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9 Full surveillance recordings of
10 HOBOKEN COUNCILMAN MICHAEL RUSSO
11 and
12 SOLOMON DWEK
13 Parts 1-3
14
15 Also present:
16 Maher Khalil
17 Denis Jaslow
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Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

(Audio begins mid-sentence)

MR. DWEK: -- 9th, 2009. Time now is 2:16 p.m. Going into a meeting with Maher Khalil and a Mike Russo at the Light House (sic) Tavern Restaurant located at 199 Washington Street in Jersey City, New Jersey.

(Pause)

THE WAITER: Hi, how are you?

MR. DWEK: Good. Just meeting some people here.

THE WAITER: Okay.

MR. DWEK: Hey, how you doing?

MR. KHALIL: This is Michael.

MR. DWEK: Michael.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Nice to meet you.

MR. DWEK: Good to see you.

What's doing, Denis, man. How's everything?

MR. JASLOW: You know, everything's good. You all right, Vinnie? All right?

MR. DWEK: Everything's terrific. Running a little late, sorry.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's fine. In

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

this business, we're always late.

MR. DWEK: Slow coming out of Fairview, or wherever -- where I was. So.

I hope you ordered, no?

MR. KHALIL: No.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No, I literally, I walked in two minutes before you.

MR. DWEK: Oh, okay.

MR. JASLOW: It was, like, ten minutes. (Indiscernible).

MR. DWEK: So this is in Jersey City or Hoboken?

MR. JASLOW: Jersey City.

MR. DWEK: Oh, this is still in Jersey City.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I actually work right downtown. I'm a physical therapist. I work for Kessler.

MR. DWEK: Oh, okay. So next time my back is out, I'll know who to call.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Call me.

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, I've got a pain right here.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

THE WAITER: Want a drink or something?

MR. SPEAKER: I do, yes.

THE WAITER: A drink or a (indiscernible).

MR. SPEAKER: I'll have a Coke for now.

THE WAITER: Coke, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) time to stop.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's funny; every time I tell somebody I'm a therapist, I hear, you know, I've got this pain.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, now, I just got here. (Indiscernible).

MR. JASLOW: I can't figure it out.

MR. DWEK: What, in your stomach?

MR. JASLOW: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: You ate too much last night. Come on, would you? Tell us the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: What'd you have?

MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible).

MR. DWEK: Drinking and eating.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. JASLOW: Oh, no, I --

MR. DWEK: I mean, come on.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That spicy (indiscernible).

MR. SPEAKER: Yeah. It's gonna --

MR. DWEK: Something like that.

MR. JASLOW: Chicken, spicy bean, I like it how (indiscernible). I put jalapenos in it. I think the jalapenos, that's it.

MR. DWEK: That'll kill you.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That could do it.

MR. JASLOW: Two days ago? Two days?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Depends on how many you ate.

MR. JASLOW: It could.

MR. DWEK: Jalapeno.

MR. JASLOW: That's what the jalapeno does.

MR. DWEK: You ready to order, Denis?

MR. JASLOW: Me?

MR. KHALIL: You ready, Mike?

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, go ahead.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: All right, Denis, you first.

MR. JASLOW: I'll get the grilled steak sandwich.

Oh, no, that's what I wanted (indiscernible).

MR. SPEAKER: That looks pretty good.

MR. SPEAKER: Yeah.

MR. JASLOW: What does it come with, sir?

THE WAITER: It comes with French fries.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

THE WAITER: Would you like an appetizer first?

MR. JASLOW: Alcohol? No. I knew you didn't mean that. I'm just kidding.

Soup. What kind of soup do you have?

THE WAITER: We have a spring pea soup, that's our special. There's also

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

French onion soup.

MR. KHALIL: That's it?

MR. SPEAKER: That's our soups.

MR. KHALIL: I'm from Hudson County.

THE WAITER: What's that?

MR. JASLOW: I'm from Hudson County. We don't have pea soup.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm taking your word on that.

MR. JASLOW: We have chicken noodle.

MR. SPEAKER: I don't know. I don't know anymore. Maybe not.

MR. JASLOW: Do you eat pea soup?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'll eat anything look at me.

MR. JASLOW: That's right.

MR. KHALIL: I think the grilled (indiscernible) steak.

THE WAITER: Steak sandwich?

MR. KHALIL: Yes.

MR. JASLOW: What are they? Pea and what's the other one?

MR. DWEK: Onion. French onion.

THE WAITER: Spring pea soup.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. JASLOW: What was the other one?

THE WAITER: French onion soup.

MR. JASLOW: I'll try the pea soup.

THE WAITER: Okay.

MR. KHALIL: What's pea soup? With the --

MR. JASLOW: The green, right?

THE WAITER: Yeah.

MR. KHALIL: Want it spicy?

MR. JASLOW: No, not spicy.

THE WAITER: Would you like a starter, sir? Or just the sandwich?

MR. KHALIL: I'll try the soup also.

THE WAITER: Okay.

MR. JASLOW: Who's running the whole street campaign?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's a mix right now. I'm going to have the barbeque beef sandwich.

THE WAITER: Okay, anything to start?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'll try the pea soup, as well.

MR. DWEK: Jalapeno.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's why I got it.

MR. DWEK: I just had some lunch, so you have some -- what do you have for dessert?

THE WAITER: (Indiscernible).

MR. DWEK: Okay, thanks.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Smart man.

MR. DWEK: This is my third lunch. Don't ask.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'll tell you a funny story. When I was first elected to the council, you know, it's all new to me. And I grew up in a political family, but it was the first that I was really experiencing the whole political life. And I'm constantly going out to these luncheons.

MR. DWEK: Not easy, huh?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I had three or four in a row --

MR. DWEK: Yeah, what do you do?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- like, on a daily basis. And I don't want to insult

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

anyone, so you know, I'm eating with everybody. And I'm getting like a house.

MR. DWEK: But if you could at some point --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So I'm like, I've got to do something. So I figured out my strategy was, when I have back-to-back lunch meetings, I do one course at a time.

MR. DWEK: Or appetizer or something.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right, right. I'll do an appetizer at one, maybe a salad at one, a dessert at another because otherwise I would be 400 pounds. I can't refuse food.

MR. KHALIL: Yeah.

MR. JASLOW: You have a daughter, too, right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I have two. Two. One younger and one older.

MR. JASLOW: When you were working the election that time, and then you ran for the pre-(indiscernible) spot back in

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 the day, I think you guys were involved.
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
4 MR. JASLOW: You were doing also
5 (indiscernible) election.
6 MR. DWEK: Vinnie -- Vinnie, you
7 said he was a councilman in Guttenberg
8 for like eighteen years or something, no?
9 MR. JASLOW: No, no. Vinnie
10 (Indiscernible).
11 MR. DWEK: Oh, okay, yeah.
12 'Cause --
13 MR. JASLOW: Mike's father used to
14 be the mayor of Hoboken.
15 MR. DWEK: Hoboken? Yeah?
16 MR. JASLOW: For years.
17 MR. DWEK: Not Guttenberg.
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, we've been
19 a -- we've been a very political family
20 for years.
21 MR. DWEK: That's interesting.
22 Because I had a lunch at 11. My first
23 lunch, 11 'til 12:30, then I had 12:30 to
24 2, my second, and I also ate, and now I'm
25 here. So.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And you're up to
3 dessert.
4 MR. DWEK: Yeah. The last lunch, I
5 had some strawberries and some fruit,
6 cantaloupe. So now I'll have some
7 sweets. As long as I take my sugar
8 pills, everything's fine. They put me
9 now on Glipizide, the doctor put me on
10 the sugar here.
11 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No insulin?
12 MR. DWEK: No, no, no, thank you.
13 This one here.
14 MR. JASLOW: You've got a lot of
15 people working in (indiscernible).
16 MR. DWEK: Glipizide XL, five
17 milligrams.
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: We're trying. I
19 mean, we're still putting people
20 together. So if you have anybody who's
21 willing to work that day.
22 MR. DWEK: Thanks.
23 THE WAITER: We don't have the apple
24 turnover.
25 MR. DWEK: Okay, I don't like apple.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

Don't worry.

MR. SPEAKER: So you have people working -- you have areas covered? What area are you?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm the 3rd Ward. I'm downtown. I'm around OLG, the hospital, that area.

MR. JASLOW: How about in 4th Ward? Who you got there?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: 4th Ward, I need -- I need help down there.

MR. JASLOW: That's what (indiscernible) probably come in, right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. JASLOW: That's projects, right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. JASLOW: And that's where Dawn Zimmer is?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yup. And that's why I'm worried about that ward.

MR. DWEK: So you're running --

MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible)?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's supposed to be.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. JASLOW: Campos?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Campos moved downtown.

MR. JASLOW: But is he still --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, but he's not -- he's not involved anymore.

MR. JASLOW: Probably not worth much anyway.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's not -- he doesn't want to be bothered. Which I don't blame him. God bless him. He's just had a baby. You know.

MR. JASLOW: What about the 1st Ward?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Terry Castellano who's the councilwoman there.

MR. JASLOW: Will she help?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She's my -- she's actually my godmother and my aunt. So -- she's really my cousin, but -- but she should do well there for us.

MR. DWEK: He's looking for more work as you can tell, Denis.

MR. JASLOW: I want to get involved.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

I love to get involved.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, listen, we'll --

MR. JASLOW: I think (indiscernible) doing a great job. I think Dawn Zimmer runs some campaign like a (indiscernible). I'll tell you.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Oh, yeah?

MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible), but they were --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely. They were (indiscernible).

MR. JASLOW: I haven't seen anything like it. I've been involved in a lot of elections, but they --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know what they did? They treated it like a mayoral election.

MR. JASLOW: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: They didn't treat it like a (indiscernible) election, which was -- was their -- to their -- you know, accolades to them because they won; they won big.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: You're -- you're running for -- you mean you're on the council now, right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm on the council now.

MR. DWEK: So you're running --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm not running at this point, but I'm supporting one of my colleagues --

MR. DWEK: Oh.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- who's running for mayor.

MR. DWEK: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She's --

MR. DWEK: Who? Dawn --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Beth Mason.

MR. DWEK: Oh, Beth Mason. Oh, I got an invitation, I think, for her. Okay, I was away for Passover in Florida for three weeks. I came back, had a hundred invitations. I threw them all out.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You're a smart that.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: I don't want to do it. No, no fundraisers. Not my cup of tea.

MR. JASLOW: He's -- Mike has got -- he's going to have a lot of influence in the organization.

MR. KHALIL: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: Who's running against her for mayor?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She's running against Dawn Zimmer and Peter Cammarano, and then there's three independent candidates that are kind of fringe candidates that really don't have a shot.

MR. DWEK: And Peter's on the council now, right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Peter's also on the council. Yeah. Actually, all -- all three of them are.

MR. DWEK: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Dawn's the 4th Ward councilwoman, Peter's the --

MR. DWEK: So everyone on the council is a big party? They all like each other, I can tell.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible)?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's been fun, let me tell you.

MR. JASLOW: (On phone) Hello?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: But Beth is the right person for the job. She's the most qualified.

MR. JASLOW: (On phone) Hello?

MR. DWEK: How long has she been around?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She's been in Hoboken for twenty-eight years, now.

MR. DWEK: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She's, you know, she's been involved in the community for most of those years. She's been on the council, now, for two years. She's really -- she's really into it. She really does want to move the city forward. So she's the right person for the job.

The other two, Dawn, I think, is just too much of a neophyte. She's kind of -- she's too fringe. She's like --

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

she's very --

MR. JASLOW: Cheap?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, yeah, that's the right word. And then Peter, he's just -- he's trying -- he's trying to further his -- just his political career.

MR. DWEK: I hear you.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: There's really no care for the city.

MR. DWEK: And Beth is -- this Beth, she's pro-development?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Beth is pro-development. She, you know, she got a bad rap in the beginning because she was anti-Dave Roberts --

MR. DWEK: I don't know any --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- who was the --

MR. DWEK: -- I don't know who the --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- who's the mayor now.

MR. DWEK: Oh, he's the current mayor?

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's the current mayor.

MR. DWEK: What happened to him? He's not running again? Or --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Not running again. He got --

MR. DWEK: What does he do for a living?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's a -- he owns property, mostly.

MR. DWEK: Oh, like, so he's a developer, okay, yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's not really a developer. He's more just a property owner. He didn't really develop a lot of pieces of property. He bought some old pieces of property, converted them. He owns a restaurant in town.

MR. DWEK: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So, you know, so he's more of an entrepreneur than anything.

MR. KHALIL: May I add, Mike, that Mike Russo is probably our best source

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 for Hoboken because he -- if his
3 candidate win, he actually will run
4 Hoboken. And he has all the majority
5 votes. And I know him for many years,
6 David. He's a loyal trooper. If he give
7 you his word, he keeps it. And for you
8 wanting to do development, he's the best
9 person to go with --
10 MR. DWEK: For zone changes, and
11 stuff like that. Yeah.
12 MR. KHALIL: Mike Russo's the main
13 (indiscernible).
14 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know, we
15 have, right now, with Beth, you know, she
16 sat with me before she decided to run,
17 before I decided not to run.
18 MR. DWEK: Um-hum.
19 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: We sat together
20 and she basically said to me, you know,
21 to make a long story short, how do I get
22 you on board. And I told her outright, I
23 said, well, I want all three picks on
24 your council slate. She said okay, all
25 three of her council slate gives me a

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

six-vote majority.

MR. DWEK: She doesn't have too much of a say.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It gives me a six-vote majority. I have a sweep majority, veto-proof majority.

MR. DWEK: So you're the man?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So at the end of the day, I'm going to have total control of this.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, because I was -- I had my engineers looking at different spots and properties in town, and a lot of them don't have -- have restrictions when it comes to height. And the only way to get around that, they tell me, is a zone change.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: But there -- but there's some horror stories in town.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: The other thing is, I'm -- as I was -- as I was saying last week, we met -- I'm very much pro-development. And I'd like to use

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 development as a tool for the city. So
3 what we've been trying to do, what we'll
4 probably let (indiscernible) while I'm on
5 the council is instead of having, you
6 know, the developer come in and go to the
7 zoning board and ask for six different
8 variances, we're (indiscernible). Come
9 to the city council.
10 MR. DWEK: That's what -- exactly.
11 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Do a
12 redevelopment plan.
13 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
14 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Everybody reaps
15 the benefit of that. The developer gets
16 to present to the council the entire
17 plan. We make one decision. You don't
18 have to -- maybe you get this variance,
19 maybe you get that variances.
20 MR. DWEK: The D variances.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. You don't
22 have to go through all that nonsense.
23 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
24 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: We, as the city,
25 get givebacks (ph.) in terms of

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 infrastructure changes, open space --
3 MR. DWEK: Taxes.
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- PILOT
5 payments. Personally, I think PILOT
6 payments are a windfall for the city.
7 Some people disagree, some people --
8 MR. DWEK: No, no.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- think they're
10 detrimental. I think it's a huge
11 windfall, especially because the county
12 doesn't give us a lot of services.
13 MR. DWEK: Yeah, they do nothing.
14 Yeah.
15 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So we'd rather,
16 you know, we'd rather come back and we'd
17 rather say, hey, look, keep the money in
18 town.
19 MR. DWEK: Yup.
20 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: We'll give you,
21 the county, the five percent out of that
22 PILOT payment, we'll take the rest.
23 MR. DWEK: Which even that they
24 don't deserve.
25 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: It's like a payment in lieu of taxes or something.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: So the town grabs most of that money. Yeah, but I mean, I heard some horror stories where guys comes either to the mayor, council, the zoning board, you know, they were busy and there's a stack of a hundred applications. The guy who's on the bottom, he has to wait a year, two years, three years. Guy like me, if I have twenty, thirty, forty million dollars in a project invested, I've got to wait two more years --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You don't want to wait.

MR. DWEK: -- I'm losing 200,000 dollars a month.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You're right. You're absolutely right.

MR. DWEK: You know?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And with me, I mean, one thing I've learned in my

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

political life, I always give somebody an answer.

MR. DWEK: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: There's never any nonsense.

MR. DWEK: I hear you.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Sometimes, you might disagree with my answer, but you'll always get my answer.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, (indiscernible) before.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know, I never -- I never string people along. It's not my style.

MR. DWEK: Um-hum.

Let me get these two things, please.

THE WAITER: Okay, the chocolate bread pudding --

MR. DWEK: That's right.

THE WAITER: -- and the devil's food cake.

MR. DWEK: That's right. Thanks.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You've got to take --

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: Got to start with something.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- got to take two of those pills.

MR. DWEK: Why not.

But you know, it's important, when a guy comes in, you know, whether it's his own change or it's -- you come in with a master redevelopment plan, like, you know, I know a guy that's gonna watch my back, get my stuff expedited, then I don't have to --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And no --

MR. DWEK: -- get jerked around.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- I am most certainly pro-development. I mean, people -- people come to that council meeting and they bitch and they moan --

MR. DWEK: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- this is not good for the city, this is not good --

MR. DWEK: Nonsense.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Well, you tell me how we're going to reap the benefit of

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

the five million dollars more in revenue. Show me. You know?

MR. DWEK: On the taxes, yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know, you show me how we're going to do that, other than building.

MR. DWEK: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, because, like, you know, when I started off when I was eighteen, nineteen, I went to the Oranges. I was trying to do a 400-room hotel. To make a long story short, they kept me -- they played at me for three years. They kept on adjourning meetings, making meetings, and they told me I could build eighty rooms, and they killed me. I lost two and a half million bucks; I walked away, never went back. So you do something once --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: -- you know, it's a mistake. The second time you're a fool. So, you know --

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: -- I don't have time to play games. So --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: -- as long as I know I've got a friend that will help, you know, move things along, then, you know. It's a two-way street.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely.

MR. KHALIL: And I trust Russo many times. I trust him, I know him for many years, like I said. I'm very comfortable with him. The thing about him, he watches your back (indiscernible).

MR. DWEK: Okay.

