

interview of Adam Kwasman RNR

[Speaker 2] (0:03 - 0:25)

It's Detective Peckham, badge number 752, County Attorney's Office, located at 9414 East San Salvador Drive, Suite 240 in Scottsdale, Arizona. The date is 2-26-25, approximately 11 o'clock a.m., located with Detective Michael Lane, badge 838. And if you could just give me your name.

[Speaker 1] (0:26 - 0:28)

I am Adam Quasman.

[Speaker 2] (0:28 - 1:04)

Okay, thank you. Okay, so the reason that we're here, obviously, and I'll just give you a little background about the two of us. We both retired out of law enforcement, both been 25 plus, you know, police officers still doing it.

And we work in a group within the Maricopa County Attorney's Office that kind of gets a little bit of everything as far as investigations goes. Anything from document crimes to voter crimes to terrorism-related investigations.

[Speaker 1] (1:04 - 1:05)

You're the bycatch division.

[Speaker 2] (1:06 - 1:44)

Pretty much everything that doesn't go somewhere else specifically goes to us. So we were asked to basically look into some allegations that were made, and so that's what we'll eventually get to. But I wanted to just kind of like, if you could just provide like a brief overview of, I guess, your background.

First your background, and then we'll talk about, I'd like to talk a little bit about like what the city council entails and how it's structured within the city of Scottsdale. So that I have an understanding of kind of like how everything works within Scottsdale.

[Speaker 1] (1:44 - 3:37)

That makes sense. That makes sense. Yep.

I'm from Tucson. Born and raised in Tucson. I have an undergraduate degree from Tulane University, a master's degree in economics from George Mason University.

I worked on and off Capitol Hill in my 20s, came back home to Tucson in 2009, was a campaign manager for a congressional candidate, and then I successfully ran for the Arizona legislature at the age of 27, which was awesome. It was very cool to be elected. And I served as the vice chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

I was the vice chair to supervisor, now supervisor, Debbie Lesko when she was the chair of Ways and Means. And I served on appropriations and commerce and did one term there, ran for the United States Congress, because why not? I'm the smartest person in the history of humanity, right?

And I wanted life, even though I lost the race. My wife was working in politics, in national politics, where she was the development director for the Faith and Freedom Coalition, and was very active on, she was kind of a CNN part-time contributor, and she was in Tucson fundraising, and she was the one who set up the meeting, and I met her and lost the election, but won at life. We were married within the year.

Thank goodness. And fast forward 10 years, I went to law school as a second career. I'm currently the owner of Quasman Law, which is a boutique personal injury firm.

I only do personal injury. Before that, I did just personal injury. I was a partner at a medium-sized law firm called Wagner and Quasman.

We had about 10 employees and about 50 personal injury cases a month. And so I decided I wanted a little smaller world. Never thought I'd go back into politics 10 years later.

[Speaker 2] (3:37 - 3:38)

You decided city council?

[Speaker 1] (3:38 - 3:54)

Yeah, it was kind of like my old man waving my fist at the sky, right, the clouds, right, get off my lawn kind of a thing. No, we were seeing a rise in homelessness after the zone was disbanded in Phoenix.

[Speaker 2] (3:54 - 3:55)

So valley-wide.

[Speaker 1] (3:55 - 4:53)

Yeah. And it was hitting the, I was actually taking my kids to go fly fishing. They weren't going fly fishing.

They were going to the park to play. I was going fly fishing at Chaparral Park, which is adjacent to the lake there. And I'm able to cast and watch the kids.

And it was just the amount of vagrancy that was hanging out of that park led me to call state representative Matt Gress. And I said, who the hell's running for city council? I was thinking I was just going to cut him a check, right?

And Matt was like, nobody's running except for Chad Dubascus. And I started looking, and I found out the council leaned pretty progressive and in a city that isn't progressive, it's pretty thoughtfully conservative. And we were able to successfully, I ran on a platform of public safety and got the police and fire endorsements, and we won.

And I placed first in the general election in November.

[Speaker 2] (4:54 - 5:01)

So the election was in November. I'm brand new. So your assignment started back, I guess, in January 25th.

[Speaker 1] (5:01 - 8:02)

January 25th, January 14th, we just started. So the council is now a 5-2, even though it's nonpartisan, but for lack of a better word, it's a 5-2 conservative majority on the council. The way the council works, it's a seven-person council, and the mayor is a weak mayor in Scottsdale.

She is merely a voting member of the council. She does not have any extra powers in terms of being able to place anything on the agenda. The way we place items on an agenda is through either a charter officer, like the city manager places something on the agenda to get passed, whether it be by a regular agendaized vote or through what's called a consent calendar, which is like liquor licensing, certain types of procurement contracts that were already negotiated, which will come into play in this conversation, and others.

She can vote on those, but then she is the chief ribbon cutter. The best way to also figure this out is it's pretty clear in the city charter. The city charter is our city constitution, and so you kind of see it's not very long.

It's very clearly worded. She can create or disband—I don't know if she can create subcommittees, but she can appoint people to certain subcommittees, certain councilmen to a subcommittee. We have these citizens—sorry, this thing was about to be taken apart, so I apologize.

We have these citizens' commissions, whether it's a public safety commission or the preserve commission. She appoints, also along with us, we all appoint members of the public to that, and then she's the chief ribbon cutter. When it comes to actual relationships between the charter officers and the council or the mayor, she's no different than I am.

Again, I can't stress enough that it's a very weak mayorship in Scottsdale. It's not something I favor. I actually favor a stronger mayorship, because I like knowing where to put the boy, right?

But she has a staff that's different. We share a secretary. All six other members of the council share a single scheduling secretary, scheduling administrative assistant.

We have no policy staff. The mayor is afforded a chief of staff, a policy staffer, chief of staff, policy staffer, and her own—which does make sense there—scheduling secretary. But we all came in and kind of got swept in on this red wave in the last cycle, and what happened that led to this conversation caught us pretty much by surprise.

Okay. Yeah, so that's my background. That brings us up to now.

And I have four kids. They're adorable.

[Speaker 2] (8:03 - 8:08)

So the mayor is Lisa Borowski.

[Speaker 1] (8:08 - 8:09)

Mayor is Lisa Borowski.

[Speaker 2] (8:09 - 8:21)

And then the other two members that brought things forward, did you guys all bring it together forward to the county attorney, this information?

[Speaker 1] (8:21 - 9:15)

I believe this was jointly brought between Jan and— it's hard because there's open meeting law that we have to be very careful about. So with whom I have spoken directly with this are Jan and Barry Graham. Okay.

And then I don't—I know Kathy Littlefield is aware of what is going on. The other, what I would call the conservative— Correct. You know, the conservative council member.

But we want to be very respectful of open meeting law, so we don't have that— I know that I have not had that conversation with her about this because of the— With Kathy. Yeah, because this has to do with open meeting, because we don't want to breach open meeting law. If I speak to three other members, four people speak about a certain issue, and that becomes a breach of open meeting law.

[Speaker 2] (9:17 - 9:19)

Explain open meeting law.

[Speaker 1] (9:19 - 10:43)

Open meeting law is under the Arizona statute, where a majority of a caucus cannot speak about business in front of the council, potential business in front of the council, business in front of the council, without—as a majority. It has to be agendaized then, so the public is aware and can participate and witness what's going on. Unless—the only time we speak outside as a body in majority, sitting in caucus outside of the public eye, is when we enter into executive session, which is—which happens at—let's say there's a— Like, we had a—I can't—I can only speak to the— By law, I can only tell you what's going on in open meeting law, or under—not open—under executive session to the subject matter, because the subject matter is made public.

But public safety at the council. So that was the last executive session, where we gavel in, you know, the mayor gavels us in, we're elected to go into executive session to discuss public safety at the Kiva Center, which is City Hall. All in favor say aye.

Aye. Okay, then we enter into a boardroom. And I'm not allowed right now for this purpose is even— I can't discuss what goes on there.

Yeah, sure. So that is an executive session. And I don't want you to breach— No, no, you're fine.

I'm not asking you to breach anything.

[Speaker 2] (10:44 - 10:50)

Okay, so explain, then, what took place. Do you have any other questions for this?

[Speaker 1] (10:50 - 12:09)

Oh, and then Solange and—Solange Whitehead and Marianne McCallan are the minority members of the caucus. Is Solange— Solange Whitehead and Marianne McCallan. Marianne was elected this last cycle.

Solange has been—has been reelect—elected and reelected before. She is one of the senior members of the council. The way the relationships between the council goes, just so you guys kind of get a background of who likes who, like where the cliques in high school, right?

Right. The conservatives traditionally get along very well. Marianne and I sit next to each other.

We have a really good relationship. She's extremely affable. And Solange is somebody who—I think Solange and Kathy get along, but there are some consternations between—and it's just politics.

It's nothing more—it's nothing personal. It's merely politics, and just we're on the opposite ends of the world on this one. So she was the leader of the more progressive council at that time.

They were all swept out. She's the only one surviving because she wasn't up for election. And so there's a lot of back and forth, because we're undoing a lot of what the old council did.

Right, so that's it.

[Speaker 2] (12:09 - 12:12)

I know you had a recent publicized one with the DEI ruling.

[Speaker 1] (12:12 - 12:17)

It was unfortunate. I wish that—it was a 5-2 vote.

[Speaker 2] (12:17 - 12:17)

Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (12:18 - 12:49)

But everybody seemed to concentrate on me. And it was—it's challenging. I think that my Judaism had something to do with basic— had to do with it based on who was speaking at that time.

And I think that it's—I wish it could be better. And I think that the council as a body, no matter the politics, needs to stand together to defend the institution. I'm a big institutionalist.

[Speaker 2] (12:49 - 12:54)

That's why I asked. That was an example of what you're saying. There isn't the strongest bipartisanship.

[Speaker 1] (12:54 - 13:21)

Right. That's right. That's right.

But that's the nature of the beast right now in any type of political body. You know, it happens. I think that—you know, in a lot of stuff that we— what doesn't get the headlines is like a recent development zoning project for the Mercado apartment complex.

I voted with Lisa and Solange and Marianne. So there is bipartisan—like, we're the rubber—it's just it's not—that doesn't make the news, right?

[Speaker 2] (13:22 - 13:26)

Yeah. So you're truly looking at what you believe is best for the community.

[Speaker 1] (13:26 - 13:33)

Yeah. Yeah. It's a nonpartisan seat for a reason, you know?

But, you know, you worked in the city. Both of you guys. You guys get it.

[Speaker 2] (13:34 - 13:36)

Tempe. Both of us.

[Speaker 1] (13:36 - 14:53)

There you go. There you go. So it's not all elephants versus donkeys.

It's very much a spectrum. And it's things that are not my natural places, like making sure the preserve is not just protected. I'm okay with, of course, the environmentalism of the protection of the preserve, but how you go about doing that, I rely on Marianne and Solange and their institutional knowledge of being greenies, for lack of a better word, right?

They know the best—they have best practices there, so that on the conservation side— and they have pretty much nonpartisan, bipartisan support for what they have been doing. I have to respect their institutional knowledge and respect their, you know, who they— and everything they brought to the table. Likewise with Lisa.

I have to respect her time on the council a decade ago. She's seen what has worked. She has seen what has failed.

And she is—and her ideas, like the budget commission, bringing that back from Mayor Lane World was, I think, an outstanding idea. So Lisa is somebody I endorsed in the primary last cycle. And so notwithstanding what's going on, I consider it a good working relationship.

[Speaker 2] (14:53 - 14:56)

Because she lost her attempt in 2020, right?

[Speaker 1] (14:56 - 15:02)

Correct. I wasn't involved in any politics at that time. Too busy having babies.

Nothing wrong with that.

[Speaker 2] (15:02 - 15:11)

That's good. Good for you. Okay, so do you need to take—if you need to take— No, no, no, no.

[Speaker 1] (15:11 - 15:11)

You're fine. That's fine.

[Speaker 2] (15:13 - 15:23)

Okay, so do you have any other questions about that part, Mike? Then let's get a little bit into what actually has taken place.

[Speaker 1] (15:24 - 17:11)

Do you want the background of the procurement of what happened and my knowledge of what happened there? By the way, I'm just going to say that I'm going to tell you what I know. And Jan and Barry have a better view screen of the bigger picture.

Having been more involved last year, Barry was a sitting member of the council, but Jan also won last summer. She won outright in the primary. So she was a councilwoman-elect long before I was a councilman-elect.

She had six months on me, so she is up to speed a little bit better than I am. But here's my understanding. There was a bond that passed that the citizens overwhelmingly passed that allocated money toward parking in Old Town, right?

The question was where, right? My understanding of the bond, those who supported it, was they wanted it largely at what is now that farmer's market area, okay? To build a parking structure, sure.

Last year, when finally things were getting around to having it happen and the procurement was going on, there was a disagreement of whether that was the best place. And my understanding is that the deal that was worked out, it was whether there was a north lot or the farmer's market lot. In a classic governmental move, let's spend money on both.

Let's have both and make everybody happy. Just the taxpayer money, right? Who cares?

So, but that deal was hammered out last year, okay? And that the procurement for that, the bidding, everything that was going on to the engineers.

[Speaker 2] (17:11 - 17:13)

When you mean last fiscal year or?

[Speaker 1] (17:14 - 18:23)

In 2024. Okay. It happened in the last council.

The details of the where, when, and who was going to build it was all done. So, this was on the consent calendar for us. The contracts were already, is it Chase?

Is that the, let me make sure that the, I wrote it down somewhere. I apologize that I don't know the name of the company that was, that reached the, that accepted the procurement.

The developer that accepted the procurement with the engineering and everything like that, they, that contract was already a done deal.

This was happening. The kinks were hammered out, right? It was on and we get to that consent calendar agenda item.

In order for an agreed upon contract to be accepted, even though it was negotiated and done, you have to have the official council vote for it, right?

[Speaker 2] (18:23 - 18:24)
At the conclusion of it?

[Speaker 1] (18:25 - 18:46)
Yeah. If you're going to bid on providing cop cars to the police, the staff negotiates the contract with you. You're the contractor, right?

And they negotiate it. Okay, great. We made a deal.

Okay, great. Send it to the council on the consent calendar and that finalizes it, right? You have to go through that format.

It's a formality.

[Speaker 2] (18:46 - 18:54)
Is that the first point that it goes, that anything goes to the council or does it start at the council and then go through the process and then go back to the council?

[Speaker 1] (18:55 - 19:06)
It depends on the issue. But on a contract like the parking garage, the idea started at the council and then has to formally end at the council.

[Speaker 2] (19:06 - 19:06)
Okay.

[Speaker 1] (19:07 - 19:08)
Because it's the who's going to build it.

[Speaker 2] (19:08 - 19:11)
So this one had started at the council. It had been approved under.

[Speaker 1] (19:11 - 20:48)
It started with the tax, yeah, for the council to send it to the taxpayer. Taxpayers wanted it. They voted for it.

Then the staff is then directed to, okay, pass the council. It goes back to the council. The council says, staff, go figure it out.

They get the schematics, the environmental, the whole thing. Everybody gets all the bids of all the contractors. Boom.

There's usually a general contractor who then will subcontract out. Once that whole framework is agreed upon with staff and staff signs off on it, great, okay, here's to the council. Sign the contract.

And the council, basically it says mayor signs the contract. It's like it's not even, it's so basic it's on the consent agenda. It's not even discussed.

99.9999 times out of 100. This is just a, it's a formality that you have to have the council accept it, right? Because technically the city manager isn't the council.

It's not the people, right? Okay, so here we are, right? And this was, what, two weeks ago when this was up for, was up for the consent agenda.

All right, so I'm going to pause there and we're going to now go back to February. Let me get my timeline right. Excuse me.

I apologize.

[Speaker 2] (20:48 - 20:50)

Very good.

[Speaker 1] (20:53 - 21:33)

I will know from the conversation because I screenshotted the phone call. Not him. I do this when I remember it's important.

All right, February 10th, I got a call the night before. So February 9th, February 9th, I had a conversation with Lisa about this. It caught me completely off guard because I wasn't, it's not on my, this is not on my radar.

Something on a consent agenda is not, to be honest with you, it's like passing a liquor license to me. Nobody thinks about it. They just, you're done.

[Speaker 2] (21:34 - 21:35)

It's a formality. Formality.

[Speaker 1] (21:35 - 21:53)

Right. So Lisa Borowski calls me and says, hey, I don't know if I can save that one. Let me see if I can find, if I have my, I take so many calls a day.

Sure. All I can imagine. The idea of, let's see, February.

[Speaker 2] (22:15 - 22:16)

Is that a Sunday?

[Speaker 1] (22:17 - 23:06)

Let me, bear with me, bear with me, bear with me. Hold on a second. I apologize.

It was just Terrence on the 10th. It was Terrence on the 10th. So Terrence on the 10th, I must have spoken with Lisa about it randomly in passing and don't have a phone call.

It was, it was Terrence Thornton, who is the chief of staff. Of Lisa. Okay.

It's her chief of staff. Her chief of staff, Terrence Thornton. He calls me on the 10th at, on Monday at around, at 433.

I have the phone call. I saved the phone call because I thought it was weird. And that's, and I can send that.

Do you want me to print that out? I'm going to send that to my printer.

[Speaker 2] (23:06 - 23:06)

Yeah, that'd be good.

[Speaker 1] (23:06 - 23:10)

So you guys have it. Okay. It's just, I didn't save the actual transcript.

[Speaker 2] (23:10 - 23:11)

What time was that at?

[Speaker 1] (23:11 - 23:19)

Like 430 in the afternoon. Okay. And that was, bear with me.

[Speaker 2] (23:24 - 23:30)

The reason I had asked about it, it was the 9th of Sunday. You said that the mayor had called you. I didn't know if that was out of normal to call on a Sunday.

[Speaker 1] (23:30 - 23:33)

We call, we talk to each other. We text each other casually.

[Speaker 2] (23:33 - 23:33)

Okay.

[Speaker 1] (23:34 - 24:02)

You know, it's, it's, you know, we see each other at events. We text each other. We're, it's all, you know, it's just a, it's, it's back and forth on, it's just back, like whether it's like horse stuff, like, you know, my kids sing horses to, to different work.

