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INTERVIEW OF:

P.J. WARNER

DATE TAKEN: FEBRUARY 25, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 10:09 A.M.

PLACE: HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON
165 BILL FRANCE BOULEVARD
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32114

1 APPEARANCES:

2 JONATHAN KANEY, ESQUIRE

Kaney & Olivari, P.L.

3 55 Seton Trail

Ormond Beach, Florida 32176

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1 THEREUPON,

2 P.J. WARNER,

3 was called as a witness and, having first been

4 duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 BY MR. KANEY:

6 Q. Good morning, Mr. Warner.

7 A. Good morning.

8 Q. Do you go by P.J.?

9 A. P.J. My real name's Harold.

10 Q. Harold?

11 A. Harold Warner, believe it or not.

12 Q. How do you get P.J. out of that?

13 A. It's been with me forever. My dad had a nickname
14 that started -- it was Pill. My dad was Pill.

15 Q. Pill.

16 A. I was raised in the country in Maryland, and --

17 Q. So you're Pill, Junior?

18 A. I'm Pill, Junior. Because I'm Harold, Junior, so
19 I'm Pill, Junior. And if I have a couple of beers in me, I
20 could tell you a couple of other stories, but that's the
21 real story. Actually, I graduated from high school, they
22 put P.J. on the diploma. Almost every -- and I changed my
23 name legally in Florida for my real estate license to
24 advertise as P.J. So I go by Harold -- P.J. Warner is
25 legally my name for FREC, Florida Real Estate Commission,

1 because you have to have your real name, so I had to put
2 P.J. as my given -- you know, as a name, so.

3 Q. Well, it's a nice sounding southern -- P.J., it's
4 easy to say.

5 A. You'll buy real estate from a P.J. quicker than
6 you will a Harold.

7 Q. Well, P.J., where are you employed?

8 A. RE/MAX Signature.

9 Q. Have you previously been employed by Waverly
10 Media?

11 A. I have my license -- no, not by Waverly Media. I
12 had my license hung for two and-a-half years at Waverly Real
13 Estate. A mistake.

14 Q. And why do you say that?

15 A. Well, how it all happened was, I was always with
16 RE/MAX. Well, actually, I was the broker for Dimucci and
17 then Harper Village. I did those two projects down in
18 Ponce. And then I was with RE/MAX. Then I got sick in '06
19 with a lung disease, and so I had to take about six, eight
20 months off. And then when I came back, I had depleted a lot
21 of my working capital, and they offered me to go to there
22 for the same split, which is a very good split, 95/5 split.
23 And I knew them, because I had sold them one or two
24 properties before. So I did that in order to try to build
25 my reserves back up. And it was the worst two and-a-half

1 years.

2 Now, you know, I got a court thing I'm going to,
3 and the 17th I have to go to that and do that one. So it
4 was the worst two and-a-half years. It was very comical,
5 and I may actually write a book afterwards about what I
6 witnessed in the two and-a-half years.

7 Q. Well, let's talk about that.

8 A. I mean, it was really -- it was definitely
9 different. Real estate-wise, it was the most bizarre thing
10 I've ever witnessed in my life.

11 Q. What was bizarre about it?

12 A. Just the way they conducted their business. They
13 just, you know -- when I first met them, I did two deals
14 with them --

15 Q. Let's get -- for the record, who's "them"?

16 A. Jim Sotolongo. I guess that's his name.

17 Q. That's close.

18 A. Yeah. Jimmy Sotolongo. I met Jimmy Sotolongo in
19 January of '06. I showed him a house. He said he wanted to
20 buy the house. And then I met Ramara Garrett, which he
21 introduced me to as his girlfriend and realtor from Orlando.
22 So they bought that house. They wrote the addendum that I
23 was kind of crazy -- I wasn't too crazy about the way they
24 wrote the addendum. And I was representing the seller, of
25 course. I'm more of a selling agent, seller's side, you

1 know, listing agent. So I had an attorney look it over.
2 She said it was fine, so we closed it and everything went
3 good. It wasn't something that I normally would see.
4 Actually, you would see it, you just wouldn't see it in that
5 magnitude, you know. A lot of times if people say they want
6 \$10,000 to put a new roof on, they want 10,000 credit for a
7 new roof or something, that's normal. But this number was a
8 couple hundred thousand. I was like --

9 Q. As a credit?

10 A. As a credit. They wrote for a couple hundred
11 thousand credit. I thought it was too high. So my sellers,
12 I said, Go -- they hired an attorney, the girl in Orlando.
13 She closed it -- I mean a girl up in Ormond Beach. I can't
14 think of her name right now, but she's the one who closed
15 it. And she said it was fine. I just said, Well, it's just
16 kind of out of kilt, you know, the number. And then I
17 thought it was a little high. I've been in the business for
18 30 years, so I've seen it where, you know -- like, if you
19 want a new roof on your house, you're going to go buy a
20 house and it needs a new roof, the seller says, Okay, I'll
21 put a roof on, but he may use cheesy material, bad
22 contractor, whatever. So I'd say, Hey, you know what, let
23 me pick my guy, because I might want to upgrade it to a
24 better shingle or whatever. Just give me a credit. That
25 has been going on for years. But they took it to another --

1 they took it to another degree. That's -- and it was --
2 that was my first time I've ever heard of American Safety,
3 that's some company he owns. American Signature Homes or
4 something like that.

5 But, anyway, and then I closed another one. Then
6 they bought another one just a couple doors down from that
7 one. And then I just didn't even talk to him for a while,
8 because that's when I got sick. That was in August of '06.
9 So I hadn't talked to them. So I closed them two. So I did
10 have a working relationship with both of them. Even the
11 second one, I had a different attorney, Powell -- was it
12 Powell? Mike Kennedy, up in Ormond. He looked that one
13 over and he closed that one. So the first two transactions
14 I did with them I'm, like, I'm not too sure about these
15 guys. And so I had that done. Both attorneys said, No,
16 they're legal. You know, it's just the magnitude of the
17 property. You know, it's just the size of the property.
18 Everything's relative, you know, to the size, I just wasn't
19 used to seeing that.

20 But then they knew I was sick and they knew I
21 spent nine months trying to recoupe. And they offered me --
22 they said, Look, we need somebody that's been around for a
23 long time to start a real estate company and we want you to
24 come on board and we'll give you the same and we'll pay all
25 your expenses. I said, Why not? And that's what I did.

1 That's how I got hooked -- that's how I got with them. And
2 I would have been better off just going back to RE/MAX and
3 skip that part, that chapter.

4 But it started right from the getgo. Then we got
5 right in there and we started doing -- they were doing all
6 these kind of crazy things and stuff, and I just was shaking
7 my head. See, as an independent contractor, if you don't
8 understand -- you probably don't understand how real estate
9 works. We're independent contractors. We work for
10 ourselves, technically. We just have to have our license
11 under a broker, that's all. So, technically, she was
12 just -- I had my license hung under her and she was giving
13 me a free office space in return for having -- I had been
14 around for a long time. Everybody kind of knows who I am in
15 the south Peninsula, Ponce Inlet, Wilbur area, so she needed
16 a name like that to try to help recruit and do things like
17 that. But, you know, there's just things I just -- just
18 things -- crazy things.

19 Q. What's an example of a crazy thing?

20 A. Not paying their bills. Having people coming in
21 their front door threatening to kill people.

22 Q. Who would do that? Their --

23 A. Any vendor that ever dealt with them. I don't
24 care who it is, from the lawn mowing guy to a pool cleaning
25 guy to roofing contractors. I thought that was kind of

1 crazy. People coming and repossessing their car, and they'd
2 go make a chain all around their car. Because he
3 employed -- Jimmy Sotolongo has, like, six Mexicans, five or
4 six Mexicans that work for him full time. Those guys. I
5 thought that was strange, too, because I'm not a believer in
6 that. If you don't have a card, you need to get back out.

7 Q. What do they do?

8 A. The Mexicans?

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. They did everything Jimmy told them to do.
11 Working on houses. Anything they told him to do, you
12 know -- he told them to do. Anything.

13 Q. Were -- were any of these houses rented for short
14 terms?

15 A. All of them.

16 Q. How did that work?

17 A. Well, he had -- they owned a short term -- they
18 started a short-term company, rental company. And they
19 rented them out by the week, the month, any way they could
20 rent them.

21 Q. Did they have trouble with the cities over that?

22 A. Wilbur. They were having problems with Wilbur,
23 because Wilbur has a one-year thing, and they were working
24 with one of the politicians down there trying to get it
25 changed.

1 Q. Who was that politician?

2 A. Whoever lives down -- who's the one that lives in
3 Wilbur? I don't think he's on -- I don't think he's
4 anything now. I think he's -- Bruno. Bruno. Wasn't Bruno
5 a councilman there for a while?

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. Yeah. I think he was back when -- it was in the
8 paper a lot where Wilbur was going after those people for
9 short-term rentals. I just -- it was hard for me to
10 understand, being in this area so long -- I'm married to a
11 native. I've been here since '88 in the area, in real
12 estate since '90. I sold in Orlando for a couple of years
13 before I came over here and started selling. But I never
14 saw two people come in and make such a big splash. And it
15 seemed like they knew everybody and did everything so
16 quickly. You know what I mean? It's, like, I'm married to
17 a girl that graduated, born and raised here, and we didn't
18 know anywhere near or was involved in so much. I guess it's
19 just different personalities. I don't know. But it was
20 definitely different.

21 Q. Did you ever -- do you know Josh Wagner?

22 A. Um-hum.

23 Q. How do you know him?

24 A. Well, because he's in there every day. That's how
25 I know him. I'm not a Josh Wagner fan, either. I became

1 not a Josh Wagner fan because I lost respect for him because
2 he was in there all the time.

3 Q. And "there" would be Waverly Properties or Waverly
4 Media?

5 A. Well, who they -- they were in there talking to
6 Jim -- he was in there with Jimmy and Ramara all the time.
7 I mean, they would go in the conference room next door and
8 talk for hours. Talk -- absolutely talk for hours.

9 Q. What were they talking about?

10 A. I wish I knew. That's -- that's been a question
11 asked to me by -- you're about the third or fourth person
12 that's asked me that question. I can't -- I couldn't -- in
13 between my office and that conference room was a little --
14 the copying room and the shredder room. That's where that
15 little room was. But, you know, I would say Josh was in
16 there on a weekly basis -- now, I was in the office five,
17 six days a week off and on, you know, because I'm showing
18 property and selling property. You know, I was dealing with
19 my thing. But I would say he was in there at least four or
20 five days a week that I physically saw him. My wife and I,
21 we've been out, we've seen him out with them.

22 Q. What was it about that that caused you to, what,
23 lose respect, I think you said?

24 A. I lost respect because I knew what Jimmy and
25 Ramara were. I knew where they were going and how they were

1 acting. I just -- you know, within -- within six, eight
2 months of watching them conduct their business with real
3 estate and some other things, you know, some other
4 businesses that they supposedly owned, I just thought it was
5 odd that somebody political -- because I think he was just
6 getting into the office at the time. I'm not even sure he
7 was there. That would have been in '08.

8 Q. Yeah, I think he was in -- running for office
9 then.

10 A. Yeah, I think -- because I think they really
11 helped him, yeah. Because he was -- I was friends with the
12 old mayor of Ponce Inlet, the -- what's her name? She lives
13 near Old Carriage. The lady --

14 Q. I know who you meaning.

15 A. I can't get the name out. I've always known her
16 because I was in Ponce Inlet, you know. And she kept asking
17 me, she says, What's Josh doing in there? Because she was
18 running against Josh, I guess, and she was always trying to
19 find out what -- what that was all about. And I said, I
20 wish I could find out. I have no idea. But, you know, I
21 know that he was probably helping them with their -- what
22 they were buying and selling. I mean, they did everything.
23 I mean, they had concerts on, you know -- they were running
24 concerts. They were concert promoters. They had ice cream
25 stores they were supposed to have owned and tire stores. I

1 mean, they were -- you would think that they were really
2 high-end. I mean, they had it all. Now it sounds like they
3 didn't really have anything.

4 A. I don't understand, because he always seems like
5 he was able to make payroll and stuff, you know. That's the
6 problem I didn't understand. Because I don't know where --
7 I mean, he was making a lot of money on those rentals. I
8 mean, he was renting some of his rental houses -- some of
9 those houses were oceanfront houses. They were renting for,
10 you know, 3, 4, \$5,000 a month for, you know, an oceanfront
11 estate. And you -- I mean, it's record. You can tell they
12 never made a payment on any of that stuff. I mean, all you
13 can do is go to clerk.org and you can see all the -- watch
14 from the last time the payments -- most of those properties
15 never even had a payment on them, you know. Because the
16 foreclosures were so business, you know, they were able to
17 hang on to them for four or five years. Well, four or five
18 years and you're making 50, 60,000 off of a house, that's a
19 pretty good business, especially if the house isn't in your
20 name, you know. I mean, I know all that dried up.

21 I mean, even the -- like, the sign company, that
22 made good money. I don't know what they've done to that,
23 but that was a money maker. I knew it -- I -- I -- I rented
24 from the sign company before they bought it. I won't rent
25 from them now. You know those bench signs?

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. But I knew that -- as a matter of fact, I was the
3 one that encouraged them to buy it because I knew it was for
4 sale. I told them they should consider buying it. I'm the
5 one that encouraged them to buy it. There's a -- it was
6 kind of falling away, it wasn't being run properly or
7 anything. And they hired Jim Brown to fix it, you know, get
8 it up and running.

9 Q. Were you acquainted with Jim Brown?

10 A. Yeah, I've known Jim Brown for -- he sold for --
11 he sold real estate magazines probably for about two or
12 three years before that. Is was an upscale magazine. It
13 was like Real Estate Elite, or something like that. It was
14 for high-end properties. He sold -- and that publication
15 stopped, and then he went to work for Jennifer Sotolongo
16 doing the benches.

17 Q. What was his job at the media, Waverly Media?

18 A. He went out and sold benches, the benches.

19 Q. Are you familiar with their political involvement
20 with the bench signs?

21 A. I knew that there was -- all's I know is they were
22 trading out and getting -- doing stuff, but I don't know. I
23 wasn't privy to any of that stuff. But I knew there were a
24 lot of people that had benches. I knew Cusack used Jimmy's
25 old car lot for her political office, because I'm actually

1 friends with -- well, I've sold a couple other properties
2 now, the Huletts. And I told the Hullett -- I told
3 Mr. Hullett that they were using -- because I think he had
4 it in foreclosure at the time, and Cusack was using it for
5 political office at the time.

