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Oath Keepers 2024
LOG NUMBER: 2023-0004935
February 6, 2024
AUDIO: nowacki130706_001

CL # 2023-4935
Attachment # 46
Page 1 of

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Log Number
2 2023-000-4935. This is the audio-recorded
3 statement of accused member, Sergeant Michael
4 Nowacki, Star Number 2373, assigned to the 14th
5 District. This is relative to allegation made by
6 Sergeant Frierson. This interview is being taken
7 place at the Chicago Police Department
8 Headquarters, located at 3510 South Michigan on
9 the Fifth Floor, Bureau of Internal Affairs, on 6
10 February 2024, in the BIA conference room at 1600
11 hours.

12 My name is Sergeant John Bartuch, Star
13 Number 1598, and I am the primary investigator
14 assigned to the Bureau of Internal Affairs. I'm
15 in charge of this investigation recorded under
16 Log Number 2023-0004935 and will be the primary
17 interviewer during the course of this statement.
18 Also present in this interview is Lieutenant
19 Johnny Tate, Star Number 687, as the secondary
20 interviewer.

21 This statement will be in audio-
22 recorded format and will concern itself with the
23 following allegation. It is alleged by Sergeant
24 Frierson that members of the Chicago Police
25 Department are members of the far-right terror

1 group, Oath Keepers, as documented in an email to
2 First Deputy Carter, and numerous news articles
3 by WBEZ.

4 Sergeant Nowacki, can you please state
5 and spell your name for the record?

6 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yeah, first
7 name, Michael, M-I-C-H-A-E-L. Last name,
8 Nowacki, N-O-W-A-C-K-I.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Can you state your
10 rank, star number, and unit of assignment?

11 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Sergeant, Star
12 Number 2373, the unit is the 14th District.

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

15 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Since August of
16 2023.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What is your
18 employee number and date of appointment to the
19 department?

20 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: [REDACTED] date of
21 appointment is 19 June, 2000.

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

25 DONNA DOWD: Donna Dowd, D-O-N-N-A, D-

1 O-W-D.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Sergeant Nowacki,
3 prior to the start of the audio recording, were
4 you given CBD Form 44.140, the Audio-Recorded
5 Statement Instructions and Guidelines?

6 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you read,
8 understand, and sign the instructions and
9 guidelines for the audio-recorded statement?

10 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you have any
12 questions about the process for an audio-recorded
13 statement?

14 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Counsel, you are
16 reminded in no instance will you answer questions
17 on behalf of your client. Do you understand?

18 DONNA DOWD: Yes.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Sergeant Nowacki,
20 have you been advised in writing of the
21 allegations made against you, the name of the
22 complainant, and your administrative rights?

23 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you read and
25 understand the allegations and your rights?

1 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You understand that
3 this is an official police department report and
4 that any deviation from the truth could result in
5 allegations or charges being placed against you?

6 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Rule 14 of the
8 Chicago Police Department Rules and Regulations
9 prohibits making false reports, whether written
10 or oral. You may be separated from the Chicago
11 Police Department if you make a false report. Do
12 you understand?

13 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

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

16 DONNA DOWD: Sergeant, before Sergeant
17 Nowacki reads his Garrity protection into the
18 record, I'm going to object that there has not
19 been a sworn affidavit obtained for this
20 investigation. I think the department is using
21 Sergeant Frierson as the complainant -- is naming
22 Sergeant Frierson as the complainant in this as a
23 way to avoid and circumvent the Collective
24 Bargaining Agreement, and the requirement for a
25 sworn affidavit.

1 In the allegation itself, you said that
2 the allegation is made against Sergeant Nowacki,
3 as documented in an email to former First Deputy
4 Carter, and with that admission, the email was
5 received by someone, and a sworn affidavit
6 couldn't be obtained.

7 Secondly, the allegation is not
8 specific as to -- because the allegation against
9 Sergeant Nowacki reads members of the Chicago
10 Police Department, does not -- it is not specific
11 to him. The allegation is also not specific as
12 to the date, time, and location of the allegation
13 of misconduct as required by the Collective
14 Bargaining Agreement.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Counsel,
16 your objection is noted on the record.

17 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: On February 6,
18 2024, at 4:00 p.m., at the Bureau Of Internal
19 Affairs, I am being required to give this
20 statement based on Complaint Log Number 2023-
21 4935. It is my belief that this statement will
22 not be released in any subsequent proceeding
23 other than formal disciplinary proceedings within
24 the confines of the Chicago Police Department
25 itself, and that Department Policy requires me to

1 give this statement, and that if I fail to
2 comply, I can be disciplined and/or lose my job.
3 Therefore, I am giving this statement, today,
4 under duress.

5 The statement I am giving, at this
6 time, is based on the best recollection I have of
7 the circumstances surrounding Complaint Log
8 Number 2023-4935. While there may or may not be
9 additional information, including audio, video,
10 written reports, or any other statements made in
11 connection with this incident that can either
12 corroborate or contradict the current statement I
13 am making, my statement is true as I recall it to
14 be at this time.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, Sergeant
16 Nowacki. Sergeant Nowacki, prior to the start of
17 the audio recording, were you given Exhibit 1,
18 the email to First Deputy Carter?

19 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you review this
21 Exhibit 1?

22 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No, I did not.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. I'm going to
24 just have you initial it that you were given it
25 to -- it on this day, and then I'm going to

1 direct your attention to Page 3.

2 DONNA DOWD: You might initial the top
3 page.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You're going to do
5 each page.

6 DONNA DOWD: Oh, you want him, sorry --

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yeah.

8 DONNA DOWD: Each page then, Mike.

9 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: And then that's
10 my last page.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: This is just that
12 you got it and you received this email. So, I'm
13 going to direct your attention to this page, Page
14 3. And on Page 3, do you see your name on this
15 list?

16 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Is the
18 information listed there correct?

19 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What is the number
21 312-742-4410?

22 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I don't know.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Is that a city
24 number?

25 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: It appears to

1 be.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Were you ever
3 notified by the Anti-Defamation League?

4 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Are you currently a
6 member of the Oath Keepers?

7 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever been
9 a member of the Oath Keepers?

10 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: As far as I'm
11 concerned, no.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Can you explain
13 what you mean by that?

14 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I am not
15 consciously aware of any membership forms or dues
16 paid or any association with this group.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You said
18 consciously aware, what is that like --

19 DONNA DOWD: Can we take a break?

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yeah, we're pausing
21 the recording at 1607.

22 (Recess)

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: We're going to
24 resume the recording at 1610 hours.

25 Sergeant Nowacki, I had asked you if

1 you were ever a member of the Oath Keepers.

2 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No, I don't
3 consider myself ever having been a member of the
4 Oath Keepers.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Can you
6 explain to me how your number -- how your
7 information then got in leaked documents?

8 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I have no idea.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You never provided
10 any of that information in an Oath Keeper
11 membership or group?

12 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I may have
13 provided this information to a lot of different
14 places, but I don't recall providing anything
15 specifically to anything called the Oath Keepers.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
17 participate in any kind of training outside the
18 department?

19 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Of course.

20 DONNA DOWD: Okay.

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: The reason I ask is
22 because some of the trainings -- were they ever
23 sponsored by the Oath Keepers?

24 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No, it was
25 through the SWAT Team.

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you know
2 anything about the Oath Keepers? Have you ever
3 heard about the Oath Keepers?

