1	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA						
2	COUNTY OF SOLANO						
3	THE HONORABLE DANIEL HEALY, JUDGE						
4	o0o CERTIFIED						
5	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ORIGINAL						
6	Plaintiff,						
7	vs. No. VCR233208						
8	DOMINIC MILANO,						
9	Defendant.						
10							
11	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS						
12	MARCH 22, 2022 - AFTERNOON SESSION						
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16	APPEARANCES						
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20	Vallejo, CA 94590						
21	For the Defendant: NICK FILLOY and						
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24	For the City of Vallejo: KATELYN KNIGHT,						
25	Assistant City Attorney CA 94590						
26	Reported by:						
27	CHRISTINE L. WESNER						
28	Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 10767						

People vs MILANO, DOMINIC JAMES VCR233208

March 22, 2022

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1	MARCH 22, 2022 AFTERNOON SESSION
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3	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA versus DOMINIC
4	MILANO.
5	The above-entitled cause came regularly this day for
6	hearing before the Honorable DANIEL HEALY, Judge.
7	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA were represented by
8	BRUCE FLYNN, Deputy District Attorney for Solano County.
9	The Defendant, was present and represented by NICK FILLOY
10	and TRACY KRAUSE, Deputy Public Defenders for Solano County.
11	The City of Vallejo was represented by KATELYN KNIGHT,
12	Assistand City Attorney.
13	CHRISTINE L. WESNER, RPR, CSR No. 10767, was present and
14	acting as an Official Shorthand Reporter for the County of
15	Solano.
16	The following proceedings were then and there had, to
17	wit:
18	PROCEEDINGS
19	THE COURT: Back on the record in Mr. Milano's case, all
20	parties, counsel are still present. Kent Tribble is still
21	under oath.
22	Mr. Filloy.
23	MR. FILLOY: Thank you, judge.
24	CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION
25	BY MR. FILLOY: Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Tribble.
26	A. Good afternoon.
27	Q. So, going back to what we were discussing this morning, I
28	want to be I want to make sure I'm understanding the

- 1 progression of this thing.
- 2 As far as you know, were you the person who brought the
- 3 tradition of badge bending to Vallejo, or started it in
- 4 | Vallejo?
- 5 A. Yes, sir, it was I.
- 6 | Q. Okay.
- 7 | A. If it's okay, I would like to correct an earlier
- 8 | statement. I had more time to review over lunch, I think I
- 9 | could clarify.
- 10 THE COURT: Sure, go ahead.
- 11 BY MR. FILLOY: O. What's that?
- 12 A. The meeting that Dan Golinveaux and I had in Concord at
- 13 the Peppermill, it was Dan that bent my badge and he was
- 14 | letting me know that he appreciated my efforts, despite how
- 15 | bad I felt about my performance.
- 16 0. That brings me back to the issue, I think you were saying
- 17 | in the initial shooting where Mr. Golinveaux bent your badge
- 18 | in Concord, that you had been issue where you fired at
- 19 | someone with a rifle in close range, right?
- 20 | A. Yes, sir.
- 21 | 0. So the issue you felt bad about was the individual hit?
- 22 | A. Yes, he was hit by several different rounds and later I
- 23 | found out one was mine.
- 24 | O. Did he die?
- 25 A. No, he did not.
- 26 | Q. Okay. So, that was, I think what I was understanding
- 27 | that you had information from the hospital records that
- 28 | suggested that your rounds had not hit him?

- 1 | A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. But, because they were AR rounds, or something like that?
- 3 A. If I'm following where you're going, the AR platform was
- 4 | relatively new back then to law enforcement and the type of
- 5 projectile that was being fired by us was not same as the
- 6 military. These rounds typically fragment and most of the
- 7 | time don't penetrate through a human torso.
- 8 Q. They fumble?
- 9 A. No, they actually break apart.
- 10 Q. They actually break up?
- 11 \mid A. I believe it was that -- this is conjecture on my part.
- 12 | I believe it was because of that that no projectile was found
- 13 | in that person, which was why I was told that I missed
- 14 completely, at seven yards.
- 15 Q. Okay. So, you were kind of beating yourself up about
- 16 that when you thought that that was what happened, that you
- 17 | missed and not performed?
- 18 | A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Okay. So, there was something in your recognizing in
- 20 Komoda and McLaughlin that they were beating themselves up in
- 21 | a similar way; is that it?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. Okay. Now, when you indicated that you bent Josh Coleman
- 24 and Mark Galios's badge after the Starbucks shooting in south
- 25 | Vallejo --
- 26 A. Yes, sir.
- 27 Q. -- were they -- was that a similar situation where you
- 28 | felt they were beating themselves up about their tactical

1 performance?

2 A. Not so much that, is that they were pretty shaken and I

3 | don't recall what the time period was between when this

4 occurred and when I bent their badges. They were really

5 | shaken by the fact that had that suspect's AR not jammed,

6 | they would probably one or both be dead. I don't know if

7 | you've seen that video. They were pretty shaken up about

8 that.

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Then, they -- I mean, these are all hard things to go through, so they second guess themselves all the time about how they did. They go over it. You have to go through a lengthy interview. Again, frequently sometimes when the full story's not known, press isn't super supportive and these guys, they performed, when I watched that video, as well as any police officer I've ever seen in any high-stress incident has ever performed. Despite the fact that they were both sitting ducks. And they didn't even -- their suspect didn't get killed in the event, but they managed to take a guy that had, I believe shot somebody else in another town, I believe it was a baby, and then tried to shoot them, and the only reason that he didn't get them was because his gun jammed and

So, to me, those were the up sides of what they were dealing with and they were getting a lot of negative stuff and I think their suspect was even acquitted.

they managed to take him into custody. He's still alive.

26 Q. But, so to your recollection, it wasn't -- your bending

27 | the badge wasn't that they were being self-critical about

28 | their performance?

- 1 A. Every officer is, you know, I don't know specifically. I
- 2 think they did strike the suspect a few times, I think one of
- 3 the rounds hit the suspect in the head and the round -- I
- 4 | mean, he survived. And whether -- if you can understand it
- 5 or not, sometimes people question the equipment we have, if
- 6 | it's working or not, if it didn't penetrate the car or if
- 7 | when it strikes it doesn't do what it's supposed to do. So
- 8 | you get a lot of things that you start questioning, right,
- 9 your equipment, your use of it, your distance, all that kind
- 10 of thing.
- 11 0. So, you know, maybe back to my question. Like, you don't
- 12 | necessarily recollect if those guys were specifically being
- 13 | self-critical the way Komoda and McLaughlin were?
- 14 A. I think they had a lot of apprehensions just about the
- 15 whole incident, right. They were shaken by the fact they
- 16 | could have been killed. They chased a suspect, hit him
- 17 | several times, the round didn't necessarily perform. I just
- 18 | try to bring the positives up to them.
- 19 Q. That's what I'm trying to get to then I'm going to move
- 20 on to another subject. But I just want to be clear to make
- 21 | sure we understand. I think you have been clear the bending
- 22 the badge, when you bent badges for these officers, there was
- 23 | not a thing that was directly connected to killing, to the
- 24 | incident being fatal?
- 25 A. Not at all.
- 26 | O. It wasn't a broader recognition of just survival, like
- 27 | they had survived some hairy incident that wasn't a shooting,
- 28 | something else?

- 1 | A. No.
- 2 Q. So, it was, if I'm understanding you right, it was a
- 3 recognition specific to discharging your firearm as a police
- 4 officer that you did your job in an appropriate manner?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. Okay. And so, would you -- would it be fair to say or
- 7 | would you say, that you would only have given that
- 8 | recognition, bent somebody's badge, if you thought that the
- 9 shooting that they had engaged in was okay. That it was
- 10 justified that they had done a good job, right?
- 11 A. Arguably, yeah. It's not always up to me as to how the
- 12 thing comes out after lengthy DA's investigation and all
- 13 | that. But if I believe they did the job to the best of their
- 14 ability, that bend also is to let them know that despite all
- 15 | that goes on after one of those things, there's somebody else
- 16 | that kind of understands what they're going through and
- 17 | that's what that was about.
- 18 Q. If you thought that somebody had done an officer-involved
- 19 shooting that was questionable, you thought maybe wasn't a
- 20 good shooting, would have bent their badge for that?
- 21 A. I don't recall doing that ever.
- 22 | Q. Do you think you would have?
- 23 A. I don't think so.
- 24 Q. Okay. We talked about you were involved in being on the
- 25 Critical Incident Review Board at times when you were in the
- 26 | Vallejo Police Department?
- 27 A. Yeah, a few time I was.
- 28 Q. Okay. And did you also assist in the actual

- 1 | investigation the police investigation of officer-involved
- 2 | shootings when they happened at the time they happened?
- 3 A. Very rarely. I think I was involved in one of those, or
- 4 two.
- 5 Q. Okay. You indicated you didn't recall whether or not you
- 6 were on the Critical Incident Review Board and reviewed
- 7 | Komoda and McLaughlin's shooting that you bent their badge
- 8 for?
- 9 A. I don't.
- 10 0. Would it refresh your recollection to look at a copy of
- 11 | that critical incident review?
- 12 | A. Sure.
- 13 MR. FILLOY: Judge, can I approach the witness?
- 14 THE COURT: You may.
- 15 BY MR. FILLOY: O. I'll just hand you this document. You
- 16 can look over it, review it and let us know when you have
- 17 | finished reviewing it.
- 18 | A. Yes, this -- I don't remember this, per se, but this
- 19 meeting is written up, it appears, by Ted Postolaki, the way
- 20 these use reports, review boards work is the meeting comes
- 21 together with the representatives of each facette of the
- 22 | department, there's a discussion, round table, so to speak,
- 23 then one person is assigned to write the report. It appears
- 24 to me that this one was written by Postolaki regarding our
- 25 | review of the incident.
- 26 | Q. So were you, in fact, on that review board?
- 27 | A. Yes, sir.
- 28 | O. What was your role?

