

In the Matter Of:

IN RE: THE MATTER OF HAYMARKET

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

October 16, 2019

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BEFORE THE ITASCA PLAN COMMISSION

IN RE:)
) No. PC 19-014
THE MATTER OF HAYMARKET.)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the
public hearing of the above-entitled cause before the
Itasca Plan Commission, commencing on Wednesday,
October 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m., 500 West Bryn Mawr
Avenue, Roselle, Illinois.

As Reported By: Lynette J. Neal
Certified Shorthand Reporter
CSR No. 84-004363

GROVE & ASSOCIATES REPORTING

1 PRESENT:

2 MR. MARK KISCHNER, Commission Chairman;
3 MS. KRISTA RAY, Commissioner;
4 MS. LORI DRUMMOND, Commissioner;
5 MR. JEFFREY HOLMES, Commissioner;
6 MR. ERIC SWETS, Commissioner;
7 MR. FRANK CARELLO, Commissioner;
8 MR. BRENDAN DALY; Commissioner;
9 MS. SHANNON J. JARMUSZ, Director of Community
10 Development;
11 MS. NICOLE ESPEDIDO, Secretary;

12 HERVAS, CONDON & BERSANI, P.C., by
13 MS. YORDANA J. WYSOCKI,
14 333 Pierce Road, Suite 195
15 Itasca, Illinois 60143
16 (630) 860-4354
17 ywysocki@hcbattorneys.com
18 Appeared on behalf of the City of Itasca;

19 ICE MILLER, LLP, by
20 MR. MICHAEL M. ROTH,
21 2300 Cabot Drive, Suite 455
22 Lisle, Illinois 60532
23 (630) 955-0555
24 michael.roth@icemiller.com

and

BOND, DICKSON & CONWAY, by
MS. MARY E. DICKSON,
400 South Knoll Street, Unit C
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
(630) 681-1000
marydickson@bond-dickson.com
Appeared on behalf of Haymarket;

- - -

I N D E X

1

2 TESTIMONY OF ANTHONY DAMATO: Pages 25 - 58

3 TESTIMONY OF DOMINIC RANIERI: Pages 62 - 74

4 TESTIMONY OF CHERYL POTTS: Pages 75 - 121

5 TESTIMONY OF ROGER AND

6 STEVEN STEFANI: Pages 123 - 131

7 EXHIBITS:

8 (No Exhibits were marked for identification.)

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1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. So the first
2 meeting before us is PC 19-014. Petition is
3 Haymarket DuPage, LLC. The owner is Pearl
4 Hospitality, LLC. The location is 860 West Irving
5 Park Road. The request is a petition for a planned 07:07
6 development by special use with exceptions and
7 Class 1 site plan approval all in order to permit a
8 mixed-use residential and healthcare facility and
9 other accessory uses in the B-2 community business
10 district at 860 West Irving Park Road. 07:13

11 Roll call.

12 MS. ESPEDIDO: Commissioner Daly?

13 MR. DALY: Here.

14 MS. ESPEDIDO: Commissioner Carello?

15 MR. CARELLO: Here. 07:08

16 MS. ESPEDIDO: Commissioner Swets?

17 MR. SWETS: Here.

18 MS. ESPEDIDO: Commissioner Holmes?

19 MR. HOLMES: Here.

20 MS. ESPEDIDO: Commissioner Drummond? 07:08

21 MS. DRUMMOND: Here.

22 MS. ESPEDIDO: Commissioner Ray?

23 MS. RAY: Here.

24 MS. ESPEDIDO: Chairman Kischner?

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Also here. Thank you.

2 Before the petitioner begins with
3 their presentation -- before the petitioner begins
4 their presentation, the commission is asking all
5 parties involved to be polite, neighborly, and civil. 07:08
6 Though there may be differing viewpoints and
7 emotions, this body expects everyone involved to be
8 treated with the utmost respect.

9 While the items before us are not of
10 a national/political nature, I trust Itasca and you 07:08
11 can be better than the rest of our country when it
12 comes to our civil discourse. As the Plan Commission
13 attorney stated at the last meeting, this is not a
14 sporting event. This is a legal proceeding. All
15 sides will be heard and we specifically are asking 07:09
16 everyone not at the podium to refrain from speaking
17 out, clapping, booing, yelling, cat-calling, and the
18 like.

19 On a personal note, please
20 appreciate that every commissioner at this table has 07:09
21 volunteered to sit on this commission. This
22 commission's civic duty is our way of giving back to
23 the community. We are your neighbors. So even if
24 you do not respect the process, respect the work that

1 we do and that we voluntarily do everything we can.

2 Relatedly, on the back of your

3 handout are the rules of decorum. These rules will

4 be enforced. Individuals who violate these rules may

5 be removed from the proceeding without further

6 warning. The rules of decorum include not talking

7 during the proceedings, turning off all phones.

8 There are requirements for when and how to give

9 general comments and statements and who to address.

10 General comments and statements will be addressed at

11 Step 13 of the hearing process. All general comments

12 and questions shall be directed towards the Chair,

13 which is me. We will make an effort to announce when

14 we are at Step 13. Unrelated to Step 13, questions

15 maybe asked of those giving testimony. Questions may

16 only be related to that witness's testimony or

17 expertise. As an example, the commission will not

18 allow a question about treatment to a traffic expert.

19 Cross-examination is also allowed by

20 the specific rules that are outlined by principles of

21 due process. Federal and state rules will be

22 enforced. Once a witness is excused, it is highly

23 likely that that person will not be recalled for

24 additional questioning. As such, be timely if you

1 have questions for a witness. The back of the
2 handout is an FAQ with additional important
3 information. Please take the time to read the FAQ.
4 Village staff has done a great job of proactively
5 answering questions that often arise from members of
6 the public.

07:11

07:11

07:11

07:12

7 Tonight we have a lot of ground to
8 cover and there will be quite a few people giving
9 testimony. We generally try to end our meetings at
10 9:30 or earlier. However, depending on where we are
11 in the hearing, we will likely extend it to 10:00
12 o'clock where we'll have a hard stop.

13 With that, I would like to welcome
14 everybody and continue on with the meeting.

15 MS. WYSOCKI: Just to remind everyone -- my
16 name is Yordana Wysocki, and I represent the Plan
17 Commission. Tonight is a legal proceeding with legal
18 significance. There's a court reporter present --
19 actually, there's two court reporters present -- and
20 they are taking down everything that's being said.

07:12

21 At some point in the future, a judge
22 may review this transcript. Decorum is essential and
23 the rules of decorum in your handout will be
24 enforced. It's my job to make sure that this meeting

1 is fair to all parties, including the petitioner,
2 Haymarket, and any objectors from the residents of
3 Itasca. I'm going to make sure the petitioner is
4 fairly heard and that the objectors are fairly heard.
5 Disruptive conduct will not be tolerated, and you may
6 be asked to leave.

07:12

7 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you. With that, I
8 would like to call up the petitioner to begin their
9 presentation.

10 MR. ROTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

07:12

11 Good evening. My name is Michael
12 Roth. I'm an attorney and an advocate for Haymarket
13 DuPage, the petitioner in this matter. As I'm sure
14 that everyone knows, the property at 860 West Irving
15 Park Road in Itasca, the Holiday Inn Itasca hotel, is
16 up for sale. Haymarket wants to buy it and operate a
17 healthcare facility there, and Haymarket and the
18 owner have entered into a contract for the sale of
19 the property.

07:13

20 Roughly 50 years ago, the Village of
21 Itasca zoned this property B-2, community business
22 district. So the question before you in this matter
23 is whether Haymarket's proposal to occupy and use the
24 property as a not-for-profit healthcare facility fits

07:13

1 the Village's B-2 zoning ordinance.

2 The mayor and the Village of Itasca
3 have invested an extraordinary amount of time and
4 resources publicly criticizing Haymarket for lack of
5 transparency outside of the very legal process over 07:14
6 which he and the Village Board are presiding. Most
7 peculiar. I have steadfastly advised my client to
8 stay within the legal parameters of the zoning
9 process.

10 The question in this process is not 07:14
11 whether Itasca thinks there are better locations for
12 Haymarket elsewhere. The question is not what the
13 government of Itasca thinks is the most marketable
14 use of the property. The question is not whether
15 local government thinks Haymarket's not-for-profit 07:14
16 healthcare facility is the optimal use of the 860
17 West Irving Park Road property. It's not whether the
18 government approves of the devoted and caring people
19 that will be Haymarket's employees, and it's not
20 whether the local government or its citizens think 07:14
21 Haymarket's patients ought to be treated somewhere
22 else.

23 We have seen the "No Haymarket"
24 signs and heard time and again the mantra that there

1 is a crisis and that this type of healthcare facility
2 is needed, just not in my community. We just hope
3 that a decision against Haymarket has not already
4 been made. Perhaps we are naive. In any event,
5 we're relieved to finally, tonight, begin our
6 presentation of testimony and other evidence at this
7 first public hearing in the zoning process.

07:15

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8 Haymarket is not a political agent.
9 It is a not-for-profit organization founded by a
10 priest, Father McDermott, many years ago who saw the
11 need to help good people that were suffering from
12 substance use and mental disorders, which has now
13 become an epidemic killing as many people as
14 automobile accidents, all too often our children and
15 grandchildren.

16 Haymarket's mission is clear: To
17 help people that are suffering from this disease.
18 Haymarket does so, not for profit, not for
19 recognition; it is not asking the Village to be a
20 partner; it is not asking the Village for incentive
21 money; it is not even asking the Village for a
22 business license. Haymarket is simply asking for the
23 fair application of the Village's zoning regulations
24 so as not to close the door on so many people in this

1 area who are in desperate need of help.

2 We are asking that the Village
3 approve Haymarket's zoning requests and accommodate
4 the people that are so in need of Haymarket's medical
5 services. We will produce testimony and other 07:16
6 evidence showing that Haymarket's operation of a
7 not-for-profit healthcare facility at this location
8 will serve an important needed public health service
9 to the Itasca area of DuPage County and to the
10 northwest suburbs. That there is a public need for a 07:16
11 not-for-profit healthcare facility providing the
12 services that Haymarket provides at locations
13 including 860 West Irving Park Road in Itasca.

14 During these hearings, we will
15 present evidence of who Haymarket Center is, what 07:16
16 services it provides, and how it does so. We will
17 explain the reasons why the 860 West Irving Park Road
18 location is a good location for Haymarket's
19 healthcare facility. We will present evidence of the
20 services and operation that Haymarket plans for this 07:17
21 location. During these hearings, we will present
22 evidence that Haymarket's proposal to occupy and use
23 the property as a not-for-profit healthcare facility
24 does, indeed, fit the Village's B-2 zoning standard;

1 that this not-for-profit healthcare facility at the
2 860 West Irving Park Road location is an appropriate
3 location that is compatible with the land uses in the
4 surrounding area; that is in harmony with Itasca's
5 general zoning plan.

07:17

6 Our evidence will show that the
7 zoning relief we applied for was a special-use
8 approval in a B-2 zoning district on a site that is
9 next to an expressway on the east, a business park on
10 the south, an industrial park on the north, and mixed
11 business and distribution facilities on the west.
12 We're also asking for two variances that only allow
13 the building to stay as it is.

07:17

14 We'll show that the site
15 improvements that were approved by the Village and
16 have existed for almost 50 years have not imperiled
17 the public health, safety, or welfare, and that
18 Haymarket's proposal of a not-for-profit healthcare
19 facility at this location involves only interior
20 building renovations, not the subdivision or
21 redevelopment of the site.

07:18

07:18

22 We'll present evidence showing that
23 Haymarket's use of the property will not give rise to
24 particular, unique problems because of its location

1 at 860 West Irving Park Road as distinguished from
2 other properties zoned in the B-2 business district
3 in Itasca. That the operation of this not-for-profit
4 healthcare facility with patients staying overnight
5 or longer at this location zoned B-2 will not result 07:18
6 in any unique or negative impact on public utilities,
7 public facilities, or neighboring properties.

8 We intend to demonstrate that this
9 not-for-profit healthcare center will have adequate
10 parking, will not cause traffic congestion, and will 07:19
11 not have a negative impact on neighboring property
12 values. We'll show not-for-profit healthcare
13 facilities are designated by the Village as special
14 uses in the B-2 zoning districts, and, certainly, if
15 there are conditions unique to this address, they can 07:19
16 be addressed by appropriate special-use conditions of
17 approval and by reasonable accommodations.

18 We intend to produce evidence that
19 the present use of the property, the Holiday Inn, is
20 unlikely to continue, and that Haymarket's 07:19
21 not-for-profit healthcare use and tax exempt status
22 will have only a nominal tax impact, if any, on those
23 public bodies levying taxes on the property. We
24 intend to produce evidence showing that the provision

1 of public services to the Haymarket Center will not
2 interfere with the ability of those public bodies to
3 provide services elsewhere, and we'll show that
4 Haymarket's use of the property will comply with
5 Itasca's zoning ordinances applicable to healthcare 07:20
6 facilities and its other zoning ordinances and
7 land-use standards to the extent that they are
8 applicable.

9 Now, the Village staff determined,
10 and this commission confirmed and the Village Board 07:20
11 rubber-stamped the decision that because Haymarket
12 healthcare facility is primarily a residential land
13 use, it therefore must be processed as a planned
14 development, even though Haymarket healthcare center
15 will include neither single family or multiple family 07:20
16 residential uses, nor dwelling units of any kind, and
17 even though the zoning administrator also concluded
18 that Haymarket's healthcare facility does not fit any
19 of the government of Itasca's residential zoning
20 classifications. Which begs the question before this 07:20
21 commission, how does Haymarket satisfy the Village's
22 residential bulk requirements when, admittedly, none
23 of the residential use categories apply?

24 The Village's determination that

1 Haymarket's use is primarily residential, and,
2 therefore, this has to be processed as a planned
3 development use as we have applied for, even though
4 the Holiday Inn has existed at this site without
5 residential dwelling units for just under 50 years,
6 and Haymarket has no plans to change that. And even
7 though 38 exceptions to the planned development
8 regulations apply, these exceptions apply mainly
9 because there is no development plan by Haymarket for
10 this site. Those exceptions are specified and agreed
11 to by the zoning director in Exhibit 4, which we'll
12 present to you, which is the letter from Shannon
13 Jarmusz to me dated June 25, 2019.

14 So we are proceeding with the
15 understanding that those exceptions are confirmed as
16 permitted under the authority of Section 14.12.2.b of
17 the zoning code, which gives this Plan Commission the
18 authority to approve the exceptions and that those
19 exceptions will apply in this case, if I'm correct.
20 I'm hoping that I can be informed as such as soon as
21 possible if I'm incorrect.

22 The conclusion that residency is a
23 primary use of the Haymarket healthcare center then
24 triggers a market and economic impact analysis that

1 supposedly compares, objectively, special uses for
2 not-for-profit healthcare centers with special use
3 hotels. We intend to show that that strained
4 analysis is misplaced in the zoning context, and that
5 the analysis presented by the Village's litigation
6 consultant is flawed.

07:22

7 As I said, we intend to produce
8 evidence that the present use of the property, the
9 Holiday Inn, is unlikely to continue, and that
10 Haymarket's use and tax exempt status will have only
11 a nominal impact, if any, on those public bodies
12 levying taxes on the property, and that the
13 healthcare facility will not cause any need for
14 public services that strains the taxing bodies'
15 capabilities to provide those services.

07:22

07:22

16 So that is a summary of the
17 testimony and other evidence that we intend to
18 present. Unfortunately, though, and I suppose we
19 should have expected, the Village has made this
20 presentation extraordinarily difficult. I'm sure
21 you'll agree that in the normal zoning process, the
22 government has the legal duty to hold the public
23 hearing. The applicant files its application. The
24 applicant pays the published fees. The government

07:23

1 holds its public hearing when and where it wants.
2 The applicant makes its presentation, and the
3 government decides the case. But the public hearing
4 is important so that the public can be fully
5 informed.

07:23

6 Here the government decided to hold
7 its public hearing at locations other than the
8 Village hall, the normal meeting venue which is
9 equipped with audio-visual capabilities, and the
10 Village's decision resulted in extra costs.

07:23

11 Haymarket was not asked or consulted in this
12 decision. The Village of Itasca now wants Haymarket,
13 a not-for-profit organization, to pay those extra
14 costs. Haymarket declined. The Village responded
15 that, therefore, it is not going to provide
16 audio-visual capabilities, a standard provision in
17 every zoning hearing.

07:24

18 For months now, Haymarket has been
19 preparing its witnesses' presentations with the
20 knowledge that the Village is encouraging large
21 crowds to attend the public hearings. We first
22 submitted our zoning application and supporting
23 materials back in July in electronic format so that
24 the materials could be presented in today's typical

07:24

1 fashion, projected on screens, so that members of the
2 public in attendance could also view the materials
3 being presented. Indeed, the Village provided
4 audio-visual equipment at the public hearing on
5 September 18th at the Peacock School. The Village's
6 decision not to provide audio-visual equipment
7 tonight left Haymarket with having to contract for
8 audio-visual rentals and operations for this public
9 hearing at significant extra costs to Haymarket,
10 which it did.

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11 Still not satisfied, the Village
12 then ratcheted things up, informing us late yesterday
13 that Haymarket would not be allowed to use any
14 audio-visual equipment at tonight's public hearing,
15 even at Haymarket's expense; no screens, no
16 projectors. This directive by the Village was
17 completely uncalled for and now results in the public
18 struggling to hear and understand the information
19 Haymarket is presenting.

07:25

20 The Village has tried to pass its
21 decision off to the school district. However, the
22 school district has said that they have no problem
23 with the use of AV equipment tonight. It's the
24 Village's call. So tonight we have to present our

07:25

1 testimony and evidence without audio-visual
2 presentations. The materials we will refer to
3 tonight have been submitted to the Plan Commission on
4 paper. And I will add that because of the situation
5 today, we have posted the materials that we expect to 07:25
6 be referred to by witnesses tonight on Haymarket's
7 website, so if anybody wants to -- anybody has a
8 tablet or a cell phone, they can still view the
9 exhibits as our witnesses testified. The link is
10 ww.haymarketdupage.org. Again, 07:26
11 www.haymarketdupage.org.

12 We would ask that the record reflect
13 that the following exhibits are offered and entered
14 into the record. First, I've submitted to Shannon
15 the public hearing notices and our affidavit of 07:26
16 service. Second, records that we've previously
17 submitted in the record at public hearings in this
18 matter, which are Exhibit 2 of the Haymarket Zoning
19 Application in support of the incidentals. 3, our
20 filing letter that accompanied Haymarket's zoning 07:26
21 application. 4, the Village's response letter
22 regarding the acceptance that I mentioned dated June
23 25th, 2019. 5, Haymarket's appeal and all the
24 attachments to its appeal. There are other records

1 that are being presented at this hearing tonight that
2 I've tendered to Shannon.

3 Exhibit 6, Haymarket's letters of
4 exemptions dated June 19. Exhibit 7, the transcript
5 of August 21st, 2019, appeal hearing. Exhibit 8,
6 Mayor Pruyn's letter to me presenting detailed
7 questions to Haymarket, dated July 22nd, 2019.
8 Exhibit 9, Haymarket's answer to Mayor Pruyn's
9 detailed questions tendered on September 5th, 2019.

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10 And then other records that we will
11 refer to and I want to give them exhibit numbers --
12 they are in the public's possession. I believe the
13 Plan Commission has them. If you don't, please let
14 me know. We don't need them tonight. But certainly
15 Exhibit 10, the Village of Itasca's zoning ordinance
16 will be referred to. Exhibit 11, the Village of
17 Itasca's comprehensive plan. Exhibit 12, the Village
18 of Itasca's zoning map. Exhibit 13, the zoning
19 administrator's response to Haymarket's appeal.
20 Exhibit 14, the Village of Itasca's staff report for
21 the September 18th, 2019, public hearing with all the
22 reports, exhibits, and attachments, including but not
23 limited to the Robinson Engineering Report. And then
24 Exhibit 15 is the Kenrich Group economic impact

1 analysis with all of its attachments.

2 So that's what we have before you
3 now. With me tonight are my co-counsel Mary Dickson
4 and Ryan Dent as well as several Haymarket officials
5 and supporters. Mrs. Dickson will present our first 07:28
6 witnesses. Thank you.

7 MS. WYSOCKI: Before we get to the first
8 witness, I do want to clarify something. The Village
9 of Itasca continues to work through a variety of
10 challenges in holding the Plan Commission meetings in 07:28
11 a venue large enough to hold all the witnesses from
12 Haymarket and the citizens of Itasca who wish their
13 voice to be heard. Lake Park West in Roselle has
14 gone above and beyond in offering Itasca a location
15 at cost and enduring the disruption to their academic 07:28
16 calendar that comes with this type of meeting.

17 The gymnasium at Lake Park West does
18 not have audio-visual equipment. Peacock did. The
19 law does not require AV equipment for a Plan
20 Commission meeting or public hearing, and any 07:29
21 audio-video equipment, that would be an extra cost at
22 this facility. Haymarket indicated early last week
23 that they would be unwilling to share costs with the
24 Village, and last-minute efforts to bring a private

1 vendor would require a signoff with various
2 authorities involved for safety considerations, which
3 would have changed the floor plan and a host of other
4 technical challenges. We simply did not have enough
5 time to accommodate such a request.

07:29

6 The Village of Itasca remains
7 committed to making sure that the Plan Commission
8 meeting is conducted in such a manner that every
9 voice is heard.

10 MS. DICKSON: Good evening. My name is Mary
11 Dickson. I'm also an attorney representing
12 Haymarket. In response to Ms. Wysocki's comments, I
13 do want to point out, relative to the AV equipment --
14 because that's very important to us. We want all of
15 the people in this auditorium to be able to see our
16 presentation. For that purpose, I specifically asked
17 if I could be a part of the Village's review of this
18 facility when it was considering logistics on Friday.
19 I specifically made that request to the Village's
20 attorney on Thursday. I expected a call back and did
21 not receive one. I called again on Friday to make
22 that happen. It didn't.

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07:30

23 If Haymarket can truly be a partner
24 with the Village, the Village would have allowed

1 Haymarket to be part of planning the logistics for
2 this facility, and we wouldn't have been faced with
3 an eleventh-hour comment from the Village that, no,
4 you don't get AV; the residents of the Village don't
5 get to see your presentation. So I disagree with the
6 comments that were made relative to that.

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7 We truly hoped to be able to show
8 everyone all of the materials that we've been working
9 on for the past several months in response to the
10 questions that we received from the Village and from
11 its residents.

12 As part of the analysis of
13 Haymarket's zoning application, the Plan Commission,
14 and ultimately the Village Board, will have to
15 consider the need for this comprehensive healthcare
16 facility. In fact, one of the criteria the Plan
17 Commission must consider in order to approve the
18 special use for a planned unit is whether the special
19 use is in the public interest and not solely for the
20 interest of the applicant.

21 Among the many facts you will hear
22 through this process, here is the one you cannot
23 ignore. The opioid crisis and other substance abuse
24 and mental health issues have stolen countless lives

1 and devastated families in every community. The
2 substance use disorder doesn't discriminate. It
3 impacts all ages, races, classes, and education
4 levels. Thousands of DuPage residents, including
5 Itasca and other nearby communities, have sought care
6 for their illnesses, often having to travel far from
7 home to secure appropriate, affordable care.

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8 Yet we know, in fact, from the
9 DuPage Health Coalition that 57,000 DuPage residents
10 last year went without recovery services they needed.
11 DuPage County residents went without recovery
12 services. Village staff has questioned the need for
13 this facility. So have many residents of Itasca who
14 have protested the location of Haymarket DuPage
15 through public comments, social media postings,
16 correspondence to local leaders and signs saying "No
17 to Haymarket."

18 Well, for every person who has said
19 no and for every person who has already decided to
20 vote no on this zoning proposal, I ask you to pay
21 particular attention to the following witnesses.
22 These witnesses have volunteered to be here tonight.
23 They are not a part of the Haymarket team. They are
24 people who've reached out to us because they have a

1 message they want to send to you, and they hope that
2 all of the residents here tonight hear it as well.
3 They believe there is a need for Haymarket in Itasca.
4 They've agreed to volunteer their voices in support
5 of the zoning application, that no one leaves here
6 tonight or who is going to be watching this or
7 reading this material, no one leaves here tonight
8 questioning the need for this facility.

07:33

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9 As our first witness, I would like
10 to ask Anthony Damato to go to our timeout corner,
11 which is our witness table. And Anthony is a
12 Bloomingdale Zoning Board of Appeals member, so he
13 knows what you're doing here this evening.

14 And, Anthony, could you please tell
15 the Board why you are here today? I think they
16 intend you to sit, if you'd like.

17 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Actually, before we start
18 witnesses, they'll need to be sworn in.

19 MS. DICKSON: Please.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 MS. WYSOCKI: Just for the court reporter's
22 sake, Anthony, what's your last name and could you
23 restate it and spell it maybe?

24 MR. DAMATO: It's Damato, D-a-m-a-t-o.

1 MS. WYSOCKI: Thank you.

2 MR. DAMATO: First and foremost, I want to
3 thank everyone that's here tonight. I know this is a
4 tough matter in the eyes of some, and I want to thank
5 the committee as well. I know that you guys are
6 working hard. I want to thank Haymarket for having
7 me to speak tonight. I feel very blessed to be here.

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07:35

8 My name is Anthony Damato, if you
9 haven't heard before. I'm 26 years old from
10 Bloomingdale. I commend you guys tonight. I'm
11 actually a planning and zoning commissioner from my
12 town of Bloomingdale as well, so I appreciate you
13 guys.

14 Before I get started tonight, there
15 is a quote that I want to focus on, and I'll get into
16 that. The quote can be heard by Helen Keller. The
17 quote reads, "Character cannot be developed in ease
18 and quiet, only through experience of trial and
19 suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition
20 inspired, success achieved." The reason I chose that
21 quote is because I believe it sets the foundation for
22 tonight on both ends, of those who are in favor of
23 Haymarket and those who simply are not.

24 I believe it's a very powerful thing

1 that we each have within us to be able to speak on
2 certain matters and express our beliefs and emotions.
3 Only through this experience of trial can we find
4 passion and inspiration and achieve success by doing
5 so.

07:36

6 One thing, before I begin, I want
7 all of you to know that I respect every one in this
8 room, some of which I know and some of which I don't.
9 I respect your opinions and beliefs and I appreciate
10 you being here. I truly believe the beautiful joy of
11 life is that we can all have these ideas and emotions
12 and express them freely.

07:36

13 Certain things, you know, some of us
14 have opinions on, while other things are factual that
15 we simply can't disagree on. So what I wanted to do
16 is I wanted to bring to attention, first and
17 foremost, the severity of the opioid economic
18 outbreak that we're currently looking into the eyes
19 of. In order to do that, I have provided some
20 statistics according to the NSDUH. That's the
21 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. It came to
22 my attention that 20 million Americans, age 12 and
23 older, battle with substance abuse and disorder. 30
24 percent of adults battle illicit drug use disorder.

07:36

07:36

1 About 8.5 million Americans suffer both mental health
2 and substance abuse disorder. Alarming for most,
3 especially in this room, drug abuse addiction cost
4 the American society more than 740 billion annually
5 in lost workplace productivity, healthcare expenses,
6 and crime-related costs. While most of us, if not
7 all of us here tonight, are very fortunate for the
8 community we live in, I would encourage you to keep
9 in mind, with statistics like these, the epidemic is
10 simply everywhere around us, no matter where we live.

11 So many of you are probably
12 wondering why am I relevant here tonight? What is
13 my -- you know, what do I bring to the table? You
14 know, I don't have an addiction. I've never battled
15 an addiction, which could seem bizarre to most.
16 However, I'm here for many reasons, because those
17 close to me have fought addiction or attempted to
18 fight addiction and lost the battle. Many of these
19 people I love, I care about deeply, I'm mourned by
20 their death, so simply I'm here to make a difference.
21 I changed career paths, in general, in order to
22 attempt to do so, which I'll get into.

23 So I'm here tonight to tell the
24 story of my best childhood friend, who attended

1 Haymarket and who is now two years sober just last
2 month. This was my neighbor, my friend. He's family
3 to me. His family is family to me. This is someone
4 I care very deeply about, so I was asked to speak on
5 his behalf and I feel very honored to do so.

07:38

6 The person which I'm speaking of
7 goes by the name of Dominic Ranieri, who will be
8 speaking following me, I believe, tonight. For 21
9 years he was my neighbor, my friend, my family. He
10 was everything. Growing up, Dom was a very shy and
11 timid kid. We used to play around with him,
12 actually, because he would open up his chicken breast
13 to make sure he wasn't going to get salmonella.

07:39

14 Dom grew up in an amazing community.
15 We lived in an amazing neighborhood surrounded by
16 awesome people. He lived a great family life. I
17 mean, I can't even begin to tell you how fortunate we
18 were. We used to go on vacations together and do all
19 the things that, you know, you would expect, you
20 know, a suburban middle-class family to do.

07:39

07:39

21 Dom, unfortunately, went down the
22 wrong path, and, you know, he got in the wrong crowd.
23 Dom is three years older than me, so when he had went
24 to high school, I hadn't seen him for a while.

1 Although I hung out with most of the guys in his age
2 group, the older guys, Dom had went to -- he had went
3 to high school and I had still been in middle school.
4 By the time I had gotten to high school in 2007, I
5 had spent some time away from Dom. He was busy doing
6 things with some other people. I began to reconnect
7 with him. We went to the same school. He picked me
8 up every day. At the time, I didn't have my license.

07:40

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07:40

07:41

9 And in 2008, I noticed Dom start to
10 change. As a younger kid, I looked up to Dom. I
11 looked up to the people he hung around with. I
12 looked up to all the people in his life; you know,
13 great-looking kids, very smart kids, very
14 athletically gifted kids, kids that I, quite frankly,
15 I wanted to be.

16 The first time I had ever been in
17 the presence of any type of drugs, I was a freshman
18 in high school, and I had seen those guys start to
19 dabble with them in their own homes. It was very
20 shocking and very alarming to me. I had never had
21 that exposure. I knew that this was going to take a
22 turn for the worse, because they didn't understand
23 the severity of it, even as much as I kind of
24 understood it at 13 or 14 years old.

1 Dom continued to hangout with this
2 group later through college into his 20s. He started
3 to then move on from, you know, marijuana to cocaine
4 to opioids, which some of you may not know are
5 extremely expensive. The reason I touch base on this 07:41:
6 is because this opioid crisis starts off and trickles
7 down into many things. Unfortunately for Dom, the
8 crisis became -- the addiction, I should say, became
9 extremely severe and he could no longer afford what
10 he had been doing, so he turned down a different path 07:42:
11 to heroin.

12 For many years, I did not know, you
13 know, the volume of opioids, heroin, or the volume
14 which he was consuming to suffice his addiction.
15 However, I did understand that this became very 07:42:
16 serious. I did not know that Dom started using
17 heroin. He became a functioning user. Which is
18 everywhere around us, by the way. I would like
19 everyone to understand that there are many
20 functioning users that some of us in this room do not 07:42:
21 even know exist.

22 He became very, very tough to hang
23 around with and have in my life, simply because, you
24 know, I prided myself on my reputation and the people

1 I surround myself with and the actions that occur in
2 my presence. However, I never turned a blind eye
3 towards Dom, because, like I said, to me he was like
4 a brother, so I felt that I, you know, was almost
5 obligated to make sure that he went in the right
6 direction.

07:43

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07:44

07:44

7 One day Dom's family and I had
8 planned to have him taken in and to seek out help.
9 When he had done so, you know, I was pretty
10 optimistic, but I know that many have fought the
11 fight and have failed. Many of these people -- a
12 dozen, by the way -- were friends of mine who are no
13 longer with us here. So I want you guys to keep in
14 mind that I'm 26 years old and 12 friends, between 29
15 and earlier than that, have lost their lives to the
16 problem that's currently at hand.

17 Dom went away and he went through a
18 detox program, and I helped him connect with
19 Haymarket when he had gotten back from Arizona. I
20 let Dom stay at my house every night, and then I made
21 sure that he got up in the morning to get to
22 Haymarket for his outpatient. Throughout the time,
23 Haymarket was truly by Dom's side. They went out of
24 their way to comfort him and make sure that he was

1 going in the right direction.

2 The moral of the story is that Dom
3 is here today to tell you about this story. He is
4 now two years clean, and I'm extremely proud of him.
5 While I've lost many, I haven't lost Dom, and I feel 07:45
6 very blessed to be here to tell his story. I respect
7 him greatly for his perseverance.

8 I just want to touch base a little
9 bit on the demographic, because I know that's a
10 serious concern within the Itasca community. I'm 07:45
11 absolutely aware of the differential in population
12 from where Haymarket is currently located in the West
13 Loop, but I do make note that Haymarket is the No. 4
14 best neighborhood in the City of Chicago, quoted by
15 Niche.com. 07:45

16 The West Loop is a striving area
17 with businesses such as McDonald's corporate, Google,
18 top-rated restaurants and luxurious hotels. Real
19 estate opportunity is currently skyrocketing within
20 West Loop and Fulton Market and was recently featured 07:45
21 in Cranes in the top 5 million club.

22 The reason I state these facts is
23 that all of these great things are happening with
24 Haymarket located right in the area. So I encourage

1 those of you Itasca residents to, you know -- you
2 know, I encourage you to at least hear us out tonight
3 and see what we have to say as far as this being a
4 possibility.

5 The other thing I would like to
6 mention is that the epidemic is a worldwide problem.
7 The epidemic is a Chicago problem, an Illinois
8 problem, a national problem. And for us in this
9 room, it's a DuPage problem. If you don't think so,
10 then, you know, I would be happy to speak with you on
11 our own time and I can go through that with you.

12 To conclude my speaking here
13 tonight, if you go on the Haymarket website, there
14 are six core values. The values state integrity,
15 diversity, financial focus, customer focus,
16 professionalism, and teamwork. The one I currently
17 honed in on was customer focus. It asks that we walk
18 in the patient's shoes. What I ask is that you
19 connect these experiences that I've spoken about to
20 your personal life, to the ones you love and to your
21 family, and I ask that you keep them in mind.

22 I think it's evident that we each
23 give them an attempt towards a better life and to not
24 stray away. I ask that we please consider everyone,

1 as we all have a purpose and we all have a family and
2 we all have tons of people that love us. I find it
3 very easy to sit back and point fingers at those who
4 are struggling, which many of us are quick to do,
5 myself included at times. While I find it very
6 difficult to stand up, like many of greats before our
7 time have, with dignity, pride, courage, and
8 unselfishness towards helping others on the road to
9 recovery. If any of you have any questions, at the
10 time of Step 13 I would be happy to answer them. I
11 appreciate each and every one of you in this room for
12 your time and I thank you.

07:47

07:47

13 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you. Maybe you
14 could remain there for right now. What I would like
15 to do is if -- excuse me, give -- any representatives
16 from other governments have any questions for this
17 witness? Okay. Any property owners within 250 feet?
18 Attorneys representing a group or member of the
19 public have questions for this witness?
20 Spokespersons on behalf of a group, any questions for
21 this witness? Individual members of the public, any
22 questions for this witness? Pardon?

07:48

07:48

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Questions or statements?

24 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Questions. Okay.

1 MS. WYSOCKI: If you have questions
2 specifically for this witness, you need to sign up.
3 There's a table in the center. Mo is standing up and
4 waving so go over to him. And then, Mary, if you
5 would share the microphone. Thank you.

07:49:

6 MS. DICKSON: Sure.

7 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: And if there's anybody
8 else that will have questions, line up behind the
9 first questioner.

10 MS. WYSOCKI: Before you ask your questions,
11 ma'am, if you could please state and spell your name,
12 just so the record's clear on who's speaking.

07:49:

13 MS. OBERG: Certainly. My name is Linda
14 Oberg, O-b-e-r-g, and I'm an Itasca resident. My
15 question is -- and I'm directing my question to you,
16 correct?

07:50:

17 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you.

18 MS. OBERG: While I appreciate this statement
19 about addiction, and we all already in this room are
20 aware of the addiction crisis, how is this witness,
21 and any other witness that's just going to come up
22 and tell their story about addiction, how is that
23 pertinent to the zoning of this building?

07:50:

24 (Audience clapping.)

1 MS. WYSOCKI: No, we are not clapping between
2 each question. We'll be here all night. This is a
3 legal proceeding, and I need you to be calm and
4 respectful.

5 The -- I guess Mary can probably -- 07:50
6 do you want to address that question?

7 MS. DICKSON: It was directed to you.

8 MS. WYSOCKI: Okay. I'm not going to instruct
9 the witness to answer that question.

10 MR. KEATHLEY: My name is James Keathley. I 07:51
11 live at 200 South Princeton Avenue. Also a resident
12 of Itasca. So my question is for the witness, just
13 to call his credibility into question, whether he
14 supplies the names of his 12 friends now or later
15 just so we can check to make sure he actually had 12 07:51
16 friends that did pass away due to drug addiction.

17 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: That is not something that
18 we would require. We'll take the testimony at face
19 value.

20 MR. KEATHLEY: Okay, thank you. 07:51

21 MR. GREGOR: Anthony, my name is Joe Gregor.
22 I live in Itasca.

23 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Please address me.

24 MR. GREGOR: I'm sorry. I live in Itasca. I

1 just -- you know, I appreciated your comments, and I
2 also was wondering, you know, about the crisis. I
3 think most people understand it, and I think probably
4 every resident in Itasca has a family member or
5 friend or somebody who has been affected. I guess
6 I'm kind of older so I look back to my childhood. My
7 cousin, I'm not going to go into the details, but she
8 had a similar situation; vivacious, smart, beautiful,
9 such a good golfer that she was, you know, in line
10 for the LPGA. She didn't get qualified but she was
11 in the process of trying to go through that. And in
12 a similar fashion, you know, one thing led to
13 another, and it did not end well.

14 So I can appreciate very much -- and
15 I think probably most residents here really,
16 honestly, truly understand, you know, how terrible
17 this is. My question is do you -- and I guess it has
18 to do with some of the attorney preamble. The reason
19 for your testimony, do you feel that the residents of
20 Itasca just truly don't grasp the severity of
21 addiction? Do you feel that they don't grasp the
22 numbers? Because, again, my cousin, a product of the
23 '60s, myself, a product of the '70s, we've seen this
24 hurting around for decades. And I'm not arguing

1 about whether it's getting worse or any of those
2 things, because I think I've seen evidence as well.

3 But is the reason for your testimony
4 because you think we don't understand this is severe?
5 Do you think we don't understand what the numbers
6 are? Do you think people are just not caring or that
7 if you describe, you know, some very intense personal
8 circumstances from -- you could probably trot out a
9 hundred people. That's my question. Is it a need to
10 educate us in terms of this is a real problem? I'm
11 just asking.

07:54

07:54

12 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: You can answer that
13 question.

14 MR. DAMATO: So you're asking as far as do I
15 feel that you're unaware of the severity? The answer
16 is no. I feel you're very aware of the severity, and
17 I'm never sorry to hear about the story you just
18 regurgitated. I do understand that you guys also
19 grasp the numbers at hand. However, the point that I
20 am trying to make is that -- you know, this
21 establishment, for instance, Roselle, it's a great
22 town. Bloomingdale, it's a great town. Itasca, it's
23 a great town. Medina, Addison, Schaumburg, they're
24 great towns. They're all surrounding towns.

07:54

07:55

1 The thing is is that I want to make
2 people aware that while these are all great towns,
3 the epidemic itself does not discriminate where it is
4 at. Now, I'm not saying that -- you know, I'm focal
5 pointing to Itasca in -- per say. You know what I
6 mean? But what I'm doing is I'm trying to explain
7 that I think that there needs to be some sort of
8 center for help on this matter somewhere nearby,
9 because this is not just a problem that occurs within
10 bad neighbors and metropolitan cities. This is a
11 problem that occurs right here in my backyard and
12 your backyard and everybody in this room's backyard.
13 This is a problem that we must address. And, quite
14 frankly, I don't know where help can be found if we
15 don't put it somewhere locally within the
16 demographic, so that's where the points that I've
17 stated tonight come from. And I thank you for your
18 question.

07:55

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07:56

19 MR. GREGOR: Okay. So then it's okay, I
20 guess, to say that, you know, even though somebody
21 may oppose to this specific project at this specific
22 scale, that doesn't necessarily mean that they're not
23 appreciative of the problem and the consequences it
24 can have. I just want to make sure --

1 MR. DAMATO: Sir, I do not doubt that you're
2 appreciative of the consequences that may occur.

3 MR. GREGOR: That was the question. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. BERGNER: Ryan Bergner. I'm an Itasca
6 resident. The friend that you described, someone who
7 has a lot of friends, a lot of family members, a lot
8 of interpersonal social connections, people would be
9 affected by their behavior and by this person's
10 passing. So without Haymarket, would your friend
11 still be alive or would he be dead?

12 MR. DAMATO: I cannot a hundred percent answer
13 that as a correct yes-or-no question, but I can tell
14 you that I know the path that he was going down, and
15 I know that Haymarket played an extremely substantial
16 role in his life towards saving him.

17 MR. BERGNER: So, more than likely, he would
18 no longer be with us if he had not gotten the
19 assistance he needed? Would that be a fair
20 assessment?

21 MR. DAMATO: I would say that Haymarket
22 provided an extreme amount of assistance in him
23 recovering and becoming the person he is today.

24 MR. BERGNER: And is the world a better place

1 with him in it, or would the world have been a better
2 place if he had died?

3 MR. DAMATO: I would take that as a very
4 personal question. However, I would answer it that
5 the world is a tremendous place with him in it. 07:58
6 Having said that, he's a great person, a business
7 owner, and a key component in my life.

8 MR. BERGNER: I couldn't agree more. Thank
9 you for your time.

10 MS. HELM: Hi, my name is Laura Helm. I live 07:58
11 in Itasca. I have been here for 23 years. My
12 question for you is I know you said you would like to
13 keep this local. Have you ever considered Indian
14 Lakes in Bloomingdale?

15 MR. DAMATO: That's an extremely interesting 07:58
16 question considering that, as I said, I'm on the
17 planning and zoning committee for Bloomingdale as a
18 whole. So I'll be honest with you, I really don't
19 feel comfortable discussing that question because --
20 because -- because you never know what could be a 07:59
21 potential spot for -- you know, has this not worked
22 out. You know what I mean? So for me to sit here
23 and give my take on that would be extremely
24 unprofessional in regards to if I might have to stand

1 up on the board and do that someday.

2 MS. HELM: Because that is a larger facility
3 and that is vacant.

4 MR. DAMATO: And that I can totally agree
5 with; that it's a very big piece of property and it 07:59:
6 is absolutely vacant, yes, I can agree to that.

7 MS. HELM: And it has been vacant for some
8 time.

9 MR. DAMATO: And it has definitely been vacant
10 for some time, correct. 07:59:

11 MS. HELM: And it could use something like
12 this.

13 MR. DAMATO: And it could use something that
14 is large. It could be a golf course. It could be a
15 children's playground. It could be numerous many 08:00:
16 things.

17 MS. HELM: It could also help your friends.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. DAMATO: It could also definitely help my
20 friends. Thank you. 08:00:

21 (Audience clapping.)

22 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Once again, we would ask
23 everybody not to clap. Thank you.

24 MS. ROU: Hi, my name is Kathryn Rou. I live

1 at 405 North Linden Street in Itasca. I think that I
2 know a couple of your friends who have passed, and I
3 wanted to acknowledge that they do have names. And I
4 think I know another person who ran in the same
5 circles who continues to struggle with overdoses as 08:00
6 recently as last month that -- a former student of
7 mine that I'm still in contact with, so there are
8 names and faces and I'm sorry for that. For you.

9 I acknowledge that this is a huge
10 problem, and it is former students of mine that have 08:01
11 passed and who are still struggling, and I think it's
12 a huge issue and I think it needs to be addressed.

13 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, do you have a
14 question?

15 MS. ROU: Yes. 08:01

16 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay.

17 MS. ROU: My question is -- that was the next
18 thing out of my mouth. My question is, with the
19 severity of this epidemic and the widespread nature
20 of the epidemic, is the Village of Itasca equipped to 08:01
21 handle the size of what could be coming through? Can
22 we effectively help them?

23 MR. DAMATO: That's a great question. With
24 respect to everyone in Itasca, including those

1 wearing the "small town proud" shirts tonight --
2 which I actually really enjoy -- I think that the
3 people of Itasca have shown their true colors by
4 being here as a whole and their stance on this
5 matter.

08:02

6 With that being said, I think as far
7 as financially -- as far as budgets and equipped
8 necessities go as far as being able to maintain a
9 place like Haymarket, I think that that's something
10 that Haymarket has been extremely -- you know, I
11 think they've been extremely influential and they've
12 shown great care towards being able to make sure that
13 those things are accessible. So, yes, I do believe
14 that the plans that they have -- there's a very, very
15 large group of intelligent people behind you who have
16 some serious plans for being able to make this happen
17 so I would say yes.

08:02

08:02

18 MS. ROU: Thank you.

19 MR. DAMATO: Thank you. And I appreciate all
20 you've said.

08:02

21 MS. SNEATH: Hello, my name is Stephanie
22 Sneath. I live at 505 Catalpa Avenue. My question
23 for you is in your testimony you cited statistics for
24 ages 12 and up. My understanding was Haymarket was

1 going to treat 18 and up, so what are the stats
2 regarding 18 and up? Because 12 to 18 is a huge age
3 group, and we can't include that in stats if that's
4 not what's being treated.

5 MR. DAMATO: Absolutely, I can respect that. 08:03
6 The major point there was that if the epidemic and
7 the outbreak is extreme at 12, typically it's going
8 to be extreme at 18 and so on and so forth. And what
9 I want you to know is that there are actually over a
10 million 65-year-olds who also, you know, are very 08:03
11 possessed in addiction, so this is within all age
12 groups completely. And, you know, I completely
13 understand what Haymarket is bringing to the table,
14 but, like I said, the outbreak does not discriminate
15 and there are adolescents that I personally deal with 08:04
16 in my everyday job that are extremely affected by
17 prescription medication, and they will continue to do
18 so if there is not some sort of stance pertaining to
19 this issue. Thank you.

20 MR. O'CONNOR: Hello, my name is Bob O'Connor. 08:04
21 I live at 500 Lombard Road. I've been a resident
22 here for 40 years and a business owner for 25. I'm
23 just wondering what expertise do you have --
24 considering that you said the value of the property

1 Downtown skyrocketed with Haymarket there, do you
2 think the value of Itasca will skyrocket because
3 Haymarket moves in?

4 MR. DAMATO: I actually didn't state that
5 because Haymarket moved in, that the property values
6 skyrocketed. 08:04

7 MR. O'CONNOR: You implied that.

8 MR. DAMATO: No, I actually did not imply
9 that. I actually stated that Haymarket is located
10 within the West Loop and Fulton Market and that the
11 property value in that area has skyrocketed over the
12 last five, ten years. That's exactly what I had
13 stated. 08:05

14 MR. O'CONNOR: That has nothing do with
15 Haymarket. It's because of the location. 08:05

16 MR. DAMATO: It --

17 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, don't --

18 MS. DICKSON: There's an argument going on.
19 It's inappropriate.

20 MS. WYSOCKI: That's what I was going to
21 address. Please don't argue with the witness. 08:05

22 MR. DAMATO: Thank you.

23 MR. LORE: My name is Steve Lore. I live at
24 312 North Linden, Itasca. My question for Anthony

1 is -- first of all, I want to say, you know, I admire
2 you for being up here. The second is I missed the
3 first part of your speech, and I just wanted to ask
4 you -- I'm sure you went through it -- but your drug
5 of choice was or what you got addicted to was?

08:06

6 MR. DAMATO: I actually --

7 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, I'm not going to -- if you
8 want to answer the question, that's fine.

9 MR. DAMATO: No, that's completely fine.

10 MS. DICKSON: Well, he didn't say that he had
11 an addiction.

08:06

12 MR. DAMATO: No, I've never had an addiction.

13 MR. LORE: Oh, okay, I'm sorry. I thought you
14 were --

15 MR. DAMATO: No, no, no.

08:06

16 MR. LORE: You were speaking as somebody
17 that's been to Haymarket.

18 MR. DAMATO: No, I was speaking as someone who
19 has had many people in my life at a young age pass
20 away.

08:06

21 MR. LORE: Okay, I apologize.

22 MR. DAMATO: Yeah, absolutely.

23 MR. LORE: But I do have a question for you --

24 MS. WYSOCKI: Can you direct your question to

1 the Chair?

2 MR. LORE: Sure. Well, am I addressing it to
3 him or am I addressing it to the Chair?

4 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Up here. He'll answer if
5 it's appropriate. 08:06

6 MR. LORE: Can I side-eye him? I'm asking the
7 guy a question. I'd like to look at him.

8 So my question is that you seem to
9 be a little bit of a subject matter expert on this.
10 You talk very eloquently about it. My question is do 08:07
11 you believe that the opioid addiction is at the
12 beginning, the middle, or end?

13 MS. DICKSON: I would just object. This is
14 outside of the scope of what he testified to.

15 MR. LORE: I'm just asking him a question. I 08:07
16 mean, you can answer that. If you feel it's the
17 beginning, it's the beginning. If you feel it's the
18 middle, it's the middle. If you feel it's the end,
19 it's the end.

20 MR. DAMATO: I think I can answer it. I have 08:07
21 no problem answering it.

22 MS. WYSOCKI: All right.

23 MR. DAMATO: The first part of your question,
24 to address that first and foremost, I'm not a genius

1 or expert by any means. However, as I stated before,
2 I've had many people in my life pass away. I also am
3 the account manager for a urine drug screening
4 toxicology lab, so I do have some sort of experience
5 in this field as far as dealing with patients and
6 also the -- you know, from day to day, that's my job.
7 I go into clinics, rehabilitation centers, hospitals.

08:07

08:08

08:08

08:08

8 So, to answer your question, I
9 believe that there are many drugs that are gateway
10 drugs. However, the opioid portion of becoming an
11 addict, to answer your question, can take place at
12 any time, realistically. I mean, if you were to walk
13 outside here today and try it, who knows. I don't
14 know. It could be the first thing you try or the
15 last thing you try. It's a vicious cycle. So I
16 couldn't tell you at what stage someone was going to
17 attempt to use opioids.

18 MR. LORE: Okay. One last thing. Is it
19 possible that the opioid crisis, because of all the
20 litigation that's going on around the country with
21 the Purdue Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, the
22 billions of dollars that are at stake -- and check
23 your Washington Post and check the news in the last
24 few days -- that society is going to take care of

1 this and that the treatment centers across the
2 nation, it's going to shift from opioids back to
3 street drugs and possibly Fentanyl? Does that make
4 any sense to you, that theory?

5 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: You don't need to respond 08:09:
6 to that question. It's not in your purview.

7 MR. DAMATO: I really can't answer, too, to be
8 honest.

9 MR. LORE: Thank you very much.

10 MR. DAMATO: Thank you. 08:09:

11 MR. LARUSSO: My name is Vince Larusso --

12 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Sir, we can't -- speak
13 into the microphone.

14 MR. LARUSSO: I was.

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: And also -- 08:09:

16 MR. LARUSSO: Can you hear me now?

17 MS. WYSOCKI: Yes.

18 MR. LARUSSO: Okay. My question here is why
19 did they call Haymarket a healthcare center when it's
20 a drug treatment facility? Are they trying to 08:09:
21 influence everybody's mind here or what?

22 MS. WYSOCKI: You don't have to answer that.
23 It's not within the witness's purview.

24 MR. LARUSSO: I can't hear you.

1 MS. WYSOCKI: It's not within the scope of the
2 witness's testimony, so he doesn't have to answer it.

3 MS. PATEL: Hello, Rupal Patel, 768 Willow
4 Street, Itasca. So you mentioned that you work for a
5 urine screening organization or a company? 08:10

6 MR. DAMATO: I do.

7 MS. PATEL: So my question is is Haymarket a
8 customer of that company?

9 MR. DAMATO: That's a great question, and I
10 can tell you that, no, they are not a customer of the 08:10
11 company of which I'm within. They are not.

12 MR. PATEL: Is McDermott Center or any of
13 their entities a customer?

14 MR. DAMATO: Excuse me?

15 MR. PATEL: Any of their entities or any of 08:10
16 their businesses are they a part of?

17 MR. DAMATO: Absolutely not, no.

18 MS. PATEL: Thank you.

19 MR. DAMATO: Thank you, I appreciate that.

20 MS. WINGERT: Good evening. My name is 08:11
21 Cassandra Wingert. I live at 1349 Ogden Avenue.
22 Thank you for being here and sharing your testimony.

23 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am --

24 MS. WINGERT: Can you not hear me?

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Not very well.

2 MS. WINGERT: Do you need my name again?

3 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Yes.

4 MS. WINGERT: Sorry. My name is Cassandra

5 Wingert. I live at 1349 Ogden. Thank you for being 08:11

6 here and sharing your testimony, and thank you for

7 hosting this this evening. The other gentleman that

8 was up here had a question. I believe it was still

9 within your testimony area and within your ability to

10 answer. He had been asking about the opioid epidemic 08:11

11 being at the beginning, the middle, or the end.

12 I just want to know, without

13 treatment accessibility, do you expect there to be a

14 continuation in the amount of deaths we are facing in

15 this country and in this area? 08:11

16 MS. WYSOCKI: This is beyond the scope of the
17 witness's testimony.

18 MS. WINGERT: Okay. I just thought it was
19 common sense.

20 MS. PETERSON: Good evening. My name is 08:12
21 Jennifer Peterson. I live in Itasca. I have two
22 questions regarding two statements that you had made.
23 The first is you had said that Itasca residents are
24 concerned about the demographic of Haymarket or the

1 residents. I would like to know of which demographic
2 you were speaking and from where did you get this
3 information? Because it seems that you're presenting
4 Itasca residents in a poor light or trying to
5 introduce a straw-man argument that remains biased
6 in some way.

08:12

7 MS. WYSOCKI: Don't argue with the witness.

8 MR. DAMATO: I can comment on that, though.

9 MS. PETERSON: Let me rephrase it then. What
10 did you mean when you used the term "demographic"?

08:12

11 MR. DAMATO: So what I had meant was -- and I
12 actually commended Itasca, if you had heard me, for
13 everyone that has shown support for their city and
14 for being here, and I also touched on the "small town
15 proud" t-shirts, which I said that I enjoyed. I
16 thought it was great that the community stuck
17 together.

08:13

18 In fact, those same t-shirts are
19 sort of why I said something about the demographic in
20 stating that the demographic is -- you guys have, you
21 know, a little over 8,000 people within your -- you
22 know, within Itasca, and I know that that seems as a
23 strong concern to most of the people in this room as
24 far as being able to sustain the -- you know, the

08:13

1 accessibility and everything else that's needed in
2 order to run the organization, so that's what I had
3 meant when I used the term "demographic."

4 MS. PETERSON: So just to make sure that I
5 understood you clearly. So you were comparing the 08:13
6 demographic of the town of Itasca compared to the
7 demographic that -- in the area that Haymarket is
8 currently located in the City of Chicago?

9 MR. DAMATO: Yes. And what I had done was I
10 had simply stated that I am absolutely aware of the 08:14
11 differential in population. By no means did I try to
12 compare. The word "compare" does not play a role
13 between Itasca and the current location.

14 MS. PETERSON: Okay. My other question is you
15 said that people are quick to point the finger at 08:14
16 addiction or addicts. Again, were you referring to
17 Itasca residents?

18 MR. DAMATO: I actually said it's very easy to
19 sit back and point a finger at those who are
20 struggling. I did not -- 08:14

21 MS. PETERSON: So, again, are you referring to
22 Itasca residents?

23 MR. DAMATO: I didn't refer to Itasca or any
24 town, for that matter. I think that's a way of life.

1 I then stated, actually, that I am quick to do so
2 myself at times. So for me to sit here and say that
3 I said that about Itasca, that's false.

4 MS. PETERSON: I didn't say that you had said
5 that. I was just asking. 08:14

6 MS. WYSOCKI: Ma'am, ma'am --

7 MR. DAMATO: Thank you.

8 MR. CUDZICH: My name is Robert Cudzich. I
9 live at 218 Broker, Itasca. And my question is why
10 here? 08:15

11 MS. WYSOCKI: I'm sorry?

12 MR. CUDZICH: Okay. Why here, the Haymarket?
13 Why is this the best place over here to open up?

14 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Again, that's not in the
15 witness's purview. 08:15

16 MR. CUDZICH: I'll tell you why --

17 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Sir, sir, you are not to
18 give testimony. You are asking a question.

19 MR. CUDZICH: Okay. So why here?

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: It's not something that
21 this witness can answer. He's not -- 08:15

22 MR. CUDZICH: No, he's there to answer the
23 question. Otherwise why would he be sitting here?

24 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: There will be other

1 witnesses that can answer that question; that will be
2 more appropriate to answer that question.

3 MR. CUDZICH: I want to be respectful to you,
4 and, you know, we residents, we're not some kids.

5 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Listen to what I'm saying. 08:15
6 There will be other witnesses more appropriate to ask
7 that specific question. You will have the chance to
8 ask that question.

9 MR. CUDZICH: So I'm not appropriate at this
10 moment? 08:16

11 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: No, no, not to this
12 witness. Other witnesses will be speaking --

13 MR. CUDZICH: So what is the appropriate
14 question to ask this guy who is sitting here now?

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: It's based on his 08:16
16 testimony.

17 MR. CUDZICH: Okay, I'll be back.

18 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you.

19 MS. FIELDS: Hi, I'm Tina Fields. I live in
20 Itasca. So I have in question. You live in 08:16
21 Bloomingdale -- or you work in Bloomingdale. My
22 question is --

23 MS. WYSOCKI: Ma'am, I'm having trouble
24 hearing you. Would you speak closer to the mic?

1 MS. FIELDS: Is this better?

2 MS. WYSOCKI: Yeah, you can actually lift it
3 if you want.

4 MS. FIELDS: So we don't have the numbers yet
5 for how many people in DuPage are affected versus 08:16
6 DuPage and collar counties. But my question is we
7 are way up on the northeast side of DuPage, and you
8 mentioned Bloomingdale and Roselle and Itasca and
9 these are all very small areas. Although ours is
10 undoubtedly one of the smallest, if not the smallest. 08:17
11 So wouldn't Haymarket -- would you feel that
12 Haymarket would be better addressed in a different
13 area of DuPage?

14 It's a million people in DuPage. We
15 have 9,000 in all the towns around here that you 08:17
16 mentioned. I know that everyone can benefit in
17 DuPage, but wouldn't you feel, especially knowing of
18 the whereabouts of Bloomingdale, for instance, that
19 it would be better suited in another area where it's
20 much closer to the population? 08:17

21 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, again, this would
22 not be a question appropriate for this particular
23 witness. There will be other witnesses that this
24 question would be more appropriate for.

1 MS. FIELDS: Okay. I wasn't sure who that
2 would be, so I didn't want to miss it.

3 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Yeah. No, there will be
4 people coming up. Thank you.

5 Okay. For the petitioner, do you
6 have anything else for this witness or any other
7 further witnesses?

8 MS. DICKSON: No. Thank you, Anthony.

9 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you for your time.

10 (Witness steps down.)

11 Do you have another witness?

12 MS. DICKSON: I do. But I would like to
13 respond to one of the residents. You know, there is
14 a tremendous stigma associated with families who have
15 someone who has a substance abuse disorder and those
16 who suffer from it, and as part of the public comment
17 that's being presented in this cause, I would like to
18 give you an example of what Haymarket has had to read
19 and what the residents that we hope to treat have had
20 to read and the families who have loved ones who
21 suffer from substance abuse. These are real
22 comments. These are contained within the Itasca
23 public record.

24 Quote: I do not live here to have children

1 exposed to abnormal behavior. If so, I would have
2 stayed in Chicago. There's enough crime in the
3 metropolitan area. Do we need to add it to our small
4 town.

5 Comment: To deny the fact that drug problems 08:19:
6 start at Peacock as well as all primary schools in
7 DuPage and carry on through adulthood is naive. We
8 don't need any more negative influences on our
9 children as well as vagrants and panhandlers every
10 time we want to go to the post office or take Metra 08:19:
11 to work.

12 Comment: This facility would be located
13 extremely close to children-centered public sections
14 of Itasca. The nature of the facility is such that
15 it attracts the criminal element into the community. 08:19:
16 Anyone saying differently has not researched the fact
17 that's out there and met someone who has had
18 firsthand experience with these elements.

19 Comment: The walking distance from our train
20 station to the Holiday Inn is only three quarters of 08:19:
21 a mile. For most people, this would be a nice
22 20-minute walk on a concrete sidewalk year-round.
23 What that means is that a large "variety" of people
24 in Chicago could afford a train to Itasca and then

1 leisurely take the 20-minute walk to the Holiday Inn.

2 Itasca Comment: Do you really want Chicago's
3 drug addicts in your city?

4 Comment: I don't want it in my neighborhood,
5 not with schools, pools, and a lot of other places
6 where kids hangout. I have a two-year-old. I don't
7 want this crap. Take it somewhere else.

08:20

08:20

08:20

08:21

8 Comment: There's nothing you can say that
9 justifies this crack house being brought to Itasca.
10 Nothing. And that's what it is, a crack house.
11 Safety will no longer be an option with these
12 unstable individuals and their drug dealers walking
13 around our town. It's not just Itasca. This whole
14 area will become a ghetto. Is this what we want for
15 our kids? Really? We're all crazy about being
16 environment friendly and going green, but should we
17 be okay with turning our towns and schools into
18 ghettos? You better wake up.

19 These are comments that are being
20 sent to you and are being made on social media.

08:21

21 Obviously, there are people in your town who do not
22 want these people to come. I think it's important
23 for you to recognize that.

24 Our next witness you've heard about.

1 Where did he go? Dominic Ranieri. He is an Itasca
2 resident. I think he should be listened to with
3 respect. Dominic?

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 MR. RANIERI: In regards to the location 08:21:
6 that everybody's wondering why we chose this,
7 regardless of the outcome today, if it happens or
8 not, I'll tell you this: It's going to be a shame to
9 see that all these younger children are going to grow
10 older one day and they're going to go on to the next 08:21:
11 chapter of their life and I pray -- and I don't mean
12 this in a vindictive way but it's the truth. When
13 they do grow older, more than likely they would have
14 west down Irving Park Road to attend Lake Park High
15 School. Okay? Well, they would have had a friendly 08:22:
16 reminder on the left-hand side to always make wise
17 choices or you will be in a fight for your life at
18 Haymarket, also. Because it doesn't discriminate and
19 I'm not here to argue, but I think that would be a
20 really compelling thing to have in a town, because 08:22:
21 you don't know what it's like until you're there.
22 And most of the time that you're there, it's very
23 hard to get out.

24 So you can't hold your kids' hand

1 forever. Here I am, you know, up at the microphone,
2 something I never thought I would never do. Two
3 years ago, I had promised myself and my family that
4 anything I commit to, I'll never quit. And even
5 though it's hard for me to be up here, I didn't quit 08:22
6 and I'll never quit. And truth be told -- you know,
7 to the second gentleman that had questions, is he
8 better off dead or alive? I'll let you figure that
9 out. This isn't a battle for me. I don't struggle.

10 And I just lost a friend a week ago 08:23
11 that lives off Irving Park and Wood Dale Road. And,
12 no, that's not Itasca but it's pretty damn close to
13 it, and if I can make a difference in somebody's
14 life, that's all that really matters to me. I have a
15 lot of friends that may, you know, think differently 08:23
16 than me now after this experience but, you know, it's
17 just to help people, that's all, having lived it.

18 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Were you going to ask your
19 witness some questions?

20 MS. DICKSON: No, no, I was waiting for you. 08:23
21 I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. Are you done with
23 your testimony?

24 MR. RANIERI: Well, Anthony said, you know,

1 quite a bit of information, so I'll answer questions
2 and keep it short and stealth. Regardless, like I
3 said, you guys will probably win the battle. You
4 know, if your wishes are truly not to have that, all
5 the power to you, but I'm going to win the war on
6 drugs because now I've gotten the opportunity to
7 shine and help those that are not even here present.
8 You know what I mean? I'm a living example.

08:24

08:24

9 Haymarket made a tremendous impact on my life. I was
10 determined and I never quit, and now, two short years
11 later, here I am with a microphone in my hand trying
12 to make a difference.

13 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. RANIERI: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: So do any representatives
16 from other governmental agencies wish to question
17 this witness?

08:24

18 MS. SMITH: Jennifer Smith on behalf of Itasca
19 School District. I do not wish to question this
20 witness, but counsel did appear to testify in-between
21 the two witnesses, reading a number of statements
22 that were purportedly from Itasca community members.
23 I would like to cross her on the source of those
24 statements as it appears to be submitted as

08:24

1 testimonial evidence?

2 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay.

3 MS. WYSOCKI: That's fine. Go ahead.

4 MS. SMITH: Okay. So I would ask for you to
5 identify the source specifically of each purported
6 statement from an Itasca resident?

08:25

08:25

08:25

08:25

7 MS. DICKSON: All of the statements tonight, I
8 would be happy to provide them to both the panel and
9 the school district. All of the statements that I
10 read were either from FOIA responses that we got from
11 the Village of Itasca and, as such, were made part of
12 the record or from social media. And I didn't come
13 tonight with the actual identification of the
14 sources, but I will provide that to the school
15 district and to you. You've also probably already
16 read it if you're reading any of the e-mail coming to
17 you.

18 MS. WYSOCKI: So I did recognize that some of
19 them were from e-mails that we received, which are on
20 our website. Some of them, though, I did not
21 recognize. They may be from social media, and I'm
22 not familiar with what those comments are and where
23 they're from.

24 MS. SMITH: Okay. So we would ask for

1 specific information, and, as to social media, the
2 veracity of the identity of the poster to confirm
3 that they truly were Itasca residents as stated.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. WYSOCKI: Is there any other
6 representatives from other government agencies who
7 have questions for this witness?

08:26

8 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. Any property owners
9 within 250 feet who wish to question this witness?

10 MS. WYSOCKI: Dominic, we can't remember up
11 here. Can you just state your full name and address
12 to make sure that it's part of the record? Thank
13 you.

08:26

14 MR. RANIERI: Of course. Dominic Ranieri;
15 spelling, D-o-m-i-n-i-c, last name is R-a-n-i-e-r-i.
16 My address is 5 North 260 Bunker, B-u-n-k-e-r,
17 Terrace.

08:26

18 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you.

19 MR. RANIERI: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Any attorneys representing
21 a group or member of the public wish to question this
22 witness? Spokespersons on behalf of a group wish to
23 question this witness?

08:27

24 MS. TOMASEK: Good evening. How are you?

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, are you a
2 spokesperson on behalf of a group?

3 MS. TOMASEK: No, I'm speaking on behalf of
4 myself.

5 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. I don't think
6 anybody from a group came up.

08:27

7 MS. TOMASEK: I'm curious. I'm wondering,
8 you're so concerned about what's going to go on in
9 the community, I would like to know, I'm just
10 curious, how much interaction is there between the
11 residents of Haymarket and the local community?

08:27

12 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay.

13 MS. TOMASEK: What is the procedure? What
14 goes?

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Well, that would be a
16 question, I think, best directed towards another
17 witness.

08:28

18 MS. TOMASEK: Well, he's been there.

19 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Pardon?

20 MS. TOMASEK: This gentleman has been at
21 Haymarket. He would know.

08:28

22 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, do you want to address the
23 interactions you had with the surrounding communities
24 while you were at Haymarket? Is that a question that

1 you can answer?

2 MR. RANIERI: Well, I didn't really have any
3 interaction with the surrounding communities. I'm
4 confused with the question.

5 MS. TOMASEK: Well, are you able to go out in 08:28
6 the community and converse or --

7 MR. RANIERI: Absolutely not. It doesn't work
8 like that.

9 MS. TOMASEK: You're confined to --

10 MR. RANIERI: If you leave, you know, you've 08:28
11 got to get picked up. You don't just walked around
12 the town.

13 MS. TOMASEK: You cannot --

14 MR. RANIERI: At least I didn't. From my own 08:28
15 experience, all I did was go through the process. It
16 was an eight-week ordeal. It was for a couple hours
17 a day. We're not bad people. We just --

18 MS. TOMASEK: No, of course you're not. I was
19 just wondering --

20 MR. RANIERI: -- made real bad decisions and 08:28
21 because of that we're, you know --

22 MS. TOMASEK: Of course you're not.

23 MR. RANIERI: The reason I'm doing it is just
24 to prove that it doesn't mean that you're a bad

1 person.

2 MS. TOMASEK: But is it a more formal facility
3 where people are supervised or is it that you're able
4 to go out in the community and get to know the
5 people?

08:29:

6 MR. RANIERI: After months go by, I forget the
7 exact amount of days, but you will get a couple-hour
8 break, and, you know, what you do with your time is
9 up to you.

08:29:

10 MS. TOMASEK: Is up to you, right.

11 MR. RANIERI: You can't hold their hand
12 forever.

13 MS. TOMASEK: No, of course not.

14 MR. RANIERI: So I know people that have
15 relapsed, but I also know people that haven't. And
16 it takes months of urine samples and everything else.
17 Which is another reason why I'm clean. They would
18 randomly test me three days a week, and I did an
19 outpatient thing, so it's not like I stayed there
20 overnight.

08:29:

08:29:

21 MS. TOMASEK: So you could be an outpatient
22 there and go back to your home?

23 MR. RANIERI: Yeah, but you don't hangout
24 there. I mean, I didn't go walk around. I did what

1 I did and then went home and embarked on a mission
2 that I completed.

3 MS. TOMASEK: So you're able to interact with
4 the community and be in your home?

5 MR. RANIERI: Well, I was outpatient, and I 08:30
6 don't know the details on this process but --

7 MS. TOMASEK: Thank you. Very informative,
8 thank you.

9 MR. RANIERI: You got it.

10 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Does any other individual 08:30
11 member of the public wish to question this witness?

12 MR. DIESTEL: My name is James Diestel. I
13 live at 107 West George Street. First off, I want to
14 commend you on your battle and getting sober, and
15 that's a great thing. I did have a question. 08:30

16 We received a piece of mail from
17 Haymarket yesterday, and it has a quote from you, and
18 it lists you as an Itasca resident. Do you currently
19 reside in Itasca?

20 MR. RANIERI: I do. 08:30

21 MR. DIESTEL: You do, okay.

22 MR. PREST: Hello, my name's Rudy Prest, and
23 I've lived in Itasca for about 25 years.

24 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Sir, you need to speak

1 into the microphone.

2 MR. PREST: Sorry. My name is Rudy Prest.
3 I've lived in Itasca for about 25 years. How are you
4 doing, Dominic? You're very brave to come up here
5 and talk. I just have two questions for you. 08:31

6 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: You need to speak into the
7 microphone.

8 MR. PREST: Oh, I'm sorry. I have two
9 questions for you. You said you want to help people.
10 When you first started -- when you first had your -- 08:31
11 I'm trying to figure out how to word this. The first
12 time that you got on a path to your addiction, do you
13 take responsibility for that? That you did it on
14 your own and you decided not to blame who brought it
15 to you and whatever happened? You made that 08:31
16 decision?

17 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir --

18 MR. PREST: You made that decision?

19 MR. RANIERI: I sure did.

20 MS. WYSOCKI: Dominic, that's beyond the 08:32
21 purview of what this commission is --

22 MR. PREST: I'm asking a question.

23 MS. WYSOCKI: And it's beyond the purview of
24 what this witness needs to answer for this

1 commission. Do you have a second question?

2 MR. PREST: Yes, I do. I know Haymarket
3 helped you, but there's also another influence in
4 your life that never gave up on you and always helped
5 you. And can you tell the people who that person is? 08:32

6 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, that question --

7 MR. RANIERI: So Rudy and I know each other,
8 and he's a person that I look up to. So we're not
9 arguing.

10 MR. PREST: I'm not arguing. 08:32

11 MR. RANIERI: So my dad made a tremendous
12 impact in my life, along with other family members,
13 but I don't know how they want to -- I don't mean to
14 interrupt but --

15 MR. PREST: Yeah, I'm just asking questions. 08:32
16 That's all. He came up here to speak, and I'm just
17 asking him some questions. I mean, if he comes up
18 here to be brave to speak about this and he wants to
19 help people --

20 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, I'm not going to argue with 08:32
21 you.

22 MR. PREST: I'm not arguing with you. I'm
23 just asking him questions.

24 MS. WYSOCKI: He answered your question. Do

1 you have any other questions?

2 MR. PREST: No, that was it. Thank you.

3 MS. WYSOCKI: Okay.

4 MR. BERGNER: Yeah, it's me again. I am --

5 MS. WYSOCKI: Can you please state your name
6 again because --

7 MR. BERGNER: Ryan Bergner. Do you need me to
8 spell it?

9 MS. WYSOCKI: Sure.

10 MR. BERGNER: B-e-r-g-n-e-r. I'm very happy
11 you're alive, just as your friend said. And as
12 someone who has had to deal with addiction, is
13 addiction purely in the realm of illegal substances?

14 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Again, I don't think this
15 is an appropriate question.

16 MR. RANIERI: Well, in my regard, it was an
17 opioid and it was -- you know, for a while it was not
18 a prescription and then eventually on to heroin.
19 But, yeah, that was illegal, but alcohol could be an
20 addiction and that's legal.

21 MR. BERGNER: Okay. I was just curious,
22 because many of the public comments gave the
23 impression that -- a number of people expressed that
24 they don't want people who are addicted to substances

1 in the community. But, as you stated, being someone
2 who has dealt with addiction, there's a lot of
3 substances we all use every day that form addictions,
4 so if you're concerned about a community full of
5 addicts, in many cases we are already there.

08:34

6 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Sir, at this point you're
7 giving testimony.

8 MR. BERGNER: I'm sorry. And I will shut up
9 for the rest of the night, so that should make a lot
10 of people happy.

08:34

11 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. I see nobody else
12 lined up. Thank you for your testimony.

13 MR. RANIERI: No, thank you.

14 (Witness steps down.)

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Do you have any other
16 witnesses?

08:34

17 MS. DICKSON: Yes. Another criteria the Plan
18 Commission and the Village have to consider is
19 whether the proposed use at the particular location
20 requested is necessary or desirable to promote a
21 service or facility which is in the interest of
22 public convenience and will contribute to the general
23 welfare of the neighborhood or community.

08:35

24 Haymarket, through its testimony

1 throughout these public hearings, will demonstrate
2 through its evidence that this criteria is met, but,
3 in addition to hearing from Haymarket
4 representatives, it's important to know that it is
5 not just Haymarket wanting this facility to open in 08:35
6 Itasca. Also appearing this evening and wishing to
7 provide testimony is Cheryl Potts, the executive
8 director of the Illinois Kennedy Forum.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. Could you state 08:36
11 your name and occupation once more?

12 MS. POTTS: Yes. My name is Cheryl Potts,
13 C-h-e-r-y-l P-o-t-t-s, and I'm the executive director
14 of the Kennedy Forum. Thank you to the members of
15 the Village of Itasca Plan Commission for this 08:36
16 opportunity to speak.

17 This microphone, I'm sorry, I'm
18 sorry I'm not AV capable and it's not staying up. Is
19 there a way to tighten it?

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: If not, you could just 08:36
21 take it off and hold it if that's more comfortable.

22 MS. POTTS: The Kennedy Forum stands in unity
23 with Haymarket Center and supports their proposal to
24 expand access to treatment through opening a site in

1 Itasca. But before I discuss the organization and
2 our reasons for support, I want to tell you a little
3 bit about me.

4 I have an MBA and I have worked in
5 social services and public health in Illinois for 08:37
6 over 20 years. I am a woman living with a mental
7 health disorder. I am a survivor of years of sexual
8 trauma. I am the youngest child of seven in an Irish
9 Catholic family from a very small town and the first
10 to go to college. I lost my brother to addiction and 08:37
11 suicide. I am a mother to an adopted young woman who
12 lost both of her parents to addiction. I am a
13 grandmother. I am an aunt to a young woman who
14 overdosed on heroin three times in one year, who
15 thankfully survived, and who lived with me while she 08:37
16 went through a long detox and treatment protocol. I
17 am the wife of a theoretical astrophysicist. I am an
18 Illinoisan. I'm a compassionate and passionate
19 advocate.

20 So why am I telling you all of this? 08:38
21 I'm telling you because I don't think I can be summed
22 up by just one of those statements. I am not as
23 simple as a label. I am not just an executive
24 director. I am not just someone living with a mental

1 illness. No one is. My identity is the result of
2 all of my experiences, some of which I spoke of
3 today. And it is through shared experiences that, as
4 humans, we make connections.

5 Maybe you relate to the fact that 08:38
6 I'm a parent or a woman or a grandparent or that I'm
7 living with a mental illness. Hopefully you have
8 not, nor ever will, identify with my loss of a loved
9 one to substance use and suicide. By sharing these
10 pieces of myself with you, I illuminate the fact that 08:39
11 people are complex individuals with potential for
12 strong, deep, meaningful connections as humans. The
13 addiction crisis is not composed of an anonymous
14 group of "those" people. The addiction crisis is me.

15 Empathy and understanding are what 08:39
16 the Kennedy Forum seek to achieve. Started by
17 Congressman Patrick Kennedy, the son of late Ted
18 Kennedy and nephew of President John F. Kennedy, the
19 Kennedy Forum was created to enact lasting change in
20 the way mental health and substance use disorders are 08:39
21 considered and treated. Based here in Illinois, the
22 organization aims to revolutionize the way mental
23 health and substance use care is addressed in
24 America, ending stigma in both attitudes and

1 practice.

2 Mr. Kennedy details in his book a
3 common struggle, his own personal battles with mental
4 health and substance use disorders, and the stigma
5 and discrimination that created barriers to him 08:40
6 engaging in treatment and almost ended his life.
7 Mr. Kennedy was not able to be here today, but he did
8 provide written support for opening a site of
9 Haymarket Center in Itasca.

10 We are dedicated to education and 08:40
11 advocacy to dispel the fiction and misunderstanding
12 around these unfortunately common diseases of the
13 brain. And the disease is pervasive. Given that
14 you're here tonight, you have already been paying
15 close attention to this issue and know that right 08:40
16 here in DuPage County in 2018, there were 98 overdose
17 deaths and almost 600 nonfatal overdoses. This does
18 not even begin to account for the jobs lost, the
19 families shattered, and lives hurt due to other
20 substance use that is happening behind so many of the 08:41
21 doors in our communities.

22 Dr. Vivek Murthy, former U.S.
23 Surgeon General, released a groundbreaking report in
24 2016 stating that one in seven people will develop a

1 substance use disorder in their lifetime. Looking
2 around this room, that is anywhere from 100 to 150 of
3 us. Dr. Murthy further reported that the substance
4 use treatment system in the United States only has
5 capacity to treat 10 percent of the people who are 08:41
6 seeking treatment. So tomorrow, if 150 of us are
7 seeking treatment for care, only 15 of you will be
8 able to get it.

9 And like any other chronic diseases,
10 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease -- and it is a 08:42
11 chronic disease -- if a person does not receive
12 timely and consistent treatment, the outcomes can be
13 traumatic and deadly. For the first time since the
14 height of the AIDS epidemic, our country is
15 experiencing a decline in life expectancy. Americans 08:42
16 are dying at a faster rate and they are dying
17 younger, fueled in large part by the so-called
18 despair deaths -- that the media call -- of
19 alcoholism, drug addiction, and suicide.

20 We have the opportunity to stand 08:42
21 together and make a difference. In Illinois, DuPage,
22 Itasca, we must advocate not only for more substance
23 use and mental health treatment here in this Village,
24 but we must advocate for increased services in every

1 village. So the arguments -- if questions comes to
2 me, should a treatment facility be in my community?
3 Yes, and, actually, there is. Should there be one in
4 Bloomington? Yes. It should not be "or." It should
5 be "and." And the fact that the provided services 08:43
6 will be provided by a nationally respected
7 evidence-based comprehensive treatment provider makes
8 that decision even more attractive.

9 I have worked in social services and
10 public health for over 20 years at the AIDS 08:43
11 Foundation of Chicago, the Alexian Brothers Health
12 System, now known as Amita, and now at the Kennedy
13 Forum. For years I have been familiar with the
14 Haymarket Center and its reputation for being
15 high-quality treatment. They provide services that 08:43
16 are evidence-based and effective. Because of their
17 high standards of care and treatment outcomes,
18 Haymarket Center is often the recipient of federal
19 and state grants to provide leadership to the field
20 by piloting innovations in care. 08:44

21 One visit to the facility in the
22 West Loop will show their investment in the community
23 and the love of their clients. The facility,
24 established by Monsignor Ignatius McDermott, was

1 always meant to be a community resource and a source
2 of hope for its clients and community members.

3 Haymarket Center is high on my list of referrals when
4 I experience someone in my personal or professional
5 life struggling with substance use challenges.

08:44

6 Likewise, I have so many acquaintances in my personal
7 and professional life who credit Haymarket Center
8 with saving their own lives.

08:44

9 Like so many treatment facilities,
10 Haymarket invests in its community. Its location in
11 the West Loop has been unfazed by its presence with
12 multimillion dollar condominiums located down the
13 street and nationally acclaimed restaurants, bars,
14 and nightlife located steps away from its door.

15 Residents in the West Loop and visitors to the West
16 Loop walk by Haymarket Center every single day and
17 have no idea what is behind those doors.

08:45

18 But more than that, Haymarket Center
19 provides health fairs, education, and support
20 services to the surrounding community and beyond.

08:45

21 This is similar to my own professional experience at
22 Alexian Brothers, where I ran two recovery homes; one
23 located in the heart of Wrigleyville and one located
24 on a quiet residential street of Waukegan. At

1 Alexian Brothers and Haymarket Center alike, clients
2 are members of these communities, not a blight on the
3 block. Three blocks from where I live is a substance
4 use recovery home. One which I walked by and jogged
5 by for over 10 years, never thinking that it was more
6 than an apartment building until I needed services
7 for my niece. Then I not only found out it was a
8 recovery home but I found a support system in my
9 backyard to serve my family, and I was immensely
10 lucky and grateful.

08:45

08:46

11 Substance use and addiction are
12 challenges that effect so many individuals in this
13 country, in this state, and in this Village; indeed,
14 in this room. People are dying because of lack of
15 access to quality treatment and because of stigma and
16 discrimination around the disease. It killed my
17 brother in 1999, and it almost killed other members
18 of my family, including my niece.

08:46

19 We have an opportunity to make a
20 connection in Itasca; connection between people
21 struggling with mental health and substance use
22 disorders and those who can help; connection to
23 remind people that we are greater than the labels
24 that are thrust upon us. I work with professionals,

08:46

1 older and younger adults, mothers, daughters, sons,
2 CEOs, business owners, lawyers, police officers, and
3 so many other labels who share a common experience,
4 addiction.

5 The statistics suggest that we will 08:47
6 all experience addiction at some point in our lives,
7 either directly or indirectly, and when that time
8 comes, I want to have access to the best services
9 available to achieve the best outcomes possible. I
10 want a reputable treatment facility like Haymarket 08:47
11 Center available to me and my loved ones.

12 Small towns like the one I grew up
13 in, like Itasca, should be proud. Proud for being a
14 beacon of hope in our world for those seeking
15 treatment. Be small town proud for your children, 08:47
16 for your neighbors and friends, by partnering with
17 Haymarket Center.

