

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	NO. 4:22 CR 00296 SRC
v.	)	NO. 4:22 CR 00297 SRC
	)	
JOHN COLLINS-MUHAMMAD,	)	
LEWIS REED, and	)	
JEFFREY BOYD,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**GOVERNMENT’S OMNIBUS SENTENCING**  
**MEMORANDUM**

Comes now the United States of America, by and through Sayler A. Fleming, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Hal Goldsmith, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and for its Omnibus Sentencing Memorandum as to all of the above-referenced Defendants, states to this Honorable Court as follows:

1. By any standard or measure, each of these Defendants’ criminal conduct calls for a significant prison sentence. As to Defendants Collins-Muhammad and Reed, application of the United States Sentencing Guidelines here advise sentences of 37 to 46 months’ imprisonment. As to Defendant Boyd, and his two separate cases, combined application of the United States Sentencing Guidelines here advises a sentence of 30 to 37 months’ imprisonment. It is the position of the United States that anything less would ignore the extent of these Defendants’ criminal conduct and the substantial harm Defendants’ conduct caused to the public. There are real victims in this case; the citizens of St. Louis who make their homes here or who operate their businesses here, whose taxes paid the salaries of these Defendants, who follow the rules and who have every right to expect their elected officials to follow those same

rules, and whose trust in our system of government has been diminished by the criminal acts of these Defendants.

2. Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a) sets out the factors this Court should consider in fashioning an appropriate sentence. The first such factor to be considered is the nature of the offense, 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(1). Defendant Lewis Reed was the longtime President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, the second highest elected office in the City of St. Louis. In his position, Reed was also a member of the powerful City Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Defendant Jeffrey Boyd was the longtime Alderman of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward in the City of St. Louis and, because of his seniority, served as the Vice President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. Boyd also served as the Chairman of the Aldermanic Housing, Urban Development and Zoning Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Aldermanic Legislation Committee, and was a member of several other significant Aldermanic Committees. John Collins-Muhammad was the Alderman of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward in the City of St. Louis, having been first elected during 2017. Collins-Muhammad served on a number of significant Aldermanic Committees, including Housing, Urban Development and Zoning, Legislation, Public Safety, among others. The approximately 300,000 residents of St. Louis, and the multitude of individuals who operate businesses in the City, all depended upon the Defendants to do the right thing as their elected officials, and to provide them with their honest services. Through their continuing criminal conduct these Defendants abused their positions of trust in a substantial and harmful way. These Defendants placed their own personal interests and political ambitions above all else, and engaged in a myriad of classic illegal “pay to play” schemes in order to fill their own pockets with ill-gotten cash, what is commonly referred to as “walking around money.” Defendants’ criminal acts were for their own personal gain, and in clear contravention

of the best interests of the public they were elected to serve.

3. This Court need only look to the language of the Grand Jury's Indictments returned in these cases to get a clear picture of the nature and extent of Defendants' criminal conduct. The *verbatim* quoted language from the numerous undercover recordings compiled during the federal investigation provide a real and startling view into the corrupt nature of these Defendants' criminal activities over a 2 ½ year period, from January, 2020 through March, 2022. This case does not present an aberrant view of these Defendants, as their own words captured in these recordings reflect their true nature and characteristics. This case presents a picture of greed, pure and simple. These Defendants sold their elected offices in exchange for cash bribes, campaign donations, and other things of value with total disregard for the best interests of their constituents, the real victims in this case. Those illegal cash bribes went right into their pockets, not into traceable bank accounts, and were further concealed by each Defendants' failure to report the cash on their Missouri ethics reports and on their federal and state income tax returns.

4. In this case, we need also look at the type of "official acts" committed by Defendants. We are not talking about engaging in a simple phone call, or convening a meeting, or directing a subordinate to take some isolated action. Each of these three Defendants took multiple substantial steps in their official positions to assist "John Doe" in their various "pay to play" schemes. They provided John Doe with their Aldermanic support in multiple dealings with representatives of the St. Louis Development Corporation and the City's Land Reutilization Authority. They sponsored and supported multiple Board Bills before the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, and ushered those Bills through the various Aldermanic Committees. They signed the final Board Bills, which ultimately were unwittingly signed off by the Mayor of St. Louis as official City Ordinances allowing for the requested Tax Abatements. And these Defendants

committed those multiple official acts while accepting streams of cash bribes, campaign donations, and other things of value in exchange. By all accounts, the multiple official acts committed by these Defendants were significant and substantial, and had the potential to reduce sales income and the property taxes which would have ultimately flowed to the City relative to the properties involved in their schemes.

5. This Court is also to consider the histories and characteristics of the Defendants in fashioning appropriate sentences, 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(1). As to these Defendants' histories and characteristics, one might look to the moment when Special Agents of the FBI knocked on their doors during May, 2022. At that time, all three of these Defendants lied to the Agents, falsely denying having accepted the cash bribes, and falsely denying having provided any favorable legislative action in exchange. Boyd also lied about the insurance fraud, initially telling the Agents that he had actually purchased and owned the damaged automobiles which were the subject of his false insurance claim. Only after being confronted by the Agents with the irrefutable evidence contained within the undercover photographs and recordings did these Defendants acknowledge their criminal conduct. Apparently, in the minds of these Defendants, if there are no pictures or recordings, there is no crime to admit. That is particularly troubling, especially when considering that two of these Defendants, Reed and Boyd, had each served in elected office for more than twenty years and held top ranking positions on the Board of Aldermen.

6. As to the histories and characteristics of these Defendants, one can also look to the first time each of these Defendants accepted a cash bribe from John Doe. Consistent with their acceptance of all the later cash bribes, these undercover recordings reveal the truth, that none of these Defendants had any concern about taking the cash, it was simply business as usual:

A. Defendant John Collins-Muhammad on January 24, 2020, after providing John Doe his Aldermanic Letter of Support for a Tax Abatement:

**John Doe: “What I owe you for this?”**

**Collins-Muhammad: “25.”**

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**John Doe: [after providing Collins-Muhammad \$2500 cash] “I really appreciate it, my man.”**

**Collins-Muhammad: “No problem at all.”**

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**Collins-Muhammad: “That’s our job as an Alderman, we’re supposed to help out business owners.”**

Recall also that when Defendant Collins-Muhammad introduced John Doe to “Public Official One,” Collins-Muhammad advised Doe that he should be prepared to pay a \$10,000 cash bribe in order to obtain the requested trucking contracts:

**John Doe: “Should I throw him something?”**

**Collins-Muhammad: “Fuck yeah, you should throw him something. Yeah, you should throw him something.”**

**John Doe: “OK.”**

**Collins-Muhammad: “If you don’t throw him something, he’ll never come back.”**

That is evidence of a course of conduct, not aberrant “one off” behavior. This point was further evidenced when Defendant Collins-Muhammad introduced John Doe to Defendant Boyd, and gave John Doe advice on how much of a cash bribe he should pay to Boyd:

**John Doe: “How much (cash) should I bring him?”**

**Collins-Muhammad: “Wait first, let’s let’s uh...20...2,000? 25?”**

**John Doe: “2,000? 2,500?”**

**Collins-Muhammad: “No. Yeah, yeah, 2,000, you can give him 2,500. That or 3. 2,000 would be good.”**

In addition to paying these bribes to Public Official One and Defendant Boyd, John Doe also gave Defendant Collins-Muhammad cash bribes for setting up the meetings, which Collins-Muhammad readily accepted.

B. Defendant Lewis Reed on August 26, 2021, when agreeing to provide his assistance to John Doe in obtaining a tax abatement for Project A, and accepting a \$1,000 cash bribe:

**Reed: “[John Doe], you’ve got our support, so we’ll get things done for you.”**

**John Doe: “Appreciate it.”**

**Reed: “You’re welcome. If you need us for anything, let us know....Let me know anything, anything you need, you know we got you, we got you.”**

Of course, Defendant Reed had previously accepted substantial bribes from John Doe earlier during 2021 relative to Reed’s agreement to assist John Doe in obtaining City trucking and hauling contracts.

C. Defendant Jeffrey Boyd on July 25, 2020, when first meeting John Doe and agreeing to provide his assistance to John Doe in obtaining a City owned property in his Ward at a substantially reduced price, and accepting a \$2,500 cash bribe:

**John Doe: “So, I’ll bid like 7, \$8,000? \$10,000? I’ll give you my company’s information, and you can....”**

**Boyd: “Yeah, just send me an email and say, ‘Hey, look, I’m going to be applying for this, this is what I want to do and blah, blah, blah.’ And then, I’ll take what you give me and I’ll do a Letter of Support. Say I support blah, blah, blah, blah, blah and all that.”**

**John Doe: “OK.”**

Defendants' ready acceptance of these initial cash bribes, as reflected in the undercover recordings, suggests that such a practice was second nature to each of them, and gives this Court a better understanding of their history and characteristics. By way of further illustration, the United States has attached as Government Exhibit 1 hereto a series of date stamped images taken from undercover video recordings which clearly reflect the ease with which each of these Defendants took cash bribes relative to their various "pay to play" schemes.

April 26, 2021, Defendant Boyd;

May 6, 2021, Defendant Reed;

May 12, 2021, Defendant Collins-Muhammad;

July 3, 2021, Defendant Reed;

December 14, 2021, Defendant Boyd;

December 18, 2021, Defendant Reed;

February 18, 2022, Defendant Boyd;

March 15, 2022, Defendant Collins-Muhammad.

7. This Court should also consider the unrelated criminal scheme carried out by Defendant Boyd in his effort to defraud his own car dealership's insurance carrier. That crime clearly reveals Defendant Boyd's true self, a schemer looking for any way to make a dollar, even if it entailed violating the law for his own personal gain. As the recordings and email communications reflect, the fact that Defendant Boyd became agitated with what he perceived to be the insurance company's slow processing of his claim reveals his total lack of concern that his claim was in all respects, *false*. In order to get the insurance company to process his claim quicker, Defendant Boyd actually doubled down on his fraud, and falsely represented that he was incurring daily storage fees for the damaged automobiles. That is a level of audacity and

greed in his criminal conduct that should not be overlooked by this Court.

8. This Court's sentence should also afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct, 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(2)(B). These Defendants were duly elected members of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. As President of the Board of Aldermen, Defendant Reed was charged with overseeing the operations of that legislative body on behalf of the City's residents. He, along with the Mayor and the Comptroller, also served on the City's Board of Estimate and Apportionment, making decisions on how the City's funds would be used. Defendant Boyd, Vice-President of the Board of Aldermen, served as the Chairman of the Aldermanic Housing, Urban Development and Zoning Committee, while also serving his constituents in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward. Defendant Collins-Muhammad served on a number of important Aldermanic subcommittees, while also serving his constituents in the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward. In their various elected offices, as demonstrated by their actions in this case, in addition to exercising substantial influence and control within the Board of Aldermen, Defendants also exercised considerable authority and influence over the City's agencies and employees, including the St. Louis Development Corporation and the St. Louis Land Reutilization Authority. This Court should fashion a significant punishment not only to deter these Defendants from future criminal conduct, but in order to deter other individuals in similar governmental positions from committing similar crimes. Unfortunately, there have been a number of elected officials in the St. Louis metropolitan area who have been convicted of public corruption crimes in the past several years. St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger was sentenced by District Court Judge Perry to serve a 46 month sentence for accepting illegal bribes in the form of campaign donations. Missouri State Representative T.D. El Amin was sentenced by District Court Judge Autrey to serve an 18 month sentence for accepting an illegal bribe of \$2,100. Pine Lawn,



Missouri Mayor Sylvester Caldwell was sentenced by District Court Judge Perry to serve a 33 month sentence for accepting illegal bribes totaling \$5,500. Missouri State Representative Courtney Curtis was sentenced by this Court to serve a 21 month sentence for stealing campaign funds, and St. Louis Alderman Larry Arnowitz was sentenced by this Court to serve an 18 month sentence for similar criminal conduct. All of these above-referenced sentences were within the sentencing guideline ranges established by the United States Sentencing Commission. In the instant case, the United States submits that prison sentences within the applicable sentencing guideline ranges will have the required deterrent effect.

9. Each of the Defendants in the instant case resigned their positions on the Board of Aldermen. Defendant Collins-Muhammad did so upon learning of the federal investigation, and Defendants Reed and Boyd did so shortly after their first appearances in Court to answer to the charges against them. Defendants have been awarded acceptance of responsibility under the United States Sentencing Guidelines in this case as a result of their guilty pleas. The fact that they resigned their elected positions should not be the basis for any further sentencing benefit in this case. In a public corruption case such as this, removal from public office or resignation from one's elected position is the ordinary and inevitable result. There is nothing extraordinary about Defendants' actions in this regard. Any suggestion by Defendants that their resignations from elected office should inure to their benefit at sentencing should be rejected by this Court. Instead, this Court should hold these Defendants to a higher standard of conduct precisely because of their public positions. If the Court were to consider these collateral consequences in framing more lenient sentences, it would be tantamount to favoring criminals with privileged backgrounds. Furthermore, the fact that these Defendants, as elected officials, are first time offenders is typical as well, and has already been taken into consideration by the Sentencing

Commission in the applicable sentencing guidelines. Such a fact is not extraordinary in these types of white collar criminal cases, and should not form the basis for lesser sentences under the circumstances presented here.<sup>1</sup>

10. The United States submits that there is no basis in the law or the underlying facts and circumstances here that would justify downward variances to sentences less than the advisory guideline sentences. It is the United States' position that justice and fairness require significant sentences of imprisonment in these cases. As a direct result of these three Defendants' criminal conduct, the adverse impact upon the City of St. Louis and its residents who rely upon their elected officials to perform their jobs honorably and with integrity has been substantial. This is *not* a victimless crime. Our public officials should be held accountable for their criminal conduct by appropriate prison sentences; the victim citizens deserve it, and fairness and justice require it.

11. In fashioning an appropriate sentence here, this Court needs to have a full and clear understanding of the adverse impact Defendants' criminal conduct has had on the residents of the City of St. Louis and on St. Louis City Government. Attached as Government Exhibit 2 hereto is a compilation of public statements made by various elected officials and political organizations, as well as citizen victim impact statements which articulate in a way that the undersigned cannot the truly substantial and harmful impact that Defendants' criminal conduct had upon these individuals and entities. It is difficult, if not impossible, to measure the loss of trust in its leaders by the citizens of the City of St. Louis as a result of Defendants' crimes.

12. Only significant prison sentences will adequately reflect the seriousness of the

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<sup>1</sup> There is no question that Defendants' families have suffered and will continue to suffer as a consequence of Defendants' criminal conduct here. However, the risk that such a consequence would fall upon their families was Defendants' to appreciate and avoid, and they should not now be heard to seek the leniency of this Court because their own criminal conduct has caused such harm.

offenses, promote respect for the law, and provide just punishment for Defendants' criminal offenses as is required by 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(2)(A). After all, public service is a public trust. These three Defendants broke that trust here and should be justly punished.

WHEREFORE, the United States of America prays that this Honorable Court sentence Defendants to appropriate terms of imprisonment within the advisory guideline ranges, without downward variances, and for such other relief as this Court deems appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

SAYLER A. FLEMING  
United States attorney

s/ Hal Goldsmith  
HAL GOLDSMITH #32984  
Assistant United States Attorney  
111S. 10th Street, Room 20.331 St. Louis,  
Missouri 63102  
(314) 539-2200

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on November 29, 2022, the foregoing was filed electronically with the Clerk of the Court to be served by operation of the Court's electronic filing system upon the defendant's counsel of record.

/s/ Hal Goldsmith  
HAL GOLDSMITH  
Assistant United States Attorney



IPCamera

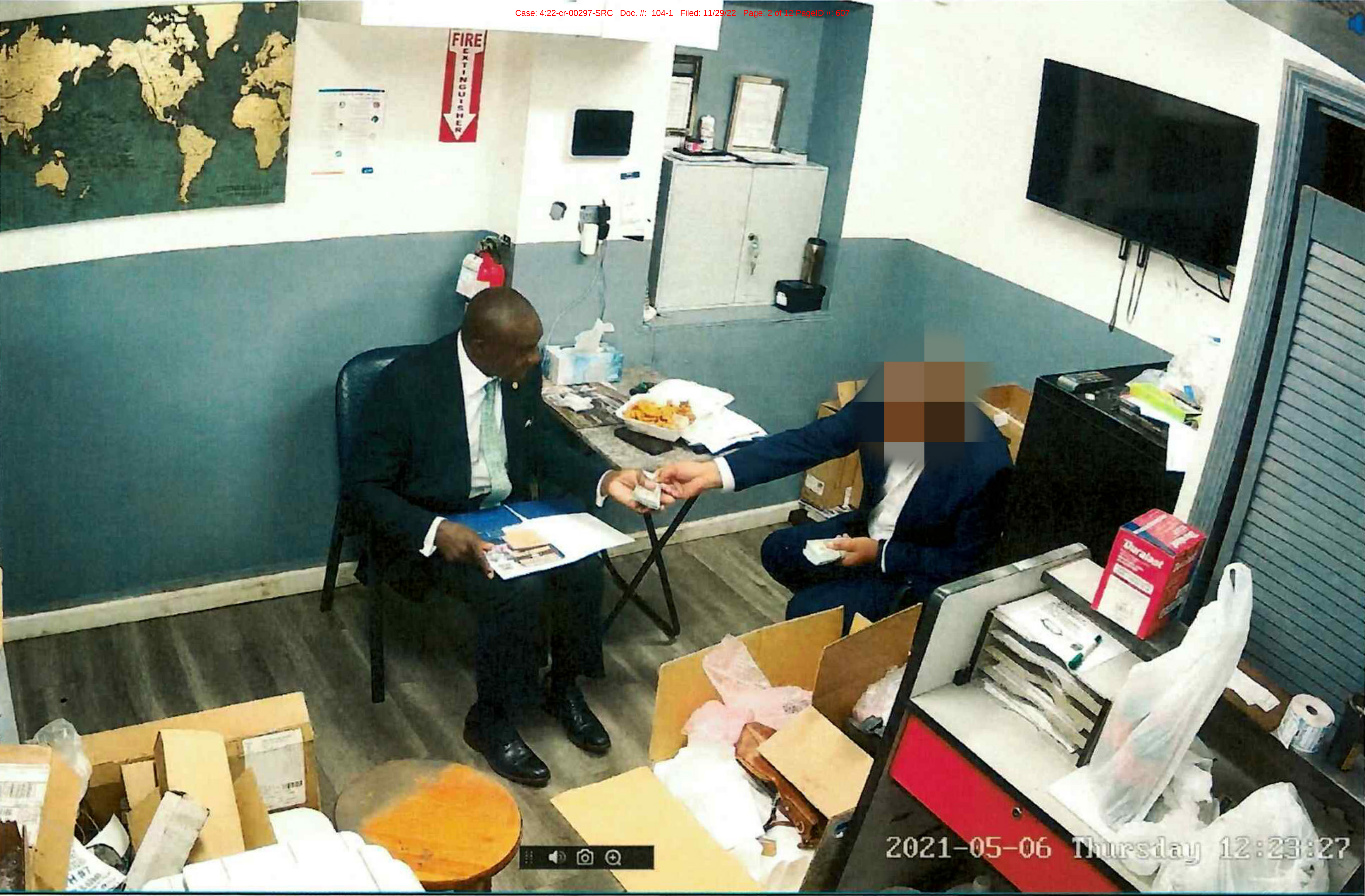


GOVERNMENT  
EXHIBIT

1

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2021-05-06 Thursday 12:23:27





2021-05-12 Wednesday 10:45:26





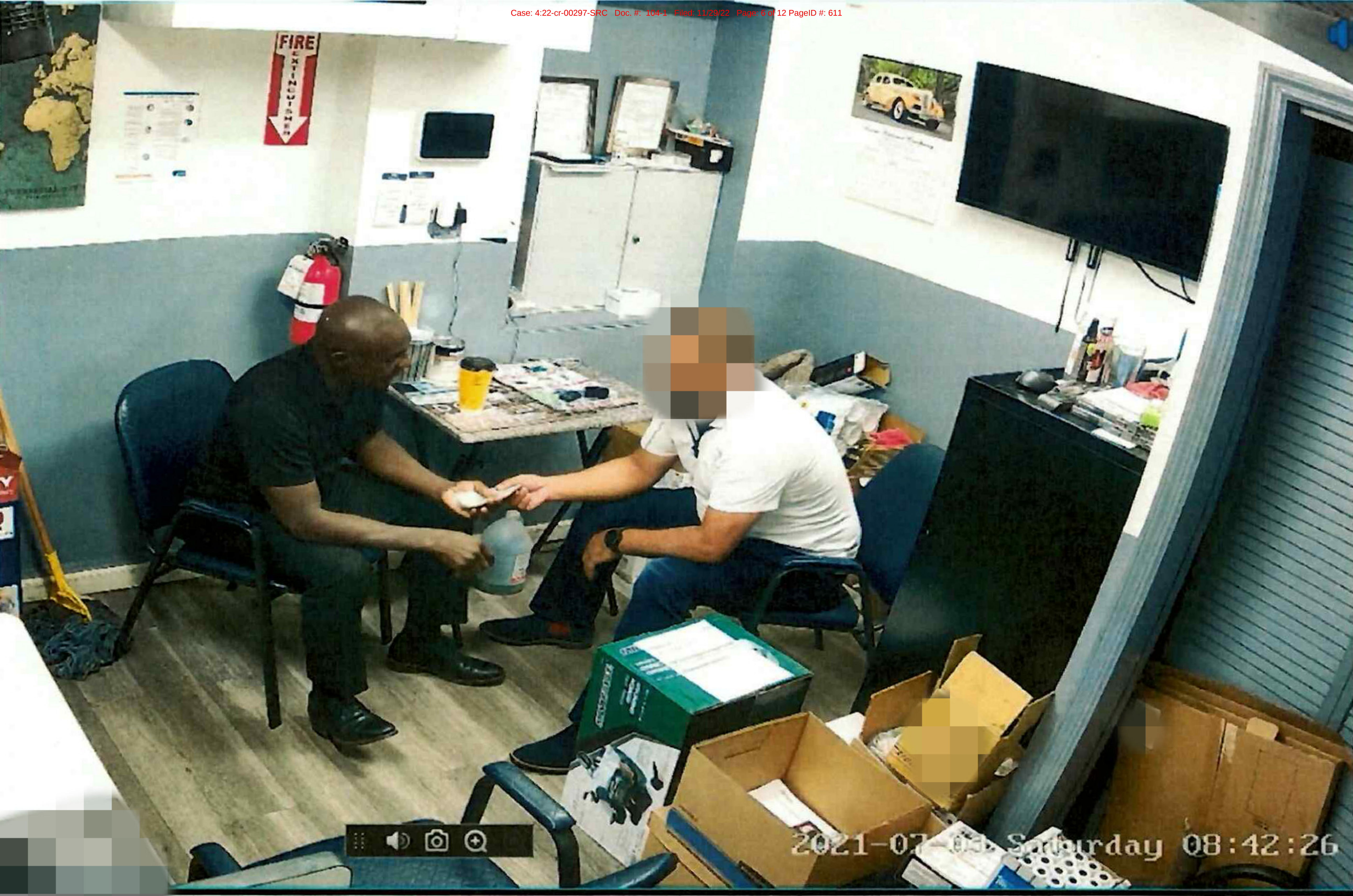
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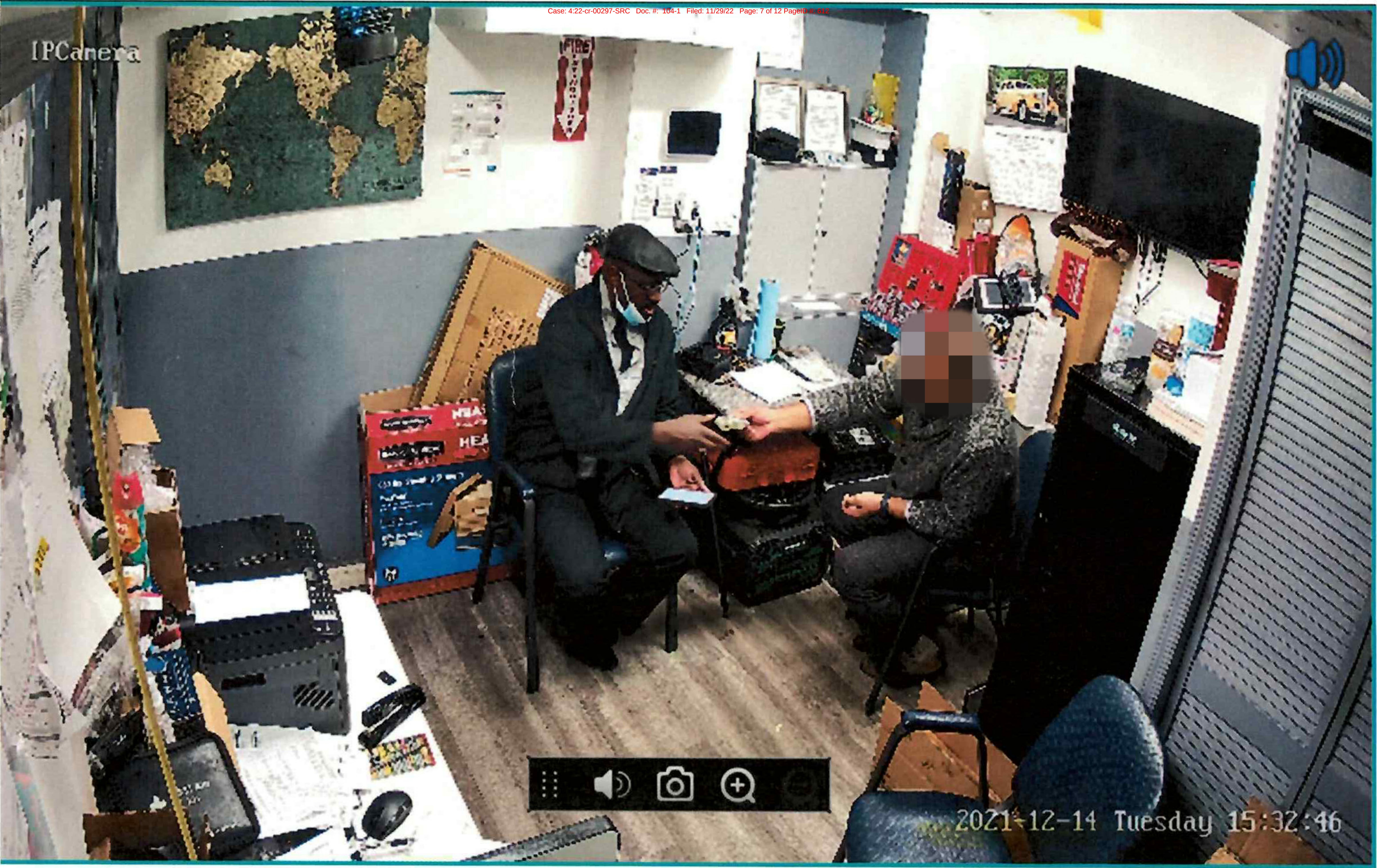




