

BEFORE THE HUNTSVILLE POLICE CITIZENS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIDEO-CONFERENCE INTERVIEW

OF

CHAD CHAVEZ

JANUARY 19, 2021

9:00 A.M.

COURT REPORTER: Diana B. Williams, CCR

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A P P E A R A N C E S

[ALL APPEARING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE]

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A P P E A R A N C E S

(CONTINUED)

MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Ms. Victoria Guerrieri, Chair

Ms. Shelly McCulley

Mr. Jonathan Rossow

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Susan Harper, White-Collar  
Specialist Paralegal with Lightfoot,  
Franklin & White  
Ms. Diana Williams, Court Reporter  
with Birmingham Reporting

1           I, Diana B. Williams, a Certified  
2 Shorthand Reporter of Birmingham, Alabama,  
3 and a Notary Public for the State of  
4 Alabama at Large, acting as Commissioner,  
5 certify that on this date, there came  
6 before me VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE, commencing  
7 at approximately 9:00 a.m. on January 19,  
8 2021, CHAD CHAVEZ, for oral examination,  
9 whereupon the following proceedings were  
10 had:

11           MS. HUNTLEY: My name is Liz  
12 Huntley, and I am one of the independent  
13 council that has been retained to assist  
14 the CAC in their investigation of the June  
15 1 and 3 protest.

16           And right over my shoulder, you  
17 will see my colleague, Mr. Jack Sharman, my  
18 partner who is working with me on this.  
19 And who you can't see in the room are -- we  
20 have a paralegal here, as well as, Jay  
21 Sewell, one of our other attorneys that has  
22 been working on this matter. So we want to  
23 thank you for taking time.

1           Also, just so you know, the CAC  
2 members, of course, are invited to  
3 participate in the interview. We have two  
4 of those members on now. And at any  
5 moment, any of them could come in as they  
6 are juggling their personal lives with  
7 playing their -- their well overpaid role  
8 as a CAC member.

9           MR. CHAVEZ: Sure. Yeah, I  
10 understand so -- okay. That sounds good.

11           MS. MCCULLEY: Good morning,  
12 Mr. Chavez.

13           MR. CHAVEZ: Good morning.

14           MS. HUNTLEY: And so they'll  
15 obviously have an opportunity to ask any  
16 questions once I have an opportunity to  
17 visit with you.

18           And so just sort of -- I wanted  
19 to talk to you a little bit about the  
20 confidentiality of this process. As you  
21 know, we are still knee-deep in the middle  
22 of this investigation. There is a lot to  
23 wade through. There's a lot of people to

1 talk to. We still have a lot to do to  
2 complete this investigation. And so we ask  
3 that you keep our interview confidential.

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And that is a  
6 request. And we would appreciate that as  
7 it could be helpful for us as we continue  
8 to plow through and do what we need to do  
9 to investigate these issues.

10 All right. So with that said, I  
11 will just get started. And it's kind of --  
12 I don't know if you have ever had a  
13 deposition before, but it's sort of like  
14 that, but I want to make it more of a  
15 conversation, because that's what we are  
16 doing; right? We're talking about these  
17 events and what happened.

18 So -- so in order to do that, I  
19 would like to just get some personal  
20 information from you at first.

21 MR. CHAVEZ: Sure.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: So if you could  
23 state your full name.

1 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. My name is  
2 Chad Anthony Chavez.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And,  
4 Mr. Chavez, are you married?

5 MR. CHAVEZ: I am.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: I was not at the  
8 time of this event, but I am currently.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: I recall in your  
10 testimony at city chambers you said that  
11 she was your fiancée at the time; correct?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct. Yes.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: And what is her  
14 name?

15 MR. CHAVEZ: Her name is Amy  
16 Schell.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And what is  
18 your address?

19 MR. CHAVEZ: I live at [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]. And that's Huntsville,  
21 Alabama [REDACTED].

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And do you  
23 have a cell phone that we could reach you

1 on?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: I do. Yeah. That  
3 number is [REDACTED].

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Great. And so you  
5 live in Huntsville now. Have you lived in  
6 Huntsville all of your life?

7 MR. CHAVEZ: I have lived here  
8 for about a decade now, a little over.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And where  
10 were you prior to Huntsville?

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Prior to being in  
12 Huntsville, I lived in Layton, Utah. It's  
13 just outside of Salt Lake City. But I have  
14 kind of lived all over the whole country.  
15 My dad was in the Marine Corps, so I moved  
16 a lot.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Oh, so one of  
18 those Army kids or military --

19 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Yes, exactly.  
20 So I claim Huntsville as home. It's the  
21 longest I have ever been anywhere. But I'm  
22 from all over the country.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: Yes, I always say



1 military kids inherit a travel card; right?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, definitely.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Get to see things,  
4 the good and the bad; right?

5 MR. CHAVEZ: Uh-huh  
6 (affirmative).

7 MS. HUNTLEY: So do you have any  
8 other family that live in Huntsville?

9 MR. CHAVEZ: In Huntsville  
10 proper, no. My parents live just [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED], so real close  
12 but not technically Huntsville.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And, now,  
14 is [REDACTED], is that in Madison County?

15 MR. CHAVEZ: I believe so, yes.  
16 I think it's just on the very north end of  
17 it.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And any  
19 children?

20 MR. CHAVEZ: I do not have any  
21 children.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And what do  
23 you do, Mr. Chavez?

1 MR. CHAVEZ: I am a data analyst  
2 for [REDACTED]. So I mostly  
3 handle insurance claims, and I ensure  
4 compliance with government rules for --  
5 mostly Medicare is mostly what I handle.  
6 But, you know, that's my day-to-day.

7 And I do a little bit of, like,  
8 project work where we essentially design  
9 things that we run inside the cancer  
10 clinic.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: And what's the  
12 name of that organization?

13 MR. CHAVEZ: Oh, sorry. It's  
14 [REDACTED]. So I work at  
15 the main facility in Huntsville, [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]. Sorry.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Interesting.

19 MR. CHAVEZ: Uh-huh  
20 (affirmative).

21 MS. HUNTLEY: And is that what  
22 you have been doing the decade or so that  
23 you have been in Huntsville?

1 MR. CHAVEZ: Prior to -- I have  
2 only been here for about -- well, I just  
3 hit my five years. Prior to that, I worked  
4 for Walmart. I worked as a pharmacy  
5 technician for four years, and then I  
6 worked as a pharmacy software bug tester,  
7 basically, for about a year, and then I  
8 moved into this.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. All right.  
10 And what about your wife? Was she born and  
11 raised a Huntsville person or --

12 MR. CHAVEZ: She was born just  
13 outside of Mobile. She's lived here about  
14 12 years now. She's a social worker. She

15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED] So she's a social  
18 worker [REDACTED] She's been here about  
19 12 years.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Great. And  
21 does she have any family in the Huntsville  
22 area?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: Not in Huntsville.

1 She's got two brothers in Birmingham and  
2 then her parents are in South Alabama, but  
3 no one else up here.

4 (Whereupon, Ms. Guerrieri joined  
5 the interview.)

6 MS. HUNTLEY: And what about  
7 your education and training, Mr. Chavez,  
8 high school or --

9 MR. CHAVEZ: Yeah, I went to --  
10 to UAH. I studied political science there.  
11 But that's -- that's all I have done there.

12 Official training beyond that is  
13 mostly data work that I -- I love working  
14 for campaigns. So that's how -- that's how  
15 I kind of landed in that job.

16 But, no, I went to UAH. I went  
17 to Snead State before that for my community  
18 college experience.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: And was that  
20 during the time that you lived in the  
21 Huntsville area, or did you attend those  
22 schools before you moved back here this  
23 last time?

1 MR. CHAVEZ: I -- I lived --  
2 briefly before I moved to Huntsville, I  
3 went to Snead. And then I moved to  
4 Huntsville to attend UAH.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And then  
6 you said some training related to working  
7 on campaigns. What type of campaigns?

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, I worked -- I  
9 worked some local political campaigns, and  
10 then I worked on the 2012 presidential  
11 campaign. I ran field offices in -- in  
12 Florida. So I have done -- I have done a  
13 fair share of political campaign work.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: And for democrat,  
15 republican party, independents?

16 MR. CHAVEZ: Independents and  
17 democrats, generally. I think I have  
18 worked for -- for one -- I managed a field  
19 campaign for one republican once, but it's  
20 mostly democratic candidates.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And is  
22 there any criminal record in your history,  
23 Mr. Chavez?

1 MR. CHAVEZ: No, no criminal  
2 record.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And in the  
4 Huntsville community, are you involved in  
5 any civic organizations or church or social  
6 clubs?

7 MR. CHAVEZ: My church is -- I  
8 go to Summit Crossing which is just inside  
9 the Huntsville city limits right near  
10 Madison.

11 Civic clubs, not a ton right  
12 now. You know, I do some work with some of  
13 the cancer groups at my -- at my place of  
14 employment which is after hours, but it's  
15 not directly related to -- it's something I  
16 found on my own, basically.

17 Otherwise, I haven't done a  
18 tremendous amount of, like, civil group  
19 work recently. I have done some work with  
20 the CCJR group.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: What group? I'm  
22 sorry.

23 MR. CHAVEZ: I'm sorry. The

1 Citizen Coalition for Justice Reform here  
2 in Huntsville. They are the ones that come  
3 to speak. But that's mostly just  
4 organizing as far as speakers and things  
5 like that go.

6 Otherwise, I don't think I  
7 have -- I don't think I have a ton of civic  
8 groups going on right now, to be honest.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you hold a  
10 leadership position in that group?

11 MR. CHAVEZ: I do not, no. I'm  
12 just strictly a volunteer.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And last  
14 personal question, and then we will get  
15 into the meat of the matter.

16 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Have you been  
18 involved in any litigation before?

19 MR. CHAVEZ: I don't -- not  
20 really, no. I have never done, like, a  
21 deposition or anything. You know, we have  
22 had -- the closest thing I can think of,  
23 like I said, my work is compliance-related

1 at work. So I have filed some --  
2 essentially audits for -- for different law  
3 groups. But I would not say I was involved  
4 in that litigation. They asked me to run  
5 logs, and I produce those, but nothing --  
6 nothing personal, nothing beyond that  
7 really. And I would say my involvement is  
8 minimal.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: No personal  
10 experience in litigation?

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Oh, yeah, no, no,  
12 no, no.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. All right.  
14 And what about any involvement with  
15 Huntsville P.D., Madison City, or the  
16 Madison County Sheriff's Department? Any  
17 law enforcement involvement?

18 MR. CHAVEZ: No. No, not  
19 really. I'm trying to think if there is  
20 any -- no, not really. I don't have a  
21 tremendous amount of direct interaction  
22 with them or -- or -- like, I don't know  
23 anyone currently on the force. So, no,



1 uh-uh.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: So have you ever  
3 filed any complaints against anybody in law  
4 enforcement?

5 MR. CHAVEZ: Not through law  
6 enforcement. This would be the first. You  
7 know, when -- when this event first  
8 happened, you know, I spoke with some city  
9 council members personally. I had some  
10 personal meetings with them. That would be  
11 the closest thing that I would count.

12 I have never filed something,  
13 like, with Internal Affairs or done  
14 anything like that directly.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Which city council  
16 members were you -- did you share your --

17 MR. CHAVEZ: I spoke previously  
18 with my -- my representative is the council  
19 president. And, of course, now I've  
20 forgotten her name. Sorry.

21 I did share my story in an email  
22 with all of -- Jennie Robinson. Part of my  
23 brain just went blank.

1 I sat down with her for about an  
2 hour and 15 minutes and had a personal  
3 conversation with her right after it  
4 happened. And then I also spoke for -- a  
5 little bit with Council Member Frances  
6 Akridge. And then all of them I've shared  
7 my story with through email. But those are  
8 the only ones I sat with were Council  
9 President Jennie Robinson and Council  
10 Member Akridge.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: And so you've had  
12 email communications with the other council  
13 members?

