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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
AT CHATTANOOGA

-----  
THOMAS WILLIAM MORGAN, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 ) 1:24-cv-00303  
vs. )  
 )  
MARION COUNTY GOVERNMENT, )  
LINDA MASON, RONNIE "BO" )  
BURNETT, and DALE WINTERS, )  
 )  
Defendants. )  
-----

Chattanooga, Tennessee  
September 26, 2025

DEPOSITION OF LINDA MASON

-----  
APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

ROBIN R. FLORES, ESQ.  
Attorney at Law  
4110-A Brainerd Rd  
Chattanooga, TN 37411  
(423) 267-1575  
robin@robinfloreslaw.com

FOR THE DEFENDANT:

B. THOMAS HICKEY, JR., ESQ.  
Spicer Rudstrom PLLC  
537 Market St., Su 203  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
(423) 756-0262  
thickey@spicerfirm.com

Also present: Ronnie "Bo" Burnett

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PRIOR MARKED EXHIBITS DISCUSSED

EXHIBIT 5  
EXHIBIT 12

1                   D I S C L O S U R E  
2       STATE OF TENNESSEE  
3       COUNTY OF HAMILTON  
4       DEPONENT: LINDA MASON

5           Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Tennessee  
6       Board of Court Reporting, I make the following  
7       disclosure:

8           I am a Tennessee Licensed Court Reporter. I am here  
9       as an independent contractor for Wilson Reporting  
10       Agency.

11          Wilson Reporting Agency was contacted to provide court  
12       reporting services for this deposition. Wilson Reporting  
13       Agency will not be taking this deposition under any  
14       contract that is prohibited by TCA 24-9-136.

15          Wilson Reporting Agency has no contract/agreement to  
16       provide reporting services with any party to the case,  
17       any counsel in the case, or any reporter or reporting  
18       agency from whom a referral might have been made to cover  
19       this deposition.

20          Wilson Reporting Agency will charge its usual and  
21       customary rates to all parties in the case, and a  
22       financial discount will not be given to any party to this  
23       litigation.

24       Sheila D. Wilson, LCR#268  
25       Expiration date: June 30, 2026

1           The deposition of LINDA MASON, taken on the 26th  
2 of September 2025, on behalf of the Plaintiff, beginning  
3 at approximately 10:08 a.m., in the offices of Spicer  
4 Rudstrom PLLC, 537 Market St., Su 203, Chattanooga,  
5 Tennessee, before Sheila D. Wilson, Licensed Court  
6 Reporter #268, and Notary Public.

7           This deposition is taken pursuant to the terms and  
8 provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

9           Signature of the witness not discussed.

10                           / / /

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1                   LINDA MASON,  
2   called as a witness at the instance of the Plaintiff,  
3   having been first placed under oath, was examined and  
4   testified as follows:

5                   EXAMINATION

6   BY MR. FLORES:

7       Q    Good morning, Ms. Mason.

8       A    Good morning.

9       Q    My name is Robin Flores, just for the record, I  
10   represent the plaintiff in this matter, Thomas William  
11   Morgan. Just a couple ground rules before we get  
12   started. The court reporter takes down the spoken word,  
13   and in normal discourse, you know, conversations, in  
14   daily conversations we tend to want to nod, you know, and  
15   go uh-huh and huh-uh, which can read either way. And we  
16   may even want to try to finish each other's questions or  
17   answer questions before they're completely enunciated for  
18   the court reporter to take down. So, I will do my best  
19   to make sure I don't interrupt you or, you know, when  
20   you're saying something, try to move on to the next  
21   question. Take as much time as you need to answer it,  
22   and try to answer verbally.

23      A    Yes, sir.

24      Q    If you have any questions about what I'm asking or  
25   something's not clear, let me know.

1 A Okay.

2 Q Now, it's a somewhat informal setting, as you can  
3 see today, but we're still sort of an extension of the  
4 courtroom. So, if there are questions that I ask of you  
5 while you're sitting as a witness here, you will not be  
6 able to say, look, I want to confer with my attorney,  
7 unless he's got some issue with privilege or whatever and  
8 then, you know, he will control it.

9 If there is an objection, normally what we say is,  
10 you know, "object to the form," and we may talk about it  
11 a little bit. Stop your answer until he makes his  
12 objection and it's clear on the record, and if we have  
13 any back and forth we'll do it, and then pick right back  
14 up.

15 A Okay.

16 Q Now, also, this is not an endurance contest. I  
17 hope to be done with you in about three hours, hopefully.  
18 If you have to take a break, just let me know.

19 A Okay. Thank you.

20 Q I'll be taking a lot of breaks myself.  
21 Do you have any questions about any of that?

22 A No, sir.

23 Q Have you ever given a deposition, ever?

24 A No.

25 Q All right.

1 A I don't think so.

2 Q Okay. So, "I don't think so," I want to --

3 A I don't -- no.

4 Q And I may ask certain things, and I don't -- I'm  
5 not here to beat you up or anything. I just want to know  
6 what you know.

7 A Okay.

8 Q But I may continue to press you from time to time.  
9 It's nothing personal. It may be I just don't  
10 understand, I may not like the answer. And Mr. Hickey is  
11 more than capable of knowing when to shut that down. So,  
12 just bear with me here if I do come across like that, I'm  
13 not trying to be mean or anything to you.

14 So when you say that you don't know, I want to  
15 make sure I'm clear on that. Is it yes or no, have you  
16 given a deposition in the past?

17 A No, I have not.

18 Q Very good. Now, I'm going to go through some  
19 written documents with you and then we're going to wrap  
20 up today with a video that I have. I have two sets of  
21 videos of the incident.

22 A Okay.

23 Q So, we don't need your current address. I know  
24 where your business address is. But can you today give  
25 us your full name and your employment status as of June

1 2024?

2 A Linda Mason, and I'm employed with the Town of  
3 Jasper.

4 Q And in what capacity are you employed with the  
5 Town of Jasper?

6 A I am the property tax administrator. I do the  
7 permitting and business licenses.

8 Q Do you have -- what were your responsibilities --  
9 in your role with the Town of Jasper, what were your  
10 responsibilities during the times of these incidents?  
11 And I'm going to use the benchmark January of 2024 and  
12 June of 2024. So what were your responsibilities with  
13 the Town of Jasper during that time?

14 A My responsibilities were, I prepare the property  
15 tax for the Town of Jasper; I coordinate with State of  
16 Tennessee, the property tax assessor. And I'm  
17 responsible for getting those mailed out, checking the  
18 figures. I also do the sales and use tax for the Town of  
19 Jasper.

20 Q Excuse the interruption. You say sales and use  
21 tax?

22 A Right. For the water.

23 Q Explain to the reader of this deposition what that  
24 means.

25 A When you mail out water bills, the taxes --

1 everything's taxed. And monthly you have to report to  
2 the state the amount that you have billed and the amount  
3 of taxes that have been received.

4 Q Okay. During January to June of 2024, were you  
5 employed anywhere else other than at the Town of Jasper?

6 A No.

7 Q You were county commissioner, though, weren't you?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Is that not a paid position?

10 A It is.

11 Q So are you not employed --

12 A I'm elected. I just didn't -- I'm elected. So, I  
13 guess it is a position. I'm an elected commissioner.  
14 Sorry.

15 MR. HICKEY: Let me object to the form. I'm  
16 not sure what the last question was.

17 Q I just was trying to get clarity. You are  
18 employed by the county -- Marion County, Tennessee in a  
19 role as commissioner, right?

20 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form. She's an  
21 elected county commissioner.

22 MR. FLORES: Okay. But I just want to make  
23 sure that we understand the differences between elected  
24 and employed.

25 MR. HICKEY: You can ask her her

1 understanding, but --

2 MR. FLORES: That's what I'm getting to.

3 BY MR. FLORES:

4 Q So, what do you know is the difference between  
5 being elected and being employed by a governmental  
6 entity?

7 A Elected is elected by the people, and that is how  
8 you perform your duty. You are elected as commissioner.  
9 As a hired employee, I would be hired by one of the  
10 offices, not necessarily the public.

11 Q Okay.

12 A I would be hired by, say, whatever department  
13 head, you know -- you know, like a Monday through Friday,  
14 or whatever hours those are.

15 Q All right. But does your source of income come  
16 from Marion County, Tennessee?

17 A My main source of income comes from the Town of  
18 Jasper.

19 Q I probably wasn't clear on that. As a  
20 commissioner, is your source of income from Marion  
21 County, Tennessee?

22 A We are paid monthly.

23 Q So is it yes or no, does -- let me ask this of  
24 you: Who's on -- do you get paid by check or --

25 A Direct deposit.

1 Q And does that direct deposit show it comes from  
2 Marion County, Tennessee?

3 A Yes.

4 Q How long have you been an elected commissioner for  
5 Marion County?

6 A I was elected in 2020.

7 Q When you were elected to take a role as  
8 commissioner, what did you understand your duties were to  
9 be?

10 A When I was elected as a county commissioner, I  
11 felt like that my position would be to represent my  
12 district. I'm District 4, Seat A. To represent the  
13 interests of the people in my district.

14 Q When did you take the role as the chairperson of  
15 the Marion County commission?

16 A They are typically -- I believe it is September.  
17 So, David Abbott would've been the chairperson at the  
18 time that I was elected. And he was there -- I'm not  
19 sure how many months, if it was a full year. But he had  
20 some health issues and he had to step down from the chair  
21 position, and I was nominated and elected by the  
22 commission.

23 Q So how does someone get put into the role of  
24 chairperson? I think you've touched on it just a little  
25 bit.

1           A    They -- there could be another commissioner that  
2 nominates, and then it's voted on by the commission.

3           Q    And how long do those commission chair positions  
4 last?

5           A    They vote yearly.

6           Q    So it would be a year position?

7           A    Yes, sir.

8           Q    All right. And you can be elected to that  
9 position as many times as the other commissioners decide  
10 to keep you in that position, right?

11          A    Yes. Yes.

12          Q    And when -- I understand that you are no longer  
13 the chairperson?

14          A    No, sir.

15          Q    And when did that role end?

16          A    It ended the following September.

17          Q    Of 2024?

18          A    We are going on -- Chris Morrison is the chair.  
19 He was the chair last year and he's just been appointed  
20 again for this term. So it would've been the year before  
21 that. And I have an elderly mother that I have to care  
22 for and she is now residing with me, and that  
23 responsibility -- I did not want that responsibility as  
24 chair, because there are times when I have to be with  
25 her.

1 Q So is it fair to say that you just asked not to  
2 have your name considered --

3 A Yes.

4 Q -- for the chairperson position?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Now, you touched on it --

7 I'm just going to go ahead and mark these now.

8 I'm going to show you a document. And it's titled  
9 Defendant Linda Mason's Answers to Plaintiff's  
10 Interrogatories and Requests for Production. There is a  
11 signature page on page -- well, it's not numbered, but it  
12 comes after 9 and before 10.

13 So first of all, do you recognize the page that  
14 bears a signature, purportedly of Linda Mason? It's a  
15 copy, but do you recognize that as your signature?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And take a look at the entire document I'm handing  
18 you, and tell me if you -- take your time looking at it,  
19 if you need to, and tell me if you've seen this document  
20 prior to today.

21 A I have.

22 MR. FLORES: All right. And if we could mark  
23 that as [Exhibit 13](#) [13A], please.

24 (Exhibit 13A was marked.)

25 Q If you would, Ms. Mason, if you can turn to page

1 4. And I'm going to look at interrogatory number 7. I  
2 had asked you in interrogatory 7 to describe your role  
3 and responsibilities as the chairperson from the periods  
4 of January until June 2024. And you've laid out, looks  
5 like, in a sentence what your role is. And it speaks for  
6 itself. Is there anything that you feel you need to add  
7 to interrogatory number 7? And take your time looking at  
8 it.

9 A Yes.

10 Q And what's that?

11 A There's, there's -- I mean, that's...

12 MR. HICKEY: His question was, do you need to  
13 add anything to it. You said yes. So --

14 A No, I don't need to add anything to it. I'm  
15 sorry, I misunderstood.

16 Q Now, I think you were in law enforcement at some  
17 point, were you not?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And where was that?

20 A The Town of Jasper.

21 Q And how long were you employed there?

22 A From 1997 to 2013.

23 Q And were you certified as a police officer by the  
24 Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission in the  
25 state of Tennessee?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q And is that, to your knowledge, is that known as  
3 POST?

4 A POST Commission, yes, sir.

5 Q And do you continue to hold a POST Commission  
6 certification?

7 A I believe after five years it goes inactive.

8 Q So it's inactive, but you have never been  
9 decertified?

10 A No, sir.

11 Q And your entire law enforcement career, was that  
12 through the Town of Jasper?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q And were you ever the chief of police for the Town  
15 of Jasper?

16 A No, sir.

17 Q And what was the highest rank that you ever held  
18 with Jasper Police Department?

19 A I was a patrolman.

20 Q And can you -- I'm going to ask you your  
21 experience as a police officer. Did you receive  
22 training -- hold on one second.

23 Did you receive any specific training as a police  
24 officer as to constitutional rights of anyone in the  
25 United States?

1           A     There was classes every year in inservice about  
2 different topics.

3           Q     Such as? Can you give us some examples? I know  
4 it was a long career, looks like.

5           A     Oh, yes. Nothing really stands out. Every year  
6 either the district attorney general or the general  
7 sessions judge or maybe even a circuit judge would come  
8 and do the legal portion of the inservice. And it was  
9 typically, you know, one of the either four- or  
10 eight-hour classes, depending on, you know, what they  
11 wanted to talk about. A lot of it was procedural;  
12 anything from orders of protection, you know, violations,  
13 and things like that. It's been a long, long time.

14          Q     Please take your time. And I know -- that's why I  
15 acknowledged, it's been a while.

16          A     And I would...

17                   MR. HICKEY: He's asking you about  
18 constitutional training. Just on the United States  
19 Constitution, correct?

20                   MR. FLORES: Yes.

21          A     Not anything specific. I don't remember anything  
22 specific.

23          Q     Okay. Who would conduct the training, that you  
24 recall?

25          A     It was coordinated by the Marion County Sheriff's

1 Department. And it was departments all over, and then  
2 they would have different trainers come in. There's the  
3 EVOC, there's the firearms, you know, different -- mental  
4 health persons, sexual abuse, and things like that. Just  
5 different speakers would come from other areas.

6 Q And on your yearly training, is that something  
7 that the POST Commission requires so you can keep your  
8 POST certification?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q And did you have any specific training on the  
11 First Amendment of the United States Constitution?

12 A No. Nothing specific.

13 Q Did you have any training, that you recall,  
14 whether it's -- let me back up. Where did you go to get  
15 your academy training? I was in law enforcement in South  
16 Carolina, and South Carolina had a central academy that  
17 everyone went to, whether it was SLED, highway patrol,  
18 workhouse.

19 A Right.

20 Q I understand Tennessee doesn't do that. But  
21 there's a training --

22 A TLETA.

23 Q -- academy somewhere in Tennessee. Did you attend  
24 the central academy in Tennessee?

25 A I did. Donelson, in Nashville.

1 Q Okay. And during your training there and  
2 subsequent, during your time with the Town of Jasper, did  
3 you have training on the issues -- or on the First  
4 Amendment to the United States Constitution?

5 A I don't -- nothing comes to mind specific. If it  
6 was training -- if we had any training, I would -- it  
7 would've been something brief. A lot of our training  
8 were, you know, were law related. I believe there is --  
9 they touched on things like that, yes, but I don't  
10 remember any testing. But that was 1997, and I don't...

11 Q And then subsequent from '97, you don't recall any  
12 training on the First Amendment?

13 A Nothing that stands out. Nothing that I remember.

14 Q What about the Fourth Amendment to the U.S.  
15 Constitution?

16 A The Fourth Amendment? Seizure? I feel like that  
17 there probably was, I mean, over the years. I felt like  
18 there probably was, but nothing specific comes, that I  
19 can just verbatim talk about.

20 Q Okay. What about the Fourteenth Amendment to the  
21 United States Constitution?

22 A The Fourteenth Amendment?

23 MR. HICKEY: If you know what it is.

24 Q If you know.

25 A I have no idea what that is. Honestly, I have --

1 I do not.

2 Q And what about training on the Fourteenth  
3 Amendment? Did you ever have any training on the  
4 Fourteenth Amendment?

5 A Not that I can remember, no.

6 Q So is it fair to say that you wouldn't know what  
7 the terms "prior restraints on free speech" and "due  
8 process of law" mean?

9 A No, sir.

10 Q Is it fair to say that --

11 A It's fair to say I don't know what the Fourteenth  
12 Amendment...

13 Q Now, when you first got elected or appointed as  
14 chairperson of the -- well, I'm getting ahead of myself.  
15 My apologies.

16 Prior to assuming the role as chairperson of the  
17 Marion County commission, what experience or training, if  
18 any, did you have in managing public comments at  
19 government meetings?

20 A None.

21 Q And as we sit here today, does anyone who gets  
22 elected to a position as county commissioner ever receive  
23 training on the rights of citizens to address the county  
24 commission?

25 A No specific training, no, sir.

1 Q Does anyone -- the same question, but does any  
2 person appointed -- I mean elected to the county  
3 commission receive training as to what the First  
4 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution means?

5 A No training.

6 Q Same question but to the Fourth Amendment.

7 A No training.

8 Q Same question but to the Fourteenth Amendment.

9 A No training.

10 Q What is your understanding of what the public  
11 comment portion of the county commission meeting means?

12 A Public comment? A citizen has the right to  
13 comment on matters that are on the agenda.

14 Q And that's even on the open county -- well, strike  
15 that. So it's your understanding that when someone --  
16 let me back up.

17 Lay out for me -- and I've got the agendas and the  
18 whole bit. We'll go over those in a minute. But your  
19 understanding as a county commission member -- need to  
20 make clear for the record.

21 As we sit here today, are you still on the Marion  
22 County commission?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q And what are the terms -- how long are your terms,  
25 the elected terms?

1 A They're four-year term.

2 Q And when do you come up for re-election?

3 A This next election.

4 Q Which will be next year?

5 A Next year, yes, sir.

6 Q All right. And when you ran for the position as a  
7 county commissioner, were you a Democrat, Independent, or  
8 Republican?

9 A Republican.

10 Q So, when you run -- when a chairperson is running  
11 the show, does the chairperson set the agenda for that  
12 particular meeting?

13 A I believe they have an agenda meeting, and anybody  
14 that has requested to be on the agenda is placed on the  
15 agenda. I believe David Jackson and Billy Gallagher is  
16 present, and the chairperson is typically present as  
17 well.

18 Q So tell us, Mr. Jackson, who is that?

19 A He is the mayor of Marion County.

20 Q And Billy Gallagher, who is that? And this is for  
21 the record.

22 A He is the attorney for Marion County.

23 Q Okay. And so if I understand you correctly, the  
24 agenda gets set prior to a commission meeting; is that  
25 right?

1           A    Yes.  It has to be advertised for 48 hours before  
2 the meeting.

3           Q    And when you say "advertised," how is that done?

4           A    It is on the website.

5           Q    Marion County website?

6           A    Right.  That would be David Jackson's  
7 responsibility to do that.

8           Q    Does he still -- was he holding that  
9 responsibility in the year 2024?

10          A    Yes, sir.

11          Q    And does he hold that position -- responsibility  
12 today?

13          A    Yes, sir.

14          Q    And so for someone to get on the agenda -- let's  
15 say I want to get on the agenda, and I live in Marion  
16 County or something, and I want to talk to y'all about  
17 something.  I just send in a request to be on the agenda?

18          A    You would send a request to David Jackson's office  
19 and he would put you on the agenda.

20          Q    And is that all a citizen has to do, is say, hey,  
21 I want to be on the agenda?

22          A    Well, you would have to give him a topic.

23          Q    Okay.  And the mayor and -- see if I understand  
24 this right.  It's basically three people make a decision  
25 who gets on the agenda?

1           A    No.  No.  We just go over the agenda, what is  
2 actually going to be on the agenda is what was always the  
3 case when I did it.

4           Q    When you did it?

5           A    Uh-huh.

6           Q    Was that yes?

7           A    Yes.  I'm sorry.  I'm sorry.  Yes.

8           Q    So, I just want to know what you know.

9           A    Right.

10          Q    So I understand now that to get on the agenda, I  
11 have to put in a request 48 hours prior to the  
12 commission --

13          A    It has to be advertised 48 hours.

14          Q    Gotcha.

15          A    So, there is an agenda meeting, it's typically  
16 maybe a week before --

17          Q    The commission meeting?

18          A    The commission meeting.  And then that way she can  
19 put the packets and things together and get them in the  
20 mail to the commissioners and it can be --

21          Q    And excuse the interruption.  My apology.  But who  
22 is "she"?

23          A    Denise Mason.  She is the secretary there that  
24 puts all the packets together.

25          Q    And is she related to you or Billy Mason?

1 A No.

2 Q And Billy Mason is your husband, right?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q And he's the chief of police of the Town of  
5 Jasper?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q All right. So, once someone's on the agenda and  
8 they come in and speak, is there an opportunity for the  
9 person to go off topic if the conversation between  
10 whoever's addressing the commission and a commissioner  
11 were to kind of change topics?

12 And let me try to explain it. Let's say I'm on  
13 the agenda and wanting to talk about water bills, and the  
14 agenda that day, week, whatever, is water bills. And I'm  
15 conversing with you about the water bill, and then  
16 somehow we go on to infrastructure and so on and so  
17 forth, you know, like the piping that runs the water, who  
18 would maintain that.

19 Is there a time where someone could go somewhat  
20 off topic, you know, stray off to other things?

21 A You would need -- if you wanted to talk about  
22 infrastructure we need to put that on the agenda, you  
23 know, so that we can, you know, prepare, you know, for --  
24 you know, if you wanted to know infrastructure questions,  
25 then we would have to, you know, find out maybe where we

1 were in infrastructure. If there's a specific question  
2 you wanted or whatever, we would need to put that on the  
3 agenda.

4 Q All right. So -- again, I'm just trying to  
5 understand and for the casual reader, too, of your  
6 deposition.

7 So, what I understand now is that if it tends to  
8 go off topic, even if the chair -- a commissioner was  
9 asking me a question about, in this hypothetical,  
10 infrastructure for the water, you know, the water, are  
11 you telling me that I would be shut down or told, hey,  
12 you can't talk about that?

13 A Are you talking about a commissioner was talking  
14 about infrastructure?

15 Q Yeah.

16 A Because we typically don't talk about water bills.  
17 But --

18 Q I was just using that as an example.

19 A Oh. But I mean, we would prefer that, you know,  
20 if it's off topic -- if it's off the topic that we were  
21 discussing, yes, you would -- we would need to...

22 Q Stop the conversation?

23 A We would need, we would need to set it for a  
24 different agenda, you know. I may tell, you know, David  
25 Jackson, you know, do we need to put this on next month's

1 agenda? Because I've done that before as a commissioner,  
2 you know, to request that it be put on a later agenda.

3 Q Okay. Now, is there a time during the commission  
4 meetings when you were the chairperson and as we sit here  
5 today, is there a time during any commission meeting  
6 where there is basically like an open mic; hey, public  
7 comments about whatever; someone wants to address the  
8 commission, here you go?

9 A If it's an agenda matter, yes.

10 Q Well, why does it have to be an agenda matter?

11 A That is just to keep our agenda, because if it was  
12 just a general open mic, then, one, we may not have the  
13 answers that they're looking for, and, two, we need to  
14 stay on topic as far as, you know -- like the agenda, you  
15 know, for it to be an orderly meeting and, you know, we  
16 need to hear the public comments -- like if it's -- if  
17 this agenda is talking about infrastructure, you know,  
18 persons having questions about infrastructure, we need to  
19 address their questions and their concerns and their  
20 needs without, you know, going off topic to a different  
21 topic altogether.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And I believe that we have addressed to our  
24 agendas for clarity that it has to be on topic.

25 Q When did that occur? Changing things for clarity

1 to be on topic, when did the commission do that?

2 A I would have to refer to David Jackson on that one  
3 because we -- we've put it on the agenda -- or I didn't.  
4 It has been placed, where the public comments are, must  
5 be related to an agenda item.

6 Q But when did that change? I may not have been  
7 clear when I first asked the question.

8 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

9 Q When was there this change that I think you're  
10 telling us about?

11 A It's not necessarily a change. It's always  
12 been --

13 (To Mr. Hickey) Do I need to...

14 MR. HICKEY: Yeah, go ahead.

15 A It's always been an understanding with the  
16 commission, you know. Without -- we needed the public to  
17 understand that it needed to be an agenda item that they  
18 were commenting on. So, that was the reason it was  
19 placed on there, because maybe it wasn't clear before.

20 Q Okay.

21 A If that makes any sense at all.

22 Q I'm going to show you what's been previously  
23 marked in this deposition as [Exhibit 5](#).

24 Now, have you seen this document? It's titled  
25 Marion County Commission Meeting, Monday, January 22,

1 2024. More on that in a minute.

2 But have you -- does this look familiar to you?

3 It's already been admitted as an exhibit.

4 A Yes.

5 Q It is familiar to you?

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q Is that yes?

8 A Yes, sir. I'm sorry.

9 Q Now, I understand that the date January 22, 2024  
10 wasn't the actual date of the meeting, it was January 29.  
11 Would you agree with me on that? That the January  
12 meeting wasn't on the 22nd of January but on the 29th?

13 A Without looking at my calendar --

14 MR. FLORES: Can we stipulate that that's  
15 when it actually occurred? Because I've got the minutes.

16 MR. HICKEY: I'm fine stipulating that the  
17 minutes reflect that the meeting was moved to the 29th  
18 based on, I think it says "increment weather," but I  
19 think that means "inclement weather."

20 MR. FLORES: Okay.

21 MR. HICKEY: It says what it says.

22 MR. FLORES: Gotcha.

23 BY MR. FLORES:

24 Q Ms. Mason, if you could take a look down at item  
25 number 25. That was a public comments entry in this

1 agenda, right?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Just hang onto [Exhibit 5](#). I'm going to show you a  
4 new document. It's titled Marion County Commission  
5 Meeting Monday, June 24, Agenda. Does this look familiar  
6 to you?

7 A Yes.

8 MR. FLORES: Can we mark that as our next  
9 exhibit, please?

10 ([Exhibit 14](#) was marked.)

11 Q Now, I notice on [Exhibit Number 14](#) there is no  
12 public comments entry in here at all.

13 A It would be number 6.

14 Q Number 6? Okay. Thank you.

15 And these are the agendas that you were telling us  
16 about are created after the meeting of three individuals  
17 you told us about: mayor, the chairperson, which would've  
18 been you at the time; is that correct?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And you said, I think, Denise Mason?

21 A Not Denise Mason.

22 Q I'm sorry. Mr. Gallagher.

23 A Mr. Gallagher, yes.

24 Q All right. So, in these public comments sections,  
25 is -- and I use the term "open mic." You may have a

1 different term. But is that basically like an open mic  
2 night at maybe a reading of poetry or something? You  
3 just talk about whatever is on your mind?

4 A No. No.

5 Q No? Well, how --

6 A It has to be -- it must pertain to an agenda item.

7 Q How would a member of the public know that? If  
8 they're looking at this agenda and, you know -- how would  
9 somebody know that?

10 A Okay. It was -- it's added to the public comments  
11 "must pertain to an agenda item" on the June 24th.

12 Q Okay. So [Exhibit 14](#), right? It says "Comments  
13 must pertain to an agenda item," right?

14 A Right.

15 Q Who made that decision to do that change?

16 A That is just what I was told, that it needed to  
17 pertain to an agenda item to keep the meeting in order  
18 and flowing.

19 Q Who told you? Because you used the term, you  
20 know, "I was told." Who told you that?

21 A That would be Billy Gallagher and David Jackson at  
22 the time.

23 Q Now, looking at [Exhibit 5](#), how would anyone know,  
24 looking at this agenda -- and is this -- by the way, are  
25 these agendas all posted publicly on the website for

1 everyone to see prior to the meetings?

2 A They are. Forty-eight hours.

3 Q Okay. And [Exhibit 5](#) and [Exhibit 14](#), if I were Joe  
4 Blow citizen, hey, what's on the agenda for this meeting,  
5 I would see [Exhibit 5](#) and [Exhibit 14](#); is that correct?

6 A Yes. There's a -- they made comments for people.  
7 And I believe you have to sign up -- you have to sign --  
8 there's a form back there.

9 MR. HICKEY: Hold on. He's asking if they  
10 look -- in advance of the meeting?

11 MR. FLORES: Yes.

12 MR. HICKEY: -- would they see those  
13 documents, what's on those.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes.

15 MR. FLORES: But I do want her to answer.

16 MR. HICKEY: I understand. Let's get an  
17 answer to the question.

18 THE WITNESS: Okay.

19 BY MR. FLORES:

20 Q So, are Exhibits 5 and 14, is that what Joe  
21 citizen would've seen if they went on the website to see  
22 what's on the agenda for a particular meeting?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And so looking at [Exhibit 5](#), it just says Public  
25 Comments, right?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Now, does anyone -- when they're making the public  
3 comments, is there a requirement that a person has to go  
4 to the microphone to address the commission?

5 A Typically you can't hear, so you're required to  
6 come to the mic. Because some people can't -- you  
7 can't -- yeah, they are, so that the recorder can get  
8 their name, that sort of thing.

9 Q How would someone know that prior to walking into  
10 a commission meeting, that they would have to go to the  
11 mic?

12 A A lot of times they're requested to go to the mic.

13 Q We're using passive voice. So, when you say a lot  
14 of times they're requested, who is doing the request?

15 A That would be the chairman.

16 Q Chairperson would. Gotcha. And did you receive  
17 any specific training from Marion County, from anyone  
18 involved with Marion County government about the rights  
19 of persons to address the commission or interact with the  
20 commission at the public meetings?

21 A No.

22 Q Now, what are the three branches of government?

23 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

24 Q Did you go to high school? You can answer.

25 A A long time ago.

1 Q Okay. Did you have any education in high school  
2 or college or subsequent as to things such as, you know,  
3 civic studies, such as the roles and functions of  
4 government?

5 A I'm not sure what that -- what you're asking.

6 Q In your educational experience, were you ever  
7 taught about the government structure of the United  
8 States of America?

9 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

10 Q You can still answer. You can still answer.

11 A Oh, okay. I didn't --

12 Q You can still answer.

13 MR. HICKEY: Yeah. I'll make an objection  
14 sometimes to the form of the question, but go ahead and  
15 answer it. If you don't need to answer it, then I'll  
16 tell you that.

17 A Forty-plus years ago.

18 Q I get it. I'm just trying to find out what your  
19 educational level is on basic civic studies, social  
20 studies, and your understanding today of the roles of  
21 government, the three branches of government. That's  
22 what I'm trying to get to.

23 A Well, it's federal, local, state. Is that what  
24 you're trying to...

25 Q You don't know what the three branches of

1 government are?

2 A Legislative.

3 Q Okay. Continue.

4 A There's the legislative, there is -- let me go  
5 back 40 years. Judicial and -- wait a minute. Give me a  
6 minute.

7 Q I'll help you out here. It's executive branch.

8 A That's it.

9 Q So you have --

10 A I was, I was -- the presidential, you know, that's  
11 what I was -- I was looking for the term. Thank you.

12 Q So you have three roles of government, whether  
13 it's county, city, state, or federal.

14 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

15 Q What is the role of the legislative branch of  
16 Marion County government? As you sit here today, what do  
17 you understand that role to be?

18 A We make --

19 MR. HICKEY: Object to form. Go ahead.

20 A -- decisions on -- budgetary decisions. We can do  
21 a resolution as far as, you know, if there is items that  
22 need to move to the state level, you know, we can send  
23 forms there. We govern the highway department, the  
24 sheriff's department, education, you know, the school  
25 budget, set the tax rates for the county. It's a lot of

1 the financial and the structural decision-making.

2 Q When you say structural decision-making, and you  
3 also mentioned the sheriff's office, does the Marion  
4 County commission set policies for the entire county  
5 governmental structure?

6 A The sheriff's department has their, you know,  
7 their procedural policies, and I'm not aware if the  
8 commission sets that policy.

9 Q What I'm asking is for government overall.

10 A Right.

11 Q Does the Marion County commission set the policies  
12 that the rest of -- you know, the executive branch of  
13 county government has to follow?

14 A I honestly -- I know that -- let me think a  
15 minute.

16 Q Absolutely. And don't worry about how it's  
17 worded. Don't worry about question, long pause and then  
18 an answer, okay. Don't sweat it, it's not going to read  
19 that way.

20 A You know, on the city level I know. On -- I feel  
21 like -- well, I honestly do not know.

22 Q All right.

23 A As far as the policies for the sheriff's  
24 department.

25 Q Well, I'm just talking about the exec -- the

1 policies are set by county commission. You agree with me  
2 that the commission doesn't execute policies or the laws  
3 or whatever resolutions are set by the commission, it's  
4 the executive branch. Would you agree with me on that?  
5 They're the ones that execute the laws set by the  
6 commission, right?

7 A Yes.

8 MR. HICKEY: Object to form.

9 Q And so the executive branch can also be the person  
10 in charge of street repairs, right? What is that, public  
11 works, public works guy?

12 A The streets -- or the highway department?

13 Q Highways, whatever.

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. And if -- they can't make their own  
16 decisions themselves outside of how they were to execute  
17 the laws set by the county commission, right?

18 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

19 A Okay.

20 Q Do you know?

21 A I guess. I don't know. I guess.

22 Q Okay. So, in your understanding, who is the final  
23 decision-maker for setting policies for Marion County  
24 government?

25 A The commission --

1 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

2 Q What was your answer?

3 A The commission.

4 Q The commission is. Okay. And does the  
5 chairperson of the county commission have veto power --  
6 that's improper.

7 If the county -- the chairperson of the county  
8 commission disagrees with a vote by the commission, can  
9 that chairperson override or somehow veto?

10 A No.

11 Q And why is that?

12 A That is the county mayor. The county mayor can  
13 veto.

14 Q And the county mayor, what branch of government  
15 does the county mayor occupy, judicial, executive or  
16 legislative?

17 A Executive.

18 Q What is your understanding of what the First  
19 Amendment to the United States Constitution protects?  
20 What are the rights that's contained within the First  
21 Amendment to the United States Constitution?

22 A To peacefully assemble and speak.

23 Q You understand what the term "prior restraint on  
24 free speech" means?

25 A No. I mean, that's, that's my knowledge of the

1 First Amendment, is peacefully assemble and speak.

2 Q And are there any other clauses or aspects of the  
3 First Amendment to the United States Constitution that  
4 you are familiar with?

5 A Not that I'm familiar with, no, sir.

6 Q So you don't know what the freedom of religion is  
7 that's laid out in the First Amendment? Do you?

8 A No.

9 Q What is your understanding what the Fourth  
10 Amendment to the United States Constitution protects?

11 A Search and seizure.

12 Q Of what?

13 A That's, that's it.

14 Q What about your understanding of the protections  
15 under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States  
16 Constitution?

17 A I do not have any. You would have to enlighten me  
18 on the Fourteenth Amendment. I don't have any --

19 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

20 Q And I'm just asking your understanding. So you  
21 don't know anything about --

22 A No.

23 Q -- the Fourteenth Amendment?

24 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

25 Q What policies, procedures or guidelines governed

1 the conduct of the Marion County commission meetings  
2 during the January 29th and June 24th commission meeting?

3 A We operate on the guidelines of the Robert's Rule  
4 of Order.

5 Q Okay. And can you explain to me what those are,  
6 Robert's Rule of Order?

7 A It is -- it's a large book.

8 Q All right. Well, I'm just wanting to know -- I  
9 just want to know what you know.

10 Because I understand in one of your answers in the  
11 interrogatories that "The Marion County commission  
12 patterns its meetings after Robert's Rules of Order."  
13 And that's going to be on page 3 of [Exhibit 13](#) [13A],  
14 which are your interrogatory responses.

15 So, if you would, enlighten me and the reader of  
16 your deposition -- it's interrogatory 4, Ms. Mason --  
17 what's the Robert's Rule of Order means, what you  
18 understand about it?

19 A My understanding is that there is an agenda set  
20 forth, and we go through the agenda, you know, and it is  
21 to be kept orderly. And other knowledge that I've got as  
22 far as Robert's -- I have not studied Robert's Rule of  
23 Order. And if I have a question, I always refer to Billy  
24 Gallagher as far as, you know, if that is permissible or  
25 if -- he is my source of, you know -- if I have a

1 question, as far as -- we go from one to whatever is down  
2 on the agenda.

3 Q All right.

4 A It is, you know -- that's how I did it.

5 Q That's how you did it?

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q All right. May have to bounce to it, but the  
8 recording of you in the January 29, 2024 commission  
9 meeting has you making certain comments -- or shows you  
10 making certain comments.

