

TELEPHONIC WITNESS STATEMENT

DATE: [Not Provided]

TIME: [Not Provided]

INTERVIEW OF: Representative Joseph McNamara

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. ... Corporal, how are you today?

2. Q. I'm very good. Do you have a few moments?

A. Yes.

3. Q. Okay. I – I – I believe you're aware that we were going to reach out to all House members and Senate members that – that were in office during 2010.

A. Yes.

4. Q. Okay. Very good. All right. This – this shouldn't take very much time. And I just want to assure you that we're not calling you because you're a target of any investigation, it's really just a, a means for us to open up some communication with House and Senate members and offer you the opportunity to provide us with any information that you may believe is important to our investigation. So, so that being said, are you – you presently still in the House, correct?

A. Yes.

5. Q. Okay. And how long have you been in the House?

A. **This is 20 years.**

6. Q. Okay. And that's continuous.

A. **Yes.**

7. Q. All right. And, and where were you – Are you also privately employed?

A. **I am a retired school administrator.**

8. Q. Okay. And that was ...

A. **From Pawtucket.**

9. Q. Pawtucket. Okay. And – Well, and so two thou- So 20 years, so back to 1994 are we talking about?

A. **Yes.**

10. Q. Okay. And during that time you – I'm sure you've been a member of several committees?

A. **Yes.**

11. Q. Can – I don't know sir, if you can recall back that – you know, maybe in order, the committees that you've been a part of?

A. **I was on the Judiciary Committee for eh, probably around eight years. And then I went to the Committee on Health Education and Welfare, and I've been on that committee since. So for the past decade ...**

12. Q. Twelve years. Okay.

A. **[Laughing] A long time.**

13. Q. Yeah, time flies, doesn't it? Heh heh hehe.

A. **Yeah.**

14. Q. Okay. And – and you – you were a member of the House in 2010 when – and it looks like in the spring of 2010, May of 2010, a particular bill, the Jobs Creation Guaranty Program came to the House floor, do you – do you recall that?

A. Yes.

15. Q. Okay. Now that – that bill wouldn't have had any reason to go through the Health and Education and Welfare Committee, is that correct?

A. That is correct.

16. Q. Okay. So the first – Was this the first time that you heard of this bill when it came to the floor?

A. Yes.

17. Q. All right. Any – any discussions prior, you know, weeks, days...

A. No.

18. Q. -- hours prior to it actually hitting the floor?

A. No.

19. Q. Okay. And what can you tell me about that bill that you recall, like, its purpose?

A. The purpose of it was for EDC to have a pot of money to give out to businesses for job development.

20. Q. Okay. And do you remember what type of funds were going to be allocated to it?

A. You know, even off the top of my head, I can't recall the exact number that was involved in that.

21. Q. Okay. And, and who brought it to the – Or you can maybe educate me a little bit. Is – is it one particular person or is it a committee or, who – who brings these bills ...?

A. Usually when a bill goes through a particular committee, and I believe it was in

this case, Finance, that the chairman of that committee manages the bill. That means he explains it to the membership.

22. Q. Okay. Do you remember who that was?

A. **Steve Constantino.**

23. Q. Okay. All right. And refresh my memory, did you vote on it or did you – or did you not vote on it?

A. **Oh, we voted on it, I believe. Yeah.**

24. Q. Oh, I – I mean you individually.

A. **Oh. Yes.**

25. Q. Yup. Okay. And you were in favor or against it?

A. **I was in favor of it.**

26. Q. Okay. I do have a list, but I don't have it right in front of me right now ...

A. **Yup.**

27. Q. -- so. Okay. All right. Did anybody privately approach you on it prior to the vote, you know, to kind of steer you one ...

A. **No.**

28. Q. -- way or other? Okay. And you knew the purpose to be to assist businesses that were looking for capital, is that correct?

A. **Right, Rhode Island businesses looking for capital.**

29. Q. Okay. And – and at no time did 38 Studios conversation come to the floor for p- or in – or even in private?

A. **Correct.**

30. Q. Okay. Did you know who 38 Studios was prior to this?

A. **Not really.**

31. Q. Okay. What do you -- what do you mean by that, "not really?" ...

A. **Yeah, I knew who Curt Shilling was.**

32. Q. Right.

A. **[Laughing]**

33. Q. Now -- Right. Right. We all ...

A. **I didn't know his video company had a name, it was -- You know, so I had -- No.**

34. Q. Okay. Did -- did you know that this video company was interested in coming to Rhode Island prior to this?

A. **No.**

35. Q. Okay.

A. **Nope.**

36. Q. Very good. Do you know who Michael Corso is?

A. **I wouldn't know him if I tripped over him.**

37. Q. You wouldn't.

A. **[Laughing]**

38. Q. Okay.

A. **No. Even to this day. I've seen his name in the paper relating to this, but I have no idea what he looks like, I've never met him.**

39. Q. Okay. All right. So -- so you - you didn't -- you didn't know or you didn't think that a large chunk of this money from this program was going to be allocated to 38 Studios, is that ...?

A. **No.**

40. Q. Have you had any conversations since with anybody that would lead you to believe that

they knew?

A. No.

41. Q. Okay. All right. Anything else maybe that I haven't asked that you think is important for – for me to know or anything even ...

A. Well I think afterwards, obviously, we all – I felt that we were deceived; that other individuals probably knew what was – where the money was going.

42. Q. All right. And who are those individuals?

A. I think the Governor knew. You know, possibly the Speaker at the time.

43. Q. Mm hmm.

A. I would just think.

44. Q. Right, just based on media ...

A. Just based on what I've read in the paper.

45. Q. Okay. All right. So no – no first-hand information.

A. No first-hand information. Yup.

46. Q. Okay. All right. Anything totally unrelated to this that you think that you want to share with me?

A. No.

47. Q. Okay.

A. [Laughs]

48. Q. Okay. All right.

A. ... think of – think of today.

49. Q. Okay. Can I – can I give you my telephone number in the event that, you know, something comes up and you ...?

A. **Absolutely.**

50. Q. Okay. It's 444- ...

A. **Yeah.**

51. Q. -- 1205.

A. **Very good.**

52. Q. All right. And the first name is Ken. And I'll spell the last, because it's a difficult one. It's pronounced Bon-a-uto, and it's B-U-O-N-A-I-U-T-O.

A. **Got it.**

53. Q. Thank you very much for your time, I appreciate it.

A. **Thank you. Thank you very much. Have a good one.**

54. Q. You too.

A. **Yup. Bye.**

STATEMENT TAKEN BY:

WITNESSED BY:
