
Committee Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

“The testimony of Matthew Mowers concerning the committee’s investigation into all aspects of the finances, operations, and management of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and any other matter raising concerns about abuse of government power or an attempt to conceal an abuse of government power, including, but not limited to, the reassignment of access lanes in Fort Lee, New Jersey, to the George Washington Bridge”

LOCATION: Committee Room 11
State House Annex
Trenton, New Jersey

DATE: May 20, 2014
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Senator Loretta Weinberg, Co-Chair
Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski, Co-Chair
Senator Nia H. Gill
Senator Linda R. Greenstein
Senator Kevin J. O’Toole
Assemblywoman Marlene Caride
Assemblywoman Amy H. Handlin
Assemblywoman Holly T. Schepisi



ALSO PRESENT:

Charles A. Buono Jr.
Philip M. Mersinger
Michael R. Molimock
Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aides

Francisco Maldonado
Senate Majority
Kate McDonnell
Assembly Majority
Committee Aides

Frank Dominguez
Senate Republican
Keith A Loughlin
Assembly Republican
Committee Aides

Tony Barkow, Esq.
Special Counsel

Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey



LORETTA WEINBERG
Co-Chair

JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI
Co-Chair

SENATE

NIA H. GILL
LINDA R. GREENSTEIN
KEVIN J. O'TOOLE

ASSEMBLY

MARLENE CARIDE
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COMMITTEE NOTICE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

FROM: SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG, CO-CHAIR AND ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI, CO-CHAIR

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEETING - MAY 20, 2014

The public may address comments and questions to Charles A. Buono, Jr., Michael R. Molimock, Committee Aides, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Kimberly Johnson, Secretary, at (609)847-3840, fax (609)292-0561, or e-mail: OLSAideLSI@njleg.org. Written and electronic comments, questions and testimony submitted to the committee by the public, as well as recordings and transcripts, if any, of oral testimony, are government records and will be available to the public upon request.

The New Jersey Legislative Select Committee on Investigation will meet on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 10:00 AM in Committee Room 11, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, New Jersey.

The committee has subpoenaed Matthew Mowers to testify before the committee concerning the committee's investigation into all aspects of the finances, operations, and management of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and any other matter raising concerns about abuse of government power or an attempt to conceal an abuse of government power, including, but not limited to, the reassignment of access lanes in Fort Lee, New Jersey to the George Washington Bridge.

The committee will convene in closed session following Mr. Mowers' testimony.

Issued 5/15/14

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For changes in schedule due to snow or other emergencies, call 800-792-8630 (toll-free in NJ) or 609-292-4840.

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SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG (Co-Chair): Good morning, everyone. I will call the Committee meeting to order.

And can we have a roll call, please?

MR. MOLIMOCK (Committee Aide): Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Present.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator O'Toole.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblyman Carroll. (no response)

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle. (no response)

Assemblyman Moriarty. (no response)

Majority Leader Greenwald. (no response)

Senator Greenstein.

SENATOR GREENSTEIN: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Present.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI (Co-Chair):
Present.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Weinberg.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Here.

Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Thank you, Madam Co-Chair. And Mr. Co-Chair, you can take your hand off the trapdoor button because I'm actually going to say something positive about the Committee's work.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, I'm in charge of the trapdoor button this session. (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I gave her the keys to the trapdoor today, so--

SENATOR WEINBERG: So feel free.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: In two weeks when we reconvene it will be to take what I consider a productive turn -- specifically, we're scheduled to hear from Patrick Foye, the Executive Director of the Port Authority, and I'm optimistic that his testimony will inform important new legislation.

So I propose that we build on that productivity by taking two additional steps: Step one, why don't we schedule a meeting of this Committee on the premises of the Port Authority? That would put us right at the scene of the crime, if you will, and enable us to hear from some lower-profile employees who can educate us about the decision-making process, the internal relationships and rivalries. In other words, let's get the same kinds of information from employees at the Port Authority that we've been asking of witnesses who work in the Governor's Office.

And number two, let's use the summer to hear from experts in the academic and transportation communities. They don't need to be subpoenaed, and they are already speaking to the media and to the Port

Authority Commissioners, so why shouldn't they talk to us in the interest of helping to craft legislation that will reform the Port Authority?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you very much, Assemblywoman. And I think after we meet with both the Executive Director of the Port Authority, Patrick Foye, and one of the Commissioners, Pat Schuber, we can make that decision. It's an interesting idea. Having been to Port Authority meetings several times over the months following this saga, it's an interesting place to be. But we'll certainly take that under advisement.

In terms of crafting legislation, I just want to point out -- as you well know, we do have members working quite seriously on legislation -- you and I have had that discussion -- and we as a Committee can't actually do a legislation; we are not a legislative committee as such. The way I understand it, we can't hear and release legislation for voting. But certainly to hear from other members of the Port Authority is very reasonable, and we can certainly take that under advisement after we have the information from Pat Foye and Pat Schuber.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Madam Chair?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: A procedural question to you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Sure.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: We had a brief conversation with Reid Schar on Friday, which was very productive. And it was on that call, I've been told, that Mr. Schar revealed that there had been an in-person meeting with Mr. Mowers. I went to the Senate Majority Office this morning to

look at the March legal bills and found out that on March 25, Reid Schar, on a point of description, had billed 6.5 for a number of things including meeting with Mr. Mowers; another partner, Mr. Khoo, spent 8.25 hours interviewing Mr. Mowers, among other things. And it was another attorney, Mr. Barkow, who spent 8.75, I think, summarizing the meeting with Mr. Mowers.

Now, I've looked through the 95 exhibits we have regarding Mr. Mowers -- I didn't find the summary of that meeting. Does that-- Is there a summary? Does that exist? And if does, I think we would like to see a copy of that before we start so we can have a better sense of what occurred during that interview.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I don't know if that summary exists.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Can we ask the attorney?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes, we certainly can. I think, as you well know, we're going into executive session following this interview. We have enough information to question Mr. Mowers, I believe, as a Committee. And we can take up this issue in closed session. It is an issue of some sensitivity -- attorney/client privilege -- and it best belongs in closed session.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Well, I'm not suggesting -- through you, Chair, that-- I just want to know if a memo exists and if all 12 members can have that--

SENATOR WEINBERG: You will get a complete answer on that in closed session, as will the rest of us.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: But again, I'm going to make a motion that we have that now because we're about to interview Mr. Mowers. And

I'd like to have, if there is a summary -- as an information tool, or a guidepost, or a research tool -- to add to the 25 exhibits we have.

So I'll make that in the form of a motion that we get that. If it exists, I'd like to know -- number one -- from our attorney; and two, if we can have that, obviously, adhering to the attorney/client privilege.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Assemblyman Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: My understanding, Senator, is that that had not been distributed to any members of the Committee. I have not seen it. My understanding is, is that they prepared that as part of their meeting, but it has not been shared with any of the members of the Committee. So you don't have it, I don't have it, Senator Weinberg doesn't have it. And on that basis, I think it would be appropriate that we can more robustly discuss that in closed session. Because I understand your concern might be that there's benefit of some information that we have that you don't have. None of us have it.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: But I just think, generally-- And I appreciate the response, Chair, through Madam Chair. Again, as 12 independent Legislators listening, if there is a summary of a meeting that occurred with the deponent, from my past experience that would be very instructive or helpful to have before we go into the actual interview.

SENATOR WEINBERG: There's a motion on the floor.

Was there a second?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I'll second it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I motion to table it.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Is there a second to that?

SENATOR GILL: Second.

SENATOR WEINBERG: May I have a roll call, please, on the motion to table?

MR. MOLIMOCK: On the motion to table the motion to request from special counsel any summary of any interviews of Mr. Mowers conducted by special counsel,

Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Before you go there, I think the motion-- Your motion was to go into executive session.

SENATOR WEINBERG: No, it was not.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Well, no. Actually, my motion, through Madam Chair--

SENATOR WEINBERG: It was not. We have a motion to table, which is--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Non-debatable.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Non-debatable.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Even by the Co-Chair.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Exactly.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I stand corrected. (laughter)

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'll get my ruler out.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: So we don't have a motion to table?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Roll call.

SENATOR GILL: The motion-- I have a question.

What is the motion?

SENATOR WEINBERG: The motion is to table Senator O'Toole's motion.

SENATOR GILL: And Senator's O'Toole's motion is to do what?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: My motion, which is not debatable, for the purpose of being -- for an explanation, through the Chair, one, to find out from our counsel if, in fact, a summary of that meeting occurred -- if that exists, because they've obviously billed time for that; and two, if we -- all 12 of us -- can have a copy of that before we begin the questioning of Mr. Mowers. That's the motion.

SENATOR GILL: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Now may I have a roll call?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: On the motion to table.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: On the motion to table the motion, Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: No.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator O'Toole.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: No.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: No.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblyman Carroll. (no response)

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttel. (no response)

Assemblyman Moriarty. (no response)

Majority Leader Greenwald. (no response)

Senator Greenstein.

SENATOR WEINBERG: The motion to table.

SENATOR GREENSTEIN: The motion to table -- yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: No.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Weinberg.

SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG: Yes.

Okay, are we ready to start now?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR WEINBERG: The Committee calls Matt Mowers, the former Regional Political Director of Chris Christie for Governor to testify.

Mr. Mowers is present with two attorneys.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: A procedural question: What was the vote on that? Was it a 4-4 vote?

SENATOR WEINBERG: No, it was a--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: If it's a 4-4 vote, does that motion fail? Senator Gill voted no.

SENATOR WEINBERG: No, it was 4-3, I believe.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Senator Gill voted no, so I think it's-- I just want to hear the vote.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Oh, I see.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: So if it's a 4-4, the motion to table actually fails.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You're right. Was it 4-4?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes, 4-4.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Sorry about that.

Okay, let's hear from our attorney.

Mr. Mowers, my apologies. This will be put off for a while.

SENATOR GILL: I have a question. Can we take this issue into executive session?

SENATOR WEINBERG: This is exactly what I promised at the beginning.

SENATOR GILL: Because I think that as much as we want to have a robust discussion, that it is more appropriate for it to be done in executive session. So I would, if I am permitted, like to move this discussion into executive session before we interview this--

SENATOR WEINBERG: We have another motion on the floor. May I have a second?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Second. Before the testimony, you're saying?

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Let me clarify: The motion is not to have the discussion now, but to save it until executive session, correct?

SENATOR GILL: To have executive session now before we have--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But have the executive session now?

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Second.

SENATOR WEINBERG: May I have a roll call, please?

MR. MOLIMOCK: Motion that the Committee convene in closed session to receive the advice of special counsel.

Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator O'Toole.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblyman Carroll. (no response)

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle. (no response)

Assemblyman Moriarty. (no response)

Majority Leader Greenwald. (no response)

Senator Greenstein.

SENATOR GREENSTEIN: No.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: No.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Weinberg.

SENATOR WEINBERG: No.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: That's 4-4 again, just so we're clear again on the record.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Right.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: So the motion fails.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The motion fails.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Which means we have the discussion here.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You want to have the discussion here, or do you want to wait until executive session?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I have no problem-- The question is, to me, Chair, I have no problem having the discussion here. This would be terrific.

Madam Chair, do you want me to ask the counsel questions?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes. Senator O'Toole, there are very sensitive issues here of attorney/client privilege. You have been assured that none of us have any information on this witness that you don't have. So we either have to take a vote to waive attorney/client privilege in this case, to have this discussion in open -- and I believe that it is very ill-advised. This should be in executive session; we agreed that following this witness we were going to have an executive session. If anything turns up in any documents that we feel we needed the information, we can always call the witness back for testimony. I believe -- he's here, his attorneys are here; at least one of your members has a real time commitment -- that we should move ahead with the questioning.

But, go ahead.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Thank you, Chair.

If the concern is about waiving the attorney/client privilege -- which is not my desire -- if that's the concern, then we should have this discussion -- as Senator Gill proposed, and I seconded -- in confidential --

I'm sure it will not be for a long period of time before we hear from this deponent. We now have an understanding that there was a significant meeting between counsel and this deponent with at least two lawyers, if not three. I'd like to have the benefit of our counsel telling us what occurred so when we ask our questions we're not just going down a turkey shoot and asking questions that are irrelevant or that have been gone over already. So if the concern is -- and I hope Senator Gill and I are on the same page -- we do not want to waive the attorney/client privilege by any stretch, if we can all agree and simply say we can retire to an executive session now to briefly discuss this, I think we can shorten this discussion.

Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: That's my position.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, well that motion failed, and your motion -- the motion to table failed on a 4-4 vote. So we are left with the decision if you would like to, again, propose that we go into closed session before the meeting.

Do you want to make your motion again?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I'll make-- Senator Gill?

I'll make the motion, identical to what Senator Gill had made, that we go now into a brief confidential to discuss--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Can you, by the way, give us a definition of *brief*?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I'd say less than two hours. (laughter)

My guess is that it will take about 10 to 15 minutes. It shouldn't be all that long, unless the summary of the meeting is longer than expected.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: So I'm hoping we can do a 10- or 15-minute meeting to discuss the parameters of the interview that occurred on April 25. (*sic*)

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. We have a repeat of the motion, and a second.

May I have a roll call, please?

MR. MOLIMOCK: On the motion that the Committee convene in closed session to receive the advice of special counsel,

Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator O'Toole.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblyman Carroll. (no response)

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle. (no response)

Assemblyman Moriarty. (no response)

Majority Leader Greenwald. (no response)

Senator Greenstein.

SENATOR GREENSTEIN: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: If it will move it along, yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Weinberg.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

(recess)

(return from recess)

SENATOR WEINBERG: Good morning, again, Mr. Mowers. We officially call Mr. Mowers, the former Regional Political Director of Chris Christie for Governor to testify.

Mr. Mowers, thank you for appearing here today. I am Senator Loretta Weinberg, and this is the Select Committee on Investigation. Along with my Co-Chair, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, we are Co-Chairs of the Committee.

Are you accompanied by attorney today?

MATTHEW MOWERS: I am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And, if so, would the attorney like to introduce himself?

CRAIG CARPENITO, ESQ.: Thank you, Co-Chair Weinberg.

My name is Craig Carpenito; I am with the law firm of Alston and Bird LLP. And with me is my associate Adam Baker.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Good morning.

Mr. Mowers, do you understand that if the statements you make today are willfully false; if you fail to answer pertinent questions, or commit perjury you may be subject to penalties under the law?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Did you receive a subpoena from this Committee compelling your testimony at this meeting?

MR. MOWERS: I did.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Did you receive a copy of the Code of Fair Procedures, together with the subpoena?

MR. MOWERS: I did.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Do you understand that you have certain rights under the Code of Fair Procedures, including the right to be accompanied by counsel who shall be permitted to confer with you during your questioning, advise you of your rights, and submit proposed questions on your behalf?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Does your counsel have any questions to submit today?

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Co-Chair Weinberg, I don't have any questions to submit; but I do want to say, for the record, that what occurred today in front of us is quite troubling to me as Matt's lawyer. I have been in communications with your counsel since the first day that Matt was subpoenaed. We voluntarily met with him for several hours. We had numerous phone calls. We produced documents, both pursuant to that subpoena, as well as voluntarily on multiple occasions -- volunteering things even the Committee didn't know about or ask about through its counsel.

And to learn now, as someone who practices in the area of investigations, that after two months it seems as though the Committee may not have been advised as to the fact of that interview or, if it was, was never given a summary of it, was never told the questions that were asked -- which I believe will be largely duplicative of what we're going to be asked today and what the statements Mr. Mowers said -- is a bit troubling. You know, when I agreed to voluntarily make my client available to travel down from New Hampshire at his own expense and to meet with him to further an investigation, I just don't see how that's possible.

And although I believe the Committee did the right thing this morning by inquiring further, in my humble experience I don't know what could have been learned in that short period of time that will help them question Mr. Mowers today.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you for your statement.

As you can see, we have a Hearing Reporter from the Office of Legislative Services present. Your testimony is being recorded -- including that of your counsel, of course -- and that it may be transcribed for the Committee and it may be used for other proceedings. Do you understand that?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You are entitled to a copy of the transcript of your testimony at your expense when such copy is available. Do you understand that?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You have the right to file a brief sworn statement relevant to your testimony, for the record, at the conclusion of this examination. Do you understand that?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Please make all -- that all your responses should be verbal; we cannot record a head shake or a nod. If you do not understand a question, ask for clarification. Otherwise I'm going to assume that you understand the question and that your answers are responsive to that question. Do you understand that?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Before I proceed with the oath, do you have any questions, Mr. Mowers?

MR. MOWERS: I don't.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

If you would please stand and raise your right hand?

(witness stands and raises right hand)

Mr. Mowers, do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give is true, correct, and complete to the best of your information, knowledge, and belief?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Please be seated and state your name for the record.

MR. MOWERS: My name is Matthew Mowers.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you, and good morning.

And before we proceed with the testimony, we have a motion -- which we usually do at the end of the meeting, but because of some issues and Committee members' times, we are going to do it now.

Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Yes, thank you, Madam Co-Chair.

At this time I'd like to make a motion that all the documents submitted by Matt Mowers to the New Jersey Legislative Select Committee on Investigation, in response to the Committee's January 27, 2014 subpoena, and any other exhibits on which Matt Mowers will be questioned here today be made part of the official public record and attached to the official transcript of today's meeting.

SENATOR WEINBERG: May I have a second for that?

SENATOR GILL: Second.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

Assemblywoman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Madam Chairwoman, as I discussed with the Chairs prior to the meeting--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Holly, turn your mike on.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: As I discussed with the Chairs prior to the meeting, and our counsel, I have some concerns -- particularly, Tab 22 in the exhibits -- and it includes residents' personal phone numbers, cell phone numbers, home addresses, and the like. And so I would just request that our counsel, prior to releasing this information to the public, redact any personal information so that we don't have unwitting people getting phone calls on their cell numbers.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Would you add that as an amendment to the motion?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I would like to amend Marlene's--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And I'll second Holly's amendment.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Assemblywoman, you'll accept the amendment?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Absolutely.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

May I have a roll call on the motion, as amended?

MR. MOLIMOCK: On the motion, as amended, Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator O'Toole.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator Greenstein.

SENATOR GREENSTEIN: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Weinberg.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

Okay, now we're ready.

Any time you need a break, at any point, feel free to just let us know.

These microphones -- the small, dark microphones -- are constantly recording. So if you confer, put your hand over it or move it out of the way. And this is the amplification microphone; you can turn it off and on at will.

Good morning, for the third time.

MR. MOWERS: Good morning, Senator.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you. I realize you travelled a far distance to attend this hearing, and we appreciate your attendance here and your willingness to cooperate.

MR. MOWERS: Certainly.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Can you just give me an overview of--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Is there an opening statement, ma'am?

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry. Did you have an--

MR. CARPENITO: My apologies, Co-Chair. Mr. Mowers would like to make an opening statement.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, go ahead, Mr. Mowers.

MR. MOWERS: Thank you, Senator. I appreciate that.

And thank you to this Committee for allowing me to make a brief opening statement.

You know, like all of you and so many others, I've seen these stories unfold through various media reports over these past six months. I have to say that I'm disheartened and disappointed by the events that I have read about in the press.

You know, as I previously stated while I voluntarily sat down with this Committee's counsel, I was not involved in, nor did I have any prior knowledge of the decision to realign the lanes on the George Washington Bridge last September. I spent two-and-a-half years working in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Office of the Governor. This is simply unlike anything I've ever seen before, and IGA, to my knowledge, did not operate in this fashion.

You know, I enjoyed my job and worked hard at it every single day. It truly was a pleasure to work for Governor Christie and on behalf of the people of New Jersey. Although I can't speak for others, I know that I felt privileged to walk through the halls of the State House every single day knowing that I played a part -- even just a small part -- in facilitating and developing that special relationship between local elected officials, their constituents, and their government here in Trenton.

Through my entire tenure the directive I received was consistent and clear: to serve all of New Jersey's constituents without regard to political, economic, or social status. Establishing and facilitating good government, for me, will forever be one of the proudest accomplishments I have in my life.

Today I sit here dumbfounded and disappointed that the actions seemingly taken by a few rogue individuals has tainted the good work that so many people have done on behalf of the State of New Jersey.

You know, I can't comprehend why anyone would have committed these acts; it just doesn't make sense to me. Mayor Sokolich was candid and he told me that in no uncertain terms that he could not endorse the Governor back in the spring of 2013. At that point I did not view an endorsement as a possibility. Upon passing this information to others, no one I spoke with seemed overly interested or concerned at the time.

In addition, to my knowledge the campaign never raised the issue with me or the Mayor again. And now, as this Committee knows, I've cooperated both with this investigation and parallel investigations fully. I produced both documents at this Committee's request, as well as my own volition. In spite of no longer residing in the state of New Jersey, I travelled here on a previous occasion to meet with this Committee's counsel, spending several hours answering any and all questions which they had. I, of course, fully intend to do so today.

And thank you again to the Committee for allowing me to make this statement. I truly do look forward to your questions.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you for your statement.

And now, can you-- You talked in your statement about your duties and responsibilities at IGA. Can you tell us exactly what those responsibilities were?

MR. MOWERS: Certainly, Senator.

I saw myself as a point person for over 183 municipalities, at various times anywhere from four to six counties, for any and all elected officials -- as well as community groups, civic organizations, and constituents alike -- so they knew they had a point person in government.

This particularly came into use when municipalities had issues with different departments -- DEP, DCA, DOT -- and they knew they could just make one phone call to assist in that process.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So it's your testimony that you worked with all -- any and all, 560-some odd municipalities and counties, if they had issues.

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, I only worked, at various times--

SENATOR WEINBERG: For your region.

MR. MOWERS: Correct. So I think it was approximately 183 municipalities at most of my tenure during IGA.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And from reviewing the documents which you provided to us -- the background e-mails, and so on -- there seemed to be kind of an emphasis on just certain communities and a lot of discussion back-and-forth between you and Pete Sheridan, or you and Bridget Kelly, or you and Bill Stepien about whether or not -- who was going to be endorsing the Governor in his upcoming election. Can you give me the background of these kinds of discussions about these people endorsing the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, do you have specific documents you can refer to? That would be helpful.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, well, let me start off with the first Tab -- 1 -- we have tier 1 and tier 2 elected officials. It's an e-mail from you to Pete Sheridan, and it's under Tab 1. And it's called "Initial Budget Thoughts." What constituted tier 1 and what constituted tier 2?

MR. MOWERS: If I could, Senator, I'd like to just try and put this in perspective.

This was a list of elected officials who were possibly going to be invited to the Budget Address here in Trenton that Governor Christie was giving at the time. And tier 1 are just elected officials who I believed -- I created this list just upon interactions with various selected officials. Tier 1 were just folks who I thought should be invited; tier 2 -- it's like a wedding invitation list. If someone from tier 1 isn't able to attend, he'd sometimes go to tier 2 to invite them.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, why did you divide these people into tier 1 and tier 2? I understand the limited amount of wedding guests, but were they divided by friends, relatives, like you divide wedding invitations?

MR. MOWERS: As you know, Senator, we only have a limited number of seats in the Assembly gallery for the budget address, so it's just not feasible to invite all elected officials. Just looking back on this, this is a bipartisan list -- Republicans, Democrats, large municipalities, small municipalities--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, if I may interrupt you.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You're referring to it as a *bipartisan* list, but there is only one Republican on it; all the rest are Democrats.

MR. MOWERS: County Executive Donovan is also a Republican.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Two Republicans -- I take it back -- and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Democrats.

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, for most of my tenure at IGA, I worked with Bergen County, Passaic County, Essex County, and Hudson County. And there are just significantly more Democrats than Republican elected officials. So when I was creating lists--

SENATOR WEINBERG: So there was no reason to separate this tier 1 and tier 2. It wasn't based on town size, or issues that were there, or elected officials who were having budget problems. Any--

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, I think if I recall -- and this is from some time ago -- a number of these elected officials in tier 2 have attended events or had attended previous speeches that the Governor had given, or previous budget addresses. So it would only make sense to incorporate additional newly elected officials into that opportunity.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I see. So tier 2 are elected officials who attended previous budget addresses.

MR. MOWERS: Not-- I mean, look, not 100 percent. I really don't recall, Senator. I mean, this is an e-mail that I put together over two-and-a-half years ago.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So you didn't have any-- I'm sorry, say that again.

MR. MOWERS: I said this is a list that I put together two-and-a-half years ago now, so I don't recall exactly what criteria I would have put in place for this or that point.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Then we move to January 26, and we have something called the "Fort Lee list," and that's under Tab 2. Can you tell me what that represented?

MR. MOWERS: I believe this was -- and if I recall correctly -- a list of invitations -- possible invitations for a sporting event.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Which was limited to Fort Lee, or you were only asked to provide a list from Fort Lee?

MR. MOWERS: Well, over the years there's a number of sporting events, and we would invite community activists, Legislators such as yourself at times, to attend these games. And it varied by municipality every single time. You know, typically, people enjoy attending a sporting event with people they may know from town. So it's helpful just to arrange it by municipality. This just so happened to be a sporting event which we were inviting individuals from Fort Lee to, but it was one of dozens of sporting events.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Can you tell me why Mayor Sokolich was kind of identified as a person of interest, or why his name comes up so often throughout these documents?

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Co-Chair, I don't think that Mr. Mowers has testified that Mayor Sokolich was a person of interest. So I think it's fair to ask--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, then let me rephrase that.

MR. CARPENITO: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: When did Mayor Sokolich's name first come to your attention and the Intergovernmental Affairs Office?

MR. MOWERS: If I recall, I first met Mayor Sokolich -- which was probably around the time I had been introduced to his name, his title, or anything like that -- at a Christmas party at Drumthwacket, or holiday party at Drumthwacket.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Which would have been around--

MR. MOWERS: It was generally when I started in the Administration -- back in the Administration. So probably around December of 2010, give or take.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And you continued working with him as a member of the IGA staff?

MR. MOWERS: I did, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And how many communities were you responsible for?

MR. MOWERS: I believe I was responsible for approximately 183 municipalities.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Did you work with all of them equally? Did you reach out to the mayors of each of these towns, or council people, on some regular basis?

MR. MOWERS: Right. So I did communicate with all of them relatively frequently; some, just by nature of the fact that there are more complex issues they have in State government -- I would work with them more. I mean, I think it is probably understandable that the Mayor of Teaneck, for example, is going to have more issues involving State government than the Mayor of Walpack, which I think has a population of about 36 or so.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And did the Mayor of Teaneck have some complex issues with State government?

MR. MOWERS: The Mayor did, at times, have a lot of issues going on in town. And just as I would with any mayor who I worked with, I made sure that State government did its best to help.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Do you recall what any of those issues might have been?

MR. MOWERS: Issues involving-- I'm sorry.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes, involving Teaneck.

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall too many specifically. I remember there were issues-- He had concerns about the education system and how to improve it. He was concerned about a charter school application at one point, which clearly is done through a blind process so it's nothing that we could actually get involved in. But he would-- Relatively frequently we would be in contact, and we would always be interested in talking about a number of different issues.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, because, just out of curiosity, there is an e-mail where you are asked, why these three -- naming the Mayor of Teaneck and two of the council people in Teaneck -- "why always these three?"

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, do you know which e-mail? Can you point to that? I apologize, Senator. I just want to make sure I'm looking at the same thing you are.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry, I'm skipping around a lot. I'm confusing everybody by skipping around.

MR. MOWERS: That's all right.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I think it's an e-mail from Bridget Kelly to-- Yes.

While he's looking that up, I'll go on.

Tab 41.

MR. CARPENITO: I'm sorry, Co-Chair Weinberg, would you mind just restating the question for the witness?

SENATOR WEINBERG: It's -- I'm sorry -- Tab 41, Page 1. It's an e-mail from Pete Sheridan to Bridget Kelly, in the documents, which says, "Matt continues to believe these folks are tier 1 possibilities and key influencers. We can yank them. We have some other thoughts too," which is in response to "why the three from Teaneck, always?"

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator. Could you just repeat the actual question for me?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes, well, again, we're referring to tier 1 possibilities. "Matt continues to believe that these folks are tier 1 possibilities and key influencers. We can yank them from" whatever the invitation was. "We have some other thoughts too," which is from Pete Sheridan to Bridget Kelly.

MR. MOWERS: Senator, I can't speak for why Pete used the language he did in that e-mail.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, did you-- Well, then, let me ask you directly. Do you disagree with what Pete Sheridan said in this e-mail -- that you continue to believe that these folks are "tier 1 possibilities and key influencers"?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, Pete's the one who sent this e-mail, along with the list. I--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, I know. I'm asking you.

MR. MOWERS: Right.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Do you disagree with this characterization of what you thought?

MR. MOWERS: Sure. I mean, you know, Senator, just looking at this list-- I mean, it's a list of elected officials from a number of parties, from a number of counties. I don't know why Pete used the language he did; I can't speak to that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm not asking you to tell me why Pete used this language. I'm just asking you if you disagree, or do you agree with his characterization? What did you refer to -- these people as "tier 1 possibilities and key influencers"?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall ever using that language; no, Senator.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, so you don't agree with what Pete Sheridan characterized in here? That's okay, you don't--

MR. MOWERS: I'm not saying I--

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Senator, I think he said he doesn't recall using it. He hasn't answered whether he agrees with the characterization.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, so these people were not-- You haven't used the phrase "tier 1 influencer" or "influencers; tier 1 possibilities"?

MR. MOWERS: In the context that it seems Pete's e-mail is in, I don't know what he was referring to in that. As far as "key influencers" -- well, Teaneck is a large municipality within Bergen County, so of course those who represent it are going to be influential in Bergen County.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So do you understand in any way what Pete Sheridan was talking about here -- that they're tier 1? Because

we still haven't gotten a really clear definition on how one qualifies to be tier 1, except to have more complex problems, versus tier 2 or 3.

MR. MOWERS: Senator, the only time that I recall using the terminology *tier 1* would have been for an invitation list --- again, because you're looking at a number of municipalities. I mean, you know, as someone who is working with so many municipalities you have a number of elected officials you'd like to give opportunities to, whether it be attending a Budget Address or anything else. So that's the only time, I believe, I recall using the terminology *tier 1*. I really can't speak to why Pete used it here.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

In Tab 27, Mr. Mowers, you e-mailed Pete Sheridan regarding a Fort Lee Drumthwacket breakfast that would include Sokolich -- Mayor Sokolich. And you say in the e-mail, "Given that the leaders in this town have been reliably supportive (and publicly so), it would be a good chance to capitalize on those relationships in order to dig a level deeper in the community while cementing the relationships we have already developed." Do you see that e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I do, Senator.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So was there some kind of a Drumthwacket breakfast planned just for Fort Lee?

MR. MOWERS: Actually, Senator, to the best of my recollection, this event never actually occurred; it was just a possible event. It just never actually happened.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And would you have suggested a Fort Lee Drumthwacket breakfast?

MR. MOWERS: Well, there were a number of municipalities that would often have community leaders and elected officials come to Drumthwacket. So I believe, at some point, Fort Lee would have been appropriate as well.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So a number of officials-- Were these breakfasts usually divided by town?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection. And it would vary at times, but typically it was -- or occasionally it was done by town.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry?

MR. MOWERS: I said occasionally done by town.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And when you say that leaders have been reliably supportive, and publicly, what did you mean to "capitalize on these relationships in order to dig a level deeper," if you were there just as a go-between, to help them get through the bureaucracy, or whatever kind of major problems they might have with State government? But you said in here, "given that leaders in this town have been reliably supportive, this is a good chance to capitalize on those relationships." What did you need to capitalize on?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, just to put it in perspective, Mayor Sokolich; along with, actually, Steven Engravalle, who was Superintendent of Schools at that point; Art Levine, who is the Board of Education President -- all, at various times, have publicly supported a number of initiatives that the Governor had put forth. I believe Mayor Sokolich was actually the first, if not one of the first, elected officials to sign on to the Governor's property tax cap pledge publicly. Art Levine had had publicly supported a number of education reforms that the Governor supported, and

Steven Engravalle actually hosted us on a live set of *Morning Joe* for a town hall meeting. So these are a number of people who we had worked with before, and it just made sense to continue to do so in the name of good government.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So the phrase "to dig a level deeper in the community" or--

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, I would have been referring to -- just get more people who are active in town involved in the governing process, involved in a number of public initiatives including education reform; all those types of issues.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, and you said this breakfast never occurred?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection it did not, no.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Moving ahead -- just a few days after that you provided Pete Sheridan with a recap of a conversation with Mayor Sokolich earlier that day in which you noted the importance to the Mayor of the Hudson Lights development -- which is Tab 32.

Was there any context in terms of the importance of this development -- which I'm well aware of? It happens to be very large and very complex.

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator. Can you rephrase your question? I just want to make sure I answer it accurately.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Was there any context to the issue that the Mayor raised of the Hudson Lights development?

MR. MOWERS: Because I'm still a little unclear, if I'm not answering in a way that -- in the question you asked, correct me. But just

putting it in context, the Mayor and I never subsequently talked about the development. He would mention the fact that it was something that had been discussed for a number of decades by mayors before him -- by Jack Alter and a number of elected officials, and that it was just something that he was hopeful that he could actually begin -- a development that could start under his term. But that was basically the limit of my interaction on this issue.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And on the same day -- May 18 -- you had a flag drop-off with North Arlington Mayor Pete Massa.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You see that?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. First of all, where did these flags come from?

MR. MOWERS: These were flags that were flown over the World Trade Center site on the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So the flags that were flown over the World Trade Center during the 10th anniversary observance -- you were delivering in person to a variety of towns?

MR. MOWERS: We did, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And were those deliveries based upon whether they were tier 1 or tier 2 towns?

MR. MOWERS: No, actually, Senator it was generally based upon -- to the best of my understanding, based upon the number of casualties that occurred in these municipalities as a result of the attacks on

September 11, as a way of commemorating and memorializing those who were lost on the day.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Coming from Bergen County, I'm well aware of how many casualties that we had at the World Trade Center--

MR. MOWERS: I think we all--

SENATOR WEINBERG: --as did so many other people throughout our tri-state area.

But on the same day where you're talking about the meeting/flag drop-off with the North Arlington Mayor -- that's a work e-mail, is it not?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator? Is that--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Is that a-- That's a work e-mail, is it not?

MR. MOWERS: Are you asking if this is a work-related e-mail?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, it is a work-related e-mail.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And at the end of that e-mail you say -- let me begin -- "He," meaning the Mayor, "clearly has an affinity for the Governor because of his time as U.S. Attorney (the mayor helped on some cases). Massa has also supported local Republicans long ago. While he's older now and seemingly less political, I think there may be a chance we can win his endorsement next year due to those two things."

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator -- what's the question?

SENATOR WEINBERG: So my question is, in a work e-mail, while you were delivering a flag that flew over the World Trade Center based upon how many casualties each town had, you end your e-mail with talk about an endorsement for the Governor. And this, by the way, was only in 2012. It was more than a year before the Governor's reelection.

So where did the idea of an endorsement, or why was that part of your thinking process -- as a government employee who was doing a rather somber duty by delivering a flag that had flown over the World Trade Center -- where you talk about, to Pete Sheridan, "I think there may be a chance we can win this endorsement next year." So why were you thinking in those terms?

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, if I recall -- and to be candid with you, I don't recall this interaction with the Mayor, clearly--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Isn't that your e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: It is, Senator, but--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: --I had a number of meetings over the years.

To the best of my recollection, Mayor Massa had brought up political conversation there. I mean, often these flag drop-offs or any other meeting that we had, it starts with obviously the official duties, but the Mayor is also just interested in getting to know you and wants to have a conversation with you. If he had brought up political conversation -- in fact, I think it's in this same meeting, if I recall, that we actually took a downtown walk of North Arlington, and we walked around and he showed me where he used to go to school when he was growing up. So it's a

number -- he talked about a number of issues and actually highlighted the fact multiple times that he works with Republicans. It was something he brought up to me -- including working with Republican operatives, some of whom I knew from my interactions in Bergen County politics previously.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So did you often discuss political thoughts or endorsements with people you were working with on behalf of the IGA -- the elected officials you were working with?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, on behalf of IGA, I would never -- I never engaged in political conversation like that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

Now let me, on the same thing -- look at Tab 33: an e-mail from you to Pete Sheridan, sent on May 23, 2012. It's all in the same time period. And its subject is "Politically key mayor electives." Is this a work e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, I don't recall whether it was work-related or it. I mean, it's from my personal account before work hours.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry?

MR. MOWERS: It's from my personal e-mail account and before work hours. I don't recall whether this was work-related or not.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You can't recall why this e-mail was sent to Pete Sheridan about 8:51 a.m. on that day?

MR. CARPENITO: Well, respectfully, Co-Chair, that wasn't the question. He was asked whether it was a work e-mail. If you want to ask him whether or not he recalls why he wrote, I think that's a fair question. But that wasn't the question pending.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you for your legal help.
(laughter)

Can you recall why you wrote this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: While I don't recall the specific circumstances why I wrote this e-mail, just looking at it now in retrospect -- I mean, it's got a number of elected officials from both parties, including some like Bayonne Mayor Mark Smith, who is the sitting Chairman of the Hudson County Democratic Party at this time, I believe. So I think these were just mayors who are relevant and have outside influence politically within their county and within their sphere.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Relevant in terms of what? How does a mayor become relevant? A mayor is a mayor. What makes a mayor more relevant than another one?

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, through the guise of my work responsibilities, every mayor is relevant, and every constituent, and every elected official is relevant.

SENATOR WEINBERG: As it should be.

MR. MOWERS: But I think -- and I don't want to assume, but I believe many of us will agree that there are certain elected officials who are more often -- represent larger municipalities, represent more politically intriguing municipalities, and represent--

SENATOR WEINBERG: More politically intriguing municipalities? What do you mean by that?

MR. MOWERS: Well, as far as you have larger municipalities here which have-- You know, some, I'm not saying all -- I don't want to cast a characterization on the entire e-mail. But, you know, you look at

Bayonne for example, or Jersey City, for example, and Union City, for example. You know, there are a number of these elected officials who also have other roles within the county, also have other -- often have more press stories about them in the press. So I don't recall exactly what specifically led to this. Looking in retrospect, that's what this list contains -- it looks like.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You used the term *politically intriguing*. Could you explain to me what you meant by that?

MR. MOWERS: Frankly, I think there's a number of municipalities that-- Again, this is not a characterization of this list. But I think it goes pretty common, you know. The election in Newark last week was politically intriguing, it got a lot of press coverage, it was something interesting -- as a political observer and someone who's in politics -- to watch. A Jersey City election -- politically intriguing. There are a lot of dynamics, a lot of different people involved. And I think as a political person, it's intriguing. That's all I would mean by that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. You can't really characterize why you sent this e-mail. It might have just been a politically interesting e-mail to send to a friend before work hours?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, as I said, I really don't recall what the genesis of this e-mail was.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Let's move ahead.

How would the top 100 mayors be identified, and are they the same as the top 100 towns?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator, can you clarify your question?

SENATOR WEINBERG: It was a list of top 100 mayors -- if you look at Tab 35. This is an e-mail from-- You ready?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, sorry.

SENATOR WEINBERG: An e-mail from you, Mr. Mowers, to Pete Sheridan entitled, "Travel and meetings conducted." And we have a list here of the Garfield reorganization meeting; another meeting with Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich; a meeting with a Korean leader; meeting with the President of the Pan American Tai Kwon Do Association; and then Metrics -- Governor's reading file calls. What's the Governor's reading file?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall specifically what this was in reference to. I'm trying to just refresh my memory, Senator. I apologize; it's been a while since I thought about it.

I know the Governor does have a reading file he takes home -- with e-mails -- each night. I think there are additional calls that we want to make sure that, if someone reaches out on an issue, that we get back to them. And we would also call separately from those lists. I think -- I believe that's what this was in reference to, but frankly, Senator, I really don't specifically recall.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Now, is this a work e-mail? This was done during the work hours from your Gmail -- July 6, 11:24 a.m.

MR. MOWERS: I believe that, generally speaking--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Did you say July 5 or July 6, Chair?

SENATOR WEINBERG: July 6.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: July 6.

MR. MOWERS: I believe that, generally speaking, this is a work-related e-mail.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Generally speaking, what?

MR. MOWERS: This is a work-related e-mail, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And it goes on, under the title, "Action Items," and continues -- "continue 1000 outreach; develop July and August Action Plan, etc., coordinate development; distribute final Port Authority flags to Mahwah VFW, West Milford, and Chatham Borough; develop meeting schedule for senior contacts." And then there's a phrase that says, "Political narrative," and you talk about Frank Calandriello and Tana Raymond from Garfield, and some problem that's going on between the two of them. And it says here, "Tana would like to round up additional Democratic endorsements for the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor in the reelection campaign, and Teaneck Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin was elected by the council to serve a second two-year term making him a mayor during the reelection campaign."

So again, we're talking about political endorsements and who will be a mayor during the Governor's reelection campaign -- in a work-related e-mail. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, I think the term I said was *generally* a work-related e-mail -- was the terminology I used.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And the issue of endorsements -- is that something that you normally dealt with -- these people that the Intergovernmental Affairs Office outreached to?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, on behalf of IGA, I never made any outreach and political conversations like that, no.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, then why would you mention Democratic endorsements for the Governor in a work-related e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: Well, the purpose of a lot of these narratives was to relay conversations of what elected officials had told us. You know, if you look at the reference to Tana Raymond; Tana Raymond -- I told her multiple times I don't work on politics and she continued to say that she was looking to endorsing the Governor and she wanted to have other Democrats endorse the Governor.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Or the comment that -- who was going to be the Teaneck Mayor during the reelection campaign?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, if I recall, Senator -- and I don't entirely -- but I believe it was something that the Mayor of Teaneck had referenced at one point in a conversation as well -- that he highlighted the fact that he was going to be a two-year mayor.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So that was important to add to your narrative.

MR. MOWERS: It was the substance of a conversation, Senator.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

And the Governor's reading file -- did you define that for us?

MR. MOWERS: I didn't hear the question.

SENATOR WEINBERG: What is the Governor's reading file that you referred to in that e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I believe these are correspondences that came in through the Office of Constituents Relations where, if it was personal -- occasionally personal case work issues -- OCR would handle it. But if it was something more substantiative like, "I really want to get this bridge fixed or this road fixed," or what have you, in the community, or if it was something

that they wrote to the Governor about saying, "I really care about education reform and I think you should do X, Y, and Z," we would occasionally be the ones who would reach out and get back to these constituents on the issues that they feel are important -- that the Governor is aware of.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. The same e-mail mentions what I referred to earlier -- the top 100 mayors; T-100 mayors. How was that list compiled?

MR. MOWERS: How was-- I apologize, Senator. How was which one--

SENATOR WEINBERG: You referred to Top 100 mayors. Calls attempted, 28; you spoke to 15 of them; you left 13 messages. You were very specific in there. How was the list of top 100 mayors compiled?

MR. MOWERS: Frankly, Senator, I don't know how that list was actually compiled, or the genesis of that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So somebody just gave it to you?

MR. MOWERS: They did, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: With what kind of instructions?

MR. MOWERS: Just that-- You know, to put in perspective from how I saw that list-- You know when I first started, you're told you have 183 municipalities and you're trying to work with everyone. And sometimes that can seem a little overwhelming. So the way I saw it was that there was a number of municipalities and elected officials who I would have a first go in and get to know, because they are usually larger municipalities -- more issues have arisen on State government. I mean, Newark, and Jersey City, and places like that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Who gave you this list, Mr. Mowers?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall exactly the first time I saw it or anything like that. It was something that was utilized, when I first got there, by the Regional Directors who were already working in the Office Intergovernmental Affairs.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And you had no environment in which to place these 100 mayors in your mind? How many accounts did you say you had -- that you oversaw, give or take?

MR. MOWERS: Approximately 183, I believe.

SENATOR WEINBERG: About 183?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So all but 83 of the mayors were in your top 100 list?

MR. MOWERS: No. If I recall correctly, I believe there was about 30-some odd municipalities in the top 100 list that I would work with.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Well, then we have something called the "Top 1,000 outreach." Those, I take it, were individuals.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And who gave you that list, or how was that compiled?

MR. MOWERS: That was compiled internally, based upon the municipalities that were on the list.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So those 1,000 came from these 100?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, generally speaking, I believe, yes. And these were civic leaders, by and large -- ambulance corps presidents, PTA presidents, soccer club points of contact -- which generally would be utilized mostly so that if there was an event going on, if there was a town hall meeting-- In order to ensure that the entire community was represented, we would go out and make sure that not only did the Mayor and the Council and everyone else know, but also that people knew who were involved in civic organizations that they could have an opportunity to come and ask their Governor a question.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So these lists were used as invitations for the Governor's town hall meetings?

MR. MOWERS: They frequently were part of that, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: They frequently what?

MR. MOWERS: Frequently, if there was a town hall meeting in a town with some of these civic leaders, we would invite them, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So were you regularly reaching out to people who were on this list of 1,000 -- might be soccer leagues, or other kinds of nongovernmental groups?

MR. MOWERS: We would. I mean, generally speaking, on the whole, yes. I would spend a decent amount of time or a good amount of time communicating with these civic leaders. I didn't speak to any specific civic leader for an extended period of time or anything. I mean, there were so many of them.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So you would reach out and do what? What would you-- "Hello, I'm Matt Mowers from IGA and--"

MR. MOWERS: Yes. And just introduce myself, get them involved in State government, very often. And, like I said, if the Governor was having a town hall meeting or another event there, we would make sure to invite them so they could invite other members of their civic organizations.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Was it always the same list or did it change from time-to-time? Names go off, names come on.

MR. MOWERS: I think it changed relatively frequently. And I don't think it was ever a full list because it was in constant development -- changing.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And was the list of 1,000 -- was that given to you by someone else? Or was that something you compiled from the list of 100?

MR. MOWERS: I think it was-- There may have been some names that were on the list because, remember, I started after Intergovernmental Affairs -- or after the Governor had been in the Administration for approximately 11 months at that point. So I believe there were some names that were on that list when it was given to me, and then others that I added.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, again, according to the documents you gave us, a biweekly e-mail was sent to the top 1,000; a biweekly e-mail was sent to the 100 mayors. Is that correct in your--

MR. MOWERS: Frankly, Senator, I don't think those e-mails actually were ever sent. It was a concept at one point that was included, obviously, in a weekly report. But I don't believe that we actually ended up sending out any routine, biweekly e-mail, no.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, with all due respect, it doesn't say biweekly e-mail should be sent. It says, "biweekly e-mails sent to 1,000; biweekly e-mails sent to 100 mayors."

MR. MOWERS: And Senator, I actually referenced "no" next to both of those because they were not sent.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: I believe that was probably every week.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You're right, my mistake.

MR. MOWERS: Okay, that works.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So that was not something that was done.

MR. MOWERS: That would be correct. I would say, to the best of my recollection, I don't think any -- there was ever one. But there may have been one, and then it never continued.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. I'm going to be finished in a few moments.

Okay, you and Mayor Sokolich obviously -- based on the documents I've read -- had a kind of amicable relationship. In fact, you said you liked him.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So when you were leaving IGA, who took over your position?

MR. MOWERS: Evan Ridley was already working in IGA, but also then--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Took over your responsibilities.

MR. MOWERS: Correct, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And did you leave him with any instructions about this list of 100, 1,000, or Mayor Sokolich in particular?

MR. MOWERS: If I recall-- I mean, there was only-- I only knew for about a week that I was actually -- a week prior to moving to the campaign that I was actually -- received an opportunity to work on the campaign. So it was a short transition period. But I think we made phone calls to just about every single mayor that we had a phone number for. I believe Mayor Sokolich was one of them. And I turned over these lists. I don't recall if I ever actually gave any detail on what they were or anything like that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You don't recall what instructions you gave to Mr. Ridley about these folks?

MR. MOWERS: Well, he was already working in Intergovernmental Affairs, so he had been working with these lists. And I don't know who gave him that information when he first started working. So I didn't have--

SENATOR WEINBERG: So Mr. Ridley would automatically know what a list of 100 mayors, or 1,000 contacts meant?

MR. MOWERS: I don't want to speak for Evan -- Mr. Ridley -- but since I believe he was working with the list, I would imagine he knew. But I don't want to speak for him.

SENATOR WEINBERG: But really my question is, did you have to explain to him what these lists meant and what his responsibility was?

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe I ever did, to the best of my recollection.

SENATOR WEINBERG: All right, I have one last question and then I will turn it over to my Co-Chair.

You have these lists -- *politically intriguing, endorsements* -- key words that kind of pop up out of some of these documents. Actually, I have a couple of last questions. You don't know who actually gave you these lists, and did they give you any instructions?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall who it was at the time. It would have been when I first started at the end of 2010.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And were you-- Were they periodically updated?

MR. MOWERS: Which lists? I'm sorry.

SENATOR WEINBERG: The list of 100, and the list of 1,000.

MR. MOWERS: Well, if mayors changed, if elected officials changed you would change the list, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So if a mayor changed would they still stay on the list?

MR. MOWERS: No, they would not.

SENATOR WEINBERG: What?

MR. MOWERS: They would not, no.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So if there was a new mayor they wouldn't automatically--

MR. MOWERS: And given that so many municipalities have a committee form of government where they select a mayor annually at their

meeting -- or among the council -- every January we were quickly updating the list to make sure we had accurate information, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And would that new mayor automatically go on the list on 100?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Did you-- I'm switching gears a little bit here. Did you read your interview notes from the Mastro report?

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, your honor, I think the Mastro report and the interview notes are two different things.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry?

MR. CARPENITO: I'm sorry, the Mastro report and the interview memo I think are just two different things. I want to be clear.

SENATOR WEINBERG: The interview memo.

MR. CARPENITO: Thank you.

MR. MOWERS: I did, Senator, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. I'm going to ask you a couple of questions about that, because I'm a little bit intrigued.

Did you find them pretty accurate or accurate?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, by and large, substantively it was accurate. I think there was one title that was off: It says *Assemblywoman* Candice Osborne; she's actually a Councilwoman. Frankly, that could have been me when I was speaking and I spoke out of turn. But generally speaking, it was very accurate.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So there are many comments from you about the "management style of Bridget Kelly," and also about Ms. Kelly's -- about the rumors of Ms. Kelly's relationships. The

characterization is that you gave this information. Was that a correct characterization, or were you answering questions put to you?

MR. CARPENITO: I'm sorry, Co-Chair. Can you refer to what comments you're talking about? It was a Q-and-A format interview, but without asking him about specific comments, you really can't ask if they're accurate.

SENATOR WEINBERG: There are many comments. If Mr. Mowers reviewed that background memo that was supplied based upon his interview, there are many comments throughout that interview about rumors of a relationship that Ms. Kelly might or might not have had and about Ms. Kelly's management style. It's Tab 94, Pages 2 through 4.

I would like to know whether you just came into this interview and offered that information, or were you specifically asked about her.

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator. Mind if I have a moment just to re-review it?

SENATOR WEINBERG: What?

MR. MOWERS: I'm just going to take a moment to re-review it, if that's okay.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Sure.

MR. MOWERS: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You know, the interview is filled with comments about Ms. Kelly's managerial style and about her relationships. In fact, there's even a bolded headline on Page 3.

MR. CARPENITO: I think the issue, respectfully, Co-Chair, is this was a several-hour interview and there was a lot discussed -- just like we did with your counsel. And to ask Mr. Mowers as he sits here months later

whether a specific notation -- that he did not write -- in a memo that was written by someone else observing his interview, was something that he offered or in response to a specific question, is going to be a difficult question, I believe, for Mr. Mowers to answer. I've told him to look through, read line-by-line, and if you (*sic*) remember if a comment was in response to a question from Gibson Dunn or something that you volunteered, he can answer it. But what I would say overall to set the table, Co-Chair Weinberg, is it was a Q-and-A format; he was interviewed by counsel just as he was interviewed by your lawyers. There were times where we offered statements, and there were times where we responded to questions.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So you have nothing to add to that, Mr. Mowers?

MR. MOWERS: I don't.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Thank you very much.

I will turn it over to my Co-Chair.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Senator Weinberg. Thank you, Mr. Mowers, counsel.

I wanted to go back to Tab 35 just so that I am clear in your testimony. Let's see if it's back up on the screen yet.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Which Tab?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Tab 35. This is an e-mail you sent, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you sent it to Pete Sheridan?

MR. MOWERS: I did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: On July 6, 2012, what was Pete Sheridan's role, if you know?

MR. MOWERS: I don't specifically recall. I mean, it is-- I don't specifically recall. I would imagine if I was e-mailing to Pete at this point, he was probably the Director of Regional Intergovernmental Affairs.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And at that point in time you were in your role working in the IGA office?

MR. MOWERS: At this point, in the context of this timeframe, yes, I was working in Intergovernmental Affairs.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And it's sent at 11:24 a.m.?

MR. MOWERS: It is.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And on Page 3 of that e-mail you discussed rounding up additional Democratic endorsements for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I don't actually-- Respectfully, I was reporting a conversation, I believe, from Councilwoman Tana Raymond who had mentioned that to me.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You say you were discussing -- in this e-mail -- political endorsements.

MR. MOWERS: I mean, the-- I don't know how I would characterize discussing; I was reporting a conversation I had.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You were reporting on political endorsements.

MR. MOWERS: No, I was -- candidly, Assemblyman -- I was reporting on something that Councilwoman Raymond had mentioned to me, just as I mentioned if she had any other issue that she brought up.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And this was sent from your Gmail account.

MR. MOWERS: It was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Can you explain to me why you chose to send this e-mail recounting -- if I understand your testimony correctly -- about your activities in the IGA office using your personal e-mail account?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I can't specifically recall why I was on this e-mail. On personal -- I know that often it's just the function of technology. You know, as Regional Directors you're often on the road for meetings and you don't always have access to the portal -- the online web mail portal. For anyone here who has tried to use it, it's not always the most user-friendly or usable at any time. So sometimes I'd be required by nature of trying to send an e-mail to utilize my personal laptop. And something of this substance and with a format -- it wasn't really possible to do on a BlackBerry, so I'd have to do it on my actual computer.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: There was testimony previously given to the Committee three weeks ago about a discussion within the office -- the IGA office about the use of personal e-mails. Were you ever part of a conversation, as part of your official duties in IGA, where there was a discussion about using your personal e-mail accounts as opposed to using your State-issued e-mail account?

MR. MOWERS: No conversation I recall, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. You said there were technological issues. Can you explain exactly what those technological issues were that prevented you from using your State-issued e-mail account when making these kinds of communications?

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Senator, that mischaracterizes what-- Sorry, Senator. Assemblyman -- sorry about that.

That mischaracterizes what he said. He said prevented him from writing e-mails while he was on the road, not "these kinds of e-mails." So I think the emphasis is where he was, not what he was writing about, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Regardless of where he was or what he was writing, what I'm trying to understand is specifically what the technology issue was that prevented him from using his State-issued e-mail account.

MR. MOWERS: Well, especially for long form e-mails, Assemblyman, if you had to log into the web portal, as utilized -- because if you're working from the office you have computers set up with Outlook, and it's very user-friendly and it's easy to use. If you're on the road and you're using a laptop -- and frequently it's because you pulled off to the side of the road or stopped in a coffee shop to write something up -- the web portal wouldn't always load for you to actually access the government e-mail. And sometimes it just wouldn't actually format the e-mail the right way, and there was a whole host of issues. So just in the interest of time, convenience, and usability, and feasibility, oftentimes you would have to use your personal e-mail account to send e-mails.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You didn't have a State-issued handheld phone, or BlackBerry?

MR. MOWERS: I did. Like I briefly referenced before--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You did or did not?

MR. MOWERS: I did, yes. But sending something long form where there's -- and this is particular for this e-mail -- there's a format to it. It's not something-- You can't just-- It's kind of difficult to scroll down and type in something. It's a long-form e-mail which is very difficult to actually utilize or type out on a BlackBerry.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And did you ever report to anyone your difficulty in utilizing the State *portal* -- I think is the phrase you used?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that's the phrase that the Office of Information Technology would use. We, at times, would mention the fact that it didn't work. I believe those complaints were passed along, but I have no knowledge of that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you had remote access to your State e-mail account, correct?

MR. MOWERS: At most of my tenure in IGA, I did. But for at least part of my tenure-- I don't recall. There was definitely a lag time before actually getting access to that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you decided, at least in the case of this July 6 e-mail, to use your personal e-mail account because of technology difficulties in accessing the State-issued e-mail account?

MR. MOWERS: Well, again, Assemblyman, I can't speak to the specific e-mail because, outside of reading it today, producing it previously, I don't recall this e-mail.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You don't recall this e-mail at all?

MR. MOWERS: I do now, in hindsight. But it's not something that-- If you had asked me, prior to production of this Committee, if I remembered an e-mail I sent to Pete Sheridan on July 6, I would not have recalled this e-mail, no. So I can't speak to this e-mail, but I do know that often, if I did utilize my personal e-mail account, it was because I was on the road and it was just -- you needed to in order to send the e-mail.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And it had nothing to do with the fact that you were discussing political endorsements?

MR. MOWERS: Assemblyman, again, I can't speak to this e-mail and why it was sent on the server it was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

Let's go forward to August 2013. We just discussed the Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher interview memorandum. And it is in that memorandum -- that is their words, recounting what you said to them -- there's a discussion that around 7:00 p.m. on August 12 you received a call from Bridget Kelly. Do you recall that in the memo?

MR. MOWERS: I do recall the reference-- If you don't mind, Assemblyman, what Tab is that again? I'd just like to--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Tab 94 I believe is the Gibson Dunn memo -- approximately Pages 8 and 9.

MR. MOWERS: Sir, what is your question? What is the question you asked, Assemblyman?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So that memo accurately reflects the information you provided at that meeting with Gibson Dunn -- that you recalled late on August 12 getting a call from Bridget Kelly, approximately 7:00 p.m.?

MR. MOWERS: I do recall that, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So you recall the call, or you recall giving the testimony?

MR. MOWERS: I recall both.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And can you recount for me what your recollection is of that phone call?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, I was sitting at a coffee shop at the time, and Bridget called me and asked about -- you know, there was banter back and forth about kids and family. She made a joke that Pete Sheridan and I were in Jersey City, and "Jeez, you guys, I must be with the kids. I never get to do all the fun things anymore," although we were still working in Jersey City. And she just called to check in and said, if I recall correctly -- and some of this is going to be paraphrasing from recollection -- she said, "Is Mayor Sokolich endorsing?" And I said, "No, he's not." "He's definitely not endorsing, right? Not going to happen?" And I said, "No, not going to happen. From everything I know, the door's shut; like, not going to happen." She said, "Okay. That's all I need to know." It was a very brief conversation.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So she asked you the question whether he had endorsed, or whether he would be endorsing?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall, specifically, how she worded it. I think there was-- She might have even worded it, "He's definitely not endorsing, right?"

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So she was asking for your confirmation of the statement that she made, essentially?

MR. MOWERS: I believe yes, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you ask her why she was asking?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why not?

MR. MOWERS: It didn't seem like anything out of the ordinary. It didn't seem like it warranted further discussion.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: At that point in time, August 12, 2013, you no longer were working for IGA, correct?

MR. MOWERS: That is correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Where were you working?

MR. MOWERS: I was working on the Christie for Governor reelection campaign.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You didn't think it was odd that somebody from IGA was calling you asking whether or not Mayor Sokolich was going to make an endorsement?

MR. MOWERS: It didn't seem off for Bridget to be calling and asking, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why would you -- and I'm just trying to understand why you would say that. "It didn't seem odd for Bridget to be asking." Why?

MR. MOWERS: She would occasionally check in on conversations of elected officials -- most often, to my knowledge, because a lot of-- There's a lot of staff speaking to the same people, and, "Just so you know, the Mayor may have this issue that's coming up; the Mayor may have that issue that's coming up." Just something he may tell you. And it was also to exchange information. Even though I left government, I still had elected officials reaching out to me on governmental topics which, clearly, I had no ability to help them with anymore. And occasionally elected officials would reach out to Office of the Governor staff and they would say, "this isn't my place for the conversation;" and so it would just be information sharing for that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: On August 12 -- when we started this conversation, you said that you were working in Jersey City, correct?

MR. MOWERS: It was a work meeting I was going to attend for the campaign.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You were going to attend, or were in?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, it was that coffee shop about -- not far from City Hall there. Pete Sheridan and I were there waiting for Councilwoman Candice Osborne to join us for the meeting. It was before she got there, though.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And that meeting was part of your responsibilities or duties as part of the Chris Christie for Governor campaign?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I would have been there on behalf of the campaign. Mayor Fulop's political team recommended that we sit down with Councilwoman Osborne -- because they had mentioned that a number of members of Council may be interested in endorsing the Governor's reelection campaign, and they mentioned her specifically. So after Mayor Fulop's political team had mentioned that, we scheduled a meeting and sat down with the Councilwoman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And before you scheduled that meeting, you and Mr. Sheridan are employees of the campaign. You're not the campaign manager, correct?

MR. MOWERS: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So it would be fair to say that-- Would it be correct to say that before you would schedule a meeting like that you would need to check in with somebody and say, "Should I do this, or shouldn't I do this?"

MR. MOWERS: I think it would vary on who the meeting was with.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So for this particular meeting, did you check in with anybody?

MR. MOWERS: For the meeting with Councilwoman Osborne, I think it stemmed-- To the best of my recollection, it stemmed because Bill Stepien had met with Tom Bartoli, who is one of Mayor Fulop's political advisors, I guess you could say. And Tom Bartoli had mentioned, on behalf of the Mayor, that Councilwoman Candice Osborne may be interested in endorsing. Bill had relayed that information to myself

and Pete Sheridan, and Pete and I went to go meet with Councilwoman Osborne.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So when you refer to *Bill*, you're talking about Bill Stepien?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, Bill Stepien.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So Bill Stepien said to you -- he talked to you about this conversation, relayed it to you, and subsequent to that you had this meeting with the Councilwoman?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, that's how it went, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: As part of your duties in the-- Well, describe for me your duties in the Chris Christie for Governor campaign.

MR. MOWERS: I would work with our field team. We would have a number of field offices throughout the state -- field directors running phone banks, door-to-door operations. I would reach out to a lot of the party infrastructure, county chairmen, municipal chairmen -- more often, Republican-elected officials, unless it was a Democrat-elected official who had endorsed or was interested in helping the reelection campaign -- and just get them tied into the field operation. And then I would also staff events -- political events that the Governor would go to.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Any part of your responsibilities securing endorsements for the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: I would say it was a responsibility-- I don't know if I would say it was a specific responsibility given to me or a responsibility I took on. But it was something I was part of, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, the reason I ask the question is, Bridget Kelly called you at 7:00 p.m. to ask about a particular endorsement. So I'm wondering if you were securing endorsements as part of your responsibilities in the campaign; that's why she called you.

MR. MOWERS: I can't speak to why she called me. I don't know.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did Bridget Kelly often call you late in the evening, 7:00 p.m.?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, she would often because that would be either when she was driving home from the office -- and she had a lengthy commute from Trenton to Ramsey.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Prior to the August 12 phone call from Bridget Kelly, when did you speak to her before then?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall specifically, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Can you quantify, on a weekly basis, prior to August 12, how frequently you spoke to her?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know if there was a consistent level of conversation. But it wouldn't be uncommon to speak to her at least a couple of times a week.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And the issues that she would speak to you -- a couple of times a week -- can you describe what they were?

MR. MOWERS: Sometimes they would just be check-ins, sometimes they would be, like I said, information sharing. "Hey, just so you know, this mayor has--" "If you talk to him next week, and he starts asking about DEP issues, just let him know, one, talk to his

Intergovernmental Affairs representative, and two, they're working on it. They just don't have an answer yet"-- things like that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You use the phrase *checking in*, and I'm not sure I know what you mean by that. So could you describe for me what you mean when you describe her calling you as *checking in*? Can you describe or tell me what you mean by that?

MR. MOWERS: Just, you know, I would describe it as calling to see how things were going -- to see what's going on.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: A social call?

MR. MOWERS: Sometimes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you have a social relationship with Bridget Kelly?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I had known-- At that point, not really, no. I had known Bridget, though, since -- I want to say we met in 2007; we had worked together in some capacity before even there was Governor Chris Christie. And so we had obviously worked together in the same office for a number of years in the Administration as well. So it was not uncommon-- At this point, I don't think we really had a social relationship, but we were social.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Was she calling you with information for the benefit of the campaign for which you worked?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Assemblyman, can you rephrase that?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, she was calling you-- You had made a statement that if, "You're talking to Mayor So-and-So about a DEP issue, have him call the IGA representative."

MR. MOWERS: I believe that was sometimes the substance of the call, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why would she be calling a representative of the campaign to have a mayor call the IGA office?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I think because there are a number of elected officials who would publicly say things about the Governor in a political context. It was no secret to me, nor her, who was speaking about the Governor, and they knew who we were working with as a result of that. So she would know I was working with certain elected officials on the campaign end, so it could be just information that would be good to have.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How would she know what elected officials you were working with on the campaign, since she was in the Governor's Office?

MR. MOWERS: Well, you know, press accounts reported when endorsements -- whether they be Republican, Democrat, organizational -- would come out.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you're saying that the way the IGA office knew who you were working with on the campaign is that they would have to read the newspaper?

MR. MOWERS: No, Assemblyman. What I'm saying is that that's part of how they would find out.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How else would they find out?

MR. MOWERS: We also-- I mean, there were conversations that we would have, just about people who we were going-- The same way she would call to check in on any mayor, "Are you working with him?"

How's it going?" I would also give information about how it was going, "Hey, we're working with this mayor," or "this mayor is doing this."

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When you say -- and you're talking from your perspective as a representative, or employee of the campaign -- what do you mean by *working with this mayor*? I'm not sure I understand that term.

MR. MOWERS: Sure. Well, there are a number of mayors, mostly -- often from Democratic municipalities, Democratic mayors, some Republican -- many Republican mayors as well, of course -- who would be working to get volunteers out knocking on doors, or working with us on securing additional political support in municipalities and things like that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you routinely communicate with the IGA office -- through either Bridget Kelly or anyone else -- about what the campaign was doing?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know how specific it ever was. I mean, generally, we would have general conversations about who I was working with that week, or who I had met with that week. Because, obviously, it's contextual to also the fact that they're having conversations with a number of these same elected officials at different points on very different topics.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why would you say *on very different topics*? How would you know that they were discussing very different topics?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I just know from my time in IGA I would mainly talk -- primarily anything I would speak about would have a governmental focus and not a political focus.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I mean, respectfully, you said that, in a sense, you knew that they were about different things. But would you characterize it, essentially, as an assumption on your part, because you weren't part of those conversations?

MR. MOWERS: I would have been-- Just going from experience of speaking to elected officials on the campaign side, you'd have some mayors who would say, "I spoke to," in this case, it was frequently Mr. Ridley, "I spoke to Mr. Ridley about this issue we're having with DOT. Just so you know, this is what's going on," because they want to loop me in too for whatever reason. So those are the experiences I'm drawing -- inferences. I can't speak to whether they always had those conversations. I wouldn't want to speak to their conversations because I don't know.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What I don't understand -- and I'm not sure you've answered the question, or at least in a way that I understand it -- is what would be the purpose of the representative from the campaign sharing who they were -- using your words -- *working with*, with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs?

MR. MOWERS: Because many of the same people who you would be speaking with are being spoken to with-- Many of the same elected officials I would be speaking with, just because they are also elected officials, I would presume they are also speaking with representatives of Intergovernmental Affairs. So I would want to make sure that they knew that I've spoken to this mayor this week. He may say--

I'm sorry, Assemblyman. If you can rephrase your question--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I'm just trying to understand why would you presume-- I mean, that's what I'm trying to

understand, because the question started out, "How would you know?" or "How would they know?" And you said, they would read press clips. And you're using the word *presume*, and I assume as to why there's a relevance in the Intergovernmental Affairs Office conferring with the Chris Christie for Governor campaign and vice versa.

MR. MOWERS: Assemblyman, I would say a couple of things. One, you know, you have a number of scheduling things -- issues -- going on. The Governor is going to be in a town next week. It's obviously relevant for both sides to know, since both, in some capacity, work for the Governor. The other aspect is that many of these individuals are volunteering on the campaign, so if they were there after hours, we would talk about, "Hey, I had a conversation with this mayor," or, "Hey, this is what's-- I'm working with so-and-so on this." You know, it's a very casual relationship in a voluntary capacity for them.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The individuals who you were working on, were they individuals on that T-100 list that Senator Weinberg had asked about earlier?

MR. MOWERS: Excuse me, Assemblyman, the use of the term of *working on*?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You had used the term *working on*. In your testimony you said, "These are people we were working on."

MR. MOWERS: If I did, I was mistaken. I should have said *working with*, not working on.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So using your phrase now -- working with -- are you working with the individuals who are on the T-100 list?

MR. MOWERS: On a reelection campaign I'm working with anyone who is willing to be part of the reelection campaign and wants to see the same goal -- which is to reelect the Governor.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And so-- But my question to you is, you can answer yes or no, are you working with the people who are the T-100 list?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know-- By people are you referring to elected officials-- I'm sorry, Assemblyman--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: There's a list of-

MR. MOWERS: --I just want to make sure--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: There's a list of 100 people.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Mayors.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: One hundred mayors. It's been referenced throughout the morning as being the T-100 list. We could go through question-by-question and recreate exactly what's meant by T-100, but there has been ample questioning about it. So I'm just assuming that you currently understand what is meant by that list.

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Co-Chair Wisniewski, the T-100 list -- those are towns, not individuals, and I think that's where the complexity comes from trying to answer that question.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The mayors or leading elected officials of that T-100 list -- are those the people who you are working with?

MR. MOWERS: If mayors who also happen to be on that list supported the Governor's reelection campaign, I would work with them -- in addition to numerous elected officials who are not on that list, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How was that list created?

MR. MOWERS: Which list?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The T-100 list.

MR. MOWERS: As I said earlier, I really don't know how it was created, or the genesis of it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That's a list you were aware of in your capacity prior to working for the Chris Christie for Governor campaign -- working in IGA?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And so while you were in IGA, you were aware of this T-100 list?

MR. MOWERS: I was aware of its existence; I wasn't aware of its creation.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You were aware of the T-100 list, and you were aware of the T-100 list when you worked for Chris Christie for Governor?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I was aware of it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever ask any questions about how it was created?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Do you know who informed you of who or what towns were on this T-100 list?

MR. MOWERS: Like I mentioned to Senator Weinberg, I don't recall the first time. It would have been when I started in Intergovernmental Affairs; some point at the end of 2010. I don't recall specifically who, though.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: In the Christina Renna interview memo, she mentions that the list, I believe, in part was influenced by Bill Stepien. Does that sound familiar to you?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry -- just for clarification. You are asking if I'm familiar with Christina's memo?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, I'm not asking you-- Had you ever heard that Bill Stepien had a part in creating the T-100 list?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if I ever did, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever have any conversations with her about that list?

MR. MOWERS: I may have had a conversation in the context of using the list to contact elected officials, the way I referenced earlier.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever ask him how the list was created?

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe I ever did, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

I know Assemblywoman Schepisi has a personal obligation to leave for, so I'm going to yield some of my time right now to her to allow her to ask some questions, through the Co-Chair. And I'm going to resume when we come back.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Thank you; it's greatly appreciated.

All right, Matt. Focusing for the moment on Bergen County, did you do outreach when you were at IGA to mayors -- regardless of political affiliation -- who aren't on the T-100 list?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. While you were at IGA, did the Governor attend events, do outreach to communities that were not on the T-100 list?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay.

Bringing your attention to Tab 64, "Approval Targets" -- this is an e-mail from Pete Sheridan to yourself and a couple of other people on Thursday, January 24, 2013. Focusing on Bergen County for the moment, I believe there are one, two, three, four, five mayors from Bergen County on this list. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: Four mayors, I believe, and one deputy.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And while you were in the campaign -- Chris Christie for Governor -- did you focus on additional mayors as well in Bergen County other than the people on this list?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Now, with respect to the mayors who you sought endorsements for, can you recall which mayors you reached out to who were Democrats in Bergen to endorse?

MR. MOWERS: I would have difficulty recalling them all, but there was a number.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Five, ten, fifteen--?

MR. MOWERS: I'd say anywhere from -- I think anywhere from 7 to 10 is probably about right.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. How many Democratic mayors from Bergen County ultimately did endorse the Mayor (*sic*)?

MR. MOWERS: I believe it was two.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Can you recall which ones?

MR. MOWERS: I know Mayor Blundo from River Vale endorsed; the Mayor of River Edge endorsed. And then there were a few members of council who endorsed, as well, throughout the County.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Now, when you were asking these mayors to endorse, did you ever promise them anything for their endorsement?

MR. MOWERS: No, no.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And there were many Democratic mayors you asked to endorse who did not, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, many.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. During this period of time, were there any mayors who expressed a potential willingness or interest to endorse, but ultimately did not?

MR. MOWERS: Can you just clarify which timeframe you're referring to, Assemblywoman?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Once you started working for the reelection campaign.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, there were.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Can we walk through who those mayors were?

MR. MOWERS: I don't want to-- I believe there were conversations at one point with the Mayor of Oakland, Linda Schwager. There was a conversation with the Mayor of Westwood, Mayor Birkner. There was -- I'm trying to recall -- a few others as well. I don't recall too many more beyond that in Bergen County.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Let's start with Mayor Sokolich, Tab 69. This is a meeting summary recap that you sent to Pete Sheridan on February 7, regarding a lunch that you had with Mayor Sokolich on February 5, correct?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Is this a summary of your lunch with the Mayor?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, it is.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Now, in this summary you indicate that Mayor Sokolich raised the topic of endorsement with you. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, he did.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: According to this recap, was the Mayor open to endorsing the Governor at that time?

MR. MOWERS: He had expressed that he was, yes. But both he and -- let me add to that -- additional Democratic members of the Fort Lee Council, he felt were also interested in endorsing.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Did he have any concerns at that time regarding potential endorsements?

MR. MOWERS: He had referenced the fact that he is good friends with Bergen County Chairman Lou Stellato, and was fearful that there would be some form, I guess, of retribution from the Democratic Party to him if he stepped out and endorsed a Republican Governor.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Turning your attention to Tab 75, you had had drinks with Mayor Sokolich on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I did. It may have been *a* drink.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And you sent to Pete Sheridan, shortly after having drinks, that the Mayor was not going to endorse. And this was on March 26, 2013, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that's correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Turning to Tab 94, Page 3b, of the Gibson Dunn report--

MR. MOWERS: I apologize, Assemblywoman, was that Page--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I'm sorry, it's Tab 94, Page -- it's Section 3B, it's Page 7. And in this report you were questioned regarding your meeting with Mayor Sokolich on March 26 and what had transpired during that meeting. Did he indicate that evening, for dinner, whether or not he would endorse the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: He did indicate that, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And what did he say?

MR. MOWERS: You're referring to the March meeting?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: The March 26 meeting. I don't know if you need a couple of minutes to refresh.

MR. MOWERS: Well, he used -- in colorful language -- he explained the fact that he supports the Governor and would like to endorse him. But because of professional contracts, he says, with some other municipalities controlled by Democrats, and because of fear of political retribution from the Bergen County Democratic Chairman, that he did not feel he was able to endorse him; that while he would like to he did not have the fortitude to do so.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: So he specifically expressed a concern that he would be politically retaliated against by the Democrats if he endorsed?

MR. MOWERS: He did, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: That he would potentially lose contracts?

MR. MOWERS: That seemed to be his concern at the time, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And that his financial interests could be harmed?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Do you recall if there were any other Democratic mayors who you were seeking endorsements from during this period of time who expressed similar types of concerns to you?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, there were a number of Democratic elected officials who feared a political -- I think, as they-- At one point they said *consequences*; they used quotes -- "consequences" from endorsing a Republican, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Can you give me an example of another mayor?

MR. MOWERS: I believe the Mayor of Lyndhurst was concerned, who's a registered Democrat. I believe-- He's the one who sticks in my mind; I believe there were others as well.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Going back through to your list of approved targets -- Tab 64 -- at the beginning of the campaign, let's start from the first one, Mohammed Hameeduddin from Teaneck.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Did he ever express an interest in endorsing the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: He did, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Did he ultimately endorse the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: He did not.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Did he ever say why he was not endorsing the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: He was fearful of political consequences from members of the Legislature who are from his town.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Rich LaBarbieria of Paramus.

MR. MOWERS: He did not endorse.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Did he ever say why he was not going to endorse?

MR. MOWERS: I believe he casually mentioned to me at one point that he wanted to do everything possible to help the Governor's reelection -- up until a public endorsement.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Tony Barsalada (phonetic spelling).

MR. MOWERS: He did endorse, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: He did endorse?

MR. MOWERS: He's a Councilman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Bill Laforet.

MR. MOWERS: He's an unaffiliated Mayor; but yes, he endorsed.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Now, with respect to-- You had also mentioned the Mayor of Oakland. Did she ever express an interest in endorsing?

MR. MOWERS: She did, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Did she ultimately endorse?

MR. MOWERS: She did not.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Did she ever share with you why or why not?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if she ever did.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Now, how many towns are in Bergen?

MR. MOWERS: There are 70.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And out of those--

MR. MOWERS: Excuse me, 70 municipalities.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay, 70 municipalities. It's the largest county in the state, population-wise, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And from a party affiliation perspective, are there more Ds or Rs in Bergen County?

MR. MOWERS: There are more Democrats than Republicans.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And out of all the Democrat mayors in Bergen who you had reached out to for endorsements, ultimately there were, maybe -- what? -- two or three who endorsed, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I believe that's correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: However, to your knowledge, IGA continued to do outreach to Bergen County and towns within Bergen County, correct?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. I think those are the main questions I have for you.

I thank you for allowing me to go out of order.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

Just before I turn it back over to my Co-Chair, we are going to break for lunch.

I just want to go back to Tab 69 -- which you referred to, Assemblywoman -- from Matt Mowers to Pete Sheridan, about the Fort Lee Mayor Sokolich recap. January 7, 4:42 p.m. Is that a work e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: This would not be, no.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, it was done during work hours. Were you on vacation, or what?

MR. MOWERS: Are you referring to the e-mail being sent, Senator?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes, the e-mail.

MR. MOWERS: I believe the e-mail says it was sent at 4:42, but I'm sure I worked until 7:00, 8:00 p.m. -- as I normally did -- that day.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So then this would be a work e-mail?

