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ILLINOIS POLLUTIO	N CONTROL BOARD
)
)
PROTECT WEST CHICAGO,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
VS.) PCB 23-207
)
CITY OF WEST CHICAGO, WEST)
CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL, and)
LAKESHORE RECYCLING)
SYSTEMS, LLC,)
Respondents.)
Respondences.)
)
PEOPLE OPPOSING DUPAGE)
ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
VS) PCB 23-109
CITY OF WEST CHICAGO and)
LAKESHORE RECYCLING	, ,
SYSTEMS, LLC,)
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Respondents.)
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REPORT OF PROCE	EDINGS had and testimony

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had and testimony taken before the Illinois Pollution Control Board, held on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 2023, at the hour of 9:00 A.M., before GLORIA APOSTOLOS SIOLIDIS, C.S.R. License #084-001205, qualified and commissioned for the State of Illinois. PRESENT:



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	Page 2		
1	MR. BRADLEY P. O'HALLORAN,		
2	appeared as Hearing Officer.		
3	Tributed and medically follows:		
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)	ampaged on babalf of the Detitioner		
	appeared on behalf of the Petitioner		
6	Protect West Chicago.		
7			
	KLEIN, THORPE & JENKINS, LTD., by		
8	MR. DENNIS G. WALSH		
	dgwalsh@ktjlaw.com		
9			
	appeared on behalf of the Respondents		
10	City of West Chicago, et al.		
11			
	MR. ROBERT A. WEINSTOCK		
12	NORTHWESTERN PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW		
	robert.weinstock@law.northwestern.edu		
13			
	appeared on behalf of the Petitioner		
14	People Opposing DuPage Environmental		
	Racism.		
15			
16	MR. GEORGE MUELLER		
17	appeared on behalf of the Respondents		
	Lakeshore Recycling.		
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19			
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- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: We're going on
- 2 the record. Good morning, everyone. My name is
- 3 Bradley Halloran. I'm a Hearing Officer at the
- 4 Illinois Pollution Control Board, and I'm also
- 5 assigned to this matter. It's a consolidated
- 6 matter. And I'll read the caption.
- 7 It's Protect West Chicago, otherwise
- 8 known as PWC, petitioner, versus City of West
- 9 Chicago, West Chicago City Council and Lakeshore
- 10 Recycling Systems, LLC, respondents. That's
- 11 PCB 23-107.
- 12 23-109 is People Opposing DuPage
- 13 Environmental Racism, also known as PODER,
- 14 petitioner, versus the City of West Chicago and
- 15 Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC.
- 16 This is a Third-Party Pollution
- 17 Control Facility Siting Appeal. The petitioners
- 18 allege lack of fundamental fairness and objection
- 19 to some of the Criterion.
- Today is September 28, 2023. It's
- 21 approximately 9:05 A.M. This hearing was scheduled
- 22 and noticed according to the Illinois Pollution
- 23 Control Board procedural rules and the
- 24 Environmental Protection Act. It will be conducted



- 1 according to procedural rules found in Sections 107
- 2 and 101 of the Board's procedural rules.
- First off, I'd like to thank West
- 4 Chicago for allowing us to hold the hearing here.
- 5 Thank you very much.
- As you may or may not know, I don't
- 7 make the ultimate decision in the case. It's the
- 8 four Board Members. And what I'll do, they'll take
- 9 a look at the local siting record, they'll take a
- 10 look at the transcript today, the exhibits and the
- 11 post-hearing Briefs and make their decisions.
- 12 At this point, Mr. Meza and the
- 13 petitioners, would you introduce yourselves for the
- 14 record?
- MR. MEZA: Sure. Mr. Halloran, my name is
- 16 Ricardo Meza, M-E-Z-A, and I represent Protect West
- 17 Chicago. Along with me here today is my assistant,
- 18 Robert Coleman. He's just helping me with exhibits
- 19 and stuff.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Good morning, Mr. Halloran.
- 22 My name is Robert Weinstock from the Environmental
- 23 Advocacy Center at Northwestern Pritzker School of
- 24 Law. I represent People Opposing DuPage



- 1 Environmental Racism or PODER in this proceeding.
- 2 With me are my law clerks, Persis
- 3 Ticknor-Swanson and Daniel Sullivan and several
- 4 representatives of our client, PODER.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- 6 Mr. Walsh?
- 7 MR. WALSH: Good morning, Mr. Halloran. My
- 8 name is Dennis Walsh and I represent the City of
- 9 West Chicago as the respondent.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- 11 Mr. Mueller.
- MR. MUELLER: Good morning, your Honor. I
- 13 am George Mueller. I represent Lakeshore
- 14 Recycling.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you,
- 16 Mr. Mueller.
- Before we head on to opening
- 18 statements, and I think at least the petitioners
- 19 want to give them, we also have, as Mr. Weinstock
- 20 stated, Miss Ticknor-Swanson. She's a third-year
- 21 law student and the Supreme Court Rule 7-11 license
- 22 is way overdue, so the parties have agreed that
- 23 she'll do the opening statement as public comment
- 24 and then Mr. Weinstock will make his comment.



- 1 But at this point, if there's no
- 2 further questions, I would ask the petitioners, and
- 3 I'm not sure who wants to go first, for their
- 4 opening, but do so, please.
- 5 MR. MEZA: Mr. Halloran, before we start, I
- 6 wanted to discuss a few procedural matters.
- 7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. Go ahead,
- 8 sir.
- 9 MR. MEZA: And I want to thank yourself and
- 10 the Pollution Control Board for making arrangements
- 11 to have a Spanish language interpreter here. Just
- 12 for the record, the Spanish language interpreter is
- doing simultaneous translation from English to
- 14 Spanish to the persons in the audience whose
- 15 primary language is not English. They might speak
- 16 English, but that's not their primary language so
- 17 thank you for that.
- The second thing is procedurally prior
- 19 to the start of today's hearing, the parties had an
- 20 opportunity to discuss the filing dates for
- 21 post-trial hearing Briefs.
- 22 And as I understand, Mr. Mueller was
- 23 kind enough to agree to extend the two-week
- 24 deadline for the Pollution Control Board to issue



- 1 its ruling. I suspect that will be filed in short
- 2 order, which means that it will give the parties a
- 3 little bit more time to submit post-hearing Briefs.
- We recommend, and the parties can speak
- 5 for themselves, that the opening brief would be due
- 6 on November 13th, which is a Monday. And that
- 7 reply Briefs would be due December 6th, which I
- 8 believe is a Wednesday.
- 9 That would give the Pollution Control
- 10 Board more than 30 days in light of the
- 11 Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday to issue its
- 12 ruling.
- 13 And again, that takes into
- 14 consideration the fact that Lakeshore I assume will
- 15 have agreed to extend the decision deadline for
- 16 another two weeks.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: To what date,
- 18 sir?
- MR. MEZA: So right now I believe it's
- 20 January 18th, so it would be --
- 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: The first week
- 22 in February.
- 23 MR. MEZA: Exactly. It would be -- so
- 24 February 8th is a Thursday, so it would be



Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 10/11/2023 Page 9 February 1st of 2024, which is a Thursday. 1 2 two weeks after January 8th. February 1st, 2024. 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. think that's doable and I think the board will 5 appreciate it. And I did also forget to mention 6 that after opening statements, we're going to have 7 Miss Garcia read her written statement subject to 8 cross. 9 MR. MEZA: Thank you. 10 In addition to that, last night 11 Property West Chicago filed a motion to include the 12 underlying record. I understand it might actually 13 already be as part of the record before the 14 Pollution Control Board, but I want to caution. 15 I identified the documents that we 16 might refer to at the hearing today and/or, pre 17 likely in our post-hearing Briefs that we filed. Ι 18 identified those documents and the Bates stamp 19 numbers. 20

- I don't think there should be any
- objection to that. It's already in the record as I 21
- 22 understand it.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Is that the
- 24 local siting record?



- 1 MR. MEZA: Yes.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: But, yes, motion
- 3 granted if there's no objection.
- 4 MR. WALSH: Well, I have an objection to it
- 5 because I haven't seen what he's asking, first of
- 6 all, to be admitted, No. 1. And No. 2, any
- 7 exhibits outside of the record -- and one of them
- 8 is the letter he wrote to the pack about the Open
- 9 Meetings Act issue. That's not part of the record
- 10 and I object to that.
- Any exhibits that he wanted to admit
- 12 that were outside of the record needed to be filed
- 13 by September 14th. As you know, we had until the
- 14 18th to file our response to those. We received
- 15 this last night after 8:00. I haven't had a chance
- 16 to look at it in detail and I object to it.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I haven't looked
- 18 at it either, but Mr. Meza just said everything --
- 19 it's in the local siting record.
- 20 MR. WALSH: It's been filed with the
- 21 Pollution Control Board; it's not part of the
- 22 record.
- HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Oh, well, then,
- 24 you can't file things at 8:00 at night -- we'll



- 1 discuss that later.
- 2 MR. MEZA: That's fine.
- 3 Most of the documents other than what
- 4 Mr. Walsh mentioned, which is the letter that we
- 5 sent to the Attorney General's public access
- 6 counselor are already in the record. He submitted
- 7 them and he supplemented many of those records
- 8 later. I don't think there's going to be objection
- 9 to any of those. We can work with those.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Thank
- 11 you, Mr. Meza.
- 12 MR. MEZA: The other thing is that before
- 13 we give opening comments, and I do intend to give
- 14 an opening comment and I'm happy to allow for them
- 15 to go first, I would ask that witnesses who we
- 16 intend to call, including Mr. Guttman,
- 17 Mr. Dabareiner I believe is here, be excluded from
- 18 the hearing pursuant to the rule that witnesses not
- 19 participate in the hearing or listen to the other
- 20 witnesses as they testify.
- MR. WALSH: I object to that as well.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Your reason?
- MR. WALSH: There is nothing in the
- 24 procedural rules of the Pollution Control Board



- 1 that requires the removal of witnesses at a
- 2 hearing. This is a public hearing. These are
- 3 public individuals. They are entitled to listen to
- 4 the testimony.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Well, we can
- 6 also go to the Illinois Circuit Court or Supreme
- 7 Court Rules and there is language in there.
- 8 Mr. Mueller?
- 9 MR. MUELLER: I would join Mr. Walsh's
- 10 objection.
- 11 MR. MEZA: It's very common to exclude
- 12 witnesses who are going to testify other than
- 13 expert witnesses and none of these witnesses are
- 14 expert witnesses.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: What about
- 16 agents, agents of the city?
- 17 MR. MEZA: If they want to identify one of
- 18 them as an agent, let them identify one of them as
- 19 an agent and that person can stay in. We would
- 20 have no objection to that.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay.
- MR. MEZA: It will be four.
- HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Is anybody an
- 24 agent with the City?



- 1 MR. WALSH: Well, the City administrator is
- 2 certainly an agent of the City who will be called
- 3 to testify, so we would identify him as an agent.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. He can
- 5 stay.
- 6 MR. WALSH: To the extent that the Mayor
- 7 wants to be here, he's obviously the head of the
- 8 public body. He should be allowed to stay here.
- 9 MR. MEZA: They can select one.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: By what
- 11 authority, sir?
- MR. MEZA: Mr. Halloran, I don't have a
- 13 specific site in front of me, but I mean I'm
- 14 certain that courts throughout this state, State
- 15 Court and especially Federal Court, will allow the
- 16 other party to have one representative there.
- 17 I'm not going to object to that. They
- 18 can select whoever it is, whether it's the Mayor,
- 19 whether it's Mr. Dabareiner, whether it's
- 20 Lori Chassee, whether it's Michael Guttman, but not
- 21 all four.
- MR. WALSH: Not all four are here first of
- 23 all. There's only two people here. But like I
- 24 said, to the extent he's asking me to identify an



- 1 agent, I will say that that's the Village
- 2 administrator. And again, the Mayor is the head of
- 3 the public body and has a right to be here.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. The
- 5 Village administrator can stay. The rest should
- 6 leave, the witnesses.
- 7 MR. MEZA: Thank you.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- 9 Motion granted to an extent.
- 10 MR. MEZA: Also, Mr. Halloran and the
- 11 parties, there's going to be a number of exhibits
- 12 that we're going to be showing the witnesses. Some
- of them we may move to admit. Others we may not.
- 14 Some of them are already in the record.
- 15 I'd like to distribute packets of the
- 16 exhibits to all the parties, including yourself,
- 17 and then let the parties know that for sake of, I
- 18 guess, convenience not to confuse matters, many of
- 19 these exhibits, even though they were PWC exhibits,
- 20 were identified as M exhibits during Mayor Pineda's
- 21 deposition, so I've kept those numbers.
- 22 Otherwise, I've identified the rest of
- 23 the exhibits as PWC exhibits. And I've segregated
- 24 the exhibits and also included a copy of our



- 1 exhibit list on top of each folder so that perhaps
- 2 it's easier for the witnesses to go through it. If
- 3 I can hand you a copy?
- 4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: While you are
- 5 handing it out, I'd like to see a copy of your
- 6 motion that you filed according to Mr. Walsh some
- 7 time at 8:00 last night?
- 8 MR. MEZA: Sure.
- 9 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: My computer is
- 10 off by 6:00.
- MR. MEZA: That's a copy of the motion that
- 12 was filed last night.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Accept it. I'll
- 14 take a look at it. We can discuss it later. And
- 15 also, I think we're going to have to discuss some
- 16 of these exhibit numbers. I'm a little confused
- 17 why you started -- you just told me that they are
- 18 from the local siting or below, but this is kind of
- 19 a new proceeding and you usually start with ABC or
- 20 123 and maybe we should have discussed that
- 21 earlier.
- 22 MR. MEZA: Yeah. I mean, so the exhibits
- 23 that I showed Mayor Pineda in his deposition, I
- 24 just marked them as M exhibits. A lot of them were



- 1 PWC exhibits. Some of them were already in the
- 2 record; others were not.
- 3 And then in preparing for today's
- 4 hearing, rather than coming up with a whole new set
- 5 of numbers, I thought it was going to be easier
- 6 just to use the M exhibits and to use the PWC
- 7 exhibits.
- 8 In fact, that was included in the
- 9 letter that I sent the parties on September 14th
- 10 identifying all of the exhibits. I know it might
- 11 be a little confusing, but I didn't want to confuse
- 12 the record any more than I had to.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yeah. I think
- 14 we're going to have to leave it as is at this late
- 15 date. Again, we probably should have discussed it
- 16 earlier, but the Board will so note. Thank you.
- 17 MR. MEZA: I think that's all I have. I'm
- 18 happy to let them for forward if they have any
- 19 comments.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Mr. Halloran, just a couple
- 21 evidentiary housekeeping things.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sure.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: I think I'll be simpler.
- 24 First, just to confirm, the record of the local



- 1 siting proceeding below that the City prepared and
- 2 submitted is already part of the Board record.
- 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Correct.
- 4 MR. WEINSTOCK: So there's no need to move
- 5 for the admission or to cite --
- 6 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: If you want to
- 7 do belt, suspenders, but no, it's already part of
- 8 the --
- 9 MR. WEINSTOCK: That was my understanding.
- 10 I just wanted to confirm that.
- The other small point I wanted to make
- is pursuant to your order on September 14, PODER
- 13 circulated to the parties two exhibits that were
- 14 outside of the record that we intend to introduce
- 15 today.
- The City lodged no objection to those
- 17 two exhibits. LRS's objection, I think, can be
- 18 fairly characterized as boilerplate. There was no
- 19 actual specific discussion of what's in the
- 20 exhibits or any specific argument as to relevance
- 21 or disability.
- 22 And so I would move for those to be
- 23 admitted now and I can pass those out so the
- 24 parties have them.



- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: You can pass
- 2 them out. We'll talk about it later. It seems
- 3 like we're jumping the gun on a lot of this stuff.
- 4 And just to note, this second exhibit, PODER
- 5 Exhibit 2, I can't really read it.
- 6 MR. WEINSTOCK: We've actually prepared a
- 7 new version.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- 9 MR. WEINSTOCK: That is a little more
- 10 legible that we've marked as 2-A.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: I'll pass those out.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Again,
- 14 Mr. Weinstock, we'll discuss this later because I'm
- 15 not sure what I have. And we've had several months
- 16 to do this and beyond the last 11th hour, we're
- 17 doing it. But I think we are ready for opening
- 18 statements unless the respondents have anything?
- 19 MR. WALSH: I just have a housekeeping
- 20 matter.
- 21 With respect to the exclusion of
- 22 witnesses, I'm assuming that once the Mayor
- 23 testifies, he can remain after his testimony?
- 24 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes.



Page 19 MR. WALSH: And that's true for all the 1 2 witnesses? 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. Thank you. MR. WALSH: Thank you. 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Opening 6 statements, Mr. Meza, PWC, you may proceed. 7 MR. MEZA: Thank you. 8 Thank you, Mr. Halloran, members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board. My name is 9 10 Ricardo Meza and I represent protect West Chicago. 11 There is clearly no need for a second 12 waste transfer station. There is no proven need 13 for another station, neither for capacity nor for 14 competition. 15 The hearings were bias, a farce. The 16 above comments are 100 percent correct, and 17 although PWC agrees with these comments, they are 18 not the comments of PWC. Rather, they are the 19 comments of a six-year West Chicago resident named 20 Wendy Christman who submitted her comments to the 21 West Chicago City Council. 22 The entirety of her comments are 23 already in the record on appeal and can be found at 24 Document 108141 at pages Bates Stamped COO 5810 and



- 1 C 005811.
- In her January 26, 2023 written
- 3 comments to the West Chicago City Council,
- 4 Miss Christman also said that she had attended --
- 5 she said this, and I quote, "She attended the
- 6 hearing and was extremely disappointed to see that
- 7 the lawyer who functioned as Judge was so clearly
- 8 biased in his enthusiastic support of LRS, so
- 9 obviously disdainful and disrespectful of the PODER
- 10 counsel," and that's P-O-D-E-R.
- 11 Additionally, the method and manner for
- 12 citizens to speak at the hearings was not made
- 13 clear. In fact, it was extremely confusing and
- 14 difficult to find information regarding how we
- 15 could speak up.
- 16 Every resident I spoke to believed, as
- 17 did I, that we would be able to voice concerns in
- 18 an orderly manner at the end of each hearing.
- 19 Members of the Pollution Control Board,
- 20 PWC agrees with all of the comments and
- 21 observations of six-year resident Wendy Christman.
- 22 Miss Christman's comments and the
- 23 allegations contained in PWC's Amended Petition
- 24 relate to a lack of fundamental fairness in the



- 1 underlying proceedings and support the fact that a
- 2 disinterested observer might conclude that the
- 3 local siting authority adjudged both the facts and
- 4 the law before hearing the case.
- 5 As you know, on April 14, 2023, PWC
- 6 filed it's an amended Petition in this matter. In
- 7 its Amended Petition, PWC alleged various grounds
- 8 in support of its request to reverse the decision
- 9 of the City of West Chicago to approve Lakeshore
- 10 Recycling Systems, LLC's application for the
- 11 construction and operation of what would be the
- 12 second waste transfer station in West Chicago.
- This would make West Chicago a
- 14 community, that is over 50 percent Latino, the only
- 15 city in the entire DuPage County that would have
- 16 two waste transfer stations in their community.
- 17 In our Amended Petition, PWC alleged
- 18 that the City of West Chicago's decision to grant
- 19 Lakeshore's approval should be reversed on
- 20 jurisdictional grounds because Lakeshore failed to
- 21 comply with the pre-filing requirements set forth
- 22 under state law and the Illinois Environmental
- 23 Protection Act, and in particular, 415 ILCS
- 24 Section 539.2 B.



- 1 PWC submitted its arguments to the
- 2 Hearing Officer and the City of West Chicago, yet
- 3 despite the controlling law and authority, the City
- 4 of West Chicago nonetheless granted Lakeshore's
- 5 application.
- The decision to not reject Lakeshore's
- 7 application on these grounds should end these
- 8 proceedings today because they are jurisdictional
- 9 grounds, which prevented the City of West Chicago,
- 10 the Hearing Officer, from hearing the application
- 11 of Lakeshore.
- 12 However, the decision of West Chicago
- 13 to ignore the facts and law reveals that West
- 14 Chicago had, in fact, adjudged both the facts and
- 15 the law before even hearing the case.
- 16 Secondly, Protect West Chicago also
- 17 alleged that the City of West Chicago's decision to
- 18 grant Lakeshore's approval should be reversed
- 19 because in its application and at the siting
- 20 hearing, Lakeshore admitted that its proposed
- 21 facility would be located within 1,000 feet of
- 22 property zoned residential.
- 23 This admission, this fact is in direct
- 24 contravention of state law, and in particular, the



- 1 State's site location standard, which is set forth
- 2 in 415 ILCS Section 5/22.14 A.
- 3 State law is very clear, no person may
- 4 establish any pollution control facility for use as
- 5 a garbage transfer station which is located less
- 6 than 1,000 feet from the nearest property zoned for
- 7 primarily residential uses within 1,000 feet of any
- 8 dwelling.
- 9 However, despite this clear language,
- 10 despite the fact that location was, in fact,
- 11 located within 1,000 feet of property that was
- 12 zoned primarily for residential uses, West Chicago
- 13 City Council adopted the report of the Hearing
- 14 Officer and his recommended findings of fact and
- 15 recommended conditions of approval in which he
- 16 found that this did not apply.
- 17 Interestingly, the Hearing Officer,
- 18 Mr. Derke Price, that's spelled D-E-R-K-E, relied
- 19 on a letter that was prepared by Tom Dabareiner.
- 20 That's D-A-B-A-R-E-I-N-E-R.
- 21 Mr. Dabareiner is a community
- 22 development director for the City of West Chicago.
- 23 He submitted a letter under his signature in West
- 24 Chicago letterhead, which Hearing Officer Price



- 1 relied on and which the City Council adopted in his
- 2 entirety. And that ruling of Mr. Price relied on
- 3 the letter from Mr. Dabareiner.
- 4 In fact, the City of West Chicago not
- 5 only relied on a letter from one of its own
- 6 officials, it did so knowing that it was the
- 7 obligation of the applicant, in this case
- 8 Lakeshore, to make sure that it met all its
- 9 requirements.
- In other words, it was the obligation
- 11 under the Ordinance of the City of West Chicago
- 12 that Lakeshore submit evidence and facts supporting
- 13 that it met all the location Criterion.
- But it's not just that Mr. Dabareiner
- 15 wrote a letter that Lakeshore used in support of
- 16 Lakeshore's application, but that Lakeshore
- 17 actually edited and wrote language in that letter
- 18 to make it more favorable to Lakeshore and the City
- 19 of West Chicago accepted it.
- In other words, the initial draft that
- 21 Mr. Dabareiner wrote in 2019 to whom it may concern
- 22 stated, among other things, that the City believes
- 23 Section 22.14 A, 1,000-foot setback is not
- 24 applicable.



- 1 But that's not changed by Lakeshore to
- 2 say as such, the City concludes that the 1,000-foot
- 3 setback requirement is not applicable.
- 4 So they went from belief to conclude
- 5 because that's what Lakeshore wanted. And what
- 6 Lakeshore wanted Lakeshore got.
- 7 This is further evidence that West
- 8 Chicago officials and the local siting authority
- 9 had clearly adjudged both the facts and the law,
- 10 because these are legal requirements, the
- 11 1,000-foot setback, before the hearing.
- 12 Those letters were drafted in 2019 and
- 13 yet, were made by Lakeshore in 2022.
- 14 For today's hearing, PWC intends to
- 15 question witnesses in order to elicit further facts
- 16 relating to the pre-adjudication in favor of
- 17 approving Lakeshore's application, which frankly
- 18 rendered the entire local review process
- 19 fundamentally unfair, and in the words of
- 20 Miss Christman, a farce.
- In regards to the fundamental fairness
- 22 allegations, we'll be calling the Mayor, who you'll
- 23 hear in 2019 before the application was submitted
- 24 by Lakeshore is sending out text messages to a



- 1 local Catholic -- I don't think it's a Catholic
- 2 priest -- a local priest named Father Josh Ebener,
- 3 E-B-E-N-E-R, when he found out that Father Josh had
- 4 posted information opposing a second waste transfer
- 5 station in this majority Latino community.
- 6 Stop pushing propaganda is what the
- 7 Mayor wrote. Guess what? There were no more
- 8 texts. There were no messages from Father Josh.
- 9 We'll be calling Mr. Guttman who is
- 10 here who runs the city, day-to-day city, about some
- of his activity and his conduct with regard to the
- 12 pre-application filings and some documents.
- We'll be calling Alderman Lori Chassee,
- 14 that's C-H-A-S-S-E-E, who voted for Ordinance
- 15 23-0 -- actually, it's not a zero, it's an O I
- 16 believe, 23-0-0006. That is the Ordinance that the
- 17 City Council voted on in a five-minute meeting held
- 18 at a local high school in West Chicago after they
- 19 had met for over an hour, hour-and-a-half in closed
- 20 session the day before on February 27.
- 21 And we'll be calling Tom Dabareiner
- 22 who, as I mentioned, prepared a letter that
- 23 Lakeshore used in their application to support the
- 24 fact that Lakeshore met the location site



- 1 Criterion, which Hearing Officer Price adopted,
- 2 accepted, used and in turn so did the City Council.
- 3 PWC believes that after hearing the
- 4 witness' testimony coupled with the exhibits, the
- 5 evidence that's already in the record before the
- 6 Pollution Control Board and additional arguments
- 7 that we will be including in our post-hearing brief
- 8 and our post-hearing Reply Brief, the Pollution
- 9 Control Board will be able to conclude that those
- 10 pre-adjudications in favor of approving Lakeshore's
- 11 application, rendering the entire process
- 12 fundamentally unfair.
- Now, we also on behalf of PWC believe
- 14 that the Hearing Officer made and rendered
- impartial rulings as alleged in Paragraph 20 of
- 16 PWC's Amended Petition. We'll be discussing those
- 17 also in our post-hearing brief.
- And finally, we'll also be arguing to
- 19 the Pollution Control Board as set forth in our
- 20 Amended Petition of April of this year that
- 21 Lakeshore's application failed to meet the
- 22 Criterion in Section 39.2 and specifically failed
- 23 to establish there was an actual need for the
- 24 second waste transfer station, failed to establish



- 1 that the proposed transfer station would be
- 2 operated in a safe manner, thus not satisfying
- 3 Criterion 2.
- 4 The need didn't satisfy Criterion one
- 5 of 39.2. We also believe it shows that the
- 6 proposed facility was not located so as to minimize
- 7 in capacability does not satisfy Criterion 3.
- 8 And that the proposed facility failed
- 9 to overcome DuPage County's solid waste management
- 10 plan, thus not satisfying Criterion A.
- 11 The plan does not require or does not
- 12 contemplate two waste transfer stations located on
- 13 the same street in the same town in the same
- 14 county. That's what Lakeshore wants.
- 15 Mr. Halloran and members of the
- 16 Pollution Control Board, all these matters will be
- 17 discussed in later detail in our post-hearing
- 18 filings. And we thank you for the opportunity to
- 19 present these witnesses and our evidence in support
- 20 of our request that you reverse the decision of the
- 21 City of West Chicago's approval for a second waste
- 22 transfer station for Lakeshore. Thank you.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you, sir.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you, Mr. Halloran.



- 1 Again, my name is Rob Weinstock. I'm counsel for
- 2 PODER in this matter.
- 3 I want to start by thanking you,
- 4 Mr. Halloran, and the Board for holding these
- 5 hearings in West Chicago and with the availability
- 6 of language translation.
- 7 I am going to yield my time as it were
- 8 to my law clerk, Persis Ticknor-Swanson.
- 9 Miss Ticknor-Swanson's Rule 7-11 license has been
- 10 delayed due to administrative issues, so she will
- 11 provide an opening statement as a public comment.
- 12 PODER fully incorporates her public
- 13 comment that follows as its official public
- 14 statement for the record -- excuse me -- its
- 15 official opening statement for the record in this
- 16 proceeding.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. You
- 18 may step up. And I might add, the respondents had
- 19 no objection. Wherever you feel comfortable with.
- 20 You can sit there as long as we can all hear and
- 21 the court reporter.
- 22 MS. TICKNOR-SWANSON: Sure. My name is
- 23 Persis Ticknor-Swanson and I'm a law clerk at the
- 24 Northwestern Pritzker School of Law Bluhm Legal



- 1 Clinic. I am here today under the supervision of
- 2 my professor Rob Weinstock. We represent the
- 3 petitioner, People Opposing DuPage Environmental
- 4 Racism known as PODER. PODER is part of immigrant
- 5 solidarity DuPage, a citizen's rights group focused
- 6 on educating and organizing DuPage County around
- 7 the rights and collective struggles of the Latino
- 8 community.
- 9 I have been working with PODER since
- 10 January when they got involved in the City
- 11 hearings. A member of PODER, Julieta
- 12 Alcantar-Garcia, will provide a Sworn Statement on
- 13 PODER's behalf as authorized by Title 35 of the
- 14 Illinois Admin Code, Subpart F, Section 101.628.
- 15 This case is about whether a
- 16 municipality must consider who the people are in a
- 17 community in which a pollution control facility may
- 18 be located and what existing environmental
- 19 conditions or health stressors the community
- 20 already suffers from.
- 21 The City's interpretation of
- 22 Section 39.2 of the Illinois Environmental
- 23 Protection Act excludes consideration of the people
- 24 who actually live in West Chicago and how this



- 1 facility might impact their health. That
- 2 interpretation is a misreading of the spirit and
- 3 letter of the Statute and the City's Hearing
- 4 Officer used it as a legal cudgel rendering the
- 5 process fundamentally unfair to the community.
- It is impossible to evaluate the
- 7 environmental impacts of a facility without being
- 8 deeply informed by the surrounding social context.
- 9 We ask the Board to take this
- 10 opportunity to remedy the fundamental unfairness of
- 11 this particular siting decision, but also the
- 12 fundamental unfairness of interpreting a statute
- 13 that is concerned with the public health safety and
- 14 welfare of communities to be applied in a way that
- 15 sacrifices a vulnerable community for the benefit
- 16 of a broader area.
- Our client PODER operates in West
- 18 Chicago, which is a majority-minority city where
- 19 over 50 percent of the population speaks a language
- 20 other than English and a significant percentage of
- 21 the residents are immigrants.
- 22 West Chicago already supports one waste
- 23 transfer station -- the only one in DuPage
- 24 County -- and if LRS is successful, all the waste



- 1 transfer stations for the entirety (majority white)
- 2 DuPage County will be concentrated in a minority
- 3 community.
- 4 West Chicago has a long and painful
- 5 history of radioactive contamination and already
- 6 bears the burden of health impacts from commercial
- 7 and industrial facilities.
- 8 This new waste transfer station will
- 9 increase diesel pollution from trucks in West
- 10 Chicago even as in DuPage County overall vehicle
- 11 miles are reduced or competition improves prices.
- 12 A new waste transfer station will just
- 13 be another chapter of burdening an already
- 14 vulnerable community with pollution and possibly
- 15 harming residents' health.
- 16 PODER has been working to oppose the
- 17 waste transfer station since the application was
- 18 filed. PODER registered and participated as a
- 19 party during the City's hearing process. Our
- 20 clinic began representation of PODER in the middle
- 21 of the hearings because PODER realized that in
- 22 order to meaningfully participate and navigate this
- 23 at-times hostile process they needed counsel.
- 24 They submitted findings of fact and



- 1 conclusions of law to the Hearing Officer and also
- 2 submitted a written public comment to the City
- 3 Council. Despite all the questions and concerns
- 4 raised by PODER in these filings, both documents
- 5 were disregarded entirely by the City in their
- 6 deliberations and subsequent Ordinance.
- 7 In March, PODER filed a Petition for
- 8 review of the Board. We respectfully ask the Board
- 9 to overturn the City's approval of LRS's waste
- 10 transfer station and we offer two main arguments.
- Our first argument is about the proper
- 12 statutory interpretation of Section 39.2. We'll
- 13 reserve a more thorough argument for our brief, but
- 14 I want to summarize it now, as it contextualizes
- 15 PODER's position in this appeal as an environmental
- 16 justice group and also informs the testimony you
- 17 will hear today about the fundamental unfairness of
- 18 the City hearing process.
- 19 The City's Hearing Officer treated
- 20 testimony about environmental justice and public
- 21 health with open hostility and the City did not
- 22 even consider them at all.
- 23 For example, at the City hearing, the
- 24 Hearing Officer declared point blank that he



- 1 believes the Statute excludes any consideration of
- 2 environmental justice. He stated, I'm not going to
- 3 hear testimony about environmental justice. I'm
- 4 not going to have testimony about if this were to
- 5 impact on persons of whether it's color, income.
- 6 None of that is relevant 39.2.
- 7 We disagree. This case is a textbook
- 8 example of structural Environmental Racism because
- 9 relevant information that speaks directly to public
- 10 health safety and welfare was disregarded by the
- 11 decision makers. The language of the Statute has
- 12 been construed so narrowly by the Hearing Officer
- 13 and the City counsel that it concentrates an entire
- 14 County's environmental burden into a single
- 15 community of mostly people of color and then it
- 16 justifies its harm by relying on misinterpretations
- 17 of Criterion 2.
- 18 The Hearing Officer and City's
- 19 interpretation of Criterion 2 is not in sync with
- 20 the plain language of the Statute or with the
- 21 reality of how new facilities may impact public
- 22 health safety and welfare. We will ask in our
- 23 Briefs for the Board to correct this.
- 24 The language of Criterion 2 applies to



- 1 the public. The relevant public is the actual
- 2 community in which the waste transfer station will
- 3 be located, not the entire county or a single plot
- 4 of land.
- 5 The burden was on LRS to show that its
- 6 proposed facility would protect public health,
- 7 safety and welfare. PODER attempted to present
- 8 evidence that West Chicago was already bearing
- 9 environmental burdens that would impact public
- 10 health.
- In contrast, LRS had no evidence about
- 12 protecting the public health from air pollution and
- 13 diesel trucks in West Chicago. Misinterpreting the
- 14 Statute in this way harms West Chicago residents,
- who are the proper relevant public to be protected.
- Our second main argument, which we will
- 17 address in more depth at this hearing, is that the
- 18 City's hearing process was fundamentally unfair to
- 19 PODER and the community of color in West Chicago.
- 20 We have a couple points about fundamental fairness.
- 21 As I mentioned earlier, Miss Garcia
- 22 will offer a public statement under oath about her
- 23 experience with the City's hearing process. She
- 24 has decided to present here testimony in her first



- 1 language and the one she uses in her West Chicago
- 2 community, Spanish, which was an opportunity that
- 3 she was denied at the City's hearing. We are
- 4 grateful to the Board for providing Spanish
- 5 translation here today.
- 6 Miss Garcia will speak to the
- 7 challenges faced by the Spanish-speaking community
- 8 in West Chicago when they try to participate in the
- 9 hearing process. For example, there was no
- 10 translation offered at the City's hearing despite a
- 11 significant percentage of the effected public
- 12 speaking Spanish.
- 13 Miss Garcia was also not treated in a
- 14 fundamentally fair manner during her testimony.
- 15 She faced a hostile forum as a witness when the
- 16 supposedly impartial hearing officer improperly
- impeached her testimony on air quality and acted
- 18 with a general disrespectful demeanor towards her.
- 19 Even though the Statute puts the burden
- 20 on LRS, LRS presented nothing on how increased
- 21 diesel traffic might impact air pollution or affect
- 22 public health, whereas Miss Garcia did. This
- 23 Criterion 2 air quality testimony and the concern
- 24 she raised about public health and environmental



- 1 harm during the City's hearings were totally
- 2 ignored in the Hearing Officer's report to the City
- 3 Council and then the City's Ordinance.
- 4 Beyond the specific treatment of
- 5 Miss Garcia, the Hearing Officer and City applied
- 6 different standards of fairness to PODER and LRS.
- 7 The exhibits that we plan to submit later are going
- 8 to speak directly to this.
- 9 For example, the Hearing Officer would
- 10 not allow members of PODER to make oral public
- 11 comment at the hearing because they attempted to
- 12 register after the City's deadline, even though the
- 13 site of information was not easily accessible.
- But later in the process, the Hearing
- 15 Officer did not similarly require LRS to strictly
- 16 comply with procedural rules. The Hearing Officer
- 17 allowed LRS to submit extra witness testimony from
- 18 both Canadian National and Associate Property
- 19 Counselors under the quise of post-hearing public
- 20 comments.
- 21 The City then renamed them as a
- 22 submission of the parties in the certified record
- 23 to the Board. This was fundamentally unfair
- 24 because it allowed LRS to get witness testimony



- 1 into the record past the deadline and without any
- 2 opportunity for cross examination.
- 3 LRS did not even follow the proper
- 4 procedure for what it farcically called a public
- 5 comment, submitting it to the Hearing Officer
- 6 instead of the City Council. It was fundamentally
- 7 unfair for the Hearing Officer to deny public
- 8 participation of community members on a
- 9 technicality while allowing LRS to break the rules
- 10 in a much more significant way.
- I will also note that PODER properly
- 12 jumped through all the procedural hoops and the
- 13 City still mysteriously did not include PODER's
- 14 public comment in the published packet until PODER
- 15 noticed this omission.
- The burden of procedural compliance was
- 17 much higher on PODER whereas LRS was allowed wiggle
- 18 room. It is fundamentally unfair to burden
- 19 community members with the task of ensuring the
- 20 City is treating them fairly.
- 21 Protecting the public health, safety
- 22 and welfare when citing a pollution control
- 23 facility means considering the actual community and
- 24 environment in which that facility will be located.



- 1 The Hearing Officer and City Council
- 2 disregarded and disrespect PODER's testimony about
- 3 public health, safety and welfare and that was
- 4 fundamentally unfair. A statute concerned with
- 5 public health, safety and welfare of communities
- 6 should not be applied in a way that ignores the
- 7 social and historical context of West Chicago and
- 8 thereby imposes public health burdens on a
- 9 community of color for the benefit of a wider,
- 10 whiter and wealthier area.
- 11 We ask the Board to overturn the City
- 12 counsel's approval of LRS's waste transfer station
- 13 for failure to comply both with the language of the
- 14 IEPA and for failure to conduct a fundamentally
- 15 fair process. Thank you.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you,
- 17 Miss Ticknor-Swanson. I appreciate it.
- 18 Mr. Walsh?
- 19 MR. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Halloran.
- 20 Contrary to what the petitioners have alleged in
- 21 their petitions, the proceedings held by the City
- 22 of West Chicago with respect to the application
- 23 filed by Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC on
- 24 September 16, 2022 met the fundamental fairness



- 1 requirements applicable to a siting authority.
- 2 I cannot stress enough that the City
- 3 Council took its responsibilities with respect to
- 4 these proceedings very seriously.
- 5 There is no evidence in the record or
- 6 that will be presented today that will show that
- 7 any member of the City Council who was a
- 8 decision-maker on this application had prejudged
- 9 the application, but rather, the record will show
- 10 that the City Council made an impartial decision on
- 11 the application based on whether the evidence met
- 12 the 9th siting Criterion.
- 13 Simply put, the aldermen of the City of
- 14 West Chicago made an impartial decision on the
- 15 application, one that met the requirements of the
- 16 Illinois Environmental Protection Act and the
- 17 precedent established by Illinois Courts and
- 18 Illinois Pollution Control Board.
- The comments read you'll see throughout
- 20 the evidence of the record is that the petitioner's
- 21 main concern was not that the City Council failed
- 22 to file proper procedures, but rather, the
- 23 procedures themselves, those set forth by Illinois
- law and by the City Ordinance, seems unfair.



- 1 And I suspect that much of what they
- 2 will attempt to introduce into evidence today will
- 3 have no relevance under the law.
- 4 And most importantly, those concerns do
- 5 not form a legal basis for overturning the City's
- 6 decision.
- 7 In the end, when all of the evidence is
- 8 presented on these issues, it will be clear that
- 9 the City's decision met the standards of
- 10 fundamental fairness, that the City's decision was
- 11 supported by the citing record with respect to the
- 12 contested criteria and that the City's decision was
- 13 not against the manifest weight of the evidence and
- 14 should be affirmed. Thank you.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you,
- 16 Mr. Walsh. Mr. Mueller?
- 17 MR. MUELLER: Thank you. I'll be very
- 18 brief.
- 19 Mr. Meza quotes a public comment during
- 20 the hearing from a Wendy Christman for the
- 21 proposition that a disinterested observer would
- 22 conclude that the hearings were not fair. There is
- 23 no basis to believe that Miss Christman was a
- 24 disinterested observer. And I'll leave my response



- 1 to her comment at that.
- Now, what you're going to hear today,
- 3 Mr. Halloran, is a stretch at circumstantial
- 4 evidence, but what you're not going to hear is
- 5 evidence that any of the decision-makers were
- 6 biased or that they were improperly influenced.
- 7 And that's significant.
- 8 You've seen motions that have the same
- 9 conspiracy concept in them filed by Protect West
- 10 Chicago. And those concepts are simply not
- 11 supported.
- 12 For example, Protect West Chicago is
- 13 today going to present evidence that a
- 14 representative of Lakeshore suggested to a City
- 15 employee some alternative wording 4-11. That City
- 16 employee was not a decision-maker, but Protect West
- 17 Chicago wants you to take unrelated and irrelevant
- 18 facts and conclude that those must be
- 19 circumstantial evidence of bias.
- The problem with their argument is that
- 21 bias has to be by the decision-maker. It doesn't
- 22 matter whether Mr. Guttman, the City administrator,
- 23 is bias, although I have no evidence that he is or
- 24 isn't. What matters is whether the decision-makers



- 1 were biased. And there's not going to be any
- 2 evidence on that whatsoever.
- Now, as to PODER's argument, somehow
- 4 they want to throw us into the cultural war that
- 5 says everyone is the subject of structural racism
- 6 and structural oppression. And they want the
- 7 Pollution Control Board to add language to
- 8 Section 39.2 that is not in there.
- 9 The Hearing Officer strictly
- 10 interpreted the clear language of 39.2 in barring
- 11 testimony on environmental justice, whatever that
- 12 term even means.
- 13 The Hearing Officer did not bar
- 14 testimony on public health effects. And now
- 15 apparently Lakeshore is also responsible for
- 16 previous radioactivity issues in the City of West
- 17 Chicago since that's been thrown into the mix, too,
- 18 to show that this is an oppressed community.
- 19 Mr. Halloran, I live in West Chicago.
- 20 And I also speak a language other than English, but
- 21 I do my business in English. And Miss Garcia who
- 22 is PODER's witness, and I believe the opening
- 23 statement was she was forced to give testimony in a
- 24 language other than her native language.



- 1 She testified that she was born in West
- 2 Chicago. That she's born and raised here, lived
- 3 her whole life here. And she testified to that in
- 4 English and frankly, quite articulately.
- 5 So the whole Spanish language issue is
- 6 a smokescreen. And a careful review of the record
- 7 that is on file indicates that neither PODER nor
- 8 Protect West Chicago ever asked for Spanish
- 9 translation during the siting hearing.
- 10 I think they are going to be reading
- 11 about the waiver rule in the Briefs because they
- 12 didn't ask for it and they didn't get it. So
- 13 apparently Lakeshore is now responsible for
- 14 oppression of the population. Two responses to
- 15 that.
- 16 Number one, there was no denial of
- 17 evidence regarding health effects of the siting
- 18 application. Lakeshore took its obligation of
- 19 protecting the public health, safety and welfare
- 20 under Criterion 2 of Section 39.2 very seriously.
- 21 And the Hearing Officer did not deny evidence
- 22 regarding public health. And negative public
- 23 health affects seems to me that it would apply to
- 24 people of color and other people as well.



- 1 So that wasn't denied.
- 2 Secondly, the evidence is going to be
- 3 that this particular facility is located far
- 4 removed from populated areas in the City of West
- 5 Chicago. And as I understand PODER's public
- 6 health, safety and welfare argument, it is that
- 7 they weren't allowed to get evidence of truck
- 8 emissions in.
- 9 Trucks are ubiquitous on the roads of
- 10 the United States, as well as West Chicago. And
- 11 wherever they go, they have emissions. And our
- 12 testimony was that the emissions from trucks
- 13 servicing this transfer station would have a de
- 14 minimis effect on air quality in the area.
- So my point is, I think what you're
- 16 hearing, what you're going to hear is smoke and
- 17 mirrors and it's some kind of twisted attempt to
- 18 bring Section 39.2 into the cross hairs of the
- 19 cultural wars that are occurring now in places I
- 20 thought outside of Illinois, but apparently they
- 21 have come to Illinois as well.
- Thank you.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you,
- 24 Mr. Mueller.



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Page 46 It's been agreed to, before we start 1 2 directing and crossing the witnesses, that 3 Miss Garcia will stand, step up and read her sworn written statement subject to cross. Am I 5 understanding correct? MR. WEINSTOCK: Yes. 7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you, Mr. Weinstock. We're off the record for a minute. 8 9 (There was a discussion held off 10 the record, after which the 11 deposition resumed as follows:) 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. 13 We're back on the record. Miss Garcia, a witness 14 statement subject to cross, you may proceed. 15 THE WITNESS: My name is Juliette 16 Alcantar-Garcia and I am here representing one of 17 the participants, PODER, or in English People 18 Against Environmental Racism in DuPage. 19 PODER is an organized committee of 20 immigrant solidarity DuPage, which is dedicated to 21 advocating for our local Latin community. 22 PODER committee is focused on making 23 sure that our community has a safe and healthy 24 environment.



- 1 Today I am here in a personal capacity
- 2 as a resident of West Chicago for over 50 years and
- 3 mother of two children who have grown up here in
- 4 this community.
- 5 I am also here present as a citizen
- 6 trying to be involved in this process.
- 7 I am going to give my testimony in
- 8 Spanish because I want my community, my whole
- 9 community, to understand what I am saying, not only
- 10 the members of our community who speak English.
- 11 Spanish is the first language that I
- 12 learned growing up in my family and it is the
- 13 language that I use to communicate to speak with my
- 14 neighbors in West Chicago.
- I am very grateful to the Illinois
- 16 Pollution Control Board for allowing there to be an
- interpreter in existence in this hearing to be able
- 18 to have this opportunity.
- 19 This was the opportunity that was
- 20 denied to us by the City government during the
- 21 hearings in the month of January of 2023.
- 22 When I learned that LRS wanted to
- 23 expand a waste transfer station here in West
- 24 Chicago, I was very skeptic, just very doubtful.



- 1 We have already had to live with a lot
- 2 of pollution here in West Chicago.
- 3 There are already a lot of commercial
- 4 and industrial installations or facilities here in
- 5 our town, including another waste transfer station.
- 6 All of these facilities always have dozens of
- 7 trucks, motor diesel trucks, daily, just expelling
- 8 and spitting out exhaust into our air.
- 9 There is already radioactive
- 10 contamination spread out in the lot around what is
- 11 called Superfund sites of Kerr McGee.
- 12 Through the passing of time, there have
- 13 been more and more spaces and prairies converted in
- 14 our town. They have been converted into gas
- 15 stations or rest stops for big trucks.
- 16 All of this pollution affects the
- 17 health of our people. I often speak with parents
- 18 at the schools of my children in reference to how
- 19 they are worried that their children have been
- 20 diagnosed with asthma or with respiratory
- 21 illnesses.
- Other people in our town are struggling
- 23 and fighting these chronic illnesses, which could
- 24 have been caused by pollution. When I hear their



- 1 concerns, their worries, this motivates me to
- 2 advocate for them.
- In West Chicago, we do not need another
- 4 facility that will bring more motor diesel trucks
- 5 contaminating and polluting the air in our
- 6 community.
- 7 Members of our community and I were
- 8 attempting to become involved in this approval
- 9 process for LRS, but we were constantly put in
- 10 front of obstacles by the municipal government of
- 11 West Chicago and its representatives.
- 12 Since the beginning, LRS and the
- 13 municipal government I believe have created this so
- 14 that it would be very difficult for our Latino
- 15 community to be able to participate. LRS began to
- 16 submit its application for a permit to expand its
- 17 business on Mexican Independence Day, which to me
- 18 was an insult because this is a day of celebration
- 19 for us.
- Instead of celebrating, we received a
- 21 slap in the face by proposing that LRS could make
- 22 their facilities bigger, or grow their business
- 23 within our community.
- 24 When LRS tried to invite PODER to its



- 1 facility to present its propaganda, in reality,
- 2 they did not listen to our concerns. They believed
- 3 instead that by serving us some really bad tacos,
- 4 they were going to be able to win us over or buy
- 5 us.
- And then it seemed that the municipal
- 7 government of West Chicago wanted to have the
- 8 hearing days before the December festivities.
- 9 This is a time when many of our
- 10 residents are with family or are with religious
- 11 obligations, which creates a conflict in order to
- 12 attend.
- This was going to create an emotional
- 14 load or a load for our Latino community because
- 15 many of us begin to celebrate the December
- 16 festivities with the Day of our Lady of Guadalupe.
- 17 This is also a day in which we have
- 18 many family obligations and we either travel or are
- 19 hosting. We in the PODER committee attended some
- 20 of these Council meetings in West Chicago to demand
- 21 that the hearings be held after the festivities.
- The municipal government of the City
- 23 was in agreement to move the hearings until
- 24 January. We were not the ones that had to convince



- 1 the municipal government of West Chicago to do
- 2 this. It is the obligation of West Chicago
- 3 government to always make these hearings
- 4 accessible.
- 5 The next obstacle created by the West
- 6 Chicago municipal government was interpretation or
- 7 translation. While the City of West Chicago
- 8 provides a translation function on its website, but
- 9 it did not translate the materials pertaining to
- 10 the LRS application.
- More than half of our town only speaks
- 12 and understands Spanish. How is it that our
- 13 community of Spanish-speaking residents was going
- 14 to know about this waste transfer station without
- 15 access to LRS application?
- 16 Later on during the hearing, there was
- 17 no translation provided.
- I saw friends and neighbors, all
- 19 Latinos, in the first days of the hearing who left
- 20 in the middle of the hearing. I asked them why
- 21 didn't you stay? They said it was because they
- 22 didn't understand or know anything about what was
- 23 happening.
- In the past, the municipal government



- 1 of the City has provided translation at meetings
- 2 for the West Chicago Council and other events. Why
- 3 not here?
- When I speak with West Chicago
- 5 officials regarding varies public subjects or
- 6 themes, I speak with them in Spanish often.
- 7 I perceive that the municipal
- 8 government of West Chicago did not want our Latino
- 9 community to participate in order to not give us
- 10 the opportunity to be able to have our voices heard
- 11 regarding this specific subject.
- I felt we were silenced. Despite all
- of the obstacles, I decided determinately to become
- involved so that my voice would be heard for my
- 15 community.
- 16 I am worried about the health and
- 17 well-being in my community. And when I heard about
- 18 the hearing, I decided to collect information in
- 19 reference to pollution at the existent facility
- 20 that was already being caused.
- I began monitoring the air quality in
- 22 and around the installations or facilities of LRS
- 23 in the months of October and -- between the months
- 24 of October and December of 2022. This was with an



- 1 air beam device.
- 2 MR. MUELLER: Your Honor, I am going to
- 3 object at this point.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Hold on a
- 5 minute, please. Mr. Mueller, your objection?
- 6 MR. MUELLER: My objection to her testimony
- 7 on air monitoring is that the Hearing Officer at
- 8 the hearing disregarded that testimony because he
- 9 found it to be unreliable and unscientific in
- 10 nature.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Mr. Halloran, may I have an
- 12 opportunity to respond?
- 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes, you may.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: The hearing officer's
- 15 disregard for Miss Garcia's testimony is exactly
- 16 what we are here to talk about today because it
- 17 speaks to whether the hearing officer treated her
- in a fundamentally unfair manner, which is exactly
- 19 what Miss Garcia --
- 20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. The Board
- 21 will so note the objections and Mr. Mueller, you
- 22 can cross when she gets finished. Thank you.
- THE WITNESS: In the month of December, I
- 24 also counted the diesel motor truck that would come



- 1 in and leave out of the route and LRS facility.
- 2 This was a very dirty and difficult job for me. I
- 3 had to wear a face mask out of fear of being
- 4 exposed or out of fear of inhaling the pollution
- 5 that was being caused by these trucks.
- 6 The smell outside both facilities was
- 7 horrible in combination with the diesel exhaust of
- 8 the trucks and the garbage inside.
- 9 December came and the temperatures
- 10 began to drop and it was very cold. But I did my
- 11 job because I wanted to know if the waste transfer
- 12 stations were harming the health of our community.
- 13 I wanted to know what would happen if LRS is
- 14 allowed to add and bring more diesel motor trucks
- 15 to cause more contamination in the air, which is
- 16 already contaminated.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sorry to
- 18 interrupt. I don't have an English version of her
- 19 statement. Mr. Weinstock?
- 20 MR. WALSH: Could the respondents have a
- 21 copy of the statement?
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes, that would
- 23 be great. I thought everybody would get copies.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: I believe I only have three



- 1 copies.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. You
- 3 may proceed. Thank you.
- 4 THE WITNESS: When it was my turn to
- 5 testify in the City hearing, I was nervous. I had
- 6 to speak in front of all of these people in English
- 7 instead of being able to speak in a language that
- 8 my community understands and one in which I feel
- 9 more comfortable.
- I had never done anything like this in
- 11 either of the two languages that I speak, but I was
- 12 determined to speak because I had information that
- 13 I had collected that highly concerned me.
- 14 I have counted dozens of trucks
- 15 entering and leaving in both installations or
- 16 facilities every hour that I was there. I saw the
- 17 levels of contamination increase on the monitor.
- 18 MR. MUELLER: I'm going to object again,
- 19 Mr. Halloran. You cannot hear new evidence on the
- 20 criteria here, and this is an attempt to get
- 21 through the back door, evidence about Criterion 2.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. I think
- 23 it's going a little abroad, Mr. Weinstock. And
- 24 also, I was under the assumption in one of the



- 1 conference calls you said this was going to be a
- 2 sworn statement in English.
- 3 MR. WEINSTOCK: Yes, and I actually was
- 4 going to raise that here. You mentioned it would
- 5 be sworn and subject to cross and she wasn't sworn
- 6 in so I'm happy to --
- 7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: You said a sworn
- 8 statement, meaning I was thinking was being
- 9 notarized and I didn't have a copy at the
- 10 beginning.
- 11 MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm sorry. It's an oral
- 12 statement. We assumed the court reporter would
- 13 swear her in under the rules.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Well, under the
- 15 rules, when a person says a sworn statement, I
- 16 thought you meant it was to be notarized and be
- 17 sworn, because otherwise, I would have called it
- 18 out sooner.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm sorry. Under 1067.628,
- 20 we read, A, oral statements, the Hearing Officer
- 21 may permit a participant to make an oral statement
- 22 on the record made under oath and subject to cross
- 23 examination.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I understand



- 1 that. We're going back to the conference calls.
- 2 MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm sorry.
- 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: You said
- 4 Miss Garcia was going to give a sworn statement. I
- 5 thought it would be notarized -- this would be
- 6 notarized. Had you gave me this at the top, I
- 7 would have realized that it's not notarized and
- 8 sworn.
- 9 MR. WEINSTOCK: And I'm sorry if I was
- 10 unclear in the conference calls, but we were
- 11 pointing directly to Rule 628(a), which is --
- 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Not in the
- 13 conference call, you didn't mention it.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm sorry.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I said yes, I
- 16 was aware that she would give a sworn statement,
- 17 but I was under the assumption it would be a sworn
- 18 statement notarized.
- 19 MR. WEINSTOCK: I apologize for the
- 20 confusion.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. What are
- 22 we going to do?
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Well, I guess, your Honor,
- 24 we could proceed a few ways. We could swear her in



- 1 under 628(a) and she could start again. Or we can
- 2 swear her in now. We are happy to get this
- 3 notarized and submit it.
- 4 All the parties have heard her
- 5 testimony in-person as contemplated by the oral
- 6 statement rule and they have a hard copy, so that I
- 7 don't believe there's any prejudice with respect to
- 8 how they would be receiving this evidence if it was
- 9 submitted under the rule we thought we were
- 10 operating under.
- So we can proceed either way or we
- 12 could proceed both ways if that would be amenable
- 13 to your Honor.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh,
- 15 Mr. Mueller, what do you think?
- 16 MR. MUELLER: Mr. Halloran, I'm fine with
- 17 letting her be sworn in nunc pro tunc so to speak,
- 18 so that the entire statement is under oath.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. I'll go
- 20 with nunc pro tunc. Mr. Walsh?
- MR. WALSH: I agree.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right.
- 23 Court reporter, could you please swear Miss Garcia
- 24 in?



