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2	INTERVIEW OF:
3	JASON DAVIS
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6	DATE TAKEN: FEBRUARY 21, 2014
7	TIME: 1:03 P.M 1:45 P.M.
8	PLACE: VOLUSIA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 123 WEST INDIANA AVENUE
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-- I can't even pronounce his last name.

When somebody brought up the fact that this

Whatever.

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Sotolongo. Whatever it is. When the big Waverly thing came up in the council, and everybody started talking about this Sotolongo guy, or Sotolongo. Whatever it is. What is it?

Q. Sotolongo.

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What was the subject that brought them to your attention when it was discussed to the county council?

- A. Some sort of in-kind contribution problems that arose during one of the campaigns, or two of the campaigns. Really, that's when it came up.
- Q. During the campaign, were you aware that there were people who suspected that Waverly, this Waverly thing was going on, people were taking in-kind contributions and not properly reporting them?
- A. I had no idea who they were during the campaign. I never met them. I never -- I would see the bus benches, I had no idea who ran them. I just thought everybody was paying the big bucks out to get bus benches because I'm sure they're expensive.
 - Q. For some people.
- A. One can only -- you know, perception is reality, correct?
 - Q. Correct.

- A. To perceive somebody is paying for that, that has to cost money. And something, as we know with my 7 thousand dollars that I paid for a campaign to win, I didn't have a lot of money to buy a bench.
- Q. The record shows that you didn't need a lot of money.
 - A. Apparently not.

- Q. Were you aware of any buzz or gossip that there was anything untoward going on in the campaign financing in any of the campaigns?
- A. Just my opponent. Somebody -- I was very focused on my race, and it had came to my attention late on my campaign that my opponent had done some illegal actions in his campaign financing. But he went to Tallahassee, and paid his fine, and got slapped on the hand, and that was the end of that.
 - Q. Which opponent are you referring to?
- A. Mr. Carl Persis. But, other than that, I really didn't pay any attention to anybody else's campaign. I was a little busy running mine.
 - Q. Who was your other opponent?
 - A. Ted Doran.
 - O. Ted Doran.
- A. Right.
- Q. Did -- did you notice that Ted Doran's

campaign was being advertised on bus benches?

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- A. Yeah, somebody had to point it out to me.
- Q. I guess you enjoyed seeing that?
- A. Well, I'll be honest with you, when I drive by a bus bench, I look at them as a realtor's ad. I really don't pay any attention to them unless I'm buying a house. Somebody actually said, did you see Mr. Doran's bus benches? I said, no. Where are they? Well, there's one in Debary or Deltona. Sorry, Deltona. I said, I've got to go out and see this thing. Oh, you you'll get a kick out of it. I went by it, I saw it, I laughed, and got in my truck and drove away.
 - Q. Why was it fun to you?
- A. Elect Ted, Elected, like as in past tense of elect. I kind of giggled.
- Q. I forgot that one.

 Since the campaign --
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. -- since you were elected, have you discussed the events of the campaign with anyone?
 - A. Could you be more specific, please?
- Q. Well, the reason --
 - A. A lot happened.
- Q. Yes. The reason you and I are here is

because of what they call the Waverly matter, the issue of the recording -- or a misreporting of the in-kind contributions for the bus benches for political ads.

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Have you had occasion to discuss the Waverly matter with any of your former opponents or other candidates?

- A. No. Mr. Persis is -- and I -- for some reason, he does not speak to me. I've called him a couple of times, but he has yet to return my call.

 And I have met up with Ted a couple of times, but -- met him here and there, but the issue of a bus bench never came up. I'm sure there was some other more important matter at hand.
- Q. Well, I think you asked me to ask this: Do you consider the question of complying with election finance laws unimportant?
 - A. No. That's very important.
- Q. Well, there was a big conversation going on after the newspaper reported what they reported. I'm sure you recall those stories?
- A. No, to be honest with you, I do not because I lived the story so I don't want to read any more about it. Believe me, I only get the newspaper to find out if they spelled my name right. That's all.

Q. That's not hard.

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- A. You'd be surprised.
- Q. Well, if you lived the story, then --
- A. I'm living the story as we speak right now, so, I mean, any conversations that I've had with anybody about Waverly has been right down there in the dais in open chambers, other than this. I don't discuss this matter. It is an open investigation. I have no -- I don't want to talk to anybody about it. Maybe the -- you know, I will rescind that statement, because I did talk to Mr. Larizza, R.J. Larizza, and I said, does this hinder your -- because this was before we brought you on board. I did ask him if that would hinder his investigation, and he said, no, it would not. And we had a little bit of a discussion there on just his level of the investigation.

I said, okay. I just want to make sure that we're not causing a problem by trying to fix a problem. So I would say that would probably be the only other individual that I've talked to about it. Did I say it was an open investigation?

Q. When the -- when the issue of whether the council should investigate the Waverly matter, did you take any steps to inform yourself about the

issue?

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A. Only as to what was in the paper. And I said, okay. Because in the county charter, as I still -- still scream from the highest mountain, shall we say, at our -- 320 -- 309 investigations, it's county council's job to investigate, to bring subpoena and bring people towards the council, and like a congressional or open chamber meeting, and find the facts. So I did not want to taint the facts in my own mind by reading something somewhere, or another piece of paper or a document.

I had a feeling that if we were to bring it into open chambers, the evidence would be presented to us to where we could then see the facts, ask the right questions, and get to the bottom of the matter.

- Q. At some point it became apparent that it was not going to happen?
- A. At some point it became apparent that it was not going to happen, you are correct.
 - Q. Did you take steps after that to --
 - A. No.
 - Q. -- inform yourself?
- A. No, because at that point the county council took it out of our hands and put it in your hands, Jon Kaney's hands. And then it became no

longer my job. My job is to run the county government to do investigations as we see, but when we gave you this privilege or headache, however you would like to call it, it no longer became ours, so congratulations.

Q. Thank you.

So during the period of time from when this story broke in the news --

A. Okay.

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- Q. -- it was in the television news and newspaper news, you had no interest in inquiring, looking into, asking anybody, you know, what's up with that?
- A. I had a feeling that we -- if it came to the county council, we would have the information, that's the job of, you know, subpoena and staff and everybody. But was I going to circum ventilate the system? No. Was I going to go find out more information? Only if I needed to, and nothing had came to the council yet. When the investigation was called, it was immediately said, we're going to hire an attorney to do this.
- Q. Well, there was an interval between the time that the council decided to do the investigation, and the council passed the ordinance

and said for me to do it. And you had to vote on that?

- A. Yeah, I had to vote on whether or not we would investigate it.
 - Q. Right.

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A. I agreed. We need an investigation. Then the next breath, you know -- we move at the speed of government, so when we say we're going to investigate, it may be another month and-a-half before we get to the brass tax of the investigation, or the inquiry. So during that time period there would be plenty of time to find contracts, review contracts, look at whatever we needed to look at. Information was handed to us through Mr. Wagner about his e-mails with -- his e-mails about the two or three suggestions on what the contract might read like, but other than that, I was not going to inquire until we -- I knew the basis or the scope.

I've got to know where I'm going first before I can draw the map. So am I going to investigate illegal campaign contributions, or are we going to investigate ADA compliancy, or would we be investigating whether or not they have the right to do this business, if it's on a -- you know, I mean, there's a lot of issues that are involved, of course,

so I've got to narrow down where I'm going to investigate, so -- and I really had no idea what we were going to investigate because it was one extreme to the other until it barreled right down to just before we -- they voted to bring in an outside attorney. At that time it was an -- illegal campaign contributions.

- Q. Just to clarify, when you said contract earlier --
 - A. Um-hum.

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- Q. -- Josh Wagner brought you information about "the contract"?
 - A. Yeah, he brought it to the council.
 - Q. You are referring to what contract?
- A. I guess it was one of the original signings of a contract. This was before I was on board. It was just a suggestion that he had.
- Q. For a contract with whom, is what I'm trying to get on the record?
- A. It was the Waverly contract, I guess, was coming up for renewal and he had some suggestions about it, which was e-mailed to the county manager, and then sent out to all of the council members. And that was brought forth in council, and everybody had a copy of it, and we looked at it. Of course

Mr. Daniels said, well, this is, you know, illegal, and this, this, and this, and it got a little heated. It got to a point where I had to gavel them to stop, take a recess, let everybody calm down for a few minutes, and then we came back to it. Then it went fairly smooth after that.

- Q. Just another example of your work as a peacemaker.
 - A. Yeah.

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- Q. When -- when the election was over, have you -- before the election, were you acquainted with Ted Doran?
 - A. Oh, yes.
 - Q. In what way?
- A. Well, during the campaign. I met him on the campaign trail.
 - O. You first met him on the trail?
- A. Yes. Actually, our first meeting was telephonically, and it wasn't pleasant.
 - Q. Can you explain that?
- A. But there's a lady in the room. No, it wasn't that -- it wasn't that bad. There was some issue about HAAA board appointments, or an attorney somewhere -- I can't really remember the issue. But I picked up the phone and I called them, and his

secretary put me straight to him. And I told him who I was, and I was a candidate for county council chair. And -- because it was a -- he wasn't even -- he was not even on the ballot yet. He was just having an argument with, I think, Mr. Persis. And I called him to get, you know, a little information. Told him who I was. I said -- and his answer was, who? Who are you? I have no idea who you are. You're not even a viable candidate, I have no time to talk to you, goodbye, click, and hung up the phone.

Q. Seriously?

- A. I was sworn to tell the truth, sir. I was, like, well, that was quite rude. Okay. Now, I'm inspired. So I gathered up my 7 thousand dollars and ran down the campaign trail, and --
- Q. Have you, since the election, established a more convivial relationship with --
- A. Yes. Yes, Ted and I are friends. After he lost his in the primary, he turned and he contacted me, and he says, I will do whatever I've got to do to help support you. I said, okay. Cool. He says, what can I do? I said, go talk to five thousand of your favorite friends, and tell them all to give me \$500. And he says, okay, other than that, what can I do in? I said, why don't you have five

thousand friends? You could plead the fifth at that point.

And, no, Ted was very supportive after his loss in the primary. Didn't really have a lot of contact with him. Maybe a little telephonically, you know, he would call and say, hey, they've got this thing going on over here, you might want to go and kind of rub an elbow or two in this meeting, or go rub an elbow here, or kiss a baby here, or do this. He knew of some things coming up that I was not aware of, or my scheduler was not aware of. So we made sure that everything was on the calender, and as you see, I was a very busy person.

- Q. Did you ever have occasion to talk to Ted about the Waverly matter?
 - A. Oh, no.

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- O. The issue?
- A. No. Like I said, really -- it never -- I joked about it because the "elected" signs are out, too. I actually asked him, I called him after the election, I said, do you want me to pick up your signs? He goes, yeah. I said, do you want them back? He says, burn them. I says, no, I use them. And I do. I use the signs for things, projects, stuff like that. I don't recall ever speaking with

him on the Waverly because, like I said, it was not an issue to me in any way, shape, or form until last year when somebody said, oh, by the way, and this came out. I wasn't pleased with the way it came out, but --

Q. How do you mean that?

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Α. It almost seemed like a little -- I'm thinking my words through here because I don't want to be -- but there's really no other way. seemed like this was a -- like a pissing contest between two council members to me, and I'm in the middle of it. I've got one guy going after, to tell the truth and all, I have Mr. Wagner who has made comments about Mr. Daniels and his wife working at the Ocean Center, and how he should recuse himself from votes. And oh, you can't do that because you do this and that. And then he comes over with something that he was doing, and then everything seemed calm and quiet for a couple of meetings. I was, like, we meet with through this. And then all of a sudden the Waverly thing comes out, and I go, the what? that was the first time it really hit me. What is this? What's Waverly? Oh, you don't know? media company. Oh, so, it's a Media company. worked for a Media company. So? I worked for

Brighthouse, so, you know, and they're a multimedia company. So I said, so, what? Oh, they were giving in-kind contributions, and they did this, and they did that. That's when I first heard all about this. I was, like, oh, really? As a matter of fact, Mr. Wagner, you got some. And I was, like oh, whoa, whoa, gentlemen, please.

- Q. Now, you're referring to --
- A. Mr. Daniels, Doug Daniels, was the one that started bringing it out.
- Q. And then the one who said, as a matter of fact, Mr. Daniels is the one you were referring to in the comment --
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. -- would be Josh Wagner?
- A. No, Mr. Wagner said -- or Mr. Daniels said, by the way, Mr. Wagner you accepted in-kinds. And he said, I have gave some back because it was too much. And I'm, like, okay. It gets intense up there. I had hair once.
 - Q. But your face got bigger?
 - A. Yeah, I let my face grow out.
- Q. What do you expect to come out of this investigation?
 - A. I really have no expectations whatsoever.

According to the charter, the information will be given to the council, and it will be up to the council to make a decision as to what they feel needs to be done. This is purely a legislative issue. We can — we can make ordinances to limit, to a degree, campaign advertising. I don't know how far this council would be willing to step into the realm of private business, to restrict a private business, but it is, you know — that's about where we can go. It's just legislatively we could make a rule, which is kind of like putting, you know, closing the barn door after the horses were out. So somebody is back here to close the door, but now what are we going to do? Now, if there's anything else, I don't know where that would go.

