CERTIFIED COPY

1	'IN RE:	INTERN	AL AFFA	IRS INVEST	IGATION OF		
2		CAPTAI	N RICHA	RD GARDNER			
3 ,	IA NO.	: 2011-0	9297		• ;		
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6 ·			•	OF .			
7 .	\$ }	· .	DIREC	TOR KEVIN	C. SWEAT		,
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15	REPORTE				SAMMARO, F PORTER AND		
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2	APPEARANCES:						
3							
4		JOHN L. WHITEMAN, ESQUIRE, ESQUIRE					
5		St. Johns Law Group 509 Anastasia Boulevard					
6		St. Augustine, Florida 32080 (904)495-0400					
7	:	•					
8							
9	ALSO PRESENT:	Captain Nikki Dofflemyer					
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. 1	THEREUPON
. 2	COURT REPORTER: Would you raise your right
3	hand, please. Do you swear or affirm the testimony
4	you're about to give will be the truth, so help you
5	God?
6	THE WITNESS: I do.
.7	MS. DOFFLEMYER: This is Captain Nikki
8	Dofflemyer with the Department of Public
9	Protection's Internal Affairs unit. Today's date
10	is the 13th of December 2011. The time is
11	approximately 11:10 hours. We're conducting this
12	interview with Director Kevin Sweat. We're at the
13	county admin building located in Daytona Beach,
14 .	Florida. This is a recorded interview statement
15	with Director Sweat. Director Sweat was given a
16	written notice of the intent to interview and
17	appear today and provide a sworn statement.
18	Director Sweat is not the subject of this
19	investigation. He is currently on duty, and has
. 20	been released from service to participate in this
21	interview. Director Sweat was provided a copy of
22	his Officer Bill of Rights and Advisement of
23	Garrity prior to this interview.
24	Also present in the room is Mr. John Whiteman,

attorney at law. He will be conducting this

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interview today with Director Sweat.
               Director Sweat, can you identify yourself for
 3
         the record, please?
        THE WITNESS: I'm Kevin C. Sweat, director of
         Volusia County Beach Safety.
 6 .
               MS. DOFFLEMYER: And, sir, be advised that
         this is currently an active and open Internal
          Affairs investigation. Per statute, you're not to
          discuss any part of this investigation with anyone
 9
10
        until the case comes to closure.
11
               THE WITNESS: Yes.
12
               MS. DOFFLEMYER: Thank you.
13
                         KEVIN C. SWEAT,
14
           having been first duly sworn, was examined
15
            and testified upon his oath as follows:
16
                           EXAMINATION
     BY MR. WHITEMAN:
17
18
               By name is John Whiteman. I'm a private
19
     attorney; I work at St. Johns Law Group in
     St. Augustine. I don't know a lot of the background
20
21
     things that you know, such as how the organization of
22
     the department is set up, and so I probably will be
    asking you some of those questions as well --
23
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24

25

Α

Yes, sir.

-- to help me through this.

- Has anyone told you why I'm here doing this,
- 2 as opposed to somebody from the county attorney's
- 3 office?
- 4 A Yes, sir.
- Okay. Do you have any questions about that?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q Okay. Good. You are Director Kevin Sweat?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Okay. And you are director of what?
- 10 A Division of Beach Safety, County of Volusia.
- 11 Q Okay. And who do you report to?
- 12 A Currently, Deputy Public Protection Director
- 13 Joe Pozzo.
- 14 Q Okay. Direct -- deputy public --
- 15 A Deputy director of Department of Public
- 16 Protection.
- 17 . Q And then who is Mike Coffin?
- 18 A He is the director of the Department of Public
- 19 Protection.
- 20 Q And as that's set up, you have Mike at the
- 21 top, then you have his deputy, and how do the
- 22 organizational lines go from that?
- 23 A There are, I believe, seven different
- 24 divisions that they oversee, and one of them is the
- 25 Division of Beach Safety, which includes the department

- 1 that I am currently the director of, and then there's --
- 2 I could start guessing, but there's animal control,
- 3 corrections, EMS, fire, a few others.
- 4 Q Okay. And so there's seven divisions, and
- 5 you're in charge of the Division of Beach Safety?
- 6 A Yes, sir.
- 7 Q Okay. And how long have you been the director
- 8 of the Division of Beach Safety?
- 9 A Approximately ten years this month.
- 10 Q Now, I've read through some materials, and I
- 11 see words like lifeguard and senior lifeguard, and can
- 12 you tell me -- and I've also noticed senior lifeguard
- 13 appears to be a law enforcement officer. Can you sort
- 14 of give me a primer on how that works or what these
- 15 different positions are?
- 16 A Lifeguards are primarily part-time employees
- 17 that sit on lifeguard towers and provide some additional
- 18 duties, such as lunch reliefs and jet ski zone and
- 19 things of that nature. A senior lifeguard -- and
- 20 actually there's a step in between there. There's a
- 21 beach safety specialist that is a full-time lifeguard,
- 22 and there's also some temporary BSSs, which are 32 hours
- 23 instead of 40, but they serve the same role as -- they
- 24 perform lifeguard functions, are EMTs, do patrols, lunch
- 25 relief, things of that nature, but they do not have

- 1 sworn powers. The senior lifeguards are law enforcement
- 2 officers, emergency medical technicians, and lifeguards,
- 3 and they perform all of those functions.
- 4 Q Now, as the director of Division of Beach
- 5 Safety, are you in charge of lifeguards, senior
- 6 lifeguards, the beach safety specialists; they all come
- 7 under you?
- 8 A Ultimately, yes. There's layers in between.
- 9 There's lifeguard supervisors and there's a deputy
- 10 chief.
- 11 Q Okay. Now, do you know Paige Winters?
- 12 A Yes, sir.
- 13 Q And how do you know her?
- 14 A She is an employee of the Division of Beach
- 15 Safety.
- Okay. And what type of employee is she, a
- 17 senior lifeguard, lifeguard?
- 18 A She is currently a senior lifeguard. She
- 19 started as a part-time lifeguard.
- Q Okay. She's a senior lifeguard. Okay. And
- 21 do you know when she became a senior lifeguard?
- 22 A No, sir.
- Q Can you give me an approximation?
- 24 A Within the last -- within the last year for
- 25 sure, and I'd say within the last six months.

- 1 Okay. So she was initially hired as a 2 lifequard? 3 Yes, sir. Α And is she a long-term employee? I mean is --5 I don't know -- how -- what would you --6 Two to three years is my estimate. 7 Two to three years. How old do you think she 8 is? 9 Forties. 10 Okay. So she was employed at a fairly advanced age for a lifeguard, or is that not --11 12 That would be your comment, not mine. 13 Well, I -- you know. Okay. Gotcha. the two to three years that she's been employed goes 14 back to when she was first employed as a lifeguard? 15 16 Α Yes, sir. 17 It sounds like it's a fairly large step to go from a lifeguard to a senior lifeguard because now you 18 are a law enforcement officer, certified law enforcement 19 20 officer? 21 Α Yes, I believe so. 22 Okay. What -- is there any kind of -- what Q
- 25 A They would have to -- well, obviously they're

become a senior lifeguard?

23

24

kind of training do they -- does a lifeguard get to

- 1 already trained as lifeguards. They'd have to become an
- 2 emergency medical technician, which would require a
- 3 semester out at the college, or another college of their
- 4 choosing. They would also require to take the basic law
- 5 enforcement academy, which is, I believe, somewhere
- 6 around 720 hours, estimate, as well as state test and
- 7 national test.
 - 8 Q Okay. Is there any probationary period that
 - 9 they go through when they are promoted to senior
- 10 lifeguard?
- 11 A Yes. They have a year probation.
- 12 Q So if she was promoted just within the last
- 13 year, then she'd still be a probationary --
- 14 A I believe she's still a probationary employee.
- 15 Q In addition to the basic LEO -- law
- 16 enforcement academy work that you mentioned, is there
- any field training or anything like that that's done by
- 18 the department --
- 19 A Yes.
- 21 A There's classroom field training as well as
- 22 ride-along field training.
- 23 Q Is there a specific course for that field
- 24 training, a number of hours or --
- A I'm sure there is. It's a couple weeks in a

- 1 classroom, and then an additional, I think, four to six
- 2 weeks in the field, as an estimate.
- 3 Q And when they're in the field, is that when
- 4 they're assigned with someone else?
- 5 A They're assigned a field training officer who
- 6 is serving in that role year-round.
- 7 Q Okay. Okay. So the field training, you
- 8 think, is a couple weeks in class and then four weeks --
- 9 A An estimate of four to six weeks in the field.
- 10 Q Four to six weeks. Are you familiar with
- 11 Captain Gardner?
- 12 A Yes, sir.
- Q What's his first name?
- 14 A Richard, I believe, is his technical full
- 15 name.
- 16 Q What do you call him, Rich?
- 17 A Rich.
- 18 Q Now, how are you familiar with him?
- 19 A He is -- was serving as the investigator for
- 20 the Division of Beach Safety.
- Q. Does the Division of Beach Safety have a group
- 22 of investigators, or just one investigator, or --
- 23 A There's one primarily assigned, and then as
- 24 cases dictate, we may assign additional assistants with
- 25 him.

- 1 Q Okay. I'm trying to think of this in the way
- 2 I think of a traditional sheriff's office; they usually
- 3 have like an investigative unit. And do you have an
- 4 investigative unit, or you just really have an
- 5 investigative officer, and then he handles the
- 6 investigations, but if he needs help, then you assign
- 7 another investigator?
- 8 A Correct. The way it currently works, we have
- 9 one person assigned to investigations. All of the level
- 10 one felonies are handled by the sheriff's office, so we
- 11 handle a lot of property crimes and things of that
- 12 nature, and as cases dictate, we would assign someone
- 13 else who's had the training, or needs the training with
- 14 him, to assist with his caseload.
- 15 Q And so now the -- his jurisdiction, because
- 16 you said the sheriff's office investigates certain
- 17 crimes as well, does it end where the sand ends, or how
- 18 does that work?
- 19 A No, he's got countywide jurisdiction.
- Q Okay. If he's investigating a crime, is it a
- 21 crime that occurred on the beach --
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q -- as opposed to on the pavement -- I mean the
- 24 street, 50 feet off the beach?
- 25 A Correct. If it was off the beach, we would

- 1 give that to another jurisdiction, unless it happened on
- 2 an approach, which is part of the beach, then he would
- 3 investigate it, unless it was a level one felony, in
- 4 which he would turn it over to sheriff's office.
- 5 Q But if it's like a theft of somebody's
- 6 pocketbook on the sand, he can follow that wherever it
- 7 goes?
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q Is Captain Gardner, is he involved at all in
- 10 the field training program?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Okay. Does he -- now, that's -- he currently
- 13 is not. Has he in the past been involved with the field
- 14 training and evaluation program?
- 15 A Not to my knowledge.
- 16 Q Okay. You indicated there's a classroom
- 17 portion of it. Do you know whether he's -- whether he
- 18 currently teaches any portion of that or in the past has
- 19 taught any portion of that?
- 20 A Not to my knowledge. Captain Berard would
- 21 know that answer.
- 22 Q Captain who?
- 23 A Berard.
- 24 Q And he is?
- 25 A Oversees the training.

- 1 Q Okay. Is that a separate division, the
- 2 training, or --
- 3 A It's not a separate division. He's an
- 4 employee with the Division of Beach Safety and he
- 5 oversees training.
- 6 Q Okay. When you have one of these individuals
- 7 that's going from lifeguard to senior lifeguard and
- 8 they're undergoing this training, field training, who is
- 9 their supervisor?
- 10 A Captain Berard would be the overall
- 11 supervisor, and then their field training officer would
- 12 be their supervisor during the time they were assigned
- 13 to them.
- Q Okay. So they're basically assigned to field
- 15 training, and their supervisor would be their -- would
- 16 be the field training officer that's assigned to them,
- 17 their immediate supervisor would be?
- 18 A Correct.
- 19 Q Now, do you have some form of observation
- 20 reports or training evaluation reports or anything?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q What are those called or what -- as best you
- 23 can tell me?
- 24 A They're basically what you said; they're
- 25 observation reports that a series of notes are taken and

- 1 skills are performed and assessments are given, and then
- 2 those are reviewed by the field training officers and
- 3 the field training supervisor.
- 4 Q Okay. The observation reports, are they done
- 5 on a weekly basis, a daily basis, monthly basis, or...
- 6 A I'm not sure. I believe they're daily,
- 7 though.
- 8 Q Okay. And who would complete that on an
- 9 individual trainee?
- 10 A The field training officer.
- 11 Q Okay. Are those -- when those are
- 12 completed -- and I assume they're turned in to someplace
- 13 or they're put in a file or -- those are written
- 14 reports?
- 15 A Correct. They're given to Captain Berard.
- Q Okay. As the --
- 17 A Supervisor of training.
- 18 Q -- supervisor of training. Thanks.
- 19 Okay. So he would get those and he'd review
- 20 those evaluations?
- 21 A Yes.
- Q Okay. And ultimately, how do you know whether
- 23 a trainee passes or fails? Or who decides whether a
- 24 trainee passes or fails?
- 25 A It's done within the field training officer's

- 1 meetings that they have on each segment they meet. They
- 2 discuss their deficiencies and their performance, and
- 3 then it is within that meeting, if they've met the
- 4 qualifications and they haven't failed any of the
- 5 sections, then they go forward.
- 6 Q Okay. So each segment -- when you said each
- 7 segment, there's like this segment of training that
- 8 deals with one subject and then there's another
- 9 segment --
- 10 A I believe there's a list of criteria they have
- 11 to complete. And once they complete all those and also
- 12 ride with the different field training officers, because
- 13 they're assigned a different one every two weeks --
- 14 Q Okay.
- 15 A -- then that's when they complete.
- 16 . Q Okay. And so then you have the daily training
- observation reports or whatever, and at some point do
- 18 all the training officers sit down and they review all
- 19 of them and talk about each of the individuals, or you
- 20 don't know that?
- 21. A Yes, they do.
- 22 Q I would assume that, you know, they rotate
- 23 through them so they all get exposure to the trainee,
- 24 and that would make sense.
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 Q Would Captain Gardner be in a position where
- 2 he would ever review the daily observation reports?
- 3 A Not that I'm aware of.
- 4 Q Does he ever serve as acting deputy chief?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. And so the chief is who again? I'm
- 7 sorry.
- 8 A The deputy chief is Scott Petersohn.
- 10 operating -- as acting deputy chief?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And what kind of circumstance would he be
- 13 serving as acting deputy?
- 14 A It would be when Deputy Chief Petersohn was
- 15 off or unavailable. Also, Supervisor Manchester fills
- 16 in for that role as well. So it would be in the absence
- 17 of one of those two.
- 18 Q Would the deputy chief review the daily -- the
- 19 daily observation reports?
- 20 A There would be no reason to.
- 21 Q Okay. That would all stay within the training
- 22 department?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q So if Gardner was acting as the deputy chief,
- 25 you don't think there's any reason why he would come

- 1 across any of the daily observation reports or have the
- 2 need to see any of those?
- 3 A Correct.
- 4 Q Or that they would routinely go to his
- 5 attention because he's serving in that capacity?
- A No, not that I'm aware of.
- 7 . Q So I want you to think about since July of
- 8 2011, which was only, you know -- almost six months ago,
- 9 I guess. Since that time, since that time frame,
- 10 Captain Gardner -- would you have any opinion as to
- 11 whether Captain Gardner would be involved in the
- 12 training program in any way, the field training, or
- 13 reviewing the daily observation reports on trainees?
- 14 .A Not that I'm aware of. The only instructor
- 15 certification that I believe Captain Gardner holds is
- 16 taser instructor. That's the only one that I'm aware
- 17 of.
- 18 Q Is that part of one of the trainings that the
- 19 trainees receive?
- 20 A At some point in time. I'm just not sure if
- 21 it's during their field training segment.
- 22 Q Okay. So it is possible that he may have
- 23 provided that taser training to trainees during the
- 24 field training?
- A He could have, yes.

- 1 Q You never observed him give that training to
- 2 the field trainees?
- A Not that I'm aware of, no, I've never seen
- 4 him.
- 5 Q Did you ever hear any rumors about Captain
- 6 Gardner and Paige Winters being involved in some sort of
- 7 romantic relationship?
- 8 A No. And let me clarify. Not until an
- 9 anonymous letter arrived.
- 10 Q That was going to be my next question. I mean
- 11 obviously you know about it because we're here, but --
- 12 so what you're saying is, is that you never heard any
- 13 rumor about it or -- until the anonymous letter arrived?
- 14 A Not a single rumor.
- 15 Q Did you ever, prior to seeing -- prior to
- 16 seeing that anonymous letter or hearing of the anonymous
- 17 letter, because I don't know whether you've seen it or
- 18 you've just heard of it --
- 19 A Both.
- 20 Q Both. Okay. Prior to that time, did you ever
- 21 see them together outside of work in any type of social
- 22 setting?
- 23 A No.
- 24 Obviously you've seen -- have you ever seen
- 25 them together at work?

- 1 A I'm sure I have without even realizing it.
- 2 Q Anything that sticks in your memory as to
- 3. anything unusual about any time that you would have seen
- 4 them together at work?
- 5 A No.
- 6 . Q You've probably attended some social
- 7 gatherings where they're there as well as you're there?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q Have you ever seen anything inappropriate --
- 10 or questionable. I don't like the word inappropriate.
- 11 Anything that raised any question in your mind about
- 12 their interaction with one another that led you to
- 13 believe that maybe they were in a romantic relationship?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q And you first became aware that they may have
- 16 been in some sort of romantic relationship when you saw
- 17 the anonymous -- or heard of the anonymous letter?
- 18 A Correct:
- 19 Q Did you ever ask Captain Gardner whether he
- 20 had or was having a romantic relationship with Paige
- 21 Winters?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q I'm going to ask you about Cara Gittner. Do
- 24 you know Cara Gittner?
- 25 A Yes.

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1
               Now, she is also an employee of the
    department?
 3
         . A
               Yes.
 4
               And what is her position? Is she a senior
 5
     lifequard or --
               Senior lifeguard, yes.
 6
               Okay. And do you know how long she's been a
     senior lifeguard?
 9
          Α
               Approximately two to three years.
10
               Would she also have been initially hired as a
11
     lifeguard?
12
         : A
               Yes.
              Most of the senior lifeguards at one time were
13
14
     lifeguards?
15
          Α
               Most.
               What's your estimate of her age?
16
          Q
17
               Mid 20s, late 20s.
          Α
18
               At some point she would have had to go through
     the same training to become a senior lifeguard that
19
20
     Winters went through; is that correct?
21
          Α
               Yes.
22
               Okay. I'm gonna ask you just generally, I'm
          Q
     not going to go through step by step, but do you know
23
24
     whether or not Captain Gardner would have been involved
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25

in her training in any respect?

- 1 A I wouldn't know.
- 2 Q Other than maybe he would have given the taser
- 3 training then if it's given to the trainees?
- 4 A That would be the only thing I could even
- 5 think would be possible, yes.
- 6 Q At some time did you become suspicious that
- 7 Captain Gardner and Cara Gittner may be involved in a
- 8 romantic relationship?
- 9 A I don't know about romantic, but there was a
- 10 point where they were around each other quite a bit with
- 11 their drills, which is, you know, swimming and running
- 12 in the morning, which is not uncommon for many
- 13 lifeguards to do, but they were meeting almost every
- 14 morning to swim and run drill.
- Okay. So at that point she was a lifeguard or
- 16 senior lifeguard?
- 17 A I believe she was a senior lifeguard.
- 18 Q And Captain Gardner would have been still the
- 19 investigator?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q But it's not uncommon for him, in his position
- 22 as an investigator, to drill --
- 23 A No.
- Q -- with and run with other life -- with the
- 25 senior lifeguards?

- 1 A That would be correct. We all do.
- 2 Q And if you had any suspicions -- or that's
- 3 maybe too strong a word -- any thoughts that maybe they
- 4 were -- they had some sort of relationship, it would
- 5 have been just because of seeing them drilling together
- 6 and this type of thing?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q Anything else that you observed of their
- 9 interaction that would -- that might have led you to
- 10 believe that maybe they were in a relationship?
- 11 A No. I've only seen them at work.
- 12 Q Okay. So you haven't socialized with them
- 13 together? You may have been at some social function
- 14 when one of them was there, but you have not seen them
- 15 to interact in a social relationship?
- 16 A I've never seen them interact in a social
- 17 relationship. The only time we may have been together
- 18 would have been the lifeguard banquet, and we weren't
- 19 together, by any means. I didn't sit with them and I
- 20 surely don't know if either one of them attended, to be
- 21 honest with you. But they both or either could have
- 22 been there, for all I know.
- Q What level of supervision is there between
- 24 Gardner and you?
- 25 A He reports directly to me.

- 1 Q And how many people do you have reporting
- 2 directly to you?
- 3 A I have the deputy chief, I have the beach
- 4 coordinator, Nancy Nolan, so I have --
- 5 Q Nancy Nolan is someone other than the beach
- 6 coordinator, or is that --
- 7 A Yeah, she's --
- 8 Q I'm counting people.
- 9 A -- support services manager. The beach
- 10 coordinator is Supervisor Manchester.
- 11 Q Okay. So four or five, I guess?
- 12 A Yeah. It's an estimate.
- 13 Q Does Captain Gardner report to you directly
- 14 because he's the investigator?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Were you the -- were you in your current
- 17 position before he became an investigator, or was he
- 18 investigator before you became --
- 19 A I was in my position before.
- 20 Q Okay. Did you select him or --
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q And prior to that, he would have been a
- 23 senior -- a senior lifequard --
- 24 A No. He would have been a lifequard
- 25 supervisor.

- 1 Q Lifeguard supervisor. Okay. At some time did
- 2 you have occasion to ask Captain Gardner if he was in a
- 3 relationship with Ms. Gittner?
- 4 A I did.
- 5 Q And when do you think that was, timewise?
- 6 A This is a very rough guess. Somewhere between
- 7 six to 12 months ago.
- 8 Q And where were you when you asked him?
- 9 A My office.
- 10 Q And as best you can tell me, what did you ask
- 11 him?
- 12 A I basically asked him if he was in an
- 13 inappropriate relationship or romantic relationship with
- 14 Cara Gittner.
- 15 Q Okay. And what did he tell you?
- 16 A He was not. That they were just friends.
- 17 Q Did he elaborate at all on that, or we're just
- 18 friends or --
- 19 A He said that him and his wife continue -- hang
- 20 around Cara and other people that are employed with us
- 21 on a continual basis, that they're all friends, and that
- 22 was all there was to it.
- 23 Q Was anyone else present when you had this
- 24 conversation with him, Captain Gardner?
- 25 A No.

- 1 Q And you indicated that this was in your
- 2 office. Why was he in your office at that time?
- A He's in my office every day giving me updates
- 4 on investigations. I speak to him on a daily basis.
- 5 Q So he wasn't called in the office to ask him;
- 6 about this?
- 7 A He may or may not have been. I don't recall.
- 8 Q Why did you ask him that question?
- 9 A Because I knew they were hanging around a lot
- 10 together at drill and it was -- I don't want to say it
- 11 was uncommon, but it was enough to say, okay, I've got
- 12 two employees who one's male, one's female, they seem to
- 13 be meeting on a continual basis, every single day, to
- 14 swim and run. Considering what we've had go on the last
- 15 three years, I thought it would be appropriate for me to
- 16 ask him.
- 17 Q From a leadership position, what was the
- 18 importance of knowing the answer to that question?
- 19 A I think at the time it was very important for
- 20 me to understand what was going on in the department as
- 21 far as relationships, no matter what, for the fact of
- 22 making sure the working relationship was not compromised
- 23 by a social relationship.
- 24 Q The working relationship between the two of
- 25 them or the working relationship between all the

- 1 officers?
- 2 A Anyone.
- 3 Q Okay.
- A We have a -- not written policy, but I have a
- 5 standard rule that I do not allow employees who are
- 6 dating to work in the same zone.
- 7 Q So had he told you that he was -- and I'm not
- 8 saying that he was, but just theoretically, had he told
- 9 you that he was in a relationship with her, you would
- 10 have taken some sort of action, I guess?

.

- 11 A Absolutely.
- 12 Q And that would have just been -- what would
- 13 that --
- 14 A Well, at the time, they weren't working
- 15 together, but I surely would have made my superiors
- 16 aware that there was a relationship occurring. But they
- 17 were not working in the same zone at that time, that I'm
- 18 aware of.
- Q Do you believe he was honest with you when he
- 20 answered and told you that he was not in a relationship
- 21 with her?
- 22 A I do not know. I don't know if they were
- 23 seeing each other at that time frame or not.
- 24 Q Have you since learned that they have at some
- 25 point in time been involved in a romantic relationship?

- 1 A My understanding is they have had a romantic
- 2 relationship on and off since -- I would use a rough
- 3 date of 2009, from what I'm told.
- 4 Q When you asked him the question about him
- 5 being -- whether or not he was involved in a
- 6 relationship with her, did he offer the fact that he had
- 7 in the past been in a relationship with her or --
- 8 A He did not.
- 9 Q In asking the question that you asked him, if,
- 10 in fact, he had been in a romantic relationship with
- 11 her, but it had terminated, but he had been in one
- 12 months before, would you have expected him to have
- 13 volunteered that information to you?
- 14 A I would like to think anybody should be
- 15 forthright, should volunteer the information if they're
- 16 especially in a supervisor level of that magnitude.
- 17 Q I'm just curious as to -- and you can just .
- 18 tell me in your own words, if, you know, the way you
- 19 asked the question, were you inviting him to tell you
- 20 more, or, I mean, was it just asked and then just
- 21 dropped? You know, what was your expectation from him
- 22 when you asked the question in how forthcoming he would
- 23 be?
- 24 A Well, obviously I can Monday morning
- 25 quarterback and realize I should have asked a different

- 1 question. We learn from our mistakes, and I will ask
- 2 different questions from this point forward.
- 3 Unfortunately, I asked, was he in a romantic
- 4 relationship, and I should have asked, have you ever
- 5 been in a romantic relationship, would have been the
- 6 correct question to ask.
- 7 Q Believe me, I share that same problem.
- 8 A Yeah.
- 9 Q I've got a letter from, I guess it's Captain
- 10 Gardner's attorney, which attributes some statements to
- 11 you. Have you seen this letter?
- 12 A I'd have to review it to see.
- 13 Q I guess I'm going to read a little bit from
- 14 it, then I'll hand it to you, and you can look at it and
- 15 see if you understand what this is referring to.
- I'm at the bottom of page nine, the paragraph
- 17 that starts at the bottom of page nine. It says, first
- 18 you state -- and this is -- this is a letter from
- 19 Gardner's attorney to Mike Coffin, so when he says you,
- 20 it would be Mike Coffin. First you state, quote,
- 21 "During the time that you were involved with Officer
- 22 Gittner you were asked by a supervisor whether you were
- 23 having an inappropriate relationship with her, which you
- 24 denied," end quote. Then the attorney says that is
- 25 false. Although Director Sweat asked Captain Gardner

- 1 about a year ago if he was involved in a relationship
- 2 with Officer Gittner, Sweat asked that question after
- 3 Captain Gardner and Officer Gittner had broken up.
- 4 Accordingly, Captain Gardner replied no. Captain
- 5 Gardner's response was true. If he had said yes, that
- 6 they were still in a relationship after they had broken
- 7 up, that would have been false. That's the attorney
- 8 talking.
 - 9 The letter goes on, it says, now, as you know,
- 10 the relationship subsequently resumed, but Director
- 11 Sweat did not thereafter ask again. Indeed, when
- 12 Captain Gardner read this line in the presence of
- 13 Director Sweat, while sitting in the passenger seat of
- 14 Sweat's vehicle at the south end of Sun Splash Park
- 15 after having been presented with your NOI, he had to
- 16 read it several times. While he was running his finger
- 17 under each time, Director Sweat spoke up and said, I
- 18 know, I had to read that three times, too. I told
- 19 you -- I told them you didn't lie to me, only that it
- 20 was misleading.
- 21 The way I read that, the line that he was
- 22 putting his finger under must have been the line where
- 23 it says, quote, "During the time that you were involved
- 24 with Officer Gittner you were asked by a supervisor
- 25 whether you were having an inappropriate relationship

- 1 with her, which you denied," end quote. Do you want to
- 2 look at this?
- 3 A No, I'm okay.
- 4 Q You're okay. Do you recall that conversation
- 5 in the -- in your car?
- 6 A Some of that conversation, yes.
- 7 Q Okay. And what do you recall of the
- 8. conversation?
- 9 A I don't remember that particular line that he
- 10 was going over. I thought it was another line he was
- 11 going over in which it referred to Mr. Coffin.
- 12 Q Okay.
- 13 A They were close in proximity, if I remember,
- 14 but I don't -- I -- I didn't realize he was going over
- 15 the line in which that statement was made.
- 17 Coffin stated?
- 18 A Not exactly. It was something to the effect
- 19 that he, I believe, falsely made a statement to
- 20 Mr. Coffin during an interview.
- Okay. The next paragraph in this letter says,
- 22 Secondly, you stated, quote -- and again, when he says
- 23 you stated, this would be Coffin stating, I guess, in
- 24 the NOI. You stated, quote, "More recently, I," which
- 25 would be Coffin, "asked you whether there was anything

- 1 in your background which could cause embarrassment to
- 2 the division, and you said no."
- 3 Could that -- is that -- would that be the
- 4 line that you think he attributed --
- 5 A That's the line I thought he was running his
- 6 finger over time and time again, and my response was
- 7 different than what I recall in there.
- 8 Q Okay. Let's talk about that day then or that
- 9 time. This would have been a conversation that involved
- 10 Captain Gardner, yourself, and Mr. Coffin?
- 11 A We're going back to the interview for the
- 12 deputy chief's position?
- 13 0 Yes...
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Because I think that's what this statement is
- 16 talking about.
- 17 A That's what I believe it is, yes.
- 18 Q So that was an interview for the deputy chief
- 19 position?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Okay. And who would have been present for
- 22 that interview?
- 23 A Mr. Coffin, Mr. Gardner, and myself.
- 24 Q And I'm assuming that was in somebody's
- 25 office?