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Page 59 THE COURT REPORTER: Raise your right hand, 1 2 please. 3 (The oath was thereupon duly administered to the witness by 5 the Notary.) HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. You 7 may proceed. 8 MR. MUELLER: Mr. Halloran, before she 9 does, the primary part of my objection was that 10 she's trying to get in substantive testimony on the 11 Criterion here. 12 MR. WEINSTOCK: May I respond to that, 13 Mr. Halloran? 14 Yes. HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: 15 MR. WEINSTOCK: The record below the 16 transcript reflects what she tried to testify to 17 and how Mr. Price reacted. We are not trying to 18 rewrite that testimony. There is -- in that 19 record, you will find Mr. Price's reactions. 20 What Miss Garcia is about to testify to 21 is the fairness of his reactions, not his -- this 22 testimony now -- again, there's no intention to 23 rewrite the record below. This testimony that she 24 is describing now is to explain -- to set up his



- 1 reaction is what she's about to talk about.
- 2 MR. MUELLER: Mr. Halloran, I beg to
- 3 differ. When she's going to give statements like I
- 4 later learned that these levels were above the air
- 5 quality standards that the EPA sets to protect
- 6 public health, that's substantive testimony.
- 7 MR. WEINSTOCK: That was mentioned below.
- 8 That's in the record below. That's my point.
- 9 She's recapping the record below so she can explain
- 10 the unfairness of Mr. Price's reaction to what she
- 11 said.
- 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Where are we on
- 13 this statement, Sworn Statement? There's no page
- 14 numbers.
- 15 MR. WEINSTOCK: Yes. And I apologize for
- 16 that. She's, I believe, at the top of what is the
- 17 third to the last page. That's exactly the spot
- 18 that Mr. Mueller referenced.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. You
- 20 know, I'll allow latitude, but I somewhat agree
- 21 with Mr. Mueller and Mr. Mueller can do his cross
- 22 examination. You may proceed, Miss Garcia.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- I later learned that these pollution



- 1 levels in the air were over the standards
- 2 associated with the EPA protection agency who
- 3 protects public health. I did not know what to
- 4 expect at the hearing, but at least I thought I
- 5 would be respected and I would be listened to.
- This is not what I was feeling during
- 7 my testimony. The Hearing Officer wanted to appear
- 8 that he was impartial at the beginning, but I felt
- 9 that everything that he did was to prevent me from
- 10 speaking. His words and actions sent me a clear
- 11 message that he was not going to take into account
- 12 anything that I was saying.
- The Hearing Officer stood before me or
- 14 above me when I was trying to give my testimony.
- 15 He had a very hostile and non-friendly tone. You
- 16 will notice in the transcript of my testimony that
- there was a moment, a point where my lawyer had to
- 18 ask for tissue paper. This is because the officer
- 19 made me cry.
- While I was giving my testimony, he was
- 21 looking through his cell phone for reasons why he
- 22 should exclude the information that I was
- 23 providing. He admitted that he was doing this
- 24 during the hearing. He did not allow me to share



- 1 my information, nor my concerns for the
- 2 contamination that these trucks were causing.
- 3 The officer said that I was not a
- 4 scientist, that I could not give an opinion in
- 5 reference to sites, but I am a highly worried
- 6 citizen.
- 7 I used an application and a device in
- 8 order to understand how this waste transfer station
- 9 could affect my community. I was trained to use
- 10 it, but the officer did not allow me to speak about
- 11 this because he thought I was not qualified.
- 12 Also during -- in the transcript of the
- 13 hearing, the officer admitted that he could not
- 14 maintain the information of the air contamination
- 15 that I had provided in my testimony.
- The message that I received was that he
- 17 wanted to exclude everything that I had said and
- 18 presented. He did not allow me to share my
- 19 reaction to the fact of the levels of contamination
- 20 that I had collected, that those levels were over
- 21 the levels just as an expert had spoken about
- 22 during the hearing.
- It is not necessary to be a scientist
- 24 in order to realize that the pollution levels in



- 1 our air are dangerous and they can harm our
- 2 community.
- 3 He said that I was not qualified to
- 4 speak. My qualifications are the fact that my
- 5 family and I live with pollution in our air because
- 6 of these trucks and facilities, these motor diesel
- 7 trucks that are in our community every day.
- 8 I felt harassed and humiliated by this
- 9 Hearing Officer, but nevertheless, I am happy that
- 10 I spoke up in whichever way I could. I thought
- 11 that despite the fact of how the officer had
- 12 treated me, that he and the government in our City
- 13 would consider the concerns that I raised in my
- 14 testimony.
- 15 But when I looked at and read the
- 16 report that the officer had sent to the West
- 17 Chicago Municipal Council, he had not mentioned the
- 18 information or these concerns at all.
- Once again, the government of West
- 20 Chicago approved the LRS's expansion in our City
- 21 and there was no mention of the contamination in
- 22 our air. There was no opportunity to even listen
- 23 directly to the municipal government to see why
- they had not considered my concerns because they



- 1 held a meeting behind closed doors amongst
- 2 themselves.
- I was completely ignored by them in
- 4 making these decisions. They behaved as though my
- 5 testimony had never happened.
- I know that the reason for this hearing
- 7 is to focus on whether or not there was fundamental
- 8 justice in the government's process and in the past
- 9 hearings of January of 2023 in reference to LRS. I
- 10 can tell you under my perspective as a citizen who
- 11 advocates for the Latino community, there was no
- 12 such fundamental justice.
- 13 Fundamental justice requires a true
- 14 opportunity for participation in these public
- 15 hearings and truly considering what the community
- 16 is saying. The decisions that are made don't have
- 17 to make everyone happy, but we all deserve to be
- 18 able to be heard. Many in our Latino community and
- 19 I did not receive this opportunity.
- The hours and days for these hearings,
- 21 the lack of translation or interpreters for
- 22 Spanish, the behavior of the officer in the
- 23 hearings, all of these were obstacles that made it
- 24 very difficult to be able to become involved in



- 1 this application process in the LRS hearings.
- I hope that the Illinois Pollution
- 3 Control Board will recognize our community and that
- 4 we were not given a true opportunity to be heard in
- 5 our city.
- The government of the City of West
- 7 Chicago approved a dangerous facility in our town
- 8 without providing us the fair opportunity to
- 9 participate in these hearings. They want to expand
- 10 this facility without listening to us.
- I hope the Board will take this
- 12 opportunity to correct the mistakes that the City
- 13 government has made, and I hope they will listen to
- 14 our community.
- I hope that they realize that we are
- 16 truly legitimately worried that this facility will
- 17 affect the health and well-being of our community.
- 18 Finally, I hope that the Board will
- 19 reverse the approval that the government of the
- 20 City of West Chicago gave and not allow LRS to
- 21 expand its facility in our town because of the
- 22 concerns that we have.
- 23 Thank you for your time and
- 24 consideration.



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Page 66 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: 1 Thank you, 2 Miss Garcia. Mr. Mueller, cross. 3 MR. MUELLER: Thank you. BY MR. MUELLER: 5 Miss Garcia, do you understand me when I'm 6 speaking to you in English? 7 I understand. Then I would ask leave to have her answer 8 9 in English if she actually can speak English. 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Weinstock? 11 MR. WEINSTOCK: Miss Garcia, are you comfortable speaking with Mr. Mueller in English or 12 13 do you prefer to proceed in Spanish? 14 THE WITNESS: In Spanish. 15 MR. MUELLER: Somebody just told her to say 16 that. 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Well, from my 18 understanding, she wants the community, and there's 19 really only eight or ten people here that I see. 20 think most are affiliated with the attorneys. 21 any members of the public here? I see one. 22 MR. WEINSTOCK: Miss Garcia, are you 23 comfortable proceeding in English? 24 THE WITNESS: That's fine.



- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- 2 Mr. Mueller, you may proceed.
- 3 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 4 Q Thank you. Miss Garcia, PODER you said
- 5 deals with immigrant solidarity, right?
- A But we are a subcommittee of immigrant
- 7 solidarity in DuPage.
- 8 Q Okay. Are you an immigrant?
- 9 MR. WEINSTOCK: Objection. It's
- 10 irrelevant.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you.
- 13 MR. MUELLER: I think it goes to her bias
- 14 in these proceedings.
- 15 MR. WEINSTOCK: Objection. She's a party
- 16 that has a stated position she's just articulated
- 17 at length. Mr. Mueller has --
- 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained. Move
- 19 on, Mr. Mueller, please.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you.
- 21 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 22 Q Now, you were born and educated in West
- 23 Chicago, right?
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Objection, your Honor.



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- 1 Same line of testimony into her personal
- 2 background.
- 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I'll allow her
- 4 to answer. It's overruled.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Yes, I was born and raised
- 6 and educated here.
- 7 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 8 Q And you studied English in school, right?
- 9 A In school, yes.
- 10 MR. WEINSTOCK: Same objection, your Honor.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Again, a little
- 12 latitude.
- 13 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 14 Q Did you graduate from high school?
- 15 A Yes, I did.
- 16 Q And your high school classes were in
- 17 English?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm going to make a
- 20 standing objection to all of Mr. Mueller's
- 21 questions about her personal experience with
- 22 English and background, your Honor.
- MR. MUELLER: I'm almost done,
- 24 Mr. Halloran.



- 1 MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Overruled. The
- 3 Board will take note of Mr. Weinstock's objection.
- 4 MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you.
- 5 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 6 Q Now, you testified that you prefer to
- 7 communicate in Spanish, right?
- 8 A I do.
- 9 Q Are you familiar with Hispanic businesses
- in West Chicago?
- 11 A Oh, yes, every one.
- 12 Q Do you know the La Chiquita grocery store?
- 13 A La Chiquita, Jimenez, Tampico, La India.
- 14 Poco Loco. Many people, friends, family members
- 15 have Latino businesses.
- 16 Q And, in fact, at La Chiquita, they do
- 17 business in English as well as Spanish, don't they?
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Objection, your Honor.
- 19 Mr. Mueller's personal experience shopping in an
- 20 area --
- 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes, I'm going
- 22 to sustain it. This is going a little afield,
- 23 Mr. Mueller. Move on.
- MR. MUELLER: Mr. Halloran, I'd like to at



- 1 least make the objection for the record, which is
- 2 the witness testified that there's something
- 3 fundamentally unfair about the siting hearing not
- 4 having occurred in Spanish and that somehow this is
- 5 a Spanish community when in fact, I can
- 6 cross-examine her to demonstrate that all the
- 7 Hispanic businesses in West Chicago do business in
- 8 English, as does the City Council of West Chicago?
- 9 MR. WEINSTOCK: Mr. Mueller's argument is
- 10 fine. I object to it as testimony by an attorney.
- 11 And you've already ruled excluding this line, so
- 12 I'll rest there.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay.
- 14 Overruled. Again, the Board should take note of
- 15 Mr. Weinstock's objection, but I think
- 16 Mr. Mueller's questioning kind of goes to one of
- 17 the allegations set forth in the amended motion,
- 18 Amended Petition. You may proceed, Mr. Mueller.
- 19 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 20 Q So I think the last question was the
- 21 Hispanic businesses all do business in English as
- 22 well as Spanish, don't they?
- 23 A Where there's people that come shop and
- 24 speak English, yes.



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Page 71 1 Q Okay. But primarily in Spanish. And we're not a 2 town where English only is implemented. 3 Now, you've testified that you were denied 4 5 an opportunity for English-to-Spanish translation 6 during the siting hearing, correct? 7 A Correct. Do you know whether Protect West Chicago 8 ever asked for that kind of translation? 10 MR. WEINSTOCK: Objection. Calls for 11 speculation. 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: No, she can 13 answer. Overruled. 14 THE WITNESS: I know that PODER, we did. 15 BY MR. MUELLER: 16 When did PODER ask for it? 17 There was the first, Steven Oralson, my 18 colleague at the first one we held at the community 19 high school. 20 That was on the fifth day of the public 21 hearing, correct? 22 A Correct.



statement that he would have preferred to have

And Mr. DeLaRosa in public comment made a

23

24

- 1 English-to-Spanish translation?
- 2 A Well, we were requesting that since the
- 3 beginning. We also had people trying to register
- 4 to speak. They wanted to speak. They were denied
- 5 to speak because there was no translation.
- 6 Q Who was denied to speak? Can you give me
- 7 names?
- 8 A Our community, Sofia Solis, Mateo Terez,
- 9 Eduardo Cortez. There's three more people, I
- 10 believe, but at this point I don't --
- 11 Q Who denied them the opportunity to speak?
- 12 A The officer.
- 13 Q The Hearing Officer on the record denied
- 14 them?
- 15 A The Hearing Officer, yes.
- 16 Q You've reviewed the transcript, right?
- 17 A Yes, I did.
- 18 Q And you can read English, correct?
- 19 A I can read English, yes.
- 20 Q Can you point to where in the transcript
- 21 the Hearing Officer denied a request to give public
- 22 comment?
- 23 A He denied it in emails. It's in our emails
- 24 back and forth with the Hearing Officer.



Page 73 Did PODER file a motion for 1 2 Spanish-to-English translation, or 3 English-to-Spanish, I should say? A Can I --4 5 MR. WEINSTOCK: If you don't know, you can 6 answer honestly. 7 THE WITNESS: I don't remember. I don't 8 know. BY MR. MUELLER: 9 10 And you say that you were insulted because 11 the application was filed on Mexican Independence 12 Day? 13 A Yes. 14 Q Is that a holiday in the United States? 15 MR. WEINSTOCK: Objection. 16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained. 17 BY MR. MUELLER: 18 And then you felt it was unfair to schedule the hearings in December, right? 19 20 A Correct. 21 And in response to your request, the hearings were rescheduled to January? 22 23 Α Yes. 24 Were you happy with that rescheduling?



Page 74 It gave us a little more time and yeah, we 1 were content with that. Now, you keep talking about trucks and 3 odors in the vicinity of the site, correct? 5 Α Yes. And you talk about LRS expanding their 7 facility? 8 Α Yes. They are not operating a transfer station there now, are they? 10 11 MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm going to object to the 12 ambiguity in the question. I don't think the 13 witness really knows. 14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Would you 15 rephrase that, Mr. Mueller? 16 BY MR. MUELLER: 17 Do you know what a transfer station is? 18 Α Yes. 19 Is LRS operating a waste transfer station 20 at that site at the present time? 21 A It is. 22 Q It is? 23 A It is. 24 Q How do you know that?



- 1 A Well, they've been here for years.
- 2 Q But in fact, they are doing other things
- 3 and not transferring waste, right?
- 4 A I understood during the hearings that there
- 5 were other things they were doing as well.
- 6 Q So those smells, odors and emissions you
- 7 complain of have nothing to do with the siting
- 8 application because they are already there,
- 9 correct?
- 10 MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm going to object to the
- 11 testimony in Mr. Mueller's exam or question.
- 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: No, I disagree.
- 13 Overruled. She can answer if she's able.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Repeat your question.
- 15 MR. MUELLER: I'd ask Mr. Halloran, to
- 16 direct the court reporter to read it back, please.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Please do.
- 18 Thank you.
- 19 (Record read back.)
- THE WITNESS: I would say it complements.
- 21 Everything there is causing the odors, not just
- 22 the -- the whole, as I stated, all the
- 23 installations there, all the facilities, everything
- is piling up to the ongoing pollution we have.



- 1 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 2 Q And by the way, Mr. Price said you are not
- 3 a scientist, correct?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Are you a scientist?
- 6 A I am not a scientist, no.
- 7 Q And you testified that you were trained to
- 8 use the emissions equipment, right?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q In fact, you were trained by a Forest
- 11 Preserve Commissioner, correct?
- 12 A Correct. And he is fully capable of
- 13 training by the Health Department to use this
- 14 system.
- 15 Q And you testified that I think
- 16 Mr. Weinstock and his clerk indicated that you
- 17 cried because the Hearing Officer was mean to you?
- 18 A He made me cry. I felt his voice,
- 19 everything that was going on, maybe yourself,
- 20 everybody made me cry there.
- 21 Q Let me read you a portion of your
- 22 testimony. And this is from Page 1281 of the
- 23 transcript.
- 24 A Yes.



- 1 Q And I believe this is your testimony. "I
- 2 am a mom. I am a Latina born and raised in West
- 3 Chicago. There's every effort to silence me
- 4 because I'm voicing my community. I'm sorry I get
- 5 really sentimental here, but I don't know what else
- 6 to do today.
- 7 MR. WEINSTOCK: Is there a question?
- 8 BY MR. MUELLER:
- 9 Q Did you say that?
- 10 A Yes, I said that.
- 11 Q And then you asked for tissue, correct?
- 12 A Yes.
- 2 So you didn't tell anyone there that they
- 14 had made you cry; you said you got sentimental
- about speaking on behalf of your community,
- 16 correct?
- 17 A I cried because I was being mistreated, as
- 18 well as what I said.
- 19 Q Can you point out one specific example of
- 20 you having been mistreated?
- 21 A All the objections sustained. Absolutely,
- 22 I felt disrespected, censored, not being able to
- 23 speak what I had to share and the belittling that
- 24 was going on to myself.



Page 78 I'll ask you again. Give me one specific 1 2 example of something that was belittling to 3 yourself? MR. WEINSTOCK: Objection. Asked and 5 answered. HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I don't know if 7 it was answered. She can try it one more time. 8 THE WITNESS: Being told I'm not qualified to speak for my people. 10 BY MR. MUELLER: 11 No one said you weren't qualified to speak, 12 did they? 13 I just kept being told I was not qualified 14 to give my testimony. 15 You were told you were not qualified to 16 give scientific opinions, correct? 17 A Correct. 18 But you were never told that you were not 19 qualified to speak for your people, were you? 20 A No. But --21 Thank you. Q 22 A But the --23 There's no question pending, Ms. Garcia. 24 A In the end -- may I finish?



Page 79 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: 1 2 THE WITNESS: Can I finish? MR. WEINSTOCK: No. You have to wait for 3 Mr. Mueller's next question. 5 THE WITNESS: Okay. MR. MUELLER: I think that's all. Thank 7 you. 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you, Mr. Mueller. 10 All right. Miss Garcia, you can step 11 down. 12 MR. WEINSTOCK: I don't know if Mr. Walsh 13 has anything. 14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: No. He deferred 15 to --16 MR. WEINSTOCK: May I ask just a couple 17 clarifying questions on redirect? 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: It doesn't say 19 that in our rules. It just says subject to cross 20 examination. But, you know, just at the risk of 21 the Board finding otherwise and for all of us to 22 come back here, maybe Mr. Weinstock, you have two 23 short clarifications? 24 MR. WEINSTOCK: Yes.



- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
- 2 MR. WEINSTOCK: Well, the last question
- 3 Mr. Mueller asked gave me one more. Sorry.
- 4 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 5 Q So first, Miss Garcia, are you comfortable
- 6 with us continuing in English?
- 7 A This is fine.
- 8 Q Okay. You referenced Mr. DeLaRosa asking
- 9 for Spanish translation at a point in the City's
- 10 hearing. Do you remember that?
- 11 A Yes, I do remember.
- 12 Q To your recollection, was that the first
- 13 time that Hearing Officer Price asked PODER or any
- 14 members of the public gave them any opportunity to
- 15 speak where they could bring up that question?
- 16 A He never addressed the issue. He didn't
- 17 even ask us if we needed translation.
- 18 Q Mr. Mueller asked you a bit about the
- 19 diesel truck emissions that you recorded and he
- 20 asked you a bit about LRS's current operations. Do
- 21 you remember when he was asking you about that?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q To your knowledge, do LRS's current
- 24 operations involve diesel trucks coming in and out



- 1 of the facility?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q And to your knowledge, does LRS's current
- 4 proposal under review now involve more diesel
- 5 trucks coming in and out of the facility?
- 6 A I do understand that.
- 7 MR. MUELLER: Objection.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.
- 9 MR. WEINSTOCK: I'm going to have to ask
- 10 that another way.
- 11 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 12 Q What is your understanding of what LRS's
- 13 current application say about potential future
- 14 diesel truck traffic?
- 15 A It does say we're going to have more diesel
- 16 trucks coming in.
- 17 Q Okay. And I think the last thing was
- 18 Mr. Mueller asked you to provide specific examples
- 19 when you felt you were mistreated. Do you remember
- 20 that?
- 21 A Yes.
- Q Do you believe that your testimony that you
- 23 started with includes such examples?
- MR. MUELLER: That's leading.



- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes, that's
- 2 leading. If you could rephrase, Mr. Weinstock,
- 3 thanks.
- 4 MR. WEINSTOCK: Understood. Yes.
- 5 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 6 Q In your testimony earlier today, you talked
- 7 about Mr. Price excluding your testimony because
- 8 you weren't a scientist, but allowing you to
- 9 testify as a mother and member of the community.
- 10 Do you remember that?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q What was your understanding of Mr. Price --
- 13 when Mr. Price allowed you to testify as a mother,
- 14 how did you understand -- what value did you
- understand him to be placing on that testimony?
- 16 MR. MUELLER: I'm going to object. Her
- 17 opinion of it is irrelevant.
- MR. WALSH: And she's speculating as to
- 19 what he's thinking.
- 20 MR. WEINSTOCK: No, I'm asking her for her
- 21 reaction because --
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: She can answer
- 23 if she's able. Overruled.
- 24 THE WITNESS: I felt belittled there. My



- 1 opinion as a mom wasn't my concerns as a mom. And
- 2 I wasn't just speaking for myself, for other moms.
- 3 So my reaction, I felt oppressed. I
- 4 felt oppressed.
- 5 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 6 Q Miss Garcia, I'm sorry to ask you to relive
- 7 that experience today and thank you for your time.
- 8 A I'm holding on to the podium.
- 9 MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Mueller.
- MR. MUELLER: No thank you, Mr. Halloran.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: Can I have a question then?
- 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes.
- 14 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 15 Q Miss Garcia, were you represented by an
- 16 attorney at this hearing?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q And do you think your attorneys did a good
- 19 job at this hearing?
- 20 A Yes.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: No further questions.
- MR. WALSH: Thank you.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Anything else?
- 24 All right. We're going to take a ten-minute break.



	Page 84
1	We're off the record.
2	(There was a discussion held off
3	the record, after which the
4	deposition resumed as follows:)
5	HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right.
6	We're going back on the record. It's approximately
7	11:17. I hope to go to no later than 12:30 and
8	hopefully be back here at 1:00 after lunch. So it
9	looks like it might be a 30-minute lunch. But you
10	may proceed, Mr. Meza.
11	MR. MEZA: Thank you, Mr. Halloran. Can we
12	have the witness sworn in?
13	HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. I'm sorry.
14	Court reporter, could you please swear in the
15	Mayor?
16	THE COURT REPORTER: Raise your right hand,
17	please.
18	(The oath was thereupon duly
19	administered to the witness by
20	the Notary.)
21	HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. You
22	may proceed, Mr. Meza.
23	
24	



Page 85 1 RUBEN PINEDA, 2 Called as a witness by the Petitioner herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and 3 testified as follows: 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION By: Mr. Meza 7 State your name for the record. Ruben Pineda. 8 Q You have been the Mayor for 11 years? 10 A Eleven years. 11 And before that you were a member of City Council for 14 years? 12 13 Α Yes. 14 And the Mayor and council member positions 15 are not full-time positions; is that correct? 16 That's correct. Q You work full-time somewhere else, right? 17 18 A Yes, I do. 19 Is that is in Cintas Corporation? 20 Α Yes. 21 Now, do you as Mayor of West Chicago and 22 the City Council rely on the West Chicago staff to run the day-to-day business of the City of West 23 24 Chicago?



Page 86 Yes. 1 Α In fact, in West Chicago, you have a person by the name of Michael Guttman who is the City 3 administrator; is that correct? Α Yes. And how long has he been the City 7 administrator? Α 25 years. And Mr. Guttman supervises all West Chicago 10 City staff; is that correct? 11 Yes. 12 That includes the FOIA officer? 13 Α Yes. 14 Q You know what I mean by FOIA or not? 15 A Yes. 16 Freedom of Information Act, FOIA. 17 Yes. 18 And that does that include West Chicago's 19 community development director, Tom Dabareiner? 20 A Yes. 21 How long has he been the community 22 development director? 23 I'm not sure how many years he's been here. 24 More than one year? Q



```
Page 87
         A Yes.
1
 2
         Q More than five years?
         A I'm not sure.
 3
           All right. We won't tell him.
 5
                 Does Mr. Guttman provide the City
     Council with what's referred to as weekly updates
7
     via email?
 8
           Yes.
         Α
            And are these weekly updates sent to all
10
     the members of the City Council every Sunday
11
     morning between about 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M.?
12
         Α
           Yes.
13
            Do you direct Mr. Guttman on what to
     include in those weekly updates?
14
15
         A I do not.
16
            And can you speak up just a little bit
17
     more?
18
                 Who decides on what Mr. Guttman should
     include in his weekly updates?
19
20
         A Mr. Guttman.
21
            Now, does Mr. Guttman also draft and
22
     prepare City of West Chicago City Council meeting
23
     agendas?
24
         A I don't think he does. I don't think
```



- 1 that's his --
- Q Okay. Who drafts the City agendas then?
- 3 A I think my assistant.
- 4 O And what's her name?
- 5 A Valeria Perez.
- 6 Q Okay. And who provides her with the
- 7 information to draft the agendas?
- 8 A I would probably say every division head.
- 9 O And would that include Mr. Guttman?
- 10 A I would say probably, yes.
- 11 Q In fact, Mr. Guttman supervises about 118
- 12 employees; is that correct?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And who supervises Mr. Guttman?
- 15 A Nobody. I mean he reports to me, but he
- 16 doesn't have an immediate supervisor.
- 17 Q Okay. So he reports to you and how often
- does he report to you?
- 19 A On a daily basis.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Can we stop for
- 21 a minute? I'm having real trouble hearing. If the
- 22 witness can maybe turn around.
- 23 MR. MEZA: Maybe speak louder. Just speak
- 24 up a little bit louder, that's all.



```
Page 89
            HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN:
1
                                        Yes, I think
 2
     that's all I want. Thank you. Sorry.
 3
     BY MR. MEZA:
            So in fact, Mr. Guttman is here today, you
 5
     see him; is that correct?
         A Yes, I do.
 7
            He reports to you about what's going on in
8
     the City every single day; is that correct?
         A Just about every single day, correct.
10
            Does he call you while you're at work, or
11
     does he call you in the morning and after work?
12
            He calls me any time he feels necessary.
13
            So you'll take his calls while you're at
14
     work about City of West Chicago business; is that
15
     correct?
16
         Α
           Yes.
17
            Now, does he attend all City Council
18
    meetings?
19
            Yes.
20
            Does he attend the closed session meetings?
21
            Yes.
22
            Does he draft and prepare the agenda
23
    minutes after the meetings?
24
           I don't believe he does, no.
```



Page 90 Do you know who does that? 1 2 Probably Valeria Perez. 3 And how do you know that she drafts the minutes for the meetings after they occur? 5 Mr. Guttman takes the minutes of every meeting and he probably gives them to her. 6 7 Okay. Does she attend every meeting? 8 Α No. So she basically types up the meetings. She doesn't necessarily prepare the meetings 10 11 because she's not at the City Council meetings; is 12 that correct? 13 Α Correct. 14 Okay. So the meetings get prepared by Mr. Guttman; is that correct? 15 16 Yes. Α And then they just get given to Miss Perez 17 18 and she types them up? 19 Α Correct. 20 Okay. Now, in 2019, the City of West 21 Chicago entered into a host agreement; is that 22 correct? 23 I'm not sure on the date, but --24 Okay. I think we can get a stipulation



```
Page 91
     that was in 2019.
 1
 2
            MR. MEZA: Is that right, Counsel?
 3
            MR. WALSH: Yes.
     BY MR. MEZA:
 5
         Q Now, that was because Lakeshore planned to
     file with the City a request for a location
7
     approval for the construction and operation of a
     new transfer station; is that correct?
8
         A Yes.
10
            In fact, you signed that agreement,
11
     correct?
12
         Α
            Yes.
13
            That was discussed in council meetings
14
    before you as the Mayor were given approval to sign
15
     it; is that correct?
16
            Nothing was discussed until I signed it.
17
            No, no. That whether or not the city
18
     should enter into a host --
19
         Α
            Yes.
20
            Let me finish the question. Whether or not
21
     the City should enter into a host agreement was
22
     discussed by the City Council before authorization
     was given for you to sign it; is that correct?
23
           I don't recall if there was a discussion
24
```



- 1 before the application was submitted.
- Q Well, wasn't there extensive discussion
- 3 about the host agreement before it actually got
- 4 approved?
- 5 A I don't recall any discussion.
- Q Let me show you what's been marked as
- 7 Exhibit PWC 1001. This is not in the exhibit list,
- 8 but since you were unable to recall, I wanted to
- 9 ask you that.
- 10 Can you take a look at Exhibit 1001 PWC
- 11 and just look at it and tell me whether or not this
- 12 contains the minutes from the meeting that occurred
- 13 on April 1, 2019?
- 14 MR. MEZA: And for members of the Pollution
- 15 Control Board, this is in the record and it's
- 16 identified as Bates Stamp C 005983 through C
- 17 005988.
- 18 BY MR. MEZA:
- 19 Q And Mr. Mayor, if you could look at the top
- 20 right corner, there's a bunch of numbers. Do you
- 21 see those numbers?
- 22 A Yes.
- Q Can you turn to Page C 005986? It's on the
- 24 top right of the third page, I believe.



- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Do you see below it says, Minutes approved
- 3 at the 4/15/19 City Council meeting relating to the
- 4 April 1st, 2019 meeting? Do you see that? I know
- 5 it's hard to see. It's on top, very small letters.
- A I see the minutes being approved, yes.
- 7 Q Can you turn to the next page where it says
- 8 C 005987? And let me direct your attention to
- 9 No. 10 where it says, unfinished business,
- 10 resolution R 001619. Do you see that?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Can you take a second to just read the
- 13 first couple sentences and then end where it
- 14 says -- the last sentence reading, There was
- 15 extensive discussion? Can you read that to
- 16 yourself?
- 17 A A resolution --
- 18 Q Just read it to yourself, please. And tell
- 19 me when you're finished.
- 20 A Okay.
- 21 Q Does that refresh your recollection as to
- 22 whether or not there was extensive discussion as to
- 23 whether or not the City of West Chicago should
- 24 enter into a host agreement before it allowed you



- 1 the authority to enter into that host agreement?
- 2 A A resolution was, there was a motion to
- 3 approve it and then second. And then it was -- we
- 4 went to discussion.
- 5 Q Right. There was a lot of discussion about
- 6 whether or not you should even be given the
- 7 authority to enter into the host agreement.
- 8 Doesn't it say during extensive discussion concern
- 9 was expressed?
- 10 Does that refresh your recollection as
- 11 to the fact that there were discussions in the City
- 12 Council about the host --
- 13 A Yes, there was discussion.
- 14 O And there were extensive discussions; is
- 15 that correct?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And in fact, one of the City Council
- 18 members said that once the agreement is signed, it
- 19 is done; is that correct?
- 20 A The application process, yes.
- 21 Q Meaning the whole application process.
- 22 Once we sign this host agreement, it's done. It's
- 23 going to be approved, right?
- 24 A No.



- 1 Q No?
- 2 A That's not what that meant, no.
- 3 Q You don't know what it meant because you
- 4 didn't say it, right?
- 5 A That's not what it meant. That's not what
- 6 that meant.
- 7 Q Did you make that statement?
- 8 A No, I did not.
- 10 MR. WALSH: I'm going to object to the
- 11 question at this point because the minutes don't
- 12 reflect who made that statement, number one. And
- 13 number two, the Mayor said he doesn't know who made
- 14 the statement.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Meza, could
- 16 you respond, please?
- 17 MR. MEZA: Sure. The question was whether
- 18 or not he made the statement. His answer was no
- 19 and I asked him if he knew who made the statement.
- 20 If he doesn't know, he doesn't know.
- 21 THE WITNESS: It's not clear who made that
- 22 statement.
- 23 BY MR. MEZA:
- Q But you didn't make the statement?



```
Page 96
            I did not.
 1
         Α
 2
            One of the aldermen made the statement?
 3
         Α
            I'm assuming so.
            Take a look at the next page, which is
 5
     5988.
            Do you see that?
         A
            Yes.
 7
            Two alderman voted nay to entering into the
 8
     agreement; is that correct? Alderman Beifuss and
 9
     Garlin; is that correct?
10
         A Correct.
11
            In fact, aren't those two the same aldermen
12
     who also voted against approving Ordinance 2300006,
13
     which approved the application in this matter?
14
         A Yes.
15
            Now, when you entered into the host
16
     agreement, was there anybody on West Chicago staff
17
     who could review Lakeshore's application in order
18
     to determine whether or not the application
     established general consistency with the City of
19
20
     West Chicago pollution control facility siting
21
     Ordinance?
            I don't know.
22
23
         Q
            I'm sorry?
24
           I don't know.
         Α
```



- 1 Q Okay. You don't know --
- 2 A I don't know if there was an individual
- 3 person that was to review that application.
- 4 Q Did you know whether or not there was
- 5 anybody on staff from the City of West Chicago who
- 6 was able to -- let me ask you this, to identify
- 7 gross inconsistencies and determine if the proposed
- 8 facility design and operations generally conform to
- 9 best management practices for modern transfer
- 10 station facilities?
- 11 A I don't know.
- 12 Q Well, didn't the City of West Chicago enter
- into a contract in which they hired and paid an
- 14 expert in order to do that?
- 15 A I would assume so.
- 16 Q Who would be the closest person that you
- 17 had on staff that would be able to identify whether
- 18 the application of Lakeshore included gross
- 19 inconsistencies or whether or not it generally
- 20 conformed to the best management practices for
- 21 modern transfer stations? Who on staff would be
- 22 able to do that?
- MR. WALSH: Object to the question. It's
- 24 been asked and answered. The testimony was he did



- 1 not know.
- 2 BY MR. MEZA:
- 3 Q Is that correct, you don't know?
- 4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Overruled. He
- 5 may answer if he's able. I didn't really hear what
- 6 the Mayor was saying.
- 7 THE WITNESS: I don't know.
- 8 BY MR. MEZA:
- 9 Q Isn't it true that there was nobody on
- 10 staff that was an expert on waste transfer station
- 11 facilities?
- 12 A I don't know.
- Q Do you know then why the City spent money
- 14 hiring an expert that was an expert on waste
- 15 transfer station facilities?
- 16 A Probably to review the application.
- 17 Q Right. Because there was nobody on staff
- 18 who could do that, right?
- 19 A I don't know.
- 20 Q So you're saying that the City, there may
- 21 have been somebody on staff that could review the
- 22 application, but the City nonetheless hired and
- 23 spent money on an expert to review the application?
- MR. WALSH: Objection. That misstates what



- 1 his testimony is, number one. And number two, he's
- 2 already testified now for four times that he
- 3 doesn't know. He's asked and answered the
- 4 question.
- 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree with
- 6 Mr. Walsh's second part B of the objection. He's
- 7 already answered that. And I'm not sure what the
- 8 first part was. It misstates the evidence. But
- 9 sustained.
- 10 MR. MEZA: I can move on.
- 11 BY MR. MEZA:
- 12 Q Have you ever heard of a company called
- 13 APTIM, A-P-T-I-M? Have you ever heard of that
- 14 company?
- 15 A I'm not sure of the name, no.
- Q So you don't remember that you as the Mayor
- 17 were given authority to enter into a contract with
- 18 APTIM?
- 19 A I don't know the name of the company. I
- 20 don't recall the name of the company.
- 21 Q Okay. Do you recall being given the
- 22 authority by the City Council to enter into a
- 23 contract with an expert company to review the
- 24 application of Lakeshore?



- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Okay. You just don't recall that it was
- 3 called APTIM; is that correct?
- 4 A I do not.
- 5 Q Can you take a look at the exhibits in
- 6 front of you? There's an exhibit identified as
- 7 PWC-7. Do you see that?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Now, have you ever seen this exhibit
- 10 before?
- 11 A I don't recall.
- 12 Q Do you recall if you agreed on behalf of
- 13 the City of West Chicago to hire APTIM to serve as
- 14 the expert to review Lakeshore's application?
- 15 A I don't recall if it was me.
- 16 Q Now, when you sign contracts on behalf of
- 17 City of West Chicago, do you read them or not?
- 18 A Yes, I do.
- 19 Q Okay. Can you take a look at the contract
- 20 that's attached to Exhibit PWC attachment one, fee
- 21 schedule and professional services agreement, and
- 22 tell me whether or not you read that -- you ever
- 23 read that?
- 24 A I don't recall.



- 1 MR. MEZA: We're moving to admit Exhibit 7
- 2 into the record if it's not already, at this time.
- 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh?
- 4 MR. WALSH: I don't have an objection to
- 5 it.
- 6 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. No
- 7 objection. It's admitted. PWC Exhibit 7.
- 8 MR. MEZA: And just for the record, the
- 9 host agreement is already in the record. It's got
- 10 Bates stamp numbers.
- 11 BY MR. MEZA:
- 12 Q Now, Mr. Mayor Pineda, did you know that
- 13 the City of West Chicago was relying on the expert
- 14 that they had hired to review the application that
- 15 Lakeshore was going to submit?
- MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of the
- 17 question. It's compound and --
- 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. It's over
- 19 confusing. Can you rephrase that?
- MR. MEZA: Yes.
- 21 BY MR. MEZA:
- 22 Q Did you know why the City of West Chicago
- 23 decided to hire APTIM; yes or no?
- 24 A Yes.



- 1 Q And that was because the City needed to
- 2 have an expert that it trusted in order to review
- 3 an application that it knew was coming from
- 4 Lakeshore; is that correct?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Okay. And APTIM was those experts; is that
- 7 correct?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q Okay. How did APTIM come to the attention
- 10 of West Chicago?
- 11 A I don't know.
- 12 Q Who brought APTIM to the attention of West
- 13 Chicago?
- 14 A I don't know.
- 15 O Was the decision to hire -- was there an
- 16 RFP, a request for proposal, issued by West Chicago
- 17 to the public in order to identify experts who
- 18 could review a waste transfer station application?
- 19 Was that ever done?
- 20 A I don't know.
- 21 Q Did Mr. Guttman tell you that the City of
- 22 West Chicago should hire APTIM?
- 23 A I'm assuming because his name is on the top
- 24 of this letter.



- 1 Q And do you know how APTIM got ahold of
- 2 Mr. Guttman and why the letter was directed to him?
- 3 A I do not know.
- 4 Q Now, was it the job of APTIM to help
- 5 Lakeshore make sure that the City Council of West
- 6 Chicago would approve Lakeshore's application?
- 7 A I don't know.
- 8 Q Okay. So that could have been why West
- 9 Chicago hired APTIM; is that correct?
- 10 MR. WALSH: Objection to him speculating as
- 11 to why when he just said he doesn't know.
- 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.
- 13 BY MR. MEZA:
- Q So do you know if it was the role of
- 15 Mr. Guttman or any member of West Chicago's staff
- 16 to help Lakeshore get its application approved?
- 17 A T don't know.
- 18 Q Did you understand that when West Chicago
- 19 entered into a host agreement with Lakeshore, that
- 20 it was the responsibility of Lakeshore to make sure
- 21 that it would meet all the Criterion for siting
- 22 location?
- 23 MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of the
- 24 question. It's compound.



Page 104 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: If you 1 Yes. 2 could break it down and rephrase, please? 3 MR. MEZA: Sure. BY MR. MEZA: 5 Whose responsibility was it to make sure Q that Lakeshore's application met the criteria under 7 law? 8 I don't know. Α So you don't know who was responsible for 10 that? 11 I'm guessing Lakeshore. 12 Why are you guessing that? 13 Because I don't know. Well, isn't there an Ordinance in West 14 15 Chicago that says it's the responsibility of the 16 applicant to decide, to prove that they have met 17 the criteria? 18 I don't know if there's an Ordinance. 19 Let me direct your attention to -- can you 20 tell me if Exhibit M-12 is in front of you? Can 21 you take a look at the title of M-12 and tell me 22 whether or not this is West Chicago's Ordinance 23 relating to pollution control facility approval 24 procedures?



- 1 A That's what it states here.
- 2 Q In fact, West Chicago does have an
- 3 Ordinance relating to pollution control facility
- 4 procedures, approval procedures; isn't that
- 5 correct?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q And let me direct your attention to the
- 8 next page where it says Section 19-93 Subsection 4
- 9 and let me read the last sentence. "The applicant
- 10 remains solely responsible to demonstrate that the
- 11 location approval criteria are met."
- Have you ever read that before?
- 13 A I'm guessing yes.
- Q Do you remember reading that or not?
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Are we talking
- 16 about M-12?
- 17 MR. MEZA: Yes.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: And it was
- 19 supposed to be in the manila binder?
- MR. MEZA: Yes, it should have been there.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. I
- 22 don't see it.
- MR. MEZA: It should be on the top, but
- 24 here's an extra copy.



- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right, thank
- 2 you.
- 3 MR. WALSH: If it helps, Mr. Halloran,
- 4 we'll stipulate to M-12 being the Ordinance in the
- 5 City Council and the words within it speak for
- 6 themselves if that helps.
- 7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Agreed?
- 8 MR. MEZA: Yes. We'll move to admit it.
- 9 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. No
- 10 objection, Exhibit 12 is admitted. Is that a PWC?
- 11 MR. MEZA: It's labelled as an M exhibit.
- $12 \quad M-12.$
- 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay, thank you.
- 14 You may proceed.
- 15 BY MR. MEZA:
- 16 Q Now, despite the fact that there's an
- 17 Ordinance that says that the applicant remains
- 18 solely responsible -- and Mr. Pineda, before we
- 19 continue, do you know who they are referring to as
- 20 the applicant in this case?
- 21 A This Ordinance doesn't refer to anybody
- 22 except the applicant.
- 23 Q Right. But in regards to the hearings
- 24 before the Pollution Control Board, who would be



- 1 the applicant?
- 2 A Lakeshore Recycling.
- 3 Q Okay. So if we convert the applicant to
- 4 Lakeshore Recycling remains solely responsible,
- 5 that means they are responsible to make sure all
- 6 the location criteria are met; is that correct?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q But that's not what happened here, is it?
- 9 A I don't understand what you're asking.
- 10 Q Well, isn't it true that Tom Dabareiner
- 11 submitted a letter in 2019 for Lakeshore
- 12 Recycling's application? Were you aware of that?
- 13 A I didn't see the letter, no.
- 14 Q Were you aware of the fact that a West
- 15 Chicago official, the community development
- 16 director for West Chicago, had drafted a letter in
- 17 2019 to whom it may concern, which Lakeshore was
- 18 going to use for their application? Were you aware
- 19 of that?
- 20 A I did not see the letter, no.
- Q No. Were you aware of it?
- 22 A Later on, yes.
- 23 Q Okay. And that's because Mr. Guttman told
- 24 you, or how did you become aware of that?



Page 108 Probably when I went to the hearings at 1 2 Wheaton Academy. I think it was an exhibit. 3 don't know. I don't recall. And do you recall that in the final 5 application of Lakeshore, there was a letter in that application that was drafted by 7 Tom Dabareiner? Did you know that? 8 A I saw the letter later, yes. Now, did Mr. Guttman tell you that 10 Tom Dabareiner had prepared a letter for Lakeshore? 11 A No. 12 Did anybody tell you that? 13 Α No. 14 Did Mr. Guttman tell you that the letter 15 was changed to say from 2019 that the City believes 16 Section 22.14 is not applicable to the City concludes that 22.14 is not applicable? 17 18 Α No. 19 Do you understand what that means? 20 A I didn't see the --21 MR. WALSH: I object to the form of his 22 question. 23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: He can answer if 24 he's able. Overruled.



- 1 MR. WALSH: Do you know what that means?
- 2 BY MR. MEZA:
- 3 Q Yes. Do you understand the implication of
- 4 that, or not?
- 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I made my
- 6 ruling, Mr. Walsh. Thank you. You may proceed.
- 7 BY MR. MEZA:
- 8 Q Mr. Mayor, do you understand the
- 9 implication of the City believes to the City
- 10 concludes, or not?
- 11 A I didn't see the letter.
- 12 Q I understand that. But do you understand
- 13 the implication between the language that says the
- 14 City believes that 22.14 is not applicable versus
- 15 the City concludes that 22.14 is not applicable?
- 16 A One is a belief and one is a conclusion.
- 17 Q Right. And do you understand the
- 18 difference between the two?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q What's the difference between the two?
- 21 A One's a belief and the other one is a
- 22 conclusion.
- 23 Q Right. And did you know who was supposed
- 24 to conclude whether or not 22.14 actually applied



Page 110 to the site location criteria? 1 2 Α No. 3 So you weren't aware that that was the City of West Chicago's City Council responsibility? 5 Α No. And today, as of today, you're still not 7 aware of that; is that correct? 8 No. Α And are you aware that the Hearing Officer, 10 Mr. Derke Price, D-E-R-K-E, concluded and used the 11 letter of Tom Dabareiner in finding that 22.14 12 didn't apply in this case; is that correct? 13 A I don't know. Well, didn't you read the Ordinance, 14 22-0-0006? 15 16 MR. WALSH: That's argumentative. 17 MR. MEZA: I'm asking if he read it. It's 18 not argumentative. If he didn't read it, he didn't 19 read it. 20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: He can answer if 21 he's able. 22 MR. MUELLER: Wait, I think he got the 23 Ordinance number wrong. Read back that Ordinance 24 number.



Page 111 COURT REPORTER: 22-0-0006. 1 2 MR. MUELLER: 23- capital 0- 0006. 3 BY MR. MEZA: Q Do you know what Ordinance that is? 5 A I do not. You understand that the City Council approved Ordinance 23-0-0006, granting Lakeshore 7 8 approval to construct a waste transfer station in 9 West Chicago? Did you know that? 10 If that was the number and the council 11 approved it, then yes. So did you know that in approving that, the 12 13 City Council adopted the findings of fact and 14 recommendations of Derke Price in its entirety? 15 Did you know that? 16 A Yes, I guess. 17 And did you know that Derke Price relied on 18 the letter from Tom Dabareiner in determining that 19 22.14 didn't apply? 20 MR. WALSH: Objection to this witness being 21 asked to get into the mind of some third-party. 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained. 23 MR. MEZA: It's not the mind of a 24 third-party, Mr. Halloran. It's in the Ordinance



- 1 itself. I can identify the Ordinance, which they
- 2 adopted --
- 3 MR. WALSH: Mr. Halloran.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: We have to talk
- 5 separately, gentlemen.
- 6 Mr. Walsh, what is your objection?
- 7 MR. WALSH: I think it's been sustained.
- 8 My objection is that he's asking him the mindset of
- 9 the Hearing Officer, that's what the question was,
- 10 not what the Ordinance says.
- 11 The Ordinance speaks for itself. He
- 12 can't testify as to what Mr. Price thought or what
- 13 he was thinking at the time that he wrote his
- 14 order.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Meza?
- 16 MR. MEZA: Your Honor, Mr. Halloran, it's
- 17 actually in the Ordinance and I'm happy to point it
- 18 out.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Your question is
- 20 in the Ordinance?
- MR. MEZA: My question with regard to who
- 22 he relied on, the Hearing Officer, is actually in,
- 23 it's on page -- it's Exhibit M-16 and it's on Page
- 24 C 006059.



Page 113 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: 1 Proceed. 2 BY MR. MEZA: 3 Isn't it true, Mr. Pineda, that the Hearing Officer's ruling stated, and I quote, "The 5 applicant has submitted the testimony of John Hock 6 in the August 23rd, 2022 letter of Tom Dabareiner, 7 City community development director and zoning administrator for the City of West Chicago, to 8 9 support a finding that due to the requirements of 10 the ER-1 zoning minimum lot width, minimum 11 setbacks, physical features of the property, the 12 lack of access, it is not reasonably possible to 13 develop the railroad properties for residential 14 uses. 15 Didn't Mr. Price say that in his ruling 16 which the City Council adopted in its entirety? 17 If it's in the Ordinance, then yes. 18 Well, it was in the ruling of Mr. Price, 19 which got adopted by the City Council. Did you 20 even know that that was what was happening in the 21 Ordinance or not? 22 Yes. 23 And in fact, the language about not 24 reasonably possible, that's what is included in



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Page 114
     that letter; isn't that correct?
 1
 2
           I don't know what's in that letter.
     don't recall.
 3
           All right. We'll get to that letter later
 5
     on.
                 Now, the application got submitted
7
     September 16th, 2022; is that correct?
 8
            I don't know.
            I think we can get a stipulation to that.
10
     But if I tell you that it was submitted by
11
     Lakeshore that day, would you have any reason to
12
     doubt that?
13
         Α
            No.
14
            Okay. The letter from Tom Dabareiner,
15
     however, was dated August 23rd, 2022 -- or excuse
16
          I think it was August 24, 2022; is that
17
     correct?
18
           I don't know.
19
            Do you know whether or not Mr. Guttman or
20
     any other City officials had decided before
21
     Lakeshore submitted this application, their
22
     application on September 16, 2022, do you know
23
     whether or not they had made a determination that
24
     Section 22.15 was not applicable? Had they made
```



- 1 that determination?
- 2 A I don't know.
- 3 Q Now, you said that you spoke to Mr. Guttman
- 4 almost on a daily basis; is that correct?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q Did Mr. Guttman ever provide you with
- 7 regular updates on issues that APTIM had identified
- 8 with Lakeshore's application?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Did Mr. Guttman ever provide members of the
- 11 City Council with any updates on issues APTIM had
- 12 identified on Lakeshore's application?
- 13 A No.
- Q Were you aware of the number of issues that
- 15 APTIM had identified in Lakeshore's application
- 16 before they filed it?
- 17 A No.
- Q Can you tell us then how is it that the
- 19 City of West Chicago City Council knew of any
- 20 issues that APTIM had identified with regard to
- 21 Lakeshore's application?
- 22 A I don't know.
- 23 Q Now, going back to the 22.14, do you know
- 24 what that stands for, that section of the law



- 1 stands for?
- 2 A I'd have to read it again.
- 4 A I don't remember.
- 5 Q Okay. So Section 22.14 states, "No person
- 6 may establish any pollution control facility for
- 7 use as a garbage transfer station which is located
- 8 less than 1,000 feet from the nearest property
- 9 zoned for primarily residential uses or within
- 10 1,000 feet of any dwelling."
- 11 MR. MEZA: Did I read that correct,
- 12 Counsel? I think I did.
- 13 BY MR. MEZA:
- 14 Q Mr. Mayor, were you aware that it was the
- 15 duty of the West Chicago City Council to determine
- 16 whether or not this section of the law applied?
- 17 A T don't know.
- 18 Q Do you know whether or not West Chicago
- 19 City Council ever discussed or considered rezoning
- 20 railroad properties located east of the proposed
- 21 Lakeshore site?
- 22 A I don't recall.
- 23 Q Do you recall whether or not Mr. Guttman or
- 24 any official from West Chicago ever asked you



- 1 whether or not this is a matter that the West
- 2 Chicago City Council would be willing to do; that
- 3 is, rezone railroad properties?
- 4 A That was not discussed, no.
- 5 Q And if it was discussed, it would have been
- 6 in the minutes; is that correct?
- 7 A If it was discussed during City Council,
- 8 yes.
- 9 Q Okay. Now, let me direct your attention to
- 10 PWC 23. Now, PWC 23 has already been admitted in
- 11 the record, but I believe I have a copy of the
- 12 non-Bates stamped version of it.
- Can you take a look at PWC 23,
- 14 Mr. Mayor, and tell me if you've ever seen this
- 15 document before?
- 16 A I don't see a 23.
- 17 Q It should be on the top right. The PWC
- 18 exhibits.
- 19 A Yes, that's what I got.
- 20 Q Is there one in your folder?
- 21 Taking a look at PWC 23, have you ever
- 22 seen this before?
- 23 A I don't recall.
- Q So you weren't aware of that APTIM, the



- 1 expert that West Chicago hired and the expert that
- 2 West Chicago paid, was providing comments to
- 3 Dennis Walsh; is that correct?
- 4 A I was not.
- 5 Q Do you know who Dennis Walsh is?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Who is he?
- 8 A He's our attorney for this issue.
- 9 Q Okay. Is he the regular City attorney, or
- 10 is he just a special counsel for this matter?
- 11 A Special counsel for this matter.
- 12 Q Now, let me direct your attention to Page 9
- of 20. It would be on the top right. There's a
- 14 heading that says, "Issues residential zoning
- 15 setback." Do you see that?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Now, this section deals with issues that
- 18 APTIM was discussing regarding the residential
- 19 zoning setback. Were you aware of that?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q Were you aware that it was of the opinion
- 22 of APTIM that this fact that there was properties
- 23 that were zoned estate residential posed a
- 24 significant risk to the project? Were you aware of



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Page 119
     that?
 1
 2
            Not until I saw this.
 3
            Were you also aware that APTIM had
     recommended, and this is in the last paragraph,
 5
     recommends that the railroad property be rezoned
     prior to the filing to eliminate this risk? Do you
7
     see that?
 8
         Α
           Yes.
            Now, in response, Lakeshore said, We
10
     understand and appreciate your encouragement at
11
     West Chicago to change the zoning, but West Chicago
     has declined to rezone. Do you see that?
12
13
         A Yes.
         Q Did West Chicago decline to rezone?
14
         A I don't recall.
15
16
            So do you know why Lakeshore said what it
17
     said there or not?
18
            I don't know.
19
           Let me direct your attention to
20
     May 28, 2019. Were you aware that Lakeshore was
21
     communicating regularly with APTIM regarding the
22
     application?
23
            I don't know.
24
           Did anybody tell you that APTIM had
```



- 1 approached -- excuse me. Did anybody tell you that
- 2 Lakeshore had approached APTIM in 2019 and asked
- 3 APTIM if they would be able to manage the wildlife
- 4 management plan once the site becomes operational?
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q Did you ever say any communication from
- 7 Lakeshore in 2019 indicating that they believed
- 8 that they would need a wildlife management plan,
- 9 "Once the site becomes operational"?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q Do you know what basis Lakeshore had to say
- 12 that they knew that the site would become
- 13 operational some day?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q Let me direct your attention to February
- 16 of 2020. Were you aware in February of 2020 that
- 17 there was an issue raised by your attorney with
- 18 APTIM regarding potential conflicts of interest?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q So you weren't aware that Lakeshore had
- 21 actually hired your experts to help them on one of
- 22 their applications; is that correct?
- 23 A No.
- Q Did anybody ever tell you that?



Page 121 1 Α No. 2 Did anybody tell -- do you know whether or not that was ever discussed in a City Council 3 4 meeting? 5 A I don't recall. Do you believe that would be a conflict of 7 interest, or not? 8 MR. MUELLER: Objection. Relevance. HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Meza? 10 MR. MEZA: The relevance is counsel for 11 West Chicago actually drafted a very detailed email 12 to make sure that it wasn't a conflict of interest 13 and make sure that APTIM would be able to perform 14 its services on behalf of West Chicago despite 15 Lakeshore, so I think it is relevant. 16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree. 17 Objection overruled. 18 BY MR. MEZA: 19 Did you think it was a potential conflict 20 of interest? 21 A I don't know. 22 Now, I want to go to Exhibit M-16, which is 23 the Ordinance. That should be in front of you. 24 you have it in front of you, Mr. Pineda?



- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Now, M-16, if you can take a look at it,
- 3 this has got the agenda for February 27, 28, as
- 4 well as the minutes for February 27, 28, followed
- 5 by Ordinance 23-0-0006; is that correct?
- 6 It's like a combined exhibit. In other
- 7 words, there are a number of documents stapled
- 8 together; is that correct?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Now, on February 27, 2023, the City Council
- 11 went into executive session; is that correct?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Whose decision was it for the City Council
- 14 to go in to executive session?
- 15 A It was on the agenda.
- 16 Q Who decided to put it on the agenda?
- 17 A I don't recall.
- 18 Q Was there a discussion as to whether or not
- 19 it should -- the City Council should go in to
- 20 executive session?
- 21 A I don't recall.
- Q Did Mr. Guttman tell you that it should go
- 23 in to executive session?
- 24 A I don't recall.



Page 123 So why did you go into executive session 1 2 then? 3 To talk about what was going to happen on the 28th, I'm guessing. 5 Okay. And what was going to happen on the 28th? 6 7 It was the open meeting, the final meeting on the decision for the application. 8 And when you say the 28th, you're talking 10 about February 28th; is that correct? 11 A February 28th, correct. 2023? 12 0 13 A 2023. 14 Okay. So did you know when you went in to 15 closed session that it was going to continue to 16 February 28th, 2023? 17 A Yes. 18 And did you know when you went in to closed 19 session on February 27 what was going to occur on 20 February 28th? 21 Α No. 22 What did you think was going to occur on 23 February 28th? 24 A I had no idea.



- 1 Q Now, when you went in to closed session,
- 2 you were provided with a number of exhibits; is
- 3 that correct? Documents. I'm sorry. Documents.
- 4 A I don't recall.
- 5 MR. MEZA: In order to speed matters up,
- 6 can I ask counsel for West Chicago if they could
- 7 look at Exhibit M-17 and whether or not we can
- 8 stipulate that the documents identified in response
- 9 to Interrogatory 4, No. 1 through 25 are the
- 10 documents that were produced to the members of the
- 11 City Council that day in closed session?
- 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes, you may.
- MR. MEZA: So Exhibit M-17 are the City of
- 14 West Chicago's responses to Interrogatories
- 15 propounded by Protect Chicago in this matter. It
- 16 asks, "Identify all documents shown to the City of
- 17 West Chicago City Council members or documents
- 18 otherwise referred to during or at the February 27
- 19 closed executive session."
- 20 And it lists a number of documents
- 21 numbered 1 through 25. At this point, I would move
- 22 to admit Exhibit M-17 into the record as evidence
- 23 listing these 25 documents.
- MR. WALSH: No objection from the City.



- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: No objection
- 2 from the City.
- 3 BY MR. MEZA:
- 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: PWC M-17 is
- 6 admitted. No objection. Thank you.
- 7 MR. MEZA: I think M-16 has Bates numbers
- 8 and it's already in the record, but we would move
- 9 to admit M-16 as a group exhibit just because I
- 10 think there's other documents mixed up.
- MR. WALSH: Just for the record,
- 12 Mr. Halloran, there is a mention of a number of
- 13 documents. But for clarity and to make sure that
- 14 we're accurate here, the answer is the following
- 15 documents are present and made available to the
- 16 entire City Council at the February 27 closed
- 17 session meeting and then it listed 25 records or
- 18 documents under there. Thank you.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. You
- 20 may proceed.
- 21 BY MR. MEZA:
- 22 Q So Mr. Mayor, do you understand that means
- 23 that your attorney on behalf of the City has
- 24 admitted or confirmed that there were 25 documents



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Page 126
     that were shown to the City Council members at
1
     closed session on February 27?
 3
            MR. WALSH: That's not what I said.
                                                  I said
     they were made available to the City Council at
 5
     that meeting.
            MR. MEZA:
                      Okay.
 7
            MR. WALSH: It's different.
 8
            MR. MEZA: Okay. They were made available?
            MR. WALSH: Correct.
10
            MR. MEZA: Okay.
11
    BY MR. MEZA:
12
            So they were made available; is that
13
     correct?
14
         A Yes.
15
            Okay. Were there other documents that were
16
    made available to the City Council that day?
17
            I don't recall.
18
           Okay. Now, let me direct your attention
19
    back to M-16 and the portion of Exhibit M-16 that
20
    has the Ordinance. And that starts at Page
21
     COO6039, do you see that? And those numbers would
22
    be on the top right?
23
            39?
         Α
24
         O Yes. 0639.
```



Page 127 1 A Okay. 2 That's the West Chicago Ordinance approving the waste transfer station; is that correct? 3 A Yes. 5 Okay. Can you tell me who drafted this Ordinance? 7 I do not know. Can you tell me when the Ordinance was 8 drafted, the date or time? 10 A February 28th. 11 Q And do you know what time it was drafted? 12 A I do not know. 13 And do you remember when it was distributed 14 to the City Council on February 28th? 15 A I don't recall the exact time, no. 16 Do you recall if it was distributed before 17 6:00 P.M.? 18 A Yes. 19 Do you have any idea of what time it was 20 distributed, or not? 21 A I do not. 22 Let me direct your attention to PWC-806. That should be in your pile. 23 24 A I got it.



- 1 O Take a look at it. This is an email from
- 2 Mr. Guttman to himself, CC Dennis Walsh. "Attached
- 3 please find the Ordinance for tonight's meeting."
- 4 And it's sent February 28th at 12:16 P.M.
- 5 Is that the time that the Ordinance was
- 6 sent out?
- 7 A I only see Mr. Guttman and Mr. Walsh.
- 8 Q Do you know what blind cc emails are?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Do you ever get blind cc emails from
- 11 Mr. Guttman?
- 12 A I don't know. I mean, I don't recall.
- 13 Q Looking at PWC-806 --
- 14 MR. MEZA: Which at this time we'd move to
- 15 admit into the record.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh?
- MR. WALSH: No objection.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: PWC-806 is
- 19 admitted.
- 20 BY MR. MEZA:
- 21 Q Taking a look at Exhibit 806, do you recall
- 22 seeing this email come in at 12:16 P.M. on
- 23 February 28th?
- 24 A I don't recall.



Page 129 Q Were you working that day? 1 2 I'm sure I was at Cintas. Yes. At your full-time job? 3 Α Yes. 5 And do you read emails from Mr. Guttman relating to your official duties as Mayor while 7 you're at work, or not? 8 Not normally, no. Okay. Do you know when you would have seen Q 10 the Ordinance that was eventually approved the 11 evening of February 28th, 2023? 12 A I don't recall. 13 Had you seen an Ordinance that was approved 14 on February 28th, 2023 at any time prior to 15 February 27, 2023? 16 Α No. Tell us when you first saw the Ordinance 17 18 and read the Ordinance that was passed on 19 February 28th, 2023. 20 I don't recall what time, but I read it on the 28th. 21 22 Did you read it before 6:00 P.M. or after 23 6:00 P.M.? 24 A I read it before the meeting.



Page 130 And did you understand what you were 1 reading? 3 Α Yes. And did you understand that there were 5 certain findings that had been made? Α Yes. 7 Did the City Council of West Chicago take any votes when they were in closed session? 9 A No. 10 Did they make any decisions when they were 11 in closed session on the 27th? 12 Α No. 13 Did they make any findings with regard to 14 the waste transfer station when they were in closed session? 15 16 Α No. So do you know when it was that the City of 17 West Chicago made the findings set forth in 18 Ordinance 23-0-0006? 19 20 A At the City Council meeting. 21 Which City Council meeting? 22 The 28th. How long was the City Council meeting on 23 24 the 28th?



- 1 MR. WALSH: Objection. A meeting that was
- 2 held on February 27 was continued to the 28, so
- 3 there was one meeting, not two separate meetings.
- 4 BY MR. MEZA:
- 5 Q Okay. How long was the separate meeting
- 6 that was held on February 28th, 2023?
- 7 MR. WALSH: It wasn't a separate meeting.
- 8 Objection.
- 9 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained. If
- 10 you can rephrase.
- 11 BY MR. MEZA:
- 12 Q Okay. The City Council had one meeting; is
- 13 that correct?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q The 27th and then it got continued to the
- 16 28, correct?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q But on the 27th, they made no decisions,
- 19 they made no findings, they took no votes; is that
- 20 correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q But on the 28th, they took one vote, didn't
- 23 they?
- 24 A That was what's on the agenda, yes.



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Page 132
            There was one vote, right?
1
 2
         A Yes.
           And that vote was taken at the five-minute
 3
    meeting on February 28th, 2023, correct?
 5
         A Yes.
            But at that meeting, they didn't vote on
7
     findings, did they, the City Council?
8
            MR. WALSH: Object to the form of that
9
     question.
10
            HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.
11
     BY MR. MEZA:
12
           Okay. Didn't the City Council simply vote
13
    to approve or disapprove the Ordinance?
14
         A Yes.
           And that's the Ordinance, that 2300006,
15
16
     correct?
17
         A Yes.
18
           But that Ordinance makes a number of
     findings, doesn't it?
19
20
         A Yes.
21
            Doesn't it adopt the Hearing Officer's
22
     report in its entirety?
23
         A I don't know.
24
         Q Well, have you ever read the Ordinance?
```



Page 133 Yes. 1 Α Didn't it find that the nine criteria were 3 met? Yes. Α 5 So do you know how it was that the Ordinance had been drafted before a vote was taken 7 and after there was discussion, but no votes? 8 MR. MUELLER: Objection to the form of the question. It's compound as well. 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. Rephrase. 11 BY MR. MEZA: 12 Okay. Who made the findings that are 13 contained in the Ordinance, if you know? 14 A I don't know. Isn't it true that your lawyer drafted this 15 16 entire Ordinance? 17 A Yes. 18 And he made all the findings, didn't he? MR. WALSH: Object to the form of the 19 20 question. 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained. 22 BY MR. MEZA: 23 We're still on Exhibit M-16, Mr. Mayor. 24 Can I direct your attention to Page 6043 at the top



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Page 134
     right? Do you see that?
 1
 2
         A Yes.
 3
           Okay. Let me direct your attention to
     Section 4 where it says, "Based on the application
 5
     expert testimony and record, we find the
 6
     following." Do you see that?
 7
         Α
           Yes.
 8
            Okay. Now, there's some language that
     says, "The determination of Criterion 2 is
10
     primarily a matter of assessing the credibility of
11
     the expert witnesses." Do you see that?
12
         Α
           Yes.
13
            And there was citation to some cases; is
14
     that correct?
15
         Α
           Yes.
16
            And were those cases provided to the City
17
     Council when you voted on February 28th?
18
         A I don't recall.
19
            In fact, those cases weren't even provided
20
     to the City Council in the list of 25 documents, or
     made available on the 27th, were they?
21
22
            I don't recall.
            And did the City decide on February 27th
23
24
     that Mr. Hock's testimony was more thorough and
```



- 1 credible on this issue? Did they make a decision
- 2 on the 27th of that?
- 3 A I would say no.
- 4 Q Did they make a decision about that on the
- 5 28th when they voted for this Ordinance?
- 6 MR. WALSH: Object to the form of these
- 7 questions. The Ordinance and wording of the
- 8 Ordinance speak for itself and the findings in the
- 9 Ordinance speak for itself.
- 10 MR. MEZA: I believe I'm entitled to ask
- 11 whether or not these are the findings of the City
- 12 Council or whether they are the findings in the
- 13 Ordinance of the counsel.
- MR. WALSH: They are the findings of the
- 15 City Council, Mr. Halloran, because they adopted
- 16 the Ordinance. They had the findings contained
- 17 within them.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: So noted, but
- 19 overruled. He can answer if he's able, but I think
- 20 I've heard this question a few times.
- 21 BY MR. MEZA:
- Q Okay. Now Mr. Mayor, you know who Father
- 23 Josh is, don't you?
- 24 A Yes.



Page 136 You sent Father Josh a text, didn't you? 1 2 Α Yes. 3 And you sent it to him on November 14th, 2020, correct? 5 I don't recall. Can you look at Exhibit M-8. It would be 7 on the lower right. And I'll ask you if this 8 refreshes your recollection by reading this, M-8. A M-8? 10 Yes. 0 11 Okay. 12 Can you take a look at that and read that 13 to yourself? 14 Α Okay. 15 Isn't it true that on November 14th, 2020, 16 you sent Father Josh, a local priest in West 17 Chicago, a text that said, "We need to talk next 18 week, you're pushing propaganda. Please save all 19 information prior to posting on social media. 20 Thanks in advance"? 21 MR. WALSH: I'm going to object to the 22 question as to relevance. The Mayor was not a 23 decision-maker. He did not vote on the Ordinance 24 and any communications he had with respect to the



- 1 pre-application or the application is irrelevant.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: He can make a
- 3 quick response, Mr. Meza, and I'll make my ruling.
- 4 BY MR. MEZA:
- 5 Q Sure. Mr. Pineda, did you know on
- 6 November 14th, 2020 that you were not going to have
- 7 to vote as a tie breaker because the application of
- 8 Lakeshore was going to be approved? Did you know
- 9 that already?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q So you may have been in 2020, you could
- 12 have been a decider; is that correct, as far as you
- 13 understood?
- A I vote on a split vote, yes.
- 15 Q Did you know that it was going to be a
- 16 split vote or not, or did you know that it was
- 17 going to be unanimous or that there were two
- 18 aldermen that were going to be voting against it in
- 19 2020?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q Right. So for all you knew in 2020, you
- 22 may have been a decider; is that correct?
- 23 A I could have been I guess.
- Q Right. If it was a tie vote?



- 1 A Right.
- 2 Q But yet, despite being a decider, you sent
- 3 out a text to a local priest saying he's pushing
- 4 propaganda.
- 5 MR. WALSH: Objection. He was not a
- 6 decider.
- 7 MR. MEZA: Well, it turned out he wasn't
- 8 because a decision had already been made. That's
- 9 the whole point.
- 10 MR. WALSH: Let me finish my objection.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes.
- 12 MR. WALSH: The question was as a decider,
- 13 did you do this? The Mayor was not a decider.
- 14 Whether or not he could have been a potential
- 15 decider is a different issue.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree. You
- 17 have to rephrase, Mr. Meza.
- 18 BY MR. MEZA:
- 19 Q Did you know whether or not you were going
- 20 to be a decider?
- MR. WALSH: Objection. Asked and answered.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Overruled.
- 23 BY MR. MEZA:
- Q That means you can answer. Did you know



- 1 you were going to be a decider?
- 2 A No.
- 3 Q Was Father Josh in favor of a second waste
- 4 transfer station in November, 2020 or against it as
- 5 far as you know?
- 6 A I don't know that.
- 7 Q Well, he wasn't posting something
- 8 favorable, was he?
- 9 A It was -- nobody knew what the information
- 10 was.
- 11 Q I understand that. But what he had posted
- 12 that you described as propaganda was against a
- 13 second waste transfer station, correct?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Had you already decided in 2020 that or did
- 16 you know in 2020 that the City Council was going to
- 17 approve it?
- A We didn't have an application, so no.
- 19 MR. MEZA: I have no further questions.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you,
- 21 Mr. Meza.
- It's 12:31. I suggested before the
- 23 direct of the adverse witness that we take a lunch
- from 12:30 to 1:00. All right? We'll be back here



```
Page 140
     at 1:00. Thank you.
 1
 2
                       (There was a break taken, after
 3
                       which the deposition was resumed
                       as follows:)
 5
            HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN:
                                       Fake news.
     We're not going to take a lunch break right now.
7
     We have a couple of questions from PODER,
 8
    Mr. Weinstock, of the Mayor.
 9
     BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
10
            Mayor, thank you. I just really want to
11
    make sure I understand one thing. Do you remember
12
     Mr. Meza was asking you about Exhibit M-17, which
13
    had a list of documents that were made available to
14
     the City Council?
15
         Α
           Yes.
16
            Okay. And you were at the meeting on the
17
     27th?
18
         A Yes.
         Q The whole time?
19
20
         Α
            Yes.
21
            And so did you see those 25 documents that
22
     were listed as they were made available?
            I don't recall if they were made available
23
24
           I don't know if I should be talking about
```



- 1 much that happened in closed session.
- 2 Q And I'm not asking you to say what anyone
- 3 else said to you at that session, just the facts of
- 4 what happened.
- 5 A I don't recall.
- Q Do you recall if those documents were
- 7 provided in hard copy form?
- 8 A I don't recall.
- 9 Q Did anyone at that meeting actually look at
- 10 any of these documents?
- 11 A I don't know that.
- 12 Q But you were there the whole time?
- 13 A Yes.
- Q And you didn't see anyone looking at any of
- 15 these documents, did you?
- 16 A I don't recall.
- 17 MR. WALSH: I object to the form of the
- 18 question.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.
- 20 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 21 Q Did you see anyone looking at any of these
- 22 documents?
- MR. WALSH: Same objection.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.



Page 142 MR. WEINSTOCK: That's all. 1 Thank you. 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. 3 Thank you. All right. Now we're taking a lunch. 4 MR. MEZA: I forgot to move Exhibit M-8 5 into the record. 6 MR. WALSH: I object to M-8 for relevance 7 purposes. 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. 9 Mr. Walsh made an objection for relevancy. I'm 10 going to overrule the objection and I find that it 11 may be relevant. The Board may find relevance. M-8 is admitted over objection. 12 13 Thank you, sir. Now you can go. 14 MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you, Mr. Halloran. 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. 16 (There was a break taken, after 17 which the deposition was resumed 18 as follows:) 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. 20 We're back on the record. Welcome back after a 21 quick lunch. It's approximately 1:07. We have 22 Mr. Meza's adverse witness, Mr. Guttman. And if Gloria could swear him in? 23 24 THE COURT REPORTER: Raise your right hand,



