

Interview of Jan Dubauskas RNR

[Speaker 2]

It's Detective Dan Packham, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, badge number 752-22625. Approximately 12, 36 hours located at the residence of Jan Dabowskis, City Councilwoman with Scottsdale, City of Scottsdale.

[Speaker 3]

Present also Detective Michael Lane and badge 83 of Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

[Speaker 2]

So obviously I've told you and we've kind of introduced ourselves a bit. So we're both detectives with the County Attorney's Office. We've both been in law enforcement for 25 plus years.

The group that we are attached to within the County Attorney's Office does just a multitude of investigations. Not always crimes. I don't want to classify everything as being a crime because it's not.

But we investigate, we do investigate crimes and things that allegations are made. Okay, which I guess, I guess this would kind of fall into that category. So we're trying to figure out exactly, you know, what has taken place, where we're at as far as within what the law says, and then, and then we're going to kind of go from there.

So we're just in the, I guess you could classify it as the infancy stage of the investigation. Just kind of figuring out what, what exactly has taken place. So, you know, that's kind of like where we're at.

So we've interviewed one person so far and then you're the second person that we've, we've spoken to. So if you could just kind of give me a, like a background of, of yourself and how you got involved with politics here in Scottsdale. And I don't know what your background, if you had, if you were in politics before or not.

So I'm going to let you do that.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, sure. So I have lived in this house since 2013. I'm an attorney and went to ASU law and have worked as general counsel for various health insurance companies.

And in 2021, I decided to run for state Senate. And my job at the time was to go on Fox News and Newsmax and MSNBC and represent my company. And unfortunately, when you run for office, then that means you're picking a side.

And in a country of 25 states, 50 states, 25 of them had Republican governors and 25 of them had Democrat governors. They just felt like you probably shouldn't be representing us on TV. And, you know, and so I chose to continue running for office.

And so I ran for state Senate here in this district. We call it legislative district three. And I lost in the primary to John Kavanaugh.

After that, I had developed a following in Scottsdale. And so I knew Barry Graham and Kathy Littlefield, who are currently on council. And they recruited me to run for city council.

It was not my life dream. But we have academies. So we have a citizen's academy.

So Barry said, why don't you go to the citizen's academy? You learn all about the business of the city. And I did that.

And I just fell in love with the city unexpectedly. And so so I ran for the city council in the city of Scottsdale. And I think throughout Arizona, if you win a majority vote, then you can win outright in the primary in July.

So I did. That's something that hasn't been done like in recorded. They don't know.

So it's kind of fun. Thank you. Yeah, it's kind of fun.

So I have an unusual path in that I've been more I've gone to the academies. I've I've had more time to get to know folks. And I've been going to the council meetings for a couple of years now.

And so I do have a little bit of background and some some, you know, history on some things. I wasn't on council, so I didn't hear the same stuff. But I was an audience member for a lot of things.

And so because I was the outright winner in July, we have a vice mayor rotation. And so it's every eight months. One of the three people that comes back on is vice mayor.

So I was the highest vote getter. So I'm vice mayor right now. And vice mayor doesn't mean a lot.

People treat it like it does, but it really doesn't. You're still just one of seven members of council. And so that will that will come in.

I'll tell you a little bit more about why it doesn't. It's kind of a thing that invites me related to this topic. So we had an item on the agenda.

We started our term on January 14. We had an item on the agenda for January 28, which was the design build contract for the first and brown parking garage. And because I had been going to the meetings and involved with folks in the gallery district and old town area, they were very passionate about this parking garage.

The parking garage was part of the 2019 bond project, which means that people in the old town area got together in like 2017 and said, hey, we need a parking garage. And they advocated for it until it got on the package of items that would be put out to the voters in 2019. And in this was a very hotly debated item last year, the parking garage was on the prior council.

And in the bond project, they listed three potential sites. And it was one of those including but not limited to kind of statements. And there were three potential sites.

It was very hotly debated because the old town merchants wanted that darn parking garage. A couple of things have happened in the intervening time. The Scottsdale Civic Center was renovated and they put in big amphitheaters for people to come.

Some parking has been taken away at Scottsdale Stadium, which is just directly south of Scottsdale Civic Center. In the name of beauty, but the old town merchants really feel it. And so they felt very passionately about having this parking garage in the old town area.

There is another cohort, which is the bar owners, and they are in the entertainment district. So Old Town is a quadrant. So entertainment district is here.

Civic Center is here. The Arts District is here and Fashion Square is here. And so with the parking garage being sort of in this area, the merchants feel like that's going to satisfy their need.

But the entertainment district was complaining, complaining, complaining, complaining. And they wanted their own parking garage. They wanted the parking garage to be on the north side.

So this was a hotly contested item last year. A parking garage is \$15 to \$17 million. We had, I don't remember the exact amount that was in the bond for it, \$10 million.

So some of it's going to have to come out of general fund. And what ended up happening was council said, let's do both. We're not going to make the one at first.

And they eventually decided on the first and brown location. But we're not going to make either one huge. We'll do moderate sizes for both, which will keep our costs down.

And so all parties were somewhat happy with that. At the time, in 2024, Mayor Ortega said, I'm very concerned. He's an architect.

He said, I'm very concerned it's going to be ugly. I'm very concerned about location. I think maybe we should see if Honor Health will sell us one of their lots and we can do another location.

And the gallery owners fought back. They were very particular about this first and brown location for a couple of reasons. One is that it already has an underground parking structure that was built with the idea of having a parking structure above it.

