

1
2
3
4
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STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MONROE)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONROE COUNTY

CAUSE NO. 53C06-2203-PL-000509

COUNTY RESIDENTS AGAINST)
ANNEXATION, INC., et al.,)

Petitioners,)

-vs-)

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA,)
et al.)

Respondents.)

DEPOSITION OF MARGARET CLEMENTS

The deposition upon oral examination of MARGARET CLEMENTS, a witness produced and sworn before me, Colleen Brady, Notary Public in and for the County of Monroe, State of Indiana, taken on behalf of the Respondents, at the offices of Bunger & Robertson, 226 South College Avenue, Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, on the 4th day of August 2022, at 3:44 p.m., pursuant to the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure with written notice as to time and place thereof.

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5
6
7
8
9
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11
12
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14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

INDEX OF EXAMINATION

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page

DIRECT EXAMINATION 5
Questions by Andrew M. McNeil

CROSS-EXAMINATION 74
Questions by William J. Beggs

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Page

Deposition Exhibit No.:

Exhibit 16 - LinkedIn Profile40

Exhibit 17 - Affidavit of Margaret
Clements50

Exhibit 18 - City of Bloomington63
Information Bulletin

Exhibit 19 - The Dissident Democrat66
article

Previously Marked Exhibits:

Exhibit 4 - Photograph64

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
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1 (Time noted: 3:44 p.m.)

2 MARGARET CLEMENTS,
3 having been duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole
4 truth, and nothing but the truth relating to said
5 matter, was examined and testified as follows:

6

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION,

8 QUESTIONS BY ANDREW M. MCNEIL:

9 Q Please state your name for the record?

10 A My name a Margaret Clements.

11 Q Ms. Clements, my name is, as you know by now,
12 Andrew McNeil one of the attorneys for the City
13 of Bloomington.

14 Have you ever had your deposition taken
15 before?

16 A I don't think so.

17 Q You had the opportunity -- 'cause this is our
18 fifth deposition of the day.

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did you sit in on the other four?

21 A I did.

22 Q So you've at least seen the process.

23 A Yes.

24 Q I always try to start with the same basic ground
25 rules. So your job is to answer my questions as

1 completely and truthfully as you can.

2 Do you understand that?

3 A I do.

4 Q If you don't understand my question, will you
5 let me know?

6 A Yes.

7 Q If you need to take a break -- yours might be a
8 little bit long, I'm not sure. If you need to
9 take a break, use the restroom get something
10 else to drink, just will you let me know?

11 A Yes, I will. Thanks.

12 Q Do you know that you took an oath to tell the
13 truth today?

14 A I do.

15 Q Do you live in one of the annexation
16 territories?

17 A I do not.

18 Q So what is your involvement with this whole
19 remonstrance process?

20 A I think you're asking me how did I become
21 involved; right? And why; is that correct?

22 Q Well, ultimately. But go ahead. Answer those
23 questions.

24 A So well, first of all, I have kind of a big
25 heart. And I had become aware through some

1 postings on Nextdoor, that there were some older
2 people who were concerned about the impact that
3 the annex would have -- annexation would have on
4 them in terms of their ability to continue to
5 afford to stay in the homes where they currently
6 lived. They felt that the annexation would be
7 injurious to them and they were too old. Like
8 one -- you know, a few people have said that
9 they are in their 80's, their lifetime earning
10 potential has finished, and that if their taxes
11 would go up by the amount that the city had
12 predicted, that he would have to move. And that
13 they are old and unable to do so. And, you
14 know, to me, that was a cry for help.

15 I thought, well, I think for some of these
16 older people, I would like to step up and try to
17 help.

18 Q So nextdoor is kind of organized loosely by
19 neighbor designations?

20 A Yes, yes.

21 Q What neighborhood group was this a part of?

22 A Well, you know, her name has come up before in
23 this meeting, but Rita Barrow is pretty active
24 on Nextdoor. And there were posting from some
25 older people on her Nextdoor page. So they came

1 from different neighborhoods around the city
2 because Rita is kind of well known.

3 Q And did you know Rita before this --

4 A I did.

5 Q So we need to make sure -- you know, Rhonda was
6 quick to answer --

7 A Yes.

8 Q -- so let me get my question out and then -- so
9 did you know Rita before the whole remonstrance
10 period started?

11 A Yes.

12 Q How did you know Rita?

13 A I knew her because I had lived in Van Buren
14 township, and she was the trustee at the time
15 that I had live there, you know, more than a
16 decade ago or more than two decades ago I think.

17 Q Is she a personal friend, or more of an
18 acquaintance, someone you knew?

19 A Just someone I respected as a community figure.
20 Not a personal friend. Just somebody who's had
21 earned, I think, the respect of a large number
22 of the community members.

23 Q Do you live in Bloomington in the city limits?

24 A Not in the city limits.

25 Q Where do you live?

1 A I live outside of the annexation area 2. Do you
2 want my address?

3 Q Sure?

4 A 5784 Calais Court, C-A-L-A-I-S Court,
5 Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

6 Q What township is that in?

7 A Saltcreek.

8 Q How long have you lived there?

9 A About ten years.

10 Q What do you do for a paid profession or work?

11 A I direct a research institute.

12 Q What research institute?

13 A It's called the Center for Knowledge Diffusion.

14 Q Is that here in Bloomington?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Where is that located?

17 A It's located on Fenbrook Lane and somewhat in my
18 house. I do a lot of research at home.

19 Q How many people work at the Center for Knowledge
20 Diffusion?

21 A Right now I contract out. So I'm its sole
22 employee. And I'm going through transferring
23 some of my purposes because my husband passed
24 away. And I'm going to dedicate the next
25 portion of my life toward securing his legacy.

1 Q I'm sorry to hear -- for your loss.

2 A Thank you, thank you.

3 Q Well, what I want to understand, I guess, is in
4 March 2020 to present, were there employees or
5 contract workers that were tide to or preformed
6 services for the Center of Knowledge Diffusion?

7 A At that time, no. The focus was beginning to
8 change to hosting -- my goal is to have -- endow
9 a string quartet. I had just had a concert
10 in -- with -- with the string quartet from Brno,
11 Czech Republic come and play, and I was ready to
12 embark on other concerts, and then the
13 quarantine hit. So I had people from Mexico and
14 other places who wanted to come. But I wanted
15 able to pursue that because of COVID.

16 Q So when did you first get involved in some form
17 with the annexation and things surrounding it?

18 A I think it was probably in May of 2020. Just
19 trying to wrap my brain around that. I don't
20 know exactly when the REEDY report came out and
21 was posted on the city's website. But they had
22 made that announcement that they intended to
23 annex and they made the public notice of
24 financial impact to the community on the
25 website. And, I think, at that time I began to

1 ask questions, become involved, et cetera.

2 Q So we talked -- you've heard my questions to
3 other witnesses about the Community Residents
4 Against Annexation --

5 A County Residents Against Annexation.

6 Q Did I say community?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Sorry. County residence against annexation, and
9 according to the Secretary of State, it was
10 formed officially August 20, 2021.

11 A That's correct.

12 Q That was your involvement in creating that?

13 A I formed it.

14 Q Did you incorporate it yourself or did you have
15 a lawyer or --

16 A I did it.

17 Q Had you formed not-for-profits before?

18 A Yes, I formed my research institute, and I
19 helped other not-for-profits in the community
20 form and spearhead their success.

21 Q Do you have any legal education? Did you go to
22 law school?

23 A I did not go to law school. I have a doctorate
24 though.

25 Q What's your, just briefly, what was your

1 educational process from bachelor's to
2 doctorate?

3 A I don't understand the question what was my
4 process. I studied my butt off.

5 Q Yeah, I know, bachelor's -- like where did you
6 go to college, what was your major, how did you
7 end up with a PhD?

8 A Well, I, like most people in my predicament, I
9 was an English major.

10 Q Already off the rails before you left the
11 station.

12 A English and political science here at Indiana
13 University. And then I had a short time as a
14 mortgage loan officer, then I moved to Italy and
15 was in human resources management in Italy for
16 more than 8 years. And I came back and I always
17 intended get an advanced degree and, in fact,
18 before I left for Italy, I had taken the LSTATs
19 and thought I might pursue a law degree. But I
20 didn't. While in Italy, I really -- well, my
21 father was a public schoolteacher for 53 years.
22 I while in Italy, I really thought that one
23 aspect that I appreciated about the community
24 that I lived in, was that they held higher
25 esteem for educators than we do here in America.

1 And so I thought that I would devote that middle
2 part of my life towards promoting and analyzing
3 and pursuing more equitable access to
4 educational opportunity and elevating
5 educational access to opportunity. And I
6 thought a doctorate would enable me to do that.

7 Q What is your doctorate officially?

8 A It's in education policy and higher education
9 administration. Double major with a
10 concentration in statistics.

11 Q What is the County Residents Against
12 Annexation's principal place on business or
13 address?

14 A On our telephones, you know. But officially,
15 it's at my home. But I have -- we have a PO
16 Box. We broke out the checkbook for a PO Box.

17 Q Were there any cofounders or were you alone in
18 establishing it?

19 A No, there were -- basically, I called up the
20 other people who had been active and I asked
21 them would they object to us forming a
22 not-for-profit. I thought it could be useful in
23 the future. And so Julie Thomas, Rita Barrow,
24 Colby Wicker, myself and Sandy Sabbagh, we were
25 the original kind of handful of people who were

1 involved in County Residents Against Annexation.

2 We needed a way to organize and to mobilize.

3 Q Who were the -- do you know who the current
4 officers are?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Who are they?

7 A I'm the president. I was elected president by
8 the board and the advisers, they asked me to
9 serve and I agreed. Sandy Sabbagh is the vice
10 president. Roger Stewart is the treasurer, and
11 Rhonda Gray, who was here earlier, is the
12 secretary. And there are two other officers who
13 don't -- or two other board members on the board
14 of directors who don't hold offices, but one is
15 Scott Ferris, and the other is Julie Thomas. So
16 there's six on our board of directors.

17 Q Could you please repeat the name of the
18 treasurer?

19 A The treasurer is Roger Stewart.

20 Q Thank you. Does County Residents Against
21 Annexation have members?

22 A No. We're not a member driven organization.

23 Q Does the County Residents Against Annexation own
24 any real estate?

25 A No.

1 Q Do does Sandy Sabbagh live in any of the
2 annexation territories?

3 A No. She lives in the city, but she was a real
4 estate broker for more than 40 years and she's
5 one of the most successful female business
6 owners in our community. And she had a lot of
7 experience in the city, in the county, helping
8 people find homes where they wanted to live.

9 Q Does Roger Stewart live in any of the annexation
10 territories?

11 A Yes, he's in annexation area 2.

12 Q Rhonda Gray we know. What about Scott Ferris?

13 A He's in annexation area 6. He spearheaded the
14 effort that got annexation area 6 out of
15 annexation with 91 percent of the homeowners who
16 were opposed to annexation in his area.

17 Q What about the Julie Thomas?

18 A Julie Thomas lives -- I don't think she was in
19 annexation area 6 but, as you probably, know she
20 is a county commissioner. And she is concerned
21 about the effect of annexation on the school
22 corporation, the libraries and the other public
23 assets or public services that we provide. But
24 she participates as a resident of the county who
25 would be impacted.

1 Q You mention -- is it Wicker, Colby --

2 A Colby Wicker, yes.

3 Q Who is he?

4 A He's a very promising young man. He's a --
5 maybe a sophomore in college. He is studying
6 political science. I think he'll be an intern
7 in -- I can't remember the name of the senator.

8 Q From Indiana?

9 A No, he's from I think Nebraska. I can't
10 remember right now who he'll be interning with.

11 Q Ben Sasse.

12 A That's exactly right. Ben Sasse. And so he
13 will be interring for him and, you know, he's
14 just a very impressive young man.

15 Q Is he currently involved in the County Residents
16 Against --

17 A He's not. He's been attending to school.

18 Q The organization was formed -- when you formed
19 the County Residents organization, what was its
20 purpose?

21 A The purpose was -- this annexation process is
22 very complicated. The purpose of it was to kind
23 of disambiguate some of the information that was
24 coming, and also to understand the rights of the
25 property owners in the annexation areas to

1 education to organize and represent I guess the
2 property owner's interest, to help them pursue
3 what it was they wanted to pursue, which was
4 remonstrations.

5 Q Was the County Residents organization involved
6 in collecting remonstrance signatures?

7 A I don't know if it involved -- we helped people,
8 but I never took a signature during the
9 remonstrations period and neither did Sandy
10 Sabbagh because we don't live in the annexation
11 areas.

12 And so that was one of the things that we
13 had to educate the community about is who could
14 carry a counterpart, how could they be
15 authorized, what are the procedures that they
16 needed to go through. And so that's one of the
17 things we help to clarify for them.

18 Q Did you also help organize the volunteers who
19 collected those signatures?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What steps did you take to organize the
22 volunteers?

23 A Well, you know a lot -- it was so grassroots.
24 First of all, we had a preremonstrations petition
25 drive that we started in June or July. Our

1 hopes were to save the community division and
2 save the county and tax payers money by
3 convincing the city council to vote no, against
4 annexation; so we had gathered signatures from
5 65 percent or more of the property owners in
6 each of the annexation areas, and we were asking
7 the city council to be deliberate and good
8 stewards of the community resources and vote no
9 because the community did not want it and that
10 the effort would probably fail in the
11 remonstrations period.

12 Q So that effort in the summer of 2021, do you
13 know the time frame of that?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What was the time frame?

16 A Well, it was after the REEDY report was uploaded
17 so -- well, first, I have to -- it took a while
18 to prepare that preremonstrations petition drive
19 because the information had -- the city did not
20 post the REEDY report in a very usable fashion.

21 So we had to transfer the data that was
22 posted onto the website to a data base that we
23 could manipulate and use in order to keep track
24 of the publicly available addresses, the tax
25 impact, et cetera. And so we -- it took about a

1 month to do that, you know, a month of soiled
2 work. And we had to add in whatever information
3 we could glean on the waivers that may or may
4 not exist on each of the property. And so we
5 organized the data by street, and we organized
6 the data so that we could communicate to the
7 property owners what was calculated to be their
8 tax impact and also to represent what the
9 county's consultant said -- determined would be
10 the broader impact to other large systems like
11 the school system or the police system or the --

12 Q Fire?

13 A -- library system, yeah.

14 Q And so who did all of that legwork you just
15 describe? Was that you; and ...

16 A Me and we -- I mean, boy, I was chard. You
17 know, Rita -- Rita and I, we met; Colby, Sandy,
18 you know. We tried to work with the county
19 officials and tried to get information on
20 waivers from the record's office. We worked
21 with the auditor's office, I called the
22 assessor's office I talked to Judy Sharp. You
23 know, basically it was a lot of work.

24 Q Do you know who Dean Rogers is?

25 A No.

1 Q So it was you, Sandy, Colby, and Rita?

2 A Right. And Julie. And you know, we were in
3 contact with the auditor.

4 Q Right. But I'm just talking about on your team
5 of who was doing the contacting. It was roughly
6 those five?

7 A Oh, the contacting or the preremonstration
8 organizing? I'm sorry.

9 Q Well, I thought we were still talking about the
10 preremonstration organizing where --

11 A We haven't got there yet. This was getting
12 ready -- this was getting ready for the
13 preremonstration petition drive. And then ...

14 Q So that information has been gathered, you're
15 distilling it into a form that can be shared
16 with the residents, homeowners --

17 A On a street by street basis. So that we could
18 try to -- try to know what we were facing.

19 Q And so then was the end result of that effort
20 what was then the basis for the pre remonstrance
21 petition drive?

22 A Yes, and so that process entailed -- it's very
23 archaic, but one sheet of paper for every home
24 in each of the annexation areas where we had the
25 property tax ID, the address, the people who

1 were listed officially by the city's REEDY
2 report on the -- as property owners on that
3 property. And then we had a place for them to
4 sign that asserted that they intend to
5 remonstrate against annexation should the city
6 pass the ordinance for annexation.

