

TELEPHONIC WITNESS STATEMENT

DATE: [Not Provided]

TIME: [Not Provided]

INTERVIEW OF: Representative Joanne Giannini

INTERVIEW BY: Detective Corporal Kenneth Buonaiuto
Rhode Island State Police Financial Crimes Unit

LOCATION: Rhode Island State Police Headquarters
311 Danielson Pike
North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857

SUBJECT: 38 Studios Investigation

1. Q. This is Joanne, right, correct, Giannini?
A. Right.
2. Q. ... prior ...
A. Your last name? I'm sorry.
3. Q. Buonaiuto.
A. I - Mon-a-uto [phonetic]?
4. Q. Buonaiuto.
A. Oh, okay.
5. Q. Would you like me to spell it, do you want to write it down, or?
A. No. Um, yeah, well - Yeah, I'm gonna to write it down ...
6. Q. Okay. When you're ready.
A. -- so I know who I'm talking to. Go ahead.
7. Q. All right. It's B-U-
A. Mm hmm.
8. Q. -- O-N ...

- A. **Mm hmm.**
9. Q. A-I ...
- A. **Mm hmm.**
10. Q. -- U-T-O.
- A. **Buonaiuto [spoken with accent].**
11. Q. There you go.
- A. **Yeah. [Laughs]**
12. Q. That's it.
- A. **That's Italian.**
13. Q. Now you know how to say it. My first is Ken.
- A. **Ken. Hi Ken.**
14. Q. How are you? I appreciate your – your time ...
- A. **And I'm Joanne. I'm ...**
15. Q. [Indiscernible]
- A. **-- Joanne. Go ahead.**
16. Q. O – Okay. This – this won't take very long at all. From what I understand you were a representative in 2009 – Correction, 2010, is that right?
- A. **Cor- Yes.**
17. Q. Okay.
- A. **That was my last year, yes.**
18. Q. Okay. And – and how long did you serve, what were the dates?
- A. **I served from November – Well, I got elected in November in 1974. And then I served until the – 2010, that final – We – You know, we adjourned [Indiscernible] and I didn't ... to reelection in 2010.**
19. Q. Thirty-six years?

- A. **Sixteen years.**
20. Q. Sixt—Did you --? Oh, '94. I thought you said '74.
- A. **No. Oh God.**
21. Q. I'm like, wait a minute now ...
- A. **[Indiscernible]**
22. Q. -- you don't -- you ...
- A. **[Laughs]**
23. Q. -- you -- Oh. Your voice was -- I'm like -- I was a little ...
- A. **No, ...**
24. Q. -- confused ...
- A. **-- 1990 -- No. No. I -- I -- I ran in 1994, ...**
25. Q. Okay.
- A. **-- and I served for 16 years.**
26. Q. All right. Very good.
- A. **My last term was the two -- was 2010. I did not run for re-election.**
27. Q. Okay.
- A. **I retired.**
28. Q. I'm sorry hearing "'74." I was saying to myself, *boy, at least your voice is aging very well.*
- A. **No.**
29. Q. Heh heh heh.
- A. **I -- Again, I don't know how many people last that long.**
30. Q. ... right. [Laughs] Okay. Well I'm sure you've heard in the media the reason why we're calling. I was just reaching out to everybody that was in the House and Senate during 2010, specifically the May 2010 vote regarding the Jobs Creation Guaranty Program / 38 Studios really, bill, I guess if ... everyone wants to call it that now. But -- So, you -- you were in the House at that time?

A. Yes.

31. Q. Okay. And were you on any particular committees during that time period?

A. I was on – I was Chair of Constituent Services and I was also on Finance Committee and I was also on the committee on the Environment.

32. Q. Okay.

A. But I was the Chair for Constituent Services ... A small committee.

33. Q. Okay. All right. And the – now this particular bill, this Jobs Creation bill went to the full floor in May of 2010. I understand it went through Finance prior to that. Are you familiar with that?

A. I don't remember it go- I don't remember it. I'm being – I just -- You know, I don't remember it going through Finance. I – I mean, so many things go through there, but I don't remember that. Now I don't know if I wasn't – if I was there that day or I wasn't there that day. The week before that I had had [REDACTED]

34. Q. Mm hmm. Okay.

A. So um, I'm try- I looked in the – when they put it – when you – I saw it online the 25th, [Indiscernible] said when ... when did this happen, and I know I [REDACTED] But I – I don't remember it going through Finance.

35. Q. Okay. And wh...

A. I don't.

36. Q. [REDACTED]

A. Oh, [REDACTED]

37. Q. Okay.

A. And at the time I was like v- you know, preoccupied because ...

38. Q. Right.

A. [REDACTED]

39. Q. Okay.

A. So I was, you know, more thinking of that to be ...

40. Q. Right. No, that's all right.

A. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]...

41. Q. Okay. Now what – what was the – the purpose of the legislature – legislation, do you remember?

A. As far as I know it was to create jobs.

42. Q. Okay. In – in what way, by providing funds for businesses or?

A. To provide funds for – for new business to come to Rhode Island to create jobs. That's – that's all I remember.

43. Q. Okay. Do you remember any s- any talk about 38 Studios in regards to ...

A. No.

44. Q. -- to the program?

A. No.

45. Q. Nothing at all. Did you know who 38 Studios was?

A. No.

46. Q. Okay. When was the first time you heard about 38 Studios?

A. When it was on the news and in the newspapers.

47. Q. Okay. So after they closed up shop or?

A. Um. No, it – it was actually it started coming out during, I believe, in campaigns, there was

...

48. Q. Okay.

A. -- campaigns then and ...

49. Q. Right.

A. -- Chafee and them were complaining ...

50. Q. Mm hmm.

A. -- about it. You know.

51. Q. Yup.

A. I remember hearing about it then. But I wasn't paying too much attention because I wasn't running for re-election.

52. Q. Okay.

A. I retired. And I really put, you know, [Indiscernible] at the time and I [Indiscernible] long time.

53. Q. Mm hmm.

A. I wasn't paying attention to it, you know.

54. Q. Right. Okay. All right. Do you know who Michael Corso is?

A. No, I do not.

55. Q. Okay. All right. All right, is there anything I haven't asked you that you think is important for ... you know, the State Police to know?

A. No, nothing I can think of.

56. Q. Okay. All right. I thank you for your time. Can I give you my telephone number in case you think of something ...

A. [Indiscernible]

57. Q. -- that ...?

A. Sure.

58. Q. Okay.

A. I mean, that -- that's why I took your name.

59. Q. Okay. It's 444 ...

A. Yup.

60. Q. -- 1205.

A. Okay. 1205.

WITNESS STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE JOANNE GIANNINI

Ref: 12-3-IV

61. Q. Yeah.
- A. Okay.
62. Q. Thank you very much for your time. And you have ...
- A. Thank you.
63. Q. -- a good day.
- A. Bye bye.
64. Q. Bye bye.

STATEMENT TAKEN BY:

WITNESSED BY:
