

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEs  
10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CALVIN W. BRAXTON, SR. \*

VERSUS \* DOCKET NO.: C-90,284

LOUISIANA STATE TROOPERS \*  
ASSOCIATION AND JAY \*  
OLIPHANT \*

\* \* \* \* \*

The deposition of MIKE WILSON, taken in connection with the captioned cause, pursuant to the following stipulations before Kim Taylor, Certified Court Reporter, at the Law Offices of McCoy, Roberts & Begnaud, 300 St. Denis Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on the 2nd day of October 2020, beginning at 1:29 p.m.

1 APPEARANCES:

2

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23 ALSO PRESENT:

23

24 LT. MAJOR JAY OLIPHANT

24

25 CALVIN BRAXTON, SR.

25

## 1 S T I P U L A T I O N

2 It is hereby stipulated by and among counsel  
3 for plaintiff and counsel for defense that the  
4 deposition of

5 MIKE WILSON,  
6 be taken before Kim Taylor, Certified Court  
7 Reporter, by counsel for the plaintiff for all  
8 purposes, pursuant to notice and to the provisions  
9 of the appropriate statutes of the Code of Civil  
10 Procedure of the State of Louisiana.

11 The parties hereto waive all formalities in  
12 connection with the taking of said deposition,  
13 including the reading and signing thereof, except  
14 the swearing of the witness and the reduction of the  
15 questions and answers to typewriting.

16 Per Article 1443(D) of the Louisiana Code of  
17 Civil Procedure, counsel for all parties reserve all  
18 objections until trial or other use of the  
19 deposition.

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OBJECTIONS:

BY MR. FALCON. . . . . 19, 21, 22, 34, 35

BY MS. CRAFT . . . . . 40, 41, 44, 48, 50

EXHIBITS:

NONE

1 MIKE WILSON,  
2 after having been duly sworn, was examined and did  
3 testify as follows:

4 EXAMINATION BY MS. CRAFT:

5 Q Mr. Wilson, my name is Jill Craft, and I  
6 represent Mr. Braxton seated to my left in  
7 connection with a lawsuit that's pending here  
8 in Natchitoches Parish.

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q It's very important during the course of this  
11 deposition that you understand what I'm asking  
12 you, and if at any time you do not, please tell  
13 me to stop and rephrase it. I'm happy to do  
14 so.

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q It's also important that nods of the head "yes"  
17 or "no" cannot be taken down by the reporter,  
18 so you need to make sure to answer out loud.  
19 And my final instruction is unique to me  
20 insofar as I may ask you to spell names,  
21 places, or things. I'm not here to test your  
22 spelling. It's just much easier for our court  
23 reporter to get those spellings down as we go  
24 along than try to figure out in a couple of  
25 hours or a couple of days or a couple of weeks

1           **what we were talking about, okay?**

2 A           I do understand.

3 Q           **Would you give me your full name and address,**  
4           **please, sir?**

5 A           Michael Irving Wilson, and my home address is  
6           100 Morgan Lane here in Natchitoches,  
7           Louisiana, 71457.

8 Q           **And I understand you are a law enforcement**  
9           **officer; is that correct?**

10 A          Yes, ma'am, I am.

11 Q          **And with which agency are you?**

12 A          The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office.

13 Q          **How long have you been with the Natchitoches**  
14          **Parish Sheriff's Office?**

15 A          Twenty-nine (29) years.

16                       MR. FALCON:

17                               How long?

18 A          Twenty-nine (29) years.

19                       MR. FALCON:

20                               Twenty-nine (29)?

21 A          Yes, sir.

22 MS. CRAFT:

23 Q          **Before going to work for the Natchitoches**  
24          **Parish Sheriff's Office, did you have any other**  
25          **law enforcement experience?**

1 A I started the academy with the Dallas Police  
2 Department, and I was there for maybe a month  
3 or so.

4 Q **And do you remember what year that was?**

5 A I think it was 1989 or 1990.

6 Q **And can you tell me about your educational  
7 background, please, sir?**

8 A I have three years of college.

9 Q **And where was the college at?**

10 A Grambling State University.

11 Q **Since you've been with the Natchitoches Parish  
12 Sheriff's Office for 29 years, can you tell me  
13 what positions you've held?**

14 A I started off as a dispatcher, 9-1-1  
15 dispatcher. I worked in the warrants division.  
16 I've worked in the patrol division. I was  
17 assistant chief investigator for 15 years, and  
18 now I'm a shift lieutenant in the patrol  
19 division again.

20 Q **When did you assume the position of shift  
21 lieutenant in the patrol division?**

22 A I think it was in maybe 2014.

23 Q **I know that you know Calvin Braxton. How long  
24 have you known him?**

25 A Twenty-five (25) plus years, give or take.

1 Q I also know that you know Mr. Oliphant. How  
2 long have you known him?

3 A About the same amount of time.

4 Q And how would you characterize your  
5 relationship with Mr. Oliphant?

6 A We have a good relationship. I've been knowing  
7 him, like I say, from day one we were in law  
8 enforcement, working law enforcement here in  
9 Natchitoches when he was with the police  
10 department. We actually rode together for  
11 testing for the Louisiana State Police back in  
12 1990 I think it was, something like that.

13 Q I'm sorry, I missed that part. Rode together  
14 for testing?

15 A For testing with the Louisiana State Police in  
16 '89 or '90.

17 Q And how would you describe your relationship  
18 with Mr. Braxton?

19 A Pretty good relationship. I don't see them  
20 quite often. You know, their business, I think  
21 they're elsewhere from Natchitoches Parish, and  
22 I see them, you know, every now and then.

23 Q Did you have a conversation with a Jason Turner  
24 with Louisiana State Police regarding the death  
25 of Lydia Rachal?

1 A Yes, ma'am, I did.

2 Q **What can you tell me about that, please, sir?**

3 A Well, he called me in and asked me if I can  
4 meet him at -- in front of Popeye's on the  
5 interstate. I don't remember the exact date  
6 and time and so forth. And he just asked me if  
7 I had any information pertaining to her death.

8 Q **And am I correct that at the time you spoke to  
9 Mr. Turner, Ms. Rachal had been dead for, like,  
10 what?**

11 A Twenty (20) years.

12 Q **Twenty (20) years?**

13 A Well, I would say -- I think I spoke with him  
14 maybe over a year ago. Maybe 18 and a half or  
15 19 years at that point.

16 Q **And you attended the autopsy of Ms. Rachal?**

17 A Yes, ma'am, I did.

18 Q **How come?**

19 A One of the city police detectives, Detective  
20 Chris Payne, contacted me and asked me if I  
21 would ride up there with him.

22 Q **And Payne, is that P-a-i-n-e?**

23 A I think it's P-a-y-n-e.

24 Q **And did he tell you why he wanted you to ride  
25 up there with him?**

1 A No, ma'am, he really didn't. I had just gone  
2 to the house there with him after. I think it  
3 was a missing persons report or something like  
4 that.

5 Q **And did you do anything else in connection with  
6 the death of Ms. Rachal other than attend the  
7 autopsy?**

8 A No, ma'am. That was something that happened in  
9 Caddo Parish, and, I mean, I didn't investigate  
10 it or anything.

11 Q **Have you ever told anyone that you have  
12 concerns that Ms. Rachal's death was mysterious  
13 or was anything other than a suicide?**

14 A Well, at first, I had some questions, and one  
15 of them was I think she may have passed one day  
16 and it may have been a day or two later before  
17 her body was discovered. And my concern was,  
18 you know, if that was the case, why didn't, you  
19 know, room service or somebody check, you know,  
20 the room the day after it happened.

21 Q **Anything else?**

22 A No, I just -- from knowing her, I guess at the  
23 time, ex-husband or whatever, he and I were  
24 friends, Mr. Donny Rachal. I knew she had a  
25 great love for her family, and I just -- I

1           couldn't understand, you know. But none of us  
2           can understand that, you know.

3 **Q       Right. At the time, she and her husband, Mr.**  
4 **Rachal, had divorced; is that right?**

5 **A**I think they had, or either was going through a  
6           divorce or separated. I'm not sure.

7 **Q       So anything else?**

8 **A**No, ma'am, that was basically it. And I knew,  
9           you know, there were some rumors, you know,  
10          around town, this, that, and the other about  
11          Mr. Braxton may have had some involvement with  
12          her with her death.

13 **Q       Well, where were those rumors coming from?**

14 **A**Just people around town. Just rumors. You  
15          know how rumors are.

16 **Q       But you never thought that Calvin had any**  
17 **involvement with her death; isn't that right?**

18 **A**Hands on, no, ma'am. Never did. I knew that  
19          there were reportedly a relationship between  
20          the two. Physically, no, ma'am. Morally, you  
21          know, there again, those were rumors that was  
22          discussed around town.

23 **Q       Let me see if I can figure that out.**

24 **A**Yeah.

25 **Q       The rumors around town weren't that Calvin**

1 Braxton was involved in her actual suicide.

2 The rumors were that she and Calvin had a  
3 relationship --

4 A Right.

5 Q -- that might have not gone well, and then she  
6 went and killed herself.

7 A Right.

8 Q Is that the rumor?

9 A Right.

10 Q But you never heard a rumor around Natchitoches  
11 that Calvin Braxton in any way caused her death  
12 other than they might have broken up and she  
13 was sad?

14 A Right. That was it. I found out later on that  
15 Calvin Braxton was actually at a graduation in  
16 Baton Rouge, one of his niece's or nephew's  
17 graduation in Baton Rouge.

18 Q But when you say you found out later, you found  
19 out at the time -- around the time of Ms.  
20 Rachal's suicide; isn't that right? Like,  
21 that's not something ten years later you're,  
22 like, still having questions about?

23 A I'll be totally honest with you, ma'am. I  
24 didn't have any questions about it one way or  
25 the other for several different reasons. It

1 didn't happen in our jurisdiction. I wasn't  
2 involved in the investigation, you know,  
3 pertaining to it. And I knew Ms. Rachal. May  
4 have spoken with her maybe two, maybe three  
5 times, but, you know, we didn't have a -- just  
6 a normal relationship.

7 **Q Did you ever tell anyone that you suspected**  
8 **that Calvin Braxton was in any way involved in**  
9 **Ms. Rachal's death?**

10 **A** I think Trooper Oliphant and I discussed it  
11 when everything was coming up, and I'd gotten  
12 information that the state police had reopened  
13 the case involving Mr. Braxton. And at that  
14 point in time, I was -- I don't know, I was  
15 kind of torn as to, you know, 20 years later  
16 the investigation is opening up into it. Is  
17 there's something going on there?

18 **Q You said when everything was coming up. What**  
19 **do you mean? You had a conversation with Mr.**  
20 **Oliphant?**

21 **A** Yes, ma'am.

22 **Q Was that when Mr. Braxton had hired a lawyer**  
23 **and was asking questions or what?**

24 **A** Ma'am, I don't know the times and the month --

25 **Q Sure.**

1 A -- the dates because, like I say, I would see  
2 Mr. Braxton one month, and I wouldn't talk to  
3 Mr. Braxton for two months. I'd see Trooper  
4 Oliphant once, and I may not talk to him even  
5 longer, you know, because he works out of  
6 Natchitoches Parish. I may not see him for  
7 three or four months at a time. So I don't  
8 know the dates and times and all of that.

9 Q **But it was Mr. Oliphant who approached you**  
10 **about Mr. Rachal's death. It wasn't you**  
11 **saying, I think Calvin was involved.**

12 A And in all fairness, I don't want to say  
13 something that is not 100 percent correct. I  
14 don't know when he and I had the conversation.  
15 I don't even remember where we had the  
16 conversation. I don't even remember how it  
17 came about. Like I say, J.D. and I were -- we  
18 were cordial with each other. If we need to  
19 talk, you know, if something was going on or  
20 whatever, you know, he would call me, or if  
21 something was going on and I needed to contact  
22 him law enforcement-wise, I would contact him.  
23 But as far as him coming to me or whatever or  
24 me looking him up, I can't say. But something  
25 20 years old that I had no, you know, direct

1 involvement with, I don't know.

2 **Q** But Mr. Brown, based on what you're telling me  
3 and just tell me if this is accurate, you would  
4 have never told somebody that you thought  
5 Calvin Braxton was involved in the actual death  
6 of Lydia Rachal because you don't believe that;  
7 am I right?

8 **A** Well, after everything that I've been told,  
9 especially after the investigator came and  
10 talked with me and, you know, I had some  
11 questions or some issues, and he basically  
12 cleared those up.

13 **Q** Who did?

14 **A** The investigator that came and spoke to --  
15 spoke with me from the Louisiana State Police.

16 **Q** Mr. Turner?

17 **A** Yes, ma'am.

18 **Q** And when you talked to Mr. Turner, you and he  
19 talked about Mr. Braxton?

20 **A** Yes, ma'am.

21 **Q** And what did you and Mr. Turner talk about with  
22 respect to Mr. Braxton?

23 **A** Well, he just asked me if I had any knowledge  
24 of -- and there again, I want to be exact in my  
25 comments.

1 Q I know.

2 A I think he asked me if I felt as though Mr.  
3 Braxton had any involvement with Ms. Rachal's  
4 murder, and he asked me did I have any other  
5 information or any other evidence or anything  
6 like that. And there again, I explained to him  
7 that that was not a case that -- it didn't even  
8 happen in our jurisdiction. You know, I had no  
9 involvement other than riding to Shreveport for  
10 the autopsy.

