

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN INVESTIGATOR SIMON BERRY,
INVESTIGATOR LISA STOCKELY AND BECHARA KHOURI AT [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED] ON 15TH FEBRUARY, 2017.

TIME: 11:07 AM

PRESENT: SIMON BERRY
LISA STOCKLEY
10 BECHARA KHOURI

BERRY: Right, this is an electronically recorded interview. My name is Simon
Berry I'm an Investigator with the Independent Commission Against
Corruption. Today's date it's the 15th of February, 2017. The time is now
11:07AM I'm currently at [REDACTED] with Mr Bechara
15 Khouri. Also seated to my left Mr Khouri is Miss Lisa Stockley who's
an Investigator with the ICAC. For the purposes of transcription, can
you please state your full name and spell your surname.

KHOURI: My name is Bechara Khouri spelt (spells) K-H-O-U-R-I.

BERRY: Okay do you agree that apart from yourself, me and Lisa there's no one
20 else here?

KHOURI: There's no one else.

BERRY: Do you mind if I call you Bechara today?

KHOURI: Please.

BERRY: Okay. Do you agree that prior to the commencement of this
25 electronically recorded interview I told you you do not have to participate
in the interview and it's voluntary?

KHOURI: You did.

BERRY: Do you also agree that I told you whatever you say will be electronically
recorded and may later be used in evidence?

30 KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: Do you also agree that I told you that pursuant to the Independent
Commission Against Corruption Act it's an offence to deliberately
provide false or misleading evidence or information to an officer of the
Commission exercising their functions under the Act?

35 KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: Any information you provide in this interview must be true and correct to
the best of your knowledge and belief?

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: Do you understand all that?

40 KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE)

IN-CONFIDENCE

Transcribed by Zreik on 04/08/17

Proofed by [Berry] on [14-8-17]

BERRY: Okay and I will re – reiterate what else I said that you've indicated that your memory's not the greatest.

KHOURI: Yeah.

5 BERRY: If at any stage you can't remember you know you – you're more than welcome to say look I can't remember. I also invite you to call me or email me later if you do happen to remember something you think's pertinent to our investigation okay.

KHOURI: I will.

10 BERRY: Your home address is where we're at at the moment, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is that correct?

KHOURI: Correct.

BERRY: And you're mobile [REDACTED]?

KHOURI: Correct.

BERRY: How long have you had that mobile for?

15 KHOURI: Oh maybe thirty years.

BERRY: Thirty years okay. Do you agree that I explained the purpose of our visit here today that I wanted to speak to you about the engagement of Stavis at Canterbury Council?

KHOURI: Yes you did.

20 BERRY: I would like to also discuss generally your involvement with Charbel Demian –

KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE)

BERRY: And I also want to talk about councillors and – and people involved at coun – council in general as well and try to get a bit of a background to what was going at this – at that time.

25 KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE)

BERRY: Okay. Let's start with some very basic background stuff. Bechara were you born in Australia?

KHOURI: No I came to Australia when I was seventeen years old.

30 BERRY: Where did you come from?

KHOURI: I come from Lebanon.

BERRY: Okay. Did you come here with your parents or just by yourself?

KHOURI: My parents were a year before me in here, I was finishing my HSC.

BERRY: Okay. What part of Lebanon did you come from?

35 KHOURI: I come from a place called Al-Mina which is the port of Tripoli, north of Lebanon.

BERRY: Okay, alright what work have you done in Australia? What have you been employed as and what's your current role?

KHOURI: I have done a Diploma in medical science (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Where'd you do that at Bechara?

KHOURI: I've done that in the city.

BERRY: Okay.

5 KHOURI: There was - it called Institute – Institute of Technology in those days.

BERRY: Okay yep.

KHOURI: And I worked for nearly eight years in the hospital system. Marrickville, Concord, Prince Henry before they shut it down.

BERRY: What did you do day to day as –

10 KHOURI: I was in a lab.

BERRY: In a lab?

KHOURI: Yeah. I was multi trained to do every department including micro biology, biochemistry, immunology, blood bank –

BERRY: Okay.

15 KHOURI: I did a lot of after hours in emergency work in Camden – in Campbelltown and I did work till nearly 1986 where I was offered a job in the community as a community worker. I had a lot of interest in community work and start (UNINTELLIGABLE) things to when I left in 1991 I can bring it in.

20 BERRY: No it's okay –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - that's fine. What sort of work did you do in the community?

KHOURI: I work - just resolving problems domestic violence, drug – drug issues.

BERRY: Okay, was this a paid employment?

25 KHOURI: It was a paid employment.

BERRY: And who was your employer?

KHOURI: The Australian Arabic interagency.

BERRY: Okay.

30 KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) interagency (UNINTELLIGABLE) I used to do a lot of case work.

BERRY: Was that dealing with Arabic people or just generally?

KHOURI: Well mainly Arabic –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - but we used to do others as well.

35 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah. And yeah – I've –

BERRY: And you held that position from 1988 did you say?

KHOURI: '86.

BERRY: '86 apologise.

KHOURI: That's alright till 1990.

5 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: And I left in 1990 and I start doing (UNINTELLIGABLE) business.

BERRY: What business was that?

KHOURI: In the food business I had Ali Baba outlet.

BERRY: Okay.

10 KHOURI: I don't know if you've seen them around.

BERRY: Yeah.

KHOURI: I had George Street, I had – the first one was Macquarie shopping centre that was mine

BERRY: At where Macquarie?

15 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: Yep okay.

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) Macquarie shopping centre and then George Street.

BERRY: Ehm.

20 KHOURI: I had apartment there in George Street. And then I bought into Westfield Liverpool franchise as well. And I –

BERRY: Did you work the franchises or –

KHOURI: I –

BERRY: - did you take a backward step?

25 KHOURI: No – no I did work.

BERRY: You worked?

KHOURI: I did work.

BERRY: Right.

30 KHOURI: On and off like – then I had my sister at some stage to manage. And during that I did other things I was involved in export, I exported abalone, seafood, chicken (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Where – where did you export them too?

KHOURI: To China.

BERRY: To China.

35 KHOURI: I had a lot of people I knew Chinese.

- BERRY: Okay. Was that through your interaction in the community or was this (INAUDIBLE) –
- KHOURI: Well –
- BERRY: - business?
- 5 KHOURI: I met a person who we had a restaurant at Bankstown (UNINTELLIGABLE) knew each other well and –
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: - I was helping him he was new here.
- BERRY: Okay.
- 10 KHOURI: Yeah I did a fair bit of that and –
- BERRY: Did you use a company to export?
- KHOURI: Yes I had a –
- BERRY: And what was the name of the company?
- KHOURI: K and H Bec Pty Ltd.
- 15 BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) maybe I had (UNINTELLIGABLE) companies as well I don't recall. Maybe there was a (UNINTELLIGABLE).
- BERRY: Right.
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) –
- 20 BERRY: Right.
- KHOURI: And I worked in that field for – for about three or four years ago. Well I – I sold George Street because the cinema shut down so the business wasn't very good. I sold that and I got rid of Liverpool because the (UNINTELLIGABLE) rent through the roof so –
- 25 BERRY: The what sorry?
- KHOURI: The rent.
- BERRY: Oh the rain –
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- BERRY: Yeah right.
- 30 STOCKLEY: The rent. Rent.
- BERRY: Oh rent sorry.
- KHOURI: Rent – rent.
- BERRY: I heard – I heard rain through the roof -
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) rent –
- 35 BERRY: - I thought it got destroyed.

- KHOURI: And I sold that and I maintained Macquarie until about three years ago (UNINTELLIGABLE) –
- BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- 5 KHOURI: - years ago. And after that, after Macquarie I bought into as a partner in a restaurant in Canberra, its what's called Saffron (spells) S-A-F double F-R or N Saffron. It was a – an Eastern Mediterranean (UNINTELLIGABLE) it's a good restaurant it was five star, till about two years ago I – I sold my share it was getting too much for me to travel all up and down. And in between I – I did other things I start working property. I start to –
- 10 BERRY: When you say you worked in property what was your –
- KHOURI: Well I was –
- BERRY: What were you doing?
- 15 KHOURI: I was helping people selling land and buying land, this sort of things on a very low level.
- BERRY: Were you a broker?
- KHOURI: Well some – something – something like that I was a broker yeah.
- BERRY: You were like a broker did you have a business as a broker?
- KHOURI: No I was working under my company name.
- 20 BERRY: What one?
- KHOURI: K and H Bec Pty Ltd –
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: So my family's always been there.
- BERRY: So you issued invoices and did tax receipts –
- 25 KHOURI: Yeah.
- BERRY: - and all that for your work?
- KHOURI: Well no I never – oh I did for what I got but I've always sort of put people together so I was not –
- BERRY: And how did that develop? How did you put people together?
- 30 KHOURI: Well I knew a lot of people in the community who – who want to buy to sell and I got involved I've helped a lot of people. See I still have that community mentality of helping people it's still with me now.
- BERRY: So over your time you've developed relationships within the community –
- 35 KHOURI: Yes.
- BERRY: - through your working life?
- KHOURI: That's right absolutely.
- BERRY: Okay.

- KHOURI: And I did work –
- BERRY: Is that the mainly the Arabic community or is it or all types?
- KHOURI: I knew a lot of people across the board –
- BERRY: Okay.
- 5 KHOURI: - Simon I knew a lot of people. And I was active politically in Bankstown (INAUDIBLE) –
- BERRY: Well talking about that who – which party are you aligned with?
- KHOURI: The Labor party.
- BERRY: Okay when did you join the Labor Party?
- 10 KHOURI: Oh gees about thirty-five years ago.
- BERRY: I see.
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- BERRY: A long time.
- KHOURI: A long time ago. Back when (INAUDIBLE) –
- 15 BERRY: Who got – who got you into the Labor Party.
- KHOURI: Well I – when I was in the lab in Marrickville Hospital –
- BERRY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - I got to know Andrew Refshauge who was the community minister –
- BERRY: Oh okay yeah.
- 20 KHOURI: And – and Andrew used to be on the board of the hospital in those days.
- BERRY: Yep okay.
- KHOURI: Yeah and then we said look you should be joining and stuff and I did join the Marrickville branch (UNINTELLIGABLE) I still (UNINTELLIGABLE) going on in those days but (laughs) was scary –
- 25 BERRY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - and I don't know if you remember (UNINTELLIGABLE) things and –
- BERRY: No.
- KHOURI: - (UNINTELLIGABLE) days. There used to be -
- BERRY: It's probably a little bit before my time.
- 30 KHOURI: There was – there was a MP who got bashed and you got those criminal (UNINTELLIGABLE) local government there was a really – it was a difference scene.
- BERRY: It would have been very interesting none the less.
- KHOURI: Oh yeah it was programs put on (INAUDIBLE) –
- 35 BERRY: So how old were you when you joined the Labor Party?

KHOURI: I was mid twenties.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah I was in mid twenties yeah.

BERRY: Alright.

5 KHOURI: And I got to know a lot of people.

BERRY: Yeah.

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) and I moved from hospital to hospital again and yeah I was there till late nineties which I sort of become very slow and not interested, I've really slowed down a lot (INAUDIBLE) –

10 BERRY: In the political sense?

KHOURI: In the political sense yeah.

BERRY: You still a Labor member?

KHOURI: I still financial, but I don't I – my branch is Strathfield, but I hardly go.

BERRY: Right.

15 KHOURI: I did not have time and not energy.

BERRY: Do you still attend functions from now and –

KHOURI: From now and then I get invited to function –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - and I meet people there.

20 BERRY: Yeah.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: This is where I got to know Brian Robson (UNINTELLIGABLE).

BERRY: Okay.

25 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: Right.

KHOURI: And – and others. And yes and then -

BERRY: So you work as a broker so to speak.

KHOURI: Yeah.

30 BERRY: Under your company name?

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: You put people together for property deals.

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: And – and do you charge a fee for that?

KHOURI: Of course.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Of course I do.

BERRY: And – and how does that work? I'm only curious.

5 KHOURI: Oh it's – it's like I meet – oh first before I sell or I put someone to buy I get people to have an architect or a – or a planner to do the work –

BERRY: Yeah.

KHOURI: - I don't do it myself it's not my –

BERRY: No.

10 KHOURI: And like we – I'd increase value of the situation and as a result I got a retainer, a small retainer it's not major. I'm not like - it's not like a real estate agent type thing.

BERRY: So you don't get a percentage of the final sale or –

KHOURI: No.

15 BERRY: - (INAUDIBLE) you just on retainer?

KHOURI: On a retainer (INAUDIBLE) retainer –

BERRY: So if I'm – if I'm an architect and I need somebody to do something –

KHOURI: Yep.

BERRY: - and I don't know, but I know you –

20 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - I can ask you to find somebody for me and you'll – you know charge me a small amount of money to do that.

KHOURI: No – no it's the other way around.

BERRY: I see.

25 KHOURI: The landholder comes to me and I get the architect –

BERRY: (INAUDIBLE) right okay.

KHOURI: So it's the other way around.

BERRY: It's the other way so (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: I don't I –

30 BERRY: - it's always the land holder?

KHOURI: It's always the land holder –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - and the – some of them are developers some (INAUDIBLE) –

35 BERRY: So a developer would come to you and say Bechara I need an architect, or a storm water engineer or –

KHOURI: Exactly.

BERRY: - can you find somebody –

KHOURI: Or a tradie or a sub-contractors or a window guy or a brick layer.

BERRY: Do they ask you to go and speak to council members as well?

5 KHOURI: No I – I don't –

BERRY: You don't.

KHOURI: - this is - I kept an arms length from council since the Strathfield fiasco I –

BERRY: Okay.

10 KHOURI: - I said look this (UNINTELLIGABLE) I don't see any value in talking to councillors, it's not day job I – I mean I know very well that it is a due process –

BERRY: So I fully understand when a developer comes to you you go and source legitimate business people to assist them in their development –

15 KHOURI: That's right.

BERRY: - and you don't go to councillors?

KHOURI: No I don't, I – I – I do sometimes organise a meeting example I can – if someone had issues –

BERRY: (INAUDIBLE)

20 KHOURI: - I can call staff or (UNINTELLIGABLE) this case Jim Montague I said look Jim (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: So you might put a developer and say the GM or a councillor together?

KHOURI: Yeah –

BERRY: Do you –

25 KHOURI: - not a councillor.

BERRY: Not a councillor?

KHOURI: No only staff –

BERRY: Just the GM only -

KHOURI: Only staff.

30 BERRY: Only employed staff.

KHOURI: Yeah Simon councillors don't know these sort of things they –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - it's not their job really.

BERRY: Alright. And you're still employed doing that – are you still doing that

35 work now?

KHOURI: No I haven't done – or very occasion, it wasn't – it wasn't something I used to do all the time. It's – and d - developers don't have to be full-fledged developers, could be a family with a –

BERRY: Yeah.

5 KHOURI: - or small people –

BERRY: They might want to do some town houses or something –

KHOURI: Yeah small things (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - and that's my nature I do like to help people.

10 BERRY: Yep.

KHOURI: And a lot of instance I do it – if I do referrals only and stuff I don't even you know charge them or anything. I do a lot of –

BERRY: Just for completeness if you do charge them do you issue an invoices –

KHOURI: I do.

15 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE) charge them (INAUDIBLE)

BERRY: Alright. And your business records where are they kept?

KHOURI: Are kept with me.

BERRY: Kept with you.

20 KHOURI: Yeah (INAUDIBLE) give to (UNINTELLIGABLE) any time.

BERRY: Alright –

KHOURI: And by the way (UNINTELLIGABLE) I've done biodiesel for a year and a half it's –

BERRY: Biodiesel –

25 KHOURI: Yeah, we used to import biodiesel from Canada.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: So I was approached by someone who had stock in Canada and I facilitated meeting with the people who had the depo and they were selling biodiesel in Wollongong.

30 BERRY: Oh so you facilitated a meeting?

KHOURI: I did facilitate it and I was – I was on a small retainer for a year and half and that was something I've done.

BERRY: Alright.

KHOURI: And – and I do other – other things. I do – I do finance, example now I

35 BERRY: Ehm, and – and what does that involve what – what –

KHOURI: It involves finding the finances either here or overseas.

- BERRY: I see to support his development?
- KHOURI: To give him the finance of course.
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: Yeah (UNINTELLIGABLE) there is a lot of process to go through.
- 5 BERRY: Right, does he not like going through banks?
- KHOURI: Ah well sometimes, actually there's a banker who called me yesterday and he said look he's bit open minded about doing up to fifty million. So I'm organising meeting with Charlie to see the terms and conditions –
- BERRY: Okay.
- 10 KHOURI: I do a lot of this sort of stuff.
- BERRY: Yeah alright.
- KHOURI: And I've – I've – I've done a lot of work for Charlie mainly – see with Charlie he does the planning himself he's got his own team –
- BERRY: Yeah.
- 15 KHOURI: - he doesn't –
- BERRY: Yep.
- KHOURI: - need me. He does it with all council all over Sydney.
- BERRY: Yeah.
- 20 KHOURI: He's got his own team there, planning team. I mainly the sort of special project for Charlie.
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: Like big opportunities (UNINTELLIGABLE) to Charlie.
- BERRY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: I brought him – I brought him Riverland, massive project.
- 25 STOCKLEY: That's the (UNINTELLIGABLE) –
- KHOURI: I still have a (UNINTELLIGABLE) -
- STOCKLEY: R - Riverlands is that Milperra?
- KHOURI: Milperra yeah. I still have the copy of the fax when I was negotiating with Charlie it was Japanese –
- 30 STOCKLEY: Okay.
- KHOURI: - it was owned by Japanese group. I brought him Lane Cove. (UNINTELLIGABLE) of Lane Cove it was the people who owned it I knew and I've introduced them.
- BERRY: I see. Did they approach you to sell or did (INAUDIBLE) –
- 35 KHOURI: No – no – no they were going to auction. I've told Charlie about it before, but Charlie preferred to go and buy it from auction, but the information came from me. Mind you they were for nothing this is only

- to assist him. And I brought him Homebush. I've introduced him to a guy who had properties at Homebush so he starting (UNINTELLIGABLE) with him as well –
- BERRY: Okay.
- 5 KHOURI: - And he would bought those in Homebush –
- BERRY: Alright.
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) at Homebush, but again –
- BERRY: Alright.
- KHOURI: Yeah Charlie –
- 10 BERRY: Well while we're on Charlie –
- KHOURI: Charlie – I just want to continue Charlie used to pay me retainers when he had his cashflow is alright and he stops when he's got problems with cashflow but I never stop helping him you know and now we – we – I'm setting an R&D committee to look into modular housing.
- 15 BERRY: What's sorry?
- KHOURI: Modular –
- BERRY: Oh modular housing –
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- BERRY: Yeah right.
- 20 KHOURI: We call it (UNINTELLIGABLE) housing where –
- BERRY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - sort of where half built and half –
- BERRY: Pre fab -
- KHOURI: - put together, yeah.
- 25 BERRY: - yeah.
- KHOURI: I got an architect and engineer to sit and form the committee and start – I mean this is the type of thing I do for Charlie. As a matter of fact (UNINTELLIGABLE) for your information I – Charlie nearly went down seven years ago, he went nearly bankrupt. I come up with eight hundred thousand dollars private money to save him that gave him time to seek other financial –
- 30 BERRY: Yep.
- KHOURI: - he did JV with (INAUDIBLE) –
- BERRY: Was that your own money?
- 35 KHOURI: Well it's not my money it's (UNINTELLIGABLE) I never –
- BERRY: But you sourced it for him.
- KHOURI: I sourced it for him from you know person who we had a lot of confidence and trust.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: And when he was building Ultimo he was a bit stuck as well. I got Macquarie Bank which I had a good relation with to buy off the plan I think a hundred unit that helped him a lot in trying to –

5 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - (INAUDIBLE) to build. So I've been with Charlie for nearly – sort of helping him, for a long time.

BERRY: How long have you known Charlie for?

KHOURI: Oh I'd say around eighteen years, it's not accurate but –

10 BERRY: How did you meet Charlie?

KHOURI: I don't know, I met Charlie around I think the church or through someone I can't recall really how I met him.

BERRY: Alright what church do you go to?

KHOURI: Maronite Church in Harris Park.

15 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: Now –

KHOURI: I'm not a Maronite I'm an Orthodox by the way –

BERRY: Okay.

20 KHOURI: - but I was there in functions –

BERRY: I'm not gonna hold that against you.

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE)

BERRY: Alright so tell me this –

KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE) Orthodox.

25 BERRY: - you're on a retainer from Charlie?

KHOURI: Not all the time –

BERRY: But what sort of money do you get?

KHOURI: Oh sometime five per month, sometime ten per month, sometime fifteen per month depends on his cash flow.

30 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: But I can tell you something I mean Charlie owes me big. I mean if he pay between now until I die he still – he still behind because obviously I mean –

BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE) would you class your relationship as friendly?

35 KHOURI: Friendly, Charlie's a decent bloke. He's – he's quite – like he's someone you can trust.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: He –

BERRY: Do you have him over here for dinners or drinks or?

KHOURI: No – no –

BERRY: It's – it's –

5 KHOURI: - we don't have. I – I've been to his place –

BERRY: Yep.

KHOURI: But he never been here.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah.

10 BERRY: So you're friendly, friends of some description, colleagues, work – work partners.

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah – yeah and I know his family well and –

BERRY: Yeah.

KHOURI: - his sister passed away last year I went to the funeral, there's that social –

15 BERRY: So it's –

KHOURI: - (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: Okay alright (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah – yeah. And –

20 BERRY: Did you used to lobby people on behalf of Charlie?

KHOURI: I – I don't have sort of a lobbying authority or power I know nobody in the Labor party (UNINTELLIGABLE). The word lobbying is when it comes to local government is r – wrong – wrong name, wrong description there's no such thing as lobbying – there's a due process –

25 BERRY: So – so for – so for formal purposes you're not a confirmed lobbyist?

KHOURI: I'm not a lobbyist, I'm not – neve lobbied to anyone, I don't have – I wasn't a minister or a – or a – or a mayor or – or an MP whereby I had –

BERRY: What – what position do you have in the Labor party?

KHOURI: Nothing just a (INAUDIBLE) –

30 BERRY: Just a financial member?

KHOURI: Just financial, I'm not a (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: There's a lot of talk, I know I've been sort of accused of being a power broker and this and that I'm a very – very average member of the party.

35 Now I know a lot of people yes, but so what. So this is (UNINTELLIGABLE) in relation to Charlie and – and relation to what I do, and (UNINTELLIGABLE) you want to ask me more question (UNINTELLIGABLE).

- BERRY: Do you want to ask stuff about Charlie now or?
- STOCKLEY: I'm happy to go through, I can ask at the end –
- KHOURI: Alright, okay.
- 5 STOCKLEY: - if it doesn't get covered during the interview Simon's got
(INAUDIBLE)
- BERRY: What we'll do is - that was a just a –
- KHOURI: Introduction.
- BERRY: - wrap around to it all and I appreciate that.
- KHOURI: No problem.
- 10 BERRY: What I want to do now is move on to Spiro Stavis.
- KHOURI: Yes.
- BERRY: Just to give you a little bit of background. The information, and this is
public information and we're aware that in October 2014 a position was
15 advertised at the City Canterbury Council as the Director of Planning.
And at or about that time did you have any involvement with Spiro Stavis
or persons connected to the council regarding that position?
- KHOURI: I have never knew Spiro. Never knew what he looked like, I never knew
him at all. Montague rang me up once and asked me to get him
information because the guy apparently worked in the private sector.
- 20 BERRY: Now this is Jim Montague the General Manager –
- KHOURI: General Manager.
- BERRY: Right.
- KHOURI: Jim trust me on this sort of things.
- BERRY: Can you recall when he spoke to you?
- 25 KHOURI: I honestly can't, but it must be around that particular time.
- BERRY: Do you think it was before or after Spiro got the job?
- KHOURI: I really can't –
- BERRY: Can't remember?
- KHOURI: I can't remember.
- 30 BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- BERRY: The best of your memory is that Jim Montague rang you –
- KHOURI: Rang me up he said Bechara can you do me a favour do you know this
35 guy? I said no never heard of him and I don't know him. He said can
you do me a favour a keep it confidential. I said yes, he said can you find
out about him from you know architects and people who dealt with him I
just want –
- BERRY: Yep.

KHOURI: - an independent feedback.

BERRY: Right, did you ask why?

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Okay.

5 KHOURI: I didn't ask why. I – I assume he wanted information about the guy.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: So I – I –

BERRY: Did you think that's strange? That a general manager –

KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE)

10 BERRY: - would ring you and ask you about information about (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: Well this is the first time – this is the first time he does such thing. Jim and I knew each other well –

BERRY: Alright we'll let's ex –

15 KHOURI: - but I never – I never sort of – I was sort of - but I thought that well the guy must have had some serious concern or something that's why he's resorting to someone like me to assist him, he trust me of course.

BERRY: You said you've know Jim for a long time –

KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE)

BERRY: - can you tell me how long?

20 KHOURI: Oh Jesus it must be since I started working in the community must be –

BERRY: Back in the '80's or '90's –

KHOURI: '80's yeah – yeah – yeah –

BERRY: Okay.

25 KHOURI: - because we used to do a lot of functions, there's always interaction with the local Government Bankstown and Canterbury.

BERRY: Is he a member of a political party?

KHOURI: No –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - Jim is not (UNINTELLIGABLE).

30 BERRY: Would you class him as a friend or how would you class Jim Montague?

KHOURI: We'll he's a – he's a – he's a friend he is.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: He is, we used to socialise and catch up and –

BERRY: So you did a bit of socialising?

35 KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

KHOURI: I've seen him at function.

BERRY: - in – in your role in the community did you used to go to him and – and give him advice –

5 KHOURI: Yes – yes.

BERRY: - or seek advice?

KHOURI: Yes I did.

BERRY: Okay , alright.

KHOURI: I did – I did – I did (INAUDIBLE) –

10 BERRY: I'm just trying to understand the relationship –

KHOURI: No this is where it come from.

BERRY: Do you have his phone number and speak to him on the phone?

KHOURI: Yes – yes I do. Yes I do.

BERRY: Email each other things of that nature?

15 KHOURI: Very rarely email, but we normally speak.

BERRY: Mainly phone calls.

KHOURI: Mainly phone calls.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah.

20 BERRY: So a close working and friendly relationship.

KHOURI: Yes – yes.

BERRY: At least from the '80's?

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: He's always been the general manager there?

25 KHOURI: He has – he has, he used to be called a town clerk (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: That's right yes okay.

KHOURI: And Jim knew every man in his building he – and he was – he was there for thirty-five forty years.

BERRY: Okay so he rings you about his fellow called Spiro Stavis.

30 KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: He says to you can you find out what he's like.

KHOURI: He rang me because he knows I'm – I know –

BERRY: You're well connected.

KHOURI: Connected on a lot of people, on – on a grass root level. So I did actually

35 ask few people, mainly architects.

BERRY: Who did you ask?

KHOURI: I thought I'd ask a guy called Dugald Mackenzie, Dugald is an architect who does mainly work in North Sydney –

BERRY: Yep.

5 KHOURI: - (UNINTELLIGABLE) well.

BERRY: Yep.

KHOURI: I've asked the – I've asked I think another architect (UNINTELLIGABLE) Urban – Urban Link –

BERRY: Who?

10 KHOURI: Urban Link Tony –

BERRY: Oh Urban Link –

STOCKLEY: Tony Jreige?

BERRY: Yep.

KHOURI: Tony Jreige, yeah –

15 BERRY: Yep.

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) I ask Tony. He's I think that was in Canterbury.

BERRY: Did he give you any information?

KHOURI: What he – he – he did not sort of give me details but there was no issue with him he didn't sort of complain about him, he thought he was a reasonable planner.

20 BERRY: What about Dugald Mackenzie?

KHOURI: Dugald same thing.

BERRY: Same thing?

KHOURI: Yeah (INAUDIBLE) –

25 BERRY: Nothing unusual?

KHOURI: Nothing unusual about him.

BERRY: Right.

KHOURI: And I did went and speak to George, George Vasil and George, everyone knows George, because George has a special obsession with planning. And he knew a lot of architects and Spiro's a Greek so logically George would know because George is involved. I've asked -

30 BERRY: Is it the Greek community is (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: I see.

35 KHOURI: Yeah so –

BERRY: So for the record George Vasil is the owner of Ray White?

KHOURI: Yeah (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: (INAUDIBLE) at Earlwood?

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: Okay.

5 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: And how long have you known George for?

KHOURI: Not for long, five six years maybe.

BERRY: Five or six years?

10 KHOURI: Yeah – yeah I used to see George around he was at functions all the time
–

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: And George went and he told me and he got some information from a
guy called Nick Katris who is a Greek architect. Apparently Nick used
him a lot, extensively. That’s what George said.

15 BERRY: Used Spiro?

KHOURI: Yeah as a planner.

BERRY: So – yep.

KHOURI: When he was privately working.

BERRY: Yep.

20 KHOURI: And George from memory said to me look Nick thinks very highly of
him and later on, I think few days later I was going to George to get a – a
registration form ‘cause I wanted to apply for real estate, just to have a
licence.

BERRY: Okay.

25 KHOURI: Yeah. I got to George and – and I call him I said look I’m coming to see
you about the form and stuff, and go there and I find a guy sitting there
with him having coffee. And he introduce me and that was Spiro.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah.

30 BERRY: Is that in his office at Earlwood?

KHOURI: Oh actually you know something I’m not sure –

BERRY: Or was it in a café?

KHOURI: A café maybe, it was a café because there’s a café in
(UNINTELLIGABLE) what is it called (UNINTELLIGABLE)? It’s
35 right on – across from the carpark –

BERRY: Yeah.

KHOURI: So I introduced to him and (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: Can you remember when this happened?

KHOURI: I really (INAUDIBLE) I mean it must be few days after Jim called me because (UNINTELLIGABLE) I'm not sure.

BERRY: What was the meeting about?

5 KHOURI: George was – George was meeting with him I – I have no idea what was it about.

BERRY: Did you hear any conversation?

KHOURI: No we start talking, I mean we sat down introduce me to him. And I took the liberty of asking questions, I started asking some –

10 BERRY: What did you ask?

KHOURI: Oh about his background, where he worked, which council he worked with, if he's done any special work for big developers 'cause that's what Jim wanted to know all this information.

BERRY: So you've gone to this café to get some registration (INAUDIBLE) –

15 KHOURI: From George, and the guy was there.

BERRY: And you weren't aware that that meeting –

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: - was taking place prior –

KHOURI: No.

20 BERRY: - there was no arrangement?

KHOURI: No there no arrangement (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: Okay, so it was –

KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE)

BERRY: - by coincidence you went there –

25 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - they were there, you went –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - there for another purpose.

KHOURI: Yeah 'cause I've been – I've been –

30 BERRY: But the situation arises where you sat down and asked him questions.

KHOURI: Yeah I've been to George three consecutive days this week because of the –

BERRY: Yep.

35 KHOURI: - the (UNINTELLIGABLE). And I'm not sure if there was someone else there I really don't – don't recall. And I've asked questions (UNINTELLIGABLE) it looked like a bloody job interview because I was trying to get more information from (INAUDIBLE) –

- BERRY: Why did you feel like you needed to ask him questions?
- KHOURI: Because I felt – because I felt Jim was pretty concerned when he told me you know for –
- BERRY: Why – why did you think he was concerned?
- 5 KHOURI: I have no idea.
- BERRY: Did he mention anything to you?
- KHOURI: He didn't and – and – and look I know Jim, he – he wanted to know the information.
- BERRY: Does Jim Montague know George Vasil?
- 10 KHOURI: Of course he does Jesus from last thirty years since he (INAUDIBLE) –
- BERRY: Did you ask – did you ask George how Spiro was there at that meeting with George?
- KHOURI: Not really I didn't I was – just sat there it wasn't a long meeting I asked a few questions.
- 15 BERRY: Are you aware if Jim Montague asked George Vasil to find out information or speak to Spiro?
- KHOURI: I – I'm not sure, I honestly (INAUDIBLE) –
- BERRY: You're not sure?
- KHOURI: I doubt it –
- 20 BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: I doubt it because Jim never asked me to go and see him personally.
- BERRY: Right.
- KHOURI: So I took the opportunity to – to start asking questions. Just to give something Jim which is reliable.
- 25 BERRY: Sure,
- KHOURI: 'Cause you can ask people who will tell you anything and look the guy come across as a decent bloke he – he didn't have any backers, I mean I –
- BERRY: When you – when you say backers I know what you mean, but for the record what do you mean?
- 30 KHOURI: Look every time someone applied to the council for that particular position there's always backers make no mistakes. They could be councillors –
- BERRY: Is someone supporting him in the background?
- KHOURI: (INAUDIBLE) there was no one –
- 35 BERRY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - because the guy was –
- BERRY: A nobody right.

- KHOURI: But I (UNINTELLIGABLE) and I can – I can – I can – I can – I (UNINTELLIGABLE) and I know all – all the time there is a – a mayor or an MP or someone who rings the general manager and put a word for an applicant.
- 5 BERRY: Yep.
- KHOURI: Make no mistake about it.
- STOCKLEY: What about developers do you know whether developers do that sometimes?
- 10 KHOURI: Now maybe – maybe but Spiro did not have a high profile with developers, most of the people he was doing jobs for were sort of small timers.
- BERRY: Did you know the previous director there?
- KHOURI: Ah Marcelo?
- BERRY: Yeah.
- 15 KHOURI: I met Marcelo.
- BERRY: What did you think of him?
- KHOURI: Well Marcelo was a – was a – was okay, I mean I – I met him once or twice I mean I can't establish an opinion. I never dealt with him because I don't – it's not my job (INAUDIBLE) –
- 20 BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: - I mean (UNINTELLIGABLE) architects job to go and do it he's getting paid for it.
- BERRY: I apologise I interrupted you but go yeah go on.
- 25 KHOURI: No fair enough so the guy was very average you know was intelligent and I thought he was – knew what he was talking about.
- BERRY: Okay.
- 30 KHOURI: And – and yeah so I've – I've reported to Jim I've said look I met the guy and that's what (UNINTELLIGABLE) – what I saw that's what (UNINTELLIGABLE) my evalu – evaluation of him. He knows the system, he knows where you know what to do, not to do. He lives in the area, he's done a lot of work in the area, so he l – you know have some, a lot of positive advantage.
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: And that was the end of the matter.
- 35 BERRY: Right.
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- BERRY: That was it?
- KHOURI: That was it as far as I'm concerned. And to be quite honest with you –
- BERRY: Did you get the registration papers?

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) I did and I fill it out, and then I stopped because I didn't continue with that –

BERRY: Okay.

5 KHOURI: - (UNINTELLIGABLE) it's just because I need to establish a – a trust fund, and it's a very complicated things to get involved in selling houses and – and I was gonna say and yeah that was – that was the end of the matter and then of course I heard about a third world war started –

BERRY: Alright.

KHOURI: - in council everyone knew (INAUDIBLE) –

10 BERRY: Alright, so just going back to this first meeting at the café which is close by to Ray White Earlwood?

KHOURI: It's not far it's just (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: Walking distance?

KHOURI: Yeah.

15 BERRY: Okay. You say George Vasil and Spiro Stavos was there –

KHOURI: What's the name of the place?

BERRY: Was Michael Hawatt there?

KHOURI: No there was no Michael Hawatt.

BERRY: Do you know Michael Hawatt?

20 KHOURI: I know him (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Okay. So for the record Michael Hawatt was the former councillor -

KHOURI: Yeah (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: - at Canterbury Council.

KHOURI: He – he's been there for twenty years I think.

25 BERRY: How long have you known Michael?

KHOURI: Very recently I get to know Michael –

BERRY: And when you say recently what time frame?

KHOURI: Oh last two years.

BERRY: Okay –

30 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - how did you get to know him?

KHOURI: I knew of him – I knew of him, but in the past we never liked each other we always politically – because he worked in the community for the Liberal Party I (UNINTELLIGABLE) we used to always have confrontation with – there was not much love lost between me and

35 KHOURI: Hawatt (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Not friends.

KHOURI: Not friends no.

BERRY: Right okay.

KHOURI: But he did come to me just want to answer your question he has a brother
5 here in Dubai who is into aluminium and he's brother wanted to sell
aluminium (UNINTELLIGABLE) to the manufacturers and I was going
there and he asked (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: You were going to Dubai?

KHOURI: Yeah –

BERRY: Yeah.

10 KHOURI: I've been there last – last year.

BERRY: And you met the brother.

KHOURI: I met his brother [REDACTED] –

BERRY: [REDACTED]

15 KHOURI: [REDACTED] his name and we told him yes we can supply you with extrusion
because I – I – I (UNINTELLIGABLE) away there's something I forgot
to tell you. I brought in the 90's a company called Pan Asia Aluminium.
There was a regional head quarter program –

BERRY: How do you spell the name?

KHOURI: Pan (spells) P-A-N –

20 STOCKLEY: A –

KHOURI: Ah, Asia Aluminium. They established the headquarters here –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - and I was their man in Australia (INAUDIBLE) they pulled out of here
25 a few years back because they won a – a big contract making heating for
Apple.

STOCKLEY: Oh okay.

KHOURI: Yeah –

STOCKLEY: Yeah.

KHOURI: So therefore (UNINTELLIGABLE)

30 STOCKLEY: Yes.

KHOURI: They're Chinese company. Yeah I still in contact with them and so I
(UNINTELLIGABLE) work for them few years actually on a part time
basis.

BERRY: Okay.

35 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: So you've done –

KHOURI: So I – I did understand the aluminium business very well –

BERRY: Right so you've met his brother in Dubai?

KHOURI: I met his brother in Dubai and we discuss – he took us to a factory ah extrusion factories (UNINTELLIGABLE) was – was sort of the biggest they had three presses, the factor we deal with in China has got three
5 hundred presses I mean massive difference and the prices were too expensive of course and so we - (UNINTELLIGABLE) the process and the factory.

BERRY: Right.

KHOURI: It was a hard thing to do because we told him don't – bring us orders so we can supply you know. He was struggling and I met his nephew he does special painting for – anti heat painting for houses for the dessert her – he come here tried to market it again we met him there (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

10 STOCKLEY: What was his nephew's name?

KHOURI: [REDACTED] I think is – is his nephew. [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] one of the two.

STOCKLEY: Okay.

KHOURI: I don't remember you have (UNINTELLIGABLE) and I said I told him look you wanna market in Australia you need – you need to appoint a marketing company it's not a –

20 BERRY: Right.

KHOURI: - it's not our job.

BERRY: So you've met him – some of his family –

KHOURI: Family –

BERRY: (INAUDIBLE)

25 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: You've known Mr Hawatt for how long did you say?

KHOURI: Oh –

BERRY: Couple of years?

KHOURI: Oh no I knew him from before, but I've – interactions –

30 BERRY: When did you first meet him?

KHOURI: Oh –

BERRY: Physically meet him?

KHOURI: Physically I'll say five six years ago.

BERRY: Okay.

35 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

KHOURI: I knew of him though, I knew his –

BERRY: Yeah okay. Did you know if he had a relationship with George Vasil?

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: Did you see him at George Vasil’s office?

KHOURI: I’ve seen him there couple of times, yeah about a couple of times.

BERRY: Do you go to George Vasil’s office often?

5 KHOURI: Not so often – only during that period Simon when I was doing that – that licence paperwork (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: Okay around about –

KHOURI: Yeah because (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: - when Spiro Stavis was looking for work.

10 KHOURI: Or before – just before yeah.

BERRY: Oh before –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: Just before so if we can put a timeframe on it I think what’d I say
15 October ’14 was the – when the job advertisement was placed so would you say it sort of mid to early ’14 that you were involved in going (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: No before that –

BERRY: Before?

KHOURI: - before – before, way before that.

20 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: Did you see Mr Hawatt at the office?

KHOURI: I’ve seen Hawatt a couple of times a year but I wasn’t going to see Hawatt I was seeing George.

25 BERRY: Yes I understand.

KHOURI: - and – and normally I have to sit down and wait because there’ll be - (UNINTELLIGABLE) somewhere else (UNINTELLIGABLE) going to see me.

BERRY: Do you know what they used to talk about?

30 KHOURI: Look George is a member of the Liberal Party I think or supporting the Liberal Party –

BERRY: Okay.

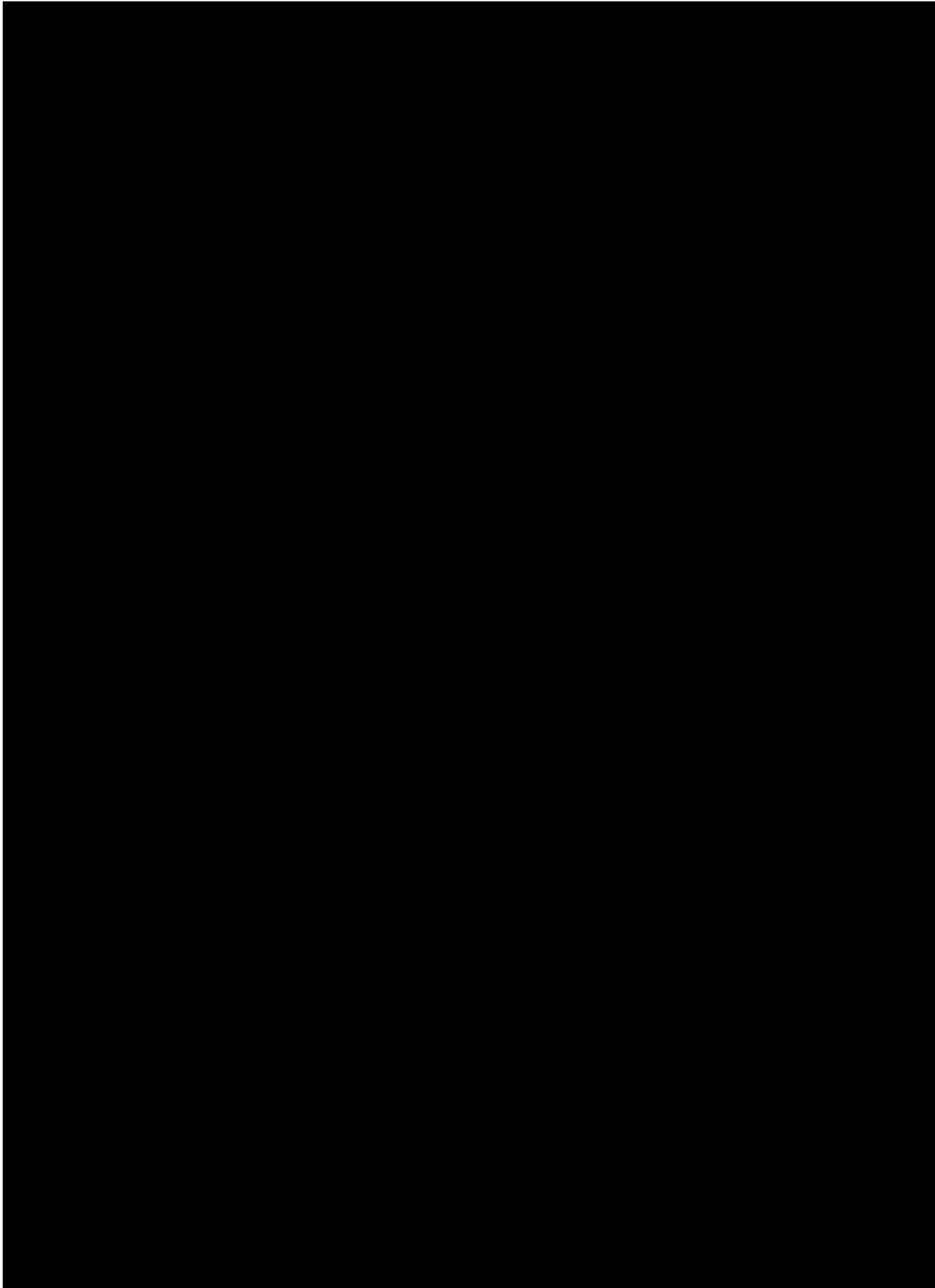
KHOURI: - and his son –

BERRY: Con.

35 KHOURI: - Con as you know.

BERRY: Yeah.

- KHOURI: And I think there's a lot of political (UNINTELLIGABLE) in there
Simon –
- BERRY: Did they used to talk about –
- KHOURI: - especially the Earlwood area.
- 5 BERRY: Yeah. Were you alive to any of their conversations about development
opportunities or DCP issues or –
- KHOURI: George – George always –
- BERRY: Council issues?
- 10 KHOURI: George always had a obsessions with planning, that's his obsession if
you look in his office the last thirty years every case, every court case ,
every planning decision, every so – George (UNINTELLIGABLE) was a
reference when it comes to the history (INAUDIBLE) –
- BERRY: How would you categorise George's knowledge on planning?
- 15 KHOURI: He – he – George is very good honestly and I – I think he knows much
more than planners because he does know the history and –
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: - and – and he always used to argue with council I mean there - he's got
this obsession with directors or planning and planners used to call them
all the day and argue with them over a DCP or an LEP I mean I used to
20 see that (INAUDIBLE).
- BERRY: Is he an influential man?
- KHOURI: Not really.
- BERRY: Do you think he called the shots on council?
- KHOURI: No.
- 25 BERRY: No.
- KHOURI: No.
- BERRY: Alright.
- KHOURI: George – George always enter from the argument of knowledge rather
than –
- 30 BERRY: Right.
- KHOURI: - influence if you know what I mean.



BERRY: So let's – let's get back to Spiro about this –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - you've met him, did you report back to Jim Montague?

KHOURI: Yeah I – I – I told Jim. I said –

BERRY: What did you say to Jim?

5 KHOURI: Well I said Jim I have not seen anything concerning or abnormal or unusual unless you know something I don't know you should tell me. He said no – no I'm (UNINTELLIGABLE) he – he asked other people I'm sure. I think Jim must have asked other people to do the same I don't know who. And that was it really –

10 BERRY: Right.

KHOURI: - Simon, that was my role and I –

BERRY: That was your role –

KHOURI: yep

BERRY: So are you aware that at or about that time Spiro Stavis was awarded the
15 position?

KHOURI: Oh yeah he was getting the job I knew (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Yeah who told you that?

KHOURI: Oh everyone knew George (UNINTELLIGABLE) everyone knew.

BERRY: Or how did you find out?

20 KHOURI: I think f – Brian told me or someone (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Alright what was his position on it?

KHOURI: Oh not very clear (UNINTELLIGABLE)

BERRY: What do you mean by that?

KHOURI: He just didn't comment on it.

25 BERRY: I see.

KHOURI: He did not show any –

BERRY: Emotion behind it.

KHOURI: Emotion about it –

BERRY: Okay. And what did you think when you heard that?

30 KHOURI: Well I thought that's – that's logical and – and I thought (UNINTELLIGABLE) personally I thought the guy was – was decent–

BERRY: Did Michael Hawatt speak to you about the appointment of Stavis?

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Not at all?

35 KHOURI: No, Hawatt never come near that subject. (UNINTELLIGABLE) Hawatt doesn't – Hawatt doesn't talk to me about this –

- BERRY: Did you know if Hawatt was on the panel interviewing for Stavits's position?
- KHOURI: I didn't know who was on the panel –
- BERRY: You didn't know?
- 5 KHOURI: No I have no idea.
- BERRY: Do you know Pierre Azzi?
- KHOURI: Yeah I know Pierre. Pierre – I know Pierre since Morris Iemma's (UNINTELLIGABLE) again he was – was one of Morris's lieutenants.
- BERRY: Okay.
- 10 KHOURI: And I get to know him they – they always invite me for a meal 'cause I live by myself so every time –
- BERRY: Is that at Pierre's house?
- KHOURI: Pierre's house. [REDACTED] every time she cooks –
- BERRY: (INAUDIBLE) did you used to go there for meals?
- 15 KHOURI: Yeah – yeah I did. I -
- BERRY: Alright who – who used to go for meals there?
- KHOURI: Basically me. I used to take my son [REDACTED] and we used to go and she used to – my son is friends of his daughter and his son, there – there's a social interaction –
- 20 BERRY: Pierre's son okay.
- KHOURI: Pierre's son yeah – yeah.
- BERRY: Did other councillors or Mayors or staff go from Canterbury?
- KHOURI: Ah –
- BERRY: To Pierre's house?
- 25 KHOURI: There was barbeques one or two I'm aware of –
- BERRY: Alright.
- KHOURI: - and there were people from Canterbury there yes.
- BERRY: Who were they?
- 30 KHOURI: I think Jim was there, Hawatt was there - Jim, Hawatt that's from Canterbury that's – and they used to be people from Bankstown I mean Matt Stewart was there once, Khal Asfour was there.
- BERRY: Khal Asfour –
- KHOURI: Yeah – yeah. Everyone used to come to Pierre he was – he like this business of –
- 35 BERRY: He liked – he like the (INAUDIBLE) –
- KHOURI: - barbeques and entertainment.
- BERRY: Yeah okay.

KHOURI: That's what his (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Did they discuss Spiro Stavis at what any of these –

KHOURI: No I have no –

BERRY: - barbeques?

5 KHOURI: - I have never heard his name mentioned there.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: So after you called Montague and gave back the information – the next
10 thing you're aware, and correct me if I'm wrong, you're aware through
Brian Robson that Stavis was awarded the position.

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: What was the next thing that you heard or did about involving Spiro
Stavis?

KHOURI: Well I found out later that Jim change his mind and this is because they
15 had a (UNINTELLIGABLE) this is where as a result of the confrontation
at that famous meeting they did (UNINTELLIGABLE) against Jim.

BERRY: When you say he changed his mind because of this famous meeting did
Jim change his mind because of the meeting or –

KHOURI: No – no – no.

20 BERRY: - the meeting took place as a result of Jim changing his -

KHOURI: The meeting took a result and then we know why meeting goes on

BERRY: Okay let's break down why did Jim change his mind and we're referring
to Spiro Stavis not getting the job –

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah – yeah –

25 BERRY: Right. So why did he change his mind?

KHOURI: This is a five hundred million dollar question.

BERRY: Okay, you don't know?

KHOURI: I've always (UNINTELLIGABLE) question about that.

BERRY: Okay.

30 KHOURI: Now I've confronted Jim, I said Jim at least what's going on. Jim said he
had some internal cross references he wasn't happy with that was his
reply.

BERRY: When did he s – tell you that?

KHOURI: Oh that's – that's after the confrontation (INAUDIBLE) –

35 BERRY: Well after?

KHOURI: Yeah well after –

BERRY: Okay, alright.

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah, ‘cause I really wanted to know something

BERRY: Yeah.

KHOURI: I really was interested to know why –

BERRY: What – what the issue was –

5 KHOURI: - you appoint them and why you flip there must be something.

BERRY: So when – when the appointment was reversed did anyone speak to you about Jim Montague’s decision? Apart from Jim Montague did anyone else speak to you?

KHOURI: Yeah actually.

10 BERRY: Who?

KHOURI: Spiro called me.

BERRY: Spiro?

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: What did he say?

15 KHOURI: He said mate you heard, I said no he said I was appointed and –

BERRY: Right.

KHOURI: - and dis-appointed. I said I have no idea Spiro honestly I don’t know what’s going on to be quite honest with you. But – but I couldn’t – I couldn’t help him Simon because it’s none of my business really I mean this is interfering in the internal (UNINTELLIGABLE) it’s not – not for me. But it was quite – quite interesting and I mean why would you (UNINTELLIGABLE) appoint someone –

20

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Especially look I have to say that later on Jim told me look I made a mistake, the guy is very good, he’s doing a good job and I made a mistake by hesitating.

25

BERRY: I see.

KHOURI: He told me that I mean I was –

BERRY: Okay.

30 KHOURI: And I – I put my hand on –

BERRY: So after the withdrawal of the position, now for your own information I think it was 17th of November, 2014 was the day of the interview panel it was early December when the job was advertised and it was a few days after that that the job – oh sorry the job was awarded to Spiro then some time after that the job was withdrawn (INAUDIBLE) –

35

KHOURI: No that happened (UNINTELLIGABLE) because –

BERRY: December 14.

KHOURI: Because the confrontation happened before Christmas.

BERRY: Yeah – yeah it’s very shortly thereafter yeah.

KHOURI: They – they had that meeting where they put a motion –

BERRY: That’s right. So – so in – insofar as the timeline (UNINTELLIGABLE)
5 October period was when the job was advertised, 17th of November when the panel convened to interview Spiro.

KHOURI: Yeah I – I don’t –

BERRY: I – I know I’m just telling you this so we can understand –

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) Yeah.

BERRY: - where we’re at –

10 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - this is 2014.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: And it was very shortly thereafter he was awarded the position around
15 about the 5th of the 8th of December. And then shortly thereafter that position was withdrawn and then as you say all hell broke loose.

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: At about that time in December did you have conversations with anyone
or just – just prior to him being formally – formally awarded the position
20 did you have conversations or communications with anyone about Spiro Stavis, to your recollection?

KHOURI: I honestly don’t remember Simon to be quite honest.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: I don’t know (UNINTELLIGABLE) I don’t remember
(UNINTELLIGABLE).

25 BERRY: Alright. Do you remember communicating with Michael Hawatt in early
December 2014 about confirming the position of Spiro Stavis?

KHOURI: What do you mean confirming the position, I don’t understand. He – he
confirmed it to me –

BERRY: Did you – did you have a conversation with Spiro Stavis in two thousand
30 and – in dec – in early December 2014? And did you inform him that the
position was his to have?

KHOURI: No, defiantly not.

BERRY: Definitely not.

KHOURI: That wasn’t – that –

35 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - because I didn’t – I didn’t know till later that – that he was awarded the
position.

BERRY: Do you remember if at that early December period in 2014 at or about
that time and I’m not being specific, did you have any meetings with

persons such as Michael Hawatt or Jim Montague or Pierre Azzi or people like that talking about Spiro Stavis and trying to arrange for him to get that position?

KHOURI: No.

5 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Do you remember ringing Spiro Stavis at that time and speaking to him at all?

KHOURI: No.

10 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Alright.

KHOURI: But Spiro did call me actually December some time and he told me –

BERRY: Well okay.

15 KHOURI: - that (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: What – what happened in that call then?

KHOURI: He said to me he – all - he got the job. I said I know you got the job, he said then it's been – it s been withdrawn –

BERRY: How – how did you know that he got the job?

20 KHOURI: Oh everyone knew he – he had the job, everyone knew.

BERRY: Well I'm asking you how did you know?

KHOURI: Someone must have told me, Jim could have told me I don't know –

BERRY: Alright.

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE)

25 BERRY: Did Jim tell you at any ta – stage that he was pressured to give the job to Spiro Stavis?

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Did you feel as though that might have been the case?

30 KHOURI: Well I felt that he was a bit anxious and hesitant I have to say he was you know I actually (UNINTELLIGABLE) to the fact that to a (UNINTELLIGABLE) had some information which made him feel this way.

BERRY: You'd be aware that within the papers Jim Montague was named for dining at the Il Buco restaurant and a person provided that information to the papers do you think that was – or do you have knowledge if that was part of the campaign to pressure Jim Montague in any way shape or form(INAUDIBLE) relating to Spiro Stavis?

35

KHOURI: Well I – I was attacked as well, I wasn't even there, if you read the paper (UNINTELLIGABLE).

BERRY: Yeah.

5 KHOURI: There was a lot of mud throwing Simon I'm gonna have to say I mean I had – I mean there was an accountant there who looked like me and then (UNINTELLIGABLE) Bechara Khouri and I wasn't even there –

BERRY: This is at the restaurant?

KHOURI: Yeah –

BERRY: Yeah.

10 KHOURI: - yeah – yeah – well look Jim goes there all the time to Il Buco to have lunch. Now it was very strange because it did happen in the same time, I think you might - your question is very valid like its all happens at once. Now - you know something Simon now you made me think I think yeah that question, yeah – yeah that could be very well an attempt.

15 BERRY: Well apart from being quite possible do you have any information that someone told you something or some document that said –

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: - this is a concerted campaign to force Jim Montague's hand in relation to Stavis?

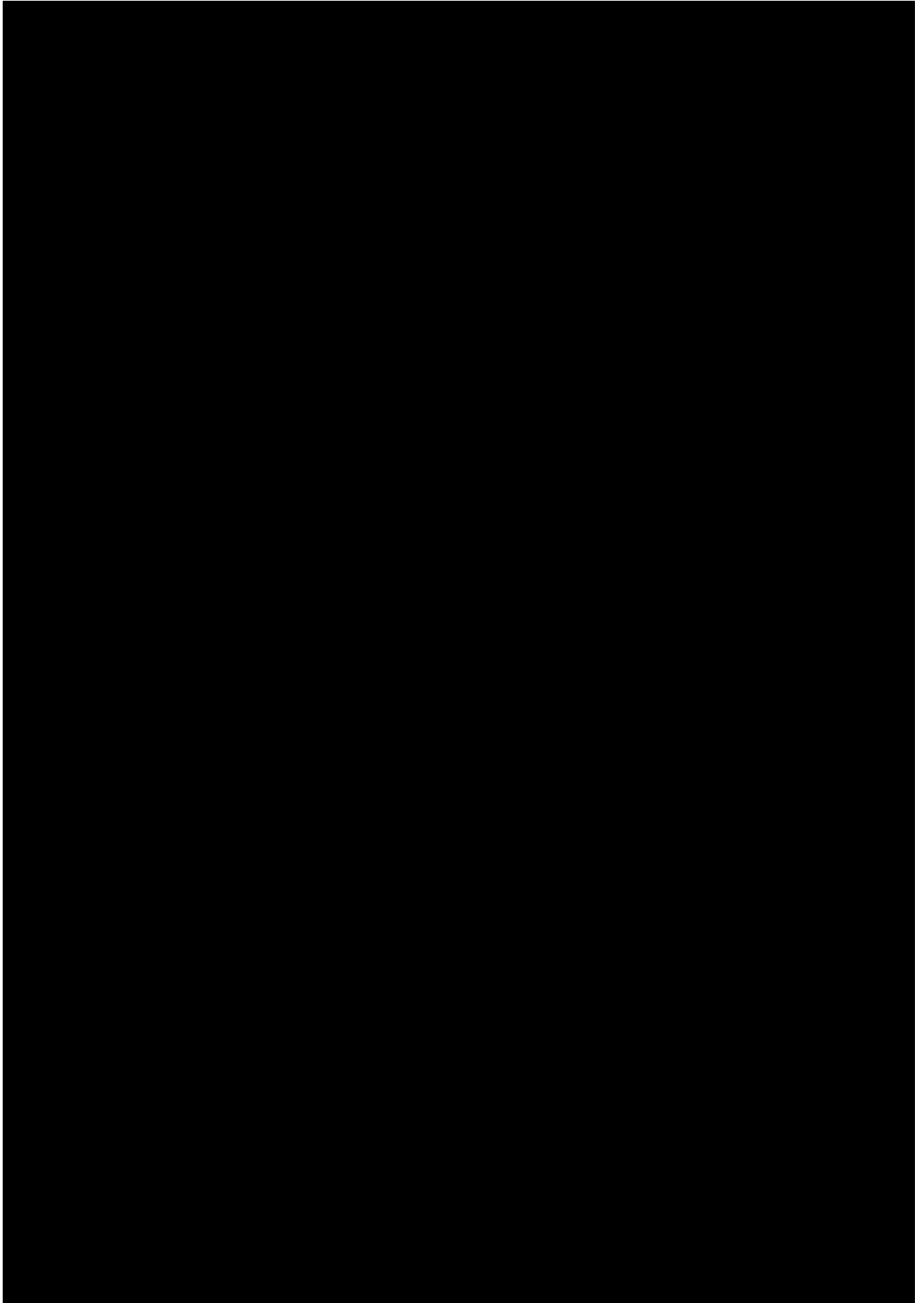
20 KHOURI: No I don't.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: But I know – I know there was a lot of mud throwing in the council a lot of allegations and anti-allegations all around the pl - it spilled into the branches everyone knew it wasn't a secret. But I – I honestly thought about this Simon and I said it's funny like everything happened simultaneously I mean Jim's has been going to Il Buco for the last however many years why is it now an issue.

25 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

BERRY: I like to explore a little bit of potentially Hawatts' involvement in the engagement of Spiro Stavis, do you have any information that he was involved in getting one Spiro Stavis employed there?

10 KHOURI: I honestly put a big question mark over this statement, I don't think Hawatt was very interested in Spiro Stavis. Now –

BERRY: Why do you say that?

KHOURI: Because well from what I saw and from what I – although maybe George was – maybe liked him, but I never thought Hawatt was pushing or was –

15 BERRY: express interest or defending not at all. I don't think Hawatt wanted Spiro Stavis.

BERRY: Alright. And what do you think he wanted, or who do you think he wanted?

KHOURI: I have no idea mate.

20 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: But I did not see that warmth, encouragement and – and – and – and I – I honestly wasn't there. Not even Pierre, I don't think Pierre was very keen on Spiro Stavis.

BERRY: Okay.

25 KHOURI: That's – that's my reading of the situation.

BERRY: Did anyone tell you that.

KHOURI: No – no they didn't tell that it just what I read like there was no pushing and shoving and – I know – I know when people lobby for lobby people I know exactly what they do. I don't feel it. Definitely, Jim was hesitant.

30 BERRY: Just bear with me two seconds.

KHOURI: Take your time.

