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JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE ON JEA MATTER

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INTERVIEW OF  
TIMOTHY BAKER

DATE TAKEN: Tuesday, September 8, 2020  
TIME: 1:07 a.m. to 5:01 p.m.  
LOCATION: Smith Hulsey & Busey  
One Independent Drive  
Suite 3300  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Examination of the witness taken before:  
Terrie L. Cook, RPR, CRR, FPR, and a Notary Public

Hedquist and Associates  
345 East Forsyth Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
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- - -

1	APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL	2
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1	STIPULATION	5
2	It was stipulated and agreed by and between	
3	counsel for the respective parties, and the witness,	
4	that the reading and signing of the interview by the	
5	witness was not waived.	
6	- - -	
7	TIMOTHY BAKER,	
8	acknowledged having been duly sworn to tell the truth	
9	and testified upon his oath as follows:	
10	THE WITNESS: I do.	
11	DIRECT EXAMINATION	
12	BY MR. BUSEY:	
13	Q Would you give us your full name and business	
14	address, please?	
15	A Timothy Baker. Business address is 140 West	
16	Monroe Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32202.	
17	Q And you're a member of the Florida Bar, aren't	
18	you?	
19	A Yes, sir.	
20	Q And when did -- you went to Florida Law School?	
21	A Florida State.	
22	Q Florida State, excuse me.	
23	A Yes, sir.	
24	Q What year did you graduate?	
25	A 2011.	
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1 Q What year did you become a member of the  
2 Florida Bar?  
3 A 2012.  
4 Q And can you tell me briefly what you've done  
5 since then in terms of profession and occupation?  
6 A I'm an attorney and political consultant.  
7 Q For the past eight years?  
8 A Yes, sir.  
9 Q When did you -- you live in Jacksonville?  
10 A I do.  
11 Q When did you move to Jacksonville?  
12 A I moved to Jacksonville in 2015.  
13 Q And what caused you to come to Jacksonville?  
14 A I was born in Jacksonville and so it was a  
15 little bit of a homecoming. Lived in Tallahassee prior  
16 to Jacksonville and it was a small town so I came to a  
17 bigger city where there were more than five restaurants  
18 to go to dinner to.  
19 Q Six?  
20 A Yeah.  
21 Q You said you've been an attorney and political  
22 consultant. Have you been employed by anybody since  
23 2012?  
24 A I mean, I've run my own businesses.  
25 Q You've been self-employed since 2012?  
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1 A Yes, sir.  
2 Q And you used business as plural, how many  
3 businesses?  
4 A I have a number of businesses. I couldn't  
5 tell you off the top of my head, but at least four or  
6 five.  
7 Q Can you name the ones you can remember?  
8 MR. BISHOP: You know, Steve, I think we're  
9 here about -- I don't want to interrupt your  
10 deposition, but I want to be really careful that  
11 this be, obviously, within the bounds of what we're  
12 here about.  
13 We're here voluntarily to talk about matters  
14 relating to the city council's investigation for  
15 which you're special counsel, so I'm just going to  
16 sort of lay that out as a marker that we'd like to  
17 not have this be a lengthy interrogation of him on  
18 anything personal or unrelated to that.  
19 So I know typically I wouldn't make a speaking  
20 objection, but I wanted you to know kind where we  
21 stand and I know you're going to -- you're going to  
22 hear that, but I just wanted you to know. So I'm  
23 not going to interfere with that question, but I  
24 just wanted you to know the spirit of it.  
25 MR. BUSEY: I appreciate that, Tom. I'm  
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1 generally on board with you.  
2 MR. BISHOP: Okay. I figured you would be.  
3 Thank you.  
4 MR. BUSEY: The reason for the question I'm  
5 asking is if he is a political consultant, it does  
6 relate to what we're talking about here.  
7 MR. BISHOP: Okay.  
8 MR. BUSEY: So I want to find out his business  
9 or businesses of political consultancy.  
10 BY MR. BUSEY:  
11 Q So would you name the businesses, please?  
12 A Data Targeting Research, LLC. BCSP, LLC.  
13 Baker Law Group, PLLC. Baker Properties Duval. Those  
14 are the ones I recall off the top of my head.  
15 Q And did you have any of those businesses while  
16 you were in Tallahassee?  
17 A Yes.  
18 Q Which ones?  
19 A Data Targeting Research. Baker Law Group. And  
20 those are the two that I had in Tallahassee. Actually,  
21 I had a third in Tallahassee. Timothy Baker Consulting,  
22 LLC.  
23 Q Do you -- do you know Lenny Curry?  
24 A I do.  
25 Q How did you meet him?  
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1 A I met him when he was chairman of the  
2 Republican Party of Florida. I did work with the  
3 republican party.  
4 Q What kind of work did you do with the  
5 republican party?  
6 A Did political consulting work on various  
7 campaigns across the state.  
8 Q Does that include polling research?  
9 A Yes.  
10 Q I understand you have an expertise in that  
11 area; is that right?  
12 A Some -- some say I do. I enjoy it.  
13 Q I'm assuming you're coming to Jacksonville in  
14 2015, apart from the fact it's your home town, had  
15 something to do with Lenny Curry's campaign?  
16 A No, sir.  
17 Q It didn't?  
18 A No.  
19 Q When did he get elected for the first term as  
20 mayor?  
21 A 2015.  
22 Q Were you active in his campaign?  
23 A I was.  
24 Q What was your role?  
25 A Role was one of the strategists on the  
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1 campaign.

2 Q Did you have a -- a contract with Lenny Curry  
3 regarding those services?

4 A In 2015?

5 Q Yes.

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q What was the -- who were the parties to  
8 agreement?

9 A My company, Data Targeting Research, and the  
10 Curry campaign.

11 Q And you did polling research for the Curry  
12 campaign?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q When did that start?

15 A I believe he became a candidate in, I want to  
16 say, June or July of 2014. So that's when it would have  
17 started.

18 Q And he got elected in 2015?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q And you moved to Jacksonville in 2015?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q After his election or before his election?

23 A It was -- I was looking for a place here during  
24 the election, but didn't sell my house in Tallahassee  
25 and move over here until after the election.

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1 relationship?

2 Q Yes.

3 A Was when his campaign ended in 2019. So he was  
4 reelected in March of 2019 so the contract was concluded  
5 then.

6 Q And when did you begin work on his 2019  
7 campaign?

8 A I don't recall the specific date, but I believe  
9 he filed for reelection during 2018. So whenever he  
10 filed for reelection would have been when I started  
11 working for him on that campaign.

12 Q The same company or a different company?

13 A Same company.

14 Q So I asked you when you started working for him  
15 with regard to the 2019 campaign. I think what you said  
16 was sometime in 2018?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Were you aware in 2018, when you signed up with  
19 Mayor Curry for his 2019 campaign, of the issue in the  
20 community about whether or not the City should sell  
21 JEA?

22 A I was aware of the discussion going on, that  
23 it occurred with the city council regarding JEA, yes,  
24 sir.

25 Q That led to the creation of what became known  
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1 Q Since Mayor Curry has been elected in 2015,  
2 have you had any business relationship with him or his  
3 campaign?

4 A Yeah, ran his 2019 reelection campaign as  
5 well.

6 Q And did you have an agreement between you and  
7 his campaign regarding that election?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Who were the parties to that agreement?

10 A My company and his campaign.

11 Q When you say your company, which one?

12 A Data Targeting Research.

13 Q Did Brian Hughes play any role in the 2015 or  
14 the 2019?

15 A In the 2015 campaign he did. His company was  
16 also a consultant on that campaign. In 2019, he did  
17 not. He was a City employee.

18 Q And what was his company in 2015 that you  
19 referred to?

20 A I believe it was Meteoric Media.

21 Q Do you have any business relationship with  
22 Mayor Curry today?

23 A No.

24 Q When was the last time you did?

25 A When is the last time I had a business  
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1 as the Crescimbeni committee?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q That's what you're talking about?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q What -- what involvement, if any, did you have  
6 in that?

7 A In what specifically?

8 Q The discussion about selling JEA.

9 A At that point in 2018, I don't know that there  
10 was a discussion about selling JEA. There was a  
11 discussion going on about the future of JEA and what its  
12 value was, but I didn't have really any role, that I  
13 recall, in that discussion.

14 Q Did you do any polling in connection with JEA,  
15 the issue about selling JEA?

16 A Did I do any polling?

17 Q Yes.

18 A In what time period?

19 Q '18, '19?

20 A We had poll questions related to JEA, yes.

21 Q When you say "we," who are you referring to?

22 A My firm, my company.

23 Q And say it again so we know which company we're  
24 talking about.

25 A Data Targeting Research.  
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1 Q When did you start doing polling at Data  
2 Targeting Research regarding JEA?

3 A I think probably --

4 MR. BISHOP: I just want to stop. I mean, to  
5 the extent this intrudes on any privilege you enjoy  
6 with any of the clients who hired you to do that --

7 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. I have  
8 confidentiality in all of the contracts.

9 MR. BISHOP: I'm going to object to that  
10 because those would be private polls he did for  
11 clients, there's a privilege there and there's  
12 confidentiality considerations.

13 MR. BUSEY: What was the question there,  
14 Terrie?

15 (The following question was read by the  
16 reporter: "Question: When did you start doing  
17 polling at Data Targeting Research regarding JEA?")

18 MR. BUSEY: I didn't ask about the indemnity of  
19 anything.

20 MR. BISHOP: The "when," I mean, somebody could  
21 try and relate it to the clients.

22 MR. BUSEY: Let's don't argue about it.

23 MR. BISHOP: Okay.

24 MR. BUSEY: Are you telling him not to answer?

25 MR. BISHOP: Yeah, I am.

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1 regard to advice and strategy, is a well-articulated  
2 privileged communication. And, particularly, if you  
3 can get the information elsewhere or if you do not  
4 have a need for it, both of which may be satisfied  
5 here.

6 MR. BUSEY: This could be a lot shorter than we  
7 expected.

8 MR. BISHOP: Well, let me say this to you. I  
9 mean, I -- we wouldn't have come here today if we  
10 weren't prepared to answer questions. And if you  
11 have questions about the matters that have been laid  
12 out in -- in your ambit here of your investigation,  
13 we're prepared to answer them. And there's a lot  
14 that can be asked about.

15 But if they're going to be inquiries into work  
16 that he did, as protected by the privilege, we've  
17 got to respect that privilege. And if it's  
18 potentially confidential, we've got to respect that  
19 as well because that belongs not just to Mr. Baker,  
20 but to others.

21 But we're here to cooperate and provide all the  
22 information we can with those contours.

23 BY MR. BUSEY:

24 Q Are you aware of Tom Petway's suggestion at the  
25 meeting of the JEA board in December of 2017 that it

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1 MR. BUSEY: Okay.

2 MR. BISHOP: Invoking privilege.

3 MR. BUSEY: Which privilege?

4 MR. BISHOP: Invoking the constitutional  
5 privilege he has with regards to political  
6 communications. I'm also invoking his  
7 confidentiality regarding the work that he did for  
8 those who hired him to do it.

9 MR. BUSEY: Tell me what constitutional  
10 privilege you're talking about so we can be clear on  
11 the record.

12 MR. BISHOP: The same one we asserted on your  
13 written response to your document request.  
14 There's -- there's a Florida and federal  
15 constitutional privilege as well articulated that  
16 relates to political communications.

17 MR. BUSEY: In your letter you didn't  
18 communicate which privilege you're talking about,  
19 other than you referred to the constitutions. I  
20 don't know what you're talking about, so can you let  
21 me know precisely the privilege?

22 MR. BISHOP: I've said it. There is a  
23 privilege that attaches to political communications  
24 that is near absolute. His communications with  
25 others with regard to political activities, with

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1 ought to consider -- that the board ought to consider a  
2 different direction for JEA?

3 A I've read that comment in the press. Yes, I'm  
4 aware of it.

5 Q Have you ever talked to Tom Petway about the  
6 JEA?

7 A To the best of my recollection, I have not.

8 Q That was a very broad question, I appreciate.

9 A Yeah.

10 Q You have no recollection of ever talking to Tom  
11 Petway about JEA?

12 A No, sir.

13 Q Have you ever talked with Mayor Curry about  
14 whether or not JEA should be sold by the City of  
15 Jacksonville?

16 A I have had discussions with Mayor Curry related  
17 to the future of JEA, yes, sir.

18 Q What time frame?

19 A I -- I would say 2018, 2019, you know, there  
20 was discussions around that -- the city council  
21 activity. And, then again, JEA became an issue that his  
22 opponent tried to use against him in his 2019 reelection  
23 campaign.

24 Q Were you aware that Mayor Curry, shortly  
25 after his election in 2015, replaced most of the board

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1 of JEA?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q How do you have that information?

4 A It was written about in the press, as the board  
5 was following scripts written by Paul McElroy. And  
6 there was kind of an outrage within the community and  
7 the press that the board seemed to be scripted as  
8 opposed to deliberative and the board was replaced.

9 Q By Mayor Curry?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Did you have any role in that?

12 A No, sir. I've never worked for the government.

13 Q Did you ever counsel Mayor Curry on what he  
14 should do about that?

15 A No, sir.

16 Q Do you know Michael Munz?

17 A Yes, sir, I do.

18 Q How do you know him? When did you -- when did  
19 you first meet him?

20 A I don't recall when I met him specifically.  
21 It's probably been a decade. He's a well-known  
22 political and public relations guy. So I think we  
23 crossed path a few times. Specifically started working  
24 with him closely around 2014 when he was a big supporter  
25 of Lenny Curry's campaign to become mayor.

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1 Q What other political campaigns have you worked  
2 on in Jacksonville since 2015?

3 A I've worked on probably -- let's see. I've  
4 done two county referendums for -- for the pension  
5 surtax campaign and for a -- a slot machine  
6 authorization campaign, both in 2016.

7 I have worked on multiple legislative campaigns  
8 for state house, worked on congressional campaigns,  
9 worked on a handful of city council races.

10 I think that's pretty much all in  
11 Jacksonville.

12 Q What state house campaigns were you involved  
13 in?

14 A I worked for Representative Jason Fischer,  
15 Representative Wyman Duggan, Representative Cyndi  
16 Stevenson. Those are the state house races I've worked  
17 on here in Jacksonville.

18 Q How about in the Congress?

19 A Congressman John Rutherford. And it's a little  
20 out of the area, but Congressman Michael Waltz down in  
21 St. Johns County.

22 Q Is that in terms of congressional campaigns?

23 A In Northeast Florida, yes, sir.

24 Q And what about the city council?

25 A City council, I worked -- or consulted with a

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1 And Mr. Munz is also my landlord. I rent space  
2 from him in his Dalton Agency building downtown.

3 Q When you spoke of the reason for the changing  
4 of the guard on the JEA board in 2015 of scripting, I  
5 detected in your tone that you're critical of that  
6 practice of scripting.

7 MR. BISHOP: Object to form.  
8 Go ahead.

9 A Yeah, I -- I don't know that I have any  
10 opinions as to the -- the practice of scripting. As I  
11 recall about 2015, it was down to, you know, whose going  
12 to make motions and whose going to say what. And I  
13 think that, you know, that's -- that generally evinces a  
14 lack of deliberation.

15 Q Do you -- are you aware that Michael Munz has  
16 scripted -- prepared scripts for the JEA board  
17 meetings?

18 A I have no knowledge of that.

19 Q I just want to be clear. You have no knowledge  
20 that Michael Munz ever prepared scripts for JEA board  
21 meetings?

22 A That's --

23 Q Is that what you just said?

24 A That's what I just said. I have no personal  
25 knowledge of that.

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1 candidate named Rose Connery, who lost. I think it's  
2 one of the only ones who have ever lost in Jacksonville.  
3 Randy DeFoor, Randy White, Ron Salem, Rory Diamond,  
4 Tommy Hazouri. There's so many of them, I may be  
5 forgetting one or two, as far as 19 members of council.  
6 I think it was, you know, seven or eight of them. How  
7 many did I just name off?

8 Q Six, including Rose.

9 A Rose, Rory, Randy, Randy, Ron, Tommy. Those  
10 are all I can recall right now. There may be another  
11 one there that I'm not remembering right now.

12 Q Somebody's going to get their feelings hurt.

13 A Yeah, I know.

14 Q Did you have --

15 A LeAnna Cumber. Don't want her to have her  
16 feelings hurt.

17 Q Did you have an agreement with each one of  
18 those candidate's campaign?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q In writing?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q And who was -- who were the parties, the  
23 candidate and who?

24 A So the candidate campaign and Data Targeting  
25 Research.

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1 Q Data Targeting.  
 2 A I did not have a written agreement with Tommy  
 3 Hazouri. I just helped him out. It's going to be a  
 4 revelation here that I helped a democrat. Most people  
 5 don't know that.  
 6 Q Did each one of these folks that you've named  
 7 compensate you for your services?  
 8 A Yes, sir.  
 9 Q Including Tommy?  
 10 A No, I did not take a fee from Tommy. Again,  
 11 helped him, but didn't want to be, quote/unquote,  
 12 working for a democrat.  
 13 Q And did you have a written agreement with Randy  
 14 DeFoor?  
 15 A Yes, sir.  
 16 Q And what -- what services did you provide Randy  
 17 for a campaign?  
 18 A General strategy, direct mail creation,  
 19 polling, direct mail, if I said that already, TV  
 20 production and buying graphic design type services and  
 21 doing the budget. Those are the general services I  
 22 provide to most candidates.  
 23 Q And what do you call that package of services,  
 24 is it just campaign management?  
 25 A General consulting.

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1 Q General consulting?  
 2 A Yes, sir.  
 3 Q And how do you charge for your time or  
 4 effort?  
 5 A Generally, I charge a monthly retainer.  
 6 Q Have you read the transcript of Brian Hughes,  
 7 that we took his deposition?  
 8 A Yes, sir.  
 9 Q Did you see the reference he made in his  
 10 deposition that Randy had assistance in her campaign  
 11 from an energy company?  
 12 A I did.  
 13 Q Do you know what the energy company is he's  
 14 referring to?  
 15 A I do.  
 16 Q What is it?  
 17 A Florida Power & Light.  
 18 Q And do you know what that assistance was?  
 19 A I know that -- that Randy was interested in  
 20 taking advantage of -- of the opportunity that was  
 21 perceived by the market that there might be interest in  
 22 something with JEA. So she'd encourage me to see if any  
 23 of the companies that were swirling around would be  
 24 willing to help with different campaigns. And so I did  
 25 reach out to various energy companies. And the -- the

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1 discussion that I had with one of them is, you know,  
 2 could they help with people walking on the ground.  
 3 Q And the one of them you're referring to is  
 4 Florida Power & Light?  
 5 A Yes, sir.  
 6 Q And when you said various energy companies that  
 7 were swirling around, are you referring to potential  
 8 acquirers of JEA?  
 9 A Talking about, you know, Florida-based utility  
 10 companies that, yes, would theoretically be interested  
 11 in an opportunity.  
 12 Q And tell me again what it is that Florida Power  
 13 & Light did for Randy.  
 14 A It's my belief that they worked with -- they  
 15 didn't work with me on this, but that they had somebody  
 16 that was organizing walkers on the ground to go pass out  
 17 information about Randy.  
 18 Q Paid walkers?  
 19 A My belief would be yes. I didn't run the  
 20 operation for him so I don't know what they ultimately  
 21 ended up.  
 22 Q Was there any contractual relationship between  
 23 Florida Power & Light and Randy's campaign --  
 24 A No.  
 25 Q -- to your knowledge?

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1 A No. To be an outside independent effort, you  
 2 see it happening in all kinds of campaigns, various  
 3 interests across the political spectrum will work to  
 4 elect people that they support for one reason or another  
 5 or work to defeat people they oppose for one reason or  
 6 another.  
 7 Q And who was your contact person at Florida  
 8 Power & Light regarding Randy's campaign?  
 9 A I spoke to -- Danny Martell is his name.  
 10 Q And are you able to -- did Randy's campaign or  
 11 anybody associated with Randy's campaign, to your  
 12 knowledge, compensate Florida Power & Light --  
 13 A No.  
 14 Q -- for the walkers?  
 15 A No, sir.  
 16 Q To the extent those walkers were paid, that was  
 17 an expense borne by Florida Power & Light?  
 18 A Yeah. I don't know what their business  
 19 arrangement was, but the campaign didn't pay for it.  
 20 Q Well, tell me what your conversation with Danny  
 21 Martell was about getting that help.  
 22 A That Randy DeFoor was interested in getting  
 23 help. And he said, What kind? And I said, you know, We  
 24 could use people on the ground. It's a very tight  
 25 campaign. So it was a matter of, you know, door-to-door

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1 campaigning. It was an area we lacked strength in.  
 2 Q And did Danny tell you that Florida Power &  
 3 Light would help you?  
 4 A He said that he would look into it and that  
 5 they'd look to be helpful.  
 6 Q And did they -- were they helpful?  
 7 A I believe they were, yes.  
 8 Q How do you know that?  
 9 A I don't know for specifics because, again, I  
 10 didn't run their operation or -- or get apprised of  
 11 it, but was told that they had people on the ground  
 12 walking.  
 13 Q You were told that by whom?  
 14 A By Danny.  
 15 Q Did you have more than one conversation with  
 16 Danny about his assistance to the DeFoor campaign?  
 17 A Yeah. Yeah. DeFoor was very, very  
 18 interested in it. We actually had some arguments over  
 19 it because she said that she didn't see people out  
 20 there walking. I said, I'm assured that there's people  
 21 out there walking. And, again, she said, I don't see  
 22 them. And so she was somewhat in disbelief and very  
 23 urgently wanted to know that they were out there working  
 24 for her.  
 25 Q Did you do anything to confirm that they were  
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1 out there working for her?  
 2 A Other than having a subsequent conversation,  
 3 said, Yeah, we've got people out there on the ground  
 4 working.  
 5 Q A subsequent conversation with Danny Martell?  
 6 A Yes, sir.  
 7 Q So how many conversations did you have with  
 8 Danny about DeFoor's campaign?  
 9 A Probably three or four.  
 10 Q And did Danny tell you why Florida Power &  
 11 Light was willing to assist Randy DeFoor?  
 12 A Not specifically, no.  
 13 Q Generally?  
 14 A Just generally, I mean, they have an interest  
 15 in Northeast Florida, in Jacksonville. They do a lot of  
 16 work with JEA so they have an interest in, you know,  
 17 governmental makeup of the City of Jacksonville.  
 18 Q But why Randy as opposed to her opposition?  
 19 A We didn't have that conversation specifically,  
 20 but -- but, you know, generally you see the utility  
 21 industry as more favorable towards republican candidates  
 22 than democratic candidates.  
 23 Q Are you aware of whether Florida Power & Light  
 24 assisted any of these other councilmen, council persons'  
 25 campaign?

