

In the Matter Of:
AUDIO STATEMENTS

C20-34-09

ESMOND SCOTT

November 02, 2020



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TRANSCRIPT OF ESMOND SCOTT

IN RE: CASE No: C20-34-09

DATE RECORDED: 11/02/2020

Job No.: J6232625

R E C O R D I N G

1
2 MS. NESMITH: Begin recording this. Mr. Scott, do you
3 consent to this recording?

4 MR. SCOTT: Yes, I do.

5 MS. NESMITH: Okay, great. And will you say your name
6 for the record?

7 MR. SCOTT: Esmond Scott.

8 MS. NESMITH: Very good. All right, Mr. Scott, I'm
9 going to swear you in. If you'll raise your right hand.

10 MR. SCOTT: Okay.

11 MS. NESMITH: Mr. Scott do you swear or affirm that
12 the testimony you are about to give is the truth and nothing but
13 the truth?

14 MR. SCOTT: Sure.

15 MS. NESMITH: There we go great. Okay. As I told you
16 on the phone, this investigation is into an allegation that
17 Commissioner Michael Joseph (ph) may have exploited his position
18 by asking for another opinion on the issue of whether the Mayor
19 could run again for his position.

20 Tell me how you heard about this, and what you heard,
21 and who told you.

22 MR. SCOTT: I was first told of it by Sarah Johnston,
23 and Sarah was a city attorney here. I can't recall with exact
24 date what -- when that was, but I would -- I know it had to do
25 just close to after Michael Joseph had won the election.

1 MS. NESMITH: Okay.

2 MR. SCOTT: Because I remember us having a lot of
3 going back and forth on different issues. And with Sarah having
4 to speak with him about this and that. She had not rendered an
5 opinion. And, you know, just going through the angst and
6 hearing her saying it over and over. And having even heard her
7 saying that in my presence.

8 MS. NESMITH: Okay.

9 MR. SCOTT: Of course, I was not privy to the entire
10 conversation as it -- then. It had to be explained thereafter.

11 MS. NESMITH: Okay. And this was about him asking her
12 for an opinion?

13 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

14 MS. NESMITH: Okay.

15 MR. SCOTT: Or that she had written an opinion about
16 that.

17 MS. NESMITH: Okay. Did you hear also that he had
18 asked Wycerota (ph) to change their opinion?

19 MR. SCOTT: I think it frozen.

20 MS. NESMITH: Oh, no. I'm sorry. Can you see me now?

21 MR. SCOTT: You're back. You're back.

22 MS. NESMITH: Okay. I am sorry. I don't know why I'm
23 having so much trouble today.

24 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, we're -- yeah. I could see you, but
25 I couldn't hear you. You were --

1 MS. NESMITH: Okay.

2 MS. NESMITH: I had asked did you also hear about him
3 asking Wycerota to change their opinion?

4 MR. SCOTT: Yes. Yes.

5 MS. NESMITH: Okay. Tell me about that.

6 MR. SCOTT: In fact, I was told by Dan Espino. We
7 were having a conversation and he said that -- I mean, he -- one
8 of the first, if not the first interchange that he had with
9 Michael Joseph was on that issue. He said, "Listen, I didn't
10 even know him." One of the first things that Michael Joseph had
11 asked him, about changing his opinion. Then he would consider
12 their candidacy for attorneys for North Miami Beach.

13 MS. NESMITH: Do you remember how long ago Mr. Espino
14 told you this?

15 MR. SCOTT: Susan, the months have passed by so much,
16 but I venture to say -- wow. Less than a year ago, that's for
17 sure.

18 MS. NESMITH: Okay. Let me try it this way. Do you
19 remember if this conversation was in person or on the phone?

20 MR. SCOTT: Oh, with Dan?

21 MS. NESMITH: Yes.

22 MR. SCOTT: Face-to-face.

23 MS. NESMITH: It was?

24 MR. SCOTT: Yes.

25 MS. NESMITH: Okay, so it was probably per-COVID?

1 MR. SCOTT: Pre and with -- and he has said that to me
2 again post.

3 MS. NESMITH: Okay.

4 MR. SCOTT: Yeah. Or during. We're not over COVID
5 yet, right?

6 MS. NESMITH: Right. Right.

7 MR. SCOTT: I just heard my doctor has COVID, so.

8 MS. NESMITH: Oh, no.

9 MR. SCOTT: I'll have to give him a call. Yeah. I
10 just got that news.

11 MS. NESMITH: Okay. Did what he describe to you sound
12 like a serious offer of my vote for changing your opinion?

13 MR. SCOTT: Absolutely. Absolutely.

14 MS. NESMITH: Okay.

15 MR. SCOTT: But then I dare say I'm not surprised.
16 Because I've heard some crazy stuff with him. Him being Michael
17 Joseph.

18 MS. NESMITH: Okay. Tell me about that.

19 MR. SCOTT: Well, I remember coming down to your
20 office some time ago, just to speak about some of the things
21 I've heard him ask for -- the things that he has said, the
22 things that he's tried to influence, for example. Trying to
23 tell us not to go ahead with annexation.

24 And I remember calling me personally and saying that
25 he's begging me not to proceed with annexation. And it was a

1 point where it would dilute the Haitian vote. You know?
2 There's been just from one thing to the next. I've had, you
3 know, an outside contractor calling me for advice because
4 they've been asked by him to buy turkeys -- you know. Just
5 various things. Just continued various things where we were
6 like, wow. You know?

7 MS. NESMITH: Okay. Okay.

8 MS. NESMITH: Mike, you got anything else?

9 MR. MURAWSKI: Nope. I don't have any questions.

10 MR. SCOTT: Your beard becomes you, Mike.

11 MR. MURAWSKI: Thank you.

12 MS. NESMITH: I'd love to say that that's a COVID
13 beard, but it's not. He --

14 MR. SCOTT: I know. I know. It's a -- you know, he
15 can say, "Oh, yeah, it's COVID."

16 MR. MURAWSKI: It takes on a life of its own after a
17 while.

18 MR. SCOTT: Yeah. I'm trying to grow one, but it
19 doesn't -- it won't work.

20 MS. NESMITH: Yeah, at one point me and some of the
21 other investigators suggested he get a gig with the GEICO folks
22 as the caveman, and he agreed to trim the beard.

23 MR. SCOTT: Yeah.

24 MS. NESMITH: Anyway. All right, let me turn this
25 recording off. I think we're pretty much done.

1 MR. SCOTT: Good.

2 (Recording ends.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

Esquire Deposition Solutions, does hereby certify that through an independent contractor we have transcribed the audio, and that the foregoing is a true and complete transcription of the audio transcribed.

Inaudible or indiscernible passages of sound are denoted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereunto set my hand on this 1st day of December, 2020.

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ESQ /S/".

Esquire Depositions Solutions

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