MR. KHALIL: You know?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You'll always -- you'll always know what's going on, when it's going on, and you'll always know where we stand.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, so if, I mean, I come, you know, usually with a, you know, zone change or a redevelopment plan, and I file -- file application -- I mean, not

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 now, but after election, I mean, you
3 know, you could get that thing heard in
4 thirty or sixty days? Or it's a six-
5 month or a year or how far?
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I wouldn't -- I
7 wouldn't even be able to give you the
8 answer on that now because it's been so
9 crazy --
10 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
11 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- as far as the
12 members of those boards.
13 MR. DWEK: Yeah, yeah, I know. But
14 I'm saying, once you have your system in
15 place with your people, and obviously --
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Once --
17 MR. DWEK: -- and obviously, you're
18 going to be on the council --
19 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Once we get --
20 once we get those people in place, we'll
21 most certainly expedite all those
22 applications because I think it's
23 detrimental to the city to have things --
24 people just waiting around.
25 MR. DWEK: Yeah, I know, but you

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 can't have -- I mean, if you have a
3 hundred applications at once, you can't
4 expedite -- you can expedite some of
5 them.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Well.
7 MR. DWEK: I don't want to be part
8 of the all.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I use --
10 MR. DWEK: You understand my French?
11 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I use -- I use
12 this example. It's -- it's as if a
13 fraternity brother walks into your
14 business, place of business, and all
15 things being equal, and there's two
16 candidates --
17 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- and one is
19 just as qualified as the other but one's
20 your fraternity brother, who's going to
21 get the job.
22 MR. DWEK: Family -- family --
23 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know? I
24 mean --
25 MR. DWEK: It's called family first.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know, and --
3 and that's the way I've always operated.
4 MR. DWEK: Okay, good, yeah.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know, all
6 things being equal, I'll always make sure
7 that my friends are heard --
8 MR. DWEK: First.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- before anyone
10 else.
11 MR. DWEK: Yeah, because if you have
12 a hundred applications, they're all
13 qualified, but there's only limited
14 hours. You guys are not sitting and
15 meeting three weeks straight. I mean,
16 come on.
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And the other
18 thing, I'll never put you in a position
19 where you'll ever feel threatened.
20 MR. DWEK: No.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'll never put
22 you in a position where you think that
23 people are out to get you.
24 MR. DWEK: Oh, no.
25 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know. I

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

mean, that's just the way --

MR. DWEK: We'll meet before. I'm not just going to just file something blindly, obviously.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: I'll, you know, I'll give you draft, and you'll tell me, you know, if it's good or not good, and, you know, when to submit it and stuff like that.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely.

MR. DWEK: I've got to go wee. Where's their restrooms?

THE WAITER: Restrooms, sir?

MR. DWEK: I wasn't sure what hole it was in.

THE WAITER: Just around the mirror --

MR. DWEK: Thanks.

THE WAITER: -- to your left.

(Pause)

MR. JASLOW: Tom, I never know where he is. He's friendly with, obviously, Happy (ph.) -- Happy --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Happy Holloway

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 (ph.). Yeah. And Stevie's with us.
3 MR. JASLOW: So he -- that's right,
4 he's loyal to (indiscernible). I believe
5 that.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, please, in
7 your --
8 MR. JASLOW: I will talk to him.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- in your
10 travels, please talk to him.
11 MR. JASLOW: No, I want to help you.
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah?
13 MR. JASLOW: I'm going to get him to
14 help you.
15 MR. DWEK: When's the election? The
16 same time as (indiscernible)?
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. Yeah. I'm
18 hoping to God that we can do this thing
19 on the first ballot so I can get into
20 Jersey City and help some of my friends
21 there.
22 MR. KHALIL: That's it. We need it.
23 MR. JASLOW: Who do you like in
24 Jersey City?
25 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Phil Kenny is --

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 has become my de facto uncle.
3 MR. DWEK: Really?
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: His niece, Jenny,
5 is marrying my best friend from college.
6 MR. DWEK: Okay.
7 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So that's how I
8 met Phil.
9 MR. DWEK: Oh, okay.
10 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I met him down
11 the shore last summer.
12 MR. DWEK: Oh, he has a place
13 down --
14 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And since then --
15 yeah. And since then, like, he calls me,
16 hey, come on over, have a drink. You
17 know, and so all these family functions
18 that we've been to together, he's like --
19 he's like an uncle to me now. So I am
20 most certainly going to do anything --
21 excuse me -- anything I can to help him.
22 And then -- and then the rest of the
23 city, I mean, I think is pretty much
24 taken care of, itself.
25 MR. JASLOW: Jersey City, you mean?

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. I think --
3 I think Healy's going to be fine.
4 MR. JASLOW: Yeah, I agree.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I think he's
6 going to be fine.
7 MR. JASLOW: According to the poll,
8 yes.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I think he's even
10 got a shot to win this thing on the first
11 ballot.
12 MR. JASLOW: I think so, too.
13 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
14 MR. DWEK: Yeah?
15 MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible). I was
16 up with Manzo. I was actually working
17 for him.
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Were you?
19 MR. KHALIL: Couldn't talk him out
20 of it.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's all right?
22 MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible)
23 collection. You know, I was -- ended up
24 pulling out one of his guys, so -- and
25 more than that, I went to

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 (indiscernible), I got a (indiscernible)
3 up in there. I do -- I was going to
4 coordinate the whole street campaign for
5 him.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Really?
7 MR. JASLOW: When he -- when he ran
8 in 2001, I ran the B -- the T Ward. I
9 came in second. I beat Cunningham out.
10 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Oh, really?
11 MR. JASLOW: Yeah, I -- they had no
12 money. I had the second best vote for
13 his whole campaign. When they went in
14 there, he said, hey, he goes, I go, where
15 you need, he says C. He says, do you
16 have anybody to help me? I ask the old
17 guy sitting there, you want to help in
18 the T Ward? That's how -- that's how the
19 people work in there.
20 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's funny.
21 MR. JASLOW: So, like, I put the
22 (indiscernible) district. I covered
23 every district. They took -- they came
24 in second. (Indiscernible) were talking
25 about it like (indiscernible). DeGise,

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 DeGise.
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah?
4 MR. JASLOW: Because DeGise used to
5 be very, very popular there --
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah?
7 MR. JASLOW: -- in the C Ward at the
8 time. Because he -- DeGise, Cunningham,
9 and Manzo.
10 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right.
11 MR. JASLOW: But I produced --
12 Tommy -- Tommy's (indiscernible).
13 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
14 MR. JASLOW: Didn't give me any
15 credit, but he is.
16 MR. DWEK: Pescione (ph.)?
17 MR. JASLOW: No, Tom
18 (indiscernible), that's all
19 (indiscernible).
20 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Tommy only gives
21 Tommy credit.
22 MR. JASLOW: Yeah. But he knows
23 what I can do, Tommy. He really does.
24 MR. DWEK: Who's coming in second in
25 Jersey City? Smith or --

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. JASLOW: I think Manzo might beat him.

MR. DWEK: Manzo?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I think Manzo's going to.

MR. JASLOW: The polls are showing us Smith real low, but I don't -- I don't know. I look at it this way. We have -- I've got an Irish guy, an Italian guy, and a black guy. I just can't see the black -- (indiscernible) against the black guy. I just don't see it.

MR. DWEK: Impossible.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, but I don't see -- I don't see a big turnout in the black district.

MR. JASLOW: But the polls --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I mean, there's always a big turnout, but it's going to be --

MR. JASLOW: The poll is showing a three-way tie in the F Ward. The Manzo poll (indiscernible).

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, but Louis -

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 -
3 MR. JASLOW: Louis' going to lose
4 those guys that I know are doing the
5 poll.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Oh, really? All
7 right. I was going to say. Louis' been
8 doing those polls for a little --
9 MR. DWEK: It ain't -- it ain't
10 Louis breaking polls.
11 MR. JASLOW: I'm saying the guy --
12 no, this is coming right from the guys
13 who are doing the polls. They're friends
14 of mine.
15 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That would be --
16 that would be pretty amazing.
17 MR. JASLOW: And the guy tells me
18 that Healy's winning two-to-one in the
19 Heights for the same (indiscernible)
20 behind.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Carroll?
22 MR. JASLOW: Yeah.
23 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Really?
24 MR. JASLOW: And I talk to people.
25 Every time I see somebody, I say, hey,

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 what do you think of -- and a lot of
3 people are negative on (indiscernible).
4 They say the man -- we have nobody else
5 to vote for because they have more money
6 (indiscernible).
7 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: When you're --
8 when you're there that morning --
9 MR. JASLOW: You've got a nice gig,
10 they say.
11 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- you always
12 get -- you always hear people who are
13 negative against you. When you've been
14 involved that long, and when you're
15 involved on multiple levels -- he's not
16 just involved as a councilman; he's
17 involved in the county government, as
18 well.
19 MR. DWEK: Yeah, yeah, he's a big
20 shot.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So people start,
22 you know, people start to --
23 MR. DWEK: They have issues.
24 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- say hey, you
25 know, I can't even make my rent, I've got

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 to worry about him? You know.
3 MR. JASLOW: Andy Boscia (ph.) told
4 me to say hello. Jimmy --
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Jimmy?
6 MR. JASLOW: I said, I'm going to
7 see Mike. Oh, very nice.
8 MR. DWEK: And Jimmy King, they say
9 is --
10 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Jimmy should win,
11 hands down.
12 MR. DWEK: -- pretty strong. So.
13 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. He's
14 running -- he's running --
15 MR. JASLOW: Also, he --
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- he's running
17 with Manzo, right?
18 MR. JASLOW: Ned pulled out.
19 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
20 MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible) Healy's
21 poll. Ned polled that Healy's up in C
22 Ward, too. Healy not King.
23 MR. KHALIL: Yesterday, I stopped by
24 Ward C. This guy's got all ego problems.
25 MR. DWEK: Who, the guy running?

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. KHALIL: No, the guys who worked in it.

MR. DWEK: Oh.

MR. KHALIL: Murphys. I can't stand Tom Murphy. He's so so nasty.

MR. DWEK: Murphy, doesn't he work for the senator or something?

MR. KHALIL: Yeah, he's at our (indiscernible).

MR. DWEK: We saw him once, didn't we?

MR. KHALIL: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: Liberty House? Yeah.

MR. KHALIL: Yeah, I went in and saw the guys.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's a (indiscernible). He's like one of those goofy guys that -- that -- that's what he's going to be doing.

MR. JASLOW: What about Angel Alicea, the --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No.

MR. JASLOW: He's not a worker?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's a worker,

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

but he's got no shot. Peter's got no shot. That's why.

MR. DWEK: Not even for council, Peter?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Well, he's not running for council.

MR. DWEK: Oh, you can't run for both?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You can't run for both.

MR. DWEK: So it's all or none, do or die.

MR. JASLOW: Yeah, it's built in. That's the sweep election that she won some of the campaign.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: See, Peter's problem was -- and I like -- I liked Peter. But in this election, Peter's been out there badmouthing me and my family. I'm not even fucking around with him. And I said to him, I said, Peter, you're making a big mistake here. I said, you're making an enemy out of me for life.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: For now reason.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And I don't play that game in politics. In politics, I'm on one side one day, on the other side the next, just like everyone --

MR. DWEK: Yeah, interesting game.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- everyone else.

MR. DWEK: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know. I said, but once you and me get personal, you're done. You know. And I told him that, and he said, oh, I'm not going to do it, I'm not going to do it.

MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible).

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: All of a sudden --

MR. JASLOW: Paul Swibinski.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. He's on radio, he's talking about my family, he's talking about this one, he's talking about -- he's got the nerve to spread rumors about my eight-year-old niece because my mother's the -- my mother's the cheerleading coordinator in Hoboken

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 for the recreation team for thirty years,
3 right?
4 MR. DWEK: Insane.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: My niece, she has
6 a limit, she lives in Lyndhurst. But she
7 cheers for Hoboken.
8 MR. DWEK: So what's wrong.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Because her
10 mother's the (indiscernible).
11 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So he's got to go
13 out and tell people that she doesn't live
14 in the town; she shouldn't be cheering.
15 An eight year old little girl?
16 MR. DWEK: She has to stay home.
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I mean, come on.
18 Are you fucking kidding?
19 MR. DWEK: Get real.
20 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know. And
21 these are the stupid things that
22 people -- that they can't see past, you
23 know, can't see the trees for the forest.
24 You know, it's like --
25 MR. DWEK: People care about the

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 stupidity. Anything that looks bad on --
3 MR. JASLOW: No, what it is, is he
4 just doesn't realize who he's involved
5 with.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's too new to
7 it. He thinks that -- he thinks that
8 just beating people up and saying mean
9 things about people --
10 MR. JASLOW: No, it's that he's
11 taking leadership from Swibinski.
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Well, yeah.
13 MR. JASLOW: Swibinski's telling him
14 what to say.
15 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And Paul --
16 that's Paul's type of campaign. You
17 crash and burn.
18 MR. JASLOW: I'm not saying -- he's
19 a friend of mine; I'm not -- he does a
20 campaign. That's the way he runs a
21 campaign.
22 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, no, he's a
23 crash and burn kind of guy. He never --
24 there's never a positive piece out there.
25 It's all negative.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 MR. JASLOW: Well, now there will
3 be. He won't put -- he won't put a
4 negative out now. At the --
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Two weeks now.
6 MR. JASLOW: Yeah, see --
7 MR. DWEK: What does he do, this
8 Peter guy?
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He's an attorney.
10 MR. DWEK: So he should have more,
11 you know, stature and class or
12 whatever --
13 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Sure, sure.
14 MR. DWEK: -- than to try to destroy
15 a guy. Not nice.
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It is what it is.
17 I mean, I've been involved in this my
18 whole life, like I said. My skin's
19 thicker than this table.
20 MR. DWEK: That's a pretty thick
21 table, here.
22 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
23 MR. JASLOW: Well, if you want to be
24 a Joe Mockley (ph.), you have to take the
25 punches.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: Yup.

MR. JASLOW: You know who Joe Mockley is, right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yup. All leg -- all legendary names in this county.

MR. DWEK: Yup.

MR. JASLOW: Plus importers, you know. Me, Tommy --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right.

MR. JASLOW: What do you think of this all, David?

MR. DWEK: He looks like he's a worker.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yup.

MR. JASLOW: That's your guy.

MR. DWEK: As long as I know I got him in my corner, you got me in my -- in your corner. Don't worry about it.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's the plan, brother.

MR. DWEK: That's the deal, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely, absolutely.

MR. DWEK: But, you know, I'm not

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 going to do any -- come in for any
3 applications until, you know, like, when
4 does the council, the new council get
5 seated. In July?
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: July 1 --
7 MR. DWEK: Okay.
8 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- new council's
9 there. What we'll do is, right after
10 this whole thing, even between the
11 election and the swearing-in, we'll
12 get --
13 (End of part 1; part 2 begins)
14 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- a meeting
15 together with some of the guys --
16 MR. DWEK: Okay.
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- some of the
18 new councilmembers. And then we'll do a
19 -- set up a meeting like that, as well.
20 MR. DWEK: Okay, good. That sounds
21 like a plan.
22 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, definitely.
23 MR. DWEK: Yeah, so I'll do that,
24 and then after the election, we'll hook
25 up again.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
3 MR. DWEK: And then I won't do
4 anything until, like, September, until
5 things calm down.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, absolutely.
7 Understandable. Yeah, that's good.
8 MR. JASLOW: Audiak (ph.) Media. Is
9 that the phone company, too?
10 MR. DWEK: Yeah, exactly. Oh,
11 thanks. Right here.
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm sorry?
13 MR. JASLOW: The phone company, is
14 it Verizon (indiscernible) --
15 THE WAITER: Bread pudding and
16 devil's food cake.
17 MR. DWEK: Thanks.
18 MR. JASLOW: -- is that the same as
19 Audiak Media?
20 MR. DWEK: What's that?
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
22 MR. DWEK: Where are you running to?
23 MR. JASLOW: Supposed to do
24 something for my brother.
25 MR. DWEK: Now?

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. JASLOW: The phone company's coming to hook the phone up (indiscernible) in the house.

MR. DWEK: You want to take the steak thing to go?

MR. JASLOW: I'll eat it.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And what's the -- what's the company name?

MR. JASLOW: Audiak? No, it's Verizon. I see in the phone book, it's called Audiak. I can't even say it right. Trying to think. (Indiscernible).

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Good choices, by the way.

MR. DWEK: A little too sweet, but I'll survive.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You took the pill.

MR. DWEK: Oh, man. One in the morning, one at night, man.

MR. JASLOW: Take the pill?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: My father's a diabetic --

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: Sugar.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- from -- from his chemo. My dad's a cancer survivor.

MR. DWEK: Yeah? Oh.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And it's hysterical. You know, like, he doesn't really know --

MR. DWEK: Want one?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- he doesn't really know how to deal with --

MR. DWEK: Gets your sugar down to a hundred, man.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He doesn't know really how to deal with it. He takes -- he takes his, like, his sugar --

MR. DWEK: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- and he'll take a reading. Like, oh, my God, it's 160. I didn't really eat anything.

MR. DWEK: It's too high.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And I'll say -- I'll say to him, I'll say, well, what did you have today, Dad? Well, I just had cereal this morning with a banana. I

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 say, all right, what did you have for
3 lunch?
4 MR. DWEK: The milk was bad.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I had -- I
6 skipped lunch. I say, all right, what
7 did you have for dinner. I had pasta. I
8 said, Dad, you had all carbs.
9 MR. DWEK: That's it, yeah.
10 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I said that's all
11 sugar.
12 MR. DWEK: The banana's bad, the
13 cereal's ba -- any cereal's bad. And the
14 milk's worse. The milk has four grams of
15 sugar to every serving.
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. Yup, yup.
17 Yeah, but I tease him all the time. And
18 then -- then when I'm around, he won't
19 even take his readings. He's like, I'll
20 take it when you leave.
21 So what other projects are you
22 working on, now?
23 MR. DWEK: We're doing -- Maher is
24 helping me out in Jersey City, and we're
25 doing 750 units on Garfield Avenue.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Okay.

MR. DWEK: Twenty-three stories. So hopefully, we'll break ground sometime in September on that. And then I've got a lot of stuff in New York, Florida, and the Carolinas.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Nice.

MR. DWEK: So, you know.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: 300 and some properties we've got now, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: God bless you.

MR. DWEK: Keeps me busy.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Hey.

MR. DWEK: It might also kill me one day, but it's okay for now.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You've got to die some -- some way, right?

MR. DWEK: One thing's for sure. I will not die of natural causes. I might as well enjoy it while I could.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's funny.

MR. DWEK: My uncle who -- he wasn't old, he was, like, sixty, whatever, he

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 had a cancer (indiscernible). He was
3 sitting there in the hospital, and so I
4 say, tell me -- you know, his name was
5 Morris -- tell me, so, do you have any
6 regrets? He goes, yeah, I wish I ate
7 more pastrami sandwiches. At least he
8 had a good sense of humor.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, absolutely.
10 MR. DWEK: At least I enjoyed
11 myself, he said. Listen, you know, I had
12 all the pastrami, cornbeef -- whatever I
13 wanted to eat, I ate. He wasn't really
14 fat, but, you know.
15 MR. KHALIL: (Indiscernible)
16 pastrami (indiscernible) garlic.
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I love garlic.
18 MR. KHALIL: Yeah. Garlic --
19 MR. JASLOW: When were you living
20 down there?
21 MR. KHALIL: For like two years.
22 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right here, on
23 10th Street. 242 10th Street. It's the
24 Kessler Rehab. Yeah. I just started
25 working there about six months ago.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: My wife, yesterday, what you -- she needs exercise. I'm like, me, she does exercise for me. But it doesn't help. Yesterday she goes in the city -- we live in New York -- she goes to the gym for like two hours. So -- or like twelve o'clock, yeah, I was in the gym from nine to eleven. She goes, I'm on the bike. I said, what are you doing? She goes riding you bike through Central Park. She rides a bike for an hour, and she goes -- comes back. So she was, oh, my back. I said, of course your back hurts. You biked for an hour -- I said an hour on a bike, two hours of kick boxing, on the elliptical, on the treadmill, your ran -- she ran eight miles and on the bike, I don't know how many miles. Then she goes, oh, I got a spasm in my back.

I said stop it already. You're going to kill yourself. It's true. You can't do too much. You know. No, she eats good fish and salads and weeds and

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

all the grass that I can't. So, I'll buy it, I can't -- you know, she eats all this garb -- you know, this health -- you know, they call it healthy. You know, she stays in good shape. But I mean, you can't do that.

MR. JASLOW: That's crazy.

MR. DWEK: Too much exercise.

MR. JASLOW: That's a lot --

MR. DWEK: Usually, it's two hours every day, at least six days a week. She's addicted. I mean, it's a sickness. But I don't know. Not for me.

I was in Florida over the holidays. She rented a -- we went to the beach by the Eden Roc there on the Fontainebleau on the (indiscernible) we built a hotel. So I'm sitting there. So she goes, there's jet ski rentals. She goes, listen, you can sit in the sun all you want, boom, she rents a jet ski for two hours. Two hours in the ocean.

I said listen, you know, she goes, you want to come? I said no, no, no.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

She goes, I'll drive, you just hold on. I said, do me a favor, if I want to die, there's easier ways. I'm not going on. She said, oh, you're a chicken. Blah, blah, blah. I said, call me what you want, I ain't going on.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'll be --

MR. DWEK: Okay. So I'm laying there and everything. So like after an hour and fifteen minutes she comes in, she goes, you saw what happened to me, Dave? I said what happened to you? I said, I didn't see. I'm not looking here. I don't have binoculars.

She goes, I fell off all the way down in the ocean, and they had to come rescue me. I said, I told you.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's crazy.

MR. DWEK: She goes, you didn't hear? I said I didn't hear anyone screaming. You know, you're friggin', how many feet out? She's sitting there. Craziness.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, that is

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 crazy.
3 MR. DWEK: Wild, man, wild.
4 MR. KHALIL: One thing about Mike --
5 about David, you can trust him.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. And I
7 talked to somebody who --
8 MR. KHALIL: I've known him for
9 about nine years. I told him I was --
10 MR. DWEK: It's been a little while
11 now.
12 MR. JASLOW: Yeah. Huh?
13 MR. DWEK: I'm almost married to
14 him.
15 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: In some states
16 you are.
17 MR. DWEK: Sure.
18 MR. KHALIL: So, and he's always
19 been a man of his word, and he's
20 always -- (indiscernible) my friends
21 here. And they like him. He's straight
22 up, you know. And --
23 MR. DWEK: We do the right thing.
24 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Sounds like we'll
25 get along fine.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: We take care of our friends.

MR. KHALIL: I mean, you need something, boom, it's done. You know. Call him up tomorrow say, hey, you know, I need five, ten grand for my campaign. Boom, (indiscernible) get it for you.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's always -- it's always nice to have a friend. What's that.

THE WAITER: Who ordered the (indiscernible)?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Thank you, sir.

THE WAITER: Anything else you'd like, folks?

MR. DWEK: This is -- I don't want -- this is good. I'm eating it. Thanks.

MR. JASLOW: A little mustard.

THE WAITER: You want mustard, sir?

MR. KHALIL: And steak sauce, please.

THE WAITER: (Indiscernible).

MR. KHALIL: Steak sauce.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

THE WAITER: Steak sauce.

MR. DWEK: As Maher will tell you, I'm an investor, developer. And I just want to -- I don't want to be left on the bottom of the pile. And then people forget about me, and I get jerked around, so. That's why I do what I got to do with the right people.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely.

MR. DWEK: And they don't forget me.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Hey, I hear you're in the casino business too?

MR. DWEK: We're looking at some stuff.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm a big AC man. I love it down there.

MR. DWEK: Where do you go, Borgata or Harrah's?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I do go there once in a while. I was going to Trump probably for the last year.

MR. DWEK: Marina?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: The -- no --

MR. DWEK: Taj?

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- I've been
3 going to the Plaza.
4 MR. DWEK: Oh, Plaza?
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I had a friend
6 who worked down there.
7 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
8 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She's no longer
9 with them, but I stood, because they took
10 care of me. You know, their account
11 system is still pretty good.
12 MR. JASLOW: What'd you do down
13 there, you play poker?
14 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I play anything.
15 I'm a gambler.
16 MR. DWEK: Slots, whatever, yeah.
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'll play
18 anything. I'm really --
19 MR. JASLOW: You ever go to the
20 Caesars, play poker over there?
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I don't really
22 play any poker. When I play, I play
23 local games. I don't like playing poker.
24 You know, you got too many amateurs and
25 too many professionals. You know, you

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 don't have those people who are -- who
3 are into it but aren't great. You know.
4 And then the amateurs just kill you,
5 because they just do whatever -- I mean,
6 they have -- there's no strategy.
7 MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible) all the
8 time. They get the stupid cards.
9 MR. DWEK: I don't know. There's
10 different opinions as to the future of
11 AC.
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
13 MR. DWEK: I still think it's --
14 it's -- you know, it's going to survive
15 and stay. Some people, you know, some
16 guys that are working for me, you know,
17 they advise me. They say because of all
18 the competition, whether it be in
19 Connecticut or in Pennsylvania or in
20 Delaware, and with -- you know, the
21 economy and with being overbuilt there, I
22 mean, who knows.
23 I mean, right now, you know,
24 between -- you know, all the Trump -- you
25 know Taj Mahal, Plaza, and Marina and the

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 bankruptcies, resorts might be going out
3 of business.
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
5 MR. DWEK: Borgata is a border club.
6 It's only open three nights a week. It's
7 only open for Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
8 They're closed -- the entire tower is
9 closed most of the week, which is not
10 good. They spent over half a billion
11 dollars there.
12 I met some guys down there,
13 representing Trump. For 800 million, you
14 could buy Taj Mahal and Marina. There's
15 as group that's talking, you know, you
16 know. I don't know. I like it, but my
17 guys that work for me are --
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
19 MR. DWEK: -- are telling me, be
20 cautious there.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
22 MR. DWEK: So I'm not sure.
23 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I just don't
24 think they will ever go under.
25 MR. DWEK: I know.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know?

MR. DWEK: But they're losing money. The question is, how long could you continue losing money there? I don't know. It's not Vegas, you know.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. Well, I think that's what the future of it needs to be. It needs to be --

MR. DWEK: Family entertainment.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- it needs to become a Vegas town.

MR. DWEK: There's no one there that has the vision to do that, I don't think.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: Plus the safety of the town is a big issue.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: You can't walk outside there.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Nope.

MR. DWEK: The boardwalk's not safe.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, you come -- you come --

MR. DWEK: Those outlet stores

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 stink.
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
4 MR. DWEK: Caesars is okay. You
5 know, you have those, you know, whatever
6 those --
7 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Um-hum.
8 MR. DWEK: So, we'll see.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. I mean,
10 somebody really has to have that vision.
11 You're right. They got to make a --
12 they've got to make a big play, and
13 they've got to just follow through with
14 it.
15 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No matter what.
17 MR. DWEK: They had at one point
18 eight billion. The banks want like 800
19 million, that's what they're saying now.
20 They'll come down. There's no buyers.
21 There's no int -- there's no interest in
22 it, so. At some point, there's value.
23 The question is, what happens, you know,
24 if the gambling continues to
25 (indiscernible) and there's no -- the

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

hotel business there, no one's going to come there unless there's gambling. You can't convert it to condos, because there's no market for it there. It's not like here, where you're ten minutes --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right.

MR. DWEK: -- you know, Hoboken. The beauty of Hoboken is, I mean, I did some market studies, is you know, in New York we're building -- we charge 1,400 dollars a square foot for a 1,000 square foot condo, I sell it for a million, a million-two.

Hoboken, the same condo, 800 or 1,000 feet, I'll sell for 400 or 450 dollars a square foot. You take -- you hop on the train, the light rail or your car or your bus, whatever, you're in the city in ten or twelve minutes. So it's like living in New York, and you're fifty or sixty percent less.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Cheaper, right.

MR. DWEK: Yeah. And you have a nice infrastructure, safe town. There's

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

that. You don't have that in AC, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. KHALIL: Business (indiscernible).

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know what's going to save AC? Sports (indiscernible).

MR. DWEK: They've got to something there.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: They got to do it. They have to do it. It's decreases crime.

MR. DWEK: Yep.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It increases the revenues down there. And what you do is you tax the shit out of it.

