

## MEMORANDUM

TO: State Attorney Aramis D. Ayala  
CC: CASA Deborah Barra, Bureau Chief Mark Wixtrom & Chief Eric Edwards  
FROM: ASA Richard Wallsh  
DATE: February 5, 2018  
RE: City of Belle Isle Sunshine Law Investigation

On December 1, 2015, a complaint was lodged with this office regarding potential criminal violations of Florida Statute §286.011 (commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law) committed by members of the Belle Isle City Commission. Chief Edwards assigned then-SAO investigator Jeff Harris to conduct an investigation. SAO Investigator Emmett Browning was later assigned to assist Inv. Harris, however, Harris was still lead investigator and maintained primary responsibility to conduct and document the investigation. The lead officer left the employ of this office in January 2017 and has since been uncooperative and unresponsive to requests for assistance about his assignments as a state attorney employee.

The Belle Isle case was initially classified as State Attorney Investigation Number 2015-IN-0080. It was later reclassified as internal Case Number 2017-NM-3789.

To prove a criminal misdemeanor violation of the Sunshine Law, the state must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that members of the Belle Isle City Commission knowingly attended a meeting at which official acts were to be taken without complying with the requirements of 1) reasonable meeting notice and 2) promptly recorded meeting minutes open to public inspection. *See, Florida Statute §286.011.* The statute also allows for a noncriminal infraction (fine not to exceed \$500) for unknowing sunshine law violations.

The basis for a criminal prosecution thus becomes proof of communication between two or more city commissioners about official city business outside of a noticed meeting or gathering. The offending communication need not be in a formal meeting setting. The case law allows prosecution for informal communication such as conversations, emails, text messages, correspondence and so forth. State Attorney Investigators set out to determine if such unlawful communication occurred and, to that end, subpoenaed an extensive number of documents from various sources. The full details are contained in the investigative reports.

As the investigation proceeded to the interview stage, the investigators were confronted with reluctant witnesses. State Attorney Jeffrey Ashton made the strategic decision to grant use-immunity to certain witnesses by compelling their testimony through the issuance of state attorney investigative subpoenas. Among these immunized witnesses was the mayor of Belle Isle, Lydia Pisano, who was herself a member of the city commission. The details of her sworn recorded testimony are contained in other documentation generated by the investigation. In summary, Mayor Pisano admitted to violating

the sunshine law in general and implicated other members of the commission in her testimony, however, she did not provide specifics. Also immunized under the same process was City Commissioner Ed Gold. The use-immunity makes it extraordinarily difficult (but not legally impossible) to prosecute Pisano or Gold for the same subject matter as their sworn testimony.

While Mayor Pisano's testimony in particular revealed unlawful communication among certain city commissioners, the investigators sought physical evidence or other testimony to support those claims. After reviewing Inv. Harris' work product I identified potential sunshine law violations. These are fully set out in the thirty page Timeline Supplemental Report signed December 9, 2016. However, the state has no corroborating physical or other evidence and it is my opinion that significant proof deficiencies preclude filing charges.

For example, Inv. Harris asserts that certain email communications which could form the basis for prosecution were blind copies (bcc) between city commissioners in contravention of the sunshine law. However, Inv. Browning and I reviewed the documents in our possession and we cannot locate proof/authentication that the copies were indeed bcc's sent from one commissioner to another. Although the copies in our possession are most likely blind copies, we lack proof beyond a reasonable doubt. We do not have access to computer hard drives for independent forensic analysis.

In an attempt to obtain such corroborating evidence I entered into pre-charge plea discussions with a particular city commissioner's lawyer. The goal was to afford that commissioner a favorable sentence in return for truthful testimony which we expected would corroborate Mayor Pisano's immunized testimony and also authenticate various documents in the state's possession. Those plea negotiations were not successful and the proof deficiencies have not been solved.



Aramis D. Ayala  
**State Attorney**  
Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Orange and Osceola County, Florida

Deborah Barra  
Chief Assistant State Attorney  
Harold V. Bennett III  
Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney  
Josephine Colón  
Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney  
Kamilah L. Perry  
Executive Director

On December 1, 2015, an investigation was assigned regarding alleged violations of Florida State Statute 286.011, which regulates public meetings and is also known as the “Sunshine Law,” by members of the Belle Isle City Commission.

To prove the crime of violating the Government in the Sunshine Law, a jury must find that members of a board or commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation or political subdivision knowingly attended a meeting at which official acts were to be taken without complying with the requirements of:

- a. reasonable notice of meetings
- b. promptly recording meeting minutes open to public inspection

As part of the investigation, a public records request was made for all communications with each commissioner, to include: email, text messages, phone records, social media messages and any other form of recorded communication. After receiving the requested information, the items were reviewed in an effort to determine if any violations had occurred. Several items were flagged as needing clarification or additional review. (See attached timeline supplemental report).

As part of the investigative process, State Attorney Investigators Emmett Browning and Jeff Harris obtained sworn recorded statements from city employees, commissioners, residents and the mayor. Below is a synopsis of each interview.

On September 21, 2016, City of Belle Isle administrative assistant Judith Hunter was interviewed. Judith Hunter has been employed by the City of Belle Isle for three years. Judith Hunter was unable to provide any personal observations of potential “Sunshine Law” violations.

On September 22, 2016, City of Belle Isle attorney Frank Kruppenbacher was interviewed. He is the current acting city manager. Kruppenbacher reported, part of his duties was to provide training for newly elected Belle Isle city commissioners and on occasions he provided additional private counselling to several of the commissioners. However, Kruppenbacher was unable to provide any specific information about violations of the “Sunshine Law” by the city commission.

On September 22, 2016, City of Belle Isle Finance Manager Tracey Richardson was interviewed. She has been employed by the city for approximately four years. Richardson could provide no specific information about any violations of the "Sunshine Law." This is due in part, to her limited interaction with members of the city commission. She usually leaves prior to the beginning of commission meetings or before the arrival of commissioners for the meetings.

On September 22, 2016, City of Belle Isle City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno was interviewed. She has been the city clerk since 2011. Quiceno reported, as part of her duties she provides each newly elected commissioner a book on the "Sunshine Law," via email.

Based on her knowledge of the "Sunshine Law" she's unable to recall any specific violations by members of the Belle Isle Commission. Quiceno reported, she witnessed on a number of occasions, commissioners gathering in the city hall parking lot shortly after meetings. She believed it gave the appearance the commissioners were discussing city business in violation of the "Sunshine Law."

Quiceno specially recalled an incident on August 31, 2016, in which the city commission was to interview the three finalists to fill the vacant city manager's position. The meeting was cancelled,<sup>1</sup> due to an approaching tropical system. Shortly after the cancellation notifications were sent, Commissioners Sue Nielsen, Ed Gold, Harvey Readey, Jeremy Weinsier, Katherine McGinnis and Robert Lance arrived at city hall. Quiceno reported she was informed by some of the commissioners, they were contacted by another commissioner and informed the meeting would take place. The only commissioner not to show was Lenny Mosse.

The commissioners Nielsen, Lance and McGinnis began discussing dates and times to reschedule the next meeting. According to Quiceno, this discussion was outside of an actual meeting and in violation the city charter, which requires all meetings be planned within a public meeting. **Note: Attempts to recover video of this incident were unsuccessful, due to the video system being on a five day loop, where after five days all recorded material is lost.**

Quiceno reported the following additional incidents, in which she suspected commissioners were conducting city business in violation of the "Sunshine Law":

-During City Manager Keith Severns' final days of his employment and prior to any official public announcement of his resignation, a prominent Belle Isle resident, Charline Kennedy's son, Patrick Kennedy, submitted his resume for the soon to be vacant city manager's position. Quiceno suspected collusion between commissioners Nielsen, Readey and Weinsier to hire their friend, Charline Kennedy's son.

-After an unrelated public records request by a citizen, Commissioner Paul Lance informed her he deletes his text messages every Friday. Quiceno suspected this to be an attempt to conceal possible "Sunshine Law" violations.

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<sup>1</sup> Notification of the meeting cancellation was sent to each commissioner with a follow up by Mayor Pisano to ensure the notification was received.

On September 23, 2016, City of Belle Isle Code Enforcement Officer Robyn Winters provided a voluntary sworn statement. She has worked for the city for approximately five years and maintains a desk at city hall. Winters was questioned about any personal observations of potential violations of the “Sunshine Law” by elected officials. Robyn Winters could provide no specific information or violations.

On September 30, 2016, Charline Kennedy was interviewed. Kennedy is a long time resident of Belle Isle, and the mother of Patrick Kennedy, who is one of the City Manager finalists. Kennedy acknowledged her friendships with Commissioners, Readey, Nielsen and Weinsier, who all have publically expressed support for Patrick Kennedy for the city manager vacancy during commission meetings.

Kennedy provided an interesting facet in reference to a special city commission meeting in which the city manager candidates were to have been interviewed. She reported, after the meeting was cancelled, she received a call from Commissioner Nielsen, advising Kennedy to contact her son Patrick and inform him not to leave the area. Commissioner Nielsen told her the meeting would be held, despite the cancellation. Therefore, Kennedy notified her son and informed him of her conversation with Commissioner Nielsen.

Kennedy was questioned about emails to various commissioners and her use of “**blind carbon copy**” (Bcc) when sending emails to one commissioner and including another commissioner, via Bcc. She did not provide a reasonable explanation, but indicated it was not her intention to be deceptive. However, Kennedy reported, because she served on the Belle Isle planning and zoning board in the 1980’s, she is familiar with the “Sunshine Law.” (Note: **Bcc allows the sender of a message to conceal the person entered in the Bcc field from the other recipients.**)

No additional information relevant to potential “Sunshine Law” violations were obtained from Kennedy’s interview.

On September 30, 2016, Sarah Goodwin was interviewed in response to her being served with an Investigative Subpoena. Chief Assistant State Attorney Rick Wallsh administered the oath, and informed Goodwin of her rights related to the subpoena. Goodwin is a long time resident of Belle Isle and a former Belle Isle City Commissioner. Goodwin reported to be familiar with the “Sunshine Law” and to have received training on it during her tenure as commissioner. Goodwin is the current president of her Home Owners Association. She has an interest in the drainage project for her neighborhood, which has gone before the commission on numerous occasions. She reported to have a “**business relationship**” with Commissioner Nielsen and current Mayor Lydia Pisano.

Goodwin engaged in email conversations with Commissioner Nielsen on a regular basis. These conversations were usually about the drainage issue within her neighborhood, in which other commissioners were recipients and Commissioner Nielsen was Bcc. She was specifically questioned why it was necessary to include Commissioner Nielsen in everything she discussed with other commissioners. She could not provide a reasonable explanation for her actions and denied receiving any request or direction for Commissioner Nielsen to be included on email messages related to city business. The overwhelming number of emails sent, through Bcc to Commissioner Nielsen, whether intentional or unintentional, were suggestive of someone acting as a conduit to circumvent the "Sunshine Law." Goodwin alleged she included Commissioner Nielsen in her email discussion, because she believed Commissioner Nielsen to be the **"most effective."**

On October 5, 2016, Keith Severns provided a voluntary sworn statement. Severns reported, he was appointed as a city commissioner for the City of Belle Isle sometime in or around 2009. During his tenure as City Commissioner, approximately 2012 he took the position as city manager. Because the city charter prohibited the hiring of a commissioner within two years of their tenure, he did not receive a salary his first two years as city manager. Severns reported, around 2014 a contract was ratified by the city commission and providing him a \$150,000 annual salary. He worked in the city manager position, at that salary, until his departure in January 2016.

Severns was questioned about any specific violations of the "Sunshine Law" he may have observed during his tenure as the city manager. He did frequently observe members of the city commission conversing in the parking lot of city hall following meetings, he could not provide any details of their conversations or any specific details about any potential violations of the "Sunshine Law" by members of the commission.

On October 25, 2016, Mayor Lydia Pisano was interviewed. Chief Assistant State Attorney Rick Wallsh administered the oath, and informed Pisano of her rights related to the subpoena. Pisano has been the mayor for the City of Belle Isle since April 2016, and served as a commissioner for about 10 years prior to her being elected mayor. Pisano reported, during her service as commissioner she received training on the "Sunshine Law," and she demonstrated her knowledge of the law by explaining some of the prohibited acts, in condensed form. It was explained to her, we are investigating alleged violations of the "Sunshine Law," and this will be the main focus of the interview. Pisano was questioned, if anyone outside of a public meeting attempted to initiate conversations with her regarding the dismissal of then city manager, Keith Severns. Pisano stated, *"Sue Nielsen tried to have the conversation multiple times."* She reported these attempts to discuss the dismissal of Keith Severns took place **"after meetings"**, and Commissioner Nielsen told her Severns **"needs to go."** Pisano indicated she did engage in discussions about the dismissal of Keith Severns, outside of a public meeting. When asked if other individuals attempted to engage in similar conversations, Pisano stated, Nielsen was **"the only one."** On another occasion, she was confronted by Nielsen in the parking lot after a commission meeting, in which Pisano had voiced support for Keith Severns. Nielsen stated, **"I cannot believe you did that... Now we have Keith, but I'm not done yet."**

Pisano reported she learned from Commissioner Gold of “**underground meetings,**” in which were attended by Commissioners Gold, Readey and Nielsen. During these meetings the dismissal of Keith Severns was a frequent topic.

Pisano was questioned, if anyone had approached her regarding her run for mayor. Specifically, if anyone suggested her opponent (Greg Gent) in the mayoral race would drop out of the race if she voted to dismiss Keith Severns. Pisano replied, “**Yes, a few people.**” To clarify, Pisano advised she was contacted by Belle Isle residents Keith Ingersoll and Nancy Weinsier.

Keith Ingersoll told her, “**he had been talking to Ed and talking to Sue [Commissioner Nielsen]... If you vote for Keith to be gone, don’t worry I’ll take care of Greg Gent.**” In addition, Ingersoll told her, “**Sue is going to back you and Sue is going to help you, if you vote to get rid of Keith Severns.**” At the time Belle Isle resident Jeremy Weinsier was also named by Ingersoll as an individual attempting to influence Pisano to vote to dismiss Keith Severns.

Pisano did not provide details of her conversations with Nancy Weinsier, but it was also in reference to the mayoral race and the need to dismiss Severns.

Pisano was questioned if she *ever overheard other commissioners discussing city business*, to which she replied, “**Absolutely, in the parking lot.**” She heard Commissioners Nielsen, Gold and Katy McGinnis discussing city business in the parking lot. When asked what they were discussing, Pisano stated “**Agenda items or oh, I can’t believe you did this.**” Pisano reported, after nearly every commission meeting Commissioners Nielsen, Weinsier, Readey, Gold and Katy McGinnis were in the parking lot and she overheard them discussing city agenda items. When questioned if City Manager Keith Severns was ever a topic their discussions, Pisano reported, she had overheard Commissioners Nielsen and Readey and at the time Belle Isle resident Jeremy Weinsier discussing the need for Severns to be terminated. **(Note: Jeremy Weinsier was elected Belle Isle City Commissioner replacing former Commissioner Karl Shuck in March 2016).**

Pisano was questioned about the process in filling the city manager vacancy and specifically the candidate, Patrick Kennedy. Pisano reported, Commissioner Nielsen had mentioned Patrick Kennedy, by name, at her first meeting as a city commissioner, when she proposed Keith Severns to be terminated. This would have occurred in the May 2014 commission meeting.

Pisano referred to her hand written notes and advised she was told by Nielsen multiple times and outside of public meetings that she has a personal “**vengeance**” for Keith Severns and her “**last thing would be to get rid of him.**”

Pisano was questioned if she engaged in conversations with Commissioner Nielsen when she was approached outside of public meetings, by Commissioner Nielsen. Pisano admitted that she did engage in those conversations and never attempted to discourage Nielsen from speaking to her about agenda items. Pisano also confirmed, she has, without question, heard Commissioners Gold, Readey, Nielsen, Lance and McGinnis discussing city business outside of public meetings.

On October 28, 2016, Commissioner Ed Gold was interviewed in response to him being served with an Investigative Subpoena. Gold was accompanied by his attorney, Warren Lindsey. Chief Assistant State Attorney Rick Walsh administered the oath, and informed Gold of his rights related to the subpoena. Gold was elected as commissioner in March 2014 and confirmed to have received training in reference to the "Sunshine Law." Gold informed us of an official training session he attended as well as self-research and he sought guidance from Belle Isle resident Jeremy Weinsier. Gold reported, he was a member of a small group of concerned citizens, known as "**The Roundtable**," which met at Belle Isle resident Charline Kennedy's home. He listed the members of this group as Belle Isle residents Stuart Bernstein, Ruth Bernstein, Charline Kennedy, Jack Kennedy, Dina Goodenow, Jeremy Weinsier, Nancy Weinsier, Richard Weinsier, Sue Nielsen and Amy Morton. This group discussed strategies for campaigning and placing citizens favorable to the group's agenda on the city commission. He became a member of "**The Roundtable**" in 2013. Gold indicated his involvement in this group inspired him to run for city commissioner due to the perceived corruption within the Belle Isle City Government.

Gold was questioned about his relationship with Jeremy Weinsier. He reported, Weinsier is an attorney and will often author items for him. Gold was shown and questioned about a Facebook messenger (January 12, 2015) conversation which suggested he was using Facebook to monitor other Belle Isle commissioner's activity and to learn their position on city agenda items. Gold confirmed this to be true and acknowledged it being inappropriate. Gold confirmed Pisano's testimony, he is regularly in the city hall parking lot after meetings, discussing with other commissioners on voted agenda items. It was Gold's belief that the discussion of voted items was not in violation of the "Sunshine Law."

Gold was questioned about a correspondence (September 15, 2015) with Pisano, where he suggested she gain the backing of Jeremy Weinsier in her bid for mayor. When asked why Weinsier's support would be relevant in her campaign, Gold stated that Weinsier was still part of "**The Roundtable**," and gaining the support of this group would allow her to "**win easily**." Gold added, "**You need to talk to Jeremy to get his group backing you**." It was suggested to Gold by these investigators, "**The Roundtable**" appears to be the power behind the city, and Gold replied "**they're certainly a powerful lobbying group**."

Gold noted that, although not a member of the Roundtable, Commissioner Harvey Readey had attended as a guest.

Gold was asked if he had any other conversations with commissioners about city business outside of public meetings. Gold stated, "*We had lots of conversations in the parking lot.*" Gold provided no other information relevant to violations of the "Sunshine Law."

On November 8, 2016, Sue Nielsen provided a voluntary sworn statement. Nielsen was accompanied by her attorney, Jacob Stuart. Nielsen became a commissioner in March 2014. She confirmed to have received training in the "Sunshine Law" at a training class, in which she attended in March 2015. Nielsen was shown a certificate of completion for the training class, which she confirmed as being the one she attended. She claimed to have no knowledge of the "Sunshine Law" prior to her election to the Belle Isle commission. Nielsen did acknowledge to having political experience from working in election campaigns when she was a resident of Alabama. Nielsen reported, she became interested in becoming a member of the Belle Isle city commission after hearing of "secret meetings" going on within the city government. She learned of these alleged secret meetings while attending a meeting at Charline Kennedy's residence known as "**The Roundtable.**" Nielsen confirmed Gold's testimony about "**The Roundtable**" and members names. In addition, she identified Jeremy Weinsier to be chairman. Nielsen was questioned, if she understood the email feature, "**blind copied**" (Bcc) and how it worked. She confirmed she understood the feature and it conceal the person entered in the Bcc field from the email recipients.

Nielsen was given examples of instances where she was Bcc in emails, in which other commissioners were recipients and in discussions with Belle Isle residents about city agenda items. Nielsen was asked if these examples seemed appropriate and she acknowledged it was not. She alleged to have verbally instructed Belle Isle resident Sarah Goodwin, not to blind copy her in emails. (Note: Sarah Goodwin in an earlier interview reported Nielsen never instructed her not to blind copy her.)

Nielsen was questioned about an email message (June 15, 2015) in which Belle Isle resident, Daniel Lucey inquired about budget reserves for the City of Belle Isle. In the Nielsen's response, Nielsen instructed Lucey to have Karl (Shuck) bring it up at the commission meeting and she (Nielsen) would second the motion. Nielsen further instructed Lucey not to let Shuck know she had suggested it, because this would be a "*Sunshine violation for me.*" Nielsen defended her actions by stating she didn't expect Lucey to suggest this to Karl Shuck, despite her (Nielsen) having given Lucey specific instructions on doing so and to not tell Karl Shuck.

Nielsen was questioned about an email she received from Sarah Goodwin, where Goodwin asked Nielsen to write a letter for her to send to Commissioners Gold, Readey and Pisano. The letter was in regards to a city agenda item, dealing with a drainage issue. Nielsen's response to Goodwin included the requested note to the listed commissioners about the drainage project. When asked if this would be a "Sunshine Law" violation, she replied, "**I guess it would be.**" At that point in the interview, her attorney asked for a moment to speak with his client. After their discussion, attorney Stuart advised they wished to stop the interview at this time. Their desire to terminate the interview was recorded and the interview ended.

The interview ended prematurely preventing these investigators from confronting Nielsen with the allegations made by Pisano implicating the two of them in several "Sunshine Law" violations.

Commissioners Harvey Readey and Katherine McGinnis were offered the opportunity to provide a sworn statement. Both declined.

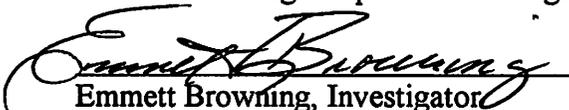
A thorough review of the requested communications by and to each commissioner, combined with information gained during interviews, confirms communication between commissioners, both direct and indirect, were taking place in the City of Belle Isle. This communication took place despite each commissioner having received training and education on the "Sunshine Law".

Also discovered during this investigation is the existence of a group of citizens calling themselves "The Roundtable." Of the individuals identified as being members, Jeremy Weinsier, Ed Gold and Sue Nielsen all became city commissioners. One of the city manager finalists, Patrick Kennedy, is the son of Roundtable members Charline and Jack Kennedy. Reported Roundtable member Stuart Bernstein (deceased) had served as a member of the Planning and Zoning board. Roundtable member Dina Goodenow, is actively involved in a recurring commission agenda item known as "Delia Beach." It appears that the influence and membership of this group allows the opportunity for unlimited direct access to a majority of the members of the city commission outside of official meetings.

The influence of membership in this group can be confirmed through Ed Gold's statements about these individuals and the need to maintain a close relationship with them for political gain. Their influence can also be seen in the presentation of Charline Kennedy's son as a top candidate for the city manager position. Former and/or current Roundtable members, Commissioners Sue Nielsen and Jeremy Weinsier, along with Commissioner Harvey Readey have voiced their support for Patrick Kennedy. Although Commissioner Ed Gold rated the other city manager candidates ahead of Patrick Kennedy, he expressed he would be willing to support the other commissioner's decision.

All of the materials referenced in this report, as well as the timeline supplemental report, are attached. Additional details about items referenced in this report can be gained through a review of the timeline supplemental report, the referenced communication attachments and the recorded interviews. Those items along with a this report were sent to State Attorney Jeffrey Ashton and Chief Assistant State Attorney Richard Wallsh for their review in November of 2016. A final signed report, after being reviewed by Chief Investigator Eric Edwards, was forwarded to now Assistant State Attorney Richard Wallsh for his final review and consideration.

**Note:** Investigator Jeff Harris, the co-author of the aforementioned narration is no longer employed by the State Attorney's Office. Therefore, co-author Investigator Emmett Browning has provided his signature.

  
Emmett Browning, Investigator  
Office of the State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit

5/25/17  
Date signed

*Wm. Eric Edwards*

Chief Investigator Wm. Eric Edwards  
Office of the State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit  
415 North Orange Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407-836-2400

5/25/2017  
Date reviewed/signed



**JEFFREY L. ASHTON**  
**STATE ATTORNEY**  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ORANGE AND OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

LINDA DRANE BURDICK  
CHIEF ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY

RICHARD I. WALLSH  
CHIEF ASSISTANT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**TIMELINE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT**

On December 1, 2015, I was notified by Chief Edwards of a complaint made to this office regarding possible Sunshine Law violations by the Belle Isle City Commission. I was provided emails to review and informed that a meeting with Belle Isle Police Chief Rich Ring had been scheduled for the following morning at 1000 hours.

On December 2, 2015, at 1000 hours, Investigations Supervisor Abbe Radke, Investigator Angel Taylor and I met with Chief Ring in the first floor conference room at the State Attorney's Office. We obtained a sworn recorded statement regarding the possible Sunshine Law violations. We learned that the city manager had informed Chief Ring of possible Sunshine Law violations, at which time Chief Ring, believing a criminal act may have occurred, initiated a criminal investigation. As part of his investigation Chief Ring conducted sworn recorded interviews with Eric Spaulding and Anita Sacco, both residents of Belle Isle. Those interviews were turned over to this office. I requested any and all documents pertaining to this complaint be provided to me by Chief Ring.

On December 10, 2015 Investigator Browning and I met with Chief Ring at the Belle Isle Police Department. Chief Ring provided me a copy of a police report<sup>1</sup> he authored concerning his involvement in this matter. I then met with Yolanda Quiceno, the Belle Isle City Clerk. I informed Ms. Quiceno that I would need the names, addresses, phone numbers, cell phone numbers and any email addresses used by the members of the city commission and the mayor. Ms. Quiceno stated that although all of the commissioners have a city email address, some of them use their personal email addresses. This is even demonstrated on the business card of Commissioner Lydia Pisano, ([lydiapisano@sprint.blackberry.net](mailto:lydiapisano@sprint.blackberry.net)).

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment #1 Belle Isle police report case number 15-600606.

I received a copy of a memorandum<sup>2</sup> from City Manager Keith Severns to Chief Ring directing him to conduct a criminal investigation into allegations that violations of the “Sunshine Law” had been committed by Commissioners Lydia Pisano, Ed Gold, Harvey Readey and Sue Nielsen. I also received a copy of an email<sup>3</sup> sent from Belle Isle resident Sandra Mellow to Commissioners Ed Gold, Keith Van Dyke, Karl Shuck, Larry Ady, Harvey Readey, Lydia Pisano, Sue Nielsen and Mayor Bill Brooks wherein Ms. Mellow expresses concerns that violations of the “Sunshine Law” had occurred with regards to the upcoming resolutions 15-19 and 15-20, which call for the termination of City Manager Keith Severns and a cap on employee salaries. Ms. Mellow states that her concern for violations of the “Sunshine Law” are based on a *“Memo from Commissioner Readey to his followers”* referring to an email<sup>4</sup> sent by Commissioner Readey to several residents calling for a large turnout at the December 1, 2015 council meeting where resolutions 15-19 and 15-20 would be introduced. In this email, Commissioner Readey says, *“Commissioners (including myself) and numerous citizens agree it’s time for Mr. Severns to go.”*

On December 23, 2015, at about 1119 hours, I received a telephone phone call from Chief Ring. During the telephone call I was informed that the sole candidate running against the established candidate (Lydia Pisano) in the mayoral race had dropped out of the contest, at the last minute on the last day for candidate entry or withdraw from the election race. Chief Ring stated that the belief among politically interested individuals in Belle Isle is that the subject (Greg Gent) entered the mayoral race only so it would not appear Lydia Pisano was running unopposed, thus potentially drawing an unknown candidate into the race. Chief Ring stated it was further believed by several residents and subjects within the Belle Isle political circle, that the intention all along was for Greg Gent to drop out of the race at the last minute, so that Lydia Pisano would become the default winner without having to endure an election against another unknown candidate.

On January 5, 2016, I sent a public records request (via email)<sup>5</sup> to Yolanda Quiceno, the Belle Isle City Clerk. In my request I asked for all emails, phone logs, text messages (from both city and personal accounts/devices) for each commissioner, Mayor Bill Brooks and City Manager Keith Severns for the time frame of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. On January 6, 2016, I received a voice message from Belle Isle City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher asking me to call him to clarify my request. In his voice message Mr. Kruppenbacher states that the clarification was at the request of some members of the city commission.

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<sup>2</sup> Attachment #2 Memorandum from Keith Severns to Chief Ring dated November 30, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Attachment #3 Electronic mail from Sandra Mellow to council members sent November 29, 2015 at 1:47am.

<sup>4</sup> Attachment #4 Electronic mail from Commissioner Readey to several citizens sent November 27, 2015 at 2:35pm.

<sup>5</sup> Attachment #5 Electronic mail public records request and clarification correspondence with Yolanda Quiceno sent January 5, 2016

On January 7, 2015, at about 1530 hours I, along with Chief Investigator Eric Edwards, contacted Mr. Frank Kruppenbacher. As we made contact, Mr. Kruppenbacher stated that he had received inquiries from the commissioners about my public records request. Mr. Kruppenbacher further stated that one commissioner (name unknown) told him that they had been having phone problems, and that they would need to do a "factory reset." This would reportedly cause all data on the cellular telephone to be lost. Mr. Kruppenbacher also advised another commissioner inquired about the large amount of personal email they possess for the period that I requested and that it would be impossible for them to go through all their emails and separate their personal email from their business related emails. Mr. Kruppenbacher inquired as to the process for filtering personal and business emails. Mr. Kruppenbacher was instructed to contact State Attorney Jeff Ashton's assistant and schedule an appointment to meet with him regarding answering all of his questions about my public records request.

On January 8, 2016, I received an email<sup>6</sup> from Mr. Kruppenbacher which was addressed to all of the Belle Isle City Commissioners. The email advised them that he will meet with State Attorney Ashton the following week for the purpose of the public record request. The email further advised them not to delete anything in an effort to preserve any items of evidentiary value.

On January 20, 2016, at 0930 hours, Chief Edwards and I met with State Attorney Ashton and Belle Isle City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher at the State Attorney's Office to discuss the public records request. During the meeting, Mr. Kruppenbacher asked if all items delivered to this office in response to the public records request would be made public record at the conclusion of the investigation. It was determined that all items delivered to this office, regardless if related to Belle Isle city business or personal in nature, would become public record and made available to anyone requesting the information at the conclusion of the investigation.

On January 26, 2016, I sent an updated, detailed public records request<sup>7</sup> to Belle Isle City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher. The request detailed all of the items requested relating to the alleged Sunshine Law violations. Mr. Kruppenbacher acknowledged receipt of the request and stated he would deliver the request to the members of the Belle Isle City Commission, city manager and mayor during the scheduled commission workshop to be held on January 27, 2016, at 0900.

On January 27, 2016, Investigator Browning and I attended the commission workshop held at the Belle Isle City Hall. During the meeting, City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher delivered the public records requests to each of the commissioners. Mr. Kruppenbacher explained that anything delivered to this office would be made public record. Mr. Kruppenbacher explained that each commissioner was responsible for producing the requested items and that complete cooperation and transparency was necessary. Former City Manager Keith Severns and current Mayor William Brooks were not present at the meeting and did not receive the public records request from Mr. Kruppenbacher at the same time as the commissioners.

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<sup>6</sup> Attachment #6 Electronic mail from Frank Kruppenbacher to all commissioners sent January 8, 2016 at 9am.

<sup>7</sup> Attachment #7 Electronic mail with public records request sent to Frank Kruppenbacher January 26, 2016 at 436pm.

On January 29, 2016, at about 1600 hours I delivered the original public records request, on State Attorney letterhead, to the Belle Isle City Hall. The requests were given to Yolanda Quiceno. As the requests were delivered, I was informed by Yolanda Quiceno that a public records request had been made to the City of Belle Isle by John Evertsen, a resident of the City of Belle Isle.

Immediately following the delivery of the public records requests to the Belle Isle City Hall, I telephoned Belle Isle Police Chief Rich Ring. I inquired about an individual I observed at the January 27, 2016, commission workshop that was taking notes during the meeting. The individual appeared to have a great interest in the commission activity, more so than most of the other citizens. I learned that the individual was Anthony Carugno, a candidate for the upcoming Belle Isle commission district 2 elections. I also inquired of Chief Ring if there had been any additional discussion about this investigation after Investigator Browning and I left the meeting, which was prior to adjournment. Chief Ring stated there was no additional discussion.

On February 17, 2016, I received, via hand delivery, a package from Belle Isle City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher, a package said to contain all of the requested items. These items were delivered in various electronic formats such as thumb drives, DVD and a SD card. I took these items to Jay Spencer in the Management Information Systems department of the State Attorney's Office and requested he copy each storage device so that I may have a working copy. The original items and copies were delivered to me later that same day.

On February 18, 2016, I began to review the items provided to me by Frank Kruppenbacher. A cursory examination revealed that a great deal of requested information was not provided. I sent an email<sup>8</sup> to Frank Kruppenbacher informing him of the deficiency in the provided information and requested he assist in obtaining the remainder of the information. My email request was followed up by a call from Frank Kruppenbacher acknowledging receipt of my email and his assurance that he would direct the non-compliant individuals to immediately comply with my request. The non-compliant individuals were: Lydia Pisano, Keith Severns, William Brooks, Laurance Ady and only partial information had been received from Keith Van Dyke.

Information requested as part of this investigation has been received and reviewed. During my review of the provided information several items of interest were discovered. In this writer's opinion these items contained information needing clarification, potential law violations or clear law violations. Below is a list, by commissioner, of the items of interest. The information provided by Lydia Pisano came sporadically and was reviewed after all other provided information due to the delay in its receipt.

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<sup>8</sup> Attachment #8 Electronic mail to Frank Kruppenbacher sent February 18, 2016 at 11:25am

## Items for Commissioner Harvey Readey

On February 24, 2015, Belle Isle resident Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>9</sup> to several subjects regarding a drainage issue which was, and continues to be, an agenda item<sup>10</sup>. Commissioner Harvey Readey was blind copied on the email. This is observed several times with this resident and other commissioners.

On March 2, 2015, an email was sent from Commissioner Harvey Readey to [contact@belleislesun.org](mailto:contact@belleislesun.org), which is the email address for Jeremy Weinsier<sup>11</sup>. It was observed several times throughout my review that nearly all commissioners sent items to Jeremy Weinsier. It appeared most of the commissioners would solicit the advice and input of Jeremy Weinsier before deciding on an action or stance for a particular issue. The email<sup>12</sup> from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Jeremy Weinsier asks for Weinsier's opinion about an upcoming candidate debate where Commissioner Harvey Readey was to answer questions presented by the debate moderator.

May 24, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>13</sup> to Belle Isle City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno advising her to change his preferred method of electronic contact to [harveyreadey@gmail.com](mailto:harveyreadey@gmail.com). In a response dated May 26, 2015, Yolanda Quiceno acknowledges receipt of the message from Commissioner Harvey Readey and reminds him that, *"using an email other than the City (sic) email address, as discussed in past meetings, is not advisable."*

July 6, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>14</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier informing him that he would be absent from the (council meeting on July 7, 2015). Commissioner Harvey Readey also expressed his displeasure with not having the opportunity to provide any input. Commissioner Harvey Readey stated, *"The mayor has added no provisions such as for counsel Memeber cmmnts (sic) so I would be given the opportunity of making a motion directing the city manager to have the moss removed from all trees..."*

July 7, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>15</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier asking, *"Can the council rezone lakefron (sic) R1 property to R2 without first revoking a standing ordinance that prohibits the BI council from doing so? The city attorney and developers seem to think so. What do the citizens think?"* This would not be the first time Commissioner Harvey Readey questioned the city attorney's opinion on a topic where the city attorney's opinion did not match his own.

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<sup>9</sup> Attachment #9 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin regarding drainage issue (agenda item). Sent February 24, 2015 at 3:04pm. Commissioner Readey blind copied.

<sup>10</sup> Attachment #10 all commission and workshop minutes where the drainage issue was discussed.

<sup>11</sup> Jeremy Weinsier is the owner/operator of the web blog The Belle Isle Sun ([belleislesun.org](http://belleislesun.org)). Jeremy Weinsier is now an elected member of the city council.

<sup>12</sup> Attachment #11 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Jeremy Weinsier sent March 2, 2015 at 9:06am.

<sup>13</sup> Attachment #12 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Ready to city clerk Yolanda Quiceno sent May 24, 2015 at 7:44pm and her response sent May 26, 2015 at 5:33pm.

<sup>14</sup> Attachment #13 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Jeremy Weinsier sent July 6, 2015 at 9:27pm.

<sup>15</sup> Attachment #14 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Jeremy Weinsier sent July 7, 2015 at 8:51pm.

On August 2, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey was blind copied on an email<sup>16</sup> from resident Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Lydia Pisano regarding a drainage and erosion issue which has been, and continues to be an agenda item.

On August 3, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey responded to the email<sup>17</sup> sent to Lydia Pisano from resident Sarah Goodwin. In his response, Commissioner Harvey Readey expressed his displeasure with the city manager (Keith Severns), and refers to him as ***“an un-trainable bull headed old man.”*** Commissioner Harvey Readey further stated, ***“ I am through trying to work with this bull shit artist scorn me out of ignorance (sic)”*** In his final sentence, Commissioner Harvey Readey said, ***“This is a form of insanity Brooks introduced now we live with it but not for long should the voters wake up.”***

On August 3, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>18</sup> to Sarah Goodwin regarding the canal repair and erosion. In his message, Commissioner Harvey Readey says, ***“Have text for answer which I await a response for.. Did you check the budget tosee (sic) if it is listed as a line item or not?”*** (It should be noted that no text messages were received from Harvey Readey as part of my public records request). A response from Sarah Goodwin dated August 4, 2015, was included with this email. In her response, Sarah Goodwin stated, ***“Either Sue of Lydia will bring it up tonight...”*** This confirms Sarah Goodwin communicated with Commissioners Harvey Readey, Sue Nielsen and Lydia Pisano, directly and through blind copied emails. This was confirmed through a thorough review of Commissioner Sue Nielsen’s emails as well.

On August 7, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>19</sup> to resident Greg Gent regarding his presentation at the August 4, 2015, commission meeting. In his email, Commissioner Harvey Readey stated, ***“The attorney representing the neighborhood citizens helped convince the council sewer hookup was required. The city attorney’s counter argument against sewers was weak from council’s viewpoint. The council remembers the original proposed high density development...”*** These statements suggest some form of communication may have taken place between council members regarding the effectiveness of the arguments by each attorney sometime between the August 4, 2015 meeting and the August 7, 2015 email.

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<sup>16</sup> Attachment #15 Electronic mail sent from Sarah Goodwin to Lydia Pisano August 2, 2015 at 8:29pm.

<sup>17</sup> Attachment #16 Electronic mail sent by Commissioner Harvey Readey to resident Sarah Goodwin August 3, 2015 at 4:34pm.

<sup>18</sup> Attachment #17 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Sarah Goodwin sent August 3, 2015 at 8:30pm. Electronic mail response from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Harvey Readey sent August 4, 2015 at 10:10am is also included.

<sup>19</sup> Attachment #18 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Greg Gent sent August 7, 2015 at 10:41pm.

On August 12, 2015, Commissioner Lydia Pisano sent an email<sup>20</sup> to resident Sarah Goodwin regarding the drainage and erosion issue. In her message, Commissioner Lydia Pisano stated, ***“Sarah, I have to bring up at workshop on the 26<sup>th</sup>...”*** This message is included in the blind copy sent to Commissioner Harvey Readey on August 12, 2015, at 10:19am where Sarah Goodwin responded to Commissioner Lydia Pisano. This same resident included Commissioners Harvey Readey, Sue Nielsen and Lydia Pisano in several blind copied messages as seen in Sue Nielsen’s provided information. Several email messages in Sue Nielsen’s provided information confirm that Sarah Goodwin acted as a communication conduit between commissioners. This will be better detailed later in this report.

September 9, 2015, in an email<sup>21</sup> exchange with resident Charline Kennedy, Harvey Readey sent an email stating, ***“Sue and I are boxed in. A new mayor along with new commissioners are the only answers.”***

On September 23, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>22</sup> to City Manager Keith Severns stating, ***“BUT, if you continue to operate independently of council direction, I can almost guarantee you service will end when the Mayor and his cronies are no longer servicing this community. I think you have good management skills but remember who you work for, (sic).”***

On October 16, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>23</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen, using personal email accounts, which was titled ***“City Employee Pay Data with no Date on it.”*** This topic was the subject of proposed resolution 15-20 which was later introduced by Commissioner Sue Nielsen and addressed a maximum employee salary of \$85,000. While there was no attachment provided in the information given by Commissioner Harvey Readey, the very topic of employee salaries being discussed less than 2 months prior to the introduction of resolution 15-20 regulating employee maximum salaries suggests collusion by Commissioners Sue Nielsen and Harvey Readey with regards to at least one resolution.

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<sup>20</sup> Attachment #19 Electronic mail from Lydia Pisano to Sarah Goodwin sent August 12, 2015 at 9:43am. Also included is an electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Lydia Pisano sent August 12, 2015 at 10:19am.

<sup>21</sup> Attachment #20 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Charline Kennedy sent September 9, 2015 at 3:19pm.

<sup>22</sup> Attachment #21 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to city manager Keith Severns sent September 23, 2015 at 9:00pm.

<sup>23</sup> Attachment #22 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent October 16, 2015 at 4:56pm.

On October 20, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>24</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier regarding his displeasure with City Manager Keith Severns. In his email, Commissioner Harvey Readey explained that he met with Keith Severns and informed him that he “works for council” and that he was “in contempt of council.” Commissioner Harvey Readey’s apparent displeasure with City Manager Keith Severn’s was coincidentally timed with Commissioner Sue Nielsen’s resolution 15-19, which called for the termination of Mr. Severns at the December commission meeting. This also appears to have coincided with resolution 15-20, also introduced by Commissioner Sue Nielsen, which was detailed in the previous paragraph explaining an email between Commissioner Sue Nielsen and Commissioner Harvey Readey, where the subject of the communication was employee salaries. The two resolutions introduced by Commissioner Sue Nielsen in December 2015 were also the topic of the email sent by Commissioner Harvey Readey on November 27, 2015, to residents of Belle Isle. Without illegal communications between Commissioner Harvey Readey and Commissioner Sue Nielsen, as shown by these emails, Commissioner Harvey Readey would not have knowledge of the proposed resolutions. Additionally, Commissioner Harvey Readey appears to have had clear control problems with Keith Severns, informing him he was “in contempt of council” and reminding him that he “works for council.” In his email to the citizens, Commissioner Harvey Readey explains the commission’s plans for replacing the city manager, once the proposed resolutions passed on December 1, 2015. Again, this knowledge appears to have been gained through what appears to be illegal communications with other council members.

### **Items for Commissioner Sue Nielsen**

On January 5, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>25</sup> to Sarah Goodwin stating, ***“Here are a few ideas. I do not remember exactly what I was thinking when we first talked. Harvey has a great campaign team up and running, so check with Nancy<sup>26</sup> if you are interested. See you tomorrow!”*** This email included an attachment, but that attachment was not included in the information provided to the State Attorney’s Office. Note: This email would require additional information to potentially provide clarity as to the topic since Sarah Goodwin has been shown to have previously been a conduit between commissioners, especially relating to the drainage and canal erosion topic which continues to be heard by the commission.

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<sup>24</sup> Attachment #23 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Jeremy Weinsier sent October 20, 2015 at 10:06am.

<sup>25</sup> Attachment #24 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Sarah Goodwin sent January 5, 2015 at 9:26pm.

<sup>26</sup> Nancy refers to Nancy Weinsier, the mother of now commissioner Jeremy Weinsier.

On January 15, 2015, Nancy Weinsier sent an email<sup>27</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen and Jeremy Weinsier regarding, “LM’s<sup>28</sup> candidacy on Facebook.” The final sentence of her email stated, “Should I send this to Ed?”<sup>29</sup> This appears to be constant with the ongoing third party communication between commissioners.

On February 10, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>30</sup> to Commissioner Harvey Readey, Commissioner Sue Nielsen, Nancy Weinsier and Charline Kennedy where the subject was, “meeting on Friday ANAC.” In the email chain it stated, “We will meet on Friday @9am. did (sic) you get a notice?” It also stated, “We need to get together and push for Harv.”

On March 5, 2015, Charline Kennedy sent an email<sup>31</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano regarding the upcoming election between incumbent Commissioner Harvey Readey and candidate Larry Miles. Charlie Kennedy also referenced a “posting” by Larry Miles. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied on the email to Commissioner Lydia Pisano.

On June 15, 2015, resident Daniel Lucey engaged in an email conversation<sup>32</sup> with Commissioner Sue Nielsen. In that conversation, about financial reserves for the City of Belle Isle, Commissioner Sue Nielsen stated, “The council would have to vote to do it. If you can get Karl<sup>33</sup> to bring it up and make that suggestion, I will certainly back him up. Or of course I can bring it up.” The following sentence stated, “Karl could do much better if he could just realize we need to do a better job. It really does not seem to me that he understands how much power<sup>34</sup> and responsibility he has as a commissioner.” In a later email to Daniel Lucey, sent the same day by Commissioner Sue Nielsen as part of the same conversation, Commissioner Sue Nielsen stated, “I hope you do talk to Karl. But please do not tell him that I suggested it. I am not trying to pass a message to him through you because that would be a sunshine violation for me.” (Emphasis Added)

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<sup>27</sup> Attachment #25 Electronic mail from Nancy Weinsier to Commissioner Sue Nielsen and Jeremy Weinsier sent January 15, 2015 at 11:13am.

<sup>28</sup> LM refers to resident Larry Miles, a candidate for commission during the 2016 election.

<sup>29</sup> Ed refers to Commissioner Ed Gold.

<sup>30</sup> Attachment #26 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Harvey Readey, Commissioner Sue Nielsen, Nancy Weinsier and Charline Kennedy sent February 10, 2015 at 9:57am.

<sup>31</sup> Attachment #27 Electronic mail from Charline Kennedy to Commissioner Lydia Pisano where Commissioner Sue Nielsen is blind copied. Sent March 5, 2015 at 2:44pm.

<sup>32</sup> Attachment #28 Electronic mail conversation between Daniel Lucey and Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent June 15, 2015 between 1:03pm and 3:18pm.

<sup>33</sup> Karl refers to Commissioner Karl Shuck.

<sup>34</sup> Reference to how much “power” is possessed by commissioners speaks to their mindset. This same belief is echoed throughout many of the emails sent by Commissioner Harvey Readey.

On July 10, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>35</sup> to Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier regarding taxes and fees. The body of the message stated, ***“This is from the Orange County Tax Collector’s Office. It’s only what they collect. Most cities have additional fees that they do not. If you have questions, I may already have the answer, if I asked the same question.”*** In a response to Commissioner Sue Nielsen, Commissioner Ed Gold wrote, ***“Thanks Sue! These numbers match almost exactly with what I got from the Property Appraiser’s website.”*** It should be noted that a common theme throughout Commissioner Ed Gold’s communications was annexation and tax revenue generated by potential annexation<sup>36</sup>. The researching of taxes and potential revenue generation appears to have been related to the desire to annex residential areas. This topic would be a future agenda item.

On July 11, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>37</sup> to Commissioner Ed Gold in response to his comment about the numbers in the previous email from the Property Appraiser’s Site. Commissioner Sue Nielsen stated, ***“Just thought it mite (sic) help with thinking up a matrix, and comparisons of particular municipalities.”***

On July 17, 2015, Daniel Lucey sent an email<sup>38</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen, which included attachments from a forwarded email. The email and attachments originated from Tracey Richardson, Finance Manager for the City of Belle Isle, and were originally sent to Commissioner Karl Shuck. Commissioner Karl Shuck then sent the attachments to Daniel Lucey, who forwarded them to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. The attachments were labeled ***“09-30-04 CARF.pdf.”*** This attachment was not included with the information provided to the State Attorney’s Office. I contacted Tracey Richardson with the City of Belle Isle and requested she send me that attachment. I received the attachment, which was the year-end financial statement for the city. This would be the very topic Daniel Lucey and Commissioner Sue Nielsen were discussing in the earlier email, where she instructed Daniel Lucey to request Commissioner Karl Shuck raise the issue so she could second his motion. While Daniel Lucey is discussing this item with both commissioners, it appears that Commissioner Sue Nielsen was aware of the conduit of information, but Commissioner Karl Shuck was not.

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<sup>35</sup> Attachment #29 Electronic mail sent between Commissioner Sue Nielsen and Commissioner Ed Gold. Included in the electronic mail conversation is Nancy Weinsier. Sent July 10, 2015 at 5:05pm and 9:55pm.

<sup>36</sup> Annexation refers to the bringing of real property into the City of Belle Isle when they are currently outside the incorporated city limits. This results in additional tax revenue for the City of Belle Isle and requires additional services to be extended to the newly annexed property.

<sup>37</sup> Attachment #30 Electronic mail sent from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Commissioner Ed Gold on July 11, 2015 at 6:38am.

<sup>38</sup> Attachment #31 Electronic mail from Daniel Lucey to Commissioner Sue Nielsen showing forwarding of information from Commissioner Karl Shuck. Sent July 17, 2015 at 4:22pm.

On July 17, 2015, Daniel Lucey sent an email<sup>39</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen containing an attachment named “09-30-05 CAFR.pdf.” This email originated from City of Belle Isle Finance Manager Tracey Richardson and was sent to Commissioner Karl Shuck. Commissioner Karl Shuck forwarded the information to Daniel Lucey, who then forwarded it to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. As with the previous forwarded attachment, it was necessary for me to retrieve the item from Tracey Richardson. This was another year-end financial statement, as with the previous email. This related to the same topic as the previous emails between Daniel Lucey and Sue Nielsen regarding financial reserves and Commissioner Sue Nielsen’s suggestion that Daniel Lucey instruct Commissioner Karl Shuck to make a motion regarding reserves so that she can second his motion.

On July 26, 2015, Annette (Nielsen) sent an email<sup>40</sup> to her mother, Commissioner Sue Nielsen, with a subject of “Facebook.” The email included an attachment, which was not provided to the State Attorney’s Office with the email.

On July 28, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>41</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano inquiring about the requirements to gain admission into the city’s charter school. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied on the email.

On August 2, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>42</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen requesting she write a letter to be copied and sent to Commissioners Lydia Pisano, Harvey Readey and Ed Gold. The email reads as follows:

***“will (sic) you please write me a nice note that I can copy (more professional & short) and send today if possible to commissioners (Lydia, Readey & Ed) regarding the \$23,000 funds the mayor was quick to use and assign. (sic) Those funds should stay w/LCEHOA to repair the erosion. The mayor on various discussions has agreed it is the city’s responsibility. I feel that since we have sufficient funds on budget and ad valorem tax is not needed then we should be able to keep those funds and finally after all these years do the repairs. I need the support and will ask Lydia to bring it up on Tuesday....she knows I am upset/not happy with her.”***

On August 2, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>43</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano regarding the erosion repairs to be discussed as an agenda item. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied<sup>44</sup> on this email.

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<sup>39</sup> Attachment #32 Electronic mail from Daniel Lucey to Commissioner Sue Nielsen including financial statements forwarded from Commissioner Karl Shuck. Sent July 17, 2015 at 4:23pm.

<sup>40</sup> Attachment #33 Electronic mail from Annette Nielsen to Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent July 26, 2015 at 3:09pm.

<sup>41</sup> Attachment #34 Electronic mail sent from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Sue Nielsen July 28, 2015 at 11:46am.

<sup>42</sup> Attachment #35 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Sue Nielsen requesting she write a letter to be copied and sent to Commissioners Pisano, Readey and Gold. Sent August 2, 2015 at 1:44pm.

<sup>43</sup> Attachment #36 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Lydia Pisano with Commissioner Sue Nielsen blind copied. Sent August 2, 2015 at 8:29pm.

<sup>44</sup> A blind carbon copy email is defined by Miriam Webster as, “a copy of a message (as an e-mail) that is sent without the knowledge of the other recipients”.

On August 2, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>45</sup> to Sarah Goodwin. The email was in response to an earlier request for Commissioner Sue Nielsen to type something to be copied and sent to Commissioners Lydia Pisano, Harvey Readey and Ed Gold. The email stated:

***“Subject: Note to Ed, Harv and Lydia, and Sue”***

***“ Sarah, is this about right?”***

***Thank you for voting to move forward with the Conway East lake lot repairs before October 1, 2015. Please be sure to include repair of the eroded canal bank in the project. Please bring it up for discussion at Tuesday night’s meeting.***

***Call me in the morning about lunch.***

***Sue Nielsen”***

On August 2, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>46</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen that stated:

***“thank you. but have sent lydia a note and included blind copy to you, ed and harv what do you think of what I said/ (sic)”***

Acknowledging having read the message in which she was blind copied, on August 3, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen responded:

***“Of course your note sounds fine. I am glad you put in how it makes you feel when the mayor is so negative toward you***

***Sue Nielsen”***

On August 4, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>47</sup> to Commissioner Ed Gold regarding the commission meeting scheduled for that evening and an item on the agenda. In her email, Sarah Goodwin wrote:

***“Ed:  
Lydia may bring the canal bank repair for discussion/vote tonight.”***

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<sup>45</sup> Attachment #37 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Sarah Goodwin with a message to be copied and sent to Commissioners Pisano, Readey and Gold. Sent August 2, 2015 at 9:18pm.

<sup>46</sup> Attachment #38 Electronic mail conversation between Sarah Goodwin and Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent August 2, 2015 and August 3, 2015.

<sup>47</sup> Attachment #39 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Ed Gold regarding agenda items. Commissioner Sue Nielsen is blind copied. Sent August 4, 2015 at 3:45pm.

Sarah Goodwin closed her email to Commissioner Ed Gold by saying, ***“If Lydia does not bring up there may be a possibility Sue will.”*** This email was blind copied to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Again, Sarah Goodwin appears to be acting as a communication conduit between commissioners.

On August 5, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>48</sup> to Sarah Goodwin stating, ***“I think your note was perfect. I am sorry we did not get to it. I am sure the next meeting will be a better opportunity.”*** This was in regards to the email chain involving the canal erosion repair that Sarah Goodwin had copied Commissioners Ed Gold, Lydia Pisano, Harvey Readey and Sue Nielsen.

On August 8, 2015, Nancy Weinsier sent an email<sup>49</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen and Jeremy Weinsier titled, ***“Hmmm...no wonder city hall hasn’t provided FDLE report!”*** There are items attached to the email, but those attachments were never provided to the State Attorney’s Office.

On August 9, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen responds to an email<sup>50</sup> conversation between Sarah Goodwin and Commissioner Lydia Pisano where she was blind copied. The topic of the conversation was the procurement of neighborhood beautification grants, which would be considered to be, official city business. In her response to Sarah Goodwin, Commissioner Sue Nielsen stated, ***“Your plan sounds like it should work.”*** Also included in their email exchange was the arrangement for Commissioner Sue Nielsen to ride with Sarah Goodwin to an upcoming event.

On August 12, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>51</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano regarding the neighborhood grant, and the canal erosion repairs. Sarah Goodwin blind copied Commissioner Sue Nielsen in the email exchange. Again, Sarah Goodwin appears to be acting as a communication conduit between commissioners.

On August 12, 2015, Commissioner Lydia Pisano sent an email<sup>52</sup> to Sarah Goodwin stating, ***“Sarah, I have to bring up at the workshop on the 26<sup>th</sup>.”*** This confirmed that the grant issue was an agenda item. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied on this email exchange.

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<sup>48</sup> Attachment #40 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Sarah Goodwin. Sent August 5, 2015 at 7:18am.

<sup>49</sup> Attachment #41 Electronic mail from Nancy Weinsier to Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent August 8, 2015 at 10:50am.

<sup>50</sup> Attachment #42 Electronic mail conversation between Sarah Goodwin and Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent August 9, 2015 at 4:25pm.

<sup>51</sup> Attachment #43 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Lydia Pisano. Sent August 12, 2015 at 9:01am.

<sup>52</sup> Attachment #44 Electronic mail from Commissioner Lydia Pisano to Sarah Goodwin. Sent August 12, 2015 at 9:43am.

On August 13, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>53</sup> to Nancy Weinsier regarding a property in the City of Belle Isle. While Jeremy Weinsier and Nancy Weinsier seem to have input in nearly every decision made in Belle Isle, it is unclear why Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent this email to Nancy Weinsier. This email was an item for clarification during an interview.

On August 15, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>54</sup> to City Manager Keith Severns and City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher regarding a flooding issue within Belle Isle. In his email, Commissioner Harvey Readey stated, ***“I will be asking these questions again at the workshop unless this can be resolved before then.”*** This indicates an item to be brought up before the council. Commissioner Harvey Readey blind copied Commissioner Sue Nielsen on this email.

On August 16, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>55</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier regarding a proposed development which was an agenda item before the commission. Commissioner Harvey Readey blind copied Commissioner Sue Nielsen on this email.

On August 17, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>56</sup> to resident (now commissioner) Bobby Lance. In her email Commissioner Sue Nielsen said, ***“I am curious about what you learned about Larry’s intentions”***. Note: This email was flagged for additional clarification during an interview since “Larry” is believed to be Larry Miles, candidate for city commission.

On August 20, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>57</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen stating, ***“found what I was looking for.. will send copy to Lydia when I get back from apt.”*** This message was part of an email chain relating to the neighborhood grants.

On August 22, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>58</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen that included a message sent to her from Commissioner Ed Gold regarding annexation, a commission agenda item.

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<sup>53</sup> Attachment #45 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Nancy Weinsier. Sent August 13, 2015 at 4:23pm.

<sup>54</sup> Attachment #46 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Keith Severns. Sent August 15, 2015 at 2:26pm.

<sup>55</sup> Attachment #47 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent August 16, 2015 at 10:08pm.

<sup>56</sup> Attachment #48 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Bobby Lance. Sent August 17, 2015 at 9:56am.

<sup>57</sup> Attachment #49 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent August 20, 2015 at 9:18am.

<sup>58</sup> Attachment #50 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent August 22, 2015 at 8:48am.

On August 30, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>59</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano regarding the neighborhood grants. In her email, Sarah Goodwin stated, ***“According to the Bing forms the request has to go thru Council...”*** This message is part of a long chain in which Commissioner Lydia Pisano agrees to introduce this topic to the council at the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied on this string of messages by Sarah Goodwin.

On September 1, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>60</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano regarding the neighborhood grant application, an agenda item. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied by Sarah Goodwin.

On September 2, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>61</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen that simply stated, ***“from Lydia.”*** Included with the email is a chain of correspondence between Sarah Goodwin and Commissioner Lydia Pisano discussing the neighborhood grant application and fences. Both are agenda items.

On September 7, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>62</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen, including a chain of messages between herself and Commissioner Lydia Pisano, regarding the neighborhood grant being added to the commission agenda. In the email chain Commissioner Lydia Pisano informed Sarah Goodwin that the neighborhood grant issue would be added to the agenda, although it had not yet been included. Sarah Goodwin included those messages in her email to Commissioner Sue Nielsen along with an expression of displeasure that Commissioner Lydia Pisano had not yet added the item to the agenda.

On September 8, 2016, Jeremy Weinsier sent an email<sup>63</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen titled, ***“2015-16 Budget Review.”*** Note: This email was flagged for clarification during an interview about the role Jeremy and Nancy Weinsier play in the operation of the City of Belle Isle. It appears many of the commissioners frequently turn to Jeremy Weinsier for advice and guidance on items from the commission agenda, for which the commission should seek the input of those they represent rather than one individual or one family. Jeremy Weinsier is a member of the board of directors for the Pine Castle Historical Society and is the President of the **Pine Castle Women’s Club**. Note: The apparent influence held by this individual is perplexing to this investigator and needs to be more closely examined during interviews with the Belle Isle City Commissioners.

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<sup>59</sup> Attachment #51 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Lydia Pisano. Sent August 30, 2015 at 1:10pm.

<sup>60</sup> Attachment #52 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Lydia Pisano. Sent September 1, 2015 at 5:29pm.

<sup>61</sup> Attachment #53 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent September 2, 2015 at 6:28pm.

<sup>62</sup> Attachment #54 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent September 7, 2015 at 2:32pm.

<sup>63</sup> Attachment #55 Electronic mail from Jeremy Weinsier to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent September 8, 2015 at 1:50am.

On September 8, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>64</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano regarding the neighborhood grant. Sarah Goodwin blind copied Commissioner Sue Nielsen.

On September 9, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>65</sup> to City Manager Keith Severns, City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno requesting the salaries of all city employees. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied on this email. Note: This is of particular significance since the resolution that would be introduced by Commissioner Sue Nielsen at the December 1, 2015, commission meeting would deal directly with employee salaries.

On September 10, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold sent an email<sup>66</sup> to Stephen Odouj while copying Commissioner Sue Nielsen. The subject of the email was *"Belle Isle Accomplishments.pdf; Northern Annex presentation.pdf."* The email is regarding a presentation to promote annexation, an item which would become a commission agenda item.

On September 11, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>67</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier titled *"Records Requests."* The attachments are shown at, *"Public Records Request Form Middlesex.doc.docx; Public Records Request Belle Isle.doc.docx."* The body of the message stated, *"Hey Jeremy, Can you take a look and see if any tweaks are needed? Thanks."* There were no attachments included in the copy provided to the State Attorney's Office. This is another example of Belle Isle City Commissioners seeking the input of Jeremy Weinsier.

On September 11, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>68</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier titled, *"Revised request to city."* The body of the message stated, *"How about this?"* Note: There was no attachment included in the information provided to the State Attorney's Office.

On September 11, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>69</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier. The email appears to be the same email sent one minute prior, but shows an included attachment. Note: That attachment was not included in the information provided to the State Attorney's Office.

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<sup>64</sup> Attachment #56 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Lydia Pisano. Sent September 8, 2015 at 1:25pm.

<sup>65</sup> Attachment #57 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Keith Severns sent September 9, 2015 at 11:11am.

<sup>66</sup> Attachment #58 Electronic mail from Commissioner Ed Gold to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent September 10, 2015 at 3:14am.

<sup>67</sup> Attachment #59 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent September 11, 2015 at 12:23pm.

<sup>68</sup> Attachment #60 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent September 11, 2015 at 3:00pm.

<sup>69</sup> Attachment #61 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent September 11, 2015 at 3:01pm.

On September 11, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>70</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier. The subject of the email is, ***“Please read this one.”*** The attachments shown are titled, ***“Public Records Request Belle Isle.doc.docx.”*** The body of the message stated, ***“See above. Thanks.”*** Note: No attachments were included in the information provided to the State Attorney’s Office.

On September 23, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>71</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier. The email included a chain of messages from City Manager Keith Severns and Commissioner Sue Nielsen, where there appeared to be friction between the individuals. In her email to Jeremy Weinsier, Commissioner Sue Nielsen stated, ***“Here is one of Keith’s emails to me, with my response.”*** Note: This email was flagged for further clarification of why Commissioner Sue Nielsen would send this to Jeremy Weinsier. It is not known if the intent was to seek legal advice from Jeremy Weinsier, who is a licensed attorney in the State of Florida, or if her intent was to provoke some writing in the blog site run by Jeremy Weinsier, The Belle Isle Sun.

On September 23, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>72</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier. The email chain included a message sent by City Manager Keith Severns to the city commission addressing a public records request submitted by Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Note: This email was flagged by me for further clarification during potential interviews on why Commissioner Sue Nielsen would send this email to Jeremy Weinsier.

On October 6, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent a text message<sup>73</sup> to Commissioner Ed Gold stating, ***“Did you see the letter from Dr. Chang that is a draft of what he will need from the city, and are you going to bring it up?”*** A second text was sent stating, ***“I think it is best to wait bc some tweaks are needed.”*** Based on this review, it appears these messages refer to the “Delia Beach” project, a commission agenda item.

On October 16, 2015, Commissioner Harvey Readey sent an email<sup>74</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen with a subject, ***“City Employee Pay Data with no Date on it”*** (sic). There appears to have been an attachment included, but that attachment was not provided in the copy given to the State Attorney’s Office. Note: This is significant since one of the resolutions introduced by Commissioner Sue Nielsen on December 1, 2015 and referenced in the November 27, 2015, email from Commissioner Harvey Readey directly related to employee salaries.

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<sup>70</sup> Attachment #62 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent September 11, 2015 at 3:12pm.

<sup>71</sup> Attachment #63 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent September 23, 2015 at 11:51am.

<sup>72</sup> Attachment #64 Electronic Mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent September 23, 2015 at 11:59am.

<sup>73</sup> Attachment #65 Text messages from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Commissioner Ed Gold. Sent October 6, 2015 at 3:40pm.

<sup>74</sup> Attachment #66 Electronic mail from Commissioner Harvey Readey to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent October 16, 2015 at 4:56pm.

On October 17, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>75</sup> to Commissioner Harvey Readey stating, ***“Thank you for your excellent analysis and salient questions. Just what I hoped was figured out before this purchase was made. Sue Nielsen.”*** This message was a response to a message sent to her which included a list of questions posed by Commissioner Harvey Readey about a street sweeper being considered for purchase. This purchase was an agenda item.

On October 19, 2015, Sarah Goodwin sent an email<sup>76</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano, City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher and City Manager Keith Severns concerning the drainage project plans. Commissioner Sue Nielsen was blind copied in this email.

On November 22, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen forwarded an email<sup>77</sup> to Nancy Weinsier which contains attachments. While those attachments were not included in what was provided to me, they appear to be related to a Homeowners Association newsletter titled, ***“In the Know and in the Loop,”*** published by resident Anita Sacco. Note: This message was flagged for further clarification during an interview regarding the role of Nancy Weinsier in city operations.

On November 28, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>78</sup> to resident ***Stuart Bernstein***<sup>79</sup>. This email was a response to a message Stuart Bernstein sent to Commissioner Sue Nielsen on November 25, 2015. In his email to Commissioner Sue Nielsen, Stuart Bernstein stated, ***“Sue- What precipitated your decision to place on agenda proposed decision to suspend the city manager? (sic) Thanks-Your fan Stuart.”*** Commissioner Sue Nielsen responded by stating, ***“This is classified information, but I understand my decision seems unexpected and sudden. A few weeks ago, It came to my attention that Lydia was ready to terminate Keith. I understood that my role would be a supporting one. Then last week when we had a deadline for resolutions, I learned that she expected me to take the lead.”*** Commissioner Sue Nielsen went on to state, ***“So it kind of fell in my lap to submit the resolution along with the backup one to cut his salary.”*** This message sent by Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Stuart Bernstein appears to show collusion between herself and Commissioner Lydia Pisano, as well as other unknown individuals, to terminate City Manager Keith Severns. When combined with the email sent to Belle Isle residents by Commissioner Harvey Readey, it becomes overwhelmingly evident that no less than three commissioners (Commissioner Sue Nielsen, Commissioner Harvey Readey and Commissioner Lydia Pisano) communicated outside of public meetings and conspired to terminate City Manager Keith Severns. The emails between Commissioner Harvey Readey and Sue Nielsen regarding city employee salaries further support this fact since the second resolution offered by Commissioner Sue Nielsen directly related to employee salary. **(Attachment numbers 22, 57, and 66)**

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<sup>75</sup> Attachment #67 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Commissioner Harvey Readey. Sent October 17, 2015 at 8:39am.

<sup>76</sup> Attachment #68 Electronic mail from Sarah Goodwin to Commissioner Lydia Pisano sent October 19, 2015 at 1:02pm.

<sup>77</sup> Attachment #69 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Nancy Weinsier. Sent November 22, 2015 at 6:13am.

<sup>78</sup> Attachment #70 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Stuart Bernstein. Sent November 28, 2015 at 5:40am.

<sup>79</sup> Stuart Bernstein is a member of the City of Belle Isle Planning and Zoning Board. He was confirmed May 5, 2015 as shown in the commission meeting minutes.

On November 28, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>80</sup> to Stuart Bernstein, Ralph Winterhoff, Daniel Lucey and Charline Kennedy that included a forwarded message from Commissioner Harvey Readey. The email chain originated with Commissioner Harvey Readey sending the original message to several residents, including Sarah Goodwin. Sarah Goodwin, in what appears to be the furtherance of acting as a conduit, then forwarded the message to Commissioner Sue Nielsen who then forwarded it to the above named subjects. The message sent is the one where Commissioner Harvey Readey urged residents to attend the December 1, 2015, council meeting where the resolutions submitted by Commissioner Sue Nielsen calling for the termination of City Manager Keith Severns as well as limit employee salary were to be discussed and brought to a vote. This is the same message where Commissioner Harvey Readey stated, ***“Commissioners (including myself) and numerous citizens agree it is time for Mr. Severns to go.”*** Commissioner Harvey Readey further explains that, ***“Council members plan on bringing in a temporary city manager to run the city until a new manager is hired.”*** This message supports the belief that there were discussions regarding the termination of City Manager Keith Severns outside of public meetings. Commissioner Sue Nielsen forwarding this message is believed to be an act that is a form of communication in itself.

On November 29, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>81</sup> to Jeremy Weinsier and Nancy Weinsier with a subject of ***“Question.”*** Note: The email contained attachments in the form of jpeg files, but those attachments were not provided to the State Attorney’s Office. Note: This email was flagged for additional clarification during an interview.

On November 29, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen along with Commissioners Harvey Readey, Ed Gold, Karl Shuck, Keith Van Dyke, Larry Ady and Lydia Pisano, as well as several residents, received an email<sup>82</sup> from Daniel Lucey detailing his reasons to “support Harvey” with regards to his plea for attendance at the December 1, 2015, commission meeting. On November 30, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen forwarded that message to Charline Kennedy and Jeremy Weinsier. Note: This message was flagged for additional clarification during an interview regarding the need for nearly all information or inquiries to be sent to Jeremy Weinsier.

On November 30, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent a text message<sup>83</sup> to Commissioner Ed Gold, wherein she stated, ***“Did you read all the CM’s articles in the newsletter? Don’t answer this.”*** The instruction to ***“don’t answer this”*** indicates she possessed a clear understanding of the prohibitions on discussions outside of public meetings.

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<sup>80</sup> Attachment #71 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Stuart Bernstein. Sent November 28, 2015 at 5:44am.

<sup>81</sup> Attachment #72 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier and Nancy Weinsier. Sent November 29, 2015 at 2:39pm.

<sup>82</sup> Attachment #73 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Jeremy Weinsier. Sent November 30, 2015 at 3:52am.

<sup>83</sup> Attachment #74 Text message from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Commissioner Ed Gold. Sent November 30, 2015 at 9:23am.

On December 2, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>84</sup> to Nancy Weinsier in response to one sent to her by Nancy Weinsier. In her message, Commissioner Sue Nielsen wrote, “Despicable and repulsive.” The original message, titled “Despicable,” contained an image attached. That attachment was not provided to the State Attorney’s Office. This email was flagged for additional clarification as to the content.

On December 2, 2015, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent an email<sup>85</sup> to Ruth Bernstein in response to a message sent to her from Ruth Bernstein. In her original message, Ruth Bernstein is expressing her displeasure with Mayor Bill Brooks at the city council meeting. In her response, Commissioner Sue Nielsen stated, “*He was breaking the Sunshine law as well as Robert’s Rules.*” This email was flagged for additional clarification about what potential violations of the “Sunshine Law” may have occurred.

### **Items for Commissioner Ed Gold**

On January 12, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier were engaged in a conversation via Facebook messenger<sup>86</sup> regarding Belle Isle related groups on Facebook. Nancy Weinsier suggested that Commissioner Ed Gold leave a specific page (referred to as the “uncensored page”). Commissioner Ed Gold responded by saying, “*I need that one to know what Lydia is up to how about I just cease posting there?*”

On February 22, 2015 Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier were engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>87</sup>. Commissioner Ed Gold sent a copy of a letter he received from resident Anita Sacco to Nancy Weinsier. Nancy Weinsier responded by saying, “*White of her!*” Commissioner Ed Gold stated, “*Yer not allowed to say that (smile emoticon)*” (sic) to which Nancy Weinsier replied, “*Just between us’n.*”

On March 2, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold sent an email<sup>88</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano with a subject of “*sample stationary.*” Note: There appears to have been an attachment to this email, but none was provided to the State Attorney’s Office. Note: This email was flagged for clarification of the attachment.

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<sup>84</sup> Attachment #75 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Nancy Weinsier. Sent December 2, 2015 at 2:35pm.

<sup>85</sup> Attachment #76 Electronic mail from Commissioner Sue Nielsen to Ruth Bernstein. Sent December 2, 2015 at 2:48pm.

<sup>86</sup> Attachment #77 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier. January 12, 2015.

<sup>87</sup> Attachment #78 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier. February 22, 2015.

<sup>88</sup> Attachment #79 Electronic mail from Commissioner Ed Gold to Commissioner Lydia Pisano. Sent March 2, 2015 at 10:08pm.

On March 2, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold sent an email<sup>89</sup> to Commissioner Lydia Pisano with a subject of ***“Sample letter.”*** Note: There appears to have been an attachment titled, ***“Bella Levatino letter.pdf,”*** but no attachment was provided to the State Attorney’s Office. Note: This email was flagged for clarification of the attachment.

On March 8, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier were engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>90</sup>. While discussing the upcoming election and the race between Commissioner Harvey Readey and Candidate Larry Miles, Commissioner Ed Gold sent the name ***“Kelli Calender Reinhardt”*** to Nancy Weinsier. Commissioner Ed Gold followed that with a message stating, ***“might want to contact her and see if we can sway her. is Lydia doing anything behind the scenes?”***

On March 12, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold was engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>91</sup> with Larry Miles, a candidate for a contested commission seat. (Currently occupied by Commissioner Harvey Readey) The conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Larry Miles turned to Commissioner Sue Nielsen, and the belief that she wanted to change the way the Belle Isle charter school is managed. Commissioner Ed Gold told Larry Miles, ***“I believe I know her most innermost thoughts since we have discussed these things in great detail.”*** Commissioner Gold cited an example of the perception that Commissioner Sue Nielsen is believed to want to dissolve the Belle Isle Police Department. A belief that Commissioner Ed Gold claims to be false, indicating conversations about the topic outside of public meetings.

On April 13, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Sue Nielsen were engaged in a text conversation<sup>92</sup>. During the conversation, Commissioner Sue Nielsen stated, ***“We will have to brag when those leaf baskets on Cullen Lakeshore get installed too.”*** This appears to be a reference to a drainage project which is an agenda item.

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<sup>89</sup> Attachment #80 Electronic mail from Commissioner Ed Gold to Commissioner Lydia Pisano. Sent March 2, 2015 at 10:45pm.

<sup>90</sup> Attachment #81 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier. March 8, 2015.

<sup>91</sup> Attachment #82 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Larry Miles. March 12, 2015.

<sup>92</sup> Attachment #83 Text conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Sue Nielsen. April 13, 2015 at 4:56pm.

On April 16, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold was engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>93</sup> with resident Rick Miller. The conversation included discussions about city business. During the conversation, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***“John Evertsen has made a public records request to see my communications with you.”*** In a separate response, Commissioner Ed Gold told Rick Miller, ***“I don’t consider any of our communications to be legitimate city business so I’m classifying this as personal communications.”*** Commissioner Ed Gold went on to say, ***“Lol. Curious how that came up. I will be sending an official note soon. You can release that Lol.”*** Rick Miller responded, ***“I wouldn’t consider Facebook private messages public record either. If you were doing so on a BI phone, then yes. But from yours or your home computer. No.”*** Commissioner Ed Gold replied, ***“That and I consider these to be private communications between me and a friend and adviser. Not city business.”***

On May 1, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Sue Nielsen were engaged in a text conversation<sup>94</sup>. During the conversation Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent a message to Commissioner Ed Gold stating, ***“I thought that what Harvey voted No to was the purchase of gas station property next to Cornerstone.”*** Commissioner Ed Gold responded, ***“Dunno I can’t remember. I think all of us approved that.”*** After a short exchange, Commissioner Sue Nielsen sent Commissioner Ed Gold a message stating, ***“We were not really voting for the ordinance though. Right?”*** Commissioner Ed Gold responded, ***“No”*** and ***“Just to continue to amend it.”*** This demonstrates the items being discussed continued to be agenda items. The response by Commissioner Sue Nielsen, ***“We were not really voting for the ordinance though. Right?”*** which seems to suggest she was voting on an issue or item without an understanding of what she was voting for or against. Note: This needs to be clarified in an interview.

The text message conversation referenced above was related to the April 29, 2015 commission special workshop session. The minutes<sup>95</sup> from the session were obtained from City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

On June 29, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold posted a comment<sup>96</sup> in a Belle Isle Facebook page in response to a citizen, Donna Wright, posing a question to Commissioner Lydia Pisano about a variance. This item was heard, or set to be heard, by the Planning and Zoning Board. In his comment, Commissioner Ed Gold wrote, ***“That’s why I read this page. The only news I get from P&Z comes from what others post on Facebook in these groups.”*** This confirmed, as was shown previously, that Commissioner Ed Gold used Facebook as a means for receiving communication and knowing the position of other city commission members outside of public meetings. It is important to note that items heard by the Planning and Zoning board, are heard by the city commission if appealed, per City of Belle Isle charter<sup>97</sup>. This makes all Planning and Zoning items potential agenda items for the city commission.

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<sup>93</sup> Attachment #84 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Rick Miller. April 16, 2015.

<sup>94</sup> Attachment #85 Text message conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Sue Nielsen. May 1, 2015 at 11:21am.

<sup>95</sup> Attachment #86 Minutes from special commission workshop held April 29, 2015.

<sup>96</sup> Attachment #87 Facebook post by Commissioner Ed Gold. June 29, 2015.

<sup>97</sup> Attachment #88 City of Belle Isle charter regarding Planning and Zoning

On July 1, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold sent an email<sup>98</sup> from his disclosed email account, [edgoldjr@bellsouth.net](mailto:edgoldjr@bellsouth.net) to a previously undisclosed email account, [edgoldjr@gmail.com](mailto:edgoldjr@gmail.com). The content of the email included notes about city business. Note: The existence of this third party email account should be addressed in an interview.

On July 10, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold sent an email<sup>99</sup> to Commissioner Sue Nielsen and Nancy Weinsier. In his message, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***"Thanks Sue! These numbers match almost exactly with what I got from the Property Appraiser's website!"*** This message was in response to an email sent to Commissioner Ed Gold and Nancy Weinsier from Commissioner Sue Nielsen regarding ***"Belle Isle taxes and fees."***

On July 29, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold was engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>100</sup> with resident Machele Rowe about annexation. In the conversation, Machele Rowe asks Commissioner Ed Gold, ***"Do you have agreement on the council?"*** Commissioner Ed Gold responded, ***"yes, I think so." "Dr. Van Dyke said he supports it. Larry Ady will support as well."*** Commissioner Ed Gold then said, ***"I know Sue and Harvey will but Sue says they won't accept our offer because they hate bill (sic) and Keith."*** These statements by Commissioner Ed Gold suggest conversations outside of public meetings have occurred regarding the possible annexation.

On August 10, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Lydia Pisano were engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>101</sup>. During the conversation, the topic of adding cameras to key areas of the city came up. Commissioner Ed Gold wrote, ***"I'd love the city to do something like that for \$30K one time fee, we have an extra virtual patrol car that watches everywhere simultaneously."*** Commissioner Lydia Pisano acknowledged Commissioner Ed Gold's comment by saying, ***"You just have to have signage of surveillance coverage."*** The conversation turned to annexation. Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***"We need to get people over there to talk to the residents and get them enthusiastic about the idea as I look at it more and more, I see it as taking money from the county that instead goes back to us (including those neighborhoods)  
The county would lose about \$1M in various revenue sources, and would lose responsibility for about \$450K in expenses"*** Commissioner Ed Gold further stated, ***"and we would bring that \$600K or so back to the bigger Belle Isle"*** and ***"which includes those neighborhoods and its more like \$700K when you add in their stormwater fee  
so its big money with just the 2 subdivisions  
Shenandoah and Lake Conway Woods  
even bigger with Conway Place  
just gotta get to the people before the county starts talking to them"***

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<sup>98</sup> Attachment #89 Electronic mail from Commissioner Ed Gold's disclosed email account to an undisclosed email account. Sent July 1, 2015 at 12:29am.

<sup>99</sup> Attachment #90 Electronic mail from Commissioner Ed Gold to Commissioner Sue Nielsen. Sent July 10, 2015 at 9:55pm.

<sup>100</sup> Attachment #91 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Machele Rowe. July 29, 2015.

<sup>101</sup> Attachment #92 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Lydia Pisano. August 10, 2015.

It appears that the items discussed by Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Lydia Pisano during this conversation are items for future commission agendas.

On September 15, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Lydia Pisano were engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>102</sup>. The topic of discussion turned to sanitation issues, and Republic, the commission approved waste management company. While discussing the separation practices for recyclable items and the possibility that Republic is not properly recycling those items, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***"That would be the last straw for them I would think!"*** The approval of Republic came through the commission, as would a termination of their contract. Both commissioners continue to discuss Republic until the topic of annexation comes around again. Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***"I'm getting all kinds of negative feedback from Shenandoah and LC Woods those people are clueless I fear."*** Commissioner Lydia Pisano responded, ***"Yup. I said that. They are Belle Isle haters."*** Commissioner Lydia Pisano explained that, ***"Many of them don't like Keith or Bill,"*** to which Commissioner Ed Gold responded, ***"Instead they call Pete Clarke and ask for protection from us. That's what Sue told me."*** Commissioner Lydia Pisano asked, ***"They call Pete?"*** Commissioner Ed Gold stated, ***"I can't have that conversation over email. Has to be in person. Oh yes. He is their protector."*** The conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Lydia Pisano then turned to development at the corner of Conway and Hoffner. Commissioner Ed Gold asked Commissioner Lydia Pisano, ***"hey, do you know anybody at Freshfield Farms?"*** Commissioner Ed Gold followed up with, ***"That's who I want on that corner."***

Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Lydia Pisano then discussed strategies for locating the appropriate contact person for Freshfield Farms. In the end, Commissioner Lydia Pisano tells Commissioner Ed Gold, ***"Perfect. Let me know how you do."***

The conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Lydia Pisano then turned to Commissioner Lydia Pisano's consideration of running for the Mayor position. During the conversation, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***"That's another good thing to discuss with Jeremy. I think he would support that too."*** This statement is additional cause for concern regarding what appears to be influence held by Jeremy Weinsier in the City of Belle Isle. Clarification during an interview needs to be made to determine how and why Jeremy Weinsier supporting Lydia Pisano's run for mayor holds such significance.

Commissioner Ed Gold asked Commissioner Lydia Pisano if she would need to relinquish her council seat to run for Mayor. Commissioner Lydia Pisano said, ***"I have to check. I am not sure about that. I need to research that."*** Commissioner Ed Gold responded, ***"Definitely need to know that. Could possibly pass a resolution to eliminate any restriction if it exists."***

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<sup>102</sup> Attachment #93 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Commissioner Lydia Pisano. September 15, 2015.

On October 1, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold sent an email<sup>103</sup> to resident Dina Goodenow regarding the drainage and erosion project which was before the commission. In his message, Commissioner Ed Gold starts out by saying, ***“I’m having trouble keeping track of what is going on, and that’s a really bad place to be. You and Sue are off doing something and I’m not fully in the loop so I don’t know what the latest is. What I remember as being the latest status on this is that we argued in a council meeting and agreed that it was safer to go with the people who do this for a living rather than the academics that have not actually put their designs into practice.”*** This statement by Commissioner Ed Gold shows his frustration with knowing the happenings from the commission meetings, but not knowing the most recent information from the happenings outside the commission meetings. Commissioner Ed Gold appears to be fully aware that Commissioner Sue Nielsen is working with this resident on this project.

On November 5, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>104</sup> with David Evertsen. At issue during this conversation was a recent WFTV news story. According to David Evertsen, Commissioner Sue Nielsen contacted WFTV about the salaries of Belle Isle police officers and the retention issues at the Belle Isle Police Department. Commissioner Ed Gold responded by saying, ***“I saw your post but thought you were kinda nuts. She isn’t going after BIPD, she is gunho in support of BIPD and claiming that Keith is the enemy for giving such huge salaries to himself, Yolanda, and Tracey while screwing BID BIPD.”*** Commissioner Ed Gold’s statement suggests communication between himself and Commissioner Sue Nielsen since he had knowledge of Commissioner Sue Nielsen’s issue with City Manager Keith Severn’s salary, as well as City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno and Finance Manager Tracey Richardson.

On November 29, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>105</sup> with resident Jason Glassford regarding the removal of City Manager Keith Severns. In the conversation, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***“These people have to remember that I was elected in 2014 along with Sue Nielsen to get rid of the Mayor and City Manager and then Harvey Readey was re-elected in 2015 further declaring that the people are still not happy.”***

On December 1, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>106</sup> with resident Stan Kaczmarek. The topic of discussion was the dismissal of City Manager Keith Severns. In a response to Stan Kaczmarek, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***“and they got us in and told us we had to go get these crooks out.”*** Note: This email was flagged for clarification regarding Commissioner Ed Gold’s statement regarding ***“they got us in and told us we had to go get these crooks out.”***

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<sup>103</sup> Attachment # 94 Electronic mail from Commissioner Ed Gold to Dina Goodenow. Sent October 1, 2015 at 1:05am.

<sup>104</sup> Attachment #95 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and David Evertsen. November 5, 2015.

<sup>105</sup> Attachment #96 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Jason Glassford. November 29, 2015.

<sup>106</sup> Attachment #97 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and Stan Kaczmarek. December 1, 2015.

On December 1, 2015, Commissioner Ed Gold engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>107</sup> with resident John Carr about the replacement of City Manager Keith Severns. During the conversation, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***“I know they have an excellent replacement in mind.”***

On January 23, 2016, Commissioner Ed Gold engaged in a Facebook messenger conversation<sup>108</sup> with David Evertsen. The topic of conversation was the dismissal of City Manager Keith Severns. In his comments to David Evertsen, Commissioner Ed Gold said, ***“...because I wasn’t really aware of why Sue and Lydia were so gung ho to get rid of Keith Just knew that it was coming and had to figure out where I should stand.”*** Commissioner Ed Gold went on to say, ***“I told him that I really had no strong opposition and thought Keith was doing a reasonable job, but when 3 commissioners have this much of an issue, then we have a serious problem.”*** Later in the conversation, while discussing Commissioner Lydia Pisano, Commissioner Ed Gold told David Evertsen, ***“Yeah she is real worried about the investigation.”***

### **Items for Lydia Pisano**

On April 28, 2015, Commissioner Lydia Pisano and City Manager Keith Severns were engaged in a text message conversation<sup>109</sup> about a potential Wawa gas station being built in Belle Isle. During the conversation City Manager Keith Severns suggested residents show up at an upcoming meeting to voice their opposition to the project. Commissioner Lydia Pisano told City Manager Keith Severns, ***“Just talked to Amy. She saw Ed and he told her. She asked about Sue. He heard she wants it from someone at the picnic.”*** Commissioner Lydia Pisano then said, ***“They are going to vote against this apparently.”***

On May 15, 2015, Commissioner Lydia Pisano and City Manager Keith Severns were engaged in a text message conversation<sup>110</sup>. During the conversation, Commissioner Lydia Pisano asked City Manager Keith Severns, ***“Did you see what your boy Ed posted this morning about the property on Nela and Seminole?”*** She then said, ***“Go to Belle Isle Sunshine. (Larry Miles page). You don’t have to be a member to see it.”*** The property at Nela and Seminole was a commission agenda item with a great deal of controversy. In previously mentioned attachment items, Commissioner Ed Gold remarked how he uses Facebook to see what other commissioners are doing. This is an example of Commissioner Lydia Pisano also using Facebook as a means to learn the intent and thoughts of other commissioners.

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<sup>107</sup> Attachment #98 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and John Carr. December 1, 2015.

<sup>108</sup> Attachment #99 Facebook messenger conversation between Commissioner Ed Gold and David Evertsen. January 23, 2016.

<sup>109</sup> Attachment #100 Text message conversation between Commissioner Lydia Pisano and City Manager Keith Severns. Sent April 28, 2015 at 7:44pm.

<sup>110</sup> Attachment #101 Text message conversation between Commissioner Lydia Pisano and City Manager Keith Severns. Sent May 15, 2015 at 10:59am.

On June 9, 2015, Commissioner Lydia Pisano and City Manager Keith Severns were engaged in a text message conversation<sup>111</sup>. During the conversation City Manager told Commissioner Lydia Pisano, *“Please send an email to Yolanda about the Friday night witness to the Lidos, that was for no other reason then (sic) talking about city business.”* Commissioner Lydia Pisano responded, *“What do you want me to say exactly? I saw 4 of them sitting in Lido’s?”* On June 3, 2016, I called Commissioner Lydia Pisano to inquire who she had seen sitting together at Lido’s. Commissioner Lydia Pisano told me she observed Commissioner Ed Gold and his wife sitting with Stuart Bernstein and his wife. They were seated together at a table for 4. It should be noted that Stuart Bernstein is a member of the City of Belle Isle Planning and Zoning Board. This information was also provided in an email sent to me from Lydia Pisano on June 3, 2016.

The items detailed above were extracted from a very large volume of information provided as part of an in depth public records request. The total number of items reviewed ranges between 30,000 and 40,000. The items mentioned in this report are believed to be the most obvious violations of law, most questionable or the items which posed the greatest need for clarification. Despite a great deal of effort, it cannot be said, with absolute certainty that every possible violation of the public meeting law is outlined above. While it is possible there are additional items showing what would be considered as being illegal communication, the items detailed here are representative of a culture in which communication outside of legal methods is common practice among Commissioners Harvey Readey, Sue Nielsen, Ed Gold and Lydia Pisano. The use of social media sites, such as Facebook and The Belle Isle Sun, have allowed these commissioners to post their views knowing other commissioners will follow along in Belle Isle related threads and monitor their activities. This is even spelled out by Commissioner Ed Gold who acknowledged following specific Facebook pages to keep up with other commissioners. The information outlined above demonstrates a clear disregard for the legal requirements of these public officials, all of which have been properly trained on the “Sunshine Law.” Each of these commissioners has attended an ethics training course for public officials and received a certificate of completion.<sup>112</sup>

On April 13, 2016, I met with Belle Isle Police Chief Rich Ring. I retrieved a thumb drive containing minutes and recordings of all commission meetings for 2015. A review of this information was initiated by Investigator Pat Schneider.

On April 18, 2016, I spoke with City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher. Mr. Kruppenbacher informed me that a special commission workshop was going to be held on Friday April 22, 2016 at 0900, during which he will address the commission (again) regarding the legal requirements of the sunshine law and offer suggestions to the commission for avoiding potential problems in the future. Mr. Kruppenbacher invited me to attend this meeting so that I could observe his suggestions to the commission.

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<sup>111</sup> Attachment #102 Text message conversation between Commissioner Lydia Pisano and City Manager Keith Severns. Sent June 9, 2015 at 8:43pm.

<sup>112</sup> Attachment #103 Certificates of completion for Commissioners Harvey Readey, Lydia Pisano, Sue Nielsen and Ed Gold.

On April 19, 2016, I completed investigative subpoena requests<sup>113</sup> for phone and text message logs for Commissioners Lydia Pisano, Harvey Readey, Sue Nielsen, Ed Gold and incoming Commissioner Weinsier. The investigative subpoenas were served to the proper entities once received.

On April 22, 2016, I attended the Belle Isle City Commission workshop meeting. During this meeting Belle Isle City Attorney Frank Kruppenbacher discussed the Sunshine Law and the restrictions and requirements for each commissioner as it relates to social media sites. The use of personal email accounts was also discussed.

On April 24, 2016, I received the subpoena compelled information from Verizon Wireless related to one of the cell numbers connected to Jeremy Weinsier. This information was downloaded and made available to assisting investigators.

On April 25, 2016, I received an email<sup>114</sup> from Lydia Pisano indicating her total and complete compliance with my public records request. .

On May 3, 2016, I received an email<sup>115</sup> from Google advising they had received a “motion to quash” with regards to an investigative subpoena issued to them for telephone records for Jeremy Weinsier. I contacted Google and advised them that no order had been received by this office and that nothing had been filed with the clerk of the court.

On May 4, 2016, I received a voice message from the Google Legal Compliance stating that they had received my request for a copy of the motion they claim to possess. The voice message provided a telephone number for the attorney having sent the motion to Google. That telephone number, 407-852-8094, is the telephone number for Jeremy Weinsier’s law firm. Mr. Weinsier is the account holder of the records requested. This would later be seen on page 3 of the motion sent to Google by Jeremy Weinsier.

On May 11, 2016, I received a copy of the “motion to quash”<sup>116</sup> sent to Google by Jeremy Weinsier. The item shows two stamps on the final page, toward the bottom of the document, that indicate it was “received May 3, 2016.” Nowhere on the stamp is there any indication of who received or stamped the document.

I met with State Attorney’s Office reception personnel Tracy Doern, Conswella Daniels and Raydene Watts. I showed them the stamp that appears on the document received from Google. I was informed that the stamp appears similar, but it is not one that is used by the State Attorney’s Office. I asked for the stamps currently used by this office to be placed on the back of a page in the document for comparison. The stamps were not the same. I then inquired if the document I now possessed had been received by our office and if it looked familiar. None of the individuals assigned to the reception duty recognized the document.

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<sup>113</sup> Attachment #104 Investigative subpoenas

<sup>114</sup> Attachment #105 Electronic mail from Lydia Pisano claiming full compliance.

<sup>115</sup> Attachment #106 Electronic mail from Google advising of “motion to quash.”

<sup>116</sup> Attachment #107 Motion to Quash submitted to Google by Jeremy Weinsier.

On May 16, 2016, Investigator Browning and I met with Emy Vazquez, supervisor for the Orange County Clerk of the Courts located in room 250 of the Orange County Courthouse. I presented the document sent to Google and asked if their office had received the item. Ms. Vazquez stated that an unknown person did deliver the document to them, in person at the customer service counter. Ms. Vazquez presented the original document which showed an original signature and was stamped "received May 3, 2016." The color stamp appeared similar to the ones on the copy I possessed, but only appeared once whereas my copy showed the stamp twice. Ms. Vazquez advised that the document was mistakenly accepted, and should have been rejected. She further stated that the document has been placed in her desk drawer since it was received since there is no filed case to which it should be attached. Ms. Vazquez stated that in her 24 years of experience, she has never seen anyone file this type of motion or document. She also advised that the proper handling of the document at the time it was presented would have been to instruct the person delivering the item to deliver it to the agency issuing the investigative subpoena, which in this case would have been the State Attorney's Office. Ms. Vazquez stated her next step in handling the document would have been to forward it to our office. I confirmed that the attempt to file this motion by Jeremy Weinsier would not afford him a hearing or an audience with a judge under any circumstances. Ms. Vazquez advised that since there is no case filed with the Clerk of the Court, no hearing would or could be set.

On May 17, 2016, I received, through interoffice mail, an envelope containing the original motion filed by Jeremy Weinsier. I opened the envelope to confirm the order was inside. I observed the order and a bright colored "post it" note from Emy Vazquez addressed to me. I left the items in the envelope and never touched them. This was done so as to preserve them as evidence for latent processing, if necessary, in the future.

Through the review of emails numbering in excess of 30,000, plus text messages, Facebook messages along with telephone and text message logs, several potential violations of the sunshine law have been identified to have been committed by Lydia Pisano, Harvey Readey, Sue Nielsen and Ed Gold. Additionally, the filing of the document by now commissioner Jeremy Weinsier may be a violation of Florida Statute 843.02, if done so in an effort to impede or otherwise obstruct my investigation. Additional investigative efforts will be spent during interviews of individuals whom may possess relevant information about this investigation.

This document is in support of the final report authored for 15-IN-80, an investigation dealing with alleged violations of the "Sunshine Law" by members of the Belle Isle City Commission.

This document will be forwarded to Chief Assistant State Attorney Richard Wallsh, along with the final report and findings, for review and consideration.

  
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Jeff Harris, Investigator  
Office of the State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit  
415 North Orange Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407-836-2400

12.9.16  
Date signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Investigator Wm. Eric Edwards  
Office of the State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit  
415 North Orange Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407-836-2400

12/9/2016  
Date reviewed/signed

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