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Oath Keepers 2024

LOG NUMBER: 2023-0004935

February 7, 2024

AUDIO: acevedo130707_001.MP3

CL# 2023-4935
Attachment # 57
Page 1 of 1

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Log Number 2023-
2 0004935. This is the audio recorded statement of
3 accused member Police Officer, Benny Acevedo,
4 Star Number 6380, assigned to the 24th District.
5 This is relative to allegations made by Sgt.
6 Keisha Frierson. This interview is being taken
7 place at the Chicago Police Department
8 Headquarters, located at 3510 South Michigan, on
9 the 5th Floor, Bureau of Internal Affairs on 7
10 February 2024, in the Advocate Conference Room at
11 1307 hours.

12 My name is Sgt. John Bartuch, and I'm
13 Star Number 1598 and I'm the primary investigator
14 assigned to the Bureau of Internal affairs.

15 I am in charge of this investigation
16 recorded under the log number 2023-0004935 and
17 will be the primary interviewer during the course
18 of this statement. Also present in this
19 interview is Sgt. Tiffany Santiago, as secondary
20 interviewer. This statement will be audio
21 recorded format and will concern itself with the
22 following allegation.

23 It is alleged by Sgt. Frierson that a
24 member of the Chicago Police Department are
25 members of the far-right terror group, Oath

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

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

5 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: My name is
6 Officer Bienvenido Acevedo. First name B-I-E-N-
7 V-E-N-I-D-O; last name, A-C-E-V-E-D-O. I'm a
8 junior. Star Number 6380.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Can you say your
10 rank and your given assignment?

11 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Police
12 Officer in an assignment 24th District.

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

16 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: A little over
17 four years.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What is your
19 employee number and date of employment to the
20 Department?

21 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Employee
22 Number, [REDACTED] date of employment, 8 March 1999.

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

25 TIM GRACE: I can. My name is Tim, T-

1 I-M, Grace, G-R-A-C-E. I am an FLP Attorney and
2 I'm here to represent Officer Acevedo.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Acevedo,
4 prior to the starting of our recording, were you
5 given CPD Form 44.140, the Audio Recorded
6 statement instructions and guidelines?

7 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

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

11 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

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

15 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

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

21 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you -- did you
23 read and understand these allegations and your
24 rights?

25 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: 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 could
4 result in allegations or charges being placed
5 against you?

6 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

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

13 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I do.

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

16 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

17 TIM GRACE: So, the Officer is going to
18 read his Garrity Right, but before we do that,
19 we're going to put in some objections that we
20 wanted to make of record. The first thing is, is
21 this organization, the Oath Keepers, has never
22 been identified by any legitimate law -- any law
23 enforcement agency, be it Homeland Security, FBI,
24 or otherwise of A) them being identified as a
25 domestic terrorist organization. Furthermore,

1 I'm unaware -- I am not aware of any general
2 order, policy, or directive from the Chicago
3 Police Department that prohibits police officers
4 from joining organizations, as long as those
5 organizations are not in a criminal nature.

6 There is a concern that this is a First Amendment
7 issue. We still have freedom of assembly,
8 freedom of speech, that is being impinged upon
9 based upon this investigation being conducted by
10 AB. I want to be clear; I don't believe that
11 it's these two Sergeants who are the ones that
12 are spearheading this investigation. I think
13 that this rot comes from a much higher place.

14 My bigger concern is, is that there is
15 a -- the allegations stem from the news
16 organizations. News organizations have requested
17 that this CR be initiated. I don't believe that
18 we should be in the practice of allowing news
19 organizations, who request CRs, without any type
20 of concrete evidence to go along with that. And
21 with that, Officer Acevedo is going to read his
22 compelled statement rights.

23 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I would like
24 to preface this statement by stating that I am
25 not giving this statement voluntarily, but under

1 duress. I am only giving this statement, at this
2 time, because I have been advised by the Chicago
3 Police Department that if I do not give a
4 statement, I will face disciplinary proceedings
5 that will lead to termination of my employment.

6 On advice of counsel, I want to object
7 to the delay in the investigation. This incident
8 occurred approximately 12 years ago. This delay
9 is prejudicial to my ability to clearly recall
10 the details of this incident so that I may defend
11 myself and provide a clear recitation of the
12 facts.