MR. DWEK: Yeah. More than --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: The state will make money --

MR. DWEK: -- more than the casinos. The only question is, how do you get rid of the elements? Where do you move them to? I mean, you know, the surrounding towns aren't that bad.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Illegal
3 prostitution?
4 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Seriously.
6 MR. KHALIL: But city officials are
7 all over the prostitutes. Hey, how's
8 business this weekend? During the
9 convention, it's like --
10 MR. DWEK: They're busy. But the
11 thing is, you know, what do you -- you
12 know, I just don't know.
13 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. Yeah.
14 It's going to be interesting to see how
15 it -- how it unfolds, though.
16 MR. DWEK: The state's losing money
17 on income there. You know, Red Camel and
18 revenue. And people say down, down,
19 down. Every time I go there, you know,
20 for a weekend, Friday night and Saturday
21 night, you can't get into that town. I
22 mean, you know, I have dinners there or
23 meetings or whatever.
24 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Um-hum.
25 MR. DWEK: Saturday night, you know,

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 going on that thruway there and stuff,
3 whoa, you know --
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely.
5 MR. DWEK: Yeah. I had a meeting
6 there in Martins, two Saturday nights
7 ago. You know, so I'm coming down
8 from -- you know, I was coming down from
9 here, it was cloudy, whatever. So I take
10 a chopper sometimes when I go. But I was
11 driving and, you know, you couldn't -- I
12 came off -- I came off the Garden State
13 onto the Expressway, packed, miles and
14 miles. I guess they make money two
15 nights a week, three -- I don't know.
16 But for the waterfront to close like
17 that, you know. You know, Monday through
18 Thursday is not good.
19 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No, not at all.
20 Not at all.
21 MR. DWEK: I don't care how much
22 staff you lay off, your fixed overhead
23 between your debt service and utilities
24 and property taxes and insurance kills
25 you.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's right.
3 MR. DWEK: So it's got to be --
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That never
5 changes.
6 MR. DWEK: -- a big, big number.
7 Millions of dollars a month, millions.
8 MR. KHALIL: Also, he runs a marble
9 company.
10 MR. DWEK: No, we import from Italy,
11 direct importers of granite marble,
12 porcelain and ceramic and stuff like
13 that. So I'm a partner there, so.
14 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Nice.
15 MR. DWEK: Yeah. We do that, so.
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You've got your
17 hands in a lot of things.
18 MR. DWEK: Well, they came to me,
19 and they were going -- a couple of guys,
20 and they wanted to expand their business.
21 They asked me, you know, they asked me
22 for five million investment. So, you
23 know, I'm a partner. So, you know, you
24 see absolute -- the black -- that's not
25 absolute, but you see it's marble. But

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 usually black absolute, most of the stuff
3 across the country is imported by us.
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Really?
5 MR. DWEK: Yeah. It's cheap. The
6 main cost in bringing granite in is not
7 cutting it out in Italy the mountains,
8 it's the cargo, shipping it.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Hm.
10 MR. DWEK: That's where our costs
11 are.
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Nice.
13 MR. DWEK: And, you know, the
14 freight. But, we do it. It costs like
15 two dollars a square, twelve by twelve,
16 landed here, so. But the main business
17 is condos and stuff like that, so.
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Do you do any
19 commercial?
20 MR. DWEK: I do shopping center
21 combinations sometimes. I did in
22 Greenwood, South Carolina, a 300,000
23 square foot retail center, and then 2,700
24 condos behind it. Because it was
25 fronting on Route 27, the main highway

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 there. So I -- you know, I did a
3 combination. But I -- you know, the
4 condo business --
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's real money.
6 That's right.
7 MR. DWEK: Yeah. I mean, you look
8 across the street, you see the brick --
9 you know, the brick, the mortar. I mean,
10 every condo, you know, whether it's 800
11 feet, 1,200 feet or 1,500 feet, one
12 bedroom, or studio or two or three
13 bedroom, it's all the same in every town.
14 Similar construction, similar soft
15 floors. You know, I -- I sold -- since I
16 started when I was like eighteen, I sold
17 like fifty-some thousand condos already.
18 You know, there's nothing new. There's
19 still excitement in the business, you
20 know --
21 MR. DWEK: Sure.
22 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Fighting with
23 sellers and dealing with morons and stuff
24 like that. But the same contract, same
25 game, same -- I know it all. There's

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

nothing -- you know, it's not about money. It's just I've got to do something. I keep busy. But, you know.

It's a good thing. But Hoboken is a beautiful town. I mean, I've been driving by there, you know. I'm here now and all, for three years. But, you know, until I know the right people, I stay out of a town. I have too many bad experiences.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No, well, we'll definitely make sure you get meet everybody you've got to meet, and we'll move that forward.

MR. DWEK: We'll get rolling here. Yeah. And then we'll do -- I guess, whatever I do, I'll do through Maher. That's for you, and that's that.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No problem.

MR. DWEK: Yeah. Actually, I don't want to have anything in my name. I don't want to have any conflicts. You know.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You're a smart

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 man.
3 MR. DWEK: At least you appreciate
4 that.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely. You
6 know what it is, too? I mean, I think
7 the world is losing common sense. You
8 know, with all this -- all this nonsense
9 with the pay to play stuff and --
10 MR. DWEK: Yeah. And then you have
11 some -- some ninety-three year old morons
12 that come to the board, I gave 200
13 dollars. Don't bother me. Come on. You
14 know, this is business. Shut up.
15 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: The neat part is
16 when it was all up front and everybody
17 was able to do what they -- it was all up
18 front --
19 MR. DWEK: Yeah, there was no
20 problems. Yeah.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Now, you're
22 actually -- you're forcing people into
23 these -- these shady kind of dealings.
24 MR. DWEK: Yeah, they scrutinize
25 people too much.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: You can't do that.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense.

MR. DWEK: So I'll do -- I'll give him 5,000 next week, Maher, and then he'll -- you know, you'll work it out, all right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. KHALIL: I'll raise the money.

MR. DWEK: Whatever you want to do, you know. Just -- and put his name, his goat's name, his mother's name. Just don't put my name anywhere. You don't know me, you never saw me, and that's it. We'll leave it at that.

And after the election, I'll do the same, you know. There'll be more, so. That's the way I operate. There's no --

MR. KHALIL: From Maher, Mike Russo's involved. I should put Mike Russo. It's -- and then from there you contribute to --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's Russo for

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 Hoboken, is the account.
3 MR. DWEK: Do whatever -- you know,
4 whatever.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: We'll talk about
6 it.
7 MR. DWEK: I'll see you next week,
8 and then you work it out with him, so.
9 MR. KHALIL: Yeah, no problem.
10 MR. DWEK: Get back into the swing
11 of things. I was away for a long --
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And we'll
13 definitely set up some of those meetings
14 with --
15 MR. DWEK: Yeah, whatever. You
16 know, there's no rush. I mean, yeah, I'm
17 trustworthy --
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know --
19 MR. DWEK: -- I'm a trustworthy guy.
20 I'm not -- you're not running anywhere.
21 You know. Otherwise I'll send --
22 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know where to
23 find me.
24 MR. DWEK: -- I'll send my hack man
25 out, Denis, so. But it's been -- you

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

know, I was away for three weeks. I came back last Monday night. So like, I'm still digging out. I've got, I don't know, thousands of pages of contracts, faxes. Something crazy, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Sure.

MR. DWEK: But it's good. It keeps me busy.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm sure. It must be crazy. Especially when you've got to get through every one of them.

MR. DWEK: Yeah. You know, in the beginning I used to do everything myself. Then I started delegating. Now I'm back onto the theory where I have to do everything -- I still -- there were so many mistakes.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's like anything. I mean, I owned my own business in Hoboken for a little while.

MR. DWEK: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It became -- there was a conflict there after a while because I was a councilman and --

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- just --
4 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- but I mean,
6 honestly, it was like if you don't do it
7 yourself, nobody else is going to do it
8 for you like it's your own, you know --
9 MR. DWEK: I do a deal with the
10 bank. I tell them I'm borrowing the
11 money at three percent fixed, blah, blah,
12 blah, blah. I tell the guy, this is the
13 deal, get the thing closed. He closed
14 the deal five percent, because I was
15 sleeping at the wheel. So now I got
16 to -- I don't know. I don't got to do
17 everything, but I've got to read
18 everything. Read and read and read.
19 Like, you know, craziness.
20 The e-mails, I don't -- I mean, I
21 got to -- I get over 200 e-mails a day.
22 You know, my secretaries, they respond.
23 You know, I've got a private e-mail
24 address that's for me --
25 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: -- I get twenty, thirty, fifty, whatever, a day. I respond. The rest of them, that's it.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: They deal with it.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, because like, my BlackBerry, you know, I'm here. It didn't go off because, you know, I've got to limit it.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: These BlackBerries, the downfall of existence.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, it's --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's everything.

MR. DWEK: It's a necessary evil. They kill you. You know, people send me on my own account -- you know, if I have my private AOL account, they send me an e-mail, if I don't respond in thirty seconds, the guy is on my cell phone. Dave, are you alive? I'm like, what are you, an idiot? What am I, a machine? I mean, come on.

I'm in a meeting. I'm in a lunch. I'm on the beach. Yeah, I mean --

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Taking a shit.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, I mean, only human beings. It's an amazing thing. So.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Very true.

MR. DWEK: You're running, Denis, to your appointment, or --

MR. JASLOW: Yeah. I got to go.

MR. DWEK: -- I don't want to hold you. What time is your meeting?

MR. JASLOW: It's supposed to be at 1 to 4.

MR. DWEK: Well, then, get out of here. Go, and I'll see you tomorrow.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, don't stay on my account, brother.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, don't -- we'll handle it.

MR. JASLOW: We'll get together. You can help him with the street campaign.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Absolutely. I'll give you my card.

