

1 ALDERSON COURT REPORTING

2 Kevin James Kiser

3 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM,

4 SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS,

5 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

6 WASHINGTON, D.C.

7 INTERVIEW OF: NINA BISHOP WITKOFSKY

8 Wednesday, February 2, 2022

9 Washington, D.C.

10 The interview in the above matter was held via Zoom,

11 commencing at 10:01 a.m.

12 Appearances:

13

14 For the DEMOCRATIC STAFF (MAJORITY):

15

16 [Redacted]

17 [Redacted]

18 [Redacted]

19

20 For the REPUBLICAN STAFF (MINORITY):

21

22 [Redacted]

23

24 For the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

25

26 KEVIN BARSTOW, SENIOR COUNSEL TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

27 [Majority Counsel]. You're all set?

28 Ms. Witkofsky. Mm-hmm.

29 [Majority Counsel]. Okay. We'll go on the
30 record, and we'll just do a brief set of instructions and
31 then just jump right into questions, okay?

32 Ms. Witkofsky. Okay.

33 [Majority Counsel]. And, Kevin, I'm sorry. I
34 excluded you there. You're ready to go?

35 Mr. Barstow. [Nonverbal response.]

36 [Majority Counsel]. Okay. Great. Okay. We can
37 go on the record.

38 This is a transcribed interview of Nina Witkofsky
39 conducted by the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus
40 Crisis. This interview was requested by Chairman James
41 Clyburn as part of the committee's oversight of the Federal
42 Government's response to the coronavirus.

43 I would like to ask the witness to state her full
44 name and spell her last name for the record.

45 Ms. Witkofsky. My name is Nina Bishop Witkofsky
46 -- W-i-t-k-o-f-s-k-y.

47 [Majority Counsel]. All right. Thank you, Ms.
48 Witkofsky. My name is [Redacted], and I am majority counsel
49 for the Select Subcommittee. I want to thank you for
50 participating in this interview. We do recognize that you're
51 here voluntarily, and we really do appreciate that. Under

52 the committee's rules, you are allowed to have an attorney
53 present to advise you during this interview. Do you have an
54 attorney representing you in a personal capacity present
55 today?

56 Ms. Witkofsky. No.

57 [Majority Counsel]. I'd like to ask additional
58 staff who are present to identify themselves for the record,
59 starting with HHS.

60 Mr. Barstow. Kevin Barstow, senior counsel at
61 HHS.

62 [Majority Counsel]. And majority staff?

63 [Majority Counsel]. Hi there. [Redacted]for the
64 majority.

65 [Majority Counsel]. Hi. [Redacted] for the
66 majority.

67 [Majority Counsel]. And minority staff.

68 [Minority Counsel]. This is [Redacted] for the
69 Republicans.

70 [Majority Counsel]. And before we begin, I'd
71 just like to go over the ground rules for this interview.

72 The scope of this interview will be your
73 involvement in the Federal Government's response to the
74 coronavirus from December 1st, 2019, to January 20th, 2021.
75 The way this interview will proceed is as follows:

76 The majority and minority staffs will alternate

77 asking you questions, 1 hour per side per round until each
78 side is finished. The majority staff will begin followed by
79 the minority staff, and we'll alternate back and forth in
80 this manner until both sides have no more questions. If we
81 are in the middle of a line of questioning, we may end a few
82 minutes before or go a few minutes past an hour just to wrap
83 up a particular topic. And in this interview, while one
84 member of the staff may lead questioning, additional staff
85 may ask questions from time to time.

86 There is a court reporter here taking down
87 everything I say and everything you say to make a clear
88 written record of the interview. For the record to be clear,
89 please wait until I finish each question before you begin
90 your answer, and I will try to wait until you finish your
91 response before asking you the next question. The court
92 reporter cannot record nonverbal answers, such as shaking
93 your head, so it is important that you answer each question
94 with an audible verbal answer. Do you understand?

95 Ms. Witkofsky. I do have a question because you
96 and I agreed that I would be available between 10:00 and
97 12:00, and you are citing ongoing questioning, so.

98 [Majority Counsel]. Yes, for today's session,
99 that is -- that is the time frame.

100 Ms. Witkofsky. Okay. So that's why -- I mean,
101 you're like on and off, on and off until whenever, and I'm

102 like okay.

103 [Majority Counsel]. Yes.

104 Ms. Witkofsky. Okay. Just so we understand
105 that. Thank you.

106 [Majority Counsel]. That time frame stands. No,
107 thank you. Otherwise, you understand?

108 Ms. Witkofsky. Yes.

109 [Majority Counsel]. Great. We want you to
110 answer our questions in the most complete and truthful manner
111 possible, so we're going to endeavor to take our time. If
112 you have any questions or do not understand any of the
113 questions, please let us know. We'll be happy to clarify or
114 rephrase the question. Do you understand?

115 Ms. Witkofsky. Yes.

116 [Majority Counsel]. If I ask you about
117 conversations or events in the past and you are unable to
118 recall the exact words or details, you should testify to the
119 substance of those conversations or events to the best of
120 your recollection. If you recall only a part of a
121 conversation or event, you should give us your best
122 recollection of those events or parts of conversations that
123 you do recall. Do you understand?

124 Ms. Witkofsky. Yes.

125 [Majority Counsel]. And if you need to take a
126 break, please let us know. We're happy to accommodate.

127 Ordinarily, we take a 5-minute break at the end of each hour,
128 but if you need to take a break before that, again, just let
129 us know. However, to the extent there is a pending question,
130 I would just ask that you finish answering that question
131 before we take a break. Do you understand?

132 Ms. Witkofsky. Yes.

133 [Majority Counsel]. And although you are here
134 voluntarily and we will not swear you in, I do want to remind
135 you that you are required by law to answer questions from
136 Congress truthfully. This also applies to questions posed by
137 congressional staff in an interview. Do you understand?

138 Ms. Witkofsky. Yes.

139 [Majority Counsel]. So if at any time you
140 knowingly make false statements, you could be subject to
141 criminal prosecution. Do you understand?

142 Ms. Witkofsky. Yes.

143 [Majority Counsel]. Is there any reason you are
144 unable to provide truthful answers in today's interview?

145 Ms. Witkofsky. No.

146 [Majority Counsel]. Finally, the Select
147 Subcommittee follows the rules of the Committee on Oversight
148 and Reform. Please note if you wish to assert any privilege
149 over any statement today that assertion must comply with the
150 rules of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. And
151 Committee Rule 16(c)(1) states: "For the chair to consider

152 assertion of privilege over testimony or statements,
153 witnesses or entities must clearly state the specific
154 privilege being asserted and the reason for the assertion on
155 or before the scheduled date of testimony or appearance." Do
156 you understand?

157 Ms. Witkofsky. Yes.

158 [Majority Counsel]. And do you have any
159 questions before we begin?

160 Ms. Witkofsky. No.

161 [Majority Counsel]. Okay.

162 EXAMINATION

163 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

164 Q So I'd like to just start with your roles at CDC.
165 So I understand in 2020, you served as an official at CDC,
166 first as a senior adviser to Director Redfield and then as
167 the acting chief of staff. Is that correct?

168 A I was senior adviser for communications for
169 Director Redfield and then --

170 Q And then subsequent to that, as the acting chief
171 of staff. Is that correct?

172 A Yes.

173 Q So, when did you first start working at CDC?

174 A And actually that's incorrect because when I was
175 chief of staff, I was still senior adviser for
176 communications, working two jobs. They did not backfill me,

177 so.

178 Q Understood. So, when did you start working at
179 CDC?

180 A And I don't know the exact date and I don't have
181 my calendar. So it was the first two weeks of June,
182 somewhere in there. I don't remember when I was sworn. I
183 think I was sworn in, like, the second week. I'm not sure
184 when I actually started working because they made me go pick
185 up my computer and all that crap, so. But it was somewhere
186 in the first -- mid-June, second week of June, something like
187 that.

188 Q Okay. And then -- and roughly, when did your
189 tenure at CDC end?

190 A January 20th.

191 Q Okay. So focusing first on your tenure just as
192 senior adviser for communications, who did you report to in
193 this role?

194 A Dr. Redfield.

195 Q Did you report to anybody else besides Dr.
196 Redfield?

197 A No.

198 Q Who told you that you were reporting to Dr.
199 Redfield?

200 A No one. He hired me and I was his senior adviser
201 for communications, so that's who I reported to.

202 Q Okay. And who first approached you about being
203 hired as senior adviser for communications?

204 A I got a call from the White House liaison.

205 Q Okay. And who was that?

206 A Honestly, I -- there were three, and I don't
207 remember their names. The person who originally contacted
208 me, I don't know her name, and she was only there, like, 10
209 days, and then there were two other people. So I don't
210 remember any of their names.

211 Q Was this the White House liaison in HHS?

212 A I think so. Honestly, I don't know, yeah.

213 Q What was your reaction --

214 A I don't know. I don't remember if PPO contacted
215 me first or HHS. It might've been PPO and then HHS.

216 Q I see. Had you applied for any positions?

217 A Previously, I had applied for a position, but,
218 like, 3 years -- or 2 years previously, but.

219 Q I see. So what was your reaction when you got
220 this call from White House liaison?

221 A I don't know. I was just -- I was, you know,
222 happy to hear from them. I had applied previously, so.

223 Q Okay. As senior adviser, did anyone report to
224 you?

225 A Not in that capacity, no.

226 Q Okay. And what did you understand your roles and

227 duties to be in this position?

228 A Actually to just help with the communication
229 issues that were happening at CDC at the time, so, and with
230 Dr. Redfield's communication, so.

231 Q And what were the issues that were happening with
232 communication at CDC at that time?

233 A Same as happening now, people not understanding
234 their guidances, things going back and forth, the -- you
235 know, the changing audiences not knowing what we were saying
236 or understanding the guidance. Those things.

237 Q And who communicated those roles and
238 responsibilities to you?

239 A I don't -- I don't really remember who
240 specifically said those roles and responsibilities. I mean,
241 I think it might've been the White House liaison. I'm not
242 sure.

243 Q Okay. And were you told why you were an
244 appropriate fit for communicating CDC issues at that time?

245 A I have over 25 years of communications
246 experience, mostly crisis communications. I worked on every
247 9/11 event in 43 extensively. I have 10 years at the U.S.
248 Department of State in public affairs and the field of
249 education and public diplomacy, and I live in Atlanta,
250 Georgia.

251 Q Sure. So as senior adviser of communications,

252 when you joined, were you involved in any coronavirus policy
253 discussions?

254 A No.

255 Q Did you attend meetings with public health
256 officials?

257 A No.

258 Q Where was your office located?

259 A It was located on the 12th floor in the
260 director's suite -- in the director's suite at CDC, yeah, in
261 Atlanta, Georgia.

262 Q In the director's suite. Were there any other
263 communication officials on that floor?

264 A No, but there had been previously. So the
265 director of communications slot was empty at CDC. There was
266 no one in that job.

267 Q Okay. And so you were fulfilling those roles and
268 duties as the senior adviser of communications?

269 A Yeah. I mean, that was -- since there was no one
270 there and nobody wanted that -- I mean, there were people
271 that were acting, and I don't know specifically what roles
272 they were doing, but -- and I don't know specifically what
273 the roles of that person was. So I couldn't really answer
274 that question.

275 Q Got it. But while you were there, you were the
276 only communications person on the 12th floor. Okay. So it's

277 been reported that Former Assistant Secretary for Public
278 Affairs Michael Caputo was involved in your hiring at CDC.
279 Did you ever discuss the position with him prior to taking
280 it?

281 A I don't -- didn't know him. I did not know that
282 he was involved in my hiring. This is the first I'm hearing
283 of that.

284 Q Okay. When did you first --

285 A I'd never heard of or met Michael Caputo.

286 Q When did you first meet Mr. Caputo?

287 A When I visited D.C. in September.

288 Q Of 2020?

289 A Yeah. After I'd already worked at CDC, yeah.

290 Q Okay.

291 A I'd never met him.

292 Q Okay. When you came on board, did you replace
293 anybody at -- who was fulfilling the senior adviser for
294 communications role, or was this an open or new role?

295 A I have no idea. Well, actually, there's another
296 -- there was another person there named Loretta Lepore who
297 was doing communications for Dr. Redfield, so.

298 Q And once you joined, what happened to her?

299 A She was there. Nothing.

300 Q And what was her position?

301 A I don't know exactly what her position was.

302 You'd have to ask her.

303 Q But she didn't report to you.

304 A No.

305 Q Okay. Okay. Got it. And you mentioned this a
306 bit before, but just why were you told that Director Redfield
307 needed a senior communications adviser at this time?

308 A It wasn't explained to me why he needed one, so I
309 don't know.

310 Q So you got the call from the White House liaison.
311 They mentioned there's a senior communications position at
312 CDC during a global pandemic for the director. What else did
313 they tell you about why this was needed?

314 A They didn't say anything, but given my background
315 with the only other crisis that we've seen in 9/11, they
316 needed my help, so I said sure. And no one else had my
317 communications experience and lived in Atlanta, so, and had
318 worked for three former presidents, so.

319 Q Did you ask anyone in the onboarding process --

320 A No.

321 Q -- what was expected of you?

322 A No.

323 Q Okay. Let's just transition here. So, I
324 understand you eventually became the acting chief of staff,
325 it sounds like, while you were concurrently still a senior
326 adviser for communications. Is that right?

327 A Yes.

328 Q And do you know approximately when you became the
329 acting chief of staff?

330 A It was August 18th.

331 Q Okay. And who did you report to in that role?

332 A Dr. Redfield.

333 Q Anybody else?

334 A No.

335 Q Okay. I suspect you had a number of indirect
336 reports to you in that -- in that function, but did you have
337 any direct reports as the acting chief of staff?

338 A Yeah. I had, like, 30 people.

339 Q Okay.

340 A It was a lot.

341 Q Sure. I understand that the deputy chief of
342 staff around this time was an individual named Trey Moeller.
343 Is that correct?

344 A He came -- he was asked to be deputy chief of
345 staff at the same time I was asked to be chief of staff.

346 Q Okay. And prior to him becoming deputy chief of
347 staff, what was his role at CDC?

348 A You'd have to ask him what his exact role was,
349 but -- I don't even remember what his exact title was. I
350 don't know exactly what his title was, if it was special
351 projects. I'm not sure. I don't remember exactly what it

352 was, but.

353 Q Did you know Mr. Moeller before joining CDC?

354 A Nope.

355 Q But he came over to CDC right around the same
356 time you did initially, correct?

357 A Yeah, like a week after.

358 Q Were you ever told why you both were being
359 brought in around the same time?

360 A No.

361 Q Did he -- did he facilitate your communications
362 work for Director Redfield?

363 A No.

364 Q So who approached you about becoming the acting
365 chief of staff?

366 A The White House liaison.

367 Q And do you remember who that was?

368 A No, I don't know her name. I don't know if that
369 was Catherine. Is she Catherine? One of the girl's name was
370 Catherine, but she might've been already gone at that time.
371 I mean, honestly, there were three, so I'm not sure what her
372 name was. It was a female.

373 Q Is that Catherine Granito?

374 A I'm not -- Catherine was there in the middle. I
375 think it was -- Catherine was still there in August, but then
376 Catherine left. So it might have been Catherine, yeah.

377 Q Okay. Did you seek out the position of acting
378 chief of staff?

379 A No.

380 Q And what was your reaction when you were
381 approached about becoming the acting chief of staff?

382 A That I already had a lot of work to do, and that
383 -- and it was not something that I was seeking out and not
384 something I really, you know, jumped on or wanted, so.

385 Q Did they tell you why they wanted you to be the
386 acting chief of staff?

387 A Because their chief of staff just quit.

388 Q Were there other candidates?

389 A I have no idea.

390 Q So how did your day-to-day duties change once you
391 assumed this portfolio as acting chief of staff?

392 A Well, it changed a lot. I assumed all the
393 meetings that the previous chief of staff had had, and I had
394 to manage 30 people, and I had to deal with all of the issues
395 that I didn't even know what they were because he said he was
396 leaving and he left. So I was kind of just -- I had a
397 learning curve, and, you know, it was like, here, here's your
398 job, here's another job, and so.

399 Q Did you feel you were adequately prepared to do
400 the job?

401 A What do you mean, "adequately prepared?"

402 Q Were you given training or instruction?

403 A Oh, at CDC?

404 Q Mm-hmm.

405 A No, but I'd previously been a senior adviser to
406 an assistant secretary of state for 10 years, so, and have
407 management experience, so. But, no, not at CDC.

408 Q And you mentioned that he was leaving. Was that
409 a reference to Kyle McGowan who was leaving, the former chief
410 of staff?

411 A Yes.

412 Q Okay. So once you became acting chief of staff,
413 did you then -- were you then involved in policy discussions?

414 A Yes.

415 Q And did you then attend meetings with public
416 health officials?

417 A Yes.

418 Q So safe to say you had a pretty expansive
419 portfolio once you became acting chief of staff. Is that
420 correct?

421 A Correct.

422 Q Did you serve in any other roles at CDC in 2020?

423 A No, that would be enough I think.

424 Q Sure.

425 A Yeah. What, are you trying to kill me,

426 [Redacted]? I mean, come on. They're like, here's let's do

427 your job. Let's do another job, and, oh, by the way, you
428 don't get any more money. So, yeah, that was enough.

429 Q Sure. So across your tenure at CDC in 2020, how
430 frequently did you interact with Director Redfield?

431 A Daily.

432 Q In what types of capacities?

433 A Now it was -- involved from -- everything from
434 his schedule and what he would do and what meetings he would
435 take, to what interviews he was going to do and interactions
436 with the press, and, you know, preparation for things he had
437 coming up, including hearings. So everything.

438 Q Did you work on messaging with Director Redfield?

439 A Generally, not -- no. The messaging was done
440 with the Comms people pretty much because he was really busy
441 with the policy stuff, so messaging stayed with the Comms
442 department.

443 Q Under your portfolio as a senior adviser for
444 communications to Director Redfield, that did not include
445 messaging work with him?

446 A I mean, it did somewhat, but with -- the
447 communications with him, it was more -- I mean, messaging in
448 terms of, like, media interaction and things like that. So
449 broadly, yes, but he didn't sit down and develop Comms plans.

450 Q Okay. Did you convey suggestions or ideas that
451 you received from folks doing communications in HHS Main to

452 Director Redfield?

453 A You'd have to be more specific.

454 Q Sure. Something that you're familiar with, ASPA,
455 I suspect, the HHS public affairs office.

456 A Yes.

457 Q Did you, you know, convey ideas or instructions
458 from ASPA to Director Redfield?

459 A So it -- I mean, I guess I'm a little bit
460 confused because he spoke to people in ASPA directly. He
461 didn't -- they didn't go through me to him, so, and all of
462 our clearances had to go through HHS, so we were already
463 crossed communicating, so.