11 Q Did he tell you where he had gotten the  
12 information from that there was some indication  
13 that Mr. Braxton was involved in Ms. Rachal's  
14 murder?

15 A No, ma'am, he did not.

16 Q But those were his words to you, right, I want  
17 to know whether or not you have any information  
18 that Mr. Braxton was involved in Ms. Rachal's  
19 murder. That's what he was asking you?

20 A And there again, I want to make certain that my  
21 thought is exactly what happened to the best of  
22 my recollection. I don't want to say he  
23 specifically said Calvin Braxton, but I know he  
24 did ask me if I had any information pertaining  
25 to it being anything other than a suicide.

1 Q Well, let me see if I can unpack that because  
2 you originally told me that you had questions  
3 about Ms. Rachal's death until you talked to  
4 the investigator, Mr. Turner.

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q And then I said, "Well, what did you talk  
7 about?" And you said he asked you if you had  
8 any knowledge of if you thought that Mr.  
9 Braxton had been involved with Ms. Rachal's  
10 murder. You said that twice. So are you now  
11 telling me that you don't remember discussing  
12 Mr. Braxton with Mr. Turner? I'm a little  
13 confused.

14 A Well, I want to be certain. When he was asking  
15 me about the situation and the circumstances  
16 surrounding Ms. Rachal's death, he was telling  
17 me about the location, about the room.

18 Q What was he saying?

19 A Well, he said that it happened, and there  
20 again, I want to be -- I want to be as precise  
21 and exact as I can.

22 Q And let me stop you and say it this way.

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q I would like for you to tell me -- if you can't  
25 remember specifically, tell me generally what

1       you remember in your conversation with Mr.  
2       Turner, the highlights.

3 A       Yes, ma'am. He and I were talking, and there  
4       again, he asked me was there anything in  
5       particular that any evidence or anything that I  
6       knew of that particularly directly pointed to a  
7       homicide in that. And I said no, and I asked  
8       him a couple of questions.

9               He asked me, well, what were the questions  
10       that I was concerned with or what stood out  
11       with me. And I told him that number one, that  
12       she had been there a day or two from my  
13       understanding, and there again, I didn't -- I  
14       never looked at a report or never looked at  
15       anything, so I'm just going on basically from  
16       information that I'm getting, you know, that I  
17       had gotten.

18              He told me that, well, everything appeared  
19       to be in order as far as a suicide was  
20       concerned. He said -- I think he said there  
21       was a note. He said that the room was either  
22       -- it wasn't a first-floor room and double-pane  
23       windows and the door and everything was locked  
24       from the inside, which, you know, I was -- I  
25       didn't know. And, you know, that's some of the

1 things that I, you know, I was concerned about.

2 **Q So how did Calvin's name come up?**

3 MR. FALCON:

4 Object to the form.

5 MS. CRAFT:

6 **Q You can answer it. Go ahead.**

7 A I want to say, and I'm not 100 percent sure,  
8 that he asked me did I have any information  
9 about Mr. Calvin Braxton being involved in  
10 this.

11 **Q And what do you remember --**

12 A But I'm not sure. And he asked me if I had any  
13 other information pertaining to Lydia Rachal's  
14 death, and I told him no.

15 **Q So before you talked to Mr. Turner, are you**  
16 **telling me you had questions about Ms. Rachal's**  
17 **suicide?**

18 A I didn't know. I just didn't know. I didn't  
19 have any questions about it. Number one, I had  
20 a list of other cases I was working, suicides,  
21 shootings, and all of that. And I just -- that  
22 was not one that I really paid too much  
23 attention to for the simple fact that it was  
24 not in my jurisdiction, and I really didn't  
25 want to, you know, get further involved in it.

1 Q I understand that.

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q But I thought you told us that you had  
4 questions about her death until you talked to  
5 Mr. Turner.

6 A I did.

7 Q And the questions you had about her death, if  
8 I'm not mistaken, were that room service didn't  
9 discover her for two days.

10 A Right.

11 Q And what was the other one? That she loved her  
12 family?

13 A Yes, ma'am. Also, he told me that, you know,  
14 they found the weapon in her hand, and, you  
15 know, you hear a lot of things about this  
16 happened, that happened, this happened or  
17 didn't happen or whatever, and it's just a  
18 swirl of things. And when I talked with him,  
19 it basically cleared up a lot of that.

20 Q So before you talked to Mr. Turner with the  
21 state police and you had the conversation that  
22 you've described for us to the best of your  
23 memory, did you ever talk to Mr. Oliphant about  
24 any of these questions with respect to Ms.  
25 Rachal's suicide?

1 A No, ma'am. From my recollection, we just  
2 talked about it.

3 Q **When?**

4 A Ma'am, there again, I'd seen Trooper Oliphant  
5 maybe two or three times a year. I can't give  
6 you the exact date and time and anything like  
7 that.

8 Q **When did you learn that the state police had  
9 reopened the case? You said state police  
10 reopened the case involving Mr. Braxton.**

11 A Well, Trooper Oliphant told me that there was  
12 some issues going on, and the state police was  
13 looking back into it and --

14 Q **Into the death of Ms. Rachal?**

15 A Into the death of Ms. Rachal and that they may  
16 be contacting me.

17 Q **And he told you that also in the confines of  
18 Mr. Braxton; isn't that right, that state  
19 police was reopening the case of Ms. Rachal to  
20 see if Mr. Braxton had any involvement?**

21 MR. FALCON:

22 I'm going to object to the phrase. You  
23 keep repeating "reopening." That's not the  
24 evidence of --

25 MS. CRAFT:

1 I'm sorry, that's exactly what he said,  
2 was that he said state police reopened the  
3 case involving Mr. Braxton. I wrote it  
4 down to make sure I had it accurate.  
5 That's why I'm using your words, sir.

6 MS. CRAFT:

7 **Q So when you had this conversation with Mr.**  
8 **Oliphant and he told you that state police was**  
9 **reopening the case involving Mr. Braxton, what**  
10 **can you tell me about that?**

11 MR. FALCON:

12 Object to the form.

13 MS. CRAFT:

14 **Q You can answer it. You can answer it.**

15 **A** Okay. And there again, I don't know where we  
16 were. I don't know -- you know, it was just in  
17 conversation, and I told him, you know, I have  
18 some mental reservations about it because I  
19 didn't -- you know, I didn't know. There  
20 again, I was just working off rumors and this,  
21 that, and the other, you know. And let me not  
22 tell you working off of it because, there  
23 again, it was not my case. It was not from  
24 Natchitoches Parish. I had no personal  
25 involvement with Lydia, and as far as Trooper

1           Oliphant and Mr. Braxton, you know, I sit right  
2           in the middle of it. They're both friends, you  
3           know. So -- and you say about reopening a  
4           case. I guess maybe I should have said looking  
5           into it because from my understanding, there  
6           was no case. It was just ruled a suicide.

7 **Q       I get that, sir, but I'm just using your words.**

8 **A       I understand.**

9 **Q       And you said reopened and you said --**

10 **A       I did. I did.**

11 **Q       Let me finish. You said that's what Mr.**

12 **Oliphant told you. So he did not use the word**  
13 **"reopen?" Or did he use it and you think he**  
14 **meant something else?**

15 **A       Ma'am, like I say, I want to be totally honest.**  
16 **My words were reopened from my perspective, you**  
17 **know.**

18 **Q       Yes, sir.**

19 **A       And whether he said reopened or looking back**  
20 **into it --**

21 **Q       Understood.**

22 **A       I wish I knew that this was going to be more**  
23 **official and I would have taken notes, and I**  
24 **would have recorded it and, you know, done all**  
25 **those investigative things, but I'm sorry I**

1 didn't. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q So you had this one conversation with Mr.  
3 Oliphant that we're talking about where he says  
4 state police, whatever it is, reopening,  
5 looking into the death of Ms. Rachal. And you  
6 said at that time, you shared with him, "Well,  
7 I had some questions," right?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Prior to that conversation, had you and Mr.  
10 Oliphant ever discussed the death of Ms.  
11 Rachal?

12 A No, ma'am, this thing is 20 years old. We had  
13 never talked about it.

14 Q Understood.

15 A Yes, ma'am. No, ma'am.

16 Q Have you ever told anyone that you thought  
17 Calvin Braxton was dangerous?

18 A I had a conversation and I told Trooper  
19 Oliphant and I think Trooper Linebaugh and Mr.  
20 Braxton, all of them, they all needed to be  
21 careful.

22 Q My question was did you ever tell anyone that  
23 you thought Calvin Braxton was dangerous?

24 A No. No, to the best of my recollection, no,  
25 ma'am, I did not.

1 MS. CRAFT:

2 And Linebaugh for the court reporter is  
3 L-i-n-e-b-a-u-g-h.

4 MS. CRAFT:

5 Q You told all three of them, I'm assuming  
6 separately, y'all need to be careful with  
7 what's going on.

8 A Right, because this thing is brewing. It was  
9 brewing.

10 Q And when you say, "This thing was brewing,"  
11 meaning the allegation that Mr. Braxton made  
12 some statements to Mr. Oliphant that he would  
13 hurt or get back at Officer Linebaugh. Is that  
14 what you're talking about?

15 A I don't know about him making any statements  
16 to --

17 Q When you say, "This thing was brewing," what  
18 are you referring to?

19 A Well, just kind of the back-and-forth. I think  
20 there may have been some -- there was a lot of  
21 talk swirling around town that there was some  
22 friction between Trooper Oliphant and Mr.  
23 Braxton. I think there may have been a  
24 Facebook post or something, some -- excuse me.  
25 And I --

1 Q Did you ever see the Facebook posting?

2 A No, ma'am, I didn't.

3 Q Did you ever see anyone with the Facebook  
4 posting?

5 A No, ma'am.

6 Q Did you ever see anybody, like, waving the  
7 Facebook posting anywhere?

8 A No, ma'am.

9 Q Did you ever talk to my client about a Facebook  
10 posting Mr. Oliphant may have made?

11 A I don't think I did. I don't think I did.

12 Q Did you ever hear my client make any comments  
13 about a Facebook posting by Mr. Oliphant?

14 A No, ma'am.

15 Q Did you ever talk to Mr. Oliphant about any  
16 Facebook posting he may have made?

17 A No, ma'am.

18 Q Did you ever hear Mr. Oliphant make any  
19 comments about a Facebook posting he may have  
20 made?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q So when you say, "The thing that was swirling  
23 around," you mean that there was some sort of  
24 Facebook post that you heard about --

25 A Exactly.

1 Q -- and you spoke to Oliphant, Linebaugh, and  
2 Braxton, all three of them, and said, y'all  
3 need to be careful.

4 A Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am, basically -- and I was  
5 hoping that with my just lending that to the  
6 whole situation at some point in time it all  
7 could have been resolved.

8 Q Understood.

9 A That was my thing.

10 Q So my question is, did you ever believe that  
11 Calvin Braxton was in any way physically  
12 dangerous to anybody?

13 A No, ma'am.

14 Q And so then my second one is if you didn't  
15 believe it, you would have never told anyone  
16 that Calvin Braxton was a physical danger to  
17 him or her?

18 A No, ma'am, I've never known Calvin to be  
19 physical with anyone, his family, or anybody  
20 like that, so no, ma'am.

21 Q With respect to your dealings with Mr. Braxton,  
22 have you -- has he ever done anything to make  
23 you feel scared of him?

24 A No, ma'am.

25 Q Has anyone ever expressed to you that they're

1 **scared of him?**

2 A No, ma'am.

3 Q **Did you know -- did you ever tell anyone that**  
4 **Calvin had hired a private investigator?**

5 A No, ma'am, I didn't, but there again, that was  
6 one of those things that came to me and about  
7 him hiring a private investigator to watch  
8 Trooper Oliphant.

9 Q **Well, how did it come to you?**

10 A Ma'am, to be totally honest, I think Craig  
11 Brown may have told me about it, and there  
12 again, that rumor mill once it starts  
13 spreading. And I talked with Trooper Oliphant  
14 about it when I heard about it.

15 Q **So you told Trooper Oliphant you had heard a**  
16 **rumor that Calvin had hired some sort of**  
17 **private investigator?**

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q **But you never --**

20 A Well, I told him that I'd heard that apparently  
21 there was someone watching his house by Mr.  
22 Braxton, and I asked him was it true.

23 Q **Asked who?**

24 A Trooper Oliphant.

25 Q **And did you tell him that was a rumor you had**

1 **heard?**

2 A I didn't just say it was a rumor. I just asked  
3 him the question. I told him I had heard it,  
4 and, you know, I voiced my opinion on it. And  
5 I told him, you know, that if that was the  
6 case, you know, I told him I didn't -- I didn't  
7 condone that, friend or not, and that was real  
8 dangerous.

9 Q **Well, did you ever ask Calvin if he had hired  
10 somebody to follow Mr. Oliphant?**

11 A Ma'am, I don't want to say yes, I did. I don't  
12 want to say no. I don't know. I know Craig  
13 Brown had asked him directly, and he --

14 Q **Asked who?**

15 A Mr. Braxton. And he told him no.

16 Q **How do you know that?**

17 A Craig Brown told me.

18 Q **Craig Brown told you I asked Calvin if he had  
19 hired a private investigator, and Calvin said  
20 no.**

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q **So then what was the source of your information  
23 that there was this rumor that Calvin had hired  
24 a private investigator?**

25 A Ma'am, there again, that's that rumor. I think

1 it may have been a vehicle around Mr.  
2 Oliphant's house or something, and there again,  
3 it started swirling. And I heard it and that  
4 was basically it. And Craig -- I think Craig  
5 Brown and I were talking about it one day, and  
6 one day I asked Mr. Oliphant about it. I told  
7 him that I had heard that.

8 **Q You had heard that there has been a car at Mr.  
9 Oliphant's house?**

10 **A** Yes, ma'am, at or near Mr. Oliphant's house  
11 that I think came back registered to one of Mr.  
12 Braxton's friends.

13 **Q Did Mr. Oliphant tell you that?**

14 **A** I think he did tell me that there was a car  
15 that was registered to one of Mr. Braxton's  
16 friends that was near his address.

17 **Q Did he tell you who it was, the friend, which  
18 friend?**

19 **A** I think the car may have come back, and there  
20 again, I don't want to say Mr. Oliphant said it  
21 or -- I think it was Mr. Sam Friedman. The car  
22 was registered to Sam Friedman. And there  
23 again, you know, ma'am, and I want to be clear  
24 with my answers. And, you know, I don't want  
25 to say something and then, well, it's not

1 exactly that, you know. Had I known we were  
2 going to be here today, like I say, I would  
3 have taken notes and --

4 Q Did anybody ever talk to you about writing a  
5 report or writing something down and Mr.  
6 Oliphant saying, no, you don't need to make a  
7 note of that because it's not a crime to have  
8 somebody follow you around?

9 A No, ma'am.

10 Q Did you ever have a conversation like that with  
11 Mr. Oliphant?

12 A No, ma'am.

13 Q Do you remember Mr. Oliphant saying the car  
14 came back to Mr. Friedman?

15 A I think he did. I think he did.

16 Q What was Mr. Friedman's relationship with Mr.  
17 Braxton?

18 A I think they may be business associates or  
19 friends. I don't -- I know they know one  
20 another, and I know they have a, you know,  
21 pretty good working relationship.

22 Q Who is Greg Friedman?

23 A It's Mr. Sam Friedman's son.

24 Q He's a lawyer, right?

25 A I think he is.

1 Q And do you know who Erin Friedman is?

2 A No, I don't.

3 Q Do you know -- well, okay, do you know what, if  
4 anything, she does for a living? And I guess  
5 the answer would be, no, I don't know.

6 A I don't know.

7 Q So did Mr. Oliphant ever tell you that he  
8 thought he had people following him, or did you  
9 tell him that?

10 A No.

11 Q You didn't tell him that?

12 A No.

13 Q Because you don't have any information that  
14 happened?

15 A No. No.

16 Q Did he tell you that he had people following  
17 him?

18 A Who, Mr. Braxton?

19 Q No, no, no, Mr. Oliphant. Did he tell you that  
20 he thought there were people following him?

21 A No, just -- the only thing we talked about was  
22 that one incident.

23 Q The Friedman car near his house?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And did he tell you that he had chased the car

1 or anything?

2 A No, ma'am.

3 Q Did you ever talk to Mr. Rachal about the death  
4 of his wife?

5 A Yes, ma'am, I did.

6 Q And did he ever tell you he thought Calvin had  
7 something to do with it?

8 A No, ma'am.

9 Q Did he ever tell you he had had a conversation  
10 or if he had a conversation with Mr. Oliphant  
11 about the death of his -- and I know it's ex-  
12 wife. I keep saying wife, the death of his ex-  
13 wife.

14 A Yes, ma'am, he did.

15 Q And what did he tell you about his conversation  
16 with Mr. Oliphant?

17 A According to him, he told me that they had a  
18 conversation, and he told him that he just  
19 wanted to leave it completely alone because he  
20 didn't want to stir it back up and hurt his  
21 children anymore.

22 MS. CRAFT:

23 That may be all I have. If you can  
24 give me a few minutes to let me visit with  
25 my client and we'll be right back. And

1           then these gentlemen will probably have  
2           some questions for you.

3 A       Yes, ma'am.

4                               -- OFF THE RECORD --

5 MS. CRAFT:

6 Q       **Who is Victor Jones?**

7 A       He was the past sheriff of the Natchitoches  
8       Parish Sheriff's Office.

9 Q       **He's my client's brother-in-law; is that right?**

10 A      That's correct.

11 Q      **Did you have conversations with Mr. Jones about**  
12      **the state police coming to question you**  
13      **regarding Mr. Braxton?**

14 A      Yes, ma'am.

15 Q      **And you, in fact, told Sheriff Jones that the**  
16      **state police had questioned you about Mr.**  
17      **Braxton and his involvement in Ms. Rachal's**  
18      **death; isn't that right?**

19 A      I told him that they had questioned me about  
20      Ms. Rachal's death.

21 Q      **Are you testifying that you did not tell Mr.**  
22      **Jones that the state police specifically asked**  
23      **if you had any information as to whether or not**  
24      **Mr. Braxton was involved in Ms. Rachal's death?**

25                               MR. FALCON:

1                   Objection. Asked and answered.

2 MS. CRAFT:

3 **Q     You can answer it.**

4 A     I told him that they were -- and I want to be  
5       exact in what I told him. I think I told him  
6       that they wanted to talk to me about Lydia's  
7       death. And I want to be sure because I don't  
8       know if I said Calvin -- with Calvin's  
9       involvement with it or whatever, and he  
10      actually is the one told me, "Well, Calvin was  
11      with us in Baton Rouge."

12 **Q     So Calvin's name must have come up if he**  
13 **volunteered, hey, wait, Calvin was with us when**  
14 **she died.**

15               MR. FALCON:

16               Object to the form.

17 MS. CRAFT:

18 **Q     Right?**

19 A     In the scheme of the conversation, there again,  
20       it has always been, you know, swirled around.  
21       And when I told him, you know, that something  
22       has come up about Lydia's death and I'm pretty  
23       sure -- I'm not going to say Calvin's name  
24       didn't come up in it, in the conversation. I'm  
25       not going to say that it did. I really don't

1 remember.

2 Q And did you tell my client that the state  
3 police had come to you and had asked you about  
4 him?

5 A Yes, ma'am, I did.

6 MS. CRAFT:

7 That's all I have, sir. Thank you.

8 EXAMINATION BY MR. OXENHANDLER:

9 Q Hello, sir.

10 A Hello.

11 Q My name is Steve Oxenhandler again, and I  
12 represent Colonel Oliphant.

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q You said you had a -- you testified earlier  
15 that you had a conversation with Colonel  
16 Oliphant about a conversation you had with  
17 Craig Brown where Craig Brown told you that Mr.  
18 Braxton had hired a private investigator or  
19 somebody to follow Mr. Braxton; is that  
20 correct?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Was that somewhere around 2018; do you  
23 remember?

24 A I would say it was in 2018 because for 17, 18  
25 years, there was nothing pertaining to this.

1 And then all of a sudden, it was forefront. I  
2 just -- so I would have to say it was 2017 or  
3 '18, in the last years.

4 **Q And isn't it true, sir, that you told Colonel**  
5 **Oliphant that Mr. Braxton was on a fishing**  
6 **expedition to get information about Mr.**  
7 **Braxton?**

8 MS. CRAFT:

9 Wait, who?

10 MR. OXENHANDLER:

11 **Q That you told Colonel Oliphant that Calvin**  
12 **Braxton was on a fishing expedition to get**  
13 **information on Colonel Oliphant?**

14 A And in all fairness, I may have told him that.  
15 I may have told him that because they were kind  
16 of at odds with one another.

17 **Q And what did you mean by a fishing expedition?**

18 A Well, and there again, that's what -- when I  
19 was told that supposedly there was someone  
20 watching Mr. Oliphant's house, I think it came  
21 up as -- a question came up about Mr. Oliphant  
22 coming home early or coming from a work week  
23 early or whatever and this, that, and the  
24 other. And I knew that, you know, all of this  
25 was going on, and I think Mr. Braxton may have

1           been, you know, inquiring about that.

2 **Q       Did you ever have coffee with Mr. Braxton at**  
3 **Zippy B's?**

4 **A       Yes, sir, I did.**

5 **Q       Do you guys still meet at Zippy B's?**

6 **A       No, sir.**

7 **Q       Do you meet down by the riverfront sometimes**  
8 **and have coffee?**

9 **A       No, sir.**

10 **Q       So is it your testimony that Mr. Braxton told**  
11 **you that he was on a fishing expedition, or how**  
12 **did you learn that?**

13 **A       Well, and there again, this whole thing has**  
14 **been like a big puzzle, and you get a piece**  
15 **over here and you get a piece over there and**  
16 **this, that, and the other. And none of it**  
17 **makes sense to me, but when I say the rumor was**  
18 **swirled that Mr. Braxton had someone watching**  
19 **Mr. Oliphant's house or watching Mr. Oliphant,**  
20 **then that's when all of that came about. And**  
21 **then that's when I started, you know, kind of**  
22 **looking at things a little differently, like,**  
23 **you know, exactly what's going on.**

24 **Q       And isn't it true that you told Mr. Oliphant**  
25 **that Mr. Braxton was having someone watching**

1 **his house?**

2 A I didn't know that. I didn't know --

3 Q **But did you tell Mr. Oliphant that?**

4 A Mr. Oliphant had already -- as a matter of  
5 fact, when I talked with Mr. Oliphant the last  
6 time at my house, I asked him, I said, "I heard  
7 this was going on. Is this, in fact, going  
8 on?" And that's when I told him, "No matter  
9 friends, whatever, you know, I don't condone  
10 anything like that if, in fact, that's going  
11 on."

12 Q **And when did that conversation take place?**

13 **When was he at your house? Was it also in**  
14 **2018?**

15 A I don't want to say yes and it's January 2019,  
16 but yes, sir. Between the latter part of 2018  
17 and the early part of 2019.

18 Q **Did you have information that Mr. Braxton was**  
19 **trying to get information on Mr. Oliphant**  
20 **because Mr. Oliphant was going home early from**  
21 **his work with the state police?**

22 A No, sir. And there again, other than -- it all  
23 basically came about when it was said that Mr.  
24 Braxton had someone watching Mr. Oliphant's  
25 house.

1 Q And who was it that told you that?

2 A I would have to say Craig Brown because the  
3 circle of conversation surrounding this is  
4 pretty small.

5 Q Did you ever tell or do you remember telling  
6 Colonel Oliphant to be careful because Calvin  
7 Braxton is a dangerous man?

8 A I told Captain Oliphant to be careful. And  
9 there again, not for any physical reasons but  
10 for the matter what we're dealing with today,  
11 you know. Reputations and careers and all  
12 that, you know, plays into all of this.

13 MS. CRAFT:

14 I'm just going to object. Non-  
15 responsive.

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. CRAFT:

18 I just got to do it for the record.

19 A I understand.

20 MS. CRAFT:

21 Yes, sir.

22 MR. OXENHANDLER:

23 Q Did you have the impression that Colonel  
24 Oliphant believed what you had told him about  
25 for him to be careful and that Mr. Braxton was

1           **on a fishing expedition?**

2                   MS. CRAFT:

3                           I object to the form of the question.

4 MR. OXENHANDLER:

5 **Q       Go ahead.**

6 A       I just didn't -- and there again, my thing was  
7       this. If what was said was true about the car  
8       being around Mr. Oliphant's house and somebody  
9       was, in fact, watching his house, yes, sir, I  
10       told him to be careful. And I got -- I became  
11       really concerned at that point, you know. A  
12       lot of it was just kind of back-and-forth,  
13       back-and-forth, but when that happened, that  
14       kind of changed things.

15 **Q       My question also was when you told Mr. Oliphant**  
16 **to be careful and that Mr. Braxton may be on a**  
17 **fishing expedition, did you get the impression**  
18 **that Mr. Oliphant took you seriously?**

19                   MS. CRAFT:

20                           Object to the form of the question.

21 MR. OXENHANDLER:

22 **Q       Go ahead. You can answer.**

23 A       It was all in just conversation, and I knew it  
24       was a back-and-forth between the two. And I  
25       knew that at some point in time Louisiana State

1 Police was going to be inquiring about Mr.  
2 Braxton. Mr. Braxton was going to be inquiring  
3 about the Louisiana State Police. And, you  
4 know, this thing I think -- I don't know  
5 exactly when the lawsuit was filed or whatever,  
6 but when you're dealing with lawsuits and  
7 things like that, it's all about information.

8 **Q But when you told Mr. Oliphant to be careful,**  
9 **you meant for him to be careful?**

10 A Exactly. Especially after I found out  
11 supposedly someone was watching him and near  
12 his home.

13 **Q Do you remember telling Colonel Oliphant to be**  
14 **careful, to watch my back, that something**  
15 **wasn't right?**

16 A To watch his back?

17 **Q Yes, sir.**

18 A I may have told him that. I may have told him  
19 that. And that was just in general  
20 conversation, and like I told Mr. Braxton, "Be  
21 "careful. Be careful."

22 MR. OXENHANDLER:

23 Those are all the questions I have.

24 EXAMINATION BY MR. FALCON:

25 **Q Mr. Wilson, my name is Floyd Falcon. I**

1 represent the Louisiana Troopers Association --

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q -- who is a defendant in this case --

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q -- that Mr. Braxton brought. Are you familiar  
6 with an organization known as the Louisiana  
7 Troopers Association?

8 A Yes, sir, I am.

9 Q What are you familiar about it? What did you  
10 understand about it?

11 A It just basically consists of Louisiana State  
12 Troopers, and that's basically it. I hadn't  
13 researched them or anything like that.

14 Q And have you ever spoken to any representative  
15 or officer or board member of the Louisiana  
16 State Troopers Association about Mr. Braxton?

17 A No, sir, I haven't. Not knowingly, but --

18 Q Well, I mean --

19 A I don't think so, no, sir. Nobody got  
20 introduced.

21 Q Somebody that represented themselves to be an  
22 official --

23 A No, sir.

24 Q -- of Louisiana Troopers Association?

25 A No, sir.

1 Q Have you ever been presented with an incident  
2 report prepared by Colonel Oliphant in June of  
3 2016? Have you ever seen it?

4 A No, sir. I think reports pertaining to --

5 Q Actually pertaining to his daughter's --  
6 Braxton's daughter's arrest.

7 A No, sir, I haven't.

8 Q Or the aftermath of Braxton's daughter's  
9 arrest. Do you know Trooper Linebaugh?

10 A Yes, sir, I do.

11 Q Did you know that Trooper Linebaugh had  
12 arrested Calvin's daughter?

13 A Yes, sir, I did.

14 Q And did you hear any rumors about Calvin being  
15 -- whether or not Calvin was happy or upset  
16 about that arrest?

17 A Well, I heard he was upset about it.

18 Q Did he tell you that?

19 A No, sir.

20 Q Did you hear anything about Calvin wanting to  
21 have Trooper Linebaugh transferred from the  
22 Natchitoches area to Orleans -- the Orleans  
23 area?

24 MS. CRAFT:

25 Object to the form.

1 A No, sir, I didn't.

2 MR. FALCON:

3 Q Did you ever -- have you ever read any incident  
4 report authored by J.D. Oliphant in March of  
5 2018 expressing his concerns about his safety  
6 or the safety of his family?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Do you know anything about how Mr. Braxton got  
9 appointed to the State Police Commission?

10 A No, sir, I don't.

11 Q Did you know Mr. Braxton at one point in time  
12 was on the State Police Commission?

13 A I think I basically found out he was on the  
14 State Police Commission when everything started  
15 unfolding about this case basically.

16 Q Do you have any knowledge about his leaving --  
17 the circumstances surrounding his leaving the  
18 State Police Commission?

19 A I think there may have been some kind of --  
20 some kind of problems between, yeah, maybe some  
21 of the members or something. I really don't  
22 know the circumstances surrounding it.

23 Q The members of the State Police Commission?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Do you know whether or not he resigned or was

1 asked to leave the State Police Commission?

2 A I don't -- I do not know, sir.

3 Q Do you know -- you've been involved in

4 Natchitoches Parish for 29 years now.

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q You have familiarity with the DWI prosecutions

7 in Natchitoches Parish?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Would it be true to say that most everyone

10 arrested in Natchitoches Parish gets to go

11 through a pre-trial diversion and that may wipe

12 off their DWI arrest?

13 A Not everyone.

14 Q Do you believe that most -- the key word in

15 this question is "most," people that are

16 arrested in Natchitoches Parish get to go

17 through pre-trial diversion?

18 A Some of them do. I don't know the percentage,

19 and I don't want to -- I don't want to say, you

20 know, one way or the other. I know some of

21 them do.

22 Q And you said that Victor Jones is the former

23 sheriff?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q How long has he been out of office?

1 A Three months.

2 Q So he's just --

3 A Yes, sir. He's basically retired.

4 Q How long was he the sheriff?

5 A Twenty (20) years. Right at 20 years.

6 Q Did you ever hear Calvin Braxton make any  
7 statements about Linebaugh, Trooper Linebaugh?

8 A I didn't hear any direct statements. I just  
9 heard Linebaugh's name come up in conversation  
10 or whatever.

11 Q What do you remember about those conversations?

12 A That Linebaugh, in fact, was the one who  
13 arrested Mr. Braxton's daughter.

14 Q You ever hear anything about Calvin suggesting  
15 that Mr. Linebaugh should have known who he was  
16 and who his daughter was?

17 A No, sir, I never heard that.

18 Q Did you ever hear anything about Calvin  
19 asserting that Trooper Linebaugh needed  
20 additional training?

21 A No, sir, I can't recall.

22 Q Tell me what you know -- do you have an opinion  
23 about Mr. -- Trooper Linebaugh's proficiency as  
24 a Louisiana State Trooper?

25 A Well, I knew him when he was a Natchitoches

1 city police officer.

2 Q Good officer?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Got selected to be -- applied for, I guess, and  
5 got selected to be a trooper?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q And as far as you know, he's a good trooper?

8 A As far as I know.

9 Q And if the record reflects that Calvin's  
10 daughter read a .17 in a PDI test, would that  
11 in Natchitoches, Louisiana be sufficient for  
12 somebody to be convicted of DWI?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 MS. CRAFT:

15 I'm going to object to the form of the  
16 question. You're asking him to speculate.  
17 He's not the prosecutor. I mean, for real.

18 MR. FALCON:

19 No, but he's an experienced officer  
20 working years in patrol.

21 MS. CRAFT:

22 I don't think he's -- I get it, but you  
23 haven't asked him about DWI.

24 MR. FALCON:

25 I'm not going to argue with you. I

1                   won't argue with you.

2                   MS. CRAFT:

3                   I understand.

4 MR. FALCON:

5 Q       **Would you answer my question, sir? Is a .17**  
6       **enough to be arrested for DWI in Natchitoches**  
7       **Parish?**

8 A       Yes, sir, it is.

9                   MR. FALCON:

10                  Thank you, Mr. Wilson.

11 A       Yes, sir.

12 EXAMINATION BY MR. MAYEAUX:

13 Q       **Lieutenant, my name is Ben Mayeaux. I**  
14       **represent the Louisiana State Police.**

15 A       Yes, sir.

16 Q       **I've just got a few questions for you.**

17 A       Yes, sir.

18 Q       **How many conversations did you have with**  
19       **Captain Jason Turner?**

20 A       One.

21 Q       **And that's the one you told us about out on**  
22       **I-49?**

23 A       Yes, sir.

24 Q       **Did Captain Turner show you the Shreveport**  
25       **Police Department investigation report on Ms.**

1           **Lydia's death?**

2 A       If memory serves me correctly, he did. I think  
3       he did.

4 Q       **At the end of y'all's discussion --**

5 A       Yes, sir.

6 Q       **-- didn't Captain Turner tell you that he was  
7       convinced it was really a suicide?**

8 A       Yes, sir.

9 Q       **Because you mentioned something earlier about  
10       Ms. Lydia's murder. I mean, Captain Turner  
11       didn't tell you he thought she was murdered?**

12 A       No.

13                   MS. CRAFT:

14                            Asked and answered.

15 A       No, he didn't. And if I used the word  
16       "murder," I was incorrect. It was suicide. It  
17       was ruled a suicide. It was suicide all along.

18 MR. MAYEAUX:

19 Q       **So to the best of your recollection, as we sit  
20       here today, did Captain Turner use the word  
21       "murder" in connection with Lydia Rachal's  
22       death?**

23 A       No, sir, he didn't.

24                   MS. CRAFT:

25                            Objection. Asked and answered.

1 A No, sir.

2 MR. MAYEAUX:

3 Q No. I think -- I know I'm confused, so I'm  
4 going to ask this specific question.

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Can you sit here today and say under oath that  
7 Captain Turner raised Calvin Braxton's name to  
8 you during y'all's conversation?

9 A I cannot say without a doubt that he did.

10 Q Now, other than you and I talking about my  
11 brother's restaurant just a minute ago, have we  
12 ever met each other before?

13 A No, sir, we haven't.

14 Q Have we ever had any other conversation?

15 A No, sir.

16 MR. MAYEAUX:

17 That's all I have. Thank you.

18 A Yes, sir.

19 MS. CRAFT:

20 I just have a few follow-ups.

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 RE-EXAMINATION BY MS. CRAFT:

23 Q The last question I asked you was, "Did you  
24 call my client and tell him that LSPA, the  
25 state police, had come to you and asked you

1 about him, Mr. Braxton, and your answer to that  
2 was yes.

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And that's a true statement; am I right?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q This business about being careful, I wanted to  
7 ask you a question. As I understood your  
8 testimony, it was Mr. Oliphant who told you  
9 that there was a car watching his house, the  
10 Friedman car; isn't that right?

11 A I think Craig Brown actually told me firsthand.  
12 There again, when it started swirling, I really  
13 didn't know anything about it, and I think  
14 Craig and I may have discussed it. And he told  
15 me that supposedly there was a car watching Mr.  
16 Oliphant's house that was registered to Mr.  
17 Friedman.

18 Q But when Mr. Craig Brown told you that, he told  
19 you, "Mr. Oliphant told me there was a car  
20 watching his house that was registered to this  
21 Friedman," isn't that right?

22 A I think he did. I think he did.

23 Q Understood.

24 A And there again, I apologize because it just  
25 wasn't something that --

1 Q And is it your testimony that you believe Craig  
2 Brown told you that he had heard that Calvin  
3 had hired a private investigator?

4 A Craig told me he had asked Calvin directly  
5 because Craig is one of those --

6 Q Right.

7 A -- outgoing persons. And he told me, he said,  
8 "I went to him and asked him personally."

9 Q And Calvin said no.

10 A Yes, he said no.

11 Q So --

12 A That's what Craig told me.

13 Q But you never told Mr. Oliphant -- so I'm clear  
14 and I'm not confused, you never told Mr.  
15 Oliphant that you knew Calvin Braxton had hired  
16 a private investigator to follow him; isn't  
17 that right?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q You never told him that?

20 A No, ma'am. I didn't know anything about all of  
21 that.

22 Q And the business about be careful, as I  
23 understood what you said when you said, "I  
24 might have said be careful to Mr. Oliphant like  
25 I did to Mr. Linebaugh and Mr. Braxton," it

1           wasn't be careful, somebody is going to  
2           physically hurt you. It was be careful, y'all  
3           are dealing with a mess, right?

4 A       Ma'am, my reasoning for asking both of them to  
5           be careful -- and this is coming from somebody  
6           in my community. These two are two of the most  
7           prominent figures in my community. And instead  
8           of them being at odds with one another, I hoped  
9           they would have been together. And that's why  
10          I told both of them, all three of them, be  
11          careful. Be careful. Not that anybody was  
12          going to have somebody killed or anything like  
13          that.

14 Q       Or hurt, right?

15 A       Or hurt, yes, ma'am.

16 Q       It's just, look, you guys are --

17 A       Just be careful. Just basically squash it.

18 Q       You guys are the role models in this community,  
19          and the last thing this community needs is you  
20          two guys fighting with each other out in  
21          public, right?

22 A       Uh-huh.

23 Q       Is that a yes?

24 A       Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry.

25 Q       That's okay. And the fishing expedition

1           business, are you telling us that you did tell  
2           Mr. Oliphant you thought or you knew that  
3           Calvin Braxton was engaging in a fishing  
4           expedition, or did you just tell Mr. Oliphant,  
5           look, I'm hearing a rumor that there may be a  
6           fishing expedition?

7 A           I'm trying to remember exactly how it was put.  
8           That Calvin was on a fishing expedition to see  
9           what J.D. was doing and vice versa because --

10 Q           And J.D. was on a fishing expedition to see  
11           what Calvin was doing?

12 A           Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q           And that's what you told Mr. Oliphant, and  
14           that's what you told Mr. Braxton. You told  
15           them both that.

16 A           Yes, ma'am.

17           MS. CRAFT:

18                       That's all I have, sir. Thank you. I  
19           believe you are finished.

20 A           Yes, ma'am.

21           MS. CRAFT:

22                       Are we going to sign? Oh, reading and  
23           signing. Hold on. You want to tell him?

24           THE COURT REPORTER:

25                       You have the right to read and sign

1           your deposition after it's complete in a  
2           couple of weeks, or you can waive that  
3           right. It's up to you. Would you like to  
4           read and sign, or would you like to just  
5           waive it?

6           THE WITNESS:

7                     I'll waive it.

8

9 THE WITNESS WAS EXCUSED.

10 DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT: 2:31 P.M.

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1 CERTIFICATE  
2

3 This certification is valid only for a  
4 transcript accompanied by my original signature and  
5 original required seal on this certificate.

6 I, Kim Taylor, Certified Court Reporter in and  
7 for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before  
8 whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify  
9 that MIKE WILSON, after having been duly sworn by me  
10 upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify on the  
11 2nd day of October 2020, at Natchitoches, Louisiana,  
12 as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing 56 pages;  
13 that this testimony was reported by me in the  
14 Stenographic reporting method, was prepared and  
15 transcribed by me or under my personal direction and  
16 supervision, and is true and correct to the best of  
17 my ability and understanding; that the transcript  
18 has been prepared in compliance with the transcript  
19 format guidelines required by statute and rules of  
20 the board; that I am informed about the complete  
21 arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person  
22 or entity making arrangements for deposition  
23 services; that I have acted in compliance with the  
24 prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined  
25 by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434

