

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEs
10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CALVIN W. BRAXTON, SR. *
VERSUS * DOCKET NO.: C-90,284
LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS *
ASSOCIATION AND JAY *
OLIPHANT *

* * * * *

The deposition of CRAIG BROWN, taken in connection with the captioned cause, pursuant to the following stipulations before Kim Taylor, Certified Court Reporter, at the Law Offices of McCoy, Roberts & Begnaud, 300 St. Denis Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on the 2nd day of October 2020, beginning at 2:32 p.m.

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2
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ALSO PRESENT:
LT. MAJOR JAY OLIPHANT
CALVIN BRAXTON, SR.

3

1 S T I P U L A T I O N
2 It is hereby stipulated by and among counsel
3 for plaintiff and counsel for defense that the
4 deposition of
5 CRAIG BROWN,
6 be taken before Kim Taylor, Certified Court
7 Reporter, by counsel for the plaintiff for all
8 purposes, pursuant to notice and to the provisions
9 of the appropriate statutes of the Code of Civil
10 Procedure of the State of Louisiana.
11 The parties hereto waive all formalities in
12 connection with the taking of said deposition,
13 including the reading and signing thereof, except
14 the swearing of the witness and the reduction of the
15 questions and answers to typewriting.
16 Per Article 1443(D) of the Louisiana Code of
17 Civil Procedure, counsel for all parties reserve all
18 objections until trial or other use of the
19 deposition.
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9 OBJECTIONS:
10 NONE
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14 EXHIBITS:
15 NONE
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5

1 CRAIG BROWN,
2 after having been duly sworn, was examined and did
3 testify as follows:
4 EXAMINATION BY MS. CRAFT:
5 Q Mr. Brown, as you know from the reception room,
6 my name is Jill Craft. I represent Mr. Braxton
7 seated to my left in connection with a lawsuit
8 that's pending here. It's very important
9 during the course of this deposition that you
10 understand what I'm asking you. And if at any
11 time you don't, just tell me to stop and
12 rephrase it. I'm happy to do so for you.
13 It's also important nods of the head "yes"
14 or "no" cannot be taken down by our court
15 reporter, so you need to make sure to answer
16 out loud.
17 And my final instruction is unique to me
18 insofar as I may ask you to spell names,
19 places, or things. I'm not testing your
20 spelling. It's just much easier for our court
21 reporter who types actually in chunks of words
22 instead of individual letters to get down who
23 or what we were talking about. Is that fair
24 enough?
25 A That's fine.

<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>1 Q Can you give me your full name and address, please, sir?</p> <p>3 A Craig Brown, 443 Martin Luther King, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71457.</p> <p>5 Q I know you are friends with Mr. Braxton; am I correct?</p> <p>7 A Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>8 Q How long have you been friends?</p> <p>9 A A long time. I used to work for him.</p> <p>10 Q Yes, sir. Are you also friends with Mr. Oliphant?</p> <p>12 A Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>13 Q And how long have you been friends?</p> <p>14 A I've been knowing him practically all my life.</p> <p>15 Q So I'm guessing this is a pretty uncomfortable situation for you, sir?</p> <p>17 A Somewhat.</p> <p>18 Q Yes, sir. I'm going to try to make it as painless as possible because I do have some quick questions for you, and hopefully we'll get you out of here. Did you ever tell anyone that you knew Calvin Braxton had hired a private investigator or somebody to follow Mr. Oliphant?</p> <p>25 A I had a conversation with Mr. Braxton about</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>1 that because I had heard that. And I asked him, I said, "Mr. Braxton," I said, "You know, I've heard something that, you know, that rumor that you got somebody watching Mr. Oliphant's house." I said, "You know, I know him. I know you." I said, "You know, I'm just asking, you know, because, you know, we're all friends, you know." He said, "I'm not aware. I've never heard. This is my first time hearing it." And that was the last time we had that conversation.</p> <p>12 Q Did you tell Mr. Oliphant that you had asked Mr. Braxton specifically if he had hired a private investigator and Mr. Braxton said no?</p> <p>15 A I don't remember.</p> <p>16 Q Did you have any conversations with Mr. Oliphant about Mr. Braxton hiring a private investigator or having somebody follow him, anything like that?</p> <p>20 A Only conversation that I had with Mr. Oliphant was when I heard because I called and asked him was it so, you know, because me and Mr. Braxton, you know, we all drink coffee every morning. And I wanted to let him know, you know, this is the rumor that's going around,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>1 you know. So I asked Mr. Braxton about it.</p> <p>2 Q Did you tell -- did you have a conversation with Mr. Oliphant to --</p> <p>4 A About that. That's what I'm saying, yeah.</p> <p>5 Q So tell me about that conversation with Mr. Oliphant.</p> <p>7 A I told him, I said, "Jay," I said, "I heard that someone said that Mr. Braxton had somebody out there watching you, watching your house, investigating you." So he said, "Oh, yeah?" just like that. And I said, "Well, I'm going to ask him," you know, because like I said, you know, I know both of them.</p> <p>14 So when I seen Mr. Braxton the next morning, I asked him, I said, "Mr. Braxton, I want to ask you something," I said, "Because somebody is saying that you got somebody out there watching Mr. Oliphant' house in one of your vehicles." And he said, "Well, I don't know anything about it." And like I said, that was the end of that conversation.</p> <p>22 Q Well, then did you call Mr. Oliphant back and say, "Look, I asked him and he said no."</p> <p>24 A No, I didn't talk to him about that anymore.</p> <p>25 Q When you talked to Mr. Oliphant, did you tell</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 him anything other than, look, I'm hearing that there's somebody following you or that Mr. Braxton may have somebody following you, but I'm going to ask him tomorrow morning for sure. Is that what you told him?</p> <p>6 A Yes, ma'am, something similar to that.</p> <p>7 Q And you never told Mr. Oliphant that you had any evidence whatsoever that Mr. Braxton had ever had anybody following him around; isn't that right?</p> <p>11 A No. No.</p> <p>12 Q You never told him that?</p> <p>13 A Huh-uh.</p> <p>14 Q Who did you hear -- well, let me ask it this way. Did Mr. Oliphant ever tell you that he had seen a car at his house or anything?</p> <p>17 A He had seen a car by -- yeah, out there by -- you know, across from where he lived. You know, somebody may have been sitting there watching his house.</p> <p>21 Q That's what he told you?</p> <p>22 A Yeah, he told me that.</p> <p>23 Q Did he tell you who the car was registered to?</p> <p>24 A No.</p> <p>25 Q Did he tell you whether he had run the plates?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 A No, ma'am.</p> <p>2 Q Was that before or after you told Mr. Oliphant,</p> <p>3 look, I'm hearing these rumors, but I'm going</p> <p>4 to ask Mr. Braxton if it's true.</p> <p>5 A That was after we talked about that.</p> <p>6 Q That was after you talked about that?</p> <p>7 A Yeah, after I talked to him about that.</p> <p>8 Q And so after you talked about it, Mr. Oliphant</p> <p>9 told you that he had found somebody at his</p> <p>10 house watching his house?</p> <p>11 A That he had spotted a car.</p> <p>12 Q So I got my timing right?</p> <p>13 A Uh-huh.</p> <p>14 Q You had the conversation with him, and you</p> <p>15 said, "I'm going to ask Mr. Braxton." Then the</p> <p>16 next conversation you had with Mr. Oliphant,</p> <p>17 Mr. Oliphant said, I saw somebody at my house.</p> <p>18 A Yeah, he saw somebody, you know. He felt like</p> <p>19 they were watching his house.</p> <p>20 Q And Mr. Oliphant didn't tell you who he thought</p> <p>21 that person was or that he had run a plate or</p> <p>22 anything like that?</p> <p>23 A No, ma'am.</p> <p>24 Q Or chased them down or anything like that?</p> <p>25 A No, ma'am.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 Q Did Mr. Oliphant ever tell you at any other</p> <p>2 time that he felt like he was being followed or</p> <p>3 watched?</p> <p>4 A One time, yeah.</p> <p>5 Q Tell me about that, please.</p> <p>6 A He just told me, you know, he said the car that</p> <p>7 he saw, you know, he saw it a couple of times,</p> <p>8 you know. He left home. The car left after he</p> <p>9 left, you know, and that was -- you know, that</p> <p>10 was, you know, that was the only conversation</p> <p>11 we had on that, you know.</p> <p>12 Q When you had that conversation, that was after</p> <p>13 you had already asked Mr. Braxton. Did you</p> <p>14 tell Mr. Oliphant, look, I asked Calvin. He</p> <p>15 said no, it ain't him?</p> <p>16 A Well, I didn't talk to Mr. Oliphant about me</p> <p>17 and Calvin having a conversation, you know. I</p> <p>18 never -- you know, I didn't, you know, get back</p> <p>19 with him and tell him, you know, that I had</p> <p>20 talked to Calvin, you know, because I felt</p> <p>21 like, you know, we're all friends. We drink --</p> <p>22 he didn't -- he come one day. He didn't drink</p> <p>23 coffee with us, but we drink coffee every day,</p> <p>24 so, you know, whatever is going to come out,</p> <p>25 you know, is going to come out, you know.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 Q Did you ever hear anyone make an allegation</p> <p>2 that Calvin Braxton was in any way involved in</p> <p>3 the suicide of Ms. Rachal?</p> <p>4 A No, ma'am.</p> <p>5 Q Did Mr. Oliphant ever speak about that?</p> <p>6 A No, ma'am.</p> <p>7 Q Did you ever -- did you ever know anything</p> <p>8 about a Facebook posting by Mr. Oliphant?</p> <p>9 A I heard something about Facebook, but I didn't</p> <p>10 say who done it. They didn't say that he had</p> <p>11 done it. You know, they just asked -- people</p> <p>12 were just asking, have you seen that on</p> <p>13 Facebook, but they didn't say where it come</p> <p>14 from.</p> <p>15 Q Did you ever see Mr. Braxton with a Facebook</p> <p>16 posting --</p> <p>17 A I don't know anything about Facebook and that</p> <p>18 all so I can't say.</p> <p>19 Q I got it. Did you ever -- did you ever tell</p> <p>20 Mike Wilson that Calvin Braxton had hired a</p> <p>21 private investigator?</p> <p>22 A No, ma'am. I don't know anything about that.</p> <p>23 Me and Mike Wilson never talked about anything</p> <p>24 about this.</p> <p>25 Q Did you ever hear Mr. Braxton make any</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>1 statements about he was going to get Mr.</p> <p>2 Oliphant or anything like that?</p> <p>3 A No, ma'am. Only thing Mr. Braxton ever said</p> <p>4 was that he didn't have any hard feelings. You</p> <p>5 know, he didn't have nothing against, you know,</p> <p>6 Mr. Oliphant, you know. That's all, you know,</p> <p>7 he repeated, you know. He said to me two or</p> <p>8 three times, you know, "I don't have no hard</p> <p>9 feelings toward Mr. Oliphant," you know. So</p> <p>10 that's what I said. I thought, you know,</p> <p>11 whatever was going on, it had been resolved,</p> <p>12 you know. Mr. Oliphant come out there one</p> <p>13 morning, and he said, "You know, I heard they</p> <p>14 make good coffee in here." You know, he come</p> <p>15 in and got coffee and --</p> <p>16 Q When you and Mr. Braxton were there?</p> <p>17 A Yeah. You know, and he got him coffee and he</p> <p>18 left, you know. They spoke and that was -- you</p> <p>19 know, that was that, you know. So, you know --</p> <p>20 Q Was that the only time you ever saw Mr.</p> <p>21 Oliphant and Mr. Braxton together in the same</p> <p>22 place was when Mr. Oliphant went to the place</p> <p>23 where you and Mr. Braxton have coffee?</p> <p>24 A Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>25 Q Did you ever hear Mr. Braxton complain at all</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>1 about his daughter getting a DWI?</p> <p>2 A No, ma'am.</p> <p>3 Q Would it be fair to say that Mr. Braxton had</p> <p>4 troubles with his daughter?</p> <p>5 A I mean, there's been some issues, yeah,</p> <p>6 probably. You know, he had -- you know.</p> <p>7 Q Would it be fair to say in your conversations</p> <p>8 with Mr. Braxton his approach towards his</p> <p>9 daughter is that she's going to have to get out</p> <p>10 of trouble on her own? She's going to have to</p> <p>11 find her own way, and sometimes she needs to</p> <p>12 suffer consequences for things, right?</p> <p>13 A I can't --</p> <p>14 MR. FALCON:</p> <p>15 Is that testimony?</p> <p>16 A I can't speak to that.</p> <p>17 MS. CRAFT:</p> <p>18 Q Well, that's all right. I'm just asking if you</p> <p>19 ever had a conversation like that.</p> <p>20 A I never had that kind of conversation with him.</p> <p>21 MS. CRAFT:</p> <p>22 Got it. Mr. Brown, that's all I have</p> <p>23 from you. These lawyers may have some</p> <p>24 questions for you.</p> <p>25 EXAMINATION BY MR. OXENHANDLER:</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>1 Q Hi, Mr. Brown. My name is Steve Oxenhandler,</p> <p>2 and I'm a lawyer and I represent Colonel</p> <p>3 Oliphant. Sir, could you just give us your</p> <p>4 address?</p> <p>5 A 443 Martin Luther King Drive, Natchitoches,</p> <p>6 Louisiana, 71457.</p> <p>7 Q Thank you. Do you remember telling Colonel</p> <p>8 Oliphant that Mr. Braxton had someone following</p> <p>9 Colonel Oliphant?</p> <p>10 A I told him that I had heard that.</p> <p>11 Q And who did you hear that from?</p> <p>12 A You know, we all, like I said, we go to the</p> <p>13 store. There was gossip in the store where we</p> <p>14 drink coffee every morning, you know because</p> <p>15 they know me and Mr. Braxton are friends, you</p> <p>16 know, and they were -- they said, you know,</p> <p>17 there's a rumor going around. And that's why I</p> <p>18 asked him about the rumor, you know, because I</p> <p>19 had never heard it, you know, and we talk every</p> <p>20 -- we drink coffee every morning, every day,</p> <p>21 you know. There's about six of us, you know,</p> <p>22 and I had never heard that. But then when I --</p> <p>23 when I heard the people talking about it, they</p> <p>24 were standing outside the store.</p> <p>25 Q And do you know who -- what people are you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>1 talking about?</p> <p>2 A Some older guys sitting out there, you know,</p> <p>3 gossiping like they do.</p> <p>4 Q Do you know their names?</p> <p>5 A I don't know their names, you know. I just</p> <p>6 came, you know. They come in and get their</p> <p>7 beer or whatever. They sit there and gossip</p> <p>8 sometimes and they walk out.</p> <p>9 MS. CRAFT:</p> <p>10 I'm sorry, you said get their beer?</p> <p>11 A Yeah, they come in and buy their beer. They</p> <p>12 get off from Pilgrim's Pride in the morning.</p> <p>13 They come in and get their beer, then they'll</p> <p>14 laugh and gossip, then they, you know, they</p> <p>15 leave.</p> <p>16 MR. OXENHANDLER:</p> <p>17 Q And by --</p> <p>18 MS. CRAFT:</p> <p>19 And let me make sure. Get off from</p> <p>20 Freedom Pride?</p> <p>21 A From Pilgrim's Pride.</p> <p>22 MS. CRAFT:</p> <p>23 From what is it?</p> <p>24 A Pilgrim's Pride.</p> <p>25 MR. OXENHANDLER:</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>1 Pilgrim's Pride.</p> <p>2 MS. CRAFT:</p> <p>3 Pilgrim's Pride. Okay. Yeah. You</p> <p>4 knew. I just wanted to make sure. Got it.</p> <p>5 MR. OXENHANDLER:</p> <p>6 Q The place you're talking about where you had</p> <p>7 coffee, is that Zippy B's?</p> <p>8 A Yes, sir.</p> <p>9 Q Do you still drink coffee at Zippy B's?</p> <p>10 A Yes, sir. Well, we did, but after this come</p> <p>11 out, no, we don't drink coffee there no more.</p> <p>12 Q Is it coronavirus or --</p> <p>13 A Yeah, after the coronavirus come up, we don't</p> <p>14 drink coffee there no more.</p> <p>15 Q Do you go down to the Riverfront and have</p> <p>16 coffee?</p> <p>17 A Yes, we do.</p> <p>18 Q Where do you go to the Riverfront to have</p> <p>19 coffee?</p> <p>20 A Under the stage. Down at the stage.</p> <p>21 Q Does Mr. Braxton still come there in the</p> <p>22 morning?</p> <p>23 A Mr. Braxton, Mr. John, Mr. Belo.</p> <p>24 Q Are you still working for Mr. Braxton?</p> <p>25 A No, sir.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1 Q Do you remember Mr. Braxton coming to Zippy B's 2 one day and showing you a Facebook page by Mr. 3 Oliphant? 4 A He showed me a page, but he didn't say where it 5 was from. He just showed me something somebody 6 had put on Facebook. He didn't say where it 7 was from. 8 Q Do you know if it was from Colonel Oliphant? 9 A I don't know. 10 Q But he did -- you remember him showing you 11 something from Facebook? 12 A Yeah, I remember that. 13 Q Did anybody ever tell you who was following 14 Colonel Oliphant? 15 A No, sir. 16 Q Do you remember Calvin Braxton ever saying 17 anything else to you about Colonel Oliphant 18 when you were at Zippy B's? 19 A Like I said, the only thing he ever said was 20 that he didn't have any hard feelings, you 21 know, and, you know, as far as he was 22 concerned, you know, everything was good. 23 Q Did Calvin Braxton ever mention Trooper 24 Linebaugh to you? 25 A No, sir.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>1 Q The conversation that you had with Mr. Oliphant 2 where you told Colonel Oliphant that you had 3 heard that Mr. Braxton was having somebody 4 follow him, was that some time in 2018? 5 A It may have been. I'm not -- I don't -- you 6 know. 7 MR. OXENHANDLER: 8 That's all the questions I have. Thank 9 you, sir. 10 A Yes, sir. 11 EXAMINATION BY MR. FALCON: 12 Q Mr. Brown, my name is Floyd Falcon. I 13 represent the Louisiana Troopers Association. 14 A Yes, sir. 15 Q Are you familiar with the Louisiana Troopers 16 Association? 17 A Yes, sir. 18 Q You ever talk to anyone who represented to you 19 that they were the representative of or an 20 official or officer of the Louisiana Troopers 21 Association? 22 A I mean, I know people that work for the 23 troopers, you know. 24 Q For the troopers, for the state police you're 25 talking about?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1 A Yeah. 2 Q I'm talking about the Louisiana -- 3 A No. 4 Q -- State Troopers -- 5 A No. 6 Q You have no contact with that organization as 7 far as you know; is that right? 8 A No, sir. 9 Q How long did you work for Calvin Braxton? 10 A About five, six years. 11 Q And when did you last work for Calvin? 12 A I don't remember when it was that I departed. 13 THE COURT REPORTER: 14 I'm sorry -- 15 MR. FALCON: 16 Q I couldn't understand a word you said. 17 A I don't know when it was that we departed, but 18 I -- 19 Q Well, was it in the last year? 20 A No, it's been -- 21 Q Ten years? 22 A -- probably been about three, four years now. 23 Q What were the circumstances of you leaving? 24 A I went to work for someone else. 25 Q And so you think it's about three or four years</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 ago? 2 A Yes. 3 Q And what did you do for him? 4 A I used to detail cars, transport cars. 5 Q And what kind of salary was he paying you? 6 A Ten Dollars (\$10.00) an hour. 7 Q And you got a better job somewhere? 8 A Well, I went to work for the people that I had 9 been working for since I was 16, Ben Johnson. 10 Q And what were you doing for them? 11 A Picking up bodies. I worked for Winnfield 12 Funeral Home. 13 Q At the funeral home? 14 A Yeah. 15 Q Is that the same funeral home as Calvin owns? 16 A Owns now, yeah. 17 Q So you just switched jobs with Calvin's 18 organization? 19 A Well, Calvin -- when I was working for Calvin, 20 I was working for Winnfield also. And I just 21 decided to work for one company. 22 Q It seems to be -- 23 A Mr. Braxton had no ties to Winnfield then. 24 Q It seems in the back of my mind he said 25 something about him owning a funeral home.</p>

22

1 Does he own another funeral home here in town?
 2 A Mr. Calvin?
3 Q Yes.
 4 A He owns Winnfield.
5 Q So I want to clarify the situation. You worked
6 for Mr. Braxton at his automobile dealership?
 7 A At his -- yeah.
8 Q And then you left there and you went to work
9 for the Winnfield Funeral Home?
 10 A I worked for Winnfield Funeral Home.
11 Q And Calvin Braxton owns the Winnfield Funeral
12 Home?
 13 A Not at that time.
14 Q He owns it now?
 15 A Yeah.
16 Q When he took over, did you continue -- when he
17 took over the Winnfield Funeral home, did you
18 continue to work for Calvin?
 19 A On a part-time basis when he needed help.
20 Q And when was the last time you did any part-
21 time work for any company owned by Mr. Braxton?
 22 A I hadn't worked for Mr. Braxton in three months
 23 since this -- three or four months from this --
 24 when this covid thing come up.
25 Q Since the covid, up until the time of the

24

1 have coffee. Is there still six?
 2 A No, there's just four of us, Mr. --
3 Q Who is the four now?
 4 A Mr. Belo, Mr. Seff, myself, and Mr. Braxton.
5 Q Now, did you know Calvin was a member at one
6 time of the Louisiana -- the State Police
7 Commission?
 8 A Yeah, he told me that.
9 Q Do you know what that is?
 10 A No, sir.
11 Q Do you know when he got on the State Police
12 Commission?
 13 A No, sir.
14 Q Do you know how he got on the State Police
15 Commission?
 16 A No, sir.
17 Q Do you know when he left the State Police
18 Commission?
 19 A No, sir.
20 Q Do you know that, in fact, he did leave the
21 State Police Commission, that he's no longer on
22 it?
 23 A Yes, sir.
24 Q How do you know that?
 25 A Any time, you know, when you're having a

23

1 covid, you would periodically work for Mr.
2 Braxton?
 3 A Yeah.
4 Q Or one of his companies; is that right?
 5 A Just the funeral home. If they needed me, I
 6 worked for them.
7 Q Now, you said y'all have drank coffee. You had
8 six people. You used that number.
 9 A Every day.
10 Q That on a frequent basis would have coffee.
11 You still have six?
 12 A No.
13 Q Who were the six that had coffee on a regular
14 basis at Zippy B's?
 15 A Mr. Calvin Braxton, Thurman Miller, Mr. John
 16 Seff --
17 Q Spell that last name.
 18 A I guess he spells it S-e-f-f, I guess.
19 Q You think --
 20 A Vic Belo and myself.
21 Q John Belo?
 22 A No, Vic Belo.
23 Q Vic.
 24 A Related to John Belo.
25 Q And now y'all meet at a different location and

25

1 conversation, you know, me, him, and Thurman,
2 we always laugh and talk, you know.
3 Q And what did he say?
 4 A He said, you know, he was no longer on it.
 5 That's all he -- you know.
6 Q He didn't say why?
 7 A No.
8 Q He didn't say if he was asked to leave or if he
9 resigned?
 10 A No, sir.
11 Q It didn't make any difference to you, did it?
 12 A I mean --
13 Q Did the fact that he was no longer in the State
14 Police Commission for whatever reason change
15 your opinion or your favoritism of Mr. Braxton?
 16 A No.
17 Q It didn't -- you didn't think any less of Mr.
18 Braxton because he was either removed or quit
19 the State Police Commission?
 20 A No, I didn't.
21 Q Didn't change your opinion of him at all.
22 Whatever it was before is still the same now?
 23 A Yeah.
24 Q Anything involving J.D. Oliphant, any
25 conversations you might have had, any rumors