6 I had something that -- if I wouldn't have moved,
7 I'd still have it. But I had something. When they were
8 doing the pier deal, I had the actual -- I don't know what
9 you would call it, the document that's proposed -- the
10 proposal that they gave to the county -- or to the city, it
11 was about that thick, I had the actual one. Because she had
12 it there and she had made a bunch of copies, and I took one
13 to read. It was telling about how each one of them had a
14 certain amount of experience and all this stuff and why they
15 should do it. I was -- because my wife and I would just
16 laugh at it, because she said she had all this experience on
17 this and this, and I'm, like, wow, this is crazy. Because
18 she was a housewife. Her mother was a realtor. And when
19 she started -- stopped having kids, she started helping her
20 mom in real estate. And then one day Jimmy walks in and she
21 fell head over heels over this guy and left her husband.
22 And then all of a sudden she had all this experience running
23 all these corporations and businesses. And I'm, like,
24 that's not true at all. That's not true at all. But I had
25 it. And I don't know what happened. When we moved, it got

1 put somewhere. And the FBI asked me for it for a couple
2 times and I can't find it. But it was a book about this big
3 (indicating). And it was a proposal, the actual proposal.
4 And it listed all the people that were involved. And I
5 think, at the time, you know, it was Josh and Marilyn, the
6 people with the pier. And I think at the time Hall was
7 involved with it at the time, Hall Construction, because
8 that's Josh's father-in-law, was still involved. And I know
9 he pulled out.

10 Q. The people with the pier, was that Hooper? They
11 got the Sunglow Pier?

12 A. Yeah. I don't think they own it. Well, they own
13 the restaurant. They don't own the pier itself, I don't
14 think. Some other guy owns the pier, because they had
15 a -- they had -- the Hoopers lent money a lot to the --
16 Ramara and Jimmy. You know, private money type of stuff.
17 That came up when they went to go have a concert there one
18 time. And the City says, well, the Hoopers can't sign
19 because they're just a lessee. They couldn't sign for
20 the -- you know, to have this concert there. And I don't
21 even think Jimmy and Ramara knew the Hoopers didn't own the
22 actual pier.

23 Q. And that's Sunglow now?

24 A. Yeah. They only own the restaurant part of it.
25 Yeah, the Hoopers have been involved with them for a long

1 time. I think they lent them money on that South Daytona
2 project. Well, I know they did.

3 Q. What project is that?

4 A. The condos there on South Daytona.

5 Q. On the river?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did you ever hear Jimmy talk about Jim Dinneen,
8 the county manager?

9 A. No. The people that I heard Jimmy talk the most
10 about was Cusack -- well, I mean, Jimmy and -- as far as I'm
11 concerned, Jimmy and Wagner was best friends. I mean, they
12 were together -- I mean, like I say, my wife and I, we've
13 seen them out in restaurants together. I mean, they had
14 outside -- it wasn't only just, you know, business-wise. I
15 mean, they were really good friends. My wife actually
16 brought this to the attention. Like, maybe a year ago when
17 they were interviewing Josh about what Jimmy and them --
18 when the first story came out about the mortgage fraud and
19 Josh says, Well, you know, I didn't really know him, I just
20 met him in the last couple of months or something, my wife's
21 like, You've got to read this, P.J. Because, I mean, he
22 goes clear back as far as I do. I mean, he knew him. He
23 was involved with him. It was just funny that he just said,
24 Well, I just -- I did business with her. I've just met her
25 boyfriend. And I'm, like, Oh, my God. That's hard to

1 believe. Anybody that's ever in Ponce Inlet or goes to Down
2 The Hatch, Deck Down Under, any of those restaurants, you
3 would see them out together all the time. I mean, that was
4 -- that was an ongoing -- Josh lives right around -- I mean,
5 they were there all the time.

6 He had a PR guy. Have you talked to that -- that
7 Tony? I don't know what his PR guy was. He did a lot of PR
8 work for Jimmy and Ramara. His first name is Tony. Kind of
9 a heavysset guy. He -- he was the one that seemed like
10 handled a lot of the political stuff. His name was Tony.
11 Kind of a heavysset guy. I would think Jim Brown would know,
12 because I've seen Jim Brown and Tony and Jimmy and Ramara
13 all sit down together. That Tony guy. Whoever that Tony
14 guy is, he seemed like -- because I know he was really
15 involved with the South Daytona thing, trying to get that
16 all cleaned up. Or get it -- when they were buying it.
17 That was Tony -- oh, God, I wish I knew his name. I know
18 his first name is definitely Tony. Kind of a heavysset,
19 older guy. Apparently he's the kind of guy that can -- you
20 know, maybe a freelance writer or something. He gets
21 articles in and helps -- he knows enough people that he
22 makes things happen.

23 Q. Funny, he doesn't know me.

24 A. Yeah. He probably does. You know, it's -- I wish
25 I knew his name, because I think I have heard of him before.

1 I was a broker for Dimucci, and we had a lot of PR guys come
2 in there, you know, for our promotions and what we were
3 doing and all. And I think he was there, too. That's where
4 I think I had met him before. They introduced me to him a
5 couple of times. But he was in the office a lot. I think
6 he had a lot to do with trying to get things -- I know they
7 hired him right around the time they were trying to do the
8 pier is when I started seeing him. When they were trying to
9 do the pier deal. That's -- the pier deal and the condos on
10 the river are all about the same time.

11 You have to understand, they were trying to do a
12 pier deal that was a couple million dollar deal or whatever.
13 They were trying to do a concert at the time. And I'm
14 sitting an office where the front door is here (indicating),
15 and four out of five people that walk in that door are
16 looking for money. So as an old, conservative country boy
17 from Western Maryland, I just couldn't understand how they
18 were doing all this when, you know, an air conditioning
19 guy's in there trying to look for \$130 check that he hasn't
20 been paid in six months, but, yet, they want to do this
21 couple million dollar pier deal. Maybe I just don't
22 understand business, but it seems to me that you should have
23 money to do those kind of businesses. I just can't imagine
24 how you can do it on a shoe string. If they do it on a shoe
25 string, then God bless them. But I've never been able -- I

1 don't know of anybody like that. It seems like you've got
2 to be a little stronger than that.

3 Q. Ever heard the word "pin hooking"?

4 A. No.

5 Q. It a little further south from western Maryland,
6 that's a phrase that refers to selling property before you
7 buy it.

8 A. Yeah. We never did that. We never did that. I
9 mean, it's --

10 Q. I'm just talking about vocabulary.

11 A. Oh. We're just good old country farmers is -- I
12 was raised in the farming country, farming area.

13 Q. I was too, southeast Georgia.

14 A. Oh, really?

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. What kind of form?

17 Q. Tobacco, cotton, corn, livestock.

18 A. We were dairy farmers. 400 head a day, twice a
19 day. From the time I was five years old I was milking cows.
20 Hence the reason I moved to Florida.

21 Q. Well, surely you had the machines to do that.

22 A. Well, yeah, we did, but nothing like today.
23 Because my uncle runs one now that they just -- you don't
24 even -- the herds now just come in, they all have ankle
25 bracelets on, and, you know, they all file in line, and

1 based on their ankle bracelets, they're trained, and they
2 all back right in. Guy goes in, cleans them, hooks them
3 out, you know, you got counters on there for how much milk
4 each one's putting out. They drop off, they go. The next
5 herd comes in. You don't even do any of -- I mean, I was
6 out there with a three-wheeler bringing them in in the snow,
7 you know, with a hose trying to get it all off. You know,
8 it was -- it's changed a lot in 35, 40 years.

9 Q. Sounds like fun.

10 A. Yeah, right. Well, now today it would be fun.
11 Back then it wasn't fun.

12 Q. Did you ever hear Jimmy talking about politicians
13 that owed him favors, that he had done favors for?

14 A. No, not in that sense. No.

15 Q. In what sense?

16 A. Not in the sense that they owed him. I would hear
17 more, like, well, you know, we're going to take care of
18 this -- if we can do this, maybe we can -- you know, that
19 will help us here. You know, P.J., if we can get -- if we
20 can get him elected, you know, maybe we can get this, you
21 know, approved or something like that. That's why the whole
22 Cusack -- that's why he pushed Cusack, because I think
23 Cusack was a deciding factor for the pier. I think she was
24 a deciding factor for the pier.

25 Because, remember, I'm a republican. I mean, I'm

1 very open about it. I mean, I'm very proud of it. And he's
2 as liberal, I mean -- when the president was running, this
3 Obama was running for president, he was standing out --
4 Jimmy was, and Ramara, Jimmy and Ramara, were standing out
5 in front of our building with an Obama mask on and she had a
6 Michelle mask on waving to everybody. I thought that was
7 funny. And, you know, here I am selling high-end properties
8 in Ponce Inlet, and my people won't even coming into the
9 office because they're seeing this. I'm getting phone
10 calls, e-mails and everything. So, yeah, we differed so
11 bad, and that's why Jimmy and I -- I mean, the last year we
12 hardly even spoke. I just tried to stay completely away
13 from him. I mean, I just didn't want anything to do with
14 him. We differed so much.

15 And what surprises me is Jim Brown was -- he's a
16 member of the Volusia Republicans. And I just -- I was
17 really surprised that he -- he bowed down. I mean, you
18 know, you've got to stand on your beliefs. That's really
19 all you have, you know what I'm saying? And he bowed to
20 Jimmy based on that. It was just really -- I got all these
21 jokes from -- on eBay -- e-mailed to me from Jim Brown
22 about, you know -- political jokes, you know. And I'm,
23 like, then you turn right around and kiss his butt. Stand
24 up to him, you know what I mean? It's like -- you know, you
25 just -- I mean, he -- well, they made a comment to me one

1 time about who I was supposed to vote for. And I said, No,
2 I'm not. There's no way. I'm not voting for that. I
3 didn't participate in any of that stuff. I didn't
4 participate in the --

5 I was independent contracting towards the end. I
6 worked more out of my truck than I did out of my office. I
7 just didn't want to be a part of it. I actually -- it
8 effected my business, you know. Because a lot of my
9 business is Ponce Inlet people, Wilbur people, and they just
10 weren't going to come to that office. You know, they knew
11 what was going on. And, you know, it really hurt me. They
12 owed me a bunch of money, so I was trying to get my money
13 out of them.

14 Q. If they knew what was going on, what do you mean
15 by "what was going on"?

16 A. Well, it was out on the street that they were bad
17 people, you know what I'm saying? And they were -- you
18 know, and I was trying to get out of there. I mean, every
19 time I'd run into one of my friends, they were like -- or
20 one of my customers, they'd say, P.J., you've got to get
21 away from them. You got to get away from them. I was,
22 like, They owe me 35,000, they owe me \$40,000. They always
23 owed me money. When I left -- the last time I left they
24 owed me 32,000. My dad had just went into a nursing home in
25 Maryland. I just came home. And I told them to give the

1 check to my wife, that I was up taking care of my dad in
2 Maryland. And they wouldn't give her the check. They
3 wanted part of the check. They needed some money, I guess.
4 They were using my money for three weeks is what they were
5 doing. And I came down there. And then he and I -- when he
6 took a shot at me -- Jimmy took a swing at me.

7 Q. Took a swing at you?

8 A. Yeah. When I asked him for -- I asked -- I went
9 into Ramara, and I said, Ramara, I need my money, it's been
10 three weeks now. And she says, Well, we don't have it. So
11 I went up to the account, Michelle, and I said, Michelle, I
12 need the money. Well, Jimmy's there. Jimmy says, We'll
13 give you money when we want to give you money. I said,
14 Look, you have nothing to do with the real estate company.
15 You just need to stay away from me. You're not a broker. I
16 don't work for you. Just stay away from me. Because I had
17 not even talked to him. He says, Well, he says, we want 10
18 percent. I said, No, that's not our agreement. I have an
19 agreement, I get 95 percent, I want my check. And then it
20 just got heated. And then he took a swing at me and he
21 grabbed me and I just pushed him back. And then I went down
22 to Ramara, I said, Ramara, you got two choices. I said --
23 because people witnessed it. I said, I'm calling the cops
24 to have him arrested for assault, or you're going to write
25 me a check, you're going to walk it down to SunTrust, and

1 you're going to cash it and bring it back to me in a hundred
2 dollar bills. I said, I'm either going to have him thrown
3 in jail -- and that's how I left.

4 Q. Did you get the money?

5 A. I got the money. She gave it to me in a
6 heartbeat. And I looked at her and I said, If I was you --
7 I was shaking at this point. Because, really, as a broker,
8 you don't want to be in a fight. You don't want to have
9 a -- you don't want to get into that kind of stuff, you
10 really don't, because it just looks bad and it's not good --
11 I mean, I have a broker's license. I've been a broker for
12 35 years. I've never even had anybody write a complaint
13 against me. So I wasn't going to go get into a fight with a
14 hoodlum, you know, that had nothing to do with my money, you
15 know. But I got my money. I left a couple of listings.
16 She even signed over my listings to me, because she knew
17 that I had him, because, I mean, I had three people sit
18 there. They were ready for me to call the cops. He would
19 have went to jail that day. That was just -- that was just
20 wrong, you know. They held my money over what they owed me
21 all the time. That's -- I had to fight for my money.

22 Q. Had you ever known him to make physical threats to
23 anybody else?

24 A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

25 Q. How did that --

1 A. He bragged about it. That's one of the things I
2 was upset about. Down at River -- well, there's some condos
3 in Ponce Inlet. I think it's Ponce Inlet Villas. As you
4 enter into Ponce Inlet, left-hand side, those three-story
5 gray buildings. Somebody was down there one day, and he
6 went down there and he came back and bragged that he hit
7 that guy. I'm, like, You can't do that. That was like
8 after a year I worked there. I said, You just can't -- you
9 can't go and beat somebody up. It was because they weren't
10 allowing him to do renovations on a unit because he didn't
11 have a permit. He'd just bring his Mexicans in and they'd
12 work on it. But, yeah, he -- well, he's actually -- yeah, I
13 mean -- I have a weapon's permit. I carry a gun now.
14 That's how bad it is. Yes, I do. And I don't even -- I'm
15 renting a house right now because I don't want him to know
16 where I live. That's how bad it is. Until he is --
17 something happens to him, I mean, I think he's bad news.
18 Very, very bad news.

19 Q. Do you know Jim Dinneen?

20 A. I don't know Jim Dinneen.

21 Q. County manager?

22 A. I know he's a county manager, but I don't know
23 him.

24 Q. Do you know where he lives in Ponce Inlet?

25 A. I know he lives in Ponce. He lives on -- does he

1 live on Inlet Harbor or South Turn? Where does he live? I
2 think he lives in the south end somewhere. No, I don't know
3 him, though, no. Somebody asked me that, if I've ever seen
4 him in there, and I said, no. I don't even know who he is.
5 I couldn't even tell you what he looked like. The one -- I
6 can tell you, though, Josh Wagner was there all the time,
7 and they were out. They were really, really tight. And
8 until then, I didn't even know who Josh Wagner was. In the
9 last year, what I just read in the newspaper, I don't like
10 him, because I know by being there, I know what he's telling
11 the newspaper, that he wasn't -- didn't know these people
12 and all that kind of stuff, I know that's not true. That's
13 why I don't like him. And one of my best friends in real
14 estate knows him really well. I guess his daughter was
15 raised with him. He even agreed. He said, He's changed.

16 Q. Did you have any familiarity with Jim Brown's
17 political activities supporting democrats with the --

18 A. Well, that's not -- that would shock me. That
19 would shock me. Because he was as republican as you can
20 get. If not, then every time he sat down, like you and I
21 candidly, then he was lying to me. Or all the e-mails --
22 and I've got e-mails since then from him picking on the
23 democrats. So that just shocks me. I think he did it all
24 to bow down to Jimmy Sotolongo. I don't know whether he did
25 it in fear. I don't know what it was. I mean, I've known

1 Jim Brown -- like I said, he sold advertisement. I met him
2 selling advertising two or three years before Jimmy even
3 showed up into town, so -- but then I have to tell you that,
4 you know, you read in the newspaper about these people, like
5 Jim Brown, and if you would have told me that he killed
6 somebody or was involved in a murder, I was stunned, because
7 that's not the story he's ever told us. Like, you know, he
8 always said he lived in Australia, ran a business. And
9 somehow they asked him to leave the country because he
10 wasn't paying his taxes or something right. That's what the
11 story he always said. And we're, like, okay, I understand,
12 you know. Because he is really kind of a smart guy. He's
13 intell -- seems to be very intelligent. Does a lot of
14 reading. You know, he's up on a lot of things. And so
15 that's always what he's said. It's, like, Where have you
16 been? He says, Well, you know, I've lived in Australia for
17 20 years. Oh, that's cool, you know. We even talked about
18 my daughter went to Australia, like, for -- back in '07,
19 '06, when I first met Jim, she went over there for that
20 Basner (phonetic) thing where they go over there as students
21 and they study for two months, my daughter. So we had a lot
22 in common talking about different, you know, parts of
23 Australia and all. And I said, Why did you ever leave if it
24 was so nice? He says, Oh, I was running a business. They
25 didn't like the way I was paying my taxes or something so

1 they deported me, is what he told me. And then six months
2 ago I read that he -- he was involved in a murder. And
3 we're, like, what, what? Because, you know, knowing
4 somebody like this, that would be like you finding out
5 tomorrow I shot somebody. It's like, That's just weird, you
6 know, to me. I guess it's just -- I guess I'm a little bit
7 on the naive side, you know what I'm saying? I guess that's
8 what it is. I was just stunned by that. I would have never
9 thought he -- because he always came across as a pretty nice
10 guy. The only thing, like I said, I don't like about him
11 was one side of his mouth he talked. That's all he was, he
12 was important, you know. He was a very republican based,
13 very conservative-based person. But then he did the
14 opposite because of what Jimmy said. Everybody in there
15 jumped for whatever Jimmy said. I was probably the only one
16 that didn't. Well, there's a couple other guys, but they
17 all left, realtors that I had recruited that left.

18 Q. Did you follow, in the newspaper, Jim Brown's
19 pleading guilty to filing false campaign reports?

20 A. Um-hum.

21 Q. Did you have any observation of that process?

22 A. I don't know if that happened or not. I don't
23 know. I don't know any of that. They would not share
24 any -- that's why they went in behind doors all the time,
25 because they know that -- I was totally against all of that

1 stuff. They would not -- they just didn't bring it up in
2 front of me. They knew how I was. I was very staunch.

3 Q. Well, the --

4 A. The person that I would think out of all of them
5 that would probably know the most out of all that stuff was
6 Kim Was. That girl. Kim Was, she still works for them, and
7 she's pretty tight with them. And it just shocks me that
8 she, you know -- she's a good girl from Ohio. She came
9 here. She had no experience and she came to work as our
10 secretary. But I think she knows so much, that I would be
11 surprised -- they would never, ever have used my name to buy
12 a democratic -- I would have just -- I would have went off.
13 I would -- they know better.

14 Q. They used her name?

15 A. I'm sure they probably did. They would never have
16 done that -- even Jim Brown would have said, No, you got to
17 draw the line, because not P.J. Warner. Because everybody
18 knows that I'm just the opposite.

19 Q. If I were to tell you that one of the witnesses
20 I've talked to says that that process of picking out
21 candidates and doing that free bus bench thing where they
22 filed the reports and had a strawman claiming he gave them
23 money for it, that the witness says that Jim Brown, all by
24 himself, was deciding which candidates to give that favor to
25 with no direction from Jimmy Sotolongo. Would that strike

1 you as plausible?

2 A. I would be totally -- that could not be true at
3 all. There is no chance in -- there is no way. Jim Brown
4 did what Jim Sotolongo said. Jim Brown would not pick any
5 of those people ever. That's -- there's no way that could
6 be true. That would be -- that would be -- there's no way.
7 No. No way. No, no.

8 Q. If I told you that I -- and I will tell you, I've
9 been talking to several witnesses that names have come up in
10 this. Who would you think would have told me that?

11 A. Well, the one that's probably most in debt with
12 Jimmy Sotolongo is Josh Wagner.

13 Q. And why would Jimmy -- assuming Josh told me that,
14 which is a good assumption, why do you think Josh would want
15 to say that to us that in this testimony?

16 A. I have no clue. I have no clue. But Josh Wagner
17 and Jimmy Sotolongo are in bed together. I mean, that's the
18 bottom line. They've been from day one. You know,
19 that's -- I mean, the FBI has questioned me about a lot of
20 this stuff. And I said, I wish that there was something in
21 writing that I had. Actually, my laptop that I had bought
22 was there, crashed, so I've got a hard drive, and I've
23 got -- been able to go back to AOL and go back a couple of
24 years. I've got some stuff for Ramara, it's from Stephanie,
25 but nothing politically-wise. It was only for the real

1 estate side. I couldn't find anything on Jimmy. Again, the
2 last year I didn't talk to Jimmy. I mean, Hi, get out of my
3 face. I mean, it was just like that, you know. I'm
4 dwindling my listings down and going to get away from here,
5 and I'm trying to get away from you because I can't deal
6 with -- you know, you have somebody sitting here trying to
7 buy a million dollar house and some guy walks in with a
8 baseball bat, swinging a baseball bat, and says he's going
9 to clean this place out until he gets his \$136 check for the
10 recharge of his air conditioner that he's owed for six
11 months. You can't do business that way. That's not the
12 atmosphere you can do business.

13 Q. Did you have somebody come in with a baseball bat?

14 A. Absolutely. Oh, yeah. I've had people with a
15 baseball bat. I've had a tow truck back up to the front of
16 her green car, that big green car that she drives -- that
17 Ramara used to drive. I don't know if -- I think the
18 mother's driving it now. The tow truck backed up to
19 repossess it and he took the Mexicans -- he came flying in
20 with his truck, put the Mexicans all around it, and Jimmy
21 was in that tow truck driver's face like that and the guy
22 left. I couldn't believe it. I mean, it was bizarre stuff
23 like that. Yeah, there's nothing -- I'd see guys standing
24 out in the driveway throwing rocks at our building, you
25 know, wanting their money. You know, I mean, that was

1 nothing. Tow truck guys trying to repossess cars, air
2 conditioning guys trying to get paid. It was a daily
3 occurrence there. Daily. They would -- towards the end,
4 Jimmy and Ramara never even came to the office. You know
5 when they went to the office? 9:00, 10 o'clock at night,
6 because they didn't want to run into anybody. So that's
7 what I'm saying, that last year, year and-a-half, year and
8 couple -- I didn't even see them. I didn't want anything to
9 do with them. I'm going to write a book, I'm telling you,
10 from some of the stuff I saw. It just amazes me.

11 Q. Well, you've got some good notes for your book.

12 A. I mean, well, the craziest thing is one of the
13 things I'm going to be talking about there -- the craziest
14 thing, I'm standing in the front lobby -- this is the
15 craziest thing I ever saw. But I was standing in the front
16 lobby talking to the secretary, which she's been on record,
17 and Kim Was was there. He goes in -- the processor comes in
18 to serve. He says -- and he walked in that door. He
19 normally comes in the front door. There was the three
20 doors, one door was always locked, then you had the main
21 Waverly door, which brought it in to where my office was,
22 and then you had the rental office, which we kind of kept
23 separate to keep the renters out of our office. That
24 processor went in that door. The processor walked right up
25 to Jimmy as he was sitting there and he says, I'm looking

1 for Jimmy Sotolongo. And Jimmy, with his cold face, just
2 looked him and says, Well, which one? And the guy says,
3 Well, is there more than one? He goes, Oh, yeah. He goes,
4 Well, I'm looking for James L. or James, whatever,
5 Sotolongo. And he goes, Oh, that one's out of the country.
6 And turned right around and left. There's only one Jimmy
7 Sotolongo that I -- Lord, I hope there's only one Jimmy
8 Sotolongo. And we -- and Barb Aiken (phonetic) and I, we
9 sat there and we're, like, How can he do that? I mean,
10 that's like -- that's lying to a federal -- I mean, that's
11 lying to an officer.

12 Q. Was this -- was this a deputy?

13 A. Yeah. It was a deputy serving -- well, it was a
14 -- they're not deputies, are they? Well, it was a county
15 guy, yeah. It was a processor, process server, or whatever
16 it is. He just flat out lied to him. I'm, like, really,
17 can you do -- and he was -- honestly, he's the best liar
18 I've ever seen in my life. There's nobody better than Jimmy
19 Sotolongo when it comes to it. Because he had us all
20 believing -- when I went to work for him, I believed that he
21 was a famous promoter. That he promoted fights and all this
22 stuff down in South Florida. I believed that he had a lot
23 of money. I mean, he's very -- he came across very
24 charismatic and I believed -- I believed everything. It
25 took about seven or eight months of setting in that office

1 and listening to stuff and seeing things happening, you
2 know, and going to a copy machine and seeing stuff or
3 whatever, knowing that they're all bullshit. It was all
4 bullshit. You know, it was just all front.

5 Q. Did you ever hear them talk about the Halifax Area
6 Advertising Authority, HAAA?

7 A. Hum-hum.

8 Q. Discuss Joyce Cusack helping them --

9 A. Joyce Cusack was helping them with the pier deal,
10 as far as I know. That was -- she was -- they rendered her
11 opinion and stuff like that. That's about the same time, I
12 think, she used their -- their building for --

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. -- for her campaign office, that he wasn't making
15 mortgage payments on, by the way. Because, you know,
16 legally -- you probably know that, because you're an
17 attorney. But, legally, if you own a property and you're in
18 default, you -- any rents -- especially on commercial
19 property. Any rents -- and, actually, even the oceanfront
20 houses, if you collect rent, that is absolutely the property
21 of the -- of the person who holds the mortgage.

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. And that's why I can't understand why nobody's
24 ever gone after him for that. And it's even like Hullett.
25 I'm like, he wasn't paying you, but he's collecting rent --

1 or I guess he was giving her a gift, or whatever, for her
2 office. But still, you know, a property like that's worth,
3 you know, maybe 15, \$1,800 a month to rent. And it's, like,
4 he's giving all this money, acting like he's a bigshot, but
5 he's not even making the mortgage payments on it.

6 Q. Well, actually, the campaign reports show that
7 Ms. Cusack reported that she had been given an in-kind
8 political contribution of the use of that office, which she
9 valued at \$250 a month. Does that sound right to you as a
10 number?

11 A. Well, I'll rent it for 250 a month. You want to
12 rent me a one-acre parcel on ISB with an office building on
13 it? Yeah, I'll take it for 250 now. I'll even sign a 50
14 year lease. No problem.

15 Q. In other words, you're saying that is
16 unreasonably --

17 A. 250 a month? It's a one-acre paved, enclosed
18 park -- I mean, it's a -- it's a car lot. I don't know if
19 you know where it is. It's right next to Spano's, or
20 whatever it is.

21 Q. Spano's?

22 A. Yeah. The only thing that's different is there's
23 a little insurance company, I think, in between. Yeah.
24 Well, it's a 350, \$400,000 property. So you can't rent --
25 no. Yeah. You can't rent for that.

1 Q. And that would be your professional opinion as
2 a --

3 A. I pay \$400 for a -- in my private office that I
4 have in RE/MAX, I pay \$400 for a eight-by-six cubical.
5 That's what I pay. So that tells you something. The office
6 is above Waverly building, when they were trying to rent
7 them, before Jimmy just used them all. But we were trying
8 to rent them. We were asking 550 for an office that was
9 half the size of that, not even including the big lot that
10 you could sell cars on. So, no, that would be nowhere near
11 the going rate. Look at his tax records and see what he was
12 claiming for what it was worth. That's what I'd do. If he
13 filed taxes. I don't think he ever filed taxes. He always
14 bragged about that.

15 Q. Well, in the area of -- what I'm investigating for
16 the county council is the question of the use of those bus
17 bench ads in the political campaigns without properly
18 reporting it and attributing it to someone who really paid
19 for it. Do you have anything to offer on that subject?

20 A. No. He -- again, they wouldn't share any of that
21 with me because they knew that I didn't -- I didn't support
22 anybody they supported, let's put it that way. Whoever they
23 were is usually on the opposite side of where I would be.
24 The only thing I could tell you is I've heard him say
25 certain people they would have liked to have been elected to

1 help get that pier deal, and that was Cusack and Josh, and
2 they were trying to make sure that that happened for those
3 guys. That was kind of like their -- that's the two main
4 people that I heard about. Josh was a fixture. I mean, he
5 was -- he was there. I mean, it's -- it's not -- you know,
6 he'd stop in on his bike, but he always went into the room
7 to talk. He would never do it out there.

