Transcript of Interview of Chief of Staff

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Let's get started. This is Omar Ashmawy at the Clark Hill offices in Washington, D.C. to interview Chief of Staff. It is June 25, 2019. I am joined by my colleagues Sean Quinn, Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman as well as Charles Spies and Derek Ross. The witness has been given a copy of the 18 U.S.C. 1001 and has signed the acknowledgment form.

Good Morning. Thank you very much. How long have you worked on Capitol Hill?

I will hit 20 years December of this year.

Long time. How long have you been with Congressman Huizenga?

He got elected in 2010. I was hired to be his Chief...his first hire beginning of January of 2011.

So you've been the Chief of Staff with the Congressman from the beginning of his time in Congress?

Correct.

Where were you before that?

I worked for Congressman Pete Hoekstra.

And before that?

Congressman Dave Camp.

Very good. Were you, ever been the Chief of Staff prior to working for Representative Huizenga?

I have not.

Have you held any other positions in the office other than Chief of Staff?

In Mr. Huizenga's office?

Yes.

No.

How, as Chief of Staff, could you sort of briefly describe your role and responsibilities, just recognizing there are lots of different roles for Chiefs of Staff.

Chief cook, bottle washer, kind of...
Omar Ashmawy: Exactly.

Chief of Staff: ... kind of you get done what needs to be done, to serve at the pleasure of the member. I manage his staff, manage locations, oversee legislative priorities, kind of whatever needs to be done.

Omar Ashmawy: So kind of a jack of all trades?

Chief of Staff: I think that's a fair description.

Omar Ashmawy: Who do you report to?

Chief of Staff: I report to the Congressman.

Omar Ashmawy: Who reports to you?

Chief of Staff: Everyone else in the office.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. What is, what's your relationship with the Congressman? Have you ever been, have you ever had anything other than a professional relationship prior to working for him?

Chief of Staff: I've known him in a semi... I took his old job working for Pete Hoekstra. He used to be the District Director and then he got elected to the State house. I went back to Michigan and was the District Director for Pete Hoekstra. So we ran in the same circles in West Michigan for a number of years before I came out here and was his Chief.

Omar Ashmawy: Would you socialize with him?

Chief of Staff: Occasionally, yeah. I mean a lot of professional events together, but yeah, occasionally.

Omar Ashmawy: Private dinners?

Chief of Staff: Maybe. Not that I can, I just can't remember a specific instance, but if we did it wouldn't have surprised me. But I can't remember one off the top of my mind.

Omar Ashmawy: I mean like, if I go out to dinner with a friend of mine. That sort of thing. That sort of situation.

Chief of Staff: Yeah. I mean, what did we grab a beer after work occasionally? Sure. Private dinners. No. Most of them probably were work related functions that would probably be the best way that I would remember them.

Omar Ashmawy: Family vacations?

Chief of Staff: No.
Omar Ashmawy: Did you know, prior to working for the Congressman, did you have a personal relationship with any of the members of his family?

Chief of Staff: Knew his wife, was familiar with his kids. I mean in a, you know, you interact with them at events, type of way.

Omar Ashmawy: Did you go to family events? Like birthday parties, anniversary parties?

Chief of Staff: Not to my memory.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you have any role with the Congressman's campaign?

Chief of Staff: Yes. You know I'm on conference calls, I'm engaged in what's going on with the campaign in my free time.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you have a formal position with the campaign?

Chief of Staff: No. I mean we have a laissez... very loose frame... over there. It's not a lot of titles that are flowing around, but yeah, I mean, am I engaged? Sure. I mean we have lots of emails. I mean I used to be the district guy. I know the district well. So, talking often about the campaign.

Omar Ashmawy: Could you elaborate a little bit. I know you're talking a little bit about your work history, but when were you responsible for district operations and for whom?

Chief of Staff: For Congressman Pete Hoekstra. I think from, best of my memory serves, I want to say started in 2003 and until he left office in 2010. So seven years more or less.

Omar Ashmawy: Did you have a role in Congressman Huizenga's first election?

Chief of Staff: Which election?

Omar Ashmawy: First election to the House of Representatives.

Chief of Staff: Yes. I mean I like, it was very informal. Bill and I would talk often. I was helping Congressman Hoekstra run for Governor at the time and that's what allowed the seat to be open and that's why Bill ran for Congress.

Omar Ashmawy: I recognize that a lot of times on the Hill not a lot of titles with regard to campaigns. Do you have any kind of formalized role, sort of like a regular responsibility with the campaign?

Chief of Staff: I guess the best way... I oversee a lot of the fundraising side. And so I do, you know, I travel with the Congressman when he goes on fundraising trips. I oversee our folks who are doing fundraising in the district. Roughly we have somebody there and they report to me, in a loose sense, not a formalized structure.
Omar Ashmawy: Does the Congressman employ a full-time fundraiser for the campaign or . . .

Chief of Staff: We have several. I mean we have somebody who does work for us in New York and Boston. We have a PAC fundraiser here in DC. We have a woman who does fundraising for us in Michigan.

Omar Ashmawy: Can you talk about, a little more about your oversight of the fundraising operations for the campaign? And how much of your time you know, what kind of travel does that entail? That sort of thing.

Chief of Staff: Yeah. We're, we go to New York several times a year. We'll go, sometimes we'll go to Boston a couple of times a year. Sometimes I'll travel with him, sometimes I'll just make sure that arrangements are being made. I'll help facilitate those trips. I interact with our DC fundraisers a lot on the, that do the PAC fundraising. So yeah. I talk to them maybe once or twice a week, time-commitment wise. And I honestly never added it up. I mean it's ...

Omar Ashmawy: I won't hold you to it.

Chief of Staff: Yeah, no. I'm just, in all honesty, I'm just trying to think. Like I'm just not sure what that number would be is. Three, four hours maybe a week that goes to that. After hours of course.

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah. That's it?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Tell me a bit about what kind of responsibilities you have when you travel with the Congressman for these fundraisers.

Chief of Staff: Everything from making sure we're getting to the right place, on the right time, making sure the meeting ends so we can get to the next meeting. Logistical. Have conversations with potential donors. Will interact with their staff as follow-up. Make sure if we promise something in a meeting, make sure that it gets delivered. I mean most of these conversations are a mix of policy and politics. And so often times we'll be talking about what's going on in committee, and we'll be talking about the race back home, so it just kind of depends what the conversation holds. But yeah, try to facilitate success for the boss in terms of creating relationships and making sure we follow through on any promises that are made.

Omar Ashmawy: Do any other congressional staffers travel on these trips?

Chief of Staff: We have had Marliss McManus travel to, on a couple of the trips with us. She's gone to Disney in the past, with us when we did that. She's done the beer tour, when we go back to West Michigan and sample some of the local product. We bring DC folks out there and she'll come along for that. I think she's done three or four of those.
Omar Ashmawy: Anyone else?

Chief of Staff: Not that I can remember.

Omar Ashmawy: How about other congressional, excuse me, other campaign staffers?

Chief of Staff: Not that I can remember. I believe Marliss and I are the only ones that travel with any regularity with Bill and it's primarily me.

Omar Ashmawy: When Ms. McManus travels what are her responsibilities?

Chief of Staff: When, most of them will be, you know, to be supportive on policy. Again they're a mix of both campaign and official. We'll generally write those off to campaign just so that there's no co-mingling of the two. But the conversations do happen. So she's there to provide technical support, policy support.

Omar Ashmawy: What's her role in the congressional office?

Chief of Staff: She is our, it's no longer designated since we're a ranking member, but she's our financial services expert.

Omar Ashmawy: She occupy a role as a deputy chief council?

Chief of Staff: Deputy Chief of Staff, yeah, that, she's a, she has, you know. Sometimes we have no titles, sometimes we have multiple titles.

Omar Ashmawy: Does she have any other responsibilities in that position other than being the financial services subject matter expert?

Chief of Staff: She helps to manage the leg. staff for me.

Omar Ashmawy: How often do you say you go to New York, Boston and Disney in a given year?

Chief of Staff: I would, to my best guess, without looking at a calendar, I would say maybe between four and five times to New York, maybe once or twice a year to Boston, and we've done the Disney trip a number of times in the past. We didn't do it this year. But, I would travel with him when we did those things.

Omar Ashmawy: How much travel overall would you say that you end up doing for these fundraiser trips or for other campaign-related trips?

Chief of Staff: In terms of like, my overall time commitment or like . . .

Omar Ashmawy: I just mean generally about how many, you know, how many days a year do you think you might be traveling for these various campaign-related trips?

Chief of Staff: My best guess would be 10 to 15.
Omar Ashmawy: Why didn't you guys do a Disney trip this year?

Chief of Staff: We're in the minority. We're just trying to cut back on trips in all honesty. The Deer Valley trip was very successful monetarily. We decided to pursue that and try to make the most out of it. Just cut back on the number of travel, it's expensive to travel. Trying to keep our gross . . .

Omar Ashmawy: Do you have a role in sort of oversight of the finances of the committee? Of the campaign committee specifically?

Chief of Staff: We've left that up to Ron VanDerKolk, our recently departed treasurer and we hired Paul Kilgore to keep the books.

Omar Ashmawy: Who's the first name you mentioned?

Chief of Staff: Ron VanDerKolk.

Omar Ashmawy: And he is somewhat recently deceased?

Chief of Staff: Yes. He passed away earlier this year.

Omar Ashmawy: And the new treasurer is Paul . . .

Chief of Staff: Paul Kilgore.

Omar Ashmawy: Paul Kilgore. Does anyone else have responsibility for the treasurer-like responsibilities for the committee?

Chief of Staff: No, those are two that kept all the documents and filed the reports.

Omar Ashmawy: Did you have any role in filing FEC reports or disclosures?

Chief of Staff: No.

Omar Ashmawy: Have you ever did this for Representative Huizenga?

Chief of Staff: I mean, I would review them occasionally. Not every time. But that's, that's the most I would do. Mostly to look for accuracy and names and occupations, if they were missing or something like that.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you have any role in choosing the bank for the campaign committee or reviewing just, campaign bank statements?

Chief of Staff: No. I do not.

Omar Ashmawy: How about, do you ever have reason to review the campaign credit card or the American Express credit card associated with the campaign?
Chief of Staff: I'm not, I've taken a look at it from time to time but not on a regular basis.

Omar Ashmawy: When you've had to look at it from time to time, is there any particular reason why?

Chief of Staff: Mostly to keep overhead low. I'm trying to figure out ways that if we're spending too much, trying to find ways to reduce that.

Omar Ashmawy: Is there any internal policy or mechanism within the campaign for reimbursements to staffers for campaign expenses?

Chief of Staff: We don't have a written policy. I mean, basically everybody's on the honor system. We've all known each other and there's not, you know, you send your receipts to Ron, or now to Paul, and they generally reimburse them.

Omar Ashmawy: Is there any kind of standard format for doing that, like a form, a word document or anything like that?

Chief of Staff: Once we hired Paul Kilgore at PDS Compliance, he created more of a system than what we had previously with Mr. VanDerKolk.

Omar Ashmawy: Can you just elaborate a little bit on what system, if any, was available?

Chief of Staff: Sure. I mean it was mostly it would be an Excel spreadsheet. You know, date, location, what you were doing at the event, what the receipt was for. Pretty rudimentary.

Omar Ashmawy: How often do you find yourself making expenditures on behalf of the campaign and then seeking reimbursement?

Chief of Staff: Previously ... we're starting to change the policy. But previously I, fairly regularly.

Omar Ashmawy: Why the policy change?

Chief of Staff: Well for one because of all the attention that it's gotten from your guys office for like, okay, this, clearly this might be a problem. And so we wanted to make sure that we're doing everything that we could to adhere by the rules.

Omar Ashmawy: Prior to our office's request for information and communication with your office, what was the policy with regard to reimbursement for the campaign?

Chief of Staff: If you made an expense, you'd get it reimbursed.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. I'd like to go through some of those reimbursements with you, to the extent you remember them. There, our review of some of the information and some of the documents you guys provided showed a handful of them ranging
from as far back as November 2015 to November of the previous year. Do you have any recollection of a $2853.20 reimbursement on November 7th, 2015?

Chief of Staff: No, I mean, in terms of did I request that?

Omar Ashmawy: Did you request it? What it might have been for?

Chief of Staff: It usually, it would be a number of things. It wouldn't be one, it would be a number of small things. And that's, that was my pattern for reimbursement. I mean I can't remember what that amount was for. No.

Omar Ashmawy: All right. Maybe another way of trying to get at this is, was there, sort of, a typical expense that you might, you know, pay for that you then seek reimbursement for after the fact?

Chief of Staff: Sure. I mean I had lunch in town or with a perspective donor, refreshments for events, for campaign staff, things like that would be standard.

Omar Ashmawy: When you say lunch in town, which town are we talking about?

Chief of Staff: It depends where I was at the time. Sometimes it would be in DC, sometimes it would be in the district.

Omar Ashmawy: Anywhere else?

Chief of Staff: I mean I, it could easily be in New York, Boston if we were traveling, in those cities.

Omar Ashmawy: So our office asked, you know a request for information for any documents or communications related to these reimbursements. We received some information from you, but I wanted just to make clear that when we asked, by not receiving anything, I assume then, you don't have any documents.

Chief of Staff: Yeah. I mean we searched the archives for the campaign. I searched my email, we could not find those documents that were, that didn't come to your office. Correct. We did a, our best search that we could and that's, I don't know what Ron did with those sheets.

Omar Ashmawy: So for instance, the November 7th, 2015 expend-reimbursement, we didn't receive any documents related to that reimbursement. So is it fair to say that you guys looked for documents and did not find any?

Chief of Staff: Correct. Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: We did receive what appears to be some relevant documents for a January 11, 2016, reimbursement for $3707.00. I can show you what you guys provided for us. This is a document with a header of HFC Expenses for November and December 2015. Can you describe to me what this document shows?
Chief of Staff: I mean this one, this would be in line with what I described earlier. I know, rudimentary expense for kind of where you were, what the date was, what the expense was, location of the expense.

Omar Ashmawy: And is this how previous to whatever changes that have been made recently, is this how you would submit requests for reimbursement?

Chief of Staff: Yes. To the best of my ability that's what they would look like.

Omar Ashmawy: So not, no additional detail than what would be here.

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you have any recollection about any of these expenditures? Where you were, what you were doing?

Chief of Staff: From 2015, I do not.

Omar Ashmawy: I note that the locations are associated with the expenditures. These are all either in Washington DC or New York City. They say DC and NYC. I assume that's DC and New York City?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: All right. Do you remember why you were in New York City at the time?

Chief of Staff: December we were there for an NRCC fundraiser. I would presume, not 100% sure, but again, you know, we made a number of trips to New York on a regular basis. I assume that most of those were fundraising but, you know. Four years ago I'm not positive.

Omar Ashmawy: I know and I do understand that, it's a long time. How about if I can be a little more granular. Say for instance, looking at this piece of paper. The December 5th, $29 expenditure. Under purpose it says entertain. I assume that's entertainment?

Chief of Staff: I would assume that too.

Omar Ashmawy: What kind, and there's a few other, I mean there's one additional one on December 6th for $36.79. And I guess another one on the 7th of December of $50. What might that mean? I mean in your experience having gone on these trips.

Chief of Staff: In all honesty, I just, I'm not sure.

Omar Ashmawy: If you wrote entertainment, what activities encompass entertainment?
Chief of Staff: In December, it could have been, you know, and this is just me trying to answer your question the best way I can ...

Omar Ashmawy: I understand.

Chief of Staff: ... could it have been going to some kind of event with a guests who were traveling with us. I mean that's, that would be the first thing that we would use that kind of entertainment expense. So, we'd be traveling with the NRCC bright lights and Broadway trip for example. We may be going to an event, a movie or something like that, is where we'd be doing it as a group and that would be part of the group activity. I just do not know what the 29 and 50 dollar entertainment charges would be. I'd have to go back and try to find the receipts. And clearly we couldn't find those receipts in Ron's files.

Charlie Spies: Can I ask a question?

Omar Ashmawy: Absolutely.

Charlie Spies: Did you provide the receipts with this to Ron?

Chief of Staff: I mean that was our normal practice.

Charlie Spies: The process was to provide the receipts attached to it right?

Omar Ashmawy: I'm sorry. When you would submit a piece of paper like the one that I'm showing you, you would always include receipts?

Chief of Staff: To the best of my ability. Yeah. If we, there are, our goal is to always have receipts and to submit them.

Omar Ashmawy: I'm not going to hold any particular times. Would there be reimbursements made even if you lost a receipt?

Chief of Staff: If you provided an explanation. I mean that, we'd want some kind of documentation.

Charlie Spies: So, put another way. Ron would more or less take your word for it if you were able to explain the lack of receipt.

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Just quickly cause it's one of the larger ones. The December 6th, $962 for entertainment. No recollection of what that one was for?

Chief of Staff: You know that, I would, we would do events from time to time at bars or clubs. With something that large I would assume we had an open bar and that would be to cover and that's just, that's my best guess based on knowing what we did when we were up there for some of those trips.
Omar Ashmawy: Then again, you looked for the documents that would support this.

Chief of Staff: Correct. I mean they would, we should have kept duplicates probably and that is, whatever, Ron was given the originals a lot of times.

Omar Ashmawy: And also just for the sake of my understanding of this format. Other purposes are listed. Mileage, parking, hotel, meals, breakfast, lunch, dinner. So it's fair to say that anytime you'd say entertainment, it was not one of those things.

Chief of Staff: Yeah, I mean, talking, it could have been drinks after an event, or something like that too. Yeah, but I don't know how, I don't know what the best, I would say we used those terms pretty broadly and pretty genuinely. Or yeah, so it's I'm not sure that's, that that would be different than eating. It may have been you know, having a snack or something like that with some of the guests that we had with us. Like buying coffee for people. We may have listed as entertainment instead of coffee.

Omar Ashmawy: So entertainment you were saying it could be used generally?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Fair enough. To continue. There is a July 15th, 2016 expenditure that you were reimbursed for $4572. Do you have any recollection on that particular reimbursement?

Chief of Staff: I do not. Not the particulars of it.

Omar Ashmawy: Is there any chance that that related to a trip to Disney?

Chief of Staff: What month was it? I'm sorry.

Omar Ashmawy: The reimbursement was done in July of 2016.

Chief of Staff: I do not. Not the particulars of it.

Chief of Staff: What month was it? I'm sorry.

Omar Ashmawy: The reimbursement was done in July of 2016.

Chief of Staff: Not to my memory.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. And again just for the sake of clarity and completeness. You, we asked for any supporting documents. You looked for them?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: Did not find . . .

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: Let's jump to May 31st, 2016 - actually, no. November 27th, 2016. There was a reimbursement in the amount of $5,732. Any recollection of what that might've been for?
Chief of Staff: No, none. I mean, It's I would assume something along those. I was not the most
diligent in always at a monthly basis getting reimbursement. I would have larger
ones because they were combined, multiple events. Probably a number of things
to come up to that number.

Omar Ashmawy: And May 31st, 2017 reimbursement, $4,726?

Chief of Staff: Yeah. I do not have any memory of exactly what that would be.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Bear with me.

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: There's an August 1st, 2017 reimbursement for $3, 729.16. Any memory what
that might have been for?

Chief of Staff: I do not.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Getting a little closer to the current present day, November 24th, 2017,
reimbursement in the amount of $4,734.47. Any recollection?

Chief of Staff: Not specifics on what exactly was reimbursed, just besides going through our
normal process to get a reimbursement check.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay, December 11th of the same year, 2017, there  was a reimbursement for
$1,754.22. Any recollection on that one?

Chief of Staff: I do not, sorry.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. For the ones I just went through, September of 2016, May, August,
November and December of 2017, we asked for any supporting documents,
anything that would show what they were for, we didn't receive any relevant
documents. Did you look for them?

Chief of Staff: I did, we had our guys in Michigan look through the archives and I looked
through my personal archives as well.

Omar Ashmawy: And you didn't find any?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: So you didn't find the document and not provide the relevant document?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: If we jump to last year, 2018, there is a reimbursement on April 25th, 2018 for
$5,173.28. Any recollection on that one?
Chief of Staff:  I do not.

Omar Ashmawy:  And then lastly, a November 27th, 2018 reimbursement for $4,437.88. Any recollection?

Chief of Staff:  Not on specifics.

Omar Ashmawy:  Okay. So in total, the total amount of reimbursements in this time period that we're talking about from 2015 to 2018 is $41,419.21. Really almost no documentation exists to support what those expenses were for. Based on your search, is that correct?

Chief of Staff:  Correct.

Omar Ashmawy:  I have, well I can get that in a minute. We can shift gears and talk a little bit about some of the travel that you did in supporting congressman fundraisers. But I do want to offer, do you want to break?

Chief of Staff:  I'm fine right now.

Omar Ashmawy:  You sure? Okay. Let me know if you want to.

Chief of Staff:  Thank you.

Omar Ashmawy:  All right, I know that there was a sort of annual trip to Disney, Disney World as part of the fundraising effort.

Chief of Staff:  Yep.

Omar Ashmawy:  Can you talk to me a little bit about that?

Chief of Staff:  Sure. We went with different members at different times, one with Mr. Duffy, one with Mrs. Love, one with Mr. Scalise. They would be multiple member trips and a number of lobbyists would want to participate. We would bring Bill's family as part of the deal. We would have... we would raise a fair amount of money on these trips.

Omar Ashmawy:  How would these trips operate?

Chief of Staff:  We'd usually have our PAC funders make all of the arrangements and details. They would make all the plans and make all the arrangements.

Omar Ashmawy:  More specifically, once you're on the ground, how would these trips go?

Chief of Staff:  Fly in on the day, have a reception in the evening, do events in the parks while we were there with the lobbyists, do maybe a character breakfast, find a number of different ways to interact with the lobbyists and their families while we were there.
Omar Ashmawy: Who from the Congressman's immediate orbit would be on these trips?

Chief of Staff: Myself, I would come. Marliss would come, members of Bill's family would come, his wife generally, usually most of the kids.

Omar Ashmawy: The congressman's kids?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: There were in the last couple years three trips to Disney, one in March of 2016, another in April of 2017, a third in May of 2018. Did you go on all three of them?

Chief of Staff: I believe I did, yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Do you know if Ms. McManus went on all three of them?

Chief of Staff: Possibly. There might have been one or two that she missed in all the trips that we did to Disney. She generally would come with us on those trips.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. And on these trips, it would be the congressman, the congressman's kids, you and Ms. McManus?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Let's jump to February of 2018. Was there a trip to Deer Valley?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: What was the purpose of that trip?

Chief of Staff: Fundraising trip.

Omar Ashmawy: Can you elaborate?

Chief of Staff: Like how so?

Omar Ashmawy: Whose fundraiser?

Chief of Staff: Okay. I was like – A fundraiser for Bill Huizenga, we had Mr. Walden, we had Mr. Uptown there. Maybe Duncan came on the trip, Mr. Graves. There were five or six members there and we did a financial services related fundraiser at Deer Valley.

Omar Ashmawy: What kind of activities were involved? What kind of fundraising activities?
Chief of Staff: There would be meals, breakfasts, dinners together. We did a slalom race on the hill at Deer Valley, roasted marshmallows, hot chocolate, that kind of stuff, receptions.

Omar Ashmawy: Who in the congressman's orbit attended that?

Chief of Staff: I did, the congressman's family attended as well.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay, anyone else?

Chief of Staff: No, no one from staff.

Omar Ashmawy: There was a trip to ... Actually referring to that, tell me about the slalom race.

Chief of Staff: We would rent out the hill for, I believe, two hours. Everybody who wanted to participate would race down the hill. They would have the timers, there would be a NASTAR ski-race type course. We'd give out prizes for people with the best times.

Omar Ashmawy: And it was sort of voluntary, every one didn't have to participate?

Chief of Staff: No, it was voluntary. Anybody who wanted to take advantage of the hill could who was on the trip with us.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you recall who participated?

Chief of Staff: No. Most of the members participated. A good number of the participants on the trip, but I would have to go back and review records to say. But I would say half or more of the skiers raced down the hill.

Omar Ashmawy: With regard to this particular trip, what kinds of individuals, what sort of industries were in attendance?

Chief of Staff: Kind of a cross spectrum. We had folks from oil and gas folks there, we had financial services folks there, we had energy and commerce folks there. We had, I would have to look at the list to be sure but there was a nice representation of a number of different industries who were supporting the different members of Congress.

Omar Ashmawy: Again, what was sort of the nature of the fundraiser? Fundraisers can be a gathering. Sometimes it's a dinner, sometimes it's drinks, sometimes it's just show up and meet people, meet and greet. What was this kind of fundraiser? Disney fundraiser sounds like sort of a family oriented fundraiser. What was the Deer Valley?

Chief of Staff: Similar in the sense of it had multiple components to it. There were receptions, there were meals, their ski race and spending ... Part of it is just spending time
with the members, going up the chair lift, being with them while they're on the
ski hill.

Omar Ashmawy: Did everyone bring their kids?

Chief of Staff: No, a mix. It kind of depends on the age of your kids.

Omar Ashmawy: There was a trip to Sea Island in Georgia in October of 2017. Did you go on that
trip?

Chief of Staff: I did not.

Omar Ashmawy: Out of curiosity, why not?

Chief of Staff: Bill was actually a special guest for Mr. Graves so I don't travel when Bill is a
special guest.

Omar Ashmawy: And then another trip in September of 2017 to Mackinac, which I'd like to say
that I always used to say "Mackinac." I feel ...

Chief of Staff: Charlie and I as Michigan natives appreciate that you've gotten to know that
better. It's a great place, have you ever been there?

Omar Ashmawy: No, unfortunately I've never been.

Chief of Staff: I would encourage all three of you, the next time. Maybe not this time, but the
next time you're in Michigan.

Omar Ashmawy: One day I'd like to. So this trip to Mackinac in September of 2017, did you go on
that trip?

Chief of Staff: Is that the September trip?


Chief of Staff: I believe so, I believe that was the republican leadership conference for the
Michigan Republican Party.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you recall who in the congressman's orbit –

Chief of Staff: We have a number of our grassroots folks come. Our district guys are there.
2017, right? I'd have to go back and look at our list to be certain. But it's a very
interactive event with our grassroots back home. We have a number of staff, we
do events there from time to time. I can't remember specifically if we did one
reception type thing. Yeah, we usually have a number of folks with us.

Omar Ashmawy: Family members?
Chief of Staff: Likely. I mean, it's very family oriented event.

Omar Ashmawy: What kind of activities?

Chief of Staff: That we have hosted or that we participate in?

Omar Ashmawy: Both.

Chief of Staff: Yeah, I mean, we've hosted ice cream socials, we brought in some of Bill's colleagues up who are not from Michigan to interact with folks as special guests, we'll do specific...we represent Michigan's second district, we’ll do second district event receptions while we're up there to thank our second district volunteers for all the work that they do. There's a number of panel discussions, usually high profile candidates come into town so a number of speeches, things like that.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: Do you mind if I ask a question?

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah, absolutely.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: I'm sorry if I didn't hear, but did your kids attend the Deer Valley trip?

Chief of Staff: My kids, yes. My kids attended last year best I can remember.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: Did most of the lobbyists also bring their children?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, it'd depend on the age of their kids, but I would say that if they had kids that were of skiing age they brought them.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: I want to bounce back to reimbursement just briefly. It involves some of the travel. I'll show you a document that's...the header, very small font is, "DeWitte reimbursements, June 19th to September 29th, 2018.” I believe this is a document that you provided our office. Can you tell me what this document shows?

Chief of Staff: This is an itemized list apparently of a number of my reimbursements.

Omar Ashmawy: This document is considerably more specific than the document I showed you a little while ago.

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: What changed?
Chief of Staff: We changed accountants. Well, I believe this is from Paul Kilgore.

Omar Ashmawy: Accountant or treasurer?

Chief of Staff: We have one listed treasurer in the FEC who is, basically, he's not engaged in the campaign. The accountant is the one who does the FEC report. So Ron VanderKolk was our accountant. When his work product wasn't where we wanted it to be, we switched it to Mr. Kilgore.

Omar Ashmawy: I guess, just for the sake of clarity though, you guys switched to Mr. Kilgore after Ron passed away?

Chief of Staff: No, we switched to him ... I can't remember. I think we've been using Paul Kilgore for maybe approximately a year.

Omar Ashmawy: I notice on here there's lots of reimbursements, one for the Grand Hotel in Mackinac Island from June 25th, 2018. There's some here from Deer Valley reimbursements. Would you say this reflects an accurate list of reimbursements from June 19th to September 29th, 2018?

Chief of Staff: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Again, to the best of your knowledge, I had asked you about a November 27th, 2018 reimbursement in the amount of $4,437.88. This document that you guys gave us, the total amount of these expenditures for which you were reimbursed is $4,437.88. Do you think that this probably reflects the expenditures made that are associated with November 27th, 2018 reimbursement?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, if I understand your question, yes.

Omar Ashmawy: That was wording.

Chief of Staff: Right, yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Do the expenditures on the worksheet that you guys gave us that total $4,437.88 – were these the same expenditures that you were reimbursed for in November of 2015?

Chief of Staff: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Do either of you have any questions about this particular, any of the expenditures on here?

Charlie Spies: Can I just ask you, so you earlier said there are $41,000 of reimbursement which there is no documentation for. You were including this in that $41,000 and in fact you do have ... well, we can quibble on whether it's documentation, but your sum total includes reimbursements which include spreadsheets?
Omar Ashmawy: Yeah, so in response to our request for information, you provided two documents, the spreadsheet I just provided, Mr. DeWitte, and the spreadsheet that I provided him previously. The first one was for $3,707. The second one is for $4,437.88. So yes, you guys provided documentation for those two reimbursements, but not for others.

Charlie Spies: Got it.

Omar Ashmawy: Take a moment with my colleagues, see if they have any specific questions about any of these.

Sean Quinn: Just quickly, you said you think you've been using Mr. Kilgore for about a year?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, I'd have to go back and check, but approximately. Maybe even longer.

Sean Quinn: I guess you said it was general dissatisfaction with Mr. Vanderkolk's –

Chief of Staff: Yeah, Ron was getting older. When I did review the FEC reports and some of the documentation he did were just finding more and more mistakes. It was just becoming not helpful to the campaign.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And just sort of one off mistakes that you noticed or were there particular concerns with [inaudible 00:44:45].

Chief of Staff: Yeah, just typos, stuff that just should have been caught. I can't think of anything in particular, I remember looking at the FEC report and just the way things were listed and he would have maybe symbols in there that shouldn't be in there like typos type things.

Sean Quinn: Got it.

Omar Ashmawy: If you look at the spreadsheet that I provided you, there are one or two that I just have a few questions about.

Chief of Staff: Sure.

Omar Ashmawy: Ten lines down on the June 25th, 2018, there is a small dollar reimbursement for Starbucks. Do you have a specific recollection on what you might have been reimbursed for on that date?

Chief of Staff: Oh, which date? I'm sorry.

Omar Ashmawy: June 25th.

Chief of Staff: June 25th.

Omar Ashmawy: It says, “Starbucks, GTCH”?
Chief of Staff: Yeah, it appears it was at the airport. I would assume I was traveling for campaign. The best of my knowledge it would be I grabbed a coffee between flights.

Omar Ashmawy: And that is something that you would do?

Chief of Staff: When I was traveling for work.

Omar Ashmawy: Meals?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: When might you charge an Uber ride to the campaign?

Chief of Staff: When I was going to or from an event for the campaign.

Omar Ashmawy: So would you say then that the various Uber reimbursements here are related to a campaign event or campaign activity?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, to the best of my ability that would be how I would characterize them without looking at my calendar not knowing exactly where I was that day.

Omar Ashmawy: How about, so a few times where there is a reimbursement for restaurants here in Washington DC, I note Hill Country Barbecue on July 3rd and receipt on July 19th. Why'd you seek reimbursement for those from us?

Chief of Staff: Likely was soliciting a donation for the campaign from someone.

Omar Ashmawy: There is $107.13 reimbursement at the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, New Jersey on August 29, 2018. Do you recollect?

Chief of Staff: We had a golf fundraiser there.

Omar Ashmawy: And the $107 was for?

Chief of Staff: I mean, green fees, might have been for drinks. I'm not exactly ... Those would be the types of things that we would charge to the campaign.

Omar Ashmawy: How about the September 23rd Home Depot charge for $16.17 near the end of the spreadsheet, near the bottom?

Chief of Staff: Which date, I'm sorry, the 17th?

Omar Ashmawy: September 23rd, almost at the bottom of the spreadsheet.

Chief of Staff: Yeah. I would have to go back and check. I'm not exactly sure. Something for the campaign.
Omar Ashmawy: What at Home Depot might be for the campaign?

Chief of Staff: I would have to go back. I don't know what we were doing that day to be sure, but something related to the camp . . . I would assume maybe something for an organizational purpose. That's the only thing I can think of off the top of my head, but I just am not certain.

Omar Ashmawy: Again, we had asked for all documents and communications related to reimbursements. We did not receive any receipts associated with these. Does that mean that you looked for them and they don't exist?

Chief of Staff: I was not able to find when we looked.

Omar Ashmawy: Even after you changed over from one accountant to Mr. Kilgore, still not retaining original receipts?

Chief of Staff: I'm trying to remember what Mr. Kilgore's policy is off the top of my head. Generally speaking he's . . .

Charlie Spies: Did you ask for those receipts?

Chief of Staff: That's what I'm trying to remember. I can't remember if we did or not in the search criteria. He gave us these spreadsheets.

Charlie Spies: So it's possible you knew that they went through the boxes for the original treasurer and we didn't go to the new treasurer and we'll check on that.

Omar Ashmawy: What I would say is, that is definitely a document contemplated by the request for information and included in the definitional section of what a document was so I would ask that you guys please go back and if you have original or copies of receipts that reflect these purchases, whether it's the purchases here that are documented on the spreadsheet I just gave Mr. DeWitte, I would ask that you . . .

Charlie Spies: Yeah, if there's oversight it was clearly the accountant and make sure that is provided. If not we'll get it to you quickly because he seems much more organized.

Chief of Staff: He is.

Omar Ashmawy: Thank you.

Sean Quinn: Just one or two more questions on this document. The July 30, 2018 trip it looks like you were in Asheville, North Carolina.

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Was that a campaign trip?
Chief of Staff: It was. There was a McHenry beer tasting event.

Sean Quinn: And who was with you on that trip?

Chief of Staff: Bill and myself traveled down there?

Sean Quinn: Just you and Bill?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: The $1,100 charge to the Grand Hotel in Mackinac, was that just for lodging for you, for you and Bill?

Chief of Staff: I'm not certain who was included in that. It just was a couple years ago. That generally would be what would be charged.

Charlie Spies: With their outrageously high prices.

Chief of Staff: They are. It's nice to look at, but it is expensive.

Omar Ashmawy: Would you like a break?

Chief of Staff: I'm good.

Omar Ashmawy: How often would your family travel with you on these trips?

Chief of Staff: They came to Disney a couple times. I think the kids came to Deer Valley twice. I think my wife came last time that we went to Deer Valley. When we did the joint trip with Mr. Bishop and Mr. Wahlberg, my wife came. Those are the trips that I remember them attending with me occasionally.

Omar Ashmawy: And your children?

Chief of Staff: I have ... yeah. Sometimes, like one time to Deer Valley, just took the two older kids. My wife's not a skier, but she did come the second time.

Omar Ashmawy: And how old are your kids?

Chief of Staff: I have a 15-year-old. I have a 13-year-old, and I have a two-year-old.

Omar Ashmawy: I have a ...

Chief of Staff: Hence-

Omar Ashmawy: I have a 19-month old. So, I [crosstalk].

Chief of Staff: Congratulations. That's good, too.
Omar Ashmawy: Yeah. So, if we could just ... actually, before I get more specific, do any of the other staff members for Congressman Huizenga bring their spouses and children?

Chief of Staff: When we went to Disney, Marliss brought her husband and her daughter, occasionally, like, I can't remember on how many of the trips, but for a couple of the trips.

Omar Ashmawy: Let's specifically talk about the Disney trip. Did all the trips run roughly the same in terms of agenda, sort of style of the trip, or was there ... did it change from your agenda?

Chief of Staff: No, I mean, they – pretty much the same. I mean, dinner locations would change. Reception locations would change, but they all basically functioned in the same way.

Omar Ashmawy: How would a ... walk me through one. So, I'm attending.

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: I paid to come, show up. What happens?

Chief of Staff: So, you land on a Thursday or Friday. We do a welcome reception that evening, probably watch the fireworks from the hotel that we're staying at, kind of go over a little welcome, like, "Hey, this is where the members are going to be. There's going to be a breakfast tomorrow for Mr. Duffy. There's going to be a breakfast on Sunday for Mr. Huizenga. These characters might be at those meals. We're going to do a meet-up in the park, grab ice cream with the Huizenga’s at such-and-such location on this day." And then you would interact with the lobbyists at the different receptions that we'd do, different meals that we would do.

Omar Ashmawy: In between these events, what would attendees do?

Chief of Staff: I mean, they would be at the parks or at the pool or golfing or kind of whatever they wanted to do.

Omar Ashmawy: So, they'd be on their own time?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. And attending the various meet-ups, was that more or less on their own, if they wanted to?

Chief of Staff: Yeah. I mean, they're ... we gave them every opportunity to interact with the members of Congress. It was their choice whether they attended or to what level they participated, but generally, you would find a pretty high level of participation.
Omar Ashmawy: A little granular, but what about these meet-ups in the park, and how often did that happen on these trips?

Chief of Staff: You know, generally once a day. Each member would do something one day in the parks, and you know, there's multiple parks there. So each member would take a different park, and they would ... you know, anybody who wanted to stop by and say hi and catch up could do that.

Omar Ashmawy: Did you participate in these meet-ups?

Chief of Staff: Sure, yeah. I would ... like, generally, if Bill was there, I would be there.

Omar Ashmawy: If you weren't staffing, for lack of a better word, staffing Bill, what would you be doing?

Chief of Staff: You know, at the pool with family, at the parks with family.

Omar Ashmawy: Would you be on your own time?

Chief of Staff: Well, you know, I'm traveling for work. Yes, there are enjoyable parts, but you know, I'm on the call 24/7. So, I don't – "own time" is a relative term in my definition.

Omar Ashmawy: If you weren't specifically performing a task necessary, would you otherwise be on your own time?

Chief of Staff: Basically, from the time I leave the house to the time I get back, I have the luxury of being able to bring my family, which is nice. I have the luxury of being able to experience the park, which is nice, but I, you know ...

Omar Ashmawy: You're still working.

Chief of Staff: The boss can call at any time.

Omar Ashmawy: Right. Fair ...

Chief of Staff: I'm, like-

Omar Ashmawy: Fair enough. I [crosstalk].

Chief of Staff: When he loses his wallet.

Omar Ashmawy: I live that life. I understand.

Chief of Staff: And like ... yeah, I-

Omar Ashmawy: I lived that life, so I totally understand. How about your spouse and kids? Would they be on their own time during-
Chief of Staff: I mean, they would ... you know, they knew they were there to support the campaign, so they were often doing things to be helpful to the campaign.

Omar Ashmawy: What kinds of things?

Chief of Staff: You know, they would help with events, when necessary. They would interact with lobbyists. People wanted them to interact with your family, and so they would come to all the events that were on the schedule.

Omar Ashmawy: Oh, all the events or all the Representative Huizenga events?

Chief of Staff: All the Representative Huizenga events.

Omar Ashmawy: When they weren't doing that, were they on their own time?

Chief of Staff: I mean, yeah. I mean, more so than I was, but yeah, they could ... would I separate from them from time to time? Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah. Well, that's all I'm getting.

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Would they be off on their own, being able to enjoy the opportunity to visit the parks ...

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: ... or spend time by the pool on their own?

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. How much ... all right. You already answered that, actually. So how about this? Do you know ... do you have any awareness, with regard to Mrs. McManus's spouse and child, what they were doing?

Chief of Staff: Yeah. I mean, same thing my family was, and they saw themselves as an integral part of the events. People wanted to meet with Brian and Sloan and see them get to know Marliss's family outside of the office.

Omar Ashmawy: Forgive me if this is a silly question, but other than the attendants at the events, did they have any formal role in the campaign?

Chief of Staff: No.

Omar Ashmawy: All right. And that goes for your spouse, Ms. McManus's spouse, and your respective children?

Chief of Staff: Yeah. Yeah.
Omar Ashmawy: All right. Do you know if the campaign reimbursed or paid for all of your travel?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: So, it did?

Chief of Staff: It did, yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Do you know if it paid for all of Ms. McManus's travel?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Did that include your spouse and kids?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you know if that included McManus's spouse?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Yes. Okay. Kind of the same questions, honestly, about Deer Valley. You have told me, but forgive me, I forgot. You went to the 2018 one, right?

Chief of Staff: I did both Deer Valley trips.

Omar Ashmawy: 2017?

Chief of Staff: Sea Island was the only trip you mentioned that I did not attend.

Omar Ashmawy: So, you went to the 2017, 2018?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: All right. Same thing. So, you tell me. Who came to the 2017 one?

Chief of Staff: 2017, my two older children attended.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. To what extent did they participate in campaign events?

Chief of Staff: If I was there, they were there.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Were there events that didn't involve Congressman Huizenga?

Chief of Staff: That they attended or-

Omar Ashmawy: No. I'm just trying to get a sense of [crosstalk].
Chief of Staff: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah. I mean, there were multiple members. Greg Walden would go off and do a dinner with some of his folks, you know. Yeah. There were lots of events going on.

Omar Ashmawy: About how many days were you guys there?

Chief of Staff: I believe three.

Omar Ashmawy: And they'd go with you to the events you went to?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: And you'd be going to the Congressman Huizenga events?

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: They wouldn't go to events for other members?

Chief of Staff: Occasionally, they would. I mean, they would occasionally go to a reception. I mean, if that was like the reception of the night, we might not be hosting it, but Bill maybe would be there. I can't think of a time when we went and when Bill wasn't there in particular, but I'm not going to say that it didn't happen. So ...

Omar Ashmawy: And I won't hold you to it.

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: When they weren't doing that, what were they doing?

Chief of Staff: I mean, they were skiing.

Omar Ashmawy: Got it. Again, recognizing that you're on-call 24/7 –

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: If you weren't going to an event, what were you doing?

Chief of Staff: I mean, I was out skiing with the lobbyists and interacting with our guests.

Omar Ashmawy: All right. Were your children skiing on their own?

Chief of Staff: No, they were with me.

Omar Ashmawy: With you. All right. And, again ...

Chief of Staff: And, I mean, you know, I have a 14-year-old, so he would like ... he may have went off with the Huizenga kids once or twice. So, I just ... for clarification. Yeah.
1 Omar Ashmawy: Did the campaign pick up the tab for everyone?

2 Chief of Staff: Yes.

3 Omar Ashmawy: And that includes the ski lift and ski rentals?

4 Chief of Staff: Yes.

5 Sean Quinn: Just a quick question about the Deer Valley trip. Did you have other questions?

6 Omar Ashmawy: No, no. I just asked if you had any questions about that.

7 Sean Quinn: I think you said, maybe that the Deer Valley trip was sort of a financial services-centered event.

8 Chief of Staff: They were with us and Graves, but there were other members from other committees. So, there was definitely a significant financial services portion of the guests.

9 Sean Quinn: And I think you also said Ms. McManus is sort of your financial services expert.

10 Chief of Staff: Yes, yeah.

11 Sean Quinn: Is there a reason she didn't go on the Deer Valley trip?

12 Chief of Staff: It's a super expensive trip. Again, to keep overhead low, we decided not to bring her on that trip.

13 Sean Quinn: Does Mrs. McManus ski?

14 Chief of Staff: I don't know.

15 Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: And was the Deer Valley trip – who was it organized by?

16 Chief of Staff: The multiple campaigns. The PAC fundraisers generally did all the arrangement and sent out the invitations and did the kind of the back office work on that.

17 Omar Ashmawy: Sean, any other questions? I mean, just about the ...

18 Sean Quinn: Deer Valley? Yeah. I think I'm good on Deer Valley.

19 Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: Actually, so was ... on some of the documents that we have, Jeb Hensarling, Representative Hensarling –

20 Chief of Staff: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

21 Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: Listed as an organizer.
Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: Was he the primary or his... you know, PAC, the primary organizer for the trip?

Chief of Staff: So, in 2017, we were a special guest, with the understanding Jeb was retiring. We were going to take over Jeb's slot on this trip, so yes, he was – Hensarling was there in 2017.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: And, to your knowledge, did that, his PAC, pay for any of the expenses associated with the trip?

Chief of Staff: In all honesty, fundraisers took care of all the financing details in that regard. So, I don't know how the costs were split up, and, you know, you know, I think we had a JFC for that event. I just would have to go back and look. I'm not sure.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Sea Island, you didn't go?

Chief of Staff: I did not go.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Did help organize the Sea Island trip at all?

Chief of Staff: I did not.

Sean Quinn: Do you know if Representative Huizenga's-

Chief of Staff: He was a special guest for Mr. Graves, so generally, Mr. Graves incurs all the logistical, organizational obligations.

Omar Ashmawy: The September 2017 trip to Mackinac, did any of your family members attend?

Chief of Staff: No.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you know if any of Ms. McManus's family attended?

Chief of Staff: No. I don't believe she attended that trip.

Omar Ashmawy: Alright. With regard to that trip, you were talking a little bit before about the kinds of activities that would go on. Could you just walk me through again, sort of – it's a weekend? Is that how it works?

