

**DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF HOFSTRA
COUNTY OF DEANE**

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF HOFSTRA

v.

Docket No.: 80325/2025

**AUSTIN DROZ,
a/k/a “Droz”**

Defendant.

----- X

**HOFSTRA TRIAL ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION
2025 INTRAMURAL COMPETITION**



Prepared by: Selina Polisi and Ryan Sullivan

Hofstra Trial Advocacy Association

This case file was prepared for use in the 2025 Intramural Trial Advocacy Competition,
hosted by the Hofstra Trial Advocacy Association at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at
Hofstra University.

HOEFLRA LAW FALL 2025 INTRAMURAL COMPETITION AGENDA

Thursday, September 11

12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. HTAA General Information Session – Room 238

Thursday, September 11

6:00 PM Fact Pattern Release

Monday, September 15

11:59 P.M. Deadline for Intramural Competition Registration

Wednesday, September 17

12:00 P.M. Team and Mentor Pairings Released

Thursday, September 18

12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. Opening and Closing Statements Lecture¹

Thursday, September 25

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Direct and Cross Examination Lecture

Friday, September 26

11:59 P.M. Deadline to withdraw from Intramural Competition

Tuesday, September 30

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Evidence Lecture

Saturday, October 4

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Alumni Workshop

¹ Trial Lectures will be taught by the interscholastic coaches covering topics of Openings & Closings, Direct and Cross examinations, and Evidence. Attendance is not mandatory, but you are **strongly encouraged** to be there, and attendance will be taken. These lectures are to help you prepare for the competition and have the opportunity to ask questions to practicing attorneys.

INTRAMURAL ROUNDS

Friday, October 10

5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. Preliminary Rounds (Round 1)

Saturday, October 11

10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Preliminary Rounds (Round 1)

Sunday, October 12

10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. Preliminary Rounds (Round 1)

Friday, October 24

3:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M. Semi-Final Rounds (Round 2)

Wednesday, November 5

5:30 P.M. – 10:30 P.M. Final Round (Round 3) – Room 308²

² All newly invited members of the Hofstra Trial Advocacy Association are **required** to attend the Final Round. Attendance will be taken.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for signing up for the 2025 Hofstra Trial Advocacy Association Intramural Competition! For some of you, this may be the first time you compete, for others, this may be one of many. Regardless of your experience, everyone, including myself, began somewhere– so do not be afraid! Preparing for a mock trial competition is both challenging and fun. While working through the case, you may become confused or frustrated at times. There may be inconsistencies between what witnesses say or contradictory pieces of evidence, but I assure you that this is done on purpose to put your trial advocacy skills to the test.

Selina Polisi and Ryan Sullivan have created the case you are about to read below. It is a unique story filled with interesting characters and twists. As you prepare for your trial, read through the case carefully, and determine the arguments for your side. This competition will teach you much about yourself. You will find ways to craft examinations, argue evidence, give a great statement, and most importantly, gain confidence in yourself. Be sure to work with your partner on your materials, as this will prove highly beneficial come competition time. I also strongly encourage you to work with your assigned interscholastic and recent alumni mentors as they will serve as invaluable sources of advice over the coming weeks.

Participating in this competition and joining the Hofstra Trial Advocacy Association has been one of the highlights of my time at Hofstra Law. If you put in the work, you will see great results. Take a little time out of each day to work on your materials, memorize, or meet with your mentors. But most important of all, have fun, and make the most out of this experience. (*whether you want to become a trial attorney or not!*) I know I did, and hope that you will too. If you have any questions, law school or non-law school related, feel free to reach out to me.

Good luck!



Ruben A. Cerri-Droz
President, Hofstra Trial Advocacy Association

CASE SUMMARY

People of the State of Hofstra v. Austin Droz a/k/a “Droz”

This is a criminal case where the defendant, Austin Droz, (“Droz”) is charged with one count of burglary in the third degree under Hofstra Penal Law § 140.20, and one count of larceny under Hofstra Penal Law § 155.05. Droz is a Canadian rapper, singer, and songwriter. He got his start acting on a hit teen drama television show. Today, he is one of the most streamed and best-selling artists in the world, credited with shaping modern hip-hop and popularizing emotional vulnerability in rap. Jay Shaffer, better known as “Lil Shafe”, is an American rapper, songwriter, and record producer known for his sharp lyricism, storytelling, and social commentary. He is widely considered one of the greatest rappers of all time, praised for his lyrical depth, conceptual albums, and cultural impact. For years, Droz and Lil Shafe worked closely together.

On February 5, 2025, Droz celebrated his birthday with a lavish party attended by some of the most influential names in the industry, including the global country music icon Rachel Heyman and pop powerhouse James Axis. Lil Shafe, slighted by not receiving an invitation, responded with a diss track titled “*Uninvited*” where he said “*You needed ten features to fill the room. Still couldn’t drop a hit without auto-tune.*” In retaliation, Droz released a song of his own, titled “*No Apologies*” where he fired back by saying “*You’re watching my party from your parent’s couch. Mad ‘cause they cheer my name when yours is drowned out.*” In this song, Droz rapped about how he would do anything for fame.

Following this incident, the rift between the two rappers continued to grow as negotiations for a joint tour collapsed. The tour had been scheduled for a while, but Droz’s desire to include an up-and-coming new rapper in the tour led to a vicious feud that shredded whatever friendship the two had left, leading to multiple diss tracks being released, and ignition of both fanbases. Lil Shafe’s superfans so passionately agreed with him that they would riot around Droz’s concerts, hotels, and even home. Before the Grammys, Lil Shafe released a final diss track titled “*Not One of Us*”.

On June 16, 2025, the Grammy Awards, one of the most prestigious music award shows, took place in Hempstead Hills. That night, Lil Shafe earned a career-defining win when he won the coveted trophy for Best Rap Album. Droz, who had been nominated in the same category,

left the show empty-handed. Tensions between the two were already high, and Lil Shafe's victory only deepened the rivalry between the rappers and their fans.

In preparation for the Grammys, Droz's team booked the Rosenblatt Suites for him and his staff on the 8th floor of the Barron Hotel located in Hempstead Hills, because of the hotel's luxury. By coincidence, Lil Shafe's team booked suites in the same hotel, but on the 7th floor.

The evening of the Grammys, there were watch parties for all different types of fans at neighboring bars. A large group of Lil Shafe fans filled with excitement were kicked out of Maddie's, a popular bar in Hempstead Hills, causing fans to fill the streets and approach the Barron Hotel. The hotel lobby descended into chaos as fans swarmed in after the show. Fans were chanting, blasting *Not One of Us*, and drinking to celebrate. After the show, Lil Shafe even joined his fans in the lobby, encouraging the celebration. The fans loved seeing him, flooding the room with a strobe of flashing lights from their pictures.

When Droz's car arrived at the hotel, seeing the crowd of Lil Shafe fans caused Droz to grow increasingly frustrated by Lil Shafe's Grammy win and the public praise that followed. Inside the hotel, Lil Shafe stood celebrating and rallying amongst his fans. Droz's security brought him into the building through an employee only entrance to avoid adding to the riot. Fueled by pride and unresolved tension, Droz told his team he was going to "set the record straight."

Ryan Polisi is Droz's longtime public relations manager and a key architect of his public image. He has been recognized at the highest levels of the industry, earning a top spot on *PRWeek's* prestigious Power List alongside renowned names like Tree Paine and CeCe (Cassey Coleman). For the past decade, he has coached Droz through media training and managed every aspect of his public narrative with remarkable precision. The ongoing feud with Lil Shafe stands out as one of the few major challenges Droz has faced during his tenure with Polisi.

Ryan Polisi warned him that escalating the feud could backfire. Instead, Polisi advised him to take the high road and end the feud. If Droz did, Ryan reasoned, not only would Droz appear mature in the public eye, but he would also unlock new opportunities to profit from the situation. Leaving his hotel room, Droz made his way to Lil Shafe's suite, passing a Lil Shafe fan in the hallway. This fan, Jo Wilson, later recalled that Droz looked nervous and was mumbling to himself.

When Droz arrived at the door, a single knock caused it to swing open. Housekeeping later confirmed that they were tidying up from Lil Shafe's Grammy celebration, clearing away champagne and confetti, but got distracted by the chaos in the lobby and left quickly without locking the door. One thing had been left untouched by housekeeping and any other person in the room: a banner sprawled across the wall that read, *"He's not even top 2."* A clear jab at Droz's iconic lyric: *"I know I said top five, but I'm top two and I'm not two"* from his hit song *"No Apologies."*

Later that night, Lil Shafe discovered his Grammy was missing and filed a police report. Lil Shafe told the police that he saw Droz leave the hotel with the Grammy peaking out of Droz's "No-V-O" branded backpack. Law enforcement then tracked Droz's cell phone to find Droz at the Cerri Hotel, located on Weiss Street, one of the most popular streets in town. When law enforcement searched the surrounding area, the Grammy was discovered in a trashcan on Weiss Street. At 7:05 AM on June 17, 2025, Droz was arrested in the city of Hempstead Hills, Deane County, State of Hofstra.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION/PRETRIAL ORDER

A. Time Limits

Each team, prosecution and defense, has a total of 35 minutes within which to: (i) present its opening statement; (ii) present direct testimony of its two witnesses; (iii) cross-examine the two witnesses presented by the opposing side; (iv) read into the record any relevant stipulations, including convictions; and (v) give its closing argument.

Each team is allowed five minutes to present and argue no more than two pre-trial motions. The five minutes will not count against the team's total of 35 minutes. The clock will stop for arguments of objections. It is within the discretion of the presiding judge to allow or deny lengthy arguments. If a team appears to be making frivolous objections or extended argument in an attempt to run the clock against its opponent, judges may take this into account when scoring and may award additional time to an aggrieved team. A team need not use all its allocated time. No rebuttal case is permitted.

B. Scope of Examinations

It is left to the discretion of the presiding judge to determine the scope of cross examination pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 611. The scope of cross-examination should not be strictly limited to the matters to which the witness testified in direct if it would curtail impeachment or other reasonable inquiry. The re-direct examination cannot go beyond the scope of cross-examination, assuming the cross-examiner makes an appropriate objection. Re-cross is not allowed unless the party seeking re-cross contends that the witness has invented one or more material fact(s) on re-direct examination. In that event, the party should ask the judge for leave to re-cross for the purpose of impeachment. Re-cross must be strictly limited to impeaching the witness about the alleged invented fact(s). The presiding judge will make the initial determination as to whether re-cross is permitted. All scoring evaluators will independently determine whether, based upon the impeachment, the fact is invented and/or material. Each evaluator will then independently determine what, if any, score adjustments ought to be made based upon the gravity of the rule violation, if any (this includes potential deduction from the advocate who invoked the re-cross procedure if the evaluator deems the challenge to be meritless). All scoring evaluators will be instructed consistent with this rule.

C. Objections

Objections during the direct and cross-examination of a witness must be made and argued only by the advocate who is responsible for the direct or cross-examination of the particular witness. Objections during the other side's opening statement and closing argument must be made only by the advocate who is responsible for handling his or her team's opening or closing. This rule does not prohibit advocates from the same team from conferring with each other regarding any matter during the course of trial. The defendant may confer with the advocates during the trial. As a matter of courtesy, counsel should request permission to approach the bench for side-bar conferences with the judge, although sidebars will be constructive so that the scoring members in the jury box may hear the arguments of counsel.

D. Order of Trial

The presiding judge and the scoring evaluators will enter the room. All parties are allowed to move about the well, must ask to approach witnesses on cross examination, but not on direct examination, and must ask permission to have a constructive side-bar. Next, the presiding judge will entertain motions in limine, if any. Opening statements will then be presented: prosecution, then defense. The prosecution will present its case in chief first, then the defense. There is no rebuttal case for the prosecution. After both sides have rested, each side will present closing arguments. The order of closing argument is: defense, then prosecution. After the scoring ballots and comments are finished, the students will get brief feedback from the evaluators.

E. Presiding Judge to Rule on Motions in Limine & Objections

1. During the course of the trial, motion and objection arguments are matters exclusively decided by the presiding judge. At the judge's discretion, the clock will be stopped for such matters, but please keep in mind that the competition is on a tight schedule and trials cannot be permitted to exceed the designated time frames. The presiding judge shall cut off the competitors' arguments if appropriate.
2. The current Federal Rules of Evidence, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the U.S. Constitution apply.
3. Each side may present no more than two pre-trial motions in limine and has five minutes to argue such motions. These motions may be in writing, but they may not be any longer than one page, double-spaced, exclusive of caption and signature.

4. Given the time constraints, outside case law may not be used in arguing motions or objections.

F. Witnesses

The witnesses shall testify, as best as possible, in a manner consistent with the trial materials. Witnesses may be impeached by omission. If a witness makes a statement inconsistent with a statement the witness has signed, the witness must admit that the document in the case file is authentic, that he or she read the statement before signing it, and that the signature belongs to the witness. If a statement is a “sworn” statement, the witness must admit to making such a statement under oath. The witness must admit, if questioned, to fabricating a statement of material fact that is not in the file. Where the trial materials are inconsistent, the witness must make a choice as to which scenario to follow. In some instances, this choice will expose the witness to the possibility of being impeached. Otherwise, the witness is free to make reasonable assumptions about the background and personality of the character the witness is portraying. A witness may not invent facts not provided in the fact pattern. Nor, while testifying, may a witness invent an individual not mentioned in this problem and have testimony or evidence offered to the court or jury from that invented individual.

G. Exhibits

Competitors should assume that the exhibits in the file are reasonably accurate and fair representations of the matters they purport to represent. If asked, the witnesses must admit that the photographs, maps, and/or diagrams of the locale are fair and accurate representations of that which they purport to represent. There is no requirement that the teams use every exhibit, and no adverse inference may be drawn from a failure to use every exhibit.

E. Case Summary Guidelines

The “Case Summary” on pages 5-7 is not evidence and may not be introduced or referenced for any purpose, including but not limited to refreshing the recollection of or impeaching a witness.

SUBSTANTIVE STIPULATIONS

The parties have stipulated to the following facts and points of law. These stipulations may be raised in support of legal arguments, and stipulated facts may be read into the record at each side's discretion, with permission of the Court:

1. This is a closed universe fact pattern. All motions in limine and objections shall be limited to the Federal Rules of Evidence.
2. All exhibits in the file are fair and accurate representations of the matters they purport to represent. All exhibits included within the problem are what the proponents claim them to be for the purposes of authentication, and the Court will not exclude any exhibit on the basis that it has not been properly authenticated.
3. All physical evidence, statements, and identifications were constitutionally obtained. No party may object to the admission of evidence at trial on those grounds. Arguments regarding the constitutionality of evidence collection are not permitted.
4. Austin Droz, a/k/a "Droz" was arrested at 7:05 A.M. on June 17, 2025 by Detective Jenny Roberts at the Cerri Hotel. The backpack depicted in Exhibit 11 was recovered from his person at the time of his arrest. All that the backpack contained at the time was: 1 cell phone, phone number 416-308-2308; 1 black t-shirt; 1 pair of men's jeans; 1 pair of men's socks; 2 gold necklaces. Droz's Gold Toucan statue, pictured in Exhibit 14, was not found in the backpack at the time of his arrest, and has not been recovered by police prior to trial. Pursuant to this Court's pretrial rulings, arguments regarding the constitutionality of this arrest are not permitted.
5. Exhibit 16 is a cell phone location report that indicates where a given cell phone was located at a given time. The parties agree that this exhibit tracks the cell phone that Droz had on him at the time of his arrest, and that the times and locations indicated are accurate. Pursuant to this Court's pretrial rulings, arguments regarding the constitutionality of the tracking of Droz's cell phone are not permitted.
6. All signatures that appear on any document are genuine and all documents are originals unless otherwise stated.
7. Parties may not bring any additional evidence for the trial. Any demonstrative exhibits, other than enlargements of the materials in the file, must be created during the trial. All

demonstrative exhibits created during trial are subject to the Federal Rules of Evidence. Parties may not raise the argument that the opposing party has failed to call a particular witness or witnesses to testify at trial. However, arguments about investigative steps not taken are permitted.

8. All photographs are fair and accurate representations of the people or things depicted therein.
9. The parties agree that “@Devoted2LilShafe.4.ever.” is an X account belonging to Jo Wilson. Exhibit 1 is a post from that account posted on June 1, 2020. The screenshot of Jo Wilson’s X post was obtained by Detective Roberts in furtherance of the investigation and preparation for trial.
10. Exhibit 9 is the receipt referenced by Lil Shafe in his grand jury testimony. Lil Shafe signed the receipt. The parties agree that Exhibit 9 is a business record under FRE 803(6), and any objections to this exhibit on the basis of hearsay or hearsay-within-hearsay have been waived.
11. Exhibit 12 is a photograph taken by Detective Jenny Roberts on June 17, 2025 at 6:37AM. The picture shows Lil Shafe’s Grammy in a garbage can directly outside of the Cerri Hotel on Weiss Street.
12. The parties agree that Exhibit 13 is a fair and accurate representation of the text messages sent from Droz’s phone to Lil Shafe on June 16, 2025 at 11:04 P.M. The screenshot was taken by Detective Roberts at a later date than when the text was sent.
13. All recoverable security camera footage from the Barron Hotel on the night of June 16, 2025 is contained in this record. This evidence was obtained by Detective Jenny Roberts.
14. Detective Jenny Roberts has been deemed by the Court as unavailable to testify at trial and the case will move forward without her testimony.

RELEVANT STATUTES/LAWS

Hofstra Penal Law § 140.20: Burglary in the third degree.

A person is guilty of burglary in the third degree when he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in a dwelling, with intent to commit a crime therein.

Hofstra Penal Law § 140.20(a)(1): Definitions, Dwelling.

“Dwelling” means a building or structure, or any portion thereof, that is regularly used by a person for overnight lodging, regardless of whether a person is actually present at the time of the offense. This includes any house, apartment, hotel, motel, mobile home, or trailer, whether permanent or temporary in character.

Hofstra Penal Law § 155.05 : Larceny.

A person commits larceny when, with intent to deprive another of property or to appropriate the same to himself or to a third person, he wrongfully takes, obtains, or withholds such property from an owner thereof.

WITNESS LIST

Prosecution:

1. Jay Shaffer (“Lil Shafé”)
2. Jo Wilson

Defense:

1. Austin Droz (“Droz”) - Defendant
2. Ryan Polisi

NOTE: All characters in the fact pattern can be either male or female. Any discrepancy between the gender stated and the physical appearance of the competitor shall be ignored for the purposes of this competition. The team calling the witness decides the gender of the witness based upon the gender identity of the competitor playing the witness.

The Prosecution and the Defense must call the two witnesses listed on each party's witness list. Each party may determine the order of witnesses, but may not recall witnesses or call witnesses for the other party.

EXHIBIT LIST

1. Jo Wilson's X Post
2. Droz's Instagram Post
3. Photo of Lil Shafe's Suite
4. Barron Hotel Elevator Security Footage
5. Barron Hotel Lobby Floor Plan
6. Barron Hotel Floor 7 Plan
7. Barron Hotel Floor 8 Plan
8. Barron Hotel Lil Shafe's Suite #705 Floor Plan
9. Lil Shafe's Receipt from Barron Hotel Bar
10. Lyrics to "No Apologies" by Droz
11. Droz's Signature Backpack
12. Police Photo of Recovered Grammy
13. Text Message from Droz to Lil Shafe
14. Droz's Gold Toucan
15. Barron Hotel Security Footage of Droz Exiting Hotel
16. Police Cell Phone Location Report

**DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF HOFSTRA
COUNTY OF DEANE**

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**PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF :
HOFSTRA :**

v. :

: Bill of Indictment

**AUSTIN DROZ,
a/k/a “Droz” :**

**:
Defendant. :**

----- X
THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

**COUNT ONE
Hofstra Penal Law § 140.20
(BURGLARY IN THE THIRD DEGREE)**

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

In that: A person is guilty of burglary in the third degree when he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in a dwelling with intent to commit a crime therein.

To Wit: On June 16, 2025, the defendant AUSTIN DROZ, A/K/A “DROZ”, within the COUNTY OF DEANE, STATE OF HOFSTRA, did knowingly enter the Barron Hotel room of complaining witness JAY SHAFFER A/K/A “LIL SHAFE” with intent to deprive complaining witness of his property.

Dated: HEMPSTEAD HILLS, STATE OF HOFSTRA
AUGUST 25, 2025

COUNT TWO
Hofstra Penal Law § 155.05
(LARCENY)

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

In that: A person steals property and commits larceny when, with intent to deprive another of property or to appropriate the same to himself or to a third person, he wrongfully takes, obtains, or withholds such property from an owner thereof.

To Wit: On June 16, 2025, the defendant AUSTIN DROZ, A/K/A “DROZ”, within the COUNTY OF DEANE, STATE OF HOFSTRA, did intentionally deprive complaining witness JAY SHAFFER A/K/A “LIL SHAFE” of his “Best Rap Album” Grammy Award by removing it from the complaining witness’s hotel room without his consent.

Dated: HEMPSTEAD HILLS, STATE OF HOFSTRA
AUGUST 25, 2025

A TRUE BILL:



Foreperson

Fred Klein

Assistant District Attorney
County of Deane

1 IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF HOFSTRA

2 FOR THE COUNTY OF DEANE

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4 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF HOFSTRA

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7 v.

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9 AUSTIN DROZ a/k/a "DROZ"

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12 The following is a transcript of the Grand Jury Proceedings

13 at the offices of the Deane County District Attorney's

14 office located at 121 University Ave, in the City of

15 Hempstead Hills, State of Hofstra on the 23rd day of June,

16 2025.

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21 Alexandra Flynn, CSR 21-4431

22 Court Reporter

23 Hempstead Hills, HF 11549

24 (516) 555-9021

1 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL

2 FOR THE PEOPLE:

3 Mr. Joseph Stoehrer, Assistant District Attorney

4 Deane County District Attorney's Office

5 121 University Avenue, 3rd Floor

6 Hempstead Hills, HF 11549

7 (516) 225-8150

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9 * * *

10 **P R O C E E D I N G S**

11 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were held in
12 court:)

13 A GRAND JUROR: Good morning, we're on the record now.

14 MR. STOEHRER: Alright alright alright, we're on the
15 record.

16 A GRAND JUROR: Did you just do finger guns?

17 MR. STOEHRER: Yes, I did. Let's get started.

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21 * * *

22 **JAY SHAFFER A/K/A "LIL SHAFE"**

23 Was thereupon called as a witness; and having been first
24 duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

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EXAMINATION

BY MR. STOEHRER

Q: Good morning, please state your full legal name for the record.

A: My name is Jay Shaffer, but I am known around the world by my stage name "Lil Shafe".

Q: How do you pronounce your last name?

A: Like "safe" but with an H. "Shafe".

Q: How old are you?

A: I'm 38 years old.

Q: What is your occupation?

A: My current occupation is being the greatest rapper of all time! I've made the best rap songs in history - you know it, I know it, everybody knows it! Especially that loser Droz!

Q: Please stay focused on the questions I ask. Now, you mentioned Droz, who is that?

A: He's another rapper who thinks he's better than me. But he's just a poser, a pretender to the throne. Droz wants to take the crown off my head, but he's so far below me, he can't even reach my feet.

Q: Mr. Shaffer, again, please stay focused on my questions and avoid making personal comments.

A: Alright then.

1 **Q:** How long have you known Droz?

2 **A:** For years now. When I started in the rap game, he
3 helped me in some ways - boost my profile, took me on tour
4 with him, things like that. My career took off faster than
5 most, partly thanks to that kind of stuff.

6 **Q:** How would you describe your relationship with Droz
7 now?

8 **A:** Terrible. We've been drifting apart over the last
9 few years, but we got into some beef earlier this year that
10 really shredded whatever friendship we had left.

11 **Q:** What happened that tore you two apart?

12 **A:** A few things went down. We got pretty competitive
13 with each other, trying to prove who was the best, and that
14 takes a toll on any friendship. In February, he hosted this
15 ridiculous party for his birthday in Toronto. He had all
16 these famous singers and celebs there, but didn't invite
17 me. I was kinda upset, so I threw some jabs at him in some
18 of my songs. He did the same back, but nothing too bad. The
19 real beef between us was ignited by the tour.

20 **Q:** What tour was that?

21 **A:** We had a joint world tour scheduled for a while.
22 Despite the recent incidents and fading friendship, we
23 wanted to keep a good working relationship, so the tour
24 was still going forward. Our label, Rift Records, wanted

1 to add this new artist called \$elina \$ullivan to the tour
2 because they were trying to launch her career.

3 Q: Did you want her to come on tour with you?

4 A: I really did not. Droz did though, and that's what
5 drove us the current beef we got now.

6 Q: Where did that lead to?

7 A: It led to our current state - Droz and I hate each
8 other now. We got into arguments the last few times we saw
9 each other in person. We started releasing diss tracks
10 about each other after that.

11 Q: What do you mean by diss track?

12 A: It's a song with lyrics that attack or insult other
13 people, usually other singers or rappers, in this case me
14 and Droz taking shots at each other. The diss track in our
15 beef got really heated and specific, and the wedge between
16 us got bigger and bigger.

17 Q: What was the name of your diss track?

18 A: It's called "Not One of Us."

19 Q: How did your fans deal with this beef?

20 A: We both got pretty big fanbases, and fans on both
21 sides can be pretty serious and intense, so our beef only
22 intensified that. As tensions rose, our fans got involved
23 in ways that we did not see coming.

24 Q: In what ways?

1 **A:** There's been incidents of riots and violence
2 between our fans, a lot of which made it on to the internet
3 and sometimes the news. It's actually become pretty bad,
4 and it felt personal.

5 **Q:** Was there a riot the night of the Grammys, June 16,
6 2025?

7 **A:** I wouldn't call it a riot, it was a party.

8 **Q:** What happened that night?

9 **A:** It started with the Grammy Awards. Droz and I
10 were both up for Best Rap Album, which of course, I won.
11 This was my crowning moment. I feel like it really
12 solidified me as the Greatest of All Time and all that
13 stuff that I was saying earlier. Droz left empty handed.

14 **Q:** How did the fans react to this?

15 **A:** They freaked out, on both sides. I saw some fights
16 and then a riot broke out on the street outside the
17 building, it was madness. I left the theater after the
18 show was over with my security detail, but some of the
19 craziness followed us back to the hotel.

20 **Q:** Did they attack or threaten you?

21 **A:** No. At this point it was mostly my fans, they just
22 wanted to party with me. A lot of them kept chanting, "Not
23 one of us! Not one of us!"

24 **Q:** Once you were in the hotel, what did you do?

1 **A:** At first, I was upstairs partying with my crew in
2 the suite, but when we heard the fans were downstairs, I
3 wanted to join them to celebrate.

4 **Q:** What did you do next?

5 **A:** I called the front desk to request housekeeping to
6 come clean. We had made a mess in the suite.

7 **Q:** Did housekeeping come and clean your suite?

8 **A:** I think so. The front desk said that they would
9 take care of it. And I saw some people with cleaning
10 supplies on my floor as I headed to the lobby.

11 **Q:** Let's talk about that. Did you make it to the
12 lobby?

13 **A:** Yes. I met up with my fans to celebrate.

14 **Q:** While you were in the lobby, where was your Grammy
15 award?

16 **A:** I left it in my hotel suite. I didn't want to risk
17 losing it in the crowd that was in the lobby, so I left it
18 on the table in the suite. I put it right next to the
19 champagne and ice bucket.

20 **Q:** Did you see Droz in the hotel at any point that
21 night?

22 **A:** Yeah! I found out later that he was staying in the
23 same hotel as me, one floor up. When I was partying with
24 the fans, I was standing up on a little platform talking

1 with a microphone, and I was able to see him walk by in the
2 back with his crew.

3 Q: Was there anything you noticed about him?

4 A: Yes, he looked really upset and I saw something
5 gold and shiny sticking out of that toucan designer
6 backpack that he was wearing. It looked like a Grammy. They
7 have a distinct shape, like a record player's horn. At the
8 time, I thought he had bought fake Grammys as party favors
9 to give out or brought his old trophies because he was so
10 sure he would win, but when I saw my Grammy was gone, I
11 realized it had to be my real Grammy. I didn't know it at
12 the time, but he was just trying to rub it in my face.

13 Q: What happened next?

13 A: He turned and saw me looking at him. He stopped for
15 a second and just stared at me. Right after that, he
16 smirked and held up his middle finger to me, and started
17 walking real fast, and left through the front door of the
18 hotel lobby.

19 Q: I'm showing you what's been marked as Exhibit 11,
20 do you recognize it?

21 A: Yes.

22 Q: What is it?

23 A: That's the designer backpack I saw Droz carrying
24 that night.

1 **Q:** How do you recognize it?

2 **A:** It has that dumb toucan on it.

3 **Q:** Is it a fair and accurate depiction of the backpack

4 you saw him carrying on the night of June 16, 2025?

5 **A:** Yes.

6 MR STOEHRER: Members of the grand jury, I'm now

7 showing you EXHIBIT 10.

8 **Q:** How far away would you say you were from Droz when

9 when you saw him?

10 **A:** I'd say about 50 feet, maybe.

11 **Q:** Do you know if anyone else in the crowd saw him?

12 **A:** Nah. They were all focused on me and what I was

13 saying. My fans were in a rabid state. If they saw Droz,

14 they would've turned around and gone after him and his

15 crew.

16 **Q:** Were you drinking at all that night?

17 **A:** Of course man! They gave us drinks in the theater

18 during the show and then we were partying all night in the

19 hotel, so I had more than a few.

20 **Q:** How much did you have to drink that evening?

21 **A:** I can't say for certain. We were all drinking. I'd

22 have to look at the receipt I got from the hotel.

23 **Q:** When you say "we" , who are you referring to?

24 **A:** My crew. I was traveling with some friends, my

1 manager, and bodyguard. They all stayed in my suite.

2 Q: How many people in total were staying in that suite
3 with you?

4 A: 5 people in total.

5 Q: Did they all go downstairs with you to the lobby?

6 A: Yes.

7 Q: Did they have their own access to the room?

8 A: Yes, they had their own room cards.

9 Q: Did you give anyone else access to your room that
10 night?

11 A: No. Just whoever the hotel sent to clean my suite.

12 Q: When did you first realize that the Grammy was
13 gone?

14 A: When I went back up to my suite after the party.

15 Q: Let's talk about that. When you got up to your
16 suite, did it look like it had been cleaned?

17 A: Yes. I just saw some confetti and two glasses of
18 champagne. Everything else had been cleaned up. But my
19 Grammy was gone.

20 Q: You claimed earlier Droz took it. Why do you say
21 that?

22 A: He's jealous of me! Droz knew that this Grammy
23 meant that I was the GOAT, and he just couldn't handle the
24 fact that I beat him!

1 **Q:** What did you do once you noticed that the Grammy
2 wasn't in your suite?

3 **A:** I called the police and reported it stolen.

4 MR. STOEHRER: No further questions, thank you.

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1 IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF HOFSTRA

2 FOR THE COUNTY OF DEANE

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4 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF HOFSTRA

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7 v.

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9 AUSTIN DROZ a/k/a "DROZ"

10

11

12 The following is a transcript of the Grand Jury Proceedings

13 at the offices of the Deane County District Attorney's

14 office located at 121 University Ave, in the City of

15 Hempstead Hills, State of Hofstra on the 24th day of June,

16 2025.

17

18

19

20

21 Kevin McElroy, CSR 21-4435

22 Court Reporter

23 Hempstead Hills, HF 11549

24 (516) 555-9021

1 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL

2 FOR THE PEOPLE:

3 Mr. Ryan Maiorano, Assistant District Attorney

4 Deane County District Attorney's Office

5 121 University Avenue, 3rd Floor

6 Hempstead Hills, HF 11549

7 (516) 225-8150

8

9 * * *

10 **P R O C E E D I N G S**

11 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were held in
12 court:)

13 Mr. MAIORANO: Mornin', let's get going. Please state
14 your -.

15 COURT REPORTER: One second counsel, we aren't ready
16 yet.

17 MR. MAIORANO: My apologies. I'm a little trigger
18 happy.

19 A GRAND JUROR: We're on the record now.

20 * * *

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22 **"Jo Wilson"**

23 Was thereupon called as a witness; and having been first
24 duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

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EXAMINATION

BY MR. MAIORANO

Q: Good afternoon, please state your name for the record.

A: Hello, my name is Jo Wilson.

Q: How old are you?

A: I am 26 years old.

Q: Where do you live?

A: In the city of Hempstead Hills in the State of Hofstra. I've lived here my whole life.

Q: What is your occupation?

A: I work as a professional golf ball diver.

Q: Um... what is a golf ball diver?

A: You know at the golf courses when the balls fly into the water I go dive and retrieve them. It is exhilarating.

Q: Oh. Are you familiar with Lil Shafe?

A: Of course, he's the greatest!

Q: How do you know him?

