill miles propaganda. Can I call you tomorrow as I am at my offices in Argentina and could not meet anyway . I again have been opposite of Bill miles and spent thousands in providing facts not thousands trying to hide facts .

Soon as this chamber issue is behind us we can discuss my support of the Girls and Boys club . Thx

Sent from my iPhone please excuse all misspellings and typos.

> On 14/7/2015, at 7:46 p.m., Likins Kim <KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov> wrote:
>
> Dear Mr. Hoagland,
> Thank you for your calls and emails. I apologize for not responding sooner. With respect to the matter regarding the chamber/VCB, if you have material that you believe is important for town council to consider, I would ask that you present it in writing to the full council so that we will all have the benefit of the information.
>
> Since there seems to be difference of opinions surrounding the town and the chamber/VCB's relationship, I am not comfortable meeting privately with anyone regarding this matter lest it be perceived a lack of transparency. I hope you can appreciate my position regarding this issue and know that I am always willing and interested in hearing from the citizens of Hilton Head Island.
>
> I think it is great that you want to help the Boys & Girls Club. Stan is a huge supporter and longtime board member. I am sure he would love to have the opportunity to discuss with you the needs of the organization and how you can best be of assistance.
>
> Thank you,
> Kim
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Skip Hoagland [mailto:skiphoagland@yahoo.com]
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2015 2:36 PM
> To: Likins Kim
> Cc: mike mcdonnell
> Subject: Meeting or phone call
>
> Kim would you please give me or Mike a 20 min meeting or phone call. I would like to share the latest facts with you on our Chamber /cvb . Thx.
>
> Also what can I do to help the boys and girls club ? Stan Smith is a

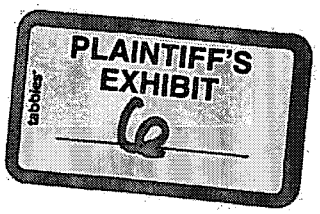
> long time friend of mine and know he is very involved thx
>
> Sent from my iPhone please excuse all misspellings and typos.
>
>
>
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> intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.
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> of the message.
>
> Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender.
>
> This message has been scanned for viruses and spam by McAfee.



From: Cchoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:14 AM
To: stan smith; stan@stansmithtennis.com; Likins Kim
Subject: Courtesy of phone call

Stan can you get Kim likins to take my call to discuss her vote on what's right concerning the HHI chamber and all its proven corruption , violations and abuse based on facts and truth . I want to know her position on doing an audit on this chamber to confirm how our tax dollars have been used for last 3-5 yrs. thx

Sent from my iPhone please excuse all misspellings and typos.



From: Skip Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Date: August 26, 2015 at 12:20:46 PM EDT
To: John Buchanan <jtwg50@yahoo.com>, Lee Edwards <leeedwards@thegreenerylnc.com>, Tom Lennox <toml@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>, Grant Marc <MarcG@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>, McCann John <JohnM@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>, Likins Kim <KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>, David Bennett <davidb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>, Harkins Bill <WilliamH@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>
Cc: "<dan@media360.com>" <dan@media360.com>, tony santagati <tiffany@sandspublishingcompany.com>, "<mud@atasteofhiltonhead.com>" <mud@atasteofhiltonhead.com>, Marc Frey <mfrey@freymedia.com>, Gerard Mahieu <gerardmahieu@aol.com>, Eric Esquivel <eric@laislamagazine.com>, tom gardo <tomgardo@yahoo.com>, Brian Tolley <btolley@islandpacket.com>, sarah borton <sborton@islandpacket.com>, nancy watt <wtghhi@aol.com>, mike mcdonnell <mike@geoplatforms.com>, stan smith <stansmith6@compuserve.com>
Subject: Re: Appearance by Citizens at Town Council Meetings

I will speak at all meetings listed below !!! I will direct my speeches to mainly Kim likins of the Boys and girls club and Bill Harkins who refuse to accept facts our chamber must be audited . They refuse to talk or take calls on this and openly support the crook Bill miles who has abused this island long enough . I realize I am the only one who is not scared to speak up on facts and happy that am am able to do so in behave of what's right and our entire community . To date not one person has been able to debate me on facts . Kim likins should be ashamed of herself as should others that refuse to do a Palm beach style audit on this chamber to see once and for all if the audit will have same result as Palm beach where the Bill miles and Susan thomas type went to prison for 15 yrs for embezzlement ! Who is right and who do you trust more Bill miles or Skip Hoagland ? An independent forensic audit will prove all . Those who do not support an audit going back to prove violations ,are as guilty as those who have committed any crimes by trying to allow and endorse escape from justice . Thx

Local app 340k attempted robbery town gives 100k this is and was a misappropriation and misuse of funds that also hurts local media and has nothing to do with a Cvb /dmo function . Just the tip of the iceberg on abuse , crimes , violations , unfair competition to local tax paying companies , and abuse to local tax payers and chamber members !

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

On Aug 26, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Buchman Lynn <lynnb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov> wrote:

Mr. Hoagland, this is to confirm that you have requested to speak before Town Council under the agenda item "Appearance by Citizens" on the following dates:

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
Tuesday, October 6, 2015
Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Tuesday, November 3, 2015
Tuesday, November 17, 2015
Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

All of the above meetings are scheduled at 4:00 PM. You have provided me with a contact number of 843-384-7260, and you have indicated you have multiple topics to be addressed. If you are unable to attend one of the above meetings, please let us know by 12:00 Noon on the date of the meeting.

Please keep in mind that in accordance with Town Code your remarks are limited to three (3) minutes, and limited to topics **not** on the agenda for that meeting. Of course, you will be allowed to speak during the public comments for any topic which appears as an agenda item.

Thank you!

Lynn W. Buchman
Sr. Administrative Assistant - Executive Department
Town of Hilton Head Island
One Town Center Court
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
Phone 843-341-4700 Fax 843-842-7728
E-Mail: lynnb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov
www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov

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message.

Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender.

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From: Skip Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:31 PM
To: RICK BOLGER; nnnhild@hotmail.com
Cc: Likins Kim; Harkins Bill; John Buchanan; Lucas High; Brian Tolley
Subject: Re: Independent Forensic Audit of HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce

Rick / Nancy my personal thanks for supporting me and sending your letters to all council members . Also meet my expert John Buchanan . A Letter to editor , phone calls etc would be great and helpful .
A call to Kim likins at Boys and Girls club and Bill Harkins would be appreciated . I have cced both of them as they are the only 2 council members that did not show me respect or courtesy . Everyone else on council did and was willing to listen . Never in my life has any local town council member , mayor or for that matter even some governors refused my call or Dialogue.
Could you and Nancy see if you can find out why ? I do not know where all council members stand on an audit , but do know these two council people are opposed and just want to know why ? That simple ? If they can't answer why then honestly come election time and even way before election time they will I am sure be help accountable and publicly humiliated for this position to attempt to allow people to escape wrong doing . For me currently until vote time we have 4 great people on Council , both Kim likins and Bill
Harkins at this point in time need the boot , just like the last mayor and my past lawyer Drew laughlin who refused to force transparency . We simply do not need these type people in charge of our tax dollars . Thx

Bill / Kim tell us all including the press cced if you handed Skip Hoagland 3 million to invest for you and then 3 years later called Skip to see the books and how all was invested because you felt the return needed to be verified and Skip said no what would you do ? Can you answer this to the people who voted you in office or are we to expect you feel you can be like Bill miles and refuse to answer all of us . Perhaps you would prefer I put this letter into a full page ad . Kim you need to set a better example for Boys and Girls or perhaps you need to be replaced from that job as well. Thx

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

On Sep 16, 2015, at 4:07 PM, RICK BOLGER <mlbolger@optonline.net> wrote:

> I applaud Skip Hoagland for having the courage to spearhead investigation of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. Secrecy is not a good thing and failure of our elected officials to investigate how our tax dollars are being spent is NEVER a good thing. I urge each of you to hire an independent forensic accountant to audit the HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce spending over the past few years. Where's the harm?
>
> I know first hand how internal "audits" are just a balance sheet of money coming in matching money going out and who exactly provides those "numbers" to the accountant. You owe it to the

taxpayers to check how and where our tax dollars were spent by the HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce no matter how much faith you may have in its operation and/or leadership.

I also think the amount of tax dollars given to an association to promote their own businesses should be thoroughly investigated on a yearly basis. Does the Chamber need to return money, have their allotment reduced or even eliminated because we had a record year of visitors and it is no longer necessary to promote them? Please do the hard work needed to keep our tax dollars in the hands of those who really need it.

Mary Lou Bolger
8 Evergreen Lane
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
843-715-3217



CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THIS CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ("Contract") is entered into by and between **THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA**, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of South Carolina ("Town") and **HILTON HEAD ISLAND - BLUFFTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**, a nonprofit corporation existing under the laws of the State of South Carolina ("Chamber").

WHEREAS, accommodations tax is a state and local tax that is levied on the lodging industry and South Carolina Code Section 6-4-10(3) requires thirty percent of the state received accommodation tax be awarded to a nonprofit corporation and allocated to a special fund used only for advertising and promotion of tourism to develop and increase tourist attendance through the generation of publicity ("Promotional Fund").

WHEREAS, the Promotional Fund is not part of the general fund of the Town.

WHEREAS, nonprofit corporations are formed and governed pursuant to the South Carolina Non Profit Act ("Act") and the Act requires the corporation to be governed by a board of directors.

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that entering into a contract with certain non-profit corporations which receive tax funding is in the best interest of the Town so these non-profit corporations will satisfy certain compliance and operating standards.

WHEREAS, the Chamber believes that entering into a contract with the Town is in the best interest of its members and will provide for improved long-term planning.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed to as follows:

1. Mutual Compliance with Laws. The Town and the Chamber agree that each of them shall adhere to all applicable laws which govern their respective entities. These laws include Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Employment Act of 1967, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the South Carolina Wage Act, the South Carolina Worker's Compensation Act, all laws related to the South Carolina Accommodation Tax, the South Carolina Non-Profit Corporation Act, and all laws administered and enforced by the South Carolina Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service.

2. Chamber Obligations.

2.1 Audit. The Chamber agrees to provide an independent auditor's report to the Town on an annual basis with regard to each of its fiscal years (July 1st to June 30th). The audit shall be delivered to the Town by November 15th after the applicable fiscal year end.

The following standards shall apply to the audit and/or the auditor.

(a) The audit shall be conducted in conformity with the statements, rules, policies, and procedures set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the "AICPA").

(b) The audit shall be performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (the "GAAS").

(c) The auditor must comply with all applicable statements on auditing standards (the "SAS") that are issued by the Auditor's Standing Board of the AICPA.

(d) The auditor must maintain malpractice insurance in an amount equal to at least One Million and No/100 Dollars ($1,000,000.00).

(e) The auditor must provide evidence of successful completion of the peer review process approved by the AICPA.

2.2 DMO Report. In addition to the audit, the Chamber shall also produce and deliver to the Town a schedule of revenues and expenses for each fiscal year (the "Report") for the destination marketing organization division of the Chamber ("DMO"). The DMO revenue shall include all accommodation tax revenue received from the Town and/or the State of South Carolina. This Report shall be produced under the standards set forth above in Section 2.1(a), (b), and (c) and by the same auditor that has satisfied the standards set forth above in Section 2.1(d) and (e). The Report shall be delivered to the Town by November 15th after the applicable fiscal year end.

2.3 Auditor. The Chamber agrees that it will cause its finance committee to interview other auditing firms when the existing contract with its auditor expires. A town staff member or a council member, at his/her election, shall participate with the finance committee during this process provided the individual demonstrates sufficient financial acumen (consistent with best practices for nonprofit finance/audit committee members) and agrees to all policies and procedures which apply to the Chamber's board of directors. The Chamber makes no representation or assurance that the individual who participates with the finance committee will be covered with directors and officers liability insurance.

2.4 Tax Returns. The federal and state tax returns shall be prepared and filed by a tax professional that must execute the returns as a tax preparer as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, the South Carolina tax code, and/or their regulations. This requirement will insure that such professional tax return preparer is subject to all penalties set forth in the Internal Revenue Code or the South Carolina code concerning tax preparers.

2.5 Promotional Fund. The Chamber shall manage and direct the expenditure of the Promotional Fund. In addition, the Chamber shall be eligible to apply for annual supplemental grants from the accommodation tax pool and from the emergency reserve fund established by the Town. All public funds received by the Chamber shall be subject to the auditing and reporting requirements of this Contract.

2.6 Process. The Chamber shall submit a budget of planned expenditures for the Promotional Fund ("Budget") and a marketing plan ("MP") for each fiscal year. The MP shall be recommended by the Chamber's marketing council and the MP and the Budget shall be approved by the board of directors of the Chamber. The Town may elect to have a staff

member or council member participate as a member of the marketing council provided the individual agrees to all policies and procedures which apply to the Chamber's board of directors. The Chamber makes no representation or assurance that the individual who participates on the marketing council will be covered with directors and officers liability insurance. The Budget and MP will then be submitted to the Town's accommodations tax ("ATAX") committee for review and recommendation. Upon the recommendation by the ATAX committee, the Budget and MP shall be forwarded for approval by the Town. The ATAX committee and the Town shall make all reasonable efforts to provide review and approval in a timely manner since private funds, state funds and placement of public relations and marketing programs are dependent on meeting deadlines. The Chamber shall submit the Report to the Town by November 15th after the applicable fiscal year end.

2.7 Inspection Rights. The Town Manager (or a designee that satisfies the same standard to interview auditors as set forth in Section 2.3), or a representative from the Town's Finance and Administration Committee (who also satisfies the same standard to interview auditors as set forth in Section 2.3) may, upon reasonable notice, inspect the necessary financial records, including third party invoices, of the Chamber in order to verify compliance of the Report in all material respects. This inspection right shall not be exercised more than twice in each fiscal year, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties.

2.8 Legal Opinion. The Chamber shall select and retain a law firm, with the consent of the Town, to deliver a third party opinion to the Town which opines that all expenditures from the Promotional Fund as set forth in the Report are in compliance with the then current requirements of South Carolina Code Section 6-4-10(3) and the Chamber is validly existing as a non-profit corporation under the laws of South Carolina. The legal opinion shall be addressed to the Town and the cost shall be equally divided by the Town and the Chamber. The legal opinion form and content shall adhere to the guidelines, to the extent applicable, of the South Carolina Third Party Legal Opinion Report approved by the Corporate, Banking and Securities Law Section of the South Carolina Bar on December 10, 2014 and approved by the House of Delegates of the South Carolina Bar on January 22, 2015.

3. Performance Standards.

3.1 DMO Standard. The Chamber and the Town agree that Destination Marketing Association International ("DMAI") is the industry leader in setting standards and accreditations with regard to destination marketing organizations. The Chamber agrees that it shall adopt policies and procedures and operate in a manner which satisfies the applicable standards set forth by DMAI under their categories of governance, finance, human resources, technology, marketing, visitor services, group services, sales, communications, membership, management and facilities, brand management, destination development, research and marketing intelligence, innovation, and stakeholder relationships with the goal of receiving accreditation by DMAI. The Chamber shall maintain accreditation with DMAI.

3.2 Organizational Standard. The United State Chamber of Commerce provides criteria to receive accreditation by a local chamber of commerce. The Chamber shall maintain the four star accreditation by the United States Chamber of Commerce.

3.3 DMO's Industry Metrics. The Chamber shall provide the Finance and Administration committee of the Town ("Committee") with certain tourism metrics and/or

reports such as:

(a) revenue per available room;

(b) occupancy rates;

(c) visitor spending studies;

(d) return on investment for visitor spending per dollar of investment;

(e) local tax revenues generated by visitors;

(f) number of visitors;

(g) number of referrals made to area businesses and number of website hits and click through(s) made to area businesses;

(h) numbers related to mail fulfillment and other contacts;

(i) industry awards received for marketing and public relations efforts;

(j) number of jobs created by tourism;

(k) events held and participation in events by Chamber members; and

(j) update on its public relations efforts to include the number of media impressions and the dollar equivalent for the media impressions.

It is understood and acknowledged that such metrics and/or reports may change from time to time based upon best practices, available funding and the goals set forth in the MP. The Committee shall review the data provided under this Section and evaluate the performance of the DMO. The evaluation shall consider the above metrics and reports, collectively, and shall be compared with peers and other factors that affect the tourism industry such as the state of the economy, weather, condition of the lodging properties, etc. The Committee shall report a summary of its evaluation to the Town Council.

If the Town Council determines that the Chamber has underperformed, it shall retain an industry recognized expert that has been recommended by DMAI ("Expert") to confirm its determination and to recommend strategies and policies to cure the deficiencies which have created the underperformance (the "Cure Plan").

In such an event, the Chamber shall cooperate with the Town Council and the Expert to implement the Cure Plan. If, after one year from the date of the delivery of the Cure Plan, the Town Council, after consultation with the Expert, determines the implementation of the Cure Plan has not occurred, the Town Council shall have the right to terminate this Contract by written notice, said termination to be effective sixty (60) days after said notice is given.

4. **Chamber Covenants and Representations.**

4.1 The Chamber covenants and represents that it has all necessary licenses and consents required for the Chamber to enter into and fully perform this Contract.

4.2 The Chamber covenants and represents to perform all tasks required under this Contract with a degree of skill and care of reputable organizations of the same profession in South Carolina.

4.3 The Chamber covenants and represents to properly withhold from all wages, commissions, salaries, and fees paid by Chamber to third parties or employees, agents, or sub-contractors of Chamber, all amounts required by state or federal law to be withheld for or on account of taxes, social security payments, or other withholdings mandated by law or regulation.

4.4 The Chamber covenants and represents that the MP shall include a public relations plan and a social media plan.

4.5 The Chamber covenants and represents that the Report shall include as exhibits the prior years' calendar of events and a dashboard of year over year tourism metrics as historically reported.

4.6 The Chamber covenants and represents to maintain www. ThinkHiltonHeadIsland.org and to post five (5) years of audits and tourism metrics as historically been reported.

4.7 The Chamber covenants and represents that it will comply with all state accommodation tax laws in administering the Promotional Fund.

4.8 The Chamber shall cause DMO revenue, less expenses, derived from DMO non programing activities to accrue for the benefit of the DMO.

5. **Town Covenants and Representations.**

5.1 The Town hereby covenants and represents that it will comply with all state accommodation tax laws in administering all such funds to the Chamber and other non-profit corporations.

5.2 The Town hereby covenants and represents that it shall comply will all such laws and procedures in a manner not to discriminate against one non-profit corporation versus another non-profit corporation.

5.3 The Town covenants and represents that it shall cause the Funding to promptly be paid to the Chamber in order for the Budget and MP to be implemented.

5.4 The Town hereby covenants and represents not to disturb, violate, request to be violated, any laws, loan covenants, policies and procedures, including but not limited to, all federal and state laws, and the South Carolina Non-Profit Act which effect the Chamber.

5.5 The Town hereby covenants and represents that Town has the lawful authority required under State law and Town's ordinances to enter into and perform this Contract.

6. Term. Since the current fiscal year's budget and MP have already been approved, this Contract shall be effective as of the 1st day of December 1, 2015, and shall continue for a period of five (5) years (the "Initial Term"), unless otherwise terminated as herein provided. If, at the expiration of the Initial Term, the Chamber has maintained the Performance Standards set forth in Section 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 hereof, without interruption, then this Contract shall be extended by an additional five year term. Provided, however, each party shall have the ability to terminate this Contract upon the expiration of the Initial Term by providing the other party written notice during the month of November, 2019.

7. Termination.

7.1 If the Performance Standards set forth in Section 3.1 or 3.2 hereof have not been complied with in all material aspects as determined by DMAI, the United States Chamber of Commerce, or the Town, the Town shall provide written notice to the Chamber of the deficiency and the Chamber shall have one hundred eighty days (180) days to cure the deficiency. If the deficiency is not cured, the Town may terminate this Contract by providing ninety (90) day written notice to the Chamber. In addition, the Town shall have the right to terminate the contract by providing ninety (90) day notice if the auditor or DMAI determines fraud has occurred in the operation of the Chamber.

7.2 With respect to the Performance Standard set forth in Section 3.3 above, the termination process set forth in Section 3.3 shall control.

8. Updates. The Town acknowledges that the DMO makes a minimum of two public presentations to the ATAX committee each fiscal year. In addition to these appearances, the DMO shall report to the Committee on two other occasions during the fiscal year. These appearances shall be scheduled as to not interfere with any other presentation the DMO is making to a governmental body.

9. Other Provisions.

9.1 Headings. Headings to paragraphs in this Contract shall not interpret or alter the meaning of the words in the respective paragraph, nor any other provision of this Contract.

9.2 Notices. All notices to each party to this Contract shall be in writing, and sent as follows:

Town:	Chamber:
Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina	Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Attn: Stephen G. Riley, Town Manager	Attn: William G. Miles, President & CEO
One Town Center Court	1 Chamber of Commerce Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928	Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

9.3 Form of Notice. All notices required or permitted under this Contract shall be sent certified mail with signature required.

9.4 Merger, Amendment, and Waiver. This Contract contains all the terms of all agreements, oral or written, between the parties, and is the only document containing all such terms. This Contract merges all prior discussions, negotiations, contracts, agreements, and understandings between Town and Chamber concerning the subject matter described herein. This Contract may only be amended or varied by a written instrument signed by a

duly authorized signatory of Town and Chamber. Forbearance by Town from enforcing the strict terms of this Contract shall not be a waiver of any other term of this Contract, nor shall such forbearance entitle Chamber to rely upon such forbearance in the future.

9.5 Independent Contractor Status. Chamber shall not, by entering into this Contract, become a servant, agent, or employee of Town, but shall remain at all times an independent contractor. This Contract shall not be deemed to create any joint venture, partnership, or common enterprise between Chamber and Town, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall not be other than as expressly set forth herein.

9.6 Attorney's Fees, Dispute Resolution. In the event of a dispute between the parties, the prevailing party in any dispute shall be entitled to an award of all reasonable attorneys and costs, including the costs of appeal, if any.

The parties have executed this Contract effective as of the date set forth in Section 6 above.

TOWN:

Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

By:_____
Stephen G. Riley, Town Manager

CHAMBER:

Hilton Head Island Bluffton Chamber Of Commerce, Inc.

By:_____
William G. Miles, President & CEO

Ex 13

Excerpt from video of Town Council Meeting dated 11-17-2015 (2:55:09-2:59:30)



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 1:18 AM
To: Bennett, David; Lennox, Tom; McCann John; Grant Marc; Likins Kim; Edwards Lee; Harkins Bill
Cc: sturodman@aol.com; Jerry Stewart; psommerville@bcgov.net; Rick Caporale; Cynthia Bensch; tvaux@bcgov.net; zmurdock@islandpacket.com; David Lauderdale; Alex Barry; AHolland@wsav.com
Subject: Bill miles and his friend texted me this picture !!! Is this really who we want to run our chamber . I added 3 more pictures of interest

Lee / Marc / David thanks for at least listening . John Mcann for his comment he made up his mind last night and Kim likins for her prepared speech when she lied and said she was taking notes the entire time should both be removed from office for there total disrespect to a public hearing and draft contract . No doubt they both were corrupted or just plan incompetent ..It was also obvious Bil Harkins and Tom Lennox had there mind made up as well . It's a shame to have these type people serve our island . The brightest minds on this island told you all to all wait and fix the agreement . Not one chamber speaker said how to fix anything it was all just how great the chamber was . Not one board member has a clue or knows what's going on . They were all just asked to say how Great it all was to protect Bill miles and prevent an audit and foia ..

Bill and friend texted me this photo ! I added more of interest . The one in gold jackets is there so called annual meeting . You can't make this stuff up !
We will now start to clean up the dictatorship chamber and restore members rights , Irs Ubit , unfair competitive practices , corruption, what is a true chamber under US chamber definition and a DMO under definition by DMAI . What I don't get is no one on council seems concerned about any of these other issues ? Why



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 12:13 AM
To: Likins Kim; McCann John
Cc: Lennox, Tom; Harkins Bill; Rick Caporale; Cynthia Bensch
Subject: Violated public trust , due process and lied !

You both lied and are not fit to serve . I will look forward to speaking directly to both of you soon at public comment . Also you will be in my full page ads to publicly disgrace you both to this island . Kim you are not fit to serve boys and girls a well . You fully know what you did !!!

Do not dare say I am disrespectful when I speak the truth at town council . The truth is not disrespectful . What's disrespectful is what you both did . Prepare to be exposed and treated like you treated others .

Tom I feel you also deceived me and had your mind made up also . I have you on record saying you worked hard on the clause to inspect books and had me in mind . I hope so and remains to be seen if you are going to be my new hero and outsmarted David tigges or forced me to keep spending thousands to fight fir sc foia laws for all of us .

Bill Harkins for me not worth even discussing . If he plans on running for reelection as well as others I can promise you that you will be booted and featured in full page ads and fully explained why . There simply is no place for dishonest and deceiving people who wish to serve our community .

David , Lee , Marc each at least showed respect and listened to some very smart people who had great ideas and respected them and their time coming . John Mcann to say reason he decided to award the contact to the chamber was because of all the good people on the board . This had nothing to do with it as the board has be tricked and deceived also and has no power . John knock knock anyone home , you have been told this chamber is run by a dictator crook . The board members are good people just have no power or clue what's going on . They all were appointed , used and abused and shown favoritism to remain silent . They were all instructed to say how great the chamber was and not discuss the contract . We were not there for that we were there to discuss a good contract for the community not just the chamber . We also learned much more from the whistle blower and that is David tigges drafted the contract . You all should be a shamed of what you did . I really thought you old guys like me would have acted differently . I guess that saying is correct "no fool like an old fool ".

You all did not show true guts to fight for an audit when you new damn well we needed to do this and were provided all info why . You all allowed escape but just temporarily . We lost this one battle but not the war to come . When you see what's coming you will perhaps then realize you should have followed the great Ronald Reagan "trust must be verified" and i am afraid will be humiliated and publicly disgraced to this entire community . For the life of me I just don't understand why you would not force an audit , sc foia laws, DMAI accounting and 1 yrs not 5 yrs. The big concern I have for all of you is you have trusted Steve riley , Gregg Alford and brian Hulbert all buddies of Bill miles and david tigges . You all have deceived here as well . The sad thing is you all are part time as is mayor bennett and the town employees run the show and you all are powerless and just do as you are told and instructed by them .

I also think you all will be held liable when this all ends up in the courts and the audit is forced .

We now have a x board chamber member who has turned whistle blower . You will all be shocked what's going to happen next . Kim send this to your friend Charlie Clark spokesperson at chamber . Did she write your prepared speech for you ? John so you came to your brilliant decision night before ? Why do you think so many people came to speak ? Do you feel you dishonored all of us and made a fool of of yourself ? Do you and Kim likins feel you are fit to keep serving ? What made you think all is ok and controlled by the board ?

Happy thanksgiving and perhaps you all will reflect on all this as you spend time with your families and think what kind of world you wish for them , and did you act in good faith in a way you and your family would be proud of .You each have to look in mirror and live with yourselves not me . Thx

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 1:06 PM
To: Riley Steve; david tigges; Gregg Alford; Hulbert Brian; susan@surfcityusa.com; Taylor Smith; bill miles; rdeal@hiltonheadisland.org; Jay Wiendl
Cc: Bennett, David; zmurdock@islandpacket.com; Lennox, Tom; McCann John; Lee Edwards; Likins Kim; Harkins Bill; jeffbradley@schouse.gov; Weston Newton; BillHerbkersman@schouse.gov; tdavis@harveyandbattey.com
Subject: Sc foia

Steve to begin Brian Hulbert your lawyer claims you know nothing about the 4 m proposed welcome center on town property and now know nothing about secret meetings with Susan Thomas and Bill miles discussing signs on town property and the 340k app attempt , cost of signs etc . How could Susan thomas Cced on this email propose this without talking to you ? For me you are not telling the truth and will do anything to escape and avoid answering directly . Susan who did you talk to ? Susan moving to California does not mean you can't be brought back to SC or answer questions . As this moves forward David tigges can only do so much to protect and keep others silent . Steve same for you , the lawyers can only help you so much . God only knows what else you have done over the last 20yrs we don't know about . When you and others realized I was going to attack on these two issues everything stopped and disappeared interesting ????? No records no emails !

Steve, my foia info received was incomplete , where is the supreme court case saying chambers or Dmos or chamber/ DMO comingled hybrid can receive tax monies but not comply with SC foia laws that David Tigges quoted? Was this a lie or is it true? To add !
Did Jay Weindl lie about 1600 members? I say yes or he was deceived by Bill miles we need proof of this !
Did Kim Likins lie when she said took notes and listened to everyone then proceeded to read a speech that could have been written by her good friend Charlie Clark chamber spokesperson? I say yes! Is she fit to run and girls and boys club ?
Did John McCann when he said he made up his mind last night and 3 other council members as well , did not respect the public hearing and draft contract process? I say yes !
Who drafted this contract the chamber / council or Steve Riley we now know from a whistle blower and Carolyn Vanagel confirmed statement , quote the Chamber worked hard to draft this contract and we now know it was David tigges in control ! Steve Riley do you wish to deny this ?
We have also been told all board members were instructed by David Tigges / Bill Miles to remain silent to press or anyone else and to not talk about contract or my fight and only state how good the chamber is and nothing else. Do you wish to deny this ?
Jay Weindl, new "appointed"chairman, not duly elected lied when he said 1600 members all have rights and can run for elections and make change with 10% of membership ,10% of what real number? We have proof chamber membership numbers have been falsified ? Do you wish to deny this or want to challenge this ?
Seems all members have rights to the database list of all members and contacts ? Jay will you send that list and contact for each member phone numbers including to a chamber member ? Jay will you force Bill miles as his new boss to open the books to all members ? Jay what rights do members have ? Jay did you know bylaws were changed from original form when members had rights ? Jay will you tell Bill they must be changed back to allow members rights ? Jay where were annual meetings held last 5 yrs ? Do you have all
Minutes for this . I assume in any lawsuit by a member or members all this will be made available in discovery ? You and
David Tigges both said there was annual meetings for members to speak ? Again Where are these meetings held, minutes Etc ?????

The entire board I am sure are good people, bottom line they have all been deceived and used / abused including you Jay , by the 3 people who totally control this chamber David Tigges, Bill Miles and Ray Deal. Jay as chairman and Bill miles employees let's be honest who is in charge you , Bill or David tigges ?

Jay you seem to be a nice guy and have nothing against you . The only actions I don't like from you is kicking out people from your hotel that run a local media company I started many years ago . He did nothing to you . This has also happen by several hotels who told me when I called don't ever call this hotel again . These attacks have no reason or basis . We have been told, by ex chamber whistle blower that you and other board member are silenced by giving help and business over others in their industry. They receive no access to inner circle no access to all accounting, all appointed strategically to surround Bill Miles to make it all look legitimate to allow its abuse, corruption and violations undetected by anyone including board members that just assume all is ok. All local media leaders have been eliminated from appointed board by Bill miles to prevent any challenge to his unfair competitive practices and growing local media empire with 1.7 million and growing ad sales revenue . We now know anyone can buy ads not just chamber members like a for profit media . We were told any board members that question the dictatorship are silenced or removed. There are no real term limits or rotation of power on board to allow all members to run for fair elections. The real power has remained in control for over 20 yrs . Paul Bethea , David tigges McNair and past old Bethea law firm.

You have a power structure out of control, including letting the employees run all not the members / stake holders who are in essence the owners, not Bill Miles. The old Bethea law firm now McNair law firm have been running this chamber for years and always someone on board from this firm . Insurance, banking, lawyers,hotels etc. etc. all get favoritism over others and we now have proof from whistle blowers who have stepped forward. We now have big insurance companies say they dropped membership as it was a waste of time trying to bid against John vann your past buddy board member with BB&T insurance .

They said just look at the chamber website and app to see who gets promoted over others . Those who pay the most get front seat . Jay this is not the way or purpose of a properly run chamber and DMO operating as a non profit and using tax monies . What do you not understand about this ? How long do you think this board and you can keep defending this ?

We lost a small battle to corruption but the war to clean up this chamber abuse will be won soon ,as we have all we need to prove our case and will turn over all to press , law enforcement , mayor and others next week.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Be assured as we give thanks for all our bounty, this Chamber will go back to being a simple chamber under US Chamber and ACCE national associations guidelines and our DMO will operate under DMAI national association guidelines and accounting protocol soon. All the waste, abuse, corruption, deception, tax violations, foia non compliance, dictatorship and harm to tax payers, board members and members will end. I will be thanked for all this, and not painted as the enemy to this chamber board representing facts and truth. This chamber board is run by good people and leaders on the island, but many others leaders in good standing for 40 yrs do not like where we are. You heard many speak up at our corrupted contract public opinion meeting . Current board members need to pay attention and accept the facts and speak up to clean it up and join those who are and will. This current Chamber structure will never survive what's coming and the good people of this board need to act soon as to not be humiliated for being deceived, tricked and fooled.

We have much more on Bill miles to deal with like 4 million past welcome center , local app with Steve riley , trips to China with his family also turned over my whistle blower who said he robbed us , trips to England , monies to Canada , comingled bank accounts , travel / hotels /meals etc , free golf memberships , corporate

entrainment on and off golf course , bills sons golf whistleblower claims is part of corporate entertainment and much more .

Oh and Steve riley one last thing all town codes , RFPs , fair bidding and who added the Hilton head chamber to down code to eliminate fair bids and competition . Lee Edwards remember you once were for this ? Lee if chamber was in landscape business selling plants and you were a member what would you do ? Accept it and say nothing ??????? Thx

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

My long war with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber and Hilton Head Island Town Council is not over.

It's just beginning.

On November 17, the Hilton Head Island Town Council voted -- after hearing from an unprecedented turnout of thoughtful and well-informed protesters -- to approve a five-year contract with the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce to serve as the Town's designated marketing organization (DMO) and promote local tourism.

The flawed, weak contract -- which clearly favors the interests of the Chamber over the public interests of transparency and accountability -- is an insult to anyone who even remotely understands the issues involved.

The four Town Council members who voted for the contract -- Bill Harkins, John McCann, Tom Lennox and Kim Likins -- ran roughshod over any of the many outspoken opponents of the contract.

They also demonstrated quite clearly to me that they are beholden to Bill Miles and other Chamber power brokers who controlled the secret contract negotiation process and drafted a document that favors the Chamber in virtually every respect.

For example, the new contract does not require the Chamber to comply with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). It does not require a forensic audit to determine that every penny of the $1.8 million in public funding given to the Chamber this year has been spent efficiently and within the law. And it contains a vague and incomplete cancellation clause that makes it almost impossible to terminate without years of legal wrangling.