7 Q And so --

8 A To that affect, I mean.

9 Q Sure. Understood. So the tax ID number the
10 property owner, that information was gathered so
11 you could -- if someone at the city was looking
12 at it they could validate that these are people
13 who could be eligible to remonstrate --

14 A That's right.

15 Q -- that are voicing their opinion now?

16 A That's right.

17 Q So what was the process then for collecting all
18 of those signatures?

19 A It was just organic is the best way I can
20 describe it. I then, you know, it's been a
21 while, and there's so many different processes.
22 But I do know I -- we had driveway events
23 because for some of the people who had written
24 in on Nextdoor.com, they opposed annexation. We
25 contacted them or they contacted us -- I don't

1 remember which -- talked on the phone, and then
2 when they called, I would say, "Well, Sandy and
3 I can come over to your driveway on Sunday night
4 or afternoon, and we can collect signatures from
5 your neighbors if you can tell them that we will
6 be there for the preremonstration petition
7 drive."

8 Q So you would have to bring the specific single
9 pieces of paper for that particular
10 neighborhood?

11 A Along with the separate sheet of paper that
12 said -- that we hand filled out -- as far as
13 what the report said would be the tax impact on
14 that property so that people could be informed
15 about what was happening with their property.

16 Q Did anyone other than yourself and sandy go
17 through the process of collecting these
18 preremonstration signatures?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Who else participated?

21 A Well, there were volunteers, like in, each
22 annexation area. This is how we built the
23 momentum for the remonstration drive.

24 Q I think I ask you this, and I think you started
25 to give an answer and then we got sidetracked,

1 but do you know when did the preremonstration
2 petition drive officially conclude?

3 A I think it was in September. Yeah, in September
4 before the city council voted on the annexation
5 ordinances. I think they voted on September 11
6 and 21st or something like that.

7 Q How about the September 15 and 22?

8 A Something like that. That sounds right. They
9 took one week apart. And so it concluded in
10 September, the preremonstration petition drive
11 because we wanted to convince them to vote no.

12 Q How were the petitions delivered to the city
13 council?

14 A We determine as a group that -- and it wasn't my
15 decision, okay; it was everyone's decision --
16 that there had been significant distrust by the
17 cancelation of the public portion of the
18 meeting; that they didn't feel comfortable
19 turning the petitions over to the city. And so
20 we gave them a report of the totals.

21 Q Do you still have the original petitions?

22 A I'm not sure.

23 Q Understanding you're not sure where they are
24 currently; once they were all collected and this
25 report was prepared to be given to the city

1 council, did -- you had volunteers getting
2 signatures so --

3 A I mean, there were boxes full of them.

4 Q Right. That's what I'm picturing. Because
5 there were a lot of parcels.

6 So once all the volunteers bring their
7 signed petitions, they bring them to you or to
8 Sandy? I mean, how did that work?

9 A Well, Rita was -- Rita Barrow was primarily
10 responsible for organizing the effort in -- on
11 the west side of town -- annexation areas 1A, B,
12 and C. And I took responsibility for 2, 3, 4,
13 5.

14 Q So then --

15 A So in annexation area 4 there's one person --
16 because it's a small annexation area -- there's
17 one person who handled all of 4. In annexation
18 area 3, there are a few people who handled
19 annexation area 3. Annexation area 5, there are
20 people who handled annexation area 5, but I
21 believe, they all wound up on the counterpart of
22 one man even though the second man was
23 instrumental in going with him to get the doors
24 opened when he knocked.

25 Q Sure.

1 A Yeah.

2 Q So the distrust that you are referring to --

3 A Yes.

4 Q -- in canceling the -- are you referring to the
5 August 4 meeting?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Were you present at the -- or did you intend to
8 participate in the on site, in person-meeting --

9 A I did. I intended to, but I did not go because
10 I received a phone call from people -- and this
11 happened all over the county -- that even though
12 200 people showed up to speak, there must have
13 been many more who never bothered to go down
14 there because they receive a phone call after
15 they heard that the in person component was
16 canceled.

17 Q And so your basis for saying "many more," is
18 what? Things you heard from other people?

19 A Yeah, they came over to -- we have regular
20 office hours at 1010 South Walnut Street at the
21 Perry township trustees office from 3 to 6 p.m.
22 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and there was a
23 community -- there developed a community of
24 people who would come to us and, you know, it
25 spread. And so we started receiving phone calls

1 from people and people were pretty disgruntled.

2 Q Did you participate in the online --

3 A Yes.

4 Q -- portion of the meeting on August 4?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did you sign up to comment?

7 A Yes. I don't know if I signed up, but I did
8 raise my hand and I commented.

9 Q So you were afforded the opportunity to speak up
10 to three minutes --

11 A Yes.

12 Q -- at the August 4, online meeting?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Do you know of anyone who was unable to speak at
15 August 4 meeting?

16 A I don't know have names of people, but I do know
17 of them.

18 Q How do you know of them?

19 A Because people told me, like, that they -- that
20 they don't have Zoom and they don't have that
21 software on their computer, or they don't have
22 internet connection; so they were unable to
23 participate.

24 I heard somebody had asked me whether or
25 not -- they were told that the library had a

1 venue for them to participate. So I called the
2 library and I asked the library, "Are you able
3 to facility the public meeting for the city and
4 for residents to participate via Zoom?" and they
5 said, no, they were not able to.

6 Q Who did you speak to at the library?

7 A I don't remember the name, but I spoke to the
8 librarian and they referred me to a second
9 librarian and they answered the question
10 definitively that they did not have the
11 microphones and headphones and that they did not
12 have that capacity to hold the Zoom meeting for
13 the public on that day.

14 Q Did you stay in the Zoom meeting until it
15 concluded?

16 A I don't remember. I just don't remember.

17 Q You saw me ask other witnesses questions about
18 the continuation of that meeting on August 11;
19 did you attend that meeting?

20 A I think I probably -- if there was a meeting
21 that I knew of, I attended it. So I think I
22 probably attended that one.

23 Q Members of the community were able to speak at
24 that meeting?

25 A I just don't have that much -- one thing I do

1 remember very specifically is that we had had a
2 public meeting at the fire station on Kennedy
3 Drive to discuss with concerned residents what
4 would be -- what the county determined the
5 impact of annexation would be on county
6 finances, and at that meeting, city council
7 member Sue Sgambelluri attended and Susan
8 Sandberg attended by Zoom, and they both
9 guaranteed, during that Kennedy Drive meeting,
10 that no matter what the August 4 meeting would
11 remain open until 9:00 p.m. as it had been
12 scheduled because people were worried about the
13 shift. Like, let's just say somebody got off of
14 work at 7, and could they still attend the
15 meeting at 8. And they were certified by Susan
16 Sandberg and Sue Sgambelluri that, yes, they
17 would be able to attend that the meeting would
18 remain open until 9 p.m. that night. And we
19 were surprised when they called the meeting at 7
20 and continued it to August 11.

21 Q When you say they called the meeting at 7, were
22 you present?

23 A I think I was -- I mean, I was down at 1010
24 South Walnut because I didn't have time to get
25 home to get on to my computer and be a little

1 bit more comfortable, I guess; so I was sitting
2 there listening to the meeting, and I think
3 after I participated, I may have taken my
4 computer hooked up to my cell phone in my car as
5 I drove home. I don't think I disconnected from
6 the meeting.

7 Q And it's your recollection that the meeting
8 recessed at 7:00?

9 A Somewhere around there, yes.

10 Q Okay. So the -- what we were talking about was
11 the pre annexation petition report that was
12 submitted to the city council.

13 A Yes.

14 Q What's your recollection of the final tally of
15 percentages opposed to the annexation from that
16 pre petition process?

17 A Okay. In let's just keep in mind the scale.

18 Q Sure.

19 A You know, what we -- what happened in annexation
20 area 4, which is much smaller, was much
21 different than what happen in annexation area
22 1B.

23 Annexation area 4, we knew with certainty
24 that we had more than 65 percent of qualified
25 property owners who had no valid waiver on their

1 property. We knew we had more than 65 percent.
2 The same is true in annexation area 3. The same
3 was true, I think, in annexation area 5, and the
4 same was true in annexation area 2. And I think
5 1C had like 91 percent or something like that.

6 Areas 1A and 1B, were just a little bit
7 short of 65 percent. That's my recollection.

8 Q And so this is still, we're still talking about
9 the preremonstration petitions?

10 A People were just waking up.

11 Q Did COVID prevent you or Sandy or any other
12 volunteers from gathering preremonstration
13 petitions?

14 A It was a worry. I mean, it was under duress.
15 We were very worried about it and that's why, in
16 the summertime, it was possible to be outside on
17 people's driveways, but we masked and we wear --
18 I would wear gloves frequently and we had hand
19 sanitizer and we were using protocols. But
20 there were elderly people who would come in 1010
21 South Walnut and they were very concerned about
22 contracting COVID and they would tell stories
23 about loved ones who were immunocompromised; so
24 they were concerned about it.

25 Q Sure. But these concerned citizens that you

1 were interacting with on the pre-remonstrance
2 petition drive ultimately came in and actually
3 signed the petition; right?

4 A Well --

5 Q That's how you were able to have these
6 conversations with them; right?

7 A Yes. I mean, I think that's true. I'm not
8 certain all of them signed for the remonstrations
9 period. You know, I would get phone calls from
10 people who were very, like -- one -- I'm just
11 remembering specific one lady calling up, "My
12 husband is sick. I'm sick, and I'm so afraid."
13 I said, "Don't worry, ma'am. I can send someone
14 to your door." And she said, "I want to sign.
15 I want to sign. But how do I know when they
16 come to my door that they're not contagious?"

17 You know, it was very dire for her, and she
18 was also -- as people get older, they are
19 worried about identity theft, you know.

20 Q Sure.

21 A So they wondered if we were legitimate, is
22 someone going to ask for their Social Security
23 number and things like that. It was pretty hard
24 on some of these older people.

25 Q The specific situation you just described with

1 this one caller that you remember, did someone
2 go out and get their signature?

3 A You know, I don't remember if that was the
4 preremonstration petition drive or the
5 remonstration, actual remonstration. I just
6 don't remember at what time I received that
7 phone call.

8 Q But which ever petition drive or signature drive
9 it was, did that person end up signing?

10 A Yes, but I don't know if what they signed
11 counted.

12 Q Sure. I understand.

13 A If they would subject themselves again.

14 Q I got you. Did you ever do an analysis to
15 compare who signed the pre-remonstrance petition
16 with who actually signed a remonstrance?

17 A I know Rita did in 1A and 1B, I think.

18 Q Did you ever see the results of that analysis?

19 A No.

20 Q Do you know what kind of -- what form the
21 analysis took? Is it a spreadsheet? Is it a --

22 A I just I don't know. She had a different system
23 than I had.

24 Q And 1010 South Walnut, is that Rita's office?

25 A No, that's the --

1 Q That's the Perry township's?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And she's the Van Buren trustee?

4 A She's the Van Buren trustee. So I appealed -- I
5 made an appeal to the board of directors of the
6 Perry Township trustee's office and asked if we
7 could use of their public meeting room, and we
8 were granted that authorization.

9 Q Is the County Residents Against Annexation's
10 sole source of revenue generation from
11 donations?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Doesn't charge fees for anything?

14 A No.

15 Q Does the County Residents Against Annexation
16 provide financial support of annexation --
17 communities opposing annexation outside of this
18 Bloomington annexation, or is that the only one?

19 A We're only involved with Bloomington at this
20 time.

21 Q Were you involved in organizing -- so I'm going
22 to focus on the remonstrance period now.

23 Were you involved in organizing the
24 signature gathering volunteers for the
25 remonstrance period?

1 A For areas 2, 3, 4, and 5. And also I helped out
2 in 1A, B, and C.

3 Q Was there anyone else from the County Residents
4 Against Annexation whose primary responsibility
5 was organizing 1A and 1B?

6 A Rite Barrow, Colby Wicker.

7 Q Was there any kind of log or roster of all the
8 people who had volunteered over the course of
9 the remonstrance period?

10 A I didn't keep a log. I got -- it was like
11 birding, I get a call here; I get a call there.

12 Q Do you know how many over the course of the
13 whole remonstrance period signature gathering
14 volunteers there were in areas 1A and 1B?

15 A 1A and 1B; I'd estimate about 25 or 30.

16 Q And that's in the two areas combined?

17 A Possibly.

18 Q Are you able to give an estimate for how many in
19 1A and how many, separately, in 1B?

20 A No. I'd say all together, across all the areas,
21 there were more than 100 volunteers.

22 Q I think you may have said this, but I want to
23 make sure. Did you collect any signatures on
24 the remonstrance petitions?

25 A No.

1 Q During the remonstrative period, did you speak
2 with the auditor about potentially extending the
3 90-day period?

4 A Yes.

5 Q So this is Cathy Smith?

6 A Yes.

7 Q How many conversations along those lines did you
8 have with Cathy Smith?

9 A I would estimate about three.

10 Q And when did these -- what's the time frame of
11 when these conversations occurred?

12 A Before, during, and after the remonstrations
13 period.

14 Q Could you distinguish, if we went through them
15 one at a time, would you be able to distinguish
16 between the three conversations? Or is it kind
17 of --

18 A No, because I also asked the county attorney. I
19 also asked the county commissioner. I asked
20 county commissioners. I asked many people.

21 Q Did you ever ask the city council?

22 A The city council was -- Julie Thomas asked the
23 city council when she made her -- it's not --
24 technically, you're not allowed to ask questions
25 of the city council. So she advised them, as a

1 commissioner, that COVID would gravely harm the
2 remonstrations effort. And she advised them that
3 it was a terrible time to do this, when people
4 could not meet; and that it was very ill advised
5 and that it would place our community at risk
6 for higher infection rates. Rita Barrow did as
7 well. She advised the city council of that
8 during her testimony.

9 Q Are you aware of any studies conducted by anyone
10 in Monroe County to determine whether there was
11 an association between the remonstrance period
12 and the increase in COVID?

13 A Really, I don't even know how anybody could --
14 okay. So I don't know the question then.

15 Q Sure. So we know -- for example, we know that
16 the Omicron variant arrived sometime roughly
17 December/January, at least in Indiana, in 2021
18 to 2022. So we know there's an increase in
19 reported cases during that period of time.

20 What I'm asking is whether anybody -- are
21 you aware of anybody doing an analysis where
22 they try to control for the Omicron virus
23 variant, but nevertheless determine whether the
24 remonstrations activity of having these meetings,
25 gathering signatures, had a direct correlation

1 to increased COVID counts in Monroe County?

2 A No, I don't believe that that was done. And I
3 don't think you could disambiguate that kind of
4 data.

5 Q Yeah, I'm not -- I'm a history major and I went
6 to law school. So I wouldn't be the person to
7 do it. Somebody could at least try to figure it
8 out.

9 A Yeah, because we don't even have records of when
10 our public meetings were. So, you know, our
11 public -- we met at the fairgrounds, we had
12 driveway events, but I don't have a record of
13 every driveway event I held; so there wouldn't
14 be able to be a causal relationship. We were
15 just thrown into the boiling water and had to do
16 it.

17 Q Sure. Let's go back to your conversations with
18 Cathy Smith in terms of -- what did you talk
19 about with her about extending the remonstrance
20 period?

21 A Just how difficult this was to do during a
22 pandemic and that it placed the community at
23 risk and that it didn't seem fair that the
24 community would be placed in jeopardy, jeopardy
25 that the city council itself would not place

1 themselves in. And could we ask for an
2 extension? Could she contact some official over
3 this process who could grant an extension?

4 Q What did she say?

5 A She said she didn't think it was possible.

6 Q Do you know if -- you talked to her, you said
7 three times before, during, and after; did she
8 ever say, "Hey, I looked into it. I talked to
9 the county lawyer," anything like -- did she --

10 A She did not.

11 Q -- reveal to you that she did any investigation
12 to find out if she could or could not?

13 A I don't remember. I just -- every person I
14 asked basically said, "No, that's not an
15 option."

16 Q Was there a discussion amongst your group at the
17 County Residents Against Annexation about
18 seeking judicial intervention? Getting a court
19 to --

20 A We didn't have money for that.

21 Q Was there a discussion about doing that?

22 A That's why we asked the county attorney to, you
23 know, whether or not he could help us do that.

24 Q To see if the county attorney could initiate
25 some remediation?

1 A Yes, yes. Or an injunction. I specifically
2 asked for an injunction.

3 Q What did the attorney say?

4 A They said, "No, it wouldn't be possible."

5 Q You mentioned talking to the county
6 commissioners; was it a similar experience with
7 them?

8 A Yes.

9 Q They said, "No, it wouldn't be possible"?

10 A I mean, they checked into it and they thought it
11 wasn't possible. That was my understanding of
12 what transpired. So it became not an open
13 avenue, so to speak.

