

## TELEPHONIC WITNESS STATEMENT

**DATE:** [Not Provided]

**TIME:** [Not Provided]

**INTERVIEW OF:** Representative Robert Jacquard

**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.

A. Hello?

2. Q. Hello, is this Mr. Jacquard?

A. Yes.

3. Q. How are you, sir? Corporal Ken Buonaiuto, Rhode Island State Police.

A. Hey Ken, how are you doing?

4. Q. Good. Do you have a few moments?

A. Yes. Can you hear me there's like a little feedback on my phone, can you hear me  
alright?

5. Q. No, I can feel you – I – I mean, I can hear you, I don't – I don't hear any feedback.

A. Okay.

6. Q. Yup. This shouldn't take long, just – just a few questions if – if I could, yeah. And you realize  
that we're reaching out to all the representatives ...

A. Right.

7. Q. -- just, just to kind of open the doors of communication and, and do due – do our due diligence to make sure we don't ...

A. Sure.

8. Q. -- you know, miss anything. So Mr. Jacquard, your – when were you first elected to the House?

A. Nineteen ninety-two.

9. Q. All right. So you – were you sworn in in '92 or in '93?

A. Ninety-three.

10. Q. Okay. And all the way through present un – uninterrupted?

A. Yes.

11. Q. Okay. Excellent. And with – let's say within the last six years, what committees have you been on?

A. I was on the Finance Committee. Then I was off of it, and then on the Municipal Government Committee, and then put back on the Finance Committee.

12. Q. Okay. And so when were you – what were your – your term [phonetic] in Finance, when were they?

A. I was on from about 1995 until – and, you know, maybe around 2010.

13. Q. All right.

A. When – when – when Fox first ran for Speaker, I voted against him. And so I was taken off of Finance.

14. Q. Mm hmm.

A. And then on – put on Municipal Government for three years. And then put back on Finance again just over a year ago, sometime either in the beginning of 2013 I think it was.

15. Q. Okay. ... Okay. So is that – is that the way it kind of works, if you – if you're not in the, you

know, the circles ...

A. [Indiscernible / voices overlapping] I'd rather not name drop names because shit happens, you know.

16. Q. Yeah. No, I understand. Is -- is Finance a um, a, a sought after committee to be on?

A. Yeah. Yeah, it was. It, it definitely is. And um -- Yeah. I mean, I knew what I was getting into when I voted against Fox, I'm a big boy, I could take it and ...

17. Q. Right. Right.

A. -- that was that, you know.

18. Q. All right. So were you in Finance when the Jobs Creation Guaranty bill came through?

A. I -- I don't believe so because I -- Yeah. I mean, I -- I really doubt it, I -- I think I would have remembered that.

19. Q. All right. Do you -- do you remember when it came to the floor?

A. Yes, it came to the floor twice. And the first time I voted against it, and was one of 60 who had voted against it. And then the second time it came through probably about five weeks later and, you know, I -- we got hammered away, you know, with the rhetoric that this was about jobs and that if you voted against it, you were voting against economic development. And, you know, eventually everybody who voted against it the first time, except for Bob Watson, voted for it.

20. Q. Oh.

A. You know. Yeah, I wish I -- I wish I stuck with my original [Indiscernible]...

21. Q. Yeah.

A. -- but what are you going to do, it -- now it did happen.

22. Q. Right. Okay. All right. So, so this was actually May 2010 that it went to the full floor, May twenty...

A. Yeah.

23. Q. May tw...

A. I mean, you -- you have to check the records, I don't think I was on the Finance Committee then.

24. Q. Okay. All right. You -- I, I mean it sounds like you remember it on the floor, I would think you would have remembered it in -- in Finance.

A. Exactly. Yeah.

25. Q. Okay. All right. Do you know anybody at 38 Studios?

A. Who worked there? No.

26. Q. All right.

A. No.

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

A. You know, sometime after -- [Indiscernible] I don't -- I don't remember the date, but whenever it was, you know, began having articles in the paper ...

28. Q. Mm hmm.

A. -- about the Governor meeting with, you know, Curt Shilling and all that. So I found out, you know, about the same time as everybody else by reading newspaper articles, I never heard of anything at the State House about it.

29. Q. Okay. And what's your feelings on that when you -when you heard that, you know, the State was -- was at least contemplating or -- or thinking about give- giving 38 Studios \$75 million of that 125 million that was in that fund?

A. Well, I mean I think remember focusing on the Economic Development Corporation and uh, you know, there -- there -- there were a lot of people on there that had very good reputations, particularly this guy from Hasbro, Verrecchia, you know what I mean. They -- they say he's a real straight shooter.

30. Q. Right.

A. And these people did their due diligence of [Indiscernible] even Donald [Indiscernible] voted for it, so uh, you know, naturally I thought it was a lot of money and um, I don't know, you know, if I was on that committee, I – I don't know if I would have voted for it. But there were at least some people on there that had good reputations that voted for it. So once that happened, now, you know, we all had to get behind it, you know, you – you – you want – you know, you get your say in things and you know, ... the decision's made like that, the whole State needs to get behind it to have it succeed. So I didn't, you know, voice an opinion against it or anything like that and – and they never had another vote on it to do so.

31. Q. Right. Okay. Do you know who Michael Corso is?

A. I don't believe I've ever met him.

32. Q. Okay.

A. And me, I'm a lawyer, so who knows, I may have run in court - through court might know if I see him.

33. Q. Right.

A. But I – I – I don't – No, I don't know him.

34. Q. Okay.

A. No personal ...

35. Q. Right. And you – you know of him now because what you read in the media?

A. Just now, yeah.

36. Q. Yeah. Okay. Is there anything I haven't asked you that you think it's important that you want to relate to me or?

A. No.

37. Q. Okay.

A. Not at all.

38. Q. All right. Do you have my telephone number?

A. Yes.

39. Q. Okay. Actually, not the number I'm calling from, I have an office number that's different.

A. Okay.

40. Q. [Indiscernible]

A. I'm not in a position to take it down, but I know I have it, you know.

41. Q. Oh, you do. Good. Excellent. Okay. So if I left you a message, then you have it. In the event that something comes to mind after we, you know, get off the phone and you want to – want to give me a call, my – my doors are always open. It doesn't even have to have anything to do with 38 Studios, it can be something totally unrelated that you think is important for us to know, certainly reach out and give me a call, okay.

A. Okay. Thanks very much.

42. Q. All right. Thank you for your time. Bye bye.

A. You're welcome.

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STATEMENT TAKEN BY:

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT JACQUARD

Ref: 12-3-IV