MR. DWEK: This guy is looking to work. I never seen anything like it

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 before. I'm looking for less work,
3 you're looking for more work.
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: My cell phone is
5 on there.
6 MR. DWEK: Thanks.
7 MR. JASLOW: I'm looking for a home.
8 MR. DWEK: You're looking for a
9 home? Oh, you mean a job?
10 MR. JASLOW: No. Not a job.
11 MR. DWEK: I mean, after the fact.
12 MR. JASLOW: I want to help build an
13 organization. I want to --
14 MR. DWEK: This guy could be a
15 threat to you. He might run for mayor
16 one day.
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's the game
18 we're in.
19 MR. DWEK: Don't ever trust him.
20 MR. JASLOW: Not in Hoboken.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's the game
22 we're in.
23 MR. DWEK: I'm just picking on you,
24 man.
25 MR. JASLOW: I ain't running for

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 anything in Hoboken, that's for sure.
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: We got a guy
4 appointed to the Housing Authority,
5 literally, two months ago.
6 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
7 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So I go to him,
8 right, during the whole campaign, when it
9 started. The guy's name is Hector. I
10 said Hector. He says what? I did this
11 for you, I need you out there working
12 when I can't do it. You can't what? You
13 know, I can't be -- well, I
14 don't -- I said Hector, let me explain to
15 you how this works. I said, I did for
16 you, you do for me.
17 MR. DWEK: One hand -- one hand
18 washes the other.
19 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I said --
20 MR. DWEK: Don't be stupid.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- what are we
22 doing here? I said, I mean, is this a
23 joke? He's like, no, no, really, I
24 can't. I said, you know what Hector,
25 good luck on the Housing Authority. I

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 wish you the best. Don't come to me.
3 MR. DWEK: Your appointment.
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I got him his
5 apartment in Hoboken.
6 MR. DWEK: They forget.
7 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He was late on
8 his rent four months in a fuckin' row. I
9 made sure he wasn't evicted.
10 MR. DWEK: Didn't evict him.
11 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. I got him
12 appointed to the Housing Authority. I
13 did a thousand things for this guy.
14 MR. DWEK: Now it's time to boot
15 him.
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right up my ass.
17 Yeah. Hector, God bless you.
18 MR. DWEK: Good bye.
19 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Go ahead.
20 MR. DWEK: Yeah. You're going, Den,
21 right? We'll see you tomorrow.
22 MR. JASLOW: No.
23 MR. DWEK: No?
24 MR. JASLOW: (Indiscernible).
25 MR. DWEK: Okay. I got enough

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 appointments tomorrow. So if I get one
3 canceled, I'll be happy. Don't worry. I
4 got like eight or nine --
5 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You got my cell
6 now. Call me.
7 MR. JASLOW: Okay.
8 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: All right.
9 MR. JASLOW: When's your next
10 meeting, tonight?
11 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm all over
12 today, actually. I actually got to go
13 into Milburn after this.
14 MR. DWEK: Yeah, dessert he wants.
15 MR. JASLOW: Are they doing the
16 headquarters? What are they doing?
17 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: They got the
18 headquarters. Call me tomorrow.
19 MR. DWEK: Do you want some coffee
20 or dessert?
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No, no, no.
22 MR. DWEK: Nothing?
23 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: No.
24 MR. DWEK: So just a coffee for him,
25 please.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 He's always running, Denis.
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah,
4 unfortunately.
5 MR. DWEK: I got to be like that,
6 no? He's a good guy.
7 MR. KHALIL: He does a lot of
8 construction.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
10 MR. DWEK: He's also working -- he's
11 working a campaign in Secaucus, no?
12 MR. KHALIL: Yeah, yeah.
13 Yeah --
14 MR. DWEK: He was doing Manzo, and
15 then they threw him off it.
16 MR. KHALIL: Sacro (ph.) saw him and
17 (indiscernible).
18 MR. DWEK: Sacro said, if you run
19 that campaign, you ain't working over
20 here anymore. And that was it.
21 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So he's helping
22 Owens?
23 MR. DWEK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
24 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Really?
25 MR. KHALIL: Major (indiscernible)

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 the street campaign.
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Because I'm
4 surprised. Sacro's close to -- what's
5 his name, Ginneli (ph.).
6 MR. KHALIL: Yeah, but the other
7 (indiscernible), Sacro wants this guy
8 near. Whatever he wants us to do.
9 MR. DWEK: Sacro sent him there, I
10 guess, for Elmo.
11 MR. KHALIL: Yeah, he -- Elmo's his
12 guy. If Sacro tells him to jump --
13 MR. DWEK: He has to.
14 MR. KHALIL: Because he's -- he
15 doesn't --
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's who will
17 talk on the --
18 MR. DWEK: Yeah, he has a no
19 (indiscernible) job. And you know,
20 for -- where does he work? What's the
21 name of the town he works in?
22 MR. KHALIL: Hudson County?
23 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Hudson?
24 MR. DWEK: Yeah. Whatever.
25 MR. KHALIL: Investigator.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: Whatever. He doesn't do nothing.

MR. KHALIL: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: What election, who election, when election.

MR. KHALIL: Yeah, so (indiscernible) you know, who you ran (indiscernible).

MR. DWEK: Yeah, but he's buddies -- he's very close with Sacro.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. KHALIL: So whatever he does with you, it'll probably have to be behind the scenes --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. KHALIL: -- (indiscernible).

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And that stuff, I mean, the political stuff and (indiscernible) you know, I've been in it -- I've been in long enough.

MR. DWEK: Check please.

He's a good guy.

A-1 sauce you got? They love that. As long as you're not watching your

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 sugar, you're good with that. It's two
3 grams in that.
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Sugar's in
5 everything. It's crazy.
6 MR. DWEK: It's murder.
7 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's one disease
8 I pray to God I'm not -- I never get.
9 MR. DWEK: There are two things you
10 got to really be careful for, is the
11 cholesterol and the sugar. Both of those
12 will kill you.
13 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
14 MR. DWEK: I got both high. That's
15 why I take --
16 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Do you?
17 MR. DWEK: Yeah. I take Lipitor 20
18 mg every night. If the cholesterol is
19 normal, I take the sugar. Thank the
20 lord, I'm back to normal. I got to go to
21 the doctor every three months. I got
22 to -- they prick you --
23 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Check you.
24 MR. DWEK: -- he checked me this
25 morning, because they want to make sure

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

your liver ain't getting damaged. But it's good. I'm on Lipitor for a long time, maybe twelve years, thirteen years.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Really?

MR. DWEK: Yeah, it's in the family. Everyone has high cholesterol, my parents.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right.

MR. DWEK: My grandmother died from diabetes, because back then --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right, there was no --

MR. DWEK: -- there was none. And her sugar must have been at 5- or 600.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: They didn't have the medications.

MR. DWEK: Yeah. And then she started, you know, losing feeling in her limbs, and she died --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: -- from diabetes.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, my grandfather is diabetic --

MR. DWEK: It's crazy.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- he lost his limb. He lost one of his limbs.

MR. DWEK: Yeah. My mother's grandfather was in the hospital. He had the same problem. And then he -- you know, his -- he has gangrene on his foot. It's terrible.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: You know, they make the medication, take it. If you're not going to take it then, you know, you might as well buy yourself a casket.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. You're right.

MR. DWEK: It's not a pretty thing, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Very true. Yeah, it's a tough disease to deal with. Certainly.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, but those two things. I mean there's other things that could activate -- you know, stroke and tumor --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You can walk out

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 that door and get hit by a bus.
3 MR. DWEK: -- cancer. Whatever,
4 yeah. I mean, you know. But high
5 cholesterol leads to a lot of different
6 illnesses --
7 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.
8 MR. DWEK: -- you know, heart attack
9 and stroke and this and that, so.
10 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah. Just
11 deteriorates you.
12 MR. KHALIL: My pressure was high
13 one time. I was so tired with all of
14 the, you know, two weeks I'd been
15 exhausted. I went to the doctor. He
16 said the reason why you have high
17 pressure, you know, your blood is not
18 pumping as much as (indiscernible). So
19 he gave me medication --
20 (Mr. Dwek leaves table, inaudible)
21 MR. DWEK: Thanks.
22 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Thank you very
23 much for lunch.
24 MR. DWEK: Don't even mention it.
25 Maher is watching his health, right?

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. KHALIL: I'm trying to.

MR. DWEK: You have a baby, you got to be careful, man.

MR. KHALIL: Five weeks old. God bless him.

MR. DWEK: You been sleeping at all?

MR. KHALIL: Not at all.

MR. DWEK: Still nothing.

MR. KHALIL: Every two or three hours.

MR. DWEK: Got to train the kid. There's got to be a better way, man. I mean, my first kid, you know, I used to help out, but after a couple --

MR. KHALIL: I take him on rides.

MR. DWEK: In the car, yeah, in the car.

MR. KHALIL: He goes right to sleep.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, they'll fall asleep from the motion.

MR. KHALIL: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, but the problem with that is, you might be driving every night two hours.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, right.

MR. DWEK: I've been there.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: How long does that last?

MR. DWEK: I've been there.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'm getting married in August.

MR. DWEK: Oh, congratulations.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Thank you.

MR. DWEK: That's nice.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: My fiancee's name is Lisa. I said to her, I said, Lee, I said, I want to have to kids right away. I'm thirty-four. I want to -- I want to start a family. So she's like, yeah, we'll wait -- I said, no, no, you don't understand. Boom. Wedding night, I want to start. You know.

MR. DWEK: No delay.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She was laughing. She was like, are you serious? I'm like, I'm serious.

MR. DWEK: How old is she?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: She's thirty-one.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: All right. You have time.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, my wife is -- my wife is thirty-two. So --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: How old are you?

MR. DWEK: Thirty-seven.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Oh.

MR. DWEK: So she's a little younger, but she --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Smart man.

MR. DWEK: I started young. I got married when I was twenty-one, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Did you really?