464 Q No, that's helpful. I'm trying to understand the
465 communication.

466 A Yeah.

467 Q So thank you. And you said you spoke with Dr.
468 Redfield frequently. Did you have one-on-one meetings with
469 Director Redfield?

470 A Well, it was mostly calls because he was in D.C.
471 a lot. So they weren't face-to-face meetings, but calls,
472 sure. One-on-one calls.

473 Q And did he give you any guidance or direction for
474 how to do your job?

475 A Well, for communications, he did -- when he came
476 on, he said he wanted to start doing telebriefings again, and

477 he wanted to get out there and communicate. That was his
478 first directorate to me.

479 Q I see. And what did you do with that direction?

480 A I set off and started to try to get
481 telebriefings, and I will say it was very successful. I got
482 14 telebriefings and three regional done, so.

483 Q And these telebriefings were with Director
484 Redfield or with other CDC --

485 A They were with the CDC scientists in the
486 response. I mean, Dr. Redfield was involved in a couple in
487 the beginning, but then it was with Dr. Walke, and Dr. Beach,
488 and everyone in the response. I did our telebriefings based
489 on how they used to be done, you know, just scientists
490 speaking, and then we took questions from the media. Those
491 are the telebriefings I'm referring to.

492 Q And those weren't happening before you came to
493 the Agency?

494 A I don't know the status of. They wanted to do
495 more, so, and that's what I was -- you know. He wanted to do
496 more telebriefings, get back out there, so that's what I did.

497 Q Did Director Redfield say why he wanted to do
498 more telebriefings?

499 A I mean, we never talked about that, but it was in
500 the news that CDC was not -- or they were saying they weren't
501 doing enough telebriefings, so. But the whole history of

502 what happened before, I was not part of and I don't know.

503 Q Did you encounter anyone who did not want CDC to
504 do telebriefings when you were there?

505 A No.

506 Q Okay. What about Kyle McGowan? I know that your
507 tenures overlapped partially. How frequently would you
508 interact with him when he was there at CDC?

509 A Never.

510 Q Oh, you never interacted with Mr. McGowan.

511 A No.

512 Q Were you both on the same floor?

513 A Yes.

514 Q How did -- how did that happen?

515 A That's a good question. I don't know. You'd
516 have to ask Mr. McGowan.

517 Q Just to clarify, you were both working in person
518 at the office at the same time, though, correct?

519 A Yes.

520 Q Did you ever attempt to speak to Mr. McGowan?

521 A Yes, but I just -- the only time I -- I mean, I
522 saw him once, but we did not work on similar things, so.

523 Q Well, you were -- you were both working on the
524 coronavirus response, correct?

525 A Yes.

526 Q And so he never commented on -- didn't give you

527 any guidance or suggestions for how to -- how to do your job?

528 A No.

529 Q You said you tried to speak to him once. Do you
530 recall what that was about?

531 A The code to get into the parking lot.

532 Q What about Amanda Campbell, who, similarly, I
533 think overlapped with you -- your tenure there? How
534 frequently would you interact with her?

535 A Rarely.

536 Q Well, on those rare occasions, what would you
537 discuss?

538 A Well, she tracked all the guidance, and so I'd
539 ask her when is the guidance coming out so we know when to do
540 communications about it. So it was with regard to
541 communications so we could figure out when to, like I said,
542 plan what to do or schedule a telebriefing. Put it like
543 that.

544 Q When you said "guidance," are you referring to
545 CDC's coronavirus guidance?

546 A Yes.

547 Q Would that include CDC's MMWRs?

548 A Yes. She followed -- she tracked the MMWRs.

549 Q And did you ever speak to her? Did she ever give
550 you any comments or suggestions about how to perform your
551 duties?

552 A No.

553 Q Okay. And then before joining CDC in 2020, you
554 mentioned some of your other background in communications.
555 Did you ever work in the public health space prior to joining
556 CDC?

557 A No. I mean, we did health-related stuff at State
558 Department, sure. We did global things like -- but not in
559 public health specifically, no.

560 Q Got it. And after you got that call from the
561 White House Liaison's Office about the senior adviser of
562 communications position, did you take any steps to prepare
563 yourself to join the Agency?

564 A It was very quick between when I got the call and
565 when I was onboarded, so I don't know. What do you mean
566 "what steps?"

567 Q Did you consult with anyone? Did you do any
568 research, that type of thing?

569 A Well, I looked into all the communications
570 problems they were having in the media, and how people were
571 saying they didn't understand, and why were they flip-
572 flopping on guidance, and how people couldn't follow what was
573 going on just in press articles that had come out.

574 Q Okay. And then aside from that, you didn't
575 consult with anybody about the job?

576 A [Nonverbal response.]

577 Q One point of clarification. You said it was very
578 quick between getting the call and then starting --
579 onboarding around the middle of June. Do you have any other
580 specifics? When did you actually receive that call from the
581 White House liaison?

582 A I have no idea. I don't remember.

583 Q Was it the same month?

584 A No, it was May, but I came on, like in -- like I
585 said, the second week or so in June, so.

586 Q I see. And the first day when you were
587 onboarding at the CDC, it sounds like Mr. McGowan gave you,
588 you know, keys to -- or the code. Who did you interface
589 directly with for your onboarding at CDC?

590 A So gosh, I wish I could remember her name, this
591 really nice woman, who I only met once. It was -- it was
592 very difficult because it was all remote, so they just had
593 people call me, so I don't know. It was someone that did
594 operations because I had to go -- I couldn't get on campus.
595 I didn't have an ID. I didn't have -- [Redacted], I had
596 nothing, and so I had to go to different buildings, and there
597 was no one there, so it was a -- not a smooth process. Let's
598 put it that way. So different operations people emailed me,
599 and a lot of people because they were trying to figure out
600 where I could get things and then different buildings to get
601 on, so.

602 Q Okay.

603 A And the HR guy was in South Carolina or something
604 like that, so.

605 Q I see. It's been reported that you, prior to
606 joining CDC, were a contractor who staffed CDC events when
607 then-President Trump came to visit in March of 2020. Is that
608 correct?

609 A Yes.

610 Q And so how did you get hired for that event?

611 A It was volunteer because I was here. I've done
612 advance for presidents back to Bush 41, so, and I helped out
613 when President then had come -- President Trump had come to
614 Atlanta. If any Republican comes to Atlanta and they need
615 help with an event, I'm the -- you know, everyone always
616 calls me, so I had helped on previous events when he had been
617 here, other candidates. And I live in Atlanta. I live 15
618 minutes from CDC, so they asked me to help out with the
619 event, so I did.

620 Q And who specifically reached out to you?

621 A The advance office from the White House.

622 Q Do you recall which official?

623 A No.

624 Q And so, were you a volunteer or were you paid for
625 the event?

626 A I was a volunteer.

627 Q Oh, I see. And so, who did you speak with at
628 that event?

629 A Can you be more specific? What do you mean who
630 did I speak to?

631 Q Anyone from CDC?

632 A Yeah. Gosh, I can't remember his -- yes. I
633 don't remember their names, but I spoke with people that
634 worked at CDC there, yeah.

635 Q Okay. Okay. Well, let's move ahead here a
636 little bit. So we talked briefly about then assistant
637 secretary for public affairs, Mr. Caputo, who you said you
638 didn't know prior to joining CDC. Once you did join CDC, how
639 frequently did you interact with Mr. Caputo regarding their
640 response?

641 A I was on his daily ASPA call at 7:30.

642 Q And other than the daily call, how -- what else
643 would you interact with Mr. Caputo about?

644 A If there were any specific CDC issues they were
645 working on or if -- I mean, it just depended what they --
646 what it had to do with. He was actually instrumental in --
647 it was like that kind of process. Again, everything that CDC
648 does from a communication standpoint goes through HHS whether
649 it's writing a reply to the media, requesting a telebriefing,
650 requesting an interview, requesting putting out a statement,
651 so they have a process that you put it through, and it goes

652 to ASPA. So if I had put something through process and had
653 to get an answer, you know, call and say, hey, can we do
654 this. So just the request for the telebriefs.

655 Q Okay. And I actually understand, though, one of
656 your responsibilities when you got to CDC was to clear all
657 CDC media responses before they were sent to ASPA. Is that
658 right?

659 A Yes.

660 Q Okay. So --

661 A It was a lot.

662 Q Sure. Who directed you to fill that function?

663 A I was told that when I got -- Kate Galatas. CDC
664 told me that, so I didn't change anything. I just came in
665 and said, okay, this is what I'm supposed to do, and it was
666 -- it was all communication. It wasn't just COVID, so.

667 Q And was this a function you started filling
668 pretty quickly after arriving at CDC?

669 A Yes.

670 Q Okay. Was there an official who was doing that
671 job before you got there?

672 A I have no idea.

673 Q But after you became the acting chief of staff,
674 you continued to clear all these policy agenda responses?

675 A Yes.

676 Q Did you ever deny clearing a CDC media response?

677 A Okay. Did I ever decline a CDC media response?

678 What do you mean specifically?

679 Q Did, for example, a request for an interview come
680 up and you declined it?

681 A Not that I can remember. I'd ask a question and
682 say -- or a lot of things. Like, I did once because it was
683 overtaken by events. I mean, they're like, oh, we need to
684 answer this question on this dog entry, and I'm like, you
685 know, it was solved about 6 hours ago, and, like, oh, I
686 didn't know that, and I'm like, well, stay on top of it. So
687 sure, timing-wise and things like that, I did. Sure.