- 1 A. Wait. Wait. Pardon me. Yeah, I was there as use of
- 2 force.
- 3 Q. And do you recall being involved in that review now that
- 4 | you've looked at that?
- 5 A. That still, offhand, I don't remember that review.
- 6 Q. When was the meeting or review that you engaged in on of
- 7 | the shooting; when did that occur?
- 8 A. According to this it occurred on May 10th of 2018.
- 9 | O. Of 2018?
- 10 | A. Yeah.
- 11 | Q. Is that -- if I can direct you to --
- 12 A. Okay. Yes. I think right here.
- 13 | Q. That's the date of the incident, but down at the bottom,
- 14 | I'm pointing him to the second paragraph of the first page of
- 15 the narrative.
- 16 A. November 2016.
- 17 Q. Right. So, would November 2016 where it says the CR is
- 18 | convened, is that the date that you all meet and get together
- 19 and review the incident?
- 20 | A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. Then what's your role in the review after that?
- 22 | A. Well, in this one, nothing. It was Ted Postolaki's job
- 23 | to write it up.
- 24 Q. Was your contribution to that review, as far as you
- 25 remember it that the ammunition was under performing it?
- 26 A. As I stated earlier, we had a concern because the -- I
- 27 | don't know if any of the projectiles penetrated the skin of
- 28 | the vehicle, other than through the outer surface of the

- 1 | sheet metal.
- 2 Q. But that document, the review that you were involved in
- 3 the investigation of this shooting by a review board, that
- 4 occurred after you bent Komoda and McLaughlin's badges,
- 5 | right?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. Okay. Do you recall if there were other incidents where
- 8 | you bent officer's badges where you were also involved in the
- 9 | investigation of the shooting?
- 10 A. Well, no, I don't. And there's -- let me explain that.
- 11 | That's not -- as far as I'm interpreting your word of
- 12 | "investigation" there, I'm thinking of the actual DA's
- 13 investigation of the shooting that they do, all the evidence
- 14 | collection, all of that.
- When you talk about the Critical Incident Review Board,
- 16 to me that's a separate thing. That's internal review of the
- 17 | incident to see where we need to fix things or if everything
- 18 is going right. Which one of those are you talking about?
- 19 Q. So, that's a good question. So let me break that out and
- 20 | clarify.
- 21 The critical incident review as you put it, that's
- 22 | internal, not internal affairs investigation, it's an
- 23 | internal department review of the incident, right?
- 24 A. Yes, it's for the department to look at, analyze, be
- 25 critical of themselves and decide what needs to be done.
- 26 | Q. Internal affairs investigation of an incident might only
- 27 be initiated by the chief, or somebody if, like, something
- 28 | the critical incident review found was wrong?

- 1 A. Well, not necessarily because generally with any fatal
- 2 | incident protocol case the internal affairs guys will come in
- 3 and start right then.
- 4 So, with a shooting most of the time, most of the time
- 5 the professional standards division of internal affairs will
- 6 | have somebody there from the very get, when it comes to
- 7 officer-involved shootings.
- 8 Q. If an incident is not fatal, though, are you saying
- 9 there's an internal investigation ongoing that is separate
- 10 | from the CRI?
- 11 A. Yeah. So, the way the department works, it's evolved
- 12 | since '03 to when I left. But every use of force is sent --
- 13 there's like a what they call a use of force reporting sheet,
- 14 | for lack of a better term, now it's all digital. But, IA
- 15 gets a copy of every report where force is used. Then they
- 16 have to kind of like go through a clearing house whether
- 17 | they're going invest or not, when it starts get into serious
- 18 less lethal and lethal uses of force, they all get reviewed.
- 19 | So the Critical Incident Review Board doesn't necessarily
- 20 kick off the IA's. I mean, there may be a circumstance where
- 21 | that happens, but I don't know of one.
- 22 | Q. The review bored does have a section in the paperwork to
- 23 | review and final approval by the chief based on their
- 24 | recommendation, right?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 | O. And if the board or the chief found that it was a
- 27 | shooting that was not approved, right, if the recommendation
- 28 | was we don't approve or the review finds something wrong with

- 1 | it, that could that result in an internal affairs action or
- 2 | would that be --
- 3 A. I personally believe internal affairs action would have
- 4 occurred before that, with a shooting for sure. Because they
- 5 | come out for most shootings.
- 6 Q. Is it some of the same guys that are doing the internal
- 7 | affairs investigation as are doing the critical incident
- 8 reviews?
- 9 A. I think, if you look at that, there's a representative
- 10 from professional standards.
- 11 | Q. So professional standards would be essentially like
- 12 | internal affairs?
- 13 | A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What most people think of as that?
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. There's a representative from that on the Critical
- 17 | Incident Review Board?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So they're interconnected in that way?
- 20 | A. Yes, sir.
- 21 | O. All right. Did you ever sit on one of these where a
- 22 | shooting use of force was not approved, that you recall?
- 23 | A. I sat on a few where the training modifications were
- 24 recommended. In fact, I think a couple where we needed to
- 25 address training. But none where it was to be referred over
- 26 to IA for investigation.
- 27 | Q. Did you ever bend Sanjay Ramrakha's badge?
- 28 A. I believe I did, I'm not a hundred percent sure, but I

- 1 | think I did.
- 2 | Q. Would that have been quite a long time ago, early 2000's?
- 3 | A. Oh, yeah.
- 4 | Q. So, I'm going to go to the first incident when you were
- 5 confronted by Horton in 2016 about badge bending, or around
- 6 | 2016, not holding you necessarily to you had a year but
- 7 | sometime around that time frame.
- 8 How, after being confronted by him that first time, did
- 9 you take any action to tell people to fix their badges or to
- 10 get rid of, correct the tradition of badge bending at VPD
- 11 | after that first incident?
- 12 | A. Not necessarily, no. I was taken aback a little bit,
- 13 | that's all.
- 14 Q. So, after the second time in 2018 when Horton approached
- 15 | you and you said it was a much -- he was more upset, maybe
- 16 more formal conversation, you took -- did you take some
- 17 | corrective action with regards to badge bending after that
- 18 | conversation in 2018?
- 19 A. I did. I contacted a few people. I believe it was
- 20 | Komoda, McLaughlin, David McLaughlin, and I think Sergeant
- 21 | Jeremy Huff.
- 22 | Q. So, did you contact Officers Komoda and McLaughlin to
- 23 | indicate to them that they needed to fix their badges that
- 24 | you had bent, to bend the badges back?
- 25 A. Yes. And I think I went as far as to tell them, "anybody
- 26 | else that's got these, you have to make sure it's done with.
- 27 | It's over with". And I let them know the captain told me so.
- 28 Q. Do you recall were they together when you told them this

- 1 or were they two separate incidents?
- 2 A. I don't recall.
- 3 Q. But definitely those two guys?
- 4 A. I know I got to those two guys and Sergeant Huff.
- 5 | Q. Then, did you actually go and double check with Komoda
- 6 and McLaughlin that they had corrected that issue and fixed
- 7 | the badges?
- 8 A. I did not.
- 9 Q. Did you give an interview to Mr. Giordano, a lengthy
- 10 | interview in the badge bending investigating?
- 11 | A. Yes.
- 12 | Q. And were you honest and forthcoming in that?
- 13 A. Yes, I was, to the best of my ability.
- 14 Q. Do you recall telling Mr. Giordano that you had in fact
- 15 gone back and double checked with Komoda and McLaughlin that
- 16 | they had corrected their issues?
- 17 A. No, I actually -- if I could see that, I would like to
- 18 | see it. But I remember telling Mr. Giordano I had no doubt
- 19 whatsoever they would have followed an order.
- 20 MR. FILLOY: Judge, I'm going to ask to let him review
- 21 | the transcript, if Mr. Flynn will submit on it, otherwise we
- 22 have to get the tape recording out.
- 23 MR. FLYNN: Which page?
- 24 THE COURT: You can refresh your recollection with
- 25 anything.
- 26 BY MR. FILLOY: Q. I'm going to show you, Mr. Tribble, a
- 27 portion of the transcript of your interview with Mr.
- 28 | Giordano, and this, for the record, is Page 51 of the

- $1\mid$ transcript I was provided by the City of Vallejo. I just
- 2 | double checked with Mr. Flynn, he's on the same page.
- 3 A. Yeah, I guess I did. I know there's a section in here
- 4 | where I said I didn't have any doubt they would follow an
- 5 order and I'm trying to figure out here if this is after the
- 6 | first or second time I spoke to Horton. Yeah, without the
- 7 | review, I did not remember that.
- 8 Q. Does reviewing that refresh your recollection?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 0. You did double check, after you had told Komoda and
- 11 McLaughlin to fix their badges, you checked that they had in
- 12 | fact fixed them, they said they had?
- 13 | A. Yes.
- 14 Q. That would have been in the 2018 time frame because
- 15 | that's when you took the corrective action after the second
- 16 | incident report, right?
- 17 | A. With Horton, right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. You indicated, you got the word to Jeremy Huff, about
- 20 | trying to fix the badges?
- 21 | A. Yep.
- 22 | Q. Was that designed to have Sergeant Huff tell other
- 23 | people?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- 25 | Q. Did you do that because Sergeant Huff has any particular
- 26 | sort of characteristic that you thought would be good for
- 27 | that?
- 28 | A. Sergeant Huff has been there for quite awhile and is

- 1 pretty connected with everybody at the sergeant level and
- 2 | below. Once you become a lieutenant you're a little more
- 3 detached. I thought he would be pretty good at throwing that
- 4 out there.
- 5 Q. So when you say Sergeant Huff was a connected on the
- 6 | sergeant level, you mean he was sociable with folks he talked
- 7 | to everybody, was outgoing, new all the young guys?
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. Okay. And so I'm assuming if you told him to get the
- 10 word out about it, he was already aware of the tradition of
- 11 | badge bending?
- 12 A. I don't remember if he was aware or not at that point.
- 13 Q. Do you recall if you had bent his badge previously?
- 14 A. I don't. I know that he had been involved in an
- 15 officer-involved shooting.
- 16 Q. So, sometime in 2018 you go, you contact Komoda and
- 17 McLaughlin and you say "Fix the badges. Put them back". At
- 18 some point you double check with them that they have done so,
- 19 | you tell Huff to kind of put it out there, right?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 0. As this was going on, at some point were you aware that
- 22 | there was going to be an inspection of these badges?
- 23 A. I think that was around 2019.
- 24 Q. Were you aware of that inspection prior to it occurring?
- 25 A. Yeah, I had heard there was going to be a badge
- 26 inspection at the next staff meeting, or something like that.
- 27 Q. Did someone inspect your badge?
- 28 A. Jeremy Huff.

- 1 Q. Jeremy Huff inspected your badge?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. He was a subordinate of yours at that time, correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 | Q. Okay. So, was it just sergeants that were tasked to
- 6 inspect everybody's badge?
- 7 | A. Yes.
- 8 Q. When you found out that there was an inspection coming,
- 9 did you talk to anybody about that after hearing it?
- 10 A. Yeah, at some point I talked to Lieutenant Steve Cheatham
- 11 and asked him what the inspections were about.
- 12 Q. And what did he say?
- 13 A. Pardon my language, it was off the cuff, but it was
- 14 apparently, "guys are f-ing with their badges".
- 15 | Q. Was -- did you, at one point, have a conversation with
- 16 | Mark Thompson about the issue of badge bending?
- 17 | A. I did.
- 18 | Q. Was that prior to these inspection occurring?
- 19 A. I don't recall. I think it was.
- 20 Q. Was it subsequent to the Taco Bell shooting in 2019?
- 21 | A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 MR. FILLOY: Judge, I don't think I have anything further
- 24 | for Mr. Tribble at this time. I would keep him subject to
- 25 | recall.
- 26 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Flynn.
- 27 MR. FLYNN: Just a few questions, your Honor.
- 28 | ///

1 | CROSS-EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. FLYNN: Q. Mr. Tribble, with respect to your role as
- 3 use of force expert in the 2016 shooting incident involving
- 4 officers Matt Komoda and David McLaughlin, what was your
- 5 | particular role in that review?
- 6 A. As a use of force expert, it's to determine if the level
- 7 of force used by the officers was within department policy
- 8 and also both in the use of force and firearms division to
- 9 evaluate what our training and equipment are doing, if there
- 10 needs to be any improvements.
- 11 Q. Were you asked to render an opinion as to the use of
- 12 | force in that particular case?
- 13 A. I felt -- I don't recall getting a specific opinion as to
- 14 | the legality of it, but it was within department policy the
- 15 way I saw it. Because you have a outcome that has to be
- 16 agreed upon, I think there's four categories. One is
- 17 | training, another one is procedural, another one is referral
- 18 to IA, and I can't recall what the fourth one is, but in this
- 19 case -- oh, one of them is approved, right. I think this one
- 20 was approved but I had some questions about the ammunition
- 21 | that we were using.
- 22 | Q. In order for you to participate in this review, were
- 23 | there materials that you had to review?
- 24 A. What are they?
- 25 | O. Yes.
- 26 A. Evidence of the case. You get the videotape, you get the
- 27 | reports, all the stuff that the investigators do.
- 28 Q. As the use of force expert in this particular critical

- 1 | incident report, did you watch the video more than once?
- 2 A. I believe I did. I think I watched it prior to when we
- 3 | had access to the -- I think -- I believe it was called Coban
- 4 dash cam system, you could review stuff as a supervisor
- 5 before a formal critical incident review.
- 6 Q. Did this incident occur before or after the Vallejo
- 7 | Police Department started using body cams?
- 8 A. You know, I don't recall. I can't remember whether I saw
- 9 | it on dash cam or body cam. I know it was pretty clear on
- 10 | what I saw.
- 11 | O. And as you sit here today, can you remember whether or
- 12 | not any time that you reviewed that video of that incident
- 13 | involving officers Matt Komoda and David McLaughlin, if
- 14 either one of those officers sat with you during the viewing
- 15 of that videotape?
- 16 A. I don't recall. I don't think I did it in private.
- 17 Q. Now, with Officer Komoda, after you bent his badge, after
- 18 the August 31st, 2016 shooting incident that he was involved
- 19 in, after you returned the badge to him, did you ever see
- 20 | that badge again?
- 21 | A. I think so, yeah.
- 22 | O. When was that?
- 23 A. There was a K-9 demonstration, I think it was prior to
- 24 | the second time I got pulled into the office, that he was
- 25 | wearing it on his vest and it was bent.
- 26 | Q. Did you ever see anyone else on duty wearing a bent
- 27 | badge?
- 28 A. I don't recall that, no.

- 1 Q. Was the bending of badge ever meant to be a public
- 2 | acknowledgment that you were involved in a critical shooting
- 3 or shooting event as a police officer?
- 4 A. Public to people that didn't already know about this
- 5 | thing, is that what you're asking?
- 6 Q. Yes.
- 7 A. No, not at all.
- 8 Q. Now, with respect to Officer Matt Komoda, after the
- 9 August 31st, 2016 shooting event where you bent his badge,
- 10 did you ever bend his badge for any other shooting he was
- 11 | involved in?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Would there be any reason to bend his badge for a
- 14 | subsequent shooting?
- 15 A. No, the way -- no. The way this worked it didn't have to
- 16 do with anything other than the fact that you were willing to
- 17 do your job that one time, no matter how it came out and if
- 18 | there were subsequent involvements, there were no additional
- 19 points bent.
- 20 | Q. Okay.
- 21 | MR. FLYNN: I don't think I have any further questions,
- 22 | judge.
- 23 | THE COURT: Let me ask you, sir. You used the word
- 24 | "mature" at one point and said you didn't bend your
- 25 | lieutenant's badge, then something along the lines of because
- 26 | it didn't look mature, or you didn't think it was mature,
- 27 | something to that effect.
- 28 | THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Well, I guess you could say in

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most people's opinion I probably matured a little late, but
 1
    as I was going through this career, there was one way I was
 2
 3
    looking at things, I was looking at it like I was helping
   people out because these things are really hard on people, on
 4
 5
    all sides of them. And a lot of times, you know, as a guy
    that's been through it, you want to help another guy or gal
 6
    get through it. I let them know there's at least someone
 7
    there, but especially the further I get away from my career,
 8
 9
    I can look back and see that I was very myopic in some of the
    things that I was doing because here I'm thinking I'm helping
10
11
    people, I'm not paying attention to the bigger picture of the
12
    kind of exposure I'm giving, not only myself but them and the
    department with what I'm thinking is doing a good things.
13
14
        So, I think as I got higher in rank and a little more
    experience under my belt, I started seeing that probably
15
    wasn't a really good idea. If that answers your question.
16
17
        THE COURT:
                    I guess what, in hindsight, what do you see
18
    as the problem with this badge bending?
19
        THE WITNESS: Number one, I created a liability for, not
20
    only myself, my co-workers and the department for the
21
    perception of it.
2.2
        And Number 2, it could damage the public. I mean there's
23
    already a tenuous public trust of the police and my behavior
24
    did not do anything to help that. And for that, I'm
25
    sincerely sorry.
        THE COURT: Did you ever have any discussions with
26
    Officer Poyser about badge bending?
27
28
        THE WITNESS:
                      I did.
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THE COURT: What's the genesis of those discussions?
 1
 2
        THE WITNESS:
                      The genesis of those discussions was post,
 3
    I think April last year is when I was told the report was
 4
    done or whatever. I wasn't supposed to have any
 5
    conversations with anybody until the report was done. I
    discussed what was going on with me because Terry and I have
 6
   hunted together and he's about really one of the only people
 7
    I talk to post-work.
 8
 9
        THE COURT: I mean, did you know that he had been
    identified as someone who might have bent badges earlier?
10
11
        THE WITNESS: No, I did not. I actually -- you know, he
    was checking up on me because for a long time I wasn't doing
12
    very well. And it wasn't until I told him what was going on
13
14
    with me that he had -- that I even had known that his badge
    had been bent.
15
16
        THE COURT: So to the extent that he might have bent
17
    badges, you don't have any knowledge about what caused him to
18
    engage that practice?
19
        THE WITNESS: No, I don't.
20
        THE COURT: Have you had any discussions with Officer
21
    McLaughlin about badge bending?
22
        THE WITNESS:
                      No, sir.
23
        THE COURT: So if he was engaging in this sort of thing
24
    enthusiastically, you have no idea what might have caused him
25
    to learn this practice?
26
        THE WITNESS: Well, -- it goes back to the thing about
27
               In hindsight my -- hey, we don't discuss this
28
    because we don't want to try to earn this thing, that was a
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Believing that that can actually occur is
 1
   big concern.
   pretty naive and foolish and in my personal opinion reckless
 2
    on my part. And for other guys to go off and start doing
 3
    this, only exacerbates the problem I already started.
 4
 5
        THE COURT: You had no direct -- that seems exactly
    right, it seems he went off the rails in a couple different
 6
 7
    ways. You have no knowledge, you didn't bend his badge?
        THE WITNESS: I did not.
 8
 9
        THE COURT: Didn't discuss it with him?
10
        THE WITNESS:
                      I did not.
11
        THE COURT: The meaning of such a thing?
                      I did not.
12
        THE WITNESS:
13
        THE COURT: You recognize how this thing can evolve to
14
    some --
15
        THE WITNESS:
                      Sir --
16
        THE COURT: -- collateral places.
17
        THE WITNESS: I believe I have caused a lot of undue
18
    stress, maybe further problems for people by the recklessness
    of my behavior. And that is something I have to deal with.
19
    I try to use it as a learning point for myself and everybody
20
21
    else.
2.2
        THE COURT: Mr. Filloy.
23
        MR. FILLOY: Briefly, based on the question by the Court
24
    and Mr. Flynn.
25
                        REDIRECT EXAMINATION
    BY MR. FILLOY:
26
                        So, in the discussion the judge was just
                    0.
27
    referencing with Detective, former Detective Terry Poyser,
    did you become aware at some point that he had also been
28
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- 1 | bending people's badges?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Okay. So you didn't have any -- you don't have any
- 4 | knowledge of that?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay. And when you're talking about maturing, so on and
- 7 | so forth, did you in fact, at some point, bend your
- 8 | lieutenant badge?
- 9 A. Yes, I did.
- 10 0. What happened with that?
- 11 A. So, I was -- I was having a rough time in that part of my
- 12 career. I had an incident occur in Bend, Oregon that got
- 13 highly publicized. I had some personal issues going on and
- 14 work seemed to be very adversarial between my command staff
- 15 and myself. And having had the Lieutenant -- captain, pardon
- 16 me, Horton come in and accuse me of having a bent badge when
- 17 | I didn't, it bothered me. It added to some of the things I
- 18 was already feeling. And this is conjecture on my part,
- 19 probably well deserved based on my incident in Bent, Oregon,
- 20 but I felt like there was a lot of additional pressure on me
- 21 and some kind of suspicion. And one night I was at home, not
- 22 | dealing with things well, and I started drinking and I said,
- 23 | well, if they're going to accuse me of having a bent badge,
- 24 | I'll bend it. And that's what I did.
- 25 | Q. So the second time that Horton confronted you in 2018,
- 26 | was your badge actually bent, or had you bent it back?
- 27 A. I had bent it back, but I believe there was probably a
- 28 crack in it.