Before the vote, Councilmen Lennox, Harkins and McCann -- the three members of the Town Council's Finance & Administrative Committee that I believe corrupted with Bill Miles and others to abandon the public interest and let the Chamber off the hook -- assured me personally they would listen with open minds to the public objections at the November 17 meeting and act accordingly.

Those assurances to me turned out to be lies.

Despite the many criticisms of the contract from respected members of the business community and general public, they turned a deaf ear to the public and voted for the contract.

Kim Likins, *known by me to be a close friend of the Chamber public relations manager* [illegible] when she said she had listened to all the comments. Not one Board member supported a FOIA compliance provision in the contract or audit as two important ways to build public trust. Instead, like mindless robots they praised Bill Miles and the Chamber.

Three members of the Town Council -- Mayor David Bennett, Lee Edwards and Marc Grant -- had the courage and good sense to stay against the contract. But even they failed to demand that the Chamber comply with FOIA or submit to an audit.

Such gross failures and dereliction of duty *by the entire Town Council* in [illegible] *Mayor Bennett* -- are an insult to my intelligence and the integrity of anyone who cares about this issue.

So now it's time to fight on -- and elevate the cause to a new level.

I am calling on Chamber members and local businesses who do care about this issue to step up in record and make their voices heard.

After all, why would Chamber members continue to support an organization that changed its bylaws to strip them of their rights and the ability to vote for a real and responsible Board, as opposed to the hand-selected "buddy board" Bill Miles and others have installed?

And why would local businesses continue to support an organization that competes directly with them every day by selling advertising that depletes local media budgets while the Chamber is being rewarded with tax-free accommodations taxes?

Mayor Bennett has claimed to me he cares about the interests of local media companies that are finding it increasingly hard to survive the unfair competition. But during the meeting, he never said a word about these concerns. In short, the Town Council sold out to the Chamber. Period.

And they must -- and will -- be held accountable.

The Chamber must be confronted and reformed. Now.

At the same time, there must be significant change at the Chamber.

Its basic structure must be addressed in a way that transforms it into a truly democratic and fully transparent organization that shows a genuine respect for the law, the public interest, local businesses and taxpayers.

Winning that battle is now the focus of my efforts.

When that day finally comes, we the people -- and all Chamber members and local businesses -- will have won a major victory.

And I will not relent until that day comes.

I hope you will join me.

Please call me at (843) 384-2268 or e-mail me at tiphoglandia@yahoo.com so we can join forces in this important battle.

Together, we can win. And we will win.

BeaufortWatchdog.org and the "Blood Clock"
Help us fight corruption in Beaufort County with this non partisan organization

Send donations to
P.O. Box 21787, Hilton Head, SC 29925 or email
contact@beaufortwatchdog.org
Your donations help pay our Executive Director and full page ads. Our most important ads will be election time ads who voters should "flush" from office. We do not support anyone. "Boss Club" hats and t-shirts available for donors over $500. Membership is free! Donations start as little as $1 Do and up
BeaufortWatchdog.org - By the People, For the People

$10,000 reward for whistle blower information paid for by BeaufortWatchdog.org leading to the arrest conviction and imprisonment of any public official or government employee or non-profit like Chambers who use our public monies

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHA

Leaders, activists gear u

By THOMAS ADAMSON

PARIS — Days before [illegible]

HARDENING BY CONGRESS, DRAMA TIED TO CLIMATE PACT

[illegible]

Leaders and [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Date: November 29, 2015 at 2:42:47 PM EST
To: david tigges <dtigges@mcnair.net>, bill miles <bmiles@hiltonheadisland.org>, rdeal@hiltonheadisland.org
Cc: davidb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov, LeeE@hiltonheadislandsc.gov, JohnM@hiltonheadislandsc.gov, MarcG@hiltonheadislandsc.gov, Likins Kim <KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>, Tom Lennox <toml@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>, Taylor Smith <Taylor@harrisonfirm.com>, Rick Caporale <rpc1@hargray.com>, sturodman@aol.com, Jerry Stewart <jstewart@bcgov.net>, psommerville@bcgov.net, tvaux@bcgov.net, jeffbradley@schouse.gov, tdavis@harveyandbattey.com, BillHerbkersman@schouse.gov, WestonNewton@schouse.gov, Cynthia Bensch <cbensch@bcgov.net>, zmurdock@islandpacket.com, AHolland@wsav.com, eal@scpolicycouncil.org
Subject: David tigges ???

Explain the praise David Tigges got for doing all Chamber of Commerce work pro bono. I guess that's supposed to make up for the $45K contract his firm got when he sat on the board of the now-defunct Lowcountry Economic Alliance.

Much more to learn about lawyer Bobby Stepp hired by David tigges to pretend he is not behind all this ????and who is paying this lawyer Stepp?? , who hired him ???? and how much is Stepp charging to defend the Hhi chamber foia lawsuit against me I have to pay out of my pocket ? And where does this money come from Tax payers , members ? Profits from advertising sales ? How about an investigation of David tigges and all fees he received going back 10 yrs on all boards he sits on in sc now or sat on in the past ? Are we to assume all is good here without proof ! David tigges was past chamber board member and needs to be questioned in that capacity , not as a lawyer but leader of the Hhi chamber ,supposed to manage Bill miles , and held

accountable when this all is finally seen and understood if wrong doing and abuse is discovered .

Again not one chamber speech at the public hearing was about audit or foia last night , all about how great the chamber is . Xchamber whistle blower has come forward to tell all . David tigges is in for a huge awakening soon , in fact he is a liar

My inside whistle blower source tells me David tigges instructed everyone on the board to say how great the chamber is not talk about the contract and to not talk to anyone outside this board . How great the chamber is was not the purpose last night, it was about proper terms for a contract .. I am sure all chamber board members are good people and I do agree we need a great local chamber and a DMO , but both need to be run properly . With the corrupted approval of this contract what we now end up with ,just means more corruption ahead if not stopped . The abuse and violations approved by 4 incompetent or corrupted town council members that did not hear a word Mayor bennett said or other experts was pitiful . In fact Kim likins lied and John Mcaan as well when he said he had already made up his mind up last night totally abusing and disrespecting public opinions . They are not fit for public office . Older gentlemen who spoke was correct when he said Bill Harkin's and Steve Riley don't know enough about marketing nor the lawyers to even draft this Agreement, which we all know now was drafted by the chamber . One of the board members slipped and said the chamber board worked hard drafting the agreement . So we now know who was lying ?

I submitted a lawyer and CPA opinion and it was again ignored by the 4 incompetent / corrupted lying town council members who are not fit to serve office nor fit for a low level job in my company . Both opinions attached !

Where's this money and all past lawyers payments to David tigges and others going back 15 yrs with this chamber . No audit just means more escape .

What I wish is David tigges would file a lawsuit against me so we can start depositions and discovery tomorrow ! One way or the other my foia lawsuit or law enforcement we will one day get these records and I am 100% convinced a Palm beach type result will happen . Thx

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Likins Kim
Cc: cclark@hiltonheadisland.org
Subject: Kim likins employment

We do not need a anyone who lies and has conflict leading our boys and girls club or serving on town council . Kim I expect two things you either resign or are terminated . I can assure you one of the two will happen . Thx

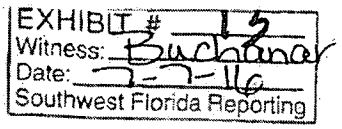
Further do not even think about running for reelection on town council , this will not be allowed as well . Your friend Charlie Clark in Cced .

Note Charlie Clark lied we have proof , as well as used as a puppet of david tigges and bill Miles . We have this info and more from inside whistle blower and will become part of our lawsuit and depositions . You both will be deposed .

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
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011-54-9-11-5942-3202





From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Kim Likins-town council and Boys & Girls Club employee must be terminiated / lawsuits on chamber and town council coming soon
Date: March 22, 2016 11:13:45 AM EDT
To: cathy hoagland <hhi@hargray.com>



Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell [redacted]
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
[redacted]

Begin forwarded message:

From: CC Hoagland [redacted]
Date: December 8, 2015 at 2:13:33 PM EST
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Kim Likins-town council and Boys & Girls Club employee must be terminiated / lawsuits on chamber and town council coming soon

I look forward to a response on what action Boys and Girls club will be take and certainly willing to meet with all of you for more info on this case and lawsuits that will be filed . Depos , discovery etc . Kim likins will be deposed and she will become part of full Page ads and I am sure covered by the press for her proven lie , deception and conflict .

I have Cced David Bennet as he is fully aware not just Kim likins , but others lied and deceived us and lied to us in many ways all documented , along with info provided by whistle blowers we have no reason to doubt . We have several council members and town employees that need to be terminated and sure will once this litigation and info is fully revealed . Our chamber is so corrupt I stake my 40 yr career once a 5 yr forencic audit is conducted , prison for some will be the result . This chamber will be totally rebuke from ground floor up like in palm beach fl where the Gov's chamber controller went to prison for 10yrs for embezzlement. Not one time has a true independent

audit been done on a chamber DMO where wrongdoing was not found . Are we all to believe Bill miles is honest , basically telling our Mayor and others to go to Hell he will not agree to a audit ???? Do we really have this much incompetence and corruption in our local government ?

Our recent contract negotiations with the chamber was hugely corrupted and should not be signed . If signed it will be proven why it must be terminated due to corruption This litigation I hope will send a loud clear message to those who we trust that violate us . I am proud and happy that I can not only afford to stand up ,but willing to stand up for a cause that's important for all of us after 40 yrs of abuse to 60 million in tax payers monies .

As I explained to all of you I have huge respect and see great needs for The Boys and Girls club and only reason I did not join or donate lately was because of Kim likins and honestly never approached in the past . She was so corrupted by others , she was the only town council member that refused to call me to discuss this chamber issue . I reached out to Stan smith to ask her to call me and she refused ! As I explained to you and reason I contacted you was
I did not want the good name and importance of Boys and Girls club tainted by an employees bad actions . We have an ethics commission and state laws on code of conduct . We have many in violation of this in Beaufort county like Kim Likins , Lisa sulka and few others . Jeff moss included and to date has escaped . My case will be different with Bill
Miles and this chamber , as I just want talk and send emails , but actually file a lawsuit . This is why so many Escape justice , as others are to scared to fight, have no financial means , or not willing to take the time and spend the money . It takes money and action to fight corruption not just words. press and emails , that eventually result in slowly just going away as people wear out and give up . Thx

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3203

On Dec 8, 2015, at 1:15 PM, cathy <hhi@hargray.com> wrote:

> Skip Hoagland asked me to forward this to you.. he is cced on this email.
>
> Kim Likins and her husband were scammed out of 100k, info attached. Please note her comment on what happen? Please note she refused to audit Bill Miles, she violated her duties to public comment and process, violated her fiduciary responsibility to tax payers and those who voted for her and she lied to protect Bill Miles and has now been proven she had a conflict of interest with her friend Charlie Clark, who works for the chamber. She is not fit to serve public office or our



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Likins Kim
Subject: Fwd: Kim likins loses 100 k in scam to another town clown
Attachments: Kim Likins Investment.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Kim look at your comments after you lost 100 k with your own money not tax payers money
!This will be forwarded and used in your deposition ! You must be proud of yourself

And can tell you the ongoing approval of the economic council and now recent request for 1m based in no track record of success will be questioned soon .

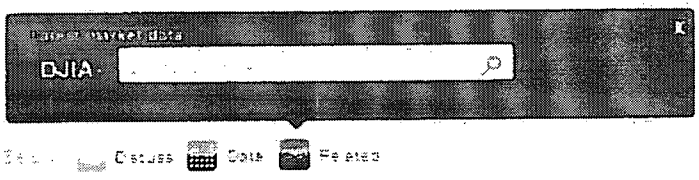
Would you invest $100,000 of your hard-earned money with this man?

128

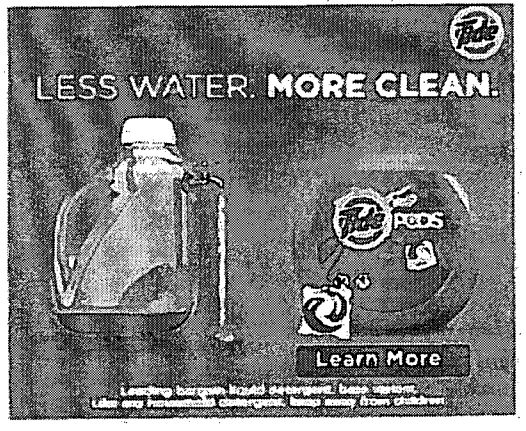
and Master Document 002987

‘Economan’ pleads guilty for investor fraud

Former economist known for superhero depiction could face up to 45 years



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Associated Press

Updated 10:5 2007 2009-13 PM ET

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CHARLESTON, S.C. — A former economist pleaded guilty Friday for his role in swindling investors out of an estimated $90 million, which authorities said he used to purchase a half-dozen homes, swanky cars and jewel-encrusted pens.

Al Parish, 50, admitted to two counts of fraud and lying to investigators. He faces up to 45 years in prison.

Parish was known for his flashy clothes and a Web site that depicted him in a superhero costume, a large "E" for "Economan" emblazoned on his chest. But prosecutors say he defrauded about 500 people, and while the exact amount of losses was still being calculated, investors reported losing a total of $90 million.



Likins v. Hoagland Master Document 002988

Angry investors weigh in on case

Apr 7 2007 12:01 am

"Our whole family has invested with him for years. ... What could someone have done with so much money?"

— Kim Likins of Hilton Head Island.

She and her husband invested $100,000 with Parish for the first time about two months ago.

Likins v. Hoagland Master Document 002989

One needs to perform due diligence. Trust but verify.

Sure he seemed like a really nice guy. Perhaps he was friends with her friends. Perhaps their children grew up with his children. Perhaps they have been to each other's homes. Perhaps her family knew him for years but failed to see the signs that were right before their eyes.

His lavish lifestyle, including a $1.7 million "pen collection", multiple homes, and uber flamboyant clothes. Is that the type of person you want to trust your finances to?

Likins v. Hoagland Master Document 002990

Can a person who disregards such telling signs, facts and the need for due diligence when investing her own money be trusted to make sound decisions about taxpayers' money?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Parish

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Al Parish

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Al Parish (born in the late-1960s) is a former Charleston Southern University economist, who was sentenced to federal prison after pleading guilty to financial fraud.[1][2] Nearly 300 people lost up to $66 million invested in Parish Economic's private investment funds. Before being charged with fraud, Parish was known as a flamboyant local financial expert dubbed 'Economan'[3] and was known for his $1.2 million pen collection, including a $170,000 diamond-encrusted pen.[4]

He began serving a 24-year sentence in the summer of 2008 after pleading guilty to orchestrating a Ponzi scheme, and was ordered to pay restitution of $66.6 million. Investigators believe they will recover $9–15 million for investors, but the investigation has cost more than $2 million.[5][6]

He is serving his sentence at Butner Federal Correctional Complex outside of Raleigh, North Carolina along with inmates such as Bernard Madoff.[7]

References [edit]

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2. ^ Stock, Kyle; Schuyler Kropf (26 June 2008). "Al Parish discusses the collapse of his investment empire". *The Post and Courier*. Retrieved 2009-09-29.
3. ^ "Economan: Superthief". *American Greed* (CNBC). Retrieved 2009-09-29.
4. ^ Associated Press (9 November 2006). "College Professor Displays $170,000 Pen". *San Francisco Chronicle*. Retrieved 2009-09-29.
5. ^ Kropf, Schuyler; Kyle Stock (24 February 2008). "Parish's 4 homes expected to go quickly at auction". *The Post and Courier*. Retrieved 2009-09-29.
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7. ^ Owens, Andy (14 July 2009). "Al Parish, Bernie Madoff to be jailmates in N.C.". *Charleston Regional Business Journal*. Retrieved 2009-09-29.

External links [edit]

- Parish Economics website in June 2008, featuring the 'Economan' cartoon

1387
Highland Capital Management Document 002992

http://www.postandcourier.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?avis=CP&date=20070407&category=PC1602&lopenr=304079992&Ref=AR

http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20071006/PC1602/310069943



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 8:15 AM
To: Bennett, David; Likins Kim
Subject: Fwd: Kim Likins

Fyi

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com>
> **Date:** December 10, 2015 at 4:42:30 PM EST
> **To:** Michael Briggs <mgbriggs2003@yahoo.com>
> **Cc:** Taylor Smith <Taylor@harrisonfirm.com>
> **Subject: Re: Kim Likins**
>
> Thank you !! My position is i will not support any organization that supports or allows its employees to not be truthful or has conflict . Mrs likins might be a good employee , but her other job as town council failed me and others and feel its a reflection on her no matter where she works or serves .
>
> Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings
>
> Skip Hoagland / CEO
> Domains New Media LLC
> US cell 843-384-7260
> Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
> 011-54-9-11-5942-3202
>
> On Dec 10, 2015, at 4:18 PM, Michael Briggs <mgbriggs2003@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
> > Your demand that Kim Likins be terminated from her position at the Hilton Head Island Boys & Girls Club has been considered and is hereby rejected. Ms. Likins is an outstanding employee and has the complete support of the officers and Board of the Club.

Michael G. Briggs
Board President - HHI BGC

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT

KIM LIKINS,

Plaintiff,

vs. CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
2015-CP-07-02937

C.C. "SKIP" HOAGLAND,

Defendant.

----------/

The deposition of MARVIN LICH, a witness in the above-entitled cause, taken pursuant to Notice and agreement, before Amanda Bowen, Stenographic Reporter and Notary Public, at Alford & Thoreson, LLC, 18 Executive Park Road, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, on the 26th day of October 2016, commencing at or about the hour of 9:25 a.m.

started when I ask you a question I want you to answer as best you can. If you don't understand it, please ask me to rephrase or explain the question better, but don't talk to anybody else about what my question might mean.

A I understand it.

MR. LINTON: Make that Exhibit 19.

(Whereupon, Exhibit Number 19 was marked for identification.)

BY MR. LINTON:

Q I am going to hand you what has been marked as Deposition Exhibit 19. We are marking the exhibits in this case from deposition to deposition; so this is the first of your deposition, but it is number 19.

That is a Subpoena for your deposition testimony today.

Have you seen that before?

A Yes, I have. I have seen one like that. I did not get the revised one. I think it was sent Federal Express, but I did receive the other one.

Q So you are here today because of that Subpoena?

A Yes, I am.
Q How long have you lived on Hilton Head?
A About 16 years.
Q And where do you live right now?
A We live in Indigo Run, the Golf Club, 599 Colonial Drive.
Q Is that within the Town?
A Yes, it is.
Q And I think you said right before we went on the record that you are moving soon?
A Yes, we are. In fact the moving van is loading us tomorrow and Friday. So we are moving to Davidson at that time.
Q North Carolina?
A North Carolina.
Q And why did you move to Hilton Head 16 years ago?
A Well, I was retired in 2000 from Eli Lilly and Company, and we had vacationed here like many people for about 12 or 15 years and we really liked Hilton Head; and so our original plan was to have two places, one in Carmel, Indiana where I retired from and one down here. So we came down on a temporary basis and decided to have just one home, so we built our home in

2001.

Q Have you worked while you have been in Hilton Head?

A No, not for money.

Q So you have been retired?

A I have been retired since 2000.

Q And are you involved with the Boys & Girls Club?

A Yes, I am.

Q And what position do you currently hold?

A My current position is president of the Boys & Girls Club of the Low Country.

Q And have you held other positions within that organization?

A Yes, I have. I started on the board in 2003 and held all kinds of positions, chair jobs, and then I was president of the Hilton Head Boys & Girls Club in fiscal 2013 and '14.

Q And could you explain to me the difference between the Hilton Head Boys & Girls Club and the Boys & Girls Club of the Low Country?

A Sure.

The central organization is the Boys &

Girls Club of the Low Country. And that consists of about 6 clubs. Hilton Head is one of them, Bluffton, Jasper, what we call north of the Broad and Shelton is part of that, and also the Bridges School. So the Low Country is a 501c3 charter that is responsible for all the clubs.

And then the Hilton Head Club is just one of the 6 clubs that report to -- the presidents report to me, and then the unit directors report to another individual.

Q So as the president of the Boys & Girls Club of the Low Country, who reports to you?

A The executive Director Chris Protz and then the presidents of the board, of the various boards.

Q So Chris Protz is the executive director of --

A The Boys & Girls Club of the Low Country, and so all the unit directors report to him directly; and they report to the Boards on a dotted line basis.

Q Do the unit directors of the various Boards report to you?

A No, they do not.

Q Of the various clubs I meant?
A The various clubs, they do not.
Q So the only unit director that reports to you is Chris Protz?
A He is an executive. He is the CEO of the Low Country Boys & Girls Club.
Q And how long has Chris Protz been in that position?
A He has been in that position five years, I think, something like that.
Q And when did you first meet Kim Likins?
A Approximately 5-1/2 years ago when she went to work for the Hilton Head Boys & Girls Club.
Q Did you interview her for that job?
A I was not on the interview team. At that time I was on the board of the Hilton Head Club.
Q So were you on any committee that vetted her for that job?
A Not directly, no.
Q Did you vote on her hiring?
A Yes, I was involved in that hiring decision, the whole board was.
Q Did you vote in favor of hiring her?

Boys & Girls Club of the Low Country and Kim Likins' job as the unit director of the Hilton Head Club?

A Yes, there is a major difference because Chris Protz is like a CEO of the organization. He has all the clubs reporting to him. So it is a much broader scope job than the unit director would be for a club. So that would be the main differences.

He is really managing the whole organization under the 501c3 charter of the Low Country of the Boys & Girls Club.

Q Does he have as much hands on interaction with the day-to-day activities of the various clubs as a unit director would have?

A No, no.

His job is to be a CEO and to run the whole organization and to work from a CEO standpoint with the unit directors. His job is not to go manage the clubs. That is the unit director's job.

Q Have you ever been in a position where you have evaluated Kim Likins' job performance?

A Yes, I have when I was the president of the Board of the Hilton Head Club.

Q And would that evaluation be done on an annual basis?

A Yes, sir, her evaluations like all unit directs are done on an annual basis.

Q And how many times did you evaluate her job performance?

A I was involved directly in an evaluation three times and that was while I was president of the Hilton Head Club.

Q And what were the results of those evaluations?

A Well, confidentially she had a very high rating, excellent performance, one of the top performers in the total organization.

Q Does part of the evaluation include evaluating whether she is fit to continue on in that position?

A Yes, it does.

Q And how is that evaluation undertaken?

A Well, we have -- it is a, if you would, a roots up kind of an input system on that. The Board gets together and shares inputs and the executive committee for the Board then takes those inputs. The executive committee is made up of about ten people and, then the executive

committee, which I was a part of as president of the club, we would then review that. And then we would take our recommendations to Chris Protz, who is the immediate boss of people like Kim Likins, the unit directors and then we would sit down and share and evaluate and make the final evaluation; the president and Chris Protz would do that for the unit directors.

Q So as a member of the Board you are more the field team for evaluating her performance?

A Yes, that is true.

It is an unusual setting because it is a dotted line to the unit directors. The Board has a dotted line to the unit directors.

Q What do you mean by a dotted line?

A It means that the unit director is not pointing directly into the Board. The unit director points directly into Chris Protz the CEO. That is a unique way they are set up in the Low Country in terms of the Boys & Girls organization.