11 MR. FLORES: If I could have just a moment.

12 (11:03 to 11:05 off the record.)

13 MR. FLORES: Ms. Mason, I'm going to show you  
14 a document that is the complaint in this matter filed in  
15 the United States District Court on August 30, 2024. I'm  
16 going to ask to have it marked as [Exhibit 15](#).

17 ([Exhibit 15](#) was marked.)

18 BY MR. FLORES:

19 Q The lead page did a lead-in on there, on page 1 of  
20 [Exhibit 15](#). That's a quote that we'll look at later, and  
21 we'll go over this question in a little bit more detail  
22 towards the end.

23 But you're quoted as saying "I never follow the  
24 rules. I am opinionated." Now, do you agree with me  
25 that's a correct quote from you?

1 A It is a correct quote.

2 Q All right. Now, when you say you don't follow the  
3 rules, are we talking about the Robert's Rules of Order?

4 A No, sir.

5 Q What rules were you referencing that you don't  
6 follow?

7 A That was a jab at another commissioner. It was  
8 not -- it was in jest. It was not a literal statement.

9 Q Kind of like when folks have a disagreement with  
10 Donald Trump making some goofy comments, that --

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q -- it's supposed to be just a joke, right?

13 But you understand that the casual person,  
14 citizen, listening to a county commissioner make those  
15 comments may take that a different way, right?

16 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

17 A It was -- I was laughing at the time. I mean, it  
18 was, you know, it was just a jab at Commissioner Brandt  
19 who -- and, you know, everybody kind of chuckled a little  
20 bit. But it was not meant in a literal sense.

21 Q And we'll go over it more in detail on the video,  
22 but you agree with me you didn't clarify to the people  
23 that were watching you, including -- I mean, you realized  
24 that this was all recorded by --

25 A Absolutely.

1 Q -- a radio station, right?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And it was being live-streamed, right?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q So, what you may've thought was a joke and  
6 everyone went ha-ha-ha, you agree with me that there  
7 could've been several, you know, people who would have  
8 not taken that as a joke, right?

9 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

10 Q You can answer, if you can.

11 A There could be, yes.

12 Q Okay. Now going back to -- we're going to bounce  
13 here a little bit now.

14 Going back to Exhibits 5 and 14, which are the  
15 agenda, were there any -- during these two meeting, were  
16 you following any other written rules regarding public  
17 comments? I'm talking about outside of Robert's Rules of  
18 Order.

19 A No.

20 Q What rules, as we sit here now, what rules were  
21 you following on January 22nd and January 24th when you  
22 directed Mr. Thomas to be removed from the commission  
23 meeting? And let's stay with January 22nd. We  
24 understand it's the 29th, but because [Exhibit 5](#) has it as  
25 the 22nd I want to use that date.

1           What rules were you following when you had  
2 Mr. Thomas removed from the meeting?

3           A    He was being argumentative and disruptive to the  
4 meeting; he would not stay on point as far as the topics  
5 that he was discussing. He had, he had an opportunity to  
6 have it placed on the agenda, but he would not  
7 actually -- he was wanting to, you know, to speak on  
8 things that were not on the agenda. And --

9           Q    You would agree -- continue, please.

10          A    And he just -- he was just causing a disturbance.  
11 He was very argumentative and disruptive.

12          Q    And we've got video of all this, and I'm sure  
13 you've seen it.

14          A    Yes, sir.

15          Q    I think maybe someone else may think differently.  
16 But --

17                   MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

18          Q    If we could take a look at -- what I'm wanting to  
19 do, Ms. Mason, as I'm looking through here, I don't want  
20 to put duplicative stuff into this record.

21                   MR. HICKEY: Are you looking for the minutes?

22                   MR. FLORES: I've got them right here. I  
23 don't see June 24th, so we'll get to that.

24                   MR. HICKEY: Robin, I don't think we made --  
25 the June 24th, I don't think that's an exhibit.

1 BY MR. FLORES:

2 Q How was Mr. Thomas being disruptive to the  
3 meeting?

4 A He was -- first, he didn't want to come to the  
5 mic. Then he was talking over me. I didn't -- I wasn't  
6 sure what exactly he was trying to discuss, and I was  
7 trying to ask him what he was wanting to discuss. And  
8 he, he just was argumentative. He didn't want to answer  
9 what I was trying to ask him or what I was -- the point I  
10 was trying to make. He just wanted to argue. And he  
11 continued, and he continued to stay off topic and not on  
12 the topic that we had previously talked about with, I  
13 believe it was Mr. Leonard.

14 Q Donald Leonard, correct?

15 A Yes, yes. And that was -- he was -- just would  
16 not stay on topic, and he just wanted to argue. And he  
17 was very argumentative, and it was disrupting the  
18 meeting.

19 Q And we'll go to the video here in a bit, but  
20 there's a point there where you were pointing at  
21 Mr. Thomas -- Mr. Morgan, and you're saying "Look, buddy,  
22 we're not going to go there." And you're actually  
23 pointing at him. Would that not be argumentative as  
24 well?

25 A I was just trying to get him to stop and stay on

1 topic.

2 Q You understand you weren't a police officer during  
3 that time, right?

4 A No, I was not.

5 Q All right. And you also understand that  
6 Mr. Morgan was trying to address you during the public  
7 comments part of the meeting; is that correct?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Can you describe in detail what happened during  
10 the January 29th -- or 22nd meeting, from your  
11 perspective, particularly during the time that the  
12 plaintiff was addressing the commission?

13 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

14 A I'm not sure what you're --

15 Q You're not sure what I'm asking?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Okay. Fine. Take a look at [Exhibit 13](#) [13A].

18 You got it there in front of you. Take a look at  
19 interrogatory number 3. And it goes on to page 2 -- I  
20 mean from page 2 to page 3. And what I'm asking you, is  
21 there -- can you describe in detail what happened during  
22 the January 22 meeting, from your perspective,  
23 specifically during the time the plaintiff, Mr. Morgan,  
24 was trying to address the commission?

25 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form. I believe

1 that's been asked and answered.

2 MR. FLORES: Well, that's -- she can still  
3 try to answer.

4 A He was just being -- from what I remember, he was  
5 being disruptive; he was very argumentative; he was  
6 angry; he was very agitated. He was talking about  
7 something that I was -- I wasn't following what he was  
8 trying -- it was clearly not something about Pull Tight  
9 Road. It was -- and I was trying to figure out what  
10 exactly he was talking about. I knew it wasn't on the  
11 agenda.

12 But you, you couldn't really make any kind of  
13 connection with him, because he just wanted to argue. I  
14 mean, I just felt like that he wanted an argument, and  
15 that was not, you know, that was not productive to the  
16 meeting. It was not something that we could, you know --  
17 you can't calmly talk about something if it's an  
18 argument. If it's a heated argument you can't talk about  
19 things.

20 Q Well --

21 A And I couldn't -- and I didn't know that he -- you  
22 couldn't -- he would not stay on topic.

23 Q But it's a public -- I mean, how would someone  
24 know -- what I'm trying to understand is, when you have  
25 an agenda that says public comments, and there's no other

1 advertisement or notice to the citizenry that they have  
2 to follow some specific guidelines set by the commission  
3 during public comments, how would anyone know, until  
4 they're talking to you, that they had to follow some  
5 specific rule or guideline or --

6 A I couldn't get him calmed down long enough to  
7 explain to him that he had to stay on topic, you know.  
8 He, he was in a rant and...

9 Q Okay.

10 A You couldn't, you couldn't tell him anything. He  
11 didn't want to be told -- he didn't want to be advised on  
12 anything.

13 Q All right.

14 A I didn't want to keep him from talking. I mean,  
15 he was more than welcome to talk, but he had to talk  
16 about something that was on that agenda. And you  
17 couldn't, you couldn't, you couldn't communicate with  
18 him.

19 Q Ma'am, we've got video of this.

20 A Okay.

21 Q But that's your position, it was all him?

22 A That's my position, yes.

23 MR. HICKEY: Object to form.

24 Q Were there any changes or reviews of meeting  
25 procedures following either incident with the plaintiff?

1 A No.

2 Q None? Well, then what was the change here on the  
3 public comments on the agenda, [Exhibit 14](#), item 6, public  
4 comments? What prompted the change, "comments must  
5 pertain to the agenda"?

6 A That's just for clarity.

7 Q Clarity. But what prompted that? Do you know?  
8 That change.

9 A You would have to ask David Jackson.

10 Q But don't you have input on that?

11 A I feel like that that was a good move, you know,  
12 because --

13 Q Here's my question. I'm sorry, I may have not  
14 said it correctly.

15 Don't you have input on changes to the agenda, as  
16 a commission person -- I mean the chairperson?

17 A Anybody that wants to be placed on the agenda...

18 Q What I'm asking is --

19 MR. HICKEY: That's not what he's asking.

20 Q Did you not, as chairperson of the commission,  
21 have input on the changes to the way meetings are  
22 conducted or changes to these agendas?

23 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure what he's asking.

24 MR. HICKEY: I'm happy to try, if you want me  
25 to.

1 MR. FLORES: Yeah, if you can.

2 MR. HICKEY: What he's asking is, if Mayor  
3 Jackson or, I think you said Billy Gallagher, if they  
4 suggested a change in how the agenda is actually drafted,  
5 could you give your input on it?

6 THE WITNESS: I could give my input, yes.

7 MR. HICKEY: Was that fair, Robin?

8 MR. FLORES: Yes.

9 BY MR. FLORES:

10 Q Did you give your input for the change to Exhibit  
11 14, that we see on [Exhibit 14](#)?

12 A No. I, I -- I didn't request that, no.

13 Q Now, Billy --

14 A But I'm not opposed to it either. I feel like  
15 that it gives clarity.

16 Q During the commission meetings, Billy Gallagher  
17 sits to your immediate -- sat to your immediate left; is  
18 that correct?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q And his function is, while you're there at the  
21 commission meeting, is to do what?

22 A If I have any questions or if any of the  
23 commissioners have any questions, they can address them  
24 to Billy Gallagher. He is much more knowledgeable on  
25 procedures and things like that.

1 Q From your understanding, does Mr. Gallagher have  
2 any duty to pipe in or, you know, advise you if he sees  
3 something that may not be being done properly during a  
4 commission meeting?

5 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

6 A I would hope that he -- if there was something  
7 that I was doing that I was not supposed to be doing that  
8 he would say, well, no, he can, or she can, or, you know.  
9 I would hope that that would be the case.

10 Q But you don't know of any policy or regulation or  
11 anything --

12 A I don't know of any policy, no, sir.

13 Q Okay. And in this particular case, Mr. Gallagher  
14 never -- in both meetings, January and June 2024,  
15 involving the plaintiff, Mr. Gallagher never intervened  
16 or stepped in and said, hey, look, you probably need to  
17 rethink this?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q I think you've already addressed the next  
20 question.

21 MR. FLORES: Did you want to take a break?

22 MR. HICKEY: Well, when you get to a point, I  
23 wouldn't mind.

24 MR. FLORES: What time is it?

25 MR. HICKEY: It's 11:25.

1 MR. FLORES: Let's go ahead and take a break,  
2 Ms. Mason.

3 (Recess from 11:25 to 11:34.)

4 BY MR. FLORES:

5 Q Ms. Mason, we're going to be moving over to the  
6 June meeting here, but a couple more questions about  
7 January.

8 What was specific statements or actions by  
9 Mr. Morgan that led you to -- I'm going to use the term  
10 "interrupt," you may think it otherwise, but to interrupt  
11 him and to stop him as he was talking?

12 A He was -- he started talking about -- there was --  
13 if I'm remembering correctly, he started talking about  
14 some things that were going on on Suck Creek Mountain  
15 that had nothing to do really with that. And he was --  
16 he started talking about the railroad, the quiet zone  
17 there that he has been wanting on his property there on  
18 Pull Tight. The subject was, the drug use and people  
19 shooting the signs and things there on Pull Tight Road.

20 It wasn't -- and I was trying to get clarity.  
21 Because when he mentioned some of the other things, I --  
22 that's -- I was not quite understanding what that was  
23 having to do with the drug use and the firing on the  
24 street signs. I was kind of -- I was trying to bring him  
25 back to point, and it wasn't working.

1 Q At what point did you decide to seek law  
2 enforcement's help to remove the plaintiff from the  
3 meeting? And tell us why.

