

EXHIBIT 1

MEMORANDUM

TO: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
FROM: Elliot S. Berke
DATE: September 5, 2020
RE: Internal Review of Office of Congressman Hagedorn Franking Issues

Berke Farah LLP was engaged by Congressman Hagedorn on June 18, 2020 to conduct an internal review of costs his office incurred by franked mail vendors after he became concerned about the extent of the charges. During the review, Congressman Hagedorn and members of his official staff and his campaign team were interviewed and nearly 2,000 pages of documents provided by his office were reviewed. On July 30, 2020, Congressman Hagedorn notified the Committee on House Administration (“House Administration Committee”) about this internal review and stated that he may need additional guidance as it proceeded. On August 10, 2020, Congressman Hagedorn filed a self-report with the Committee on Ethics (“Ethics Committee”) in accordance with its Rule 18(c), and the Ethics Committee informed Congressman Hagedorn that it appreciated his diligence in self-reporting the matter and would consider it under its Rule 18(a) (“Self-Report”). Congressman Hagedorn appreciates the Ethics Committee’s oversight of this matter and will provide these findings to it for its consideration.

Findings

On June 8, 2020, an article appeared in *LegiStorm* entitled “Rep. Hagedorn spent 40 percent of his 2020 budget in just 3 months.”¹ Out of the abundance of caution and to make certain that his office’s franking charges during this quarter were consistent with all House Rules and Standards of Conduct, Congressman Hagedorn engaged this law firm to conduct an internal review (“Internal Review”). Nine franking vouchers were identified for scrutiny, six of which were performed by vendor Abernathy West LLC (“Abernathy West”) and three of which were performed by vendor Invocq Technologies LLC (“Invocq”).

¹ See https://www.legistorm.com/pro_news/view/id/2586.html? (visited on September 3, 2020).

The Congressman's then-Chief of Staff, Peter Su, was responsible for contracting with both Abernathy West and Invocq, as Congressman Hagedorn had delegated that task to Mr. Su. Congressman Hagedorn generally weighed in on franking content but was not involved with selecting the vendors or negotiating the costs. No actual contracts were located for either vendor, but the fees charged by Abernathy West and Invocq were compared against three independent firms recognized in the industry. Based on these objective comparisons, it appears that Abernathy West and Invocq charged Congressman Hagedorn's office significantly more than the fair market for franking services.

Upon determining that the congressman's office was charged significantly more than fair market for these franking services, an attempt to determine why said charges deviated from the industry norm was undertaken. While the House Administration Committee offers guidance to Members of Congress on franking issues, it does not set rates for franking vendors. Based on a review of office expenditures, Congressman Hagedorn has not overspent his \$1.4 million annual office allotment and is presently on target to operate at a surplus for 2020.

The Internal Review revealed a potential familial interest in Abernathy West by one senior office employee and a direct ownership interest in Invocq by a part time office employee. According to a provision in the House Administration Committee *Member's Congressional Handbook*:

Unless specifically authorized by an applicable provision of federal law, House Rules, or Committee Regulations, no Member, relative of the Member, or anyone with whom the Member has a professional or legal relationship may directly benefit from the expenditure of the MRA.²

Congressman Hagedorn had no knowledge of the potential interest or the direct staff interest prior to the Internal Review. Upon learning of them, he suspended the two employees until further notice while the Internal Review was pending and barred the two staffers from returning to the official office. He also ceased all franked mail contracts. Congressman Hagedorn

² See <https://cha.house.gov/member-services/handbooks/members-congressional-handbook> (visited on September 3, 2020). Although Congressman Hagedorn has accepted responsibility for the contracts even though they were executed without his knowledge of the potential and direct staff interests, the actual impact of the expenditures when applied against this provision is by no means settled. The Ethics Committee, in the *House Ethics Manual*, has offered some insight into the scope of this provision but it does not appear to be conclusive: "While the application of these rules is within the jurisdiction of the House Administration Committee, *it appears* that these rules preclude a Member or committee from contracting with a staff member for the acquisition of goods, or of any services outside of the employment context." See https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/2008_House_Ethics_Manual.pdf (visited on September 3, 2020)(emphasis supplied).

consulted with the House Administration Committee about the potential interest and direct interest by the employees and included the information in the Self-Report to the Ethics Committee so that it could evaluate the relationships against this provision. Congressman Hagedorn fully agrees that he is ultimately responsible for actions of those in his employ, even when undertaken without his knowledge, and conveyed that sentiment to the Ethics Committee. He has directed his office staff to receive additional training and reestablished an office policy to prevent any contracts to be executed without his prior approval.

Abernathy West

It was determined that Abernathy West shared the same co-working address, phone service, and registered agent as Artemis ESB, whose CEO is Mr. Su's brother Szu-Nien Su. Although registered in Delaware (which does not require LLC's to disclose its members or ownership), Abernathy West and Szu-Nien's interest was not denied by Mr. Su or by counsel for Szu-Nein Su and Abernathy West. When initially approached about this matter, Mr. Su agreed to cooperate fully with the Internal Review. Mr. Su's employment with Congressman Hagedorn's office ceased on June 19, 2020.

Over the next few weeks, both Mr. Su and Szu-Nien Su through counsel promised cooperation on multiple occasions. That cooperation never materialized. Mr. Su's counsel authorized direct contact with Mr. Su, but Mr. Su did not respond. Counsel for Szu-Nien Su and Abernathy West consistently stated that their clients would cooperate with the Internal Review but never responded to multiple requests for information (and Congressman Hagedorn has no ability to compel said information at this time). This recalcitrance served to frustrate the Internal Review and delayed Congressman Hagedorn's Self-Report to the Ethics Committee by several weeks. Due to the limited documents that existed within Congressman Hagedorn's office, it could not be determined why Mr. Su selected Abernathy West as a vendor or if he had any relationship with it beyond his brother's apparent connection with it as discussed herein. Abernathy West does not appear to have engaged in franking work for any other Member of Congress.

Invocq

John Sample, a part time employee of Congressman Hagedorn's office, owned Invocq equally with Catherine Keszei. Mr. Sample submitted to multiple interviews during the Internal Review. He explained that Invocq, a two member LLC, became a vendor to the office after Mr. Su expressed dissatisfaction with vendor franking proposals because they were "too cookie

cutter.” Mr. Sample said the office felt it was under time pressure to get the franking “out the door.” Mr. Sample told Mr. Su that he was part owner of Invocq, a graphic design firm, with Catherine Keszei and that the firm could likely design and produce the franking content in a time effective manner. Invocq had not undertaken any franking work for any Member of Congress.

According to Mr. Sample Ms. Keszei performed the actual services for the LLC. Mr. Sample showed Mr. Su examples of Ms. Keszei’s work, and Mr. Su decided to award the franking work to Invocq. While Invocq’s hourly rates were higher than competitors as franking vendors, Mr. Sample provided a client comparison for Ms. Keszei demonstrating that the rate charged by her was commensurate to other non-franking graphic design production clients.

Shortly after Invocq completed its work, Ms. Keszei died. According to Mr. Sample, her passing rendered Invocq essentially defunct with no financial assets. While the documents surrounding its work for the Congressman’s office were limited (further complicated by Ms. Keszei’s death), it was determined that a \$0.25PP postage charge was incorrectly applied to vouchers 01239479 and 01246586. Mr. Sample apologized for this inadvertent charge, and on behalf of Invocq, agreed to adjust the rates accordingly and return the difference of \$8,800.00 and \$7,700.00, respectively. He agreed to reimburse the U.S. Treasury for the postage Invocq erroneously charged to Congressman Hagedorn’s office. As part of its consideration of this matter, Congressman Hagedorn requested guidance from the Ethics Committee on how Mr. Sample should effectuate that transaction and awaits its response.

Mr. Sample stated he did not believe his ownership interest, which was disclosed to Mr. Su, raised any concerns under the *Member’s Congressional Handbook* or any other House Rules or Standards of Conduct. Mr. Sample said he talked with Mr. Su about the permissibility of Invocq taking on the franking work. He also said he generally recalled asking about the permissibility of earning outside income as a part-time employee during an Ethics Committee training session but did not specifically discuss Invocq or franking work. He stated he did not perform services on the Invocq franking matter during official time beyond facilitating the relationship. If Mr. Sample’s ownership interest in Invocq rendered it ineligible to serve as a vendor to Congressman Hagedorn’s office in accordance with the *Member’s Congressional Handbook* provision discussed herein, it did not enter into contract with Congressman Hagedorn’s office with any intent to violate, or knowledge of, the provision. Mr. Sample’s suspension was lifted, and his employment was reinstated on July 9, 2020.

Conclusion

When Congressman Hagedorn became concerned about potential excessive franking charges incurred by his office on June 18, 2020, he took swift action and took corrective action. Among the steps he took were to commission an internal review by outside counsel; cancel any future franked mail contracts; make personnel changes (both temporary and permanent); and reestablished an office policy to prevent any contracts to be executed without his prior approval. He consulted with the House Administration Committee and ultimately self-reported this matter to the Ethics Committee. He will work with the Ethics Committee as it reviews his office's past vendor relationships with Abernathy West and Invocq. Congressman Hagedorn fully agrees that he is ultimately responsible for actions of those in his employ, even when those actions are taken without his knowledge. Congressman Hagedorn acted in good faith and did not personally direct, profit or intend for his office to bypass any established office procedures or potentially or technically violate any rule of the House.

EXHIBIT 2

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

Transcript of Interview of Peter Su

Review No. 21-7750

April 30, 2021

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3
4 OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS (OCE)
5 of the
6 UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7

8 OCE Review 21-7750
9

10 Interview of PETER SU

11 Conducted Virtually

12 Friday, May 30, 2021

13 11:06 a.m., EST
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19

20 Job No.: 370865

21 Pages: 1 - 173

22 Transcribed by: Molly Bugher, CDLT-161

1 Interview of PETER SU, conducted virtually.

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12 Pursuant to Notice, before Kevin James
13 Kiser, Notary Public in and for the District of
14 Columbia.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS OF
THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

SEAN QUINN, ESQUIRE
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. QUINN: Kevin, we can go ahead and
3 go on the record.

4 And hey, Peter, and thanks for joining
5 us today. How are you doing?

6 MR. SU: Good. Go ahead. Who else is
7 on?

8 MR. QUINN: So I was just about to let
9 you know. So I have Indhira is also -- she's my
10 co-counsel, she's also in the Office of
11 Congressional Ethics. I'll let her say hello,
12 quickly.

13 MS. BENITEZ: Hi, Peter, how are you.

14 MR. SU: Hey. Go ahead.

15 MR. QUINN: Indhira will mostly just be
16 listening in but she might have just a few
17 questions for you, kind of as we go through our
18 conversation. I think Indhira is going to turn
19 off her video and she'll turn that on in case she
20 has any questions.

21 And the other two people on the call,
22 just so that you know, Peter, are Kevin, who will

1 be transcribing our conversation, and then you
2 just heard from Crystal who is the -- our tech
3 support, and she will help us resolve any issues
4 if we have any technical issues. And then also,
5 she's going to be the one that if you have to
6 look at any documents she'll put them up on the
7 screen for you to see.

8 Does that sound good?

9 MR. SU: Yep.

10 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. And
11 obviously you and I have spoken before. Just for
12 the record, my name is Sean Quinn, I'm
13 investigative counsel at the OCE. We've talked
14 before and I've explained that you are just a
15 third-party to this review that the OCE is
16 conducting, just a witness that we think might
17 have some information relevant to the issues that
18 we're looking into.

19 I also wanted to make clear that the
20 OCE, the Office of Congressional Ethics, is
21 separate from the Ethics Committee. We have
22 separate processes. Our process just results to

1 the Ethics Committee and then they take that and
2 do what they will with it.

3 So today our goal is just to kind of
4 have, hopefully, a pretty easy conversation about
5 some of the things that you and I have talked
6 about on the phone previously and maybe just dive
7 into a little bit more detail on some of those
8 topics.

9 So forgive me if some of my questions
10 are things that I have asked you previously. I
11 know it seems a little bit repetitive or
12 redundant, it's just to get everything in one
13 place on the record. And then also, let me know
14 either now or at any point during the interview
15 if you have any questions about our process or
16 what we're doing here today.

17 Does that sound good so far?

18 MR. SU: Sure. I just have a quick
19 question. Perhaps this was discussed before, but
20 I just want to clarify it here since we have
21 Indhira also on the line. So the jurisdictional
22 coverage has oversight only applied to current

1 congressional staffers, and therefore I'm not
2 under your oversight, right?

3 MR. QUINN: Correct, yeah. So our --
4 well, number one as I said, the review that we're
5 conducting in this investigation you are not the
6 subject of that review. You're just a third
7 party witness to some of the issues that we're
8 looking into. And yes, our office, the Office of
9 Congressional Ethics, as well as the committee
10 only have jurisdiction over members and current
11 employees of the House.

12 As I understand it, you are not a
13 current employee of the House so we do not have
14 jurisdiction over you. You're a voluntary
15 participant in this process, and we very much
16 appreciate your participation.

17 MR. SU: Okay. And in the -- a lot of
18 the narrative that was driven by Congressional
19 member --

20 MR. QUINN: Peter.

21 MR. SU: Yeah.

22 MR. QUINN: Peter if I can -- we're

1 going to get into a lot of that and I'm going to
2 have specific questions for you. And then, at
3 the end of the interview, if you have some things
4 that you want to add I'll give you that
5 opportunity. But I want to respect your time and
6 everybody on the call, and I hope that we can get
7 through this relatively quickly, hopefully in
8 about an hour we can get through my questions.

9 But the easiest way to do that is going
10 to be if I can ask my questions and, we can keep
11 the answers, kind of, you know, concise and
12 targeted at what I've asked you. And then, I'll
13 give you a little bit of time at the end if
14 there's anything you want to add.

15 MR. SU: Yeah.

16 MR. QUINN: But mainly this is more of
17 a question and answer situation.

18 So with that, let me know, at any point
19 if you need a break while him asking questions.
20 If you need to use the bathroom or anything like
21 that, and then also if there's any technical
22 difficulties, like you can't understand what I'm

1 saying or if there's a glitch, or if I just
2 worded the question poorly, feel free to ask me
3 to repeat any questions that I've asked you,
4 okay?

5 Can you hear me? Did you understand
6 that?

7 MR. SU: Yeah.

8 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. So as I
9 said, hopefully it's just kind of an easy fairly
10 informal conversation. There is a little bit of
11 formality that the resolution that created our
12 office requires, which is that I make you aware
13 of the law 18 U.S.C. 1001, it's the False
14 Statements Act. And basically, that law which
15 always obviously applies to our conversation,
16 just means that it is a crime to lie, or make a
17 material omission to a congressional
18 investigator. And so I just want to make you
19 aware of that.

20 And I've actually just sent you an
21 email which you should be able to access through
22 your PeterSu2020 [REDACTED] account. I sent you two

1 emails, actually. One is a copy of 1001 which
2 will also pull up on the screen right now --

3 Crystal, if you can do that?

4 -- so you can look at that.

5 And then, Peter, I sent you a copy of
6 the False Statements Act as well. And then a
7 docusign email which will allow you to pull that
8 up and we just have a brief acknowledgement that
9 I'll ask you to sign that just says we talked
10 about 1001 and I kind of let you know the basics
11 of the content of that law.

12 So if you can check your email and pull
13 up -- let me know if you got the docusign email.

14 And then, if you want actually --

15 Yeah, Crystal, if you can give Peter
16 control of that document that you pulled up.

17 Peter, feel free to look at that and
18 scroll through that and ask me any questions that
19 you may have. But as I said, it's just simply
20 sort of -- you can think of that as essentially
21 being under oath. That any -- I'll give you a
22 second.

1 (Exhibit A was marked for
2 identification.)

3 MR. SU: Well, since you don't have
4 jurisdictional issue over me, my discussion with
5 my lawyer is that I participate on a voluntary
6 basis. I'm going to give you the best
7 recollection of the situation --

8 MR. QUINN: Yes, (indiscernible).

9 MR. SU: -- oh your check said.

10 MR. QUINN: What's that?

11 MR. SU: Well, I said I talked to my
12 lawyer prior to this, the whole time we've been
13 having conversations because you don't have
14 jurisdiction over a private citizen I'm
15 participating this in good faith, as a
16 conversation to help you with the background. So
17 I don't think it's fair for you to stick this in
18 my face and ask me to sign it without my
19 counsel's review.

20 MR. QUINN: Okay. That's fine. I --
21 we don't have to have you sign it. Or don't have
22 to have you sign the acknowledgement. I just

1 want to know that 18 U.S.C. 1001 applies to this
2 conversation.

3 MR. SU: No, I'm fine with -- yeah, I'm
4 fine but I'm not going to sign it without
5 counsel.

6 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great.

7 And then, as Crystal and Kevin let you
8 know -- or Crystal, let you know, the interview
9 is being recorded. And then Kevin is a court
10 reporter that is transcribing the interview.
11 Once we have finalized the interview I will send
12 you a copy of the transcript and you can look at
13 it and make any corrections, if there are any
14 transcription errors.

15 MR. SU: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. QUINN: Great. So then, just with
17 those housekeeping items kind of taken care of we
18 can get started.

19 If you can just state your full name
20 for the record, and then spell that out?

21 MR. SU: Yeah, it's Peter Su.
22 P-E-T-E-R, S-U.

1 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then, we'll just
2 start super basic questions. Can you tell me a
3 little bit about yourself and where you're from?
4 Specifically, just where you're from.

5 MR. SU: I'm just from here in
6 Virginia. So prior to -- yeah, prior to this
7 conversation, I guess, I was working for
8 Congressman Hagedorn up until, if my memory is
9 correct, June 19th, June 18th when I quit the
10 job.

11 MR. QUINN: And that was June 18th,
12 2020?

13 MR. SU: Yeah. It was either '18, or
14 20, 19, like that.

15 MR. QUINN: Okay.

16 MR. SU: 2020 is right.

17 MR. QUINN: And can you tell me how you
18 came to work for Congressman Hagedorn?

19 MR. SU: Yeah, it was -- I think it was
20 accidental. I didn't ask for a job. And like
21 many, I was not on his campaign. I simply have
22 worked with him and known him over the years when

1 he was in federal government.

2 MR. QUINN: Okay. So you had met
3 him --

4 MR. SU: So after --

5 MR. QUINN: You had met him previously
6 when he was employed by the federal government?

7 MR. SU: Yeah. A long time ago. It
8 was like 20 some years ago.

9 MR. QUINN: Okay. And from the time
10 that you met him to about the time that you were
11 hired by his office, or by him, what was -- can
12 you describe your relationship?

13 MR. SU: I think it was just a former
14 colleague. A friendly former colleague, that
15 would be the extent of the relationship. He had
16 moved to California and then moved to Minnesota
17 after retirement and, you know, probably very
18 occasional contact, you know. A few times a
19 year, sometimes not at all. So it wasn't a --
20 yeah, it basically wasn't until he was elected
21 that he contacted me and we got in touch -- yeah,
22 he told me he was coming back in town and he was

1 asking what I was doing. So that's kind of how
2 the conversation started.

3 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then, when were
4 you hired by Representative Hagedorn?

5 MR. SU: It was after freshman
6 orientation because I know his former -- his
7 campaign manager was interested in the job and so
8 were a bunch of other of folks that interviewed
9 with him. He told me that subsequently. I
10 didn't know that at the time. So it was after
11 freshman orientation and he said he needed
12 somebody that has a -- that he's worked with
13 before. So he offered me --

14 MR. QUINN: Okay. After freshman
15 orientation; was it before he was sworn in?

16 MR. SU: No. No, no, no. My
17 paperwork -- my onboarding, I was not hired until
18 after swearing in.

19 MR. QUINN: Okay. Got it.

20 MR. SU: So everything was already
21 determined. Everything was already predetermined
22 by Congressman Hagedorn. He's a very hands-on

1 member as you know from his file. He used to
2 work on the Hill for Congressman Stangeland so he
3 had already made final decisions on staff hiring.
4 He pretty much hired everybody on his campaign
5 team.

6 Hired everybody, brought me on board.
7 I think the only person we had not hired was some
8 low level staff. But all the key people were
9 already in place. I was just going through the
10 paperwork process of A) getting their resume,
11 giving them to our office administrative person,
12 Melissa Carr, and say hey, can you help process
13 the onboarding. And that's it.

14 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then was -- you
15 mentioned that he had mostly hired his staff
16 before you came on or had made those decisions.
17 Was John Sample one of those people that he had
18 hired before you came on?

19 MR. SU: I don't think so. I think he
20 knew John as well. He knew John, I don't know to
21 what extent they knew each other but he knew him
22 as a technical savvy person and I believe he came

1 in to ask John to help him set up the office
2 website.

3 And he had spoken to me about it
4 because I had worked with John before too. And I
5 said, sure, you know, try him out. If you like
6 him, hire him because it is well-known in that
7 office that he makes hiring decisions, not me,
8 unlike other offices.

9 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great.

10 MR. SU: And part of the problem that
11 our office administrator, Melissa Carr, will be
12 able to confirm is that his pay bands well exceed
13 normal pay bands for specific positions,
14 especially for folks that came from his campaign.

15 And that's why it was critical that we monitor
16 the budget and the spending very closely because
17 he wanted to spend, you know, a lot on personnel,
18 wanted the highest mileage reimbursement for the
19 district, so on and so forth. You know, travel
20 back every opportunity he gets.

21 MR. QUINN: Right. Okay. Understood.
22 And you were hired on --

1 MR. SU: If you --

2 MR. QUINN: -- I know you said that you
3 were hired on as the Chief of Staff. Did you
4 hold any other positions during the time that you
5 were Representative Hagedorn's Chief of Staff,
6 either in his office or outside of the office?

7 MR. SU: No. I spent full time working
8 for him. Yeah, that's a 24/7

9 MR. QUINN: Right. Right. I'm sure it
10 is. Okay. And then you said it was June 18th or
11 19th of 2020 that you ended employment with
12 Representative Hagedorn; is that correct?

13 MR. SU: Right.

14 MR. QUINN: Okay. And just focusing on
15 kind of that time. And the event of you leaving
16 the office, can you tell me how that happened?
17 We can save for later some of the substance of
18 the issues that came out in public reporting, but
19 just the conversation about how you were going to
20 leave the office, or the way that (16:14).

21 MR. SU: Yeah. So from the get-go, you
22 know, just the very hands on on his public

1 affairs business. Basically, he told everybody
2 that he must see everything that goes out with
3 his signature and -- because he had been a calms
4 a director before when he was on the hill.

5 MR. QUINN: Right.

6 MR. SU: He asked that -- what has been
7 you know, because what I because what I said is
8 irrelevant, it's what he said, right? I mean he
9 has publicly interviewed. You know, for example,
10 on KGCTV he said we've had a -- we have a portion
11 of our budget that goes towards mailings. We
12 were always going to do that. And on June 8, you
13 know, he also said, and reported to the press,
14 that we will be spending far less than others in
15 the last three quarters, no big deal. They told
16 us to send out the mail to keep our constituents
17 informed and that we did. Okay?

18 And the reason I'm saying this --
19 there's a reason also, on a August 7th phone call
20 to me he also made it clear that he wanted to
21 send a mail piece to every DM (ph.) household
22 now. So the mail project was no -- it was not a

1 stealth project, it was his project. We were
2 helping him executing it from the beginning.

3 So what happened was sometime around
4 June -- June 6, I believe LegiStorm wrote a short
5 clip that Hagedorn spent 40 percent of his 2020
6 budget in just three months. That didn't come as
7 a surprise either because based on what I just
8 quoted, in the Member's own words, this was his
9 project.

10 And in further press reporting, which
11 we can get into -- I'm not going to get into it
12 here -- it was clearly showing that he was
13 showing that he was directing and asking us to do
14 mail piece, let's say, you know, quote/unquote he
15 said we should do an updated mail piece on
16 Cambria. He wrote that on September 5th, 2019.

17 And in August 2019 he was briefed by
18 email, and his emails always include a bunch of
19 staffers, explaining that the office had just
20 sent out 67,800 pieces of mail so far. And
21 there are details about --
22 MR. QUINN: What are the --

1 MR. SU: Yeah? So all that --

2 MR. QUINN: We're going to get in --
3 yeah, we're going to get into some of the details
4 of that. If we could focus more closely just on
5 the time right around June 18th and 19th.

6 MR. SU: Sure.

7 MR. QUINN: Maybe I'll ask some more
8 specific questions. Did Representative Hagedorn
9 tell you that he was going to be relieving you of
10 your position or how did that happen?

11 MR. SU: Oh, no, no, no. No, far from
12 the truth. Far from the truth. So when the
13 LegiStorm article came out on June 6th,
14 internally, you know, he immediately responded to
15 several senior staffers that basically we'll be
16 spending far less. And somebody in the chain of
17 command, not me, informed him about the article
18 and that's where he said we'll be spending far
19 less in the last three quarters.

20 And internally, he said what should we
21 do about this? Sure we spent a lot, it was
22 frontloading. It was all preplanned to execute

1 his program. And he said that, you know
2 months -- this doesn't look good. And he called
3 me with the intent of saying -- he said, hey, can
4 you just take a break? You know, maybe -- he
5 called it maybe call it a suspension?

6 We'll put you on a break and we'll get
7 through this because my lawyer -- he said my
8 lawyer told me there was no specific rules based
9 on their understanding that probably was broken.
10 And so he said, hey, can you take a break. And
11 so at the time that's how it was framed.

12 MR. QUINN: And that was the -- he
13 asked you to take that break on June 18th or June
14 19th?

15 MR. SU: Correct.

16 MR. QUINN: And then, at some point
17 that break became permanent?

18 MR. SU: Well, I made that decision.
19 He did not make that decision.

20 MR. QUINN: And when did you tell
21 him --

22 MR. SU: Because --

1 MR. QUINN: And when did you tell him
2 that?

3 MR. SU: Yeah. Because as we thought
4 about this situation I said, now look, they're
5 going to come after you asking you to explain why
6 you printed all these mail pieces. Which we
7 understand, it was his program. We were just
8 helping him to execute it. There's nothing wrong
9 with it.

10 Every single piece of mailer was
11 accounted for. Every single piece of mailer was
12 approved by the bipartisan franking commission.
13 And in fact, he had done reviews on almost every
14 single piece of those mailers and many of those
15 he drafted himself. So there was no rules -- the
16 whole process -- we even competed --

17 MR. QUINN: So Peter, just if we can
18 focus on -- could we just focus on when did you
19 tell Representative Hagedorn that you were going
20 to leave the position permanently?

21 MR. SU: Well, because the article came
22 on LegiStorm June 9th.

1 MR. QUINN: Yeah.

2 MR. SU: So we already had that
3 conversation prior to June 18th or June 19th. So
4 that's one point I wanted to make clear.

5 MR. QUINN: Yes.

6 MR. SU: So it was June 18 or June 19
7 when I told him. I said, look Jim, it's easier
8 if I just exit. And that way I'm not hanging
9 over you. I don't have to be -- you know, you
10 can say your problem is gone.

11 MR. QUINN: Okay. So just to verify --

12 MR. SU: But I don't --

13 MR. QUINN: Just to clarify, it was the
14 same conversation on June 18th or June 19th,
15 Representative Hagedorn asked you to take a
16 temporary break or some sort of leave of absence
17 while this issue was resolved, and in the same
18 conversation you recommended, or informed him
19 that you would leave permanently; is that
20 correct?

21 MR. SU: Yes, exactly. Correct.

22 MR. QUINN: Okay. Okay.

1 MR. SU: Yeah, I told him -- I think
2 I'm going to resign because I don't want to be
3 hanging around and so you have excess baggage.

4 MR. QUINN: Okay.

5 MR. SU: And he said no, don't do that.

6 Just take a break because, you know, I still
7 need you and just take a break. We'll ride this
8 out and then you can come back. I said, look, I
9 can resign and when you ride this out if you
10 still want me to come back I can still come back.