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- Q. Based on what you know now, do you think there were any irregularities in the bus bench in-kind contribution reporting?
- A. I have made it my life's work to just stay as far out of that problem as possible. I do not know what anybody has received. I don't know what was given. I've heard rumors, and of course we all know rumor is unsubstantiated fact, and I really don't want to promote rumor.
 - Q. Well, on the other hand, an investigator

has to pay attention to the rumors because sometimes some of them have truth in them. So what were the rumors that you heard?

- A. Are you sure you want to hear these rumors?
- Q. I do. I do.

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A. I heard through the rumor that a candidate or two in the last election actually went to Waverly asking for in-kind contributions. I heard through the rumor mill -- like I said, these are all rumors, and I try not to pass them, and that's why nobody knows about them because I haven't said anything.

Also heard in the rumor mill that certain people were promised things that were never given to them through advertising on the bus benches, or newspaper, or whatever media they worked with. And so it was kind of like a little slight of hand trick. We promise you 600 benches, but you only get two, not 200. Two benches. And they moved the benches around. Then they — heard rumor that the benches were supposed to be moved and were never moved. Oh, I hear — and I say — when anybody brings something like this to me, I say, well, show me some paperwork on it. Well, I don't have that. Well, then it's a rumor. I can't — if it's not written down, it doesn't exist in my world?

- Q. In the interest of following up on the investigation, the rumor that you heard that some candidates were going to Waverly and asking for in-kind, who were they?

 A. I heard that Miss Northey was the one
 - A. I heard that Miss Northey was the one candidate that I know of that went there to say, I want some of this action, too. Like I said, it was just a rumor.
 - Q. Who told you that?

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A. I -- you know what? To be honest with you,
I do not recall. It was somewhere -- a phone call
somewhere. I don't remember who said it. I said,
until you give me -- until you give me some
paperwork, or a picture, or a fax, or recordings, or
some sort of information, that doesn't matter to me.
It was not given to me, so I really didn't even think
any more about it at all until just now.

MR. KANEY: Off the record a minute.

(Off the record discussion was held, after which the following proceedings were had:)

A. His name is Mike Kiefer (sic) is the gentleman in question that was asked. And the question was, who is the gentleman that lives in Deltona that worked for Waverly Media? And his name is Mike Kiefer (sic). Like I said, I met Mike Kiefer

(sic) two or three times. I did not know he worked for Waverly Media. He's a friend of a friend until about a week or two ago I happened to bump into him. I said, hey, Mike, how's it going? Well, I got — I'm going to get subpoenaed. I said, who did you shoot? What did you do? He said, no, it's your fault. I said, what did I do? He says, it's the Waverly thing. I says, why are they subpoenaing you? He said, I worked for them. I said, oh, you do. I never knew this. I didn't know. It was very odd. It's one of those things where I probably should have known, but I never asked.

13 BY MR. KANEY:

- Q. So it wasn't Mike Kiepert that told you Ms. Northey --
- A. No, Mike never discussed anything about Waverly Media to me about anything ever.
 - Q. Well, somebody accusing -- a rumor --
 - A. A rumor --
 - Q. -- a fellow council member --
- A. I can't remember who it was. I do not remember. It was just a rumor mill thing, and I do not -- I'm sitting here racking my brain. It might be somebody I just met that asked a question about it, I don't know anything about it, I don't want to

know anything about it. And they may have said in passing that -- I'm trying to picture where I was at that time. I can't remember. I'm so sorry. I really don't remember who it was. Probably, like I said, somebody I just met.

- Q. Do you ever have trouble remember what you opened the refrigerator door to get?
 - A. No.

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- Q. You never open the door and, say, what am I looking for?
- A. No, because my refrigerator is, like, two feet in front of me. It's in the breezeway. And if I want something, I -- usually I'm sitting out there and I open it up, there's a soda that I want in it. That's it. We have a very strict rule in the house, she cooks in the kitchen, don't go near my barbecue, we're good, so I don't even know what's in the refrigerator.
- Q. Well, if your memory is so good you don't forget why you opened the refrigerator door, why can't you remember the name of the person?
 - A. Because I meet so many people every day.

 THE WITNESS: You told me your name when I came in, didn't you?

THE COURT REPORTER: (Nods head.)

A. I can't even remember her name. It's just so much going through all the time, and my brain is focusing on things, you know, government things. But I do recall — he was in suit and tie. I was at an event, like a meet and greet or some of — one of them little mixer things. I remember that. I'm trying to put the face to it. It may come to me. If I do, I'll call you.

