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            IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
                     IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SOLANO
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                    HONORABLE DANIEL HEALY, PRESIDING
 4
                                    --000--
                                                      CERTIFIED
 5 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
 6
        Plaintiff,
 7
   vs.
  DOMINIC JAMES MILANO,
                                              )CASE NO.VCR233208
 9
        Defendant.
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12
                   REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
13
                         TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022
14
                       MORNING SESSION - PAGES (1-91)
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                           STACIE CURTIS, CSR, RPR
                          Official Court Reporter
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                           CSR License No. 13987
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1	MORNING SESSION		
2	TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022		
3	-000-		
4	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA versus DOMINIC JAMES		
5	MILANO.		
6	The above-entitled matter came on regularly this date in the		
7	Superior Court of California, County of Solano, before Honorable		
8	DANIEL HEALY, Judge, presiding.		
9	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA were represented by		
10	BRUCE TIMOTHY FLYNN, Deputy District Attorney for Solano County.		
11	The Defendant, DOMINIC JAMES MILANO, was present and		
12	represented by NICHOLAS EWING FILLOY and TRACY MICHELLE KRAUSE,		
13	Deputy Public Defenders for Solano County.		
14	KATELYN KNIGHT, attorney at law, was present and represented		
15	the City of Vallejo.		
16	STACIE CURTIS, CSR, RPR, Official Court Reporter, was present		
17	and acting.		
18	The following proceedings were had and taken, to wit:		
19	PROCEEDINGS		
20	-000-		
21	THE COURT: All right. Let's call Mr. Milano.		
22	All right. Mr. Milano appears here with Mr. Filloy and Ms.		
23	Krause.		
24	Mr. Flynn for the People.		
25	Ms. Knight is here from the City of Vallejo.		
26	So continuing along this case, which has been part Pitchess,		
27	part we set today as a 402 to explore and define what, if		
28	anything, a jury may be entitled to hear about any of this stuff.		

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The -- I guess -- well, first, there was some e-mails that
1
2 bounced back and forth that I saw that my assistant showed me
 3 regarding what we discussed this hearing involving.
4 Filloy had presented a really lengthy witness list. And Ms.
5 Knight had responded, which was -- well, my recollection of what I
6 | indicated initially is that I was -- I thought that Officer Komoda
7 was clearly relevant to this case, that -- that Officer Tribble --
8 Kent Tribble was theoretically relevant because of the
9 interconnection with the Komoda events. And the rest of it I said
10 I'm still struggling or not quite seeing.
11
        So I think what I said let's hear from those two witnesses
12 and then we can walk through and see what we think about the rest
13 of them.
            I think that was my position.
14
       Now, since then, Ms. Knight indicated a little while ago --
15 and I think I heard this a day or two ago -- I'm not sure when it
16 happened, but I just heard that the -- in a separate -- in a case
17 going on next door, the Cortez case, that -- oh, and what happened
18 when we were -- last time I directed the City to release some
19 stuff to Mr. Flynn. The things that I indicated to be disclosed
20 in this case, which had to do with basically Komoda and Tribble
21 and then McLaughlin and Stephanie McDonough, I think a little bit
22 more than that.
23
        But, anyway, apparently it turns out the entirety of it all
24 has now been released to the district attorney.
25
       MR. FILLOY: Has it been released under protective order, or
26 has it just been released to the district attorney?
       MS. KNIGHT: So it was released under protective order such
2.7
28 that the district attorney -- anything they provided to the
```

1 defense in the Cortez case could only be used in that case; 2 however, the judge did not bind the District Attorney's Office 3 from making disclosures as needed in their other cases. THE COURT: All right. So this case has now obtained the 4 5 status of that other case in report where there is involving some 6 other officers -- Mustard and some others -- where it's kind of 7 being handed out, being presented. And we're being asked to sign protective orders. What's 9 happened -- what has happened in this case -- I assume this case 10 may evolve to that sort of status, is in open court it gets 11 presented, the district attorney presents it to the defense, and 12 then we're asked to sign a protective order. 13 MS. KNIGHT: We'll see, Your Honor. I mean, our position is 14 this is Pitchess information and so it's business as usual. 15 Certainly if the District Attorney's Office reviews it and finds 16 some information that they feel is Brady, they're free to make 17 that disclosure. I -- personally, I don't think it's Brady, but 18 that's up to them. 19 THE COURT: All right. Well, let's do this: Mr. Filloy has 20 presented three questions he wants answered in his latest reply 21 brief as to: What is this report? Is it a public record? 22 MR. FILLOY: I think --23 THE COURT: Right? You're looking at me funny. 24 MR. FILLOY: Right. 25 I'm looking at your list of requested rulings. THE COURT: There you go. 26 Yes. Yes. MR. FILLOY: 2.7 THE COURT: Number one: The defense requests a ruling that

28 the recordings, transcripts, and reports produced as part of the

```
1 badge-bending investigation are public records pursuant to 832.7.
        MR. FILLOY:
2
                    (b). Yeah.
                   Which is kind of an interesting issue because if
        THE COURT:
4 I do make such a ruling, it seems to me that under the statutory
5 scheme, I don't just willy-nilly release stuff. If I make a
6 finding the City doesn't release it, I think you have to bring a
7 specific action to enforce the Public Records Act.
       MR. FILLOY: I --
8
       THE COURT: I think our friends in Open Vallejo have done
9
10 that a few times, but I think that's -- I think they know the
11 drill. I think that's the mechanism for doing all that.
       Even if I were to say it's an open record, I don't think
12
13 that's -- as much as I would love for that to occur, it can be out
14 and I can be done with it, I don't think that's how this thing
15 works.
       MR. FILLOY: Well, Judge, I -- I disagree. If it's a public
16
17 record, I can subpoena it.
18
       THE COURT: Right.
19
       MR. FILLOY: I mean, I don't need -- because I have criminal
20 subpoena power, I represent criminal defendants who have Sixth
21 Amendment rights, then I can just subpoena -- which I've done,
22 like, multiple times in this case now -- subpoena the
23 badge-bending records, and I get them.
24
       Let me just -- you know, the -- going through the process
25 that the public has to go through, the public has the public's
26 interest; they don't have Mr. Milano's interest, who is facing the
27 rest of his life in prison and has all the criminal rights that
28 are afforded him under the U.S. Constitution.
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They've got to go through this process that's very lengthy.
1
 2 And if somebody doesn't want to give them something, they gotta
 3 file a civil suit, they gotta do all that stuff because they don't
 4 have a heightened right to the information.
 5
        THE COURT: But the heightened right for the information is
6 premised on the relevance analysis; right? You have a heightened
7 | right to -- I've already said I've already released them to you.
8 If it's related to -- if it's related to --
9
        MR. FILLOY: Well, hold on --
        THE COURT: -- to Mr. Milano, then, yeah. If it's related to
10
11 McMahon --
12
        MR. FILLOY: Well --
13
                   -- then that's a whole different thing, seems to
        THE COURT:
14 me.
15
        MR. FILLOY: You know, when a lawyer subpoenas something,
16 right, they do so, you know, hopefully in good faith; right? They
17 don't just subpoena random things that they'd like to look at.
18 They subpoen things that are, you know, relevant to the case.
19
        And unless it's a privileged document, you know, Mr. Milano
20 has a Sixth Amendment right through compulsory service of process.
21 He just gets that information unless there's HIPPA privilege or
22 Pitchess privilege or something like that. The Court doesn't
23 review it in camera, we don't go through a relevance inquiry.
24
        I just subpoena documents all the time in court that I think
25 may contain relevant information for my client, and often times
26 they don't; right? I mean, often times I think there might be
27 something relevant in somebody's school records or in some medical
28 records or something or in, you know, a loss prevention agent's
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1 report that I subpoen from a store. Then I get it and go, oh,
2 there's nothing really in there. But I have a duty to investigate
 3 everything I think could be, you know, informational.
        So my point is it could be relevant. So my point is that,
 5 you know, I subpoenaed this stuff; if it's not privileged, then I
6 | get it; right?
        And the idea that criminal defendants who have appointed
8 counsel and the defendants are going to have to go through the
9 civil PRA lawsuit procedure, I think that's ridiculous. And I
10 think that -- I think that's absolutely ridiculous, and there's no
11 legal basis to say that at all.
        I had an experience in this case, which highlights how that
12
13 is just a punch to delay disclosures. It was with the City of
14 Oakland, not the City of Vallejo. I subpoenaed some information
15 relating to some of these officers, you know, employment that
16 were, you know -- I'm sorry -- we did a Public Records Act request
17 for some of this information. Then I subpoenaed the information
18 not -- you know, not privileged information relating to some of
19 these officers that were previously Oakland police officers.
        And when I subpoenaed it, this lady from the Oakland City
20
21 Attorney's Office calls me up. Ms. Krause and I are sitting there
22 on speakerphone with her. And she says, "Well, our position is if
23 you issue this SDT, we're going to file a motion to quash because
24 our position is that it's a public record and you gotta do a
25 Public Records Act request."
26
        And I said, "Ma'am, if it is a public record, I can subpoena
27 | it."
28
        She said, "Well, we're going to file a motion to guash."
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I said, "Before you do that, you should know that Ms. Krause
1
 2 filed a Public Records Act request for this information eight
 3 months ago and sent several follow-up letters, " at which point the
 4 lady from Oakland City Attorney's Office shut up and sent the
 5 records; right?
       Because that is just another delay tactic; right? Saying we
6
7 gotta go through the PRA process, absolutely not. I have criminal
8 subpoena power as somebody that represents Mr. Milano, just like I
9 do on all my clients' cases. And I subpoen things that I think
10 could be relevant. And if they're not privileged, people have a
11 duty under the law to bring them to the Court and the Court just
12 gives them to me unless there's some kind of actual legal
13 objection to privilege.
14
       So, I mean, if they're public records, how do I not get to
15 just subpoena them?
        THE COURT: All right. Well, let's do this: I think this is
16
17 an academic -- it seems to me I released everything that is
18 relevant to a large degree. But let me do this: Let's back up
19 here and then we will get rolling.
20
        The -- I guess option one is it's Pitchess, which has this
21 particular definition about investigation of specific officers.
22
        Option number two, it's some generalized City-driven
23 investigation in the office culture and practices, which I don't
24 know what that is. You would think it would be public at some
25 point, but -- Public Record Act, but I don't know.
26
       MR. FILLOY: Only -- only when -- when a Court in this
27 county, such as Your Honor, orders it released and compels them to
28 release it. That is the only time that the City Attorney's Office
```

1 will be able to release that information to the public and stop 2 having to come to court every day. Because if they ever release 3 that -- any of this information in the badge-bending 4 investigation, Judge, without being ordered to do so by a Court, 5 the Vallejo Police Officers' Association and every single police 6 officer who was mentioned in that report in any kind of negative 7 way is going to sue the City of Vallejo into oblivion. So only when somebody with judicial immunity orders it 9 disclosed is it ever going to be released as a public record. 10 THE COURT: In this --11 MR. FILLOY: In fact, Ms. Knight said that to you last time 12 we were here. The Court asked her, "When is this report going to 13 be released as public record?" 14 She said, "Never." 15 THE COURT: Well, let me keep going. In this case, I am 16 struggling to see -- you know, the officers who have been harmed 17 the most are all the officers who did nothing wrong and are yet 18 being continuously besmirched by virtue of the fact that this 19 thing is being held privately. 20 I agree with you. MR. FILLOY: 21 That seems to me. THE COURT: 22 MR. FILLOY: I agree with you. 23 THE COURT: But the people who -- whom the Court identified 24 as having some culpability, they're not suing --MR. FILLOY: But, Judge --25 26 I don't see them suing anybody. THE COURT: 2.7 But, anyway, let me do this: Ms. Knight, so help me out with 28 this. So what do you think -- I keep going back, and I went with

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1 our research attorneys, we went around last week trying to figure
2 out what do we think this thing is.
       MS. KNIGHT: Your Honor -- yeah.
        THE COURT: I don't know what this thing is.
 4
5
       MS. KNIGHT: I looked at this very closely, and as much as I
6 | would love to say it's a public record, my analysis -- the
7 language does not allow that. It's very clearly a peace officer
8 personnel record, it's an internal affairs investigation into
9 potential policy violations for purposes of imposing discipline.
10 It doesn't get much clearer than that.
        THE COURT: Let me ask you this then: Why does it spend so
11
12 | much time on management? There's -- there's 20 pages here, and
13 this will all -- at some point in time, this will all come out if
14 Officer Whitney's thing keeps going.
15
        But I don't -- what is -- what is it about all of the Bidou,
16 Whitney -- what is it about all of that that has anything to do
17 with any officer's file? What does the -- what does conduct
18 associated with collective unbending of badges without -- not
19 identified?
        Like, if someone is -- I'm letting in Komoda in a minute.
20
21 But let's assume this whole kind of generalized discussion of:
22 | Well, we heard about badge bending, so, therefore, we did A, B,
23 and C -- and I'm being kind when I said, "They did A, B, and C."
24 But let's assume they -- they, for purposes of discussion, the
25 management does something, how is that Pitchess?
26
       MS. KNIGHT: Well, Your Honor, those interviews and looking
27 into that background was part of the investigation to determine
28 whether any officers had bent their badges, whether that violated
```

It was a necessary part of the investigation. 1 any policy. And so I don't think that it's possible to piecemeal it and 3 say all right, well, it's a protected peace officer personnel 4 record as to only the discussions about these officers but not any 5 of the background investigation into, you know, what the chief 6 knew and when he knew it. And also that was necessary to determine statute of 7 8 limitations purposes, who knew what when and whether any 9 discipline could be imposed on the various officers. 10 THE COURT: So, now, has the city council read this report? 11 They have not. MS. KNIGHT: Why has the Vallejo City Council not been given 12 THE COURT: 13 copies of this report? 14 MS. KNIGHT: So, Your Honor, that gets a little bit into 15 attorney/client stuff, but I can tell you just generally that the 16 Charter does not vest with the city council authority for 17 management of the police department. It's specifically vest 18 management of the city and its department and employees and the 19 city manager. 20 And then there's a separate provision in the code that says 21 city manager appoints the Vallejo police chief who is responsible 22 for managing that department. 23 There are some issues where with peace officer personnel 24 records, there is a case that held if you provide those records, 25 individuals who do not have a legitimate business need to know, 26 there is some liability there. And officers have been allowed to 27 sue for invasion of privacy under those circumstances. 28 And so, you know, certainly some information can be