BERRY: Thank you. (UNINTELLIGABLE) ask anything at this stage (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

35 STOCKLEY: Following on from the situation where the offer of employment was withdrawn for Spiro Stavis and as you (UNINTELLIGABLE) acknowledged all hell broke loose (UNINTELLIGABLE) where there was – then you mentioned the meeting where they (UNINTELLIGABLE) tried to – or (UNINTELLIGABLE) from the meeting and the –

40 KHOURI: Yeah.

STOCKLEY: (UNINTELLIGABLE) motion –

- KHOURI: Yeah.
- STOCKLEY: - that Montague (INAUDIBLE). Did Jim confide in you during that time about the – the stress he was under or the situate – how that situation had – well the precursor leading to that?
- 5 KHOURI: He did, he - Jim was very stressed yes he did confide to me and he said to me I know I'm not what they're targeting, but after Brian because I – I – obviously the – obviously the war was between Brian and the others, but I think Jim got caught in the cross fire (UNINTELLIGABLE) –
- STOCKLEY: Yeah.
- 10 KHOURI: - but Jim was confident that he had the number (INAUDIBLE)
- BERRY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - (INAUDIBLE) and the – the motion, he was very confident. And I said to him good luck I – I didn't even go to the meeting I (UNINTELLIGABLE).
- 15 STOCKLEY: Did he mention anything to you about the issue in regarding Spiro Stavis involvement as being a factor in the councillors push to have him sacked?
- KHOURI: No – no he mentioned that Brian to me that they went and ask Brian for a meeting and Brian refused and that what triggered – is a trigger for the –
- 20 funny enough I mean local government was aware of all this why – why didn't local government come in and – and intervene, it's amazing stuff I mean you know, different subject. I know did - he did – he – he was confident that he will win the – the motion.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- 25 KHOURI: Yeah.
- STOCKLEY: You – in – are you aware of leading up to this any offers or suggestions made by Pierre Azzi or Michael Hawatt to Jim Montague about actually resigning rather than being sacked?
- KHOURI: I honesty don't know. No I haven't heard of that.
- 30 STOCKLEY: Did Jim tell you anything about that?
- KHOURI: No, what Jim told me is that when (UNINTELLIGABLE) Brian and asked Brian to sign a document which there's two councillors asking for an extraordinary meeting.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- 35 KHOURI: And he refused to see him, and as a result they've got agitated and what happened happened.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- BERRY: Um -
- KHOURI: But I mean - keep going sorry.
- 40 BERRY: Are you aware that the Commission has been investing this matter for a little while?

KHOURI: It's all in the media I mean everyone knew there was an investigation –

BERRY: So you're – you're aware of that?

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

5 BERRY: As a result of that we have some text messages from a phone and I'm going to show you or read to you some of the text messages.

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: Concerning this period in December 2014 and it may assist your memory.

KHOURI: Yes.

10 BERRY: So I really would like to get to the bottom of what some of these text –

KHOURI: Please yes.

BERRY: - messages mean.

KHOURI: Please.

15 BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE) I'll just start at the appropriate place. Your phone number at that stage, and correct me on it 0 [REDACTED] ?

KHOURI: That's the only number I have yes.

BERRY: The phone that this relates to is Michael Hawatt's phone.

KHOURI: Yes.

20 BERRY: It says from yourself to him '*Michael are you aware if a new director has been appointed yet*', on the 2/12/2014. Do you remember sending him a text about that?

KHOURI: A new director was appointed 2/12/2014.

BERRY: Mm, are you the only person that uses your telephone?

KHOURI: Yeah ah well supposedly yeah.

25 BERRY: Well who else would?

KHOURI: That's a good question because sometime I – I leave it when I'm at Pierre having - I'll leave it inside on the table, that's the only place I –

BERRY: Oh okay.

KHOURI: Now –

30 BERRY: But do you know if he uses your phone?

KHOURI: No – no (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: Has it got password protection on it or passcode?

KHOURI: Yes it's got a pass – password –

BERRY: Does anyone know that?

35 KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Just you?

KHOURI: My son (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: Your son?

KHOURI: Son - yeah.

5 BERRY: Okay. Is your son involved in Canterbury Council in any way shape or form?

KHOURI: He's a student at university.

BERRY: So can we safely say that the text was from you?

KHOURI: Must be.

BERRY: Must be.

10 KHOURI: Yeah, but why I sent it I have no idea.

BERRY: At or about that time just to give you –

KHOURI: Yeah –

BERRY: - little bit of –

KHOURI: Yes.

15 BERRY: - context.

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: There's a text talking about delaying Dyldam until 12th February do you know what that means?

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

20 BERRY: So that puts that in that context in – that text into context insofar as the timeframe.

KHOURI: Delaying Dyldam (INAUDIBLE) -

BERRY: They delayed Dyldam until 12th of February –

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah I – I was doing a job for Dyldam.

25 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: They had a site in Brighton Avenue –

BERRY: Right.

KHOURI: - which is – and they had lodge a submission to the Department of Planning.

30 BERRY: So I'm just telling you that so you know –

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah –

BERRY: - when this –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - when this is all happening okay.

35 KHOURI: No that's true, yeah I was doing that job for Dyldam yeah it's true.

BERRY: So did you recall sending a text to Michael Hawatt asking if a new director had been appointed yet?

KHOURI: Yeah I – I – I must have –

BERRY: Was that (INAUDIBLE) –

5 KHOURI: - I must have.

BERRY: Okay –

KHOURI: Because –

BERRY: - was that in relation to Spiro Stavis?

10 KHOURI: No, it's in relation to Dyldam because Dyldam were getting frustrated that – that –

BERRY: I see.

KHOURI: - they've been – they've been hole – held for a long time. It's still not finished until now actually.

BERRY: So that was in relation to Dyldam appointing a new director?

15 KHOURI: No it's in relation to Dyldam submission being delayed.

BERRY: Okay. This is the text, '*Michael are we aware if a new director has been appointed yet*'? There on the '2/12.

KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: What is that - that text in relation to?

20 KHOURI: In relation to Dyldam submission which has been on hold for months and months.

BERRY: So you're curious as to the new director relating to Dyldam submission –

KHOURI: Submission yes.

BERRY: - which was at what location?

25 KHOURI: It was on Canterbury - oh it's Brighton Avenue, Campsie.

BERRY: At Campsie –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - so that's under the Canterbury council area?

KHOURI: Yes.

30 BERRY: So was this question the new director –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - was that relating to the position that Spiro Stavis applied for?

KHOURI: No – yeah it is related to position –

BERRY: Because –

35 KHOURI: - because that –

BERRY: - you needed to know what (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) is up to.

BERRY: - was up to?

KHOURI: Yeah.

5 BERRY: Okay great.

KHOURI: Yeah - yeah –

BERRY: Alright.

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: Um –

10 KHOURI: Yeah because I went with Dyldam and we had a presentation in relation to that matter.

BERRY: I think it's probably (UNINTELLIGABLE) if I just show you this, so on the same date see it says –

KHOURI: To –

15 BERRY: - to Bechara from Hawatt '*I'm sick of the games being played*'. You reply '*who is playing?*'. He says '*your friend*'. What is that about? Who's your friend?

KHOURI: Jim.

BERRY: Jim. What were the games?

20 KHOURI: I don't know. That (UNINTELLIGABLE) games it is. You see they all assumed that –

BERRY: Then at this point you say there is only one solution, and you then say again no longer. Do you know what the solution was that you referred to?

25 KHOURI: And I said no longer?

BERRY: Yeah well my – my first question is –

KHOURI: What is the solution?

BERRY: What is the solution? Obviously you're texting it and you know what it's about, but (INAUDIBLE) –

30 KHOURI: Yeah, but I can't recall (UNINTELLIGABLE)

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: You see they – they – they all look at me as a – as a Jim Montague's man you know that –

BERRY: Yeah.

35 KHOURI: - and I think this is –

BERRY: Well see this is why I'm putting this –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - I don't want to take it out of context I want to give you the opportunity (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: No – no I don't want to tell you fibs I mean –

BERRY: Yeah.

5 KHOURI: - I want to tell you what I remember well. And I copped it as a result I mean don't make a mistake about it I mean the attach on Jim followed by an attach, I mean I stopped talking to Pierre for weeks and weeks as a result because I've always stood up for Jim and I thought he's an honourable decent man –

10 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - and I - make no mistake.

BERRY: So I'm trying to –

KHOURI: So when – when they were – they wanna – every time I think they wanna pass a message to Jim they come, or not all the time, they come through me I think that happened in this context.

15 BERRY: So what was the solution that you – you text?

KHOURI: Oh yeah the solution for them to back off, that was the solution.

BERRY: So it was to back off?

KHOURI: Back off yes.

20 BERRY: Alright so going on from that on the same day –

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah I mean that's – why was it – I think, yeah – oh yeah I mean – I mean every time they wanna convey a message to Jim they used to – they used to – they used to ring me up.

BERRY: Yes.

25 KHOURI: That during the fight that is.

BERRY: Oh yeah okay –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - I understand that.

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

30 BERRY: I'm just trying to determine –

KHOURI: No – no that's – that's (INAUDIBLE) –

BERRY: - you sent the text –

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - there is only one solution.

35 KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: I'm just trying to determine what that solution was.

KHOURI: That solution (UNINTELLIGABLE) was for them to back off.

BERRY: To back off?

KHOURI: To back off yeah.

BERRY: Did you tell them to back off Jim? And who did you tell?

KHOURI: Jim – Jim wanted them to back off.

5 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: Did you tell whoever it was to back off?

KHOURI: To him.

BERRY: You told Jim to back off did you?

10 KHOURI: No – no – no I told Hawatt to (INAUDIBLE) -

BERRY: Hawatt?

KHOURI: Hawatt to back off.

BERRY: Okay. So on that day you say –

KHOURI: But what has – that was after the – the fight in council or before?

15 BERRY: Well the fight happened later.

KHOURI: Later (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

BERRY: December.

KHOURI: Yeah that must have been before.

BERRY: Just before?

20 KHOURI: Yeah – yeah – yeah. There were a lot of people –

BERRY: Now (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: - there was a lot of intermediary in the middle Simon trying to make the peace, it was – I'm not the only one really there was –

BERRY: Well who else was involved?

25 KHOURI: Oh Jesus the Labor Party, the Union, (UNINTELLIGABLE) used to be the deputy Mayor before, few other people it was a lot of people were involved in trying to make the peace and avoid the – against Jim.

BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE) alright.

30 KHOURI: Oh yeah it did spill to the (UNINTELLIGABLE) – it spilt to the – to the street don't make a mistake about it. Yeah I – I – I – I was – that period of time –

BERRY: So –

KHOURI: - one of the people who were (UNINTELLIGABLE).

BERRY: Where did Pierre live?

35 KHOURI: Pierre lives in – in Roseland.

- BERRY: Right did you go there on the 2nd of December at about 6PM?
- KHOURI: I – I go to Pierre all the time Simon. I go –
- BERRY: Is it possible?
- KHOURI: What do you mean possible?
- 5 BERRY: Is it possible you went there on that day?
- KHOURI: Yeah – yeah – yeah it could be possible yeah. Yeah.
- BERRY: ‘Cause it was a fairly big deal wasn’t it? This whole rigmarole with Stavis and Montague and –
- 10 KHOURI: Well I – I was – I was kicked out of Pierre’s place when I – when I defended Jim. I said what you’re doing is wrong and you should (UNINTELLIGABLE). I was defending Jim I make no apology it’s not a secret. I did stand by Jim because I didn’t think Jim was the problem.
- BERRY: Okay, so you’re still talking about the 2nd of December.
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- 15 BERRY: You’ve sent a text to Hawatt *‘I think he’s putting pressure on me because I turned my back on him’*. What’s that in relation to? Are you referring about Jim Montague or somebody else?
- KHOURI: Yeah – yeah Jim.
- BERRY: What’s the pressure he was putting on you?
- 20 KHOURI: The pressure is to sit down and – and settle the dispute yeah that was – because I said to Jim eventually that he should avoid confrontation in the council, he should be sitting down. And Jim was very -
- BERRY: (INAUDIBLE)
- KHOURI: - very angry and adamant and he was very angry.
- 25 BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: Jim was very angry.
- BERRY: Let me read the words to you again.
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- 30 BERRY: I think he’s putting pressure on me because I turned my back on him, not as a result of trying to get him to back away but because you turned your back on him. I’m just trying to determine what that was.
- KHOURI: It was Jim.
- BERRY: Why did you turn your back on him?
- 35 KHOURI: Because he wouldn’t – because he wouldn’t listen. One day Jim would tell you oh look Bechara I’ve made up my mind that’s what I wanna do. The second day he flips and that what I said from before Jim was very vague – very vague at that particular time and now he’ll come to me and say Bechara look I want to avoid confrontation I’ve decided to do that, I’ve said Jim that’s your decision I mean I –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: - can't tell you what to do and then the following day he comes in and said they can go to hell, they can't tell me what to do I will do this and I will do this. And I said Jim –

5 BERRY: So do I understand that because of the way he behaved you turned your back on him?

KHOURI: I did.

BERRY: Okay.

10 KHOURI: You know why? Because you could never get a straight position from Jim. Now reminder I was trying to help him and I -

BERRY: Are you aware if Jim made that decision to hire Spiro or was it somebody else that told Jim what to do –

KHOURI: No later. Jim – Simon I have to say at that particular time (UNINTELLIGABLE) Jim stopped telling me things.

15 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: Alright. Now yet he used to come to me and ask me to convey messages and then suddenly he stopped telling me things –

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: I don't know (INAUDIBLE) –

20 BERRY: So insofar as the – the first time Spiro was appointed in November were you aware who appointed him?

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Okay. So going back to these text messages –

KHOURI: When you say who appointed him what do you mean?

25 BERRY: Yeah like who –

KHOURI: The council appointed him – the – the committee must have appointed him.

BERRY: Okay. On the 2nd of December at 601 you received a text – oh sorry yes you received a text message from Michael Hawatt saying '*you love birds need to sort out your problems together*'. Okay, I don't need you to comment on that because it - it flows on from these other messages.

30 KHOURI: I don't know what that's supposed to mean, I really don't know.

BERRY: Does the love birds relate to you and Jim, and I'm not talking about relationship wise, but just a matey type comment I'd imagine.

35 KHOURI: No mate, I honestly don't know. I don't know and I – I don't understand it, and (UNINTELLIGABLE)thing I did understand then... what did he say lovebird does not ?

BERRY: See it says here at six o'clock, and thirteen seconds '*I think he's putting pressure on me because I turned my back on him*'. Then you replied back, sorry –

40

- KHOURI: He –
- BERRY: - you – you send the message to Hawatt, Hawatt replies '*you love birds need to sort out your problems together*'. Is that still referring to Jim Montague?
- 5 KHOURI: I'd say – I'd say so yeah.
- BERRY: Okay then you –
- KHOURI: Now I understand yeah.
- BERRY: Then you reply and send Hawatt a message –
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- 10 BERRY: - '*fuck him you people made a made a mistake yesterday by accepting his choice*'. What does that refer to? Who – who is you people?
- KHOURI: It's –
- BERRY: Who are the people that you refer to?
- KHOURI: - must be the other councillors –
- 15 BERRY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - which –
- BERRY: Who are the councillors?
- KHOURI: All of them.
- BERRY: All of them?
- 20 KHOURI: All of them.
- BERRY: Were all of them on the panel?
- KHOURI: I didn't know who was on the panel, no sorry. I think I was referring to councillors not – I didn't know who was on the panel.
- BERRY: So who's the mistake?
- 25 KHOURI: I don't (UNINTELLIGABLE) – I'm not sure.
- BERRY: I'll give a chance – here you can read it. '*You people made a mistake yesterday*', that's yesterday on the – on the first of December '*by accepting his choice*'. Who are the you people?
- KHOURI: Honestly I can't recall Simon.
- 30 BERRY: Okay. And when it goes on further to say accepting his choice what does that refer to?
- KHOURI: Is that referring to Jim I don't think I was referring to Jim.
- BERRY: Alright, well let's explore that who are you referring to and what's it about?
- 35 KHOURI: That could be referring to Brian I don't know.
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: That could be (UNINTELLIGABLE).

BERRY: Well who made the choice to hire Spiro Stavis?

KHOURI: The committee they had, there was a committee.

BERRY: Alright so –

KHOURI: I – I – I’m not sure who that referred to.

5 BERRY: I’d like to show you a –

KHOURI: Is that – is that – is that when – to do when they went and saw Brian and ask him for emergency meeting and Brian said I – I’m not sure honestly. Is that around that time?

BERRY: Let’s – it – it came a little bit later. What I’d like to explore with you is this comment.

10 KHOURI: Yeah – yeah.

BERRY: This is a message from Spiro Stavis to Hawatt.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: *‘Hi Mike just so you know he rang me before your meeting and pretty much said I have it, Bechara confirmed shortly thereafter. Call if you want.’* Appears to be a meeting –

15 KHOURI: Jim – Jim must have – Jim must have called him.

BERRY: Right –

KHOURI: Yeah.

20 BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: He called me that’s Jim –

BERRY: So when you say just so you know he rang me, you’re referring to Jim?

KHOURI: Well he – he’s referring to Jim not me.

BERRY: There appears to have been a meeting, were you involved in that meeting with Jim Montague or Hawatt –

25 KHOURI: No – no.

BERRY: - or others?

KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Do you remember speaking to Stavis about that position, at that time?

30 KHOURI: I think Jim rang me up and he said I gave the job to – to Spiro you can call him and let him know if you want (INAUDIBLE) -

BERRY: So you did that?

KHOURI: Yeah – yeah –

BERRY: Okay.

35 KHOURI: - I did, I did that - (UNINTELLIGABLE) respond to that yes – yes.

BERRY: Alright.

- STOCKLEY: Do you know Jim would ask as a general manager who has the power to appoint Spiro to the position would ask you to call the candidate and tell him that he's been successful?
- 5 KHOURI: Mate this is – this is the – the funny bit I don't know there's something missing here which I can't – I honestly like to – Jim was very unpredictable, hesitant, calling every man. I wasn't the only person he was calling I can assure you. I felt he's – and I – I – and I honestly in – in wanted to help him and I've – they threw me into some awkward places just to help him, but Jim wasn't sure, didn't know what he wanted. 10 He was very vague and – and I had to do what – to help him as much as I can (UNINTELLIGABLE) friend. Now why did he appointed him I don't know. Why did withdraw his appointment I don't know. Why did he reappoint him again this question which I cannot answer.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- 15 KHOURI: I – I sincerely telling you the truth, I can – and I was questioning his behaviour. Not only him other people who were – who were utilised by Jim to assist him in this (UNINTELLIGABLE).
- STOCKLEY: Who were those people?
- 20 KHOURI: Oh look there's – I – I've mentioned before the Robert Furolo, Robert and – and – and the – the other guy, he's a lawyer.
- STOCKLEY: Bill?
- KHOURI: Bill – Bill, he had unions involved I don't know who's from the union, he had local members involved, he had a lot of people involved including myself.
- 25 BERRY: I'm gonna ask you a question about Gulian Vaccari. Do you know who is Gulian Vaccari? Former Mayor of Strathfield.
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE) no it's not Gulian Vaccari it's John Faker (UNINTELLIGABLE) –
- 30 BERRY: Ah well he might have been Mayor at one stage, but councillor Vaccari do you know him at all?
- KHOURI: No.
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: No, definitely not. Gulian Vaccari what year Simon that he was a Mayor.
- BERRY: In December – November, sorry November '14.
- 35 KHOURI: Gulian Vaccari?
- BERRY: Mm.
- KHOURI: There's no (UNINTELLIGABLE) Vaccari on council.
- STOCKLEY: Actually there is.
- KHOURI: No. It's John Faker.
- 40 BERRY: We know a John Faker.
- KHOURI: No.

BERRY: Do you know a Gulian Vacarri?
KHOURI: No.
BERRY: Councillor?
KHOURI: No. Definitely not.
5 BERRY: That's fine.
KHOURI: Don't tell me there is a SMS between me and him (laughs).
BERRY: Oh.
KHOURI: No I can't (UNINTELLIGABLE) Simon (UNINTELLIGABLE) Vaccari.
BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
10 KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE). There was no Gulian Vaccari as a Mayor of Burwood.
BERRY: Ah I think he was at Strathfield.
KHOURI: Ah, Strathfield maybe. Strathfield.
BERRY: I think I said that didn't I.
15 KHOURI: Yeah you said Burwood that's why you confused me.
BERRY: I apologise.
KHOURI: Yes it's alright. No I don't know Gulian Vaccari. Oh yeah – yeah I kn – I know of him I never met. He's got a pharmacy in Ashfield. He's very – he's in Liberal Party, he's close to a guy called Joe (UNINTELLIGABLE) and the rest of them there and yeah –
20 BERRY: Okay.
KHOURI: - Jimmy Vaccari now I know, yep.
BERRY: Alright that's fine.
KHOURI: Yeah – yep. What Jimmy Vaccari had – has to do with –
25 BERRY: I was just wondering if you spoke to him about Spiro Stavis do you have any recollection of that?
KHOURI: No I (INAUDIBLE) –
BERRY: Do you know if anyone (INAUDIBLE)
KHOURI: Yes – yes I spoke to someone.
30 BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
KHOURI: I spoke to Andrew Bott.
BERRY: How do you spell the surname?
KHOURI: (Spells) B-O double T.
BERRY: Right.

- KHOURI: Andrew was a former Mayor. Vaccari came after Andrew, or before I'm not sure anyway I – I rang Andrew and I said no Andrew, Daniel – Daniel Bott sorry.
- BERRY: Daniel Bott.
- 5 KHOURI: Daniel Bott.
- BERRY: Alright.
- KHOURI: And I said Daniel (UNINTELLIGABLE) because Daniel goes to the same branch that I go to. I said what – what do you think of this guy you hired him there (INAUDIBLE) for a while and he told he's hard worker and he done some good work in the department, this is when Jim asked me to check Simon.
- 10
- BERRY: Okay. It seems to me from my understanding within local government a simple process to a – advertise, interview and appoint a person to a position from the discussions we've had today it seems like every person –
- 15
- KHOURI: And his dog.
- BERRY: - and his dog was involved. Why is this so important?
- KHOURI: Well I tell why, and I just say it before but you didn't pick it up. This council you're talking about the last – which last for three years was a un – or incohesive council with quality of councillors I told you about and a lot of vested interest.
- 20
- BERRY: Because my understanding was Canterbury was booming.
- KHOURI: At that time it's (UNINTELLIGABLE) that was made things boil over is the enormous demand all the Chinese move their money into Canterbury we're talking about big money. They all Chinese buying and it was all selling, but in the midst of that there was a dysfunctional council. The place did not work properly I'm telling you and I know – I know from Jim and I know from the others. And to make things worse we had a Mayor (UNINTELLIGABLE) and I know Brian and I respect Brian but I'm talking about a specific matter (UNINTELLIGABLE) all. Don't misunderstand me. Brian couldn't lead. He couldn't get the caucus together. There were alliances formed which had nothing to do with nothing and you can interpret that the way you want. And local government knew those fights didn't start on the day of appointment if you go back.
- 25
- 30
- 35
- BERRY: So effectively there was a lot of vested interest in getting the right person to –
- KHOURI: No.
- BERRY: - one –
- 40 KHOURI: Yes – yes I tell you in what context.
- BERRY: Yes.
- KHOURI: The fought over swimming pool. There was a project on - there was a war. They fought over a park, they fought about community using a

- bicycle in Gough Whitlam Park. You just have (INAUDIBLE) read the business papers. They fought over everything. There was three division within the Labor Party and the Independents. People never turn up to meeting, they had committees which never attended. They had sub-committees it was almost never met.
- 5 BERRY: So this – this dysfunction –
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- BERRY: - was costing money effectively (INAUDIBLE) –
- 10 KHOURI: It's costing everyone mate I know people who had their DA for over a year and year and a half. Why do you think people come and make enquiries and (UNINTELLIGABLE) –
- BERRY: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- KHOURI: - (UNINTELLIGABLE) that not being serviced properly.
- 15 BERRY: So because of your interaction with the community and knowledge of influential people and you – you know it's fair to say people came and told you these things (INAUDIBLE) –
- KHOURI: Yes – yes of course.
- BERRY: Was there then a vested interest by developers to get what they needed in council to get it functional again?
- 20 KHOURI: Yes absolutely.
- BERRY: And then that lead to a position where Jim Montague and councillors needed to put something in there that was pro development?
- KHOURI: Yes absolutely.
- BERRY: Was Spiro Stavis pro development?
- 25 KHOURI: Well no. Spiro – Spiro was a tough – very tough I had couple of presentation and I've attended (UNINTELLIGABLE) the guy does not shift one millimetre from the due process. You can always ask Charlie Demian he'll tell you. He has not shifted he's pre – he's presentable, he ask for every foreseeable report you can think off to back up his decision.
- 30 KHOURI: From what I saw, and I put my hand on fifty bibles Spiro as a planner was fair and tough. Now you tell me –
- BERRY: Was he much different from Marcello Occhiuzzi though?
- KHOURI: Marcello – I think Spiro was much more experienced.
- BERRY: Was he more effective?
- 35 KHOURI: More effective and more experienced.
- BERRY: Okay.
- KHOURI: And he made decision. He'll tell you go and get me that report otherwise don't waste my time, just go and get it, there's something missing go and get the report.
- 40 BERRY: And if the developer went and did that did the development get through council?

- 5 KHOURI: No it only got through when the developers comply with what – Jim can do nothing to no one. Jim – the best thing can Jim do (UNINTELLIGABLE) Jim set up a meeting for you. You call Jim, you know people call Jim swearing and screaming our DA’s been here for eight months we don’t – haven’t heard you know to give – and Jim would say okay – okay – Jim look is very good at that. Jim would absorb this and say to me, and most of the time he’s present in the meeting, by the way I have never been to many meetings –
- BERRY: That’s okay.
- 10 KHOURI: - (INAUDIBLE).
- BERRY: So –
- 15 KHOURI: Jim to his credit was trying to address, but Jim had a problem and the council had a problem they had a dysfunctional planning department and Jim will admit it you ask him. And what made things worse Simon is in the middle of the boom they had this shit fight sorry excuse the language –
- BERRY: No it’s okay.
- STOCKLEY: It’s okay.
- 20 KHOURI: - and things went on hold for five months.
- BERRY: Well it’s effectively what it is. Yeah.
- KHOURI: Yeah for five months, up to now. Up to now they still processing stuff from two three years ago.
- 25 BERRY: So because of these scenarios and this event it led to, would it be fair to say, a desperation on behalf of developers that were missing out on potentially earning lots of money?
- KHOURI: Ah.
- BERRY: Did that create – because of this – this dysfunction did that create that environment?
- KHOURI: Look money or no money I don’t think it’s question of money because –
- 30 BERRY: Well if they don’t get their developments through quickly it’s gonna cost them money.
- KHOURI: Well exactly.
- BERRY: So it is about money.
- KHOURI: Well that’s what you mean yeah of course – what –
- 35 BERRY: It is about money isn’t it?
- KHOURI: - indirectly yes. But again you can down very easily if – if –
- BERRY: Yeah but this – well either it’s indirectly or directly and then if – if you don’t have a director directing his planning staff and DA’s and buildings are all on hold it’s interest charged, there’s –
- 40 KHOURI: Yes.

- BERRY: - sales not being made.
- KHOURI: Yes – yes.
- BERRY: That had a direct effect.
- KHOURI: Yes absolutely.
- 5 BERRY: The developer then gets upset –
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- BERRY: - he then starts lobbying council –
- KHOURI: That’s right.
- 10 BERRY: Did that create an opportunity to your knowledge for any councillors then to seek corrupt rewards from those developers?
- KHOURI: Oh look it does not give the pressure in relation to delays does not give councillors the power or even the knowledge of – of interfering in the actual planning process. And I tell you what I mean –
- BERRY: No I’m not – not – not –
- 15 KHOURI: - and I tell you – I’ll explain what I mean.
- BERRY: Right.
- KHOURI: If you sit with Pierre, Pierre knows absolutely zero about planning. He doesn’t know the process, well he’s learning, he has no idea.
- BERRY: Right.
- 20 KHOURI: They go and put pressure on Jim. This is where they go the pressure is on Jim.
- BERRY: So Pierre puts pressure on Jim?
- KHOURI: All of them.
- BERRY: All –
- 25 KHOURI: They all ring Jim and on behalf of whoever calls them -
- BERRY: Yep.
- KHOURI: - the pressure. And they complain about the delays and complain about the – the dysfunctioning of the place, and I have to say Simon from what I know there were a lot of changes to the DCP and LEP which was not done appropriately in the right time. Now you ask me give me an example I’ll give you an example the Canterbury Road precinct which was zoned about four five years ago by the previous council. They put eighteen metre and no FSR that means the envelope (UNINTELLIGABLE) whatever you want.
- 30
- 35 BERRY: That’s right yep.
- KHOURI: Although the RMS has a question mark about the traffic on Canterbury Road. No one has bothered to change the, then and there, the LEP to say each building which has no side access must have a back lane, why? For garbage collection, for cars getting –

BERRY: Access.

5 KHOURI: - because Canterbury Road is a nightmare and – and it's just no brainer. And the new council come in he said hang on, under pressure from the committee by the ways there was a lot of uproar in the community. So hang on you know you can't – get in and out of Canterbury, Canterbury's a nightmare. So they come up with this idea of backstreet set back.

BERRY: Who came up with that?

KHOURI: The council.

BERRY: Right.

10 KHOURI: Yeah. And which –

BERRY: When you say the council is it the staff or the councillors?

