

# **EXHIBIT 8**

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## **Transcript of Interview of Current Staffer 3**

Review No. 21-6998

October 28, 2021

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS OF THE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Interview of CURRENT STAFFER 3  
Conducted Virtually  
October 28, 2021  
OCE Review Number 21-6998  
10:01 a.m. EST

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Transcript of Interview of Current Staffer 3

Conducted on October 28, 2021

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1 Interview of CURRENT STAFFER 3, conducted  
2 virtually.

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7 Pursuant to agreement, before Shaylah Lynn  
8 Kiser, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of  
9 Virginia.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF HOUSE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. HENLEY: Ready to go. Mr. Quinn?

3 MR. QUINN: Great. Yes, so just quickly  
4 for the record first I'll say that today is  
5 October 28th, 2021 and we're conducting the  
6 interview of Current Staffer 3 by Zoom. [Current  
7 Staffer 3]'s not represented today. Speaking is  
8 Sean Quinn. I'm investigative counsel at the  
9 Office of Congressional Ethics. And I'm also here  
10 with Helen Eisner, who's Deputy Chief Counsel at  
11 the OCE. The witness has been given a copy of 18  
12 USC 1001 and has also signed the acknowledgment.

13 And, Current Staffer 3, as I said earlier,  
14 thanks a lot for your time this morning, really  
15 appreciate it. And then also for all the work  
16 and time you spent collecting documents for us.  
17 It's extremely helpful.

18 And as I mentioned also earlier, happy to  
19 take a break whenever you want, just let me know.  
20 And then also if at any point in the interview  
21 you've got any questions or if you don't understand  
22 one of my questions or just need me to reword

1 something, I'm always happy to do that.

2 CURRENT STAFFER 3: Okay. Thank you.

3 BY MR. QUINN:

4 Q So the first thing I just wanted to start  
5 with, you sent me an e-mail this morning and  
6 mentioned that you were doing some preparation for  
7 the interview. And I just kind of wanted to ask  
8 what sort of documents did you review, what sort of  
9 preparation did you do for today?

10 A Okay. I just looked over the -- what do  
11 you call it, the request for information that you'd  
12 sent over back in September. As well as my response  
13 and -- and the thing -- some of the files that I  
14 sent you kind of thing. I just sort of printed some  
15 stuff out because I wasn't sure how this process all  
16 worked and I'm at home and because I was -- I -- I  
17 don't have a -- a place on The Hill that I could do  
18 this and since we're in session, I figured it would  
19 be better to do it at home. So I just printed some  
20 of the documents off, not all of them, of course.  
21 Just to be able to have reference to, because I  
22 don't know how this is all going to, you know, how



1 we're going to look at things, so.

2 Q Okay. Great. Well, just to reassure  
3 you, anything that we need to look at I'll have and  
4 we can pull up on the screen.

5 A Okay.

6 Q So that shouldn't be a problem. But then  
7 also before we sort of dive -- dive into questions  
8 or talking about substantive issues, I just wanted  
9 to give you an opportunity. If there's anything in  
10 particular that you wanted to talk about today or  
11 that you had prepared for in particular, I'm happy  
12 to have you flag those issues and -- and -- and make  
13 sure that I'm addressing any concerns that -- that  
14 you might have independently.

15 A I don't have any I can think of, Sean. I  
16 presume this interview is specifically geared toward  
17 the request for information for the -- what you sent  
18 me in September, correct?

19 Q Correct. Yes.

20 A Because I'm not -- because I -- I knew  
21 what the other request for November that you all did  
22 and I provided some stuff to the staff for that at

1 that time. But I was not interviewed for that, so  
2 I'm just trying to keep this straight in my head so  
3 I know where we're going with this -- with all this  
4 kind of thing.

5 Q Sure. Yeah, we will mostly talk about  
6 the documents that you've produced over the last  
7 month or so. I might have a few questions for you  
8 just kind of about how you were involved in the  
9 first review.

10 A Uh-huh.

11 Q But, you know, if -- if there's something  
12 you can't recall or -- or anything like that,  
13 just -- just let me know and we can -- we can deal  
14 with that. But --

15 A -- okay. Thanks.

16 Q Okay. Well, then if you didn't have  
17 anything for me, I -- I think I'll start with just a  
18 little bit of background information. If you can  
19 tell me what your position with the House is and  
20 then just describe your duties generally.

21 A My position with the House is that I'm an  
22 office and financial administrator for eight members

1 of congress. Mr. Mooney being one of them. And  
2 I've been working there since 1995, been doing  
3 shared offices since 1996, '97, I believe, kind of  
4 thing. I handle -- some offices I just handle  
5 financial things for. Others I do a little bit more  
6 for. Office administration being -- managing the  
7 office sort of interacting more also with the  
8 district office staff. Making sure all of our  
9 systems are working properly and things like that.  
10 Financially, I'm overseeing the budget, processing  
11 invoices, expense reports, payroll stuff, all that  
12 kind of thing, so. And then interact with the  
13 member and chief of staff heavily in regards to the  
14 financial matters.

15 Q And for Representative Mooney's office,  
16 do you just handle financial matters or do you have  
17 one of those expanded roles?

18 A I have an expanded role now. I was --  
19 back in '17 -- let's see, '17 -- I -- I didn't start  
20 the expanded role till 2020 with them. They had  
21 another person on board who their scheduler, Anita  
22 Itnire (phonetic), I believe at the time, she was

1 doing more of the office administration stuff and  
2 then she and her husband moved away and so I took on  
3 some other -- I took on some of the other  
4 responsibilities.

5 Q Okay. And -- and what were those  
6 responsibilities?

7 A Ordering business cards, letterhead,  
8 stationary. Making sure supplies in the office were  
9 stocked up, interacting with the district to make  
10 sure their things like their computers and monitor,  
11 you know, printers and things were working properly  
12 and if not, get them in contact with the techs to  
13 make sure that things got resolved also. Looking at  
14 inventory and making sure the inventory was correct  
15 and things like that.

16 Q Okay. And in addition to, you know,  
17 processing and helping the office with the actual  
18 forms for, like, finance-related forms, do you also  
19 provide guidance on MRA spending and -- and  
20 guidelines related to that sort of spending?

21 A Yes, I do. Yeah, to the staff and if  
22 needed to the member. That is part of my role is

1 knowing the rules and regulations of the Committee  
2 on House Administration and House Finance, things  
3 like that, and communicating those to staff on a  
4 regular basis.

5 MR. QUINN: Looks like Helen has a  
6 question for you.

7 MS. EISNER: Yeah, if I could just jump  
8 in. Two general questions along those lines. When  
9 you perform your work, approximately how many hours  
10 a week are you working for Representative Mooney;  
11 and when you're performing the work, is that  
12 physically within Representative Mooney's office or  
13 do you do that from a separate office space?

14 A Hours per week. Hmm. Sometimes it might  
15 be two or three. Other times it could be four to  
16 six kind of thing. It depends on what's going on.  
17 Especially if they have a new staffer coming on  
18 board and we have to coordinate getting their log-in  
19 created, their e-mail, you know, their cell phone  
20 ordered and equipment and various other things. I  
21 perform a lot of duties remotely or from another  
22 office. Mr. Brushaun (phonetic) gives me a space in

1 their office in Rayburn where I perform a lot of my  
2 duties from -- for all of my offices. And -- but I  
3 also do a lot of things here from home as well, so.

4 MS. EISNER: Okay. How often -- and  
5 understanding that COVID of course has affected  
6 this, but how often are you typically in the office  
7 itself? In Representative Mooney's --

8 A -- in Mr. Mooney's office?

9 MS. EISNER: Yes.

10 A I'm -- I'm usually there a couple --  
11 maybe two, three times a week stopping by,  
12 handing -- right now the process for the way we  
13 process vouchers, Mike, our chief of staff,  
14 reviews -- I prepare the -- I prepare the vouchers  
15 for review for him, give them to him, and he will  
16 review them, sign them, and give them back to me.  
17 So many times I'm dropping by the office early in  
18 the morning, leaving stuff for him, and then I might  
19 swing by again, pick them up and/or spend some time  
20 talking to staff, making sure things are going right  
21 and stuff like that.

22 MS. EISNER: Okay. And you mentioned

1 Mike. Who is the person that you get direction from  
2 or directly report to with regards to those  
3 responsibilities in Representative Mooney's office?

4 A That would be Michael Huff, our chief of  
5 staff.

6 MS. EISNER: Okay. Go ahead, Sean.

7 BY MR. QUINN:

8 Q You mention -- so you report to Michael  
9 Huff in Representative Mooney's office. Do you have  
10 other kind of primary points of contact or people  
11 that you work with frequently?

12 A Hmm. Well, I mean, Meg Wagner is now the  
13 scheduler director of operations that I sort of  
14 interact with. [Former Staffer 1] was our district director  
15 and we currently don't have one. So I'm in contact  
16 with Gene Potter in the -- in our Charleston office  
17 and [Current Staffer 2] in our Martinsburg office from  
18 time to time, but that's not often kind of thing. More  
19 often than not it's me reaching out to them to see  
20 how things are going and stuff like that, so.