Chief of Staff: Yeah. Mackinac was a little bit different than our other fundraising trips, not a fundraiser, more of a grassroots event.

Omar Ashmawy: What does that mean?

Chief of Staff: It's interacting with a lot of volunteers, a lot of the party organizers. It is a ... usually a kick-off for the coming year's statewide candidates' campaigns. The
congressional candidates all do a panel discussion while we're there. Lots of
opportunities to interact with potential donors, with folks who end up
volunteering for you in different ways, folks who are influential in the grassroots
efforts of the candidate.

Omar Ashmawy: What kind of . . .

Charlie Spies: In case it's not clear, I do want to clarify that it's not a Huizenga weekend, but it's
the state parties’.

Chief of Staff: Yes. Yeah. And if I hadn't mentioned that already, the state-

Omar Ashmawy: Michigan State Republican Party.

Chief of Staff: Yeah. Michigan State Republican Party runs it. They invite the members of
Congress to come and be a part of the event.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. And what's common? I mean, have you attended – I want to make an
assumption and say this wasn't your first one.

Chief of Staff: That would be fair. I can't even tell you how many – five, seven, in that range, probably. I've done Mackinac, as we refer to it, a number of times.

Omar Ashmawy: You didn't bring your family, right?

Chief of Staff: Correct. Yeah, it is-

Omar Ashmawy: Why not?

Chief of Staff: It's not a family-friendly atmosphere, really. It's for staff. I mean, the members
who will bring their families, they've got a little more control and leeway. It's for
staff. You're just hustling all weekend.

Omar Ashmawy: Why isn't it family-friendly?

Chief of Staff: Just because of the number of events, probably more alcohol there than at any
other event that we go to. A lot of . . . not younger kids are running around the
island. There's no time to do fun things with your kids, for lack of a better term.

Omar Ashmawy: As opposed to some of the other events?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, that are a little more family-oriented as they're scheduled.

Omar Ashmawy: Disney –

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Deer Valley.
Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you have any questions, Sean, about the Mackinac trip?

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Just a couple questions about the members of the Huizenga family. Do you know if Representative Huizenga's son, Garrett, attended the event?

Chief of Staff: He's attended some. Off the top of my head, I cannot remember.

Sean Quinn: And do you know where – is Garrett in college? Do you know?

Chief of Staff: Garrett is. He's a senior this year at the King's College.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you know if the congressman's son Garrett is active in the campaign at all?

Chief of Staff: Yes. Very active, yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: He is?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: What role does he play?

Chief of Staff: He will do whatever is needed to do. He participates in the majority of our phone calls. He helps organize volunteers. He has – provides feedback on documents and commercials and things like that.

Omar Ashmawy: How many children does the congressman have?

Chief of Staff: Five.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you recall their age ranges?

Chief of Staff: This is not going to be disclosed to the congressman?

Omar Ashmawy: Exactly.

Chief of Staff: So, his oldest is Garrett. His youngest is the same age as ... Son is the same age as my daughter, who's 13, so between 13 and whatever. Garrett just turned 21, so in that age range. I cannot be more specific.

Omar Ashmawy: Which of them have an active role in the campaign?

Chief of Staff: Have you ever interacted with a member of Congress's family?

Omar Ashmawy: So understanding that a member of Congress's family is active to some extent . . .
Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Or another by their very nature, to what extent are – which of the kids are attending events? When I say "active," I mean, you know, making phone calls, attending events, you know, working the campaign outside of a central family event?

Chief of Staff: Sure. I mean I would say the older ones have had different levels of engagement at different times. Garrett, Adrian, Ally have all played ... had different roles within the ... to help out on the campaign. Will is younger. Sieger's younger. I mean, all participate in parades and come to events and support their dad in the best ways that they can.

Omar Ashmawy: Why did you bring your spouse and kids to Disneyland?

Chief of Staff: You know, I don't get compensated by the campaign. That was one of the things that Bill invited us to come and be a part of.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. I mean, did you see that or did you have a conversation with Representative Huizenga, establish some way to compensate you for your time?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, yes. We've had the conversation a number of times.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. How about Deer Valley?

Chief of Staff: I mean, the same, yeah. I mean, the same kind of principle applies for that one, too.

Omar Ashmawy: Alright. And when you say "principle," just to be clear, we mean that it's sort of a way to thank you or compensate you ...

Chief of Staff: Yeah. I mean, on top-

Omar Ashmawy: ... for your energies and efforts?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, on top understanding this is work. Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. I'm kind of at the end of sort of my questions, I wanted to just wrap up, so before I do that, do you have anything?

Sean Quinn: I don't think so. Do you mind if we take a five-minute break?

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah, do you guys mind if we do that?

Chief of Staff: Yeah. Let's do that.

Omar Ashmawy: I think we're really done, but do you just want to take a quick break?
Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Thank you very much.

Chief of Staff: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. We are back on the record with Chief of Staff. I think, as I just said, we have one or two questions, and we'll get you on your way.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Just some tiny things that we noticed as we're going through the documents. We were looking at the Deer Valley trip, looking at flights, and it looks like you and [Son], for some reason, only had one-way flights out to Deer Valley. Everybody else had been on round-trip flights. Does that ring a bell?

Chief of Staff: I did come back. That's the only –

Sean Quinn: I mean, I would've stayed in Deer Valley.

Chief of Staff: Well, you're clearly smarter than me. No, I do not know why that discrepancy is there.

Sean Quinn: And then, just quickly another thing or two about Deer Valley, do you remember any of the specific events? I know you said it was a slalom race, it looks like was there. You guys produced a document about a Bloodies with Bill event. So, that was like a Bloody Mary bar.

Chief of Staff: Yeah. And those happened at two different events. The '17 event, we hosted the Bloody Mary bar before a Tom Graves dinner or lunch, I believe. The slalom race, we did in last year, or this year, right? I think ...

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Chief of Staff: That was the most recent one. So ...

Sean Quinn: Okay. I'm guessing the kids didn't go to the Bloody Mary bar event?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, I mean, they were in...it was a reception, and they had non-alcoholic drinks for all the children. I want to make sure that's on the record. So, yes. No, they had lots of alternatives.

Sean Quinn: Okay, that's all I had. Jeremy, did you have anything?

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: I was just curious that – when you would travel to Deer Valley or Disney, how did you pay for the...was it with the campaign credit card? Was it with – to your recollection?
Chief of Staff: Different time ... different ways, different times. I mean, we've had – the
Huizengas would, we would use a personal credit card sometimes. I just can't
remember exactly how those were paid for.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: And do you recall any conversations about, you know, if somebody was booking
trips, whether it would be on campaign credit card versus a personal credit card?

Chief of Staff: I mean, we would have those conversations all the time about what credit card
should be used, yes.

Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman: And how would you decide between one or the other, based on the specific event
or just ...?

Chief of Staff: Yeah, it depended on the event and the situation. I mean, those conversations
were fleeting and were a while ago. I just can't remember the specifics.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. I mean, just to be clear, we noted that sometimes travel would be booked
on the campaign credit card, sometimes you might book travel ...

Chief of Staff: Right.

Omar Ashmawy: ... on your personal credit card and then seek reimbursement from the campaign.

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: Was there any specific reason why it happened that way?

Chief of Staff: No, like it just was availability. There were different credits cards being used at
different times. To the best of my recollection, that's why we did those things.

Omar Ashmawy: Only other question I had for you was, just to clear, you were the primary person
responsible for managing the document production to our office ...

Chief of Staff: Correct.

Omar Ashmawy: ... right?

Chief of Staff: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Can you just explain to me just what process you went through to collect
those documents?

Chief of Staff: Sure. We ... Derek and I worked very closely on kind of, like, scope and what we
were looking for, search words, and who we were talking to. When we went
through your guys' list ... and we just tried to identify anybody who would have
touched any of those documents, and we approached them with the requirements
that you gave us. And we asked them to provide, to the best of their ability,
whatever they could. You know, Mary Ellen, who does our official bookkeeping
could only come up with so many documents, and it wasn't really in the format
we were hoping for. And we just did the best we could with what we were given.
We're not IT specialists, and so we had just moved the campaign office.

It took some work, but we got through all the boxes to try to identify all the
documents. We have folks in West Michigan looking through hard copies, lots of
computer searches. Did whatever we could to be transparent and show you
everything that we could.

Omar Ashmawy: Was there an instance where you found a document that was responsive to our
request but didn't provide it?

Chief of Staff: No, we've provided everything we found.

Omar Ashmawy: That's all I have for you.

Chief of Staff: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: Thank you very much for your time.

Chief of Staff: Okay. Thanks.
### ERRATA SHEET

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This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [Redacted]

Witness Signature: [Redacted]

Date: 7-30-19
Transcript of Interview of D.C. Deputy

Review No. 19-2187
June 25, 2019
Sean Quinn: I'm starting the recording. Today is June 25th, 2019 and we're at the offices of the law firm, Clark Hill, for the interview of D.C. Deputy. D.C. Deputy is accompanied by her counsel, Charlie Spies and Derek Ross. Speaking as Sean Quinn from the Office of Congressional Ethics. And I'm here with Omar Ashmawy. The witness has been given a copy of 18 U.S.C. 1001 and has signed the acknowledgement. Okay. So we can start with kind of some easy stuff. Can you just tell me a little bit about yourself? Where are you from? Where did you go to school? Kind of, how did you end up in DC?

D.C. Deputy: Sure. Marliss McManus, originally from Louisville, Kentucky. Going off to DC to work like every young, enthusiastic political science major. And been out here for 20 some years.

Sean Quinn: Okay, so you moved here directly from college?

D.C. Deputy: Right after college.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And where did you go to school?

D.C. Deputy: University of Louisville.

Sean Quinn: Okay, great. And can you tell me how you came to work for Representative Huizenga?

D.C. Deputy: I actually was working at the private sector at the time. I was lobbying. And they were looking for a legislative director with financial services experience. So it's—we were connected through a colleague and the rest is history.

Sean Quinn: And about when was that?

D.C. Deputy: I started working in January of 2011, so late 2010?

Sean Quinn: So it's pretty early on in the Huizenga world?

D.C. Deputy: Yes. Yeah, he was elected late 2010.

Sean Quinn: And you're obviously currently employed by the congressman?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And you have been continually since 2010?
D.C. Deputy: Yes

Sean Quinn: And in your work with the congressman, who do you report to?

D.C. Deputy: I report to Jon Dewitt the chief of staff, and Bill Huizenga the Congressman.

Sean Quinn: And who reports to you?

D.C. Deputy: I have three legislative staff who report to me.

Sean Quinn: So just so I understand, you are the deputy chief of staff, but kind of your issue area expertise is financial services?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And do you work on kind of any other issues for Representative Huizenga or-

D.C. Deputy: The overall policy message for the congressman. But primarily financial services.

Sean Quinn: And I think you said you were originally hired as an LD?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And so kind of-can you map out your progression to the office from LD to Deputy Chief of Staff?

D.C. Deputy: Let me think about that. Let's see...so we've been to… roughly four years ago. When Bill became sub-chair of one of the subcommittees, I became Deputy Chief of Staff and his designee on the committee.

Sean Quinn: So you were an LD for five-ish years?

D.C. Deputy: Give or take, yeah.

Sean Quinn: And then other than your kind of role as deputy chief of staff and point person for financial services, do you perform any other roles for Representative Huizenga?

D.C. Deputy: I have on a political side.

Sean Quinn: And by that you mean you work on the campaign?
D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Do you have a title with the campaign?

D.C. Deputy: I don't.

Sean Quinn: Can you, you probably know this morning, we talked to Mr. Dewitt, he said there's not a lot of titles. Can you kind of explain where you-if you don't have a title, just give me an idea of what your role in the campaign is?

D.C. Deputy: My role is just kind of helping out because there's a lot of financial services interest. Just helping put together events, staffing the Member, making sure he's aware of some of these issues that may be brought up or do get brought up, answering any of the Congressman’s questions.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you helped put together events and then generally are just kind of staffing the Member.

D.C. Deputy: And when I say 'put together' it's more just connecting people. People who want to do the events for the boss.

Sean Quinn: You said before you worked for the congressman, you were working in the private world on financial services matters?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And where were you working?

D.C. Deputy: Right before Bill, National Association Mutual Insurance Companies. NAMIC for short.

Sean Quinn: And did you have a position before that with another?

D.C. Deputy: Prior to NAMIC I was on Kemper Insurance.

Sean Quinn: Before Kemper Insurance, anything?

D.C. Deputy: I was with-it was the House Banking Committee at the time, which is now the Financial Services Committee.

Sean Quinn: Have you gotten back to college yet?

D.C. Deputy: Not yet.
Sean Quinn: No? Do you want to-why don't you just give them all to me?

D.C. Deputy: Prior to that, I worked with Senator McConnell.

Sean Quinn: And then we're now – we're at college. Okay, great. Good. Thank you for that.

D.C. Deputy: Sure.

Sean Quinn: Can you tell me how you met the congressman or how you came to be set up with the LD position?

D.C. Deputy: It was through a colleague.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Kind of moving to today, can you just generally describe your relationship with the congressman? Are you kind of personal friends outside of the work atmosphere or is it a pretty kind of professional relationship?

D.C. Deputy: It's pretty professional.

Sean Quinn: So not a lot of, outside of work, socializing?

D.C. Deputy: I wouldn't say so. Occasionally, when I'm back in Michigan, when his family's in town.

Sean Quinn: How well do you know the congressman's family?

D.C. Deputy: I've gotten to know them pretty well. Again, eight and a half years.

Sean Quinn: Yeah, right.

D.C. Deputy: I see them a fair amount when they come to town, I go to Michigan.

Sean Quinn: It's mostly either when you're visiting Michigan, or they're visiting here, kind of, any other occasions that you've kind of come to know the congressman's family?

D.C. Deputy: Not that I can recall, but I mean, I'm sure.

Sean Quinn: How about kind of the other way around? Does congressman know your family?

D.C. Deputy: He does.
Sean Quinn: And are you married?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And is your husband's name Brian?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And how about children?

D.C. Deputy: I have one daughter.

Sean Quinn: How old is she?

D.C. Deputy: She's getting ready to turn six next month.

Sean Quinn: And what does, what does Brian do?

D.C. Deputy: Brian Works for the state of Florida. He’s a lobbiest for them.

Sean Quinn: I'm going to assume your daughter has never worked for the congressman, but has Brian ever kind of performed any functions for Representative Huizenga?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: So he's never been a congressional staffer for Representative Huizenga, has he ever performed any campaign functions?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Sort of staying in the same vein, your relationship with Mr. Dewitt, are you guys kind of similar situation? Professionally acquainted, but not a big social interaction outside of that or?

D.C. Deputy: We've had a few interactions outside of work.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you’d say you’re closer with Mr. Dewitt than the Congressman?

D.C. Deputy: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: And how about y’all’s families today? Did they know each other? Do you know his family?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.
Sean Quinn: Do you know, does Mr. Dewitt's wife do any work for the campaign?

D.C. Deputy: Not to my knowledge.

Sean Quinn: And his children are a little older, right?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Do you know if they've ever done any work for-

D.C. Deputy: Not that I am aware of.

Sean Quinn: You earlier kind of described what you do for the campaign for me. Has that changed over time or have you always kind of been in that role of connecting folks, getting events set up and staffing the Member?

D.C. Deputy: I always have been, yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Is there any particular kinds of campaign events that you typically go to over others?

D.C. Deputy: Typically more financial services related.

Omar Ashmawy: Basically just because that's really your wheel house?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Do you have any process for reporting your time that you work on the campaign?

D.C. Deputy: Not that I'm aware of. No formal process, no.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So are you-is your position on the campaign volunteer position or are you compensated for the work that you do?

D.C. Deputy: I'm not compensated.

Sean Quinn: Okay, let's talk a little bit about kind of in general campaign trips. You said you mostly will go on the financial services oriented campaign events? Do most of those involve travel or most of those local? Give me an idea kind of where you're going for these events.

D.C. Deputy: I'd say majority are local. Occasional travel.
Sean Quinn: And can you give me an idea of some of that travel? How often, like let's say, let's start with how often a year do you travel for campaign events?

D.C. Deputy: Maybe...maybe two times a year?

Sean Quinn: What are those? What are those trips lists? Maybe let's start kind of going back about sort of 2015. Can you think of any campaign trips that you took in 2015? We can go the other way if that makes it easier.

D.C. Deputy: Yeah I couldn't tell you what I did in 2015, I'm sorry.

Sean Quinn: Let's start with more recent then, and go and go back. How about 2018? Can you think of when you traveled for the campaign?

D.C. Deputy: I went back to Michigan.

Sean Quinn: What was that for?

D.C. Deputy: That was for the beer tour.

Sean Quinn: And what time of year was that? If you know the month.

D.C. Deputy: It was roughly August-September timeframe. I can't remember exactly.

Sean Quinn: Any other 2018 trips?

D.C. Deputy: I'll try to remember. I have trouble remembering what I did over the weekend.

Sean Quinn: I'm in the exact same boat. So we'll talk about this stuff generally and then we can get into some details of some things, but-

D.C. Deputy: I can't remember, I'm sorry.

Sean Quinn: No, that's okay. Sure. Why don't we just go into some of the specifics of the trip. So there, Huizenga's campaign, goes to Disney. I understand with some frequency, have you been on any of those Disney trips?

D.C. Deputy: I have.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And can you remember when the first time you went on a Disney trip with the Huizenga’s was?

D.C. Deputy: I can't remember exactly.
Sean Quinn: I have-

D.C. Deputy: Yeah-I can't remember exactly.

Sean Quinn: Okay, the earliest thing I've seen about a trip, I'll just show you this. I think this might be a joke, but I'm interested to see if this was a Huizenga trip or not. But this was –

D.C. Deputy: That wasn't a Huizenga trip.

Charlie Spies: Wow in color too, nicely done.

Omar Ashmawy: Spared no expense.

Sean Quinn: Part of me just wanted to know the joke.

D.C. Deputy: This was a personal trip and not to give you too much about myself, but this is when I hit five years remission. I did the challenge.

Sean Quinn: Congratulations. That's amazing.

D.C. Deputy: Thank you. That's what that trip was.

Sean Quinn: So some Jim Brand is just making a joke that Jon Dewitt might resemble the dwarf in the photo? That’s what that is. If you look at the comment, “didn't realize Jon Dewitt was on this trip, right?” [crosstalk] Okay, so we'll talk about one of your own worthwhile trip, it sounds like.

D.C. Deputy: That's a great photo.

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah it is a good photo. How long has Representative Huizenga been doing the annual Disney trips?

D.C. Deputy: That's a good question. I don't remember. I don't remember when it started. I remember who it was with. It was with Congressman Price but I don't remember the exact.

Sean Quinn: Have you done a trip with Congressman Huizenga before you did that race? That might kind of place the time for you a little bit?

D.C. Deputy: I have been on a Disney trip prior to that race.

Sean Quinn: Right. Okay. So they were before-
They were definitely before that. I just don't remember exactly the first time. I'm guessing...Sloan is six, the first one was six or seven years ago. I don't remember the exact time. I just know it's before she was born.

So say roughly then around 2012-2013?

I think that roughly that's when it began, but they could have been a little sooner.

Okay. Well it couldn't have been much sooner because he was elected in 2010.

Correct. So there really only could’ve been 2011 – I don’t remember.

Have you gone on a Disney trip every year since they started?

I'm trying to remember if it was every year. I know I went several years.

Okay. Maybe just to help you remember a little bit, I'll show you one other document. This is a document you all produced to us, a Member produced to us, that's got a header that says McManus HFC Disney Trip, March 17th to the 20th, 2016.

Okay.

This was produced in a folder of documents that came from you, and looks like, maybe you can confirm for me, but looks like this is your kind of report of your expenses, when you were on that trip.

Yes.

Okay. And, do you remember that 2016 trip?

I remember being there.

Okay. Do you remember who else from, kind of, the Huizenga world was on that trip with you?

The Congressman was there, and Jon DeWitt was there.

Okay. How about families?

Yes.
Sean Quinn: And which family members of Congressman's, of Jon DeWitt's and of yours were there in 2016?

D.C. Deputy: I know Mrs. Huizenga was there. I don't remember if all the children were there, because I know there was one or two trips where I don't think all the children were there, I'm trying to remember. Jon and his wife, and their two kids.

Sean Quinn: And then you, and your husband and your daughter?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And in 2016 your daughter would have been three, four?

D.C. Deputy: Three.

Sean Quinn: Three? Do you have any recollection, in 2016, of what kind of campaign events were going on? Well, let's start with that. Do you remember any kind of particular campaign activities that happened on the 2016 Disney trip?

D.C. Deputy: I don't know specifically, but I know there's usually a dinner. There's a breakfast, and we do meet-ups, throughout the days that we're there.

Sean Quinn: Maybe you can take me through, kind of, a typical Disney weekend trip. You would come in on a Thursday or a Friday?

D.C. Deputy: Roughly.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Then, kind of, how would the trip unfold from there?

D.C. Deputy: Like I said, there's ... it's varied, because I know we had a reception one night. There was a dinner. Again, there was a breakfast, and then there's meet-ups throughout the day, for people who didn't quite get to see the congressman. A dinner with a reception, so there's lots of events so that people can get face-time.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And the dinner, is it like one big kind of dinner event?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Is that like a Saturday night event? Or, when does that normally happen?

D.C. Deputy: It's usually, again, depending on how it falls on the calendar, but it's usually like the night before everybody leaves.
Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: Mm-hmm (affirmative). There's usually watch the fireworks after dinner.

Sean Quinn: And do you attend that dinner?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: I attend all the meet-ups, and events.

Sean Quinn: And I assume Jon and the congressman ...

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: ... also attend those dinners? How about the families?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: So everybody's at the dinner?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Can you describe, kind of, a typical day at the ... How much time are you spending at the parks, for example? When you're at Disney?

D.C. Deputy: That's a good question.

Sean Quinn: I'm sure when it's hot, it feels like a long time.

D.C. Deputy: With a three-year-old.

Sean Quinn: Yep.

D.C. Deputy: Like I said, there's ... I know we had breakfast meet-ups. There's the one day where we do the sit-down breakfast, but then there's a breakfast meet-up. So meet up with folks. And then usually go to the park, and then there's at least two meet-ups at the park. Right around ... 

Sean Quinn: Each day?

D.C. Deputy: ... lunch time, and mid-afternoon. Like an ice cream snack.
Sean Quinn: Okay. So the difference between like, the breakfast event and the meet-up is, the meet-up's just a little less formal?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Kind of shorter?

D.C. Deputy: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: Like, meet up for an ice cream cone, or something?

D.C. Deputy: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: And you go to all those as well?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Does your family go to the meet-ups with you?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: Does Congressman Huizenga have a meet-up every day? During these events?

D.C. Deputy: Yes. That I can recall, yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then can you, I think I have kind of an idea, kind of, schedule-wise what's happening. But, can you describe to me what sort of work for the campaign you're doing, while you're on this trip?

D.C. Deputy: Again, just making sure everything's, kind of, set up. One being sure for the dinner, or the actual sit-down breakfast, make sure the room is all set up, name tags. Greet people as they're coming in. Be sure the congressman knows who's coming that day, because not everybody comes . . .

D.C. Deputy: . . . .to things.

Sean Quinn: And what normally, first, is Jon kind of performing a similar role?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.
Sean Quinn: What do you all's families normally do, while you're doing that sort of work?

D.C. Deputy: So for my family, they're usually with me. If I do go down a lot earlier, then they will stay in our room.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And why do you have your family with you, when you're doing that sort of work?

D.C. Deputy: Because most of the lobbyists, they like to bring their families, and so it just kind of helps put everybody at ease. It's more informal, it gives people a good chance to really see the personal side of people.

Omar Ashmawy: When your family's not assisting you with a campaign activity, are they in the room? Or are they in a hotel? Or ...

D.C. Deputy: They're in the room.

Omar Ashmawy: They stay in the room. Okay.

D.C. Deputy: She's very small.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Sean Quinn: Would you say you, maybe let's split. Do you get any free time with your family, when you're on these Disney trips?

D.C. Deputy: Very little.

Sean Quinn: Very little. Give me an idea of what, kind of, how you split it up between work and the personal time that you get, on these trips.

D.C. Deputy: I'd say maybe a couple hours in between events, if that.

Omar Ashmawy: So you would describe this as Huizenga for Congress events all day, every day?

D.C. Deputy: Yep.

Omar Ashmawy: How about Jon DeWitt? Where is he going while you're doing these events?

D.C. Deputy: Jon's usually in the same function as me, doing ... What exactly do you mean?
Omar Ashmawy: Well, when you're helping get ready for these events, and going from event to event, where is Jon?

D.C. Deputy: Jon and I are usually helping with the events, with the setting up the room, the name tags, those sorts of things when the event takes place, because they're along with I until the events over.

Omar Ashmawy: Where is Mr. DeWitt's family?

D.C. Deputy: I'm sorry?

Omar Ashmawy: Where is Mr. DeWitt's family?

D.C. Deputy: I don't know.

Omar Ashmawy: Are they with him?

D.C. Deputy: Many times, yes. I don't know about all the time, I don't remember.

Sean Quinn: Okay, looking at this, the document that you have in front of you, the March 17-20, 2016 reimbursement chart that you submitted. Can you give me an idea of what ... Does the campaign cover all of your expenses during that trip? Or, there anything that you personally cover?

D.C. Deputy: The only thing that I would personally cover would be maybe a souvenir, something along those, I'm sure.

Sean Quinn: And so all your meals are covered during the trip?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And all the meals for your husband and your daughter, as well?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And it looks like ... I see on a few of these forms that normally you rent the stroller.

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And I assume it's a pain to travel with a stroller.

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And so the campaign covers the stroller?
D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Talking about this document, give me an idea of how you ... So you go on the trip, you kind of keep track of everything you're spending money on. And then you turn this document in to get reimbursed for whatever payments you've made, for the trip?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Who do you turn this in to?

D.C. Deputy: Jon and our finance person.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Who is the finance person?

D.C. Deputy: We have a new one now. Paul, don't remember his last name. I have it in my contacts.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: Sorry.

Sean Quinn: That's okay. And then the old finance person?

D.C. Deputy: Ron.

Sean Quinn: Ron?

D.C. Deputy: Vander-

Sean Quinn: Vanderkolk

D.C. Deputy: Vanderkolk, yes. Unfortunately, he passed away.

Sean Quinn: Right. And so you would turn this in to Ron or your new finance guy, and Jon would have some visibility?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Over that, as well?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: How did reimbursement generally work? You were just cut a check for ...
D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. How did you know to do this Excel spreadsheet format, for example?

D.C. Deputy: Coming from the private sector. It's how we do our expenses.

Sean Quinn: Were there any particular policies, kind of, in Huizenga's office, or for the campaign, about how to request reimbursement? Or, what you could be reimbursed for?

D.C. Deputy: Not that I'm aware of.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And did other folks kind of follow different methods for requesting reimbursements? Or, is theirs the same?

D.C. Deputy: I don't know.

Sean Quinn: Don't know. But you never had, like, a training on how to do reimbursements?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Or handle reimbursements?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: The new finance person, whose name you can't remember ...

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Any chance it's Paul Kilgore?

D.C. Deputy: That sounds familiar. I know it's Paul. Again, I have it in my contacts. I ...

Sean Quinn: So I would guess you don't interface with Paul too much?

D.C. Deputy: Not a lot, no.

Sean Quinn: Basically, just when you're submitting ...

D.C. Deputy: Correct.
Sean Quinn: ... these sort of ... okay. The cab fare, I assume, is just to and from an airport?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Or, was there some other sort of transportation going on?

D.C. Deputy: Nope. To and from the airport.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I'll give this to you, just in case it helps you again, but a similar document, McManus HFC Disney trip April 6th to 9th, 2017. It's another reimbursement request. And so this would be the next year? The 2017 Disney trip, right?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And who was on the 2017 trip?

D.C. Deputy: My family. My husband and daughter, myself.

Sean Quinn: And then Jon and the congressman?

D.C. Deputy: Jon and the congressman, their families.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And that is going to be the same for the 2018 trip?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I'll stop asking that question, then. And it looks like kind of similar requests for disbursements. Did ... The park tickets, I'll just ask you about quickly. What sort of park ticket did you get? Was it a pass to all the parks?

D.C. Deputy: No. It was just a daily.

Sean Quinn: Just a daily?

D.C. Deputy: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: Okay. And why did you do it that way?

D.C. Deputy: Um ...
Sean Quinn: I admittedly have not been to Disney in a few years, so I'm not sure, but I know there's like a hundred different combinations of types of park tickets, and...

D.C. Deputy: Right. Honestly I don't remember. So, probably the easiest and the cheapest.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I remember seeing, in some of the documents the congressman produced to us, e-mails about getting fast passes for the member and his family, or for folks kind of on the trip. Do you know if you ever had any of those fast passes?

D.C. Deputy: I never had a fast pass.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: For all the trips that you've taken, in support of Congressman Huizenga's annual trip to Disney, has your family joined you?

D.C. Deputy: Yes. There was one year that Sloan was not there.

Omar Ashmawy: For each of those years, did the campaign pick up the entirety of the tab, minus souvenirs or things like that?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: On the reimbursements, just kind of the last procedural thing, for how your office handles those. Have you ever seen the finished product? Which is the FEC report that lists this reimbursement?

D.C. Deputy: I have not.

Sean Quinn: Okay. You've never seen those reports?

D.C. Deputy: Never.

Sean Quinn: And you didn't have anything to do with creating those reports?

D.C. Deputy: Never.

Sean Quinn: I'm relatively close to done with Disney stuff. Do you have other Disney stuff you want to talk about?

Omar Ashmawy: No.
Sean Quinn: Beat dead horses around here a little bit, sorry.

D.C. Deputy: You have questions.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I understand there are a couple of other kinds of trips you take with the campaign. You mentioned the Beer Tour?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Can you tell me a little bit about that?

D.C. Deputy: What exactly would you like to know?

Sean Quinn: What kind of trip was it? Who was on the ... Let's start with ... Describe the trip, itself. How long did it last?

D.C. Deputy: It's usually, like, a day-and-a-half. Maybe two days. It's like a fly in on a ... It's not always, but say a Thursday. Thursday night there's a dinner. Friday there's the visiting the breweries. There's a dinner that night, and then fly home the following day.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And who would go on these... the Michigan Beer Tour?

D.C. Deputy: Just myself. Or do you mean more in general?

Sean Quinn: Let's talk about from the Huizenga office or campaign first. You and the Congressman-

D.C. Deputy: And Jon.

Sean Quinn: And Jon, okay... and how about was this one a family trip, or just you three?

D.C. Deputy: Just us three.

Sean Quinn: And is that a Huizenga event, or are there other Congressmen, or... are there other Congressmen that go on that trip-

D.C. Deputy: It's a-

Sean Quinn: ... with you?

D.C. Deputy: It's a Huizenga event. I think it was this past year we did have a special guest... another member of Congress.
Sean Quinn: Can you explain that concept a little bit. I mean, I generally understand the concept of the special guest, but I've seen it used in a particular way. Jon DeWitte told us earlier this morning that, for example, he wouldn't go on the Sea Island trip because the Congressman was a special guest, so it sounds like maybe he was entitled to fewer attendees or something. Is that-

D.C. Deputy: Correct.

Sean Quinn: ... can you describe the special guest situation?

D.C. Deputy: It's mainly... the whole idea of having a special guest is to try and generate more interest in having people come, because-

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: ... you are now getting access to not just one, but in this case, two members.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: So, then generally your special guest does not bring the staff.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Gotcha. And why is that? Is that just a-

D.C. Deputy: It's usually just a spacing-

Sean Quinn: Spacing. Okay.

D.C. Deputy: ... issue.

Sean Quinn: Was the... we were talking about who from Huizenga went to the Michigan Beer Tour... was it aimed at a particular industry? Or-

D.C. Deputy: It was primarily financial services people.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: But, there were a few folks that weren't financial services.

Sean Quinn: And who were those other folks? Just from different industries?

D.C. Deputy: There was one from a grocery... grocery stores. There was one from an energy company that was Michigan based. So, usually they had Michigan connections-
Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: ... that I can remember.

Sean Quinn: And does the beer tour that you have been describing so far... what year did that happen?

D.C. Deputy: When did we start that?... Five years ago, roughly, I think was the very first one. And we've done it annually. It's grown over the years.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And so, that's a financial services focused event. I understand Representative Huizenga also goes on a Deer Valley trip-

D.C. Deputy: He does.

Sean Quinn: ... with some frequency, and that's also a financial services focused event?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Did you go on that trip?

D.C. Deputy: I did not.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Any reason why you didn't go on that one?

D.C. Deputy: No particular reason. I think it only gets so many people.

Sean Quinn: Do you know – so, it's kind of a space issue? Just the number of slots-

D.C. Deputy: I believe so, but I don't recall that.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Do you know if Mr. DeWitte went on the Deer Valley trip?

D.C. Deputy: He went... I believe that he went last... or, was it this year? I believe that he's gone again.

Sean Quinn: 2017 or 2018?

D.C. Deputy: Yes. Recently.

Sean Quinn: And do you know if any of the kids went on that trip?

D.C. Deputy: I don't know.
Sean Quinn: Would... when you talk about a scarcity of space, or a certain number of slots on the trip, if the Congressman and Jon went and they brought kids, would those kids take up some of that space, or...

D.C. Deputy: Possibly, again depending on how things are set up. I'm not involved in organizing the Deer Valley one, so I don't know much about it.

Sean Quinn: When you are talking about the space that's available, do you mean the number of rooms at a hotel, or just... do you have an idea of the number of people you want at the event and there's some cap on that?

D.C. Deputy: Usually it is the number of hotel rooms, but it's also... we do have a certain amount when it comes to the meals, the functions, those sorts of things.

Sean Quinn: So, okay... and you've gone on all of the beer tours-

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: ... since they started five years ago?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then, we also... the Congressman produced a document about a... The Congressman produced in a folder, under your name, a similar Excel spreadsheet requesting reimbursement for some expenses. This says McManus Michigan Golf Trip, August one to third, 2017.

D.C. Deputy: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: And so, is this another type of fundraising trip that... ?

D.C. Deputy: We've done the golf trip a couple of... maybe, more like a couple of years, three years, maybe more, but yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And does it happen around the same time every year... late summer?

D.C. Deputy: It's usually in August.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And kind of similar questions for this event... can you describe the event itself, and then we can talk about the people that are there and the focus of the event.

D.C. Deputy: Sure.
Sean Quinn: How long does it last?

D.C. Deputy: It's usually, again this is another one that is roughly three days. Folks fly in play golf, there is dinner that night, the next day there is breakfast, play golf, another dinner that night and then the third day... there's three rounds of golf, usually, not always.

Sean Quinn: I see you are a runner. Are you a golfer too?

D.C. Deputy: I'm a hacker. I play more croquet than I do golf.

Sean Quinn: You are an attempted golfer.

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: [inaudible].

Sean Quinn: Is the Congressman a big golfer?

D.C. Deputy: He does golf.

Sean Quinn: How about Jon?

D.C. Deputy: He golfs as well.

Sean Quinn: Also, sounds like an attempted golfer.

D.C. Deputy: Yes. You will say that when you see Jon DeWitte's swing. I would not say that to Jon's face.

Sean Quinn: These interviews are confidential, and Jon will not find out about your-

D.C. Deputy: This is something that I would say to him as well.

Sean Quinn: It sounded like from Jon, he and the Congressman are skiers. Are you a skier?

D.C. Deputy: I am not.

Sean Quinn: No? Okay. I attempted skiing for the first time this year. I would say it is pretty fun.

D.C. Deputy: Yeah.
Sean Quinn: Yeah... Okay. So, you didn't go on the Deer Valley trips. We talked about the golf trip. Are there any other standard trips or... that we haven't talked about yet?

D.C. Deputy: Not that I can remember.

Sean Quinn: So, no recurring, yearly trips that we haven't talked about?

D.C. Deputy: Not that I can remember.

Sean Quinn: How about any one-off trips that you can think of?

D.C. Deputy: No. Primarily, I've done the Disney, the golf, beer as far as trips go.

Omar Ashmawy: Did you ever travel to New York or Boston or other cities to do fundraisers, any activities?

D.C. Deputy: I've traveled a couple... maybe once or twice to New York with the Congressman.

Sean Quinn: How about Mackinac Island?

D.C. Deputy: Never been.

Sean Quinn: Never. Okay, but there is a... I understand it's the Republican – Michigan Republican leadership convention there.

D.C. Deputy: They do have a Michigan Republican event there, yes.

Sean Quinn: Have you ever been involved helping set that up or plan that event?

D.C. Deputy: Not that one, no.

Sean Quinn: Okay... When you go up to New York, what kind of events are you doing? I guess you said you've been maybe once or twice?

D.C. Deputy: Correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And what do you-

D.C. Deputy: That's within the eight years of working for them.

Sean Quinn: Right. Do you remember the sorts of things that you did when you were in New York?
D.C. Deputy: Meetings, dinner, couple of lunches. That was only out one day, back the next.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Any entertainment events?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Seeing a Broadway show or anything like that?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: For the New York trips, is it normally just the Congressman and Mr. DeWitte that go on these trips?

D.C. Deputy: Usually, yes. The times I've gone was when Jon was unable to attend.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then I think I asked you this about the beer tour, but let's just go back. For the beer tour and the golf trip, did your family or any family members from the Huizenga campaign or office go to those trips?

D.C. Deputy: Mrs. Huizenga would show up for one event on the beer tour,-

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: ... and she would usually try and show up for the dinner on the golf trip but not always because it's a significant distance.

Sean Quinn: Could you tell me where does the golf trip happen?

D.C. Deputy: It's north of our area... Grand Rapids.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And how about the beer tour?

D.C. Deputy: The beer tour is Grand Rapids and Holland.

Sean Quinn: We talked a little bit about that you essentially would submit your reimbursements to whoever the finance person was at the time... either Ron or Paul. Jon had some oversight into that. Did... do any of the... you have three staffers in Representative Huizenga's office, right?

D.C. Deputy: They report to me, yes.

Sean Quinn: And do they do any work for the campaign?

D.C. Deputy: Very little.
Sean Quinn: Okay. Do they submit reimbursements?

D.C. Deputy: I don't know.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Who are those three that work for you?

D.C. Deputy: Palmer Rafferty is our Legislative Director, and we have a sen-

Sean Quinn: Sorry, what was the first name?

D.C. Deputy: Palmer.

Sean Quinn: Palmer, okay.

D.C. Deputy: He's our LD. And there's Senior LA, Trevor Tenbrink.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

D.C. Deputy: And then we have an LC slash LA, kind of a junior LA, Andrew Kohlrieser.

Sean Quinn: So, to the extent that they worked for the campaign, you've never seen any of their reimbursements?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Would it be the same people that oversee that for them... it would be the finance person and Jon?

D.C. Deputy: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

Sean Quinn: I'm getting close to the end, but maybe if we can take a few minutes break-

Omar Ashmawy: Yep.

Sean Quinn: ... talk to Omar, and then we'll wrap things up.

D.C. Deputy: Sure.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Unless you have anything immediately on your mind?

Omar Ashmawy: No, I don't have anything immediate.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I'll pause this then.
And we are back on the record. Omar-

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah, D.C. Deputy, I just wanted to just follow up on one question, I'm not sure I got it. Small question about procedure – when you would submit your request for reimbursement, who would they go to?

D.C. Deputy: They would go to Jon and the finance person. So, at the time, Ron and then once Ron had passed away, Paul.

Omar Ashmawy: But, on each occasion to Jon and whoever was the finance person?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Do you know if Jon had any role in the approval process? Why was Jon included on the request for reimbursement?

D.C. Deputy: Jon, being my supervisor, I think he had the most contact with the finance person. I don't know if he had any kind of say in the approval process. I don't know.

Omar Ashmawy: That's all I have.

Sean Quinn: And I just have a couple more questions - just kind of generally about conversations you might have had with Jon or the Congressman. Did you ever discuss the idea of whether or not it was appropriate to bring your family on campaign event trips, or just kind of it was just always something that you guys did?

D.C. Deputy: I don't remember ever having that conversation.

Sean Quinn: No conversations like that?

D.C. Deputy: No. Not that I can recall.

Sean Quinn: And then, for these trips like the Disney trip, for example, I know you weren't paid for the work that you did on the campaign... did you see these trips as sort of like a thank you for some of the work you had done on the campaign?

D.C. Deputy: No. That's not how I viewed it.

Sean Quinn: Did you ever have any conversations with Jon or the Congressman along those lines?

D.C. Deputy: No... Not that I can recall.
Sean Quinn: I guess in a similar vein, the way you described the Disney trip with your family, I appreciate your doing... it sounds like a lot of work during that trip. I guess if you are working that much during the trip, why did you want to bring your family on those trips?

D.C. Deputy: Because, it's time away from my family when I'm gone. And so, just having them close when I can spend time-

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

D.C. Deputy: ... with them is very helpful.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Okay, great. I think that's... Oh sorry, one other thing... Can you tell me have you had any communications with anybody about the OCE's review?

D.C. Deputy: I have not.

Sean Quinn: Not with Mr. DeWitte?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: And not with the Congressman?

D.C. Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I assume you've had communications with your counsel?

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Did you meet earlier today?

D.C. Deputy: With my counsel?

Sean Quinn: With your counsel.

D.C. Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And how long did you meet with him?

D.C. Deputy: I don't know. Roughly...

Sean Quinn: An hour, two hours?

D.C. Deputy: Roughly 45 minutes.
1 Sean Quinn: Did you look at any documents when you were with your counsel?

2 D.C. Deputy: Not that I can recall.

3 Sean Quinn: Did you guys talk about Mr. DeWitte's interview?

4 D.C. Deputy: No.

5 Sean Quinn: Okay. I think that's everything that I have.

6 Omar Ashmawy: Yeah. Thank you very much for your time-

7 D.C. Deputy: You're welcome.

8 Omar Ashmawy: We appreciate it.

9 D.C. Deputy: You're welcome.

10 Charlie Spies: Yeah... you're going to wish you were [crosstalk].
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Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

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This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [Redacted]

Witness Signature: [Redacted]

Date: 07/26/2019
EXHIBIT 3
Transcript of Interview of Michigan Deputy

Review No. 19-2187
June 27, 2019
Okay, I'm starting the recording. Today is June 27, 2019. We're at the offices of the law firm of Clark Hill in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the interview of Michigan Deputy. Ms. Sandberg is accompanied by her counsel, Derek Ross. Speaking is Sean Quinn from the Office of Congressional Ethics, and I'm here with Omar Ashmawy.

The witness has been given a copy of 18 U.S.C. 1001 and has signed the acknowledgment. Okay, so we can start with kind of the easy stuff. Jim was telling us your name is Michigan Deputy, but is that a maiden name that you also go by? Jim called you Heather C... something that starts with a C, I think.

No? Okay.

I've never gone by this name.

Okay. Okay. Well anyway, it's Michigan Deputy. Can you just start just giving me a little bit about your background, are you from Michigan?

From Michigan, yes.

Did you go to school in Michigan?

I did, yes.

Where'd you go?

Grand Valley State.

So you guys are a whole Grand Valley crew, huh?

Well, I guess so. Difference in years.

Yeah. What did you study at Grand Valley?

Public Administration.

Okay, and then maybe if you can give me kind of a quick sketch of – graduated from Grand Valley, how did you get to -

Graduated from Grand Valley in '96, and then went to work for the city of Muskegon in the City Manager's Office, handling more local government issues, and then there was an opening for Congressman Pete Hoekstra's office and they were looking to expand their outreach with local
government as well as district projects which affect large numbers of
groups of people. So I applied for and got that job.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: And that was in 2001.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: So I worked for Congressman Hoekstra the whole time he was in office.
He retired, ran for Governor. Bill ran for Pete's seat during Pete's
campaign for Governor. He lost and then Bill ultimately won his seat, and
then ran for Congress.

Sean Quinn: Gotcha.

Michigan Deputy: And I had worked with Bill for Pete, early on.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Okay.

Michigan Deputy: Because he left.

Sean Quinn: So Bill works for Pete, and then Matt's, Matt Kooiman's father worked
with you at all in Pete's office?

Michigan Deputy: I actually took his job.

Sean Quinn: Oh, okay. Gotcha.

Michigan Deputy: When he ran for state office. That's why there was an opening.

Sean Quinn: Okay, got it. And I think you said this, but what was that position?

Michigan Deputy: I don't know what they called it exactly. District projects manager, maybe,
initially.

Sean Quinn: And then you were one of the initial hires for Representative Huizenga's
office?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: What position were you hired into?
Michigan Deputy: Deputy chief of staff I think was my title, district deputy chief of staff. Initially we dropped the district part because it was just too much of a mouthful.

Sean Quinn: And is that your position today?

Michigan Deputy: It is. Yeah. Just deputy chief of staff.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then, so you're on the district, and then Marliss is the deputy chief of staff in D.C.?

Michigan Deputy: Correct, yep. She handles more of the policy end of things. I handle all of the issues that are impacting the district back here.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then, to the extent that you guys have sort of an administrative hat as well, do you and Marliss share those duties?

Michigan Deputy: No, I primarily do them. The budget, I work with Bill on the budget just to monitor the MRAs and where we are at in different categories. It's normally a chief function, probably, but, it's just- I guess I'm good at it. Ended up doing that. And then, with some of the House changes, in the way that they process vouchers and things like that, they've gone to a new system which if you're unfamiliar, it required someone to be the enterer, someone to be the approver, so we have a finance person who- so all of the invoices come in, you know, look at it. If it looks right, send it to Mary Ellen, she puts it in, and then I have to be the approver.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Sorry, did you say there's somebody in between, that somebody before Mary Ellen that's looking at invoices? Or Mary Ellen's the one who’s looking at –

Michigan Deputy: No, let's say we get a Verizon bill or something in the office. Someone else could receive it, but then they send it to Mary Ellen and I. And she will wait for me to say yeah, that looks okay, to input or, if it looks like they have something wrong on there and didn't pay that last bill.

Sean Quinn: Gotcha. So you do sort of spot checks as bills or invoices come in.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah. So, for instance, there was a fireside invoice for Tele-Town Halls. Early on let's say it's like, I don't know, it was an odd amount, I can't recall it now. But a decent sized bill that we paid for a set of Town Halls, and then our communications guy sent Mary Ellen and I an invoice a few months later, and I was like, "Man, that seems like the exact same dollar amount. I know we haven't used all our Tele-Town Halls, go back." And I'm like, "Hey, did you see this? The invoice number is different but the
amount is exactly the same, maybe because it's an unusual amount, like, that strikes me as being duplicative."

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: Sure enough, it was. They double billed us. So that's really my role.

Sean Quinn: Gotcha. So those spot checks, do you ever do any kind of general audits of the budget or your books?

Michigan Deputy: We meet quarterly to review where we're at in certain categories, or try to, to the best of our ability, meet quarterly.

Sean Quinn: And that's mostly just to see if you're on track-

Michigan Deputy: On target, yep.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And so, Mary Ellen is doing the finance in the official office and then on the campaign side, you have someone else that does that work, right?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And who are those?

Michigan Deputy: Well, it was Ron. He died.

Sean Quinn: Passed away, yeah.

Michigan Deputy: And now Paul handles all the invoices for the campaign.

Sean Quinn: Can you give me an idea of the reporting structure? Who do you report to? Let's start with that. Who do you report to?

Michigan Deputy: Which? Official, campaign, what are you talking about?

Sean Quinn: Let's start with official and then we can- let's do official and then we'll talk about campaign.

Michigan Deputy: Okay. I guess technically, I would report to Jon DeWitte, but Bill's got a pretty flat office where if you need anything from him directly we can all just go to him with any questions. So I suppose technically it would be Jon DeWitte, but it could also be Bill.
Sean Quinn: Are there particular things that Jon handles, like certain issues you would go to Jon as opposed to Bill?

Michigan Deputy: Hm, more theoretical I guess, so we're dealing with a lot of tariff issues right now, more bouncing things off of him. Like, how do you think we should best handle this, which usually wouldn't only involve him, it would involve some other people on our team. And those are really kind of the things that I go to him for.

Sean Quinn: Gotcha. And then everything else, you kind of go straight to Bill.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah. I guess so.

Sean Quinn: And then, again, on the official side, who do you have reporting to you?

Michigan Deputy: Basically everybody in the district.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And how many employees do you have here in the district?

Michigan Deputy: We just had one add. Seven. And Boomer, he kind of is. He was a DC original guy, and then he moved out here to do communications. So technically he still- more deals with Jon, but he's based here in the district, so I've got him.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Is Boomer the communications guy that you're talking about that received that double invoice?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Is Boomer from Michigan?

Michigan Deputy: Yes, I think he grew up in Rockford.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then so Matt also reports to you, Matt Kooiman?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And what's his position?

Michigan Deputy: He's now our district director, so he took over for Greg VanWoerkom, who ran for office - the cycle repeats itself.

Sean Quinn: Right.

Michigan Deputy: He ran for the state House.
Sean Quinn: Can you kind of describe Matt's position for me?

Michigan Deputy: So, as district director, basically the two of us are the primary outreach people for the whole district. So meetings that need being covered, the whole district, that's basically the two of us to cover. To meet with people, and the whole... people have a million reasons for needing to... it's our job to meet

Sean Quinn: Right. There's a cat in the tree, and the representative needs to solve that problem.

Michigan Deputy: Right.

Sean Quinn: Do you guys split up the district in any way?

Michigan Deputy: No, so I have certain issues that I've kept, just because I did them from the beginning. Army Corps of Engineers is mine, transportation I still do a lot of, EPA, which I handle as well, to an extent, some of our super fund sites have dropped off, so that's good. Coast Guard, we have a lot of water in our district, a whole shoreline, a lot of harbors and there's a ton of related-especially right now, water's high, so there's a lot of issues related to that.

Sean Quinn: Jon was telling us that there was a lot of rain and that the corn's not getting planted.

Michigan Deputy: Well, I don't do ag. He can work on that one.

Sean Quinn: Let's see. We can talk about the campaign side now a little bit.

Michigan Deputy: Okay.

Sean Quinn: Do you have a position with the campaign as well?

Michigan Deputy: I do some Michigan fundraising. I don't think I really have a title.

Sean Quinn: How long have you been doing the campaign work?

Michigan Deputy: I think it was 2000- his first year in office would have been 2011. I want to say it was- the best I can remember, 2012, when I started?

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you worked in the official office first, then started taking on some campaign work as well?

Michigan Deputy: Right. And I think he got rid of his campaign- or, the fundraiser person.
Sean Quinn: We'll come back to some of the campaign work, but just quickly. Any employment that we haven't talked about yet? Any other jobs or positions?

Michigan Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: And you said you met the congressman when you were working for Pete?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: Are you pretty close with the congressman, like friends outside of work?

Michigan Deputy: We don't hang out, but I mean we've worked together on and off for almost twenty years. So we have a friendly relationship.

Sean Quinn: Do you know the congressman's family pretty well?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: But that's mostly through campaign-

Michigan Deputy: Right. Just from running into them on occasions. More Natalie than the kids.

Sean Quinn: Does Natalie work a lot on the campaign?

Michigan Deputy: I mean, I know that she's involved on the scheduling side of things, I don't work with that myself so I really probably couldn't speak to what she does.

Sean Quinn: And then a similar kind of relationship to Jon and his family? You know them through work?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah. Same sort of scenario. I probably worked more closely with him when he was in Michigan, and he's been gone a long time. Now I've met Jodi and the kids, our kids were born around the same time. So we don't see each other socially because he doesn't even live here.

Sean Quinn: Yeah, he's been in DC for a while, huh?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah, he has.

Sean Quinn: And are you married?

Michigan Deputy: I am.

Sean Quinn: Is it- is Tom your husband?
Michigan Deputy: Yep.

Sean Quinn: And you said you have kids?

Michigan Deputy: We do.

Sean Quinn: How many... two kids. How old are they?

Michigan Deputy: Fifteen and thirteen.

Sean Quinn: And do Tom or the kids do campaign work also?

Michigan Deputy: No, not on a regular basis.

Sean Quinn: Sorry, what was that?

Michigan Deputy: Tom will help out if- or, they'll help stuff envelopes or something.

Sean Quinn: Right. How about the other families, so either Bill's family or Jon's family? Or anybody else, are there any family members that are particularly active in the campaign?


Sean Quinn: Any other family members, either Bill's family or Jon's family, that work on the campaign a lot? So Natalie, or Jodie, or any of the kids?

Michigan Deputy: I don't know.

Sean Quinn: Kind of comparing your work for the campaign and your official work, how do you split your time between those two positions?

Michigan Deputy: Well, the official office is all primarily during the day, there will be evening events to cover, dinners and things like that. And then the campaign is just nights and weekends, putting together events, which are always in the evening. So staffing that when we have them in Michigan, sending out thank you notes.

Sean Quinn: Does that work kind of ebb and flow based on how you are to an election?

Michigan Deputy: Somewhat. A lot of it is based on his availability, so this year, he hasn't had a lot of dates that he's been back in Michigan, so I think we had probably only one event so far. This year. But summer will bring more. It's a little bit seasonal and sometimes, you know obviously in campaign years, there's more time, typically.
Sean Quinn: Gotcha.

Michigan Deputy: ... to have events.

Sean Quinn: So you mostly handle the fundraising side?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Is there anything else in the campaign that you work on?

Michigan Deputy: No, I guess now I'm getting the mail. Now that Ron has passed away. But that also relates to fundraising because it's really the only thing we get in the mail room. Checks and invoices, invoices go to Paul, and then checks go my way, so.

Sean Quinn: I know Ron passed away, was it January of this year?

Michigan Deputy: I think so.

Sean Quinn: And then, but Paul had taken over before that, right?

Michigan Deputy: He's been sick for a while. So he had ALS, I guess, to the best of my knowledge or anybody's, what he says it was- the diagnosis. So really, last summer he started getting worse, so we kind of knew we had to make a different plan.

Sean Quinn: Right.

Michigan Deputy: For worst case scenario.

Sean Quinn: And is that when Paul took over, and that's when you started receiving whatever mail Ron would have received before?

Michigan Deputy: Yep, to the best of my knowledge. And Matt helps a little bit with that as well.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And you are- are you paid for your work on the campaign?

Michigan Deputy: I am.

Sean Quinn: And how are you paid?

Michigan Deputy: Monthly, and then there's a commission based on Michigan, what we raised.
Sean Quinn: So you have a monthly salary?

Michigan Deputy: Mm-hmm.

Sean Quinn: And then your commission. How does the commission work?

Michigan Deputy: It's 5%.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Other than the monthly salary and the 5% commission, any other forms of compensation for your campaign work?

Michigan Deputy: Uh-uh (negative).

Speaker 1: And then who else is on the paid campaign staff?

Michigan Deputy: I don't do the disbursements, but I'd just seen a sheet one time with some names. So I think Matt ... I mean this is all a total guess.

Speaker 1: Sure.

Michigan Deputy: I think Matt, I think Boomer, me, I think Jim, and that might be it.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Let's talk some about the fundraising events. Who else helps you plan those events?

Michigan Deputy: Usually, I do it all myself.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: We have a golf outing that Matt will help with. That's a little bigger than one person can handle.

Sean Quinn: Got you, and you only do events that are in Michigan?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Does somebody else handle events outside of Michigan?

Michigan Deputy: Yes, a fundraiser in D.C.

Sean Quinn: And who is that?

Michigan Deputy: That’s the Oorbeek group.

Sean Quinn: Orby?
Michigan Deputy: Oorbeek.

Omar Ashmawy: Oorbeek.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Oh Oorbeek. Got you. Yeah, yeah. Okay and how about the events that are not in DC? So we've heard that Jon and Bill go to New York and Boston sometimes to do fundraising. You don't do that?

Marliss McManus: Uh-uh. (negative).

Sean Quinn: Okay. How about, I know there's a yearly trip to Disney. Do you have anything to do with planning that?

Michigan Deputy: I do not.

Sean Quinn: Have you ever gone on that trip?

Michigan Deputy: I have not.

Sean Quinn: I know there's also a Deer Valley trip. Anything to do with that one?

Michigan Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then as far as the ones in Michigan, things I've heard about theirs, so the golf outing that you mentioned, where does that happen?

Michigan Deputy: The annual one that he does is at Macatawa Legends.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: And then he has on occasion one up North. I know I've had to help with that just staffing wise, but I don't think it's happened in the last two years.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then there's also a beer tour.

Michigan Deputy: Mm-hmm. (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: Can you tell me a little bit about that?

Michigan Deputy: Once I arrange transportation for them, it's really more sending local contacts to the DC fundraiser.

Sean Quinn: Okay.
Michigan Deputy: So I sent them the name of a bus company that would be able to accommodate and then they handle it from there, and I did a welcome whatever glass and thanks for being here gift.

Sean Quinn: Oh okay. Got you. So you'll give contacts to the Oorbeek group-

Michigan Deputy: Correct.

Sean Quinn: And then they kind of set up most of that event?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And why do they do that one as opposed to you?

Michigan Deputy: That's more PAC folks.

Sean Quinn: Oh, okay.

Michigan Deputy: I do individuals.

Sean Quinn: Individuals. Okay. So the golf tour, the beer tour – I know there's ... Every other year there's a Republican Leadership Conference in Mackinac. Is that a fundraising event?

Michigan Deputy: I don't know. I don't go.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Have you heard about that trip though?

Michigan Deputy: I have known that there's a couple of things in Mackinaw. I think Detroit, Chamber has one and I want to say there's something else. I don't know whose is whose and when it is but-

Sean Quinn: Okay. But they’re not big fundraising events for you guys?

Michigan Deputy: Well, not that I'm involved with.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: That I would know about. They may do PAC fundraising there or anything I'm not personally involved in.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: To the best of my knowledge.
Sean Quinn: Any other kind of recurring or a yearly fundraisers that we haven't talked about?

Michigan Deputy: I mean we have several individual, we've been trying to do them more geographically based, Grand Rapids, Muskegon. Nobody's got the dates but the ones that you're mentioning are PAC ones.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Got you. Are the individual events normally smaller than these kind of organized PAC events?

Michigan Deputy: It depends. I think they're starting to build a decent group for the beer tour. Apparently these are thing now.

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: So I think those are maybe getting larger with every year, but we'll have a range of people depending on the year, depending on the date for an event in Muskegon, or an event in Grand Rapids. Last year's Grand Rapids event was very big. The years before was not, so-

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: Just depends.

Sean Quinn: And I know you said you don't do it on the New York, or the Boston trip, or the Disney trip. Have you ever traveled with the campaign for any fundraiser outside of the state?

Michigan Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then just kind of going back to some of the structure and who handles what on the official side and on the campaign side. So Ron and now Paul do the finance work for the campaign?

Michigan Deputy: Mh-hmm. (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: And then for the official office, it's Mary Ellen?

Michigan Deputy: Mh-hmm. (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then Marliss kind of works on ... I know she's sort of the financial services expert. Is that-

Michigan Deputy: Mh-hmm. (affirmative).
Sean Quinn: Okay. And then you do kind of the local stuff. Does Jon have an issue area that he focuses on?

Michigan Deputy: I think all of them.

Sean Quinn: Everything. Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: Just kind of the overseer.

Michigan Deputy: Right.

Sean Quinn: Got you.

Michigan Deputy: The policy umbrella.

Sean Quinn: Who would you ... so Jim was telling us that for ethics issues, he runs that stuff by Jon. Is that the person you would go to also?

Michigan Deputy: Probably.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Sean Quinn: And have you ever had a concern or a conversation with Jon about any ethics issues that you've wanted to check with him on?

Michigan Deputy: Not that I can recall.

Sean Quinn: How about with anybody else in the office? Just any concerns, discussions in the office about whether or not something can be handled by the campaign, or the office, or ... 

Michigan Deputy: Not to my knowledge.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So I know you said that for you and Matt, your work kind of takes you all over the district. Can you just try and describe kind of a typical week for me? Are you traveling every day? Just particular days ...

Michigan Deputy: I can tell you about today, if that helps?

Sean Quinn: Sure. Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: There's really no typical day because every day is different, every week is different, every month's different.
Michigan Deputy: But so today for example, I'm here this morning, I'll go to our Grandville office to finish up with inventory that's due, that needs to be turned into house inventory. I'll do that and then I head all the way up to Luddington. So what, I'm an hour here, I'm another half hour there, probably another two hours 15, two and a half up to Luddington to deal with an army corps issue. They've got some flooding at a museum.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: Need to get a permit to get some stuff in order. Last week I was up in Luddington for a funeral and then a few days later I was down in Mears for another army corps issue. Nobody coordinates when they call, which is fine, but there's a lot of ground to cover and there's only two of us and especially right now with the high water, well the low water doesn't do us any favors either because then nobody's getting dredged and that's a set of issues. But so yeah ...

Sean Quinn: Do you and Matt have any system for splitting up how travel works? It's just kind of whatever comes up?

Michigan Deputy: No. It's more ... Yeah, it's more who's best to suit or handle that issue.

Sean Quinn: Okay, Got you. I assume it's sort of a whack a mole game as –

Michigan Deputy: Yeah we get a lot of requests in and we can't possibly cover everything, but we know. I think you're expected to be out in the district, that's-

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: We all came from the environment. Well, I mean Matt came into it later, but Bill and I both served in an environment where the previous congressmen said, if you're at your desk every day, you're not doing your job. There's a lot of ground to cover. We have a lot of people that meet with you need to be the eyes and ears. People need to know who to come to. So we try to be at every possible thing we can all the time.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Got you.

Michigan Deputy: So today, yeah I'm here, there, up to Luddington, an hour and a half back home and thankfully no dinner tonight. So-

Sean Quinn: Right.

Michigan Deputy: Otherwise that's another 45 minutes probably to a dinner.
Sean Quinn: Yeah. Yeah. So that's kind of a look at a specific day.

Michigan Deputy: That's just my day today.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Over the course of a week, would you say you're traveling two or three days a week? Are you traveling five days a week?

Michigan Deputy: Every week is different. So there's no one answer for that. I mean, some days it's five days a week, some days it's three days a week. Some days it's –

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: Very rarely it's less than three. That's a lot and there's a lot of ground to cover- and it's a big district, so it's probably two and a half would be the best time you could make from one end to the other and prior to redistricting, we had another three counties to factor in. So that's a long way to go. Still a long way to go. But it's not metropolitan. It's a lot of driving. There's just no way around it.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Are you traveling on weekends often?

Michigan Deputy: On occasion, but yeah, I can't think of – I mean I've had some local stuff I've had to cover recently, but it'll happen.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. To the extent you can …

Michigan Deputy: Yeah I mean we've had occasion where we've had floods and so then FEMA comes in and they come, you come.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. Got you. And then when you're traveling, so it sounds like most of the work you've described so far is official work.

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Would you say most of your travel is on the official side or you’re doing a lot of campaign travel also?

Michigan Deputy: Well depending on again the year, like if it's an election year, if we have a lot of events, I'm going down now to get the mail a couple of times a week. So, last night I went and picked it up. So most of my driving will be, I would say it's hard to match as far as I can imagine. But I also drive for the campaign too, so.

Omar Ashmawy: Well, when you go pick up the mail, where's the mail?
Michigan Deputy: Zeeland.

Omar Ashmawy: Zeeland. Okay. And where are you when you start out?

Michigan Deputy: Muskegon.

Omar Ashmawy: And because I have no idea about Michigan geography –

Michigan Deputy: 45 minutes.

Omar Ashmawy: There we go. Okay. A 45 minute drive.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: And you do that about how often?

Michigan Deputy: Depending on how many chances Matt has to get there, I have to get there. We just had a direct mail piece hit, so I'll be there probably three or four times this week.

Sean Quinn: Three or four times in the week.

Michigan Deputy: Mh-hmm. (affirmative)

Sean Quinn: Got you.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah, because we only have a little PO box so we have to kind of –

Sean Quinn: And are you traveling outside the district a lot?

Michigan Deputy: For?

Sean Quinn: Official or campaign work?

Michigan Deputy: On occasion, yeah.

Sean Quinn: For your official work, what takes you outside of the district?

Michigan Deputy: So the army corps has briefings. Asian Carp was one that they recently did in Chicago.

Sean Quinn: Sorry, what was that?

Michigan Deputy: Asian Carp. Are you familiar?
Omar Ashmawy: I thought that's what you said.

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Omar Ashmawy: Asian Carp?

Sean Quinn: I thought you said you Asian Car.

Omar Ashmawy: As in the fish?

Michigan Deputy: As in the fish.

Sean Quinn: Right, it's like an invasive species –

Michigan Deputy: Yeah and there's a barrier, they're trying to prevent it from coming into Lake Michigan. The federal executive board has regional congressional briefings. Last year it was in Chicago, this year it's in Detroit. I'll go to Lansing for legislative meetings here and there. I mean Grand Rapids technically is not the heart of our district, but we have so many meetings here because the large chambers here, the economic development group is here.

Sean Quinn: Right.

Michigan Deputy: I would say all of us are in Grand Rapids a lot just because it's the closest Metropolitan hub that hosts a lot of activities and in big convention centers.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you do go outside the district, but for the most part your work is in the district?

Michigan Deputy: For the most part.

Sean Quinn: And so when you're traveling, how do you get around?

Michigan Deputy: By car.

Sean Quinn: By car. Okay.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: Personal car?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.
Sean Quinn: Okay and you're reimbursed for that mileage, right?

Michigan Deputy: Correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay. How do you keep track of your miles?

Michigan Deputy: I have a calendar I guess, if you will. And I just - yeah, so today I wrote down starting miles, tonight I'll write down ending miles and-

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: Write the total miles down in the day, and then another one for the campaign side. So I went to the P.O. Box last night, wrote down the miles. Two separate calendars.

Omar Ashmawy: How do you figure out how many miles you drive?

Michigan Deputy: The odometer.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

Sean Quinn: Matt and Jim said they use Google maps so everyone's got their own system it seems. Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: Oh yeah.

Sean Quinn: So I guess given that you use the odometer and we know Joe and Matt used Google maps, there's no set policy or like one way to do it for everybody.

Michigan Deputy: I guess not.

Sean Quinn: And then so you said you'll just write down the miles every day in the calendar and then how often do you submit those miles?

Michigan Deputy: Just depends how busy I am. So I try, but it doesn't happen that way to do monthly reimbursements because that's easiest to stay on top of and then I'm not ...

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

Michigan Deputy: Just having to deal with backlog later, but it doesn't usually happen that way. Sometimes I'll have to do one, two, three months at a time to get caught up. And it's this way that they have of doing the sheet is, it's just long, so-
1 Sean Quinn: Yeah.

2 Michigan Deputy: So and you have to sit down and have some time to do it. So that's part of the thing. I can't be on the road and I need to have some dedicated computer time.

5 Omar Ashmawy: When you say they, you mean the House of Representatives?

6 Michigan Deputy: Yes.

7 Omar Ashmawy: Okay.

8 Sean Quinn: So you have a form that you use for the official travel that gets submitted to the House.

10 Michigan Deputy: Mh-hmm.

11 Sean Quinn: Do you have anything like that for the campaign side?

12 Michigan Deputy: No. Well, oh wait, yes we do. Now we do. We used to just – you can do your own spreadsheet or whatever, but now Paul has a form.

14 Sean Quinn: Okay.

15 Sean Quinn: When you're – You live in Muskegon right?

16 Michigan Deputy: Mh-hmm. (affirmative).

17 Sean Quinn: Okay. When you're traveling, are you normally starting at home or what's your starting point normally?

19 Michigan Deputy: Primarily because I'm on the road almost every day and that's just ... I start with a morning meeting and go on from there. There are occasions if I have to go into the Grand Haven office that I'll take off from there and use that as my start point. But typically because I'm on the road so much, it is from home.

24 Sean Quinn: Okay. And so you mentioned there's the Grand Haven office. There's one other office, right?

26 Michigan Deputy: Granville, yeah.

27 Sean Quinn: Granville. A lot of Grand, Grands.

Derek Ross: I haven't been confused at all about it yet.

Sean Quinn: And like Omar, my Michigan geography's not very good. Is Muskegon closer to Grand Haven or Granville?