14 Q Was Colby Wicker ever the president of County
15 Residents Against Annexation?

16 A Yes, yes. He's a -- you know, he's a nice young
17 man, and I don't need anything else on my resume
18 and he could use something. And we weren't
19 involved in litigation at that time. So I
20 thought give him a shot and a title.

21 Q Have you ever seen his LinkedIn profile?

22 A I have not.

23 MR. MCNEIL: This is going to be
24 Exhibit 16.

25

1 (Deposition Exhibit 16 marked for
2 identification.)

3 Q Is that picture there, Mr. Wicker?

4 A It sure is.

5 Q If you look on the second page, under
6 experience; the first heading is "President
7 County Residents Against Annexation."

8 I'm going to ask you a question about
9 something he says. I'm going to preface it --
10 first, I'll let you read it. And then second,
11 I'm going to preface it with saying I know you
12 didn't write this; so you're not inside his
13 head.

14 Let me know when you're finished reading
15 it.

16 A Yeah.

17 Q So he says, near the second to last sentence of
18 that entry, "Over two months we collected
19 thousands of petitions requesting the city
20 council to vote the proposal down." Do you
21 believe that's a reference to the
22 pre-remonstration petitions?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Especially since he's -- in the next sentence he
25 say, "We are now pursuing the legal process of

1 remonstrations."

2 A Yes.

3 Q On the second -- third page, did he work in the
4 Van Buren Township trustee's office?

5 A I don't know. I mean, you know, that's not my
6 jurisdiction.

7 Q Understood. Did you ever hear Mr. Wicker
8 referred to as the "Annexation Czar"?

9 A I would say he's taking the ball and running
10 with it.

11 Q I mean, is that something you heard him referred
12 to as?

13 A No, no. But ...

14 Q Was it the County Residents Against Annexation,
15 the not-for-profit, that collected thousands of
16 petitions requesting the city council to vote
17 the proposal down?

18 A County Residents Against Annexation was formed
19 in August, August 20, 2021, and we collected
20 those pre-remonstrations petitions and prepared
21 to collect those pre-remonstrations petitions
22 from May through September -- you know, part way
23 into September.

24 So I don't know how to answer that
25 question. You know, it seemed like it just

1 coalesced and bubbled up from -- County
2 Residents Against Annexation I don't think was
3 called County Residents Against Annexation right
4 away. It was like, you know, when --

5 Q Right.

6 A -- yeah. Bubbled up.

7 Q So whenever it was formed with the state.

8 So let me ask --

9 A It didn't have a name.

10 Q Let me ask it this way; the report that
11 summarized the petitions that was submitted to
12 the city council, was that report presented by
13 the County Residents Against Annexation or was
14 it -- I mean how was it --

15 A I think I did, and I did it by conferring with
16 the volunteers throughout the annexation areas.
17 I talked with them about what should be our
18 reporting mechanism. And when we had consensus,
19 and I gave the report orally at the public
20 meeting, I think. I don't remember if I made a
21 written report or not.

22 Q So the oral report you provided, was it, "I'm
23 Margaret Clements of the County Residents
24 Against Annexation, and here's my report"?

25 A I don't remember exactly what, exactly, I did.

1 Q But that was reported at a public meeting at the
2 city council?

3 A Yes. And I don't know if it was reported
4 elsewhere. But I do know I met individually
5 with one or -- with a few city council members.

6 Q Was it at one of the two meeting in September of
7 2021?

8 A I don't remember.

9 Q Who is Ellen Sifin?

10 A She's a lady who lives out on Will Sowders Road.
11 And she -- she basically was -- she called. She
12 wanted to get involved, and she really -- trying
13 to understand the REEDY Report and trying to
14 understand what we were facing, she analyzed, I
15 guess, the differences between various data
16 bases and advised me on that. She was looking
17 at the validity of waivers. She was just a real
18 big help.

19 Q Rhonda Gray testified about three evenings in
20 December at the fairgrounds where there was a
21 signing event. Were you involved in organizing
22 events?

23 A Rita pretty much organized anything having to do
24 with the fairgrounds because that's in her
25 township, but I attended when I didn't have a

1 conflicting evening meeting. I think I attended
2 90 percent of the events held at the fairgrounds
3 or at the Van Buren fire department just to be
4 of help and support.

5 Q Have you had any conversations with Rita without
6 lawyers involved about whether she would be
7 willing to sign an affidavit for this case?

8 A I don't -- well, as far as this particular part
9 of this case, we were focused on trying to
10 request additional time; so we were looking for
11 people, you know, an extra -- because of the
12 pandemic, and so we were searching for people
13 who actually collected signatures and who had
14 something direct to say about that.

15 Q Okay.

16 A And so Rita did not qualify for that.

17 Q Was there a meeting? Or how was it communicated
18 that you were looking for affidavits or people
19 with those experiences to consider submitting an
20 affidavit?

21 A I would call the people who had taken a lot of
22 counterparts and a lot of signatures, "In your
23 time in collecting signatures, did you ever
24 encounter anyone who wouldn't open the door, or
25 would not -- did they ever tell you that they

1 did not remonstrate because of COVID."

2 Q So you were doing the legwork to identify
3 potential -- people with information that may
4 potentially lead to an affidavit?

5 A We got into the tentacles of the octopus and
6 spread out into the areas as far as finding that
7 information.

8 MR. MCNEIL: I want to go through your
9 affidavit, but it seems like a good moment to
10 take a 5-minute break if that's okay with
11 everyone.

12 (A recess was taken between 4:38 p.m. and
13 4:50 p.m.)

14 BY MR. MCNEIL

15 Q Ms. Clements, we're back on the record after a
16 break. And couple of follow-up questions on
17 things we were talking about before the break.

18 You described conversations you had with
19 county officials including the auditor, the
20 county attorney, and the county commissioner
21 about whether you could extend the remonstrations
22 period. What form were those communications in?
23 Phone? Email? In person?

24 A I think in person, phone, and text I believe.

25 Q Who do you believe you texted with about

1 requesting or talking -- exploring whether you
2 could extend the remonstrations period?

3 A I don't remember. I know that I went in to the
4 legal office and spoke with someone there as
5 well. You know, I do know that.

6 Q Whatever text messaging you would have engaged
7 in about that topic, do you still have those
8 messages?

9 A I don't know.

10 Q I'm not asking you to do this now, but if you
11 were requested to look on your -- either your
12 computer or your phone to see if those text
13 messages were still there, there's no reason you
14 couldn't do that; right.

15 A Yeah, I would look, yeah.

16 Q And did you talk to any attorney other than one
17 of the county attorneys about -- this is during
18 the remonstrations period -- about whether that
19 period could be extended?

20 A I did.

21 Q Can you identify who that attorney was?

22 A I think Margie Rice.

23 Q Did you consider that to be an attorney-client
24 communication?

25 A I'm not sure.

1 Q Were you asking for legal advice?

2 A Was I myself asking for legal advice?

3 Q Yeah.

4 A No. But I was seeking legal advice as to
5 whether or not the period could be extended.

6 Q Yeah. So you were -- where you speaking with
7 Maggie Rice in the context --

8 A Margie.

9 Q Sorry, Margie Rice in the context of exploring
10 whether there were legal options to extend the
11 remonstrance period?

12 Yes?

13 A Yes.

14 Q I think that qualifies as a privileged
15 communication; so I won't ask you what you
16 talked about or what she said.

17 End result there was during the
18 remonstrance period, whether it was the County
19 Residents Against Annexation or anybody
20 individually, you are not aware of anybody
21 making a legal filing requesting a declaration
22 of an emergency and extending the remonstrance
23 period, are you?

24 A I never heard of anybody making a declaration of
25 emergency other than the city in that

1 notification that was distributed.

2 Q Right. But particularly, with respect to the
3 90-day remonstrance period, were you aware of
4 anybody who during that 90-day period made a
5 court filing seeking a declaration of an
6 emergency?

7 A For the purposes of extending the remonstrations?

8 Q Yes.

9 A No, but I do know that there were emergency
10 orders in general that were all over the county
11 and that it effected day-to-day business and it
12 effected government operations and for business
13 owners, government, et cetera.

14 Q Yeah. Let's talk about -- one other question
15 before I go there. You mentioned --

16 A And the mayor frequently would -- on his public
17 speeches, he would frequently say that, "we're
18 in a pandemic. We are in COVID. This is very
19 dangerous. Stay home." He was frequently on
20 the radio and in the newspaper advice the
21 community to stay home because we're in a
22 pandemic.

23 Q And the time when the mayor spoke publicly about
24 that, there would be a record of that somewhere
25 so we could identify the dates where he made

1 those statements?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And when people would -- you mentioned people
4 would call you, elderly people, who were
5 concerned about the consequence of annexation if
6 it were to occur on their taxes or their ability
7 to afford where they live. Did they call --
8 what number did they call? Did they call your
9 cell phone?

10 A My cell phone.

11 Q Were you advertising your cell phone as "If you
12 have questions about annexation, you can call
13 this number"?

14 A I did put -- if somebody wanted to volunteer,
15 they could call me and I could tell them how to
16 proceed.

17 Q Right. But like an elderly member of the
18 community --

19 A They got my phone number from word of mouth.

20 Q As far as you know?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Does the County Residents Against Annexation
23 have a website?

24 A We finally do. About two weeks ago, we got one
25 up. Three weeks ago. Something like that.

1 Q That did not exist during that remonstrance
2 period?

3 A No. Maybe it was one month ago.

4 Q All right. So here is -- I'm going to give you
5 Exhibit 17, which is an affidavit of Margaret
6 Clements, which is you; correct?

7 (Deposition Exhibit 17 marked for
8 identification.)

9 A Yes.

10 MR. BEGGS: Even if pronounced incorrectly.

11 MR. MCNEIL: I'm doing it wrong, aren't I?
12 Clements?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, are you speaking French,
14 a French accent?

15 MR. MCNEIL: The emphasis is on the first.

16 THE WITNESS: Clements.

17 MR. BEGGS: Emphasis on the first syllable.

18 MR. MCNEIL: My Greek professor in college
19 used to say that all the time. I don't know
20 French, but I can do some greek.

21 BY MR. MCNEIL

22 Q So did you write this, or did someone assist you
23 in putting this together?

24 A I wrote parts of it and basically it's notes
25 that I made in various emails that are subject

1 to attorney-client privilege.

2 Q Right. So your legal counsel assisted you in
3 putting this together?

4 A Yes, in this format.

5 Q If you look on the third page, is that your
6 signature?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you see where it's signed underneath the
9 affirmation of subject penalties of perjury.

10 A Yes.

11 Q So you knew that at the time you signed it?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And you reviewed the affidavit before you signed
14 it?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And you were comfortable that the statements
17 were true?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And since you sign it and looking at it in
20 between June 4 of 2022 and today, are there any
21 changes or anything that would need to be
22 corrected?

23 A I can't -- not to the best of my knowledge, no.

24 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry to interupt,
25 counsel. Can we take one second? I'm having an

1 issue with my machine.

2 (Off the record.)

3 BY MR. MCNEIL

4 Q So I'm afraid to say it Ms. Clements; is that
5 right?

6 A That's good.

7 Q Looking at Exhibit 17, I'm going to walk through
8 some of these paragraphs here.

9 If you look at paragraph Number 3, you say,
10 "As of May 11, 2022, the City of Bloomington
11 Showers Building limited and prohibited public
12 access due to concerns about the spread of
13 COVID-19." And then there's reference to a
14 photograph as Exhibit A to the affidavit?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did you take that photograph?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did you take that photograph on May 11, 2022?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Was that sign present in October of 2021? And
21 let me -- hold on there's a couple of -- before
22 I ask that. So see in the bottom right-hand
23 corner, there's a number, 72?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So you took that picture?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Go to page 73.

3 A Yes.

4 Q You took that picture?

5 A Yes.

6 Q We'll stop there. Where is the sign that's
7 identified -- or depicted in page 72 located at
8 city hall?

9 A It's on the landing of the -- I believe this one
10 is on the landing of the stairway between the
11 first floor and second floor.

12 Q So to access this sign, you have to enter city
13 hall, go up the stairs.

14 A Halfway.

15 Q Halfway, and then you took the picture.

16 A I believe that's where that is.

17 Q And then on page 73, there's a sign. Is that on
18 a door?

19 A Yeah, that's in the Showers Building because the
20 door was locked and the lights were off showing
21 that that particular office was closed during
22 normal business hours for that HAND Department.

23 Q What's the HAND Department?

24 A I'm not sure.

25 MR. BEGGS: These guys next to you sure

1 know.

2 Q Was the HAND Department where those -- the sign
3 on the door is located, was that an area that
4 was in use for -- or used for the August 4,
5 2021, meeting?

6 A No, it was across the hall from that, I believe.

7 Q Were there other offices within the city -- city
8 hall that were open and operating when you were
9 there taking these pictures?

10 A I don't know -- I mean, I don't know the extent
11 of the openness of the offices. There were
12 signs up saying, "Don't go beyond this point."

13 Q So looking at pagan 72 now. See the "Welcome to
14 city hall," picture that's on the landing
15 between the first floor and second floor, was
16 that sign present in that location during the
17 remonstrance period?

18 A I believe it was, yes. I believe it was.

19 Q You're aware that people could sign a
20 remonstrance petition at city hall?

21 A I was told that.

22 Q By whom?

23 A By the auditor. She went there herself.

24 Q Did you ever go to city hall during the
25 remonstrance period for the purpose of viewing

1 what the petition signing process was at city
2 hall?

3 A Myself, for that particular purpose, no.

4 Q And are you aware of people in any of the
5 annexation areas who went to city hall to sign
6 the remonstrance petition?

7 A We heard today from Barbara, she went there.

8 Q Did you know that before today that people --
9 did you know of people that went to city hall to
10 sign their remonstrance petition?

11 A I knew that some people went there.

12 Q Do you have any knowledge of anyone who
13 attempted to sign the petition, the remonstrance
14 petition, at city hall but were turned away due
15 to inaccessibility of the building?

16 A I know that some people were -- when seeing the
17 sign on the doors and in the lobby, they -- I
18 don't have a name or anything, but some people
19 thought that the city hall was not really
20 available for them.

21 Q What's the basis? You said you don't have
22 names; what's the basis for your information
23 there?

24 A I think I received a phone call about that.

25 Q From who? Or you don't remember?

1 A I just don't remember.

2 Q And that was during the 90-day remonstrance
3 period?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Let's look at the sign again on page 72. Do you
6 know if there was a sign like that at the front
7 entrance to City hall?

8 A It was right in the -- around the lobby area.

9 Q This sign was, or a sign like it?

10 A A sign like that.

11 Q Did you take a picture of that sign?

12 A I think I did.

13 Q Is it in your affidavit?

14 A Let me look here. There's a chain across the
15 hallway and a sign that says, "Stop. Do not go
16 beyond this point."

17 Q Okay. I don't see that picture in your
18 affidavit. So you might have that somewhere on
19 your phone or on a camera.

20 A Yes, yes.

21 Q Looking at this sign on page 72, I want to walk
22 through exactly what it says. "Welcome to City
23 Hall."

24 Do you see that?

25 A Yes.

1 Q "All customer services are now available here in
2 the atrium."

3 A Yes.

4 Q "Please check in at the front desk and the
5 assistance you need will come to you."

6 Do you see that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q So you heard Ms. Leininger's testimony about how
9 someone came down, someone from the legal office
10 came down with the petition --

11 A Yes.

12 Q -- for her to sign?

13 A Yes. And it says, "Stop. Employees only beyond
14 this point."

15 Q And then it's repeated in Spanish; correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And if you go to the next picture, page 73, the
18 HAND Center -- the HAND office.

19 I understand that when you took this
20 picture, the doors were locked and the lights
21 were off; right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q The sign itself says, "Please, before you enter,
24 if your business can be accomplished on line or
25 by telephone, please use those options first."

1 A Yes.

2 Q Are you aware of whether the HAND Center
3 office -- or HAND Office, was ever used as a
4 remonstrance signature location?

5 A I am not aware.

6 Q The next -- paragraph 4 of your affidavit says
7 on page 7 in the bottom right-hand corner says,
8 "City of Bloomington prohibition on public
9 access to the Showers Building is also in effect
10 October 8, 2021 and January 6, 2022." So that's
11 the remonstrance period; right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did you personally observe a prohibition on
14 public access to the Showers Building?