21 Q Okay. And then I don't know if you  
22 mentioned the -- the specific date, but when did you

1 start in Representative Mooney's office?

2 A Don't remember the specific date. I know  
3 it's June of 2017, I believe. Yeah. I'd have to  
4 look that up.

5 Q Yeah, that's -- I think that's close  
6 enough for our purposes.

7 A I think it's the -- I think it was the  
8 middle to end of the month. Like, I sort of  
9 remember that.

10 Q Okay. And then also how -- how do you  
11 come to be assigned to Representative Mooney's  
12 office? Do you have any say in that process?

13 A Oh, sure. I have a say in all my  
14 office's processes. But the way I came to Mr.  
15 Mooney's office was Margaret Weatherald (phonetic)  
16 at the time, who was doing financial stuff, she and  
17 I did a swap of some offices because she need -- she  
18 was going -- I was working for the House Ag  
19 Committee and Representative Conway at the time from  
20 Texas. The Ag Committee wanted her doing more for  
21 them and so we did -- we met and we decided -- and  
22 Michael Huff was coming on board as the chief. So



1 we sort of did a swap of offices, really kind of  
2 thing, where, you know, I came on board with the  
3 Mooney office because Margaret was leaving and she  
4 was going on to the Ag Committee, which I had in  
5 Mr. Conway's office, so.

6 Q Okay. That makes sense. Then let's talk  
7 first about just some of your experiences in dealing  
8 with Representative Mooney and his office and -- and  
9 how you've interacted with them, as -- as you've  
10 worked on the -- these finance issues for them. The  
11 first thing I want to ask generally is as compared  
12 to other members that you work for, are there any  
13 kind of irregularities or issues that you come up  
14 against a lot in Representative Mooney's office  
15 that, you know, as I said, are not, you know, common  
16 in other member's offices? Anything that stands out  
17 in your mind? And we'll go through and get more  
18 specific --

19 A -- yeah.

20 Q -- but just as a general matter?

21 A Yeah, just as a general matter. Every --  
22 I have to preface this by every congressional office

1 has its own unique dynamic as well as leadership and  
2 feel kind of thing. I -- it's not the right word I  
3 want to use, but the Mooney office not over -- I  
4 mean, they -- the only thing I would say is  
5 sometimes they're not really a -- sometimes I -- I  
6 get the feeling they -- they don't -- not really a  
7 team at times. They -- they don't really interact  
8 as a -- as a well functioning team like some of my  
9 other offices do. But that's kind of part of their  
10 leadership and part of other things I guess, so.  
11 But overall, no. I mean, not really.

12 Q How would you describe let's take  
13 Representative Mooney specifically, and then  
14 generally you can comment on the office.

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q On his understanding of regulations  
17 related to MRA spending?

18 A Well, I think --

19 Q -- strong understanding, weak  
20 understanding?

21 A I would say it's semi strong but yet at  
22 the same time, like other members I have, he doesn't

1 remember certain details about things. And so, you  
2 know -- you know, it is what it is. Yeah. I -- I  
3 know that if he goes and travels, I pretty much am  
4 going to be taking a hard look at his lodging and  
5 his meal receipts and then we're going to sit down  
6 and we're going to talk about them. And that has  
7 become a regular situation that I know about. That,  
8 you know, Boss, which ones of these are, you know,  
9 the family and which ones of these are yours.

10 Q And so is that -- that's a recurring  
11 issue, the line between spending for Representative  
12 Mooney versus his family?

13 A At various times, yes. Uh-huh.

14 Q Are there any particular incidents that  
15 stand out in your mind that, you know, that reflect  
16 that -- that concern?

17 A Well, I think one of those was the  
18 examples that I sent to you all for the January 2020  
19 situation. I believe it was the Greenbrier, that,  
20 you know, it came back with a bunch of meals on it  
21 and I needed to find out -- I mean, the finance  
22 office requires that we have detailed receipts for

1 the meals. And so we contacted the Greenbrier, I  
2 got them. There's a lot of food on there and so I  
3 had to sit down with him and say, look, you know,  
4 which -- which meals are yours. And, you know.

5 Q And in that case it turned out that --  
6 that some of the meals were meals associated with  
7 spending for Representative Mooney's family as  
8 opposed to for --

9 A -- yes.

10 Q -- Representative Mooney himself?

11 A Correct, uh-huh.

12 MS. EISNER: Sean, if I could jump in.

13 MR. QUINN: Go ahead.

14 MS. EISNER: When -- when you have those  
15 types of conversations, when you're talking about  
16 MRA spending and the -- the distinction between  
17 travel involving family or not involving family,  
18 what is the congressman's reaction when you have  
19 that conversation?

20 A Well, in that particular instance, Helen,  
21 I didn't have the conversation with him. I told the  
22 scheduler and Mike, our chief of staff, I said

1 clearly there's more -- there's more meals here than  
2 for just the congressman, so I need to know which  
3 ones are his and which ones are family's, and the  
4 family's he'll have to pay for. And then Mike,  
5 some -- Mike or the scheduler usually take care of  
6 that.

7 Now, let's see. Another instance  
8 could be -- no, Mike took care of that one, too.  
9 The last trip in August of this year when he went  
10 to -- I forget the name of the place when he was  
11 traveling. And I know it was in Charleston and -- I  
12 believe, and, you know, I also saw several meals  
13 there and I asked Mike, you know, here was another  
14 situation, so. And if I see the congressman, you  
15 know, he'll say, oh, yeah, those are some of my  
16 family's and, you know, I need to pay for those.  
17 And I go okay, yeah. I don't have any --

18 MS. EISNER: -- okay.

19 A -- confrontation or anything with him,  
20 no, in any way, shape, or form.

21 MS. EISNER: And what about as far as  
22 what you're hearing from Mike or other staffers

1 about his reaction to that tip of direction?

2 A Hmm. I don't recall any reactions they  
3 gave me. Other than, you know, okay, we'll take  
4 care of it kind of thing, so.

5 MS. EISNER: Okay.

6 BY MR. QUINN:

7 Q Is the -- the early August trip that you  
8 mentioned, is that the -- the one also related to a  
9 visit to Blennerhassett Island that was discussed?

10 A Yes, I think so.

11 Q Okay. We'll come back to that in a  
12 little bit and we can talk about that in a little  
13 more detail.

14 A Sure.

15 Q I wanted to look quickly at one  
16 document -- so I know you produced to us a lot of  
17 documents. We've had some other witnesses produce  
18 documents as well. And I'm going to have Carlos  
19 pull up tab one. I don't believe this is an e-mail  
20 that you produced to us, but another witness shared  
21 it with us and -- and you're on the e-mail chain,  
22 and I just kind of wanted to look at it and -- and

1 get your reaction to the e-mail and have you  
2 contextualize it for us a little bit.

3 A Okay.

4 Q And, Carlos, when the document comes up,  
5 you can mark that as Exhibit A. And you can give  
6 Current Staffer 3 control of the document so he can  
7 look at it.

8 So, Current Staffer 3, I think --  
9 oop, it disappeared.

10 A Yep. Saw something quick but that was  
11 about it.

12 There we go.

13 Q There you go. And you should, Current  
14 Staffer 3, I think Carlos can give you control so  
15 that you can scroll through the document. And if  
16 you want to take a minute and just look at that  
17 and familiarize yourself with it.

18 A Scrolling seems to be acting weird, but  
19 okay.

20 Oh, yes. I remember this one. I  
21 remember this e-mail, yep.

22 Q So -- so just quickly, just for the

1 record, I'll identify the document we're marking as  
2 Exhibit A, and this is an e-mail chain between you  
3 and [Former Staffer 2] on February 5th, 2021. Can  
4 you -- why don't we just start generally. Can you  
5 tell me what you remember about this e-mail and  
6 conversation?

7 A Sure. [Former Staffer 2] had sent me  
8 an e-mail about a flight that she had booked to  
9 Florida, which immediately raises flags because of  
10 it being out-of-state travel. Any out-of-state  
11 travel has to be totally official and has to be  
12 documented carefully. And I'm a stickler on that.  
13 And then -- and apparently it was for a -- if I  
14 recall correctly, this was an NRC or RNC or GOP  
15 caucus or -- no, this was a GOP caucus retreat  
16 down in Florida. That was February of this year.  
17 That was the GOP caucus retreat. And so that's  
18 totally political and that can't be paid for by  
19 MRA funds. So.

20 Q And the e-mail, if you scroll down a  
21 little, references HFC. Do you know -- do you  
22 recall what HFC is?



1           A     Did I or [Former Staffer 2] say that?  
2     (Speaking under breath.) I'm going to have to --  
3     I'm going to have to zoom in a bit. Being 60 and  
4     wearing progressives. Print has to be bigger.  
5     HF -- oh, the HFC retreat. That's House Freedom  
6     Caucus.

