

## TELEPHONIC WITNESS STATEMENT

**DATE:** [Not Provided]

**TIME:** [Not Provided]

**INTERVIEW OF:** Representative Scott Slater

**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. ... Scott Slater, is that correct?

A. Yes.

2. Q. Okay.

A. **Scott Slater.**

3. Q. Are you – are you presently with the House, or – or no?

A. I am, yeah.

4. Q. You are. Okay. Can you just give me a little timeframe on – on when you came into the House, and obviously you're present right now.

A. ... I came in in two thousand – in 2009 I won my election, so – It was actually a special election because my father had passed away unfortunately.

5. Q. Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

A. Yeah. And um, so they had – So like and I ran and I – Yeah, it was like kind of in the middle of the term.

6. Q. O – Okay. And, and what, what is your – what area do you represent?

**A. I represent the west end of Providence, which is over by the Armory, I represent Reservoir Triangle and also Elmwood area, like where Roger Williams Park is.**

**7. Q. Okay. Okay, and so – so you were obviously in the – in the House during 2010.**

**A. Yup.**

**8. Q. Did you have the opportunity to participate in any debate regarding the Jobs Creation Guaranty Program?**

**A. Well I was there and I had the opportunity; I was on the floor the day that it came up for a vote. But I didn't really participate in any debate.**

**9. Q. Okay.**

**A. It was kind of my first year up there, so ...**

**10. Q. Okay.**

**A. -- it was relatively, a lot of stuff was relatively new for me, so.**

**11. Q. O – Okay. Were you – were you assigned to any committees?**

**A. I was. At the time I was assigned to HEW, Health Education and Welfare Committee. And – So yeah, that was my first assignment. After that, after that year, later on I got assigned to Finance, but not that year, you know.**

**12. Q. Right. Okay. All right. So there – there would have been no reason for this particular bill to come through that committee I would imagine.**

**A. No, no, there wasn't. So we never had – That was in the Finance Committee where they – where they took that up.**

**13. Q. Right.**

**A. And then when it came to the floor, to be honest with you, at the time it was pitched as a jobs program, ...**

14. Q. Mm hmm.

A. -- and something to help out a lot of the companies because they had trouble accessing capital in Rhode Island ...

15. Q. Okay.

A. And nothing really stuck out to me, and maybe it should have, you know, that we increased it by 75 million. But um, as I said, I was relatively new up there and, you know, I was kind of following -- following the lead of the leadership, you know.

16. Q. Okay. All right, so -- so prior to this coming to the floor for its -- for the vote, were you involved in any conversations or whether it be on the floor or even in the hallways or even at like, social events, at restaurants or wherever it may be at, at ... at homes regarding this bill and / or the possibility of 38 Studios coming to Rhode Island?

A. No. No one ever really mentioned it to me, you know, about 38 Studios or anything after that -- After the fact, you know, I was aware of 38 Studios, so, when they came and when they had the press conference and different things like that and for the city that they were going to be located in the city. But I didn't know this program was specifically for them, you know.

17. Q. Right.

A. And I never really -- never really asked, I kind of, kind of followed -- You know, I got support from the leadership and I kind of followed their lead on -- on the stuff, and once things came to the House floor, usually -- usually they pass, you know.

18. Q. Were you -- O, okay. So did you know who 38 Studios was prior to it coming to the floor?

A. No, I didn't.

19. Q. Okay. All right. And when you say you follow the leadership, what do you mean by that,

you just watched the way they voted and you voted, or was it some...?

**A. No, not – not necessarily. But most of the things that came to the floor, usually they were vetted in the committee process and uh um, most of the time, you know, we'd follow the committee's recommendation. Because that's where mostly legislation gets – If the hearing gets testimony as far as whether it's a good or bad bill. So at the time, you know, I followed the committee process and, and uh, now being up there a little longer, you know, I feel a little more comfortable to do some more research on my own, you know.**

20. **Q. Mm hmm. Okay, so ...**

**A. But ...**

21. **Q. So the – the committee, after they hear the bill and they do their debate in committee, like is it – am I correct in assuming that the committee now comes to the floor, or whether it be the chair ...**

**A. Yeah, yeah. So – So usually there's a vote in the committee and it's – you know, the vote, and you get a recommendation from the committee, the committee recommends passage of whatever the bill might be. And usually if it's overwhelming in the committee process, you kind of uh, kind of go off their recommendation, you know.**

22. **Q. Okay, so did anybody approach you independently of that, you know, ...**

**A. No, no one did.**

23. **Q. Okay.**

**A. No one [Indiscernible] independently.**

24. **Q. Okay. Do you know who Michael Corso is?**

**A. Um, I do know him, but I don't know him – I just know him from seeing him in the city because I, you know, I work for the city and I work downtown. But I never had any**

**conversations with him about it.**

25. Q. Okay. In what – what capacity do you work for the city?

A. **I'm a budget analyst. I'm an accountant for the City of Providence.**

26. Q. Okay. And how long have you been employed there?

A. **Twenty years.**

27. Q. Okay. That's quite some – quite some time. All right.

A. **Yeah.**

28. Q. So – so you – you met or you came to know Michael Corso through your deal- his dealings at City Hall?

A. **No, not necessarily. Just from I'd be walking – I used to go get coffee over at Tazza, the restaurant over there, and I got to know him through there.**

29. Q. Okay. And – and how long, I mean if you had to kind of estimate, how – how long you've known him personally?

A. **Maybe like six years or so?**

30. Q. Okay.

A. **But not – not to any like, degree where – outside of a hello and, you know.**

31. Q. All right. And was – was he aware that you were a House representative during, you know, your early years, two thousand ...

A. **Oh yeah. Yeah.**

32. Q. -- 2010.

A. **I'm sure he would be. You know.**

33. Q. Okay. All right. Did you have any conversations with him or did he approach you and, and bring up the conversation regarding this Jobs Creation Guaranty Program and / or 38 Studios?

A. **No, never.**

34. Q. Never at all?

A. **No.**

35. Q. Okay. All right. Anybody else during your social time with him?

A. **Nope, never. Never – No one's ever brought it up to me, you know, as far as this, as far as 38 Studios goes, no one ever brought it up to me. But I'm sure they just felt probably if they – I mean, I was new up there at that time, it's not like I was uh, gonna carry any sort of influence to carry anything across the finish line, you know.**

36. Q. Right. Yup.

A. **So.**

37. Q. No, I understand. Okay. Is there anything else that I haven't asked you, or even something unrelated to this that you may want to tell me about?

A. **No, nothing that I can – nothing that I can recall, you know. I mean, looking back now and you – you see ... it was a terrible deal, you know, poor – poor decision to vote for that, you know.**

38. Q. Mm hmm.

A. **But we did, you know, and looking back, it wasn't – it wasn't – the company wasn't in a good position, you know, so.**

39. Q. Right. Well, if we could Monday morning quarterback, we'd all be in good shape, but unfortunately ...

A. **Yeah, absolutely. So. But if there's anything that does strike my memory, I'll – I'll be happy to get in touch with you, you know.**

40. Q. Okay. Do you want to take down my telephone number and I'll ...

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A. Yeah, absolutely.

41. Q. -- spell – spelling of my last name? When you're ready, just let me know.

A. Okay. I'm ready.

42. Q. Okay. My last name is Buonaiuto, B-U-O-N-A-I-U-T-O. First name is Ken.

A. Yeah.

43. Q. And the phone number is 444-1205.

A. Okay.

44. Q. All right? I – I thank you very much. And again, if something comes up or you think you need to – want to talk to us, just give me a call.

A. Absolutely.

45. Q. All right? And I thank you for your time.

A. Thank you.

46. Q. All right, have a good day.

A. Yup, bye bye. You too. Bye.

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STATEMENT TAKEN BY:

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