4 A When I felt like that, you know, he, he was just  
5 wanting an argument and a disruption instead of actually  
6 addressing the issue that was on -- you know, he was just  
7 disrupting the meeting in general, was when I decided  
8 that, you know, it's probably best that I have him  
9 removed.

10 Q You understand that's a seizure, isn't it?

11 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

12 A No.

13 Q Okay.

14 A He was not placed under arrest.

15 Q What is your understanding -- I mean because you  
16 tell me you had a law enforcement career.

17 A Uh-huh.

18 Q Is that yes?

19 A Yes. I'm sorry.

20 Q No, no. No apology necessary. I'll point to the  
21 court reporter to get it.

22 So, do you understand that the amendments to the  
23 Constitution -- and there are 25 of them, but do you  
24 understand that the first ten amendments to the  
25 Constitution talk about rights of the individuals? Do

1 you understand that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And I know from your prior testimony, you didn't  
4 really know much about the Fourteenth or First  
5 Amendments. Is still a fair statement?

6 A I mean, there -- it's a lot. I mean --

7 Q But you don't understand much of it?

8 A But not -- no. I just know in general.

9 Q In general. Okay. But as a police officer you  
10 understand, from your police training you understand that  
11 the Fourth amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects  
12 citizens from unreasonable seizures of persons, places,  
13 papers, and homes and effects, right?

14 A In, in -- my understanding is a seizure is a  
15 seizure of their body, not, you know -- they are being --  
16 he was being ejected from the meeting, from the building.  
17 He was just not allowed to be in the building.

18 Q Okay. And do you --

19 A He was not deprived of, you know -- he wasn't  
20 arrested, he wasn't placed under arrest. He wasn't  
21 touched.

22 Q I want to make sure I understand you, your  
23 understanding. Your understanding of the Fourth  
24 Amendment to the United States Constitution is that a  
25 seizure would require someone being placed under arrest.

1 Is that what I am hearing?

2 A Detained or -- detained or placed under arrest.

3 Q What does detain mean?

4 A Detained means that you are not free to leave.

5 Q Okay. Can someone be detained when they're being  
6 taken from point A to point B against their will?

7 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

8 A No.

9 Q No? Do you understand that the -- the Bill of  
10 Rights are the first ten amendments to the Constitution.  
11 Do you understand that the Bill of Rights apply not just  
12 to police officers but to government officials?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Which would include you?

15 A Me.

16 Q At the time of these events?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q All right. Now, the interaction -- again, the  
19 video will speak for itself -- it lasted less than one  
20 minute and 53 seconds. During that one minute 53 second  
21 period of time, why did you think it was necessary to  
22 have the sheriff and then eventually Dale Winters take  
23 the plaintiff from the commission meeting?

24 A Because he was being disruptive to the meeting.

25 Q And you understand an argument -- it takes two to

1 argue, right?

2 A I was not arguing with him. I was --

3 Q You weren't arguing with him?

4 A No.

5 Q All right. And we'll look at it.

6 So what -- did you believe that the plaintiff's  
7 conduct violated any specific rule or policy? And if so,  
8 which ones?

9 A He was just being disruptive.

10 Q But which --

11 A To the order of the meeting.

12 Q But which rule or policy did you believe he was  
13 violating? And I'm asking specifically. Was there a  
14 rule that he was violating?

15 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

16 A I cannot tell you a specific rule.

17 Q What about a policy? Was there a policy of the  
18 commission he was violating?

19 A I can't tell you a specific policy.

20 Q Did you consult with either any other commission  
21 member, Billy Gallagher, the county attorney, or law  
22 enforcement prior to deciding to remove Mr. Morgan from  
23 the meeting?

24 A No.

25 Q And I know we've got the names of all the

1 commission members. Those would show up on the minutes,  
2 would they not?

3 A Yes.

4 Q So besides the other commission members, the high  
5 sheriff of Marion County, Mr. Winters -- or Deputy  
6 Winters, who else can you identify that was present  
7 during the January 29th meeting -- 22nd meeting?

8 A It appears that all were present.

9 Q But who else? I mean, did you recognize anybody  
10 in the audience, like Donald Leonard or other  
11 individuals?

12 A Let's see. There's some people that, I mean, that  
13 I know their names.

14 Q What are their names?

15 A There's Don Willis was there.

16 Q Don who?

17 A Don Willis.

18 Q Don Willis?

19 A Yeah. There's Jimmy Sneed, he was there. Let me  
20 think. Dusty Adkins, she was there.

21 Q Does she work over at the clerk and master's  
22 office?

23 A Yes, yes. I believe there was Dale Higdon and his  
24 wife were there.

25 Q And these are folks that you know and that --

1           A    I just know their names.  If I thought about it I  
2 could probably remember some...

3           Q    That's fine.

4           A    But those are typically at most of the meetings.

5           Q    Now, going back to the comment that I asked you  
6 about on [Exhibit 15](#), you'd said that was a joke, people  
7 were laughing?

8           A    It was a joke.  In jest.

9           Q    But what did you mean by that, that "I'm  
10 opinionated"?  What did you mean by that?

11          A    It was just something that he and Paul Schafer,  
12 another commissioner, you know, they're all the time,  
13 they're, you know, conspiracy theorists, you know, good  
14 old boy things, and "nobody ever follows the rules," you  
15 know.  Those kind of things are things that they, you  
16 know, bring up on a regular basis.  And it was just a jab  
17 back, you know, "nobody ever follows the rules" and, you  
18 know, I -- at one point he said that I was opinionated.  
19 And I said, yeah, I am, you know.  So that's basically --  
20 it's just a joke.

21          Q    But that was -- what did you mean by "I never  
22 follow the rules"?

23                   MR. HICKEY:  Object to the form.

24          A    That -- you know, basically that's -- Ruric  
25 Brandt, you know, is repeatedly saying that, you know,

1 "nobody follows the rules," and, you know, and he's all  
2 the time, you know, making remarks like that. So that  
3 was just a remark back at him about...

4 Q And we have the dialogue between you and him also  
5 on video.

6 What led to that, do you agree with me, is that  
7 Mr. Brandt had a concern that he was raising about how  
8 you were conducting business when it came to recusing  
9 yourself and letting the vice chair handle a particular  
10 situation? You would agree with me on that, right?

11 A I agree.

12 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

13 Q Because, you know, it's recorded. So are you  
14 telling --

15 A And nobody had ever told me that that was, you  
16 know, Robert's Rule of Order or -- I don't even know  
17 where he actually found -- or where he got that  
18 documentation. I don't know. And nobody ever said  
19 anything about the chairperson could not, you know, be in  
20 a discussion.

21 Q Were those comments directed toward Mr. Brandt to  
22 discount his concerns?

23 A No. No. Not at all.

24 Q Was it your understanding that Mr. Brandt did not  
25 find those comments that you made funny?

1           A    He doesn't find a whole lot funny.  But I have no  
2 problem with Mr. Brandt.

3           Q    Now, was there -- after the plaintiff was removed,  
4 did you make a threat or tell Donald Leonard basically to  
5 shut up, that if he continued to talk he could leave too?

6           A    I don't recall telling him to shut up.

7           Q    Did you ever tell -- interrupt him and tell him  
8 that he could go next?  Again, we got the video of it.  
9 Do you remember something like that when --

10          A    I remember standing up, and I do remember him --  
11 telling him that he could be removed as well.

12          Q    Why?  Why did you tell him that?

13          A    Because you have to maintain order in those  
14 meetings.  That's one thing that I was told, that you had  
15 to maintain order in the meeting.

16          Q    Who told you that?

17          A    Just different, different commissioners.  I don't  
18 know exactly, you know -- because I was brand-new.  I was  
19 a brand-new commissioner.  So, I did not know how to  
20 conduct a meeting.

21          Q    And that's because you, like you testified before,  
22 you didn't have any training?

23          A    And --

24          Q    Is that correct?

25          A    That is correct.  And so, you know, you just

1 maintain order of the meeting and you don't allow, you  
2 know, people to disrupt the meeting, and you move  
3 forward, you move forward with the meeting, stay on  
4 topic. And that's what I was attempting to do.

5 Q And if you personally didn't like what somebody  
6 was saying, what do you believe your authority was at the  
7 time to respond, shut them up, tell him you can't say  
8 that?

9 A Well, I don't want to tell somebody that they --  
10 just because I disagree with them doesn't give them -- me  
11 the right to stop them from talking. So, they still have  
12 their right to talk.

13 Q Do you know if Mr. Morgan was charged with any  
14 offence, ticketed or cited as a result of the removal?

15 A Not that I'm aware of, no.

16 MR. FLORES: All right. So we're going to  
17 shift now to the video. That's going to be Exhibit 12.

18 (11:45 to 11:52 off the record.)

19 MR. FLORES: We're going to start  
20 approximately at -- on the timer on the lower left-hand  
21 corner of this video, Exhibit 12, it's at 1 hour 37  
22 minutes 14 seconds. And this is a conversation, Ms.  
23 Mason, that you're having -- or actually Mr. Brandt --  
24 he's the fellow on the lower right-hand side wearing a --  
25 I don't know kind of what you call that. It looks like

1 something that...

2 MR. HICKEY: I don't know what it's called.

3 (Video plays.)

4 BY MR. FLORES:

5 Q Sound like -- it was obvious Mr. Gallagher was  
6 addressing -- answering Mr. Brandt's question. Why did  
7 you feel necessary to make those comments, basically  
8 interrupting Mr. Gallagher?

9 A Well, he had already finished talking. But I was  
10 just -- it was just in jest.

11 Q But that was -- that question was basically  
12 directed to you, wasn't it, from Mr. Brandt?

13 A I felt like that -- I mean, he was addressing  
14 everyone there, I mean, actually, you know. Because what  
15 he was bringing there was information, you know. Now, I  
16 had never heard that. I had never heard what he was  
17 bringing there. Nobody had ever said, hey, you know, if  
18 you're going to, you know, if you're going to debate a  
19 topic or speak on a topic, or whatever, you're not  
20 supposed to do that in the chair seat. You would --  
21 nobody said anything about relinquishing to the vice  
22 chair to me at any point.

23 Because I am a rule follower, and anybody that  
24 knows me knows that. Am I opinionated? Absolutely. I'm  
25 a female. A lot of females are. But I'm not opinionated

1 to the point where I do not follow the rules. Because if  
2 it is a rule that I am aware of, I will absolutely follow  
3 that rule.

4 Q How would you follow a rule if you've never had  
5 training on the rules like you told us before?

6 A Like I said, if I knew about a rule, you know.  
7 Nobody had ever said that.

8 Q Don't you think as the chairperson of the  
9 policy-maker of Marion County that it would've been  
10 incumbent upon you to familiarize yourself with Robert's  
11 Rules of Order?

12 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

13 A I refer to Billy Gallagher and David for  
14 knowledge, you know.

15 Q David Jackson, the mayor?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. But you understand that these are co-equal  
18 branches of government?

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q And are you telling us that you would defer to the  
21 mayor, the head of the executive branch of government,  
22 for knowledge?

23 A Well, he has been in these meetings for a long,  
24 long time, and he has knowledge that I do not have.

25 Q But --

1 A So --

2 Q Sorry. Didn't mean to do that.

3 A And I mainly -- you know, any questions that I  
4 have, you know, Billy Gallagher has always been more than  
5 happy to answer those questions.

6 That particular question or that statement had  
7 never come up. As far as I'm aware, it's never came up.

8 Q As we sit here today, do you realize that  
9 Mr. Brandt was actually correct?

10 A Well, Billy Gallagher said he was. So, yes. So  
11 from that point forward, you know, now I know.

12 Q But you had no training?

13 A No, sir, I did not.

14 Q And you didn't take it upon yourself to  
15 familiarize yourself with the rules, Robert's Rules of  
16 Order, right?

17 A Just if I had a question, I asked.

18 Q Now we're going to go to public comments.

19 (Video plays.)

20 There was one other thing I wanted to ask you.

21 (Video plays.)

22 Did you see Mr. Brandt laughing?

23 A No.

24 MR. FLORES: Time stamp is one minute -- 1  
25 hour 37 minutes 32 seconds.

1 (Video plays.)

2 MR. FLORES: Time stamp 1 hour 49 minutes 5  
3 seconds.

4 (Video plays.)

