

## TELEPHONIC WITNESS STATEMENT

**DATE:** [Not Provided]

**TIME:** [Not Provided]

**INTERVIEW OF:** Representative Robert DaSilva

**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. Hello, Mr. DaSilva?

A. [No audible response]

2. Q. How are you. Corporal Buonaiuto, State Police.

A. Hey, how are you?

3. Q. Good. Thank you. I appreciate you giving me a call back.

A. No problem.

4. Q. I'm sure you re- know by, by now why we're reaching out to – to you in particular and, and to the entire House and Senate.

A. Yup.

5. Q. I'm sure you've heard the news. Are, are you presently a rep still?

A. No, I'm not.

6. Q. Yeah. Okay. All right. Otherwise you'd probably be in session right now I would imagine.

A. That's right. That's right.

7. Q. Okay. How long were you a rep?

A. **Four years.**

8. Q. Okay. So that would have been what, 2008 to '12?

A. **Uh, '12, yeah. Twelve. ... I wasn't – I wasn't in there last year or this year, so yeah, that's right.**

9. Q. Okay. All right. And you were in the House. And ...

A. **Yeah.**

10. Q. -- were you assigned to any committees?

A. **Yeah, Judiciary ...**

11. Q. Okay.

A. **-- and Labor.**

12. Q. All right. Simultaneously, or?

A. **Yeah, simultaneously.**

13. Q. All right. And for the whole duration, four years?

A. **No. I think the first year I was only on one committee, and then the second year I was on two committees.**

14. Q. Okay. All right. So '08 you were on the Judiciary and then ...

A. **Yes.**

15. Q. All right. And then '09, '10 – '09, '10 – or it would have been '09, '10 and '11 you were on

...

A. **[Indiscernible]**

16. Q. -- you were on both? All right. Very good. Okay, so you – I think you know why we're calling. We're ... actually just reaching out to open up the lines of communication with legislators that

were in s- were in the roster during 2010, and ...

A. [Indiscernible]

17. Q. -- particularly May of 2010 when the Jobs Guaranty Act was passed.

A. Right.

18. Q. Okay. Are you familiar with that – that bill?

A. Yeah, yeah, I know what you're talking about.

19. Q. Okay. And, and do you know the purpose of the bill, would you be able to kind of explain to me what the purpose of the bill was?

A. The purpose of the bill that I understood it at the time was that this was going to create a program whereby small businesses could get low interest loans to help them stay in business and to expand. Had I known that it was going to go to one particular business, I can assure you I never would have voted for it.

20. Q. Yup.

A. And I'm very glad to see you guys are doing what you're doing. I hope you get to the bottom of this; I hope you find out, you know. I'm, I'm hoping you guys come up with whoever was involved in this and had inside knowledge and whatever other shenanigans were going on and nail whoever is responsible.

21. Q. Okay. So you said you were led to believe that it was – the money was going to go to a lot of small – small businesses. Who led you to believe that?

A. That's what the – That's how the – Well, the debate on the floor, that's the interpretation of what I ... I believed it would be, you know.

22. Q. Right. And, and who was the one that was presenting it that way?

A. I don't – I don't know. I think it was uh – who was leading the – the floor there at

the time? I think it was – I think it might have – Was it Costantino? He was the Chairman of Finance at the time.

23. Q. Right.

A. I – I really – I – I mean, honestly, it was – it's – it was a long time ago, it was one of many, many bills that we heard.

24. Q. Okay.

A. You know, for me to give you specifics right now, I'd have to go back t... They have the – I'm sure they have all the archived video out there, you know, ...

25. Q. Yeah.

A. -- [Indiscernible]

26. Q. Right. No, they do, I'm just – I'm just asking you personally if you remember or, or specifically what was said.

A. I don't. I – I just ...

27. Q. Yeah.

A. [Indiscernible] The gist of the debate that went on was that this was going to be a way by which we could help small businesses and, you know, struggling businesses to get through some, you know, tough times, but.

28. Q. Okay. And prior to it going to the full floor of the – of the House, did it go through any – any of the subcommittees, or committees I should say?

A. I would assume, but I don't – Yeah, I mean it would have had to go through – It didn't come through Judiciary, it must have went through Finance.

29. Q. Okay. And it didn't have anything ...

A. I would imagine.

30. Q. Okay. And it didn't have anything to do with Labor?

A. No, I wasn't – No, I don't think it went through Labor at all.

31. Q. Okay. All right. So the first you heard of this was when then, this particular bill?

A. Oh. Honestly, I don't know. I don't recall. It was – it was a long time ago; it was – It came up maybe on the floor; that might have been when I first start- started hearing about it.

32. Q. Okay. All right. Did...

A. You know ...

33. Q. Was there any mention of 38 Studios at any point in time before the vote?

A. No, not that I know of.

34. Q. Okay.

A. No. Because I was not part of the inner circle, you know, I was – I was – I was a new, a new rep up there and I was on the out- outer circle. And matter of fact, so much so in the outer circle that I was cut out of my district [laughing] when they – when they were trying to re-district my, my district. That's why I'm not there anymore, so.

35. Q. Okay. All right. No, I understand. All right. So you first became aware of 38 Studios when ... shortly after the bill was passed and you – and you hear they're interested in – in a portion of the money?

A. Like everybody else.

36. Q. Okay. All right. Do you – do you know who Mike Corso is?

A. I don't – Only after reading the newspaper, I never met the guy before.

37. Q. Okay. All right. So you have no personal knowl- knowledge of him.

A. No. No, not at all.

38. Q. Okay. Very good. Okay. Anything at all that you'd like to add that I haven't asked you or

it doesn't even have to – it doesn't have to do with 38 S— It doesn't only have to do with 38 Studios, it could be anything at all?

**A. I have nothing for – I got nothing for you. I just – I hope you guys – I'm glad ... you guys are doing this and I hope you get to the bottom of it.**

39. **Q.** Okay. All right. I apprec ...

**A. Good – good luck**

40. **Q.** -- appreciate your time, and if something comes up or you think about something that you - you think is important, just give me a call back here at my telephone number.

**A. Thanks, Corporal.**

41. **Q.** All right. Thank you very much.

**A. Take care...**

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**STATEMENT TAKEN BY:**

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