Where you have other major metropolitan areas it might be a different format.

Q And what was the evaluation of Kim

Likins' fitness to continue on in her position on the three evaluations that you were involved with?

A It was outstanding evaluations.

Q Does that involve an evaluation of her integrity?

A Yes. Well, that is part of that.

Q And what was that evaluation?

A What do you mean by that?

Q The evaluation of her integrity, those three --

A How we rated it?

Q Exactly.

A It was rated outstanding. We rated excellent. I think the outstanding rating is excellent.

Q Have you ever met Mr. Hoagland, Skip Hoagland the Defendant in this case?

A No, I have not.

Q Did you meet him this morning?

A No, I have not. I saw him. I said hi to him.

MR. HOAGLAND: Nice to meet you.

THE WITNESS: Nice to meet you.

BY MR. LINTON:

Q And have you ever spoken to him?
A On the phone.
Q When was that?
A Sometime around December 5 or 3, somewhere in that area, I received a phone call from an individual who identified himself as Skip Hoagland.
Q And what phone did you receive the phone call on?
A On my home phone.
Q And what did Mr. Hoagland tell you?
A Mr. Hoagland indicated that he wanted to talk to me about and demand that Kim Likins the executive director of the Hilton Head Club be fired because she was a liar and because she was unfit to take care of kids and that was the initial statement that he made to me.
Q And did he elaborate on what he meant by that?
A Well, he went into a lot of details on it. He talked a lot about it in a very strong language. I don't remember all the details because I was just set back by that type of call.
My experience is pretty deep in the

fortune top 100 company, I was in senior management for 34 years. I was a Navy Officer, and I had not received a phone call like that, not anywhere close.

Q Do you remember any of the details of what he told you?

A Just a lot of over and over about how she was a liar, how she was unfit for the kids and we needed to fire her. It was that kind of a theme as I recall.

Q Did he provide any facts to substantiate those claims?

A No. I think evidently he had -- as you know Kim Likins is part of the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head, and from what I gather he was very disturbed, very upset about a contract that she voted in favor of for the Bluffton and Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce. And so that is my impression he was talking about that. He just felt very, very strongly about what he was saying and was very vocal about it.

Q That information about him being upset that she had not voted the way he wanted her to, did you get that from your conversation with him

on the phone?

MR. BREWER: Objection.

THE WITNESS: I don't remember all of that coming up in the conversation.

MR. BREWER: You can go on. I may object from time to time.

THE WITNESS: That is fine.

MR. ALFORD: Just ignore him and go ahead and answer.

THE WITNESS: Yeah.

I don't remember because to be very candid with you, it was going on a long time, a lot of heavy words about that, you know. I was just taken aback. It was a Friday afternoon as I recall when I received that call. So I don't remember if that came up, or if that was something I realized along the way. I think I was aware. He asked me if I was aware of some things about who he was. I said I knew a little bit about him, but I hadn't followed it that closely.

BY MR. LINTON:

Q What did you know about him?

A I saw some things in the press about some things he was going on with the city. I saw a little bit of that along the way. That was what I -- that is what I knew about. I didn't know that much, because I didn't pay that much attention to it.

Q So during the conversation did Mr. Hoagland explain to you why he was telling you that Kim Likins was a liar?

MR. BREWER: Objection.

THE WITNESS: I don't recall what kind of explanation he had, because he had a very strong tone about him. He wanted her fired because he was talking about how much of a liar she was and how unfit and how dangerous it was for our kids, you know, based on -- so I don't remember exactly.

BY MR. LINTON:

Q The same question, but with respect to her being dangerous to be around children.

Were there any -- did he tell you why it was dangerous that she be around children?

A Not that I recall.

Q Do you remember how long the call

lasted?

A I don't remember the total amount of time. It was fairly lengthy in terms of at least five, ten minutes. Kind of the same language over and over.

Q What did you say on the call?

A One of the things I said I don't think I -- I would appreciate it if you did not involve the Boys & Girls Club, because I couldn't understand how they would be involved as a nonprofit organization. We have worked hard on this island with the nonprofit organization. I did say that.

Based on everything he was saying I didn't feel it was appropriate for him to be attacking the Boys & Girls Club, because they are not involved in this situation.

Q But why did you feel like the Boys & Girls Club was being attacked?

A Because he wanted her fired and called her a liar. Called her -- when she did not have the ability to relate well with kids, you know, that wouldn't reflect on our donors and everybody else and our donors don't feel that way.

Q Go ahead.

A I was just saying I mean she comes -- all her contacts that she has had we have always had excellent, positive reports. The donors love her. And so that would impact if he continued to do the Boys and Girls thing, that would impact the -- could impact the Boys & Girls Club, which I felt was unfair.

Q Did you say anything else on the call?

A Not that I recall. I did say towards the end of the conversation that we would -- I would meet with the appropriate people, I would review with them his comments and would evaluate it, and if we needed any more information I would call him back.

Q Did you have the authority to fire Kim Likins at the time of the phone call?

A No.

Q If --

A At the time of the phone call I was not president of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head.

Q If you had been persuaded and wanted her fired, would you have had the ability to effectuate that?

A No, not by myself totally.

Q Who could terminate her employment at that time?

A It would have to be agreed to by Chris Protz, by the Board of Directors, by the executive committee of Hilton Head and by myself as president of the Low Country.

It would be a team that would have to be involved in it.

Q And you were the president of the Boys & Girls Club of the Low Country?

A At that time.

Q And so would you be the head of that team?

A I would be the head of the team.

Q And have you ever received any E-mails from Mr. Hoagland?

A Not that I am aware of.

Q Do you know of anyone else from the Boys & Girls Club that got a call?

A As I recall I think the president of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head got a call, Mike Briggs.

Q And would he be another person that would be on that team?

A Yes, he would. He would be a key person in that team.

Q Did you talk to him about the call you received?

A Yeah, when the call happened on Friday afternoon when I received it, we the following week I convened a meeting with the president of Hilton Head Board, Mike Briggs and Chris Protz; and we reviewed the situation and talked about any phone calls that they might have got, and together we then worked through the situation.

Q What do you mean you worked through the situation?

A We worked through it and decided that based on everything that we heard that we would contact our legal Counsel in Atlanta, Georgia, which we did, advised them of the situation just like I would in the corporate world; and we had an agreement with them that if anything further occurred we would turn it over to them.

It was their advice to us, they are our legal Counsel, they are very powerful in the Boys & Girls Club. The Boys & Girls Club is a very powerful organization, and so we had a lot of confidence in them. So that is the way we

worked.

Q When you say if anything else happened you would turn it over to them, what do you mean by that?

A If we had any more phone calls from him or from the press or from anybody else, they would contact -- they would work with our legal Counsel.

Q And what was the reason for that?

A The reason for that is that is that is just good operating policy by an organization that is run I think from the standpoint that they know what they are doing.

Q And what was significant about these phone calls that would merit that type of reaction?

A Well again, I would go back to my experience as an officer in the Navy and 34 years in the Eli Lilly Company, I never received any kind of phone call like that in my life. So that phone call is very alarming to get from somebody who demands, who has no involvement or authority to be involved in assessing a person, demands that you would fire somebody. That is a very -- that was very upsetting to us.

Q And so it sounds like you took the call very seriously?

A Yes, we did. Very seriously.

Q Did you take the -- let me start over.

Was your -- did you investigate the allegations that were made in the phone call?

A We reviewed our assessment of Kim Likins and everything we knew, and we had nothing that we could come up with that would be any indication at all there was any problems. So everything that he was saying to us, we did not have any documentation. We did not have anything that would suggest there was any issues.

Q But you did endeavor to confirm that?

A Yes, we did. That is why we convened a meeting, tried to look at all the facts.

Q Was there any written report from that meeting?

A I don't know.

Q Did you write a report?

A No, I did not write a report. Well, I do know, the more I think about it nobody wrote a report, I would have had a copy of it.

No, we did not write a report on it,

BY MR. LINTON:

Q That is all the questions I have got.

MR. BREWER: Can I take a quick restroom break?

MR. LINTON: Fine.

(Whereupon, a short break was taken.)

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. BREWER:

Q Mr. Lich, is that how you say your last name?

A Lich.

Q I apologize? I wouldn't mispronounce it.

A That is all right.

Q My name is Barrett Brewer. I represent Mr. Hoagland. I appreciate your time today.

Let me get some background information first. I will try not to plow ground that Mr. Linton already went through, but just be patient with me.

What is the current address of the house you are leaving today?

A 599 Colonial Drive, Hilton Head 29926.

Q And that is the house that you have

communicating about this Email, would you have used the Email address that we discussed earlier which is the Marvlich20@Gmail.com?

A Yes, I did if I Emailed it.

Q This Affidavit, let me go through it real quick.

"On or about December 3, 2015, I received a telephone call from an individual who identified himself as Skip Hoagland. Mr. Hoagland indicated he was calling me to demand that Kim Likins, the executive director of the Hilton Head Island Boys & Girls Club be fired from her position."

Mr. Hoagland denies saying that he called you and "demanded", quote/unquote on the word "demand" that she be fired.

Do you have a specific recollection Mr. Hoagland saying the word that he demanded Miss Likins be fired?

A It happened December of 2015, a long time ago. But as I recall I have a vivid memory of that, that demand was in there pretty hot and heavy. Calling her a liar was in there hot and heavy. Talking about unfit to be around children was hot and heavy. And it was repeated

over and over kind of like a theme.

The "demanded" is not my words, nor is the -- the whole phrase that I indicated, that is what I recall.

Q Demand is not your words, what do you mean?

A That is what I heard him say.

Q Oh, you him remember hearing him saying the word demand --

A That is right.

Q -- that Miss Likins be fired?

A Very strong, and it was a theme that was continued for a while that I didn't appreciate.

Q You mentioned earlier something about saying that Miss Likins was a danger to the Boys & Girls Club.

Do you have a specific recollection of Mr. --

A Pardon me, I said what?

Q That she was a danger to the Boys & Girls Club?

A I never said that.

Q No, no, that Mr. Hoagland said that?

A Oh.

Q Do you have a specific recollection of him saying that she was a danger to the Boys & Girls Club?

A I am sorry, I misunderstood you.

Yes, I do, because. And I don't that is a conversation over a year ago. Quite some time.

But I do remember a lot of discussion on his part about she is very, very dangerous. You guys need to fire her right now. I remember that and talked very heavily about that.

Q Talk to me for a second about the substance of the debate that Mr. Hoagland has had with the Town over the Chamber of Commerce DMO contract.

Do you know anything about that?

A The only thing I know is maybe a little bit that I saw in the papers, but to be very candid with you I didn't pay a lot of attention to it.

Q Did you ever watch the video or see in person the Town Council meeting in November of 2015 where the Town Council voted on the DMO contract?

A No, I did not.

A Okay.
Q I asked you some questions earlier about the calls you got from Mr. Hoagland?
A Right.
Q Do you have any idea one way or the other regarding Mr. Hoagland's intent in calling you? Whether or not he felt he was looking out for the Boys & Girls Club or not in trying to call you and alert you to Miss Likins?
MR. LINTON: Object to the form.
THE WITNESS: No, I did not get the feeling he was trying to look out for the Boys & Girls Club.
BY MR. BREWER:
Q But you don't have any knowledge one way or the other what his intent was in trying to give you a call, correct?
A Based on everything I heard him say, I didn't think the intent was involving the Boys & Girls Club. I just thought his intent was just to go after Kim Likins. He was really coming in strongly.
Q But certainly the words he used with you were in the context of Miss Likins's service for you as the Boys & Girls Club, right?

MR. LINTON: Object to the form.

THE WITNESS: Well, when he called her a liar --

BY MR. BREWER:

Q Yeah --

A And he called her unfit for the kids, no, that was just language that he wasn't qualified to say about, because he didn't know what she was doing for us at the Boys & Girls Club. I didn't see any of that.

Q I mean you would agree with me --

A It upset me that one of our employees was being called all those names who we think a lot of. It is very unusual. I got to tell you in my 34 years as an Officer in the Navy and as a senior management person in the Eli Lilly Company I have never had any phone call anywhere close to that, and I managed probably 5,000 people over my career.

Q Sure.

A All right?

Q In general --

A So that is a key point I want to make, okay? I have never had a phone call like that, that had that kind of language, that kind of

Q All right. Will you please give me your full name.

A Calvin C. Hoagland.

Q And what is your home address?

A 1901 Heritage Trail.

Q Where is Heritage Trail?

A Naples, Florida.

Q You file Florida tax returns?

A Do I file tax returns?

Q Do you file a Florida state tax return?

A Yep. My wife and I do that and I have a license. I vote in Florida and I don't file any tax returns. Actually, I don't own anything, so my sister and my wife do that. They own my company. And I don't own the house there and I don't own the house there in Hilton Head as well.

Q Tell me about the Windmill Harbor residence. What is the address?

A 61 Sparwheel Lane.

Q Who is the owner of that house?

A My wife.

Q Do you know whether or not it is assessed at a four percent state resident -- primary resident?

A My wife is a South Carolina resident. I'm a Florida resident. She pays -- we do everything legal. Everything.

Q Do you own any interests in any LLCs?

A No.

Q Limited liability companies?

A No. I've given away everything. I own nothing.

Q What are your sources of income?

A Source of income?

Q Yes, sir.

A My wife takes care of me and provides the little bit of income. I don't require a lot of income to be honest with you.

Q Do you receive pay from anybody, any active income?

A From my wife.

Q What is Island Communications? I saw an entity Island Communications.

A That is a company that is, I guess, one of the companies that my wife is part of it and it is partnered with Linda Rew. It runs -- she is the managing partner of that entity.

Q Linda Rew or your wife?

A Linda Rew is the managing partner.

Q What is the business of Island Communications?

A It runs various media Hilton Head stuff, in Savannah, Beaufort, Bluffton. It does different things.

Q Before a couple years ago, what was your primary occupation? What did you do?

A What did I do?

Q Yes, sir.

A My interest was domain names. Business domain assets.

Q What did you do with those domain assets?

A We put them in the hands of other people to run, and, I guess, my sister and my wife are trying to still do that and it's a changing world. It's getting tougher and tougher with Google, a lot of the competition is unfair competition, and I think that is one of the things I've kind of taken up -- taken up a fight on and I saw that to the company and I see that to a lot of other people. So we are very focused on Hilton Head actually.

Q How are you focused on Hilton Head?

A We were focused on Hilton Head and Beaufort County as kind of the laboratory test actually. A test to roll out to show people in other cities in South Carolina and quite frankly around the United States what is going on.

Q Was the idea that you could promote local businesses through these websites?

A Absolutely.

Q What types of businesses would you promote?

A It would be primary businesses that were after tourism, businesses -- local businesses, plumbers, electricians, et cetera, et cetera. It would be more geared to a local magazine than some sort of monthly or the Island Packet or something like that. The GO domains on the internet would be searched by people coming to Hilton Head or coming to Savannah or Atlanta or wherever it might be.

Q Did you or anybody on behalf of your companies ever pitch to the Town of Hilton Head Island about becoming the designated marketing organization for Hilton Head?

A Yes. Actually, we gave that up and decided to focus on cleaning up the existing Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce and a DMO and CVB. There is a guy -- we call him Peter B. because no one can pronounce his last name, Beninito (ph). And actually Peter, I tried to encourage him to try to become -- set up a new

chamber, CVB. We got a lot of domain names. I gave it to him. I have no financial involvement in that whatsoever. My business is not that. There is a big distinct difference and I'm going to really enjoy being with you --

Q And was the idea that if you set that up that CVB could become a candidate to be the DMO for the Town of Hilton Head Island and --

A Absolutely. Could be -- it could be a proper job and do what you are supposed to do. Trenholm, as much as you would like this to mean something else, that's not going to work for this. What would it be? Peter would set this up. He would receive the monies. He would get what would be a typical ad agency commission to do something like that would be about 15

percent. I was trying to set him up in business because I liked him. I have no -- he will tell you flat out Skip had nothing to do with it. We had a DMO run properly that would take the monies, would be transparent, would comply with FOIA, would comply with audits to our mayor. Even our mayor is a nice guy. But he makes so many mistakes. He is so weak. He asked Bill Miles "I want to do an audit of your books. I want to do an audit."

Q Did you or your wife or any of those entities that we talked about pay any compensation to Peter B. for his efforts to set up the alternative CVB?

A Yeah. My wife may have. I'm sure we did. We help Beaufort Watchdog, which I helped start and I did that as a community services because I wanted to start an organization -- I think it is a great concept itself. It is an organization to give a place to come anonymously that didn't have money that could give them a place to come to tell their story on corruption, violations and abuse in Beaufort county. It is a wonderful concept. Beaufort Watchdog has some wonderful cases and I'm sure there will be more.

Q What are their wonderful cases?

A I don't know. I don't know all of them.

I think --

Q What cases do you know about specifically?

A I don't know of any.

Q Okay.

A I don't know of anything. That is all in the works. But what the point I'm making is that my wife's doing this community effort and stuff and my wife has been willing to put up the money to do all of this. She is getting sick of it. She rather me get out of all this and --

Q Do you regret anything you said or wrote about Kim Likins?

A No. Everything I've said about Kim Likins is true. Everything. And what I suggested to Kim Likins was to change and become the person that she needs to be and to stand strong and stand tough and to do her job on town council. If Kim Likins and the others on

council did what was right, we wouldn't be here today. All I've asked for is an accountability, transparency, proven performance measures and metrics with our tax monies. And if they can't do that, they got to be told sternly and harshly that they have to do this and if they don't do it, we are going to keep on. After this deposition and after we go to court, win, lose or draw, I don't know what the jury is going to do --

Q Yes, sir.

A Oh, God. I have no idea. It has been several years. It's been several years. Kim probably knows better than I do. This has been going on for a long time and it is going to continue for -- I want to finish my answer from before. After this lawsuit, it will continue. Today after the town council, it will continue. I might have to call Kim a liar and I might have to call her the same thing after this lawsuit is over. It's not going to stop until it is cleaned up and it ends.

Q Have you ever singled out Kim?

A Look, what I'm telling you is most people most of the time, I have singled all four of the people that lied. I have nothing against Kim. I haven't spoken -- I don't think ever

spoken to Kim one-on-one other than in town council. As far as I'm concerned, I'm sure she is a nice person. I don't look at the face. I look at the situation. I'm not looking at the faces. I'm looking at the actions. I'm not after anybody. What I'm after is transparency, accountability and doing what is right. I'm about the truth. I'm not about attacking somebody. That is not my style. I don't need to do that.

Q Against these chambers that you feel are --

A I think we are in a war, yes.

Q All right.

A Listen, when someone is trying to put you out of business, that is a war. Let me tell you something: When someone tries to put you out of business, they are trying to -- basically trying to kill you. They are trying to destroy you. There is all forms of death and to put a bullet in somebody's head or you can just slowly torture them and try to put them out of business and causes heart attack and cancer and everything else. Anybody that is trying to harm somebody, that is bad to me.

Q You made this remark. I just want to make sure I understood it or you said it. If Mrs. Likins would have voted against the contract, we would not be here today, would we?

A If she voted against it?

Q Yes, if she voted not to approve the DMO contract with the chamber, we would not be here today, would we?

A Not necessarily. There is another

issue. This is not so simple. As you can see, it is not just about defamation. It's a lot more and what caused that defamation.

Q What caused the defamation?

A There will be other reasons as well. The other reason the contract would have been redrafted and we maybe -- who knows -- her vote would have been four-three and it would have been -- well, it would have been four-three and we would have worked on cleaning the contract, but maybe the contract would not have been cleaned up -- because even the three there were let's put it all off and look at it, revisit it, that doesn't mean all the proper terms and conditions would have ended up being done. I think it would have helped. And I think that it is possible that -- that we wouldn't be here today, that there would be some other issue.

BY MR. WALKER:

Q What do you know about Kim's responsibilities at the Boys & Girls Club? What is your understanding today of what she does at the Boys & Girls Club?

A As I understand it, she is like an

executive director. She runs the branch. I don't know. She runs the Boys & Girls Club on Hilton Head, runs that particular facility.

Q So you don't know anything else other than she runs that particular facility?

A I don't know what her duties are there to be honest with you.

Q You don't know if she interacts with the children that are part of the program, do you?

A Well, I assume that if you --

Q I didn't ask you to assume.

A I --

Q I'm asking you what you know.

A If you work at the Boys & Girls Club, my assessment is you work with and around the boys and the girls in some form or fashion.

Q Do you know for a fact whether or not she works in the programs or her job is largely administrative?

A I don't know. We need to find out.

Q I'm asking you what you knew.

A I know she works at the Boys & Girls Club. I don't feel I need to know more than that.

I

And so I'm going to tell you that is the way I look at it. Now, the only reason I

didn't call anybody else and Kim was the only employer was to let them know about what their employee was doing at their other hat with the Hilton Head Town Council -- was they are all retired. They are all like me. Harkins and Lennox, well, they're all retired guys and are doing this to keep them busy and they don't drive their wives crazy, and so there was only one thing I can do is call them liars. They all three lied. And I caught them lying with a verification of my accountant who said they definitely lied. They were untrue.

Q Can you tell me a single thing in her job that has been dishonest or untruthful?

A Absolutely. The only thing I know is what she did on the town council. I have no

idea and what her abilities are as an employee of the Boys & Girls Club. I assume she does a great job. I assume she is a good employee. I would not try to convince you otherwise.

Q You were determined to publicly disgrace Kim --

A Yes.

Q Let me finish. You were determined to publicly disgrace Kim Likins?

A I'm going to disgrace anybody that lies, that is part of the theft and the corruption of our public funds on Hilton Head Island. Yes, absolutely.

Q All right. And when you talk about publicly disgracing them, what do you mean? That you are going to do what?

A When I say "publicly disgrace," I'm going to put a full page ad. You got plenty of them and plenty of the speeches, and I'm going to make sure the public knows what they did and continuing to do and continuing to allow.

Q When it --

A Look the word "disgrace" -- look it up in the dictionary. I'm sure it has many

meanings. The harm that is being caused to others is much worse than any public disgrace that anybody that allows it to possibly be.

At my age, hey, that's all you leave with what you left behind. I want to leave here with a good reputation and that I did something worthwhile. I've opened a lot of eyes to what

And when you said that you were not fit for her employment, correct?

A And I stand by that. She is not fit for her employment at the Boys & Girls Club until when she cleans up her hat at town council. How many times do you want me to say that? I'm going to give you the same answer.

Q Let's go to 123, and I think is the next one in the group. This is an e-mail from you to Kim dated December 3rd, 2015. It's copied to Charlie Clark. Do you see this one.

Are you looking at it?

A 123. Yes.

Q Okay. You sent it to Kim copied to Charlie Clark?

A Yeah.

Q "We do not need anyone who allows who lies and has conflict leading our boys and girls club or serving on town council. Kim, I expect two things. You either resign or are terminated. I can assure you one of the two will happen. Thanks."

A Okay.

Q All right.

A Perfect.

Q You were either going to force her to resign or you were going to see that she was terminated, correct?

