

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS
AND RECREATION

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Welcome to today's New York City Council hearing of the Committee on Parks and Recreation. At this time we asked their cell phones please be on silent or vibrate. If you wish to testify today you can come up to the sergeant's desk and fill out one of these slips over here. Written testimony can be sent to testimony@counsel.nyc.gov. Again that is testimony@counsel.nyc.gov Thank you for your cooperation. Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: I'm going to first turn it over to our Speaker the City Council Adrienne Adams for our opening statement.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Chair Krishna and good morning everyone. I'm Speaker Adrienne Adams. And I'd like again to thank Chair Krishnan for convening this hearing on the Trump Organization's contract at Ferry Point Park. In 2021, the city cancelled contracts with the Trump Organization for the Wollman and Lasker Rinks and the Central Park Carousel. As it happens, I was actually a member of the Council's Committee on Parks when those cancellations were proposed by the previous administration. This is unfinished Council business. The city should now

also do the same for the contract at Ferry Point Park.

The Trump Organization is not suited to operate the golf course at very Point Park because of criminal convictions against and allegations related to its executive officers. Allen Weisselberg, a named party on the contract with the city and the Chief Financial Officer of the Trump Organization pled guilty to fifteen felony charges related to a financial scheme to evade \$1.76 million in taxes due on unreported income.

This is in addition to the other criminal and civil investigations that are ongoing by the federal and state prosecutors on the Trump Organization itself. These actions should provide a basis for the city to cancel its contract with the Trump Organization for the operation of the golf course at Ferry Point Park. In addition to the Trump Organization's activities, this past weekend we remembered those who were lost during 9/11. And for those of us that were here in midtown Manhattan, and lower Manhattan and other places across the city. We will never forget that day. The bipartisan 9/11 Commission, which studied the attack and its

aftermath cited quote, "Saudi Arabia as a problematic ally in combating extremism, the Trump-operated golf course, hosting a golf tournament sponsored by the Saudi government just a week after the 21st anniversary is insensitive to say the least. For many families who lost loved ones on that fateful day, the days and weeks surrounding it are understandably difficult. The parks permit that was issued for this event should be canceled. The city should divest itself from all contracts with the Trump Organization and immediately revoke the permit that was issued for the Aramco Team Series Event at Ferry Point Park.

I do look forward to the testimony from the New York City Parks department regarding this contract, and hearing from the families affected by 9/11. Once again, New York City will never forget the horror of 9/11. The city of New York should never participate in joining or co-joining with anything that brings financial gain to the Trump Organization, particularly when it pertains to 9/11. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Speaker Adams.

Good morning, everyone. I'm Shekar Krishnan, Chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation in our New York City Council, and I'd like to welcome all of you to today's hearing, where we will examine the city's contract with the Trump Organization to run the golf course at Ferry Point Park in the Bronx.

I'd like to take a second to also personally thank and welcome Speaker Adams for appearing today with the Parks Committee for this hearing.

The Speaker has been steadfast in her desire to see that those entities that the city does business with are entities that provide a benefit to the people of the city and conduct their businesses in an honorable way.

Now, as the Speaker said, I was also looking forward to the Parks Commissioner, or representatives of City Hall attending today's hearing. However, we were informed late last night that Parks Commissioner Donahue, nor any city hall representatives would appear for today's hearing. No reason was given.

And that raises serious concerns and questions for all of us. Because if City Hall and its agencies make a decision, the agencies or the representatives of City Hall show up to defend their decisions, as

we've seen in hearing after hearing for this committee, for other committees of the Council, and as we will see for future hearings as well.

So it makes the absence of anyone from the administration even more appalling, because it means that this decision is indefensible. And that is why no one is here today from the Parks Department or from City Hall to defend this decision and the subject of today's hearing. Dozens of the mayor's senior staff sit not one minute away from this chamber. The Parks Commissioner and parks representatives have appeared for numerous hearings and will appear going forward. But this administration could not send a single person to explain to New Yorkers why City Hall has handed over a public park to Donald Trump and his criminal enterprise, and still does nothing about it.

It raises serious questions, their absence, about their willingness to take action to protect the public interest here. It raises serious questions about their inability to defend the special approval that was required by the Parks Department for this offensive golf tournament, and for the continuation

of the parks license for the Trump Organization that is simply unworthy of it.

Today's hearing comes at an important moment. A moment that calls us to make good on our words, as community leaders, as activist for justice and fairness and as advocates for the people of the city of New York. A moment that ties decades of September 11 vigils like the ones just a few days ago, and years of resistance to Donald Trump into a single decision point. This is a moment where we, this city, can decide to immediately end our ties to Trump and his criminal enterprise. We can ensure that we respect the lives of those who perished on one of the darkest and most tragic days in our city's and our country's history. We can ensure that public parkland is kept in public hands, where it belongs, and not in the hands of a private enterprise subjected to numerous criminal probes, and that charges exorbitantly high fees for its use as a public golf course. If we do not act now, this moment will slip away, and our city will be complicit in supporting the Trump Organization and its associates in their control over our public parkland and in this offensive tournament, dishonoring the

lives we lost on 9/11, and failing to protect our public parkland that continues to be out of reach for so many New Yorkers while it is in the hands of the Trump Organization.

During today's hearing, we will examine the various paths available to immediately terminate the Department of Parks and Recreation's license agreement with Trump Ferry Point LLC to operate the golf course at Ferry Point Park. The August 18 guilty plea on 15 felony charges by Allen Weisselberg, the CFO and Executive Vice President of Trump Ferry Point LLC when this license went into effect, with his name appearing in his signature all over the license documents, makes it untenable for the city to continue to do business with this operator. Trump Ferry Point LLC is simply unworthy of a license to operate our public parkland.

In addition to the long history of the Trump Organization's fraudulent operations, the recently announced plans for the Saudi-backed golf tournament to be held at Ferry Point Park are an affront to the values of New York City, scheduled for October 13th through 15th, just weeks after the anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. This event does harm to the families

of 9/11 victims and offends the public memory of that horrific day.

Beyond the harm to the 9/11 families, the Saudi regime has perpetrated numerous human rights violations and until recently denied women basic rights and dignity. These are the facts and they are not disputed.

The agreement is clear as day. The Department of Parks and Recreations license agreement with Trump Ferry Point LLC for this public golf course is quote "terminable at will by the Parks Commissioner in her sole and absolute discretion at any time" upon 25 days' written notice.

The Aramco Team Series golf tournament is more than one month away. There are substantial grounds to terminate the license agreement immediately and in doing so, by this Saturday, September 17, would cancel the offensive golf tournament next month.

The grounds are strong. Allen Weisselberg, former Chief Financial Officer of the Trump Organization is listed as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Trump Ferry Point LLC on their license agreement. On August 18, in connection with the leadership position at the Trump

Organization Weisselberg pleaded guilty to 15 felony charges including grand larceny, tax fraud, and falsifying business records. He is required to make full repayment of taxes, penalties and interest due to the city of New York and the New York state tax authorities totaling \$1,994,321. The city's license agreement with Trump Ferry Point LLC requires its employees and agents to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and legal requirements. It is explicit in the license agreement.

The Trump Organization remains under criminal investigation and faces criminal charges in Manhattan set to go to trial next month, with testimony expected from Weisselberg who just pled. Specific to the Ferry Point property, there are serious questions about Weisselberg and the Trump Organization's potential misuse of the public golf course for private benefit, including for a private bat mitzvah reception for Weisselberg's granddaughter, as reported in Vanity Fair in 2019.

Donald Trump is listed as the Chief Executive Officer and president of Trump Ferry Point LLC, and the sole guarantor of this license agreement with the Parks Department. He faces multiple pending

lawsuits, including civil claims for his incitement of the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol, and ongoing investigation into his and the Trump Organization's financial dealings by New York State Attorney General Letitia James, and an ongoing investigation into his potential criminal violation of the Espionage Act by the FBI.

The cloud of legal investigations of the most serious nature surrounding Trump impedes his capacity to serve as guarantor as required by the terms of this license.

Further, this golf course is exorbitantly expensive for New Yorkers.

The fees for New York City residents are at a minimum \$200 For a full round of golf at Trump's very point.

Nearby Bethpage black golf course. A public golf course offered by the New York state park system has fees of around \$65 to \$85 for a full round of golf, and previously hosted the most premier tournaments in golf, such as the US Open and PGA Championship.

The executive officers of Trump Ferry Point LLC are either convicted of criminal charges or implicated in myriad ongoing civil and criminal legal

actions. And so the questions are clear: Why are we letting him and his associates use our public land, our public park like this? Especially after the Council, as a Speaker mentioned, previously called upon this city to renounce and discontinue all its contracts, including other concession licenses with the Trump Organization. Who in this administration, or at City Hall, approved such an offensive tournament? A tournament that as the license makes clear, and we will show required special approval from the city.

Further, Trump Ferry Point and the city have partnered with the regime that invokes pain and suffering on families that suffered the most on September 11. Why should we as a city allow this to continue?

We owe it to the people of New York City, we owe it to the survivors of families of 9/11, to fight in every way possible, with every tool at our disposal to terminate this license and bring this matter to a close.

That is the minimum this administration and this Parks Commissioner could do is to fight in every way possible to terminate this agreement.

Our public Parkland should not be in the hands of Donald Trump or his criminal enterprise.

Thank you, and welcome again.

We will now be calling up -- with the absence of administration today -- we will now be calling up our first witness, Stephen Younger, attorney and former president of the New York State Bar Association.

MR. YOUNGER: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: You may begin Mr. Younger.

MR. YOUNGER: Thank you Speaker Adams, Chair Krishnan and your fellow Council members. My name is Stephen Younger. I'm a partner at Foley Hoag, a law firm with over 300 lawyers. With me today's my colleague Shayonna Cato, and as your Chair mentioned, I'm a past president of the New York State Bar Association. I've been practicing law in New York City for over 35 years.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: I'm sorry. Could you move the mic a little bit closer to you?

MR. YOUNGER: Is this better?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yes.

MR. YOUNGER: I regularly litigate real estate disputes, including surrounding contracts similar to the Ferry Point license that's in front of you today.

I'm also author of The Treatise on the New York Commercial Division, which is where disputes like this play out in the court system regularly. I'm a native New Yorker, I grew up playing stickball in our city parks. So I want to thank you for your stewardship of our city parks, which are one of our most valuable assets.

My testimony today will address the license agreement, which grants Trump Ferry Point LLC the right to operate a tournament-quality golf course at a site in The Bronx right next to Whitestone bridge. I will focus on the contracts termination clause, and a termination fee that would be due to the Trump entity if that provision were to be invoked. Before I get into the details, allow me to emphasize two key takeaways. First, the city's commissioner of Parks and Recreation can unilaterally terminate this license in her sole discretion, so long as that termination is not arbitrary or capricious. Second, I believe that termination fee that would be owed to the Trump entity could well be as low as \$5 million, and it's likely to be less than \$10. These are just estimates and you would need a accounting review to

get to the exact number, but it's worth bearing these sorts of estimates in mind today.

Let me start with the termination clause which you see up on the chart. Section 3.2A of the contract allows the Parks Commissioner to terminate this contract at will. It states the license agreement is terminable at will by the commissioner in -- it says his, but I'll say -- her sole and absolute discretion at any time. This means the Parks Commissioner can terminate this license whenever she wants. At any time. There's just one limiting factor. Any termination at will cannot be arbitrary or capricious. What does that mean? Basically, the Commissioner needs to have a sound reason for the termination, which is based on the facts before her. The contracts give two examples for guidance: On the one hand, it would not be arbitrary to terminate the contract to use the land for an alternative Park use. On the other hand, it would be arbitrary to terminate simply for the purpose of giving the license to somebody else.

In my view, given the circumstances here, it would not be arbitrary to terminate this agreement under Section 3.2A, and here's why: First, Donald

Trump, his companies, and various of his associates face several serious criminal investigations. His CFO, Allen Weisselberg has already pled guilty to numerous felonies, including grand larceny, and tax fraud relating to his role at the Trump Organization. Mr. Weisselberg is listed in Section 36 of the contract is one of the contact persons for the Trump entity that manages the golf course, and he serves as a CFO of that entity. Moreover, the Trump Organization is soon headed toward a criminal tax trial here in New York. Mr. Trump himself is the subject of several civil and criminal investigations by this state's attorney general, by the District Attorney in Manhattan, by the federal government, and several other states. None of this is news to anyone in this room, nor would it be news to any court that might review a termination of this license. But there's another reason why termination would be appropriate here. The agreement was personally guaranteed by Donald Trump. To support that guarantee, Mr. Trump submitted a signed certification by his then accounting firm, the Weiser firm. Trump's accountants certified that his net worth was over \$3 billion and thus that his personal guarantee

was adequate to support the financial terms of the agreement, if that guarantee were to be called.

However, early this year, those very same accountants withdrew their statements of Trump's financial position for the period 2011 to 2020.

As a result, the park Commissioner can reasonably take the position that there's no support for the Trump guarantee of the deal, which was a critical inducement for the city to enter into this license. Given all these circumstances for the city to sever its ties to Mr. Trump and his company, does not appear to be arbitrary or capricious.

Now once the Commissioner gives notice of an annual termination. Such a termination takes effect in 25 days. In other words, if the termination were invoked today, Trump's license for the golf course would terminate on October 10, 2022, next month.

When the license is terminated section 3.2B of the contract grants Trump three point LLC, which is the entity that runs a course a termination fee. That fee is intended to reimburse the Trump Organization for funds that they invested in the project. Now, section 3.2B spells out how this termination fees to be calculated. There are four basic components to

the calculation. The fee amounts to Trump's capital improvement costs, plus what are called growing costs, minus amortization, plus the amount of the capital reserve fund, and that equation is summarized on this chart, which I'll walk through for you now.

Capital Improvement costs are essentially the costs that Trump incurred to build a clubhouse at the course. Growing costs are the funds that Trump spent to complete growing the grass of the course.

Amortization, which is a factor that reduces these costs is meant to capture how the costs of this project are recaptured over the term of the contract.

In this contract amortization is calculated on what we call a straight-line basis over the 20 year term of the agreement. That means that if you want to estimate the amortization amounts, you would take the total of these two costs, capital improvement and growing, divide them by 20, and then multiply it by the number of years that this course has been in operation.

The capital reserve fund, which the last item, kicked in in year five of the contract, it amounts to 3% of the gross revenue each year beginning on year five. Now according to the contract, this fund was

reserved to pay for repairs and equipment replacement at the course.

Now we don't have the raw data that would allow us to compute with accuracy what that termination would fee would be. You would need accountants to determine based on the data, the exact amount of the fee. But the contract has cost projections, and there have been publicly disclosed revenue figures for the golf course. And it should be remembered that developers try to stay within their budgeted costs to keep their costs as low as possible and as close to the projections as possible. So these budgeted items should be somewhat reliable. Now based on this information, I believe that the fee that would be owed could be as low as \$5 million. And it's highly likely that that fee will be less than \$10 million. So let's look at the numbers that are available to us today. Attached to the contract is exhibit K, was a budget. The budget pegged the capital improvement costs of between \$9 and \$12 million, and they pegged the growing costs at \$750,000 to \$2.9 million. A news article reported that the growing costs were actually \$850,000, which is quite close to the lower range of this estimate.

So if you assume that you have costs in this range, the cost would be a total of somewhere near \$9.75, and \$14.9 million. From that you would then reduce those costs by the amortization amount for the years since the course was completed. Using the budget figures, and assuming those figures were evenly spaced out, those amortization mounts would likely be in the range of \$487,000 to \$745,000 per year. So if you assume that firstly a nine year period, that would put the termination fee in the range of \$5.5 to \$8 million. You would also need to add back in the capital reserve amount, which is 3% of gross revenues since your five. Publicly available figures about the revenues from this course show that that number is likely to be less than \$500,000, so not likely to throw the estimate off very much.

Of course, these are just estimates, the actual numbers could be higher, or they could be lower. And as I mentioned, accountants would need to look at the actual amounts that Trump spent to develop this project. But you should bear in mind that when Trump came on the scene, the course was nearing completion. The city had already invested somewhere around \$120

million in this project, so that his investment is relatively modest compared to the total cost of the city spent to build the golf course.

Now before I conclude, it is worth noting that if the city were to invoke the termination and pay a termination fee, they could try to recover this fee from a new operator who could be engaged to run the golf course, or the city could explore other options for this 222 acre property. There are thus benefits to the city if it chooses to exercise its termination rights and get this property back from someone whose reputation is at best highly questionable. With that, I'm happy to take any questions.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Mr. Younger, for your testimony. And I'd like to go over a few of the points that you mentioned, since there was a lot of substantive detail in there. Just beginning with the grounds for termination. So in plain language, as you've done before, but just to restate, can you explain section 3.2? The termination at will a provision of the contract?

MR. YOUNGER: Yeah. Termination at will typically means you need no reason whatsoever. Here, though, as I said, it's modified by the words

arbitrary and capricious. Our courts use those terms to review agency actions every day of the week under Article 78. Presumptively, an agency action is for good reason and not arbitrary. And as I said, there are many good reasons why this... this termination would be appropriate here.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So in other words, termination at will, in the sole discretion of the Parks Commissioner, gives the Parks Commission the ability to terminate the contract for any reason, caveat here by not... so as long as it's not arbitrary or capricious.

MR. YOUNGER: That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And would you consider the guilty plea on 50 felonies... uh, 15 felonies... sorry... by Weisselberg? Would you consider those non-arbitrary and capricious... and non-capricious reasons to terminate the license?

MR. YOUNGER: Absolutely. And particularly since Mr. Weisselberg was CFO of the entity that runs this golf course. And, you know, obviously, the CFO is someone who you're counting on to certify numbers every day about the course.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And would you consider the ongoing civil and criminal investigations into the financial records of the Trump Organization and Donald Trump as guarantor of the license? Would you consider those non-arbitrary and non-capricious reasons to terminate the license?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yes, for two reasons: One, the city could decide that it's not in their interest to be associated with Mr. Trump. And two, there are sound questions about whether all these investigations may lead to some withering of his assets and his ability to run the course. I mean, that was part of the basis that Mayor de Blasio terminated under, but it wasn't enough to make a cause termination, which would avoid the termination for you, but it certainly would be enough for an at-will termination.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So just backing up for a second: Bottom line, can the Commissioner of the Parks Department terminate this agreement today?

MR. YOUNGER: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And that would require 25 days written notice, right?

MR. YOUNGER: That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So if the Parks Commissioner were to make that termination today, would that termination take effect before the announced date of the Saudi golf... the Saudi-backed golf tournament?

MR. YOUNGER: As I understand that, that is correct, because it would be 25 days from today, which would be October 10.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you.

Now, Mr. Younger, do you know of any other instances where Parks has terminated a license at will?

MR. YOUNGER: Well, first, in... in commercial context, people terminate contracts at will all the time. In fact, the average employee is employed at will. And I understand that in the Yankee Stadium situation, the Parks Department terminated some concessions at will, so that they could clear up the old Yankee Stadium for use as parkland.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: That's correct. As I understand it, too, there was a tennis concession at the neighboring Milele Park in 2009. That was terminated at will to build a new Yankee Stadium. So if it can be done for a baseball stadium for the

Yankees, it can be done to sever the city's ties to the Trump Organization.

Now, one more question regarding the termination, part two. We've been talking about termination at will. But is it your understanding in the contract, there are multiple different methods for terminating this license?

MR. YOUNGER: Yeah, so there are two basic kinds of termination. One is for cause, which would be a default, and that was the round that the prior administration took. The court said there wasn't cause. The other is at will, which is what I've been describing today. And the judge who had that case, clearly distinguished between these two types of termination.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So multiple grounds for termination. Are you aware of this administration pursuing either of those grounds of termination to date?

MR. YOUNGER: Not to my knowledge?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: You're an attorney, former President of the State Bar Association. I'm an attorney as well. When you make legal arguments, when you take a case to court, at the very least, is it

your understanding, that the best way to lawyer it is to really make as many different arguments as you can, to pursue every claim as possible, in the alternative to use every basis you've got to make your argument?

MR. YOUNGER: That's what we're all taught in law school to do.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: That's right. You learn that on the first day of law school. And so if you learn that in the first day of law school, if you're seeking to terminate a license, for example, if you were to bring a case to court, or in any way, would you seek to use multiple bases and multiple opportunities and pathways to terminate that license pursuant to the contract?

MR. YOUNGER: Absolutely. Remember, in this situation, the Parks Commissioner doesn't have to go to court. So, the Trump entity may be, you know, challenging in court, but you know, all they have to do is issue a notice. That's it.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: A notice, and that's it. Thank you.

Now, let's move to the.. the topic of the so-called termination payment. Just as a starting

matter, this would only apply -- the alleged termination payment -- if the Parks Commissioner went the path of immediate termination.

MR. YOUNGER: Of at-will termination.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: At will termination.

Sorry.

MR. YOUNGER: That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Correct. So there are other ways...

MR. YOUNGER: If it was for a default, it would not... there would be no termination fee.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Right. So one pathway would give rise to a potential termination payment, and other pathway there would be no termination payment.

MR. YOUNGER: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Now, the mayor has repeated the Trump Organization's claim that termination... Let me repeat that, again, has repeated the Trump Organization's claim that the termination of this license at will would cost \$30 million? You're familiar with that claim?

MR. YOUNGER: I saw that in the press.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Where was the first time you saw that claim reported?

MR. YOUNGER: It first came from a quote from Eric Trump.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So Eric Trump makes the claim of \$30 million and now City Hall is promoting that claim. But let me ask you this. Have you seen such a number? Have you seen \$30 million anywhere in this license agreement?

MR. YOUNGER: I cannot fathom how you can calculate a \$30 million termination fee. As I've indicated, I've looked at the estimates that were attached to the agreement. I've looked at the reported revenues that have been reported publicly, and I can't come up with a number even close to \$30 million.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And Have you even seen it... the number \$30 million itself mentioned in the termination payment paragraphs of the license?

MR. YOUNGER: It's nowhere. All it's in the contract is a formula.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Is a formula. No mention at all.

2 MR. YOUNGER: As I mentioned, I took the
3 estimates that were also in the contract and applied
4 them, and then also publicly reported data, and it
5 comes nowhere near to \$30 million.

6 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So I think in your
7 testimony...

8 MR. YOUNGER: By the way, just so you
9 understand...

10 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yes?

11 MR. YOUNGER: This is a return of an investment.
12 It would be as if you're buying out someone who's
13 your partner. What the city gets is they get full
14 and unfettered rights to this golf course back, which
15 is a valuable, right. And so, you know, whatever
16 that number is, you know, would be a fair
17 representation with someone else might pay to operate
18 this course if they were to take over.

19 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So any termination
20 payment, regardless of what the amount is, could be
21 recoverable... recoverable by the city, in other
22 ways.

23 MR. YOUNGER: Yeah. I mean, someone who's in the
24 business of running golf courses would have to tell
25 you what the numbers are.

2 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Sure.

3 MR. YOUNGER: But if you think about a course of
4 this quality, you know, there's obviously, you
5 know... and there was another manager willing to step
6 up, you know, when the prior administration
7 terminated it.

8 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And so I think it was your
9 testimony that the supposed or alleged potential
10 payment, if you went by termination at will, by that
11 method, would not be anywhere close to \$30 million.

12 MR. YOUNGER: That's... That's my belief.

13 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: In fact, what was the
14 range that you had given?

15 MR. YOUNGER: My estimate is between \$5 and \$10
16 million.

17 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: \$5 and \$10 million. And
18 that's just at the outset, right? That's before you
19 even claim receipts, reimbursement, have a team of
20 auditors and lawyers, look through in the line item
21 every single expense. We're talking about the
22 outside claim before right out of the gate before you
23 even start that process of disputing it.

24 MR. YOUNGER: Look, this is what we litigators do
25 every day of the week. We get expert accountants and

they sharpen their pencils. They find, you know, things that really shouldn't be in those numbers. Obviously, you know, some of these numbers, for example, the... the reserve fund, they may have spent already, so that would not be in there any longer. You know, if they had spent that on replacement, you know, lawn mowers, et cetera. So, you know, you'd really have to sharpen your pencil and, you know, and get to a truly accurate number.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And is it also true in the... I think you mentioned your testimony, but in the license agreement itself, there is mention of an amortization, a 20-year amortization timeline.

MR. YOUNGER: A 20-year straight line. So, you know, there are two different ways to amortize. One is accelerated depreciation. It's like a depreciation schedule. The other straight line, so it's literally every year for the 20 years of this contract, the costs that have been spent are recouped because you're getting making money off of it, you know, so you know, a business if you build a warehouse, and it's expected to last for 20 years, you get revenues each year. And so then, you know,

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2 the cost that you have spent has been amortized each
3 year.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And so those depreciation
5 costs are baked into the termination payment
6 calculation that's in the license?

7 MR. YOUNGER: That's correct.

8 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And what year was this
9 license signed?

10 MR. YOUNGER: The license was signed February 21,
11 2012.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay, what year are we in
13 now?

14 MR. YOUNGER: 2022.

15 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you. So in other
16 words, it seems that the commissioner could terminate
17 this license right now, for roughly the same cost as
18 building a bathroom in a New York City Park.

19 Let's go to the next topic, the special permits.

20 Do you think a tournament like this would require
21 approval from the Parks Department?

22 MR. YOUNGER: Yes, if you look at Section 9.3A of
23 the contract, if you were to close the course for a
24 day for a tournament, you need prior written approval
25 from the Parks Department. So there has to be some

document where the Parks Department approved this tournament, because the golf course will be closed.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. And, sorry, what section of that was the contract?

MR. YOUNGER: Section 9.3A sub little I.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay. So in your examination of this license, its terms and conditions, do you...?

MR. YOUNGER: I'm sorry. Also, if you close it to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, it also needs prayer written approval, of The Parks.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And I believe this tournament is also occurring partly on a weekend too.

MR. YOUNGER: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So in your examination of the license, its terms and conditions like section 9.3A in terms of a special approval, do you think that a tournament... tournament of this nature and scope could happen without the cooperation and support of City Hall?

MR. YOUNGER: One, you know, it needs Parks Department approval. Two, something of this nature is a very big endeavor. So, you know... you know, I would understand that there would be a fair amount of

dialogue going in between the, you know... Just look at what happened when we had the US Open here a couple of weeks ago, you know, it's... it's not a small endeavor.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you.

I'd like to move now to a point you mentioned about the accounting firm, Mazars Accounting.

The Parks Department's recommendation to award this license to the Trump Organization has a section titled "Financial Resources / Adequate Accounting and Auditing Procedures". Can you tell me who attested to the financial strength of the Trump Organization?

MR. YOUNGERS: Yeah, it's... it is actually the financial -- if you want to put it up -- it's the financial strength of Mr. Trump himself. And it's his accounting firm, Mazars. It's a letter right there. And it says that he's... So what the Parks Department wants to know, Trump Ferry Point LLC, all they own is this contract, right? And so who's standing behind it? Mr. Trump personally. So they want to know that if there's any default, that Mr. Trump will be worth it, and as you can see from the Weiser Certification, that he's... They said he was worth well more than \$3 billion. That's the same

certification our Attorney General is, you know, in the process of investigating. But in the middle of that investigation, the accounting firm pulled all of his certifications like this since 2012.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So, in other words, Mazars are certified to the strength... the financial strength of Donald Trump as the guarantor of this agreement, which means functionally, he's guaranteeing, financially, this LLC, right? What does it mean in plain language to be the guarantor?

MR. YOUNGER: Yeah, it means that if there's any default by the LLC, he will stand behind it. He'll pay every nickel that the LLC was supposed to pay.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And WeiserMazars, the accounting firm, now known as Mazars USA... As you mentioned, do they still stand by their statements regarding the financial strength of the Trump Organization or Donald Trump?

MR. YOUNGER: No, it's been publicly reported that they withdrew all their certifications since 2012.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: For what time range of Trump's financial records have they retracted their support?

MR. YOUNGER: I believe it's from 2012 through...
I'm sorry, 2011, I apologize, to 2020.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And why did Mazars retract
their support?

MR. YOUNGER: I believe it's because of the
circumstances surrounding the multiple investigations
into whether the assets that were listed on those
financial statements as being Trump's net worth were
actually accurate. And that's something that the
attorney general is actively investigating.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay.

So Mazars, Trump's auditor, has since disavowed
any representation it made on behalf of the licensee
or this guarantor? Would you say that this material
misrepresentation of financial strength of the
licensee or its guarantor... would you say that
provides a non-arbitrary and non-capricious reason to
terminate this license?

MR. YOUNGER: Clearly. I mean, there's no more
fundamental reason that you enter into a contract
that the person you're entering into contract with
can pay for a default. You're not going to enter
into a contract if that party can't own up to their
own word.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And in fact, the Parks Department relied on those certifications when it issued the license in the first place?

MR. YOUNGER: Absolutely.

No further questions for me. If anyone else on the committee has any questions? Oh, Councilmember Carr?

COUNCILMEMBER CARR: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, colleagues. Today, it seems to me that we're gathered here for one reason and one reason only, and rather than to be for some high public purpose, it is because of the obsessive hatred some have for Donald Trump. There's no other explanation I can think of for an oversight hearing that chooses to focus on only 1 of our 12 public golf courses, under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. Are those other public courses so free of issues that they're not worthy of the attention of this committee? I doubt it, and in some cases, I know it.

I have three such public courses in my home borough. Two of them, La Tourette and South Shore, are managed by American Golf under a parks concession agreement, which has been a terrible steward of these public gems. Now, I freely admit that these are not

courses that are likely to be stops for a PGA Tour or for the country club set, but they are visited by many middle-class Staten Islanders and other New Yorkers. They are as a public golf course ideally should be: The regular Joe or Jane's golf courses. And from them, I only hear complaints, fairways that are overgrown, broken cart paths, dilapidated carts, tee boxes that are nothing but mud, and a parking lot, which is in such a state that patrons can hardly navigate it and not park without risk to their personal vehicles. And for the record, American Golf operates to other such concessions, Dyker beach and Brooklyn and Clearview in Queens.

In contrast, stones third public course, Silverlake, is phenomenally well kept? Would it not be a better use of our time and energy to learn about the challenges of public golf courses under bad management, and what we could learn from those that are well cared for? Sadly, that does not appear to be why we're here today.

Today's investigatory approach is motivated by one thought: Orange Man bad. That's it plain and simple. Why else ignore the rest of the public horse network and focus on a site that was successfully

transformed from a brownfield in desperate need of investment to a world class golf course that attracts local and international bookings?

While it's focused on a contract at Ferry Point that the city has previously tried and failed to cancel and would likely fail again, if they attempted to do so? Perhaps we should consider awarding all the concessions of the poorly operated public courses to the Trump Organization so that they can get this level of attention.

The Council has a duty to ensure that the city's public assets are well used and maintained, and any oversight hearing of our public horses most assuredly have included very point. But by ignoring the other 11 this committee abdicates its oversight obligations in favor of a vendetta, and that should not be.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Councilmember Carr. Any other...? At this point, I'll just read out the names of the Council members who have been in attendance at today's hearing. Councilmember Holden, Councilmember Moya, Councilmember Dinowitz, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Marte, Councilmember Meningitis, Councilmember Narcisse, Councilmember Restler,

Councilmember Ung, Councilmember Velázquez, and
Councilmember Carr.

Thank you so much, Mr. Younger for your testimony
today. I really appreciate it, and so does this
committee and the Council.

MR. YOUNGER: Thank you very much for having me.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you.

Next will cause as our next witness virtually, is
Brett Eagleson.

MR. EAGLESON: Thank you for having me.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: You may begin. Thank you,
Mr. Eagleson.

MR. EAGLESON: Yes, thank you. My name is Brett
Eagleson. I am the president of a group called 9/11
Justice. I lost my father on 9/11 When I was 15
years old. I have spent the majority of my adult
life advocating on behalf of the victims of 9/11.

Our main focus, our main issue, has been over the
past eight years is pressuring our federal government
to declassify documents which we know show the
complicity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia behind the
9/11 attacks. And I just wanted to say just a few
short days ago, we came together as a country, and
people from communities all across this country

gathered together to remember the events of 9/11. We read names we talked about stories. We heard about all the lives that were lost that day.

21 years ago we vowed as a nation to never forget. That was our mantra. Never forget. Never forget. And as the Speaker had pointed out earlier in her opening comments, she alluded to a number of facts that were outlined in the 9/11 Commission Report. One thing I wanted to add and clarify to the Speaker's comments is the 9/11 Commission Report ended in 2004. The 9/11 commission report drew a number of criticisms and made a number of assertions about the role that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia played. But the 9/11 Commission Report never fully got to the bottom of the Saudi roll on 9/11. And I'm here today to talk about that we now have gotten to the bottom of that role, thanks to a presidential executive order last year from President Biden in 2021.

Since the 9/11 Commission Report ended in 2004, we have heard from multiple members of that commission that that commission itself was underfunded, it was rushed, and it did not have the time to pursue all the leads. In 2006, we have

learned that there is a secret FBI investigation opened up called Operation Encore. Operation Encore began -- this is important to note -- the Operation Encore investigation was specifically voted to decide to investigate all the leads into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's role on 9/11. That... that investigation did not begin until 2006. So it's two years after the conclusion of the 9/11 Commission Report. From 2006 into 2021, Operation Encore investigated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's role. You've heard that right, not China's role in that Russia's role, not Canada's role. Operation Encore investigated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's role in 9/11. For years, we were pressuring our federal government legislatively, and... and the executive branch to declassify those documents. Well, in September of 2021, we successfully pressured President Biden (kudos to him) for honoring a campaign promise that he made to our groups of families.

He issued a presidential executive order which called upon the FBI to declassify all of its documents to the greatest extent possible about the investigations into Saudi Arabia. Over the past

year, we've been receiving numerous documents from the Department of Justice. And I just wanted to state for the committee and for the people of New York today, we can we can strongly and confidently say that our Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified 12 Saudi government officials who are directly responsible for assisting the 9/11 hijackers. One of those Saudi government officials was working for the Saudi Intelligence Agency that is akin to one of our CIA operatives operating in some foreign country and killing members of that country. That is who the city and that is who the Trump Organization is doing business with.

I also wanted to highlight an experience personally that I had with President Trump in 2019. You see, our group has been on this issue for a number of years and then 2019, President Trump invited me to the White House to meet with him, invited me, along with members of our community, and along with a number of former FBI agents. We put we pleaded and begged with the President to declassify the FBI documents. The President looked me in the eye, he shook my hand. He looked my mother in the eye, he shook her hand, and he met at least twelve

9/11 family members that day, and he said he would do everything he could, and that he was absolutely going to declassify all the FBI documents that we have been shouting about for years.

Less than 24 hours later, the president's attorney general Bill Barr invoked what's known as the state secrets principle, essentially bringing a nuclear weapon to a fistfight.

The state secrets principle has never been utilized in the history of this country in a civil lawsuit. So we had a president who shook our hands looked us in the eye on 9/11, told us that he was going to help us 24 hours later, pulls a 180, completely reneges on that process, and has his Attorney General Bill Barr invoke state secrets ensuring that all the information related to the Saudi Arabian Royal 9/11 would continue to remain under lock and key.

It wasn't until President Biden's executive order in 2021, which unwound that state secrets principle designation, that we are now seeing the true role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

I think as a 9/11 family member, and as an advocate on so many of those that lost loved ones

that day, for the city of New York to ignore this point... for the country... for the nation to ignore this point, i think it is a travesty. I think it adds insult to injury. It... it's like pouring salt on an open wound.

I also wanted to point out the fact that in 2016, President-then-Candidate Trump himself twice, live on air on a Fox and Friends interview, and on Sean Hannity later that night, proclaimed that it was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who knocked down those towers. He said, "It wasn't... it wasn't the Iraqis it was the Saudis. Why don't we open up the documents? Why don't we have somebody like Bush or something, open up those documents? And you will find out that it was the Saudis that knocked down those towers." Now, that was in 2016. In 2019, the President met with myself and a number of our family members and said he was going to help us. 24 hours after that meeting, he invoked what's known as the state secrets principle. And then in 2021, the President is hosting the Saudis at number of his courses all across this country.

And I know there's another... Sorry, I couldn't be there in person today, but I think we're well

represented there today with a number of family members who I believe are going to speak after me, who have examples of the documents and they can walk you through line-by-line of what the FBI says that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did. So I don't want to take up too much of anyone else's time, but I did just want to take the opportunity to state... state the... state those points.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Mr. Eagleson, and we hope that the Parks Commissioner, and administration will do the right thing here, and terminate this license, and cancel the tournament.

Our next witness is also virtual, Sherrise Palomino.

MS. PALOMINO: Hello, good afternoon. My name is Sherrise Palomino, and I'm the Director of Advocacy and Programs at New Yorkers for Parks. New Yorkers for Parks is the only independent nonprofit parks advocacy and research organization focusing on New York City. We are a founding member of the Playfair Coalition, which includes over 400 organizations across the five boroughs. I'm testifying today about how our organization has supported the city in the aftermath of 9/11.

New Yorkers for Parks Daffodil Project is the largest annual volunteer effort in New York City history, conceived as a living memorial to the victims of 9/11. Since the Daffodil Project's inception in 2001, over 9 million daffodil bulbs have been distributed for free, planted by 10s of 1000s of volunteers in the fall, and celebrated each spring as the millions of daffodils bloom across the city in the spring. This project is a meaningful and resonant living remembrance for the many who lived in New York City in 2001. The families who lost their lives... lost... lost their lives, and to the many first responders. The project also became a symbol of hope for a better city, and a greater recognition of what parks means to New Yorkers.

It is important for our city to deeply consider the relationships it makes and the messages those relationships sends to its residents. We stand with empathy and understanding for all the family members who are testifying today, and their deep concern for the proposed event at Trump Links in the Bronx.

New Yorkers for Parks champions park equity and access to the city's parkland in hopes that vendors that the city contracts implement equitable business

practices that supports New York City's diverse population. This expectation aligns with New Yorkers for Parks call for transformative investment in our park system. 1% of the city budget for parks can ensure that all New Yorkers have fair and equitable access to the city's parkland. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Sherrise. Next up, we will call as a witness Brian Crowell.

MR. CROWELL: Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I've got to say that I had a bunch of notes prepared and I've kind of thrown most of them out, and I've written some different things down because I honestly thought this was going to be a hearing.

And it does feel like it was a relatively rehearsed indictment here. I understand there's a lot of anger, there's a lot of politics, there's a lot of different angles here. But from my understanding a hearing is supposed to hear all sides of the issue and I think we need to better define the issue here.

I personally want to give my sympathy and my thoughts to everyone involved with the 9/11 thing.

This... that... that tragedy is something we will never forget and to hear people talking about that is very moving, and, and trust me, I want justice as much as anyone, I hope that we can find all the people responsible for that, and bring them to serious justice.

But... but to be honest, we're trying to separate a golf facility from that tragedy right now. I... you have all of my thoughts and prayers, because I am as angry about that event as... as anyone else in this room. But what I want to say right now is that I'm here to represent a group of nearly 170 employees at a very successful business, and we provide a very nice service... a high-end service for the members of New York City, the residents of New York City, and the surrounding area.

Some of the data that was quoted by you earlier, was... was quite a bit skewed. You were quoting prices that were not accurate. So I've changed some of those thoughts in my presentation here.

But the bottom line is we offer junior rates for \$60. We offer rates for military and senior residents of the city for \$100. So I don't want people to think that this is exorbitant. It is not

exorbitant. If it was exorbitant, we probably would have a hard time serving people not just once, but dozens of times in the same season. We're doing nearly 30,000 rounds and providing a great opportunity for members of this city in the surrounding area.

I also want to mention that we are doing our best to support charities, I myself have... have okayed nearly \$50,000 worth of donations to local causes and charities through giving away foursomes to our... our facility. We have hosted Tunnel-to-Towers events, the Captain's Endowment Fund the Uniformed Fire Officers Association. We... You're talking about a very patriotic group here.

I understand the politics and I understand how this whole day started with about 60 minutes of straight negatives about Mr. Trump. But I've got to tell you, we have not seen him on the property. We are producing something that we're very proud of. I'm here to talk about the charitable components that we do. We hosted the public school athletic league championships, we host Regis High School, we've got Fordham and NYU practicing there. We've got... we've got 170 employees and their families that are very

proud of the work we do at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point. We are not political. I know it's hard because everyone sees the name in big concrete stones as they drive over the bridge. But we are not political. We are a golf operation, and a very nice dining operation, and we provide a great experience for the members of this city and the surrounding communities. We're charitable, we're doing our best, and I feel very proud of the people that work for us on this property.

I'm the general manager, I'm fortunate to be the general manager. And I'm proud of the work that all these people behind me are doing and all the rest of the staff and their families.

I just... Again, with all due respect to 9/11 and the families and everyone that was affected by that tragedy, I'm... I'm here to defend a golf operation. And really, that's what we're talking about. And we have honored our contract to this point. We keep a beautiful facility there. I think the gentleman over here mentioned how the other golf facilities in the New York City roster look, and this is not about that. Bethpage is in the middle of Long Island. This is a just an incredible opportunity and amenity

for people in this city. And we have shown that to be the case. I understand the politics. I am keeping politics out of my testimony. I am telling you this is a successful operation that does a lot of good for a lot of people. And I am not here to defend Saudi Arabia, that is for darn sure. I'm not here to defend anything politically, other than the fact that we are honoring our contract, producing a very high end experience for people that come back over, and over, and over again. And this... This is not politics for us. It's our livelihood. It's the families. The people behind me represent the community, largely the Bronx, but all five boroughs.

So I just want to make sure that that we show the... the obvious respect to the to the 9/11 groups and the families and everyone that lost lives and friends and loved ones, because we feel that pain. I lost friends in 9/11 and it's a very, very touching problem that we continue to fight. But this is about a golf operation.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Mr. Crowell, for your testimony. I just have a few questions for you. So you're the... the General Manager for Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point, right?

MR. CROWELL: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay. And were you involved in the organizing of this... or will you be involved in the operation of this tournament coming up next month?

MR. CROWELL: By virtue of the fact that we are the host site? Yes.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And so who from this Mayoral Administration approved a permit for the Aramco Team Series Event that's happening next month?

MR. CROWELL: To be honest, I don't know the specific names. That was not a process I was involved in. I know that it was brought before the Council and the Mayor himself, and his crew apparently said okay, and green-lighted the whole process. So that's... that's kind of the... the interesting part of all this is I think it was approved by Parks and the Mayor's Administration and everyone else.

So I'm simply here representing the group that that operates the property.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Do you know when the Mayoral Administration and the Parks Department approved this tournament?

MR. CROWELL: I would be guessing. I believe it was earlier this very year. It was, if I'm not mistaken, sometime in early 22.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: I just want to point out an exhibit that we have here, which shows a quote that Eric Trump had given to the New York Times, which -- on September 8, so last week -- saying, "A big thank you to the City of New York, and to the Parks Department for their support and approval." And then subsequently, the next day, a tweet that, as the Times noted, has now been deleted, that says, "I'm still confused. The city approved this tournament in writing in May, and has been working on logistics, parking, et cetera, nonstop." So it... it does... to your point... it tracks as you were saying that this was approved by the... the mayor's office and also the Parks Department. And so I guess I'm just wondering... so, does that sound right to you that the tournament was approved in May?

MR. CROWELL: Is that what it says? It was approved in May?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yeah, it says, "The city approved this tournament"... or he says, "The city

approved this tournament in May, and has been working on logistics nonstop."

MR. CROWELL: That must be right. Yeah. I think it was, like I said, early 22. May is maybe when the whole process concluded with an approval from those offices. But, um, we first heard of the possibility of it probably in March or April. Somewhere around there. So again, as far as when it was actually approved by the mayor and his folks, it must be May.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Right. And so you... you first heard about this, meaning you heard about it from within the Trump Organization, or associates, or how did you first hear in your role as a general manager about the... the tournament potentially happening?

MR. CROWELL: Yeah, I heard, like I said, maybe in March or April that there was there was a discussion that this was a possibility. But that's again, all I really knew at that point in time.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. And who did you hear that from?

MR. CROWELL: I honestly can't recall.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And do you know who at the Parks Department approved the permit for the tournament?

MR. CROWELL: I do not.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And who... I'm assuming in your role as the General Manager, have you been working with the Parks Department on the logistics that Eric Trump mentioned for the planning of the tournament? Is that something that falls in the purview of your responsibilities?

MR. CROWELL: Not directly, no.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay. So who would be involved in for the golf course and working with the Parks Department in the logistics and planning for this tournament?

MR. CROWELL: I... There a tournament group that is in charge of conducting all the operations for the event. So that group I'm sure has spoken with Parks on a number of occasions. And those... those discussions are ongoing.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And the tournament group is part of the Ferry Point? Part of... What... what's the tournament group?

MR. CROWELL: There's a... there's a group that is hired to oversee the tournament operations for the Aramco Team Series. So there is a field staff that I'm sure had been in touch with the Parks Department, and they're... they're kind of in talks together.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And who hires them? You said they're hired by... This... this tournament group is hired to work with the Parks Department. Do you know who (crosstalk)

MR. CROWELL: Yeah, you know what? That goes long before my time. Again, I first heard of the whole thing in March or April.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. And I just want to correct something too: that this matter was not brought before the Council, as far as... as I know. But another question that I had was: So do you know... The tournament group, do you know which division they've been working with in the Parks Department? Do you know what the conversations have been this far, because in your role as General Manager, it seems that some of this information would filter back to you, so you can help run the operation of the course. Do you know who they've been talking

with in the Parks Department or what the subject those conversations have been?

MR. CROWELL: Not specific names. Like I said, that... they have been communicating with us on site to talk about how the tournament is going to unfold and how the weeks leading up to the tournament will take shape. So we've been helping from a day-to-day operations standpoint, but the decision making is at a different level, and I have not been involved in that.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And so who is involved? Besides the tournament group, who from the Trump Golf Links is involved, as I'm assuming someone is, as part of those conversations with the Parks Department, and the mayor's office, and all of these logistics, and the approval?

MR. CROWELL: Yeah, that's primarily the Trump golf executive leadership. So you could... you could check with Trump golf leaders on all of that.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And when you say Trump golf leaders, are those representatives from the Trump Organization? Or...? Who are the Trump golf leaders?

MR. CROWELL: Well, one of them is on the on the demonstration behind you there. But, you know, from from Eric, there are executives in, in the Trump golf organization that would have leadership roles in all of this, and I'm not comfortable going through all of those names at this point in time, but it's public knowledge.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And have you seen any of the written paperwork or approvals about this tournament from the Parks Department in your capacity as general manager?

MR. CROWELL: I did hear that it was approved by the Parks and the mayor's administration. So that's really the extent of my knowledge or... or visual of any contracts or paperwork.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Got it. Okay. But you haven't seen any written documents? Because the written approval was required. So I'm just curious if you were a recipient of those documents.

MR. CROWELL: We are in possession of... of a... an approved contract. So I did see it come across. I could not quote you on all of that. A lot of... a lot of verbiage there. So...

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: But there is an approved contract that you are in possession of.

MR. CROWELL: Yes. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Got it okay. Um, and that was signed between the Parks Department and Trump Golf Links, or the Parks Department and the Trump Organization. Do you remember by any chance?

MR. CROWELL: I can't really remember that. But again, that's... that's something that I'm sure the Parks Department could produce.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And is there... So in your role as General Manager leading up to the tournament, are you going to be involved in any of the planning and logistics with the Parks Department, presumably as it gets closer to, you know, the tournament itself, are there operations that you'll be conducting yourself personally, with the Parks Department or planning operation that you'll be conducting with?

MR. CROWELL: Well yeah. We've got weekly meetings and discussions. Obviously, there are some logistics that we're all, you know, keeping close tabs on: Parking, and traffic patterns, and how this is all going to work with... with public access. So

there's... there's a lot of things that we have discussed, yes. We're... we're basically collaborating with them to make this a successful event.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And you're part of those weekly meetings, right?

MR. CROWELL: Yeah. Not... not necessarily with Parks. But I have been... you know, again, it's kind of handed down and the on-site representation of the Aramco Series shares a lot of meeting time with us, and we go through things. So it's pretty much open lines of communication, but I have not been in a room with specific members of the Parks.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay. So you meet with the Aramco tournament representatives, and they're the ones that meet with the Parks Department. Is that how it works?

MR. CROWELL: Yeah, that's more or less how it... how it's been happening.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Got it. Given the poignant words that you made before, about 9/11, and the families who are here today too, are you supportive of the decision to have the this

tournament next month, given the fact that it's one month after the... the 21st anniversary of 9/11?

MR. CROWELL: So just... This is a personal opinion question?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: It's a question.

MR. CROWELL: I have... I have concerns like all of us. I think... I think there's a lot of different perspectives in this. I am very sympathetic to the folks behind me, in terms of the 9/11 families. I support that fund. My wife and my daughter run for Tunnel to Towers and the New York City Marathon. I mean, we're, we're very patriotic people and... and it becomes a much bigger question than that. And frankly, I think there are so many layers to this that, that it gets a little confusing.

What I've... What I've done is... is really said to myself, "You know, we're going to run a great event that is going to be beneficial for the people in New York and the surrounding communities." Again, this is... this is a duty of the staff I represent behind me, and we're going to do our best to run a great event. I... I really don't feel like taking a political statement other than I understand. I understand both sides. And it kind of forces me to

go back in time to the point when it was approved by
by Parks and the Council and the mayor's
administration. To be honest, once I heard they had
all approved this, it made me feel a little better
about it.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And just correcting for
the record that it was not approved by the Council.

But I... Thanks for your testimony. One last
question I had for you too: Is... is it your
testimony today -- I just want to make sure I have
this correct -- but is it your testimony that even as
the General Manager of Trump Golf Links at Ferry
Point, that you were not involved in the planning of
this tournament, and that it was the Trump executives
and Aramco who are working directly with the Parks
and the Administration?

MR. CROWELL: Well... no. I should clarify that.
I'm... I am responsible for helping to make this a
very successful event. So... so it depends on how
you read the copy there. But the bottom line is, we
want this to be a success since we are hosting it.
So I'm... I'm directly involved with the operations
of the event. What I'm saying is that I personally

was not involved in the decision to... to host it.
(crosstalk) that was...

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. Is it also...?
I'm sorry go ahead.

MR. CROWELL: That was above me.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. And it also...
you testified that the Trump executives and Aramco
are the ones that are working directly with City Hall
in the Parks Department and had conversations with
them in the lead up to this tournament.

MR. CROWELL: Yes, yeah. They're the ones who
really, you know, went through all the details to
make sure it was appropriate at the time.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay. Thank you so much
for testimony.

MR. CROWELL: Thank you.

COUNSEL: (Whispering, caught on mic) Next, we're
going to do, um, John Gruber.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yeah. Next we'll call
from the Trump Organization, John Gruber.

MR. GRUBER: Good morning, my name is John Gruber
and I was the construction manager responsible for
the building of the Ferry Point clubhouse. The Trump

Org built a world class clubhouse that complements the Jack-Nicklaus-designed golf course.

The Trump Org spent considerably more money that was required by the parks contract to build the clubhouse. The clubhouse and a golf course are run at the same level of quality as the other private Trump Org properties in both New York and New Jersey. Trump Org not only runs the golf course, but they also run an exceptional restaurant and catering facility. The food service that the Trump Org provides not only caters to the golfers but also serves the local community. If the Trump Org were to lose the contract that would greatly impact the employees, many of whom reside in the Bronx, many of the employees have worked at the golf course since its inception. If the contractor is revoked, all the staff and their families would be gravely affected. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you. Just a couple questions for you, Mr... Mr. Gruber. You had stated that you were involved in the construction of this property, right?

MR. GRUBER: Correct.

2 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: How much were your capital
3 improvement costs?

4 MR. GRUBER: Excuse me?

5 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: How much were your capital
6 improvement costs?

7 MR. GRUBER: Well, Parks has all the records with
8 all the totals. I... you know, it's been, you know,
9 a number of years. I cannot give you any kind of
10 accurate numbers.

11 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. Okay.

12 MR. GRUBER: So Parks has, you know, from the
13 grow-in, from the construction, they have every
14 document. Everything comes to them in triplicate.

15 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So Parks has all of these
16 documents?

17 MR. GRUBER: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay. And I would suspect
19 the same thing then for your grow-in costs too.
20 Those are records the Parks Department has?

21 MR. GRUBER: Right. Everything related to the
22 construction, grow-in, the clubhouse, temporary
23 clubhouse, everything they have.

24 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. And I would
25 assume that you consider yourself a responsible

construction manager, developer, right? And so as a construction manager, is it customary to project a budget and go over that budget by a factor of three times, four times what the what the proposed budget was?

MR. GRUBER: Well, it depends. You know, with this... You know, with this project, we had, you know, we're on a landfill, you know, it's not a standard, you know, just excavate a 4-foot footing and pour some concrete. We had, you know, structural steel that had to be set to bedrock with all the pilings. Yeah, it was it was quite complicated.

We had a contract with... with the city to build the property at a certain rate. We went over that, because again we had to build a quality building that would match the quality of the golf course. So we did... you know, we spent more than was required.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Mm-hmm. But presumably, just generally speaking, developers, construction managers can't make a living going so far above your projected costs, right? I mean, if we're talking in general, I would assume that you will try to stick as much as possible to the projected costs or projected

budget that's proposed in any kind of construction agreement.

MR. GRUBER: Well, you know, we're, you know, we're trying to stay within budget. You know, what we had to build in the in the... You know, once we actually got started, we realized it was going to cost more and we... we had to follow suit, we had to build a quality building. We built again, what was approved by the Parks Department, they hired Howard and with his designers. We built the exactly what the... what was proposed.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And is it your testimony that this... the cost of this project went over budget by a factor of three times what was proposed?

MR. GRUBER: No. It didn't go over three times. And again, Parks has the figures. You want to look at the figures? Get a hold of Parks, and they will give you the figures.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Got it? Okay. It's all with Parks.

Um, in your role as construction manager, did you have any involvement with the accounting firm Mazars? Or there any financial records? Or was that outside of your purview of your responsibility?

MR. GRUBER: That's out of my purview.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: No further questions,
thank you.

We're going to call one more... another witness
next. Next witness is Adam Lockwood.

You may begin.

MR. LOCKWOOD: Good afternoon. I'm the Director
of Golf at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point. This
position that I've held here as has been such an
honor. It provides... Trump Golf Links provides an
experience unlike any other in New York City.

I think... I know that all of New York City looks
to Trump Golf Links for a high end golf experience at
an affordable rate, especially when you consider the
rates of other top courses in the country.

We've become a destination for all New York City,
people all over the country. And not only that, but
we've also reached out to people all over the world.
The people who come to Ferry Point, they come there
for the Trump experience, the Trump golf experience,
it sets a standard for the club, the market that
they're in. I'm fortunate enough to work at other
Trump properties, and visit others as well. And I'm
confident that they... they set the standard for

whatever market they're in, when it comes to course, conditions, facilities, events that they that they run. Trump golf, they do it the right way.

I'm also incredibly proud to be part of a team at Ferry Point. The team there that the Trump Organization has built is just simply incredible. They come from all political views. They come to work at Trump Ferry Point for the world class facility that it is.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you for your testimony. Just a couple of questions. How much... It is a public golf course, right?

MR. LOCKWOOD: It is, yes.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And how much would it cost for someone... Let's say I wanted to buy golf. I'm not a good golfer, but if I want to go play golf tomorrow on the course, how much would it cost for... on a typical Saturday?

MR. LOCKWOOD: On a Saturday?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yeah.

MR. LOCKWOOD: I believe it's \$208 for a New York City resident.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Sorry?

MR. LOCKWOOD: \$208 for a New York City resident.

2 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: \$208 for a New York City
3 resident?

4 MR. LOCKWOOD: I believe so. Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Got it. Thank you. And
6 this is a public course, again, right?

7 MR. LOCKWOOD: It is.

8 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay.

9 Do you consider that cost accessible to the
10 average New Yorker?

11 MR. LOCKWOOD: I do. Absolutely. Yeah.
12 Whenever you... Whenever you compare it to other top
13 courses across the country, there are... there are
14 places that are much higher. You know, you go out
15 west to you know, a similar... similar cost of living
16 area in California. You have Pebble Beach, they pay
17 over \$600 for around a golf. You have other resorts,
18 and they charge \$300, \$400, or \$500, in markets that
19 the cost of living is even lower than it is here.

20 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And how many New York City
21 residents do you think on average, percentage wise,
22 come to the golf course to play, versus residents
23 from other places across the world?

24 MR. LOCKWOOD: Uh, I wouldn't I wouldn't have an
25 accurate an accurate estimate of that.

2 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Okay. No ballpark range
3 either?

4 MR. LOCKWOOD: I do not know.

5 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: But you do... I think it
6 was your testimony, right?, that there are many
7 people who come from outside of New York City to play
8 at this golf course.

9 MR. LOCKWOOD: There are yes, yes. So we've
10 had... I've had a lot of people reach out to me who,
11 they play Trump Golf Links, and they play at
12 Turnberry, they played at Doonbeg, which are mature
13 in Europe, and they come... when they come to New
14 York, they want to continue getting that Trump golf
15 experience, so they reached out to us.

16 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Got it. And would you
17 have a sense of roughly what percentage of people who
18 come to play at the golf course our Bronx residents?

19 MR. LOCKWOOD: What's that? I'm sorry.

20 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Do you have a rough sense
21 of what percentage of those who used to play golf
22 with the public golf course that Ferry Point Park,
23 what percentage are residents of the Bronx?

24 MR. LOCKWOOD: I do not have that. No.
25

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: No further questions.
Thank you.

MR. LOCKWOOD: Alright.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Our next witness is going
to be Dennis McGinley.

MR. MCGINLEY: Thanks, again for having us
testify here again today, and we are grateful to the
Mayor for meeting with us a couple of weeks ago as
well and for keeping an open line of communication
going forward.

I think we feel if, you know, if we could get
this tournament canceled it would... could be a spark
or a shot across the bow of having any of these other
Saudi-backed golf tournaments you know, within miles
of Ground Zero, canceled going forward. And you
know, canceled I think within this country, to be to
be honest with you, but I just wanted to share. It's
an essay I wrote last week that made it into the USA
Today. I think it sums up our feelings pretty well.

"I saw the first potted mums on a neighbor's
doorstep the other day.

The first trigger that takes place every
year, ushers in a week of anxiety and grief my
entire family dreads.

It's the week around the anniversary of 9/11. The day our oldest brother Danny was murdered on the 89th floor on the South Tower. Danny was 40 years old, the oldest brother of Marty, Tom, me, and Mike, firstborn son of Dan Senior, and Connie, the husband of Peggy, and father of their five young children.

Like my family, I'm sure the thousands of other 9/11 families have their triggers as well.

I spoke with Danny shortly before the second plane hit. Like the other 2977 souls that were murdered that day, he would have given anything to get out of those buildings and home to his family. I know this, because it's one of the last things he said to me.

I just wish our government would have given something towards helping Danny, the other victims, and their surviving families obtain justice and accountability over the last 20 years.

Every president from George W. Bush to Donald Trump has done everything in their power to prevent the 9/11 victims and families from attaining that justice and accountability.

Trump invited members of a group I belong to, 9/11 justice to the White House on September 11 2019. And as Brett mentioned, he looked him in the eye, shook their hands and promised that he would declassify FBI documents related to the 9/11 attacks. 24 hours later, US Attorney General Bill Barr invoked the state secrets privilege, preventing those same documents from ever seen the light of day.

This was the first time that the state secrets privilege had ever been invoked in a civil litigation. Thanks to President Joe Biden's executive order, signed in September 2021, which declassified a portion of the FBI documents, we now know that 12 Saudi government agency officials aided the hijackers in Los Angeles. Without these facilitators, there was zero chance of 9/11 taking place.

These are the FBI's words, not mine. Again the FBI's words.

Why did we have to fight for so long? And still our fight continues.

The 9/11 families have had to grow thick skins over the last 21 years. Those thick skins

were tested once again this past summer with the launch of LIV Golf. This new golf league is sponsored by Saudi Arabia's public investment fund, paying some golfers \$100 million to join the tour. In July, Trump hosted a tournament at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, 50 miles from ground zero in a state that was home to 750 people who were murdered.

When asked about the Saudi atrocities involvement in 9/11, and helping the Saudis sports-wash this fact, some golfer stated that they were just trying to provide for their families.

Our brother Danny, and 2976 others were just trying to provide for their families on that fateful day as well.

During the same golf tournament when interviewed on ESPN, President Trump stated, "Well, no one's ever really gotten to the bottom of 9/11." He knows better than anyone about the Saudi government involvement in 9/11. He blamed them on Fox and Friends while running for president in 2016.

The cruelty and the callousness of these golfers and a former president is shocking and beyond painful. The former president will be hosting other Saudi-backed tournaments at his clubs in Miami, and the Bronx, even closer to Ground Zero than Bedminster. Last week's tournament was in Boston, where the planes took off from Logan Airport. Where is the next tournament going to take place? Shanksville, Pennsylvania? This abuse has to stop. It's like they're mocking us, the 9/11 community.

If the American golfers and a former president don't want to stand up for the 9/11 families in their fight for justice and accountability, I wish they would at least stand up for their fellow citizens that had to decide whether they should jump from the 100th floor or burn alive, or for their fellow citizens on those hijacked planes that had to call their loved ones to say their final goodbyes. Stand up for them. We were all attacked on 9/11.

Saudi Arabia is an ally, a quote/unquote "strategic partner" to the United States. We know they were responsible for the murder of 3000

innocent Americans, the murder of our Navy servicemen in Pensacola, Florida, the murder of 15 year old Fallon Smart in Portland, Oregon, and the murder and dismemberment of a Washington Post reporter. They have not been held accountable for any of these crimes.

No US ally or strategic partner should have carte blanche to murder innocent Americans and not be held accountable just because they have oil and buy weapons.

I am a member of 9/11 justice. We represent a grassroots movement made up of the 9/11 community. This same 9/11 community has successfully worked with Congress to override the Presidential veto of Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act JASTA. Now law, JASTA stripped terrorist nations of immunity. We continue to educate the public, professional golfers, general managers of golf clubs, and politicians both current and former on the Saudi government role in 9/11.

We are grateful to President Biden for keeping his campaign promise to declassify the 9/11 documents. With President Biden's continued

support. He has an opportunity to help us finally achieve justice and become the hero the 9/11 community has been waiting for all these years.

Mayor Adams and the New York City Government also have that same opportunity. We are also grateful to Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Senator Blumenthal, and Senator Menendez, and also Congressman Jerry Nadler for their unwavering support for the 9/11 community."

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much Mr. McGinley.

Next up, we'll call Ronald Lieberman from the Trump Organization.

MR. LIEBERMAN : Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the city Council. My name is Ron Lieberman, and I'm an Executive Vice President for the Trump Organization. I'm here today to provide testimony regarding the Council's review of Trump's License Agreement operate a public golf course at Ferry Point, and I understand from what I've read in the papers in the days leading up till today, that the City Council is holding this hearing to see if

there is a way to terminate the contract, when instead we should be thanked for what we have accomplished for the Bronx in particular, and for the city of New York as a whole.

I have been a lead person with this project for our company, and I've been involved with it ever since the city asked us to take it over more than a dozen years ago. At that time, the site was a landfill. The project to construct the golf course was languishing. The contractors the city selected were ripping off the taxpayers to the tune of millions and millions of dollars. And the golf course, which was basically 50 years in the making, simply could not get built and simply could not get finished.

So in 2010, similar to what we did at Wollman Rink in the 1980s, we were asked to take over the project, finish it, and grow in the golf course and construct a state of the art clubhouse in return for operating it under a 20-year license agreement.

Immediately we got rid of the contractors and finished the construction of the golf course. We grew it in beautifully and opened it up to rave reviews and tremendous accolades. Year after year

since opening, we have taken great pride and spared no expense in ensuring that Ferry Point continues to be recognized as one of the best public golf courses in the world. And the accolades and public comments about our operation fully bear that out.

This is primarily due to the magnificent employees that run Ferry Point, literally hundreds of them, some of which are here and are about to testify today, including Brian Crowell, our General Manager.

In fact, I invite all the members of the city Council to come to Ferry Point, so you can see for yourself just how beautiful this facility is, and how run it is by our employees who take so much pride in what they do every single day. By comparison, and I think one of the Council members alluded to it, the same cannot be said about other city concession golf courses, where after just one site visit, you will find many violations which include horrendous golf course playing conditions. I truly ask each of you to go to Ferry Point and see for yourself what we and our great and talented employees have created for the city of New York.

Now, just a few years later, and after we've invested more than \$30 million, the city Council is

holding this hearing to see if there's a way to terminate this contract. You may recall this issue came up last year when then Mayor de Blasio attempted to terminate a contract and steal this investment from us all to settle a political vendetta against the former president who is no longer involved with the day-to-day operation of a company and has not been for over six years.

Ultimately, we were successful in court, and the judge ruled that there were no grounds to terminate our contract. There were no grounds then, and there are no grounds now. Plain and simple. There are no grounds to terminate our contract.

Those are my written statements. And I'm sure you might have some questions for me. But before I turn it back to you, I just... I know that there's been a bunch of conversation about the tournament coming up next month, the Aramco tournament. And I want to say a few words about that that I didn't prepare.

First, I wanted to also say that what Brian Crowell said about 9/11 in the families: We as a company have complete sympathy for the families and for 9/11, and to Brian's point, we do countless

events that benefit the families of 9/11, not just that very point, but in many properties all throughout the Trump portfolio. We're incredible support is for the families, and we'll continue to do so. What... what's happening here with Aramco and this event: The first thing that you should know: This is not the first Aramco event. The same... the very, very same event took place in New York State last year. Same event. But there's been no remarks from either this city Council or anyone about that. So what's the difference? The difference is because of Trump. Many companies... dozens of companies... Fortune 500 companies do business with the Saudi government. It's just part of doing business and the biggest companies in the world, right here in New York. What's the difference? Trump.

This event is going to be a great event for New York City for several reasons. Number one, it's going to be the very first professional women's golf tournament ever held in New York City. One of the... One of the things that this contract does... that this golf course does: It enables New York City to be the leader in bringing world class events to New York City. And through... through the leadership at

Ferry Point, we're going to do that, and it's going to be a great event for women's golf. It is going to further add women to the map of golf in general, empower women, and we think once this event is said and done, people are going to be thanking us for bringing it here.

I welcome any questions.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you for your testimony. My first question, Mr. Lieberman, is what exactly is your... is your role, your title, and your role at the Trump Organization?

MR. LIEBERMAN: I'm an exec... executive vice president.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And what are your responsibilities?

MR. LIEBERMAN: A number of them including oversight of... of golf, and insurance, and other matters with the company?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Now, can you tell me who from this Mayoral Administration approved the permit for the Aramco Team Series Event in October?

MR. LIEBERMAN: The event was approved. But what I would suggest of the City Council is: Why don't

you ask the city? It was indeed improved. And it was approved by Parks. You should ask Parks.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: But you're here. And so we're asking you. And presumably you were involved in the conversation?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Yes. And I'm telling you that it was it was indeed improved in writing, as I think the lawyer that was here stated it needed to be. And we've been working very closely, you know, with... with Parks leading up to the event, ensuring that we're going to put together a very successful event.

But why don't you ask parks about, you know, specifically, that, you know, the person that had approved that?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And have you seen the contract that was a granting approval of this tournament?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And who signed that contract?

MR. LIEBERMAN: I'm not going to get into that.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Do you know who signed it?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Again... Again, yes. But I'm going to ask you to then to go to Parks and ask them.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And who did you meet with at the Parks Department and at City Hall in the approval of this contract?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Again, I'm not going to get into specific names. If you're interested in those people from the city, you should ask them.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So the city has all the records and documents of who... who you met with. But you did have meetings with City Hall? Is that correct?

MR. LIEBERMAN: I don't speak for other people of what they may or may not have, but I would suggest you talk to them.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: What I'm asking is: Is it correct that you had meetings with City Hall? Were you personally in those meetings?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Say that one more time, please.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Were you personally in meetings with City Hall leading up to approval of the tournament?

MR. LIEBERMAN: I was not personally in meetings with City Hall.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So you yourself never met with City Hall on behalf of the Trump Organization for the approval of this golf tournament?

MR. LIEBERMAN: I did not.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Who did from the Trump Organization?

MR. LIEBERMAN: I'm not aware of anyone.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: You're not aware of anyone?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Our relationship is with the New York City Parks Department, because we hold the license agreement with them.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So your testimony is that no one from the Trump Organization met with City Hall leading up to the approval of this golf tournament?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Not that I'm aware of.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So who... who did the Trump organization... (crosstalk)

MR. LIEBERMAN: Again... Again, just to repeat: Our contract is with New York City Parks Department, the entity that... that has ownership, because it's in a park.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And so who on behalf of the Trump Organization met with the Parks Department for the approval of this tournament?