So when you build these things, you have to build them in a certain way so that you can handle the weight and all of that. So this location was particularly built for that. The concern is that the farmer's market.

So right now it's an underground parking garage with it just looks like a parking lot on top. And the farmer's market is held there every Saturday, October to May. It's kind of an institutional thing.

Everybody loves the farmer's market. I went and collected signatures there for my candidacy. I went and looked at the produce.

I'm not paying \$18 for kale, but if you want to, okay, whatever. So he said, you know, I'm very concerned about that. And what they decided to do is, I think the plan is to make the first level a little bit higher.

Block off the parking in the parking garage so that the farmer's market can be undercover. Rain or shine, hot days or not, the farmer's market will go on this first level of the new parking garage. Ortega said, I'm very concerned it's going to be ugly.

And as an architect, I'm very concerned. It's right next to, if you've been to the Mission restaurant. And so it has a sort of old Mission style.

In front of the owners. Yeah. Okay, good.

Yeah. So it's literally across the street. He was very concerned about that.

And so he said, you know, if we move forward with this location, I'm only comfortable moving forward if we're going to take design very, very seriously. So the way things work, we are not allowed to tell a city manager, you have to do this. As city council members?

[Speaker 6]

As city council members. Okay.

[Speaker 1]

We are not allowed to call up the city manager and say, you have to pick this contractor. We're not allowed to call the city manager and say, you have to have this particular design element. We, as a group, make a vote and then the city manager carries it out to the best of his understanding.

We don't tell him who to put the RFP out to. We don't tell him what the RFP should say. We don't tell him the finished product.

We say we want a parking garage. We want a design process. And this, and you have this amount of money.

You go out and you do it.

[Speaker 3]

And so. Just to clarify, what do you mean, RFP means request for pricing? What do you mean by that?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, so in this case, it was a request for design. So a request for design and architecture work. And so on the parking garage, they put out this request for bids.

And I think they had two bidders. And they came back and the procurement process decided on one of the two bidders. This is not something that we're allowed to be involved in.

We gave them the prior council, gave them the parameters of this is what we want for the parking garage. And so they went out, they got bidders, they made a selection. And so what was on the agenda for us to decide on was, are we going to sign this contract?

Because you can't move forward with a contract without the mayor's signature or delegating it to the city manager, which had not been done.

[Speaker 2]

And are you referring to the current, the most recent meeting, or are you referring to what took place before?

[Speaker 1]

On January 28 of 2025, there was supposed to be a meeting. Part of the consent agenda was to, it's a resolution to direct the mayor to sign the contract, the design build contract. I found out around January 24th that the mayor had asked the city manager to move the parking garage to the February 11th meeting.

So I called the city manager and I said, because I had gotten phone calls from the old town guys. They're like, not again, not again. We've waited for years for this parking garage, not again.

Why is it off the agenda? So I called the city manager because we're allowed to ask questions. We're not allowed to give direction, which as a corporate boss has been challenging.

So I said, what happened? Can you help me understand why the parking garage was moved and when it's going to be back on the agenda? And he said it was, Lisa called me and asked me to move it because it was just too much.

She doesn't understand it. She wants more time to think about it. And we're going to move it to the February 11 meeting.

I said, does that push back our timeline at all? And he said, no, it's OK. It's the timeline will remain the same.

And the contract is for design only. It is for 12 months of resident input. So they're going to put stuff out.

They're going to have resident meetings. They're going to have shareholder meetings. This is going to be a very intensive design process because the prior mayor was the architect.

He's very worried about design. So he said it won't it won't change and it won't it won't hurt the process if we go to February 11. And I said, OK.

And I was surprised because it's a parking garage that's been on the 2019 bond list for now six years. And this has already been decided. It's already, you know.

So so I was like, well, as long as it doesn't change anything and whatnot. So I guess part of the process to explain is how something gets on the agenda. The charter, which I have a copy for you here.

Sometimes it's easier to the charter specifically says that the charter says that maybe it's not in the charter. Maybe it's in the council rules that that the city officers, meaning the city

manager, the city treasurer, the city attorney, the city auditor may put things on the on the agenda. And if mayor or council want to do something to the agenda, it takes four votes in advance.

And we get a phone call from the city clerk and the city clerk then says, you know, four of you voted for this. And so it's going to go on the agenda. So for Lisa to call the city manager and say, could you move this?

He's probably the person who put it on the agenda to begin with. And so he can move it around. So we were approaching the February 11th meeting and I get a call from Adam Quasman saying, oh, my God, Lisa's trying to give her donor a contract.

And I'm like, what do you mean? And and he said, well, I got a phone call, invited me to a meeting for David Hovey to do the contract for the parking garage. I was like, I don't I was like, OK.

And he goes, David, he's a donor. And I was like, OK. And I said, but, you know, he's an architect.

He's well respected. And and and he said, well, Jan, the he said, this is this is illegal. Like, you can't you can't ask someone to your donor who donated to you in December and in January is now going to get a big old contract.

And I was like, oh, yeah, I guess when you put it that way, that's right. That's a very foreign idea to me.

[Speaker 6]
Right.

[Speaker 1]
So I was like, yeah, that's a fair point. And so then I get a call from Barry Graham. And Barry Graham says, I just got a call from Lisa's chief of staff asking asking me to come to a meeting and that her donor is going to be a contractor.

And he's like, I can't make the meeting. And and he's like, oh, my God, they're both going like, oh, my God. So I get a text the next day from Terrence saying, oh, and so then Adam and I know.