688 Q What about any proposed response to a media in --
689 a statement, for example? Did you ever deny one of those
690 from being cleared?

691 A Not that I remember. You mean not to be sent up
692 just to HHS, no.

693 Q Okay. Are you familiar with Mr. Caputo's then-
694 senior adviser, Dr. Paul Alexander?

695 A I know of him is a better way to say it.

696 Q When did you first interact with Mr. Alexander --
697 Dr. Alexander?

698 A I first met him in September when I met Mr.
699 Caputo.

700 Q They both came to the Atlanta office, CDC office?

701 A No, I was in D.C.

702 Q D.C. And why are you up in D.C. in September?

703 A I don't remember. Maybe a hearing. I'm not sure
704 specifically why I was there in September. Dr. Redfield was
705 up there. I was meeting with our D.C. office, our
706 congressional office.

707 Q And you attended a trip with Director Redfield?

708 A No, he was already there. I went up by myself.
709 I just went up for a day and came back.

710 Q I see. Okay. Were you ever --

711 A I never met anybody -- I knew no one in the ASPA
712 Office. I had never met any of them before, so, I met all of
713 them.

714 Q Were you ever asked to keep Mr. Caputo up to date
715 about CDC's coronavirus work?

716 A Oh, he would ask me a specific question, but, I
717 mean, I don't -- I mean, I don't know what you're
718 specifically asking.

719 Q Well, why would he reach out to you specifically
720 with a question?

721 A Well, maybe scheduling, like, when is this going
722 to be issued. When's the guidance coming out? Things like
723 that.

724 Q And he went to you directly for those.

725 A He might've gone to other people. Like, he did
726 come to me and ask me those kind of questions.

727 Q Okay. Did you ever keep officials in the
728 Vice President's Office up to date about CDC's coronavirus
729 work?

730 A Only if it had to do with -- I didn't keep them
731 up to date on CDC's work, no.

732 Q Okay.

733 A Yeah.

734 Q Okay. Ms. Witkofsky, I want to now share an
735 exhibit with you through the Zoom function here.

736 A Okay.

737 Q Hopefully the technology will comply. Do you see
738 this document marked as Exhibit 3?

739 A Yes.

740 Q Okay. Great.

741 [Majority Counsel]. So I'm just going to scroll
742 down here a bit and state for the record that this is an
743 email chain, Bates stamped SSCC7093 to 7110. And the subject
744 line as we'll see here is, "Pre-JIC review: MMWR Submission
745 129 Hydroxychloroquine prescribing by providers."

746 Ms. Witkofsky. Mm-hmm.

747 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 3 was
748 marked for identification.]

749 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

750 Q So right here on Monday, June 29th, 2020, you
751 sent an email to Mr. Caputo and Dr. Alexander saying, "I got

752 the draft of the WWMR about hydroxychloroquine and the media
753 that was supposed to be released on Tuesday." Do you see
754 that?

755 A I want to get it bigger. I can't read it.

756 Q Sure. How about now?

757 A Okay. Yes. Wait a minute. Yes.

758 Q Great. So the preceding email here on June 15th
759 was from Charlotte Kent to three CDC officials, none of whom
760 appear to be you. How did you get a copy of this email?

761 A I don't remember. I have no idea. I don't
762 remember. I'm a -- I'm a bit confused when I'm looking at
763 it.

764 Q Okay. Why did you seek out a draft of this MMWR
765 on hydroxychloroquine?

766 A Mr. Caputo asked me about the -- to check on the
767 date when that MMWR was going to be released, and so that's
768 what I did. I asked Kate Galatas about it in Comms.

769 Q Okay. And why did he ask you about the date of
770 that MMWR being released?

771 A Because they knew it was going to cause a lot of
772 media was my assumption, so I was -- this was -- I mean, I'd
773 started, like, 3 days before this. Or no, like -- no, like
774 no June 29th. Yeah, like, 2 weeks before, so that was my
775 assumption.

776 Q Okay. Well, you actually sent here a draft of

777 the -- of the MMWR to them, right?

778 A That was actually a summary they already had, is
779 my understanding that Charlotte Kent sent out. So she sent
780 out summaries to, like, 50 people, including, like, Bill Hall
781 in ASPA. There were a lot of people on it, so, and then they
782 asked when it was going to be released.

783 Q Okay. When did Mr. Caputo tell you that he
784 wanted to get a draft of this?

785 A I don't know.

786 Q Did you tell Director Redfield that you were
787 sending this out?

788 A No.

789 Q Did you tell anyone in CDC?

790 A Well, I asked for -- whoever I got the draft
791 from, I asked.

792 Q You asked for the draft.

793 A I'm assuming by what I said that I asked for the
794 draft. So like I said, there were summaries that were sent
795 out to, like, a lot of people. I learned later when I worked
796 -- I didn't know that, and then like I said, he asked me the
797 release date, and that's what I gave him.

798 Q Okay. Let me turn next here to Exhibit 4. Do
799 you see that on your screen now?

800 A Mm-hmm.

801 Q Okay.

802 [Majority Counsel]. And this is a document Bates
803 stamped SSCC7294 to 7305.

804 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 4 was
805 marked for identification.]

806 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

807 Q So scrolling down here, can you see this? It's
808 also on June 29th like the prior email. You emailed Mr.
809 Caputo just to give him a heads up on this article to be
810 published regarding hydroxychloroquine prescribing trends.
811 You marked the email here as high importance. I'll say again
812 you do not appear to be copied on that preceding email. Do
813 you recall how you received a copy of this email?

814 A No.

815 Q Why did you want to give Mr. Caputo a heads up
816 about an article on hydroxychloroquine?

817 A Because that was the subject of the MMWR, so.
818 There was other media that was out about it is my -- I would
819 assume that's why.

820 Q And I see you copied also Amanda Campbell here on
821 this email. Why did you do that?

822 A Because she tracked the MMWRs.

823 Q And did you speak with her about this article on
824 hydroxychloroquine?

825 A I don't think I would've. She didn't do anything
826 with Comms.

827 Q Okay. And, you know, on the communications
828 front, you mentioned, again, media interest in this. How
829 frequently were you discussing hydroxychloroquine with HHS
830 communications folks at this point?

831 A I had never talked about them -- about it before.
832 I didn't even know about the MMWR until I was told it was
833 coming out.

834 Q I see. And then a little bit further up here in
835 this email chain, I want to scroll here for a second. Dr.
836 Paul Alexander sends an email to you and Mr. Caputo writing,
837 "Hi, Michael. Is this not the article we were shelving?"
838 What did you understand him to mean by "shelving?"

839 A I have no idea. I don't know what he was talking
840 about.

841 Q Were you aware of any discussions about stopping
842 an MMWR on hydroxychloroquine from being published?

843 A I don't know what Paul Alexander was talking
844 about with Mr. Caputo about it, and I'm actually -- I don't
845 know what article this is, honestly, that they're talking
846 about. I don't know if he, yeah, wrote another article. I
847 don't know.

848 Q So what happened next after this?

849 A I don't know. I asked about the -- when it was
850 coming out. I was told by Kate Galatas and Michelle that it
851 was not coming out, the MMWR, and I asked if they had a

852 reschedule date, and they said they didn't know.

853 Q Did they tell you why it was not coming out?

854 A No. I mean, you'd have to ask Dr. Kent that.

855 Q What did you do when Ms. Galatas told you it was
856 not coming out?

857 A Like I said, I asked her if it had a rescheduled
858 date.

859 Q I see. Okay. Did you convey that to anyone
860 else, the reschedule date?

861 A There wasn't a reschedule date.

862 Q Okay. Let's turn here Exhibit 5.

863 [Majority Counsel]. And this is documents --
864 Bates stamped SSCC0022852.

865 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 5 was
866 marked for identification.]

867 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

868 Q It's an email from Madeleine Hubbard to you and
869 Dr. Alexander. This is the next day on Tuesday, June 30th.
870 And Ms. Hubbard writes that she and Dr. Alexander were
871 "reviewing the MMWR on hydroxychloroquine you sent Michael
872 yesterday. There are quite a few edits on it." What was
873 this in regards to?

874 A So it's something Dr. Alexander was working on,
875 so I don't know. I mean, they asked for -- he had edits, but
876 everything went through Dr. Kent on the MMWRs, so.

877 Q Was Dr. Alexander proposing edits to the MMWR?

878 A Yeah. I'm assuming, yes.

879 Q Do you know who was -- who else was aware that he
880 was doing this?

881 A Oh, I would assume Mr. Caputo was aware that he
882 was doing this.

883 Q Do you know what type of edits he was making?

884 A No.

885 Q Do you recall if he ever sent his edits to CDC?

886 A Excuse me?

887 Q Do you recall if you ever sent his edits to CDC?

888 A You'd have to ask Dr. Kent. That's where all
889 edits to MMWRs went through.

890 Q Was --

891 A She ran the MMWRs.

892 Q Sure. Was Director Redfield aware of this?

893 A I don't think he would be because it went through
894 Dr. Kent. So my guess would be no, but I'm not sure.

895 Q And what happened next here with this MMWR?

896 A I think it ended up being pulled multiple times
897 for different reasons by the MMWRs, and then I think it only
898 came out as a *JAMA* article.

899 Q Okay.

900 A But pulling and delaying MMWRs was -- happened a
901 lot, so.

902 Q Do you recall anyone from HHS making proposed
903 edits to other MMWRs?

904 A Well, I'm sure that -- I don't know any
905 specifically, but, I mean, I know Paul Alexander, you know,
906 made edits to MMWRs, or made attempted edits to MMWRs.

907 Q Do you recall which other MMWRs?

908 A There was one on pediatric. So he was -- you
909 know, because it claimed that anyone was pediatric, and Dr.
910 Alexander said a 23-year-old is not a pediatric and CDC
911 agreed.

912 Q Were there any others?

913 A That's the only one I remember specifically.

914 Q In this email here, Madeleine Hubbard asked for
915 you to keep her and Dr. Alexander in the loop on this MMWR,
916 and you respond, "Will do."

917 A Yeah, as to when it was coming out.

918 Q What other ways did you keep folks from HHS in
919 the loop?

920 A That's all I knew because anything that went --
921 any suggested change went through Dr. Kent, and she did the
922 editing and accepting of any changes and put them out.

923 Q Okay.

924 A So I only knew timing from a comms standpoint of
925 when it -- but all of CDC Comms tracked the MMWRs coming out
926 to know when they could do press on them.

927 Q Okay. Let me skip ahead here to Exhibit 6 now on
928 your screen. Do you see that?

929 Ms. Witkofsky. Mm-hmm.

930 [Majority Counsel]. Great.

931 Ms. Witkofsky. This is an email chain, Bates
932 stamped SSCC0007178-7181. Scrolling down here, the subject
933 line is "MMWR Response, Rough," and attached is a document
934 here that's titled, "MMWR Response, Hydroxychloroquine."

935 Ms. Witkofsky. Mm-hmm.

936 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 6 was
937 marked for identification.]

938 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

939 Q And Ms. Hubbard sends this to Mr. Caputo, Dr.
940 Alexander, and Brad Traverse, so you're not on this email,
941 and she writes, "This is a rough draft of the MMWR response."
942 And taking a quick look here at the attachment itself dated
943 July 2nd, 2020, we can see here that the document notes,
944 "'The MMWR Hydroxychloroquine Prescribing Patterns by
945 Provider Specialty in the United States Before and After
946 Initial Media Reports for COVID-19 Treatment, January through
947 April 2020,' fails to live up to any of the aforementioned
948 CDC pledges." Do you recall this response at all?

949 A No.

950 Q Have you ever seen this before?

951 A Not that I remember.

952 Q Do you recall any discussions about Dr. Alexander
953 drafting a response to that MMWR?

954 A I don't remember if he did or not. It would not
955 surprise me if he did, but I don't remember him drafting a
956 response to it.

957 Q Okay. Okay. Let's skip ahead then.

958 [Majority Counsel]. This is Exhibit 7, and it is
959 document Bates stamped SSCC5917 to 5918, subject line:
960 "Final 5 school guidance documents."

961 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 7 was
962 marked for identification.]

963 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

964 Q On July 21st, 2020, Amanda Campbell sends you,
965 Mr. McGowan, and Director Redfield an email noting, "Please
966 find the five -- the final five school guidance documents
967 attached," and then you forwarded, it appears, those guidance
968 documents to Dr. Alexander. CDC published its revised school
969 guidance the next day on the 23rd. Why did you send these
970 guidance documents to Dr. Alexander?

971 A I guess they requested them. I don't know. The
972 school guidance took a long time coming out. I remember
973 that, so, but I'm not -- I don't remember the specific reason
974 that I sent it to him.

975 Q When you said, "yes, they requested it," who are
976 you referring to?

977 A Paul Alexander.

978 Q Would he frequently reach out to you to make
979 requests to send CDC materials to him?

980 A Yes, they did.

981 Q And did you mention to anyone in CDC that you
982 were sending guidance documents that weren't yet published
983 outside of the Agency?

984 A I don't remember, but -- if they were to ask, I
985 mean, all of the guidance had gone up through clearances, so.

986 Q Perhaps to state it differently, did anyone in
987 CDC tell you to send these documents to Dr. Alexander?

988 A No.

989 Q Did you send other forthcoming CDC guidance
990 documents to ASPA directly?

991 A I don't remember any specific ones off the top of
992 my head, but if they were ones that were going to come out, I
993 mean, that we would share with HHS, which was the Agency over
994 us, so. I mean, what we did in the end is actually we did
995 share guidance that was going to come out so the Secretary of
996 HHS would know and not be blindsided by some guidance that
997 came out that he didn't know yet. So yes, we did definitely,
998 not for edits, but for awareness, say this is coming out, and
999 because she shares all of their guidance with their own
1000 groups, and NGOs, and private partners. So I requested that
1001 we be able to share it also with HHS and other agencies that

1002 would be affected by it for -- so they would be given
1003 awareness, not that they could make any edits or changes.
1004 But if it could be shared with outside groups and NGOs, then
1005 we should at least be able to share it with other Federal
1006 agencies that will be affected by our guidance. So, yes, I
1007 did share guidance like that.

1008 Q And are you aware, was any guidance -- the
1009 content of any guidance impacted by anyone in HHS?

1010 A No. No edits were made.

1011 Q In March of 2021, Dr. Redfield sat for an
1012 interview with CNN, and he said during that interview that,
1013 "I was" --

1014 A When? When was this?

1015 Q March of 2021.

1016 A Okay. I was not there then.

1017 Q Sure. But what he said during the interview was
1018 that, "I was on more than one occasion called by the
1019 Secretary and leadership directing me to change an MMWR. He
1020 may deny that, but it's true." And I just want to ask, are
1021 you aware of any instances where Secretary Azar or HHS
1022 leadership directed CDC officials to change an MMWR?

1023 A The only -- the one I do know was the ACIP
1024 recommendations, and what happens when you do an ACIP
1025 recommendation is the MMWR comes out following that. And Dr.
1026 Redfield took the ACIP recommendations from Dr. Messonnier,

1027 and Secretary Azar did not want him to accept those
1028 recommendations.

1029 Q Okay. Why did Secretary Azar not want to accept
1030 those recommendations?

1031 A He didn't agree with the groups that were chosen
1032 by ACIP for the -- it was healthcare providers and the
1033 elderly, and Secretary Azar did not agree with -- and unlike
1034 what just happened with this Administration where Walensky
1035 went against the ACIP recommendations, that never happens.
1036 That was unprecedented. And Dr. Redfield agreed with the CDC
1037 scientists on their recommendations and Secretary Azar did
1038 not, and he wanted -- he wanted Director Redfield to not
1039 accept them.

1040 Q And how are you aware of this?

1041 A Because I was on that phone call.

1042 Q I see. And roughly, when did this phone call
1043 take place?

1044 A So it was for the first ACIP recommendations when
1045 the vaccine first came out, so I don't know. Was that
1046 August? I'm not sure. When did the first -- when Pfizer
1047 first got their EUA, so, or maybe it was -- no, after that.
1048 Wow, I don't remember. When did Pfizer get their EUA? It
1049 was right then.

1050 Q December 2020.

1051 A Oh gosh, it was that late? Okay. That's when it

1052 was.

1053 Q And what specifically did Secretary Azar direct
1054 Dr. Redfield to do?

1055 A Not to accept the ACIP recommendations.

1056 Q I see. Did anyone else know about Secretary
1057 Azar's request? Who else was on this call?

1058 A His chief of staff and counsel for HHS.

1059 Q Okay. And so what happened? Secretary Azar
1060 asked Director Redfield to take his preferred
1061 recommendations. What happened after that phone call?

1062 A We went ahead and accepted the recommendations as
1063 we said, we -- with CDC science, and we put out the MMWR.

1064 Q Were there any follow-up calls that you're aware
1065 of from HHS leadership?

1066 A Not that I was on.

1067 Q Are you aware of any other?

1068 A They called -- they called Dr. Redfield again
1069 after the call I was on later that day, but I was not on that
1070 phone call.

1071 Q Are you aware of what was conveyed on that phone
1072 call?

1073 A The same thing that was conveyed on ours. Like,
1074 you need to -- I don't know who was on that phone call with
1075 him specifically, but it was the same topic about not
1076 accepting the ACIP recommendations.

1077 Q And how are you aware of that?

1078 A Dr. Redfield told me.

1079 Q How did he tell you?

1080 A He just said, "They called me again on my way
1081 home in the car trying to get me not to accept these."

1082 Q Was it over the phone he conveyed it to you?

1083 A Yeah.

1084 Q Are you aware of any emails that you sent -- that
1085 you were on regarding this issue?

1086 A I don't remember any email traffic at all on it,
1087 not to me at least, including me.

1088 Q How did Dr. Redfield characterize that latter
1089 call to you?

1090 A Not fun.

1091 Q Were there any other interactions regarding this
1092 following that second call that you're aware of?

1093 A Not that I'm aware of.

1094 Q Okay. Are you aware of any other instances
1095 besides this where HHS leadership directed CDC to change an
1096 MMWR?

1097 A No.

1098 Q Okay. Okay. Very briefly here I'm going to
1099 direct you to -- it's another exhibit. This is Exhibit 9.
1100 You can see that.

1101 [Majority Counsel]. And for the record, it's

1102 Bates stamped SSCC Manual 59 through 61.

1103 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 9 was
1104 marked for identification.]

1105 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1106 Q The beginning of this email, right here, was sent
1107 by Charlotte Kent on Tuesday, July 28th, 2020, to a long list
1108 of recipients. She notes that, "The MMWR early release
1109 related to the COVID-19 response that was originally
1110 scheduled for Wednesday, July 29th, has been delayed. The
1111 scheduled release is now Friday, July 31st," and it regards
1112 coronavirus transmission and infection among attendees of an
1113 overnight camp in Georgia. Do you recall and MMWR on
1114 coronavirus transmission at that Georgia youth camp?

1115 A Yes.

1116 Q Subsequent to this, Dr. Kent noted in an email --
1117 you are not on this -- that, "Amanda called to say requested
1118 delay by Dr. Redfield and HHS. Delay will make for better
1119 timing." Were you aware that this MMWR was being delayed?

1120 A No.

1121 Q Okay. Okay. Look here next to Exhibit 10.

1122 [Majority Counsel]. This is Bates stamped

1123 SSCC2911 to 2913.

1124 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 10 was
1125 marked for identification.]

1126 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1127 Q And this a July 27th, 2020, email, subject line:
1128 "Final Rebuttal to the MMWR CDC Piece on the 50-Percent
1129 Spread of COVID in Georgia Camps." It's from Paul Alexander
1130 to you, Mr. Caputo, and Brad Traverse, and in the email, Dr.
1131 Alexander writes, "Hi, Michael. As requested, here is the
1132 piece to rebut that poor CDC MMWR," and it's included below
1133 it appears. So prior to receiving this email, were you aware
1134 that Dr. Alexander was working on a rebuttal to the Georgia
1135 camp MMWR?

1136 A No, but I was aware that there was an NPR article
1137 on a camp by the YMCA much larger than the Georgia camp that
1138 had less than 10-percent COVID. So CDC just has their
1139 snapshot in time of one camp in their MMWR when here was a
1140 much larger camp by the same institution put on with low
1141 percentage in New York. So I'm assuming that's what this
1142 article is about, and that article was shared with me by a
1143 CDC staffer.

1144 Q I see. So did you have conversations about that
1145 NPR article with folks?

1146 A The NPR article?

1147 Q Yes.

1148 A Yes.

1149 Q And who did you discuss that with?

1150 A I discussed it with a lot of people. I said,
1151 well, if we have an MMWR, can we get the science on this, and

1152 they said, no, it's not our science.

1153 Q And who said that?

1154 A The response at CDC.

1155 Q And when you mean "response," can you be more
1156 specific?

1157 A The people down that were running the response,
1158 Dr. Beach and Dr. Walke, and -- I mean, because there was
1159 already an NPR article out about it.

1160 Q Did you have conversations with folks in HHS
1161 about the NPR article?

1162 A Oh, I'm sure I forwarded it because it was
1163 forwarded to me, like I said, by other CDC people.

1164 Q And do you recall any of those discussions with
1165 HHS folks?

1166 A No.

1167 Q Are you aware of who asked Dr. Alexander to draft
1168 this?

1169 A No. I didn't even know he drafted this.

1170 Q By seeing this now, are you familiar with this --

1171 A No, I don't remember seeing this.

1172 Q Okay. And so, what else happened in regards to
1173 this NPR article that you were sharing?

1174 A Nothing. Everyone just disregarded it.

1175 Q Okay. Very briefly here --

1176 [Majority Counsel]. Well, you know what?

1177 Actually, I think this is a good place to stop for now.

1178 Ms. Witkofsky. Okay.

1179 [Majority Counsel]. So we'll go off the record
1180 here.

1181 [Break.]

1182 [Majority Counsel]. Thanks so much. Okay. We
1183 can go back on the record.

1184 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1185 Q Ms. Witkofsky, I'm going to share my screen
1186 again.

1187 A Okay.

1188 Q Okay. This is Exhibit 12. Are you able to see
1189 this exhibit?

1190 A. Yes.

1191 Q Great.

1192 [Majority Counsel]. And for the record, this is
1193 a document, Bates stamped SSCC2931 to 2933.

1194 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 12 was
1195 marked for identification.]

1196 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1197 Q This is a July 31st, 2020, email exchange
1198 including you and ASPA officials with the subject line,
1199 "Paul's Op-Ed on MMWR." Caitlin Oakley here writes that,
1200 "The goal of this op-ed is to get it out around 11:30 ish,
1201 aka after the hearing and before the mmwr." What was your

1202 understanding of what this goal referred to?

1203 A I have no idea what this op-ed is even about.

1204 Q Okay.

1205 A Or in reference to what MMWR it's about.

1206 Q I will say that Dr. Kent has previously mentioned
1207 to our subcommittee that an op-ed on the Georgia summer camp
1208 was delayed to follow Director Redfield's congressional
1209 testimony on the 31st of July. Does that refresh your
1210 recollection at all?

1211 A Okay. Wait. An op-ed was delayed did you just
1212 say?

1213 Q No, sorry. The publication of the MMWR was
1214 delayed until after that congressional testimony, and I'm
1215 wondering here if you see this saying, "after the hearing and
1216 before the MMWR," if that refreshes your recollection at all
1217 about the timeline of events.

1218 A No. I mean, if that's what it says, that's what
1219 it says. I don't -- I don't know -- I don't remember that
1220 the MMWR was delayed.

1221 Q Okay. You're on this email here above on July
1222 31st here, and you mentioned needing "to qualify that the one
1223 positive YMCA report was from New York." I think this is in
1224 reference to that NPR article, correct?

1225 A Yes.

1226 Q So walk me through this. What happened here in

1227 this process?

1228 A I think the MMWR was going to come out. In that
1229 MMWR, it states that all these people got COVID and they
1230 weren't following CDC protocols because they didn't wear
1231 masks. So the NPR article, like I said before, supplied to
1232 me by CDC officials said that they did wear masks in New
1233 York. So I think that's where it came about to say --
1234 because the MMWR was a snapshot and so was the NPR case, so
1235 it was the same thing we were discussing previously.

1236 Q I see. And this back and forth in this email
1237 chain, was this in regards to edits to Dr. Alexander's op-ed?

1238 A That's what I'm assuming because the people on
1239 that was the speech writer, Patrick Brennan. I didn't have
1240 anything to do with the op-ed that was written by Dr.
1241 Alexander.

1242 Q Okay. Are you aware of whether that op-ed was
1243 published?

1244 A I don't know.

1245 Q Are you aware of any other instances where an HHS
1246 official drafted a piece responding to an MMWR?

1247 A You'd have to ask them. I don't know. I mean, I
1248 didn't draft any.

1249 Q I mean, in terms of your recollection, do you
1250 recall any other instances?

1251 A Not specific instances. I don't know all that

1252 they drafted and -- I mean, I wasn't in ASPA, so I don't
1253 know. I don't remember.

1254 Q Okay. Turning back to the beginning of this
1255 email chain here from Ms. Oakley, she sent it to, it looks
1256 like seven total ASPA officials and then just you from CDC.
1257 Why were you included on emails with this group?

1258 A Because it was CDC guidance.

1259 Q Were other CDC officials aware that you were on
1260 email chains with ASPA?

1261 A Yeah. I mean, they -- I was on the ASPA calls in
1262 the mornings, so.

1263 Q I see.

1264 A I'm the one that supplied ASPA with the NPR
1265 article, so, from CDC, so.

1266 Q Sure. And actually, on the daily ASPA calls you
1267 mentioned, were other CDC officials on those calls?

1268 A No, but there was FDA people and -- but I was the
1269 only CDC person because there was someone representing each
1270 one of the different areas under ASPA.

1271 Q Okay. Okay.

1272 [Majority Counsel]. We'll turn here to the next
1273 exhibit. This is Exhibit 13. It's Bates marked SSCC11064.

1274 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 13 was
1275 marked for identification.]

1276 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1277 Q And this is an August 30th, 2020, email from Paul
1278 Alexander to you, subject line: "Thoughts on the MMWR
1279 Reporting CDC." I'll try to zoom it in for you here for
1280 readability. Dr. Alexander writes here in the first sentence
1281 that "The last 2 MMWR reports have been more positive than
1282 usual and I find encouraging." And he concludes, "So, have
1283 you seen this shift? Maybe you are having a huge impact and
1284 this is tremendous. Well done!" What was your reaction to
1285 this email?

1286 A Laughing. I mean, I -- nothing. I couldn't sway
1287 the MMWR process at all, and so I think Paul Alexander was
1288 reading into the fact -- it had to do with the topics
1289 changing and being not as negative. So he assumed I had
1290 something to do with the topic selection, but I did not.

1291 Q Okay. Let's go to the next one here. This is
1292 Exhibit 14, and this is a longer email chain. I'm going to
1293 stop right here.

1294 [Majority Counsel]. For the record, it's Bates
1295 stamped SSCC2285 to 2289.

1296 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 14 was
1297 marked for identification.]

1298 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1299 Q And it's an August 8th, 2020, email from Dr.
1300 Alexander to you, Dr. Kent, Dr. Redfield, Mr. Caputo, and
1301 Ryan Murphy in ASPA, subject line: "Follow-up on CDC Report

1302 on COVID-19 in Children Hospitalized; See Link Below." And
1303 in the email, Dr. Alexander writes, "Michael, I'm asking that
1304 you put an immediate stop on all CDC MMWR reports due to the
1305 incompleteness of reporting that is done in a manner to
1306 mislead the public." Do you see that here?

1307 A Yes.

1308 Q Okay. And then on the next page down here under
1309 the heading "Georgia Camp MMWR," Dr. Alexander writes,
1310 "Michael, pull it down and stop all reports immediately." Do
1311 you see that there?

