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Oath Keepers 2024
LOG NUMBER: 2023-0004935
February 7, 2024
AUDIO: johnn130707_001.MP3

CL# 2023-4935
Attachment # 57
Page 1 of

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Log number 2023-
2 0004935, this is the audio-recorded statement of
3 accused member Police Officer John Nicezyporuk,
4 star number 14461, assigned to the training and
5 support group unit 124. This is relative to an
6 allegation made by Sergeant Frierson. This
7 interview is being taken place at Chicago Police
8 Department Headquarters, located at 3510 South
9 Michigan, on the fifth floor of the Bureau of
10 Internal Affairs, on 7 February 2024, in the
11 advocate conference room, at 12:05 hours.

12 My name is Sergeant John Bartuch, star
13 number 1598. I'm 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 Sergeant
19 Tiffany Santiago, a secondary interviewer.

20 This statement will be in audio-
21 recorded format and will concern itself with the
22 following allegation. It is alleged by Sergeant
23 Frierson that members of the Chicago Police
24 Department are members of the far-right terror
25 group Oath Keepers, as documented in an email to

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

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

5 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes, John
6 Nicezyporuk. The last name is spelled N-I-C-E-Z-
7 Y-P-O-R-U-K.

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

10 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes, I'm a
11 police officer. My star is 14461, and I'm
12 currently assigned to unit 124 in the range.

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

15 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Just shy of
16 five years.

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

20 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: My employee
21 number is [REDACTED] and I got on 25 August of 2003.

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

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Sure, my name

1 is Tim, T-I-M; Grace, G-R-A-C-E. I am an FOP
2 attorney, and I am here to represent Officer
3 Nicezyporuk.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Prior to the start
5 of the recording, were you given CPD Form 44.140,
6 the audio-recorded statement instructions and
7 guidelines?

8 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

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

12 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes, I did.

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

16 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you been
18 advised in writing of the charge -- the
19 allegations made against you, the name of the
20 complainant, and the date and time of the
21 incident, and your administrative rights?

22 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you read and
24 understand these allegations and your rights?

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you understand
2 that this is an official police department report
3 and that any deviation from the truth can result
4 in allegations being placed against you?

5 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I do.

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

12 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I do
13 understand.

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

16 TIM GRACE: This is Tim Grace. Before
17 the officer gives his Garrity rights, I'd just
18 like to put a couple objections on the record.
19 The allegations are that he was a member of the
20 Oath Keepers, which is -- my concern I have is
21 that the Oath Keepers have never been deemed to
22 be a domestic terrorist organization or a
23 terrorist organization by any law enforcement
24 agency, the FBI, Homeland Security, or any other
25 law enforcement agency that deals with those

1 types of things.

2 And I note -- also note that there were
3 no general orders prohibiting a police officer
4 from joining a organization, as long as they
5 weren't involved in some type of criminal
6 activity, as we'll learn from Officer
7 Nicezyporuk. He was not involved in anything
8 along those lines. It is also a concern that he
9 does have a First Amendment right of freedom of
10 speech and freedom of assembly.

11 And I have further concerns that it
12 appears that these allegations stem from
13 information obtained from a news organization
14 that requested the initiation of CRs from hacked
15 information, so illegal information. It just
16 appears to be no concrete evidence that the
17 officer was involved in any type of illicit
18 activities with respect to the Oath Keepers, so I
19 want to put that on the record. And the officer
20 will now read his compelled statement rights.

21 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I would like to
22 preface this statement by stating that I am not
23 giving this statement voluntarily, but under
24 duress. I am only giving this statement at this
25 time because I have been advised by the Chicago

1 Police Department that if I do not give a
2 statement, I will face disciplinary proceedings
3 that will lead to termination of my employment.

4 On advice of counsel, I want to object
5 to the delay in this investigation. This
6 incident occurred approximately 14 years ago.
7 This delay is prejudicial to my ability to
8 clearly recall the details of this incident so
9 that I may defend myself and provide a clear
10 recitation of the facts.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer
12 Nicezyporuk, prior to the start of the audio
13 recording, were you shown Exhibit 1?

14 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes, I was.

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

17 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Are you currently a
19 member of the Oath Keepers?

20 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

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

23 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I don't -- to
24 be honest, I don't even know like, what
25 membership -- like, maintaining membership, I

1 don't even know what that would entail, so I
2 would have to say no.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Were you ever part
4 of the Oath Keepers?

5 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I did join,
6 yes.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And when you say
8 "join," what do you mean?

9 TIM GRACE: Tell the sergeant your
10 involvement.

11 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Okay.

12 I saw -- there -- I was on a gun forum,
13 because I'm a gun enthusiast. So I was always on
14 this -- on a bunch of forums, and it had come up
15 -- the Oath Keepers group had come up, and so I
16 was led to believe that it was a Second Amendment
17 group, and since I am a gun enthusiast, I just
18 thought, okay, I'm in. So I believe I went on
19 Oath Keepers website and joined up. They sent a
20 packet that I believed had a certificate and
21 perhaps a patch, and that was the extent of my
22 involvement.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you know when
24 this was?

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I want to say -

1 I don't recall exactly. I want to say it was
2 the -- perhaps around 2010.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And when you say
4 you "joined up," did you pay to join up?

5 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I don't recall.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And at that point,
7 what did you know about the Oath Keepers when you
8 did join?

9 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Just that it
10 was -- that they were geared towards the Second
11 Amendment, that it was just a Second Amendment
12 group, similar to the NRA.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you think that
14 you were participating with a white supremacy or
15 hate group?

16 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No, no.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: How did you become
18 involved in this group?

19 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Again, I -- my
20 only involvement was reading about it on that gun
21 forum, and then joining.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Now, you were
23 unsure of membership, but what does membership
24 mean to you?

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I suppose it --

1 to me, it would mean -- it would mean dues. It
2 would mean participation. Yeah, that's about it.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, did you --
4 when you signed up for the Oath Keepers, did you
5 pay dues?

6 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Dues? No, I
7 think -- I don't recall. I believe there was an
8 initial fee, but I can't be certain of it.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, do you
10 remember paying more than once?

11 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No, no.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, and did you -
13 - do you remember what that fee was to join?

14 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what kind of
16 membership or participation did they have? Like,
17 was there different classes of membership or
18 participation?

19 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I don't recall.

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember how
21 you paid for the --

22 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No, no.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Now, you mentioned
24 before, you didn't consider this a membership?

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: As far as --

1 membership as far as -- I mean, I have -- I don't
2 fully understand what is meant like, by the
3 allegations saying that I was a member of this
4 group, as if I was participating on a full or
5 part-time basis versus me just sending in a check
6 or credit card number to a group just because I
7 support the Second Amendment. So that would be
8 my confusion.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: About membership?

10 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember if
12 you ever paid anything related to the Oath
13 Keepers with your credit card?

14 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I don't recall.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Would there be any
16 reason your credit card information would have
17 been associated with the Oath Keepers' leaked
18 information?

19 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I suppose it
20 could be.

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Would there be any
22 reason your address, email address, or phone
23 number would have been associated with the Oath
24 Keepers' leaked information?

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: That would make

1 sense, just extrapolating. That's how --
2 typically, when you do anything online with a
3 credit card, they're going to ask for an email,
4 so that makes sense. I could see that.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you receive in
6 the mail a small little constitution from the
7 Oath Keepers?

8 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I don't recall.
9 It probably was in the packet, but I seem to
10 remember like, a patch, like a little -- like a
11 tab, like in the military, and a certificate, but
12 I don't remember a copy of the constitution being
13 included.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you still have
15 those items?

16 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
18 participate in any Oath Keeper private chat
19 rooms?

20 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

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

23 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Do I use?
24 Instagram, Reddit, that's about it.

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever make

1 reference to the Oath Keepers or the Oath Keeper
2 events on any of your social media platforms?

3 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Oh, no. I
4 don't engage in conversation. That's just
5 inviting disaster, so I just read. I don't
6 participate.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: This is going to be
8 a past tense and a current situation. Do you
9 have any involvement with the Oath Keepers today?

10 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, did you have
12 any involvement with the Oath Keepers after you
13 initially joined up?

14 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever
16 participated in Oath Keeper events?

17 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Now, you mentioned
19 that you did receive a certificate, some stuff in
20 the mail. Did you ever receive any material,
21 brochures, pamphlets, news articles from the Oath
22 Keepers?

23 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
25 receive emails, text messages involving Oath

1 Keepers?

2 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Not that I
3 recall, no.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what do you
5 know about the Oath Keepers now?

6 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I know they
7 were involved with the January 6th incident.
8 That's about it.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever
10 promoted the Oath Keepers at work to other
11 officers?

12 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

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

15 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Were you recruited
17 to the Oath Keepers by other officers?

18 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever not
20 comply with an order because it contradicted what
21 the Oath Keepers' message was?

22 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Were you ever
24 disciplined for not complying with an order
25 because it contradicted what the Oath Keepers'

1 message --

2 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: All right, I'm
4 going to show you -- prior to the start of the
5 audio recording, I showed you Exhibit 2, which is
6 the NPR articles. You are named in this article.
7 Do you know why you're named in that article?

8 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Because they
9 say I was a member of Oath Keepers.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did NPR attempt to
11 call you for a comment?

12 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you make a
14 comment?

15 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you give any
17 statements?

18 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: There were several
20 past incidents mentioned in that article. Did
21 any of those past incidents have anything to do
22 with your involvement with the Oath Keepers or
23 something that somebody was saying?

24 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever notify

1 any supervisors that the NPR reached out to you?

2 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Did -- no.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
4 generate any reports after being contacted?

5 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

6 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: You said
7 approximately in 2010 you were on a gun forum,
8 which is when you learned about the Oath Keepers.
9 Where were you assigned at this time?

10 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: The 15th
11 District.

12 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: On the watch?

13 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

14 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Which watch?

15 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Third. Or I'm
16 sorry, first.

17 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: First watch, so
18 midnight?

19 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Um-hum.

20 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So you were on
21 the gun forum, approximately 2010, and then the
22 Oath Keepers came up. What did you learn about
23 them in the gun forum?

24 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Just that they
25 seemed to be geared more towards Second Amendment

1 rights. Yeah, that -- at that point, there was
2 no concealed carry here or anything like that.
3 So I was led to believe that they were -- it was
4 more like a lobby group, that they were going to
5 -- that they were going to be you know, making
6 efforts towards that, towards concealed carry for
7 civilians that are legally able to obtain a
8 concealed carry permit, that type of thing.

9 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So in this gun
10 forum, you learned about Oath Keepers. Were
11 there any benefits that you would have gotten by
12 joining the Oath Keepers?

13 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

14 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Any discounts?

15 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Not that I was
16 aware.

17 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Are you a
18 member of the Oath Keepers now?

19 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I don't believe
20 so. I -- again, that gets messy. I don't know
21 if they just consider you a member for life or if
22 they expect dues or --

23 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Have you
24 received emails from them?

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I have not.

1 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Ever?

2 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I -- I don't
3 recall exactly. I may have at some point after I
4 first joined, but I don't recall exactly what.

5 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Approximately
6 when was the last time you received an email from
7 Oath Keepers that you noticed?

8 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: It had to be
9 soon after I joined, but it was the type that
10 just went -- that I just -- I just deleted it or
11 put it into spam. I was too busy to -- I was too
12 busy for that, so --

13 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Do you still
14 utilize the same email address that you did when
15 you signed up for Oath Keepers?

16 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: If it's the one
17 that NPR used, then yes, because they contacted
18 me by email as well.

19 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And what did
20 NPR say when they contacted you by email?

21 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: They wanted my
22 side of the story. I --

23 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Did you respond
24 via email?

25 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I did not.

1 SGT. TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay, I don't
2 have any other questions.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: At this point, are
4 you aware of General Order G08-01, complaint and
5 disciplinary systems?

6 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: I'm going to direct
8 your attention to the highlighted section.

9 TIM GRACE: What's the date of effect,
10 the date on this order?

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: 29 December 2023.

12 TIM GRACE: So we'd object to this
13 general order in the sense that it was not in
14 place back in 2010, but with that, we'll
15 (indiscernible).

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

17 TIM GRACE: We are familiar with this
18 order.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, awesome.
20 Thank you. Well, then, at that point, I'm just
21 going to ask you, do you -- Officer, do you have
22 any membership information regarding the Oath
23 Keepers?

24 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: I do not.

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Do you have

1 any dates of Oath Keepers meetings --

2 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did -- you
4 never attended Oath Keepers meetings?

5 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, do you have
7 any material gathered at Oath Keepers -- like,
8 did they send you anything in the mail?

9 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Other than that
10 initial packet, no. I don't have that, either.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Okay. Just
12 to keep it consistent with the other interviews,
13 I am going to give you a written and direct
14 order, even though this general order states that
15 you have to cooperate with an administrative
16 proceeding. You already said that you don't have
17 any of this stuff.

18 Counsel, it's your understanding that
19 none of these items he has in his possession?

20 TIM GRACE: Yeah, we believe that's an
21 -- that -- we believe that is an illegal direct
22 order. A police officer is not supposed to
23 follow illegal orders, but there's no reason to
24 get into that fight right now. We'll just tell
25 you that we do not possess any of the documents

1 that I believe you're going to ask us about.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. So at this
3 point, Officer Nicezyporuk, you are hereby
4 ordered both verbally and in writing form by me,
5 Sergeant Bartuch, star number 1598, on Wednesday
6 7 February 2024 at 12:24 hours at 3510 South
7 Michigan, the Bureau of Internal Affairs, to
8 follow an administrative order.

9 Police Officer John Nicezyporuk, you
10 are ordered to deliver to the Bureau of Internal
11 Affairs a package addressed to me, Sergeant
12 Bartuch, star 1598, on or before Tuesday 13
13 February, 2024 at ten o'clock, and the package
14 would have contained any of those things, any
15 membership information, any of the Oath Keepers'
16 meetings, any material gathered, any payment
17 information, any material you received in the
18 mail, and any emails.

19 This order is hereby acknowledged at
20 12:15 on 7 February by Nicezyporuk at 3510 South
21 Michigan. And then, what I'm going to ask you to
22 do is just sign and date this.

23 And then, counsel, you...

24 TIM GRACE: We acknowledge the order.
25 We'll -- we still believe it's an illegal order,

1 but we'll comply with the order, and we'll tell
2 you on the record that we do not have any such
3 material.

4 Is that accurate?

5 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yes.

6 TIM GRACE: Okay, do you want to sign
7 there and just print your name and your star
8 number?

9 How do you get that from that?

10 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: What do you
11 mean?

12 TIM GRACE: That's the signature?

13 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: Yeah, it's
14 quick.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Thank you.

16 Thank you.

17 TIM GRACE: Um-hum.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer, is there
19 anything relative to this incident that you wish
20 to add to this statement?

21 OFC. JOHN NICEZYPORUK: No.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. This now
23 concludes the audio-recorded statement of Police
24 Officer John Nicezyporuk, star number 14461,
25 conducted by the Bureau of Internal Affairs

1 Seargeant John Bartuch, star number 1598, on 7
2 February 2024, regarding log number 2023-0004935.
3 Statement concluded at 12:26 hours.

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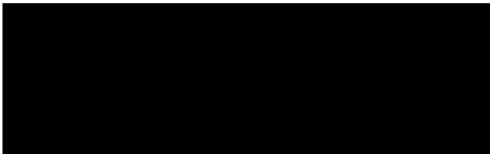
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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



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

Date: February 23, 2024