13 TIM GRACE: Thank you, Officer Acevedo.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Acevedo,
15 prior to the start of the recording, were you
16 shown Exhibit 1, the letter -- the email to --
17 from the Anti-Defamation League to First Deputy
18 Carter?

19 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

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

22 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Acevedo,
24 are you currently a member of the Oath Keepers?

25 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

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

3 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: At my mind,
4 that I recall, no. Now, Sarge, with that
5 question, counsel, is that --

6 TIM GRACE: Did you want to explain to
7 him why you believe that you are here, subject to
8 this, you can.

9 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes. That
10 membership, not that I recall, in terms of just
11 the pamphlet we discussed but --

12 TIM GRACE: Why don't you explain to
13 the Sergeant what -- how and why you think that
14 your name popped up.

15 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes, because
16 I don't want to get Rule 14 and it appeared that
17 I'm lying. There was a pamphlet and with a
18 membership, and it was -- but that was it, I
19 filled out a pamphlet, but not, um --

20 TIM GRACE: Explain the circumstances.
21 Where you were, how you filled out the pamphlet
22 and what happened, and he can ask you questions.

23 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Okay. All
24 right. Back around 2012 and I remember this
25 because my son was born in late 2012, at the end

1 of September. And I remember being handed a
2 pamphlet, it said Oath Keepers, and that it was
3 comprised of military and first responders. And
4 I saw it akin to the pamphlets, like an NRA
5 membership, and where you filled out the thing,
6 filled out a fee, and that's all that I remember.
7 But never got anything stating that I was a
8 member or anything like that.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember
10 where you were at when you filled out this
11 pamphlet?

12 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I recall that
13 I was doing a in service training for the G8 NATO
14 protests.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And the pamphlet
16 was just sitting there?

17 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No, someone -
18 - it was being passed around. Several officers,
19 I don't remember who, it was so long ago, but I
20 just remember reading it and it just stated that
21 it was comprised of current and former military,
22 and first responders, and those of us, sworn an
23 oath to the constitution and their profession.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember how
25 much you paid?

1 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I do not
2 remember.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember how
4 you paid?

5 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: An old credit
6 card that I had, but I don't think I have that --
7 I know for a fact I don't have that credit card
8 or anything anymore.

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: What did you know
10 about the Oath Keepers when you joined?

11 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Other than
12 what I stated before that it was comprised of
13 military and first responders, and the people in
14 the profession had taken and sworn an oath to
15 their profession and the Constitution of the
16 United States.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you think you
18 were participating in any white supremacy or hate
19 group?

20 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No. I am not
21 white, I'm of Hispanic descent. Never once did I
22 see any -- never once I saw anything that looked
23 anything, vaguely to a white supremacist group,
24 whether it's the Klan, the Arian -- nothing like
25 that. I never saw, because otherwise I would

1 have just thrown the thing in the trash.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And were other
3 officers joining up for this group when you did?

4 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I remember a
5 few guys saying that they filled out a pamphlet,
6 but I can't remember who and --

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

8 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: -- or how, or
9 anything.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Now when I asked
11 you about being a member -- ever being a member
12 of the Oath Keepers, what does membership mean to
13 you?

14 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Full
15 participation, continuous contact with
16 representatives of that organization, and I never
17 had any.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you pay
19 a one-time fee or were there numerous fees?

20 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I don't
21 remember. It was an old credit card that I
22 completely forgot that I even had.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you -- do you
24 remember what kind of membership you signed up
25 for?

1 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I remember
2 there was, because again, I apologies, I make the
3 parallels with like the NRA, where there was like
4 a full-time membership, there was a part-time
5 membership, and being cheap, I didn't want to be
6 getting calls or solicited for fees or anything,
7 and I filled out the full membership, but never -
8 - but completely forgot and never received
9 anything stating that I was a member, at all.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: How long did you
11 have this membership for?

12 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: See, that's
13 why I don't think I had a full membership,
14 because if I recall there was -- you had to pay
15 for, like the time, but I never did, to meet the
16 parameters of a full membership.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you think you
18 were signing up for life?

19 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I don't think
20 so, that's a -- life is a long time, and no, I
21 did not.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you know
23 what the time frame was for what you signed up
24 for?

25 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Back in 2012?

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yeah.

2 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yeah, in
3 2012, I don't know in terms of time frame, like
4 how long I was making payment or -- I don't
5 remember.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Well, did you think
7 you were on a yearly membership, a monthly
8 membership, or did you think at some point the --
9 whatever you signed up for, expired?

10 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I thought
11 that it would -- I'm trying to remember. This is
12 back in 2012. I just remember full -- I don't
13 remember anything -- never seeing anything was
14 for life. I know this, because I, again, drawing
15 the parallels with the NRA. There is a life
16 membership, and there's a part-time membership.
17 There was nothing there that ever said there was
18 a life membership. I just remember it was like,
19 full, and there was like part-time. But nothing
20 ever said life or that it was for whatever, like
21 the time, so I never thought that I was going to
22 be a member for life, or anything like that.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
24 participate in any Oath Keepers events?

25 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

1 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And you did say you
2 paid with an old credit card for --

3 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Mm hm.

4 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. When you
5 signed the pamphlet, did you have -- what did you
6 -- what information did you have to provide to
7 them?

8 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Just your
9 name, the law enforcement profession, and a
10 address. That was it.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you --

12 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: From what I
13 can remember.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you give an
15 email?

16 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Probably, but
17 I don't remember.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you -- what
19 social media platforms do you use?

20 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: None, really.
21 I have an old LinkedIn that I haven't logged on
22 in years.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, there'd be no
24 reason why any -- you were ever in any Oath
25 Keepers private chat rooms?

1 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I wasn't even
2 aware of any practice, so no.

3 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: All right. And you
4 never made reference to the Oath Keepers or
5 events on any of your LinkedIn posts?

6 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. After you
8 signed up through that pamphlet, did you have any
9 other involvement with the Oath Keepers?

10 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

11 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And you never
12 participated in Oath Keeper events?

13 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And did you ever
15 receive any material, brochures, pamphlets, or
16 news articles from the Oath Keepers?

17 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever get a
19 welcome package or small little constitution, or
20 any patches in the mail?

21 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I never
22 remember opening anything or receiving anything
23 via mail.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

25 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: That year, I

1 -- it's when I purchased my house, as well, so I
2 don't remember ever getting anything because
3 that's the same year my son was born, and it's
4 where my wife and I purchased the current home
5 that we reside in, to this day.

6 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Do you
7 remember any emails texts, that you might have
8 received?

9 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I do not.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And what do you
11 know about the Oath Keepers now, today?

12 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Well, now
13 today, by reading the news and everything after
14 January 6th, all I know is that there were people
15 there at the Capital, in terms of the
16 organization. I don't know anything other than
17 that. Other than what I read on the news in
18 regards to January 6th.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Have you ever
20 promoted the Oath Keepers at work to other
21 officers?

22 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

23 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever
24 recruit officers -- other officers to the Oath
25 Keepers?

1 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

2 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever not
3 comply with an order because it contradicted what
4 the Oath Keepers message was?

5 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I'm sorry,
6 can you say that -- I got distracted by the
7 sirens. You said that --

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Did you ever not
9 comply with an order because it contradicted with
10 what the Oath Keepers message was?

11 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No, I
12 complied with all department orders, never
13 violated anything -- any order that I was aware
14 of.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, you were never
16 disciplined for not complying with an order
17 because it contradicted with what the Oath
18 Keepers message was?

19 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

20 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Prior to
21 starting the recording, you were shown Exhibit 2,
22 the NPR article. Do you know why you're
23 specifically named in this article?

24 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

25 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Can you tell me

1 why?

2 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Because I was
3 made aware of, by a reporter, that my name
4 appeared on some lists.

5 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, NPR attempted
6 to call you for comment?

7 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Is NPR that
8 WBEZ?

9 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yes.

10 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Okay. That's
11 who I was made aware of.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And did you give
13 them a statement?

14 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I spoke to a
15 reporter when he was asking me questions that my
16 name appeared on there, but I don't remember a
17 lot of it, because on that particular day I was
18 at Glenbrook Hospital with [REDACTED].
19 It turns out I have [REDACTED], so I was in a
20 [REDACTED] and try to remember the questions he
21 was asking and that was just like a complete fog,
22 because I was taken by surprise that my name was
23 on any type of a organization.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. In that
25 article, the WBEZ reporter writes that you had

1 said that other department members pulled you
2 into the Oath Keepers. Do you remember saying
3 something like that?

4 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I don't
5 remember saying that other than what I said about
6 a pamphlet being passed around about the
7 organization.

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Do you remember,
9 and you don't remember who was there or what --
10 where was it at?

11 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I don't -- I
12 honestly do not recall.

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Also, in
14 that article --

15 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Mm hm.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Oh, I'm sorry.

17 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I was just
18 going to say because we've moved around a lot,
19 from one facility or the other, or while doing in
20 service training, so that's why I cannot
21 remember.

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. In that
23 article, can you explain what a down south kind
24 of guy is?

25 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes. When he

1 had asked, the reporter, from what I could
2 recall, had asked if I had met with any groups
3 here in Chicago? I said I never attended any
4 meetings or any kind of training, or any rally,
5 whatsoever. And that they were more than likely
6 first responders from out south, or whatever,
7 that I didn't know, and wouldn't feel comfortable
8 talking to anyone that I did not trust or was
9 familiar with.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Now did you ever
11 get any discounts for joining the Oath Keepers?
12 Did you ever receive any discounts on training or
13 clothing or anything like that?

14 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: In that article,
16 I'm also going to reference, did you ever feel
17 alienated from the down south kind of guys?

18 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I didn't know
19 anyone down south. Alienated was not anything --
20 a word that I used, as I see here in quotes. I
21 just said that I don't know anyone here, if
22 they're members anywhere like mid to south
23 Illinois. I don't know.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay, so I just
25 want to make sure there's nobody from the Chicago

1 Police Department pressured you to become an Oath
2 Keepers or made you feel that you were being not
3 included in the group?

4 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No, I never -
5 - I was never -- never felt intimidated or
6 pressured, or forced to do anything, or anything
7 wrong.

8 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Did you ever
9 notify any of your supervisors that WBEZ reached
10 out to you?

11 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Well, this is
12 -- I was on a medical because I had that hospital
13 visit, and I did not call anyone, from what I
14 remember, and I don't remember when I got back to
15 work, if I mentioned anything or not.

16 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. And then did
17 you ever generate any reports about being
18 contacted?

19 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: What kind of
20 reports? I never -- like department reports or
21 anything?

22 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yeah.

23 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No.

24 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Like a progress
25 report, or sub report, or anything that says that

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OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No, no, no, I wouldn't even know -- I didn't even know where to begin.

SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So, in 2012, you said you in the in service, G8 NATO?

OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Mm hm.

TIFFANY SANTIAGO: What were you doing there?

OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Teaching the crowd control.

TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Where were you assigned at this time?

OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I was still assigned to the 15th District. I had just gotten there after the dissolvment of my previous unit, and so I was in 15 for not even a year.

TIFFANY SANTIAGO: What was your previous unit that was dissolved?

OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Mobile Strike Force Unit.

TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right, so you were in Mobile Strike Force, then you went to 15.

OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Mm hm.

1 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And then you were at
2 the in-service G --

3 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

4 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And you were
5 teaching?

6 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

7 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Were you detailed to
8 the Academy?

9 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Detailed,
10 yes.

11 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay, so you were
12 detailed --

13 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Sorry because
14 I'm just so -- I know details and assigned, but I
15 was still assigned to 15, but detailed to the
16 Academy, yes.

17 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right, so you
18 were teaching the in-service training.

19 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Mm hm.

20 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And where was that
21 at? Where were you teaching at?

22 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I said
23 various locations, over at UIC, at Near North,
24 and I never really taught anything at the
25 Academy, at 1300 West Jackson. It was -- our --

1 the group that I was in, teaching, we were
2 teaching mainly specialized units and gang and
3 tech guys.

4 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right. And then
5 during this in service training you were handed a
6 pamphlet?

7 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

8 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: About the Oath
9 Keepers?

10 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

11 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: What was on the
12 pamphlet?

13 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: What was on
14 the pamphlet was the -- from what I recall that
15 the organization was comprised of current and
16 former military, and first responders, and that
17 the commonality is everyone took an oath to the
18 Constitution to the country, and always adhere to
19 your oath and never forget that you made this
20 promise.

21 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: And what about the
22 pamphlet or the Oath Keepers, made you want to
23 become a member (indiscernible) --

24 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I saw it as a
25 fraternal organization, to possibly network with

1 other law enforcement for possible post-
2 retirement opportunities, but that was it, and
3 the Constitution.

4 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: What kind of
5 membership did you believe that you had?

6 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Well, I
7 remember there was the pamphlet, like I stated
8 before, there was like a full and a part-time,
9 and when I tried to compare it, or make it -- as
10 I thought of it, kind of like an NRA membership,
11 I didn't want to be solicited by people for money
12 or anything like that, so that's what I remember
13 filling out.