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Chairwoman, he testified it's not a work e-mail.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, during the business day did you take a leave, like a coffee break, to go send another e-mail? I mean, it's done during working hours and it says very clearly the word, "endorsement" is used -- "endorsement call meeting summary sheet." So this is not a work e-mail, but you did it during working hours. So did you leave your office and go do this, or what?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, I don't recall where or when I was when I sent this e-mail. As I mentioned, it was likely I was probably starting work at 8:00 a.m. and working until 8:00 p.m. that day to make sure that all -- any and all government-related work was accomplished.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So I would assume then by your testimony this was done during the workday.

MR. MOWERS: Senator, I don't recall specifically sending this e-mail.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

We are going to take a lunch break. We will resume with Assemblyman Wisniewski at 1:20 p.m.

(recess)

(return from recess)

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you.

We're going to resume the questioning. Mr. Mowers, you are still under oath.

I wanted to go back to the point in time--

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Microphone, please.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I thought it was on.

We're going to go back to the point in time where I left off -- before Assemblywoman Schepisi started with her questions -- and that was the August 12 conversation. You received a phone call from Bridget Kelly at 7:00 in the evening.

My question to you is -- and I just wanted to make sure I understood -- is it correct that Bridget Kelly-- This was not the only call Bridget Kelly made to you in the evening, in general?

MR. MOWERS: Are you saying that evening?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, no, not that evening. I had asked you how frequently did Bridget Kelly call you at 7:00 p.m. It seemed to be a very unusual period of time; it's after the business day.

MR. MOWERS: Well, Assemblyman, with all due respect, it wouldn't be unusual because this was a conversation she had in the capacity, I believe, as a volunteer on the campaign. It's after work hours, and it's a political question. It's-- 7:00 p.m. would be the appropriate time to have that conversation.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: All right. Before when I had asked you that question you've added something new to the dialogue. You said that she made that call to you in her capacity of volunteering for the campaign?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I would envision as such. She called at 7:00 p.m. Many people volunteer on the Governor's campaign after hours no matter what their day job was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That wasn't my question, respectfully. My question was she called you at 7:00 p.m. How many other times did Bridget Kelly call you at 7:00 p.m.?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know a specific number, Assemblyman. I don't recall the number of times. But it would not be uncommon.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You had been out of the Intergovernmental Affairs Office for several months at that point in time, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that's correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: From the point you left to this phone call on August 12, do you have any estimate as to the number of times that Bridget Kelly would communicate with you by phone?

MR. MOWERS: I don't have an estimate, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When she did communicate with you, do you recall the topic or topics that she communicated to you about?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall anything specifically, no, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Do you recall this conversation?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Can you explain to me why you only recall this conversation and not the others?

MR. MOWERS: I apologize. Just to clarify: By this conversation, you're referring to the conversation--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: August 12.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, okay. I just wanted to clarify.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Can you explain to me why you recall this August 12 conversation and not the others?

MR. MOWERS: Well, as I'm sure with all of us with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, once those e-mails came out in January -- in addition to the immediate shock you feel when you read those and when you hear those -- it starts making you wrack your brain, you know, "Did you see anything? Did you hear anything? Was there anything?" And you go back--

So I started thinking, over the couple of days after seeing those e-mails that came out in January, and remembered hearing that. I remembered where I was, for whatever reason as well, and so I looked back through my calendar, because I remembered there was a meeting with

Candice Osborne I was waiting for, and saw that on my calendar in my computer was listed the date and the time of when I met with Candice Osborne. It was at that point when -- after the e-mail came out, and after seeing that I kind of put the two together.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And just so that I'm clear. In response to her inquiry to you -- and as I recall, your testimony was she made a statement to you, and you responded to that statement -- "You haven't heard from Mayor Sokolich?" or "Have you heard from Mayor Sokolich?"

MR. MOWERS: If you're referring to the August 12 phone call--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: This August 12 phone call--

MR. MOWERS: Yes, she and I--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We're only focused on August 12.

MR. MOWERS: I believe, again, it was, "So Mark Sokolich is not endorsing, right?" -- or something along those lines was the question she asked.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And you remember those specific words?

MR. MOWERS: It was -- in sum or substance, it was along those lines.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And you did not ask her why she was asking?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: She didn't ask you any other question?

MR. MOWERS: No, none that I recall.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And the call terminated at that point in time?

MR. MOWERS: I believe it did; it was right around that time. It might have been just a couple of pleasantries about kids and family again.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: After that phone call from Bridget Kelly to you on August 12, did you then pick up the phone or communicate in any way with somebody in the campaign to ask about the Mayor Sokolich endorsement?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why not?

MR. MOWERS: Because there was nothing to relay. It was a question about whether he was going to endorse, and from every conversation I ever had with him, he was not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you have any conversation with Mayor Sokolich on or after that day on August 12?

MR. MOWERS: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

So then going forward, on September 9, we all know now -- and I'm sure you do, in retrospect -- that there was lane closures on the George Washington Bridge, which were in Fort Lee. When that happened did you make any effort to call Bridget Kelly?

MR. MOWERS: I didn't know at the time that those were ongoing.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When did you first learn that the lanes were being closed?

MR. MOWERS: I think-- To be frank, I think I learned the lanes *were* closed. It was never a *were being*. I think I might have heard about it the end of September or so, give or take -- around the time that news articles started getting written about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The end of September 2013?

MR. MOWERS: Give or take, around that timeframe I heard about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: Through press reports.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Sure.

Your responsibilities within the Chris Christie for Governor campaign: could you describe them for me?

MR. MOWERS: As I described earlier, I worked with a number of volunteers in different counties, communicated with county chairmen, communicated with local Republican chairmen, communicated with local Republican elected officials and Democrat elected officials who were supporting the Governor's reelection campaign.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Was that a statewide responsibility?

MR. MOWERS: No, I worked in a regional capacity.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Can you describe the region that you worked in?

MR. MOWERS: I worked with Sussex County, Hunterdon County, Morris County, Passaic County, Bergen County, Hudson County, and Essex County. I'm not sure -- did I say Hunterdon? I left--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You did. You went from the Delaware east.

MR. MOWERS: That's right. I believe it was about eight counties.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And you worked with elected officials in those eight counties on behalf of the Chris Christie for Governor campaign.

MR. MOWERS: I worked with elected officials, volunteers, activists, anyone -- frankly, anyone who wanted to help the Governor get reelected.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Among other people, you worked with elected officials.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. During this period of time -- September 9 to 11 -- is it your testimony that no elected official reached out to you and said, "What's going on with these lanes? What's going on in Fort Lee?"

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my knowledge, no. I never got a call about that, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did the campaign get a call about these lane closures?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, nothing that I ever heard of, no.

MR. CARPENITO: Co-Chairman, I don't know. For some reason our mikes are not working.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Hold on one second. Let's try this.

MR. CARPENITO: Thanks.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Now try it.

SENATOR WEINBERG: No, yours is still on. Turn it off.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Is there enough slack in Matt's?

SENATOR WEINBERG: How about the other one, down at the end?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Matt's is working.

MR. CARPENITO: Now it is.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: This is not a deliberate attempt to silence counsel. (laughter)

Why don't you guys just slide a seat to the right or to the left, depending on your perspective.

MR. CARPENITO: Got it. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, we were talking about the lane closures, September 9 through 13. On September 9, I want to point to you Tab 82. On September 9, Monday, 1:58 p.m. -- are you looking at this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I am.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Are you familiar with this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I am.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: This was an e-mail sent to you from Bridget Kelly?

MR. MOWERS: It is.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And then you responded.

MR. MOWERS: I did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: On this day, Bridget Kelly communicated to you and asked you, "Have you heard from Sokolich in a while?" Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: That is correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you responded to her, "I haven't."

MR. MOWERS: That's also correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you have any follow-up telephone conversations with her about this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I do not believe so, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you send any text messages or e-mails from another source about this communication?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you, subsequent to this date, ask her a question about why she was asking you this question?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever inquire from anybody why she was asking this question?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you talk to anybody on the campaign about why Bridget Kelly was asking about Mayor Sokolich on September 9?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And on that date, your testimony is that you were not aware of the George Washington Bridge lane closures?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And your testimony is that you weren't aware of them until late September?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that's correct, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And your testimony is that you became aware of them only through press clippings?

MR. MOWERS: I believe the night before the article was written, reporters had called in.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Which article are you referring to?

MR. MOWERS: I don't specifically recall, Assemblyman. It was one of the ones, I believe, run by the *Wall Street Journal*. And I just knew that there was the potential that they were going to write it the next day. That's around the time I first learned this.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: In your capacity working for Chris Christie for Governor, was one of your responsibilities to be familiar with what was published in the *Bergen Record*?

MR. MOWERS: It was not a specific responsibility, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: As a political operative, did you look at the *Bergen Record* because it was a relevant paper for the area you were charged with?

MR. MOWERS: Occasionally I would, or if there was a political topic that was necessary to look at I would. But it wasn't out of habit that I would, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you get press clippings as part of the campaign?

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe I did, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I wanted to just-- One of the issues that I had asked about before, when we started the questioning, was how you would understand about which mayors or individuals were relevant to contact. And I think your answer was, "Well, we'd see press clippings."

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe that's what I said. I said there were press clippings that were available about -- when we would have endorsements--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, I asked you how you would know, and you said there were press clippings. My assumption is, is that's-- Your testimony was, is that you were responding to that question. You're saying that's not your testimony?

MR. MOWERS: Respectfully, Assemblyman, I think I said that they would seek press clippings. I never said I did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So let's go back to that line of questioning, then.

I was asking you at that time about the-- I think we had gotten into a back-and-forth about who you were working with or working on. There were elected officials you were working with. Do you recall that discussion between you and I?

MR. MOWERS: I recall, Assemblyman. We were having a discussion, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And I had asked how you got your direction about which mayors and other individuals who you should be working with and working on.

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if you did ask that, Assemblyman. I'm sorry.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How did you get your direction on which elected officials or individuals to work with or work on?

MR. MOWERS: Are you referring to my time in the campaign, Assemblyman?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes.

MR. MOWERS: It would depend if-- I would usually decide on who I would work with based upon information and experiences.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: There would be nobody above you, giving you direction?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, if there was-- I think you and I did speak about one elected official in particular, which was Councilwoman Candice Osborne, who upon a recommendation from Mayor Fulop's political team we reached out to. It wasn't typically something that I was specifically told, "Go speak to these elected officials."

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But what I'm trying to understand is-- you worked for the campaign, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You were not the campaign manager, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I was not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You did not have your own-- Strike that. Who did you report to in the campaign?

MR. MOWERS: I reported to Tom Dickens.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And what was his title?

MR. MOWERS: He's the Political Director.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And did you take your direction on what activities you should undertake or not undertake from him?

MR. MOWERS: It would depend on what the-- I mean, there were overall campaign goals such as number of doors knocked on, number of phone calls made, and things like that. But at the same point, I would often be able to choose who I would call. It was a two-way street as far as management style, and there was feedback from us on, "Hey, I think I'm going to go set out and met with these folks because I think this is beneficial," or "Do this -- I think that's beneficial," and the answer was usually, "Sure, go ahead." So it was a two-way information street.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you made your own decisions in the campaign?

MR. MOWERS: As far as day-to-day meetings, I would usually have input, or-- I didn't necessarily need to get them preestablished or preapproved from the campaign, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Going back to your time in IGA, how would you decide which elected officials, mayors, other individuals who we previously discussed -- how would you decide which individuals you should be working with, or working on?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I would never use the terminology *working on*.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We went through that.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, just wanted to reclarify.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You had used *on* at one point, and you used *with* at another. Whatever phrase you're comfortable with is fine. I just want to make sure that we're talking about the same thing.

MR. CARPENITO: Well, respectfully, Assemblyman Wisniewski, he did not use the phrase *on*. He has testified multiple times. ~~He~~ didn't use that. That somehow worked its way into the colloquy, but I think he's been very clear that he worked *with* these elected officials.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And we went through that, as I said. Initially he said *on*, then we said *with* -- and that's fine.

MR. CARPENITO: I respectfully disagree. The record will--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We don't have somebody to read it back. We would have to play the tape back.

MR. CARPENITO: Something tells me that the record will work its way out there at some point.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Whichever term you would prefer to use, the question is -- with, around, in conjunction with, alongside of, fill it in however you like -- how would you make the decision, as an employee of IGA, who to work with, or work in conjunction with, or work alongside of?

MR. MOWERS: I would-- If I recall, I think it did vary at times, but I would submit a list of proposed meetings with elected officials who, either because they were new I wanted to get to know -- just so we had a working relationship; ones which I knew had an ongoing governmental issue who I would want to meet with. I believe I would submit those to, for most of the time in IGA, Pete Sheridan, who would get approval for it; and then I would go meet -- ~~and~~ have that meeting.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And who would Pete Sheridan get approval from?

MR. MOWERS: I can't speak to who Pete actually communicated with, or whether he gave approval, or whether somebody else approved on the meeting.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: In every instance that you needed to receive approval as an employee of IGA, you would go to Pete Sheridan?

MR. MOWERS: I don't want to speak in an absolute, because it changed so many times -- it would change a few times -- the management structure and organization changed while I was in IGA. But generally speaking, I would go and speak to Pete.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When there were changes, who else did you have to seek approval from or direction from?

MR. MOWERS: Very early on in my time in IGA I worked for Amanda DePalma; and at another point, directly for Bridget Kelly.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And was it either Mr. Sheridan or anyone else in the office at IGA that directed your activities toward Mayor Sokolich?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, outside of the fact that he was one of the mayors who I would communicate with relatively frequently-- Again, as I testified earlier about how I saw the use of the list that was provided to us -- was that it was one of the towns that was larger and had a number of issues that involved State government. So I would more frequently meet with Mayor Sokolich. I mean, I would say that that directed it somewhat; but I don't recall ever being told to go meet with him specifically on any topic.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you met with Mayor Sokolich simply on the basis of this list of 100?

MR. MOWERS: No, not simply based. I mean, Mayor Sokolich and I developed a very good working relationship; I would argue almost a friendship. And so we would-- Especially if I was already in northern New Jersey, having other meetings or for other events, I would often stop by to touch base and just see how things were going, and also to discuss any governmental issues that he may have.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You said that you developed a friendship. Were you socially friendly with Mayor Sokolich?

MR. MOWERS: Well, you know, we would go out to grab a bite to eat or something like that. I did meet in his kitchen one time, and

sometimes that was just as a -- due to the fact that he is a very busy attorney. And the only time he usually has time to meet is on--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Sorry about that.

MR. MOWERS: That's all right.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Siri was answering your question.

(laughter)

MR. MOWERS: We can put Siri up here too if you'd like, Senator.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You want me to send her up there?

(laughter)

MR. MOWERS: So occasionally we would even meet in his kitchen. Because he's an attorney, the only time he has time to think is sometimes when he's sitting down to actually eat.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever have a conversation while you were an employee at IGA with Mr. Stepien about meeting with, or interacting with, Mayor Sokolich?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall any specific conversations with Bill about Mayor Sokolich, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever have any specific conversation with Bridget Kelly about your meeting with or interacting with Mayor Sokolich?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall, outside of the ones we've already discussed, a specific conversation with Bridget Kelly about Mayor Sokolich. You know, I imagine I did have conversations over the course of a few years about the Mayor, but outside the ones we've already detailed, I don't recall anything specifically.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: During your time in IGA did you have a conversation with anyone about Mayor Sokolich potentially endorsing Governor Christie?

MR. MOWERS: I apologize-- During my time at--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: IGA.

MR. MOWERS: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have a conversation with anyone about Mayor Sokolich endorsing Governor Christie?

MR. MOWERS: During my time, I believe, I think we went through the text message exchange I had with Pete Sheridan in regards to this topic.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So just that one exchange?

MR. MOWERS: I believe we had other exchanges, or interactions, or conversations about it. I don't recall any specifically, though, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So then going forward, back to the timeline -- August 12, which was when you received that phone call from Bridget Kelly, and then on September 9 you had a follow-up e-mail from Bridget Kelly that we just mentioned, which was on Tab 82, "Have you heard from Mayor Sokolich in a while?" And your response was, "I haven't." Did you share that inquiry from Bridget Kelly with anybody?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You didn't reach out to Mr. Stepien and discuss it?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You did not reach out to Mr. Sheridan and discuss it?

MR. MOWERS: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You didn't think it was unusual that she was asking you this question?

MR. MOWERS: No, because, if I recall, I even received an e-mail a couple of weeks prior to this saying, "Have you heard from the Mayor of New Milford in a while?" or in some time, or how often -- I don't recall exactly the substance of the e-mail, but something along those lines. So it didn't seem unusual.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And had you spoken to Mayor Sokolich during the week of September 9 to 13?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And after you became aware of the lane closures -- which you testified was in late September--

MR. MOWERS: I believe around that timeframe.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you contact Mayor Sokolich at that point in time?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why not?

MR. MOWERS: I hadn't communicated with the Mayor since the spring, in what I believe was a text message exchange after I had joined the campaign, where we-- I simply checked in to see how everything was going and see how the transition went.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Were you aware, at the time that you became aware of the lane closures, of the gridlock that Fort Lee had been placed in because of the lane closures?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, I only knew of that from those same articles.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you read those articles and you became aware of it?

MR. MOWERS: I can't recall if it was those articles, if I read it, or if it was just hearing about it the day before when they were going to run those articles. But I believe it was that timeframe when I first became aware.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Who would you have heard about it from the day before?

MR. MOWERS: I recall being in Kevin Roberts' office at the time, I think, casually talking about everything. It was later on in the evening -- you're working on a campaign, you're working late hours.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Who was in Kevin Roberts' office when you were discussing this?

MR. MOWERS: At the time it was the two of us, and Bill Stepien had walked by and noticed we were both in there and said that, "Just so you know, a couple of reporters" -- and I don't recall who, which reporters they were -- "are looking to write," and I do remember him using the words "a ridiculous story that says that some traffic that was on the GW Bridge is related to Mark Sokolich not endorsing. But we know that's ridiculous; but, you know, it's good for both of you guys to be aware of it."

I assume meaning, because-- I don't want to assume, but Kevin was Press Secretary and I was the Regional Political Director for that geographic area.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So at that point in time, you were aware that there had been an effort to secure his endorsement -- correct? -- Mayor Sokolich's endorsement?

MR. MOWERS: I was aware of that. I had spoken about that topic with him back in the spring, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you were aware that there had been an effort, at some level, to secure his endorsement.

MR. MOWERS: Let me just clarify. Yes, an effort at some level. Yes, it was a topic he had raised with me, and so I felt comfortable continuing that conversation with him. I would--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And at that point in time your testimony was that you had at least a social relationship with him on top of your governmental relationship.

MR. MOWERS: I would say relatively social.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And you had just had a conversation with Mr. Roberts and a pass-by by Mr. Stepien where there was a conversation about this traffic issue in Fort Lee on the night before the story broke in whatever paper you read it in.

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall. I mean, I don't recall specifically reading the article the next day.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, no I'm not asking about reading the article.

MR. MOWERS: Right, right.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you had said the night before--

MR. MOWERS: Right. The night before, once reporters had called the campaign and called the Governor's Office referencing this topic, Bill just made myself and Kevin Roberts aware that there were reporters who were looking to write a "ridiculous story" about this.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what was-- Did you get any idea of what was ridiculous about the story?

MR. MOWERS: Because the entire concept is ridiculous.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What concept?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, in my mind, the idea that you would realign lanes in an effort to get drivers to blame their local mayor for a traffic backup, as the purpose -- for political retribution. At the time it was very unbelievable, and even still in retrospect is incomprehensible to me.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I'll agree with you that it is incomprehensible.

So you hear this story about a mayor who you've dealt with. Why didn't you pick up the phone and ask him, "What's this about?"

MR. MOWERS: Because at that point, Assemblyman, I think he was already-- It didn't really occur as something that I should or shouldn't do, especially as being on the campaign at that point.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you had a social relationship with him.

MR. MOWERS: Well, it was relatively social. I mean, we would meet and we'd meet over calamari.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you'd eat in his kitchen.

MR. MOWERS: I was in his kitchen one time, yes, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you didn't call.

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: I would just add, Assemblyman, in many ways it seemed like a governmental issue, not a political one. So it wouldn't have been something I would have reached out on.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But it is true that you did have conversations with Mayor Sokolich about his endorsement of the Governor.

MR. MOWERS: I did, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And so I'm just trying to understand. This is a person who you had conversations with about endorsing the Governor. Your own testimony was is that you kind of liked him. There's this big traffic jam in his town and you don't pick up the phone?

MR. MOWERS: Well, Assemblyman, as I just mentioned before, in many ways, to me, it seemed like a governmental issue and not one that I would handle from a political campaign.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But earlier you were talking about your role in IGA, where you had a conversation with Bridget Kelly who said that if there's somebody having a DEP issue, make sure they talk

to IGA. So it seems like, on certain levels, you did have some interfacing with government issues. I'm trying to understand where you draw the line.

MR. MOWERS: Assemblyman, can you clarify your question?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You said that it was a governmental issue, so you didn't really think -- you were political, and you didn't really think it was appropriate to call Mayor Sokolich. But what I'm saying is that on other occasions, your testimony was that in a conversation with, I think it was, Bridget Kelly, who said that if you-- If somebody -- Mayor So-and-So raises a DEP issue, make sure they call IGA.

On that occasion, in your political capacity, you did have discussions about governmental issues.

MR. MOWERS: Well, if the elected official brought it up to me, I would then tell them to go reach out to their point of contact in IGA. Mayor Sokolich never reached out to me, so it was never a conversation that we had.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So it's your testimony that, as a campaign employee, you did not have any conversations with Mayor Sokolich about governmental issues?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you didn't have any conversations with any other elected officials about governmental issues?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection I never tried to discuss-- I mean, if they brought it up to me, there was a discussion. I mean -- but I didn't handle the issue for them. So I apologize, Assemblyman. I want to be helpful and answer your question, but if you could clarify it, maybe I could--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, I'm trying to understand, because you said the reason you didn't-- You made the distinction that the reason you didn't call Mayor Sokolich -- after learning about somebody you liked having this massive traffic jam, you didn't call him because it was a governmental issue. How did you understand it was a governmental issue?

MR. MOWERS: I would think if it involved government and the realignment of lanes it would be a governmental issue. It's not a political one to me.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Nobody told you that it was a governmental issue.

MR. MOWERS: I've never been on a political campaign that has control over traffic, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you made an assumption. I mean, there was nobody who called you up and said, "This is not a political issue, this is a governmental issue."

MR. MOWERS: No, there was very limited conversation about the topic at all, because the entire thing just seemed so insane to us at the time.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, and then let me just conclude on this note.

After you learned about the lane closures -- either through that conversation you had that evening with Mr. Roberts and Mr. Stepien, or the following day when you read it in some publication -- did you have a follow-up conversation with Mayor Sokolich?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Have you talked to Mayor Sokolich since that point in time until today?

MR. MOWERS: I have not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: After you learned that evening, or the next day, in reading about it in the paper, did you call Bridget Kelly to ask about this lane closure?

MR. MOWERS: I don't-- No, certainly not on that topic. I didn't have a conversation with anyone on that topic.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have a conversation with anyone about Mayor Sokolich after you learned about the lane closures?

MR. CARPENITO: I'm sorry, Assemblyman. I think he's answered that a few times. He said he hasn't spoken to Mayor Sokolich about the lane closures.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I said did you have a conversation with anybody about Mayor Sokolich?

MR. CARPENITO: My apologies.

MR. MOWERS: Assemblyman, what timeframe are you referring to here?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You learned about this in late September. You had a conversation with Mr. Roberts and Mr. Stepien. The next day you read it in some publication. From that point forward, whatever day you read about it, which was -- according to your testimony, it might have been a day or so after you had this conversation with Roberts and Stepien -- did you have a conversation with anybody about Mayor Sokolich?

MR. MOWERS: Generally speaking about Mayor Sokolich?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have a conversation with anybody about Mayor Sokolich?

MR. CARPENITO: Co-Chair, I assume you're excluding anything from the time the subpoena came, and he retained counsel, and has cooperated in numerous investigations -- which are all obvious--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So I will conclude the time period from the point of time you received the subpoena.

MR. MOWERS: The only time was -- that I specifically recall -- was some point in December, give or take. I received a phone-- A lot of press reports were beginning to write about this topic. And one of them referenced that Mayor Sokolich was asked for his endorsement in August. And then I think they said two weeks later all of this occurred.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes.

MR. MOWERS: And at one point Bill Stepien called me and said, "Hey, reporters are trying to write this. When did you talk to the Mayor again?" I said, "I haven't spoken to Mayor Sokolich since the spring." He said, "You didn't talk in August like these guys are asking? And I said, "Never." And he said, "Okay, that's what I thought. We just want to make sure that the reporters are getting this story correctly."

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, if you'd go to Tab 83. On October 8, Caitlyn Schneeweiss -- I think I'm pronouncing correctly -- e-mailed to you a link to a *Bergen Record* story regarding Senator Weinberg's appearance at a Port Authority committee meeting. Are you familiar with this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: Looking at--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Chairman, I'm sorry. Is that the *Bergen Record* or *Star-Ledger*? Because if it's the *Bergen Record*, I have the wrong Tab here.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I'm sorry, it's *nj.com*, so that's probably the *Star-Ledger*.

Are you familiar with this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: Looking at it now, I am.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You don't recall it, other than looking at it?

MR. MOWERS: I don't.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Who is Caitlyn Schneeweiss?

MR. MOWERS: She is another Regional Political Director on the campaign at the time.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And why would she send this to you?

MR. MOWERS: Caitlyn is from Bergen County originally, and I think was living there at the time. And obviously I was working with Bergen County, and I think Edith George had also worked with Bergen County, and is on there. And I think she sent the article along.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Is this the first time you had any interaction with Caitlyn about this issue, which is the lane closures on the Bridge?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you read this story when you received it?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And then, this document was forwarded-- I'm sorry; strike that.

On December 11, you sent an e-mail to Mike DuHaime and Bill Stepien -- it's Tab 84. Are you familiar with this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I am.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You had said to both Mr. DuHaime and Bill Stepien, "Not sure how you are handling or want handled." What did you mean by that?

MR. MOWERS: Well, just as, I think, anyone would do, I'm no longer working on the campaign at this point. I believe this is December--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: December 11, 2013.