1312 A Yes.

1313 Q Okay. And do you recall this email?

1314 A Yes, I recall this email. I think --

1315 Q Did you have any -- pardon me.

1316 A When was this email sent?

1317 Q This was sent on Saturday, August 8th, 2020.

1318 A At what time?

1319 Q It says 11:42 p.m.

1320 A Right. I actually didn't even read this email
1321 [inaudible] I was cc'd on it because who sends you an email
1322 at midnight on a Saturday? Like, a lunatic, right? A crazy
1323 loon, like cuckoo. Anyways, so I made it a point to not even
1324 read emails from Paul Alexander. I was told about this email
1325 by someone else on it, but I did not read it myself, so, yes,
1326 I had heard about this email.

1327 Q And who told you about the email?

1328 A I think maybe Charlotte, so.

1329 Q And how did she convey that to you?

1330 A I mean, I don't know if it was her or someone
1331 else who was, like, oh, did you see that crazy email from
1332 Paul Alexander, so. But Dr. Redfield just told me to ignore
1333 it, so I did.

1334 Q Okay. And when did you speak to Dr. Redfield
1335 about this?

1336 A Well, this was a Saturday at midnight, so I don't
1337 -- I'm sure it probably wasn't until the next week. But, I
1338 mean, do you read emails from like a manifesto from someone
1339 who's crazy on a Saturday at midnight? Not me.

1340 Q Did you meet -- were you meeting in person with
1341 Director Redfield when he told you -- when he told you about
1342 this?

1343 A No.

1344 Q No. How were you speaking with him?

1345 A I think, honestly, he was just trying to shield
1346 me from Paul Alexander, you know? He was looking out and
1347 just like, just ignore him, so I did just ignore him. So, I
1348 mean, Dr. Redfield was looking out for me in saying that, how
1349 I saw it, so I didn't even read it, or go back, or pay any
1350 attention to it.

1351 Q And just in terms, just for my - to get the

1352 timeline of events right, you see this email late on a
1353 Saturday. You said Dr. Redfield spoke to you about it the
1354 following week. I'm just asking, was that in the office, was
1355 that via email, via phone? Do you recall?

1356 A Probably just via phone because he wasn't in
1357 Atlanta very often.

1358 Q And do you recall exactly what he told you about
1359 this email?

1360 A He told me to ignore it.

1361 Q And what did you say in response?

1362 A "Okay." "Great." I mean, I pretty much ignored
1363 most of Paul Alexander's emails, so, or didn't reply, so.

1364 Q Did you have any discussions with anyone else
1365 about this email?

1366 A Charlotte, yeah. She was like, yeah, I was told
1367 to ignore it. I'm like, I'm ignoring it too, so it was
1368 pretty much consensus we were going to ignore it.

1369 Q And was that also over the phone or in person?

1370 A Yeah, she didn't come into the office. Very
1371 rarely.

1372 Q And other than those two, did you speak with
1373 anybody else about this email?

1374 A I don't remember. I mean, I don't know if I
1375 talked to anybody else on the call about it or not, but I
1376 know I spoke to Dr. Redfield, and I'm sure talked to

1377 Charlotte about it.

1378 Q I see. And then just with your call with Dr.
1379 Redfield, was the purpose of the call to discuss this email,
1380 or was this in the course of some other conversation you were
1381 having?

1382 A I don't recall.

1383 Q Just one clarifying question here, going back to
1384 Dr. Alexander's email when he says, "Michael, pull it down
1385 and stop all reports immediately," do you recall other
1386 instances where an Administration official raised the
1387 prospect of pulling down or stopping MMWRs?

1388 A I don't, not during my tenure.

1389 Q And what about retroactively changing MMWRs? Do
1390 you recall that?

1391 A None were changed during my tenure there, and I
1392 would defer to Dr. Kent on that.

1393 Q Okay. Subsequent to this initial email, Dr.
1394 Alexander sent it to Dr. Christine Casey, noting that Dr.
1395 Kent was out on vacation. And then later, Dr. Casey sends an
1396 email to Dr. Redfield forwarding Paul Alexander's email,
1397 including you and some other CDC folks on that -- excuse me
1398 -- on that email. And Dr. Casey mentions that, "We are
1399 available to discuss next steps with you and OD leadership
1400 copied in the morning." You mentioned you spoke to Dr.
1401 Redfield. Do you recall any other next steps or discussions

1402 about next steps occurring?

1403 A No. I don't know who Dr. Casey is. Actually, I
1404 never spoke to her. I never had any interaction with her.

1405 Q Okay. And so, just again, to confirm, other than
1406 your one call with Dr. Redfield -- you mentioned Dr. Kent --
1407 are you aware of any other calls or discussions regarding
1408 this email?

1409 A This email? Not that I remember.

1410 Q And are you aware of anyone instructing any CDC
1411 officials to delete this email?

1412 A No. No one told me to delete it, and no one told
1413 me that they were told to delete it.

1414 Q And are you aware if anyone took any other
1415 actions towards Dr. Alexander after receiving this email?

1416 A Not after receiving this email, but when I was
1417 chief of staff, I took action to block all of his emails to
1418 Dr. Kent later on.

1419 Q Okay.

1420 A Because he just continued to email, and so I'm
1421 like, I'm going to block him, so I did.

1422 Q And when you "block him," what do you mean?

1423 A I went to Sherri Berger, and I said, can I block
1424 his incoming emails to Dr. Kent, and she said, yep. So I
1425 said, let's do it.

1426 Q And just to clarify, did you -- as a -- as a

1427 contact, his emails would then not go through or what?

1428 A I just asked if we could block like there, and
1429 she said, yep, and I said, let's do it, so.

1430 Q And what prompted you to take that action?

1431 A Because the dude was crazy. I mean, he would
1432 send these emails, and so I'm like -- so that's why I did it.

1433 Q Do you recall roughly when that occurred?

1434 A It was after he was gone from HHS because he
1435 still continued to email her.

1436 Q I see.

1437 A Yeah.

1438 Q Okay.

1439 A Yeah. He emailed her from a personal -- I mean,
1440 it was like, okay, [vocalization], cut this out.

1441 Q Okay. Okay. Let's turn here to another exhibit.

1442 [Majority Counsel]. This is Exhibit 15, and for
1443 the record, this is Bates stamped SSCC6774 to 6778, subject
1444 line, "Dr. Anne Schuchat."

1445 [Witkofsky Exhibit No. 15 was
1446 marked for identification.]

1447 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1448 Q You're familiar with Dr. Schuchat, I assume?

1449 A Yes.

1450 Q And this email on June 30th, 2020, Catherine
1451 Granito from White House Liaison's Office sends Mr. Caputo

1452 links to an interview that Dr. Schuchat had been in.
1453 Subsequent to that, Mr. Caputo sends the link to Dr.
1454 Alexander, who then has a lengthy recitation of thoughts
1455 about the interview right here on that same day, June 30th.
1456 Following that, Mr. Caputo added Dr. Redfield, you, and
1457 Catherine Granito to that email chain. Do you see that here?

1458 A Yes.

1459 Q Okay. Why did Mr. Caputo forward this email to
1460 you?

1461 A I'm assuming because it was about a media thing
1462 that she did and I was doing media at CDC, so I don't know.
1463 It was right after I started there, so I don't actually
1464 recall this at all.

1465 Q Do you recall any discussions about Dr.
1466 Schuchat's interview?

1467 A No. I don't remember this interview at all
1468 actually.

1469 Q Okay. Did you ever speak with Dr. Schuchat
1470 regarding --

1471 A No, she never spoke to me.

1472 Q Okay. During your CDC tenure, not specific to
1473 this, are you aware of any instances where adverse employment
1474 action was considered against any CDC employee?

1475 A Nothing happened during my tenure while at CDC.

1476 Q Are you aware of any considerations, though, of

1477 taking action?

1478 A No. I mean, I heard people talking about Anne
1479 Schuchat and her -- there and didn't want to be there, but
1480 all previous to me getting there, so I don't know. I wasn't
1481 involved in any of that or what was going on, and, I mean,
1482 when I got there, there was no talk of her not being there,
1483 so.

1484 Q There have been reports of other CDC officials
1485 and CDC communications officials where it's possible that
1486 adverse employment action was considered against them. Are
1487 you familiar with any instances?

1488 A The only one that I was familiar with was the CDC
1489 official that did not get approval for an interview and
1490 circumvented all the processes in place, and so had a direct
1491 violation of CDC policy. And I don't even know that
1492 official's name because they wouldn't tell me what their name
1493 was. But I know that Mr. Caputo and Kate Galatas handled
1494 that situation, and he was -- or he or she -- I don't know
1495 who it was -- was reprimanded and had a letter put in their
1496 file. That's the only other one that I know where it has --
1497 oh no, I take that back. There was one other one. Mr.
1498 Caputo did not -- Kristen was her name in the response, and
1499 he felt that she had spoken out about the campaign that he
1500 was putting together, and that -- and she wasn't supposed to
1501 be talking about it, so he wanted her to go. But I really

1502 liked her and she was an asset to me, and so I called him and
1503 said she's awesome, so he said, okay, you want to keep her,
1504 so. So that also happened, yeah.

1505 Q So what did Mr. Caputo -- what kind of action did
1506 he want to take against Kristen?

1507 A I don't know if he wanted her to be fired or
1508 taken off the response comms team, but he said, you know, why
1509 is she speaking out about something that's HHS that she
1510 shouldn't be speaking out about, and so, but you have to go
1511 through the action with her boss. That was Kate or whatever,
1512 but I really liked her, and I thought she was really an
1513 asset, so. So I was, like, don't do anything to her, she's
1514 great, but I knew her specifically. I don't -- I didn't know
1515 the other person that didn't follow the process.