15 A Yes, I went into the Showers Building myself and
16 I wasn't free to move around the place. I was
17 stopped at the front desk, and I wasn't able to
18 go knock on a door.

19 Q Sure. And this was during that October 8 to
20 January 6 time period?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And if you had been there to sign a remonstrance
23 petition though, you understand that someone
24 would have contacted the legal department and
25 that petition would have been brought to you?

1 A I have no idea if that would have happened. I
2 don't know if they had the front desk manned or
3 not.

4 Q Looking at paragraph 5, so you refer to
5 Exhibit B, which relates to the City of
6 Bloomington utility office.

7 Did you understand that the utility office
8 was a location for an after hours petition --
9 remonstrance signing location during a period of
10 time in October?

11 A I think so.

12 Q Is that why you took a picture of the utility
13 office?

14 A Yes.

15 Q This paragraph 5 has a date of May 27, 2022. Do
16 you see that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Is that the date that the picture on Exhibit B
19 was taken?

20 A Yes, I took that picture twice. Once before the
21 remonstrance period and then I was surprised to
22 still see it up on May 27.

23 Q So the picture that's in Exhibit B of your
24 affidavit is the one that you took on May 27;
25 correct?

1 A It's the same sign. I compared the sign.

2 Q I understand the sign is the same. I'm asking
3 you to confirm that Exhibit B is actually the
4 picture that you took on May 27, 2022.

5 A I can't tell because the sign is, you know --

6 Q You're not sure?

7 A Well, it's a picture of the same thing.

8 Q No, I understand.

9 A Yes, I believe is it. I believe is it.

10 Q So the picture -- the other picture you took of
11 the same sign --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- you believe you took before October 8, 2021?

14 A No, I think it was during the remonstrations
15 period.

16 Q Okay. So sometime between October 8, '21 and
17 January 6 of '22?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you still have that picture?

20 A I would have to check.

21 Q Did you take this with a cell phone or camera?

22 A Cell phone.

23 Q What kind of cell phone do you have?

24 A I have an iPhone.

25 Q Do you have the same iPhone now that you had in

1 October of 2021?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Let's look at the sign on the utility board;
4 Exhibit B, "The service center is closed to walk
5 in visitors."

6 Do you see that?

7 A Could you rephrase -- repeat the question?

8 Q Yeah. Looking at Exhibit B, looking at the
9 sign, it says "The service center is closed to
10 walk in visitors."

11 A Yes.

12 Q Do you see that? "Please do not knock."

13 Do you see that?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And there's a phone number, "Have a delivery,
16 call this number. Here for a meeting, call this
17 number," and it's all the same number.

18 A Yes.

19 Q And it says, "All CBU services are still
20 available," do you know what the CBU?

21 A City of Bloomington Utilities.

22 Q And self serve quarters are open to complete
23 paperwork and drop off payments. Did you --
24 when you pay your utility bills, are you on the
25 City of Bloomington utilities?

1 A I am not.

2 Q Before you went to the utility office to take
3 these pictures, had you ever been to the utility
4 office?

5 A I have been there before.

6 Q And then there's a couple of bullet points there
7 about forms and dropping off payments in the
8 drop box. And then it says, "For any other
9 questions or concerns including information
10 about financial assistance, call our customer
11 service team," and then there's a phone number.

12 Do you see all that?

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q Do you -- do you know -- let me ask it this way.

15 Did you go to the utility office during
16 that time period in October where the utility
17 building was available for an evening hour
18 remonstrance signing?

19 A I did not go in the evening.

20 Q Right. Let me be more specific. So from
21 October 18 through October 22 from 5 to 9 p.m.
22 remonstrators were able to sign petitions
23 witnessed by city officials at the utilities
24 department did you --

25 A Go at that time, no.

1 Q So do you have any firsthand information about
2 what the procedure was for getting -- for
3 signing a remonstrance petition at the utility
4 office during that week in November?

5 A I do not. I mean, I assume it's the same one
6 that the auditor directed, the same process.

7 Q I'm going to give you now and mark Exhibit 18.
8 Take a moment and look this over, this
9 Exhibit 18.

10 Have you ever seen this before?

11 (Deposition Exhibit 18 marked for
12 identification.)

13 A I have not.

14 Q So the information on Exhibit 18 is titled
15 "Information for Annexation Remonstrations" and
16 right above that it says "Evening hours." If
17 you look at Number 6 in particular, it
18 identifies the times when remonstrance petitions
19 would be available at the utility office.

20 A Yes.

21 Q So I appreciate that the photograph in Exhibit B
22 was taken May 27, 2022, and you have another
23 picture of the utility office during the
24 remonstrance period, do you -- did you ever
25 observe Exhibit 18 posted on --

1 A I've never seen this before.

2 Q So you don't know one way or the other if it was
3 on the utility door -- utility office door from
4 October 18 to October 22?

5 A I do not.

6 Q I am going to come back to your affidavit in a
7 minute, but I want to ask you some other
8 questions about something else first.

9 Did you attend the remonstrations closure
10 events --

11 A Yes.

12 Q And that was Thursday January 6?

13 A Yes.

14 Q At the courthouse building?

15 A Yes.

16 Q We looked at Exhibit 4 with the other witnesses
17 and identified the auditor Cathy Smith there.

18 (Deposition Exhibit 4 previously marked for
19 identification.)

20 A Yes.

21 Q Where you present when she spoke?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you remember what she said?

24 A Well, she that thanked her staff because it was
25 really hard on her staff to do this

1 remonstrations. And she, you know, marked the
2 closure of the event. And I think that was
3 pretty much it.

4 Q Did she say -- do you understand that the
5 auditor lived in one of the annexation
6 territories?

7 A She had said that in other venues. You know, I
8 think that was well known.

9 Q Did she discuss that at all during the --

10 A I can't remember. I can't remember.

11 Q You said it was well known and discussed in
12 other venues. Had you ever heard her say that?

13 A Yes, I have heard her say that, that she lives
14 in an annexation area.

15 Q Did she ever express her view whether she was
16 for or against the annexation in one of these
17 other venues?

18 A What I remember her saying is that she is the
19 auditor and she is impartial and that she was
20 going to do whatever -- she's going to certify
21 however the people's remonstrations was
22 submitted.

23 Q Did you ever talk with her just one-on-one or in
24 a small group setting about the fact that she
25 was in one of the annexation territories and was

1 in this role where she would have to be
2 certifying the remonstrance process?

3 A No, about that specifically, that I remember.
4 It wasn't the focus of the conversation.

5 Q And did you speak at the closure event?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did you speak from prepared remarks, or did you
8 just speak extemporaneously?

9 A I prepared some remarks just to speak.

10 Q I'm going to give you Exhibit 19.

11 (Deposition Exhibit 19 marked for
12 identification.)

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is Exhibit 19?

15 A This is a Facebook post from a blog called the
16 Dissident Democrat.

17 Q Does this represent comments you made at the
18 closure meeting?

19 A I would have to look this over, you know.

20 Q Please, I'll gladly afford you that opportunity
21 if you would just look it over and tell me if
22 you recognize the source of these remarks.

23 THE WITNESS: I wonder if I could speak
24 with you, Bill?

25 MR. BEGGS: You need to answer his

1 question. Sure, we can take a break unless
2 there's a question.

3 MR. MCNEIL: I think I just asked her to
4 read. Is that the last thing I said?

5 (The requested text was read by the
6 reporter.)

7 MR. MCNEIL: Yeah, that's fine we can take
8 a break.

9 BY MR. MCNEIL

10 Q So Margaret.

11 A Yes.

12 Q You had a chance to review Exhibit 19?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Do you recognize the content or the source of
15 the content?

16 A Looks like some prepared remarks that I had
17 made.

18 Q Were these remarks that you made at the
19 January 6 closure event?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What is the Dissident Democrat?

22 A That is something that is run by a guy. There's
23 a guy by the name of Peter Dorfman. He has a
24 blog that he spearheads on -- I think it's a
25 blog that's independent of Facebook and also on

1 Facebook.

2 Q Sure. Did you send him your remarks?

3 A He asked for them.

4 Q Was he at the closure event?

5 A I don't remember.

6 Q Is this a fair representation of what you said?

7 A I think so, yes.

8 Q You said that -- you had some figures in
9 there --

10 A Yes.

11 Q -- as of January 5, 2022. Where did those
12 figures come from?

13 A They came from the -- the auditor. The auditor
14 had those figures of the -- from her -- from the
15 turned in remonstrations counterparts.

16 Q And these signatures were raw signatures before
17 any --

18 A Yes.

19 Q -- analysis of waivers or duplications or
20 anything like that?

21 A Yes. It was up to her to certify them and that
22 took some time after.

23 Q Right. But as of January 5, you were reporting
24 that area 1A had 1,092 signatures --

25 A Yes.

1 Q -- that had been gatherer, collected from
2 whatever means through volunteers or people
3 coming to the city hall or whatever to sign;
4 right?

5 A That's what we had a report of, yes.

6 Q And when you say "Only 962 signatures were
7 needed," is that to get to the 65 percent?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And then in the area 1B, you report there was
10 1,196 signatures. And were those -- that's the
11 data from the auditor?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And again the 1,073 referenced there is the
14 65 percent threshold?

15 A Yes, those were her -- something -- yes.

16 Q And so you have information for 1C, area 2, area
17 3, 4, 5; you're reporting on the number of
18 signatures from each of these areas?

19 A Yes.

20 Q So this was -- how many people were at the
21 cancellation event?

22 A There was -- there were representatives from
23 every area and a couple of -- some officials
24 like the three commissioners were there.

25 Q So like 15? 20? 50?

1 A No, close -- it was about 20, I think. 15 or 20
2 I guess. You know, I just don't remember
3 everyone had on a mask.

4 Q Sure. Was the atmosphere kind of exhausted
5 celebration?

6 A No, not really. It was just bureaucratic final
7 turn in the paperwork.

8 Q Okay. So area 1A and 1B are the two that didn't
9 have the 65 percent once everything was
10 certified; correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And at least raw signatures, we're looking at
13 about 2,288 raw signatures if you add these two
14 together?

15 A Oh, in 1A and 1B?

16 Q Yeah.

17 A That sounds about right I guess.

18 Q And those 2,288 signatures were collected from
19 October 8, 2021 through January 6, 2022?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And those signatures were collected in the
22 conditions that existed at the time; right?

23 So wherever we were with COVID, COVID
24 mitigation, COVID variants 2,288 signatures were
25 collected in those two areas alone; right?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And as of January 5, 2022, when you were
3 reporting on these figures, did you have
4 personal knowledge of any specific individual
5 who wanted to sign an annexation remonstrance
6 petition but was prevented from doing so because
7 of COVID?

8 A In 1A and 1B?

9 Q Yes.

10 A Do I have knowledge now or at that time?

11 Q At that time.

12 A I just have to think. I would have to say -- I
13 would have to say at that time -- okay, but that
14 wasn't my area; that's the problem. But I
15 believe that I knew people who wanted to sign
16 but were afraid to go out due to COVID.

17 Q Who?

18 A I don't know.

19 Q What about now?

20 A Now, do I know, yes.

21 Q Who do you know of now?

22 A I know of Joyce Martin that she was not -- she
23 did not sign because of COVID.

24 Q And that's based on information that she shared
25 with you or information you read in an

1 affidavit?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Anyone else?

4 A I can't name them but, yes, I'm aware of people
5 that did not sign because of COVID. And also --
6 yes.

7 Q Did you work with Russell Nunn in gathering his
8 affidavit?

9 A I did not. I was not involved with him at any
10 significant level.

11 Q Do you know who was?

12 A I do not. I may have spoken with him once on
13 the phone, but I don't remember specifically.

14 Q Let's go back to your affidavit here.
15 Exhibit 17. Starting at paragraph 7; so it's
16 page 70 in the bottom right-hand corner.

17 A Yes.

18 Q This paragraph 7, 8, 9 refer to the city the
19 mayor's budget goal report; correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Do you know what the purpose of the mayor's
22 report was?

23 A He's obliged, I believe, to give a report of the
24 budget goals and whether or not they were met
25 and to what extent to the city council once a

1 year.

2 Q Do you know who prepared the budget report?

3 A I've read it, but I don't have it with me; so I
4 don't know who prepared it.

5 Q This was a document that was generated if you
6 look at Exhibit T to your affidavit, the cover
7 page.

8 A Yes.

9 Q The office of the mayor and City of Bloomington.

10 A Yes.

11 Q And then the second page.

12 A Yes.

13 Q The first page after the cover page, it's the
14 mayor's cover letter to the city council
15 members.

16 A Yes.

17 Q When you identify in your affidavit paragraph 9,
18 says "as indicated on page three of the budget
19 goal report 20.3 percent of the city's budget
20 goals were not met directly due to COVID-19."

21 Do you see that?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you know which budget goals were not met
24 directly?

25 A They're broken down in the Pole report.

1 Q So if we wanted to know exactly what the mayor
2 was referring to, we would find it in the --

3 A In the pole report, yes.

4 MR. MCNEIL: Okay let's go off the record.
5 (Off the record.)

6 MR. MCNEIL: I have no further questions.
7 Your counsel may have some.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION,

9 QUESTIONS BY WILLIAM J. BEGGS:

10 Q Margaret, let me direct your attention to the --
11 this would be your affidavit, Exhibit 17. The
12 very last page. You see there's a piechart
13 there; right?

14 A Yes.

15 Q You were asked a question a moment ago about the
16 percentages. Can you clean that up?

17 A Yeah. There were, you know, if you add some of
18 these categories together like "Inactive due to
19 COVID," or "Not met due to COVID," that's how
20 you come up with the 20.3 percent of the budget
21 goals were not met directly due to COVID. And
22 additionally 27.6 is the addition between not
23 met and substantially accomplish. That's the
24 27.6 percent.

25 Q And then I want to direct your attention to --

1 it's -- sorry I didn't write --

2 A That's 16.

3 Q 16, which I intend to ask you about Mr. Wicker
4 and his internet presence.

5 Before today, had you ever seen Colby
6 Wicker's LinkedIn page?

7 A Not to my knowledge. Just did not look at -- I
8 don't really participate so much.

9 Q Did you have anything to do with the preparation
10 of what he has put on LinkedIn?

11 A No, absolutely not.

12 Q Do you see things that are inaccurate on there?

13 For example, he says on the second page,
14 he's the president of County Residents Against
15 Annexation Inc.

16 A And he was for --

17 Q "To the present," if it says "to the present,"
18 is he present?

19 A No.

20 Q And that's been untrue for several months?

21 A Yes, several months.

22 Q And there are other errors in this?

23 A Yes.

24 MR. BEGGS: No further questions. Thank
25 you.

1 MR. MCNEIL: The Calais Court address.

2 THE WITNESS: That's my home.

3 MR. MCNEIL: I have no further follow-up.

4 MR. BEGGS: We would like signature. Thank
5 you very much.

6 (Time noted: 5:36 p.m.)

7 AND FURTHER THE DEPONENT SAITH NOT.

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MARGARET CLEMENTS

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1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF MONROE)

3 I, Colleen Brady, a Notary Public in and for
4 the County of Monroe, State of Indiana at large, do
5 hereby certify that MARGARET CLEMENTS, the deponent
6 herein, was by me first duly sworn to tell the
7 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
8 in the aforementioned matter;

9 That the foregoing deposition was taken on
10 behalf of the Respondents, at the offices of Bunger
11 & Robertson, 226 South College Avenue, Bloomington,
12 Monroe County, Indiana, on the 4th day of August
13 2022, commencing at the hour of 3:44 p.m., pursuant
14 to the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure;

15 That said deposition was taken down
16 stenographically and transcribed under my
17 direction, and that the typewritten transcript is a
18 true record of the testimony given by the said
19 deponent; and thereafter presented to said deponent
20 for her signature;

21 That the parties were represented by their
22 counsel as aforementioned.

23 I do further certify that I am a disinterested
24 person in this cause of action; that I am not a
25 relative or attorney of any party, or otherwise

1 interested in the event of this action, and am not
2 in the employ of the attorneys for any party.

3 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
4 hand and affixed my notarial seal on this 22nd
5 day of August 2022.

6

7

Colleen Brady

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Colleen Brady

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11 Seal, Notary Public
State of Indiana

My Commission Expires:
March 8, 2029

12

13 Colleen Brady
Commission No. NP073223

County of Residence:
Monroe

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Veritext Legal Solutions
1100 Superior Ave
Suite 1820
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: 216-523-1313

August 22, 2022

To: William J. Beggs, Esq.