- 1 Q. Because you're familiar with this, sometime when the tip
- 2 of the badge is bent, the enamel or paint cracks or become
- 3 disfigured in a way that's noticeable, even if you bent it
- 4 back?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You think maybe that Horton could see that?
- 7 A. Probably, yeah.
- 8 Q. Yeah. I think based on those questions the judge was
- 9 asking you about mature and what occurred with you in some of
- 10 your insights as to looking back on it, looking back now do
- 11 | you recognize now, with everything that's happened, that the
- 12 | practice did in fact create an incentive for our young
- 13 officers to shoot?
- 14 A. I don't believe that because I haven't seen a situation
- 15 where it looked like -- I've been gone for two years, but I
- 16 haven't seen a situation where it looked like any of our
- 17 | shootings were unjustified.
- 18 MR. FILLOY: Okay. I don't think I have anything else
- 19 | right now, judge.
- 20 THE COURT: Mr. Flynn, anything further?
- 21 MR. FLYNN: No, your Honor.
- 22 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. I know that was tough.
- 23 | Thank you.
- 24 THE WITNESS: No, that's okay.
- 25 | THE COURT: I appreciate that.
- 26 | THE WITNESS: For what it's worth, I apologize.
- 27 | THE COURT: Thank you, sir.
- 28 MR. FILLOY: Call Officer Coleman, unless you want to

take a break. 1 THE COURT: Let's talk about that for a minute. 2 3 suppose this issue of who else is at the Relay on that day, 4 that is open. So, I suppose for that. What else would be --5 you remember Adam Clayton Powell in all of this, right? 6 MR. FILLOY: Yeah, I'm not --7 I remember all that, that he was making THE COURT: reference to. I remember all that. 8 9 MR. FILLOY: I'm not trying to get into that. There's a couple things with Officer Coleman, which is the nature of 10 11 the communication and what this was about and about Komoda and McLaughlin beating themselves up about their performance, 12 the nature of what this was is quite different from 13 Mr. Tribble, as it was described by Officer Komoda, who 14 denies that he was ever beating himself up for feeling like 15 he didn't perform because the bullets didn't hit or didn't 16 17 have any conversations with that. I think officer -- also, 18 Officer McLaughlin, who I plan on calling tomorrow, he says 19 Coleman was there. I think Coleman can clarify what this 20 interaction actually was. He also may be able to clarify if 21 he ever saw, after that, that Komoda's badge was still bent. 22 I just heard Mr. Tribble say something I had never heard before, which goes further in my argument about the fact that 23 24 Officer Komoda is lying about having bent it back within 25 He said he saw, at some later point, Officer Komoda in 26 the office with that duty badge on his chest in 2017 and it 27 was bent. So, I think Officer Coleman can clarify as to 28 that.

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Much more importantly, as to Officer Jacobsen's badge being bent by Josh Coleman in front of Kent Tribble, Mr. Tribble was not sure which shooting that was for. said he thought it was for the one in Vallejo, which would have been earlier. He also said it would have been quite a while after he bent Coleman and Galios' badges. Coleman and Galios was October of 2016. He didn't know how long afterwards he bent the badges. The Angel Ramos shooting was January, a couple months later, was January of 2017. And he seemed to be fairly sketchy on time. I'm trying to discern if Jacobsen's badge was bent twice for the same shooting, but I actually think that the Jacobsen, that that bending story Mr. Tribble is telling involving Josh Coleman, is representative of the Barboa shooting. I think that other people in the Barboa shooting had their badges bent. THE COURT: Let's focus a little. I mean, it seems to me the fact that we're struggling, you identifying specific things due to the volume of these events is a thing of concern, but I don't see further litigating specific incidents in that volume having any particular relevance. Now, the issues -- I get the issues involving Officer Komoda are there. You've identified two areas of inquiry with Officer Coleman, now. I guess that's all right because it all relates directly to his testimony and his alleged involvement in this thing. The stuff with Jacobsen and these other folks and -- there were incidents asked about Poyser, all of that. It just seems to me that that is all -- there may be a place in time for that broader discussion, but I'm

not feeling that this place is it.

MR. FILLOY: I mean, everything about the story that -- I mean, maybe Josh Coleman is going to come in here and say that never happened. I never bent Matt Jacobsen's badge or maybe he is going say that was about the Angel Ramos shooting, but if it was about the Barboa shooting, that's pretty significant since all the Barboa shooters say nothing happened after the Barboa shooting. It's right in the middle of a bunch of shootings where badge bending did happen. It involves a bunch of guys that it's their second shooting. Nobody wants there to be multiple points bent for multiple shootings. Everybody knows that looks real bad.

THE COURT: As opposed to?

MR. FILLOY: I'm not saying it looks good otherwise, but when you look through these interviews I have heard that is the thing in Giordano's feeding into people over and over again, it wasn't about killing, there weren't multiple bends for multiple shootings, right? He's hitting that over and over and over again. This whole thing with Jacobsen goes directly against it and I think it's representative of the Barboa shooting and I think Josh Coleman may know if other people had their badges bent for that.

THE COURT: We can bring in Coleman, do you need a -I'll take a 10 minute break. We can bring in Coleman. Let
me take a 10 minute break. We'll do that. You can bring him
out. You can ask him about the issues directly related to
Komoda. As to the rest of it, we will see.

Two things here for purposes of today's analysis, the

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volume of all of this obviously is a troubling thing.
 1
    don't think dialing down on the specificity of that volume
 2
    advances this discussion here today. So, I think just going
 3
 4
    into these other officers, these specific events and when
 5
    they exactly occurred in two bends versus one bend, unless
    something new and different comes up. It seems to me that's
 6
 7
   not necessary.
        MR. FILLOY: I think it's extremely significant if he
 8
 9
    lied about it.
        THE COURT: It it's relevant to Komoda, maybe it's
10
11
    relevant. Other than that, I don't know. But the other
12
    thing is I don't -- the fact that in hindsight folks,
    including both your witnesses today, describe in more sober
13
    terms something they perhaps described in -- engaged in with
14
    more enthusiasm and bravado, I'm not sure how much that at
15
    that point matters. I mean, I think it's pretty clear. I've
16
17
    read the transcripts that both of these guys give. I think
18
    it's pretty clear that, certainly right there with Kent
    Tribble there was a degree of reflection and remorse, which
19
20
    by definition is going to change the nature of his
    description. While it's not necessarily relevant to Officer
21
2.2
    Komoda, I don't think it's a bad thing that he reflected that
    degree of remorse and reflection today. So I don't know.
23
24
        Let's play it by ear. We'll do Coleman and then we'll
25
    keep going. The universe here is being pretty defined. If I
26
    were you, I would start zeroing in on things that may have
27
    something specifically to do with Komoda or this event.
28
    Because the rest of it is going to be left to an entirely
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different jury and population to assess what it all means, 1 but I don't think Mr. Milano's jury is going need to go down 2 3 this road. 4 Let me take the break. We'll come back in 10 minutes and 5 we'll keep going. 6 (Break taken.) 7 Mr. Milano appears, counsel appears, Officer Coleman is back. Good afternoon. Let's swear him in. 8 9 10 JOSHUA COLEMAN, 11 having been duly sworn, was 12 examined and testified as follows: 13 14 THE WITNESS: I do. 15 THE CLERK: Please state your full name, spelling your last for the record. 16 17 THE WITNESS: Joshua Coleman, C-O-L-E-M-A-N. 18 THE COURT: Mr. Filloy. 19 DIRECT EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. FILLOY: Deputy Coleman? Q. 21 Α. Yes, sir. 2.2 0. Good afternoon. 23 Α. Thank you. Good afternoon to you, too. 24 Deputy, what do you for a living? Ο. 25 I'm employed as a deputy sheriff for the County of Napa Α. Sheriff's Office. 26 27 Q. Before that, where were you employed? 28 I was employed for the City of Vallejo as a Vallejo

- 1 police officer.
- 2 | Q. How long were a Vallejo police officer?
- 3 A. I was a Vallejo police officer from 2012, early 2012 to
- 4 May, 2018.
- 5 Q. Were you a Vallejo police officer prior to 2012 at any
- 6 point?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Q. When was that?
- 9 A. I began my employment with the City of Vallejo in 2003
- 10 when I was 20 years old, as a police cadet. I continued as a
- 11 police trainee, then I was sworn in 2007, I believe, and was
- 12 employed as a police officer until 2009.
- 13 | Q. Then did you go elsewhere to be employed as a police
- 14 officer, then return to the City of Vallejo?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. During your time as a police officer in the City of
- 17 | Vallejo, were you involved in some officer-involved
- 18 | shootings?
- 19 | A. Yes, sir.
- $20 \mid Q$. How many?
- 21 | A. Four.
- 22 | Q. And at some point during your employment with the City of
- 23 | Vallejo as a police officer, did you become aware of the
- 24 | tradition of badge bending?
- 25 A. I became aware yes, sir. Yes.
- 26 | Q. And when did you first become aware of the tradition of
- 27 | badge bending?
- 28 A. 2003, I don't know the date. I was involved in a

- 1 critical incident with a barricaded subject. I'm sorry, did
- 2 | I say 2003, '13. And I was asked to come across the street
- 3 | from the Police Department to the Relay bar by then Sergeant
- 4 Tribble.
- 5 Q. Okay. Sergeant Kent Tribble?
- 6 A. He's a lieutenant now, retired.
- 7 Q. He was the sergeant in 2013 when he asked you to come
- 8 | across to the Relay bar?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 0. That was after the shooting incident involving a William
- 11 | Hines?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. Was that your first shooting incident?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 | O. And what occurred at the Relay bar, if you went?
- 16 A. So, I had just finished my interview, my interview for
- 17 | the officer-involved shooting, to give my statement. I
- 18 received a text message from Kent Tribble. He said, "When
- 19 you're done, come across the street and bring your badge".
- 20 | So, I walked across the street. I walked into the Relay
- 21 | club, I found Kent Tribble sitting at a table, along with
- 22 | officer -- I'm sorry, he was a corporal at the time, Dustin
- 23 | Joseph. Kent Tribble sat me down, poured me a beer then
- 24 began to tell me about how it would be nice if there was a
- 25 | way that you can recognize people you work with for being
- 26 people that you can trust in moments of chaos and you can
- 27 | trust with your life. At which point he asked me for my
- 28 | badge and he bent one of the tips on my badge.

- 1 | Q. What badge was it? Was it like a silver duty badge?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. And did he bend Officer Joseph's as well?
- 4 A. No, Corporal Joseph was just sitting there.
- 5 | Q. Corporal Joseph, he was involved in that shooting of
- 6 | Mr. Hines with you?
- 7 A. Yes, he was.
- 8 | O. As well as Ritzie Tolentino?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Officer Tolentino was not present?
- 11 \mid A. He was not.
- 12 Q. It was just Joseph and Tribble?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Did he explain anything further about the significance of
- 15 this, other than what you just said?
- 16 A. He then -- yes. He continued stating that this was a
- 17 tradition that and his brother Todd Tribble started in
- 18 | Concord. He told me that it's less to do with me being in an
- 19 | actual shooting and more to do with the manner in which I
- 20 | conduct myself around the department as a professional. It
- 21 | had more to do with how I handled myself afterwards
- 22 emotionally, et cetera, and how other people in the
- 23 | department see me, or perceive me. And he stated that I was
- 24 not supposed to talk about it. He said, "Don't say anything
- 25 about this to anybody else. Me and my brother are the only
- 26 ones who can bend someone's badge".
- 27 | Q. So, it was a positive recognition but in your
- 28 understanding it was not necessarily because of the shooting

or it related to the shooting?

A. It was a very, I think I'm risking myself saying dubious,

I believe would be the term, feeling that I had about this

circumstance because of my history with Kent Tribble.

The first time I met Kent Tribble, on a ride along working in the Vallejo Police Department, he put a gun to my head because I didn't put my seat belt on, as a cadet. So moving forward in my lifetime with the Vallejo Police Department, I viewed Kent Tribble as a person that was -- I was very afraid of, to be frank. I was 20 years old when that happened. I was making \$11, \$10, I believe, an hour working for the cadet program. I'm from Vallejo, or lived in Vallejo. I was struggling making it through college and needed the job. So I said nothing about these circumstances and eventually made myself, or gained the position of being a sworn police officer for the City of Vallejo.

The entire time working in the City of Vallejo I viewed Kent Tribble as someone who was a reckless person, but he was also somebody that people who were higher in the department respected. So, eventually he became my sergeant, and after working in law enforcement for a period of time, I recognized that he was on the SWAT team, he was basically the decision maker about who could be on the SWAT team, who could get into specialized units, et cetera. So when he chose to be a person that recognized me as meeting this specific criteria of courage or courageousness, a piece of me felt happy, although that is a very sick, twisted way to perceive this. It just has to do with growing up as a young person in this

- 1 profession and having to endure some of the things that I did
- 2 | in my career.
- 3 Q. So, I think you're saying it was a somewhat conflicted
- 4 | feeling?
- 5 A. It was conflicted.
- 6 Q. Okay. And did Officer Dustin Joseph, did he say anything
- 7 or do anything in this event, other than just sit there?
- 8 A. No. Corporal Joseph is somebody that I have a very high
- 9 esteem for in my entire time at the Vallejo Police
- 10 Department. I've never seen him do anything that I believe
- 11 to be outside the bounds of anything. So, again, to have him
- 12 | there and both of these people that I respect essentially
- 13 | telling me that they trust me, it was a, again, like I told
- 14 you, a strange mixed feeling. I recognized it in that moment
- 15 as more of an informal medal process, because the Vallejo
- 16 | Police Department does have medals.
- 17 I do look back on it now, as an almost 40 year old male,
- 18 looking back on it now, I think this was almost eight years
- 19 ago or more, that that was not something they should have
- 20 been happening, especially by a sergeant in the Vallejo
- 21 | Police Department.
- 22 | Q. So, your experience was some sort of a recognition award
- 23 | you had a conflicted feelings about it?
- 24 A. Correct.
- 25 | O. After that occurred, when was the next time that you were
- 26 | aware of, or experiencing something around badge bending?
- 27 | A. When the article came out about badge bending through one
- 28 of the local news stories.

- 1 | Q. So, I'll make it quick. Subsequent to in 2013 were you
- 2 | involved in another shooting at the Blue Rock Bar?
- 3 | A. I was.
- 4 | Q. Involving a guy named Ridgeway?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 | Q. Was your badge bent after that shooting?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Was your badge bent after the shooting of Raphael Martin
- 9 | in 2014?
- 10 A. No. During that my only interaction with Kent Tribble on
- 11 | that shooting was after that shooting occurred, which was an
- 12 | incredibly stressful moment, I was still in shock and Kent
- 13 came up to me, grabbed me by my shoulder, started shaking me
- 14 | in the street telling me that I "stole his dinner", in
- 15 | quotes.
- 16 | O. Do you mean that he was stating that you stole his
- 17 dinner, that should have been his shoot?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. That he was angry that you had shot Mr. Martin instead of
- 20 | him?
- 21 A. He was visibly shaking me, almost spitting on my face
- 22 | telling me I stole his dinner.
- 23 Q. Am I getting the meaning of that right?
- 24 A. Yes, you are.
- 25 | Q. Okay. And you and Mark Galios were involved in a
- 26 | shooting in 2016 at Starbucks in south Vallejo?
- 27 A. Correct.
- 28 | O. Did Kent Tribble bent you and Mark Galios' badges after

- 1 | that shooting?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Did anybody approach you about badge bending after that
- 4 | shooting?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 | O. Did Mr. Galios ever indicate that Kent Tribble bent his
- 7 | badge after that shooting?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. So, if I say to you, you and Mark Galios got your badges
- 10 bent after the Starbucks shooting by Kent Tribble, hundred
- 11 | percent false?
- 12 | A. Hundred percent false.
- 13 Q. Okay. Did you bend Zack Jacobsen's badge in a bar in
- 14 | front of Kent Tribble?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 | O. Did you bend Zack Jacobsen's badge at all?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 | Q. Were you ever present when his badge was bent?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 | Q. Were you ever present in a bar with him and Kent Tribble?
- 21 | A. I believe I was present in a bar with him and Kent
- 22 | Tribble, yes. By themselves, no.
- 23 Q. Were you present when anybody else's badge was bent?
- 24 A. No. If I can --
- 25 | O. Go ahead.
- 26 | A. I'm really fighting to control my emotions about this
- 27 | whole thing, because I didn't ask -- I did not ask for this
- 28 | to happen to me the first time. And I didn't ask -- I didn't

- 1 create the circumstance to be here in court talking about it
- 2 | today. So, this is very upsetting for me to sit here and
- 3 talk about something, especially if there are falsehoods
- 4 being attributed to me and my involvement in this.
- 5 Q. You're answering truthfully?
- 6 A. I'm absolutely answering truthfully, yes.
- 7 Q. If I say in August, September 2016 you, Josh Coleman,
- 8 were present in a bar, the Relay, with Matt Komoda, David
- 9 McLaughlin and Kent Tribble and you were there when Kent
- 10 Tribble bent their badges after they had been in a shooting
- 11 | --
- 12 | A. That's not true.
- 13 Q. Hundred percent false?
- 14 A. Hundred percent false.
- 15 | Q. Did not happen?
- 16 A. Did not happen.
- 17 | Kent Tribble told me on the day that I -- Kent Tribble is
- 18 | I very scary person. When he was my sergeant, his rule
- 19 number one when he would have his briefings is, do not fuck
- 20 your buddies. And the day he told me, "I'm bending your
- 21 badge. Never talk about it". I never talked about it again.
- 22 | I didn't mention it to anybody. I never bent anybody's
- 23 badge. I haven't been around anybody or when a badge bending
- 24 was occurring. I have no idea who else's badges have been
- 25 bent. I just know that mine was bent by Kent Tribble in
- 26 | 2013.
- 27 Q. Were you ever advised by anyone in the department to fix
- 28 | that badge?