8 Q. Okay. Well --

9 A. I can't imagine, though, Jim Brown ever -- no,
10 that's just -- Jim Brown would never support anybody that's
11 a democrat. I would be surprised. If not, he just was
12 wrong with me. They would have never put me on any of those
13 things because they knew how I felt. I would have went off.
14 Because I seen him using other people's names, like the
15 people that worked there and all, yeah, I could -- because a
16 lot of those people feared for their jobs. So, you know --
17 but, see, I was an independent contractor. I didn't
18 really -- I mean, I knew I could walk out of there. I was
19 probably going to lose 30, 40,000 when I walked out of
20 there, but I was always in that position that I could have
21 walked out. And I finally did. Kim Was. The guy by the
22 name of Tony, if you could get ahold of him, that would be
23 the one.

24 Q. Tony. I'll have to write that one down.

25 A. Jim Brown will tell you who it was, guarantee you.

1 Because him and Jim, they were tight. They were tight, too.

2 Q. Yeah, well, first I've got to get the judge to
3 order Jim Brown to obey my subpoena.

4 A. Because Jim Brown -- Jim Brown would be the one.
5 Like I say, Jim and Jimmy were -- you know, they would all
6 go back in that little room and just do their little
7 pow-wow. Because they knew -- I mean, I was very objective.
8 When they said something to me, like, You know, you got to
9 help push Josh. You know, you've got to help do this, you
10 got to do that. I'm like, No, I don't like Josh. You know,
11 you're not going to change my beliefs. I mean, I'm a
12 right-winger. I am I don't work for you, you can't tell me
13 what to do. I mean, that's where I'm going to stay. And
14 that's not who I go with. So I don't work for you. You
15 can't tell me what to do. You know, I'm an independent
16 contractor. I've been for 30 years. And I've got my own
17 beliefs, and that's it. So that's why I never -- he --
18 that's why I don't think they would share much with me,
19 because they knew how I was. I would tell them about it.
20 But, you now, they -- whatever -- Jimmy ran that show.
21 Ramara -- if he told Ramara to jump, it was how high.
22 That's all she would ask. Jimmy was definitely the show.
23 And I don't think anybody that worked at Waverly Media would
24 do anything unless Jim Sotolongo told them to. And he would
25 only do it if he was getting a favor. He wouldn't do

1 anything for anybody unless he was getting a favor. I mean,
2 that's common sense. And anybody that knows Jimmy Sotolongo
3 will tell you that.

4 Q. You were interviewed by the FBI?

5 A. Um-hum. Deposition. Trial is on the 17th.

6 Q. You're scheduled to testify in federal court?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Do you think that's going to happen?

9 A. Um-hum.

10 Q. It's been postponed about 14 times.

11 A. It won't be this time. They're trying to change
12 the judge, because the judge -- I think it's going to
13 happen. Yeah. I've been with the FBI. Yeah, like, 76
14 deals, and four or five of them were my listings. But
15 only -- out of the 14 that they're actually prosecuting on,
16 two of them were listings that -- and both of them were the
17 ones that I had attorneys for. So I -- mysteriously all of
18 her files were missing for her real estate. But I always
19 carry files. As a broker, as an agent, I have every file
20 that I've ever done, clear back to 1981. So I just keep
21 them all. It's just what I do. I don't know. I guess I'm
22 a hoarder when it comes to those files. But they do come in
23 handy. But I've shown them all of those files, so I've been
24 really helpful, I think, in that aspect.

25 Yeah, I think it's going to happen. The reason

1 why I think it's going to happen is because Jimmy and Ramara
2 are the type of people that don't think they've done
3 anything wrong. They're like -- they feel like they're
4 above everything, they're above everybody, and they are
5 convinced that they didn't do anything wrong. I don't know
6 how you can. If you have an account and you've got a bogus
7 LLC and you're dumping millions of dollars in that LLC and
8 the only people's names are yours and Jimmy's, I don't see
9 how you're not involved, how you can't be involved. You
10 know, it seems like, to me, it's an open and shut case.
11 They should have taken their pleas and go. To me, I don't
12 understand -- but they're -- they -- they really believe
13 that they're being targeted. They think they're being
14 targeted in this. They just believe that they've done
15 nothing wrong. And I'm telling you, they're good. When it
16 comes to telling stories, they could convince you. I even
17 told the FBI guy the other day -- well, Saturday I was
18 talking to him. And he -- I told him, I said, I wouldn't be
19 surprised if they don't walk out of there and you guys have
20 to write an apology letter to them. That's how good they
21 are. And they're good, they're sneaky, they know how to
22 cover their butts, you know. But, yeah, it's -- I've been
23 talking to the FBI once a month.

24 Q. Have you heard them -- do you think -- are you
25 saying they think they've been targeted in this bus bench

1 political thing?

2 A. They've not done anything wrong, no. That's the
3 way they always come across to anything. Well, I didn't do
4 anything wrong. They're going to put the blame somewhere
5 else.

6 Q. Well, you know, Jim Brown pled guilty to that
7 campaign --

8 A. Um-hum.

9 Q. -- fraud, and got probation. Do you think he
10 was -- he was taking the fall for Jimmy?

11 A. No. I don't think, I know. I would be
12 surprised -- no. Because Jimmy fired him that week, the
13 same week that he did it. No, I don't think so. Unless I'm
14 really misunderstanding, I don't -- unless Jim really got in
15 bed with him, I never got that impression. I mean, I think
16 Jim Brown did what Jimmy told him to do because he liked his
17 paycheck, for one. But I don't think Jimmy -- I don't think
18 Jim Brown and Jim Sotolongo had the same political beliefs
19 at all. Not even -- I don't even think they were on the
20 same page. If not -- all those -- I mean, I would get
21 e-mails from Jim Brown once or twice a day that would
22 totally contradict what Jim Sotolongo would like. So, no, I
23 can't understand why Jim Brown would take the fall. I don't
24 think so. I think he probably took the short road, you
25 know, because he's got a wife, he's got a kid. I think he

1 probably made it less painful for him, is what I think he
2 would have done. I don't think he would --

3 Q. And he got a pretty good deal.

4 A. That's what I'm trying to say.

5 Q. Probation --

6 A. And I think it was probably trying to get him to
7 talk more. And I don't know why he wouldn't, because --
8 but, I mean, he would be the one that would know it. But
9 Jim Brown wasn't the one going out and finding the
10 politicians to support -- it was Jimmy and Ramara and that
11 Tony guy. There's a Tony guy that was involved.

12 Q. So far all I've got in my notes is Tony guy. I'm
13 going to track him down.

14 A. Yeah. Jim Brown will probably -- Jim Brown will
15 tell you who it was.

16 Q. I've got to get him across the table from me
17 first.

18 Were you interviewed by anybody from the State
19 Attorney's office regarding the political --

20 A. I'm supposed to be.

21 Q. Are you scheduled for one?

22 A. Tomorrow morning, 10 o'clock.

23 Q. When was the first time you heard from the State
24 Attorney?

25 A. Last Thursday. Thursday or Friday they showed up

1 at my house.