7           Q     Okay. And then -- oh, sorry, go ahead.

8           A     That's fine. That's clearly a political  
9     situation.

10          Q     And then I wanted to focus on if you  
11     scroll up to page two, which is --

12          A     -- where I'm replying or where she's  
13     replying?

14          Q     At the top and then it's at the bottom of  
15     page one as well. Yeah, if you could -- right  
16     there.

17          A     Okay.

18          Q     So -- so there's -- there's an e-mail  
19     from [Former Staffer 2] to you where she says the  
20     congressman told me to use official funds and to  
21     not check with you prior, so that's my reason for  
22     not asking you at this time. And then you responded

1 and you said, I'll discuss when I come today, this  
2 bothers me.

3 And can you just add a little context  
4 for that for me? It's probably obvious, but what  
5 bothered you about that?

6 A Well, what bothered me is that the  
7 congressman told me not to ask me about -- not ask  
8 me about it kind of thing. So.

9 Q And did -- and did [Former Staffer 2]  
10 explain that to you at all when you -- when you met  
11 with her? Why would the congressman do that?

12 A I don't -- let's see. I sort of recall  
13 the situation. I -- I believed he was trying to  
14 make sure it got paid for with MRA funds rather  
15 than, you know, his other type of funds. And he  
16 probably, you know, he was probably -- want -- he  
17 probably knew the answer that I would say but didn't  
18 want to hear it at the time, to be quite honest.

19 Q And -- and do you recall what -- what  
20 unfolded after this? Did the -- because it appears  
21 that it was -- that the flight was paid for with  
22 official -- with the official travel card. But then

1 obviously you didn't approve of that, that  
2 expenditure.

3 A Oh.

4 Q Do you know how that was resolved?

5 A I'd have to go back on the CitiBank, but  
6 I believe -- I believe [Former Staffer 2] changed  
7 the form of payment to campaign or private, I don't  
8 know which because I don't get involved in those.  
9 But then a refund came through on the CitiBank.  
10 But I'd have to go back and take a look at the  
11 CitiBank statements. I don't -- I don't -- I  
12 don't recall vouchering that in any way, shape,  
13 or form.

14 Q Okay. It -- it -- was this something  
15 that had happened before? Had you ever detected  
16 that the congressman was trying to circumvent you or  
17 prevent you from seeing expenditures that were being  
18 made with the MRA?

19 A I think there were a few times. I can't  
20 cite specific ones at the moment. I mean, over the  
21 years, yes. There's been times that he's wanted to  
22 pay for something, pay for mileage or pay for other

1 things where he would go either in the district or  
2 outside of the district and probably knows that I'm  
3 not going to budge on certain things. And because  
4 that's how I am. As I've told him quite --

5 Q -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

6 A -- directly, as I've told most of my  
7 congressmen directly, my reputation is -- is mine,  
8 and I have to preserve that, so.

9 Q Understood.

10 Carlos, you can take down this  
11 exhibit, actually.

12 And then while Carlos is doing that,  
13 is -- is your sense that the congressman is doing  
14 this because he disagrees with an interpretation of  
15 MRA spending regulations? Or do you think that he  
16 is just disregarding the regulation and thinks that  
17 he can get away with the spending?

18 A Hmm. Not sure which. Not -- and  
19 probably a little bit of both, I think, sometimes.  
20 Yeah, I guess he just doesn't either remember or  
21 cares not to remember. And, therefore, but, you  
22 know, I remember that one instance did bother me

1 more because it was, like, you know, look, this is  
2 clearly a political event and it is not  
3 congressional even though I know they get it  
4 sometimes -- members sometimes confuse the line  
5 between a caucus and what they are doing officially  
6 as -- as congressional work.

7 MS. EISNER: Did the conversation --  
8 you -- you mentioned how you talked to the  
9 congressmen, you've talked to many of the members  
10 you work for and directly said that your reputation  
11 is on the line as well for these types of  
12 expenditures. That conversation that you had with  
13 Representative Mooney, did that precede this  
14 incident?

15 A No. That was many years ago when he  
16 came -- when I came on board. The congressman and I  
17 sort of -- that was back in seven -- yeah, 2017, and  
18 it was in front of several staff that he was  
19 challenging me on something as far as, you know,  
20 mileage and stuff. He was saying, if I recall  
21 correctly, saying, like, well, I want to make sure  
22 that I do this right and, you know, and you better

1 tell me when I'm not. And I told him quite  
2 directly, I said, I have no problem with that, sir.  
3 I've been here longer than you have and I will.

4 MS. EISNER: Okay.

5 BY MR. QUINN:

6 Q Just in -- in another effort to kind of  
7 understand the process a little bit, Carlos, if you  
8 can pull up tab two and then you can mark that as  
9 Exhibit B.

10 MR. HENLEY: We're ready to go.

11 Q Sure. And then this one's just a one  
12 page document, so as long as you can see that,  
13 Current Staffer 3, we should be good. I'll give  
14 you a second just to look at that, let me know  
15 when you're done.

16 A Yeah, okay. I got it.

17 Q Just so I understand the process -- oh,  
18 and then for the record, this is an e-mail from  
19 Michael Huff to [Former Staffer 2] and, [Current  
20 Staffer 3], you are CCed, and that was sent on  
21 April 1st, 2020. The below e-mails are discussing  
22 the Congressman's mileage in March of 2020.

1           A     Uh-huh.

2           Q     And Mike Huff responds to the e-mail  
3 chain and says, I talked with [Current Staffer 3  
4 and as long as I approve, he will sign I approved  
5 this.

6                     I -- I think you said that Mike Huff  
7 is the one that signs off on vouchers? Is that --  
8 is that what -- what's happening here? Does -- does  
9 Michael approve all the expenditures in the first  
10 instance?

11          A     Yes. He would be approving and  
12 especially with the congressman's mileage and  
13 expenses, the scheduler, whether it's [Former  
14 Staffer 2] or another person, they usually prepare  
15 the reimbursement report and then will go over it  
16 with Mike and then they'll give it to me. In this  
17 particular instance -- and normally Mike does sign  
18 things. I bring them to him physically, this being  
19 2020 and of course during COVID, I had to -- staff  
20 were sending me things and he was reviewing them via  
21 e-mail. And then I would use the signature stamp  
22 that I have when necessary, and as long as I got

1 this from him, then I would send it in kind of  
2 thing.

3 Q Okay. And is that common across offices  
4 that a chief or some designee would be reviewing the  
5 congressman's mileage?

6 A In my -- well, yes. It all -- as far as  
7 the shared financial administrators go, the ones  
8 that I know about, there's quite a few of them now,  
9 that is the process I have always used. I've always  
10 used that I prepare something, I give it to the  
11 chief of staff, he reviews it, he signs it, and then  
12 we send it into the finance office. So.

13 Q Okay. I can be more clear about my  
14 question. I didn't mean to hide the ball, really.  
15 What -- what I was really asking was is this an  
16 extra layer of review that Mike Huff is involved in  
17 or do -- or is this just he is the designated person  
18 to sign off on all vouchers and that's what he's  
19 doing here?

20 A He's the designated one in the office to  
21 sign off on that.

22 Q Okay.



1           A     Because -- and especially with mileage  
2     for the congressman, I don't know his schedule and I  
3     don't keep track of their schedule. It's very  
4     similar to what I do with district offices. The  
5     district director needs to review the staff's  
6     mileage and expenses each month before they send  
7     them to me. Because I have no clue what their  
8     schedules are, and I'm -- I'm not the one to approve  
9     those. I'm the one to process it, but the district  
10    director or the chief of staff are the ones to sign  
11    off on it.

12          Q     Okay. And -- and when you say sign off,  
13    what are the sorts of things that you expect that  
14    person to be certifying or -- or ensuring or -- or  
15    having --

16          A     -- make -- well, making sure that the  
17    person did those miles. Traveled those miles or  
18    incurred those expenditures correctly, they weren't  
19    campaign or unofficial events. Or events that they  
20    should not have been going to in their, you know,  
21    congressional capacity, but it was -- if it was more  
22    personal related.

1           Q     Okay. And so you rely on Mr. Huff to  
2 essentially verify that the purpose of the mileage  
3 or the expenditure was an appropriate purpose for  
4 MRA funds?

5           A     Yes.

6           MR. QUINN: Carlos, you can take down  
7 that exhibit. And then, Carlos, let's pull up tab  
8 eight and make that Exhibit C.

9           MR. HENLEY: One second.

10          Q     Sure. And then just for the record, this  
11 is a memo or a letter dated September 8th, 2021,  
12 that you sent to me or to our office along with the  
13 documents that you produced us -- produced to us.