5 Q So at 1 hour 50 seconds and about -- 1 hour 50  
6 minutes and about 20 seconds, this is where the public  
7 comment portion of the meeting occurred, correct?  
8 Because you said, "Does anybody have any public  
9 comments?" Is that correct?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q All right. And then at 1 hour 50 minutes 31  
12 seconds, you had -- you limited -- I think you said "if  
13 it's on the agenda," correct?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And so that would be the first time that anyone  
16 would know that if they're making a public comment, it  
17 has to be on the agenda; is that correct?

18 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

19 A That's correct.

20 (Video plays.)

21 Q So, starting at approximately 1 hour 50 minutes  
22 and 40 seconds, that's Mr. Morgan starting to address  
23 you; is that correct? And we'll see it more in a minute.

24 A Okay.

25 Q We'll just keep going.

1 (Video plays.)

2 At 1 hour 50 minutes and approximately 54  
3 seconds, Mr. Morgan is addressing you, correct? He  
4 announced his name.

5 A Yes.

6 (Video plays.)

7 Q So at 1 hour 51 seconds and 20 -- 51 minutes and  
8 23 seconds he's asking you about what you folks discussed  
9 was spending a couple million dollars on some roads. You  
10 folks actually discussed that during this meeting, did  
11 you not, expenditure of money on an undeveloped roadway?

12 A No.

13 Q You don't remember that? All right.

14 (Video plays.)

15 At 1 hour 51 minutes and 25 seconds you're saying  
16 "Okay, buddy." And we can back it up. And you're  
17 pointing your figure at him. We'll go through the whole  
18 thing.

19 (Video plays.)

20 Okay. So, again, why did -- I mean, it speaks for  
21 itself, but, you know, I got my opinion on how you were  
22 behaving.

23 But why did you -- leading up to this, we were  
24 looking at other parts of this video and folks were --  
25 you were addressing folks, looking straight toward the

1 camera and not to the microphone, which was to your  
2 right, to the left of the viewer of this video, correct?

3 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

4 A Yes. On this side (indicating), yes.

5 Q To the left of the screen that we're looking at,  
6 and it was to your right.

7 So why did you make Mr. Morgan go to the  
8 microphone, when two other individuals spoke to you from  
9 the audience?

10 A Typically the people -- if you are on the agenda  
11 to speak, you go to the mic, you, you know, you tell your  
12 name. And from this, I can hear him because the volume  
13 is up, but from up there, a lot of times what they're  
14 talking about, you can get bits and pieces of what  
15 they're talking about, but if they're not at the mic you  
16 can't understand them.

17 Q But why didn't you tell him that instead of just  
18 saying "If you want to speak, you've got to go to the  
19 mic"? Why didn't you just tell him, "Hey, I can't hear  
20 you. Why don't you go to the microphone"?

21 A Well, I mean, that's just the way I, you know...

22 Q Just the way you talk? Is that how you talk to  
23 people?

24 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

25 A Is that how I talk to people?

1 Q Yeah.

2 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

3 Q "Hey, buddy"?

4 A Not --

5 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

6 Q I'm just asking if that's how you address folks  
7 normally.

8 MR. HICKEY: Asking her how? You've asked  
9 her --

10 MR. FLORES: Yeah. Rudely.

11 MR. HICKEY: Okay. So he wants to know if  
12 you are rude to people.

13 MR. FLORES: Yeah.

14 THE WITNESS: No, I'm not rude to people.

15 MR. FLORES: Starting back at 1 hour 51  
16 minutes and 38 seconds.

17 (Video plays.)

18 BY MR. FLORES:

19 Q Okay. At 1 hour 51 minutes 45 seconds, he goes to  
20 the microphone, and you asked him "You're talking about  
21 Pull Tight Road?" And he says, "Yes, ma'am." Right?  
22 Correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q He doesn't say, "yeah," "yeah, buddy," or anything  
25 like that, right?

1           A     Right.

2                     (Video plays.)

3           Q     So at 1 hour 52 minutes and 1 second, he obviously  
4 has a problem with you, what he believes you're  
5 interrupting. Was he incorrect? Were you interrupting  
6 him?

7                     MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

8           A     I was trying to figure out -- he was not -- he was  
9 talking about something completely separate as far as the  
10 Pull Tight Road that was on the agenda. He, he was  
11 bringing up something completely different than what was  
12 actually on the agenda.

13          Q     All right. So that's why you felt like you had to  
14 interrupt him?

15          A     I was trying to get clarity.

16                     (Video plays.)

17          Q     At 1 hour 52 minutes and 5 seconds you immediately  
18 go to "I can have you removed right now." Why did you do  
19 that? You had less than 30 seconds here. Why did you  
20 make that quick decision?

21                     MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

22          A     Because he was being aggressive.

23          Q     How was he being aggressive?

24          A     He -- when -- as soon as he stood up he had an  
25 aggressive tone, he was being aggressive, talking about

1 different, you know -- the money spent on another road;  
2 trying to, you know, take the meeting into a different  
3 area than --

4 Q What does aggression mean to you?

5 A Aggression?

6 Q Yeah.

7 A You know, just an aggressive tone, just an  
8 attacking tone. Not physically attacking, verbally  
9 attacking.

10 Q So, point your figure and saying "Look, buddy,  
11 we're not going to go there," that's not being  
12 aggressive? Because that's what you did.

13 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

14 A No.

15 Q No? All right. You never met him -- that was the  
16 first time you met him, wasn't it?

17 A I can't remember if he's ever been -- that may've  
18 been the first time. I don't recall if I've ever met  
19 him.

20 Q He was there at a November 2023 meeting. You  
21 didn't have interaction with him then?

22 A No, I don't feel like I did.

23 Q And so let's march on from that time stamp, one  
24 hour 52 minutes 5 seconds.

25 (Video plays.)

1                   Isn't it more correct, Ms. Mason, you  
2 just didn't like what he had to say and you were shutting  
3 him up and having him removed?

4           A     No. I wanted him to get on the agenda.

5           Q     In 30 seconds you made that decision?

6           A     Yes.

7           Q     Okay.

8           A     That was not on the agenda.

9           Q     All right. But again --

10          A     The firearms was on the agenda.

11          Q     Again, the notice that's in [Exhibit 5](#) doesn't put  
12 anyone that's coming up to speak to you -- you being the  
13 commission, had any pre-notice that, hey, you have to  
14 talk only about what's on the agenda. You agree with  
15 that, right? It's on the exhibit.

16          A     In the agenda. But I did tell them, as far as  
17 public comment, it had to be something that was on the  
18 agenda.

19          Q     Okay. And that's not -- you don't think that's  
20 restraining speech?

21          A     No, sir.

22          Q     And so why did you have the sheriff of Marion  
23 County go over there and, like we see at time stamp 1  
24 hour 52 minutes and 24 seconds? Why did you do that?

25          A     Because he was the only law enforcement officer at

1 the moment that I saw there.

2 Q Okay. We'll march on from that last time stamp.

3 (Video plays.)

4 So at 1 hour 52 minutes and 31 seconds, you now  
5 recognized Deputy Winters, correct?

6 A Deputy Winters had stood up.

7 Q So the answer is yes, you recognized that he was  
8 present?

9 A I recognized, yes.

10 Q Why did you have a second police officer go over  
11 to remove the plaintiff?

12 A I just felt like that together that they could  
13 have peacefully, possibly peacefully, you know, removed  
14 him.

15 Q As a police officer you understand the force --  
16 use of force continuum, don't you?

17 A There was no force used.

18 Q As a police officer you understand -- a former  
19 police officer with training, you understand what the use  
20 of force continuum is, don't you?

21 A I do.

22 Q All right. And what is that of force continuum,  
23 as you sit here today, what you understand it to be?

24 A At this point it would've been verbal.

25 Q Okay. So what is the use of force continuum?

1 That's what I'm asking you. Not at this point. What is  
2 your understanding of the use of force continuum?

3 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

4 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure I understand what  
5 he's...

6 Q You said you were a police officer and you're POST  
7 certified, right?

8 A I am -- I was.

9 Q You've made arrests in the past, correct?

10 A I have.

11 Q You've had to use levels of force, right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q You had training on what the continuum of the use  
14 of that force was, correct?

15 A That is correct.

16 Q What is your understanding of that use of force  
17 continuum?

18 A You use what level of force is necessary to effect  
19 an arrest.

20 Q Okay. And what are the levels?

21 A You have verbal, you have hands on.

22 Q Would that also be known as soft hands?

23 A Soft hands.

24 Q Okay. What's next?

25 A You have -- I think it's changed since I was

1 there. You --

2 MR. HICKEY: Just answer as best you can.

3 Q Just answer the question.

4 A Then it -- from soft hands, you have hand to hand,  
5 and then you have deadly force.

6 Q Okay. Now --

7 A And which, I mean -- there's -- now there's tasers  
8 and...

9 Q At the time when you were a police officer you had  
10 second-level impact weapons, right? Baton, slapjack,  
11 pepper spray, right?

12 MR. HICKEY: Object to form.

13 A Pepper spray.

14 Q So also, does your -- as a police officer were you  
15 trained that a show of force, meaning more than one  
16 police officer, would be a way to coerce someone or get  
17 someone to comply with your commands?

18 A That is correct.

19 Q And so at this point you had a force multiplier  
20 with a second law enforcement officer to remove the  
21 plaintiff. Would you agree with me on that?

22 A I agree.

23 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

24 Q You do agree with that?

25 A I do.

1 Q Starting back at 1 hourly 52 seconds and 31  
2 seconds.

3 (Video plays.)

4 Okay. So, at 1 hour 52 minutes and 45  
5 seconds, and less than just five seconds of comment, that  
6 was Donald Leonard addressing you, wasn't he?

7 A It was.

8 Q And then you said -- and we'll play it, said "You  
9 can be next."

10 (Video plays.)

11 At 1 hour 52 minutes and 51 seconds. You ask  
12 somebody to remove Mr. Leonard; is that right?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And who did you ask to remove Mr. Leonard?

15 A Someone.

16 Q Who was the someone?

17 A It would've either been Sheriff Burnett or  
18 Mr. Winters.

19 Q And why did you do that?

20 A Because once Mr. Morgan had started, then he's  
21 jumping up and it was -- the meeting was getting out of  
22 order.

23 Q And "he" being Mr. Leonard?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And so you didn't like what Mr. Leonard was

1 saying?

2 A No, that was not it. He had already spoke about  
3 Pull Tight Road on the agenda, and his concerns there on  
4 Pull Tight Road with drug abuse and firing at street  
5 signs.

6 Q And this was the public comment time, right?  
7 Absent all these other shenanigans, that was the public  
8 comment time, right?

9 A It was.

10 Q And Mr. Leonard was on the agenda that day, right?

11 A He was disrupting the meeting.

12 Q He was on the agenda that day, was he not?

13 A He was.

14 Q And he was speaking to what was on the agenda, is  
15 basically what he was talking about, right?

16 A He was being disruptive.

17 Q I didn't ask you that. I asked you, he was  
18 speaking about what was on the agenda, what he had  
19 commented on?

20 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

21 Q Right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. And then you believed he was being  
24 disruptive and you had him removed after just about five  
25 seconds --

1 A Yes.

2 Q -- of comment? Okay.

3 (Video plays.)

4 At 1 hour 52 minutes and 56 seconds, you asked the  
5 sheriff to remove Mr. Leonard, and he said he would walk  
6 out, right?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q Why did you direct the sheriff to remove him?

9 A Because he was one of the only police officers  
10 there.

11 Q So, I want to understand why you directed the  
12 sheriff or asked the sheriff to remove Mr. Leonard.

13 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form. Asked and  
14 answered.

15 A He was the only law enforcement officer there  
16 besides Deputy Winters.

17 Q All right. So, that would lead to the conclusion  
18 that, hey, simply because a police officer is there, I'll  
19 use him to remove someone. That's what it sounds like to  
20 me.

21 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

22 Q Why specifically -- what specifically was  
23 Mr. Leonard doing that you didn't like to go to that  
24 level?

25 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form. Asked and

1 answered.

2 A He was disrupting the meeting.

3 Q He was disrupting the meeting. All right. That  
4 was your opinion?

5 A Yeah.

6 (Video plays.)

7 Q At 1 hour 53 minutes and 10 seconds, Mr. Morgan is  
8 talking here.

9 (Video plays.)

10 At 1 hour 53 minutes 19 seconds, you're pointing,  
11 saying "This man..."

12 (Video plays.)

13 Why did you direct whoever -- and we've already  
14 talked to Mr. Winters, so I know who you're talking  
15 directly to. Why did you direct Mr. Morgan to be removed  
16 from the building?

17 A Because he was continuing to be disruptive.

18 Q And that's your opinion?

19 A Yes.

20 (Video plays.)

21 Q So, 1 hour 53 minutes and 59 seconds, you wrapped  
22 up a monologue about Donald Leonard, Pull Tight Road, and  
23 the only thing that can be addressed in public comments.  
24 How would anyone know that that's the only thing someone  
25 could comment on during public comments if it wasn't

1 already -- if they hadn't had prior notice?

2 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form. It's asked  
3 and answered.

4 A Before public comments were done, I let folks know  
5 that it had to pertain to an agenda item.

6 (Video plays.)

7 Q All right. So, 1 hour 54 minutes 8 seconds, it  
8 sounds like you were trying to explain why you did what  
9 you did, and you're addressing everybody there. Why did  
10 you do that?

11 A I felt like that everybody needed to know why he  
12 was removed.

13 Q Not just giving some excuse to make sure you're  
14 giving yourself cover?

15 A No.

16 Q When you were a police officer, how many  
17 complaints did you have lodged against you for officer  
18 misconduct?

19 A Zero.

20 Q Was your husband the chief of police during the  
21 time when you were an officer?

22 A No, sir.

23 MR. FLORES: All right. We'll go ahead and  
24 take another break.

25 MR. HICKEY: We can keep going if you need

1 to.

2 MR. FLORES: Well, I'm --

3 MR. HICKEY: You need to go.

4 MR. FLORES: Yeah. Because we're going to go  
5 to the June 24th.

6 (Recess from 12:24 to 12:32.)

7 BY MR. FLORES:

8 Q Ms. Mason, following Robert's Rules of Order,  
9 don't the agendas have to be approved prior to the  
10 meeting? You might've touched on this. Don't they have  
11 to be approved, the agendas have to be approved prior to  
12 posting them?

13 A I believe that is something that Commissioner  
14 Brandt had brought up and wanted implemented. So yes, we  
15 are now approving the agenda prior to the meeting.

16 Q But you don't -- I was asking -- probably wasn't  
17 clear. Robert's Rules of Order require that, does it  
18 not?

19 A According to Mr. Brandt, that's what he had  
20 discovered.

21 Q Okay. So, we're going to move forward to the June  
22 24 meeting. And that's going to -- we're going to  
23 reference [Exhibit 14](#). You have public comments on there,  
24 and on line 19, Thomas Morgan was on the agenda. Do you  
25 see that on [Exhibit 14](#)?

1 A I do. Yes, sir.

2 Q And he was addressing the commission during his  
3 time on the agenda, outside of public comments, was he  
4 not?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. Now, can you describe the events of that  
7 June 24 meeting as it relates to Mr. Morgan's  
8 participation in the meeting and your interaction with  
9 him?

10 A You'll have to play it.

11 Q I'm asking from your memory.

12 A From my memory, nothing stands out as far as -- I  
13 don't know. I don't have any...

14 Q So, do you agree with me that you directed  
15 Mr. Morgan to sit down or leave the meeting, the June  
16 meeting?

17 A I don't recall.

18 Q Don't recall? All right. Take a look at your  
19 [Exhibit 13](#) [13A]. Those are your responses to  
20 interrogatories.

21 A And what number?

22 Q It's interrogatory 3. It starts on page 2 of  
23 [Exhibit 13](#) [13A].

24 What I'm seeing on your response to interrogatory  
25 3, specifically on page 3 of [Exhibit 13](#), you're telling

1 us that the plaintiff spoke at the meeting and continued  
2 to speak after his presentation "and refused to follow  
3 instructions regarding comments to the commission, to the  
4 extent that his actions were disrupting the meeting."

5 What specifically -- I mean, how much time was he  
6 allotted to speak when he's on the agenda?

7 A You would have to play the minutes. I'd have to  
8 refresh on that.

9 Q But I'm asking you -- and I'm not -- I'm asking  
10 you, from your knowledge as we sit here now, what was the  
11 time -- how much time was Mr. Morgan given to speak  
12 about, you know -- let me lay a better foundation.

13 When someone is on the agenda to speak, such as  
14 what we see here on [Exhibit 14](#), looks like it's Thomas  
15 Morgan and a few other folks, how much time is each  
16 person that's on the agenda allotted to speak?

17 A Three or five -- I can't -- I'd have to look at  
18 the video again.

19 Q I'm just asking you from your memory.

20 A I do not recall.

21 Q You don't know. Okay. How is --

22 MR. HICKEY: Wait at minute. Let me make  
23 sure I'm following you. You're talking about June of  
24 '24, that meeting?

25 MR. FLORES: June 24, '24. Yes.

1 MR. HICKEY: Okay.

2 BY MR. FLORES:

3 Q Does that your change your answer, on the June  
4 24th meeting, that someone who's on the agenda such as  
5 Mr. Morgan, what is the time limit that they're given to  
6 speak?

7 A I feel like it's three minutes. But I do not --  
8 I'd have to refresh. For some reason that's in my mind,  
9 but I don't know.

10 Q All right. And how does a person who's addressing  
11 the commission when they're on the agenda, how does the  
12 county commission inform such person of any time limit?

13 A We would tell them, you know, you have X amount of  
14 time to, you know, get, you know, your presentation to  
15 the commission.

16 Q And when is that direction imparted to the person?

17 A I don't know if David Jackson lets them know at  
18 the time that they request to be on the agenda. I do not  
19 know.

20 Q You don't know? So, it's not done when someone  
21 comes up to the mic? A person such as the plaintiff  
22 who's on the agenda, they get up to the mic, start to  
23 address you folks --

24 A I try to remember to tell them, you know, what...

25 Q But in this particular case you don't know one way

1 or the other, without looking at the video, if you  
2 instructed Mr. Morgan that he only had X amount of  
3 minutes?

4 A Without looking at the video, no.

5 Q And what comments was he making? Again, you can  
6 look at interrogatory 13 -- I mean [Exhibit 13](#),  
7 interrogatory 3. What comments was he making after his  
8 presentation and that you -- I mean, what comments was he  
9 making, I should say?

10 A I would have to look at the video.

11 Q All right. And he continued after his  
12 presentation. You don't -- when -- all right. As  
13 lawyers, when we're up at the Court of Appeals we've got  
14 at -- the podium there's a green light, yellow light and  
15 a red light that tells us things. The green light says,  
16 hey, keep yakking; the yellow says, oh, your time is  
17 coming up and ending; and the red light, bomb, you're  
18 done. And typically we're already told that we have 20  
19 minutes to address the panel, and we can reserve five  
20 minutes. Now, that's just kind of, you know, something  
21 for you to reference.

22 Did Marion County commission have any kind of  
23 procedure or policy where the commission tells folks that  
24 are on the agenda, or even a public comment meeting, that  
25 you have X amount of time to talk?

1 A Not that I'm aware of.

2 Q Is there anything that's published with the agenda  
3 on your website that would inform a member of the  
4 community that's addressing the commission of time  
5 constraints?

6 A Not that I'm aware of.

7 Q Is there any way -- is there anyone on the  
8 commission that times a person while they're talking?  
9 Literally maybe even with a stopwatch that times how much  
10 time has gone by?

11 A It would be me or Joanie Spangler, who was the...

12 Q Who's Joanie Spangler?

13 A She is the Marion County court clerk.

14 Q Okay. Was she present during both of these  
15 meetings, the January and the June meeting?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And in this particular case, in June 2024, was she  
18 keeping time on Mr. Morgan?

19 A I do not recall if it was me or her.

20 Q And at what point did you believe that Mr. Morgan  
21 was speaking after his presentation? Because what I'm  
22 trying to get at here, ma'am, is, on [Exhibit 13](#), answer  
23 to interrogatory 3 you're saying "and continued speaking  
24 after his presentation..." How did you make a  
25 determination that he was done with his presentation to

1 begin with?

2 A I would have to look at the video, honestly.

3 Q I'm just asking you from your memory here.

4 A It would either be that, you know, that his time  
5 had expired or he was done.

6 Q How did he express to you that he was done?

7 A It would've been -- I mean, I'd have to look at  
8 the video. I'd have to look at the video.

9 Q Did he sit down and then pop back up again to  
10 start talking about whatever?

11 A I'd have to look at the video.

12 Q But you don't know from your memory?

13 A From my memory, I don't recall him sitting down.

14 Q Okay. Now, prior to drafting your  
15 interrogatories and what we call initial disclosures, I  
16 had sent two video links over to your counsel that  
17 involve both these meetings. When answering these  
18 interrogatories, did you reference either one of the  
19 videos or look at them to help you --

20 A No.

21 Q -- draft your answers?

22 And did you believe, you know, when you told him  
23 to sit down or I think actually you threatened him with  
24 arrest, did you believe that Mr. Morgan was violating any  
25 rule or disrupting the meeting?

1 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

2 A He was disrupting the meeting.

3 Q How?

4 A I'd have to look at the video to give you  
5 specifics.

6 Q I'm just asking for your memory.

7 A From my memory is that he continued to speak and  
8 he was just argumentative. And that's from my memory.

9 Q Okay. Now, looking at [Exhibit 13](#) [13A],  
10 interrogatory 4, you'd indicated, in response to the  
11 question the basis of your decision to remove the  
12 plaintiff from the June 24, 2020 [sic] meeting, I'd asked  
13 you what your basis was, including any policies or  
14 procedures that you followed or disregarded.

15 In your answer you include what you just told us,  
16 that he spoke after his presentation and refused to  
17 follow instructions. Then you conclude in here, "Marion  
18 County commission patterns its meetings after Robert's  
19 Rules of Order."

20 What specific rule did he violate, the rule of  
21 order?

22 A He was disrupting the meeting.

23 Q But you --

24 A He was being disruptive.

25 Q But you'd told us previously you don't really

1 know -- you haven't read the rules of order, you don't  
2 know them.

3 A But you can't disrupt the meeting.

4 Q So it's incorrect -- interrogatory 4, by including  
5 Robert's Rules of Order, it looks like you're implying  
6 that he was violating the rules of order.

7 A Well, we pattern ourself --

8 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

9 A -- after the Robert's Rule of Order.

10 Q But you don't know the rules at all?

11 A Not all of them, no, sir.

12 Q And you don't know which specific rule, as we sit  
13 here today, that he violated?

14 A I don't feel I have violated any of the Robert's  
15 Rule of Order.

16 Q No. I'm asking you what rule of order Mr. Morgan  
17 was violating.

18 A He was disrupting the meeting.

19 Q But you don't know --

20 A The specific rule, no, sir.

21 Q All right. Before asking -- or directing the  
22 plaintiff to leave, did you consult with anyone,  
23 including Mr. Gallagher, about the propriety of asking --  
24 or directing Mr. Morgan to leave?

25 A No.

1 Q Did you request law enforcement's involvement in  
2 that meeting?

3 A I don't believe that there were any law  
4 enforcement officers there. I don't believe. I believe  
5 that Sheriff Burnett may have not been at that meeting.  
6 I don't recall him being at that meeting.

7 Q So, after both of these meetings, whether, you  
8 know, the January one or the June meeting, did you have  
9 any communications with Deputy Winters, Sheriff Burnett,  
10 or any commission members about your decisions? And I'm  
11 talking about post removal. Did you have any discussions  
12 with the sheriff, Mr. Winters, or commission members  
13 about your decision to have not only Mr. Morgan but  
14 Mr. Leonard leave the meeting?

15 A Not that I recall, no.

16 Q Did you have any communications with the county  
17 attorney before or after these incidents about how to  
18 handle members of the public at commission meetings?

19 MR. HICKEY: Let me object to that. I think  
20 that's going to be an attorney-client objection. So, I'm  
21 going to just --

22 Don't answer that question.

23 And if we need to talk about that later, we  
24 can.

25 MR. FLORES: And the reason why I asked, just

1 for the record, is because there was -- she had testified  
2 that the county attorney was there to advise them  
3 about --

4 MR. HICKEY: During the meetings. If they  
5 have questions during the meetings. But if you're  
6 talking about outside the meetings, there's  
7 attorney-client privilege. He represented the county.  
8 So, I'm just going to make that objection. I'm not sure  
9 how critical the question is for the entirety of the  
10 case, but...