A: Well, I don't really know him personally. I hadn't met him until just recently. I've been a fan for many years. He's my favorite musician and the greatest rapper of all time! So I guess I know him the way you know any celebrity - I read about him on the internet, see videos

1 of him on YouTube or the news, see interviews on TV or
2 online, and of course listen to his music.

3 Q: What about Droz? Are you familiar with him?

4 A: Unfortunately.

5 Q: What do you mean by that?

6 A: I know who he is, but I hate him. He's the worst!

7 Q: Why is he the worst?

8 A: He's a liar, and a poser! He thinks he's the GOAT
9 but we all know it's Lil Shafe!

10 Q: What do you mean by "GOAT"?

11 A: It's short for Greatest of All Time. It's a title
12 that rightfully belongs to Lil Shafe, but Droz always tries
13 to claim it for himself.

14 Q: Do you know Droz personally?

15 A: No, same as with Lil Shafe - I met him briefly at
16 the hotel he was staying at the night of the Grammy party.

17 Q: What do you mean by Grammy party?

18 A: There was a party in a hotel the night that
19 Lil Shafe won the Grammy for Best Rap Album of the Year,
20 which officially crowned him as the GOAT!

21 Q: When was this party?

22 A: June 16, 2025, right after the Grammys show.

23 Q: Where was it, specifically?

24 A: In the lobby of the Barron Hotel in Hempstead

1 Hills, Hofstra.

2 Q: How did you end up at that party?

3 A: I live in the city where the Grammy Awards were
4 being hosted. There was a watch party with a group of Lil
5 Shafe fans at a bar next to the theater called Maddie's.
6 Lil Shafe won his award at the end of the show, and we all
7 freaked out. It was amazing! The whole crowd started
8 jumping and cheering. After a few minutes, I guess it was
9 too much for the bar owner, so we got kicked out. We
10 poured into the street outside the theater, still
11 celebrating.

12 Q: Did you run into any Droz fans once outside?

13 A: I didn't see any. Later I heard that there had been
14 clashes between Lil Shafe fans and groups of loser Droz
15 fans, but that was after I left.

16 Q: Why did you leave?

17 A: Right after I got outside Maddie's and into the
18 street, I heard someone say that Lil Shafe was staying at
19 the Barron Hotel, so a chunk of the crowd started to head
20 that way, and I followed hoping we could keep the party
21 going and maybe meet Lil Shafe!

22 Q: Did you end up meeting Lil Shafe?

23 A: Not directly, but I got to see him up close - he
24 heard about the crowd and came down to party with us! He

1 spoke to the whole crowd, so I got to see him from like 50
2 feet away! It was so cool!

3 Q: Did you leave the party at any point?

4 A: Yeah, I was pretty hungry. The Barron has a
5 restaurant on the 15th floor called Ruben Sto's Steakhouse.
6 I went up there to get food. I thought the wait wouldn't be
7 long because the party was still going on in the lobby.

8 Q: Was Lil Shafe still at the party when you left?

9 A: Yes! I figured that I would go grab a steak and
10 come back down, hoping that the victory party was still
11 going on. Lil Shafe looked like he was ready to go all
12 night and celebrate with his fans. What a guy.

13 Q: How long were you gone?

14 A: Around 15 minutes.

15 Q: What happened up there?

16 A: I made it up to the 15th floor only to find Ruben
17 Sto's had closed already, so I started heading back down.
18 I got in the elevator to go back to the ground floor where
19 the party was, but the elevator stopped on floor 8 on the
20 way down. When the doors opened, I was shocked to see Droz
21 walk by!

22 Q: Did he get in the elevator?

23 A: No, he didn't.

24 Q: Did you notice him looking at you at any point?

1 **A:** No, he didn't even look towards the elevator.

2 **Q:** Describe his appearance as he walked by.

3 **A:** He was wearing a blue suit and had his stupid
4 designer toucan backpack on. He had both fists clenched,
5 like he was going to punch somebody.

6 **Q:** What happened after he passed you?

7 **A:** When I saw Droz pass the elevator, I stuck my head
8 out to see where he was going. He was walking down the hall
9 toward the staircase down at the other end. Then, I saw him
10 enter the stairwell, where he went down the stairs to the
11 7th floor where Lil Shafe's suite was.

12 **MR. MAIORANO:** That last sentence is stricken from the
13 record. Members of the grand jury, you must disregard the
14 witness's statement about where the defendant went once
15 he entered the stairwell.

16 **Q:** Mr. Wilson, you didn't actually see Droz on the 7th
17 floor, correct?

18 **A:** That's right. I saw him go into the stairwell and
19 that was it.

20 **Q:** Did you hear Droz say anything when you were on the
21 8th floor with him?

22 **A:** I sure did. When he passed me, he was muttering
23 angrily under his breath.

24 **Q:** Could you tell what he was saying?

1 **A:** For sure. He said "I'll show him... thinks he's
2 better than me? It belongs to me! I'm the GOAT."

3 **Q:** Did he say who or what he was referring to?

4 **A:** Not explicitly, but c'mon! Droz was talking
5 about Lil Shafe! He went right down those stairs and stole
6 it from Lil Shafe's room!

7 **MR. MAIORANO:** That testimony is stricken from the
8 record. Members of the grand jury, you are to disregard
9 the witness's answer to that question.

10 **Q:** Mr. Wilson, was that a no to my question?

11 **A:** Right. He didn't specify who or what he was talking
12 about.

13 **Q:** How far away were you from Droz when you heard all
14 this?

15 **A:** I don't know, maybe 10 feet.

16 **Q:** Was anyone else around when you saw Droz?

17 **A:** No, just me and him.

18 **Q:** Did you see or hear anything else from Droz?

19 **A:** No. He was walking away from me so I couldn't hear
20 anymore, and once he made it to the stairwell I didn't see
21 him again.

22 **Q:** What did you do next?

23 **A:** I went back downstairs to the party, and I stayed
24 there the rest of the night. Lil Shafe was down there

1 talking to the crowd by then, and there was no way I was
2 going to miss that, it was amazing! We sang "Not One of
3 Us" all night!

4 MR. MAIORANO: Thank you, no further questions.

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ADVICE OF RIGHTS CENTRAL

COMPLAINT NUMBER: 24-438670

YOUR RIGHTS

1. You have the right to remain silent. A.D.
2. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. A.D.
3. You have the right to talk to a lawyer, right now, and have them present with you while you are being questioned. A.D.
4. If you cannot afford a lawyer and want one, a lawyer will be appointed to you but the court before any questioning. If you decide to answer questions now, without a lawyer present, you will have the right to stop the questioning at any time until you talk to a lawyer. A.D.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS

1. Do you understand each of these rights I have explained to you? A.D.
2. Having these rights in mind, do you wish to talk to me/us now? A.D.

A.D.

SIGNATURE OF DEFENDANT

DATE: 6/17/25

TIME: 10:30am

WITNESS: PO Jenny Roberts

1 **Police Interview of Austin Droz A/K/A “Droz” by Detective Jenny Roberts**

2 HEMPSTEAD HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

3
4 **Q:** Hello, I am Detective Jenny Roberts. Please state your name for the record.

5 **A:** Austin Droz, but internationally known as Droz.

6 **Q:** What is your occupation?

7 **A:** Seriously? I’m the boy. The 516God. I make music. I rap, sing, produce, and
8 write. But I never lost touch with my sensitive side.

9 **Q:** Tell me about some of your accomplishments in your career.

10 **A:** Sure. I have had top singles since ‘09. I just released “6AM in Uniondale.”
11 I’ve released multiple platinum albums, had over a dozen songs hit number one on the
12 Billboard charts, sold out world tours, and collaborated with some of the biggest names in
13 the industry. I am one of the legends.

14 **Q:** Are you involved in any other businesses?

15 **A:** Yeah. I embrace my own personal brand. I’ve used it to build a substantial
16 portfolio of companies outside of music. I have a fashion line that makes apparel and
17 accessories. We collaborate with other designer brands as well.

18 **Q:** What’s it called?

19 **A:** “No-V-O.” It’s short for “Nassau’s Very Own.” We brand all of our items with
20 this dope Toucan logo. The people love it, man.

21 **Q:** Do you wear any of your own stuff?

22 **A:** Oh yeah. It’s very high quality. Of course.

23 **Q:** I’m showing you what has been marked as Exhibit 11. Do you recognize this?

1 A: Sure do! That's my backpack, one of my favorite collabs - between LV and
2 No-V-O. It's actually the only one ever produced. Custom made for yours truly.

3 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked as Exhibit 14. Do you recognize this?

4 A: Yes, that looks like security footage of me walking from the Barron to the
5 Cerri Hotel.

6 Q: What is sticking outside of your backpack?

7 A: That must be my lucky toucan. After I made LV a song for their runway
8 shows, they made me the backpack and this toucan trophy. Ever since, I usually keep the
9 toucan in the backpack—it goes almost everywhere with it.

10 Q: I'm showing you what has been marked as Exhibit 13. Do you recognize this?

11 A: Yes, exactly that is my lucky LV toucan.

12 Q: Have you ever won a Grammy?

13 A: Yes, I've won for some of my singles - "Fulton Street Flows," "516man," and
14 "10 PM on Hempstead Turnpike." But I never won a Grammy for Best Rap Album.

15 Q: Are there a lot of conflicts in the music industry?

16 A: Yes, plenty. Sometimes it is fake for publicity or just speculation by the press,
17 but other times it's real.

18 Q: Do you have a conflict with Lil Shafe?

19 A: Sort of. It was a little issue that started off as real, but whenever either of us
20 would mention it, we got so much publicity that we both continued. It was like an
21 unspoken agreement we had going to make things super dramatic.

22 Q: Is it fair to say this was "good for business"?

23 A: Yeah, it was helping us both. It definitely piqued the interest of our respective

1 fanbases.

2 **Q:** How long have you known Lil Shafe?

3 **A:** I have known him for years now. We used to work with the same people, then

4 took him under my wing. I basically started him.

5 **Q:** Were you in the State of Hofstra on June 16, 2025?

6 **A:** Yes, I was there for the Grammy Awards in Hempstead Hills.

7 **Q:** Were you nominated for any awards?

8 **A:** Yeah, I was nominated for Best Rap Album, but I didn't win. Lil Shafe did.

9 **Q:** How did you feel about that outcome?

10 **A:** Disappointed, sure, but it's the Grammys. It happens. I wasn't mad, just

11 exhausted. My plan was to lay low that night. I wasn't in the mood to go to any

12 after parties.

13 **Q:** Where were you staying that evening?

14 **A:** At the Barron Hotel. My team and I were staying in the Rosenblatt Suites

15 there, the best rooms in the building.

16 **Q:** Were you aware that Lil Shafe was also staying at the Barron Hotel?

17 **A:** Not until after the show. I found out he was staying on the floor below me.

18 **Q:** What happened after you returned to the hotel that evening?

19 **A:** The lobby was packed with fans shouting, cameras flashing, music echoing,

20 and people crowding every corner. Security had to sneak me in through the employee

21 entrance to avoid the chaos. I was tense and just wanted to sleep.

22 **Q:** Did you speak to anyone about how you were feeling?

23 **A:** Not really. I just talked to Ryan. Told him the whole night was a mess, the

1 fans were wild, and I was sick of the drama.

2 **Q:** Who is Ryan?

3 **A:** Ryan Polisi? He is my public relations manager. He is the best. He sets up
4 interviews, runs my social media, and steps up when drama hits. Basically, he makes
5 sure I stay in the spotlight for the right reasons. He and I have been working together
6 for over ten years, so we are super close, and I tell him everything.

7 **Q:** What did you say to him that night?

8 **A:** I think I told him how mad I was and that I was going to go to Lil Shafe's
9 suite to talk it out. I texted Lil Shafe before to see if he could meet up.

10 **Q:** I'm showing you what's been marked as Exhibit 13, do you recognize it?

11 **A:** Yeah, that's a text from my phone to Lil Shafe. It never got delivered, so we
12 didn't talk things out.

13 **Q:** What do you mean by talk things out?

14 **A:** Ryan suggested that I go to Lil Shafe's suite and congratulate him to calm
15 things down.

16 **Q:** Why did Ryan suggest that?

17 **A:** He said it'd be better for my image. Honestly, I knew it was good for publicity
18 that either Lil Shafe or I won. If the other nominees, like Rachel Heyman or James Axis
19 won, I would have been happy for them, but Lil Shafe winning gives me more attention
20 so I agreed with Ryan that congratulations were due. I didn't feel like we had a real issue,
21 just something fans dragged out.

22 **Q:** Did you go down to Lil Shafe's suite?

23 **A:** Yes, I did.

1 **Q:** While you were walking there did you pass anyone?

2 **A:** No, I don't remember passing by anyone.

3 **Q:** I'm showing you what's been marked as Exhibit 4, a still shot from the

4 Barron Hotel's security system. What's going on here?

5 **A:** Oh... yeah, I pressed the button for the elevator. When it opened, that guy was

6 inside and he was wearing a Lil Shafe T-shirt, so I knew he had to be a crazy fan. I

7 would never trap myself in an elevator with a psycho like that, never without my security.

8 **Q:** Then what happened?

9 **A:** I walked right past the elevator and to the stairs.

10 **Q:** When you got to the suite, was the door to the suite locked?

11 **A:** No, I gave one gentle knock and it just swung open.

12 **Q:** The door was unlocked when you arrived?

13 **A:** Yeah. At that point I assumed it was unlocked because Lil Shafe was in there.

14 **Q:** Was Lil Shafe in the suite?

15 **A:** No, but about three other people were. It's a big suite so I don't know how

16 many for sure. Between working with similar people and having a past with Lil Shafe, I

17 know almost everyone he works with, and whoever was in the suite were not a part of his

18 team.

19 **Q:** Who were they?

20 **A:** I still don't know, definitely not hotel staff. They flinched and scattered when I

21 walked in, and not in a way that shocked fans or even haters do, like they were up to

22 something.

23 **Q:** What did these people look like?

1 A: I can't really say for sure. It all happened so fast.

2 Q: Could you see what they were doing when you walked in?

3 A: No.

4 Q: Did you see where they went after they “scattered”?

5 A: No. I’m pretty sure the room had another exit.

6 Q: What else did you see when you entered the suite?

7 A: My room was so much nicer, this was a normal suite, but it looked like it had

8 been trashed, I couldn’t tell for sure.

9 Q: Why do you say it looked like it was trashed?

10 A: It was messy, bro.

11 Q: Was there anything that stood out to you in the room?

12 A: Yes, there was a banner dissing my lyrics. The banner had to have been made

13 before the Grammys. Lil Shafe’s team was so confident that he would win, as if I didn’t

14 have just as good of a chance. It’s ironic since Lil Shafe is always saying to be humble

15 and there was nothing humble about this.

16 Q: Was there a Grammy in the room?

17 A: I can’t say for certain, I didn’t see it anywhere.

18 Q: Then what happened?

19 A: I left the hotel, I didn’t feel safe staying there anymore, so I left and went to

20 the nearby Cerri Hotel.

21 Q: You didn’t feel safe?

22 A: Things were getting too crazy for me. I just saw those strange people in Lil

23 Shafe’s room. A bunch of his fans were rioting in the lobby. It was time for me to leave.

1 **Q:** Did you leave with your backpack?

2 **A:** Yeah, I left with it on.

3 **Q:** Did you leave with the Grammy?

4 **A:** No man, I didn't take it. To be honest, that hotel was like a mob scene. People
5 partying all over the place, drunk, chanting “Not One of Us”, rioting. Lil Shafe’s door
6 was unlocked when I got there. Anyone could have walked in and taken it! Worst of all,
7 no one from Lil Shafe’s team seemed to be watching over it. Seems like he took winning
8 the Grammy for granted.

9 **Q:** Well, what was in your backpack?

10 **A:** Some jewelry, a change of clothes, and my other phone because you never
11 know when that hotline is gonna bling.

12 **Q:** Why did you go to the room?

13 **A:** I told you! I only went to the suite to end a feud. I know what it looks like, but
14 I have respect for the award and I think it should be earned, not taken.

15 **Q:** Did you know that Lil Shafe wasn’t in the suite?

16 **A:** No, I went to the suite to talk to him, obviously thought he was in there.

17 **Q:** I’m showing you Exhibit 12. What is this?

18 **A:** That’s a Grammy, and it's in a garbage can.

19 **Q:** Do you recognize the location?

20 **A:** No idea where that is.

21 **Q:** This picture was taken on Weiss Street. It’s directly outside of the Cerri Hotel.
22 You don't know how it got there?

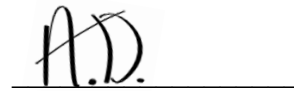
23 **A:** I don't know how many times I have to tell you! I have no idea.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INTERVIEWEE

I, Austin Droz, do hereby acknowledge that I have read and examined the foregoing transcript, the same is true, correct and complete transcription of the interview between myself and Detective Jenny Roberts of the Hempstead Hills Police Department.

Date: June 17, 2025

Hempstead Hills, HF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.D.', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Austin Droz

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Hykeem Karter, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of my stenographic notes of the investigative interview of Austin Droz, who first duly declare and/or affirmed, taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that I am neither an attorney, nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this interview was taken, nor financially interested in this action.

Date: June 17, 2025

Hempstead Hills, HF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hykeem Karter', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hykeem Karter

1 **Police Interview of Ryan Polisi by Detective Jenny Roberts**

2 HEMPSTEAD HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

3
4 **Q:** Good afternoon, please state your name for the record.

5 **A:** Hi, my name is Ryan Polisi.

6 **Q:** Where do you live?

7 **A:** I live in Hempstead Hills in Hofstra, but I've moved around
8 following Droz.

9 **Q:** What is your occupation?

10 **A:** I am a public relations manager. I run publicity and image consulting for high
11 profile clients in the music industry.

12 **Q:** How long have you worked in this field?

13 **A:** About fifteen years. It only took me 5 years to become the best of the best. The
14 past ten years I have worked exclusively with Droz.

15 **Q:** What are your responsibilities as Droz's publicist?

16 **A:** I handle media strategy, press releases, crisis communications, interviews, red
17 carpet prep. Basically everything that helps shape how the public sees him. Throughout
18 the years we have become close, we advise each other especially when tensions run
19 high.

20 **Q:** Is your reputation tied to your client's reputation?

21 **A:** My job is to make my clients look good. When they shine, it reflects well on
22 me. If they look bad, I look like I don't know how to do my job. That said, not every
23 client gives me much to work with. In that case, I do what I can, but I won't take the fall

1 for choices they make. Some clients understand that, others don't.

2 Q: Have you ever heard of Jo Wilson?

3 A: No, is he famous? Who is that?

4 Q: He is also known for his social media username @Devoted2LilShafe.4.ever.

5 I'm showing you what's been marked as Exhibit 1, do you recognize it?

6 A: Of course I do, I could never forget that username! He has left hate comments
7 on Droz's posts for about 8 years now. His name always stood out to me because he hated
8 Droz before anyone ever hated Droz, including Lil Shafe. I've seen him post some
9 creepy stuff.

10 Q: What posts are you referring to?

11 A: Years ago he posted something weird, like "Droz, I can't wait for your
12 downfall". Recently, he posted "Lil Shafe I would do anything for you,
13 aannyytthhiinnngg". I have blocked him on Droz's account so many times, but he must be
14 some type of tech freak, because he always figures out how to undo it!

15 Q: Were you with Droz on the evening of June 16, 2025, after the Grammy
16 Awards?

17 A: Yes, I was.

18 Q: Can you walk us through what you observed that night?

19 A: We left the show after Droz lost, I left in the same car as him and he seemed
20 fine. Then, when we got to the hotel, we saw Droz fans and Lil Shafe fans filling the
21 lobby. Then, I saw what was either Lil Shafe or a damn good impersonator rallying his
22 fans in the lobby, so I made sure security dropped us off at the employees entrance so we
23 could we could get in without causing a scene. Once inside, Droz told me he was a little

1 bothered.

2 **Q:** What did you two talk about?

3 **A:** He was irritated, and in the heat of the moment he said he wanted to “talk it
4 out with Lil Shafe”. I advised him that he should only talk it out to smooth things over. I
5 told him to take the high road, that in the end he would benefit off of it.

6 **Q:** What did you mean by that?

7 **A:** That he should squash the drama, congratulate Lil Shafe, spin the whole loss in
8 a positive light. If he did that, he’d look like the bigger person and gain more long-term
9 goodwill. You know... the brand deals, media buzz, that sort of thing.

10 **Q:** Did Droz have Lil Shafe’s number to reach out to him?

11 **A:** Yeah, they used to work together, so he definitely had his number. But I meant
12 more of a public congratulations on social media, since that would get him attention.

13 **Q:** How did Droz respond to that advice?

14 **A:** He cooled down. He agreed and said something like “I guess you’re right” and
15 that he’d say something supportive. At that point, I genuinely thought that was his plan.

16 **Q:** Did you see Droz later on that night?

17 **A:** No.

18 **Q:** Did you ever tell Droz to go to Lil Shafe’s suite?

19 **A:** No. I suggested he make a gesture, again, I was thinking of making a post or
20 something subtle. I didn’t suggest going to his suite directly. That was his call.

21 **Q:** Did Droz ever say he was going to take anything from the suite?

22 **A:** Absolutely not. That’s not who he is. He might have been angry, but he was
23 talking like someone who wanted to de-escalate the situation.

1 **Q:** What do you make of what happened next?

2 **A:** I don't know what went through his head in that suite. But what I do know is
3 that Droz had every reason to keep this situation under control, he had too much to lose
4 by making things worse. Droz's walk up to Lil Shafe's suite was nothing more than an
5 attempt to make amends. But now, Droz is the victim of baseless accusations of stealing
6 Lil Shafe's Grammy. It doesn't make sense to me.

7 **Q:** Is it common for Droz to go for a walk without his security team?

8 **A:** It has happened before, but it's not common.

9 **Q:** Do you think he went into that suite intending to steal the Grammy?

10 **A:** No, absolutely not. I know him better than anyone. He's honest, he values hard
11 work, and he believes in earning awards, not taking them. He never even hated Lil Shafe,
12 it was all for show. From everything we talked about and the mood that night, I'm
13 certain stealing was never on his mind.

