

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Oath Keepers 2024
LOG NUMBER: 2023-0004935
February 1, 2024
AUDIO: bracken130701_001.MP3

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Log Number 2023-
2 0004935. This is the audio recorded statement of
3 accused member Police Officer Matthew Bracken,
4 Star Number 13910, assigned to the 15th District.
5 This is relative to allegation made by Sgt.
6 Keisha Frierson. This interview is being taken
7 place that Chicago Police Headquarters, located
8 at 3510 South Michigan on the 5th Floor, Bureau
9 of Internal Affairs on 1 February 2024 in the
10 conference room at 1015 hours.

11 My name is Sgt. John Bartuch, Star
12 Number 1598 and I am the primary investigator
13 assigned to the Bureau of Internal Affairs. I am
14 in charge of this investigation recorded under
15 Log Number 2023-0004935 and will be the primary
16 interviewer during the course of the statement.
17 Also present in this interview is Sgt. Tiffany
18 Santiago, as a secondary interviewer.

19 This statement will be audio recorded
20 format and will concern itself with the following
21 allegation.

22 It is alleged by Sgt. Frierson that
23 members of the Chicago Police Department are
24 members of the far-right terror group, Oath
25 Keepers, as documented in an email to First

1 Deputy Carter, and numerous news articles by
2 WBEZ.

3 Officer Bracken, can you please state
4 and spell your name for the record?

5 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Matthew
6 Bracken. M-A-T-T-H-E-W; Bracken, B-R-A-C-K-E-N.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Can you state your
8 rank, Star Number, and unit of assignment?

9 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Police
10 Officer. My Star is 13910. And my District that
11 I'm assigned, currently, is the 15th District.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: How long have you
13 been assigned to your present unit?

14 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Trying to
15 remember when I came back, 2000 -- four years.
16 You did say 15, right? Yeah, 15. Yeah.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what is your
18 employee number and date of employment to the
19 department?

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: [REDACTED], and it
21 was --what was it, 18 December of '06, I'm sorry.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: That's okay.
23 Counsel, can you please state and spell your name
24 for the record?

25 TIM GRACE: I can. Good morning, for

1 the record, my name is Tim, T-I-M, Grace, G-R-A-
2 C-E. I am an FLP Attorney. I'm here to
3 represent Officer Bracken.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Bracken,
5 prior to the start of the recording, were you
6 given GPD Form 44.140, the Audio Recorded
7 Statement Instructions and Guidelines?

8 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you read and
10 understand and sign the instructions and
11 guidelines for the audio recorded statement?

12 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you have any
14 question about the process of an audio recorded
15 statement?

16 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Counsel, you are
18 reminded no instance where you answered questions
19 on behalf of your client?

20 TIM GRACE: I understand the rules.

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Bracken,
22 have you been advised, in writing, of the charges
23 or allegations made against you, the name of the
24 complainant, the date of and time of the
25 incident, and your administrative rights?

1 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you read and
3 understand those allegations and your rights?

4 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I've read
5 them, yes.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you understand
7 that this is an official police department report
8 and that any deviation from the truth could
9 result in allegations or charges being placed
10 against you?

11 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Rule 14 of the
13 Chicago Police Department Rules and Regulations
14 prohibits making false reports whether written or
15 oral. You may be separated from the Chicago
16 Police Department if you make a false report. Do
17 you understand?

18 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yep.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Are you ready to
20 give your statement at this time?

21 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

22 TIM GRACE: So, Officer Bracken is
23 going to read his compelled statement rights.
24 This is Tim Grace speaking, and he'll read those,
25 but I want to put an objection on the record that

1 comes from the FOP and from his legal rights.
2 The first thing I'd like to put on the record is,
3 is that there's an allegation that the Oath
4 Keepers, whoever they are, is some type of a
5 domestic terrorist organization. They may or may
6 not be, we don't know, but law -- there's no law
7 enforcement agency that I'm aware of that has
8 said that, either Homeland Security, FBI, or
9 anybody that the Oath Keepers are a domestic
10 terrorist organization. Not that my client's a
11 part of them, as we're going to learn in this
12 statement, but so I don't know where that's
13 coming from. And the second thing that kind of
14 is troublesome here is the general order against
15 joining an organization that doesn't interfere
16 with your actions as a police officer. There's
17 also First Amendment implications here, there's
18 freedom of assembly, freedom of speech issues
19 here, of off duty actions, that doesn't affect
20 this officer but could affect other officers.
21 And the last thing I'll say is, it appears that
22 the initiation comes from a fact from a news
23 organization. We do not initiate CRs, or
24 disciplinary proceedings against officers based
25 upon allegations based from the media. To me,

1 that is a -- it puts a stain on the officer's
2 jacket by merely the fact the allegation was
3 made. So -- and I know it's not these Sergeants
4 here that are doing this, but it's -- I'm
5 speaking more to the people above that made these
6 decisions. So, with that objection on the
7 record, I also -- Officer Bracken is going to
8 read his compelled statement rights.

9 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I would like
10 to preface this statement by stating that I am
11 not giving this statement voluntarily, but under
12 duress. I am only giving this statement at this
13 time because I have been advised by the Chicago
14 Police Department that if I do not give the
15 statement, I will face disciplinary proceedings
16 that will lead to termination of my employment.

17 TIM GRACE: You know what, I want you
18 to read the second one too. We'll read the
19 second one also. Read that one too.

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: On advice of
21 counsel, I want to object to the delay in this
22 investigation. This incident occurred
23 approximately many years ago. This delay is
24 prejudicial to my ability to clearly recall the
25 details of this incident, so that I may defend

1 myself and provide a clear --

2 TIM GRACE: Recitation.

3 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Thank you,
4 clear recitation of the facts.

5 TIM GRACE: All right, thanks.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Bracken,
7 I'm going to show you Exhibit 1, this is for your
8 reference. Do you agree that this Exhibit is
9 being given to you?

10 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I agree that,
11 yeah.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. All right.

13 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: That it's
14 given to me.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: This is -- this was
16 an email that was sent to First Deputy Carter
17 from the Anti-Defamation League. And is this --

18 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Anti-
19 Defamation League, I'm trying to remember.
20 That's the group said all Christians and
21 Christian, okay.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Just, yeah,
24 and --

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: If you can initial

1 it, look at it and just --

2 TIM GRACE: Just acknowledging he used
3 -- he's given it to you.

4 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: To review now
5 or --

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Mm hm.

7 TIM GRACE: No, he's just giving it to
8 you. Not -- we're not adopting it. We're just -

9 -

10 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah.

11 TIM GRACE: -- acknowledge that he's
12 giving it to us.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: I can't leave it
14 out.

15 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: All pages or
16 just different pages?

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: All pages, please.
18 And I think I'm going to turn your attention to,
19 I think it's Page 3. Page 3, it's this document.
20 Officer Bracken, do you know why you're
21 specifically named in this email and on this
22 list?

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Can you
25 explain that?

1 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: So, about 12
2 years ago, at the time, I was in the military,
3 and there was a buddy in my unit who was going
4 around getting information from officers, and --
5 or excuse me, from military -- fellow military
6 people to join what was called the Oath Keepers.
7 And presenting it as, hey a lot of people from
8 our unit are getting involved. I just need your
9 information, somebody will reach out to you at a
10 later date with, you know, more information to
11 become a member, and go from there.

12 My buddy was not (indiscernible) just a
13 military guy in my unit, but I've known him for a
14 while, and a lot of other people were doing it,
15 and he was sort of, I don't want to say sales
16 pitching it, but he was just showing me all of
17 the pamphlet that he had. Had its mission
18 statement on there and if you -- when I looked at
19 it, it spoke to me because it was pretty much
20 verbatim what every military person, when they
21 swear and take an oath to join the military, it's
22 pretty much they just copied it over and put it
23 on as their mission statement, and, you know, of
24 course all of us military guys were like, that
25 speaks similarly, that's what we live every day

1 being in the military. So, and I gave him just
2 the basic information, name, address, email,
3 phone number.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Now you say 12
5 years ago, this --

6 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: About.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: -- current year is
8 2024, is it before or after 2012?

9 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I'm basing it
10 on what was going on in my life. That's how,
11 because I don't know, specifically, this is --
12 but it had to be somewhere around 2011, 2012 is
13 what I remember.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

15 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Because it's
16 the only time that I was in country. I was back
17 at the unit, because I was in and out of combat
18 deployments, deployments to other countries,
19 schools, family, and everything else. So, I --

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What was your --

21 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: --
22 (indiscernible).

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What was your
24 buddy's name, who you gave your information to?
25 Who was asking you if you were interested in

1 joining this group?

2 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I don't
3 remember who it was.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And now, at that
5 point, what did you know about the Oath Keepers?

6 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I knew what he
7 had on the paperwork, as far as the mission
8 statement and they stand up for Second Amendment
9 Rights, standing by the Constitution because
10 that's what it says in there, you know, just like
11 our oath that we take to be in the military, you
12 know, defending the Constitution.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Now, when you
14 provided your friend this information, to
15 participate in this group, did you know that it
16 was a potential hate group or that they had any
17 kind of extremist views or anything like that?

18 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And did you pay any
20 money at that point?

21 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I don't
22 remember paying money.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Were you
24 ever notified by the Anti-Defamation League that
25 they had put your name on the list that was going

1 to First Deputy Carter?

2 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Officer
4 Bracken, are you currently a member of the Oath
5 Keepers?

6 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: How long were you a
8 member of the Oath Keepers? Would you say --
9 strike that.

10 Did you consider when you provided your
11 name and stuff to your friend, who you're not
12 sure of, did you consider that membership?

13 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No, it was --
14 the whole purpose, I thought it was somebody else
15 was going to reach out to me about that.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

17 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: But no, I
18 didn't consider that membership.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Was any -- did
20 anybody ever follow up with you as far as
21 officially joining the Oath Keepers?

22 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever pay
24 anything, at that point?

25 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I don't

1 remember paying anything.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, oh, sorry, I
3 did ask you that. Okay. Was that your only
4 involvement with the Oath Keepers?

5 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Now, after
7 that point in 2011 or '12, did you ever pay dues
8 again to the Oath Keepers?

9 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Were you
11 ever handed any pamphlets or any material about
12 the Oath Keepers?

13 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. So, you
15 wouldn't consider that a membership with the Oath
16 Keepers?

17 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you ever
19 participate in any events?

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did -- and so you
22 had said that you never paid any fees -- or you
23 don't remember. Did anything related to the Oath
24 Keepers, did you ever pay anything with your
25 credit card?

1 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No, not that I
2 remember.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

4 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I know it
5 sounds; I just don't remember. It's 12 years
6 ago. I mean, there's a lot of stuff that's going
7 on and I just don't remember.

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you, for
9 the last 12 years, have you been getting, like --
10 would there be any reason why your credit card
11 information would be associated with the Oath
12 Keepers leaked information?

13 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Is
15 [REDACTED] an email account you use
16 and control?

17 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: A what?

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH:

19 [REDACTED] Is that your email?

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You've never used
22 that email?

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever
25 gotten emails from the Oath Keepers?

1 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever sent
3 emails from the Oath Keepers?

4 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No. No.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

6 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN:
7 (Indiscernible).

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yeah, are you
9 tracking your statements in there, because that's
10 in my Exhibit. I'll give you a piece of paper,
11 give me that.

12 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I'm sorry.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: I don't want to
14 write your personal notes on my paper.

15 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No, I'm just
16 writing down that email. I don't -- that's --

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, that's not an
18 email you know of, [REDACTED]

19 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And so, you
21 did say you provided your, in 2012, you provided
22 your name, address, phone number and email?

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I didn't even
24 remember providing my address. I remember
25 providing my name, my email, and my phone number,

1 now that I remember. (Indiscernible).

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And when -- do you
3 remember what email, you provided?

4 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN:

5 [REDACTED] I'm guessing, I don't know,
6 that's been my email for a long time, and so,
7 it's like my junk email.

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And so, did
9 you ever participate in any Oath Keepers private
10 chat rooms?

11 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever make
13 any reference to the Oath Keepers or Oath Keepers
14 events in any of your social media platforms?

15 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I don't do
16 social media, but yeah, no.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: No social media?

18 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: It's all -- I
19 go on there for like buddy's (indiscernible) and
20 stuff, but no, I don't have like personal ones.

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you have any
22 involvement with the Oath Keepers?

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And you -- have you
25 ever participated in Oath Keeper events?

1 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
3 receive material, brochures, pamphlets, news
4 articles, from the Oath Keepers?

5 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
7 receive mail, text messages involving the Oath
8 Keepers?

9 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What do you know
11 about the Oath Keepers now?

12 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I know they've
13 come under heat from the news articles from
14 what's in the news. I don't pay attention too
15 much to the news anymore, but from what I've
16 seen, just I guess, I don't know, some of the
17 higher ups in the organization are in prison.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. I'm going to
19 show you the second exhibit, identified as
20 Exhibit 2. This is an article from NPR. Do you
21 agree that this is being given to you, shown to
22 you?

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: All right. Can you
25 just initial each page and again, I'm not going

1 to make reference to it. I don't know if you saw
2 this or read this. And I'm not going to ask you
3 any questions about this specific article.

4 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: You want me to
5 initial every page?

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Please. It's a lot
7 more than it looked. And Officer Bracken, since
8 2011 or '12, have you ever been approached to
9 join the Oath Keepers?

10 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And have you
12 ever --

13 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Since my buddy
14 in the military, you're talking?

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Correct.

16 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah, no.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did NPR
18 attempt to call you for comment on this article?

19 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: NPR, I don't -
20 -

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: National Public
22 Radio --

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No, no, no,
24 that isn't where I'm going at. I don't know who
25 Tom Schuba, I don't know who he works for. So,

1 going back to the ADL or reaching out to contact
2 me, or NPR, I don't know if he works for them.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, someone tried
4 to contact you?

5 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah, there
6 was a reporter.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

8 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah, the
9 ambush call, yeah.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what did they
11 say?

12 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: They started
13 asking about police, and I told him I couldn't
14 answer anything. And I asked him how many years
15 he -- because he kept going on with the
16 questions, and I said, well, I said how many
17 years or how long you been doing this? He told
18 me. I said, well, then you know the rules. I
19 said I can't say anything to you. I said, you
20 want to get approval from them? Then I'll come
21 back and talk to you. So, then he moved on and
22 he started asking about Oath Keepers.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you make
24 any statements?

25 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah. Yeah.

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You made statements
2 to the newspaper?

3 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Well, to the
4 reporter.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

6 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: About the Oath
7 Keepers. Not about the police department.

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Oh, and what
9 statements did you make?

10 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: He just asked
11 if I was a member or what my involvement was with
12 them.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what was your
14 answer?

15 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I told him I
16 had no involvement, and I wasn't a member.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever notify
18 any supervisor that you were contacted by the --
19 a news media agency?

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Pretty full --
21 I don't remember now.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
23 generate any reports about being contacted?

24 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No. This had
25 nothing to do with police.

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

2 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right, you said
3 there was a sales pitch from your friend?

4 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Mm hm. Yeah.

5 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Can you tell me
6 about that?

7 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: As far as,
8 what do you mean?

9 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: What, like what --

10 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: It was just a
11 pamphlet. It had Oath Keepers on it and the
12 reason I even remembered it is because in their
13 symbol, it's like what you call, I guess you call
14 it a rocker. Okay, it's real similar to like
15 when you get tabs, whether you're airborne or
16 ranger school, or special forces, it's in a
17 rocker form, that's what they call it, a rocker.
18 And it was in a tab like that, and it said Oath
19 Keepers. Well, underneath it, it had all the
20 stuff like here's our preamble or mission
21 statement, like I said before, it was the same
22 thing as, you know, the oath we take when we go
23 in the military. Told like how there's military,
24 first responders -- yeah, military, first
25 responders, police officers. Went into all the

1 details, and then that was, I just remember
2 opening it up, you had -- there were several
3 things in there about discounts for different
4 organizations that you could be a part of, plus,
5 you know, this was a trustworthy -- or I don't
6 want to say trustworthy, that doesn't sound
7 right, but it was a guy I've known for decades,
8 you know, that are in these units. We don't --
9 it isn't -- I mean, we're all NCOs, meaning we're
10 all Sergeants in there, for the most part.

11 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Mm hm.

12 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: So, these are
13 guys that I'll trust. I've been to combat with
14 them. Been on deployments, I know him, and so he
15 was just, hey, this is the group we're all
16 getting in. Would you want to be a part of it?
17 And I said let me look at it. All right, read it
18 and I said yeah. I said what do I have to do?
19 All right here. Put your name here, somebody
20 will get ahold of you later. And that was the
21 end.

22 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. And you said
23 the mission statement was very similar?

24 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: It was pretty
25 much verbatim of what we take --

1 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Do you know what it
2 is?

3 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: -- to sum it
4 up, that we'll defend the Constitution from all
5 enemies, foreign and domestic. Same thing I
6 swear to when I went into the military for 26
7 years.

8 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. And you have
9 a Yahoo email address?

10 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah.

11 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: How long have you
12 had that Yahoo email address?

13 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Guestimate 20
14 years, maybe.

15 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Are there any other
16 email addresses you use or is it --

17 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN:

18 [REDACTED]

19 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: [REDACTED]

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah.

21 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And that's the only
22 one?

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I think it's
24 Yahoo. Yeah, it's Yahoo. Yeah.

25 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And you don't use

1 any other email addresses, excluding your police
2 department email.

3 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I've had my
4 military one, but I never -- oh,

5



6 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: At --

7 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I think that's
8 at Gmail, but I set that up because I was -- all
9 right, it's in the weeds. I was looking at
10 setting up a YouTube --

11 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Mm hm.

12 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: And that was
13 going to be the name. So, wanted to jump on that
14 before anyways, it's a long story --

15 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So, you had --

16 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: -- but it has
17 nothing --

18 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So, you have Yahoo,
19 Gmail, military, and the police department?

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

21 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Did you ever get
22 Oath Keepers stuff sent to any of those?

23 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

24 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. What social
25 media platforms do you have?

1 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: YouTube. What
2 else -- oh, Instagram.

3 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And for YouTube, who
4 manages that? Is that just --

5 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: I don't know
6 that. What are you talking about?

7 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: The YouTube that you
8 have that social media platform?

9 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Who manages
10 it?

11 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Yeah. It's yours,
12 so is it just you? Is it a group of people?

13 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah, I don't
14 know that verbiage, so excuse me, I don't know
15 what --

16 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So, you're the only
17 owner of the YouTube account?

18 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

19 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. And then you
20 said you have Instagram?

21 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

22 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And that is your
23 only other social media?

24 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yeah.

25 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Is there any

1 reference to Oath Keepers on either?

2 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

3 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Do you follow Oath
4 Keepers on either?

5 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

6 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay. And then you
7 spoke to [REDACTED] on the phone?

8 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

9 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Do you recall when
10 he called you?

11 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Oh crap. I'm
12 state of the art (indiscernible) --

13 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Did [REDACTED]
14 write that?

15 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: He was
16 involved in all this. This is published on
17 October 22nd, 2023. If you know, you know, I'm
18 just trying to -- I don't remember. I mean, it
19 wasn't over a year ago, it was like in the last
20 three months, four months, I guess. I don't
21 know. It was a recent timeline.

22 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right. And then
23 with the Oath Keepers, you said that they stood
24 up for Second Amendment rights in the pamphlet --

25 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Mm hm.

1 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: -- that you read --

2 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: There were
3 several things in there. That's one of the
4 things, Constitution, freedom, liberty, I mean,
5 all these things that this country was founded
6 on. Right? I just -- I don't get it.