14          A     Uh-huh, yep.

15          Q     And if you want to scroll down to page  
16 two, and we can look at the top --

17          A     -- actually I have a copy of it in front  
18 of me so I'm going to use that, if you don't mind.

19          Q     Sure.

20          A     Yeah, okay.

21          Q     Let me pull up my copy as well. So I  
22 think we had talked about this briefly, but I just

1 wanted to touch on it and pull this up for you. At  
2 the top of page two, you are detailing a situation  
3 that we just discussed, the January 2020 trip to the  
4 Greenbrier Hotel. And in that instance, you saw  
5 some documentation about meal expenditures and  
6 noticed that they were -- looked like for meals that  
7 would have just been eaten by the congressman and  
8 determined that some of them were meals that his  
9 family had purchased at the Greenbrier. You noted  
10 there've been other times over the time I have  
11 worked for the congressman where he would be  
12 traveling with his family, and I would work with the  
13 scheduler or congressman to identify his specific  
14 meals so the MRA was only reimbursed for the  
15 congressman's items. I just wanted to double check  
16 one more time if you can remember any specific other  
17 trips or instances where this issue came up.

18 A You mean before -- before the one that  
19 we're referencing there?

20 Q Yeah. Either before -- before or after,  
21 if you recall any other specific similar situations.

22 A Well, the -- it's the one after the one

1 that he took to Charleston recently. But it -- it  
2 was in August that he took it but I didn't have the  
3 documentation when I did this memo. Because it  
4 didn't -- hadn't come through on the CitiBank  
5 statement yet. He had been in Charleston with his  
6 family. He was doing official events but there were  
7 other -- when we got the final receipt from the  
8 hotel, it detailed several meal receipts and I  
9 needed those, so we contacted the hotel for the meal  
10 receipts and we received those, and that's when I  
11 believe I gave it to Mike and Meg at that time to  
12 say need to know which one's the congressman's  
13 paying for -- you know, which ones the office should  
14 pay for, which one the congressman is paying for so  
15 I can process this correctly.

16 Q Okay. And --

17 A -- and then -- yeah.

18 Q Oh, go ahead, sorry.

19 A As far as before January 20th --  
20 January 2020, I honestly don't recall. I'd have to  
21 go back and review every single, you know, review  
22 things more in depth.

1           Q     Sure. Okay. Let's take down this  
2 Exhibit C then, Carlos.

3                     And let's focus a little bit on that  
4 early August trip to -- well, I think there are a  
5 few stops involved: Charleston, Blennerhassett  
6 Island, and potentially the Greenbrier as well. Do  
7 you know in processing the finance documents for  
8 that or having discussions with anybody in the  
9 office, do you know what the purpose of that trip  
10 was?

11           A     No, I don't.

12           Q     Okay.

13           A     I don't. And that's not unusual for me,  
14 so, you know, they -- they'll plan a trip, but I do  
15 remember the trip being discussed, and when I was  
16 told about the other part after Charleston, there  
17 was some questions about, well, one of the staff had  
18 e-mailed me and -- [Former Staffer 6] had e-mailed me  
19 and said, Can, you know, the congressman wants to go  
20 here and there and it's going to cost this for him  
21 and his family. And I looked up the -- looked up  
22 what he was going to and, one, it was not in our

1 district, and two, it was clearly not something  
2 congressionally related. And so I replied to  
3 [Former Staffer 6] stating that this was not  
4 official and that he --that the congressman and  
5 Mike need to talk about this, because that's not  
6 going to fly with finance, so.

7 Q Okay. And I think we have that e-mail  
8 chain. I'm just going to have Carlos pull it up  
9 just so for the record we can connect the -- the  
10 e-mail and that conversation.

11 A Uh-huh, sure.

12 MR. QUINN: Carlos, can you pull up tab  
13 four?

14 MR. HENLEY: Give me one second.

15 MR. QUINN: Sure. And then we can mark  
16 that as Exhibit D. And again, you can -- after you  
17 mark it, you can give that -- give [Current Staffer  
18 3] control so that he can scroll through that e-mail.

19 MR. HENLEY: He has control now.

20 A Okay. Thanks, Carlos.

21 Q So feel free to review that and just let  
22 me know when you've had a chance to look it over.

1           A     Yeah, I'm okay. Go ahead.

2           Q     And so this is that -- this is that  
3 conversation that you were just talking about  
4 where -- where [Former Staffer 6] asked you about  
5 expenditures at Blennerhassett Island?

6           A     Uh-huh, yes.

7           Q     Okay. Did you ever talk with either Mike  
8 or the congressman about -- about this  
9 Blennerhassett Island trip?

10          A     I believe I went by the office and talked  
11 to Mike about it. Other than, you know, well, when  
12 Mike found out about -- when Mike -- when I looped  
13 Mike in on this, he then replied, I believe, I  
14 think. Either via e-mail or I can't recall. He  
15 understood and then he said he would talk to the  
16 congressman.

17          Q     Okay. And then -- so you said that since  
18 you produced documents to us, you received more  
19 documents related to this trip and also I guess  
20 processed the vouchers and -- and went through that  
21 process for this trip. Can you tell me generally  
22 what categories of things were paid for by the MRA

1 for this trip? So, for example, lodging for the  
2 multiple nights of this trip, was that MRA and --  
3 and then meals as well?

4 A Yes. There was -- there was lodging, I  
5 know. There was one meal. The meal -- the meal  
6 from the night that he stayed, it was like a pizza  
7 that Mike said that would -- that's MRA expensable.  
8 I would have to look back and see if the  
9 congressman -- if he -- I presume he did mileage for  
10 going driving down from Charlestown to Charleston,  
11 but I'd have to go back and look on the --

12 Q Okay. And -- and what were the items  
13 that were not covered by the MRA that you had to,  
14 you know, sort of call out from what you originally  
15 received?

16 A Other meals. Meals at the hotel they  
17 stayed at in Charleston. And those were paid, I  
18 think -- oh, they were -- Mike Huff contacted the  
19 hotel I believe -- believe and changed the credit  
20 card, because there was a credit on the MRA travel  
21 card this past month, so that's when I was able to  
22 process that.



1           Q     Any other categories of expenditures that  
2 you had to remove from the voucher request?

3           A     No. No. That was it.

4           MS. EISNER: And, Sean, I don't know if  
5 you can see me now with the screen sharing, but  
6 one -- one additional question there. Just with  
7 regards to the pizza and that type of meal  
8 expenditure, just so I understand, is sort of the  
9 justification there that it was part of an official  
10 trip and official travel for the member or was there  
11 some type of official business -- official business  
12 link to that type of meal expenditure? Just as far  
13 as sort of categorizing what fell into permissible  
14 and not permissible, where was the line drawn?

15          A     If I recall correctly, Helen, he had  
16 meetings in Charleston with some businessmen. But  
17 he wasn't having dinner with them. He ordered that  
18 pizza at the hotel, and so unless he met there at  
19 the hotel -- which I don't know, I -- I don't have a  
20 copy of it, I don't get into the -- into the details  
21 of his schedule like that -- but he had a official  
22 meeting with some businessmen and then because he

1 was staying overnight, the meal is permissible  
2 through finance rules, the -- when you're traveling  
3 on official business you're allowed meals.

4 MS. EISNER: I understand.

5 A For -- for the member or a staff member  
6 that's traveling, not anybody else.

7 MS. EISNER: Understood.

8 BY MR. QUINN:

9 Q So I want to go over a document that we  
10 received from another witness. Carlos, you can take  
11 this down. That provides a little bit more detail  
12 on -- on where this trip was and -- and what the  
13 actual stops were.

14 A Uh-huh.

15 MR. QUINN: So if we can pull up, Carlos,  
16 it's tab three. And you can mark that as Exhibit E.

17 MR. HENLEY: One second.

18 Q And so some of the stops on this trip  
19 were in Parkersburg, and I should have pointed it  
20 out in the e-mail before Carlos took it down, but  
21 there was a conversation and -- and [Former Staffer 6]  
22 ended the e-mail by noting that Parkersburg is not in

1 the first district -- or, sorry, in the second  
2 district, in the congressman's --

3 A -- right.

4 Q -- district.

5 A I remember seeing that, uh-huh. Yeah.

6 Q And so this is when it was produced to  
7 us, part of the agenda got cut off the right side,  
8 but you can generally tell the location of events.  
9 So if you want to take a minute or two and just look  
10 through this, this is essentially the -- the line by  
11 line agenda of that early August trip to Charleston  
12 and Parkersburg and Blennerhassett Island. I'll  
13 give you a second just to -- to look this over and  
14 then I can draw your attention to some particular  
15 spots.

16 A Okay. Go ahead, Sean.

17 Q So the first thing I just wanted to ask  
18 generally, so he just noted that [Former Staffer 6]  
19 let you know that Parkersburg was not in the member's  
20 district. How -- how does that affect your analysis  
21 as far as what can be put on the MRA if the travel is  
22 outside of the member's district into another district

1 in his state? Can you speak generally on that?

2 A Well, that's kind of a gray area in that  
3 but it gets tricky with West Virginia this year  
4 because of the whole losing a congressional  
5 district. But overall it's not unusual for any  
6 congressman to maybe go across the line into another  
7 district to have a meeting with another -- a  
8 business or something like that. But normally it's  
9 customary that the one office contact the other  
10 congressional office to let them know the  
11 congressman's coming into their area. Whether  
12 Mr. Mooney let Mrs. Miller know, I have no clue.  
13 But there -- and that's a gray area in that mileage  
14 could -- if it was for official purposes, that  
15 regarding legislation that the congressman was  
16 sponsoring or it was part of his committees that he  
17 was dealing with, that he went and had a meeting  
18 with these people in Parkersburg, then yes, it could  
19 be official. Because it's still within the home  
20 state.

21 Now, going outside the state, home  
22 state, that's a different matter. That becomes

1 another ball of wax, so to speak. And as far as  
2 that really has to be thoroughly documented and why  
3 you're doing this and stuff like that. But within a  
4 state, it's kind of, you know, one of those  
5 customary not too much -- I mean, congressman don't  
6 do it a whole lot, very rarely. But apparently it  
7 was happening here.

8 Q Okay. I'll just note so this is actually  
9 north of the congressman's district, so it's in  
10 Representative McKinley's district.

11 A Okay. Thank you.

12 Q I believe -- I believe --

13 A -- I don't keep --

14 (Cross talk.)

15 A Thank you.

16 Q Yeah.

17 A I -- for all the offices I work for, I  
18 can't keep all the town straight and all the lines  
19 straight either, so.

20 Q Yeah. Well, that's -- that's actually  
21 something I wanted to ask you about. So you noted  
22 that it's sort of a -- a gray area going into

1 another district and then particularly this year  
2 it's sensitive in West Virginia because they're  
3 losing a district. And so Representative Mooney's  
4 district is being collapsed into Representative's  
5 McKinley's district. I don't know if you're  
6 familiar, there was an e-mail and I can actually  
7 find it and pull it up if we need to, but there was  
8 an e-mail from I believe it was the clerk's office  
9 or maybe House Finance out to members reminding them  
10 of -- of the sensitivity as redistricting happens,  
11 that spending outside of the district is not  
12 allowed. Do you recall that -- that e-mail?

13 A Yes. It came from the House Ethics  
14 Committee. It came from --

15 Q -- House Ethics?

16 A The ethics committee. Yes.

17 Q That's right, it was ethics. Do -- do  
18 you know what the -- so -- so that e-mail was timed  
19 shortly after this -- this trip, actually. And I  
20 was wondering if you had any insight into that  
21 e-mail and whether or not this trip was related to  
22 that e-mail from the ethics committee?

1           A     I don't know. I can't recall. I'd have  
2 to go back in my e-mails to see when that came out  
3 from the ethics committee. In fact, I think I -- I  
4 forwarded it out to my offices, to all of my staff,  
5 especially in the Mooney office. I may have  
6 directed it just to the Mooney office, but things  
7 like that, when they come out from ethics or various  
8 other entities and it's good information for  
9 everybody, I tend to do a blast e-mail to all of my  
10 office staff to make sure that they have it.  
11 Whether they read it or not, that's a different  
12 story. But at least I've sent it, you know.

13           Q     Right.

14           A     But I -- I'd have to go back, Sean, and  
15 look at the date that that came out. I -- I don't  
16 know if that was tied to the release of that or not.  
17 I really don't know.

18           Q     I -- I guess my -- my general question  
19 was if you had ever -- if you had heard of any  
20 conversations with House Ethics around this trip,  
21 and it sounds like you're not aware of that sort of  
22 communication or conversation.

1 A No, huh-uh.

2 Q Okay.

3 A No, I'm not.

4 Q Just wanted to --

5 A -- none whatsoever.

6 Q And then so let's go back --

7 MS. EISNER: -- sorry, Sean, and just --  
8 just for clarification, I'll just jump in and say  
9 that the date of the e-mail is September 10th, 2021.

10 Q Right. Yep. So about a month after --  
11 after this trip.

12 Let's -- let's look at the second  
13 page of this document, if you can scroll down. And  
14 so there's Wednesday and a Thursday agenda. And I  
15 just wanted to note that the Thursday agenda, the  
16 first stop is that Blennerhassett Island trip that  
17 we discussed, and there's a -- I guess a steam  
18 wheeler or steam boat ride to and from the trip.  
19 And then the rest of the stops on that day are in  
20 Parkersburg, West Virginia, meeting with businessmen  
21 that you mentioned, business interest Matthew Harage  
22 (phonetic), and then there's also an interview with



1 the Parkersburg Paper. So if -- if we can just  
2 assume for the moment that the meeting with Matthew  
3 Harage and the Parkersburg Paper, if that was not  
4 directly related to legislative work or work with a  
5 committee, because it's outside of his district, I  
6 think we've identified that as a potentially  
7 problematic --

8 A -- uh-huh.

9 Q -- stop for MRA spending. And then also  
10 the only other stop as to the Blennerhassett Island  
11 trip, so had you been aware that the Thursday -- all  
12 the items on the agenda for Thursday were  
13 potentially not -- not expenditures that could be  
14 made under the MRA, would that also make the hotel  
15 stay on Thursday night with him and his family an  
16 issue? Or, sorry, Wednesday night?

17 A Oh, I see what you're saying. Hmm.  
18 Well, one, I didn't know the -- this is the first  
19 time I've seen this agenda, so. Just trying to  
20 think of another -- any other instance that I've  
21 ever had like that. I mean, in my mind, in my own  
22 personal feeling, yeah, it probably, you know, if he

1 had official business on Tuesday, that was fine.

2 Let's see. He had official business on Tuesday.

3 Well, but Wednesday night, I don't know where he --

4 yeah, that could be very problematic because that's

5 all of that stuff for Wednesday and Thursday --

6 Wednesday -- Wednesday was -- and -- and other, you

7 know, not official. So it shouldn't have been.

8 Q So, right. So when there's an additional

9 portion of a trip and then either personal or

10 political --

11 A -- uh-huh.

12 Q -- activities tacked on to the end of

13 that trip, normally the member would have to either

14 personally or with campaign funds pay for the

15 additional part that is not official related; is

16 that correct?

17 A Yeah. I -- and I would also -- I

18 would -- I would direct normally -- I -- I would say

19 if I knew all the details about it, which I did not

20 know, I would direct the scheduler to say to have

21 them book that night and the rest of the trip on

22 another card, totally. So it's clear cut. It's

1 better to have things much more clear and direct  
2 rather than muddled like this.

3 MR. QUINN: Okay. Let's -- Helen, unless  
4 you have any other questions on this trip or that  
5 document, we can pull Exhibit E down.

6 MS. EISNER: No, go ahead.

7 Q Okay. So sort of moving to another  
8 topic, I also just wanted to talk generally about  
9 mileage reimbursements. It -- just as a general  
10 matter before we go into specifics, do you currently  
11 have or did you ever have any concerns about the way  
12 Representative Mooney was requesting mileage or the  
13 sorts of activities that he was requesting mileage  
14 for?

15 A Overall, no. Most of the stuff he would  
16 submit or the scheduler would give me were official  
17 miles either coming -- driving from home, coming in  
18 for work-related activities or for activities in the  
19 district. From what I -- from what was given to me.

20 Q Okay. I wanted to pull up one -- let's  
21 pull up tab six. And I believe that'll be Exhibit F  
22 now.

1 MR. HENLEY: Yes, one second.

2 Q And this is -- this is an e-mail that you  
3 produced to us as well, for the record. The e-mail  
4 was sent on 8/6/21. That's a Friday around 5 p.m.  
5 and it's between you and [Former Staffer 6].

6 A Uh-huh. Yeah. Okay.

7 Q And you produced this e-mail to us and  
8 this incident also stood out in some other witness'  
9 minds or memories that we've spoken to. And -- and  
10 it looks like, tell me if I've interpreted this  
11 incorrectly, but [Former Staffer 6] sent in a mileage  
12 request form and the -- oh, wait, actually, this is  
13 not the correct document --

14 A -- no.

15 Q -- this is --

16 A -- this isn't mileage. This is for  
17 lodging.

18 Q Did we -- yeah, hold on. Let me see.

19 MS. EISNER: I think you're looking for  
20 tab five rather than tab six.

21 MR. QUINN: It's tab seven, actually.

22 Yeah, sorry about that, Carlos, can you -- sorry

1 about that. I told you the wrong tab. Can you --  
2 tab seven, and then you can remark that and make tab  
3 seven Exhibit F?

4 MR. HENLEY: Yes, sir.

5 Q Okay. This is the correct document.

6 A Okay. Uh-huh.

7 Q So this e-mail's actually from July 12th  
8 and July 13th, 2021.

9 A Right, okay.

10 Q And --

11 A -- but it's for mileage in June, right?

12 Q Correct.

13 A Okay. Uh-huh.

14 Q Correct. And it looks like [Former Staffer  
15 6] sent in the right -- or the mileage reimbursement  
16 form to you. And you respond correcting the mileage  
17 rate. Do you remember this incident?