Michigan Deputy: Closer to Grand Haven.

Sean Quinn: Grand Haven. Okay. And so do you find yourself working out of Grand Haven more often or how do you split between the two offices?

Michigan Deputy: It just all depends. So geographically it's closer, but it really is dictated by what other meetings I have and their location. So today, I'll been in Granville, which isn't atypical either because of the majority of our staff is in Granville. So if I need to communicate with any of them on an issue I head there, and if I'm coming to Grand Rapids, like I said, is typical for an event, then that happens to be the closer office.

Sean Quinn: Okay, got you. So if you're starting from your house and then going out to some place in the district where somebody's flagged some issue for you, you would count that mileage. Is there any mileage that you don't count? Like if you're going from your house just to the Grand Haven office?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah, I don't count that. Because I think technically you're supposed to have a home base office and I think that that's what I just consider as mine, even though I haven't been there in a week and a half.

Sean Quinn: So Grand Haven is the home base office?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: Would you, if you were driving from home to Granville, would you count that?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: How far is Granville?

Michigan Deputy: 45-50 minutes.

Sean Quinn: And then the Grand Haven office is?


Sean Quinn: Any other drives you make with some frequency that you don't count as mileage?
Michigan Deputy: I suppose, but I couldn't recall.

Sean Quinn: For the most part, just home to Grand Haven.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: Don't count that though. We can just quickly look at one of these mileage reimbursements and maybe you can tell me if it looks kind of typical.

Michigan Deputy: Is it okay if I grab some more water?

Sean Quinn: Sure. Yeah, absolutely. I should've said earlier, if you need to take a break at any point just let me know.

Michigan Deputy: No, I'm just thirsty.

Sean Quinn: So this is a document that we got when we asked the congressman for certain documents and it was produced to us and it has a header that says Heather mileage September 18th to December 30th, 2015. So I recognize this is kind of an early one, but does this look like kind of how you normally would submit your mileage to Ron at that time?


Sean Quinn: Okay. So it looks like you were saying, so you live in Muskegon and you start there frequently. So that's why basically most of the start places are Mkg. Okay. And then Zeeland's where you're picking up the mail. So that's probably a lot of those trips.

Michigan Deputy: Well and it's not just mail. So we had an office, we would have had an office in 15 there, letterhead was there, you know, other supplies, envelopes. So if I needed to reload on anything all the supplies were kept down there. If we had an event then I needed to go and grab something.

Derek Ross: Can I ask you a question for clarity? Were you picking up the mail in Zeeland before Ron passed or was Ron – I'm trying just to get the timeframe when you were picking up mail?

Michigan Deputy: Well it's more regular now that Ron is not there, but it could have been an occasion if he were on vacation or if he wasn't able to be there for some reason for a couple of days.

Sean Quinn: For the ones that are like if you look at December 2nd, 2015, you have MKG local. So I assume you were just driving around Muskegon. How do you keep track of that? You're just, that's odometer also?
Michigan Deputy: Mm-hmm. (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: Okay. And what would you normally do? Just look at your odometer when you start and do the math?

Michigan Deputy: So it's not very official, but I think so. Typically.

Sean Quinn: And how, when you're writing it down like that, how do you keep track of whether it's official miles or campaign miles?

Michigan Deputy: Well today it's all official miles because that's what I'm doing. Last night was a different story and I only did – they're very separate typically.

Sean Quinn: It's easy to keep them separate. So at the end of the day, when you do that, when you've finished racking up your miles for the day, what do you do with that piece of paper?

Michigan Deputy: And then, well, the paper I don't care about, I need the number and then that goes on the calendar.

Sean Quinn: On the calendar. Okay. And you just do that every day.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you keep your calendar paper or digital on your phone?

Michigan Deputy: Oh, paper.

Sean Quinn: Do you have those calendars going back?

Michigan Deputy: I don't know that I would have them going way back. I mean, I have this year's.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Michigan Deputy: Really wouldn't have a reason probably to keep them.

Sean Quinn: And then nobody else would see that calendar though because you would check the calendar and then draw up this kind of excel sheet or list?

Michigan Deputy: Correct.

Sean Quinn: And then that's where it got submitted to Ron?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.
Sean Quinn: Okay or Mary Ellen, depending on. And you said the ideal situation is that you do it monthly. It doesn't always work out that way?

Michigan Deputy: Well, I would say more often than not, it does not work out to be monthly. I try to have a goal, I guess.

Sean Quinn: I'm going to look at one more. So I think you said when Paul took over that you have a form that you use for Paul now. I'll give you that document. So this is an expense reimbursement request and mileage reimbursement for 8-01-2018 to 8-31-2018 for Heather Sandberg. So this is the form that you now use for Paul?

Michigan Deputy: Correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Is there any more detail that's going on this form than what you used to provide to Ron?

Michigan Deputy: No. I mean it looks like it's all the same. I mean, we spell out Muskegon.

Sean Quinn: Paul's not local, right?

Michigan Deputy: Paul's not local.

Sean Quinn: Let's see. So this is about a month or it is a month. Does this look like a typical month? Is this a lot of travel, little travel?

Michigan Deputy: I mean it's hard for me to recall exactly what was going on, but it's an election year, so it's not striking me as out of the ordinary in an election year leading up to. I mean, that's a primary month. Things are gearing up.

Omar Ashmawy: The Michigan Primary is in August?

Michigan Deputy: August.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then I know you guys have a campaign van also, right?

Michigan Deputy: Mm-hmm. (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: Who uses the campaign van mostly?

Michigan Deputy: I know Matt used it to do signs. Jim, maybe, whoever else was helping with signs. It's a large transport of that stuff.

Sean Quinn: But you guys aren't using the campaign van for day to day travel for the campaign?
Michigan Deputy: No. If anything, it's in storage, actually.

Sean Quinn: It's in storage?

Michigan Deputy: I believe so.

Sean Quinn: Any reason you don't use the campaign van for standard travel?

Michigan Deputy: I think it broke down four times. It's not like the most probably reliable source of transportation. I don't want to be stranded, you know, in it.

Sean Quinn: Jim was really talking up the van. He likes the van.

Michigan Deputy: Well good for him.

Sean Quinn: But he did agree with you that it's not worth trying to travel in the van.

Michigan Deputy: Yeah. It's probably not even efficient. It's old.

Omar Ashmawy: Apparently it's a plumber's van.

Michigan Deputy: That would explain a lot then.

Sean Quinn: Were you involved in buying the van and the hot debate over the wrapping the van?

Michigan Deputy: No, but I did see a lot of emails. I just didn't comment and I thought, you guys can do what you want.

Omar Ashmawy: Wise.

Sean Quinn: I've seen a bunch of those emails too and they're entertaining. But also I noticed that on those emails, Natalie and Garrett are on them a lot. Is that typical? Do they kind of chime in and offer advice on that sort of thing?

Michigan Deputy: Natalie has a background in graphic design. So she typically would have a say in a lot of layout, our materials, logo design or working on the golf outing invitation and she'll usually have feedback about it. She likes something to look a certain way from a graphic design standpoint. It's her background so that's great. Got some good input.

Sean Quinn: And then how about Garrett? So Natalie is like your design go to. Does Garrett ...

Michigan Deputy: He's the one that looks at it from a younger set of eyes.
Sean Quinn: Got you. How old is Garrett? Is he college age?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah. He's in his last year of college, whatever age that is.

Sean Quinn: Where is he in school?


Sean Quinn: Do you know what college he's at?

Michigan Deputy: It's Kings.

Sean Quinn: Okay, cool. So then other than just being a young college age set of eyes, does Garrett do anything else for the campaign?

Michigan Deputy: I don't know specifically because I haven't worked with him. I've seen his name on a lot of emails. Up in Mackinac and I know that he's gone and it's been helpful like whatever it is they do up there, but he's very politically minded, so yeah, more of that grassroots sort of thing which is not anything I'm involved with.

Sean Quinn: Any of the other kids? Is Garrett the most active?

Michigan Deputy: I don't know. I wouldn't know.

Sean Quinn: We're getting pretty close to the end. If Omar and I can just pow-wow for a few minutes, we can see if we've got anything else, but then I can just ask kind of a couple of closing questions and then we'll get you out of here. Then you can start driving all of these trips. We'll just step outside for a little bit.

Omar Ashmawy: Back on the record.

Sean Quinn: Okay. You said your home office, I think is Grand Haven?

Michigan Deputy: I consider that to be. I have a computer at home as well which helps a lot because I'm gone so much.

Sean Quinn: Does Matt have an office that is like his home office?

Michigan Deputy: Granville would be his main office.

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. So just you guys are in two different offices then?

Michigan Deputy: Correct.
Omar Ashmawy: To the extent that you're in the office?

Michigan Deputy: Yes. Thank you.

Sean Quinn: Because you're doing your job so you're not in the office. Okay. And then just kind of some questions that we always ask. Can you tell me a little bit about what you did to prepare for this interview, if anything?

Michigan Deputy: Not really anything.

Sean Quinn: Did you have some conversations with Derek or Charlie?

Michigan Deputy: Yeah, just you know, okay, this is going on. We need you to show up at this time. So it's the nature of, you know what the letter says you had documents I had to send.

Sean Quinn: Were you involved in collecting any of the documents?

Michigan Deputy: I had to send emails about mileage reports. So I had to go back and pull those.

Sean Quinn: And so you just talked to Derek and Charlie the one time?

Michigan Deputy: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And when did you first hear about the OCE’s review?

Michigan Deputy: I would say I was coming home from the airport and that was, I want to say May.

Sean Quinn: And who did you hear about it from?

Michigan Deputy: I think Matt and Sarah had called because they were compiling most of everything and I'd been out of the country for a few days and so they said, you know, we need, but I'm like, I don't know, I don't know what you're talking about. So they had to back up and kind of bring me up to speed.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And what did they tell you to bring you up to speed?

Michigan Deputy: That I had to go through and pull emails related to mileage reimbursements on both the campaign and official side and send them in a certain formatted way.

Sean Quinn: And then, and what did they say about why you had to do that? Did they like explain the review to you or tell you what –
Michigan Deputy: Yeah, they said that there was a request for information, I think is maybe how it was phrased to get those mileage – well from my standpoint.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then so you met with Derek and Charlie?

Michigan Deputy: We just did a phone call.

Sean Quinn: Okay. How long did that phone call last?

Michigan Deputy: 20 minutes maybe.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And did they flag anything about the review in particular for you? Any topics that were going to be covered in the interview?

Michigan Deputy: No, they didn't talk specifically, more about process.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So I know you talked to Matt and Sarah some when they kind of caught you up on what was going on. Have you had any conversations with anybody else in the campaign or the official side about the review?

Michigan Deputy: I think I talked to Jon just because he was confirming that I had talked to them and understood what I had to supply and I said I did and I was looking for that and he said, do you think you have it? I said, yeah, I think I have pretty well, you know, like yeah, email makes it easy. I had switched computers at one point in there, but I said, I think I've got what they're looking for, and I did.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then have you heard anything about the other interviews that have been conducted?

Michigan Deputy: No.

Omar Ashmawy: Did anyone ever tell you how or suggest how to answer questions?

Michigan Deputy: No.

Sean Quinn: That's all I've got. You got anything?

Michigan Deputy: They just said be honest.

Sean Quinn: Yeah, so that's always good.

Omar Ashmawy: Kindergarten rule. No, I don't have anything else.
Sean Quinn: Okay. That's all I've got too. Thank you very much for your time again.

Appreciate it.
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This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

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**Witness Signature:**

**Date:** 25/11
EXHIBIT 4
Transcript of Interview of District Director

Review No. 19-2187
June 26, 2019
So I'm starting the recording Today is June 26, 2019. And we're at the offices of the law firm Clark Hill and Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the interview of District Director. District Director is accompanied by his counsel Derek Ross, speaking is Sean Quinn from the Office of Congressional Ethics, and I'm here with Omar Ashmawy. The witness has been given a copy of 18 U.S.C. 1001 and has signed the acknowledgement.

Okay, so, Matt, if we can just start with some easy stuff. Can you just give me a little bit of information about your background? Where’d you go to school? Kind of How’d you end up working for Representative Huizenga?

Yeah. So I’m born and raised here in Grand Rapids. Graduated from Grand Valley State University, currently pursuing a master's degree from Grand Valley as well. Graduated with a degree in Public Administration. Out of college, actually, during college interned in the Congressman's district office during my senior year. After graduation went worked on a U.S. Senate race for a year. The candidate did not win. But the Congressman had an opening in his office after that race. So I moved over and started working in his official office then.

Great and what was your first position in the-

Staff assistant.

And why don't you just kind of tell me your progression in the office-

Yes. So, staff assistant to Public Policy Manager, Two years later. And then, just this past, I don't remember exactly when it was but was promoted to district director.

And then, so you said two years later. So when did you start as a staff assistant?

It would have been December of 2012.

So you're currently the district director?

Correct.

Is there only one district office or how many offices?

It’s just two.
Sean Quinn: Okay, and where are those?

District Director: Grandville and Grand Haven.

Sean Quinn: And do you work primarily at one of those, or are you back and forth?

District Director: My home office is the Grandville office.

Sean Quinn: My Michigan geography is sadly lacking. Any idea, kind of relative to where we are now where's Grandville? Where's Grand Haven?

District Director: Grandville is a suburb of the city, Grand Rapids, just south west.

Sean Quinn: About how far?

District Director: At least 15 minutes on a highway, maybe 10 miles, something like that. Grand Haven is in northwest Ottawa County, which is the county directly west of here. It's on the Lake Michigan just south of Muskegon.

Sean Quinn: About how far from here?

District Director: From here 45 minutes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And so Grandville is your home office, do you work out of Grand Haven also, sometimes?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: How do you kind of split your time between those two offices?

District Director: So, a lot of my time is on the road, with meetings and events and stuff. So if I'm in the northern part of the district, I end up in Grand Haven. If I'm in southern part of the district of Grand Rapids I end up in Grandville. Depends on where the meetings were that day.

Sean Quinn: So basically, you just go to whatever offices most convenient and since you're, you live closer to here normally that's Grandville?

District Director: That's correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And how did you get set up with the internship with Representative Huizenga? And then kind of...

District Director: Yep. So going way back. So my dad was district director for the Congressman before Congressman Huizenga – with Bill, with the
Congress. So he was a district director before. So I've known him since I was a kid. But then I worked with his chief of staff, Jon DeWitt on a different political race when I was in college. So I got to know, Jon, through that, and a bunch of the district staff.

Sean Quinn: And that is not the Senate race?

District Director: Correct. That was a governor's race in 2010.

Sean Quinn: So that's when you met Jon?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Had Jon worked with Representative Huizenga previously?

District Director: I do not recall. Jon was district director for the Congressman before I do not know or remember if their times overlap or anything like that.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And can you give me a little bit of an idea of what your role as district director is? What sort of things are your responsibility?

District Director: Yeah, so the easiest way to explain it is, when the Congressman is in Washington, I represent him at meetings and meeting with people. So if constituents have issues, if nonprofits, businesses, chambers, you name your organization, Farm, Bureau. If they want to know what's going on in Washington, or want to hear what's going on, or have a problem with a federal agency, they call our office and I'm usually the point of contact to have the meeting with them.

Sean Quinn: Got you. And how many folks do you have in the Grandville office? Well, its, yeah, how many folks do you have in the Grandville office here?

District Director: We have four full-time and then I guess me, and then we have one part-time.

Sean Quinn: And then how about the Grand Haven office?

District Director: Two.

Sean Quinn: Two full-time?

District Director: Yes, one is transitioning. She was in our Grandville office, but well, more than likely to be working more on the Grand Haven office than Grandville. So I guess she flows back and forth.
Sean Quinn: There will be various times for this interview that I'll ask you sort of tedious questions, but do you mind giving me the names of all those folks and what offices they're in? So we'll start the Grandville.

District Director: Grandville, you need first and last or just first?

Sean Quinn: First and last will be great.

District Director: Beatriz Mancilla.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And what's her position?

District Director: She is a district representative. Krista Umanos, who is also a district representative. Presley Scolton who's the staff assistant. Brian Patrick, who's our communications director. Me –

Sean Quinn: Is that Boomer?

District Director: Yes. And then Jennifer Duthler is the part-time one. She's also a district representative in Grandville.

Sean Quinn: Sorry, what was that last name?

District Director: Duthler.

Sean Quinn: So there are three district representatives?

District Director: That is correct. They are caseworkers, but they all have the same title of district representative.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then how about Grand Haven?

District Director: Grand Haven is, Heather Sandberg. She's Deputy Chief of Staff. And Sarah Lisman, She has a long title and I'm not exactly sure what it is. Some sort of District Project Coordinator of some sort. Actually, she's the one that just moved from Grandville to work on Grand Haven office.

Sean Quinn: Can you give me an idea of what, kind of how a district representative’s job differs from yours?

District Director: Yes, so the district representatives are truly caseworkers. So, a lot of times I'm out in the community and I find a business or person, a nonprofit has an issue with a federal agency that I pass it along to the district representatives who then coordinate with the agencies directly. So I'm not necessarily the person helping her solve the problem. I'm more of the one
that goes out and finds it. They’re the one that interfaces with the agency
and the constituent to solve the problems.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then Sarah is a district project coordinator or something like
that?

District Director: Correct.

Sean Quinn: How is that different?

District Director: So, she sort of took my old role when I was brought into district director.
So she does some outreach stuff, attending meetings and events. And then
she also plans like we do a district youth summit for the congressmen
Military Academy stuff. So it's sort of, not necessarily case work, but it's
sort of special projects, etc.

Sean Quinn: And then Heather is the Deputy Chief of Staff?

District Director: Yep.

Sean Quinn: So there's a Deputy Chief of staff and the district and then also Ms.
McManus in D.C.? And there's just the two of them?

District Director: Correct.

Sean Quinn: And I know Ms. McManus kind of focuses on financial services work.
Does Heather have kind of a specific area that she focuses on? Or just
work in the district?

District Director: Yeah. So, she does a lot of the admin type related stuff, onboarding for the
official office. And then she does some, like her specialty is Army Corp of
Engineers. So although case work related to that, and then a lot of
meetings out in the community as well along with me.

Sean Quinn: Is there a big Army Corps of Engineers presence here with-

District Director: So actually we have an office in Grand Haven or office. But just being on
the Great Lakes, all the harbors, and so yes, there's a large army corp
presence in our district.

Sean Quinn: I think you were saying something else and then I cut you off, or...

District Director: What was I going to say?
Sean Quinn: Let me know if it comes to mind. Okay, so I think I've got an idea of everybody in the offices. Do all these people maybe save Heather report to you? Or-

District Director: So they all report to Heather That’s actually what I was going to add. So everyone reports to Heather, I'm sort of an offshoot. I report to Heather as well. But none of them report directly to me. They all report to Heather.

Sean Quinn: Great. And do you hold – do you kind of wear any other hats or hold any other positions for the representative?

District Director: Yes, I do work on the campaign as well.

Sean Quinn: And you have a title for the campaign?

District Director: Campaign manager.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And how long have you been the campaign manager?

District Director: I can't remember exactly when it happened but it happened during last cycle. I would say summer of 2018. I don't have an exact date for you though.

Sean Quinn: Was Jim Barry the former campaign manager?

District Director: So Jim Barry was a campaign manager very early on. Now he is called – his title is campaign chairman. So he does the lot of the big picture strategy type stuff.

Sean Quinn: Did you hold any positions with the campaign before 2018 summer of 2018?

District Director: I never had the official title. I was compensated for work but I never had an official title.

Sean Quinn: From what we've heard titles are not a big thing on the campaign side.

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: Congratulations on your title, one of the special few. And I think just to kind of close the loop, I think we went through most of your employment history. But other than working on the senate campaign after college, did you hold any another jobs?

District Director: After college?
Sean Quinn: After college before working for the representative.

District Director: Just this one.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And can you just, obviously you work for the Congressman, can you describe your relationship with the Congressman? And I know you said, your father and him are acquainted from working together when they were younger. Just give me an idea of what your relationship with Congressman is like.

Mostly professional, friendly, family friends?

District Director: I mean, it's definitely a professional relationship. But I consider him a friend.

Sean Quinn: And how about Jon DeWitte?

District Director: It's been definitely a professional relationship, but I would definitely consider him a friend.

Sean Quinn: And then for the campaign, so you told me you're the campaign manager. Jim is the campaign chairman. You said Jim kind of handles the big picture strategy issues. Can you tell me what you do as the campaign manager?

District Director: Yeah. I did a lot of the nuts and bolts of the campaign. Helped . . . we had a few interns that I managed and sort of helped with strategy and working with ad placement and that kind of stuff.

Sean Quinn: How big is the campaign organization here in Michigan?

District Director: The paid staff is me and Jim, and Heather, and Boomer (Brian).

Sean Quinn: And so I assume, do you report to Jim? Or give me an idea of how the reporting structure of the campaign.

District Director: There's really not a lot of structure to the campaign. We all report to Bill. There really is no other way to put it but we all report to Bill.

Sean Quinn: Do, does Heather have a title for the campaign?

District Director: Not that I'm aware of.

Sean Quinn: And then Boomer is comms. director for the office, but does he have a campaign title?
District Director: Not that am aware of.

Sean Quinn: And you said you are compensated for your work on the campaign?

District Director: Correct.

Sean Quinn: And how are you compensated?

District Director: Monthly, I'm a 1099 employee, so, but a monthly check. No benefits or anything like that.

Sean Quinn: Is that a salary or do you report some sort of hourly?

District Director: That's salary.

Sean Quinn: Any kind of like other forms of compensation or like perks you get from the job?

District Director: It's more work.

Sean Quinn: How do you, give me an idea of what, how much time you spend kind of on the official side and how much time you spend on the campaign? I'm sure it probably varies by year. So you can give me, kind of give me some detail on that as well.

District Director: Yeah. I mean, my nine to five, eight to five job is the official office. So I spend that time in the official office doing official work. With my role, I also tend to have a lot of breakfasts and dinners and happy hours and other things to attend. So it's never nine to five on the official side. Campaign side is fluctuating depending on the year. And an off year like this, it's not a ton of time spent on the campaign. It's some random things early in the morning and late at night. When the campaign ramps up, it's definitely more. But again, it's all it's after hours. So it's, I couldn't give you an hour estimate if I tried.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And do, does any of your family work for a Representative Huizenga or volunteer on the campaign?

District Director: My wife might walk in a parade if I convince her to.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you're married?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Do you have any children?
District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: So I understand the representative does have lots of fundraising activities. We’ve talked with other folks about some of the Disney trips and trips to New York and Boston. And then I know there's a beer tour that happens in Michigan, I think yearly. And also golf tour. Have you ever gone on any of those trips? Or gone to the beer tour, or the golf event?

District Director: I visited one stop on the beer tour last year.

Sean Quinn: Where exactly does the beer tour happen?

District Director: It's different every time. I don't know where it is this time and I don't know exactly where they've gone every time so...

Sean Quinn: And do you ever go to the, I think there's the Republican leadership conference in Mackinac every other year. You go to that?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: How many... When did you start going to that?

District Director: It happens in odd years. This year’s an odd year. So it would have been 2013 was the first one I went to.

Sean Quinn: And you've gone every other year since then?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Can you tell me a little bit about that event? You can just kind of generally describe it. I’ll ask you some specifics after that.

District Director: Yeah, it's a conference put together by the Michigan Republican Party. It's sort of the unofficial kickoff to the next cycle's election. They bring in some big keynote speakers from around the country. Sort of to help fundraise for the Michigan Republican party organization and sort of get the grassroots teams organized. There's anyone running for any elected office in the state especially statewide offices tend to have receptions and in sort of their own parties and stuff like that.

Sean Quinn: And who, has the one for 2019 happened yet?

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: When is it normally?
District Director: It’s always in September? I don't know the dates.

Sean Quinn: So let's you're probably most fresh in your memory would be 2017. Can you tell me who from Congressman Huizenga world goes to the Mackinac trip?

District Director: Best to my recollection. It's me and Jim Barry. Bill and the family. Greg VanWoerkom went, Brian Patrick went. I believe Jon was there. I can't remember because Jon hasn't gone to all of them. So I can't remember which one Jon has gone to which one he hasn't.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And how about... So those are the folks that work for the Congressman. How about their families? Do families normally go to that as well?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Everybody you just named, so yourself, Jim-

District Director: Yep. So my spouse, Jim's spouse was there. Bill's family was there. Brian's family was there. I can't remember who else I named.

Sean Quinn: Greg and Jon.

District Director: Greg's family was there. Jon did not have any family. Jon has not had family on the island when he's gone. Like I said, I can't remember if he was there in '17 or not.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And when you go for that, does the campaign pay for that trip?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And does the campaign also pay for your family?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And do you know if that's true for all the people we just talked about?

District Director: Best to my understanding, yes.

Sean Quinn: And maybe this is kind of an odd question, but why do you bring your family to the Mackinac trip?

District Director: It's a big family – I mean, everyone that's running for office, everyone that goes up there comes up with their families. It's a family event. So.
Sean Quinn: Are you kind of – the representative will do kind of like a, some sort of reception during that time normally?

District Director: We have some years and we haven’t in other years.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Can you describe for me the sort of, to the extent you're doing work while you're up there, what kind of work are you doing?

District Director: Yeah, it's all for the campaign. It's meeting with other campaign managers meeting with other members of Congress offices. Bill schedules meetings with other individuals on like, I'm not exactly sure who he meets with the whole time. I just became the district director so I never totally tied in the schedule. So I don't know who all he met with. But it's a lot of meeting and networking with fellow campaign staff from around the state.

Sean Quinn: Cool. And how long is that? How long does the conference normally, or how many days to stay up there?

District Director: It's a weekend. So I think we go up on, usually go up on a Friday, come home on a Sunday.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Do the families normally come to those meetings or the receptions or cocktail hours that-

District Director: It depends on what the meeting is and what the reception is. A lot of this stuff is family friendly. So the family tends to go if he has a one on one meeting, family might not come to that.

Sean Quinn: What kind of stuff are you doing for fun when you're up in Mackinac? I've heard it's, I lived in Michigan for a year and everybody kept saying I had to go to Mackinac. I never made it, but –

District Director: The islands always a good time. I mean, so the conference ends on Sunday morning. So I've ridden bike around the island before I left but usually, I mean, it's a four hour drive and a ferry trip and everything. So it's not a whole lot of free time afterwards either.

Sean Quinn: There are no cars on the island?

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: And is it just the Grand Hotel that's on the island? Or are there other hotels? I've heard people talking about the Grand hotel.
District Director: There's others. I guess you could call it the Downtown. There's all sorts of hotels.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So while, if there are meetings that families aren't attending, what sorts of things are the families doing? While you guys are busy working on campaign stuff.

District Director: My wife might go shopping, but I'm not sure what the other families do.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So kind of going back to your work in the district, unless do you have any more questions about Mackinac? Okay. So I know you said your work kind of takes you all over the district. Let's talk a little bit about how frequently you're traveling for work. How many days a week would you say you're off going somewhere in the district to meet with a constituent or some group?

District Director: I typically have meetings five days a week. It may not be a full day of meetings, but I will be driving somewhere to a meeting on average, every day of the week.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And are those always in the district or do you have any occasion to go outside the district?

District Director: There're occasions I go outside the district every once in a while. I'll have a trip to Detroit. That's where all of the, a lot of the regional offices are either Detroit or Chicago. So if we're going to meet with an agency or the federal... I don't remember the name of the organization. There's a Federal Reserve Board or something like that that convenes the other district offices to get together to talk with agencies and stuff like that. So there's times where we'll go to Detroit or Chicago.

Every once in a while we'll go I mean, in Michigan, just because our district has a line on it doesn't mean that we can't cross it. So one of the issue areas that I always focus on was forest service. The forest service main office have this being Cadillac, which is outside the district, but if they want to meet, they always want to meet in their office in Cadillac, so I'll go to Cadillac to meet with them. Technically, Grand Rapids here is not in our district, but the Grand Rapids chamber itself, like there's a lot of overlap with the surrounding cities that are in our district. So I find myself, the Farm Bureau or those kind of organizations pick Grand Rapids to hold their events because it's Central. So there's times I leave the district.

Sean Quinn: Okay. But would you say most of your work is in the district?
District Director: Yeah, the majority.

Sean Quinn: So you said five days a week? I know I'm sure meeting with organizations in early morning or at night might bleed into weekends also. Do you find yourself working on weekends a lot? Or do you have you somehow made this sacred?

District Director: I've attempted to, I can't say it never happens. My schedule is open to when people schedule their meetings. When the Congressman is here and available, I'll tend to travel with him. So if there's a weekend event that he's got to attend it, I will usually attend with him.

Sean Quinn: Okay, but on a typical week, it's a week day and you're driving all around five days a week?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: I think I probably know the answer to this questions from what you've told me, but during the week do you have a predictable schedule?

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: Do you normally... Monday is in this city, Tuesday is in that city?

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: No? Okay.

District Director: You know, sometimes a month there will be like the west coast Chamber has their government affairs breakfast the third Monday of the month. I don't know which. It's on a Monday, I know that. I don't remember which one it is, so those type of things will be every month this group meets on the third this or the second this. I'll try to build my schedule around those, the reoccurring events, but a typical Monday, you know, the first Monday is way different than the second Monday, and it's different from the third Monday.

Sean Quinn: Right. Okay. Got you. Okay, and how do you get around?

District Director: I drive my car.

Sean Quinn: And you get reimbursed for the mileage, right?

District Director: That's correct.
Sean Quinn: How do you keep track of the miles that you're driving?

District Director: I use... in most situations I schedule everything in my Outlook calendar with addresses, and then I'll go back. I file my... in a typical situation, file my expense reports monthly, so I'll go back and look at my Outlook calendar and remember where I drove on those days and use a Google Maps type.

Sean Quinn: And do you know is that sort of typical for people in the office? Do you have any insight to how other people manage their-

District Director: I have no idea how other people do theirs.

Sean Quinn: So there's no policy in the office, it's just kind of be accurate and as accurate as you can be.

District Director: To my understanding, I have not seen a direct policy of do this or do that.

Sean Quinn: Did anybody kind of teach you that method or that was just the one that worked best for you?

District Director: That's just what's worked best for me.

Sean Quinn: Okay. We're going to look at just one of your mileage reimbursements. I'm going to give you a few documents throughout the interview, and if you could just keep them to the side, I'm going to take them back because I'm going to recycle some tomorrow, so-

District Director: Okay.

Sean Quinn: Try to save a few trees. That's fine, I probably won't since it's your email, but this is an email from you to Ron, January 29, 2016.

District Director: Okay.

Sean Quinn: There's nothing special about this one, but I just want to know if this is sort of a typical mileage reimbursement request. Is this how you normally do it?

District Director: I mean, for the campaign on a typical month. On the campaign side, it's a little different. I might not send one in every month, depending on the year. If I didn't drive that much for a campaign, I'm not going to send in for one item.

Sean Quinn: Right.
District Director: Typically, I tend to send in monthly mileage reimbursement, so.

Sean Quinn: So on the official side, it's pretty much monthly and then campaign, it just kind of depends on how busy you are?

Sean Quinn: So this one, you sent this to Ron. Is it different if it's for the campaign or does everything go to Ron, or did everything go to Ron?

District Director: For the campaign reimbursements, Ron. We sent all. I sent all of my reimbursements to Ron.

Sean Quinn: Okay, and then how about for your official work?

District Director: The official office, we have a... I don't know what her title is or what her... she does payroll-type stuff, finance stuff for the office, and she processes our expense reports.

Sean Quinn: Is that Mary Ellen?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So she's the finance person for the office.

District Director: Correct.

Sean Quinn: Then I know... and I understand that Ron passed away recently, but he had stopped working for the campaign before he passed away, right?

District Director: To the best of my understanding. I can't remember exact dates of when he passed and when he quit working for the campaign, but it was before he passed, yes.

Sean Quinn: And do you know who is handling the campaign reimbursements now?

District Director: Paul Kilgore.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

District Director: PDS I think is the name of the company.

Sean Quinn: Okay. When you make submissions to Mary Ellen for your official work, do they look like this as well?

District Director: No, no.
Sean Quinn: She has a form?

District Director: The House has a form that we have to fill out.

Sean Quinn: Do you have any idea why Ron was kind of let go or stopped working for the campaign?

District Director: From my recollection, it was health reasons.

Sean Quinn: Okay, let's look at this a little bit. It looks like in general, or for the most part, you're reporting kind of destinations. It looks like on January 5, you didn't say where you were going. This is, I understand, 2016. Any memory of where you were going on January 5, 2016?

District Director: No recollection of what I was doing on January 5 of '16.

Sean Quinn: So if you're not reporting a destination, do you know maybe why that might be?

District Director: I do not know.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Does that happen often or that's sort of a one-off?

District Director: To my recollection, I usually put where I was going.

Sean Quinn: And we've got what I guess, correct me if I'm wrong, are destinations... are you always starting from your house?

District Director: Everything depends on the day. If I ended working in the official office but didn't go home, I might start from the official office just because that's where I started driving from. Most of the time, it was to home.

Sean Quinn: So this was back in 2016. Has anything changed about the way that you report mileage in the last three years or so?

District Director: When we started working with Paul, we had switched over to a spreadsheet. It's a little bit more uniform for the campaign stuff, at least I have.

Sean Quinn: What do you mean? Like Paul provided you kind of a form spreadsheet to fill in or you just use Excel now instead of-

District Director: Paul provided a generic form that he had used for other... I don't know, that he gave us, provided us, and we sort of tweaked it for our own use.
Sean Quinn: Okay. As you were doing in 2016, is it still generally your practice to basically just give a destination and then the mileage?

District Director: Usually what I do is a start point, end point and mileage.

Sean Quinn: But you weren't doing that here, right? In 2016?

District Director: That's correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay. When did that... did that change when Paul started?

District Director: I can't... doing this monthly, I can't remember what each month looks like. I guess sometimes I just did where I went to and I knew where I started from and where I am, so-

Sean Quinn: Right. But no specific event or training you went to, or something. Nothing happened that made you start writing start point and end point. You just kind of evolved into that?

District Director: I guess you could say that, yeah.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So other than Google Maps, do you ever do anything to verify your mileage or double-check yourself?

District Director: Google Maps is fairly accurate, in my opinion. There may be times where I drove from multiple different spots and I would just change my trip, but that happened on rare occasions.

Sean Quinn: I can actually just take that back unless you want to keep one copy? Okay.

Derek Ross: You're going to... I mean, I've got it already but you're going to use it again tomorrow, right?

Sean Quinn: This one, I'm probably not going to, but since it's Matt in particular, but some of these I might.

Do you have a – just talk about how much you're traveling. Do you have a guess, what's an average day, how far you're driving? How long are you driving?

District Director: I don't, because if I drive to Ludington from home, it's way larger than if I drive to Holland to home, so it's hard, it's really hard to average it out, so I don't know.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So it varies a lot by day?
District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Moving on from mileage, a little bit related, do you – there’s a campaign vehicle, right?

District Director: That's correct.

Sean Quinn: And it's a big van, like a cargo van?

District Director: It's a... yeah, a former work van, I guess you could call it. Somebody bought it used.

Sean Quinn: And what do you guys use that for?

District Director: Putting up signs, parade, we use it as a moving billboard at times, going to events to park it out in front so that people can see that we're there. It's more of an advertising vehicle for the campaign.

Sean Quinn: And when did you guys get the van?

District Director: To the best of my recollection, it was summer of ’18, spring/summer of ’18.

Sean Quinn: So pretty recent, then?

District Director: Yeah, I think our goal was to have it for the Fourth of July parades, but I don't remember the exact timing beyond that.

Sean Quinn: So it's not... nobody really uses it for just day-to-day travel?

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: Has it been a sort of, do you use it all out or does it stay parked somewhere?

District Director: It depends on the time. Right now, it has storage insurance on it and it sits in a storage unit because it's not necessarily campaign season, but it was a huge asset for putting up signs and stuff. It's something that we used to have to do with a truck and a trailer, and signs would blow out. It was nice to be able to have a vehicle that large signs could slide inside of and not have to blow around in the wind as you're driving down the highway and worry about them flying out, so it was used significantly during the campaign. In an off-year, it's not. We bring it out for parades and stuff like that.
Sean Quinn: Decreases the campaign's tort liability a little bit.

District Director: As someone that's put up a lot of large signs, it was one of the best ways to put up signs that I've had.

Sean Quinn: Yeah. So mostly during campaign season. Otherwise, sitting in storage.

District Director: Correct.

Sean Quinn: This is an email from you to Bill and some others; Jon, Jim, Bill's wife Heather, Boomer, Sarah, with an attachment. Is that on the back? Is that what the van looks like?

District Director: Pretty close. I think there might've been a tweak or two after that, but that's pretty close to what the van looks like, yeah.

Sean Quinn: I think I saw on some of the emails somebody wanted more social media presence on the back.

District Director: That is correct. We've added the logos of all the social media stuff next to the license plate on the back, but other than that, this looks pretty close to what it looks like.

Sean Quinn: Cool. I just read enough emails about the thing, but I wanted to see it. I was like finally I came across one where there was an attachment. It sounded like it was a hot topic of debate over a couple months.

District Director: It went back and forth quite a while about what it should look like, but it actually ended up looking very nice. Logos very large on the side of it, easy to see, easy to read. Very identifiable.

Sean Quinn: And then you said now you just store it... it's in a storage unit?

District Director: That is correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: I had a tangential question actually, and bear with me, but some basics. Who is Natalie Huizenga?

District Director: That's the congressman's wife.

Omar Ashmawy: Just out of curiosity, why was she included on the email?
District Director: She likes to be included on design-related stuff. She has an understanding of what looks good and what doesn't, and wants to be included in that. Way better than I do.

Sean Quinn: Sort of on that, are there other family members, either Bill's family or any other family members that are particularly active in the campaign?

District Director: Particularly active... they all volunteer and walk in parades, and stuff like that.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

District Director: We might ask them for opinion on what a van looks like at some point, but involved in day-to-day and big picture and stuff like that, it's not much.

Sean Quinn: Okay. How about is that true for Garrett also?

District Director: Of all the kids, Garrett's probably the one that is the most interested and will ask us sometimes what's going on with it, and stuff like that, and give insight and ideas.

Omar Ashmawy: Does he have a regular role in the campaign?

District Director: To my recollection, no.

Sean Quinn: He's a senior in college?

District Director: Don't quote me on age, but he's in college.

Sean Quinn: He's in college? Okay. We were talking about Mackinac a little bit ago, and I think I remember seeing... did Garrett go to Mackinac in 2017? I saw some emails talking about Garrett and then Garrett brought some friends to Mackinac as well? Three friends?

District Director: I cannot remember if he came in '17 or not, because he was away at college, so I can't remember. I know he came up with some friends to help us at an event at one of the years. I can't remember if it was '17 or if it was '15, so I can't remember.

Omar Ashmawy: Can you elaborate on that a little bit?

District Director: Yeah. We... again, I don't remember which year we had the event, but we had an event, a public event, and needed some volunteer help, so I think...
this must not have been '17, because they were high school buddies that
wanted some campaign volunteer experience where they were interested
in helping out, so they helped with that. Then being on the island, passing
out knickknacks and goodies and stuff like that.

Omar Ashmawy: Do you recall what kind of work they did?

District Director: They helped with registration, being outside the event, letting people know
where to go, coordinating where people were going and when, passing out
campaign stuff, I guess you could call it. I don't know what you want to
call it, tchotchkes.

Omar Ashmawy: Swag.

District Director: Swag, that's a good word, and that kind of stuff.

Omar Ashmawy: What was the nature of the event that they were helping out of? I know the
whole thing's a state Republican event. Specifically this particular event
they were helping out at, what kind of event was it?

District Director: We held an ice cream social. It was an event just to let people on the
island, other Republicans from around the state, get to know Bill a little bit
better and get to see our team and what we're up on, so.

Omar Ashmawy: Were there any other events that weekend that they helped out with?

District Director: I can't recall.

Omar Ashmawy: Were there any other Representative Huizenga events that weekend?

District Director: Not that I'm aware of, no.

Omar Ashmawy: So then unlikely for another event.

District Director: Unlikely nothing else directly related that we did as our own campaign.
There were a lot of other member-related events that they could've
volunteered for, or they could've volunteered for other organizations. I'm
not sure.

Omar Ashmawy: Just for the sake of clarity, other member events... you mean other events
not having to do with Representative Huizenga's campaign?

District Director: Correct.
Omar Ashmawy: Other small point. How long does a Mackinac ice cream social go? I've never been to Mackinac. I don't know if I've ever been to an ice cream social.

District Director: Most of the events on the island are an hour and a half, two hours. I couldn't tell you how long this one was, but most events are in that range.

Sean Quinn: Oh, by the way, I should have said at the beginning, if you need to take a break at any point, just let me know. Are you good to go right now?

District Director: I'm good.

Sean Quinn: Okay. We talked earlier about your mileage reimbursement and how for the campaign you'd go through it used to be Ron, now it's Paul, then for official work it's Mary Ellen. Is that the same for other types of reimbursements, like if you buy something or needed to be reimbursed for it?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: All right. How does the process for submitting that sort of request work? You can start with the campaign.

District Director: The campaign? Right now, on Paul's spreadsheet there's a separate spot.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I think since we're talking about a spreadsheet, I think I've got one we can look at. This is a spreadsheet, it looks like, for expense reimbursements and mileage reimbursements, and it covers dates 7/21 to 8/31, and that's 2018. Is that the sort of spreadsheet you're talking about?

District Director: That is the type of spreadsheet we use now, correct, that I use now.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And do you know, does everybody use this spreadsheet for the campaign now?

District Director: To the best of my recollection, yes. I can't say I've seen everyone's expense reports.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Right, so as you said, it's got a section for mileage reimbursements and then also your expense reimbursements. Would you normally submit any supporting receipts or material with this? Do you submit your Verizon bill?

District Director: If there was an expense, yes. The Verizon bill is the same every month.
Okay. So this is for the campaign. How about for your official work? How do you submit these sorts of expense reimbursements?

The official office has a... the House Finance has a form that includes mileage and all other reimbursements all on one document organized by date, earliest to latest. You're only allowed to put one month per page, so all are on the same page.

Is there anything different that you do for the House document than you do for the campaign submissions?

Different? I have different types of expenses on the official side. Most events that I go to require me to pay in advance then I get reimbursed, so if I go to a Chamber breakfast, I go and pay out of my own pocket, and then get reimbursed for that event. So there's a lot more actual... in the parking, I pay the parking and get reimbursed for that. Whereas the campaign is pretty much all mileage, the official office has different parts to it, so.

Okay. For the campaign side, mostly mileage and then it looks like your Verizon bills. I guess I understand it's probably not frequent, but can you tell me what other sorts of things you would pay for, for the campaign side?

To the best of my recollection, that's the majority of what I do. There might be one or two other ones here and there, but it's the majority of that.

Okay. Do you have a campaign card?

I do now, yes.

You do?

Yes.

When did you get the campaign card?

I can't remember the exact date.

This year?

I had... I can't remember when. I did get one this year, yes, but I had access to a campaign card last fall.
Sean Quinn: Okay. Okay, and when you say you had access for it or access to it, what do you mean?

District Director: It was a card that was shared between a couple different people, so it wasn't always in my possession.

Sean Quinn: What kind of card was it? What bank was it?

District Director: That one, it was a Huntington Bank.

Sean Quinn: And the card you have now?

District Director: The card I have now is a... I don't know. It's not a debit card, it's a credit card, but I'm not sure exactly.

Sean Quinn: You don't have it with you right now, I guess?

District Director: I do have it with me.

Sean Quinn: Can you look and see what kind of card it is?

District Director: It's an American Express card.

Sean Quinn: Okay. What kind of things... so presumably you don't have to seek reimbursement oftentimes for campaign stuff because you just put it on the campaign card instead?

District Director: Correct.

Sean Quinn: So what kind of stuff are you buying on the campaign card?

District Director: Office supplies, supplies for signs, gas for the van. It really depends on what's going on at that time, but it can be used for anything that we need to be paid for, events, so a little bit of everything.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Have you, when you got your campaign card, was there any training you went through or anybody that gave you an idea of what should go on a campaign card, what should be paid for personally, which should be put on the official expense side? Any sort of training like that?

District Director: No official training. It's pretty easy to delineate between the official office and the campaign to know which entity can pay for what, just through the years of working on it, it's pretty easy to delineate payments.
Sean Quinn: Okay. Any official policies that you know of related to spending on the campaign card? Or?

District Director: Nothing.

Derek Ross: Do you want some more water?

District Director: Thank you.

Derek Ross: Yep.

Sean Quinn: I'll have a little water too. Coffee's getting warm. Thank you very much.

Derek Ross: Yep.

District Director: Don't want to ruin Derek's nice tan.

Sean Quinn: Okay, so, on either the official side or the campaign side, have you ever submitted a reimbursement and been told, “No, you can't get reimbursed for that,” or, “we need more documentation,” or anything like that?

District Director: Yes, I've been asked for more documentation.

Sean Quinn: Do you remember any specific instances?

District Director: Just this week, I was actually asked on the official side why I attended an event, what the event was.

District Director: They just asked what the event was, so there was more clarification, you know that.

District Director: It was the Tulip Time Governor's Lunch. It's something that we've gone to for ten years, but sometimes people don't in Washington that don't know the district, don't know what Tulip Time is.

District Director: They just asked what the event was, so there was more clarification, you know that.
Sean Quinn: And so that's an example of something you, on the official side, you pay for personally but then you get reimbursed for it?

