

TELEPHONIC WITNESS STATEMENT

DATE: [Not Provided]

TIME: [Not Provided]

INTERVIEW OF: Representative Timothy Williamson

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. Yes.

A. This – is this my 38 Studios call?

3. Q. It is. It is. Heh.

A. What – what can – what can I do for you?

4. Q. All right, well just for the record, it – it's Timmy – Timothy Williamson, correct?

A. Timothy Williamson, yes.

5. Q. Okay. Mr. Williamson, how long were you in the House?

A. I was in the General Assembly for 18 years.

6. Q. All right. And when were you elected? Or when were you ...

A. I was ...

7. Q. -- sworn in first, I guess I should say?

A. I was originally sworn in back in, let me see, 1993.

8. Q. Nineteen ninety-three – Until 2012, was it?

A. Two thousand ten. I uh ...

9. Q. It was ...

A. -- was hired in – Well actually – actually, I guess, I guess we could ... I was out by June, but the – the year doesn't end until December, so December of '10 was my last – last month.

10. Q. Okay. And during let's say the last like six years or so, what committees were you a part of?

A. What committees?

11. Q. Yeah.

A. Let's see. I was on – I was on Judiciary.

12. Q. Mm hmm.

A. I was on Rules.

13. Q. Yup.

A. I was on Separation of Powers. I was on the um, the commission to study the retirement system.

14. Q. Okay.

A. And I believe that's it for committees.

15. Q. Okay. Do you remember specifically the Jobs Creation Guaranty Program coming through the House?

A. Yes, I do.

16. Q. All right. I don't think it went through any of those committees, but correct me if I'm wrong. Did it ...?

A. What I – what I specifically remember about it was it popped up originally in the supplemental budget ...

17. Q. Mm hmm.

A. -- for -- like '10 ...

18. Q. Yup.

A. -- that was introduced, I forgot when, probably sometime in January. I don't think we got to it until either late April / early May. And it was amended maybe once or twice that added the Jobs Creation bill in. And if I remember right, the Senate took it out and the -- Ugh, I think the Senate took it out and, I don't know if we passed it without it in there, the supplemental bill -- supplemental budget or the supplemental budget just died. I really don't remember.

19. Q. Okay.

A. But some- something happened where the bill -- That, that part of 38 S- not -- I was going to say 38 Studios, but the economic development part of it ...

20. Q. Yup.

A. -- I think was heard in Finance as a part of the supplemental budget.

21. Q. Okay. And when -- when it was in Finance, did you -- had -- did you hear anything about it?

A. Nothing at all.

22. Q. Nothing at all. Okay. And did you hear anything regarding 38 Studios and their interest in coming to Rhode Island?

A. No. The only time I heard about 38 Studios was well after the fact, because only due to Curt Shilling's interest. Because at the time on the floor, there was specific debate about whether or not it was for one company or not.

23. Q. Mm hmm.

A. And the ar-- The answer was no, and the answer was that if you had x-amount of dollars to invest and you were going to have x-amount of employees, you could get a bigger loan from EDC.

24. Q. Okay. All right. So there was no indication that there was anybody specifically interested in it.

A. Absolutely not. Because one of the is- I think one of the issues, and I can't remember if it was at the supplemental budget part of it or the bill part of it, but I remember there were some amendments that I – that a member of the republican caucus had put in that wanted to limit the dollar amount each company could get. And I – I think that was more towards the supplemental budget, ...

25. Q. Mm hmm.

A. -- and those amendments didn't pass. But there was never a discussion about any particular company.

26. Q. Okay. All right. Anybody at 38 Studios that you're – you were familiar with that you know or anything like ...?

A. No.

27. Q. Yup.

A. Not at all.

28. Q. [Indiscernible] You know I got to ask the question, so.

A. Listen, I – I – You know, I – I – I find the whole thing very interesting. But no, I never – I never even got to meet Curt Shilling, never got an autograph.

29. Q. Heh heh heh.

A. I don't – I don't know Michael Corso and I don't know Nappa [phonetic] and I don't know any of these guys.

30. Q. So [laughs] – So you know all the questions then.

A. Well, yeah. I mean I'm not --

31. Q. Yeah.

A. And, and I – And believe me, I completely understand your position too.

32. Q. Right. Right. Right. Okay. So and besides 38 Studios specifically, and then any – any of their

contractors or attorneys or whoever, did anybody else that yo know of benefit from this?

A. Not at all.

33. Q. No. Okay. All right. Anything I haven't asked you you think is important for me to know?

A. [Laughs]

34. Q. Heh heh heh ...

A. [Laughing continues]

35. Q. Yeah. And it doesn't have – it doesn't ...

A. Besides – Besides gossip, rumor and innuendo? No.

36. Q. Yeah. Well. I mean that's all out there, and we all know about the ...

A. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, um, [Indiscernible] to tell you the truth, I think one of the – one of the things that stands out in my mind, the way it was presented was the equivalent of a State-run small business loan administration in that to jump-start the economy if you – if you think about, if you put ...

37. Q. Yeah.

A. -- more people to work and you have more excess of capital, it should have worked.

But obviously it didn't.

38. Q. Right. Okay.

A. All right?

39. Q. Should – should you have known? I mean, your years in the – in the House, should you have – should you have known the full details of it, ...

A. Uh ...

40. Q. -- or is that not ...

A. Let me put it – let me – let me put it to you this way: it's not uncommon for veterans not to know what's going on in specific committees if you don't sit on those committees.

41. Q. Right. Okay.

A. Because remember, Judiciary here is probably – I don't want to say as many bills as Finance, but they're more intense because we get – we get all the alcohol bills, all the gun bills, all the abortion bills, all that shit.

42. Q. Yeah. Right.

A. So, ...

43. Q. Yup.

A. -- um, half the time you're depending on what they do in committee, so when it comes to the floor, I mean, the vetting process is usually there. You know as well as I do the uh ...

44. Q. Yeah.

A. -- the Journal reports on everything that goes on in Finance, so ...

45. Q. Yeah.

A. -- they have a – they have a front row seat to what's happening.

46. Q. Right. Okay. All right, well if there's anything else, I – Can I give you my telephone number?

A. Uh, sure. Hold on a second.

47. Q. Yup.

A. [Brief pause] Let's see. You know, I'm looking for a pen.

48. Q. Yeah. No, that's alright. Take your time.

A. Yeah, go ahead, what's your cell?

49. Q. It - Well my office number will be 444- ...

A. Yup.

50. Q. -- 1205.

A. One – two – zero – five? And what was your name again?

51. Q. It's Ken Buonaiuto, B-U- ...

A. B-U ...

52. Q. O-N ...

A. O-N ...

53. Q. A-I ...

A. A-I ...

54. Q. U-T-O ...

A. U-T-O. ...

[CONVERSATION ENDS]

STATEMENT TAKEN BY:

WITNESSED BY:
