10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. C-90,284

CALVIN W. BRAXTON, SR.

VERSUS

LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION AND JAY OLIPHANT

VIDEO CONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF

JASON HANNAMAN

TAKEN AT THE LAW OFFICE OF JILL CRAFT, 329
ST. FERDINAND STREET, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, BEGINNING AT 9:10
A.M.

REPORTED BY:

JENNIFER W. PICKETT CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER CERTIFICATE NUMBER 29011

APPEARANCES

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All appearing via Zoom:

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Also present: Calvin Braxton, Jay Aucoin

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STIPULATION

It is stipulated and agreed by and between counsel for the parties hereto that the deposition of the aforementioned witness is hereby being taken pursuant to the Louisiana Rules of Civil Procedure, in accordance with law;

That the formalities, of reading, signing, sealing, certification, and filing are specifically not waived;

That all objections are hereby reserved until such time as this deposition, or any part thereof, may be used or sought to be used in evidence.

* * * * *

Jennifer W. Pickett, Certified Court
Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana,
officiated in administering the oath to the
witness.

* * * * *

1 (JASON HANNAMAN, AFTER HAVING BEEN FIRST 2 DULY SWORN BY THE ABOVE-NAMED COURT 3 REPORTER, WAS EXAMINED AND TESTIFIED AS 4 FOLLOWS:) 5 EXAMINATION 6 BY MS. CRAFT: 7 Mr. Hannaman, my name is Jill Craft and I 8 represent Calvin Braxton, who is present and seated in the room with the court 9 10 reporter today. It is very important 11 during the course of this deposition that 12 you understand what I'm asking you and if 13 at any time you do not, please tell me to 14 stop and rephrase it. It's also 15 important, particularly because this is 16 by Zoom, that you answer out loud and 17 avoid nods of the head yes or no or uh-

instruction is unique to me insofar as I
may ask you to spell names, places or

21 things. I'm not here to test your

22 spelling. It's just much easier for our

reporter to get those down as we go

24 along; is that fair enough?

huhs and uh-uhs.

 $25 \mid A \quad Yes.$

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And my final

1	Q	And because we are participating by Zoom,
2		I'm going to ask you and I will remind
3		myself to take a deep breath before we
4		start answering questions because of the
5		lag time between the video and the audio;
6		is that fair?
7	A	Yes.
8	Q	Would you give me your full name and
9		address please, sir?
10	A	Jason Paul Hannaman and it's 8804
11		Wartelle Avenue, W-A-R-T-E-L-L-E Avenue,
12		Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806.
13	Q	Can you walk me through your educational
14		background, sir, starting with where and
15		when you graduated high school?
16	A	I graduated high school in Baton Rouge,
17		Louisiana at Scotlandville Magnet High
18		School.
19	Q	At which school, I'm sorry.
20	A	Scotlandville Magnet High.
21		THE OFFICIAL:
22		Could I just make a suggestion
23		real quick? Anybody that's not
24		actually speaking, if you might
25		go on mute. Sometimes it cuts

out the audio on our end and if 1 2 you have to object just obviously 3 unmute and then go back. I 4 appreciate it. 5 BY MS. CRAFT: 6 Okay, I'm sorry, sir. You were saying 7 Scotlandville Magnet High School, which was when? 8 9 Yes, Scotlandville Magnet High School in Α 10 Baton Rouge and I graduated in 1996. 11 then I attended Louisiana State 12 University Baton Rouge and graduated May 13 of 2001. Then I attended University of 14 New Orleans for graduate school. 15 obtained my MBA in August of 2007. 16 briefly in between finishing my MBA, I 17 attended Southern University School of 18 Law in the evening program and that was 19 2004 to 2005. So that year, but I did 20 not complete that program. 21 Can you tell me about your employment 22 history starting with after your 23 graduation from LSU? 24 After my graduation from LSU I worked at 25 a promotional products company in New

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Orleans. It was Joe A. Cummins, C-U-M-M-I-N-S, advertising for promotional products and I worked there while I also attended graduate school. When I returned to Baton Rouge in 2004, I began work at the State Department of Labor, the Workforce Commission. That was in May of '05. Then I moved to the State Civil Service starting August of 2005. Ι was with State Civil Service until 2012 where I then moved to become the HR director for the Louisiana Department of Education from 2012 to 2017. I was the HR director and then I was employed by the State Police Commission. Can you tell me how you learned about the job at the State Police Commission; how you first learned about it? I subscribe to updates from the Α state civil service notification, employment notification. So keywords like director or key pay levels, they would automatically be prompted. They'd

come to my inbox. This position was on

that notification as I recall.

That's the first you heard about there 1 Q 2 being some sort of vacancy in the 3 executive director slot at the state 4 police commission? 5 Α Correct. 6 Had you previously talked to anybody 7 about the executive director position at the state police commission? 8 9 Α I didn't know there was a state police 10 commission. So, then did you apply after you 11 Okay. saw the posting or the notification? 12 13 I clicked apply for position on the Α 14 notification. It's very easy to apply 15 for a state position with state civil 16 service. Your application is saved in 17 the system and you merely have to click 18 if you're interested and I was 19 interested. 20 So what happened next? Q I believe I was contacted for a potential 21 22 interview in February. 23 Of what year? Q 24 Α 2017. 25 Q Who contacted you?

1 I don't recall. Α At that time in February of 2017 did you 2 3 know anyone or had you known anyone 4 affiliated with the Louisiana State 5 Police? 6 Not that I'm aware, other than I knew 7 someone in high school that was a -- had 8 become a trooper. Just I had seen in 9 passing but I did not have any contact 10 with him. Same question with respect to the LSTA. 11 12 I did not know anyone or anything about 13 the LSTA. 14 You indicated you were contacted for an 15 interview and you could not remember who 16 that was that contacted you or you do? 17 I don't recall who contacted me Correct. Α 18 for the interview. I remember that 19 Ginger Krieg, HR Director, was on the 20 posting. So, perhaps but I do not recall. 21 Can you spell the name, please? 22 Q 23 G-I-N-G-E-R, K-R-I-E-G. Α 24 She was the HR director for the

commission?

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- She was the human resources director for 1 Α 2 the Department of Public Safety.
- 3 Tell me what happened next. 0
- 4 I recall showing up for the interview and Α 5 being interviewed at the commission 6 office in the conference room. At the 7 commission office when it was located at 8 the DPS compound.
- Who were you interviewed by? 9 Q

was sort of a blur.

- 10 I recall Eulis Simien, Monica Manzella, Α 11 TJ Ellis, Commissioner Breaux. I don't 12 recall Commissioner Breaux's first name. 13 And I believe Lenore Feeney was there as 14 well but I couldn't say for certain. Ιt
- 16 Did you know any of those people before Q 17 your interview?
- 18 Α I did not.

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- 19 You indicated that the state police 20 commission used to be on the state police 21 compound. It is no longer; is that 22 right?
- 23 That is correct. Α
- 24 Where is it located now? Q
- The commission office is located at 5825 25 Α

Florida Boulevard, Suite 1180, and that's
Baton Rouge 70806. It's commonly known
as the agriculture and forestry building.

Q Do you know why it was moved?

5 A I moved the offices to this location.

Q Why?

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When I became the director, I had some concern that the commission residing within the same compound as the entity it's supposed to be providing oversight for. And also, the large room that we used to meet didn't have a, in my opinion, a professional appearance. So in order to be more autonomous, I requested from the division of administration funding for rent after identifying this location at the agriculture and forestry building. they concurred that it was better for appearance sake that we were not in the same location and now we have a separate office away from the compound and we have a meeting room, which is again more professional for the commission.

Q Do you know Cathy Derbonne?

I do not. 1 Α Madame Court Reporter, that's spelled D-2 3 E-R-B-O-N-N-E. Do you know what her 4 position was with the state police 5 commission before you took over? 6 She was the executive director. Α 7 Do you know if she shared your concerns Q 8 as it relates to a potential conflict of interest given the then location of the 9 10 commission? 11 I'm not aware of her concern. I realize 12 that the commission was residing on the 13 compound without paying any sort of rent 14 and that's -- it just was unusual in my opinion when I arrived, looking at the 15 16 situation. 17 After your interview, which I think you indicated -- did that interview by the 18 19 way take place also in February of 2017? 20 Could you repeat that? Α 21 Did the interview take place in February 2017? 22 23 Yes. Α 24 After your interview, what happened next 25 relative to you becoming the executive

director? 1 2 I received a phone call from the chairman 3 at the time, advising that the 4 commissioners were interested in pursuing 5 and offering me the position. 6 And who was that? 0 7 He was the chairman. Α That was TJ Doss. 8 Between your interview and the phone call 9 from Mr. Doss, did you have a 10 communication with anyone affiliated with 11 either state police, the state police 12 commission or the Louisiana State 13 Troopers Association? 14 I did not. Α 15 Q After the phone call, what happened next? I accepted the position and I was asked 16 Α 17 how soon I could start. I advised I 18 needed to give notice to my employer, the 19 Department of Education. And I believe I 20 gave three weeks to the Department of 21 My start date was May 20th, I Education. 22 mean March 20th, 2017 with the 23 commission. 24 Do you recall what your starting rate of 25 pay was?

The rate of pay was 109,000. 1 Α Yes. 2 Have you maintained that same pay or have 3 you received raises? 4 I have received two pay increases. Α 5 What is your current rate of pay? Q 6 Α 113,000. 7 Since you've been the executive director 8 of the commission, can you describe for 9 us what your duties are or have been if 10 they've changed? 11 Sure. Primarily the duties of the 12 director are outlined in chapter three of 13 the commission rules. However, I find 14 myself wearing many hats since we're an 15 office of three individuals. Specifically, I look at the 16 17 classification and pay for the state 18 police service and review position 19 requests from the Office of State Police. 20 I review public records requests for the 21 state police commission. I prepare the 22 annual budget for the state police 23 commission. And I also work with IT as 24 far as I'm on-hands. I'm the IT person 25 here for our staff to ensure the

1 computers are up and running and just 2 about anything else around the office. 3 But primarily those that I mentioned 4 earlier. 5 Q Do you have any role with respect to 6 ensuring that the commission members 7 themselves comply with the law? 8 When commissioners are employed or Α 9 nominated and then appointed, sorry, we 10 send a packet to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities under the 11 12 Constitution and the prohibited 13 activities under the Constitution. And with regards to -- I also send reminders 14 15 with regards to ethics training. ethics and annual disclosure forms to the 16 17 department heads. So we send reminders; however, the commissioners are 18 19 responsible for their own actions. In other words, it's not your job as the 20 21 executive director to ensure that the 22 individual commission members comply with 23 the law; is that correct? 24 I would say that the individual 25 commission members are responsible for

1 complying with the law. As the director, I remind them and advise them of upcoming 2 3 deadlines for the requirement of board of 4 ethics and the provisions of the 5 Constitution. 6 Right. But again, my question was it's Q 7 not part of your job responsibility to 8 ensure that the commission members comply with the law; is that correct? 9 Correct. 10 Α 11 With respect to Mr. Braxton, can you tell 12 me about any interactions you had with 13 him? 14 Commissioner Braxton? Α 15 Q Yep. 16 I started in March 20th of 2017 and I Α 17 believe prior to the meetings, Mr. 18 Braxton would come by my office and say 19 hello, just pleasantries prior to I interacted with Mr. Braxton 20 meetings. 21 in the actual commission meetings and on 22 occasion, Commissioner Braxton would give 23 me a phone call when he had concerns 24 about something on the agenda. I believe I was there a total of four months before 25

1 Commissioner Braxton resigned. 2 Do you recall my client asking you about Q 3 some hotel expenses by TJ Doss? 4 I'm trying to recall. I believe there Α 5 was a conversation that -- something to 6 the effect of TJ should watch out or TJ 7 might be in trouble for some hotel stays. 8 But that's pretty much all I recall from 9 that. 10 Who is responsible for approving the 11 expenses by the commission members; is 12 that you? 13 The Executive Director reviews the Α 14 expenditure requests and signs off on the 15 signatures. 16 So, did you sign -- I'm sorry, go ahead. Q 17 Α There's a statute which governs the elected member but then also the 18 19 expenditures for commissioners and that 20 statute states that commissioners shall 21 receive a per diem of \$75 and actual 22 travel incurred or travel expenditures 23 incurred. 24 Was that true for Mr. Doss? Q It would be true if he submitted 25 Α

expenditure requests as a commissioner. 1 2 Was there an issue raised by Calvin Q 3 Braxton as it related to TJ Doss and 4 Monica Manzella staying in a hotel room 5 together paid for by state tax dollars? 6 Α I do not recall any conversation about 7 Commissioner Doss or Commissioner 8 Manzella staying in a room together. 9 Did anyone ever raise an issue with you Q 10 as it relates to TJ Doss and Monica 11 Manzella and a hotel expenditure as it related to a commission business? 12 13 Again, I don't recall any conversation Α 14 that included Commissioner Doss or 15 Commissioner Manzella and a hotel room 16 that was compensated by the commission. 17 Was there any issue raised about Ms. Q Manzella and Mr. Doss and their 18 19 relationship? 20 I wasn't aware that there was a 21 relationship until there were media or 22 blog reports in August. So no, there was 23 nothing brought to my attention about 24 them potentially staying in a hotel room. 25 Q Do you recall anything more about any

1		issues that Mr. Braxton brought to your
2		attention?
3	A	I do not recall.
4	Q	Did anyone discuss with you any issues
5		they believed existed or that they had
6		with Mr. Braxton?
7	A	I do not recall any issues that anyone
8		had with Mr. Braxton.
9	Q	What conversations did you have with Mr.
10		Doss about Mr. Braxton?
11	А	I don't recall having specific
12		conversations with Commissioner Doss
13		about Commissioner Braxton outside of the
14		regular commission business.
15	Q	Like what?
16	A	It was during regular meetings. It was
17		just the interaction between I believe
18		Commissioner Braxton wished to extend the
19		promotional scores for the promotional
20		tests and I think that was something that
21		he, Commissioner Braxton, brought to my
22		attention and I'm not sure if we did it
23		that year or not but it was commission
24		business. It wasn't anything other than
25		commission usual agenda items.

1 Did you have any discussions with anyone Q affiliated with the LSTA about Mr. 2 3 Braxton? 4 I did not. Not that I recall. Α 5 Did you have any discussions with anyone Q 6 affiliated with the LSTA during the 7 period of time you became the executive director and thereafter? 8 9 Can you repeat your question. Α 10 Have you had any discussions with anyone 11 affiliated with the LSTA after you became the executive director? 12 13 Since March of 2017? Α 14 Yes. 0 15 I have had conversations with Mr. Floyd 16 Falcon, attorney representing the LSTA, 17 Mr. Jay Aucoin all related to agenda 18 items primarily. 19 Did you have any conversations with either Mr. Falcon or Mr. Aucoin as it 20 related in any manner to Mr. Braxton? 21 22 Not that I recall. Α 23 Did you have any conversations with 24 either Mr. Falcon or Mr. Aucoin regarding 25 any allegations that Mr. Braxton did

1		something with a traffic stop with his
2		daughter; something like that?
3	A	Not that I recall. I don't recall Mr.
4		Braxton having a daughter. I wasn't
5		aware that he had a daughter until
6		reading about it later, so after he had
7		resigned.
8	Q	Reading about it how?
9	A	In a blog or a news article, but I wasn't
10		aware that Mr. Braxton had children. I
11		wasn't aware of the other commissioners,
12		if they had children.
13	Q	Did you see any letters published by the
14		LSTA about Mr. Braxton?
15	A	No, I did not.
16	Q	When you're referring to media articles,
17		in those articles did they refer, if you
18		remember, to any letters issued on behalf
19		of the LSTA about Mr. Braxton?
20	A	Again, I believe this was after Mr.
21		Braxton had resigned. I believe one of
22		the bloggers that were covering the
23		commission at the time may have
24		referenced a traffic stop or a letter but
25		can you clarify your question?

1	Q	Well, sir, is it your testimony you never
2		saw any letters that were issued by Mr.
3		Falcon on behalf of the LSTA regarding
4		Calvin Braxton?
5	A	I could have reviewed it after
6		Commissioner Braxton had resigned but I
7		don't recall going through it. I might
8		have but it was after Calvin,
9		Commissioner Braxton had resigned.
10	Q	I get it that you keep saying it was
11		after he resigned. I understand that.
12		I'm not limiting my timeframe. I just
13		want to know if you saw the letters?
14	А	I believe there was a letter but I don't
15		recall the details of it or if I had read
16		the whole thing or if again it was in
17		passing perhaps but I could have.
18	Q	Do you remember who you got it from?
19	А	It would have been from one of the media
20		sources, I believe.
21	Q	Do you remember which one?
22	А	The two that were covering the commission
23		in 2017 were the Louisiana Voice and
24		Sound Off Louisiana. If it was on that
25		as part of an attachment, I could have

clicked on it but I don't recall reading 1 2 a full, lengthy letter or any report or 3 anything regarding the details of that. 4 Do you recall anybody ever requesting 0 5 from you some sort of file relating to 6 Mr. Braxton? 7 Α As part of a public records request? 8 No, sir. I did not limit it. 9 Okay. As part of a public records Α 10 request. 11 No, sir. At any time do you recall 12 anybody --13 That's my answer. Α 14 Do what? 0 15 Α That would be my response. The only time 16 I believe there was any request for a 17 file or any information regarding 18 Commissioner Braxton was as part of a 19 public records request. Who was that from? 20 Q 21 There was a public records request 22 submitted in May by Tom Wright, who was 23 an executive producer for a TV channel in 24 New Orleans. 25 Q May of what year?

1 2017. Α And what TV channel? 2 3 I believe it's WVUE. Α 4 And what did he ask for? 0 5 Α There was a list of things regarding the 6 commission, commission expenditures, 7 travel and then he also asked for 8 correspondence between Commissioner Braxton and my predecessor, the Executive 9 10 Director at the time, Cathy Derbonne. 11 Were you able to locate that? 12 At the time I was able to work on that 13 request and it took some effort but I was 14 able to produce what was available. 15 0 Which was what? 16 The records of the commission, the travel 17 that we had on hand, the expenditure accounts of the commission and 18 19 correspondence that I was able to 20 retrieve from the executive director's 21 email account. Did you ever locate a file that had 22 Q 23 Calvin Braxton's name on it? An individual file? 24 Α 25 Q Yes.

Not that I recall. 1 Α In front of your at the beginning of your 2 3 deposition, I asked you to set aside 4 Exhibits 9, 10 and 11. Do you have those 5 in front of you? 6 I do. Α 7 Exhibit 9, is that something that you 8 retrieved that you were discussing earlier? 9 10 It's correspondence from Cathy Derbonne 11 to Calvin Braxton. So it was produced as 12 part of the public records request, yes. 13 Exhibit 9 is an email from Ms. 0 No, sir. 14 Derbonne to a Carrie, C-A-R-R-I-E, 15 Sargent, S-A-R-G-E-N-T, dated May 18, 16 2016. Are you telling me this is 17 something you retrieved and produced? 18 Α Commissioner Braxton was copied on that email. 19 Yes. 20 How did you retrieve this from Ms. 21 Derbonne's computer? 22 I retrieved emails from her email Α 23 account, which was -- I was given access 24 to as my role as executive director. 25 There was not a playbook or a guide to go 1

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by when I started. And when I took over in March of 2017, I was required to go to the legislature and was required to do other things and I needed the access to information to try to understand what some of the deadlines were, what some of the references were and I sought access to her prior emails, many of which were deleted and had to be restored. But at the time I had access to those restored emails and this was a part of that. had not seen this email but it was evidently in the email list when I filtered for Cathy Derbonne and Calvin Braxton to be in response of said public records request.

- Q You said the emails had to be restored.
 Tell me about that, please?
- A It appears that on her departure or I'm not aware of exactly the time block, but a large majority of the records contained within the email files of the director, her correspondence was deleted or chunks of time were deleted. And the process is simply to go to the deleted and hit

1 restore and I was able to restore deleted 2 files. 3 Do you know when the files were allegedly 4 deleted? 5 Α I believe the files were deleted on her 6 last day of employment but I can't right 7 now give you a definitive time. 8 When you say you went to deleted, she had 9 a folder of deleted emails; is that 10 right? When I was granted access to the email 11 12 account, there was a folder of deleted 13 emails and those were then subsequently 14 restored so that they could be reviewed. 15 0 You keep saying when I was granted 16 access. Tell me about that process? 17 Cathy used the state email domain, the Α 18 LA.gov and so her correspondence was 19 maintained at the office of technology 20 services downtown. So, I made a request 21 to have access to that account since I 22 was the current Executive Director and 23 needed potential access to the budget 24 documents, any correspondence that could 25 help me in my role as the Executive

Director. 1 When was this, sir? 2 Q 3 Α I don't recall when I made the request 4 but it was shortly after I started, I 5 would imagine. 6 I don't want you to guess. If you don't Q 7 know, tell me I don't know. 8 Can you repeat that? 9 I said I don't want you to guess. Q If you 10 don't know, say I don't know. I don't recall when I asked. 11 Α 12 Did you have any conversations with Mr. 13 Doss or anyone on the commission about 14 recovering Cathy Derbonne's emails? 15 I may have referenced my need to review that information or review those emails 16 17 just to have them in case some questions 18 When I started, six days later came up. 19 or seven days later I had to appear before the budget committee and I wasn't 20 21 aware of what correspondence had occurred 22 between the budget office and Cathy, as 23 well as the sunset committee was coming 24 up and I was not aware of what was 25 required and what correspondence had

1 occurred. So I was, in my role, I was 2 looking for business of the commission 3 when I obtained access for those files. 4 And so I would have conceivably advised 5 the chairman of the commission that I had 6 obtained access. 7 Did you and Mr. Doss have any discussions 8 about Calvin or any other member of the commission asking to have tickets either 9 10 fixed or looked at or handled? 11 I do not recall any conversation 12 about tickets. 13 Is it your testimony, sir, that the Q 14 restoration of the deleted email file for 15 Cathy Derbonne was simply so you could do 16 your job and was not in response to a 17 public records request? 18 Α The initial restoration absolutely was so 19 that I could do my job effectively as the 20 executive director. Subsequently, the 21 records request came in and I had 22 potential access to those documents to be 23 responsive to the records request. 24 When you say you restored the emails, Ms. 25 Derbonne had simply moved emails into the

deleted section but she never deleted 1 that delete box; is that right? 2 3 still there. 4 That's my understanding is they were in Α 5 the deleted folder or file folder. 6 not sure if it was double deleted. 7 You told me the way that you restored was Q 8 you simply went into the deleted email box and you restored all emails from the 9 10 delete box to what, the inbox? 11 To a restored folder. To a folder that 12 was restored emails that I could search. 13 Do you still have that folder? Q 14 In the process of doing it, I don't Α 15 recall the exact steps I used to do that. 16 Do you still have that folder? Q 17 Α Yes. 18 So, if I request a copy of the folder 19 entitled restored, are you going to know what I'm talking about? 20 21 If you -- yes. Α In restoring the emails, was that a one-22 23 time occurrence for you or is that 24 something you did over time? 25 Α I have access to them over time.

believe I restored them once as I recall. 1 Did you ever enlist or did you have 2 3 anybody help you search the emails? 4 I searched the emails. I don't recall Α 5 having a need for anyone else to search 6 emails. 7 Did you discuss what you found in the 8 restored emails with Mr. Doss at any time? 9 10 I'm trying to recall what or when that 11 might have occurred. Can you repeat the 12 question? 13 Did you discuss any of the emails you 0 14 found in the restored emails with Mr. 15 Doss at any time? 16 Α I could have. 17 Okay. What did you talk to him about? 18 Α There was -- I believe I spoke to Mr. 19 Doss about the communication between 20 Cathy and Byron Decoteau, the civil 21 service director and Byron is B-Y-R-O-N 22 and Decoteau is D-E-C-O-T-E-A-U, I 23 believe. That's with regards to the fact 24 that there were many questions asked I 25 found through my communication with the

1 civil service director, Byron Decoteau at 2 the time, that if he were to provide me 3 with any assistance I may need to be 4 successful in my role and noted that 5 Cathy contacted him frequently. So I 6 noted that was the case. There were 7 emails to show that there was frequent 8 communication or questions asked of the civil service director regarding 9 10 prohibited activity or other things that she would ask about. 11 And that's something you discussed with 12 13

- Mr. Doss?
- 14 He was the chairman. I mentioned that I Α 15 see where she, she being Cathy, 16 frequently contacted civil service to ask 17 questions. But I just think it was just 18 in passing. It wasn't a detailed 19 conversation.
 - Did you tell him that some of the issues that Cathy had contacted Civil Service about were prohibited activities by commission members?

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I believe I mentioned that. I believe I referenced that.

1	Q	Did you also tell him that some of the
2		matters that Cathy had contacted Civil
3		Service about were prohibited political
4		donations by the state trooper's
5		association and/or its members?
6	A	That I did not believe was part of any
7		conversation.
8	Q	Those prohibited activity emails, the
9		ones where you're saying she contacted
10		the civil service director, those are all
11		going to be contained in the restored
12		email file?
13	A	They should be.
14	Q	Were they kept somewhere else?
15	A	They might be in her regular inbox or
16		they could be in the restored deleted
17		file. So, it's I have access to her
18		email account and some things were
19		deleted. Some things were not. I can't
20		definitively tell you where it's located
21		in her inbox or her restored, deleted,
22		sent, inbox. It could be in any one of
23		those folders of her account.
24	Q	How did you come across or how did you
25		happen to locate the emails that Cathy

was sending and receiving from the civil 1 service director about prohibited 2 activities? How did you come to look at 3 4 that? 5 Α Because I believe that it was relevant at the time. We had Mr. Bucky Millet, 6 7 frequently present, talking about 8 prohibited activities and it was coming up that there were ethics disclosure 9 10 forms that were due coming up in May and 11 again, just as part of my looking 12 through, scanning through email, the term 13 political could have been searched and 14 came across. 15 0 Millet is spelled M-I-L-E-T-T; is that 16 right? 17 Yes. Α 18 So, when you're saying in your search, 19 were you deliberately picking out search 20 terms or were you just guessing for Where 21 me, Sir, as to how you happened upon the 22 emails where Cathy Derbonne to the state 23 civil service director, where she's 24 asking him questions about prohibited 25 activities by the commission?

1 I believe I used either Byron's name or Α 2 political. I don't recall but I know 3 after I spoke with Byron at one of the 4 legislative committee member meetings --5 these meetings that -- because we appear 6 at the same time and I had appeared in 7 March of 2017, again the second week of 8 my employment, and there was a mention of that she frequently contacted Civil 9 10 Service regarding different issues and so I was curious as to see what were some of 11 12 the topics that maybe they discussed. 13 And to see if it was helpful for me as my 14 role going forward. 15 Did anybody to your knowledge also look 16 at Cathy's computer other than you? Not that I'm aware. 17 Α 18 Was anybody present when you pulled up 19 emails she had sent? 20 No. Not that I'm aware. Α 21 Did you provide any of those emails to 22 Mr. Doss or any other member of the 23 commission -- the ones you recovered from 24 Cathy's computer accessed? 25 Α The emails that I pulled up and shared

with the commissioners were the ones as 1 2 part of the public records request 3 fulfilled for Tom Wright. So any emails 4 that were produced there were shared 5 actually with the commissioners. 6 You said Tom Wright on behalf of WVUE Q 7 made a public records request and you 8 said he asked for a bunch of things and then he asked specifically for documents 9 10 relating to Mr. Braxton. That public 11 records request was when? 12 I believe it was May 31st, on or about 13 that time. 14 Of 2017; is that right? Q 15 Α Correct. 16 Prior to that you had already accessed 17 Cathy's emails; is that right? 18 Α Yes, I had access to Cathy's emails. 19 Exhibit 9, had you already pulled that 0 email? 20 21 I had not seen that email. Α 22 Had anybody told you about its existence 23 before the public records request on May 24 31st, 2017? 25 Α No.

1 Had you heard anything about it? Q 2 Α No. 3 This next exhibit is Exhibit number 10, 4 which consists of ten pages. Is this 5 something you also pulled from Cathy 6 Derbonne's emails? 7 It's from Cathy Derbonne to Calvin 8 Braxton, so it would have been part of that record set. 9 10 Do you remember when it was you pulled 0 11 this? 12 It would have been as part of the records 13 request. So it would have, I believe, 14 the first week of June, to be responsive 15 for the records request. 16 Q You see I notice on Exhibit 10 at the top 17 left, there's a date 6/7/2017 and it says forward Louisiana State Police 18 19 What does that tell us, if Commission. 20 you know? 21 That tells us that it was forwarded from, Α 22 I believe it could have been forwarded 23 from the deleted folder to the -- I think 24 it's the day it was printed. So that's 25 why I -- I believe it was printed on

1 6/7/2017, for the response to the 2 request. 3 Do you even know where this email came 4 from, whether it was deleted or her 5 regular hard drive; any idea? 6 Α I don't know the specifics of where this 7 folder was in her emails. I don't know 8 what specific folder it was, but it was 9 in the documents that were printed in response to the records request. 10 11 So, earlier when you said this particular 12 Exhibit number 10 was from her deleted 13 emails, you can't tell us whether or not this was any of the emails that were 14 15 deleted; correct? Or contained in the deleted folder? 16 17 I believe they were in the deleted folder 18 but I can't definitively tell you off the 19 top of my head today if they were in the regular inbox or in the deleted folder. 20 21 And you're looking at something; are you 22 looking only at the exhibit, sir? 23 Yes. Α 24 Okay, great. Same thing with Exhibit 25 number 9. Can you tell us when this

1		document was obtained by you?
2	A	That would also be in response to the
3		records request for Tom Wright.
4	Q	Can you tell us where this was located;
5		in which folder on Cathy Derbonne's
6		computer?
7	А	I believe it was in the deleted folder
8		but I can't be sure at this moment.
9	Q	So you don't know where it was; am I
LO		correct?
11	А	It was in her folders. Correct.
L2	Q	Okay. And then Exhibit number 11, which
L3		is notice of traffic hearing; where did
L 4		you get this from?
15	А	Again, that was in the folder for Cathy,
L6		the email folder.
L7	Q	And you don't know which email folder
L8		this was contained in; is that right?
L9	А	I don't recall. Correct.
20	Q	Was this all that you obtained as it
21		relates to Calvin Braxton that you
22		produced to WVUE?
23	А	These three exhibits?
24	Q	Yes.
25	А	No.

Q What else was there?

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There were, that's I guess the, for me, 2 Α 3 there were so many potential documents in 4 that stack. That's why these did not 5 stick out even when they were printed for 6 production in the request from Tom 7 There were plenty of emails 8 regarding what's your sweatshirt size or 9 hey, did you get those rules or there's 10 back and forth regarding possible rule edits for the commission or general 11 12 correspondence related to agenda items. 13 There was a vast amount of data that was 14 printed in an attempt to be responsive to 15 the request. And again, being new in the 16 role of Executive Director and public 17 custodian of records, I have never been 18 in that capacity in my prior employment 19 so I would receive a request. It was my 20 understanding that once I receive a 21 request and review the request, I would 22 attempt to gather any information that 23 was relevant to the request. Then if I 24 had a concern, I would -- or whether or 25 not something could be privileged, I

would have counsel review to make sure that we were producing something responsive to the request. And then I would advise that the individual could come and review the documents. But with this, there were so many pages that were printed under the search term Calvin Braxton that I don't recall reviewing every single page. It was a hefty stack of pages. So there was plenty more than this, than these three items.

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- Q Did WVUE ask only for the correspondence regarding Calvin Braxton?
- 14 It was for correspondence between Calvin Α 15 Braxton and Cathy Derbonne as part of 16 their large request for a multitude of 17 documents. So while we were gathering 18 those documents, we were also -- I was 19 printing these to try to be responsive to 20 that request. Again, my understanding a 21 narrow timeframe because that was my 22 understanding of how records requests 23 worked, three days turnaround or a prompt 24 turnaround and it was less. It was 25 primarily between and it was for the

1 duration of time between 2014 and '16, of 2 which Commissioner Braxton wasn't a 3 member early on that timeframe, so it was 4 really focused on the time that he was a 5 commissioner to the time in the request. 6 In that public records request, was there Q 7 any other commission member who was 8 specifically named other than Mr. Braxton? 9 10 I do not believe any other commission Α 11 members were named. 12 Did you have any conversations with Mr. 13 Wright about the public records request? 14 I believe Mr. Wright telephoned and I Α 15 advised that there are a potentially 16 large number of documents to prepare and 17 he advised that please be responsive as 18 quickly as possible but he wasn't holding 19 me to the three days as per the public 20 records request rules. So, that gave me 21 a little extra time for counsel to ensure 22 that they could vet things for being 23 responsive or not I quess. 24 In your conversation with Mr. Wright or 25 conversations with Mr. Wright, did he

1	ever specifically talk to you about the	
2	request relating to Calvin Braxton?	
3	A That that was his his response was	
4	you mean that particular item on his	
5	request?	
6	Q No, sir. I'm speaking about Calvin	
7	Braxton. When you talked to Mr. Wright,	
8	do you recall any portion of the	
9	discussion being specific to Calvin	
10	Braxton?	
11	A No. I do not. It was the entire	
12	request.	
13	Q Did anyone ever give you a limitation on	
14	what they were looking for as it related	
15	to the item correspondence between Cathy	
16	Derbonne and Calvin Braxton?	
17	A No. There was no details with regards to	
18	any particular item that was being sought	
19	after. In my recollection, I don't	
20	recall seeing these exhibits at the time	
21	specifically. There was just a lot of	
22	back and forth general correspondence but	
23	they were in there. I just don't recall	
24	reviewing in detail any of the exhibits	
25	that are in this 9, 10 and 11 here.	

1	Q	But you became aware of them, did you
2		not, when a story was published in the
3		media about Calvin Braxton and some sort
4		of allegation of ticket fixing?
5	A	After I was responsive to the request,
6		then once the story came out, I thumbed
7		through the documentation and saw that
8		there were details regarding that, yeah,
9		in the materials.
10	Q	And sir, did you ever do a search of Ms.
11		Derbonne's computer or any of the records
12		at the state police commission to
13		determine whether or not any other
14		commission members had requested
15		assistance with any ticket matters?
16	A	I did not because I wasn't looking for
17		that. As far as a, even in this regard I
18		was not looking for anything. I was just
19		being responsive to the public records
20		request. So, I don't recall doing any
21		other search terms for tickets or
22		filtering for other commission members.
23	Q	Have you ever seen any of those
24		documents?
25	A	Which documents?

1 Any documents where any other commission Q 2 member requested assistance or some sort of inquiry about a ticket? 3 4 I don't recall. Α 5 Did you talk to Mr. Doss at all about Q 6 these documents, Exhibits 9, 10 and 11, 7 at any time? 8 I don't recall specifically speaking to Commissioner Doss about these exhibits. 9 10 Did you talk to anyone affiliated with 11 the LSTA about Exhibits 9, 10 and 11 or the contents of them? 12 13 I don't recall speaking with anyone with Α 14 LSTA about this records request or any of 15 these exhibits. 16 I'm sorry, or the contents of those 17 exhibits? 18 No. I don't recall. Α 19 Did you speak with anyone in State Police about the contents of those exhibits or 20 21 the allegation of ticket fixing? 22 I do not recall speaking to anyone about Α 23 ticket fixing or these exhibits. 24 Did you ever think that there was any Q 25 kind of ticket fixing going on?

1 I had no reason to believe there was any Α 2 ticket fixing or that Cathy was sending 3 correspondence with regards to tickets 4 for any reason. I had no -- I didn't 5 know Cathy. 6 Sir, did you ever see any incident 7 reports that were issued by a Mr. 8 Oliphant? 9 Say it again? Α 10 If you can, look at Exhibit number 20, 11 In Exhibit number 20 starting at 12 the second page is an incident report. 13 It's got an incident date of February 21, 14 2018. My question is have you ever seen 15 this document or any version of this 16 document at any time? 17 I've seen a lot of documents. I don't 18 recall seeing this document. 19 And then, Sir, is it your testimony then today is the first time you've seen this 20 21 incident report, the contents of it or 22 any version of it? 23 I could have seen something but some of 24 these details, if they were on one of the 25 blog sites in passing, but I don't recall

seeing these details. 1 Do you recall seeing or hearing anything 2 3 about an allegation that Mr. Braxton was 4 involved in a murder? 5 Α A murder? 6 Q Yes. 7 Α No. 8 Or a suicide that was suspicious? 9 Α No. 10 Did you hear anything about a 11 relationship that was alleged to have 12 occurred between Mr. Braxton and another 13 woman? 14 No. Α 15 In the document in front of you, Exhibit 16 number 20, it's a report prepared by Mr. 17 Oliphant. On the second page he talks 18 about some sort of allegation that he has 19 involving Calvin Braxton and possibly being involved in a murder. 20 21 MR. MAYEAUX: 22 Object to the form. 23 BY MS. CRAFT: 24 You can read for yourself, sir. 25 that paragraph.

1 I have never read this paragraph before. Α 2 Have you ever heard anything about it? Q 3 I have not. Α 4 With respect to Mr. Oliphant, have you 5 ever had any conversations with him? 6 I don't recall having any conversations 7 with Mr. Oliphant. MR. OXEHANDLER: 8 9 I'm making an objection to the 10 form of your questions. It's 11 Colonel Oliphant, not Mr. 12 Oliphant. 13 MS. CRAFT: 14 I appreciate that, Mr. Okay. Oxenhandler but I'm just asking 15 16 the questions and I apologize if 17 I don't get the rank right but 18 I'm not going to get the rank 19 That's why I used to right. 20 Mister. BY MS. CRAFT: 21 22 Sir, have you had any conversations with 23 anyone at State Police regarding 24 allegations involving Calvin Braxton? 25 Α I do not recall any conversations

1 regarding Calvin Braxton in the office of 2 State Police. 3 I'm not asking about the office. 4 asking about any of State Police people? 5 Α I don't recall any conversations with 6 State Police troopers or people. 7 Q Did you hear anything about Mr. Oliphant 8 expressing some concerns that he thought Calvin Braxton was involved in some sort 9 10 of following him around or public intimidation; anything like that? 11 I haven't heard of any such thing. 12 Α 13 Can you look at Exhibit number 24 please, Q 14 sir? You have that in front of you? 15 Α Yes, I do. 16 In Exhibit 24 there is an incident report 17 attached to that. It's got a date of 18 December 5 in the upper, right-hand 19 corner. 20 Α Yes. 21 Do you recall seeing either this document or any version of this document before? 22 23 I believe this document might have been 24 what I saw or something of its effect on 25 one of the local blogs that was covering

1 the commission. Not the previous one 2 that I couldn't recall that I hadn't seen 3 before. I might have seen this one on 4 one of those if it was released to the 5 public. 6 Do you recall seeing this attached to any Q 7 letter that was sent out by Mr. Falcon or 8 Mr. Falcon on behalf of the LSTA? I don't recall. 9 It doesn't sound Α 10 familiar. 11 Do you recall seeing it, sir, I guess as 12 being published in the media? 13 That would be my recollection, is that if Α 14 this was, if I reviewed this, I believe 15 it was in some sort of a media blog but I 16 couldn't tell you I read the whole thing. 17 I just might have opened it and moved on. 18 Q Can you look at Exhibit 16, sir? 19 looks like some sort of request from a Lee Zurik, Z-U-R-I-K, at WVUE to the 20 21 governor's office, I believe; have you seen this document before? 22 23 No. Α 24 In this document, Mr. Zurik writes on 25 July 14th, 2017, "I'm doing a story on

1 Calvin Braxton, a member of the Louisiana 2 state police commission." Do you see 3 that part? 4 Yes. Α 5 And it says, "we've received a report Q 6 made by Captain Jay Oliphant to then 7 Major Kevin Reeves about a December 5, 8 2015 incident involving Mr. Braxton's 9 daughter; do you see that part? 10 Α Yes. 11 It says, "the report describes 12 questionable alleged actions by Mr. 13 Braxton; do you see that part? 14 Yes. Α Do you know how WVUE or Mr. Zurik had 15 16 received a copy of a December 5, 2015 17 incident report? 18 Α I do not. 19 Do you know who sent it to them? Q 20 Α I do not. Then it says, "We also have emails that 21 22 show traffic tickets received by Braxton 23 or a friend were being fixed at the 24 request of Mr. Braxton via his 25 assistant." Do you see that part?

1 I do. Α When did you respond to the public 2 3 records request at WVUE? 4 I believe it was June the 8th. Α 5 Do you know if that's where this Q 6 information came from or somewhere else? 7 Well, the documentation was in that large Α 8 volume of materials so I would imagine 9 they received it from, I assume they received it at that point. 10 But you don't know; am I right? 11 12 Α Correct. 13 You don't know if they got it from 14 somewhere else; is that right? 15 Α Correct. 16 Then it says, "We have the following Q 17 questions for Governor Edwards. 18 deadline is noon Monday. Number one, why 19 has the governor not responded to two 20 letters sent by the Troopers 21 Association?" You see that part? 22 Α Yes. 23 Do you know if those are the letters that 24 we've talked about that were authored on behalf of the LSTA? 25

- $1 \mid A \mid I \text{ don't know what he's referring to.}$
- 2 Q "Number two, does Governor Edwards
- 3 condone the alleged activity by Braxton
- 4 in the police reported emails?" Do you
- 5 know if that's referring to the December
- 6 5th, 2015 incident report?
- 7 A I don't know what it's referring to.
- 8 Q "Number three, does Governor Edwards
- 9 think Mr. Braxton should remain on the
- 10 state police commission even though it
- 11 appears he was allegedly using his
- 12 position to threaten the trooper and via
- 13 his assistant get tickets fixed?" Do you
- 14 see that part?
- 15 | A Yes.
- 16 Q Did you ever talk to anybody about any
- 17 allegation that Mr. Braxton threatened a
- 18 trooper at any time or intimidated some
- 19 sort of trooper?
- 20 A No.
- 21 | Q "Number four, Governor Edwards thinks Mr.
- 22 Braxton should remain on the commission.
- 23 Please tell us why. Thanks. Lee." Did
- anyone at the governor's office talk to
- you about the contents of this email or

1 the requests contained therein? 2 Α No. 3 Had you seen this email before today? 4 No. Α 5 If you can also look at Exhibit number Q 6 Now I asked you earlier about public 7 records requests and you told me about 8 the one for WVUE. This looks like your 9 response to a public records request to 10 Mr. Mustian, M-U-S-T-I-A-N, to the 11 Advocate dated August 16, 2017. Do you remember this public records request? 12 13 Yes. Α 14 In this, you talk about it being a 15 response for access to public records? 16 Α Yes. 17 Where he requested for a copy of the 18 resignation letter submitted by Mr. Doss 19 as well as any other resignation letters; 20 did you respond? 21 I did. Yes. It said the document 22 requested is available for your review. 23 Did you submit also any other resignation 24 letters or just Mr. Doss's? 25 Α I believe just Mr. Doss was responsive to

1 his request. That's the only one you have; right? 2 Q 3 In the timeframe that he Α Correct. 4 requested, right? Yeah. 5 Q Did Miss Manzella ever resign from the 6 commission? 7 She did. Α 8 When? 0 I believe it was the 16th or the 17th. 9 Α 10 Did you have a copy of her resignation 11 letter, too? 12 I would have but I'm not sure. He had 13 requested this on to the 15th. I don't 14 believe, if I had a copy of Ms. 15 Manzella's resignation letter, I would have produced it. I believe when I 16 17 responded at this time, I did not have a 18 copy of her resignation letter. 19 Had anybody else resigned from the 20 commission around the same time period? 21 Α No. Do you remember what Ms. Manzella said 22 23 was her reason for resigning? 24 Α Allegations of -- I don't recall the details of it. I believe it was 25

1 something to the effect of -- I mean, I 2 don't recall. There were allegations in 3 the media and she was stepping down 4 because she thought it was best for the 5 commission. 6 How many other commissioners left the 7 state police commission since you took 8 over? Good Lord, let me think. Pardon me while 9 Α 10 I use my fingers. We had Commissioner Breaux left. 11

- Q Let me stop you. That's Breaux with an X, right, for the court reporter.
- 14 Yes. Commissioner Breaux, then that was Α 15 in April '17. Yes, I believe he resigned 16 in April of '17. I believe he was there 17 for my first commission meeting and then 18 he resigned. Then there was Commissioner 19 Braxton in July, Commissioner Doss in 20 August of '17, Commissioner Manzella in 21 August of '17, then Doctor Neustrom 22 replaced Mr. Breaux and I believe he 23 resigned in '18. Neustrom, N-E-U-S-T-R-24 O-M.
- 25 Q Who? I'm sorry.

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1 He replaced Mr. Breaux. Α Neustrom. 2 Commissioner Foss resigned. He was the 3 employee representative, Jeff Foss, F-O-4 S-S. He replaced Mr. Doss as the elected 5 member. Mr. Cantrelle just recently 6 resigned, C-A-N-T-R-E-L-L-E, Nelson 7 Cantrelle, Junior just resigned. 8 think that's everyone, so that makes 9 seven. 10 Is Mr. Riecke still a member of the 11 commission, R-I-E-C-K-E? Yes, he is. 12 Α 13 When was the last time he appeared at a 0 14 commission meeting? He was in route to our commission 15 16 meeting, our last meeting, but was I 17 believe involved in some sort of vehicular incident. 18 19 When was that? Q 20 What month are we in? It's September. Τ 21 think September 10th. 22 Okay. Q 23 Prior to that, we've been dealing with 24 COVID. We had some cancelled meetings. 25 I know he was at the March meeting.

1 had an emergency meeting to establish some COVID rules and a new chapter 21. 2 3 He was present then. I believe we 4 skipped the April meeting. We cancelled 5 the April meeting, sorry. And I can look 6 it up but I don't recall if he was, if we 7 had the May meeting if he was present at 8 the May meeting. I know he was here for 9 the March meeting when we adopted the 10 emergency rules. 11 Did you know anything about my request or 12 my client's request for his deposition? 13 Had you heard anything about that? Through counsel I was advised that I was 14 Α 15 being requested to be deposed, Chairman Simien and Commissioner Riecke. 16 17 Did you ever speak to Commissioner Riecke 18 about the request for his deposition? 19 No. Α 20 Did you ever discuss it with him? 21 Α No. 22 Did you ever discuss the deposition 23 request or the depositions with Mr. 24 Simien? Other than the timeframe where I was 25 Α

1 looking to go at 9:00 and he was going to 2 go at 11:00. Other than the timing, no. 3 Have the executive director duties for 4 the state police commission ever changed 5 since you took over? 6 Since I've taken over? Α 7 Q Yes. 8 I don't think there's been any changes to Α chapter three of the rules but the 9 10 emergency rules granted to me were -- the emergency rules adopted in March granted 11 12 me the authority to edit the police 13 commission rules. So that, on an 14 emergency basis. 15 Prior to you taking over, did you -- were 16 you aware of any changes to the duties of 17 the executive director other than what 18 you've described? You know, your current 19 duties -- had they changed before you took over? 20 21 I believe there were some changes to Α 22 chapter three but those were, if so, 23 they're in the transmittal sheets that we 24 post on the website. So it would be at, 25 there's always a documentation trail with regards to rule changes and so the date of the rule changes would be in the transmittal sheets. I believe one change I do know is the commission wanted to be aware of the monthly finances. I think that was added to the most recent rule change but I'm not sure when that change occurred.

- Q Mr. Hannaman, you told us that when you took over the commission you took time, in fact you said that's why you went through Cathy Derbonne's emails, to figure out what you were supposed to be doing, what your duties were, et cetera. So my question is, in that regard, did you go back and try to figure out what the duties of your predecessor were and whether or not those had changed before you took office?
- A I was looking for correspondence related to budgeting, the communication to the legislature, reporting, things that I had not done previously as executive director or in my employment. So I was looking in those regards, looking back on some

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emails to our office of planning and budget representatives. So I was looking back to those but that wasn't the sole source of my learning about what to do. It was just to assist and to see what maybe had been communicated to planning and budget. Again, I did not prepare the fiscal year's '17, '18 budget request. Cathy prepared that and submitted that in the fall. However, I was being questioned on that in March of '17 and May of '17 when the session was going on regarding our expenditures, our requests for funding and so I was primarily focused on figuring out perhaps what maybe was transpiring.

Mr. Hannaman, I appreciate your response but it was not responsive to my question. My question was, you said when you took over the office you were trying to figure out what your duties were. And in that regard, I asked you did you go back and try to figure out what your predecessor's duties were, whether or not they had been changed and what your current duties were

supposed to be. Did you do that?

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2 To be absolutely honest, there was so 3 much going on, I didn't have time to go 4 through every element of her emails to 5 see exactly what maybe had changed over 6 time with Cathy Derbonne's 7 responsibilities. I started on the 20th and by the 27th I had to appear before 8 the firing squad of appropriations to 9 10 determine budget needs and be responsive. So, I was aware of the duties and the 11 12 role the director as insofar as they were 13 in the rule book, but as far as --14 essentially I was putting out fires as a 15 public records request would come in, as 16 a request from the legislature would come 17 in, as a request from OPD -- I was 18 juggling many things as well as issues 19 with regards to their computers and 20 things that we had in the office, the 21 day-to-day operations of the office that 22 I had just assumed, working with my new 23 staff members, working with Debbie and 24 Chrissy to ensure we were being timely, 25 being responsive and making sure that

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everything was covered as much as possible, as well as then holding commission meetings. So, I didn't look at potentially how agenda items were communicated to the previous meetings. Did she provide commissioners with information and how the agenda meeting minutes were prepared? Just sort of looking at different things but I really wasn't focused too heavily on every detail of her correspondence. It was just, it was an aide, an assistant, assistive device so to speak.

Mr. Hannaman, again, you're not responding to my question so I'm going to object. I asked if you ever determined what Cathy Derbonne's duties are, your predecessor's duties were prior to you. If there had been any changes as it relates to yours. Did you ever do that? I don't care about the emails. I'm just asking if you did that. I'm asking because at the beginning of your deposition, you said that it was important for you to figure out what your

1 duties were. I'm asking you did you ever 2 go back and figure out what your predecessor's duties were, whether they 3 4 had changed as it relates to your duties? 5 I'm not asking about emails. I don't 6 I want to know if you did that. 7 Α I thought I was responsive. Okay, can 8 you rephrase? Is there something I looked at the rules, I 9 specific? 10 looked at the emails, I looked at as needed if there was correspondence that 11 12 could assist me. 13 Were there any changes to Cathy Derbonne, Q 14 your predecessor's job duties as 15 executive director that you saw? Not that I saw. The duties were in 16 Α No. 17 the rule book as far as the rules of the 18 director and when I started, those were the duties that I was expected to 19 20 perform. 21 Did you ever see any proposed changes to 22 Ms. Derbonne's or the executive 23 director's job duties prior to your 24 taking office? 25 Α I did circulars, I reviewed some general

1 circulars that had occurred previously 2 but those are proposal changes. 3 have to be promulgated and in my 4 organization of the website and making 5 sure that information is readily 6 available to the public, I came across a 7 chapter three general circular. 8 That was never adopted; is that right? Q I'm unaware of whether that specific 9 Α 10 general circular was adopted at this time. 11 You indicated something about you had to 12 13 look at budget documents that Cathy --14 and you said you looked at the documents Cathy Derbonne had submitted in the fall 15 16 for the budget of the office. 17 question is, did you see where she had 18 also circulated those budget documents to 19 the members of the commission? She advised the commission at the 20 Q 21 December meeting, I believe. She might have advised the commissioners of the 22 23 budget documents but she had -- it's my 24 recollection that she had appeared before

the budget committee prior to that

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1 meeting. My question wasn't that, sir. 2 3 question was did you see where she had 4 emailed the commission members the 5 proposed budget documents? 6 Α I don't recall seeing it in email. 7 recall seeing that as part of the I 8 believe the meeting agenda for December, 9 so that was again, looking at the 10 minutes, looking at the previous agendas. I believe that's, it could have been an 11 12 email where I saw the agenda but I don't 13 recall seeing where she specifically 14 emailed any budget document to the 15 commissioners. 16 Q When she met with the legislative budget 17 people, you were aware that she had 18 commission members with her; am I 19 correct? 20 When she met before house appropriations, 21 I believe it was, I believe, Commissioner 22 Braxton was with her. That was prior to 23 the December meeting but it was, I'm 24 looking for a timeframe. I believe it was 25 a few days prior to the December

1		commission meeting when house
2		appropriations met and I believe Mr.
3		Braxton was sitting next to Cathy.
4	Q	And so was Mr. Simien; isn't that right?
5	A	He could have been. Typically, there's
6		two chairs. So, if Mr. Simien was there
7		then he could have been. I don't recall.
8	Q	Did you ever talk to either Mr. Simien or
9		Mr. Braxton as you described when you
10		took over and were getting ready to go
11		back to budget? Did you talk to them
12		about what had previously been discussed
13		with appropriations?
14	A	I don't recall having a conversation, no.
15	Q	Did you review the video of the
16		appropriations committee meeting where
17		Cathy appeared?
18	А	I did later review that video, yes.
19	Q	And how did you come to review that
20		video?
21	A	I reviewed it because as a part of
22		reading separate litigations. There was
23		litigation and allegations made on behalf
24		of Cathy. I believe you were
25		representing her in that matter and