```
Page 143
     please.
 1
 2
                       (The oath was thereupon duly
 3
                        administered to the witness by
                        the Notary.)
 5
                     MICHAEL
                                 GUTTMAN,
     Called as a witness by the Petitioner herein,
 7
     having been first duly sworn, was examined and
 8
     testified as follows:
             DIRECT EXAMINATION
10
             By: Mr. Meza
11
           Can you state your name for the record,
12
     spell your last name for the court reporter,
13
     please?
14
         A Michael Guttman, G-U-T-T-M-A-N.
15
            And Mr. Guttman, you've been sitting in on
16
     today's hearing, so you have a pretty good idea of
17
     the kind of questions and the exhibits; is that
18
     correct?
19
         Α
            T do.
20
            Now, you are the City Administrator for the
21
     City of West Chicago, correct?
22
         A Yes.
23
            How many persons report to you?
24
         Α
           115 plus.
```



Page 144 Okay. And does that include 1 Tom Dabareiner, the community development director? 3 Tom Dabareiner does report to me. And does that include the FOIA officer? 5 A Yes. O And who is that? A Valeria Perez. 8 And FOIA stands for, of course, Freedom of Information Act; is that correct? A That is correct. 10 11 Is it safe to say that you oversee the 12 entire functions of West Chicago City government? 13 Α Yes. 14 Q And who is your supervisor? 15 A The West Chicago City Council. 16 Q And who do you report to? The West Chicago City Council. 17 18 And how do you report your activities to 19 the West Chicago City Council? 20 Either via formal meetings, or I provide 21 weekly updates. 22 And those are weekly updates you send out 23 every Sunday morning; is that correct? 24 Almost every Sunday morning, yes.



Page 145 Between 6:00 and 8:00 A.M.? 1 Q Okay. 2 Α Yes. Q Now, let me direct your attention to 3 January, 2021. By January, 2021, you were aware 5 that the City of West Chicago had entered into a 6 host agreement with Lakeshore; is that correct? 7 Α Yes. 8 And you were aware that they entered into that agreement some time in 2019; is that correct? 10 A Yes. 11 And you were aware that the City of West 12 Chicago had hired APTIM as their expert; is that 13 correct? A I am aware that the West Chicago City 14 15 Council hired APTIM as their experts for City 16 staff. 17 Correct. And we'll talk about that 18 distinction in a second when we get to APTIM. 19 Now, were you aware in January of 2021 20 that there had been some FOIA requests that were 21 issued to the City of West Chicago? 22 There are many FOIA requests issued to the 23 City of West Chicago. 24 There were a couple that were issued in



Page 146 relation to the waste transfer station, weren't 1 there? 3 Α Yes. And you specifically remember those, don't 5 you? T do. Α 7 In fact, did Miss Perez inform you that 8 there had been FOIA requests seeking information? 9 A No. 10 Did Miss Perez provide you with copies of 11 FOIA requests that were made by an individual named 12 Olga Rivera? 13 Α No. 14 Did Miss Perez speak to you regarding 15 documents that were included in a FOIA request? 16 She speaks to me about many FOIA requests. 17 As it relates to the waste transfer 18 station? 19 Α Yes. 20 And isn't it true that on or about 21 February, 2021, Miss Rivera received a FOIA that 22 asked the City of West Chicago to produce, and I 23 quote, "Any and all notes or memos relating to 24 meetings or conversations, whether it via phone or



- 1 in-person, that occurred in the last two years
- 2 between the City of West Chicago's consultant,
- 3 APTIM Environmental and Infrastructure, LLC and any
- 4 third-party, or West Chicago elected official or
- 5 employee, related to a waste transfer station
- 6 proposed to be developed at 1655 Powis Road, West
- 7 Chicago, Illinois."
- 8 A I cannot speak to the date, but I do
- 9 remember that particular request for Olga Rivera.
- 10 Q Okay. And in 2021, you were aware, in
- 11 fact, that there had been notes and memos relating
- 12 to the proposed waste transfer station; is that
- 13 correct?
- 14 A No.
- 15 O You weren't aware of that?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q Take a look at Exhibit PW-7. Have you ever
- 18 seen PW-7 before?
- 19 A Not until recently. Or can I rephrase?
- 20 Not until the end of the litigation involving the
- 21 FOIA.
- 22 Q You never saw a letter directed to you on
- 23 May 6, 2019 from APTIM?
- 24 A My apologies. I was jumping the gun. I



- 1 have seen this document before. This is their
- 2 proposal to provide services.
- 3 Q And you saw this in 2019?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q So in 2021, you knew that there were notes
- 6 or memos relating to APTIM Environmental and
- 7 Infrastructure, didn't you?
- 8 A This isn't a note or a memo.
- 9 Q So PW-7, were you aware that this existed
- when you received the FOIA in 2021?
- 11 A I don't recall what I remembered at that
- 12 point in time.
- 13 Q But this isn't something you would produce
- 14 because, in your opinion, it's not a note or a
- 15 memo, right?
- 16 A No, that is not to what I thought the FOIA
- 17 was referring.
- 18 Q Okay. Did you think the FOIA was referring
- 19 to any communications between APTIM and West
- 20 Chicago officials?
- 21 A I don't know if I recalled at that time.
- 23 and saying, Hey, we got a FOIA asking for this
- 24 information, how should I respond?



- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q And isn't it true that the City of West
- 3 Chicago responded by saying the City has no
- 4 documents responsive to this section of your
- 5 request?
- 6 A Yes.
- 8 A That was my decision.
- 9 Q Right. So you knew that there were
- 10 communications and memos between APTIM and West
- 11 Chicago relating to a proposed transfer station
- 12 prior to 2021, didn't you?
- 13 A I knew that there was --
- MR. WALSH: I object to this line of
- 15 questioning. It's completely irrelevant to the
- 16 siting issues. It's a FOIA issue. And if there's
- 17 a FOIA litigation, the significance of the FOIA
- 18 litigation has nothing to do with local siting.
- MR. MEZA: It has everything to do with the
- 20 issues in our appeal, which allege that there was
- 21 concealment by the City of West Chicago to conceal
- 22 documents relating to the proposed waste transfer
- 23 station that required a member of the community to
- 24 issue and sue the City of West Chicago for



- 1 violating the Freedom of Information Act, which is
- 2 what Miss Rivera ended up doing and resulted in
- 3 these documents.
- 4 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree.
- 5 Overruled. Mr. Walsh, do you want to say something
- 6 else before we move on?
- 7 MR. WALSH: Can I just respond to that?
- 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: That's what I
- 9 said.
- 10 MR. WALSH: There's nothing in the
- 11 evidence, Mr. Halloran, that suggested the City
- 12 Council, who are the decision-makers here, even
- 13 knew about the FOIA or took any action with respect
- 14 to the FOIA. What City staff did is irrelevant to
- 15 what the decision was made by the siting authority.
- 16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Well, I mean the
- 17 Board may find it relevant regarding any kind of
- 18 pre-filing contact, so your objection is noted.
- 19 You may continue.
- MR. MEZA: Thank you.
- 21 BY MR. MEZA:
- 22 O Mr. Gut --
- MR. WALSH: Just a continuing objection as
- 24 to the line of questioning.



- 1 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay, thank you.
- 2 The transcript will note, the Board will note.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 BY MR. MEZA:
- 5 Q Mr. Guttman, can you take a look at PWC 28?
- 6 You've seen this before, haven't you?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q This is the lawsuit that Miss Rivera filed
- 9 against the City of West Chicago; is that correct?
- 10 A It is.
- 11 Q Let me direct your attention to Exhibit C.
- 12 It's not attachment C, it's Exhibit C. And I know
- 13 the pages are not numbered, but if you flip back,
- 14 it should be in the center of the page, it says
- 15 Exhibit C. Do you see that?
- 16 A I see that.
- 17 Q Now, if you flip to the next page, it makes
- 18 reference to a message that was sent to you
- 19 regarding Request Number 21-19. Do you see that at
- 20 the top of the following next page?
- 21 A 21? I see nothing that says 21-19.
- 22 O I'm sorry. 95. I must have misread.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Meza, is
- 24 this PWC-8?



Page 152 PWC 28. 1 MR. MEZA: 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: My bad. Okay. 3 BY MR. MEZA: Do you see on the next page after Exhibit 5 C, it says, "A message was sent to you regarding 6 Record Request Number 21-95"? 7 Yes. Α 8 Now, isn't it true that West Chicago records its FOIA requests by numbers based on the 10 year and then the number? 11 Yes. 12 So this was a FOIA request made in the year 13 of 2021. It might have been the 95th request; is 14 that correct? 15 That makes sense to me. 16 Q Well, do you know or not? 17 That makes sense to me. 18 Q What makes sense to you? 19 That it's the 95th. I have never given any 20 thought to how the numbering system goes because 21 I'm not involved in that on a regular basis. 22 Okay. But you're aware of the process by 23 which West Chicago responds to FOIAs; is that 24 correct?



- 1 A I'm aware that we have software that does
- 2 that and Valeria Perez is our FOIA officer.
- 3 Q Right. And what the software does is it
- 4 identifies the question that's asked and it tells
- 5 the requester whether or not the documents exist.
- 6 And if so, might attach them. And if not, it says
- 7 no documents exist; is that correct?
- 8 A I don't think so.
- 9 Q Well, let me direct your attention back to
- 10 Exhibit C, not the page that says 21-95, not the
- 11 following page, but the last page before Exhibit D.
- 12 Turn to the last page before Exhibit D where it
- 13 starts at the top, Environmental Infrastructure,
- 14 LLC. Do you see that?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Now, below that there's a request for any
- 17 and all notes or memos relating to meetings that I
- 18 read earlier. Do you see that?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q And the response from the City is the City
- 21 has no documents responsive to your request; is
- 22 that correct?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q But that wasn't true, was it?



- 1 A As regards to the proposal, I don't think
- 2 that proposal meets what was requested.
- 3 Q So in your opinion, all of these documents
- 4 and memos that the City ultimately turned over
- 5 didn't exist, right?
- 6 A No, that's not what I said.
- 7 Q Okay. Did the City ever turn over
- 8 documents responsive to this request?
- 9 A We did.
- 10 Q In fact, you turned over like four boxes of
- 11 documents, didn't you?
- 12 A We did.
- 13 Q Okay. So those existed before this request
- 14 was made, didn't they?
- 15 A They did.
- 16 Q Did you decide to try to conceal these
- 17 documents from the public?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Okay. Whose decision was it?
- 20 A No one made a decision to conceal the
- 21 documents from the public.
- 22 Q Then why weren't these documents turned
- 23 over?
- 24 A The documents were not turned over for two



- 1 reasons. One, it was an understanding of our
- 2 staff, myself included, that there's a provision in
- 3 FOIA that says that draft documents are not
- 4 included. What I learned later to be is those are
- 5 draft documents associated with City personnel and
- 6 not our agents, so we made a mistake.
- 7 In the second regard, I was not aware
- 8 that there was written communications between APTIM
- 9 and Lakeshore until the litigation was filed. I
- 10 had only thought that they were oral conversations
- and so I didn't know, and now I've learned my
- 12 lesson, that I need to go explore further as to
- 13 what else is out there.
- So in the one instance, we had bad
- 15 information, which we have corrected for the
- 16 future. And in the second instance, I and the rest
- of my team need to make sure we question our agents
- 18 as to what documents are out there. At the point
- 19 and time of the FOIA, I was unaware.
- 20 Q And that's what resulted in a lawsuit being
- 21 filed by Miss Rivera; is that correct, Exhibit PWC
- 22 28?
- 23 A Olga Rivera through her attorney believed
- 24 that there were documents out there that we had not



- 1 produced that resulted in the litigation and the
- 2 production of the documents, some of which was
- 3 already in the possession of your former
- 4 co-counsel, but that doesn't matter. We still
- 5 needed to produce it.
- 6 MR. MEZA: At this time, we move to admit
- 7 PWC 28.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh?
- 9 MR. WALSH: Same objection. The lawsuit
- 10 respective to a FOIA compliance or noncompliance
- 11 has no relevance to local siting, particularly when
- 12 there's no evidence in the record that the City
- 13 Council even knew about this issue.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. I mean,
- but I guess right now we're looking outside the
- 16 record for any kind of fundamental fairness
- 17 allegations.
- 18 Mr. Meza, would you like to respond?
- 19 MR. MEZA: Yes, Mr. Halloran. Our
- 20 allegations, as set forth in our April 14th Amended
- 21 Petition, specifically make reference to the fact
- 22 that it is our belief that there were officials
- 23 within the City government, officials including
- 24 Mr. Guttman, although he was not named



- 1 specifically, that were literally concealing
- 2 information.
- I believe it's all set forth in
- 4 paragraph -- it starts in Paragraph 19, the actions
- 5 of -- I'm reading 19 C. "The actions of West
- 6 Chicago officials seeking to conceal information
- 7 which related directly to criticisms leveled by the
- 8 city's own consultant, APTIM during a pre-filing
- 9 application," which is what we're discussing,
- 10 resulting in the unlawful disclosure or failure to
- 11 disclose information of the FOIA.
- 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh,
- 13 anything further?
- MR. WALSH: Yes, that's all false
- 15 allegations and speculation. There's nothing
- 16 anywhere that suggests that any of that is true.
- 17 Anybody can say anything. That doesn't make it
- 18 true.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. I'm going
- 20 to accept it over objection, PWC Exhibit 28.
- 21 BY MR. MEZA:
- 22 Q Now, Mr. Guttman, you said that you create,
- 23 usually submit or send out weekly updates; is that
- 24 correct?



- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q When you do that, do you send them out in
- 3 what's referred to as a BCC, blind carbon copy?
- 4 A I do.
- 5 Q And can you explain to us what that means?
- A It means that the recipients don't know
- 7 who's getting it. More importantly, if a recipient
- 8 were to respond, they would only respond to me and
- 9 not create any concerns with the Open Meetings Act.
- 10 Q Right. So you send an email to yourself as
- 11 a CC, but then you add a bunch of other people in
- 12 the BCC so that their names don't appear in the
- 13 email; is that correct?
- 14 A That is correct.
- 15 Q And then they don't see what others are
- 16 seeing; is that correct?
- 17 A Well, they are seeing the same documents
- 18 that others are seeing.
- 19 Q I'm sorry. They don't know who else
- 20 received the BCC, right?
- 21 A Correct.
- Q Now, when you BCC, do you generally BCC
- 23 City Council members Sunday mornings in these
- 24 weekly updates?



- 1 A I do.
- 2 Q Okay. And you heard Mr. Mayor Pineda
- 3 testify that it's your decision to decide what to
- 4 put in the weekly updates; is that correct?
- 5 A Unless I were to get direction, that would
- 6 be correct.
- 7 Q Okay. So was his testimony correct or
- 8 incorrect on that point?
- 9 MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of that
- 10 question as to whether or not the Mayor is --
- 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree.
- 12 Rephrase.
- 13 BY MR. MEZA:
- Q Okay. Take a look at Exhibit M-13,
- 15 Mr. Guttman. That should be in front of you.
- 16 A I am there.
- 17 Q So this is a weekly update that you sent
- out Sunday, December 4th at 7:14 A.M.; is that
- 19 correct?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Okay. And you discussed and provided a
- 22 weekly update on various issues including the
- 23 City's role in the transfer station review process;
- 24 is that correct?



- 1 A Yes.
- 2 O Now, the information that's listed there
- 3 states this document has been translated into
- 4 Spanish and posted to the City's website; is that
- 5 correct?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Okay. Can you tell the Pollution Control
- 8 Board who made the decision to translate the
- 9 document into Spanish and post it on the City's
- 10 website?
- 11 A I did.
- 12 Q Did the City Council direct you to do that?
- 13 A They did not.
- Q Did the City Council tell you after they
- 15 received this, Hey, don't be posting anything in
- 16 Spanish?
- 17 A They did not.
- 18 Q Why did you post anything in Spanish?
- 19 A To divert the number of phone calls to the
- 20 front desk, number one, for those who speak
- 21 Spanish. And number two, because many people
- 22 didn't understand the process and the limited role
- 23 that City Council and City staff play in the
- 24 process. So that as many of the community members



- 1 as possible know that we may not be able to help
- 2 them.
- 3 Q Right. So you had Spanish-speaking people
- 4 calling you and you wanted to divert them and say
- 5 just go on the website, we translated the document,
- 6 right?
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q Well, would English people call you and say
- 9 Hey, I want to see something in Spanish on the
- 10 website?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q So who were you diverting?
- 13 A No one had called yet.
- 14 Q You said you wanted to divert?
- 15 A Future callers.
- 16 Q Oh, okay. And is that because you knew
- 17 that members of the Spanish-speaking community
- 18 might call?
- 19 A T didn't.
- 20 Q Do members of the Spanish community ever
- 21 call City Hall and speak about any issues?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q In fact, what is the Latino population of
- 24 West Chicago?



Page 162 I don't know the number of Latino 1 2 population in West Chicago. 3 Q But you know West Chicago is the only City in DuPage that's majority-minority; is that 5 correct? I don't know that, but I do know that we are a majority-minority community. 7 8 And what is that majority? Latino. A 10 Now, let me direct your attention --11 MR. MEZA: I'm not sure if M-13 is in. move to admit Exhibit M-13. 12 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh? 14 MR. WALSH: I don't have an objection to 15 that. 16 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. objection. M-13 is admitted. 17 18 BY MR. MEZA: 19 Let me direct your attention to M-14. 20 is another weekly update sent January 28, 2023; is 21 that correct? 22 I heard 28 and it's dated January 29th. 23 I'm sorry. Mr. Guttman, so whatever the 24 date is listed, is that the date that it was sent



```
Page 163
     out?
 1
            Yes.
            And the time?
            Yes.
         Α
 5
            And this is another BCC weekly update; is
     that correct?
 7
         Α
            Yes.
 8
            And you want to provide the City Council
     with an update on the waste transfer station
10
     hearing; is that correct?
11
            Yes.
12
            Now, as part of your update, you said that
13
     the matter, the last sentence says, "The matter
14
     will be discussed by the City Council on
15
     February 27 with a decision scheduled to be made on
16
     the 28th." Is that correct?
17
            It says that.
18
            Who told you to write that?
            No one instructed me to write that.
19
20
            So how did you know that the City Council
     was going to discuss this on the 27th with a
21
22
     decision to be made on the 28th?
           Conversation with special counsel.
23
24
            Was that a decision that special counsel
```



Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 10/11/2023 Page 164 made, or that the City Council made? 1 2 MR. WALSH: Objection to the point of him asking what attorney/client privileged 3 communications involved. HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Meza? MR. MEZA: I'm asking him if he knows who 7 made that decision. I could rephrase the question. 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Please do. 9 BY MR. MEZA: Do you know who made the decision that the 10 11 matter would be discussed on the 27th with a decision on the 28th? 12 13 A The Mayor. 14 The Mayor made that decision? 15 A Yes. 16 O When did he make that decision?

- 17 A After I had conversation with counsel.
- 18 Q And did he make that in an open meeting?
- 19 A The Mayor made the decision to have it on
- 20 the 27th and the 28th. And upon recommendation of
- 21 the attorney, that it would be in the format that
- 22 it actually happened.
- 23 Q And did the Mayor decide that there would
- 24 only be discussions on the 27th?



- 1 A The Mayor decided that there would be no
- 2 action taken on the 27th.
- 3 Q And was that brought up to the members of
- 4 the City Council to decide, that there would be no
- 5 action taken on the 27th?
- 6 A The Mayor sets the agenda.
- 7 Q But does the Mayor make a decision as to
- 8 whether or not the City Council takes action, or
- 9 not?
- 10 A Well, there was nothing to vote on on the
- 11 27th. There was going to be nothing to be voting
- 12 on on the 27th.
- 13 Q Right. Because Mayor Pineda said we're not
- 14 going to vote on it, right?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Well, what did he say?
- 17 A There was nothing to vote on.
- 18 Q How do you know that?
- 19 A Because the part was that they were going
- 20 to -- well, this gets into executive session.
- 21 Q If you know. Do you know? How do you know
- 22 that there was nothing going to be voted on on
- 23 February 27 before February 27? How did you know
- 24 that?



- 1 A Because the design was to go into executive
- 2 session for the Council to have their executive
- 3 session discussion and then to come back on the
- 4 28th and to vote on whatever is before them.
- 5 Q And Mayor Pineda made that decision?
- 6 A The format of that meeting, 27 and 28,
- 7 after consultation with me and I had talked to the
- 8 counsel.
- 9 Q Did the City Council decide, make that
- 10 agreement also?
- 11 A The City Council was not involved in that
- 12 discussion, in that decision to hold the meeting in
- 13 that format.
- Q Now, you attended the February 27, 2023
- 15 meeting, didn't you?
- 16 A I did.
- 17 Q Did you decide who else was going to
- 18 attend?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q Did you know who else was going to attend?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q When did you know who else was going to
- 23 attend?
- 24 A I don't recall. Prior to the meeting.



Page 167 Do you know how you learned who was going 1 to attend and who was not going to attend? 3 Α No. Do you know whose decision it was to decide 5 who would and who would not attend the meeting? I consulted with the mayor who said okay as 7 to who would attend the meeting. 8 So did you recommend to the Mayor who should attend and who should not attend? 10 A I offered a suggestion. 11 And what was your suggestion? 12 The suggestion was in addition to special 13 counsel, to have the Hearing Officer attend. 14 Q And who else did you suggest attend? 15 A I believe that is it. 16 Well, you were going to attend, too. 17 you? 18 I attend all executive sessions, except 19 when they talk about me. 20 And they weren't going to be talking about 21 you here, right? 22 I hope not. 23 So it was your decision not to invite APTIM 24 to the meeting; is that correct?



Page 168 MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of the 1 2 question. 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Objection to the form of the question? 5 MR. WALSH: Yes. He's asking about his decision to invite somebody or not to invite 6 7 somebody. And there's no testimony that he made 8 the decision to invite somebody or not invite 9 somebody. 10 MR. MEZA: All right. Fair enough. 11 rephrase. 12 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained. 13 BY MR. MEZA: 14 Q You made the recommendation to the Mayor, 15 didn't you, about who should attend? 16 I made the recommendation to the Mayor 17 to -- I made the suggestion to the Mayor that there 18 might be some merit in having the Hearing Officer attend, after consultation with counsel. 19 20 Q And the Mayor generally accepts your 21 suggestions and recommendations, doesn't he? 22 A He generally accepts them. 23 And he accepted them on this one, right? 24 A He did.



- 1 Q And you didn't suggest to have the expert
- 2 that the City had hired attend the City Council
- 3 meeting on February 27, did you?
- A That was City staff's expert, so no, I did
- 5 not.
- 7 letter from APTIM to you May 6, 2019. Do you see
- 8 that?
- 9 A I see that.
- 10 Q This is a contract that includes a copy of
- 11 the contract that the City ultimately executed; is
- 12 that correct?
- 13 A For the pre-file review.
- 14 Q Right. And this is from APTIM, right?
- 15 A It is from APTIM.
- 16 Q Can you take a look at PWC-7 and tell me
- 17 where in this agreement it says that APTIM is
- 18 representing the employees and not the City of West
- 19 Chicago?
- 20 A Well, this is for pre-filing review, first
- 21 of all. And the pre-filing review was done at the
- 22 point -- it was long done before that. At that
- 23 point in time, once the application was submitted,
- 24 APTIM was hired for the City staff's use.



Page 170 Oh, so they were hired separately? 1 2 There was a separate agenda item for 3 it. So this is not the same contract that APTIM 5 was hired to help the City? So were they hired initially to help the City of West Chicago and then 7 they were hired to help the staff? Yes. At the same time. 8 Is there a separate contract setting forth the fact that APTIM was hired to help the staff? 10 11 But when the City Council approves the 12 agenda item when they hired all of the experts, 13 that was for what it was hired. 14 Q Let me show you what's been marked as 15 PWC-14. Have you ever seen this email before? 16 Α Yes. 17 In fact, you were copied on it, weren't 18 you? 19 Α Yes. 20 You were aware in 2020 that APTIM, the 21 City's expert, had been hired by Lakeshore, weren't 22 you? 23 A For another project, yes. 24 While they were representing the City of



Page 171 West Chicago in this project, correct? 1 2 Α Yes. When did you inform the West Chicago City 3 Council of the fact that the expert they had hired 5 had been hired by Lakeshore? I did not. 7 Why not? Q I did not think that was relevant. 8 Did you think it was important? 10 No, because it was determined that there 11 was not a conflict of interest of which I had to 12 share. 13 When the City of West Chicago's attorney 14 found out that APTIM was hired, they decided to 15 send them a very detailed email to make sure that 16 there was no conflict, right? 17 A Yes. 18 And even though at the time APTIM was 19 representing the City, you as the City 20 administrator didn't tell anybody about this, did 21 you? 22 I don't know about anybody, but I did not inform the City Council. 23 24 Q Well, who did you tell?



- 1 A I might have told the staff. I don't want
- 2 to preclude that.
- 3 Q Did you tell anybody on City Council?
- 4 A I will share again, I did not tell anyone
- 5 on City Council.
- 6 Q And why didn't you tell anyone on City
- 7 Council?
- 8 A There was no conflict of interest. I
- 9 didn't have a concern.
- MR. MEZA: We move to admit PWC-14.
- HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh?
- 12 MR. WALSH: I object on the relevance of
- 13 it. This was the whole basis of the Motion in
- 14 Limine, which you ruled was in favor of the
- 15 objection and this relates to that whole issue. It
- 16 has no relevance to this siting authority.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Do you remember
- 18 what date that order came out? There's been a few
- 19 of them.
- MR. MEZA: And Mr. Halloran, that order
- 21 related to recommended findings of fact that
- 22 Mr. Walsh issued in regards to a Moline transfer
- 23 station. I'm not going to go into that.
- 24 This is an email relating to a conflict



- 1 of interest in this particular matter in which
- 2 APTIM served as the experts for West Chicago, but
- 3 yet the officials, Mr. Guttman, didn't bring this
- 4 to the attention which is --
- 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh, can
- 6 you direct me to my Order where I --
- 7 MR. WALSH: Mr. Meza spent pages arguing
- 8 this issue in his Motion in Limine.
- 9 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: That was PWC-808
- 10 and 812. That was the people's page and 812 was
- 11 the contract with Moline.
- 12 MR. WALSH: Yes. There were two specific
- exhibits, but this whole issue about whether
- 14 there's a conflict or not a conflict was a big part
- 15 of that Motion in Limine.
- 16 BY MR. MEZA:
- 17 Q That dealt with Mr. Walsh's finding in
- 18 Moline?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree with
- 21 Mr. Meza. It basically dealt with the finding in
- 22 Moline. I kept that out. I will accept, Mr. Meza,
- 23 Exhibit PWC-14 over objection. The Board could
- 24 find it relevant. You may continue.



- 1 BY MR. MEZA:
- 2 Q Mr. Guttman, were you aware that on
- 3 May 28, 2019 Lakeshore had asked APTIM whether or
- 4 not they would be able to serve as the wildlife
- 5 management plan for the airport facility once the
- 6 site becomes operational? Were you aware of that
- 7 fact or not?
- 8 A I do not think so.
- 10 Lakeshore said, Hey, we need help once our site
- 11 becomes operational?
- 12 A I do not think so.
- Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge as to why
- 14 Lakeshore thought or knew in 2019 that its site
- would become operational or not?
- 16 A I do not have any knowledge.
- 17 Q Did anybody from Lakeshore ever say to you
- 18 Hey, once we get our site operational, we'll be
- 19 able to bring a lot more trash and we'll get more
- 20 money for the City? Anything like that?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q Now, Mr. Guttman, you're pretty familiar
- 23 with how West Chicago City government operates; is
- 24 that correct?



Page 175 1 Α Yes. 2 And you're familiar with the fact that West 3 Chicago has Ordinances, correct? 4 Α Yes. 5 And you know that one of the Ordinances deals with pollution control facilities, correct? 7 Α Yes. 8 Did you review that Ordinance before Lakeshore and the City of West Chicago entered into 10 a host agreement in 2019? 11 Yes. Α 12 So you were aware then that under the 13 Ordinance it was the obligation of the applicant to make sure that it would meet all criteria; is that 14 15 correct? 16 A Yes. And you knew that, right? 17 18 Α I just answered yes. 19 But even though you knew that, you allowed 20 one of your direct reports, Tom Dabareiner, to 21 draft a letter in 2019 to whom it may concern, 22 correct? 23 Α No. 24 Oh, he did that without your authority?



Page 176 He didn't need my authority. 1 2 But you knew he did that? I did not. 3 A And when you found out he did that, did you 5 ask that that letter be withdrawn from the application? 7 Α Once the application was submitted, I did 8 not. You did not what? A I did not ask him to withdraw that letter. 10 11 Why not? I didn't feel it was necessary. 12 13 But you did feel it was necessary for Tom to return the call of Mr. Hawk when he was calling 14 you about that letter? 15 16 I did. Because when John Hawk calls -- and 17 Yeah. 18 John Hawk was the expert for Lakeshore, right? 19 A He was an expert for Lakeshore. 20 And you knew that, right? 21 Α I did. 22 And you knew that Hawk needed information for his application, right? 23 24 I don't recall that.



- 1 Q Well, didn't you know that Hawk, one of the
- 2 issues that John Hawk was dealing with was about
- 3 22.14, the site location criteria?
- A I don't know when I knew about that.
- 5 Q But you did know about it, right?
- 6 A At some point in time along the process.
- 7 Q And didn't Hawk call you about that and say
- 8 Hey, can you guys help us out on this?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q But he did call you, right?
- 11 A He did call me.
- 12 Q And when he called you, he called you about
- this 1,000-foot setback requirement, didn't he?
- 14 A I don't remember what he called me about.
- 15 Q How many times did you talk to Hawk?
- A Oh, twice over the entire X number of years
- 17 this whole project has been going on.
- 18 Q Okay. So only two times. So one of the
- 19 times was with regard to 22.14, wasn't it?
- 20 A I don't recall that.
- 21 Q Okay. Do you recall asking Tom to return
- 22 Mr. Hawk's call?
- 23 A I do.
- Q And that's because Mr. Hawk had called you



- 1 to tell you, Hey, I need to talk to Tom, correct?
- 2 A I don't think it was that clear. I don't
- 3 remember what he called me about, but it was I
- 4 believed for whatever reason that Tom would be the
- 5 more appropriate person to respond.
- 6 Q Okay. What do you recall to the best of
- 7 your recollection that conversation between you and
- 8 John Hawk?
- 9 A I don't recall anything.
- 10 Q You don't? You just know, Hey, he called
- 11 you and he wanted to talk to Tom, right?
- 12 A No. All I know is as a result from
- 13 whatever conversation took place, I believe Tom was
- 14 the best person to handle the situation.
- 15 Q Okay. And then so you asked Tom to call
- 16 back John Hawk, right?
- 17 A Whether I asked or emailed, I don't know
- 18 how I communicated it.
- 19 Q Can you take a look at Exhibit PWC-800, top
- 20 right?
- 21 A I have it.
- Q Is this an email that you sent Tom on
- 23 August 23rd, 2022 at 1:11 P.M. saying, "Would you
- 24 please return Mr. Hawk's call? Thank you."



Page 179 I wrote that. 1 Α Is this your email? 3 The email at the bottom is my email. Okay. And does that refresh your 5 recollection as to why Mr. Hawk had called you? Well, it's what Tom's communicating to me 7 based upon that phone call. I don't know at the 8 beginning before I asked Tom to call, I don't recall if I knew or not what the original ask was going to be. 10 11 Whatever the ask was, you wanted Right. 12 Tom to return Mr. Hawk's call, right? 13 Α Yes. 14 And he did, right? A This email shows he did. 15 16 Right. In fact, Tom tells you what it was 17 that Mr. Hawk wanted, right? 18 A Yes. 19 Q He wants a new letter, right? 20 Α Yes. 21 That's because the letter that Tom had 22 written 2019 wasn't good enough, was it? 23 MR. WALSH: Objection to asking this 24 witness to speculate what Mr. Hawk was thinking



- 1 when he --
- 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Sustained.
- 3 Sustained.
- 4 BY MR. MEZA:
- 5 Q When Mr. Dabareiner told you that he wants
- 6 a new letter, did you know what he was talking
- 7 about?
- 8 A Based upon his email correspondence to me,
- 9 yes.
- 11 2019 and had given it to Lakeshore, correct?
- 12 A I don't know if I knew that.
- 13 Q Okay. But on August 24, 2022 at 2:58, you
- 14 knew that Mr. Hock wanted a new letter about the ER
- 15 zoned rail lines, correct?
- 16 A I did.
- 17 Q Did Mr. Tom Dabareiner show you a copy of
- 18 the letter that Mr. Hock edited?
- 19 MR. WALSH: Objection to foundation as to
- 20 who entered the letter.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Could you
- 22 rephrase, please?
- MR. MEZA: Sure. Before I go on, can I
- 24 move to admit Exhibit PWC-800.



Page 181 Mr. Walsh? HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: 1 2 MR. WALSH: No objection. 3 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: No objection. PWC-800 is admitted. 5 BY MR. MEZA: Q Can you take a look at -- Mr. Guttman, it's 7 actually an M exhibit. It's M-10, but there's just 8 a number ten on it in the lower right. A I have it. 10 Okay. Now, can you take a look at the last 11 page of this exhibit? It's got a letter that's red 12 lined. And can I ask you if you know what 13 redlining a letter means? 14 A I do. 15 What does that mean? It shows the corrections to whatever was 16 17 there before. 18 Right. So if somebody adds things, it's usually in red and if somebody deletes it, it might 19 20 be crossed out; is that correct? With the exception of it can be in many 21 22 colors, but yes. 23 Okay. But it's such where you can kind of 24 tell what's being added and what's being deleted;



Page 182 is that correct? 1 That is correct. 3 It's also referred to as draft changes, correct? 5 Α It is. Now, were you aware that Lakeshore made 7 draft changes to a letter that Tom ended up 8 signing? MR. WALSH: Can you give the date and when 10 you're talking about? 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Please rephrase, 12 date, when. 13 BY MR. MEZA: Were you aware that Lakeshore submitted a 14 15 letter from Tom in their application for a waste 16 transfer station? Were you aware of that? I do not believe so. 17 You do not believe what? 18 A That Lakeshore submitted a letter for Tom. 19 20 Q No, from Tom. 21 Would you please rephrase the question? 22 Sure. You know, it might be easier, take a look at M-11. And if you could turn to the back 23 24 side of M-11, it should double-sided. Do you see



```
Page 183
     that?
 1
 2
         A
            I do.
            This is a letter dated August 24, 2022.
 3
     you see that?
 5
         Α
            I do.
            And I think I can get a stipulation from
 7
     counsel for West Chicago that this letter was
     attached as Exhibit Appendix 2-D -- 2-D2 and is
 8
     part of the application of Lakeshore; is that
10
     correct?
11
            MR. WALSH: Yes. That's fine with me.
            MR. MEZA: It's in the record. Can we at
12
13
     least have it stipulated so that the Pollution
14
     Control Board knows that this is part of the
15
     application of Lakeshore when they submitted their
16
     application for a waste transfer station.
17
            MR. WALSH:
                        Yes.
18
            HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: The record will
19
     so stipulate.
20
            MR. WALSH: We'll stipulate to that.
21
            HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN:
                                        Thank you.
22
     BY MR. MEZA:
23
            Mr. Guttman, were you aware that Lakeshore
24
     submitted this letter in support of their
```



- 1 application?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Okay. And you had no problem with that,
- 4 right?
- 5 A No.
- Q And you had no problem with Lakeshore
- 7 actually editing Tom's letter to include the
- 8 language, Residential development on this property
- 9 is physically impossible. You had no problem with
- 10 that?
- 11 MR. WALSH: I'm going to object to the
- 12 question. There's no evidence as to who edited
- 13 what letter. There's no foundation for the
- 14 question.
- 15 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Can you
- 16 rephrase, Mr. Meza, if possible?
- 17 MR. MEZA: Sure.
- 18 BY MR. MEZA:
- 19 Q Now, Mr. Guttman, the August 24 letter that
- 20 is an Exhibit M-11, can you compare that to the red
- 21 line letter that's attached to Exhibit M-10 and can
- 22 you tell me if those are one and the same, except
- 23 the M-10 has the red lines or the track edits?
- 24 A They appear to be one in the same with the



- 1 red line changes accepted.
- Q Okay. Were you aware that Lakeshore had
- 3 added language to a letter from Tom Dabareiner that
- 4 said, Residential development on this property is
- 5 physically impossible? Were you aware of that?
- 6 A I do not believe so at the time of
- 7 August 24, 2022.
- 8 Q So what is it that you don't believe,
- 9 Mr. Guttman?
- 10 A I do not believe that I was aware that
- 11 there was a red line document on August 24, 2022.
- 12 Q Oh, okay. So you weren't aware that
- 13 Lakeshore actually added this language, right?
- 14 A I don't know.
- MR. WALSH: Object, again, to the form of
- 16 that question.
- 17 MR. MEZA: He knows.
- 18 MR. WALSH: There's no foundation as to who
- 19 edited this letter.
- 20 BY MR. MEZA:
- 21 Q Okay. That anybody made these edits. Do
- 22 you have any idea who made this?
- 23 A I do not have any idea of who made the
- 24 edits based upon the document before me.



Page 186 I mean did you make the edits? 1 2 A I did not. Did you authorize Lakeshore to make edits 3 to any of your staff's letters? 5 Α No. Were you aware that they were making edits 7 to the letters or not? 8 MR. WALSH: Again, same objection. There's no foundation that Lakeshore edited the letter. 9 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Well, I think 11 it's asked and answered, too. Move on, please. 12 MR. MEZA: We can go on. 13 BY MR. MEZA: 14 Q Let me direct your attention to Exhibit 15 M-16. That's the agenda for February 27, 28 and 16 the minutes as well as your Ordinance. M-16. 17 me when you're there. 18 A I have it in front of me. All right. Did you prepare this agenda or 19 20 not? 21 Either I or I in conjunction with my 22 assistant prepared the agenda. 23 Can you take a look at Page C 006005, which 24 is the next page? These are the minutes from the



- 1 February 27, 28 meeting; is that correct?
- 2 A They are the minutes from the February 27,
- 3 28, 2023 meeting.
- 4 Q Right. Did you prepare these?
- 5 A I took the notes from the meeting and my
- 6 assistant typed them.
- 7 Q But these are your minutes; is that
- 8 correct?
- 9 MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of that
- 10 question.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Rephrase,
- 12 please.
- 13 BY MR. MEZA:
- 14 Q These are minutes that you drafted,
- 15 correct?
- MR. WALSH: Objection. Asked and answered.
- 17 He said he took notes and his assistant typed it
- 18 up.
- MR. MEZA: You know, can we just have like
- 20 an objection and a basis as opposed to a speaking
- 21 objection.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Overruled. He
- 23 may answer if he's able.
- 24 THE WITNESS: I took notes of the meeting



- 1 and my assistant typed.
- 2 BY MR. MEZA:
- 3 Q Okay. Go to the next page, please, 6006.
- 4 Do you see on the bottom it says, Respectfully
- 5 submitted, Michael Guttman, City Administrator?
- 6 A T do.
- 7 Q What does that mean?
- 8 A That means they are under my signature and
- 9 I approved the minutes for submission for approval
- 10 by the City Council.
- 11 Q So you didn't type these, but you approved
- 12 them, you prepared them, you gave them to
- 13 Miss Perez, your assistant, and then they were
- 14 approved by the City Council; is that correct?
- 15 A It is.
- 16 Q Is that why you put your name on the
- 17 bottom, or not?
- 18 A No, she puts my name on the bottom, but
- 19 that's okay.
- 20 Q Now, on February 27 you had a cold session
- 21 meeting, correct?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Part of it was Zoom?
- 24 A I don't think so.



- 1 Q Let me direct your attention to C 6005. Do
- 2 you see underneath the date February 27, 28, "The
- 3 special City Council meeting of February 27 was
- 4 held partly remote via Zoom and partly in-person."
- 5 Does that refresh your recollection?
- A Well, I will say this, I actually think
- 7 that's an error. We had, from my recollection, we
- 8 had two aldermen attending remotely and they
- 9 attended via my speaker phone. I don't recall
- 10 having a computer, so that might be an error.
- 11 Q So two aldermen attended the February 27
- 12 meeting via speaker on your phone?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And was that meeting recorded?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Okay. I'm still trying to get a copy of
- 17 the tape.
- 18 A Understood.
- 19 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Look for the AG.
- MR. MEZA: We have.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right.
- 22 BY MR. MEZA:
- Q Mr. Guttman, so that was an error. Was
- 24 that your error or was that your secretary's error?



Page 190 Well, I didn't catch it, so I'll take 1 responsibility for that. So who were the people that were there via 3 phone? Alderman Garling, Alderman Brown. Was Alderman Chassee there in Okay. 7 person? 8 It's Chassee. Α I'm sorry. Chassee. 10 Α She was. 11 So did you indicate who was there via phone 12 in the minutes? 13 It says by Zoom, but yes. No, but did you identify the people who 14 15 participated via conference call? We know that 16 Zoom was an error, right? 17 T did. Α 18 Okay. Which ones? Where are they 19 identified as having appeared via phone or Zoom? 20 A Do you see roll call and establishment of 21 quorum, the last line of the first paragraph? 22 Oh, okay. It says via Zoom? 23 Yes. It was an error. I thought Zoom, but 24 they attended remotely.



```
Page 191
           Fine.
                  So it's not Zoom, it's just a
1
     conference call, right?
 3
         Α
           Yes.
            Okay. And no decisions were made that day,
 5
     correct?
         A Yes.
 7
           Yes what?
         Q
 8
         A Correct.
         Q Yes, no decisions were made, right?
         A No decisions were made.
10
11
         Q No votes were taken?
12
         A No votes were taken.
13
         Q No findings were made?
14
         A No findings were made.
         Q No credibility determinations were made?
15
16
         A No credibility determinations were made.
17
            It was just a bunch of discussions, right?
18
            Yes.
         A
            And Mr. Price was asked and answered
19
20
     questions, right?
21
         A Yes.
            And Mr. Walsh was asked and answered
22
23
     questions, right?
24
         A Yes.
```



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Page 192
         Q Were you asked any questions at all?
1
 2
         A Very few, but some.
 3
            Okay. And then the meeting continued to
     the following day, correct?
 5
         Α
           Correct.
            And that was the 6:00 meeting on
7
     February 28th, right?
 8
         Α
           Yes.
            But on the 28th, you sent out an email at
     about 12:16 P.M. with the draft Ordinance, correct?
10
11
            Yes.
12
            Okay. And that's Exhibit 806. I think
13
     it's been admitted. If not -- I think it's been
     admitted. Yes, it's been admitted.
14
15
                 Can you take a look at Exhibit 806,
16
    Mr. Guttman?
                   Is this the email that you sent out?
17
     And it should be on the top right of PWC-806.
18
         Α
            It appears to be.
19
            Now, did you include the Mayor on this
20
     email?
21
         Α
            Yes.
22
            So you heard him testify that he didn't
23
     remember receiving it, but you can testify that you
24
     included all the City Councilmen and the Mayor; is
```



- 1 that correct?
- 2 A I can.
- 3 Q Could it have been a mistake that you
- 4 didn't include him?
- 5 A No.
- 6 O Who drafted this Ordinance?
- 7 A Counsel.
- 8 Q And do you know when all the findings that
- 9 are included in the Ordinance were made?
- 10 A The findings that were included in the
- 11 Ordinance were a result of discussion, previous
- 12 discussion.
- Q So all of these findings were agreed to
- 14 before February 28?
- 15 A Well, nothing was agreed to, but they were
- 16 discussed prior to at the date prior.
- 17 O So there was a discussion that there was
- 18 going to be a finding?
- 19 A The findings and the information contained
- 20 therein were the result of the discussions that
- 21 occurred in executive session.
- MR. MEZA: I don't think I have any further
- 23 questions for Mr. Guttman. Thank you, Mr. Guttman.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh?



Page 194 MR. WEINSTOCK: Mr. Halloran. Similarly --1 2 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I'm sorry. 3 don't mean to forget about you. Proceed. 4 MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you, Mr. Guttman. Ι 5 just have a few questions to follow up on a couple 6 things Mr. Meza said. 7 CROSS EXAMINATION 8 BY: MR. WEINSTOCK Actually I want to start with something 10 Mr. Walsh said. Do you recall in the beginning of 11 your examination you were talking about things that 12 happened in 2019 with exchanges with LRS? 13 I recall conversations in 2019 No. 14 regarding the pre-filing contract with APTIM. 15 I'm sorry. That's exactly right. 16 And do you remember Mr. Walsh objecting 17 to Mr. Meza's questions on that point, generally 18 that he objected? 19 Α Yes. 20 And at one point, Mr. Walsh said that he 21 objected and said that the pre-application 22 activities that you undertook as an employee of the 23 City were irrelevant because you weren't the 24 decision-maker. Do you remember that?



- 1 A I remember that being stated.
- 2 Q Yes. Do you agree with Mr. Walsh that your
- 3 actions on behalf of the City on this issue were
- 4 irrelevant to the City Council's decision?
- 5 MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of the
- 6 that question and the implication of what --
- 7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. I don't
- 8 like the question, Mr. Weinstock. If you can
- 9 rephrase.
- 10 MR. WEINSTOCK: I'll try. Thank you.
- 11 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 12 Q You were involved in the pre-application
- discussions with APTIM in 2019; is that correct?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q And do you believe that those activities
- 16 before the application came in were relevant to
- 17 what happened after the application came in?
- 18 A They were relevant to me in my staff role.
- 19 Q And was your staff work relevant to the
- 20 City Council's consideration of the application?
- 21 A Very little. Throughout the entire
- 22 process, the staff was kept at arm's length from
- 23 the City Council. So the only output they ever saw
- 24 from me and my team -- and I apologize if I



- 1 misphrase what they were, are the conditions.
- 2 Q So your work during that time was -- sorry.
- 3 Let me try this again.
- 4 So why were you doing all of that work
- 5 in 2019 if it was irrelevant to the City Council's
- 6 decision?
- 7 MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of that
- 8 question.
- 9 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yeah. Rephrase.
- 10 Sustained.
- 11 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 12 Q Why were you doing that work in 2019 in
- 13 pre-application?
- 14 A It allowed me and a few members of my team
- 15 to become more familiar with the process and
- 16 information with which we had not dealt before. It
- 17 allowed us to ask some preliminary questions so we
- 18 can have a better understanding of what we might
- 19 ask down the road in our role as staff in this
- 20 process.
- 21 And at least at that point in time of
- 22 the pre-filing review, potentially it could have
- 23 assisted in fulfilling our role as staff and the
- 24 suggestion of conditions that we thought might be



- 1 beneficial should the City Council want or not want
- 2 or believe it met the nine criteria or didn't
- 3 believe it met the nine criteria.
- 4 Q Okay. So it was to -- well, that was a lot
- 5 of information. Thank you.
- 6 So you were working in 2019 so that
- 7 City staff and yourself could have input into the
- 8 application process once the application was filed?
- 9 A It would hopefully make any input that we
- 10 had more relevant, validated, important.
- 11 Q Relevant, validated, important to whom?
- 12 A To me as a staff and then we might feel
- 13 more confident in what we were doing in terms of
- 14 providing the recommendations on conditions that
- 15 the City Council could adopt or not adopt.
- 16 Q Right. So it was to be relevant to the
- 17 City Council's determination of what it would adopt
- 18 or not adopt?
- 19 A It could.
- 20 Q Okay. I want to take you back. I believe
- 21 Mr. Meza asked you about an email on -- it was an
- 22 email I believe marked M-13. Do you have that in
- 23 front of you?
- 24 A I have that in front of me.



- 1 Q And this was the email where you were
- 2 reporting out to the City Council; is that right,
- 3 one of your weekly emails?
- 4 A It is.
- 5 Q And what's the date on this email?
- 6 A December 4th, 2022.
- 7 Q And in this email, you reported to the City
- 8 Council that you had had a document translated into
- 9 Spanish on the website; is that right?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And I think you said to Mr. Meza that you
- 12 had the document translated because you anticipated
- there may be a lot of calls to ask for Spanish
- 14 translation; is that right?
- 15 A I think anticipated was hopefully not the
- 16 word I used. If I did, it was more along the line
- in case we did, it might be beneficial and we could
- 18 refer people to be website as opposed to if we
- 19 weren't explaining the process when people called
- 20 the front counter.
- 21 Q And why did you think that might happen?
- 22 Let me strike that.
- 23 You said you did it in case of
- 24 something happening?



- 1 A I did.
- 2 Q So why did you think that case might come
- 3 to pass?
- 4 A I like to be strategic.
- 5 Q Okay. So in being strategic about what
- 6 might come -- you predicted that there may be
- 7 interest from Spanish-speaking residents in what
- 8 was on the website; is that right?
- 9 MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of that
- 10 question.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. It's hard
- 12 for me to follow, Mr. Weinstock. If you could
- 13 rephrase.
- 14 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 15 Q When you said you like to be strategic a
- 16 moment ago, how were you being strategic in posting
- 17 a document in Spanish on the website?
- 18 A If calls were to come and the English
- 19 version was only up there, we would be behind the
- 20 eight ball trying to translate it. So as a
- 21 preemptive measure, because it was our document
- 22 that was created, I felt comfortable asking for it
- 23 to be translated into Spanish.
- 24 Q And why did you think you might get calls



- 1 to translate it to Spanish?
- 2 A It might be of interest to people.
- 3 O To who?
- 4 A To residents of our community.
- 5 Q To residents of your community who better
- 6 speak and read Spanish than English?
- 7 A Who would want to see it in Spanish.
- 8 Q The last thing I just want to ask you about
- 9 quickly is what's been marked as PODER Exhibit 2
- 10 and 2A. It's just a blown-up version.
- 11 MR. WEINSTOCK: This was one of the
- 12 exhibits we circulated on September 14,
- 13 Mr. Halloran. Again, the City made no objection to
- 14 it.
- 15 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 16 Q Here's a copy for you.
- 17 A Thank you.
- 18 MR. WEINSTOCK: So first I'm going to move
- 19 for admission of this and the City has not
- 20 objected, so --
- MR. WALSH: Well, I think we need a
- 22 foundation for it.
- 23 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I'm still trying
- 24 to locate it.



Page 201

- 1 MR. WEINSTOCK: So as we explained in our
- 2 transmittal of this document on September 14th,
- 3 it's a business record and it's relevant to the
- 4 fundamental fairness issue in this proceeding. So
- 5 we would move on that basis.
- I can certainly ask Mr. Guttman to talk
- 7 about the email, his email that's part of it, but I
- 8 believe the whole thing should come in as a
- 9 business record.
- 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: The City had no
- 11 objection. I think Mr. Mueller channeled his inner
- 12 Hamilton Berger and did the no relevant, immaterial
- 13 and foundation objection. Correct or no?
- 14 MR. MUELLER: Yes.
- MR. WEINSTOCK: He specifically raised
- 16 every type of objection without explanation to
- 17 every document.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I know. But
- 19 Mr. Mueller, would you care to elaborate?
- 20 MR. MUELLER: I have no objection to this
- 21 one. I'll withdraw the previous general objection.
- 22 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. So no
- 23 objection; PCB Exhibit No. 2 is admitted.

24



- 1 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 2 Q So Mr. Guttman, I'll take you, if you look
- 3 at the one that's been marked 2A, it's easier to
- 4 read. 2 became a little skewed by the screenshot.
- 5 If you go to page -- it's really on Page 2 of that
- 6 document. Do you see one email there?
- 7 A An email from me to Dennis Walsh?
- 8 Q That's right.
- 9 A I see that.
- 10 Q And do you remember what this email was
- 11 about?
- 12 A I do.
- 13 Q Can you explain?
- 14 A Yes. So the City of West Chicago the day
- 15 prior had posted what I had in my possession with
- 16 regards to public comment. You raised a concern
- 17 that your client's letter that I did not have at
- 18 the time was not posted in other stuff.
- When my assistant came back, she had
- 20 it, I didn't. So we were able to load that as well
- 21 as many others that I didn't have, at least at that
- 22 point in time, where I asked that it uploaded to
- 23 the website.
- 24 Mr. Weinstock, can you show me -- you



- 1 gave me Exhibit 2A. Am I supposed to have
- 2 Exhibit 2? This is No. 1.
- 3 MR. WEINSTOCK: Yes.
- 4 BY MR. WEINSTOCK:
- 5 Q So Mr. Guttman, you answered one of my
- 6 questions already, which is there were other
- 7 comments that had been left off of the initial
- 8 posting?
- 9 A There were comments after the Helen Gershon
- 10 which was the last one that I had in my inbox at
- 11 the time that you raised this concern.
- 12 Q And they hadn't been included in the posted
- 13 packet; is that right?
- 14 A At that time, correct.
- 15 Q At that time. That's exactly right.
- And then I take it the City then
- 17 reposted the packet?
- 18 A I don't know what Valeria did, but Valeria
- 19 found all the emails that were after Helen sent
- 20 hers and then put those on the website.
- 21 Q And when did the City Council receive the
- 22 public comments? I guess I'll ask a preliminary
- 23 question.
- 24 Did the City Council ever receive the



Page 204 public comments? 1 Α They did. When? 3 Q Actually, the City Council was referred to 5 our website after all of the comments were placed on the website for it, as well as we had a hard 7 copy here that they could come and see. 8 To your knowledge, did any member of the City Council ever look at any of the comments 10 submitted? 11 A Yes. 12 Who? 13 Mayor Pineda, Alderman Demis, Alderman Stout, Alderman Chassee, Alderman Beifuss, Alderman 14 15 Garling. More than not. 16 That's helpful. You mentioned Mayor Pineda is a member of City Council? 17 18 A He is. And do you have any idea about how long 19 20 they spent looking at them or which comments they 21 looked at? 22 I do not. 23 Okay. And how do you know that they looked 24 at them?



- 1 A While they were -- while these people were
- 2 reviewing the record, they identified, Oh, I saw
- 3 one from here, I saw one from there. I do not
- 4 remember which specific ones to which they were
- 5 referring.
- 6 One even said that I finally made it
- 7 through all of the public comments, so I took that
- 8 to mean they read all the public comments.
- 9 Q You said while they were reviewing the
- 10 records. Is that during the February 27 session or
- 11 outside of --
- 12 A In anticipation of the City Council meeting
- 13 was when everything that I just communicated I
- 14 heard.
- 15 MR. WEINSTOCK: I believe that's all I've
- 16 got.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Thank
- 18 you, Mr. Weinstock. Mr. Walsh?
- MR. WALSH: No questions.
- 20 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Mueller?
- MR. MUELLER: No, thank you.
- MR. MEZA: Mr. Halloran, before he's
- 23 excused, I want to make a motion and maybe
- 24 Mr. Guttman can reclarify his response. But I



- 1 wanted to make a motion to ask West Chicago to
- 2 produce a contract reflecting APTIM representing
- 3 City employees as opposed to the City. I'm not
- 4 aware of such a contract. I don't think such a
- 5 contract exists.
- But to the extent one exists, I think
- 7 it's relevant to the issues in this case and I
- 8 would ask that they produce it. Maybe Mr. Guttman
- 9 was in error and there is no such contract.
- I don't believe there is, but if there
- is, I'd like it produced. It doesn't have to be
- 12 produced now, obviously.
- 13 And if there's not one, I'll take a
- 14 representation there isn't one because then that
- 15 will deal with what I discussed regarding who I was
- 16 representing and not representing and why they
- 17 attended or didn't attend the February 27 meeting.
- 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh, go
- 19 ahead.
- 20 MR. WALSH: Discovery is well over. We
- 21 responded to their request for documents a long
- 22 time ago. We gave them everything we had that was
- 23 responsive and object to the motion to now try and
- 24 reopen the discovery at this late date.



