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The recorded meeting of O'NEIL DARDEN

1	REPORTER'S PAGE
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3	I, in and
4	for the State of Louisiana, the officer as defined
5	in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
6	and/or Article 1434(B) of the Louisiana
7	Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this proceeding
8	was taken, do hereby state on the record:
9	That due to the interaction in the spontaneous
LO	discourse of this proceeding, dashes () have been
L1	used to indicate pauses, changes in thought, and/or
L2	talkovers; that same is the proper method for a
L3	Court Reporter's transcription of proceeding, and
L4	that the dashes () do not indicate that words or
L5	phrases have been left out of this transcript;
L6	That any words and/or names which could not be
L7	verified through reference material have been
L8	denoted with the phrase "(spelled phonetically)."
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TAPED STATEMENT OF O'NEIL DARDEN: 1 2 BY MR. WASHINGTON: Today's date is February 5th, 2016. 3 Okav. Q 4 Time, I have about 2 p.m. My name is Trooper 5 Mike Washington with Louisiana State Police. 6 And we will be interviewing Chairman O'Neil 7 Darden. And we also have Sergeant Preston Savoy who will be participating with the interview. 8 9 And it's in reference to a criminal investigation that we received a few weeks back. 10 11 Mr. Chairman, first thing, can you just tell us, just state your name and your position for the 12 13 record. 14 Okay. I'm O'Neil Joseph Darden Junior and I'm Α the chairman of the Chitimacha Tribe. 15 16 Okay. And how long have you been the chairman? Q Seven, six months. 17 Α Okay. Okay. Just to give you a little 18 0 19 background, O'Neil, this is a criminal 2.0 investigation. I mean, you worked at the casino 2.1 and I'm in a peculiar situation because I knew 22 you prior to becoming chairman. And we've 23 worked together on a number of cases and stuff, 24 so it doesn't give me any pleasure to have to 25 sit you in here and interview you about this

- complaint that we received. And --
- 2 A Well that's mutual.
- 3 But, however, we have a job to do and so we 0 4 looked at all the evidence and interviewed 5 countless number of people. Some people 6 exaggerated the number, they said we interviewed 7 forty, fifty people but we didn't interview that many people. But we did talk to a lot of 8 people. We looked at a lot of documents and 9 10 email transactions so we pretty much know what went on. 11
 - A Uh-huh (affirmative response).
 - Q We know what transpired. And so we just ask that you be honest and truthful about your involvement in this thing, and, from start to finish, you know. And if there's some other people who assisted you, which I'm sure, because you're no longer employed here --
 - A Uh-huh (affirmative response).
 - Q -- so I'm sure you didn't go into human resources or go into accounting and pay yourself. I'm sure there are some other parties who helped facilitate you receiving bonus moneys or payments or what have you. So anything you want to add in on that?

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1	MR. SAVOY:
2	No. That's it. I'm good.
3	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
4	Q Yeah. Okay. This is so that's what I'm
5	gonna tell, I mean, just be honest and just tell
6	us everything from start to finish.
7	A Okay.
8	Q Okay.
9	MR. SAVOY:
LO	You advised his rights?
L1	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
L2	Q Yeah. Let me do that. Because before we start
L3	it is a criminal investigation so I have to
L4	advise you of your rights. Before we ask you
L5	any questions you must understand your rights.
L6	You have the right to remain silent. Anything
L7	you say can be used against you in court or
L8	other proceedings.
L9	You have the right to talk to a lawyer for
20	advice before questioning and you have the right
21	to have a lawyer present during questioning.
22	You have the right to a lawyer's advice and the
23	presence of a lawyer even if you cannot afford
24	to hire one.
25	In such a case a lawyer can be appointed

directly to represent you. If you decide to 1 2 answer questions without a lawyer present, you 3 still have the right to stop answering questions 4 at any time. Do you understand your rights? 5 I sure do. Α 6 Are you willing to answer questions at this 0 7 time? Yeah, I am. 8 Α 9 Have any threats or promises been made to you or Q 10 has any pressure of any kind been used against 11 you to answer questions or to give up any of your rights? 12 13 Α No. 14 Q All right. And you're gonna need to sign this 15 before we -- glad you reminded me. I'm gonna 16 get you to print your name on here and sign it. 17 Α I think I did it wrong. It don't matter, it's good. No problem, it's 18 0 19 just a formality. All right. Let me sign. 2.0 have a driver's license on you? 2.1 Yeah. Α 22 I can write that number down. Fill out the 23 heading here. Do you have any time constraints 24 or --2.5 I'm good until probably 4:00, I guess. Α

1 0 Okay. 2 MR. SAVOY: 3 Y'all got parades here on the 4 reservation? 5 Yeah. Been on there for twenty-five years now. Α 6 MR. SAVOY: 7 That's going to be pretty neat. It's a nice parade. I think we might 8 Α Yeah. 9 have skipped one or two years that we hadn't 10 done it, but people love it. Well one year we 11 did a little, we did some kind of Mardi Gras 12 festival here or something in the pavilion, like last year, well year before. People didn't like 13 14 that a whole bunch so we went back to doing the parade. But, yeah, it's nice. We -- it's a 15 school function so it's school kids, like, each 16 grade and council. 17 18 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 19 You're 33, O'Neil? 0 2.0 Α No. 2.1 43, I mean? 0 22 I'm 43, yeah. Α 23 Okay. That's what I need. What's your highest 0 24 grade completed? 25 College. Α

1 0 Okay. So --2 Yeah, we got the ball tonight so I gotta go do Α 3 that, host that thing and it's a nice, you know. 4 They had that thing at -- this morning, the kids 5 made little shoe box floats. So they -- the 6 little babies, so we went do that. 7 MR. SAVOY: 8 They probably remember that more than 9 traditional parades? It was fun, man, that was cool. And they got to 10 Α decorate their own and all that. 11 That was really -- that was neat. 12 13 MR. SAVOY: 14 They had a lot of people? 15 Uh-huh (affirmative response). So it's a nice Α little event we do. 16 17 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 18 0 Here you go, Mr. Darden. Okay. Let's start. 19 You can go ahead and start wherever point, at 2.0 whatever point you want to start with. 2.1 Okay. We want me to start from the beginning. Α 22 Sure. 0 23 We met, I don't know what the date, November Α 24 something, November 19th, I guess. 25 discuss the bonus plan. And so that was my

first time being a part of that. So we talking about it and there's just a page full of numbers and stuff.

And Anthony, you know, goes through and is talking how he got it set up, each director and that he got to kind of make some cases for different individuals to give more, different individuals to get less based on their what their duties are or what their performance is.

And told us that he was gonna talk to each of those individuals about, you know, why their bonus wasn't structured as far as what the percentage is outlined for each of those areas.

And then he gets to -- he even mentioned, he said, yeah, I got, when we was talking about the directors, he said, yeah, he says, I got a little something in here for O'Neil, you know, being as he worked here, he earned that, you know, portion for a time. It's up to you guys if you want to approve that or not.

And, you know, he hadn't technically left the company, the tribe, you know, how things kind of merge back together somewhat so just prorated the, you know, bonus for him. And I'll put that out there for you guys to think about.

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1		And then we talked about his, how he had
2		earned his level at seventy-five percent,
3		according to the budget that we had came at. I
4		said, okay. So the council talked about it and
5		they said, okay, that sounds fine to me. So
6		then we approved it and so then
7	Q	This is a formal council meeting?
8	A	No, this was an informal council meeting.
9		MR. SAVOY:
10		Who all was present?
11	A	The council and Anthony, all five members I
12		believe. I don't know if April was there.
13		She's I don't know if she was there or not
14		but I do know I think, I think everybody was
15		there.
16		MR. SAVOY:
17		Can you name them if you don't mind,
18		because
19	A	Oh, that was April Wyatt. I think April was
20		there. She was she had been out that time a
21		little bit so I don't know if she was there or
22		not, but I know it was Jacob, Toby, Jackie,
23		myself and Anthony.
24		MR. SAVOY:
25		All right. Then is at the tribal

council office? 1 2 I think it was at the tribal council office. 3 MR. SAVOY: 4 Okay. And that was back in November, 5 you're saying? 6 That was back in November, right. So then all Α 7 the bonuses got paid to those individuals based off of that approval. And then I came over here 8 9 to the casino and helped with all the meetings and everybody's checks and all of that stuff as 10 we were handing those out. 11 And that was it for a while. That was 12 probably the week before Christmas, I believe, 13 14 or the week of, something like that. The week before Christmas. 15 And then I'm on December 18th, I was calling 16 17 bingo over at River Cane thing and then I get a 18 text message from Jacob that says, hey do you 19 think you ought to take that bonus from the 2.0 casino? So I looked at it, I put it aside, did 2.1 my thing. 22 That afternoon I called him back and said, 23 what's going on man? He says, I don't know, I

was just thinking about that and wondering if

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not right the chairman, how does that look to people. That's you. I said, I don't know, I said I hadn't even thought about it much more. We been working on planning to go to Disney and all that stuff like that before the holidays get done. I said, look, I'm going -- we're going to Disney, let's talk about it when I get back. He said, okay.

So I get back in town, I call him up, he said, yeah, man, I don't know. He said, I really don't know if you should do that or not. He says, you know, it's up to you if you want to. I said, okay. I said, well I don't know. It seems like everybody else is okay with it. I said, if, you know, if it's prorated when I was there, you know, if it's done right, I don't have, you know, I don't see an issue with it, you know.

So he says, okay, that's you. Okay. So then he said, well April was talking too and she wasn't quite sure either. I said, all right, so, well I hadn't talked to April since I've been gone. So I said, okay. So I went talk to April.

She's like, look, she said, yeah, I don't

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have a problem with you getting it. I just don't have a problem -- Montie had called over here and wanted to pass it through the tribe's payroll. She says, I have a problem with that. And I'm like, okay, well I don't agree with that either. I don't see why we should do it, you know, do it like that.

I said, we can't pay it through the casino then I don't want it. And she says, okay. So I had, I think I talked to Anthony, I was free one day.

I said, look, I said, heard they were trying to pass my bonus through the tribe's payroll and I said, April doesn't like that idea. And I said, so I don't know, whatever, you know, if we pay it or not, not pay it.

And he said, well let me talk to Montie and I'll see what Montie says, you know. I said, okay. So the next day or something maybe he says, hey, Montie talked to Patty and said it would be okay to pass through our payroll.

Okay.

So I trust in Patty's abilities. I've been working with her now for seven months and knows that if she says something, you know, she a

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colleague, okay, you know.

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So then -- so that was probably the week I got back. That was the week between December and New Year's. And so then the week after New Year's, the week after New Year's day, after the first week, we had talked about it and so, we had talked it about on the Tuesday night I believe, I think. We had a meeting. We had two informal meetings that week.

We had Wednesday -- Tuesday, Wednesday and then we had a formal council meeting on Thursday. So we kind of briefly talked about it and they all like, man, I don't know if we should, we shouldn't, I mean, you know, they were kind of back and forth.

So I said, all right. I thought about it.

I talked to Montie that morning. I said, man,
look just don't even process the bonus, I don't
want it and whatever, you know, it's okay. He
said, well we already processed it and it should
be hitting your checking account in the next
couple days.

Damn, so I said if the council doesn't approve it can I return it? And he kind of looks at me, he says, yeah. I said, okay. So

we went, we talked on it. We kind of finalized -- we, the Wednesday, we had another meeting. And that night Jacob brings it up. All right I want to talk about the bonus, let's settle this out.

So Toby and Jacob were like, yeah, it's fine, it's okay, it's what you earned, you know, it's what it is, fine. Jacob's like, I vote no. And April's still on the fence. I don't know, I don't want to take something away that you didn't earn but, yeah, I don't know if it's right, if we can do it.

So she was kind of on the fence. So when we left that night, I thought about, I said, you know, I should be uniting the council, not dividing them. So that's when I decided that, you know, I'm gonna refuse it, I'll pay it back. And so I talked to Jill that morning because I knew she had seen when that resolution had came out on the list.

I -- I didn't know she had knew about it before. And I said, I'm sure you seen my on the bonus list. I'm refusing it, I gotta return the money. I said, so I'm gonna have that list revised without my name on it.

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So about 4:00 that afternoon when I got back here, right before the council meeting, I scrambled to get that done. So I emailed Montie. I said, please remove my name. I'm refusing the bonus and that way I can have that for the council meeting that night.

So we went in and we, you know, the council approved the resolution, minus my name. And I wrote a check and paid the money back.

- Q What is the casino policy in terms of nonemployees receiving prorated bonuses or --
- A Oh, I don't know. I mean, I think this was probably the first time we had dealt with this. I think that would be the question is, you know, first time dealing with that. I don't know if anybody, you know, anybody really knew if it whether it was right or wrong.

I mean, we were still arguing about it up until the night before, you know. So I think that really people didn't know what to do, you know, whether to do or not do it.

- Q So, okay. So the council ordinances and by-laws support council members receiving bonuses?
- A That --
- Q And working at the -- having -- are there any

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1 prohibitions and restrictions in terms of being 2 a tribal council member? 3 That I don't know. I hadn't been in there long, 4 I mean, I don't know. I really don't know. 5 That's why I trusted the people that knew, you 6 know, to know. 7 0 So you didn't, you never read any of the by-laws 8 or ordinances? 9 No. Not --Α 10 Because that seems to be common practice. 0 I mean, we interviewed almost all the other tribal 11 12 council members. I guess they been in office a 13 little bit longer than you but they, from my 14 understanding, that was common knowledge. 15 Well, I mean, I didn't -- I never read any of Α those documents. I got in and just started 16 17 doing my thing, but no, I haven't read any of 18 those ordinances or documents. I've not read 19 the compact or anything. 2.0 Okay. Well you know ignorance of the law is no Q 2.1 excuse. 22 I understand that, yeah. Α 23 And --0 24 MR. SAVOY: 25 Did anybody else receive a prorated

1		bonus at the end of the year?
2	А	Nobody's ever worked here and left that way
3		before.
4		MR. SAVOY:
5		Period, that left?
6	A	Nobody's ever left here, worked here before and
7		went to the council.
8		MR. SAVOY:
9		All right. So if they quit and went to
10		Halliburton or go to any other entity, are
11		they still they can still come back and
12		ask for a prorated bonus?
13	A	Honestly, I mean, I wasn't expecting it from the
14		start. I mean, I wasn't I knew that, you
15		know, that happens that people that leave and go
16		to other companies doesn't get it, you know.
17		Anthony had presented it like, you know, the
18		tribe technically, which vacation time, sick
19		leave, all your insurance stuff all translates
20		back and forth now between the tribe and casino
21		if you're going back and forth.
22		MR. SAVOY:
23		Did Anthony have that discussion with
24		you privately whether you can
25	А	No, I

1	MR. SAVOY:
2	he was gonna offer you a bonus or
3	A No, he brought that up before at that
4	meeting.
5	MR. SAVOY:
6	At the council meeting?
7	A Uh-huh (affirmative response). That night.
8	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
9	Q And do you you don't remember the date or
10	approximate date of that meeting or time frame?
11	A That was November 19th, I believe.
12	Q Okay. November the 19th. Okay. And I'm trying
13	to understand you. And you did say the council
14	approved it on November 19th or you're not sure?
15	A I mean, it seemed to me they had did.
16	Q But you're not for certain?
17	A Well, I mean, I took it as they did. You know I
18	left there feeling like they had approved it and
19	they were okay with it. Nobody said they that
20	it wasn't.
21	MR. SAVOY:
22	They passed a resolution or they just
23	verbally
24	A Verbally.
25	MR. SAVOY:

-- discussed that? 1 Verbally discussed that. And all of the other 2 Α 3 bonus checks for a thousand other people were 4 all paid on that verbal approval that night. MR. SAVOY: 5 6 And then later, January 7th, through 7 official resolution it was formally approved 8 9 It was formally --Α 10 MR. SAVOY: 11 -- so then everybody on that list was -12 13 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 14 Q Were you on that initial list? Because I know 15 the list --There was nobody on that original list. 16 Α I'm talking about the list that went to, that 17 Q 18 went before the council approved the resolution 19 to issue out the bonus, I think it was prior to 2.0 Christmas. 2.1 That 18th? Α 22 Yeah. 0 23 I was on that list, yeah. But I didn't А Yeah. 24 know that until I got back from Disney World. 25 You didn't know you were on the list? 0

- 1 A No. I didn't look at any email until I got
- 2 back.
- 3 Q I mean, because I know they CC'd you on most of
- 4 all the emails --
- 5 A Yeah.
- 6 0 -- around that bonus?
- 7 A Yeah. But I didn't check, I mean, I didn't
- 8 check them until I got back. So that's when
- Jacob texted me and it kind of surprised me. I
- 10 was like where the hell is that is coming from.
- 11 Because I was --
- 12 Q At one point did you find out you were on the
- 13 list to receive a bonus?
- 14 A When I had called him back on -- when I got back
- in town the week between Christmas and New
- 16 Year's.
- 17 Q You remember what date? Was it before
- 18 Christmas, after Christmas?
- 19 A Oh, it was after Christmas. It was between
- 20 Christmas and New Year's.
- 21 Q And when did you go out of town?
- 22 A I left the 19th through twenty-something, the
- 23 29th.
- 24 Q 19th of December?
- 25 A Yeah. I left the 19th and I didn't get back, I

1 don't think I got back to my office until the 2 28th. 3 The 28th? 0 4 Α Uh-huh (affirmative response). And you, at that point, I would assume, 5 Q 6 you had a discussion with Anthony? 7 Α No. Somewhere around the 29th? 8 Q 9 Uh-huh (affirmative response). I had А No. 10 talked to, like I said, I called Jacob back when I got back in. 11 12 Uh-huh (affirmative response). Q And so we talked about the bonus that I 13 Α 14 shouldn't, you know, shouldn't take it or, you know, that I should, it's up to you if you want 15 And that April had some problems with it. 16 17 So I went to April's office and I said, listen, I said, hey, you want to talk about the bonus. 18 She said, yeah, well Montie called here and 19 2.0 asked to pass it -- called and talked to Nikina 2.1 and asked her to pass it through our payroll. 22 She said I don't like that idea. I don't 23 mind you getting it but I just don't want to 24 pass it through our payroll. I said, okay. 2.5 so that's when I had talked to Anthony. I said,

1 look, I said, they got an issue, you know, April 2 has an issue with passing it through our 3 payroll. 4 And so she says, so she said, well let me 5 talk to Montie and see what we, you know, we can 6 So I think it might of been the next day or 7 something she says, well Montie talked to Patty. And Patty said it was okay to pass it through 8 9 ours. 10 MR. SAVOY: 11 How were they going to facilitate that, 12 passing it through the, through the casino -13 14 Α I don't know. MR. SAVOY: 15 And you're not an active employee? 16 17 Α I don't know. I left that up to them. 18 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 19 You were aware that they were going to Q 20 facilitate that process on the casino side? 2.1 Α They told me that. They said, we will Yeah. 22 activate you in the system, process it and then 23 24 Who told you that? 2.5 Anthony had told me that. Α

1	Q	Oh, okay.
2		MR. SAVOY:
3		This is just through conversation or
4		emails or texts or
5	A	It was just through conversation.
6		MR. SAVOY:
7		Because I know Tessa worked here for
8		during the same period.
9	A	Uh-huh (affirmative response).
10		MR. SAVOY:
11		Did they discuss giving her a prorated
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13	А	No, because she don't work for the tribe
14		anymore. Or she doesn't, you know, work for the
15		tribe.
16	BY M	R. WASHINGTON:
17	Q	Is the tribe and casino, I think that was two
18		different budgets, huh?
19	А	Yeah. I think it is.
20	Q	Yeah. I mean, two different.
21	A	Like I said, you know, to me the council
22		approves all the bonuses so they approved it, to
23		me it was okay. And I told them that, I said,
24		it's totally up to y'all. I'm not making that
25		decision. You guys do that, you know, I don't

1 need the money. It's up to you if you, you 2 know. 3 It would nice, I earned it while I was here. 4 I worked hard for the casino while I was here. And, you know, you present that out there, it's, 5 6 you know, it's totally up to you guys --7 0 Okay. 8 Α -- one way or the other. 9 In terms of your process, I mean, because Q Okay. 10 you're saying verbal but really, I mean, if it's 11 something is verbal, I don't know if we'd say it's technically, I mean, legal or -- because 12 actually you're saying one thing but the council 13 14 people are saying something different. Because they told us they did not approve 15 your bonus and they, I think, they did an 16 official email poll, like on the 18th of 17 December, are you familiar with that? 18 19 Yes, I am. Α 2.0 And I think maybe one, I think Jackie, responded Q 2.1 approved. 22 I think there was two. It was Toby and Jackie. Α 23 Yeah, I didn't see Toby but I heard it was Toby. 0 24 The only one I saw was Jackie's. So if I would 25 say two approved it and --

A And that's when I went talk to April and she said that I'm fine with it as long as we don't pass it through ours so I thought that was the third. Which it only takes three.

But I know, did they, didn't they table it or --

- because from my understanding they tabled it.

 It was the holidays, it was getting close to the holidays and I think, I don't know, they didn't -- did they approve it or -- because what does it take to approve it? Because I know you break the tie, though; right?
 - A If there was a tie, yeah. Which I wouldn't have broke the tie in this case.
- 14 Q Because it would probably be a conflict of --
- 15 A Yeah.

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- 16 Q Right, so.
- 17 A Like I said, my first time going through this
 18 process and being as all those other people with
 19 a verbal approval that night, to me it was no
 20 different than this one being verbal until we
 21 got to the final process to finalize it.
 - Q But we don't have anything on record is what I'm saying. I mean, you don't have any, like I said, no email correspondence, no nothing that we can -- because they're saying something

1 I mean, I can go back and ask them opposite. 2 again. 3 Well they probably, I mean, I think the problem 4 is is, y'all thinking like a cop and not 5 thinking like a politician. That now that this 6 thing has grown that nobody wants to be tied to 7 this anymore. And, I mean, Toby was, until the last night, 8 9 that Wednesday night, was like, man, I'm fine 10 with it. I'm okay with it. Jackie was too 11 until April started talking about, you know, not being sure this and that. And Jackie flipped 12 and she was like, ah, you know, you shouldn't 13 14 take it. It's not right and five minutes ago she was saying the same thing I just told about 15 16 it was prorated, what you earned. And Jacob 17 voted no to start, I vote no and --18 MR. SAVOY: 19 That's why you make it official. 2.0 That's why it has to be official. 2.1 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 22 That's why it's gotta be --23 MR. SAVOY: 24 Verbal doesn't stick. 25 BY MR. WASHINGTON:

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- 2 A But we paid, we paid everybody's bonus off of a verbal approval.
 - Q Well yeah. I know, which was in violation I believe of your own by-laws and that's part of the problem.
 - A Yeah.
 - Q I mean, from what we've seen. Yeah, you are correct --

10 MR. SAVOY:

Everybody else on that list were active employees at that time.

- A I get that, I get that. And I understand, I mean, I understand that from the very start, you know. I wasn't expecting, I wasn't expecting all this. I wasn't expecting my bonus. Like I said, it was brought to me. Those guys at first were okay with it.
- 19 BY MR. WASHINGTON:
- 20 Q Why would Anthony bring it to you? I mean, 21 that's --
- 22 A I don't know.
- Q I mean, but I mean, we did some research and I
 do understand you kind of helped facilitate a
 pay raise for Anthony. Am I right?

- A What you mean a pay raise for Anthony?
- 2 Q Well as far as his bonus increase from seventy-
- five percent. Didn't you guys give him a
- 4 hundred percent payout?
- 5 A I told him no.

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- 6 0 You told him no?
- 7 A Uh-huh (affirmative response).
- 8 Q You have any evidence of that because I was told9 you were the one who facilitated it.
- 10 A No. I didn't facilitate that. I told him no.
- 11 Q You told him no? Did you tell the council no? 12 Did you -- because all you guys voted on it.
 - A We actually didn't have much discussion about it. He made his case after that. I don't remember what date that was. He made his case about why he should get the hundred percent. I said, we'll talk about it.

And really we didn't. The only one that talked about it was Toby and I had talked about it one night at some school function we had.

And I said, I don't know, man. I said, he only earned seventy-five percent of his pay. Let's pay him seventy-five percent. So the following meeting we had, he asked us, so, okay, what about my bonus. I said, well I think it's no.

1 I said, you earned seventy-five percent. 2 then he made his case again. And then --3 MR. SAVOY: 4 When you say making his case, he came 5 to a formal council meeting and that was on 6 the agenda? 7 Α We meet every other Monday, informally. that's when that was done, over here in his 8 9 conference room that day. MR. SAVOY: 10 So the council met here at the casino? 11 12 At here at the casino. Α MR. SAVOY: 13 14 And he made his presentation? He made his -- I told him no. But honestly we 15 Α hadn't all agreed to that or not agreed to that 16 17 at that point. Well actually I told him yes. What about my bonus? I said, yes, sticking to 18 seventy-five percent. I said, yeah, at the 19 2.0 seventy-five percent. And he goes, oh, well 2.1 what about the thing I made? I said, no. 22 said, you only earned seventy-five percent. 23 So he made his case again, told us the 24 points of why we should consider that. And then 2.5 I -- the council said, well look we'll talk

about it and we'll get back with you.

So we talked about it after he left because we had another, we had Kim Walton had to come from cultural. She met with us on something completely different. And then after she left we talked about it and said okay he makes a good case, let's approve it. And the council told me, says won't you call him tonight and let him know that we approved the hundred percent of his bonus. Which I did.

MR. SAVOY:

argument to justify the increase?

Was healthcare cost, expenses rising,
uncontrollable, which that's uncontrollable.

And also there was some things that he could
have held off doing, not purchasing, not doing
these things to make his number, I think only
two-hundred and sixty-something thousand dollars

actually earn the hundred percent of his bonus.

away from making the number he needed to

What was his argument?

MR. SAVOY:

So he didn't, based on inhibitor, he was only had the criteria of seventy-five percent?

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What was his

1	A Between his contract and EBITDA, he met, he had
2	seventy-five; he had earned seventy-five
3	percent.
4	MR. SAVOY:
5	But he just verbalized his reasoning
6	for the additional money?
7	A For the additional money, which the council
8	thought was okay and approved that. Which I
9	don't get a vote on that anyway.
10	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
11	Q Well I know you didn't because you just break
12	the tie but
13	A That's right.
14	Q you know I think it was four for.
15	A I think that's right.
16	Q From what I saw.
17	A It was four for, yeah.
18	MR. SAVOY:
19	So then they had to go back and create
20	an addendum to his contract?
21	A To be able to approve that.
22	MR. SAVOY:
23	Who initiated that?
24	A I don't remember.
25	MR. SAVOY:

1 Do you recall the language or is 2 it -- the language is what his proposal was, 3 his argument? 4 Α I don't know, I didn't see that. I think Patty 5 Perry does all that for us, our CFO. 6 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 7 0 Are you familiar, you may not be familiar, but are you familiar with some of the contracts, the 8 9 amendments to Anthony Patrone's contract? 10 Because if I understand, there was a couple of 11 amendments and from my understanding that even the calculations he only earned fifty percent, 12 13 according to Montie. 14 And I think they amended the contract, they lowered the threshold where they changed the 15 threshold from whatever the criteria, fifty-16 17 percent criteria, or the seventy-five percent 18 criteria was lowered to fifty-percent. 19 I don't know. Α 2.0 Are you familiar with that? Q 2.1 Uh-uh (negative response). I never read his Α 22 contract. 23 So it's kind of unclear. I think Patty Perry Q 24 calculated seventy-five percent but Montie did 2.5 it twice and he said he came up with fifty-

- 1 percent so --
- 2 A That's the first time, that's the first time 3 hearing about that. I never read Anthony's
- 4 contract. I don't know anything about that.
- 5 The only thing I know about all this is what I
- 6 told you. But you can keep asking questions.
- 7 Q Yeah, that's no problem.
- 8 A I mean, I'm not trying to be a smartass. I'm
 9 just --
- 10 Q Well, I mean, I mean I -- is there anything else
 11 you -- let me make sure. So you're not familiar
 12 with any of your ordinances, you're saying? Not
 13 section 525?
- 14 A No.

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- Q And all that stuff that prohibits you guys, tribal council members from working at a gaming?
- 17 A I mean, I know I worked --
- 18 Q Your wife had to quit so I'm sure you're
 19 familiar with that.
- 20 A I understand that part, yes, sir.
- Q Okay. And being employed at operation, no member of the tribal council, nor any person residing in the immediate household of said tribal council member may be employed in the

operation of class two, class three gaming.

- 1 A Right.
- 2 | Q You familiar with that; right?
- 3 A I'm familiar with that.
- 4 Q And participate in any gaming activity offered
- by the tribe in its gaming facilities. So you
- 6 guys can't gamble either; right?
- 7 A That's right. I'm familiar with that.
- 8 Q All right. Solicit or accept -- well you said
- 9 you were not.
- 10 A Huh?
- 11 Q You said you were not initially. So, I mean,
- 12 according to the ordinances --
- 13 A Well, I mean, I never, I never read it but I
- 14 know what those are.
- 15 Q And I'm sure you also was familiar with the -- I
- mean, because some stuff you don't -- we all
- 17 know murder is a crime. I'm sure my kids know
- it and they never read a law book in their
- 19 lives, you know, so. And I'm sure you
- 20 understood that what you did was wrong.
- 21 A I had no idea this was wrong.
- 22 Q Taking money that was, bonus moneys, that you
- 23 were not authorized to take?
- 24 A I thought as long as the tribal council approved
- 25 the bonuses, just like they did all the rest of

- 1 them, that it was okay to do that.
- 2 Q But you just -- the only problem, we don't have
- any evidence that they approved it except you
- 4 said they told you verbally.
- 5 A I understand that.
- 6 0 If I called the tribal members back, so you're
- 7 saying they will tell that they approved it in
- 8 November?
- 9 A I'm sure they probably won't. Honestly, I think
- 10 this has been just a miscommunication between
- 11 us. It's really what this boils down to.
- 12 Q Between who?
- 13 A The council and myself.
- 14 Q But, I mean, do you understand how -- I mean,
- we're seeing it from a -- I mean, I understand,
- it's probably a lot more going on, but, I mean,
- 17 | we're seeing it from a legal, you know, law
- enforcement type, I guess, mindset and ethical.
- 19 Because, I mean, you guys also have a code of
- 20 ethics or you -- I mean, like -- I can't take,
- as a state trooper, I can't take money, bonus
- 22 moneys or -- can you understand --
- 23 A I didn't take any money --
- 24 | Q -- how this can be construed?
- 25 A -- and I refused it before we finally --

- 1 Q Okay. Okay.
- 2 A -- approved it --
- Q Let's get to that point. So at what point did
 you find out that it was in your account?
- 5 A That wasn't until probably the week after.
- 6 Q You didn't check your balance? Or you didn't --
- 7 A I didn't. I don't check my balance.
- 8 Q Your wife don't check it? I mean, you don't --
- 9 A Well when she comes times to pay bills and
- that's when she told me, she says hey that money
- 11 hit. I said, okay, write us a check then; let's
- 12 pay it back.
- 13 MR. SAVOY:
- The week after what?
- 15 A The week after it hit.
- 16 BY MR. WASHINGTON:
- 17 Q When did it hit?
- 18 A I don't know.
- 19 Q Okay. And what happened once you checked it?
- 20 Well did you have interaction -- did someone
- 21 tell you --
- 22 A No. I knew I had --
- 23 | Q Because it seems like you would have paid it
- 24 back immediately.
- 25 A Well I had -- that was two busy weeks that I

1 Between that I had a general meeting I was had. 2 prepping for. I had a thousand per capita 3 checks to sign. I have a hundred checks a week 4 to sign. That was just a busy time. I'd asked 5 my wife to bring the check here on that Friday. 6 She has been working at courts all day from 7:30 7 to 5:00 and they had basketball going on. she would leave work at courts and go work at 8 9 basketball until 8:00, 8:30. So that's why we 10 hadn't paid the check back. Plus I knew I 11 wasn't running off with the money. That I was gonna pay it back. 12 13 Because, I mean, I didn't -- I'm not doubting 14 what you had going on, I mean, you got small kids --15 16 Right. Α -- and stuff but --17 Q We got a busy life and, you know, I work --18 Α 19 It seems like you would have made a phone call Q 2.0 or something.

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1 0 Did you have any dialog with Montie in terms of 2 facilitating this bonus process? 3 correspondence did you have with him? 4 Α I don't think -- I didn't have any 5 correspondence with Montie. The only 6 correspondence I had with Montie was on the 5th, 7 asking him not to process it. And you never spoke to him or received any 8 Q 9 emails or anything? 10 No, I don't think so. Α 11 You don't think so or you don't know so? 0 12 I don't know. I don't remember. Α 13 I have all the -- yeah, because --0 14 Α I mean, I don't know. 15 Because I see you were CC'd. I mean --0 Well the ones on the 18th, the ones that went 16 Α 17 back that increased Anthony's from seventy-five to a hundred, yes, I did get CC'd on those. 18 19 when Patty asked him to revise it, I did see on 2.0 those. 2.1 I mean, were you trying to get those 0 22 moneys for your wife? 23 What you mean, for my wife? Α 24 0 I mean, she worked here at the same time. 25 would assume you, you know, that was -- you were

1	I'm trying to understand why would you seek
2	that, to recover I understand you said you
3	worked it and you earned it but was it for you
4	or for your wife? Because I know she worked
5	here at the same time, you couldn't reap the
6	benefits of her bonus.
7	A No. There wasn't a penny more or a penny less
8	than what I had earned while I was here for
9	those nine months. That's why I felt that it
10	was okay to do that. And the tribal council had
11	approved it and it was fine. Let me ask you a
12	question, if they had formally approved it,
13	would it have been okay?
14	Q I don't know would it had been. I mean
15	MR. SAVOY:
16	It's still a violation on the
17	ordinance.
18	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
19	Q Yeah.
20	MR. SAVOY:
21	The ordinance says thou shall not.
22	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
23	Q I mean, they probably be held contempt and
24	you know what I'm saying. They may be, I mean,
25	they probably could be I know they will be in

- violation of their own laws and ordinances. I
- mean, because, I mean, because they would be
- violating some of this that I'm looking at.
- 4 A Okay.
- 5 Q Because it prohibits tribal council members from
- 6 being employed here, which you were employed --
- 7 A Prior to.
- 8 Q Well you were employed after leaving. Well at
- 9 least on that raise.
- 10 A No, not technically.
- 11 Q Well they put you in the system. They gave you
- 12 a PAF.
- 13 A Well to be an employee, don't you have to have a
- 14 | gaming license?
- 15 Q Well, I mean, I don't know if you're non-gaming
- or gaming.
- 17 | A I was a gaming employee.
- 18 Q I mean, you were gaming before you left.
- 19 A Before I left, yeah.
- 20 Q But they re-employed you, I mean, I'm just
- 21 telling you what transpired.
- 22 A I understand.
- 23 Q I'm not trying to debate you on this.
- 24 A I understand, I understand, I understand.
- 25 | Q Yeah, I mean, that's --

- 1 A I mean, I honestly don't feel like I did
 2 anything wrong and that's why I'm being a little
 3 difficult, but --
 - Q Well you have the right, I mean, I'm not, you know, I'm just -- You know you may have -- we determine -- my job is not to say that you are a bad person or you are guilty.
- 8 A I know.