- 1 A My office.
- 2 Q Your office. What do you recall Mr. Coffin
- 3 asking Mr. Gardner, or Captain Gardner?
- 4 A My recollection of the conversation was --
- 5 amongst lots of things that were discussed about
- 6 salaries and other things, the question I specifically
- 7 remember being asked was, was Mr. Gardner gonna have his
- 8 name come up in any way, shape, or form in the Ashley
- 9 Drury lawsuit; whether he was going to be involved or
- 10 have knowledge that he should have shared with us
- 11 involving Ashley Drury.
- 12 Q Okay. So your recollection is that it was --
- 13 the comment was specifically tied to that lawsuit?
- 14 A Yes, sir.
- 15 Q Say that lawsuit again, the --
- 16 A Ashley Drury, D-r-u-r-y.
- 17 Q Is that -- are you being -- are you a
- 18 defendant in that suit?
- 19 A Yes, I am being personally sued as well as the
- 20 County.
- 21 Q And how certain are you of your recollection
- 22 that that was the way the question was asked?
- 23 . A I'm fairly positive because he asked a very
- 24 similar question to Supervisor Petersohn at the same
- 25 time. They were both very similar questions within days

- 1 of each other.
- 2 Q And he was the other person that was being
- 3 considered for the deputy --
- 4 A Yes. There was two.
- 5 Q Okay. So as I understand it, you have --
- 6 you -- your testimony is that there was not a general
- 7 question about are there any skeletons in your closet
- 8. that are going to come up to harm the department, it was
- 9 really tied to that pending lawsuit --
- 10 A That particular day and that particular
- 11 interview I do not recall any other questions being
- 12 asked that I remember.
- 13 Q You said that particular day and that
- 14 particular interview. Was there any other interview or
- 15 day that you were present where a broader question was
- 16 asked?
- A No. I'm just not sure if Mr. Gardner and
- 18 Mr. Coffin had a conversation outside of my presence.
- 19 On page ten of this letter there's a paragraph
- 20 in here, and I'm going to let you look at this because I
- 21 made an assumption, and I want to see -- just to make
- 22 sure you agree with me. Here's where he says, Second,
- 23 you state more recently I asked you whether there was
- 24 anything in your background which could cause
- 25 embarrassment to the division, this is at the interview

- 1 for the deputy's position, and then I think down here
- 2 there's a paragraph that starts off, indeed, when
- 3 Captain Gardner read this line in the presence of
- 4 Director Sweat, he stopped and said this isn't true.
- 5 Director Sweat said, quote, "I know it's not true, and
- 6 that is not the way I remember it either," end quote.
- 7 Sweat said, quote, "I know" -- wait a second. I messed
- 8 that all up. It's hell getting old. I jumped a whole
- 9 line. I'll start over.
- 10 It says, indeed, when Captain Gardner read
- 11 this line in the presence of Director Sweat, he stopped
- 12 and said, quote, "This isn't true," end quote. Director
- 13 Sweat said, "I know it's not true, and that is not the
- 14 way I remember it either, " end quote. Captain Gardner
- 15 then reminded that you had asked if he, quote, "knew
- 16 about Simmons and Tameris," end quote. Director Sweat
- 17 said, quote, "I know." He then said, quote, "Don't go
- 18 telling people about this, you know I'll be fired, but
- 19 if I have to, I will tell the truth about the
- 20 conversation -- that conversation under oath," end
- 21 quote.
- Do you agree -- do you think -- do you agree
- 23 with my assumption that this paragraph is talking about
- 24 that statement up there?
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 Q Do you recall having this conversation down
- 2 here with Gardner?
- 3 A I do not recall saying every word that he has
- 4 quoted in there. My recollection of the exact quote
- was, I understand your concern, and all I can tell you
- 6 is that I will be honest if asked.
- 7 Q Okay. And you've already told us what
- 8 you've -- what your recollection of that conversation --
- 9 or the statement was by Mr. Coffin or question by
- 10 Mr. Coffin?
- A That's the way I recall the question, yes.
- 12 Q You, at one point, asked Captain Gardner
- 13 whether he was involved in a relationship --
- 14 inappropriate relationship, and then this second -- the
- 15 question by Mike Coffin when you were there, you didn't
- 16 speak it, but Mike Coffin asked, and you told us what he
- 17 said, which of those happened first in time?
- A You have to explain better. Which of what
- 19 happened?
- Q Okay. There's -- in the NOI there's alleged
- 21 that he made two false statements; one involved the
- 22 statement where you asked him, are you involved in an
- 23 inappropriate relationship? The second one is where
- 24 they have the interview for the deputy position, and
- 25 Mike Coffin asked him what Mike Coffin says he asked,

- 1 which is different from what you remember the question
- 2 being asked. Do you know which of those occurred first
- 3 in time?
- A I don't. I know -- I know Deputy Petersohn's
- 5 been in his position for approximately a year, so I
- 6 would think they were in close proximity, but I can't
- 7 remember which one occurred first.
- 8 Q Had the relationship between Gardner and
- 9. Gittner rekindled before Coffin's question, would you
- 10 have expected Captain Gardner to have said anything to
- 11 you or to Coffin?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And -- about the fact that the relationship
- 14 had rekindled?
- 15 A Yes. I think at a deputy chief's position
- 16 you've got to lay everything on the table at that point
- 17 to me to make sure that -- I'm putting him in a position
- 18 of almost the highest position in the department, and
- 19 unfortunately, whether we like it or not, any
- 20 relationships at that level would be inappropriate.
- 21 Q And at any time did he come to you and tell
- 22 you about that relationship?
- 23 A He did not.
- 24 Q After you had the conversation with him, with
- 25 Gardner, and asked him whether he was in a relationship

- 1 with Gittner, did you see any difference in the way he,
- 2 Gardner, and Gittner interacted?
- 3 . A No.
- 4 Q Still training the same way as before?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. I'm advised that Officer Gittner has
- 7 testified that you asked her whether she was in a
- 8 relationship with Captain Gardner. Is that true, or
- 9 what's your recollection on that?
- 10 A I don't ever remember asking Gittner if she
- 11 was in a relationship. I remember speaking to her in
- 12 general terms about relationships and her career path
- 13 and things of that nature, but I don't remember
- 14 specifically asking her if she was in a relationship
- · 15 with Gardner, I do not.
 - 16 Q Okay. So I'm assuming she didn't tell you she
 - 17 was in a relationship with Gardner?
 - 18 A She did not.
 - 19 Q What basically did you tell her about the
 - 20 nature of rélationships and --
- 21 A She had -- she has expressed an interest
- 22 throughout her career, even at the very beginning, that
- 23 her desire was to work her way through the division and
- 24 be the director one day. And I explained to her that to
- 25 do that, it's difficult to have relationships of any

- 1 sort tied to the department, whether they just be
- 2 friends or not, and I said I understand you and Richard
- 3 are very good friends, but potentially that could harm
- 4 you down the road, because friendships are tough to
- 5 maintain if you're going to be the boss one day. So you
- 6 have to start thinking about those things and thinking
- 7 about how the perception is, because sometimes
- 8 perception is conceived as reality.
- 9 Q When you had this conversation with her did
- 10 you suspect that she may be in a relationship with
- 11 Captain Gardner?
- 12 A No, other than just them being around each
- 13 other a lot for swimming and running.
- 14 Q And this conversation with her, would that
- 15 have occurred prior or after the conversation you had
- 16 with Gardner, or in the same time frame?
- 17 A I'd like to say it was somewhere in the same
- 18 time frame. Fairly close.
- 19 Q Was Gittner transferred to the Daytona zone
- 20 from Dunlawton?
- 21 A Eventually, yes.
- 22 O Where is Dunlawton?
- 23 A The Port Orange area. Dunlawton Bridge.
- Q Okay. Who made the decision to transfer her?
- 25 A It's -- it's basically made amongst

- 1 supervisors, then it goes to the deputy chief, and then
- 2 if there's any complications, it comes to me.
- 3 Q Did hers come to you or --
- 4. A I don't recall.
- 6 routine, or what --
- 7 A Actually, Mindy Greene and -- I believe this
- 8 is the reason. Mindy Greene and Tom McGibeny advised me
- 9 that they were in a relationship together. They both
- 10 worked in the Daytona zone, so we needed to move one of
- 11 them out of there, and Tom requested to go to Dunlawton,
- 12 and Cara had requested to come to Daytona, and the
- 13 supervisors agreed to that swap in personnel.
- Q Okay. So Gittner was transferred to Daytona
- 15 from Dunlawton to make room for McGibeny --
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q -- to be transferred the other way around,
- 18 from Daytona to Dunlawton?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Okay. Any particular reason why Gittner was
- 21 the one that was selected to be transferred as opposed
- 22 to someone else?
- 23 A It's done by request from the officer.
- 24 Q So you think Gittner volunteered or requested?
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 Q Is that -- is there any writing or any -- you
- 2 know, is there like a request form, or is it just
- 3 verbal?
- 4 A I think it's verbal. And some of them may
- 5 write a letter. I don't know if she did or not. It's
- 6 mostly verbal, though.
- 7 Q So it's basically if you have to make a
- 8 transfer like that, I would assume what you would do is
- 9 you try to see if anybody wants to volunteer for the
- 10 transfer, as opposed to forcing somebody to transfer
- 11 that may not want to transfer?
- 12 A That would be the goal.
- 13 Q Okay. Did Rich Gardner have any input at all
- in the decision for Gittner to be transferred?
- 15 A Not to me, unless he did it behind the scenes,
- 16 but he never spoke that to me.
- 17 Q Did he ever express to you any kind of opinion
- 18 as to whether that transfer was appropriate, not
- 19 appropriate, he was happy with the transfer, not happy
- 20 with it, or --
- 21 A The only thing he ever expressed to me, that
- 22 he respected her work and thought she was very diligent
- 23 and her skills on the computer and other things, and
- 24 that he thought she was an extremely talented officer.
- 25 Q Okay. So he wasn't upset by the transfer or

- 1 particularly happy with the transfer?
- 2 A He didn't seem either way to me.
- 4 direct supervisor of Gittner in any position?
- 5 A The only time I can -- I know of, and I --
- 6 it's not direct, is when he's a deputy chief he oversees
- 7 the whole department, obviously, for that day, but I
- 8 guess there would be a supervisor in between him and
- 9 wherever Cara was working. And I'm not sure if there's
- 10 any special details that I'm not aware of.
- 11 Q Because he's an investigator, so then who
- 12 is -- who is he -- who does he supervise as an
- 13 investigator? Does he supervise anyone?
- 14 A No.
- Okay. Unless he needs help and you assign
- 16 somebody?
- 17 A If he needs help, yes.
- Q Okay. Do you recall anytime that he may have
- 19 worked overtime as a zone captain?
- 20 A He could have, yes.
- 21 Q And if he did that and she was in that zone
- 22 working at the same time, then he could have been a
- 23 supervisor of hers?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q Do you know whether that ever occurred or...

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1 A I would have no idea.
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- 2 Q I guess there would be records that would show
- 3 that?
- 4. A Yes. There are schedules.
- 6 plainclothes assignments that were directed or
- 7 supervised by Captain Gardner?
- 8 A She may have, but I'm not aware of them. He
- 9 had different officers help him at different times, so
- 10 she very well may have. I just am not aware of them.
- 11 Q If he needed help for some investigation he
- was doing, how would he get the personnel to do that?
- 13 A It depends on what he needed. Sometimes he
- 14 would go to the deputy chief and say, I need someone
- 15 assigned to me. Sometimes he could just call in a zone
- 16 and say, hey, could you do some computer stuff for me
- 17 while you're sitting in your zone? There's all kinds of
- 18 ways. If he needed someone actually assigned to him,
- 19 normally he would go to the deputy chief, though, and
- 20 ask.
- 21 Q Okay. So the -- so Gardner -- the deputy
- 22 chief -- and there's one layer of supervision between
- 23 the deputy chief and Gardner, correct?
- A Well, the deputy chief --
- Q Not Gardner. I'm sorry. You've got the

- 1 deputy chief and then I'm looking at Gittner. There's
- 2 one -- there's one level of supervision between the two
- 3 of them?
- 4 A Yes, lifequard supervisor.
- 5 Q Lifequard supervisor. Okay. So he wouldn't
- 6 go to the lifequard supervisor to say I need her
- 7 assistance; he'd go to the deputy chief or --
- 8 A He would normally go through the deputy chief.
- 9 Q Okay.
- 10 A He may have went to one of the supervisors,
- 11 but normally -- the deputy chief oversees scheduling, so
- 12 they understand the personnel and what they've got
- 13 available and not available for the day.
- 14 ' Q But if Gardner needed assistance, he would ask
- 15 for the assistance, and he could either ask for a person
- 16 by name or he could just say, I need somebody, and the
- 17 deputy chief would give him somebody?
- 18 A True.
- 19 Q Are you aware of any details that they worked
- 20 on together?
 - 21 A No. I don't see who's working details. So
 - 22 they may have, they may not have. I don't know.
- 23 | Q I'm going to ask a dumb question, but I'm not
- 24 even sure what detail is.
- 25 A It's basically -- I'll use the example. Most

- of our details are done at the parking garage that's
- 2 owned by the county. It's afterhours. They pay their
- 3 wages, but they work under the authority of the Division
- 4 of Beach Safety as a law enforcement officer to provide
- 5 security for the garage.
- 6 Q And who pays the wages? It's a county garage?
- 7 A Yes. The Ocean Center pays the wages.
- 8 Q Okay. So it's like hiring off-duty police
- 9 officers to do a security detail?
- 10 A Correct.
- 11 Q Okay.
- 12 A And officers volunteer for the detail.
- 13 Q And so -- and then who assigns them to the
- 14 detail? Is there like a -- you volunteer, and then
- 15 it's -- there's some equitable way to make sure that one
- 16 person doesn't always get the detail?
- 17 : A The scheduling person monitors it.
- 18 Q And the scheduling person is?
- 19 A Could be various people. It could be Liz
- 20 Johnson or it could be Chris Atkinson, or one of the
- 21 fill-ins.
- 22 Now, when you're on a detail and there's two
- 23 or three, I'll call them officers on the detail, do they
- 24 still recognize some sort of chain of authority among
- 25 them?

- 1 A I've never worked a detail, but I'm assuming
- 2 if you're a supervisor, you're a supervisor. You don't
- 3 lose your rank because you're working a detail; you're
- 4 still a supervisor.
- 5 Q So theoretically if Gardner and Gittner were
- 6 working a detail, he may be her supervisor at that
- 7 detail -- on that detail?
- 8 A I think you're -- I think if you're a
- 9 supervisor, you're a supervisor seven days a week, 24
- 10 hours a day. I don't think because you work a detail
- 11 you lose your supervisor rank. Now, what occurs in the
- 12 parking garage, I'm not sure of, because their
- 13 assignments are given by the person who oversees the
- 14 parking garage on what they would like them to do
- 15 throughout the night. So I'm not sure what role they
- 16 would have together if they worked together.
- 17 . Q I've been advised that there's an allegation
- 18 that Gardner nominated Gittner for Officer of the Year
- 19 in 2010. Do you know whether that's true or not? Or do
- 20 you know if she -- first of all, do you know if she was
- 21 nominated for Officer of the Year in 2010?
- 22 A She may have. I don't know. I'd have to go
- 23 back and look. I know she has been nominated in the
- 24 past. I'm not aware that Officer Gardner nominated her
- 25 because normally it's done by a zone captain.

- 1 Q How does that nomination process work? They
- 2 fill out some sort of form to nominate somebody, or what
- 3 do they do?
- 4 A They have to write -- their criteria for
- 5 nominating someone is normally done within the zone.
- 6 Captain Gardner does not have a nomination because he's
- 7 an investigator. So in other words, I mean he could
- 8 make a recommendation to a zone, for sure, and I don't
- 9 know if he did that or not. But the supervisors of the
- 10 zone would make their nomination from their zone. And
- 11 that's done by various ways. Sometimes they let the
- 12 officers vote on who they'd like to see nominated and
- 13 then they bring that to the final meeting, and that's
- 14 how it works.
- 15 Q Is there any documents that would show who was
- 16 nominated for 2010 and -- or -- it's not all verbally
- 17 done? I mean, there's some writing that says that this
- 18 zone has nominated this officer, this zone has nominated
- 19 this officer?
- 20 A The final nominations would be on the banquet
- 21 program. Their nomination is the one that gets on the
- 22 program. So if they were nominated, they would be on
- 23 the program.
- 24 Q They would be on the banquet program?
- 25 A Correct. And who nominated them.

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Okay. But the way they're actually nominated,
     it could be verbal? I'm just wondering if there's a
     report, where somebody fills out a report that says --
               It's not a report.
          Α.
               -- this zone nominated -- nominates so and so?
          A They would have a sheet of paper that would
     talk about their strengths throughout the year and
 8
     things they've done, correct. That would have been read
     out loud.
 9
               Yeah. Otherwise, how do you vote on them?
10
11
               Correct.
               If -- besides the banquet menu or whatever --
12
13
     program, would you have -- or the department have the
     narrative that mentions the strengths of the person
14
15
     nominated --
16.
               No, they didn't submit it.
               -- maintained?
17
18
               They don't submit it. So, no, we wouldn't
19
     have -- the individual supervisor may have kept records
```

22 Q At the banquet, are those -- are those

of it, but we wouldn't have records of them, that I'm

23 narratives read?

aware of.

24 A No.

20

21

Q Who decides?

- 1 A It's voted on.
- 2 Q Among?
- 3 A Secret ballot.
- 5 A All the supervisors.
- 6 Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge that Captain
- 7 Gardner -- whether Captain Gardner had any input at all
- 8 regarding Gittner's nomination for Officer of the Year
- 9 in 2010?
- 10 A He may have. I don't know. I don't remember
- if he spoke or not spoke, honestly.
- 13 Captain Gardner recommended Officer Gittner for a
- 14 commendation in 2009?
- 15 A Oh, he could have very easily. He's allowed
- 16 to make recommendations, so, yes, he could have.
- 17 Q Would there be -- would that be a permanent
- 18 record someplace, the recommendation?
- 19 A I would think so.
- 20 Q If you were looking for it, where would you
- 21 look?
- 22 A Gosh. I would probably start with emails, but
- 23 we have a nominations committee that I would probably go
- 24 to, and they keep a file. Actually, let me rephrase
- 25 that. It's an awards committee.

- 1 Q So as the supervisor of investigation, Gardner
- 2 doesn't really have a senior lifeguard that works in
- 3 investigations with him?
- A Not on a regular basis. You know, he may have
- 5 someone assigned to him for a day, or a couple weeks, or
- 6 whatever the caseload may be, but not --
- 7 Q There's no full-time --
- 8 A There's no full-time, no.
- 9 . Q And you've already talked to the process in
- 10 which he would request that type of help?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And so it's not your position or your job to
- 13 determine who is going to provide him that help in
- 14 investigations; that's the deputy's?
- 15 A I mean, I may have input in it if it's brought
- 16 up in my presence, sure.
- 17 Q Okay.
- 18 A I could have input in the decision,
- 19 absolutely.
- 20 . Q Would you normally be brought into it to give
- 21 input?
- 22 A Not always. It's hit or miss. You know, if
- 23 the deputy chief wasn't around, it would not be uncommon
- 24 for him to walk in and ask me.
- Q Okay. Do you recall a time when Gittner was

- 1 assigned as assistant to Gardner for one of these
- 2 details -- not details -- for an investigation?
- 3 A I don't recall a time. I know she's assisted
- 4 him in some things with computers and running some
- 5 records and things like that, but I don't -- I don't --
- 6 I don't know if she's ever been assigned to him, that
- 7 I'm aware of. But she could have been.
- 8 Q Who is Kyle McDaniel?
- 9 A He was an employee of ours. He's now
- 10 currently with the sheriff's department, and he was one
- of those officers who assisted Mr. Gardner at times.
- 12 : Q But he then -- he didn't -- he wasn't
- 13 appointed to the position where he was a full-time
- 14 assistant to --
- 15 A Not always. I mean at times -- if the
- 16 caseload dictated, he may have been there for three or
- four months, but, yeah, so he could have been there
- 18 for -- but we didn't really -- we didn't have a
- 19 full-time position that served all the time. I think
- 20 the last person to do that was Pat Casey, who was
- 21 assigned there pretty much primarily as Rich's
- 22 assistant. But since that time, it's been various
- 23 people coming through.
- 24 Dut sometimes the assignments are for lengthy
- 25 periods of time?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Kyle McDaniel, was he selected for more than
- 3 one investigation, or was he selected because there was
- 4 one lengthy investigation?
- 5 A No, I think he helped on many investigations,
- 6 not just one. There was many of them that he assisted
- 7 with.
- 8 Q Have you ever had any discussion with Gittner
- 9. about her applying to be an investigator or work with
- 10 Gardner in the investigation department?
- 11 A I don't know if I've had discussions with her,
- 12 but I knew her desire was to be an investigator one day.
- Q Did she ever ask you to consider her for the
- 14 appointment or the assignment as an assistant to -- or
- 15 assister for Gardner?
- 16 A She may have. Lots of people have.
- 17 Did Gardner ever come to you and ask that
- 18 Gittner be made an assistant for him?
- 19 A And he may have as well, yes. He may have --
- 20 he's asked for so many people, it's hard to remember who
- 21 he's asked for, but Cara could have been one of them,
- 22 and I know he's asked to do -- I know she's done some
- 23 computer stuff, ran some names and tracked some stuff
- 24 down for him at times, so I know he's used her. I just
- don't know if she's ever been officially assigned to

- 1 where she showed up in his office and worked under him
- 2 all day. I'm not sure. But the schedule would dictate
- 3 that. If it's there, the schedule would say that's what
- 4 she served as.
- 5 Q Are you familiar with an employee performance
- 6 notice given to Gittner in October of 2011 for failure
- 7 to attend a mandatory station meeting?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q An employee performance notice, is that --
- 10 what is that? That's a -- it's a written document to
- 11 the employee?
- 12 A Yes. It's a personnel form that's
- 13 standardized that has a bunch of check boxes that you
- 14 would write someone for not attending a meeting. Lots
- 15 of things.
- 16 Q And does the officer then sign that, the
- 17 officer who the report is about --
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 O -- is asked to sign it?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Okay. Did you -- were you ever told that
- 22 Gittner had refused to sign one of these employee
- 23 performance notices?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Have you ever seen firsthand or heard through

- 1 any rumor that Gardner intimidates other employees?
- 2 A No. I mean he's 6'4", 240 pounds. I think
- 3 he's intimidating enough.
- 4 Q In one of the anonymous letters, which are
- 5 very similar, there was an allegation that senior
- 6 lifeguard Andy Ethridge -- there are allegations about
- 7 senior lifeguard Andy Ethridge. Do you know Andy
- 8 Ethridge?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q And the allegations regard his prior criminal
- 11 history. And apparently there was an Internal Affairs
- 12 investigation in 2002 following his second arrest for
- domestic battery. Are you familiar with that? Do
- 14 you --
- 15 A Somewhat.
- 16 Q Okay. And my understanding is that resulted
- in his demotion to lifeguard. So he would have been
- 18 demoted from senior lifeguard to lifeguard -- or --
- 19 A To beach safety specialist, I believe.
- 21 A Senior lifeguard to beach safety specialist.
- 22 Q And then I understand -- that was in 2002.
- 23 Then I understand he was promoted to senior lifeguard in
- 24 2006 Do you recall him being promoted to senior
- 25 lifeguard?

- 1 A Other than I know he was promoted to senior
- 2 lifeguard, yes.
- Okay. It's been alleged that it is known
- 4 among employees in the department and supervisors that
- 5 Ethridge consistently becomes possessive of female
- 6 employees. Have you heard that rumor or heard that
- 7 complaint?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q Have you ever observed anything like that?
- 10 · A No.
- 11 Q It's also been alleged that Ethridge has been
- 12 known to have sexual relations, while on and off duty,
- 13 with female employees. Have you ever heard that rumor,
- 14. allegation --
- 15 A Never.
- 16 Q And you have no firsthand knowledge of that
- 17. having happened?
- 18 A None.
- 19 Q Have you ever seen any -- have you ever seen
- 20 any activity of his that would either believe you --
- 21 would lead you to believe that either of these two
- 22 allegations are true, the one allegation being that he
- 23 becomes possessive of female employees, the second
- 24 allegation being that he has had sexual relations, on
- 25 and off duty, with female employees?

- 1 · : A Never.
- 2 Q Never saw anything that would make you suspect
- 3 that?
- 4 : A · No.
- 5 Q There's an allegation in the anonymous letter
- 6 that retired Captain Dave Williams was, quote, known to
- 7 have younger girls take showers with him at the Ormond
- 8 Beach lifeguard station while on duty after morning
- 9 drills, and that that was brought to your attention. Do
- 10 you know anything about that allegation?
- 11 A It's a common shower place in Ormond, and,
- 12 yes, they -- after drill, everybody went and showered,
- 13 but it was an open shower. It's not a -- it's not a
- one-on-one shower where you go in and shower. It's five
- 15 shower heads, or whatever it is, and everybody showers
- 16 together.
- 17 Q The males and the females shower together?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q And the senior lifeguards and the lifeguards?
- 20 A Yes. And I think they've recently changed the
- 21 policy to try to get a little more organized to where --
- 22 but I believe they try to let the females go first and
- 23 then the males go first, but it's an open shower.
- .24 Q Because the -- some of the lifeguards would
- 25 be -- they're part-time employees, and some of them are

- 1 under the age of 18; is that --
- 2 A Some of them are.
- 4 on, the one shower and everybody would go in and take a
- 5 shower at the same time?
- 6 A Since the station's been built, in the '40s
- 7 maybe. However long that station's been there, that's
- 8 what's been happening.
- 9 Q And you indicate you think there's recently
- 10 been a change in that?
- 11 A Yes. I believe the supervisor up there has
- implemented a change in which they try to regulate who
- 13. goes in first, who goes in second.
- 14 Q And this is something that basically everybody
- in the department knew about?
- 16 A Everybody's clothed -- yes, they all -- it
- 17 happened in every -- they shower, they use hoses, they
- 18 shower outside. It's a common practice. They're
- 19 lifeguards. They're fully clothed. They're in their
- 20 work uniform.
- 21 ' Q Okay. They're in their bathing suit?
- 22 A Absolutely.
- 23 Q Okay. I don't think this allegation in the
- 24 anonymous letter is suggesting that they're in their.
- 25 bathing suits, and so -- but what you're telling me is

- 1 there's a -- that when they shower, it's a common
- 2 shower, and everybody's got their bathing suit on in the
- 3 shower?
- 4 A Yes. And it's open.
- 5 Q They're not naked?
- 6 A Yeah. You couldn't close it off if you wanted
- 7 to. You can't even -- there's not even a door to close
- 8 to it. It's in the building, and there's no way to
- 9 close it off. It's open.
- 10 Q Let's go back then, because I think the
- 11 allegation in the anonymous letter is not that everybody
- 12 showers in their bathing suits together, it's that
- 13 Captain Dave Williams would have these younger girls, I
- 14 guess the lifeguards, shower with him with no clothes on
- in the shower in the Ormond Beach lifeguard station.
- 16 A No.
- 17 . Q Okay. You know nothing about that, have not
- 18 heard that?
- 19 A No one's ever reported that, no one's ever
- 20 said that to me.
- 21 Q It's also alleged that Dave Williams, captain
- 22 retired, would drink on his boat with underage
- 23 lifeguards. Have you heard that? Do you know anything
- 24 about that?
- 25 A No one has ever reported that to me.

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1 Q When did he retire?
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- 2 A It's a guess. Maybe last October. That's a
- 3 guess maybe.
- 4 Q Do you know whether there was anything --
- 5 whether he was asked to retire, whether he retired
- 6 abruptly, whether this was a planned retirement that he
- 7 had planned for years? Do you know anything about the
- 8 circumstances of his retirement?
- 9 A My understanding is it was planned. It was a
- 10 little sooner than expected from him because his
- 11 investment plan did much better than he expected. But
- 12 he told me as soon as he had "X" amount of dollars, he'd
- 13 be retiring, so he got to that faster than even what he
- 14 thought he'd get to it.
- 15 Q When did he retire?
- 16 A Last year, in October.
- 17 Q He did a lot better than most people are
- 18 doing.
- A My understanding, he did very well.
- 20 Q Okay. So then you don't know of anything that
- 21 was suspicious about the timing of his retirement --
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q -- that he knew that there were allegations
- 24 about him, and so he better retire, or anything --
- 25 A There was no allegations, to my knowledge,

- 1 about Captain Williams ever.
- 2 Q And I'm just saying that because of the
- 3 anonymous letter.
- 4 A Sure.
- 5 Q There's an Officer Texter?
- 6 A Yes.
- 8 anonymous letter again that Officer Texter has made
- 9 inappropriate comments towards girls. And I think there
- 10 was an investigation, internal investigation, done about
- 11 some comment he might have made to someone. Are you
- 12 familiar with whether or not there was ever any
- 13 investigation of an inappropriate comment he made?
- 14 A There was an investigation about an
- inappropriate joke he made in a restaurant in which a
- 16 female customer overheard the comment.
- Q Okay. And can you tell me what the comment
- 18 was, just so I can see if it's what was in the anonymous
- 19 letter?
- 20 A I'd have to go back, but it was something
- 21 about -- it was a sexual comment. I don't remember it
- 22 verbatim. I know they were in a pizza place.
- 23 Q In the anonymous letter it says there was also
- 24 another complaint about Officer Texter regarding a
- 25 comment made to a female along the lines of, quote, "Do

- 1 I make you wet, " end quote, and Kevin -- they're talking
- 2 about you -- explained how the investigating officer
- 3 should handle it in the absence of Captain Gardner. Is
- 4 that the one we're talking about?
- 5 A It would have been, but I think Internal
- 6 Affairs handled that call, so I surely wouldn't -- I
- 7 surely wouldn't tell Internal Affairs how to handle the
- 8 investigation.
- 9 Q Was there some other comment that was made at
- 10 some point where Internal Affairs wasn't involved and
- 11 you, quote, explained how the -- whoever was
- 12 investigating should handle it in the absence of Captain
- 13 Gardner? Meaning, I guess Captain Gardner wouldn't have
- 14 been there, so Captain Gardner might have normally
- 15 looked into it or handled it without necessarily
- 16 involving Internal Affairs.
- 17 A Not that I'm aware of. The only other -- I
- 18 know -- there was another complaint lodged against
- 19 Officer Texter, and I'm not sure if it was done by IA or
- 20 internally, but it turned out to be nothing. And it
- 21 wasn't about any comment he made, no.
- 22 Q Okay. So you're right. Looking further at
- 23 this, you know, the one that the internal investigations
- 24 handled was in a restaurant, so that's --
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 Q probably the thing that you were replying.
- 2 So are you aware of any other inappropriate
- 3 comments that he might have made other than that one in
- 4 the restaurant --
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q -- for which he was disciplined?
- 7 A Correct. That's the only comment that I'm --
- 8 that I'm aware of that he made. There was another
- 9 allegation when he backed up at the sheriff's office on
- 10 a call, but that was looked into, and the guy said he
- 11 had been to his house, and we pulled records, and he had
- 12 never been to that house on a call in his life.
- 14 complaint, and I'm not sure what the first one was, but
- 15 there was another complaint about Officer Texter
- 16 reference a comment made to a female along the lines of,
- 17 do I make you wet, and Kevin, quote, "explained," end
- 18 quote, how the investigating officer should handle it in
 - 19 the absence of Captain Gardner. Do you have any idea
 - 20 what they're even referring to in that?
 - A No. To me, it's the same complaint from the
 - 22 restaurant. There was never a second allegation made
 - 23 that he made that statement to anybody else, that I'm
 - 24 aware of.
 - 25 Q So you think that's referring to the comment

- 1 in the restaurant that was handled by --
- 2 A Investigations. IA.
- 3 · Q Okay.
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And the statement in here that Kevin, quote,
- 6 "explained," end quote, how the investigating officer
- 7 would handle it in the absence of Captain Gardner, you
- 8 have no idea what that is referring to or --
- 9 A No. I mean, I wouldn't direct IA ever, but if
- 10 I was sending someone else to look into a complaint, I
- 11 would always look at the specific questions that we're
- 12 going to ask to make sure that we were getting the
 - 13 information we needed. But I don't do that with IA
- 14 ever. IA does their own thing, and I don't see the
- 15 questions.
- 16 Q It's also alleged that Texter drives around
- 17 with a bag binder with Polaroid pictures of girls'
- 18 breasts and other sexual positions that he took with a
- 19 county-issued camera, end quote, and that's a known
- 20 fact. Do you know anything about that allegation?
- 21 A No, not known to me. I can surely go back and
- 22 look, though.
- 23 Q Okay. There's a general allegation that there
- 24 are officers who show -- who, quote, "show up with
- 25 strong odors of alcohol on their breath and in their

- 1 system while carrying a gun," end quote, and that this
- 2 is a known fact, quote, "among fellow employees, his
- 3 supervisors, and all the way up to Kevin," end quote.
- 4 Do you have any officers who come to work with
- 5 alcohol on their breath, to your knowledge?
- 6 A If they do, they are sent home. I don't
- 7 drink, I don't smoke, and I don't tolerate it, period.
- 9 that?
- 10 A I'm not -- I don't recall of any being sent
- 11 home, but I'm not saying it's never happened since I've
- 12 been in charge. It may have, but it's not common, I can
- 13 tell you that.
- 14 Q In the spring of 2011 apparently there was a
- 15 promotional examination given for the position of
- 16 captain. Was Captain Gardner involved in any part in
- 17 that examination process?
- 18 A I'd have to go back and review, but I don't
- 19 believe so.
- 20 Q Are you aware that someone told Gardner the
- 21 schedule for the oral interview of the applicants?
- 22 A I'm not aware.
- Q Are those -- the times for the schedule for
- 24 the oral interviews, the times each of the different
- 25 candidates, I guess, will appear for their oral

- 1 interviews, is that supposed to be confidential and held
- 2 information so that the interviewees don't know who's
- 3 going in at what time and --
- A I wouldn't know. I don't set the interviews,
- 5 so I wouldn't know. It would be a personnel question.
- 6 Usually personnel and Nancy handles that.
- 7 Q If you were doing that, would you keep that
- 8 confidential? Would you see a need to not have that
- 9 general knowledge, the schedule of the interviews?
- 10 A I guess thinking through it, the only reason I
- 11 could see why there would be any importance to it is to
- 12 make sure they didn't share questions --
- 13 Q Right.
- 14 A -- is the only thing I can think of. So --
- 15 but like I said, personnel and Nancy would know if
- 16 that's kept confidential or not. I don't know.
- 17 Q Did Captain Gardner ever discuss with you any
- 18 concerns that he may have had about the fact that Tom
- 19 McGibeny and Mindy Greene were in a relationship, and I
- 20 guess they were both involved in the promotion to
- 21 captain and would be interviewed, and that they may
- 22 give -- one may give the interview questions to the
- 23 other if they knew the --
- 24 A It may have came from either -- either Captain
- 25 Gardner or it may have came from Andy Ethridge, but I

- 1 know one of the two made me aware that there was some
- 2 concern about them sharing questions.
- 3 Q Do you know what, if anything, was done to --
- 4 because of that concern?
- 5 A I know I reported it to personnel, and we
- 6 spoke to -- I believe we spoke to everyone involved, and
- 7 there was no proof that that had ever occurred, and the
- 8 person that made the allegation didn't have any proof
- 9 that that had occurred.
- 11 A I believe it was Mr. Ethridge.
- 12 Q I understand that McGibeny was interviewed
- 13 first. Did you know or have you been made aware that
- 14 Ethridge confronted McGibeny before the interviews?
- 15 A My understanding is that yes, I was aware
- 16 there was an altercation between the two.
 - 17 Q Tell me what you know about that.
 - 18 A My understanding is just that Ethridge had
 - 19 made a comment to McGibeny that you better not give
 - 20 Mindy the questions, and I think Tom made some sarcastic
 - 21 remark like -- and I forget the exact wording was, well,
 - 22 that's the only reason why I'm taking the interview,
 - 23 because I don't really care about the promotion, or
 - 24 something, but that was -- he later said it was a wise
 - 25 crack, not to be taken seriously.

- 1 Q Now, was Ethridge also in line for a promotion
- 2 to captain or --
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Okay. So he's also going to be interviewed
- 5 and asked the same questions?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 When did you hear about this confrontation
- 8 between Ethridge and McGibeny?
- 9 A It would have been before the interview
- 10 started. I don't know a date, though.
- 11 Q Did you take any action as a result of that.
- 12 or +-
- 13 A I called personnel and asked them what they
- 14 would like me to do with it, and they said to speak to
- 15 them and see if there's anything to it and give us a
- 16 report back verbally, and I did that, and they said, you
- 17 know, I don't think there's any proof of anything that
- 18 occurred, and -- or is going to occur, and...
- 19 Okay. Did you talk to Mindy at all prior to
- 20 the interview?
- 21 A I may have. I believe I did.
- 22 Q What do you recall having talked to her about?
- 23 A It would have been the same line of
- 24 questioning about that the questions are confidential
- 25 and they can't be shared amongst candidates. And I

- 1 think I let her know that there was an allegation made
- 2 that there was concern that that may occur since her and
- 3 Mr. McGibeny were dating.
- 4 Q Do you know how Ethridge learned of the oral
- 5 interview schedule?
- 6 A I do not.
- 7 Q So you don't know whether Gardner gave the
- 8 oral interview schedule to Ethridge or not?
- 9 A I do not.
- 10 Q Well, everybody would have known everybody
- 11 else was getting interviewed, correct?
- 12 A Honestly, they probably told each other.
- 13 Q Right. You're coming at 1:00, you're coming
- 14 at 3:00?
- 15 A Well, they don't tell them in front of each
- 16 other, but they talk amongst each other.
- 17 Q Sure. If McGibeny and Mindy Greene were both
- 18 going to be interviewed and they're in a relationship
- 19 with each other, it would make sense that they may say,
- 20 well, I'm going in at 10:00 and the other one says I'm
- 21 going in at 1:00 between the two of them?
- 22 A I would believe that would be a fairly
- 23 accurate assumption.
- Q Apparently within the past year you had this
- 25 vacant deputy chief position?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Okay. Did the deputy chief resign or retire?
- 3 A He retired.
- 4 Q Retired? Okay. What was the selection
- 5 process for his replacement?
- 6 A They made an advertisement nationwide, they
- 7 took applications, we reviewed those applications,
- 8 Mr. Ryan, Mr. Coffin, and myself, and I believe -- the
- 9 name doesn't come to me, a lady from personnel, it will
- 10 come to me. Anyway, we reviewed those applications,
- 11 narrowed the list down to five, and then set up
- 12 interviews.
- 13 Q And the interviews, that takes us to Rich
- 14 Gardner, he was one of the five?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q And we talked before about his interview with
- 17 Mr. Coffin?
- 18 A That was secondary.
- 19 Q Oh. There was another interview?
- 20 A The first interview occurred with Mr. Ryan,
- 21 myself, and Ramona Jackson, which was the name I was
- 22 trying to think of.
- 23 | Q And so you interviewed -- that group of people
- 24 interviewed the first --
- 25 A Five.

```
-- five?
         0
 2
               And then did all five of them make the cut to
 3
     the second interview, or did you narrow the field?
               We narrowed it down to two.
               Down to two. Okay. And I understand Scott
     Petersohn --
 6
          Α
               Yes.
               -- was the person selected?
 .9
         Α
               Yes.
10
          Q
               Was he from within the department or --
11
               Yes.
12
               -- or was he outside?
13
               And so the two that you would have narrowed it
14
     down to would have been Petersohn and Gardner?
15
               Yes.
16
               And then they were both interviewed by
17
     Mr. | Coffin?
18
               Yes.
                     Interview is a loose term. He asked
     them questions.
19
20
               When you all did the first interview of five,
21
     did you basically ask everybody the same questions or --
22.
          Α
             Yes.
23
          Q And how were the questions selected? Did --
24
               I believe personnel Ramona Jackson provided
```

the questions from similar interviews they have done

- 1 throughout the county.
- Q Okay. And then after you had completed the
- 3 round of five interviews, you all caucused, I guess, and
- 4 decided who you thought were the two best candidates?
- 5 A Yes. We used a scoring matrix.
- 6 Q The scoring matrix is a document that you then
- 7 would have turned back in to personnel?
- 8 A Personnel would have them, I'm assuming.
- 9 Q In the scoring matrix were there any places to
- 10 put comments or notes or things like that?
- 11 A There may have been.
- 12 Q And so personnel should have those?
- 13 A They should.
- 14 Q Then you move on to the second round. Now,
- 15 did you ask any questions in that second round when it
- 16 was you and Coffin and the --
- 17 A I don't think so.
- 18 Q -- two individuals; one at a time, obviously?
- 19 A I don't think so.
- 20 Q But Director Coffin asked questions?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 , Q How long did those interviews take, about?
- 23 A Twenty, 30 minutes, at the most.
- Q Did you take any notes on those interviews
- 25 or --

```
1 , A No.
```

- 2 Was there a scoring form or anything like
- 3 that for those?
- 4 : A No.
- 5 Q Do you know whether Director Coffin took any
- 6 notes?
- 7 A I don't believe he did.
- 8 Q Were the questions basically the same to both
- 9 candidates, or were --
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q -- they different?
- Do you remember any questions asked by Coffin
- 13 that were intended to elicit any negative information
- 14 with regards to either of the candidates,
- 15 embarrassing --
- 16 A The Drury case was the one that
- 17 specifically -- it was mostly about salaries and duties,
- and the Drury question is the one that pops out at me
- 19 about.
- 20 You don't remember him asking any kind of very
- 21 general and broad question --
- 22 A I don't.
- 23 Q So basically what I'm understanding from you
- 24 is that he really only asked one question with regards
- 25 to the -- to those cases as well?

- 1 A Yes. That's my recollection, yes.
- 2 Q And no general or broad question with regards
- 3 to any skeletons in your closet that may jump out and
- 4 bite us in the future? `
- 5 A I don't recall that question being asked.
- Q I don't mean that specific one, but I mean of
- 7 that nature.
- 8 A No, I don't remember.
- 9 Q Could he have asked something like that?
- 10 A He may have.
- . 11 Q But you don't recall?
 - 12 A I don't recall the question, no.
 - 13 Q Obviously there's -- you don't recall any
 - 14 answer that would have put Mr. -- is it Mr. or Director?
 - 15 A Director.
 - 16 Q Director Coffin on edge or at alert?
 - 17 A No. Primarily -- the bulk of the conversation
 - 18 was almost more about salaries.
 - 19 Q I'm sorry, it's going to take me a second to
 - 20 read this. I'm back to Captain Gardner's letter, and at
 - 21 the bottom of page two there's a footnote that starts
 - 22 down here where my finger is, footnote number three
 - 23 starts off on October 13.
 - 24 A Okay.
 - 25 Q And when you read that, there's two lines on

```
the bottom of page two, then you have to jump over to
 1
 2
     here --
                Okay.
 3
                -- where it completes. Would you read that
 . 5
     footnote, and then I want to ask you some questions
 6
     about it, or get your overall sense as to --
 7
               Do I have to read it for the record, or just
 8
     to myself?
                You can just read it to yourself. Let me tell
     you the question I'm going to ask you so that you'll
10
11
     have that in mind when you're reading it.
12
               Okay.
13
               And my question, is that an accurate
14
     representation of your conversation with Captain
     Gardner? So, you know, as you're looking through it, if
15
     you see anything that you don't think is accurate, you
1.6
17
     can !--
18
               I mean not verbatim.
                                      There's some general
     allegations here that are accurate, and I can go through
19
20
     them if you'd like.
21
               Okay.
22
          Α
               It's up to you.
23
          Q
               Why don't you.
24
               Obviously it was -- it was an emotional time
```

for both of us when you're firing a 27-year employee,

25

- 1 so, yes, I was upset, that's accurate. I did state that
- 2 they intended to dismiss him, and that his decision to
- 3 retire would have to come before 5:00, and not one
- 4 minute later. That's what Mr. Coffin told me to tell
- 5 him.
- 6 He did ask who had made the decision, and I
- 7 replied that I was told it didn't matter who made the
- 8 decision; that it was made.
- I don't remember if he said you've got to be
- 10 kidding me. I have no idea if that's accurate or not.
- I think we -- you know, I did express some
- 12 surprise with him that it unfortunately had come to this
- 13 after a 27-year career.
- I think he did ask what policy violations, and
- 15 I told him I was not aware of the policy violations
- 16 because I hadn't seen a final report at that time; it
- 17 was still a draft at that time. So that's accurate so
- 18 far.
- 19 Q I think that footnote ends on that page.
- 20 A Yeah, pretty much.
- 21 Q So it is pretty much accurate?
- 22 A It's pretty much. I don't remember those
- 23 exact words being used about some of it, but it's within
- 24 the ballpark range.
- 25 | Q He's got in there that he said -- that Captain

- 1 Gardner said, you've got to be kidding me, to which he
- 2 says you responded by saying, that's exactly what I said
- 3 to them.
- 4 A Oh, I don't know the exact words I said to
- 5 them. I think anytime you are told that an employee's
- 6 going to be terminated -- and in my case, not knowing
- 7 the investigation, it was a surprise to me as much as
- 8 anything else.
- 9 Q Did you question Director Coffin in this
- 10 decision?
- 11. A Not at the time, no.
- 12 Q And he said something like, wow, I'm your.
- 13 starting quarterback. Do you recall him saying anything
- 14 like that?
- 15 A I don't. He may have said it. I just don't
- 16 recall it.
- 17 Q This last sentence in here he attributes to
- 18 you. He says, when Captain Gardner asked what policy he
- 19 violated, Director Sweat said, quote, "I have no idea,
- 20 Rich. I told them it looks bad, it smells bad, it is
- 21 bad, but, guys, we simply don't have a policy violation
- 22 here," end quote.
- Do you recall having that conversation with
- 24 Mr. Coffin?
- 25 A I don't remember the exact terms. What I

- 1 thought I remember saying was that I was not aware of
- 2 the policy violations because I had not seen a final
- 3 report. I don't remember saying those exact quotes.
- 4 Q You don't recall commenting on this is bad,
- 5 and I told him this was bad, the firing, I guess?
- A No, I think I told him the allegations were
- 7 bad.
- 8 Q Okay.
- 9 A The allegations of him having the affairs.
- 10 Q I'm just trying to understand this because it
- 11 says -- it attributes you as saying, when he asked what
- 12 policy he violated, it says, quote, I have no idea,
- 13 Rich. Now, that answers that question. Then it goes on
- 14 and says, I told them -- so if this is you speaking,
- 15 them must be Coffin -- it looks bad, it smells bad, it
- 16 is bad. But, guys, we simply don't have a policy
- 17 violation here.
- So I guess what you're saying is you told them
- 19 it looks bad, his relationship looks bad?
- 20 A Oh, absolutely.
- 21 Q It smells bad, it is bad, but we don't have a
- 22 policy?
- 23 | A Well, we don't have a policy of -- we don't
- 24 have any policies about having an affair, no, that I'm
- 25 aware of. I mean, there's supervisor merit rules and

- 1 regulations, but there's not a policy, that I'm aware
- 2 of, about having an affair. And Richard asked me that
- 3 on several occasions, if we had a policy about -- his
- 4 exact words were, I'm not aware that we have a policy
- 5 for me being a bad husband, and I said, I'm not aware of
- 6 that policy either.
- 7 Q And when he asked you that, that was --
- 8 A I don't know if it was that day or not, but he
- 9 was making a general comment and I was answering his
- 10 direct question. His direct question was, do we have a
- 11 policy that I'm a bad husband? I said, no, I'm not
- 12 aware that we have a policy for being a bad husband.
- 13 Q Before this conversation on October 13 with
- 14 Captain Gardner had you expressed to Director Coffin
- 15 that we don't have a policy violation here?
- 16 A There was a meeting with Mr. Coffin, Mr. Ryan,
- 17 and myself. There was some discussion, and, yes, the
- 18 point was brought up about what policy violations that
- 19 we would or would not have; they were still being looked
- 20 into at the time. And there was some generic policies,
- 21 and then there were some direct questions asked about
- 22 certain aspects of the investigation, whether there was
- 23 an exact policy to, for instance, the affairs, and then
- 24 we concluded that meeting with Mr. Coffin's
- 25 recommendation that he was going to go to the county

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manager and speak to him about his recommendation.
                I think we're almost done, but let me just
 2
     make sure I didn't miss anything that I was going to ask
 3
     about.
                               I don't have anything else to
          ask.
                (The proceedings were concluded at 12:55 p.m.)
 7
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1	REPORTER'S COURT CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF FLORIDA)
4	COUNTY OF VOLUSIA)
5	
6	I, CHRISTIE SAMMARO, RMR, CRR, certify that I
7	was authorized to and did stenographically report
8	the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is
9	a true record of my stenographic notes.
10	I further certify that I am not a relative,
11	employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
12	nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
13	attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
14	financially interested in the action.
15	
16	Dated this 13th day of December 2011.
17	
18	Christic Sannaw
19	CHRISTIE SAMMARO, RMR, CRR
20	
21	
22	
23	
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