BY MR. KANEY:

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- Q. Okay. Have you -- has anyone ever told you that they thought that Josh Wagner was calling the shots of who got the bus bench ads, calling the shots, masterminding, quarterbacking, whatever?
 - A. No. Never heard anything like that.
 - Q. So -- so no one ever accused Josh --
- A. Not to me -- whereas they did accuse -Pat. Like I said, it was just a rumor, and I said,
 you show me something, I'll believe you, and then,
 oh, hi --
 - Q. Did anyone ever --
- A. The only thing -- yeah, the only thing that I've ever heard, an accusation against Mr. Wagner, was that he took too much of an in-kind contribution. That's the only thing I've ever heard. And, once again, I have no backup for that. I don't recall who

- said it to me. Probably one of a million people.

 And I said, until you have facts, it doesn't exist to

 me.
 - Q. Did anyone ever -- has anyone told you that Andy Kelly was asking Waverly for bus bench ads?
 - A. No. There's a name I haven't heard of in a long time, Andy Kelly. I do know Andy, but I haven't heard his name in a while.
 - Q. Earlier in the conversation, you say that you had heard that there were candidates asking for in-kind contributions.
 - A. Yeah, that -- that's just that one incidence.
 - Q. Okay. So put a name on who you heard that about.
 - A. I already did.
 - O. Pat?

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- A. That was it.
- Q. Pat Northey?
 - A. Yeah, that was it. I mean, if you want to know all of the things I've heard that I've never looked at as far as Waverly. I mean, I could tell you that I heard Josh has taken in-kinds. I've heard Joyce has taken in-kinds. I've heard that Doug has taken in-kinds. I've heard that Mr. Bruno got some

in-kinds. Let's see, who else? Andy Kelly, of course. I've heard that one. And strangely enough, I've never heard that Mr. Persis took any, so I'm glad to hear that. I actually like Carl, he's a nice guy. I mean, that's the list of people that I have heard that have taken these in-kinds.

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- Q. And just to clear up, when we say in-kind, that includes --
- A. We're talking in-kind contributions to a campaign account, giving a product and/or service with -- with the intent to influence or change an electoral outcome.
- Q. And when you heard these things, was part of what you heard that they were not being properly reported?
- A. I just heard that they were taking the in-kinds. Some were less than the maximum amount, some were over the maximum account (sic), you know.

 I didn't -- nobody got into numbers, nobody told me big bucks, little bucks, or anything, so -- and that was when this started up, and I usually went, thanks, don't want to know about it. How did Jim Dinneen say it? That I was probably the only one on the chair -- on the council that was really above reproach on this issue because I never took a bus bench.

- Q. Well, I think we already covered that. The reason you didn't get offered is because nobody thought you were going to win.
 - A. Oh, well. Here I are.
- Q. Let the record show that we had a shrug there.
 - A. I am here.

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- Q. I'm saying that in all good humor. Your election was a major upset. You surprised all of the political know-it-alls in the county?
- A. Yeah, 66 percent of their vote. That's a big margin. But I warned everybody during the campaign. Everybody said after the primary, so what are you going to do now? I'm going to get Ted Doran's 30 percent, that way I'll 60.
 - Q. And you did.

Is there anything else regarding this investigation that you would like to put on the record?

A. I think everything that I would have to say about this investigation I've already stated in open chambers. The council made the vote to do the investigation in this manner, which I still think is inappropriate. Nothing against anybody, you know, Mr. Kaney, or anything like that. I just think that

the scope of this investigation has gone beyond what the county charter founders were initially looking at. I just hope this thing ends soon so we can get on with business so — because we've got a lot of business that we're holding up on the county side. The citizens are going, please, hurry up and get it done, because they want us to do what we were hired to do. So I hope this moves forward, and we get done, and everybody can get on with life, maybe.

- Q. What's an example of something that can't be done until this investigation is finished?
- A. Oh, our strategic plan. That's been put on hold until this investigation is over with. That was one thing. And -- because that's a big thing.

 That's going to be a big, big, major thing. The citizens are yelling at me about it.
- Q. Okay. Let me just say, Mr. Davis is here voluntarily and cooperating with the investigation that he wishes never happened.
 - A. Exactly.
 - Q. I thank you for cooperating. (WHEREUPON, the interview was concluded.)

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30 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 STATE OF FLORIDA 3 COUNTY OF VOLUSIA) 4 5 I, Shannon Green, Registered Professional 6 7 Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings; 8 9 that a review of the transcript was requested, and that the transcript is a true and complete record of 10 11 my stenographic notes. 12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a 13 relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any 14 15 of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with 16 the action, nor am I financially interested in this 17 action. 18 Dated this 3rd day of March, 2014. 19 20 21 22 Shannon Green Registered Professional Reporter 23

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