14 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct. Yes.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: And is the nature  
16 of those -- the nature of those emails you  
17 would have sent them consistent with  
18 presentations you have given before both  
19 city council and the CAC?

20 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Yes, they  
21 were mostly describing my personal  
22 experience. They -- and the time line that  
23 I ended up sending you-all, that was new.

1 I planned on presenting that before to the  
2 HPCAC, but they have not seen that -- those  
3 specifics. But my personal experience was  
4 related to them.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And we will  
6 be hearing those. Now I see -- when I  
7 opened the email of the time line, I was,  
8 like, this guy is a professional. Now  
9 having heard your history, I understand why  
10 it was such a good presentation so -- but  
11 good organized work. So thank you for  
12 sharing that with us.

13 So we will just get right to  
14 this and start to talk about why we are  
15 here which are those June 1st and 3rd  
16 protests.

17 So I want to ask you some  
18 questions first about the June 1 protest --  
19 really, before the protest. Because my  
20 understanding is, from listening to your  
21 testimony, is that you were at the June 1  
22 protest and the June 3rd; correct?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: June 3rd only. I

1 was not at the June 1.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

3 MR. CHAVEZ: So I -- I had been  
4 following the June 1 protest. I watched it  
5 all online. And when -- I planned to go to  
6 the 3rd after the events that I saw on the  
7 1st.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Got you. Well,  
9 let's talk a little bit about June 1  
10 anyway.

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: So did you know it  
13 was being planned? Did you see any of the  
14 announcements?

15 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, I had seen  
16 announcements and some Facebook -- the  
17 Facebook events is mostly what I saw. So I  
18 had seen some people planning it, just --  
19 at that point I wasn't doing anything I  
20 would say directly with any of the -- I  
21 mean, I wasn't doing anything directly.

22 I didn't really know many of the  
23 CCJR people at that point in time. So it

1 was mostly just people that I knew that had  
2 been, like, volunteers for other political  
3 things that I have done.

4 So I did see the event planned,  
5 and then I watched it online. I did not  
6 attend that night but --

7 MS. HUNTLEY: So what -- what  
8 Facebook sites or where did you see about  
9 the event for June 1?

10 MR. CHAVEZ: I think that the  
11 June 1 thing I had just seen shared in  
12 event. And I think I actually have it. I  
13 may have it even in my past event history  
14 where I listed, like, that I was  
15 interested.

16 But it was just one of those  
17 that showed up as, like, a recommended  
18 event because it was right around -- right  
19 around when all of the protests had started  
20 kicking off.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Do you mind  
22 sharing that with us? That would be very  
23 helpful.

1           MR. CHAVEZ: Yeah. Yeah. If I  
2 can -- if I can find it. Like I said, I  
3 think I have -- I think I have the June 1  
4 pulled up there. I for sure have June 3rd  
5 events that were shared. So I can pull  
6 that up for sure.

7           MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So when you  
8 saw the June 1 event, did you -- other than  
9 seeing the event announcement, did you see  
10 any other communications online leading up  
11 to the date of the event?

12           MR. CHAVEZ: Nothing specific.  
13 You know, just -- just friends sharing that  
14 they were going, but nothing as far as like  
15 a real, like, organization beyond we are  
16 meeting here at this time, you know, bring  
17 your -- bring your signs.

18           MS. HUNTLEY: Do you know who  
19 organized the June 1 protest?

20           MR. CHAVEZ: I do not know off  
21 of the top of my head, but I could -- I  
22 could look at the event and see.

23           MS. HUNTLEY: Well, yes, that

1 would be just great if you could share that  
2 with us.

3 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Absolutely.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: And so the day of  
5 the event, just tell me in your own words  
6 what you did as you observed it online.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: I mean, just --  
8 just as I observed it online, like, it  
9 seemed to be, up until the very end, a  
10 pretty peaceful event and --

11 MS. HUNTLEY: And this was by  
12 Facebook Live?

13 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Yes. I saw  
14 some live streams of it.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And which  
16 Facebook Live streaming were you --

17 MR. CHAVEZ: I believe I was  
18 watching the WAFF live. So I think it was  
19 an official news live. I wasn't watching,  
20 like, one of the random ones.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

22 MR. CHAVEZ: In fact, I know it  
23 was, because I remember seeing the

1 interview afterwards. And that's when I  
2 decided to go.

3 So I watched the protest, and  
4 then I watched after they had started to  
5 try to disperse those people. And then  
6 when the tear gas came out, I saw that.

7 And after those events occurred,  
8 I remember watching on the WAFF feed that  
9 the -- they did an interview with the  
10 police chief about what they had used to  
11 disperse the people. And the police chief  
12 mentioned that they had invited the NAACP  
13 to come and speak and hold an event  
14 Wednesday.

15 So, like, when I saw that, I  
16 immediately went onto Facebook to go and  
17 pull up, like, information about that  
18 Wednesday event.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So tell me  
20 what information you pulled up about the  
21 June 3rd event.

22 MR. CHAVEZ: So the June 3rd  
23 event, I -- there was discussion at that



1 point on the NAACP page, but I don't think  
2 that the event had actually been created as  
3 a Facebook event. It wasn't created until  
4 the next day is when they started posting  
5 about it. But there were people talking  
6 about how the NAACP had -- had scheduled  
7 something -- had been submitted for a  
8 permit, and they were going to meet that --  
9 from five to eight.

10 And the plan at that point in  
11 time was to be another march at the Square  
12 with the NAACP.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

14 MR. CHAVEZ: So we had planned  
15 that with -- between my -- my fiancée and I  
16 started talking about going. We both  
17 really wanted to go. So that was when we  
18 kind of decided.

19 And then I saw that they created  
20 the event the next day, and that's when I  
21 actually got onto the event thread.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: So you joined the  
23 event thread by -- by accepting that you --

1 accepting that you were going and you --

2 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct. That's  
3 correct.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: -- whatever  
5 announcements came associated with the  
6 event?

7 MR. CHAVEZ: That's correct.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: What made you  
9 decide you wanted to attend the June 3rd  
10 protest?

11 MR. CHAVEZ: So, obviously, I  
12 was already interested in the -- the Black  
13 Lives Matter movement. You know, I was  
14 following it on June 1st. So I was already  
15 interested in it as an issue.

16 But when I saw the people on  
17 June 1 get teargassed, I felt like it was  
18 important for me and my fiancée to attend  
19 because we -- I just wanted to show  
20 solidarity for the community essentially.

21 You know, I'm Latino; she's  
22 white. And I think that, like, having kind  
23 of more diverse faces there was important

1 to show that it was like a broad coalition.

2 So we talked about it. And I  
3 said, it's really important that we go. I  
4 think that we should be there.

5 And, you know, we were -- never  
6 planned on being there when it got -- when  
7 it got bad. And, in fact, you can see,  
8 like, in my time line, once it did get  
9 bad -- or once it started to look like it  
10 was getting bad, we left. But we just felt  
11 like it was important to kind of, like,  
12 show solidarity and be a little bit of like  
13 a -- you know, just -- just supporters  
14 essentially to the cause.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: So did you know  
16 any of the organizers from the NAACP  
17 that --

18 MR. CHAVEZ: Not super well.  
19 You know, I have -- I have met with them  
20 for different -- like, I have done, like,  
21 volunteer voter registration things. And  
22 so I have met some of them in passing.

23 But, like, I couldn't -- I

1 didn't know them personally, and they  
2 probably couldn't pick me out from times  
3 that I have done it. But I have  
4 volunteered for the NAACP stuff before.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So your  
6 time line that is very well put together,  
7 the time line PowerPoint that you provided  
8 to us -- and I'm going to get to it in a  
9 second, but before I do, so can you tell me  
10 what social media platforms were you  
11 following to gather the information which  
12 you gathered leading up to the event?

13 MR. CHAVEZ: So leading up to  
14 the event, I would say almost all of it was  
15 on Facebook. You know, I am -- I am  
16 personally more active on Twitter. So,  
17 like, that's where I've seen people talking  
18 about what happened in Huntsville.

19 But I would say that because of  
20 the -- I feel like the people particularly  
21 in the NAACP or the organization in  
22 Huntsville/Madison are just more familiar  
23 with Facebook. So that's where they do

1 most of their communication.

2           So everything as far as leading  
3 up to the event I was following on  
4 Facebook, either through -- Facebook event  
5 was a lot of it. Or when I started seeing  
6 some of the chatter that I shared, that was  
7 when I kind of started actually searching  
8 on other profile pages. But most of what I  
9 had done, until the day of as far as  
10 keeping up and planning, was through the  
11 event page that NAACP hosted.

12           MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So what  
13 other pages other than the NAACP event page  
14 did you look at for information --

15           COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Can  
16 we stop for a second. I'm having a hard  
17 time hearing you Ms. Huntley.

18           (Whereupon, an off-the-record  
19 discussion was held.)

20           MR. CHAVEZ: Oh, I'm sorry. Let  
21 me make sure I'm turned up here.

22           MS. HUNTLEY: You are having a  
23 hard time hearing me?

1 COURT REPORTER: Yes, ma'am.

2 Could you repeat your question?

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. I'm sorry.

4 And I will try to move closer to the

5 microphone.

6 So my question was what other

7 Facebook pages did you begin to follow

8 other than the event page itself related to

9 the protest, June 3rd?

10 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So I would

11 say most of it was -- aside from the event

12 page, I followed the personal page of the

13 Joshua Graff person that I had shared in my

14 time line. And that was because it had

15 become -- I had seen his post shared by

16 someone else. And then when I -- when I

17 saw that, I kind of got involved in several

18 comments and was trying to find out who --

19 like, who was verifying that information.

20 And there was a lot of that shared in the

21 comments to his original remark.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: And what

23 information specifically related to Joshua

1 Graff?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: So he -- he was the  
3 one that originally posted on Facebook that  
4 he had had contact with HPD investigators  
5 about the arrival of Antifa. He posted  
6 that at 11:30 on June 3rd.

7 And so when he -- after he  
8 posted that, I went -- I was, like,  
9 immediately, like, discussing it in the  
10 comments where it had been heard. And I  
11 saw that a lot of people commenting were,  
12 like, also people who worked on the Square.  
13 And so I kind of followed up through their  
14 pages. I followed up through some  
15 reporters' Facebook pages that had been on  
16 the -- that had been, like, essentially  
17 covering what was happening there so --

18 MS. HUNTLEY: So let's pause  
19 here. And we have your PowerPoint up  
20 for --

21 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: -- the other folks  
23 on this Zoom, easy to see.

1 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: So you followed  
3 the Facebook event page for the NAACP?

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: You saw the  
6 information from the attorney, Joshua  
7 Graff. So you began to follow his page?

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: And what other  
10 pages other than Joshua Graff and the NAACP  
11 event page?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: The other lawyer  
13 that I had kind of kept up with his page,  
14 he initially posted in the comments to  
15 Joshua Graff. But the Larry Marsili, who I  
16 have on page 6, I believe --

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Right.

18 MR. CHAVEZ: -- I was also  
19 keeping up with his stuff. And then I have  
20 the -- I would say that was probably most  
21 of where I got my information the day of.

22 So some of this I also pulled  
23 after the fact. But I would say that that



1 was most of my stuff.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: What about any law  
3 enforcement pages? Did you follow any?

4 MR. CHAVEZ: So when the -- when  
5 the rumors first started about finding  
6 bricks and the potential for violence on  
7 the Square, I did -- I checked in on  
8 Twitter with the Huntsville Police  
9 Department and the mayor -- mayor's office.

10 I tweeted at both of them just  
11 asking if there was any confirmation to the  
12 rumors. I never actually heard any  
13 follow-up on that. But I did attempt to  
14 reach out to them on Twitter. Like I said,  
15 that's just kind of the platform I'm a  
16 little more familiar with.

17 But they never answered me  
18 personally. But I had seen by then that  
19 Elizabeth Gentle with WAFF had confirmed at  
20 that point in time that there was no  
21 substantiation to those rumors, so I felt  
22 okay going.

23 But I did check the social media

1 pages for both the mayor and the Huntsville  
2 PD. And at that point there was no  
3 information about a threat downtown before  
4 we went.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And this  
6 was the day of the event; right?

7 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct. Yes. So,  
8 yes, so we were already kind of worried.  
9 Like, both in that Facebook event page  
10 where people can post, and then between my  
11 fiancée -- or my wife. I should say my  
12 wife. Now she's my wife. But my wife and  
13 I were both also concerned really --  
14 initially I was just kind of, like,  
15 following up. I mostly thought that the --  
16 the whole Antifa thing is -- it's something  
17 I have seen in other cities where it's,  
18 like, a rumor, but it's not necessarily  
19 substantiated. So I wasn't too worried  
20 until they changed the event time right  
21 before.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: I am going to get  
23 there. And I just want to capture all of

1 the mediums with the --

2 MR. CHAVEZ: Oh, yes, yes, yes.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: So you --

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Uh-huh

5 (affirmative).

6 MS. HUNTLEY: -- (inaudible) by

7 this reporter, Elizabeth Gentle, WAFF --

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: -- reporting  
10 pre-protest or what was going on leading up  
11 to it?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Now, was this a  
14 page for her personally as a reporter, or  
15 was it the WAFF page?

16 MR. CHAVEZ: It was her personal  
17 page. It was not her WAFF page.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: And that was  
19 Elizabeth Gentle?

20 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

22 MR. CHAVEZ: And then it was  
23 also -- I had read some article -- I don't

1 remember the website now -- but they had --  
2 they had followed up -- and I can send it.  
3 But they followed up before the event to  
4 confirm the same, that there was no  
5 official --

6 MS. HUNTLEY: And this was  
7 another media --

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, this was  
9 another media platform. I think I may have  
10 it pulled up maybe. I pulled up a lot of  
11 these. Well, I can go back and -- I know  
12 it's in the comments from the -- the Joshua  
13 Graff page. I know that I saw -- saw it  
14 posted. And I remember that it was posted  
15 beforehand. But, yes, it was another media  
16 group.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So Joshua  
18 Graff, the attorney --

19 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: -- it's your  
21 observations from his comments on his page,  
22 which you have on page 1, I believe, of  
23 your PowerPoint up there, were comments

1 that concerned you --

2 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: -- about possible  
4 Antifa?

5 Was that when you first heard  
6 comments about --

7 MR. CHAVEZ: That -- that was --  
8 yeah, I had seen someone -- I was not  
9 friends with him personally. But someone I  
10 knew had shared his comments.

11 And so initially I asked that  
12 person to take it down because I felt like  
13 it was inflammatory essentially. Like I  
14 felt like it was setting up people,  
15 including myself, who were planning on  
16 going to the protest for conflict.

17 And so initially I posted to my  
18 friend that. And then I went ahead and  
19 went onto Joshua Graff's page. It was a  
20 public post at that point in time. So I  
21 commented. And I -- like, I pulled it up  
22 here in his thread, and I said, there is  
23 nothing about this on the mayor's page or

1 the HPD's page and then that it -- it felt  
2 like he was trying to gas people up to hurt  
3 a protest because he didn't personally  
4 agree with it. So I said that. You know,  
5 the thread is very large. A lot of people  
6 kind of got into it with him about it  
7 and --

8 MS. HUNTLEY: If you are looking  
9 at the screen for Joshua Graff where he  
10 said he had contact with HPD investigators  
11 confirming the arrival of Antifa --

12 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Yes. So my  
13 concern essentially -- and I say so in this  
14 thread with him is that, if they do have  
15 those sources, the -- the police department  
16 and the mayor's office should be sharing  
17 them ahead of time because we are going  
18 down there for a peaceful protest and we  
19 are putting ourselves at risk.

20 So, like, if that's true, then,  
21 like, we as citizens should know about it.  
22 And that's why I reached out to the mayor  
23 and HPD on Twitter.

1           Again, I needed an answer.

2       There was no indication that they gave any  
3       warning ahead of time. So that was kind of  
4       my concern going into it, and especially  
5       once the time changed as well.

6           MS. HUNTLEY: And then if you  
7       look at the screen where the Joshua Graff  
8       post is on the left and then on the bottom  
9       right of your PowerPoint you've got the  
10      AL.com post of the courthouse closing  
11      early.

12           Did this also trigger concern  
13      for you? I'm trying to understand -- as we  
14      go through your PowerPoint, understand why  
15      that's placed there.

16           MR. CHAVEZ: So this is placed  
17      there partially because of the event  
18      change. So after the fact -- I had seen  
19      this confirming before. But after the  
20      fact, one of my major complaints that I  
21      made to the city council and to the HPCAC  
22      was the fact that the late change really  
23      made it easy essentially for confusion.

1 And I felt like, in some sense, it almost  
2 felt like the -- I'm trying to think of how  
3 to word this without sounding too  
4 accusatory. But in some sense, I felt like  
5 the protesters had been set up by the late  
6 time change. And I felt like the  
7 justifications weren't very strong for that  
8 given that there wasn't really any public  
9 warning about these threats. So that's why  
10 I shared that there, because I think it's  
11 important to note how late they were  
12 confirming the five to eight time was  
13 approved because the very late time change  
14 I felt like contributed to a lot of that  
15 confusion.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: So in blue up  
17 there -- as we've talked about, the Joshua  
18 Graff, you know, saying that there was  
19 concern for Antifa, then the shutting done  
20 early of the courthouse. And then in blue,  
21 which is your fourth entry there, at 2:40,  
22 is when -- is that when you learned of the  
23 change of time?



1 MR. CHAVEZ: So that was -- that  
2 was when the NAACP event -- when they  
3 changed the time, it sent a push  
4 notification. So as soon as they changed  
5 it, it notified everyone with a push  
6 notification, if you have it on your phone,  
7 to let you know that there had been an  
8 update to the event is what it says.

9 So when I pulled it up, I saw in  
10 the thread from the event group that the  
11 time had changed from five to eight and it  
12 had become five to 6:30. And I saw that  
13 there were immediately other people in the  
14 group that were not sure why the time had  
15 changed.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Did they give an  
17 explanation for the time change?

18 MR. CHAVEZ: The NAACP did not.  
19 So I don't know. You know, they -- they  
20 said after the fact that -- in one of their  
21 press conferences, I think that they said  
22 that they could have been more clear that  
23 the event had changed.

1 I don't know, you know, with it  
2 being so close to time, I don't know if  
3 they were already setting up the event and  
4 that's why they weren't answering questions  
5 in the thread or if it was just -- you  
6 know, generally I feel like that  
7 organization was just a little less online  
8 than a lot of the other -- than a lot of  
9 the people were. So they may have just  
10 uploaded the time and then stopped checking  
11 it. But it was not explained. They just  
12 changed the event time.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: Was there any  
14 chatter in the group which you are  
15 affiliated with, the citizen group that you  
16 are a part of, was there any chatter in  
17 that group about the change in time or what  
18 was going to happen that day?

19 MR. CHAVEZ: No. I hadn't seen  
20 anyone from -- from that group post  
21 anything about it. And, again, I wasn't  
22 personal friends with many of them. There  
23 are a couple of people in that event group

1 that are associated with the group that  
2 were asking why the time had changed.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So the next  
4 entry is an hour -- almost not quite an  
5 hour later, at 3:21. And this is  
6 information from the attorney downtown  
7 about the bricks.

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: And can we go to  
10 the next page, Jay? I think it's where --  
11 can we go up to that next one?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: Sorry. Sorry.  
13 Yeah. I think I put those -- yes.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Tell me about  
15 this.

16 MR. CHAVEZ: So this -- this  
17 attorney was also involved in the  
18 discussions under the Joshua Graff post.  
19 So he -- the comment in the upper  
20 right-hand corner here was what he had  
21 posted on the Joshua Graff post about not  
22 being informed that they needed to  
23 safeguard their office, in particular.

1           So I feel like that was  
2   important because it's part of this whole  
3   idea that, like, there was no warning  
4   essentially for the peaceful protesters  
5   planning on going to this event that there  
6   was some threat prior to the event. And  
7   neither did any of these other people.

8           This Larry Marsili or Melissa  
9   Miller, as well, both work on the Square  
10   and did not get notifications regarding the  
11   potential for violence.

12           MS. HUNTLEY: So now we have the  
13   one lawyer who is saying there is a threat  
14   of Antifa and --

15           MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

16           MS. HUNTLEY: -- was warned by  
17   HPD?

18           MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

19           MS. HUNTLEY: And so people  
20   that -- on this slide that are saying we  
21   haven't received any warning --

22           MR. CHAVEZ: Correct.

23           MS. HUNTLEY: -- at this time?

1                   Now, tell me about the bricks  
2                   and the relevance of this.

3                   MR. CHAVEZ:   So the bricks --  
4                   the bricks was another rumor.  It was not  
5                   directly tied to what Joshua Graff had  
6                   initially posted, but it's -- well, no, I'm  
7                   sorry.  That's actually not true.  It is.

8                   His original post says they'd  
9                   been advised to secure their offices  
10                  downtown, go through and remove all loose  
11                  bricks and items that can be used as  
12                  projectiles.

13                  So one of the other rumors that  
14                  appears in the comments to the Joshua Graff  
15                  thing is that the HPD had found some bricks  
16                  that were planted there by protesters to --  
17                  with the intention of, like, using them as  
18                  weapons essentially.

19                  So that was not a rumor from the  
20                  HPD.  That was at that point in time a  
21                  rumor just being spread through social  
22                  media people.

23                  MS. HUNTLEY:  You don't recall

1 who spread that rumor?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: I'm sure I can find  
3 it. So what I sent to you guys is  
4 relatively trimmed down. I actually  
5 went -- the source of some of the -- the  
6 Joshua Graff post I immediately took  
7 screenshots of because I felt like it was  
8 fishy. Like I said, I immediately thought  
9 that essentially they were -- they were  
10 setting, you know, dangerous expectations,  
11 people posting things like this.

12 But some of the other ones I  
13 went to after, I do have screenshots of  
14 them. And they were after the police  
15 chief's presentation. I went and I sourced  
16 a lot of the stuff that they claimed after  
17 the fact. So I can find the screenshot for  
18 that and send that to you.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Yes. We will have  
20 Susan follow up with you on that. That  
21 would be very important.

22 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Yes.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: And thank you so

1 much for capturing that for us to be able  
2 to see what the citizens were seeing online  
3 as -- as we were leading up to this event.

4           So -- so you brought us up to,  
5 you know, sort of this announcement. There  
6 might be Antifa. And then these other  
7 business owners on this screen now that are  
8 saying that they hadn't been notified about  
9 any such thing. And then -- and what's the  
10 relevance of these particular bricks by  
11 Mr. Marsili?

12           MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So -- so,  
13 again, the rumor partially tied to the  
14 Joshua Graff comment and partially to some  
15 other posts that had been posted were that  
16 there were bricks found on the Square and  
17 that they were planted there and intended  
18 to be used as a weapon.

19           So Larry Marsili later on in the  
20 day posted this post -- it was 3:21 --  
21 saying that, while there were bricks on the  
22 Square, he had already claimed them, they  
23 were there for repair on this retaining

1 wall that he posted a picture of, and that  
2 they had -- they did remove them, but that  
3 they -- there was no tie essentially to any  
4 outside group. Like, they were well  
5 explained. No one was upset about it. He  
6 said that no police or city worker inquired  
7 directly, but they did -- the people who  
8 were going to do the construction had taken  
9 them away.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

11 MR. CHAVEZ: So he posted that,  
12 and he said it was to put people's minds at  
13 ease about the rumors of violence on  
14 Facebook.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So let's go  
16 back up, Jay, to his time line. All right.  
17 Yes. Here.

