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CAFF MEMBERS:

William Darden Marc Pentino

D.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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THE VIRGINIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO

THE U. S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

FACTFINDING MEETING AND COMMUNITY FORUM

March 7, 1997

of Newport News

of Midlothian

of Alexandria

of Blacksburg

of Lexington

of Alexandria

Ms. Naomi Zeavin of Falls Church

of Hopewell

Dr. Azizah al-Hibri

Mr. Roger A. Galvin

Mr. Philip Y. Huang

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MS. RATTLEY: We want you to know that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is established as a fact-finding agency within the Executive Branch. It is authorized by statute, by law. That's the Civil Rights Commission Amendment Act of 1994, Public Law 103-419, 108 statute 4348, to study and to collect information concerning legal developments constituting discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, or in the administration of justice.

This is the statutory authority for collection of information on individuals. Any information supplied to staff members on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is on a voluntary basis. The commissioners are authorized to hold hearings, to issue subpoenas, and take testimony under oath; and this is found in section 3E, Public Law 103-419.

Now, the information requested of individuals by the commissioners, and the Constitution -- the commission staff on behalf of the commission is collected and will be maintained in accordance with the Notices of Systems and Records

published in the Federal Register to meet the Privacy Act requirements. And you may check that under the Federal Register, September 3rd, 1975 and October the 2nd, 1975.

Now, any information obtained by interview, or letter, from you, any of you, as part of the Commission's project, may be used routinely as set out in the Systems Notice entitled Civil Rights Commission-004, Commission Project. This system includes reports, hearings, statements, conferences, commentaries, or legislation, and possibly referrals to other agencies.

Now, for any further information regarding this act, you can contact the General Counsel at 624 Ninth Street, Washington, D.C.

Northwest in Room 620, or you may call Area Code 202

Are there any questions?

At this time, we're honored to have with us the Vice Mayor of the City of Newport News in the person of Charles Allen, and we would like to call on you, Mr. Allen, to make our welcome remarks, or anything else you would like to say.

Thank you very much.

MR. ALLEN: Good morning.

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MS. RATTLEY: Good morning.

MR. ALLEN:

Welcome to Newport News.

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I bring you that welcome from Mayor Joe Frank and City Council, City Manager Rooney, and the citizens of Newport News. We in Newport News tend to be proud of the last thirty years of achievements in the City of Newport News, especially in noting that the term and experience of councilmen and councilwomen, and subsequently Mayor Rattley, Commonwealth Attorney, Mr. Gwynn. We have department heads in the city that have progressed, Newport News School Board members, from admission to private clubs in the city.

We have representation on our many boards and commissions, primarily spearheaded during her term of over twenty years by Mrs. Rattley, state-elected officials, and of course our congressman, Robert Scott.

Our opportunities here appear to be unlimited; however, there are problems in Newport News as represented by problems in the workplace, people in various jobs throughout our community. We feel there are some double standards in terms of promotions and evaluations of employees, both in the city and in private industry, and also in the awarding of contracts for professional services.

1 We feel that these problems should 2 receive some attention in the future as commissioned 3 by the Board because we feel they are critical to the 4 economic and social welfare of our total community. 5 Once again, welcome to Newport News. 6 Hope your hearings here go well and will be 7 beneficial to us and the state at large. Thank you very much. 8 9 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much. 10 We're ready now to move into our special presentation. We're honored to have with us 11 12 the Honorable Robert C. Scott, who is a member of He has consented to come and address this 13 Congress. 14 meeting in reference to the criminal justice issues 15 affecting African Americans on the Peninsula, and I 16 understand that he serves on a Congressional 17 committee that is also charged with this responsibility. 18 Welcome. 19 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mrs. Rattley ,20 and members of the Advisory Committee. 21 certainly a pleasure to be here, and I appreciate the 22 opportunity to address the Virginia Advisory 23 Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. 24 I presently serve as the ranking 25 Democrat on the house subcommittee on the

Constitution of the Judiciary Committee, therefore 1 look forward to building a close working relationship with the Commission. Although your work has been 3 4 extremely important, it seems that your independence and fact-finding ability are in greater demand these 5 days when too many inaccurately contend that racial 6 7 discrimination is a feature only of our distant past.

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In this Congress, the subcommittee on the Constitution will address issues such as affirmative action, voting rights, police brutality, police profiling and church burning; and even though a Neo-Nazi soldier has been convicted of hunting down and killing a couple just because of their race, even though dozens of racially motivated church burnings have occurred in the past year or so, even after federal, state, and local law enforcement officers were caught participating in the "Good old boys' roundup," and even after discriminatory practices were exposed in the Department of Agriculture, you still have the difficult task of reminding the public that racism still exists today in our society. so you have to continue your important work.

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission is scheduled to be reauthorized in Congress this year. The Commission's research and recommendations are

invaluable to policy makers at all levels of
government. Considering the Commission's important
role, I fully expect that you will receive the

necessary support when it comes up for

5 reauthorization.

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Madam Chair, the hearings today have focused on the issue of race and crime; and when we discuss race and crime, we also have to add another word to the discussion, and that's politics. we reference Richard Nixon's exploitation of urban riots in his law and order campaign, or George Bush's use of the Willie Horton ad, rich politics play entirely too large a role in the development of criminal justice policies. Unfortunately, many of our policies are created as a reaction to vote-getting appeal, as opposed to solid, dependable research. Sensitivity to racial concerns is usually among one of the first casualties of the political process in which we develop our criminal justice policies.

Some of the concerns begin with police practices. For example, profiling is a type of policy that is very difficult to implement without unfair discrimination. Attaching a certain criminal propensity to a person because of his race or age,

and basing police practices on such profiles, is bound to cast the net too broadly with the result that many completely innocent people of the profile of race and age are subjected to the indignities of stops and searches.

A profiling is particularly troublesome in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling that provides that police officers do not have to have any articulable reason for ordering passengers to get out of a car during a routine traffic stop. This cart blanche permission to act arbitrarily, coupled with the inherently discriminatory practice that profiling has, gives it the potential to make a situation worse than it already is. Although profiling practices are rarely written, or even official, they do exist and deserve your attention.

The crack cocaine/powder cocaine disparity is another issue that deserves the heightened Commission's attention. There is the hundred-to-one disparity between the way we treat crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenders. In other words, one must sell 500 grams of powder cocaine, net worth of about \$50,000, to receive a five-year mandatory minimum sentence, or one guilty of simple

possession of five grams of crack, about a week's worth, about \$500 worth, gets the same five-year mandatory minimum sentence. There's no significant pharmacological difference between the two drugs. In fact, crack is a watered-down version of powder cocaine.

The organization charged with developing federal sentencing guidelines, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, reviewed the crack/powder disparity and concluded that African Americans were disproportionately targeted and sentenced nationwide.

In fact, disproportionate may be too mild a word to describe the difference in treatment.

Although whites are 50 percent of crack users, 95 percent arrested for crack offenses are black or Hispanic.

This hundred-to-one disparity cannot be justified on any fact, science, or legitimate public policy. Studies have shown that drug rehabilitation will reduce recidivism for drug users 80 percent, versus those that go to jail at a cost of approximately one percent of the cost of a five-year mandatory minimum sentence. In other words, the policy of providing a five-year mandatory minimum sentence for simple possession of a week's worth of

crack costs one hundred times more money and results
in five times more crime and produces the gross
disparity, the racial disparity.

Although even the bipartisan U.S.

Sentencing Commission concluded the disparity was wrong, Congress voted to overturn the Sentencing Commission's recommendation to correct it. Political expediency; that is, the fear of the thirty second commercial labeling a politician soft on crime, seemed to have beaten out what should have been an overwhelming revulsion to the indivisible policy of having grave racial disparity.

Madam Chairman, the two additional points I want to make about that disparity; one is, for simple possession cases, the five-year mandatory minimum sentence has no deterrent value. Crackheads don't switch to powder because they can get probation for powder rather than five years mandatory minimum for crack. And the Sentencing Commission recommendations recommended equal treatment for crack and powder with enhanced penalties depending on how the drug was used.

In other words, if you were distributing it using children, you would have an enhanced penalty. If weapons were used, if violence

2 But there was no justification between -- for the difference between crack and powder cocaine citizen 3 4 having different penalties, any more than there should be a different penalty for abusing cheap wine 5

or expensive coquac, even though you could probably 7 make the case that cheap wine is more associated with

was used, those would be taken into consideration.

crime and violence. 8

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Another point about mandatory minimums, their goal is to achieve absolutely equal justice because everybody gets the same mandatory That is never achieved in practice because minimum. the discretion otherwise exercised by the judge, will be exercised by the prosecution, who, in effect, sets the sentence when he sets the charges. At least the judges exercise a discretion in open court for all to The discretion is not eliminated from the see. It's just shifted from the judges purview to system. that of the prosecution.

Now, you can't discuss race and criminal justice without discussing the death There's no question that there's widespread penalty. discrimination in the application of the death The existence of discrimination is even more alarming when you consider the changes that have taken place in habeas corpus reforms.

Despite the fact that innocent people are repeatedly freed from death row because of their subsequent finding of innocence, and studies have shown that at least 25 people have been put to death this century after — they've been put to death this century, notwithstanding the fact that they were subsequently found to be innocent, death row penalty appeals have been greatly limited. Time periods have been cut, and the issues that one can raise on appeal have also been limited. The weakening of the right to appeal will have grave repercussions as we've already seen in Virginia.

In the past few years we've seen defendants, for whom reasonable doubts have been raised about their guilt, and because of those doubts, the last two Virginia Governors have had to commute sentences in cases in which the judicial system offered no hope. These innocent defendants have had to resort to the political process and all of its unreliability, rather than the judicial process, in order to find justice.

Madam Chairman, race has always been involved in the imposition of the death penalty. The race -- the General County Office found that race of

the victim, and race and class of the defendant, were significant factors in who received the death penalty and who did not.

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In a recent report issued by the Subcommittee on Constitutional Law, 1994, studied federal death penalty prosecutions from 1988 to 1993, when the drug kingpin law was the only statute in which federal death penalty was an option. That report revealed that despite the fact that 75 percent of individuals prosecuted under the general drug kingpin statute were white, 75 percent prosecuted under the general law were white; of the 37 prosecutions under the death provision of the act, four were white, four were Hispanic, 29 African Americans. In 1993, all eleven of those being tried in federal court under the death penalty provisions of that act were African Americans, and eight of those cases were being tried in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Justice Harry A. Blackman, a longtime death penalty supporter, on February 22, 1994, made the following statement against the death penalty. He said twenty years have passed since this Court declared that the death penalty must be imposed fairly and with reasonable consistency, or not at

all. And despite the effort of the states and courts to devise legal formulas and procedural rules to meet this daunting challenge, the death penalty remains drought with arbitrariness, discrimination, caprice and mistakes.

Madam Chairman, if we're going to have a death penalty, we should at least be able to agree that it should not be applied in a racially discriminatory manner. We should ensure that when we get to the end of the trial, we should not allow racial bigotry to be the deciding factor of who gets to live and who has to die. The Racial Justice Act would have prohibited discrimination in the application of the death penalty, but it was not accepted as part of the 1994 Crime Bill.

The courts are well-versed in deciding racial discrimination cases. Proof of discrimination is routinely considered in employment, housing, and public accommodation, so the same evidence ought to be considered when someone's life is at stake.

There's some who think that the enactment of the Racial Justice Act would be tantamount to abolition of the death penalty. They apparently think that racism is so ingrained in the

application of the death penalty that they wouldn't know how to apply it without discriminating. If that's the case, then the death penalty ought to be abolished.

Madam Chairman, even less serious offenses can also have racial overtones. Oddly enough, trespassing is such a law. In a number of cities in Virginia, particularly Portsmouth and Richmond, individuals visiting public housing developments often endure harassment and arrest simply because they are visiting public housing residents. It is not required that any crime be committed or even seem to be contemplated. In fact, the commission of a crime is irrelevant. Often the only factor is whether or not one sets foot on the public housing property.

Although the intent of this practice is to protect the residents of public housing, the effect is to have individuals sent to jail for thirty days, or even six months, for visiting friends or relatives in public housing. One man was convicted of trespassing and sent to jail for six months, even though he was visiting his children with their mother's consent. These practices need to at least be reviewed. There must be a better way to maintain

the public safety of public housing residents without putting an undue burden on those visiting their friends and relatives.

In this discussion of race and crime, it is important that we move beyond the expedient politics of crime to the pragmatic and well-thought-out solutions that will provide us with some of the well-needed relief in this area. African Americans, Latinos, and the poor suffer disproportionately as victims of crime.

Our unwillingness to properly address crime is itself a reflection of our racial insensitivity to the disproportionate numbers of minority victims. We know how to reduce crime, and it is time that we start reducing crime, rather than focusing on initiative, which only seem to enhance the political stature of politicians, but do nothing to reduce crimes.

All of the research shows that prevention and early intervention programs are much more effective in reducing crime and the cost of responding to crime when compared to the popular get-tough strategies, such as increasing incarceration, abolishing parole, and three strikes and you're out. In America, we already lock up more

people than anywhere else on Earth.

Internationally, most countries lock up about one hundred people per hundred thousand.

Japan locks up 36 people per hundred thousand;

Canada, 117; Mexico, 97. United States leads the world with approximately 600 people locked up today per hundred thousand population. The African

American community, approximately 1,500 people are locked up; and in inner cities, the rate exceeds 3,000 or more.

There's virtually no additional crime reduction value in increasing incarceration, and yet study after study has shown that continuum of services beginning with young children will significantly reduce the incidents of crime. We know that programs such as teen pregnancy prevention, prenatal care, parental training for teen parents, head start, quality education, recreational programs, drop-out prevention programs, summer jobs, guaranteed college education, job training, often save more money than they cost in reduction of future crime and welfare expenditure; and unlike their catchy vote-getting sound bites, these programs will actually reduce crime.

We fail to fund the initiatives that

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actually work and instead codify expensive sound bites that have little effect on crime.

Madam Chairman, you're familiar with the Proposal X that passed so-called abolishing parole. Only -- I won't go into how little effect it would have, only to say that the proponents only suggest that a three percent reduction in crime. I would argue that that is a gross exaggeration even to say three percent; but even at three percent, the cost of that program was two billion dollars construction, about a billion a year in operating costs for the prisoner.

could do with that kind of money, and it starts off with a million-dollar boys' and girls' club, or family resource center, in every precinct in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and then you could run those boys' and girls' clubs, or family resource centers, and you could provide a college education for every child who would get in, couldn't afford to go to college. You could double Head Start. You could provide a summer job for just about every poor kid in the state. If you do it right, those jobs could be in recreational centers where you're providing opportunities for everybody else, and then

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you could double jobs training under the Job Training Partnership Act, and then you could hire 200 additional police officers in every Congressional district in the state. That would be about fifty new police officers for the City of Newport News, and then you could double the funding for community services boards, local mental health spending for which drug rehabilitation is a part of that, and you'd still have enough money left over after you spent that kind of money, to run a housing rehabilitation project that would take about ten years to eliminate every housing code violation in That would virtually eliminate the state. unemployment in the building trade.

You could fund all that, or this sound bite that proponents don't even promise will make a statistically significant difference in crime; and yet that money was spent on a vote of about 85 to 15 in the house, and 34 to 4 in the State Senate.

With Congress now opposed to deter juvenile justice reform, we can only hope that reason prevails and we enact measures which will have the actual effect of reducing crime, rather than codifying slogans which sound good but actually may even increase crime.

I look forward to working with the

Civil Rights Commission, and again, thank you for 1 2 your hard work and urge you to continue your 3 important business, because this country's future 4 depends on your hard work. Thank you. 5 MS. RATTLEY: Very good report, 6 Mr. Scott. Would you take just a minute and speak to 7 restoration of voting rights of those fellows. 8 you have any statistics on that? We were given a 9 number for Virginia. Was it 400-some-thousand --10 300-and-some-thousand, and 150-some-thousand are 11 blacks. DR. AL-HIBRI: 145,000. 12 MR. GALVIN: Disenfranchised. 13 14 MS. RATTLEY: I have them written 15 Let's see. This person stated that we have 16 245,000 people in the State of Virginia whose voting 17 rights have been taken away, and of that number, 145,000 were black males. 18 MR. SCOTT: 19 That's consistent with 20 what I've heard; and I think the number in other 21 states have provisions that you can automatically 22 restore voting rights statutorily. 23 MS. RATTLEY: Thirteen states, I 24 believe. 25 MR. SCOTT: As soon as you walk out

of the prison, your rights are restored. We are restrained by a Constitutional provision that provides that only the governor can restore the rights. Heretofore, it's been a fairly routine process. Those who have completed their time, probation, parole, paid their fines and costs, and can get a couple of people to recommend them, would have their rights restored.

It used to be so perfunctory that a few years ago, they just printed up forms, fill-in-the-blank forms, send them up. It wouldn't be a pardon. You'd only have your civil rights restored. Used to be fairly perfunctory, and now I understand that it's very difficult. A lot of people are having those applications languish.

MS. RATTLEY: Are they difficult or impossible, that you have to write to the governor, and then they would research it supposedly and determine whether you have paid your dues; that is, the time in jail plus whatever probationary period? Even if your probation is ten years, you have to wait until the end of that, and I understand in the last -- how many years -- only three or four, we were told, had been given the right to vote again.

MR. SCOTT: It used to be

perfunctory. I was first elected in '77, and 1 2 Governor Dalton was in office then, and through the 3 time I remember being in General Assembly, it used to 4 be a perfunctory process. 5 Do you recall when that MR. GALVIN: stopped, during what time frame? 6 7 MR. SCOTT: I don't want to name 8 names, but the last couple of years. 9 MR. GALVIN: In the past five years, there's only been about five or six people that have 10 had their rights restored in the past five years. 11 12 We're going back further than that? MR. SCOTT: My understanding it's 13 14 been very recent, because it used to be perfunctory, 15 so much so that the registrar had -- you get a little package, fill in the blanks. 16 I mean, they have a fill in the blank. Have you completed your time? 17

been very recent, because it used to be perfunctory, so much so that the registrar had -- you get a little package, fill in the blanks. I mean, they have a fill in the blank. Have you completed your time?

Have you attached the letter from your probation officer? Have you attached the note from clerk of court? Do you have three fill-in-the-blank recommendations that, Dear Governor, I have known blank for blank years, and then a little gap to say under what circumstances, and you sign your name. I mean really perfunctory.

MR. GALVIN: I understand it used to

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be that way. I'm trying to find out when it changed. We heard testimony from the bar from competent people in this area that they have been unable and difficult to comply with the process to get anyone's rights restored.

MR. SCOTT: I can't answer specifically, because I've been out of the General Assembly for a little over four years. The time I was in the General Assembly, I remember it to be a fairly perfunctory process.

MR. SCOTT:

Now, if you want a pardon -MR. GALVIN: No, not a pardon.

-- those are hard to

come by. But a restoration of your right to vote has traditionally been a fairly perfunctory process.

We're in an area, Madam Chairman, where a facially, racially neutral practice has a significant impact on one group so much so that you're talking about a significant impact in political empowerment. That's the theory behind ending the literacy test. There's nothing facially wrong with the literacy test until you look and find out that one group is disenfranchised so much so that that group has lost a significant portion of its political empowerment.

I mean, there are only a couple

hundred thousand black males in the state, 600,000 or so, and you get 145,000, and limit that to adults, it's probably only 400,000 or 500,000. It can't be much more than that. And if 145,000 of them can't vote because of this provision, I think the rationale that eliminated the literacy test ought to be considered when we look at how this is, in fact, applied.

You've got twenty, thirty percent of black males can't vote, and five or ten percent of white males can't vote, you have a significant disparity. When it comes time to vote, it has a significant impact.

MS. RATTLEY: All right. Would you tell me what happens if you spend time in the federal penitentiary? What is the parole system there -- not the parole, the reinstatement? Do you go through the same process? Do you still have to go to your state governor? In federal prison.

MR. SCOTT: In federal prison, if
you have a federal conviction, you have to go through
the federal process, which means the president, and I
don't know -- I haven't dealt with -- I don't
remember dealing with a situation like that. Some
have asked for presidential pardon, and we've helped

them fill out the papers. I don't remember anybody that's gone through that process.

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MS. RATTLEY: Okay. So we're locked in, as you would think, at both ends, the state and the federal?

MR. SCOTT: The number of convictions, number of people affected by federal conviction would be relatively small. 95, 98 percent of the felony convictions in Virginia is in state court, so the impact of the federal would be limited.

MS. RATTLEY: Let me just move back to the crack versus pure cocaine. You gave some interesting information, and yesterday we got some shocking information. When we talk about perceptions and images about those who use cocaine, why is it blacks, according to their statics, use crack, and whites use cocaine? And then when you talk about sentencing, the presenter yesterday worked it out mathematically, and he said it costs the same. he went on to talk about the chemical in the two systems, and we are going to hopefully do some studying here, because wrong information is out there, and this person suggested that this was a cover; you don't have to deal with the race issues if you -- our number one concern is elimination of

1 drugs, and that would be the solution, the panacea 2 for everything that is ill. How -- you gave 500 3 grams --Five hundred grams of 4 MR. SCOTT: powder, if you're caught selling 500 grams of powder, 5 about \$50,000 worth of powder, you get five years 6 7 mandatory minimum. You only need to be in simple possession of five grams, about a week's worth, about 8 \$500 worth of crack, to get the same five years 9 mandatory minimum. 10 11 Now, crack -- and again, 95 percent 12 of those busted for crack cocaine are black and 13 Hispanic, although the studies have shown that the 14 use is about 50/50. 15 MS. RATTLEY: That's the other 16 thing. that's crazy, 50/50. Fifty percent black, 17 fifty percent white. 18 MR. SCOTT: And of those using 19 powder, about 75 percent of those using powder are 20 Now, I wanted to emphasize simple possession, 21 because crack is the only substance for which you can 22 get mandatory minimum jail time for simple 23 possession. 24 MS. RATTLEY: Are they saying that 25 crack is what makes you crazy, or violent, or if they acted a different way than the pure cocaine?

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MR. SCOTT: I mentioned that you could probably draw the association that crack is more associated with violence, just like you can make the association that cheap wine is more associated with violence than cognac, but you don't have a separate drunk driving on cheap wine, you know, it's drunk driving.

What the Sentencing Commission did was to recommend that the sentence being absolutely equal with enhancement, so if you're distributing the drug with a weapon, you get more. If you're using children in your distribution network, you get more. If there's violence, weapons, all this kind of stuff, you get more. And in practice, those busted for crack would probably, on average, get more time under that scheme, but it's for what they did; it's not for who they are.

violently, you get more time than someone who's using crack nonviolently, and that -- so the Sentencing Commission recommended that if crack is associated with violence, then prosecute the crack used in a violent setting with children, near schoolhouses, or whatever you want to do to enhance; but don't punish

crack for who the users are; punish it for what it is.

Then as I indicated, you don't get mandatory minimum time for possession of Heroin, PCB, LSD. Crack, for which 95 percent of the defendants are black, is the only thing that you can get mandatory minimum time for.

MS. RATTLEY: Just one further question and I'll stop.

MR. SCOTT: Let me add one other thing. When you have the mandatory minimum in practice, the way crack is made, it's made from powder, so the real kingpins distributing tons of powder, if you're caught with \$30,000 worth of powder in the network, then the next guy converts it to crack and distributes on the street, the kingpin is getting probation, where the little street dealer, once he's removed, will be replaced, so you really haven't done anything about whatever goal you're trying to accomplish, gets the five years mandatory minimum.

And the way the prosecution works, the street dealer doesn't have any information. The kingpin can name all his distributors, so he gets a reduction. Even if he's got more than \$50,000 worth

of powder, he can get a reduction because he's 1 helping by naming all his little street venders, so 2 he gets a reduction, and the street venders are stuck 3 4 with five years mandatory minimum. 5 MS. RATTLEY: Plea bargaining in the 6 judicial system. I just want -- I don't think you 7 can answer the question. I wish you could. Is there any truth to the fact that coke is in all urban areas 8 9 where black folks live, and pure cocaine is in the 10 suburbs? 11 MR. SCOTT: I don't know. Well, could you tell 12 MS. RATTLEY: me why it seems that the choice of drugs among 13 14 blacks, based on our statistics, why is it crack? 15 What about crack --16 MR. SCOTT: One of the way -- the 17 way crack is distributed in cheaper packaging. 18 can get -- usually when you buy powder, you have to 19 come up with a couple hundred dollars' worth. 20 can five or ten dollars' worth of crack. 21 MS. RATTLEY: Is it as low as five 22 dollars now? We were given a price of, what, ten 23 yesterday, average? So you can cut that, you're 24 saying --25 MR. SCOTT: I think -- I don't know.

1 Are there --MS. RATTLEY: 2 MR. SCOTT: You have the Commonwealth Attorney here. He can tell you what 3 police are catching the people with. I've heard 4 5 five, ten dollars. 6 MS. RATTLEY: Please introduce 7 yourself since you were not here when we. 8 DR. AL-HIBRI: Dr. Al-Hibri. Is 9 that enough, or do you need more? 10 MS. RATTLEY: We want to know more 11 about you. DR. AL-HIBRI: Professor of Law, 12 13 University of Richmond. 14 I have a couple of questions for I was very surprised yesterday when I found out 15 16 that the crack use is essentially spread out over the 17 population with no racial demarcation, 50/50 as you 18 said, between black and white; and yet when we look 19 at the arrest profile, we find out that most of those arrested for crack are blacks. So it sounds to me 20 21 like the problem is with targeting and enforcement. 22 Is that your sense of it, too? 23 Instead of talking about crack, 24 let's talk about selective enforcement. 25 That point was made at a MR. SCOTT:

1 Judiciary Committee hearing in which one member said 2 that that's not discrimination, that's good police 3 work. I'm not sure exactly. DR. AL-HIBRI: On one side of the 4 5 table. 6 MR. SCOTT: One police force 7 indicated that they, in fact, do target. where they can find the drugs the easiest, and that 8 was in -- in Los Angeles, they indicated where the 9 10 drugs are most easily found and --

DR. AL-HIBRI: I do sort of agree.

MR. SCOTT: They do target. I don't

know there's much doubt about that.

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DR. AL-HIBRI: Let me push it a little bit further because we were talking yesterday about conscious, unconscious, subconscious selectivity. And I guess if there is a stereotype which is floating in the community about what a -- for example, a black young male does, and you see somebody, a black young male who is standing at the corner of the street -- we were talking about baggy pants, and if you're a police person and you're trying to determine probable cause, isn't it more likely that you would take that, than if you found somebody in a nice business suit who was white,

carrying a briefcase?

MR. SCOTT: As you know, there's a concept in law called articulable probable cause. I mean, just "I know he had some drugs on him" isn't enough. You have to articulate why you thought he had drugs on him to show probable cause.

When you have a profile, you don't have the probable cause. They identify a young, black male driving a rental car with Florida plates on 95 as inherently suspicious, and with the Supreme Court cases indicating you don't need much more -- you need more than that, but not much more. The funny look is enough, in one case -- the profiling gets you in trouble because there are a lot of very innocent young, black males wearing baggy pants, and most, in fact, are innocent. And when you subject them to the indignities of the criminal justice system, you have problems.

DR. AL-HIBRI: So you have the problem with the profile and you have the problem of which areas you start looking into first, and that is beginning to account for the disproportionate arrests in certain areas.

MR. SCOTT: (Nods head.)

DR. AL-HIBRI: Okay. The other

thing I wanted to ask you about information that we repeatedly got yesterday, which I really wanted more insight into. In all the charts we looked at, there was a sharp increase in various types of arrests and crimes beginning in 1987, and when I asked a question, some person — I don't remember who answered that that's when crack hit the streets. I'm not comfortable, in light of this conversation and other things we've heard in the last day or so, that this is a sufficient interpretation. Could you give me some insight as to what do you think happened in '86 maybe, or around that time, that caused this?

MR. SCOTT: The crack cocaine disparity law was enacted around that time after Glen Baez (phonetics), and I think if you look back, it's not clear whether it was crack or freebasing powder, but for whatever reason, they passed the law. I don't think frankly Congress had a discriminatory intent at the time. That cannot be said for what we did one week after the Million-man -- the week after the Million-man March where the Sentencing Commission found that in application, it had the discriminatory impact of 95 percent of the people caught up under the mandatory minimum with crack were black and Hispanic. We knew that last year when we -- a year

1 ago when we voted to reject the Sentencing Commission 2 recommendation. The first time that's ever been The Sentencing Commission makes a 3 recommendation, it's law unless it's rejected. 4 5 rejected it. The first time, and we change the 6 sentencing frequently. 7 Politicians are afraid of being labeled soft on crime in a thirty-second Willie 8 9 Horton type ad; and a patently discriminatory practice is insufficient to get past that fear of the 10 11 thirty-second commercial. 12 MS. RATTLEY: Excuse me, just a minute, if I may. Would somebody please turn the 13 14 heat up back there. It's getting cold in here. 15 know the city is able to pay. 16 MR. GALVIN: If I could just stay on this last point for just a second. 17 18 DR. AL-HIBRI: That's what I wanted 19 · to follow up on. 20 MS. RATTLEY: Okay: Thank you. 21 DR. AL-HIBRI: Just let me -- and 22 then you can pursue this. I was very impressed by 23 the sentence I heard you speak about in which you 24 spoke about sound bites and how the politicians are

worried about some policy that would not get them

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sound bites or vice versa. We know it's an international problem. From a politician's point of view, how do you think we can break that vicious circle when the population is suffering these kinds

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of concentration?

MR. SCOTT: I don't know. I don't When you have programs like Proposal X that know. went through, that -- when you subject that policy to any level of intellectual scrutiny, it fails. you have a system -- when you spend that kind of money on a program that would provide a sentence for Charles Manson getting out in half the time that he would serve if you didn't pass the law, because one of the things about truth in sentencing is that -- I call it halftruth in sentencing -- halftruth is you can't let anybody out early. The whole truth is you can't hold people longer either, so when you have a so-called ten-year sentence, which is a year and-a-half to ten years, average two and-a-half, and you double the average time served to five, Charles Manson never would have made discretionary parole and would have been held for ten years, now gets out in five.

Now, when you explain that to people, I think -- and when you spend that kind of

money -- you can do a little mathematical formula --impact the additional time served as inversely proportional to your danger to society, the low risk prisoners, for example, will serve significantly more time, about three times more, than they would have served ordinarily; the average person twice as much; but the most dangerous will serve only half as much. You spend all that money and it goes in exactly the opposite direction that it ought to land. It makes But so long as politicians get away with these thirty-second commercials, and the public lets them get away with it, you're going to have it.

We're dealing right now with juvenile justice reform. There's a slogan that's very popular. If you do the adult time, you should do the adult crime. Well, that sounds good. You run to about 80 percent of the polls, until you tell people that the serious offenses for which that really applies, they're already being treated as adults, but if you expand the number of children treated as adults, you'll have the following result: One, the trials will be delayed and victims and witnesses will be dragged through two trials rather than one; the child, upon conviction, will receive generally less time in a secure facility; and the

crime rate will go up with the crimes being committed sooner and being more violent.

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Now, all of the research is consistent with that. But it's kind of hard to get that into a thirty-second commercial. You can yell at a crowd, You do the adult crime; you do the adult You get a standing ovation, you get reelected, time. and unfortunately some of these things are actually getting codified. In the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act Reauthorization, increasing mandatory treatment of more juveniles as adults is in most of the versions we're going to consider. It is simple-minded and expensive and will increase crime rather than decrease crime. And until the public starts asking politicians questions like, What did you have on your mind when you voted for that, or Do you think we're that dumb, until people get questions like that at town meetings, I think you're going to get more of the same.

MR. GALVIN: I want to stay on this for just a minute because I understand well the interpretation that you offered, and from yesterday, and from some of our work, I'm beginning to see that sometimes we have a perception that looks so real that it becomes fact, almost, to us; and while I do

understand the pressures of sound bites and the 1 2 implications of them, on the other hand, if you can 3 allow me -- because I want you to speculate with me 4 for something. On the other hand that we also know 5 that marijuana has a very high usage, about 70 6 percent in the white community, and we also know that 7 there has been a tremendous shift in the leniency of laws against the use and possession of marijuana. 8 This doesn't seem to correspond with being hard on 9 drugs; and at the same time, while it could be sound 10 11 bites, I don't ever see anyone speculate that why 12 Congress turned us down. Remember Congress voted 13 down making this an equity in the sentencing. 14 possible that all of us, what we're discovering is 15 it's a subconscious act or bias, and that while the 16 explanation has been given to be political sound 17 bite, that it's possible that the bias is going 18 because this act discriminates so much against one 19 race or community, that we have produced an unknown 20 bias within Congress? 21 MR. SCOTT: Produced or exposed? 22 MR. GALVIN: Or exposed. Let's say exposed. 23 24 MR. SCOTT: I think it's a lot 25 easier to impose Draconian sentences on people to

1 make a message when their parents, the parents of the 2 people who receive those kind of sentences aren't the 3 people you run into on a regular basis. 4 believe that a five-year mandatory minimum for simple 5 possession of a week's worth of marijuana, and 6 serious enforcement of that on college campuses, for example, I can't believe that would last very long at 7 8 all. 9 MR. GALVIN: That's right. 10 MR. SCOTT: Five-year mandatory minimum for crack, and the way they add up the 11 threshold, if you're all sitting around bringing a 12 day's worth of crack and you get busted, you add up 13 14 everybody's crack to see how much there is in the 15 conspiracy, and if it gets up to five grams, then 16 everybody's got five years mandatory minimum. I don't think a couple people coming 17 18 to a pot party, and you add it up and get about a 19 week's worth, even a couple hundred dollars' worth, 20 all going to jail for five years mandatory minimum, I 21 don't believe that would last. 22 MR. GALVIN: Let me -- then it's 23 possible there's another explanation for why Congress

acted this way, besides the political sound bites?

MR. SCOTT:

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I think I'm giving them

the best credit possible --1 MR. GALVIN: I understand that. 2 3 MR. SCOTT: -- saying they're only 4 being self-serving politicians. That's the best you 5 can do, because on money, they're spending one hundred times more money. All of the studies are 6 7 showing that they will end up with five times more crime, more crimes with this policy, so it can't be 8 9 to reduce crime; it can't be to save money; so you are stuck with self-serving politics. 10 11 MR. GALVIN: Or racial bias. 12 MR. SCOTT: Or racial bias. you are willing to spend this -- waste this kind of 13 14 money and endanger the public to promote your racial 15 bias. 16 MR. GALVIN: One possibility. 17 that possibility never seems to get discussed openly. 18 MR. SCOTT: So I give them credit 19 for just being self-serving politicians. 20 MR. GALVIN: Let me ask you one 21 other question. You mentioned something that caught 22 my interest when you talked about in the sentencing 23 and how the -- really the prosecutors have control, 24 because of the mandatory or the uniform sentencing 25 now, depends on the charge that they break, really

automatically determines the sentence the person is going to get; and yet yesterday we heard testimony a lot about how the prosecutors don't set charges.

According to what -- if I
misunderstood -- but yesterday, the way a charge is
set is either the police bring the charge, or the
Court brings the charge, or a citizen brings the
charge, but not the prosecutor or the Commonwealth
Attorney's Office.

MR. SCOTT: Well, the police, upon arrest, arrest you for a certain charge; but in the indictment, what the prosecutor asks for, and in plea negotiations, I'll let you plead to this and that will result in a certain charge, I mean, the prosecutor has the sole -- when it gets to the Court, presented to the Judge, the Judge has very little discretion in those mandatory minimums. If he finds you guilty and that was the charge, you know, you just look down the charts and that's what you get.

MR. GALVIN: And would you -- so it appears we've taken and -- or at least we've been -- looked like we've been told that we have taken something about the minimum sentence, so we've taken the -- some discretion away from the judges?

MR. SCOTT: (Nods head.)

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MR. GALVIN: Now we're moving it down the line, and I'm a little concerned about the water run downhill theory; and at the same time, we're saying that the police force are constrained and the piece in the middle are the prosecutors, Commonwealth Attorneys, that have no guidelines for what they do.

MR. SCOTT: And the Judge, you know, you can watch him, listen -- you can listen to the evidence and watch his decision, so as he or she exercises discretion, you know, it's a public That discretion exercised on the street process. with a police officer, particularly with juveniles, there's a lot of discretion whether you bring somebody in, then you go to intake, whether they go through the criminal justice process, or just intake, counseling, release. There's a lot of discretion all the way through the process. And when you tie the Judge's hands, you end up with some situations that -- for which a mandatory minimum is clearly not appropriate.