18 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you. Okay. So are
19 there representatives from other governments that
20 wish to question this witness? Property owners 08:48
21 within 200 -- or sorry.

22 MR. DI NOLFO: My name Steve DiNolfo, and I
23 represent the Itasca Fire Prevention District.

24 Ms. Potts, I was just inquiring a

1 little bit about your background. During your time
2 at Amita, did you have any involvement with a
3 facility located on 1250 Moon Lake Drive in Hoffman
4 Estates.

5 MS. POTTS: No. I believe that's the 08:48
6 behavioral health hospital, and so my part of the
7 organization was separate. So I saw people from
8 there, but I didn't have any direct management of it,
9 no.

10 MR. DI NOLFO: And from your involvement, even 08:48
11 if it was limited, do you have any knowledge of the
12 impact that that facility has on EMS services in
13 Hoffman Estates?

14 MS. POTTS: I am not aware of that, no. I can
15 only speak to my facilities. 08:49

16 MR. DI NOLFO: And in your facility, did you
17 have a contract with private ambulances?

18 MS. POTTS: No, we did not have to have -- so
19 I run recovery homes, and we did not have to contract
20 with private ambulances. There were -- we did not 08:49
21 ever have an issue with that.

22 MR. DI NOLFO: So in situations where you
23 needed emergency help for EMS calls, you would use
24 911 and rely on the local public entity for those

1 services?

2 MS. POTTS: Just like a nursing home would or
3 any other medical facility, yes.

4 MR. DI NOLFO: Which can have a negative
5 impact on the operation of a department if it becomes 08:49
6 excessive, from your experience?

7 MS. DICKSON: Was that a question?

8 MR. DI NOLFO: Sounded like one to me.

9 MS. POTTS: It was a statement, actually.

10 MR. DI NOLFO: I think it was a question. I 08:49
11 said you would agree it could have an negative impact
12 on an EMS system if it becomes excessive? If you
13 don't know, that's fine.

14 MS. POTTS: Honestly, that's outside of the
15 scope of what I know. I can tell you with my 08:49
16 organization, the recovery homes, we had around 250
17 units, and we did not have any type of negative
18 impact on the EMS services. So I can only speak to
19 my facility and from my experience.

20 MR. DI NOLFO: Okay. Since you work closely 08:50
21 with Haymarket, do you have any information about the
22 number of 911 calls that they placed in the City of
23 Chicago?

24 MS. POTTS: No, I don't know why I would have

1 that information.

2 MR. DI NOLFO: You indicated you work closely
3 with them. I thought you might know that. You don't
4 have that information?

5 MS. POTTS: I'm an advocate. No, I don't have 08:50
6 that information. But I know that Haymarket will be
7 testifying later, and I'm sure that they are the
8 right people to direct that question to.

9 MR. DI NOLFO: Thank you very much.

10 MS. POTTS: You're welcome. 08:50

11 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Any other governmental
12 agencies wish to question this witness? Okay.
13 Property owners within 250 feet, would you like to
14 question this witness? Attorneys representing a
15 group or member of the public, would you wish to 08:51
16 question this witness? Got one.

17 MR. ELLENBECKER: Good evening, Ms. Potts.
18 Steve Ellenbecker, 260 North Oak, as well as attorney
19 for Concerned Citizens of Itasca. Just a couple of
20 brief questions. 08:51

21 MS. POTTS: Sure.

22 MR. ELLENBECKER: One of the Kennedy Forum's
23 aims is to accelerate initiatives at the state level,
24 is that correct?

1 MS. POTTS: One of our aims is to accelerate?
2 I didn't hear the whole question.

3 MR. ELLENBECKER: Initiatives for mental
4 health and substance abuse treatment at the state
5 level, correct? 08:51

6 MS. POTTS: Yes.

7 MR. ELLENBECKER: And would you -- are you
8 familiar with the Roosevelt Study from Roosevelt
9 University of 2015?

10 MS. POTTS: No, I'm not. 08:51

11 MR. ELLENBECKER: Well, let me ask it outside
12 that context then. Would you agree that one of the
13 major reasons for the shortage of mental health and
14 substance abuse treatment in the state of Illinois is
15 because of the substantial shortfall of state 08:52
16 funding?

17 MS. DICKSON: I believe this is outside --
18 (Audience clapping.)

19 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Again --

20 MS. WYSOCKI: Itasca quiet down, please. 08:52

21 I'm sorry, Mary, can you make your
22 objection here on the microphone? I'm having trouble
23 hearing.

24 MS. DICKSON: I believe this is outside of the

1 scope of what we're here for today.

2 MS. POTTS: I'm happy to answer the question.

3 I actually disagree with that
4 statement pretty significantly. The funding is much
5 more complex than just a state shortfall. If that 08:52
6 were the case, Illinois would be the only state in
7 the country struggling with this. But, in fact,
8 we're looking at a shortage of providers and, more
9 importantly, what the Kennedy Forum is fighting
10 against is stigma and discrimination at the health 08:52
11 insurance level, and we just had a case that we won
12 against a health insurance company that, right here
13 in the state of Illinois, was denying treatment to
14 individuals who qualify and were seeking treatment.

15 So I absolutely disagree that state 08:53
16 funding is a significant part of the shortfall.
17 That's just -- that is a fact that's not -- does not
18 play out correctly.

19 MR. ELLENBECKER: Are you aware that as of
20 2016, the Illinois state budget, or proposed budget, 08:53
21 represented a 61-percent decrease in state funded
22 addiction treatment?

23 MS. POTTS: And there was also, I believe, a
24 20-percent increase this year that was approved by

1 the governor. So I guess if you want to talk about
2 2016, but I think more relevant are the numbers that
3 were approved this current year and what they look to
4 be going forward. There's also additional money
5 that's coming in through the federal government,
6 through SAMHSA, which is the federal entity that
7 oversees mental health and substance use treatment.

08:53

08:54

8 So again the state -- while I
9 understand what you are trying to get at, I believe
10 that the state funding is a very small portion of
11 what the overall funding is for these areas.

08:54

08:54

12 MR. ELLENBECKER: And are you aware that --
13 you indicated that you weren't familiar with the
14 Roosevelt study, correct?

15 MS. POTTS: I'm not, no.

16 MR. ELLENBECKER: Okay. And even if there is
17 a 20-percent increase in funding with the current
18 budget, you'd agree that if the Roosevelt study is
19 accurate as of 2016, we're still down 40 percent.

20 MS. POTTS: I can't answer that, because I
21 don't know what the Roosevelt study is, yeah.

22 MR. ELLENBECKER: Fair enough. That's it.

23 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Any other attorneys
24 representing a group or member of the public?

1 Spokespersons on behalf of a group? Any group wish
2 to question this witness? Okay.

3 So individual members of the public,
4 please line up. And, again, I would like to remind
5 everybody if you can keep your questions within the
6 purview of the testimony that the witness gave.

08:55

7 State your name.

8 MS. PIERCZYNSKI: My name is Johann
9 Pierczynski, and I'm at 6N504 Fairway Lane in Itasca.
10 I came up here -- I thought this particular meeting
11 was regarding the zoning. Well, you brought up the
12 fact that this was really -- we are almost at a
13 shortage for places that handle this kind of thing.
14 I mean, she made it sound like we are really in dire
15 need.

08:55

08:56

16 MS. WYSOCKI: Ma'am, do you have a question?

17 MS. PIERCZYNSKI: Yeah, the question I have is
18 if that's the case, if this Haymarket is the savior
19 of everything, we currently have 47 facilities within
20 a 10-mile radius of Itasca. How many more -- I don't
21 understand the necessity of it being in this
22 particular area.

08:56

23 I could see, perhaps, maybe
24 Naperville or another community that has an

1 overabundance, but I'm looking at what Dupage County
2 put out, and there's 47 individual places where
3 people can go get help. Why is Haymarket so bent on
4 bringing it here? I don't see the need. There's no
5 need. They shouldn't be here. And you're telling
6 me -- are you saying that --

08:56

7 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, ma'am --

8 MS. PIERCZYNSKI: -- 47 isn't enough? That's
9 my question. 47, is that not enough?

08:57

10 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. Question asked.

11 MS. POTTS: There are people who are being
12 turned away from treatment every day, so the short
13 answer is, with the lack of services in the
14 community, the number of facilities that are in our
15 area are not enough to meet the need.

08:57

16 MS. PIERCZYNSKI: 47 is not enough --

17 MS. POTTS: It's not.

18 MS. PIERCZYNSKI: -- for this area?

19 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am --

20 MS. PIERCZYNSKI: Okay. That's my question.

08:57

21 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. So, again, I'm
22 going to remind the people that are asking questions,
23 address the Chair, number one. Number two, we don't
24 need a back story on your question. Just ask the

1 question. Thank you.

2 MS. PIERCZYNSKI: Okay. I don't believe the
3 answer, but I got one. Thank you.

4 (Audience clapping.)

5 MS. WYSOCKI: No clapping. 08:57

6 MS. ZAKOS: Hi, my name is Helen Zakos. I
7 live at 405 Broker Avenue here in Itasca. Mr.
8 Chairman and Ms. Potts, my question is directed
9 towards you. You stated in your testimony tonight
10 that you have -- that timely and consistent treatment 08:58
11 is needed, otherwise outcomes could be deadly, is
12 that correct?

13 MS. POTTS: Yes.

14 MS. ZAKOS: In previous statements from
15 Haymarket supporters, Haymarket has suggested 08:58
16 utilizing private ambulances for emergency responses
17 for things like life-threatening emergencies,
18 including something like a heart attack. Do you
19 believe a heart attack should be required to have a
20 timely and consistent treatment? 08:58

21 MS. DICKSON: This is totally outside the
22 testimony of this witness. If the resident would
23 like these questions -- I'm sorry.

24 MS. WYSOCKI: I'm sorry. You guys have to

1 share the mic.

2 MS. DICKSON: If the questions are going to be
3 directed towards ambulance service or ambulance
4 response time, we have a witness who will testify to
5 that directly. This witness is not here to testify 08:58
6 tonight about how effective response times are.

7 MS. ZAKOS: So I will change my question. You
8 stated timely and consistent treatment is needed,
9 right --

10 MS. POTTS: Yes. 08:59

11 MS. ZAKOS: -- otherwise outcomes could be
12 deadly. So someone -- in your opinion, if someone
13 was having a heart attack, do you feel like they
14 would require timely and consistent treatment to
15 provide a proper outcome? 08:59

16 MS. POTTS: I guess maybe --

17 MS. WYSOCKI: This is outside of the purview
18 of this -- the scope of this witness's testimony.
19 I'm not going to require her to answer that.

20 MS. ZAKOS: I'm trying to get to the point 08:59
21 that she stated timely and consistent treatment for
22 good outcomes, otherwise we could have deadly
23 outcomes. Well, the attorney's telling her not to
24 answer so I guess --

1 MS. DICKSON: Well, I'm objecting to this
2 question. I made an objection to the question only
3 so that witness need not answer until you determine
4 whether --

5 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: We still can't hear you. 08:59:
6 You can lift the mic up.

7 MS. DICKSON: Everybody's shorter than me
8 tonight. I have objected to the question. It's
9 outside the purview of the testimony, and I ask that
10 you -- 09:00:

11 MS. WYSOCKI: And I agreed and so she didn't
12 have to answer.

13 MS. DICKSON: And that's why I have -- I have
14 witnesses who want to volunteer their testimony, but
15 I think that if we allow this free-form 09:00:
16 communication, we are not going to get through what
17 everybody in the audience wants us to get through
18 tonight, and so maybe we need a little bit more
19 restraint in the nature of the questions that are
20 being asked. 09:00:

21 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: We are trying, but we have
22 to hear the question before we know what the question
23 is.

24 MS. DICKSON: I agree. I agree, sir.

1 MR. KURINSKY: Bill Kurinsky from 312 North
2 Cherry in Itasca. If I understood the witness
3 correctly, I think you mentioned there was a facility
4 about three blocks from your house that you run past,
5 yes? Just curious, when you bought your house, did 09:00:
6 the agent advise you three blocks away or when you
7 sell your house, will you disclose that to people,
8 that there's a facility three blocks away and that
9 it's a very positive to have in the neighborhood? Do
10 you think that might add value to your home or what 09:01:
11 have you.

12 MS. POTTS: I don't think it adds or subtracts
13 value. I think it's not an issue at all. So when I
14 moved in, they didn't show me where the hospital was,
15 they didn't show me where any of those things were, 09:01:
16 and I wouldn't do that, and I treat it essentially
17 the same as I would other types of medical or
18 physical services.

19 MR. KURINSKY: So the positive you made it out
20 to be, you wouldn't disclose it to improve the value 09:01:
21 of your home?

22 MS. DICKSON: Now we're getting into arguing.

23 MR. KURINSKY: It's her personal self that she
24 has a vested interest. She promoted --

1 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir --

2 MR. KURINSKY: -- it as a positive. I'm just
3 curious if she would continue that.

4 Same question, she promoted the West
5 Loop as it's a positive to have in the neighborhood. 09:01:
6 If I got a job with Google or I went to dinner at
7 Next or Swift and Sons, do you think they would
8 promote to me or on their websites that their
9 neighbor is Haymarket?

10 MS. POTTS: So the issue is -- the thing with 09:02:
11 recovery homes, is you don't know they're a benefit
12 until you need it and then -- I'm sorry.

13 MR. KURINSKY: That's irrelevant.

14 MS. POTTS: You just asked me my opinion.

15 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, don't argue with the 09:02:
16 witness. Don't argue with the witness. If you have
17 a question for her, direct it to the Chair. We will
18 decide whether or not it's appropriate for her to
19 answer.

20 MS. POTTS: Yeah, I believe that you don't 09:02:
21 know the services are there until you need them. And
22 the reality is is that the stigma and discrimination
23 that exists around treatment facilities is incredibly
24 high. And having been a person who ran recovery

1 homes, I saw firsthand that the -- the discrimination
2 that was projected towards individuals living with
3 addiction and mental health disorders.

4 And so I would not think about
5 saying that there is a treatment facility down the 09:03
6 street until I knew someone needed it. Just like I
7 wouldn't say, you know, there's also a body shop
8 that's around the corner from where I live. I
9 wouldn't just promote that unless someone needed it.

10 So the point that I'm trying to make 09:03
11 is that we put so much weight and so much emotion
12 into a treatment facility, and the question we need
13 to ask ourselves is why? Why is there -- why is
14 there this visceral issue? If we were opening a
15 nursing home, if we were opening a body shop, would 09:03
16 we have these same questions? And it gets at the
17 emotion of the issue. That's my -- you asked my
18 opinion, sir, and that's my opinion.

19 MR. KURINSKY: I guess the other question that
20 we have is the individual, since this is an open 09:04
21 facility, can come and go, and we've established that
22 it's a short walk to the train or people coming in
23 commuting might use that train. And if they're
24 before their meeting, they might hangout or have a

1 coffee at the Starbucks in town or go to 7-Eleven for
2 a beverage. I assume some of these people that come
3 to the facility are maybe using at that time, because
4 they're starting the steps of the process. I don't
5 know if you're a mother and you have children but
6 let's say they are --

09:04

7 MS. POTTS: I'm a grandmother.

8 MR. KURINSKY: -- intoxicated at the time,
9 whatever substance they are --

10 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Sir, ask the question,
11 please.

09:04

12 MR. KURINSKY: The question is this: If my
13 child or anybody's child from town happened to be
14 hanging out at the same facility with these
15 individuals, started interacting with them, is it a
16 good experience for that let's say 7 to 18-year-old
17 to spend 20, 30, 40, 50 minutes with somebody that
18 may be using at the time? Because I think that's a
19 possibility that could happen.

09:04

20 MS. WYSOCKI: All right. Sir, I --

09:05

21 MR. KURINSKY: And I think as a child -- she
22 mentioned she had multiple family members --

23 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir --

24 MR. KURINSKY: -- that were abusing in her

1 home. I wonder if that was a good experience for
2 her.

3 MS. WYSOCKI: Okay. Sir, please don't
4 interrupt me. I understand the fact that this issue
5 is very important for you, but that's beyond the 09:05
6 purview of what this commission can ask. Okay? I'm
7 not going to require the witness to respond.

8 However, after hearing his concerns,
9 do you want to address them?

10 MS. POTTS: Again, I think people have a very 09:05
11 specific idea of what individuals living with
12 substance use and mental health disorders are. And
13 you keep saying "them" and it's me. Do you want your
14 daughter sitting next to me at Starbucks before I go
15 to treatment? Do you want -- so I really challenge 09:05
16 your assumptions.

17 And also knowing -- knowing -- I'm
18 not going to speak to the full breadth of services
19 that Haymarket provides, because I know they're going
20 to do that, but I know part of what they do are 09:06
21 drops. And my niece, when my niece was going through
22 outpatient, it was the first time in many, many years
23 that she was clean, because she was being dropped
24 three or four times a week. So, in fact, the people

1 who are -- I would argue -- again, my opinion -- the
2 people who are going to hangout at the Starbucks are
3 people who are working towards their lives getting
4 back on track and are not going to be the ones who
5 are exposing individuals -- or sitting in a Starbucks
6 being high. So I really challenge the perception of
7 what addiction and mental health looks like.

8 MR. KURINSKY: Thank you for answering.

9 MS POTTS: Thank you.

10 MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, if I may just for a
11 moment -- and I know there are people waiting in line
12 to speak. But I would offer a couple of comments
13 just to try to perhaps help with some of the focus of
14 the questions and let the commission know. I spoke
15 about many issues during our opening comments that
16 we're going to present evidence about, and maybe it
17 will help the public and the commission if they know
18 what our plan is as to whom we are going to present
19 as witnesses, that way the members of the public who
20 have questions specific to specific areas may want to
21 call upon that witness.

22 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: I think that would be very
23 helpful, and if you can speak into the mic a little
24 bit more, that would also be helpful.

1 MR. ROTH: I'm sorry. I'm guilty as well, I'm
2 sorry. So our plan tonight was to present witnesses
3 who are individuals to testify about the problem that
4 is here and is now, from their personal experience
5 and their professional experiences, and I think
6 that's what you've heard so far.

09:07

09:08

09:08

09:08

7 Personal experience with substance
8 use or mental disorders -- and/or mental disorders.
9 We are going to present, though, Dr. Dan Lustig, who
10 is the CEO of Haymarket, who is going to testify to a
11 number of the issues that I have presented. He's
12 going to testify after our individuals that I just
13 mentioned tonight testify about their personal
14 experiences.

15 Dr. Lustig is going to speak to the
16 issues of the public need in the Itasca area and
17 DuPage County for the services that Haymarket
18 provides. He's going to testify to reasons why the
19 860 West Irving Park Road is a good location to meet
20 that need. He's going to speak to what services that
21 Haymarket provides, how they provide them, who they
22 provide them to. He's going to speak to the
23 questions of why Itasca and why this location has
24 been stied as an appropriate location -- has been

1 targeted by Haymarket as the location. He's going to
2 speak to those issues. He's going to speak to the
3 licensure and what the operations are at Haymarket,
4 and he'll speak to other medical-related issues
5 relating to what the services are that are provided.

09:09

6 James Baldwin, the CFO of Haymarket,
7 is going to speak to the issue of the impact on
8 public services resulting from Haymarket's location
9 at this address. We have heard time and again about
10 how this may be a drain on the need for EMS
11 ambulatory services, et cetera. James Baldwin is
12 going to speak to those issues. So people that have
13 questions -- you can ask whatever you want of
14 whomever you want, but hopefully it will be within
15 the scope of their testimony. But James Baldwin is
16 going to speak to that specific issue.

09:09

09:09

17 Mike Hoffman is going to testify.
18 He's a municipal land planner. He's going to speak
19 to the zoning issues and why this particular use, in
20 his opinion, is compatible with the surrounding area
21 and why it meets the zoning criteria in the zoning
22 code. And he's also going to speak to the general
23 issue of economic impact of Haymarket on the
24 community.

09:09

1 Louie Abouna is going -- he's a
2 traffic engineer and a traffic consultant, and he's
3 going to speak to the issue of parking and the
4 adequacy of the roadway network and congestion in the
5 area if Haymarket were to acquire the property. And 09:10:
6 Ken Pollock is an evaluation expert, and he's going
7 to speak to that issue of impact on surrounding
8 property values.

9 So I want you, and perhaps the
10 public, to know that we do have individuals that are 09:10:
11 speaking to specific issues, and perhaps they can
12 understand that there will be individuals that will
13 be able to answer the specific questions they have.
14 Maybe this helps.

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you. Hopefully that 09:10:
16 does help.

17 MS. RIGGS: My name is Jasmine Riggs. I'm 19.
18 I'm a second year college student. And part of the
19 reason why I'm here tonight is because I took a
20 political science class, and I had to come to a town 09:11:
21 hall meeting for a legislator. So I am going to ask
22 a question, but I just want to thank you so much for
23 sharing your personal story, because you serve as an
24 inspiration for people who go through the same thing

1 and, you know, it's okay to talk about it and, you
2 know, it happens.

3 But I have one or two questions but
4 for the first, people who deal with like
5 psychological and mental health issues, since it's 09:11:
6 not a physical wound that's tangible or able to see,
7 a lot of times people feel like they can't address it
8 out loud, because people think since the pain's not
9 physical that it's not there.

10 So do you think that the drug abuse 09:11:
11 is the actual root of the problem, or do you think
12 that the psychological trauma that people go through
13 that goes unaddressed, that that's where the drug
14 abuse and trying to numb those type of feelings stems
15 from? 09:12:

16 MS. WYSOCKI: Ma'am, I'm not going to require
17 the witness to answer that question. It's beyond the
18 purview of this commission's inquiry.

19 MS. RIGGS: Okay. So then for my second
20 question, it seems, from what I've interpreted, that 09:12:
21 Haymarket is trying to take a soft approach in
22 fighting the opioid epidemic. So previously we have
23 seen -- with the war on drugs and labeling sick
24 people as super-predators and other demonizing

1 stigmas, we've seen how far that's taken us in the
2 opioid crisis today. So why do you think that
3 allowing this type of facility to be zoned in Itasca
4 and taking the softer approach, instead of like the
5 hard-core type that we've seen in previous years, how 09:12
6 do you think that that would actually benefit in
7 combating the opioid crisis instead of what we've
8 seen before?

9 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Yeah, again, I think that
10 question is beyond the purview of our questioning 09:12
11 here.

12 MS. RIGGS: Okay. So then let me rephrase.

13 Why do you think allowing Itasca
14 residents the opportunity to open their community,
15 their hearts, et cetera, et cetera, to these people 09:13
16 struggling in times of need, why do you think
17 allowing them in the community would benefit the
18 opioid crisis?

19 MS. WYSOCKI: I'm not sure I understood that.

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Yeah, I didn't understand 09:13
21 the question. Sorry.

22 MS. RIGGS: So why do you think that bringing
23 this facility into Itasca, how do you think that it
24 would help fight the opioid crisis, instead of like

1 turning the cheek and like passing it off to another
2 neighborhood? Why do you think it would be
3 beneficial here?

4 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: That I understand.

5 MS. WYSOCKI: Did you understand that? 09:13

6 MS. POTTS: I do. I think I do. So why do I
7 think that it would be beneficial to have the
8 Haymarket Center here in Itasca and will it benefit
9 the opioid crisis. And I think, in general, like I
10 had mentioned earlier, there just aren't enough 09:13
11 services, and I know that it doesn't seem that way.
12 But it really is, if you look at the numbers of
13 people who are turned away from services every day,
14 there's just not enough.

15 So I advocate that whether it's 09:14
16 Itasca, whether it's Bloomington, it should be all of
17 us coming together, and I think all of our
18 communities should be providing a response. And I do
19 think in that way it will make an impact, not just on
20 the opioid epidemic but on alcoholism, which is also 09:14
21 incredibly fatal, and other addictions.

22 MS. RIGGS: All right. Thank you.

23 MS. POTTS: You're welcome. Thank you.

24 MR. BOZONELOS: My name is Jack Bozonelos. I

1 live at 235 West North Street. My question for the
2 witness is you mentioned that you would be in support
3 of this facility in any location. So would it be
4 safe to say that if this location -- if Haymarket was
5 presenting to the Village Board of Naperville or
6 Wheaton or Glen Ellyn, that you would still be
7 sitting here supporting this facility?

09:15

09:15

8 MS. POTTS: I support the expansion of
9 services -- oh, I'm sorry, am I supposed to wait for
10 you to give -- I apologize.

09:15

09:15

11 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: No, you can answer that.

12 MS. WYSOCKI: You make my life easier, but
13 yeah.

14 MS. POTTS: Okay, I'm sorry. I support the
15 expansion of services, and so what I have said is not
16 necessarily it could be in any community. I actually
17 advocate that we should have these resources in every
18 community, which I think is a much different
19 statement. So I would be -- I would be at the table
20 for any community saying the same thing if it is
21 evidence-based and effective treatment. Just opening
22 up any center is not good either, but if it is a
23 solid evidence-based and effective treatment, I
24 wholeheartedly stand behind it for every community.

1 MR. BOZONELOS: So then my follow-up to that
2 is you're not here because you strongly believe
3 Itasca is the best community? You're here because
4 you feel the need for the service and that service
5 could be brought anywhere. But you're not because
6 Itasca is the best community for this?

09:16

09:16

09:16

09:16

7 MS. POTTS: At this point, every community is
8 the best community for it. And I know that Haymarket
9 is going to give much more detailed data around why
10 this community was chosen. I can't answer that. But
11 I do believe that we should be having this
12 conversation in every community.

13 MR. BOZONELOS: Thank you.

14 MS. DIESTEL: Hello, Nicole Diestel, 107 West
15 George Street. My question is you had mentioned that
16 you worked with recovery homes, and I was wondering
17 if you're familiar with the zoning in those areas for
18 your recovery homes? And is that similar to the
19 zoning that is currently where the Haymarket is and
20 that Haymarket's requesting?

21 MS. WYSOCKI: I think that's beyond the scope
22 of this witness's testimony. I'm not going to
23 require her to answer that question.

24 MS. KURINSKY: Hi, my name is Kristi Kurinsky,

1 and I'm a resident of Itasca, and I want to thank you
2 for coming and talking and sharing your story. I can
3 definitely relate to it, because I am with family
4 members that are addicted and also I've lost a
5 brother to suicide.

09:17:

6 MS. POTTS: I'm sorry to hear that.

7 MS. KURINSKY: So I completely relate to it.
8 But I have to kind of distance myself from the
9 emotional part of it and look at it more from the
10 business side of it. And from the -- you know,
11 making an appropriate decision and supporting it one
12 way or the other, right? And you seem to be somebody
13 who does a lot of research, who understands the
14 statistics, you do a lot of research --

09:17:

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, do you have a
16 question?

09:17:

17 MS. KURINSKY: My question to her -- or to
18 you, whoever -- is if a facility was wanting to come
19 into a village or a town and they are openly saying
20 that financially it's going to really detract from
21 the citizens, how would you overcome that? And
22 wouldn't you want to have the services best suited
23 for your family? That's my question.

09:18:

24 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Could you repeat that? I

1 only heard about half of that question.

2 MS. KURINSKY: So my question had to do with
3 more of the business aspect of it. So when a person
4 is going and looking for a rehabilitation center or
5 some sort of outreach, you're looking to provide the 09:18
6 best services possible. And, we, the community,
7 based on everything that's been posted on our
8 website, one of the biggest concerns is obviously on
9 the financial, where we're saying how are we going to
10 support a facility as large as this from the Village 09:18
11 perspective.

12 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Well, that would
13 be beyond --

14 MS. KURINSKY: And so my question to her is,
15 because she does a ton of research, clearly, and 09:19
16 she's very well-educated in all of the facilities, is
17 when you were researching it for your family, in your
18 instance, didn't you look to whether or not the
19 services were there to provide the best opportunity
20 for your family member to recover? 09:19

21 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Wait, I understand that's
22 important to you but --

23 MS. KURINSKY: It's very important. It's
24 important to a lot of people.

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: I'm not going to require
2 this witness to answer the question.