2 Q. With a subpoena?

3 A. With a subpoena.

4 Q. An investigative subpoena?

5 A. Um-hum. Last Thursday, I think it was. And like
6 I told him, I said, I really don't -- because my beliefs
7 were so bad, they really didn't share anything when it came
8 to that. I mean, real estate, I mean, I figured out what
9 they were doing, how they were doing it and everything. And
10 I've witnessed the shredding of the stuff and I saw all that
11 stuff. So that real estate part of it I know pretty well.
12 But the political part is only what I would hear, bits and
13 pieces here and there, and they wouldn't share it with me.
14 I would just laugh at them.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. They are interesting people.

17 Q. This is your week to be testifying.

18 A. Yeah. But this is a lot easier than the FBI. The
19 FBI -- the first time I went to the FBI over there in
20 Orlando, I think I went down there -- I've talked to them a
21 lot here, you know, but then I had to go over and do my
22 deposition with all the attorneys and all. And I walked
23 into this room about this size, and they had a long table,
24 and they have, like, 70, 80 files, and they're all, like,
25 this tall. And we sat there for eight hours, went through

1 every file to see what I knew about each one of those files.
2 Very scary. Very scary, considering that I've been on the
3 ethics committee, sat on the ethics committee off and on,
4 grievance committees, been a real estate broker since the
5 early '80s. I've never even had a complaint filed against
6 me. And I'm sitting there looking at all this, I'm like,
7 Oh, man, I'm not in Kansas any more. You know, this is
8 weird. This is scary. So, yeah. I never even knew that
9 they were so branched out, you know. I'm, like, really?
10 You know, they're talking about millions of dollars. You
11 know, I only knew these couple little deals, you know. And
12 I'm trying to think, how did they -- there's got to be some
13 money somewhere. There's no way they could have spent that
14 money.

15 Q. I can't believe the FBI hadn't found it.

16 A. Well, I think they have a good -- I think
17 everybody knows about where it's at, but they're not --

18 Q. Where do you think it is?

19 A. It's in the Bahamas. I'm sure it is. Yeah.
20 Because, my understanding is, they have a -- they've got to
21 own a house or they're renting a house down there, or their
22 friend's got a house down there. Somebody down there's got
23 a house. You know, they're friends with another guy here in
24 town, too, that people know. But -- and has a boat and he
25 has a place down there all the time, too, you know.

1 Q. What's his name?

2 A. He's an attorney here in town.

3 Q. What is his name?

4 A. Doran.

5 Q. Ted Doran?

6 A. Yeah. They're friends with him pretty well, too.

7 Because that's what everybody keeps guessing. And I said, I
8 don't know. I've seen Ted in the office a couple times, but
9 I don't know if they're that close. But apparently Ted
10 Doran has a house down there, too, right next to theirs, or
11 close to theirs. And I'm, like -- but I think you can get
12 extracted from the Bahamas, can't you?

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. That's why that wouldn't make sense.

15 Q. Bahamas are no Brazil.

16 A. Yeah. Well, I mean, how about the eastern
17 Bahamas, like the Abaco Islands? I'm not sure about the
18 Abacos, though.

19 Q. I think that's all --

20 A. Because the Abacos -- the Abaco Islands are still
21 British ruled. So that's why I was wondering if they would
22 be from that area, for hiding -- for going there. Somebody
23 told me -- the investigator told me that Jimmy's old cell
24 mate, or somebody that he met in prison, lives in the
25 Bahamas, too, in that same general vicinity. So something's

1 going on there.

2 Q. What did Jimmy do time for?

3 A. I don't know what he did time for. I just know
4 that the FBI told me that he had five -- five counts, and
5 he -- it's -- drug smuggling was one. That's the one Jimmy
6 told us about, about a year after working there. He bragged
7 about that one. But then I -- then they told me that one of
8 the things that he pleaded out was embezzle money from a
9 lending institute, which he is being charged for right now
10 from someplace down in South Florida. Then he had
11 another -- he had a pot growing facility going on in Tampa.
12 And then the other one was embezzling money from another
13 institute. So he's got a pattern of embezzled money. I
14 think that's what the judge -- why he said, no, no, no, not
15 with your history. And he won't be able to go on the stand.
16 That's what they're saying. They said, Well, he'll never be
17 able to take the stand because he's already got convicted of
18 those same charges, basically. That would make him look
19 really bad in front of a jury.

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. You know?

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. That's what the FBI is betting, that he can't even
24 take the stand because that could come up then.

25 Q. Oh, yeah. It could -- it would.

1 A. Well, he's already been convicted of it, you know.
2 And I think the actually time he did was on the drug
3 smuggling thing. But Jimmy told us he was -- got caught
4 smuggling drugs with his brother.

5 Q. Tony's last name hasn't come back to you?

6 A. No. I wish it would. I can picture the guy. I
7 can definitely picture the guy. He had -- he came -- he
8 showed up about the time they were doing the condos on the
9 river is when he showed up. And, you know, I don't know if
10 any of those articles mentioned a Tony or not. He was,
11 like, one of those guys that knew all of the right people,
12 politically-wise, and that you could hire to kind of
13 schmooze over a couple deals, couple things, you know what I
14 mean? Get some favors done. That's when he showed up, is
15 about that same time. That and the pier, this Tony guy.
16 Kind of a stocky, older guy. Maybe early '60s.

17 Q. That's not old.

18 A. Young guy. And he's -- I mean, that would be one
19 I'd be really after. But the only one that I know that know
20 that personally -- unless Jimmy Sotolongo told you it was,
21 would be Jim Brown. And I know Jim Brown, because I've seen
22 those all go into Jim Brown's office and sit for hours. So
23 that's the guy. He had something to do with -- he was
24 really heavy trying to smooth that South Daytona deal over.
25 He was heavy in that. He knew all of the players he said.

1 Tony, I know his first name is Tony. I know his first name
2 is Tony. He actually was introduced to me, but I don't
3 remember his last name. But he actually was introduced to
4 me. I said, Do I know you from Dimucci? And he says, Well,
5 I did some PR work for Dimucci. That was it.

6 Q. Okay. Well --

7 A. That would be a good one for you, though.

8 Q. Okay. Well, I think -- I think you've told me
9 everything you know that's relevant to my --

10 (THEREUPON, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA)

I, Shannon Green, Registered Professional
Reporter, the undersigned authority certify that
Michael Hullett named herein personally appeared
before me and was duly sworn on the 25th day of
March, 2014.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this
14th day of March, 2014.

Shannon Green
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public - State of Florida
My Commission No. EE852120
My Commission Expires 1-8-2017

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2

3 STATE OF FLORIDA)

4 COUNTY OF VOLUSIA)

5

6 I, Shannon Green, Registered Professional
7 Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
8 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings;
9 that a review of the transcript was requested, and
10 that the transcript is a true and complete record of
11 my stenographic notes.

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a
13 relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of
14 the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any
15 of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with
16 the action, nor am I financially interested in this
17 action.

18 Dated this 14th day of March, 2014.

19

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23 _____
Shannon Green

24 Registered Professional Reporter

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ERRATA SHEET

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INTERVIEW OF: P.J. WARNER

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ERRATA

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PAGE LINE

CORRECTION

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18 Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have
19 read the foregoing document and that the facts
in it are true.

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