So so I get a text the next day from Terrence saying, can you come to a meeting with David Hovey, Greg Caton, the mayor and I to talk about the parking garage? And I have that text here. So I said, sure, because I know what this is about now.

And so I was like, OK, I'll go. I had a meeting at 1030 at City Hall. This meeting was at 11 at City Hall.

Like, I'm available. OK, I'll go. So I go to the meeting and I wrote out my notes.

[Speaker 2]
Is this ours to keep here?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 1]

So I was general counsel, which means I was over employee relations. So so I've had a little experience with documenting stuff. So it's not my it's my first party with this.

It's not my first rodeo with employee issues. So so I go to the meeting and. I walk in with great Kate and Greg is our city manager, interim city manager.

I'm sitting down at the table. Yvonne Cahill comes in. Terrence, Yvonne Cahill is a it's part of Lisa's staff.

She has a management analyst title and she's someone that we know from the political world. Terrence Thornton is there. Lisa and David Hovey are not there and they're a little bit late.

So Terrence walks out. Lisa and David walk in together. Terrence comes in and we sit down and we start talking about the parking garage.

And it was about an hour long meeting. Lisa said, you know, I'm just concerned about the parking garage. I talked to Barry and she said he is very committed to the existing parking structure.

He's worried about going underground, which is David Hovey's expertise. It's underground parking at Optimus. They do it all underground.

He's worried about underground parking that women don't like underground parking. And David's sitting there and he's like, that's not true. And Yvonne is like, I don't mind underground parking.

I don't say anything, but I hate underground parking. And and so Lisa said, so that's just not a safety concern that we're going to be worried about. And, you know, we have this amazing idea.

And so she said, you know, David, like, what's your amazing idea? So he turns his laptop around so Greg and I can see what he's showing. And it's this design.

And they gave me this piece of paper, which I'll give to you. And so the idea that he was expressing is pushing the parking down. And basically it would be half.

This half would be like a second story and the first half would be a roof on the first story. And the idea they talked about was, you know, this would be a place where people could come together, where people could bring a picnic blanket. They could hang out kind of like Europe with these white steps.

And then the farmers market could be on the roof. And we'd have a ramp here so that they could have their trucks and they could bring all their stuff up. And so we could still do everything.

And wouldn't this be nicer? And this is the mission. And it's hard to say that it wouldn't be very nice, right?

And so I was like, well, that's kind of interesting. But in my mind, I'm thinking the current idea for the parking structure, we base pricing on number of spaces. And so the current idea is 217 spaces.

And so I said to them, well, how many spaces would this be? And David's like, well, I don't know. And he's like, is there underground existing already?

And I said, yeah, there's an underground structure and we're not looking to go down anymore. And so what we need to do is go up. And so I was like, well, so how many spaces would this be?

He's like, I don't know. He's like, you could put another level on it. And the issue about it being ugly is from the street level when you're looking at it, right?

It's just a big concrete parking garage. And could you make that beautiful? This doesn't solve that.

And if you go another level up, it still doesn't solve that. It's still just a big blob of a parking structure, right? So the interesting thing about that is so Greg says, Greg, the inner city manager says, well, you know, we've got the civic center that's literally just right there.

And we just did a \$30 million renovation. We've got a lot of green space there. You know, if we take this as a whole, I'm not sure we need that.

And Lisa's like, well, it's beautiful and it would be amazing. And don't we want all the best things in Scottsdale? I'm like, yeah.

And I said, so operationally, if we were to do something like this, what would the process be? And I asked that question like three times because everybody kept adding different pieces to it. So Greg said, well, you know, my concern is cost.

And David said, well, you know, it would probably be about five to seven million dollars. And he said when he did a project, he's doing the Optima McDowell on Scottsdale Road over here. And he buried some parking for another group, for another company.

And that was five to seven million. So this would cost five to seven million. And he says, oh, and by the way, I have \$18 million because when I there's a thing called bonus payments.

So if your project exceeds certain zoning requirements, we can allow you to make us bonus payments. And we will allow you to exceed height, density, things like that. So this was decided many years ago, not on my term.

And he said, so we have \$18 million in bonus payments that are supposed to go to the air park area. But the prior city manager told me, Jim Thompson told me that we could use that money in Old Town. So here you got \$18 million to use on this parking garage.

And Greg's like, yeah, I'm not sure that that's how that would work if it's designated for the air park area. I'm not sure we can do that. And and so so then I said, OK, so operationally, what would we need to do?

We have this on the agenda for the 11th. This is like February 5th kind of thing. And so what are you asking us to do?

And Greg's and Lisa's like, well, probably Greg's the best person to answer that. And Greg says, well, you know, we probably have to take this out to bid again because doing a rooftop like this is a very different project than building a plain parking garage. And we might have bidders who would say, hey, I would have bid on that or I wouldn't have bid on that.

And so we would probably have to take this out to bid again. And Lisa said, well, I think that's fine because, you know, it's it's worth it to have a few months delay. And and so I looked at David and I said, would you bid on that?

And he goes, maybe, maybe, I don't know, maybe. And I said, OK. And so we talked about a little bit more.

And he said, you know, that he's from Chicago and that, you know, in Chicago they have the Millennium Park and they have the Bean and they have the parking below. And isn't that so much better? And you can have this really signature spot.

Wouldn't that be amazing? And so I said, would you is that something you would bid on? And he was like, maybe.

And then he said, you know, the other thing you could do is you could build like, you know, the High Line. And he said, you know, you could take from here and the High Line in New York. And he said you could take, you know, like an elevated bike path or something like that would be so amazing.

He's like, I realize that would be kind of hard to you. He's like, you know, that's I might bid on that. Yeah, that's something I might bid on.

Yeah. And Terrence says, you know, David, what we really had in mind for you was to be a consultant to the general contractor, like a subcontractor to the general contractor. And Lisa says, well, yeah, like a a subcontractor architect to the general contractor.

We think you'd be like a subcontractor architect. And David goes, oh, OK, well, you know, wherever you want me, I'm happy to go. OK.

And so then Lisa says to Greg and I, you know, so I just appeal to you guys. We need, you know, at least 30 days to take a look at this and push this out and, you know, make something really amazing. And and so I just she's like, I ask you and she's talking to me.

I ask you to go back to the council members and see if you can get them to agree to this and see if we can't, you know, do something different. And so I was like, OK, thanks. And I walk out.

So the next day, Greg Caton sends a follow up email saying, no, you cannot use that money. This is 18 million, which is actually 15 million. And it's hard earmarked for the greater Scott Airpark area.

And so you can't you can't monkey with that money. And I had a conversation with Greg that day, the day after. So that's the six.

And I said to Greg, like, did you hear what I heard? That Lisa said that he was going to be a subcontractor architect, that that was her intent. And he said, in our profession, these kinds of things happen.

And what we do is we make it impossible. And my feeling from what he was saying to me is if I squealed as a city manager that my mayor is doing something illegal, I would never get another job in this profession again. And so the way we handle it is we make it so that you can't do this.

We just it becomes impossible. There's the money dries up. And so he said so he said, you saw my email and I said, yeah, I saw your email.

They can't use it's not 18 million. It's 15 million. They can't use it.

And he said, that's right. And I said, did you hear Lisa say he would be a subcontractor architect? And he said, well, I don't really want to get into that.

But I did have other conversations with Terrence where Terrence made it very clear that they want David to have a contract. So I said, OK. So I understand Greg is in a very tenuous position.

He's not someone that wants to come forward and he needs to put food on the table.

[Speaker 2]

And what is his title?

[Speaker 1]

He is interim city manager.

[Speaker 2]

OK.

[Speaker 1]

So not only is he in a tenuous position because this is all very awkward, but he's hoping for the city manager title while we're in a recruitment phase. So if you make people mad, you're not likely to get the job. So he's in a very awkward position.

[Speaker 3]

What part of the city did he come from?

[Speaker 1]

He was city manager in Grand Junction, Colorado. And then we did a recruitment process for assistant city manager because our city manager was aging out. And so Greg was hired as that assistant city manager.

And at our first meeting on January 14, we placed Greg as the interim city manager. So he's a new interim city manager. He started with the city in, like, April of 24.

So he's an outsider, which we liked, which is part of the reason that we hired him, right? Wanted him for the job. He has fresh eyes.

He's been a city manager somewhere else, has new ideas. But who wouldn't want to go from being the city manager of Grand Junction to the city manager of the city of Scottsdale, right? So you may want to talk to him, but he may not be as forthcoming as he potentially could be because he's in an awkward spot.

He did tell me later, like, last week, he told me that before this meeting, so sometime in January, Terrence sat down with him, with Greg, the director of public works, Dan Wirth, and Terrence sat down. And Terrence said, we have this idea for a parking garage, and how can we make this happen? And Dan said, we've already awarded the contract.

We're just waiting for council to sign it. And Terrence said, well, you know, come on. Like, can't we work something out?

And the director of public works says, I mean, I guess he could be a subcontractor if they hire him. And so I think that's the genesis of the idea that David Hovey would be a subcontractor to the general contractor.

[Speaker 5]

So what would have to happen for that to take place, for him to be a subcontractor?

[Speaker 1]

The general contractor would have to choose to hire him.

[Speaker 5]

OK.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. In the normal world, that's what you and I would say. In this world, the mayor calls up the general contractor and says, I have someone I'd like you to hire.

And the general contractor goes, like, what do I do? Right. But they have actively gone around to the three of us on council and asked us to change our votes for in favor of her donor.

So that's why you guys are here. Oh. Yeah.

So. So. So that happens on the 5th and on the 6th.

We talked about it on February 10. Lisa, the mayor, held a meeting with some residents. And so it was Lisa, David Hovey, French Thompson, Susan Wood, Chuck Wood, Lamar Whitmer, and Hovey was described in that meeting as a consultant.

He presented his parking garage structure and they were told he was going to be a consultant on the project. And then we had the vote on the 11th. And prior to the vote, Terrence sends out a press release.

And it's asking asking council to consider a new location for the parking garage. And that was that was something that came up a year ago. Remember, I told you guys that they had looked at various locations and they were thinking about a new location and buying a lot from Honor Health.

Here we go. Now she wants to buy a lot from Honor Health. And we all thought that was a very strange coincidence.

Until we did research and realized that David Hovey donated to Mayor Ortega in January of 24. So we think David Hovey has been in the ear of the mayors asking them to do this stuff. But I don't know.

[Speaker 3]

Has he ever been a consultant for Scottsdale under Ortega's regime before?

[Speaker 1]

I don't believe so. I don't believe so. The other thing that he said in the meeting that I was in, because I told you guys there's two parking garages, was he was talking about the south one.

And then he said, well, you know, I have ideas about the north one, too. And Lisa's like, I know you do. I know you do.

We'll talk about that later. It's not it's not for now. That parking garage design contract is on our agenda for March 4.

So I suspect that there's been enough pushback that they're not talking to us about the March 4 design contract. But my concern is that the general contractors are being approached that they need to bring him on. So so they put out a press release asking us to look at another location.

We know that a year ago, Honor Health was very unwilling to sell the piece of property. They don't want to get involved. They bought this parking lot.

It's a particular parking lot. They bought the parking lot from the city for a couple of million many years ago. So to sell it now would cost us even more.

David Hobie's design, he admits, would be five to seven million. And so now we're talking about a 30 million dollar parking structure instead of a 15 million dollar parking structure. All so that we can do David Hobie's design.

And so we thought that was like. Not appropriate. So in the meeting on the 11th.

Lisa, it was in the consent agenda portion, which if you agree to all the consent agenda items, it's does everybody make a motion for the consent agenda? Bam. It's all agreed to at once.

Regular agenda is when you go through item by item. So she asked for the parking garage to be moved to the regular agenda. Made it a particular item to discuss.

And she says from the dais, I have this great idea for parking garage. I think that, you know, this is really a monstrosity, which is a specific word that David Ortega used from the dais. And that we need to make something beautiful.

We have an opportunity to do something better. I have a rendering. She basically says everything except the guy's name.

So I have that. I have that here. So you guys can pull up the YouTube video.

All of our meetings are recorded.

[Speaker 6]
Right.

[Speaker 1]
And then it starts at an hour to up to two hours and 47 minutes. So she basically says the whole thing. She even says she has a rendering, which is.

Oh, he told me it took him five hours to do that. And yeah. And if you notice, it has the Optima logo on it.

[Speaker 6]
Yeah.

[Speaker 1]
Right. OK, you guys are smart. So he told me it took him five hours to do that.

And he said, yeah, you know, like we could we could put a level on it. We could do, you know, a little bit higher if we needed to. Like, no big deal.

He's like, it was only five hours. And I'm sitting there going like, who does five hours of anything for their BFF? Like, I wouldn't do five hours of that for my husband.

[Speaker 6]
Yeah.

[Speaker 1]
And who puts their logo on stuff if that's not right. Like if it's not just some idle thing. So.

So she goes on and on. We vote six to one to move forward with the contract. And then this is what Chase.

[Speaker 3]

Am I correct?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. Yeah. We don't know if it's pronounced chassis or chase.

[Speaker 3]

OK. But should I say.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. Right.

[Speaker 3]

It could be any of those things.

[Speaker 1]

I don't know these people, but it's not my job to know them. It's the city manager's job to have trust in them. And so I, you know.

OK. So. On Valentine's Day, February 14, I get a call from Barry Graham.

He says that Terrence ran into him and Terrence went to go visit him. And. And Terrence said, hey, you know, she's really upset about the parking garage and she needs a win.

She's really down about this. Like, dude, can't we just do this for her donors? Like, what's the big deal?

And Barry's kind of hems and haws. Barry and Terrence have known each other for like 10 years. So they can have a little bit more of a easy conversation.

And then he says, OK, so she's got this other donor and he's a property owner in Old Town. And he needs a text amendment, which means a change to the code that would allow a gym. We don't allow gyms today because our Old Town is a tourist Old Town.

And so we need parking for our tourists. And gyms are parking intensive. We don't have a living Old Town.

We have a tourist Old Town. So parking is a really big deal, hence the parking garage. And he says a donor like, you know, can we just do a favor for her donor?

And so we all start freaking out. Like, this isn't a one-time thing. This isn't a mistake.

We're now asking to be changing our votes for a second donor. It's not OK. This is not OK.

So I heard from Mason Gates, who is a candidate who ran for city council but lost. 21-year-old kid, very cute. Very articulate young man, but he lost because he's 21.

And so he told me that Lisa called him at 5 o'clock on Valentine's Day and said, Hey, would you be willing to pass out some flyers? And he's like, it's Valentine's Day. And she's like, oh, it's tomorrow at the farmer's market.

We're passing out some flyers. It would really get you in Lamar's good graces. Lamar is a person who influences Lisa.

He's a regular guy, but he is someone from her history who influences what she does. And Mason's like, you know, I'll see what I think about this. So I didn't know about that until later.

So on the 15th, my phone blows up because there are flyers that are being passed out at the farmer's market saying, Dabowskis, Quasman, Graham, Littlefield, Whitehead, and McCallan are trying to destroy the farmer's market. Help Mayor Borowski keep the farmer's market.

[Speaker 2]

And that was all in reference to your vote?

[Speaker 6]

Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. And, you know, tell them to give her 30 days to, you know, to straighten this out and make it better so we can save the farmer's market. Save the farmer's market.

The vote's done.

[Speaker 6]

Right.

[Speaker 1]

And what the vote was is a resolution directing the mayor to sign the contract. Right. That's it.

Like, you have to sign it. So I'm sitting here going, did she not sign the contract? Maybe she didn't sign the contract.

So we start getting emails from people because it says email city council, you know. And we write back and we say, good news, farmer's market is not under attack. In fact, with the parking garage, we're going to have more days per year.

It's going to be even better than before. And while the parking garage is under construction, we have another location for the farmer's market. Nothing's happened.

We love the farmer's market too. We're all good here. People writing back, oh, thank goodness.

Thanks. So on the 17th, the mayor's, oh, and people were told that these flyers were coming from the mayor's office.

[Speaker 6]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

Which is not a usual thing.

[Speaker 6]

Sure.

[Speaker 1]

I don't know if it's illegal or not. I just know it's not usual.

[Speaker 6]

Right.

[Speaker 1]

So then on the Monday, the 17th, which is President's Day, an email comes out from the office saying historic Old Town Scottsdale deserves better than a corporate parking garage at First and Brown at its heart and soul. And she's saying that Honor Health is, you know, willing to have conversations with her, give her 30 days to try to work this out. We've heard through back channels, Honor Health is not willing to talk with her and Honor Health is not happy about her throwing their name around.

[Speaker 6]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

So nothing much comes of that. We have a council meeting on the 18th. And I walk in and I see the city clerk and he says, I need to talk to you.

The mayor refused to sign the chassis contract and I need you to sign it. And I'm like, okay. And so I go up to my office.

Someone that works for the city clerk, his name is Rommel, comes in and he's like, here's the thing to sign. And I said, well, Rommel, I don't think I can sign the contract. And he's like, well, you're vice mayor.

And I said, I understand I'm vice mayor, but I only sign things or do things if the mayor is incapacitated or unavailable. She's right there. And he said, well, she's refusing to sign it.

And I said, well, that's not my, it does not give me authority to sign. And I'm not going to. And so I went and I talked to the city attorney and I said, she's not signing the contract.

And Sherry Scott says like, I know. Oh my God. And I was like, tell me again what the resolution says.

And she said the resolution directs the mayor to sign it. I said, well, just because she doesn't agree with it doesn't mean she can't sign it. And Sherry's like, I know.

She's like, we're not sure what to do. So we have our council meeting at the end of the meeting. Sherry, I go back and I talk to her.

She had been emailing with the clerk and they said, well, the only thing we can think to do is to bring it before council again. And I said, well, that's exactly what she wants. She wants to reopen this whole thing.

And that's not what that's that's you don't get to refuse to do your job. That's you lose some votes. That's part of the job.

And so I said, I'm going to go get the file that you left, that they left in my office. And you guys have to make another shot at this. So I think they emailed back and forth with Terrence, her chief of staff.

Terrence says she's not going to sign it. And then on Friday, like the 22nd or whatever it was at 3 p.m., she finally signs it because they went after her. So I don't know what any delay in that contract signing did.

But my God, those poor people at Chessie.

[Speaker 2]
Who went after her?

[Speaker 1]
You said Ben Lane. And so our city attorney is on medical leave. And so the acting city attorney is a gentleman named Luis Santiago.

So Ben Lane and Luis had a meeting with her to talk about the upcoming agenda. And they said, we need you to sign this. I guess she said, I'll sign it.

They subsequently put out a statement saying that. Which is kind of weird that they. So here's my notes from the 18th.

And then they put out a statement to Tom Scanlon and and said because it was a big it was like. People started to realize she hadn't signed the contract. Ten days have gone by and she hasn't signed the contract.

So the statement from her chief of staff is Mary Mayor Borowski in her discretion. Delayed the signatory responsibility to Vice Mayor Jan to baskets for whatever reason. Vice Mayor to baskets refused to sign the ordinance.

As a result, Mayor Borowski is executing it. Mayor Borowski, who voiced her opposition to the design and location of the parking garage. Thought it appropriate to have the vice mayor who is in full support of the project and location duty.

So, so they agree, admit that they delayed signing the contract because they just didn't want to. I was not told, please do this as a favor for donor. I was told that we would be a subcontractor architect.

But I have looked at her campaign finance reports. And I know that Hovi was a donor, a max donor \$6,650 in December of 24. So we are given ethics training.

So I was asked to give you guys our ethics training. We're all required to take it before we get started. And so there's a couple of different things there.

We sit down with the city attorney for an hour. And they tell us, don't do favors for your donors. And then here's the link to the procurement code.

So you can see those rules. And then Rachel Mitchell asked me to put together a timeline for you guys. Just so that the dates that Barry got a call, I may be a day or so off.

But I just wanted to give you kind of an idea of what happened when.

[Speaker 2]

Did she have the way things stood? I shouldn't say did she have anything to gain? Because she might have had something to gain.

But the way that it went down, she wouldn't have gained anything. Is that correct? Is that safe to say?

With everyone voting for the original contract.

[Speaker 1]

With the way the vote actually went.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah. With the six to one.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

She voted against it. Right.

[Speaker 1]

We have voted against her. Yeah. Yeah.

[Speaker 2]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

And whether we like the design or not, we're like, we can't vote for this. Because it's wrong. Like we've all like, we're all just going like, this doesn't pass.

This is wrong. So we can't vote for it, even if maybe it is a good design. The value of the design is moot at this point.

We can't stand for you doing this. To my knowledge, no one has confronted her. The Hovies are a big deal in Scottsdale.

Optimas are well known. And they're building another Optima right now. It's six buildings, 1,300 apartments, condos.

And they are, from what I understand, they don't just build those. They're actually architects for hire. Which, before all of this happened, I never had any reason to Google them and find that out.

But they are architects for hire. When I was asking David, is this something you would bid on? Lisa said, oh, well, you don't do parking garages.

And he goes, yeah, I do. Like, this is my thing. Because she was, you know, she was trying to, I think, minimize and make it.

I think she understood that it's not appropriate to say I'm going to give my friend a contract to some degree. Or the whole contract. And so they're very well known.

It's very well understood who they are. And that they're very, very wealthy. And so it is unusual in a campaign cycle for a donor to donate max to first the incumbent mayor and then the winning mayor.

Like, most people don't have that kind of money to donate. And so it's a thing. Our cycles also work a little bit differently in that we can take a new maximum every two years.

So we run a campaign every four. But every two years you can max out again. So the opportunity to, so that period for the 24 campaign closed on December 31.

And now we're in a new period of January 1, 2025, to December 31 of 2026. We can get maxes. And then January 1 of 2027 all the way to December 31 of 2028 we can get.

And there are people who do that as well. So there's plenty to gain by making your donors happy.

[Speaker 3]

Do you know if Hovey was one of the bidders against Chasse or whatever for 2024?

[Speaker 1]

I don't believe he was, but I don't know.

[Speaker 3]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. So at least it's gone a little bit dark. And, you know, they put that statement out on the 18th.

I was expecting there to be pushback about the parking garage on the 4th, March 4, this coming new parking garage on the North Quadrant. Because David said he was interested in that parking garage. But they've gone quiet.

And so my guess is that they are calling the contractors. And not us. Because they know they lost with us.

[Speaker 2]

Is there anything illegal from them doing that? Is there anything illegal from Hovey's company calling the contractor who has the contract and subcontracting for them?

[Speaker 1]

No. What would be bad is if it came from the mayor's office. So there's two ARS.

And I don't have them handy. One is related to a donor seeking favors. And another one is related to an elected official doing favors for a donor.

And it says if you solicit. So she's soliciting us.

[Speaker 2]

Which is under the bribery statute, I think. I'm a corporal lawyer.

[Speaker 1]

I'm a corporal lawyer. Adam and I, like, what night was it? After I had the meeting before the 11th.

So I had the meeting with them, like, the 5th. So the night of the 6th, Adam and I were on the phone. And he was, like, I told him what I had been through.

And he was, like, oh, my God, this is exactly what we thought it was, blah, blah, blah. And we walked through the ARS. And she's soliciting our votes in favor of her donor.

And so I don't remember the statute off the top of my head. And he's potentially soliciting her vote. Now, the Scottsdale Progress, because this was with a citizen group on the 10th.

She met with them on February 10th. They are people who reported to Scottsdale Progress. The mayor is telling us she has a contractor before we've even signed the contract.

So Scottsdale Progress has done an article. It was in their Sunday paper. And they reached out to Hobie.

And they said, hey, you know, what can you tell us about this? And he basically said, from the kindness of my heart, she called me and said, we have this ugly parking garage. What can you do to help?

And I told her, you know, I'll just throw a little rendering together. And then she invited me to these meetings. And what am I supposed to do?

It's the mayor. So that's his defense. It's her.

[Speaker 3]

Are you aware of the mayor and Hobie having any kind of relationship, like friendship, things going back years? Have you heard?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. So her friend, Lamar Whitmer, who I mentioned, who was at that citizen meeting on February 10th. So Lisa and Lamar go way back.

If you know the Borowski family, they are famous for strip clubs and owning real estate in Scottsdale. The family owned Snow Bowl for many, many years. And so we have those strip clubs in South Scottsdale.

Lamar took that as a citizen's referendum for the Borowskis 20 some odd years ago to the residents of Scottsdale and got that passed. So he has been intricately involved with the Borowski family for at least 20 years, if not more. And David Hobie and Lamar have been in business together.

And Jim Lane, who was our former mayor, told me that David Hobie and Jim and Lamar did a deal with the Navajo that really soured. And that was many, many years ago. But they used Jim Lane's name and that caused tension in the relationship for Jim because the deal went bad.

So Jim basically said anything Lamar is involved in is probably crooked. If Hobie's involved with Lisa, it's because Lamar got them involved. And he said, that makes me very uncomfortable.

Jim Lane was our mayor for 12 years. He's a solid stand-up guy. So, yeah, they all have a relationship going back.

The Scottsdale Progress, when they... So after Lisa won... Lisa was not expected to win.

The current... The mayor at the time, David Ortega, was very unpopular. Weird guy.

Architect, but not... Very socially awkward person. For example, he said to me, I had my hair braided.

And he said, I imagine that your little girls braided your hair like that for you. I'm like, I'm a 50-year-old woman and my girls don't really... Who talks to people like that?

That's so weird. So he's a real weird guy. But then there's a big overdevelopment, anti-development sentiment in Scottsdale.

And so all the incumbents got kicked out. And so Lisa won. And so what happened is that all the major donors donated to the incumbent mayor.

And they didn't donate to Lisa. And so after she won, she got like \$125,000 in donations after she won. So the Scottsdale Progress wrote an article on it.

And they noted that David Hobie was one of her donors. And they said that over the years, David Hobie has donated \$30,000 to her. So they've known each other for a long time.

[Speaker 3]

Like when she was a council member or... Yeah, yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Because she ran for council. She ran for Congress. She ran for mayor.

And then she ran and won mayor. So... Okay.

Yeah. Hey, Peanut. I'm having a meeting.

Can you guys be quiet, please? Thank you, sweetheart. Yeah.

So we're in kind of a really weird place. Yeah. We're in a really weird place.

I think you... In the charter?

[Speaker 4]

Uh-huh. That's right.

[Speaker 1]

So Article 8, Section 5. This is something...

[Speaker 2]

Oh, this is, yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah. So... I think...

Honestly, I think there's two theories to the case. One is the bribery theory. And the other one is the procurement process.

It's up to you guys to decide whether to make it stronger.