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1 communicated internally, but because they're not actively involved
2 in that management, they don't have a legitimate need to see that
 3 report.
                   I just don't understand how -- and I'm getting a
        THE COURT:
 5 little off, but I'm going to try to keep Mr. Filloy ringed in on
6 this -- in this same area as I go off the reservation a little bit
7 here. I -- I just don't see how the community benefits from any
8 of this. I don't -- it seems to me just the opposite. It seems
9 to me that the community is suffering grievous harm because of
10 something that, to a certain extent, has been readily identified,
11 it seems to me to a large extent at this point has been contained,
12 and yet remains this specter of silence and -- just lends itself
13 to the community not understanding what happened here, which just
14 exacerbates the protests and the lack of confidence and all of
15 that. And if the city council can't even itself engage in that
16 analysis, I just don't know -- I -- I just don't know what that
17|is.
       Anyway.
18
        MS. KNIGHT: Well, Your Honor, I think the direction the
19 legislature is going is that in a few years here, everything's
20 coming out is my guess. We're not going to be doing Pitchess
21 | motions anymore.
22
        But at this point, again, there's -- there are some
23 protections in place, there is some language in place, and we're
24 obligated to comply.
25
        THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. Flynn, have you -- have you
26 read all this? Have you read the 150-page report?
                    I did briefly yesterday afternoon, Judge.
2.7
        MR. FLYNN:
                                                               I -- I
28 can tell you that it is true that we did receive a packet.
```

1 didn't receive it personally. I am on the Brady committee. 2 | Members of the Brady committee will be reviewing the entire 3 report, listening to all the interviews, going through all the 4 documents that's part of determining whether there is any Brady 5 material in any of the officers who were interviewed or 6 participated in the investigation, not only for purposes, I 7 believe, of the Cortez case but any other case where it pops up. 8 But that has not been done yet. We are still in the process of 9 trying to set up a meeting for the committee to discuss what is in 10 the report. 11 Okay. All right. So let me do this: Let's --THE COURT: 12 and then we can get rolling here. For purposes of Mr. Filloy's 13 questions, question number one: A ruling that the recordings, 14 transcripts, and reports produced as part of the badge-bending 15 investigation are public records pursuant to 832.7. 16 What I think is this report is this hybrid and I think there 17 are -- there is some information in there that is relevant to 18 officer-involved shootings, and there's little morcels of that 19 embedded in 150 pages of I don't know what that is. I -- it's an 20 odd -- it's an odd report. It's an odd thing. 21 There are certain names in that report -- Officer Tribble, 22 who we're going to hear from today; Officer McMahon, McLaughlin, 23 Mr. Komoda -- Officer Komoda. There are a handful of names for 24 which your Brady committee is going to have to disclose this 25 stuff. 26 There are things in there that I think what you will struggle 27 with is -- and we've ran into this issue with the infamous Dr. 28 | Hogan (phonetic) report a number of years ago. It's -- it's

1 gossip and unexplored opinion, and I don't even know what that I mean, I ruled in the Dr. Hogan case I ruled that the 3 gossip was just gossip and therefore was not really relevant or 4 anything. Now, why all this gossip is in this report, I do not know, 6 but there's a lot of that. And I think that's what you're going 7 to struggle with. So I don't know. I don't think there's a simple answer to what this report is. 9 I think it's an interesting question is: Does this report 10 intentionally blur the lines to -- for some 11 administrator-reliability purpose? I do not know that, and that's 12 not our question today. But for purposes of today's analysis, I mean, again, I'm not 13 14 sure if this thing is a public record or not, but I'm not going to 15 | find it is a public record that would compel me to disclose it 16 today. I'm doing that in part because it seems to me -- and this 17 would be subject to review after we hear from our first couple 18 witnesses -- but it seems to me I've already released everything 19 that is relevant to Mr. Milano out of that report. And I know Mr. Filloy is chomping at the bit because he 20 21 thinks there is some nugget of meaningful stuff there in this 22 report. And, you know, McMahon is not going to like listening to 23 this report, but other than him, the rest of this is just nothing 24 there. 25 The -- again, your question number two: Are relevant to 26 Mr. Milano. I've already ruled everything involving Officer 27 Komoda is relevant to Mr. Milano -- at least for purposes of 28 | further discovery. I've not ruled that any of this is relevant at

```
1 trial. But I think I've already done that.
       The -- now, this issue of I know you're saying I haven't read
 3 every transcript of every witness and so therefore there may be
 4 nuggets of things in there that I just have missed because of by
 5 virtue of the time of not having done all that. And I'm always
6 open to -- as I did in this case, I'm open to modifying my views
7 as we go. But I am not seeing that. I think most of this is a --
8 I don't see -- after we hear from these two today, maybe I'll
9 change my mind -- that the Pitchess process is constitutionally
10 deficient.
11
       MR. FILLOY: As applied to the Vallejo Police Department.
12
       THE COURT:
                   And --
13
       MR. FILLOY: And that --
14
                   I think it's absurd. I think it's -- every
       THE COURT:
15 couple years -- I'm a giant fan of Kafka. And I -- every couple
16 years I go back through and do a deep Kafka dive and reread
17 things, and I've done that over the last three months. And -- and
18 there's this particular short story that Kafka tells that they
19 actually retell in the trial, and it's captioned "Before the Law."
20 It's a great little story.
        This has this "Before the Law" feel to it, like it is all
21
22 designed to never let you through that door until the door is
23 closed. But I -- this feels like that to me.
       But having said that, it seems to me that what's the path
24
25 we're on right now is the right path to be on, and that is
26 exploring information that is relevant to the persons involved in
27 Mr. Milano's case. So I leave that for another -- I think I leave
28 all that discussion for another day.
```

```
Right. Well, at least after we do these
1
       MR. FILLOY:
2 hearings after we see what we get.
 3
        THE COURT: Yeah.
                           That's right.
                    I did want to just logistically -- Your Honor, I
       MR. FILLOY:
5 do have a witness subpoenaed for this afternoon -- I told him --
6 we told him not to come until this afternoon -- that he is on
7 | vacation tomorrow I think I'd like to get to today.
       THE COURT: Who is that?
8
                                    I mean, if there is one person
9
       MR. FILLOY: Josh Coleman.
10 that's just definitely going to be a relevant, material, direct
11 witness in this, it's Mr. Coleman.
12
       THE COURT: How so?
13
       MR. FILLOY: Well, so, Judge, we're -- we're now in the --
14 we're now going to do the 402, so I am going to start talking
15 about the facts of what the offers of proof are now that -- and
16 this is previously disclosed privileged information because, you
17 know, now we're --
18
       THE COURT: All right.
19
       MR. FILLOY: -- doing the hearing.
20
                   I forgot to ask you this question.
       THE COURT:
21
       MR. FILLOY: Right.
22
       THE COURT:
                   But let's do that.
23
       MR. FILLOY: Let's do what?
24
       THE COURT: Let's do what you're saying you need to do.
25
       MR. FILLOY: Okay. Right. So I think at this point, Judge,
26 probably -- so when Tribble and McLaughlin and Komoda, the thing
27 their statements are in all in agreement on is that right after
28 their first shooting in 2016 -- August 31st, I think, of 2016 --
```

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1 that Tribble tells them to come to the Relay; right? And that
2 it's at the Relay that they have this conversation and discussion.
 3 The nature of what this is, according to Tribble versus Komoda and
 4 McLaughlin, are very, very different, right, in terms of their
 5 reporting what the conversation is about. But everybody agrees
6 they go to the Relay, they meet him there, and he bends the
7 | badges; right?
                    "He" being Tribble?
8
        THE COURT:
9
        MR. FILLOY: Tribble. Tribble bends their duty badges --
10
        THE COURT: And after -- Mr. Flynn, this is what I was
11 curious about. Are you up on any of this?
12
        MR. FLYNN:
                   Yes.
13
        THE COURT: All right.
14
        MR. FILLOY: Komoda and McLaughlin both say that there is a
15 fourth police officer there; right? Komoda cannot remember,
16 according to him, who it is -- who is the fourth police officer
17 that is there at the Relay with Kent Tribble when this happens.
18 But David McLaughlin says, and has no problem in his interview
19 remembering, it was Josh Coleman. Josh Coleman was sitting there,
20 he was sitting there with Tribble already when we walked in and
21 Josh Coleman was present when Tribble bent their badges.
22 can shed a lot of light on what this conversation really was
23 about, about -- you know, if their account of this is true.
24
        But then Josh Coleman is also, according to Kent Tribble,
25 present in a bar, I think -- or it's a little bit vaguer in that
26 one where they are -- present in a bar, probably the Relay, with
27 | Kent Tribble -- because he called Kent Tribble over there one
28 | night -- this is later on. He gets there. Josh Coleman and Zach
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1 Jacobson are there. And Tribble watches Coleman bend Zach
2 | Jacobson's badge after he's been in an officer-involved shooting;
 3 right?
        Now, Zach Jacobson is asked point-blank by Robert Giordano
 5 about: You were in a bar and Josh Coleman bent your badge in
6 front of Kent Tribble, Zach Jacobson says that's 100 percent
7 | false, didn't happen; right?
        Zach Jacobson says, "I got my badge bent after the Angel
9 Ramos killing, my first shooting, by Terry Poyser in the locker
10 room at the Vallejo Police Department. And that is the only time
11 my badge has been bent. After that I bent Ryan McMahon's badge in
12 the locker room after he killed Ronnell Foster."
        In between those two events, right, is the Barboa shooting --
13
14 the second shooting for Jacobson, the second shooting for Komoda,
15 the second shooting for McLaughlin. Nobody wants to admit that
16 there's multiple bendings for multiple shootings. Okay.
17
        Jacobson, 100 hundred percent false, it never happened.
18
        Kent Tribble has this really detailed recollection about this
19 incident that he gives. He says, "Josh Coleman was there."
20
        We can ask Josh Coleman, "Did this happen?"
        THE COURT: All right. Well, let's break this down.
21
2.2
        MR. FILLOY: Because it if happened, it's the bending after
23 Barboa and probably Komoda and McLaughlin's badges were bent too
24 after that.
25
        THE COURT: As to the being present during the exchange
26 between Tribble and Komoda, that kinda makes some sense. But
27 Poyser and Jacobson and who's doing what and additional --
28
        MR. FILLOY: You gotta let me flush that out for you, Judge.
```

1	THE COURT: Okay.			
2	MR. FILLOY: Right? All of these people that are			
3	interviewed whose interviews I've got now, Jake Estrada was			
4	one of the Barboa shooters. He left the Vallejo Police			
5	Department, wasn't interviewed, made no statement about this that			
6	I know of, have him subpoenaed for tomorrow; right?			
7	Everybody very conveniently has and in their statement,			
8	right, everybody has this conveniently in their statement that			
9	after the Barboa shooting, which happens in August of 2017, no			
10	badge bending. Badge bending never came up, never, you know,			
11	happened, nobody is it's a very, very convenient reality			
12	because three of the guys in that shooting, it was their second			
13	shooting. The other two people, they say no, they don't have to			
14	admit they ever had their badge bent at all.			
15	But according to Jacobson, he had his badge bent, in January			
16	of 2017 after the Angel Ramos shooting, by Terry Poyser. And then			
17	he's bending McMahon's badge in February or March of 2019 after			
18	McMahon kills Ronnell Foster. So right in between the two of them			
19	there's a shooting; right?			
20	I made a little chart here timeline here I'll give just as			
21	a visual aid hand this to the Court here about the			
22	progression of shootings that happened; right?			
23	8/31/16, Komoda and McLaughlin have this shooting; right?			
24	Everybody reports there's badge bending after that shooting.			
25	10/16/16, Galios and Coleman are in the Starbucks shooting.			
26	Kent Tribble says he bent Galios' and Coleman's badges after the			
27	Starbucks shooting.			
28	1/23/17, Jacobson kills Angel Ramos. Jacobson says Terry			

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1 Poyser bent his badge after that shooting.
        We got two other shootings, which both involve Jarrett Tonn,
2
 3 May 31st and July 15th of 2017. One of them is -- also involved
 4 | Sean Kenney and Jared Jaksch and Kevin Barreto; one of them is
 5 just Tonn.
6
        We don't know if -- we don't receive any information about
7 any badge bending after those shootings, but we -- but Tribble
8 does say that he thinks he bent Tonn's badge with Gary Jones
9 previously; right?
10
        2017, badge bending denied. In August of 2017, Jeffrey
11 Barboa.
12
        February, 2018, badge bending reported.
13
        November, 2018, Mr. Milano gets shot, badge bending denied.
14
        February, 2019, according to the interviews disclosed to me,
15 | Willy McCoy gets killed and there's badge bending after that.
16
        So it's pretty interesting that the Barboa shooting occurring
17 right in the middle of all this -- of all these instances of badge
18 bending, it's, like, there's five shooters, nothing.
19
        That timeline --
20
        THE COURT: What do you mean "nothing"?
21
        MR. FILLOY: No badge bending, it never came up.
22
        And what's interesting is that the timeline here would
23 suggest by Kent Tribble's statement, by Zach Jacobson's statement,
24 and by partly McLaughlin's statement, the 2018 -- sometime in 2018
25 was really when the cleanup, the heads-up that there -- that, you
26 know, you gotta fix your badges started happening.
2.7
        I mean, McLaughlin says this in his interview. He says with
28 some months after Barboa that I came in and we -- you know, the
```

1 word was, you know, from some shift supervisor, sergeant, 2 something, you know, your bent badges, you better fix your badge. 3 Jacobson says the same thing; right? So the Barboa shooting is before the cleanup really starts 5 happening in 2018. The cleanup in 2018 is happening because 6 SB1421 is coming. Everything that Tribble says about the timeline makes sense 8 with what Jacobson says about the timeline. And it makes sense 9 with part of what McLaughlin says about the timeline; right? 10 | Komoda and McLaughlin give these very, very self-serving 11 statements, like the most self-serving statements ever. 12 We're victims of badge bending. Basically, we didn't get consent 13 to it. We didn't have notice of it. We bent it back right away. 14 We didn't like it"; right? 15 They deny what Tribble says, which, again, works with this 16 timeline, which is in 2018, he went back to Komoda and McLaughlin 17 says, "Bend your badges back, man. You know, we gotta clean all 18 that up." THE COURT: Let's focus here. 19 20 MR. FILLOY: Right. 21 I -- I understand your argument. And if we were THE COURT: 22 litigating -- if this were the city council --23 MR. FILLOY: Uh-huh. 24 THE COURT: -- or finder of fact for them, then a lot of 25 that -- every one of those things appears as a reasonable 26 analysis. I guess the question is reeling this back to: What 27 does any of this have to do with Mr. Milano? Get back to 28 Komoda --

```
Komoda is lying.
 1
        MR. FILLOY:
        THE COURT: Like I said --
 2
 3
        MR. FILLOY: He is lying about what happened.
 4
        THE COURT: You can question Komoda. You can question --
 5
        MR. FILLOY: Right.
 6
        THE COURT:
                    -- Tribble. I -- and then I guess we see where
7 | we go.
        I -- I -- as to Coleman, I -- you can call him out of order.
9 It does seem to me that the thing about him being present with
10 Tribble and Komoda, that maybe has some relevance.
11
        But this overall -- the organizational history of badge
12 bending in general and/or, quote, covering it up, I -- that is
13 beyond --
14
        MR. FILLOY: I don't think --
15
        THE COURT: -- these --
16
        MR. FILLOY: I don't think that you're getting where I'm
17 going, Judge. That is all evidence that Komoda is lying.
18
        THE COURT. Okay. Well --
19
        MR. FILLOY: He's lying about having bent his badge back, you
20 know, two days later and then never heard anything about it again
21 until the -- you know, the article.
22
        THE COURT:
                    All right. Well, let's do something --
23
        MR. FLYNN:
                    It appears to me --
24
        THE COURT:
                    I just want --
25
        MR. FLYNN:
                    I want to say something. It appears to me a lot
26 of this is pure innuendo and speculation. And under 352, we'd be
27 asking to keep all of this out, not only because it would take an
28 undue amount of time at trial to produce this evidence but there's
```

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1 nothing in here that suggests that Komoda lied about anything.
2 And the Court has already read the report that Komoda's been
 3 exonerated on this.
 4
       THE COURT: Well, let me -- let me -- all right.
 5
       MR. FILLOY: Which really goes to that third ruling --
 6
       THE COURT: Hang on. That was -- that was a bridge too far.
7
       Let me -- let me do this: A, I'm not ruling on any of this
8 being admissible in front of a jury. There will be all kinds of
9 discussion about: Is this prejudicial? Is it 352? What does it
10 really mean?
11
       The reason why I'm letting you inquire of both Komoda and
12 Tribble, that will create a firsthand record, not secondhand,
13 thirdhand hearsay, through the -- through the -- this report
14 writing. So that's why we're going to do this. And then we will
15 see.
16
        But, again, it's gotta be back to -- it's gotta be back to
17 having some relevance to this case, not the generalized thing of
18 the -- of the City of Vallejo.
19
        I -- so, Mr. Flynn, I have read the report. I am not rely --
20 I'm only relying on that report for the purposes of laying out the
21 roadmap of what can possibly move forward.
22
       MR. FLYNN:
                   Agreed.
23
       THE COURT:
                   The exoneration -- the thing about anyone being
24 exonerated, I'm really troubled by that assertion. The -- I will
25 | indicate -- we had -- I had a couple of in camera hearings with
26 Mr. Giordano. And I read a draft. And he indicated in his
27 earlier draft, he characterized certain persons -- certain
28 officers who had their badges bent as victims. And I told him
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1 that was insane, that that's how you end up on the front page of 2 the New York Times. It may be that officers are passive and that they were not 4 the initiators or even intended to have their badge bent, but 5 under any reasonable analysis of responsible and ethical police 6 conduct, once it happens, the obligation of any officer is to undo 7 it, not embrace it; and to the extent it violates rules of the 8 department, report it and fix it. Shouldn't have to wait for an 9 investigation to reveal it. And, ultimately, cutting to the chase here, that is -- to be 10 11 honest with you, it is remarkably absent from the Giordano report, 12 we want police officers -- this town deserves police officers who 13 say: What kind of culture is that? It might be perceived as 14 | glorifying violence. 15 That's what a police officer does: Hey, this is wrong, I 16 question this, this is not who we are, I -- I'm not going to fall 17 back on a characterization of myself as a victim. 18 And I -- that report astounds me and that -- that 19 characterization remains in the report that you have read. 20 is a depressing and troubling characterization that besmirches 21 | 90 percent of the police officers who clearly recognize how their 22 culture should be. 23 So, anyway, I wasn't going to go there, but you kind of went 24 there with that exoneration thing. I don't -- I'm not relying on 25 the Giordano report as exonerating anyone who is accused of doing 26 something. I do think it accurately reflects the fact that 27 90 percent of the police officers had nothing to do with this --28 this thing, and it's a pox on all their houses, including the

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1 POA's house that they do not -- that they are sacrificing the
2 majority of their officers for the protection of a few who aren't
3 even officers anymore.
       All right. Having said that, let's do this: I said we'd do
5 Komoda, we'll do -- I'll let you do Coleman this afternoon at some
6 point for that limited purpose. Anything more than that, we're
7 going to have to discuss. I'm going to take the morning break.
8 | We'll come back in 15 minutes. We'll do Komoda -- I assume it's
9 Komoda then Tribble.
       We didn't really finish the discussion as to Ms. Knight's
10
          I'm not -- I'm struggling why we're going to need the
12 other officers, but I guess we'll have that discussion as we --
13
       MS. KNIGHT: And, Your Honor, are you prepared to rule on my
14 motion to quash before we start testimony? Or will you need to
15 wait until after? Are you prepared to rule on my motion to quash
16 before we hear testimony for Darst and Cardwell? Or will you
17 need -- decide that after we hear testimony?
18
       MR. FILLOY: Judge, I'm going to ask that you defer on that.
19
       THE COURT: Yeah. Let's defer that. Actually, I was waiting
20 for you to -- today was -- I guess today was kind of like my
21 | wife's favorite show, they have reveal day. I was thinking this
22 was reveal day then we were going to revisit these things. Let me
23 defer and we shall see.
24
       MR. FLYNN: How long, Judge? 10:15?
25
       THE COURT:
                   Yeah, 10:15.
26
        (Recess.)
2.7
       THE COURT: All right. Are we ready to roll?
28
       Let's go back on the record in Mr. Milano's case.
```

1 present, our counsel are all present. I indicated we would conduct the 402 --2 MR. FILLOY: Mr. Milano is not present, Judge. 3 4 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry. 5 And let me do this: I'll mark you -- you presented a chart. MR. FILLOY: Mark as a Court exhibit. 6 7 I'll mark it Court Exhibit 1. THE COURT: (Court Exhibit 1 was marked for identification.) 8 9 THE COURT: All right. I'm sorry for that. Now Mr. Milano 10 appears. Counsel are all present. 11 All right. Continue with our hearing, we indicated Mr. 12 | Filloy would call a couple witnesses for purposes of a 402 hearing 13 to determine what might be relevant and admissible at trial. 14 So, Mr. Filloy. MR. FILLOY: Call Matt Komoda. 15 16 THE COURT: Okay. 17 MR. FILLOY: Judge, I think Ms. Knight probably shouldn't be 18 at counsel table at this point in time. 19 MS. KNIGHT: I'm happy to sit over there if that makes you 20 feel better. MR. FILLOY: I mean, I don't want -- I think her time in the 21 22 course of objection is probably largely done here. 23 THE COURT: Well, maybe. But I'm not sure where we're going. 24 I'm all right either way. 25 If something comes up that would be subject to some kind of 26 objection, Ms. Knight can certainly make it. I -- I'm not -- I'm 27 assuming that for -- the circumstance wouldn't come up, but let's 28 see.

Anyway, Officer Komoda, welcome. Come on up. 1 2 MATTHEW KOMODA, 3 Called as a witness was sworn and testifies as follows: 4 THE CLERK: Do you solemnly swear the testimony you're about 5 to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? 7 THE WITNESS: Yes. 8 THE CLERK: Thank you. Have a seat. 9 Please state your full name, and spell your last name for the 10 record. 11 THE WITNESS: Matt Komoda, K-O-M-O-D-A. 12 THE CLERK: Thank you. 13 Mr. Filloy. THE COURT: 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION 15 BY MR. FILLOY: Mr. -- sorry, Corporal. Corporal Komoda, how 16 are you employed? 17 I'm a police officer with the City of Vallejo. Α. 18 In order to become a police officer, did you attend a police Q. 19 academy? 20 Α. Yes. 21 When and where did you do that? 0. 2.2 Α. Oakland, California in 2006. 23 Q. Did you attend a separate police academy at a different time? 24 I went to a Napa academy in -- years ago. I forget what year 25 it was. I think I was about 21 or so. Did you -- did you complete the Napa police academy in 1998? 26 Q. 2.7 I'm not sure what year it was, but yeah. I completed the 28 academy in Napa.

- 1 Q. You completed the whole thing; right?
- 2 | A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Okay. Between 1998 and 2006, did you seek employment as a
- 4 law enforcement officer?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. Was there anything keeping you from being a police officer
- 7 until 2006?
- 8 MR. FLYNN: Objection. Relevance.
- 9 THE COURT: What's the relevance of --
- 10 MR. FILLOY: Well, if I can just -- few more questions, we
- 11 can get there.
- 12 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead. One or two questions then
- 13 we'll see. I'm not sure what the relevance would be, but keep
- 14 going.
- 15 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Were you able to obtain your full POST
- 16 certification after attending the Napa police academy in 1998?
- 17 A. You mean after working as a police officer?
- 18 Q. Yeah.
- 19 A. I got my basic from the academy in Napa. That's it.
- 20 O. When you were in the police academy in Napa, did you handle
- 21 any discharge of firearm?
- 22 | A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Were you committing any kind of crime by doing that?
- 24 MR. FLYNN: Objection. Relevance.
- 25 THE COURT: As phrased, sustained. The question: Did he
- 26 discharge a firearm?
- 27 MR. FILLOY: In the police academy in Napa.
- 28 THE COURT: Okay. Well, he answered that question. I quess

- 1 his characterization is probably irrelevant, I don't know.
- Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Was there some reason that you did not work
- 3 as a police officer for eight years until 2006?
- 4 A. I'm not sure specifically.
- 5 MR. FLYNN: Objection. Once again, objection. Relevance as
- 6 to --
- 7 THE COURT: Yeah.
- 8 MR. FLYNN: -- this pertaining to the trial.
- 9 THE COURT: Let me sustain at this point. Let's move to the
- 10 main issues.
- 11 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: When did you become a Vallejo police officer?
- 12 | A. I think it was 2014.
- 13 Q. Have you been continuously employed as a police officer in
- 14 the City of Vallejo since that time?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. When did you get promoted from officer to corporal?
- 17 A. Probably about three years ago.
- 18 Q. And at some point during your employment with the Vallejo
- 19 Police Department in the course of working there, did you become
- 20 aware of the practice of badge bending?
- 21 | A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And when did that occur?
- 23 A. After a shooting I was involved in.
- 24 | Q. Was that -- when was that shooting?
- 25 A. I'm not sure what year it was.
- 26 Q. Was it August 31st of 2016?
- 27 A. It could have been. I don't have that specific date.
- 28 Q. Was it the first shooting that you were involved in in the

1 City of Vallejo?

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Who else was involved in that shooting with you?
- 4 A. David McLaughlin.
- 5 Q. Did both of you discharge your firearms in that shooting?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And was anyone struck in that shooting?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. So how long after that shooting did you learn about the
- 10 practice of badge bending?
- 11 A. I think it was probably a couple days after.
- 12 Q. Within a day or two?
- 13 A. Couple days, I'm guessing.
- 14 Q. All right. Less than a week?
- 15 A. I believe so.
- 16 Q. Okay. And what occurred that started the chain of events,
- 17 you becoming aware of this?
- 18 A. Kent Tribble asked to meet myself and David McLaughlin at a
- 19 bar called the Relay and told us to bring our badges. We thought
- 20 that was weird.
- 21 Q. Was this after you had completed your -- or excuse me. Did
- 22 you complete a shooting interview after that shooting?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And was this after you completed that?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 Q. Who performed that shooting interview?
- 27 A. I don't know.
- 28 Q. Was it Terry Poyser and Kyle Wylie?

- 1 A. I don't remember who interviewed me.
- Q. Would it refresh your recollection to look at the police report regarding the investigation of that shooting?
- 4 MR. FLYNN: Objection. Relevance as to who did the
- 5 investigation.
- 6 THE COURT: Well, I'll allow this question.
- 7 You can --
- 8 MR. FILLOY: May I approach?
- 9 THE COURT: Yeah. You can approach.
- 10 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Just ask you to have a look at that document.
- 11 Take as long as you need. Let us know when you reviewed it.
- 12 A. It appears it was Detective Wylie and Detective Poyser who
- 13 states in the report.
- 14 Q. Does that document refresh your recollection as to the date
- 15 the incident occurred?
- 16 A. Let me look at the date.
- 17 September 1st about 356 hours he conducted an interview. So,
- 18 yeah. Let's see what time the -- yeah. I'm not sure what time
- 19 the shooting occurred, but he stated at 356 in the morning on the
- 20 first of September that he conducted an interview.
- 21 Q. Did -- to your recollection, did that interview happen the
- 22 same night as the shooting?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So the invitation to the bar would have been maybe the 2nd,
- 25 maybe the 3rd of September, maybe the 4th, something like that?
- 26 A. Yeah. Like I said, I don't remember what date it was. It
- 27 was a couple days after.
- 28 Q. Okay. And what did -- was it that point was he sergeant or

1 lieutenant, Tribble?

- 2 A. I think he was a sergeant.
- 3 Q. At that point Sergeant Tribble, what did he indicate to you
- 4 specifically when he asked you to come to the bar?
- 5 A. He just asked us to bring a badge.
- 6 Q. Said, "Just bring a badge," nothing else?
- 7 A. "Bring your badge."
- 8 Q. Okay. And did you bring a badge to the Relay?
- 9 A. I sure did.
- 10 Q. Did you come alone or with Officer McLaughlin?
- 11 A. I'm not sure if we walked over there together or not, but we
- 12 were there at the same time, yes.
- 13 Q. Did you guys go from the police department there -- to there?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Were you at the end of your shift, or were you on
- 16 admin leave?
- 17 A. I'm assuming I was on admin leave because it was a couple
- 18 days after.
- 19 Q. Do you recall then why you were at the department?
- 20 A. No, I don't recall.
- 21 Q. When you arrived at the Relay bar, was Sergeant Tribble
- 22 there?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 | O. And you were with David McLaughlin; right?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 Q. And there was a fourth person, a fourth Vallejo police
- 27 officer there; is that accurate?
- 28 A. I believe there was. I don't remember who it was.

- 1 Q. Okay. Was it Josh Coleman? Does that jog your recollection?
- 2 A. It might have been. Like I said, I don't remember who was
- 3 there.
- 4 Q. Can you exclude Josh Coleman as being the guy who was there?
- 5 A. No, I cannot.
- 6 Q. Okay. What occurred at this meeting at the Relay bar with
- 7 Sergeant Tribble, David McLaughlin, and this other officer?
- 8 A. He -- Kent Tribble grabbed our badges and grabbed ahold of
- 9 one corner of the badge said, "Hey, this is -- you were involved
- 10 in a critical incident. You did what you had to do and you
- 11 handled it professionally and you guys came out of it okay."
- 12 And then he bent one of the prongs on the badge.
- 13 Q. Which prong on the badge was it?
- 14 A. It was one of the lower two. I don't know which one it was.
- 15 Q. By "lower two," you mean the ones to the bottom -- or points
- 16 for the bottom of the star?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. As it sits on your chest?
- 19 | A. Yes.
- 20 0. And does the police badge star that you're talking about, is
- 21 | it a metal badge?
- 22 A. I think it's made out of silver.
- 23 Q. Silver?
- 24 A. I believe.
- 25 Q. All right. Does it look basically like the cloth badge
- 26 that's on your chest right now?
- 27 | A. Yes.
- 28 Q. And that's a seven-pointed star?

- 1 A. Let's see. One, two, three, four, five -- yes. Seven.
- 2 Seven points.
- 3 Q. And does that refer -- that type of badge, does that refer to
- 4 a specific way as, like, the duty badge or your dress badge?
- $5 \mid A$. No. It's just referred to as a badge.
- 6 Q. Okay. And was that the badge that -- the sterling silver
- 7 badge that you were issued when you became a Vallejo police
- 8 officer?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And does it have, like, some sort of a hook or safety catch
- 11 on the back of it?
- 12 A. It has a pin on the back, yes.
- 13 Q. A pin?
- 14 A. Yeah. Like a safety pin type.
- 15 | **Q.** Okay.
- 16 | A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. And when he bent it, did he do that with his -- with his
- 18 fingers? Just with his hands?
- 19 | A. Yes.
- 20 O. Did he bend yours and McLaughlin's badge at the same time?
- 21 A. Well, he needed two hands for a badge, so he did one at a
- 22 time.
- 23 Q. What I'm asking is did he take yours, bend it, give it back,
- 24 then take McLaughlin's? Or did he take both at the same time?
- 25 A. I don't remember.
- 26 Q. How far back did he bend the point of the badge?
- 27 A. I'm not sure. Not very far.
- 28 Q. Okay. And what did he say to you, explain to you that this

1 was about?

- 2 A. Didn't I answer that already?
- 3 Q. I couldn't quite --
- 4 THE COURT: You --
- 5 MR. FILLOY: -- hear his full answer.
- 6 THE COURT: You can go ahead and answer.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Okay. He stated that we were involved in a
- 8 critical incident, you handled it professionally, you came out of
- 9 it okay.
- 10 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Was he referring to the shooting?
- 11 A. I believe so, yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. Did you guys discuss the shooting at that date?
- 13 | A. No.
- 14 Q. And did he explain to you that this was a tradition that was
- 15 done at the Vallejo Police Department, or did you have the
- 16 impression it was just for you guys?
- 17 A. He didn't say one way or the other. We didn't ask.
- 18 Q. Okay. And how long were you there, do you think, at the
- 19 Relay bar with -- with Sergeant Tribble?
- 20 A. Not long. I believe we had a couple beers and we left.
- 21 Q. Okay. So did he ask your consent before he bent the badge?
- 22 A. He did not.
- 23 Q. Did he give you any indication that he was going to bend the
- 24 badge whenever he took it from you?
- 25 A. He did not.
- 26 Q. Did you have any notice from any source that that was going
- 27 to occur?
- 28 A. None at all.

- 1 Q. Okay. Were you displeased that he bent your badge?
- 2 A. We weren't happy about it.
- 3 Q. By "we," you mean you and Officer McLaughlin?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Did you discuss it after it occurred?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Where -- when was that?
- 8 A. I believe we were walking back to the parking lot after
- 9 having a couple beers.
- 10 Q. What did that conversation consist of, essentially?
- 11 A. That we felt it was weird; didn't like the way it looked. We
- 12 only wear our metal badges when we're coming to court, wearing our
- 13 full uniforms, or to ceremonies. And it looks unprofessional.
- 14 Q. So you had a discussion you felt that the badge -- bending
- 15 the tip of it was unprofessional?
- 16 | A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Had you -- did you express to Sergeant Tribble after this
- 18 shooting at any point that you felt very bad about your own
- 19 performance tactically in the shooting?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Did you hear Officer McLaughlin express to Sergeant Tribble
- 22 that you -- the two of you felt bad about your tactical
- 23 performance in the shooting?
- 24 | A. I don't think so.
- 25 O. Did you express to anyone in the Vallejo Police Department
- 26 that you felt bad about your tactical performance in that
- 27 | shooting?
- 28 A. Not that I can recall.

- 1 Q. Did you hear Officer McLaughlin or aware of him expressing
- 2 that to anyone?
- 3 A. Not -- I don't know. I don't recall him saying it.
- 4 Q. Did you ever express that you guys were embarrassed that you
- 5 hadn't hit anyone?
- 6 A. I don't think so.
- 7 | Q. Were -- was Sergeant Kent Tribble at that time your
- 8 supervisor?
- 9 A. Um, I don't know who the supervisor was actually. I don't
- 10 remember. I know I think Lieutenant Darden was working overtime
- 11 that day, I believe. But other than that, I don't know.
- 12 Q. Do you recall a conversation with Sergeant Tribble where he
- 13 indicated that the fact that you had -- you and McLaughlin had not
- 14 hit anyone was his fault for bad training?
- 15 A. I don't think so.
- 16 Q. Do you recall any discussions about the fact that you guys --
- 17 that you and Officer McLaughlin had shot the metal of the car as
- 18 opposed to through a window at which it could hit?
- 19 A. I'm sorry, can you repeat it?
- 20 O. Do you recall any discussion training-wise in the department
- 21 about the facts that you and Officer McLaughlin had aimed for the
- 22 center mass of people by shooting into the metal of the car doors
- 23 instead of shooting through the windows at what you could see?
- 24 A. I don't know if that happened.
- 25 O. Were you aware that there was a critical incident review
- 26 process of that officer-involved shooting?
- 27 A. I believe that's commonplace.
- 28 Q. Were you consulted during that process?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Were you provided a copy of the critical incident review when
- 3 it was completed?
- 4 | A. No.
- 5 Q. Were you counselled in any way regarding that?
- 6 A. I don't think so.
- 7 Q. Were you aware that Sergeant Tribble was the use-of-force
- 8 expert on that Critical Incident Review Board for that shooting?
- 9 A. I'm not sure if he was or not.
- 10 Q. Were you ever made aware of his contention, or anyone's
- 11 contention at the Vallejo Police Department, that you and Officer
- 12 McLaughlin had used underperforming ammunition in that shooting?
- 13 A. I don't know.
- 14 THE COURT: What a concept: Underperforming ammunition.
- 15 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Can you describe how far back you think the
- 16 point of the badge was bent? Like, was it a few millimeters or,
- 17 like, you know, a quarter inch?
- 18 A. Like you asked earlier, I said it was very minimal. I don't
- 19 know what it was.
- 20 O. Did Sergeant Tribble say anything to you during that
- 21 conversation that was more specific than that you had acted well
- 22 under pressure?
- 23 A. Not that I can recall.
- 24 Q. What did you do regarding the badge you had that was now
- 25 | bent?
- 26 A. I bent it back.
- 27 | Q. How did you bend it back?
- 28 A. With my hands.

- 1 Q. When did you do that?
- 2 A. Pretty soon after.
- 3 Q. Was it a matter of, like, a few days or a week? Or were you
- 4 talking months or couple years?
- 5 A. No, I think it was no more than a week.
- 6 Q. No more than a week?
- 7 A. I can't remember.
- 8 | Q. Are you --
- 9 A. It was pretty short.
- 10 Q. Are you aware of whether -- what Officer McLaughlin did, if
- 11 anything, regarding that badge?
- 12 A. I'm not sure what he did. I know we didn't like it and he
- 13 talked about bending it back. But whether he did or did not, I
- 14 don't know.
- 15 Q. Later on after this had occurred, in August of 2017, were --
- 16 did you participate in the killing of Jeffrey Barboa?
- 17 A. I was involved in the shooting of Jeffrey Barboa, yes.
- 18 Q. Did Mr. Barboa die?
- 19 A. He did.
- 20 Q. And how many other officers were involved in that shooting?
- 21 A. I think there was five total, I believe.
- 22 Q. Was Officer McLaughlin involved also in that shooting?
- 23 A. He was.
- 24 Q. And discharged his firearm?
- 25 | A. He did.
- 26 Q. And was Stephanie McDonough involved in that shooting?
- 27 A. Yes.
- 28 Q. Discharged her firearm as well?

- 1 A. I believe so.
- 2 Q. Was Officer Zach Jacobson involved in that shooting?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Did he discharge his firearm?
- 5 A. I believe so.
- 6 Q. And Officer Jake Estrada, was he involved in that shooting?
- 7 | A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did he discharge his firearm?
- 9 A. I believe so.
- 10 \mid Q. And were you aware of any badge bending occurring in the wake
- 11 of the Barboa shooting?
- 12 A. Not at all.
- 13 Q. Did you and the other shooters from the Barboa shooting go
- 14 out for drinks afterwards?
- 15 A. I believe we met at the, um, POA, the Police Officers'
- 16 Association hall, and had a couple beers. It was a stressful
- 17 situation and needed to unwind.
- 18 Q. Was that the same night?
- 19 A. I'm not sure.
- 20 Q. Maybe next day?
- 21 A. I'm not sure.
- 22 Q. Do you know if it was after you had your shooting interviews?
- 23 A. I believe so, yes.
- 24 Q. Were your shooting interviews done in Richmond?
- 25 A. No. They were done in Vallejo actually.
- 26 Q. Done in Vallejo?
- 27 | A. Yeah.
- 28 Q. Was the shooting itself in Richmond?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And when you say that you all went out to the POA hall for
- 3 drinks, is the POA hall a place that's, you know, a public
- 4 institution? Or is it only for Vallejo police officers?
- 5 A. Only for Vallejo police officers.
- 6 Q. And who all was present in the POA hall when that was
- 7 occurring?
- 8 A. I don't know who was there.
- 9 Q. Okay. Not any of them?
- 10 A. Not any of who?
- $11 \mid$ Q. You don't remember specifically any of the people that were
- 12 there?
- 13 A. I believe -- I know I think Dave was there, McLaughlin. I
- 14 think Jake Estrada was there. Other than that, I don't know.
- 15 | There was -- yeah. I think they were all there, but been so long
- 16 | I can't remember.
- 17 Q. Do you recall at the -- after the Barboa shooting when you
- 18 were on scene there that a Vallejo police officer showed up who
- 19 gathered all five shooters around himself and gave a hand signal
- 20 to cut the body cameras?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 MR. FLYNN: Objection. Relevance.
- 23 THE WITNESS: I don't remember that.
- 24 THE COURT: I don't know. Overruled.
- 25 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Do you recall that?
- 26 A. I don't recall that.
- 27 | Q. Do you recall if Sean Kenney was present on scene and
- 28 gathered all the shooters?

- 1 A. Yeah, I don't know.
- 2 Q. Do you recall if Sean Kenney was present in the POA hall when
- 3 you guys had drinks?
- 4 A. I don't recall.
- 5 Q. Okay. Subsequent to the Barboa shooting, were you approached
- 6 by Kent Tribble and told -- at some point after that -- were you
- 7 at some point after that approached by Kent Tribble and told you
- 8 needed to bend your badges back?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Did Officer McLaughlin ever report to you being approached by
- 11 Kent Tribble and told him to bend his badge back?
- 12 A. He never told me anything like that.
- 13 Q. Did he ever report to you that anyone told him to bend his
- 14 badge back?
- 15 A. He didn't tell me anything of the sort.
- 16 Q. Did anyone ever tell you to bend your badge back?
- 17 | A. No.
- 18 Q. In 2018 were you made aware that badge bending was an issue
- 19 in general in the police department and needed to be corrected?
- 20 A. I think the first time I heard about it was when that news
- 21 article came out, whatever year that was. I think it was 2020, I
- 22 think.
- 23 Q. At some point did you -- did you have your badge inspected at
- 24 the Vallejo Police Department in a lineup?
- 25 A. They asked us to provide our badges in lineup, and they took
- 26 a look at it and kept on moving.
- 27 Q. When was that?
- 28 A. I don't know.

- 1 Q. Prior to the article coming out?
- 2 A. Yeah, it was.
- 3 Q. Maybe 2019?
- 4 A. I don't know what year it was.
- 5 Q. When the -- when your badge was bent, was the paint or enamel
- 6 on it cracked in any way?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. You were able -- were you able to bend it back to a state
- 9 where you thought no disfigurement?
- 10 | A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did you give an interview to Robert Giordano during an
- 12 internal investigation in the badge bending in the Vallejo Police
- 13 Department?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 0. Was that in March of 2021?
- 16 A. It was recent. I don't know what month.
- 17 Q. Okay. Were you fully honest and forthcoming in that
- 18 interview?
- 19 | A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Did you bring a metal Vallejo police badge to that interview?
- 21 A. I believe I brought two.
- 22 Q. Did you receive any instruction prior to the interview about
- 23 bringing badges or producing them at the interview?
- 24 A. He asked me to bring it, the investigator did.
- 25 Q. Okay. Did he -- well, what did he specifically ask you to
- 26 bring?
- 27 A. My badge.
- 28 Q. Like, any and all badges? Or a specific one?

- 1 A. I don't remember the specific terms. I brought -- I believe
- 2 I brought my corporal badge and my police officer badge.
- 3 Q. Okay. So you think you brought -- brought -- because by the
- 4 time the interview happened, you were corporal; right?
- 5 | A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And you think you brought your corporal duty badge and your
- 7 police officer duty badge?
- 8 A. I think I did.
- 9 Q. Okay. How many metal police badges do you have in your
- 10 possession of the Vallejo Police Department?
- 11 | A. Two.
- 12 | Q. Only two?
- 13 A. Oh, no. I have another one that has a bolt in the back at my
- 14 house.
- 15 Q. How about flat badges, do you have those?
- 16 A. I do have a flat badge, yes.
- 17 | Q. Those are also metal?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 0. How many of those do you have?
- 20 A. Just one.
- 21 Q. Do you have a corporal one?
- 22 | A. No.
- 23 Q. Just an officer one?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Never tried to get a corporal one?
- 26 A. I didn't want to spend the money on it.
- 27 | Q. So the badges that you showed Mr. Giordano in that interview,
- 28 were -- was one of them the badge that had been bent?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But you actually have another identical duty badge as an
- 3 officer that you didn't bring?
- 4 A. Well, it's not a duty badge. It has a bolt in the back of
- 5 it. I can't wear it.
- 6 Q. That would be a duty badge -- an officer duty badge with what
- 7 they call "post to mount"?
- 8 A. I'm not sure what the title is for it.
- 9 Q. It's got a little bolt on the back?
- 10 A. Yeah. Like I said, had a bolt in the back.
- 11 Q. It swings out, right, with a bolt in the back?
- 12 A. It doesn't swing out. The bolt comes straight out with a
- 13 | nut --
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. -- that's in the back of it.
- 16 Q. And did you order that badge in June of 2018?
- 17 A. I'm not sure when I ordered it.
- 18 Q. Okay. Do you know when you received it?
- 19 | A. I don't.
- 20 Q. At some point did you -- when you want to order a badge, how
- 21 do you do that?
- 22 A. You go to the chief's office.
- 23 Q. Okay. And who do you tell?
- 24 A. Usually chief's secretary.
- 25 Q. Okay. So would that have been Shellyne Darst?
- 26 A. I'm not sure. I think she was still working there at the
- 27 time, but I don't know.
- 28 Q. Why did you want the badge with the bolt?

- 1 A. So I can put it in a shadow box.
- 2 Q. And did you modify that badge in any way?
- 3 | A. No.
- 4 Q. Did you modify -- other than the bending of the tip back, did
- 5 you modify your original officer duty badge in any way?
- 6 A. Not at all.
- 7 Q. Was either your flat badges ever bent?
- 8 A. I only have one flat badge.
- 9 Q. Oh, sorry. Yeah.
- 10 A. But, no, it was not.
- 11 Q. It was not?
- 12 | A. No.
- 13 Q. Okay. When you ordered that badge with the bolt, were you
- 14 subsequently contacted about the fact you were going to need to
- 15 have to pay for it yourself?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. When was that after you initially ordered it?
- 18 A. I'm not sure if it was after or before.
- 19 O. Okay. But you recall being contacted about the fact you need
- 20 to pay for it yourself?
- 21 A. Yeah. They told me I had to pay for it, yes.
- 22 Q. Who told you?
- 23 A. I don't know.
- 24 Q. Okay. Do you recall it being -- like, it having to be
- 25 separated out on a separate invoice?
- 26 A. I don't recall that at all. But I had to pay for it.
- 27 Q. Did you pay the badge company, or did you pay the Vallejo
- 28 | Police Department?

- 1 A. I believe it was the badge company.
- 2 Q. Okay. Just, like, call them and give your credit card number
- 3 or something?
- 4 A. Yeah, that's usually how it works, yes.
- 5 Q. Did you speak to anyone about badge bending other than David
- 6 McLaughlin prior to the article -- the Open Vallejo article coming
- 7 | **out?**
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Do you consider yourself to be a victim of badge bending?
- 10 | A. Yes.
- 11 MR. FLYNN: Objection. Relevance.
- 12 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 13 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: When you had the lineup at some point where
- 14 your badge was inspected, was there any indication or discussion
- 15 from either management, other officers about why that was
- 16 happening?
- 17 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 18 Q. So you didn't know the inspection was coming?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 0. Who was it that inspected your badge in that lineup?
- 21 A. That's a good question. I have no idea.
- 22 | Q. Which badge did you have at the time of the lineup that would
- 23 be inspected?
- 24 A. Um, I believe it was my regular police officer badge.
- 25 Q. The one that had been bent?
- 26 A. Yeah. Previously bent, yes.
- 27 | Q. Are you certain that you brought both two metal police badges
- 28 to your interview with Robert Giordano?

- 1 A. I'm pretty sure.
- 2 Q. Subsequent to the shooting involving Mr. Milano in this case,
- 3 was badge bending ever discussed or brought to your attention in
- 4 the aftermath of that shooting?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Was it explained to you by Tribble in any way that the act of
- 7 badge bending was connected to, in fact, being in a shooting, like
- 8 pulling the trigger on a gun?
- 9 A. That's not how I remember it. But, like I said, he told us
- 10 we were in a critical incident and, you know, handled ourselves
- 11 professionally.
- 12 Q. So your information about the practice was limited,
- 13 obviously, because just, you know, occurred in the one
- 14 conversation this one time. Would it be fair to say that at that
- 15 point, your impression might have been that it could have been
- 16 traditionally related to any type of critical incident?
- 17 A. I didn't elaborate on it. I just -- that's how I remember it
- 18 was told to me.
- 19 0. Were you aware of the critical incident review that was
- 20 performed on the Barboa shooting?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Did you ever receive a copy of that or read it?
- 23 A. I don't think so. Not that I remember.
- 24 Q. Were you criticized or counseled or disciplined by anybody in
- 25 the department regarding that -- that shooting?
- 26 A. No.
- 27 Q. Did you have, you know, any training that you were directed
- 28 or suggested to go to because of that shooting?

- 1 | A. No.
- 2 Q. What was your working relationship with Kent Tribble at the
- 3 time that the Relay incident occurred?
- 4 A. What do you mean?
- 5 Q. I mean, did he regularly supervise you? Did he train you?
- 6 Did you know him well? not well?
- 7 A. It's a small department, we get a chance to know people
- 8 pretty well. He was my sergeant at one point. I don't know what
- 9 year it was. He was also a firearms instructor at the police
- 10 department, so he did participate in some instruction.
- 11 Q. Were you trained in firearm usage by him?
- 12 A. Yes, I believe so.
- 13 Q. Were you ever trained in something by him known as the
- 14 | "zipper drill"?
- 15 A. They talked about a zipper drill.
- 16 0. And what's that?
- 17 MR. FLYNN: Objection. Relevance.
- 18 MR. FILLOY: On the 1103 issue.
- 19 THE COURT: Yeah. Overruled. I mean, we're -- we're in the
- 20 outer tangents here. But overruled.
- 21 THE WITNESS: I believe it was a technique, if I remember
- 22 this correctly because it's been years, where if you're forced to
- 23 be in a shooting that you work your rounds up that way. That way
- 24 if he has body armor, you can defeat the body armor and neutralize
- 25 the threat before you're killed.
- 26 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: So if I'm understanding you, like in a
- 27 situation where you have very limited time to react, as you are
- 28 bringing the firearm up to begin shooting before it's fully up and

1 pointed straight in front of your face?

- 2 A. Well, it's pointed at the threat. You're not just going to
- 3 start firing at the ground.
- 4 Q. Right. But you fire as you bring the gun up, pointing at
- 5 another person, not waiting until you get it fully in front of
- 6 your face and stabilized?
- 7 A. I don't remember the exact drill. It's been years. But it's
- 8 the point where you are working your rounds up to defeat the
- 9 possible -- the possibility of body armor.
- 10 Q. Does it sometimes involve shooting one-handed?
- 11 A. It could.
- 12 Q. Did you ever have any further conversation with Kent Tribble
- 13 ever about the badge bending at the Relay or this investigation?
- 14 A. Not that I can remember, no.
- 15 Q. Did you ever have any further conversation with Officer
- 16 McLaughlin about it?
- 17 A. I think the only time we talked about it was after the
- 18 article came out.
- 19 Q. At some point did you become aware that he had, according to
- 20 him, also bent his badge back into its original position?
- 21 A. I believe that was after the article came out.
- 22 Q. It was after the article came out?
- 23 A. I believe so.
- 24 | Q. That was not a thing that you two had determined at the time
- 25 that you did it to do together?
- 26 A. No, we didn't do it together.
- 27 Q. You simply independently did it?
- 28 A. Yes. Yes.

- 1 Q. Did you ever have any subsequent negative interaction with
- 2 Kent Tribble?
- 3 A. Not that I can recall, no.
- 4 Q. Do you recall anything -- the fourth officer who was at the
- 5 Relay with you when the badges were bent, do you recall anything
- 6 that that person did or said?
- $7 \mid A$. Not at all.
- 8 Q. Um, during the Barboa shooting, were the cars -- the patrol
- 9 cars that you were in at that time equipped with 37s?
- 10 A. I believe some cars had them. I don't -- mine didn't.
- 11 0. Yours did not have a 37?
- 12 A. I don't think so.
- 13 MR. FILLOY: Okay. I don't think I have anything further at
- 14 this time. I'd keep him subject to re-call.
- 15 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Flynn, do you have any questions?
- 16 MR. FLYNN: Just a few, Your Honor.
- 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 18 Q. BY MR. FLYNN: Well, Officer Komoda, the badge that was bent
- 19 by Sergeant Tribble, did you ever wear that on a uniform?
- 20 A. As it was bent?
- 21 0. Yes.
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Do you take pride in the way your uniform looks?
- 24 A. I do.
- 25 Q. Why did you decide to bend your badge back to its original
- 26 position?
- 27 | A. Because I didn't like the way it looked. Didn't sound
- 28 professional to me. I only wear my uniform when I -- full uniform

- 1 in special occasions, and I want to look professional.
- 2 Q. When you work on patrol, do you wear any type of metal badge
- 3 **at all?**
- 4 A. I don't.
- 5 Q. Do you wear a badge similar to the one that you're wearing
- 6 now on your vest, a cloth badge?
- 7 A. Yes. This is my duty uniform.
- 8 Q. Other than speaking to Dave McLaughlin and your interview
- 9 of -- with Robert Giordano, did you ever discuss your badge being
- 10 bent with anyone else?
- 11 A. I think after the article came out we talked about it, said
- 12 that's weird. And I believe Jason Bahou said his was as well, but
- 13 that's -- that's it.
- 14 Q. Did you at any time after your badge was bent by Sergeant
- 15 Tribble ever bend the badge of any other Vallejo police officer?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. After your badge was bent by Sergeant Tribble, how did you
- 18 **feel** about that?
- 19 A. I thought it was weird. I didn't like it. Didn't like the
- 20 way it looked like.
- 21 Q. Did you consider a rule violation in any way?
- 22 A. No because we were able to fix it.
- 23 Q. And other than Dave McLaughlin, Sergeant Tribble, and another
- 24 officer you don't remember, was -- was there any other officers
- 25 from Vallejo PD present at the time you had your badge bent?
- 26 A. I don't think so.
- 27 Q. When Sergeant Tribble bent your badge at the Relay bar, were
- 28 there other people around other than officers?

- 1 A. There were, like, normal bar patrons, I believe.
- 2 Q. When Sergeant Tribble was talking to you about bending your
- 3 badge and then bending your badge, what kind of tone of voice was
- 4 he using during that time?
- $5 \mid A$. He was just speaking to us normally.
- 6 Q. At the time that you had gone to the Relay bar that night
- 7 after that shooting in 2016, were you having any type of emotional
- 8 issues concerning that shooting?
- 9 A. That was the one at the Relay?
- 10 | Q. Yes, sir.
- 11 A. Yeah. Any time you're forced to do something like that, it
- 12 sucks. Nobody wants to do that. Yeah. It really bothered me.
- 13 Q. What did you believe Sergeant Tribble's motive was in bending
- 14 your badge at that time?
- 15 A. I'm not sure what it was.
- 16 Q. Did it help you in any way to deal with the situation?
- 17 A. No, I don't know. I didn't even really think about it.
- 18 Q. And other than that time when Sergeant Tribble bent your
- 19 badge at the Relay, was your badge bent on any other occasion?
- 20 | A. No.
- 21 Q. And I think you already answered this question, but let me
- 22 just ask it one more time: You were involved in the shooting with
- 23 Mr. Milano that's the subject of this case; correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And was your badge ever bent based --
- 26 | A. No.
- 27 | Q. -- on that?
- 28 A. No, it was not.

And the two subsequent shootings that you were involved in 1 2 after the shooting in August of 2016, did you ever seek out 3 anybody to bend your badge after being involved in those 4 shootings? 5 Α. No. I don't have any further questions, Judge. 6 MR. FLYNN: 7 THE COURT: Mr. Filloy, anything further? REDIRECT EXAMINATION 8 BY MR. FILLOY: Who did Jason Bahou say bent his badge? 9 0. 10 He didn't --11 MR. FLYNN: Speculation. Objection. 12 THE COURT: He answered he didn't know, so that was all 13 right. 14 MR. FILLOY: Nothing further at this time. Subject to 15 re-call. 16 So let me ask a couple questions. We discussed 17 the universe of conversations you had with regarding this badge 18 bending thing. Now, at any point in time in the general assembly, 19 in morning call, anything like that, was this topic ever raised to 20 you in a group? Like, hey, by the way, this badge bending thing 21 is going on, anything like that? 2.2 THE WITNESS: No. 23 THE COURT: At any meeting of the POA, did anyone ever say, 24 hey, by the way, this badge bending thing is out there and no 25 discussion? 26 THE WITNESS: As far as I remember, didn't come out until 27 that news article, as far as I remember. 28 THE COURT: Okay. Then after the article came out, do you

- 1 remember any discussions generally among your fellow -- not the
- 2 specific ones we asked about -- but just kind of generally, either
- 3 meeting in general assembly or at a POA meeting or anything where
- 4 folks said, hey, let's talk this through, what are we being
- 5 accused of? What is, in fact, the truth?
- 6 THE WITNESS: No. Never even talked like that. It was
- 7 mainly just nobody ever heard of the practice.
- 8 THE COURT: Okay. So after Tribble does this, did you go to
- 9 anyone -- and you said you thought it was weird?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Yeah.
- 11 THE COURT: Did you go to anyone and raise any questions
- 12 about what was going on with Tribble?
- 13 | THE WITNESS: I did not.
- 14 THE COURT: Okay. And I quess why not?
- 15 THE WITNESS: I didn't really think about it.
- 16 THE COURT: Okay. All right.
- 17 Mr. Filloy, anything further?
- 18 MR. FILLOY: Based on the Court's questions.
- 19 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Did you ever look around and notice if any
- 20 other Vallejo police officers' badges were bent?
- 21 A. No, I did not.
- 22 Q. Did you ever even try to discern that?
- 23 A. Most of the officers when on duty wear the cloth.
- 24 Q. There are functions where you guys wear your metal duty
- 25 badges; is that accurate?
- 26 | A. It is accurate, yes.
- 27 | Q. Never occurred to you to look to see if any of them were bent
- 28 during those events?

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VCR233208
                                March 22, 2022
 1
       Not at all.
   Α.
 2
        MR. FILLOY: Nothing further.
 3
                          RECROSS EXAMINATION
 4
       BY MR. FLYNN:
                       At the time that Sergeant Tribble bent your
  badge in 2016, what was your rank at the time?
        I was an officer.
 6
   Α.
7
   Q.
        And how long had you been with the PD up until that point?
        I'm sorry, it was in '16?
8
   Α.
9
       Yes, sir.
   0.
10
   Α.
        So couple years.
11
        And did you consider Sergeant Tribble to be a superior?
   Q.
12
   Α.
       Yes.
13
        MR. FLYNN: Okay. No further questions.
        THE COURT: And, actually, let me ask -- I guess let me ask
14
15 this question: Forgetting about the specific allegation of badge
16 bending, have you attended any other events, barbecues, parties at
17 bars, social gatherings with fellow police officers where there
18 has been any sort of celebration of shootings?
19
        THE WITNESS:
                      No.
20
        THE COURT:
                   Anything further?
21
        MR. FILLOY: No.
22
        THE COURT:
                    Mr. Flynn, anything further?
23
        MR. FLYNN: No, Your Honor.
24
                    Okay. All right. I guess subject to re-call.
        THE COURT:
25 I'm not sure how we're rolling. But thank you --
26
        THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
2.7
        THE COURT: -- for coming in and --
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THE WITNESS: Would you like me to stay here in the hallway

28

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1
  or --
2
        THE COURT:
                    I don't --
        MR. FILLOY: I don't think that's probably necessary at this
 4 point.
5
        THE COURT:
                    If someone --
6
        MR. FILLOY: We can contact --
7
                    -- has your phone number -- your cell --
        THE COURT:
8
        MR. FLYNN:
                    You're on duty?
9
        THE COURT:
                    Are you on or off today?
        THE WITNESS: I'm on until five o'clock.
10
11
                    All right. So you'll be around town?
        THE COURT:
12
        THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
13
                    All right. Good enough.
        THE COURT:
14
                    I have his cell number, Judge, I can call.
        MR. FLYNN:
15
        THE COURT:
                    Good enough.
16
        MR. FILLOY:
                     It's not necessary for anyone to wait in the
17|hallway, as far as I'm concerned.
18
                   As long as he's on duty, he can go back. We'll
        THE COURT:
19 let him know if we need anything.
20
        All right. Ready for your next witness?
        MR. FILLOY: Want to call Kent Tribble.
21
22
        THE COURT: Yeah.
23
        Need a minute?
24
        MS. KNIGHT: He's in the hall. Want me to grab him?
25
        MR. FILLOY:
                     Sure.
26
                               KENT TRIBBLE,
27 Called as a witness was sworn and testifies as follows:
28
        THE CLERK:
                    Please raise your right hand.
```

- 1 Do you solemnly swear the testimony you're about to give will
- 2 be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help
- 3 you God?
- 4 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 5 THE CLERK: Thank you. Have a seat.
- 6 If you'll please state your full name, and spell your last
- 7 name for the record.
- 8 THE WITNESS: Yes. My name is Michael Kent Tribble,
- 9|T-R-I-B-B-L-E.
- 10 THE COURT: Mr. Filloy.
- 11 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 12 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: Mr. Tribble, how were you employed prior to
- 13 your retirement?
- 14 A. I was a City of Vallejo Police Department lieutenant.
- 15 Q. And for how long were you employed as an officer by the City
- 16 of Vallejo?
- 17 A. Roughly 18 years.
- 18 Q. Do you recall what year it was you started there?
- 19 A. Yes, sir. It was March of 2003.
- 20 O. And were you a police officer prior to that somewhere else?
- 21 | A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And where was that?
- 23 A. That was the City of Concord.
- 24 Q. And how long had you been a police officer there?
- 25 A. About eight years.
- 26 Q. Was that your first job as a law enforcement officer?
- 27 | A. Yes.
- 28 Q. During your time at the Vallejo Police Department, were you

1 involved in some officer-involved shootings?

- 2 | A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And when did you become aware of the practice of badge
- 4 bending?
- 5 A. The practice of badge bending started in about 2000 in the
- 6 City of Concord when I worked there.
- 7 Q. And how did you come to learn about that?
- 8 A. I sat down at a restaurant with a fellow officer from the
- 9 City of Concord. He had been involved in a prior officer-involved
- 10 shooting, and that's when the first bend occurred.
- 11 Q. Had -- did this occur -- when this occurred, had you recently
- 12 been in an officer-involved shooting in Concord?
- 13 A. Yes, sir. I was involved in one in May of 2000, I believe.
- 14 Q. Was that the impetus for that happening?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And who was that officer?
- 17 A. That was Officer Dan Collinvoe (phonetic).
- 18 Q. And so who was present when that occurred?
- 19 A. It was just Dan Collinvoe and I.
- 20 O. And you were at a restaurant or a bar; is that --
- 21 A. Yes. I believe it was the Peppermill.
- 22 Q. And can you tell us what -- what occurred with regard to your
- 23 badge being bent?
- 24 A. Yeah. For a little bit of background, I had been involved
- 25 in -- I had recently been involved in an officer-involved
- 26 shooting, and I was having a really rough time with my performance
- 27 in that incident. Because at first I was advised that at the
- 28 close distance that I was at with the suspect -- the armed

- 1 suspect, that was -- that I had missed entirely with my rifle.
- 2 And I think the distance was roughly seven yards. And --
- 3 Q. I'm sorry, so I couldn't hear what you said. You missed with
- 4 your what?
- 5 A. With my rifle.
- 6 Q. Oh, okay.
- 7 A. And that was -- that was rough on me. I went like that for
- 8 several months. I think I got word back that they never found the
- 9 projectile at the hospital. And I believe because of the way I
- 10 was feeling, that the reason Dan and I came up with this bending
- 11 of the badge thing was it was a way to signify that even -- no
- 12 matter what your performance was, you tried to do your job and you
- 13 didn't fail to do your job. And that was it. That's what it was
- 14 about.
- 15 Q. When he bent your badge, did he tell you that he was going to
- 16 do that before doing it?
- 17 A. No, we discussed it before we did it, yeah.
- 18 Q. And so he explained the process to you or symbolism of what
- 19 it was?
- 20 A. Well, yeah. I think it was just -- it was a way to signify
- 21 the fact that we would stand up and do our job. And I think it
- 22 | wasn't just his idea. I think we both kinda came up with it, you
- 23 know.
- 24 O. So it wasn't -- are you saying it wasn't something he had
- 25 done before? It was kind of a joint idea between you or --
- 26 A. I think so, yeah.
- 27 Q. Okay. And did he bend it with his fingers or pliers? Or how
- 28 did you do that?

- 1 A. I don't know that he bent it or I bent it.
- 2 Q. Okay. So you're not sure if he was just there? You bent --
- $3\mid$ A. We were -- we were having, like, a dinner or lunch and
- 4 discussing it.
- 5 Q. So may have actually been your idea or --
- 6 A. No, it wasn't my idea. We kind of came up with it.
- 7 Q. Okay. Was it specifically about being in a shooting?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. Um, so after that occurs in Concord -- and I'm
- 10 assuming it was a metal duty badge -- police badge?
- 11 | A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. Like one you wear on your dress uniform?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And did you leave it bent for the remainder of time you were
- 15 a Concord police officer?
- 16 A. Um, yeah. I had a couple badges. Back then, we had a -- it
- 17 was pretty popular to polish your badge every day, kinda like
- 18 boots. And a lot of the badges would get worn down, so they kinda
- 19 didn't look the way they did when they were issued.
- 20 I remember at one point I got told to get a new badge because
- 21 mine wore down so much, so I probably got a new badge and bent
- 22 that one too. Or I don't know if I did bend that one.
- 23 Q. So did you -- did you -- did you bend all of the metal badges
- 24 you had in your possession, like, at one point? Or did you just,
- 25 like, bend that one?
- 26 A. Are you talking about through my career or just --
- 27 Q. No.
- 28 | A. -- that day?

- Q. I'm talking about you probably had -- I understood you to be saying you had more than one metal badge at a time, different
- 3 kinds? Or was I misunderstanding that?
- 4 A. Well, over the course of my career, I've accumulated several
- 5 badges depending on the department and/or the rank. And then
- 6 there's belt badges, which are -- they're, like, flat badges that
- 7 go in wallets and there's badges -- a lot of guys wear the same
- 8 badge they wear on their shirt on their belt.
- 9 I tended to take whatever badge that I had that was either
- 10 over-polished or bent and have a backup badge that was for maybe,
- 11 like, funeral or, you know, something like that.
- 12 Q. When you're talking about the belt badge, are you talking
- 13 about a flat badge?
- 14 A. Most people will use the same kind of badge that you wear on
- 15 your chest on your belt. Just either take it off and put it in
- 16 the holder. I would usually always have two. Honestly, I forget
- 17 stuff, so I leave my dress badge at the -- at the station.
- 18 Q. So the badge you were talking about that you would wear on
- 19 your chest normally, the duty badge, is that one concave?
- 20 | A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And in -- the flat badge is literally flat; right?
- 22 A. Yes. Those ones go in wallets so they can usually -- need to
- 23 be flatter.
- 24 Q. Did you ever bend any of the flat badges?
- 25 A. No.
- 26 Q. Were you ever aware of anyone ever bending the flat badge?
- 27 | A. No.
- 28 Q. So when you came to the City of Vallejo, you got issued a

1 Vallejo police badge, I'm assuming?

- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. And did you bend that badge upon getting it?
- 4 A. Not upon getting it -- well, you know what, I don't know. I
- 5 know it got bent.
- 6 Q. Okay. Did you at some point engage in badge bending in the
- 7 City of Vallejo Police Department?
- 8 A. Yes, I did.
- 9 Q. Okay. And did you bend other police officers' badges?
- 10 | A. Yes, sir.
- 11 Q. Okay. When did that start happening?
- 12 A. That happened shortly after I arrived in 2003. I landed at
- 13 work in March, and I think I was involved in an officer-involved
- 14 shooting in August of the same year.
- 15 Q. And so did you bend your -- your badge or other people's
- 16 badges after that shooting?
- 17 | A. I did.
- 18 0. Okay. And just your badge or --
- 19 A. I don't know -- I think maybe I bent my badge at that time or
- 20 it might have been bent before because I had come over already
- 21 with that from Concord. But perhaps I bent mine. I don't
- 22 remember when mine got bent.
- But I know I bent Officer Jensen's, and I am not sure whether
- 24 or not I bent Sergeant Gordon's.
- 25 Q. Okay. And -- because they were involved in that shooting in
- 26 2003?
- 27 A. Yes, sir.
- 28 Q. Okay. And subsequent to that, did you bend other Vallejo

1 police officers' badges after they had been in shootings?

- 2 | A. Yes.
- 3 Q. On how many occasions, approximately?
- 4 | A. I have -- I couldn't tell you the exact number. But it was
- 5 several. Trying to think.
- 6 Q. Well, if you don't know, then --
- 7 A. Yeah. It was -- it was more than sixish. I don't know.
- 8 More than six for sure.
- 9 Q. And did -- you rose in rank over time in the Vallejo Police
- 10 Department from officer to corporal to sergeant to lieutenant; is
- 11 that right?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. Okay. And did you bend the -- when you were promoted rank,
- 14 I'm assuming you got a new badge; right?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. Okay. And did you bend the badges when you got them for the
- 17 promotion?
- 18 A. I would, yes, except for when I got my lieutenant badge. I
- 19 didn't initially bend that.
- 20 O. Okay. Not -- but the other ones when you got them -- you
- 21 would when you initially got them bend the tip?
- 22 A. Yeah. It was -- I mean, if it makes it sound more clear, it
- 23 was kinda, like, just carryover to the next badge.
- 24 Q. Right. Do you recall an incident -- an officer-involved
- 25 shooting incident occurring in and around August of 2016,
- 26 involving David McLaughlin and Matthew Komoda that you were aware
- 27 of?
- 28 A. Oh, yeah.

- 1 | O. Okay. You recall the incident?
- 2 A. I mean, I wasn't at the incident. I may have seen video of
- 3 the incident. I definitely am aware of the incident, so --
- 4 Q. And did you have any interaction with Komoda and McLaughlin
- 5 around badge bending due to that incident?
- 6 A. Oh, yeah.
- 7 | Q. And how did that occur?
- 8 A. Well, um, that probably occurred -- I don't know the exact
- 9 location. I think it probably would have occurred at the bar
- 10 across the street from our parking lot.
- 11 Q. Is that the Relay?
- 12 A. The Relay, yes, sir.
- 13 Q. Um, I know that in similar fashion to my first shooting, in
- 14 their engagement they fired at a vehicle that was coming at them
- 15 multiple times. And none of the rounds penetrated the vehicle.
- 16 And I don't even think the suspect was hit at all.
- And it seemed to be bothering them -- wasn't bothering them
- 18 that the suspect was okay, it was bothering them was that the
- 19 rounds -- two things: You know, the rounds didn't go through the
- 20 car door and that they didn't successfully stop the suspect.
- 21 | That's -- that's what I read as I was -- I think they were working
- 22 for me at the time.
- 23 So in similar fashion to getting to feel a little more
- 24 positive about their engagement, I bent their badges and told them
- 25 what it was about. It was the fact they did their jobs.
- 26 Q. So if I'm understanding you correctly, Officers Komoda and
- 27 McLaughlin had expressed to you that they were disappointed in
- 28 themselves regarding their tactical performance?

- $1 \mid A$. I think they were beating themselves up a bit, yeah.
- Q. And that that -- would you recall if it was Komoda or McLaughlin or both of them that express this to you?
- 4 A. I don't remember which one necessarily, but I know the were 5 really concerned about the fact that none of the projectiles 6 penetrated the car. And I actually explained to them too at some
- 7 point that I felt that that was my fault.
- Q. Do you recall if this -- them expressing to you that they
 felt bad about their tactical performance or they felt bad that
 the bullets had not hit the target, was that at the Relay bar or
- 11 was that before that happened?
- 12 A. That may well have been -- I remember watching the video and
- 13 us having a -- I don't remember if one of them or both of them but
- 14 us having some -- we watched the video and we saw where the
- 15 projectiles landed and the fact that none of them went through.
- 16 And that -- that actually brought up some concerns about the
- 17 rounds that we were firing and the training that I had been giving
- 18 because, I mean, this is where I feel like I kinda failed them.
- We used to teach a thing called "center of mass." I think
- 20 that's still pretty popular. But I feel like if I had been a
- 21 little better at my instruction, I would have been teaching them
- 22 center of what they could see so they wouldn't have been trying to
- 23 shoot through metal. And I know I expressed that to them.
- 24 Q. So if I'm understanding you correctly, they express
- 25 displeasure or disappointment with themselves in a way that they
- 26 acted and they felt bad because, you know, if you're a police
- 27 officer shooting at someone, you want to hit what you're shooting
- 28 at. But the bullets had not gone -- they struck the side -- the

1 metal side of the car and not hit the targets; right?

- 2 A. That's correct. I mean, here's the thing, nobody wants to go
- 3 kill anybody. Nobody -- but it's -- a difficult situation is when
- 4 this job requires that you actually get involved in an engagement
- 5 like that, you want to feel like you can successfully do what is
- 6 required of you.
- 7 And, oftentimes, I would say almost -- in my experience,
- 8 almost every time an officer is involved in something like that,
- 9 they go into some serious critical reflection. A lot of times it
- 10 gets pretty negative. And, you know, no offense, the press, media
- 11 doesn't usually help. It can be really hard on folks, so --
- 12 Q. Right. Yeah. I mean, so you're saying it's not about the
- 13 failing to kill someone, it's the idea that if you're in a
- 14 position where you have to be shooting, you want to execute what
- 15 you're doing properly and hit what you are aiming at; right?
- 16 A. Well, not even necessarily hit it. The fact that you'll
- 17 actually stand up and engage instead of freeze or, in some cases,
- 18 I've seen run.
- 19 0. So they -- they felt bad about this, and then you recall
- 20 specifically having some kind of a conversation with them where
- 21 you expressed that you felt you had trained them improperly as a
- 22 firearms instructor by focusing too much on aim at center mass; is
- 23 **that** --
- 24 A. I recall doing that, yeah.
- 25 Q. And was that discussion at the Relay or was that some other
- 26 point?
- 27 A. I don't know where that one was. But also went to some of
- 28 our firearms instructors because we try to learn from each event

- 1 and sometimes requires modifying our training.
- 2 Q. And were you their firearms instructor, Komoda and
- 3 McLaughlin? Had you instructed them?
- 4 A. I believe so, yeah.
- 5 Q. And so you kind of, in trying to make them feel better in
- 6 analyzing the situation, said, "Well, you know, this is partly an
- 7 issue of should have been training to shoot first at what you can
- 8 see to hit, not just at the center mass"?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Because by center mass, when you explain that, you're
- 11 referring to the center mass, the torso of the human; right?
- 12 A. That's correct. So in my experience, I've been a firearms
- 13 instructor since, I believe, about 2007. And I've been on SWAT
- 14 teams since 1998ish. I've been at the range a lot. And I've seen
- 15 the evolution of training, especially since the wars in -- after
- 16 01.
- 17 Center mass was always a really big thing driven into police
- 18 officers. And the way at flat-range training goes, it typically
- 19 on is a silhouette target with no obstruction and they get used to
- 20 the center mass being somewhere near the sternum; right?
- 21 My belief is that that projected into their incident where
- 22 they -- even though there's a human in the car and is obstructed
- 23 by the metal, they're so used to training center mass because that
- 24 is what we drive into them, they probably went for the torso,
- 25 right, hoping to punch through the metal. Now, this is all
- 26 speculation on my part. But I analyze these things too.
- 27 And what I figured was probably a better move -- and I'm sure
- 28 | I discussed it with them and other firearms instructors -- was for

- 1 us to start shooting at what they saw that was available, if that
- 2 makes sense to you, if they were in a position where they required
- 3 to shoot.
- 4 Q. You said you watched the video with Komoda and McLaughlin,
- 5 the dash camera or the body camera?
- 6 A. I think it was dash cam.
- 7 Q. Dash cam of the shooting?
- 8 A. I believe so, yeah.
- 9 Q. Was that right after it occurred before the Relay meet-up or
- 10 was that some time later?
- 11 A. I don't know how it was in relation to the Relay meet-up.
- 12 But I do know that we did watch a video at one point.
- 13 Q. Okay. And you were with them?
- 14 A. I don't remember if I was with one or both or either. I
- 15 tended, because of my position, to get shown videos of most of the
- 16 shootings that occurred.
- 17 Q. Did you serve on what is known as the CRI or Critical
- 18 Incident Review Board at the Vallejo Police Department?
- 19 A. I have on occasion, yes.
- 20 0. And what is a critical incident review?
- 21 A. So the Critical Incident Review Board, to the best of my
- 22 understanding, is whenever we have an officer-involved shooting or
- 23 any -- I think sometimes with the driving, but I didn't get
- 24 involved with the driving ones -- any kind of fatal with a
- 25 collision as well, but usually an officer-involved fatal-incident
- 26 protocol type of case, they have a review board. And it wasn't
- 27 the internal investigation, it was -- that's separate. But it was
- 28 a panel of various ranks: Captain, one of the people from IA, and

- 1 a couple of sergeants.
- 2 And usually the sergeants were subject-matter experts in
- 3 whatever the incident was. And I, at the time, was considered a
- 4 subject-matter expert in the use of firearms in the course of our
- 5 employment.
- 6 Q. Okay. Was it use of -- just use of firearms? Was it use of
- 7 force?
- 8 A. Use of force as well for me.
- 9 0. Use of force overall?
- 10 | A. Yes.
- 11 Q. All kinds of force?
- 12 | A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And so we should clarify that. Critical incident review, is
- 14 that something that is done on all the officer-involved shootings
- 15 and some types of other incidents?
- 16 A. Well, there is -- I'm not really sure prior to my promotion
- 17 to sergeant, but I think those started -- I think those started
- 18 after I got to the City of Vallejo. I don't know when they
- 19 started, but it was a practice that they were doing when I was a
- 20 | sergeant. Did I answer your question?
- 21 Q. Yeah. You became a sergeant in 2013?
- 22 | A. Somewhere around 2013.
- 23 Q. Right. Was it around that time they started this critical
- 24 | incident review process?
- 25 A. Might have been a little before that. I don't know.
- 26 Q. And so the critical incident review -- I mean, after they
- 27 started doing them, right --
- 28 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- that was something that was done on all officer-involved
- 2 shootings?
- 3 A. I'm fairly sure it was.
- 4 Q. Okay. Was it done on other incidents as well?
- 5 A. Oh, yeah.
- 6 Q. Like, for instance, an incident that maybe wasn't a shooting
- 7 but where somebody got a great bodily injury or died or something
- 8 like that?
- 9 A. Yeah. I think -- I think in some of those cases, yeah. I
- 10 don't recall doing any of them.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you recall that you were on the critical review
- 12 board for this shooting with Komoda and McLaughlin?
- 13 A. I don't think I was. I really don't.
- 14 Q. Do you recall whether or not you had any input into that
- 15 review at all?
- 16 A. No, I don't. I know that at some point I recommended we
- 17 reexamine the projectiles or the bullets that we were issuing. I
- 18 don't -- I don't remember, I just don't.
- 19 0. So do you recall -- so you do recall that maybe you had some
- 20 input due to that incident at -- you know, because you were in
- 21 management, regarding the ammunition they used underperformed and
- 22 not penetrated the vehicle?
- 23 A. Well, that was one of our concerns, yes.
- 24 0. Have you visited or viewed the scene where the shooting had
- 25 occurred at Mason and Alhambra?
- 26 A. I don't think so.
- 27 | Q. Okay. You're not familiar with that particular scene?
- 28 A. Vaquely. I haven't been around here for a couple years.

- 1 Q. Okay. So turning to the actual bending of the badge at the
- 2 Relay bar, did you invite Komoda and McLaughlin there? Did you
- 3 tell them to meet you there? How did that happen?
- 4 A. I don't remember. I know that it wasn't uncommon for us to
- 5 go to that location after the workweek on a regular basis. So, I
- 6 mean, I don't know how we wound up there, to be honest with you.
- 7 Q. But was this very shortly after the shooting had occurred?
- 8 A. I don't know.
- 9 Q. Okay. Don't really remember when it was?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. And other than Komoda and McLaughlin, was there
- 12 another Vallejo police officer there present?
- 13 A. I can't remember.
- 14 Q. Okay. Do you recall at all if anyone else might have been
- 15 present?
- 16 A. If there was anyone else present, it would -- I believe it
- 17 would only have been somebody else that had already had a badge
- 18 bent.
- 19 Q. So it would have been -- if somebody else was present when
- 20 you were bending someone's badge, that would have only been
- 21 someone who had already been recognized in that way?
- 22 A. Right. Or, you know, be more clear, maybe present and aware.
- 23 There may have been times where there were a few people there but
- 24 maybe I pulled these two guys off to the side and quietly did
- 25 something not in the -- I guess not so in a way that the people
- 26 that weren't involved would be aware, if that makes sense.
- 27 Q. Okay. But it's -- if somebody else was there and aware of
- 28 what you're doing when you are bending a badge, that would have

- 1 been someone who already been recognized by having their badge
- 2 bent?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. Okay. Is there any way in your mind you can narrow down the
- 5 time frame? Like, can you exclude that it was a day after? Day
- 6 or two after the shooting? Don't know?
- 7 | A. I couldn't tell you.
- 8 Q. Okay. So do you recall if you asked them to come to the
- 9 Relay?
- 10 A. I may have. I don't --
- 11 Q. So did you indicate to them in some way, do you recall, if
- 12 they should bring their badges?
- 13 A. I don't know if I would have had. Most guys bring their
- 14 badges all the time. I mean, because most guys wear their badges
- 15 after work.
- 16 Q. Wear the metal badges?
- 17 A. On their belts usually, yeah.
- 18 Q. Okay. So it might have been a belt badge or a badge somebody
- 19 would wear on their chest that you --
- 20 A. Well, a lot of people, yes. I think I previously stated I
- 21 used to buy a couple, but a lot of guys would just take the one
- 22 they wear on their chest off and put it on their belt.
- 23 Q. Okay. You don't remember if you asked them to bring their
- 24 badges or not?
- 25 A. I may have. I don't know.
- 26 Q. And so what happened when they got there to the bar?
- 27 | A. We probably had a couple of drinks.
- 28 **Q. Right.**

- 1 A. And then we probably discussed the incident.
- 2 Q. And discussed it in what sense?
- 3 A. Well, kind of thing that it occurred and how they performed
- 4 and I probably bent their badges and explained it to them.
- 5 Q. Okay. So when you bent their badges, what did you do?
- 6 A. Um, I think in -- you know, this is where I'm not too proud
- 7 of myself. These guys really didn't have a chance to object
- 8 because what I would do is ask them to see their badges. And then
- 9 I'd bend the tip, the point, and hand it back to them and
- 10 explained what I did and why I did it.
- 11 Q. So when you would bend people's badges, you never gave them
- 12 the option of refusing because you didn't tell them what was
- 13 happening?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. So you'd ask them to just see their badge?
- 16 | A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. And then you bend it?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. And how did you do that? With your hands?
- 20 A. I used my right hand and I just place my thumb on the seven
- 21 o'clock point of the star if you're looking at it from the front,
- 22 which would be the point that's toward, I guess, the sternum,
- 23 lower left. And I just bend it slightly inward and hand it back
- 24 to them and explain why I did that and what it meant.
- 25 O. Were you aware during the course of this -- because it sounds
- 26 like you did this over a long period of time, this badge bending?
- 27 A. Oh, yeah.
- 28 Q. Yeah. From 2003 until 20 -- sometime after 2016?

- 1 A. In Vallejo, yeah.
- 2 Q. And did anybody else bend their badges other than you?
- $3 \mid A$. I know of one for certain and another that I'm pretty sure,
- 4 yeah.
- 5 Q. Okay. Was -- do you recall whether or not Josh Coleman might
- 6 have been with you at the Relay bar when you bent Komoda and
- 7 McLaughlin's badges?
- 8 A. I don't think he was.
- 9 Q. And do you recall if Josh Coleman was present with you in a
- 10 bar on another occasion where a badge was bent?
- 11 A. Oh, yeah.
- 12 Q. And whose badge was that that was bent?
- 13 A. I bent his.
- 14 Q. You bent Coleman's badge?
- 15 A. Yes, I did.
- 16 Q. And was there anybody else there?
- 17 A. I -- I believe Mark Galios was there.
- 18 Q. And was that subsequent to Mark Galios and Josh Coleman being
- 19 in a shooting together?
- 20 A. Yes, it was.
- 21 Q. Was there anybody else present?
- 22 A. I don't know.
- 23 Q. Okay. And do you recall when that was?
- 24 A. It was a little while after their involvement in the
- 25 officer-involved shooting down on Magazine Street.
- 26 Q. At the Starbucks?
- 27 A. At the Starbucks.
- 28 Q. Was that -- that was subsequent to the bending of Komoda and

1 McLaughlin's badges?

- 2 A. I'm fairly certain it was.
- 3 Q. Were you present in a bar on another occasion where Josh
- 4 | Coleman bent another police officer's badge?
- 5 A. Yes, I was.
- 6 Q. And was that subsequent to you having bent his badge?
- $7 \mid A$. Yes, it was.
- 8 Q. Some -- quite some time later?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And whose badge was that that he bent?
- 11 A. That was Officer Zach Jacobson.
- 12 Q. Was this possibly in late 2017 or early 2018?
- 13 A. Yeah. It was sometime around there.
- 14 Q. Okay. And was that subsequent to Officer Jacobson having
- 15 been in a shooting?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. Was that subsequent to him having been in a shooting -- the
- 18 shooting of Jeffrey Barboa down in Richmond?
- 19 A. No, I don't believe so.
- 20 | **Q.** Okay.
- 21 A. I think if -- you're talking about Zach Jacobson?
- 22 Q. Uh-huh.
- 23 A. I didn't even know he was involved in the one in Richmond.
- 24 know that he was involved in one in, like, central Vallejo.
- 25 O. And -- but this -- but this bending -- was Coleman bending
- 26 his badge, right, not you bending his badge?
- 27 A. It was. It is actually -- it was not expected.
- 28 Q. What do you mean when you say it was not expected?