MR. GALVIN: Right. You lose the flexibility in the standard. Do you know or are you aware of anybody or any group, a body -- that doesn't mean individual -- that has a performance review or

1 in some way reviews periodically the performance of, 2 say, the Commonwealth Attorney or the prosecutor's 3 office for performance, except by election every four 4 years? 5 MR. SCOTT: I was going to suggest most of the State Commonwealth Attorneys would say 6 7 they're reviewed every four years. That's the only --8 I don't know. I assume there's continuing education 9 they have. You have a Commonwealth Attorney coming up, but I'm sure they have ongoing information, 10 review of cases coming up. I'm sure they get 11 together and have seminars, and whatnot. 12 MR. GALVIN: But as far as the city 13 14 work force? I know Judges have that 15 MR. SCOTT: 16 every year --17 MR. GALVIN: Right. MR. SCOTT: -- review of the law. 18 Ι 19 assume Commonwealth's Attorneys have something 20 similar. 21 MR. GALVIN: But you don't know if they do? 22 23 MR. SCOTT: No. 24 MR. GALVIN: So other than that, as 25 a city employee, the only review they get is once

every four years by the voters? 1 2 MR. SCOTT: That is, I think, a 3 significant review. I don't think any Commonwealth 4 Attorney would minimize that review. You have to be 5 out, political -- it has its good and bad points to 6 it, but I mean, you have to be out and explain 7 yourself. 8 Well, would you agree MR. GALVIN: with me that it's a review that's critical, because 9 it determines whether you keep or not keep your job, 10 but is not a review in the process that allows you to 11 12 have improvement of what's happening? 13 MR. SCOTT: Yes. And I also think 14 that sometimes in the criminal justice system, the 15 popular thing isn't the right thing, and that's why 16 I'm delighted we don't have popularly elected judges 17 in Virginia as they do in some other states. 18 hate to be appearing before a judge up for reelection 19 in a couple weeks when I am actually innocent of a 20 charge of a heinous crime where the judge can say, 21 Well, you take your chances on appeal, I'm going to 22 get reelected. 23 Ms. McCloud. MS. RATTLEY: 24 MS. MCCLOUD: Congressman Scott, I

just have one question for you. I'd like to go back

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to the discussion about the changes in the reinstatement of those disenfranchised individuals who have been incarcerated. You weren't able to say approximately when that change took place, but I wonder if you have any speculations as to why the change took place?

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MR. SCOTT: I don't know why, but again, it's a political decision. I just would point out that we have serious constraints on solving that problem because around '79, '80, '81, the legislature, in fact, proposed a Constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to set a statutory provision for restoration of rights. It passed the General Assembly twice and was presented to the voters, and the voters did not, by an overwhelming margin, defeated the proposed Constitutional amendment, so it's still part of our Constitution, and I'm not sure that there's much we can do about it, other than from the Commission's point of view, say it has a discriminatory impact.

MS. RATTLEY: Reverend Harris.

REVEREND HARRIS: Congressman Scott,

I want to get your opinion. This question of civil

rights for African Americans has been going on

forever, different faces of it. Politicians make the

decisions on who gets certain rights at what time and what place. Do you think that we are dealing with an attitudinal situation in our society which will be pushed around from one place to the other, like drug dealers; after you step down on them in one corner, they move in another corner? I've been following the civil rights movement for many years, and I'm not any closer to freedom than I was when I first started. They find different ways to impose their goals, to send kinder facts to the people.

I can remember when we had meetings with some white people and some black people in somebody's house and eat some cookies and drink some tea, and we talked about human rights and civil rights. Aren't we still eating cookies and drinking tea as we deal with the likes of people, some of those that we have talked about the last -- yesterday and today? What is your opinion on that matter?

MR. SCOTT: Well, Reverend Harris, you ask a broad question, and this session is focused just on, as I understand it, race and crime. You open the issue up to a broad number of issues, and you started off talking about politicians and rights. As I assume you-all know, federal courts are looking at that issue right now. The panel has ruled that

the Third Congressional District was illegally drawn, and we're in the process of seeing how we can redraw it to comply with the Constitution.

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Until Shaw versus Reno, there's never been any suggestion that there's any problem with the majority giving minorities too many rights, but in the recent line of cases, particularly beginning with the redistricting cases, there's a limit to what the majority can do for the minority, and that opens you up into a entirely new discussion. It starts off with political election and goes from there. We have -- and that's why the voting rights are so important, because everything -- once -- in Democracy, the right is to vote and select the politicians who make the decisions. If that process is jeopardized, then the rest of it is jeopardized; all decisions don't have the moral authority they should have.

MS. RATTLEY: We understand that Congressman Scott has to leave shortly. I would like to call on Mr. Darden with whatever questions you have since the staff, of course, will include all of this in their report to the Commission, and we would ask you if you could leave us, please, a copy of your presentation. Is that possible?

MR. SCOTT: I'll have to have it typed. It's not in the form now that anybody could read, other than me.

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MS. RATTLEY: We would appreciate that so we have it as part of the record.

Mr. Darden, do you have a question?

MR. DARDEN: Thank you, Congressman.

My first question actually has already been answered,

I think pretty directly. Mr. Galvin's line of

questioning brought you to exposing -- I think you

said that there was some racist or some racial bias

in the Congress?

MR. SCOTT: I don't like to attribute motives to my colleagues. I only pointed out that there were a number of reasons that you could put forth for voting against the Sentencing Commission's recommendations. You cannot say that you're saving money. You cannot say you're reducing crime. That leaves you with a racial disparity as staring you in the face; and I think I indicated to Mr. Galvin, that being generous, I would attribute self-serving political interests rather than -- I mean, you're stuck with self-serving political interests or promoting a racially discriminatory agenda, one or the other.

1 The reason we're coming MR. DARDEN: 2 back to that, Dr. Kern from the state here described 3 the Congressional action and suggested that the only 4 real insight we might have into what happened there is through you, and so we're trying to understand. 5 6 MR. SCOTT: You have the vote, and 7 like I said, I don't want to attribute motives to my colleagues, but you have either self-serving 8 9 political interests, or promotion of a racially discriminatory agenda. One or the other. 10 11 MR. GALVIN: I want to be clear. That would be an unconscious -- a conscious act as we 12 13 saw and heard yesterday as well; may not necessarily 14 be an intentional act, but in fact, the consequence 15 is the same, but it may be an act that, you could 16 say, is cognitively blind to the body. 17 You know, I would like MR. SCOTT: to point out that the vote in the house was taken 18 19 within ten days of the Million-man March. 20 So you say timing MS. RATTLEY: 21 maybe. 22 MR. SCOTT: So you could not --23 can't say that you weren't aware of racial 24 implications. 25 MR. DARDEN: Was it a close vote?

1 MR. SCOTT: No. No. 2 MR. DARDEN: Nowhere close? 3 MR. SCOTT: Something like 4 300-and-something to 100-and-something. 5 MR. DARDEN: I won't belabor that. 6 I do want to go back, though --MR. SCOTT: 7 In fact, a motion was 8 made to at least adopt the simple possession aspect 9 of it and only reject the aspects of sale, because on 10 the simple possession part, that's when the rationale of the five-year mandatory minimum makes no sense at 11 12 It's most expensive and most clearly -- the all. research clearly points to the fact you not only 13 14 don't reduce crime, you'll probably be increasing 15 crime significantly, spending a lot more money doing it. 16 17 Now, you could probably make an 18 argument, although there's not a lot of evidence in 19 my judgment to support it, that you need a Draconian 20 sentence to -- that goes in the business of selling 21 crack cocaine, weighs their pros and cons, and that 22 the Draconian sentence would be weighed in in that 23 calculation. That is not done on simple possession. 24 And so the simple possession, there was really no

excuse on that vote. That wasn't close, either.

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1 MR. DARDEN: So just to round this 2 out, if we take the most favorable interpretation, and these actions might have been just a political 3 4 expediency, what you're suggesting is that those who are most affected by it, in other words, young black 5 males, are a constituency that is unrepresented in 6 7 Congress, that they are dispensed with, disposable? MR. SCOTT: Dispensed from a 8 political expediency point of view, the calculation 9 would be made that it is better to have a policy with 10 gross discriminatory implications, that wastes the 11 taxpayers' money, probably increases crime, that the 12 defense from the thirty-second sound bite, soft on 13 14 crime, is more important than saving money, reducing 15 crime, or illuminating racial disparity. Thank you. 16 MR. DARDEN: Just one 17 final question. Back to the description you gave of the gentleman who was given six months jail time for 18 19 visiting his children in public housing and convicted 20 of trespass. 21 MR. SCOTT: Let me get you the 22 details on that case. 23 MR. DARDEN: Do you have a proposal for how that kind of issue might be remedied? 24 25 I would think that some MR. SCOTT:

way of getting permission, or someone going directly 1 2 to a residence rather than loitering, or otherwise engaged in activities that are not -- where you don't 3 4 have any obvious business going on, you're not going 5 into a particular residence, would be a way to deal with it, but the idea that just -- that you are 6 7 accosted as soon as you get there and jailed, even 8 though you're visiting your children, I think that 9 needs to be remedied. MR. DARDEN: Do you know who or what 10 11 agency would be responsible for making the change? MR. SCOTT: Probably the housing 12 13 authority. 14 MR. DARDEN: Local housing 15 So it varies from one authority to authority. 16 another? 17 MR. SCOTT: Yes. And I'd like to get you the details of that case for the record. 18 19 MR. DARDEN: Thank you. 20 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much. 21 We want to honor the fact that Mr. Scott has a plane 22 to catch in Norfolk, so we haven't heard from you, 23 but if you go on --24 Oh, I have a short MR. HUANG: 25 question. I'm very intrigued by your budget.

1 you presented that budget to any other places; and if 2 you did, what kind of responses did you get? I have cited that same 3 MR. SCOTT: 4 budget in audiences that included very high-ranking 5 state officials in corrections, attorney general. 6 I'm not sure if the governor's been present, but 7 certainly high-ranking public officials have heard me cite that budget, and I haven't heard anyone suggest 8 that there was more that could have been paid for 9 with the projected Proposal X money. 10 11 When I say that, with the provision 12 that that doesn't even cite the cost savings that would be generated in welfare, criminal justice 13 14 expenditures. This is just the prison budget that 15 you could have spent better and the quality of life 16 and tax generated. I don't even get into that, just the gross year-to-year budget. 17 18 MR. HUANG: Plus it's a solution to 19 the real problem. 20 MR. SCOTT: And it not only solves 21 the crime problem, you'd be dealing with teen 22 pregnancy, drug abuse, improving education, improving jobs, tax base, everything else. 23 24 MR. HUANG: Thank you.

MS. RATTLEY:

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Mr. Scott, thank you

very much. You gave us a lot of information. 1 It is 2 critical that we get those remarks as soon as 3 possible so with -- because we want them included --MR. SCOTT: I was under the 4 impression they would be transcribed. 5 6 MS. RATTLEY: -- for the panel. 7 MR. DARDEN: So that we can use --MS. RATTLEY: She's not taking it --8 9 MR. SCOTT: Will that be sufficient? That will be 10 MR. DARDEN: sufficient. 11 Thank you very much. 12 MS. RATTLEY: All right. We are going to take a 13 ten-minute recess, but before we do, please 14 15 understand that if you wish to speak on any subject, 16 you must sign in. The agendas are on the table in 17 the back of this chamber, so please use this time to pick up the agenda and to sign in if you wish to 18 19 We shall resume at 10:45. speak. 20 (Recess.) 21 MS. RATTLEY: We're now ready to 22 present Panel 5. The question, Is justice equal for 23 The moderator of this panel will be all? 24 Mrs. McCloud. Ms. McCloud. 25 Thank you very much, MS. MCCLOUD:

Madam Chairman. We're very pleased to have with us 1 2 the Honorable Howard E. Gwynn, who is Commonwealth Attorney for Newport News, Virginia, and also Chief 3 P. G. Minetti. 4 I have just been informed that Chief 5 6 Minetti is away -- may be on his way here; however, 7 he is being represented by Major C. J. Wyche. MS. RATTLEY: May I also add that 8 9 the Honorable Linda D. Curtis, Commonwealth Attorney for the City of Hampton, was heard last night, or 10 yesterday afternoon, since she couldn't be here 11 today, so we have her testimony. 12 MS. MCCLOUD: Welcome, gentlemen, 13 14 and we will ask you to proceed. 15 MR. GWYNN: Good morning, Madam 16 Chairperson. 17 MS. RATTLEY: Good morning. My name is Howard Gwynn. 18 MR. GWYNN: 19 I'm the Commonwealth Attorney in the City of Newport 20 The question that we've asked, is there 21 justice for all, and is it equal justice? Anybody who has been involved in this process, who does not 22 23 believe that there is still racism in the process, is 24 very naive and foolish, because obviously even though 25 there are laws on the books that are neutral on their face, those laws are interpreted and applied by persons.

MS. MCCLOUD: Excuse me. Can everyone in the back hear? Would you mind pulling the mike up closer to you, please.

MR. GWYNN: Sure.

MS. MCCLOUD: Thank you very much.

MR. GWYNN: When you have people who have to interpret the laws and apply the laws, and you have persons who are racists in their hearts, then you're going to have a racist application of the law and the implications of the law.

Certainly here in Newport News, I've been in the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for 15 years. I'm a native of Newport News. I've been a Commonwealth Attorney since 1990. I can tell you that there are no decisions that I have ever made based on race, that I am not aware of any person who has been in my employ as Commonwealth's Attorney, who has made a decision based on race. We try to make decisions based on what we believe is the right thing to do based on all the facts and circumstances of a particular case, without regard to race and without regard also to politics.

I made decisions as a Commonwealth's

Attorney that have been to my political detriment, but they have been decisions that I felt was the right thing to do.

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In addition to that, something I want to say, I mentioned to Mr. Galvin during the recess, there was a lot of discussion with Congressman Scott about the discretion that prosecutors have. I think there is a big distinction between the federal system and the state system. the federal system, charges originate pretty much by indictment. That is how -- that is the arresting document, that is the charging document in the federal system. U.S. Attorney's Office is the body that formulates the indictment. The U.S. Attorney's Office is the body that determines what charges are to be initiated. The U.S. Attorney's Office is the body that then presents those indictments to the grand jury as a person is arrested based on that charging document.

In the state system here in

Virginia -- I think this is a very important

distinction -- the Commonwealth Attorneys do not

charge people. We do not have a charging function,

ordinarily, in the Commonwealth. The charging

document usually that leads to the arrest of persons

1 in the criminal justice system are not indictments, 2 but arrest warrants. Those documents are issued by a 3 magistrate in Virginia; and any person, whether it be police officer or citizen, can go to a magistrate, 4 5 and if the magistrate believes probable cause has been established for a criminal charge, the 7 magistrate, based on the sworn testimony of that 8 citizen or police officer, issues a warrant for an individual, whether it be for a felony or 9 That warrant is then sent to the police 10 misdemeanor. 11 department, and the person is arrested.

So that prosecutors under normal circumstances in the Commonwealth, do not have a charging function and do not make up charges to arrest people. The exception to that rule is when persons are directly indicted by the Commonwealth's Attorney. I can, as Commonwealth's Attorney, based on the investigation of the police, or based on a complaint of any one of you with subsequent investigation by the police, I can bypass the magistrate and present an indictment directly to the grand jury. I determine under those circumstances what the charge is, and I determine also what the initial bond is for an individual.

I will tell you that that

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1 circumstance is a rare circumstance, at least in my 2 office, and I think across the Commonwealth, because most of the persons who are arrested for charges in 3 4 the criminal justice system in Virginia are arrested 5 on warrants issued by magistrates based on complaints 6 by police officers or citizens. 7 I'd be happy -- I can talk for a 8 long time about this, but I would certainly be happy, 9 and prefer to spend the time, answering the questions that you ladies and gentlemen might have of me. 10 11 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much. 12 MS. MCCLOUD: Thank you. Suppose we hear both of you and then come back to the questions. 13 14 MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Wyche? 15 MAJOR WYCHE: I represent Chief 16 Minetti, who is unable to be here right now. He may 17 be on his way and join us at a later time. 18 represent the Hampton Police Department. I'm a major 19 in that department in charge of professional standards as of September 1. Prior to that, I've 20 21 been Deputy Commander of Police Operations. 22 pretty much involved with investigation and patrol functions within the City of Hampton. 23 24 With that, we're engaged in a 25 concept called Community Policing, where we join in

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partnership with different neighborhoods and work with different groups, with civic leaders, residents, businesses, or whatever, and come together in terms of problem resolution.

In that process, we help identify what are the crime problems and what are some of the problems in terms of city functions to try to get to some -- what's called, or what we perceive as the root problem that sometimes cause the crime. We have established at least eight years ago that strict enforcement, or just massive arrest does nothing without trying to treat the community, and that kind of spearheaded some of the partnerships we formed within the community.

I can cite several examples where we've made a lot of arrests over -- where we would consider a long period of time, six months, to come back six months later and see the same crime conditions in existence. So at that point, we decided to try to use a more holistic approach, to use enforcement in terms of -- strict enforcement in terms of dealing with the crisis, and allow some of the social functions in the neighborhood to come about and take place as a more strategic type of planning, rather than traditional tactical plans we

would normally use. And I'm really not quite sure of the format, so I have to apologize for that.

MS. MCCLOUD: That's fine.

Actually -- that's fine. Actually, the members of the committee are prepared to ask questions, so if you two gentlemen have finished with your statements, we will proceed in that manner.

MR. GALVIN: Maybe the topic I think that was assigned is a broad topic called, Is there justice for all? Maybe you would want to make some statement as to your impression of where we stand on that within the police department.

MAJOR WYCHE: I guess across the board, I have to kind of echo the comments that Howard Gwynn had stated. Obviously, I can state in the City of Hampton, especially with the community involvement that we have, that when we go about looking at and identifying crime problems, we go beyond the mere statistical information that we use and actually go into the community to kind of help interpret what those statistics are. Sometimes it's very easy to get a false perception just based upon some of the arrest statistics.

Clearly, the arrest statistics are showing a vast number of African American males

especially being arrested, versus any other population. We're also seeing a drastic increase of African American crime victims as well in those type of neighborhoods. We constantly get all kinds of complaints where even housing investors are unable to sell their homes. Homes can't be rented because of apparent drug use. And I can tell you that in a lot of the neighborhoods, especially African American neighborhoods, one of our worst problems, at least in Hampton, is the open-air drug markets and introduction of crack cocaine.

MR. GALVIN: Could you -- maybe that we heard, and maybe you could offer some insight into understanding that while we've heard testimony that the use of crack and crack cocaine is 50/50 in whites and nonwhites, the arrests appear to be predominantly out of the black community. Can you tell us how it's possible that this is happening?

MAJOR WYCHE: Well, I'll try to make an attempt of explaining at least partially that. Part of the overall answer is most of our problems with drugs -- and we look at the drug activity in Hampton through areas, actually what we call major crimes, which is more the organized drug-type institutions that are available to facilitate the

drug market, and that's certainly prevalent in Hampton as well.

We've had most of the cases, extremely high level drug dealings that we work pretty much through a combined task force of federal agents, state agents, and local police agents are sworn in either in state or local jurisdiction, and that includes the City of Newport News, of course, and State Police as well. So we work pretty much that level of drug activity through combined task forces, and we have prosecutors designated just to prosecute those type of cases.

We also have what we call a mid-level drug operation, and those mid-levels are pretty much the people that receive the drugs that's brought into Hampton, this area. We probably get most of the narcotics either in from New York or Miami. A lot of marijuana would come in typically from Texas. So our mid-level investigators would look at that type of problem.

Most of our complaints are generated not from those type of venue, but more of the residents calling that either my next-door neighbor is using drugs and causing some type of problem or the prevalence of an open-air drug market. An

open-air drug market -- you kind of just talked about that a little bit -- is a group of males sitting or standing in a corner, and they have elaborate techniques to sell drugs to people who would drive by in a car, or pedestrians, and sell drugs on a corner. That type of activity at the lower level causes or generates most of the type of complaints we respond to.

Now, with that, I need to mention that probably our patrol force, uniformed officers in patrol vehicles, generate most of those types of arrests. We don't typically find that in the general population. We see the open-air drug market, although there are a lot of whites that will frequent the open-air drug markets in the black or African American communities, but we generally see that pretty much in the neighborhoods that are African American neighbors.

with that, those arrests are obviously -- it's twofold. One is with the use of marijuana, obviously the smell is easy to be detected upon a person's presence, and that would account for that type of exposure; but the use of open-air markets being exposed to police detection makes it easier for the police to solve that type of crime

because it's exposed and it's in the open. We don't typically find that with white males. Although, we are -- we have used several strategies in terms of we have what's called a hotel/motel conviction program. Generally speaking, those type of residence, hotels, homes, or some other type of gathering place, and certainly we have those types of arrests; but the massive number of arrests are those black males, and those kind of operations. We also use a vehicle that we would typically wire, or use some type of electronics to record those type of activities, and I'm sure I can get it available.

MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Wyche, how much does perception have to do with it? You know, I guess we can go to any urban area in this country and we would hear basically the same thing: The drugs are in the black community. The drugs are in the urban centers, not in suburbia.

What is your profile as a police officer? You're driving down the street, or you're walking down the street; is it the way a black male, I sense the emphasis is there; is it because of the way they look, how they act, or where they are? What is it? What is the image? What is the perception?

MAJOR WYCHE: That's exactly what it

is. It is a perception, and that's something that we do not teach or look at in Hampton because of the fact that of a perception based upon arrest statistics, what we find is that there is drugs in the white community, but I think you have to go beyond the arrest statistics and look at some of the treatment statistics, and what you typically find is that whites are treated in hospitals, and so I think there's a balancing effect, or at least that's my idea, or feeling, is that it's a balancing effect that perhaps the way the drug problem is handled differently within the white community as black community.

I think if you put the statistics together, certainly I -- and talk with the Community Service Board, that you'll see that no, your white males are not found on open-air drug markets selling drugs, however, they are found in the treatment facilities

MS. RATTLEY: You know, I heard this term used yesterday for the first time in reference to law enforcement and the judicial system, and then of course on the on the other hand, we have many young people who will come in and say they were arrested because there was a suspicion that they were

dealing in drugs.

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And then, of course, we talk about crack versus pure cocaine, as far as the sentences, there's a difference; but yet you say that the whites will smoke pure -- or whatever they do with it -- cocaine, snort it, or whatever; but in the black community it's crack, and all of these things now are hitting me right here because a lot of it is perception.

We talk about the number of young, black men in the prison system, judicial system, one out of three in Virginia; nationwide it is one out of And then some of the information we heard last four. night as far as the economics of it, you know, I don't see these kids with airplanes and boats. don't have them. And of course, the charge in L.A. that there was a conspiracy to induct crack in Los Angeles in the black areas, but we keep hearing this, and I think I'm becoming very frustrated because how do we deal with it. You know where they are. know where the kids are using drugs. You know where these people are who are selling the drugs, but what about these people who are bringing the drugs into the black community, or into the city? Is this a coverup for something else where we don't have to

address some of the solid issues?

report and wanted me to respond it to. I had not read it. I think it came out this morning.

Did you see it?

MR. GWYNN: No, ma'am. Well, she showed it to me.

MS. RATTLEY: It talks about the black Americans, what they have found -- this research institute just found about the number of blacks who will spend some time in jail. Are we just jail prone?

In the City of Newport News -- I

don't understand it; I hope before this day is over,
somebody will explain it to me -- we have districts

now, if I can believe what I read in the paper, where
the police now plan to cordon off certain sections of
the city and paint it blue, or red, or whatever
you're going to paint it; and in these areas, you're
going to push the drug folks out. But all you do,
you push them out of one area, they go into another.

And it doesn't make any sense to me, especially now
that I have received information from these research
professors, from these highly technical, highly
educated people about the misconceptions about drugs.

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I'm becoming very concerned. We're separating drugs based on where you live. We're separating how much time you get, and your fine, and all of that, based on whether you're doing crack or whether you're doing pure cocaine. It's like crack is a black thing and pure cocaine is a white thing, and this is what we read every day.

Would somebody enlighten me, please, because if the problem of drugs is that pervasive, say in my city, in Newport News, I want to know, how Is it education? You say that do you stop it? whites are treated in hospitals. Are you saying that we are not? You know, this is what came out to me. Are you saying that they have more programs, they have more choices? And after I heard that word "perception" and how they related that, and I thought Attorney Baugh was just excellent when he gave his impression, when we talked about the addictiveness of drugs, especially cocaine, and I'm confused completely now. Where he said it is not, you know, the one hand, but then he went into another explanation I didn't fully understand about taking the leaf and analyzing it chemically, scientifically, and comparing the crack with the coke, the real powder, and how it's administered, whether you shoot

it, whether you snort it. I don't know what else you do to it. Do you smoke it?

MR. GWYNN: Crack you smoke. Madam Chairman --

MS. RATTLEY: I am so confused. I would like for you to take just a few minutes and try to clear my mind, because I'm wondering if this is our top issue now in the nation, it is politically correct to talk about crime and drugs, drugs and crime, and we hear it every day, but nobody is telling me how we can stop it. Who's benefiting from this traffic? Who's getting the money? I'm so confused.

Now I understand from this morning's news, thugs are breaking into stores stealing cigarettes now because if the kids are going to show identification to get it, now that's going to be a black market item that they're going to be able to buy that on every corner, so how do we know whether they're buying cigarettes illegally, or whether they're buying crack, or whether they're buying the weed?

It is -- I think I'm pretty much convinced now that this is a coverup for what is really wrong in this country, and specifically in

this city, in all of our cities, and if you know, would you please share it with me, because very frankly, I just -- it bothers me that we always say it's all in the black community, it's all in the black community, and the community where I live, I see blacks and whites, and I'm getting so hyper now everybody I see, I think they're buying drugs. look out the window, there's a car and somebody will go up and pass something, and I said, Well, they're selling drugs.

How do I know that? It's the perception. Here's this kid standing on the street corner, whether he's waiting for a bus or not, I don't know, but I think he's selling drugs, or buying drugs, and that's getting dangerous.

People in Norfolk went berserk
because their streetlights were out for five days and
VEPCO couldn't fix them because they were busy doing
other things, and they all were afraid. Now, that's
no way to live. And when we read in the paper about
the prediction of what blacks will go through, those
who are being born today, then there's no future, and
maybe they're going to add to the crime problem, part
of it, and the drug problem. There's no hope. What
are they going to do?

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And then you have a 145,000 males in the State of Virginia who can't even vote. They've been disenfranchised because they served time as a felon. I know I'm getting too deep, too emotional, but would you just tell me, please.

MAJOR WYCHE: Let me clarify just a couple things. One is, I did not mean to imply that you find white drug dealers, or even addicts predominantly in hospitals. That's not what I meant to say. What I meant to imply was that there is a lack of services within the community. In other words, what I'm talking about is, through the years of my experience, 23 years in the police department, a lot of people have come to me who are addicts and They've asked for treatment, for ask for help. residential treatment, and that is not available to those type people without a long waiting list. the time that they may be eligible, without having any type of health insurance, then usually they'll change their mind by the time it comes about. That's from personal experience. I don't have that from white males coming to me saying, I need help and I can't get into a facility. That was what I was trying to say about that.

As far as the suspicion is that the

police operate on what is called probable cause, which is a reasonable probable cause, which is little bit more than a suspicion. And a lot of times what we respond to is a citizen saying "I think," and that is the perception I'm talking about where we're trained that we cannot operate with the mere suspicion. We have to be able to articulate the probable cause. And once again, once that arrest is made at the street, then the magistrate, as Mr. Gwynn indicated, would review the program and issue a warrant, if a warrant is granted.

DR. AL-HIBRI: Can I just pursue this, because also just before you came, we heard from Congressman Scott on the same point, but what is coming through in your comment and his is that the suspicion does help you reach the probable cause pattern. It's not sufficient, but it certainly helps if you have a certain profile that fits, if you have a perception that fits, in those gray areas.

Once you can articulate something to a certain degree, then you can have probable cause if you have the perception you need, so we cannot say it has no role to play. We just cannot say it determines everything. It doesn't.

MAJOR WYCHE: No, it doesn't.

DR. AL-HIBRI: It doesn't, but it helps determine things. It's one of the determinates in reaching your judgment. The other determinate, in terms of perception, pulls you a little bit further away from the individual that you're looking at into the areas you're talking. If you have a perception that certain areas, as we keep hearing — and it is only a perception — have more use of drugs than other areas, then chances are you are going to be looking at those areas more carefully if you want to do your job as a police officer, right?

MAJOR WYCHE: Well --

DR. AL-HIBRI: This is how it gets compounded. The perception at the beginning directs you. Now we're finding out it's not a local perception; it's also a state level perception.

You're talking about these coordination activities, so even on the state level you can have this perception, articulate these are the crimes in an area; let's focus on them. And then when you get there, the perception again plays a role in trying to help you reach your probable cause judgment.

And then on the other hand, there are areas that you have different, more positive perceptions, and these are on the back burner until

you clean up the other ones.

MAJOR WYCHE: I guess to respond to that, let me say that you are absolutely right in what you're saying; however, I think we're also talking about two different issues. One is when I talk about -- you indicated the probable cause issue. That's once it's a confrontation or a meeting with the police and that person is suspected of using drugs. Most of the time, our activity is directed through what we call a calls to service. That's someone who's complaining about some type of activity or particular activity because it is a suspected crime taking place, and we respond to that particular crime and then establish whether there is probable cause a crime did exist.

DR. AL-HIBRI: Let me ask you this, would some of the complainants be police informants in that area?

MAJOR WYCHE: Usually police informants would be used in the investigation of crime. The dispatch crime is pretty much uniformed officers. Police informants would primarily be used — not that it's not used, but it's primarily used at the investigative and detective stage.

DR. AL-HIBRI: Right. But what I

want to focus on is if there is any way one could see that the police department is helping some of these complaints originate by planting certain people in the community.

MAJOR WYCHE: Well, that's done, yes, ma'am, as I mentioned, but when those -- those things are pretty much in what we call tactical plans. In other words, we don't just employ informants all over the city to try to find drugs. What we do is we work with neighborhood organizations, neighborhood watch, in those type areas, and we will come up with a strategic plan to work with that neighborhood.

Now, if the neighborhood has an identified problem, we'll use the informant strategy to investigate those type of complaints.

about your strategic plan, because I think it's inextricably intertwined with your strategic vision, which vision on the state or local level is informed by certain perceptions we're talking of. So that if the perception is that certain areas have more crime than others, and you develop a strategic plan for that, then certain areas are not going to get any emphasis, or treatment, as

far as drugs.

In other words, to be more specific, if we really think that black areas are the areas where there are problems, that's our perception, even though we have statistics to the contrary, then the strategic plan would involve putting people in there who would help you receive the complaints you need to get in. That's what I heard you say a few minutes ago, so that not only do you focus on these areas, but you find ways to get in and then develop your probable cause and develop your arrest.

MAJOR WYCHE: Let me go back for a minute, because the strategic plan I'm talking about isn't one that is primarily generated by the police, or generated by police statistics. What it is generated by is the community coming forward saying, I have a crime problem. I have housing that's dilapidated. It's encouraging drug activity. I have real estate I can't sell and I can't rent. And they come and they want some type of police service within the community.

First what we do is, we do a survey of people in that particular neighborhood to help identify what they perceive as the problems, and we meet with those neighbors and community leaders and

businesses to come up with a holistic plan to address those areas.

Initially, what we start, and we agreed with that neighborhood in terms of when we come together through a consensus to create on a lot of those strategies. Now, if a strategy is that there's a perceived crisis in the neighborhood because of the pervasiveness of drug activity, then yes, we will very well use informants to help identify those people who may be trafficking drugs into the neighborhoods.

We have a lot of statistics to show that of our arrests in certain neighborhoods that we have determined that there's a crisis, are people who don't necessarily live in that neighborhood. So, yes, we do, through our consensus, come together to decide upon what services will be needed and what type of strategies will be enacted. That's a strategic --

DR. AL-HIBRI: Let me be very clear.

I have no problem using informants to catch

criminals. I'm more concerned about whether

informants are being used to target certain areas by

saying -- let's not call them informants. Let's call

them individuals who are cooperating with the police,

and through them, the police initiate complaints in certain areas and goes in and says, On the basis of these complaints, a study has developed a strategic plan. That's what I'm worried about. And if there is some kind of activity on the part of the police department, then I get worried that it's not being practiced in other areas as well.

in my role, we look at informants as receiving payment for information. We have Crime Line. We have Neighborhood Watch, and so we have a tracking of those calls for service, but what types of calls are in what geographical areas.

Now, what happens is we do not pay informants to go out and tell us what areas or -- or generically what's happening in the neighborhoods.

Informants are primarily deployed as a part of the investigation, and there is a policy to use informants.

MS. RATTLEY: Any other questions?

MS. MCCLOUD: If we could move on a little bit, I have a plan in mind. Mrs. Rattley raised several questions, and I wanted to see if Mr. Gwynn has anything that he would like to say in response to that.

Then I also saw I hand in the audience, or two hands in the audience, so if we could do those three things first and then come back to the panel perhaps.

McCloud, raised a tremendous note of issues that if we addressed them all, or attempted to address them all, we'd be here for weeks and weeks and weeks. So I think the foundation of Mrs. Rattley's concern is hiding what is the magnitude of the problem and what do we do to resolve the problem. And if those are the two questions that are the foundation of what she asked, then we'd be here for a long time trying to address those issues.

I certainly think that -- one question she asked was, Why don't we go -- persons in the African American community don't have airplanes and they're not flying this stuff in here, and so why don't we go after those persons?

Obviously, in order to address that issue, this stuff -- opium is not raised in the United States and it's not grown here. It's grown in Columbia, Bolivia, and other places. And the federal government obviously has to have the will to address the problem with those countries. I see Mexico was

just certified as being a country that's making an effort to address this problem, and there's some debate about whether that is the right thing to do or not. But the federal government and the administration have to have the will, I believe certainly, to deal with the source countries for this difficulty.

Once these drugs come into our country, it is certainly my belief -- and I can't give you any statistics, or anything else to back up this belief, but it's certainly my belief that given the tremendous amounts of monies that are involved in this trade, that there are persons in positions to stop this activity that don't because of the money involved.

Again, I don't have any statistics to back it up. I can't name any names for you, but certainly I think anybody who has any modicum of sense would suspect that given the tremendous resources that this country has, that if we had the will to stop this trade, we could. And so that is a problem.

Mrs. Rattley also raised the issue about arresting certain persons in certain neighborhoods for these crimes, and do we have a drug

problem in the white community or just in the black community? Obviously we have a drug problem that transverses race, creed, color, economic background, and everything else.

I think one of the difficulties that you see in terms of the persons that get arrested — and I'll give you a perfect example, as my friend from Hampton said, oftentimes drug dealers go to places where they believe they can make the maximum profit with the least amount of hassle. Oftentimes they find themselves in our community because they made a calculation that they can do better business in our community, and that's their calculation.

And we see these persons -- for example, we had an open-air drug market notorious on 23rd and Chestnut several years ago. And I know you're very familiar with it Mrs. Rattley.

MS. RATTLEY: Yes, and it's still -MR. GWYNN: Yes, ma'am, it's
still -- well, the guy who was running it is now back
out, but that was a tremendous problem. They were
blatantly on the street selling drugs on the corners.
They had little kids strategically placed at
different intersections calling out when the police
came. Now, when you go up to James Landing, for

example, you don't see open-air drug markets, and that certainly doesn't mean that drugs are not there, because we had a gentleman several years ago that got prosecuted by the federal government who was selling powder out of his home in James Landing, and he used the UPS man to make deliveries for him.

Now, in terms of visibility and arrests, that person who is selling drugs on the corner of 23rd and Chestnut is visible to the neighbors and everyone else. It's easy to go out and arrest that person and put him in jail, and he happens to be an African American.

James Landing is a white male. His customers are also white. But it's going to take some time to get at those people, obviously, because what he's doing is selling powder through the UPS delivery man, and so it's going to take a little time to get at that. It's easy to go out here and arrest the guy on 23rd and Chestnut because you see him and they complain about him. It takes a longer process, and is much more involved, to arrest the guy at James Landing who is much more surreptitious in his delivery process, and so I think that accounts also to some extent for the difference in the persons who end up in the

criminal justice system.

In addition to that, I don't think anybody here is so naive to think that given -- we talked about discretion quite a bit in Congressman Scott's presentation and the questions that were asked of Congressman Scott. There are a lot of people with discretion in this process. Police have discretion in terms of making arrests. We have discretion in terms of prosecution. Judges have discretion in terms of finding persons guilty or not guilty. Juries have the same kind of discretion.

Once somebody is in the system and is on parole or probation — for example, a probation officer has discretion whether or not to bring a person back in the system if he or she has violated some technical rule. And so there's a tremendous amount of discretion throughout the process. I don't think there's anybody here so naive to think — I'm certainly not — to think there are not persons who have motives other than motives that are pure when they exercise that discretion.

I think our country, regrettably, our institutions have been imbued with racism. The criminal justice system has historically been imbued with racism. I don't think anybody thinks that

racism does not still exist, because although we have laws on the books that are facially neutral, it takes generations to change people's hearts; and if we have people who are racists making decisions on the street, more African Americans are going to be arrested.

If we have persons who are racists in their hearts making decisions about prosecution, then you're going to see that in the decisions that are made. If you have judges who perceive that if an African American kills another African American, then that is not of importance, then you're going to have those kinds of decisions where African Americans get treated differently.

If you have probation officers who believe that if I have two people on probation, one is white, one is black; the African American commits a technical violation, the white defendant commits the same type of violation; because I'm a racist, I'm going to put the African American in the system, then we have more African Americans back in the penal system as a result of that.

How you change people's hearts, I think, is one of the difficulties that we face when we try to address this problem, because we can pass

all the laws that we want in terms of addressing this difficulty, but unless and until we change the hearts, and oftentimes the faces of people that make these decisions, you're going to find that there are disproportionate members of several races and classes that are in the process.

In Virginia, for example, we just recently got the first African American female on the Circuit Court bench in the City of Newport News in 1996. There's a problem with that. We need more people who look like the persons who are prosecuted and judged and on parole and probation making decisions about those persons.

In Virginia, there are three to four hundred prosecutors across this Commonwealth and less than ten percent of those persons are African

Americans, when the disproportionate number of people that are prosecuted by those offices are African

Americans. I will tell you, either consciously or unconsciously, obviously when you don't have a person like the people that are prosecuted in the offices making decisions, there will be decisions either consciously or unconsciously made to people's detriment. I think everybody -- I think nobody would deny that as, in fact, the case.