14 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right, and so
15 you fill out the pamphlet, you become a member.

16 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Mm hm.

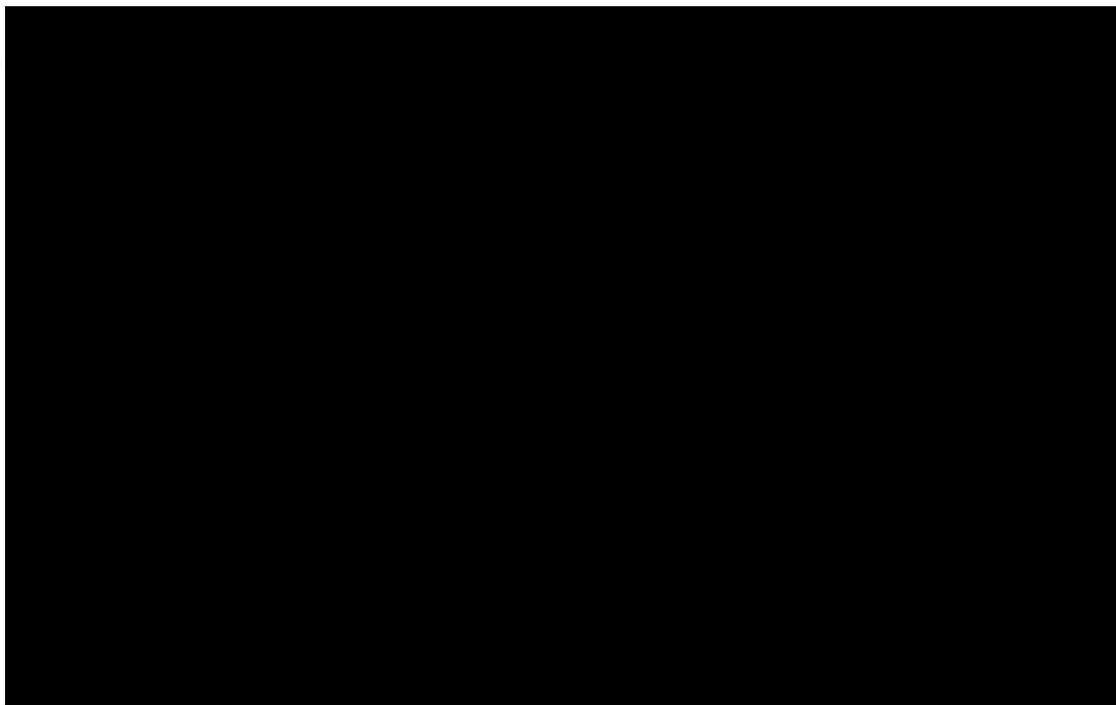
17 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Even though there's
18 different types of membership, you gave them your
19 information?

20 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes.

21 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: So, at what point do
22 you -- are you no longer active with the Oath
23 Keepers?

24 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I -- that was
25 it. When my son was born and he got really -- he

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TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right, and did you receive emails from them?

OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I don't recall. When the information -- when he was asking me earlier if I remember what I put, I don't remember. I just remember basic information, like my name, my profession, address, just kind of general information that you fill out, like anything else. That's all I remember.

TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Are you still on the mailing list for Oath Keepers?

OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I have not received any emails or information. I remember a

1 long time ago, when the Jan 6, you know, I don't
2 -- I was looking through my emails, I never saw
3 anything. Not even anything in my junk mail or
4 anything like that, or that I recall. Nothing
5 through snail mail from the post office, nothing.

6 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: All right. And the
7 email address that you signed up with it, is it
8 still active?

9 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: I don't
10 remember what email address, or what I put on the
11 pamphlet, so I've had my yahoo and Gmail
12 addresses for like ever.

13 TIFFANY SANTIAGO: Okay.

14 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Officer Acevedo,
15 are you aware of General Order 0801? It is
16 complained disciplinary system. I'm going to
17 bring your attention to Page 4. The highlighted
18 section for your review.

19 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Is this a
20 newer order or --

21 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Yes, the date on
22 this -- the effective date on this order is 2023,
23 I believe.

24 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: One of three
25 current of 24 of December -- 23 or was this a

1 revised version, February -- well, this is
2 today's date. Sorry. (Indiscernible) 7
3 February, '24?

4 TIM GRACE: So, we object to this
5 order. This order was not in effect back in
6 2012. But be that as it may --

7 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Okay.

8 TIM GRACE: You understand you're
9 supposed to cooperate with a BIA COPA and
10 Inspector General's Office?

11 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Yes. Do I
12 need to read this out loud?

13 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: No.

14 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Oh, okay.

15 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: As long as you
16 acknowledge that I showed it to you.

17 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Okay.

18 Provide all requested documents... Okay.

19 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: All right. That's
20 it. I just wanted to bring it to your attention.
21 And you had already mentioned that you don't --
22 you don't have any remnants of any of the Oath
23 Keepers' stuff that you ever received, or you had
24 -- or you don't have that pamphlet and you said
25 you had no emails?

1 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No, I don't
2 recall -- I never -- I don't recall ever getting
3 anything via the home mail, or the emails at all.
4 Like I said, I've had my email addresses, the
5 Yahoo one, I think I had before I even got on the
6 job. So, -- and the Gmail address, which has the
7 same address, I think I started that, maybe
8 around the time I got on the job, because I was
9 getting a lot of junk mail through Yahoo, and so
10 I've used the Gmail more to get more important
11 things and that kind of stuff.

12 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. Well, at
13 this point, I'm going to give you a written and
14 direct order, and your attorney is going to
15 answer for it; today.

16 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: Okay.

17 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: So, it's -- you are
18 hereby being ordered both verbally and written
19 form, by me, Sgt. Bartuch, Star Number 1598 on
20 Wednesday, 7 February 2024, at 1335 hours at 3510
21 South Michigan Bureau of Internal Affairs the
22 following Administrative Order. Police Officer
23 Benny Acevedo, you are ordered to deliver to the
24 Bureau of Internal Affairs, a package address to
25 me, Sgt. John Bartuch, Star Number 1598, on or

1 before, Tuesday, 13 February 2024, by 10:00, the
2 package would contained documents listed below,
3 and it's any membership information regarding the
4 Oath Keepers that you still have, all dates for
5 Oath Keepers meetings that you may have attended,
6 which you've mentioned you didn't, any material
7 gathered at Oath Keeper meetings, any payment
8 information regarding Oath Keepers events and
9 memberships. Any material you receive from the
10 Oath Keepers, and then any mail, text messages
11 received. It is hereby -- this order is hereby
12 acknowledged at 1336 hours, and on February 1st -
13 - February 7, 2024, by PO Acevedo at 3510 South
14 Michigan. And then I'm going to give you this,
15 which just basically says by affixing your
16 signature, you've acknowledged you have read and
17 fully understood the above order given to you by
18 me regarding the requested documents and
19 acknowledge the date of delivery of said
20 documents. Counselor --

21 TIM GRACE: We acknowledge the direct
22 order. We believe this to be a legal order. I
23 want to be clear; I don't believe these two
24 Sergeants are the ones that are giving this
25 order. I believe this is coming from high above.

1 With that, though, we are in -- Officer Acevedo
2 is not in possession of any such documents or
3 materials. Is that correct, Officer Acevedo?

4 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: That is
5 correct. I do not have any materials or text
6 messages.

7 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay.

8 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No
9 merchandise.

10 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: And having said
11 that, Officer Acevedo, is there anything relative
12 to this incident that you wish to add to this
13 statement?

14 OFC. BIENVENIDO ACEVEDO: No, that I
15 don't have, I guess, had any materials that I had
16 completely forgotten about the pamphlet and all
17 of it, once you know, my children were born.

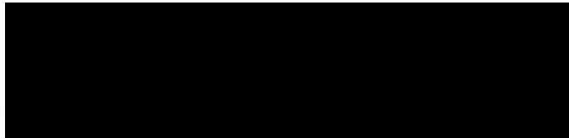
18 SGT. JOHN BARTUCH: Okay. This now
19 concludes the audio recorded statement of Police
20 Officer John -- I'm sorry, Benny Acevedo, Star
21 Number 6380, conducted by the Bureau of Internal
22 Affairs, Sgt. Bartuch, Star Number 1598 on 7
23 February 2024 regarding Log Number 2023-0004935.
24 The statement concluded at 1338 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
330 Old Country Road
Suite 300
Mineola, NY 11501

Date: February 23, 2024