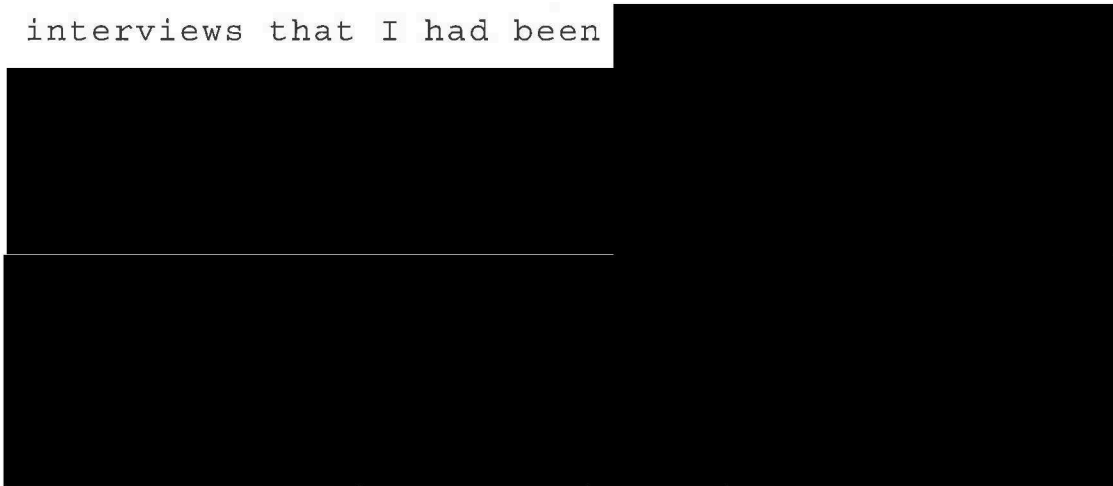
4 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I have seen
5 something mentioned on TV once in a while.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. But there
7 was -- you never at any point joined any kind of
8 membership for any kind of -- to be part of their
9 organization?

10 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: You know, not
11 that I can perfectly recall.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

13 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: You know, this
14 is a long time ago, and I'm sure you're aware
15 because I've mentioned this before in other
16 interviews that I had been



24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. For the
25 record, I don't know about any of that stuff

1 before. This is my first, I -- any investigation
2 that was done prior to me being here, I don't get
3 access to.

4 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Okay.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, I don't want
6 you to think I'm coming in with any kind of
7 knowledge about anything that you've gone through
8 in the past, and I do apologize. I will ask you
9 to just do your best.

10 So, at no point did you ever think you
11 were dealing -- you were participating in any
12 Oath Keepers stuff?

13 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Of course not.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And you
15 don't remember -- do you remember paying any dues
16 to belong to the Oath Keepers?

17 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I don't
18 remember.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
20 consider yourself having a membership to the Oath
21 Keepers?

22 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Or being part of
24 the organization?

25 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Not at all.

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember
2 ever paying for anything related to the Oath
3 Keepers with any of your credit cards?

4 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Would there be any
6 reason that your credit card information would
7 have been associated with the Oath Keepers leaked
8 information?

9 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I have no idea.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And you're not sure
11 of how they got your name, address, phone number,
12 and email?

13 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Well, they said
14 something about a hacker.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yes. So, the Oath
16 Keepers' rosters were hacked and leaked, and
17 that's how your name appeared there. But do you
18 know how they would have gotten your name there?
19 Why would your information be associated with the
20 Oath Keepers?

21 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I have no idea.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What if any social
23 media platforms do you use?

24 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Right now?

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yes, right now.

1 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: None.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: None? Okay. Did
3 you ever?

4 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Sure.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Which ones did you
6 use?

7 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: At one time, I
8 had a Snapchat account. I have had a Instagram
9 account and a Facebook account.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. In that
11 time, when you were on --

12 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I also had a
13 LinkedIn account.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Sorry. At
15 any point, when you had social media, did you
16 ever participate in any Oath Keepers private chat
17 rooms?

18 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember
20 having any involvement with any Oath Keepers
21 activities?

22 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Not at all.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
24 receive material, brochures, pamphlets, news
25 articles from the Oath Keepers?

1 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Not that I ever
2 recall.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
4 receive a small Constitution?

5 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Not -- no idea.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you ever -- do
7 you remember receiving any emails, text messages
8 involving the Oath Keepers?

9 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I do -- after
10 this sort of article or whatever came out, I did
11 look through my spam folder.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

13 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: And I did
14 receive some emails from the Oath Keepers going
15 back to 2016 through 2018. And I wasn't aware of
16 those because they went directly into my spam.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What did those
18 emails say?

19 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: You know, I
20 didn't really look through them. It was all
21 stuff that was about politics, and I don't follow
22 any of that.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did they go
24 to this [REDACTED]

25 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yeah, that's my

1 only email address.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, you still have
3 that email address?

4 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Of course.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: How long have you
6 had that email address?