1 And so we have a lot of work to do 2 in terms of not only changing people's hearts, but 3 faces of people who make these kinds of decisions 4 every day. I don't think the answer is limiting the discretion because, obviously, officers have to have 5 discretion to make certain decisions on the street. 6 7 Prosecutors have to have discretion. Judges have to have discretion. Parole officers and probation 8 9 officers have to have discretion also. And as Mr. Galvin pointed out when 10 Congressman Scott was talking, yeah, we obviously 1.1 12 have to have mechanisms to look at how that 13 discretion is made all the time, and I assume, and I trust, and I hope, that one of the purposes of this 14 body is to look at those issues and to make 15 16 recommendations as to how we address these problems. 17 MS. RATTLEY: One question, 18 Mr. Gwynn. What is the second order of the hierarchy of the street judicial system? The drugs are brought 19 20 in to Newport News, boat, plane, car, you name it; 21 distributed to someone who then hires his workers. 22 quess that's how it works. 23 MR. GWYNN: (Nods head.) 24 MS. RATTLEY: When there is -- and you read about it and hear about it all the time in 25

this area, how a drug deal was the cause of this murder, when you find the kid in the ditch somewhere, who puts out the order to kill that kid? And it's all about money. Go back to money. It's a lucrative business. Now, is the word put out to kill that kid by the lower echelon, or by the one who's bringing the drugs in? How does it work? Do you know?

MR. GWYNN: I think it can be anywhere in the system. I prosecuted a guy several years ago in a murder-for-hire case where he hired one of -- he was a low-level drug dealer here in Newport News, and he made the decision that he had been ripped off by one of his sellers, and he made the decision to kill him. So I think those decisions can be made anywhere in the process.

One thing that, you know, we have not addressed here this morning, and I hope it was addressed certainly yesterday. When you talk about it as a lucrative business, we have to talk about, and we have to address, why is it that so many young African American males in our community are engaged in this business? And it is because -- and I know Congressman Scott said when you talk about crime and justice, that one of the things you want to add is politics. I would suggest to you there's another

thing you have to add also is poverty and economic opportunity, because I think it is a tragedy when young African American males across this country, and in Newport News, think that the only way they can earn a lucrative living, support themselves and their family, is by selling crack cocaine, or whatever else It is a tragedy when a young man can come up to me who's 14 years old, and I say, Well, look son, you need to stay in school; you need to get a good education. And he says to me, Well, Mr. Gwynn, let me see how much money you can pull out of your

pulls out \$400 or \$500.

It is a tragedy when, in our community, African American males feel that this is the only opportunity for them to support themselves and their families by selling these drugs. They think the educational system has nothing for them. They think when they graduate from high school, if they do, they won't have the opportunity to go to college, and the statistics certainly bear that out. They believe that once they get out here in the work force, there's going to be no jobs for them, and that is a harsh reality in our community. And somebody is going to be about the business of addressing that

And I might pull out \$20 or \$30, and he

problem before we start talking about really locking 1 2 folks up and throwing away the key. 3 MS. RATTLEY: I had one to tell me, 4 What's the point, and I'm not going to work for 5 minimum wage. 6 MR. GWYNN: Yes, ma'am. 7 MS. RATTLEY: What are we going to do about it? 8 9 I think one of MR. GWYNN: 10 Congressman Scott's -- I think this gentleman raised 11 the issue about his proposed budget. I think more 12 money certainly has to be spent on prevention. 13 money has to be spent on education. I mean, every child in the Commonwealth, for example, should have 14 an opportunity, if he or she does well in school, 15 16 doesn't get prequant, doesn't use drugs, doesn't have 17 any problems with the law, they should have the 18 opportunity, just like somebody in James -- somebody 19 in the southeast community, should have the same 20 opportunity as somebody in James Landing to have an 21 education. 22 I was watching, just for example, 23 several years ago a show on TV that Oprah Winfrey was 24 in, and it was called No Children Live Here, and it

was about life in a housing project in Chicago.

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They

talk about how kids get shot. They feel like they're not going to grow up. The one thing -- I don't know if anybody saw that, but the thing that had the most impact on me was the last thirty seconds to a minute when they were running the credits, and they were talking to some African American kids from that project, real kids. And they were talking to one little girl. She must have been 12 or 13 years old, and the commentator -- you could see the credits The commentator said to her, Well, what is it Sally -- or whatever her name was -- you want to do when you grow up? What is it that you want to do with your life? And she thought for what seemed to be like an eternity, and then she said, I don't know if I'll grow up at all and have a life.

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And when I was a child brought up in the southeast community, I had a dream of being a lawyer, and that dream was a realistic prospect for me, even though my father worked in the Shipyard, but I think it is a tragedy across this country when children are robbed of their dreams. You know, our kids don't even have any dreams to look forward to, and we need to be about the business of discovering why that happened and do something about it and make sure that every child in this country has an

opportunity to be whatever he or she wants to be.

And when we start addressing and facing those issues, it will necessarily follow that we're going to have less of a crime problem, in my opinion, because when kids have legitimate opportunities, they don't have a need to do illegitimate things.

MS. MCCLOUD: Thank you. We're running into the same problem we had yesterday.

Everyone has so many things to say, and they're all so very interesting, and we want to hear from as many people as possible.

There were two people in the audience who had comments or questions. Could we hear from you now, please.

MR. HARRIS: Yes. Marcellus Harris for the record. The question to Major Wyche, and a question to Commonwealth Attorney Gwynn.

Major Wyche, it seemed to me in your presentation that you are talking more about reacting to the drug problem. I'm more interested in some proactive activities for the drug problem, because if you react to the problem, you're going to, of course, go to the folks who are complaining and go to the folks at the other end of the complaint, and that

seems to be obviously our community.

The folks aren't complaining in the other community, so some proactive sense needs to be administered, some intervention, some interdiction, some kind of operative plan. I wonder if your department is into that, or something you can divulge to us, disclose to us about that. Is that something you're doing aggressively?

To Commonwealth Attorney Gwynn, one of the things I'm concerned about is the fact that how juveniles are treated as adults to be prosecuted. When they come into the system, or when they're charged into the system, we're seeing too many cases where they are being charged as adults for the obvious reason, seems like to a layman, is to get as much punishment as you can for what crimes that are levied against him. Is there any way the average, ordinary, lay citizen can have some purview of that, or some access to that, or influence to that?

MR. GWYNN: Well, let me start with the question you asked me, Reverend Harris. As you know, the General Assembly changed the legislation dealing with the prosecution of juveniles and the treatment of juveniles in the system a couple of years ago. That change eliminated discretion for

prosecutors in some areas, gave prosecutors more discretion in others.

For example, if a juvenile is 14 years old, or older, and is charged with murder, or aggravated malicious wounding, that case automatically goes to circuit court regardless of what anybody has to say about it, if a judge finds probable cause. So that's a case where no one has discretion.

And in other crimes of violence, basically if the prosecutor makes a decision, or says that a juvenile who is 14 years old or older, should we make the motion to be treated as an adult if a judge finds probable cause, that child goes to circuit court.

In my office, nothing has really changed from what it was before then, because we still consider the same factors that a judge considered before we were embodied with the discretion to eliminate the judge from the process basically. We consider the age of a child. We consider the seriousness of the crime. We consider the harm done to the victim by the crime. We consider the background the child comes from. We consider what the child has done in school. We

consider all of the very same factors that were 1 2 considered before. And I would think you would find 3 in my office there are no more juveniles that have 4 been prosecuted as adults in the system, even though 5 the law has changed. 6 Obviously, as I said before, what 7 you need in this process are people that are going to be fair, who are going to exercise that discretion 8 9 fairly. I don't think there's anything wrong with 10 persons in the system, or any process, having 11 discretion. The problem is the people who exercise And so we try to -- I can't tell you 12 the discretion. we don't fail to do this sometimes, because I have 18 13 lawyers who work for me, but it is a policy in my 14 office that everyone is treated fairly, and each 15 16 decision in every case is made on the individual 17 facts and the circumstances of that case. 18 MR. HARRIS: And it's not 19 color-coded? 20 No, sir. No, sir. MR. GWYNN: 21 MR. HARRIS: Which is important. 22 MS. MCCLOUD: I'm sorry. Did you finish? 23 24 MS. RATTLEY: Let us try maybe 25 something a little bit different to get the

information for the record since we are running over. 1 2 We have the other panel members present, Mr. Cristman. Mr. Cristman, come on up. 3 4 Mr. Harris, Reverend Harris, come on up. 5 Young man in the back, you'll be 6 given a chance, if you stay just a few more minutes. 7 Let us hear from them, then open the whole thing up to questions. Then we can all go to lunch and come 8 9 back. 10 MR. GWYNN: I regret I can't do 11 that, Madam Chairman. I was supposed to be at a meeting in York County at noon that I'm going to be 12 late for, but I appreciate the opportunity to speak. 13 14 MS. RATTLEY: Okay. Thank you very much for coming. 15 16 MR. GWYNN: And I wish you good luck 17 in your work. 18 MR. GALVIN: I have one question for 19 the Commonwealth Attorney before he leaves, because I 20 want to come back to it. This is in the question of 21 And maybe you could just give us the transfers. 22 process for what are the discretionary issues that 23 you use when you consider transfers, because we have 24 heard that there is a kind of an automatic processing of transfers, and that while this is -- what are the 25

discretionary items that are considered by your department when you look at a transfer?

MR. GWYNN: Yes. In certain types of cases, there is no discretion, murder and aggravated malicious wounding.

MR. GALVIN: Right. I understand that.

MR. GWYNN: For other kinds of felonies, there is — and again, as I explained to Reverend Harris, what we consider are exactly the same factors that were considered even before prosecutors had this broad-base discretion. We consider the age of the child, the crime, the type of crime that was committed, the harm done by the crime, the child's prior record, the child's environment from which he or she comes, and I think just as importantly, the opportunities, and has the child been in the system before, the juvenile system, what services the child has gotten previously, and what services are available now to address the child's problem.

There are some children, for example, who have been in the system so many times, and have availed themselves of all the opportunities the juvenile system has to offer, and given the

gravity of the offense, there's absolutely nothing the juvenile system can do for them now.

MR. GALVIN: Let me ask you a question. In your opinion, is there any negative consequence to a juvenile being convicted in the juvenile court, or difference as convicted as an adult, on his record, any consequence in his life?

MR. GWYNN: Sure. The consequence now is that a juvenile now at 14, or older, is convicted as an adult, then forever more, they are adults in the criminal justice system. That is a tremendous consequence. If you have a 14-year-old that is convicted today in circuit court of armed robbery, that child forevermore will be an adult in terms of processing. So if that child, for example, today gets one year to serve in jail, gets out in six months and commits another offense, that child will bypass the juvenile system forever, and that is a tremendous consequence as far as I am concerned.

MR. GALVIN: One of the concerns we have, and why we're looking at this transfer -- I know that you have to go -- is that we have seen evidence of recidivism, or coming back into the system. We see evidence that there's a lot more of an opportunity by keeping the child in the juvenile

system; and that the sooner they get into the adult system, there is less of a chance of any recovery of that child.

MR. GWYNN: Right.

MR. GALVIN: And yet when we look at the statistics, there is a tremendous imbalance of transfers that are going over out of the black community in this. That's why I was asking what are the discretionary factors on those that you have a choice in, because clearly, it could be that they're being disadvantaged and they have less opportunities.

MR. GWYNN: Right. Sure. You know, again, when you have a system where the majority of offices across the Commonwealth don't have African Americans in those offices, you know, where the decisions are made — some decisions, for example, could be unconsciously based on race just because a person making the decision has not had a full base cultural background and does not understand, for example, that every person who commits a crime is not a criminal and should not be subjected to the full range of punishments and sanctions that the system has to offer.

What we look for first and foremost in terms of transfer is that is there anything in the

juvenile system that can be used to help this child?

Is there anything that has not been done that can be done in keeping this child in the system and helping him, because I am fully aware of what the consequences are of sending them to the adult system.

Again, not only are they forever tried as adults, but we know putting a 15- or 16-year-old in Mecklenburg or Greenville simply, if that child survives to get out of the penitentiary, is going to be a worse criminal than when he or she went in. I am fully cognizant of that.

MR. GALVIN: I know your time constraint, but I just want to ask, that while you are cognizant, and your office seems to be a unique office among the -- in Virginia, in terms of having within the office, African Americans as part of visible and conscious and aware of this. What do you think it is in those offices that don't have this?

MR. GWYNN: Well, you know, there was an article in the newspaper, the Virginian Pilot, about a year or so ago. They did a survey of the Tidewater prosecutor's offices about the number of African Americans in offices. Not strangely, I think, the vast majority of African Americans in the Tidewater office work for African Americans.

Obviously I'm an African American Commonwealth
Attorney, and the Commonwealth Attorney in Portsmouth
is an African American, and the overwhelming majority
of African Americans prosecutors in Tidewater work in
our office.

Some of my brethren when surveyed about this by the Virginian Pilot said, Well, we can't find qualified African American applicants for these jobs. I don't have a problem finding them. I can only speak for myself, because I think that my office needs to reflect what is going on in the community, and I try to make sure that happens.

You know, I also know, uniquely, that historically the system has been used to oppress folk, and there is still a perception in our community -- we had a case just recently where we didn't have a sufficient amount of evidence to prosecute a guy for killing a woman, and the victim is African American, the defendant is African American, and the victim's sister said -- told me she had told her mother, Well, nothing is going to happen in this case because nobody is going to care about my sister because she's black. The system doesn't care about her.

In 1997, that is still that

perception, and we work hard every day to try to 1 2 change that. We work hard every day to try to tell people and let people know an African American's life 3 4 is just as important as anybody else's, and that in the Newport News Commonwealth Attorney's office, 5 6 we're going to fight hard to make sure there's justice for everybody. 7 MS. MCCLOUD: I have to cut this off 8 9 at this time, but the chairperson has asked that we conclude it, so we can move on to the next session. 10 I realize that it's important for you to ask the 11 question, but we really do have to move on at this 12 time. 13 14 I want to thank you very much, 15 Mr. Gwynn, and also Mr. Wyche. Mr. Wyche will you be 16 able to stay around a little while? 17 MAJOR WYCHE: Probably about ten minutes. 18 19 Well, I don't mean up MS. MCCLOUD: 20 there, but if you could just stay until --21 MR. GALVIN: We have a couple 22 questions for Mr. Wyche that we wanted to get to, but I know --23 24 MS. MCCLOUD: Right. But we want to 25 get to the next panel.

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MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Wyche, you may stay there, just push the chair over.

REVEREND HARRIS: Thank you very much. This is -- my name is Curtis Harris, and this panel is Mr. Clyde Cristman, and Reverend Marcellus Harris, the panelists. We'd like to do this panel in approximately thirty minutes, and -- I said we'd like I don't always get my likes. But any rate, give them something to shoot at. Listen to Mr. Clyde Cristman, the Director of the Community Criminal Justice Board for Hampton and Newport News, and then we'll hear from Reverend Marcellus Harris, First Baptist Church minister here in Newport News. We'll hear from Mr. Cristman first.

MR. CRISTMAN: Thank you, Reverend Harris, Chairman Rattley, Commission members. appreciate being asked to come here and speak today, and I also appreciate the fact that I get to talk about something positive, that is a solution, instead of continuing to talk about the problems that I think we all know well exist.

I'm the Director of the Hampton, Newport News Criminal Justice Agency. Our agency is responsible for providing community corrections and pretrial services to the cities of Hampton and

Newport News. In that capacity, I also serve as staff person to the Hampton, Newport News Community Criminal Justice Board.

Just to give you a little bit of background, Congressman Scott spoke about Plan X.

Plan X is something that's affected my life quite a bit. There were actually some positive things that came out of that. There was some compromise that certain members of the General Assembly entered into when they voted to abolish parole in Virginia back in 1994.

There were two specific acts that were passed at that same time. One was known as the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act. The other was known as the Pretrial Services Act. What these two acts do is that they mandated that any locality that was looking for additional funding for the state to increase the size of their jail, also had to develop a plan to implement community-based corrections programs and pretrial services programs. Both of these programs are designed to try to get nonviolent offenders out of the jail system.

Another thing that occurred along with this was the creation of the Community Criminal Justice Board. And let me just real quickly describe

that board to you. The Criminal Community Justice
Board is made up of all the important members of the
local criminal justice system. In the case of
Hampton and Newport News, there's six judges, two
prosecutors -- Mr. Gwynn is a member of that board -one police chief, one chief magistrate, two defense
attorneys, two citizens, a representative from the
Community Services Board, and a representative from
Education.

The purpose of this Board is to be able to bring all of these folks together on a regular forum to be able to share information and ideas about ways that we can better address the issues facing the criminal justice system locally here. So the Board really is a forum for us to discuss many of the same ideas that are being discussed here today.

the Pretrial Services Act and the Pretrial Programs in Hampton and Newport News. We were privileged to have gotten federal funding to develop pretrial programs prior to this act's passage. We were able to develop a program based on the need that we saw in our jail. First of all, there's a fairly significant disparity that exists in our system of the release of

the accused once they're charged with a crime but prior to going to court.

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I think most of you probably are fairly familiar will our current bail bond system, but basically, when you're arrested, you go in front of a magistrate who sets a monetary amount that will determine whether you're going to be released. Ιf your bond is set at a thousand dollars, if you happen to have a thousand dollars cash in your pocket, you're released right there on the spot. don't have a thousand dollars cash, the other options include being able to have a hundred dollars to retain a bondsman, who then will sign the bond for you, but the bondsman only does that if you have some surety, or some relative that's going to stand behind that. So what happens inadvertently is poor people are not released pending trial because of the fact they don't have the financial means or the property to assure their appearance in court.

The pretrial program was designed to help address this disparity. What we developed in both Hampton and Newport News is a system where when someone is arrested, the magistrate sets the bond. If the individual is not able to post the money or property to secure their release, then a pretrial

investigator will interview them and will write a report and make a recommendation to the Court. And if the person is found to have strong ties to the community and has the appearance that they will appear for trial, then we recommend to the judge that that person be released to supervised release rather than being held in the custody of the jail.

It's also an important program in that it provides information to the judges about the background of the person that's in front of them so that person is released based on their individual merits, based on their ties to the community, their employment history, and any other types of factors that may help the Court to feel that that person is going to appear in trial.

Another important part is that the pretrial release period provides for counseling and assistance for those who are charged with crimes. These can include referrals for substance abuse treatment, employment referrals, mental health referrals. But if the folks that are released under the supervised custody of the pretrial program are given some assistance in trying to help them be law-abiding, and also help them make sure they are doing the best they can to work with their defense

1 counsel to prepare the defense for the trial.

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The Community Corrections Act basically took something we had had in Virginia for -- since 1983, was known as the Community Diversion Program, it's now known as Community Corrections. And basically this is a system of alternative sentencing options for judges to use for nonviolent individuals who are charged with crimes and convicted of crimes. In the Community Corrections Program here in Hampton and Newport News, community service is the focus of -- in terms of In other words, if someone committed punishment. a -- say a shoplifting offense, then the punishment would end up being they might perform 48 to 100 hours of community service work to pay their debt to the community. It's much more positive and it costs a heck of a lot less than keeping them in jail. also more positive in that it puts people back out in the community where they've committed the wrong to help repay their debt to the community.

Community service can also be tied to the type of offense. For example, we have a project that we actually work with the Hampton Police Department where we had merchants whose shopping center was continually being defaced by graffiti on

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the back of the shopping center. And we were able to take several individuals, some of which had been convicted for vandalism, and when they went out there and painted over the graffiti, the graffiti artist came back a couple days later and they went back and painted it again. After about the third time of repainting it, the graffiti stopped coming up on the But this was a way that -- we were using someone who had actually been involved in that type of activity, to not only see the damage that is created, but to be part of the solution for fixing that damage.

Another important focus on the Community Corrections Program is drug treatment and counseling. One of the things we've done is develop an in-house substance abuse program where we provide -- we actually brought drug counselors in house, and we provide drug counseling right on the spot for those individuals that the court system refers to us. And I also would note that the individuals that are referred to us by the judges, are those individuals who have been convicted and sentenced to time in jail and who have been found -who the judge has determined that this is an option to have them serve their time working on a community

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service program or participating in counseling.

Another important focus is employment skills, not only how to look for a job and where to find a job, but once you get a job, how to keep a job.

This is an important thing that so many of the folks that we deal with day in and day out who end up involved in the criminal justice system, they have too much time on their hands. I'm a firm believer that employment is a major, major key, and think this is one area where we need to continue to do more and more to provide employment opportunities for individuals, particularly those that we see involved in the criminal justice system.

Other things that we've also focused on is payment of restitution and child support, assistance in housing and life skills. There are a lot of good initiatives that are going on out here in the community. The one thing I wanted to finish summarizing with is that statewide, the funding for these programs, I believe, is in the neighborhood of 15, 16 million dollars. It sounds like a lot of money. I will tell you it's about half of the operational budget of one of our medium -medium-sized prisons in the Commonwealth, so the one

thing I could say is that I wish there was more funding available for these types of programs to be able to help those individuals once they do become involved with the criminal justice system.

MR. HARRIS: I'm Reverend Marcellus
Harris, and a little bit about me will be -- I'm a
minister here locally in Newport News. I write a
local column for the New Journal and Guide. I do an
on-air forum talk show. I also am very active in our
community. I run for several offices, so I have kind
of a pulse on what's going on around here from time
to time. I'm a local native of this city.

I guess I need to begin by saying I was here yesterday. And good morning to Madam Chair and all of the Commissioners. Excuse me for ignoring protocol, but I would say that to kind of get on the record to say what I personally feel. I personally feel there's a growing disenchantment, a growing disgruntlement across America irregardless of race. And I'm seeing too much of it and hearing too much of it across the board from blacks and whites, and I feel that we're on the verge of some kind of Armageddon if we don't begin to address these issues that are being laid and ducked on your laps.

But I would also say to you that the

way some of the frustration manifests itself continues to alarm me in that we see folks bombing buildings in Oklahoma. We see folks drawing para-military groups and see folks mailing out bombs. They aren't African Americans. These are white Americans.

But by the same token, I think that I need to tell you in the sense of where I perceive our community -- and I have much of a pulse on our community than perhaps on the community at large -- the only way I can bring forth to the table a sense of some solution would be how I operate. I guess that's what I'll try to get around to, to share with you how I operate, because I operate, first of all, from a premise that for the system, for the most part, folks seem to draw a conclusion; and after drawing a conclusion, then they seem to create and convolute some sense of facts, factors to support or substantiate a conclusion which they've drawn.

This, to me, is a reverse of the way it ought to work. There ought to be facts that lead to a conclusion, rather than have a conclusion and then go off and try to excavate, or try to dig up some facts to make that conclusion come to your satisfaction.

I see in the sense of a triangle effect, a consequence that particularly exacerbates the impact on the African Americans as a whole. First of all, I think it would be targeting. Secondly, I think it would be tarnishing. Third, I would see as terminating.

I have three very, very high-profile activities that I've been involved in suggesting something to substantiate that premise for me. It would be the Alan Iverson case, or the Hampton Four, which you know much about already because you discussed it yesterday. The second would be the Antwan Sedgwick case, which happened in Hampton, what happened on October the 4th, literally the day after the O. J. Simpson verdict, and I have -- I'll give some in more detail to the Committee the reason for -- I don't have enough copies for everyone, and I talked to the registry there so you can get this.

But the Antwan Sedgwick case, in the sense that on -- and everybody knows, none of us were asleep, but the O. J. Simpson verdict literally started a hemorrhage across America. Well, the very next morning, 4:17 in the morning, there was a young African American male, twenty years old, found hung right on the grounds of Hampton Coliseum. His feet

were literally touching the ground.

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It took all we could do to even get the press to even look at this issue, and when they finally did look at this issue, there was a parallel grave disregard for some of the things that borders on decent police work, and the sense of insensitivity of police work, because the crime scene was right in the backyard of the young man almost.

His parents were not notified. They didn't get a chance to even see their son until the funeral to review the body. There had been questions raised about spots that were not analyzed, death determinations which were not substantiated, or not documented properly. They never even got to get a chance to get the boy's clothes until we asked for it, and what we had to do to even get that case moving really borders and begs for someone to intercede and help us to finally get with this family to continue to pursue an independent investigation.

We've never been able to accomplish that, and we're into the third year almost, and this family has been interrogated. They're disarrayed. They're certainly in despair about how this whole thing evolved over a period of time.

The other case I would bring to your

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attention, because I'll be giving you more detail about this. The other thing would be the case of -in our city, Newport News. For a period of four years now, we have had young girls being assaulted 5 for a period of four years, about 16, 17 cases, young girls just going to school, and on their way to 6 7 school someone has been assaulting them, someone has been grabbing them, and certainly have been 8 9 terrorizing them in the sense of them feeling unsafe 10 before they even get to school. They've been dealing with that threat, and no one seems to see it as a 11 12 crisis.

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So someone had to step up to the plate and seem to make this an issue whereby the entire community would be more alarmed, and certainly more attention should have been focused on the sense that these were girls going to school. They should have felt safe enough, they should have felt secure enough that this wouldn't be a factor, because learning in itself has a built-in burden, and they need no other additional burdens in trying to get and secure their education.

But it never reached an alarm proportion until we began to do something. know that if it had happened in another community -- and I'll go on record as saying this, I'll stand by this -- if it happened in another community, another community, they would have been identified and there certainly would have been captioned as a crisis alarm before we were able to do something about that.

So we see our African American
population, African American community in the sense
of being targeted, either benignly or intentionally.
We see young black males being tarnished, ones being
targeted.

I have so many cases of blacks who feel that they're being, not only targeted, but tarnished in the fact that once they get a record, or if they can get a record on someone, that they just pick them up capriciously, arbitrarily, or just because of their attire, or something. And once that happens, there's certainly the sense of -- some sense of them feeling being terminated in the sense they either lose their rights, or they'll be jailed, or they'll be killed.

Now, how I operate under all of this, with all of this kind of prelude and this kind of policy, or this kind of procedure and practices that we're continually inundated as confronted with, is that I -- sort of grass roots, I have no title; I

have no authority, no jurisdiction, so I try to talk to people about the only resort and the only avenues that seem to be something that they can resort to would be activism. First thing, you have to get some sense of activism employed or initiated.

And that becomes something where you must -- for instance, in the Iverson case, our activism created a sense of national attention in this case, and I must admit that the sense of this boy's popularity and his name helped to expedite the sense of activism being projected.

But in the case of these children,
we started the Black Ribbon Campaign, and we had
folks that stood out here every day for weeks and
months passing out black ribbons for solidarity for
someone to pay attention to this. Finally, the
Shipyard, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock
Company, posted a reward, I think about ten or twelve
thousand dollars.

Finally, the Newport News Police

Department brought an attack force, because I was

contending that if you can't catch the culprit, at

least bring in some additional sources, some

additional people, the FBI folks, somebody can do a

profile and do some other things. And they finally

set up a task force that began to look at this case.

And so activism becomes a very important role in
getting some attention to some of these issues that
we need to address in our community.

The second part of that would be an agenda. Once you get folks involved, then you need some sense of an agenda. When we dealt with the Antwan Sedgwick case, we developed a set of strategies. No one — the press would not look at this because they say they weren't going to report any suicide. That was their policy.

Well, once we finally got about five hundred folks that went down to City Council, all of a sudden they came to address the issue. We have individuals and other things that happened to alert and focus attention on what we felt was a neglect on the part of folks to look at this case and look at this situation, and for a sense of parents and family being dissatisfied with the way the police had handled it.

So our agenda began to focus on a way to bring in attention, bring attention to where perhaps the Justice Department, City Council, or the State Attorney General's Office would look at this, and we began to try to bring attention in that

manner. I would say that we have not, to this date,

had a hearing whereby we have been satisfied with a

sense of folks getting an independent investigation,

4 | but we continue to pursue that.

2.2

The culprit, whoever he is, or they are, who have been molesting our children, assaulting our children, still continue to also be at large, because activism and agenda can go but so far. At some point you got to move on with life. And so no one has ever solved these cases. They continue to be at — under review. We're very much concerned that we cannot go on in that — in trying to go on with these issues because other issues continue to confront us.

The other thing I would say in closing is that I think we need activism as part of our operating agenda. We need to begin to develop some access to other folks, like this panel, like the governor, like the City Council, like the school board. When we begin to get access to bring forth our agenda, after our activism that brought about attention, then we hopefully will have some better sense of resolve, some better sense of results. We don't always get it, and I say we are -- generically so, I sense my sense of bond and camaraderie to those

1 who always seem to pursue me, and I use the -- in a sense that I'm connected to them in the sense I see, 2 after I laid for you the sense of premise by which we 3 4 operate, or I operate, is that someone must see them 5 as being worthy of advocacy, and I become an advocate for them, because of my voice on the radio, because 6 7 of my writing in the New Journal and Guide, and because of my position as a pastor. 8 9 Now, may I also add, too, that I 10 work with S.C.L.C. and that's my state coordinator 11 right there, Dr. Curtis Harris. So I'll entertain 12 any questions. Thank you very much. MS. RATTLEY: 13 What we want to do -- we have ten minutes. 14 What we'd 15 like to have you do is, Mr. Wyche, would you please 16 submit to questions by our staff person. He has some 17 questions that we want answered, to include, and then 18 we will take questions. 19 Mr. Cristman, are you in a rush? 20 MR. CRISTMAN: No, ma'am. 21 MS. RATTLEY: Are you, Mr. Harris --Reverend Harris? 22 23 REVEREND HARRIS: No, ma'am. I've 24 been here since yesterday. 25 I know we stayed until MS. RATTLEY:

8:00, 8:15 last night. Let's try to take him so you can go. I appreciate very much your willingness to stay.

But what we're going to do, at 12:30, we are going to take a break, a lunch break, and we will come back here at 1:30, and this is the place for what we call Community Forum, which means anybody who wants to speak on any subject will be permitted to do that.

Most of the staff people who came down from Washington must leave -- that's why we're kind of pushing it -- to catch a plane. And so we have a full day, but we're going to do as much as we can. If you can answer questions as briefly as possible.

MAJOR WYCHE: Certainly. I did cancel my appointment, so I am available.

MR. DARDEN: Thank you, Major. I wanted to bring up something that came up yesterday with respect to Hampton, and we heard a concern that some politically active individuals felt that they had been subjected to unwarranted surveillance, and the question we put to the Commonwealth Attorney was, how would a citizen go about alleviating a problem if they felt that they were being harassed, and what

sort of corrective action could they -- where might 1 they go to initiate some corrective action. 2 The Commonwealth Attorney said that they did no 3 4 investigation; they would refer it, but that the 5 police department really would be the initiating 6 agency to investigate its own officers; is that 7 correct? Yes, sir. 8 MAJOR WYCHE: MR. DARDEN: And you used to work in 9 10 internal affairs? Internal affairs at 11 MAJOR WYCHE: this time, effective 1 September. 12 13 MR. DARDEN: Okay. If we do continue to hear those kinds of issues arise, what's 14 15 your position on the process? How do we inform the public about the process for making complaints? 16 17 MAJOR WYCHE: Okay. First of all, there's basically, in the City of Hampton, three law 18 19 enforcement functions. I represent the local police 20 body. Locally, those types of complaints would 21 primarily come to the Office of Internal Affairs. 22 Predominantly all those complaints are traditionally 23 handled through Office of Internal Affairs. 24 The only other way I'm familiar with 25 a complaint against a police department would be to

either go to the Justice Department, or the U.S. 1 2 Attorney's Office in Norfolk. 3 MR. DARDEN: So now the Internal 4 Affairs has a window where you go to make the 5 complaint? How does it work? How would it actually happen? 6 7 MAJOR WYCHE: Okav. What happens is, any supervisor can take a complaint, Internal 8 Affairs complaint, from a citizen who desires to do 9 There are very many ways of making complaints. 10 11 A complaint can be done by making an appointment. It can be done in the person's home, or in some rare 12 13 cases, if we can identify who that person is, and 14 we'll take the information over the telephone. 15 Do you have any numbers MR. DARDEN: on how many complaints you've received over the past 16 17 several years and what the categories were of the 18 complaints -- for the bases of the complaints? 19 MAJOR WYCHE: I can give you a 20 general range. Basically, we probably incur a new 21 complaint about four to sometimes peaking at nine per 22 month, then go a year's period of time. It ranges 23 from rudeness, that an officer spoke in a rude 24 manner, to excessive force. 25 MR. DARDEN: And then the Internal

Affairs disposes of the complaint through what mechanism? Is there some disciplinary action, or some reporting that shows the result of the investigation?

MAJOR WYCHE: Yes. An investigation, once an investigation is conducted, that would be through our office, the Office of Professional Standards. And what happens to that, that case would be investigated by someone on my staff.

Once that investigation is completed, I'll review it and I'll send -- or meet with the three majors -- we don't have any Deputy Chief of Police -- the majors, the three of us, work under the chief. So we would meet -- I would send that investigation out once I concur with it to the other functions, functional majors. I'll get a consensus from those majors and come up with a disposition, whether it's sustained, unfounded, et cetera.

Once that is done, then I would send that investigation to the appropriate commander to make recommendations for discipline. That discipline would be submitted to the chief's office. My office would be notified of the recommendation of this

complaint, and then we would decide what that 1 2 recommended discipline would be. 3 Once that is done, we send a letter 4 of proposal to the officer affected, in terms of what 5 the discipline is. Then he has two choices in terms 6 of the grievance. Now, do you find that 7 MR. DARDEN: there are -- what's the proportion of complaints that 8 9 are sustained, compared to those that are dismissed 10 so far? 11 MAJOR WYCHE: I can't give you that 12 right now. MR. GALVIN: Do you know how many 13 14 complaints come forward and how many actually move 15 into your office, because there seems to be a discretionary area here that once it gets into the 16 17 system, is -- but there is a discretionary area If a citizen makes a complaint to Internal 18 there. Affairs, if Internal Affairs doesn't move it to your 19 20 office for an investigation, what happens to it? 21 MAJOR WYCHE: All of the complaints 22 would come to me. I mean, I would know of every 23 complaint that's being investigated. 24 MR. GALVIN: But this is prior to an 25 investigation starting, only one being alleged, being

1 asked to be started. I'm asking is there a 2 discretion in there is what I heard. 3 MR. DARDEN: I quess the term is 4 "filed." Would you get all filed complaints 5 regardless of disposition? That's correct. 6 MAJOR WYCHE: 7 MR. DARDEN: Whether they're sent 8 forward for investigation or not, you would actually decide --9 10 MAJOR WYCHE: I would decide upon the investigation. 11 12 MR. DARDEN: Whether it did go forward? 13 14 MAJOR WYCHE: Yes. 15 MR. DARDEN: I quess, you know, this 16 sort of analogy is just to the point of the credibility of a police department in the eyes of the 17 public, there being some sense that the police 18 19 department doesn't really have a credible way of 20 responding to concerns from the community. I know you described this process, 21 22 but are you aware -- what's your perception of the 23 way the police department is perceived by the 24 community? Do you think that they are willingly and 25 accepting of what you have now, or is there a need to

do something more? 1 2 Well, from my MAJOR WYCHE: perspective, and really I guess the trust in internal 3 investigation is probably a correlation between the 4 5 trust of the community and the entire police 6 department at large. 7 MR. DARDEN: Correct. 8 MAJOR WYCHE: Yes, I have received 9 complaints from people, and they ask that very same 10 question: Well, how do I know you, and you work for 11 the police, and obviously you're going to be influenced in terms of the investigation. What that 12 comes to is exactly that issue of credibility, and I 13 present those credentials and satisfy their 14 15 complaints, exactly how we do this. 16 However, it's not entirely within 17 house, because the investigation, especially when discipline is involved, it is also coordinated 18 19 through the City Attorney's Office, and our Office of 20 Personnel. 21 I see, because there MR. DARDEN: 22 may be other charges, or something? 23 MAJOR WYCHE: City policy violation. 24 MR. DARDEN: Have there been any 25 serious -- any complaints that have resulted in

1	, serious sanctions and serious
2	MAJOR WYCHE: Yes, sir.
3	MR. DARDEN: Recently?
4	MAJOR WYCHE: Most recent, I can
5	articulate is an excessive force issue, and we did
6	move to terminate the officer, and the officer was
7	terminated. He grieved that to a panel, and the
8	panel did agree with the investigation.
9	MR. DARDEN: Was that this year?
10	MAJOR WYCHE: That was this year.
11	MR. DARDEN: Just to link it to the
12	kind of issues that we're talking about now, this was
13	a street-level officer?
14	MAJOR WYCHE: That's correct.
15	MR. DARDEN: Was he a patrol
16	officer?
17	MAJOR WYCHE: Patrol officer.
18	MR. DARDEN: Working in a
19	predominantly minority area?
20	MAJOR WYCHE: This was in regard to
21	a minority. Minority was not within a
22	predominantly he was at a business. It wasn't in
23	a predominantly black neighborhood. However, the
24	allegations came in our city lockup. It wasn't a
25	situation on the street. It was an allegation

reported by another police officer to have occurred 1 2 in the lockup, and our office did that investigation. 3 MR. DARDEN: Uh-huh. MS. MCCLOUD: Did they then fall --4 5 did I understand you to say that it did involve a 6 minority person? For example, was the policeman 7 white and --The police officer was 8 MAJOR WYCHE: white and the person arrested was black. 9 MR. DARDEN: So after a serious 10 incident, something like this one, is there a 11 department-wide response to sort of reiterate the 12 standards so that all of your officers now are sort 13 14 of put on a notice that this sort of thing is not 15 acceptable in the department? 16 MAJOR WYCHE: Yes. And, I mean, 17 because that's the other aspect, the outcome from 18 such an investigation. We always look at, how did it 19 happen, and try to put steps in place so it wouldn't 20 happen again. In this case, we did look at our 21 training issues in terms of reinforcing the 22 appropriate levels in terms of escalating the use of force to rear a deputy trainee, which is also a 23 24 policy. We also stress in our policies and

25

procedures it being a violation if an officer did not report such an incident as occurring. In this case, the policy was followed, but even though it was positive, we wanted to reiterate that obligation so we can come forth and investigate those types of complaints.

MR. DARDEN: Without having to talk

MR. DARDEN: Without having to talk about the details of any particular case, how do you then close the loop with the concern for your -- the credibility of the department so that the community understands what it is that you've done to correct problems within your own department?

I think, as you started out, they're not confident that you're doing it. When you do it, how do you communicate that you're behaving properly?

MAJOR WYCHE: See, that's one of the problems in the community at large. In other words, the complainant in this case, the person who was arrested, we send them a documented letter that we did find or agree it was excessive use of force used; however, we cannot discuss what happened in terms of discipline as a result of that sustained complaint, neither can I discuss it openly to the community at large because it would be jeopardizing suit.

So what happens is we do not have

the opportunity to go to the community and say, this is what happened and this is how we resolved those particular issues. Other than quoting some statistics like you asked, basically how many complaints come in, how many sustained, and what were the dispositions of those type of complaints, if asked.

MR. DARDEN: But if you do issue

a -- sort of a reiteration of policy in response to,

as a way of putting everybody on notice that, you

know, we're making sure that we're tightening up

here, is that the kind of information that you can

share through the community meetings and that sort of

thing, that these policies are in place and are being

periodically reiterated for the benefit of keeping

them -- keeping the attention high for all officers?

MAJOR WYCHE: I can't say that that's routinely done, no, sir. In other words, we do not approach the community and say, this is what happened last month and this is what happened and we are training people on those kinds of issues.

If those questions are asked from anyone in the community and we're asked to address those issues, then we do it upon request, so it's not, as Mr. Harris mentioned, proactive means and go

out and say these kinds of things, and once again, because of the certain confidentiality that these investigations have.

MR. DARDEN: Well, is there a need to be more proactive given the lack of credibility the department has?

in our department we have a significant amount of trust between the community and the police department. I am not aware of anyone expressing any lack of satisfaction overall with our system of investigating these types of complaints. I mean, even nine people, using minimum of four to five, is still a significant amount of complaints coming in.

MR. DARDEN: Yes. Thank you very much.

MS. MCCLOUD: I just wanted to make one comment in terms of your not routinely reporting these things. I work in a university, and in the educational system now, universities and colleges are required to give periodical reports on the numbers of harassment cases and other types of crimes that are committed, so I find it difficult to understand — and I guess this is something we would need to have clarified some place else. I find it difficult to

understand why educational institutions are required to do this and why police departments, and so forth, who are in charge of the safety of the people, are

not asked to do this.

MAJOR WYCHE: No, ma'am. What I wanted to state was that we do report the numbers in terms of how many complaints came in, and generally what the dispositions are, whether they're sustained or not, we do not report to the public what the discipline as a result of those sustained complaints are.

MS. MCCLOUD: Okay. Thank you.

MR. GALVIN: Just one more. Maybe you have this written, because you have it as professional procedures. What I'm interested -- we heard a lot about discretion and discretionary practices over the course of time from the judge to the prosecutors. Then maybe you can enlighten us, or if there's any written guidelines you can provide us for, what are the discretionary practices that you have, for example, in which community you're going to be policing, or in your surveillance, or what are the discretionary practices that the officer has at time of arrest, or even in questioning, what is the discretion of who he picks up to question? Is there

guidelines that are given to the officers on this, any training?

MAJOR WYCHE: That's a large question. And where I'd like to start is, yes, there is a lot of discretion in police tactics and methodologies and interrogation and the way those kinds of things are done. In some areas there are no discretion, and by policy, it's -- especially in the Tidewater area, in the area of domestic violence, discretion is taken away.

At one time it was one of the biggest discretionary areas was when -- because of the fact a misdemeanor -- an officer cannot make an arrest unless a misdemeanor is committed in the presence of the officer. There are codes that now allow us to arrest domestic violence cases, shoplifting, and maybe a couple other crimes in the way of misdemeanors that do not happen in our presence.

In Hampton, presently, we do not have a blanket policy that you will arrest all cases involving domestic violence. In other words, it is referred to as, when I go to a complaint, a domestic complaint, that I'll leave with someone in handcuffs. We still allow someone to have flexibility, although

towards and we are presently reviewing those policies that take away that type of discretion, be there's a tremendous amount of discretion. MS. RATTLEY: Could you please provide the Committee with the statistics about the complaint and the disposition? Could you do that us, please? MAJOR WYCHE: Yes, ma'am. For '9 or how far MR. DARDEN: It's better if we have a time span to see if there are any trends. MAJOR WYCHE: Five years? MR. DARDEN: Five years at a	e for
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MR. DARDEN: Five years at a	
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minimum, if you have that. Okay.	
MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much	l _F
17 Mr. Wyche.	
Mr. Cristman. Are there any	
19 questions of Mr. Cristman anyone?	
MR. DARDEN: I have one.	
MS. RATTLEY: What we're going to	o do
22 since you'll be here at 1:30, we can then	
MR. HARRIS: You can presumptive	
riv. invivits. Ton can bresumberse	Ly
24 assume yeah, I'm here for the duration. Altho	_

1 MAJOR WYCHE: Do you have a question? 2 3 MR. GALVIN: I just -- the question 4 here was, while it was not in your police force, here is people saying they have no way to go to get an 5 6 investigation or concern that had to deal with these 7 girls, in other words, for protection, or surveillance, someplace where there was something 8 happening on a recurrent basis in the neighborhood, 9 10 how would you advise them -- what would you advise them to do? 11 Once again, that 12 MAJOR WYCHE: 13 particular incident did happen in the City of Newport I believe as Reverend Harris mentioned, that 14 15 our response would probably similar in terms of 16 creating a task force to look at those type of 17 things. Certainly, there is a Behavioral Science Unit at the FBI who can make some type of assessment 18 19 in terms of correlation between the criminal activity 20 of the person and where we may be able to locate that 21 type of person. 22 MR. HARRIS: Three years to get a 23 task force. What I'm asking is, 24 MR. GALVIN: 25 what would you advise them to -- what do we need to

do, or what suggestions would you have that, while I 1 2 understand you can't respond on every one that wants 3 everything -- you don't have resources for that, how 4 do we take something that becomes such a concern and shorten the time frame so it doesn't take three 5 6 years. 7 MAJOR WYCHE: I can only respond in our city, and certainly the Chief of Police has that 8 9 discretion to make those kinds of things happen. I would venture to say that would come with the 10 dialogue between the community and the Chief of 11 12 Police. Thank you. 13 MS. RATTLEY: 14 MR. DARDEN: Just one, before you 15 qo, I just wanted to be sure that we had -- this is 16 going to be our last chance to talk to you, and it's 17 very important for us to get our record as complete 18 as possible. And I just wanted to know if any of the 19 members before we left this panel had further 20 questions. 21 (No response.) 22 MR. DARDEN: All right. Then that's 23 all I have. Thank you. 24 MS. RATTLEY: Any questions of 25 Mr. Cristman?

MR. HUANG: Mr. Cristman, I think your comments seem to be the brightest since yesterday, and I'm just curious about the results you have mentioned, basically descriptive results, what you're doing, what you help out, but do you have any other things that you can tell us about how many cases you have helped, what kind of impact that you have made in the community?

MR. CRISTMAN: The results is one of the most frequently asked, and also one of the most difficult to answer questions, because of the broadened result everybody wants to know is the "R" word, recidivism, and what impact we're having on recidivism.

I can take quite a while to explain to you why that's so difficult, but the bottom line is it's a very difficult thing to nail down. For one, we'd have to be able to compare like persons who went to jail and who were placed on community corrections, which means we'd have to assume there's someone who is in jail that should have been on community-based correction. There's quite a few other reasons why that makes it very difficult to be able to go and study that.

But certainly I have a lot of

anecdotal evidence available. We have many folks who have been through our program over the years who come back. We actually have some folks who come back and counsel and mentor some of the younger offenders who

have just come into the program.

We have one offender who went through the program after just spending several months in jail and now has a job making — a legitimate job making a lot more than I make, and before he went to jail he was selling cocaine. So for somebody to say they never can get a job, or they don't want to work for minimum wage — so there's lots of anecdotal evidence we can give.

I can give you some specifics in terms of the numbers of people going through our programs in Hampton and Newport News. Since July 1st and through the month of January -- we haven't finished the February report, but between July 1 and the end of January, we have taken about 1,385 offenders in the Community Corrections Programs between the cities of Hampton and Newport News. I anticipate that during this fiscal year, running from July 1 through June 30th, we will take in somewhere between 1,800 and 2,000 offenders, and all of those are offenders who have been convicted of either Class

1 and 2 misdemeanors or Class 5 and 6 felonies. The majority of them are misdemeanor offenders that the judges are referring to us. Obviously, this is an option the judges are using quite a bit.

I can also tell you that we are averaging somewhere in the neighborhood of 70,000 hours of community service work per year; and if you put that in terms of minimum wage, and I will say that we have forty-five community service sites throughout Hampton and Newport News. The vast majority of them are local government sites. For example, the Parks Department is one of our largest sites.

And I can tell you that during this fiscal year, we will have offenders that perform approximately 70,000 hours of community service. So if you take your calculator, you can figure out what that's worth to the cities in terms of minimum wage, and you compare the cost to what it would have taken one of these folks in jail during that period of time.

Another thing I can tell you is this was something else specifically that we looked at, and I was prepared to discuss today in case the issue came up, and that is I think that -- I'm sure you've

reviewed a lot of information in regards to statistics and arrests, incarceration rates for African Americans in the system, I think -- my experience says our local jails are averaging probably approximately 70 to 75 percent of the population in the jails is African American. I'm happy to tell you that the percentage in our programs -- well, maybe not happy, but the percentage in our program mirrors that, so what that tells me is that someone is not more likely to end up in the community-based program because of their race, or otherwise.

We recently did an analysis on success in the Community Corrections Program, and while this is actually not statistically significant, it is certainly interesting. African Americans were 84 percent successful in our program, meaning they completed all the requirements that the judge gave them and completed the community service hours, drug counseling, whatever other requirements they had. For that same study period, only 76 percent of the whites in that program were successful. I don't know why that difference is, but it was an interesting one, and we just happened to find out looking at it.

MS. RATTLEY: Would you like to

leave that report with the Commission? 1 2 MR. CRISTMAN: I'll make a copy for 3 you and drop it back off after lunch. MS. RATTLEY: At this time, I want 4 5 to advise everyone that we will reconvene at 1:30, at which time we will conduct a community forum. 6 7 speaker will be given five minutes, and you may speak on the civil rights concern of your choice. 8 9 those of you who would like to make a presentation have been asked to sign in, and that sheet is in the 10 11 back, I think. Mark has the sheet for you to sign 12 in. All right. This meeting then is 13 14 adjourned until 1:30. 15 16 (Lunch Break) 17 18 MS. RATTLEY: First of all, may I 19 apologize for being 15 minutes late, but we went, I 20 think twenty, twenty-five minutes over, and the 21 members of the Committee had to get some lunch. 22 fact, some still have not received their lunch, but 23 we're going forward with it. 24 Please sign the form if you wish to 25 speak on any subject pertaining to civil rights, and

1	you will be called in the order in which you signed
2	up to speak. You will be given five minutes to make
3	your statement. The members of the State Advisory
4	Committee may wish to ask questions of you, and your
5	presentation will be timed, and if any of you have
6	written statements you wish to present, we shall be
7	pleased to receive those.
8	Are there any questions on the
9	procedure?
10	Sir, did they come back with any
11	copies yet?
12	MR. PALMER: I have them right here.
13	They didn't copy the newspaper clippings. Whoever
14	gets them, please send them back to me.
15	MS. RATTLEY: All right. Thank you,
16	sir.
17	We're going to have Mr. Darden to
18	call the list.
19	Yes, Reverend Harris.
20	MR. HARRIS: Let me ask a question
21	as regard to last evening in the public session.
22	There was no court reporter to transcribe the notes.
23	How are those how are those complaints that
24	MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Darden and his
25	staff have taken those notes.

1 MR. DARDEN: Let me also explain that staff, both myself and Mr. Pentino, took very 2 3 copious notes; and in addition to that, almost 4 everyone who spoke last night spoke from prepared 5 statements which we have copies of. 6 MR. HARRIS: I've seen your work, so 7 I'm satisfied. 8 MR. DARDEN: This afternoon, we do have the transcriber who is going to continue even 9 through this session. 10 11 Is Mr. Pentino in the room, Mark Pentino? 12 13 Mr. Palmer, Mr. Pentino is not here 14 I have a question first because what I have here shows Cathy -- is Cathy Patterson in the room? 15 16 Cathy Patterson. Is Cathy Patterson in the room? 17 Ronald Lyons in the room, Ronald Lyons? Is Warthell 18 Browne in the room? 19 DR. BROWNE-ILES: Tles. 20 MR. DARDEN: Iles, Browne-Iles? 21 Now, that's -- you're speaking -- it has Mr. down 22 here. Is Ms. Iles --23 MS. RATTLEY: Dr. Browne-Iles, 24 Warthell Browne-Iles, I believe is a female. 25 She's quite female. MR. HARRIS: I

1 vouch for that. 2 MR. DARDEN: The question, Dr. Iles 3 is, given the difference here between the stories 4 that I've heard from Mr. Palmer that he --5 MR. PALMER: Go ahead. Let her go 6 ahead. 7 DR. BROWNE-ILES: No, no, no. I don't have any problems. Let him qo. 8 In fact, I 9 switched with a young man up here because I'm retired 10 right now, so I am not pushed. 11 MR. DARDEN: Mr. Palmer, that brings 12 us to you if you would like to proceed. Roy Palmer. 13 MR. PALMER: Gentlemen, I have a 14 bunch of papers here that I'd like for you to read. 15 Mr. Patrick, you being a lawyer, would you get those 16 and make sure you read each one. My name is Roy 17 Palmer. I live in a black district, Ward K. not heard anybody say anything about discrimination 18 19 against a white living in a black neighborhood, but 20 I'm telling you that's it. You don't know what discrimination is. 21 I'm old. I'm disabled. Mv wife She's disabled. We live on the creek bank 22 is old. 23 that floods in an old part of town. We got two roads 24 going into it, blocked off. And, Ms. Rattley, you 25 remember about the 16th Street Bridge, how much we

had to get it open.

MS. RATTLEY: Yes, I do.

MR. PALMER: When it floods, that's the only way in. Our fire insurance has went up on the house next door because of two roads being blocked. I can't get no answers from the city here. I don't know what's wrong. I write the letter to the mayor. He turns it to the city attorney, who turns it to somebody else who turns it to somebody else. Something is wrong with our government. Something is wrong with our newspaper. They've got tons of information they will not put out.

But I've got something real in my craw. Let me tell you about this. You know what this is, Ms. Rattley. It's about coming to the City Council. They tell you to come to the podium and talk. They tell you you got five minutes, after you get through, you sit down and keep your mouth shut. I've had any number of ones up there belittle me, joke about me, say remarks, and you can't come back at them. This is wrong. This is awful wrong, and it ought to stop.

We don't even come over here anymore because nobody listens. You had the vice mayor,

Chuck Allen, here this morning. I helped get him

elected. I made a donation to him. He was out in my neck of the woods and seen it. This past time when he was running for reelection, I was telling him about the condemned houses. And if anybody knows, Ms. Rattley, you've been to my house and you've seen them.

MS. RATTLEY: Yes.

MR. PALMER: They're valued at \$50,000, and yet nothing lives in them but rats, possums, and raccoons.

Now, I don't know just what happens on this, because I went to circuit court in 1991, and that box, you'll see receipts from it. I have yet to get in there, and if you people got \$40 you want to waste, it's a dollar a page for the five times I been to the Board of Equalization. The first time they lowered my property by two thousand, that's it.

The houses out there are not selling. You'll see it in there. When I first moved there, it was an all white district. We had two schools, a colored school named Clark, and Woodrow Wilson, a white school. Man, it was a beautiful place, playground. You come out there, you'll see hoops in the middle of the street where the kids playing.

Now they say we got gangs because these kids are playing basketball, 14, 15, 16 years old. They got no place to go. There's not a job to be had. A lot of these people out there used to work on your garbage trucks, used to sweep the streets, used to work in the gas station. I had one I loved. He'd take my car, because when he brought it back, it looked beautiful. You got none of that now. You even pay for air when you go to the gas station.

But the biggest thing about this, you had the policeman here talking this morning.

We're getting a new police chief now. He's got to come under Mr. Maroney, who's a dictatorship.

Mr. Maroney was caught drunk driving, caught running into cars. He got raises out of it. Mr. Alexander, who's in Codes and Compliance, spent four hours out there at my place. They said he was on drugs. A black man, he got fired. How come he didn't get a raise and get rehabilitated? It's some bad stuff going on in this neighborhood. Bad stuff.

You got the Daily Press, Judge

Spencer writing about a lady on 24th Street, 91 years
old. He wasn't going to take her no hot meals, Meals
on Wheels, because there was a gang next door. Why
don't you get these gangs jobs? What's wrong with

the city? Why don't you put a school out there?
You're going to take the old white school there,
Walter Reed, and make it into another something like
they did with our library here and it all go up to
Hilton with a million-dollar sidewalk. You people
wouldn't believe it.

I wish you'd come out there and take this scooter and ride up and down our sidewalks. There's three different-sized sidewalks. On the blocks that we are in, you've got a tree in the middle of it, you got a stop sign in the middle of it, you have a fire plug in the middle of it. What's wrong? Is this the way you build a sidewalk? You have specifications for building. None of that's followed.

I'll make two more things, and then
I'll leave. You talk about voting, how good it is to
vote. I got after Mr. Hill, who was on the electoral
board here last summer, wanted to know why this cart
couldn't get in the place where we vote. He says,
What's wrong? I said, You haven't got a curb cut
there. So they put one out in the driveway. When I
went to vote this time, they had a handicapped
parking in the driveway and a van sat in it. That
van was in it at seven o'clock that morning. When I

came back from Langley Field getting our groceries at 1 2 eleven o'clock, it was still there. 3 I got one more thing to say. 4 talk about your police department that come under 5 You've heard about the kid here that city manager. was molested going to school. You have bicycle 6 7 patrols. You had FBI. You had the state police. How come when I ride this thing, I don't ever see 8 And, gentlemen, you read in there it's against 9 them? the law to ride this in the street. 10 11 Yet all these little toys with twelve volt batteries can go any damn place they 12 13 want. Nobody says a word. What's wrong with 14 America? We're old people. We're not going out 15 there to be killed. 16 Thank you. Read that. Please send 17 me my newspaper clippings back. 18 MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Palmer? 19 MR. PALMER: Yes. 20 MR. DARDEN: I have a question. Mr. 21 Palmer, what is it you want us to do with these? 22 MR. PALMER: I want you to read each and every page, please. 23 24 You want them returned MR. DARDEN: 25 to you?

1 MR. PALMER: No. I qot a copy. 2 just want the newspaper clippings returned where it says they're going to build sidewalks and spend 3 4 \$5,000 this year. 5 MS. RATTLEY: I will keep them in 6 Newport News, make copies and then send them to Mr. 7 Darden. 8 MR. PALMER: That would be 9 Any time you gentlemen want to have a wonderful. 10 sickening afternoon, come on out my way and be handicapped and white in a neighborhood like we've 11 12 got. I'm going on home. My wife is handicapped. I 13 should have been home a long time ago. 14 MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Palmer, it's good 15 seeing you, and I'll get back with you sometime 16 within the next two days with those newspapers. 17 MR. PALMER: Well, Ms. Rattley, I hope the next time we see each other, we can walk to 18 19 our houses. We sure can't do it now. 20 MS. RATTLEY: I agree. 21 MR. DARDEN: Cathy Patterson, second 22 time. Cathy Patterson. Second time, Ronnie Lyons. 23 Ronnie Lyons. Dr. Warthell Browne-Iles. 24 DR. BROWNE-ILES: I'll let him go in 25 my stead. Tell them your name.

1 MR. BULLOCK: My name is Mr. 2 Bullock. 3 DR. BROWNE-ILES: And I'll go in Mr. 4 Bullock's place. 5 MR. DARDEN: All right. 6 MR. BULLOCK: Thank you, 7 Mrs. Chairman and the Committee. My name is Greq I'm here as a citizen. I read about this 8 Bullock. 9 event that was going in Hampton and City of Newport 10 News, and I thought maybe I could come out and gain 11 some light on the situation that was particular to 12 only myself, but I wanted to know something. What -this Commission, what good can you do for our 13 14 community on a personal basis and from a community standpoint? When you take your recommendations back 15 16 to where you go, what difference can you make in our 17 community as far as any changes being made in 18 reference to if we have any adverse conditions that 19 affect us as far as the legal system is concerned? 20 Mrs. Chairman? 21 MS. RATTLEY: Let me try to address 22 The body you see here today is the your concern. 23 Virginia State Advisory, Advisory Committee --24 MR. BULLOCK: Yes, ma'am. 25 -- to the U.S. MS. RATTLEY:

Commission on Civil Rights.

MR. BULLOCK: Yes

MS. RATTLEY: We are holding what we call a fact-finding meeting here, and of course yesterday in Hampton. We have received many complaints from citizens, and they're wide-ranging. The judicial system was one, and this came out -- we were out at the Iverson situation in Hampton. When the staff of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights came to the city and talked to many individuals, and our commission, our committee asked for a meeting, an opportunity to receive all of these complaints, evaluate them, make a recommendation to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

We advise them of what we find. It is then hoped that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will study these, research them, do whatever they do; and if they find that there is discrimination, or they believe that it is, then they can turn it over to the appropriate department or agency, such as the Justice Department, who could then investigate this situation.

The committee is not here to say we can solve all of your problems. Many of your problems are very detailed, very personal, and if

1 it's in the legal system, you're going to have to get 2 your politicians to pass certain laws before you get any relief. But there is no hope if they don't know 3 4 anything about it, so I think it's well worthwhile to 5 share your concerns. 6 And I don't think anybody on this panel will tell you, Mr. Bullock, tomorrow it's going 7 8 to be taken care of, that we're going to make the 9 federal court pay you for your injury, and for your suffering, and your pain, and your loss, because of 10 how you were treated at a Wal-Mart in Hampton when 11 you bought your shoes and they tried to arrest you 12 for stealing the shoes; and when you showed your 13 receipt, they dismissed it, but that was after you 14 were attacked by the security quard. 15 16 MR. BULLOCK: Yes, ma'am. 17 MS. RATTLEY: So you went to federal 18 court? 19 MR. BULLOCK: Yes, ma'am. 20 MS. RATTLEY: And now your question 21 is, what can we make that federal judge do to give 22 you remuneration for your hurt and your pain? 23 MR. BULLOCK: My question is --24 MS. RATTLEY: You could at least 25 give the information, and it's a possibility that the Justice Department could give you some aid, but that is not a promise.

MR. BULLOCK: My question is, if I had responded in unkind -- like I was attacked at Wal-Mart for allegedly stealing some shoes that I had paid for, and I have a receipt for it -- I did have a receipt for what, my purchases -- and I'm saying that if I had responded in a very negative way by, like, going back out there with a gun or something and turning the place out, then that would have been newsworthy, you understand, then that would have been all over the public media, and what have you.

So I chose to pursue this matter in a civil manner and sue these people, these rich people, super rich people. Wal-Mart is the biggest retailer in the continent of the United States, if not in the world, and I'm saying I chose to sue these people in federal court. And when I get to court, I see a different kind of justice, you understand.

MS. RATTLEY: Tell us about it.

MR. BULLOCK: I'm upset about it. I think it's because -- I think I was treated at Wal-Mart because of the color of my skin and who I am. Then when I got into the federal system and got a jury trial, I didn't get a jury of my peers, you

understand, and I got a different kind of justice 1 2 that wasn't according to the facts in the case, and 3 I'm perturbed about that, you understand, and I had legal representation. I had lawyers. And this same 4 5 thing went on. 6 So, you know, I want somebody to 7 just take a review of this thing with me, you 8 understand, bring me to an understanding of how do we get from, I go in a store with good intentions, as a 9 customer, and I get treated in a real bad way, and I 10 11 spend \$121.25. I want to know how I end up on the 12 asphalt, you know. 13 Then when I get in the legal system, 14 how you can return a judgment in their favor. 15 know, that bothers me, you know. And I know it's 16 only because the color of my skin and who I am, see. So I want to leave this, a copy of 17 the lawsuit with the Commission, and after you review 18 19 it, if you will, make some kind of recommendation to 20 me as to what I might do, or you can do to assist me 21 with this. 22 Is this a copy, Mr. MS. RATTLEY: Bullock? 23 24 MR. BULLOCK: I have it here. 25 MS. RATTLEY: Do you have one

1 yourself? 2 MR. BULLOCK: Yes, ma'am. You can 3 have this. 4 DR. AL-HIBRI: Do you have an appeal 5 pending? 6 MR. BULLOCK: No. I have no regard 7 for the federal system. I mean, I didn't even want to go through that. It was expensive fighting a 8 9 super rich company like Wal-Mart in the first place, 10 doing all the depositions and things, so I didn't 11 even go through the appeal process. I wanted to do something -- I saw that I couldn't get a judgment 12 against them after I produced the receipt for 13 14 something I paid for while at their store, and a jury 15 heard this and ruled against me. I don't need to 16 pursue that system any further, because I couldn't 17 afford it. MS. RATTLEY: Give that to 18 19 Mr. Darden over there. Go back to the podium and there's some questions some of the panelists would 20 21 like to ask you. 22 MR. GALVIN: I'd like to answer part 23 of the question that our chair answered very well: 24 What good are we doing here? And I think there's a second part that I'd like to share with you on her 25

answer, that while I know that there have been, or could be injustices, things have done wrong, improper, and that it may be that we can't correct what has been done for you or for others in this medium; on the other hand, the report that we come out with, the review of what you make public, gives us the ability to shine a light on the practices that are going on in the community of our towns and cities.

There are many people that read that report. I hope that one of the values in that report is that people will look and question whether that's going on in their community. You see, if we don't bring to light what's possible, we can't even begin to make a change, and so one of the great contributions that you make by coming here, and by speaking, is not just in your own self-interest.

MR. BULLOCK: Yes.

MR. GALVIN: But you make a huge contribution to everyone who can look and say, I wonder if that's happening where we are. Maybe we need to take a look at that because we could do something about it. That's the power that you have by this kind of forum.

MR. BULLOCK: Mr. Galvin, you know,

1 I have been a male person and a member of a minority 2 We are required, especially in public places 3 like these big stores, we're required to go a little further and do a few more things. When I went in 4 5 Wal-Mart, I was dressed like this -- I wore this purposely today to let you know how I went to that 6 7 I'm a working person in the construction 8 business, and I, you know, have money, right, but for 9 these white people to observe us come into the stores 10 like this, sometimes we're marked people, you know. We're marked going -- they want your business, but 11 we're marked going. 12 13 They want your business, but we're

marked going, and we're marked when we come out, and
I was very hurt about what happened to me. But after
I turned to the legal system and I got a different
bad deal in that respect, I'm hurt more so, and I
wonder, you know -- I mean, where do we go from here,
you know, and what kind of alternative do we have for
alleviating these types of problems?

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MR. GALVIN: The biggest one, as I said, to shine a light on what we're doing. The legal system in federal is one issue. The question of targeting, showing a bias or discrimination, perceptions, is what we've been dealing with here for

two days, and that, by coming forward and giving us 1 2 examples of where it's occurred and how it's still 3 happening, doesn't allow us to have a blind eye. 4 That's the biggest contribution. Thank you. 5 DR. AL-HIBRI: I also want to make a remark about the legal system since you're asking 6 7 those questions. I really would not have advised you 8 to give up on the legal system so quickly. 9 understand the cost of an appeal. Maybe even we 10 should be looking at ways to help people bear that cost, or alleviate that situation for them, but the 11 12 reason you have three levels of legal action in the 13 courts is because if you have a problem on one level, 14 maybe the next level will take care of it, so I would 15 really suggest for you, and others who have a problem 16 with the legal system, not to give up too guickly and 17 also look at other alternatives, like you're doing 18 now with us, but don't give up your rights because 19 you lose hope. 20 MR. BULLOCK: Thank you. 21 MS. RATTLEY: Did you try to get 22 some help from the NAACP? 23 No, I haven't been MR. BULLOCK: 24 able -- I haven't tried to pursue any help from

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NAACP; and the reason I haven't, because I had talked

with them on occasions, and they weren't interested 1 in that type of case for some reason. 2 I don't know 3 whether -- I don't know what reason they weren't 4 interested, but for my interpretation, they weren't 5 interested in pursuing it. They advised me to get my 6 personal attorney to pursue it that way, but I did 7 that. 8 MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Bullock, how long 9 ago was that? MR. BULLOCK: This happened last 10 11 Well, it happened September 15, 1995. 12 MS. RATTLEY: Ms. McCloud. 13 MS. MCCLOUD: Yes. I had a couple 14 of things. First of all, I would like to add a 15 comment to what Mr. Galvin has said, in terms of this 16 being a fact-finding meeting concerning 17 discrimination, let me say, in the judicial system as it affects African Americans. 18 I think that what you 19 are contributing is very pertinent to the topic that 20 we are in the process of trying to find facts about. 21 MR. BULLOCK: Yes, ma'am. 22 MS. MCCLOUD: So I'd like to 23 encourage you in terms of that. The other thing is, 24 I had a question, and it is -- does the documentation 25 you have provided, describe all the details?

1 example, you mentioned that you had a receipt. 2 what point did you provide that receipt, or were you 3 able to show that receipt to them? 4 MR. BULLOCK: Upon my exit from the 5 store's front doors coming out, I was approached by a 6 gentleman in plain clothes who worked in security. 7 don't know if it was a contractor or whether personnel or what, but he asked me something about my 8 9 purchases, and I told him I had a receipt for all the 10 things that I had, and he left me, and when he came 11 back with the manager, he told me that -- he said, 12 You didn't pay for them shoes, pointed at my shoes. So I asked him was he accusing me of 13 14 stealing the shoes, and the manager said, Yeah -- he 15 said, Yeah, you stole them, like that, and shoved me 16 back. 17 MS. RATTLEY: But he bought the shoes and put them on and kept them on, but he paid 18 for them, and he showed me the receipt. 19 20 MS. MCCLOUD: You did have the 21 receipt? 22 MR. BULLOCK: Yes, ma'am. So all 23 the pertinent information is included in the package. 24 The only thing I don't have in here is the transcript 25 of the federal trial case.

1	MR. DARDEN: That's not necessary.
2	We'll refer the case to the extent that we can.
3	MR. BULLOCK: Yes, sir. Appreciate
4	that.
5	MS. RATTLEY: Are there other
6	questions of Mr. Bullock?
7	MS. ZEAVIN: I want to say you
8	conducted yourself so beautifully, with such dignity,
9	and just keep it.
10	MR. BULLOCK: Thank you, ma'am.
11	Thanks so much.
12	MR. DARDEN: Next. I guess we'll go
13	to Frederick Carter.
14	MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Carter, you've
15	been with us a long time. Now you get your
16	MR. CARTER: Actually, I was here
17	first, but I don't like to make an issue.
18	Thank you very much. It's been most
19	entertaining. Most of the time I sit over there
20	where you're sitting, or I sit over where Mr. Darden
21	is sitting, and it's unusual for me to be sitting
22	. here.
23	In the discussion of the criminal
24	justice system, which is not why I came down here,
25	there are two things that haven't come up at all and

need to come up. One of them is, if you're charged with a felony in Virginia and you're unable to pay, Virginia appoints you an attorney because you're entitled to have counsel. It's a Constitutional right.

What they don't tell you is that the only amount of money they give this attorney, unless you're charged with a capital offense, is one hundred dollars. That's what the attorney is forced to work with. Unless you're charged with murder, they don't even give money for investigation.

My daughter is the President of the Bar Association here. Unfortunately, she has a kidney infection and she can't be here, but she asked me to bring that up, that the Constitutional right to counsel is meaningless if counsel can't be paid. If you ask -- you had several prosecuting attorneys here, but you had nobody from the defense bar, not a single person from defense bar. If they had been here, they would have told you this.

MS. RATTLEY: Where?

MR. CARTER: The defense bar.

MS. RATTLEY: Yes. We had --

MR. CARTER: Yesterday?

MS. RATTLEY: We had David Baugh.

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That's one

1 Not today. MR. CARTER: I'm sorry. 2 MS. RATTLEY: Yesterday. He is an 3 attorney. 4 MR. CARTER: I know who he is. Did 5 he mention the fact that these people are forced to 6 work without -- virtually without compensation? 7 MS. RATTLEY: No, but he gave us 8 some very pertinent information about the system. 9 MR. CARTER: Well, that's one -- and 10 of course, the bill was brought up annually this year to increase that amount, and annually it is put down. 11 12 Bobby Scott made a lot -- Senator Scott --13 Congressman Scott made a lot of great points, but the 14 point is, if one person who is innocent gets a proper 15 defense and doesn't have to go to jail for a year, 16 there's \$15,000 or \$20,000 we don't have to spend, 17 aside from the injustice of the situation, aside from 18 the injustice of the situation. There's somebody we don't have to incarcerate, somebody whose life is not 19 20 ruined, somebody who might be able to earn and pay 21 taxes, somebody that's not out of circulation for a 22 year, somebody we don't have to feed, clothe, or 23 shelter. And often, it is only the -- it is simply 24 the amount of money that's credible for the defense

to hire an investigator to get the facts.

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thing I wanted to mention. The second thing was -MR. GALVIN: Who sets the fee

amount?

MR. CARTER: It's set by the General Assembly of Virginia. It hasn't been changed in 15 or 20 years. They will not change it. There should be some federal action requiring that if you're going to have a right to counsel, that counsel has a right to be compensated. They have a lawyer whose defense was, Well, I haven't enough money to prepare the case, and the lawyer — and the Court said, Sorry about that. Go ahead anyway.

MR. GALVIN: Who would you say -you say the disproportionate number of people are
disadvantaged?

MR. CARTER: In order to qualify for this court-appointed attorney, you have to show that you're without funds. Guess who that is. And then they get one hundred dollars and that's it, and the lawyers are forced to interview them, to take on their case, to be stuck with them -- some of these are not the most compliant clients in the world, and this for a hundred dollars. So a lot of people don't want to do it; and the people that do it, do it as a service, and they will tell you -- prosecutors tell

you they do a wonderful job, but they don't have 1 anything to work with. 2 3 MR. GALVIN: Bear with me for a minute. 4 I'm trying -- if you can make a little bit more of the -- I understand the circumstances. 5 6 you can make a little bit more of a connection for 7 our record for us on where the disparity shows up, or who is disadvantaged by this? 8 9 MR. CARTER: The typical 10 disadvantaged person is a young black male who doesn't have a job anyway. Who are the poor among 11 us? You just go to the court system and look. 12 Everybody in there, looks like a dark cloud settled 13 14 over the place. It's the "just us" system. 15 MR. GALVIN: I understand, sir. 16 needed you to say that for the record. 17 MR. CARTER: Okay, I have to say 18 that. I'm sorry. The magic word. Yes, we're 19 talking about 75, 80 percent, or 90 percent of these 20 are black or Hispanic defendants who are forced to go 21 with that. 22 Now, also, since time is running, there's the question of informants, paid informants. 23 24 These people are criminals to start with, they're selected through the judgment of the court. 25 They are

1 unsupervised. They're supposed to be run by trained 2 officers, but I have a case in my own family which my 3 own son was busted at UVA, made all the newspapers 4 and CNN, eleven young white boys went to jail -- he 5 was the only person who went to trial, and as a result of the testimony of the young men who went to 6 jail -- if they had been eleven black boys this 7 8 wouldn't have happened -- but eleven white boys said the informant brought the drugs to us and then 9 10 brought the cops to us to see the drugs that he brought to us. The informant went to jail. So by 11 the time we tried our case, the informant was sitting 12 in jail. And of course, now it's another thing in 13 14 Virginia, you can't make an entrapment defense. You 15 can't get an entrapment instruction in Virginia. 16 It's never been done in the history of the world. 17 There was one case 30 years ago, and that got messed 18 So you have no entrapment defense. You go to 19 the jury, tell them the story, and of course, the Thank God for that because 20 jury sent the kid home. 21 now he's in third year of William and Mary Law School, and he's going to be a lawyer just like his 22 23 sister. 24 But the point is that these people

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are not drug tested, so once you're named to be an

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informant, selected to be an informant, you can 1 2 continue to do drugs, you can sell drugs, you can buy 3 drugs, and there's nothing anybody can do about it because you're not drug tested, and they are 4 almost -- we had a federal judge in Virginia who 5 said, Why is it that all the people arrested -- of 6 all the people who were arrested in 25 or 30 people, 7 all the white kids became informants and all the 8 black kids became defendants. And you know, that was 9 overturned about two weeks ago, and the young man 10 11 who -- one of the people convicted went to jail 12 yesterday, and the newspaper today writes, Thank God 13 he's in jail. 14 But the question about -- that the federal judge asked was why shouldn't the prosecution 15 justify the fact that all the white kids in this case 16 17 became informants, and all the black kids became defendants? That question could not be asked, and 18 19 the federal court overruled it. 20 How are informants MS. MCCLOUD: selected? 21 Discretion. 22 MR. CARTER: 23 Discretion. In the instant case I'm talking about, 24 the informant was selected to go on the campus of

University of Virginia.

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1	MR. DARDEN: One minute.
2	MR. CARTER: I was answering
3	questions. I'm sorry. Do you want me to answer the
4	question or do you want me to get up?
5	MR. DARDEN: You have one minute
6	left.
7	MR. CARTER: One minute for me to
8	answer the question?
9	MR. GALVIN: You have one minute
10	left, yes, sir.
11	MS. MCCLOUD: You can omit the
12	question.
13	MR. GALVIN: You can omit the
14	question if you want and use your one minute.
15	MR. DARDEN: I need some
16	clarification on this one.
17	MR. CARTER: Normally, it's five
18	minutes for the presentation and the questions get
19	answered as they're asked.
20	MS. RATTLEY: Just a minute, please.
21	He should be permitted to make his presentation in
22	five minutes, and then if we want to ask questions,
23	we should do it after that five minutes. Let's set
24	that as the rule.
25	MR. CARTER: Well, I'll regard that

five minutes as shot. I just want to answer his 1 2 question which was, as I understand it, how were the 3 4 MS. RATTLEY: Finish what you have 5 Then you can answer his question. 6 MR. DARDEN: Just one other 7 question. Will you hold your questions then until the conclusion of the five-minute presentation, and 8 9 I'll let know when they've concluded their five 10 minutes. Thank you. Okay. The only other 11 MR. CARTER: 12 thing I want to put in, because we're running out of time, is the discretion of the person to select who 13 14 the informant is going to be is easily abused because 15 they have all these kids in trouble together, and if 16 you tell on him, you get to go home. This happens in 17 this particular case, you know, what happened there. 18 And I want to point something else 19 out, and that is, since we won the war against the .20 Afghan rebels, or won with the Afghan rebels, the 21 price of heroine, which is coming from Afghanistan, I 22 hear, is coming in Newport News on these streets, has 23 gone from \$40 to \$8. What has? 24 MS. RATTLEY: 25 MR. CARTER: The price of heroine

has gone from \$40 to \$8 ever since --1 2 MS. RATTLEY: How much? 3 MR. CARTER: Whatever \$40 worth of 4 heroine used to be, it's now \$8. I'm not a heroine 5 buyer so -- all I know is my daughter has told me 6 this, and everybody knows around here the price of 7 heroine has gone through the floor ever since the 8 pipeline's been opened --9 MS. RATTLEY: I quess that's . 10 measured by weight also? 11* MR. CARTER: Yes, it's the same 12 equivalent amount of drugs. The purity went up. 13 actually had an heroine overdose burial -- I'm a 14 funeral director -- and I hadn't had that for years. 15 So the purity is going up, the quality is going up, 16 the price is going down, and everybody says that has 17 nothing to do with the -- our relationship with the 18 Afghan rebels, but who can tell. I think if we want 19 some of the drug problems -- if the government would 20 get out of the drug business, it would help us a lot. 21 Now, if you have any questions, I'll 22 be glad to answer them, and if you want to know more 23 about the heroine situation, I'll be glad to answer 24 that question. 25 I noticed today when DR. AL-HIBRI:

I was talking to someone on the panel here from the police department, they said they carefully distinguish between paid informants and other kinds of contacts. I wanted to ask, the paid informants, you've already described some of the role they have, but does the police department, for example, have contacts in the community who are not paid, but perhaps they have been earlier brought to the police department, they have charges pending against them, and some sort of, you know, action has been taken, 10 that they go back into the neighborhood? 11 12 I'm concerned about the answer we 13 14 black communities essentially because these 15

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were given this morning, that the police focuses on communities themselves call the police and say, Come rid us of this crime. I want to know is it possible that the police has contacts in these communities that will call them and say, Come on in, we have So is it really the neighborhood individuals, who are individuals who are suffering from the crime, or is it a mixture of both?

In the instant case, it MR. CARTER: was neither of the above. It was a political decision based upon a reelection process and other things, and the fact that the university had been

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criticized for not having anybody being arrested on the university campus. And so as a result, the recently elected sheriff, and the newly installed Commonwealth Attorney, whose boss had just become the judge in the case, they decided to set up the campus and see if they could find some drugs.

They busted an African American kid for three and-a-half pounds of drugs, and then turned him loose on that -- he was a drug dealer -- set him loose on the campus, and he went out and dealt drugs all over the campus, and then took the police officer to kids that he had given the drugs to and had them arrested. It's as simple as that. And he did it unsupervised, undrug tested, and paid for each bust he came up with. We established that, and the jury threw the case out. But the fact is, these informants -- and part of the murder problem is that informants are often the ones -- people suspect that the informants are the ones who get murdered. could have got my hands on that kid, I swear to God, he would have been in deep, deep trouble.

MS. MCCLOUD: I'd like to go back to my question, please. I had asked how informants are selected, and now that you are finished with your statement, maybe I can ask that, and you could answer

it for me?

targeted.

MR. CARTER: If you're asking me, I think the informants are selected to fit the job they want to do. So if they want to send somebody into a crack house on 25th Street, they find an informant who has been busted in the area, or who meets the profile of the person they want to go after. And if you choose poor black informants, you're going to get poor black defendants. If you choose rich, white informants, you're going to get rich, white defendants. The problem is, that doesn't usually happen.

MR. CARTER: The statistics speak for themselves. If crack use is evenly divided around the whole community, and crack arrests are based upon informants, and 95 percent of the people are black, then it is obvious that the informants are obviously black and that the community is being

MS. MCCLOUD: Which doesn't?

Now, of course, the community is complaining, but visible drug offenses, which we always talk about visible drug activity, is always in poor communities, because rich people don't do their drugs on the street.

1 An addict with a problem is an 2 addict who ran out of money. If I want to do crack, 3 I can do it all day long. They can come to my 4 office, and nobody's going to ever come down there and do anything about it. Nobody will complain 5 6 But if I run out of money and I stand out in front of the place and start flagging down cars, 7 that's what happens, and of course, the poor people 8 9 run out off money first, and who are those -- the 10 unemployed, the underemployed, young black males, I have an arrest record. My son has an 11 typically. 12 arrest record. Every black person I know has an 13 arrest record. And I think I'm a pretty dignified 14 guy. Thank you very much, 15 MS. RATTLEY: 16 Mr. Carter. 17 MR. DARDEN: Next is Mr. -- let me 18 do this. Are you Mr. Langford? All right. 19 call Mr. Langford, for the third and last time, Cathy 20 Is Cathy Patterson here? Patterson. I'm taking that 21 name off. For the third and last time is Ronnie 22 Lyons here? Take that name off. 23 Now, Mr. Langford. That's the 24 second call for Mr. Langford. 25 Debbie Roberts or Mr. Williams, is

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1	it?
2	MR. ROBERTS: Right.
3	MR. DARDEN: Mr. Williams. Is
4	Debbie Roberts with you also?
5	MR. ROBERTS: William Roberts.
6	MR. DARDEN: Your name is William
7	Roberts, so this should be William Roberts?
8	MR. ROBERTS: Yes.
9	MR. DARDEN: Is there a Debbie
10	somebody? Okay. So it's Robert William Roberts.
11	Mr. Roberts, please. You may
12	MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Roberts, come up
13	to the podium, please. You can either stand there or
14	you can sit here.
15	MR. ROBERTS: I'd like to stand.
16	I'll be brief and short. Okay. My complaint is
17	my name is William L. Roberts. I live at 1901 Bay
18	Avenue, Hampton. My complaint is a note was signed
19	with Bill Lewis Chevrolet, and I was working at DC
20	Department of Corrections.
21	MR. DARDEN: Repeat the name of the
22	Chevrolet dealer.
23	MR. ROBERTS: Bill Lewis Chevrolet
24	at Chesapeake, Virginia. I was supposed to sign for
25	my son, thinking I was cosigning, but I was the major

buyer, but I didn't discover all this until last year, about last August when I had to go to Hampton City Court on delayed taxes that I felt like, and I still feel like, that they took innocent money from me for these taxes.

why I say so, because the credit reference don't tally with the ID number on everything else. I had POA to sign some paperwork in this deal which should have -- I should have all knowledge of this work that was done. I'm a dumb man. I didn't get a chance to go to school much. I had to work until I went in the military. When I come out of the military, I took up a trade. And at times, after I had taken up the trade, I got hired by D.C. Department of Corrections. D.C. Department -- I was out of place with -- the people should have called me and said, There's something wrong here, get back with us and let's correct this thing.

So I'm saying they deliberately, intentionally, defraud me on this deal. I got a lot of stuff here that I can't go through all that to give you exact information right now because my wife, she helped me sometime, but she's been away for a couple weeks now almost, and I need the receipt for the money that I gave Quadros & Swanson. They

shouldn't have taken my blood money because Mr. Gwynn told me plain that after I sent it off after talking with him this day, to get my city sticker because I was taking treatment at VA Hospital in D.C. I had taken radiation, and I needed my sticker so I could drive my vehicle back to D.C. and he and I sat down and talked. He said, Whatever you pay, I'll accept it, which I was paying something I shouldn't have been paying on, but I paid \$50 on it. Soon as I paid this money, less than sixty days later, here come a letter from Quadros & Swanson.

And there's been a lot of paperwork since then, because last week, I had to go to court. They took out a warrant for me and fouled up my bank account, which all I had in there was retirement and Social Security. And I went down to Central Fidelity a few days ago and told them about, you can't touch this. I told them, I say you can't touch this. I say, Because this is Social Security and retirement money. I needed my money because I was still under a doctor. I still had to go back to D.C. to take radiation.

But to get back with what they done to me, he going to tell me in front of the Judge the other day that he had recalled this. I want it in

writing. I want him to tell me plainly. Don't tell 1 2 me nothing in words, because they back off of words. I told the man at Casey -- at Bill Lewis Chevrolet, I 3 said, I'm not here to buy another vehicle now because 4 5 I'm buying one and he want to put my truck as a collateral on the contract, but he fouled up when he 6 7 didn't put the ID number right on the contract -- on 8 the credit reference. The credit reference is the If you don't use the 9 foundation of a building. credit reference right, it fouls up everything else 10 11 that you sign on. I'm a dumb man. I don't know. 12 Tell me. MS. RATTLEY: Stop calling yourself 13 14 a dumb man. 15 MR. ROBERTS: I'm sorry. 16 MS. RATTLEY: You're not dumb. 17 MR. ROBERTS: In a few days, I'll be 18 I'll be 71. I worked hard to establish what I 19 have in this life, but I have a condition and a goal 20 to go. I feel like -- I told Quadros, I said, I want 21 I want my blood back. my money. 22 MS. RATTLEY: They are representing this Chevrolet dealership? 23 24 MR. ROBERTS: They represent the guy 25 on the City of Hampton. They're not coming out for

1 me, because on my other vehicle, I had paid tax on the other one, but they got this --2 3 MS. RATTLEY: That's the taxes for 4 the City of Hampton? 5 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. 6 Personal property tax? MS. RATTLEY: 7 MR. ROBERT: Right. What I'm fighting for is Bill Lewis had no business doing 8 9 contract work on me with the wrong ID number on the credit reference, because that is the foundation of a 10 11 deal, because an institution going to loan money --12 MS. RATTLEY: You had repairs made there, or did you buy a car there? 13 14 MR. ROBERTS: I bought the car 15 there. 16 MS. RATTLEY: You bought the car 17 there? 18 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. 19 Did they foreclose on MS. RATTLEY: 20 you? Did they --21 MR. ROBERTS: No. What has 22 happened -- excuse me. What has happened, they write 23 all over, credit companies, the credit departments, 24 you know, frustrated my creditors. The bank sued me 25 and was wrong. And they wouldn't come back clean

like they should. And Mr. Rickman, I have a letter 1 2 that Commercial Bank, they the ones that financed 3 this deal on the foul ID number and -- but 4 Mr. Rickman give them a letter after Signet Bank 5 fouled up, that I didn't owe -- my record was clear 6 with Signet Bank, Commerce Bank. 7 MS. RATTLEY: Have you talked to a lawyer? 8 I'm too poor. 9 MR. ROBERTS: I'm too 10 I had some information to see the clinic in 11 D.C. because see, I had to go to D.C. often because I 12 work with the department. I work with what you-all 13 been talking about this. That's how I learned so 14 much, but I'm going to say it again, I'm dumb. 15 not supposed to know that they took my blood, my 16 innocent blood. I'm not supposed to know that. 17 MR. PATRICK: Mr. Roberts, that's 18 fine. As you probably know, I'm an attorney, and I 19 deal with a lot of these issues including --20 MR. ROBERTS: I appreciate that. 21 I think from a MR. PATRICK: personal perspective -- I live in Alexandria -- what 22 23 I will be able to do is make contact with you and 24 talk to you, because I've dealt with some consumer 25 law. I think I know what the heart of your problem

1 is, and perhaps I can give you some time and try to 2 help you unravel that. 3 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. MS. RATTLEY: Would you then please 4 give Mr. Patrick some contact point --5 6 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. 7 MS. RATTLEY: -- where he can reach you, and I think it's very commendable. As a member 8 9 of this committee, he doesn't have any obligation to make that offer, and I think that's quite generous. 10 11 (Applause.) MS. RATTLEY: So you should wait 12 until we finish, if that's not too much. 13 I'll write 14 it out and let him have it. 15 MR. ROBERTS: I can wait as long as 16 it takes. I can wait as long as it takes. Thank 17 you, Mayor Rattley. I appreciate this opportunity 18 because I'm old. I'll be 71 in a few more days, 19 because God has helped me. 20 MS. RATTLEY: You're a young man and 21 you're not dumb. 22 MR. ROBERTS: I can see my victory 23 because I'm standing in right. I'm standing in 24 My heart is not out to covet people's goods 25 like the hyenas and whatever. When the bad lion is

1 there, the hyenas stand back in the dark. But if 2 they had contacted me with the phone number at my workplace, this matter would never have happened. 3 4 MS. RATTLEY: Okay. Let's get some advice from someone trained in the law. 5 Thank you. 6 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. 7 MR. DARDEN: Thank you, Mr. Roberts. Next -- third call for Mr. Langford. Third call, 8 9 Mr. Langford. Take that name off the list. 10 Joe King -- I'm sorry. Patricia 11 Smith. Patricia Smith and Joe King. 12 MS. SMITH: Good afternoon, ladies 13 and gentlemen. 14 MS. RATTLEY: Good afternoon. MS. SMITH: 15 I said good afternoon. 16 This is my first time here. 17 MS. RATTLEY: I was just saying good 18 afternoon to you. 19 MS. SMITH: Well, anyway, I want to 20 talk about the justice system. I have some copies 21 here, and this is about a young man -- one is black 22 and one is white. There was a young black man in 23 Hampton tried with three armed robbery charges, which 24 the law says if you have armed robbery charges, 25 you're not allowed parole. Okay. Then there was a

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2	MS. RATTLEY: To vote?
3	MS. SMITH: You're not allowed
4	parole.
5	MS. RATTLEY: Parole.
6	MS. SMITH: Right, you're ineligible
7	for parole. But then there was a white person, white
8	fellow, which did the same crime, but there were
9	provisions made and I've got copies of this and
10	I just want to say that the justice system is not
11	fair. I mean, you take these are two people. One
12	is black and one is white, and they both did the same
13	thing, but they made provisions so that the young
14	white man could be eligible for parole. It's not
15	fair. I mean, it's just not fair. So I would like
16	for you to read these copies if you will.
17	MS. RATTLEY: Is this a copy we can
18	keep?
19	MS. SMITH: Yes, it is.
20	MS. RATTLEY: Give it to Mr. Darden.
21	MR. DARDEN: Do you have any further
22	comments?
23	MS. SMITH: No. I just wanted to
24	get this I want it to get known. Thank you.
25	MR. DARDEN: Next is Joe king.

My name is Joe King. 1 MR. KING: I'm 2 from Hampton, and I was here last night. After listening to several people -- how much time do we 3 have here? 4 5 MR. GALVIN: Five minutes. 6 MS. RATTLEY: To speak, you have five minutes. Mr. Darden will keep time. 7 8 MR. KING: Okay. I can't say with certainty what I'm going through in five minutes, so 9 I'll be as brief as I can, and that's saying a lot. 10 I am a business person in Hampton, been there, built 11 a business, automotive business, I've got a recycling 12 center and I've worked hard all my life. 13 14 Hampton, I can tell you that if you see a black man 15 who has been successful in developing and building a 16 business without any help, and I mean from the bank 17 or whatever, you've seen something. That is -- you 18 think Michael Jordan has done something, you ought to 19 I mean, that is a tremendous, tremendous try that. 20 thing to do, and I'll tell you -- not that I'm 21 anything special, but I can tell you it's very 22 difficult to do in Hampton, Virginia today, and before today. 23 24 Some of the things that I want to 25 say -- and there are many, and I learned a long time

ago -- and I'm retired military, so I learned a long time ago you just take it and keep going, so that's what I've done. For example, most recently there was a woman that had me arrested and said that I had threatened her life. She called me in my business, said I threatened her life. And of course, I was taken to court, and I asked the judge, you know, when we -- when the thing came up, Judge Kashouty, what the situation was. I mean, Where was the evidence, where was the motive. Lady didn't know me or anything. I sold her a car seven months ago. I told her I could not fix the transmission after seven months, and there was no problem. She said at that time, and when I asked what the problem was, she said that I had threatened to take the skin off her body, and I didn't know -- this, of course, was a white 17 woman from Williamsburg, and I'm in Hampton. 18 And, of course, the Judge found me quilty, and I asked him, Guilty of what? And I said, Where is the motive, you know? No money, no nothing. 20 21 He said -- and, Where is the proof? She called me. 22 I never called her. She admits that. He said, Mr. 23 King, I don't need any proof. I believe the lady,

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And, of course, I went to appeal the

and, you know, guilty.

case and -- went to appeal the case to the higher court, and that was like just doing nothing, just throwing your time away. And when I got in there, of course, the evidence was -- you know, certainly, there was no evidence, and this time, of course, the lady testified, and when she was asked why I would have threatened her, she said -- she changed her story then and said that I said that you don't know what black men do to white women when they come down here from the north, or something like that.

And, of course, no evidence, no nothing, and guilty again. And, of course, you know, I wanted to go to jail, but they don't send you to jail, they take your license, and all those other kinds of things, because I certainly would have gone to jail because I have no problem with that. I was in the city. I have no problem with that. They can lock me up for as long as they want, doesn't bother me at all. But at any rate, that's just one instance, and it cost me about \$5,000, you know, because they're going to take my license and stuff.

The other thing was, I was running for city council one time -- and these are just a few things -- running for city council one time and was in court, and there was a young lawyer in there

giving a case, and her name happened to be Rattley, and I was listening to the case, and my case was next. So after we saw what the Judge did --

MR. DARDEN: One minute.

MR. KING: -- the lawyer and I from the other case, after we saw what the Judge did, we said we're not going to be in this court because it was very, very discriminatory, and we just said, Well, we're not going to be here, and the other lawyer against me agreed, and we got up and we went to the bench, and we both had agreed, and we said we wanted to postpone our case until the next month or whatnot.

And Judge Kashouty asked me why. I said, Sir, based on what I just saw there, you know, I'd rather we have another judge. And so he said, Why? I said, Well, just based on what I saw. And so, you know, we left and he said -- you know, we left, and the next three days I got a summons to court for contempt of court, for contempt of court. He wrote in his writing, that I charged the bench, got up from my seat, directly charged the bench, disrupted the Court.

When I went to court with him for this thing, I said -- you know, I really thought he

was mistaken. When I went to court for this thing, 1 he says to me that you disrupted the Court, such and 2 such and so on and so on. I said, Well, sir, it 3 seems like you're serious about this. I think I need 4 5 a lawyer. We don't have time. Guilty. 6 And of course, I went to Judge -- what's his name --7 Overton's court again, same thing. Thank you. 8 9 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you, Mr. King. 10 MR. DARDEN: Next is Lieutenant 11 Commander Robert Cobb. MR. COBB: Good afternoon. 12 13 MS. RATTLEY: Good afternoon. MR. COBB: First of all, as you will 14 15 see in my cover letter when you read it, I am 16 extremely pleased that there is a forum that was 17 developed to hear these cases and these appeals. I had a similar circumstance in which involved a 18 traffic ticket in the City of Hampton, as you will 19 20 see in the handout. 21 I happened to own a Jaguar, and it 22 was over the weekend, and I was traveling --23 MS. RATTLEY: Can everybody hear 24 Come down and sit here by this mike. 25 As I was traveling down MR. COBB:

Hämpton Boulevard, I was stopped by a police officer for speeding. In that instant, I was traveling with a car in front of me, a car behind me, and a car on the side. As the car was turning, the cab — the police officer was parked about a block away at an intersection at Hardee's. He pulled out, followed me approximately a mile and—a—half down the road behind an elderly gentleman, Caucasian, driving a town car.

After passing through four stop lights -- three stop lights, he turned his light on, left from his left lane, pulled in behind me from behind the other vehicle and proceeded to stop me. When he approached the car, he approached in a manner that was provoking, shouting various things, and I just sat there, and I listened to him. And later on, once we got into our conversation, then he realized that I was, in fact, in the military and I was an officer.

Whenever we arrived in court -- I
had various handouts, as you will see, drawn up. The
lawyer -- not the lawyer, but the police officer
stood up in court and told the Judge that none of it
was the case. It was down the road. He stopped me
in the same block in which he wrote the citation,
which is not true.

What bothers me, after listening this morning about all the cases of drug deals and how one group is being persecuted much more so than another group, is when I think about the number of personnel that are in jail now because the police officers invite planted evidence or a lie during the prosecution. That is the biggest thing we have.

I look at the Iverson case, which brought all this down, being a high-profile individual, George Thompson, Chaney and the rest of them got together, and we are here now, but now what happens to Joe Blow who is walking downtown, gets picked up, same situation, same circumstance, not a high-profile individual. He has no recourse. He's lost in the system somewhere.

I asked a question, How do we get to that point. This morning you asked that question, Where did the drugs come from? What's the hope you have coming out of the neighborhood if you go down Marshal Avenue up here to this Be-Lo? Look at the food that's in that store, look at the prices that's in there, and the conditions of the store. Now go to Denbigh and look at that and compare the two. That's why you have people standing out on the street now selling drugs because they're being ripped off

through the legal system. They can't get anything, and they feel that they're in a lose-lose situation.

Yes, we are reactive. We're not proactive. We're taking the low guy on the totem pole that's selling five dollars worth of crack cocaine. Yes, he is wrong. He needs to be punished and taken off, but yet Uncle Sam up here, who has four billion dollars' worth of drugs coming in on the boat, nobody's taking the time to persecute him; but if you stop him, then you stop 50,000 Joe Blows out in the street, because there is nothing for him to use.

If you open up education, you open up jobs, give these kids a future that you have something to work towards, it's not only the ones walking around with baggy clothes. As I said in my letter, when myself and my wife pulled into a parking lot in Denbigh, driving the Jag again, the police officer called for a backup, ran a check of our license plates, came in behind us into a store which we went in and he leaned up against the wall and see if we were going to rip the place off.

Soon as we came out and left, he came out, both cars pulled off as soon as we pulled off, but what, I was targeted because of the

complexion of my skin. I have a master's degree in mechanical engineering. My wife has a decent job.

And we can afford these things, but yet I watch cars pull up alongside of us, police pull up behind, you see them get on the radio, do a license plate check, see if the car was stolen; or they'll run up alongside and look over at you and hoping that you will speed down the road and give them some reason to pull you over to check you out. And it's not right.

MR. DARDEN: One minute.

MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much.

This ends your --

MR. COBB: Yes, ma'am.

MS. RATTLEY: I have to feel compelled to just make a statement, so deja vu. I was born and reared in Alabama, and when I came to this area, it necessitated my going back and forth on the highway home, so I have been there years before you were born. And aside from not being able to stop to eat anything, or to use the bathroom, as you know or read, if you were driving a certain car through those states -- I had to go through like, you know, Virginia, and North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia before you get to Alabama, and many times instead of driving an expensive car, you either

borrow a cheap car to drive -- I didn't do that.

MR. COBB: I understand.

MS. RATTLEY: Because you knew you were going to be stopped. You didn't have to do anything. You could be driving within the speed limit. You have all your inspections, and everything is right.

And I have a close friend who went to jail, decided they wanted to carry him to jail. They were driving a Lincoln, I believe. And what you're telling me now, this is 1997, isn't it?

MR. COBB: Same thing. Same thing.

MS. RATTLEY: So that's why I said deja vu. It's there, and I think the Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights made the observation when she took her tour a little while ago and came out with her report, that it is still there. And, of course, there are some people here now, or in the city now, who say this forum isn't necessary and all we would do is to stir up, or to remind, or to breach this calm and this peace. I just had to say it because it sounds like something I would have been saying to a similar panel years ago even before you were born.

Anyone else? Any questions?

1 MS. MCCLOUD: I have a question. 2 MS. RATTLEY: Yes. 3 MS. MCCLOUD: I wonder if you could tell us what some of the things were that the police 4 5 shouted at you. This is primarily for the record. 6 Basically, yes, the MR. COBB: police officer was approaching the vehicle. 7 He had on his qun, and he was screaming, Do you know what 8 9 the speed limit, How fast were you going, Do you know 10 what the speed limit is out here, over and over and 11 over, although I repeatedly said 35. It was more of a badgering type thing trying to provoke me into 12 saying, or responding, or making some type of move. 13 14 MS. MCCLOUD: Thank you. 15 Are there other MS. RATTLEY: 16 questions? 17 REVEREND HARRIS: Did you file a 18 complaint? 19 MR. COBB: I filed my complaint 20 through the Chief of Police, which I also sent it to 21 the mayor's office. Their investigation was 22 unsubstantiated, We do not have enough evidence to do 23 anything, so this is closed. 24 That was in Hampton? MS. RATTLEY: 25 MR. COBB: City of Norfolk.

1	resident of Hampton, but I'm stationed in Norfolk,
2	and that's why I was over in that area.
3	REVEREND HARRIS: You're in the
4	military?
5	MR. COBB: That's correct.
6	MS. RATTLEY: What do I see up there
7	in gold?
8	MR. COBB: Lieutenant commander, oak
9	leaves.
10	MS. RATTLEY: Colonel?
11	MR. COBB: No. If it was the Army,
12	it would be major, but we call them lieutenant
13	commander in the Navy. Since you mentioned that, by
14	no means is it just in the civilian sector. I can
15	tell you some things in the military definitely.
	II
16	REVEREND HARRIS: I'm trying to find
16 17	REVEREND HARRIS: I'm trying to find out, did anybody did your commander know about
17	out, did anybody did your commander know about
17 18	out, did anybody did your commander know about this situation, and did the commander help you to
17 18 19	out, did anybody did your commander know about this situation, and did the commander help you to resolve it?
17 18 19 20	out, did anybody did your commander know about this situation, and did the commander help you to resolve it? MR. COBB: The CO of my command did
17 18 19 20 21	out, did anybody did your commander know about this situation, and did the commander help you to resolve it? MR. COBB: The CO of my command did not know about it, but my immediate officer over me
17 18 19 20 21 22	out, did anybody did your commander know about this situation, and did the commander help you to resolve it? MR. COBB: The CO of my command did not know about it, but my immediate officer over me did know about it, but that's as far as it went.

I was fined. Initially I appealed it, and correct. 1 2 I was going to take it to the next highest court, but as response came in the courtroom, and you could see 3 that the questions from the Judge was, Officer, did 4 5 you calibrate your equipment this morning; Did you go through the serial check? Yes, yes, yes. Oh, okay. 6 7 Well, he did everything he did. Well, okay, so he basically spoon fed him the whole time into what to 8 9 say. And I knew if you went to the next 10 highest level, it would be the same. 11 I tried to go a 12 different route, and if nothing else, I was willing 13 to take a polygraph. If he would take one, I would 14 pay for it. All I ask for is that I had a 15 representative there, he had a representative there, and a neutral party administering it, and that would 16 17 have been it. If I was lying, great. If not, I 18 would accept an apology from the city, and you 19 reimburse me and clear my record, but as you see, 20 they found no need of doing it. 21 REVEREND HARRIS: All right. So you've given up on it? 22 23 MR. COBB: I'm here. 24 (Applause.) As it relates to 25 REVEREND HARRIS:

this hearing, we will make a report to the 1 2 Commission, our finding; but in the meantime, if you want to pursue it further -- I'm not a lawyer, but I 3 4 have strong ties in the Civil Rights Commission -- I 5 mean the Civil Rights Organization. I work with a Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and our 6 7 local president is here, and if you want to pursue 8 this matter further while you're waiting for the report from the Commission, then we would be glad to 9 10 serve you in that particular capacity. I really appreciate it, 11 MR. COBB: and I think that would be great because I have some 12 13 more news I think you would be interested in hearing about. 14 REVEREND HARRIS: 15 See Reverend 16 Harris, our local president, and get all the 17 information. We will pursue that. 18 MR. COBB: Yes, sir. 19 Mr. Cobb, thank you MS. RATTLEY: 20 very much. 21 MR. DARDEN: The next person -- I 22 apologize for making a mistake -- is Dr. Warthell 23 Browne, and as Dr. Browne is arriving, just to inform 24 the Committee, we have had additional sign-ups, and 25 we have currently 16 more who are waiting to be

heard. We've been averaging about 12 or 13 minutes per to this point.

DR. BROWNE-ILES: I'm going to be very brief.

My name is Warthell Browne. I want to say truly it's a pleasure to me to be here. I never thought I would get to bring my case before anyone except my close friends and colleagues. My name is Warthell Browne-Iles. I came here to begin here as a middle-aged or senior citizen with a clear record; clear financially, as far as my credit record; clear criminally, as far as criminal record; clear of traffic.

I'm a registered professional nurse, a clinical practitioner, family nurse practitioner, nationally certified, and I have a PhD in public policy and health service administration. I have worked many years. And I, too, have had serious, serious problems happening to me since I have been here in Virginia. I'll try not to get emotional about it. So I will read what I have.

My name is Warthell Browne-Iles,
born -- I'm a senior citizen -- 1931. I currently
live in Hampton. I was accused of forgery,
utterance, and false pretenses in May of '84. I have

copies of the information.

In early 1983, while out of town, I was called and notified that my house had been burglarized. This burglary should be of record at the Hampton Police. The police investigated this and an Officer Fittler (phonetic) informed me that the fingerprints left were those of a small hand, perhaps left by a teenager. I questioned a teenager with small hands, but they thought because the fingerprints were small, they were a teenager's. And I said I think it must be a female because of the items taken.

I am retired military. I had many items and artifacts from traveling, including imported china and crystal, and those things were taken, in addition to women's clothing, and I doubt very seriously if a teenager would take china and crystal. So I went around to the pawnshops, and they said, No, we don't handle those things; they're too delicate, we can't keep them. So I assumed they had been taken by a young female, but I couldn't have said who could have taken them because I have a big strapping son, a football player, so it wouldn't be small fingerprints, and the items that were taken were items that I had even before he was born, and he

had grown up in the house with them, so I didn't even think of him having taken them.

So some months later, my checking account showed some discrepancy. Upon careful observation of my account, there were several forged checks. Those checks were taken to the bank for investigation. My checking account was consistently coming up short of funds, and by January '84, this had occurred — the burglary had occurred in '83. By January of '84, my payroll check was held up because I had so many outstanding checks that some had come in that had taken my money, and at this time, I was a Professor of the Medical College of Virginia.

I walked down to the bank, down from Broad Street, to try to find out what had happened to my checking account, and they had said you had so many outstanding checks that we're holding up your payroll check. So when the statement -- I said, I haven't made all those checks. But when my statement came out, that's when I looked through the statement carefully, and I found all these forged checks.

So in early February, the bank closed my account, said we'll close your account.

They sent me the money and said, We'll go ahead and start all over again. I said, I need some money now.

I have to pay my utilities, and I'll never forget because it's February '84, was a snow day. I remember that because I was up at the bank. I didn't even go to work from here in Hampton to MCV that morning. I said, I have to get my money because I have to pay my heat, my utility bill, my fuel bill. So I went to the bank here in Hampton, and they gave me money, and they said we closed your check and canceled them, and we're going to send you the rest of the money.

got a letter, a call from the bank, and the bank said that a check had come in and been deposited in my account, and these checks had been drawn out. And they showed me a photostat copy of the check. It was for \$2,061.24. This check was dated January '83. When they called me to the bank that the check had been put in my account, was in January '84, a year later.

So at that time, I began to receive notices from merchants that they had received return checks stamped "account closed." I had not written any checks nor purchased any items from these merchants. There were stores such as Thalhimer's, Hair Cuttery here in the mall, the music stores in

Hampton, and Thalhimer's even stated that the lady for whom -- they had looked at her license as identification, driver's license, had my name on it; however upon seeing me, because I went around to these merchants to say, Who came in here? What identification did you have? Did they have a driver's license?

So I said, Did the person look like me? They couldn't remember, but the lady at Thalhimer's saw me and said, No, the lady did not look like you. I said, Well, someone is writing checks on me. So I couldn't imagine how they could have my driver's license. That's the thing that disgusted me. This was when they had the driver's license before they was laminated now. This is when they had the driver's license where you could insert parts to it.

So we discussed this, and they admitted the person probably had put the picture in my driver's license. How did they get my driver's license? So then I recall, I said, Uh-huh. When somebody broke in my house in '83 -- because things were in a mess, and they broke in my file cabinet, and I had had a duplicate license back when I misplaced my license. When I found my license, I

filed my duplicate. And I said that's where they got my driver's license. I had forgotten all about it, so in -- but a few months later, after the bank had gone through and they closed the account, started another account, I was suddenly rushed in my house in May '84 and was arrested by Hampton Police and a Detective Corona. They charged me with forgery, utterance -- three things I mentioned. I had -- I knew what forgery was. I said, What is utterance? And what was the other one? There were three of them -- forgery and false pretense. I said, What is false pretense? What is utterance?

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So they had accused me of those three entities. And at that time, I was in a state of shock. A friend came down. She said, Get dressed. She said, They're going to lock you up. I said, For what? I'm going around -- I had put my clothes on. They escorted me out in the police car. I'm still in a state. Took me downtown. Now, mind you, I never even been in a cell. They put me in a cell, fingerprinted me. I'm sitting there in a daze. I couldn't even hardly tell my name.

So finally, they suggested a lawyer, a friend of mine. So I called a Mr. Lacy Scoggin and explained to him. He's supposed to take the case,

but next thing I knew, I was going to court, and when they took me to court, they said nolle prosse, nolle prosse, and they accused me of the false pretense. I tried to find -- how you accuse me of false pretense because I didn't forge any checks, I didn't utter any checks. I didn't do anything in reference to the checks. No one could tell me. I tried to get information from Mr. Lacy Scoggin, because he was the one that had the case.

MR. DARDEN: One minute.

DR. BROWNE-ILES: He never, never talked with me. The thing of it is -- so finally, to summarize it, because I have it written up, I would like to check here because I tried to find out how did they come to the conclusion of false pretense when I did not utter -- I didn't write a check, I didn't forge a check, I didn't do any of those things. How did they come to that? No one has been able to tell me, and that has been over 12 years. I want my record clear.

As of this point, it hasn't bothered me as such, but I have an opportunity, and have been graciously invited as an ambassador to go to the People's Republic of China, and I think it's an honor that I have been asked to do so by the American

Public Health Association.

I have a clean record. I want this cleared. And I'm asking is there any way, any way -- because I have written, before this governor was in there, to the other. I said, I have to write the governor. The governor wrote back, Well, if you can show us that you didn't do it? How can I show you that I didn't do it? They told me I'm supposed to give them money back --

MR. DARDEN: Time.

DR. BROWNE-ILES: -- which I have, to the bank. I already gave the money back to the bank. And they said, Well, What did you give the money back for? I said, Because they said that I owed the money. They said, We never charged you with anything like this. And so I said, I'm going to give it back to you because I don't want to go jail. They said, Lady, you don't owe us this, money. We did not accuse you of this. They said I was accused in the court here in Hampton.

MR. PATRICK: One question. It may be obvious. When your house was burglarized, were checks taken?

DR. BROWNE-ILES: I don't recall.

You know, I have some copies of the checks that were

1	forged, and there was some checks sent that had my
2	name spelled incorrectly, and I had cut them up, and
3	thought I cut them all up and destroyed. Then they
4	had another on another account with the name
5	spelled correctly. So we thought about this. Do you
6	think someone got those old checks, because one of
7	the checks that came back in Hampton, incorrect name.
8	They had been done away with months, and it was a
9	different checking account number. That's why I
10	can't understand. And I have to validate the
11	different number and my name is spelled differently,
12	so it could have been from there, and then maybe they
13	made checks, I don't know, but I don't recall. I
14	said maybe they skipped numbers, took checks and
15	skipped numbers because I couldn't remember how they
16	got my driver's license until months later.
17	MS. MCCLOUD: I have one brief
18	question. What kind of investigation was done when
19	you reported the burglary at your house?
20	DR. BROWNE-ILES: They came in and
21	they took fingerprints.
22	MS. MCCLOUD: That's about all?
23	DR. BROWNE-ILES: That's all.
24	DR. AL-HIBRI: Let me ask you
25	another question. You said you noticed that there

was something wrong with your account for a while, 1 2 you were coming up short on the balance. How long did that last before you actually finally found out? 3 4 DR. BROWNE-ILES: When my 5 statement -- I called the bank because I said, Why am 6 I coming up short? They said, You have over written 7 your checking account. So my statement came in, and I looked through my checks. I could see there were 8 some that didn't have my signature on them. 9 10 DR. AL-HIBRI: Was that only one 11 statement cycle, or more than one? 12 DR. BROWNE-ILES: One and the 13 second -- two. DR. AL-HIBRI: So the burglary was 14 in '83, but it took a while before they started using 15 16 your checks? 17 DR. BROWNE-ILES: The burglary was in the latter part of '83, and this started like the 18 19 early part of '84. And even the check -- now, I 20 don't know whether they -- we sort of discussed 21 whether they was going around stealing checks, 22 depositing people's accounts, and writing checks, 23 because the check that was deposited in my account 24 was a year old. How long was it 25 DR. AL-HIBRI:

between the time you discovered there was a problem 1 with your account, and the time you closed out the 2 account, or the bank closed it out? 3 4 DR. BROWNE-ILES: About three months. 5 6 MR. GALVIN: This is in your papers 7 that you're leaving with us? DR. BROWNE-ILES: 8 Yes. 9 MR. GALVIN: Very good. We'll take those from you. Those are for Mr. Darden. 10 Thank you for coming here. 11 MR. DARDEN: Thank you. 12 Mr. Darden, next person 13 MR. GALVIN: 14 on your list, please? 15 MR. DARDEN: Reverend Helen Williams. 16 17 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. 18 Thank you-all for hearing me. I'm here on behalf of 19 my son, Roy Williams, who is an inmate in City of 20 Newport News Farm. I don't know of any incident of 21 discrimination because I think it's built in the 22 system, you know, and I don't know what he went 23 through in these situations, but my son was a drug addict since 1990. We lost my daughter. 24 They were 25 very close. And somehow he got hooked on drugs.

He's forty-five and he has eight children and a wife and small children from six months to 17, and he has one daughter that's finished college and is married.

He'd had no record of pushing or selling drugs. He was an addict, and it got to the point that he couldn't keep a job because when he'd get paid, he'd go and lose -- get high, or something, and lose his job, so he resorted to shoplifting. Through all of the situations that he's had, he never used a gun, he never harmed no one's body, or broken in, or done anything but go to a store, which is a crime, which he has here in writing he admits what has happened to him to end up in Newport News City Farm, but he's been incarcerated altogether since January of last year.

So in December last year, he was over here in the city jail, and he had a \$7,000 bond, so I came before Judge Morris and asked -- you know, brought my petition before her. His wife was his fiancee at that time. And we talked to her about the situation and she looked at the record and he didn't have any violence whatsoever, so she released him to get -- to us to get drug treatment.

Well, he enrolled in a program and since he had been in here for six weeks, he was

clean, so they kept him 72 hours, and we tried everywhere to get someplace he could get in and get a long time, because he's a good father, he loves his children and all, but we couldn't find any place to take him because he didn't have insurance to cover it whatsoever, but that was his main reason. He's been

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a good person.

And so he winds up back here again, and during that time, of course, he had -- was placed on probation, and he violated that, so he has five He has two one-year sentences and he has two years and six months -- no, he has three years on probation. And he's still at the City Farm, but he's multi-talented, and since he's been there, taken away from the drugs, the true person has come through. son has gone back to the Lord. He has found -- he's taking courses through the Chaplain's Association, and there's a revival up there at the City Farm that Roy Williams is leading. He worked with chaplain. He works with ministers that come in. He teaches the literacy program, and now he's in a parenting program, which they meet, you know, often. They meet with the wives and then they meet separately. was up there last weekend when they had it, and he has truly improved himself.

The only thing he's asking for -and all these references from different officers from
the City Farm telling the certificates in the
ministry that he's taken through the Chaplain's
Association Correspondence since he's been in there,
and we're asking that his sentence be reduced so that
he can go on work release and support his family,
which they're being taken care of now by the state.

And his wife, she's -- I don't know how she's doing it, but she is. She found a job. She went to work for MCI last Monday, and she has a six-month old baby, and I've been writing and trying to help -- with no transportation -- to do whatever I can to help them so she can have some of the nice things for her children. And so if he's allowed to have his sentence reduced, or whatever you-all could help, do for him, so that he can support his own children, contribute to the support, he wants to do that so badly, and I do -- I know in my heart that his trouble was a drug addiction, not that he -- I'm a minister. His father is a deacon. And now he's following in that footstep.

And I just want to read a letter that I have because I can -- I don't have another copy of these, but I can leave these with you-all,

She wants to

but if I can read his letter and mine, and then I can 1 2 leave the rest with you. This is what I wrote to the Court 3 after I received all these recommendations from the 4 officials up there at the City Farm. 5 MS. RATTLEY: Can you just highlight 6 7 that for us rather than reading the whole letter? 8 MR. DARDEN: That's five minutes. Time is up. 9 DR. AL-HIBRI: MS. WILLIAMS: Is it up? Okay. 10 11 don't know whether anything can be done here or not, but I want someone to hear my son and see if we can 12 recycle him to get him back out to be -- to help. 13 14 His wife really needs help with these children, and not only that, she's having problems finding a 15 babysitter for the three smallest ones that's not in 16 17 school, and she went to Social Services, and they 18 said that they would pay for a babysitter, but ones 19 that she's found so far, they're not certified to be

He wants to come out, and he has seen the error of his way, and you'll find in here

different people come in and try to do it until she

babysitters, so this week she had two or three

can get before them to get certified.

work to help take care of her children.

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letters from the -- where he's gone through all the 1 2 phases there of the rehabilitation that's up there. 3 Not only has he helped himself, but he's helping other young men to know through his experience to 4 5 help lead them to a better way of life. 6 inspiration when you go there. I'm so proud of him, 7 and my letter is telling how much I was proud because it had gotten so bad until I -- the last time he was 8 9 caught, I didn't try to get him out. I thank God for 10 taking him off the street until he could find 11 himself, because I know there was a person inside of 12 him that wanted to get out. 13 MS. RATTLEY: If you have any papers 14 to leave, give them to Mr. Darden. I would suggest 15 you try talking to the Judge in the same way you 16 talked to this body and see if you can get an 17 appointment and go in and talk with the Judge. 18 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. Thank you 19 very much. Any specific judge? 20 The judge who MS. RATTLEY: 21 convicted him. 22 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. Thank 23 you. 24 MR. DARDEN: Gene Melton. 25 MS. RATTLEY: Yes, sir.

MR. MELTON: Good afternoon, Lady

Chairman.

MS. RATTLEY: Good afternoon.

MR. MELTON: Distinguished guests, and the general public. I'm here to share with you today, I take pleasure -- it's an honor really to be here today to share with the other people sitting in the audience some of the disparities and injustices that they've experienced, but let me just get at the crux of the situation I have.

Apparently, the system that we have is a workable system; however, a lot of things within the system apparently are broken, and it appears that the mechanic must be out on strike. But at any rate, I have a situation here that I want to shed some light on. We talked primarily this morning about the individual that committed crime and equality within the justice system after the fact.

Let's address some proactive situations that I can use myself to -- as an example in making my point. I served in the military with honor. I rose through the ranks. I was very competitive. I came out in the private sector, and although I was trained to do a mission, I had the tenacity, the willpower to go to the university to be

trained, refined all over again to deal and to compete in the American society, the civilian world. I took on a job. I was successful in that area as well.

So we talked basically about people who were caught after the fact. What do you say about a man who have done the thing, and the American dream that was mentioned by one of the people, or persons, this morning should be afforded each American. Supposing he's able to acquire the job, in essence to reap the benefits, the dollars, to procure those things that we love in life, properties, automobiles, and so forth and so on.

That's great, but say you got those things, you were able to acquire those things. Now you have another evil to deal with, and that evil is doing everything possible to protect what you have. Right here in Virginia, probably all over the country, if not all over the world, people are losing thousands upon thousands of acres of their hard-earned land to those in power through corruption.

Case in point, I have a farm. It's a family farm. There were two tracts to this family farm. I purchased one. Another gentleman purchased

the other. What happened was, people in power working with those so-called business tentacles out there went into the system, altered records, changed the map to coincide with another piece of property that is adjacent to the property that the family owned, and they applied the configuration of the map to your piece of puzzle.

So when I first brought this situation to the proper authority, everybody backed off. But since that time, surveyors have gone in with the hope of substantiating injustices, with the hope of making something that's wrong, right, by coming up with different versions or configurations of maps. But I'm one step ahead, because I was able to get the original of everything that was there prior to them going in.

Problem is, I'm not able to find an attorney in Virginia. I have sought all over the Tidewater area to get help. I've been told it's a bag of worms. I'd like to help you. It's a political thing.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you why it's a political thing. Let me tell you why it's a political thing.

It's a political thing because

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people that were in the local office after I 1 2 contacted my representative, and what have you, 3 things have a tendency to kind of filter out in the community, so the conspirators then had an 4 5 opportunity to get their act in order, and they 6 started what we call the coverup process. 7 are in America. We are supposed to be the 8 government, we, the people. We allow these sissies, 9 these hypocrites, to try to persecute our president, taking our attention away to the evils that are 10 committed right in our midst. These things are 11 12 happening right here in America. 13 I need help, but apparently either 14 those that I ask help from are caught up in the political arena, or maybe there's some fear that they 15 16 can't deal with the pressures that I'm dealing with. 17 I'd like to know which is what. And I do need some 18 help. 19 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much. My question is, this property is in Suffolk, right? 20 21 York? 22 MR. MELTON: I'm not going to 23 discuss where it happened. 24 Oh, okay. MS. RATTLEY: Of course,

to give you help we would have to --

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1 MR. MELTON: Every time I talk, they 2 go and they change something else. And when I go back to my file, what I got here, wasn't like this 3 4 before. Keep in mind, I said --5 MS. RATTLEY: Are they trying to 6 take your property? 7 MR. MELTON: Yes. 8 MS. RATTLEY: They're trying to say that there is a public need for it? 9 10 MR. MELTON: No, nothing of that It's a business individual who is a timber 11 nature. 12 commerce type of business who goes out, and checking the record who has acquired hundreds and thousands of 13 acres of land that he didn't own before. 14 And after I 15 got involved in looking at what was happening to me, 16 then I began to discover what had happened as far as 17 them acquiring all of this land, but he's not doing it by himself. 18 19 MS. RATTLEY: Let me ask you this. 20 You have a title to your property? 21 MR. MELTON: Every attorney, every 22 individual that I talked to asked me the basic things 23 I'm telling you. 24 MS. RATTLEY: But they have turned 25 you down?

1 MR. MELTON: And I'm telling the 2 general public, I'm not talking about generic things. 3 I am not talking about a run-of-the-mill everyday 4 situation. I am talking about a complicated 5 situation in which somebody has altered records, 6 constantly changing the configuration of things to 7 take over what is not theirs. In essence, what I'm 8 saying to you, the configuration of the map that they 9 drew up, it was never recorded in the court; and this individual who owned the property, he took the 10 11 configuration of another piece of parcel and applied to the parcel that I own. But one mistake they made, 12 they put on their parcel the same basic 13 14 configuration, creeks and beds, whatever I had on my 15 property. 16 MS. MCCLOUD: I have one question. You mentioned -- if I understood you correctly, you 17 18 mentioned that this is something that you have been 19 able to determine that's going on not only with you, 20 but with others? 21 MR. MELTON: With other people. 22 MS. MCCLOUD: All right. Could you 23 identify the areas of the city or the --24 MR. MELTON: No, I'm not going to do 25 that, but let me say this. I want you to respect

what I'm asking --1 MS. MCCLOUD: 2 Okay. 3 MR. MELTON -- because of the sensitivity of this issue. I can say this. 4 That one 5 individual who was trespassed on recently, the records reflect that this so-called person that 6 existed, that gave the property, or sold the property 7 to this guy who is working with the power to be to 8 take mine, woke up out of bed one day and gave him a 9 10 deed to this other little piece of parcel. I'm talking about a complicated 11 situation where you have, ladies and gentlemen, total 12 I don't know how else to put it. Total 13 corruption. 14 corruption. 15 We talk about what happens to the little quy when crimes are committed. Hey, I'm 16 17 military-trained, and where I came from in the 18 military, Hey, we all do this together. But in this 19 society, we talk about world order. You know, we 20 talk about world order because we can't get it 21 together here. We need to get it together. 22 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much. 23 MS. MCCLOUD: Sir, we have a 24 question. 25 REVEREND HARRIS: Let me ask you a

question before you qo. You have shared with us some 1 2 of your concerns and conditions and the -- we are 3 conducting a fact-finding conference here, so we're 4 trying to find out how people are being affected in 5 the system at the end. We need to know the information that you are not ready to depart from. 6 7 So --The information that 8 MR. MELTON: you're making reference to -- excuse me, sir, not 9 10 being impolite -- I do have that available in 11 writing. I made mention from the onset, the situation is so sensitive. 12 13 REVEREND HARRIS: 14 MR. MELTON: It's so sensitive, a lot of things that I wish to say, a lot of the 15 questions that I wish to answer, for my safety right 16 17 now, I cannot say that. For my safety, I cannot say that. 18 19 REVEREND HARRIS: Well, what I was 20 going to suggest to you, that since you cannot give 21 up this information presently, that at some other 22 point, some later point --23 Yes, sir. MR. MELTON: 24 REVEREND HARRIS: -- you may be able 25 to give up some more information, and I was going to

suggest that at that time, could you contact our 1 2 staff in Washington so that then your concerns then 3 will become part of the records. All right. What staff 4 MR. MELTON: 5 were you making reference to, sir? 6 REVEREND HARRIS: Our staff over 7 here. MS. RATTLEY: U.S. Commission on 8 9 Civil Rights. If anyone would like 10 MR. PENTINO: 11 to submit any information to us, you want to write this down. We're Eastern Regional Office, U.S. 12 Commission on Civil Rights. 13 MS. RATTLEY: 14 Here's a card. I believe he has other cards. 15 I can't talk on the 16 MR. MELTON: 17 phone either because I'm being tapped. Go ahead. 18 MR. PENTINO: 624 -- U.S. Commission 19 on Civil Rights, 624 Ninth Street, Northwest, 20 Washington, 20425. Thank you, sir. 21 MR. MELTON: I want you to say that 22 because I want to say something to that. 23 submitted something. It's a situation that I have 24 been fighting since 1989. I have even gone on a trip 25 to talk to Reverend Curtis Harris in regard to this

situation, because it's an ongoing situation of 1 2 coverup, trespassing, coverup, trespassing, this 3 criminal activity, per se. 4 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you very much. 5 MR. PENTINO: Next speaker is John 6 Jop. 7 MR. JOP: Good afternoon, panel and chair. 8 9 Good afternoon. MS. RATTLEY: 10 MR. JOP: My name is John, last name 11 I was a cardiac technician for the City of is Jop. 12 Hampton, and there's a few things I want to talk 13 about the federal court system, but I'd like to first 14 address to what happened to this young man over here, 15 this military officer. I was inside with these 16 police officers. I know some of the things that they do, and I can speak for the City of Hampton, but it 17 18 took place in Norfolk. I'm sure it goes on all over 19 the place. 20 In the City of Hampton, they have a 21 code that they use, and how they use this code, they 22 use it over the 911 system, and basically what the 23 code, it's NDC. Can I state what the code is? It's 24 kind of erratic. It stands for "Nigger Driving a 25 Cadillac."

Basically, what that means is there's a black person driving a very expensive car, and that tells the guy in the next sector that he wants backup to come over there because this man is going to pull him over for some reason. And what these officers will do, they'll go over and they'll try to provoke the guy.

And I think there should be a study done to find out how many people stopped in a motor vehicle, especially black residents in Hampton -- not motor vehicle accidents, but motor vehicles stopped and are arrested for assault and battery. I bet you the statistics are just great.

I've got a picture right here that I was involved in one of these incidents. It was a motor vehicle accident. I'd like to show the panel this picture. There was a motor vehicle accident. It was in Hampton. I was on the scene, and in this picture — this was in the Daily Press. It happened in 1995. And my ambulance is in the picture, but I'm not in the picture.

What happened was, we had a chain reaction collision, and what happened was there was three white people involved and one black guy. When we arrived on the scene, it's my job to go and check

on injuries. I have to go check and see if anybody is injured and wants to go to the hospital. I was dealing with this black male. He was driving this Isuzu. You can't really see it. It's a Tracker Isuzu. You can't really see it in the picture, but it's right there.

And his car door is open, and I opened the door to ask him if he was okay. He told me he had neck and back pain. My ambulance is parked over here, so I went to the ambulance to go get a neck collar and a KED, the instruments we use to take people out of vehicles. Well, the next thing I know, four white Hampton police officers — and it's pictured right here — went in, put this guy in handcuffs, grabbed him out of the vehicle. In this picture right here, it shows them. They're getting ready to slam him on the ground. There's the picture, right there.

Now, I went over to the police officers. I said, That guy is hurt. He's got neck and back pain. I need to take him to the hospital. They told me to get away. I asked them, I said, Well, what's his name so I can write in my report? They said, None of your business. And I heard the guy ask, What are you charging me for? They wouldn't

answer him. They slammed him on the ground and they arrested him. Involved in a motor vehicle accident, and he was the first vehicle in line of the motor vehicle accident.

I didn't want to address this. What
I wanted to address was federal courts. We got a
terrible problem going on in the federal courts
around here. Everybody says when you got a problem,
take it to court. Well, if you take it over to court
over here in federal court — and there's been a
number of workers before me, and there will probably
be a number of workers after me. We have all taken
our cases to court over here in federal court and got
the same result, a summary judgment.

I have spent \$26,000 of my own hard-earned money to take it over to court. I've never been able to speak. I've never been able to say anything. I have gone over there and watched the city put on a case and degrade me, degrade my witnesses, and degrade everything, and the Judge listened to them and dismisses my case. I said I never even got -- I never even got to refute what they were saying, never got to say anything, and I paid that attorney good money to represent me.

And when I asked the attorney why he

didn't say anything, he said, Well, there's nothing you can do. You're dealing with a real powerful bureaucracy.

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And let me just give you a few examples. We had a black female that worked in the Public Works Department, and she was raped, sexually assaulted by a white supervisor. She reported it. Guess what happened to her. She was fired. She got So she goes, and goes to EEOC and takes a fired. lawsuit out. Well, EEOC doesn't even do an I've been there. And I'm sure investigation. there's a number of other people that have been through EEOC. They don't do anything. They give you the same cover letter. This girl got the same cover letter I got, and I got my letter right here.

Well, anyway, let me go through this real quick. This girl files a lawsuit. The court sends it over to City of Hampton. City of Hampton loses it. They claim they lost it. Well, federal law states that if you don't respond to a lawsuit by a certain date, the other party automatically wins. Well, this girl automatically won her lawsuit. It even came out in the headlines, states right here, it says, Mistake may cost the City of Hampton five million dollars. She won automatically. Even her

attorneys were celebrating. I knew this girl, talked to her, and she was happy she won five million dollars according to federal law.

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Well, it comes out the City of Hampton goes over to court -- and I don't know what they did. They talked to a judge or whatever. the City -- the Judge just totally had a disregard for the law and now is going to listen to the City's side of this lawsuit. What happened was, this case went to the court, and again the poor girl goes into court, sits there. The City puts on a case, discredits her, discredits everybody, and she gets a summary judgment. She loses. She spends a lot of money to hire an attorney. The Judge never even listened to her. The Judge didn't even follow the letter of law.

I have another case here, a firefighter, a black firefighter in the City of Hampton who was involved in a motor vehicle accident. Hundreds of white guys have been involved in motor vehicle accidents. He was involved in a motor vehicle accident, and they fired him. He went through EEOC, the grievance procedure. he didn't get no justice. Went and hired an attorney, paid \$26,000, Saad Alamine (phonetic) up in Richmond.

Same thing happened. Didn't even get to speak in court. Went to court, summary judgment. Another one loses.

Tive got a terrible case right here. This is real sad. And I'm trying to get this lady some help, but I don't know what more I can do to help her. Her two children -- they had a fire at 309 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hampton, right across the street from the fire station. Her two children were in this fire. Two -- I want to say 30 seconds into this fire, there was over 26 firefighters on the scene. This is a very small house. It's a ranch-style house, typical three-bedroom, one bathroom. It's a very small -- I think they even call it a cottage, not a ranch. They call it a cottage, very small house like a vacation house.

Well, when the firefighters arrived on the scene, they waited 16 minutes while these children screamed for their lives inside that house before they did anything. They stood outside and waited. They didn't do anything, and this is documented that they waited 16 minutes. They did nothing.

The woman managed to escape. The mother managed to escape and she was outside. She

heard her children screaming. Neighbors heard the children screaming. Neighbors and the mother tried to go in the home to rescue the children because the firefighters weren't doing nothing but joking and smoking outside. Didn't do anything. Didn't even hook up to the fire hydrants, didn't do nothing.

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So what ended up happening is the firefighters had to restrain the mother and restrain the neighbors. Well, the two children were burnt to death.

What ended up happening is they had a meeting over at the Wythe Fire Station over in Wythe, Station Number 3 on Kecoughtan Road, right in front of where this fire happened, and high officials from the City of Hampton came over there, and they were talking about what happened. They wanted to know why the firefighters didn't do anything. Well, I can't tell you what's on the tape recorder, because I never heard it, but one firefighter went up there with a tape recorder and tape recorded the whole conversation. This mother was outraged, because the firefighter gave the tape to her. Her attorney was outraged in this case. So they filed a lawsuit. I have the lawsuit right here.

This case went to court, didn't even

1 get heard, summary judgment. Appealed, summary 2 judgment. You cannot be heard. I want --3 MR. DARDEN: Mr. Jop, can you sum 4 up, please? 5 MR. JOP: Okay. I want to state real quickly here, in the City of Hampton, when you 6 7 do have a case, this is what happens to you. This is This is my fire chief. 8 the fire chief. His name is 9 Gregory Cane. This is a sworn deposition that he had given talking about this house fire, and he went to 10 all the firefighters that were involved in this and 11 put a gag order on everybody, told them not to talk 12 13 to anybody. The investigator that investigated these firefighters found the city negligent of these two 14 15 children's deaths. There were firefighters that 16 filed reports and everything. 17 All these reports were gathered up 18 and destroyed and the fire chief put a memo out, and 19 I'm going to just state real quickly what he said in 20 his deposition. 21 "Are you familiar with the incident 22 or fire at Pennsylvania Avenue in which two kids died 23 in a house fire?" 24 "Yes, I am." 25 "When did that occur, roughly?"

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1 "I believe in 1993." 2 "With respect to that incident, did you tell firefighters and other members of your staff 3 not to discuss the incident?" 4 "Based on recommendation from the 5 6 City Attorney's Office, I advised everyone in the 7 department they were not to discuss the case." "Would that be commonly referred to 8 9 as a gag order?" 10 "I don't know if it's commonly 11 referred to as a gag order to it, but I did put out a 12 memorandum telling the firefighters they could not discuss the case." 13 That's intimidating witnesses. 14 15 don't care what anybody says. That's a felony right 16 there. And they get away with it. 17 Now, this poor lady lost her two 18 children and can't even get heard in a court of law 19 around here. There's a lot of us that can't get 20 heard in a court of law. 21 My case is outstanding. I've been 22 trying to get an attorney to take on the case. Thev 23 look at my case and say, Man, you've got a great 24 As soon as I say it's against the City of

Hampton, they back off and say, We can't touch it.

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They won't even deal with it. I can't go anywhere. 1 2 MR. DARDEN: Mr. Jop, can I save some time for the Committee members to ask a few 3 questions? 4 5 MR. JOP: Yes. 6 MR. DARDEN: Do you have any 7 questions for him? We do have to move on because we have a lot lined up. 8 9 MR. JOP: We need help on this stuff. The community needs help on this stuff, and 10 11 I'm an eyewitness for this. I have a lot of documents to prove that this stuff is going on, and I 12 13 wish someone would do something. MR. PENTINO: Thank you. 14 Paul 15 Blowe. 16 My name is Paul Blowe, MR. BLOWE: 17 and I'm 49 years old. I'm a registered master barber 18 in Norfolk, Virginia. And in 1991, I leased a barber 19 shop in a small shopping center, and I had an attorney to write the owner of the property to notify 20 him the condition it was in. Building is probably 21 22 about a hundred years old, little, small shopping 23 center, and it was leaking. And once the city 24 inspectors notified him in '92 that it needed to be 25 repaired, he never repaired it.

1 Come 1994, it collapsed while we were working, and I was taking him to court on it, 2 the lower court, general district court. 3 attorney and the landlord's attorney had a retired 4 5 judge to come and hear the case. In the State of Virginia, for some reason, attorneys are allowed to 6 7 continue cases until they can appoint a judge that's 8 retired off the bench and come in and just rule 9 outside the law, and I don't quess he can be charged with it. 10 11 Anyway, I have documents of the 12 lower court. The Judge informed me that while the property is being repaired by the owner, that I 13

Anyway, I have documents of the lower court. The Judge informed me that while the property is being repaired by the owner, that I should have gone somewhere else and got a job and came back and hope the owner fixed his property, that I was paying \$800 a month. And, two, when I leased --

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MS. RATTLEY: Paying how much?

MR. BLOWE: \$800 per month.

MS. RATTLEY: \$800?

MR. BLOWE: Yes. I found out that he was charging me double the amount the rest of the tenants out there paying. Everybody else out there was paying \$400 a month, and from '91 until '94, he had raised my rent all the way to \$800.

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And after the lower court ruled for me to get out of the property, we had the city inspector that testified that he had been notified to fix the property. He notified his insurance company, and they came in after the city inspector had been in and gave him notice that he was violating certain And after they notified him that he was codes. violating certain codes, he called his insurance company. His insurance company comes in with experts, without notifying me that they were going to investigate, because I was operating the shop every day, every day until the accident. And once the accident, the city code told me don't operate it no more until they fix it or somebody else could get hurt.

And he brought in his insurance company, brought in investigators, and this is the evidence they used in court, was evidence that they went in and manufactured, so this led from the lower court to the high court, and when I got to -- not high court, circuit court.

I heard the panel state then that we have rights to go from each one level to the other one, but in the State of Virginia, the Supreme Court really upholds the lower court, don't care how

corrupt the rules, don't care how wrong it is, they uphold it here in Virginia. So this led to me even going to jail, because when I refused to accept \$2,000, and I had over \$25,000 worth of damage to my property and loss of business -- I was out of business for something like six months before we got to court, and I was still paying rent as I couldn't work.

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For the Judge to tell me I should have gone somewhere else and got a job -- so I got documents here, and I got a copy of when I was The landlord's attorney filed a summary arrested. judgment like the total was -- asked for a summary judgment for me to pay the landlord \$9,000, and when the court denied it, he came outside the court and asked me if I would take \$2,000 and move. So when I refused, me and him got into an argument. He goes back in the courtroom and tells the Judge I threatened him. His word against my word. I goes to jail.

One bad thing the court here in

Norfolk does is after the case is heard, they tells

the attorney to prepare a order, and the attorney

goes and prepares an order, you know, anything he

wants to add that didn't even happen in court, and

the Judge signs it. 1 2 MS. RATTLEY: Are there any Thank you very much. Just one comment. 3 questions? 4 You're going to give those papers to him? Do you 5 have another copy? 6 MR. BLOWE: Yes, ma'am. 7 MS. RATTLEY: You kept --8 MR. BLOWE: Yes, ma'am. 9 MS. RATTLEY: From what you have 10 said, it appears to me that you need to go on with 11 your appeals. You went to the circuit court, you 12 say? MR. BLOWE: Yes, ma'am. I have 13 spent something like twenty-some thousand dollars in 14 15 attorney's fees, and this landlord's attorney, what 16 he's using is the evidence that they have 17 manufactured and obtained illegally. 18 Do you have a good MS. RATTLEY: 19 lawyer? 20 MR. BLOWE: No, I had nine. 21 MS. RATTLEY: You had nine? 22 MR. BLOWE: Nine attorneys. And 23 this is what this landlord's attorney is using to 24 make them want them accept the case. He tells them 25 the kind of evidence he got, some experts, which is

1	illegal really.
2	MS. RATTLEY: Sir, when did this
3	take place?
4	MR. BLOWE: '94. So I appealed
5	MS. RATTLEY: You live in Norfolk?
6	MR. BLOWE: Yes, ma'am. I appealed
7	that all the way to the Supreme Court.
8	MS. RATTLEY: State Supreme Court?
9	MR. BLOWE: Yes. And the last
10	attorney that I had, I paid him \$3,200, and he forgot
11	to notify the opposite attorney that he was using the
12	transcript in the case, which was defenseless.
13	DR. AL-HIBRI: Have you done
14	anything about that?
15	MR. BLOWE: I went to court last
16	week, and the court appellate court, because I did
17	want to turn it back, but they
18	MS. RATTLEY: You got no
19	consideration?
20	MR. BLOWE: No.
21	DR. AL-HIBRI: Is there legal aid in
22	your community so that you can get legal help without
23	spending a lot of your money?
24	MR. BLOWE: Yeah, but they didn't
25	take mine.

1	MR. GALVIN: They don't deal with
2	civil matters.
3	MS. RATTLEY: Do you live in
4	Norfolk?
5	MR. BLOWE: Yes, ma'am.
6	MS. RATTLEY: What is your status
7	now? Are you out of the building?
8	MR. BLOWE: Yes.
9	MS. RATTLEY: Were you able to get
10	another location?
11	MR. BLOWE: I have bought another
12	barber shop, and the Judge informed me I already had
13	a barber shop so
14	MS. RATTLEY: What does that mean?
15	MR. BLOWE: Good question.
16	MS. RATTLEY: Would you please turn
17	over to the staff person what you have there. Why
18	don't you give him your complete name and address in
19	Norfolk and a telephone number.
20	MR. BLOWE: I thank you.
21	MR. DARDEN: Frederick Overby.
22	Frederick Overby. David Williams.
23	MR. WILLIAMS: My name is David
24	Williams, and I would like to talk about a horrific
25	incident that took place in Newport News last year,

an act of urban terrorism that seems to permeate our city.

On May 5th, 1996, I was arrested in front of my door in Newport News, Virginia. After I was incarcerated, my name was deliberately altered on the warrant that was served me, as well as the property-intake form. Earlier that morning, I sustained a severe knee injury resulting from an altercation with two police officers that assaulted me. I was denied immediate care from a qualified physician.

On or about 5 a.m. I was able to contact my sister, Ms. Shirley Davis. I summoned her to the lockup facility to pick up my belongings so she could obtain \$1,500 cash to post my bail. It was then that my right of due process was denied.

When my sister returned, the magistrate began blocking every attempt to disrupt my legal departure.

For three days, she and my mother and a host of my family were told lies about my status in jail. They were told I had been bonded out; the picture identification that they brought didn't look like me; and they couldn't find the paperwork to process; and they had no such person

there in jail.

Now, during this entire ordeal, I've been suffering with pain, freezing from the intense cold without a blanket in an overcrowded cell. The third day of incarceration, my relatives had to draw from all their options to rescue me and sought the services of Epstein, bondsman.

She informed -- she was informed by the sheriff department clerk on duty that I was released at eleven o'clock. She emphatically refused to meet Shirley at the other building and Mr. Terry Ferguson was watching the whole ordeal that my family was going through, and he offered his services to expedite my release.

Now, the conspiracy heats up. The character assassination was employed by the magistrate to sabotage his --

MS. RATTLEY: Speak a little louder, please.

MR. WILLIAMS: I'll repeat that for you. Now the conspiracy heats up. The character assassination to gain -- was employed by the magistrate division to sabotage his attempt to gain my release, and Mr. Ferguson was told that I had caught AIDS to discourage him from assisting in my

release. Here was a blatant attempt to demolish my Constitutional right of due process.

As witnessed by bail bondsman and my family, they would stop at nothing to keep him from ending my unlawful detainment. The most contemptuous of all in this deceit was a Juvenile and Domestic Court Judge who said, I'm aware of the problem with your ID, and I will not get involved in this matter between you and the magistrate.

All you need is one piece of ID to identify yourself. These fingerprints were taken over 20 years ago by the United States Government. I served in the military three years, so they knew who I was in three seconds, plus I had my ID with me, my driver's license and birth certificate in my wallet.

I was subsequently abandoned in the courthouse holding cell while three deputies ended their shift and they left the building after telling me they would be back with a wheelchair.

A conscientious deputy saw them as they were getting off and conferred with them briefly and went about his way to check the cells one more time before he made his rounds, and he saw me alone in a drafty cell with no provisions for sustenance or pain, and he allowed me to limp on his shoulder from

this courthouse building all the way back to lockup. 1 2 I had a torn ligament. My knee was this big by the time Oscar Blayton of the NAACP 3 attorney called and had me released in 15 minutes. 4 This is after almost three days of incarceration in 5 6 intense pain. Now, this is a problem that any 7 black man faces here in Newport News. You will not 8 9 see justice done in these so-called hallowed halls. You talk about persecution. I was arrested twice for 10 a capias in which I had handed the courtroom, days 11 before trial, documentation that I would be at a 12 doctor's appointment. That form got lost. 13 14 issued a capias, had me arrested. There I was back 15 in jail without a mattress to lay on. 16 Freezing again. No medication, didn't see a 17 physician. 18 These are the things a black man has to deal with here in this town, and it's not much 19 20 different in Hampton either. 21 MS. RATTLEY: Can you tell us the time frame? 22 23 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. This was May And I want you to remember Cynthia 24 5th of 1996. 25 Marie Jones. This was the young lady that I was

accused of assaulting, in which they filed charges 1 2 twice on assault and battery, which is another 3 Constitutional violation of my rights, let's say double jeopardy, filing charges twice. 4 Cynthia Marie Jones is dead today 5 because the state kept hiding her to avoid my 6 7 prosecuting her. I told them Ms. Jones had a 8 substance abuse problem. They kept hiding her and 9 hiding her and they refused to allow me to prosecute her for stealing a \$2,000 computer from my home and 10 half of the electronics equipment in my home, but 11 because she was their witness for an alleged assault 12 and battery, they wouldn't allow me access to 13 14 prosecute her. I informed the detective when he 15 16 contacted me that I didn't want to prosecute her, I wanted to get her some help, get her in a hospital. 17 18 But they kept hiding Ms. Jones. Now Cynthia Marie 19 Jones is dead, leaving three children and a 20 grandchild behind. 21 One minute, please. MR. DARDEN: 22 That concludes my MR. WILLIAMS: 23 statement. 24 MS. RATTLEY: Did she die of an

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overdose?

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I wasn't able to get 2 details on her death because when they found her body, they said she had died in a suspicious manner, 3 but I wasn't able to get any other information on 4 5 that. 6 MS. RATTLEY: How old was she? MR. WILLIAMS: 7 43 -- 39; 38, 39. 8 MS. RATTLEY: So where do you stand 9 now? 10 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, where we stand 11 right now is I had contacted the FBI when I was 12 released from jail. Ms. Beth O'Bryan didn't do an 13 investigation at all. She asked me to find witnesses that saw the police jump me. She claims she saw a 14 15 report and that I would receive a letter. I haven't 16 received a letter yet to ascertain what the status of 17 my case is. 18 MS. RATTLEY: Did you have legal 19 counsel through all of this? 20 MR. WILLIAMS: Not really. 21 represented myself mostly throughout the criminal 22 I obtained Lawrence Lipka to represent me 23 on one charge of what they call obstruction of I brought Mrs. Jones' daughter from 24 justice. Blacksburg, Virginia to testify on my behalf. 25 Ħе

1	never even called her. So I was found guilty of that
2	charge. But for the assault and battery, Ms. Jones
3	died before they
4	MS. RATTLEY: What is your status
5	now?
6	MR. WILLIAMS: My status right now
7	is the criminal matter has been dispensed with since
8	they could not prosecute it because Ms. Jones died,
9	and right now I'm seeking counsel to take the
10	Newport News to court for the things they did to me.
11	MS. RATTLEY: You don't have an
12	appeal in the works?
13	MR. WILLIAMS: No, ma'am.
14	MS. RATTLEY: You want to prove that
15	the City was
16	MR. WILLIAMS: Negligent.
17	MS. RATTLEY: negligent by
18	design, they persecuted you?
19	MR. WILLIAMS: Right.
20	MS. RATTLEY: All right. You leave
21	that with him.
22	MR. WILLIAMS: I've also been left
23	crippled in my knee.
24	MS. RATTLEY: In your leg?
25	MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, ma'am.
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1	MS. RATTLEY: And, of course, you've
2	gotten medical care?
3	MR. WILLIAMS: Well, thanks to my
4	stint in the military, VA performed the surgery to
5	correct the torn ligament and the cartilage damage,
6	but they did say there's no guarantee I'll ever be
7	the same again.
8	MS. RATTLEY: Do you have any
9	problem proving where that injury took place?
10	MR. WILLIAMS: No problem at all
11	because the night that I was attacked, my knee the
12	ligament was torn that night, and when I got out, I
13	went straight to the hospital. My knee was this big,
14	and I went straight to my parents took me to the
15	hospital and they did x-rays and they bandaged me up
16	and tried to get me set up for an MRI. That took
17	months. And it was established that I had a torn
18	ligament, and they performed the surgery.
19	Had it not been for the VA, I would
20	probably be dead today with gangrene or something.
21	MS. RATTLEY: Thank you.
22	MR. WILLIAMS: You're welcome,
23	ma'am.
24	MR. DARDEN: Sheila Bryant. Sheila
25	Bryant.

MS. BRYANT: My name is Sheila Bryant, and I'm 45 years old.

MS. RATTLEY: You don't look it.

MS. BRYANT: I'm here on behalf of my son. My son is in Powhatan Correctional Center, and he's been there almost five years now, and he's there for armed robbery. And his father, who he's only spent thirty days of his whole entire life with, went to prison when he was 11 months old, and I raised Larry by myself, and I also raised my daughter by myself.

And when his father got out of prison, Larry was almost 18 years old, and when he came to Larry, he came to Larry and he took him out and got involved in robbing and stealing, and for one month out of Larry's whole entire life, he winds up in jail, and he's — right now he's doing 97 years, and his father told him, Don't tell that he had anything to do with the robbery because they would throw the book at him, but they threw the book at my son.

And I told Larry -- it was like four robberies, and I told him, I said, Why are you getting all the time and your daddy isn't getting anything? He said, Daddy told me not to say he had

anything to do with it because he was going to get a lawyer and get him out.

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And I told him -- it was his third trial, and I said, Larry, I want you to tell everything you know. If your dad was involved in this stuff, tell. So he told, and his dad got thirty years and Larry is doing 97 years. And where Larry is right now, I go see him all the time, and I don't like the prison that he's in now. He's been in several ones, but this one, every time I go to see him, there's always something because -- it's always hard for me to get in to see him, and they make me stand outside in the cold. And once they had me take off my shoes to go through this detector to see if you're carrying any weapons or anything. get inside, then I have to wait again.

And once when I went to see Larry,
they told me that Larry wasn't there and he was
someplace else and they had moved him, and I said,
Well, Larry didn't tell me or call me and tell me
that they were moving him someplace. And they told
me to come back later, another day, because it's like
a weekend and the person I needed to talk to wasn't
there. And I didn't go anywhere, so I walked around
to a lot of the buildings trying to find out where

Larry was, and it was cold outside, and I finally found out where he was. He was in the same building, but they said that they had added a C-1 onto his number.

And every time I go to that prison, it seems like I'm in prison because it's always something, and he tells me things like, Mom, they don't give me proper sheets. They don't do this. They don't do that. And he's a veterinarian (sic) and they don't give him certain foods. He can't go to school. He can't do this. He can't do that.

And I always talk to the warden, and every time I talk to the warden, he tells me none of that is going on here. He's getting proper care, and he's this, and he's that.

And on this past Christmas, Larry told me they moved him to another cell, and in this cell, he said, Mom, it was cold. He said, There is a draft coming in through the window. And he said, I am cold. And he caught a cold. And when I went to see him, he was all sick and everything. I went to the warden and told him -- I said, Warden, my son is sick. I said, You-all put him in a cold cell. Now he's sick and he has an ear infection and he's coughing, and he told me he would check into it.

He hadn't

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And I called back Larry. checked into it. I went back down there again. Larry still didn't look good. He was still sick. called the warden, talked to him on the phone, and he is always telling me that he's going to check into things, but he never really checks into things. last time I talked to Larry, Larry told me they had 8 to come and get him, take him out on a stretcher because he was so weak and so sick. And I told the warden about this, and he said, Well, nobody told me 10 they had to take him out on a stretcher. 11 12 supposed to report these things to me. And half of the stuff that goes on, the warden doesn't even know 13

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about it.

Where is he? MS. RATTLEY:

MS. BRYANT: He's in Powhatan, Powhatan Correctional Center, and I just think that there's something that needs to be done, and he's got

19 charges that Larry told me he didn't even do.

20 said when he went to court, they got him down for

21 charges -- robbery charge that he didn't even do.

22 And I just want to have another trial, and I need

help and I don't know how to go about doing all these 23

things, and my son got all this time. He didn't hurt

anybody. Nobody was hurt. I mean, I know he did wrong, and I know he shouldn't have did what his father told him to do. He just wanted to spend time with his dad because he didn't know the man. And his father couldn't possibly love him to take him out there and do these things. And I told Larry, I said, It's just bad you're in a situation like this. His whole life is all messed up because he spent thirty days with his dad, and his life is all over. And they gave him all this time and gave his dad thirty years, and he's going to be out before Larry gets out, and he's the one responsible for influencing Larry this way, and I really don't know what to do.

I really don't have any money. I just need some help, if you-all know something that you can do for me and talk to that warden down there and tell them at least do things that they say they're going to do, and give the boy proper clean sheets. He don't get a chance to go outside. He said, Mom, I haven't been outside in such and such a time.

They put him in restriction or isolation, or whatever you call it, but he was there from the last prison that he was in. And when they sent him to this prison, he had been there like six

months, and he said, Mom, they won't take me off 1 2 segregation. They said that there are other guys in here that did a lot more than they have. 3 4 MR. DARDEN: Time. 5 MS. BRYANT: And I haven't had any 6 charges since I been here. Well, I quess that's it 7 so --MS. RATTLEY: All right. Are there 8 9 any questions? 10 I have a piece of paper MS. BRYANT: here with my name and my phone number on here, and 11 Larry's address where he is, anything like that, if 12 somebody wants to contact me, call me and let me know 13 14 how they can help me or get something more for my 15 son. 16 MS. RATTLEY: Give that to Mr. 17 Darden. Thank you. 18 MR. DARDEN: Clarence Pierce. 19 MR. PIERCE: Good evening, Lady 20 Chairman and other board members. I'm here today on 21 behalf of some nephews of mine. 22 MS. RATTLEY: How many? 23 MR. PIERCE: And a friend of Two. 24 theirs, had an altercation, supposedly a shooting in 25 the Newsome Park area in 1994, which in turn, when

the shooting took place, however, it was stated that there was a drive-by, no one seen anyone, okay. The shooting took place right across the street from where my nephews were living at, but it was in the summertime. There was a whole bunch of people out there. There was a whole bunch of people so-called seeing the individuals that supposedly did the shooting. The statements were given to the police

department which was in the newspaper.

However, three young man is not so stupid they're going to take and shoot someone and just live across the street and there's a bunch of people that can identify them, stated that they had hoods on. And these young men that supposedly did the shooting that was stated by one of the witnesses, didn't never even check into that.

However, this is the end result, not to take up a whole lot of time. My nephews were sentenced on circumstantial evidence. There was no motive, no opportunity for them to get involved with a situation that — just a random shooting. They wasn't even in the area. The witnesses that they had from the areas that they was located in at the time this took place, all these people's statements and things, or witnesses' statements, was on the stand,

was just discarded. It wasn't -- just like it wasn't even there. And as far as the prosecution is concerned, had a paid informant, okay, a paid informant.

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The name that was mentioned by one of the people that said he knew the individual that seen him and spoke to one of them, said the name was "Mookie" and described and named some other individuals. None of these individuals, you understand, name was "Mookie."

One of my nephews' name is "Moochie", which in turn lives right across the street from where the shooting took place. My youngest nephew was only 15 years of age The youngest boy was -- mother -- when at the time. they came to the house for him, they came there, the officers did. They didn't inform my sister or my nephews of any rights at all. They just only said, We'd like to take and speak to your son Daryl, and asked to speak to him. Said, Was it all right if we take and talk to him outside. They carry him across They didn't inform her that she could have an town. attorney present, that they could be present, or I was there, and they didn't do anything, and they didn't document that they did do anything.

1 MS. RATTLEY: Did they have an 2 attorney? 3 MR. PIERCE: Huh? MS. RATTLEY: Did they have an 4 5 attorney? 6 MR. PIERCE: Sure, they had paid an 7 Not only had they -- also had paid private investigator, because the police department do not 8 9 investigate anything that can try to clear you. only take and do the job that they arrest you and try 10 11 to get you locked up. 12 And the court system is run the same way, because all the inconsistencies that was in the 13 14 trial that was given, the boys are sitting on the stand giving one statement, then another statement 15 16 how it was stopped. In one trial, the Judge asked, 17 Well, what statement is true? The boys turned around and tell the Judge that either one you want to take. 18 19 You know, if you see the transcripts, it's just 20 ludicrous to even think they could actually be in the penitentiary for anything, for what they were charged 21 22 with. 23 The oldest boy, he received life, 78 years, and a quarter-of-a-million-dollar fine. 24 25 baby boy received 130 years. The other friend of

theirs got 114 years, you know, and they didn't have 1 2 any concrete evidence that they did anything; and 3 they had a lot of conflicting statements from 4 different people that was there, and they caught 5 individuals in lies and things, and all that was 6 conspiracy. 7 MS. RATTLEY: When did this take 8 place? 9 Here in Newport News in MR. PIERCE: 94. 10 1.1 MS. RATTLEY: '94. 12 MR. PIERCE: Yes. And my oldest nephew, he had been back on retrial, and upon the 13 14 retrial, when he came back, when he sent his papers 15 to the appeals board, the appeals board sent the 16 letter to the Judge -- I don't have the papers in 17 front of me, but we do have them -- stated to the 18 Judge, the Judge in the transcript stated to the

Judge that the judge said that -- to Middlebrook, which was the prosecuting attorney, Well, I am on the line here, and said what the appeals board says here, you know, there is something really wrong with this case, and said, when you come in here, when you come back in court, you better have your stuff right.

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Middlebrook resigned, which hit the

newspaper the very next day. He resigned that evening. The next day he left town.

And it's really something wrong with the justice system in Newport News, not only here, a lot of other places as well, but this is a case that really needs to be looked into. There's enough inconsistencies, and don't no one judge want to take and overturn another judge's decision, you know.

And I mean, it is just pitiful, you know. I mean, all the things that you think that you can do, you're still not doing anything because you say something, they're just going to pass the buck, you know, and you really not getting anything done.

I mean, it's basically torn my family apart to think that they're in prison like this and they're buried alive, all this time that they have for something they didn't even do.

MS. RATTLEY: Do you have anything in writing?

MR. PIERCE: I don't have anything here with me in writing. I just came to state these facts that I have, but I can get something from you-all to where I can take and send whatever, take and verify things that I'm saying.

MS. RATTLEY: We have your statement

FOX REPORTING

down. 1 2 MR. HARRIS: What's the age of your 3 two nephews? 4 MR. PIERCE: He's about 28 now, and 5 the -- Daryl, he just turned 18. He was 15 when he was locked up. 6 7 MS. RATTLEY: He was 15 when it happened. 8 9 REVEREND HARRIS: Was he tried as a juvenile? 10 11 MR. PIERCE: He was tried as an 12 He went to juvenile, and when they went to juvenile, his case should have been dismissed there, 13 14 you know. If you see the transcript, the facts 15 showed it should have been dismissed because if it 16 had been -- he was taken the very same night over 17 there. The boys stated Daryl was taken standing over 18 top of him. One boy said that he was shot in the 19 He didn't see him shoot it, but he said he saw him standing over top of him shooting. 20 21 They carried him over for forensics 22 test for qun powder residue, and he had none 23 whatsoever. And they didn't ask or request to carry 24 him anywhere, even though they did this here and they

came back and said the test was negative.

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burns, you just can't wash it away. However, he didn't do this anyway. The boys are not crazy. They're not little kids, you know.

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If I live right across the street here, right at the courthouse across the street, I'm certainly not going to come in here and just go off and shoot somebody, and run back across the street where I live at under cover where somebody is going to recognize me and say, Oh, I know him. I'm going to go over there like I didn't do anything. is they was totally railroaded and just nothing can I don't care who you speak to here, and if be done. you don't really make -- the money that you spend, the money that has been spent, you know, the lawyers that they had actually broke. They did what they could do and all, but the judge just overrule. State the fact this case nolle prosse, dismissed for whatever reason, and they had substantial ground at the time that they said this here. The judge They want to just go ahead and pass the overruled. case on. We got somebody for it. And that's it. REVEREND HARRIS: Can you tell me if, in your opinion, that they were treated the way

MR. PIERCE: True. True.

they were treated because of their race?

MR. HARRIS: Can you tell us how?

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counsel, you know.

MR. PIERCE: Well, for one thing, 2

They they're treated this way because they're black. don't have any money. They can't hire truly independent counsel to take and come in, you understand, and fight their case like it supposed to be fought. And for them to take and have a good counselor, come in, when they take and speak towards the bench, the counsel will be recognized in what he says, you understand, because he's a top-notch

And it's another thing -- it's I mean, it's put a lot of stress on something else. This basically, like I was saying to you, I know for a fact my youngest nephew, which was 15 years old at the time, he was taken out of the home. asked -- I mean he was asked by my sister -- I mean to my sister by one of the officers, was it all right if we take and speak to him outside for a moment. She said, Sure. He said, Darryl, you want to go? Yeah, I ain't did nothing. Went outside, they put him in the car and brought him across town and they didn't inform him of none of his rights, about what his rights were, and decided that they brought him over here, and that's when the qun powder residue --

1 MS. RATTLEY: You did pass the 2 appeal period, or did you appeal? 3 MR. PIERCE: Filed the appeal and the appeal was denied. 4 5 MS. RATTLEY: All right. 6 MR. PIERCE: As far as filing a writ 7 of habeas corpus because it was denied, you know, I mean, however he hasn't received any reason why he 8 9 was denied. All right. 10 MS. RATTLEY: 11 MR. PIERCE: This is what I'm 12 saying. I would like to take -- as far as letting me know how it's being carried here, what could we 13 possibly do? Is there anything that, you know, I or 14 my family can do towards writing to the Justice 15 16 Department in Washington where they will take a look 17 at this case and see that justice be done? 18 MS. RATTLEY: We have your 19 transcript, and it will be made part of the record. 20 MR. PIERCE: You know, the facts to 21 show whether or not, just saying, it's just word of 22 mouth. 23 We have your record, MS. RATTLEY: 24 and if you want to give more information, you can 25 send it to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and

1	Mr. Darden would be pleased to give you the address.
2	There were some cards out there with the address on
3	it. Maybe they're all gone. I think that would be
4	the wise thing to do.
5	Would you take his address, please.
6	MR. DARDEN: I've already provided
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8	MR. PIERCE: I have one of the
9	envelopes as far as concerning me, as far as a
10	complaint that I had personally, but I was talking
11	about as of now about the complaints, the injustice
12	that has been done to my sister's kids.
13	MR. DARDĒN: Meet me to the side.
14	DR. AL-HIBRI: May I ask a
15	procedural question?
16	MS. RATTLEY: Yes.
17	DR. AL-HIBRI: I'm not sure anymore
18	how we were supposed to conclude at 3:30, and I
19	believe we still have a long list. I just want to
20	know what's the procedure from here on.
21	MS. RATTLEY: How many do we have
22	now?
23	MR. DARDEN: That's Mr. Pierce. We
24	have Stewart Fleming. Would you tell me if you're
25	here, please?

1	MR. FLEMING: Yes, I'm here.
2	MR. DARDEN: Jerome Neal?
3	MR. NEAL: Here.
4	MR. DARDEN: Mike Preston? Henry
5	Upton?
6	MR. UPTON: Here.
7	MR. DARDEN: Reginald Mitchell?
8	MR. MITCHELL: Here.
9	MR. DARDEN: Pamela Brisco? James
10	Cousin? Bill Hines?
11	MR. HINES: I'm going to withdraw.
12	MR. DARDEN: Deon Robinson?
13	MR. ROBINSON: Right here.
14	MR. DARDEN: That sounds like
15	what did I count, five?
16	MS. RATTLEY: Thereabouts. Now, you
17	asked for procedure. If any of you have to leave, I
	asked for procedure. If any or you have to reave, I
18	would understand that. Most of you are going to
18 19	
	would understand that. Most of you are going to
19	would understand that. Most of you are going to catch a plane, or you have to get out of the area by
19 20	would understand that. Most of you are going to catch a plane, or you have to get out of the area by a certain time in order to get home by a certain
19 20 21	would understand that. Most of you are going to catch a plane, or you have to get out of the area by a certain time in order to get home by a certain time.
19 20 21 22	would understand that. Most of you are going to catch a plane, or you have to get out of the area by a certain time in order to get home by a certain time. I will sit here and listen, and if

1 DR. AL-HIBRI: Sure. So at least it will 2 MS. RATTLEY: 3 all be a part --MR. FLEMING: I won't take more than 4 two or three minutes. 5 6 MS. RATTLEY: Because one member had 7 to leave in order to catch his plane. All right. Mr. Fleming. 8 I spoke to you 9 MR. FLEMING: 10 yesterday, and I just wanted to reiterate, you-all 11 are here concerning matters related to discrimination 12 and the justice system. The matter that I provided 13 significant written information about concerns 14 discrimination and the value of property. 15 What we see here in Newport News is 16 the city itself taking advantage of the most 17 powerless who live in the -- how about the southeastern community of the city, regardless of 18 19 what race they have, and the advantage is all going 20 to the most powerful. They don't live in the 21 southeast community. This discrimination is 22 evidenced in City records that are required by state 23 law to be maintained by the City. The City of Newport News refuses to make those records available 24 25 to the people that are entitled to see them.

really great. You get to control the records that prove you're guilty, and therefore they say nobody can prove us guilty. It's really super.

I have tremendous sympathy for all the other people that were here. They are being taken advantage of right and left. I'm asking this Commission to use your power to bring somebody into this city from the outside and determine whether or not property in this city is being valued for what it is capable of selling for. I've spent five years looking at that one thing, and I know that tremendous disparities exist.

It's not -- they're not off by ten percent. They're off by 500 percent in many situations, and when it comes to the people in the southeast community, those are the people who have been rendered powerless to do anything about it at every step in the process.

This process was created by the legislature. It just doesn't work in Newport News. It doesn't work. Why? Because the people that are required to enforce it, won't enforce it on themselves. These are the city authorities. Nobody makes them obey the law. There's a whole lot of laws on the books that require the city authorities to do

certain things, but nobody makes them do them.

There's no enforcement of those statutes.

And you can't get it into court to get it enforced by the courts. The court won't hear the case. Mr. Palmer was here. He told you. He's been in court since 1991. The City of Newport News uses their legal power, uses their city attorneys, whose salaries I'm paying and Mr. Palmer is paying and you're paying, Ms. Rattley, to keep it from coming before the court. The court never hears it.

And then if they can get it to the court on their terms, a summary judgment. It's in the city's favor every single time because they've made it so expensive, you can't possibly bring in the evidence that the judge requires.

Now, the Shipyard, they went to court, too. And the Shipyard won, but the City kept them in court for five years and then settled with them out of court. What was the settlement? They reduced the Shipyard's tax assessment by \$230,000,000. You think the City's losing that money? No, no, no. They raised the tax rate on everybody else by a nickel. They got the same amount of money from all the other people that they were losing from the Shipyard.

Well, this year the Shipyard's property has gone down in value again. It went down by another 73 million dollars this year. Why can't I get my house to go down in value? Why can't one of these people down in the East End get their house to just be valued for what it can sell for, not \$75,000. It ought to be valued for what it might actually bring in the market. The City is extorting that money every single year, year after year after year, and the powerless are rendered helpless to do anything at all about it. I'll stop right there. Thank you for your time.

MR. DARDEN: Next is C. Jerome Neal.

MR. NEAL: Hi, Ms. Rattley. I'll make it brief. I heard on WNIS yesterday that you-all were over here, so I decided to come and chime in my two cents' worth. I was head of the church. I go to church in Virginia Beach. I live in Hampton. Born and raised in Newport News, 800 48th Street, an old house, been torn down. 1947 was when I was born.

I was speeding on 44, along with everybody else, and I have a bright little red pickup truck which I bought from Casey Chevrolet, brand new, '89. I'm a grease monkey, so 200,000 miles on it,

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but I keep it up. I work occasionally. I'm an electrician, industrial electrician. I just came from California working right on the coast over in Manhattan Beach with Chevron Oil Refinery. I just do shut-downs. Drove on back across country, and I was going to church when I'm in town in Virginia Beach. It's a spiritual -- it's called Robert Quamby's Spiritual Society and we meet from 10:00 to 11:00 on Sunday. As I said, I was speeding. The cop pulled me over, state trooper, and he hollered at me -- I'm not going to holler like he hollered. I'm incapable of doing it.

window down. So I rolled it halfway down, and I didn't have my driver's license on me. I had it in another car at the time I let my sister use, and so I give him my city decal, city decal for your property taxes we're talking about. That has your name and has your Social Security number on it. And so he asked me for my Social Security number even though it was on there. I told him it was on there. He said, No, I want you to tell me. I didn't say anything else to him because I already talked to him. He had everything.

So he said, If you don't tell me --

Mr. Neal, if you don't tell me, I'm going to throw you in jail. And he's turning red. It was a white cop. I'm going to throw you in jail, and you're going to stay in there until you tell me.

So I was going to church, looked at my watch and everything so I could still make it, just go about my business. So I told him. I wrote it down. No, I want you to tell me. That's what he told me. That's what he told me. That's what he told me, I want you to tell me. Okay.

So I said it to him, and he went back and did what he did back there, and the next thing I looked up, there's four cop cars around, so I'm still just sitting there, dressed up, suit and tie, overcoat. It's October of 1995. And so he comes back up there and he gave me the book and everything to sign the ticket. Now, I don't want you to run over top of me. Better not run over top of me. That's what he told me.

I'm wondering, How can my truck be on the side of me, roll like that. I know they come, wheels turn, but I'm a grease monkey. So anyway, I don't know what he's talking about, so when — after he gave me the ticket, I signed the ticket and proceeded to leave. Now, he said he didn't want me

to run over top of him. The truck was running all the time. The transmission was a junkyard transmission in it. I bought it from a junkyard. The truck broke down on me going to Emporia. My mother stays in Danville. I was going to see her to do some work for her.

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So I put a junkyard transmission in there because I was kind of low at the time, so when I put it in first gear, the truck said, boop, a little four-cylinder, like that. And he pointed, Did you see that? Did you see that? So he come down the street, pulled me over again. I was on Birdneck and 44, right on Birdneck almost to the Convention Center there, so this big hotel we meet at, so I got out, and I -- Now what's the problem? He just trotted down, up against the truck, up against the truck, and he -- all the cop cars pulled, he grabbed my arm and put it behind my back and pushed it up and pushed it I had an overcoat, a sweater and stuff, so the reason it didn't hurt that much because I had all that stuff on. It was damper to keep it from hurting. He was shorter than I was. He was going like "ehh, ehh, ehh" pushed my arm up behind me. So I figuring, What's he doing? He was trying to provoke me, and I wouldn't go for it because I had

figured it out, so that wouldn't work, so then he put the handcuffs on me and trots me off to the state car, the cruiser.

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So as I'm trotting off to the state car, my left foot -- because he's got control of me I've got to go where he takes me to. capable of walking like I normally walk, because I run marathons, and I play some -- got a nice gait and everything, so I had to walk where he leading me to, and so the bottom of my foot run across the top of I wanted to say, Excuse me, but that would his foot. have been out of character because I wasn't saying nothing to him, but that's all that happened, so I ain't think nothing of it. So I'm waiting in the car. I don't know what's happening. I ain't saying nothing. They're talking. The next thing he took me down to the magistrate down there. I went down later and found out the quy's name. It's a black magistrate, and the black magistrate said, What was he charged with? So he says, Assault. First I heard of it. Assault and reckless driving. Reckless driving?

So I asked him right there, I said -- the magistrate asked, What was the assault?

He said, He kicked me. And the magistrate said,

Where did he kick you? He said kicked me on this leg. He pointed to his leg. So I said, Well, can you show him the bruise or scuff print or anything on his leg, just like that, because I didn't kick the

man.

So we went to court, the magistrate told me right there, he says, We're not required to do anything but take the officer's statement. He said, Your chance don't come until you go to court.

So I went to court and I hired
Robert Hagans, paid him a lot of money to go over
there, and he saw me 15 minutes before court, wrote
it right down going to court. He told -- he got up
and he said, Well, Mr. Neal pulled off after he gave
him a ticket. He says his truck went like that, and
his truck went like that. It's a four-cylinder
pickup truck. Okay. So I'm listening, and then he
says, He kicked me and left a bruise and some blood
on his left leg. I didn't never see nothing, no
hospital records or no nothing.

So my lawyer, Robert Hagans, he didn't ask him nothing about that. So I'm slow to figure this thing out. I knew what happened. I'm just trying to work it out. So I got thirty days in jail with 20 suspended. Can do them at night if I

wanted to. We appealed it. My license was suspended for six months. Told me a \$100 fine. I just tuned out when he mentioned the jail.

So I went to California and did some more work, and Robert Hagans calls and said he needs \$1,500 more dollars. I paid him \$700-and-something, so I send him \$1,500, and we went to the other court. And before I went to the court, though, I asked to speak to Robert Hagans after I paid him the money, and he never returned my phone calls, so I had suspicions about him after he didn't ask the officer nothing about what happened. So I told him forget about it. I'd rather represent myself. So he went -- I told him to send my money back. Out of \$2,200 he sent me \$500.

So I represented myself. It was one black guy in the jury pool. The prosecutor strike him out. I'm not experienced. I didn't know what to do. He asked me who did I want to strike out. I didn't want to strike none of them. So the Judge struck someone out. I stated my case. He stated his case. When I got to the lawyer -- I mean the officer telling his lie, I said, Well, show me where I kicked you at. And he said, Right here, and pointed to his leg, left leg. Right here, right here. I said,

Well, can you pull your pants up and show the jury. 1 I wanted him to show it. And the Judge broke in 2 right there, and he said, It's probably healed up. 3 4 He's already told me that I kicked him. He's made all this grandiose stuff about not quilty until 5 6 proven and all this stuff, and he comes out like 7 So I listened, didn't say nothing. So to make that. a long story short, I got supposed -- I got convicted 8 9 of a reckless driving and assault, and I got fined two thousand so many hundred dollars. 10 They could have, but I honestly 11 send me to jail. believe they believed my story, but they were scared 12 of the cops. I think that's what happened, so this 13 14 is one of the things that happened. I mean, when 15 you're just minding your business and trying to be civil about life. 16 17 MS. RATTLEY: Hagans was afraid to 18 defend you? 19 MR. NEAL: I think so. He didn't 20 send me -- he sent me \$500 back out of \$2,200, and all he did was stand in the court for 15 minutes 21 22 before the Judge. I got all that time. I defended

myself and just got a fine, which was wrong, but that

just goes to show you about lawyers. This is a black

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lawyer.

1 MS. RATTLEY: I know him. 2 MR. NEAL: I asked for Sharon Cole. 3 She said she didn't have any influence over there. She's a good lawyer over here, but she didn't have 4 any influence. She's the one who recommended me to 5 6 him. 7 This stuff out here about black 8 This is what we go through every day, like people. 9 the guy from the funeral director. He said he thinks -- The funeral black man out here who don't go 10 11 through that kind of stuff. I was in the Marine 12 Corps for four years from '65 to '69. I've been through there, too. I understand what's happening 13 14 out here. Thank you for your time. 15 MR. DARDEN: Next is -- that was --16 you're Mr. Preston? 17 MR. NEAL: Jerome Neal. 18 MR. DARDEN: Then next is Mike 19 Preston. Mike Preston. Mike Preston. Take that off. Henry Upton. 20 21 MR. UPTON: Yeah, right here. 22 Hello, Ms. Rattley, members of the council. 23 Retired Lieutenant Colonel Henry Upton. This is my 24 wife Henrietta. I'm speaking on her behalf. 25 the victim in this particular incident. What I want

to talk to you about this evening is an incident of inappropriate behavior by the Newport News Police

Department. On 18 November, my wife went into a local store --

MS. RATTLEY: '96?

MR. UPTON: '96, yes, 18 November
'96. My wife went into a local store. The owner
accused her of shoplifting and asked her to undress
in the store so she could see. She refused, of
course, and the owner called the police.

My wife waited for the police, and upon their arrival, they commenced to use racial slurs and intimidation, rather than do an investigation. They never even asked her for her name, didn't ask her for any identification. They just commenced to kind of interrogate and terrorize her, and I feel that this was done because of her color.

A total of five police cars, first of all, responded to this call. She could count eight policemen. There may have been more, but they were — this was a store up in Denbigh on Warwick Boulevard. The police cars were all around the outside, and inside the store. The policemen positioned themselves where she was completely

surrounded. She hadn't done anything. She's just been accused of shoplifting, but they responded in this manner.

And when they came in, they appeared to be all hyped up and geared up for something. And later on, we found out there had been a robbery on this day, and this is what we were told when we went through the complaint process down at the police station, and they tried to explain maybe the way they were hyped up from the robbery.

But they came in, and let me read to you some of the things they said to her. One policeman said, You smart. You are a smart one. You are a real smart one. As he adjusted his shirt, pants, gun, and billy stick. And my wife's been around for quite a few years, a little bit more than forty, and she knew that he was not speaking about her intelligence. He was calling her a smart nigger. And she was terrified at this thought, and you know, she said, I better not respond because they're trying to get me to do something.

If she had responded, then the next step would have been probably some police brutality and she would have come out on the losing end.

And he didn't stop there. He went

on -- this same officer went on to say, Don't get 1 2 smart, try to talk back. Then another officer came in to reinforce what this one had said, and said, 3 We're not going to have any smart talking -- bad 4 5 talking here. Don't be belligerent. Now, this 6 officer had a clipboard, and he was hitting his 7 clipboard against the side of his leg as he was 8 speaking these words. 9 So here's my wife in the store with 10 only the owner, no other customers in the store now. 11 This store is right next to the Food Lion up on 12 Warwick Boulevard, and they had her completely 13 surrounded. 14 MS. RATTLEY: Is that the Dollar 15 Store? 16 MR. UPTON: Right next to the Dollar 17 Store. 18 MS. RATTLEY: Okay. 19 MR. UPTON: The name of it, if you 20 need to know -- I didn't want to bring it up. 21 MS. RATTLEY: Let us know. 22 MR. UPTON: Big Lot's, the close-out 23 It's right next to Food Lion, used to be a 24 Revco, if I remember. 25 Okay. Now, following this

intimidation, all of this had gone on, one of the officers came to my wife, and you remember the original demand made by the owner was that she undress -- she said remove her top so she could see what she had. And the policeman then came to my wife and looks as if he was reinforcing that, and he asked her if she would let them search her in the store.

Now, before they were talking all loud and harsh, and now they were coming close to her face and sort of whispering in her ear -- these are policemen doing this. Keep that in mind. And they did this on three occasions, and each time, of course, she really felt frightened. She had nowhere to go. She didn't have anybody. There was no one else around there except for her, the owner, and the owner just kind of stood back and went on the way to the other side of the store, so it was just the policemen, eight policemen and my wife here.

Each time they did this, she didn't know whether they were going to hit her or were they really trying to speak to her, but they made her feel like if she had done anything negative, that they would have hit her with their clubs. She tried to reason with them by asking them — the store is equipped with videotapes. She told them to go look

at the tapes to see if there's anything on there that would help you, because she wanted them to investigate the crime; but remember, they didn't even ask for her name. They didn't care about what it was that she was accused of. Somewhere that got lost in the shuffle. They were just concerned at this point about her -- she was a smart nigger who wouldn't do what they wanted her to do, which was to remove her blouse so they could see what she had, see if she had 10 anything. And they wanted her to do this right there in the store, and the store had glass windows in the 11 front. 12

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They do a lot of strip MS. RATTLEY: searching, I understand.

MR. UPTON: So this incident now, eventually they got to the point -- I want to add at the end of this, towards the end of this, the same officer who had called her a smart one, towards the end they asked her three times to submit to search, and she, of course, refused. She just didn't feel comfortable, you know, not that she didn't have That wasn't the reason why she didn't let anything. them search her. She didn't want these eight people who had been talking to her the way they had -- you know, they came in there and treating her in this

manner. These are the same people who want to go and search her.

The one officer went back and met the owner in the back of the store, and they talked in a little voice. My wife could overhear a little bit, and he asked her, What do you have in this store that's small enough to fit in her bra. And my wife, based on what was going on, she felt like they were looking for something in the store that was small enough that could, maybe they could put it on her; and then, of course, she felt like they were going to make her guilty regardless of the fact that they searched her and didn't find anything, then, of course, they would have something they could put on her that would make her a shoplifter.

This whole thing ended now when one officer -- I don't know what it was, but something triggered him, and he said -- he asked the owner, he said -- they had been conversing. They took her outside and talked to her first, but he came in and asked her, he said, Did you see her put anything in her chest? And then the owner, of course, said, I didn't see her put anything, but I saw her hand move to her chest.

I'm going to leave you a statement

here which kind of gives -- I've kind of summarized it here, but basically my wife, she tried to recall back of what gestures she may have made. She said she remembers taking her hand and putting it inside

to adjust her bra strap. Maybe this is what the

6 owner had seen.

But now since this time, we have been through a series of events with the Newport News Police Department, and those slides that I gave you there, on 13 December '96, we submitted a formal complaint. Reverend Harris, the local SCLC president submitted that for us.

On 16 December, we had an harassing call from the police department which told us that Reverend Harris could not represent my wife, that she had to come down to the police station, represent herself and file a complaint. And this was done in a very arrogant tone of voice.

On the 20th of December, we went down to the police station for an interview. We were a little bit reluctant about going after getting the 16 December phone call, so we had Reverend Harris to go with us down there, and we spent about an hour being what I call interrogated and threatened. Some of the things that I will tell you here that took

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place, the interview was recorded first of all, and we were not offered a copy, so they have a copy somewhere of what was said.

They said they could not determine who responded to this call. They didn't know they They kind of thought they knew of two or three officers, but they were not real sure, so they wanted my wife to look through a book of all the officers in the Newport News Police Force and pick the ones out that responded to the call. And we asked a question, myself and Reverend Harris, How come you can't use your police logs, your dispatch records to determine who called. And then they told us that the policeman could sue us for slander, that they were citizens, If we continue, they could sue us for slander as a result of filing this complaint and we'd be liable for damages, any damages to their reputations or careers. And they also said that in the past, they've had cases where citizens have complained of police harassment after filing a complaint. They say this office has no control over that.

So where does that put us? We really felt like we're in deep giption (sic) here now because we have come down here and now they're telling us that they can't even protect us anymore

from the police, and we're coming to them because we have a complaint, and we're the citizen. We haven't committed a crime. We're just trying to get rightful

4 | things done.

'97, we got a letter, which refuted a lot of the things that took place on 20 December. It said that my wife had made additional serious allegations and they were not contained in the original complaint and that she was unable to identify any of the officers. But she identified one during the 20 December interview. And they say now they need a complete statement of complaint, and they gave us a deadline. They said you must contact this office by 22 January and set up an interview where you can come and do these things.

And, of course, at this point, we went and sought some legal advice, and based on that advice we got, we decided it was not in our best interest to go back down to the police station and pursue this matter, you know, in the manner they wanted us to, so we have taken other avenues since then.

But anyway, on 27 January, they wrote us another letter, and in this letter, it said

that my wife needed to come down there and transcribe 1 2 a new statement. Here it is three months after this They want to do a new statement now. 3 thing happened. That's kind of where we are now. 4 5 Start all over again. And then this new statement, they're going to give us a copy of it and then give a 6 copy we can send to Reverend Harris and also to our 7 attorney. 8 9 I think your lawyer MS. RATTLEY: 10 should prepare that statement. That would be -- and 11 it's worth exactly what you're paying for it. That's 12. just off the top of my head. I would not go through 13 that harassment any longer, and, of course, nothing 14 you said was new to me. I've heard many instances of 15 The hard part is, what do you do? 16 MR. UPTON: That's where we are. 17 MS. RATTLEY: You have to be 18 persistent, but I really think you need somebody to 19 go in between you and the police. 20 MR. UPTON: Okay. 21 MS. RATTLEY: Okay. Because your 22 wife doesn't need any more of the stress and the 23 harassment. 24 MR. UPTON: No. 25 MS. RATTLEY: Okay.

1	MR. UPTON: That's really
2	MS. RATTLEY: Where do you live?
3	MR. UPTON: We're living up on
4	Stevens Road, 113 Stevens Road up in the Denbigh
5	area. But we tried
6	MS. RATTLEY: They didn't ask you
7	for any identification or anything?
8	MR. UPTON: Never did. Had she not
9	come and filed, they wouldn't have even known her
10	name. They didn't care, just her color was good
11	enough.
12	MS. RATTLEY: I've been called worse
13	names than that, yes, ma'am.
14	MS. UPTON: They said at the
15	police department, said that they don't deal with
16	lawyers, that you have to represent yourself.
17	MS. RATTLEY: Now, wait a minute.
18	Come on. Come on.
19	MR. UPTON: That's what we were told
20	in one of the phone calls.
21	MS. MCCLOUD: Is that documented in
22	your statement? Did you mention that in your
23	statement?
24	MR. UPTON: I don't have that
25	particular phone call, but I have all of the others,

but I can give you something. 1 2 MS. MCCLOUD: I think that would be 3 helpful. The question I want to ask is in 4 conjunction with our fact-finding mission, and that is, number one, you indicated that you do feel it was 5 6 because of the fact that you are an African American; 7 is that correct? MR. UPTON: 8 Yes. 9 MS. MCCLOUD: Secondly, of the, I 10 think you said eight people, eight people who were 11 there, how many of the policemen who showed up were female? Were any of them female? 12 13 MR. UPTON: No, none of them. 14 MS. MCCLOUD: And the person in the 15 store who asked you to undress, or whatever, was he or she female? Was it a male or female? 16 17 MS. UPTON: Female. It was a 18 female, her husband, and a worker in the store there. 19 MS. MCCLOUD: Is the gender of these 20 people identified in the statement? 21 MS. UPTON: No. 22 I don't know whether the MR. UPTON: 23 gender is. I don't think the gender is identified, 24 but the fact that --25 Did you put the names MS. RATTLEY:

1	in there?
2	MR. UPTON: The names.
3	MR. DARDEN: The next one would be
4	Reginald Mitchell.
5	MR. MITCHELL: How are you doing
6	today?
7	MS. RATTLEY: It's been a long day.
8	MR. MITCHELL: It has been. I
9	wanted to try I didn't see her when she I
10	wanted to ask for that attorney's I had her card
11	and all because I need some representation. My
12	problem is that I'm afraid of who I hire because of
13	politics, you know, attorneys. You know, it's hard
14	to find someone that I can trust.
15	MS. RATTLEY: Mr. Darden will give
16	you, I'm sure, her name and address, but she had to
17	leave.
18	MR. MITCHELL: I understand.
19	MS. RATTLEY: She was driving and
20	she was alone.
21	MR. MITCHELL: I understand.
22	MS. RATTLEY: She teaches law.
23	MR. DARDEN: If you wanted any
24	one of the members can be contacted through me at the
25	Washington office.