- 1 A. Okay. So, yes. I was. So, my earlier statement about
- 2 | not knowing anything about it until the article came out
- 3 | would be inaccurate.
- 4 | So, yes. I believe it was 2017 or so, maybe '16, Kent
- 5 | saw me in the hallway and muttered something to me about,
- 6 They know about the badges. Fix your badge, or something
- 7 | like that.
- 8 | Q. Okay. This was like in -- you left in what month of
- 9 | 2018?
- 10 | A. I left in May of 2018.
- 11 | Q. So prior to that?
- $12 \mid A$. I think so. It was about two years prior to that.
- 13 | Q. Like in 2016?
- 14 | A. I'm estimating somewhere around there.
- 15 | O. It wasn't in 2018?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Okay. I understand you don't know exactly when it
- 18 | happened, maybe some significant period of time before you
- 19 | left?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 | O. He said something to the effect, they know about the bent
- 22 | badges?
- 23 A. He approached me. So, Kent Tribble is an alcoholic, he
- 24 used to show up to work every single day with his hands
- 25 | shaking and everything. His nickname on our team was John
- 26 | Wayne, because he had this John Wayne persona about how he
- 27 | would carry on business. People did not have a very high
- 28 | level of esteem and at this point in my career I was older, I

- 1 | didn't have a high level of esteem for him. But still being
- 2 | a lieutenant, or being yeah, I was -- he had already gotten
- 3 promoted to being a lieutenant. I still had high level of
- 4 | anxiety dealing with him.
- 5 So when he approached me and was like, "they know about
- 6 the badges", I was like, okay. In fact, from my prospective
- 7 at that time, I did not do anything wrong. I didn't break a
- 8 law. At the time -- reading the policy manual now I could
- 9 | see there may be a policy violation but at the time I didn't
- 10 think it was a serious a egregious offense. I wasn't the
- 11 | supervisor that did this. He was the supervisor. So I
- 12 | ignored it and moved on with my life.
- 13 Q. So when he said that to you, maybe 2016 in the hallway,
- 14 They know about the badges. Fix it, you then fix the
- 15 badge?
- 16 A. I believe that I had already fixed my badge before then.
- 17 When he bent it, he broke one of the letters in my name or,
- 18 | not my name, in the, I think it says "police". One of the
- 19 | letters cracked so it could never really, truly be fixed, but
- 20 | I --
- 21 | O. You're talking about the enamel on the top there cracked?
- 22 | A. The black lettering had like popped out, so I just bent
- 23 | it back. But it's never really -- I can still see it to this
- 24 | day.
- 25 | Q. You still have that badge?
- 26 A. Absolutely. Yes.
- 27 | Q. By that time you had you become a corporal?
- 28 A. Yeah, I was already promoted.

- 1 Q. So you didn't wear that badge on a regular occasion?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Okay. Other than Kent Tribble telling to you fix the
- 4 | badge, you ever remember, during your employment at the
- 5 | Vallejo Police Department, anybody else giving you any
- 6 directive or saying anything to you about the bent badges?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Have you had any contact with members of the Vallejo
- 9 Police Department about the badge bending issue since the
- 10 | story broke?
- 11 | A. Yes.
- 12 | Q. Who was that?
- 13 | A. Everybody I know. Everybody's talked about it. I've
- 14 | talked to -- yeah, I mean, if you're asking specifically
- 15 about the Vallejo Police Department, I've talked to pretty
- 16 much everybody about the bent badges thing.
- 17 | Q. Were you contacted to give an interview by Mr. Giordano?
- 18 | A. I was.
- 19 Q. Did you not give one?
- 20 A. Yes, I did not. At the time my agency head, Sheriff
- 21 Robertson, informed me that I was noticed as a subject in an
- 22 | internal investigation, internal affairs investigation. He
- 23 also informed me that he was unaware of the legal aspects of
- 24 | compelling a person who is not employed by an agency that is
- 25 | conducting an internal affairs investigation as to whether or
- 26 | not he should compel me or not. He noticed me and advised me
- 27 to contact my attorney. I contacted attorney Mike Rains and
- 28 | asked him if I needed to give an interview. Attorney Mike

Rains basically told me I was under no legal authority or 1 obligation to and so I looked at it as I experienced a lot of 2 trauma working for the Vallejo Police Department and I left 3 that in order to go to a different organization and I didn't 4 5 want to rehash any of those things and I didn't intend on talking about it until I was asked to speak the truth today. 6 So, here I am. 7 8 MR. FILLOY: I don't think I have anything further for 9 Officer Coleman. As someone who started here in 2006, despite the 10 11 performance today, I would stipulate that Kent Tribble was is 12 a very scary person. 13 THE COURT: All right. 14 Any questions? Mr. Flynn. 15 MR. FLYNN: I don't think so your Honor. No. This event you described involving the gun 16 THE COURT: when you were young, when you were a cadet, did you report 17 18 that to anybody? 19 THE WITNESS: I didn't, sir. Honestly, it's something 20 that has troubled me my whole career. THE COURT: So this -- so how many police chiefs through 21 2.2 your career in Vallejo did we have, would you say? THE WITNESS: Lieutenant Nichelini, Lieutenant -- I'm 23 24 sorry, not lieutenant, Chief Nichelini, Chief Rains, Chief I did not work for Chief Williams. 25 Bidou. 26 THE COURT: Were you ever -- throughout the course of 27 your career, when you're hearing all about these badge 28 bending things, did you ever attend a morning staffing or any

meeting of the troops where anyone mentioned anything about 1 2 this badge bending. 3 THE WITNESS: I didn't hear about badge bending at all until -- until, I'm sorry, your question was about -- you 4 5 said? THE COURT: Any staffing meeting did anyone ever bring it 6 up in a meeting, "by the way, you shouldn't be doing this" or 7 anything like that? 8 9 THE WITNESS: No. THE COURT: Okay. Anything further? 10 11 THE WITNESS: But to be fair, I don't go to staff I was an officer and I was a corporal, so staff 12 meeting would be lieutenant and above. 13 14 THE COURT: All right. 15 Mr. Filloy, anything further? MR. FILLOY: I don't think I have anything further at 16 17 this time for this witness. 18 Thank you. Thank you for coming in. THE COURT: Thank you, your Honor. 19 THE WITNESS: 20 THE COURT: I did not see that coming. 21 MR. FILLOY: He was very forthcoming. 2.2 THE COURT: So let's -- there was some value to that. I 23 actually think there's been value to all of this. But let's 24 zero in on that which we are looking to do here. 25 MR. FILLOY: So, I have a bunch of witnesses subbed for tomorrow. You're probably going to want to talk about what 26 2.7 is what. 28 THE COURT: A lot of this, it seems to me is not relevant

So let's walk through and I guess an offer of 1 to this case. You've talked about both McLaughlins. 2 3 MR. FILLOY: No, just David McLaughlin. Ryan is not 4 involved in this in any way, that I know of. 5 THE COURT: David McLaughlin. 6 I mean, David McLaughlin says Coleman was MR. FILLOY: there when this happened, not that impeaching Coleman is 7 important to me. But McLaughlin also kind of dates this time 8 9 line of 2018, they're getting told bend badges back, clean Then Komoda says, you know, he knows nothing about 10 this up. 11 -- he can speak to the things that Tribble said. wanted to hear if he impeaches or supports Komoda's 12 assertions that he never questioned his performance, or was 13 14 upset about this and the question of whether or not --15 THE COURT: Who never questioned whose performance? MR. FILLOY: I mean, Kent Tribble says, you know, in the 16 17 interview he said today, McLaughlin and Komoda were beating 18 themselves all up because, you know, the bullet didn't perform, they didn't perform well tactically. Komoda's like, 19 20 "Nope, I never said that. That never happened". 21 really 1103 thing, right. I mean, kind of goes to your 22 propensity for violence if what you're upset about after a shooting is that you didn't hit anybody. So there's that. 23 24 There's also this, you know, the strange issue that Komoda and McLaughlin both, within days, independently, 25 without discussing it, decided to bend their badges back. 26 And, you know, McLaughlin is a, you know, he's a percipient 27 28 witness to this event and some of what he says doesn't mesh

with Komoda. 1 The badge bending event happened at the 2 THE COURT: 3 relay? 4 MR. FILLOY: Yeah. 5 THE COURT: Wheat else? Who else? You said Stephanie 6 McDonough. 7 MR. FILLOY: Stephanie McDonough, you know, she basically backs up everything that McLaughlin says. Giordan's 8 9 interview with her is kind of is minimal. There's a lot of stuff he doesn't go into. I want to see if she can also 10 11 corroborate this time line. I also want to ask her if there was any badge bending after Barboa, because I think there was 12 and I don't know that these folks are necessarily going to 13 14 necessarily say the same thing under oath like they said in the interviews. 15 THE COURT: So let's see. We established lots of that 16 17 here. What's the relevance of the specific timing of any of 18 it at this point? 19 MR. FILLOY: If they were -- if they bent badges after 20 Barboa, that was multiple bends for multiple shootings, we're talking about racking up points. It's direct impeachment of 21 2.2 Komoda's statement that he bent his back. It's really pure 1103 Ingstrum as to propensity for violence. 23 THE COURT: Be more specific. Komoda doing other bends, 24 25 Everybody else, what's the relevance of whether or 26 not anybody else -- we already got -- I was a little torn. Ι 27 was waiting for someone to ask, I thought about asking 28 Tribble if he could give us an itemized list of everyone he