18 A Yes, somewhat. Yeah, I do.

19 Q Okay.

20 A He had used -- he had pulled up -- the  
21 mileage rate in 2020 was .58 or .575, I'm going to  
22 have to go back and check. I knew it was 58 at one

1 time and every year it changes, and I do send out  
2 when -- once Committee on House Admin sends the rate  
3 for the year, I send out to all my staff a new  
4 mileage form with the correct rate on it. And  
5 sometimes they don't update it in their system or  
6 they have two or three copies of it and they'll use  
7 one, and I figured he just used one that he had  
8 pulled up from last year for something -- something  
9 old in his file kind of thing, when he went to.

10 Q Okay. And as far as you recall, you  
11 didn't have any further conversations with [Former  
12 Staffer 6] about -- about this e-mail?

13 A No, huh-uh. No.

14 Q Okay. Okay. And then let's pull up tab  
15 five. And we can mark that as Exhibit G. And  
16 again, I'll give you a minute to look at this e-mail  
17 chain and familiarize yourself. Just let me know  
18 when you're done.

19 A Is it just -- oh, there's more pages.

20 Q I think it's two pages, yeah.

21 A Just the signature on the second page,  
22 so. Yep, okay.

1           Q     And -- and I think we actually sort of  
2 touched on this issue earlier, but here -- so this  
3 is a May 6, 2021 e-mail between you and [Former  
4 Staffer 2], and the lower e-mails on the chain or  
5 earlier e-mails are from May 5th. And here [Former  
6 Staffer 2] is asking you about claiming mileage to  
7 -- to Dulles for a political trip. It looks like  
8 you point out to her that he can't claim that  
9 mileage because it's political and not official.  
10 We -- we saw this kind of same theme with the --  
11 the Blennerhassett Island trip, and then with the  
12 HFC flight down to Florida. And I'm just wondering  
13 at this point as these things, you know, kind of  
14 come up with some frequency, do you expect that the  
15 -- the member remembers these kind of sort of basic  
16 rules about the division between official and  
17 political work being paid for with the MRA? And is  
18 your impression here that he understands the rule  
19 and is choosing to ignore it or that this is really  
20 something that he's just repeatedly forgetting?

21           A     Well, it's definitely something that he's  
22 repeatedly forgetting. Whether he's choosing to

1 forget or not, I don't know. I don't have this  
2 problem in my other offices. And I'm going to go as  
3 far as to say that I find it difficult for somebody  
4 with a degree from Dartmouth has trouble remembering  
5 these kind of details.

6 Q And did you also -- [Former Staffer 2]  
7 is also on this e-mail, [Former Staffer 2]?

8 A Uh-huh.

9 Q The former scheduler, and she says, I knew  
10 it, thank you for confirming, [Current Staffer 3].

11 Did -- did you often have the  
12 experience that [Former Staffer 2] or other members  
13 of Representative Mooney's staff had to come --  
14 kind of come behind him and -- and check up  
15 on his compliance with these sorts of rules?

16 A From time to time, yes.

17 Q And was [Former Staffer 2] somebody who  
18 did that often?

19 A [Former Staffer 2] would do it with --  
20 with some frequency, yes. And whether that was  
21 because she was just wanting to make sure or she  
22 just wanted to be able to say no, I spoke to



1 [Current Staffer 3] and that's it, I don't know.  
2 I -- I presume if you ask [Former Staffer 2], she  
3 would probably say that once I told the congressman  
4 [Current Staffer 3] said so, that was the end of  
5 the story.

6 Q Right. Are there any other individuals  
7 that stand out in -- in your mind in addition to  
8 [Former Staffer 2] who are folks that you had this  
9 sort of conversation with?

10 A Usually it was the scheduler. Whether it  
11 be [Former Staffer 2] or Kate or Anita. It was --  
12 yeah, that -- that was really it. I mean, other  
13 than -- because those people, those are the ones  
14 who do his mileage, so the others -- the other  
15 staff were not involved with it as much.

16 MR. QUINN: I think Helen has a question  
17 for you.

18 MS. EISNER: Yes. Just to unpack one of  
19 your earlier statements a little bit more about  
20 finding it hard to believe that the congressman, you  
21 know, couldn't remember some of these details, if  
22 you could sort of expand on that and give me a sense

1 of what you think his motivation was. Why -- why  
2 was it that he was motivated to have, you know,  
3 these things paid for perhaps by the MRA?

4 A Oh, that, you know, he just wants to get  
5 paid for whatever expenses he can get paid for  
6 through official business.

7 Q And did you ever have conversations with  
8 people in the office along those lines?

9 A I could have but I don't recall any  
10 directly, Helen. Specifically, I can't. I'm sure  
11 there was probably times that we made a joke about  
12 it, kind of thing. Especially with the scheduler  
13 like [Former Staffer 2] or somebody that I was, you know,  
14 when -- when she would say things, she knew that she  
15 couldn't get that put on the, you know, mileage, so,  
16 therefore, you know, we would joke about that. But  
17 I can't remember a specific instance, though.

18 MS. EISNER: What about -- you know, I  
19 guess you've been in the office for about four  
20 years -- just conversations with staff or just that  
21 you perhaps overheard related to the congressman's  
22 personal finances or other finances that may have

1     been related to his rationale for wanting to use the  
2     MRA for these expenses?

3             A     None that specifically stand out to me.  
4     I mean, again, we may have -- somebody may have said  
5     it in joking or something like that, but I can't  
6     remember who it was with or when it was.

7             MS. EISNER:   And was that based on a, you  
8     know, understanding that you don't remember specific  
9     conversations? You know, some of these might date  
10    back many years. But was that based on a general  
11    understanding of the congressman's personal finances  
12    or campaign finances and how that would relate to  
13    this motivation?

14            A     If I'm understanding you correctly, I  
15    guess -- hmm. I mean, he's not much different than  
16    other members that want to -- want to have as little  
17    paid by the campaign as possible, but yet -- and  
18    have what is official paid for with official funds.  
19    But it's my feeling that he tries to get as much  
20    paid on the official side as he can and pushes that  
21    line from time to time.

22            MS. EISNER:   And I think earlier you said

1 that you're involved right now in eight total  
2 offices, or certainly more than -- more than just  
3 Representative Mooney. How would you compare, you  
4 know, that -- what you just described as far as  
5 wanting as much to be paid for by the MRA, how would  
6 you compare that to your experience in other  
7 offices?

8 A Hmm. That he wants the most. I mean, I  
9 have other members of congress that barely even --  
10 that don't even claim their parking mileage --  
11 parking receipts at the airport in their home state.  
12 They say no, I'm going to take care of that myself.  
13 You know, I'm not -- I -- I have -- most of my  
14 members don't submit an expense or expense reports.  
15 I have some that do airlines now. But other than  
16 that, it's not a whole lot. So -- so he tends to be  
17 the most -- Mr. Mooney tends to be the most -- if I  
18 have -- if -- I hate to use this word, but if --  
19 I -- I guess I'm going to, say, egregious in that he  
20 pushes that boundary all the time.

21 MS. EISNER: Okay. Understood.

22 MR. QUINN: I -- was that everything you

1 had, Helen?

2 MS. EISNER: Yes. Go ahead, Sean.

3 BY MR. QUINN:

4 Q I just wanted to note also the -- the  
5 timing of this e-mail, so this is in May, and I know  
6 you said you were familiar with the first review  
7 that we conducted. And I was curious if there were  
8 any sort of changes in policy or added scrutiny  
9 after -- after that review commenced and then -- and  
10 then concluded.

11 A I think folks like [Former Staffer 2] and a few  
12 others were a bit more cautious and a bit more  
13 double checking of things. For instance, this  
14 Exhibit G. Because they were working on that -- on  
15 compiling all that information, and -- and were just  
16 double checking. I think [Former Staffer 1], I think Mike  
17 Huff also said, probably told staff to be, you know,  
18 make sure you -- make sure that you document things  
19 correctly kind of thing. That we make sure we are  
20 doing the right thing.

21 Q While we're on -- on the topic, let's --  
22 let's talk about that first review a little bit,

1 just kind of in general terms. Can you tell me what  
2 involvement you had with that first review and  
3 helping the congressman respond to our request?

4 A I was made aware of the request for  
5 information from [Former Staffer 1]. And he sent  
6 me a copy of it and asked me if I had any  
7 documentation that pertained to that. And I  
8 culled those files together and sent them --  
9 and produced them for them. But other than that,  
10 it was -- that was it of -- that was the extent  
11 of my involvement in that. Once I gave that to  
12 him, he was -- he said thanks and then he took  
13 the stuff and then it's my understanding they all  
14 -- he, [Former Staffer 2], [Former Staffer 3],  
15 all got that information to you all.

16 Q And, Carlos, you can take down Exhibit G  
17 now.

18 Did you -- did you speak much with or  
19 did you have any conversations with [Former Staffer 2],  
20 [Former Staffer 1], and [Former Staffer 3] about the  
21 work that they were doing during that first review?

22 A No, I didn't. I -- other than sitting

1 down and saying, Okay, how do you want this  
2 documentation, what -- you know, how do you want me  
3 to give it to you, you know, et cetera, because from  
4 previous experience in these kinds of things, I  
5 decided to keep it quite cut and dry and just, you  
6 know, I know that is how it needs to be kind of  
7 thing.

8 Q And then how about any conversations with  
9 Representative Mooney about that first review. Did  
10 you ever interact with him directly?

11 A He was in the office a couple times when  
12 I stopped by. He made mention of, you know, the --  
13 of the request for information and the  
14 investigation. And he said how laborious it was and  
15 I said, Yes, it is. And it will take time to  
16 resolve. That was about it.

17 Q Okay. And how about Mike Huff? Any --  
18 any conversations you recall with him?

19 A No, other than asking him what the  
20 deadlines -- the deadlines were for getting my  
21 documentation to them all and stuff like that.  
22 Other than that, that was about it. And, oh, he --

1 that's -- but then at that time is when they came  
2 out -- I don't know if that was when or not. There  
3 was a -- there have been a couple times that we've  
4 been asked to save all documentation and not delete  
5 anything and various other stuff. And I think that  
6 came out during that first initial time, I can't  
7 remember, though, offhand.

8 Q How about conversations with anybody,  
9 either [Former Staffer 3] and [Former Staffer 1] or  
10 [Former Staffer 2] or anybody else in the office?  
11 Any conversations about concerns over either  
12 withholding documents or not providing a  
13 complete response to -- to the OCE?

14 A No, huh-uh. No conversations whatsoever  
15 about that.

16 Q Okay. And -- oh, go ahead, sorry.

17 A No, I just -- there was no -- nobody ever  
18 mentioned withholding anything. They -- if  
19 anything, I recall [Former Staffer 1] saying we're  
20 going to give them everything they need, you know.  
21 We're going to give them as much, you know, I --  
22 I think they were -- that team was concerned



1 because as they started looking for things, they  
2 couldn't find a lot of things, as -- as I recall.

3 Q Okay. Just another general topic that I  
4 wanted to cover with you today and that was included  
5 in our request to you is the issue or the concern of  
6 the use of staff for personal errands or tasks. And  
7 when you responded, we can -- we can pull up that  
8 memo/letter that you sent me, but I believe  
9 generally you said that you had seen some instances  
10 of staff handling the congressman's laundry. Are  
11 there any other general categories or -- or types of  
12 tasks that you observed that seemed more personal in  
13 nature to you as opposed to official?

14 A Laundry was the only one that I really  
15 saw. I would hear things about somebody going to  
16 pick up so and so, but -- or something. But they  
17 were fragmented and I don't recall what they were  
18 specifically. It would -- but it was -- it was go  
19 to pick up something personal for him, like, at a  
20 store or something and bring it to the office or  
21 whatever. But I don't recall dates or who did it  
22 kind of thing.

1 Q Do you -- it was a -- oh, sorry, go  
2 ahead.

3 A No, go ahead.

4 Q Could you give me an idea of the --  
5 the -- I mean, you don't have to recall specifics,  
6 but the frequency of that sort of conversation or,  
7 you know, was that once or twice or kind of a thing  
8 that happened with some frequency?

9 A It was very rare that I ever heard about  
10 that kind of thing, because of my only stopping by  
11 in the office two or three -- maybe two or three  
12 times a week, and especially with 2020 we didn't --  
13 we weren't in the office much at all. So.

14 Q In that same section of your letter to  
15 us, you mentioned that you knew there were some  
16 employees that split time between the official  
17 office and also the campaign.

18 A Uh-huh.

19 Q And I think specifically you mentioned  
20 [Current Staffer 1] and now the second name is  
21 escaping my recollection --

22 A [Former Staffer 3].

1           Q     -- but -- [Former Staffer 3]. How -- you  
2 mentioned that you didn't know how to -- that the  
3 -- how they document their time. So did you have  
4 a specific concern about that or -- or why did you  
5 write that in that section of the -- of your letter  
6 response?

7           A     Well, I just -- I just didn't know how  
8 they did document their time. I didn't really mean  
9 it to be any kind of reference, but it was just sort  
10 of -- I don't know. I mean, I know they -- they  
11 worked part-time for the official, they worked  
12 part-time for the campaign, and I -- when we started  
13 doing that area, I said to Mike, make sure your  
14 people, you know, make -- yes, it can be done, but I  
15 would document when they work official and when they  
16 don't and keep a log of it because you never know,  
17 you know. People need to -- so you need to keep  
18 track of your employees. Now, that's not my  
19 position to handle.

20          Q     Right. And then focusing specifically  
21 on -- on [Current Staffer 1], how -- did you know  
22 that he was also working for the campaign?

1           A     I think either [Former Staffer 1] or even  
2 he mentioned it. I -- I think it was pretty --  
3 let's see, what was it. He can -- he started with  
4 us as an intern and then he was doing work on the  
5 campaign at that time and then he was going to  
6 school and working part-time for us, and then  
7 doing some other stuff on the campaign. But I don't  
8 know what he was doing or when he was doing it.

9           Q     Okay. So do you know --

10          A     -- other staff.

11          Q     Do you know if at any time -- do you know  
12 if at any time he was employed both by the campaign  
13 and the official office?

14          A     No, I don't. I -- I have to say no  
15 because I don't deal with the campaign finance  
16 stuff, so I don't know when -- who's -- who's paid  
17 when on their side.

18          Q     Right, okay.

19          A     I can only document what I've got on this  
20 side.

21          Q     Okay. Actually I want to jump back to  
22 mileage real quick and ask you a couple more

1 questions about some of how that -- that gets  
2 processed. One, actually an initial question: I  
3 know you produced for us all of the congressman's  
4 mileage requests and vouchers back to 2017. If we  
5 had other staffers that we wanted you to do the same  
6 thing for, so, like, if you could give us all of,  
7 you know, let's say [Current Staffer 1] since we  
8 were just talking about him, would that be easy  
9 for you to produce that same sort of packet for  
10 other staffers?

11 A Yeah, yeah, fairly easy. I mean, yes,  
12 because I have all the files. I have all the --  
13 it's all electronic, so, yeah, I can cull through  
14 and find all of the particular ones.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Pretty -- fairly easy. Because I have a  
17 naming convention I use or have used in the past,  
18 so, uh-huh.

19 Q All right. There might be one or two  
20 other staffers that I -- that I might ask you to do  
21 that, but --

22 A -- okay.

1 Q -- for us, for mileage specifically.

2 A Uh-huh.

3 Q But I also wanted to ask you if you can  
4 explain a little bit the way that mileage  
5 reimbursement works and what the reimbursement is  
6 actually for. Am I correct in understanding that  
7 the -- the mileage calculation is a product of both  
8 the expense of gas but then also essentially, like,  
9 wear and tear on a vehicle or it's not just a gas  
10 reimbursement, right?

11 A Correct. Right, right.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Yeah, it is.

14 Q And -- and there's some amount over  
15 the -- the gas that -- that you're receiving for  
16 each mile driven?

17 A Well, the -- the mileage reimbursement  
18 rate is set by the Committee on House Administration  
19 each year, which is really based upon the General  
20 Services Administration from the Executive Branch  
21 and the IRS reimbursement rates as well. So we --  
22 the House usually mirrors what they do. And so when

1 they set the new rates for the next year, then the  
2 House resets theirs. And so a mileage rate might  
3 change -- it rarely changes in the middle of the  
4 year. We've only -- I can't remember which year,  
5 but I do remember it did change once in mid year  
6 because of gas prices going so high, and I've been  
7 wondering if it might change this year due to the  
8 same thing, but probably not since we're nearing  
9 November. But, yeah, they go by that and then that  
10 rate is set. That's -- they use and then we follow  
11 that, so.

12 Q Are there other staffers in particular  
13 that have -- that you can think of just off the top  
14 of your head that had particularly high mileage  
15 rates or requests? Like, who -- who stands out to  
16 you as somebody who frequently submits mileage  
17 requests?

18 A Well, mileage request usually come mostly  
19 from the field reps that are in the district area.  
20 Susie Azavedo (phonetic), [Former Staffer 1], because  
21 he was our district director, Rhett Duzenberry,  
22 [Current Staffer 2], [Current Staffer 1] sometimes,

1 but I don't know if he's doing that as much anymore.  
2 But those -- that comes from those people who are  
3 going out in the community and going to various  
4 chamber meetings or other official meetings and  
5 meeting with people to say, hey, how can the  
6 congressman, you know, be of assistance or, you  
7 know, I'm coming here to, you know, give some  
8 remarks from the congressman to this meeting or this  
9 group of people. But that -- and that's not just  
10 for the Mooney office, that's for all of my offices.

11 Q Have you ever heard of anybody discussing  
12 or expressing any concerns over the congressman --  
13 one second, let the siren (inaudible).

14 A Life in the city.

15 Q Exactly. Life living next to a fire  
16 station.

17 I was asking have you ever heard any  
18 discussions or any concerns expressed about the  
19 congressman claiming mileage when it was actually a  
20 staffer driving -- driving for him?

21 A Mileage -- the congressman claiming  
22 mileage except when -- when it was -- it was really



1 a staffer driving him?

2 Q So the -- yeah, the scenario being  
3 Representative Mooney is arriving in a staffer's car  
4 being driven a certain distance and then having  
5 Representative Mooney claim that mileage for  
6 himself.

7 A No. No, because if I had, I would have  
8 put my foot down on that one. I would have --

9 Q -- and --

10 A -- said the staffer needs to be  
11 reimbursed.

12 Q And the reason I was asking the question  
13 about the gas earlier, we've heard -- heard from  
14 other witnesses that at times Representative Mooney  
15 would drive with another staffer and then pay that  
16 staffer directly for gas but then claim mileage  
17 himself. And if that's happening with MRA mileage  
18 reimbursements, then that would mean that he's  
19 receiving a rate or some additional surplus on top  
20 of just the gas payment that he made directly to the  
21 staffer. Is that -- is that right?

22 A Yes, that is correct.

1           Q     I have a couple other -- and we're  
2 actually getting pretty close here, coming to the  
3 end of the items I wanted to discuss. So first  
4 actually I want to just ask, do you need a bathroom  
5 break or water break or anything? We've been going  
6 for --

7           A     -- no, okay.

8           Q     -- a little bit now. Okay.

9           A     I'm good.

10          Q     Then I'm just going to run through a few  
11 things, a short sort of list, and just let me know  
12 if -- if any of these things ring a bell or you have  
13 any knowledge of these topics. The first one is a  
14 March 2021 trip to Aruba that the congressman took  
15 with his family. Have you heard anything about  
16 that -- that trip?

17          A     No.

18          Q     Okay.

19          A     Huh-uh.

20          Q     And then how about there's a direct mail  
21 company called HSB Direct, provide mailing and  
22 fundraising services. Have you ever heard of that

1 company?

2 A No, I haven't.

3 Q Okay.

4 A That's not one of the companies I pay  
5 when we do mailing from the official side.

6 Q Right. Yes, I think most of the work has  
7 been done with the campaign, but just wanted to see  
8 if you --

9 A -- no.

10 Q -- had any --

11 A -- okay.

12 Q -- any knowledge of that. How about a --  
13 a prior campaign and official staff split employee  
14 named Former Staffer 5 , does that ring a bell?

15 A Yes. Former Staffer 5 , she was on board when  
16 I -- I think when I came on -- yeah, she was working  
17 when I came on board in June of '17. And I can't  
18 remember how long she was -- she left either in '18  
19 or beginning of '19. I'd have to go back and check.  
20 But I did know that Former Staffer 5 worked for both sides,  
21 yes.

22 Q And do you recall any more specifics

1 about her departure or why she left the office?

2 A No. I -- I heard she -- I heard she just  
3 received a job opportunity and was moving on.

4 That's all I understood. I wasn't that close to  
5 Former Staffer 5 at all.

6 Q Okay. And do you remember what her  
7 position on the official side was?

8 A I think she was project coordinator. I  
9 don't think she was scheduler, because that was  
10 somebody else. But I've -- I'd have to go back  
11 in -- into my records and find it.

12 Q Okay. Let's see. Actually, you know  
13 what, if you -- let's go off the record for about  
14 five minutes. I'm going to take a break and just  
15 look at my notes quickly and see if I have anything  
16 else to cover with you, but I think we are about  
17 done otherwise. So let's go off the record for a  
18 second.

19 A Okay.

20 MS. KISER: 11:31 a.m., we are off the  
21 record.

22 MR. QUINN: Okay. Let's come back at

1 11:36, just take five minutes and then hopefully we  
2 can wrap everything up.

3 CURRENT STAFFER 3: Okay.

4 MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. I'm just going  
5 to go on mute for now.

6 (Recess held.)

7 MS. KISER: 11:35 a.m., we are back on  
8 the record.

9 MR. QUINN: And I think actually having  
10 looked at my notes, I don't have any other questions  
11 for you, Current Staffer 3. Unless -- unless there's  
12 anything you've thought of during our conversation  
13 that you want to raise or any issues that we haven't  
14 discussed that you think that we should. If you  
15 don't have anything like that, then we are -- we're  
16 done here.

17 CURRENT STAFFER 3: Okay.

18 MR. QUINN: Okay.

19 CURRENT STAFFER 3: No, I don't really have  
20 anything else.

21 MR. QUINN: Great.

22 CURRENT STAFFER 3: Okay.

1 MR. QUINN: Then I'll just say one more  
2 time thanks very much again. We appreciate all your  
3 time. I know this is a time consuming process, as  
4 we've discussed. And we appreciate your candor  
5 and -- and assistance. So thanks very much.

6 CURRENT STAFFER 3: You're welcome. As  
7 one of your board members taught me many years ago,  
8 Karen Hoss, public service, lots of work, not a  
9 lot of pay.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. QUINN: That's true. Yeah, Karen is  
12 a welcome addition to our board. It's been -- it's  
13 been great having her.

14 CURRENT STAFFER 3: Yeah, I -- I  
15 know her well. We've been -- we've been  
16 through some things together, so.

17 MR. QUINN: Great. Okay. Well, Shaylah,  
18 we can go off the record unless -- Helen, did you  
19 have anything?

20 MS. EISNER: No. Thank you -- just thank  
21 you again for your time. We do really appreciate  
22 it.

1 CURRENT STAFFER 3: Most welcome. Okay.

2 Thank you. Let me know if you need anything else.

3 MS. KISER: All right. 11:37 a.m., we

4 are off the record.

5 (The recording was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Jackie A. Scheer, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio recording and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise in its outcome.

*Jackie A. Scheer*

---

JACKIE A. SCHEER

NOVEMBER 5, 2021



# **EXHIBIT 9**



Ashley Phillips <[redacted]>

**Fwd: PAC event**

4 messages

**Alex Mooney** <[redacted]>  
To: Ashley Phillips <[redacted]>

Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 7:06 PM

Pencil that week in below for Aruba.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Alex Mooney <[redacted]>  
**Date:** November 30, 2020 at 1:08:50 PM EST  
**To:** Katy Cannon <[redacted]>  
**Cc:** Michael Hough <[redacted]>  
**Subject:** PAC event

I would like to consider a PAC event the week of March 6 through March 13 in Aruba. HSP direct will be the main hosts, and we can see if we find any other takers.

Sent from my iPhone

**Ashley Phillips** <[redacted]>  
To: Alex Mooney <[redacted]>

Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 7:14 PM

Congressman,

This has been completed.

Ashley  
[Quoted text hidden]

**Alex Mooney** <[redacted]>  
To: Ashley Phillips <[redacted]>

Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 7:26 PM

Just call it "HSP PAC" event.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2020, at 7:14 PM, Ashley Phillips <[redacted]> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

**Ashley Phillips** <[redacted]>  
To: Alex Mooney <[redacted]>

Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 7:32 PM

Yes sir. This has been completed.

Ashley

[Quoted text hidden]

# **EXHIBIT 10**

**From:** Ashley Phillips <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 3, 2021 5:51 PM  
**To:** Anne Carpenter  
**Subject:** Fwd: Aruba Trip

Hi Anne!

The Congressman needs the specific details for the upcoming Aruba trip in March 2021.

What day do they fly out and then fly back? Which airport (or airports)? Layover or direct? Flight times (if you have an idea yet)? Transportation after arrival and back to the airport for return flight? Hotel name and address? Is HSP paying for the trip? Guest list? And any other details about the trip that you may have. :)

Ashley

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ashley Phillips <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 5:50 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Aruba Trip  
**To:** Nicole Hall <[REDACTED]>  
**CC:** Anne Carpenter <[REDACTED]>

Nicole,

Thank you for that information! I'll reach out to Anne for the details. I hope you have a wonderful week.

Ashley

On Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 5:48 PM Nicole Hall <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Ashley,

Aruba is our goal setting trip for the staff—we hit the goal and are planning our trip for March. I'm cc'ing Anne Carpenter to this email. She can send you details. HSP will pay for whatever legally we can pay for Congressmen Mooney. Jamie is going to discuss with Alex to figure out what we can legally pay for.

Thanks!

Nicole

---

**From:** Ashley Phillips <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Saturday, January 2, 2021 at 10:10 AM

To: Nicole Hall <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: Aruba Trip

Hi Nicole!

I just wanted to follow up on this. Thank you!

Also, I hope you had a wonderful new years!

Ashley

On Wed, Dec 30, 2020, 10:45 PM Ashley Phillips <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Nicole,

The Congressman needs the specific details for the upcoming Aruba trip in March 2021.

What day do they fly out and then fly back? Which airport (or airports)? Layover or direct? Flight times (if you have an idea yet)? Transportation after arrival and back to the airport for return flight? Hotel name and address? Is HSP paying for the trip? Guest list? And any other details about the trip that you may have. :)

Thank you so much for your time!!

Ashley

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Sincerely,

Ashley Phillips  
Executive Assistant to Congressman Mooney

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Executive Assistant to Congressman Mooney

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Ashley Phillips  
Executive Assistant to Congressman Mooney