1 A No. Not aware.  
 2 Q You don't know one way or the other?  
 3 A No, sir.  
 4 Q How did you know Danny Martell?  
 5 A I've known Danny for a decade. He's a  
 6 political player in the state of Florida.  
 7 Q What's his role at Florida Power & Light?  
 8 A I believe he's the vice president of government  
 9 affairs for them.  
 10 Q You knew him while you were in Tallahassee?  
 11 A Yes, sir.  
 12 Q You didn't mention Melissa Nelson. Did you  
 13 help her with her campaign?  
 14 A Yes, sir, I did.  
 15 Q Same role as you did with Randy?  
 16 A Yes, sir.  
 17 Q Prior to Brian Hughes going to work for the  
 18 City of Jacksonville, he was in business with you,  
 19 wasn't he?  
 20 A For a brief time, yes, sir.  
 21 Q And what was that business?  
 22 A BCSP, LLC.  
 23 Q Say that again, please.  
 24 A BCSP, LLC.  
 25 Q That's Bold City Strategic Partners?  
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1 A Yes, sir, it's a d/b/a, but the corporate name  
 2 is BCSP.  
 3 Q And when did you form that entity?  
 4 A Late in 2016.  
 5 Q For what purpose?  
 6 A To do some governmental affairs consulting,  
 7 some public relations consulting.  
 8 Q But why -- why a new and different entity?  
 9 A Because we ran our own businesses separately  
 10 and this was not, you know, contemplated to -- to pursue  
 11 those existing business lines that we had. So it'd be  
 12 kind of a new venture where we could both bring new  
 13 clients.  
 14 Q And what were your respective interests in  
 15 BCSP?  
 16 A As far as ownership interest or --  
 17 Q Yes.  
 18 A We were 50/50 partners.  
 19 Q And that lasted from 2016 to when?  
 20 A I don't recall the specific date. But Brian,  
 21 whenever he went to the City, about a month before he  
 22 started, he dissolved his partnership with me in that  
 23 entity. So I think it was about a year, if my  
 24 recollection is accurate.  
 25 Q You say dissolved his partnership with you.



1 A Uh-huh.  
 2 Q Do you refer to BCSP as a partnership?  
 3 A It was at the time, you know, for one year.  
 4 Q Before you incorporated?  
 5 A It was an S corp.  
 6 Q And when did you change it?  
 7 A We didn't change it.  
 8 Q It still is?  
 9 A Yeah, it's still an S corp.  
 10 Q Tell -- tell me about your conversation with  
 11 Brian Hughes about his wanting to leave or dissolve that  
 12 partnership and go to work for the City.  
 13 A He had indicated to me probably two months or  
 14 so before that, in late 2017, so the fall of 2017, that  
 15 he was rethinking his career and, you know, political  
 16 campaign, government relations world. It's a very  
 17 taxing profession. And he was looking for a change of  
 18 scenery. So he had mentioned that to me a few months  
 19 before that he'd be looking for new opportunities,  
 20 potentially.  
 21 And then in either late November, early  
 22 December, he came to me and said that he was going to be  
 23 taking on a role with the City of Jacksonville and  
 24 needed to get out of our business arrangement.  
 25 Q Did he tell you what that role was going to  
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1 be?  
 2 A He didn't at the time. He said it was going to  
 3 be with the mayor's staff, but not specific to what the  
 4 role was at that time.  
 5 Q Did he -- do you know if he knew at that time  
 6 that he was going to be the chief of staff?  
 7 A I knew that he was going to go do something in  
 8 the mayor's office. As I stated, I was unsure what the  
 9 actual role was at the time that we ended up dissolving  
 10 his interest in the business.  
 11 Q Did you talk to Mayor Curry about Brian's  
 12 leaving your business and helping with the mayor?  
 13 A No.  
 14 Q Ever?  
 15 A Not that I recall.  
 16 Q Do you remember ever talking to Brian Hughes  
 17 about Tom Petway's interest in selling JEA?  
 18 A Ever? But I don't have a specific recollection  
 19 of -- of us discussing Mr. Petway's statements. But  
 20 Brian and I have ever discussed, you know, the JEA  
 21 issue? Yes.  
 22 Q Well, when Mr. Petway made the statements at  
 23 his last board meeting in December of 2017, that was  
 24 fairly widely reported in the news --  
 25 A Uh-huh.  
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1 Q -- here in Jacksonville?  
 2 A Uh-huh.  
 3 Q And you don't remember talking to Brian in that  
 4 context --  
 5 A Not specifically.  
 6 Q -- about that?  
 7 A No.  
 8 Q And if I remember correctly, you said you never  
 9 talked to Tom Petway about it?  
 10 A Not that I recall, no, sir.  
 11 Q You know Kerri Stewart?  
 12 A Yes, sir.  
 13 Q She had been the chief of staff for Mayor Curry  
 14 before Brian?  
 15 A Yes, sir.  
 16 Q Do you know why that ceased to be so?  
 17 A No. I have no idea why Kerri --  
 18 Q Neither Kerri, nor Brian or the mayor ever told  
 19 you why Kerri left his office?  
 20 A I know that she got a, you know, better paying  
 21 job with JEA. I assume it was a career progression type  
 22 thing for her.  
 23 Q Did you ever talk to Brian Hughes or  
 24 Mayor Curry or Kerri Stewart about why she left the  
 25 mayor's office?  
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1 A Not that I recall. Those jobs can be very  
 2 taxing, you know. You often see turnover in chiefs of  
 3 staff or other senior level positions, you know, a year,  
 4 two years. So it, you know, didn't seem out of the  
 5 ordinary to me.  
 6 Q Do you know Jessica Baker?  
 7 A Yes, sir.  
 8 Q Who is Jessica Baker?  
 9 A Jessica Baker is my wife, if it's the one that  
 10 you're -- I think you're referring to.  
 11 Q And does she have a job with the City of  
 12 Jacksonville?  
 13 A No, sir.  
 14 Q Has she ever?  
 15 A Yes, sir.  
 16 Q What job did she have?  
 17 A She previously worked in the mayor's office  
 18 when Mayor Curry first came into office.  
 19 Q In 2015?  
 20 A Yes, sir.  
 21 Q So what was her job with Mayor Curry's office?  
 22 A She was in the -- the government relations  
 23 section. I don't recall the specific title, but worked  
 24 in -- in the government affairs of the office, whether  
 25 it be dealing with city council or the state  
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1 legislature, those type of issues.  
 2 Q With -- with different parts of the city  
 3 government or the state government?  
 4 A Yes, sir. Mostly it's in the intergovernmental  
 5 space, like, dealing with city council members or state  
 6 legislators.  
 7 Q And how long did -- did your wife have that  
 8 job?  
 9 A I think she had the job for about a year and a  
 10 half, maybe a little longer.  
 11 Q And why -- why did she quit or terminate that  
 12 position?  
 13 A She left because we had our first child.  
 14 Q Did she -- and after that, has she done any  
 15 employment?  
 16 A She has a job, yes, sir.  
 17 Q What does she do?  
 18 MR. BISHOP: To the extent that it's not  
 19 related to anything in this, we object to the  
 20 question.  
 21 MR. BUSEY: Are you instructing him not to  
 22 answer?  
 23 MR. BISHOP: I am. It's not -- his wife's job,  
 24 unless it relates to this, it's not material.  
 25 MR. BUSEY: Unless he answers the question, I  
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1 wouldn't know.  
 2 MR. BISHOP: Well, why don't you ask him if it  
 3 relates in any way to JEA or city government.  
 4 MR. BUSEY: That would be a subjective  
 5 judgment.  
 6 MR. BISHOP: Okay.  
 7 MR. BUSEY: Just tell me if you're instructing  
 8 him not to answer.  
 9 MR. BISHOP: I am.  
 10 MR. BUSEY: Okay.  
 11 BY MR. BUSEY:  
 12 Q Have you ever seen this document before? What  
 13 I'm showing you is an excerpt of the Request for  
 14 Proposals.  
 15 A No, sir. I do not believe I've seen this  
 16 document before.  
 17 Q It's a -- it's entitled Request for Proposals  
 18 to provide Strategic Initiatives Financial Advisor  
 19 Services to the City of Jacksonville, Florida. It's  
 20 dated December 20th, 2017. We've marked it as  
 21 Exhibit 6.  
 22 MR. BISHOP: Do you guys have a copy for me?  
 23 (Baker's Exhibit 6 was marked for  
 24 identification.)  
 25

1 BY MR. BISHOP:  
 2 Q My question to you is: Have you seen it  
 3 before?  
 4 A No, I don't believe that I have.  
 5 Q Thank you. Are you aware of it?  
 6 A I've read, I believe, if this is the -- the  
 7 document that I've seen covered in the -- the press  
 8 about the notion that -- the thought that this was  
 9 somehow to engage people to sell JEA. I've read  
 10 coverage of it, so if this is that same document, then  
 11 I'm aware of it in that sense.  
 12 Q Were you -- well, the press regarding this  
 13 proposal that you're referring is to relatively recent  
 14 press?  
 15 A Yes, sir.  
 16 Q Were you aware of it -- were you aware of this  
 17 proposal, this request for proposal at the time that it  
 18 was made in December of 2017?  
 19 A No, sir.  
 20 Q Did you ever talk to Mike Weinstein about it?  
 21 A No, sir.  
 22 Q Did you ever talk to Mayor Curry about it?  
 23 A No, sir.  
 24 Q Do you have any knowledge of the genesis of  
 25 this Exhibit 16 -- Exhibit 6 in the mayor's office?  
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1 A No, sir.  
 2 Q And when was the first time you became aware of  
 3 it?  
 4 A You know, to the best of my recollection, it  
 5 would be in, you know, the kind of press coverage around  
 6 the -- the process that you're carrying out.  
 7 Q The city council's investigatory committee?  
 8 A Yes, sir.  
 9 Q I'm going to show you what we marked as Exhibit  
 10 8, which is a letter from the President of City Council,  
 11 dated February 12th, 2018, to Paul McElroy.  
 12 Have you ever seen this letter before?  
 13 A Not to my recollection, no.  
 14 (Baker's Exhibit 8 was marked for  
 15 identification.)  
 16 Q Were you aware that the mayor had asked for a  
 17 meeting of the city council and the JEA board together  
 18 in early 2018?  
 19 A I became aware of it upon the -- the request  
 20 for it. I think I became aware that they'd -- that she  
 21 had -- yeah, with all due respect, I'm declining the  
 22 opportunity to hold a special city council meeting.  
 23 Yeah, I became aware of the -- the former  
 24 president's declining to hold a meeting contemporaneous  
 25 to that decision.

1 Q Let me read from the few sentences from the  
2 second paragraph.

3 A Sure.

4 Q Your recommendation -- this is addressed to  
5 Paul McElroy -- comes on the heels of multiple meetings  
6 with the mayor's staff in which they asked if I was open  
7 to holding a joint meeting to hear the presentation and  
8 if I would consider legislation to approve next steps in  
9 the sale process at the very same meeting. Essentially  
10 the mayor's office is asking city council to consider  
11 passing legislation as an emergency, upon introduction,  
12 without the public involvement afforded by the normal  
13 legislative process and without an appropriate analysis  
14 of and response to the final valuation report by the  
15 council auditor.

16 I -- I would think that this letter from the  
17 President of City Council to the mayor caused some  
18 consternation in the mayor's office. Did you have any  
19 discussion with the mayor about this?

20 A I don't recall any discussion with the mayor  
21 about this letter, no.

22 Q About the meeting?

23 A I recall generally that there was a -- a sense  
24 of -- of the mayor wanted whatever the substance of  
25 the -- the report that was to be introduced there, that

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1 he wanted a -- a public, you know, meeting with the  
2 council and the JEA board and the public and the press  
3 and everybody to be able to hear whatever this report  
4 was at the same time. And that he was disappointed that  
5 the council president didn't want to, you know, have a  
6 meeting.

7 Q Did you have that conversation with the mayor?

8 A I don't recall specifically that discussion  
9 with the mayor. I -- I do recall talking about that  
10 with Brian Hughes and probably Jordan Ellsbury.

11 Q Well, you recall -- this is a question. Do you  
12 recall that President Brosche declined to let the mayor  
13 speak at that council meeting?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q How -- how did you become aware of that?

16 A I was at the meeting.

17 Q You attended the meeting?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q So you witnessed the meeting?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Did you talk to the mayor after the meeting  
22 about his reaction to being treated that way?

23 A Probably in the subsequent days, not  
24 immediately after the meeting.

25 Q What was that discussion?

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1 A He just said it was disappointing that, you  
2 know, she would do this and not give him an opportunity  
3 to talk. And that she seemed to want to be playing  
4 politics around the substance of -- of the issue.

5 Q Do you disagree with her statement that I read  
6 to you, Essentially the mayor's office is asking the  
7 city council to consider passing legislation as an  
8 emergency, upon introduction, without public involvement  
9 afforded by the normal legislative process?

10 A I have no basis to agree or disagree with her  
11 assertion. I would say it would seem farfetched to me  
12 that -- that there would be some notion of them wanting  
13 to introduce a sale at that point. That's a very  
14 detailed and -- and drawn-out process so that would  
15 surprise me that -- that that would be an intention.  
16 But, again, I have no -- no basis of knowledge to agree  
17 or disagree with her statement.

18 Q Did you talk with Brian Hughes about what  
19 happened at that meeting?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q And what was that conversation?

22 A Again, him just kind of being dismayed that it  
23 was kind of over, you know, dis of the mayor. And  
24 really just kind of being dismayed that the council  
25 president was being as hostile as she was.

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1 Q Do you know why she was being that way towards  
2 the mayor?

3 A I mean, I don't know. I don't have a  
4 relationship with Ms. Brosche. You know, my -- my  
5 history, subsequent to this, tells me that she was  
6 already well underway with her planning of a mayoral  
7 campaign against Mayor Curry, so it seems like politics  
8 to me.

9 Q Well, did you have an understanding of what the  
10 purpose of the joint meeting was as requested by the  
11 mayor?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Tell me.

14 A The understanding was that there was some  
15 report. And I recall there being a -- this kind of  
16 critique by -- for President Brosche of whether it was  
17 an evaluation with an E or a valuation with a V kind of  
18 report, but that it was some study that had been done  
19 into the -- the general value, if you will, of JEA.

20 Q And what was the purpose of the meeting to  
21 consider that report?

22 A I don't know that the purpose of the meeting  
23 was to consider. I believe the purpose of the meeting,  
24 as I recall, was to have the report presented.

25 Q And you saw the report being presented at the

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1 meeting --

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q -- by Michael Mace?

4 A Somebody who was from an outside company. I

5 couldn't tell you who it was.

6 Q You don't remember the name Michael Mace?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Do you remember the name of his company being

9 Public Financial Management?

10 A Is that PFM to be short?

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A Yeah, I recall the report being called the PFM

13 report.

14 Q Do you have any idea who PFM is?

15 A No, sir.

16 Q Or the history of its relationship with the

17 City of Jacksonville?

18 A You know, broad strokes, I've heard that

19 they've had long -- you know, they're a financial

20 management services type company in the municipal space

21 and that they've long had a relationship with the City

22 of Jacksonville and various independent authorities.

23 Q Did you know what that report was about?

24 A No, sir. Other than that it was -- again, I

25 recall this, is it a valuation, V, or evaluation, E, of  
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1 JEA, that seemed to be some semantic that Brosche was --

2 was into.

3 Q Did you know which was the correct --

4 A No, sir.

5 Q -- characterization?

6 A No, sir. Still don't today.

7 Q Do you know what the report was about?

8 A Yeah, it was ultimately -- what they presented

9 was a kind of overview of -- of JEA's business. And

10 then they had some bottom-line assumptions of -- of what

11 they thought the, you know, market value of it, as a

12 corporate entity, was.

13 Q When you say "they," you're talking about PFM?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And so PFM, to your knowledge, at that meeting

16 presented a report of what it thought the market value

17 of JEA was?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And did you have any understanding of why that

20 was being done, why the presentation was being made to

21 the city council?

22 A My -- my understanding was rather than a report

23 delivered to, you know, people who read, that -- that

24 the mayoral administration wanted a report that could be

25 put out to the city council and the mayor's office and  
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1 the JEA board at the same time so that -- that people

2 would have, you know, the same basis of knowledge. And

3 that this was a progeny of -- of Mr. Petway's statement

4 a few months prior that JEA should have explored its

5 future.

6 Q Let me show you a copy of what -- an excerpt

7 from that report we've marked as Exhibit 10. This is

8 titled The Future of JEA, Opportunities and

9 Considerations. And this is, like I said, an excerpt.

10 It's a 27-page report. It's just a handful of pages

11 we've taken out of it.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 (Baker's Exhibit 10 was marked for

14 identification.)

15 Q Have you -- have you seen the report?

16 A I don't recall that I ever saw the report

17 beyond, you know, seeing it -- it presented at that city

18 council meeting. They weren't passing it out or they

19 were, like, one slide at a time or something, but I was

20 all the way in the back so I was just paying attention

21 to what they projected on the screen.

22 Q Tell me why you went to that meeting.

23 A Why did I go to that meeting? It was an issue

24 of big public attention. And there had been all kinds

25 of back and forth in the press and the, you know, we  
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1 proceeding between the council president and the mayor

2 so it was a, you know, political hot topic.

3 Q Were you paid for going to that meeting?

4 A No, sir.

5 Q Who asked you to go?

6 A Nobody asked me to go to the meeting.

7 Q Nobody asked you?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q Did you have any discussion with anybody about

10 going to the meeting before you went?

11 A I'm sure I had some discussion with somebody.

12 It was a pretty wide and broad statement.

13 Q Do you remember any conversations?

14 A Not specifically, no.

15 Q Did you talk to the mayor about going to the

16 meeting?

17 A Not that I recall.

18 Q Did you talk to Brian Hughes about going to the

19 meeting?

20 A Not that I recall, but -- but I would not be

21 surprised if I did. I can't recall a specific

22 conversation.

23 Q Did you or your companies have any employment

24 relationship with the City of Jacksonville at that

25 time?  
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1 A No, sir. Never have.  
2 Q So you were just there as an interested public  
3 citizen?

4 MR. BISHOP: Object to form.  
5 Go ahead and answer.

6 A Yeah. Ultimately, yes.

7 Q And no other reason?

8 A Not specific to that meeting, no.

9 Q Had you any discussion with the mayor or his  
10 office about legislation regarding selling JEA --

11 A No.

12 Q -- in early 2015?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q Let me direct your attention to page 19 of  
15 Exhibit 10.

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q At the bottom, it -- it says, If JEA and the  
18 City elected to use a portion of the proceeds to  
19 remediate Vogtle contract for an assumed cost of \$1.2  
20 billion, then the net proceeds to the City could range  
21 from 2.9 billion to 6.4 billion.

22 Did you hear those numbers at that meeting?

23 A Yes, sir. I think the Vogtle number ended up  
24 being way off, but, yeah, I recall the discussion of the  
25 net proceeds.

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1 later, got into a planning process, there were any  
2 number of ways that the structure could be changed. I  
3 don't know that the mayor had any hard, fast opinions  
4 of, you know, how it should change, but -- but, you  
5 know, he was open to any and all options to consider  
6 what the future of JEA looked like.

7 I think there's a -- a misnomer, this idea that  
8 JEA has value. JEA's value is that it overcharges for  
9 electricity and remits that excess cash back to the City  
10 as a back-door tax, that's the real value of JEA. You  
11 know, you can say it's worth 7 or \$6 billion, but it's  
12 not worth that. You can't go out and necessarily  
13 realize that type of capital.

14 So he was open to the concept of how do you  
15 realize potentially the capital that JEA could bring and  
16 what would that mean for the future of the City, given  
17 all of our kind of deterioration and unmet needs.

18 Q Were you aware, as of February of 2018, of any  
19 discussion between Mayor Curry or any of his staff with  
20 FP&L about that possibility?

21 A Not that I recall, no.

22 MR. BISHOP: I'm sorry. Steve, I -- I'm a  
23 little late with the objection to form, but the  
24 phrase "that possibility," I'm -- and I don't know  
25 whether you're referring to something earlier so I'm

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1 Q And do you recall at any point after this  
2 meeting talking with either Brian Hughes or Mayor Curry  
3 about the prospect of the City realizing that much money  
4 from the sale of JEA?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Tell me what those conversations were.

7 A Well, the mayor has been interested in  
8 assessing what the -- what the true value of JEA is. He  
9 wants to understand it from a market standpoint, what's  
10 the dollar amount that the entity is worth. The mayor  
11 has an ambitious agenda. I think that he's looked at,  
12 you know, the deteriorating capital condition of the  
13 City. He's looked at the, you know, well-known, quote,  
14 unkept promises of consolidation and the large price tag  
15 it does have, particularly on the north side of  
16 Jacksonville.

17 And so he was -- is definitely interested in  
18 understanding the value of JEA because, I think, for  
19 him, it would drive a policy discussion of we've got a  
20 city with -- with a lot of unmet needs and is this a way  
21 that we can meet those needs by, you know, potentially  
22 changing the structure of JEA.

23 Q And what do you mean when you say changing the  
24 structure of JEA?

25 A Well, I think that, you know, as JEA, a year

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1 going to object to form --

2 MR. BUSEY: Okay.

3 MR. BISHOP: -- to "that possibility."

4 MR. BUSEY: You want me to rule on your  
5 objection?

6 MR. BISHOP: No, you don't need to. I just  
7 want to be fair to the witness. I have a feeling  
8 your questions may revert to using that, I don't  
9 know.

10 BY MR. BUSEY:

11 Q Let me show you what we marked as Exhibit 12.  
12 This is a Resolution to City Council, appointing Aaron  
13 Zahn to the JEA board.

14 Do you know Aaron Zahn?

15 A I do. What's the date of this resolution? I  
16 don't see a date on it. Oh, here it is, the back.  
17 28th of -- February 28, 2018. I should have turned the  
18 page.

19 (Baker's Exhibit 12 was marked for  
20 identification.)

21 Q When did you first meet Aaron Zahn?

22 A I believe I first met Aaron Zahn in the fall,  
23 late fall of 2018.

24 Q So when the mayor appointed him or nominated  
25 him to the board of JEA, you didn't know him?

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1 A No, sir, I did not.  
 2 Q Did the mayor talk to you about this  
 3 appointment --  
 4 A No, sir.  
 5 Q -- at the time he made it?  
 6 A No, sir.  
 7 Q How did you become aware -- did you become  
 8 aware of it?  
 9 A No. I -- I became aware of Aaron Zahn when  
 10 he -- when he left this board appointment to pursue the  
 11 interim CEO job, that was my first awareness of him.  
 12 Q How did you have that awareness?  
 13 A It was reported in the press that he'd be  
 14 stepping down from the board and seeking the -- I think  
 15 it was the interim CEO position.  
 16 Q Was that the only source of information you had  
 17 about Aaron Zahn seeking that position?  
 18 A At the time, yes, sir.  
 19 Q Let me show you what we've marked Exhibit 13,  
 20 which has an attachment, a letter to it, from  
 21 Mayor Curry to Alan Howard, dated March 14th, 2018. And  
 22 it's addressed to Alan Howard, as the Chair of the Board  
 23 of Directors of the JEA, then it says, To the employees  
 24 of JEA.  
 25 Have you ever seen this letter before?  
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1 A No, sir, not to my recollection.  
 2 (Baker's Exhibit 13 was marked for  
 3 identification.)  
 4 Q Do you have any knowledge of why the mayor sent  
 5 this letter to the JEA?  
 6 A Without reading it, no, sir. Do you want me to  
 7 read it?  
 8 Q No.  
 9 You mentioned a moment ago about Aaron Zahn  
 10 resigning from the board of the JEA to seek the position  
 11 of interim CEO. You became aware of that by reading the  
 12 newspaper?  
 13 A Yes, sir.  
 14 Q Did you talk to anybody about it?  
 15 A Yes, subsequent to reading that.  
 16 Q Who did you talk to?  
 17 A Brian Hughes.  
 18 Q And what was that conversation?  
 19 A Just asked him kind of what was going on, you  
 20 know. Melissa Dykes had just made the interim, I  
 21 believe, when Mr. McElroy -- I don't know if he retired  
 22 or -- or what the circumstance of his departure was, but  
 23 that there had been a transition to Ms. Dykes. And  
 24 that -- so I said, you know, what's -- what's going on  
 25 here with this guy on the board, leaving and going?  
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1 Q And what did Brian say to you in response to  
 2 that question?  
 3 A My recollection is that he said, you know, the  
 4 guy can do what he wants to do. We just wanted to make  
 5 sure that if he was going to go after that, that he  
 6 wasn't on the board. It wouldn't be proper for him to  
 7 be a board member, seeking that role.  
 8 Q If he wanted to go after that, we wanted to  
 9 make sure he wasn't on the board. Who's the "we"?  
 10 A The administration.  
 11 Q And did the administration say something to  
 12 Aaron that would say if you want to do this, you've got  
 13 to step off the board?  
 14 A I'm unaware of any conversations they had with  
 15 him, but the impression that I was left by Brian was  
 16 that that was -- would have been communicated to Aaron,  
 17 that you can't seek that position while being a board  
 18 member.  
 19 I believe that there had been a -- a similar  
 20 circumstance, maybe the year before, with the Kids Hope  
 21 Alliance, where a board member sought a -- a CEO job.  
 22 I'm not sure on the -- the time, but I believe it was  
 23 prior to that. And so there was that sensitivity to  
 24 that type of swap, which is why I asked Brian about it.  
 25 Q Did you have any conversation then or otherwise  
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1 with Brian about Aaron Zahn's qualifications to be CEO  
 2 of JEA?  
 3 A No, sir.  
 4 Q Ever?  
 5 A Ever is a pretty wide statement. Not that I  
 6 recall, no.  
 7 Q Did you have -- do you recall having in your  
 8 mind at all a question about whether or not Aaron Zahn  
 9 was qualified to be the CEO of JEA?  
 10 A No, sir, didn't really pay attention to it  
 11 honestly.  
 12 Q You didn't pay attention to it?  
 13 A No.  
 14 Q You weren't interested in it?  
 15 A Not really. As you're probably getting the  
 16 sense here, I'm not into the weeds of what goes on in  
 17 Jacksonville day to day. I have an opinion about the  
 18 things I'm asked and other than that, I'm generally not  
 19 trying to get into the weeds of the operations of the  
 20 government.  
 21 Q During 2018, 2019, how -- how often would you  
 22 talk to Brian Hughes during the course of a week?  
 23 A It's hard to say. I mean, Brian's a good  
 24 friend.  
 25 Q Right.  
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1 A So we've known each other a long time. I  
2 generally speak with Brian every few days, but, you  
3 know, I'd say far more of those conversations have to do  
4 with our personal lives and our families.

5 Q And how often during the same time period would  
6 you say you would talk with Mayor Curry?

7 A I would talk to Mayor Curry, you know,  
8 sometimes wouldn't for a couple weeks; sometimes I'd  
9 talk to him a few times a week.

10 Q I'm showing you what we marked as Exhibit 15,  
11 which is a -- an article that's entitled Mayor Takes  
12 Position Against JEA Privatization. It shows a picture  
13 of the mayor with Council President Brosche. Are you  
14 aware --

15 A In friendlier times, it seems.  
16 (Baker's Exhibit 15 was marked for  
17 identification.)

18 Q I beg your pardon?

19 A In friendlier times, it seems.

20 Q Were you aware of the mayor taking a position  
21 against JEA privatization?

22 A I recall -- I do recall some discussion around  
23 this. This was when? Late April of 2018. Yes, sir.

24 Q What was that discussion?

25 A The -- the city council -- the city council  
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1 Crescimbeni thing had just, you know, turned into  
2 reopening gambits of Ms. Brosche's campaign for mayor,  
3 it seemed and was just not a productive conversation.  
4 It had become a kind of who done it.

5 Again, I believe there was this theory, which  
6 you had alluded to previously in Brosche's letter, that  
7 somehow there was a, like, precooked sale and could --  
8 you know, she was the -- the great stopper of it.

9 And so I believe just the kind of -- the noise  
10 around the discussion with this committee and -- and,  
11 basically, the kind of grinding to a halt of the  
12 productive business of -- of the City had become, you  
13 know, a distraction, basically. And the mayor wanted to  
14 move on from that conversation at that time.

15 Q How did you know that?

16 A Had the discussion with him.

17 Q He told you that?

18 A Yeah, absolutely.

19 Q And when you say he wanted to move on, move on  
20 from what?

21 A It was clear that -- that the city council at  
22 that time wasn't interested in discussing the strategic  
23 future of JEA. And, again, wanted to play this -- this  
24 game of who done it, rather than have a serious kind of  
25 sober discussion about the future of -- of one of the

1 City's biggest assets.

2 Q And so are you telling me that in that  
3 conversation, Mayor Curry told you he wanted to move on,  
4 he was no longer interested in realizing the capital  
5 value of JEA?

6 A No. He -- he was no longer interested in --  
7 in, you know, having that exploration with -- with the  
8 council at that time. It was clear that -- that, you  
9 know, they were up to political games and not interested  
10 in the information. And, you know, they -- they're  
11 partners in government and if -- if they were unwilling  
12 at having the discussion -- I think he used that  
13 language a few times, you know. He had that serious  
14 conversation. But it seemed like the -- the other  
15 political body was uninterested in that, so he was not  
16 going to continue, you know, trying to have that  
17 conversation in that environment.

18 Q With the city council?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q This Exhibit 15 I handed you includes a full  
21 statement from the mayor. I want to read to you a  
22 paragraph --

23 A Sure.

24 Q -- if you'd turn to the second page.

25 Unfortunately, a clear and reasonable process  
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1 to discuss these issues was hijacked by a few special  
2 interests and politicians with an agenda to put politics  
3 above all else. Fixated on the false choice of sell  
4 versus don't sell, they created an environment fostering  
5 misinformation and mistrust. Despite this, the  
6 valuation undertaken by JEA leadership did yield  
7 evidence of important strengths we have in our community  
8 utility's balance sheet. It also revealed the  
9 weaknesses.

10 Did you talk with the mayor about this  
11 statement?

12 A I don't recall specifically discussing this  
13 statement with him, but would have had a discussion,  
14 again, as I -- as I've just kind of outlined to you  
15 about the political environment around this seems kind  
16 of toxic and nonproductive.

17 Q Did that discussion include a discussion of  
18 whether the opportunity may be better with the council  
19 after 2019 elections?

20 A Not that I recall then. Elections are -- are  
21 very unpredictable things so the mayor just was,  
22 basically, done with the charade that was going on at  
23 that time.

24 Q Did he change his mind about it after the 2019  
25 election?

1       **A** I don't know that there was a, you know,  
2 changing of his mind. I think he's always been  
3 interested in understanding the value of that utility.  
4 Again, to drive a policy discussion around how do you  
5 address some of the -- the very real needs of this  
6 community, some that have been unmet for -- for decades.

7           And, again, the -- the notion of JEA being a  
8 golden goose, it -- it's only truly a golden goose and  
9 can have the greatest value for the community if -- if  
10 you find a way to put proceeds of that to work for the  
11 community; otherwise, its value is in probably employing  
12 too many people versus what it operationally needs,  
13 overcharging for electricity and remitting that as a  
14 back-door tax to City Hall.

15           So he was absolutely interested and remained  
16 interested in finding ways that he could address this  
17 kind of deficit of -- of, you know, improvement within  
18 the city.

19       **Q** Deficit of improvement?

20       **A** Yeah, like, the 50 years of we can't solve the  
21 problems of the consolidation. The idea of why can't  
22 you get people onto septic tanks. You know, why can't  
23 you remove some of these big stones up the hill.

24       **Q** It sounds like what you're talking about is the  
25 mayor realized that there are -- to use your term --

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1           The JEA was a piece of the conversation, then,  
2 you know, he would continue to -- to be interested in  
3 that.

4       **Q** So what did he do about it?

5       **A** What are you referring to specifically? That's  
6 kind of --

7       **Q** What did he do to pursue his interest in  
8 realizing that value for JEA to fix the deficits in  
9 Jacksonville?

10       **A** Nothing at that point. I mean, the  
11 conversation was kind of done.

12       **Q** And my question is: At what point did that  
13 change?

14       **A** I next recall that we had discussions around  
15 JEA really in the spring of 2019 when the -- the  
16 campaign was feeding up and Anna Brosche was, again,  
17 saying he's going to sell JEA. Again, this truly falls  
18 premise of sell, don't sell, as opposed to let's  
19 understand what we actually have and discuss where we  
20 need to go as a community and any number of other  
21 constructs.

22           But the JEA issue flavored up in the -- in the  
23 mayoral campaign in the spring of 2019, so we had  
24 further discussions around it then.

25       **Q** And when was the election in 2019?

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1 deficits in the city that require money to fix?

2       **A** Absolutely.

3       **Q** And what that conversation was that you're  
4 referring to is how can we realize the value of JEA to  
5 help fix those problems?

6       **A** Potentially is -- is one of the avenues to, you  
7 know, really address a huge backlog within the city.

8       **Q** And to your knowledge, the mayor, in spite of  
9 this statement, remained open to discussions of how to  
10 realize that value, even after the statement was made?

11       **A** Yeah. I think what he said in his statement  
12 was he -- he wasn't, you know, going -- going to be into  
13 the -- the ongoing -- I have to read the whole statement  
14 to tell you what it says, but my sense of it was I'm  
15 done with this discussion here and now, it's not  
16 productive. And it's not -- not getting to the aims  
17 that I hoped to achieve in such a discussion.

18       **Q** Do you recall his resuming interest in that  
19 discussion at a subsequent point in time?

20       **A** Well, I think that he -- again, he's always had  
21 the interest of there are big structural problems within  
22 Jacksonville that we've had for decades and decades that  
23 people talk about and nobody acts upon and he remained  
24 committed to being innovative in trying to find  
25 solutions to these multi generational problems.

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1       **A** The first election was in March of 2019.

2       **Q** And the second?

3       **A** Well, the mayor won outright at the first  
4 election in March. The second election was in mid May.  
5 So candidates that didn't have a 50 plus one in March  
6 went to the second election.

7       **Q** And do you recall the -- any conversations with  
8 the mayor in which, as a result of the election, he  
9 wanted to resume his interest in realizing the value of  
10 JEA?

11       **A** Not as a result of the election, no, but JEA  
12 had started a strategic planning process is what I think  
13 they called it. And so that winter, into the spring,  
14 into the summer, they were having meetings on what's the  
15 future of JEA.

16       **Q** When you say "they," who's the they you're  
17 referring to?

18       **A** "They" is the JEA board.

19       **Q** JEA board or the senior leadership team or  
20 both?

21       **A** It was -- their board meetings were doing --  
22 you know, planning stuff, like, here's different  
23 strategic, you know, future considerations for the  
24 utility.

25       **Q** How do you know that?

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1 A They were public board meetings.  
 2 Q Did you go to the board meetings?  
 3 A No, sir.  
 4 Q Did you watch the board meetings?  
 5 A I don't believe that I watched board meetings.  
 6 Had -- some of them -- some of the substance of the  
 7 board meetings would have been covered in -- in various  
 8 press reports. And then there was just a kind of  
 9 general on the street, if you will, talk about the  
 10 strategic future of JEA.  
 11 It was a hot issue in the campaign. So, you  
 12 know, city council candidates were interested in what's  
 13 the future of JEA. People were trying to make the --  
 14 the sell, no sell a point of contention within political  
 15 campaigns. So it became a, you know, very hot topic  
 16 again.  
 17 Q Did you do polling on it?  
 18 A Did I do polling?  
 19 Q Yeah.  
 20 A I did a lot of polling politically for, you  
 21 know, various candidates, but nothing in specific to,  
 22 you know, sell, don't sell JEA that spring.  
 23 Q You didn't do any polling with regard to JEA?  
 24 A No, not that I recall. It's -- it's a  
 25 nonissue. I mean, it's actually been really interesting

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1 from a political standpoint. This is a debate that has  
 2 captivated the kind of insider crowd and the employees  
 3 and people connected to JEA and certainly the  
 4 businessmen of this community who make tens of millions  
 5 of dollars off of JEA every year, but it's not a  
 6 discussion that comes up when we're running campaigns  
 7 with the voters as a whole.  
 8 You can just see a great example of that in the  
 9 past primary where former President Scott Wilson based  
 10 his whole campaign on I'm the guy that stopped JEA and  
 11 he got smashed in the primary. So it's captivated a lot  
 12 of the insider political class. I've never sensed that  
 13 it seeps to the public as a whole.  
 14 MR. BUSEY: Let's go off the record.  
 15 (Recess taken.)  
 16 BY MR. BUSEY:  
 17 Q We were talking about discussions in 2019,  
 18 towards the end, of looking at the future of JEA.  
 19 Were you involved in any of those discussions?  
 20 A How would you define involved and with who?  
 21 Q I'm using your definition so I don't know.  
 22 A I mean, my broad definition would be no.  
 23 Q Okay. Did you go to the Club Continental  
 24 meeting in July of 2019?  
 25 A Yes, I did.

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1 Q So you were involved in that discussion?  
 2 A Yes, I -- prior to that, I'd say -- I don't  
 3 know if it was May or April, but Aaron Zahn and Herschel  
 4 Vinyard reached out to me and wanted to come talk  
 5 politics with me. And they brought questions  
 6 surrounding the political process to amend the City  
 7 Charter. And they wanted to talk specifics of how do  
 8 you run a state constitutional referendum. And also  
 9 discussed the -- basically, the legislative process  
 10 in -- in Tallahassee and how you accomplish getting, you  
 11 know, legislative changes there.  
 12 So I think I met with them two times or so over  
 13 two months to -- to kind of hear their ideas and answer  
 14 questions for them specific to those political  
 15 operations.  
 16 And then Aaron asked me subsequently would I  
 17 come to a meeting, which, as you alluded, was at Club  
 18 Continental, and discuss those items broadly with the  
 19 team of advisors that he had assembled there.  
 20 Q Okay. There's a lot to chew on there.  
 21 A Yeah.  
 22 Q Let's back up to the first time that Aaron  
 23 Zahn, Herschel Vinyard called you and said they wanted  
 24 to talk to you. Your best recollection was that was in  
 25 May, did you say?

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1 A Yeah, maybe late April, early May.  
 2 Q I assume you knew Herschel?  
 3 A Yeah, I had met Herschel in Tallahassee  
 4 politics and also he's an attorney in private practice,  
 5 who worked on some issues for the Jacksonville Port  
 6 Authority, and I had worked on some issues for the  
 7 Jacksonville Port Authority as well.  
 8 Q You had worked for the Jacksonville Port  
 9 Authority is what you just said?  
 10 A Yes, sir, subcontractor.  
 11 Q Subcontractor to whom?  
 12 A Susie Wiles.  
 13 Q Susie or an entity that Susie was employed by?  
 14 A An entity that -- that Susie has.  
 15 Q What entity was that?  
 16 A Right Coast Strategies, I believe.  
 17 Q Say it again.  
 18 A Right Coast Strategies.  
 19 Q Right Coast. R-i- --  
 20 A R-i-g-h-t, right hand.  
 21 Q C-o-a-s-t?  
 22 A Yes, sir.  
 23 Q And Right Coast Strategies had a contract with  
 24 the JPA?  
 25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q To do what?

2 A Community relations, public affairs type

3 consulting.

4 Q Do you know the term of that agreement?

5 A I do not.

6 Q And do you know what Susie asked Herschel to

7 do?

8 A No. Herschel was an attorney for the Port

9 Authority. And so I had interacted with him at public

10 affairs meetings with the Port because he was handling

11 some litigation for the Port..

12 Q I heard you use the word "subcontractor."

13 A I'm a subcontractor to Susie. Susie has the

14 contract with the Port.

15 Q I see. And what was the term of your

16 subcontract with Susie?

17 MR. BISHOP: I'm going to object. It's

18 privileged.

19 MR. BUSEY: Are you going to instruct him not

20 to answer?

21 MR. BISHOP: Yes. Well, let me just say this,

22 Steve. He's really -- I mean, we're here

23 voluntarily, so I think y'all know that if this

24 deposition was being conducted pursuant the Rules of

25 Civil Procedure, instruct him not to answer would be

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1 met with an offer to take it up with the court, but,

2 of course, we don't have a court.

3 So I just want to be clear that I'm instructing

4 him not to answer because of relevance, privilege

5 and objection was raised and I don't think it's

6 appropriate for this.

7 So happy to entertain any discussions with you

8 about it.