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- 9 Q That's not what I'm --
- 10 A I know.
- 11 Q I'm just saying -- and we got a little bit more
 12 investigation to do. So I'm not -- but at this
 13 point I want you to understand what you did was
 14 illegal.
- 15 A Okay.
- And it was unethical. You violated your own 16 Q 17 policy. That's the same standard we use for 18 somebody who commits a crime at the casino, whether it's a cashier or a table games person 19 2.0 who steals something. We determine if there 2.1 were policies broken or laws or ordinances that 22 exists in this case. You know, we determine 23 whether or not any laws were broken, you know, 24 or I mean, so --
 - A So --

- 1 Q So we use the same standard.
- 2 A So even, even saying, hey, don't want it, please
- don't process it, it's already too late and
- 4 done. That leaves me hanging?
- 5 | O Say it again, I didn't --
- 6 A I said even saying, hey, please don't process
- 7 it, I don't want it.
- 8 Q Well you --
- 9 A -- day before and that leaves me hanging?
- 10 Q Well you, I mean, you had it and you didn't
- object back in probably December the 17th, 16th,
- 12 because I know you were aware of it because I'm
- reading an email that you were aware, back in
- 14 November, that you were going to receive a
- bonus.
- 16 A Right. Right.
- 17 | Q You didn't object at that point. You thought it
- 18 | was --
- 19 A I thought it was --
- 20 | Q -- you were just in receiving it.
- 21 A Right. Right.
- 22 Q So, I mean, why object once you encounter
- 23 problems at the council level? And I think it
- 24 was right before that meeting is when you, that
- council meeting, am I right? The July 7th

meeting? I think it was like the 6th when you, 1 2 or the 7th, when you sent Montie that email. 3 But I think that's because you realized the 4 council wasn't going to approve it. Am I right? Well I didn't want to tear them up. They were, 5 Α 6 like I said, the night before it was two and 7 two, and -- Jackie, Toby. Jacob voted was no and then April was kind of on the fence. 8 9 woke up the next morning, like I said, my job is to unite the council, not to tear them apart, so 10 11 MR. SAVOY: 12 13 So Anthony got his hundred percent

So Anthony got his hundred percent around December 22nd? His hundred percent was deposited into his account, he left for the Christmas holidays. He comes back and activates you in the system in order for you to receive your bonus.

A Well I didn't know what dates his passed -- but we had already approved that. The council had already approved that.

MR. SAVOY:

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And then after his -- he receives his hundred percent, that he presented to the council for justification for his approval -

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2	А	Uh-huh (affirmative response).
3		MR. SAVOY:
4		for to get that passed, his got his
5		hundred percent
6	A	I didn't present that.
7		MR. SAVOY:
8		You didn't present it to the council?
9	A	You talking about that council meeting?
10		MR. SAVOY:
11		Right.
12	A	Yeah, yeah, they brought that before the council
13		meeting, yes.
14		MR. SAVOY:
15		See, you made the presentation to the
16		council for him to receive
17	A	No, no, no. That's because that's what I have
18		to do as a chairman, is present that to the
19		council. But I didn't do that for this bonus.
20		MR. SAVOY:
21		No, for Anthony's hundred percent.
22		That's what I'm saying, he got his in
23		December 22nd.
24	A	Yeah. Yeah.
25		MR. SAVOY:

1		He goes on vacation, comes back and
2		say, Anthony, excuse me, O'Neil I got my
3		bonus, I got my hundred percent. I'm gonna
4		pay you back; I'mma give you your fifty-
5		seven I'm gonna give you a prorated
6		bonus. Then we gonna activate you in the
7		system so you can get your bonus.
8	A	I'm not even how do you say that if my name
9		was on the list at December 17th or 18th?
10		Already on the list with his?
11		MR. SAVOY:
12		But it hadn't been approved yet, from
13		the council.
14	A	Yeah, the council had approved it, verbally.
15	BY N	MR. WASHINGTON:
16	Q	Yeah, that's
17		MR. SAVOY:
18		It's not approval, that's verbal. But
19		the minutes that went through on January
20		7th, the official meeting, January 7th, the
21		resolution that was passed, your name wasn't
22		on the list.
23	А	Yeah, I know. But we'd verbally at that council
24		meeting, we said it was okay. And I don't know
25		if we followed up with anything after that as

1	well. But
2	MR. SAVOY:
3	The facts that we're looking at right
4	now is that the funds were deposited into
5	your account.
6	A So the council's telling you that too? That I
7	did that as well? Or they didn't approve that
8	as well? The hundred percent, verbally?
9	MR. SAVOY:
10	Yeah, they approved that. That was
11	approved by resolution.
12	A Yeah, the resolution. Not verbally, you didn't
13	ask them if they approved that verbally?
14	MR. SAVOY:
15	Yeah, they said they did it verbally,
16	they said they did yours verbally. But when
17	it comes down to what evidence is presented,
18	they have resolutions, official resolution,
19	council resolution passed
20	A Right.
21	MR. SAVOY:
22	for the payment of the bonuses,
23	which your name is not on there but
24	everybody on that list is active employees.
25	BY MR. WASHINGTON:

If I'm not mistaken --1 0 2 So the verbal testimony is not good either? Α 3 Well what they did was, they approved verbally 0 4 the proposed budget but they didn't have the list, if I'm not mistaken, at that time. 5 6 Right. Α 7 0 I think it was just, like, the records get this, 8 leads or supervisor, managers --9 Right. Α 10 And I don't know if your name was on that list. Q 11 There was nobody's name on that list. Α 12 It was just -- right. I don't think it Q Right. 13 was anybody's --14 MR. SAVOY: To release the funds --15 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 16 To release the funds --17 18 MR. SAVOY: 19 That were prorated -- that was accrued. 2.0 BY MR. WASHINGTON: 2.1 So that -- but that was deposited -- those 0 22 checks were deposited right before Christmas. 23 Was it the 22nd, 20th? I'm trying to remember. 24 No, those checks --2.5 The 20th --0

- No, those checks were handed out before the 1 Α 2 22nd.
- 3 Handed out, right. It was handed out like 20th? 4 MR. SAVOY:
- 5 They were before -- the 18th.
- 6 BY MR. WASHINGTON:
- 7 0 The 18th or something, I don't know.
- 8 No, that was prior to the 18th. Α
- 9 Prior -- that was the 10th. Let me see, I got Q 10 it here.
- 11 Yeah, they were all handed out the 10th. Α
- 12 I think it was like the 10th. You're right, the Q 13 10th. And the directors got them on the 14th.
- 14 Α Directors --
- 15 Q Now if they meant -- if that -- you were not a
- part of that equation from my understanding. 16
- 17 Because if that's the case you would have had
- 18 yours direct deposited at that time. Your check
- 19 was not deposited. Am I right?
- 2.0 Α No.
- 2.1 And you did not receive a check.
- 22 Right. Α
- 23 Because those checks were printed. 0
- 24 Α Right.
- 2.5 And your check was direct deposited, so --0

A Right.

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- 2 Q So that -- I have to surmise that, I mean, you were not a part of that equation --
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 | Q -- in terms of --
 - A Because he brought down, like Kevin, you know, he mentioned Kevin Ryan. I'm not going to give Kevin Ryan his ten percent because I think he needs to do these things and these things. And he says I got a little something in here for O'Neil, this is why, the reasoning.

And we approved that on the 17th, that thing got approved. So to me, I even thanked them, hey thank y'all, I appreciate that, at that meeting.

So then that's when Jacob texted me on the 18th and says hey do you think you ought to get the bonus from CBCH. I didn't even know what he was talking about at that time because I hadn't looked at the emails to see if my name was listed on it or not.

So after he -- I had called him up later and said hey, what's going on? And so he, you know, we talked about it. I told him, I said, look, man, I hadn't really thought about this. Let's

talk about it when I get back.

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He said, okay. So whenever -- I was gone whenever they tried to pass it through my -- pass it through the tribe's account. Because I didn't know anything about that until I talked to April about it when I got back.

And she and Ms. Pat -- Montie called Nikina trying to pass it through our payroll and she said I don't like that idea. I'm not signing off on the PAF or the PAR for that. I don't want anything to do with that, you know.

Said, okay. I said -- so tell Anthony don't worry about it. So I talked to Anthony and Anthony told me he says, let me talk to Montie and see. Said, okay. So the next day, I guess the next day or so, he says, I had talked to Montie and Montie talked to Patty Perry and said it's okay to pass it through the casino's payroll.

Talked to April, she says, I'm fine with that as long as it's not through ours I'm okay. I said, okay, that's fine. So then I had forgot about it after that point. And that's when we had met on the 5th and talked about it.

And I came back and told Montie, I said,

look, I said, it seems like that was way more than -- the thing the council's still debating it. I said, just don't process it and be done with it. He said, well I already processed it and it should be hitting your checking account next couple days.

So that's when I talked to the council, we had that council meeting that night. And still debating it. Like I said, I had two people still saying yes. And Jacob was saying no; April said she don't know, was confused. She said I don't want to take something away that you earned and deserved but I'm not sure that, you know, we should be doing this or not. So that's when I said okay. I'm gonna refuse it, let's pay it back. And that's what I did.

MR. SAVOY:

Yeah, but Patty doesn't work for the casino. She can't authorize the CFO at the casino to cut a check.

BY MR. WASHINGTON:

Q Right. That's what I was about to tell you. I see where you're going. Your name was included on the 7th, December 7th. Montie sent a email to Patty Perry with a proposed bonus, 2015

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- bonus, payout sheet. 1
- 2 Α Uh-huh (affirmative response).
- 3 0 But it was just that, a proposal. And it was 4 not -- you were not paid yet. I think they had 5 it stipulated that --
- 6 Yeah, I hadn't been paid yet. You're right. Α
 - 0 And it was sent to Patty. But Patty has to prepare it and send it, prepare it for resolution so the tribe can vote on it; right?
- 10 That's right. Α

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- 11 Patty doesn't have the power to say yes or no, Q 12 in terms of --
- Well I took it from her that she was in her 13 Α 14 thing, I know how Patty is. She's very, very 15 thorough. She doesn't do anything without knowing first. So to me if she said it was okay 16 17 to pass it through the payroll, then to me it 18 was fine. Because I didn't know whether or not 19 it was right or wrong.
- 2.0 Well she didn't say it though, right? Q
- 2.1 What you mean? Α
- 22 You're saying Patty told you yes? 0
- 23 Patty told -- I didn't talk to Patty. Α
- 24 0 Because I don't see anything. Patty said this 25 is what guys over here at the casino wants done,

1 but -- and she says, okay, well I'll prepare it 2 and send it to council for vote, is what Patty 3 did. And so Patty doesn't determine or does not 4 single, unilaterally approve or deny resolutions. Am I right? 5 6 No. Α 7 0 And that's --Anthony told me, he said Montie talked to Patty 8 Α 9 and Patty said it's okay to pass it through our 10 To me that was good. payroll. 11 Okay. Well that's what -- you're saying Montie Q told you that? 12 Anthony did. 13 Α 14 Q Okay. Well that's what Anthony told you? Okay. 15 The only conversations I had with Montie was on Α the 5th, asking him don't process it and he told 16 17 me that it had already been processed. That was the only conversation I had with Montie. 18 19 Because I think you're -- I mean, you may be Q

- Q Because I think you're -- I mean, you may be privy to certain information but I think, you know, being that you were the chairman and you didn't really facilitate this, you probably don't really know what transpired on this side, you know, at every point.
- A No, I don't.

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- And so I -- so that leaves me to believe somebody was working and acting with the -- in the interest of trying to, I mean, you had a conversation, I would think, with Anthony or with Montie that said we gonna get you that bonus. And we'll do it on this end. And, and just chill out. I know the council's not gonna pass, so you didn't have that dialog or anything like that?
- 10 A No, no, no.

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- 11 Q Because that's the only thing that makes sense.
- 12 A No, not at all. I mean, not at all.
- 13 Q Because it seems like they were --
 - A One might -- let me tell you. I've worked for this tribe for twenty-six years. I didn't get from where I was to where I'm at today by doing the wrong things.

And I have been the most prudent person in this tribe, in the gaming facility for the last twenty-six years. And I'm not gonna start six months into this thing doing shit that I shouldn't be doing.

Q Well, I mean, you didn't something. First of all you should have read your ordinances and your laws and, you know, about the

- responsibility of being a tribal council, a council or a chairman.
 - A Right. Listen, I understand that.
- 4 Q I mean, --

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- 5 A But there's other people that's around me that
 6 knew about this the whole time that didn't say
 7 whether -- anything either.
- 8 Q Well once --
- 9 A We all, we all were looking for it from a
 10 political standpoint, that hey, how does this
 11 look politically for you as the chairman taking
 12 this money. We all looked at it, everybody
 13 looked at it at a political standpoint. Nobody
 14 said hey, this is breaking the law.
 - Q Well a part of the casino policy, it's illegal.

 Because you can't do it. You have to be an

 active employee to receive a bonus. You're not
 an active --
- 19 A Right.
- 20 Q -- casino employee.
- 21 A I understand.
- 22 Q So you're wrong there. You're wrong on the
 23 tribal side because you have to -- as a tribal
 24 council person you cannot receive bonuses or
 25 moneys or payouts, whatever you want to call it.

1 We call it bonus but you weren't entitled to it. 2 When you accepted this position, I mean, you were void of any of that, you know, you forfeit 3 4 bonuses or any type of incentives or anything. 5 I mean, because you no longer were an employee 6 here. 7 Α I understand that. 8 And you're saying you were not aware of it and I Q 9 can't say if you're right or wrong. But I think 10 you were aware of it because you've been around, 11 you've been here seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, years so I know you were, I mean, you know. 12 13 not judging you. But I'm just telling you from 14 my angle we feel you broke the law, I mean. 15 you agree or disagree? Well, I mean, if you say I did, then evidently I 16 Α 17 did. But I honestly don't think that, you know. I didn't have the intentions of breaking the 18 19 law. 2.0 Well we'll probably call the --Q 2.1 I mean, am I the only one that broke the law in Α 22 this whole situation? 23 MR. SAVOY: 24 What's your perception? You think 25 anybody else had involvement in this?

1	А	I don't know, I mean, I don't think I
2		intentionally did anything wrong that I was, you
3		know, sneakily doing stuff. I mean, shit,
4		everybody knew about it. So to me, you know,
5		there was something that, like I said, as long
6		as I thought the council had approved it, it was
7		gonna be it was okay those individuals
8		should have known, you know.
9		MR. SAVOY:
10		This is hypothetical but if you were
11		not if you left and you were not chairman
12		do you think Anthony Patrone would recommend
13		a prorated bonus for you because you did a
14		good job?
15	А	If I went work for the tribe probably in some
16		form or capacity.
17		MR. SAVOY:
18		Like the school board or anywhere else?
19	A	Maybe so. I mean, I don't know what his reasons
20		were for bringing it. He never told me that.
21		MR. SAVOY:
22		You didn't find that odd that you're
23		the chairman, you have a lot of influence
24		over the council and what goes on at the
25		casino?

А	Actually, you see that's the thing. I don't
	think I, I personally don't feel like I have any
	influence over the council because we work as a
	team together. I never try to influence their
	decisions or anything. And that's the
	difference between me and the last guy that was
	there. We want to work as a group and not split
	everything, you know, not me directing what they
	are. I hadn't been there long enough to think
	that I can pressure anybody anyway. So I let
	them make their own decisions and that's what
	they enjoy about me being there as chairman now.
BY N	MR. WASHINGTON:
0	Tot me de error mit noted to malte divise tie derrored

- Q Let me go over my notes to make sure we covered the --
- A I told them that numerous times. That's your decision. I'll live with whatever you decide. If you say yes, fine. If no, then oh well.
- I think there's more to it, but O'Neil I been around here a long time too. And I've interacted with the tribal people, employees, non-tribal, GMs and attorneys. So I kind of know the game around here too.

And I really think there's more to it. And I don't expect you to tell me, but we do -- it's

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just my gut instincts is telling me that, I mean, for you guys to just literally approve a three hundred and fifty thousand bonus for the GM, which most of the people around here probably -- they though sixty thousand was astronomical and you just expect me to believe that this man don't feel obligated to do something for you?

A Let me tell you. I think his bonus is out of align as well. Because I didn't make that contract and approve it. And I honestly I thought his bonus was sixty grand as well until I seen those numbers. And his bonus and my bonus payment was absolutely nothing to do with each other.

I don't particularly like things Anthony does, some things. He has been good for us, making numbers and stuff like that. But his bonus, his program in his contract was done way before I got in, since he's been here.

So now his contract, which is at the end of this year, is expiring in November. So I had nothing to do with his contract and his bonus set up. So his getting paid three hundred and fifty thousand dollars was done before I got in.

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1		And to me he had earned seventy-five percent
2		from what I was told, according to calculations.
3		I have no idea whether those calculations were
4		right or wrong. And that there's no way I'm
5		gonna jeopardize my future and my kids' future
6		for thirty-nine hundred dollars at the end of
7		taxes so I can give him a three hundred and
8		fifty thousand dollar bonus.
9	Q	Yeah, that's the question I had.
10		MR. SAVOY:
11		Well how was his what was his
12		demeanor? What was his response when they
13		told him that you were denied? He was
14		approved, he met the criteria for seventy-
15		five percent
16	A	Seventy-five percent.
17		MR. SAVOY:
18		and he wanted another additional
19		twenty-five because he felt based on
20		whatever numbers that he presented was
21		justifiable?
22	A	Justifiable.
23		MR. SAVOY:
24		Which you told him no. And he just
25		gave you a prorated bonus

1	A	No. We had
2		MR. SAVOY:
3		and he said I'm gonna take my
4		prorated bonus back.
5	А	No, we had talked about the bonus before that.
6		That discussion never came up together in the
7		same, once. When we had the first discussion
8		about the bonus on the 17th, on November 19th or
9		18th, he knew he had earned seventy-five
10		percent. And we didn't make that discussion
11		about my bonus any time other than after that in
12		any meetings that we talked about his bonus
13		raise.
14		Nobody can buy me. My morals and my fiber
15		is, I'm an honest person. And there's no way I
16		would jeopardize anything or this tribe or
17		anything else for money. I hadn't done it
18		before and I'm sure in the hell not gonna start
19		now.
20	Q	You remember that resolution for Anthony?
21	A	Which one?
22	Q	You approved from that seventy-five to a
23		hundred?
24	A	Yes.
25	Q	You remember that resolution number?

- 1 A No, I don't.
- 2 0 Yeah, that was done on your watch.
- 3 A What you mean?
- 4 Q I mean, you guys voted to give him a hundred 5 percent on, you said it was approved before you
- got there, but that was on you guys' watch.
- 7 A Yeah, but I'm talking about his contract. the
- 8 way his contract was set up, and the way his
- 9 bonus does. That was before me.
- 10 Q Yeah, but that, I mean, this is something you
- 11 guys had to vote, the tribal council had to vote
- on this. On this three -- to give him a hundred
- percent.
- 14 | A Right. I understand.
- 15 Q Right. And that's what I'm -- yeah, you're
- 16 right, some amendments and changes were made, I
- 17 think, under John Paul's administration.
- 18 A Yeah, yeah.
- 19 Q I think the lord had evil to deal, but --
- 20 A Right.
- 21 Q But prior to John Paul leaving, but this three
- 22 hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and I think
- it was entitled to -- let's say seventy-five
- 24 percent, that was two hundred sixty-two
- 25 thousand, somewhere. But to give him --

1	A	Let me to me, when he said that, I would have
2		been happy with the two hundred and sixty-eight
3		thousand dollars. I wouldn't have needed to
4		posture for the other one hundred
5	Q	Well that's why I'm trying to figure out. Why
6		would the council not object to that? Why
7		wouldn't you, I mean, you said you objected to
8		it.
9	А	Yes, I did.
10	Q	Which is questionable because I was told you
11		presented it to the council.
12	А	What you mean, I presented it?
13	Q	Presented the proposal, the resolution to
14	А	Well that's my job.
15	Q	for council.
16	А	Yes, I present every resolution to the council
17		not matter what it is.
18	Q	Okay.
19	А	That's my job. I present all the resolutions to
20		the council. I chair the meeting.
21		MR. SAVOY:
22		You have any executive powers, you can
23		sign off on any ordinance or resolution
24		solely?
25	А	No. It all has to be approved by the council.

1 MR. SAVOY: 2 In case of emergency? All has to go through the council. 3 4 MR. SAVOY: 5 All has to go through council. 6 Every resolution that we pass has to be Α 7 voted on by the council. BY MR. WASHINGTON: 8 9 It's just ironic that, I mean, Anthony's bonus 0 10 was approved -- if you need some water or 11 something we can -- yeah, because I was a little warm in here. We'll wait until Preston comes 12 I know you're on a time -- 3:00. 13 14 I sure thank you for that. Α Yeah, it's just ironic that, you know, we have 15 0 Anthony's bonus of three hundred fifty percent -16 17 - a hundred percent salary and his bonus was paid to him prior to Christmas, like the 22nd, 18 19 23rd and he leaves, goes out of town. He comes 2.0 back -- you remember when he came back, what 2.1 date? 22 I don't remember. Α 23 But whenever he gets back, I would assume it was 0 24 maybe sometime after Christmas, but we know on 25 the 29th he started to facilitate giving you a

bonus.

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- A Going back to the beginning of December where I thought the council had verbally approved me getting the bonus.
- Q Well you said you thought, but you're not sure.
- A Well you had two people who on that thing said yes. On that email poll said yes, with my name on the list. And then you had -- then it stopped because Jacob and April had some concerns.

When I get back the following week, which was after Anthony's bonus got paid, if you're saying it was the 22nd I have no idea when it got paid. When I got back the week of the 28th or 29th, I went talk to April and she told me that while I was gone they tried to pass my bonus through the tribe's payroll.

And I guess that was the week of Christmas while I was out. I had no idea that transpired until I talked to her when I got back that weekend between Christmas and New Year's. So then, like I said, she says that hey, if we pass it through the casino's payroll I'm fine with that. I just don't want to pass it through the tribe's. I said okay. I told that to Anthony.

1 Anthony called Patty Perry, she said yeah, 2 that's fine, it's okay to do that. And then it 3 gets processed. No tie between Anthony's 4 hundred percent and my bonus whatsoever. 5 The pending council resolution, council Q 6 approval. 7 Α Then once we did, we formally approved all of the bonuses for everybody on the 7th. 8 9 Well, I mean, if you were approved in this Q 10 informal meeting that you alleged, is what I'm 11 saying, you should have received a check or direct deposit during that on the 20th when 12 everybody else got it. 13 14 Α Well they didn't want to pass it through here. 15 They were pass it through the tribe's payroll so I would have received a check from the tribe. 16 And from what I was told they wanted to 17 reimburse the tribe that money. 18 So the tribe sent the checks over there from the 19 0 2.0 tribe? 2.1 That's what they -- they didn't -- that's Α 22 the way they originally wanted to do it was hey, 23 let the tribe pay O'Neil and the casino will 24 just reimburse the tribe for that money. 25 And you have the documentation? 0

- A No. That's what I was told.
- Q By Patty or by Anthony?

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- A I was told that by April.
- Q I mean, I understand what you're saying but I have to go by what's in front of me. And what's in front of me is that the council did not approve it. And what they -- they told us that verbally during an interview. I don't remember. Did any of them say that they approved O'Neil? I saw Jackie's email. She did approve and some say she didn't even read it.
 - A So let me ask you a question. This text message from Jacob --
 - Q Now I can tell you what April told me. April did tell me that she had concerns. They had concerns. They received the proposal to give you a raise, it was not yet paid, so they, I think she said one or two voted. And then she said they tabled it. Because then they had concerns about well two and two and if they break the -- O'Neil is a tie breaker, that's not ethical. Then she started to do more research and found out that it was --
 - A Well that's because if it was on our side Montie and those guys wouldn't have known that we had

1 | tabled it.

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- 2 | Q Uh-huh (affirmative response).
- 3 A See what I'm saying? They have no idea about
 4 what we do on our end. So that had already been
 5 motioned by that time to get paid.
 - Q Not -- well I understand. No, there's email correspondence all the time between Montie and Jill and well, even you. I seen -- but Patty Perry.
- 10 A Uh-huh (affirmative response).
- 11 Q And some of those people. I see constant email
 12 correspondence, you know, with budgets and all
 13 this stuff. But Patty Perry is not the final
 14 approval, from my understanding. Is that what
 15 you're telling me? Patty Perry --
- 16 A No, she's not.
- 17 | Q Okay. I know she prepares --
- 18 A Right.
- 19 Q -- resolutions.
- 20 A Friday, December 18th, 11:53 a.m. from Jacob
- 21 Darden. Question, do you think you should get
- the bonus from CBCH?
- 23 Q And when is that Friday what?
- 24 A The 18th at 11:53 a.m.
- 25 Q Okay. Uh-huh (affirmative response).

- A And if I believe you're right, you probably got the time that that email with my name on it comes out an hour prior to that. So that was the first time he had discussed that or anybody had heard about that. And do you think that would be the question from him? Do you think you should get the bonus from CBCH?
- Q I mean, I --

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- A If he didn't know about it before I think the question would be what the hell is your name doing on that list for?
- No, I'm not saying they didn't know about it. They -- well I think the initial request was sent by Montie, with your name on it. Let's see, I don't know if it was the 7th, I believe. It was sent to Patty Perry as a proposal, yeah, with December 7th is when.
- 18 A Right.
 - Q And I don't know at what point, I would assume Patty had to compile this stuff and get it to the council for approval. But you write the verbal, and I don't know if it was the 18th or whatever, whenever they voted for the employees to receive it.
 - A Right.

- 1 Q But your --
- 2 A Well they're saying that we didn't -- why would
- 3 he think I was getting it on the 18th?
- 4 Q Well you weren't part of it. I mean, you're
- 5 name --
- 6 A Nobody's name was a part of it, Mike. There
- 7 wasn't anybody's name on the list.
- 8 Q Yeah, well I'm gonna have to check the list but
- 9 I know for a fact --
- 10 A There wasn't anybody -- there was all numbers.
- It was just so many executives, so many
- directors, so many this, so many that.
- 13 Q That's what -- well then somebody manufactured a
- 14 list once it got approved, once the budget was
- approved to issue out the funds.
- 16 A I never seen that list.
- 17 | Q Yeah, there was a list sent to --
- 18 A The first list I seen --
- 19 | 0 -- human resource.
- 20 A The first list I seen came out on December 17th.
- 21 Q December 17th?
- 22 A Or 18th, 18th, well 17th, 17th or 18th.
- 23 Q On December 8th Montie sent Linda Neezy the
- 24 final vote -- bonus list of eligible and
- ineligible employees.

- 1 A Uh-huh (affirmative response).
- 2 Q This list did not have your name on it.
- 3 A I don't know about that list.
- 4 Q Yeah. Well I'm just telling you that's the -5 now the --
- 6 A Then the 18th my -- 17th my name came out on the list.
- 8 Q And Montie send Cindy Blanchard, because the
 9 list is not official until it gets upstairs to
 10 accounting. Am I right?
- 11 | A I guess, I don't know.
- 12 Q Yeah. So December 8th at 4:14, Montie sends
 13 Cindy Blanchard, the first employee, Cindy works
 14 in accounting, payroll, the bonus list. The
 15 checks were issued from this list. And your
 16 name is not on that list.
- 17 A I have no idea about that.
- 18 Q Yeah. And at some point your name is part of
 19 supplemental run. I mean with you familiar with
 20 that? See, I was gonna say, you may not know it
 21 but I'm just telling you that's what transpired
 22 from --
- 23 A Yeah.
- 24 Q Yeah, you were kind of put in on the -- after 25 that initial waive of people, employees were

1 sent out.