26

1 you might have heard about Mr. Oliphant or
 2 about Calvin Braxton, did they affect your
 3 relationship with Calvin Braxton in any way?
 4 A No.
 5 Q Did it lessen your opinion of Calvin Braxton in
 6 any way?
 7 A Somewhat. It was just, you know, I kind of --
 8 you know, I know both of them and when, you
 9 know, I heard about this going on, you know, I
 10 wasn't, you know, I didn't really care for it,
 11 you know.
 12 Q You didn't care for it, but did it --
 13 A Because they're two powerful black people that,
 14 you know, people have respect for too, you
 15 know, have to --
 16 Q But it didn't lessen your --
 17 MS. CRAFT:
 18 Can you let him finish his answer,
 19 please?
 20 MR. FALCON:
 21 Q Yes, go ahead.
 22 A But when you hear gossip like that about two
 23 people that are well respected, you know, it's
 24 kind of a hard thing because I know both of
 25 them, you know.

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1 know. And he said, you know -- he said, you
 2 know, "I've never, you know, had anything
 3 against J.D.," you know. And that was just
 4 that.
 5 Q Did Mr. Braxton tell you that J.D. Oliphant had
 6 done something to him?
 7 A No. No, he didn't.
 8 Q Did Mr. Braxton complain about anything J.D.
 9 Oliphant had done?
 10 A No, sir, not to me.
 11 Q So what was the context? What were y'all
 12 talking about when Mr. Braxton said I got no
 13 hard feelings?
 14 A I guess because the people that -- the group
 15 that we had, you know, we would always laugh
 16 and talk, you know, about different things, you
 17 know. And we would hear gossip about that, you
 18 know. People would be gossiping every morning,
 19 you know, you know, there's Mr. Braxton. Him
 20 and the state troopers, you know, they're into
 21 it, and this and that, you know. So, you know,
 22 I'd always, you know, left it alone. You know,
 23 we don't want to talk -- we don't want to hear
 24 all that, you know. We don't want to hear all
 25 this, you know. And that's just the way it

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1 Q Did it lessen your respect for Mr. Braxton in
 2 any fashion?
 3 A No.
 4 Q Did it lessen your respect for J.D. Oliphant in
 5 any fashion?
 6 A No, sir.
 7 MR. FALCON:
 8 That's all the questions I have.
 9 EXAMINATION BY MR. MAYEAUX:
 10 Q Mr. Brown, my name is Ben Mayeaux. I represent
 11 Louisiana State Police.
 12 A Yes, sir.
 13 Q I just have a couple of questions for you. You
 14 mentioned that Mr. Braxton said he had no hard
 15 feelings against J.D. Oliphant. Did I hear
 16 that correctly?
 17 A Yeah.
 18 Q Why would he say that?
 19 A I guess when all this come up, you know, the
 20 rumors about he had somebody watching him and
 21 this and that, you know. I guess it was just,
 22 you know, the way he felt, you know. He never
 23 said -- when J.D. come in the store, you know,
 24 and, you know, nobody looked like they were,
 25 you know, had animosity between each other, you

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1 was, you know. Because it was like -- it was
 2 like -- almost like a family deal, you know.
 3 We'd get together every morning, you know, and
 4 so we're not going to listen to gossip.
 5 Q What state troopers were you hearing that Mr.
 6 Braxton was getting into it with?
 7 A We just heard about, you know, the deal with
 8 him and J.D., you know. They was going, you
 9 know, going against each other, you know,
 10 having animosity between each other, you know.
 11 And I couldn't believe, you know, because I
 12 know J.D. I know him, you know.
 13 Q You know Trooper Linebaugh?
 14 A No.
 15 Q You don't?
 16 A No.
 17 Q Did you ever hear Mr. Braxton say anything
 18 about Trooper Linebaugh?
 19 A No. I don't know anything about DWI, his
 20 daughter getting a DWI. I don't know a thing
 21 about that.
 22 MS. CRAFT:
 23 There it is.
 24 A That was just --
 25 MR. MAYEAUX:

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1 I thought they had. Anybody else got
 2 any questions for him? All right, thank
 3 you very much.
 4 A Yes, sir.
 5 MS. CRAFT:
 6 I don't have any other questions.
 7 MR. FALCON:
 8 Thank you, Mr. Brown.
 9 MS. CRAFT:
 10 You do have the right to read and sign
 11 your deposition, which means the court
 12 reporter is going to type out what you said
 13 today. She can send it to you with a sheet
 14 if you need to make corrections or change
 15 spellings or anything like that, or you can
 16 waive that and say however she typed it out
 17 is fine with you.
 18 THE WITNESS:
 19 It's fine.
 20 MS. CRAFT:
 21 You're going to waive it?
 22 THE WITNESS:
 23 That's fine.
 24 THE WITNESS WAS EXCUSED.
 25 DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT: 2:56 P.M.

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1 and rules of the board; that I have no actual
 2 knowledge of any prohibited employment or
 3 contractual relationship, direct or indirect,
 4 between a court reporting firm and any party
 5 litigant in this matter, nor is there any such
 6 relationship between myself and a party litigant in
 7 this matter; that I am not related to counsel or to
 8 any of the parties hereto, I am in no manner
 9 associated with counsel for any of the interested
 10 parties to this litigation, and I am in no way
 11 concerned with the outcome thereof.
 12 This 15th day of November 2020, Lafayette,
 13 Louisiana.
 14
 15
 16 _____
 17 Kim Taylor, CCR #91244
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

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CERTIFICATE

1
 2
 3 This certification is valid only for a
 4 transcript accompanied by my original signature and
 5 original required seal on this certificate.
 6 I, Kim Taylor, Certified Court Reporter in and
 7 for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before
 8 whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify
 9 that CRAIG BROWN, after having been duly sworn by me
 10 upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify on the
 11 2nd day of October 2020, at Natchitoches, Louisiana,
 12 as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing 30 pages;
 13 that this testimony was reported by me in the
 14 Stenographic reporting method, was prepared and
 15 transcribed by me or under my personal direction and
 16 supervision, and is true and correct to the best of
 17 my ability and understanding; that the transcript
 18 has been prepared in compliance with the transcript
 19 format guidelines required by statute and rules of
 20 the board; that I am informed about the complete
 21 arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person
 22 or entity making arrangements for deposition
 23 services; that I have acted in compliance with the
 24 prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined
 25 by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434

<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">\$</p> <hr/> <p>\$10.00 21:6</p> <hr/>	<p>15:8,15 17:21,23,24 18:1,16,23 19:3 20:9 21:23 22:6,11,21,22 23:2,15 24:4 25:15,18 26:2,3,5 27:1,14 28:5,8, 12,19 29:6,17</p>	<p>coronavirus 17:12, 13 correct 6:6 corrections 30:14 correctly 27:16 couple 11:7 27:13 court 5:14,20 20:13 30:11 covid 22:24,25 23:1 Craft 5:4,6 14:17,21 16:9,18,22 17:2 26:17 29:22 30:5,9,20 Craig 5:1 6:3</p>	<p>familiar 19:15 family 29:2 fashion 27:2,5 favoritism 25:15 feelings 13:4,9 18:20 27:15 28:13 felt 10:18 11:2,20 27:22 final 5:17 find 14:11 fine 5:25 30:17,19,23 finish 26:18 Floyd 19:12 follow 6:23 7:18 19:4 found 10:9 Freedom 16:20 frequent 23:10 friends 6:5,8,10,13 7:7 11:21 15:15 full 6:1 funeral 21:12,13,15,25 22:1,9,10,11,17 23:5</p>	<p>hour 21:6 house 7:5 8:9,18 9:16, 20 10:10,17,19 Huh-uh 9:13</p>
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