11 MR. FLORES: I hear you.

12 BY MR. FLORES:

13 Q All right. So, after both meetings did you have  
14 any communications, by text, email, or otherwise,  
15 regarding the plaintiff's removal with anyone outside  
16 of --

17 A No.

18 Q -- of your attorney, outside of your attorney, any  
19 attorney?

20 A No.

21 Q What did you hope in both instances would be  
22 accomplished by having the plaintiff removed or silenced?

23 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

24 A To maintain order.

25 Q To maintain order. And is that the -- what did

1 you hope would be accomplished by having Mr. Leonard  
2 leave the January meeting?

3 A Just to maintain order.

4 Q Now, looking back as we sit here now, do you think  
5 your actions in both meetings followed proper procedures?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Would you, looking back at it now, would you have  
8 handled these situations differently?

9 A No.

10 Q So you think what you did was completely proper?

11 A Yes.

12 Q What is your understanding of the difference  
13 between disruptive conduct and protected speech at public  
14 meetings?

15 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

16 A Disruptive would be to be argumentative, to be  
17 aggressive, to, you know, not have a dialogue between  
18 yourself and someone else -- the commission and someone  
19 else, you know; to elicit response from, you know, people  
20 in the chairs alongside him. Just to be disruptive.

21 Q And you don't believe by pointing your finger at  
22 someone and saying, "Hey, buddy, we're not going to go  
23 there," that was not rude, disrespectful, or anything  
24 like that?

25 A No.

1 Q You don't think so?

2 A Huh-uh.

3 Q How would you define the term "freedom of speech"?

4 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

5 A Freedom of speech would be, you know, to  
6 peacefully, you know -- if you have a conviction about  
7 something and you want to let that conviction -- you  
8 know, go through the proper channels and you peacefully,  
9 you know, tell somebody about your convictions, tell  
10 somebody about your feelings, make your request known.

11 Q Does peacefully addressing someone mean something  
12 like, oh, pretty please, can we do -- I mean --

13 A No. No.

14 Q No?

15 A Not at all.

16 Q What is your -- how would you define freedom of  
17 assembly?

18 A Freedom of assembly would to peacefully assemble.  
19 I mean, you know, you can, you know, you can assemble and  
20 people -- passerbyers can see that you -- what you stand  
21 for and what you believe in.

22 Q I think you may've already answered this. Are you  
23 aware of any guidance or training that Marion County as a  
24 whole provides commission members, respecting the first  
25 rights of the public?

1 A No.

2 Q Has anyone other than the plaintiff or Mr. Leonard  
3 been removed or threatened with removal during a  
4 commission meeting during your tenure as chairperson?

5 A No.

6 Q Have you or the commission as a whole ever  
7 received complaints before, in the past, regarding  
8 treatment of the public during commission meetings?

9 A Not that I'm aware of, no, sir.

10 Q So when you say not that you're aware of, is it  
11 possible that there could be some but you just don't know  
12 of them personally?

13 A It's not been brought to the attention of the  
14 commission, no, sir.

15 Q Have you ever been the subject of any  
16 investigation, discipline or complaint in connection with  
17 your conduct as a chairperson or in your role as an  
18 employee of the Town of Jasper?

19 A I have never had a complaint nor any proceedings  
20 against me as far as the Town of Jasper. As far as the  
21 commission, are you talking about prior to these  
22 proceedings?

23 Q Yes. At any time during your tenure.

24 A Prior to these proceedings?

25 MR. HICKEY: Anytime since you've been --

1 A I believe there is an --

2 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form.

3 A -- ethics complaint regarding these proceedings.

4 Q All right. And that would be from a guy by the  
5 name of --

6 A Ruric Brandt. But other than that, no.

7 Q And where did that complaint go? What's the  
8 status?

9 A It has went before the committee -- I believe that  
10 was also recorded -- and I believe it has been referred  
11 to outside counsel to review.

12 Q What was the nature of the complaint by  
13 Mr. Brandt?

14 A There was multiple complaints against multiple  
15 commissioners. Mine was just a little paragraph -- a  
16 sentence actually, is what mine was. I believe it is  
17 regarding the library board and a lot of specifics on  
18 that. The ethics complaints for the commission is --  
19 there's also people that have voted on the drug task  
20 force. The commissioners that voted, you know, he's  
21 named several of the commissioners in that.

22 Q And the allegations were what, as you understand?

23 A On which one?

24 Q Any of them.

25 A That was directed at me?

1 Q At anybody. You, anyone else. What's your  
2 understanding of the nature of the complaint? Actually  
3 the specifics of the complaint.

4 A He wanted -- on the library, he wanted specifics  
5 on some things that the Marion County library board  
6 themselves have done. I don't have the specifics on  
7 that.

8 On the Marion County drug task force, we voted on  
9 a resolution to retain, I guess, for lack of a better  
10 term, the home county, the Twelfth Judicial Drug Task  
11 Force, which is nine counties, a resolution to have,  
12 like, Marion County be like, I guess, the home county in  
13 that.

14 And he felt like that there may've been some  
15 conflicts on -- let's see, Cantrell. Jimmy Cantrell is a  
16 forestry agent who has an arson investigator  
17 certification, because he fights forest fires. He felt  
18 like that that violated some kind of law enforcement. He  
19 felt like that was considered law enforcement as well.

20 One of the complaints is against David Abbott, who  
21 is the president of the bank that has the account at his  
22 bank, that it was a conflict for him because -- I think  
23 that was the one. And then me being married to the chief  
24 of police, he felt like that because I was married to the  
25 chief of police that there was some kind of connection

1 between the drug task force and the Jasper Police  
2 Department.

3 Q Who's the outside counsel?

4 A I do not know.

5 Q Who did the referral to outside counsel?

6 A The ethics committee.

7 Q And who's on the ethics committee?

8 A You will have to contact David Jackson. I do not  
9 know everyone on the ethics committee.

10 Q Are the ethics committee members members of the  
11 Marion County commission?

12 A There are other outside people on there as well,  
13 citizens.

14 Q Do you know whether the -- outside counsel, it  
15 wouldn't have been this firm here that's defending you  
16 today, is it?

17 A No.

18 MR. HICKEY: It is not.

19 MR. FLORES: I was trying to make sure.

20 MR. HICKEY: No, it's not.

21 BY MR. FLORES:

22 Q And outside counsel, we're talking about somebody  
23 outside of Billy Gallagher?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And you don't know where those complaints stand as

1 we sit here today?

2 A I do not.

3 Q And when you say outside counsel has taken the  
4 case, are they the ones that are investigating the  
5 complaints?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you know if the outside counsel is doing that  
8 in conjunction with any state agency, whether it's TBI,  
9 office of the state comptroller, or anybody involved with  
10 the governor's office?

11 A I do not know.

12 Q Has the Town of Jasper been subject to any  
13 investigations in the last two years by the Tennessee  
14 comptroller or any other state agency regarding your  
15 conduct during your employment with the Town of Jasper?

16 A No.

17 Q Were you ever the target of any investigation by  
18 any state agency about how you were paying your  
19 husband -- how pay would go to your husband and other  
20 police officers with the Town of Jasper?

21 A No.

22 Q Do you know if there are any other meeting  
23 minutes, agendas, videos, or other records that you  
24 believe would accurately reflect what happened during the  
25 January and June events, besides what you've seen today?

1 A No.

2 Q Are you aware of any formal reports, complaints,  
3 or other records regarding -- or training materials  
4 regarding removal of members from the public -- of the  
5 public from commission meetings?

6 A No.

7 MR. FLORES: Let's go ahead take a look at  
8 this video here.

9 It's a video that lasts six minutes and 33  
10 seconds. It's a cell phone video. And this is  
11 Mr. Morgan at the podium. And it was on the June -- on  
12 [Exhibit 14](#), he was on the agenda that day. So I'm going  
13 to play this in its entirety.

14 MR. HICKEY: Have you sent this?

15 MR. FLORES: Yeah.

16 MR. HICKEY: I don't recognize it. I know  
17 you sent the link and it expired.

18 MR. FLORES: That one dropped out.

19 MR. HICKEY: I don't remember this one.

20 MR. FLORES: I can get Wendi to send that to  
21 you. You want me to Dropbox it to you. You want to copy  
22 this?

23 MR. HICKEY: I just want it produced.

24 MR. FLORES: Yeah. You have to copy -- it's  
25 just going to be in the record, but do you want to go

1 ahead and copy -- download these?

2 MR. HICKEY: Has it -- it's not been produced  
3 yet, has it?

4 MR. FLORES: It should've been produced in  
5 initial disclosures.

6 MR. HICKEY: Okay.

7 MR. FLORES: I mean, take a look and make  
8 sure that I'm correct. Because I sent you links to that.

9 I'm going to show you a video here. We're  
10 just going to let it play. It's 6 minutes and 33  
11 seconds.

12 (Video plays.)

13 MR. HICKEY: Pause it for a second. Did you  
14 say what this was?

15 MR. FLORES: This is a June -- this is a cell  
16 phone video, June 24th agenda -- commission meeting.

17 MR. HICKEY: You may have, I just don't  
18 remember.

19 MR. FLORES: Okay.

20 (Video plays.)

21 BY MR. FLORES:

22 Q So far we've heard from the plaintiff. That was  
23 you speaking now, at two minutes and 18 seconds on this.  
24 And that was Mr. Gallagher; is that correct?

25 A That's correct.

1 (Video plays.)

2 Q Okay. At 4:56 you're texting the police  
3 department. Why did you do that?

4 A Because I felt like that law enforcement may be  
5 needed.

6 (Video plays.)

7 Q So at 5 minutes and about 15 seconds, who's asking  
8 from the commission to ask Mr. Morgan a question?

9 (Video plays.)

10 Do you know who that was?

11 A You're going to have to keep playing.

12 (Video plays.)

13 I felt like that's Chris Morrison. I don't know  
14 who that first one was, without seeing the other video.

15 (Video plays.)

16 Q So why did you, again, why did you feel it was  
17 necessary to call the police and tell Mr. Morgan that you  
18 were calling the police?

19 MR. HICKEY: Object to the form. Asked and  
20 answered.

21 A I felt like that law enforcement may be needed.

22 Q Since then have you -- are police, whether it's  
23 Town of Jasper or the sheriff's office, are there  
24 people --

25 MR. FLORES: Do you want to download that?

1 MR. HICKEY: Yes. But go ahead. I'll just  
2 get somebody to make a copy of it.

3 MR. FLORES: Okay.

4 BY MR. FLORES:

5 Q So why did you believe -- or since then, since  
6 June of 2024, does the commission have law enforcement  
7 posted there on a regular basis?

8 A There is typically an officer there now.

9 Q And what was -- what motivated that? What  
10 changed?

11 A Just for, you know, public safety, you know.

12 Q Do you know a fellow by the name of John Christof?

13 A I do.

14 Q And how do you know him?

15 A I have an order of protection against him.

16 Q And what was the purpose of that order of  
17 protection?

18 A He was making threats.

19 Q And how was he making those threats?

20 A He was making social media threats.

21 Q And you and, I understand, several others have  
22 taken an order of protection out against the fellow,  
23 right?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And have you directed anyone, besides getting an

1 order of protection, directed anyone to remove or keep  
2 John Christof from attending any --

3 A No.

4 Q -- commission meetings? You haven't?

5 A I have not.

6 Q Do you know if anyone has, besides the order of  
7 protection?

8 A Just with the order of protection being in place,  
9 he hasn't been at any of the meetings.

10 Q Prior to getting the order of protection, what was  
11 the -- how many times did Mr. Christof attend commission  
12 meetings?

13 A He was there -- he's been there a few times.

14 Q Was there anything that he did during the  
15 commission meetings that caused or gave you concern to  
16 have him removed or call police on him?

17 A No.

18 Q So, the order of protection is outside of anything  
19 that occurred during commission meetings?

20 A Yes.

21 MR. FLORES: I think that's all I've got,  
22 Tom.

23 MR. HICKEY: Okay.

24 (Signature not discussed.)

25 DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 1:13

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE:

COUNTY OF HAMILTON:

I, Sheila D. Wilson, Licensed Court Reporter #268 and Notary Public, in and for the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that the deposition of LINDA MASON was reported by me in machine shorthand, and that the foregoing 101 pages of the transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability.

I further certify that I am not related to nor an employee of counsel or any of the parties to the action, nor am I in any way financially interested in the outcome of this case.

I further certify that I am duly licensed by the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting, as evidenced by the LCR number and expiration date following my name below.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of October 2025.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila D. Wilson, LCR #268  
Expiration date: 6/30/2026.  
Notary Public Commission  
Expires: 1/17/2027.

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