3 You may, if you'd like.

4 MS. POTTS: I don't have the fiscal analysis
5 that has gone into the zoning application. I'm going
6 to leave that for Dr. Lustig and other experts to
7 talk to, and I think that will probably address it.

09:19:

09:19:

09:20:

09:20:

8 MS. KURINSKY: But I think that's probably
9 something you looked to when you're looking for a
10 facility, right?

11 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, she has answered
12 that.

13 MS. KURINSKY: Okay. So then my next question
14 is you also mentioned that you were from a small town
15 and that small town also had a facility. And can you
16 tell me whether or not that facility was
17 proportionate to the population?

18 Because another concern is the
19 population of the facility and how large of a
20 facility will the community -- will it be
21 well-serviced, you know. And so how did it overcome
22 in your small town? What was your experience?

23 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, again, I think this
24 is beyond the purview of this particular witness.

1 MS. KURINSKY: She lived in Bloomington --

2 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Understood. And there's
3 other witnesses --

4 MS. KURINSKY: -- right? And she had a
5 facility --

09:20

6 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Let me speak, ma'am.
7 There's other witnesses that are coming up that the
8 lawyer -- and I forgot his name -- said would be
9 better suited to answer that question. There will be
10 witnesses coming up that will be better suited to
11 answer that question.

09:20

12 MS. KURINSKY: I'm impressed with the way she
13 spoke and the amount of information she provided so
14 I'm really interested in it.

15 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: I understand. But that's
16 not something this witness is required to answer, and
17 I don't believe she could answer.

09:20

18 MS. KURINSKY: All right. Well, I'm trying to
19 make a decision, and I thank you for letting me
20 speak.

09:21

21 MR. GREGOR: My name is Joe Gregor, 1125
22 Surrey, Itasca. I wanted to ask the witness, that in
23 her experience -- and it sounds like it's a lot of
24 experience at a lot of different facilities.

1 Specifically for a private-sector entity, 250 beds,
2 is that big or medium or small? Is it typical? Can
3 you give examples of a facility this size in a town
4 this small? If you tell me there's hundreds or
5 thousands of them, it would make me feel better.

09:21

6 MS. WYSOCKI: I think that's beyond the scope
7 of her testimony. If you want to address his
8 concerns, feel free, if you know.

9 MS. POTTS: I don't have numbers to give you,
10 but what I know is that there are many facilities
11 with many different sizes. There are many facilities
12 of many different sizes. I can't give you a
13 breakdown of where they're located, so, yeah, I can't
14 answer that question specifically because I don't
15 have that data.

09:21

09:22

16 MR. GREGOR: Okay. Will somebody be able to
17 testify is this a really big, almost experimental,
18 size in a small town? Or is this kind of typical?
19 Does somebody know that?

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Well, I think the people
21 that are coming up later heard the question and
22 probably will be prepared to answer that in some form
23 or fashion.

09:22

24 MR. GREGOR: Okay, thanks.

1 MR. WOLFE: My name is Michael Wolfe. I live
2 at 922 Clover Ridge Lane in Itasca. And my question
3 to the witness is in relation to her comments about
4 how she -- that we must advocate for increased
5 services everywhere, and she clarified that statement
6 as well with another question.

09:22

09:23

7 My question is is that advocacy at
8 all impacted by the kinds of issues that this
9 commission is considering? For example, the
10 financial impact on a village or the impact on its
11 residents? That is, would she advocate independent
12 of any considerations that would be relevant to this
13 group specifically?

09:23

14 MS. WYSOCKI: So are you asking whether she
15 considered those issues?

16 MR. WOLFE: Does her advocacy account for any
17 other issues besides the issues that she raised as
18 opposed to the issues that would be of relevance to
19 this group standing in front of me?

09:23

20 MS. WYSOCKI: In your advocacy here, have you
21 considered the issues that he's raised? Such as the
22 financial impact on Itasca?

23 MS. POTTS: So my role, the one I wanted to
24 bring forward, was my understanding of the need for

1 services, so I have not done -- I think another
2 person asked. I haven't done the financial analysis,
3 nor have I reviewed the financial analysis. I
4 believe there might be one from the Village and/or
5 Haymarket. So instead of unpacking everything, which 09:24
6 I would have been the only witness here tonight, my
7 role is really to look at what -- the prevalence of
8 the disease and what is the need for services so --

9 MR. WOLFE: So if I may ask a follow-up. So
10 if I understood that correctly -- so your advocacy -- 09:24
11 if I can summarize, your advocacy -- is it correct to
12 say that your advocacy does not account for any of
13 the issues, such as financial impact, because you
14 have not looked at those issues? And if you were to
15 look at those issues and discover an impact, would 09:24
16 that change your advocacy or not?

17 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Well, that would then now
18 be beyond the scope of this testimony.

19 MS. WYSOCKI: And it's been answered by the
20 witness already. 09:24

21 MR. WOLFE: Okay, thank you.

22 MR. LORE: Steve Lore, 312 North Linden,
23 Itasca. You've stated here today that you've lived
24 in areas where there's recovery homes nearby and

1 there's been no instances of bad activity. Is that
2 correct?

3 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Could you speak up, sir?

4 MR. LORE: You stated that you've lived near
5 recovery homes, and you said that you don't believe
6 there's anything more inherently dangerous about that
7 facility than a house full of, you know, a family or
8 whatever. Is that correct?

09:25

09:25

09:26

09:26

9 MS. WYSOCKI: What's your question, sir? Did
10 she say that?

11 MR. LORE: Yeah, did you say that?

12 MS. POTTS: I said that around three blocks
13 from where I live is a recovery home, and I didn't
14 know it existed until two years ago when my niece
15 needed services. So that was my statement.

16 MR. LORE: Okay. So would it be accurate to
17 say that you don't believe that a facility is any
18 more inherently dangerous to the community than any
19 other, you know, business or residence?

20 MS. POTTS: It's not just -- it's my opinion
21 that it's not more dangerous, but there's also data
22 that shows that around recovery homes, there is no
23 inherent difference in rate. So that data is
24 publicly available, too, so it's not just my opinion.

1 MR. LORE: Okay. So one last question, then.
2 Why does every single community in the history of the
3 United States have zoning laws against this type of
4 facility in a certain place?

5 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, I'm not going to require 09:26
6 the witness to answer that question. I don't know
7 that it's accurate, and you're arguing with the
8 witness.

9 MS. DICKSON: That is absolutely not true.

10 MR. LORE: So you can put a treatment 09:27
11 facility, no matter what it is, anywhere?

12 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Sir, I think we're done
13 with your line of questioning.

14 MR. LORE: Thank you.

15 MS. KATES: (Inaudible). 09:27

16 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: You need speak into the
17 microphone, directly into the microphone. We can't
18 hear you.

19 MS. KATES: Christine Kates --

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Thank you. 09:27

21 MS. KATES: -- Wheaton, Illinois. I have a
22 daughter who struggled with substance abuse issues.
23 I think substance abuse --

24 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Please speak directly into

1 the mic.

2 MS. KATES: Substance abuse is not something
3 that's specific to criminals, derelicts, crack-heads.
4 People can be addicted to legal substances, such as
5 alcohol, pain pills, et cetera, et cetera. So
6 sometimes when people find themself in these
7 positions and they need help and they have nowhere to
8 go, then it becomes a problem.

09:27

09:28

09:28

09:28

9 But my question is what percentage
10 of the people that are treated in places such as
11 Haymarket -- and I think it's a plus that DuPage
12 County has this opportunity to have this facility to
13 service its people.

14 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: What's your question?

15 MS. KATES: Well, my question is what
16 percentage of the people that they serve are addicted
17 to non-street -- you know, to legal substances? Has
18 anybody ever done a study on that? It's not all
19 street drugs, not all opioids. It's not all crack.

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, that is beyond the
21 witness's purview.

22 MS. KATES: I'm sorry?

23 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: That is beyond the
24 witness's purview.

1 MS. KATES: Well, I thought she may have an
2 idea, because I had to turn it into a question. And
3 I'm trying to make a point and I think I've made my
4 point. But thank you.

5 MS. POTTS: Thank you. 09:29

6 MS. KAMINSKI: My name is Kathy Kaminski. I
7 live in Itasca. You said that you lived in Waukegan,
8 I believe, with a treatment -- or Evanston?

9 MS. POTTS: No, no, I run a recovery home that
10 was in Waukegan. 09:29

11 MS. KAMINSKI: Can I ask the size of it
12 compared for the population of Waukegan? Like how
13 many rooms were there?

14 MS. DICKSON: That's not relevant.

15 MS. KAMINSKI: She runs a recovery -- 09:29

16 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, there will be
17 witnesses coming up are better suited --

18 MS. KAMINSKI: She said she runs a recovery
19 home in Waukegan. So what's the size of that
20 recovery home that she runs? 09:29

21 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Is that your only
22 question?

23 MS. KAMINSKI: Compared to -- Waukegan's 10
24 times the size of Itasca.

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: But that's not what this
2 witness is testifying about.

3 MS. KAMINSKI: She says she runs a recovery
4 home, a rehab facility. How big is it compared to
5 the town? 09:29:

6 MS. WYSOCKI: Do you want to answer the
7 question?

8 MS. POTTS: It requires context, because this
9 facility is specifically for people living with HIV,
10 and so when you look at the population of people 09:30:
11 living with HIV who are living with addiction in
12 Waukegan, it was a housing facility for eight of
13 those individuals. And we had 30 other housing
14 facilities -- 30 apartments, I'm sorry, for those
15 individuals where we did in-home services as well so 09:30:
16 in total --

17 MS. KAMINSKI: So like 38 rooms for a town of
18 87,000 people?

19 MS. POTTS: But, remember, it was
20 specifically -- 09:30:

21 MS. WYSOCKI: Ma'am, you're arguing at this
22 point.

23 MS. KAMINSKI: All right. I'm just wondering
24 about the size of the rehab that was going on for the

1 size of the town.

2 MS. WYSOCKI: And she's answered that
3 question.

4 MS. POTTS: For people living with HIV.
5 (Audience clapping.)

6 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: No clapping. Thank you.

7 MR. ROBISON: Hi, my name is Jacob Robison.
8 I'm an Itasca resident. My question for you would
9 be, based on your statements that you believe there
10 should be a center in every community, isn't one
11 large facility very far north in DuPage County pretty
12 contradictory to that?

13 MS. WYSOCKI: Sir, that's beyond the scope of
14 this witness's testimony. I'm not going to require
15 an answer, and it's been asked and answered several
16 times of this witness. Do you have any other
17 questions?

18 MR. ROBISON: I'm not sure how that question's
19 been answered, but no.

20 MS. WYSOCKI: All right.

21 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Are there any other
22 questions for this witness?

23 Thank you for your time.

24 (Witness steps down.)

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Before you continue, I
2 just want to point out it's 9:30 currently. We have
3 a half hour, little bit less than a half hour, before
4 we need to shut down. Would you like to continue at
5 this point with another witness or wait until --

09:32

6 MS. DICKSON: You know, with the Board's
7 pleasure -- with the Board's pleasure, I think we
8 would have the opportunity to do one more witness,
9 but it depends on the nature of the questions that
10 are asked of the witness.

09:32

11 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: I understand.

12 MS. DICKSON: I can't control that, so I'll
13 leave that to the Board.

14 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: As long as you understand
15 that we may have to stop in the middle of a witness
16 and pick it up.

09:32

17 MS. DICKSON: Well, I'm hoping that we'll stop
18 with this witness after we start it, but that's out
19 of my control.

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Fair enough. Then you may
21 bring up your witness.

09:32

22 MS. DICKSON: Relative to the need for the
23 facility, I would ask Dr. Roger Stefani and Steven
24 Stefani to testify.

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: And what will they be
2 testifying to?

3 MS. DICKSON: To the need for a treatment
4 facility.

5 (Audience talking.)

09:33

6 MS. DICKSON: Seriously, respect the
7 witnesses. This is uncalled for.

8 MS. WYSOCKI: The crowd needs to be quiet.
9 The petitioner is allowed to present their case, and
10 they're allowed to present their witnesses in the
11 order that they're going to be presented.

09:33

12 I do have a question very quick,
13 counsel, are both --

14 MS. DICKSON: They're together.

15 MS. WYSOCKI: Okay.

09:33

16 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: For the crowd, you've been
17 pretty good up to this point. We have a half hour
18 left. Hang in there. Be respectful.

19 (Witnesses sworn.)

20 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: If you could introduce
21 yourselves.

09:34

22 MR. ROGER STEFANI: Yes. I'm Roger Stefani.

23 MR. STEVEN STEFANI: I'm Steven Stefani.

24 MR. ROGER STEFANI: We live in DuPage County.

1 We don't live here in Itasca. We live in
2 Willowbrook, a community similar to Itasca in size
3 and in terms of banding together as a community to
4 work to try to -- well, in Willowbrook's case, it was
5 to get a company that was producing toxic fumes into 09:34
6 the air, that Willowbrook was able to successfully
7 band together to address. So I'm familiar with the
8 emotion that goes into the experience that Itasca has
9 been going through here. I just want to take a few
10 minutes to introduce us and what our story is. 09:35

11 (Audience talking.)

12 MS. WYSOCKI: Are you having trouble hearing?

13 MR. ROGER STEFANI: You can't hear?

14 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Yeah, just put it right up
15 to your mouth. 09:35

16 MR. ROGER STEFANI: Okay, I'm sorry.

17 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: As I'm learning.

18 MR. ROGER STEFANI: Okay. So my son, Steven's
19 twin brother, Matthew, died of an overdose in April
20 of 2015 at the age of 22. Following his death, Steve 09:35
21 and I, along with my wife Marge and my other son Ben,
22 my sister Cheryl, and my niece Colleen formed a
23 family foundation Hope for Healing dedicated to
24 addressing this horrible problem right here in DuPage

1 County.

2 As you know, this problem is
3 widespread and is faced by many across the country,
4 but we are focusing on efforts in here DuPage County.
5 10 to 15 years ago, when my sons Matt and Steve were 09:35
6 in middle school and high school and I was attending
7 events in the community focusing on substance abuse,
8 I never could have imagined that one day I would be
9 speaking before a group like this. But circumstances
10 in our life have led us here to lend our voice and 09:36
11 support to the efforts to address the needs of the
12 many individuals and families here in DuPage County
13 who are devastated by the opioid epidemic. We are
14 here tonight because, like many of you, we are afraid
15 and angry, and, at its core, our fears and anger are 09:36
16 about the same thing. We just have a different focus
17 for our feelings.

18 Many of you are focused on Haymarket
19 and the fear I imagine you have of the impact it will
20 have on your wonderful community. I know some of the 09:36
21 stated fears are like loss of tax revenues and impact
22 on community resources, but these kinds of issues
23 generally don't generate the kind of intense
24 emotional reaction that is so clearly evident. To

1 generate this kind of response usually means there's
2 something far more personal. I have to imagine that
3 the fear and the anger that goes -- that have to do
4 with concerns and the dangers that you think might be
5 associated with those with the disease of addiction
6 being treated here in Itasca. Like you, we are angry
7 and afraid. Not at you or at Haymarket but at the
8 highly insidious and deadly problem that is sweeping
9 our communities, including Itasca. No one is immune.

09:37

09:37

09:37

09:37

10 You are all probably aware of the
11 kinds of numbers of those affected. Over the last
12 five years, more have died each year from overdose in
13 the United States than the number of Americans that
14 died in the entire Vietnam war. We are part of those
15 numbers, but Matt and our family are far more than a
16 number. So here we are. We're not so different from
17 you, and we're not so different from the many young
18 people and their families we met on our journey with
19 Matt. Leading up to the time we became ensnared in
20 this problem, I thought we had an average or at least
21 a better chance to avoid these problems. We were and
22 are by no means perfect people, but we checked a lot
23 of boxes that we thought would get us through the
24 treacherous waters of raising children. Despite all

1 we did to provide a stable and loving foundation, the
2 problem found us.

3 At first the problem was fairly
4 innocuous involving marijuana use in the last couple
5 years of high school. Certainly a concerning problem 09:38
6 that we addressed in a way that we thought was
7 thorough and responsible. For a time, these things
8 seemed better but, really, the cancer of addiction
9 was just in remission. And when the cancer came
10 back, it roared back like a Stage 4 cancer. In 09:38
11 approximately a two-year period, Matt participated in
12 intensive treatment programs, some inpatient,
13 intensive outpatient, and sober living homes. All
14 these programs were located in the heart of
15 communities, as most of these programs are. 09:38

16 The big problem for us, as it is for
17 so many, is that none of these programs were where we
18 needed them to be; close to our home where we and
19 where Matt could readily draw on the strength of our
20 family, our friends, and our community. Too often 09:38
21 Matt would do great in the program only to be
22 followed by a lack of connection and continuity of
23 care between the program he was in and the programs
24 back here. You see, the programs he was in often had

1 connections and relationships with other programs
2 near them but not in our community. I can only begin
3 to tell you the dread and fear we experienced knowing
4 there was going to be these gaps in communication and
5 treatment. For those who have been through 09:39
6 treatment, it is well-known that the time following
7 discharge after inpatient treatment is one of the
8 riskiest times that individuals go through. What we
9 needed then was a program like Haymarket is
10 proposing. A program in the community. A program 09:39
11 that would enable the continuity of care. It's too
12 late for us, but there are many in our community who
13 will be able to benefit.

14 So let me conclude my comments with
15 this: I realize that there are strong beliefs and 09:39
16 feelings here tonight. Possibly there's nothing
17 anyone could say that would get you to consider a
18 different opinion about this matter. But whether or
19 not we leave here tonight in agreement about the
20 matter of Haymarket, I hope and pray that you will 09:40
21 all join us in other battles as we fight this war
22 with our common enemy, drug addiction. This war is
23 being fought in communities everywhere, including
24 Itasca. The only way we stand a chance of winning is

1 if we stand together. I believe we need to stand
2 with Haymarket and support their efforts to bring
3 help to our community.

4 MR. STEVEN STEFANI: So I had prepared some
5 remarks, but I think that talking about my personal 09:40
6 story and the way that addiction has devastated my
7 life and taken my twin brother from me is irrelevant
8 at this point. It's just another anecdote. But I
9 can't help but think, you know, addiction and
10 overdose has now turned into the top reason for 09:40
11 people to die under the age of 50. If there was any
12 other major medical epidemic like this that we -- you
13 know, people didn't have the care that was
14 available -- I believe it was, what, 15 out of every
15 150 -- we would be shaking our heads why? 09:41

16 And, you know, I know that this
17 problem is -- you know, it's been around for a very
18 long time, and people may be wondering why now? Why
19 is this an important issue now? And it's because the
20 numbers are going up, not down. More and more people 09:41
21 are dying, and the issue with fentanyl being mixed
22 with these drugs is making this issue so much more
23 pervasive. It's becoming an issue where more and
24 more people are dying in an instant. You know, I

1 guess that's all I have.

2 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay, thank you. Are you
3 both done?

4 MR. ROGER STEFANI: We are.

5 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Okay. So representatives 09:41:
6 from other governments, would you like to question
7 these witnesses? Property owners within 250 feet?
8 Attorneys representing a group or member of the
9 public? Spokespersons on behalf of a group, do you
10 have questions? Individual members -- yeah, 09:42:
11 individual members of the public, do you have
12 questions?

13 MS. BEERMAN: Hi, my name is Katie Beerman,
14 and I'm an Itasca resident. I just want to say that,
15 with all due respect to all the witnesses that have 09:43:
16 presented tonight, I don't see how any of these
17 witnesses are directly relating to the zoning issue.

18 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Ma'am, do you have a
19 question?

20 MS. BEERMAN: Yes. How have these witnesses 09:43:
21 related to the zoning of this building? Thank you.

22 (Audience clapping.)

23 MS. WYSOCKI: Are there any other questions
24 for this witness?

1 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Do you have anything else
2 with the witness?

3 MS. DICKSON: No. Thank you, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Then you're excused.
5 Thank you very much.

09:43

6 (Witnesses step down.)

7 MS. DICKSON: Given the time, perhaps this
8 would be a good time to break? I could call another
9 couple of witnesses, but it's up to you.

10 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Probably best to continue
11 at this point. I would agree.

09:43

12 MS. DICKSON: To continue to the next date?

13 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Continue to the next plan
14 meeting.

15 MS. DICKSON: Okay.

09:44

16 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Can I get a motion to
17 continue the meeting until Monday, October 28th,
18 2019, which will be a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. at
19 Lake Park High School, here, West Campus?

20 MR. HOLMES: So moved.

09:44

21 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: Do I hear a second?

22 MR. CARELLO: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN KISCHNER: All in favor?

24 (Chorus of ayes.)

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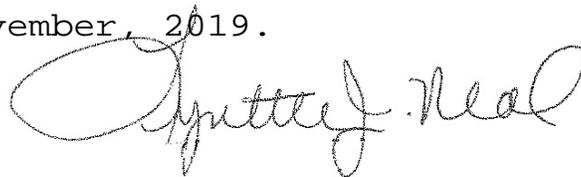
1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
2 COUNTY OF DU PAGE)

3 I, Lynette J. Neal, CSR. No. 84-004363, RPR,
4 do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the
5 proceedings had at the public hearing of the
6 above-entitled cause and that the foregoing Report of
7 Proceedings, Pages 1 through 133, inclusive, is a
8 true, correct, and complete transcript of my
9 shorthand notes taken at the time and place
10 aforesaid.

11 I further certify that I am not counsel for
12 nor in any way related to any of the parties to this
13 suit, nor am I in any way, directly or indirectly
14 interested in the outcome thereof.

15 This certification applies only to those
16 transcripts, original and copies, produced under my
17 direction and control; and I assume no responsibility
18 for the accuracy of any copies which are not so
19 produced.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand
21 this 18th day of November, 2019.

22 
23

24 Certified Shorthand Reporter

1	2015 87:9 124:20	5	9,000 58:15
1 4:7	2016 78:24 88:20 89:2, 19	5 19:23 33:21 66:16	911 84:24 85:22
10 20:15 79:5 82:5 119:23 125:5	2018 78:16	50 8:20 12:16 15:5 98:17 129:11	922 114:2
10-mile 90:20	2019 15:13 19:23 20:5,7, 9,21 131:18	500 46:21	98 78:16
100 79:2	20s 31:2	505 45:22	9:30 7:10 122:2
107 70:13 108:14	21 29:8	57,000 24:9	A
10:00 7:11	218 56:9	5th 20:9	ability 14:2 53:9
11 20:16	21st 20:5	6	able 22:15 23:7 27:1 45:8,12,16 54:24 68:5 69:3 70:3 78:7 79:8 103:13 104:6 113:16 124:6 128:13
1125 112:21	22 124:20	6 20:3	abnormal 60:1
12 20:17 27:22 32:14 37:14,15 45:24 46:2,7	22nd 20:7	600 78:17	Abouna 103:1
1250 84:3	23 42:11	60s 38:23	about 6:18 28:1,19 29:4 33:3 34:19 36:19,22 38:2 39:1,17 49:10 53:10,24 54:19 56:3 61:15,24 67:8 70:23 71:3 72:18 74:4 76:3 84:1 85:21 89:1 93:6 95:4 97:4 100:15,16 101:3,13 102:9 104:1 110:1 114:3 116:6 120:2, 24 125:16 128:18,19 129:5
13 6:11,14 20:18 30:24 35:10	235 107:1	61-percent 88:21	above 21:14
1349 52:21 53:5	25 15:13 46:22 70:23 71:3	65-year-olds 46:10	absolutely 33:11 43:6 46:5 48:22 52:17 55:10 68:7 88:15 117:9
14 20:20 30:24	250 35:17 66:9 85:16 86:13 113:1 130:7	6N504 90:9	abuse 23:23 27:23 28:2, 3 59:15,21 87:4,14 104:10,14 117:22,23 118:2 125:7
14.12.2.b 15:16	25th 19:23	7	abusing 98:24
15 20:24 79:7 125:5 129:14	26 26:9 32:14	7 20:4 98:16	academic 21:15
150 79:2,6 129:15	260 66:16 86:18	7-eleven 98:1	accelerate 86:23 87:1
18 46:1,2,8	28th 131:17	70s 38:23	acceptance 19:22
18-year-old 98:16	29 32:14	740 28:4	access 75:24 82:15 83:8
18th 18:5 20:21	3	768 52:3	accessibility 53:13 55:1
19 20:4 103:17	3 19:19	7:00 131:18	accessible 45:13
19-014 4:2	30 27:23 98:17 120:13,14	8	accessory 4:9
1999 82:17	312 47:24 95:1 115:22	8 20:5	
2	38 15:7 120:17	8,000 54:21	
2 19:18	4	8.5 28:1	
20 27:22 76:6 80:10 98:17	4 15:11 19:21 33:13 127:10	860 4:4,10 8:14 9:16 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 101:19	
20-minute 60:22 61:1	40 46:22 89:19 98:17	87,000 120:18	
20-percent 88:24 89:17	405 44:1 92:7	9	
200 37:11 83:21	47 90:19 91:2,8,9,16	9 20:8	
2007 30:4			
2008 30:9			

accidents 10:14	addition 75:3	111:23	ambulances 84:17,20 92:16
acclaimed 81:13	additional 6:24 7:2 89:4	against 10:3 88:10,12 117:3	ambulatory 102:11
accommodate 11:3 22:5	address 6:9 13:15 37:6, 23 40:13 47:21 49:24 66:11,16 67:22 91:23 99:9 102:9 104:7 111:7 113:7 124:7 125:11	age 27:22 30:1 46:2,11 48:19 124:20 129:11	America 77:24
accommodations 13:17	addressed 6:10 13:16 44:12 58:12 77:23 127:6	agencies 64:16 66:6 86:12	American 28:4
accompanied 19:20	addressing 49:2,3 124:24	agent 10:8 95:6	Americans 27:22 28:1 79:15 126:13
according 27:20	adds 95:12	ages 24:3 45:24	Amita 80:12 84:2
account 50:3 78:18 114:16 115:12	adequacy 103:4	ago 8:20 10:10 63:3,10 116:14 125:5	Among 23:21
accurate 89:19 116:16 117:7	adequate 13:9	agree 16:21 42:8 43:4,6 85:11 87:12 89:18 94:24 131:11	amount 9:3 41:22 53:14 69:7 112:13
achieve 27:4 77:16 83:9	administrator 14:17	agreed 15:10 25:4 94:11	analysis 15:24 16:4,5 21:1 23:12 111:4 115:2,3
achieved 26:20	administrator's 20:19	agreement 128:19	and/or 101:8 115:4
acknowledge 44:3,9	admire 48:1	ahead 65:3	anecdote 129:8
acquaintances 81:6	admittedly 14:22	AIDS 79:14 80:10	anger 125:15 126:3
acquire 103:5	adolescents 46:15	aims 77:22 86:23 87:1	angry 125:15 126:6
across 51:1 125:3	adopted 76:11	air 124:6	announce 6:13
actions 32:1	adulthood 60:7	alarming 28:2 30:20	annually 28:4
activity 116:1	adults 27:24 83:1	alcohol 73:19 118:5	anonymous 77:13
actual 65:13 104:11	advise 95:6	alcoholism 79:19 106:20	another 38:13 44:4 58:19 59:11 67:16 69:17 72:3 74:17 90:24 106:1 111:18 114:6 115:1 122:5 129:8 131:8
actually 7:19 25:17 26:11 29:12 37:15 45:2 46:9 47:4,8,9 48:6 54:12 55:18 56:1 58:2 80:3 85:9 88:3 105:6 107:16	advised 9:7	Alexian 80:11 81:22 82:1	answering 7:5 49:21 100:8
add 19:4 60:3 95:10	advocacy 78:11 114:7, 16,20 115:10,11,12,16	alike 82:1	Anthony 25:10,11,14,22 26:8 37:21 47:24 59:8 63:24
addict 50:11	advocate 8:12 76:19 79:22,24 86:5 106:15 107:17 114:4,11	alive 41:11 63:8 73:11	anybody's 98:13
addicted 48:5 73:24 109:4 118:4,16	affected 38:5 41:9 46:16 58:5 126:11	allow 6:18 12:12 94:15	apartment 82:6
addiction 28:3,14,15, 17,18 31:8,14 36:19,20, 22 37:16 38:21 46:11 48:11,12 49:11 55:16 71:12 73:12,13,20 74:2 76:10,12 77:13,14 79:19 82:11 83:4,6 88:22 97:3 100:7 120:11 126:5 127:8 128:22 129:6,9	affidavit 19:15	allowed 6:19 18:13 22:24 123:9,10	apartments 120:14
additions 74:3 106:21	afford 31:9 60:24	allowing 105:3,13,17	apologize 48:21 107:10
addicts 55:16 61:3 74:5	affordable 24:7	almost 12:16 32:4 78:6, 17 82:17 90:12 113:17	appeal 19:23,24 20:5,19
Addison 39:23	afraid 125:14 126:7	along 72:12 124:21	Appeals 25:12
	after 63:16 69:6 99:8 101:12 122:18 128:7	already 10:3 24:19 36:19 65:15 74:5 78:14 115:20	appearing 75:6
	again 9:24 19:10 22:21 38:22 43:22 53:2 55:16, 21 56:14 58:21 73:4,6,14 87:19 89:8 90:4 91:21 99:10 100:1 102:9 105:9	amazing 29:14,15	appears 64:24
		ambition 26:19	applicable 14:5,8
		ambulance 93:3	applicant 16:23,24 17:2 23:20

application 10:23 16:23 17:22 19:19,21 23:13 25:5 111:5	assumptions 99:16	Avenue 37:11 45:22 52:21 92:7	Beerman 130:13,20
applied 12:7 15:3	astrophysicist 76:17	average 126:20	before 4:2 5:2,3,9 8:22 14:20 21:2,7 25:17 26:9, 14 27:6 35:6 36:10 50:1 76:1 94:22 97:24 99:14 105:8 122:1,3 125:9
apply 14:23 15:8,19	athletically 30:14	avoid 126:21	began 30:6
appreciated 38:1	attachments 19:24 20:22 21:1	aware 33:11 36:20 39:16 40:2 55:10 84:14 88:19 89:12 126:10	begin 8:8 10:5 27:6 29:17 78:18 128:2
appreciative 40:23 41:2	attack 92:18,19 93:13	away 30:5 32:17 34:24 37:16 48:20 50:2 81:14 91:12 95:6,8 106:13	beginning 49:12,17 53:11
approach 104:21 105:4	attempt 28:22 34:23 50:17	awesome 29:16	begins 5:2,3
appropriate 12:2 13:16 24:7 49:5 57:2,6,9,13 58:22,24 73:15 96:18 101:24 109:11	attempted 28:17	ayes 131:24	begs 14:20
approval 4:7 12:8 13:17	attend 17:21 62:14		behalf 29:5 35:20 64:18 66:22 67:2,3 90:1 130:9
approve 11:3 15:18 23:17	attendance 18:2	B	behavior 41:9 60:1
approved 12:15 88:24 89:3	attended 28:24	B-2 4:9 8:21 9:1 11:24 12:8 13:2,5,14	behavioral 84:6
approves 9:18	attending 125:6	B-E-R-G-N-E-R 73:10	beliefs 27:2,9 128:15
approximately 127:11	attention 24:21 27:16, 22 78:15	B-U-N-K-E-R 66:16	Ben 124:21
April 124:19	attitudes 77:24	back 5:22 6:2 7:1 17:23 22:20 32:19 35:3 38:6 51:2 55:19 57:17 69:22 91:24 100:4 127:10,24	beneficial 106:3,7
area 11:1,9 12:4 33:16, 24 47:11 53:9,15 55:7 58:13,19 60:3 61:14 90:22 91:15,18 101:16 102:20 103:5	attorney 5:13 8:12 22:11,20 38:18 86:18	background 84:1	benefit 58:16 96:11 105:6,17 106:8 128:13
areas 58:9 89:11 100:20 108:17 115:24	attorney's 93:23	backyard 40:11,12 82:9	bent 91:3
argue 47:21 54:7 62:19 72:20 96:15,16 100:1	attorneys 35:18 66:20 86:14 89:23 130:8	bad 40:10 68:17,20,24 116:1	Bergner 41:5,17,24 42:8 73:4,7,10,21 74:8
arguing 38:24 72:9,10, 22 95:22 117:7 120:21	attractive 80:8	Baldwin 102:6,11,15	beverage 98:2
argument 47:18 54:5	attracts 60:15	band 124:7	biased 54:5
arguments 80:1	audience 35:23 36:24 43:21 87:18 92:4 94:17 121:5 123:5 124:11 130:22	banding 124:3	big 43:5 113:2,17 120:4 127:16
arise 7:5	audio-video 21:21	barriers 78:5	biggest 110:8
Arizona 32:19	audio-visual 17:9,16 18:4,6,8,14 19:1 21:18	bars 81:13	Bill 95:1
asks 34:17	auditorium 22:15	base 31:5 33:8	billion 28:4
aspect 110:3	August 20:5	based 57:15 77:21 110:7 121:9	billions 50:22
assessment 41:20	aunt 76:13	battle 27:23,24 28:18 63:9 64:3 70:14	bit 33:9 49:9 64:1 76:3 84:1 94:18 100:24 122:3
assistance 41:19,22	authorities 22:2	battled 28:14	bizarre 28:15
associated 59:14 126:5	authority 15:16,18	battles 78:3 128:21	blame 71:14
assume 98:2	automobile 10:14	beacon 83:14	blessed 26:7 33:6
	AV 18:23 21:19 22:13 23:4 75:18	beautiful 27:10 38:8	blight 82:2
	available 83:9,11 116:24 129:14	beds 113:1	blind 32:2

block 82:3	budgets 45:7	cat-calling 5:17	challenges 21:10 22:4 81:5 82:12
blocks 82:3 95:4,6,8 116:12	building 12:13,20 36:23 82:6 130:21	Catalpa 45:22	chance 57:7 126:21 128:24
Bloomington 25:12 26:10,12 39:22 42:14,17 57:21 58:8,18	bulk 14:22	categories 14:23	change 15:6 30:10 77:19 93:7 115:16
Bloomington 80:4 106:16 112:1	Bunker 66:16	Catholic 76:9	changed 22:3 28:21
board 9:6 14:10 23:14 25:12,15 43:1 107:5 122:13	business 4:9 8:21 10:22 12:9,11 13:2 42:6 46:22 83:2 109:10 110:3 116:19	cell 19:8	chapter 62:11
Board's 122:6,7	businesses 33:17 52:16	center 11:15 13:9 14:1, 14 15:23 36:3 40:8 51:19 52:12 75:23 78:9 80:14, 18 81:3,7,16,18 82:1 83:11,17 106:8 107:22 110:4 121:10	Character 26:17
Bob 46:20	busy 30:5	centers 16:2 50:7 51:1	check 37:15 50:22,23
bodies 13:23 14:2 16:11	buy 8:16	CEO 101:10	checked 126:22
bodies' 16:14		CEOS 83:2	cheek 106:1
body 5:7 97:7,15	C	certain 27:2,13 117:4	Cherry 95:2
booming 5:17	C-H-E-R-Y-L 75:13	certainly 13:14 20:14 36:13 127:5	Cheryl 75:7,12 124:22
book 78:2	calendar 21:16	cetera 102:11 105:15 118:5	Chicago 33:14 34:7 55:8 60:2,24 80:11 85:23
bought 95:5	call 4:11 8:8 18:24 22:20 37:13 51:19 79:18 100:21 131:8	CFO 102:6	Chicago's 61:2
boxes 126:23	called 22:21	Chair 6:12 49:1,3 91:23 96:17	chicken 29:12
Bozonelos 106:24 108:1,13	calls 84:23 85:22	Chairman 4:1,24 5:1 8:7,10 25:17 35:13,24 36:7,17 37:17,23 39:12 43:22 44:13,16 49:4 51:5,12,15 52:23 53:1,3 56:14,17,20,24 57:5,11, 15,18 58:21 59:3,9 63:18,22 64:13,15 65:2 66:8,18,20 67:1,5,12,15, 19 70:10,24 71:6 73:14 74:6,11,15 75:10,20 83:18 86:11 87:19 89:23 91:7,10,19,21 92:8 94:5, 21 98:10 100:10,22 103:15 105:9,20 106:4 107:11 109:15,24 110:12,21 111:1,11,23 112:2,6,15 113:20 115:17 116:3 117:12,16, 20,24 118:14,20,23 119:16,21 120:1 121:6, 21 122:1,11,14,20 123:1, 16,20 124:14,17 130:2,5, 18 131:1,4,10,13,16,21, 23	child 76:8 98:13,21
brain 78:13	calm 37:3		childhood 28:24 38:6
brave 71:4 72:18	Campus 131:19		children 10:14 59:24 60:9 62:9 83:15 98:5 126:24
breadth 99:18	cancer 127:8,9,10		children's 43:15
break 69:8 131:8	capabilities 16:15 17:9, 16		children-centered 60:13
breakdown 113:13	capable 75:18		choice 48:5
breast 29:12	capacity 79:5		choices 62:17
bring 21:24 27:16 28:13 114:24 122:21 129:2	care 24:5,7 28:19 29:4 45:12 50:24 77:23 79:7 80:17,20 127:23 128:11 129:13		chorus 131:24
bringing 46:13 91:4 105:22	career 28:21		chose 26:20 62:6
Broker 56:9 92:7	Carello 4:14,15 131:22		chosen 108:10
brother 32:4 76:10 82:17 109:5 124:19 129:7	caring 9:18 39:6		Christine 117:19
Brothers 80:11 81:22 82:1	carry 60:7		chronic 79:9,11
brought 61:9 71:14 90:11 108:5	case 15:19 17:3 88:6,11 90:18 123:9 124:4		circles 44:5
budget 88:20 89:18	cases 74:5		circumstances 39:8 125:9
	Cassandra 52:21 53:4	challenge 99:15 100:6	cited 45:23
			cities 40:10
			citizens 9:20 21:12 86:19 109:21

city 33:14 54:13 55:8 61:3 85:22	75:21	compare 55:12	127:22
civic 5:22	commend 26:10 70:14	compared 55:6 119:12, 23 120:4	connections 41:8 77:4, 12 128:1
civil 5:5,12	commended 54:12	compares 16:1	consequences 40:23 41:2
clap 43:23	comment 23:3 54:8 59:16 60:5,12,19 61:2,4, 8	comparing 55:5	considerations 22:2 114:12
clapping 5:17 36:24 37:1 43:21 87:18 92:4,5 121:5,6 130:22	comments 6:9,10,11 22:12 23:6 24:15 38:1 59:22 61:19 65:22 73:22 100:12,15 114:3 128:14	compassionate 76:18	considered 42:13 77:21 114:15,21
clarified 114:5	commission 5:4,12,21 6:17 7:17 14:10,21 15:17 19:3 20:13 21:10,20 22:7 23:13,17 71:21 72:1 74:18 75:15 99:6 100:14, 17 114:9	compatible 12:3 102:20	consistent 79:12 92:10, 20 93:8,14,21
clarify 21:8	commission's 5:22 104:18	compelling 62:20	consultant 16:6 103:2
class 4:7 103:20	commissioner 4:12,14, 16,18,20,22 5:20 26:11	completed 70:2	consulted 17:11
classes 24:3	commit 63:4	completely 18:17 46:12 48:9 109:7	consuming 31:14
classifications 14:20	committed 22:7	complex 77:11 88:5	contact 44:7
clean 33:4 69:17 99:23	committee 26:5 42:17	comply 14:4	contained 59:22
clear 10:16 36:12	common 53:19 78:3,12 83:3 128:22	component 42:7	context 16:4 87:12 120:8
clearly 55:5 110:15 125:24	communication 94:16 128:4	composed 77:13	continuation 53:14
client 9:7	communities 24:5 67:23 68:3 78:21 82:2 106:18 126:9 127:15 128:23	concern 33:10 54:23 111:18	continue 7:14 13:20 16:9 46:17 96:3 122:1,4 131:10,12,13,17
clients 80:23 81:2 82:1	community 4:9 5:23 8:21 10:2 24:1 28:8 29:14 33:10 54:16 60:15 64:22 67:9,11 68:6 69:4 70:4 74:1,4,23 80:2,22 81:1,2,10,20 90:24 91:14 102:24 105:14,17 107:16,18,20,24 108:3,6, 7,8,10,12 110:6 111:20 116:18 117:2 121:10 124:2,3 125:7,20,22 127:20 128:2,10,12 129:3	concerned 53:24 67:8 74:4 86:19	continued 31:1
clinics 50:7	commuting 97:23	concerns 99:8 110:8 113:8 126:4	continues 21:9 44:5
close 10:24 28:17 60:13 63:12 78:15 127:18	company 52:5,8,11 88:12 124:5	concerns 99:8 110:8 113:8 126:4	continuity 127:22 128:11
closely 85:20 86:2		conclude 34:12 128:14	contract 8:18 18:7 84:17,19
closer 57:24 58:20		concluded 14:17	contradictory 121:12
Clover 114:2		conclusion 15:22	contribute 74:22
club 33:21		concrete 60:22	control 122:12,19
co-counsel 21:3		conditions 13:15,16	convenience 74:22
Coalition 24:9		condominiums 81:12	conversation 108:12
cocaine 31:3		conduct 8:5	converse 68:6
code 15:17 102:22		conducted 22:8	core 34:14 125:15
coffee 98:1		confined 68:9	corner 25:10 97:8
collar 58:6		confirm 66:2	corporate 33:17
Colleen 124:22		confirmed 14:10 15:15	correct 15:19 36:16 41:13 43:10 86:24 87:5 89:14 92:12 115:11 116:2,8
college 31:2 76:10 103:18		confused 68:4	
colors 45:3		congestion 13:10 103:4	
combating 105:7		Congressman 77:17	
comfort 32:24		connect 32:18 34:19	
comfortable 42:19		connection 82:20,22	

correctly 88:18 95:3 115:10	criticizing 9:4	106:13 125:8	depends 122:9
correspondence 24:16	cross 64:23	days 50:24 69:7,18	derelicts 118:3
cost 21:15,21 28:3	Cross-examination 6:19	dead 41:11 63:8	describe 39:7
costs 17:10,14 18:9 21:23 28:6	crowd 29:22 123:8,16	deadly 79:13 92:11 93:12,22 126:8	designated 13:13
counsel 64:20 123:13	crowds 17:21	deal 46:15 73:12 104:4	desirable 74:20
counties 58:6	Cudzich 56:8,12,16,19, 22 57:3,9,13,17	dealers 61:12	despair 79:18
countless 23:24	curious 67:7,10 73:21 95:5 96:3	dealing 50:5	desperate 11:1
country 5:11 50:20 53:15 79:14 82:13 88:7 125:3	current 55:13 89:3,17	dealt 74:2	detailed 20:6,9 108:9
County 11:9 24:11 78:16 91:1 101:17 118:12 121:11 123:24 125:1,4,12	customer 34:15,17 52:8,10,13	death 28:20 124:20	details 38:7 70:6 78:2
couple 44:2 68:16 86:19 100:12 127:4 131:9	customer 34:15,17 52:8,10,13	deaths 53:14 78:17 79:18	determination 14:24
couple-hour 69:7	cycle 50:15	decades 38:24	determine 94:3
courage 35:7		decide 96:18	determined 14:9 64:10
court 7:18,19 25:21	D	decided 17:6 24:19 71:14	detox 32:18 76:16
cousin 38:7,22	D-A-M-A-T-O 25:24	decides 17:3	detract 109:20
cover 7:8	D-O-M-I-N-I-C 66:15	decision 10:3 14:11 17:10,12 18:6,21 71:16, 18 80:8 109:11 112:19	devastated 24:1 125:13 129:6
crack 61:9,10 118:19	dabble 30:19	decisions 68:20	develop 78:24
crack-heads 118:3	dad 72:11	decline 79:15	developed 26:17
Cranes 33:21	Dale 63:11	declined 17:14	development 4:6 14:14 15:3,7,9
crap 61:7	Daly 4:12,13	decorum 6:3,6 7:22,23	devoted 9:18
crazy 61:15	Damato 25:10,24 26:2,8 39:14 41:1,12,21 42:3,15 43:4,9,13,19 44:23 45:19 46:5 47:4,8,16,22 48:6,9, 12,15,18,22 49:20,23 51:7,10 52:6,9,14,17,19 54:8,11 55:9,18,23 56:7	decrease 88:21	DI 83:22 84:10,16,22 85:4,8,10,20 86:2,9
created 77:19 78:5	damn 63:12	dedicated 78:10 124:23	diabetes 79:10
credibility 37:13	Dan 101:9	deep 77:12	Dickson 21:3,5 22:10,11 25:19 36:6 37:7 47:18 48:10 49:13 59:8,12 63:20 65:7 74:17 85:7 87:17,24 92:21 93:2 94:1,7,13,24 95:22 117:9 119:14 122:6,12,17,22 123:3,6,14 131:3,7,12,15
credit 81:7	dangerous 116:6,18,21	deeply 28:19 29:4	die 129:11
crime 60:2	dangers 126:4	definitely 43:9,19 109:3	died 42:2 124:19 126:12, 14
crime-related 28:6	data 108:9 113:15 116:21,23	demographic 33:9 40:16 53:24 54:1,10,19, 20 55:3,6,7	Diestel 70:12,21 108:14
criminal 60:15	date 131:12	demonizing 104:24	difference 28:20 63:13 64:12 79:21 116:23
criminals 118:3	dated 15:13 19:22 20:4,7	demonstrate 13:8 75:1	differential 33:11 55:11
crisis 10:1 23:23 31:6,8 36:20 38:2 50:19 77:13, 14 105:2,7,18,24 106:9	daughter 99:14 117:22	Dent 21:4	differently 60:16 63:15
criteria 23:16 74:17 75:2 102:21	daughters 83:1	deny 60:5	differing 5:6
	day 30:8 32:7 50:6 62:10 68:17 74:3 81:16 91:12	denying 88:13	
		department 85:5	
		depending 7:10	

difficult 16:20 35:6	distinguished 13:1	24:4,9,11,14 34:9 58:5,6, 7,13,14,17 60:7 78:16 79:21 91:1 101:17 118:11 121:11 123:24 124:24 125:4,12	eloquently 49:10
dignity 35:7	distribution 12:11		elsewhere 9:12 14:3
dinner 96:6	district 4:10 8:22 12:8 13:2 18:21,22 64:19 65:9,15 83:23	duty 5:22 16:22	embarked 70:1
Dinolfo 83:22	districts 13:14	dwelling 14:16 15:5	emergencies 92:17
dire 90:14	diversity 34:15	dying 79:16 82:14 129:21,24	emergency 84:23 92:16
direct 48:24 84:8 86:8 96:17	dollar 81:12		emotion 97:11,17 124:8
directed 6:12 37:7 67:16 92:8 93:3	dollars 50:22	<hr/> E <hr/>	emotional 109:9 125:24
directing 36:15	Dom 29:10,14,21,23 30:2,5,9,10 31:1,7,16 32:3,17,20 33:2,5	e-mail 65:16	emotions 5:7 27:2,11
direction 32:6 33:1	Dom's 32:7,23	e-mails 65:19	Empathy 77:15
directive 18:16	Dominic 29:7 62:1,3 66:10,14 71:4,20	earlier 7:10 32:15 106:10	employees 9:19
directly 83:7 93:5 117:17,24 130:17	door 10:24 81:14	early 21:22	EMS 84:12,23 85:12,18 102:10
director 15:11 75:8,13 76:24	doors 78:21 81:17	ease 26:17	enable 128:11
disagree 23:5 27:15 88:3,15	doubt 41:1	easier 107:12	enact 77:19
discharge 128:7	down 7:20 29:21 31:7,10 41:14 59:10 62:14 74:14 81:12 87:20 89:19 97:5 121:24 122:4 129:20 131:6	east 12:9	encourage 28:8 33:24 34:2
disclose 95:7,20	Downtown 47:1	easy 35:3 55:18	encouraging 17:20
discourse 5:12	dozen 32:12	economic 15:24 20:24 27:17 102:23	end 7:9 38:13 49:12,18, 19 53:11
discover 115:15	drain 102:10	educate 39:10	ended 78:6
discriminate 24:2 40:3 46:14 62:18	draw 127:19	education 24:3 78:10 81:19	ending 77:24
discrimination 78:5 82:16 88:10 96:22 97:1	dread 128:3	effect 82:12	ends 26:22
discuss 76:1	Drive 84:3	effective 80:16 93:6 107:21,23	enduring 21:15
discussing 42:19	dropped 99:23	effectively 44:22	enemy 128:22
disease 10:17 78:13 79:10,11 82:16 115:8 126:5	drops 99:21	effort 6:13	enforced 6:4,22 7:24
diseases 78:12 79:9	drug 27:21,24 28:3 37:16 48:4 50:3 51:20 60:5 61:3,12 79:19 104:10,13 128:22	efforts 21:24 125:4,11 129:2	engaging 78:6
disorder 24:2 27:23,24 28:2 59:15 76:7 79:1	drugs 30:17 50:9,10 51:3 64:6 104:23 118:19 129:22	eight-week 68:16	engineer 103:2
disorders 10:12 77:20 78:4 82:22 97:3 99:12 101:8	Drummond 4:20,21	electronic 17:23	Engineering 20:23
dispel 78:11	due 6:21 37:16 78:19 130:15	element 60:15	enjoy 45:2
disruption 21:15	Dupage 4:3 8:13 11:9	elements 60:18	enjoyed 54:15
Disruptive 8:5		eleventh-hour 23:3	enough 21:11 22:4 60:2 89:22 91:8,9,15,16 106:10,14 122:20
distance 60:19 109:8		Ellenbecker 86:17,18, 22 87:3,7,11 88:19 89:12,16,22	ensnared 126:19
		Ellyn 107:6	entered 8:18 19:13
			entire 126:14
			entities 52:13,15
			entity 84:24 89:6 113:1

environment 61:16 64:8 114:9	examples 113:3	experts 111:6	facing 53:14
epidemic 10:13 28:9 34:6,7 40:3 44:19,20 46:6 53:10 79:14 104:22 106:20 125:13 129:12	exceptions 4:6 15:7,8, 10,15,18,19	explain 11:17 40:6	fact 23:16 24:8 54:18 60:5,16 77:5,10 80:5 88:7,17 90:12 99:4,24
equipment 18:4,6,14,23 21:18,19,21 22:13	excessive 85:6,12	exposed 60:1	facts 23:21 33:22
equipped 17:9 44:20 45:7	excuse 35:15 52:14	exposing 100:5	factual 27:14
especially 28:3 58:17	excused 6:22 131:4	exposure 30:21	failed 32:11
ESPEDIDO 4:12,14,16, 18,20,22,24	executive 75:7,13 76:23	express 27:2,12	fair 8:1 10:23 41:19 89:22 122:20
essential 7:22	exempt 13:21 16:10	expressed 73:23	fairly 8:4 127:3
essentially 95:16	exemptions 20:4	expressway 12:9	fairs 81:19
established 80:24 97:21	exhibit 15:11 19:18 20:3,4,5,8,11,15,16,17, 18,20,24	extend 7:11	Fairway 90:9
establishment 39:21	exhibits 19:9,13 20:22	extent 14:7	false 56:3
estate 33:19	exist 31:21	extra 17:10,13 18:9 21:21	familiar 65:22 80:13 87:8 89:13 108:17 124:7
Estates 84:4,13	existed 12:16 15:4 116:14	extraordinarily 16:20	families 24:1 59:14,20 78:19 125:12 126:18
evaluation 103:6	exists 96:23	extraordinary 9:3	family 14:15 29:2,3,9,16, 20 32:7 34:21 35:1 38:4 41:7 63:3 72:12 76:9 82:9,18 98:22 109:3,23 110:17,20 116:7 124:23 126:15 127:20
Evanston 119:8	expand 75:24	extreme 41:22 46:7,8	FAQ 7:2,3
evening 8:11 22:10 25:13 52:20 53:7,20 66:24 75:6 86:17	expansion 107:8,15	extremely 31:5,9 33:4 41:15 42:15,23 45:10,11 46:16 60:13	fashion 18:1 38:12 113:23
event 5:14 10:4	expect 19:5 29:19 53:13	eye 32:2	faster 79:16
events 125:7	expectancy 79:15	eyes 26:4 27:18	fatal 106:21
eventually 73:18	expected 16:19 22:20	F	Father 10:10
everybody's 51:21 62:6 94:7	expects 5:7	face 37:18	favor 26:22 131:23
everyday 46:16	expense 18:15	faced 23:2 125:3	fear 125:19 126:3 128:3
everywhere 28:10 31:18 114:5 128:23	expenses 28:5	faces 44:8	fears 125:15,21
evidence 10:6 11:6,15, 19,22 12:6,22 13:18,24 16:8,17 19:1 39:2 65:1 75:2 100:16	expensive 31:5	facilities 12:11 13:7,13 14:6 81:9 84:15 90:19 91:14 96:23 110:16 112:24 113:10,11 120:14	featured 33:20
evidence-based 80:7, 16 107:21,23	experience 26:18 27:3 50:4 60:18 63:16 68:15 81:4,21 83:3,6 85:6,19 98:16 99:1 101:4,7 111:22 112:23,24 124:8	facility 4:8 8:17,24 9:16 10:1 11:7,11,19,23 12:1, 19 13:4 14:12,18 16:13 21:22 22:18 23:2,16 24:13 25:8 43:2 51:20 60:12,14 69:2 74:21 75:5 80:2,21,23 83:10 84:3, 12,16 85:3,19 95:3,8 97:5,12,21 98:3,14 105:3,23 107:3,7 109:18 110:10 111:10,15,16,19, 20 112:5 113:3 116:7,17 117:4,11 118:12 120:4,9, 12 121:11 122:23 123:4	federal 6:21 80:18 89:5, 6
evident 34:22 125:24	experienced 128:3		feel 26:7 29:5 33:5 38:19,21 39:15,16 42:19 49:16,17,18 58:11,17 93:13 104:7 108:4 113:5, 8
exact 69:7	experiences 34:19 77:2,3 101:5,14		feelings 104:14 125:17 128:16
exactly 47:12	experiencing 79:15		
example 6:17 59:18	experimental 113:17		
	expert 6:18 49:9 50:1 103:6		
	expertise 6:17 46:23		