1516 Q And what action did Mr. Caputo want to take
1517 against the other individual?

1518 A I don't -- he talked to Kate about that
1519 specifically, and I don't know, and then like I said, it was
1520 all between Kate Galatas and Michael Caputo. Like I said,
1521 they wouldn't even tell me the person's name. I mean, I just
1522 knew what that person did.

1523 Q Okay.

1524 A So I don't know what they talked about, you know,
1525 or what you're supposed to do given that circumstance.

1526 Q And just for the record, the Kristen you're

1527 mentioning is Kristen Nordlund. Is that right?

1528 A Yeah. Yeah, that's her last name. She was
1529 awesome.

1530 Q Okay. There were those two instances. Are you
1531 aware of any other instances where Mr. Caputo wanted to take
1532 employment action against someone?

1533 A Not that I recall. Not at CDC.

1534 Q What about outside of CDC?

1535 A Not that I recall.

1536 Q What about Ms. Galatas?

1537 A I never heard anybody talking about not having
1538 Ms. Galatas there.

1539 Q So just for the record, you never had any
1540 conversations with anyone in CDC or HHS about Ms. Galatas'
1541 employment status?

1542 A No.

1543 Q Okay. Let me here switch to Exhibit 16. Do you
1544 see that?

1545 A Mm-hmm.

1546 [Majority Counsel]. Okay. And for the record,
1547 this is Bates stamped SSCC Manual 04 to 06.

1548 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1549 Q On September 12th, 2020, Dr. Kent wrote to you,
1550 "Nina, per your request late yesterday afternoon, Paul
1551 Alexander has been moved -- removed from the distribution

1552 list of these MMWR COVID-19 summaries, beginning with this
1553 one." Why did you request Dr. Alexander be removed from the
1554 distribution list at this time?

1555 A Because he -- because of all the comments and
1556 crazy stuff he wrote. I should've asked for it a long time
1557 ago, so.

1558 Q Who told you to do this?

1559 A I don't believe anybody told me to do it.

1560 Q This was on your own initiative?

1561 A Yeah. Well, I mean, Charlotte didn't like him
1562 emailing her, so yeah, and that's why I had him blocked, too,
1563 later.

1564 Q Did you tell anyone in CDC that you were doing
1565 this?

1566 A I'm sure I did. I don't remember if I said, hey,
1567 guess what? I'm having crazy man taken off, but no.

1568 Q Did you tell anyone in HHS that you were doing
1569 this?

1570 A I'm sure I did. I don't remember anyone
1571 specifically that I told that I was doing this, but.

1572 Q Did you tell Mr. Caputo?

1573 A Probably I did. I don't remember calling him and
1574 saying, hey, I'm taking Paul off, but.

1575 Q Did you tell Director Redfield?

1576 A I don't remember if I did or not, but.

1577 Q And, you know, it's been reported and certain
1578 documents show that Dr. Alexander had sought to comment on
1579 and make changes to MMWRs for a number of months. Why was
1580 this decision made, you know, at this particular time?

1581 A I mean, I don't know. I can only talk about when
1582 I was chief of staff there, so I don't know what everybody
1583 else did, when.

1584 Q Were you concerned that these emails were
1585 impacting CDC's operations?

1586 A You'd have to ask Charlotte Kent that. I don't
1587 know anything about -- I mean, I was not controlling the MMWR
1588 process, so she could better tell you if they impacted
1589 anything.

1590 Q In terms of your concerns, did you have any?

1591 A No. I mean, if you read his email before, it's
1592 like a manifesto. I mean, you don't take things like that
1593 seriously, so that's why I didn't even reply.

1594 Q So around this time, media reports were released
1595 regarding Dr. Alexander's involvement in the MMWRs, a big
1596 story in Politico. Did that impact your decision making at
1597 all?

1598 A I don't think so. I don't -- I don't remember
1599 why I did it, but -- what impetus there was.

1600 Q And was there any discussion about limiting
1601 anybody else's access to the distribution list?

1602 A No, not that I'm aware of. You'd have to ask
1603 Charlotte actually.

1604 Q It was announced a couple days later that Dr.
1605 Alexander had left HHS. Were you involved in any discussions
1606 about him departing?

1607 A No. That was Mr. Caputo.

1608 Q Are you aware of who made that decision?

1609 A No.

1610 Q What was the reaction inside CDC when that
1611 decision was made?

1612 A Whoo hoo, party time. I mean, it was like -- I
1613 don't know what the hell they reacted, but yeah. It was --
1614 from what I know, it was -- they were not sad about it.
1615 Let's put it that way.

1616 Q And Mr. Caputo actually took a medical leave of
1617 absence around this same time, September 16th. Did he ask
1618 you to do anything specifically while he was on leave?

1619 A I had not spoken to him for a long time, so no,
1620 even leading up to that.

1621 Q You did say that you spoke with him in D.C. in
1622 September, though, correct?

1623 A Yeah. I mean, that's when I first met him
1624 actually face-to-face, yeah.

1625 Q And that was before he took a leave of absence,
1626 though.

1627 A Right.

1628 Q When was the last time that you did speak to Mr.
1629 Caputo?

1630 A The last time I spoke to him at CDC, I guess.
1631 I've not spoken to him since before he left.

1632 Q And Dr. Alexander?

1633 A No.

1634 Q What about Director Redfield?

1635 A Oh yeah, I talk to Dr. Redfield all the time.

1636 Q When's the last time you spoke with him?

1637 A Last week.

1638 Q Did you know Director Redfield before joining
1639 CDC?

1640 A Nope.

1641 Q Okay.

1642 [Majority Counsel]. One moment, please.

1643 [Break.]

1644 [Majority Counsel]. All right. I'm back.

1645 Thanks so much. There's a few other final questions for me.
1646 Thanks again for your time here.

1647 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1648 Q And just to confirm, did you have any involvement
1649 in the CDC's coronavirus guidance?

1650 A No.

1651 Q Okay.

1652 A That was all done in response.

1653 Q And did you interact with the White House
1654 Coronavirus Task Force?

1655 A No, I did not.

1656 Q Okay. Let me just ask, you mentioned over email
1657 to us that you had provided your documents, computer, and
1658 phone to HHS and CDC prior to leaving service, and that you
1659 have no additional information or documents to provide. For
1660 the record, did you attempt to search any personal devices or
1661 items in your possession for responsive documents?

1662 A I did, but I made it a practice not to use my
1663 personal. I mean, I've been a -- I've been a government
1664 employee for 14 years, so I know that role.

1665 Ms. Witkofsky. Are you drinking milk or just
1666 something out of a blue jar?

1667 [Majority Counsel]. Yeah, that's water. Water.

1668 Ms. Witkofsky. Oh, it's water. I'm like, is he
1669 drinking skim milk because it's kind of --

1670 Ms. Witkofsky. No, just water.

1671 BY [MAJORITY COUNSEL]:

1672 Q Okay. Did you -- did you ever use any personal
1673 device to communicate about your job at CDC?

1674 A No. I mean, when I was hired, they sent me some
1675 personnel stuff, but, no, not about my job at CDC after I was
1676 on board.

1677 Q Did you ever use a personal email account?

1678 A Not for CDC business, no. I had a CDC email.

1679 Q And what about a ProtonMail account or one of
1680 those?

1681 A I don't know what this, but no.

1682 Q Okay. Is there --

1683 A [Inaudible], so.

1684 Q Just sitting here today, so your position is you
1685 have no responsive documents or communications in your
1686 possession. Is that right?

1687 A No.

1688 Q Okay.

1689 [Majority Counsel]. Okay. I think that's all I
1690 have given the limited time that we have today. But,
1691 [Redacted], I want to make sure you get a chance here as well
1692 before we hit our time.

1693 [Minority Counsel]. Thanks, [Redacted]. I
1694 appreciate that and thanks for being so succinct, and I just
1695 want to thank the witness for coming today. I don't have
1696 anything on our end.

1697 Ms. Witkofsky. Okay. Great.

1698 [Majority Counsel]. Okay. Well, thank you
1699 again, Ms. Witkofsky, and we appreciate you taking the time.

1700 Ms. Witkofsky. Okay. Well, hey, thanks,
1701 [Redacted]. Nice to meet you all under different

1702 circumstances maybe, but you all have a great rest of your
1703 day.

1704 [Majority Counsel]. You as well.

1705 Ms. Witkofsky. Okay. Thanks.

1706 [Majority Counsel]. Thanks.

1707 Ms. Witkofsky. Bye bye.

1708 [Majority Counsel]. Bye.

1709 [Whereupon, at 11:39 a.m., the interview was

1710 concluded.]

Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of Nina Witkofsky
dated February 2, 2022

Page	Line	Change	Reason
24	565	so no – not “so I don’t know”	clarify
30	711	I had never met anyone in ASPA– not I never met anybody	clarify
32	771	Create a lot of media attention – not “a lot of media”	clarify
33	794-5	I learned later, after I had worked there awhile, but I didn’t know that then	clarify
41	999	Because “CDC” shares – not because “she” shares	Wrong word
48	1155	The “Response” is the name that was given to the 24 hour COVID war room at the CDC, located on [REDACTED]	clarify
59	1439	Personal “email”	Missing word