7 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Since Google
8 came out, 2000 -- no, not even, '90 --

9 DONNA DOWD: A long time.

10 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: '95, '94,
11 something like that, whenever Google came out.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever
13 promoted the Oath Keepers at work to any other
14 officers?

15 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
17 recruit other officers to the Oath Keepers?

18 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: All right. Prior
20 to the start of the recording, I showed you this
21 Exhibit 2, this NPR article. I am going to need
22 you to initial each page.

23 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yeah.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: We can do that
25 afterwards.

1 DONNA DOWD: Okay.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did NPR attempt to
3 call you for a comment about their news story
4 they ran?

5 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I did receive a
6 call by someone who said his name was [REDACTED]
7 something or other, and from WBEZ, and I
8 immediately hung up on him.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, you didn't make
10 a statement to him?

11 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Absolutely not.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever notify
13 any supervisors that NPR reached out to you?

14 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
16 generate any reports about being contacted?

17 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: I'm going to refer
19 your attention to this General Order 0801. It's
20 the complainant disciplinary system. And I'm
21 just going to refer you to the highlighted
22 portion on Page 4. I believe it's Letter A.

23 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yeah.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: You had mentioned
25 that you did have emails from the Oath Keepers.

1 Would you be able to provide those to me?

2 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Sure.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: As part of this
4 administrative hearing?

5 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yeah.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. When do you
7 think you'd be able to give me those emails?

8 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I mean --

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Like a week?

10 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: They're -- I can
11 forward them to you.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

13 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: There's probably
14 several hundred of them.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: If you --

16 DONNA DOWD: We'll take a week. I will
17 make sure that --

18 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: There's hundreds
19 of them.

20 DONNA DOWD: I will consult with my
21 client. We will get those to you within a week.
22 I want to -- he'll send them, and we'll send them
23 to you.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Do you have
25 any -- did you ever receive anything in the mail

1 from the Oath Keepers?

2 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Not that I know
3 of.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And for the
5 record, you don't remember having any involvement
6 with the Oath Keepers?

7 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Not at all.

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And you
9 don't remember signing up for anything Oath
10 Keeper related?

11 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember any
13 training related with the Oath Keepers, or
14 affiliated with the Oath Keepers?

15 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Up to this
17 point, have you ever heard about the Oath
18 Keepers?

19 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Sure.

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. In what
21 regards?

22 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: You know, you
23 see it on the news and whatever. Something to do
24 with Trump.

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Do you know

1 what the Oath Keepers' message is?

2 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Do you have
4 any questions?

5 LT. JOHNNY TATE: No.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: At this point,
7 Sergeant Nowacki, is there anything relative to
8 this incident that you wish to add to the
9 statement?

10 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Well, I just
11 want to say that this, specifically in this
12 allegation, that whoever composed it used the
13 words terror group, and this has made me
14 extremely upset because since I was 17 years old,
15 in 1990; I have served this country on active
16 duty, in reserve, I served in Operation Desert
17 Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi
18 Freedom in several different countries, including
19 Bagdad, Iraq. I lost two friends in Iraq, and I
20 have served this City for nearly 24 years.

21 And to be for all intents and purposes
22 called a terrorist, is -- it makes me sick to my
23 stomach. And that's all I want to say. I am
24 just sickened by this.

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

1 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: That's all I
2 have.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Sergeant Nowacki,
4 you mentioned that you were in the military.

5 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Yes.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: At any point, do
7 you remember other members of the military being
8 part of the Oath Keepers?

9 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: No.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

11 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: I got out of the
12 military in 2006.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And no one
14 ever -- you never heard about the Oath Keepers
15 while you were in the military?

16 SGT. MICHAEL NOWACKI: Never.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. All right.

18 This now concludes the audio-recorded
19 statement of Sergeant Michael Nowacki, Star
20 Number 2373, conducted by the Bureau of Internal
21 Affairs, Investigator Sergeant John Bartuch, Star
22 Number 1498, on 6 February 2024, regarding Log
23 Number 2023-0004935. Statement concluded at 1624
24 hours.

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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
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Mineola, NY 11501

Date: February 23, 2024