10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES STATE OF LOUISIANA

NUMBER: C-90,284

CALVIN W. BRAXTON, SR.

VERSUS

LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION AND JAY OLIPHANT

Deposition of KEVIN W. REEVES via videoconference, taken on Thursday, October 1, 2020, before Leslie B. Doyle, Certified Court Reporter (LA #93096), commencing at 11:04 a.m., Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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17	(None)		
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21	ALSO PRESENT:
22	JAY OLIPHANT
23	JAY O'QUINN
24	* * *
25	

1	STIPULATION
2	
3	It is stipulated and agreed by and between
4	all Counsel that the testimony of KEVIN W. REEVES,
5	on October 1, 2020, is hereby being taken for
6	discovery purposes and for any and all purposes
7	authorized under the Louisiana Code of Civil
8	Procedure.
9	
10	The witness reserves the right to read and
11	sign the deposition. The original is to be
12	delivered to and retained by Jill L. Craft, Esq.,
13	for proper filing with the Clerk of Court.
14	
15	All objections, except those as to the
16	form of the question and the responsiveness of the
17	answer, are considered reserved until trial or other
18	use of the deposition.
19	
20	
21	
22	* * *
23	Leslie B. Doyle, Certified Court Reporter
24	in and for the State of Louisiana, officiated in
25	administering the oath to the witness.

1	KEVIN W. REEVES,
2	having been first duly sworn, was examined
3	and testified as follows:
4	* * *
5	MS. CRAFT: And, Counsel, for the
6	record, again, I'm invoking sequestration.
7	I would further request, for the purposes
8	of the completeness of the record, that if
9	anybody enters or leaves the room, that we
10	let the court reporter audibly know that
11	so she can notate that on the deposition
12	record. Is that fair enough?
13	MR. MAYEAUX: Okay with us.
14	COURT REPORTER: That was Mr. Mayeaux?
15	MR. MAYEAUX: Yes, it was.
16	COURT REPORTER: Sorry. I may have
17	to since I can't see everyone on
18	camera, I may have to interrupt to
19	clarify. I apologize.
20	MS. CRAFT: Everybody else okay?
21	MR. OXENHANDLER: Yes.
22	MR. FALCON: Yes.
23	EXAMINATION
24	BY MS. CRAFT:
25	Q. All right. Mr. Reeves, as you know, my

- name is Jill Craft, and I represent Calvin Braxton
 in connection with a lawsuit that is currently
 pending in Natchitoches Parish. It's very important
 during the course of this deposition that you
 understand what I'm asking you, and if at any time
 you do not, please tell me to stop and rephrase it.
 - A. Yes, ma'am.

I'm happy to do so.

Q. It's also important, particularly because we're doing this by Zoom, that nods of the head yes or no cannot be taken down by the reporter, so you need to make sure to answer out loud.

My final instruction is unique to me insofar as I may ask you to spell names, places or things. Not to test your spelling. It's just a lot easier for our reporter to get those down as we go along. Is that fair enough?

- A. Yes, ma'am. I understand.
- Q. And, finally, because we are doing this deposition by Zoom, I would ask that you would take a deep breath before you start answering any of my questions, and I will do the same with respect to you, so that we do not end up talking over each other. It will accomplish two things. One, the audio will cut out, and, two, the court reporter

1 will not be able to make out what we are saying. Is 2 that fair enough? You have my word I won't talk over you. 3 Α. The other instruction is, because we're 4 0. 5 here by Zoom, I'm going to ask you, sir, on your 6 oath that you will not observe any hand signals, 7 facial gestures, notes, or any other cues or prompts to you giving this deposition for the purposes of 8 9 today. Okay, sir? 10 Yes, ma'am. Α. 11 Would you give me your full name and Q. 12 address, please, sir? Kevin Wayne Reeves, 7919 Independence 13 Α. 14 Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806. 15 0. And I do need you to speak up just a tad 16 more so that we can make sure we get that down. 17 me see if I can turn this volume up. Yeah, it's at full blast. 18 19 All right. Mr. Reeves, would you walk me 20 through your educational background, starting with 21 where and when you graduated high school, please, 22 sir?

graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 2000.

School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1986.

Graduated high school from Tara High

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Α.

1	Q. And what is your degree in from Louisiana
2	Tech?
3	A. Sociology.
4	COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.
5	Sociology?
6	THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
7	COURT REPORTER: Thank you.
8	BY MS. CRAFT:
9	Q. Can you walk me through your employment
LO	history in law enforcement, please, sir?
L1	A. Yes, ma'am. I've worked deputy with
L2	the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, reserve
L3	deputy with East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office; and
L4	worked as an investigator with the East Baton Rouge
L5	District Attorney's Office; and, in 1990, I became
L6	employed with the Louisiana State Police as a
L7	trooper.
L8	Q. How long did you serve as a reserve deputy
L9	with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office?
20	A. I think maybe a year. I'm not sure.
21	Q. I'm sorry. Eight years or one year?
22	A. One.
23	Q. And do you recall what year that was?
24	A. I believe it was '89.
25	Q. What did you do between your graduation

1	from high school in '86 and working as a reserve
2	deputy in 1989?
3	A. Attended LSU.
4	Q. And you attended LSU for three years?
5	A. Yes, ma'am, approximately.
6	Q. And you did not obtain a degree?
7	A. No, ma'am.
8	Q. And what was your course of study?
9	A. Criminal justice.
10	Q. So why did you leave LSU without
11	completing your degree?
12	A. I left to become a trooper with the
13	Louisiana State Police.
14	Q. So you left in 1990?
15	A. Yes, ma'am.
16	Q. Did you have any jobs
17	A. Probably part-time in 1989. I'm sorry. I
18	didn't mean to talk over you. Probably went
19	part-time in 1989 with I mean, in 1990, the first
20	of '90, with the District Attorney's Office, then I
21	dropped out to go to work for Louisiana State
22	Police.
23	Q. Okay. So you worked part-time as an
24	investigator with the District Attorney's Office in
25	the year 1990?

- A. No, ma'am. I worked full-time as an investigator from January of 1990 to probably May of 1990 with the District Attorney's Office, where I also went to school part-time.
 - Q. So what jobs did you hold between your graduation from Tara High School and becoming a full-time investigator with the District Attorney's Office in January of 1990?
 - A. I believe I worked for a hardware store.

 I worked for a pharmacy. I worked for some law

 firms as a runner.
 - Q. Okay. And are you telling me that the reason you left LSU was to become a State Police trooper in 1990?
 - A. Yes, ma'am.
 - Q. How close were you to your degree then?
- A. I'm not really sure. I went back to school in 1999 at Louisiana Tech and obtained a degree in a year.
 - Q. Okay. When you first went to State

 Police, it's true, is it not, that you attended an
 academy. Yes?
- 23 A. Yes.

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Q. And was that at that time the LSU Basic
Law Enforcement Academy?

It was Louisiana State Police 1 Α. No, ma'am. 2 Training Academy. Okay. And the training academy was how 3 0. 4 many months? 5 Α. Mine was 13 weeks. 6 0. And after your graduation from the 7 academy, what did you do? I was assigned to uniform patrol at Troop 8 Α. 9 Α. And can you tell me who some of your field 10 0. 11 training officers were at Troop A? 12 Α. I believe a Tommy Joffrion. 13 Spell that, please. **Q.** 14 I'll do my best. J-O-F-F-R-I-O-N. Glenn Α. 15 Verrett. 16 Verrett is V-E-R-R-E-T-T? 0. 17 I think so. Α. Stanley Griffin. 18 19 Griffin is as we think, G-R-I-F-F-I-N? Q. 20 Yes, ma'am. Α. 21 Q. Okay. 22 And Bob Landry. Α. 23 Landry? 0. 24 Α. Yes, ma'am. 25 Q. Mr. Griffin, he went on to be in gaming;

1 is that correct? I'm not sure. He went on to be 3 superintendent of State Police. Sir, once you completed your field 4 0. 5 training office program, what did you do? 6 Α. I was a uniform patrol trooper at Troop A. 7 And how long did you do that? 0. 8 Α. Until my transfer to Troop F in 1993. And where is Troop F located? 9 Q. 10 Monroe. Α. 11 And how did the transfer to Troop F come Q. 12 about? 13 I requested it. Α. 14 Why? 0. 15 Α. Because I wanted to transfer to Monroe. 16 Q. Was there family or something up there? 17 I guess that's where my wife and I were Α. 18 going to make our home. 19 Okay. And while you were at Troop A, did 0. 20 you maintain the same rank, or has your rank 21 changed? Did it change at Troop A? 22 I was the same rank at Troop A. Α. 23 Which was trooper; is that right? 0. 24 Α. Yes, ma'am. And then when you went to Troop F, did 25 Q.

1 your rank stay the same? 2 Yes, ma'am. Α. 3 And what was your assignment at Troop F? 0. 4 Uniform patrol. Α. 5 Q. So walk me from Troop F forward, the ranks 6 and positions you've held and what years. 7 In 1997, I transferred into narcotics. Α. In 8 1998, I was promoted back to uniform patrol as a 9 In 2003, I was promoted to lieutenant. sergeant. 10 In 2008, I was promoted to troop commander. 11 2013, I was promoted to major, a region major of a 12 Region 3. And in 2017, I was promoted to 13 superintendent. 14 Okay. When you were assigned to 0. 15 narcotics, were you still working out of Troop F in 16 Monroe? 17 Yes, ma'am. The Monroe field office. Α. 18 Q. I'm sorry? 19 The Monroe field office of the Bureau of Α. 20 Investigation, which was located at Troop F. 21 In 1998, when you were promoted to a 0. 22 sergeant over uniform patrol, where were you 23 working? 24 Α. Troop F. 25 Q. And in 2003, when you became a lieutenant,

1 where were you working? Troop F. Α. 3 When you became a lieutenant, did you 0. 4 remain in uniform patrol? 5 Α. Yes, ma'am. 6 0. And in 2008, as troop commander, was that 7 also at Troop F? 8 Α. Yes, ma'am. 9 And in 2013, you became the major over Q. 10 Region 3? 11 Yes, ma'am. Α. 12 That includes what areas? 0. 13 Troop E, F and G; Alexandria, Monroe and Α. 14 Shreveport. 15 0. Does that also include the Natchitoches 16 area? 17 Yes, ma'am. The Natchitoches area is in Α. 18 the Troop E area. 19 Okay. And then you became superintendent 0. in 2017. That was by appointment; is that correct? 20 21 Yes, ma'am. Α. 22 You were appointed by who? Q. 23 Governor John Bel Edwards. Α. 24 And you replaced who as superintendent? Q. 25 Α. I'm sorry?

1	Q. You replaced who as superintendent?
2	A. Mike Edmonson.
3	Q. Can you tell me anything about your
4	affiliation with the Louisiana State Troopers
5	Association?
6	A. I am a member of the Louisiana State
7	Troopers Association.
8	Q. And how long have you been a member?
9	A. I believe I've been a member since I hired
LO	on the job in 1990.
L1	Q. Have you ever held any positions within
L2	the State Troopers Association?
L3	A. No, ma'am.
L 4	Q. Have you ever served as a representative
L5	on behalf of a particular location or unit?
L6	A. No, ma'am.
L7	Q. Did you have any conversations with anyone
L8	regarding the State Troopers Association wanting
L9	some sort of affidavit as it related to a 2015
20	incident involving my client, Mr. Braxton?
21	A. I don't know if I would term it as an
22	affidavit. I did, as the region major of Region 3,
23	have the occasion to have a conversation with then
24	Captain Oliphant concerning an inquiry asking for
25	some documentation on an incident that occurred with

1	your client.
2	Q. Inquiry from whom?
3	A. The State Troopers Association is what I
4	was told.
5	Q. And who told you that?
6	A. Captain Oliphant.
7	Q. Tell me what you remember about your
8	conversation with Captain Oliphant about this
9	inquiry to him on by the State Troopers
10	Association.
11	A. I believe that they wanted some form of
12	documentation as memorializing a conversation that
13	he had had with Mr. Braxton.
14	Q. And when you say "they," you mean the
15	Louisiana State Troopers Association wanted that
16	documentation?
17	A. Yes, ma'am. That's my understanding.
18	Q. And did Mr. Oliphant tell you who
19	affiliated with the State Troopers Association had
20	made that request of him?
21	A. Not that I recall.
22	Q. Do you recall it being a Mr. Hyatt?
23	A. I don't recall.
24	Q. And who is Mr. Hyatt?
25	A. He was a trooper with State Police.

1 Q. And what is his position? I believe he's in evidence. Α. 3 And do you know what position, if any, he 0. 4 holds within the State Troopers Association? 5 Α. I do not. I think he's on the board, but 6 I'm not sure what position he is. 7 0. Did Mr. Oliphant give you any indication as to who, which troopers, or whether it was the 8 executive director of the State Troopers Association 9 10 who was requesting that he prepare documentation? 11 Not that I recall. Α. No, ma'am. 12 0. Did you inquire of him, hey, who's asking 13 for this? 14 Α. No, ma'am. 15 0. Did you -- prior to this conversation you 16 had with Mr. Oliphant, did you hear anything about 17 some sort of alleged conversation between he and Calvin Braxton? 18 Yes, ma'am, I did. 19 Α. 20 Tell me what you had heard. Q. 21 You're talking about prior to the request Α. 22 for the documentation? 23 Prior to the request for Yeah. 0. 24 documentation from the State Troopers Association. 25 Α. Yes, ma'am. I had heard that -- from

1	Captain Oliphant that he had had a conversation with
2	Mr. Braxton concerning the arrest of, I believe it
3	was Mr. Braxton's daughter, for DWI.
4	Q. What did he tell you about that?
5	A. My understanding, that in the
6	conversation, that Mr. Braxton was not very happy
7	that the State Police had arrested his daughter for
8	DWI, and that he was expressing his displeasure with
9	it, that he was on the Commission and was not
10	extended a courtesy when it came to his daughter.
11	Q. Did you ever talk to Mr. Braxton
12	personally about any of this?
13	A. Not that I recall.
14	Q. Have you ever spoken with Mr. Braxton
15	personally to attempt to obtain his side of the
16	story?
17	A. No, ma'am. I don't think so.
18	Q. Have you ever spoken with Mr. Braxton?
19	A. I have, yes.
20	Q. In what circumstances?
21	A. I don't remember. It wasn't anything of

A. I don't remember. It wasn't anything of consequential matter. He -- I think he reached out to me when I became superintendent to congratulate me.

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Q. Okay. So have you ever talked to Governor

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1	Edwards about Mr. Braxton?
2	A. I don't recall if I have or not.
3	Q. Have you ever talked to anyone on Governor
4	Edwards' staff about Mr. Braxton?
5	A. I don't think so, as specific with any
6	I'm sorry. I don't recall with any specificity as
7	to what, other than the fact that we were under a
8	lawsuit from Mr. Braxton.
9	Q. Okay.
LO	A. Would be the only conversation I would
L1	have had with him, but I can't recall much about
L2	that.
L3	Q. So can you tell me when that was?
L4	A. I really can't. I guess it would have
L5	been in short term of learning that we were being
L6	sued.
L7	Q. So would that have been after the State
L8	Police was added as a defendant sometime last year,
L9	or would it have been in 2017-2018, when the
20	original lawsuit was filed? Do you remember?
21	A. I really don't recall. My conversations
22	about this have been very limited.

Mr. Oliphant about some interaction he had with

23

24

25

Q.

Mr. Braxton?

Okay. So when did you first hear from

1	A. I don't recall the date. I would assume
2	it would have been in close proximity to the phone
3	call that they had.
4	Q. And what makes you assume that?
5	A. I'm sorry?
6	Q. What makes you assume that?
7	A. Well, I was his supervisor, and I'm sure
8	that he was making me aware of Mr. Braxton's
9	displeasure.
10	Q. Is that something you recall, or is that
11	just a guess on your part, sir?
12	A. That would be a guess on my part.
13	Q. Okay. Let's not guess. If you don't
14	remember something, please tell me, I don't
15	remember.
16	A. I don't recall.
17	Q. But you do recall he indicated that he had
18	a conversation with my client, and my client had
19	expressed some dissatisfaction, for lack of a better
20	phrase; is that right?
21	A. Yes, ma'am.
22	Q. And do you recall Mr. Oliphant expressing
23	to you any concerns that he had relative to this
24	exchange with Mr. Braxton, other than Mr. Braxton

was unhappy?

1	A. I think that Mr. Braxton had made some
2	requests that the trooper be transferred.
3	Q. Okay. Did you ever talk to Mr. Edmonson
4	about the situation at all?
5	A. No, ma'am.
6	Q. And so when Mr. Oliphant relayed that to
7	you, how did he relay that to you, that Mr. Braxton
8	wanted the trooper, which would be Mr. Linebaugh, I
9	assume, transferred?
10	A. I believe wanted him to be transferred
11	down we had a detail in New Orleans. Wanted him
12	transferred to New Orleans for a period of time.
13	Q. And did Mr. Oliphant indicate to you why?
14	A. I believe that he wanted him to get his
15	mind right.
16	Q. Okay. What else? Anything you remember
17	from this conversation?
18	A. I don't remember a whole lot from the
19	conversation.
20	Q. Did it concern you, sir, as Mr. Oliphant's
21	supervisor, when he relayed this conversation to
22	you?
23	A. Well, it would concern me that someone on
24	the State Police Commission, if they were making
25	statements and suggestions as to that after an

arrest of a family member, that would cause me some concern.

Q. So what exactly did you do about your concern at that time, sir?

- A. I don't believe we did anything. I believe that it was my understanding that -- and I'm going off memory here from several years ago. It was my understanding that Mr. Braxton and Captain Oliphant are from the same area, and that they knew who each other was, and that they were having conversations.
- Q. So you did not have any concern about the conversation that Mr. Oliphant relayed to you that he had had with Mr. Braxton, or you did have concern?
- A. I did have concerns, but I was under the impression Mr. Braxton and Captain Oliphant were working that out.
 - Q. What gave you that impression, sir?
- A. Like I told you, they're associates and they know each other from the same town, so I figured that they knew each other and were having conversations.
- Q. So aside from your guess at the time, did anybody relate to you that Mr. Oliphant and

Mr. Braxton had either worked it out or were in the 1 process of working it out? 2 3 Α. No, ma'am. Okay. So as his supervisor, 4 0. 5 Mr. Oliphant's supervisor, when he relayed this 6 conversation to you, and you said you had concerns, 7 my question originally was, what did you do? And if the answer is nothing --8 I answered your question and said I didn't 9 Α. 10 do anything. We were monitoring the situation. 11 How were you monitoring the situation? Q. 12 Α. Well, I'm sure that we would have been 13 made aware if anything needed to come to our 14 attention from Captain Oliphant. 15 0. Okay. So you weren't actually actively 16 monitoring the situation; you were just waiting for 17 Mr. Oliphant to tell you if something bad happened, right? 18 19 Α. Sure. Sure. 20 And Mr. Oliphant never relayed to you that Q. 21 anything bad happened; am I correct? 22 Α. Just that Mr. Braxton had made a request 23 that -- or had made the statement that perhaps

Trooper Linebaugh needed to do some time in New

Orleans to get his mind right.

24

1	Q. Right. But that was in the initial
2	conversation you said you had with Mr. Oliphant.
3	A. Yes, ma'am.
4	Q. And then, after that, you said you did
5	nothing, and so then I asked you about monitoring,
6	and you said that, you know, basically, I was
7	waiting for Mr. Oliphant to tell me if something bad
8	happened after that. So my question was, am I to
9	assume
10	A. If there was anything of note that
11	happened after that.
12	Q. Right.
13	A. It doesn't have to be if something bad
14	happened after that. If anything of note happened
15	after that.
16	Q. All right. Using your verbiage, am I
17	correct, then, sir, that nothing of note happened,
18	because Mr. Oliphant did not communicate with you
19	again about it, right?
20	A. I believe that Mr. Oliphant was having
21	conversations. They don't communicate everything to
22	the major of every conversation that they have, only
23	the ones that they make us aware of. I'm not asking
24	him every day what's going on with it

So then tell me what you were made

Okay.

Q.

aware of between the initial discussions you had
with Mr. Oliphant about the alleged statement by
Mr. Braxton and fast-forward to June of 2016. In
that six-month period, sir, did Mr. Oliphant ever
express to you that he had any issues or concerns
about any continuing interaction with Mr. Braxton?

- A. I'm sure we had conversations, but I don't recall what they were.
- Q. Okay. So aside from your innate feeling that you're sure, do you have any documents or notes that would reflect whether you had any conversations with Mr. Oliphant where he expressed any concern in that ensuing six-month period of time?
 - A. I have no documentation or notes.
- Q. But the next thing that I think you did tell us about was that Mr. Oliphant had been approached by the Louisiana State Troopers
 Association, who asked him to prepare documentation about his interaction with Mr. Braxton; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.
- Q. Tell me how many times in your affiliation with the State Troopers that you are aware of any trooper receiving an inquiry or request from the State Troopers Association to provide them

documentation.

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- A. I'm not aware of any.
- Q. Tell me how many times in your affiliation with State Police are you aware of any situation where the State Troopers Association asked a state trooper to prepare some sort of incident report or documentation of an alleged incident.
 - A. None that apply to me, so I'm not sure.
 - Q. With the exception of this case, correct?
- A. I'm aware of this case, yes, ma'am.
- Q. Okay. So am I correct, then, what your understanding was, Mr. Oliphant was going to prepare some sort of incident report at the request or because of the request from the State Troopers Association?
- A. No, ma'am. He wasn't prepared to file any kind of documentation with the State Troopers

 Association. He made me aware that they had made a request.
- Q. Right. And his response was, he was going to prepare a report; is that correct?
 - A. No, ma'am.
- 23 O. Okay. What was the response?
- A. From him?
- 25 Q. Yes.

1	A. His response to me was they had asked.
2	Q. And what did you tell him?
3	A. I told him that we did not prepare
4	correspondence for agencies that are outside or
5	entities that are outside the scope of the Louisiana
6	State Police in the hierarchy. If we were going
7	to if it was felt that this incident should be
8	memorialized, that we need to do it within the
9	agency.
10	Q. Okay. So let me break that down. As I
11	understood it, and correct me if I'm wrong, the
12	original request from the State Troopers Association
13	was that Mr. Oliphant prepare some sort of affidavit
14	or document specific for the State Troopers
15	Association; is that right?
16	A. That would be my understanding.
17	Q. And Mr. Oliphant came and talked to you
18	about it as his commanding officer; is that correct?
19	A. Yes, ma'am.
20	Q. Was anyone else present when you had this
21	conversation with Mr. Oliphant?
22	A. I don't think so. I don't even know that
23	I could agree with you that he came and talked to me
24	about it or whether we did it on the phone.

However you guys talked about it.

Okay.

Q.

1	A. Right.
2	Q. You had a conversation about it, and you
3	told Mr. Oliphant, we're not going to prepare
4	documents specifically for LSTA, but you can prepare
5	an incident report or you should prepare an incident
6	report about it?
7	A. I advised him that if there was going to
8	be any paperwork filled out on this matter to
9	memorialize the incident, it would be submitted
10	through the chain of command of State Police.
11	Q. You understand at this point in time the
12	alleged incident had occurred almost six months
13	earlier?
14	A. Yes, ma'am.
15	Q. And so, am I correct, under State Police
16	training, aren't you supposed to document incidents
17	at the time they occur?
18	A. In some cases, but there's nothing that
19	prevents us from any time passage of documenting an
20	incident.
21	Q. Well, what about if you're accusing
22	somebody of a crime, the crime of intimidation of an
23	
	officer? Aren't you supposed

BY MS. CRAFT:

1	Q. Subject to the objection, sir, aren't you
2	supposed to document that at the time or near the
3	time it occurs?
4	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.
5	BY MS. CRAFT:
6	Q. You can answer, sir.
7	A. I'm sorry. What was the question again?
8	Q. If you're accusing somebody of the crime
9	of intimidation of an officer, aren't you supposed
10	to document that at the time it occurs?
11	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form. You
12	can answer.
13	A. I would say that you could, but there's
14	nothing saying you couldn't document it with some
15	time passage.
16	BY MS. CRAFT:
17	Q. Six months, sir? Is that what you're
18	telling us? Six months would be an appropriate time
19	passage if the accusation is intimidation of an
20	officer?
21	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.
22	A. Ma'am, I would say that that's what
23	happened here, was six months passed. Now, whether
24	or not that's what you would say is proper or not, I
25	can't answer that question.

1	BY MS. CRAFT:
2	Q. Well, let me
3	A. That's what happened.
4	Q. Let me ask you this question, sir: How
5	many officers have you disciplined in your tenure
6	with State Police for not turning in their reports
7	timely?
8	A. I could not give an answer for that.
9	Q. I'm sorry?
10	A. I couldn't tell you an answer to that.
11	Q. You certainly have you certainly have
12	disciplined officers for not timely turning in their
13	reports; is that correct?
14	A. Yes, ma'am. I'm sure we have.
15	Q. And there are officers, are there not, at
16	State Police who have actually lost pay, in other
17	words, they were either suspended or even terminated
18	for not turning in their reports timely; isn't that
19	right?
20	A. I couldn't answer that question.
21	Q. How about you? What types of discipline
22	have you imposed upon officers in State Police for
23	not timely turning in their reports?
24	A. I don't recall. It's not a regular
25	occurrence that we have

Q.	Underst	ood. Is	there a po	licy at	
Louisiana	State Po	olice reg	arding whe	n you are	
supposed t	o turn i	in incide	ent reports	relating	to
incidents?	?				

- A. I -- ma'am, I think that you are -- I'm asking. Are you confused that an incident report is a criminal report? An incident report is just memorializing -- it can be just memorializing an incident. If you're thinking in terms of local police departments and our criminal aspect of investigation, then you have an initial report, but that's a separate initial report from an incident report. So we're talking about an incident report where someone can memorialize something at any point that they would like to in reference to any incident.
- Q. My question was about the policy of State Police as it relates to incident reports. Are you telling me there's no State Police policy relating to incident reports?
- A. I don't believe I said that at all. I believe I said that I'd have to go back and look at the -- I didn't say that, but I'm telling you, I'd have to go back and look at the policy to refresh my memory. That's why we have it written

1 down. Sitting here today, do you have any 2 recollection in general terms what the State Police 3 4 policy is regarding incident reports? 5 Α. No, ma'am, I do not. 6 0. Okav. Now, with respect to this 7 particular incident, did Mr. Oliphant ever express 8 to you that he believed the behavior of Mr. Braxton to have been criminal in any fashion? 9 10 Not that I recall. Α. 11 Because am I correct that, if Mr. Oliphant Q. 12 had relayed to you that he believed the behavior to 13 be criminal, you would have taken action, would you 14 not? 15 Α. We would have certainly looked into it. 16 0. And can you tell me whether or not anyone 17 ever investigated the exchange between Mr. Oliphant 18 and Mr. Braxton outside of what Mr. Oliphant told 19 you his interactions were? 20 Α. No, ma'am. Not that I recall. 21 Did Mr. Oliphant ever tell you why LSTA 0. 22 wanted him to prepare documentation regarding 23 Mr. Braxton? 24 Α. Not that I recall.

Did you know why?

25

Q.

1	A. No, ma'am.
2	Q. Did you know at the time that there was
3	some sort of friction between the State Troopers
4	Association and Mr. Braxton?
5	A. No, ma'am. Not that I recall.
6	Q. Did you talk to anyone at the LSTA
7	regarding Mr. Braxton at that time,
8	A. No.
9	Q which would be let me finish June
10	of 2016?
11	A. No, ma'am.
12	Q. So at some point in time, you instructed
13	Mr. Oliphant to prepare an incident report; is that
14	right?
15	A. Yes. I had conversations with Lieutenant
16	Colonel David Staton, who was the deputy
17	superintendent of patrol, and we work in a chain of
18	command here in State Police, so I advised him of
19	the situation, and then advised Colonel Oliphant, I
20	mean, then Captain Oliphant, that he could write an
21	incident report for the State Police.
22	Q. What did you tell Mr. Staton?
23	A. I told Mr. Staton the request that had
24	been made of then Captain Oliphant in reference to

1	Q. By the State Troopers Association; is that
2	right?
3	A. Yes, ma'am.
4	Q. And did you tell Mr did Mr. Staton
5	express to you that he had had conversations with
6	anyone at State Troopers Association about getting
7	this documentation done by Mr. Oliphant?
8	A. Absolutely not, no, ma'am.
9	Q. Mr. Staton was above you in the chain of
10	command?
11	A. Yes, ma'am. He's lieutenant colonel over
12	patrol.
13	Q. And, to your knowledge, did he speak to
14	anybody above him?
15	A. I don't know.
16	Q. Do you know if he had any meetings with
17	other command staff about the request from the State
18	Troopers Association directed to Mr. Oliphant to
19	prepare documentation?
20	A. I do not know.
21	Q. At any time in your conversations with
22	either Mr. Staton or Mr. Oliphant, did it strike you
23	as odd that the request was coming six months after
24	the alleged incident had occurred?
25	A. I didn't give it that much thought. I

1 knew that we had had a request or had been told that 2 we had had a request from the State Troopers Association for some documentation. My point of 3 4 view, which was also shared by Lieutenant Colonel 5 Staton, was, not with any other ill intent, other 6 than, if we're going to document an incident that 7 happened, it would be documented within the 8 Louisiana State Police, not for an external 9 organization. 10 Well, didn't --0. 11 Α. That was it. 12 Did Mr. Oliphant tell you, for example, 0. 13 that he knew the incident report itself would become 14 a public record? 15 MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form. You 16 can answer. 17 BY MS. CRAFT: 18 Q. You can answer it. You asked if Captain Oliphant told me 19 Α. 20 that? 21 Yeah. 0. 22 No, ma'am. I don't recall that Α. 23 conversation. 24 Q. Did anybody tell you, if you document it 25 as an incident report, it will then become a public

record, and the State Troopers Association can get it that way?

A. No, ma'am.

- Q. You never heard that before?
- A. Not that I recall. We didn't put that much thought into it. I mean, we weren't doing it for someone else, for any other purpose other than to document it within the confines of the Louisiana State Police.
- Q. Well, with all due respect, sir, the only reason you were documenting it, as I understand your testimony so far, is because the State Troopers Association requested it, right?
- A. My purpose was, is we're not going -- if there's a belief that this incident should be documented, we're not documenting it for someone else. We're going to document it within the confines of the Louisiana State Police. That's just -- I can't say that six different ways.

 There's only one way to say it, and it's the truth.
- Q. But, sir, with respect to documentation, if you had believed at the time, in December of 2015, that it was something that needed to be documented, you would have instructed Mr. Oliphant at that time to do so, correct?

MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.

2 BY MS. CRAFT:

- Q. You can answer it.
- A. I'd be glad to answer it. I don't -whether you document something in January, you
 document something in June, I -- in this case, it
 didn't really make a difference.
- Q. My question was, you did not believe in December of 2015, when this happened, it was something worthy of being documented at that time; is that correct?
- A. It could have been documented by Captain Oliphant at the troop level of his conversation with Mr. Braxton. It doesn't mean everything comes up to us. Everything doesn't come up through the chain of command. He could have documented on his own and kept it at the troop level for his own references for future knowledge, if needed.
- Q. Yeah. But, sir, you told us that after the incident happened, which was in December of 2015, Mr. Oliphant had a conversation with you then. My question to you was, at that time, when he had that conversation with you, am I correct that you did not believe it was worthy of being documented; otherwise, you would have instructed Mr. Oliphant to

do so then, right?

- A. If I thought that Colonel Oliphant needed to document it to go up through the chain of command, I would have instructed him to do that then, but it doesn't mean that I didn't think that he was documenting his conversations with Mr. Braxton on the local troop level, and we could come back to it at some point if we needed to.
- Q. Okay. So then, when we fast-forward into June of 2016 -- and we talked about it -- was there anything that happened? Did he come to you and say he had any other concerns? You said no. The only thing that changed was what Mr. Oliphant relayed to you, which was the State Troopers Association requested documentation regarding his interaction with Mr. Braxton in December of 2015, right?
- A. And you asked me for any actions that took place in that amount of time. It is my understanding that there were some conversations that took place over that period of time between Captain Oliphant and Mr. Braxton where Mr. Braxton was persistent and insistent on moving forward with moving the trooper.
- Q. And you have that recollection because Mr. Oliphant told you?

A. At that time, yes, ma'am.

- Q. Okay. Again, so when Mr. Oliphant told you those things were occurring at that time, you did not, as his commanding officer, instruct him to prepare an incident report or some sort of report about it, correct?
 - A. Ma'am, at some point, when you look at it, if someone doesn't abate in their insistence on an action being taken, then you go ahead and just document it. We're not going to document it for another entity. We're going to document it for the Louisiana State Police.
 - Q. Okay. So, sir, in this particular circumstance, my question was, as Mr. Oliphant's commanding officer, when, as you're saying, he told you that Mr. Braxton was persistent, whenever that was, and we'll defer to Mr. Oliphant, you at no time instructed him to prepare an incident report or any report whatsoever, not until he came to you and said LSTA wants us to document this, correct?
 - A. Yes. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. Now, did you know, for example, sir, at the time we're speaking about, that
 Mr. Braxton sat on the Louisiana State Police
 Commission?

1	A. Yes, ma'am.
2	Q. Did you know in late 2015 that there was a
3	complaint filed with the Ethics Commission regarding
4	the State Troopers Association?
5	A. I think I heard something loosely about
6	it. I'm not sure.
7	Q. And what do you remember hearing about it?
8	A. I'm not sure what I heard about it.
9	Q. Did you know that go ahead. I'm sorry.
10	A. It did not affect me in north Louisiana.
11	Q. Did you know, sir, that whether or not
12	Mr. Braxton had been involved in the investigation
13	leading up to the ethics complaint?
14	A. I did not.
15	Q. Had you talked to anybody at State Police
16	about Mr. Braxton's potential voting on things like
17	raises or things that might affect State Police?
18	A. Not that I recall.
19	Q. Have you ever seen the consent order that
20	was ultimately issued by the Board of Ethics finding
21	the State Troopers Association and Mr. Young
22	responsible for violating state law?
23	A. No, ma'am. I don't recall seeing it.
24	Q. Can you look at Exhibit #12, sir?
25	A. Yes, ma'am. I'd be glad to.

1 Q. Have you seen that document before, sir? 2 No, ma'am. Α. If I could direct your attention to page 9 3 0. 4 of 12, which is entitled, Order and Decree. 5 Α. Yes, ma'am. 6 0. In the second paragraph, it indicates, it 7 is further order, adjudged and decreed that LSTA 8 violated LA R.S. 18:1505.2A(1) by making contributions -- and it has, totaling 17,500, 9 10 including to Governor John Bel Edwards. Do you see 11 that? 12 Α. Yes, ma'am. 13 At this time, in 2015, you were a member **Q.** 14 of the State Troopers Association? 15 Α. Sure. 16 Q. Did you know that moneys that you were 17 paying to the State Troopers Association were being funneled as political donations to folks? 18 19 I did not. Α. 20 Did you ever learn that? Q. 21 Yes, ma'am, of course. It was in the Α. 22 news. 23 And how did you feel about that? **Q.** 24 Α. I felt like I had not known that that was 25 what was going on.

1	Q. Did you know that you, as a public
2	officer, were prohibited from making political
3	donations?
4	A. Yes, ma'am.
5	Q. Did you ever have any conversations with
6	David Young?
7	A. Have I ever had any conver yes, ma'am.
8	I have had conversations with David Young.
9	Q. Did you ever have any conversations with
10	David Young about this issue, the using
11	A. Not that I recall.
12	Q. Have you ever had any conversa sorry.
13	A. I apologize for cutting you off. I didn't
14	mean I thought you were finished.
15	Q. No. That's all right. Go ahead.
16	A. No. I don't recall having any
17	conversations with David Young about this issue.
18	Q. Did you have any conversations with David
19	Young about the Louisiana State Police Commission
20	and what they were or were not doing relative to
21	this issue?
22	A. Not that I recall. I'm not I think it
23	should be noted here that I'm not a very active
24	member with the Louisiana State Troopers
25	Association. I am a member, but

1	Q. Okay. While you were at Troop F, was
2	there something called a commander log?
3	A. Commander log?
4	Q. Yes.
5	A. I'm not that I'm aware of.
6	Q. Did you ever did you ever see anything
7	called a commander log at Troop F?
8	A. No, ma'am. I'm not aware of a commander
9	log.
LO	Q. In front of you, sir, if you don't mind,
L1	if I can direct your attention to Exhibit #16.
L2	A. Yes, ma'am.
L3	Q. For the record, I'll represent it appears
L 4	to be an inquiry from Lee Zurik, Z-U-R-I-K, to
L5	Richard Carbo, C-A-R-B-O, who is the deputy chief of
L6	staff for Governor Edwards.
L7	Have you ever seen this e-mail exchange or
L8	any version of this e-mail exchange before today?
L9	A. Not that I'm aware of.
20	Q. In the middle of the page dated July 14th,
21	2017, it looks like Mr. Zurik wrote to, I think
22	Mr. Carbo, I'm doing a story on Calvin Braxton, a
23	member of the Louisiana State Police Commission.
24	My question is: Around this time, did you
25	know anything about a letter written by the State

Police Commission and sent to the governor? 1 Not that I recall. MR. MAYEAUX: Jill, by the Commission? 3 4 MS. CRAFT: I'm sorry. The State 5 Troopers Association. 6 Α. No, ma'am. Not that I recall. BY MS. CRAFT: 7 In the second paragraph, it says, We 8 0. received a report made by Captain Jay Oliphant to 9 10 then Major Kevin Reeves about a December 5, 2015, 11 incident involving Mr. Braxton's daughter. 12 Is that the report that you were talking 13 about earlier that Mr. Oliphant prepared sometime in 14 June of 2016? 15 Α. I have no idea. 16 Q. And then it says: We have the following 17 questions for Governor Edwards. Our deadline is 18 noon Monday. No. 1, Why has the governor not 19 responded to two letters sent by the Troopers 20 Association? 21 Do you see that part? 22 Α. I see it. Yes, ma'am. 23 Had you ever seen either of the two **Q.** 24 letters sent by the State Troopers Association to 25 the governor?

1 Α. No, ma'am. Have you ever seen those since? 2 0. Not that I recall. 3 Α. And were you aware whether or not the 4 **Q.** 5 State Troopers Association made a public records 6 request for Mr. Oliphant's report regarding 7 Mr. Braxton? 8 Α. I am not aware. But in order for them to have gotten a 9 0. 10 copy of the incident report, correct me if I'm 11 wrong, they would have had to have made a request 12 for it, right? 13 I would think so. Α. 14 Like, I can't just walk over to State 0. 15 Police and say, hey, man, give me a copy of a 16 report, right? 17 Α. Correct. Yes, ma'am. I either have to make a public records 18 0. 19 request for it, or I have to have a legitimate law enforcement reason to get it; am I correct? 20 21 Yes, ma'am. That sounds correct. Α. 22 Okay. So can you tell me how it is the 23 State Troopers Association came in possession of 24 Mr. Oliphant's report? 25 Α. No, ma'am. I cannot tell you.

1	Q. Are there any other ways a private entity
2	can get a copy of a State Police incident report
3	other than for a legitimate law enforcement reason
4	or by a public records request?
5	A. No, ma'am. Not that I'm aware of.
6	Q. Or a third one, a state trooper slips them
7	a copy of it.
8	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.
9	BY MS. CRAFT:
10	Q. Right?
11	A. Sure.
12	Q. And have you ever been aware of or ordered
13	any kind of investigation to determine how the State
14	Troopers Association got a copy of Mr. Oliphant's
15	report regarding Mr. Braxton?
16	A. No, ma'am.
17	Q. Did anybody ever tell you about any public
18	records requests or requests by the State Troopers
19	Association for a copy of Mr. Oliphant's completed
20	report regarding Mr. Braxton?
21	A. I don't recall.
22	Q. Can you put
23	A. I'm not always I'm sorry. I'm not
24	always made aware of all public records requests.
25	Q. Okay. Can you look at Exhibit #20 for me,

1 please, sir? 2 Yes, ma'am. Now, this is dated March 2nd, 2018. 3 0. 4 from Mr. Oliphant to Mr. Staton. Who is that? 5 Α. That's Lieutenant Colonel Staton, deputy 6 superintendent over patrol. 7 And what was Mr. Oliphant's position back 0. 8 in March of 2018? He was a region major for Region 3. 9 Α. 10 And he reported directly to whom? 0. 11 Colonel Staton. Α. 12 0. And you're copied on it, as is Mike Noel. 13 Who was Mike Noel at the time? 14 Α. Chief of staff for Louisiana State Police. 15 0. Was he in Mr. Oliphant's chain of command? He would have been. Yes, ma'am. 16 Α. 17 the -- I'm the superintendent. He's the chief of staff for State Police. 18 19 So does it go from Staton, to Noel, to you? Is that the chain of command? 20 21 Yes, ma'am. Α. 22 In this particular thing, it says, 0. Okay. 23 Incident report attached. At the bottom Forward: 24 of it, there's something from Sherry Jameson, 25 J-A-M-E-S-O-N, to Jay Oliphant the same date, but at

1 2:58 p.m. Who was Ms. Jameson? I believe that she is a -- is still a 2 3 administrative assistant at Region 3, where then 4 Major Oliphant works -- worked. 5 Q. She's a secretary? 6 Α. Yes, ma'am. 7 So do you know why she's sending 0. Mr. Oliphant something dated at March 2nd at 2:58? 8 No, ma'am. I have no idea. 9 Α. 10 Okav. Attached to this document are two 0. 11 pages, and this is entitled, Initial Report by 12 Employee. What does the phrase "Initial Report" 13 mean? 14 Α. It's titled, Incident Report. 15 Q. Right below, the box checked Initial Report by Employee, what does that mean? 16 17 Α. That just means it's initiated by an 18 employee. 19 Do you recall seeing this document? 0. Okay. 20 I -- I must have, but I don't recall. Α. 21 Do you recall this document being the 0. 22 product of another request by the State Troopers 23 Association and Mr. Oliphant to document --24 Α. No, ma'am. -- some interactions he claims to have had 25 Q.

1	with Mr. Braxton?
2	A. No, ma'am. I don't recall that.
3	Q. But this incident report, correct me if
4	I'm wrong, would also be a public record; is that
5	correct?
6	A. I would assume so.
7	Q. And can you tell me to whom this document
8	was disseminated outside of State Police, if anyone?
9	A. No, ma'am, I cannot.
10	Q. In this particular incident, it says the
11	nature of the incident is public intimidation by
12	Calvin Braxton, slash, officer safety concern.
13	My first question is, isn't public
14	intimidation a crime?
15	A. It can be.
16	Q. Would you expect someone like Mr. Oliphant
17	at this time, in March of 2018 you said he was
18	the commander of Region 3 to know that public
19	intimidation is a crime in this state?
20	A. It can be.
21	Q. Well, under what circumstances do you
22	label an incident report with a definition a crime?
23	A. I don't know that he labeled it with a
24	definitive crime. He's not saying that he violated
2 E	Louigiana Borrigod Chahuto in it

1	Q. But he is saying the nature of the
2	incident was public intimidation by my client,
3	right?
4	A. That's what it says.
5	Q. Had you talked to Mr. Oliphant at all
6	about an alleged public intimidation by Mr. Braxton?
7	A. I don't think that we had very much
8	conversation about that.
9	Q. Well, I'm just asking if you talked to him
10	at all. Whether it's very much, a lot or a little,
11	it doesn't matter to me.
12	A. Ma'am, I don't recall. I can't adequately
13	answer your question with any surety on that.
14	Q. Did you talk to anybody about any alleged
15	intimidation by Mr. Braxton?
16	A. I don't recall.
17	Q. Did you know that Mr. Braxton had already
18	filed suit by the time this report was prepared?
19	A. I don't recall.
20	Q. But you said you did talk to the
21	governor's office about a lawsuit, right?
22	A. I believe I made him aware that we were
23	being sued, had been added to a suit, but I don't
24	know at what time that was.

Can you tell me whether or not you

Okay.

Q.

approved this incident report?

- A. No, ma'am. I don't know that I approved it. There's no place for me to approve, so I wouldn't have approved it.
- Q. So are you telling me, then, with an incident report, it does not go up the chain of command for approval?
- A. No, ma'am. There's no approval process for these. It goes up the chain. Sometimes it can be for -- an incident report can be used for informational purposes. An incident report can be in response to a complaint against a trooper. We could ask them for an incident report on the matter to get their version of what happened. It can be used for several different things. It's not just a one-function form. It's pretty generic.
- Q. All right. But are you telling me, then, that an incident report is not the type of report that has to be approved through the chain of command; is that right?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. So under what circumstances in creating an incident report would someone in the chain of command be solicited for input in the contents of the incident report?

1	A. I would believe that, in this case and
2	you asked me not to speculate, so I can't. I can
3	tell you that I was not involved in direct
4	conversations about this incident report.
5	Q. Who was?
6	A. I can tell you I would probably say
7	that it went to Lieutenant Colonel David Staton.
8	Q. Don't you
9	A. That's who it's addressed to.
LO	Q. Don't you have command staff meetings like
L1	once a week, or didn't you in 2018?
L2	A. We do. We have every Monday.
L3	Q. And did Mr. Oliphant attend those command
L 4	staff meetings?
L5	A. No, ma'am.
L6	Q. Okay. Can you tell me, in the command
L7	staff meetings that you had, was the subject of the
L8	allegation that Mr. Braxton was engaging in some
L9	sort of intimidation against Mr. Oliphant ever
20	brought up?
21	A. I don't recall.
22	Q. That would seem pretty significant to me.
23	Correct me if I'm wrong. You have the regional
24	commander, who's claiming some member of the public

Are you

is engaging in intimidation towards him.

1	telling me you don't remember that ever being
2	discussed?
3	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.
4	A. I do not recall it being discussed in the
5	senior command staff meeting.
6	BY MS. CRAFT:
7	Q. Do you recall it being discussed at all?
8	A. I really I don't recall. I'm sure it
9	was discussed, but I don't recall when, where, who.
10	This was being handled at the patrol level.
11	Q. Being handled by whom?
12	A. The report went to Lieutenant Colonel
13	David Staton. I think you need to ask him those
14	questions. You're asking for my involvement in it,
15	and I don't have answers for you.
16	Q. Are you telling me that Mr. Staton never
17	communicated to you anything that was going on or
18	what the status of this situation was?
19	A. I don't recall his conversations with me
20	on this.
21	Q. Do you recall anyone at State Police
22	making any statements about Mr. Braxton possibly
23	being involved in a homicide or some suicide that
24	was strange 25 years earlier?

I heard that there was an incident.

25

A.

1 actually had to ask my counsel --Well, don't -- what you 2 MR. MAYEAUX: and I discuss is off the record. 3 4 THE WITNESS: No, not you. 5 MR. MAYEAUX: Oh, okay. 6 THE WITNESS: Not you. 7 MR. MAYEAUX: Well, not legal -- not 8 legal here, either. 9 THE WITNESS: Okay. 10 I had to get an explanation for what we Α. 11 were talking about, what this was. 12 BY MS. CRAFT: 13 What do you mean, what this was? You mean 0. 14 the suicide from 25 years earlier? 15 Α. How this pertained to State Police, yes. 16 I was not up to speed on this. 17 This being Exhibit #20, the report; is 0. 18 that correct? 19 Yes, ma'am. I believe that the -- part of Α. 20 the lawsuit has to do with some allegation about 21 this, and I had to be brought up to speed on that. 22 Can you tell me whether or not State 0. 23 Police made any inquiries in the death of 24 Ms. Rachal, that's R-A-C-H-A-L, as a result of 25 information from Mr. Oliphant?

Α. 1 No, ma'am. I don't know. Would you have known whether or not State 2 3 Police, quote, reopened the investigation of Ms. Rachal, of her death? 4 5 MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form. 6 BY MS. CRAFT: 7 0. Would you have known, sir? No. I mean, no, ma'am. 8 Α. 9 If you could look on the second page, the 0. 10 first full paragraph, it says, To somewhat confirm 11 someone is watching my, slash, our every move has 12 caused great concern for my safety and the safety of 13 my family. Do you see that part? 14 Α. Yes, ma'am. 15 0. Then two sentences later, he says, What's 16 even more concerning to me is the mysterious and 17 untimely death of a woman named Lydia Rachal, whom 18 Calvin Braxton was allegedly dating at the time of 19 her death several years ago. 20 Had you ever heard about that before you 21 received this document from Mr. Oliphant in March of 22 2018? 23 Α. No, ma'am.

had in a suicide that occurred within the city

What involvement would State Police have

24

25

Q.

1	limits of Shreveport 25 years before 2018?
2	A. I can't answer that question.
3	Q. What authority would State Police have to
4	go reopen an investigation of a death that occurred
5	within the city limits of Shreveport years earlier?
6	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.
7	BY MS. CRAFT:
8	Q. You can answer it, sir.
9	A. I know I can answer it. What is the
10	can you rephrase the question so I can understand
11	what you're asking?
12	Q. Yes, sir. What jurisdiction or under what
13	authority would State Police have had to go back and
14	reopen an investigation that had been conducted and
15	closed by the Shreveport Police Department years
16	earlier?
17	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.
18	A. State Police has statewide jurisdiction in
19	cases, and so it could be new information comes
20	forth, could be I don't I'm not aware that we
21	went back and opened an investigation.
22	BY MS. CRAFT:
23	Q. Okay. Let's read on. He says in this,
24	The fact that Calvin Braxton's name was closely
25	connected to this woman at the time of her death is

enough reasonable suspicion for me to be concerned 1 2 for my safety and the safety of my family. 3 that part? 4 Yes, ma'am. Α. 5 Q. Am I correct that the term "reasonable" 6 suspicion" is a law enforcement term? 7 Α. Yes, ma'am. And in law enforcement world, when you 8 0. have reasonable suspicion, that allows you to do 9 10 what? 11 Allows you to look into something further. 12 0. Got it. Then it says, It would be my suggestion that Louisiana State Police review the 13 14 case file regarding the death of Lydia Rachal to 15 determine the actual manner of death and/or 16 determine if there was any possibility of foul play. 17 You see that part? 18 Α. Yes, ma'am. 19 Do you know that State Police did exactly 0. 20 that? 21 Object to the form. MR. MAYEAUX: 22 I have been told since then that there was Α. 23 inquiry made --BY MS. CRAFT: 24 25 Q. Who told you that?

1 Α. -- into the file. Sorry. Who told you that? 2 0. I don't recall. 3 Α. And am I correct that the only reason 4 0. 5 there was an inquiry made was because of this 6 document prepared by Mr. Oliphant? 7 Ma'am, the information that I got was Α. 8 specific to your lawsuit that you filed. It's not of any firsthand knowledge of that we went and did 9 10 this or didn't do this. 11 But you know now that State Police 0. 12 certainly did after Mr. Oliphant authored this 13 document which he dates March 2nd, 2018; isn't that 14 right? 15 MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form. I do not know for a fact that we did, 16 Α. 17 because I haven't gone back and looked to see if we did or not. 18 19 BY MS. CRAFT: 20 Are you aware of any other evidence Okay. 0. 21 or information regarding the death of Lydia Rachal 22 that came to light, let's say, in the last ten 23 years, other than what Mr. Oliphant has written in 24 this report? 25 Α. Ma'am, I know nothing about the case of a

- 1 Mrs. Rachal. I know zero about it. Do you know what State Police did? 2 3 they contact the Shreveport Police Department and 4 make an inquiry as to the death of Ms. Rachal? 5 Α. I have no idea. 6 0. Do you know how many law enforcement 7 agencies State Police communicated with regarding an 8 inquiry of whether or not Mr. Braxton was involved in Ms. Rachal's death? 10 No, ma'am. Ma'am, you could ask me 10 or Α. 11 15 more questions about this, and my answer is going 12 to be the same. I don't know of -- much of anything 13 about Ms. Rachal's death, other than what I've been 14 told in reference to the lawsuit. 15 0. I understand, Mr. Reeves, and I'm not 16 trying to, you know, repeat and beat a dead horse. 17 There's a specific --18 Α. I understand. 19 -- reason for me to ask questions as it 0. relates to specific publications of this 20 21 information. That's why I'm asking. 22 Yes, ma'am. I understand. Α.
 - Q. And, unfortunately, I have to get you on record for all of those venues. Okay?
 - A. Yes, ma'am.

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1	Q. Okay. After that, he writes,
2	Additionally, I am requesting the Louisiana State
3	Police conduct a personal threat assessment
4	regarding the capabilities of Calvin Braxton,
5	Gregory Friedman and Erin Friedman to potentially
6	harm me or my family.
7	First of all, what is a personal threat
8	assessment?
9	A. I believe it would be his term to see if
10	there is a true threat there to he or his family, is
11	what I'm assuming is written here.
12	Q. Are you aware of State Police conducting
13	personal threat assessments?
14	A. I'm not aware. I mean, when we in
15	this if we have a trooper who believes that they
16	are being surveilled, then we certainly would try to
17	do our best to find out if that was true or not. I
18	think that would be reasonable for the safety of
19	them and their family.
20	Q. Okay. So can you tell me, did State
21	Police ever uncover any evidence whatsoever that
22	Mr. Oliphant was being surveilled by Mr. Braxton?
23	A. I'm not aware.
24	Q. Or Mr. Friedman, Gregory Friedman?
25	A. Not aware.

1	Q. Or Ms. Erin Friedman?
2	A. I'm not aware.
3	Q. But you do know that State Police
4	conducted a threat assessment regarding Calvin
5	Braxton; isn't that right?
6	A. I mean, you asked me if we had before
7	conducted threat assessments as is termed here, and
8	I said we probably would if we had reason to believe
9	that one of our employees was being surveilled by
10	someone or some suspicious activity was going on
11	around their homes. As far as this goes, I don't
12	know that we did or we didn't.
13	Q. He writes, I was so concerned that I
14	contacted Louisiana State Police Troop E and
15	requested that they make frequent security checks
16	around my residence.
17	What was Mr. Oliphant's position in March
18	of 2018 as it relates to Troop E?
19	A. I believe he was the region major of
20	Region 3, so Troop E would have been one of the
21	troops that was under his direction.
22	Q. And who was the head of Troop E at the
23	time?
24	A. I believe it was Captain Jason Smith.
25	Q. So correct me if I'm wrong. If I looked

- at the chain of command at that time, Captain Smith would have reported directly to Mr. Oliphant; is that right?
 - A. Yes, ma'am. That is correct.
 - Q. And so am I correct that the way orders work is it's a superior officer giving a command or a directive to a subordinate officer; is that right?
 - A. Yes, ma'am.

- Q. Do you know whether or not Mr. Oliphant gave an order or a command to Mr. Smith at Troop E relative to making security checks around his house?
- A. Well, I wouldn't -- I would be surprised if he gave an order. Rather, I would think that he would have a request that maybe some extra patrols around his house based on what he had observed for the safety of his family.
- Q. Well, let me see if I can ferret that out. Is there a difference in your mind between a request from a superior officer to a subordinate as opposed to an order from a superior officer to a subordinate?
 - A. Yes, ma'am. There is a difference.
- Q. So are you, then, unaware of any officers who have been disciplined for denying a request by a superior officer?

A. I'm not aware, ma'am. It depends on the
form of the request. The form of a request can be
in the form of an order, or the form of an order can
be in the form of a request, but it doesn't mean
they're always the same.

- Q. But here, where he writes, I was so concerned, I contacted the Louisiana State Police, slash, Troop E, you do not know whether or not it was a request in the form of an order or an order in the form of a request?
 - A. I do not.

- Q. And you certainly did not receive any information from Mr. Smith, hey, I did not follow the request of my superior officer, Mr. Oliphant?
- A. No, ma'am. You're asking me to interpret stuff that's in this -- here that I have no firsthand information on.
- Q. Well, with all due respect, sir, it was sent directly to you, right?
- A. I understand that. The form was, but I didn't go back and go through the form.
- Q. He writes, I've also advised LSP, slash, E to contact the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office to conduct the security checks, as well. Do you see that part?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

- Q. Under what circumstances would someone like Mr. Oliphant request a subordinate under his command to contact another law enforcement agency entirely?
- A. It wouldn't be out of the way for him to do that. Law enforcement agencies -- for the State Police, our troopers are routed in rural areas in not close proximity to each other, so it would not be uncommon to depend on a local agency to help out and perform checks around houses, which I would also say is not an uncommon occurrence for citizens to have to call and ask for extra patrols around their houses when they have an uneasy feeling about things that are going on. So this wouldn't be out of the ordinary, in my opinion.
- Q. So are you telling me that the State Police public resources actually went by and conducted security checks on Mr. Oliphant's residence?
- A. Ma'am, again, you're asking me to testify to something I have no firsthand knowledge of.
- Q. Well, did anybody ever tell you that that's what happened? The State of Louisiana's resources, through State Police, and the Sheriff's

_	
1	Office's resources were used to drive by and check
2	on Mr. Oliphant's personal residence?
3	A. No, ma'am. Nobody ever told me that's
4	what happened, but it wouldn't be an uncommon
5	occurrence for any citizen in the State of Louisiana
6	to request of a law enforcement agency to drive by
7	extra patrols of their residence or their business.
8	Q. And are you telling me you've never talked
9	to Mr. Oliphant about any concerns he had that
10	Calvin Braxton or Mr. Friedman or Ms. Friedman were
11	surveilling him?
12	A. I don't recall conversations specifically
13	with Colonel Oliphant. At the time, Colonel
14	Oliphant was a major with the department, and his
15	chain of command would have been conversations with
16	Lieutenant Colonel David Staton.
17	Q. Do you know who Gregory Friedman is?
18	A. I have no idea.
19	Q. Do you know he's a lawyer?
20	A. I have no idea who he is.
21	Q. You have read this report before today; am
22	I correct?
23	A. I don't recall that. I assume that I
24	have. It was addressed to me.

Do you recall any reaction that you had to

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Q.

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1
     this report?
               No, ma'am, I do not.
 2
 3
               I'm going to show you another document,
 4
     sir, if you don't mind, and I'm going to direct your
 5
     attention -- let me make sure it's the right one so
 6
     we can kind of speed along.
 7
                   MR. MAYEAUX: Counsel, the witness is
               requesting -- five minutes?
 8
                   MS. CRAFT:
 9
                                Sure.
10
                   THE WITNESS:
                                  Three.
11
                                  Three minutes?
                   MR. MAYEAUX:
12
                   THE WITNESS:
                                  Three minutes will be
13
               fine.
14
                   MS. CRAFT:
                                That's fine.
                                              We'll take a
15
               little break.
16
                   MR. MAYEAUX:
                                  Thank you.
17
     (Recess.)
     BY MS. CRAFT:
18
19
               Can you look at Exhibit #24 for me, sir,
          0.
20
     please?
21
          Α.
               Okay.
22
               Exhibit #24 appears to be a series of
23
     e-mails with an attached incident report, and I'll
24
     represent to you, I think there's a couple of
25
     versions of the incident report, two or three.
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1 Have you seen this document before, sir, the e-mails and the incident report in various 2 forms? 3 4 Α. Yes, ma'am. 5 Q. And how is it that you saw these before? 6 Α. They were e-mailed to me. 7 Now, at the time -- if we look at the 0. first page of Exhibit #24, that's an e-mail from Jay 8 9 Oliphant to you dated June 6th, 2016; is that right? 10 Yes, ma'am. Α. 11 And this was the incident report that you Q. 12 told us you asked Mr. Oliphant to write; is that 13 correct? 14 Α. Yes, ma'am. 15 0. Now, in this one, if you can look, there's 16 a subject line that says, LSP Commission Member 17 Calvin Braxton. You see that? 18 Α. Yes, ma'am. 19 And then there's attachments, and it has 0. 20 the heading, Calvin Braxton versus Trooper Linebaugh 21 dot doc. Do you see that? 22 Yes, ma'am. Α. 23 Calvin Braxton ever sue Mr. Linebaugh? 0. 24 Α. Sue him? 25 Q. Yes.

1 Α. Not that I'm aware of. I don't know, 2 though. 3 In June of 2016, was Mr. Braxton in any 0. 4 way adverse to Mr. Linebaugh? 5 Α. I would not have any perspective on that. 6 0. Can you tell me whether or not 7 Mr. Linebaugh was ever disciplined for anything 8 relating to pulling over Mr. Braxton's daughter? 9 Α. No, ma'am, he was not. 10 And can you tell me whether or not 0. 11 Mr. Linebaugh was ever disciplined in his career? 12 Α. I can't tell you that. I don't know. 13 But at State Police, you guys do have a **Q.** 14 progressive disciplinary policy; is that right? 15 Α. Usually. 16 0. That means, in other words, you don't just 17 jump from zero to termination unless something is really, really bad. I mean, I'll give you that. 18 19 That's why I said usually. Α. And am I right that, generally speaking, 20 Q. 21 the only way a trooper is going to end up in front 22 of the State Police Commission is if that trooper 23 has already been disciplined by State Police and the 24 trooper takes an appeal, right? 25 Α. If the trooper takes an appeal, yes,

1 ma'am.

- Q. And the State Police Commission at the time, in 2016, had how many members, like five, seven; do you know?
 - A. Couldn't tell you.
- Q. Okay. This says -- it's the first page -- Submitted for your review. You did review this document, am I right?
 - A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. And you did make changes to this document, am I right?
- A. If I would have made changes, and I'm assuming I did because it says minor on one of the subsequent ones -- it says, Minor adjustments for your review. The changes I would make would be those of a reviewer that reviewed a document, and they would not be of any substantial nature to change the content of the document. They may would be for sentence structure, grammar, anything that may have been missed by the person writing the document.
- Q. But, again, I think you told us, with an incident report, it's not necessarily something that has to be approved through the chain of command, right?

1	A. I wasn't approving the document. I was
2	merely reviewing the document.
3	Q. So why were you reviewing the document?
4	A. I believe that it says here, Submitted for
5	your review.
6	Q. I get that's what he said, but you tell
7	me, as the commanding officer for Mr. Oliphant, why
8	were you reviewing this particular document?
9	A. Because it's going to go up the chain of
10	command to Lieutenant Colonel Staton, also.
11	Q. Why?
12	A. Because Lieutenant Colonel Staton and I
13	had a conversation about, if we were going to
14	memorialize an incident, we were going to do it
15	within the confines of the Louisiana State Police,
16	so I would submit the document up the chain of
17	command. It came to me. It goes to the next level.
18	Q. Okay. So was that that was the notion
19	with this incident; the State Troopers Association
20	requested documentation; you, Mr. Staton and
21	ultimately Mr. Oliphant came to the conclusion you
22	would prepare this incident report, and this
23	incident report would go up through the chain of
24	command; is that right?

Yes, ma'am.

It was submitted through the

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Α.

chain of command. There are levels in the chain of command where things can stop or can proceed forward. This was coming from a commander, so it would go to his supervisor, and then I would submit it to my supervisor.

- Q. But this particular incident report was different from other incident reports, right; it was treated differently?
- A. No, ma'am. I wouldn't say it was. Why would you say that?
- Q. Well, you did tell me that you're unaware in your tenure at State Police of the State Troopers Association ever requesting documentation and then State Police actually turning around and preparing an incident report as a result of that request.

 This was unusual; am I correct?
- A. Ma'am, I don't know -- maybe I didn't make it clear. We did not prepare this document for the Louisiana State Troopers Association. This document was prepared by Colonel Oliphant for the Louisiana State Police.
- Q. In response to the request from the State Troopers Association, which you told us three times before we took the break; am I correct?
 - A. The Louisiana State Troopers Association

- is my understanding made a request of then Captain
 Oliphant to document conversations with Mr. Braxton
 or the interactions or whatever the case was with
 Mr. Braxton. Our position was, if there's going to
 be any documentation on this, it's going to be
 - Q. Okay. So, sir, do you have any idea how the State Troopers Association became aware of Mr. Oliphant's interaction with Mr. Braxton if it didn't come from Mr. Oliphant?

within the State Police, not for an external agency.

A. No, ma'am, I do not.

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- Q. Did you ever talk to Mr. Oliphant and ask him how many conversations he had with someone affiliated with the State Troopers Association about what he claims to have been his interaction with Mr. Braxton?
 - A. No, ma'am, I did not.
- Q. But you understood that there were only two parties to the conversation, and that being Mr. Braxton and Mr. Oliphant; is that right?
- A. Yes, ma'am.
 - Q. Okay. And you jumped ahead of me, but I do see that you have an e-mail that's dated June 7th, 2016, at 1:29 p.m., and that one is from you to Mr. Oliphant. The subject is Calvin Braxton, and

the attachments are referenced as Calvin Braxton
Incident Report 060616 document, and you said, Minor
adjustments for your review; is that right?
A. Yes, ma'am.

- Q. So you made changes to the document that had been submitted to you by Mr. Oliphant; is that correct?
- A. No substantial changes to the content of the document. My changes would have been more to, like I said, grammatical sentence structure, stuff such as spacing that may be overlooked, that even I overlook and like for people to over -- to look over my work before I submit it.
- Q. Well, with all due respect, sir, I didn't ask you whether the changes were substantive. I asked you simply, you did make changes to the document submitted to you by Mr. Oliphant, correct?
- A. I understand. I was just elaborating on what changes means to me and to you.
- Q. I understand. So the answer to my question is, yes, you did make changes, right?
 - A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. Now, I know in your e-mail back to Mr. Oliphant, the subject line is changed from LSP Commission Member Calvin Braxton to simply Calvin

Braxton. The attachments are no longer referred to as Calvin Braxton versus Trooper Linebaugh. They're referred to as Calvin Braxton Incident Report. Do you have a recollection as to why you wrote those in there?

- A. No, ma'am. The subject was -- Calvin

 Braxton was the subject of the incident report, and
 the attachments were Calvin Braxton Incident Report.
- Q. Okay. And I want to ask you a question. If you can look at page 4 of 5 of the one that you made the adjustments to. Remember I asked you the question about, did anything happen after the initial interaction between Mr. Braxton and Mr. Oliphant that you were aware of, and you said something about Mr. Braxton was persistent. And so I want to ask you about that, sir.
- A. Ma'am?
 - Q. I want to ask you about that.
- 19 A. Okay.

Q. On page 4 of 5 of the incident report, the one that you made the changes to, at the bottom of the page -- well, first, it starts off in that paragraph, On Monday, December 14th, I received another call from Mr. Braxton. Do you see that part?

- 1 A. Yes, ma'am.
 - Q. And then, according to this, it looks like Mr. Oliphant documents the interaction he had with Mr. Braxton on December 14th, 2015, right? Yes?
- 5 A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. And then we go to the bottom, and he writes, Our conversation ended with Mr. Braxton, once again, indicating he was not finished with this issue. And then he writes, Since then, I have had minimal conversations with Mr. Braxton regarding other matters. He has not mentioned anything else concerning Trooper Linebaugh. You see that part?
 - A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. So here's why I'm asking you: It occurs to me, based on his own writing, that the last discussion that Mr. Oliphant had with Mr. Braxton about Mr. Linebaugh was December -- let me get the date right -- 14, 2015. Does that sound right to you, too, sir?
- 20 A. That is what it says.
 - Q. Okay. So then my question is: When you said earlier something about Mr. Braxton persisted, are you referring to something else other than what's documented in this document from June of 2016, or do you accept as true what Mr. Oliphant

- wrote, that he had no other conversations with

 Mr. Braxton about Mr. Linebaugh after December 14th,

 2015?
- A. I accept as true what Colonel Oliphant states.

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- Q. So, then, am I correct that in the intervening six-month period between December 14th, 2015, and what we're now at, June 6th -- June 7th -- or June 6th, 2016, you were unaware of anything else that happened other than the LSTA requesting documentation, right?
- 12 A. If I was, I don't recall. We're talking
 13 four years ago.
 - Q. I understand. But you're not aware of anything else happening after December 14th, 2015, between Mr. Braxton and Mr. Oliphant, as Mr. Oliphant wrote, correct?
 - A. That would be correct.
 - Q. Okay. Then the last thing I wanted to ask you about in this particular exhibit is an e-mail at the end, and it's from Jay Oliphant to you. The subject is Calvin Braxton. It's dated June 8th, 2016, at 9:03, and at the bottom of it, it's something from Latericka, L-A-T-E-R-I-C-K-A, Chatman to Jay Oliphant on June 7th at 3:26.

First of all, who is Latericka Chatman? 1 I'm looking for your -- it's Latericka 2 3 (different pronunciation). It's Latericka Chatman, and she's the administrative assistant at Troop E. 4 5 Q. She's a secretary there? 6 Α. Yes, ma'am. 7 0. So do you know how what you sent back to Mr. Oliphant on June 7th at 1:29 ended up in 8 Latericka's hands on June 7th at 3:26? 9 10 She's his administrative assistant. Α. the administrative assistant to the troop commander. 11 12 0. So does it seem to you, sir, that there 13 has to be some sort of e-mail between Mr. Oliphant 14 and Latericka transmitting the document you sent 15 back to him? 16 Α. I wouldn't know. 17 Okay. And the e-mail that's up top from 0. 18 Jay Oliphant to you dated June 8th, 2016, at 9:03, 19 it has attachments, and I wanted to ask you what It says, B and the ampersand W to 20 this meant. Searchable PDF underscore 19 dot PDF. What does 21 22 that mean? 23 I have no idea. Α. 24 Q. What does it mean to have a searchable 25 PDF?

1	A. I have no idea.
2	Q. Do you know if there's a difference in the
3	computer systems at State Police between uploading a
4	PDF that's searchable as opposed to one that's not
5	searchable?
6	A. I have no idea.
7	Q. Do you know why you would prepare a
8	document in a searchable format, a searchable PDF
9	format, as opposed to locking it down as a PDF?
10	A. I don't I know you see me smiling here,
11	but I don't have any clue as to how to lockable
12	lock down a PDF file or any other file. I'm
13	ignorant in those terms.
14	Q. Can you look at Exhibit #23, sir?
15	A. Yes, ma'am.
16	Q. This appears to be a series of e-mails
17	between you and Mr. Oliphant, Mr. Dupuy. It has
18	J.B. Slaton, S-L-A-T-O-N. Who is that guy?
19	A. That guy is a lieutenant with us. He's
20	the commander over our training academy now. At the
21	time, he would have been in I'm trying to think
22	where he was at the time. I'm not sure where he was
23	assigned at this time. What is the date on this?

I'm not sure where he was assigned at this

24

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16.

time.

1	Q. It's dated July 8, 2016.
2	So Mr. Slaton is different from
3	Mr. Staton; is that right?
4	A. That is correct.
5	Q. And in July of 2016, Mr. Slaton would not
6	have been in Mr. Oliphant's chain of command; isn't
7	that correct?
8	A. That's correct.
9	Q. Okay. So if you look on the first page of
10	Exhibit #23, at the bottom of the page, there is an
11	e-mail from Mr. Staton dated June 10th, 2016, to
12	Charlie Dupuy, D-U-P-U-Y. Who was he?
13	A. He was the chief of staff at the time.
14	Q. Okay. And can you tell me whether or not
15	he had any role with the State Troopers Association?
16	A. No, ma'am, I cannot.
17	Q. Here's why I'm asking, sir: Because this
18	is an e-mail from Mr. Staton to Mr. Dupuy. The
19	subject is Calvin Braxton. And it says: Lieutenant
20	Colonel Dupuy, I am forwarding this incident report
21	up the chain of command for review and
22	consideration. Captain Oliphant Oliphant and
23	that's a typo, I'll give you did the right thing
24	in supporting his trooper in the appropriate

performance of his duties, but the report raises

serious concerns about possible inappropriate 1 attempt to influence the public safety mission of 2 3 the department. Thank you. Dave. Can you tell me why it is you did not 4 5 forward this report up the chain of command? 6 MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form. 7 Α. I did forward this report up the chain of 8 command. BY MS. CRAFT: 9 10 You sent it --0. 11 If you'll look on the second page of that 12 e-mail chain there, you'll see that it came from 13 J.D. Oliphant to Kevin Reeves, from Kevin Reeves to 14 David Staton, then from David Staton to Charlie 15 Dupuy, which would have been a perfect line in our 16 chain of command. 17 And then should it have gone from 0. Mr. Dupuy to the colonel at the time? 18 19 I wouldn't know. Α. Well, Mr. Slaton was not in Mr. Dupuy's --20 Q. above him in the chain of command? 21 22 I'm not sure what Mr. Slaton's role was at Α. 23 the time, so --24 Q. I get it. -- I can't answer that question. 25 Α.

1 Q. But Mr. Dupuy was a lieutenant colonel, right? 2 3 He was the chief of staff. He was the Α. 4 number two in command. Well, when it says "LTC," that's 5 Q. 6 lieutenant colonel, right? 7 Α. That's his title, yes. That's his role, 8 but his title is chief of staff. Did Mr. Slaton ever hold the rank of 9 0. lieutenant colonel? 10 11 No, ma'am. Α. What was the highest rank Mr. Slaton ever 12 0. 13 held? 14 Α. He's a captain. 15 Q. Okay. So if I look at simply ranks, a captain is below a lieutenant colonel; isn't that 16 17 right? 18 Α. Yes, ma'am. 19 So under what circumstances --0. 20 If I'm not mistaken -- if I'm not 21 mistaken -- I may be able to clear this up for you. 22 J.B. Slaton may have been in public affairs at the 23 time. 24 Q. Oh, the public relations guy? 25 Α. Yes, ma'am.

The public information officer who 1 Q. disseminates information to the media, correct? 2 3 Α. Upon request. Got it. So tell me why Mr. Dupuy would 4 0. 5 then be sending the incident report regarding Calvin 6 Braxton to the State Police's media quy. 7 MR. MAYEAUX: Objection; form. 8 BY MS. CRAFT: 9 0. How come? 10 That would be more of a question for Α. 11 Lieutenant Colonel Dupuy, who is retired now. don't have a perspective on that. You can see where 12 13 my chain of command was met and where I sent my 14 information to and where Captain Oliphant sent his 15 to. 16 Okay. And you said Mr. Dupuy is retired. 0. 17 I understand that. You do know that we've been trying to take his deposition, right? 18 19 No, ma'am, I did not know. Α. 20 When was the last time you saw or talked Q. 21 to Mr. Dupuy? 22 It's been a while. Α. 23 A while being what? 0. 24 Α. It's been a while. 25 Q. Have you been to his house?

1 Α. Can you narrow it down to days, months, 2. weeks? Not very often. 3 Have you been to his house? 0. No, ma'am. 4 Α. 5 Q. Have you seen him around the State Police compound in the last four weeks? 6 7 No, ma'am. Α. Do you know what he does for a living now? 8 0. 9 Α. No, ma'am. 10 Okay. So Mr. Slaton, was he in charge of 0. 11 the public information office at State Police? 12 Ma'am, I don't know at this time what he Α. 13 was doing. I was in north Louisiana. 14 And then right above that, it's an e-mail 0. 15 from Mr. Slaton dated July 8th, 2016, to Michele 16 Giroir; is that right? 17 Α. Yes, ma'am. 18 0. And Ms. Giroir was the legal counsel for 19 State Police; is that right? 20 Ms. Giroir (different pronunciation)? Α. 21 Yes, she is, one of them. 22 And am I also correct that, in 2016, Ο. 23 Ms. Giroir was in charge of public records requests? 24 Α. I wouldn't know. 25 Q. And then Ms. Giroir sends it to a Gaytha,

1 G-A-Y-T-H-A, Bynum, B-Y-N-U-M, on July 8th, 2016. 2 Who is Ms. Bynum? 3 Α. I believe she works in our legal affairs 4 section. 5 0. So she's in the law section, too? Do you 6 know if she has public records responsibilities? No, ma'am, I do not. Α. And on the attachment on this one, it's 8 0. got that same thing, B&W to Searchable PDF. 9 Do you 10 know, is that something that was searched for and 11 produced, or do you know? 12 Α. I have no idea. 13 If you flip three pages in to Exhibit #23, **Q.** 14 there's an e-mail from Michele to Gaytha which is 15 July 8th at 1:45 p.m. It's one minute after the 16 first page of Exhibit #23, and it's got an 17 attachment with a nonsearchable parameter. Do you see that? 18 19 At the top of the page? Α. 20 Yes. Q. 21 Where it says, ATT00001? Α. 22 0. Yes. 23 I see it. Α. 24 Do you know why that's different one Q. minute earlier? 25

1	A. No, ma'am, I do not.
2	Q. Sir, did you know that in July of 2016,
3	that the incident report that you had reviewed was
4	being disseminated?
5	A. No, ma'am.
6	Q. Did you hear anything at all about whether
7	or not State Police had prepared some sort of media
8	strategy as it related to the Calvin Braxton
9	incident report?
10	A. No, ma'am, I did not. I would not have
11	been included in those conversations if they were
12	had.
13	Q. Now, if, as is written on the front of
14	Exhibit #23, there were serious concerns about
15	possible influence possible inappropriate attempt
16	to influence the public safety mission of the
17	department, wouldn't you have expected State Police
18	to have done something?
19	A. And would forward it up the chain of
20	command, and the chain of command makes the
21	decisions, and they come back to us.
22	Q. Okay. So did the chain of command make
23	any decisions about this whatsoever?

I was in north Louisiana.

I don't know.

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Α.

1	conversations.
2	Q. Did you recommend at the time, when you
3	saw the incident report and you made changes to the
4	incident report, that there be some sort of
5	investigation?
6	A. I did not make that recommendation.
7	Q. Were you aware of anybody making that
8	recommendation?
9	A. No, ma'am. I believe that, based on the
10	incident report that was filed, that I agreed with
11	Lieutenant Colonel Staton that there would be
12	concerns about that kind of behavior.
13	Q. Okay. So, again, as an officer with the
14	State Police of high rank, what exactly did State
15	Police do about those concerns?
16	A. You would have to ask someone above my pay
17	grade.
18	Q. You certainly, in your position as a
19	region major, had the authority to initiate, at a
20	minimum, some sort of inquiry, right?
21	A. I would have the authority to recommend.
22	Q. And you did not make that recommendation?
23	A. As I said, I agree with what how

Lieutenant Colonel Staton phrased his information

that he sent up to Lieutenant Colonel Dupuy.

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1	Q. I get it, sir, but for the record, you did
2	not make that recommendation that there even be an
3	inquiry; is that right?
4	MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form;
5	asked and answered. Answer it again.
6	A. I would agree with what Lieutenant Colonel
7	Staton said in his forwarding up to Lieutenant
8	Colonel Dupuy, chief of staff.
9	BY MS. CRAFT:
10	Q. I get it, sir.
11	MR. MAYEAUX: That's not the question.
12	Did you recommend an investigation is the
13	pending question.
14	MS. CRAFT: No. My thing was even
15	simpler.
16	BY MS. CRAFT:
17	Q. Did you even recommend some sort of
18	inquiry into the situation?
19	A. I don't recall the conversations that were
20	had surrounding this.
21	Q. Okay. But did you make any
22	recommendations at all?
23	A. I just said I don't recall the
24	conversations that were had surrounding this.
25	Q. Well, who were you having conversations

with surrounding this?

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A. Well, when I say I don't recall the conversations that were being had, then, obviously, I would have had conversations with Captain -- then Captain Oliphant and then Lieutenant Colonel David Staton. That would have been the confines of my conversations, because that's my chain of command, one below and one above.

Q. Okay.

- A. I wouldn't have conversations above
 Lieutenant Colonel Staton, and I sure as heck
 wouldn't have talked about this with anybody below
 Colonel Oliphant.
- Q. Did you ever talk to anyone at the Sheriff's Office in Natchitoches Parish about this allegation involving Calvin Braxton?
 - A. No, ma'am.
- Q. In your position as the region commander, did you interact with the local sheriffs in those troops, troop areas?
 - A. I have.
 - Q. Have you ever --
- A. (Simultaneous cross-talk.)
- Q. I'm sorry. I missed that.
- 25 A. Not on a daily basis, no, ma'am, but I

have. We certainly have integrated
responsibilities.

- Q. Have you ever discussed Calvin Braxton with any of the sheriffs in that area or that region?
 - A. No, ma'am. Not that I recall.
- Q. You said at the beginning of your deposition that you had conversations with someone in the governor's office regarding being sued, State Police being sued. Can you remember anything more about who you talked to or what you talked about?
- A. No, ma'am. I believe it would probably just be a informational conversation, and I don't remember who it was with. I'm telling you that I'm sure that I did have one. I don't remember who it was with. And it would be because Calvin Braxton had sat on the State Police Commission, and he was suing the State Police, so it would just be for informational purposes. I keep my boss's staff in the know.
- Q. Okay. What did you know about Calvin Braxton before you had the first conversation with Mr. Oliphant in December of 2015?
- A. I did not know anything about him other than he was a State Police Commissioner.

1	COURT REPORTER: Commission member?
2	BY MS. CRAFT:
3	Q. She's asking. Was that commission member
4	or commissioner?
5	A. Commissioner. Either one.
6	Q. Okay. The court reporter was asking
7	because she missed it, and she wanted to make sure
8	she was accurate.
9	A. I understand. No, I wasn't trying to be
LO	smart. It could be referred to either way.
L1	Q. We understand.
L2	Did you know anything about his
L3	involvement in the community prior to December of
L 4	2015?
L5	A. No, ma'am.
L6	Q. How about afterwards? Have you learned
L7	anything about Calvin Braxton's community
L8	involvement, some of the things that he's done, his
L9	reputation
20	A. No, ma'am.
21	Q as a business person?
22	A. No, ma'am, I have not.
23	Q. You mentioned in your deposition something
24	about press reports. Have you read press reports
25	regarding the allegations against Mr. Braxton?

A. I remember I don't know if I read it or
heard it on the news or whatever. There was
obviously some news around Mr. Braxton at some point
in time when he was leaving the Commission, so I
don't I mean, you showed me there as an exhibit
that Lee Zurik had made an inquiry, a public records
request as to information, so I

- Q. Well, sir, you do have people on your staff that pull articles that pertain to the State Police, don't they -- don't you?
 - A. That do what, now?

- Q. Pertain to the State Police. You've got people on your staff whose job it is to look through all the media reports for anything relating to the State Police, right?
- A. Yes, ma'am. We have a public affairs section.
- Q. Right. And they compile that information and present it to you so you know what's going on; am I correct?
- A. No, ma'am. You're not correct. We're not quite that sophisticated with it. They don't -- they don't compile a list of news stories that involve State Police.
 - Q. Do they share information that they garner

from local media coverage with you? 1 Α. On occasion. 3 0. And did that ever happen --4 (Simultaneous cross-talk.) Α. 5 Q. Excuse me? 6 I said, but not on every story that's done Α. 7 on State Police. No, ma'am. Well, how about with respect to Calvin 8 0. Braxton, when you took over in 2017? 9 10 Yes, ma'am. I don't recall. I don't Α. 11 I'm not going to tell you I haven't been recall. 12 briefed. I'm not going to tell you I have. I don't 13 recall. 14 In what media venues do you recall there 0. 15 being a reference to Mr. Oliphant's report involving 16 Calvin Braxton? 17 I don't recall any media venues of when it Α. was -- there was a reference to Mr. Oliphant's 18 19 incident report or otherwise. 20 0. But you do --21 But I knew that there was media coverage Α. 22 of the incident, but I can't specifically tell you 23 who did it, when they did it and what the content of 24 it was. I mean, we all know there was media 25 coverage.

1	Q. Okay. Sir, can you tell me whether or not
2	State Police has taken any action since the filing
3	of Mr. Braxton's lawsuit to either recant the
4	allegations contained in Mr. Oliphant's 2018
5	incident report and his 2016 incident report?
6	A. I don't really understand what you're
7	asking.
8	Q. Have there been any actions taken by State
9	Police to recant any of the statements that
10	Mr. Oliphant made in his 2016 incident report and
11	his 2018 incident report regarding Mr. Braxton?
12	A. I don't believe so. When you say
13	"recant," you mean get him to take back what he
14	said?
15	Q. Yes.
16	A. I don't recall. No.
17	Q. Did you see the Facebook posting that
18	Mr. Oliphant made in 2018 about Mr. Braxton?
19	A. I did subsequently, yes, ma'am. I don't
20	have Facebook.
21	Q. So who showed it to you?
22	A. I don't recall who showed it to me.
23	Q. Was there any action taken against
24	Mr. Oliphant regarding his Facebook posting about
25	Mr. Braxton?

I don't recall if there was or not. 1 Α. 2 Do you know if he was counseled in any 0. 3 fashion? 4 Α. I don't recall. Do you know if he was asked to take that 5 Q. 6 Facebook posting about Mr. Braxton down? 7 Α. I don't. 8 MS. CRAFT: That's all I have, sir. Thank you. The other lawyers may or may 9 10 not have questions for you. 11 MR. FALCON: Just a couple. I have a 12 couple. 13 EXAMINATION 14 BY MR. FALCON: 15 0. Colonel Reeves, do you know whether or not -- or have you heard whether or not Mr. Braxton 16 17 at any time since 2016 made any complaint to the internal affairs section relative to Colonel 18 19 Oliphant or anything Colonel Oliphant might have 20 said? 21 No, sir. I don't recall that. Α. 22 Do you -- are you aware of any 23 professional courtesy that a state policeman owes to an individual member of the State Police Commission? 24 25 Α. No, sir.

1	Q. Do you believe it appropriate for a State
2	Police commissioner to use his position for his
3	personal benefit?
4	MS. CRAFT: I'm going to object to the
5	form.
6	A. (Simultaneous cross-talk.)
7	MS. CRAFT: Sorry. Hold on. Let me
8	object to the form. And, Mr. Reeves, your
9	voice is a lot quieter than when you were
10	answering my questions, and I think the
11	court reporter is having difficulty
12	hearing your response.
13	THE WITNESS: I apologize for that. I
14	think it's because I'm looking at him and
15	he's right here in the room, so I
16	apologize. I'll speak up.
17	MS. CRAFT: No. I fully understand.
18	And so you know for the record, I have
19	objected to all this business on partial
20	Zoom. But I have made an objection, so I
21	think you need to respond to Mr. Falcon's
22	question so she can hear it.
23	THE WITNESS: Ask the question again.
24	MR. FALCON: Sure.
25	BY MR. FALCON:

1	Q. Are you aware of any professional courtesy
2	that state troopers owe to individual Commission
3	members?
4	A. No, sir.
5	Q. Would it be appropriate for a Commission
6	member to use his position for their personal
7	benefit?
8	A. I would not think that is appropriate.
9	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form. Hold
10	on. Hold on. I'm objecting to that
11	question to the form. Now if you can
12	answer it so the court reporter can hear
13	your answer, that would be helpful.
14	A. I would not think that was appropriate.
15	BY MR. FALCON:
16	Q. Would it be appropriate for the Louisiana
17	State Police to transfer a trooper because he gave a
18	relative of a public official a DWI?
19	A. No, sir. That would not be appropriate.
20	Q. Would it be appropriate for the Louisiana
21	State Police to send a trooper to additional
22	training to get his mind right because that trooper
23	gave a DWI to a relative of a public official?
24	A. No, sir. That would not be appropriate.
25	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form. Hold

1	on, Mr. Reeves. Object to the form.
2	COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Your
3	answer, sir?
4	A. No, that would not be appropriate.
5	COURT REPORTER: Thank you.
6	BY MR. FALCON:
7	Q. Have you ever heard any discussions, sir,
8	or been aware of a claim that Commission members,
9	referring to State Police Commission members, were
10	untouchable insofar as law enforcement is concerned?
11	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form. Go
12	ahead.
13	THE WITNESS: I like the way you did
14	that that time. It stopped me
15	MS. CRAFT: I got you.
16	THE WITNESS: because you held your
17	hand up.
18	Okay. Can you ask it one more time?
19	MR. FALCON: Yes, sir.
20	BY MR. FALCON:
21	Q. Have you ever heard any discussion or know
22	of any provision that would that Commission
23	members, the Louisiana State Police Commission
24	members, were and I'm using the word
25	"untouchable" by State Police or by law enforcement

1	in general?
2	MS. CRAFT: Same objection. Go ahead.
3	A. No.
4	BY MR. FALCON:
5	Q. Have you ever discussed with Mr. Oliphant
6	the Facebook posting itself?
7	A. I don't recall.
8	Q. Have you ever heard or do you recall any
9	discussion about Mr. Braxton and/or Ms. Derbonne
10	using State Police Commission stationary to seek an
11	adjustment in traffic tickets that Mr. Braxton or
12	members of his family might have received?
13	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form. Go
14	ahead.
15	A. I'm not familiar.
16	MR. FALCON: I think that's all I
17	have. Thank you, sir.
18	MR. MAYEAUX: Steve?
19	MR. OXENHANDLER: Yes, I have a couple
20	questions.
21	EXAMINATION
22	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
23	Q. Colonel, again, I'm Steve Oxenhandler, and
24	I have Colonel Oliphant here with me.
25	In this lawsuit, Calvin Braxton has argued

1	that an incident report is only to document crimes
2	or trooper misconduct contemporaneously as it
3	occurs. In your experience, are incident reports
4	used only to document crimes or trooper misconduct?
5	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form.
6	A. No, sir. I'm sorry.
7	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form.
8	MR. OXENHANDLER: What's wrong with
9	the form, Ms. Craft? What's wrong with
10	the form of that question?
11	MS. CRAFT: The form of that question
12	is your predicate is inappropriate as it
13	relates to the evidence we submitted.
14	Argument set forth in memorandum is also
15	supported by evidence. We cited
16	deposition testimony and evidence in
17	support of various propositions. That's
18	my objection.
19	MR. OXENHANDLER: I made an exact
20	quote. There's nothing wrong with the
21	form of the question.
22	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
23	Q. You go ahead and answer it, Mr Colonel
24	Reeves.
25	A. Could you ask me one more time?

1	Q. Yes. In your experience, are incident
2	reports used only to document crimes or trooper
3	misconduct?
4	A. No, sir. That's not my experience.
5	Q. And I think you testified earlier, in your
6	experience, there is no Louisiana State Police rule
7	or requirement that incident reports are to be
8	prepared contemporaneously as the event occurs,
9	right?
10	MS. CRAFT: I'm objecting to the form.
11	It's been asked and answered.
12	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
13	Q. You can go ahead and answer again.
14	A. I would have to go back and refer to our
15	procedural order, but I don't
16	COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Refer
17	back to your what, sir?
18	THE WITNESS: Procedural order.
19	COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you.
20	THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
21	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
22	Q. You know Jason Starns, correct, Colonel?
23	A. Yes, sir.
24	Q. In his testimony, Jason Starns testified
25	that an incident report is a very versatile tool.

1 Would you agree with that assessment? 2 Yes, sir. Α. Object to the form. 3 MS. CRAFT: 4 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. 5 MS. CRAFT: That's all right. You 6 can answer. 7 Α. Yes, sir. I would agree. 8 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: I'd like you to turn to the actual 9 Q. 10 incident -- I think it's on Exhibit #24, which was a 11 series of -- looks like a series of June 2nd, 2016, incident reports that you reviewed. I want to go in 12 13 the final one that was actually signed by Colonel 14 Oliphant, which is towards the end, the last few 15 pages of the Exhibit #24. Do you see it, sir? 16 Α. Yes, sir, I do. 17 When you reviewed this incident report, 0. 18 did you see any -- anything about Colonel Oliphant's 19 June 2nd, 2016, incident report that violated any 20 State Police procedures regarding preparation of the 21 report? 22 MS. CRAFT: Object to the form. 23 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 24 Q. Go ahead. I did not. 25 Α.

1	Q. Did you see anything in Colonel Oliphant's
2	June 2nd, 2016, incident report that violated any
3	State Police procedures regarding the content of the
4	incident report?
5	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form.
6	A. I did not.
7	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
8	Q. Did you interpret, when you were reviewing
9	and sent up chain of command the Colonel
10	Oliphant's June 2nd, 2016, incident report to
11	contain accusations that Calvin Braxton had
12	committed any violations of Louisiana criminal
13	statutes?
14	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form.
15	A. I did not.
16	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
17	Q. If Colonel Oliphant's June 2nd, 2016,
18	incident report had contained accusations I'm
19	sorry. Strike that.
20	If Colonel Oliphant's June 2nd, 2016,
21	incident report had contained criminal accusations
22	against Calvin Braxton, what would have occurred in
23	relation to those criminal accusations?
24	MS. CRAFT: Same objection.
25	A. I would assume those criminal accusations

would have been forwarded to the criminal inves- --1 Bureau of Investigation, our criminal side, to be 2 looked into. 3 4 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 5 Q. Did that happen in this case, sir? 6 Α. Not that I'm aware of. 7 If you could go now to Exhibit #20. 0. 8 is the May -- March 2nd, 2018, incident report, the request for the personal threat assessment. You've 9 10 seen this report before today, sir; is that correct? 11 I'm assuming, yes, sir, I have. 12 assuming so. It's addressed to me, so... 13 On page 2 of this report, Colonel Oliphant 0. 14 requests that the State Police conduct a personal 15 threat assessment regarding the capabilities of 16 Calvin Braxton and others to potentially harm 17 Colonel Oliphant or his family. 18 With regard to that request, what is a --19 or what is a personal threat assessment? 20 MS. CRAFT: Objection; asked and 21 answered. 22 I would say that -- and I'm not familiar Α. 23 with what happened here. I would say that it would 24 be an assessment to see if there is a threat there

to Colonel Oliphant or his family.

BY	MR.	OXENHANDLER
	1,117	

- Q. I think you've termed it -- you've termed it something else before. Do you remember what you -- I don't remember what you testified it as.

 Do you remember what you previously testified? You used some other term besides personal threat assessment. I just don't remember what it was.
 - A. I don't recall.
- Q. If a state trooper believed that he was being followed and was under surveillance by some person and that his life and the lives of his family may be in danger, would it be proper for the troopers to request a personal threat assessment or something similar to that regarding the person he believed might pose a threat?

MS. CRAFT: And I'm going to object to the form and further object under 701.

BY MR. OXENHANDLER:

- O. Go ahead. You can answer.
- A. I believe that, as an agency, we would want to know that out of an abundance of caution to protect our employees and their families, and we may would put some extra patrols around their area.
- Q. In this report -- I'm going to go over some facts here that are listed -- Colonel Oliphant

has observed out-of-place vehicles near his home. 1 Colonel Oliphant has documented in this report that 2 the vehicle looked very suspicious. Colonel 3 4 Oliphant documented that he had information he 5 believed was credible, which said that Calvin 6 Braxton had hired a private investigation or 7 somebody to watch and follow him. Colonel Oliphant 8 alleged in this report that the suspicious vehicle accelerated and fled as Colonel Oliphant's car 9 10 approached. As is documented also, that a license 11 check showed that the vehicle was registered to a 12 person believed to have business connections with 13 Calvin Braxton. Colonel Oliphant documented that 14 the investigation -- that Mr. Braxton's name was 15 closely associated with a woman who had a mysterious 16 and untimely death that was -- death was ruled a 17 suicide. Colonel Oliphant also documented that 18 Colonel Oliphant thought the investigation of the 19 suicide should be reopened to see if there was any possibility of foul play. And Colonel Oliphant was 20 21 so concerned that he requested the State Police to 22 make frequent checks around his house. 23 Considering the statements made in the 24 incident report of March 2nd, 2018, and Colonel

Oliphant's express concerns in this report, was it

1	proper for a personal threat assessment to have been
2	requested by Colonel Oliphant?
3	MS. CRAFT: I'm going to object to the
4	form. And furthermore, Counsel, with
5	respect to your predicate about the facts
6	listed, those are highly disputed, and,
7	frankly, we don't think they're facts at
8	all. But subject to it, if he can answer
9	it.
10	A. I'm not sure what actions were taken as
11	far as a personal threat assessment were here by our
12	agency at the time, and I certainly would agree with
13	having security checks around the residence to make
14	sure that he and his family are safe.
15	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
16	Q. Was it proper was it proper, though, in
17	your opinion, as superintendent of the State Police,
18	for Colonel Oliphant, knowing all the facts that we
19	just talked about, to ask for a personal threat
20	assessment to be conducted?
21	MS. CRAFT: Object to the form.
22	A. I wouldn't think I'm sorry.
23	MS. CRAFT: And, again, the predicate,
24	specifically counselor referring to it as
25	being facts. But you can answer it, if

1	you can, sir.
2	A. I don't think that I would think it
3	unreasonable for Colonel Oliphant to make that
4	request.
5	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
6	Q. Is it fair to say that you did not see
7	anything improper about Colonel Oliphant's request
8	for a personal threat assessment regarding Calvin
9	Braxton?
10	A. I did not. I don't think can I say
11	this: I don't think that there was anything
12	improper, based on the circumstances that he was
13	observing around his home and what was going on, to
14	request that.
15	Q. Now, in the on page 2 of Exhibit #20,
16	in the middle paragraph, could you please read that
17	to yourself, sir?
18	MR. MAYEAUX: The first page of the
19	report or the second page?
20	MR. OXENHANDLER: No, the second page
21	of the report. I'm sorry.
22	A. Beginning with, somewhat confirm?
23	BY MR. OXENHANDLER:
24	Q. To somewhat confirm, correct. Could you
25	read that paragraph, and I'm going to ask you some

1 questions about that. Yes, sir. Α. Okay. As you can see, Colonel, this 3 0. 4 report references Lydia Rachal, a woman allegedly 5 dated by Calvin Braxton, whose death was untimely ruled to be a suicide. 6 7 MS. CRAFT: I'm sorry, Counselor. says, ultimately. 8 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 9 10 (Simultaneous cross-talk.) And I quote, 0. 11 it would be my suggestion -- my suggestion that the 12 Louisiana State Police review the case file 13 regarding the death of Lydia Rachal to determine the 14 actual manner of death and/or determine if there was 15 any possibility of foul play. Is that correct? 16 MS. CRAFT: And, Counselor, that's not 17 what it says. It says, ultimately ruled a 18 suicide. But subject to my objection and 19 your reading of it, I think he can read it 20 for himself. 21 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 22 Isn't it true that the review of a death 0. 23 ruled to be a suicide could determine that the death 24 was not suicide, but was, in fact, accidental? 25 MS. CRAFT: Object to the form.

I would have to know the circumstances 1 Α. surrounding the death that was ruled as a suicide. 2 If you're asking me if it's possible, it certainly 3 4 is possible, but I don't have the facts in this 5 case. 6 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 7 I was asking you if it's possible. 0. MS. CRAFT: Object to the form. BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 9 Aren't the words "foul play" -- can't they 10 0. 11 refer to a wide variety of actions? I would assume so. 12 Α. 13 MS. CRAFT: Object to the form. 14 BY MR. OXENHANDLER: 15 0. Do you know whether Colonel Oliphant sent this March 2nd, 2018, incident report to anyone 16 17 other than the individual -- individuals named in 18 the March 2nd, 2018, e-mail, to David Staton, Kevin 19 Reeves and Mike Noel? 20 Α. I do not. 21 Would you be in a position to know whether 0. the March 2nd, 2018, incident report was sent to any 22 23 person or entity by -- any person or entity by 24 Louisiana State Police? 25 Α. I am not aware of that.

Q. In your experience, when incident reports
are provided to persons as a result of a public
records request, are names of persons mentioned in
the incident report ever redacted?
A. Yes. I believe there are occasions when
they are. It would it would depend on the
circumstances surrounding the incident report.
Q. And, to your knowledge, did the Louisiana
State Police, as an organization, disseminate any
information from the March 2nd, 2000 [sic], incident
report to any individual members of the public?
A. Not that I'm aware of.
MR. OXENHANDLER: Thank you. I don't
have any other questions. Thank you,
Colonel.
MS. CRAFT: Thank you, sir.
MR. MAYEAUX: I have no questions.
MS. CRAFT: You have no questions,
Mr. Mayeaux?
MR. MAYEAUX: I do not.
MS. CRAFT: Okay. I just have a few
follow-ups.
FURTHER EXAMINATION
BY MS. CRAFT:
Q. Mr. Reeves, it would, in fact, be a

1	violation of State Police policy and procedure if
2	Mr. Oliphant lied in the June 2016 incident report
3	and the March 2018 incident reports; isn't that
4	correct?
5	A. Yes, ma'am. We do expect our troopers t

- A. Yes, ma'am. We do expect our troopers to be -- employees to be truthful.
- Q. Got it. On the March 2018 incident report, you would have expected Mr. Oliphant to be forthcoming about important details; is that correct?
- A. Yes, ma'am.

- Q. Like, for example, he's a family member of Lydia Rachal's ex-husband, right?
 - A. I'm not aware -- I'm not aware of that.
- Q. Wouldn't you have expected him to disclose in this incident report that he is Lydia Rachal's ex-husband's family member?
- A. I think that one thing you need to understand about incident reports is, the incident report created by the employee is the employee's incident report of what happened and what their view was in the incident. We don't direct them on what to write or what not to write.
- Q. Right. But you certainly direct them to be thorough and complete and provide all important

- information as it relates to the situation at hand, 1 2 right? That would be our desire. 3 Α. And, certainly, in the March 2018 incident 4 0. 5 report, it would have been important for you to know 6 that Mr. Oliphant had communications with 7 Ms. Rachal's husband or ex-husband, and that he was, in fact, Ms. Rachal's ex-husband's family member, 8 right? 9 10 I'm not aware of any of that. Α. 11 Well, let's assume it's true. Would you Q. 12 not have expected Mr. Oliphant to put information like that in this 2018 incident report? 13 14 MR. OXENHANDLER: Object to the form. 15 BY MS. CRAFT: 16 0. Wouldn't you have, sir? 17 I'm not aware of whether any of that is Α. This is the first I've ever heard of 18 true or not. 19 that. Okay. Well, sir, with all due respect, 20 Q. 21 assume it is true. Wouldn't you have expected
 - assume it is true. Wouldn't you have expected

 Mr. Oliphant to, at least, put those two details in
 the report; hey, I talked to Lydia Rachal's
 ex-husband, the guy that was jilted apparently by
 Calvin Braxton, and, B, with respect to Mr. Rachal,

23

24

1 he's my family member? Wouldn't you not have expected someone in Mr. Oliphant's position to 2 disclose that? 3 MR. OXENHANDLER: Object to form. 4 5 BY MS. CRAFT: 6 0. You can answer it. Go ahead. 7 Α. That hasn't been disclosed to me, and I'm 8 unaware of it. Okay. But you would have expected, would 9 0. 10 you not, for those two details to have been 11 disclosed at some point in time by Mr. Oliphant if 12 they're true? 13 Like I said, this is the first I've heard Α. 14 of it. I'm not -- it has never been disclosed to 15 me. 16 Ο. Got it. And you do know from the March 17 2018 incident report that, at least, Mr. Oliphant communicated some information about Mr. Braxton and 18 19 making the house checks to the Natchitoches Parish 20 Sheriff's Office, correct? 21 MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form. 22 Α. Well, if my memory serves me right, he 23 advised -- he asked Troop E to contact the 24 Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office to assist with

that. It doesn't say that he contacted them.

1 BY MS. CRAFT:

- Q. Okay. Sir, would you have expected Mr. Oliphant to communicate to you that he did, in fact, have a conversation with, at least, Mr. Rachal, who happens to work for the Sheriff's Office, and asked Mr. Rachal to conduct security checks at his house?
- A. No, ma'am. I wouldn't expect him to tell me that.
 - Q. Would you expect him to be truthful in his report that it wasn't, in fact, his communication with Troop E to contact the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office, but it was, in fact, his direct contact with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office or folks who work for it?

MR. MAYEAUX: Object to the form.

- A. Ma'am, we live in smaller parishes, and everybody kind of knows everybody else. So if he had a conversation with someone at the Sheriff's Office and asked for additional patrols around his house, there would be no expectation of me for him to inform me of that.
- 23 BY MS. CRAFT:
 - Q. But you certainly would expect him, when he authors a report like this one from 2018, to be

1	as forthcoming about all those details as possible,
2	correct?
3	A. I would expect him to be forthcoming about
4	the details surrounding the incident.
5	MS. CRAFT: That's all I have, sir.
6	Thank you very much.
7	THE WITNESS: Thank you, ma'am.
8	(DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 1:14 P.M.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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This transcript is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original required seal on this page.

I, Leslie B. Doyle, Certified Court Reporter (LA Certificate #93096), in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that KEVIN W. REEVES, after having been duly sworn by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify as herein before set forth in the foregoing 115 pages; that this testimony was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board, that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board.

I further certify that I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

1	Signed this day of, 2020.
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5	LESLIE B. DOYLE, RPR, RMR, RDR Certified Court Reporter
6	LA Certificate #93096
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1	WITNESS' CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, KEVIN W. REEVES, the undersigned, do
4	hereby certify that I have read the foregoing
5	deposition taken on October 1, 2020, and it contains
6	a true and accurate transcript of the testimony
7	given by me:
8	
9	
10	CHECK ONE BOX BELOW:
11	() Without correction.
12	() With corrections as reflected on the
13	Errata Sheet(s)
14	
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19	KEVIN W. REEVES
20	
21	
22	DATE
23	
24	
25	REPORTED BY: LESLIE B. DOYLE, RPR, RMR, RDR

1	Errata Sheet
2	
3	NAME OF CASE: CALVIN W. BRAXTON, SR. VERSUS LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION, ET AL
4	DATE OF DEPOSITION: 10/01/2020
5	NAME OF WITNESS: Kevin W. Reeves
6	Reason Codes:
7	1. To clarify the record.
8	2. To conform to the facts.
9	3. To correct transcription errors.
10	Page Line Reason
11	From to
12	Page Line Reason
13	From to
14	Page Line Reason
15	From to
16	Page Line Reason
17	From to
18	Page Line Reason
19	From to
20	Page Line Reason
21	From to
22	Page Line Reason
23	From to
24	
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