7 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Did they say how
8 they stood up for these?

9 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No, there was
10 no reference to any of that. It was just a --
11 sort of, like I said, it was an exact photocopy
12 of what we swear to take our oath when we go in
13 the military.

14 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Do you still have --
15 do you have that pamphlet?

16 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

17 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And you don't
18 receive any emails from the Oath Keepers?

19 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

20 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Have you ever
21 disobeyed a direct order by a supervisor because
22 of it conflicting with any of the beliefs of the
23 Oath Keepers?

24 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Military,
25 police, what?

1 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: A CPD supervisor?

2 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

3 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Have you ever been
4 disciplined for not complying with an order given
5 by a CPD supervisor because it was in conflict
6 with the Oath Keepers?

7 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

8 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Have you ever
9 participated in any voluntary security or
10 anything with the Oath Keepers?

11 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. So, at this
13 point, I'm going to give you a verbal and written
14 order. You are hereby ordered, both verbally,
15 and in writing form, by me, Sgt. John Bartuch,
16 Star Number 1598 on Thursday, February 1st, 2024,
17 at 1043 hours, at 3410 South Michigan, 5th Floor,
18 Bureau of Internal Affairs, the following
19 administrative order. Police Officer Matthew
20 Bracken, you are ordered to deliver to the Bureau
21 of Internal Affairs a package addressed to me,
22 Sgt. John Bartuch, Star 1598 on or before,
23 Wednesday, 7 February 2024, by 1000 hours. The
24 package will contain the following documents
25 listed below, if you have them. Any membership

1 information regarding the Oath Keepers, all dates
2 for the Oath Keepers meetings you might have
3 attended. Any material gathered at Oath Keepers
4 meetings, brochures, pamphlets, news articles,
5 any payment information regarding Oath Keepers
6 events or membership. Any material you might
7 have received from attending Oath Keepers events,
8 brochures, pamphlets, news articles, and any
9 emails, mail, and text messages received from the
10 Oath Keepers. This order and I'm going to affix
11 this -- I'm going to handwrite this.

12 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: And if I have
13 --

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You're going to
15 acknowledge this order at 1044 hours, just right
16 there. And then by signing this below, you are
17 acknowledging that and fully understand the above
18 order given to you by Sgt. John Bartuch,
19 regarding the requested documents and acknowledge
20 the date of delivery of said documents to be on
21 Wednesday, 7 February 2024 by 10:00. You're just
22 going to put your name. You're going to print
23 your name right there.

24 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Okay.

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And then you're

1 going to sign and print, and then we'll have
2 Officer Santiago (indiscernible).

3 TIM GRACE: So, this is Tim Grace.
4 We're going to acknowledge the order; the direct
5 order was given. This is an illegal and improper
6 order. I know that Sgt. Bartuch, and Sgt.
7 Santiago, are not the ones that are -- made this
8 decision to give this type of an order, but this
9 is an illegal order, and you -- the Department
10 has no right to demand this of this officer.
11 With that, we have no documents at all to
12 produce, so we can't comply with the order, even
13 if it was legal, because it doesn't exist. And
14 do you agree with me on that, Sgt. Bracken?
15 (Indiscernible).

16 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: Yes.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. In effect.
18 And then is there anything relative to this
19 incident that you wish to add to this statement?

20 OFC. MATTHEW BRACKEN: No.

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. This now
22 concludes the audio recorded statement of Police
23 Officer Matthew Bracken, Star Number 13910,
24 conducted by the Bureau of Internal Affairs, Sgt.
25 John Bartuch, Star Number 1598 on 1 February 2024

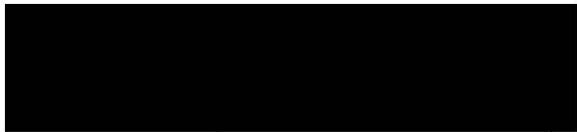
1 regarding Log Number 2023-0004935. The statement
2 concluded at 1046 hours.

- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Veritext Legal Solutions
330 Old Country Road
Suite 300
Mineola, NY 11501

Date: February 23, 2024