18 So -- so then -- so now you've  
19 heard the threat of Antifa, and you hear  
20 this stuff from Larry Marsili and another  
21 business owner downtown about they haven't  
22 heard anything.

23 At what point did you hear from



1 Elizabeth Gentle at WAFF that they had  
2 investigated and they -- was it -- was her  
3 message that there was no threat?

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Her comment  
5 was posted in the -- the Joshua Graff  
6 thread. And I would say that that  
7 comment --

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Is it -- is it on  
9 your slide?

10 MR. CHAVEZ: I have a picture of  
11 the -- of a screenshot where the names have  
12 been removed. It's one -- it's on the same  
13 one with the bricks.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Yes.

15 MR. CHAVEZ: So you can see  
16 her -- her comment from her personal  
17 Facebook.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. I see it  
19 down there.

20 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Yes. So that  
21 was -- that was another one of the Facebook  
22 rumors going around there is that they had  
23 found weapons and Molotov cocktails and so

1 on and so forth.

2 And so Elizabeth Gentle had --  
3 had posted that. We've checked with  
4 authorities. They say they are all rumors.  
5 Please be careful with this information  
6 because it stokes the fire, and there is  
7 enough bad information out there.

8 That was posted probably around  
9 3:20 that day. But I think just kind of --  
10 to me, like, that's important for  
11 demonstrating, like, the temperature on  
12 social media and her -- like, the other  
13 people were fact-checking it. Like, it was  
14 not going unchecked throughout the whole  
15 day.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: And what about  
17 WAFF? What were they saying officially?  
18 This was Elizabeth Gentle's personal --

19 MR. CHAVEZ: I will be honest  
20 and say that I don't know particularly with  
21 them. I need to -- I should try to find  
22 this other article that I found. And I  
23 think -- well, okay. Here it -- I found

1 the other article that I had. And like I  
2 said, I will email it to you guys.

3 But I had found an article from  
4 Rocket City Now that had been posted at  
5 4:17 where they also had check and said  
6 that there was no -- well, okay. So the  
7 rumor in that article -- this is WZDX Fox.  
8 And the rumor in their article was  
9 dangerous items were found hidden in Big  
10 Spring Park. And they claimed -- they said  
11 that it was false. When asked about items  
12 addressed in the rumors, Huntsville Police  
13 Lieutenant Michael Johnson confirmed we  
14 have found no credible evidence of weapons  
15 being hidden at this time.

16 So, you know, there was  
17 fact-checking going on before the event  
18 happened. There were people following up  
19 on it. And so I don't know where this  
20 guy -- who this guy claimed to have talked  
21 to but --

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Let's go  
23 back up to the time line.

1 MR. CHAVEZ: And, like I said, I  
2 will send you the article just so you can  
3 see that, like, that environment -- like,  
4 people were checking it beforehand.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: That would be  
6 really helpful.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: And so any of the  
9 screenshots that you had, if you don't  
10 mind, Susan will follow up with you --

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Absolutely.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: -- it would be  
13 extremely helpful to have that just to sort  
14 of capture -- so these screenshots that you  
15 took were in the moment of you sort of  
16 capturing what you understood was going on  
17 at the time before you left to attend the  
18 protest?

19 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Everything --  
20 everything I sent you guys was sent -- was  
21 taken ahead of time with the exception of I  
22 did put some slides in there in my final  
23 thing about the Pippa Abston page. Those

1 were all taken after the fact.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So talk to  
3 me about Pippa Abston, the 3:39 entry from  
4 your time line.

5 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So that  
6 was -- like I said -- I kind of mentioned  
7 it to you guys in the email that I sent.  
8 But, essentially, the original presentation  
9 that I put together, I had intended to  
10 present it to the HPCAC in private when you  
11 guys did those in September. I actually  
12 got trapped by the West Coast fires on my  
13 honeymoon, so I did not make it back in  
14 town.

15 But a lot of what that had been  
16 was initially been to fact-check some of  
17 the justifications that were given after  
18 the fact for why -- why essentially this  
19 excessive force had been put out.

20 So the Pippa Abston page I felt  
21 like was important because her -- that  
22 page's very first post is at 3:39 p.m. the  
23 day of the protest.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Now, is that the  
2 second slide?

3 MR. CHAVEZ: It's slide seven is  
4 the slide that I have the Pippa Abston  
5 stuff.

6 MS. HUNTLEY: All right.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: So the screenshot  
8 in the upper left-hand corner is the likes  
9 that Police Chief McMurray shared at the  
10 city council -- the initial city council  
11 event where they justified what had  
12 happened on the 3rd.

13 So I do -- I was actually able  
14 to identify the name of the person that he  
15 is citing here. But he cites these top  
16 four people -- or these top four likes as  
17 evidence that they are, like, Antifa  
18 sympathizers; they are antipolice; they are  
19 social media influencers -- which I didn't  
20 necessarily agree with that assessment  
21 personally. But he does have Dr. Pippa  
22 Abston's page here as one of their likes.

23 So Dr. Abston essentially said

1 immediately after the fact -- and that's  
2 the post that I have shared here -- she  
3 commented during his presentation that it  
4 would have been very unlikely that they  
5 used this as evidence ahead of time because  
6 this post was only -- this page only  
7 existed an hour and a half before the  
8 protest started.

9           So for them to use this as a --  
10 as evidence for why they needed all of  
11 these people organized against this  
12 protest, it seems unlikely that this person  
13 had already liked their page. This  
14 person -- this all probably occurred after  
15 the fact, after what had happened. And so  
16 that's why I had this in here.

17           A lot of my other screenshots  
18 that I did take out of here were taken  
19 after the fact specifically to fact-check  
20 this presentation. And that was what I had  
21 initially planned on presenting on when I  
22 came to speak -- when I was planning on  
23 speaking to the HPCAC.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So let's go  
2 back up to page 1 to your -- to your time  
3 line.

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

5 MS. HUNTLEY: So this 3:39 p.m.,  
6 is that something you saw the day of or is  
7 that something you added?

8 MR. CHAVEZ: I did not. That is  
9 something that I added. So that's the only  
10 thing in here that I had not seen  
11 previously.

12 I know Dr. Abston from -- from  
13 other things. But I do not -- this page --  
14 I was not familiar with this page prior to  
15 and did not -- like I said, I pulled these  
16 screenshots in particular after I saw this  
17 at the -- during his presentation. So this  
18 is the only thing that is unique to after  
19 the fact.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: All right. And  
21 let's go to your second slide.

22 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: So talk to --



1 MR. CHAVEZ: So these -- some of  
2 these are posts that I took from the event  
3 page specifically for the NAACP event. So  
4 this is from the event page where you can  
5 see as soon -- like, in the upper left-hand  
6 corner, as soon as the time changed, there  
7 was concern about why it had changed.

8 So people were talking about the  
9 rumors. Here is another person saying  
10 that, like, someone affiliated with the  
11 sheriff's department had posted that they  
12 had heard rumors about protesters being  
13 bussed in and stacks of bricks being  
14 strategically located for the spontaneous  
15 destruction of our downtown businesses.

16 So these -- again, these were  
17 all just kind of rumors going around. But  
18 the people in here are people who planned  
19 on attending the group and were immediately  
20 discussing their concerns related to why  
21 the time was changing, the temperature of  
22 conversations going around social media.  
23 And so that's what's on the left-hand side

1 here.

2                   And then on the right-hand side,  
3 I kind of focused in on this comment from  
4 Allison Lewis because it was also something  
5 that Chief McMurray presented in -- when he  
6 talked about no justifications in front of  
7 the city council, he used her quote to kind  
8 of evident -- as evidence that she was  
9 downplaying Antifa was his remark.

10                   But I think in the context of  
11 this entire thread of confusion and concern  
12 with the time change, I think it's pretty  
13 clear that this person was trying to lower  
14 the temperature and the concerns around the  
15 dialogue of what was happening that night.  
16 And so out of --

17                   MS. HUNTLEY: Do you --

18                   MR. CHAVEZ: I'm sorry?

19                   MS. HUNTLEY: Do you know

20 Allison Lewis?

21                   MR. CHAVEZ: Not personally, no.

22                   MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Next

23 page -- next slide.

1           Okay. And then you discussed  
2 this -- we've discussed that slide about  
3 the bricks and the other business owners  
4 were reporting. We discussed the -- and  
5 that's -- so this is the actual protest  
6 that --

7           MR. CHAVEZ: Right.

8           MS. HUNTLEY: Before we get to  
9 the actual protest, is there anything else  
10 you would like to share with me? And I'm  
11 sure Susan will follow up and try to  
12 capture anything you've screenshotted --

13          MR. CHAVEZ: Okay.

14          MS. HUNTLEY: -- information on  
15 social media or otherwise that -- that you  
16 looked at or -- or viewed as you were  
17 making a decision on whether or not to head  
18 down to the protest.

19          MR. CHAVEZ: So not directly  
20 related to the -- to the Huntsville rally.  
21 But I do -- I think I spoke about it when I  
22 spoke at the first HPCAC listening session.  
23 I had been following the protest kind of

1 around the whole country. And one of the  
2 things that I had seen was about kinetic  
3 impact rounds or rubber bullets being --  
4 things like that being used against a lot  
5 of peaceful protesters across the country.

6 And so one of the things that I  
7 did mention that I think made this feel  
8 different was that I felt the need  
9 beforehand to go and buy eye protection if  
10 we went to -- if we went to go to this  
11 protest. I didn't end up ever putting it  
12 on. I did have it around my neck.

13 But, you know, I have been to  
14 plenty of protests. I have never felt that  
15 concerned before. But because of what  
16 happened on June 1st, I was a little  
17 scared. And so I did go buy some eye  
18 protection.

19 I had a conversation with my  
20 wife beforehand that if for any reason  
21 people started, you know, firing any kind  
22 of projectile, that she needed to get  
23 behind me.

1           She didn't want to carry  
2 anything like that. We weren't there to  
3 start trouble. But I was scared because I  
4 had seen people blinded on social media.  
5 So we talked about how she needed to get  
6 behind me and then we would leave but,  
7 like, essentially some form of protection  
8 might be needed.

9           MS. HUNTLEY: Did you capture  
10 any of the social media feed of posting  
11 injuries or whether or not they were --

12           MR. CHAVEZ: So I do have --

13           COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I'm  
14 sorry. I'm sorry. I can't --

15           MR. CHAVEZ: -- a screenshot of  
16 a -- it was an actual reporter. And I  
17 don't remember the city off the top of my  
18 head. But it was a photographer who had  
19 been blinded because he got hit with a  
20 round at one of these protests. So I can  
21 share that article as well because I do  
22 think it -- you know, when you see this  
23 happening nationally, I think that's why

1 some people were scared.

2           You know, I did see other people  
3 in the crowd that had goggles that never  
4 put them on. But people were genuinely  
5 afraid. Like, if this gets out of hand,  
6 like, something could happen. And I  
7 include myself in that.

8           Like I said, I have been to  
9 plenty of other protests, all peaceful.  
10 Never felt the need to even consider that.

11           MS. HUNTLEY: The protests you  
12 had attended before, were they protests  
13 against police brutality or what kind of --

14           MR. CHAVEZ: In 2016, I attended  
15 a police brutality one. And then I went to  
16 annual -- they had like the women's marches  
17 that they would do like on National Women's  
18 Day, and I would go to those as well.

19           That's probably most of them,  
20 but I would say that, you know, annually I  
21 would attend one -- oh, I went to a couple  
22 of immigration ones in 2012 as well.

23           MS. HUNTLEY: And in any

1 protests, did you ever have any encounter  
2 with law enforcement where --

3 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Can  
4 we stop for a second.

5 MR. CHAVEZ: I have never even  
6 been --

7 COURT REPORTER: Stop, stop,  
8 stop.

9 MR. CHAVEZ: -- been to one  
10 where I have seen a riot. So, like, even  
11 that was new. And I will cover that in  
12 my -- when we get to the actual events of  
13 the day. But I've never even seen the riot  
14 police at one.

15 So, like, this was very  
16 different from what I have ever seen. And  
17 these were all Huntsville events. So it  
18 was new for me.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: So all of the  
20 protests you had been to, they were in the  
21 city of Huntsville?

22 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

23 COURT REPORTER: Can y'all hear

1 me?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: I can.

3 COURT REPORTER: Okay. I'm  
4 sorry. Ms. Huntley, I'm having a really  
5 hard time hearing you. I'm trying to stop  
6 y'all, but y'all don't seem to be  
7 responding for some reason. Maybe if you  
8 could get closer. And then if the witness,  
9 if you will just let her finish her  
10 question and then pause for a second,  
11 because when you answer, you are cutting  
12 off the last two words that she's saying so  
13 I'm not getting her full question.

14 MR. CHAVEZ: Sorry.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: I will try to -- I  
16 have a pretty loud voice; so I will speak  
17 louder. Is this better?

18 COURT REPORTER: Thank you so  
19 much.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Well, I will make  
21 a point of speaking up louder. Thank you.  
22 We want to make sure we get all of this  
23 information.



1           So, Mr. Chavez, so you said you  
2   took the goggles with you. Did you take a  
3   backpack or any other supplies with you to  
4   the protest?

5           MR. CHAVEZ: I brought some  
6   bottled water, and I dropped it off on the  
7   way there. It was like a little -- someone  
8   had made like a little stand for bottled  
9   water for people. And then I brought some  
10   COVID masks -- I brought masks, but they  
11   were, like, surgical masks for COVID, not  
12   like pepper spray masks or whatever because  
13   we -- we were concerned about that. And  
14   so -- you know, that's it. Nothing else.  
15   No backpack, no medic stuff, nothing like  
16   that.

17           MS. HUNTLEY: And were you  
18   armed?

19           MR. CHAVEZ: No.

20           MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And did you  
21   get any guidance from any individuals how  
22   to handle yourself in protests? I recall  
23   in your testimony before you said something

1 about the ACLU?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So I did see  
3 that the ACLU had posted some, like --  
4 essentially, like, general, like,  
5 information for protesters about, like,  
6 the -- your rights as a protester, what you  
7 should be, like, aware of as far as, like,  
8 if you are arrested who you should be able  
9 to call, but nothing as far as, like --  
10 nothing, like, really, like, equipment  
11 related or anything like that. It was --

12 MS. HUNTLEY: And so did you  
13 write something on your arm?

14 MR. CHAVEZ: So they had  
15 recommended that in the article. I didn't.  
16 I did store the number of a -- of a local  
17 lawyer who had promised to help anyone  
18 arrested at a peaceful protest. I had put  
19 their number in my phone, which was against  
20 the recommendation of -- the ACLU says to  
21 write it so that you don't have to unlock  
22 your phone. That's part of what they  
23 cover. But I did -- I did a half measure

1 there.

2 But I was kind of prepared for  
3 the possibility that something like that  
4 could occur but didn't really expect that  
5 it would ever happen to me. It was just  
6 something that I had seen in the article.  
7 So I -- so I was trying to prepare.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you recall the  
9 name of the lawyer that had made their  
10 information available if someone was  
11 arrested?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: Off the top of my  
13 head, no, but I do know I have a screenshot  
14 of it.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Can you share that  
16 with Susan as well?

17 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. I will put  
18 that in there. Let me actually make a note  
19 before I -- okay.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So other  
21 than what you've shared with your  
22 PowerPoint and expanded upon as we've had  
23 our conversation, was there any other

1 knowledge that you gathered about any  
2 particular outside agitators or problems  
3 anyone was anticipating for the protest?

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Nothing I would  
5 say, like -- no, not really. I was going  
6 to say nothing that would confirm any of  
7 the concerns. Like I said, there were  
8 random Facebook concerns, but nothing that  
9 confirmed any of those concerns.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: So when you left  
11 with your wife to attend your protest --

12 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: -- what was your  
14 understanding about when it was going to  
15 start and when it was going to end?

16 MR. CHAVEZ: So my understanding  
17 and my guess -- my guess on the time  
18 change, essentially, was that what had  
19 changed was the official event time was  
20 going to be from five to 6:30 of the  
21 official event where the NAACP was hosting  
22 speakers in the park. And then the  
23 remainder of the time, the 6:30 to eight,

1 would be an actual march around the Square  
2 was my understanding.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: And how did you  
4 come to that understanding?

5 MR. CHAVEZ: I think through  
6 some combination of the talk in the  
7 Facebook feed and probably most of what  
8 was -- what was in the Facebook event feed.  
9 Sorry. I should be specific about where I  
10 saw that. And that's probably -- probably  
11 about it. And plus with the confirmation  
12 that I had seen from, like, the Madison  
13 Sheriff's Department and those articles  
14 where I had seen the police chief saying  
15 that they would be there for a march around  
16 the Square initially. That's -- that was  
17 kind of where I pieced together that  
18 understanding.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: So you pieced that  
20 together. There was nothing officially on  
21 the event page saying speakers five to 6:30  
22 and then 6:30 to eight will be the march?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct. Yeah.

1 There was nothing -- nothing specific as  
2 far as that part goes from the NAACP.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: So could it have  
4 been interpreted that it was no longer five  
5 to eight anymore and it was just going to  
6 be five to 6:30?

7 MR. CHAVEZ: I certainly think  
8 that there is -- I mean, it could have been  
9 interpreted -- interpreted as such  
10 definitely. And I think if there had been  
11 communication about that, you know, I think  
12 it could have been interpreted that way.

13 MS. HUNTLEY: So if you think of  
14 any additional sources where you reviewed  
15 information when you were making your  
16 decision about whether you had -- whether  
17 or not you and your fiancée at the time  
18 should attend, if it was safe to attend,  
19 then please make sure you share that with  
20 us. And we appreciate you gathering --

21 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, absolutely.

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So let's  
23 get to the event. And when and where did

1 you arrive in the vicinity of the protest?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: So I got there  
3 probably about five minutes late. I would  
4 say we got there about 5:05. We parked at  
5 the Huntsville Library downtown and walked  
6 over.

7 So by the time we got there, I  
8 had already, like, dropped off my water  
9 where I saw they had a little water station  
10 for people, just a bottle of water. And so  
11 I dropped that off. We continued to walk  
12 through the park. And I ended up being,  
13 basically, like, right in front of the YMCA  
14 down near -- in Big Spring Park.

15 So we stood there. We had ran  
16 into a couple of friends by pure chance.  
17 We didn't plan on meeting with them. But  
18 we stood there. We listened to the event,  
19 all of the speakers there. And everything  
20 was pretty peaceful.

21 You know, at that point in time,  
22 we had a little bit of a hard time hearing  
23 the speakers. Which I think, again, if

1 there could have been clarification ahead  
2 of time or if there could have been some  
3 measure of clarification for time. I think  
4 it would have been hard for people to hear  
5 because we weren't that far away from the  
6 stage, and it was a little hard to hear.  
7 And there were also -- there were, like,  
8 police drones above us that made it a  
9 little hard to hear.

10 But it was a peaceful event. It  
11 was nice. We heard -- what we could hear  
12 of the speakers was solid. And we stayed  
13 in that spot until about 6:30 when they  
14 actually wrapped up the event.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So,  
16 Mr. Chavez, just one second.

17 Those who are on the call,  
18 someone has a barking dog. Do you mind  
19 muting your microphone until it's time  
20 to -- in case you have a question? And I  
21 sympathize with you because I am a -- I  
22 have a granddog that would be doing the  
23 same thing as far as --



1 MR. CHAVEZ: It's a real  
2 possibility it's my dog.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Oh, okay.

4 MR. CHAVEZ: We have, like, a  
5 brand new puppy. If I can take a split  
6 second, I will just go check on him --

7 MS. HUNTLEY: Sure.

8 MR. CHAVEZ: -- and just make  
9 sure that -- it is him you are hearing.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

11 (Whereupon, a brief recess was  
12 taken from 10:03 a.m. until  
13 10:05 a.m.)

14 MS. HUNTLEY: All right. So you  
15 were at the protest. You said it was a  
16 little difficult to hear. Would you  
17 consider yourself further back from the  
18 place where the speakers were presenting?

19 MR. CHAVEZ: I don't think we  
20 were terribly far away. I don't know if  
21 you guys are familiar with the -- the  
22 structure, but we were right by the little  
23 bridge that goes across the spring by the

1 YMCA. So we were probably halfway in the  
2 crowd. So we were -- we were close, but  
3 not -- not, like, real close to the stage.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And you  
5 said that you met some friends there?

6 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, just ran into  
7 a couple of friends from -- from work and  
8 then one friend from -- sorry --

9 MS. HUNTLEY: That's all right.

10 MR. CHAVEZ: -- one friend  
11 from -- just like a friend in the  
12 neighborhood that just happened to walk  
13 across the bridge at that point. So, yeah,  
14 there were probably like a group of like  
15 six or eight of us just hanging out.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So can you  
17 take us there and describe what you heard  
18 about law enforcement presence during the  
19 time of the speakers for the NAACP?

20 MR. CHAVEZ: So during the time  
21 of the speakers, we had noted that there  
22 were some police drones above us. Like I  
23 said, they were almost directly above us.

1 So they did kind of make it a little hard  
2 to hear, but they were very close. And  
3 then we saw at the top of the parking deck  
4 next to the YMCA there were some officers  
5 posted up there it looked like with  
6 binoculars. And they may -- I think that  
7 they were probably the people operating the  
8 drones. There were also a couple of police  
9 officers on top of City Hall at that point  
10 in time.

11 And I don't -- I can't say for  
12 sure that I saw anyone on top of the  
13 courthouse yet, but I feel like we had seen  
14 people up on top of the courthouse, like,  
15 behind where the speakers were, but I can't  
16 100 percent say.

17 But I know for sure on the  
18 parking decks right by the event and on top  
19 of City Hall. I don't remember seeing  
20 anyone in the crowd.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you recall what  
22 they were wearing?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: The people on top

1 of the parking deck looked look they were  
2 just in almost, like, regular street  
3 clothes, which is why I assumed they were  
4 operating drones. And then the people on  
5 top of the City Hall looked like they were  
6 in, like -- like police uniforms, like the  
7 full -- full kit, but not like -- like a  
8 riot gear kit. And they had, like, a big  
9 set of binoculars. So I assumed it was all  
10 observation work.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. And were  
12 their arms visible?

13 MR. CHAVEZ: I could not see.  
14 Nothing that I could see, no.

15 MS. HUNTLEY: All right. And  
16 you said you didn't observe any actually in  
17 the crowd or at least where you were?

18 MR. CHAVEZ: Not where I was,  
19 no.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So did the  
21 speakers end around the 6:30 time as was  
22 reported?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, it was pretty

1 close to 6:30 because they wrapped up --  
2 and there was, like, clear confusion at  
3 that point in the crowd over whether the  
4 event was over or are we going marching or,  
5 like, where does it go from here.

6 So there was definitely some  
7 confusion about what was remaining with the  
8 rest of our time. I would say probably  
9 like half of the group of our friends that  
10 we had met there left at that point in  
11 time.

12 And then after everyone milled  
13 about for probably like five minutes, they  
14 started to -- the line started to form at  
15 the bottom of the stairs that go up onto  
16 Fountain Street headed towards the parking  
17 deck.

18 And so everyone just kind of,  
19 like, started migrating over there from the  
20 protest and walked up those stairs to head  
21 to the --

22 MS. HUNTLEY: Was there -- I'm  
23 sorry to interrupt you. Was there any

1 direction from the speakers and the event  
2 telling people to go and file up those  
3 steps?

4 MR. CHAVEZ: No, no direction  
5 that I could hear, but I will be honest and  
6 say -- like I said, it was pretty hard to  
7 hear. So I didn't really hear a dismissal.  
8 I didn't hear any direction to go up those  
9 stairs. It was a -- I think people just  
10 weren't quite sure what was happening at  
11 that point in time.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: And then what did  
13 you do at that time?

14 MR. CHAVEZ: So at that point in  
15 time, we kind of waited until a handful of  
16 people started going up the stairs. My  
17 wife and I were talking, you know, like, do  
18 we keep going; what is going on here.

19 And so once we started seeing  
20 people go up the stairs, we were, like,  
21 okay, well, I guess that's where everyone  
22 is going. And part of that had been  
23 assumed, you know, like, with them closing

1 the courthouse and closing those roads.

2           And we were, like, well, that  
3 must be what it's closed for, because  
4 that's how protests generally work. Like,  
5 if they are closing the roads, that's why  
6 they are doing it.

7           MS. HUNTLEY: And so what  
8 happened after that?

9           MR. CHAVEZ: So we walked up the  
10 courthouse -- the Fountain Square stairs.  
11 As soon as we got to the top of the stairs,  
12 I was able to see I would say probably a  
13 dozen riot cops at the top of the -- or on  
14 the second floor of the parking deck. So  
15 they were kind of looking out at us as we  
16 came up the stairs which -- which was new.

17           Again, I have never seen a riot  
18 cop at a protest. So that was -- that was  
19 a little scary. But, like, no one was  
20 attempting to stop us. No one was telling  
21 us, like, we weren't supposed to be up  
22 there. And the Square was closed off. So  
23 we were just continuing to march up there.

1           Once we got to the courthouse,  
2 they had barriered off all of the  
3 courthouse with big plastic barriers, and  
4 they had cops around the entire thing.

5           And we could see the snipers at  
6 the top of City Hall -- or, I'm sorry, at  
7 the top of the courthouse. And we  
8 proceeded to march and chant -- chant, you  
9 know.

10           At that point in time, you know,  
11 the chants were just, you know, "Black  
12 Lives Matter." They were all -- or say  
13 their name, said his name. So we marched  
14 just kind of around the Square. It was all  
15 pretty peaceful. And then we ended in  
16 front of, like, where the Confederate  
17 memorial used to be, and the group  
18 continued to just do "Black Lives Matter"  
19 chants.

20           MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. Was  
21 there -- was anyone saying things towards  
22 law enforcement? Were there people in the  
23 crowd that were --



1 MR. CHAVEZ: There were -- there  
2 were people in the crowd near me. So at  
3 one point in time, the crowd stopped early  
4 on. So when we first come out by Fountain  
5 Street, you come out by the Confederate  
6 memorial. They stopped and tried to get a  
7 bunch of -- all the cops at the courthouse  
8 to kneel with them. So everyone -- all of  
9 us took a knee and tried to -- tried to get  
10 the police to take a knee as well, and they  
11 did not, which is okay. That's -- I  
12 understand why they -- why they might have  
13 been concerned to do that.

14 So as we continued to go around,  
15 most of the remarks that I personally heard  
16 were continuing to ask them to -- to kneel  
17 with us. So there were enough cops. Like,  
18 you could stop at each place and try to get  
19 them to kneel, but nothing -- I never heard  
20 any, like, threats or anything or I know  
21 that -- like, later on some people were  
22 saying there was profanity used, but at  
23 that point in time, there was none of that.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And then what  
2 happened?

3 MR. CHAVEZ: So we got back to  
4 the -- to, like I said, in front of the  
5 Confederate memorial near Cotton Row.  
6 People were kind of just there continuing  
7 to chant. And right around seven o'clock,  
8 my wife had mentioned that she was, like,  
9 this feels weird. Like, nothing we had  
10 ever been to looked like that. So she was  
11 already kind of ready to go.

12 And someone -- one of the  
13 protesters had apparently burned a flag  
14 that kind of, like, caused a surge in the  
15 crowd, like, people moving away from him  
16 because they thought the cops were coming  
17 in. And that was right around 7:10, which  
18 I have it marked there.

19 So we -- we saw a cop near  
20 Cotton Row get out of his car, and he was  
21 shaking a pepper spray can already. So my  
22 wife has pretty bad asthma. She was, like,  
23 we've got to get out of here, like, I can't

1 be around that stuff. So at that point in  
2 time, we left.

3 We had driven -- driven  
4 separately, but we both parked by the  
5 library. So we walked back to the library.  
6 And she left completely. And I kind of  
7 continued to monitor the event from my car.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So from the  
9 library?

10 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: When you left  
12 the --

13 (Dog noise interference.)

14 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry? I  
15 didn't hear you.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: When you left the  
17 crowd to go back to your vehicle, did you  
18 have any issue getting there? Did anybody  
19 stop you or not allow you to go or --

20 MR. CHAVEZ: No.

21 MS. HUNTLEY: -- redirect you or  
22 anything?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: Sorry. I didn't

1 mean to cut you off there.

2 No one stopped me as I left.

3 You know, at that point in time, they were  
4 not calling for anyone to leave, but they  
5 did let us essentially go by. You know,  
6 we passed -- we passed -- I would say  
7 probably -- we passed -- like, under the  
8 bank, we passed, like, a group of cops and  
9 EMT workers, but they let us walk past.  
10 They didn't ask questions. And then we  
11 just walked back to the library. So we  
12 didn't get any questions or trouble about  
13 it.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: So your wife left  
15 in her vehicle --

16 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: -- correct?

18 And then did you leave in your  
19 vehicle, or did you stay standing outside  
20 of it?

21 MR. CHAVEZ: I was inside of my  
22 vehicle at that point in time.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: And what did you

1 observe as you sat there in the vehicle?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: So I pulled up  
3 another reporter feed and watched kind of  
4 as the protest continued. And I think it  
5 was actually Elizabeth Gentle's feed that I  
6 was watching.

7 And I watched up until they had  
8 the -- the, like, tear gas and all of that  
9 kicked off. So I just remember watching  
10 her feed. And, you know, it looked like a  
11 mostly peaceful protest from her feed until  
12 the 7:54 mark that I put on there where you  
13 can see that they start, like -- like, it  
14 starts getting heated, and that's when you  
15 start hearing tear gas rounds going off in  
16 the crowd.

17 MS. HUNTLEY: And did you hear  
18 those on her feed, or did you hear any of  
19 this from your car?

20 MR. CHAVEZ: I could -- I could  
21 hear both. You know, I was just watching  
22 it on my phone, so it wasn't very loud.  
23 But you could hear it through downtown

1 and -- but, I mean, obviously, the better  
2 sound was through the phone because she was  
3 closer, but, yes, you could hear it through  
4 the whole --

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And how long did  
6 you sit there in your car and watch it from  
7 the feed?

8 MR. CHAVEZ: I would say I sat  
9 there until probably about 8:15, 8:30. You  
10 know, at that point in time, I was just  
11 kind of concerned about the ability for  
12 people to get out of there. And I was kind  
13 of concerned about me trying to, like,  
14 drive my car through all of the -- all of  
15 the craziness.

16 I had seen the convoy of  
17 cruisers come through. And, like, I didn't  
18 know where they were at. So I didn't want  
19 to, like, drive into being cornered  
20 somewhere. So I just kind of stayed in my  
21 car until I felt like it was safe to get  
22 out of there.

23 MS. HUNTLEY: And you said that

1 was around 8:15?

2 MR. CHAVEZ: Yeah, 8:15 was  
3 about when I went home.

4 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

5 MR. CHAVEZ: And then when I got  
6 home --

7 MS. HUNTLEY: You've got dusk at  
8 8:25. So was it dusk when you left, or was  
9 it still light?

10 MR. CHAVEZ: It was -- it was --  
11 it was dusk. It was getting dark. So,  
12 yeah, I left -- I left slightly before. It  
13 was, like, the proper dusk.

14 But I remember noting when dusk  
15 had been that day. Like I -- like I looked  
16 it up on my phone because I knew that -- I  
17 knew that some of the concern that had come  
18 out was about the -- about it getting dark,  
19 about the protesters being out after dark  
20 on the June 1st protest. So before I left,  
21 I actually looked up, like, when is dusk.  
22 And it was getting dark, but it was not  
23 quite yet.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: And what do you  
2 mean concerned about it getting dark in --

3 MR. CHAVEZ: So -- so after the  
4 June 1st protest, I remember in the WAFF  
5 interview that Chief McMurray did, he had  
6 mentioned that they wanted that protest  
7 dispersed before it got dark. Like, that  
8 was why they used tear gas in the first  
9 place.

10 So I remembered when I was in my  
11 car, I was, like, oh, I need to know when  
12 it gets dark tonight. I mean, obviously,  
13 it was -- it was a little dark by the time  
14 I left, but it was not, like, night. So  
15 that was why I noted it.

16 MS. HUNTLEY: And you said while  
17 you were sitting there in your car, there  
18 were police cruisers coming in. Did you  
19 see an influx of law enforcement during  
20 that time? Did you observe them coming  
21 into the scene?

22 MR. CHAVEZ: So I did not  
23 personally. I saw them on the -- on



1 Elizabeth Gentle's feed. But my wife had  
2 actually texted me to say, like, on my way  
3 home, I saw a bunch of police flying up the  
4 highway.

5 So she was -- she was basically,  
6 like, make sure you are not, like, getting  
7 caught in it is why she --

8 MS. HUNTLEY: They were going up  
9 the highway towards where the protest was  
10 or --

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Well, yes. She saw  
12 them coming down the -- 565 headed towards  
13 downtown. But, I mean, she didn't know for  
14 sure that that's where they were going.  
15 But she knew that, given all the police we  
16 had seen, that's probably what was  
17 happening.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: So I don't recall  
19 anything in your testimony that you  
20 personally received injuries, but I just  
21 want to clarify. Did you receive any  
22 injuries that day?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: That's correct, no

1 exposure to tear gas, no -- no injuries,  
2 nothing.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: And what about  
4 your wife? Same story?

5 MR. CHAVEZ: Same. Same. Yeah.  
6 Like I said, we saw the pepper spray, and  
7 we left.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you witness  
9 any of the protesters with weapons or --

10 MR. CHAVEZ: No.

11 MS. HUNTLEY: -- any type of --  
12 anything in their hands that would suggest,  
13 you know, they intended to use it for  
14 whatever reason, whether it's defense or in  
15 an aggressive way, whether it be a gun or a  
16 stick or anything?

17 MR. CHAVEZ: No. I never saw  
18 any weapons. You know, like I said, I did  
19 see a couple of other people that had  
20 brought, like, protective eye equipment,  
21 but never anything that I saw that was,  
22 like, intended to be -- nothing that I  
23 would consider a weapon at any time.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Did you record  
2 anything on your phone while you were  
3 there?

4 MR. CHAVEZ: I think I recorded  
5 some of the -- I know I recorded some of  
6 the march around the Square just kind of to  
7 capture the overwhelming amount of, like,  
8 force essentially that I had seen.

9 Like I said, I had been to  
10 protests in the city, and I had never seen  
11 a response like that. So I did record some  
12 images and some video of the -- of the  
13 march around the Square.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: Can you provide  
15 that to us as well?

16 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, absolutely. I  
17 don't have anything from, really, when it  
18 got violent though.

19 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So would  
20 you have videoed yourself walking up to the  
21 staircase that led up to the Square where  
22 the march took place?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: I didn't. And

1 that's, like, my one biggest regret is  
2 that -- I remember being so caught off  
3 guard coming up and seeing the riot cops  
4 there that we were talking to the people  
5 next to us, but my video starts right after  
6 we walked past that garage. So it starts  
7 basically at the Confederate memorial. So,  
8 unfortunately, I don't have it of us coming  
9 up the stairs.

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Well, if you could  
11 share that as well. Do you know if your  
12 wife videoed anything or took any photos?

13 MR. CHAVEZ: I don't. I should  
14 ask her. I know she knows that I've talked  
15 a lot about this. But she also probably  
16 assumes I have them. So I can ask her to  
17 make sure.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: And you said that  
19 you didn't know any officers. So you --  
20 I'm going to ask you did you recognize any  
21 law enforcement or anybody there that was a  
22 part of law enforcement at the event?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: No. No, not, like,

1 in the -- in the crowd you mean or just  
2 personally?

3 MS. HUNTLEY: And clearly you  
4 have done an extensive amount of research  
5 on this issue. And I recall that you  
6 stated in your presentation that Chief  
7 McMurray was against the protest on June 1  
8 and 3.

9 And so my question is, is that  
10 your opinion that he was against it or is  
11 there something you read or saw that caused  
12 you to draw that conclusion?

13 MR. CHAVEZ: I would say there  
14 is nothing directly that he said regarding  
15 it, but I felt like -- I drew that  
16 conclusion based off of the things that he  
17 had said at his presentation following  
18 and -- and just, like, kind of his -- like  
19 I said, I have a couple of the tweets that  
20 he had shared that I felt like were really  
21 worse interpretation reads of what people  
22 felt or were saying on social media.

23 And so to me that's where I came

1 to that conclusion was, like, you have  
2 to -- you have to be intentionally reading  
3 these poorly to get that read. Like, I  
4 understand that --

5 MS. HUNTLEY: And you are saying  
6 those are tweets that Chief McMurray shared  
7 himself?

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. Yes. So,  
9 like --

10 MS. HUNTLEY: Do you have  
11 screenshots of those?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: I have -- I have  
13 some other -- I have some screenshots of  
14 those. Like, the ones I posted, it's in  
15 the June 1st time line. Here was one where  
16 someone, like, sent an informational tweet,  
17 and he took it out of context and presented  
18 it as a person making threats against the  
19 City.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

21 MR. CHAVEZ: That's, like, a  
22 good example of, like -- I was, like, there  
23 was no way to read this unless you are

1 really reading this with the intention of  
2 portraying these people as violent.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. So can you  
4 share with us any other tweets that --

5 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. I have -- I  
6 have a bunch more. It's a little shameful  
7 how many people's tweets I read.

8 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay.

9 MR. CHAVEZ: And, actually, in  
10 this presentation, I do have some -- some  
11 out-of-town people who posted tweets that  
12 he used against people in Huntsville. So  
13 these are people that have never been in  
14 Huntsville or had any plans to be here that  
15 he also cited that to me felt like you are  
16 just looking for justification essentially.

17 And so there are a couple of  
18 those on this presentation, but I have  
19 plenty more.

20 MS. HUNTLEY: Okay. That would  
21 be great if you could share those with  
22 Susan as well.

23 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay.

1 MS. HUNTLEY: Well, I know you  
2 have given us a lot of time, and someone  
3 else may have a question. Those are all of  
4 the questions I have, but I would like to  
5 ask you is there anything else you want to  
6 share with us, share with the CAC to let us  
7 know as we are continuing on with this  
8 investigation?

9 MR. CHAVEZ: You know, nothing  
10 as far as I would say my -- my evidence  
11 that I had to present, like, today. You  
12 know, I just -- you know, I appreciate the  
13 work they are doing. And I really hope  
14 that there is, you know, serious  
15 consideration into -- like I said, these  
16 contacts that allegedly came from former  
17 HPD cops, like, I hope that there is real  
18 consideration for what -- how that  
19 contributed to this environment and what  
20 happened on the 3rd.

21 But I would say, as far as,  
22 like, direct evidence, I think that is  
23 probably all I have for today. And I will



1 send you guys anything else that you --  
2 that you would like from me.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Can you -- you  
4 said contacts from former HPD cops. What  
5 did you mean by that?

6 MR. CHAVEZ: Sorry. That's  
7 the -- the Joshua Graff, that lawyer that  
8 had initially posted the rumor about Antifa  
9 was a former HPD police officer, and he  
10 claimed to be citing current HPD  
11 investigators when he posted that.

12 MS. HUNTLEY: Got you. I didn't  
13 realize he was a former --

14 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So on there,  
15 I have his -- I posted, like, his former --  
16 his current and former jobs as well. So if  
17 you guys need that, that is there.

18 MS. HUNTLEY: All right. Well,  
19 thank you.

20 MR. SHARMAN: I have a couple of  
21 questions. Mr. Chavez, can you hear me  
22 okay?

23 MR. CHAVEZ: I can.

1 MR. SHARMAN: All right. Again,  
2 I'm Jack Sharman. I'm a colleague with  
3 Liz. I appreciate your time. Just a  
4 couple of follow-up questions so I'm clear.  
5 Going back to the --

6 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. I  
7 need to stop you. Maybe if you could get  
8 closer to the microphone. It is really  
9 muffled, and I just can't make out your  
10 words.

11 MR. SHARMAN: Okay. All right.  
12 Let's try this again.

13 Mr. Chavez, I'm Jack Sharman and  
14 one of Liz's colleagues. And I appreciate  
15 your time.

16 Let me go back to the  
17 beginning --

18 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

19 MR. SHARMAN: -- when we were  
20 chatting a little bit and you were talking  
21 a little bit about the change in time of  
22 the scheduled protest.

23 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

1           MR. SHARMAN: And if I -- if I  
2 wrote my notes correctly, you said that you  
3 had a concern that the change in the time  
4 was to set up the protest.

5           Assuming I wrote down correctly  
6 what you had said, go back to that and walk  
7 me through that again, if you would.

8           MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So that --  
9 that's -- that's something I think I said  
10 today. And I know I said it to the HPCAC  
11 itself.

12           So when the time change  
13 occurred, it -- it -- it's not just me that  
14 thought that. There is immediately  
15 conversation in the event thread that the  
16 time is changing to confuse the protesters  
17 essentially.

18           And so the concern was that they  
19 were essentially -- by allowing us to come  
20 up the stairs -- no one is there to tell  
21 people, hey, the event is over, return  
22 home -- they essentially allowed us onto  
23 the Square, let us do the march around the

1 Square within the old permit times and  
2 location. That was originally where the  
3 protest was planned for was the Square.

4 So my concern was that they  
5 blocked off those roads, put the police  
6 officers there that could have stopped  
7 anyone from coming up in the first place  
8 and then let them do the whole march and  
9 essentially ended the event six minutes  
10 before the original permit had expired.

11 So my concern after the fact was  
12 it felt to me like the protesting tactic of  
13 kettling protesters -- I felt like a lot --  
14 and I know that I was not the only  
15 protester that felt that way, felt like  
16 they were being pinned down in the Square.

17 So that was both my initial  
18 concern when the time changed so late and  
19 then certainly after the fact when other  
20 people said, like, we had a hard time  
21 getting back to our cars because of the  
22 police force down there.

23 MR. SHARMAN: Okay. And I get

1 you. But let me just separate, you know --

2 MR. CHAVEZ: Sure.

3 MR. SHARMAN: -- the crowd  
4 control tactics good, bad, or indifferent  
5 from -- just from time -- the time change.

6 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So, again,  
7 without any justification otherwise that --  
8 for why they had shortened the permit or --  
9 and with it happening so late, and in the  
10 environment of all these people sharing  
11 false rumors and them closing the  
12 courthouse early, I felt like the -- the  
13 time was changed so, like, to confuse  
14 people and whether that was -- sorry. That  
15 it would confuse people. Whether that was  
16 they didn't want us marching at all or, you  
17 know, essentially -- you know, like I said,  
18 I also thought, like, maybe they are  
19 separating -- before I knew that it was a  
20 permit change, I initially thought, well,  
21 maybe the NAACP is just separating the  
22 march from the speakers which would make  
23 sense.

1                   And then, you know, once what  
2 happened happened, I would say there were  
3 probably more -- that was where I came --  
4 became more concerned that, like, oh -- or  
5 even once we saw the riot cops, once we got  
6 up onto the Square, I was, like, oh,  
7 something is weird here. Something is  
8 funny about what -- how this is all going  
9 down. But there was initially concern that  
10 something -- you know, the temperature of  
11 the event and the late time change with no  
12 explanation could cause problems.

13                   MR. SHARMAN: And then I wrote  
14 down also that -- that -- that, you know,  
15 you said that there was no warning or  
16 official warning or official notice of  
17 potential violence and that -- and then the  
18 reporter, Ms. Gentle, and then I guess an  
19 HPD representative, Lieutenant Johnson,  
20 then both said in different ways, you know,  
21 there is no real threat here. We don't  
22 have any credible evidence of weapons being  
23 stored or violence contemplated. So --

1 so -- so walk me through that again.

2           It sounds like that -- that if  
3 there wasn't some public confirmation of  
4 warning of violence that sort of at the end  
5 of the day, so to speak, both the media and  
6 the department both said, look, there is  
7 nothing there as far as we can tell. Is  
8 that --

9           MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

10           MR. SHARMAN: Kind of walk me  
11 through that again.

12           MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. So that was  
13 part of, like, in our decision-making of,  
14 like, do we want to go to this event, is it  
15 going to be safe for us to go, we were  
16 looking into that as, like, well, surely if  
17 there are threats to normal citizens that  
18 there -- a threat enough that they are  
19 telling people in the Square prepare for  
20 violence against your place of business,  
21 then surely they would make that public.  
22 Surely they would let us know because  
23 normal citizens who just want to come and

1 peacefully protest, I don't want to be down  
2 there when bricks started -- or when a  
3 Molotov cocktail or, like, something you  
4 had seen -- I don't want to be around that.  
5 And I certainly don't want to be a party to  
6 it.

7           So, yes, my logic in looking up  
8 all of that before the event started was,  
9 surely if this is a credible threat,  
10 someone has said something.

11           And once we saw that, like, not  
12 only were the reporters saying it, but,  
13 like, official Huntsville police  
14 spokespeople were saying there is no  
15 evidence of weapons, okay, well, then it's  
16 probably fine for us to go, you know,  
17 which -- which then made -- like, when we  
18 see some of the justifications for why what  
19 happened happened, it's, like, well, you  
20 guys said that there was nothing. We  
21 deserve to know as citizens ahead of time  
22 if we shouldn't be there.

23           Like, you know, that's a



1 physical risk to me. That's a career risk  
2 to me. Like, I could get fired if I'm at a  
3 thing where people start getting violent.  
4 And so I don't want to be at that.

5 So that was really what drove  
6 all of that fact-checking in the first  
7 place, which I know, like, it kind of looks  
8 like I'm just, like, a crazy news consumer  
9 that I'm, like, screenshotting and doing  
10 all of this the day of the event.

11 But, yeah, we were worried about  
12 it. Like, I don't want to be a party to  
13 that. That's not what I was there for.

14 And once we saw that the police  
15 had confirmed that it was mostly, you know,  
16 rumors and I knew that those were rumors  
17 that existed in other cities where these  
18 groups never turned up, I felt okay about  
19 it. I felt like it was just kind of social  
20 media craziness that people get into and  
21 buy into that has no evidence and fact once  
22 we fact-checked it.

23 MR. SHARMAN: Do you recall how

1 Lieutenant Johnson, if that's who it was,  
2 confirmed the absence of credible evidence  
3 of weapons? Was it a press release, tweet,  
4 something else?