[Speaker 6]

Like, I don't know.

[Speaker 1]

But I just wanted to tell you... We've, frankly, have done a lot of research on can we just 5-2 vote her out? And that's not how...

That charter doesn't allow it. And so... She either has to quit...

Or she has to be convicted to be gone. So we're just not sure what to do. Like, you can't trust these people.

And the residents of Scottsdale are on the hook here. So it's just... It's very awkward.

[Speaker 3]

Why do you think she chose the three of you to reach out to in some way?

[Speaker 1]

So... The vote... She needs the vote.

And... She and I don't get along. She's mad that I won outright and she didn't.

And she's that type of person that she thinks she's the person who everybody should be paying attention to. And so... She's mad about what happened to me.

So she and I don't have... We don't get along well. Which I was surprised to get invited to that meeting.

But... To me, that said that she wants this bad enough that she's trying to get in front of somebody who will influence the others. The way the vote goes...

Solange Whitehead and Marianne McAllen are Democrats. They vote together. And then the five of us are supposed to be the conservatives.

And... The four of us are friends and we're tight. And Lisa's just always been a bitch.

And so... We... The four of us are tight.

Lisa's kind of... If she's with us, she's with us. If she's not...

Whatever. But you can't get anything passed without three more votes. And you don't have three votes over here.

[Speaker 6]
Right.

[Speaker 1]
And she figures that Kathy Littlefield is like everybody's favorite grandma. And... But she's also tough.

You know, like everybody's favorite grandma. She's a little like... So I think that she just assumed that if we were okay with it, Kathy would come along.

But Kathy is also known to be extremely protective of Old Town. So... I think she thought...

If I can get those three, then I'll have my four. And that's all I need. Yeah.

And as you can tell, I was her last pick. It totally backfired on her. Totally backfired on her.

Yeah. Yeah. So...

She's... As you guys probably know, she's a lawyer. We all know about her.

[Speaker 2]
You're all lawyers.

[Speaker 1]
Just about. Just about. Barry's a CPA.

So... Yeah.

[Speaker 2]
Yeah. I haven't spoken to him yet.

[Speaker 1]
Yeah. So... We're trying to hold...

[Speaker 3]

One question. During the process where she was putting her case before the vote, is there something that she would say over and over again? Did anyone ask, like, why?

Why are you trying to change it? Like, why? Does she hang her manual in the beautification?

[Speaker 1]

Yes.

[Speaker 3]

Is that what it is?

[Speaker 1]

Yes. Okay. Yes.

But let's all be honest. This was the first time any of us had heard her talk about a parking garage. She...

We all campaigned on Old Town needs to be better. It's not as... It's not as good as it should be.

But we all also know that the Borowskis run the strip clubs. In 2020, they used... She had a van...

I'm sorry. Like, a big school bus with a wrap for her campaign. And they kept it at the strip clubs in the back.

So... So, Lisa's idea of what's best for Old Town is probably not your and my idea of what's best for Old Town.

[Speaker 6]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

She takes money from the bar district, you know, all that. We are the number one bachelorette destination of the United States right now, and none of us wants to be that. But Lisa's is mine.

So, nobody ever thought that Lisa's idea of what was best for Old Town was her best idea. She never, never mentioned the parking garages. She never came to a meeting.

I've been to all the meetings the last couple years. She's never come to a meeting. We would be out on the campaign trail giving speeches.

She would mimic my speeches. People would ask questions. She wouldn't know the answers to them because she hadn't been to the meetings.

And so, for her to all of a sudden, on January 24, give a damn about a parking garage and say, oh, I don't know enough about it to award a design contract is like, nobody buys it. Nobody buys it. That's not right.

So, in her testimony on the dais, I gave the link to that, she talks about, you know, I will make this my number one priority. I will focus all of my personal attention on this. I will, you know, I want to make Old Town, like, as amazing as it can be.

And we're all just like, that's not, that's not normal. That's not what you promised to do. That's not what the mayor should be doing.

Like, what? You go cut ribbons. Like, what?

Yeah. Throughout the first pitch of spring training. Like, what?

[Speaker 3]

More of a figurehead role. Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

So, my impression is that Terrence Thornton is probably the person who will tell you guys absolutely everything. He and Lisa have not known each other for very long. Politely for a couple of years, maybe.

Because he has a newspaper that he runs, Arizona Daily Independent or something. And he was trying to get that off the ground. And so she was advertising in his paper.

And she was like the only person advertising on it. It's a digital paper. The only person advertising.

Then all of a sudden, he's her chief of staff. And honestly, the pay range is \$104 to like \$144. So it's not great money.

But it's health insurance. And so we're like, he must not have been doing as well as, you know, on that job. But he has a wife.

He has kids. I don't think he wants to go down with Lisa Borowski. You know, like, he's just going to say like, yeah, these are her donors.

And I was asked to make things happen for her donors. I've already heard from the fire guys. They had a meeting with Terrence yesterday about something else.

Because the staff is overstepping and trying to direct people, which is not allowable. And so they were like, you need to back off. And the vibe that the fire guys got from Terrence is like, he's probably quitting.

So I think he'll just tell you guys everything.

[Speaker 2]

Okay. Well, we'll cross that bridge later, right? Yeah.

Okay.

[Speaker 4]

Anything else? Is there anything else that you want to say or that you can think of before I go off tape? Off record?

[Speaker 1]

I don't think so.

[Speaker 2]

Interview concluded at 1.40 p.m. If I need to...