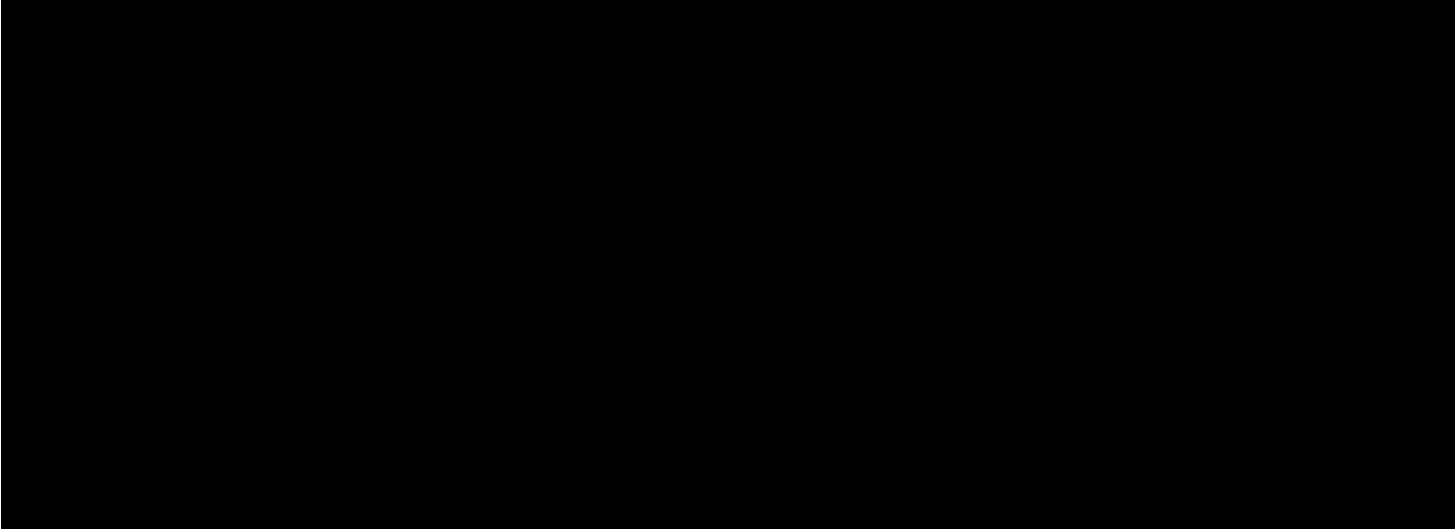
KHOURI: No – no the councillors. Under -

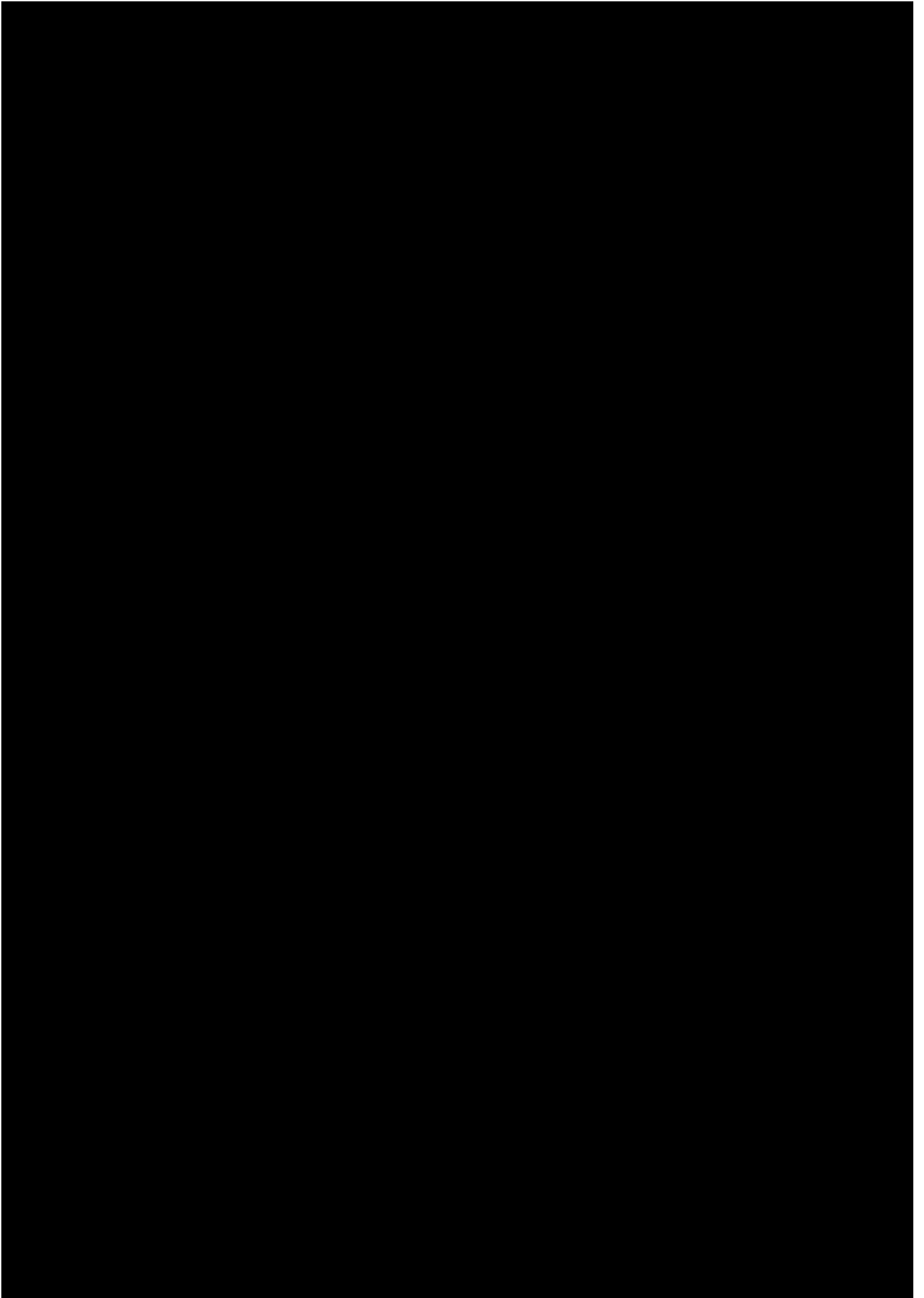
BERRY: And which one in particular?

15 KHOURI: I think Pierre was leading that, Pierre, to come from the back and – and for – to do so you can't go to a developer say look I want five hundred metres from the back thank you very much just put a laneway. Nobody do this under VPA, a voluntary planning agreement. But a voluntary planning agreement is a very long (UNINTELLIGABLE) process, so what that done is there's another instrument in planning called Section
20 4.6 which everyone's up and arm about –

BERRY: Yep.

25 KHOURI: 4.6 had the flexibility to do a trading between the developer and the council in giving a laneway verses equivalent equity in the heights or in the density and they've utilised it. But what amazes me that the planning department approved some under gateway. There were two of them from memory were approved where council said no we can't do it. They went to planning department and gateway approved the – the 4.6. Now what I – what I'm leading to is again where was the planning department I mean where were they? Where were the local government department? There
30 is an absolute disconnection between the arms of the planning, RMS, SRA and the council absolutely no (UNINTELLIGABLE) communication and you can see it it's very clear all along.





- 20 STOCKLEY: Yeah I just wanted to some questions more specifically about Charbel Demian and his developments at Canterbury Council.
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- STOCKLEY: So you've already told us that you have worked for him for a long time –
- KHOURI: Yes.
- 25 STOCKLEY: - and you've got a long business relationship –
- KHOURI: Yes.
- STOCKLEY: - with him. He's paid you a retainer where he's been able to –
- KHOURI: Yes.
- STOCKLEY: - between five and fifteen thousand dollars a month.
- 30 KHOURI: Yeah - yes.
- STOCKLEY: Can you just spell your com – the company name that you –
- KHOURI: K and – and –
- STOCKLEY: And.
- KHOURI: H.
- 35 STOCKLEY: Yep.
- KHOURI: K and H Bech (spells) B-E-C-H.
- STOCKLEY: Oh (UNINTELLIGABLE)

- KHOURI: Pty Ltd.
- STOCKLEY: Yeah I wasn't sure whether -
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- BERRY: - it was the beginning of your name or whether it (INAUDIBLE) yeah -
- 5 KHOURI: That's - that's where invoice -
- STOCKLEY: Yeah, so you - you invoice using that in relation -
- KHOURI: Yes.
- STOCKLEY: - to the work you did for him?
- KHOURI: That's right.
- 10 STOCKLEY: And is the work that you did for him similar to what you have described in previously in terms of sourcing finance or sourcing opportunities -
- KHOURI: (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- STOCKLEY: - that - example you gave before.
- KHOURI: Yes employment, I got him a project manager -
- 15 STOCKLEY: Yep.
- KHOURI: - for one job.
- STOCKLEY: Yep.
- KHOURI: I got him a brick layer, I got him a window subcontractors -
- STOCKLEY: Yep.
- 20 KHOURI: I - I go to site and visit site with him without him to get a report. Now I'm doing two big things, one of them is I said to you -
- STOCKLEY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - the modular (UNINTELLIGABLE) -
- STOCKLEY: Yeah that modular homes.
- 25 KHOURI: And the finance - the construction finance the banks are being very difficult at the moment. I do a lot of work for Charlie -
- STOCKLEY: Yeah so -
- KHOURI: - and you know what? Pays me or not pay me I don't ask because I know he's cash strapped -
- 30 STOCKLEY: Yep.
- KHOURI: - and he has been for a while he's still -
- STOCKLEY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - he's still suffering from seven years ago.
- STOCKLEY: Yeah.

- KHOURI: He's got a lot of land holding, but no cash flow. So he's waiting to settle couple of – couple of them now I think he finished them.
- 5 STOCKLEY: So during – during this time period where you say that council was very dysfunctional and their planning area was very dysfunctional Charlie had a few big DA's before Canterbury Council.
- KHOURI: He only have – had one DA the rest were –
- STOCKLEY: (INAUDIBLE) that Harrisons?
- KHOURI: Yeah, the rest were rezoning.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- 10 KHOURI: Yeah.
- STOCKLEY: Planning proposals –
- KHOURI: He had a site called The Sandler site on Canterbury Road just further –
- STOCKLEY: Yes.
- KHOURI: - down in Belmore.
- 15 STOCKLEY: Yep.
- KHOURI: And that has – it's very controversial because the resident around it are up in arm.
- STOCKLEY: Yeah. (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- 20 KHOURI: He has a site further down on Canterbury Road toward Lakemba on the left hand side before you get to McDonald –
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- KHOURI: - there's a small block there it's not very big.
- STOCKLEY: Yep.
- 25 KHOURI: Again that does not need rezoning so I think he'll be lodging (UNINTELLIGABLE). He has a site, he's got one two three four site in Canterbury. He has a site next to the Harrison which he –
- STOCKLEY: There was an old carpet shop.
- KHOURI: Yes –
- STOCKLEY: Yeah.
- 30 KHOURI: - he got approved by gateway from –
- STOCKLEY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - from memory.
- STOCKLEY: Yep.
- 35 KHOURI: Now I know that for a fact. Now I don't do his planning because he's got –
- STOCKLEY: Yeah sure.
- KHOURI: - he's got some top notch planners in his office (UNINTELLIGABLE) –

- STOCKLEY: I understand. So though at that time there – there was a lot of delay and dysfunction going on in council was that something that Charbel Demian had frustrations about?
- 5 KHOURI: He has, he told me that he doesn't like Spiro he's – he's very tough, he's making it difficult he keep flipping and changing his mind about the – the m – the plans he – Charlie told me that.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- KHOURI: I remember very well.
- 10 STOCKLEY: Did he ever ask you to speak to anybody on his behalf about these delays or problems he was experiencing?
- KHOURI: Charlie always called Jim he's got direct access (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- STOCKLEY: What's Charlie's relationship with Jim like?
- KHOURI: Oh just professional, I think he – he rings him when he's got problems.
- STOCKLEY: Would you say Jim's supportive of Charlie's developments generally?
- 15 KHOURI: Look – look Jim is – is pro development, but not necessarily Charlie's.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- KHOURI: And I know – and I know, and I heard from Charlie in one incident where Spiro just walk – stood and walk out of the meeting with Charlie. That's what I said from the beginning Spiro takes no crap from no one. I saw it in the presentation and I think it's (UNINTELLIGABLE) professional. There was one meeting I went to with Charlie in relation to Sandler because he had – he wanted a witness in the meeting. (UNINTELLIGABLE) Spiro. And obviously there were a lot of the diff – differences between the way Charlie see the implantation of the
- 20 planning and Spiro there is always – so there was a long list of things Charlie need to go and change the plan and come back with it. That was very clear to me. And I said to Charlie I said make – make sense I mean why are you arguing for go and do it. At least he telling him he's honest opinion. You see that's the thing some council you put the – lodge an
- 25 application Simon, any small mistake rejected you go (UNINTELLIGABLE). Canterbury to their credit and Jim play a very positive role in that – that he gives (UNINTELLIGABLE) another chance. Look I mean if you done something wrong fix it, repair it and re-lodge it again.
- 30
- 35 STOCKLEY: So there's a lot more consultation in the process.
- KHOURI: More consultation that's the point. Jim is very big on consultation.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- 40 STOCKLEY: So in – so generally if Charlie had a problem with Spiro or the way that his matters were progressing he would contact Jim directly –
- KHOURI: Absolutely.
- STOCKLEY: - (INAUDIBLE) involve yourself.

- KHOURI: Absolutely.
- STOCKLEY: Did – did Charlie ever go over to Pierre Azzi’s house?
- KHOURI: Yeah I saw Charlie there –
- STOCKLEY: Socialise?
- 5 KHOURI: - and I –
- STOCKLEY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: - for a barbeque, there was a big barbeque at char – he – he – he knew Charlie again from the church they’re both Maronite’s.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- 10 KHOURI: And the Bishop was there. The Maronite Bishop was there so there is that relationship.
- STOCKLEY: Does Jim go to Pierre’s house for barbeques? I think you mentioned before that he (INAUDIBLE) –
- KHOURI: He - yeah he does go there.
- 15 STOCKLEY: Have Jim and –
- KHOURI: After they made (UNINTELLIGABLE)
- STOCKLEY: Sure. D - has Jim every been at Azzi’s barbeques at the same time as Charlie?
- KHOURI: Yes.
- 20 STOCKLEY: So –
- KHOURI: Yes I saw Charlie there as well yeah.
- STOCKLEY: Yep.
- KHOURI: Yeah.
- STOCKLEY: At these barbeques then if there’ sort of there’s councillors or council staff and – and also developers attending.
- 25 KHOURI: There is councillors.
- STOCKLEY: Ehm.
- KHOURI: Pierre is a councillor. Council staff, I haven’t see any council staff. No – no I have to (UNINTELLIGABLE) there was a barbeque where Spiro was there.
- 30 STOCKLEY: Yeah.
- KHOURI: Spiro and Jim together they came.
- STOCKLEY: Okay.
- 35 KHOURI: I must say the most of the conversation – conversation for the last at least one year or even before was over amalgamation. Everyone was – see the amalgamation it made things worse. So they were – they were – they were – the main discussion is the amalgamation and the politics of the amalgamation and the politics of the amalgamation because as I said to

you before the – the boundaries have changed and you could be a councillor in Roselands, but because of the change of boundary you're no longer in Roseland you've been pushed some – this way –

STOCKLEY: Yeah.

5 KHOURI: - or that way. So it has changed the demographic as far as the (UNINTELLIGABLE) concerned.

STOCKLEY: At those barbeques were – were you ever present when Charlie Demian had conversations with either Montague or Spiro Stavis about his planning matters, his development matters?

10 KHOURI: I honestly don't even recall I'll be lying if I tell you –

STOCKLEY: Okay.

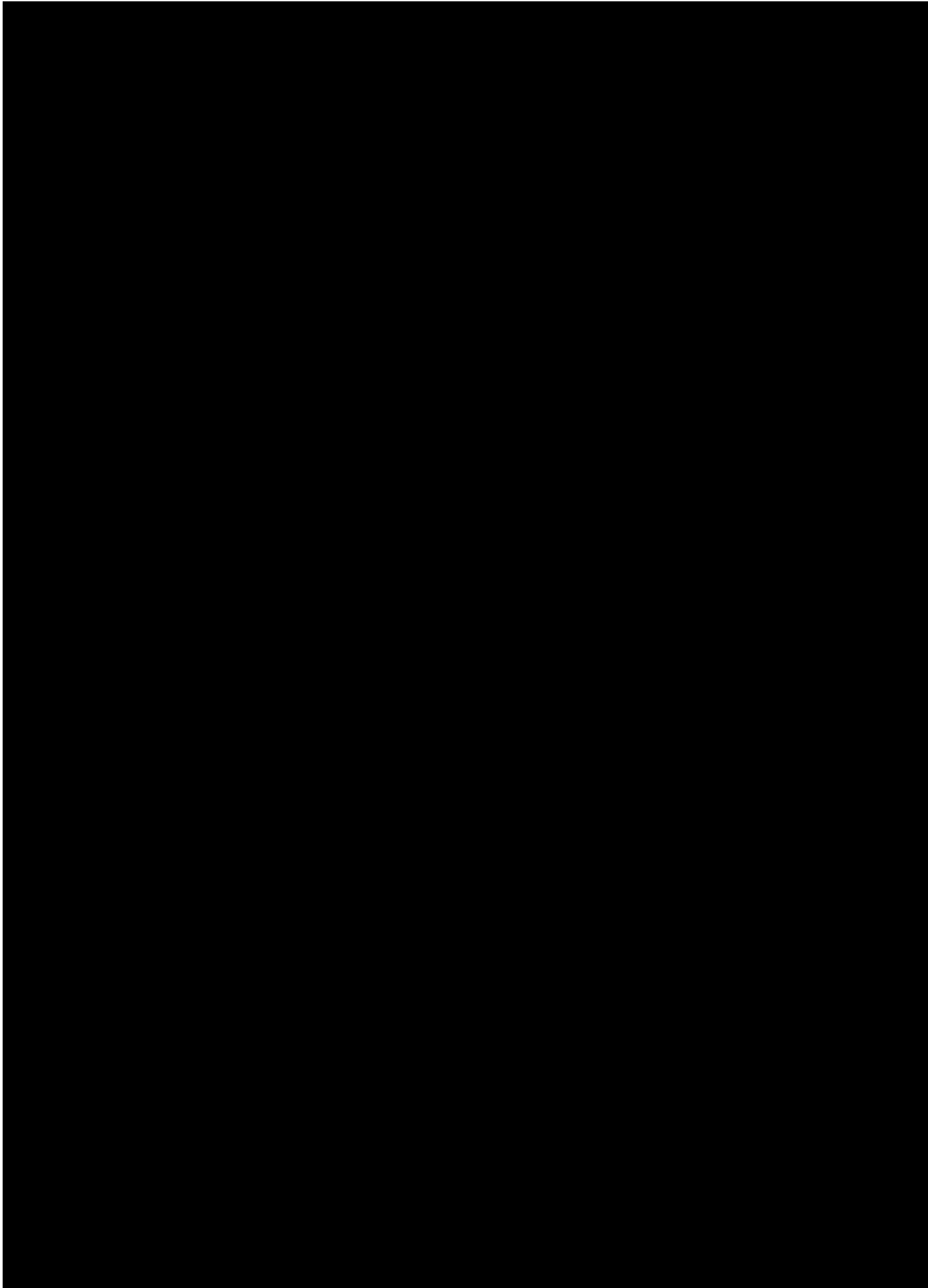
KHOURI: - I – but Jim does not – does refuse to talk about business council that's his policy.

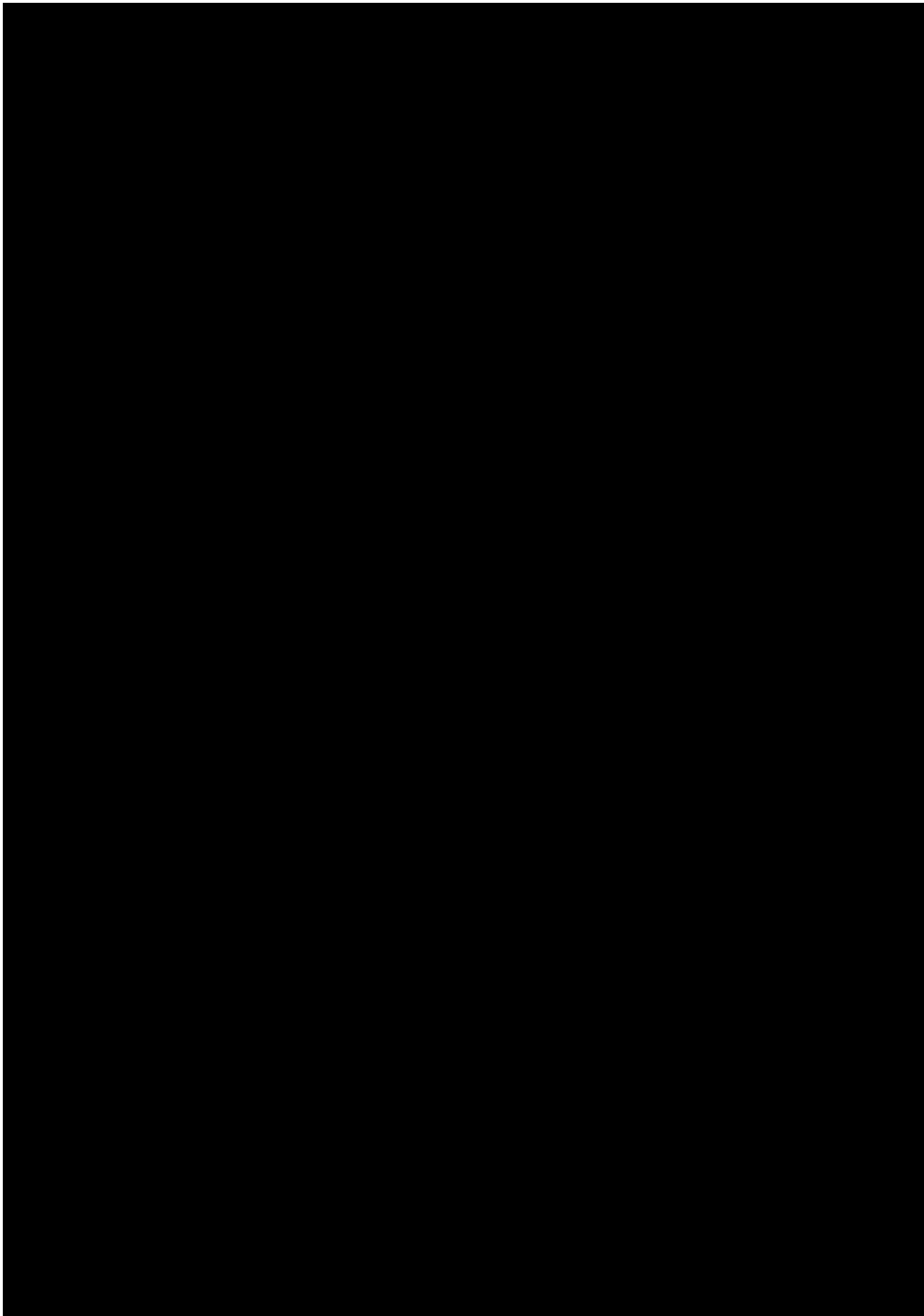
STOCKLEY: What at social events?

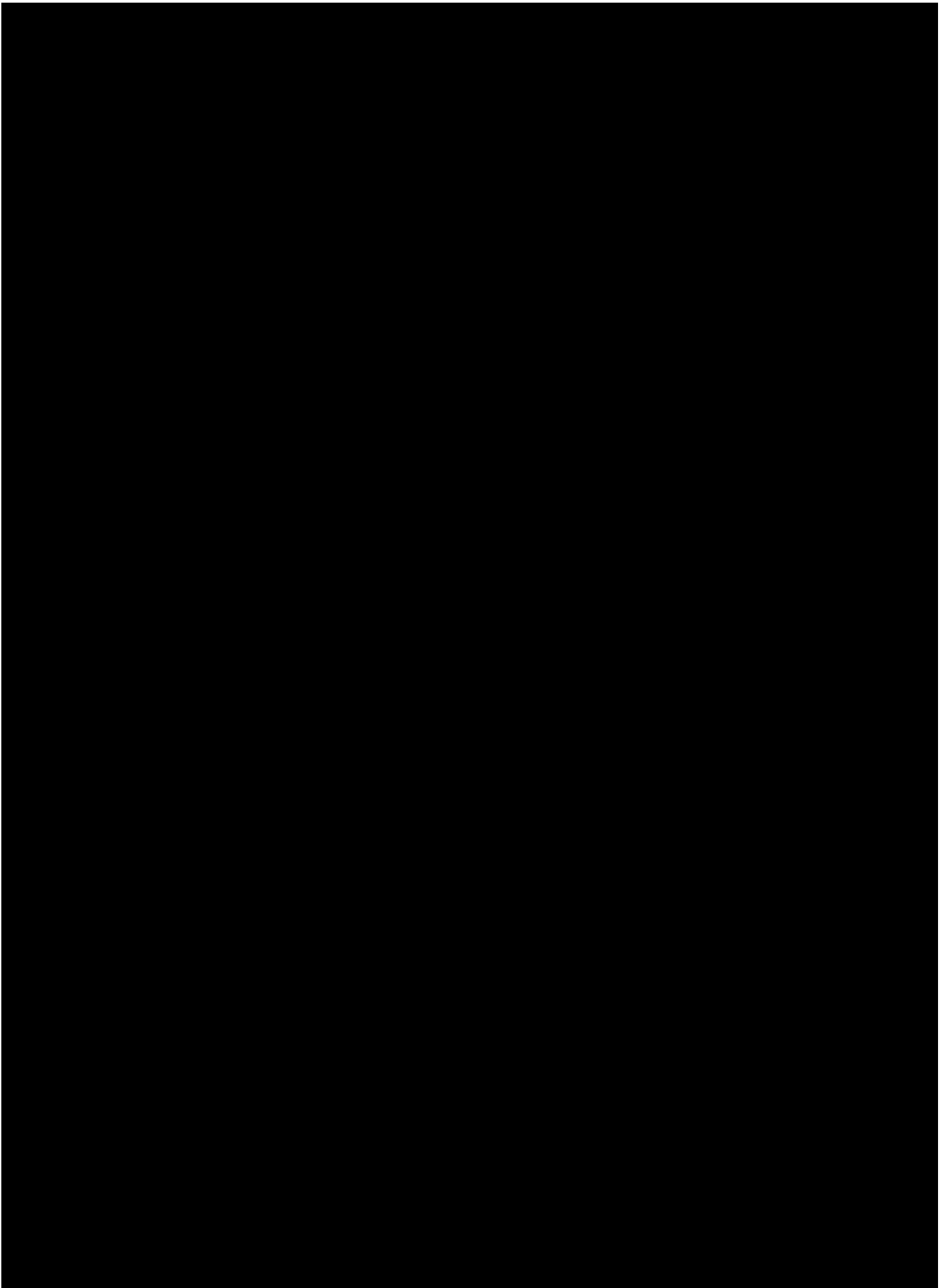
15 KHOURI: Yeah, oh you would – you would ask him look I want to see you about a matter and he would talk you about it, but he will refuse to discuss anything.

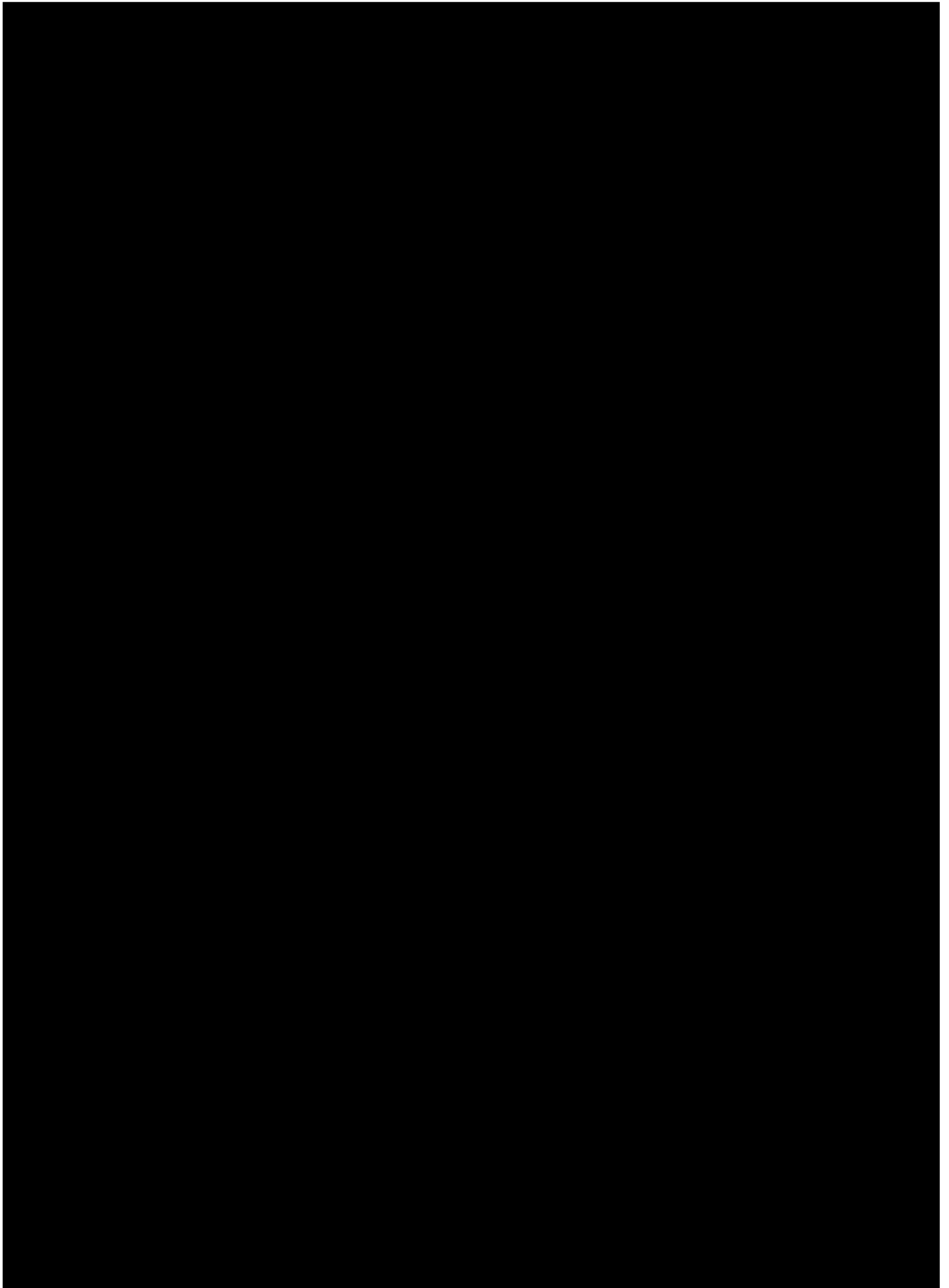
STOCKLEY: Okay.

KHOURI: That's his – that's his stand he always did that.









[REDACTED]

5 KHOURI: Mate I honestly done my best, my memory is you know we got Alzheimers in the family so I'm not using it as a excuse, my mother died as a result of that. It was a very tough and confusing and stressful time people were calling people and shit was happening but I maintain the objective of the truth and I told you as much as I thought was the situation.

BERRY: Well I think we've covered a lot today.

10 KHOURI: Yes.

BERRY: And some broad and some direct.

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: I don't want to push it any further now we've – I note that've nearly been two hours –

15 KHOURI: I'm happy to stay –

BERRY: No – no its fine.

KHOURI: - as long as you want.

BERRY: I think we've covered enough for now if I need to get in contact with you later I –

20 KHOURI: Please call me.

BERRY: I'll do that.

KHOURI: And my apology I couldn't remember some of the SMS's.

BERRY: Okay.

KHOURI: And –

25 BERRY: Well that was the purpose to show you (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: Yes I'm glad you did.

BERRY: Test – test your memory and then show you (INAUDIBLE) –

KHOURI: I'm glad you did, look it was a – it was a bad – bad situation and I've been thrown in it like it or not.

30 BERRY: That's fine.

KHOURI: Jim is a friend of mine I would not abandon him I – I did stick by him and I copped a lot of flack and he will tell you I mean you can ask him.

BERRY: Well I – I don't intend on asking you anything further now so what I intend to do now is to terminate the interview, just before I do do that

35 have everything you've answered today been of your own free will?

KHOURI: Absolutely.

BERRY: To the best of your knowledge and belief?

KHOURI: Best of my knowledge.

BERRY: Alright so the time is now one – ah two minutes past one in the afternoon
–

KHOURI: Yeah.

BERRY: - and I'll stop the interview.

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END OF INTERVIEW