5 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, it was in a --  
6 it was in the WZDX Fox article where  
7 they -- they were specifically  
8 fact-checking social media rumors and --

9 MR. SHARMAN: So it was a media  
10 report perhaps quoting him?

11 MR. CHAVEZ: Correct. Yes.  
12 It's a -- it's listed as a direct quote  
13 from him.

14 MR. SHARMAN: You may have --  
15 Liz may have asked you this, but going back  
16 to the time change, do you know if the  
17 NAACP leaders were consulted about or sort  
18 of participating in any discussions about  
19 the time changes?

20 MR. CHAVEZ: My understanding,  
21 and this comes from after the fact, you  
22 know, the NAACP did hold a press conference  
23 that said, like, they had been in

1 communication with the police department  
2 about changing the event time. And, you  
3 know, that's as much as I know is that  
4 there was some communication with the  
5 private event organizers but nothing  
6 publicly released that I ever saw.

7 MR. SHARMAN: Who would be the  
8 best person in your view at the NAACP to  
9 talk particularly about these issues and  
10 especially about things like logistics,  
11 time changes and the like?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: I don't -- I will  
13 be honest and say I don't know who  
14 specifically handles their social media.  
15 My impression is that it's just, like, the  
16 president of the group. I don't think that  
17 they have a specific -- it's a small enough  
18 group that I don't think they have a  
19 specific person, like, handling the public  
20 contacts for that.

21 But my -- I mean, my normal  
22 expectation would be that it would have  
23 been something announced at the rally, you

1 know, where they are, like, okay, it's  
2 over. It's time to go home. We are not  
3 doing -- you know, like, we know we were  
4 approved for these longer times, but we --  
5 that was changed. My expectation would  
6 have been that it came from the stage,  
7 again, with the recognition that, like, we  
8 had -- from where we were anyway. But to  
9 my knowledge, there was never any  
10 notification from there.

11           And then like I said before,  
12 like, if we weren't allowed on the Square,  
13 I would have expected -- it's very easy for  
14 the police to have stood at the top of the  
15 stairs and been, like, the event is down  
16 there. This isn't -- you know, we are  
17 protecting this because of some rumor. But  
18 this is not for a march. This is not  
19 supposed to happen here.

20           Because like I said, the riot  
21 cops were all there already. They were  
22 just across the street. So I -- that would  
23 have been my other expectation is if they

1 didn't -- knowing how much of the  
2 conversation had been around planning a  
3 march at the Square and then changing  
4 things so late, like, they did not expect  
5 people to be on the Square, I think that  
6 they missed the chance as the police force  
7 there to tell people, this isn't permitted;  
8 this isn't part of the event. And it just  
9 didn't happen.

10 MR. SHARMAN: All right. Liz,  
11 that's all I have. I don't know if the --  
12 if the CAC members want to pitch in as  
13 well.

14 MS. GUERRIERI: Yes. Jack, I  
15 have just two questions.

16 MR. SHARMAN: Sure.

17 MS. GUERRIERI: Can you hear me?

18 MR. CHAVEZ: I can.

19 MS. GUERRIERI: You can? Okay.

20 I was just having little bit of a  
21 connection difficulty on my end this  
22 morning but did come out of that and into  
23 this at 9:05.

1                   First of all, thank you very  
2 much, Mr. Chavez, for the time you have  
3 taken today and your very detailed answers  
4 to the questions. I just have two  
5 questions.

6                   You said that someone was  
7 burning a flag?

8                   MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

9                   MS. GUERRIER: Do you know what  
10 type flag was being burned?

11                  MR. CHAVEZ: I could not  
12 personally see it. It happened relatively  
13 close to us. But I was told after the fact  
14 that it was a -- like, a small pocket --  
15 like an American flag. It wasn't, you  
16 know --

17                  MS. GUERRIER: An American flag?

18                  MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. From my  
19 understanding is --

20                  MS. GUERRIER: Okay.

21                  MR. CHAVEZ: -- they burned it.  
22 It went up pretty -- like, by the time the  
23 crowd cleared out, we could see someone

1 standing there. It was already gone.

2 Like, it had burned up.

3 And I heard about it after the  
4 fact --

5 MS. GUERRIER: Okay.

6 MR. CHAVEZ: -- that that's what  
7 had been burned.

8 MS. GUERRIER: Oh, okay. Thank  
9 you. And you also referred to other  
10 protests where rumors circulated in  
11 basically the same venue as Facebook, which  
12 Facebook, you know, things really get -- do  
13 you know the location of those particular  
14 protests that you might remember having  
15 heard about --

16 MR. CHAVEZ: So -- so --

17 MS. GUERRIER: -- materialized?

18 MR. CHAVEZ: -- off the top of  
19 my head, I do not know the exact names, but  
20 I do have -- I can include those in the  
21 screenshots I share.

22 MS. GUERRIER: Okay.

23 MR. CHAVEZ: I do also know in

1 the article -- or in the event threat where  
2 people were talking about the rumors going  
3 around on Facebook, someone had shared a  
4 Washington Post article that covered a  
5 whole bunch of places where, like, rumors  
6 were that Antifa was coming into town, but  
7 it was, like -- it started on Facebook.  
8 These people never materialized. There was  
9 never any real credible appearance of these  
10 people. So I will share both of those.

11 MS. GUERRIER: Okay. So it was  
12 just being talked about and shared on  
13 Facebook, and then other people join in and  
14 they may or may not have credible  
15 information but they feel like they are  
16 going to contribute to the conversation and  
17 this and that.

18 You know, this is something that  
19 I think is being dealt with all over the  
20 country right now --

21 MR. CHAVEZ: It's --

22 MS. GUERRIER: -- who has got  
23 accurate information, who is not there.



1           Let's see. Did you have any  
2 difficulty hearing the instructions from  
3 the law enforcement officers that were  
4 there when they were calling for the crowd  
5 to disperse?

6           MR. CHAVEZ: So I was gone by  
7 then. I believe those came out about 7:30.

8           MS. GUERRIER: Oh, okay.

9           MR. CHAVEZ: But I was listening  
10 on the Elizabeth Gentle WAFF Facebook  
11 livestream.

12          MS. GUERRIER: Okay.

13          MR. CHAVEZ: And I remember  
14 hearing the LRAD arrive. I cannot in her  
15 video hear anything regarding any warning  
16 message. It's not --

17          MS. GUERRIER: Okay.

18          MR. CHAVEZ: That doesn't mean  
19 it didn't go out. It could just mean that  
20 that --

21          MS. GUERRIER: Okay.

22          MR. CHAVEZ: -- that it didn't  
23 pick up on her microphones. But I would --

1    yeah, I can say for sure that I was not  
2    there to hear those messages. But I could  
3    hear them on the Facebook video even though  
4    I did hear the LRADs arrive around -- I  
5    think it was around 7:30 on her feed that  
6    they arrived.

7                   MS. GUERRIER: Okay. Well,  
8    Mr. Chavez, that's all I have. Thank you  
9    very much for coming to the interview and  
10   all of the information you provided today.  
11   We appreciate it very much.

12                   MR. CHAVEZ: Happy to help.  
13   Thank you for having me.

14                   MS. HUNTLEY: Any other CAC  
15   members have any questions for Mr. Chavez?

16                   MS. MCCULLEY: Ms. Liz, it's  
17   Shelly. I do have one. And I think you  
18   may have already answered this. When he  
19   arrived, where exactly was he -- you know,  
20   where he and his wife stood, you know,  
21   where they maintained their space in the  
22   crowd? Did he answer that at any point?

23                   Have you answered that?

1 MS. HUNTLEY: He did, but he can  
2 repeat it.

3 MS. MCCULLEY: I'm sorry.

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Yeah, I'm happy  
5 to -- no, I'm happy to do it. It's no  
6 problem.

7 We were -- depending on how -- I  
8 assume everyone is relatively familiar with  
9 Big Spring Park.

10 MS. MCCULLEY: Right.

11 MR. CHAVEZ: But the event  
12 itself was on the big -- the large stairs.  
13 That's where the speakers were hosted.  
14 There is the -- there is a little small  
15 bridge that comes across the fountain  
16 there. And then right -- right as you get  
17 to the YMCA, there is another little bridge  
18 that comes across that takes you to the  
19 YMCA from the park.

20 MS. MCCULLEY: Right.

21 MR. CHAVEZ: We were basically  
22 right by that bridge. We were where the  
23 grass starts near that bridge.

1 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay.

2 MR. CHAVEZ: So -- so relatively  
3 close but not -- not, like, right up front.

4 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay. All right.  
5 Well, thank you. And thank you again for  
6 your time.

7 MR. CHAVEZ: Sure. And, then, I  
8 should say, like, after we marched around  
9 the Square, we were, like, right in front  
10 of Cotton Row --

11 MS. MCCULLEY: Cotton Row.  
12 Okay.

13 MR. CHAVEZ: -- is where we were  
14 waiting.

15 MS. MCCULLEY: Okay. And  
16 congratulations on your wedding too.

17 MR. CHAVEZ: Thank you so much.

18 MR. ROSSOW: And this is John  
19 Rossow. I just want to -- yes,  
20 congratulations on your wedding.

21 MR. CHAVEZ: Thank you.

22 MR. ROSSOW: Thank you for your  
23 time this morning.

1 MR. CHAVEZ: Thank you for  
2 having me.

3 MS. HUNTLEY: Well, Mr. Chavez,  
4 unless you have anything else to share, we  
5 will conclude this interview. I thank you  
6 for your being discreet for us so that we  
7 can continue on through the investigation.

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: And also that I'm  
10 sure Susan will be in touch to gather -- to  
11 compile the information that you have  
12 talked about today and continued to share  
13 with us.

14 And we just really want to thank  
15 you for your time and for your diligence in  
16 capturing a lot of this. It's going to be  
17 very helpful to the CAC for this  
18 investigation. Thank you so much.

19 MR. CHAVEZ: I'm glad to know  
20 that, you know, all of my time spent on the  
21 phone isn't always a waste.

22 MS. MCCULLEY: No. No.

23 MR. CHAVEZ: I'm very happy to

1 have been able to provide, you know, any  
2 amount of assistance. And if anyone has  
3 any further questions, like, I am always  
4 willing to help in any way.

5 But I will -- I will talk to  
6 Susan and send any of those additional  
7 things that I spoke about or other things  
8 that I think may need clarifying.

9 MS. HUNTLEY: Thank you. And  
10 last thing, what is that cute little  
11 puppy's name?

12 MR. CHAVEZ: His name is  
13 Matlock.

14 MS. HUNTLEY: He is absolutely  
15 adorable.

16 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes. He's very  
17 cute. And sorry if you are -- if you had  
18 to -- if the stenographer had to put barks  
19 in there or whatever it was, I apologize.

20 MS. GUERRIER: Mr. Chavez, I  
21 think we've all had puppies before, so we  
22 can -- we can -- we know where you are with  
23 the puppy. We've all had that in --

1 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

2 MS. HUNTLEY: Well, thank you so  
3 much. That was helpful. And we will  
4 conclude the interview now. Thank you.

5 MR. CHAVEZ: All right. Thank  
6 you so much.

7 (Whereupon, the interview ended  
8 at 10:45 a.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 STATE OF ALABAMA)

4 JEFFERSON COUNTY)

5

6 I hereby certify that the above and  
7 foregoing interview was taken down by me in  
8 stenotype, and the questions and answers  
9 thereto were reduced to computer print  
10 under my supervision, and that the  
11 foregoing represents a true and correct  
12 transcript of the testimony given by said  
13 witness upon said interview.

14 I further certify that I am neither  
15 of counsel nor of kin to the parties to the  
16 action, nor am I anywise interested in the  
17 results of said cause.

18 Signed the 19th day of January, 2021.

19

20

21 /s/ Diana B. Williams, CCR  
22 DIANA B. WILLIAMS, CCR  
23 Alabama CCR No. 104, Expires 09/30/2021

22

23 Commissioner for the State of Alabama at  
Large, Commission expires 04/11/2023