11 So that's exactly how it went down. So I was
12 not fired.

13 MR. QUINN: Okay. Understood.

14 MR. SU: And also --

15 MR. QUINN: Okay. Let's --

16 MR. SU: Yeah.

17 MR. QUINN: Let's talk a little bit
18 about your responsibilities as Chief of Staff,
19 and I want to focus on approval for MRA spending
20 and any approval for contracts. Can you tell me
21 what your role as chief of staff was with
22 relation to those activities; MRA spending and

1 approving any contracts that the office was
2 entering into?

3 MR. SU: Right. So on all MRA
4 spendings he was briefed on the budget because --
5 on a regular basis. Our office finance
6 administrator, Melissa, she stops by the office,
7 usually Tuesday, Thursday every week, and she
8 also interacts with Hagedorn regularly because he
9 gives her receipts for reimbursement.

10 And in my standard operating procedure
11 on any kind of office spending was to check with
12 Melissa first because she represents multiple
13 offices. And she has the contacts in House
14 finance to determine whether a purchase is
15 authorized or unauthorized. Because ultimately,
16 the Member's responsibility is for any
17 unauthorized spending that can't be covered by
18 the MRA or any overspending.

19 MR. QUINN: Right.

20 MR. SU: And as a result we kept very
21 close touch at keeping the Member informed the
22 whole time as to, hey if you want to pay

1 everybody at the highest rate, give everybody the
2 highest reimbursement and you still want to send
3 a mail piece to every DM household down there, we
4 just don't have the money.

5 MR. QUINN: Right.

6 MR. SU: We won't have -- right.

7 MR. QUINN: Just so that I understand.

8 So I know that Melissa was the administrative
9 person that handled those finances, but as far as
10 final signoff for MRA spending was that
11 Representative Hagedorn or was that you or did he
12 delegate that responsibility to somebody else?

13 MR. SU: On small purchases I don't
14 need -- I got delegated authority, like, office
15 supplies and things of that nature.

16 MR. QUINN: Okay.

17 MR. SU: But on slightly bigger items,
18 for instance if we were going to upgrade the
19 computers for a couple of staffs or they needed a
20 monitor, of course the staffs tell me that they
21 that they have these requirements and then I
22 check the pricing, I check with Melissa whether

1 we can purchase it. And then, I inform the
2 Congressman, hey we're going to do -- we're going
3 to make these purchases.

4 MR. QUINN: Okay.

5 MR. SU: One way or another, when he
6 gets his biweekly budget briefing, of course, the
7 numbers always -- MRA numbers always decline
8 because of whatever spendings there are.

9 MR. QUINN: Okay. Okay. So for small
10 purchases, small office item purchases you had
11 authority to approve that spending. But for
12 anything larger Representative Hagedorn was
13 informed of that spending in these weekly budget
14 reviews?

15 MR. SU: I'll give you a parallel
16 example. You know, he wanted to do telephone
17 town halls and let's say I only scheduled three.
18 And he said, hey I want to do two more, I would
19 tell him, hey, this is costing -- you know, in
20 that same conversation I'd tell him the price
21 varies depending on how many people you call.
22 This is what each tele-town hall costs. And if

1 you want five the numbers don't add up.

2 And usually that's when I'd bring
3 Melissa in. I said, Melissa, help me out here.
4 Go explain to Jim because you're kind of
5 independent body in this office, you know. So
6 you can explain as a second party verifier to Jim
7 that, hey, it is true. You know, we've got to
8 prioritize what we spend because we only have a
9 finite amount.

10 MR. QUINN: Just so that I understand
11 the specific process. So once -- let's say an
12 invoice for one of those tele-town hall comes in
13 for some sort of service that was provided. Who
14 signs that invoice? Or who signs the approval
15 for the MRA funds to be disbursed?

16 MR. SU: Yeah. Okay. So an incoming
17 invoice does not need to be signed by anybody.
18 They go straight to Melissa's mailbox.

19 MR. QUINN: Okay.

20 MR. SU: That's SOP in the office. In
21 fact, staff assistant or whoever opens mail comes
22 in, sees an invoice puts it in -- sees a bill, a

1 Verizon phone bill, puts it in Melissa's phone
2 box. Every piece of invoice goes into Melissa's
3 phone box. I mean Melissa's mailbox.

4 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then does
5 Melissa generate some sort of summary, like, for
6 that weekly budget meeting that lists all the MRA
7 expenditures that would have happened?

8 MR. SU: Yeah. It's a fixe -- it's a
9 fixed grid. So it's a fixed grid. All I want to
10 know is are we on track; because just like
11 running a business she has -- based on the amount
12 of MRA available divided by 12 months our burn
13 rate, our expenditure rate for each month has to
14 be at or below a certain number. So sometimes
15 those meetings are actually quite easy. Are we
16 on target? That's all.

17 MR. QUINN: Okay. Okay. Understood.

18 MR. SU: Plus in that same month, if
19 the Congressman has an additional request for
20 additional tele-town halls or as part of his
21 wanting to send a mail piece to every DM
22 household down there, wanted -- said, hey, we've

1 got to send it to every farmer. We've got to
2 send it to every healthcare worker. Well, those
3 numbers are going to go up. Then again, I'd ask
4 Melissa what's our upper limit? How far can we
5 go before we cross that line? And she gives me
6 that number.

7 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great.

8 MR. SU: And that's what we tell the
9 Congressman. We have -- we can only do this much
10 based on the monthly burn rate. Or, if you want
11 to exceed that we'll have to spend less later on.

12 MR. QUINN: Okay. We're going to
13 return to some of that stuff a little bit later.

14 But maybe if I could just ask you quickly, so
15 after June 18th, June 19th, when you left
16 Representative Hagedorn's office can -- and then
17 up to today, can you describe your relationship
18 with Representative Hagedorn?

19 MR. SU: I've had pretty much no
20 contact with him other than out of the blue he
21 called me -- when did he call me. August 7th, as
22 was reported. When I first left, after I told

1 him that he didn't call me either. So you know,
2 I just --

3 MR. QUINN: Okay.

4 MR. SU: -- because he really wanted me
5 to stay. He really wanted me to stay on and I
6 said no. You know, I said no. I'll get out of
7 your way. You can tell people that he left. And
8 I said, once the storm's over if you really think
9 it's fitting for me to come back, I can come
10 back. We can have a conversation. That was how
11 I left it.

12 MR. QUINN: Okay. And so August 7th is
13 the only conversation you had with him since you
14 left employment?

15 MR. SU: Yes, to the best of my
16 recollection.

17 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. So --

18 MR. SU: Yeah. I want --

19 MR. QUINN: Obviously, we've talked.
20 Sorry, say that again?

21 MR. SU: Oh, I said I've already moved
22 on. So you know -- not that I have any reason to

1 get in touch with him.

2 MR. QUINN: Okay. So I want to move to
3 the topic of Abernathy West, which we've talked
4 about on the phone before. But you are familiar
5 with the company called Abernathy West, correct?

6 MR. SU: Yes.

7 MR. QUINN: Okay. Can you tell me a
8 little bit about that company?

9 MR. SU: Well, the company was my
10 brother's company. He had some people that
11 worked for him on the mail piece project, so.
12 But just like all other vendors that walked into
13 the office pitching what they can do for us you
14 know, mail pieces, business cards, telephone town
15 halls, surveys, you know, we treat them all the
16 same.

17 MR. QUINN: Okay. So you just
18 described it as your brother's company. He is
19 the sole owner of Abernathy West; is that
20 correct?

21 MR. SU: Yes, he is. Can you verify if
22 you've received the documentation from Delaware

1 State Corporation division confirming that's the
2 fact that I had zero interest in the company?

3 MR. QUINN: We're going to -- yeah,
4 we're going to look at that document in a minute.

5 I've just got some general questions for you
6 first and then we'll get specifically into
7 that -- into that document.

8 And he is the sole owner currently, has
9 he always had been the sole owner of Abernathy
10 West?

11 MR. SU: He's always been the sole
12 owner as far as I know, as far as public record
13 reflects it. I've always acted in good faith in
14 this project and I did not benefit from his
15 involvement.

16 MR. QUINN: Okay.

17 MR. SU: When was Abernathy West
18 formed? When was the company formed?

19 MR. SU: You have the document; you can
20 look at the document. I am not the
21 Representative.

22 MR. QUINN: As far as you know, did

1 Abernathy West existed before the mailing project
2 with Representative Hagedorn's office?

3 MR. SU: I know he's been involved in
4 graphic design work before, right out of college.

5 And I think this whole line of questions is
6 insinuating that a minority owned company cannot
7 do what an established companies can do is a
8 rather anti-Asian.

9 MR. QUINN: That's -- yeah, absolutely
10 not our intention. We're just trying to fill out
11 the details of the ownership of the company, what
12 the company does, and so I'll just be asking some
13 basic kind of questions about what the company
14 does. Obviously, I don't have that knowledge and
15 I think you know a little bit more about the
16 company than I do.

17 Can you tell me, does Abernathy West
18 have any other -- are you aware of any other
19 clients other than Representative Hagedorn?

20 MR. SU: I can't answer that question.

21 It's none of my business what a private company
22 does in their own time. And again, (inaudible)

1 anti-Asian insulation.

2 MR. QUINN: There is absolutely no --
3 and none of that happening here. I'm just asking
4 if you're aware if Abernathy West has any other
5 clients other than Representative Hagedorn.

6 MR. SU: I am not involved in a private
7 company's business. So I have no knowledge.

8 MR. QUINN: Do you know if Abernathy
9 West is still in operation?

10 MR. SU: I have no knowledge of the
11 private companies business affairs.

12 MR. QUINN: This is your brother's
13 business, correct?

14 MR. SU: Doesn't mean I have to know
15 everything about his business.

16 MR. QUINN: Have you had conversations
17 with your brother about Abernathy West?

18 MR. SU: No.

19 MR. QUINN: You've never discussed
20 Abernathy West with your brother?

21 MR. SU: Oh, no, no. Not recently.

22 MR. QUINN: Okay.

1 MR. SU: Yeah.

2 MR. QUINN: In --

3 MR. SU: I can tell you about we select
4 vendors, maybe that will help.

5 MR. QUINN: I'm just going to have some
6 questions about the company first, and then we
7 can talk about how you select vendors.

8 MR. SU: Okay.

9 MR. QUINN: But it's important that we
10 fill out the details on all the issues that we're
11 looking into.

12 So you are not aware currently whether
13 or not Abernathy West still exists? Or is still
14 in operation?

15 MR. SU: Right. I do not have
16 knowledge, and I'm not in the private business of
17 an independent company

18 MR. QUINN: Okay.

19 MR. SU: The full --

20 MR. QUINN: And do you know where the
21 company is based?

22 MR. SU: Not to my knowledge.

1 Obviously, what has -- with all LLCs they have a
2 registry of record so the registry of record --
3 let me ask you this. Do we have knowledge of
4 where the company that prints our business cards
5 is based? No. Right? Do we have knowledge of
6 where the vendors that provide the telephone --
7 the tele-town hall? No.

8 As OSE -- does House Rule have
9 regulations to ask each company to disclose where
10 they're based, their incorporation documents and
11 who owns the company. Does OSC have those rules,
12 or in House Rules? I don't think so.

13 MR. QUINN: I'm just asking you what
14 you're aware of. All we are here to talk
15 about --

16 MR. SU: I --

17 MR. QUINN: -- is -- and if you don't
18 know the answer to my question you can say that
19 you don't know. That's fine.

20 MR. SU: Okay.

21 MR. QUINN: But we're here just to talk
22 about what you know.

1 MR. SU: That's okay. I don't know
2 about where companies or based for any of our
3 vendors, including Abernathy West. I don't know
4 about the owners of any of our vendors.

5 MR. QUINN: Okay.

6 MR. SU: Except Abernathy West because
7 it came up in this discussion.

8 MR. QUINN: Okay.

9 MR. SU: But --

10 MR. QUINN: Where -- can you tell me
11 where your brother lives, then?

12 MR. SU: You can ask him yourself.
13 That's none of my business. He does not live
14 with me if that's what you're insinuating.
15 Again, this line of questioning is not something
16 that I'm interested --

17 MR. QUINN: I have no idea where he
18 lives, and I was not insinuating that he lives
19 with you. But if you know where he lives then
20 that's what I'm asking you.

21 MR. SU: Yes, I do. I don't think
22 that's -- I don't think that's relevant to this

1 line of questioning. Okay? You know, the House
2 has records of where his business is, how they
3 contact him, you know, I'm not his
4 representative. I acted in good faith the whole
5 time and I followed established office procedures
6 on purchases and I did not benefit from his
7 involvement.

8 MR. QUINN: I understand.

9 MR. SU: Before --

10 MR. QUINN: I understand that. To
11 complete our review, like I said, we just need to
12 fill out some of the details in the story. Then,
13 maybe we can move to -- can you tell me --

14 MR. SU: Let me just -- he is in --

15 MR. QUINN: Can you tell me how --

16 MR. SU: He is in the process of
17 getting a -- so I'd rather not get into that --

18 MR. QUINN: Getting a --

19 MR. SU: -- you know, any further.

20 MR. QUINN: He's in the process of
21 what?

22 MR. SU: Getting a divorce, so I'd

1 rather not get into this any further.

2 MR. QUINN: Okay.

3 MR. SU: I'm not his representative and
4 he's not my (inaudible).

5 MR. QUINN: Then let's just talk about
6 Abernathy West as it relates to Representative
7 Hagedorn. Can you tell me how did your brother
8 and Abernathy West discover that representative
9 Hagedorn had a need for printed materials and
10 related services?

11 MR. SU: Sure. As a freshman office it
12 has all kinds of needs because it is brand-new.
13 They need somebody to do the website, somebody to
14 do mail pieces, surveys, tele-town halls,
15 business cards so our staffs, including myself,
16 and many other offices attend these vendor forms
17 in Rayburn and different parts of the House where
18 they -- where vendors were present to engage a
19 lot of companies -- I'm sorry. To engage a lot
20 of offices, pitching products from database that
21 targets constituents, franked mail pieces, as
22 well as tele-town halls. And also, a lot of

1 those followed up by coming to our office to have
2 further discussions.

3 So one of Abernathy West's
4 representatives had stopped by the office.

5 MR. QUINN: Who was that?

6 MR. SU: My brother has also --

7 MR. QUINN: Who was that
8 representative?

9 MR. SU: I don't remember. I don't
10 remember the kid's name.

11 MR. QUINN: Okay.

12 MR. SU: He's been in the office a
13 couple of times. But he also does not need an
14 introduction to Congressman Hagedorn. They had
15 met before when Hagedorn worked in government.
16 So they've known each other before.

17 MR. QUINN: This is --

18 MR. SU: On a professional --

19 MR. QUINN: This is your brother, or
20 the representative that you're talking about?

21 MR. SU: I don't know. I don't know if
22 one or both but they know each other, you know.

1 It's Washington. People know people.

2 MR. QUINN: Yeah. I'm just asking; you
3 said somebody, I wasn't sure if you meant your
4 brother or the representative, had a prior
5 relationship with Representative Hagedorn so I'm
6 asking you which one of those people had a prior
7 relationship with Representative Hagedorn?

8 MR. SU: Yeah, I don't know. I don't
9 know which one. Somebody from the company has
10 had a prior -- all I'm saying is he doesn't need
11 to go through me to learn about things because
12 everybody in the office knows that Representative
13 Hagedorn wanted a large franking program. And
14 that's when we went through the effort of talking
15 to various vendors at these vendor forms and
16 talking to these vendors when they come in the
17 office. And basically, we tell them what his
18 requirements are. If you can meet the
19 requirements we can keep talking. You know, what
20 are your prices?

21 MR. QUINN: Well, you mentioned going
22 to, essentially, like a vendor fair where people

1 were offering their services; was Abernathy West
2 present at one of those vendor fairs?

3 MR. SU: Yeah. Yeah. Their
4 representative was hovering around, so.

5 MR. QUINN: Okay. And you don't recall
6 who that representative was?

7 MR. SU: No. It was a kid. He used to
8 work for another company but I -- but he told me
9 he worked for Abernathy West so I said okay.

10 MR. QUINN: Okay. And your brother
11 wasn't present at that meeting?

12 MR. SU: There's been several of these
13 late afternoon happy hours; he was present at
14 some of these, sure.

15 MR. QUINN: You --

16 MR. SU: But not at -- not at these
17 part -- he didn't -- he did not come in the
18 picture. He did not come in the picture
19 initially.

20 MR. QUINN: Okay. Do you know what the
21 first contact between either Representative
22 Hagedorn or anybody on his staff and anybody at

1 Abernathy West or their representatives would
2 have been?

3 MR. SU: No. I would have -- I don't
4 have any information on when we were in contact
5 with any vendors at that office. There's so much
6 stuff going on in a congressional office that you
7 know, that's not something we keep tabs of.

8 MR. QUINN: Okay. Do you know an
9 approximate date of when Representative Hagedorn,
10 or his office engaged Abernathy West to start
11 providing some of this printed material?

12 MR. SU: No, I don't remember because
13 there was just so much going on at that office,
14 you know. He wanted a mailer piece sent to every
15 DM household down there and we were doing our
16 best to help him meet those requirements. He
17 did -- Hagedorn did provide the first printshop
18 to print a couple of them. Again, I don't
19 remember how many were printed but there is a
20 differentiation between customized design print
21 and a print shop that simply prints.

22 MR. QUINN: Do you remember that

1 previous entity that Representative Hagedorn had
2 used? You said he provided one of the
3 printshop's first?

4 MR. SU: I think it was reported in one
5 of the news articles. It's a company in Blue
6 Earth -- I don't know the name of the company.
7 Just like all our vendors, as I've said, I don't
8 know who owns it, whether it's a donor, it's a
9 friend of his; I don't know. I've never talked
10 to anybody at that printshop. I just know that
11 he said use them first, so we used them.

12 And subsequently, when he is printing
13 pieces become more demanding because printshop's
14 don't do design bills, they don't design the
15 pieces for you, they simply are like Kinko's,
16 they just print it out for you. That's it.

17 MR. QUINN: Okay. And so at some point
18 and does Blue Earth Graphics ring a bell? Does
19 that -- I think that's from that article.

20 MR. SU: Yeah. I don't know the name
21 of it. I remember it was Blue Earth something.
22 And Hagedorn said he knew them and he said one

1 of -- he said his requirements are, you know, all
2 the pieces, he doesn't care who designs it, it
3 has to be printed in the state of Minnesota. It
4 has to be mailed out by franked mail in the
5 district.

6 MR. QUINN: Okay. So at some point you
7 all determined that Blue Earth Graphics wasn't
8 providing the services you were looking for and
9 instead you switch to use Abernathy West; is that
10 correct?

11 MR. SU: Well, that's not they were not
12 able to provide key requirements that the
13 Representative had. One was to be able to --

14 THE WITNESS: And what were those?

15 MR. SU: Well, one was to be able to do
16 very quick -- well design build. They don't
17 design bills. They don't do original art. They
18 don't do any design build., To my knowledge.
19 Again, I never talked to the company so I don't
20 know. And they don't do quick turnarounds.

21 For him to approve a piece that's been
22 initiated, you know, goes through 10 or more

1 mockups of the mail piece. And you know,
2 sometimes he doesn't like the photo in there, and
3 it has to be an original photo of him in the
4 district. Sometimes, he doesn't like the message
5 even though he's initiated on the message and
6 asked us to help the thoughts, the message.

7 And then, so after every mockup and go
8 through editing, it goes to franking commission.

9 The bipartisan franking commission, to make sure
10 that this close to final mockup still meets
11 franking rules. And then, he looks at it again
12 and if he still doesn't like it, which is usually
13 the case, like I said, a finished product
14 normally goes through 10 or more iterations with
15 him. So that's not something that the print shop
16 in Blue Earth does.

17 And we had discussed with all the
18 vendors that came to the office and vendors that
19 we interacted at these vendor forums to see what
20 kind of services they provide. And those vendors
21 provided what -- the term was cookie cutter.
22 Cookie cutter products. So they give you a

1 template and said insert the -- they ask you to
2 provide a background picture to insert. And
3 there's a fixed location for the subject. You
4 know, there's a fixed location for the body
5 message. So it was very fixed. And that's not
6 something that he was looking for.

7 So through that evaluation process
8 that's how -- and most -- by the way, most of the
9 companies were basically not interested because
10 of the number -- unlimited number of reviews and
11 editing that he required. And also, the
12 customization. Okay. So imagine, like, going to
13 McDonald's they ain't gonna to customize that
14 burger a whole lot. You want a customize it, go
15 to Five Guys; and you're going to pay more for
16 it.

17 MR. QUINN: So once you made a
18 determination that the other vendors weren't able
19 to provide that customization then, that's when
20 the office decided to obtain the services of
21 Abernathy West?

22 MR. SU: Yeah. It was not a singular

1 person, I, making that determination. So let me
2 make that clear. Because before a --

3 MR. QUINN: Can you tell me -- can you
4 tell me who was involved --

5 MR. SU: Yeah.

6 MR. QUINN: -- in that decision?

7 MR. SU: Well, you know, we as the coms
8 group, as a coms group, I didn't go to the vendor
9 form by myself. I went with the whole group. So
10 everybody is involved in comms. The LAs were
11 involved in the issue areas that the Congressman
12 wanted to communicate through these mail pieces.
13 So they were part of the editorial team, if you
14 would call it that. All right?

15 Then, you have the coms director, at
16 the time, who was from the district. So he knew
17 a lot about the district and also John was in the
18 office part time and he is a digital, I don't
19 know -- digital a lot of things. He knows a lot
20 about digital stuff.

21 So when it comes to whether a company
22 has the capabilities we collectively have to put

1 our heads together and ask who can provide us
2 this level of service. So yes, you know,
3 ultimately I have to synthesize everybody's view,
4 but it was pretty clear collectively who could do
5 it and who can't do it.

6 But -- and actually John was the one
7 that told us he knew a company who can do this
8 first. It wasn't Abernathy West.

9 MR. QUINN: Okay.

10 MR. SU: But we didn't (inaudible) jump
11 to Abernathy West. Like I said, we interviewed a
12 lot of vendors. We tried out the -- the print
13 shop that Congressman asked us to use.

14 MR. QUINN: Okay. And you said John
15 brought another company up during that
16 conversation. What was the name of that company?

17 MR. SU: He didn't mention the exact
18 company at the time. He said, look, you know, I
19 know another company that can do this too,
20 customized work. Okay. And my first interaction
21 and reaction to that is why don't you check with
22 Melissa first. Make sure, just like all

1 expenditures make sure that they are registered
2 properly and that.

3 You know, House finance, House
4 administration will be able to -- you have to be
5 a registered vendor. You can't just walk in and
6 do it without being a registered vendor. So
7 again, I was hands off from there. I said, go
8 figure it out. Look, I'm the Chief of Staff but
9 that doesn't mean that I do everything.

10 MR. QUINN: Just whether or not he
11 mentioned the name of the company, what was the
12 name of the company; I assume you know it now.

13 MR. SU: I don't remember at the time.

14 Later on, I found out the name of the company
15 because it was in the newspaper, they had -- you
16 know --

17 MR. QUINN: And just --

18 MR. SU: AT one point --

19 MR. QUINN: Just for the record, can
20 you say the name of the company?

21 MR. SU: Yeah. I think it's called
22 Invocq. I don't know --

1 MR. QUINN: Okay.

2 MR. SU: I don't -- I forgot.

3 MR. QUINN: And we're talking about --
4 and we're talking about, when you say John, we're
5 talking about John Sample, correct?

6 MR. SU: Right.

7 MR. QUINN: Okay.

8 MR. SU: And because he was a part
9 time --

10 MR. QUINN: And -- I had asked
11 previously when you said at some point John
12 raised this company but didn't name it at the
13 time. Do you remember when that conversation
14 was?

15 MR. SU: Well, it was at the time when
16 the Blue Earth print shop wasn't able to keep up
17 with the demands --

18 MR. QUINN: Okay.

19 MR. SU: -- the Congressman's mailings.

20 MR. QUINN: And when approximately was
21 that?

22 MR. SU: I don't remember. I left the

1 office; I don't have access to any documentation
2 or any phone records. I don't --

3 MR. QUINN: Do you know was it -- it
4 was in 2019?

5 MR. SU: Yeah, definitely 2019 because
6 the press reporting on the Congressman goes way
7 back. I mean it goes way back.

8 MR. QUINN: Was it in -- do you
9 remember the season? Was it the summer of 2019?

10 MR. SU: No. I don't remember the --
11 the day-to-day job of a congressional office is
12 hectic enough. You get out of there you try to
13 forget everything, so.

14 MR. QUINN: Was it right when you were
15 hired on or was it some months later?

16 MR. SU: No, it was some months later.
17 It was some months later because we didn't do
18 the -- we didn't do the mailers until the
19 leadership told us that hey, you know, this is --
20 as a vulnerable member this is what you need to
21 do. You need to allocate the maximum amount of
22 budget for franking projects, mostly mailers.

1 And you know, we simply asked the
2 leadership representatives (inaudible). I mean,
3 I asked him well, how much do you think we need
4 to put aside because the way Melissa says the
5 budget is we have to have specific categories.
6 So they said, yeah, you know --

7 MR. QUINN: And when --

8 MR. SU: -- at least --

9 MR. QUINN: Well, what was
10 approximately the time? You said at some point
11 the leadership informed you or Representative
12 Hagedorn or your office generally that sending
13 out these mailers would be a good idea. Do you
14 remember the approximate date of that
15 conversation?

16 MR. SU: No. I don't. I just -- you
17 know the session started in January so, you know,
18 it could have been -- it could have been two
19 months, three months after.

20 MR. QUINN: Okay. Okay. That's great.

21

22 MR. SU: Yeah. I should --

1 MR. QUINN: I mean, really as -- just
2 to emphasize, as we have this conversation I
3 don't expect you to remember exact dates but it's
4 just helpful if we can kind of create a general
5 timeline. And if it -- you know, if it's just
6 early 2019 or if it's spring of 2019 or summer,
7 that's helpful as well.

8 MR. SU: Yeah, it was (inaudible) and
9 then a couple of other friendly offices, you
10 know, incumbents, also told us about vendors that
11 they used. So once again, they said, hey these
12 are all cookie cutter man. Just take this and
13 take Congressman's so and so name's off. Put
14 your congressman's name in. It's the same issue
15 anyway, you know.

16 Because when issues are relevant there
17 are issues that are being debated, there are
18 issues that being voted on. Change the district
19 but not the -- they all approached it as a cookie
20 cutter project. But again, because Hagedorn won
21 by less than 1 percent, therefore, he was -- and
22 also as a former communications director on the

1 Hill he was very particular about customization,
2 making sure that he maximizes what is being
3 printed and maximizes on the quality and the
4 delivery.

5 MR. QUINN: Okay. If we can just to
6 nail down that timeline a little bit.

7 Crystal, if you can pull up the
8 document that's titled Entity Search, status
9 copy.

10 (Exhibit B was marked for
11 identification.)

12 MR. QUINN: Peter, just to help us
13 establish a little bit of a timeline, I'll pull
14 up that document that you sent me; the Entity
15 Search document and we'll look at the second one
16 later as well. But -- hold on a second.

17 Can you see the screen, Peter?

18 MR. SU: Yes.

19 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. So this --
20 can you tell me what actually -- can you just
21 tell me what this document is?

22 MR. SU: Well, it's from the State of

1 Delaware. You were asking me part of this
2 conversation -- on a separate conversation if I
3 could provide the entity registration. And I
4 said, I'll go look and request that from the
5 State of Delaware because that's going to be a
6 (inaudible) document.

7 MR. QUINN: Okay. and it looks like at
8 the top of this document there's a date 4/2/2021,
9 3:27:19 p.m.

10 MR. SU: Right. Yes.

11 MR. QUINN: Did you print this
12 document? Did you obtain this document yourself?

13 MR. SU: They sent it to me because I
14 had to pay \$20.00. You could have found out
15 yourself and gotten the same thing.

16 MR. QUINN: Okay. And so you're
17 telling me that you didn't print this document,
18 this was sent to you by somebody from the State
19 of Delaware?

20 MR. SU: Yeah, of course.

21 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then let's just
22 look at that --

1 MR. SU: This --

2 MR. QUINN: Let's just look at that
3 document. There's the incorporation date,
4 formation date 8/21/2019.

5 MR. SU: Okay.

6 MR. QUINN: You see that? Okay. I
7 just want to understand did -- given that your
8 brother is the owner, did you know that your
9 brother was creating this company before it was
10 incorporated in Delaware? Did you ever have a
11 conversation with him about Abernathy West before
12 its formation?

13 MR. SU: No. I don't know the
14 creation, the formation date for any of our
15 vendors. Including --

16 MR. QUINN: Okay. Did you ever have a
17 conversation about -- with your brother about him
18 starting this company?

19 MR. SU: No. I do not have
20 conversations with any of our vendors on when
21 they should start a company. And it's not a
22 requirement from House Rules that we obtain that

1 information from any of our vendors including
2 Abernathy West.

3 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then, let's look
4 at the second document that you sent me.

5 Crystal, if you can pull up that tab 1,
6 titled Exhibit A.

7 (Exhibit C was marked for
8 identification)

9 MR. QUINN: Okay. Can you see that
10 document, Peter?

11 MR. SU: Yes.

12 MR. QUINN: Actually, Crystal, can you
13 zoom out so that the full document is visible?
14 That's great, right there.

15 Okay. And so you sent me -- I asked
16 you to send me documents would show that your
17 brother was the owner of Abernathy West and you
18 agreed to do that and you sent me two documents.

19 We just looked at the first one which was
20 Exhibit B and then we're looking at the second
21 document, Exhibit C and it's titled, confusingly,
22 sorry, the title of the document itself printed

1 on it is Exhibit A, Members. And then, when we
2 received that document we Bates stamped it. I
3 mean we applied our own numbering system to it
4 and the Bates stamp for this document is PS_0002.

5 This is the document that you sent me,
6 Peter?

7 MR. SU: Yes.

8 MR. QUINN: Okay. And how did you
9 obtain this document?

10 MR. SU: Same thing, you asked for
11 incorporation documents and percentage of
12 ownership. They file a report and that's the
13 report that I got, the page that shows the
14 ownership.

15 MR. QUINN: And you're telling me that
16 somebody from Delaware sent you this document?

17 MR. SU: Yes.

18 MR. QUINN: From the State of Delaware?

19 MR. SU: Yeah. I already said that,
20 yeah.

21 MR. QUINN: How did you request that
22 document?

1 MR. SU: I called.

2 MR. QUINN: Okay. And it looks like
3 this document has a page number at the bottom.
4 It says page 14.

5 MR. SU: I do not have (inaudible) if
6 that's what you're asking. That's the only page
7 that I (inaudible).

8 MR. QUINN: What's that?

9 MR. SU: I do not have other pages in
10 case that's what you're asking. I do not have
11 other -- I asked -- you asked a specific question
12 and I requested a specific page.

13 MR. QUINN: Okay. Since we --

14 MR. SU: I mean, that's what --

15 MR. QUINN: And so just to clarify. I
16 made that request of you and so you went to the
17 State of Delaware, the secretary of State and
18 requested this document. So this is a publicly
19 available document?

20 MR. SU: I would assume so. They said
21 that -- he register -- they told me that the
22 company was registered through Legal Zoom, but

1 that won't be a document, that would be part of
2 their filing. So that's what I got.

3 MR. QUINN: Okay.

4 MR. SU: And again, there is no House
5 rule prior to purchasing any services that
6 required us to go through obtaining a vendor's
7 incorporation document, any vendor's ownership
8 so --

9 MR. QUINN: Okay. And did you ever
10 have -- so have you ever had a conversation with
11 your brother about the services that Abernathy
12 West was providing to Representative Hagedorn?

13 MR. SU: I guess I -- in the beginning
14 two or three months after --

15 MR. QUINN: Crystal, you can take this
16 document now, sorry.

17 MR. SU: So in the beginning, two or
18 three months after three session started was when
19 we learned from senior leadership that we should
20 do these mailers. And then, we engaged the Blue
21 Earth company based on Congressman Hagedorn's
22 direction.

1 And then, as the volumes he requested
2 built up they were not able to do so, so John
3 Sample said he knew a company. And then I
4 asked John Sample, go check with Melissa. Go
5 make sure the company can do business and make
6 sure this is not something that you're directly
7 doing. You're a part-time employee and he said,
8 yeah there's somebody else that owns the
9 company.

10 So then, we went with that company for
11 a while. But then the volume --

12 MR. QUINN: And that's Invocq?

13 MR. SU: And the volume's still
14 building up. So it wasn't until much later that
15 Abernathy came about. But we had engaged
16 Abernathy. We had interfaced with Abernathy
17 through these vendor forums and you know, drop
18 bys at the office. So it was not like this
19 minority owned company, you know, cannot do what
20 an established companies can do. We treat all
21 vendors the same way. We talk to them; we tell
22 them these are our requirements. It has to be

1 mailed from the district.

2 MR. QUINN: Had any --

3 MR. SU: Had to be printed in --

4 MR. QUINN: I understand that you said
5 that Abernathy West had a representative that was
6 in contact with Representative Hagedorn's office
7 and you don't remember his name and that your
8 brother also had some direct contact with
9 Representative Hagedorn's office. I'm asking did
10 you ever have any one-on-one conversations with
11 your brother about Abernathy West and the
12 services it was providing Representative
13 Hagedorn's office?

14 MR. SU: Yeah, of course. Yeah, it was
15 in a public context. When he comes we sit there
16 and we talk about hey, okay so if you guys are
17 going to do this you can meet these requirements,
18 right? And so the final answer was yes, we can
19 meet these requirements. Again, go talk to
20 Melissa see if your company is properly
21 registered to do business with member offices.
22 So again, my hands are off --

1 MR. QUINN: You just had the final -- a
2 final interview, was that a conversation that you
3 had with your brother in Representative
4 Hagedorn's offices?

5 MR. SU: Well, the final -- we have a
6 final interview with any vendor before we
7 actually hand them the first project.

8 MR. QUINN: Okay. And when did that
9 happen? And when did that happen with Abernathy
10 West?

11 MR. SU: I don't remember. So just
12 like --

13 MR. QUINN: Okay. When --

14 MR. SU: -- it was in --

15 MR. QUINN: Do you remember --

16 MR. SU: And we did. Huh?

17 MR. QUINN: If you don't remember the
18 time do you remember who was present for that
19 conversation?

20 MR. SU: Well, usually it's out in the
21 lobby or back in the bullpen where everybody
22 sits. So John would have been -- John probably

1 would have been around. The staff assistant
2 would have been around, but I don't remember.
3 There are so many people come to a congressional
4 office and work in a personal office.

5 MR. QUINN: And were you present for
6 that conversation?

7 MR. SU: Yeah, of course. I want to
8 make sure that any vendors that's pitching
9 services to the Member's office is able to meet
10 the Member's requirement. And secondly, any
11 vendors, including Abernathy Wet has to be pre-
12 approved by House Administration and Finance to
13 do business with the House. So those standard
14 operating procedures were all checked including
15 asking Melissa to check on those things.

16 MR. QUINN: Okay. So John, so just to
17 go back to that one conversation, it sounds like
18 your brother was in Representative Hagedorn's
19 office, you think usually or in that instance
20 John would have been there. You were also there,
21 potentially a staff assistant. Was
22 Representative Hagedorn present for that

1 conversation?

2 MR. SU: No, I don't remember if he was
3 there but he's met with my brother independently
4 at his office many times. So what they talked
5 about (inaudible) business.

6 MR. QUINN: And did Representative
7 Hagedorn, when he met -- sorry I couldn't -- I
8 don't think we've said it for the record yet.
9 Can you give me your brother's name?

10 MR. SU: Yeah. It's Szu-Nien Su.

11 MR. QUINN: Okay. Nien Su?

12 MR. SU: Yeah.

13 MR. QUINN: Okay. And you said that
14 he's independently met with Representative
15 Hagedorn?

16 MR. SU: Yeah.

17 MR. QUINN: Does he know Nien as your
18 brother? He knows that he's your brother?

19 MR. SU: Yeah, he's known him -- he's
20 been to Washington several (inaudible) he's known
21 him before. I don't know how they know each
22 other but he's known him before.

1 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then going back
2 to that conversation that we -- that you referred
3 to as kind of the final interview, was Melissa
4 present for that conversation?

5 MR. SU: I don't remember because
6 Melissa only comes Tuesday and Thursday. Like I
7 said, when I had that conversation with him it
8 was after his company whether himself or his
9 employee had been in touch with Melissa, had been
10 in touch with House administration and, like I
11 said, I don't know when they did these things and
12 what other offices he's approached. I'm not
13 saying that he did this just to get the business
14 of this office. I'm saying that I did ask him to
15 verify -- ask Melissa to verify that a new
16 company can do business with a House if it's
17 registered properly and I also made sure that he
18 knew that he had to still do his due diligence
19 and that he has all the registration taken care
20 of. And so as long as those are all taken care
21 of, and at least we've got the basics out of the
22 way. And then, most importantly just like all

1 vendors, can you meet the requirements. And if
2 it's yes, then we'll do a first purchase with the
3 vendor to see what the quality turns out.

4 So that's how it works when it comes to
5 buying business cards, buying mail pieces, buying
6 you know, surveys, tele-town halls. The same SOP
7 for all the office purchases.

8 MR. QUINN: Okay. Understood. And
9 then, I just want to ask you a couple of
10 questions. I think you understand that in the
11 public reporting and certainly to some extent in
12 the way Representative Hagedorn's office has
13 presented the issues there is an insinuation or
14 an allegation that you had some additional
15 financial or other sort of tie to Abernathy West.

16 So I just want to ask a couple of basic
17 questions and --

18 MR. SU: Yeah. No --

19 MR. QUINN: And I know that your
20 answer -- you told me your answer to these
21 before, but just for the record; did you receive
22 any financial benefit from Representative

1 Hagedorn's office acquiring Abernathy West
2 services?

3 MR. SU: No, never.

4 MR. QUINN: Okay. Did your brother
5 ever make any payments or give you anything of
6 value in exchange for that business?

7 MR. SU: No, never.

8 MR. QUINN: Okay. And so I just want
9 to be clear that if we obtain financial records
10 and look at either your financial records or at
11 your brother's financial records we won't see any
12 large transfers of -- or any significant
13 transfers of money or any gifts from your brother
14 to you around this time?

15 MR. SU: Correct, you will not.

16 MR. QUINN: Okay. Has anybody else,
17 other than anybody at Abernathy West, to your
18 knowledge received any financial benefit or
19 anything of value in exchange for Representative
20 Hagedorn's office using Abernathy West as its
21 printing service?

22 MR. SU: No. All our purchases from

1 Hagedorn's office are very straightforward and
2 follows the standard operating procedure as I
3 described earlier. They have to be pre-checked,
4 pre-approved to do business with House
5 administration. Then Melissa checks to make
6 sure that it isn't registered and then if they
7 can meet the requirements and we start up with
8 one purchase, see how they do and if they do well
9 and there's a need for a secondary purchase we
10 proceed.

11 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. Thanks for
12 answering those questions. I know those are not
13 allegations you enjoy hearing or -- but important
14 that we just address them directly.

15 MR. SU: Sure. Happy to bring -- just
16 those transactions there's none whatsoever
17 between him and I.

18 MR. QUINN: And then, you know, you
19 mentioned that you used Blue Earth Graphics
20 first, realized that they couldn't meet your
21 requirements, and then started looking at other
22 vendors, Invocq came up as the first vendor that

1 you used and then, as they couldn't meet all your
2 demands after that Abernathy West also came in to
3 provide some services.

4 Were there any other companies that you
5 recall the name of that you or anybody in
6 Representative Hagedorn's office looked into as
7 other companies that could provide those
8 services?

9 MR. SU: Yeah. What's the name of --
10 I'm drawing a blank on the company. They're the
11 ones that provide -- I think they're the one that
12 provide the targeting information, you know,
13 constituent targeting information. I can't
14 remember what the office used again, but -- it
15 might come to me later. I can't remember. But
16 they are -- they currently provide the office
17 with another product. They have --

18 MR. QUINN: How about --

19 MR. SU: It's the --

20 MR. QUINN: How about other companies
21 that would do, like, the printed material? Like
22 Invocq and Abernathy West did?

1 MR. SU: No, we -- we did not because
2 we talked to several vendors besides them. The
3 company that provide the targeting constituent
4 information that also did some of our tele -- the
5 office's tele-town halls, their service rep has
6 come by the office before and said, hey, if you
7 want to do mailers we can do that for you too.
8 You know, then when we got into discussions;
9 well, what do you provide and again, it's usually
10 the template. It's always been the template,
11 cookie cutter thing which the Member was not
12 interested. He wanted a customized job.

13 MR. QUINN: And then quickly, just
14 touching on Blue Earth Graphics also, the first
15 company that you all used. Did you ever have any
16 direct communication with them?

17 MR. SU: No, not that I can remember.

18 MR. SU: Okay. Does the name --

19 MR. SU: I might have called them. I
20 might have called them once because they were
21 behind and usually John Sample is the one who
22 calls. And you know, I thought John would,

1 perhaps brushing me off and didn't call them so I
2 might have called the line and said, hey, this is
3 Representative Hagedorn's office calling. Where
4 are we on that print job?

5 So that will be the only time that I
6 vaguely remember I might have called because I
7 thought that John Sample and some other staffs
8 were not giving me the clear answer.

9 MR. QUINN: Okay.

10 MR. SU: But again, that was not my
11 job. (inaudible) everybody's job. They all had
12 their jobs, so. You know, my job was to make
13 sure that standard operating procedure was
14 followed.

15 MR. QUINN: Right. I believe from the
16 public reporting I've seen that Jamie Lemon is
17 the owner of Blue Earth. Does that name ring a
18 bell for you?

19 MR. SU: No. No.

20 MR. QUINN: No. MR. QUINN: No.

21 MR. SU: House Rules doesn't require
22 the member's office to find out who the members

1 are and what their incorporated. I have no
2 knowledge of any owners of any businesses that
3 have done -- that have served the member's
4 office.

5 MR. QUINN: (Indiscernible) the
6 questions, of course.

7 MR. SU: However, at the point -- Sean,
8 at this point can you clarify based on OCE House
9 Rules if an office used a business that may have
10 a familial relationship, as in this case, but the
11 person in charge does not have -- did not have
12 benefit, did not have stakes in that -- ownership
13 stakes in that company, did that break any OCE
14 regulation?

15 MR. QUINN: I really can't answer those
16 kind of questions in the abstract. We really
17 only answer questions about specific situations
18 that we've been able to investigate. So --

19 MR. SU: Well, you just -- you just
20 showed me that incorporation document with 100
21 percent ownership by my brother. So yeah. I
22 have no ownership interest.

1 MR. QUINN: Yes. And as I --

2 MR. SU: So based on that (inaudible).

3 MR. QUINN: And as I've told you we've
4 seen that document. We've reviewed it. We will
5 be taking it into account. But like I've said to
6 you in the past, you know, I just can't give you
7 the conclusions of our investigation before we
8 close it out. I want to talk --

9 MR. SU: Not --

10 MR. QUINN: -- a little bit about
11 Melissa Carr. So can you tell me what her role
12 is? What her position is?

13 MR. SU: She is the office financial
14 administrator. She handles all the purchasing,
15 all the budget and all the onboarding for the
16 staffs, as well, as the Congressman's personal
17 expenditures paid for by DMRA.

18 MR. SU: Okay. And do I understand
19 correctly that she is shared with other members
20 as well?

21 MR. SU: Yeah, she's a shared employee.

22 MR. QUINN: Okay.

1 MR. SU: And so she comes with a lot of
2 knowledge of what is authorized spending and what
3 is not. And whenever there's a question she goes
4 and asks House Administration, and House Finance,
5 and gets that clarified.

6 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then, can you
7 explain to me -- let's just take Abernathy West
8 as an example. Explain to me Melissa's role in
9 first -- well, let's break it down. First in any
10 approval of using Abernathy West as a contractor
11 or service provider.

12 MR. SU: Well, I looked to Melissa to
13 give me the approval on any spending. Number
14 one, on the dollar amount to make sure that we
15 didn't exceed the monthly cap. Number two, I
16 sought to her approval to check, verify with
17 House Finance, House Administration whether this
18 is an approved item that we can purchase.

19 I'll give you an example. I tried to
20 buy masks during the beginning of COVID and they
21 said that's not approved. So we didn't buy any
22 because we didn't want to be responsible for that

1 unauthorized expenditure.

2 MR. QUINN: Okay.

3 MR. SU: So for this -- for any print
4 vendor, including business or print vendor I
5 asked her, hey, we've talked to this company and
6 they're going to do print pieces for us. Can you
7 check, make sure they're properly registered to
8 provide services? We tell the vendor the same
9 thing.

10 It doesn't matter if they're selling us
11 tele-town halls, you know, if they're selling us
12 business cards or selling us mail pieces. We
13 tell them the same thing. Are you an approved
14 vendor? But we're not going to take the vendor's
15 word. I have Melissa go check. So that was her
16 role.

17 MR. QUINN: Okay.

18 MR. SU: And when she -- her reasons is
19 yeah, they're good to go. Okay. So before we --
20 in the case of the mailers in order to pay a
21 payment, I don't have a checkbook. Okay? I only
22 have a credit card that pays for stuff on Amazon.

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MR. QUINN: Okay.

MR. SU: And so all the invoices, like I said earlier in this interview. Whoever sends invoices to the office, whoever sorts the mail immediately, automatically, puts it in Melissa's mail box. And then, she pays for it.

MR. QUINN: Do you know, does Melissa have to go to Representative Hagedorn to get him to sign off on the individual disbursements from the MRA?

MR. SU: No.

MR. QUINN: Like, is there any document that he signs that approves, you know, like let's say \$1,000 was going to --

MR. SU: No.

MR. QUINN: -- Abernathy West for a particular mailing; does he sign anything?

MR. SU: No. I got the --

MR. QUINN: Okay. So Melissa has that authority?

MR. SU: Say again?

1 MR. QUINN: So Melissa had that
2 authority?

3 MR. SU: Yes.

4 MR. QUINN: Okay. And then, and when I
5 ask this question I'm not making any implications
6 about what the House Rules are but did you ever
7 have a conversation about -- tell me your
8 brother's name again, Nien?

9 MR. SU: Yes.

10 MR. QUINN: Did you ever tell Melissa
11 that Nien was your brother?

12 MR. SU: No. There was no need because
13 the House manual didn't ask us --

14 MR. QUINN: I understand. I just
15 want -- I was just curious factually whether you
16 know, in the office Melissa knew, you know,
17 friendly conversation. Oh yeah, the guy that
18 owns Abernathy West is actually my brother.

19 MR. SU: Yeah. No, I didn't tell
20 her -- have that conversation about the company
21 that John is associated with either. I simply,
22 go, John, go talk to Melissa. Figure it out and