MR. LIEBERMAN: A number of people because there were a number of, you know, issues leading up to it, including myself.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And who did you meet with at the Parks Department?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Again, um, you should you should ask them.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: But these were meetings that you were in, correct?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Or phone calls.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And do you know which levels of the Parks Department you were meeting with?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Yes, I know who I met with, but again, why don't you talk to them about that?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And what kind of logistics has the city been working with you on, in the approval and the planning for this tournament? Can you go through... Eric Trump, your principal has named here again, that there were -- not only in addition to approvals -- logistics, and parking and other things like that, that the city has done in

terms of working with you on the planning for this tournament. What kinds of things are there?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Well, what would be typical of you know, a professional golf tournament, right? So you anticipate having fans there. So logistics, I think Brian mentioned it involving parking, setup, staging, you know, the things that would typically go into putting together, you know, a professional event.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And so what decisions have City Hall, the Parks Department been working with you to plan for this tournament? What decisions have come up that they've helped you you... (crosstalk)

MR. LIEBERMAN: Again, I, you know, I haven't been in all the... all the meetings, as Brian... Brian had mentioned, you know, there's a tournament director who takes lead on, you know, operational meetings, and there's coordination between that group and the city on logistics. But ultimately, the goal is: You know, what needs to happen to put together an incredible event for New York City? And I can tell you that, from what I understand from these meetings, we're going to have a great event, and the goal being to have an event that's safe, enjoyable,

and fun for everybody. And I have no doubt that that's what's going to happen.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And you're aware of the 9/11 family's opposition to this event, right?, given the painful memories that it evokes?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Well, I've heard... we've heard about it recently. And again, it's just kind of curious to us because the event... the very same event took place in New York last year. The very same event. And as I mentioned too, you know, we have total sympathy for the 9/11 families, and we contribute, you know, in many ways, you know, to the... to that cause. We're very sympathetic to it, like... like all New Yorkers. We're all New Yorkers. So we're all sympathetic to that.

But again, we... you know... We have an obligation. You know, this is a business, right? And... and part of a contract, one of the goals of the contract is to do this. To do this very thing. To bring a professional tournament. That's, you know, one of the goals.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And that would be your response to the 9/11 families who have grave concerns about... (crosstalk)

MR. LIEBERMAN: My response to 9/11 families would... would be that we're... we're in this with you, you know, we support you, and we continue to do so in any way possible. And we have specifically done so right here in New York at Ferry Point.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And you think that hosting this tournament meets that objective too, despite their opposition?

MR. LIEBERMAN: You know, again, it's... you know, that you're being selective. Because, you know, like, as I mentioned before, you know, dozens and dozens of Fortune 500 companies work with the, you know, is the same entity that ultimately is involved, and we're aligned with that, right? So you just can't be selective and cherry pick at it like that.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And are you aware that Alan Weisselberg, the CFO of the Trump Organization, has pleaded guilty to grand larceny and tax fraud, crimes committed during his time as CFO of your organization?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Yes, I'm aware.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Are you aware that Donald Trump, the guarantor of this license is facing

2 numerous civil and criminal investigations every
3 level of government?

4 MR. LIEBERMAN: I can't even comment on that.
5 I... There's constant... (crosstalk)

6 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So you're aware or you're
7 not or aware of it?

8 MR. LIEBERMAN: Well, I'm aware if it, yup.

9 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And are you aware that
10 your accounting firm at the time, Mazars, retracted
11 its certification for the financial records that it
12 reviewed?

13 MR. LIEBERMAN: I'm not aware of what
14 specifically... I'm not... I'm not involved in
15 anything related to Mazars, so I can't speak to
16 exactly what they did or did not agree to retract.

17 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Were you involved in
18 negotiations of this license?

19 MR. LIEBERMAN: Yes, yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And so as part of the
21 negotiations, you're aware Mazars had provided
22 financial certifications that the Parks Department
23 relied on, right?

24 MR. LIEBERMAN: Well, we did. I mean, I can't...
25 again, this is something... you know, if you go back,

2 this is, you know, 12-15 years ago, so I can't speak
3 directly to what was provided, you know, at that
4 time.

5 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So you were involved in
6 negotiations of the license, but you're not aware
7 that Mazars, the accounting firm that did the
8 certification (crosstalk)...

9 MR. LIEBERMAN: Well, Mazar's was our accounting
10 firm, but I can't...

11 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Just let me... let me
12 finish the question.

13 MR. LIEBERMAN: I'm sorry.

14 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: You were involved with the
15 negotiations of the license, but you're not aware
16 that Mazars retracted its certifications for this
17 time period.

18 MR. LIEBERMAN: I don't know what... Again, I'm
19 not involved in what Mazars said or did, and again,
20 you can refer back to them, but I can tell you that I
21 was involved in the agreement and the negotiations,
22 as were many by the way, I was one of you know, a
23 number of people, including lawyers and other
24 executives that were involved in in negotiating the
25 agreement.

2 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And you do know that the
3 Mazars retraction of their financial certifications
4 for the 10-year period was public news that came out
5 as a result of the investigations, right? Were you
6 aware of that?

7 MR. LIEBERMAN: I'm not aware. I don't know. I
8 don't read every single thing that comes out about
9 this.

10 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: It is pretty big, as the
11 accounting firm, right? with the certifications?

12 Um, How much would you claim you invested in the
13 property to improve it?

14 MR. LIEBERMAN: I don't... Again, I don't have
15 the specific numbers on it, but I can tell you, and I
16 heard what that lawyer had said, that we are well in
17 excess of \$30 million in terms of investment between
18 growing costs, capital investment, etc. A number...
19 I don't know what he was talking about with this \$5
20 of \$10 million number. It's completely out of whack.
21 We have all the numbers. And it's... it's... it's
22 far in excess of \$30 million.

23 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And you're aware that the
24 license agreement, which you have to negotiate,

2 estimated of an investment of less than \$15 million
3 closer to \$10 million?

4 MR. LIEBERMAN: Well, depends on what... You
5 know, you're cherry picking this, because that you
6 have a capital investment, you have the grow-in
7 costs. They're two different... two different
8 things.

9 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yeah, I'm talking about
10 both of those, capital improvement costs and grow-in
11 costs. Are you aware that you were projected in the
12 range of roughly \$10 to \$15 million max investment?

13 MR. LIEBERMAN: No. It's... It's more than that.
14 And it was all agreed to with the city, and the city
15 has the records of it. It's way more than that.

16 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Did you know that was in
17 Exhibit K of the license, that the max capital
18 improvement and growing costs were to be about \$10 to
19 15? million?

20 MR. LIEBERMAN: I don't know. Like to your
21 words, it was an estimate.

22 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And do you routinely build
23 projects over-budgeted by two to three times what the
24 projection is?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Well, we build... Obviously, there's... there's budgets to everything, but we build to deliver an incredible product. You know, and we do what it takes, and the numbers take care of themselves, right? So in my testimony I mentioned about going to Ferry Point. I would suggest you go to Ferry Point. I'll be happy to host you, right?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: No, thank you, but...

MR. LIEBERMAN: Okay. I knew you'd say no. But come. See for yourself what we did. And we spare no expense because that's our brand. And... and you'll see it there, and you'll see it at any Trump property across the world.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And, you know, I would assume... I know you're not involved in the construction or manager side, but as the VP that oversees the operations of the Trump Organization, I would assume you consider yourself a responsible executive over managerial and development decisions and properties, right?

MR. LIEBERMAN: One of several people.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And do you think that it's customary -- assuming that your goal -- which I think it is, is to make a profit off the course too -- do

you think you'd be able to do that if the projected... if the actual cost of development and construction exceeded two to three times what the projection was.

MR. LIEBERMAN: Again, I don't know where this two-to-three times number that you keep saying. It's not two to three times whatever a projection is. But, you know, it's pretty common for budgets to go over, because there are things that come about throughout the construction that are unanticipated. And, again, we have a brand to adhere to. And so we're going to spend what we need to, to make it beautiful. And as I mentioned, just go there, and you'll see it for yourself.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: But let's... let's put aside...

MR. LIEBERMAN: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: ... what's in the license. I think it's clear, but let's put that aside. Is it common to go over projected costs, at two to three times what you'd expect?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Again, you keep bringing up, I don't know where there's two-to-three times...

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Saying... generally speaking, put aside where it comes from, is it common in your work that when you project a budget, that you go over those costs by two to three times?

MR. LIEBERMAN: It definitely could be common to go over. Because you're... you're working on something that's an estimate. I can't comment on whether, you know, that's two times, one time, three times, five times. You know, depends on what happens during the construction.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And this is...

MR. LIEBERMAN: And I can tell you... I'm sorry, I don't mean to cut you off. You know, we... You know, when we were going through the construction phase, you know, we weren't... we were not satisfied, we had a number of architects that were looking at in designing our main obligation, which was that clubhouse, and we weren't satisfied. And so we went through a number of rounds before we ultimately landed on the team, you know, that would do this. You know, all that costs were probably were in excess of.... of where it was originally.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And this is a public golf course, right?

MR. LIEBERMAN: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Do you consider \$200 For
round of golf affordable to the residents of the
Bronx?

MR. LIEBERMAN: First of all, I heard you mention
that question before. Many of our users are from the
Bronx, by the way, including... and all five boroughs
of New York City. The majority of our golfers are
residents of New York City. And as Brian had
mentioned, we have a whole schedule of fees depending
on whether they're a junior, a senior, whether
they're playing on the weekend, a weekday, so it
varies. So if you want to pick at the highest rate,
no matter what raid you pick, I view it as an
incredible bargain for anyone who uses it. And you
don't even have to ask me. Just ask the golfers.
And it's reflected year after year in the number of
people that go there, including many residents from
the Bronx, and there's a reason they go there. It's
a bargain.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: So it's a bargain?

MR. LIEBERMAN: It's a bargain. Yeah. It's a
bargain for what they're getting in return and
largely because of what we've accomplished there and

2 what the staff has accomplished and delivers in terms
3 of service there.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: And my last question for
5 you is: Do you support the decision to have the golf
6 tournament next point... at Ferry Point Park?

7 MR. LIEBERMAN: Yeah.

8 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you for your
9 testimony.

10 MR. LIEBERMAN: Okay. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Now we'll call the next
12 witness, Tim Frolich.

13 MR. FROELICH: Sorry guys, I'm just getting
14 myself situated here.

15 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Good afternoon now. My
16 name is Tim Frolich and I was a survivor of the
17 collapse of the South Tower 21 years ago this week.

18 I was working on the 80th floor for a Japanese
19 Bank at the time after the North Tower was attacked.
20 My coworker and I, who happened to be my best friend,
21 went to the 81st and the 82nd floor to advise other
22 employees to start to descend down to lower floors.
23 Sadly, some of those coworkers elected to stay.

24 After entering stairwell A we began making the
25 long descent down to exit the South Tower. At around

floor number 60 admits collapsing tile, smoke, and debris. I was separated from my friend. Sadly, I never saw him again. And he never made it out.

Once I reached the lobby, I exited the building and was getting my eyes rinsed by a rescue worker, when I was told, with my back to the building now, sir, you need to run. Behind me I heard a tremendous roar, I saw hundreds of people running up Fulton Street, I was consumed by the black dust cloud and the collapse of the South Tower as I was actually preparing myself to perish.

Fortunately, somehow an arm came out of the darkness and I was pulled off my feet falling down a flight of stairs in the parking garage at the Millennium Hotel. As I fell I snapped, crushed, and granulated, as the doctors described it, my left ankle and my left foot, leaving me with a marked deformity and a permanent disability.

A York City firefighter told me he would be back as I laid in that stairwell. It felt like hours, and after a while he did come back. One of the individuals he brought back was Captain... was Captain Kathy Mazza from the Port Authority Police Department. Kathy told me, "You're going home

tonight sir." Being about five foot three with distinguishable ponytail, Kathy lifted me from the stairwell and carried me to a Chase Manhattan Bank lobby where I received aid.

She was then out the door that lobby heading to help more victims.

Kathy Mazza was killed in the collapse of the North Tower shortly after helping me enter my ambulance parked on Fulton Street. Without her heroics, I would not be here to testify today.

But that's enough about me.

It's been 21 years since almost 3000 innocent people lost their lives, and 1000s of others have now died due to the interim exposure and the debris of those collapsing buildings. Even though the 19 terrorists died that day, Osama bin Laden and others have also been captured and killed, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has never been brought to justice and has never admitted its guilt, and further it has never compensated the victims or the support to the al Qaeda and the 9/11 plot.

How do we know Saudi Arabia did it?

Because for 20 years, representatives of the 9/11 families and survivors have been digging,

investigating, and questioning. We've been blocked by obstruction. We've been blocked by delay from our own government, as well as certainly the Saudi government. But finally, last year, President Joe Biden issued Executive Order 14040, ordering a declassification review which resulted in the public release of 4000 FBI documents.

Many of those documents are from the FBI investigation as... as Brett had said, known as Operation Encore. Operation Encore ran from 2006 until last year. Operation Encore focused specifically on the role of Saudi government officials who were in the United States in support of the 9/11 plot. Operation Encore was intended as an intelligence gathering operation, not a criminal investigation, and therefore there has not been any indictments, convictions for anyone regarding the 9/11 attacks.

I've attached to this statement some excerpts from the publicly available FBI Encore documents. Here are two brief packages.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an example of one document that was given to the families and now can be found on 9/11 justice.org. It is a Operation

Encore document, and FBI released. Now, I want to remind everyone, these documents never came out until last year. They were released under the Biden executive order. So as far as Fortune 500 companies doing business with Saudi Arabia, my best guess would be that Fortune 500 companies have not read these documents. They're new. They just came out. I want to refer to a couple of passages.

This is not my words. Once again, this is an official FBI document. And this is what the FBI wrote:

"Operation Encore is an investigation into individuals known to have provided substantial 9/11 assistance to two hijackers, hijacker al Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar during their time in California prior to the attacks.

Operation Encore main subjects include the following people

And these people that I'm going to mention were paid Saudi government officials they were working for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The first individual is Fahad al-Thumairy, next Omar al-Bayoumi, and finally the third individual here is Mussad[sp?] al-Jara[sp?], once

again, Saudi government officials being paid by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The subjects according to the FBI:

"Provided or directed others to provide the hijackers with assistance in daily activities, including procuring living quarters, financial assistance, assistance in obtaining flight lessons, as well as driver's licenses. Operation Encore seeks to prove that these individuals provided assistance with the knowledge that al-Hazmi and al-Mihdar, who were the two terrorist hijackers on flight 77, were here to commit an act of terrorism.

That, to me, is pretty damning, and pretty significant. And again, that's not me saying it. That's our own FBI.

There should be no one in any context of any business, taking any money from Saudi Arabia, least of all, a former president to host a golf tournament, this close to Manhattan or anywhere in the country.

These facts need to be out. And we all need to be reminded of the fact that we now have an ex-president and an organization doing business with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This is not about Trump

anymore. This is about FBI documents, documents that prove that the ex-president has now made a conscious decision to turn his back on the 9/11 community, to turn his back on New York, and in essence, turn his back on the country and take money and support a golf tournament at a public... at... I'm sorry... at a public golf course, so as everyone makes money here. That's what this is about. And it's reprehensible.

I have several other documents, again, all FBI... all FBI related.

Fahad al-Thumairy was a Saudi diplomat. He was assigned to an embassy in Washington DC. The Saudi Embassy, as well as the Saudi consulate, aAlso located in Los Angeles. Al-Thumairy was a representative of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. And what we know is that the Ministry of Islamic affairs parallels our State Department. So in essence, they are the government.

FBI queries were of interest to the highest levels of the Saudi government. So here again, is more proof that we have people that were here, 12 to 13 people beginning in 1999, well in advance of the reception of the hijackers who never came to this country until January in the year 2000.

So there was a group of people to receive the hijackers, and then the hijackers arrived. And it is relevant to say that -- as has been reported, it's accurate -- 15 of the 19 hijackers were, in fact, Saudi nationals. But the point to be made here is there are individuals now in FBI documents that were Saudi government employees, they were here long before the hijackers arrived in 2000, and we can prove it. It's right here.

Now, on September 11, 2019, I was fortunate also, to be in a group with 9/11 family members and survivors who went to the White House to meet with President Trump. We were seeking his help to get these documents released in 2019.

The President looked me in the eyes and said, "Yes, I'm going to help you. I'm going to help the families."

The next day, as Brett had said, his administration declared these same documents a state secret, basically saying, I have them. You can't have them.

As we now know, those documents, thanks to President Biden... we've received those documents thanks to President Biden, President Trump lied to

us, and we know why. Just like this: Saudi money. He's in business with the Saudis.

The Aramco tournament scheduled for October 13, at Trump's golf course in the Bronx is a tragedy. It is a throat punch to every single New York City resident, every single person in this country. It should not take place. And this can be stopped. And it needs to be stopped. Once again, I want to I want to make the point. This is not about Trump, this is about facts, ladies and gentlemen. We have the facts now. This is about who he has elected to do business with. A foreign country came to this country and killed 3000 people. And that's not okay. And now, President Trump, just three short years ago, said I'm going to help you. And what happened? We got nothing. He didn't do anything. He knew these documents existed. And now, now we're very quickly approaching a golf tournament in the city, and it's okay for him to turn around and do business with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who sponsored these attacks? That's outrageous. That's outrageous. That's reprehensible.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank... thank you so much, Mr. Frolich, for your... for your testimony.

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2 And I do hope, as you call too, that the Parks
3 Department and the Parks Commissioner will terminate
4 this license...

5 MR. FROLICH: Yes. You know...

6 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: ...and cancel the golf
7 tournament.

8 MR. FROLICH: One other thing: I'm hopeful...

9 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: But I... uh, well, just
10 because other people still need to testify too, so if
11 you could...

12 MR. FROLICH: No problem. Just one other quick
13 thing. I'm hopeful that as a city, just like after
14 9/11, we can come together, government, city
15 agencies, and we can get this quashed. I really am
16 very hopeful. After 9/11 There was a tremendous
17 amount of unity here throughout the country, and we
18 need that unity again, to have... to not only have
19 justice, but to also have this quashed and killed, so
20 that way, none of this happens. We need to cut off
21 the relationship that we have with this kingdom who
22 came here and murdered 3000 people.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Mr.
25 Frolich.

Next up, we're going to call Edward Perez

Is Edward Perez here? No?

Paul Francis Moitzi?

Hi, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: You may begin.

Sure. My name is Paul Moitzi. I am the Golf
Outing Coordinator at Trump Golf Links at Ferry
Point. I'm a very proud, proud Bronx native. I
think the organization has done a great job at
bringing public golf to New York City. And I think
it's a great thing. We do have a lot of wonderful
employees over there who also live in the Bronx.
It's... it's a crucial part of their daily lives, and
also their livelihoods.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you very much for
your testimony.

Next, we'll call Daniel Tenga.

MR. TENGA: Good afternoon. I have a few things
I want to say about the day to day operations at
Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point.

My name is Daniel Tenga. I am the Assistant Golf
Professional Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point, and I
oversee the golf shop operations there. Trump Golf

Links has become a staple to the city of New York City and the community of Throgs Neck. The organization has generally employed people that are residents of New York City, part time and full time. I have lived in Throgs Neck my entire life and Trump... Trump Golf Links has become a main attraction for our community. There's always been a rave about the organization, and about the property, the golf course the food, the view, etc.

Before I was full time at the Trump Organization, I worked at Pelham Split Rock which was an American Golf Corporation company who run... who run seven other golf courses in New York City.

To attempt to compare Trump Golf Links to American Golf Corporation is uncomparable. The food... food and beverage aspect, the course conditions, et cetera. There is no comparison there.

There's a few things I want to touch on as well. We may have mixed up some of the rates. Trump Golf Links cost \$162 during the week for a resident and \$195 during the weekend, while American Golf will charge you \$82.14 plus a \$4 parking fee. Also, we offer a completely different aspect. We offer food and beverages basically on every other hole where if

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2 you go to another city public golf course it's
3 impossible to get a water. We... We have a
4 completely different aspect of customer service.
5 You'll walk in... You look at our clubhouse and
6 you'll see a difference automatically off the bat.
7 You will not see that at any other New York City
8 public golf course.

9 And that's all I have right now, if you have any
10 questions.

11 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thanks so much for your
12 testimony.

13 MR. TENGA: You bet.

14 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Next we'll call up
15 Janina[sp?] Perez.

16 MS. PEREZ: Good afternoon, everybody. My name
17 is Janina Perez and I work at Trump Ferry Point.
18 What I want to say is I've lived in the neighborhood
19 for many years, and I saw Trump Ferry Point being
20 built, and I used to wonder what it was going to be.
21 And I... I used to drive by, run by, exercise around
22 there, and I used to ask myself, who can afford to
23 belong to this club? What kind of people are going
24 to be coming here? And I used to say, I'm sure there
25 is fancy people working there must be very expensive.

I wonder how much they pay for membership to play golf.

And then I heard from neighbors and friends that it was not a membership club. It was not even a club it was a golf course and that it was open to the public. And that made me drive by again and go in the parking lot and see what it was about. And I saw that everybody that works there... most people are people from the neighborhood. We hire young people for the summer. We hire older people for the season. I am very happy to be working there. A couple of weeks ago, they hired someone new, and this lady asked me if I was... if I liked working there. And I say, "Yes, I love here. I enjoy here. I'm very happy here. And I want to retire from here." So I do hope that we stay open forever, for as long as we have to. And I'm not only speaking for myself. There's about 150 more employees. 150 more families there right now are in the Bronx working at Ferry Point. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much for your testimony, Miss Perez.

Now finally, we have Liz Sanchez.

MS. SANCHEZ: Hello, my name is Liz Sanchez and I... I was there on 9/11. I worked at 27 Maiden Lane, not too far from there, on the 27th floor. I remember clearly how everything happened. I was stuck in the office for two days because we were not not sure if we could go anywhere or go home or how to get home. I remember the screams, the smells, everything, everything.

I lost a family member. I lost good friends and coworkers that day. It was a horrible day that I will never forget. But it was 21 years since I happen. And I have moved on. 21 years, it's a long time. I lost my father two years ago due to COVID. So should I sue the city for not doing what they need to do? No, because it's part... it happened, and I just move on.

Now I work for Trump Ferry Point. I'm an... I work in the accounting department.

I can tell you that everything we do is by the books. And I love working there, along with 170 to 190 people that we hire, to work at Trump Ferry Point every season. And these employees, 85% of them live in the Bronx. I live in the Bronx. I'm five minutes away from there.

The families that live in the Bronx that depend on this license to continue to work there. Also the customers... our golf course are well taken care of management does amazing job.

Now you say Donald Trump is on investigation, but he is not found guilty yet. You're judging on something that you don't know what's going to happen. You can put two things together, our... our facility, and his personal is two different entities. We work there. We maintain it. We love it. We have so many families that depend on this. You are basically... just don't like him and you judge, and you just want to cancel because you decided on what you see or what you hear, and you don't agree with him, or whatever the reason is. But you have to think that in that facility, in Trump Ferry Point, there are people that we need this job.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [inaudible, mic off]

That concludes our hearing for today on the Committee on Parks and Recreation. I would just conclude by saying we've laid out today numerous paths by which the Parks Commissioner can terminate this license. And we would urge both the Parks

Commissioner and City Hall to do so immediately and to cancel this golf tournament. The license is as clear as day, how it can be done, as is the very fact from a moral, legal, and ethical standpoint, that public parkland should not be in the hands of Donald Trump or the Trump Organization. They have shown themselves unworthy of it.

At this point, I'd like to also say a big thank you to the Parks Committee, to Chris, Patrick, Chima, Rose, Nick, for all their hard work for today's hearing. To my staff, as well, to Chuck, to Kevin, to Greg and everyone who had made today's hearing is success thank you all so much for attending this hearing is now closed

[GAVEL]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 09/22/2021