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- A Yeah, I don't know nothing about that. All I know is the list that came out on the 17th my name was on it, or the 18th, to the council.
- Q Well the issue, where we stand now, I'm gonna go and do a little bit more research to see who approved what back in November. And that's about all we can do. And after that we're going to make a decision.
- 10 A Okay.
- And -- but, I mean, right now, like I said, it's 11 Q 12 a lot of hearsay and speculation and I'm not saying you guys -- that's not, you know, you 13 14 were being deceptive or, you know, trying to 15 make up excuses but you're saying one thing and the factual information, whether the email polls 16 17 and the resolution was saying something 18 different by the council.
- 19 A All right.
- 20 Q And, and that's a -- so I mean at the end of the day --
- 22 A Uh-huh (affirmative response).
- 23 Q I mean we got to look at the facts.
- 24 A Well, I mean, the last night those guys were 25 still debating on whether or not it was okay or

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not.
                So --
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          And what did they eventually pass?
 3
          Was no.
 4
          Okay. Well then --
     0
          But then I had already -- I had refused it by
 5
     Α
          that time.
 6
 7
          Well that's the only way we gonna pass it --
     0
 8
     Α
          What you mean?
 9
          -- from what I gathered. I mean, that's the
     Q
10
          only way they would pass that resolution is that
11
          you had to take your name off because they
          weren't in support of it.
12
13
          Exactly, and --
     Α
14
     Q
          Is what did -- you got anything Preston?
          don't know what else to --
15
16
     Α
          I'm sure they were all aware about it. I mean,
17
          does the council think I intentionally --
18
               MR. SAVOY:
19
                    Right. But the appearance is that the
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               -- Patrone's hundred percent increase and
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               your bonus is connected. Are you saying
22
               that you and Patrone had no discussion about
23
24
     Α
          No, sir.
25
               MR. SAVOY:
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1	I'm gonna give you, make sure you
2	get your hundred percent and you give me my
3	bonus?
4	A No, sir. Sir, I would not do that, one hundred
5	percent.
6	MR. SAVOY:
7	All right.
8	A I understand the appearance of it but I know who
9	I am. I can go to bed and sleep on that every
10	night. Knowing there's no way in hell I would
11	do that to myself, this tribe or anybody else.
12	MR. SAVOY:
13	If you're comfortable with it, so am I.
14	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
15	Q I mean, we want to believe that and I would
16	hope, I mean, you and I had dialog prior to. I
17	
	mean, I would hope you, you know, I know
18	mean, I would hope you, you know, I know sometime power and you hadn't been in power that
19	sometime power and you hadn't been in power that
18 19 20 21	sometime power and you hadn't been in power that long, but sometimes power has a tendency to sway
19 20	sometime power and you hadn't been in power that long, but sometimes power has a tendency to sway people the other way.
19 20 21	sometime power and you hadn't been in power that long, but sometimes power has a tendency to sway people the other way. A I don't. Mike, you know me better than that,
19 20 21 22	sometime power and you hadn't been in power that long, but sometimes power has a tendency to sway people the other way. A I don't. Mike, you know me better than that, man.
19 20 21 22 23	sometime power and you hadn't been in power that long, but sometimes power has a tendency to sway people the other way. A I don't. Mike, you know me better than that, man. Q Yeah, well, but, I mean, you know, I understand.

1 I thought you had more sense not, to know not to 0 2 take moneys. 3 Well --А 4 0 When you're the active chairman. 5 Well I didn't take moneys. I didn't take Α 6 something that I didn't think was mine and I had 7 already earned. Well, I mean --8 Q 9 Α Once it was presented that way. 10 And you're paying a healthy salary --Q I am. Yes, I am. 11 Α 12 I would imagine. Yeah, I mean, so I'm trying to Q figure why would you, you know, put yourself in 13 that situation to be scrutinized and criticized? 14 15 Well I didn't realize, I guess, being you, how Α 16 big the target really is on your back, you know. 17 That definitely is a lesson on my part that, you 18 know, when you put yourself in a position --19 Oh, you think they got other people -- what do Q 2.0 you mean by target on your back, I mean? 2.1 Α Well, I mean, if somebody found this out and 22 made this complaint then it's a target, not 23 knowing that I had already returned it, had 24 turned it down and returned it. 25 MR. SAVOY:

Did you discuss that with the council on January 6th, the night before the official resolution was passed? Did you inform them that the money was already in your account?

A I told them that it was already processed and that it should be hitting my account and that I need, you know, if you guys don't approve it, I have to return it.

BY MR. WASHINGTON:

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- Q Because to be honest, I was under, from what they told me, they was not aware that you had received it. They thought you, you turned -- you never, what they said, you said no and that was the end of it.
- A No. I had told them that night that hey, look, it's already been processed. I asked Montie not to process it, told them that it had already been processed and that the money was going to be hitting my checking account and that if you guys don't approve it, that I will have to return the money.
- Q I was told -- I remember one of the, I don't know if it was Toby or somebody, but it was, you made comments, some comments made about those

moneys hitting your account and you being -- I don't want to misquote, but I'll have to go back and look at the research. But I know you made at the casino, prior to -- from my understanding, you made comments at the construction meeting to -- to a couple employees here, directors and -- that you anticipated the bonus and you were excited that the council was going to approve that bonus for you and all of that.

- I probably did, that's because I wasn't trying to hide anything from anybody. Somebody asked me, are you getting yours, you getting your bonus? I was like, man, yes. The council, Anthony put it out there, the council approved it, and I was getting mine. I was getting my bonus. So it wasn't like I was trying to hide it from anybody. It wasn't bragging, it was just wasn't anything to hide.
- Q Make sure --
- 21 A If I was trying to deceitfully hide it or
 22 something, I wouldn't have said a soul, I think,
 23 huh?
 - Q Well, I mean, your circle -- you've got a little -- executive directors and the GM, I mean,

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you've got a pretty small elite circle. I mean, I understand where you're coming from but I wouldn't expect somebody, you to be interacting with, you know, housekeeping personnel. And just regular, you know, employees. I don't think they would have no way of knowing, most of these people around here don't know, they don't know anything about the bonuses that's being issued.

They don't know who got what, so it's almost like -- is like a big secret. The bonus situation here. You start asking people what people got, they don't know. Because people don't tell anybody. But --

- A So you think, oh, that's just bragging, then. I got you.
- I'm not saying you're bragging, just, I don't know. I mean, I don't know. I'm just telling you. And you are confronted by that person. I'm not going to call any name, but they confronted you from my understanding and challenged the validity of you getting, I guess, the bonus.

 That has nothing to do with it, but the main --
- A I don't know who --
- Q We're gonna stay focused. The main thing here

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          is, we've just got to make a determination,
 2
          that's all. We're going to present this stuff,
 3
          this information to our superiors and we'll make
 4
          a decision on how we're going to proceed. But
 5
          you realize that it was wrong? For you to
 6
          receive the money regardless of how you received
 7
               I do understand you're saying you're
          operating under the pretense that the council
 8
 9
          approved it informally.
10
          Informally, correct.
     Α
11
          And verbally.
     Q
12
          Right.
     Α
13
          But you don't have any information confirming
     0
14
          it, any texts or --
15
     Α
          I think I had some notes in my office but those
          have disappeared.
16
17
     Q
          Okay.
          That probably would have proved that.
18
     Α
19
          Okay. Well we'll do a little further inquiry.
     Q
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          Preston, I don't know what else, I don't know if
2.1
          -- I think we covered everything we wanted to
22
          cover. Anything else you wanted to share before
23
          we end?
24
          No, I think this is good. That's it.
25
               MR. SAVOY:
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1	Investigation is ongoing, so it's not
2	unlikely that we may ask you to come back in
3	for follow-up.
4	A Okay.
5	MR. SAVOY:
6	And it is confidential, this
7	investigation is confidential as well as
8	this interview. Has anybody discussed
9	anything that went on as part of this
10	investigation?
11	A No. When do y'all expect this to really be
12	over?
13	MR. SAVOY:
14	It just depends. It's fluid right now,
15	it just depends. We been working on this
16	nonstop, so
17	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
18	Q If you think of something
19	MR. SAVOY:
20	Y'all going out of town?
21	A I'll be in Washington, DC next week.
22	BY MR. WASHINGTON:
23	Q When do you guys return? The weekend or
24	A I return Thursday night.
25	Q Okay. Well okay. Well, if you don't have

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anything else --
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 2
     Α
          That's it.
 3
          We'll go ahead and officially end it. You good,
     Q
 4
          Preston?
 5
                MR. SAVOY:
 6
                     Yeah.
 7
     BY MR. WASHINGTON:
           It's February 5, 2016. Time, 3:15 p.m.
 8
 9
                           (AUDIO CONCLUDED)
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