Right. I took a picture of her her first day. Right.

Sent it to her. Okay. You know, just like, it's normal.

[Speaker 2] (24:03 - 24:06)

So it looks like you have a normal relationship. I have a good relationship. Oh, yeah.

Yeah. Great relationship with her. Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (24:06 - 28:48)

Right. So Terrence calls me to discuss, says, hey, the mayor wants you at a meeting. And in order to discuss, in order to discuss this parking garage, because I know we know you share the same vision of Scottsdale, of really, of Old Town, of beautifying Old Town and making sure it's the most beautiful it could possibly be.

And like, this is a thing in Scottsdale. Like there is no, there is no, it's so, I never thought, I, you know, I'm a former state, I think like a legislator. I don't think like a city council person.

I haven't been around city politics. It was a whim that I ran. So there is no like community for Old Town.

There's a, there's like, there's a tourism aspect to it, but there's no development thing that like, that surrounds Old Town says you have to build it in a certain way. You have to grow in a certain way. There's nothing like that.

There's a demarcation of Old Town, but it's really informal, which is crazy to me, by the way, because there's, you'd think you'd want uniform buildings, everything would be really pretty. So I, it was one of the things that Lisa and I discussed on the campaign trail, like, gosh, we have to have some unanimity here and have this plan for what is the future of Old Town Scottsdale, because I wanted it to be especially like, I want it to be far more for families upscale, right? It should be where the idea, there's these beautiful downtowns like Charleston.

And I used to live in New Orleans. I went to two lanes. So like I saw Bourbon street and I, that bar district in Old Town is very quickly turning into Bourbon street.

And I would like to save that for that. Right. So, okay.

So he said, yeah, I know you're interested in this. There's this parking garage issue that's coming up. I want you to meet with, we're going to meet with the mayor.

We're going to have a, we have a work study at the office. I'm sorry, at city hall. And I want you to be there.

And we're going to bring David Hovey in. David Hovey, the developer from Optum. Okay.

The head of Optum. We're going to bring him in as a paid consultant on this issue. And at first I'm like, oh, that's great.

You know, it's great. Because I didn't think, I didn't even think to consider that this was even going to be on the consent calendar moving forward. Right.

I didn't even like, I didn't even think about it. So I hang up the phone. It was a quick, it was like a five minute phone call.

It wasn't, you know, it wasn't too much at all. Yeah. Literally a five minute phone call.

So, so I, I was actually pretty excited about it. And I was actually, I was asking, I immediately called. I figured she was going to call Barry beforehand.

And so I had to be strategic now because I talked to one, I can only talk to like really one other person. Right. About this.

And so, so I called Barry and I'm like, what is this? What, you know, did you get invited to this? And he said, yeah, yeah.

This is the contract that's going on the consent calendar. I don't know why Lisa's trying to blow this whole thing up. And I said, well, what about Hovi with the, with the, with the contract, like to be a consultant on it?

I don't like, Hovi's an architect. This is a parking garage. That's usually reserved for engineers.

And this is a done deal. This is not a, this is not open for discussion anymore. This has already been worked through.

I'm like, oh, okay. Yeah. So once I started, once, you know, I'm like, everybody kind of in politics, you run for the city council, you kind of know who the big donors are.

Right. You have your, you have, you have your Ryan of riot hospitality. You have your Jason Morris's who's the, the zoning attorney, the lobbyists.

And, and you have your John Barry's and you have your, these are all good people by the way, but everybody kind of has their, you know, their, their world. Would you have to, it's up to the elected officials to say, okay, listen, anybody can give me money, but who am I going to, am I going to act upon anything? Right.

I'm not going to be in the pocket of anybody. Right. And it's always that I've been in politics for 25 years.

It's always a weird gray area. And when I figured, when I found out that this was for a consulting contract to bring him on a project, this got this, this kind of rang my bells and had the little hairs in the back of my neck pricking up.

[Speaker 2] (28:49 - 28:51)

A contract that had already been done.

[Speaker 1] (28:51 - 35:13)

Yeah. This is, you want to consult on what you're already done. You're, you're, you know, you're already done on this thing.

Right. So then Jan calls me and says, you know, are you going to, or she either called me or I spoke with her on something else and it came up right. That it, that, that she got invited to this thing.

She said, she's going to go. I said, okay, I'm not going to talk about it. You know, you know, you're, you do your thing.

Right. And so it turns out that a few days later, And I can find out, I'm going to pinpoint the day that this meeting took place. I'll be able to do it because I was with the head of the, I'm the chairman of the Republican.

I'm the chapter president of the Republican Jewish coalition for Arizona. And the executive, the new executive director was in town and wanted to kind of learn the ropes of Scottsdale. He's he was out of Nevada.

So he was with me at city hall. When we saw Lisa, I was just, I had to get some stuff from city hall. Just there.

And I wanted to show Alan city hall and we literally went in to Lisa and David walking in together. I don't know if they drove together, but they were walking in and they took the back entrance into city hall. There's a, there's an entrance that you can get to the mayor's office from behind.

So, you know, I'm not saying she hid him because she had a meeting with, and Jan was at the meeting. I mean, so, and I was invited to it. So it's not as if it weren't a public meeting, but there might not have been a sign in right because going through, cause they didn't go through the front entrance into the city hall where you just signed the book and like, you're there that day.

Just like I took Alan in, you know, through the side entrance where you have the, the city attorney's entrance is like a side entrance of city hall. And so just through the, you know, I have the, you know, you can go right in. Right.

So, so the meeting took place and at this point, I mean, with all due respect, the open meeting law kind of was out the window. We now we're getting worried and I got to talk to Jan and what is going, what's going on here. You know, this is, this is not appropriate.

This is the, this crosses the line. You don't just bring your buddy, the developer in on a project that should that is a it's we're done with it. This is a, you know, and who all was at the meeting.

Here's who I know was at the meeting. I can't speak of this as a complete list. Lisa, Terrence, Jan Dubascus, David Hovey.

That is who I know was at the meeting. I cannot speak to anybody else. Jan will know she was there, but I can tell you that that meeting took place because I ran into on the day of the meeting.

I ran into Alan Hendrick and I ran into David Hovey and Lisa Borowski walking in together. So they talk about Jan was given the, Jan told me that she was given the plans for an alternative parking structure, an alternative methodology with optimum at the top of it. And, and we're just, we're saying to ourselves, this is not, now you're, this is getting, it's getting gross.

It's getting gross. We don't want to come to a legal conclusion, but listen, I was in the legislature. I'm an attorney.

She, you know, you have to show knowledge. You have to show all this stuff. Like we're not dumb.

Right. And we have to take, we all take the ethics. We take the ethics briefing to like, this is just blowing through anything that's even passes my smell test.

And, and then we saw that she was fighting it at the council and she talked about it at she being Lisa. Yeah. Lisa talked about it during the vote, pulling it from the consent calendar.

This isn't the right thing I've heard from the voters, you know, they don't want this. And we're just like, what are you doing? Like, this is a, it's one thing to have a pet project that, you know, that let's say your weight to it.

This is the first time I've heard about it. Oh, I don't want this. I want it this way.

Right. And so you rush to try to, you try to blow something up politically. That's, that's one thing you don't get to this stage without destroying procurement contracts.

You can't do that. And then when you're giving your donor a consulting contract onto something that was already contracted for. So we called, we, we decided to call you guys.

That's where this gets really, this gets bad. Cause you know it, you know it. She's an attorney.

She has a, an expert. We're all, we all, everybody takes the bar and take passes that ethics requirement. We have an expectation of knowledge of the law.

We were all briefed on by the, by the city attorney of where the ethics lines are and where we should even not even get close to. Yeah. And so we were like, you gotta, we gotta call somebody.

And we don't then there was, here's what I now, now outside of my personal knowledge, here's what I, I have, I have seen since then there have been flyers passed around in public at the farmer's market that we don't know where the printing came from of like to try to try to kind of blow up the project there. She refrained from signing. We told her in the, in the vote, the vote went six to one to we're throwing, we're throwing this through the consent calendar.

This is not right. What I don't know what the hell she's talking about to be blowing up this contract. And she refused to sign it.

She literally like it's a directing the mayor to sign something. She refused to sign it. Then she claimed that she told Jan to sign it.

Cause Jan's the vice mayor like a week later. And it was just, everything is sketchy. Everything is sketchy.

It's your job to decide whether it was illegal. But, but at some point, if I'm the contractor and I'm seeing this, I would be sweating bullets, you know, and seeing why, why are they trying to, why are they trying to impose this guy over here?

[Speaker 2] (35:14 - 35:19)

And that's my, do you, do you know that he is a donor?

[Speaker 1] (35:19 - 35:25)

Yes, for sure. Absolutely. Okay.

It's public knowledge. It was in the news. Okay.

It was in the Scottsdale progress.

[Speaker 2] (35:25 - 35:26)

David. Yeah. Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (35:26 - 36:07)

Max donor. Yeah. Yeah.

Also the language that Lisa used was the same as Ortega used when he was against this. And hope he was a max donor to the former mayor. And just, Oh, I just put together this.

Lisa just kind of came up and said, Oh, I have this sketch of this alternative parking structure over here. You don't just like, I'm sorry. I don't want to tell anybody else who has, who knows how to do their business, but you don't just drop like that.

It's not just, Oh, look at that. I just knocked that out. You know?

Right. So this is so, so weeks.

[Speaker 2] (36:08 - 36:22)

So let me ask you a question with her voting. She, she voted against it and there were six of you that voted for it. Right.

Does it then go through them? Yeah. So everything, she's just a member of the council, but she refused to sign it after we voted for it.

[Speaker 1] (36:23 - 36:23)

Right. Right.

[Speaker 2] (36:23 - 36:26)

But does, but does that affect, does that affect?

[Speaker 1] (36:26 - 36:26)

No.

[Speaker 2] (36:26 - 36:28)

Contract is done to do with the contract.

[Speaker 1] (36:28 - 36:38)

Correct. It doesn't affect it at all. And she's still pushing it after we voted on it to approve the contract.

She's still pushing David.

[Speaker 2] (36:39 - 36:39)

Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (36:39 - 37:31)

She's still pushing the plan. She's still going forward on this and she's still taking meetings.

You have, you have French who is a property owner in, in old town.

You have Pedgeman. You have, he's a property owner in old town and you have David Hovey and Lamar and the mayor put in Terrence. They're pushing this.

They keep pushing it that we need to have David on this. We need to have David on this. And it's just, you know, it's a big contract to have a big consultant contract, a million dollar contract.

You know, I mean, sure this is, it's getting, and then you're going to hear, I would like to say something off the record. I'd be happy to say it on the record again, if you think it's important for the record, but is that something you'd feel comfortable with or would you like to keep it on the record?

[Speaker 2] (37:32 - 37:33)

I, I would personally.

[Speaker 1] (37:34 - 37:35)

Yeah. Right.

[Speaker 2] (37:35 - 37:36)

It's a, okay.

[Speaker 1] (37:36 - 38:10)

I would, I would ask, I would ask Barry Graham because Barry Graham, I believe was told by Terrence Thornton that, Hey, we have to be good to our donors. We have to, you know, we're trying to push this. We have to be good to our donors.

That is absolutely not acceptable in court. I know it's a hearsay statement. You know, I, I have a, you know, it's, I know that.

So that was why I asked if it could be off the record. Cause I know it's a hearsay statement. It's not acceptable anyway.

So I would ask Barry Graham about things like that. Okay. Right.

[Speaker 2] (38:13 - 38:33)

So with the mayor, with the mayor refusing to sign that, and going against that, even though she pushed her own agenda forward. Right. It should have been over.

That should have been it. But is there any benefit that she is gaining by doing that? I'm asking you because I don't, I don't know.

By voting against it. By voting against it.

[Speaker 1] (38:33 - 40:44)

Is she benefiting anything? Well, she tried to pull it. She tried to vote against, you know, she tried, she is trying to sow discord.

So as to create a sense that this needs to be reworked. Notwithstanding the vote of the council. So if I were, if I were, let's say the worst, let's assume the worst in this scenario.