Case Name: County Residents Against Annexation, Inc., et al. v. City
Of Bloomington, Indiana, et al.

Veritext Reference Number: 5354039

Witness: Margaret Clements Deposition Date: 8/4/2022

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find a deposition transcript. Please have the witness review the transcript and note any changes or corrections on the included errata sheet, indicating the page, line number, change, and the reason for the change. Have the witness' signature notarized and forward the completed page(s) back to us at the Production address shown

above, or email to production-midwest@veritext.com.

If the errata is not returned within thirty days of your receipt of this letter, the reading and signing will be deemed waived.

Sincerely,

Production Department

NO NOTARY REQUIRED IN CA

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DEPOSITION REVIEW
CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS

ASSIGNMENT REFERENCE NO: 5354039

CASE NAME: County Residents Against Annexation, Inc., et al.
v. City Of Bloomington, Indiana, et al.

DATE OF DEPOSITION: 8/4/2022

WITNESS' NAME: Margaret Clements

In accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure, I have read the entire transcript of my testimony or it has been read to me.

I have made no changes to the testimony as transcribed by the court reporter.

Date Margaret Clements

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County, the referenced witness did personally appear and acknowledge that:

They have read the transcript;
They signed the foregoing Sworn Statement; and
Their execution of this Statement is of their free act and deed.

I have affixed my name and official seal
this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

Commission Expiration Date

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DEPOSITION REVIEW
CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS

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CASE NAME: County Residents Against Annexation, Inc., et al.
v. City Of Bloomington, Indiana, et al.

DATE OF DEPOSITION: 8/4/2022

WITNESS' NAME: Margaret Clements

In accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure, I have read the entire transcript of my testimony or it has been read to me.

I have listed my changes on the attached Errata Sheet, listing page and line numbers as well as the reason(s) for the change(s).

I request that these changes be entered as part of the record of my testimony.

I have executed the Errata Sheet, as well as this Certificate, and request and authorize that both be appended to the transcript of my testimony and be incorporated therein.

Date Margaret Clements

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County, the referenced witness did personally appear and acknowledge that:

- They have read the transcript;
- They have listed all of their corrections in the appended Errata Sheet;
- They signed the foregoing Sworn Statement; and
- Their execution of this Statement is of their free act and deed.

I have affixed my name and official seal this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

Commission Expiration Date

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1	2,288 70:13,18 70:24	27 59:15,22,24 60:4 63:22	50 4:4 69:25
1,073 69:13	20 11:10 41:19	27.6 74:22,24	53 12:21
1,092 68:24	69:25 70:1,1	2700 2:10	5354039 79:8 80:2 81:2 82:2
1,196 69:10	80:16 81:22	3	53c06-2203 1:4
100 34:21	82:22	3 24:12,18,19	5784 9:4
1010 25:20 28:23 30:20 32:24	20.3 73:19 74:20	25:21 30:2 34:1	5:36 76:6
11 23:5 27:18 28:20 52:10,18	200 25:12	52:9 69:17	6
1100 79:1	2020 10:4,18	30 34:15	6 15:13,14,19 25:21 58:10,20 60:17 63:17 64:12 67:19 70:19
111 2:9	2021 11:10 18:12	317.684.5000	63 4:6
15 23:7 69:25 70:1	36:17 41:19	2:11	64 4:10
16 4:3 39:24 40:1 75:2,3	43:7 52:20 54:5	3:44 1:18 5:1 77:13	65 18:5 29:24 30:1,7 69:7,14 70:9
17 4:4 50:5,7 52:7 72:15 74:11	58:10 60:13	4	66 4:7
18 4:6 62:21 63:7,9,11,14,25 64:4	61:1 70:19	4 4:10 24:12,15 24:17 25:5 26:4 26:12,15 28:10 29:20,23 34:1 51:20 54:4 58:6 64:16,18 69:17	
1820 79:2	2022 1:18 36:18	40 4:3 15:4	7
19 4:7 52:13 66:10,11,14 67:12 73:20	51:20 52:10,18	401 2:13,17	7 28:14,19,21 58:7 72:15,18
1a 24:11 30:6 32:17 34:2,5,14 34:15,19 68:24 70:8,15 71:8	58:10 59:15	44114 79:2	70 72:16
1b 29:22 30:6 32:17 34:5,14,15 34:19 69:9 70:8	60:4 63:22	46204 2:10	72 52:23 53:7 54:13 56:5,21
	68:11 70:19	47401 9:5	73 53:2,17 57:17
	71:2 77:13 78:5 79:4	47402 2:5	74 3:4
	2029 78:11	47404 2:14,18	7:00 29:8
	21 60:16	4:38 45:12	
	211 2:4	4:50 45:13	
	216-523-1313 79:3	4th 1:18 77:12	
	21st 23:6		
	22 23:7 60:17 62:21 64:4 79:4		
	220 2:14,18		

8	<p>acquaintance 8:18</p> <p>act 80:14 81:20</p> <p>action 77:24 78:1</p> <p>active 7:23 13:20</p> <p>activity 36:24</p> <p>actual 32:5</p> <p>add 19:2 70:13 74:17</p> <p>addition 74:22</p> <p>additional 44:10</p> <p>additionally 74:22</p> <p>address 9:2 13:13 20:25 76:1 79:16</p> <p>addresses 18:24</p> <p>administration 13:9</p> <p>advanced 12:17</p> <p>advertising 49:11</p> <p>advice 47:1,2,4 48:20</p> <p>advised 35:25 36:2,4,7 43:16</p> <p>advisers 14:8</p> <p>affect 21:8</p> <p>affidavit 4:4 44:7,20 45:4,9 50:5 51:13 52:14 56:13,18 58:6 59:24 64:6 72:1,8,14 73:6 73:17 74:11</p> <p>affidavits 44:18</p>	<p>affirmation 51:9</p> <p>affixed 78:4 80:15 81:21</p> <p>afford 7:5 49:7 66:20</p> <p>afforded 26:9</p> <p>aforementioned 77:8,22</p> <p>afraid 31:12 52:4 71:16</p> <p>afternoon 22:4</p> <p>ago 8:16,16 49:24,25 50:3 74:15</p> <p>agreed 14:9</p> <p>ahead 6:22</p> <p>al 1:6,10 79:6,7 80:3,3 81:3,3</p> <p>allen 2:16</p> <p>allenl 2:19</p> <p>allowed 35:24</p> <p>amcneil 2:11</p> <p>america 12:25</p> <p>amount 7:11</p> <p>analysis 32:14 32:18,21 36:21 68:19</p> <p>analyzed 43:14</p> <p>analyzing 13:2</p> <p>andrew 2:8 3:3 5:8,12</p> <p>annex 7:3 10:23</p> <p>annexation 1:6 6:15 7:3,6 9:1 10:17 11:4,5,8 14:1,21,23 15:2 15:9,11,13,14,15 15:16,19,21</p>	<p>16:21,25 17:10 18:4,6 20:24 21:5,6,24 22:22 23:4 24:11,15,16 24:17,19,19,20 28:5 29:11,15,19 29:21,23 30:2,3 30:4 33:15,16,17 33:18 34:4 38:17 39:15 40:7 41:8,14,18 42:2,3,13,16,24 47:19 49:5,12,22 55:5 63:15 65:5 65:14,16,25 71:5 75:15 79:6 80:3 81:3</p> <p>annexation's 13:12 33:9</p> <p>announcement 10:22</p> <p>answer 5:25 6:22 8:6 22:25 41:24 66:25</p> <p>answered 27:9</p> <p>anybody 36:13 36:20,21 47:19 47:20,24 48:4</p> <p>apart 23:9</p> <p>appeal 33:5</p> <p>appealed 33:4</p> <p>appear 80:11 81:15</p> <p>appearances 2:1</p> <p>appended 81:11 81:18</p> <p>appreciate 63:21</p>
9	<p>9 28:18 62:21 72:18 73:17</p> <p>90 35:3 44:2 48:3,4 56:2</p> <p>91 15:15 30:5</p> <p>962 69:6</p> <p>9:00 28:11</p>		
a	<p>ability 7:4 49:6</p> <p>able 10:15 27:2 27:5,23 28:17 31:5 34:18 35:15 37:14 58:17 62:22</p> <p>absolutely 75:11</p> <p>accent 50:14</p> <p>access 13:3,5 52:12 53:12 58:9,14</p> <p>accomplish 74:23</p> <p>accomplished 57:24</p> <p>acknowledge 80:11 81:16</p>		

<p>appreciated 12:23 archaic 20:23 area 9:1 15:11 15:13,14,16,19 22:22 24:15,16 24:18,19,19,20 29:20,21,23 30:2 30:3,4 54:3 56:8 65:14 68:24 69:9,16,16,23 70:8 71:14 areas 16:25 17:11 18:6 20:24 24:11 30:6 34:1,14,16 34:20 42:16 45:6 55:5 69:18 70:25 arrived 36:16 article 4:8 asked 13:20 14:8 26:24 27:2 33:6 35:18,19,19,20 35:21,22 38:14 38:22 39:2 67:3 68:3 74:15 asking 6:20 18:6 36:20 46:10 47:1,2 60:2 aspect 12:23 asserted 21:4 assessor's 19:22 assets 15:23 assignment 80:2 81:2 82:2 assist 50:22</p>	<p>assistance 57:5 62:10 assisted 51:2 association 36:11 assume 63:5 atmosphere 70:4 atrium 57:2 attached 81:7 attempted 55:13 attend 27:19 28:14 64:9 attended 27:21 27:22 28:7,8,17 43:25 44:1 attending 16:17 attention 74:10 74:25 attorney 35:18 38:22,24 39:3 45:20 46:16,21 46:23 51:1 77:25 attorneys 5:12 46:17 78:2 auditor 20:3 35:2 45:19 54:23 63:6 64:17 65:5,19 68:13,13 69:11 auditor's 19:21 august 1:18 11:10 25:5 26:4 26:12,15 27:18 28:10,20 41:19 41:19 54:4 77:12 78:5 79:4</p>	<p>authorization 33:8 authorize 81:11 authorized 17:15 available 18:24 55:20 57:1 61:20 62:17 63:19 ave 79:1 avenue 1:17 2:4 39:13 77:11 aware 6:25 36:9 36:21 47:20 48:3 54:19 55:4 58:2,5 72:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p> <hr/> <p>b 24:11 34:2 59:5,18,23 60:3 61:4,8 63:21 bachelor's 12:1 12:5 back 12:16 37:17 45:15 64:6 72:14 79:16 ball 41:9 barbara 55:7 barrow 7:23 13:23 24:9 34:6 36:6 base 18:22 based 71:24 bases 43:16 basic 5:24 basically 13:19 19:23 38:14</p>	<p>43:11 50:24 basis 20:17,20 25:17 55:21,22 began 10:25 beggs 2:3 3:5 50:10,17 53:25 66:25 74:9 75:24 76:4 79:5 beginning 10:7 behalf 1:17 77:10 believe 24:21 37:2 40:21 45:24,25 53:9,16 54:6,18,18 60:9 60:9,13 71:15 72:23 ben 16:11,12 best 21:19 51:23 beyond 54:12 56:16 57:13 big 6:24 43:18 bill 66:24 bills 61:24 birding 34:11 bit 6:8 29:1 30:6 blog 66:15 67:24 67:25 bloomington 1:9 1:17 2:5,13,14 2:17,18 4:6 5:13 8:23 9:5,14 33:18,19 52:10 58:8 59:6 61:21 61:25 73:9 77:11 79:7 80:3 81:3</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>bloomington.i... 2:15,19 board 14:8,13,13 14:16 33:5 61:3 boiling 37:15 bose 2:9 boselaw.com 2:11 bothered 25:13 bottom 52:22 58:7 72:16 box 13:16,16 62:8 boxes 24:3 boy 19:16 brady 1:16 77:3 78:8,12 brain 10:19 break 6:7,9 45:10,16,17 67:1 67:8 briefly 11:25 bring 22:8 24:6 24:7 brno 10:10 broader 19:10 broke 13:16 broken 73:25 broker 15:4 brought 58:25 bubbled 42:1,6 budget 72:19,24 73:2,18,19,23 74:20 building 52:11 53:19 55:15 58:9,14,15 62:17 64:14</p>	<p>built 22:22 bullet 62:6 bulletin 4:6 bunger 1:17 2:4 77:10 bureaucratic 70:6 buren 8:13 33:3 33:4 41:4 44:3 business 13:12 15:5 48:11,12 53:22 57:24 butt 12:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c</p> <p>c 9:4 24:12 34:2 ca 79:25 calais 9:4 76:1 calculated 19:7 call 25:10,14 32:7 34:11,11 44:21 49:4,7,8,8 49:12,15 55:24 61:16,16 62:10 called 9:13 13:19 19:21 22:2 27:1 28:19,21 42:3 43:11 66:15 caller 32:1 calling 31:11 calls 25:25 31:9 camera 56:19 60:21 cancelation 23:17 canceled 25:16 canceling 25:4</p>	<p>cancellation 69:21 capacity 27:12 car 29:4 carry 17:14 case 44:7,9 79:6 80:3 81:3 cases 36:19 categories 74:18 cathy 35:5,8 37:18 64:17 causal 37:14 cause 1:4 5:17 77:24 cbu 61:19,20 celebration 70:5 cell 29:4 49:9,10 49:11 60:21,22 60:23 center 9:13,19 10:6 57:18 58:2 61:4,9 certain 31:8 certainty 29:23 certificate 81:11 certification 80:1 81:1 certified 28:15 70:10 certify 65:20 68:21 77:5,23 certifying 66:2 cetera 11:1 18:25 48:13 chain 56:14 chance 67:12 change 10:8 79:14,15 81:8</p>	<p>82:3 changes 51:21 79:13 80:7 81:7 81:9 chard 19:16 charge 33:13 check 57:4 60:20 checkbook 13:16 checked 39:10 circle 2:9 circuit 1:3 citizens 30:25 city 1:9 2:13,17 4:6 5:12 7:11 8:1,23,24 15:3,7 18:3,7,19 21:5 21:11 23:4,12,19 23:25 27:3 28:6 29:12 35:21,22 35:23,25 36:7 37:25 40:19 41:16 42:12 43:2,5 47:25 52:10 53:8,12 54:7,7,14,20,24 55:1,5,9,14,19 56:7,22 58:8 59:5 61:21,25 62:23 69:3 72:18,25 73:9,14 79:6 80:3 81:3 city's 10:21 21:1 73:19 civil 80:5 81:5 clarify 17:17 clean 74:16 clements 1:13,15 4:5 5:2,10,11</p>
--	--	--	---