District Director: Correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay. How about the campaign side, ever had any request for reimbursement rejected or asked to be modified?

District Director: Not that I'm aware.

Sean Quinn: Do you... I know you've got interns and there are other people in the campaign office. Do you oversee anybody else's spending?

District Director: I did in the fall. All the interns and everyone sent their stuff to me, but right now, there's just not a lot going on to oversee.

Sean Quinn: And when you say, "sent their stuff to you," what?

District Director: If they had a mileage expense report or something like that, they would send it to me and then I would send it to Paul.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Do interns ever have expenses other than mileage?

District Director: To the best of my recollection, no. I can't say 100 percent no, but we try... we almost never send an intern away by themselves to go do something, so more than likely, there was... I was with them. So to the best of my recollection, no.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you said, since you have the campaign card, if you're... if there's a Huizenga event and you need to go get refreshments or drinks or something like that, that sort of charge, how would you handle that?

District Director: So, I guess to clarify, we are hosting an event. We ran out of coke and had to go buy coke for the event, I would use the campaign card, yeah.

Sean Quinn: Got you. Okay. Let's just look at a couple specific instances that I had one or two questions about.

District Director: Do you need these back?

Sean Quinn: Yeah. I'll take those back.

District Director: Do you want these?
Sean Quinn: Thanks. So this is an email from you again to Ron dated January 4, 2016. I was just curious about this, just the first sentence, "wanted to let you know that per Bill I'm going to be paid $500 a month." Is that your salary at that time for the campaign?

District Director: Yep. That was when I started getting compensated by the campaign for that election.

Sean Quinn: And so you sent that to Ron, Ron would then, did he just cut you a check for that, plus your mileage, or how did that payment work?

District Director: As far as I can remember, he always did two separate checks. One for the payroll, I guess you could call it. That was Ron, always on the first of the month, and then one for any mileage, if there was mileage.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And this is what you submitted to Ron. Have you ever seen... so these eventually go through a process and will become an FEC report that's publicly filed. Have you ever seen those FEC reports?

District Director: I've looked at some of the FEC reports, yes.

Sean Quinn: Did you ever prepare any of them or help Ron with them?

District Director: I never helped Ron prepare an FEC report.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Have you ever seen any reports that were specific to you that reported payments to you, for example?

District Director: I've looked at our FEC reports that had my name on them, yes.

Sean Quinn: Oh okay. Do you know how your salary is reported on FEC reports?

District Director: I'm not exactly sure what term was used for my salary.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

District Director: Administrative something, I would assume, but I'm not 100 percent sure.

Sean Quinn: Administrative expense.

District Director: Is that what it is?

Sean Quinn: Yeah. On some of them, it is. So you've seen that sort of report before.
District Director: I've looked at some of the FEC reports, yes, but I can't remember all of them.

Sean Quinn: Okay. That's all for that one.

Let's look at this one. This is another email from you to Ron. This one's July 13, 2018. So, if that's July 2018 and it's going to Ron, Ron was at least working for the campaign up until the summer of 2018?

District Director: That seems correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

District Director: I know somewhere in 2018 he made the transition, but I do not... according to this email right here, Ron was sending stuff to Paul, so I don't know exactly what happened with the transition, or date and time.

Sean Quinn: There was some overlap. Okay. Did... this is summer of 2018. I think you said you had access to the campaign card in the fall of 2018, so at this point, you wouldn't have been able to put a payment directly on the campaign, right?

District Director: As far as I know, I did not have a campaign card at that point.

Sean Quinn: So then, if you look at other expenses, on the first one, so that's probably why for this event, you would have bought this candy for the 4th of July event?

District Director: Yes. It was candy for a 4th of July parade.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And there's the Verizon charge again.

District Director: Yep.

Sean Quinn: Do you... does the campaign still pay your Verizon bill?

District Director: The campaign is still paying for my personal Verizon bill.

Sean Quinn: So do you split it with the campaign or do they pay for the whole bill?

District Director: So my wife is also on the bill, so they pay for my half of the Verizon bill.

Sean Quinn: Okay. But you pay the bill in the first instance and then get reimbursed by the campaign?
District Director: That's correct.

Sean Quinn: Are there any other similar recurring charges that you have that the campaign pays for? Or just the phone bill?

District Director: Just the phone bill.

Sean Quinn: And then so for the candy, it looks like you went to Gordon, Costco and Meijer and then just totaled that up.

District Director: That's correct.

Sean Quinn: And you spent, let's see, $156 at Gordon, $156.70 at Gordon, $334.56 at Costco and then $79.90 at Meijer?

District Director: That's what it looks like.

Sean Quinn: Did... now we look at these to your own... Are there other instances of going to either Gordon and Costco or Meijer and buying food or candy or similar purchases?

District Director: To the best of my recollection, no.

Sean Quinn: Okay. For the year that I lived in Michigan, I was calling Meijer “Me-Hair” for the first month that I lived there.

District Director: A lot of people add an S to the end of it too, for some reason they call it Meijer’s.

Sean Quinn: Meijer’s. Well, everybody in Michigan does that. For any... for everything, I suppose.

District Director: For non-Michiganders, Gordon's. Meyer is the local Wal-Mart. All... it's got everything. Groceries, clothes.

Omar Ashmawy: I was too shy to ask.

District Director: It's alright.

Omar Ashmawy: Thank you.

District Director: Headquartered right here in Walker. It's the local version of a Wal-Mart.

Sean Quinn: Would you call it Gordon's, not Gordon. I'm going to Gordon's?
District Director: Probably, yeah.

Sean Quinn: Yeah, right?

District Director: Gordon's Food.

Sean Quinn: Yeah.

District Director: Do you want these back?

Sean Quinn: Yeah, I'll take that.

Sean Quinn: Okay. We're getting close to the end. If you need to take a break.

District Director: I'm good.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then, this email, another from you to Ron. March 27, 2017. And this one, you're telling Ron that you, well why don't you tell me what's going on in this March 27 email?

District Director: Yep. So I was buying beer. Bottled beer for an event. I had a check that was going to be made out to Perrin. Got up to the front of the line and they didn't accept checks. This was a one-day release, and so I put it on my own card and just made the check out to myself and went to the bank right afterwards. So. It's a small brewing company right here in town and they don't accept.

Sean Quinn: One day sales?

District Director: It was a one-day, special release type event.

Omar Ashmawy: Can you elaborate on what that means? What is a one-day special release?

District Director: So they made a special barrel-aged, beer aged in a whiskey barrel that they released once a year. After that time, you can only buy it that one day at their shop. They don't distribute it. They only sell it that one time.

Omar Ashmawy: Are there a lot of people trying to buy it?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Yeah, it's a thing.

District Director: It was a two-hour wait in line.
Omar Ashmawy: So you waited two hours in line?

District Director: Yes.

Omar Ashmawy: And then realized...

District Director: And then I got up there and there was a sign that said, "No checks."

Omar Ashmawy: Okay. Just wanted to understand.

District Director: Yep.

Sean Quinn: My sister’s husband gets up – They live in North Carolina so there’s a lot of microbreweries and he'll get up at six a.m. to go get in line.

District Director: And this is Beer-City, USA here in Grand Rapids.

Omar Ashmawy: I keep hearing that.

District Director: Yeah.

Sean Quinn: They told us that at the hotel.

Derek Ross: There's one in Richmond that people always talk about camping out outside of-

Sean Quinn: Oh, I've been to that one. Anyways. Okay, so that's what you were doing that day.

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Got you. I'll take that.

Sean Quinn: Was this for one of the beer tours?

District Director: So, it was used for, I don't recall, exactly what all. I think it was partly the beer tour and partly I think they do a Michigan-related beer event in Washington where they focus on Michigan beers. Again, this is a one-time, one-day release and it won some award.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: Now I think I've got a logistical question.

Sean Quinn: Yes.
Omar Ashmawy: How did you get all those bottles of beer to Washington?

District Director: So, most of the time, our staff drive back and forth every once in a while and we just waited until someone drove back. Because it's impossible to ship beer.

Omar Ashmawy: Yep, that's what I was wondering.

District Director: We waited for an opportunity that the staffer happened to be driving back for a family vacation or something like that.

Sean Quinn: Okay, moving on from some of that stuff. So, I understand Ron VanDerKolk passed away in January of this year.

District Director: It could be. I...

Sean Quinn: Okay. Recently?

District Director: Recently, yes.

Sean Quinn: Are you now the holder of Ron's documents with... We requested documents from the Member and they produced to us associated with different staffers and most or all of Ron's documents came in in a file under your name.

District Director: That's probably because I was the one that went and found them. They're not under my possession. The campaign has a storage unit. In that storage unit, we have banker boxes with all of the files.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you have access to those documents?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: And then, does Paul hold hard copies of anything that's been submitted to him since he took over?

District Director: I am not sure Paul's filing process. Everything we send him is electronic, so I don't know exactly if he keeps electronic or hard or what he does. But I'm not exactly sure.

Sean Quinn: Okay. What's your general process with Paul to submit a receipt? Do you ever... do you keep the receipts, for example?
District Director: Most of what I send is mileage, so I don't have a whole lot of receipts that I send to him. I do send in invoices if we're doing something and then I send it to him and he – I believe, he is keeping all of those files.

Sean Quinn: How about with Mary Ellen? Did you submit copies of receipts to her?

District Director: Yes. I don't mail originals, so I scanned copies of all the receipts.

Sean Quinn: Okay. What do you do with the originals?

District Director: I have a file in the drawer in my desk that has all of the originals.

Sean Quinn: So it's just up to each individual to maintain their originals? Is there any policy about what you maintain and for how long?

District Director: Not that I'm aware of.

Sean Quinn: Do you have a personal policy?

District Director: I've kept every single one since the day I started. It's a big file. It probably should get shredded at some point, but I've kept them all for my own personal... I don't know why I do. But I have them all.

Sean Quinn: Do you have a separate official file and a campaign file?

District Director: Again, I don't have a whole lot of documents that I send in to on the campaign side. It's mostly mileage and as you saw from the email, it was mostly done through email, so there was no paper trail, I guess you could say. It's all electronic.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So you said that you went and collected the documents that Ron had held.

District Director: That's correct.

Sean Quinn: Did you do anything else to help out with collection of documents to respond to our office's request?

District Director: I helped search emails.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And can you describe that process to me?

District Director: Yeah. We... so based on different questions that you had asked, had different search keywords and time frames to look up. So the van, we had an approximate date and knew when to look so knew what to look for.
And then, some of the other individualized items, we knew we had keywords to search for that we could find the approximate dates.

Sean Quinn: How far back did you go when you were searching for records? Time wise?

District Director: I can't remember the earliest date that you asked about, but it went back to... we looked back as far as we could. We switched email providers on the campaign side to Gmail-based. I don't remember the date of that, but I think... so we couldn't go back all the way. But as far back as we had the Gmail emails.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Do you remember ballpark for the Gmail switch?

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: Was it in the last year?

District Director: No. It would have been... I can't remember. By '15? Somewhere in there. I can't remember exactly the date. It wasn't just last year.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

District Director: I never had a campaign email until last year.

Sean Quinn: Did you do... before you had a campaign email, did you use your personal email address for campaign work?

District Director: Yes.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Did you also search your personal-

District Director: I did search my personal. Most of what you were looking for in my email inbox was expense reports and I knew exactly where to find them and how to find them.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then, was Ron based in Michigan or in D.C. when he was working?

District Director: Ron lived here in Michigan.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And where's Paul?

District Director: Paul is down south somewhere. I think Georgia?
1 Sean Quinn: Okay.

2 District Director: I don't know a city, but I know he's down south.

3 Sean Quinn: Okay.

4 Derek Ross: Everything is south of here...

5 District Director: Not much north...

6 Omar Ashmawy: The Dakotas, or one of them.

7 District Director: Yeah.

8 Sean Quinn: He is in the geographic region we refer to as "the south."

9 District Director: Yes.

10 Sean Quinn: Okay.

11 Omar Ashmawy: Do you know if the campaign banked with Huntington before you guys worked with Paul?

12 District Director: My recollection is we've been with Huntington as long as I've been around.

13 Sean Quinn: I just had a few other questions left. Do you have anything substantive?

14 District Director: I had a brief call with Derek and Charlie on Monday, sort of on process stuff. Derek and I met a little bit before you guys came in here just again, about process stuff and what to expect and that kind of stuff, but that's sort of my briefing, other than just trying to think back and remember what I can about it.

15 Sean Quinn: Okay. And how long did your call last when you spoke on, did you say Monday?

16 District Director: It was Monday, wasn't it? Monday. 25 minutes, 20 minutes?
Sean Quinn: And how long did you meet with Derek today?

District Director: I was here 30 minutes early, but we didn't talk about just this the whole time. It was probably 20 minutes, 15, 20 minutes.

Sean Quinn: Some beer talk, I imagine?

District Director: He asked which brewery to visit tonight.

Derek Ross: Put that on the record.

Sean Quinn: What was Kavanaugh's quote? "I drank beer. I like beer." So other than counsel, have you talked with anybody in the official office or the campaign about the investigation?

District Director: About the investigation? Throughout the whole time, I've been working with other people that were named in there to help get the documents and stuff like that, but about this interview? No.

Sean Quinn: Did you look at any documents to prep for the interview?

District Director: For this? No.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And did you talk to Derek or Charlie about yesterday we did interviews with Mr. DeWitte, Ms. McManus. Have you talked about those interviews?

District Director: Again, we just talked more about process.

Sean Quinn: And what do you mean when you say, "talked about process?"

District Director: What to expect, the general scope of where your questioning was going, about... We had an idea of what the questions were going to be about based on the letters you had sent, but just what direction that the questions were going to go.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Omar Ashmawy: Were the answers that other witnesses have given in this case told to you?

District Director: No.

Sean Quinn: What topics... you said you guys flagged issues or areas that were going to be covered? What topics were flagged for it?
District Director: It was based on the original inquiry, it was some of the travel-related stuff and some of the individualized expenses that you had brought out were again, the two directions... and the van, the directions that the questions were going to go.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Do you have any other ones?

Omar Ashmawy: Uh-huh (negative).

Sean Quinn: All right, then thank-

Omar Ashmawy: Actually, I'm sorry, I do have just... I know, almost last one, promise.

Sean Quinn: Never promise that it's the last question.

Omar Ashmawy: That's true. Would you say you drive the most of the staff that's here in Michigan?

District Director: The staff that currently is on staff?

Omar Ashmawy: Yeah.

District Director: That's probably a fair assessment. I think Heather and I and Sarah are the three that are out mobile and are driving around. I haven't seen their expense reports, so I don't know exactly how many miles they drive, but I probably am the one that does most of the driving.

Omar Ashmawy: And what do you base that observation on?

District Director: Based on hours I see them in our office versus where they're out not in the office.

Omar Ashmawy: That's all I have, unless I created a question for you.

Sean Quinn: No. Just give me one second and... I think probably we're done.

Sean Quinn: Does Jim drive a lot for the campaign as well? Or campaign or as official?

District Director: Jim does not work in the official office. On the campaign, he... I don't know how much Jim drives for the campaign.

Sean Quinn: Okay. That's all I have then. You're good to go. I'll stop the recording unless you guys have anything else? Okay.
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Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

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This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [Redacted]

Witness Signature: [Redacted]

Date: 7-29-19
EXHIBIT 5
Transcript of Interview of Campaign Chairman

Review No. 19-2187
June 27, 2019
Sean Quinn: I'm starting the recording. Today is June 27th, 2019 and we're at the law offices of the law firm Clark Hill for the interview of Campaign Chairman. Mr. Barry is accompanied by his counsel Derek Ross. Speaking is Sean Quinn from the Office of Congressional Ethics and I'm here with Omar Ashmawy. The witness has been given a copy of 18 U.S.C. 1001 and signed the acknowledgement. Jim maybe we can start – do you prefer Mr. Barry or Jim?

Campaign Chairman: Jim's fine.

Sean Quinn: Okay. We can start with some easy stuff. If you just give me a little bit about yourself, your background, how you came to work for Representative Huizenga?

Campaign Chairman: Where should I begin. Bill Huizenga is actually my half-brother. We have the same mother but different dads. I'm actually 14 years older than Bill. My poor mother went through a second marriage and a second family basically. As far as background, that kind of brings me to the campaign. I've got a bachelor's degree in arts and media from Grand Valley State University. I worked in television news as a reporter and producer for six years. I spent 20 years in financial services and in 2009 as he started his race for Congress asked me to help with the campaign and it quickly became could I manage the campaign. So for 10 years now I've been either the campaign manager or the chairman for the campaign committee.

Sean Quinn: And had you worked in... And you said you were in financial services and a reporter and producer. Had you worked in politics before?

Campaign Chairman: Just in covering politics in broadcasting. Worked at several television stations and radio.

Sean Quinn: Got you. But you had never worked on a campaign before?

Campaign Chairman: Helped out on some campaigns.

Sean Quinn: And so you've been working for Representative Huizenga since 2009, since you started on that campaign?

Campaign Chairman: Correct.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And do you have any other positions or employment?

Campaign Chairman: Yeah. I'm an associate broker and realtor with Coldwell Banker Woodland Schmidt.
Sean Quinn: Okay. And I think you said when you were talking about your campaign position you used two titles, campaign manager and also campaign chairman. Are those two different positions?

Campaign Chairman: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sean Quinn: Can you kind of describe those two positions?

Campaign Chairman: Campaign manager's more the chief operating officer where campaign chair is a little more higher view.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So a campaign manager is sort of boots on the ground doing work and as campaign chairman you're doing more strategy?

Campaign Chairman: Correct. But of course in 2009 it was everything.

Sean Quinn: Of course. Right. Smaller operation I'm sure in 2009. And is it Matt Kooiman is now the campaign manager?

Campaign Chairman: Correct.

Sean Quinn: And as far as paid campaign staff go, can you tell me who else works on the campaign?

Campaign Chairman: It sort of varies where we are in the cycle of course. I'm part of the paid campaign staff. Matt is part of the paid campaign staff. Brian Patrick is part of the paid campaign staff.

Sean Quinn: That's Boomer?

Campaign Chairman: Correct. You apparently know Boomer. When we're in cycle we have some additional people that are brought on. That's just very temporary at that point. Of course we've had a campaign bookkeeper since the beginning in 2009. It was Ron VanDerKolk who passed away earlier this year and we've transitioned that off to PDS which is a compliance firm out of Georgia.

Sean Quinn: All right. And your kind of point man there, is it Paul?

Campaign Chairman: Paul Kilgore.

Sean Quinn: And did things switch over from Ron to Paul before Ron passed away?

Campaign Chairman: Correct.
Sean Quinn: And when did that switch come about?

Campaign Chairman: It was kind of during '18. Ron wanted to stay involved with the campaign, but we kind of knew he had a condition that we had to make some long-term adjustments to that. I'm not sure of the exact date that we had.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And was there overlap for some period with Ron and Paul? Did Ron hand things over to Paul?

Campaign Chairman: Yes. To the best of my ability to recall that is correct.

Derek Ross: Just to clarify, correct that there was overlap or correct that he just handed it off?

Campaign Chairman: Correct that there was overlap.

Sean Quinn: And then so it's you, Matt, and Brian essentially in the paid campaign staff. Can you tell me who are kind of the other frequent flyers in the campaign structure that maybe are not paid staff?

Campaign Chairman: Jon Dewitt certainly is. And then other than that campaign worker bees so to speak just kind of come through on the cycle and they're typically college kids.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Anybody else kind of on the official side that does a lot of campaign work?

Campaign Chairman: No.

Sean Quinn: Okay. How about Marliss?

Campaign Chairman: She's volunteered on campaign time when we're on. You get down in the home stretch on things, there's a lot of door-to-door activity and she's one of the staffers that's volunteered to come in the district and help with that.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So that's sort of the official side. How about are there family members, either Bill or other staffers or yourself that work on the campaign with some frequency?

Campaign Chairman: Other than who now?

Sean Quinn: So we talked about the folks in the official office who volunteer for the campaign. Are there family members of campaign staffers or official staffers that work on the campaign?
Campaign Chairman: I'm sorry. I'm still not following the question.

Sean Quinn: Just family members like Bill's kids or wife, Jon's kids or wife?

Campaign Chairman: Bill's wife of course. There are certain public events, campaign events that she attends. Son, Garrett, helped out on the campaign this last cycle.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And how did Garrett help out?

Campaign Chairman: Doing doors and just being part of the campaign team. There's just all these things that need to be done.

Sean Quinn: Okay. So it sounds like so far we've mostly been talking about campaign work in the sense of like I said doing doors and events that are specific to kind of lead up to an election. How about fundraisers? Are there people that participate more?

Campaign Chairman: I'm sorry. Heather, Heather Conklin does local fundraising.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Campaign Chairman: And-

Sean Quinn: Sorry, what was Heather's last name?

Campaign Chairman: Conklin.

Sean Quinn: It's not Heather Sandberg?

Campaign Chairman: Oh, I'm sorry. In hyphenated stuff. It's the same person.

Sean Quinn: Oh, okay. Okay.

Campaign Chairman: I think maybe she's on Facebook as that.

Sean Quinn: Got you. So just back to that question, is it the same set of people that are working on fund raisers kind of in the off season, or different people that work on fund raising?

Campaign Chairman: There's a DC fundraiser as well. Jon Dewitt is primary contact on that.

Sean Quinn: Okay.

Campaign Chairman: Heather primarily heads up the district and state fundraising.
Sean Quinn: Let's talk a little bit about fundraising more. I understand there are certain fundraising trips that the campaign takes. So like Disney – I know Jon and Bill maybe go up to New York and Boston with some frequency. Have you ever gone on any of those trips?

Campaign Chairman: I went on one of the trips to Boston.

Sean Quinn: And what did you all do in Boston?

Campaign Chairman: Met with a few folks at Fidelity, State Street, and Putnam and during the meeting I gave an update on the advance look on the campaign.

Sean Quinn: And when was that?

Campaign Chairman: March of last year.

Sean Quinn: Okay. Have you ever done any of the New York trips?

Campaign Chairman: No.

Sean Quinn: Okay. I know there are a few kind of recurring fundraisers in Michigan. We've heard about the beer tour, and maybe a golf-

Campaign Chairman: Golf outing.

Sean Quinn: Golf outing. Have you ever taken part in any of those?

Campaign Chairman: I've attended a dinner at the beer tours and helped staff our local golf outing. Have not played golf.

Sean Quinn: Not a golfer?

Campaign Chairman: Little bit, but not when we're working.

Sean Quinn: And the other one's I've kind of heard about are Disney. Have you ever been on the Disney trips?

Campaign Chairman: No.

Sean Quinn: No. Okay. Ever been involved in planning any of the Disney trips?

Campaign Chairman: No.

Sean Quinn: Okay. And then how about I know there was a every other year Republican Leadership Conference in Mackinac? Have you attended that?