Let's let's steal man her. And then I'll straw man her. I'll assume the worst.

And then I'll assume the best. Right. Here's the best version of this.

Okay. The best version of this is I don't like this. This went way too fast.

This was not a part of what I wanted. This happened in the last council. I'm going to try to do whatever I can to blow it up because we want to do it ourselves.

And I think I have a better idea. Look at this guy over here. He's built the optima.

It's beautiful. Blah, blah, blah. Right.

I want him involved and I don't want Scottsdale going out of my hands because one of the things I ran on was a revitalization of Scottsdale. Okay. That's the best version of this.

That makes sense to me. But for the following, we sign this issue. It's done.

Hey, we still want to get a consulting contract for him. We still want to help. We still want to push it this way.

It's over. It's done. It's done.

And so the bad, but I don't care that she voted against it. To me, she exposed the reasons that she voted against it was because that she's being told or that she is being influenced or that she because of a donor. This isn't just some architect firm.

This is a major player in Scottsdale politics. Because. And that what I fear is that this is the same thing that was tried with the former administration.

And now it's being tried here. And it got too blatant. And they tripped over their own.

Sure. Clean that one up. Right.

When they try to when they're trying to strong arm. I have never been asked before. We've been in for a month.

I've never been asked to have a private work study meeting with with the mayor outside of outside of the council.

[Speaker 2] (40:44 - 40:51)

Did any did anyone ever tell you to like in no uncertain terms to vote against it?

[Speaker 1] (40:52 - 40:52)

Yes. The mayor.

[Speaker 2] (40:53 - 40:54)

In the meeting.

[Speaker 1] (40:54 - 40:55)

Yeah.

[Speaker 2] (40:55 - 40:59)

Yeah. Exactly. What exactly did she say?

If you can remember that?

[Speaker 1] (40:59 - 41:01)

Oh, imagine this.

[Speaker 2] (41:01 - 41:02)

We need your vote.

[Speaker 1] (41:02 - 41:47)

No, it's just a we need your vote on this to make sure that to make sure that we can get the right parking garage. Yeah. The mayor asked.

You want this one? You know. Yeah.

She knows. She absolutely was trying to get people to vote against it. That's not a.

That was open like that. I wouldn't falter. But that's not illegal.

Like to me, that's not. You know, when you start bringing in the contract aspect of it, when you start bringing in the consultant into it, when you start bringing in that. Now you're now it's getting skeezy to me.

That's what I get. I've been I was I was on the appropriations committee at the legislature. I wasn't just on ways and means other appropriations.

So procurement is something that I'm familiar with. Not at this stage. Right.

Not appropriate.

[Speaker 2] (41:49 - 41:54)

So did she offer up reason to rationale why she wanted to go in that direction?

[Speaker 1] (41:56 - 41:59)

It was all under a beautification aspect.

[Speaker 2] (42:00 - 42:08)

So she felt that what he was presenting forward was better than what had been voted on and voted for.

[Speaker 1] (42:08 - 42:12)

And completed and completed. Yes. Sure.

[Speaker 2] (42:12 - 42:13)

OK.

[Speaker 1] (42:13 - 42:15)

Right. She never said I owe it to my donors.

[Speaker 2] (42:15 - 42:15)

Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (42:16 - 42:23)

That was a conversation had between. I believe my understanding is between Barry and Barry and Terrence.

[Speaker 2] (42:24 - 42:24)

OK.

[Speaker 1] (42:25 - 42:31)

Terrence is a key to all of this. Terrence is a key to all this because she acted as Lisa's agent and a lot of it.

[Speaker 2] (42:31 - 42:39)

OK. Do do you know at all if the contract the other firm as a donor. That was already.

[Speaker 1] (42:40 - 42:40)

I know that.

[Speaker 2] (42:40 - 42:40)

OK.

[Speaker 1] (42:46 - 44:11)

That's that's what I know. Jan's going to be able to fill this out like flush this out. I gave you the appetizer.

Jan is going to be able to flush this out perfectly. And so will Barry. I'm the least not the least knowledgeable but I had the least interaction that that everybody had because Barry was part of the old council.

So he knows everything about the old procurement and has the institutional knowledge to understand when the process ends and then what was also done. The people I would speak to are the following if you want to make a list of people. Terrence.

Of course Barry and Jan. David Hovey. French.

Bob Pedgeman. Because I think he was part of that meeting. Whoever was part of that meeting in Old Town of Old Town property owners.

That's another one that was pushed. They're pushing it. Yeah.

So. Now it's I wish it weren't like this. There's no.

This isn't a power play by the by an alternative faction. This is the same team. In fact I'm actually happy that the.

County attorneys handling this and not the attorney general because that brings in politics because of the political. Sure. Differentiations.

So right.

[Speaker 2] (44:11 - 44:20)

Right now we're just trying to kind of figure out exactly what took place so we can determine whether or not there was something appropriate for us to go for. Criminal investigation. Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (44:20 - 44:38)

I mean that's that's probably right. Right. But just know that motivation wise if you're trying to get the feel of like where they were coming from.

Yeah. Again Lisa and I have a good relationship. We send the council like this is all the same teams.

We were caught off guard.

[Speaker 2] (44:38 - 44:47)

Okay. Question. Why do you think she or say through her chief of staff reached out to you because of friendship because you're new to the council.

[Speaker 1] (44:47 - 45:00)

The vote was going to come up. Yeah. She needs votes.

She won't blow it off the consent calendar. I didn't know it at the time. Again I wasn't paying attention to the consent calendar at the time.

[Speaker 2] (45:01 - 45:07)

So in order for that to come off of the consent calendar. Would just majority majority majority. Just for three.

[Speaker 1] (45:08 - 45:28)

And she had Solange. Solange at first voted to postpone it. I think once Solange saw the writing on the wall that we're going to change anything.

It's funny. She voted for the postponement lost the postponement and then voted to pull it from the consent count and then voted to accept it on the consent.

[Speaker 2] (45:29 - 45:31)

So the postponement was voted.

[Speaker 1] (45:31 - 45:32)

There was a motion to postpone.

[Speaker 2] (45:33 - 45:35)

I'm assuming like five to two or something.

[Speaker 1] (45:35 - 45:39)

That was five to two. Either four to three or five to two because I think she might have had one.

[Speaker 2] (45:40 - 45:40)

Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (45:40 - 45:49)

I don't I don't remember what Marianne voted for that. That's an easy one to figure out. But.

And then. But it was the.

[Speaker 2] (45:50 - 45:53)

And when did that vote take place. What day.

[Speaker 1] (45:54 - 45:54)

The actual.

[Speaker 2] (45:56 - 45:57)

Because that would have been an open meeting. Right.

[Speaker 1] (45:58 - 46:04)

Yeah. I think that was two councils ago. Let me see.

It was the. I think it was.

[Speaker 2] (46:04 - 46:07)

Those are televised and recorded. OK.

[Speaker 1] (46:08 - 46:12)

City Council executive. So that was the 11th.

[Speaker 2] (46:13 - 46:13)
OK.

[Speaker 1] (46:14 - 46:26)
Yeah. So I think also that was the 11th would have been the day of the meeting. Also with.
Hobie. At City Hall.

[Speaker 2] (46:28 - 46:29)
And did you say.

[Speaker 1] (46:30 - 46:35)
I think that might have been afterwards. I need to. I'm not.
I'm not sure. That's why I'm not sure that.

[Speaker 2] (46:35 - 46:41)
Did you allude to you think there's a history of. Having the simulation of doing this.

[Speaker 1] (46:42 - 48:08)
Here's what. Here's what leads me to believe that. The Scottsdale Progress.

Did an article. Mayor Rages Against Parking Plan. OK.

If you go to Scottsdale dot org. And. That.

Language. That the way the same thing that. The kind of week.

It's kind of like this story of what's going on. Right. And then.

It was a 66 50 campaign donation by the way. OK. And it happened.

After the election. He donated. To her.

He donated to David Ortega first and then he donated to her. After the election as a debt like
a debt retirement donation. OK.

So. It. Was.

Construction. So. It was the same criticism.

The same language literally the same words were used. By Lisa. That was.

That was. That was the same as Ortega used. System.

When you start using the same words. Again. That makes the hairs in the back of my neck
stand up that.

You were told that this was. That this is the best way to sell this. Yeah.

So. That's it.

[Speaker 2] (48:08 - 48:08)
OK.

[Speaker 1] (48:09 - 48:12)
Yeah. Anyway. That's my.

[Speaker 2] (48:12 - 48:12)
Good.

[Speaker 1] (48:12 - 48:13)
Yeah. I don't have anything.

[Speaker 2] (48:13 - 48:15)
Anything else Mike. OK.

[Speaker 1] (48:16 - 48:19)
Yeah. Chase was the name of the is the name of the subcontractor. Is the contract.

[Speaker 2] (48:19 - 48:19)
Oh OK.

[Speaker 1] (48:19 - 48:24)
C.H.A. S.S.E. Mm hmm.

[Speaker 2] (48:24 - 48:27)
That's a contract. The actual contract for the garage.

[Speaker 1] (48:28 - 48:28)
Mm hmm. OK.

[Speaker 2] (48:30 - 48:34)
I guess that would be my other question is. Is Chase aware of this occurrence.

[Speaker 1] (48:34 - 48:35)
Oh they must be.

[Speaker 2] (48:36 - 48:36)
OK.

[Speaker 1] (48:36 - 48:40)
Oh they must be. Absolutely. This is.

Imagine having a contract done.

[Speaker 2] (48:41 - 48:43)
Right. If you'd heard chatter.

[Speaker 1] (48:43 - 48:50)

Oh no. There must be. I mean I haven't spoken with them.

I'm kind of want to stay. This is now. Now that's entered into this realm.

I don't want to get involved.

[Speaker 2] (48:50 - 48:54)

Nothing. Nothing has been affected. With Chase.

Correct.

[Speaker 1] (48:55 - 48:57)

That's my understanding. My understanding. Nothing was touched.

[Speaker 2] (48:57 - 49:01)

Or actually nothing has been affected. Nothing has affected anyone. No.

[Speaker 1] (49:01 - 49:10)

She signed. She ended up signing that contract with Chase. OK.

So like at the end of last week. I think on Friday or Monday of this week. Something like that.

[Speaker 2] (49:10 - 49:11)

OK.

[Speaker 1] (49:11 - 49:15)

Yeah. So again when you meet with.

[Speaker 2] (49:15 - 49:22)

So she. So she. Just like.

I just want to make sure I got this. So. So.

So when you vote. She voted against it.

[Speaker 1] (49:22 - 49:22)

Right.

[Speaker 2] (49:23 - 49:24)

So you said it was six to one.

[Speaker 1] (49:24 - 49:30)

Yes. And then. But before that she voted to try to postpone it.

Or. Pull it.

[Speaker 2] (49:30 - 49:30)

Correct.

[Speaker 1] (49:30 - 49:34)

From there. And it was possibly five to two. It was either four three or five two.

[Speaker 2] (49:34 - 49:34)

OK.

[Speaker 1] (49:35 - 49:36)

I don't know what Marianne voted on that.

[Speaker 2] (49:37 - 49:51)

So when it came back. You just said that she had signed it. At the end of the.

But it was like two weeks later. No but what. Which is unheard of.

But what I was going to ask is that. What exactly is. When she signs.

Does she have to sign everything.

[Speaker 1] (49:51 - 49:57)

It's a contract. She's the mayor. It was.

It was. Right. We.

OK. She speaks for the council there. But.

OK.

[Speaker 2] (49:57 - 50:00)

When you have a choice. About signing the contract.

[Speaker 1] (50:00 - 50:02)

Well here's the thing. Well here's the thing.

[Speaker 2] (50:02 - 50:03)

She voted against it.

[Speaker 1] (50:03 - 50:57)

We've never been in a situation where the mayor. And I think we talked to. I think Jan talked to Ben.

That this has never happened. That like to not sign it. Like what do you do.

We were going to have to like. Like. We had to have a conversation.

Jan Berry and I had a conversation of like. Oh do we call a special session. Because we can buy a majority vote.

We can call a special session. Be like. You know where we excoriate them.

Like basically it's saying that you are. In derelict of duty. If you're not signing.

Something passed by the council. At this point it becomes a. Constitutional crisis.

Or charter crisis. Right. The council.

But again that's not. I don't. It leads to the fact that she was really.

Really really really really intent on this. But that's not a. That's not a legal issue.

That's my problem. That's a political problem. That's not a.

That's not a legal problem.

[Speaker 2] (50:57 - 51:07)

Yeah. No I was more trying to figure out. Like what the.

What the process was for that. If she. If she had to sign off on every contract.

That is passed by city council. She does.

[Speaker 1] (51:07 - 51:35)

I want it. Everybody wants to put. And I know you guys know this.

But I just want to read. Just really reinforce this. Everybody thinks that the mayor.

Is like the New York mayor. Where it's like the mayor. And then the council.

That's not how it is here. Here it's just. She's a super.

She is the councilwoman. Who then also cuts ribbons. She is.

A. Yeah. She is not a.

Her authority here is not. Doesn't exist. It's not in the charter.

[Speaker 2] (51:35 - 51:39)

She. She has. She has no ability to hold up the contract.

No. Right.

[Speaker 1] (51:39 - 51:39)

No.

[Speaker 2] (51:40 - 51:40)

And.

[Speaker 1] (51:40 - 52:54)

Right. And if you read. It.

Here's. Here is what scares me. Is that.

And what. Called. One of the reasons why we called you.

So if you go to the Scottsdale charter. Dale charter. So I still charter.

Section. Five. I want to say.

City charter. Nope. Section.

Article eight. Section five. Any member of the council.

Or any officer. Or employer of the council. Who shall aid or assist a bidder in securing a contract.

To furnish labor material equipment. Supplies or services at a higher price. Than proposed by any other bidder.

Or who shall favor one bidder over another. By giving or withholding information. Or who shall willfully mislead any bidder.

In regard to the character of the labor material. Equipment supplies or services called for. Or the conditions.

Under which the proposed work is done. Or who shall knowingly accept material supplies. Equipment of a quality inferior to those.

Called by the contract. Or who shall knowingly certify a greater amount of labor. Or service performed.

That is actually performed. Or the receipt of greater amount of different kind of material. Supplies or equipment.

Shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. And upon conviction removed from office.

[Speaker 2] (52:55 - 52:56)

And that was it. What were you reading.

[Speaker 1] (52:56 - 53:28)

That's in the charter. That's section. Article eight.

Section five. Section five. Fraud and collusion.

That's what led us to call you. Because we're like this. I don't.

I don't know whether David Hovey is considered a bidder. But I know that Chase is a bidder. And when you start subverting a bidder.

That's falls under this statute. As I just speaking as an attorney. Like I.

And so that's where the city. Attorney cannot investigate that. So we called you for the right reasons.

[Speaker 2] (53:29 - 53:38)

And that was why I asked about. She was giving some. Reasoning or possibility.

Other than beautification. She was saying. You know he's.

He's cheaper. He's this.

[Speaker 1] (53:38 - 54:42)

No he's more expensive. He's more expensive. And not part of the project.

And I don't even think he would qualify for it. Because I don't even think you have an architectural. Aspect.

I think it's an engineer there. Even though he has done parking garages. Nonetheless he is not.

I don't believe he's a trained engineer. And by the way. The contract was done.

Right. He has no business. Being pushed at all.

And. And the fact when. If there is.

If what Barry Graham said is true. If they were told that. The donors.

That would be good to our donors. It ain't a felon. It doesn't have to be a felony.

That's. That's the only way we have a. There is no ethics committee at the council.

There is no. You guys are the ethics committee. You guys basically are.

If this is a crime. If it's not a crime it's not a crime. But if it's a crime.

You guys are unfortunately tasked with this one. I wish it weren't like. I wish this is.

We've been in office for six weeks. I wish this wasn't happening.

[Speaker 2] (54:42 - 54:47)

When you say done. The contract done as December 31st of 2024. Was there.

[Speaker 1] (54:48 - 55:53)

No I mean technically the contract was done. When it was. When we agreed to it as the council agreed to it.

OK. But on this last on this last one. But it was done.

I mean it was in. In in 20 by. Before we took office the contract was.

Completed and negotiated. By staff and the. And the.

And at Chase. Right. And prior to that there was already a council vote of saying we're going to have it here.

That took a council putting it at the North lot and farmers market was a vote. That's the law. That's the ordinance.

Right. Then the staff has a contract with a with the highest bidder. That contract was was hammered out and then sent back to the council for finalization.

Right. There is no like second bidder consultant work. The mayor has no power to be like oh dude bring this guy in.

It's not a. So it's not a thing that could happen.

[Speaker 2] (55:53 - 56:05)

The city council could the city council have voted. To not approve that or three majority to not approve. Yes.

OK. And then it would have been open that day when again.

[Speaker 1] (56:05 - 56:33)

Right. Right. It's a reopen baby because everything's up and everything's off the table.

However however it has to be through the engineers that would bid. It's also even if that were true. My understanding you have to talk to Barry.

You have to talk to Jan on this one but Barry would really know it is you don't bring you still don't bring in the consulting. Excuse me. Salting contracts.

You still don't. That's not a. This is already done.

[Speaker 2] (56:33 - 56:33)

Yeah.

[Speaker 1] (56:33 - 56:39)

Right. It's just who's going to build it. Not.

Not this guy over here.

[Speaker 2] (56:40 - 56:40)

Sure.

[Speaker 1] (56:40 - 56:45)

Right. So this is it does not pass our smell test.

[Speaker 2] (56:46 - 56:46)

OK.

[Speaker 1] (56:46 - 56:47)

It's a lot better.

[Speaker 2] (56:48 - 56:49)

That sounds good.

[Speaker 1] (56:49 - 56:49)

Yeah.

[Speaker 2] (56:51 - 56:53)

It's a lot of good information I appreciate you taking the time.

[Speaker 1] (56:53 - 56:59)

I wish it. I wish this were. How does the process go from here.

We continue interviews.

[Speaker 2] (57:00 - 57:08)

Can we stop it. Because the interview is concluded at. Fifty eight.

And. So.