<p>42:23 45:15 50:6,12,16 52:4 76:11 77:5 79:9 80:4,9 81:4,13 82:20</p> <p>cleveland 79:2 client 46:23 51:1 close 70:1 closed 53:21 61:4,9 closure 64:9 65:2 66:5,18 67:19 68:4 coalesced 42:1 cofounders 13:17 colby 13:24 16:1 16:2 19:17 20:1 34:6 39:14 75:5 cold 38:3 collect 22:4 34:23 41:21 collected 17:19 23:24 40:18 41:15,19 44:13 69:1 70:18,21,25 collecting 17:6 21:17 22:17 44:23 colleen 1:16 77:3 78:8,12 college 1:17 2:4 12:6 16:5 50:18 77:11 combined 34:16 come 7:22 10:11 10:14 22:3 25:24 30:20</p>	<p>31:16 57:5 64:6 68:12 74:20 comfortable 23:18 29:1 51:16 coming 16:24 69:3 commencing 77:13 comment 26:6 commented 26:8 comments 66:17 commission 78:11,13 80:19 81:25 82:25 commissioner 15:20 35:19 36:1 45:20 commissioners 35:20 39:6 69:24 communicate 19:6 communicated 44:17 communication 46:24 47:15 communications 45:22 communities 33:17 community 8:19 8:22 10:24 11:3 11:6,19 12:23 15:6 17:13 18:1 18:8,9 25:23,23 27:23 36:5 37:22,24 48:21</p>	<p>49:18 compare 32:15 compared 60:1 complete 61:22 completed 79:16 completely 6:1 complicated 16:22 component 25:15 computer 26:21 28:25 29:4 46:12 concentration 13:10 concerned 7:2 15:20 28:3 30:21,24,25 49:5 concerns 52:12 62:9 concert 10:9 concerts 10:12 conclude 23:2 concluded 23:9 27:15 conditions 70:22 conducted 36:9 conferring 42:15 confirm 60:3 conflicting 44:1 connection 26:22 consensus 42:18 consequence 49:5 consider 44:19 46:23</p>	<p>consultant 19:9 contact 20:3 38:2 contacted 21:25 21:25 58:24 contacting 20:5 20:7 contagious 31:16 content 67:14,15 context 47:7,9 continuation 27:18 continue 7:4 continued 28:20 contract 9:21 10:5 contracting 30:22 control 36:22 conversation 66:4 conversations 31:6 35:7,11,16 37:17 44:5 45:18 convince 23:11 convincing 18:3 corner 52:23 58:7 72:16 corporation 15:22 correct 6:21 11:11 50:6 57:15 59:25 70:10 72:19 corrected 51:22</p>
--	---	---	--

corrections 79:13 81:17 correlation 36:25 council 18:3,7 23:4,13 24:1 28:6 29:12 35:21,22,23,25 36:7 37:25 40:20 41:16 42:12 43:2,5 72:25 73:14 counsel 51:2,25 74:7 77:22 counted 32:11 counterpart 17:14 24:21 counterparts 44:22 68:15 counts 37:1 county 1:2,3,6 1:16,18 11:5,8 13:11 14:1,20,23 15:7,20,24 16:15 16:19 17:5 18:2 19:18 25:11 28:4,5 33:9,15 34:3 35:18,19,20 36:10 37:1 38:9 38:17,22,24 39:5 39:14 40:7 41:14,18 42:1,3 42:13,23 45:19 45:20,20 46:17 47:18 48:10 49:22 75:14 77:2,4,12 78:12 79:6 80:3,10	81:3,15 county's 19:9 couple 45:16 52:21 62:6 69:23 course 34:8,12 court 1:3 9:4,4 38:18 48:5 76:1 80:7 courthouse 64:14 cover 73:6,13,14 covid 10:15 30:11,22 36:1,12 37:1 45:1 48:18 52:13 70:23,23 70:24 71:7,16,23 72:5 73:20 74:19,19,21 creating 11:12 cross 3:4 74:8 cry 7:14 current 14:3 currently 7:5 16:15 23:24 customer 57:1 62:10 czar 41:8 czech 10:11	82:25 dates 48:25 day 1:18 5:18 27:13 35:3 48:3 48:4,11,11 56:2 77:12 78:5 80:16 81:22 82:22 days 79:19 dean 19:24 dear 79:10 decade 8:16 decades 8:16 december 36:17 43:20 decision 23:15 23:15 declaration 47:21,24 48:5 dedicate 9:24 deed 80:14 81:20 deemed 79:20 definitively 27:10 degree 12:17,19 deliberate 18:7 delivered 23:12 delivery 61:15 democrat 4:7 66:16 67:21 department 44:3 53:22,23 54:2 58:24 62:24 79:22 depicted 53:7 deponent 76:7 77:5,19,19	deposition 1:13 1:15 4:2 5:14,18 40:1 50:7 63:11 64:18 66:11 77:9,15 79:9,12 80:1,3 81:1,3 describe 19:15 21:20 described 31:25 45:18 designations 7:19 desk 57:4 58:17 59:2 determine 23:14 36:10,23 determined 19:9 28:4 developed 25:23 devote 13:1 differences 43:15 different 8:1 21:21 29:21 32:22 difficult 37:21 diffusion 9:13,20 10:6 dire 31:17 direct 3:3 5:7 9:11 36:25 44:14 74:10,25 directed 63:6 direction 77:17 directly 73:20,24 74:21 directors 14:14 14:16 33:5
	d		
	dangerous 48:19 data 18:21,22 19:5,6 37:4 43:15 69:11 date 59:15,18 79:9 80:3,9,19 81:3,13,25 82:20		

<p>disambiguate 22:7,23 23:2,10 16:23 37:3 disconnected 28:3,9 31:2 32:4 29:5 discuss 32:8,8 28:3 65:9 discussed 14:22 65:11 discussion 21:22 38:16 38:21 disgruntled 30:17 26:1 disinterested 61:23 62:8 77:23 dissident 62:7 4:7 66:16 67:21 distilling 29:5 20:15 distinguish 62:7 35:14,15 distributed 29:5 48:1 distrust 29:5 23:16 25:2 division 14:11 18:1 doctorate 8:21 11:23 12:2 13:6,7 document 7:9 73:5 doing 17:13 20:5 36:21 38:21 45:2 50:11 71:6 donations 11:21 33:11 door 11:21 31:14,16 44:24 53:18,20 54:3 58:18 64:3 64:3 doors 15:14 24:23 55:17 57:20 dorfman 12:25 67:23 double 12:25 13:9 drink 12:25 6:10 drive 17:25 18:18 20:13,21</p>	<p>22:7,23 23:2,10 28:3,9 31:2 32:4 32:8,8 driven 14:22 driveway 21:22 22:3 37:12,13 driveways 30:17 drop 61:23 62:8 dropping 62:7 drove 29:5 due 52:12 55:14 71:16 73:20 74:18,19,21 duly 5:3 77:6 duplications 68:19 duress 30:14</p>	<p>elected 14:7 elevating 13:4 eligible 21:13 ellen 43:9 email 45:23 79:17 emails 50:25 embark 10:12 emergency 47:22,25 48:6,9 emphasis 50:15 50:17 employ 78:2 employee 9:22 employees 10:4 57:13 enable 13:6 enclosed 79:12 encounter 44:24 endow 10:8 engaged 46:6 english 12:9,12 entailed 20:22 enter 53:12 57:23 entered 81:9 entire 80:5 81:5 entrance 56:7 entry 40:18 equitable 13:3 errata 79:14,19 81:7,10,18 82:1 errors 75:22 especially 40:24 esq 79:5 establishing 13:18</p>	<p>estate 14:24 15:4 esteem 12:25 estimate 34:15 34:18 35:9 et 1:6,10 11:1 18:25 48:13 79:6,7 80:3,3 81:3,3 evans 2:9 evening 44:1 62:17,19 63:16 evenings 43:19 event 37:13 43:21 65:2 66:5 67:19 68:4 69:21 78:1 events 21:22 37:12 43:22 44:2 64:10 everyone's 23:15 exactly 10:20 16:12 42:25,25 56:22 74:1 examination 1:15 3:1,3,4 5:7 74:8 examined 5:5 example 36:15 75:13 executed 81:10 execution 80:14 81:19 exhausted 70:4 exhibit 4:2,3,4,6 4:7,10 39:24 40:1 50:5,7 52:7 52:14 59:5,18,23 60:3 61:4,8 63:7</p>
<p>e</p>		<p>earlier 14:11 earned 8:21 earning 7:9 educate 17:13 education 11:21 13:8,8 17:1 educational 12:1 13:4,5 educators 12:25 effect 15:21 58:9 effected 48:11 48:12 effort 15:14 18:10,12 20:19 24:10 36:2 either 46:11 elderly 30:20 49:4,17</p>	<p>enable 13:6 enclosed 79:12 encounter 44:24 endow 10:8 engaged 46:6 english 12:9,12 entailed 20:22 enter 53:12 57:23 entered 81:9 entire 80:5 81:5 entrance 56:7 entry 40:18 equitable 13:3 errata 79:14,19 81:7,10,18 82:1 errors 75:22 especially 40:24 esq 79:5 establishing 13:18</p>

63:9,11,14,21,25 64:16,18 66:10 66:11,14 67:12 72:15 73:6 74:11 exhibits 4:1,9 exist 19:4 50:1 existed 70:22 experience 15:7 39:6 40:6 experiences 44:19 expiration 80:19 81:25 82:25 expires 78:11 exploring 46:1 47:9 express 65:15 extemporaneo... 66:8 extend 45:21 46:2 47:10 extended 46:19 47:5 extending 35:2 37:19 47:22 48:7 extension 38:2,3 extent 54:10 72:25 extra 44:11	fact 12:17 65:24 fail 18:10 fair 37:23 68:6 fairgrounds 37:11 43:20,24 44:2 far 22:12 44:8 45:6 49:20 fashion 18:20 father 12:21 feel 23:18 fees 33:13 felt 7:6 female 15:5 fenbrook 9:17 ferris 14:15 15:12 fifth 5:18 figure 8:19 37:7 figures 68:8,12 68:14 71:3 filing 47:21 48:5 filled 22:12 final 29:14 70:6 finally 49:24 finances 28:6 financial 10:24 33:16 62:10 find 15:8 38:12 74:2 79:12 finding 45:6 fine 67:7 finished 7:10 40:14 fire 19:12 28:2 44:3 first 6:24 10:16 17:24 18:17	40:6,10 50:15,17 53:11 54:15 57:25 64:8 73:13 77:6 firsthand 63:1 five 20:6 floor 53:11,11 54:15,15 focus 10:7 33:22 66:4 focused 44:9 follow 45:16 76:3 follows 5:5 foregoing 77:9 80:13 81:18 form 10:16 11:20 20:15 32:20 45:22 format 51:4 formed 11:10,13 11:17,18 16:18 16:18 41:18 42:7 forming 13:21 forms 62:7 forward 79:16 four 5:20 frame 18:13,15 35:10 free 58:16 80:14 81:20 french 50:13,14 50:20 frequently 30:18 48:16,17,19 friday 25:22	friend 8:17,20 front 56:6 57:4 58:17 59:2 full 24:3 further 74:6 75:24 76:3,7 77:23 future 13:23
g			
gathered 18:4 20:14 21:10 gatherer 69:1 gathering 30:12 33:24 34:13 36:25 72:7 general 48:10 generated 73:5 generation 33:10 getting 20:11,12 24:1 38:18 63:2 give 22:25 34:18 39:20 50:4 63:7 66:10 72:23 given 23:25 77:18 gladly 66:20 glean 19:3 gloves 30:18 go 6:22 7:11 11:21,23 12:6 17:16 22:16 25:9,13 32:2 37:17 45:8 48:15 53:2,13 54:12,24 56:15 57:17 58:18 62:15,19,25			

<p>71:16 72:14 74:4 goal 10:8 72:19 73:19 goals 72:24 73:20,23 74:21 going 9:22,24 24:23 31:22 33:21 39:23 40:8,9,11 50:4 52:7 63:7 64:6 65:20,20 66:10 good 18:7 45:9 52:6 government 48:12,13 grant 38:3 granted 33:8 grassroots 17:23 gravely 36:1 gray 14:11 15:12 43:19 greek 50:18,20 ground 5:24 group 7:21 23:14 38:16 65:24 guaranteed 28:9 guess 10:3 17:1 29:1 43:15 70:2 70:17 guy 67:22,23 guys 53:25</p>	<p>hall 53:8,13 54:6 54:8,14,20,24 55:2,5,9,14,19 56:7,23 69:3 hallway 56:15 hand 22:12 26:8 30:18 52:22 53:22,23 54:2 57:18,18 58:2,3 58:7 72:16 78:4 handful 13:25 handled 24:17 24:18,20 happen 29:21 happened 25:11 29:19 59:1 happening 22:15 hard 31:23 64:25 harm 36:1 he'll 16:6,10 head 40:13 heading 40:6 headphones 27:11 hear 10:1 41:7 heard 11:2 25:15 25:18 26:24 41:11 47:24 55:7 57:8 65:12 65:13 heart 6:25 held 12:24 37:13 44:2</p>	<p>helped 11:19 17:7 34:1 helping 15:7 hereunto 78:3 hey 38:8 higher 12:24 13:8 36:6 history 37:5 hit 10:13 hold 14:14 27:12 52:21 home 9:18 13:15 20:23 28:25 29:5 48:19,21 76:2 homeowners 15:15 20:16 homes 7:5 15:8 hooked 29:4 hopes 18:1 hosting 10:8 hour 62:17 77:13 hours 25:20 53:22 59:8 63:16 house 9:18 huh 62:13 human 12:15 husband 9:23 31:12</p>	<p>identified 53:7 64:17 identifies 63:18 identify 45:2 46:21 48:25 73:17 identity 31:19 immunocompr... 30:23 impact 7:2 10:24 18:25 19:8,10 22:13 28:5 impacted 15:25 impartial 65:19 impressive 16:14 inaccessibility 55:15 inaccurate 75:12 inactive 74:18 included 79:14 including 45:19 62:9 incorporate 11:14 incorporated 81:12 incorrectly 50:10 increase 36:12 36:18 increased 37:1 independent 67:25 index 3:1 4:1 indiana 1:1,9,16 1:18,18 2:13,17 9:5 12:12 16:8 36:17 77:1,4,12</p>
<p>h</p>	<p>help 7:14,17 17:2,17,18 38:23 43:18 44:4</p>	<p>i</p>	
<p>halfway 53:14 53:15</p>		<p>idea 59:1 identification 40:2 50:8 63:12 64:19 66:12</p>	

<p>77:14 78:11 79:7 80:3 81:3 indianapolis 2:10 indicated 73:18 indicating 79:14 individual 71:4 individually 43:4 47:20 infection 36:6 information 4:6 16:23 18:19 19:2,19 20:14 21:10 45:3,7 55:22 62:9 63:1 63:14,15 69:16 71:24,25 informed 22:14 initiate 38:24 injunction 39:1 39:2 injurious 7:7 inside 40:12 institute 9:11,12 11:18 instrumental 24:23 intend 21:4 25:7 75:3 intended 10:22 12:17 25:9 interacting 31:1 interest 17:2 interested 78:1 intern 16:6 internet 26:22 75:4</p>	<p>interning 16:10 interring 16:13 interrupt 51:24 intervention 38:18 investigation 38:11 involved 6:21 10:16 11:1 14:1 16:15 17:5,7 33:19,21,23 39:19 43:12,21 44:6 72:9 involvement 6:18 11:12 iphone 60:24,25 issue 52:1 italy 12:14,15,18 12:20,22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">j</p> <p>j 2:3 3:5 74:9 79:5 january 36:17 58:10,20 60:17 64:12 67:19 68:11,23 70:19 71:2 jeopardy 37:24 37:24 job 5:25 joyce 71:22 judicial 38:18 judy 19:22 julie 13:23 14:15 15:17,18 20:2 35:22</p>	<p>july 17:25 june 17:25 51:20 jurisdiction 41:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">k</p> <p>keep 18:23 29:17 34:10 kennedy 28:2,9 kind 6:24 7:18 8:2 13:25 16:22 32:20 34:7 35:16 37:3 60:23 70:4 knew 8:13,18 27:21 29:23 30:1 51:11 55:11 71:15 knock 58:18 61:12 knocked 24:24 know 5:11 6:5 6:10,12 7:8,14 7:22 8:3,5,9,12 8:15 10:20 12:5 13:14 14:3 15:12,19 16:13 17:7,23 18:13 19:1,17,18,23,24 20:2,18 21:20,22 23:1 25:24 26:7 26:14,16,16,18 29:19 31:9,15,17 31:19 32:3,10,17 32:20,22 34:12 36:13,14,15,15 36:18 37:10 38:6,23 39:16 40:11,14 41:5,5</p>	<p>41:22,24,25 42:4 43:3,4 44:11 46:3,5,5,9 48:9 49:20 50:19 54:1,10,10 55:8 55:9,16 56:6 59:2 60:5 61:20 62:14 64:2 65:1 65:7 66:19 70:2 71:18,20,21,22 72:11,21 73:2,4 73:23 74:1,17 knowledge 9:13 9:19 10:6 51:23 55:12 71:4,10 75:7 known 8:2 65:8 65:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">l</p> <p>l 9:4 lady 31:11 43:10 landing 53:9,10 54:14 lane 9:17 large 8:21 19:10 77:4 larry 2:16 law 11:22,23 12:19 37:6 lawer 11:15 lawr.com 2:6 lawyer 38:9 lawyers 44:6 lead 45:4 left 12:10,18 legacy 9:25</p>
---	--	---	--

<p>legal 11:21 40:25 46:4 47:1,2,4,10 47:21 51:2 57:9 58:24 79:1 82:1 legitimate 31:21 legwork 19:14 45:2 leininger's 57:8 letter 73:14 79:20 level 72:10 librarian 27:8,9 libraries 15:22 library 19:13 26:25 27:2,2,6 life 9:25 13:2 lifetime 7:9 lights 53:20 57:20 limited 52:11 limits 8:23,24 line 57:24 79:14 81:7 82:3 lines 35:7 linkedin 4:3 39:21 75:6,10 listed 21:1 81:7 81:17 listening 29:2 listing 81:7 litigation 39:19 little 6:8 28:25 30:6 live 6:15 8:15,23 8:25 9:1 15:1,8 15:9 17:10 49:7 lived 7:6 9:8 12:24 65:5</p>	<p>lives 15:3,18 43:10 65:13 livid 8:13 llp 2:9 loan 12:14 lobby 55:17 56:8 located 9:16,17 53:7 54:3 location 54:16 58:4 59:8,9 locked 53:20 57:20 log 34:7,10 long 6:8 9:8 look 40:5 46:11 46:15 51:5 52:9 56:5,14 61:3 63:8,17 66:19,21 73:6 75:7 looked 38:8 64:16 looking 21:11 43:16 44:10,18 51:19 52:7 54:13 56:21 59:4 61:8,8 70:12 looks 67:16 loosely 7:18 loss 10:1 lot 9:18 15:6 17:23 19:23 24:5 44:21,22 loved 30:23 lstats 12:18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">m</p> <p>m 2:8 3:3 5:8 ma'am 31:13 machine 52:1 madam 79:10 maggie 47:7 major 12:6,9 13:9 37:5 making 47:21,24 man 16:4,14 24:22,22 39:17 management 12:15 manipulate 18:23 manned 59:2 march 10:4 78:11 margaret 1:13 1:15 4:4 5:2,10 42:23 50:5 67:10 74:10 76:11 77:5 79:9 80:4,9 81:4,13 82:20 margie 46:22 47:8,9 mark 63:7 marked 4:9 40:1 50:7 63:11 64:18 65:1 66:11 martin 71:22 mask 70:3 masked 30:17 matter 5:5 28:10 77:8</p>	<p>mayor 48:16,23 73:9 74:1 mayor's 72:19 72:21 73:14 mckinney 2:9 mcneil 2:8 3:3 5:8,12 39:23 45:8,14 50:11,15 50:18,21 52:3 67:3,7,9 74:4,6 76:1,3 mean 19:16 21:8 24:3,8 28:23 30:14 31:7 39:10 41:5,11 42:14 54:10 63:5 meaning 27:19 means 69:2 mechanism 42:18 meet 36:4 meeting 7:23 23:18 25:5,8 26:4,12,15 27:3 27:12,14,18,20 27:24 28:2,6,9 28:10,15,17,19 28:21 29:2,6,7 33:7 42:20 43:1 43:6 44:1,17 54:5 61:16 66:18 meetings 36:24 37:10 member 14:22 28:7 49:17</p>
---	---	--	---

<p>members 8:22 14:13,21 27:23 43:5 73:15 mention 16:1 mentioned 39:5 48:15 49:3 messages 46:8 46:13 messaging 46:6 met 19:17 37:11 43:4 72:24 73:20,23 74:19 74:21,23 mexico 10:13 michael 2:12 microphones 27:11 middle 13:1 midwest 79:17 82:1 mind 29:17 minute 45:10 64:7 minutes 26:10 mitigation 70:24 mobilize 14:2 moment 45:9 63:8 74:15 momentum 22:23 monday 25:22 money 18:2 38:20 monroe 1:2,3,16 1:18 36:10 37:1 77:2,4,12 78:13 month 19:1,1 50:3</p>	<p>months 40:18 75:20,21 monument 2:9 mortgage 12:14 morton 2:13,17 mouth 49:19 move 7:12 58:16 moved 12:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">n</p> <hr/> <p>name 5:9,10,11 7:22 14:17 16:7 27:7 42:9 55:18 67:23 72:4 79:6 80:3,4,15 81:3,4 81:21 names 26:16 55:22 near 40:17 nebraska 16:9 need 6:7,8 8:5 39:17 51:21 57:5 66:25 needed 14:2 17:16 69:7 neighbor 7:19 neighborhood 7:21 22:10 neighborhoods 8:1 neighbors 22:5 neither 17:9 never 17:8 25:13 47:24 64:1 nevertheless 36:23 newspaper 48:20</p>	<p>nextdoor 7:1,18 7:24,25 nextdoor.com 21:24 nice 39:16 night 22:3 28:18 normal 53:22 north 2:13,17 notarial 78:4 notarized 79:15 notary 1:16 77:3 78:11 79:25 80:10,18 81:15 81:23 82:23 note 79:13 noted 5:1 76:6 notes 50:24 notice 1:19 10:23 notification 48:1 november 63:4 np073223 78:13 number 8:21 21:9 31:23 49:8 49:13,19 52:9,23 61:15,16,17,17 62:11 63:17 69:17 79:8,14 numbers 81:7 nunn 72:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">o</p> <hr/> <p>oath 6:12 object 13:21 obliged 72:23 observe 58:13 63:25</p>	<p>occur 49:6 occurred 35:11 october 52:20 58:10,19 59:10 60:13,16 61:1 62:16,21,21 64:4 64:4 70:19 octopus 45:5 office 19:20,21 19:22 25:20,21 32:24 33:6 41:4 46:4 53:21 57:9 57:18 58:3,3 59:6,7,13 62:2,4 62:15 63:4,19,23 64:3 73:9 officer 12:14 officers 14:4,12 offices 1:17 14:14 54:7,11 77:10 official 38:2 80:15 81:21 officially 11:10 13:7,14 21:1 23:2 officials 19:19 45:19 62:23 69:23 oh 20:7 70:15 ohio 79:2 okay 23:15 29:10,17 36:14 44:15 45:10 56:17 60:16 70:8 71:13 74:4 old 7:7,13</p>
---	--	---	---

<p>older 7:1,16,25 31:18,24 omicron 36:16 36:22 once 23:24 24:6 59:20 70:9 72:12,25 ones 30:23 online 26:2,12 open 28:11,18 39:12 44:24 54:8 61:22 opened 24:24 openness 54:11 operating 54:8 operations 48:12 opinion 21:15 opportunity 5:17 13:4,5 26:9 66:20 opposed 15:16 21:24 29:15 opposing 33:17 option 38:15 options 47:10 57:25 oral 1:15 42:22 orally 42:19 order 18:23 orders 48:10 ordinance 21:6 ordinances 23:5 organic 21:19 organization 14:22 16:18,19 17:5 organize 14:2 17:1,18,21</p>	<p>organized 7:18 19:5,5 43:23 organizing 20:8 20:10 24:10 33:21,23 34:5 43:21 original 13:25 23:21 outside 9:1 30:16 33:17 owner 21:10 owner's 17:2 owners 15:6 16:25 18:5 19:7 21:2 29:25 48:13</p>	<p>paperwork 61:23 70:7 paragraph 52:9 58:6 59:4,15 72:15,18 73:17 paragraphs 52:8 parcels 24:5 part 7:21 13:2 41:22 44:8 81:9 participate 25:8 26:2,23 27:1,4 75:8 participated 22:20 29:3 participates 15:24 particular 22:9 44:8 53:21 55:3 63:17 particularly 48:2 parties 77:21 parts 50:24 party 77:25 78:2 pass 21:6 passed 9:23 pay 61:24 payers 18:2 payments 61:23 62:7 penalties 51:9 people 7:2,8,16 7:25 9:19 10:13 12:8 13:20,25 15:8 17:7 20:25 21:12,23 22:14 24:18,20 25:10 25:12,18,24 26:1</p>	<p>26:1,16,19 28:12 30:10,20 31:10 31:18,24 34:8 35:20 36:3 44:11,12,18,21 45:3 49:3,3,4 54:19 55:4,8,9 55:11,16,18 69:2 69:20 71:15 72:4 people's 30:17 65:21 percent 15:15 18:5 29:24 30:1 30:5,7 44:2 69:7 69:14 70:9 73:19 74:20,24 percentages 29:15 74:16 period 8:10 17:9 18:11 31:9 33:22,25 34:9,13 35:1,3,13 36:11 36:19 37:20 45:22 46:2,18,19 47:5,11,18,23 48:3,4 50:2 54:17,25 56:3 58:11,20 59:9,21 60:15 62:16 63:24 perjury 51:9 perry 25:21 33:1 33:6 person 24:15,17 25:8,15 32:9 37:6 38:13 45:23,24 77:24</p>
	<p>p</p>		
	<p>p.m. 1:18 5:1 25:21 28:11,18 45:12,13 62:21 76:6 77:13 pagan 54:13 page 3:2 4:2 7:25 40:5 41:3 51:5 53:2,7,17 56:5,21 57:17 58:7 72:16 73:7 73:11,13,13,18 74:12 75:6,13 79:14,16 81:7 82:3 paid 9:10 pandemic 37:22 44:12 48:18,22 paper 20:23 22:9 22:11</p>		

<p>personal 8:17,20 71:4</p> <p>personally 58:13 80:11 81:15</p> <p>peter 67:23</p> <p>petition 17:24 18:18 20:13,21 22:6 23:2,10 29:11,16 31:2,3 32:4,8,15 54:20 55:1,6,10,13,14 57:10 58:23,25 59:8 63:3 71:6</p> <p>petitioners 1:7 2:2</p> <p>petitions 23:12 23:19,21 24:7 30:9,13 34:24 40:19,22 41:16 41:20,21 42:11 62:22 63:18</p> <p>phd 12:7</p> <p>phone 22:1 25:10,14,25 29:4 31:9 32:7 45:23 45:24 46:12 49:9,10,11,19 55:24 56:19 60:21,22,23 61:15 62:11 72:13 79:3</p> <p>photograph 4:10 52:14,16,18 63:21</p> <p>picture 40:3 52:25 53:4,15 54:14 56:11,17 57:17,20 59:12</p>	<p>59:18,20,23 60:4 60:7,10,10,19 63:23</p> <p>pictures 54:9 62:3</p> <p>picturing 24:4</p> <p>pieces 22:9</p> <p>piechart 74:12</p> <p>pl 1:4</p> <p>place 1:19 13:12 21:3 36:5 37:25 58:16</p> <p>placed 37:22,24</p> <p>places 10:14</p> <p>play 10:11</p> <p>please 5:9 14:17 57:4,23,25 61:12 66:20 79:12,12</p> <p>po 13:15,16</p> <p>point 54:12 56:16 57:14</p> <p>points 62:6</p> <p>pole 73:25 74:3</p> <p>police 19:11</p> <p>policy 13:8</p> <p>political 12:12 16:6</p> <p>portion 9:25 23:17 26:4</p> <p>possible 30:16 38:5 39:4,9,11</p> <p>possibly 34:17</p> <p>post 18:20 66:15</p> <p>posted 10:21 18:22 63:25</p> <p>posting 7:24</p> <p>postings 7:1</p>	<p>potential 7:10 45:3</p> <p>potentially 35:2 45:4</p> <p>pre 20:20 29:11 29:16 31:1 32:15 40:22 41:20,21</p> <p>predicament 12:8</p> <p>predicted 7:12</p> <p>preface 40:9,11</p> <p>preformed 10:5</p> <p>preparation 75:9</p> <p>prepare 18:18</p> <p>prepared 23:25 41:20 66:7,9 67:16 73:2,4</p> <p>preremonstrati... 17:24 18:18 20:7,10,13 22:6 22:18 23:1,10 30:9,12 32:4</p> <p>presence 75:4</p> <p>present 10:4 25:7 28:22 52:20 54:16 64:21 75:17,17 75:18</p> <p>presented 42:12 77:19</p> <p>president 14:7,7 14:10 39:14 40:6 75:14</p> <p>pretty 7:23 26:1 31:23 43:23 65:3</p>	<p>prevent 30:11</p> <p>prevented 71:6</p> <p>previously 4:9 64:18</p> <p>primarily 24:9</p> <p>primary 34:4</p> <p>principal 13:12</p> <p>privilege 51:1</p> <p>privileged 47:14</p> <p>probably 10:18 15:19 18:10 27:20,22</p> <p>problem 71:14</p> <p>procedure 1:19 63:2 77:14 80:5 81:5</p> <p>procedures 17:15</p> <p>proceed 49:16</p> <p>process 5:22 6:19 12:1,4 16:21 20:22 21:17 22:17 29:16 38:3 40:25 55:1 63:6 66:2</p> <p>processes 21:21</p> <p>produced 1:15</p> <p>production 79:16,17,22</p> <p>profession 9:10</p> <p>professor 50:18</p> <p>profile 4:3 39:21</p> <p>profit 13:22 41:15</p> <p>profits 11:17,19</p> <p>prohibited 52:11</p>
--	--	--	---

<p>prohibition 58:8 58:13</p> <p>promising 16:4</p> <p>promoting 13:2</p> <p>pronounced 50:10</p> <p>property 16:25 17:2 18:5 19:4,7 20:25 21:2,3,10 22:14,15 29:25 30:1</p> <p>proposal 40:20 41:17</p> <p>protocols 30:19</p> <p>provide 15:23 33:16</p> <p>provided 42:22</p> <p>public 1:16 10:23 12:21 15:22,23 23:17 27:3,13 28:2 33:7 37:10,11 42:19 43:1 48:16 52:11 58:8,14 77:3 78:11 80:10,18 81:15,23 82:23</p> <p>publicly 18:24 48:23</p> <p>purpose 16:20 16:21,22 54:25 55:3 72:21</p> <p>purposes 9:23 48:7</p> <p>pursuant 1:18 77:13</p> <p>pursue 10:15 12:19 17:2,3</p>	<p>pursuing 13:3 40:25</p> <p>put 49:14 75:10</p> <p>putting 50:23 51:3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">q</p> <p>qualified 29:24</p> <p>qualifies 47:14</p> <p>qualify 44:16</p> <p>quarantine 10:13</p> <p>quarters 61:22</p> <p>quartet 10:9,10</p> <p>question 6:4 8:8 12:3 27:9 36:14 40:8 41:25 48:14 61:7 67:1 67:2 74:15</p> <p>questions 3:3,5 5:8,25 6:23 11:1 11:2 27:17 35:24 45:16 49:12 62:9 64:8 74:6,9 75:24</p> <p>quick 8:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <p>radio 48:20</p> <p>rails 12:10</p> <p>raise 26:8</p> <p>rates 36:6</p> <p>raw 68:16 70:12 70:13</p> <p>read 40:10 67:4 67:5 71:25 73:3 80:5,6,12 81:5,6 81:17</p>	<p>reading 40:14 79:20</p> <p>ready 10:11 20:12,12</p> <p>real 14:24 15:3 43:17</p> <p>really 12:20,22 36:13 43:12 55:19 64:25 70:6 75:8</p> <p>reason 46:13 79:15 81:8 82:3</p> <p>receipt 79:19</p> <p>receive 25:14</p> <p>received 25:10 32:6 55:24</p> <p>receiving 25:25</p> <p>recess 45:12</p> <p>recessed 29:8</p> <p>recognize 66:22 67:14</p> <p>recollection 29:7 29:14 30:7</p> <p>record 5:9 37:12 45:15 48:24 52:2 74:4,5 77:18 81:9</p> <p>record's 19:20</p> <p>records 37:9</p> <p>reedy 10:20 18:16,20 21:1 43:13</p> <p>refer 59:4 72:18</p> <p>reference 40:21 52:13 79:8 80:2 81:2</p> <p>referenced 69:13 80:11 81:15</p>	<p>referred 27:8 41:8,11</p> <p>referring 25:2,4 74:2</p> <p>regular 25:19</p> <p>relates 59:5</p> <p>relating 5:4</p> <p>relationship 37:14</p> <p>relative 77:25</p> <p>remain 28:11,18</p> <p>remarks 66:7,9 66:22 67:16,18 68:2</p> <p>remediation 38:25</p> <p>remember 16:7 16:10 22:1 27:7 27:16,16 28:1 32:1,3,6 38:13 42:20,25 43:8 46:3 55:25 56:1 64:23 65:10,10 65:18 66:3 68:5 70:2 72:13</p> <p>remembering 31:11</p> <p>remonstrance 6:19 8:9 17:6 20:20 31:1 32:15,16 33:22 33:25 34:9,13,24 36:11 37:19 47:11,18 48:3 50:1 54:17,20,25 55:6,10,13 56:2 58:4,11,22 59:9 62:18 63:3,18,24</p>
---	---	--	---