fees 16:24	foremost 26:2 27:17 49:24	fumes 124:5	governmental 64:16 86:11
feet 35:17 66:9 86:13 130:7	forever 63:1 69:12	functioning 31:17,20	governments 35:16 83:19 130:6
felt 32:4	forget 69:6	funded 88:21	governor 89:1
fentanyl 51:3 129:21	forgot 112:8	funding 87:16 88:4,16 89:10,11,17	grandchildren 10:15
fiction 78:11	form 74:3 113:22	future 7:21	grandmother 76:13 98:7
field 50:5 80:19	formal 69:2	<hr/> G <hr/>	
Fields 57:19 58:1,4 59:1	format 17:23	gaps 128:4	grandparent 77:6
fight 28:18 32:11 62:17 105:24 128:21	formed 124:22	gateway 50:9	grants 80:19
fighting 88:9 104:22	former 44:6,10 78:22	gave 72:4 73:22 90:6	grasp 38:20,21 39:19
figure 63:8 71:11	fortunate 28:7 29:17	general 6:9,10,11 12:5 28:21 74:22 78:23 102:22 106:9	grateful 82:10
files 16:23	Forum 75:8,14,22 77:16, 19 80:13 88:9	generally 7:9 125:23	great 7:4 29:16 33:23 39:21,22,23,24 40:2 42:6 44:23 45:12 52:9 54:16 70:15 127:21
filing 19:20	Forum's 86:22	generate 125:23 126:1	great-looking 30:13
finally 10:5	forward 89:4 114:24	genius 49:24	greater 82:23
financial 34:15 110:9 114:10,22 115:2,3,13	fought 28:17 32:10 128:23	gentleman 53:7 63:7 67:20	greatly 33:7
financially 45:7 109:20	found 40:14 82:7,8 127:2	George 70:13 108:15	greats 35:6
find 27:3 35:2,5 118:6	foundation 26:21 80:11 124:23 127:1	ghetto 61:14	green 61:16
fine 48:8,9 65:3 85:13	founded 10:9	ghettos 61:18	Gregor 37:21,24 40:19 41:3 112:21 113:16,24
finger 55:15,19	frankly 30:14 40:14	gifted 30:14	grew 29:14 83:12
fingers 35:3	free 113:8	give 6:8 12:23 20:11 34:23 35:15 42:23 56:18 59:18 107:10 108:9 113:3,9,12	ground 7:7
Fire 83:23	free-form 94:15	giving 5:22 6:15 7:8 74:7	groundbreaking 78:23
firsthand 60:18 97:1	freely 27:12	Glen 107:6	group 20:24 30:2 31:2 35:18,20 45:15 46:3 66:21,22 67:2,6 77:14 86:15 89:24 90:1 114:13, 19 125:9 130:8,9
fiscal 111:4	freshman 30:17	golf 43:14	groups 46:12
fit 11:24 14:18	Friday 22:18,21	golfer 38:9	grow 62:9,13
fits 8:24	friend 28:24 29:2,9 38:5 41:6,10 63:10 73:11	good 8:11 10:11 11:18 22:10 38:9 52:20 53:20 66:24 86:17 93:22 98:16 99:1 101:19 107:22 123:17 131:8	Growing 29:10
flawed 16:6	friendly 61:16 62:15	Google 33:17 96:6	guess 37:5 38:5,17 40:20 89:1 93:16,24 97:19 130:1
floor 22:3	friends 32:12,14 37:14, 16 41:7 43:17,20 44:2 63:15 83:16 127:20	government 9:13,15, 18,20 14:19 16:22,24 17:3,6 66:6 89:5	guilty 101:1
focal 40:4	front 114:19		guy 49:7 57:14
focus 26:15 34:15,17 100:13 125:16	fueled 79:17		guys 26:5,10,13 30:1,2, 18 32:13 39:18 54:20 64:3 92:24
focused 125:18	full 66:11 74:4 99:18 116:7		
focusing 125:4,7	fully 17:4		
FOIA 65:10	Fulton 33:20 47:10		
follow-up 108:1 115:9			
followed 127:22			
following 19:13 24:21 29:8 124:20 128:6			

gymnasium 21:17	125:18 126:7 128:9,20 129:2	helping 35:8	host 22:3
<hr/> H <hr/>			
half 110:1 122:3 123:17	Haymarket's 8:23 9:15, 19,21 10:16 11:3,4,6,18, 22 12:18,23 13:20 14:4, 18 15:1 16:10 18:15 19:6,20,23 20:3,8,19 23:13 102:8 108:20	helps 103:14	hosting 53:7
hall 17:8 103:21	he'll 49:4 102:4	heroin 31:11,13,17 73:18 76:14	hotel 8:15
hand 32:16 39:19 62:24 64:11 69:11	heads 129:15	high 29:24 30:3,4,18 62:14 80:17 81:3 96:24 100:6 125:6 127:5 131:19	hotels 16:3 33:18
handle 44:21 90:13	Healing 124:23	high-quality 80:15	hour 122:3 123:17
handout 6:3 7:2,23	health 11:8 12:17 23:24 24:9 27:21 28:1 76:5,7 77:20,23 78:4 79:23 80:10,11 81:19 82:21 84:6 87:4,13 88:10,12 89:7 97:3 99:12 100:7 104:5	highly 6:22 126:8	hours 68:16
hang 31:22 123:18	healthcare 4:8 8:17,24 9:16 10:1 11:7,11,19,23 12:1,18 13:4,9,12,21 14:5,12,14,18 15:23 16:2,13 23:15 28:5 51:19	history 117:2	house 32:20 61:9,10 95:4,5,7 116:7
hanging 98:14	hear 18:18 23:21 25:2 34:2 39:17 51:16,24 52:24 87:2 94:5,22 109:6 117:18 124:13 131:21	HIV 120:9,11 121:4	housing 120:12,13
hangout 31:1 61:6 69:23 97:24 100:2	heard 5:15 8:4 9:24 21:13 22:9 26:9,16 54:12 61:24 101:6 102:9 110:1 113:21	Hoffman 84:3,13 102:17	huge 44:9,12 46:2
happen 22:22 45:16 98:19	hearing 6:11 7:11 10:7 16:23 17:1,3,7,17 18:4,9, 14 19:15 20:1,5,21 21:20 57:24 75:3 87:23 99:8 124:12	hold 16:22 17:6 21:11 62:24 69:11 75:21	humans 77:4,12
happened 71:15 98:13	hearings 11:14,21 17:21 19:17 75:1	holding 21:10	hundred 39:9 41:12
happening 33:23 78:20	heart 79:10 81:23 92:18, 19 93:13 127:14	holds 17:1	hundreds 113:4
happy 34:10 35:10 65:8 73:10 74:10 88:2	hearts 105:15	Holiday 8:15 13:19 15:4 16:9 60:20 61:1	hung 30:1,11
hard 7:12 26:6 62:23 63:5	height 79:14	Holmes 4:18,19 131:20	hurt 78:19
hard-core 105:5	Helen 26:16 92:6	home 24:7 69:22 70:1,4 82:4,8 85:2 95:10,21 97:15 99:1 116:13 119:9, 19,20 120:4 127:18	hurting 38:24
harmony 12:4	Helm 42:10 43:2,7,11,17	homes 30:19 81:22 84:19 85:16 96:11 97:1 108:16,18 115:24 116:5, 22 127:13	hypertension 79:10
Haymarket 4:3 8:2,12, 16,17 9:4,12,23 10:3,8, 18,22 11:12,15,20 14:1, 11,14,21 15:6,9,23 17:11,12,14,18 18:7,9, 13,19 19:18 20:7 21:4, 12,22 22:12,23 23:1 24:14,17,23 25:3 26:6,23 29:1 32:19,22,23 33:12, 13,24 34:13 41:10,15,21 45:9,10,24 46:13 47:1,3, 5,9,15 48:17 51:19 52:7 53:24 55:7 56:12 58:11, 12 59:18 62:18 64:9 67:11,21,24 70:17 72:2 74:24 75:3,5,23 78:9 80:14,18 81:3,7,10,16,18 82:1 83:10,17 85:21 86:6 90:18 91:3 92:15 96:9 99:19 101:10,17,21 102:1,3,6,23 103:5 104:21 106:8 107:4 108:8,19 115:5 118:11	helped 32:18 72:3,4	helpful 100:23,24	<hr/> I <hr/>
		helped 32:18 72:3,4	idea 81:17 99:11 119:2
		helpful 100:23,24	ideas 27:11
		helpful 100:23,24	identification 65:13
		helpful 100:23,24	identify 65:5 77:8
		helpful 100:23,24	identity 66:2 77:1
		helpful 100:23,24	Ignatius 80:24
		helpful 100:23,24	ignore 23:23
		helpful 100:23,24	illegal 73:13,19
		helpful 100:23,24	illicit 27:24
		helpful 100:23,24	Illinois 34:7 75:8 76:5 77:21 79:21 87:14 88:6, 13,20 117:21
		helpful 100:23,24	Illinoisan 76:18
		helpful 100:23,24	illness 77:1,7
		helpful 100:23,24	illnesses 24:6
		helpful 100:23,24	illuminate 77:10
		helpful 100:23,24	imagine 125:19 126:2
		helpful 100:23,24	imagined 125:8
		helpful 100:23,24	immensely 82:9

immune 126:9	individuals 6:4 61:12 77:11 82:12 88:14 97:2 98:15 99:11 100:5 101:3, 12 103:10,12 120:13,15 125:12 128:8	interact 70:3	36:14 37:12,22,24 38:4, 20 39:22 40:5 41:5 42:11 44:1,20,24 45:3 47:2,24 52:4 53:21,23 54:4,12,22 55:6,13,17,22,23 56:3,9 57:20 58:8 59:22 60:14, 24 61:2,9,13 62:1 63:12 64:18,22 65:6,11 66:3 70:18,19,23 71:3 75:6,15 76:1 78:9 79:22 82:20 83:13,23 86:19 87:20 90:9,20 92:7 95:2 101:16,23 105:3,13,23 106:8,16 108:3,6 109:1 112:22 114:2,22 115:23 119:7,24 121:8 124:1,2,8 126:6,9 128:24 130:14	interacting 98:15	interaction 67:10 68:3	interactions 67:23	interest 23:19,20 74:21 95:24	interested 112:14	interesting 42:15	interfere 14:2	interior 12:19	interpersonal 41:8	interpreted 104:20	interrupt 72:14 99:4	intoxicated 98:8	introduce 54:5 123:20 124:10	invested 9:3	investment 80:22	invests 81:10	involved 5:5,7 22:2	involvement 84:2,10	involves 12:19	involving 127:4	Irish 76:8	irrelevant 96:13 129:7	Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19	issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17	issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22	Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1	Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	items 5:9								
impaired 114:8	influence 51:21 72:3	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		investment 80:22		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20					
impacts 24:3	influences 60:8	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
imperiled 12:16	influential 45:11	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
implied 47:7	information 7:3 18:18 54:3 64:1 66:1 85:21 86:1,4,6 112:13	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
imply 47:8	informative 70:7	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
important 7:2 11:8 17:4 22:14 61:22 75:4 99:5 110:22,23,24 129:19	informed 15:20 17:5	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
importantly 88:9	informing 18:12	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
impressed 112:12	inherent 116:23	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
impression 73:23	inherently 116:6,18	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
improve 95:20	initiatives 86:23 87:3	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
improvements 12:15	Inn 8:15 13:19 15:4 16:9 60:20 61:1	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
in-between 64:20	innocuous 127:4	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
in-home 120:15	innovations 80:20	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10		involves 12:19		Irish 76:8		irrelevant 96:13 129:7		Irving 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 62:14 63:11 101:19		issue 44:12 46:19 78:15 84:21 95:13 96:10 97:14, 17 99:4 102:7,16,23 103:3,7 129:19,21,22,23 130:17		issues 23:24 100:15 101:11,16 102:2,4,12,19 103:11 104:5 114:8,15, 17,18,21 115:13,14,15 117:22 125:22		Itasca 5:10 8:3,15,21 9:2,11,13 11:9,13 13:3 17:12 21:9,12,14 22:6 24:5,13 25:3 33:10 34:1		Itasca's 12:4 14:5,19 20:15,17,18,20	
inappropriate 47:19	inpatient 127:12 128:7	interact 70:3		interacting 98:15		interested 112:14		interfere 14:2		interpersonal 41:8		interrupt 72:14 99:4		intoxicated 98:8		invested 9:3		invests 81:10		involved 5:5,7 22:2		involvement 84:2,10																	

justifies 61:9	112:2,6,15 113:20 115:17 116:3 117:12,16, 20,24 118:14,20,23 119:16,21 120:1 121:6, 21 122:1,11,14,20 123:1, 16,20 124:14,17 130:2,5, 18 131:1,4,10,13,16,21, 23	law 21:19	limited 20:23 84:11
K		laws 117:3	Linda 36:13
Kaminski 119:6,11,15, 18,23 120:3,17,23	knew 30:21 97:6	lawyer 112:8	Linden 44:1 47:24 115:22
Kates 117:15,19,21 118:2,15,22 119:1	knowing 58:17 99:17 128:3	lawyers 83:2	lined 74:12
Kathryn 43:24	knowledge 17:20 84:11	leaders 24:16	link 19:9
Kathy 119:6	Kristi 108:24	leadership 80:19	list 81:3
Katie 130:13	Kurinsky 95:1,19,23 96:2,13 97:19 98:8,12, 21,24 100:8 108:24 109:7,17 110:2,14,23 111:8,13 112:1,4,12,18	Leading 126:19	Listen 57:5
Keathley 37:10,20	L	learning 124:17	listened 62:2
Keller 26:16	lab 50:4	leave 8:6 68:10 111:6 122:13 128:19	lists 70:18
Ken 103:6	label 76:23	leaves 25:5,7	litigation 16:5 50:20
Kennedy 75:8,14,22 77:16,17,18,19 78:2,7 80:12 86:22 88:9	labeling 104:23	led 38:12 125:10	live 28:8,10 37:11,22,24 42:10 43:24 45:22 46:21 47:23 52:21 53:5,21 56:9 57:19,20 59:24 70:13 82:3 92:7 97:8 107:1 114:1 116:13 119:7 123:24 124:1
Kenrich 20:24	labels 82:23 83:3	left 18:7 123:18	lived 29:15,16 63:17 70:23 71:3 76:15 112:1 115:23 116:4 119:7
key 42:7	lack 9:4 82:14 91:13 127:22	left-hand 62:16	lives 23:24 32:15 63:11 78:19 81:8 83:6 100:3
kid 29:11 30:10	Lake 21:13,17 62:14 84:3 131:19	legal 5:14 7:17 9:5,8 16:22 37:3 73:20 118:4, 17	living 64:8 76:6,24 77:7 97:2 99:11 120:9,11 121:4 127:13
kids 30:13,14 57:4 61:6, 15	Lakes 42:14	legislator 103:21	LLC 4:3,4
kids' 62:24	land 12:3 14:12 102:18	leisurely 61:1	local 9:15,20 24:16 42:13 67:11 84:24
killed 82:16,17	land-use 14:7	lend 125:10	locally 40:15
killling 10:13	Lane 90:9 114:2	letter 15:12 19:20,21 20:6	located 33:12,24 47:9 55:8 60:12 81:12,14,23 84:3 113:13 127:14
kind 14:16 30:23 38:6 90:13 109:8 113:18 125:23 126:1	large 17:20 21:11 43:14 45:15 60:23 79:17 110:10 111:19 121:11	letters 20:3	location 4:4 11:7,18,21 12:2,3,19,24 13:5 21:14 24:14 47:15 55:13 62:5 74:19 81:10 101:19,23, 24 102:1,8 107:3,4
kinds 114:8 125:22 126:11	larger 43:2	letting 112:19	locations 9:11 11:12 17:7
Kischner 4:1,24 5:1 8:7 25:17 35:13,24 36:7,17 37:17,23 39:12 43:22 44:13,16 49:4 51:5,12,15 52:23 53:1,3 56:14,17, 20,24 57:5,11,15,18 58:21 59:3,9 63:18,22 64:13,15 65:2 66:8,18,20 67:1,5,12,15,19 70:10,24 71:6 73:14 74:6,11,15 75:10,20 83:18 86:11 87:19 89:23 91:7,10,19, 21 94:5,21 98:10 100:22 103:15 105:9,20 106:4 107:11 109:15,24 110:12,21 111:1,11,23	Larusso 51:11,14,16,18, 24	level 86:23 87:5 88:11	logistics 22:18 23:1
	last-minute 21:24	levels 24:4	Lombard 46:21
	lasting 77:19	levying 13:23 16:12	long 76:16 122:14 129:18
	late 18:12 77:17 128:12	license 10:22 30:8	
	Laura 42:10	licensure 102:3	
		life 27:11 29:16 30:12 31:23 34:20,23 41:16 42:7 48:19 50:2 55:24 62:11,17 63:14 64:9 72:4,12 78:6 79:15 81:5, 7 107:12 125:10 129:7	
		life-threatening 92:17	
		lifetime 79:1	
		lift 58:2 94:6	
		light 54:4	
		Likewise 81:6	

longer 13:5 31:9 32:13 41:18 61:11	82:19 87:21 97:10 106:19 107:12 112:19 113:5 119:3	medical-related 102:4	mile 60:21
looked 30:10,11,12 111:9 115:14	makes 17:2 80:7	medication 46:17	million 27:22 28:1 33:21 46:10 58:14
Loop 33:13,16,20 47:10 80:22 81:11,15,16 96:5	making 22:7 109:11 129:22	Medina 39:23	mind 28:9 32:14 34:21 51:21
Lore 47:23 48:13,16,21, 23 49:2,6,15 50:18 51:9 115:22 116:4,11,16 117:1,10,14	management 84:8	medium 113:2	mine 32:12 44:7,10
loss 77:8 125:21	manager 50:3	meet 91:15 101:19	minutes 98:17 124:10
lost 28:5,18 32:15 33:5 63:10 76:10,12 78:18 109:4	manner 22:8	meeting 4:2 5:13 7:14, 24 17:8 21:16,20 22:8 90:10 97:24 103:21 131:14,17,18	misplaced 16:4
lot 7:7 41:7 61:5 63:15 74:2,9 104:7 109:13,14 110:24 112:23,24 126:22	mantra 9:24	meetings 7:9 21:10	miss 59:2
loud 104:8	map 20:18	meets 102:21	missed 48:2
Louie 103:1	Marge 124:21	member 25:12 35:18,23 38:4 66:21 70:11 86:15 89:24 110:20 130:8	mission 10:16 70:1
love 28:19 34:20 35:2 80:23	marijuana 31:3 127:4	members 7:5 18:1 35:21 41:7 64:22 72:12 75:14 81:2 82:2,17 90:3 98:22 100:19 109:4 130:10,11	misunderstanding 78:11
loved 59:20 77:8 83:11	market 15:24 33:20 47:10	mentals 10:12 23:24 28:1 76:6,24 77:7,20,22 78:3 79:23 82:21 87:3,13 89:7 97:3 99:12 100:7 101:8 104:5	mixed 12:10 129:21
loving 127:1	marketable 9:13	mention 34:6	mixed-use 4:8
LPGA 38:10	Mary 21:3 22:10 36:4 37:5 87:21	mentioned 19:22 52:4 58:8,16 95:3 98:22 101:13 106:10 107:2 108:15 111:14	Mo 36:3
lucky 82:10	material 25:7	message 25:1	moment 57:10 100:11
Lustig 101:9,15 111:6	materials 17:23,24 18:2 19:2,5 23:8	met 60:17 75:2 126:18	Monday 131:17
luxurious 33:18	Matt 125:5 126:15,19 127:11,19,21	Metra 60:10	money 10:21 89:4
	matter 8:13,22 19:18 26:4 28:10 40:8 45:5 49:9 55:24 117:11 128:18,20	metropolitan 40:10 60:3	Monsignor 80:24
	matters 27:2 63:14	mic 57:24 93:1 94:6 100:23 118:1	month 29:2 44:6
	Matthew 124:19	Michael 8:11 114:1	months 17:18 23:9 69:6, 16
	mayor 9:2 20:6,8	microphone 36:5 51:13 63:1 64:11 71:1,7 75:17 87:22 117:17	Moon 84:3
	MBA 76:4	middle 30:3 49:12,18 53:11 122:15 125:6	moral 33:2
	Mcdermott 10:10 52:12 80:24	middle-class 29:20	morning 32:21
	Mcdonald's 33:17	Mike 102:17	mother 76:11 98:5
	meaningful 77:12		mothers 83:1
	means 50:1 55:11 60:23 126:1,22		motion 131:16
	meant 54:11 55:3 81:1		mourned 28:19
	media 24:15 61:20 65:12,21 66:1 79:18		mouth 44:18 124:15
	medical 11:4 85:3 95:17 129:12		move 31:3
			moved 47:5 95:14 131:20
			moves 47:3
			multimillion 81:12
			multiple 14:15 98:22
			municipal 102:18

M

made 10:4 16:19 22:19
23:6 32:20 53:22 61:20
64:9 65:11 68:20 71:15,
18 72:11 90:14 94:2
95:19 119:3

mail 70:16

mainly 15:8

maintain 45:8

major 46:6 87:13 129:12

make 6:13 7:24 8:3
22:21 28:20 29:13 32:5,
24 33:13 37:15 39:20
40:1,24 45:12,16 51:3
55:4 62:16 63:13 64:12
66:12 74:9 77:4 79:21

Murthy 78:22 79:3	116:14 124:22	objection 87:22 94:2	oppose 40:21
<hr/>	night 32:20 37:2 74:9	objectively 16:1	opposed 114:18
N	nightlife 81:14	objectors 8:2,4	optimal 9:16
<hr/>	NOLFO 83:22 84:10,16, 22 85:4,8,10,20 86:2,9	obligated 32:5	optimistic 32:10
naive 10:4 60:7	nominal 13:22 16:11	occupation 75:11	option 61:11
name's 70:22	non-street 118:17	occupy 8:23 11:22	ordeal 68:16
names 37:14 44:3,8	nonfatal 78:17	occur 32:1 41:2	order 4:7 23:17 27:19 28:21 55:2 123:11
Naperville 90:24 107:5	normal 16:21 17:8	occurs 40:9,11	ordinance 9:1 20:15
nation 51:2	north 12:10 44:1 47:24 66:16 86:18 95:1 107:1 115:22 121:11	October 131:17	ordinances 14:5,6
national 27:21 34:8	northwest 11:10	offer 100:12	organization 10:9 17:13 52:5 55:2 76:1 77:22 84:7 85:16
national/political 5:10	not-for-profit 8:24 9:15 10:9 11:7,11,23 12:1,18 13:3,9,12,21 16:2 17:13	offered 19:13	outbreak 27:18 46:7,14
nationally 80:6 81:13	note 5:19 33:13	offering 21:14	outcome 62:7 93:15
nature 5:10 44:19 60:14 94:19 122:9	noticed 30:9	office 60:10	outcomes 79:12 80:17 83:9 92:11 93:11,22,23
nearby 24:5 40:8 115:24	notices 19:15	officers 83:2	outlined 6:20
necessarily 40:22 107:16	NSDUH 27:20	officials 21:4	outpatient 32:22 69:19, 21 70:5 99:22 127:13
necessary 74:20	numb 104:14	Ogden 52:21 53:5	outreach 110:5
necessities 45:8	number 64:21 73:23 85:22 91:14,23 101:11 126:13,16	older 27:23 29:23 30:2 38:6 62:10,13 83:1	overabundance 91:1
necessity 90:21	numbers 20:11 38:22 39:5,19 58:4 89:2 106:12 113:9 126:11,15 129:20	open 29:12 56:13 75:5 97:20 105:14	overcome 109:21 111:21
needed 10:2 11:8 24:10 41:19 55:1 82:6 84:23 92:11 93:8 97:6,9 116:15 127:18 128:9	numerous 43:15	opening 75:24 78:8 97:14,15 100:15 107:21	overdose 78:16 124:19 126:12 129:10
negative 13:6,11 60:8 85:4,11,17	nursing 85:2 97:15	openly 109:19	overdosed 76:14
neighbor 29:2,9 96:9	<hr/>	operate 8:16	overdoses 44:5 78:17
neighborhood 29:15 33:14 61:4 74:23 95:9 96:5 106:2	O	operation 11:6,20 13:3 85:5	overnight 13:4 69:20
neighboring 13:7,11	O'CONNOR 46:20 47:7, 14	operations 18:8 102:3	oversees 89:7
neighborly 5:5	O-B-E-R-G 36:14	opinion 93:12 96:14 97:18 100:1 102:20 116:20,24 128:18	owner 4:3 8:18 42:7 46:22
neighbors 5:23 40:10 83:16	Oak 86:18	opinions 27:9,14	owners 35:17 66:8 83:2, 20 86:13 130:7
nephew 77:18	Oberg 36:13,14,18	opioid 23:23 27:17 31:6 49:11 50:10,19 53:10 73:17 104:22 105:2,7,18, 24 106:9,20 125:13	<hr/>
network 103:4	object 49:13	opioids 31:4,13 50:17 51:2 118:19	P
news 50:23	objected 94:8	opportunity 33:19 64:6 75:16 79:20 82:19 105:14 110:19 118:12 122:8	<hr/>
nice 60:21	objecting 94:1		P-O-T-T-S 75:13
Niche.com. 33:15			p.m. 131:18
Nicole 108:14			pain 118:5
niece 82:7,18 99:21			pain's 104:8

panel 65:8	pays 16:24	perspective 110:11	pleasure 122:7
panhandlers 60:9	PC 4:2	pertaining 46:18	podium 5:16
paper 19:4	Peacock 18:5 21:18 60:6	pertinent 36:23	point 7:21 22:13 35:3 39:19 46:6 55:15,19 74:6 83:6 93:20 97:10 108:7 119:3,4 120:22 122:2,5 123:17 129:8 131:11
parameters 9:8	Pearl 4:3	pervasive 78:13 129:23	
Pardon 35:22 67:19	peculiar 9:7	Peterson 53:20,21 54:9 55:4,14,21 56:4	
parent 77:6	people 7:8 9:18 10:11, 13,17,24 11:4 22:15 24:24 28:19 29:16 30:6, 11,12 31:24 32:11 35:2 38:3 39:6,9 40:2 41:8 45:3,15 48:19 50:2 54:21,23 55:15 58:5,14 59:4 60:21,23 61:21,22 63:17 68:17 69:3,5,14,15 71:9 72:5,19 73:23,24 74:10 77:11,14 78:24 79:5 82:14,20,23 84:7 86:8 91:3,11,22 95:7 97:22 98:2 99:10,24 100:2,3,11 102:12 103:24 104:4,7,8,12,24 105:15 106:13 110:24 113:20 118:4,6,10,13,16 120:9,10,18 121:4 126:18,22 129:11,13,18, 20,24	petition 4:2,5	pointing 40:5
parents 76:12		petitioner 5:2,3 8:1,3,8, 13 59:5 123:9	points 40:16
park 4:5,10 8:15 9:17 11:13,17 12:2,9,10 13:1 21:13,17 62:14 63:11 101:19 131:19		Pharmaceuticals 50:21	police 83:2
parking 13:10 103:3		phone 19:8	polite 5:5
part 22:17 23:1,12 24:23 48:3 49:23 52:16 59:16 65:11 66:12 79:17 84:6 88:16 99:20 103:18 109:9 126:14		phones 6:7	political 10:8 103:20
participated 127:11		physical 95:18 104:6,9	Pollock 103:6
particular 12:24 24:21 58:22 74:19 90:10,22 102:19 111:24		pick 122:16	pools 61:5
parties 5:5 8:1		picked 30:7 68:11	poor 54:4
partner 10:20 22:23		piece 43:5 70:16	population 33:11 55:11 58:20 111:17,19 119:12 120:10
partnering 83:16	percent 27:24 41:12 79:5 89:19	pieces 77:10	portion 50:10 89:10
pass 18:20 37:16 48:19 50:2	percentage 118:9,16	Pierczynski 90:8,9,17 91:8,16,18,20 92:2	positions 118:7
passed 44:2,11	perception 100:6	-pills 118:5	positive 95:9,19 96:2,5
passing 41:10 106:1	perfect 126:22	piloting 80:20	possessed 46:11
passion 27:4	period 127:11	place 41:24 42:2,5 45:9 50:11 56:13 117:4	possession 20:12
passionate 76:18	permit 4:7	places 61:5 90:13 91:2 118:10	possibility 34:4 98:19
past 23:9 95:4	permitted 15:16	plan 4:7 5:12 7:16 12:5 15:9,17 19:3 20:13,17 21:10,19 22:3,7 23:13,16 74:17 75:15 100:18 101:2 131:13	possibly 51:3 128:16
Patel 52:3,7,12,15,18	perseverance 33:7	planned 4:5 14:13 15:2, 7 23:18 32:8	post 50:23 60:10
path 29:22 31:10 41:14 71:12	person 6:23 24:18,19 29:6 41:23 42:6 44:4 69:1 72:5,8 79:11 96:24 110:3 115:2	planner 102:18	posted 19:5 110:7
paths 28:21	person's 41:9	planning 23:1 26:11 42:17	poster 66:2
patient's 34:18	personal 5:19 34:20 39:7 42:4 78:3 81:4,6 95:23 101:4,7,13 103:23 126:2 129:5	plans 11:20 15:6 45:14, 16	postings 24:15
patients 9:21 13:4 50:5	personally 46:15	play 29:11 55:12 88:18	potential 42:21 77:11
Patrick 77:17		played 41:15	Potts 75:7,12,22 83:24 84:5,14,18 85:2,9,14,24 86:5,10,17,21 87:1,6,10 88:2,23 89:15,20 91:11, 17 92:8,13 93:10,16 95:12 96:10,14,20 98:7 99:10 100:9 106:6,23 107:8,14 108:7 109:6 111:4 113:9 114:23 116:12,20 119:5,9 120:8, 19 121:4
pay 17:13 24:20		playground 43:15	power 64:5
paying 78:14			