1	MR. MITCHELL: Okay.
2	MR. DARDEN: So you would send your
3	letter or make a telephone call to me and we would
4	transfer it through the office to the members instead
5	of directly from you to the members.
6	MR. MITCHELL: Okay. That's another
7	question I want to ask you.
8	MS. RATTLEY: I wanted to say that
9	she is an instructor of law at Richmond University.
10	I don't know if she practices law. I don't know.
11	MR. MITCHELL: Okay. Another thing
12	I want to ask you. You-all are from the White House
13	in Richmond I mean, Washington D.C. Civil Rights
14	Committee, or some sort?
15	MR. DARDEN: Only very indirectly.
16	The Civil Rights Commission is part of the Executive
17	Branch of Government, so that's where the White House
18	is, but we're not part of the President's staff.
19	MR. MITCHELL: Okay. I had wrote
20	Room 6. I had wrote to the White House, Room 6.
21	MR. DARDEN: In the White House?
22	MR. MITCHELL: Yes.
23	MR. DARDEN: That didn't come to us.
24	That wouldn't come to us.
25	MR. MITCHELL: Okay. The thing I

want to talk about -- I'll make it short and brief.

I work for the City of Hampton, and I was there about four years, and I was illiterate. Now I can read a little, and I was in the literacy program and all.

What started happening to me on my job was I worked at Langley NASA, operating an overhead crane and steam plant. I made approximately \$23,000 a year, and one day I was sitting in the break room eating my lunch, and the chief of operations walked in and he grabbed his grouse and shook it at me and asked me would I bite on it. That was one of the things he did.

MS. RATTLEY: His what?

MR. MITCHELL: Asked me would I bite on his penis, okay. And so I had told the plant manager and them about it. They did nothing about it.

So later on down the road, he was taking my vacation from me, wouldn't let me take my leave. He just wanted to pick on me. He called me in the office one day, said I was abusing my vacation. I told this man -- I taped him. When I went in there, he didn't know I had a tape-recorder, but I taped him. And I told him, I haven't abused my vacation, and we went on to a lot of stuff. I'll not

get into all of it, but later on he apologized for shaking his thing at me. I have that on tape, so that was an admission of guilt, but yet he didn't stop there. He went and told an employee that if I said anything to upper authorities, that he -- I would lose because he knew a lot of people downtown in the City of Hampton.

So what I did was, being the plant manager didn't do anything about it, I went to EEOC and filed charges. During the time, I had another employee come in, a bore operator, white male. He walked up to me intoxicated, drunk. I mentioned it to my supervisor. Nothing was done.

Three months later, another employee wrote a letter downtown to the Public Works

Department, and they went on and just wrote him up, the supervisor, because the supervisor let him work drunk.

So then my mother had passed, and they took up an offering in the plant to get some flowers for the funeral hall. My mother, she remarried, so she had a different last name. The lady in the weigh shack asked Mr. Whitlock, What's Mr. Mitchell's mother's last name? And Mr. Whitlock said to her, said, Well, them son-of-a-bitches, they

don't know who their mama is. He once said, If there's any smart nigger, they got a white mama.

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So what the City did was -- I went to EEOC and filed charges. They hired an investigator to come in and investigate this statement that he made about my mother. So what the City of Hampton did, to cover themselves, the witness that gave me the letter, he was there at the steam plant for approximately twelve years. They fired that man for giving me that letter. They didn't fire the man that stated it. They fired the man for giving me the letter. That man lost his home and everything. So he had to move away from here.

So my thing is that I have cried out for help to a lot of people. I have wrote the White House, which I have a letter here that the White House sent me back -- well, came back that EEOC saying responded by the White House, saying that my case would be closed in 90 days.

It's been three years, and my case has been sitting over at Norfolk at EEOC. It hadn't been investigated yet. I had Reverend Harris go to a fact-finding hearing. The city brought who they wanted, who they wanted to be there. The EEOC, to me, works right along with the City of Hampton.

One minute. MR. DARDEN:

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MR. MITCHELL: And the thing is, is that they told me in this letter here I got saying that the White House saying they would have it done This letter was August 6, 1996. in 90 days. been almost a year now. They still haven't investigated my case. I filed bankruptcy. lost my car. I have been without gas, water. These people have really caused my family to suffer a great deal. Okay.

And this is just part of my -- part of what happened to me. I'm not going to go in detail all the things they done to me. I went to court yesterday for my unemployment money. of Hampton prolonged my unemployment thing for a whole year, then tried to have it dismissed saying I didn't do things in a timely manner.

The clerk that was helping me, they fired her. The clerk goes to my church that I go to, and that's the only way I get my case heard. what they're doing is, when I went to circuit court, they didn't even have a lady to type my stuff up, because it's supposed to be a transcript of all unemployment hearings. They didn't have that, and then on top of that, when I do go back to court for

trial, the Judge told me that he have so many things in that courtroom that day, he going to move --

MS. RATTLEY: Trial for what?

MR. MITCHELL: My unemployment

benefits.

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MS. RATTLEY: Your hearing? You mean your hearing?

Yeah, they going to MR. MITCHELL: move it down to another courtroom where nobody be there but me and the City Attorney and the State I been mistreated by the State Attorney --Attorney. she scream and hollered at me -- and by City of Hampton very bad, and I'm just crying out for some I need to find a lawyer. help. I need some help. Τ need help real bad because I'm not an attorney. don't know what I'm doing, but everything these people have done to me, I can prove. I can prove how they sent me to a fitness for duty -- I mean send me to the Employee Assistance Program, and the Employee Assistance lady told me, she said, I'm not here to help you. She said, I'm here for information purpose for the City only. That sentence is so big, they put it on paper, said she was only there for the City, not to help me with my problems because I been in the hospital for mental stress and everything.

people have disrupted and destroyed me and my 1 2 family's lives. 3 MS. RATTLEY: You worked for the 4 City of Hampton? 5 I was working for the MR. MITCHELL: 6 City of Hampton. They forced me to resign. That's basically all I have to say, but if someone can help 7 8 me, I would highly appreciate it. And every 9 statement I have made in here about the sexual harassment, what he said about my mother, and 10 everything they have done to me, I have proof, I have 11 tapes, cassette tapes. 12 MS. RATTLEY: Do they still have the 13 same man who started this, as far as his approach to 14 15 you about some abnormal sex? 16 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, ma'am. They 17 ain't fire him. All them people still work out .18 there. Man who come in intoxicated, they moved him 19 up to a higher position. All them people still 20 working out there. I don't have a job. My family 21 suffered. I lost a car, about to lose my house. 22 So the thing is is that the City of 23 Hampton, they're doing whatever they can do to cover 24 these people. Okay. The chief -- the head of Public Works told me, said that I begged him for a transfer 25

to another department. Public Works told me, said that because you went to EEOC, I took that as a threat. He said, So Because you went to EEOC, I'm not going to transfer you. I have that on tape. I taped this man saying that to me. I taped the stuff that these people have done to me. I can prove everything that they have done. It's nothing being done.

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MS. RATTLEY: When is your hearing, as far as your unemployment compensation?

MR. MITCHELL: On the 7th of next

month.

MS. RATTLEY: Do you have a lawyer? MR. MITCHELL: I had a legal aid lawyer, but when I went to one of those hearings, out of 45 minutes' worth of talking, she only asked one I understand that the City of Hampton, question. they pay your legal aid part of their salaries and These people are not here to help me. fighting against the wall, fighting against the City. You know, it's -- you know, and like I said, if I give it to a lawyer, I don't know what's going to I know all the people's that had cases happen. against me had a lawyer back out last minute and all this stuff, all politics.

MS. RATTLEY: You live in Hampton?

MR. MITCHELL: Yes, ma'am.

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REVEREND HARRIS: What's the unemployment situation? Have you had the first hearing?

MR. MITCHELL: I've had a hearing in Unemployment Office. Then I went to Richmond and I had a hearing. Then they sent it back to the Unemployment Office for another hearing. I had a hearing. Now I'm going to court, which I filed my petition and my papers and all. But what the City of Hampton did, was they prolonged it for a whole year, and when I went to court yesterday, the lady -- I asked the lady why it was not in the evidence that I gave in the file, the State Attorney, I asked her that. She said it got lost. So all my evidence that I gave them ain't in there. The only evidence the City gave, all them in there.

The Judge is telling me he's going to move us to another courtroom when I come back so can't nobody hear what's going on. The thing is, when I went back that morning, won't nobody in there. I can't understand that when I walk into the courtroom, ain't nobody in there but me, City Attorney, and the State Attorney, and the Judge.

1	REVEREND HARRIS: Let me ask you,
2	how long has it been since you were terminated?
3	MR. MITCHELL: I resigned in '95,
4	February 17th, 19 I think '95. And like I said,
5	it took this long for me to get to court with my
6	unemployment because
7	REVEREND HARRIS: You resigned?
8	MR. MITCHELL: They forced me to
9	resign, yes, sir.
10	MS. MCCLOUD: How so?
11	MR. MITCHELL: My doctor.
12	MS. MCCLOUD: How did they force
13	you?
14	MR. MITCHELL: Well, my doctor, what
15	he did was he wrote me a statement saying I was
16	unable to perform the duties he got me in. He didn't
17	tell me to quit my job, but he wanted them to do was
18	transfer me to another department.
19	When I went to see the head of
20	Public Works, the head of Public Works said he didn't
21	want to talk to me about it, or he ain't going to
22	transfer me because I went to EEOC.
23	REVEREND HARRIS: Let me ask you
24՝	further. When you resigned
25	MR. MITCHELL: Uh-huh.

1 REVEREND HARRIS: -- did you tell 2 your boss --3 MR. MITCHELL: I gave him a typed --4 REVEREND HARRIS: -- why you were resigning? 5 6 MR. MITCHELL: I gave him a typed-up 7 letter stating that due to medical and personal reasons that the doctor wrote, I was no longer able 8 9 to work there because of the fact that I went -- I 10 even put in the letter that I went to talk to Mr. Panther about it. He wouldn't see me. 11 put in there because of the fact that the plant 12 manager, he was giving out confidential information 13 14 I also put that in that in the letter. 15 in the letter, Because he was giving out confidential 16 information on me, because my doctor said I couldn't 17 perform my duties there anymore, okay, that's why I 18 was resigning. 19 And the thing is, is that these 20 people -- so much had been done to me, I filed for 21 Workmen's Compensation, on the job, because of the 22 mental stress that they put me through, and they want 23 me to see a particular doctor, so they stopped my 24 Workmen's Compensation because -- I got a letter 25 where they show particular doctor here. Then I got a letter showing, Well, you can't pick a doctor.

What these people done to me, I
mean, I have everything they ever done to me, every
piece of paper. I have records where they went in
there and erased stuff. I didn't go into all details
on all the charges I got against them at the EEOC. I
went to EEOC. EEOC told me that they heard my case,
heard this man retaliate against me and tell me, he
said, You filed too many charges; you don't need to
file that.

This is what I'm dealing with. I'm dealing with -- I'm not just fighting up against the City of Hampton. I'm fighting up against the people that supposed to be helping me, so I have to write -- I wrote NAACP, the White House. I wrote everybody to try to get -- put some pressure on the EEOC to make them do their job against the City of Hampton.

These cities are very powerful, and these people do like they want to do and don't nothing get done about it. I'm just the type of person that I can lose everything I got, but I want to try to get something done for what they done to me because I got kids. You-all have children. And I know one day my kids will grow up, and I don't want this to happen to any one of mine what's happening to

1 me. 2 MS. MCCLOUD: Madam Chairman, I 3 would like to make a few comments, if I may, please. 4 MS. RATTLEY: Yes. 5 MS. MCCLOUD: The first one is, I'm not a lawyer; I am a mediator, and at the university 6 where I work, I serve as mediator for sexual 7 8 harassment complaints. The one thing that a lot of 9 people are not aware of is that sexual harassment can happen between men, because sexual harassment is a 10 11 power play. 12 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. MS. MCCLOUD: So I would 13 14 characterize what this person, who was your supervisor, or whatever, what he said to you, I would 15 characterize that in terms of sexual harassment. 16 17 That's one thing. 18 The other thing is that in addition 19 to contacting the other person who -- the other 20 lawyer on the committee, you may want to also contact 21 this man. 22 MR. MITCHELL: I have his card. 23 gave me his card. 24 MS. MCCLOUD: In talking with him 25 earlier today -- and this is information you may just

like to have -- he said that if a person does not 1 2 feel comfortable in going to a lawyer in Virginia, 3 they can go to a lawyer in another state as long as a 4 lawyer in Virginia is willing to work with this 5 lawyer out of state. 6 MR. MITCHELL: Oh, okay. 7 MS. MCCLOUD: You see what I mean? 8 So he may be able to make some suggestions to you along that line. 9 That's my biggest --10 MR. MITCHELL: 11 MS. RATTLEY: I have some people 12 back there shaking their head no. I shake my head no SPEAKER 1: 13 14 because that does not work. The lawyer here will buy out that lawyer in the other state. You're right. 15 16 They need a Virginia lawyer- I apologize for my 17 throat -- to bring that lawyer in, but it does not work in Hampton; it does not work in Newport News. 18 19 MS. MCCLOUD: Now, this gentleman is 20 from Virginia. He's from Northern Virginia, and he 21 is an African American, and it could be that he would 22 know someone that could not be bought out. 23 SPEAKER 1: That's like finding a 24 needle in a haystack. We did that with African 25 American -- with an African American in Northern

Virginia. Did not work. 1 2 MS. MCCLOUD: Okay. 3 I hope you have a SPEAKER 1: solution for that. 4 I saw another hand. 5 MS. RATTLEY: SPEAKER 2: I was just going to say 6 7 the same thing. 8 MS. RATTLEY: Oh, okay. 9 MR. MITCHELL: That's been my 10 biggest problem, just getting someone that will -- to 11 be fair. MS. RATTLEY: I think if you would 12 13 follow some of these suggestions, you may get an 14 answer. 15 MR. MITCHELL: I got his card. I'11 16 give him a call. 17 MS. RATTLEY: I think it may be a charge of sexual harassment would go very well. 18 19 MR. MITCHELL: But the EEOC told me 20 that they were going to rule in my favor on a lot of 21 the other charges, but they trying to be specific at 22 one point. But all the other charges, I can prove because, see, first of all, they told me I didn't 23 24 have a case, after I proved it to them. But then 25 after I wrote the White House and wrote all these

people, these people get in contact with them, 1 2 You-all need to do something about this. Then they call back and say, Well, yeah, we going to rule in 3 4 your favor. They told me they were going to rule in 5 my favor. 6 When did they tell you MS. RATTLEY: 7 that? 8 MR. MITCHELL: The lady told me 9 that, but she hasn't finished with the case, the investigator. 10 11 MS. RATTLEY: Are they going to pay 12 you back pay for a year? MR. MITCHELL: I asked -- I'm almost 13 out of work now for going on three years, but the 14 head of the EEOC, I spoke with him. He asked me --15 16 he said, If we rule in your favor, what would you do 17 with it? So the only thing I said to him was I don't 18 know. 19 MS. RATTLEY: What would you do with what? 20 21 If they rule in my MR. MITCHELL: favor, my case that I have against the City, they 22 23 asked me what would I do with it. I ain't -- like I 24 didn't know. 25 MS. RATTLEY: With what?

1 MR. MITCHELL: With the case, what 2 would I do with it. Get some money. 3 MS. ZEAVIN: 4 MR. MITCHELL: But the thing is, I 5 didn't tell him that, because if they rule in my favor, he's supposed to do something about it. 6 7 MS. RATTLEY: All right. Thank you. 8 MS. BRIGGS: Good evening. My name 9 is Pamela Briggs. My case is concerning the Justice Department. I live in Chesapeake. On October 30th, 10 1994, a white couple, which is a husband and wife, 11 12 kicked my door in, came in my house and beat me up. Okay. Both of us went to the -- all of us went to 13 14 the hospital. Okay. I went and took out warrants on We went to 15 They took out warrants on me. Somehow or another they took -- somehow or 16 court. 17 another they took the warrants that I took out on 18 them, and they turned it around, said it was 19 trespassing. 20 They dismissed all the warrants I 21 took out on them. They took warrants that they took 22 out on me and sent it to the grand jury. 23 What I don't understand is how can 24 they change things around like that? And I'm the 25 victim. I was the one that was beat up in my house.

I went to court. They gave me eight years, okay. I go back to court June the 20th to see what's going to happen. I put in an appeal. In the meantime, when I went back to court, the Judge said that I have to teach you-all people a lesson here, locked up for six months. He wouldn't give me a bond, no reason why I'm locked up.

So somehow I hired a lawyer, John Brown, and he went back to court on appeal, and he let me out on a PR bond. But I don't understand is that he let me out on a PR bond, but he made me sit in jail for six months with no bond.

all the way around. Every time I try to find an attorney to take the case, don't nobody want to touch it. I done called the NAACP. I tried to get help out of my church. The church said they're afraid because they might burn down the church, so I don't know what to do.

I have a 14-year-old-son. I live alone. I'm separated from my husband. And I don't bother nobody. I work and I take care of, you know, my son. And I don't want to go to prison for something I didn't do because I didn't have the proper attorney at first to represent me. I had a

1 court-appointed attorney when I first went to court. So if you-all can help me any kind 2 3 of way, or lead me to someone that can help me, I'm 4 begging you to please help me. I don't want to go to 5 prison. 6 MS. RATTLEY: It has to be something 7 you're not telling us. Why did the couple break into your house and beat you up? 8 9 MS. BRIGGS: Okay. What had 10 happened was there was a convenience store had opened 11 on the corner. Everybody in the apartment complex 12 had applied for a job. I got hired. This white lady I didn't know anything about it. 13 got hired. 14 I was supposed to start working that Sunday when they came to my house. What had happened 15 16 was that the manager, which is white, he came and he 17 He said the lady was prejudiced, that the testified. 18 lady was upset because he had given me forty hours, 19 because I had more experience than she had, and he 20 given her twelve hours. So what they call themselves 21 doing, I guess, I don't know, is that stop me from 22 going to work so she could get the hours. 23 MS. RATTLEY: That's bizarre. That's a bizarre case. And I'm sure I quess it can 24 25 happen. So what did she take out a warrant for you

1	for? What was the charge?
2	MS. BRIGGS: She took both of
3	them took out warrants on me, assault and battery and
4	
5	MS. RATTLEY: The man and the woman?
6	MS. BRIGGS: Yes. Malicious
7	wounding or causing bodily injury.
8	MS. RATTLEY: And it happened in
9	your house?
10	MS. BRIGGS: In my house.
11	MS. RATTLEY: And what did you take
12	out a warrant
13	MS. BRIGGS: I was trying to defend
14	myself in my house.
15	MS. RATTLEY: What did you charge
16	them with?
17	MS. BRIGGS: I thought I was
18	charging them with the same thing, but up here, you
19	can see where they changed it all around and put it
20	to trespassing. We went to court for that, they
21	threw everything out.
22	MS. RATTLEY: You charged them with
23	trespassing?
24	MS. BRIGGS: No, I charged them with
25	assault and battery, malicious wounding.

1	MS. RATTLEY: But you said trespass
2	appeared on the paper?
3	MS. BRIGGS: This is what when I
4	went to get copies, this is what was up here,
5	trespass. And I didn't but you can see right here
6	where it's typed in right here somebody scratched it
7	out and put trespass, so somehow or another in the
8	court, they changed it.
9	REVEREND HARRIS: Is that against
10	you? Did they charge you with trespassing?
11	MS. BRIGGS: No.
12	MS. RATTLEY: The charge she made
13	against them she said was changed to trespass.
14	MS. BRIGGS: Trespass. And it was
15	dismissed. I'm the one that got beat up. My eye was
16	black. My nose was busted, lip and all.
17	MS. RATTLEY: And you live in
18	Chesapeake?
19	MS. BRIGGS: In Chesapeake then.
20	MS. RATTLEY: This happened in
21	Chesapeake?
22	MS. BRIGGS: In Chesapeake.
23	MS. MCCLOUD: You said the person
24	who had hired you spoke in your behalf at the
25	hearing?

1	MS. BRIGGS: He spoke in my behalf,
2	and Judge Townsend said, I'm not going to have that
3	talk in here. But he spoke in my behalf, said the
4	lady was prejudiced and she was a racist and she was
5	upset because she had twelve hours and he had given
6	me forty hours.
7	MS. MCCLOUD: Was the person who
8	was the person who hired you black or white?
9	MS. BRIGGS: He was white.
10	MS. RATTLEY: Did you have an
11	attorney?
12	MS. BRIGGS: I had a court-appointed
13	attorney.
14	MS. RATTLEY: You kind of laughed.
15	That person didn't represent you sufficiently
16	MS. BRIGGS: (Speaker shakes head.)
17	MS. RATTLEY: or that's your
18	feeling?
19	MS. BRIGGS: He didn't even know
20	what the prosecutor's name was. Worked along with
21	the prosecutor attorney. He didn't work for me.
22	MS. MCCLOUD: Did anyone see this
23	couple break into your house?
24	MS. BRIGGS: Yes.
25	MS. MCCLOUD: I mean other than your

1	son?
2	MS. BRIGGS: Yes.
3	MS. MCCLOUD: Were they at any time
4	involved in testifying as to
5	MS. BRIGGS: Yes. They said they
6	would still testify for me.
7	REVEREND HARRIS: You say did
8	they testify on your behalf when you went to court?
9	MS. BRIGGS: Mr. Green did, but his
10	wife was out of town because her mother was sick, but
11	she said she would testify for me if I could get a
12	new trial.
13	MS. RATTLEY: Have you tried to get
14	a new trial?
15	MS. BRIGGS: It's up for appeal now.
16	MS. RATTLEY: Do you have a lawyer
17	now?
18	MS. BRIGGS: Yes.
19	MS. RATTLEY: One that will
20	represent you?
21	MS. BRIGGS: No yes, I think he
22	would represent me, John Brown.
23	MS. RATTLEY: Are you paying him or
24	
25	MS. BRIGGS: I'm paying him.

1	MS. RATTLEY: You have documentation
2	you want to leave?
3	MS. BRIGGS: Yes.
4	MS. RATTLEY: Give it to Mr. Darden.
5	Okay. We have one other person.
6	MS. BRIGGS: Is there anyone that I
7	can that can follow up on this as far as my civil
8	rights being violated?
9	MS. RATTLEY: I don't know if we can
10	give you any advice until we get the specific
11	information. We need to find out a little bit more
12	in detail about what has happened.
13	I'm not going to give you any false
14	hopes, but I certainly would like to look at it
15	because something seems to be missing there. I'm not
16	a lawyer, so
17	MS. BRIGGS: Okay. Thank you.
18	MS. RATTLEY: Thank you.
19	Yes, sir.
20	MR. ROBINSON: My name is Deon
21	Robinson.
22	MS. RATTLEY: Yes, Mr. Robinson.
23	Make your statement loud enough for the reporter to
24	hear.
25	MR. ROBINSON: This is about like an
	II

EEO on Fort Eustis, Fort Monroe, TRADOC, and all that. I had sent letters to you and Congressman Bateman and addressed Washington on this issue. I'm not getting no replies about it, but that ain't the problem.

The problem is that I put in an application February 14, 1996, and I went to go to reapply, to look into the application because I was wondering what was going on. My boss turned around and told me don't fill out the application in the first place.

MS. RATTLEY: Application for what?

MR. ROBINSON: For a maintenance

mechanic position on Fort Eustis. So I go to -- go

back to see what's wrong with the application, or

what's going on with it. They told me that my

application isn't there. I said, Well -- you know,

to make it a little bit shorter, the application

disappeared.

So I took -- the EEO turns around and said I did threaten, the whole nine yards on me taking it to them. So I had to resign from my job.

Once I resigned from my job, I turned around and still working with the EEO today with TRADOC over there on Fort Monroe, and still

1 going through the same thing. 2 The investigation isn't properly 3 getting investigated from formal to informal to 4 formal. It's not being properly investigated. 5 investigation is getting sloppily handled, and things 6 that I'm writing is getting documented, but they're 7 changing it in the investigation. And I'm basically having a problem. 8 9 Why didn't you fill MS. RATTLEY: out another application? 10 11 MR. ROBINSON: Why didn't I fill out 12 another application? Because the application was 13 correct. According to the way that application was filled out in the first place is correct. 14 MS. RATTLEY: Do you have anything 15 16 in writing? 17 MR. ROBINSON: Yes, I do. MS. RATTLEY: You want to leave it 18 19 with Mr. Darden? 20 MR. ROBINSON: Yes. I have his 21 card. 22 MS. RATTLEY: Were you working at 23 either one of those installations? 24 MR. ROBINSON: Yes, I was. 25 MS. RATTLEY: You were at Langley?

1	MR. ROBINSON: Fort Eustis.
2	REVEREND HARRIS: Did you resign?
3	MR. ROBINSON: Yes, I did.
4	REVEREND HARRIS: What was your
5	reason for resigning?
6	MR. ROBINSON: My reason was because
7	I was only making \$4.85 an hour, and I was trying to
8	get into a job that was paying better. I couldn't
9	get into that job paying better, so I resigned for
10	reasons
11	REVEREND HARRIS: Were you trying to
12	apply for a better job
13	MR. ROBINSON: Yes.
14	REVEREND HARRIS: out there? Did
15	you make applications
16	MR. ROBINSON: Yes.
17	REVEREND HARRIS: for better
18	jobs?
19	MR. ROBINSON: I made same
20	applications under another maintenance position, and
21	the application disappeared, all of them disappeared.
22	MS. RATTLEY: I believe he's saying
23	he's upset because the application disappeared.
24	MR. ROBINSON: Well, see, no, it's
25	not that. That even the KSA's, the notice that

they went by this program with the KSA's, grade, skills, knowledge, and ability. Well, the KSA's were not graded. The only thing that was put on the KSA was, Address wasn't available. Well, on the application, there was no address.

REVEREND HARRIS: Let me tell you one of the mistakes you made. When you resigned, that put you in a different category, and your complaint will fall of its own weight because you have no standing as an employee.

Now, as it relates to the application that you put in, did you try to prove that you didn't get the job because of discrimination, then it comes back to haunt you.

Now, TRADOC is under investigation now. Fort Monroe is the headquarters for TRADOC all over the country. The four-star general there, and we have a complaint against him, "we" meaning SCLC. And we're trying to get a meeting with the Secretary of the Army, Togo West.

Congressman Scott told me today that they have agreed to allow me to meet with him at the Pentagon about TRADOC. Therefore, if you will leave your address with me, then I will keep you up-to-date with what we are doing for TRADOC; and when you come

back for your hearing with the EEOC, then the 1 2 Southern Christian Leadership Conference will 3 represent you in the administrative part of the 4 effort. That's not this fact-finding group 5 from -- offering assistance from another angle, 6 7 because the fact-finding group that we've been meeting with for two days, and you ask for help. 8 9 There is no automatic help that comes from the 10 fact-finding process. So several times people have 11 offered their assistance from another angle, and so I'm offering my assistance from another angle. 12 you think that that will be helpful to you, after 13 14 this meeting give me your name, address, telephone number. 15 16 MR. ROBINSON: Okay. 17 MS. RATTLEY: Thank you. 18 MR. DARDEN: Madam Chair, we did have Brian Harris, and I have a couple of -- just 19 Is Brian Harris here? 20 names to read into the record. 21 MR. HARRIS: Yes. Very briefly, please. 22 MR. DARDEN: 23 MR. HARRIS: I would just like to 24 give you a brief, real quickly, of what's happened 25 with me. I have been charged with rape and sodomy of an 18-vear-old. She was raped in Virginia Beach last April the 2nd. I was arrested November the 2nd on a composite sketch. They said I looked like the sketch, and I was incarcerated for two months. They told me when I was arrested that, of course, I stated -- I emphatically stated I was innocent. Thev told me that this lady identified me out of a photo lineup. She doesn't live in the area. She lives in Michigan. She was down here on spring break. was coming from a bar at the beach, which she was under age.

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MS. RATTLEY: Which beach was that?

MR. HARRIS: Virginia Beach. This

rape allegedly happened in Virginia Beach, and she -
they told me that they have been trying to get in

touch with me and that we could have cleared it up,

but I had heard word that the police were asking

questions about me, but nobody ever knew exactly what

for, and they never came forward.

This was two months, like August and September, before I was arrested that they were looking and questioning -- asking questions about me, but nobody ever came forward. The detective told me that it could have been cleared up if they had found me, and so he said, Well, you can clear it up if you

take a DNA test and everything. I did that the night I was arrested.

They -- I found out -- after I had been in jail for a couple months, I found out that they never tested my DNA because they didn't find any Negro hairs on her when they did the rape test, I guess. They found a Caucasian's hair on her. And at the preliminary hearing, they didn't allow for the DNA to come out.

I have a lawyer. Dick Brydges is my lawyer. They didn't allow for any of the physical evidence to come out, and there — they don't have any evidence that — at that time they had no evidence to tie me to this female, and she came to the preliminary hearing and said that I was the person and she had inconsistent testimony. She said she was this place, and it's — so my case is pending. It's going to trial now on April the 22nd. There is — I mean, I'm forgetting the words I'm trying to say here.

The prosecutor asked if I wanted to take a polygraph to, you know -- he said if I pass the polygraph, but I'm not going to take the polygraph. My lawyer advised me not to take the polygraph, and I'm just wondering if -- do I have any

recourse before this thing, or do I just have to 1 2 wait, or what? 3 MS. RATTLEY: Who is your lawyer? Dick Brydges. 4 MR. HARRIS: 5 MS. RATTLEY: They took your DNA? They took my DNA. 6 MR. HARRIS: 7 MS. RATTLEY: And --8 MR. HARRIS: And they didn't test 9 They told me they would test it when they took it, but they never tested it. Told my family they 10 11 tested it, and they kept me in jail over the 12 holidays, and the blood test came back, and it was -of course, it was negative, and they say they 13 14 couldn't release me because of that. They said we still have another test of hair sample. 15 Well, the prosecutor got the hair 16 sample back early January. I went -- I got bonded 17 18 out the day before. 19 MS. RATTLEY: Did they reveal that 20 the hair didn't match? 21 He never revealed it. MR. HARRIS: 22 My lawyer -- he didn't reveal it -- he said he didn't 23 have time to open it for three weeks. He said he didn't have time to take a look at it. And my lawyer 24 25 finally got a letter from the lab stating that the

hair sample was not even a Negro hair, and he said --1 2 MS. RATTLEY: He got that in a 3 letter --4 MR. HARRIS: He got that in a 5 letter. MS. RATTLEY: -- written form? 6 7 MR. HARRIS: So I asked him, I said, Well, are they going to drop the charges now? And he 8 He said the prosecutor said no, he wasn't 9 said. No. going to drop the charges because she is coming here 10 11 for the preliminary hearing, and she made an ID off 12 of a photo. And when she gave the description of the 13 composite, the guy in the composite had long hair, but the photo that they sent to her -- they sent six 14 15 photos to her with me on one of them, and my picture It's my DMV picture for 1992. 16 was bald. So I told 17 them, I said, I've been bald for years, and they said 18 they had a picture of me with hair. I said, Well, 19 that's how she identified me. 20 How does your lawyer MS. RATTLEY: 21 feel about this case? 22 MR. HARRIS: He says it's a very 23 weak case. 24 MS. RATTLEY: That you have, or that 25 they have?

	MR. HARRIS: They have a very weak								
2	case, but I have lost I was self-employed. I had								
3	my own business here, and I lost my business behind								
4	this. And my credibility.								
5	MS. RATTLEY: From publicity?								
6	MR. HARRIS: From the publicity and								
7	being arrested down in Virginia Beach.								
8	MS. RATTLEY: Where do you live?								
9	MR. HARRIS: I live in Chesapeake								
10	now.								
11	MS. RATTLEY: In Chesapeake?								
12	MR. HARRIS: Deep Creek.								
13	MS. RATTLEY: What about the time of								
14	the rape, where were you? Can you prove that?								
15	MR. HARRIS: Yes. We haven't even								
16	got to that point. I can prove where I was, but we								
10	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·								
17	haven't even gotten to that point as far as in court.								
17	haven't even gotten to that point as far as in court.								
17 18	haven't even gotten to that point as far as in court. You know, I haven't had								
17 18 19	haven't even gotten to that point as far as in court. You know, I haven't had MS. RATTLEY: Well, see, what you								
17 18 19 20	haven't even gotten to that point as far as in court. You know, I haven't had MS. RATTLEY: Well, see, what you need to do is get your own evidence and see if you								
17 18 19 20 21	haven't even gotten to that point as far as in court. You know, I haven't had MS. RATTLEY: Well, see, what you need to do is get your own evidence and see if you can get witnesses, because this can you know, this								
17 18 19 20 21 22	haven't even gotten to that point as far as in court. You know, I haven't had MS. RATTLEY: Well, see, what you need to do is get your own evidence and see if you can get witnesses, because this can you know, this goes way back in our history. It's still happening.								

who killed her children. All she had to do was 1 holler there was a black man. Do you remember? 2 3 MR. HARRIS: Yes, I remember. Okay. .4 MS. RATTLEY: So what you got to do is to work this one vigorously, I would think, 5 because it's always that possibility. 6 7 MR. HARRIS: Right. MS. RATTLEY: You don't have the 8 You don't know the results of your blood test. 9 hair. 10 MR. HARRIS: I got the results back 11 from all of the tests. They never even tested my DNA, period. 12 MS. RATTLEY: But they have to match 13 14 it against whatever they got from her, don't they? 15 MR. HARRIS: Well, they say the 16 reason -- my lawyer had the letter saying that the 17 reason that my DNA wasn't tested -- and I asked, Why 18 wasn't mine tested? They told me that was the reason 19 I was incarcerated, because they were testing it. And he said the reason they didn't test is because 20 21 they knew beforehand that they had Caucasian hair 22 only on her. 23 MS. RATTLEY: And about the polygraph, your attorney doesn't advise you --24 25 MR. HARRIS: He said no.

1 MS. RATTLEY: Because they're not 2 always accurate. MR. HARRIS: 3 Right. MS. MCCLOUD: With them not being 4 5 willing to drop the case based on the hair, is your 6 lawyer planning to go ahead and ask for them to do 7 the DNA testing anyway? They're not -- the DNA 8 MR. HARRIS: 9 isn't even a factor anymore. The reason they're 10 going forward with the case is because of her testimony at the preliminary hearing, her saying --11 which is all that they have -- to certify a case, all 12 13 she has to do is say, That's the person that did it. MS. MCCLOUD: 14 Well --The DNA was not allowed 15 MR. HARRIS: 16 at the preliminary. 17 MS. MCCLOUD: I think I would question my lawyer, if I were you, more about that, 18 19 because if they had the hair as evidence, and they're 20 not -- that's still not causing them to drop the case against you, then I agree with Mrs. Rattley that your 21 22 case needs to be built up; and one way of building it 23 up might be to have the DNA test done, so I don't see 24 why your lawyer is not pushing for that. 25 MS. RATTLEY: Anyone else? Any

1	questions?							
.2	MR. DARDEN: Thank you.							
3	Just for the record, we have a							
4	written statement from Rosemary Randle entitled,							
5	Racism In the Virginia Legal System, and I'm entering							
6	that with the others.							
7	That concludes the speakers' list							
8	for the community forum.							
9	MS. RATTLEY: Did you enter into the							
10	record the testimony of the person who couldn't come							
11	and he mailed you the statement? Do we have to do							
12	that?							
13	MR. DARDEN: We don't have to, but I							
14	can do that. If you hold on just a minute.							
15	MS. HOWARD: Should I enter my name							
16	for the record?							
17	MR. DARDEN: Who are you?							
18	MS. HOWARD: Catherine Howard.							
19	MR. DARDEN: Did you give us a							
20	written statement?							
21	MS. HOWARD: I gave you a note. I							
22	will send it to you.							
23	MR. DARDEN: That's sufficient.							
24	MS. HOWARD: Okay. Thank you.							
25	MR. DARDEN: And also the record							
23 24	MR. DARDEN: That's sufficient. MS. HOWARD: Okay. Thank you.							

_	shall reflect that we have a written statement from								
2	our panelist, Robert Baldwin. And in addition to								
3	that, the record should reflect that committee member								
4	Azizah al-Hibri, in an interview with Commonwealth								
5	Attorney Gwynn, requested follow-up data and								
6	follow-up to his statement, which he agreed to								
7	provide.								
8	MS. MCCLOUD: What kind of data,								
9	please?								
10	MR. DARDEN: We'll take care of that								
11	in the office. I just wanted to make mention of it.								
12	And then finally, that the panelist, Tracey Watkins,								
13	and the others with her on that panel, requested a								
14	retraction of their reference to unnamed professors.								
15	Those are the only corrections to the record, and I'm								
	concluding now.								
16	concluding now.								
16 17	concluding now. Are you ready to close?								
	,								
17	Are you ready to close?								
17 18	Are you ready to close? MS. RATTLEY: First of all, may I								
17 18 19	Are you ready to close? MS. RATTLEY: First of all, may I express to Reverend Harris								
17 18 19 20	Are you ready to close? MS. RATTLEY: First of all, may I express to Reverend Harris MR. DARDEN: Excuse me. For the								
17 18 19 20 21	Are you ready to close? MS. RATTLEY: First of all, may I express to Reverend Harris MR. DARDEN: Excuse me. For the								
17 18 19 20 21 22	Are you ready to close? MS. RATTLEY: First of all, may I express to Reverend Harris MR. DARDEN: Excuse me. For the								

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CERTIFICATE I, Anna M. Fox, Notary Public, certify the foregoing pages 1 through 332, constitute a true and correct copy of the original proceedings of the Virginia Advisory Committee on U. S. Civil Rights, commencing on March 7, 1997. I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Virginia that the foregoing is true and correct. Dated this 19th day of March, 1997.

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