9 MR. BUSEY: I acknowledge that this is not a

10 Rules of Civil Procedure. This is a voluntary

11 appearance, but, obviously, where we're headed with

12 this is we have to get a subpoena to get the

13 information we want.

14 MR. BISHOP: I understand. And we can take --

15 take it up with whoever adjudicates the efficacy of

16 that subpoena.

17 MR. BUSEY: Yeah.

18 BY MR. BUSEY:

19 Q So I'm interested in your conversations with

20 Herschel and Aaron. And you said the first time was in

21 April or May that -- was it Aaron that called you?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Did you know him by then?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q How did you get to know him?

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1 A Because I had told you I was introduced to him

2 and met him in the fall of 2018.

3 Q In what context?

4 A In what context was I introduced to him?

5 Q Yes.

6 A Socially.

7 Q Strictly social?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q And so your relationship with Aaron from the

10 fall of '18 until April or May of '19 was just social or

11 was it more than that?

12 A No. It was social. I'd say he was a resource

13 to me. Obviously, as I told you earlier, JEA issues had

14 become flash points in political campaigns. And so I

15 had actually connected a few political candidates that

16 had JEA questions with Aaron to meet with and discuss,

17 you know, whatever issues they had about JEA. So he'd

18 been helpful to me in that spring.

19 Q And he and Herschel came to see you --

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q -- in your office?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q And the first time, what was that discussion?

24 What did they say they were there for?

25 A They were there because they were looking at

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1 the political operations of certain changes structurally

2 to JEA that they were considering. They told me that

3 there were legal constraints, whether they be local,

4 legislative, you know, local ordinance or charter

5 constraints, state constitutional constraints. And so

6 they were looking at how do they, basically, clear some

7 of these road blocks that they thought were an

8 impediment to the -- the good functioning of their

9 business.

10 Q You used the word constraints or road blocks.

11 To prevent them from doing what?

12 A Well, those were the terms that they used, that

13 these were constraints on their business. So I recall

14 the discussion around, you know, they can't develop

15 and -- and maintain intellectual property because of

16 various legal constraints on them as a public entity.

17 And that puts them as a competitive disadvantage or that

18 they weren't able to retain certain information as

19 proprietary, that would then put them at a competitive

20 disadvantage or they weren't able to pursue certain

21 models of -- or lines of business because of

22 governmental constraints that were put upon them.

23 So they were interested in -- they had

24 processes, if we go to the legislature and we want to

25 have them pass a bill that says we can hold, you know,

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1 information proprietary, what's your understanding of --  
 2 of how the legislative process works? Is that a  
 3 short-term, long-term, medium-term thing? If we want to  
 4 change a state constitution because there's some  
 5 prohibition in there that they think impacts them,  
 6 what's the process to get on the -- the state  
 7 constitutional ballot?

8 And Herschel had some outlines to things, you  
 9 know, you've got to get a certain number of signatures  
 10 to get on the ballot or the legislature has to pass you  
 11 through. And is this your understanding of the  
 12 signature requirements? How do people in political  
 13 campaigns generally go about getting signatures? You  
 14 know, what are the costs of that? What are the costs  
 15 to -- excuse me -- what are the costs of running a  
 16 statewide constitutional amendment campaign?

17 So those were the discussions that we had in  
 18 both of those. And similar questions towards the same  
 19 legislative political processes on the county level.

20 Q Were you aware that in May of 2018 the board of  
 21 JEA instructed its senior leadership team to stop any  
 22 consideration of selling JEA?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q And since then, have you become aware of that?

25 A Yes, sir.

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1 And that would have been one of the options within  
 2 their -- their strategic basket of things they could  
 3 pursue.

4 Q And that option would provide means to put a  
 5 handful of billion dollars in the City of Jacksonville  
 6 pocket to address the deficits?

7 A It could be one way, yes, sir.

8 Q And did Aaron talk to you about that?

9 A Just that that was something that they were  
 10 going to look at, not specific to the process or, you  
 11 know, any of those type of things. It was this will be  
 12 pursuing -- what a private sector transaction looks like  
 13 will be one of the -- the things that we consider per  
 14 the direction of the board to consider all options.

15 Q And before you went to the Club Continental  
 16 meeting in July of 2019, how many conversations had you  
 17 had with Aaron Zahn about those options?

18 A I'd say probably less than five. Most of our  
 19 conversations almost exclusively revolved around the --  
 20 the local charter referendum, statewide constitutional  
 21 referendums, if you will, statewide ballot campaign and  
 22 legislative processes. And other than that, it was  
 23 essentially him being helpful to me by meeting with some  
 24 political clients that I had who wanted to learn more  
 25 about JEA for their knowledge and their campaigns.

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1 Q How did you become aware of it?

2 A In the press.

3 Q Did -- when you developed this relationship  
 4 with Aaron, these communications with Aaron in the  
 5 spring, early summer of 2019, did Aaron ever talk with  
 6 you about the prospect of selling JEA in one form or  
 7 another?

8 A No, not specifically. These conversations  
 9 started very specific to these legislative type  
 10 political scenarios is what he called them that he was  
 11 considering. And so that's what we met on. And,  
 12 ultimately, in -- in late June or early July, around  
 13 that Club Continental meeting, he had said that one of  
 14 the avenues that his board in June had told him was  
 15 pursue any and all options. And that an exploration of  
 16 what a -- a private sector transaction would be would be  
 17 included in -- in those options that they would  
 18 consider.

19 Q And when you used the term -- phrase "private  
 20 sector transaction," you're referring to a sell of  
 21 JEA?

22 A Potentially. I think that it could be any  
 23 number of things, but they were absolutely going to look  
 24 at what a potential sale or any number of things that  
 25 the private sector could -- could bring back to them.

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1 MR. BUSEY: Would you read that answer back,  
 2 please, Terrie?

3 (The following answer was read by the reporter:  
 4 "Answer: I'd say probably less than five. Most of  
 5 our conversations almost exclusively revolved around  
 6 the -- the local charter referendum, statewide  
 7 constitutional referendums, if you will, statewide  
 8 ballot campaign and legislative processes. And  
 9 other than that, it was essentially him being  
 10 helpful to me by meeting with some political clients  
 11 that I had who wanted to learn more about JEA for  
 12 their knowledge and their campaigns.")

13 Q Who were those political candidates --  
 14 political clients?

15 A I recall Randy DeFoor was one of them. I  
 16 believe Ron Salem was another one. I think Rose  
 17 Connery. Those are three that I recall off the top of  
 18 my head.

19 Q Did Herschel or Aaron or JEA engage you to  
 20 provide the advice that you were giving them?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q You did it for free?

23 A Yes, sir. In political consulting, you know,  
 24 you meet with clients or potential clients or people  
 25 with ideas all the time and, you know, try to help them

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1 figure out heads from tails. And so, you know, the kind  
2 of consultative aspect is one that you're doing often  
3 without remuneration in political consulting.

4 Q At the time that you were -- had these  
5 conversations with Aaron or Herschel, I'm talking about  
6 time frame April or May of 2019, until your July meeting  
7 at Club Continental, did you have any professional  
8 relationship with Florida Power & Light?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q What was that?

11 A I had a consulting agreement with Florida Power  
12 & Light.

13 Q What was it -- what was the term of the  
14 agreement?

15 MR. BISHOP: I'm going to object. There's a  
16 confidentiality that attaches to that agreement.

17 Q And what was the compensation under that  
18 agreement?

19 MR. BISHOP: Same objection.

20 MR. BUSEY: When you say objection, you're  
21 telling him not to answer?

22 MR. BISHOP: I am objecting because it's  
23 confidential and he's unable to answer.

24 MR. BUSEY: Well, he's able to. You're  
25 instructing him not to.

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1 a consulting agreement with Florida Power & Light?

2 A Yes.

3 Q How do you know that?

4 A We've discussed it previously.

5 Q Tell me about that discussion.

6 A I just told him that, you know, worked with  
7 FPL, just in a general sense, you know. You want people  
8 to appreciate what angles you could potentially be  
9 coming from when you have discussions with them.

10 Q Did you tell him the reason Florida Power &  
11 Light hired you or what they wanted you to do?

12 A I did not discuss the substance of my contract,  
13 no.

14 Q Or why you were a consultant to Florida Power &  
15 Light?

16 A Not substantively, no, sir, just that I had an  
17 engagement.

18 Q And why -- did -- well, tell me what that  
19 discussion was. Was Aaron interested in that? Did he  
20 respond to you?

21 A He appreciated knowing that I had the  
22 engagement.

23 Q And you told me about the two meetings you had  
24 with Herschel and with Aaron that led up to the July  
25 Club Continental meeting. Was it just two in person?

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1 MR. BISHOP: Well, again, I want to be very  
2 careful, Steve. I'm instructing him not to answer  
3 because to do so would violate his confidentiality.

4 MR. BUSEY: All I need for the purpose of this  
5 record is for him to tell me he's not going to  
6 answer that question.

7 MR. BISHOP: He's not going to answer that  
8 question because to do so would be violative of his  
9 confidentiality obligations.

10 MR. BUSEY: You understand we're not going to  
11 engage in that.

12 MR. BISHOP: I understand you want me to say a  
13 certain thing and I'm going to make sure the  
14 record's clear.

15 MR. BUSEY: I want you to say a lot of things.

16 MR. BISHOP: I'll make sure the record's clear.  
17 I know you want that, too.

18 BY MR. BUSEY:

19 Q When did you enter into your consulting  
20 agreement with Florida Power & Light?

21 A December of 2017.

22 Q And was it with Florida Power & Light or  
23 NextEra?

24 A Florida Power & Light.

25 Q To your knowledge, did Aaron Zahn know you had

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1 A I believe it was just two; two or three.

2 Q And when did you receive the invitation to go  
3 to the Club Continental meeting?

4 A I don't recall specifically, but it was a few  
5 days prior to the meeting.

6 Q And who invited you?

7 A Aaron.

8 Q And what did he say as to what it was and why  
9 he wanted you to come?

10 A I think I told you a few minutes ago. He asked  
11 that I come and give kind of an overview politically of  
12 the items that he and Herschel and I had discussed in  
13 months prior, what political processes for amending the  
14 charter, amending the state constitution or passing  
15 legislation through Tallahassee would be. And he also  
16 asked if I would give just kind of a general overview of  
17 the, you know, city politics as it related to JEA since  
18 it had just been a matter in the campaigns.

19 Q Did he tell you what the purpose of the meeting  
20 was?

21 A He said that it would be a meeting with groups  
22 of his strategic advisors for his strategic planning  
23 process.

24 Q Did you -- did he tell you or did you ask as to  
25 who those people were?

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1     **A**    I recall that he said bankers, lawyers, you  
2 know, executives, those type of things from his company.  
3 We didn't really get into specifics, no.  
4     **Q**    When you say -- you know, were you saying that  
5 to me or he said that to you?  
6     **A**    I think he said it to me, you know, bankers,  
7 lawyers, those type of strategic advisors.  
8     **Q**    More precisely, he didn't identify the firms of  
9 the people?  
10    **A**    No, sir. No, sir.  
11    **Q**    Did he give you an idea of how many people were  
12 going to be there?  
13    **A**    I don't recall that he did, no. I mean, my  
14 sense was that it would be, you know, a -- a robust --  
15 it wasn't going to be, like, five people sitting around  
16 the table, but I don't recall how large I thought it  
17 would be. But I thought it would be robust, given him  
18 saying law firms, bankers and some people from his  
19 team.  
20    **Q**    How many people were there?  
21    **A**    Well, I attended one day for about two hours.  
22 I think they had meetings over a couple of days. So I  
23 went the very first day of their meetings. And maybe 20  
24 people were in the room when I spoke about those  
25 political dynamics.

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1     **Q**    Do you recall any people you met there?  
2     **A**    I mean, I recall that Michael Munz was there.  
3 Kerri Stewart was there. Herschel was there. Aaron was  
4 there. Melissa Dykes. So it may have been the first  
5 time I met Melissa Dykes or maybe the second time I met  
6 Melissa Dykes. But those were the only people that I  
7 recognized or really interacted with.  
8     **Q**    And from your attendance at the meeting on that  
9 first date, what did you perceive was the purpose of the  
10 meeting?  
11    **A**    So they had all of these various strategic  
12 plans as -- as they were alluding to. And it was kind  
13 of hashing out what would be their process of pursuing  
14 these -- these various scenarios, getting -- getting  
15 research and, you know, getting their ducks in order to  
16 be able to inform their board about what it was they  
17 were doing.  
18    **Q**    Did you discuss with FP&L, Florida Power &  
19 Light, the fact that you were providing this advice and  
20 counsel to JEA?  
21            **MR. BISHOP:** I'm going to object to any  
22 discussions he had with FP&L, that would be covered  
23 by his consulting agreement that contains a  
24 confidentiality provision.  
25            **MR. BUSEY:** Does he decline to answer the

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1     question?  
2            **MR. BISHOP:** He does.  
3 **BY MR. BUSEY:**  
4     **Q**    Did your consulting agreement with Florida  
5 Power & Light involve in any way JEA issues?  
6            **MR. BISHOP:** I'm going to object. And, again,  
7 on advice of counsel, he will not respond to that.  
8            **MR. BUSEY:** Does he decline to answer my  
9 question?  
10           **MR. BISHOP:** He is not going to respond on the  
11 advice of counsel.  
12           **MR. BUSEY:** Terrie, would you read my question  
13 back, please?  
14            (The following question was read by the  
15 reporter: "Question: Did your consulting agreement  
16 with Florida Power & Light involve in any way JEA  
17 issues?")  
18     **Q**    I just want to make sure I've asked the  
19 question so I want to ask this question again -- maybe  
20 again.  
21            Did you discuss with Florida Power & Light the  
22 fact that you were working, advising JEA?  
23            **MR. BISHOP:** Decline to answer that due to  
24 confidentiality and his agreement with FP&L.  
25     **Q**    Did Florida Power & Light ask for your  
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1 assistance with regard to their interest -- its interest  
2 in JEA?  
3            **MR. BISHOP:** Same objection.  
4     **Q**    Did Florida Power & Light tell you they were  
5 interested in buying JEA?  
6            **MR. BISHOP:** Same objection to the extent that  
7 the conversations were within the ambit of his  
8 consulting agreement with Florida Power & Light.  
9            **MR. BUSEY:** Were they?  
10           **MR. BISHOP:** You can ask him that --  
11 **BY MR. BUSEY:**  
12     **Q**    Were they?  
13            **MR. BISHOP:** -- if you have questions outside  
14 of that.  
15     **A**    What's your question, sir?  
16            **MR. BISHOP:** If you had questions -- if you had  
17 discussions outside of the ambit of your consulting  
18 agreement, then you could testify about those, but  
19 to the extent that any conversations you had with  
20 FP&L about the subject were covered by the  
21 confidentiality provisions by which you are bound,  
22 then I would ask you to decline to answer on the  
23 advice of counsel.  
24     **A**    Yeah, they would all be covered by my  
25 agreement.

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1 Q Show you what we've marked as Exhibit 19. This  
2 is a document that is entitled Project Freebird,  
3 Organizational Materials, July 2019. It has the J.P.  
4 Morgan, Morgan Stanley letterhead on it.  
5 Have you seen this document before?  
6 A I don't recall if I've seen this document  
7 before. I recall that at the -- the Club Continental  
8 meeting, there was something styled Project Freebird  
9 that -- that could have outlined some of these things,  
10 but I -- I don't recall specifically the substance of  
11 that document and -- or, you know, comparison to what  
12 this document is.

13 (Baker's Exhibit 19 was marked for  
14 identification.)

15 Q Did you tell me you haven't seen this document  
16 before?

17 A I said that I -- I recall at the Club  
18 Continental meeting that there was a similar styled  
19 report cover that -- called Project Freebird and  
20 contained some timelines and such, but I don't recall  
21 the specific contents of -- of what that was and  
22 couldn't tell you whether that was this or not.

23 Q Are you aware that this Exhibit 19 was passed  
24 out at that meeting in Club Continental?

25 A Again, I'm not -- not aware specifically as it  
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1 relates to this Exhibit 19. I do have a recollection  
2 of -- of seeing something similarly styled with a cover  
3 sheet of Project Freebird.

4 Q And did -- were you aware that the document  
5 contained a process and timeline for the sale of JEA?

6 A I don't recall the specific items within that  
7 document, no, sir.

8 Q Do you recall there was a discussion that there  
9 would be a definitive agreement by March of 2020 for the  
10 sale of JEA and that was discussed at that Club  
11 Continental meeting?

12 A No, sir.

13 Q Was there any discussion of the sale of the JEA  
14 at the Club Continental meeting?

15 A Not -- not that I was in beyond -- again, I was  
16 there for two hours one morning and gave kind of a  
17 political overview of the -- the couple options they  
18 were considering around city and state legislative  
19 changes.

20 There was, you know, discussion of -- of these  
21 five essential scenarios, just more of a high level of  
22 ideas going to be something we work on, co-op's going to  
23 be something we work on, private sector transaction  
24 or -- or, you know, whatever you want to call it, is one  
25 of the things we work on.

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1 Don't know if they talked about it there, but I  
2 recall some discussion, too, about whether JEA should be  
3 a department of the City, you know. Should it be a  
4 utilities department. So there was just kind of real  
5 top level discussion of all these various options that  
6 they were working to flush out or had flushed out on  
7 some of them.

8 Q Are you telling me that you're unaware that  
9 there was a -- a process and timeline delivered at the  
10 July Club Continental meeting for the sale of JEA by  
11 March of 2020?

12 A Sir, during the two hours that I was there, I  
13 don't recollect a discussion of timeline or, you know,  
14 process beyond a broad overview of all of these five  
15 different options that they were trying to evaluate.

16 Q I didn't ask you during the two hours.  
17 Generally were you aware at that meeting there was a  
18 process and timeline for the sale of JEA by March of  
19 '20?

20 A I was only aware of the -- the conduct of the  
21 meeting the two hours that I was there.

22 Q You didn't have any discussion with anybody  
23 that was there, apart from the meeting you participated  
24 in?

25 A Not as to the substance of that meeting, not  
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1 that I recall.

2 Q Did you have any discussion with Aaron Zahn  
3 about the sale of JEA?

4 A In a general sense?

5 Q Yes.

6 A Sure.

7 Q When?

8 A I think that there was a discussion, again, I  
9 asked when he asked me to come to Club Continental,  
10 which was, you know, these five options. And he had  
11 told me that one of the options would be the exploration  
12 of private sector options that could include  
13 privatization.

14 So it was really just kind of knowledge  
15 gathering. I, you know, was aware that that was going  
16 to be one of things that they would consider.

17 Q When you use the word "privatization," you mean  
18 the sale of JEA?

19 A No, I mean any kind of private aspect that  
20 would change the -- the -- you know, form of ownership  
21 from -- from -- well, it wouldn't necessarily because I  
22 would say, like, concession agreement is a  
23 privatization. I guess the City would continue to own  
24 assets.

25 I mean, when I say privatization, what I define  
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1 that as is private sector type solutions, regardless of  
2 whether it's a purchase and sale or some other type of,  
3 you know, private partnership with -- with JEA.

4 Q What was your understanding of why 20 bankers  
5 and lawyers were gathered at the Club Continental on  
6 July 10th?

7 A They had five scenarios in front of them, any  
8 one of which from my discussions with people and  
9 understanding and observations were live scenarios that  
10 were going to be developed and considered. And these  
11 were the, you know, experts in various things. They,  
12 you know, were considering an IPO. They were  
13 considering co-ops. They were considering very major  
14 structural changes to the, you know, operation and form  
15 of JEA.

16 So my understanding is these were experts that  
17 were helping them build out that research.

18 Q Do you know who those experts were?

19 A Do I know them? No, I didn't know any of the  
20 experts.

21 Q Do you know the names of the firms?

22 A Well, I've read news coverage of -- of some of  
23 the firms.

24 Q Were they all -- were the names of the firms  
25 strangers to you when you were there?

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1 Q Are you aware that the action of the JEA board,  
2 on July 23, included authority to sell JEA, included JEA  
3 seeking bidders for the sale of JEA?

4 A I'm aware that the July 23rd meeting did give  
5 them the authority to go out and evaluate what private  
6 sector transactions would look like, among many other  
7 options.

8 Q And are you aware of the ITN that was issued on  
9 August 2?

10 A Became aware of it.

11 Q When?

12 A When it was issued.

13 Q Not before?

14 A Not specifically, no.

15 Q Generally?

16 A Knew that there would be some type of process  
17 that -- that would be followed to kind of fill out that  
18 strategic option, if you will.

19 Q You knew there would be some type of process  
20 that would be followed to fill out that strategic  
21 option?

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q What process was that and how did you know  
24 that?

25 A Well, I believe there was discussion within the  
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1 A I mean, I've heard of the firms before, mostly,  
2 I believe. But, like, no, I had no relationship or  
3 knowledge of these firms. Never worked with any of  
4 them.

5 Q Were you aware that merely 13 days after that  
6 meeting, that the JEA board approved the sale of JEA?

7 A I would reject the premise of that question  
8 that they approved the sale. I think they absolutely  
9 approved an exploration of any of those options, but I  
10 think that that statement plays into what I believe is a  
11 false dichotomy that people have laid down of sale or no  
12 sale. And at no time, in my discussions with Aaron  
13 Zahn, Lenny Curry or anybody else, was these  
14 considerations put throughout that lens of sell or don't  
15 sell. It was explore the strategic future of this  
16 asset.

17 Q And that authority that Aaron Zahn got from the  
18 board on July 23 included the sale of JEA?

19 A I think it included the exploration of what a  
20 private sector transaction would look like. The  
21 authority for any number of these things would have had  
22 multiple, multiple steps to go through, regardless of  
23 what they explored or recommended on any of those  
24 options. And JEA can't do anything unilaterally.  
25 They're owned by the City.

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1 board. People were asking is privatization here. There  
2 was news coverage. And subsequent discussions that  
3 after that meeting I had with -- with Aaron, where he  
4 said, yeah, privatization is one of the things we're  
5 going to explore here.

6 Q And he was in favor of privatization, wasn't  
7 he?

8 A I don't think he was actually.

9 Q You think --

10 A My -- my impression was that he actually looked  
11 fairly unfavorably on that notion.

12 Q Where do you think his favor was?

13 A I guess if I was -- because he never said  
14 specifically, but I think he tended to lean towards IPO  
15 form.

16 Q And what's an IPO?

17 A An initial public offering.

18 Q Selling of JEA?

19 A Well, I think it's, you know, offering stock  
20 within JEA.

21 Q Offering stock of what to whom?

22 A I'm not an IPO attorney or have knowledge of  
23 it. I couldn't tell you how those processes work, but  
24 transferring, you know, ownership via stock shares to --  
25 to those who would be willing to purchase them would be

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1 my general understanding.  
 2 Q That would be a sale, wouldn't it?  
 3 A I mean, you could -- you could say that you're  
 4 selling partial interest, sure.  
 5 Q Well, you said purchase, that's why I said  
 6 sale.  
 7 A Yeah. Some -- somebody would be buying stock.  
 8 Q And you're telling me that on July 10th, 2019,  
 9 you were unaware at the meeting that you went to there  
 10 was a blueprint for the sale of JEA to be concluded by  
 11 March 2020?  
 12 MR. BISHOP: Form.  
 13 A Yeah, I don't -- I don't recall hearing any  
 14 discussions about hard and fast timelines and processes,  
 15 other than they were absolutely going to pursue a  
 16 strategic option that contemplated those, you know,  
 17 private transactions.  
 18 Q And the record should reflect, when I asked  
 19 that question, I referred to a blueprint and I had  
 20 Exhibit 19 in my hand.  
 21 MR. BISHOP: Same objection.  
 22 Q Do you have, in your possession, any papers  
 23 that were -- or documents that were given to you at that  
 24 meeting?  
 25 A I do not.  
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1 Q Did you take anything away from the meeting?  
 2 A I don't recall taking anything away from that  
 3 meeting.  
 4 Q Did you report to Florida Power & Light what  
 5 happened in that meeting?  
 6 MR. BISHOP: Same objection as discussions with  
 7 Florida Power & Light are confidential pursuant to  
 8 his agreement with them. I instruct him not to  
 9 answer on the advice of counsel.  
 10 THE WITNESS: Would you mind giving me a  
 11 30-second break so I can get another bottle of  
 12 water?  
 13 (Recess taken.)  
 14 BY MR. BUSEY:  
 15 Q Let me show you what we've marked as Exhibit  
 16 20 --  
 17 A Thank you.  
 18 (Baker's Exhibit 20 was marked for  
 19 identification.)  
 20 Q -- which is an e-mail chain. Just take a  
 21 minute to familiarize yourself with it.  
 22 My question's going to be: Have you seen this  
 23 before?  
 24 A I believe that I have, yes, sir.  
 25 Q Can you tell us what it is?  
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1 A It's an e-mail with Sam Mousa and some folks at  
 2 Florida Power & Light.  
 3 Q The some folks at Florida Power & Light  
 4 includes Daniel Martell?  
 5 A Yes, sir.  
 6 Q Is that the same fellow you referred to  
 7 earlier?  
 8 A Yes, sir.  
 9 Q That you communicated with at Florida Power &  
 10 Light?  
 11 A Yes, sir.  
 12 Q I want to read into the record the e-mail from  
 13 Sam to Daniel Martell. It shows a blind copy to Baker  
 14 Law Group. Is that where you saw it, you received a  
 15 blind copy?  
 16 A Yes, sir.  
 17 Q Daniel, thank you for the call this afternoon.  
 18 I'm grateful and excited to assist FP&L with their  
 19 endeavors.  
 20 As requested, please find attached a completed  
 21 W9 that includes my company name, address, FEIN,  
 22 et cetera. Let me know if you need anything other to  
 23 contract for my services.  
 24 I understood the contract would include a  
 25 monthly retainer of \$7500, plus other terms and  
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1 conditions you asked me to review upon receipt. In  
 2 addition, I understood we would review and discuss a  
 3 success fee structure at a later time.  
 4 Again, thank you very much for the call.  
 5 Looking forward to working with you.  
 6 Do you know why Sam copied you on this e-mail?  
 7 A I do not.  
 8 Q Did you talk to Sam about his communicating  
 9 with Daniel Martell?  
 10 A I made an introduction for Sam to Danny.  
 11 Q He goes by Danny?  
 12 A Yes, sir, at least to me.  
 13 Q And when did you make that introduction?  
 14 A Probably in the days preceding this e-mail.  
 15 Wouldn't have been much before that. I would say within  
 16 a week of this e-mail.  
 17 Q Well, this e-mail is dated July 12th, 2019.  
 18 A Uh-huh.  
 19 Q So that's two days after your Club Continental  
 20 meeting?  
 21 A I'm unsure of the dates of those. If you say  
 22 it is, probably.  
 23 Q And if you talked with Sam a few days before  
 24 this e-mail, then that would be the day of your Club  
 25 Continental meeting?  
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1 A No, I said I think it was, you know, probably  
 2 within a week.  
 3 Q Why --  
 4 A It was after Sam left City Hall.  
 5 Q Why did you introduce Sam to Florida Power &  
 6 Light?  
 7 A Because I terminated my contract with them and  
 8 made an introduction to -- to them for Sam.  
 9 Q Was Sam going to do the same thing that you did  
 10 under your contract?  
 11 A I don't know what Sam was going to do or not  
 12 do, but he was looking to grow a consulting business and  
 13 so I made the introduction for him and left it there.  
 14 Q Well, Sam is in business with you, isn't he?  
 15 A In one business we have, yes, sir.  
 16 Q Which business is that?  
 17 A Conventus, LLC.  
 18 Q What -- what governs whether or not a new  
 19 client relationship goes into a business that y'all  
 20 partner in or one of your individual businesses?  
 21 A A discussion that we have, you know,  
 22 whenever -- I mean, if he's bringing clients to Mousa  
 23 Consulting, which is this is, you know, an e-mail from  
 24 Mousa Consulting, I have no interest in -- in that  
 25 company. He can do whatever he wants, just as if I'm  
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1 doing something through BCSP or Data Targeting or any  
 2 number of my other ventures, can do what I want.  
 3 So what's a joint client is something we  
 4 jointly go after.  
 5 Q Well, I asked you what governs whether or not  
 6 it's a joint client or an individual client and you said  
 7 we discuss it.  
 8 A Yes, sir.  
 9 Q Okay. Did you discuss this?  
 10 A In the sense of meet these guys, I'm no longer  
 11 working with them.  
 12 Q No, in the sense of is Sam going to put this in  
 13 Mousa Consulting or Conventus --  
 14 A Oh, yeah, absolutely. No, this is Mousa  
 15 Consulting.  
 16 Q You didn't let me finish my question.  
 17 Did -- did you have that discussion with Sam  
 18 as to which entity this consulting agreement should be  
 19 in?  
 20 A Not as to which because it was always a Mousa  
 21 Consulting-type engagement.  
 22 Q You say it was always a Mousa Consulting-type  
 23 engagement --  
 24 A Yes, sir.  
 25 Q -- what do you mean when you say "it"?  
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1 A It, any potential he had of getting a client  
 2 here.  
 3 Q With Florida Power & Light?  
 4 A Yes, sir.  
 5 Q But Florida Power & Light was already your  
 6 client?  
 7 A They had been. I had terminated my agreement  
 8 with them.  
 9 Q And did they ask you to provide a substitute  
 10 consultant in Jacksonville? Did Florida Power & Light  
 11 ask you to provide a substitute consultant?  
 12 MR. BISHOP: To the extent those discussions  
 13 took place during your confidential relationship  
 14 with them, I'd instruct you not to answer, due to  
 15 the confidentiality agreement.  
 16 Q You said to the extent, are you not going to  
 17 answer the question?  
 18 A It would be covered by -- my discussions with  
 19 FPL would be covered by my confidentiality agreement.  
 20 Q What was the term of that agreement?  
 21 MR. BISHOP: That he can't answer questions  
 22 about the agreement, it's confidential.  
 23 MR. BUSEY: Was the agreement in place at the  
 24 time we're talking?  
 25 MR. BISHOP: You can ask him when the agreement  
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1 terminated.  
 2 BY MR. BUSEY:  
 3 Q When did the agreement terminate?  
 4 A The last day of the agreement was July 31st,  
 5 2019.  
 6 Q So this was during your agreement with Florida  
 7 Power & Light?  
 8 A My agreement with Florida Power & Light  
 9 terminated on July 31st, 2019.  
 10 Q And your introduction to -- by -- introduction  
 11 of Sam to Danny was while you were a consultant to  
 12 Florida Power & Light?  
 13 A Yes, sir, still had a contract with them. I  
 14 had given them notice of termination on July 1st.  
 15 Q And did you have any understanding of what Sam  
 16 was going to do for Florida Power & Light?  
 17 A No, sir.  
 18 Q Did you talk to Sam about that?  
 19 A No, sir.  
 20 Q Did you talk to Danny about that?  
 21 MR. BISHOP: Again, he can't answer questions  
 22 about --  
 23 MR. BUSEY: Just tell me he's not going to  
 24 answer.  
 25 MR. BISHOP: He's not going to answer on the  
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1 advice of counsel. It is confidential.  
 2 BY MR. BUSEY:  
 3 Q Did you see that in this e-mail, which we  
 4 marked as Exhibit 20, Sam says that he understood that  
 5 the contract with -- that Florida Power & Light and he  
 6 would discuss a success fee structure at a later time?  
 7 A I see that line in here, yes, sir.  
 8 Q Did you ever discuss with Sam a potential  
 9 success fee from Florida Power & Light?  
 10 A Not that I recall.  
 11 Q Did you ever discuss with Florida Power & Light  
 12 a discuss -- a success fee for you?  
 13 MR. BISHOP: If it took place during your  
 14 engagement with them, I'm going to instruct you not  
 15 to answer. It's protected by the confidentiality  
 16 agreement.  
 17 Q I asked you if you ever had that conversation.  
 18 So did you ever have that conversation outside of your  
 19 consulting agreement?  
 20 A No, sir.  
 21 Q Did you have that conversation within your  
 22 consulting agreement about a success fee?  
 23 MR. BISHOP: He cannot answer, it's  
 24 confidential.  
 25 MR. BUSEY: Okay.

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1 BY MR. BUSEY:  
 2 Q Did you have a success fee with Florida Power &  
 3 Light?  
 4 MR. BISHOP: The terms of his agreement are  
 5 confidential.  
 6 Q Why did you terminate your agreement with  
 7 Florida Power & Light?  
 8 A I terminated my agreement with Florida Power &  
 9 Light at the urging of Mayor Curry.  
 10 Q What did Mayor Curry say to you in that  
 11 regard?  
 12 A He and I discussed the strategic planning  
 13 process that JEA was going through and the idea that  
 14 there would be consideration of private sector options.  
 15 And he encouraged me not to be involved with anybody  
 16 that could have an interest in those private sector  
 17 options.  
 18 Q Why?  
 19 A The whole discussion around JEA was very  
 20 politically charged and he wanted to have me available  
 21 to him or anybody else to have candid discussions about  
 22 the politics around what they were considering and not  
 23 being involved with somebody on the outside.  
 24 Q Who was the "they" you just referred to?  
 25 MR. BISHOP: Are you done with your answer?

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1 I'm sorry.  
 2 THE WITNESS: Yeah.  
 3 MR. BISHOP: Sorry, Steve. I didn't know he  
 4 was finished.  
 5 MR. BUSEY: I'm lost. Terrie, what do we have?  
 6 Question and answer.  
 7 (The following question and answer were read by  
 8 the reporter: "Question: Why?  
 9 "Answer: The whole discussion around JEA was  
 10 very politically charged and he wanted to have me  
 11 available to him or anybody else to have candid  
 12 discussions about the politics around what they were  
 13 considering and not being involved with somebody on  
 14 the outside.")  
 15 Q My question is who is "they"?  
 16 A JEA.  
 17 Q The mayor wanted you to be available to him to  
 18 have discussions regarding what JEA was considering?  
 19 A Yes, sir. And other political clients who may  
 20 care to have my opinion.  
 21 Q What do you mean "other political clients"?  
 22 A Members of the city council.  
 23 Q I think I understood the context of that is  
 24 that the mayor wanted you to be available to both the  
 25 mayor and to your other political clients to discuss

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1 those issues?  
 2 A Yes, if people wanted to discuss them.  
 3 Q Free of a contract with FP&L?  
 4 A Free of any relation to any of the outside  
 5 perspective offer.  
 6 Q Do you know why the mayor was concerned about  
 7 that?  
 8 A Again, I think that the discussions we had  
 9 really centered around the fact that he explored -- he  
 10 supported exploring all of these different options. He  
 11 wasn't supporting any single option. He had no outcome  
 12 in mind. And what he definitely wanted to know is what  
 13 the private sector value of JEA would be. But,  
 14 ultimately, what he viewed that process as the start of  
 15 informing a public policy discussion, again, around the  
 16 future of JEA, the future of -- of kind of unfunded  
 17 needs within the community.  
 18 Q Did you assist JEA or the senior leadership  
 19 team in preparing for the July 23, 2019, board meeting?  
 20 A How would you define assist?  
 21 Q Any way you choose to define it. Do you know  
 22 what -- do you know what assist means?  
 23 A Well, I know there's a number of definitions to  
 24 assist so I'm wondering what definition you ascribe to  
 25 it.

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1 Q You graduated from the University of Florida  
 2 College of Law?  
 3 A No, sir.  
 4 Q Florida State University College of Law?  
 5 A Yes, sir.  
 6 Q And you're asking me what assist means?  
 7 A Yes, sir. I'm asking you for your definition  
 8 of assist.  
 9 Q Help.  
 10 A I -- I reviewed talking points for their  
 11 communications planning. I don't know if we have, but  
 12 I've seen you guys misrepresent the notion that I  
 13 somehow had access to the board package on the 22nd of  
 14 July. And I'm sure you have the text messages with  
 15 Kerri Stewart where it's very clear that I asked her  
 16 about a communications plan. And she says, Would you  
 17 like to see the talking point and frequently asked  
 18 questions, which go to their public facing  
 19 communications, not to the board package? And the  
 20 reason that I reviewed those is they had been hoping  
 21 that Mayor Curry would play a role within their outward  
 22 facing communication strategy from the 23rd on.  
 23 MR. BUSEY: I sorry, Terrie. Would you read  
 24 that back to me?  
 25 (The following answer was read by the reporter:  
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1 "Answer: I -- I reviewed talking points for their  
 2 communications planning. I don't know if we have,  
 3 but I've seen you guys misrepresent the notion that  
 4 I somehow had access to the board package on the  
 5 22nd of July. And I'm sure you have the text  
 6 messages with Kerri Stewart where it's very clear  
 7 that I asked her about a communications plan. And  
 8 she says, Would you like to see the talking point  
 9 and frequently asked questions, which go to their  
 10 public facing communications, not to the board  
 11 package? And the reason that I reviewed those is  
 12 they had been hoping that Mayor Curry would play a  
 13 role within their outward facing communication  
 14 strategy from the 23rd on.")  
 15 Q Okay. My question was: Did you help JEA or  
 16 the senior leadership team prepare for the July 23 board  
 17 meeting?  
 18 A To my definition, no.  
 19 Q You didn't help them?  
 20 A No, sir.  
 21 Q What communications had you had with whom in  
 22 preparation for the July 23 board meeting?  
 23 A The only communications that I recall is -- is  
 24 the day before, on the 22nd, asking Kerri Stewart about  
 25 the communications plan that they had -- the Dalton  
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1 Agency had put together.  
 2 Q What did you ask Kerri?  
 3 A Could I see the copy of your finalized  
 4 communications plan.  
 5 Q How did you know they had a finalized  
 6 communication plan?  
 7 A Because they had begun working on it at the  
 8 Club Continental meeting and had raised the issue to me  
 9 there of would Mayor Curry be involved in the -- you  
 10 know, the outward communications of their planning  
 11 strategies.  
 12 Q Who's the "they" you're referring to?  
 13 A The JEA.  
 14 Q What individual?  
 15 A The discussions at Club Continental I would  
 16 have had with Kerri Stewart, Melissa Dykes and Michael  
 17 Munz.  
 18 Q And those conversations were enlisting your  
 19 assistance with regard to a communications plan for what  
 20 JEA was planning?  
 21 A Discussion around, you know, their -- their  
 22 rollout, how are they talking about their planning  
 23 process, what type of individuals could they enlist in  
 24 that, whether it be their board members, their  
 25 leadership team, the mayor, certain members of the city  
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1 council.  
 2 Q Rollout plan for Project Freebird?  
 3 A Yeah, for their July 23rd, let's go look at  
 4 everything, strategy.  
 5 Q Project Freebird?  
 6 A I don't know if that's Project Freebird  
 7 specifically. My understanding was it was all those  
 8 options that they were fleshing out.  
 9 Q You saw the term Project Freebird?  
 10 A Yeah, I told you earlier that I did.  
 11 Q What was your understanding of what that  
 12 meant?  
 13 A My understanding was that it was the specific  
 14 to what a -- a private transaction could look like,  
 15 that option.  
 16 Q Do you know where the term Freebird came  
 17 from?  
 18 A I do not.  
 19 Q Do you know why JEA chose to use a code term  
 20 for the project?  
 21 A I do not.  
 22 Q And so Kerri asked you, if I understand this  
 23 correctly, if you'd reviewed the communications plan?  
 24 A Yes, sir. So at the Club Continental, after  
 25 the talk, the, you know, next hour that I spent there  
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1 was sitting with Michael Munz and Kerri Stewart and  
 2 Melissa Dykes. And they were starting to put together  
 3 their outlines of their communication plan, what  
 4 stakeholders they could engage, what their  
 5 constituencies were and they were interested in -- in my  
 6 political perspective of that and they were keenly  
 7 interested in whether the mayor would be a participant  
 8 in that.

9 Q A participant in what?

10 A In their communication strategy.

11 Q The rollout?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And what did you say to them in that regard?

14 A I said that I doubted the mayor would want to  
 15 play a role, you know, with what they were doing, that I  
 16 believe that he'd be supportive of the exploring all the  
 17 options, but that, you know, JEA's communication should  
 18 be JEA's communications. And by and large the mayor's  
 19 office runs their own communications.

20 Q And so in preparation for the July 23 board  
 21 meeting, Kerri Stewart asked you if you wanted to see  
 22 the communications plan?

23 A We had talked about it and that they were  
 24 building it. And I believe that I had a subsequent  
 25 discussion with Michael Munz post -- post Club

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1 Continental, but prior to the 22nd. Again, because I  
 2 rent space in his office building and see him multiple  
 3 times a day. And he said they were working to finalize  
 4 that comms plan and it was still an open question as to  
 5 whether the mayor would participate.

6 Q Do you remember the question I asked you?

7 A You could read it back if I didn't answer it  
 8 for you.

9 MR. BISHOP: Could you read the question back?

10 (The following question was read by the  
 11 reporter: "Question: And so in preparation for the  
 12 July 23 board meeting, Kerri Stewart asked you if  
 13 you wanted to see the communications plan?")

14 A Yes. There was an open collaborative, you can  
 15 see the comms plan of what we're working, that was at  
 16 the Club Continental. We'd like your input on it to the  
 17 extent that you're willing to give it. And on the 22nd,  
 18 I asked her if there was a finalized plan because it was  
 19 still an open question as to whether the mayor would  
 20 participate in a communication strategy that they rolled  
 21 out.

22 Q Were you aware that JEA was planning to present  
 23 this project to the board on the 23rd?

24 A Yeah. The whole Club Continental meeting was  
 25 we're going to present the -- these five options to our

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1 board on the 23rd and, you know, hope that the board  
 2 let's us go explore all these things. But that meeting  
 3 at Club Continental, my understanding, was to, you know,  
 4 prepare the information for their -- their board  
 5 meeting.

6 Q So what was your answer to Kerri's question?

7 A I said, I'll take a look at things if you guys  
 8 want to run them by me.

9 Q And what did -- did she provide you any  
 10 information before the board meeting?

11 A On the 22nd, she gave me a copy of their  
 12 communications plan.

13 Q She gave it to you?

14 A I -- well, somebody put it in my office. I  
 15 talked with her about do you have a finalized comms  
 16 plan. She said, Yes. Do you want to see it? And I  
 17 said, Sure. And she said, We'll drop it off in your  
 18 office. And it was in my office when I went to -- you  
 19 know, went there an hour later.

20 Q On the 22nd?

21 A Uh-huh.

22 Q And it was just -- what was -- what is "it"  
 23 we're talking about, what was in your office?

24 A There was a -- I don't recall how -- how, you  
 25 know, many pages or whatnot there was, but I -- my

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1 recollection is it was a spreadsheet and it had, you  
 2 know, different dates on it. And -- and, you know,  
 3 op-ed or community leader meeting or, you know, mayor  
 4 statement, Aaron Zahn interview, you know, them  
 5 basically just trying to game plan their various  
 6 communications tactics and put those on a calendar  
 7 for -- I don't know if it was a month or two months, but  
 8 to, you know, kind of roll out of their strategic  
 9 planning options.

10 Q Did you provide any comments to Kerri?

11 A Yeah, I said the mayor wasn't going to  
 12 participate.

13 Q Is that the extent of your comments?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q So you didn't provide any comments on the  
 16 communications plan?

17 A No, sir, other than the mayor's not going to  
 18 work on this. And, you know, looks great. Looks like  
 19 you guys are being thorough.

20 Q Did you talk to Michael about it?

21 A About that comms plan?

22 Q Yeah.

23 A I don't recall a specific conversation with him  
 24 on the 22nd, no, sir.

25 Q Do you recall talking to him generally about

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1 it?  
2 **A** The broad strokes of what they were doing, yes,  
3 sir. And I encouraged him to -- to, you know, get the  
4 message out. Better to have you tell your story than  
5 somebody else tell it for you.

6 And I did speak to Brian Hughes as well on the  
7 22nd and said they desired to have the mayor play some  
8 active role in -- in their roll out. And Brian said,  
9 Nope, you know, to the extent the mayor's engaged, we'll  
10 choose how we engage.

11 **Q** Were you aware that Melissa Dykes sent Kerri  
12 Stewart a text message on July 22 that said, Tim is  
13 working on bullet points for you, you will have them  
14 within an hour?

15 **A** No.

16 **Q** Were you working on bullet points on materials  
17 for the board meeting?

18 **A** No, sir.

19 **Q** So you don't know what Melissa's talking  
20 about?

21 **A** No, sir, I never communicated directly with  
22 Melissa. Don't have her cell number. Don't have her  
23 e-mail address. I only met with her a few times, always  
24 in the presence of other folks.

25 **Q** Let me show you what we've marked as  
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1 **Q** And what was the reason for your request?

2 **A** I wanted to review the financial information  
3 and what they had publicly been, you know, telling Wall  
4 Street or otherwise. You always worry, in a political  
5 communication sense, of what does the record reflect?  
6 You know, it's the same as a lawyer. So I wanted to  
7 know what the -- you know, the actual financial state of  
8 JEA per their reports and -- and particularly what they  
9 had presented to Wall Street was.

10 **Q** And why did you want to know that?

11 **A** Because of the discussion of whether the mayor  
12 was going to participate in, you know, their -- their  
13 communications plan.

14 **Q** Hadn't you already told them no?

15 **A** No, I told them no on the 22nd.

16 **Q** And so did you see something in the materials  
17 Aaron sent you -- wait, he sent you these materials on  
18 the 22nd?

19 **A** Yes, sir.

20 **Q** And from these materials, you made the  
21 determination on the 22nd that you told Kerri -- that  
22 you told Melissa on the 22nd that the mayor wasn't going  
23 to participate?

24 **MR. BISHOP:** Form.

25 **A** Yeah, I didn't tell Melissa. I told Kerri.  
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1 Exhibit 23.

2 **A** Thank you.  
3 (Baker's Exhibit 23 was marked for  
4 identification.)

5 **Q** Do you recognize this?

6 **A** Yes, sir.

7 **Q** What is it?

8 **A** It's an e-mail Aaron Zahn sent me as a  
9 follow-up to the request that I made of him.

10 **Q** What request did you make of him?

11 **A** I wanted to have their financials and any  
12 presentations they've made to Wall Street.

13 **Q** Whose they?

14 **A** JEA.

15 **Q** When did you make that request to Aaron?

16 **A** A few days prior to -- to him sending me this.

17 **Q** This is dated July 22?

18 **A** Yes, sir.

19 **Q** Which is the day before the board meeting?

20 **A** Yes, sir.

21 **Q** So you asked Aaron Zahn a few days before  
22 that --

23 **A** Yeah. Probably --

24 **Q** -- for financials on JEA?

25 **A** Probably the Thursday or Friday after.  
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1 But the -- it wasn't my decision. It wasn't from this.

2 It was a conversation that I had with Brian Hughes and  
3 he directed that to the extent the mayor would  
4 communicate on this, he'd do it himself, not within the  
5 confines of JEA or whatever their plan was.

6 **Q** Did that conclusion by Brian Hughes have  
7 anything to do with materials that Aaron Zahn had sent  
8 you on the 22nd?

9 **A** No, sir. No, sir.

10 **Q** So these materials weren't useful to your  
11 decision-making process?

12 **A** Well, it wasn't my decision to make. For me,  
13 this was just kind of gathering information and  
14 knowledge about the process and, you know, clearly what  
15 was going to become a very newsworthy event.

16 **Q** Why do you say that?

17 **A** Because they were going to go to their board  
18 and -- and lay out all these options, including the  
19 potential to look at private sector transactions. And  
20 that had already generated interest off of their June  
21 meeting where their board said, go, you know, pursue any  
22 and all options and bring them back to us. And people  
23 had already been clamoring for its, you know,  
24 privatization, one of those things is going to be  
25 pursued. So I foresaw that this would, again, become an  
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1 issue of -- of keen public interest.  
 2 Q And did -- from the materials that Aaron Zahn  
 3 sent you, did you see any inconsistency between what the  
 4 senior leadership team was telling the board and what  
 5 they were telling -- and what JEA was telling the rating  
 6 agencies?  
 7 A I didn't review them closely in that sense of  
 8 flyspecking. It was more of just kind of a general  
 9 information about the state of the utility, you know.  
 10 The -- the rating agency's presentations, I think, are  
 11 important because they're public record. So I was just  
 12 trying to familiarize myself with the operation of the  
 13 business.  
 14 Q Did you see the rating agency materials that  
 15 are part of this exhibit?  
 16 A Yes, sir.  
 17 Q They were part of what Aaron Zahn sent you?  
 18 A Yes, sir. I think it was a big -- big packet  
 19 of stuff.  
 20 Q I beg your pardon?  
 21 A Yeah, it was a big packet of stuff.  
 22 Q And on page 2 of the rating agency -- of the  
 23 rating agency materials, there is a Fitch Ratings page,  
 24 it says, JEA is a superior electric utility?  
 25 A Is that in my packet here?

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1 Q Yes.  
 2 A Okay.  
 3 Q Page 2.  
 4 A There you go. Yes, sir.  
 5 Q Says, Since our last annual update. Then it  
 6 concludes, Financial metrics reflect a thriving utility  
 7 today and long into the future.  
 8 Is that your understanding of JEA's condition?  
 9 A That -- that was my understanding of -- of what  
 10 they presented to the board. Is this Fitch saying this  
 11 or is this JEA saying this?  
 12 Q I'm just asking you, you got this from Aaron,  
 13 what was your understanding?  
 14 A I just read through it. My understanding was  
 15 this was a, you know, broad-base presentation they made  
 16 to the rating agencies in relation to their bond  
 17 rankings.  
 18 Q Did you have any reason to believe that the  
 19 statement that, Financial metrics reflect a thriving  
 20 utility today and long into the future, was inaccurate?  
 21 A No, sir.  
 22 Q As far as you knew, that was accurate?  
 23 A Yeah, within the context of what they provided  
 24 the rating agency. Again, I was just trying to  
 25 familiarize myself with the overall record.

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1 Q And the next page, in Exhibit 23, is numbered  
 2 at the bottom of the page, 15, of that presentation.  
 3 A Yes, sir.  
 4 Q And it compares to what JEA said they were  
 5 going to do in December of '17 to what they did in  
 6 2018.  
 7 A Uh-huh.  
 8 Q Did you review that?  
 9 A Yeah, I -- I recall seeing this slide.  
 10 Q Do you recall show -- do you recall seeing that  
 11 that reflects that their performance in '18 was even  
 12 better than they expected?  
 13 A Yeah. And I -- and I recall Aaron Zahn saying  
 14 our, you know, financial and operational performance is  
 15 the best it's ever been, you know. We're looking at --  
 16 at what does the future look like for us.  
 17 Q You recall Aaron Zahn saying that?  
 18 A Yeah, he said that at the September board  
 19 meeting.  
 20 Q Did his characterization, Future of JEA,  
 21 reflect what was said in this rating agency material or  
 22 was it more doom and gloom?  
 23 A If you have a specific, you know, thing you'd  
 24 like me to look at and assess that, I don't know. My  
 25 sense of the discussion was -- and, again, if you go

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1 back to actually what Mr. Petway said in 2017 is -- is  
 2 we're operating, you know, near peak and our value's  
 3 probably never been higher, so we should consider what  
 4 the future looks like for us. And I recall that, you  
 5 know, generally Mr. Zahn had a favorable view towards  
 6 the operations, but he had a long-term look that said  
 7 this wasn't going to always continue to be the case.  
 8 And that's what he was trying to plan against.  
 9 Q What were the -- what I read to you from page 2  
 10 of the presentation, it said, Financial metrics reflect  
 11 a thriving utility today, is what you just said, And  
 12 long into the future, and that's inconsistent with what  
 13 you just said.  
 14 What did --  
 15 MR. BISHOP: Form.  
 16 Sorry. Go ahead. I thought you were done.  
 17 Sorry. Go ahead.  
 18 Q Did Aaron think that JEA had a good -- a good  
 19 future?  
 20 A I think that he had the view that JEA had a  
 21 troubled future. And if you go back to the Crescimbeni  
 22 Committee in 2018, Paul McElroy gave them a presentation  
 23 as well that said the future of JEA was, you know,  
 24 uncertain and storm clouds were gathering.  
 25 So it's actually one of the reasons why I

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1 wanted to see all of this stuff because the discussion  
2 from 2018 was, yeah, we've got a lot of challenges. We  
3 may be operating great now, but there's a lot of changes  
4 on the horizon. And -- and I think Mr. Zahn's view was  
5 consistent with that view of Mr. McElroy in 2018.

6 So, you know, the Fitch analysis is the Fitch  
7 analysis, not mine.

8 **Q** Well, this is a represent- -- what we're  
9 looking at is a representation by JEA, isn't it?

10 **A** Yeah. I mean --

11 **Q** And JEA said that it's a thriving utility today  
12 and long into the future?

13 **A** Yeah, I don't know if that's JEA or Fitch, but  
14 this is clearly within JEA's presentation.

15 **Q** So Aaron -- that would -- this statement would  
16 be inconsistent with what Aaron told you?

17 **A** I mean, define long into the future. I mean,  
18 who knows. He thought that the long-term outlook of  
19 JEA, however number of years, I don't know, we didn't  
20 have those type of specific discussions, but he thought  
21 that absolutely there was storm clouds on the horizon  
22 and that the business model would be challenged.

23 **Q** But after looking at the materials that Aaron  
24 Zahn sent you on July 22, 2019, you didn't develop any  
25 judgment regarding whether or not JEA's future was

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1 bright or not bright?

2 **A** No, sir.

3 **Q** Whether or not JEA's statements to Fitch were  
4 accurate or inaccurate?

5 **A** No, sir.

6 **Q** Or whether or not JEA's statements to its board  
7 were accurate or inaccurate?

8 **A** Didn't watch the board meetings. Just, again,  
9 was trying to familiarize myself with the general  
10 condition of the utility.

11 **Q** So, no, you didn't form any opinion?

12 **A** I didn't form any opinions, no, sir.

13 **Q** And you didn't make any comment at all to Kerri  
14 Stewart on materials for the board meeting?

15 **A** Not that I recall, sir. I absolutely recall  
16 having, you know, discussions around that communications  
17 plan, but I have zero recollection of ever discussing  
18 the board package with them. Those are massive things.  
19 I wouldn't have had the time to review it and --

20 **Q** How do you know they're massive?

21 **A** Because they're public records. They're  
22 online.

23 **Q** Have you looked at them?

24 **A** When I saw -- well, I went and looked at that  
25 July board package when I saw it represented that I

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1 somehow had edits on it and it was, like, a  
2 300-plus-page document.

3 **Q** Do you know when it was given to the board  
4 members?

5 **A** I do not. And as I said, we have absolutely no  
6 record of me communicating with Melissa Dykes. I have  
7 searched all of my devices. And -- and, again, I have a  
8 very clear recollection that I don't even have Melissa  
9 Dykes' phone number, so I wouldn't know how I'd  
10 communicate with her.

11 **Q** Did you know that -- well, what -- what was  
12 your understanding of what the JEA board was considering  
13 on July 23?

14 **A** That they were considering the -- the strategic  
15 future of the utility, you know, within these five  
16 options that they would have. And that the board was  
17 authorizing them to go do the -- the work that it would  
18 take to -- to, you know, properly inform them on these  
19 various scenarios that they were considering.

20 **Q** And that the board was authorizing Aaron Zahn  
21 complete discretion to take any and all actions he felt  
22 was necessary to pursue those options?

23 **A** I don't know if I had that opinion. I recall  
24 that -- again, I didn't watch the meeting, but I recall  
25 that Mr. Zahn told me, maybe in late June or July, that

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1 his board had told him in their June board meeting to --  
2 to go develop any and all options that would keep them  
3 from, you know, having to -- to lay people off or, you  
4 know, raise rates or, basically, maintain the current  
5 trajectory of the utility.

6 **Q** Were you aware that Aaron Zahn and JEA had  
7 engaged, before the June board meeting, lots of law  
8 firms and bankers to help assist the sale of JEA?

9 **A** No, sir.

10 **Q** Who did you think all these people were at the  
11 July 10 meeting at Club Continental?

12 **A** Well, July is subsequent to the June meeting,  
13 so, obviously, the representation I just told you about  
14 was in June. We were told to pursue any and all  
15 objections is what Aaron said his directive was.

16 So as I previously stated to you, my belief was  
17 all those people were strategic advisors to him, meant  
18 to help inform them on all these various options and  
19 scenarios they were considering.

20 **Q** Was it your understanding that all those people  
21 were hired after the June board meeting?

22 **A** I have no understanding of the financial or  
23 contractual arrangements of any of those folks.

24 **Q** Were you aware they had been working for months  
25 on that project?

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1 A No, sir.  
 2 Q Did you ever learn that?  
 3 A You're telling me they are.  
 4 Q That is, apart from our conversation today, you  
 5 never learned that?  
 6 A No, sir.  
 7 Q You don't know when any of those law firms or  
 8 bankers started their work?  
 9 A No, sir.  
 10 Q Do you know what I'm referring to when I say  
 11 the PUP plan?  
 12 A Yes, sir.  
 13 Q What's your understanding of it?  
 14 A A plan that would -- would theoretically result  
 15 in bonuses for JEA employees based on certain  
 16 performance metrics.  
 17 Q When did you become aware of it?  
 18 A Of the PUP plan?  
 19 Q Yes.  
 20 A I would say -- well, it's an interesting  
 21 question. So in --  
 22 Q It's taken you two hours to admit that?  
 23 A Correct. It's an interesting question.  
 24 MR. BISHOP: He's been waiting for that all  
 25 day.

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1 THE WITNESS: The PUPs?  
 2 MR. BISHOP: No, the interesting questioning.  
 3 A No. I'm very confident you guys are doing a  
 4 great job. Thank you.  
 5 The -- so in -- in -- and in one of those  
 6 meetings with Herschel and Aaron that would have been  
 7 in, you know, late April, May or early June, they asked  
 8 me the political perception of bonuses for employees,  
 9 what -- what, you know, the public would generally  
 10 think.  
 11 As I'm sure you're aware, JEA has a long  
 12 history of bonuses and they end up being controversial  
 13 every year that, you know, executives are getting  
 14 bonuses. So I told them at that meeting that the public  
 15 hates bonuses and that they, basically, think whether  
 16 it's Aaron Zahn making a half million dollars or the guy  
 17 sweeping the floor for, hopefully, better than minimum  
 18 wage, that they -- the public generally perceives  
 19 government employees to being on the take of the  
 20 taxpayer dollar, so bonuses are looked upon very  
 21 unfavorably by the public and, you know, certainly the  
 22 voting public, as a whole. So they first asked about,  
 23 you know, that notion of bonuses, but it was  
 24 nonspecific.

And then I recall at the Club Continental

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1 meeting, you know, elements of the comms plan that they  
 2 were rolling out was there was going to be some employee  
 3 bonus program that would be part of their agenda on the  
 4 23rd, so --  
 5 Q I'm sorry. You said you became aware of that  
 6 at the Club Continental meeting?  
 7 A At the Club Continental meeting in the  
 8 discussion of the comms plan, they said, you know, they  
 9 were -- the controversial items would be all the  
 10 exploration options. There was an employment agreement  
 11 for Aaron Zahn and -- and maybe some other people and  
 12 that there was this employee bonus plan that they were  
 13 going to be considering. So I had an awareness of --  
 14 of, you know, that in the couple hours I spent with  
 15 them, of some employee bonus plan.  
 16 But my real, you know, understanding of what's  
 17 become known as the PUPs would have not been until the  
 18 fall, whenever the, you know, questions arose, I  
 19 believe, around the -- the council auditor.  
 20 Q After Kyle Billy issued his report in August or  
 21 September?  
 22 A Yeah, I'm -- I'm unsure of the time frame. It  
 23 was the fall.  
 24 Q But you're talking about Kyle Billy's blowing  
 25 the whistle on the PUP plan?

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1 A Yeah, the council auditor asking questions of  
 2 what the -- what the plan was meant to do.  
 3 Q And you said that was the first time you became  
 4 aware of what?  
 5 A Of really the specifics of what the plan was.  
 6 Q PUP stands for performance unit plan?  
 7 A I believe so.  
 8 Q When did you first hear that term?  
 9 A Around the Kyle Billy --  
 10 Q Not before then?  
 11 A No, sir. They were talking about employee  
 12 bonuses or deferred compensation.  
 13 Q Did you have -- well, you've read in the  
 14 newspaper since then about the order of magnitude of the  
 15 bonuses that would come out of the sale of the JEA?  
 16 A Yes, sir. I've read the coverage of it.  
 17 Q In terms of hundreds of millions of dollars to  
 18 senior executives?  
 19 A There is the potential. I would take exception  
 20 to some of the conclusions that people make, mainly that  
 21 the JEA has the legal authority to vote that for  
 22 themselves, particularly as it relates to the proceeds  
 23 of a sale. I don't think JEA has any legal authority to  
 24 direct the proceeds of a sale, but I'm aware that folks  
 25 have made that representation.

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1 Q Folks have made that -- tell me what folks and  
2 what representation.

3 A The press and, you know, folks who are speaking  
4 to the press on those issues.

5 Q Well, have you read Kyle Billy's report?

6 A No, sir.

7 Q Do you know where that number came from,  
8 hundreds of millions of dollars?

9 A I believe the coverage says Kyle Billy raised  
10 that inference, that there could be hundreds of millions  
11 of dollars.

12 Q And the first time you became aware of the  
13 potential order of magnitude of those bonuses was when?

14 A In the -- in the fall, subsequent to Kyle  
15 Billy's report.

16 Q What was your reaction when you learned of it?

17 A I thought that if that was true, that that's,  
18 you know, kind of outrageous.

19 Q Could strike the word kind of, can't you?

20 A Yeah. I mean, to me the notion of bonuses,  
21 generally, with government employees is incongruent with  
22 public service. You're there to serve the public so the  
23 notion of profiting off of the public beyond whatever  
24 your remuneration is, to me, seems kind of antithetical  
25 to being in public service.

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1 A I don't recall the date specifically, but it  
2 was in the -- you know, I would say in the immediate  
3 aftermath of the -- the Billy memo really getting out  
4 and the -- you know, the public being -- starting to get  
5 their hackles out for what is this? What's going on?  
6 And council was asking all kinds of questions of them  
7 and --

8 Q You were very explicit just then when you said  
9 what you told those people in that meeting.

10 A Yeah, absolutely.

11 Q What did they say in response?

12 A I think that they were kind of surprised  
13 honestly. I recall someone, I don't recall who it was,  
14 said, really? You think that's going to be the  
15 reaction? I said, I know that's going to be the  
16 reaction, so.

17 Q You were right, weren't you?

18 A Yeah, absolutely. It was dumb. And I think  
19 it's -- you know, as I sit here today, I -- you know,  
20 the -- the creation and the pursuit of a plan like that,  
21 I think is very unfortunate because as a taxpayer of  
22 Duval County, I think the exploration of the future of  
23 JEA's an important one and that ended up clouding the  
24 overall process.

25 Q In fact, it pretty much ended up torpedoing the  
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1 Q Did you tell Herschel Vinyard and Aaron Zahn  
2 that?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q What did they say?

5 A There was a meeting at -- there was a meeting  
6 at the Dalton Agency that Herschel and -- maybe Herschel  
7 was there. I recall Melissa Dykes, Kerri Stewart,  
8 Michael Munz, I believe Aaron Zahn was there. And  
9 another communications professional they had, Melissa  
10 Stone, was there. And they were talking about the Kyle  
11 Billy report and the potential for millions and millions  
12 of dollars.

13 And my direct quote, excuse my French, was  
14 that's fucking stupid, if you guys have a plan like  
15 that. And I recall looking at them at the table and  
16 saying, If that exists and this ends up in some kind of  
17 sale, members of city council are going to pull each one  
18 of you up individually in front of council and say, Tell  
19 me this isn't true and waive your participation in this  
20 right now and that you're going to be plastered on the  
21 front page of the newspaper as, you know, meet the  
22 millionaires of JEA.

23 Q My respect for you as a pollster has  
24 increased.

25 When was that meeting?

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1 sale of the JEA in 2019, 2020, don't you --

2 A I would think so. That was the -- the key  
3 element that got people upset.

4 Q Are you aware of -- have you seen the reports  
5 of the Foley & Lardner lawyers who came to the same  
6 conclusion?

7 A Yeah. I saw that in the press a week ago. I  
8 thought it was a nice little cover-your-ass five days  
9 after the whole process ends and they've been billing  
10 millions of dollars, but would have been nice for them  
11 to tell the JEA board or the City or somebody else they  
12 sat in for months, giving them the other opinion.

13 Q They being Foley & Lardner?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 MR. BUSEY: Let's go off the record. I've just  
16 got to take a break on that one.

17 (Recess taken.)

18 BY MR. BUSEY:

19 Q This meeting at the Dalton Agency you were just  
20 talking about, did you say Aaron Zahn was present at  
21 that meeting?

22 A I believe he was, at least for a portion of  
23 it.

24 Q Did he hear what you had to say about the PUP  
25 plan?

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1 A I don't recall if he was there at that point or  
2 not, but during that same time, I definitely told Aaron  
3 the same thing, you know, one-to-one conversation.

4 Q That you told the whole group that you just  
5 told me about?

6 A Yeah. Yes, sir.

7 Q Including the same language you just used?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What did Aaron say?

10 A He said, you know, that they were working on  
11 all of the specifics. And -- and, you know, that Kyle  
12 Billy's analysis wasn't spot on and that, you know, it  
13 wasn't a finished product. And, basically, people were  
14 jumping to a conclusion about a draft that wasn't --  
15 wasn't a finished product. And I said, Well, make sure  
16 all your Ts are crossed and Is dotted and, you know, if  
17 it's anything like they say, it's dumb.

18 Q Your conclusion today is that the PUP was  
19 something like what they were saying?

20 A Again, you know, I could get into specifics of  
21 things that I take exception with in the overall  
22 narrative. Would I speculate that it -- that it, at  
23 least in the minds of the individuals drafting it, could  
24 have led to things that -- that people say? Sure.

25 But I think, again, JEA can't direct the  
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1 proceeds of the sale itself. City council would have,  
2 you know, had to have signed off on that. The council  
3 auditor, you know, mowed it down. The OGC mowed it  
4 down. So, to me, it was a stupid idea that the process  
5 worked. It stopped it because, again, that notion, to  
6 me, is incongruent with public service. So, you know,  
7 it's kind of a winding answer. But, yeah, if it was  
8 intended the way that it looks like it could be  
9 intended, it was a dumb idea and I'm glad it got  
10 stopped.

11 Q Well, you -- I think you indicated that the  
12 people that were listening to you in that meeting  
13 expressed some surprise at your conclusion.

14 A Uh-huh.

15 Q What else came out of the meeting? Did they  
16 say they were going to stop it or they were going to go  
17 forward with it or what happened?

18 A My recollection was, again, they all had that  
19 same kind of impression that Aaron did of this is a  
20 draft and, you know, basically, people are taking  
21 something off of a bulletin board and concepts that  
22 we're working through and it's not fully baked, it's not  
23 fully signed off and trying to ascribe to it something  
24 that isn't reality. So they were, I think, frustrated  
25 with the conclusions and the portrayal of it and they

1 were, you know, still working towards can they, you  
2 know, overcome whatever due diligence obstacles that  
3 they were working on.

4 Q But this was after the board had approved the  
5 PUP plan, isn't it?

6 A Yeah. No, this is -- this is the fall. This  
7 is, you know, a few months after the -- the July 23rd  
8 meeting.

9 Q Well, I can't reconcile, in my mind, the board  
10 approving the plan and several months later they're  
11 saying this was just a draft.

12 A I can't speak to the --

13 Q You can't reconcile that?

14 A I can't speak to the governance of -- of how  
15 those things work. Whether it's a, you know, we approve  
16 of draft concept and you go put the fine points on it  
17 and come back to us or what, I just -- I don't know.  
18 I'd be speculating.

19 Q Did -- when you -- when you had these  
20 conversations with these people, when you told them it's  
21 a stupid idea, these people being the senior leadership  
22 and Aaron Zahn, did they argue with you that that was  
23 not the likely outcome of the PUP plan? Did they say  
24 that's not what they intended?

25 A Yeah, the notion was the idea of astronomical  
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1 payouts was, basically, draft forms and that, you know,  
2 that was not what the ultimate ending was going to be.  
3 There were going to be bonuses for people, sure. I  
4 recall Aaron talking about, you know, that every  
5 employee would participate and there might be sums for,  
6 you know, the -- the on the ground workers that could  
7 be, you know, transformational to their life. So they  
8 rejected the notion of some windfall for -- for senior  
9 leadership and articulated that they were trying to  
10 craft a plan that would, you know, help everybody.

11 And I go back to what I told you, just their  
12 general bonuses, people dislike their -- their annual  
13 year bonuses and any type of bonus is going to be viewed  
14 negatively, whether it's ten bucks or whatever Kyle  
15 Billy said it could be.

16 Q Did you ever go back and watch the film or  
17 transcript of the July 23 board meeting of JEA?

18 A I believe that I saw a portion maybe on social  
19 media of the discussion around the performance units,  
20 but, no, I didn't watch the three-hour however long  
21 meeting it was.

22 Q Did you see Kelly Flanagan's question to Ryan  
23 Wannemacher about whether or not anybody had ever  
24 calculated whether the idea of selling JEA and the PUP  
25 plan, where they intersected?

1 A I don't recall the specific question. I have  
2 a, you know, recollection probably colored by media  
3 coverage of that question being asked, like, how is  
4 there an interplay here.

5 Q And are you -- did you watch the meeting of the  
6 city council on December 16th where Council Members  
7 Salem and Diamond questioned the senior leadership  
8 team?

9 A I did not.

10 Q You weren't there?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q Are you aware that the senior leadership team  
13 all denied any knowledge of the intersection of those  
14 two?

15 A Absolutely. And I talked with both Councilman  
16 Salem and Councilman Diamond prior to that meeting when  
17 they were calling it, you know, days before, where it  
18 was leading up to where we've got to look into this  
19 issue. And I encouraged them to have the meeting and do  
20 the investigation of that issue, it was important.

21 Q That issue being where those two plans  
22 intersected?

23 A Just the -- the whole performance unit plan  
24 generally.

25 Q Are you aware that Ryan Wannemacher testified  
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1 I -- I think they were in -- in, you know, working on  
2 the issues, but certainly where that, you know, process  
3 got -- got identified and stopped, it looks terrible.

4 Q Well, based on everything you've told me, I  
5 assume there came a point in time where you had a  
6 discussion with either/or both Brian Hughes or  
7 Mayor Curry regarding this PUP plan and what you'd  
8 learned in that meeting?

9 A Yeah, absolutely.

10 Q What was that discussion?

11 A They were surprised to learn about it, thought  
12 it was a horrible idea and, you know, it's like this  
13 can't be what people are saying it is as far as, you  
14 know, astronomical payouts for executives. And they  
15 looked very unfavorably upon that.

16 Q Did they decide to do anything about it?

17 A I don't -- I don't know if they, you know, did  
18 anything about it. I know that -- because, again, I  
19 told you I had a conversation with Aaron. I think Brian  
20 was going to talk to him about it as well, but I never  
21 had a specific follow-up, hey, Brian, did you talk to  
22 Aaron about that or not? But the whole reaction was  
23 negative to the notion.

24 Q Well, you're aware, I suspect, that at some  
25 point the JEA senior leadership team decided to  
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1 that nobody had ever calculated that?

2 A I'm aware that the -- the news coverage said  
3 that. Again, I didn't watch the meeting myself, so I  
4 didn't see him say that personally.

5 Q Did you ever witness anybody in -- in any  
6 conversation denying that they had ever calculated  
7 that?

8 A I don't recall that, you know, specifically  
9 there was a what's the calculations, but they -- they  
10 denied in a general sense that it was intended to --  
11 to get some, you know, massive payouts for the  
12 executives.

13 Q Well, what's your understanding of the truth?  
14 Was it designed to get massive payouts or they just --  
15 they didn't know what it was going to produce?

16 A Again, I don't know, because it's -- it's a  
17 convoluted process and clearly they weren't in some  
18 finalized form of what that plan was. And -- and I  
19 think the safeguards that you would hope are in place  
20 for government, you know, captured it and grabbed it,  
21 whether it be the council auditor, whether it be OGC.  
22 Again, you know, to my knowledge of how something like  
23 that would be implemented, council would ultimately have  
24 to sign off on any plan.

25 So, you know, I can, in good faith, say that  
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1 indefinitely postpone the PUP plan and then ultimately  
2 to cancel it?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q You're aware of that?

5 A Yeah, absolutely.

6 Q Do you know how that came about?

7 A Well, I'll tell you. So I had a conversation,  
8 my recollection is it's early November, and Aaron and --  
9 Aaron and Jason Gabriel, who's a good friend, you know,  
10 respected and fellow member of the bar, but we're  
11 socially friendly, they had been having friction, I  
12 believe, over this plan.

13 And -- and Jason called me and -- and said, you  
14 know, Aaron's pushing, pushing, pushing this thing  
15 that -- that's been out there, how do we overcome  
16 certain legal obstacles? And -- and I said to Jason, I  
17 said, you know, This thing's a political loser, man, but  
18 you're the lawyer. If -- if this thing doesn't fly,  
19 like, you have to kill it.

20 But Aaron Zahn is a guy that you can't be  
21 ambiguous with because if you tell him there's hurdles,  
22 by his very nature, which I respect this about him, he's  
23 somebody who looks to, you know, overcome obstacles. So  
24 if you think that there's a legal issue with what you're  
25 doing, you've got to throw the flag and not put it in  
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1 the sense of there's challenges we need to work through.  
2 It's a this thing doesn't work.

3 And I recall that Brian Hughes subsequently  
4 told me that he had a similar conversation -- similar  
5 conversation with Jason Gabriel, that Jason had asked  
6 him about, you know, what the view of the plan was and  
7 he was, like, sounds bad to us and if it's not legal,  
8 you've got to stop it.

9 Q Do you recall when you had that conversation  
10 with Jason Gabriel?

11 A I think it was in early November.

12 Q Jason had a meeting with Foley & Lardner and  
13 others on December 5th, which resulted in an impasse on  
14 the PUP plan.

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q And so I'm trying to piece that together.

17 A Yeah. Could have been late November. I  
18 don't -- I don't recall the specifics. It was close  
19 with whenever Jason said, you know, this isn't going to  
20 fly. So it could have been late November. My  
21 recollection, which could be, you know, off a month, was  
22 it was -- well, it might -- might have been late  
23 November or early December because I think it was  
24 temporally close to whether Jason said this is a -- this  
25 is a no-go.

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1 Q You've told me about your conversations with  
2 Jason and with Brian. Did you have a conversation with  
3 Lenny Curry about the PUP plan?

4 A No.

5 Q Never?

6 A Other than just kind of a general discussion  
7 when, you know, an issue flared up politically. And it  
8 was, man, that can't be true. That's crazy. That's,  
9 you know, not -- not good whatsoever.

10 Q And what is your recollection of the first  
11 time that the mayor said that to you about the PUP  
12 plan?

13 A When we first had this conversation, you  
14 know, when it was all kind of new information to us  
15 because the council auditor had elevated it and into  
16 the press.

17 Q Let me show you what we've marked as Exhibit  
18 24A.

19 Is this your notice of termination of your  
20 consultant agreement with FP&L?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 (Baker's Exhibit 24A was marked for  
23 identification.)

24 Q Is this confidential?

25 A This is not confidential because I had given

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1 it to the press when NextEra had given, I believe, you a  
2 letter saying that I was part of their ITN team.

3 Q So you gave this to -- you say the press, to  
4 whom?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q To whom?

7 A To Christopher Hann at the *Times-Union*. I  
8 believe Kent Justice as well at WJXT.

9 Q And let me show you what we marked as Exhibit  
10 26.

11 A Thank you.

12 (Baker's Exhibit 26 was marked for  
13 identification.)

14 Q You've seen this before, haven't you?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q This is Florida Power & Light's response to the  
17 council's subpoena and Florida Power & Light was asked  
18 to list all obvious attorneys, consultants employed by  
19 NextEra in connection with the JEA ITN.

20 And BCSP, LLC, is among those consultants and  
21 lobbyists and attorneys. Do you see that answer?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Are you saying that's inaccurate?

24 A To my belief, yes, sir. I terminated my  
25 relationship with them prior to any issuance of the ITN

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1 and I believe that Florida Power & Light instructed you  
2 or Mr. Russell of the same in writing yesterday.

3 Q Beg your pardon. Say that again.

4 A Florida Power & Light advised the same to  
5 Mr. Russell in writing yesterday, that I terminated my  
6 relationship with them prior to the issuance of any  
7 ITN.

8 Q My question to you is: Is this an inaccurate  
9 statement by Florida Power & Light?

10 A Yes, it is. It's specific to the JEA ITN and I  
11 had no contractual relationship with them at the time of  
12 the issuance of the ITN.

13 Q And who's them?

14 A Florida Power & Light.

15 Q This says NextEra.

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q You don't make a distinction between the two?

18 A Florida Power & Light is a wholly-owned  
19 subsidiary of NextEra. My contracts were always with  
20 Florida Power & Light.

21 Q And you --

22 A I believe that -- I believe that NextEra, the  
23 parent company, is who actually was involved in the  
24 bidding process, not Florida Power & Light.

25 Q But you never had a consulting agreement with

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1 NextEra?  
 2 A No, sir.  
 3 Q And after you --  
 4 A This bothered me greatly because I took great  
 5 pangs to have nothing to do with that ITN.  
 6 Q When you say this bothered you, you're  
 7 referring to Exhibit 26?  
 8 A Yes, sir.  
 9 Q Did you call Danny and ask him about it?  
 10 A No, sir.  
 11 Q Did you talk to anybody about why Florida Power  
 12 & Light made this list?  
 13 A Mr. Bishop.  
 14 Q This guy?  
 15 A Yes, sir.  
 16 Q Did you talk to anybody at Florida Power &  
 17 Light about why this list was included in your name?  
 18 A I did not have any conversations with them,  
 19 no.  
 20 Q But you acknowledged that it bothered you?  
 21 A Yes, sir.  
 22 Q Well, why didn't you pick up the phone and ask  
 23 them about it?  
 24 A Because of this process ongoing and other  
 25 processes.

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1 theatre of all of this?  
 2 Q No, it wasn't that broad.  
 3 MR. BUSEY: Can you read the question back,  
 4 please?  
 5 (The following question was read by the  
 6 reporter: "Question: Do you have any reason to  
 7 believe they could be concerned about your  
 8 communicating with Florida Power & Light about  
 9 this?")  
 10 Q They being FBI or U.S. Attorney.  
 11 A I --  
 12 MR. BISHOP: I'm going to --  
 13 Q Apart from attorney/client communications.  
 14 A Any basis of discussion or knowledge that I  
 15 have on this issue, I've derived from my discussions  
 16 with Mr. Bishop.  
 17 Q Okay. And you said you were very careful not  
 18 to be involved in the ITN process. Why is that?  
 19 A Goes back to my conversation with the mayor. I  
 20 would not be involved with any potential, you know,  
 21 folks who would be proposing, you know, scenarios to the  
 22 JEA. That's the reason I resigned.  
 23 (Mr. Wedekind exits the room.)  
 24 Q Let me show you what we marked as Exhibit 25,  
 25 which is the invitation to negotiate 127-19.

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1 Q What other processes?  
 2 A The supposed U.S. Attorney's investigation.  
 3 Q Why -- why would that have a bearing on your  
 4 talking to Florida Power & Light about this?  
 5 A I would say --  
 6 MR. BISHOP: Well, I -- let me just say, I  
 7 think that gets into attorney/client privilege in  
 8 the sense that I think everybody knows that you  
 9 should cooperate fully with investigations, you  
 10 should not communicate with other potential  
 11 witnesses in the presence of a grand jury  
 12 investigation, so that would be a reason.  
 13 Q Have you talked to the U.S. Attorney?  
 14 A No, sir.  
 15 Q Have you talked to the FBI?  
 16 A No, sir.  
 17 Q Do you have any reason to believe they could be  
 18 concerned about your communicating with Florida Power &  
 19 Light about this?  
 20 MR. BISHOP: I'm going to object because the --  
 21 some of what his answer would be would be derived  
 22 from attorney/client communications.  
 23 Q Apart from attorney/client communications.  
 24 A What's your question specifically? Do I have  
 25 any concern about myself and the, you know, broader

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1 Have you seen that before?  
 2 A Yes, sir.  
 3 (Baker's Exhibit 25 was marked for  
 4 identification.)  
 5 Q Upon what occasion?  
 6 A I believe sometime in August or September, when  
 7 the process was ongoing, I -- I went to the JEA website  
 8 to look at it.  
 9 Q And you see that it's approximately 87 pages  
 10 long?  
 11 A Yes, sir, 87 pages on the copy that I have.  
 12 Q Did you read this on the JEA website?  
 13 A Not in its entirety, no.  
 14 Q And what, if anything, did you conclude from  
 15 your reviewing this?  
 16 A I wasn't really reviewing it for any  
 17 conclusions, just kind of generally to familiarize  
 18 myself with the process that was ongoing and had become,  
 19 you know, quickly a subject of much discussion within  
 20 the community.  
 21 Q You -- you see that this was published on  
 22 August 2?  
 23 A Is there a --  
 24 Q It's --  
 25 A Oh, yeah, the letter here on the front. Yes,

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1 sir.

2 Q That was the week following the July 23 board

3 meeting?

4 A Yeah. What is that, eight, nine, ten days or

5 so? Yeah.

6 Q And you see that this is 87 pages long, it's

7 pretty thorough. Do you know if this was all prepared

8 in that week?

9 A I have no idea.

10 Q Did you have any involvement at all in JEA's

11 preparation of the ITN?

12 A No, sir.

13 Q You weren't asked about it at all?

14 A No, sir. Again, discussions and kind of broad

15 strokes of all of these options and things that were out

16 there, but nothing specific to the ITN process or, you

17 know, this document here.

18 Q Did you have any understanding of what -- why

19 FP&L was contracting with Sam Mousa for consulting

20 services?

21 A No. Again, I made an introduction and that was

22 it.

23 Q You didn't talk to Sam about --

24 A No, just --

25 Q -- about what he was going to do?

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1 A -- I'm going to introduce you to these guys and

2 this could be an opportunity for you.

3 Q Did you know what Florida Power & Light wanted

4 Sam to do?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q You didn't talk to Sam about that?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Did Sam tell you who else was on his PR team

9 from Jacksonville?

10 A No, sir.

11 Q You --

12 A Sam and I made a very hard and fast timeout.

13 And if you're, you know, going on with those, I don't

14 want to know about it.

15 Q Did you know that Susie Wiles was involved?

16 A I knew Susie Wiles was involved, yes, sir.

17 Q Did you know that Paul Harden was involved?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did you know Marty Fiorentino was involved?

20 A I became aware subsequently that he was

21 involved, yes.

22 Q How did you become aware of that?

23 A I think it was discussed in -- in, you know,

24 lobbying governing affairs circles. I think he

25 previously had another utility company as a client that

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1 he deregistered for and then registered for Florida

2 Power & Light.

3 Q Did you ever talk with Aaron Zahn about his

4 hiring you to be a consultant to JEA?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Tell me about that conversation.

7 A It was, again, in the same time frame around

8 Club Continental and talking about, you know, PR,

9 political affairs, type advice, would there be an

10 opportunity for us to work together.

11 Q And what did you say to him?

12 A Said it was something we could consider.

13 Q And did it happen?

14 A No, sir.

15 Q Why?

16 A I believe that he had procurement issues that

17 they were having at the time of they were -- you know,

18 they can't directly contract with people. They were, I

19 think, trying to hire people through law firms or people

20 through PR agencies. And at that time the lawyers had

21 said, you know, you can't do that kind of stuff.

22 Q The lawyers. What lawyers?

23 A His lawyers, whoever they would be that advised

24 him on that.

25 Q Him being Aaron Zahn?

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1 A Him being Aaron Zahn, yes, sir.

2 Q Let me show you what we've marked as Exhibit

3 29.

4 A Thank you.

5 (Baker's Exhibit 29 was marked for

6 identification.)

7 Q It's a FPL document entitled JEA ITN 127-19,

8 Briefing Book, and it's dated August 6, 2019.

9 Have you seen this before?

10 A No, sir.

11 Q This is wholly unfamiliar to you?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Do you see the lists that are attached?

14 A Beginning on page 3?

15 Q Yes.

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q This looks a little bit like something you were

18 describing earlier.

19 A In what sense?

20 Q A list of players in the Jacksonville

21 community.

22 A Oh, yeah. This does look like a list of

23 players, statewide and within the Jacksonville

24 community. See Senator Rick Scott, Senator Rubio at the

25 top.

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1 Q You've never seen this list, though, before?  
 2 This is not what you were referring to earlier?  
 3 A No, sir. No, I've never seen this document.  
 4 Q Do you know why FPL would put this together?  
 5 A I couldn't speculate.  
 6 Q Do you remember going to the ball game on  
 7 October 4th?  
 8 A Yes, sir.  
 9 Q Tell me how that came about.  
 10 A In the sense of why did we go to the ball game  
 11 or --  
 12 Q Well, I can understand why you go to a ball  
 13 game.  
 14 A Yeah.  
 15 Q But getting on a private airplane with  
 16 lobbyists for FP&L and officials from the City of  
 17 Jacksonville during the ITN process and flying to  
 18 Atlanta to see a ball game and come back the same day is  
 19 different than my idea of just going to a ball game.  
 20 A Okay.  
 21 MR. BISHOP: Form of question.  
 22 MR. BUSEY: You want me to rule?  
 23 MR. BISHOP: No, I'm just preserving it. It  
 24 sounds like we're making a record, particularly with  
 25 a question like that.

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1 Q So you were being very precise when you used  
 2 the word lobbyist.  
 3 A Sir, I'm a lawyer like you, words have  
 4 meanings.  
 5 Q But there was an FPL lobbyist -- I mean, FPL  
 6 consultant on board that airplane?  
 7 A Yes, sir.  
 8 Q A consultant with regard to the ITN process?  
 9 A I have no knowledge of what Mr. Mousa's  
 10 consulting engagement with FPL encompassed.  
 11 Q Well, what did you think -- you knew that Sam  
 12 Mousa had an agreement with FPL?  
 13 A Yes, sir.  
 14 Q Why did you think Sam was on an airplane -- on  
 15 the airplane with you and the mayor?  
 16 A Why was he?  
 17 Q Yeah.  
 18 A Because we're all socially friends, have been  
 19 for years. We go to social events, sporting events,  
 20 dinner with our wives. I mean, we spend time together.  
 21 Q And from your perception, having the mayor and  
 22 an FPL consultant and the chief administrative officer  
 23 of the City of Jacksonville and the president of the  
 24 city council and you was just a bunch boys going to a  
 25 ball game?

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1 MR. BUSEY: Thank you.  
 2 A I -- there was no lobbyists from FP&L on that  
 3 plane. And, you know, now the public's going to know  
 4 I'm a frequent user of a private aircraft so it's not  
 5 out of the ordinary for me.  
 6 Q What do you mean now the public's going to  
 7 know?  
 8 A I try to be a very private guy. I'm not a  
 9 public figure, don't aspire to be.  
 10 Q Well, the public's not going to know you're a  
 11 frequent user of private aircraft just from you going to  
 12 this one ball game, are they?  
 13 A Well, they are because of this transcript.  
 14 Q Who all went to the ball game?  
 15 A Myself, Sam Mousa, Mayor Curry, Aaron Zahn,  
 16 Brian Hughes and Scott Wilson.  
 17 Q Sam Mousa was a consultant to FP&L, wasn't he?  
 18 A Mousa?  
 19 Q Yeah.  
 20 A I believe he was, yes, sir.  
 21 Q You said there -- I thought you said there were  
 22 no lobbyists on the airplane.  
 23 A He was not a lobbyist for FP&L as far as my  
 24 knowledge. Never seen him registered for FPL on the  
 25 City's foggiest database.

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1 MR. BISHOP: Object to form.  
 2 A Yes, sir, that's exactly what we were doing.  
 3 Q And no other purpose?  
 4 A No, sir. Spend time with friends.  
 5 Q Conventus paid for that flight?  
 6 A Yes, sir.  
 7 Q Was it reimbursed?  
 8 A No, sir.  
 9 Q It's received no reimbursement for that  
 10 airplane?  
 11 A Oh, well, I mean, individuals who traveled with  
 12 us gave us, you know, money for covering their portions  
 13 of -- of travel. But, no, that was not, you know,  
 14 billed to a client or reimbursed from somebody else.  
 15 Q Who paid what?  
 16 A I don't recall. I think -- all of them have  
 17 paid for -- for whatever the law requires them to -- to  
 18 do.  
 19 Q Well, you paid Conventus, your company?  
 20 A Yes, sir.  
 21 Q So you received the checks?  
 22 A I think that, you know -- I think we got a  
 23 check from Scott Wilson -- or Sam did. Brian Hughes  
 24 gave me cash, day of the trip. Aaron Zahn gave me a  
 25 Venmo payment a day or so after the trip for his portion

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1 of it. And Mayor Curry wrote a check and we made an  
2 in-kind contribution to a political committee that he  
3 raised money for because we discussed political  
4 fundraising on the trip.

5 Q Why did Brian Hughes pay in cash?

6 A You'll have to ask Brian Hughes.

7 Q You don't know?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q You didn't think it was unusual?

10 A No, sir.

11 Q But you took the cash?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q What did you do with it?

14 A Bought some beers for myself at the game,  
15 paid for the taxi and, otherwise, put the cash in my  
16 pocket.

17 Q You didn't put it in Conventus's bank account?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q And how was the amount that each of those folks  
20 paid you, which is in the neighborhood of 4- or \$500,  
21 how did you determine that?

22 A They're -- it's up to those individuals that  
23 are called reporting individuals under the law, they  
24 have to determine what the -- what the fare is, if you  
25 will. There's some state statutes related to that. And

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1 so the determination of the cost was made by the  
2 individuals. Mr. Zahn paid \$750, which was more than  
3 other folks.

4 Q You mean it was an individual decision?

5 A Yeah. Each -- each -- each person, under the  
6 law that's called a reporting party, has a requirement  
7 to value things that could otherwise be gifts and make,  
8 you know, reimbursements of those. So it's up to an  
9 individual to -- to value what -- you know, things that  
10 potentially could be gifts for them.

11 Now, technically, under the law here in  
12 Jacksonville, Sam and I weren't lobbyists to JEA,  
13 weren't lobbyists to the city council, weren't lobbyists  
14 to the mayor's office at the time and the requirement  
15 within the law is that you have to reimburse lobbyists.  
16 And so, legally, since we're being specific, none of  
17 those gentlemen had any legal obligation to reimburse  
18 us, but for appearance sake, since you alluded to it,  
19 it's important that they do reimburse us and so they  
20 did.

21 Q Why did Conventus pay for that trip?

22 A Because it was a -- you know, a social  
23 gathering that -- that Sam and I decided we'd pay for  
24 out of the company funds because Conventus has chartered  
25 other planes before.

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1 Q So Sam was part of the decision-making process  
2 to pay for that trip?

3 A Yeah. I said, Can we use Conventus? I mean, I  
4 put the trip together. I said, Hey, do you care if  
5 Conventus sponsors the plane?

6 Q Are you aware that Florida Power & Light had a  
7 suite next to the city council suite in the Jaguar  
8 stadium for two football games in the fall of 2019?

9 A I'm aware of them having a suite at one game,  
10 but not aware of a second.

11 Q October 27th and December the 8th.

12 A If you say so. I'm aware of the October 27th.  
13 I believe the opponent was the New York Jets.

14 Q Were you there?

15 A I went and visited their suite, yes, sir.

16 Q Who's they, Florida Power & Light?

17 A Florida Power & Light, yes, sir.

18 Q Did you go in the City's suite too?

19 A I don't think I did, no.

20 Q And why were you there?

21 A To watch a football game.

22 Q Had to nothing to do with Florida Power &  
23 Light?

24 A No, sir.

25 Q Or the JEA?

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1 A No, sir.

2 Q Or the City of Jacksonville?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q Just your interest in sports?

5 A Good Sunday afternoon. And I generally attend  
6 games, when I do, in the suite level and, you know, you  
7 pop around to various people's suites and say hello.

8 Q I'm reading from the Christopher Hann article  
9 that was published on January the 9th of this year. And  
10 he -- referring to that ball game, he says, October 27th  
11 party was an opportunity for company officials to  
12 interact with customers and business partners in the  
13 Northeast Florida area. Although, the party also  
14 attracted city officials and local politicians. Among the  
15 attendees, Tim Baker, Curry's top political strategist  
16 and consultant, who has attended several private  
17 meetings with JEA executives to offer advice on  
18 privatization. Susie Wiles, a political consultant who  
19 worked with Curry's 2015 election campaign. And Paul  
20 Harden, a local lobbyist, clients include FPL and the  
21 Jaguars.

22 Did you know that Paul Harden was a lobbyist  
23 for FP&L?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Do you know anything about the scope of his

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1 duties as a lobbyist for them? What was he supposed to  
 2 do for them?  
 3 **A** I do not know the specifics of Mr. Harden's  
 4 work for them.  
 5 **Q** Did any of your companies pay for any of the  
 6 food or drink at the Jaguars suite of either the City or  
 7 of Florida Power & Light?  
 8 **A** Not for Florida Power & Light. I had, for two  
 9 years, sponsored some of the food and beverage in -- in  
 10 the City suite.  
 11 **Q** Okay. Well, what period of time?  
 12 **A** The -- the 2018 and 2019 seasons.  
 13 **Q** And you -- you say you sponsored?  
 14 **A** Yeah.  
 15 **Q** Your company or you personally?  
 16 **A** BCSP.  
 17 **Q** Bold City Strategic Partners?  
 18 **A** Yes, sir.  
 19 **Q** Paid for what?  
 20 **A** Paid for a portion of the beverage in the City  
 21 suite.  
 22 **Q** Alcohol?  
 23 **A** Whatever they had in there.  
 24 **Q** Do you know what it was for? What did you pay  
 25 for?

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1 Have you seen this letter before?  
 2 **A** I don't believe that I have, no.  
 3 (Baker's Exhibit 38 was marked for  
 4 identification.)  
 5 **Q** Are you aware of its -- of the subject matter  
 6 at all?  
 7 **A** I -- I can't say. Well, you know, again, if I  
 8 have a few moments, I can read it. Yeah.  
 9 **Q** Take a moment. Go ahead and read it. I'll be  
 10 right back.  
 11 (Recess taken.)  
 12 BY MR. BUSEY:  
 13 **Q** Have you had a chance to look at the letter?  
 14 **A** Yes, sir.  
 15 **Q** Were you aware that the mayor was going to send  
 16 this message to the JEA board?  
 17 **A** Yes, sir.  
 18 **Q** How -- how did you have that awareness?  
 19 **A** I had a discussion with him and with Brian  
 20 Hughes in this time frame around just the, you know,  
 21 process. Generally, as the, you know, outrage around  
 22 the performance unit was coming to a head, people were,  
 23 you know, starting to use that to assail the -- the  
 24 strategic planning process. And so it was a very  
 25 chaotic political time.

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1 **A** All -- all kinds of stuff, you know, alcohol --  
 2 **Q** Food?  
 3 **A** -- was in there, you know, soft drinks, water.  
 4 It was not food, it was beverage.  
 5 **Q** And why would Bold City Strategic Partners pay  
 6 for food and drink in the City suite?  
 7 **A** There was a previous -- previously for, I don't  
 8 know, decades, other entities paid for that. And in  
 9 2018 or -- yeah, 2018, I think, the summer, the previous  
 10 party that was sponsoring it stopped sponsoring it and  
 11 so it was an opportunity to, basically, demonstrate  
 12 goodwill to the City as, you know, a gift to the -- to  
 13 the whole City, the way their ethics code, you know,  
 14 handles it.  
 15 **Q** And how much did you pay?  
 16 **A** I think it was no more than maybe \$2,000 over  
 17 the course of the two seasons. Maybe \$2500 over the two  
 18 seasons.  
 19 **Q** Did you get a right of access to the suite as a  
 20 result of that?  
 21 **A** No. I think I maybe went to the suite one time  
 22 during those two seasons as well.  
 23 **Q** Let me show you what we marked as Exhibit 38,  
 24 which is a letter from the mayor to JEA board members,  
 25 dated December 12th, 2019.

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1 **Q** And so the time that we're talking about, the  
 2 time of this letter, was after there had been outrage as  
 3 a result of Billy Kyle's report about the PUP plan?  
 4 **A** Yes, sir, I think well after.  
 5 **Q** Yeah. And I think at that point, the plan  
 6 later had been postponed or completely cancelled?  
 7 **A** Yeah, I believe so.  
 8 **Q** And the message in the -- from the mayor, in  
 9 this letter was to -- in paragraph 2, one of the  
 10 scenarios includes the ongoing ITN process, So tell the  
 11 senior leaders and their advisors to conclude the ITN by  
 12 the end of January.  
 13 **A** Uh-huh.  
 14 **Q** So from your conversations with Brian and the  
 15 mayor, do you know why the mayor's office wanted to  
 16 collapse the time frame to accomplish the sale of JEA  
 17 from March back to January --  
 18 **A** Well, I --  
 19 **Q** -- 2020?  
 20 **A** I would, again -- you say they collapsed time  
 21 frame, I don't know that to be true and accomplished a  
 22 sale. I reject the premise of that. Again, I believe  
 23 what the ITN was meant to accomplish was represent what  
 24 a private sector transaction could look like. But the  
 25 general discussion was take all these options that

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1 they've been pursuing, city council's clamoring they'll  
 2 be involved and put them in, you know, the lap of city  
 3 council. Like, we need to have the discussion about the  
 4 strategic future of JEA and then broader those policy  
 5 discussions of how does that play into all of these  
 6 unmet needs within the city. And the mayor was dead set  
 7 on making sure we could understand what the value of JEA  
 8 is because it would help inform how JEA played a -- a  
 9 role in the broader, you know, taking care of the  
 10 neglect of the City.

11 Q Are you aware that approximately the same time  
 12 of this letter in December -- first part of December of  
 13 2019, Stephanie Burch was telling the bidders in the ITN  
 14 process that she was going to collapse the time frame  
 15 from getting the deal done from March of 2020 to January  
 16 of 2020?

17 A No, I'm not aware of anything with Ms. Burch.  
 18 I've met her one time and never communicated with her  
 19 personally.

20 Q And you're unaware of press reports about  
 21 that?

22 A Subsequent, in, you know, recent -- recent  
 23 months as you've conducted interviews and the press has  
 24 reported on them, yes.

25 Q And so from your conversations with Brian  
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1 Hughes and the mayor, do you know why the mayor was  
 2 interested in moving that time frame from March to  
 3 January?

4 MR. BISHOP: Form.

5 A Yeah. Again, I don't -- I don't accept the  
 6 notion that there was any time frame or I never heard  
 7 the discussion with the mayor of any time frame in his  
 8 mind. But what he was dead set on wanting to accomplish  
 9 is have the discussion. There's nothing to fear from  
 10 the discussion. He was telling people, You can say no.  
 11 But what we can't do, which is what happened a year and  
 12 a half previous, is put our heads in the sand and, you  
 13 know, not have the -- the adult conversation, as he  
 14 would frame it, that he wanted to have about the future  
 15 of this.

16 Q Well, I showed you the Project Freebird  
 17 timeline that was presented at the Club Continental  
 18 meeting --

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q -- in July of 2019 and it included the  
 21 timeline, which concluded in March of 2020.

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q And there's a lot of other documentation that  
 24 has the same date in it.

25 A Sure.

1 Q But now the mayor's saying do it in January.

2 And my question to you is: Did he say why he wanted to  
 3 advance that date from March to January?

4 A No.

5 MR. BISHOP: Object to form.

6 A No, there's no discussion of a date change. I  
 7 never had any discussions with the mayor around, you  
 8 know, dates or expectations of timelines on the process.  
 9 He wanted --

10 Q Or --

11 A -- to see the process concluded and things  
 12 being considered by the city council. I recall him  
 13 saying, They don't even have to finish it, just get bids  
 14 in a position where city council could see every option.  
 15 He wanted to have the discussion. He was absolutely not  
 16 set on we're going to sell this thing or we're going to  
 17 sell it to anybody, like, the grand conspiracy theories  
 18 that have been sold in the last year, but he was dead  
 19 set on we have to understand the private sector value of  
 20 this asset and how does that play in the broader  
 21 consideration of funding the -- the needs of  
 22 Jacksonville.

23 Q Well, by this time, you had a pretty good idea  
 24 of the private sector value of JEA, didn't you?

25 A No. I mean, we had the PFM report that said  
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1 something. Kyle Billy had done a report sometime in  
 2 2018 that had a much smaller number of -- of what the  
 3 value was. I think, you know, that was -- that was very  
 4 much influx. I remember the Crescimbeni committee,  
 5 there was -- there was a big discussion of value. And  
 6 you had folks like Bill Gulliford saying, If it's 5  
 7 billion, I'll sell, but if it's -- if it's less than  
 8 that, you know, I won't.

9 So I think the value was very much something  
 10 that was in dispute in -- in various circles and  
 11 something that the mayor thought would be critical to  
 12 framing the policy discussion he hoped to have.

13 Q Did you ever see the number that FP&L was  
 14 willing to pay for JEA?

15 A Only when it came out in the press the other  
 16 day.

17 Q What was the number?

18 A Somewhere north of \$11 billion.

19 Q Have you talked with the mayor about what -- a  
 20 possibility of selling JEA for \$11 billion?

21 A Talked with the mayor about the -- the, you  
 22 know, list of items that he thinks have been neglected  
 23 and would like to fund, you know. Not specific to any,  
 24 you know, specific offer, but he's absolutely  
 25 game-planned the notion of what he could discuss related

1 to proceeds.

2 Q You mean what he could do with the money?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Is he --

5 A His top item was he wanted to pay off all the

6 debt of the City.

7 Q Did -- did the mayor, in these discussions with

8 you and Brian and the mayor, in December of 2019,

9 include the fact that because of the uproar about the

10 PUP plan, he wanted to try to get the sale through the

11 council as quickly as possible?

12 A No. The mayor never supported the notion of a

13 sale. What the mayor supported was the notion of let's

14 get all the options in front of council because council

15 thinks they're being shut out. And whatever way it

16 takes to accomplish the -- the discussion that he wanted

17 to have and frame the -- the future of JEA and frame

18 the, you know, policy of how do we pay for these

19 billions of dollars of neglect over the decades, he was

20 willing to have.

21 So he could have cared less, I think, about any

22 one of those five things. And as I've told you earlier

23 and then it's in here as well, he even asked them to

24 consider whether JEA would make sense as a, you know,

25 department of the city.

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1 Q Do they know you've been interviewed?

2 A Not -- not to my knowledge. Mr. Bishop is now

3 who I run all those conversations through that I have

4 about this.

5 Q Run all those conversations through?

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q What conversations?

8 A Any conversations regarding this interview.

9 Q Okay. But my question to you is: Have you

10 talked to anybody?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q And the answer is no?

13 A I have not.

14 Q You've been following Mr. Bishop's

15 instruction?

16 A To the T.

17 MR. BUSEY: We don't have any further

18 questions.

19 MR. BISHOP: No questions. We'll read.

20 (Witness excused.)

21 (The interview was concluded at 5:01 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

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1 Q When you terminated your contract with FPL, did

2 you know that NextEra was going to participate in the

3 ITN process?

4 MR. BISHOP: To the extent that you would have

5 learned anything about that from your consulting

6 relationship, it is confidential and I'd instruct

7 you not to answer.

8 Q You're not going to answer my question?

9 MR. BISHOP: On the advice of counsel, he

10 cannot answer.

11 Q Did you ever have any discussion with NextEra

12 or FPL about paying for your Atlanta baseball trip?

13 MR. BISHOP: To the extent that any discussion

14 was as part of your consulting relationship or

15 contract is confidential, I'd instruct you not to

16 answer.

17 A I would say that months -- the trip was months

18 after the contract was terminated, so, no, I did not.

19 MR. BUSEY: Off the record.

20 (Recess taken.)

21 BY MR. BUSEY:

22 Q Have you had any conversations with Danny

23 Martell or anybody at FPL about your interview here

24 today?

25 A No, sir.

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1 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 COUNTY OF DUVAL )

4

5 I, Terrie L. Cook, RPR, CRR, FPR, Notary

6 Public, State of Florida, certify that TIMOTHY BAKER

7 personally appeared before me on September 8, 2020, and

8 was duly sworn.

9

10 WITNESS my hand and official seal on

11 September 17, 2020, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 Terrie L. Cook, RPR, CRR, FPR

20 Notary Public-State of Florida

21

22

23

24

25

Hedquist & Associates Reporters, Inc.

*Terrie L. Cook*



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