powerful 26:24	principles 6:20	promoted 95:24 96:4	publicly 9:4 116:24
practice 78:1	private 21:24 84:17,20 92:16	proper 93:15	published 16:24
pray 62:11 128:20	private-sector 113:1	properties 13:2,7	Purdue 50:21
preamble 38:18	proactively 7:4	property 8:14,19,21,24 9:14,17 11:23 12:23 13:11,19,23 14:4 16:8,12 35:17 43:5 46:24 47:5,11 66:8 83:20 86:13 103:5,8 130:7	purely 73:13
prepared 113:22 129:4	problem 18:22 32:16 34:6,7,8,9 39:10 40:9,11, 13,23 44:10 49:21 101:3 104:11 118:8 124:24 125:2 126:8,20 127:2,3, 5,16 129:17	proportionate 111:17	purported 65:5
preparing 17:19	problems 12:24 60:5 126:21	proposal 8:23 11:22 12:18 24:20 75:23	purportedly 64:22
prescription 46:17 73:18	procedure 67:13	proposed 74:19 88:20	purpose 22:16 35:1
presence 30:17 32:2 81:11	proceeding 5:14 6:5 7:17 15:14 37:3	proposing 128:10	purview 51:6,23 56:15 71:21,23 90:6 93:17 94:9 99:6 104:18 105:10 111:24 118:21,24
present 7:18,19 11:15, 19,21 12:22 13:19 15:12 16:8,18 18:24 21:5 64:7 100:16,18 101:2,9 123:9, 10	proceedings 6:7	protested 24:14	put 40:15 91:2 97:11 117:10 124:14
presentation 5:3,4 8:9 10:6 16:20 17:2 22:16 23:5	process 5:24 6:11,21 9:5,9,10 10:7 16:21 23:22 38:11 68:15 70:6 98:4	protocol 76:16	<hr/> Q <hr/>
presentations 17:19 19:2	processed 14:13 15:2	proud 33:4 45:1 54:15 83:13,15	qualified 38:10
presented 16:5 17:24 18:3 20:1 59:17 101:11 123:11 130:16	produce 11:5 13:18,24 16:7	prove 68:24	qualify 88:14
presenting 18:19 20:6 54:3 107:5	producing 124:5	provide 14:3 16:15 17:15 18:6 65:8,14 75:7 78:8 80:15,19 93:15 101:21,22 110:5,19 127:1	quality 82:15
President 77:18	product 38:22,23	provided 18:3 27:19 41:22 80:5,6 102:5 112:13	quarters 60:20
presiding 9:6	productively 28:5	provider 80:7	question 6:18 8:22 9:10, 12,14 14:20 36:15 37:2, 6,9,12,13 38:17 39:9,13 40:18 41:3,13 42:4,12, 16,19 44:14,17,18,23 45:22 47:24 48:8,23,24 49:7,8,10,15,23 50:8,11 51:6,18 52:7,9 53:8 55:14 56:9,18,23 57:1,2, 7,8,14,20,22 58:6,22,24 64:16,19 66:9,21,23 67:16,24 68:4 70:11,15 71:22 72:1,6,24 73:15 83:20 85:7,10 86:8,12, 14,16 87:2 88:2 90:2,16, 17 91:9,10,20,24 92:1,8 93:7 94:2,8,22 96:4,17 97:12,19 98:10,12 103:22 104:17,20 105:10,21 107:1 108:15, 23 109:16,17,23 110:1,2, 14 111:2,13 112:9,11 113:14,21 114:2,6,7 116:9 117:1,6 118:9,14, 15 119:2,22 120:7 121:3, 8 123:12 130:6,19
Prest 70:22 71:2,8,18,22 72:2,10,15,22 73:2	professional 81:4,7,21 101:5	providers 88:8	question's 121:18
pretty 32:9 63:12 88:4 121:11 123:17	professionalism 34:16	providing 11:11 106:18	
prevalence 115:7	professionals 82:24	provision 13:24 17:16	
Prevention 83:23	profit 10:18	Pruyn's 20:6,8	
previous 92:14 105:5	program 32:18 127:21, 23 128:9,10	psychological 104:5,12	
previously 19:16 104:22	programs 127:12,14,15, 17,23,24 128:1	public 7:6 10:7 11:8,10 12:17 13:6,7,23 14:1,2 16:11,14,22 17:1,3,4,7, 21 18:2,4,8,14,17 19:15, 17 20:21 21:20 23:19 24:15 35:19,21 59:16,23 60:13 66:21 70:11 73:22 74:22 75:1 76:5 80:10 84:24 86:15 89:24 90:3 100:17,19 101:16 102:8 103:10 130:9,11	
pride 35:7	project 40:21	public's 20:12	
prided 31:24	projected 18:1 97:2		
priest 10:10	projectors 18:16		
primarily 14:12 15:1	promised 63:3		
primary 15:23 60:6	promote 74:20 96:8 97:9		
Princeton 37:11			

questioned 24:12	16	referred 19:6 20:16	renovations 12:20
questioner 36:9	readily 127:19	referring 55:16,21	rentals 18:8
questioning 6:24 25:8 105:10 117:13	reading 25:7 64:21 65:16	reflect 19:12	repeat 109:24
questions 6:12,14,15 7:1,5 20:7,9 23:10 35:9, 16,19,20,22,23,24 36:1, 8,10 53:22 63:7,19 64:1 66:7 71:5,9 72:15,17,23 73:1 80:1 86:20 90:5 91:22 92:23 93:2 94:19 97:16 100:14,20 101:23 102:13 103:13 104:3 121:17,22 122:9 130:10, 12,23	reads 26:17	refrain 5:16	rephrase 54:9 105:12
quick 35:4 55:15 56:1 123:12	real 33:18 39:10 59:21 68:20	regard 73:16	report 20:20,23 78:23
quiet 26:18 81:24 87:20 123:8	realistically 50:12	regarding 19:22 46:2 53:22 90:11	reported 79:3
quit 63:4,5,6 64:10	reality 96:22	regardless 62:7 64:2	reporter 7:18
quote 26:15,16,17,21 59:24 70:17	realize 128:15	regulations 10:23 15:8	reporter's 25:21
quoted 33:14	realm 73:13	regurgitated 39:18	reporters 7:19
R	reason 26:20 31:5 33:22 38:18 39:3 68:23 69:17 103:19 129:10	rehab 120:4,24	reports 20:22
R-A-N-I-E-R-I 66:15	reasonable 13:17	rehabilitation 50:7 110:4	represent 7:16 83:23
races 24:3	reasons 11:17 28:16 76:2 87:13 101:18	relapsed 69:15	representatives 35:15 64:15 66:6 75:4 83:19 130:5
radius 90:20	recalled 6:23	relate 77:5 109:3,7	represented 88:21
raised 114:17,21	receive 22:21 79:11	related 6:16 130:21	representing 22:11 35:18 66:20 86:14 89:24 130:8
raising 126:24	received 23:10 65:19 70:16	Relatedly 6:2	reputable 83:10
ran 44:4 81:22 96:24	recently 33:20 44:6	relating 102:5 130:17	reputation 31:24 80:14
randomly 69:18	recipient 80:18	relationship 128:1	request 4:5 22:5,19
Ranieri 29:7 62:1,5 63:24 64:14 66:14,19 68:2,7,10,14,20,23 69:6, 11,14,23 70:5,9,20 71:19 72:7,11 73:16 74:13	recognition 10:19	relative 22:13 23:6 122:22	requested 74:20
ratcheted 18:12	recognize 61:23 65:18, 21	released 78:23	requesting 108:20
rate 79:16 116:23	reconnect 30:6	relevance 114:18	requests 11:3
Ray 4:22,23	record 19:12,14,17 59:23 65:12 66:12	relevant 28:12 89:2 114:12 119:14	require 21:19 22:1 37:18 93:14,19 99:7 104:16 108:23 111:1 117:5 121:14
reached 24:24	record's 36:12	relief 12:7	required 92:19 112:16
reaction 125:24	records 19:16,24 20:10	relieved 10:5	requirements 6:8 14:22
read 7:3 59:18,20 65:10,	recover 110:20	rely 84:24	requires 120:8
	recovering 41:23	remain 35:14	research 109:13,14 110:15
	recovery 24:10,11 35:9 81:22 82:4,8 84:19 85:16 96:11,24 108:16,18 115:24 116:5,13,22 119:9,15,18,20 120:3	remains 22:6 54:5	researched 60:16
	redevelopment 12:21	remarks 129:5	researching 110:17
	refer 19:2 20:11 55:23	remember 66:10 120:19	reside 70:19
	referrals 81:3	remind 7:15 82:23 90:4 91:22	residence 116:19
		reminder 62:16	residency 15:22
		remission 127:9	resident 36:14 37:11 38:4 41:6 46:21 62:2
		removed 6:5	

65:6 70:18 92:22 109:1 121:8 130:14	Riggs 103:17 104:19 105:12,22 106:22	<hr/> S <hr/>	Seriously 123:6
residential 4:8 14:12, 16,19,22,23 15:1,5 81:24	rise 12:23	safe 107:4	serve 11:8 82:9 103:23 118:16
residents 8:2 23:4,11 24:4,9,11,13 25:2 34:1 38:15,19 53:23 54:1,4 55:17,22 57:4 59:13,19 66:3 67:11 81:15 105:14 114:11	riskiest 128:8	safety 12:17 22:2 61:11	service 11:8 19:16 74:21 93:3 108:4 118:13
resource 81:1	road 4:5,10 8:15 9:17 11:13,17 12:2 13:1 35:8 46:21 62:14 63:11 101:19	sake 25:22	services 11:5,12,16,20 14:1,3 16:14,15 24:10,12 76:5 79:24 80:5,9,15 81:20 82:6 83:8 84:12 85:1,18 91:13 95:18 96:21 99:18 101:17,20 102:5,8,11 106:11,13 107:9,15 109:22 110:6, 19 114:5 115:1,8 116:15 120:15
resources 9:4 107:17 125:22	roadway 103:4	sale 8:16,18	sets 26:21
respect 5:8,24 27:7,9 33:6 44:24 46:5 62:3 123:6 130:15	roared 127:10	salmonella 29:13	severe 31:9 39:4
respected 80:6	Robert 56:8	SAMHSA 89:6	severity 27:17 30:23 38:20 39:15,16 44:19
respectful 37:4 57:3 123:18	Robinson 20:23	samples 69:16	sexual 76:7
respond 51:5 59:13 99:7	Robison 121:7,18	satisfied 18:11	shaking 129:15
responded 17:14	Rogers 122:23 123:22,24 124:13,16,18 130:4	satisfy 14:21	shame 62:8
response 19:21 20:19 22:12 23:9 93:4,6 106:18 126:1	role 41:16 55:12 114:23 115:7	saving 41:16 81:8	Shannon 15:12 19:14 20:2
responses 65:10 92:16	Roll 4:11	savior 90:18	share 21:23 36:5 83:3 93:1
responsibility 71:13	room 27:8 28:3 31:20 34:9 35:11 36:19 54:23 79:2 82:14	scale 40:22	shared 77:3
responsible 127:7	room's 40:12	Schaumburg 39:23	sharing 52:22 53:6 77:9 103:23 109:2
rest 5:11 74:9	rooms 119:13 120:17	school 18:5,21,22 29:24 30:3,4,7,18 62:15 64:19 65:9,14 125:6 127:5 131:19	shattered 78:19
restate 25:23	Roosevelt 87:8 89:14, 18,21	schools 60:6 61:5,17	shift 51:2
restaurants 33:18 81:13	root 104:11	science 103:20	shine 64:7
restraint 94:19	Roselle 21:13 39:21 58:8	scope 49:14 52:1 53:16 85:15 88:1 93:18 102:15 108:21 113:6 115:18 121:13	shirts 45:1
result 13:5 77:1	Roth 8:10,12 100:10 101:1	screening 50:3 52:5	shocking 30:20
resulted 17:10	Rou 43:24 44:15,17 45:18	screens 18:1,15	shoes 34:18
resulting 102:8	Roughly 8:20	Section 15:16	shop 97:7,15
results 18:17	rubber-stamped 14:11	sections 60:13	short 64:2,10 91:12 97:22
revenues 125:21	Rudy 70:22 71:2 72:7	secure 24:7	shortage 87:13 88:8 90:13
review 7:22 22:17	rules 6:3,4,6,20,21 7:23	seek 32:8 77:16	shorter 94:7
reviewed 115:3	run 55:2 84:19 95:4 119:9	seeking 79:6,7 83:14 88:14	shortfall 87:15 88:5,16
revolutionize 77:22	runs 119:15,18,20 120:3	sell 95:7	
Ridge 114:2	Rupal 52:3	send 25:1	
	Ryan 21:4 41:5 73:7	sense 51:4 53:19	
		separate 84:7	
		September 18:5 20:9,21	
		serious 31:16 33:10 45:16	

show 12:6,14 13:12 14:3 16:3 23:7 80:22 95:14,15	situations 84:22	34:10 51:12 57:24 70:24 71:6 72:16,18 75:16 84:15 85:18 99:18 100:12,23 101:15,20,22 102:2,4,7,12,16,18,22 103:3,7 112:6,20 116:3 117:16,24	standards 14:7 80:17
showing 11:6 12:22 13:24	size 44:21 113:3,18 119:11,19,24 120:24 121:1 124:2		standing 36:3 114:19
shown 45:3,12 54:13	sizes 113:11,12		stands 75:22
shows 116:22	skyrocket 47:2		Starbucks 98:1 99:14 100:2,5
shut 74:8 122:4	skyrocketed 47:1,6,11	speaking 5:16 29:6,8 34:12 36:12 48:16,18 54:2 57:12 67:3 103:11 125:9	start 25:17 30:9,18 60:6 122:18
shy 29:10	skyrocketing 33:19		started 26:14 31:2,16 71:10 77:16 98:15
sick 104:23	small 45:1 54:14 58:9 60:3 76:9 83:12,15 89:10 111:14,15,22 113:2,4,18	special 4:6 13:13 16:1,2 23:18 131:18	starting 98:4
side 32:23 58:7 62:16 109:10	smallest 58:10	special-use 12:7 13:16	starts 31:6
side-eye 49:6	smart 30:13 38:8	specific 6:20 40:21 57:7 66:1 99:11 100:20 102:16 103:11,13 118:3	state 6:21 33:22 34:14 36:11 47:4 66:11 73:5 75:10 80:19 82:13 86:23 87:4,14,15 88:5,6,13,15, 20,21 89:8,10 90:7
sides 5:15	Smith 64:18 65:4,24	specifically 5:15 22:16, 19 36:2 65:5 113:1,14 114:13 120:9,20	stated 5:13 40:17 47:9, 13 50:1 55:10 56:1 66:3 74:1 92:9 93:8,21 115:23 116:4 125:21
sidewalk 60:22	Sneath 45:21,22	specified 15:10	statement 36:18 65:6 85:9 88:4 107:19 114:5 116:15
sign 36:2	so-called 79:17	speech 48:3	statements 6:9,10 35:23 53:22 64:21,24 65:7,9 76:22 92:14 121:9
significance 7:18	sober 29:1 70:14 127:13	spell 25:23 36:11 73:8	States 79:4 117:3 126:13
significant 18:9 88:16	social 24:15 41:8 61:20 65:12,21 66:1 76:5 80:9	spelling 66:15	stating 54:20 78:24
significantly 88:4	society 28:4 50:24	spend 98:17	station 60:20
signoff 22:1	soft 104:21	spent 30:5	statistics 27:20 28:9 45:23 83:5 109:14
signs 9:24 24:16	softer 105:4	spoke 77:2 100:14 112:13	stats 46:1,3
similar 38:8,12 81:21 108:18 124:2	solely 23:19	spoken 34:19	status 13:21 16:10
simple 76:23	solid 107:23	spokesperson 67:2	stay 9:8 12:13 32:20
simply 10:22 22:4 26:23 27:15 28:10,20 31:23 55:10	somebody's 63:13	Spokespersons 35:20 66:22 90:1 130:9	stayed 60:2 69:19
single 14:15 81:16 117:2	someday 43:1	sporting 5:14	staying 13:4 75:18
sir 41:1 47:17 48:7 51:12 56:17 67:22 70:24 71:17 72:6,20 74:6 94:24 96:1, 15 97:18 98:10,20,23 99:3 116:3,9 117:5,12 121:13 131:3	son 77:17 124:18,21	spot 42:21	steadfastly 9:7
sister 124:22	sons 83:1 96:7 125:5	stable 127:1	stealth 64:2
sit 5:21 25:16 35:3 42:22 55:19 56:2	sort 40:7 46:18 50:4 54:19 110:5	staff 7:4 14:9 20:20 24:12	Stefani 122:23,24 123:22,23,24 124:13,16, 18 129:4 130:4
site 4:7 12:8,14,21 15:4, 10 75:24 78:8	sought 24:5	stage 50:16 127:10	stems 104:14
sitting 56:23 57:14 99:14 100:5 107:7	soul 26:19	stake 50:22	
situation 19:4 38:8	sound 90:14	stance 45:4 46:18	
	Sounded 85:8	stand 35:6 42:24 79:20 107:24 128:24 129:1	
	sounds 112:23	standard 11:24 17:16	
	source 64:23 65:5 81:1		
	sources 65:14		
	south 12:10 37:11		
	speak 26:7 27:1 29:4		

thinking 82:5	65:7,13 78:14 92:9 93:6	79:4,6,7,12,23 80:2,7,15,	39:4,5,18 46:13 89:9
thinks 9:11,13,15	94:8,18 101:2,13 103:19	17 81:9 82:15 83:10,15	90:21 99:4 103:12
thorough 127:7	115:6 125:14 128:16,19	87:4,14 88:13,14,22 89:7	105:20 106:4,5 110:21
	130:16	91:12 92:10,20 93:8,14,	112:15 122:11,14
thought 48:13 53:18	tonight's 18:14	21 96:23 97:5,12 99:15	understanding 15:15
54:16 63:2 86:3 90:10	tons 35:2	107:21,23 117:10 119:8	45:24 77:15 114:24
119:1 126:20,23 127:6	top 33:21 129:10	123:3 127:12 128:5,6,7	understands 109:13
thousands 24:4 113:5	top-rated 33:18	tremendous 42:5 59:14	understood 30:24 55:5
throughout 32:22 75:1	total 120:16	64:9 72:11	95:2 105:19 112:2
thrust 82:24	totally 43:4 92:21	trial 26:18 27:3	115:10
Thursday 22:20	touch 31:5 33:8	trickles 31:6	undoubtedly 58:10
tighten 75:19	touched 54:14	tried 18:20	unfazed 81:11
time 7:3 9:3,24 22:5	tough 26:4 31:22	triggers 15:24	unique 12:24 13:6,15
30:4,5,8,16 32:22 34:11	towards 6:12 32:3 34:23	trot 39:8	unit 23:18
35:7,10,12 42:9 43:8,10	35:8 41:16 45:12 67:16	trouble 57:23 87:22	United 79:4 117:3
50:12 59:9 60:10 62:22	92:9 93:3 97:2 100:3	124:12	126:13
69:8 71:12 79:13 83:7	town 26:12 39:22,23	true 45:3 117:9	units 14:16 15:5 85:17
84:1 93:4 98:3,8,18	45:1 54:14 55:6,24 60:4	trust 5:10	unity 75:22
99:22 102:9 121:23	61:13,21 62:20 68:12	truth 62:12 63:6	University 87:9
126:19 127:7 128:6	76:9 83:15 98:1,13	turn 30:22 119:2	unlikely 13:20 16:9
129:18 131:7,8	103:20 109:19 111:14,	turned 31:10 32:2 91:12	unpacking 115:5
timely 6:24 79:12 92:10,	15,22 113:3,18 120:5,17	106:13 129:10	unprofessional 42:24
20 93:8,14,21	121:1	turning 6:7 61:17 106:1	Unrelated 6:14
timeout 25:10	towns 39:24 40:2 58:15	twin 124:19 129:7	unselfishness 35:8
times 35:5 56:2 76:14	61:17 83:12	two-year 127:11	unstable 61:12
93:6 99:24 104:7 105:16	toxic 124:5	two-year-old 61:6	unwilling 21:23
119:24 121:16 128:8	toxicology 50:4	type 10:1 21:16 30:17	urine 50:3 52:5 69:16
timid 29:11	track 100:4	85:17 104:14 105:3,5	user 31:17
Tina 57:19	traffic 6:18 13:10 103:2	117:3	users 31:20
today 19:5 25:15 33:3	train 60:19,24 97:22,23	types 95:17	usually 126:1
41:23 50:13 62:7 77:3	transcript 7:22 20:4	typical 17:24 113:2,18	utilities 13:6
78:7 88:1 105:2 115:23	transparency 9:5	typically 46:7	utilizing 92:16
today's 17:24	trauma 76:8 104:12		utmost 5:8
told 63:6	traumatic 79:13	U	
tolerated 8:5	travel 24:6	U.S. 78:22	V
TOMASEK 66:24 67:3,	treacherous 126:24	ultimately 23:14	
7,13,18,20 68:5,9,13,18,	treat 46:1 59:19 79:5	unaddressed 104:13	
22 69:2,10,13,21 70:3,7	95:16	unaware 39:15	
tomorrow 79:6	treated 5:8 9:21 46:4	uncalled 18:17 123:7	
ton 110:15	77:21 118:10 126:6	understand 18:18	
tonight 7:7,17 10:5 18:7,	treatment 6:18 51:1,20	30:22 31:15,19 38:3,16	
23,24 19:3,6 20:1,14	53:13 75:24 76:16 78:6		
21:3 24:22 25:2,6,7 26:3,			
7,10,14,22 28:7,12,23			
29:8 34:2,13 40:17 45:1			

values 13:12 34:14 47:5 103:8	volunteered 5:21 24:22	47:10 62:14 70:13 80:22 81:11,15 96:4 101:19 107:1 108:14 131:19	74:16 94:14 100:19 101:2 112:3,7,10 119:17 123:7,10,19 130:7,15,17, 20 131:6,9
variances 12:12	vote 24:20		
variety 21:9 60:23	W		
various 22:1	wait 107:9 110:21 122:5	Wheaton 107:6 117:21	witnesses' 17:19
vendor 22:1	waiting 63:20 100:11	whereabouts 58:18	Wolfe 114:1,16 115:9,21
venue 17:8 21:11	wake 61:18	who've 24:24	woman 76:6,11,13 77:6
veracity 66:2	walk 34:17 50:12 60:22 61:1 69:24 81:16 97:22	wholeheartedly 107:24	won 88:11
versus 58:5	walked 68:11 82:4	whomever 102:14	wonder 99:1
vested 95:24	walking 60:19 61:12	widespread 44:19 125:3	wonderful 125:20
vicious 50:15	wanted 27:15,16 30:15 44:3 48:3 112:22 114:23	wife 76:17 124:21	wondering 28:12 38:2 46:23 62:6 67:7 68:19 108:16 120:23 129:18
Vietnam 126:14	wanting 75:5 109:18	Willow 52:3	Wood 63:11
view 18:2 19:8	war 64:5 104:23 126:14 128:21,22	Willowbrook 124:2,6	word 55:12 71:11
viewpoints 5:6	warning 6:6	Willowbrook's 124:4	work 5:24 21:9 52:4 57:21 60:11 68:7 82:24 85:20 86:2 124:4
village 7:4 8:20 9:2,6 10:19,20,21 11:2 12:15 13:13 14:9,10 16:19 17:8,12,14,20 18:3,11, 16,20 20:15,16,17,20 21:8,24 22:6,24 23:3,4, 10,14 24:12 44:20 65:11 74:18 75:15 79:23 80:1 82:13 107:5 109:19 110:10 114:10 115:4	Washington 50:23	win 64:3,5	worked 42:21 76:4 80:9 108:16
Village's 9:1 10:23 11:24 14:21,24 16:5 17:10 18:5,24 19:21 22:17,19	watching 25:6	Wingert 52:20,21,24 53:2,4,5,18	working 23:8 26:6 100:3
Vince 51:11	waters 126:24	winning 128:24	workplace 28:5
vindictive 62:12	Waukegan 81:24 119:7, 10,12,19 120:12	wise 62:16	world 41:24 42:1,5 83:14
violate 6:4	Waukegan's 119:23	wish 21:12 64:16,19 66:9,21,22 70:11 83:20 86:12,15 90:1	worldwide 34:6
visceral 97:14	waving 36:4	wishes 64:4	worse 30:22 39:1
visit 80:21	wearing 45:1	wishing 75:6	wound 104:6
visitors 81:15	website 19:7 34:13 65:20 110:8	witness 6:22 7:1 21:8 25:9,11,20 35:17,19,21, 22 36:2,20,21 37:9,12 47:21 54:7 56:21 57:12 58:23 59:6,10,11 61:24 62:4 63:19 64:17,20 66:7,9,22,23 67:17 70:11 71:24 74:14 75:9 83:20 86:12,14,16 90:2,6 92:22 93:4,5 94:3 95:2 96:16 99:7 100:21 104:17 107:2 111:2,24 112:16, 22 114:3 115:6,20 117:6, 8 120:2 121:16,22,24 122:5,8,10,15,18,21 130:24 131:2	Wrigleyville 81:23
vivacious 38:8	websites 96:8	witness's 6:16 51:23 52:2 53:17 56:15 93:18 108:22 118:21,24 121:14	written 78:8
Vivek 78:22	week 21:22 63:10 69:18 99:24	witnesses 19:6,9 21:6, 11 24:21,22 25:18 57:1, 6,12 58:23 59:7 64:21	wrong 29:22
voice 21:13 22:9 125:10	weight 97:11		ww.haymarketdupage. org. 19:10
voices 25:4	welcome 7:13 86:10 106:23		www. haymarketdupage. org. 19:11
volume 31:13	welfare 12:17 74:23		Wysocki 7:15,16 21:7 25:21 26:1 36:1,10 37:1, 8 47:17,20 48:7,24 49:22 51:17,22 52:1 53:16 54:7 56:6,11 57:23 58:2 65:3, 18 66:5,10 67:22 71:17, 20,23 72:6,20,24 73:3,5, 9 87:20 90:16 92:5,24 93:17 94:11 96:1,15 98:20,23 99:3 104:16
voluntarily 6:1	well-educated 110:16		
volunteer 25:4 94:14	well-known 128:6		
	well-serviced 111:21		
	west 4:4,10 8:14 9:17 11:13,17 12:2,11 13:1 21:13,17 33:12,16,20		

105:19 106:5 107:12
108:21 113:6 114:14,20
115:19 116:9 117:5
120:6,21 121:2,13,20
123:8,15 124:12 130:23

Wysocki's 22:12

Y

year 24:10 76:14 88:24
89:3 103:18 126:12

year-round 60:22

years 8:20 10:10 12:16
15:5 26:9 29:1,9,23
30:24 31:12 32:14 33:4
42:11 46:22 47:12 63:3
64:10 70:23 71:3 76:6,7
80:10,13 82:5 99:22
105:5 116:14 125:5
126:12 127:5

yelling 5:17

yes-or-no 41:13

yesterday 18:12 70:17

Yordana 7:16

young 48:19 76:11,13
126:17

younger 30:10 62:9
79:17 83:1

youngest 76:8

Z

Zakos 92:6,14 93:7,11,
20

zoned 8:21 13:2,5 105:3

zoning 9:1,8 10:7,23
11:3,24 12:5,7,8 13:14
14:5,6,17,19 15:11,17
16:4,21 17:17,22 19:18,
20 20:15,18 23:13 24:20
25:5,12 26:11 36:23
42:17 90:11 102:19,21
108:17,19 111:5 117:3
130:17,21