14 **Q:** Is it fair to say that you're close with Droz?

15 **A:** Very. He's not just a client to me, he's a brother. I always look out for him and
16 he does the same for me. We stay close together in No-V-O. We've been through highs
17 and lows together, and I know exactly how he handles pressure.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INTERVIEWEE

I, Ryan Polisi, do hereby acknowledge that I have read and examined the foregoing transcript, the same is true, correct and complete transcription of the interview between myself and Detective Jenny Roberts of the Hempstead Hills Police Department.

Date: June 17, 2025

Hempstead Hills, HF



Ryan Polisi

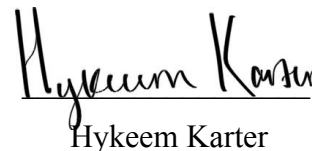
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Hykeem Karter, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of my stenographic notes of the investigative interview of Austin Droz, who first duly declare and/or affirmed, taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that I am neither an attorney, nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this interview was taken, nor financially interested in this action.

Date: June 17, 2025

Hempstead Hills, HF



Hykeem Karter

EXHIBIT 1



Jo Wilson

@Devoted2LilShafe.4.ever.



Lil Shafe I would do anything for you, aannyytthhiinngg

3:00 AM · Jun 1, 2020

103 Retweets

54 Quote Tweets

426 Likes



EXHIBIT 2

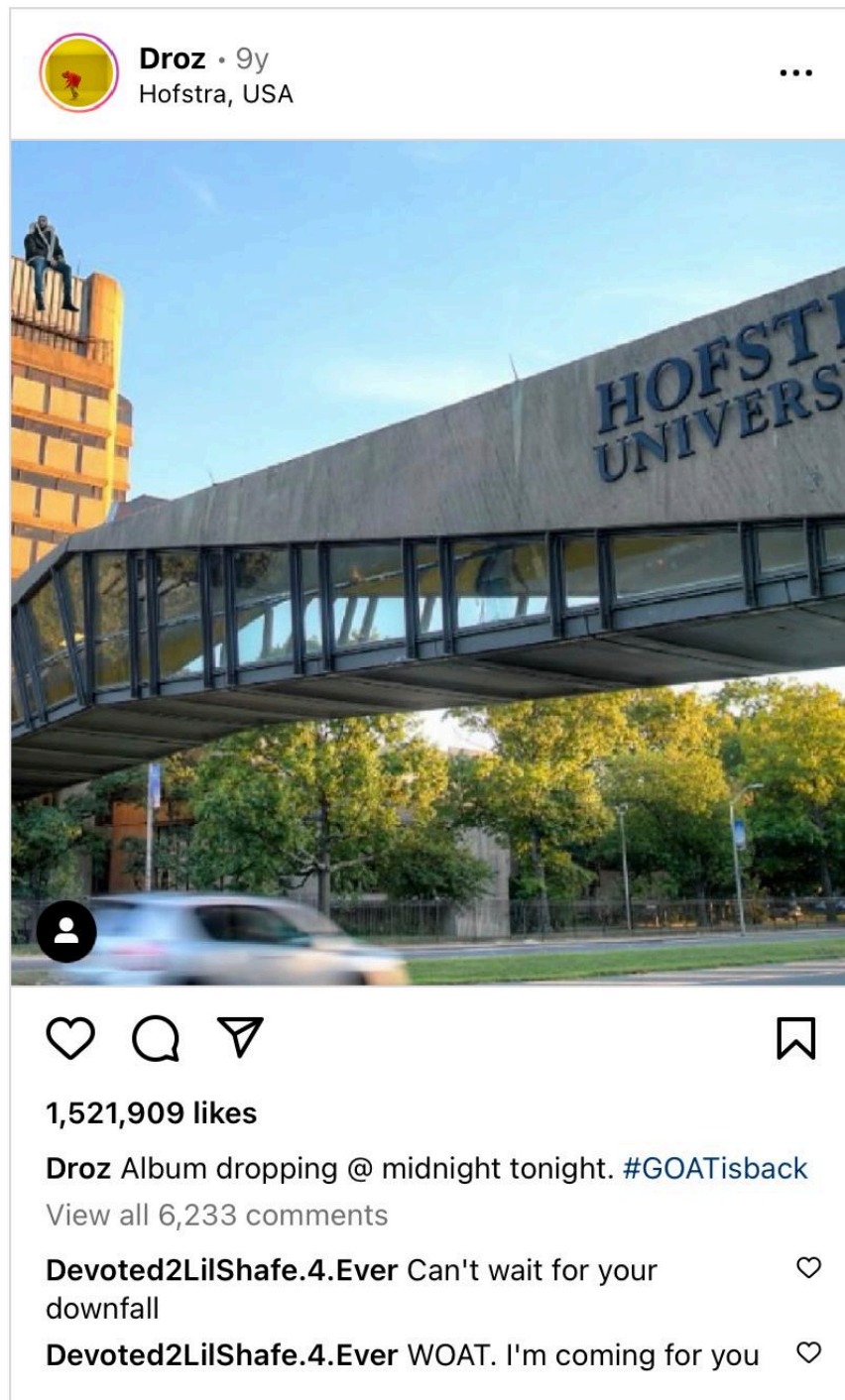


EXHIBIT 3



EXHIBIT 4



EXHIBIT 5

Barron Hotel Lobby Floor Plan

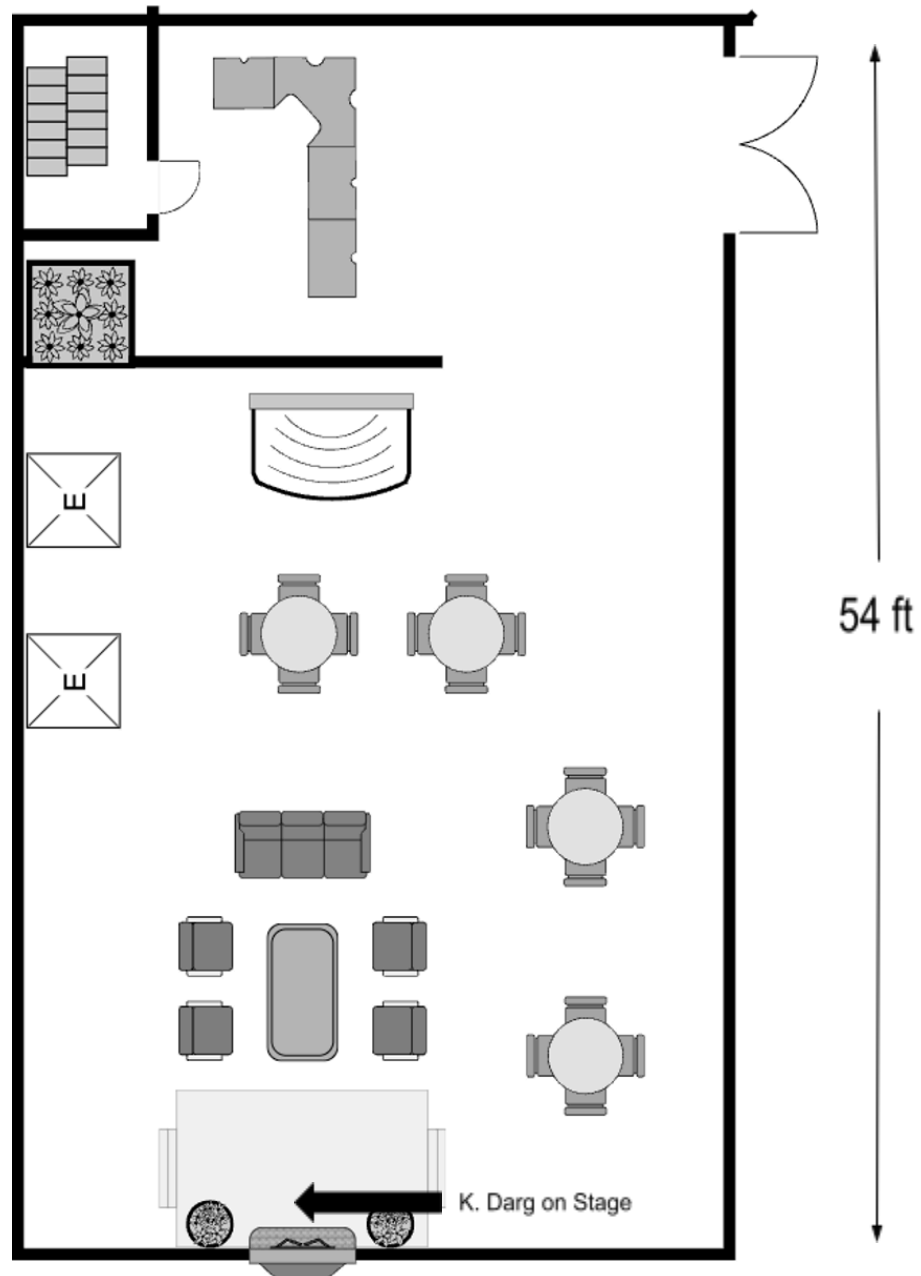


EXHIBIT 6

Hotel Floor 7 Plan

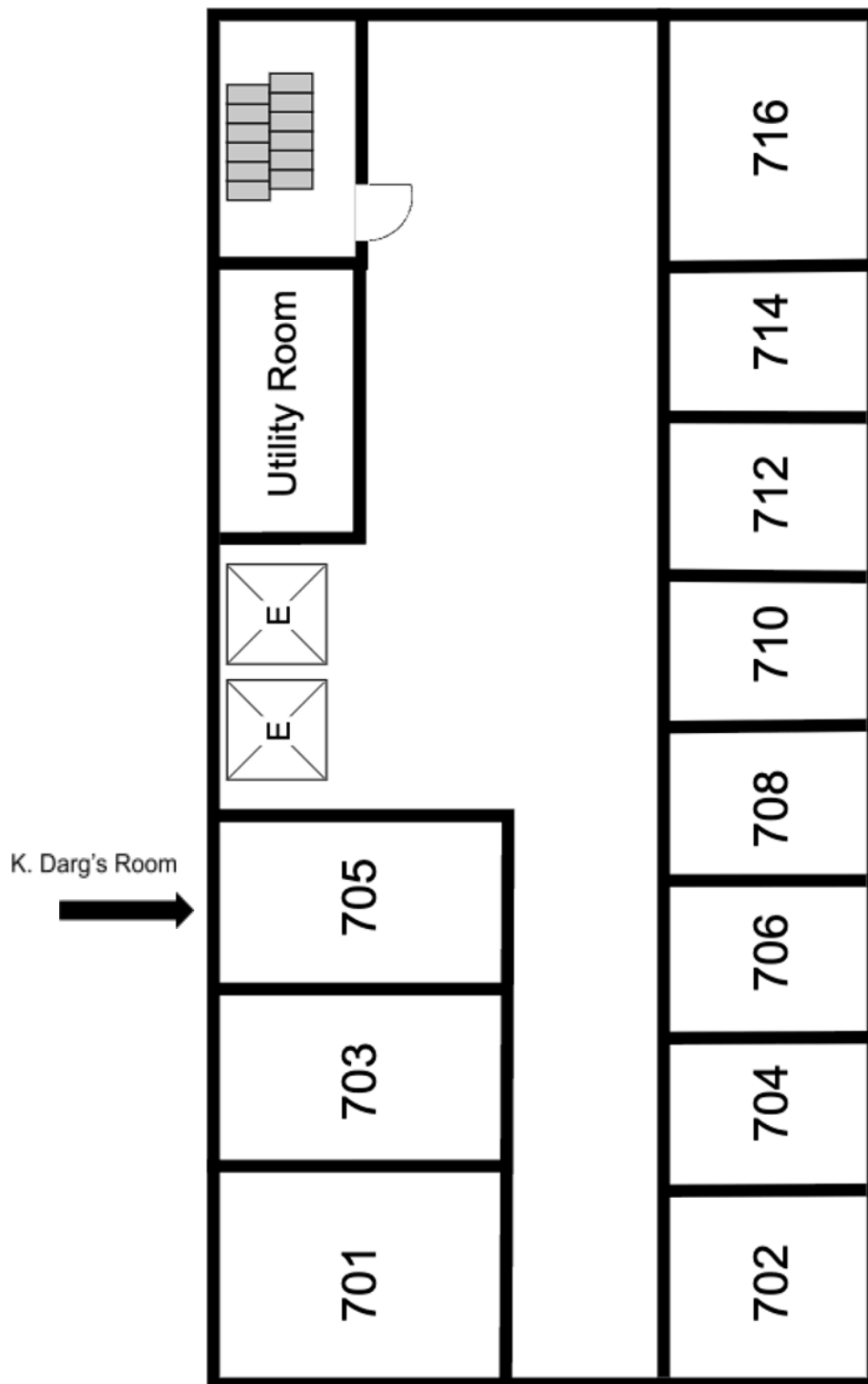


EXHIBIT 7

Hotel Floor 8 Plan

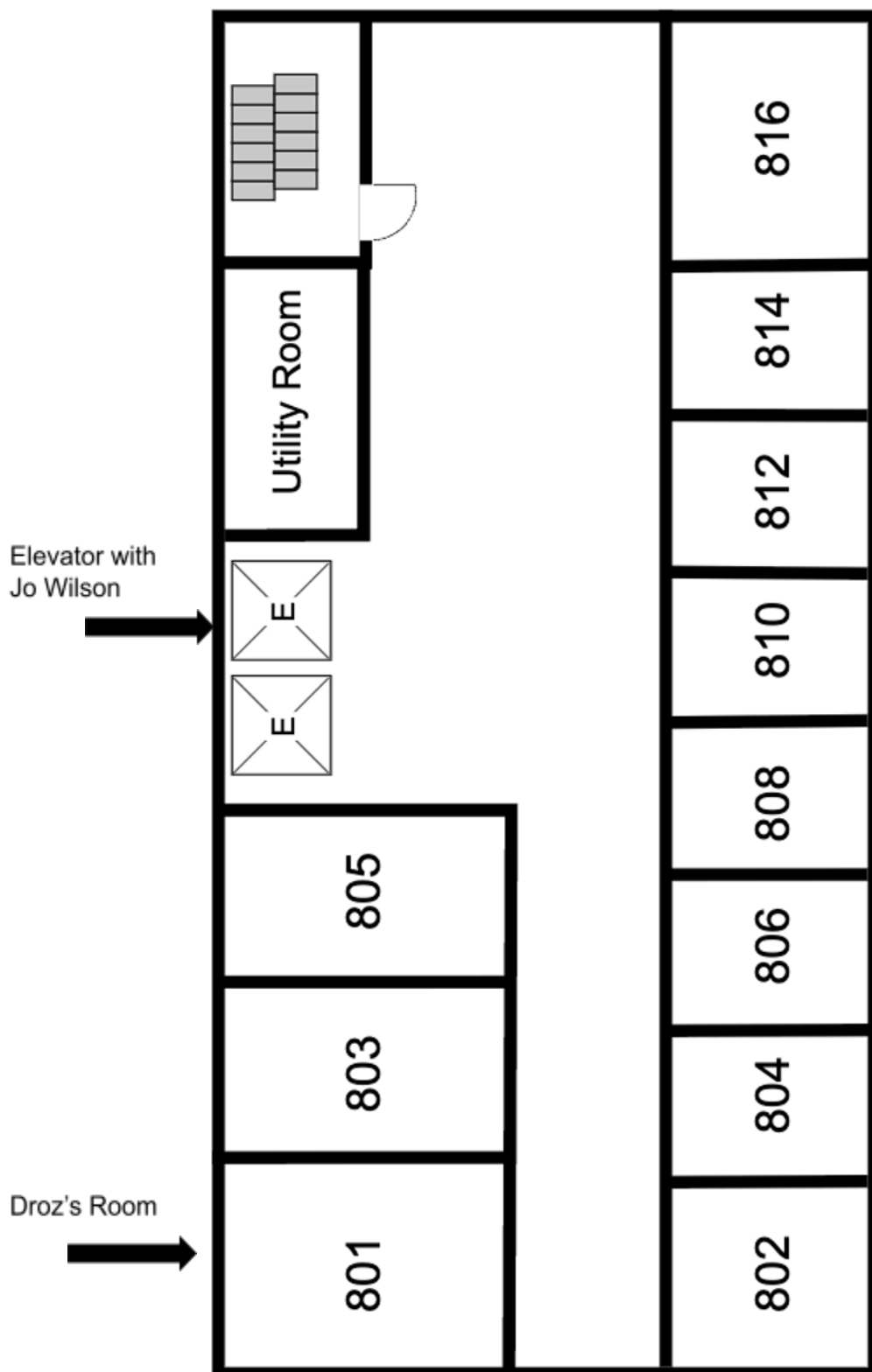


EXHIBIT 8

Floor Plan for Lil Shafe's Suite #705

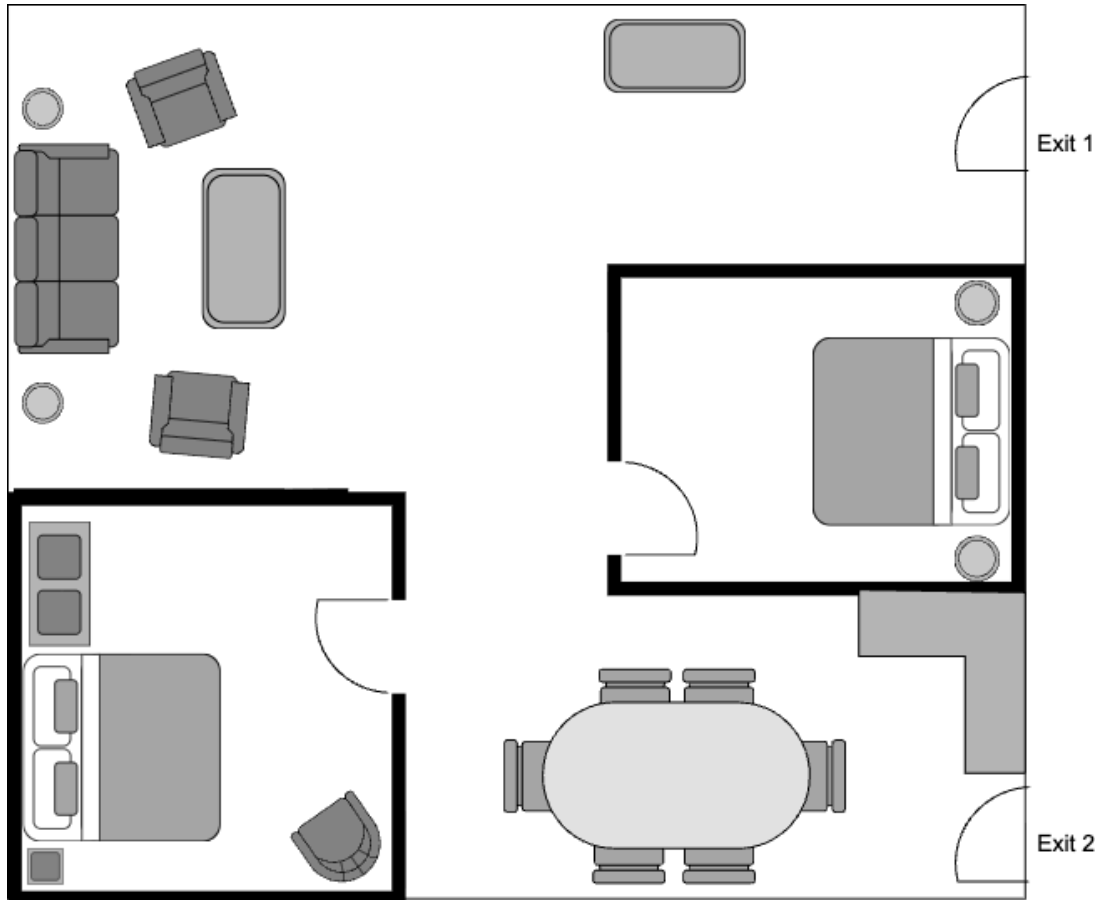


EXHIBIT 9

BARRON HOTEL
11 PRIDE STREET
HEMPSTEAD HILLS, HOFSTRA
516-410-4999

ORDER: 159 06/16/2025
HOST: JULIA 11:30 PM

4 DOM PERIGNON \$ 2028.00
2 HENNESSY COGNAC \$ 400.00
13 STELLA ARTOIS \$ 169.00

VISA 6166 SALE

SUBTOTAL \$ 2597.00
TAX \$ 228.54
TOTAL: \$ 2825.54
TRANSACTION TYPE: SALE
AUTHORIZATION: APPROVED
PAYMENT CODE: 80381874
PAYMENT ID: 402734970
CARD READER: SWIPED/CHIP

TIP: \$800

TOTAL: \$3625.54

x Jay Shaffer

CUSTOMER COPY
THANKS FOR VISITING THE
BARRON HOTEL!

No Apologies

Droz

From late nights in transit to labels that stir,
I've been chasin' the dream so long it's all a blur.
City lights flash while the speakers roar,
this ain't just the hustle — it's a self-made tour.

Here, all the rappers are at war.
They lie, steal, and cheat. I could settle the score.
Would I do it? Man, that's not even a question anymore.
I been hungry so long, hunger turned to obsession.
I'd trade sleep, pride, even blood for that mention.
You ever wanted somethin' so bad you'd cross lines?
Like all your losses just led to that one time?

I love my city, man. I bleed for the name.
I been in the game too much to watch it play me the same.
I'm never washed, but I'm not new.
I know I said top five, but I'm top two. And I'm not two and I got one
Talk is cheap, but I get the work done.

You're watching my party from your parent's couch,
Mad 'cause they cheer my name when yours is drowned out.
No regrets, no filters, no disguise
No apologies. Just truth, no compromise.

EXHIBIT 11



EXHIBIT 12



EXHIBIT 13

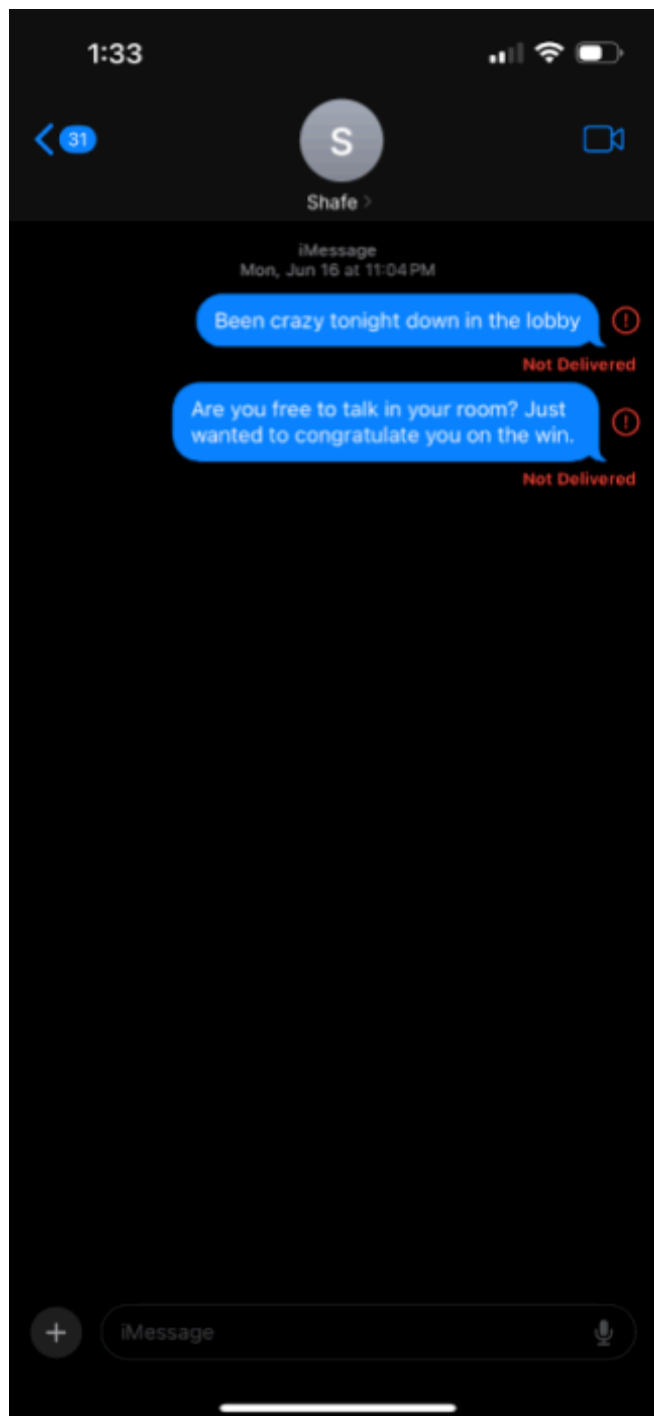


EXHIBIT 14



EXHIBIT 15

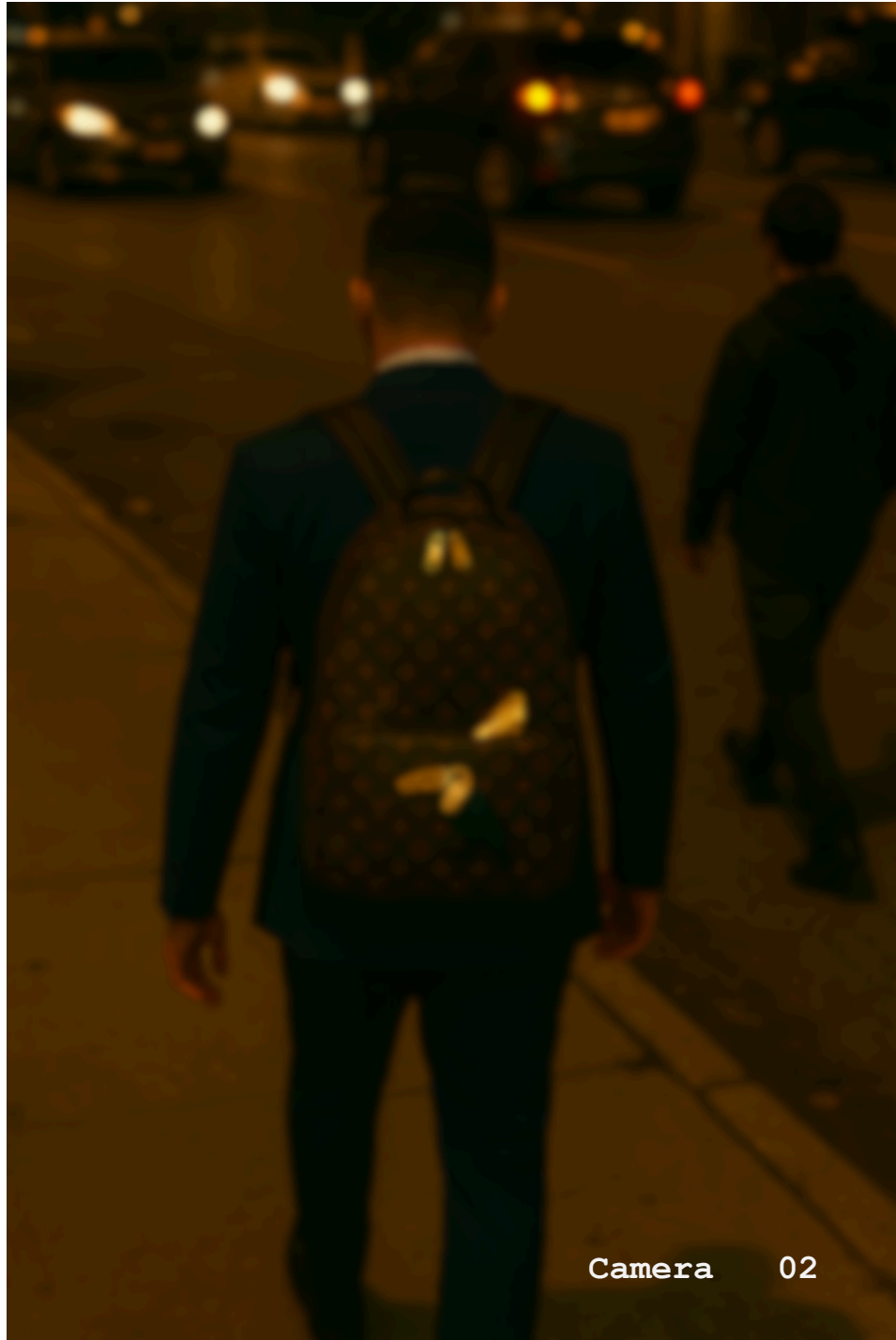


EXHIBIT 16



Hempstead Hills Police Department

Cell Phone Location Report

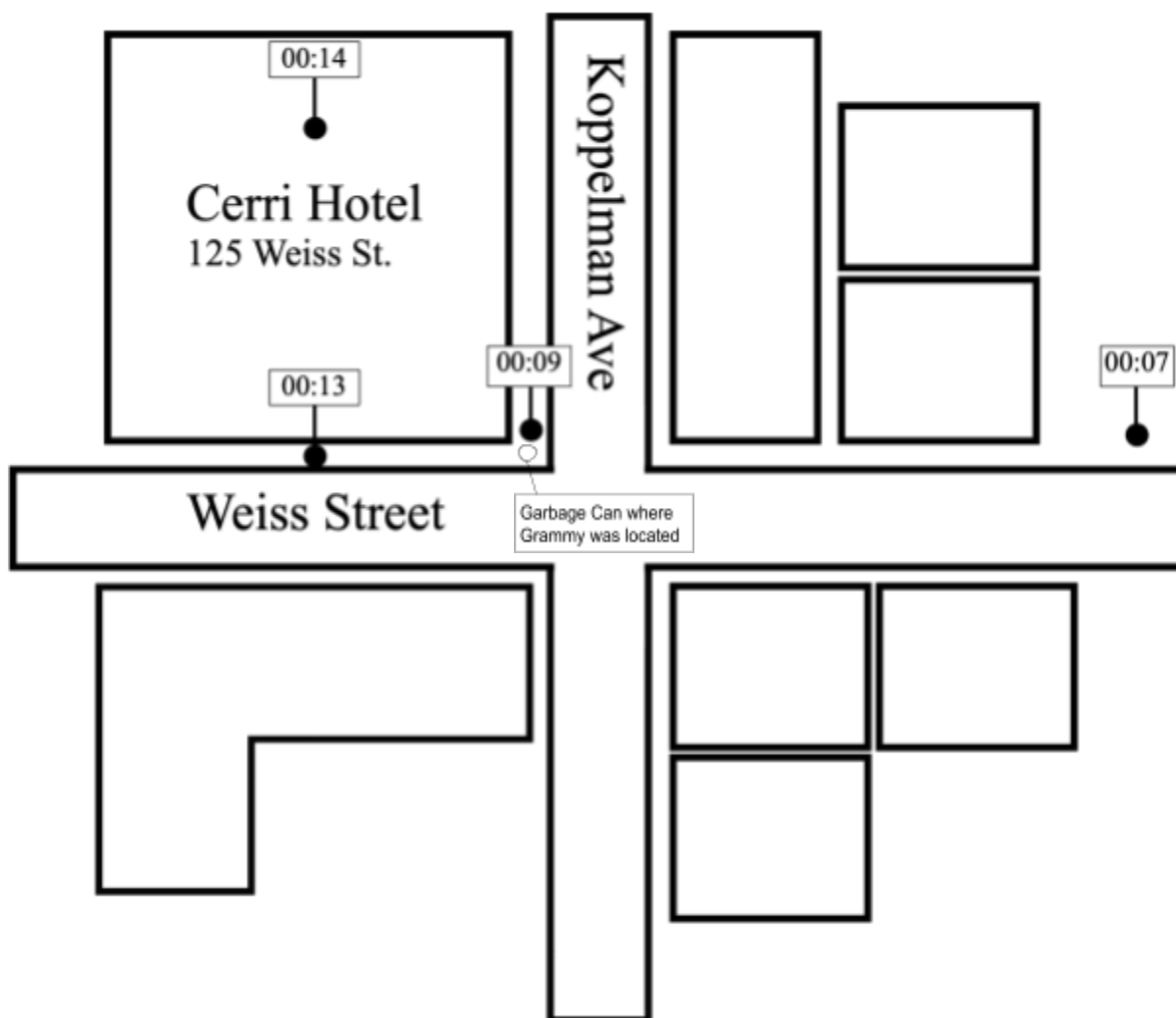
Case No. 24-438670

Subject: Austin Droz

Phone No. 416-308-2308

Results from 6-17-2025, 00:00 – 01:00

Location: Intersection of Weiss St. & Koppelman Ave. and neighboring buildings



This report was prepared by police officers of the HHPD from technical cell phone data. Black dots with flags represent the cell phone's location at the time stated in the flag's box. A black dot inside a building indicates that the subject moved inside that building; upon his or her exit, a new flag will appear at the first pinged location outside the building stating the time of that ping. This report excludes any movements outside the searched time range and location. Other information and points of interest were added by police officers for comparison and reference.