MR. MOWERS: So just the same way, you know-- Look, I was a soccer ref back in high school. You know, if I got a call from a reporter asking about a situation involving East Brunswick Soccer League or the Recreation Department, I would call up the East Brunswick Recreation Department, as a previous employer that actually had to deal with the issue, to let them know there's press reaching out, and it's not something I was necessarily there to speak about.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And then a follow-up on Friday, January 3, Tab 86. You again communicate with Mr. Stepien; you are no longer an employee of the campaign -- the campaign is long over at this point in time. Tab 86 -- are you seeing it? Do you have it in front of you?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. "Ted Mann from the *Wall Street Journal* left a message; he called me a few weeks ago. I don't plan to return the call. So let me know the team's thoughts if they are different." Who is *the team*?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know who I was specifically referencing. It's a general reference to likely those who would handle press inquiries from the campaign. You know, Bill was Campaign Manager, so it made sense to reach out to him about a campaign-related topic.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Wouldn't you send it to Mr. Roberts?

MR. MOWERS: Often I would-- I mean, I have a personal friendship with Kevin Roberts, but often if there was anything really press-related it would go through the Campaign Manager. I was the political team, not the communications team.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why would you be sending an inquiry about the lane closures to the political team if it was a governmental issue?

MR. MOWERS: At this point they're referencing a period of time when I was working on the campaign. So it makes sense to send it to the Campaign Manager.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you had testified earlier that you didn't think that this was a campaign issue. You thought it was a governmental issue.

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Assemblyman Wisniewski, that's really mixing apples and oranges. That was a question about why he didn't reach out to the Mayor; now you're asking him why he reached out

to his boss, the Campaign Manager. And as he's testified, any issue that has to deal with his prior employment he brought back to his prior employer.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, with all due respect, Counsel, I think there's an inconsistency in the testimony. Before he testified that he didn't think it was relevant because he thought it was a governmental issue, not a campaign issue. Now he thinks it's a campaign issue, not a governmental issue. I want to know what informed his change of opinion as to this -- going from being what he initially thought was a governmental issue to now he thinks it's a political issue.

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Assemblyman, the record will speak for itself. But again, it's two entirely different topics.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, it's not.

MR. CARPENITO: Although it's still the GWB lane closures, you're talking about a question of why he didn't reach out to a Mayor in Fort Lee--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Counsel, look--

MR. CARPENITO: --versus--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I'm going to object to what is, essentially, on-the-record coaching of what the witness should say. My question simply is this, and let me get it on the record.

MR. CARPENITO: Sure.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: He initially testified that he thought that this was not a governmental issue. That's what the record says. Now, at this point in time, he thinks it's a political issue.

MR. CARPENITO: Assemblyman, let me--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And the simple question, Counsel, is this. What informed his change of opinion from it being a governmental issue to a political issue?

MR. CARPENITO: And there is no coaching going on, on the record. Quite frankly, I resent that comment. That is in my estimation, as his lawyer -- who is here representing him -- a misstatement of his prior testimony, which is a valid objection to a question.

If he believes he can answer the question, he can answer the question. But an objection is valid.

MR. MOWERS: Assemblyman, with all due respect, I believe it's your words that this is a political issue. I never saw it as a political issue. It is referencing my time as an employee of the campaign, though -- suggests as if I would have, when I was employed by the campaign -- I was getting contacted by reporters -- who have let the Campaign Manager know.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When you were working for the campaign, I had asked a question about why you chose the course of action you did when you first became aware of this. And you said, "Well, I thought it was a governmental issue." Isn't that what you said?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that closing lanes -- or a lane realignment, however you'd like to word it -- is a governmental issue, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And at that point in time, you had testified to me that you're not aware of how campaigns could close lanes, that's why you thought it was a governmental issue.

MR. MOWERS: Among many other reasons.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. At this point in time, in January, you send an e-mail to the person who was the Campaign Manager about this same issue, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Well, you know, given the context of the message, from what I recall, from Ted Mann, it was asking about my time on the campaign though. That's the difference here, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It was asking about the GWB issue. It doesn't say he was asking about your time on the campaign.

MR. MOWERS: But that occurred when I was working on the campaign.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When I asked you the question before, you were working on the campaign too.

MR. MOWERS: Also, the-- That's correct, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So what changed your opinion that this was a governmental issue, to now being a political issue?

MR. MOWERS: Assemblyman, I don't think my answer has changed at all. It's actually been pretty consistent.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So even though this -- you thought this was still a governmental issue when you received this e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I do, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, so then why did you forward it to the Campaign Manager and not to somebody in the Governor's Office?

MR. MOWERS: As I stated before, because at the time that Ted Mann was asking about everything, I was a campaign employee. And just as I would have if I were on the campaign at that time, I would let the--

He was referring to my time in September when I was on the campaign. I would notify the Campaign Manager -- like I said, similarly how I would do to any former employer I was being asked about by a reporter. It would not have been my place, especially if I didn't handle press inquiries, which I never did. That wasn't my role on the campaign.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: After you forwarded the prior e-mail to Mr. DuHaime and Mr. Stepien -- that's the December 11, Tab 84, e-mail *or* the January 3, Tab 86, e-mail -- did you have any conversation with either Mr. DuHaime or Mr. Stepien about these e-mails that you forwarded to them?

MR. MOWERS: I believe Bill Stepien and I spoke by phone at one point; I don't recall after which e-mail. I think it was after the December e-mail where he-- I think it was that same conversation where he clarified the timeline, because reporters were also, obviously, reaching out to the Governor's Office and the campaign as well -- or what existed of the campaign at that point.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And that conversation -- who initiated it?

MR. MOWERS: I believe I received a phone call.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Mr. Stepien called you?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that's correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And he called you because you sent him these e-mails?

MR. MOWERS: Assemblyman, frankly, I don't specifically recall the nature of the conversation -- the genesis of the call. I think, if I remember, it was in response to this e-mail.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You recall what you discussed.

MR. MOWERS: I recall, generally speaking, a conversation with Bill Stepien at one point about the timing of the endorsement conversation. Because reporters were trying to infer that it occurred in a close proximity of time to the lane realignment, when, at least from all my experience in having conversations with Mayor Sokolich, the only conversations about endorsements I had were well before that, in the spring.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So that was the only conversation you had after you sent both of these e-mails?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall whether it was the only conversation I had, but I don't recall any other specific conversation about this, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, let's just narrow it down. Did you have any conversation with Mr. DuHaime?

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe I did, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You did have a conversation with Mr. Stepien.

MR. MOWERS: At what time?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We're talking about these two e-mails that you had forwarded to--

MR. MOWERS: These are about a month apart.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I understand.

MR. MOWERS: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I understand.

MR. MOWERS: So it is likely that I had a conversation -- or I believe I had a conversation with Mr. Stepien at one point in this timeframe.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And he called you?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that's correct, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you don't recall whether it was after the December e-mail or the January e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I believe it was after the December e-mail. I don't know how much time or anything had passed after sending it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And the substance of the call was what?

MR. MOWERS: The substance of the call was just that-- Those who worked for the campaign and those who are in the Governor's Office were also receiving questions; reporters were trying to infer that there was an endorsement ask of Mayor Sokolich within two weeks of the lane realignment. And he just wanted to clarify that my knowledge, my understanding of it -- which is what it is -- which is that the only conversation I ever had with Mayor Sokolich about possible endorsement was in the spring of 2013.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And in the spring of 2013 you worked for IGA.

MR. MOWERS: Depending on how you define *spring*. I worked in IGA for part of spring, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So when did you have the conversation in the spring with Mayor Sokolich about the endorsement?

MR. MOWERS: As we referred to earlier when we were having the conversation, I spoke to Mayor Sokolich about an endorsement at some point at the end of March, and I believe he brought up the topic previously in February.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. I have no further questions.

Madam Chair.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Thank you for appearing before us today.

MR. MOWERS: Certainly.

SENATOR GILL: I have a series of questions, and I'll source the Tabs to this.

MR. MOWERS: Thank you very much.

SENATOR GILL: You're welcome.

Now, you've been active in Bergen County politics since about 2007.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that is correct.

SENATOR GILL: And you worked as a campaign staff person on the legislative campaigns in Bergen County in 2009.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: And you did this, I assume, while you were still in college.

MR. MOWERS: That's also correct.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And then during your time working on campaigns in Bergen County you interacted with Bridget Kelly.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: Did you work with or know Bill Stepien during the 2009 campaign?

MR. MOWERS: I didn't really work with; I knew Bill, though, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And after Chris Christie became Governor, then you joined the Governor's Office in 2010.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And that was as an aide -- events aide?

MR. MOWERS: That's right.

SENATOR GILL: And that was while you were still in college, right?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: How did you get a position in the Governor's Office?

MR. MOWERS: After the 2009 campaign, Amanda -- at the time, Gasperino -- asked if I was interested in volunteering during the transition effort in the Governor-elect's office; and I, of course, was very interested in that. I was looking at taking online classes in different -- Wharton co-op classes and everything for the spring and fall, so I knew I had a full year to commit to work. And I, of course, as someone who has been in politics from a young age, having the Governor of your own party in the State of New Jersey, of all places -- was definitely an interest of mine.

I believe Amanda had passed my resume along to a few other individuals within the Governor-elect's office. And the night before Governor Christie's inauguration, Jim Gilroy, who was going to become Director of Advance, offered me a position on the Advance Team.

SENATOR GILL: And then in April 2010 you left the Governor's Office, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I did.

SENATOR GILL: And you left the Governor's Office to work on Tom Goodwin's Senate campaign?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: What was your role in Mr. Goodwin's Senate campaign?

MR. MOWERS: I was Campaign Manager.

SENATOR GILL: And were you aware that Tom Goodwin was running for the seat that was previously filled by Bill Baroni?

MR. MOWERS: I was, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Now, after that campaign, you then rejoined the Governor's Office in about December 2010.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that's correct.

SENATOR GILL: And what was your role in the Governor's Office in December 2010?

MR. MOWERS: I was Regional Director for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Then you left the Governor's Office again in April 2013, correct?

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And that's when you left to join the Governor's reelection campaign.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: Then two days after the election day -- which would be November 7, 2013 -- you began your current job as the Executive Director for the New Hampshire Republican Party.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: And you are presently employed there.

MR. MOWERS: I am.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

Now, when you went -- were first hired, and you went to the IGA, is that--

MR. MOWERS: Yes, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Did you work in an open office setting with the other Regional Directors?

MR. MOWERS: You're referring to when I first started in the winter of 2010?

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. MOWERS: I did not. I think a number of us shared offices at that point.

SENATOR GILL: And you shared offices; was it in an open bullpen sort of--

MR. MOWERS: It was not, no.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So you shared offices with whom?

MR. MOWERS: Vinny Napolitano.

SENATOR GILL: And Vinny was another Regional Director?

MR. MOWERS: At that time he was, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And when you would receive the weekly updates with respect to the Regional Directors, would there be a discussion about the items that were on those weekly updates?

MR. MOWERS: You're referring to, Senator, a weekly meeting?

SENATOR GILL: What I'm going to do is withdraw that and rephrase.

MR. MOWERS: Okay. That would be helpful, thank you.

SENATOR GILL: Now, you talked about the top 100 list within IGA. Did you help update or edit the list?

MR. MOWERS: To my knowledge it was a list of towns. And I never altered or changed the towns, no.

SENATOR GILL: Did you help update or edit the list?

MR. MOWERS: No. the list of towns, to my knowledge, was never edited until, I believe, at one point-- It wasn't at my volition, I was just receiving information.

SENATOR GILL: So I want to be clear.

MR. MOWERS: Right.

SENATOR GILL: When I say *help* -- not if you did it, but that you did information, and that information was used to update or edit the list.

MR. MOWERS: No. No information I gave-- I never helped determine the towns on that list, no.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. I didn't ask if you determined the towns, because I want this question to be clear. I didn't ask if you

determined the towns, but did you provide information where the list then was either edited or updated?

MR. MOWERS: Can you-- I mean, I just want to make sure I'm clear. I want to be helpful, Senator. So are you referring to the list -- the top 100 list -- which is a list of 100 towns? No, I never edited, because no one, to my knowledge, ever edited the towns on the top 100 list, no.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Let's go to Tab 3, Page 470. You provided-- And I'll give you an opportunity to do so.

Before we get that, when the list was edited did you ever ask why towns were changed, or added, or--?

MR. MOWERS: I did not. To the best of my recollection, the only time it was added to was when 17 additional municipalities were added to it at some point -- I want to say it was the end of 2012. And none of those municipalities were ones that I would have worked with at that point, so it wasn't a question--

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever ask a question-- Now, look. We understand that you're in a small office -- or small space with an office. You are trying to get the most information you can in order to be successful at your job, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know if that is the reason I would go -- to be successful. I'm sorry, could you rephrase your question? I want to be (indiscernible).

SENATOR GILL: You wanted to get as much-- I mean, you wanted to get as much information as you could so that you could be successful at your job.

MR. MOWERS: Globally speaking?

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, of course.

SENATOR GILL: And in fact you even went to Mayor Sokolich's kitchen to get information, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I didn't go there to get information.

SENATOR GILL: Well, you went there to have a conversation. You were not there as an invited guest for dinner, correct?

MR. MOWERS: He invited me over to have a conversation.

SENATOR GILL: Yes, and did you go there-- Now, we can split or we can-- Did you go to Mayor Sokolich's house, in his kitchen, in your role as IGA?

MR. MOWERS: I believe so, yes, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And did you ever ask anyone in IGA, "What does these 100 towns represent?"

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever ask anyone in IGA, "Where did these 100 towns come from?"

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe I ever did -- not to my recollection, no.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever ask anyone in IGA at any time, if the list changed -- did you ever ask them why did it change?

MR. MOWERS: I did not, no.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever use the term *top 100*?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: So did you ever ask for a term that you were using -- what it meant and how it was arrived at?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, no, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Now, you provided us with a weekly update from January 27, 2012. And there are several bullets from the document that I want to draw your attention to.

On the bottom it states -- and we're on Tab 3--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Your mike is off.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Mike's off.

SENATOR GILL: We're on Tab 3, which would be Page 473. On the bottom it states -- and this is information you're receiving, because you're giving information in the weekly reports and updates and you're receiving information, correct?

MR. MOWERS: This, if I'm not mistaken, is--

SENATOR GILL: Well, my point to you -- my question to you is this.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR GILL: You are receiving information from others with respect to the weekly updates, and you are providing information.

MR. MOWERS: Generally speaking, that could be true. There may have been other Regional Directors-- You know, like on this -- for example, on this document. This is a compilation of what a Regional Director would have submitted to be compiled into an overall weekly report. So this is information I provided, to be compiled with information other people provided.

SENATOR GILL: That's exactly my point.

MR. MOWERS: Okay, then yes. I just want to make sure I was accurately answering--

SENATOR GILL: No, my point-- No, my point is, this is information that you received from other Regional Directors; this is a document where you provided information for other Regional Directors.

MR. MOWERS: It was not--

SENATOR GILL: Or shall we go through the CC of who is-- Is your name on the document as a CC?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, it is. And I'm not trying to be confrontational. I just want to make sure I'm answering you accurately.

SENATOR GILL: No, you're not being confrontational. I'm just trying to get to the issue without--

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR GILL: My question: Are you CC'd on the document?

MR. MOWERS: I am, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And that document is also CC'd to others, correct?

MR. MOWERS: It is.

SENATOR GILL: And the document is from whom?

MR. MOWERS: It is from Christopher Stark.

SENATOR GILL: And Christopher Stark is who?

MR. MOWERS: He's a Regional Director.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, on the bottom it states -- in the document, "Use contacts and election results to see if there are any T-100 towns that tend towards Democrats more than usual in the last election, and find the reason." Then it says in parenthesis, "EHX. Having such a small margin for Polistina."

MR. CARPENITO: I'm sorry, Senator. What page are you on?

SENATOR GILL: I'm on Tab--

MR. CARPENITO: Tab 3, right? We just can't find the page.

SENATOR GILL: And 47-3, which is the document production.

MR. CARPENITO: Thank you.

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

You received that information, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I believe this is a-- I mean, I'm copied in the e-mail, but I believe this is a summary of Chris-- I don't know actually whose, but -- I was not the Southern Region -- but it's a summary of, I guess, their week.

SENATOR GILL: I asked you if you received that information.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I was copied on the e-mail, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Yes. And when you received these e-mail copies, do you have a discussion in the office with your supervisor with respect to the issues raised herein?

MR. MOWERS: Occasionally we would. It was not necessarily formally designated, to the best of my recollection, at that point.

SENATOR GILL: And would you also have discussions with the Regional Director who would provide information on the documents?

MR. MOWERS: Occasionally we would; not always, though.

SENATOR GILL: Well, you did on accorded-- I'll withdraw that.

Now, what do you understand with respect to the statement, "Use contacts and election results to see if there are any T-100 towns that tend towards Democrats more than usual in the last election"?

MR. MOWERS: I didn't write that. Until this moment, I don't believe I've read this before, so I have no real inference from that, no.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So now that-- You don't remember reading it when it was received by you?

MR. MOWERS: That would be correct, yes, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: You don't remember discussing it when it was received by you?

MR. MOWERS: That's also correct, yes.

SENATOR GILL: You don't remember this at all until today, correct?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: So what does that mean to you?

MR. MOWERS: Okay. I'm just going to be careful because I don't want to speak for Chris, or Vinny, or--

SENATOR GILL: I'm not asking you--

MR. MOWERS: --someone else who may have written this.

SENATOR GILL: Let me frame this, okay?

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR GILL: I'm not asking you to speak for anyone else but yourself. That is why I phrase the question with respect to, what does it mean to you?

MR. MOWERS: Frankly, Senator, it's written so sparsely I really don't make much of this at all. I don't--

SENATOR GILL: I didn't ask if you made anything of it. I said what does it mean?

And Counsel, I asked him a question, and I think he can answer. What does it mean to you?

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, he's trying to, though, Senator. What I was just going to say is allow him to finish.

SENATOR GILL: Fine. What does it mean to you? What does it mean to you?

MR. MOWERS: In short, Senator, it means nothing to me.

SENATOR GILL: It means nothing to you.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: Let's continue. Below that bullet it says, "Have election results now and will be looking at T-100 trends for next week. Have results for 2009 compiled; 2011 this week." What do you know-- What is election results?

MR. MOWERS: That would be the results of an election.

SENATOR GILL: And that means there would be-- And that results of the election -- just looking at this -- would be looking at the 100 trends for next week, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I apologize, Senator. Can you repeat that question?

SENATOR GILL: The election results here indicate that they would use the -- have the election results now, and they would be looking at the 100 trends for the next week.

MR. MOWERS: That's not clear, because I did not look at those election results.

SENATOR GILL: I didn't ask you. I just asked you if that's what the document says.

MR. MOWERS: It appears to be that's -- whoever authored this document would be, yes. But--

SENATOR GILL: And finally, let's go to the paragraph, or the part that says, "Per senior outreach plan, work with NJGOP." And NJGOP stands for what?

MR. MOWERS: I've always known that to refer to the New Jersey Republican State Committee.

SENATOR GILL: Yes. And so that we're clear, these are documents that are sent as part of your governmental function on IGA -- correct? -- these weekly updates?

MR. MOWERS: The weekly updates that I would provide would be a summary and summation of government work, generally, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And the documents that are provided that we're reading from were provided as part of your governmental function. They were given to you in the office, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I don't-- You mean, physically? I mean, I received the e-mail, or I was copied on the e-mail. I'm not sure if I actually received this document, though, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So are you saying now you've never received or you don't remember reading it?

MR. MOWERS: In this case, both.

SENATOR GILL: Both.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And the reason why it's interesting if you don't remember reading it or receiving it -- you were actually the one who provided these documents to us as part of a subpoena. So I just made the assumption that, since you provided it to us, that it was a document, in fact, that you had received.

Now, let's go on to where it says, "And finally, per senior outreach plan, work with the NJGOP" -- that we know is the New Jersey Republican Party, right, organization? -- "to find pockets of non-Democratic seniors to boost 3/4 and 4/4 numbers in that age range. Still need to work on this project." What is-- And would it be correct of me to say that you are a-- You've worked at a lot of political campaigns.

MR. MOWERS: I've worked on a few, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Yes. And most of your work life -- or a great deal of it -- has been on political campaigns.

MR. MOWERS: It has.

SENATOR GILL: What does "3/4" mean in this context?

MR. MOWERS: Political speak on campaigns -- when I have worked on campaigns, it refers to a voter's habits -- whether they vote more frequently or less frequently.

SENATOR GILL: And "3/4" here means what?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, I didn't write this so I can't speak to what they mean. I told you my -- what I know those terms mean.

SENATOR GILL: Then let me--

MR. MOWERS: I can't say that they are, here.

SENATOR GILL: --preface every question.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR GILL: I'm asking you, what is your understanding that this means?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, Senator, frankly with all due respect, I feel like the question is asking me to speculate about someone else's writing.

SENATOR GILL: No. This asks for -- is it 3 of 4 -- and you had answered. You said it's about a voting record, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes. Well, that is my understanding of the terminology.

SENATOR GILL: And all I'm asking you is your understanding of the terminology.

MR. MOWERS: Right.

SENATOR GILL: Three of four is a person's voting record.

MR. MOWERS: That is the term-- That is how I have used that terminology before, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And 3 out of 4 of the elections, the person would have voted.

MR. MOWERS: That would be correct, yes -- in my experience with that term, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Yes. And then it goes on to say, "In 4 out of 4" -- that's a voting record?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that is my understanding.

SENATOR GILL: And that would mean people who voted in 4 out of 4 elections.

MR. MOWERS: That's a question-- Yes, that is what my understanding of that term is, yes.

SENATOR GILL: So that this discussion appears -- just from what's written -- to be based on political data and political results. And if you can't answer that, that's fine.

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, if you could repeat the question. I'm not sure I heard the question in there.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Just reading this, this is based upon political data -- voting records -- and political results.

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator, is there-- What was the question, I guess is what I'm asking. I apologize.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever look at any of the political results with respect to the 100 towns trends?

MR. MOWERS: At any time?

SENATOR GILL: At any time.

MR. MOWERS: I've looked at voting trends in the state, so yes.

SENATOR GILL: And did you look at any of those voting trends while you were at IGA?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall specifically.

SENATOR GILL: Now, why was IGA working with -- if you know, only if you know--

MR. MOWERS: That's all I can testify to, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: That's good. (laughter)

Why was IGA working with the New Jersey GOP to utilize election data, or senior citizens outreach plans?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know why, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever use any political data for any of your interactions, while you were at IGA, for the regions that you were responsible for?

MR. CARPENITO: Senator, just to clarify the question for a second.

When you say, "while you were at IGA," I think it's important to distinguish between whether you're talking about while he was at work or just while he was employed there.

SENATOR GILL: Well, first of all, I asked the question generally. And then I will be specific.

MR. CARPENITO: Thank you.

SENATOR GILL: Thank you.

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, for the purposes of interacting, I don't believe I ever did -- not to the best of my recollection.

SENATOR GILL: Now, I want to be clear with you.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR GILL: While you were employed at IGA on-- And what were your hours for your job at IGA?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, there are official hours, and then there's the number of hours that you put into the role. I would often be at the office by 7:30 to 8:00 in the morning, and work until 8:00, 9:00 p.m. I think the latest I was ever in the State House -- walking out, closing down the lights in the parking garage myself -- it was 1:00 a.m. one time.

SENATOR GILL: So even if an e-mail shows that the e-mail was sent at 8:59, you may well have been on government property as early as 7:00 in the morning, correct?

MR. MOWERS: There's a possibility I was.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: There were many times when I would be here in the State House at my office.

SENATOR GILL: And when you're here in the State House at your office, you're supposed to be doing State House business, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I would do State House business. Yes, I would do my job, which was State House business, here -- yes.

SENATOR GILL: And so your State House business could have been all the way up to 1:00 in the morning at some point, whenever you would stay late, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Well, Senator, just to make a difference-- I mean, I think there's a difference between your work hours and if you have a job or task to do. I was one of those people who was willing to commit any time to make sure the task was done. So I was not required to be here at 1:00 a.m.

SENATOR GILL: So we're clear.

MR. MOWERS: Right.

SENATOR GILL: You, at some point, and maybe sometimes, would be on the premises, in the State House, as late as 1:00 in the morning.

MR. MOWERS: There have been times where that's the case, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, did you know what trends, if any, they were looking for with respect to T-100?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Tab 3, Page 475. Did you-- And I'll give you a--

Did you write the Northern section of the January 27 weekly update?

MR. MOWERS: I imagine I would have, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Perfect. Why would you write, under "Personal Priorities and Goals," that you were going to establish a relationship with the mayors beginning with the new Top 100?

MR. MOWERS: Because as I testified to earlier, that these were often municipalities which were larger in population size, with a number of issues that involved interaction with State government -- more so than many other municipalities. At least, that is how I used them, in my understanding of it.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And it was then updated to 117.

MR. MOWERS: I believe that at one point it was, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Were you aware that, at least as of last -- I think it was -- last week, the Governor had held his 117th town hall meeting in Sayreville?

MR. MOWERS: I did not know he had one last week, no.

SENATOR GILL: Tab 25. You sent this March 30, 2012, weekly update to Mr. Sheridan, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I did.

SENATOR GILL: Did you write the Northern section of this memo? Did you--

MR. MOWERS: I'm just getting that to verify that. Sorry, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Oh, okay, I'm sorry.

MR. MOWERS: I believe I did.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And in this memo you again discuss the T-100.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, there are references there.

SENATOR GILL: Why were you using the T-100 list for senior outreach development?

MR. MOWERS: That was the direction I received.

SENATOR GILL: Well, from whom did you receive the direction to use the T-100 list for senior outreach?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall who specifically told me at this time.

SENATOR GILL: Do you recall when you were told?

MR. MOWERS: I don't.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever ask what does the T-100 list have to do with senior outreach?

MR. MOWERS: I did not ask that, no.

SENATOR GILL: Who was your supervisor-- I'll withdraw that and rephrase it.

From who would you normally take directions with respect to your responsibilities?

MR. MOWERS: I'm just going to flip back to see what date this was.

I believe at this point I was reporting to Pete Sheridan.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ask Pete-- Did Pete Sheridan tell you to use the T-100 list for senior outreach?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if it was Pete or not.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Would you take direction from just anybody in the organization, or the IGA, as to what your duties should be?

MR. MOWERS: I would say-- Not from anybody, no, I would not.

SENATOR GILL: Well, tell me from who you would, other than Mr. Sheridan.

MR. MOWERS: It would be either Mr. Sheridan, it would Ms. Kelly -- who was, I believe at that point, Pete's direct boss, -- and, on some occasions, Mr. Stepien.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, moving on.

On Tab 25, in all the weekly updates that you provided, there are two separate sections: a political narrative and an office narrative. What is the difference between a political narrative and an office narrative?

MR. MOWERS: Often a political narrative was a recap of conversations that we had, or just information in general that occurred. Because a lot of this was also just pointing out updates or things that occurred that were more political in nature. The ones in the office would be more based on casework issues -- functions of the departments and the like.

SENATOR GILL: So would it be correct of me to say that political discussions-- There's information about political discussions that are being provided to the other Regional Directors at IGA.

MR. MOWERS: There is political information contained in this, yes.

SENATOR GILL: It's not just political information. There's a section called "Political Narratives."

MR. MOWERS: Right.

SENATOR GILL: And why is it that when Mayor Sokolich commented about Phil Kwon, it's included in the "Political Narrative." And when the Ridgefield Park Mayor commented about Mr. Kwon -- on the same topic -- it's included in the "Office Narrative"? Want to take a moment and look at that?

MR. MOWERS: I'm looking at it. Frankly, Senator, I'm not sure why they separate it at that point.

SENATOR GILL: So you made the determination to separate political from office?

MR. MOWERS: Weekly, if something seemed political in nature I'd put it under political; if it seemed more -- something involving departments, I'd usually put it under office.

SENATOR GILL: I'd like to-- Does it have anything to do with one town belonging to the T-100 list? So if Mayor Sokolich commented about Kwon -- which is the same issue from the Ridgefield Park Mayor -- if you're on T-100 it becomes a political narrative?

MR. MOWERS: That was never my understanding. I mean, just looking at this you see West Orange Mayor Robert Parisi is under

office narrative; and West Orange, to the best of my recollection, was on the Top-100 list; so no.

SENATOR GILL: I want to draw your attention to a section that you wrote, which begins with, "Hudson County." And we're in Tab 25, Page 549. And in advance I will apologize for maybe not getting the last name right, so I'm going to let you read where it starts out, "The campaign for--"

MR. MOWERS: At what point would you like me to stop, Senator, or will you let me know?

SENATOR GILL: I'd like you to start out with, "The campaign for--" and read it to the end of that--

MR. MOWERS: "The campaign for Maria Karczewski for Congress will allow us to develop an understanding of the activists and volunteers of Bayonne, and will likely enable us to keep the volunteer infrastructure intact for the reelection campaign."

SENATOR GILL: Now, you were looking to -- or at least, this says -- using their volunteers to keep intact for the reelection campaign, correct?

MR. MOWERS: It says that there. I don't recall why it was written, or what was the genesis for that.

SENATOR GILL: Did you write it?

MR. MOWERS: I likely did.

SENATOR GILL: So tell me what you meant by that.

MR. MOWERS: The first I've probably seen this document in two-and-a-half years, so let me actually just reread. I want to make sure I give you an accurate representation.

SENATOR GILL: Oh, please reread it.

MR. MOWERS: You know, if I do remember it correctly, Maria Karczewski had reached out to the Administration at one point -- as many candidates for office often reach out to someone who they hear is the Governor's point of contact, whether it's political or not, just because most people don't know the difference.

SENATOR GILL: I know. I've been in lots of campaigns and I've worked with lots of Governors.

MR. MOWERS: Exactly. And then I'm sure, as you know, there are oftentimes people who come up to you on the campaign trail and ask about fixing their pothole, and there are times when--

SENATOR GILL: All I'm asking you about now is this.

MR. MOWERS: Understood. So I believe Maria had reached out at one point and noted something along the lines of reaching out and having volunteers in place, and how she was very excited for the campaign; and that this is something that could benefit the Governor's reelection campaign down the road.

SENATOR GILL: But that's not what this says, is it? It didn't say that Maria reached out to you.

MR. MOWERS: It does not, no.

SENATOR GILL: It says that Maria -- "This will allow us to develop an understanding of the activities (*sic*) and volunteers in Bayonne, and will likely enable us to keep the volunteer infrastructure intact for the reelection campaign." What reelection campaign were you referring to?

MR. MOWERS: Again, not quite recalling when or why I wrote this, I would assume that my vernacular -- that would refer to the

Governor's potential reelection campaign. At this point, I don't think he was a declared candidate for reelection at this point.

SENATOR GILL: Well, we know you were talking about endorsements in 2012 with the other mayors, so this was in 2012 too?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: Now, how did you find out this information about being able to keep the activists and volunteers intact for the Governor's reelection campaign?

MR. MOWERS: As I just mentioned before, to the best of my recollection, Maria Karczewski reached out at one point and had, I believe, referenced something along those lines.

SENATOR GILL: As an employee of the State of New Jersey working in the Office of the Governor, why would you or anyone in the Governor's Office keep tabs on potential volunteers for the Governor's reelection campaign?

MR. MOWERS: I wouldn't argue-- I'm not sure this constitutes as keeping tabs on volunteers. I never kept a volunteer database or anything like that, if that's what you're referring to.

SENATOR GILL: I'm referring to what you wrote.

MR. MOWERS: Right, and I would not qualify this as keeping tabs on volunteers.

SENATOR GILL: Let's see; okay. As an employee of the State of New Jersey, working in the Office of the Governor, why would you be interested in the development of an understanding of the activists and volunteers in Bayonne, and that they would "likely enable us to keep the volunteer infrastructure intact for the reelection campaign"?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, like I referenced before, I believe this is a conversation that Maria Karczewski had with me. So I might have been inferring and making inferences based upon that conversation, but it was, I believe, stemming from that conversation -- that she brought it up to me. That's why I would have included it.

SENATOR GILL: And as we know, even if you're having a political conversation, is that conversation part of-- Is that conversation part of the reporting for updates in a governmental office?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, frankly, I don't think I ever saw-- I don't believe I ever saw this as a governmental report. This was a report of activities and information, generally speaking.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So as a State employee, you believed it was appropriate for you to keep your coworkers and your boss aware of potential Chris Christie campaign volunteers almost two years prior to the Governor's reelection?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, I would keep them apprised of any information I was told, from any conversation I had that involved anything involving the Governor, sure.

SENATOR GILL: And were you also keeping -- we'll say -- *tabs* on the political atmosphere in each county?

MR. MOWERS: I would say-- Well, yes, I would always have a knowledge of what was happening politically, because it so often, within county government or anything, effects the local government there.

SENATOR GILL: And so below that bullet that we were just talking about, it reads -- and you wrote this, assuming -- not assuming. This is your -- we're still on your part of the memo that I was reading, correct?

MR. MOWERS: You're referring to this next section that says, "The HCDO"? Yes, I believe I wrote that.

SENATOR GILL: Yes. And so below that it reads, and I quote, "The Hudson County Democratic Organization has informed Mayor Zimmer that they will not be placing some of her County Committee members on the party line, even though they have worked to collect signatures for Senator Menendez, who will, of course, run on the party line."

What purpose did IGA staff engage in such political information about what or who was running on the Hudson County Committee seats?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, just from my perspective, it would seem relevant because that way if Mayor Zimmer called anyone in the Administration expressing concern about County government or, in her belief at the time, retribution of some sort, they would just be aware and cognizant of the entire situation surrounding it. This is just purely for informational purposes.

SENATOR GILL: And I just have a couple of more.

I'd like to go to flags -- Tab 25.

I'd just like to know -- because it's staying with the same weekly memos -- you spent a fair amount, in 2012, attending "flag drop-offs" to the local elected officials in your region. And on this page it states that 33 flags were delivered; 18 flags left; and that you were scheduling at least 10 flag drop-offs for the upcoming week. Whose idea was it, if you know, for Regional Directors to deliver flags to important towns and mayors?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know. And just to correct: My understanding from what I was told is that these flags were given to municipalities that had undue -- a large loss of life.

SENATOR GILL: And who told you that?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that was relayed by Bridget Kelly.

SENATOR GILL: And that was the basis on which the flags were delivered?

MR. MOWERS: That is what I was told, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

Now, did you-- How did you obtain the flags, physically?

MR. MOWERS: They were in, I believe, Bridget's office.

SENATOR GILL: And were you given a list of places to "drop the flags off"?

MR. MOWERS: As far as which municipalities? Yes, I believe we were, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Were you given a list of where you were supposed to "drop the flags off"?

MR. MOWERS: As far as the municipalities and the organizations, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And you were given that list by whom?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if it was-- It likely would have been Pete Sheridan or Bridget Kelly. But I don't know that for certain; I really don't recall.

SENATOR GILL: And were you given that list as a separate document that said, "drop off flags in the following towns"?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall specifically what e-mail or when we were given that information.

SENATOR GILL: And in reality, we know that the things you call "flag drop-offs," they were not just Port Authority flags, correct?

MR. MOWERS: They were, to my understanding -- they were all flags that were flown over the World Trade Center site on the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

SENATOR GILL: And you dropped those, as you say "flags" off with a letter from the Governor, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I believe we did, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And those flag drop-offs were also accompanied by a certificate.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I believe they were.

SENATOR GILL: And you know that in delivery of flags, at least the Mayor of Wyckoff said it was a powerful token memorializing the 9/11 attacks.

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator. What was the question there? I apologize.

SENATOR GILL: The Mayor of Wyckoff said that it was a powerful token memorializing the 9/11 attacks. Would you agree?

MR. MOWERS: Do I agree that they were-- What was the phrasing he used again? I apologize.

SENATOR GILL: He said "a powerful token memorializing the 9/11 attacks."

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I would agree to that statement, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Now, at some point you received instructions, did you not, from Bridget to drop flags off in Livingston.

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall, again, who I was specifically asked to drop off the flags by. So I don't recall if it was Bridget or not.

SENATOR GILL: And the Governor's hometown -- which you don't know if that was on the original list -- received at least four flags. Livingston received at least four flags.

MR. MOWERS: From my recollection the town of Livingston was given one flag. Both looking at this list, and from my recollection, was that some veterans' organizations also received it. I think, if I remember at the time, they requested it, but I really don't remember the circumstance surrounding it.

SENATOR GILL: What did the letter from the Governor say when you presented these flags?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: On January 31, 2012 -- that would be Tab 13 -- you e-mailed "Flag Recaps" to Mr. Sheridan and Ms. Kelly, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I did send this, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And you subsequently e-mailed recaps to Mr. Sheridan, detailing, of course, interactions with the mayors and others who received these flags. That would be Tab 32 and 36.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that seems to be correct, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, in each of these summaries you indicate that the recipient will highlight the Administration's role in securing the flags.

MR. MOWERS: I'm just looking at the one right here, which says -- on Tab 36, Senator, that says, "Port Authority flag presentation at Garfield VFW." And I don't see a reference to that in this recap, Senator. Could you point to a specific reference in one of the other e-mails?

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. MOWERS: Could you just point that out? I just want to make sure I'm accurately looking at the same documents that you are.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. We'll get back to that.

Were you ever instructed to make sure that the Administration was credited with giving the flags?

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe I ever received that instruction, no.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Were you-- And in your recap, were these the things that you thought were important with respect to dropping off the -- presenting the flags?

MR. MOWERS: Generally speaking, a recap was a recap of the conversation that I had and the interaction I had.

SENATOR GILL: And were you ever instructed to talk about the emotional response that the recipient had with respect to these flags?

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe I was ever specifically requested to do that, but if they had, then I certainly noted that.

SENATOR GILL: And I think-- Then we have a Tab 13, and it will, of course, speak for itself. You indicated that the County Exec of Bergen literally gasped when she saw it?

MR. MOWERS: If I recall, given County Executive Donovan's long-standing personal relationship with the Port Authority, including

knowing some Commissioners who did -- some of her fellow Commissioners who died in the attacks, this was a very personal moment for her, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And when you know these personal moments that people -- the recipients are having, your recaps highlight the mayors, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Senator. Could you rephrase that question?

SENATOR GILL: Your recaps are with respect to the mayors and the County Exec of Bergen.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that's a recap after presenting the flag to County Executive Donovan.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever recap anyone from the VFW in Livingston?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if I did or not, Senator. I would believe I did. I think I submitted a recap for every flag drop-off that I did.

SENATOR GILL: So I see that we only have recaps that you supplied with respect to mayors or the county execs. So if we have others, we will explore that if they fall within the date--

MR. CARPENITO: I'm sorry, Senator. Please finish.

SENATOR GILL: If they fall within the date of the subpoena.

MR. CARPENITO: Sorry. So, Senator Gill, I just wanted to respond to just let you know, the reason that may be is that the subpoenas only sought certain search terms and certain requests. So we responded accordingly and they were focused on mayors and the GW Bridge. So the counsel doesn't have all of his e-mails. So I just wanted to let you know that.

SENATOR GILL: Okay, thank you. But even within that -- it's an emotional presentation-- You were able to indicate the Mayor of North Arlington would possibly be a person who would endorse the Governor's reelection, correct?

MR. MOWERS: The recap was based upon the conversation that the elected official and I had. Some elected officials respond very emotionally -- as County Executive Donovan did. If I recall, Mayor Massa was more interested in showing me where he went to grade school at the Catholic school right down the street from Town Hall. So we discussed politics as well.

SENATOR GILL: Now, in your e-mail in Tab 13 you say, "We should probably develop a policy as to the procedure for these flags, given that I am sure future elected officials will also invite members of the press to these events." Can you please explain to me what that paragraph means?

MR. MOWERS: Sure. Earlier in that recap I reference the fact that Mayor Hameeduddin from Teaneck had invited a reporter from the local *Patch* to take a picture of me presenting the flag to him. Some mayors did that. I believe that we -- Assemblywoman Schepisi and I spoke about Mayor Birkner earlier. I think Mayor Birkner invited the local reporter as well. Given that I did not work in the communications shop, I wasn't authorized, nor did I ever try, to speak to the press in that role. I think I was just highlighting the fact that if one elected official is inviting local reporters, it's likely that others are going to do the same thing; and that we should just know whether it's appropriate for us to be in those photos or not, just given that we don't interact with press -- or we did not interact with press in IGA.

SENATOR GILL: And so when you were talking about a procedure, to whom were you directing this request?

MR. MOWERS: This would have been sent to Pete Sheridan and Bridget Kelly.

SENATOR GILL: And they had no procedure that was in place with respect to the press, or were you ever told that you don't want the press -- we don't want the press to be there when we make the presentation to the mayors?

MR. MOWERS: I think, if I recall, what came out of that conversation was that if a local elected official wanted a reporter there or wanted a photographer there, it was appropriate and fine. But we weren't to comment to the press above and beyond letting them go from what the letter and everything did -- just as was standard procedure for any employee who is not working in the communications department.

SENATOR GILL: So you already had a procedure in place. By your testimony now, the procedure in place would be, if the Mayor wants to invite the press, fine; but we can't -- we, meaning you -- could not comment.

MR. MOWERS: Senator, I'm saying that after I submitted this, I believe the result of that conversation -- making Bridget and Pete aware of that and then, I guess, conferring with whoever they did -- that's where the policy for the purposes of the flag drop-offs was developed.

SENATOR GILL: So then you had a policy for the flag drop-off. And the reason we're asking you these questions is because on March 11 -- and we know that you and IGA were somewhat involved in a similar campaign to distribute the World Trade Center steel to select recipients. It

was done by Baroni, but it was the same kind of issue here -- dropping them off to either certain mayors or certain communities.

MR. MOWERS: If memory serves me correct, those steels were -- those pieces of steel were distributed based upon a request from the municipality or the organization.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And I would just like to know -- we have about 10 minutes -- I'd like to tell you why we were also inquiring. Because on March 11, the *New York Times* reported that for a state that lost hundreds of lives on September 11, the gifts were "emotionally resonant pieces of steel from the ruins of the World Trade Center. They were presented by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to 20 carefully chosen New Jersey mayors who sat atop a list of 100 who endorsed Governor Chris Christie to help him win. Mayors lower on the list, such as Mayor Sokolich of Fort Lee at number 45, received the prerequisite tour."

So the issue of how the flags were distributed and to whom they were distributed -- that's the issue of my inquiry, so we can be clear and be able to make whatever judgment calls we need to make later on.

MR. MOWERS: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Thanks.

Now, we also know that on March 14, the *New York Times* article said it was revealed that the Port Authority was suspending its program to award World Trade Center steel, pending a review of the project.

I'd like to-- Just two more issues. With this Hudson Lights development -- Tab 32?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, you said Tab 32?

SENATOR GILL: Tab 90; not Hudson Lights. I'm sorry.

MR. MOWERS: Tab 90?

SENATOR GILL: Yes, Tab 90.

You received e-mails between you and Ben DeMarzo discussing the lane closure. And then in Tab 90, the e-mail on the screen is just one example. Who do you know Mr. DeMarzo to be?

MR. MOWERS: He's been my best friend since I was 14 years old.

SENATOR GILL: And is he employed in the State of New Jersey?

MR. MOWERS: He is not.

SENATOR GILL: Was he at the time?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if at this time he was or not. He currently works for a congressional campaign elsewhere.

SENATOR GILL: Well, at the time that he wrote you this e-mail, since he is your best friend who you knew since you were 14, did you know where he was employed?

MR. MOWERS: I know previously he was employed by the State of New Jersey, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And do you know his title?

MR. MOWERS: I believe it changed over the years. At one point he was Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Bramnick.

SENATOR GILL: And at this time, when he wrote you this e-mail, was he Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Bramnick?

MR. MOWERS: Like I said, I don't recall exactly when he left State government.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And based upon the documents, is it correct to say that you and Mr. DeMarzo made sure to update each other on the latest press clippings when it came to the lane closure?

MR. MOWERS: Based upon which documents, Senator, are you referring to?

SENATOR GILL: Well--

MR. MOWERS: This one?

SENATOR GILL: We'll go to Tab 90. And you supplied other e-mails between you and Mr. DeMarzo updating each other on the lane closings. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes. I believe at this point, if I'm not mistaken, this is when the e-mails from Bridget Kelly and David Wildstein were revealed, I believe. Ben -- along with many people in New Jersey politics -- was following the clips of this relatively closely.

SENATOR GILL: I wouldn't ask you about many other people.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR GILL: I had asked you if Ben was updating you on the lane closings.

MR. MOWERS: I think he and I were just sending each other clips back-and-forth. I wouldn't qualify that as updating, though.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So let's do it as back-and-forth. When was the last back-and-forth you received any information from Ben about the lane closing?

MR. MOWERS: As far as-- You're talking about an article in January or so?

SENATOR GILL: Any information.

MR. MOWERS: I mean, information-- I mean, you know, Ben and I spoke yesterday about how I was feeling going into today, just as a general check-in.

SENATOR GILL: You spoke yesterday, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I did.

SENATOR GILL: And you spoke to Ben yesterday about your testimony here today.

MR. MOWERS: Just broadly speaking, generally speaking, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Broadly, generally speaking.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR GILL: And what did you say to Ben with respect to the testimony?

MR. MOWERS: I said, "They want me to be there and answer questions; I'll go there and I'll answer questions. I have no problem doing that."

SENATOR GILL: Okay, all right.

And then this is the last questions that I have. Now, I just want to go through--

MR. MOWERS: Can I add, Senator, I actually also said I was looking forward to an exchange with you -- I was looking forward to it.
(laughter)

SENATOR GILL: That sounds like a paid political announcement, but you can say it.

MR. MOWERS: Okay.

SENATOR GILL: Now, in the New Hampshire-- I just want to go through e-mails and documents that you provided to the Committee--

MR. MOWERS: I did.

SENATOR GILL: --during your time as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Republican Party.

Now, all throughout December and January, you and the New Hampshire Republican Party began to receive press inquiries about the lane closure, correct?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: And I would refer you to Tab 84.

Now, you received multiple inquiries from the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Record*, which you subsequently forwarded to Bill Stepien and Michael DuHaime. And right now we're looking at the first e-mail from December 11, correct?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: Why did you find it necessary to forward the e-mail and others to Mr. Stepien and Mr. DuHaime? Is that based upon the campaign?

MR. MOWERS: Like I mentioned, I believe, when I was speaking with Assemblyman Wisniewski, this was a reference to my time on the campaign. So as I would for any previous employer, I forwarded the information to the two individuals who were involved in the campaign.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now on Tab 85, two days later on December 13, you received an e-mail from Ryan Williams, where you state you've been, "Distracted because of a couple of things -- with the Bridge in Jersey pop up." Who was Mr. Williams?

MR. MOWERS: At the time he was the communications consultant for the New Hampshire Republican Party.

SENATOR GILL: And do you know him as-- And so does he basically handle the Party's communications and is an advisor to the New Hampshire Republican Party?

MR. MOWERS: He did, yes.

SENATOR GILL: I think, so I'll make sure this is the same person, was he also-- Was he not Governor Romney's national Deputy Press Secretary?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that was his title, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now on Tab 86, here you wrote to Mr. Stepien, "I don't plan to return the call from Ted Mann, but let me know the team's thoughts if they are different." Now, I think you may have answered it, but I just want to make sure I know who the team is.

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall specifically who I would have been referring to. But as I referenced earlier, I believe it probably would have had to do with the communications team, who I did not really directly e-mail often.

SENATOR GILL: And the communications team where?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know; whoever was handling these inquiries at the time.

SENATOR GILL: For the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: For whoever was handling them. I don't recall whether there was still someone on the political side or not.

SENATOR GILL: In Tab 87 -- this is an e-mail between you and Mr. Stepien from January, two days before Ms. Kelly's infamous e-mail

is leaked. In this exchange you inform Mr. Stepien that you are meeting with Tom Rath (indicating pronunciation) -- is that the way you pronounce it?

MR. MOWERS: It is, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And you ask Mr. Stepien if there's any info he would be interested in from Mr. Rath. Who is Mr. Rath?

MR. MOWERS: Tom Rath has been involved in-- He's an attorney and a lobbyist in New Hampshire. He's been around New Hampshire politics, I believe as he told me, for at least 50 years now.

SENATOR GILL: Is he the former New Hampshire Attorney General?

MR. MOWERS: I believe he was, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And is he also a senior advisor to Mitt Romney?

MR. MOWERS: I believe he was.

SENATOR GILL: Did you discuss with him the lane closings and the Fort Lee issue?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

SENATOR GILL: Then a couple of days later, following the release of Ms. Kelly's e-mail, "Time for some problems in Fort Lee (*sic*)," on January 8, Mr. Stepien and Ms. Kelly were fired. Have you spoken to Mr. Stepien since he was fired by the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: I have.

SENATOR GILL: You have. And how many times since Mr. Stepien was fired by the Governor have you spoken with him?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know the exact number, but in the past six months probably on just about three or four occasions -- just to check in and see how things were going.

SENATOR GILL: And when was the last time you spoke to Mr. Stepien?

MR. MOWERS: A few weeks ago.

SENATOR GILL: And did you speak about the lane closures or anything to do with the issues before this Committee?

MR. MOWERS: I do not believe we did, no.

SENATOR GILL: Now, at this time, when you began to have a more frequent contact with Ryan Williams, who begins to further advise and direct you on how to respond to the media inquiries regarding the lane closures -- also during this time, on January 12, 13, and 14 -- do you forward clips -- news clips to Mr. DuHaime at this time?

MR. MOWERS: You're referring to a specific Tab, Senator?

SENATOR GILL: Generally the ones that you provided to-- We provided those to you, so take an opportunity--

MR. MOWERS: Are you referring to this packet here, Senator? Okay.

SENATOR GILL: It starts off with the New Hampshire-- They weren't in the packet; you did provide them to us. We provided them for everyone else--

MR. MOWERS: Understood.

SENATOR GILL: --early on, but it doesn't have a Tab.

Now, you began to have contact with Mr. Ryan Williams, who began to further advise and direct you -- and I'm talking about the exhibits

that we've given you -- on how to respond to media inquiries regarding the lane closures. And also during this time, January 12, 13, and 14, you forward news clippings from New Hampshire newspapers covering the lane closures to Mr. Duhaime, correct? You can--

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Why did you find it necessary to forward the news clippings to Mr. DuHaime at this time?

MR. MOWERS: I wouldn't say I found it necessary; it might have just been an article he was interested in.

SENATOR GILL: Well, why did you forward it to him?

MR. MOWERS: I thought it was an article that might be of interest to him.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So we can look on January 12. You provided an e-mail from a Jennifer Horn, and Jennifer is--

MR. MOWERS: She's the Chairwoman -- Chairman of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee.

SENATOR GILL: And she's telling you and her staff to refer all press calls about you and the lane closing to Ryan Williams, correct?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: Why is Ryan Williams advising and directing you on responses to the lane closings in New Jersey?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, because it was New Hampshire reporters who were calling; people who-- Ryan, back in 2010, was the Communications Director full-time in the party and has a relationship with these reporters. And since at this point-- Prior to the New Hampshire press reporting about it, I never saw it as having anything to do with my role in

New Hampshire. But once the New Hampshire press began to report on it -- for obvious reasons, I would think -- it did become more of an issue. So Ryan, since he was Communications Director, was providing direction for New Hampshire press.

SENATOR GILL: And did you have Administration discussion with Mr. Ryan (*sic*) about the lane closings and the situation in New Jersey with respect to this?

MR. MOWERS: Nothing of substance, from my recollection.

SENATOR GILL: Well, if you didn't discuss with him anything of substance, but you were taking advice from him with respect to how you dealt with the press -- or they dealt with the press on your behalf -- where were they -- meaning Mr. Ryan -- getting the information from?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, they saw the press clippings as well. If there were-- I'm sorry, Senator. Could you repeat the question, or rephrase it a little bit?

SENATOR GILL: You were told to refer-- Jennifer Horn, the Chair of the New Hampshire Republican Party, was telling you and her staff that all press calls about you and the lane closing should go to Ryan Williams, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Right. She is referring to press calls to the New Hampshire Republican staff.

SENATOR GILL: Wherever they are from, they're press calls.

MR. MOWERS: This would only refer to, actually, Senator, press calls to the office.

SENATOR GILL: Whatever press calls were coming in, from wherever they were coming in, this says to refer all press calls about you and the lane closure to Ryan Williams, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Senator, respectfully, that's not what this says. It just says -- and if you don't mind, I'll even read from the e-mail -- it just references that the *Wall Street Journal* article had identified me as being the campaign contact or even the office contact for the Mayor of Fort Lee. It highlights the fact that, for reasons which I would think are obvious, a number of press calls are going to come into the office; and a number of reporters called the New Hampshire public--

SENATOR GILL: Why don't you read what it says?

MR. MOWERS: I'd be happy to, Senator.

"Hi, all. Matt is identified in this *Wall Street Journal* article as the contact between the Christie campaign and the Fort Lee Mayor. We are likely to get a number of press calls as a result. Do not discuss this or give any statement of any kind to anyone. All callers should be referred to Ryan Williams. It could turn out to be a bit of a difficult week ahead of us. Keep your heads down, focus on what you need to get done. And as I said, refer any press calls to Ryan. Thank you all. Keep up the great work. Jennifer."

SENATOR GILL: Thank you.

And a couple more questions.

Then 24 hours later, at 11:55 a.m., the day before Governor Christie's State of the State, Colin Reid -- Governor's Christie's Deputy Communications Director -- e-mails Ryan Williams, who you told us works for the Republican Party in New Hampshire. Colin Reid e-mails Ryan a

polickernj article, titled, "Bergen Dem Mayor Reconsiders Christie 2013 Endorsement," correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, that is what he did.

SENATOR GILL: And Mr. Williams then forwards you the e-mail from Mr. Reid, including the article. And the article mentions that you played a key liaison role in finalizing the endorsement for the River Vale Mayor. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: That is correct. That's what the article says, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Do you know -- only if you know -- why Colin Reid, who's working as a State employee in the Office of the Governor, sends an e-mail to the New Hampshire Republican Party's communication consultant?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Did you speak to Mr. Reid about the e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I do not believe I did, no.

SENATOR GILL: Did you speak to Mr. Williams about the e-mail that Colin Reid sent to you?

MR. MOWERS: I don't believe we had a specific conversation on that, no.

SENATOR GILL: Now, I just want to mention that we know from Mr. Drewniak's testimony last week that he had recused himself from dealing with any lane closure requests, and that it was reported on February 1 that Mr. Reid sent an e-mail to the press reporters attacking Mr. Wildstein in the *New York Times*. You were not part of giving any information to Mr. Collins (*sic*) about that, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I was not, no.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Do you currently work with Mr. Reid in New Hampshire?

MR. MOWERS: Not in any official capacity, no.

SENATOR GILL: Does he work-- What position -- if you know -- does Mr. Reid have in New Hampshire?

MR. MOWERS: He's campaign manager for Scott Brown in his Senate campaign.

SENATOR GILL: And for the next several days -- and this is my last question -- you continue to e-mail Mr. Williams and Chairwoman Horn, correct?

MR. MOWERS: It's Chairman Horn, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And then on January 16, Ben DeMarzo sends you the *politickernj* article stating that your documents relating to the lane closures were supposed to be subpoenaed -- or were subpoenaed, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I don't see which e-mail you're referring to, Senator. Is it part of this packet, or is that part of a separate exhibit?

SENATOR GILL: Do you know if he e-mailed you?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know offhand, Senator. I'd have to see it.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And I want to draw your attention to one final e-mail that you provided to this Committee. The e-mail is from January 17, the day after you were subpoenaed.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Sorry, Chair. Which Tab is that so we can keep up?

SENATOR GILL: This is part -- they didn't put it in a Tab, but we provided it to everyone.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay.

SENATOR GILL: And you provided this to us.

MR. MOWERS: At your request, Senator, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And this e-mail is from Mr. Ryan Williams, and it's to you and Chairwoman Jennifer Horn, correct?

MR. MOWERS: From Ryan to myself and Jennifer Horn, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And Mr. Williams forwards you an article from the local television station, and the article is entitled, "State GOP Executive Director Subpoenaed in New Jersey Bridge Probe," correct?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, what's-- I don't have the title of the article. If I do, I apologize.

SENATOR GILL: It's on the next page that you have.

MR. MOWERS: It does say that, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And the article quotes a Republican strategist named Mr. Mike Dennehy. Is that how you pronounce it?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And Mr. Dennehy states, in reference to the lane closings-- Let's see, if you look on the last page, what he says -- the last page of the-- And if you could read it into the record.

MR. MOWERS: You want me to read--

SENATOR GILL: His quotes.

MR. MOWERS: --the quote from Mike Dennehy?

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. MOWERS: “We are not going to know the public answers for a while, so the open and honest part, the transparent part from the GOP, is very important. So Matt Mowers has to be very clear and open about what’s going on with him, even to be able to do his job effectively,” said Republican strategist Mike Dennehy.”

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And what does Mr. Dennehy do in New Hampshire?

MR. MOWERS: I think he’s a political consultant and lobbyist.

SENATOR GILL: And you then receive an e-mail, which is the January 17 e-mail. And that e-mail would be from Ryan Williams to Jennifer Horn and to you -- from Ryan Williams at 6:14 p.m., just so we’re clear. You have that?

MR. MOWERS: I do see that, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And read his e-mail. What does it say?

MR. MOWERS: Ryan writes, “Mike Dennehy is a snake. See his comment in the story,” and he puts a link to the story.

SENATOR GILL: And is that the story -- the quote we just read from the story?

MR. MOWERS: It is.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And then there’s-- Mr. Williams tells you, “Please make sure your folks see to this, so there’s no possible way that Dennehy gets hired for Christie in 2016,” correct?

MR. MOWERS: That is what Ryan writes, yes.

SENATOR GILL: And then you send that e-mail to Mr. DuHaime, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall if I did send that e-mail to Mike DuHaime.

SENATOR GILL: Well, why don't we-- Right after it says, "He's a snake," and it says -- do you see that?

MR. MOWERS: There are supposed to be two references to that. Where are you referring to, Senator?

SENATOR GILL: I'm on the "he's a snake."

MR. MOWERS: "Is a snake," or "been a snake"? I'm sorry, there are two.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. "He's been a snake," or "he's a snake." I guess a "snake" by any other name-- This is-- It starts out, "Can't do your job, Matt; you're not transparent. He's been a snake." Do you see that?

MR. MOWERS: I do see that.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And under that, it says, "On Friday, January 17, 2004, (*sic*) at 6:17, Matt Mowers" -- and it gives you -- "wrote, 'Just sent to DuHaime. So much for my buddy Dennehy who bought me lunch two weeks ago.'" So you then sent it to Mr. DuHaime, correct?

MR. MOWERS: It says I did here, but I'm not certain that I actually did.

SENATOR GILL: I have no further questions.

MR. MOWERS: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Thank you.

MR. CARPENITO: I'm sorry, Co-Chairs Weinberg and Wisniewski. May I ask for a brief break?

SENATOR WEINBERG: You may, of course.

MR. MOWERS: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Five-minute break.

MR. MOWERS: That would be great.

(recess)

(return from recess)

SENATOR WEINBERG: We're going to start, considering it's late.

Senator O'Toole.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: May I start, Chair?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Thank you.

Through you, Chair, I just have a lot of follow-up in different areas, and I'll try to be as quick as possible as long as our deponent can keep up. If I'm going too fast, or I speak too fast -- as people tell me that I tend to do -- I will slow it down.

First of all, through the Chair, there was a lot of talk about New Hampshire, and I was a little bit caught off guard by that. I was handed the handout -- Senator Gill handed this to everybody? And you have a copy of this?

SENATOR WEINBERG: I think these are the documents that came in late, if I am correct?

MR. CARPENITO: That's not correct, Senator. We produced those at the time, respectfully.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Right.

MR. CARPENITO: We did get one document, which was a complete text message, that was provided on Friday; but it had nothing to do with New Hampshire. These have been in your possession for a while.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Well, I just received a copy of this at the beginning of this meeting. And having heard Senator Gill ask the questions about New Hampshire just caused me to ask some questions about New Hampshire.

So, through the Chair -- Matt, the political environment in New Hampshire, from having read these three or four articles, seems to be quite contentious. And if you could just lay out: is there a senate race, is there a governor's race, congressional race -- what's happening there, or is it just like a normal election year in New Hampshire?

MR. MOWERS: In fact, there's a competitive gubernatorial race between Governor Maggie Hassan and -- there are a couple of Republican candidates running in the primary. There's a very competitive U.S. Senate race to replace Senator Jeanne Shaheen. And you have four Republican candidates running in a primary, primarily on the issue of Obamacare, and it's been contentious, back-and-forth between particularly Senator Scott Brown and Senator Jeanne Shaheen -- including an FCC complaint filed against Senator Shaheen. And there are also two congressional races which are competitive, as well as 400 state

representative races. There are 400 members in the statehouse and they are all up this year. And there are 24 state senators as well, in addition to five executive council seats -- New Hampshire is one of the few states that has that -- in addition to a slew of other local races. So there is a lot going on politically in 2014 in New Hampshire.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Through the Chair, it just struck me odd that the newspapers -- or certain political folks are taking shots at you as the Executive Director for this issue. Did that take you by surprise?

MR. MOWERS: I have never customarily been in campaigns where campaigns attack other staff. So this was definitely a new frontier in that way.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And in terms of -- again, I don't know if this is a normal election year; it seems like there is a lot going on. Are the national parties involved in New Hampshire right now?

MR. MOWERS: There are. There's excessive involvement from the Republican National Committee, the National Senatorial Republican Committee, to some degree the Republican Governors Association, as well as the National Congressional Committee.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And I'm trying to work backwards off some of the notes, and comments, and questions of some of the other Committee members so I can try to save some time here.

We touched upon, back in your days of IGA, about this distribution of flags that were flown over on the 10th anniversary of the Port Authority. Do you remember that testimony?

MR. MOWERS: I do, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. And there was some detail as to how those individuals were selected -- if they were selected; and with regard to the steel beams -- whether there was a request made by the municipalities. I think you had testified that the municipalities, or mayors, or representatives made those requests for pieces of steel.

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, that was the case, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Now, the conversation with the flags went into some detail about how they were given out, and you had some narratives from the County Executive from Bergen, from the Mayor of Fort Lee, and a number of others -- I think the Mayor of Teaneck -- who were emotionally overcome -- the Mayor of Wyckoff, as Senator Gill talked about -- emotionally overcome with the sentimentality or the symbolism of that flag.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And did that strike you as odd, or was that-- What was your reaction to that?

MR. MOWERS: I would think it would be very natural.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: There are elected officials who I am aware of in our walk of life -- Congress members, for instance. And I think U.S. Senators -- they too hand out flags, and the flags that are flown over the U.S. Capitol. Are you aware of that custom?

MR. MOWERS: I've heard it. I don't have any firsthand recollection of that.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Well, I'm aware of it because we've been in -- in my town, and the town is in District 40, they have been

recipients of Congress members or their representatives coming out and handing flags out that have flown over -- for a minute, or a couple of minutes -- over the Capitol; and if somebody passed away, if they're honoring a moment or a person, they are handed that flag for some reason. So to me it's not uncommon to have the flag distribution. But I was really struck by, in your narratives, the emotional component that you filled out -- the descriptions as these flags were being conferred.

Was that a common theme as these flags were being given to these municipalities, or mayors, or representatives -- that the physical and emotional attachment would really define the moment, so to speak?

MR. MOWERS: It would. I think that stems from the fact that for all the region, but particularly Northern New Jersey, so many people knew, firsthand, neighbors, or friends, or family members who were lost in the September 11 attacks.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Through the Chair, Matt, we're going to step back; back to 11:15 today when you started talking about -- when you were giving your opening statement. I watched you give your -- deliver your opening statement. And what was really curious to me is that you really didn't read your statement. You had it. You read from -- as if you were coming from the heart, or something that you just had prepared internally. I know you had it physically.

Explain to me -- as you were preparing your opening statement, and as you read that -- what were you thinking about as you delivered that here? I have a reason for asking that question.

MR. MOWERS: I was thinking about how this has all had such an emotional impact on so many people's lives.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Including your own?

MR. MOWERS: Including my own.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Well, that's where I want to start. Through the Chair, how old are you?

MR. MOWERS: I am 24.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: You're 24 years old. And you started in, I think it was, December 2010. You were 20 years old.

MR. MOWERS: I might have been 21 at that point.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: You were 21.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: Young enough for me to keep of track of that, Senator.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: All right. Well, you know, as you were being sworn in, it really-- And I listened to you as you were conveying your opening statement with such conviction, that to me it's an unfortunate moment in time that a 21-year-old staffer -- who is now a 24-year-old staffer -- is sitting here testifying before a Committee.

And when you read these newspapers in New Hampshire where you're currently working, and you Google your name, forever you will be defined as one of the individuals who had to come testify; forever you will be defined as the Executive Director in New Hampshire who the Democrats are vilifying. And how does that make you feel, as a 24-year-old?

MR. MOWERS: I just hope that through this process it becomes abundantly clear that what we've seen is not something I would ever want to be a part of. And what we've seen unfold, what seemingly has

happened, it's not something-- That just isn't part of my core of who I am -- you know, somebody who is young, and working in politics and professional life, and who got involved to, hopefully, do some good; that I'm not tainted the same way that others are now because of the, whether it's careless or apparently wrong, actions of a few individuals.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Through the Chair, you testified that you spent some time, with your attorney, with the Mastro lawyers, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: You spent some time-- You said that the Mastro report -- I think it was Tab 94 -- you read it and said that other than one or two minor corrections about an Assemblyperson who is really a councilmember, and a few other -- that that report was really a realistic depiction of what occurred in your interview. Did you say that?

MR. CARPENITO: Respectfully, Senator O'Toole, again, the difference being it's not the entire report, it's the interview memo that's related to Mr. Mowers.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: The interview memo. That's a fair point.

MR. CARPENITO: Thank you.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: But what was written in the Mastro report -- do you take exception to anything, other than that one note that you said about five hours earlier?

MR. MOWERS: In that memo, in particular? Nothing of particular note, no -- that I recall.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I want to tell you, Matt, again, this is about your life; and we saw Christine Renna, and we saw Michael

Drewniak. And when the resolution was passed about looking into this action -- the closure, realignment, whatever it is -- I think a lot of us wanted to get to the bottom of that. I heard in your opening statement, through the Chair, that you in no shape, manner, or form, had anything to do with the closure or realignment of the George Washington Bridge in September. Is that accurate?

MR. MOWERS: It is.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. And as I understood your testimony -- both through the Mastro report or the summary of it, and through your conversations with our counsel, and through your testimony here today -- that you have consistently maintained that position, the position that you had nothing to do with the closure or the realignment of the George Washington Bridge.

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And yet we're here, you're here. How do you explain why you're here -- as a 24-year-old looking at me, a 49-year-old -- soon to be 50 -- who's a father, who has a 17-year-old? I see somebody close to my son. What do you think brings you here, right now, if you know?

MR. MOWERS: To be frank, I don't know. I don't know why I'm here. I would think-- I sat down previously with this Committee's counsel to give any and all information I have, to answer any and all questions because I want to be helpful. So to say I was surprised when I received a judicial request to come here is probably a bit of an understatement even.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Your testimony, through the Chair -- and we're going to get to it -- you talk about when you had various conversations; and I'll go general before I go specific. You had conversations with local elected officials who, at one point in time, were thinking about endorsing Governor Christie, but they were fearful -- I think your words were -- of political reprisals. Is that your testimony?

MR. MOWERS: I believe in sum and substance is was, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: That to me was unexpected testimony. If there's anything that comes out of this here today, which we'll get into, that was the unexpected testimony.

I'm going to make one comment before I go, and ask you very specific questions.

In 1993, when I was a young buck -- 24, 25 -- the most extraordinary thing happened that kind of shaped my life from afar. I remember Vincent Foster, who worked for the White House, took his life. And in his resignation, or suicide note, he wrote -- before it was ripped up into 27 pieces -- he said, "Here, ruining people is considered sport." That quote stuck with me to this day. So when you talk about, in your opening statement, how proud you are and were to work for the State, for this Governor; and then the flip side -- we're sitting here interviewing you, now for the third or fourth time, in one fashion or another, about what you were doing, doing your job as a staffer in IGA and as a political employee for a campaign.

And it just strikes me very odd and very sad that as a 24-year-old, we have to worry about whether we are ruining your life. And that bothers me. That really bothers me.

Now, having said that, Matt, let's get to the specifics of your testimony.

With regard to the reports that you wrote -- and you wrote a number of them, the narratives, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Are you referring to the-- Which narratives?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Well, let's take it back so we can understand. When you worked at IGA, on-and-off, your job was to handle elected officials, by and large; I think up to 180 at one point, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I would work and be a point of contact for elected officials.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Now, having been at the local level and at the county level, on any given day -- you don't know -- especially Essex County, Hudson County, and others -- you don't know what particular entity or person is working, collaborating with the locals, the county -- there seems to be a shifting of sands throughout. So as I was reading the Tabs with your narratives, it struck me that you were really-- I would say that information is king in this business. That you were the recipient of information, and you were funneling back all kinds of information -- whether you called it operative policy or political, you were receiving information from various elected officials and just transmitting back through the channel of a IGA when you worked at IGA. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: It is, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. And the reason-- Let me ask: The reason why you would shift the information -- explain to me why-- Whether it is characterized as political operative, however you defined it -- what was so important about getting the nuance of what was going on -- a

snapshot of, say, Hudson County, or Bergen County, or Fort Lee, or Teaneck, or Old Bridge that particular day? What was so important? Or was it just that you wanted to take an accurate depiction of what occurred politically and move it forward?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I think it was with Senator Gill -- we discussed my background in advance. And one of the things you do in advance is ensure that any and all information is provided about -- whether it's a situation on the ground or events that are happening. So I think because that was part of my training and where I came from, that just translated to the fact that I wanted to relay any and all information that I received.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: When you were working at IGA, how many phone calls in a given day, how many e-mails would you receive or send in a given day?

MR. MOWERS: Upwards of a couple hundred -- 150, sometimes 200 or more.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And at any point in time you had to read clippings when you worked at IGA -- newspapers articles, or press releases, or news publications?

MR. MOWERS: I would try daily to read them -- both from statewide entities as well as the local municipal papers as well.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Your testimony about the -- and I'm going to try to go in the order in which you gave it -- you talked about when you met with the Mayor of Teaneck, that you discussed a variety of issues. And you said, "education, a charter school application, among a number of other issues." Is that accurate?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that's approximately what I said. I think so.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: During the course that you worked at IGA, did you ever have political discussions, asking people for endorsements for the Governor while you worked at IGA?

MR. MOWERS: Not in my capacity-- It would never be in my capacity as a representative of IGA, no.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. Let's go to Tab 35.

Tab 35, if your attorney has it in front of you, Page 562, 563, 564, and it goes on to 565. You were asked a number of questions about the content, with a particular drill down on Page 564 with regard to Tana Raymond. Is that accurate?

MR. MOWERS: That's correct.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. And I think you reported back -- if you can just go to, "Frank Calandriello and Tana Raymond." See that paragraph in the middle?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: The last sentence there, "Tana would like to round up additional Democratic endorsements for the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor in the reelect campaign for next year." Were you reporting back what Tana was telling you?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. Were you soliciting the endorsement, or simply reporting back what was told to you?

MR. MOWERS: I was just reporting the conversation -- relaying the information from the conversation that she had spoken to me.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: There was a lot of discussion about your work hours at IGA. You work 10 hours, 12 hours, I think anyone here -- Republican or Democrat -- who has worked with you, through the Chair, they would recognize you put in long hours.

At some point during your day, you have a lunch hour, you have a break, you have a coffee break. To suggest that we, all of us, never talk about politics while we're working under the dome -- is kind of foolish to say that, in my estimation. We're all political creatures, through the Chair. We are part of a political environment. And if there's an election going on, or if there's an endorsement, there's a happening -- all of us will go around the water cooler, at some point in time, and have a discussion. Do you disagree with that characterization -- a political discussion, or an observation?

MR. MOWERS: I don't want to make any assumptions, but I know a number of political people who often have conversations, regardless of where they are, because it's their interest.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I don't know a person in this building who has not had a political discussion in this building, or an observation on politics. That's just the nature-- That's been my understanding for the 19 years I've served in the State Legislature.

And I think there's a recognition of that. And let me just point out -- and you may not have a copy, so I'll give your attorney a moment -- staff pulled out the Joint Rules of the Senate and the Assembly. It was passed on January 14, 2014. And I'm going to read verbatim, because you may not have it in front of you. And it's Sub Part G. If you want to hand it to him, that's fine. (Committee Aide hands copy to Mr. Mowers)

Through the Chair, if you don't mind, I'm just going to-- Page 43, of the Joint Rules of the Senate and the Assembly.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We don't all have them.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I'm sorry?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We don't all have them.

SENATOR GILL: Can we just -- everybody have a copy so we can--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: No, I just had-- Frankly, it was during your questioning, Madam Senator, that this question came up and, frankly, I have a very astute staffer who said, "Hey, here's the rules."

SENATOR WEINBERG: Through the Chair,

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Through the Chair, because we're clear that there are different rules that control the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I understand, I understand it. I can't speak for the Executive side; I'm speaking from a Legislative perspective. So I'm going to ask questions relative to my experience, and ask if he can relate to that.

SENATOR GILL: Oh, okay.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Thank you,

Through the Chair, Page 43, "The Joint Rules of the Senate and the Assembly, passed unanimously by voice vote, January 14, 2014, Section G. Partisan staff conduct and resources," and I point your attention to Section 33. And I'm going to read it for those who don't have it -- 33A.

"No partisan staff employee may use, or make available for use

by another, State property or resource in connection with campaign work. No partisan staff employees may use a State resource in connection with preparation of securing signatures or the filing of petitions.” However, Sub Part B: “The use of State property or resources in connection with campaign work should not be prohibited if, one, it is rare and isolated, and two, it imposes little or no cost to the State, and three, it is incidental and subordinate to other work which is primarily public purpose.”

Have you read that?

MR. MOWERS: I just had the opportunity.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Has your attorney read that?

MR. CARPENITO: I have, sir.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: To me, again, these rules -- aptly noted by Senator Gill -- apply to the Senate and Assembly partisan staff. And within these rules there's a recognition that we are not computers; that we are going to talk. I mean, our function is our function; it's governmental, 9 to 5. But to suggest that we are not going to have a political discussion -- incidental or isolated -- is ridiculous. We don't live in grain silos where we're isolated from the rest of the world. We live in a political environment, and we're bombarded by articles and whatnot.

Is it your experience when you worked at IGA that what you did, as a primary function, was for a governmental purpose or a public policy purpose?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, it was.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. Do you believe you did political work or political -- a primary political purpose while working at IGA?

MR. MOWERS: No.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. We take great pains to go through Tab 35, and I want to briefly walk through -- with that comment in mind, Mr. Mowers, through the Chair.

Page 562 -- it starts with, "Traveling meetings: Garfield re-org, VFW; meeting with Fort Lee; meeting with Korean leader; and meeting with Ji Ho Choi. Those are governmental?"

MR. MOWERS: Yes, they are.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. "Governor's reading." Is that a governmental purpose?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: "The Top 100 Mayors." Was that a governmental purpose?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay, next page. "Top 1K outreach." Was that a governmental purpose?

MR. MOWERS: It was.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: "The response device." Was that a governmental purpose?

MR. MOWERS: It was.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: "The County Chairs," and you are talking to one Chair who's talking about a charter school. Was that a governmental purpose?

MR. MOWERS: In this case, it appears yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: "The Biweekly e-mail sent; 1K." Was that a governmental purpose?

MR. MOWERS: If it had been sent, it would have been.
(laughter)

SENATOR O'TOOLE: "Biweekly e-mails, as listed."
Governmental?

MR. MOWERS: It would have been governmental in context.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay, Page 564. "The 1K outreach, the July Action Plan," down to the political narrative, were they governmental?

MR. MOWERS: I apologize, Senator. I lost you there for a second.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Sure, sure. The Page 3 there, to save some time: Those listed -- up until political narrative, through the regional narrative, through the schedule. Did you consider them governmental or political?

MR. MOWERS: Governmental.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. And if I took you through every one of the exhibits, every Tab that we've questioned you on -- or some of the other Committee members -- would you have that same answer? That the narratives that you presented, whether it was under operation or political, it was a governmental purpose?

MR. MOWERS: I would.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. And you have-- You're sure about that?

MR. MOWERS: For the ones that we have discussed, that came from my time in IGA, I think generally speaking, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: You talked about when you were on the

road, you would do a three-or-four page memo on occasion, and you said your BlackBerry was not really the proper device to convey a comprehensive report. Did you testify to that, or words to that effect?

MR. MOWERS: I did, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And you said -- did you have a State-issued laptop?

MR. MOWERS: I did not.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: You did not. And I think you testified at some point you had a difficulty when you were on the road logging onto the State field, or the State computer, or the State website.

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I would have issues with the State e-mail portal, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And was that because it was aged, it was incompatible--

MR. MOWERS: I don't know exactly why; I'm not an IT expert.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: When they went to Tab 94, Page 7, they talked about your interaction with the Mayor, and your March 26 meeting. You said Mayor Sokolich was fearful at some point in time?

MR. MOWERS: He was, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. And you had a number of discussions, and maybe one at his kitchen table. What was he actually fearful of? And who was he fearful from?

MR. MOWERS: He was fearful of losing contracts that he had had with Democratic-controlled municipalities.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Did he tell you that?

MR. MOWERS: He did. And he followed up by, essentially, summaries saying he did not have the fortitude to endorse because of his fear of that.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Was his fear that he would, through the Chair, that he would lose those contracts?

MR. MOWERS: That is what Mayor Sokolich said to me, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Did he say there would be political reprisal, retaliation--

MR. MOWERS: In some-- I believe in summary that is what he said, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And what did you think of that? Did that surprise you?

MR. MOWERS: Given what I heard from other elected officials in the same capacity, it didn't as much, unfortunately.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: When we were talking about Tab 64, we talked about the Mayor of Teaneck. You testified that you believed the Mayor of Teaneck, at some point, wanted to endorse the Governor. Is that accurate?

MR. MOWERS: He had expressed that to me, yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay. But I wrote it down here that you said he didn't, "He was fearful of political consequence by members of" -- "the legislative members of his town." Is that your testimony?

MR. MOWERS: It is.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And what exactly did the Mayor of Teaneck say to you, if you can best recall or summarize what he said?

MR. MOWERS: To the best of my recollection, the Mayor of Teaneck would relatively frequently bring up the idea of endorsing the Governor -- that he was giving it thought. And I think he-- But he would also always, within a couple of sentences, note that Senator Weinberg has substantial political presence in Teaneck and that he was fearful of political consequences from endorsing a Republican Governor while being represented by a Democratic Senator.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And I'm not putting words in your mouth, through the Chair, was the Mayor of Teaneck fearful of Senator Weinberg?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Why do you sound so surprised?
(laughter)

MR. MOWERS: I think he was fearful of the--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Oh, my goodness.

MR. MOWERS: --any political consequence--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Now, I want to be clear.

MR. MOWERS: Right.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I really want to be clear,

SENATOR GILL: Watch the bat. (laughter)

MR. MOWERS: He expressed on multiple occasions that he was fearful of the political retribution from allies of Senator Weinberg, and Senator Weinberg in Teaneck.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Did the Mayor ever say which of the allies, number one, of Senator Weinberg, and what was the political retribution that was being contemplated, or thought, or feared?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall any specifics that he mentioned. It was just a fairly frequent mentioned that he would say-- You know, he would say *political allies*.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Did that surprise you?

MR. MOWERS: Knowing Senator Weinberg, it would.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: It would?

MR. MOWERS: Well--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: First of all, you said you were happy -- that you couldn't wait to tell Ben DeMarzo you were being crossed by Senator Gill. (laughter) So it's the only time I call into question your credibility here.

Put that aside. Did that surprise you -- on a serious note, Matt -- did that surprise you when that claim was made about political retribution?

MR. MOWERS: It did.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: The Mayor of Lyndhurst, you said, at one point in time was contemplating endorsing the Governor. Is that your testimony, through the Chair?

MR. MOWERS: It was.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And is there a reason why the Mayor-- Did the Mayor of Lyndhurst ever express to you why there was no endorsement?

MR. MOWERS: He was, at one point, hoping to get a job with a possible Democratic sheriff -- should one get elected. And he was fearful that that job would not be slated for him because of it being Lou Stellato's -- the Bergen County Democrat Chairman's -- hometown; that he would

exercise influence on that decision-making process and hold -- and endorse (indiscernible) Republican against the Mayor of Lyndhurst.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Through the Chair, this is my last area of questioning. Matt, you've been very patient for the six-and-a-half hours you've been here.

It seems to me an objective observer, watching the hearings today, could reach one conclusion: that there's a narrative trying to be drawn that the Governor's Office, or the IGA, or the campaign was trying to curry favor with those individuals who might endorse. And I'm not so sure I would take that as a given. As a matter of fact, it seems to me when there is this piece of steel given out, there are flags given out, it seems to me, having read all these documents, that many of the individuals who work very hard against this Governor were recipients of pieces of steel, of some of the flags, of treatment at IGA.

I mean, could you elaborate and talk about: Was this government about going -- trying to work favorably with individuals who were working politically with this Governor or, when you worked at IGA, did every mayor, every elected official get treated equally -- irrespective of their party, their position, or whether they endorsed this Governor from a public policy standpoint or a political standpoint?

MR. MOWERS: As I mentioned, actually in my opening testimony, my experience was that we treated every elected official, regardless of any of those statuses, with the same level of respect and openness that we would. I mean, just as an anecdote, I think it was day or two after Mayor Jeremiah Healy -- then the Jersey City Mayor -- publicly endorsed Barbara Buono, I had a previously arranged meeting that -- I sat

down with him and other representatives from the Governor's Office discussing the issues in Jersey City.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And even though Mayor Healy wasn't going to work with this Governor politically, you actually sat down with him and worked with him?

MR. MOWERS: In fact, I think it was literally a day or two after he publicly endorsed Barbara Buono's campaign that we sat down and were trying to help the Mayor with any issues that he had in Jersey City.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Let me just wrap it up.

Christine Renna talked about, with great pride, that she worked in IGA without politics; and that 99.9 percent was wonderful governmental and public service. You've had a front seat to the IGA, and now afar in New Hampshire, and you've had time to think about it. Your experience at IGA and with this Governor, would you associate yourself with the comments made by Regina (*sic*) Renna that it was good governmental service that was given out to every elected official, irrespective of which party they came from; or whether they supported, or tried to defeat, or work against this Governor?

MR. MOWERS: I would agree with that.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: You would agree with that.

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay.

Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Matt, for your honesty.

MR. MOWERS: Of course.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you, Senator O'Toole.

Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Good afternoon.

MR. MOWERS: Good afternoon.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Piggybacking on what the Senator had asked with regards to whether you think that it's governmental or political: You answered Senator Gill's question with regards to keeping tabs on the political atmosphere in each of the counties. In Hudson County, that one e-mail you were talking about, different items that were going on around the County, politically-wise -- would you consider that governmental work, or political work?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know how I would characterize that; I don't.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: The fact that in one of your e-mails you put down that Assemblyman (Indiscernible) was running for Mayor -- political or governmental?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, this is relaying of news, so I'm not sure how you would qualify that. I mean, it's a political-- The substance of that is of a political nature. I mean, he's running a campaign. But I don't know whether relaying for the purposes -- because I think I literally read it, probably, online or in the newspaper -- relaying that information, I'm not sure if that would be qualified as political or governmental. I wouldn't place a qualification on that.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Did you ever take any instructions or directions from Ms. Renna while you were in IGA?

MR. MOWERS: I never reported to Christina, no.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: She didn't-- She wasn't one of your supervisors at that time?

MR. MOWERS: She was not.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: When she was here she testified with regards to policies of IGA. And there was an e-mail -- and I'm just going to tell you about it -- from Mr. Ridley that pretty much had information like yours -- political.

MR. MOWERS: Do you have a copy of that e-mail, Assemblywoman?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: No, not with me here, no.

But the bottom line is that basically she said it wasn't acceptable -- that her office did not do anything political. So I was just wondering, would you characterize your updates as both political and governmental?

MR. MOWERS: Without seeing what she was referring to, I wouldn't want to make an assumption like that.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. Now, we're talking about-- The Senator had asked about currying favors for some of the mayors in your district -- the misconception of currying favors. Can I ask you to look at Tab 36, please?

Can you read the Tab for me that is dated July 6, 2012 -- sorry, I don't have my glasses -- you met -- meeting with Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich. You could start from where it says, "Two notable issues." Could you just read through that paragraph out loud so we could all follow it?

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

"This is just a check-in meeting, and we kept most of the conversation casual. Two notable issues, though. Mayor Sokolich was

speaking to Bill Baroni at one point a few ago and they discussed the creation of an additional shuttle route to bring individuals near the George Washington Bridge. He then made a joking inquiry as to whether the riders could then be shuttled across the Bridge," -- it says *of* free; I'm sure he meant *for* free, I would think -- "for free of charge. Lo and behold, Baroni spoke to Sokolich a couple weeks later and said 'we're going to do it.' Sokolich was caught off guard and later told Baroni that the free shuttle across the Bridge would cause issues within town, because more riders would want to utilize the shuttle for free across the Bridge, and there would be issues with verifying residency of the riders, and residents of different sections of town would then complain that they were left out of the shuttle run. We had even reached out to Sokolich as part of standard outreach and told him that the Governor asked the Port Authority to grant the buses for the shuttle service. In the end, Baroni agreed with Sokolich about the free service across the Bridge. They're still going to utilize the new buses we asked the Port Authority to provide Fort Lee for shuttle service, but they will not offer free service across the bridge. This is kept very close to the vest by Sokolich, with only him and the town administrator knowledgeable about it."

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. Now you said there were two notable issues. Can you tell me what the two notable issues are in that paragraph -- in your paragraph?

MR. MOWERS: It appears I only write about one, I believe.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay, so then why don't you tell me about the one notable issue?

MR. MOWERS: It was, I guess, a request from Mayor Sokolich. And I believe-- If I recall correctly, this may have been the conversation we actually had in Mayor Sokolich's kitchen that time.

He at one point had discussed the prospect of having shuttle buses provided to ease the commute for Fort Lee residents.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Was he serious about that, or was he joking? Because when I read your paragraph, I kind of get the feeling that he was joking about having free shuttles. Or is that how you wrote it?

MR. MOWERS: I think in Mayor Sokolich's recollection of that to me, or in his statement of that to me, he seemed to think he was joking. But I believe that from my conversation with Mayor Sokolich, that conversation -- that others took him seriously because he made the request. And Fort Lee is a host community to the Port Authority -- from his knowledge, was always trying to be helpful; and this was just another way to be helpful, in the Mayor's mind.

He had also expressed--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I'm sorry, who was trying to be helpful?

MR. MOWERS: The Mayor noted that he thinks the Port Authority was trying to be helpful.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay.

MR. MOWERS: As they are, from what the Mayor said, to host communities of any Port Authority infrastructure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Did you have any contact with Bill Baroni at that time, or the Port Authority, with regards to possibly having free shuttles for Fort Lee?

MR. MOWERS: I did not, no.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And so this was apparently a conversation between the Port Authority, Bill Baroni, and the Mayor?

MR. MOWERS: You know, I don't know. I just know what the Mayor mentioned about it. I don't know where the actual -- how the actual decision-making process went through. Didn't (indiscernible) process went through with it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: In your paragraph you also write, "We had even reached out to Sokolich as part of the standard outreach." *We* meaning you?

MR. MOWERS: That would be me, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And apparently you had told him that the Governor had asked the Port Authority to provide Fort Lee with buses?

MR. MOWERS: I believe he did, at this time. I didn't recall actually making-- Because when Mayor Sokolich brought it up to me, it sounded like the first time I had heard it. In retrospect, I mean, we do hundreds of outreach calls every week. I believe at one point I gave him a call saying, "Hey, this request that was made, the Governor has put in a request for the Port Authority as well."

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Any idea how the Governor might have known that Fort Lee was looking for shuttle buses?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: You didn't-- Your office, your work -- you're a facilitator, aren't you, like trying to resolve issues and problems that the towns might have?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, I would try to help elected officials fix problems, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Did you have any idea that the Governor might get involved and help get the shuttle buses?

MR. MOWERS: Outside of apparently making that call initially, which again I really don't recall making that call initially -- it was probably part of a larger piece of outreach that I did that day -- this was the first I recall hearing about the buses.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Can you go to Tab 34?

And the subject is "Good news." Can you tell us about the good news?

MR. MOWERS: It looks like I forwarded an attachment to Mayor Sokolich's e-mail account.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay, and what was the good news?

MR. MOWERS: It would be referring to -- it looks like it was in reference to the Port Authority providing funding for shuttle buses, I believe, or-- Yes, shuttle bus vehicles.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And that letter is signed by the Governor, correct?

MR. MOWERS: It is.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And he requested that the Port Authority -- would that be a grant, or just go out and spend \$162,000 to buy buses for Fort Lee?

MR. MOWERS: I'm not familiar with what practice would have been on this.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: How did you get that notice? Because you're the one who sent it to the Mayor.

MR. MOWERS: I was likely provided this letter. I don't recall exactly by who, but probably by Pete Sheridan or Bridget Kelly. And they probably sent it to me as an FYI and I probably sent it along to the Mayor.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Was this something that you were supposed to do, like, is this part of your duties -- giving out this good news to these mayors and trying to connect them to individuals who could help them?

MR. MOWERS: It was providing all news to mayors, is the way I saw it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I'm sorry?

MR. MOWERS: It was providing all news that I had to mayors, is the way I saw it -- both good and sometimes bad. I often had to tell mayors no, if they had a request.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. But, again, the ability to get the shuttles, the ability to get the free passage, that had nothing to do with your office?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know the genesis of how that started, no.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I'd like you to turn to Tab 66.

Now, before I go about Tab 66-- The letter that we saw from the Governor, in Tab 34, that was dated-- Well, your e-mail was dated Tuesday, May, 29, 2012 -- your e-mail. At the time you were with IGA, correct?

MR. MOWERS: I was, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And at the time, was Bill Stepien with IGA?

MR. MOWERS: He was Deputy Chief of Staff for Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as for some other departments as well.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. I believe-- So in Tab 66, you write in that Tab, "I'll be sure to remind him when we speak later." I guess I really should direct you to the Tab beforehand, which is an e-mail from Bill Stepien, Tab 65. And apparently, I guess there's an article there about the buses and Mayor Sokolich was (indiscernible) to you about the buses.

MR. MOWERS: It seems that way, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And Mr. Stepien sends you an e-mail that says, "We approved this months ago. Hope he remembers." Any idea what he meant by that?

MR. MOWERS: I would say-- He writes, "We approved this months ago," and then, in parentheses, "He just sent this out; hope he remembers."

I don't know exactly what he was referring to, no.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: No? Okay.

So then when you go to your e-mail that's on Tab 66, you send Mr. Stepien a message back, "I'll be sure to remind him when we speak later." Does that ring a bell to you?

MR. MOWERS: Yes. I don't recall if I ever actually spoke to the Mayor about this topic. The last recollection I have of speaking to the Mayor -- Mayor Sokolich, to be specific -- the topic of buses was at that -- I can't recall if it was a June or May 2012 -- meeting where we were meeting in his kitchen. And he brought up that topic to me.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: All right, but what I'm trying to understand is, if your job is to help the mayors of each town resolve issues, why would you then have to remind him that you helped resolve their issues? Why would you say, "I'll be sure to remind him." Are you trying to get credit for the buses?

MR. MOWERS: I mean, I would just-- If you don't mind, do you mind if I reread this? Just because I want to make sure I answer accurately.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: No, it's your e-mail. Go right ahead.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

I think it may just be a reminder that this was sent along months before, and that it's just now becoming public knowledge. That's how I read it. I mean, this is like -- You reference February 2013, and there's a proof back in May 2012 -- I believe that's the date.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. And let me ask you this. Was your e-mail of February, which is Tab 66 -- was that-- I see that it was sent from your Gmail account? But we've already had the discussion

with regards to your government e-mail and your Gmail account. Was this a work-related e-mail?

MR. MOWERS: I don't know, but this is-- I replied on the e-mail account that I was sent the e-mail on.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I know, but is this work-related?

MR. MOWERS: It seems generally work-related, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: All right. I'm not going to go through all the e-mails that you've provided us, nor am I going to go through all the updates, because I think we pretty much addressed that issue.

But I would want to ask you, are your updates -- would it be fair to say that they were sent during working hours during the week?

MR. MOWERS: I would have to go back and actually reference them. I don't recall offhand. I haven't seen them.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay, let's do that.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Let's go to Tab 3, the first one. Friday, January 27, 9:12 a.m. That's your update. Would that be during working hours?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I didn't send this e-mail.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I know, but you were CC'd on it.

MR. MOWERS: I was; I did receive that e-mail.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: It was during working hours, right?

MR. MOWERS: I would think so, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And then Tab -- I'm going to go to all your Tabs here; there are so many. Try Tab 32.

MR. MOWERS: Tab 32, Assemblywoman?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Yes. Those are updates?

MR. MOWERS: This is a-- Well, this is a recap of meetings I had apparently earlier that day.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. Is it fair to say that Friday, May 18, at 2:26 -- work hours?

MR. MOWERS: I'd say so, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Let's see. As we go along -- here we go. How about Tab 25. These are all (indiscernible) e-mails that you testified to throughout the day.

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall the exact time stamps on them, Assemblywoman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. Tab 25, Friday, March 30, 2012, 11:58 a.m. Fair to say a workday?

MR. MOWERS: Could have been while I was on lunch.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. I'll give you that one.

How about-- This one wasn't one that you sent, it was one that you had received. Pete Sheridan -- he worked with IGA also?

MR. MOWERS: He did, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Let's go to Tab 64. And this particular Tab says, "We have the green light. We can secure our D targets." Political or governmental?

MR. MOWERS: I believe this would have been done in a voluntary capacity. At least I know I received it as such.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Would it be fair to say that on Thursday, on January 24, 2013, at 9:04 a.m. -- business hours?

MR. MOWERS: It looks like it was just the beginning of the business day, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: But it's the workday.

MR. MOWERS: It's a work day, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I have no further questions.

MR. MOWERS: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry.

Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: I realize the hour is late, and I genuinely have only two questions.

The first question is, do you know or have any relationship with David Wildstein?

MR. MOWERS: I've met him a couple -- a few times. But I don't have a relationship with him, no. I never did.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Okay. And the second question is, did you have any interactions with David Wildstein during the course of your employment either at IGA or on the campaign?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall any interaction during the campaign; and I would see him occasionally at events -- Port Authority events -- during my time in IGA, but very rarely.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Okay, thank you.

Nothing further.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Are you finished, Assemblywoman?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: I'm finished.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Assemblyman Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Co-Chair.

Mr. Mowers, thank you for enduring our questioning these many hours.

MR. MOWERS: Of course.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We appreciate it.

Just one follow-up train of thought. When I started my questioning and, I think, other members were questioning you about IGA, you used, on a couple of occasions, a phrase. You said "on behalf of IGA;" you felt very proud of the work they did. But you used that phrase *on behalf of IGA*. Do you still have some connection with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs?

MR. MOWERS: I'm sorry, Assemblyman. I don't know what moments you are referring to when I said that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When we were talking about the IGA, I asked you about your tenure at the IGA. And in response to those questions my notes show that you would use a phrase repeatedly, "On behalf of IGA."

MR. MOWERS: Can you put that in a larger context with what else I may have said?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I was asking you about your duties at IGA, about whether or not any of your e-mails, essentially, had a political context. And in your response you would say, "on behalf of IGA."

So my question is, do you continue to have some relationship with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, based simply on the way you were answering your questions earlier?

MR. MOWERS: Well, I still respectfully, I think, disagree with the premise of that use. I don't know of what moments you are referring to that I said that; I don't recall that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You don't recall saying that before?

MR. MOWERS: The answer is easy. I don't have a relationship with IGA right now.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You don't recall using that phrase before?

MR. MOWERS: If you could put it in a larger context, I may have said it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, the larger context is I was asking you about your time at the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. And your response was, "On behalf of IGA, I feel this," "On behalf of IGA, we did that." So I was just curious about your choice of that phraseology where you were talking *on behalf of IGA*. And I wanted to know whether or not there was still some connection you had currently with IGA.

MR. MOWERS: The short answer is no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you.

You feel very proud of the work you did at IGA.

MR. MOWERS: I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It's your testimony that the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs did strictly governmental work.

MR. MOWERS: I believe that to generally be the case, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: As opposed to doing political work?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that to be the case, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Do you feel that the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs was fair to everybody they dealt with?

MR. MOWERS: I believe that's true, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And they didn't treat anybody with a greater preference or lesser preference than others?

MR. MOWERS: Unless there are circumstances -- where the Mayor of Elizabeth asked us to stop calling him because he despised getting phone calls from the Office, because he disliked the Governor personally.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: He was the only one in the state?

MR. MOWERS: He was one of them who made it noted, apparently, every time he was called.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

In light of all that--

MR. MOWERS: Just to add, Assemblyman, we continued to call him anyway to ensure that he, as the Mayor of Elizabeth, also received the same updates we provide to every mayor.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You ignored the direct request from the Mayor of Elizabeth? (laughter)

MR. MOWERS: Communication is our number one priority -- or was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Isn't that presumptuous of you?

MR. MOWERS: I can't speak to that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: In light of your pride in the work that the IGA did, and in light of your characterization of the equanimity with which it approached everybody and treated everybody fairly, can you explain for me why the Governor announced he would abolish the Office of IGA?

MR. MOWERS: I can't speak for anything that's ongoing. I'll be honest, I've been trying to focus on my day job in New Hampshire for the past few months. And besides checking in on press clips, or reading requests from this Committee, I don't really spend much time actually focusing on the rest.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you still have a fond memory of IGA?

MR. MOWERS: I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So can you reconcile the Governor's choice in abolishing the IGA?

MR. MOWERS: You know, Assemblyman, since I didn't really follow exactly -- too closely what's actually been proposed or occurred, I'd rather not speak to that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You're aware that the Governor proposed abolishing the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs?

MR. MOWERS: My understanding is, I believe, they were going to merge it with another department and change some of its functions, I believe.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

Mr. Mowers, I have a few things myself.

MR. MOWERS: Certainly.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Let's go back to the list of 100 mayors. Did you actually have a list on a piece of paper?

MR. MOWERS: I believe we-- I did, yes. Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Do you know whether that was turned over to us as part of the subpoena? Does your counsel know?

MR. CARPENITO: I can tell you, Co-Chair Weinberg, that we were subpoenaed-- Well, we were subpoenaed once, and that requested only documents relating to the GWB lane closures. That consisted entirely of things that occurred -- or documents dated after the lane closures, as Matt had no knowledge.

There was a voluntarily request which we suggested after a conversation with your counsel, that we produce documents related to or mentioning Mayor Sokolich. We accepted that voluntarily. So if Mayor Sokolich's name came up, those documents were produced.

And then later we made two, small voluntarily productions where we thought there were documents that, after conversing with your counsel, were of interest.

So I do think-- In short, I can tell you that if Mayor Sokolich's name was on the list -- and I believe he was several times -- those you certainly have. I can't tell you that means that you have every single one.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I think there is some miscommunication.

MR. CARPENITO: Okay.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm not certain that we do have that list, although it's been referred to several times. And then there's the 1,000 list, which -- this is Tab 25. The "Action Items" from you to Pete Sheridan, and you talk, under "Action Items"-- it is 542, list of 1,000. Do you see that? It's about the second -- under "Action Items."

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Under the list of 1,000 you wrote-- Now, your testimony up until now has been you don't know who gave you these lists, how they were generated -- you didn't recall, although you--

I'm sorry. So one of your assignments was to continue identifying 1,000 leaders. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: It was.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And other than using those for town halls, what other purpose was that list?

MR. MOWERS: Frankly, it was just to continue a dialogue with individuals in the communities. Sometimes you only get a certain scope of what's going on in any town from elected officials, so it's beneficial to also speak with other people in the community as well.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. You also -- under your "Action Items" -- you were going to arrange meetings to develop Korean contacts in the Fort Lee area. I'm sorry -- that's 475, under Tab 3.

MR. MOWERS: I apologize, Senator. Which Tab? Tab 3?

I'm sorry, Senator. What was the question?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, I just found it interesting that-- I'd like to know the background of "Developing Korean contacts in Fort Lee." Was Palisades Park among the towns you oversaw?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Did you ever meet with anybody? I don't see that town listed here for any reason at all.

MR. MOWERS: I did meet with-- I apologize; could you just rephrase the question?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Palisades Park.

MR. MOWERS: I did oversee that as well, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Right. And did you ever meet with anybody from Palisades Park?

MR. MOWERS: I believe I did, yes. In fact--

SENATOR WEINBERG: But there's no mention of them anywhere--

MR. MOWERS: I frequently met in Palisades Park, actually, yes. We actually had a town hall meeting in Palisades Park -- *we* being the Governor hosted a town hall meeting in Palisades Park. I met with both the Mayor there, as well as a number of Korean constituents including-- I don't recall the Councilman's name offhand, but there is a Korean Councilman in Palisades Park who I communicated with, with some frequency.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Palisades Park is not mentioned in any of the notes, or anything that I saw. Perhaps there's a reason for that, but I'm not certain.

I'd like to go back to Teaneck for just a moment.

You are aware that Teaneck has nonpartisan elections? They run in May, and they have nothing to do with the Democratic Party. Is that correct?

MR. MOWERS: I'm aware they have nonpartisan elections, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And that they are held in May.

MR. MOWERS: They are.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Excuse me?

MR. MOWERS: Yes, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And did anybody from Teaneck endorse the Governor?

MR. MOWERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And who was that?

MR. MOWERS: Three members of the Council endorsed.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I see.

MR. MOWERS: In addition to a few other, I believe. I think different community activists also; there were a couple of other people, also, who supported the Governor from there as well.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So you actually got some endorsements in Teaneck from elected officials, correct?

MR. MOWERS: Well, when I was on the campaign, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I didn't suggest that it wasn't while you were on the campaign.

MR. MOWERS: Sure.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm just suggesting that people in Teaneck apparently felt quite free to vote the way they did, or to stand up to support whichever candidate they wished to stand up to support.

Now, the list of 100 mayors -- did you ever use that list when you were in the campaign?

MR. MOWERS: I don't recall specifically referencing the list. I mean, I knew which municipalities were on it, generally speaking, that I can remember. And I probably referenced it at times, but I don't recall ever actually looking at the list and trying to identify from there.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I'm going to close now. But I want to make a couple of comments, which are my personal opinion.

Taking up what Senator O'Toole said earlier -- about your being very young, which you are, and the fact that you are here -- is somehow putting forth the idea that you are here because of something we did.

I just want to set the record straight. Yes, I am a little sorry that somebody of your age has been called into this kind of a Committee; and that this is something I don't think your life is going to be defined by. It might be a little footnote, at some point; but I don't blame this Committee for that. I blame the people who put you in a position to be dealing with mayors, in both a governmental office and a campaign, where the lines were obviously blurred; who put you in a position-- There was a lot here you couldn't recall until you answered Senator O'Toole's questions -- then you answered very directly. You knew exactly who said what to you in each meeting. But there were many meetings here that you couldn't recall: who sent you a list, or the way you got it, or who made it.

So yes, I really do feel badly for you. But not because of this Committee or the questions we're asking. I feel badly for you for the people who put you in this position -- that you have to answer these kinds of questions.

So that's my statement for today.

Thank you very much. The meeting is recessed, if nobody has anything further.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Chair, just a question, Chair.

I know earlier you had scheduled an executive meeting after that?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Right, but--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Can you speak to that?

SENATOR WEINBERG: You wish to speak to it?

SENATOR O'TOOLE: No, I just want to make sure that everyone knows that we are not having an executive--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Oh, yes. I don't think we have a quorum here.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Right. So can we talk about having an executive meeting at the next scheduled meeting, if there's time?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, the next scheduled-- I thought this was going to be shorter.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I know, I know. (laughter)

SENATOR WEINBERG: However, which is why, since we only had witness--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I'll circulate an e-mail and try to find dates that everybody's available to have either a phone call or a meeting.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Just so we're clear, in terms of--

SENATOR WEINBERG: I think we need an executive session. I think we need to sit down, in a room, and talk about a couple of issues.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Spend a couple of hours.

SENATOR WEINBERG: We will try to work that out.

The next scheduled meeting is June 3, I believe, where we have two witnesses -- Pat Foye and Pat Schuber. And I don't know whether we'll try to get another meeting in, in the interim, but we will try to work that out with everybody's schedule.

I'm sorry, we're adjourning the meeting.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)