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recalls bending, but mercifully none of us asked that
 1
    question.
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 3
        MR. FILLOY: I thought I would have got objected to.
 4
        THE COURT: The implication is he bent a bunch of them.
 5
    So the volume thing, it's established already. The timing of
    it, unless it's something relevant to Komoda, I'm not sure.
 6
        But McDonough, who else?
 7
 8
        MR. FILLOY: Jake Estrada has never given a statement,
 9
    that I know of.
10
        THE COURT: What might he give a statement of?
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        MR. FILLOY: He was one of the Barboa shooters.
12
    tell us if he was in the POA hall with Komoda as Komoda said
    afterwards since the POA hall we know because of the McCoy
13
14
    shooting is sometimes the scene of drinking and badge
    bending, you know. So he might tell us if that went down and
15
    who was there, if Komoda was involved in some badge bending
16
17
    at the POA hall after the Barboa shooting. But apparently
18
    Komoda says they were there.
19
        THE COURT: Who else?
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        MR. FILLOY: Well, so one of the direct impeachment
    witnesses that I need to call is Robert Giordano.
21
2.2
    because Robert Giordano interviews Matt Komoda. Matt Komoda
    was very clear with me today. "I brought two badges, both of
23
24
    my badges, to the interview with Giordano".
25
        I said, "I believe you brought two, right, the corporal
    badge and the officer duty badge". I asked him again, he
26
27
    said, "No, I'm pretty sure I brought two", right. You read
28
    -- I mean, it's not -- here's the thing, these are audio
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interviews, right. But it sure, sounds like from the snippet 1 of the badge bending report you gave me early on, and from 2 3 the audio interview, that he just shows him one badge, 4 because -- and I want to know which badge it was. He says, 5 you know, he says, "Okay. I can see your badge. Oh, yeah it's not bent". Then in his report, in the summary, he says, 6 "he showed me a metal badge". One, not two. 7 I don't think he showed Giordano two badges. I think that is not true. I 8 9 think he showed him his corporal badge that he got after all of this was all over and it never would have been bent. He 10 11 didn't it get until March of 2019. The other officers, when Giordano is interviewing them, 12 like McLaughlin brings both badges. Giordano says, "he's got 13 14 two metal badges here". He's pretty specific about that stuff, actually. 15 16 So, I think I need to call him to ask him that question. 17 THE COURT: Him the question of? 18 MR. FILLOY: Does Komoda show you two metal badges or one 19 and what badge did? It say corporal or officer. Because the 20 corporal badge would have never been bent. 21 THE COURT: Why is that? 2.2 MR. FILLOY: Because he didn't get it until like -- it wasn't even ordered until March 2019. I don't think he got 23 24 it until June of 2019, or something like that. That was 25 after the inspection and McCoy and all, you know, everything. 26 Nobody was bending any badges after, you know, the McCoy 27 shake down happened. Which I think happened in March or April of 2019. 28

All right. Who else? 1 THE COURT: MR. FILLOY: Well, so, I want to call Sanjay Ramrakha to 2 3 talk about what happened in the Barboa shooting. That more 4 goes to the issue of 1103 because they made criticisms of the 5 use of force. So I plan on calling him as 1103 witness at 6 the trial, because I have to deal with the fact with the jury that they're going to know that Matt Komoda is, after 7 shooting Mr. Milano, is still a police officer. They're 8 9 going to assume he was cleared, which he was, of the shooting and I intend to show that jury that he was cleared by an 10 11 institution that has, for a couple of decades now, 12 incentivized and glorified violence, and in fact has a status incentive baked into their institutional traditions about it. 13 So, that kind of sequway into I have some other witnesses 14 subpoenaed for tomorrow where, judge, if you look at that 15 third point you were talking about with me this morning, that 16 17 I have asked the Court to make a finding that Pitchess 18 deficient, constitutionally deficient remedy as applied to the Vallejo Police Department, I can make a pretty lengthy 19 record with witnesses about the inadequacy of that system in 20 terms of creating and maintaining internal affairs documents, 21 reviewing and training and of disciplining and proper use of 2.2 23 force. I mean, you know, I think a lot of people have figured 24 25 out now, I mean, I have been referencing when they got I have all of the invoices and emails, all of the 26 badges. 27 ones that they had to give me by the time I came to subpoena I have all the invoices and emails from the Ed Jones 28 them.

badge company relating to orders for Vallejo Police 1 Department badges from the middle of 2021 dating all the way 2 back to 2010. And if you want to go down this road with me 3 4 on my third point there, which I am asking the Court to find 5 that this is investigation by Mr. Giordano was done in bad faith, that the entire internal affairs system of the Vallejo 6 Police Department operated in bad faith for a long time, I 7 have some witnesses to call and we can talk about what those 8 9 badge records show, which is multiple rounds of concerted efforts to conceal this practice, in my opinion. 10 11 THE COURT: Including Komoda? 12 MR. FILLOY: Well, I think you heard the evidence as to Komoda today. There's this in the middle of 2018 when all of 13 the people involved in this say that they're getting word, 14 fix their badges, don't have a bent badge, right. 15 remind him of it. "Oh, that's right I have the one with the 16 17 bolt". Well, he orders a new officer duty badge, it's 18 identical to his officer duty badge that he was issued back 19 in 2014 that Kent Tribble apparently bent, except it has a 20 different back. It has a bolt on back instead of a safety 21 catch, which is what they normally have on the back. 22 THE COURT: Let me do this. Let me share something with 23 Ms. Knight. So that, what he just said is one of those things that I became aware of sometime ago and in fact it's 24 25 the reason why I amended my discovery order. So now that that that's out on the table, and what -- I indicated that I 26 felt kind of unwise in hindsight, after reading the Giordano 27 28 report the first time, and a lot of it is consistent,

certainly the Kent Tribble narrative, a lot is consistent 1 with that, but nowhere in that report, and it didn't dawn on 2 me to think about this until Mr. Filloy presented this 3 4 information. Nowhere in that report is any effort on the 5 part of Mr. Giordano to even reach out to the badge vendor. 6 And there's only one badge vendor. It just -- it dawned on me what an incredible omission that is. That if I'm doing 7 an inquiry into practices in terms of replacing and repairing 8 9 badges and it turns out there's only one vendor, why would I not have reached out as part of my investigation to that 10 11 vendor. And there's some references, and I'm not feeling 12 like going there in this hearing, but there's interesting issues about multiple persons buying multiple badges and 13 14 Stephanie McDonough buying badges for, paying for McLaughlin's badges because she has to use her credit card. 15 There's all this interesting stuff. I don't know how 16 17 interesting it is, but I guess -- what is that? Is this the 18 first you're hearing of any of this? Why would Giordano not have reached out to the badge vendor if what I'm looking to 19 do is to investigate practices of officers and their badges? 20 MS. KNIGHT: Well, your Honor, I thought he had reached 21 2.2 out to the badge vendor, if nothing else because he got a 23 sample badge from them to examine for what it looks like, how 24 it bends. My recollection is that there was a point where he was looking at records of orders, but it's been a long time 25 26 since I looked at the report. I don't remember how much of that was discussed or made it in there. 2.7 28 THE COURT: Yeah, I'm not sure it's mentioned at all, is

my recollection. 1 MR. FILLOY: Actually, judge, Chief Williams reached out 2 at one point to the Ed Jones company to asks them for some 3 4 records, I think. One of the witnesses I have subpoenaed to 5 testify tomorrow is Elizabeth Ruska, the former owner of the 6 Ed Jones badge company. 7 There's a particular email? THE COURT: MR. FILLOY: Yes. 8 9 THE COURT: I recall, but I don't remember which of your witnesses is in on it. 10 11 MR. FILLOY: Well, a lot of emails is between Shaleen Darst and Elizabeth Ruska. I think the one that you're 12 referring to from Ms. Ruska to the Police Department actually 13 14 maybe went to Angela Knight and basically saying, "I want to have a phone conversation with Chief Williams". They said, 15 "About what" and she said, "About a letter we just received" 16 17 and then she gets a reply back. Says, "Well he's referring 18 me to have you speak on the phone with Ann Cardwell", who was 19 at that time the assistant city manager. 20 Now, according to Ms. Ruska --21 THE COURT: Was there not a communication implying that 2.2 Ed Jones should not respond? 23 MR. FILLOY: Well, yeah. Ms. Ruska says they refused to 24 provide them any records and when Mr. Mauer and I asked her 25 about why that was, that she would refuse to provide records, 26 it was a very vague answer. It was sort of like trade 27 secrets, competition, prices, you know. It seemed odd. 28 said well, why don't -- why don't-- they have the records,

She said, "The Vallejo Police Department should have 1 right. these records, invoices, or whatever emails". I'm not that 2 surprised that they don't have them anymore. Especially 3 4 based on what I received. But, I don't know why this lady, 5 whose family have had this very lucrative business relationship with the City of Vallejo for 50 years, if they 6 wanted invoices would refuse them. I don't know why the City 7 of Vallejo would keep on doing business with somebody who 8 9 refused. THE COURT: Or why they would give them to you without a 10 11 subpoena. 12 MR. FILLOY: Well, I did subpoena these records. subpoenaed one set in another case, then the client, when the 13 case was over had released that portion of the legal file to 14 me. And I subpoenaed them multiple occasions during this 15 case, but the new guy who owns the Ed Jones company now, 16 17 Mr. Headley was extremely cooperative. He just he actually let my investigator -- one of the sets of records, go down 18 19 there and just go through the files. Then he actually 20 released more to me without a subpoena. I send him that subpoena and he said can I send them to you. 21 I said, "Sure 22 I'll withdraw my subpoena if you want to send them to me 23 instead". 24 THE COURT: I do not know what that is. Again, in 25 hindsight I thought why did you not think of this when I was reading this thing. Obviously if you're wondering about 26 27 people's practices with badges, the badge vendor would seem 28 kind of relevant. So, anyway. I don't know what to make of

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that. 1 2 Let me ask Mr. Flynn -- here's what I'm thinking. 3 thinking there's a number of issues here that are of general 4 interesting and concern to the public and community, but 5 they're not necessarily relevant to Mr. Milano's case. 6 That's my opinion as well. MR. FLYNN: 7 THE COURT: All right. Let me tell you tentatively what I think. I think you ought to be allowed to call Officer 8 9 McLaughlin to testify directly as to the event involving Officer Komoda. 10 11 The Stephanie McDonough thing, I'm not seeing that that seems tangential, not going to be relevant unless something 12 13 new happens. 14 As to Estrada, I think I should allow you to ask him questions about did he ever witness badge bending at the POA. 15 Because that would be a particular potentially relevant 16 17 thing, given everything we've heard today. Kind of 18 generalized discussion, I think is irrelevant. The Ramrakha 1103 stuff I'm just not seeing any of that 19 at this point. I don't need to do a 402 to have a discussion 20 about 1103. We're still going to have to have this 21 2.2 discussion at some point before we go to trial, but it would be relevant to Mr. Milano. It would be what did Mr. Milano 23 know, what might Mr. Milano had seen to make some of this 24 25 stuff relevant in a more direct way. And I'm going to have 26 to go back and reread through the prelim about the idea of

propensity evidence involving Officer Komoda, because this

was a whole group of officers.