Page 207 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: 1 Yes. I agree. 2 You can make the motion in your post-trial. 3 MR. MEZA: Nothing was produced. That's why. 5 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. MR. MEZA: I don't think one exists. 7 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. 8 MR. MEZA: If it does exist, then it has 9 not been produced, because we did issue a request. 10 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. 11 I think you can step down, Mr. Guttman. 12 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. 13 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you. 14 Five, eight-minute break? And then Miss Chassee. 15 (There was a discussion held off 16 the record, after which the 17 deposition resumed as follows:) 18 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. 19 are back on the record. I believe everyone is 20 here. We have Mr. Meza's next witness. And Gloria 21 will swear you in. 22 THE COURT REPORTER: Raise your right hand, 23 please. 24



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Page 208
                       (The oath was thereupon duly
 1
 2
                       administered to the witness by
 3
                       the Notary.)
                      LORI
                                 CHASSEE,
 5
     Called as a witness by the Petitioner herein,
     having been first duly sworn, was examined and
 7
     testified as follows:
 8
             DIRECT EXAMINATION
             By: Mr. Meza
10
           State your name for the record and spell
     your last name, please?
11
12
           Lori Chassee. C-H-A-S-S-E-E.
13
            Two S's and two E's, right?
14
         Α
            Yes.
15
            I know you're not feeling well. I'll try
16
     to go as quickly as possible.
17
                 You're the Alderman for the first ward;
18
     is that correct?
19
         A Yes, sir.
20
            How many years have you been an Alderman?
            22.
21
22
            And as an Alderman, is it safe to say that
     you research every issue that comes before you?
23
24
         A Yes, sir.
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Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 10/11/2023 Page 209 Q You do your homework before you vote on an 1 2 Ordinance? 3 A Yes, I do. Now, Miss Chassee, before you are a bunch 5 of exhibits. One of them is labeled M-16. Can I ask you to take a look at that exhibit? 7 minutes. That's the agenda for February 27, 28, the minutes and the Ordinance. 8 9 Once it's in front of you, just tell me 10 when you have it in front of you. 11 Α Okay. 12 That's really the only exhibit I think you 13 need to have in front of you. Thank you. 14 Α 15 Now, did you attend the February 27, 2023 16 City Council meeting in-person? 17 A No, sir. I'm sorry, 27? Yes, the 27th. 18 Q 19 Α Yes, I did. 20 And do you remember what day of the week

- 21 that was? Was that a Monday or Tuesday?
- 22 I do not recall.
- 23 Q Okay.
- 24 It says on the agenda Monday.



Page 210 Monday. 1 It was a Monday. Q 2 Α Okay. 3 So when you attended the meeting of September 27, where was the meeting held? 5 Here in City Council chambers. And that day, there were no decisions made; 7 is that correct? 8 Α Correct. The City Council did not decide whether or 10 not Lakeshore's application complies with the 11 pre-filing, did they? 12 Α No, sir. 13 They did not decide that Section 5/22.4 of the Environmental Protection Act did or did not bar 14 15 the proposed facility, did they? 16 No, sir. Α 17 They didn't decide whether or not any of 18 the proceedings that occurred complied with the requirements of fundamental fairness, did they? 19 20 No, sir. Α 21 Do you know what the term fundamental 22 fairness means? 23 I believe I do, but I'm going to let you tell me. 24



Page 211 Well, I'm asking you if you know what the 1 term fundamental fairness means in relation to siting decisions? 3 No, I don't. 5 Do you know whether or not the City Council of West Chicago made any decisions as to whether or 7 not the facility met any of the nine criteria under state law? 8 A On the 27th? 10 O Yes. 11 A No, we did not. 12 Did you make any decisions on the 27th 13 whether or not to adopt the Hearing Officer's 14 findings and recommendations? No, sir. 15 Α 16 Now, you did not attend this February 28th 17 meeting; is that correct? 18 Α Correct. 19 Technically, it was a continuation of the 20 February 27 meeting; is that correct? 21 A Yes, sir. 22 And the 27th meeting was held in closed session; is that correct? 23 24 A Yes, sir, it was.



Page 212 Whose decision was it to go into closed 1 session? I don't know. Was there a discussion as to whether or not 5 the City Council members should go into closed session on the 27th? 7 Prior to any executive session, there's an announcement by the City Attorney as to what 8 section allows that and that's the discussion that 10 was had. 11 But was there any discussion as to whether 12 or not you should go into it, or was the decision 13 made by the City Attorney? 14 A I don't remember any discussion, no, sir. 15 Now, you said you did not attend the 16 February 28th, 2023 City Council meeting; is that 17 correct? 18 A Not in-person, sir, no. 19 You attended via phone; is that correct? 20 A Yes, sir. 21 Now, that's because you were not in town 22 that day; is that correct? 23 A Yes, sir.



Yes, you were not in town, or no you

24

- 1 were --
- 2 A Yes, I was not in town.
- 3 Q Okay. Where were you at? You can just
- 4 give the city.
- 5 A I was in Plainfield staying with my
- 6 grandchildren.
- 7 Q Okay. And when you're not in West Chicago,
- 8 you do not have access to your email; is that
- 9 correct?
- 10 A Not my City email, no, sir.
- 11 Q Right. In fact, on the 28th, you did not
- 12 have access to your City email that day because you
- 13 were not in the City of West Chicago, correct?
- A Not later in the day, sir, no. I was in
- 15 West Chicago in the morning.
- 16 Q Okay. What time were you in West Chicago?
- 17 A I don't remember.
- 18 Q What time did you leave West Chicago?
- 19 A I don't remember.
- 20 Q Okay. You were not in West Chicago on
- 21 February 28th at 12:16, were you?
- 22 A I likely was, sir.
- 23 Q Can you take a look at PWC-806?
- 24 A And what would that be, sir?



- 1 Q The top right exhibit, PWC-806. Do you
- 2 have PWC-806 in front of you?
- 3 A Yes, sir.
- 4 Q Now, PWC-806 is an email sent February 28th
- 5 at 12:16 P.M. Do you see that? I don't know if
- 6 you can see that.
- 7 A I can't see that.
- 8 Q That's when the email was sent out. This
- 9 contains a copy of the Ordinance. You didn't see
- 10 this Ordinance on February 28th before you voted,
- 11 did you?
- 12 A Yes, sir, I did.
- 13 Q You saw this Ordinance before you voted?
- 14 A Yes, sir. You're telling me it was sent in
- 15 my email at 12 whatever. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q Miss Chassee, you recall being deposed in
- 17 this matter, don't you?
- 18 A Yes, sir.
- 19 Q In fact, I asked you questions. Do you
- 20 remember that?
- 21 A Yes, sir.
- 22 Q And let me direct your attention to Page 38
- 23 of your transcript. You've seen this transcript
- 24 before, haven't you?



- 1 A Yes, sir.
- 2 Q And weren't you asked whether or not you
- 3 had seen this Ordinance before?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q In fact, weren't you asked, "You received
- 6 two sets of Ordinances," Line 11 on Page 38.
- 7 Answer, "Now that I sit here, I don't recall if I
- 8 received them or if we were told then based on the
- 9 vote that they would send out the appropriate
- 10 Ordinance. I don't remember when we got it. I'd
- 11 have to look at my computer.
- 12 Question: But you do? Answer: I knew
- 13 there were Ordinances prepared in either
- 14 alternative. Question: But you had not seen them
- 15 before you voted? Answer: No."
- 16 Isn't it true you had not seen this
- 17 Ordinance before you had voted on it?
- 18 A No. Most of that conversation was
- 19 predicated with I did not remember. You just told
- 20 me they sent it at Noon. If they sent it at Noon,
- 21 I was in town and able to access it at Noon on that
- 22 day. When we first met, I didn't recall what
- 23 happened two years ago.
- Q So your testimony under oath earlier was



- 1 incorrect; is that right?
- 2 A Yes, sir, it was incorrect.
- 3 MR. WALSH: Well, objection, because the
- 4 testimony goes on to Page 39 where the question is
- 5 asked again, "Did you see it before you voted"?
- 6 And the answer -- subsequent answer -- was I don't
- 7 remember. I mean --
- 8 HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: The record will
- 9 so reflect, but you can also get up and do your
- 10 direct/cross. So overruled.
- 11 BY MR. MEZA:
- 12 Q Do you know who drafted the Ordinance
- 13 that's identified in Exhibit PWC-806 and M-16?
- 14 A No, sir.
- 15 Q Okay. Do you know when the City Council
- 16 had agreed to find that Lakeshore's application
- 17 complied with the pre-filing notice as set forth in
- 18 the Ordinance?
- 19 A On the 28th, a vote.
- 20 Q Right. But in the Ordinance itself, it
- 21 states that the City Council finds that Lakeshore's
- 22 application complied with the pre-filing notice,
- 23 didn't it?
- 24 A Yes.



Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 10/11/2023 Page 217 It also says that the City Council finds 1 that Section 5-22 did not bar Lakeshore's proposed 3 facility, correct? A Yes, sir. 5 So if there were no votes taken on the 27th, when was a decision made that the City 7 Council made all these findings? When did that get 8 made? A On the 28th. Q Well, the --10 11 The Ordinance was prepared with the 12 understanding that the vote would either be in 13 favor or against. So the language was singular, 14 but the vote could have gone either way. 15 Right. But there was no decision as to 16 what the specific findings would be; is that 17 correct? 18 A On the 28th, yes. 19 No, on the 27th? 20 On the 27th, no decisions are made in

- 21 special session, no, sir.
- 22 Right. And the only decision that was made
- on the 28th was whether or not the Ordinance as a 23
- 24 whole should be approved; is that correct?



- A Yes.
- Q There was no discussion about whether the nine criteria were met, was there?
 - A On the 28th? No, sir.
- Q Now, on the 28th, you made some statements when you were on the phone; is that correct?
 - A Yes, sir.
- Q And you said that as City Council members, you were charged with following the criteria as provided by law as directed by attorneys; is that correct?
- A That we were required to follow the nine criteria, yes.
 - Q As directed by attorneys, correct?
- A The criteria were provided by the attorneys to us as explanatory, yes.
- Q Right. And you also said that if you base things on your own opinion, there could be liability, correct?
 - A Yes.
- Q So were you told, did you believe that the City Council had to approve the nine criteria, the application of Lakeshore?
 - A No.



Q Did you know that it was the decision of the City Council to determine whether or not the nine criteria were made?

A Yes, sir.

MR. MEZA: I have no further questions.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you,

Mr. Meza. Mr. Weinstock?

MR. WEINSTOCK: Nothing from me.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh?

MR. WALSH: No questions of this witness.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right.

Mr. Mueller?

MR. MUELLER: No thank you.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right.

Thank you, Miss Chassee. You may step down and I hope you feel better.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. We have our apparently last witness, Mr. Meza, witness adverse. Sir, if you raise your right hand, our court reporter will swear you in.

THE COURT REPORTER: Raise your right hand, please.



(The oath was thereupon duly administered to the witness by the Notary.)

TOM DABAREINER,

Called as a witness by the Plaintiff herein, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

By: Mr. Meza

Q Could you state your name and spell your last name for the court reporter?

A Tom Dabareiner. Last name is spelled D-A-B-A-R-E-I-N-E-R.

- Q Mr. Dabareiner, is that correct?
- A That's correct.
- Q What is your position with the City of West Chicago?
 - A Director of community development.
 - Q And who's your supervisor?
 - A Michael Guttman, City Administrator.
- Q And that's Mr. Michael Guttman who's sitting here; is that correct?
 - A Yes.
 - Q And how long have you served in the



position of community development director?

- A Six years this November.
- Q And what are your duties and responsibilities as a community development director?

A Well, they are wide ranging, but I supervise a small staff of city planners, building officials, economic development, special events, code enforcement and development engineers.

Q Does it include helping applicants receive approval for a waste transfer station?

MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of the question and helping.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Yes. Rephrase, please.

BY MR. MEZA:

- Q Does it include drafting letters for applicants who are seeking approval of a waste transfer facility?
 - A In my role as zoning administrator, yes.
- Q So as zoning administrator, one of your duties is to help applicants who are applying for a waste transfer station?

MR. WALSH: Again, objection to the word



help.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: He can answer if he's able. Overruled.

THE WITNESS: My job is to provide professional advice when a question on zoning would come up.

BY MR. MEZA:

- Q Are you aware of a company called Lakeshore Recycling Systems?
 - A Yes.
- Q Did you know that they entered into a host agreement with West Chicago in 2019?
 - A Yes.
 - Q And do you know what a host agreement is?
 - A That was my first exposure to one.
 - Q Do you know what it is then or not?
 - A Generally.
- Q And are you aware that West Chicago hired APTIM to assist them?
 - A Yes.
 - Q Do you know what APTIM's role was?
 - A No.
- Q Were you aware that in 2019, that Lakeshore was required to meet certain requirements under the



Illinois Environmental Protection Act in order to construct a waste transfer station?

- A Yes.
- Q Do you know what all those requirements were?
 - A No.
- Q Do you know whose responsibility it was to determine whether Lakeshore met those requirements under the Illinois EPA?
 - A I don't recall.
- Q Do you know whose responsibility it was to determine whether or not an applicant like

 Lakeshore met the requirements of the Illinois EPA?
 - A No.
- Q Now, before you, Mr. Dabareiner, there's a number of exhibits. Some of them are M exhibits. And I'm sorry if there's confusion.
- Can I direct your attention to Exhibit M-9, which is appendix 2D of the appendix. I ask you to take a look at that. Have you seen exhibit M-9 before?
 - A Yes.
- Q In fact, M-9 is a letter dated October 15th, 2019 and contains your signature; is



that correct?

- A Yes.
- Q Did you prepare this letter?
- A Yes.
- Q Do you know why this letter was prepared?
- A I was asked to prepare a letter expressing my professional opinion on the question of residential setback.
- Q And who asked you to prepare this letter for your professional opinion?
 - A I do not recall.
 - O Was it Mr. Guttman?
 - A I don't believe so.
 - Q Was it Lakeshore?
 - A I don't believe so.
 - Q Was it the Mayor?
 - A No.
 - Q Was it any member of City Council?
 - A No.
- Q Was it another staff member of West Chicago?
 - A No.
- Q You didn't decide to draft this letter on your own, though, did you?



- A Correct.
- Q Somebody asked you to draft it?
- A Yes.
- Q And you drafted it, correct?
- A Correct.
- Q And do you know what the purpose, do you know what this letter was going to be used for at all when you drafted it?
- A I believe I stated it related to the question of setback for residential.
- Q So -- but did you know that this letter was going to be used in the application of Lakeshore that was going to be submitted to West Chicago; yes or no, did you know that?
 - A Yes.
- Q So you knew that Lakeshore wanted a letter from West Chicago regarding the setback issue, correct?
- A I know that somebody asked me to do this, yes.
- Q And before they asked you to do this, whoever this person is, had you ever had any knowledge or experience with regard to Section 22.14 (a) that you refer to in your letter?



A No.

Q Mr. Dabareiner, did you draft this letter or not?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And did you understand the implication of this letter, or not?

MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of the question.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Rephrase, please.

BY MR. MEZA:

Q When you drafted this letter, did you understand what -- what was the intent of this letter when you included the language in this letter? What was your intent?

A To provide my professional opinion as to the question of residential setback from the site.

Q And does this letter contain your professional opinion?

A Yes.

Q And the professional opinion is that the City believes Section 22.14 (a) is not applicable; is that correct?

A That's correct.



- Q Now, after you wrote this letter in October of 2019, you then signed it and gave it to someone; is that correct?
 - A Yes.
 - Q Who did you give it to?
 - A I don't recall.
 - Q Did you give it to Mr. Guttman?
 - A No.
 - Q Did you give it to Mr. Hock?
 - A Yes, I believe so.
- Q And was he the one that had asked you?

 Does that refresh your recollection as to what

 that --
 - A Yeah.
- Q As to whether or not he was the one that asked you to draft this letter?
 - A I believe he asked me to draft the letter.
- Q Okay. Now, in 2019 when you gave the letter to Mr. Hock that was signed, did you have any conversations with him after 2019 and before 2022 of August?
 - A I don't recall.
- Q Do you recall how many conversations you had with Mr. Hock during the time period of 2019 to



2022, about?

- A Very few. I don't recall.
- Q Was it less than five conversations?
- A Likely, yes.
- Q And did they all involve this 22.14 issue?
- A Yes.
- Q Now, after you wrote the 2019 letter, you gave it to Mr. Hock. What else did you do with regard to the 22.14 issue that you had been asked to give your professional opinion about? What else had you done with regard to that issue?

MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of that question.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Objection to the point of the question?

MR. WALSH: To the form of the question.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Form of the question. I'm sorry. Mr. Meza, could you rephrase I quess?

MR. MEZA: Sure.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thanks.

BY MR. MEZA:

Q So in 2019, you give the letter to Mr. Hock, correct?



A I transmitted the letter. I don't recall how.

Q Okay. Somehow it got from your possession to his possession, right?

A I believe so, yes.

Q And in 2019, you said the City believed that 22.14 was not applicable; is that correct?

A Correct.

Q Can you describe the research the City did relating to Section 22.14 after October 15th, 2019?

A No.

Q Did you perform any research on Section 22.14 (a), the 1,000-foot setback requirement, after October 15th, 2019?

MR. WALSH: Objection to research. Did he research the law?

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Rephrase, please.

BY MR. MEZA:

Q Did you take any action with regard to whether or not your belief that the City that Section 22.14 was not applicable after 2019? In other words, did you do anything?

MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of the



question.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Objection to the form of the question. He can answer if he's able.

THE WITNESS: I don't recall anything until the revised letter.

BY MR. MEZA:

- Q Okay. Let me direct your attention to PWC-800. That would be on the top right. It's an email. I put before you PWC-800. Do you see that?
 - A Yes.
- Q Could you take a look at it and just read it to yourself and tell me when you're finished?
 - A Yes.
- Q Isn't it true that on Tuesday, August 23rd, you had received a call from John Hawk, the expert for Lakeshore?
 - A I don't recall a specific call, but yes.
- Q Do you recall receiving an email from Mr. Guttman to yourself at 1:11 P.M. in which he says, "Could you please return Mr. Hawk's call"?
 - A Yes.
- Q Had Mr. Hock called you already, or was this a call directly to Mr. Guttman and then Mr. Guttman just emailed you, if you know?



- A I don't know.
- Q Okay. Now, as a result of the email that you received from Mr. Guttman, your supervisor, you returned Mr. Hawk's call, correct?
 - A Yes.
 - Q And then you spoke to Mr. Hock, correct?
 - A Yes.
- Q And Mr. Hock told you he wanted a new letter about the ER zone rails. The reason is that the original letter assumed it was Union Pacific; is that correct?
 - A That's what the email indicates, yes.
- Q And you told that to Mr. Guttman; is that correct?
 - A Correct.
- Q Okay. Did Mr. Guttman direct you to go ahead and make edits to that letter, or not?
 - A I believe this was information only.
 - O What was information?
- A What I returned by email to Mr. Guttman was information only.
- Q Okay. But didn't you send John Hawk a letter via email that he then edited?
 - A Well, do you want to rephrase that? I



don't understand it.

Q Sure. It might be easier.

Take a look at Exhibit M-10 and the No. 10 is just on the lower right. Do you see that, Mr. Dabareiner? And can you take a look at the whole exhibit, including the attachments, three pages.

And then once you're finished, just let me know if that refreshes your recollection.

A Yes.

Q So Mr. Hawk sent you an email saying that he wanted the 2019 letter updated; is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q And did you send Mr. Hock a Word version of the 2019 letter?

A I don't know the version I sent, but I sent him a revised letter.

Q Okay. And was that revision, were those revisions based on your conversation with Mr. Hock?

A Yes.

Q Now, take a look at the last page of this email. There's a letter dated August 24, 2022.

Can you take a look at that and can you tell me if this document without the red lines was a document



that you sent John Hawk?

- A Yes.
- Q You drafted this language and then sent it to John Hawk; is that correct?
 - A Yes.
- Q He then took that letter and added words to that letter; isn't that correct?
 - A I don't know.
- Q Do you know what the term red line means or track, T-R-A-C-K, edits mean?
 - A Yes.
 - Q And you've seen track edits, haven't you?
 - A Yes.
 - Q You've seen red line edits, haven't you?
 - A Yes.
- Q Isn't it correct that John Hawk added the words, residential development on this property is physically impossible?
 - A I don't know who added that.
 - Q Somebody did. It wasn't you, was it?
 - A You know, I don't recall.
- Q Do you recall if you made track edits to your own letter and sent it back to yourself?
 - A No. I don't know where this came from.



Q And it says in the last sentence, "As such, the City concludes that the 1,000-foot setback requirement is not applicable." Do you see that?

A I see that.

Q Okay. What step did you take between 2019 of August -- excuse me. October, 2019 and August 24, 2022? What steps did you take that caused you to change your finding from you believe that it didn't apply to you conclude that it didn't apply?

Tell us the steps and the work you did that allowed you to change that opinion.

MR. WALSH: I'm going to object to the form of the question. The witness has testified a number of times that he does not know who made those changes. The question is assuming that this witness --

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I agree, Counsel. Sustained.

BY MR. MEZA:

Q Okay. Take a look at Exhibit M-11. This is the final letter with your signature; is that correct?

A Yes.



- Q In there you say, "The City concludes"; is that correct?
 - A Correct.
- Q When did you conclude? What did you do to conclude to make that finding?
- A I adopted the language because I felt that it reached the same conclusion.
- Q And why did you indicate that you concluded that the requirement didn't meet 415 ILCS 5-22?
 - A I thought that added clarity.
- Q You thought it would be more clear to add 415 ILCS; is that correct?
 - A Correct.
 - Q And can you tell us what ILCS stands for?
 - A Illinois Code of Statutes.
- Q So you wanted to make sure that you were citing the Statute that Lakeshore had to meet in order to meet this requirement under the law; is that correct?
 - A Yes.
- Q Did you inform Mr. Guttman that, in fact, you had changed your opinion to conclude?
- MR. WALSH: Objection to the form of that question. It suggests it changes his opinion.



BY MR. MEZA:

Q Well, did you change your opinion from belief to conclude?

A No.

Q So those two letters mean the same thing that the City believes versus the City concludes?

A Yes.

Q It's the same thing?

A Yes.

Q Now, did you provide Mr. Guttman a copy of the August 24, 2022 letter before you signed it?

A I don't recall.

Q Do you know whether or not Mr. Guttman was aware that edits were made to that letter and that you had put your signature on it?

A I believe in the email that you showed me before I indicated by email to him that I would be making changes.

MR. MEZA: I have no further questions. We'll just move to admit M-11. I think 800 is already in. And M-10.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I think M-11 was in already.

MR. MEZA: Oh, hold on.



HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: I think.

MR. MEZA: I didn't have it marked.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. I just had it on your file.

MR. MEZA: So we're moving to admit M-10 and M-11.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Let's go with M-11 first. Mr. Walsh?

MR. WALSH: The City has no objection to Exhibit 11, M-11.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. M-11 is admitted with no objection. And Mr. Meza, what's your other one?

MR. MEZA: M-10. These actually might already be in the record except they are a little incomplete. I believe they are in the record already.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Which one?

MR. MEZA: M-10. These were produced as part of the discovery documents.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Walsh?

MR. WALSH: I don't have any objection.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: No objection.



PWC Exhibit 10 is admitted, no objection.

MR. MEZA: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

MR. MEZA: I think that's all.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right.

Mr. Weinstock?

BY MR. WEINSTOCK:

Q I just have one question out of curiosity. Looking at M-9 and M-11 you just testified to Mr. Meza that you considered the word "believe" in the 2019 letter to mean the same thing as the word "conclude" in the 2022 letter. Do you remember that?

- A Yes.
- Q Then why did you change the word?
- A It was suggested to me and I thought the change was benign.
 - Q Who suggested it to you?
- A Whoever provided the draft changes to the letter.
- Q Would that have been Mr. Hock on behalf of LRS?
- A I don't know who did it on his end. He provided it.



Q He provided it?

A Yes.

MR. WEINSTOCK: Thank you. That's it. HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.

Mr. Walsh?

MR. WALSH: I have no questions.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Mr. Mueller?

MR. MUELLER: Just one, Mr. Dabareiner.

BY MR. MUELLER:

Q Do you as you sit here now believe and conclude that residential development on that track was impossible and is impossible?

A Yes.

Q Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you, sir. You may step down. Thank you for your testimony.

(There was a discussion held off the record, after which the deposition resumed as follows:)

Let's go off the record for a moment.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right.

We're back on the record. We were just discussing a few matters. First off, Mr. Weinstock would like to move an exhibit. Mr. Weinstock.



MR. WEINSTOCK: Yes. Thank you,

Mr. Halloran. I would move PODER Exhibit No. 1 into evidence. This exhibit was provided to the parties per your Order on September 14. The City lodged no objection on the 21st.

LRS included this in its omnibus objection to all exhibits. This is a series of emails that actually was referred to in Miss Alcantar-Garcia's cross examination by Mr. Mueller and I move it into evidence.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Thank you.
Mr. Mueller?

MR. MUELLER: We'll withdraw our objection because counsel is correct, we did ask about it.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Mueller. PODER Exhibit No. 1 is admitted, no objection.

And I do want to, for the record, I have Miss Garcia's statement somewhere, but I've already marked it as Hearing Officer Exhibit No. 1. And also by agreement, the parties decided on a post-hearing briefing schedule based on Lakeshore's offer to -- well, their guarantee statement that they are going to move the waiver decision date --



make another decision due date.

MR. WEINSTOCK: It's already done.

MR. MEZA: Already done.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: Okay, great. So February 1st the decision due date. The parties agreed November 13th, 2023 they will file their simultaneous briefs. Public comment is due October 24. Simultaneous reply briefs are due December 6th. And the record also closes then.

And I do want to state for the record,
I really appreciate the civility and
professionalism of everybody here today and I want
to thank the City of West Chicago for their
accommodations.

Anything else I need to talk about? MR. MEZA: No.

HEARING OFFICER HALLORAN: All right. Have a safe trip home. Thanks.

(Which were all the proceedings had and testimony taken at the hearing of the above-entitled cause.)



STATE OF ILLINOIS)

() SS.

(COUNTY OF DU PAGE)

I, GLORIA APOSTOLOS SIOLIDIS, C.S.R., duly qualified and commissioned for the State of Illinois, County of DuPage, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings had and testimony taken at the hearing of the above-entitled cause, and that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct, and complete report of the entire testimony so taken at the time and place hereinabove set forth.

Gloria Apostolos Siolidis

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