```
Well, by this point I had become a lieutenant. And I had
1
 2 already been made aware that I believed my captain was aware of
 3|the practice because he had come in and said he knew -- like, he
4 told me to fix my badge when I was a lieutenant. And I actually
 5 hadn't bent my badge. And he was pretty vague he said, "What's
 6 wrong with your badge?"
7
       And I said, "I don't know what you're talking about."
       Because I hadn't bent that one when I became a lieutenant;
9 right?
       And he said, "I know what that is. Fix it. I don't ever
10
11 want to see it again."
        So I became a little apprehensive, like, what the heck? And
12
13 also having become a lieutenant, I also felt like I should try to
14 be a little more mature. And I don't know how long it was after I
15 became a lieutenant and after I had that interaction with Captain
16 Horton, but I got a phone call from Coleman and he said, "Hey,
17 let's go meet Zach over at the Relay."
18
       And I said -- I asked him why, and to get him a beer so --
19 for his OIS. So I went over there. Because there was a lot of
20 times that people that didn't have their badges bent would still,
21 you know, just go have a beer and decompress, you know.
22 pretty fricken stressful.
23
        So, anyway, I went over there and met Coleman and Zach.
24 was off duty. And Coleman bent his badge similarly to the
25 fashion, the way I did it, which is where he asked him to see it
26 and he bent it. Kind of threw me back a little bit. It's another
27 place where I feel like I failed in my role as a leader because
28 what I should have done was said, hey, we don't do that anymore.
```

- 1 But I kinda just froze. And, you know, because I did it to
- 2 Coleman. And it just didn't -- yeah. I just failed to do my job.
- 3 Q. So when did you become a lieutenant?
- 4 A. I think it was the end of 2016.
- 5 Q. So the -- this incident where Coleman then bends Jacobson's
- 6 badge in front of you, that was some significant time after you
- 7 had bent Coleman's badge?
- 8 A. I believe so, yeah.
- 9 Q. Wasn't, like, the next month or something?
- 10 A. I don't think so.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you're not actually -- you're not totally sure
- 12 what shooting it was for?
- 13 A. I -- I was under the impression it was -- you know, I didn't
- 14 really ask. This one, like I said, I froze. So I didn't get into
- 15 a whole lot of conversation. I didn't know it was coming.
- 16 And then my assumption was it was for the -- I thought that
- 17 he was involved in one in north Vallejo off of -- what's the name
- 18 of that street? It's north of Tennessee.
- 19 0. It was one in Vallejo?
- 20 A. I think there was one in Vallejo.
- 21 Q. Right. But you don't -- but you don't know for sure --
- 22 because you weren't the one that called the meeting; right?
- 23 A. No. I didn't see it coming.
- 24 Q. And you don't know when it was?
- 25 A. No. I know it was at night.
- 26 Q. Does late 2017 or 2018 sound right?
- 27 A. Sometime around there.
- 28 Q. Yeah. Okay. Now, back up to what you were talking about a

- 1 minute ago about being approached by your senior officer about
- 2 badge bending; right? Did that happen more than one time?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. How many times?
- 5 A. Twice.
- 6 Q. Okay. And was it the same superior both times?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Was that Captain Horton?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And so do you know when -- around when the first time he
- 11 approached you about this was?
- 12 A. It was shortly after my promotion. So a few months after my
- 13 promotion. I couldn't tell you exactly when that is. I think
- 14 maybe 2017ish.
- 15 Q. So you think it was subsequent to you bending Komoda and
- 16 McLaughlin's badges?
- 17 A. I don't think so. I'm not sure.
- 18 Q. Okay. May have been before that?
- 19 A. Before.
- 20 **O.** Okay.
- 21 A. It could have been.
- 22 Q. What was it that Horton said to you about -- regarding badge
- 23 bending?
- 24 A. The first time?
- 25 Q. Yes, the first time.
- 26 A. The first time he walked into my office, I was relatively --
- 27 | I don't know, I was new at the watch commander position. And he
- 28 | walked in. We were talking about something. And he looked at my

- 1 badge and he says, "What's wrong with your badge?"
- 2 And I said, "I don't know what you're talking about."
- 3 Because I really hadn't bent it. I know it may sound foolish, I
- 4 was trying to be a little better role model, I guess.
- 5 Then he said he knew what it was about and that he didn't
- $6 \mid$ ever want to see it again and walked out.
- 7 And so now I'm going, well, okay. Something's up. So --
- 8 Q. That was the first time?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Okay. And you recall you probably just become a lieutenant
- 11 or not --
- 12 A. Fairly recently.
- 13 Q. Okay. So when you were speaking earlier in this examination
- 14 about having multiple badges, right, did you -- did you get sort
- 15 of replacement badges after one had been bent so that you wouldn't
- 16 be wearing a bent badge, like, in a public ceremony or something?
- 17 A. Well, yes and no on that. Because when I first -- like, back
- 18 in Concord, it was not uncommon for guys to polish their badges so
- 19 | far down that you couldn't see any of the paint that was on them.
- 20 That was just a thing.
- 21 And then some of the uniformed guys, like Honor Guard guys
- 22 and whatnot, would complain about it. So a lot of guys had two
- 23 badges; right? They wear one for certain kinds of occasions and
- 24 another for formal events.
- 25 When it came to the bending for me, originally we didn't --
- 26 or I didn't think much about people wearing them in public on
- 27 their uniforms until later on and especially after Horton made
- 28 that statement.

- 1 But I always liked to have two badges for two reasons because
- 2 I liked to have one that was kind of not screwed up so that I
- 3 could wear it to formal events. And the other one that was daily
- 4 or on the belt, got thrown in gym bags and get all dinged up, and,
- 5 quite frankly, sometimes forgotten and left at home, so I'm glad I
- 6 had another badge.
- 7 | Q. When you promoted from officer to corporal in Vallejo and
- 8 then corporal to sergeant, did that happen in very quick
- 9 succession?
- 10 A. I mean, sure. Relatively, I think it was -- I may have been
- 11 a corporal for several months to maybe up to six.
- 12 Q. When you became a sergeant and got a sergeant badge, did you
- 13 bend that badge?
- 14 A. At some point, yes.
- 15 Q. Did you subsequently order another sergeant badge?
- 16 | A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. Was that so you, like you said, have two of them?
- 18 A. You can have a beater that would --
- 19 | **Q. Right.**
- 20 A. -- usually have to bend and then you have the formal.
- 21 Q. But at that time when you ordered the second sergeant badge,
- 22 it wasn't to conceal the other badge was bent? Or was -- it was
- 23 just to have two of them?
- 24 | A. I think it was, like, to conceal if need be and to have two
- 25 of them.
- 26 | Q. Okay.
- 27 A. You know.
- 28 Q. Do you recall in that time frame, 2013 -- I mean, by that

- 1 time there must have been a number of guys who had bent badges?
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Okay. Do you recall any -- any discussion, necessity, sense
- 4 of necessity to conceal the badge-bending practice around that
- 5 time in 2013?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Did you, um, ever communicate to other officers that they
- 8 should get replacement badges or badges they can wear that weren't
- 9 bent so that it wouldn't become a public issue?
- 10 A. I don't think so. I know that when Zach Jacobson got his
- 11 badge bent, I told him don't ever let anyone see that. Because
- 12 that was after I had been approached by Captain Horton. And I
- 13 should have done more as a supervisor. Again, I failed there.
- But at that time most of us -- no offense to you, sir -- but
- 15 most of us were wearing the duty vest that that gentleman over
- 16 there is wearing and didn't have a metal badge on it at all; it
- 17 was a cloth badge. So very few, if any, people that wore a hard
- 18 badge on their uniforms.
- 19 Q. So the metal badge and duty badge was not something that you
- 20 quys were wearing very often other than if they wear on their belt
- 21 or they were in some kind of formal occasion?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. Okay. Now, the second time that you were approached by
- 24 Horton about badge bending, was that around 2018?
- 25 A. I believe so. Yeah.
- 26 Q. Do you know if it was early 2018? late?
- 27 | A. No, I don't.
- 28 Q. Okay. And can you describe what -- what was that

1 conversation?

- 2 A. That conversation was less casual.
- 3 Q. Where did it occur?
- 4 A. On the admin side of the building, which I guess you would
- 5 call the south end.
- 6 | Q. Did he summon you there, or did he --
- 7 A. No, I ran into him.
- 8 Q. Okay. And was it just the two of you?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And what -- what did he communicate to you? What happened in
- 11 that conversation?
- 12 A. He told me to get in his office. And then he said something
- 13 to the effect, "Listen, no bull shit. I want to -- I'm going to
- 14 talk to you about the badge bending. And I don't want to hear any
- 15 bull shit excuses or reasons or explanations." That's the way it
- 16 went down.
- 17 Q. Okay. So he said he wanted to talk you, don't want to hear
- 18 any BS; right?
- 19 | A. Yes.
- 20 | Q. Did you say okay?
- 21 A. I said okay.
- 22 Q. And then what did he say?
- 23 A. He told me -- again, he did -- he didn't tell me what he
- 24 thought he knew, but he told me he knew what it was all about and
- 25 he didn't ever want to see it again. He saw some out on the
- 26 street, and I needed to make sure it wasn't ever going to happen
- 27 again or heads were going to roll.
- 28 Q. Can I -- can I clarify that? When you said he didn't say

- 1 that he -- what it was, but he said that he knew what it was all
- 2 about?
- 3 A. Yeah. Yes.
- 4 | Q. So he didn't say it was about being in officer-involved
- 5 shootings?
- 6 A. Well, I'm fairly certain he knew that. But my impression was
- 7 that he thought it was about killing people.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 THE COURT: Hold on a second. That was all a little vague.
- 10 The "it" you're talking about is badge bending?
- 11 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 12 THE COURT: All right. And then the discussion is, like,
- 13 what brought that about?
- 14 MR. FILLOY: Yeah. I'm going to try to clarify.
- 15 THE COURT: That was all -- that was all -- that was all a
- 16 | little vague.
- 17 Q. BY MR. FILLOY: So when he approached you about badge
- 18 bending, did he say to you anything about shooting or killing that
- 19 made you think he thought it was about killing people?
- 20 A. That was my impression. I don't know if he mentioned killing
- 21 people. I don't think he did. That was my impression, though.
- 22 Because after the first meeting, he said he knew what it was about
- 23 and he never wanted to see it again.
- 24 The second one was a little more angry. So I can't remember
- 25 if he said he thought it was about killing people or not. I don't
- 26 think he did. But that's what my impression was.
- 27 Q. Okay. Do you know if he said anything about what he
- 28 factually thought it was about?

- 1 A. At this point, I can't remember. He might have.
- 2 Q. Did you try to describe to him what it was about?
- $3\mid$ A. I told him it wasn't what he was thinking.
- 4 Q. Okay. But you did -- you didn't actually describe?
- 5 A. Oh, I didn't go into as much depth as I got to with the
- 6 investigator and this internal investigation because we had, like,
- 7 one of those "two and a half minute, shut up and listen"
- 8 conversations from him.
- 9 But I told him it wasn't what he thought it was, assuming he
- 10 thought it was about killing people. I told him it was about guys
- 11 doing their jobs and not running from a real tense, kinda, you
- 12 know, engagement.
- 13 Q. What was it, in fact, about? Shoot -- being in shootings,
- 14 though?
- 15 A. Yes, it was. It was -- it was about whether -- you know,
- 16 right, wrong, or indifferent, a lot of people don't know if when
- 17 they get to that point in -- if and when they get to that point in
- 18 their career that they'll actually perform or they'll freeze. And
- 19 that's what it was about.
- 20 O. What -- was it ever -- in your experience, your knowledge --
- 21 was this recognition of the badge being bent ever given to an
- 22 officer who had been in some kind of critical incident that wasn't
- 23 a shooting?
- 24 A. No. This was about discharge of a firearm.
- 25 **Q.** Okay.
- 26 THE COURT: You're not going to finish before noon, are you?
- 27 MR. FILLOY: I guess not.
- 28 THE COURT: Yeah. Can we do this: I gotta get ready for a

```
Zoom meeting at noon. Can we take a break, come back at 1:30?
 2
        MR. FILLOY:
                     Sure.
 3
        MR. FLYNN:
                    Sure.
 4
        THE COURT: All right. Yeah. So I'm thinking the same thing
 5 I was thinking before. Maybe Coleman for this initial thing.
 6 rest of it, I'm still not seeing. But we'll have this discussion
 7 at 1:30.
 8
        All right.
                    Thank you.
 9
        THE WITNESS:
                      Thank you.
10
        THE COURT: See you all then.
11
        MR. FILLOY: 1:30, Judge?
12
        THE COURT: Yeah. 1:30.
13
        (Lunch recess.)
14
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1	CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER		
2	-000-		
3	I, STACIE CURTIS, CSR, RPR, hereby certify that I am a		
4	Certified Shorthand Reporter and that I reported verbatim in		
5	shorthand writing the following proceedings completely and		
6	correctly to the best of my ability:		
7	COURT: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO		
8			
9	JUDGE: HONORABLE DANIEL HEALY		
10	ACTION: PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PLAINTIFF		
11	VS. DOMINIC JAMES MILANO,		
12	DEFENDANT CASE NO. VCR233208		
13	DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022		
14			
15	I further certify that I have caused said shorthand writing		
16	to be transcribed into typewriting by Computer-Aided		
17	Transcription, and that Pages 1 through 91, inclusive, constitute		
18	an accurate and complete transcription of all of my shorthand		
19	writing for the date specified.		
20			
21	DATED: FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022		
22			
23	Jane Clutis		
24	CTACLE CUDTIC CCD DDD		
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26			
27			
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