A Says "Kim I expect two things. You either resign or are terminated." I expect two things. I would expect after what the exposure that I have made on her and other council members, and the other three are retired. They are like me. They can't be hired and/or fired. They are struggling to stay alive for the next meal. Okay. But I would -- so it says -- as mush as you think it says something else. I understand that is your job of course. It says I expect two things. Yes, I still expect two things. In fact, I expect --

Q Earlier you said you cannot force her to resign, but here you can assure one or two things will happen. How are you going to assure

her that if she didn't resign, she would be terminated?

A I would think that the people that work at the Boys & Girls Club that this will continue and doesn't change her ways, that there is no way she is going to survive. She is either going to be terminated or she is going to resign. There is no way you can support corruption and this thief and all that is going on in the island. Trenholm, you have no idea what is going to happen.

Q How many board members of the Girls & Boys Club did you try to contact?

A It was three and there is lawyers involved somewhere. I think I got the e-mails. I can forward you an e-mail. I can't really remember. Ultimately, the board decided not to terminate her.

Q Did you call those three members? Did you send them e-mails or did you do both?

A I called them.

Q My question is more specific. Did you ask any of them or suggest to any of --

A I don't remember. Let me think --

Q Let me finish my question.

A -- because there --

Q Did you suggest to any of them that she

should be terminated?

A I don't remember saying that. If I did, I did. Whatever. Look for me.

Q So you may have said that, correct?

A I don't think I did, but if you got an e-mail that I said then provide it. If you got an e-mail then provide. I'll answer your question.

Q Okay. All right.

A If you don't have it, then you're assuming and I'm assuming and quite frankly, neither one of us knows what I said because I don't recall.

Q "Four counsel members lied and that is sufficient good reason to be terminated immediately. When you call people crooks and liars and they do not sue you, this only tells me that I am correct." That is what you said correct?

A Absolutely.

Q So when you called them crooks and liars, if they didn't sue you, they were admitting they were crooks and liars, yes?

A If someone called me a crook or a liar, I would sue you so quick, so fast that you wouldn't believe it and the only reason people don't and not suing me, and Kim Likins is attempting this frivolous, malicious, illegal lawsuit that we are now sitting here -- you are sitting in on a legal process, which I just love, is that they know that when they do sue you, you go into massive discovery and depositions and that wouldn't work real well for them. Obviously, when I call Bill Miles a thief of public money, if he sues me, we get access to his books and he doesn't want that. But we are

going to get that anyway so that is okay.

Q You went to Kim's employer and you demanded that she be terminated and the employer refused to terminate her, correct?

A That's not correct and let me tell you why. That is not me saying that. That is his word against my word. I said in my opinion. He apparently put that strong language in there for whatever reason, but I can tell you I don't remember saying that to that man. So you can turn that into whatever way you want to. Show me something or e-mail where I said that and when I still -- you know what, I would still be

proud of it. I do -- I would like to see her terminated. I would like to see her terminated if she doesn't correct her wrongdoing. Kim Likins and the other Council members are causing great harm to this island and many businesses on this island by allowing the theft of our public monies. She has to get a grip on that

She's now acting like she is the victim. She is not the victim. She is the victim of her own actions. She defamed herself. She hurt herself. Everything she's done is to herself. I haven't done that. I have done nothing wrong. All I've done is expose the wrong that she's done. And other people.

Again, she is not my sole person that I'm after here. I'm after all of them.

What proof do you have that Kim has ever lied at all or deceived in her other life at work or her own family?

A If you lie and you do what you do in

your job or on your council or whatever it is, it's kind of just normal thinking that the same person that is capable of doing that and hurting others and making the bad decisions could be doing the same in their personal life.

Q But you have no proof?

A There is no proof. It is just common sense. It is common sense that if someone does one thing in their business life publicly, that they could be doing things in their private life. And she should be ashamed of themselves. And again, this is going to be a good lesson for Kim. The deposition is going to be hard and so are the other people and I hope you learn from this, Kim, and I hope you learn from this and it is all fixed and straight. I really, really do. I hope that you can get back to the good person that I'm sure that you are.

Q All right. Have you ever been arrested or charged with a crime?

A Yes.

Q Okay. What was that?

A That was -- I made mistake. The last one was a gun. I had a pistol in my carryon bag and I have a concealed permit in Florida, concealed weapons permit, and I left the gun, the glock 40 in my bag checking onto the airport and forgot the gun was in my bag, and I was on my way to make a speech and that was a very interesting day. So I ended up being taken to Chatham County Prison and put in the uniform and charged for hijacking a bus and all kinds of crazy stuff. What is interesting about that is that lawyers, doctors, teachers had all had the same experience. In fact, I think last year, 2,000 people, concealed permit holders, that had happened to. What is interesting about that, I was one of the unlucky ones. Prior to the law changed -- if you or Barrett or Gregg go there with your gun and check in and you forgot about it, if you have a concealed permit and hunts and fishes like I do, guns are kind of like that is not that big of the deal. So what happened now

is they pull you to the side. If you got a concealed weapons permit, they make you take it back to the car and let you back on the airplane and they don't charge you.

So then I had another one.

Q Let's pause right there. When was that episode at the Savannah airport?

A Yes.

Q What was the disposition? Did you plead guilty? Was it dropped? What happened?

A It was dropped. I don't know. Again, I don't know if that was on the record, if I got a record. I'm a current permit holder. I votein Florida and honestly it is so stupid and so ridiculous, I don't care if it is on my record.

Q And then you say, "If she had not hurt me and lied, I would never have called her employer."

A If she had not hurt me and others, I probably should have said others. I'm not a me guy. I'm others and us, but, you know, she had -- has hurt me. This decision hurt my company at that time and still hurts the company now that it's owned by my sister and my wife. And it is also hurting others. I share with you something that I learned a long time ago and

that is capitalism is a great system. A good capitalist always represents himself and his interests. It is always about you being a capitalist and your companies and your interest, but a good capitalist helps people along the way. Bad capitalism is screw everybody else. So I'm real big about this fight that I have spent a lot of energy and time helping other people, calling other people, telling other people I'm there for them. I've done that, so I'm fighting not just for me and media companies not just in the Hilton Head area, not just in South Carolina, but the entire country.

Q Slow down a second. This an e-mail from you to Kim dated July 12, 2015 and you can go ahead and read it. Go ahead.

A "Kim, would you please give me or Mike a 20 minute meeting on the phone. I would like to share the latest facts with you on the chamber CVB. Also what can I do to help the Boys & Girls Club. Stan Smith is a long-time friend of mine and know he is very involved. Thanks."

Q All right. So there you suggested to her that you might want to do something to help the Boys & Girls Club, right, if she would call you, right?

A If she could give us time and I'm certainly happy to do that. That is fair off. I'm happy to support you if you support me.



From: CC Hoagland <skiphoagland@yahoo.com<mailto:skiphoagland@yahoo.com>>
Date: June 21, 2016 at 9:35:26 AM EDT
To: Riley Steve <stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:stever@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>, Hulbert Brian <brianh@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:brianh@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>, Gregg Alford <gregg@alfordlawsc.com<mailto:gregg@alfordlawsc.com>>, <davidb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:davidb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>, David Ames <amesco@earthlink.net<mailto:amesco@earthlink.net>>, "Tom Lennox" <toml@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:toml@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>, <JohnM@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:JohnM@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>, "Likins Kim" <KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:KimL@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>, Harkins Bill <WilliamH@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:WilliamH@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>, <MarcG@hiltonheadislandsc.gov<mailto:MarcG@hiltonheadislandsc.gov>>
Cc: Brian Tolley <steveaustin@islandpacket.com<mailto:steveaustin@islandpacket.com>>
Subject: Please add to record my speech today I could not make !

MAYOR BENNETT AND MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL:

I REGRET ONCE AGAIN THAT OTHER COMMITMENTS PREVENTED ME FROM BEING AT THE MEETING TODAY.

BUT IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I GET CERTAIN FACTS ON THE RECORD.

NUMBER ONE, IT IS WELL-ESTABLISHED AT THIS POINT THAT FOUR OF YOU -- MS. LIKINS AND MR. MCCANN, HARKINS AND LENNOX -- PASSED A TOTALLY CORRUPTED CHAMBER DMO CONTRACT THAT WAS NOT EVEN DRAFTED BY THE TOWN, BUT WAS WRITTEN BY THE CHAMBER CEO AND CROOK BILL MILES. AND I AM HERE TO TELL YOU, AGAIN, THAT YOU WILL NOT GET AWAY WITH THAT.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WILL SEE TO IT YOU ARE BOOTED FROM OFFICE, BECAUSE ALL FOUR OF YOU ARE LIARS AND YOU ARE UNFIT TO SERVE.

FOR EXAMPLE, YOU LIED ABOUT INSPECTING THE CHAMBER'S BOOKS. YOU DID NO SUCH THING. AND YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES FOR LYING TO THE PUBLIC. BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID. AND YOU WILL NOT GET AWAY WITH IT.

YOU'VE ALSO REFUSED TO DO A PROPER INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF THE CHAMBER, EVEN THOUGH BILL MILES CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO DISCLOSE HOW HE SPENDS THE ALMOST $2 MILLION A YEAR YOU GIVE HIM IN ACCOMMODATIONS TAXES.

AND I KNOW WHY YOU REFUSE TO DO THE AUDIT -- BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF WHAT YOU WILL FIND.

IF BILL MILES HAD NOTHING TO HIDE, HE WOULD OPEN HIS BOOKS. BUT HE ABSOLUTELY REFUSES TO DO THAT. AND BASED ON THAT, EVERYBODY IN THIS ROOM KNOWS HE HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE.

I AM ALSO OFFENDED BY THE FACT

YOU'VE APPROVED THE USE OF TAXPAYER

MONEY TO FILE A FRIVOLOUS LAWSUIT AGAINST ME ON BEHALF OF MS. LIKINS. AND I REPEAT, SHE IS A LIAR AND UNFIT FOR HER ROLE ON THE COUNCIL OR HER PRIVATE SECTOR JOB. AND SHE WILL NOT GET AWAY WITH HER LIES. I WILL BEAT HER IN COURT AND EXPOSE HER AS THE FRAUD SHE IS.

ALL OF THAT SAID, I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT I AM PROCEEDING WITH MY PROCUREMENT CODE LAWSUIT AGAINST THE TOWN AND MY FIRST AMENDMENT LAWSUIT AGAINST YOU, MAYOR BENNETT.

YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, MAYOR BENNETT, FOR TRYING TO SILENCE ME, WHEN I AM THE ONE WHO HAS DISCOVERED AND MADE PUBLIC ALL OF THE IMPORTANT FACTS IN THE CHAMBER MATTER.

AND RATHER THAN ACT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND SUPPORT MY EFFORTS, YOU HAVE CALLED ME A "BULLY" AND DONE EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO SILENCE ME.

BUT I CANNOT BE SILENCED.

AND I THINK IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU WILL NOW WASTE TAXPAYER MONEY DEFENDING TWO LAWSUITS THAT DID NOT HAVE TO BE BROUGHT.

ALL YOU WOULD HAVE NEEDED TODO TO PREVENT THEM IS SHOW SOME COURAGE AND CHARACTER AND FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU DID, MAYOR BENNETT.

YOU LET MS. LIKINS AND MR. MCCANN, HARKINS AND LENNOX -- PLUS THE INCOMPETENT STEVE RILEY AND BRIAN HULBERT -- PUT YOU IN THE POSITION YOU'RE IN.

AND YOU WILL ALL PAY FOR THAT.

I GUARANTEE IT.

THANK YOU.

Sent from my iPhone excuse all typos and misspellings

Skip Hoagland / CEO
Domains New Media LLC
US cell 843-384-7260<tel:843-384-7260>
Off. Buenos Aires , Argentina
011-54-9-11-5942-3202<tel:011-54-9-11-5942-3202>

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