1		that's when I went and looked at the
2		video.
3	Q	Who gave you the video?
4	A	It's a public document. It's on the
5		legislative website.
6	Q	So when you looked at it, who was with
7		Cathy at the appropriations meeting?
8	A	Now, I recall that Mr. Braxton and Mr.
9		Simien were there.
10	Q	And who else?
11	A	And Cathy. I don't recall any other
12		commissioners being there.
13	Q	When you looked at the agendas, wasn't
14		the budget stuff reflected on the agenda
15		for November as well?
16	A	I don't recall. I don't know if it was
17		on there. I don't know if they had the
18		meeting that month. I don't know if it
19		was on the agenda that month. And
20		perhaps it was November when they met or
21		I don't know if it was December or
22		November when she met at house
23		appropriations. At this moment I don't
24		recall.

confer with my client. We'll be right 1 2 back. 3 (Off the record.) 4 MS. CRAFT: 5 Madam Court Reporter, 6 throughout this deposition, we've 7 referred to existing exhibits by 8 number. What we've done in all 9 these depositions is we have 10 Exhibits 1 through 24 that have 11 been attached to several of them 12 that we've taken. So our 13 reference, to be clear, when we 14 talk about the exhibits are 15 exhibits that have already been 16 attached to previous depositions 17 at the same number. BY MS. CRAFT: 18 19 Mr. Hannaman, I do have a couple more questions. How did you find out Calvin 20 Braxton had resigned? 21 22 I recall that being a press release from Α 23 the governor's office I -- Ellen 24 Palmantier, I recall she circulated 25 something.

1 Did you ever see a copy of Mr. Braxton's Q alleged resignation? 2 3 I did not. Α 4 And Palmantier is P-A-L-M-A-N-T-I-E-R; is 5 that right? 6 Correct. Α 7 Did you ever ask anyone in the governor's 8 office to provide you a copy of Mr. Braxton's resignation? 9 10 Now that I'm thinking, there was a press Α 11 release from the governor's office and 12 then there was also a press release from 13 Calvin Braxton and it listed, so I do 14 recall that. There were two, the press 15 release from Calvin Braxton mentioned he 16 was a family man, now I recall the 17 details of it, yes. So, I did end up 18 getting a copy of that. 19 Do you know if that was a release from Mr. Braxton or from somebody else on his 20 21 behalf; do you know? 22 I believe that was forwarded to my Α 23 attention from the governor's office. Ι 24 believe --25 Q Did you ever talk -- I'm sorry, say that

1 last part? 2 -- That's what I recall is that it was 3 forwarded from the governor's office or 4 the commission's office. 5 Q Who in the governor's office forwarded 6 that? 7 It would have been by Ellen Palmantier or Α 8 someone that works for Ellen Palmantier. That's what I recall of the moment, is 9 10 that the original press release went out and then the subsequent statement from 11 12 Commissioner Braxton went out. 13 Did you ever talk to anyone in the 0 14 governor's office about Mr. Braxton? 15 Α I did not. 16 Did you ever talk to anyone on the 17 commission about Mr. Braxton and his 18 resignation? 19 Merely to advise that we received a 20 notice from the board and the conditions 21 that he resigned. That would be the 22 extent of my conversation. 23 Who did you have the conversation with? Q I believe I emailed the commissioners or 24 25 forwarded that statement.

1	Q Did you have any conversations with them					
2	afterwards?					
3	A I don't recall any specific conversation					
4	afterwards.					
5	Q That's all I have, sir. I don't know if					
6	anybody else does.					
7	MR. OXEHANDLER:					
8	I'm sorry. I have a couple of					
9	questions. Does anybody mind if					
10	I go first?					
11	CROSS EXAMINATION					
12	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:					
13	Q Mr. Hannaman, my name is Steve					
14	Oxenhandler and I represent Colonel					
15	Oliphant. Just have a couple of					
16	questions. Broadly, what does the state					
17	police commission do?					
18	A The state police commission is the					
19	governing body for the state police					
20	service. So, they establish rules for					
21	state police service, set pay and					
22	establish job titles for the state police					
23	service. They review employee					
24	achievements, so if an employee is					
25	disciplined, they have a right under the					

rules to have their appeal reviewed by
the state police commission.

- Q Is it fair to say that the state police commission provides an independent civil service system for all regularly commissioned full-time law enforcement and also is employed by the Louisiana State Police?
- 9 A Yes.

- Q Does the commission ever involve or have any effect over non-commissioned state police officers like secretaries or dispatchers, things like that?
- A The only employees that are classified employees in the state police service that have graduated the Louisiana State Police Training Academy. Secretaries, accountants, IT would not be under the purview of the state civil service, I mean, the state police commission. They would be under the state civil service commission.
- Q So if I understand you correctly, the state police commission, instead of me saying the Louisiana state police

1 commission if I just say the commission, 2 that's what I mean; is that okay with 3 Is it fair to say that, if I understand you correctly, the commission 4 5 can make rulings affecting members of the 6 state police civil service system? 7 Α Say it again? 8 This commission can make rulings affecting members of state police civil 9 10 service. State police service, state police civil 11 12 service. Correct. 13 Do you know about how many state police Q law enforcement officers are subject to 14 15 potential rulings and decisions of the 16 state police commission? 17 I believe there are roughly a thousand. 18 Right over a thousand. 19 Can rulings and decisions of the 20 commission have an effect on the jobs and 21 careers of Louisiana State Troopers? 22 Yes. Α 23 I guess ultimately it affects the state -24 - the commission's decisions affects the 25 classification and the pay of state

1 troopers; right? 2 Correct. Α 3 Does it also affect their longevity as 4 far as possibly losing their job? 5 Α Insomuch as the commission -- if the 6 employee is disciplined. Then they hear 7 the appeal and they could affirm the 8 decision to discipline. And you mentioned earlier that to be a 9 Q 10 commissioner, a Louisiana State Police Commissioner, is someone has to nominate 11 12 that person; correct? 13 That's correct. Α And the nomination goes to whom? 14 Q 15 Α The process is outlined in the 16 constitution and in the establishment of 17 the state police service. There is one elected member of the commission, it's 18 19 elected by the classified membership of the Louisiana state police and they serve 20 Then there's six 21 on the board. 22 individuals and each of those individuals 23 represent a congressional district in 24 Louisiana. No more than one can serve 25 from any congressional district. They're

1 nominated by the private colleges, three 2 nominees from the private colleges are 3 sent to the governor's office. 4 governor then selects who serves on the 5 commission. 6 Do you consider the state commission to Q 7 be an important body? 8 Absolutely. Α 9 Why? Q 10 Again, it's the constitutional entity Α 11 that is governing the state police 12 service, which is one of the reasons I 13 moved our office to a location where we 14 could meet in a fashion that was more 15 representative of the important role of the commission, not meeting in an 16 17 auditorium on the compound. 18 Q I understand. Are meetings of the 19 commission covered by the news media? 20 Α It's an open meeting so media have been in attendance. 21 22 Do you know why the media would be Q 23 covering or why the media would be 24 interested in police -- in commission 25 meetings?

1	MS. CRAFT:				
2	I'll object. Speculation. If				
3	he knows.				
4	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:				
5	Q You can answer, sir?				
6	A The media may be interested in an appeal				
7	case that's before them. The media are				
8	interested in particulars of something				
9	that a trooper was alleged to have done				
LO	that's coming before the commission.				
L1	Q In your experience, do members of the				
L2	public have an interest in the state				
L3	police commission?				
L4	MS. CRAFT:				
15	Same objection.				
L6	A We have individuals that will show up and				
L7	review, sit and view the commission. We				
L8	don't have a it's not a sold-out				
L9	audience by any means but we do have				
20	participants from the public that view				
21	the commission meetings on a monthly				
22	basis.				
23	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:				
24	Q At some of your monthly meetings when you				
25	have agenda items, do you have time for				

1 public comments? 2 We do. Α 3 And do members of the public come up and 4 speak from time to time at commission 5 meetings? 6 Α They have the opportunity to do so and 7 they have. 8 I'd like to turn now to some of the questions I think that Ms. Craft asked 9 10 you but I just wanted to make sure. 11 Calvin Braxton ever speak to you 12 regarding the December 15th arrest of his 13 daughter for a DWI in Natchitoches? 14 No, I do not recall any conversation. Α 15 Did Calvin Braxton ever mention the name 16 Jay Oliphant to you? Or Colonel 17 Oliphant. I do not recall that as well. 18 Α 19 Did Calvin Braxton ever mention the name 20 Jason Linebaugh to you? 21 I do not recall that. Α 22 I know you wear a lot of hats in your 23 Can you just give us a rundown position. 24 of your basic job duties as executive 25 director?

Again, my role is the administrative 1 Α 2 director of the state police commission. 3 So anything that falls under -- from 4 preparing the annual budget, presenting 5 the budget to the commissioners, 6 representing the agency hats, 7 appropriations and finance, anything 8 that's incumbent upon the agency to 9 respond to legislative inquiries. I also 10 serve as the chief fiscal officer. also the public communications, I respond 11 12 to public records requests. I also serve 13 as the compensation and classification 14 administrator. When positions come 15 before me, I review the duties and establish the rank of the position and 16 17 the classified service. And I can make recommendations to the commission 18 19 regarding the pay schedule or possible 20 rule edits. When the commission wishes 21 to change rules, I then publish those 22 rules for public comment, I set the 23 agenda for the commission. I serve as 24 the secretary of the commission to make sure that the minutes are recorded and 25

1 then published. That's an overview of 2 the -- and also when there is a vacancy, 3 I notify the college presidents of the 4 vacancy because there's a narrow 5 timeframe for that college president to 6 respond. There's thirty days whenever a 7 vacancy occurs for a college, private 8 college university president to submit their three names or three nominees to 9 the governor and then the governor must 10 choose from that list of nominees. 11 12 that's another aspect of what I do. 13 I'd like you turn to Exhibit 0 Thank you. number 10 if you could for a second. 14 15 like you to go to the, there's a letter 16 from the former executive director, Cathy 17 Derbonne, to the Monroe Circuit Court for 18 Monroe County Plantation in Florida. you see that letter? It's a few pages, I 19 20 think it's on page eight; do you see 21 that?

22 A Okay. It's not numbered so I'm confused.
23 Okay.

24

25

Q It's a letter from the state police commission from December 7, 2015; do you

1 see that, sir? 2 I do. Α 3 Could you just read the letter for me 4 real guick and tell me when you're done. 5 I have a couple of questions for you. 6 You don't have to read it out loud. 7 Α Okay, good. (Witness reviewing letter) 8 You ready? Q 9 Α Yes. 10 Is it part of your job as executive 11 director to write a letter on behalf of 12 the commissioner from the Louisiana state 13 commission to have a ticket reduced? 14 It is not. Α 15 Has any commissioner ever asked you to on 16 his or her behalf, to have a ticket 17 reduced? 18 They have not. Α 19 If a commissioner asked you to do that, 20 would you write a letter like Ms. 21 Derbonne wrote on December 7, 2015? 22 MS. CRAFT: 23 Objection. Hypothetical. 24 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 25 Q Go ahead, sir.

1	A I would not.					
2	Q Basically your job is to perform work for					
3	the commissioners and with the					
4	commissioners in your official role as					
5	executive director, not in any unofficial					
6	or personal matter; is that correct?					
7	A Correct.					
8	Q You had mentioned earlier that a I'm					
9	sorry, let me backup. Do you consider it					
10	appropriate for on December 7, 2015, that					
11	Ms. Derbonne wrote a letter on behalf of					
12	Calvin Braxton to the clerk of court for					
13	Monroe County Plantation Key Florida					
14	requesting the private ticket that he had					
15	be reduced?					
16	MS. CRAFT:					
17	I'm going to object. That's					
18	not what the letter requests,					
19	Counsel. And furthermore, you're					
20	asking him to speculate. He					
21	doesn't know what was going on					
22	then.					
23	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:					
24	Q You can answer, sir.					
25	A Your question again was?					

1	Q Do you consider this letter to be an					
2	appropriate exercise of an executive					
3	director's authority under the state					
4	police commission?					
5	MS. CRAFT:					
6	And I'll lodge the same					
7	objection.					
8	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:					
9	Q Go ahead. You can answer.					
10	A I would say that I would not issue a					
11	letter from the state police commission					
12	letterhead to someone in a similar					
13	fashion.					
14	Q Is it appropriate, Sir, for a					
15	commissioner to be on the Louisiana state					
16	police commission to mention that he					
17	would not help a trooper if that trooper					
18	comes before him or the commission on a					
19	disciplinary matter?					
20	MS. CRAFT:					
21	I'm going to object for the					
22	record.					
23	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:					
24	Q Go ahead sir.					
25	A I wouldn't expect commissioners to					

predetermine or make a statement of
predetermination about someone that might
come before them. I wouldn't accept that
as normal operation.

In your previous testimony you mentioned

Q In your previous testimony you mentioned that Mr. Braxton was trying to hold promotion scores open for a longer period of time in about 2013; is that correct?

- A I had just come on board. We were getting ready to administer a promotional exam in May and there was some discussion of whether or not some commissioners wanted to declare a retest or to allow promotional scores to be carried forward or if a rule change or something should be made, so there was discussion amongst commissioners whether or not to allow scores to be carried forward for the upcoming promotional test.
- Q Do you know who initiated the discussion you're talking about?
- A I know Mr. Braxton was someone in favor and there might've been another commissioner or two that was in favor of extending those test scores an additional

1 year. Was that leaving the test scores open in 2 3 relation to any particular trooper that 4 you know? 5 Α Not that I'm aware. 6 Thank you, sir. I don't have any other 7 questions. 8 MS. CRAFT: 9 Anybody else. 10 MR. MAYEAUX: I have no questions. 11 12 MS. CRAFT: 13 Mr. Falcon? 14 MR. FALCON: 15 No questions. 16 RE-DIRECT 17 BY MS. CRAFT: Mr. Hannaman, I just have a few follow 18 19 You said something about in 20 response to Mr. Oxenhandler's questions, 21 he had asked you a hypothetical about a commissioner being able to affect 22 23 somebody of they, "came before the 24 board." It's true, is it not, that in 25 order for a trooper to, "come before the

commission," that has to be as a result 1 of disciplinary action initiated by the 2 state police itself; right? 3 4 If someone can, if it's in the course of Α 5 a disciplinary action by the office of 6 state police, they could appeal that 7 disciplinary action and then the state 8 police commission could then determine 9 whether or not that appeal, to uphold it 10 or change it. We also have additional rules regarding prohibited activity or 11 12 investigations where the commission could 13 investigate something that is perceived 14 to be a violation of a rule that wouldn't 15 necessarily take that same path. 16 Q However, in order for the commission to 17 do anything, the whole commission has to 18 vote; am I correct? 19 A majority of a quorum. Α That's right. And in terms of any 20 21 disciplinary action, I am correct that if an officer appeals to the commission a 22 23 disciplinary action, the disciplinary 24 action had to have initiated at state 25 police; right? In other words, the

commission can't initiate disciplinary 1 2 It can only respond if an officer chooses to appeal discipline 3 4 imposed by state police? 5 Α Again, if there is a rule violation the commission is aware of, under Chapter 14 6 7 or through an investigation under Chapter 16, the commission can take action. 8 9 However, the typical path is through a 10 disciplinary action and appeal under 11 Chapter 13. Right. But if the commission as you 12 13 describe took those alternative actions, 14 again, that has to be a majority of a 15 quorum of the board, not just one person; 16 correct? 17 Correct. A vote of a majority of a Α 18 quorum. 19 You were asked questions about actions 20 taken on tickets and I know I asked you 21 this when I was questioning you earlier 22 but you never went back to see if Ms. 23 Derbonne or any of the other predecessor 24 executive directors had as a courtesy 25 reached out to law enforcement agencies

1 as a result of tickets; right? 2 I have not researched any other 3 incidents. Again, this is part of a 4 record production. I haven't researched 5 any prior activities. 6 This was part of a record production Q 7 specifically targeted at Mr. Braxton and 8 no one else; correct? 9 This element of the request, this was Α 10 part of -- there were a multitude of 11 commission documents requested and this 12 line item on that request was regarding 13 email correspondence between the previous 14 executive director and Commissioner 15 Braxton. 16 But independent of that, sir, you have Q 17 never gone back to search any 18 predecessor, executive director of 19 records or computers or the office records themselves to determine if there 20 21 had ever been a request by any other commissioner for some sort of assistance 22 23 with a ticket; right? You've never done 24 that? 25 Α I have not and I wasn't specifically

looking for that in this record 1 2 production. 3 Sir, I'm not suggesting that you were. 4 I'm just asking in response to Mr. 5 Oxenhandler's question, you have no idea 6 whether or not any of your predecessors 7 ever assisted in a courtesy manner or any 8 manner as it related to a ticket for 9 someone else? 10 I am not aware. Ms. Derbonne was 11 employed for nine years prior to my 12 coming on board and I believe the 13 predecessor before Ms. Derbonne was 14 investigated by the legislative body for 15 some wrong-doings but -- and so that file 16 is available and I perused that document. 17 But as far as specifically correspondence related to a speeding ticket, I haven't 18 19 looked at any other documents from a 20 previous executive director. 21 Okay. That's all I have. Thank you, 22 sir. 23 (Whereupon, the taking of the witness's 24 testimony was concluded at 11:13 A.M.)

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1	Errata Sheet					
2						
3	NAME OF CASE: CALVIN W. BRAXTON, SR. VERSUS LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION, ET AL					
4	DATE OF DEPOSITION: 09/25/2020					
5	NAME OF WITNESS: Jason Hannaman					
6	Reason Codes:					
7	1. To clarify the record.					
8	2. To conform to the facts.					
9	3. To correct transcription errors.					
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