Frankly, I remember a lot more about his driving. 1 2 MR. FILLOY: Are you talking about the Milano case 3 particularly? 4 I remember more about Komoda's driving than THE COURT: 5 the positioning when shots were fired. 6 MR. FILLOY: The shoot out just happens between Milano and Komoda, with Komoda being the only person to actually --7 he says that Mr. Milano fired first. 8 9 Duncan and Simpson, they pull up, the shootings is already going on. They both say they're not there when the 10 11 scene starts. 12 THE COURT: I have to read all of that. I do find it a little ironic that Adam Clayton Powell came up today because 13 I don't think Officer Coleman understands why that case 14 happened they way it did and the problems associated with 15 specific intent crimes. Which I think was the full 16 17 explantation of that verdict. But that's neither here nor 18 there. I think as to Giordano, you're probably entitled to ask 19 20 how many badges did Komoda show him. If you want to ask him about the Ed Jones thing, I'm curious. I don't know that 21 2.2 that's relevant. 23 MR. FILLOY: I think, judge, as I've said, we have all of 24 these motions discovery motions pending. One is that the badge -- these badge bending records are public records under 25 26 832.7, that's a legal call, right. I've also demanded them under the Sixth Amendment and I said I believe the whole 27 28 entire Pitchess process, you know, is simply constitutionally

deficient as applied to the Vallejo Police Department because 1 they operated in bad faith. I want to make that record by 2 3 talking to witnesses about it. I want to make that record by 4 talking to Mr. Giordano, who let me tell you, I'm pretty sure 5 he didn't get these badge records and I have a lot of questions about why he investigated this thing the way he 6 did. 7 THE COURT: Well, I guess some of that. I've got little 8 9 mixed feelings about. Maybe I'll ask Mr. Flynn to answer this question. Seems like -- you've read the report. 10 11 have read this report. It seems to me, I know I said this a couple weeks ago, it seems to me that the totality of what is 12 relevant has already been disclosed to you in that report. 13 That there's a universe of several things. One, there's 14 probably many dozens of pages of people denying any knowledge 15 of this thing, just saying it's stupid. There's probably 20 16 17 officers who, that's the totality of their statement. Then 18 there is a lot of discussion, page and pages of discussion of 19 management. This thing with Horton is interesting. Whitney 20 never came up today. But there's a fascinating --21 MR. FILLOY: I have him subpoenaed for tomorrow, too, 22 judge. 23 THE COURT: There's pages and pages of fascinating stuff 24 about Whitney, Horton and Iacono. I'm not sure that's 25 relevant to anything. It's like management, HR stuff. Then 26 there's just some efforts and opinions. Last 15 pages, 20 27 pages are opinions and findings and I don't find those admissible or relevant. 28

So, I guess Mr. Flynn bearing the burden of Brady as part 1 of this, obviously you could disclose whatever you think, if 2 3 I'm missing something. But that's my sense of where we are. 4 MR. FLYNN: That's correct. What I told you this morning 5 was that we're going to be meeting as an office to discuss whether there's any Brady that comes out of this 6 investigation and if so we would turn that over to the 7 defense. 8 9 THE COURT: There's clearly Kent Tribble Brady. There's 10 clearly Ryan McMann Brady. I don't have to worry about 11 either of those things here. There's clearly Brady with 12 those two officers. Anyway, so --MR. FILLOY: Tomorrow McLaughlin, Estrada and Giordano. 13 14 THE COURT: McLaughlin, Estrada and Giordano. Cardwell, Shaleen Darst, is that all about Ed Jones stuff? 15 So, yeah. Ann Cardwell, Shaleen Darst, 16 MR. FILLOY: 17 Elizabeth Ruska, that's a whole different discussion I don't 18 know if you want me to launch in to now. But I don't know if 19 they might have any specific information about Komoda, like there's there email about Komoda's new duty badge in June of 20 2018 with the bolt on it, where the invoice for it comes in 21 2.2 and there's an email from Shaleen Darst that says, "I can't have that on a City invoice. That needs to be separated out 23 24 as a non-City item on a separate invoice". So, that relates 25 directly to Komoda. That's about his badge order. I don't 26 know if he was trying to have somebody pay for that, have the City pay for that for him or, you know, he was all vague 27 28 about that today when I asked him was he contacted about

needing to pay for this himself. 1 2 THE COURT: That's the same thing as the Stephanie 3 McDonough stuff. 4 MR. FILLOY: If the McLaughlin, Stephanie McDonough thing 5 that was a flat badge, I think that was a present from 6 McDonough to McLaughlin. 7 THE COURT: Wasn't it all at some point in time the City says they have to start to tighten up on how we're billing 8 9 these things. That's what I interpreted that they did. MR. FILLOY: That did happen. That particular one, I 10 11 think -- there were always officers buying badges with their own money that were like Christmas presents, things like 12 that, presents for other people. I've got to say I can't 13 make a good faith assertion on that one -- when I first 14 looked at it, it looks suspicious. I don't know that that --15 I mean, it could be, but I don't know that -- I have pretty 16 17 good reason to believe that went a present from McDonough to 18 McLaughlin. 19 There's a good question about whether these flat badges 20 were ever bent, because there's really questionable orders for flat badges. Sometime back from 2015, but apparently 21 2.2 there were other people, other than Mr. Tribble, doing the bending. So, I don't know. 23 24 THE COURT: Let me say -- let me indicate -- let's do 25 what I just indicated. I do not see any reason, at this 26 point, to hear from Ann Cardwell or Shaleen Darst or that other stuff. That's not to say there aren't issues of 27 28 concern there. It just seems there is no issue relevant to

1 Mr. Milano's case.
2 So, McLaughlin, Estrada, Giordano. I guess we'll see
3 what comes of that. You can ask him about the badges that
4 were presented. I guess we'll see what comes of the rest of

5 this.

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MS. KNIGHT: Your Honor, for the Ed Jones thing, I'm inclined to agree with you. I'm very curious about it, but I don't know that it's relevant to Mr. Milano's case. If the only questions you want out of Mr. Giordano are really how many badges did Matt Komoda bring to his interview, was it his police or corporal badge, I can get a declaration from him and not have to drag him all the way down here.

MR. FILLOY: No. Let's have him come in.

THE COURT: Is he under subpoena?

MR. FILLOY: Yes.

THE COURT: He can come in quick. I've got mixed feelings about it. I'm not sure it's relevant to Komoda, either, just so we're clear, that was stuff that caused me to reconsider my earlier motion, was that thing about what are we thinking here. How would we not have contacted the vendor to get every officer's totals. How did we not get that.

MR. FILLOY: I will tell you something really interesting, judge, because Ms. Knight just brought it up a little while ago. He said Giordano got a sample badge, right, to show -- to use or bend tore show these guys, there's this one email like late in 2021 where somebody at the VPD emails over there and says, "Chief Williams wants to buy a blank badge with no number on it and he's going to pay

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for it personally". Then they clarify the material and it 1 turns out he wants the chrome badge. The chrome version. 2 3 The cheap chrome version. 4 The chrome badges, in my opinion, when you look way back 5 earlier in these records, are some of the things that the officers ordered so that they could have a badge that looked 6 right to wear in public. So, I don't know if maybe 7 Mr. Giordano knows more about that whole chrome badge 8 9 cover-up thing than is in the report. THE COURT: Let's say he can be here to answer those 10 11 questions and maybe we can have more discussion about this 12 other stuff. I have got to admit, I wonder what he was thinking by not 13 14 going down that road. So I don't know. We'll play that by 15 ear. Again, none of this is to say -- there may be important places, our media friends, maybe the grand jury, maybe, there 16 17 may be a lot of interesting places where some of this stuff 18 could get drawn out. I think we've hit that fork in the road where there's what is relevant to Mr. Filloy and there's 19 everything else. I'm glad we did this hearing today. 20 thought there was a lot of value in the Coleman thing. I did 21 22 not see that coming. I am glad we did those three witnesses. 23 I think that helped to bring some daylight to all of this. 24 But I've got to start whittling this in a little bit and it's 25 always subject to revisit. 26 Let's say 8:30 tomorrow. This should not take long, 27 assuming it is not going to take long to ask those questions.

MS. KNIGHT: All three of those witnesses should be here

1	tomorrow?					
2	THE COURT: McLaughlin, Estrada and Giordano. I'm not					
3	granting a motion to quash yet.					
4	MR. FILLOY: Are you saying they don't have to be here?					
5	THE COURT: I'm struggling finding why we need to go down					
6	that road in this case.					
7	MS. KNIGHT: I just want to know how long I have to keep					
8	them on the hook, your Honor. They're very stressed out.					
9	THE COURT: I get that. If you had released this report					
10	publicly six months ago, we would have none of these things.					
11	(Proceedings were concluded.)					
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1					
2					
3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA)				
4	COUNTY OF SOLANO)				
5					
6	CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER				
7	I, CHRISTINE L. WESNER, an Official Shorthand Reporter				
8	for the County of Solano do hereby certify:				
9	THAT on March 22, 2022, I reported in shorthand writing				
LO	the proceedings had in the matter of PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF				
L1	CALIFORNIA versus DOMINIC MILANO, No. VCR233208;				
L2	THAT I thereafter caused my said shorthand writing to be				
L3	transcribed into longhand typewriting;				
L4	THAT the foregoing Pages 1 through 63 are a full, true,				
L5	correct and accurate transcription of my said shorthand				
L6	writing and a correct and verbatim record of the proceedings				
L7	so had and taken, as aforesaid.				
L8					
L9	DATED this 1st day of April, 2022.				
20	α				
21	('01110000)				
22	Clivesner				
23					
24	CHRISTINE L. WESNER, RPR, CSR #10767 Official Shorthand Reporter				
25	Vallejo, California				
26					
27					
28					

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