<p>66:2 71:5 remonstrate 21:5,13 45:1 remonstration 17:4,9 18:11 22:23 31:8 32:5 32:5 35:12 36:2 36:24 40:22 41:1,20,21 45:21 46:2,18 47:22 48:7 59:21 60:14 63:15 64:9 65:1,21 68:15 remonstrative 35:1 remonstrators 62:22 repeat 14:17 61:7 repeated 57:15 rephrase 61:7 report 10:20 18:16,20 21:2 22:13 23:20,25 29:11 42:10,12 42:19,21,22,24 43:13 69:5,9 72:19,22,23 73:2 73:19,25 74:3 reported 36:19 43:1,3 reporter 51:24 67:6 80:7 reporting 42:18 68:23 69:17 71:3</p>	<p>represent 17:1 19:8 66:17 representation 68:6 representatives 69:22 represented 77:21 republic 10:11 request 44:10 81:9,11 requested 46:11 67:5 requesting 40:19 41:16 46:1 47:21 required 79:25 research 9:11,12 9:18 11:18 residence 11:8 78:12 resident 15:24 residents 1:6 11:3,5 13:11 14:1,20,23 16:15 16:19 17:5 20:16 27:4 28:3 33:9,15 34:3 38:17 39:15 40:7 41:14,18 42:2,3,13,23 47:19 49:22 75:14 79:6 80:3 81:3 resources 12:15 18:8 respect 8:21 48:2</p>	<p>respected 8:19 respondents 1:11,17 2:7 77:10 responsibility 24:12 34:4 responsible 24:10 restroom 6:9 result 20:19 47:17 results 32:18 resume 39:17 returned 79:19 reveal 38:11 revenue 33:10 review 67:12 79:13 80:1 81:1 reviewed 51:13 rhonda 8:5 14:11 15:12 43:19 rice 46:22 47:7,9 right 6:21 9:21 16:10,12 20:2,4 21:14,16 23:8 24:4 31:3,6 42:3 42:5 46:14 48:2 49:17 50:4 51:2 52:5,22 56:8 57:21 58:7,11 62:20 63:16 68:23 69:4 70:17,22,25 72:16 74:13 rights 16:24 risk 36:5 37:23</p>	<p>rita 7:23 8:2,3,9 8:12 13:23 19:17,17 20:1 24:9,9 32:17 36:6 43:23 44:5 44:16 rita's 32:24 rite 34:6 road 43:10 robertson 1:17 2:4 77:11 roger 14:10,19 15:9 rogers 19:24 role 66:1 room 33:7 roster 34:7 roughly 20:5 36:16 rouker 2:12 roukerm 2:15 rules 1:19 5:25 77:14 80:5 81:5 run 67:22 running 41:9 russell 72:7</p>
s			
<p>s 9:4 79:16 81:8 81:8 82:3 sabbagh 13:24 14:9 15:1 17:10 saith 76:7 saltcreek 9:7 sandberg 28:8 28:16 sandy 13:24 14:9 15:1 17:9 19:17</p>			

<p>20:1 22:2,16 24:8 30:11 sanitizer 30:19 sasse 16:11,12 save 18:1,2 saw 27:17 saying 25:17 40:11 54:12 65:18 says 40:9,17 56:15,22 57:13 57:23 58:6,7 61:9,19 62:8 63:16 73:18 75:13,17 scale 29:17 scheduled 28:12 school 11:22,23 15:21 16:17 19:11 37:6 schoolteacher 12:21 science 12:12 16:6 scott 14:15 15:12 seal 78:4,11 80:15 81:21 searching 44:12 second 24:22 27:8 40:5,10,17 41:3 51:25 53:11 54:15 73:11 75:13 secretary 11:9 14:12 securing 9:25 security 31:22</p>	<p>see 32:18 38:24 46:12 51:8 52:22 54:13 56:17,24 57:6 59:16,22 61:6,12 61:13 62:12 73:21 74:12 75:12 seeing 55:16 seeking 38:18 47:4 48:5 seen 5:22 39:21 63:10 64:1 75:5 self 61:22 senator 16:7 send 31:13 68:2 sentence 40:17 40:24 separate 22:11 separately 34:19 september 23:3 23:3,5,7,10 41:22,23 43:6 serve 14:9 61:22 service 61:4,9 62:11 services 10:6 15:23 57:1 61:19 set 78:3 setting 65:24 sgambelluri 28:7 28:16 shared 20:15 71:24 sharp 19:22 sheet 20:23 22:11 79:14</p>	<p>81:7,10,18 82:1 shift 28:13 short 12:13 30:7 shot 39:20 showed 25:12 showers 52:11 53:19 58:9,14,15 showing 53:20 shown 79:16 sick 31:12,12 side 24:11 sidetracked 22:25 sifin 43:9 sign 21:4 26:6 31:14,15 44:7 51:19 52:20 53:6,12,17 54:2 54:16,19 55:5,10 55:13,17 56:5,6 56:9,9,10,11,15 56:21 57:12,23 58:22 60:1,1,2,5 60:11 61:3,9 62:22 69:3 71:5 71:15,23 72:5 signature 17:8 32:2,8 33:24 34:13 51:6 58:4 76:4 77:20 78:8 79:15 signatures 17:6 17:19 18:4 21:18 22:4,18 24:2 34:23 36:25 44:13,22 44:23 68:16,16 68:24 69:6,10,18</p>	<p>70:12,13,18,21 70:24 signed 24:7 26:7 31:3,8 32:10,15 32:16 51:8,11,13 80:13 81:18 significant 23:16 72:10 signing 32:9 43:21 55:1 59:9 62:18 63:3 79:20 signs 54:12 similar 39:6 sincerely 79:21 single 22:8 sir 79:10 sit 5:20 site 25:8 sitting 29:1 situation 31:25 six 14:16 small 24:16 65:24 smaller 29:20 smith 35:5,8 37:18 64:17 social 31:22 software 26:21 soiled 19:1 sole 9:21 33:10 solutions 79:1 82:1 somebody 8:20 26:24 28:13 37:7 49:14 somewhat 9:17</p>
--	---	--	---

<p>sophomore 16:5 sorry 10:1 11:8 20:8 47:9 51:24 75:1 sounds 23:8 70:17 source 33:10 66:22 67:14 south 1:17 2:4 25:20 28:24 30:21 32:24 77:11 sowers 43:10 spanish 57:15 speak 25:12 26:9 26:14 27:6,23 35:1 39:13 66:5 66:7,8,9,23 speaking 47:6 50:13 spearhead 11:20 spearheaded 15:13 spearheads 67:24 specific 22:8 31:11,25 62:20 71:4 specifically 28:1 39:1 66:3 72:13 speeches 48:17 spoke 27:7 46:4 48:23 64:21 spoken 72:12 spread 25:25 45:6 52:12 spreadsheet 32:21</p>	<p>ss 1:1 77:1 staff 64:24,25 stairs 53:13 stairway 53:10 start 5:24 started 8:10 17:25 22:24 25:25 starting 72:15 state 1:1,16 5:9 11:9 42:7 77:1,4 78:11 80:10 81:15 statement 80:13 80:14 81:19,19 statements 49:1 51:16 station 12:11 28:2 statistics 13:10 stay 7:5 27:14 48:19,21 stenographically 77:16 step 7:16 steps 17:21 stewards 18:8 stewart 14:10,19 15:9 stop 53:6 56:15 57:13 stopped 58:17 stories 30:22 street 2:13,17 19:5 20:17,17 25:20 string 10:9,10</p>	<p>studied 12:4 studies 36:9 studying 16:5 subject 32:13 50:25 51:9 submitted 29:12 42:11 65:22 submitting 44:19 subscribed 80:10 81:14 82:21 substantially 74:23 success 11:20 successful 15:5 sue 28:7,16 suite 2:10,14,18 79:2 summarized 42:11 summer 18:12 summertime 30:16 sunday 22:3 superior 79:1 support 33:16 44:4 sure 6:8 8:5 9:3 21:9 23:22,23 24:25 29:18 30:25 31:20 32:12 34:23 36:15 37:17 40:4 46:25 53:24,25 58:19 60:6 67:1 68:2 70:4</p>	<p>surprised 28:19 59:21 surrounding 10:17 susan 28:7,15 sworn 1:15 5:3 77:6 80:10,13 81:14,18 82:21 syllable 50:17 system 19:11,11 19:13 32:22 systems 19:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">t</p> <hr/> <p>t 73:6 take 6:7,9 17:21 45:10 51:25 52:16,18 56:11 60:21 62:2 63:8 67:1,7 taken 1:16 5:14 12:18 29:3 44:21 45:12 59:19 63:22 77:9,15 talk 37:18 46:16 48:14 65:23 talked 11:2 19:22 22:1 38:6 38:8 42:17 47:16 talking 20:4,9 29:10 30:8 39:5 45:17 46:1 tally 29:14 tax 18:2,24 19:8 20:25 21:9 22:13</p>
---	---	--	--

<p>taxes 7:10 49:6 team 20:4 62:11 technically 35:24 telephone 57:25 telephones 13:14 tell 5:3 6:12 22:5 30:22 44:25 49:15 60:5 66:21 77:6 ten 9:9 tentacles 45:5 terms 7:4 37:18 terrible 36:3 territories 6:16 15:2,10 65:6,25 testified 5:5 43:19 testimony 36:8 57:8 77:18 80:6 80:7 81:6,9,12 text 45:24 46:6 46:12 67:5 texted 45:25 thank 10:2,2 14:20 75:24 76:4 thanked 64:24 thanks 6:11 theft 31:19 thereof 1:19 thing 27:25 60:7 67:4 things 10:17 17:12,17 25:18 31:23 45:17 75:12</p>	<p>think 5:16 6:20 7:15 8:16,21 10:18,25 15:18 16:6,9 22:24,24 23:3,5 27:20,21 28:23 29:2,5 30:3,4 31:7 32:17 34:22 37:3 38:5 42:2 42:15,20 44:1 45:24 46:22 47:14 55:24 56:12 59:11 60:14 65:2,8 67:3,24 68:7 70:1 71:12 third 41:3 51:5 thirty 79:19 thomas 13:23 14:15 15:17,18 35:22 thought 7:15 12:19,22 13:1,6 13:22 20:9 39:10,20 55:19 thousands 40:19 41:15 three 26:10 35:9 35:16 38:7 43:19 49:25 69:24 73:18 threshold 69:14 thrown 37:15 thursday 64:12 tide 10:5 time 1:19 5:1 8:14 10:7,25 12:13 18:13,15</p>	<p>28:24 32:6 33:20 35:10,15 36:3,19 39:19 44:10,23 48:23 50:19 51:11 58:20 59:10 62:16,25 68:22 70:22 71:10,11 71:13 76:6 times 38:7 63:18 title 39:20 titled 63:14 today 6:13 51:20 55:7,8 75:5 told 26:19,25 54:21 topic 46:7 totals 23:20 town 24:11 township 8:14 9:6 25:21 33:6 41:4 43:25 township's 33:1 track 18:23 transcribed 77:16 80:7 transcript 77:17 79:12,13 80:5,12 81:5,11,17 transfer 18:21 transferring 9:22 transpired 39:12 treasurer 14:10 14:18,19 trial 1:19 77:14 tried 19:18,19</p>	<p>true 30:2,3,4 31:7 51:17 77:18 trustee 8:14 33:3 33:4 trustee's 33:6 41:4 trustees 25:21 truth 5:3,4,4 6:13 77:7,7,7 truthfully 6:1 try 5:24 7:16 20:18,18 36:22 37:7 trying 10:19 43:12,13 44:9 turn 70:7 turned 55:14 68:15 turning 23:19 twice 59:20 two 8:16 14:12 14:13 34:16 40:18 43:6 49:24 70:8,13,25 typewritten 77:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">u</p> <hr/> <p>uh 62:13 ultimately 6:22 31:2 unable 7:13 26:14,22 underneath 51:8 understand 6:2 6:4 10:3 12:3 16:24 32:12</p>
---	--	--	---

<p>43:13,14 57:19 58:23 59:7 60:2 60:8 65:4 understanding 23:23 39:11 understood 21:9 41:7 university 12:13 untrue 75:20 uploaded 18:16 usable 18:20 use 6:9 18:23 33:7 39:18 54:4 57:25 useful 13:22 utilities 61:21,25 62:23 utility 59:6,7,12 61:3,24 62:2,3 62:15,16 63:3,19 63:23 64:3,3</p>	<p>veritext.com. 79:17 vice 14:9 view 65:15 viewing 54:25 virus 36:22 visitors 61:5,10 voicing 21:15 volunteer 49:14 volunteered 34:8 volunteers 17:18 17:22 22:21 24:1,6 30:12 33:24 34:14,21 42:16 69:2 vote 18:3,8 23:11 40:20 41:16 voted 23:4,5 vs 1:8</p>	<p>wanted 10:14,14 15:8 17:3 23:11 43:12 49:14 71:5,15 74:1 water 37:15 way 14:2 21:19 41:22 42:10 62:14 64:2 wear 30:17,18 website 10:21,25 18:22 49:23 wednesday 25:22 week 23:9 63:4 weeks 49:24,25 welcome 54:13 56:22 went 35:14 37:5 46:3 54:23 55:5 55:7,9,11 58:15 62:2</p>	<p>witnesses 11:3 27:17 64:16 witness' 79:15 wjbeggs 2:6 wonder 66:23 wondered 31:21 word 49:19 work 9:10,19 19:2,18,23 24:8 28:14 41:3 72:7 worked 19:20 workers 10:5 worried 28:12 30:15 31:19 worry 30:14 31:13 wound 24:21 wrap 10:19 write 40:12 50:22 75:1 written 1:19 21:23 42:21 wrong 50:11 wrote 50:24</p>
<p>v</p>	<p>w</p>	<p>west 24:11 whereof 78:3 wicker 13:24 16:1,2 34:6 39:14 40:3 41:7 75:3 wicker's 75:6 william 2:3 3:5 74:9 79:5 willing 44:7 witness 1:15 50:13,16 66:23 76:2 78:3 79:9 79:12 80:1,4,11 81:1,4,15 witnessed 62:23</p>	<p>y</p>
<p>v 79:6 80:3 81:3 valid 29:25 validate 21:12 validity 43:17 van 8:13 33:3,4 41:4 44:3 variant 36:16,23 variants 70:24 various 43:15 50:25 venue 27:1 venues 65:12,17 venus 65:7 veritext 79:1,8 82:1</p>	<p>waived 79:20 waiver 29:25 waivers 19:3,20 43:17 68:19 waking 30:10 walk 52:7 56:21 61:4,10 walnut 25:20 28:24 30:21 32:24 want 9:2 10:3 18:9 31:14,15 34:22 45:8 56:21 64:7 74:25</p>	<p>yeah 12:5 19:13 23:3 25:1,19 37:5,9 40:16 42:6 46:15,15 47:3,6 48:14 53:19 61:8 67:7 70:16 74:17 year 73:1 years 9:9 12:16 12:21 15:4 young 16:4,14 39:16</p>	

z
zoom 26:20 27:4 27:12,14 28:8

Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure
Depositions Upon Oral Examination

Rule 30

(e) Submission to witness--Changes--Signing.

(1) When the testimony is fully transcribed, the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for reading and signing and shall be read to or by him, unless such reading and signing have been waived by the witness and by each party. "Submitted to the witness" as used in this subsection shall mean (a) mailing of written notification by registered or certified mail to the witness and each attorney attending the deposition that the deposition can be read and examined in the office of the officer before whom the deposition was taken, or (b), mailing the original deposition, by registered or certified mail, to the witness at an address designated by the witness or his attorney, if requested to do so by the witness, his attorney, or the party taking the deposition.

(2) If the witness desires to change any answer in the deposition submitted to him, each change, with a statement of the reason therefor, shall be made

by the witness on a separate form provided by the officer, shall be signed by the witness and affixed to the original deposition by the officer. A copy of such changes shall be furnished by the officer to each party.

(3) If the reading and signing have not been waived by the witness and by each party the deposition shall be signed by the witness and returned by him to the officer within thirty (30) days after it is submitted to the witness. If the deposition has been returned to the officer and has not been signed by the witness, the officer shall execute a certificate of that fact, attach it to the original deposition and deliver it to the party taking it. In such event, the deposition may be used by any party with the same force and effect as though it had been signed by the witness.

(4) In the event the deposition is not returned to the officer within thirty (30) days after it has been submitted to the witness, the reporter shall execute a certificate of that fact and cause the certificate to be delivered to the party taking it. In such event, any party may use a copy of the

deposition with the same force and effect as though
the original had been signed by the witness.

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ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.
THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,
2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE STATE RULES
OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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