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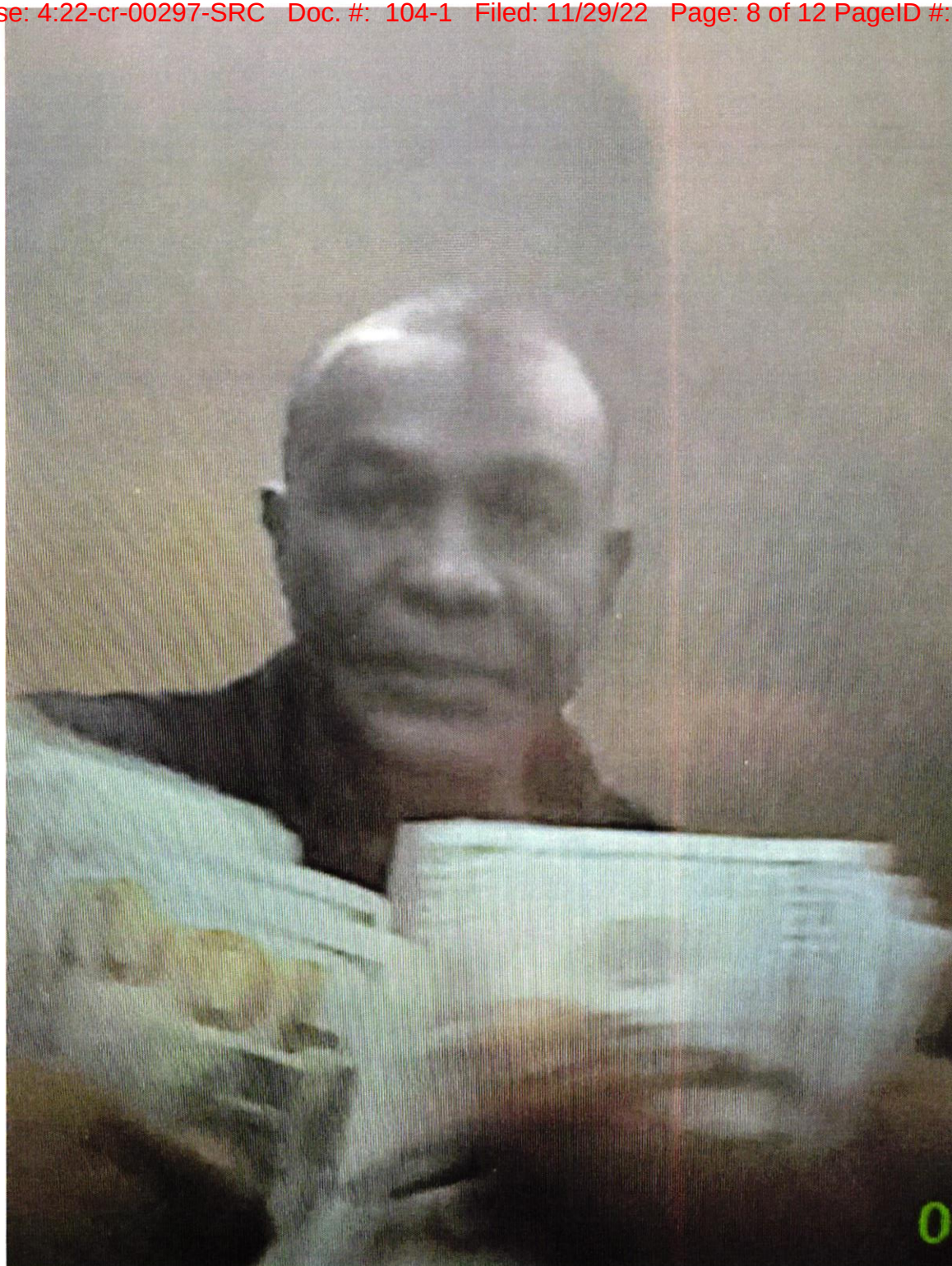


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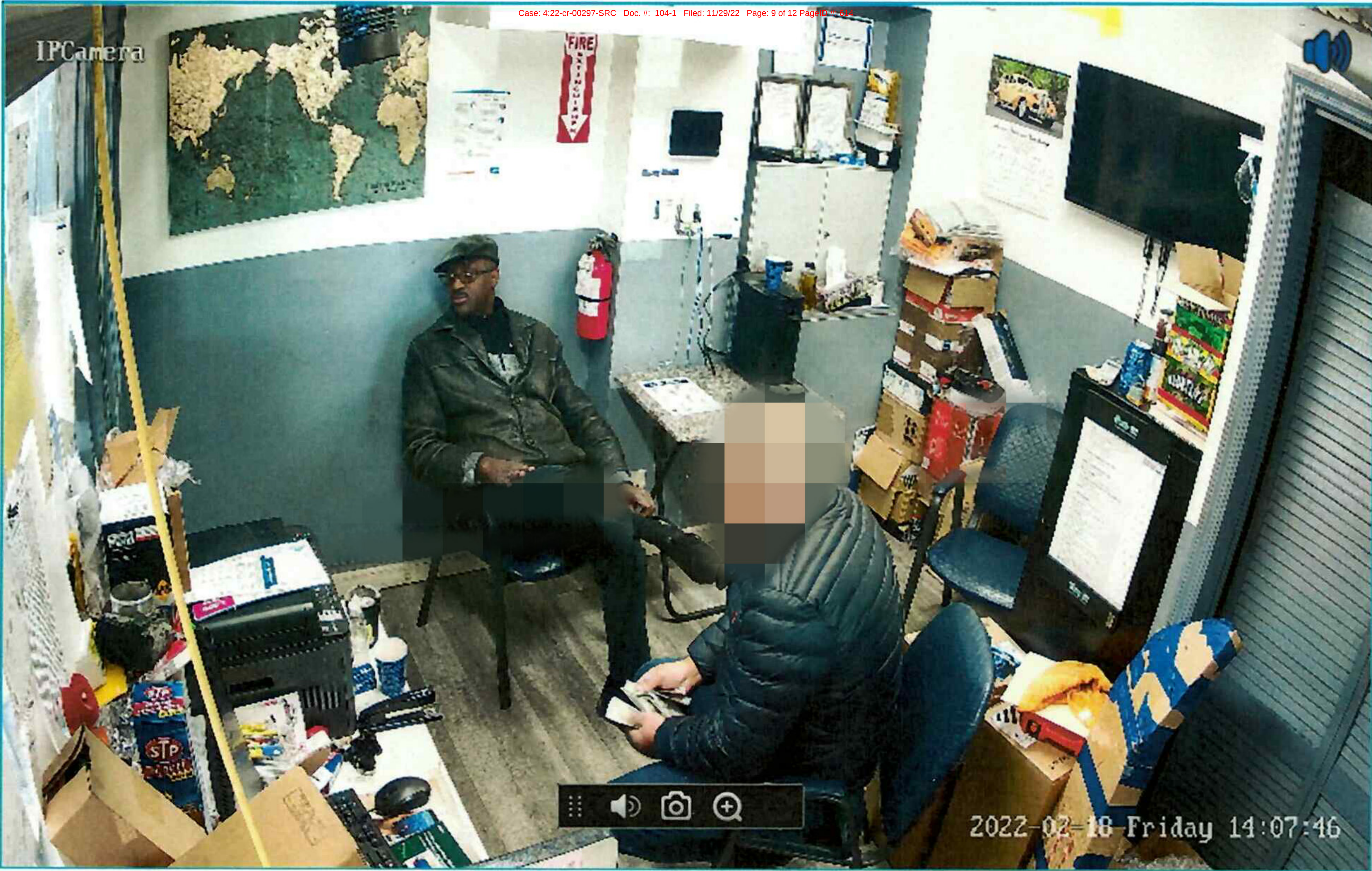
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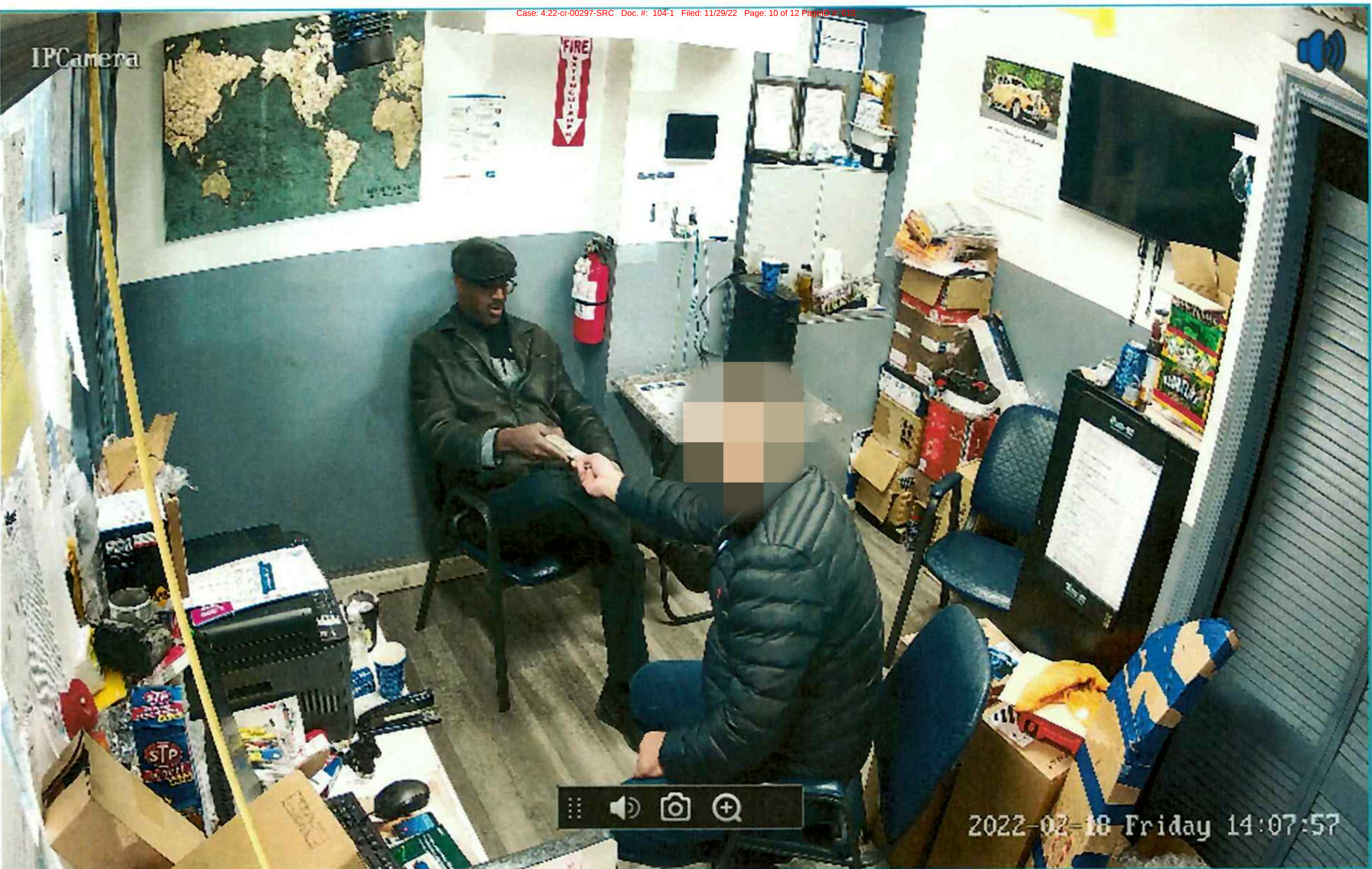
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2022-03-15 Tuesday 15:53:31

**4:22-CR-00296-SRC**

**4:22-CR-00297-SRC**

**CITIZEN AND ELECTED OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Tishaura Jones, Mayor of the City of St. Louis:**

“The troubling charges brought by the U.S. Attorney pull back the curtain to highlight how those elected may exploit our city for their own benefit and profit. St. Louisans deserve better, and I am committed to working alongside fellow leaders to begin the difficult process of restoring trust and integrity in our City Government.”

“The self-dealing and corruption outlined in federal indictments...is completely unacceptable. These serious charges prevented them from doing the jobs they were elected to do....The trust we hold as elected officials is fragile, and that confidence has been shattered by these troubling corruption charges against three former City leaders.”

“No one wins in this situation. When politicians break the law to serve themselves instead of the people they were elected to serve, everyone loses.”

**Darlene Green, Comptroller, City of St. Louis:**

“Comptroller Darlene Green is saddened and disappointed by the actions asserted in today’s Indictment. Comptroller Green believes St. Louis City residents deserve elected officials who look out for the peoples’ interests.”

**Cara Spencer, Alderman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ward, City of St. Louis:**

“Like many St. Louisans, I read with disgust and horror the Indictment of three members of the Board of Aldermen....Serving in elected office is both an honor and a privilege and corruption is the ultimate betrayal of public trust – the foundation of a governed civilization. A society needs to be able to trust its elected government to succeed. And we must hold leaders to the highest account.”



**Meghan Green, then Alderman of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward, City of St. Louis:**

“My first reaction was sadness, sadness for our City. ...the people who suffer most through issues like this are the residents.”

“Taken together, the charges and the conversations threaten the legitimacy of the entire legislative process.”

**Anne Schweitzer, Alderman of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ward, City of St. Louis:**

“We must rebuild public trust, and we can’t do it without acknowledging the gravity of the situation.”

“Regardless of the outcome of the case, their words show malice and contempt for our City, constituents, and colleagues. There is no place for that on our Board.”

**Bill Stephens, Alderman of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward, City of St. Louis:**

“There has been real damage inflicted upon our legislative body since this news shook our City. This Indictment has given the citizens no reason to trust in their government....”

“There’s 66 pages of reasons why you should not trust your legislative branch of government at the moment” (referring to the Indictment against the three Defendants).

**Dan Guenther, Alderman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, City of St. Louis:**

“...in light of the serious nature of the allegations filed against [Lewis Reed], and the distrust of local government that has followed, I am joining the call for your immediate resignation. These charges cast a dark shadow over every decision you have made as a leader of the Board of Alderman and rightfully call into question your ability to lead us now.”

**Annie Rice, Alderman of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, City of St. Louis:**

“The Court process will play out but the public trust is already gone.” “...the City deserves to be able to move forward as best as possible without the shadow of corruption over all of our financial and legislative actions.”

**Jack Coatar, Alderman of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, City of St. Louis:**

“Lewis Reed, Jeffrey Boyd, and John Collins-Muhammad abused their offices and violated the public trust. I share in the disgust and disappointment so many of us feel as a result of their abused behavior. St. Louisans deserve honest, ethical, effective leadership.

**Rasheen Aldridge, Missouri District 78 Representative:**

“Our City deserves to have trust and integrity restored.”

**St. Louis Young Democrats:**

“The people of St. Louis deserve leaders who are not indicted for corruption and bribes. Our communities demand clear and trustworthy public servants. Not self-servants.”

**St. Louis City Democratic Central Committee:**

“The St. Louis City Democratic Central Committee is saddened, shocked and disappointed to learn of the extremely troubling allegations resulting in federal indictments against former members of the St. Louis Board of Alderman. The criminal allegations have created a cloud of mistrust over our entire City and has further compromised the community’s faith in its governmental representation at all levels.”

28 October 2022

Ms. Teri L. Rose

[REDACTED]  
St. Louis, MO 63107

The Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse  
Attn: The Honorable Judge Stephen Clark  
111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Subject: Victim Impact Statement – John Collins Muhammad Sentencing Hearing

Dear Judge Clark,

I am a 5<sup>th</sup> Generation resident of the College Hill Neighborhood. There has been a "Rose" living on East College Avenue since the 1850 Census. I also own [REDACTED], St. Louis, MO 63107 where my younger sister lives. [REDACTED] is directly across the alley from 5337 Von Phul, St. Louis, MO 63107, the site of the "John Doe" family gas station.

John Collins Muhammad's actions have destroyed a neighborhood. To give him a sentence of only 3 or 4 years would be a slap in the face to every resident negatively impacted by his criminal behavior. A sentence of 10 or 20 years is appropriate for the permanent damage he willingly inflicted on the College Hill and O'Fallon neighborhoods.

A gas station is a forever crime magnet. The gas station at Adelaide and West Florissant, a mere four blocks away from this gas station, has been a problem since it opened: Drugs, prostitution, and shootings. A nightmare for the neighborhood. The City closed it and the owner sued. The gas station is back open and will probably remain open since apparently the City isn't interested in pursuing closing the station since the owner sued the City. Then there was the virile video of the man getting out of his vehicle at the BP gas station at East Grand and North Broadway and firing an AR 15 into the air, at least the residents of College Hill had I-70 as a "buffer zone." There is no such buffer zone for this gas station. People will have bullets coming through their windows, roofs, and walls. The Love's Gas Station at North Broadway and Carrie had so many problems that they had to change operating hours and install gates and fences to block entrance ramps during closed hours.

The College Hill neighborhood is about 70 percent vacant: 70 percent of the 1,500 properties in College Hill are either a vacant lot, or a vacant building. The block where this gas station is being constructed was one of the last intact blocks in the neighborhood. The people who live here have owned their homes longer than John Collins Muhammad has been alive. As soon as one third generation family found out that the gas station was going in, they moved. Stability. That's what Collins-Muhammad's criminal actions destroyed.

Homeowners who had stunning views of the Mississippi River, all the way out to the I-270 bridge, will now have that view replaced with gas station pump canopies and a glaring gas station sign. Property values will fall, and insurance rates will go up for people who own property within 300 feet of this gas station. The additional crime will also have a chilling effect on both the College Hill and O'Fallon neighborhoods. However, the effect will be worse for the College Hill neighborhood because the crime statistics will be posted to the College Hill neighborhood, which is a Census tract.

The residents of both the College Hill and O'Fallon neighborhoods have been fighting a gas station at this location since the 1990's when then alderman, Freeman Bosley Senior, wanted to blight the entire block and put in a truck stop...directly across the street from the Mount Grace Convent (the Pink Sisters), O'Fallon Park, and the then Lowell Public School, now a Kipp Charter Academy.

The "John Doe" family tried putting in a gas station when Antonio French was the ward's alderman.

We had 43 people go to the hearing and stopped it, and thought we had "won." We were aware of the hearing because Alderman French had proponents of the gas station come to neighborhood meetings. So, we knew to be on the look out for postings about the hearing. The Building Division posted one notice, wrapped up like a scroll around the post of a street parking sign. It would have been missed if we had not been expecting it.

Unlike Alderman French, Alderman Collins Muhammad said NOTHING to ANY of his constituents about the proposed gas station. By the time we heard about it, it was too late. The Building Division did the same thing: Posted one notice wrapped up like a scroll around the post of a street parking sign. This time, it got by us because we thought we had "won" and stopped the gas station. It was also the month of December in the height of the pandemic. It gets dark early, and people were not going out, so we missed the posted notice about the hearing. We did, however, get a copy of what was said at the hearing:

They stated that there were only two gas stations on the north side of I-70. This is not true. There are two at the Carrie Avenue exit, and there are two at the East Grand Avenue exit from I-70. On the south side of I-70 there is a gas station at the Shreve exit, and two at the Salisbury/McKinley bridge exit. We did not need another gas station. The hearing document also showed that the gas station would be open 24/7 and have a packaged liquor store.

I sat in one of Collins-Muhammad neighborhood meetings and heard him say that there would be no new liquor licenses in the 21<sup>st</sup> ward. What he DIDN'T say was that this was only for a 5-year period. Additionally, people who live in these neighborhoods are not going to go to a gas station at Midnight or 1:00 or 2:00 am in the morning.



When people got word of the gas station and started calling him, he blamed Antonio French for not telling him that the people did not want a gas station at this location. Collins-Muhammad was given a neighborhood redevelopment plan that the College Hill Foundation got funded with at \$50,000 grant. This plan clearly showed that this lot was shown as green space. Also, Antonio French did not stop Collins-Muhammad from talking to his constituents prior to approving the gas station.

Collins-Muhammad told me that he would pull the board bill that gave the "John Doe" family tax abatement for the property, and maybe that would stop them from building the gas station. He told me that that was the only thing he could do to try and stop it. He pulled the board bill, but what he didn't say was that he was going to introduce another board bill for a larger portion of the College Hill neighborhood that would include 5337 Von Phul with tax abatement for 25 years.

When word got out about the gas station, we started a recall effort. To a person, everyone we talked to felt that Collins-Muhammad had to have taken a bribe. I and a resident of the O'Fallon Neighborhood felt so strongly about this, that we decided to go to the US Attorney's office with our concerns. We met with Mr. Hal Goldsmith. We did not know at the time of our meeting that there was already an on-going investigation. Unknown to us, we were able to provide information that helped with the indictment, a fact that delighted us to no end.

Give Collins-Muhammad the sentence he deserves for destroying a neighborhood and negatively impacting the lives, property value, and safety of hundreds of residents of the College Hill and O'Fallon neighborhoods. A sentence of 3 or 4 years is not nearly enough.

Sincerely,

  
Teri L. Rose

I agree with the information provided in this letter:

Ms. Barbara Lane



St. Louis, MO 63107



Amber Cole



Magistrate Judge  
John M. Bodenhauser  
Honorable Stephen Clark  
Hal Goldsmith  
Assistant United States Attorney  
111 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 15 South  
Saint Louis Missouri 63102

**RE: JOHN COLLINS MUHAMMAD - No. 4:22-GR-297 SRC**

Dear Honorable Judge Bodenhauser and Honorable Stephen Clark:

I am writing you regarding Case Number: 4:22-G-297 SRC. Defendant John Collins-Muhammad (JCM) in which was indicted on and enter a Guilty Plea to three charges: Theft or Bribery Concerning, Racketeering-Bribery, Wire Fraud. (PUBLIC CORRUPTION) The defendant John Collins Muhammad represent the area in which I reside – 21<sup>st</sup> Ward.

JCM intently violated the trust of my community and fraudulent took advantage of the citizens of our ward. Making promises to our community and withheld services from others and threatening me personally. He attempted to blight our community. We advise him that we DID NOT want a gas station on Von Phul and Adelaide. We attended a number of meetings with the St Louis City Board of Adjustment requesting them to deny the owner the right to build and operate a business at that site. We also ask not to allow another gas station located on Shreve and Bircher to expand because they were refusing to provide a safety to their patronage. At that gas station a number of murders, car jacking's and drug deals were occurring. When the Six District Police Officers request footage they claim that their cameras were broken.

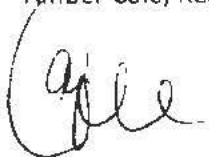
I believe JCM awarded a contract to a company to replace sidewalks on my street when we didn't need them. Again, I went to the city and told them what I suspected, of course I did not get any help.

There are a number of other incidents that he prevent that we literally begged him for his assistance. From giving favors by renaming streets to obtaining votes. He represented himself not the welfare of those constituents in our ward. The Natural Bridge Expansion Project, he verbally attack me when I called the name developer and question her about the project. I feel that he felt he was above the law. I believed in the potential of this young man. I had hope he would change, I even went to his "mentors" for help. They claim they would speak to him... however no change.

His behavior is a total disgrace to other young African Americans. We lost a "vote" in our community. We lost a leader. We lost tax dollars, just to name a few. And what we gain from his actions was further mistrust in our community, we gain more drugs and prostitution in our community.

So your Honor I request you hold him accountable for the trauma that he imposed onto our community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amber Cole, Resident of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward



Dear Judge Clark

8-19-22

after reading of all the corruption  
that these perps are involved in I  
hope the justice system prosecutes  
to the "Fullest Extent" of the law!  
NO PROBATION! They have all breached  
the public's trust for personal gain!  
Time to throw the book @ these  
THIEVES!

Curt Buchholz