MR. DWEK: Yeah. I never finished high school. I dropped out. I couldn't -- I have no patience to sit and someone telling me what -- math or English or history. I never learned anything.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: I mean, I was a drop-out. So I went -- when I was eighteen, I already owned twenty-something houses. I

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 started off in single-family homes in
3 upstate New York. When I was twenty-one,
4 twenty-two, I sold all my properties. I
5 didn't have any money. I could tell you
6 stories. But I had no money.
7 I had my uncle -- my father's
8 brother, he was in the -- he's in the --
9 he passed away now. He was in the
10 textile business and he makes
11 children's -- children's wear, clothing
12 and stuff. He called me, he goes Dave,
13 there's a house around the corner from
14 your parents. I said, yeah, what do you
15 want from me? He goes, there's a sign
16 out there "For Sale". Call and find out
17 how much it is.
18 I called the broker. He tells me
19 450,000. So I called my Uncle Jack. He
20 goes you try to buy it idiot -- he was
21 cursing. I said, yeah, what do you want?
22 (End of part 2; part 3 begins)
23 He goes, offer 200,000. I said are
24 you crazy? He goes, don't tell me I'm
25 crazy. I said okay. I called the

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 broker, asked 200,000. He goes, you
3 can't just give me an offer like that. I
4 said what's wrong? My money is green.
5 He goes you got to come in and sign a
6 contract. I said, okay, I'll see you in
7 ten minutes.
8 I go to the guy -- the broker. He
9 goes, okay --
10 THE WAITER: Change?
11 MR. DWEK: Oh, that's for you,
12 thanks.
13 THE WAITER: Thank you.
14 MR. DWEK: So he comes. I signed
15 the contract. He goes, 1,000 dollar
16 check, a deposit. I said, oh, hold on
17 here. I go outside and I call my uncle.
18 And I said, a 1,000 dollar check. He
19 goes, you don't trust me? I said, what's
20 your problem? He goes, oh, no, he goes,
21 lay the money out. I said, I only have
22 1,200 dollars to my name. He goes, lay
23 the money out. I said, okay. Here, take
24 1,000 dollars. And the guy, the broker
25 said, okay, you got the deal. And I

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 said, oh, my God, here's the beginning of
3 my problems.
4 I called my uncle, I said, what am I
5 going to do? He goes, what do you mean?
6 What do you want to do. He goes, oh, you
7 know, on my bank -- you know, with the
8 bank. I said, what bank? Who bank? He
9 goes, HSBC. I said, yeah. He goes, you
10 call, blah, blah, blah person, tell them
11 it's for me, you know, and I'll put up
12 all the money and we'll go fifty-fifty on
13 the -- fix the house, resell it. I said
14 okay. So I used to go to the closings,
15 because I was underage. I mean, I was
16 sixteen, seventeen, eighteen. I was
17 young.
18 I went to closings, I was -- had
19 their closing attorneys in Staten Island.
20 Don't ask. Chaos. I'm signing hundreds
21 of papers, didn't know what I was doing.
22 Fixing houses, out in GC, I killed
23 myself. I'm twenty-one, I said, I'm not
24 going to -- you know, single-family, this
25 that.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

I sold everything. I -- we walked away. Net profit was a million-four; 700,000 dollars. And 700,000 then, for me, I sold --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You, sure --

MR. DWEK: -- a couple at a hundred billion. So then I started doing some, you know, commercial, some condos. And then I partnered with Cat Marks and the big guys, and you know.

MR. KHALIL: (Indiscernible) his whole family near.

MR. DWEK: Whatever. Now, if I want to do, you know, like I'm doing in Jersey City, 800 million dollar project, you know, it's no problem. But I mean, you know, but --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: God bless you.

MR. DWEK: You got to start somewhere.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, Dave, listen, man, every journey starts with one step, right?

MR. DWEK: Yeah. It didn't --

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That damn uncle.

MR. DWEK: He was a toughie, man.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's great. Everybody needs one, though.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, he was something else, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's great. Very good.

MR. DWEK: This guy -- you know --

MR. KHALIL: He's always on the phone.

MR. DWEK: I put my phone on silent. This way anyone who calls me, you got my voice mail. Don't bother me.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You need to answer it, you answer it, brother.

MR. DWEK: I won't even hear it.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: When you're dealing with that much money.

MR. DWEK: See, they're stupid. I got realtors calling me. Come on. Technology. Send me an e-mail.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: He wants 44 Wall Street.

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 MR. KHALIL: That place in --
3 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Really?
4 MR. DWEK: Yeah, it's going to be
5 downtown in the financial district. I
6 have a couple of buildings on Broad
7 Street, stock exchange building.
8 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Nice.
9 MR. DWEK: I bought three years ago.
10 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: It's good.
11 MR. DWEK: It's been good to me.
12 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: God bless, you,
13 man.
14 MR. DWEK: I started young.
15 MR. KHALIL: So you're dealing with
16 the real deal here. It's not like --
17 MR. DWEK: I'm ready to finish
18 young.
19 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, listen,
20 that's why you break your ass that long,
21 right? You know? So you can retire
22 early and enjoy the rest of your life.
23 MR. KHALIL: You know,
24 (indiscernible) nobody in Hoboken has his
25 contacts. So he's (indiscernible)

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 Hoboken.
3 MR. DWEK: Yeah, I never -- I didn't
4 meet anybody. But you know. I said,
5 when I make X dollars -- you know,
6 through high school I'm thinking, I'll
7 make a million, two -- I said but how
8 much money do you need? You get a
9 million bucks, you put it in the bank,
10 let's say ten -- you know, back then
11 rates were higher. Ten percent, 100,000
12 a year. 100,000 dollars. That's a lot
13 of money.
14 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I can live on
15 that.
16 MR. DWEK: Yeah, I said, you know
17 what, maybe I need two million, because
18 200,000, you got children. I said maybe
19 five million, half a million, just, you
20 know, whatever. You buy a couple houses.
21 MR. KHALIL: (Indiscernible) started
22 to pay off.
23 MR. DWEK: It's not about that.
24 It's not about the money. So, it is what
25 it is. So.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Good for you, brother. Good for you. That's great, man.

MR. DWEK: This guy, he calls me, this broker, I don't -- I didn't answer my phone.

MR. KHALIL: I'm going to use the restroom for a second.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, you got to down there, in the middle, over there.

MR. KHALIL: It's here? Thanks.

MR. DWEK: Go down there, take a left.

I don't call the guy back. He e-mails me. He goes, if I bring you a deal, will you pay me a commission. Did I ever hurt anybody before? Why do we have to respond to this --

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Well, you know --

MR. DWEK: -- stupidity.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- and it's funny, too. The days of the unspoken deal are over. Everybody wants to hear it. You know?

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

MR. DWEK: But if a guy tells me, I sit down with the guy and I give the guy a handshake and then the guy says, can I have a contract? I say no. He says what do you mean? I say if you don't trust may handshake, the piece of paper that I sign is worthless.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Doesn't mean shit, right.

MR. DWEK: Yeah. If I'm going to screw you, what's my signature worth?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's right.

MR. DWEK: I mean, come on. So.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And listen, my motto in life is, everybody gets a chance to fuck me once.

MR. DWEK: That's it.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: So you better make it good.

MR. DWEK: Yeah, you do it the second time, you're a fool.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Right. You're --

MR. DWEK: That's what happened with me. I'm in West Orange, they screwed me.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

The first time they screw me, I said, from now on, that's it. If I don't meet the right people in town, do the right thing with them, they do the right thing -- I've got (indiscernible) to develop. I've got better things to do. I don't need exercise. I'll go to another town. I mean, come on.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You're right. You're --

MR. DWEK: So?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- I mean, it's absolutely true.

MR. DWEK: That's what it is. Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You know, you deal with people, and the good thing is, you know, you're a good enough judge of character to know that people that are trying to do it to better the community, to better their families, to, you know --

MR. DWEK: It helps everybody.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: That's right. That's the right way to be. So, I mean, within ten minutes of meeting somebody,

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 you should be able to know --
3 MR. DWEK: Yeah.
4 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: -- if that's the
5 type of person that --
6 MR. DWEK: You've got to make sure
7 that, you know, I don't want to have a
8 repeat story. I send in an application
9 for a zone change or for a redevelopment
10 thing, I'm not going to -- you know, it's
11 a pile like this. I don't care if
12 they're all good or they're all bad. I
13 want to be heard in thirty or sixty days.
14 If not, don't waste my time.
15 I want to have a guy like -- you
16 know, someone like you, a friend, I know
17 who will take care of it, you know. You
18 know, get my stuff expedited.
19 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And I -- you
20 know, I don't see any problems with that
21 at all. I really don't.
22 MR. DWEK: I don't got to say any
23 more. I understand. And then, you know,
24 I'll do everything through him. This way
25 we don't have any conflict issues.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Um-hum.

MR. DWEK: And that's that. And then I'll -- after the election, we'll hook up again.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah, because I'll --

MR. DWEK: I'll do another five after. And that's that. So. Maher keeps me in line if I forget anything, so. Which happens sometimes, because I meet so many people. But he reminds me, so.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Not a problem.

MR. DWEK: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Not a problem.

MR. DWEK: You're running for your next appointment, right?

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Yeah.

MR. DWEK: Okay.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Guys, I appreciate everything.

MR. DWEK: He's drinking Coke, he's drinking coffee.

COUNCILMAN RUSSO: All that

1 Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek
2 caffeine.
3 MR. DWEK: He doesn't sleep.
4 MR. KHALIL: No, I don't.
5 MR. DWEK: You don't sleep.
6 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I appreciate
7 everything.
8 MR. DWEK: Okay, thanks.
9 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: And it was a
10 pleasure meeting you.
11 MR. DWEK: Okay. We'll be in touch
12 this week.
13 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You have my card.
14 MR. DWEK: Yeah, I got it.
15 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: You need anything
16 from me, and --
17 MR. DWEK: No problem. Okay.
18 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: All right.
19 MR. DWEK: Thanks, Mike.
20 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: Thanks again. I
21 appreciate it.
22 MR. DWEK: Okay.
23 COUNCILMAN RUSSO: I'll see you guys
24 later.
25 MR. DWEK: Have a good day.

Surveillance recordings of M. Russo and S. Dwek

I'm going to just run to the restroom. I drank too much water.

(End of audio)

1
2 C E R T I F I C A T I O N
3
4 I, Dena Page, hereby certify that the
5 foregoing is a true and correct transcription,
6 to the best of my ability, of the sound
7 recorded proceedings submitted for
8 transcription.
9
10 I further certify that I am not employed
11 by nor related to any party to this action.
12
13 In witness whereof, I hereby sign this
14 date:
15 April 6, 2011.
16
17 _____
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1

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