1		THE FLORIDA SENATE
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3		IVE ORDER OF SUSPENSION, NUMBER 19-14, Mr. Scott Israel, Sheriff
4	Broward County,	Florida
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7		VOLUME TIT
8		VOLUME III (Pages 308 through 471)
9		TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
10	EV	HEARING FOR REVIEW OF
11		ECUTIVE ORDER OF SUSPENSION
12		9:00 a.m 12:40 p.m.
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14	BEFORE:	Tallahassee, Florida 32399 Dudley Goodlette, Special Master
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(Proceedings continued from Volume II.)

SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning. It's 9:00

a.m. on Wednesday, June 19th, and this is the

continuation of the final hearing with regard to

Executive Order of Suspension 19-14, suspension of

Scott Israel, Sheriff of Broward County.

Counsel, before hearing further testimony from Sheriff Israel this morning, there is a brief procedural matter that I would like to discuss. At the conclusion of the hearing, I will be requiring the parties to submit proposed findings of facts and conclusions of law. I would like to have those submissions staggered, with the governor's brief coming a week before the sheriff's -- Israel's brief. I would encourage the parties to -- during the break today to discuss the -- and see if they can consent to a timeframe for these submissions, and if that can't be accomplished, if you're not able to do so, then I will enter an order with a briefing schedule after the hearing.

Also, given that the parties will have an opportunity to present their case in writing, I plan to forego closing statements today.

1	And you may now proceed. At the conclusion
2	yesterday, we were under direct examination of
3	Sheriff Israel. And just remind Sheriff Israel,
4	as you jump back on the witness stand, that you
5	are still under oath.
6	THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
7	SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed, Counsel.
8	MR. KUEHNE: Special Master, we do have one
9	item we want to add to the record to preserve the
10	record. It will just take a moment.
11	SPECIAL MASTER: Okay, sir.
12	MR. KAPLAN: Special Master, if I may?
13	SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Kaplan.
14	MR. KAPLAN: Thank you.
15	Special Masters, good morning. As you
16	recall, one of the first things that I did
17	yesterday morning was obviously we addressed our
18	concern with respect to whether or not in any way
19	Scott Israel's due process rights may be at risk
20	with respect to the failure to be able at this
21	point to have the benefit of the FDLE
22	investigation.
23	As you know, there were it's been made
24	public that there were over 180 witnesses who were
25	interviewed, as well as 200 or 200 plus

investigative reports. And one of my concerns to you, Special Masters, was not only whether or not actual due process may be at risk, but also, as you know, the appearance of due process is always called into question, especially when we talk

about what the public's perception is.

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It wasn't two seconds after I sat down, Special Masters, that the governor's attorney stood up in his opening statement to you. And it is interesting to me that sometimes government attorneys, whether they're on the state level, local level, or federal level, fail to realize that they are still regulated under the Florida Bar, as well as the ABA, with respect to the code of conduct, as well as the ethical requirements. And you may recall, Special Masters, that the governor's attorney called out Scott Israel as by contesting these -- this removal as, quote/unquote, being shameful. Mr. Primrose said on the record that it is shameful that Scott Israel is basically coming before Your Honor in contesting this removal. I equated that statement as if a prosecutor in a criminal case was to identify in a closing argument the failure of a defendant taking the witness stand. As you would

know, that would be an automatic mistrial, and certainly that government attorney would be dealt with and probably sanctioned for those type of comments.

23.

Notwithstanding, we let it go. Obviously, there has been the undertone of our concern that the removal of Scott Israel was not based upon any merits or facts, but it was politically motivated, and we do know that several months ago when Governor DeSantis was making his speech before the Florida Senate almost as if to strong-arm the senators, he made it well-known that anybody who would vote against his suspension or removal of Scott Israel may have to deal with him later on. And that's certainly -- we took that as a clear, overt threat.

Notwithstanding, Your Honor, after last night's proceedings, and notwithstanding that these proceedings are still open, the fact that we have not had an opportunity to present our closing remarks and certainly to allow the process to take its course, Governor DeSantis went on record last night and, quote, said, "It is shameful Israel is still fighting the reasons for his dismissal when his wrongdoings as sheriff are so clear." Now,

sir, you can only interrupt those statements as trying to influence the ultimate decision-maker in these proceedings. And that is of great concern to Scott Israel, to Mr. Kuehne, and to myself, because as a practicing attorney, having been admitted to the New York State Bar 30 years ago, I stand before you with a tremendous respect and deference and understanding that while some may look at the practice of law now in this day and age in 2019 more like a sporting contest other than what it should be in the application of the administration of justice and to ensure that justice is administered equally and fairly, I am concerned and I wanted to call to your attention so that we would make a record of our concern that, again, the governor and through his attorneys have made these type of statements that certainly would cause condemnation in the public's eye, as well as his attempt to circumvent the process and interfere and try to coerce or influence the ultimate decision-makers. And so I just wanted to call that to your attention and make a note of it and certainly make a record of it.

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SPECIAL MASTER: Let me just say -- I want to

ask Mr. Primrose to respond, but let me just say

that whatever comments the governor has made will

not influence the report that I am going to

provide to the senate president.

Mr. Primrose.

2.2

MR. KAPLAN: May I just say I appreciate that response, sir.

SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Primrose.

MR. PRIMROSE: First of all, it's deeply concerning that as a member of the bar, that there even be an accusation that I somehow committed unprofessional or unethical conduct. However, Mr. Kaplan, if he feels that that has happened, there is an appropriate procedure to do that, and I certainly would enjoy my due process rights if he believes that I've somehow violated my oath to the Florida Bar and the professional rules of conduct.

What I will say is this: That the Florida voters in 1968 approved an amendment to the Florida Constitution giving the Florida Senate the power to develop the rules and procedures, that the Florida Senate would conduct a removal or reinstatement process. It's the Florida Senate's rules and procedures on what is due process. This procedure is due process. It's open to the

1	public. The governor is an independently-elected
2	official who can make comments about why he chose
3	to suspend Scott Israel from office. And Scott
4	Israel is provided the opportunity to come before
5	the senate and the entire media and make his case
6	for why he thinks that he should not be removed
7	from office.

2.3

But I will say this: There are 40 independently-elected Florida senators that will read your report and they will take into consideration all of the evidence and testimony provided by Scott Israel and the governor's office in making their decisions, and I would assume that all 40 independently-elected Florida senators will make their decisions based on their thoughts and opinions, not based on what any other elected official in the State of Florida says.

SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Primrose.

Let me just say that the statements that have been made are now part of the transcript.

Okay. Let's please continue with the proceedings. Your witness, Mr. Kuehne.

MR. KUEHNE: Thank you.

SPECIAL MASTER: And, Sheriff, you're still under oath, if you will.

THE WITNESS. Understood six

1 THE WITNESS: Understood, sir.

- 2 CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. KUEHNE:
- 4 Q. Good morning, Sheriff. When we broke last
- 5 night, we were speaking about the Fort
- 6 Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport shooting. Do you recall
- 7 that?
- 8 A. I do.
- 9 Q. And I had posed a number of observations to
- 10 you that were raised by the governor in support of the
- 11 position that you were negligent or incompetent. Do
- 12 you recall that section?
- 13 A. I do recall that.
- 14 Q. So let me -- let me continue.
- 15 SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Kuehne, is your
- microphone on?
- 17 (Discussion off the record.)
- 18 BY MR. KUEHNE:
- 19 Q. The governor's bench memorandum submitted in
- 20 this case -- and you've read that, right?
- 21 A. I have.
- 22 Q. -- includes this statement in support of
- 23 the -- the governor's suspension claim. And it says,
- and I'm quoting, this is at page 5, "While not an
- 25 exhaustive recitation of the initial draft report's

findings, it reveals faults with BSO, especially given

- 2 the November 1, 2013, shooting that occurred at the
- 3 Los Angeles International Airport and acts of
- 4 terrorisms that have elevated the need for efforts to
- 5 protect airport." That's the statement.
- 6 Is it your understanding that the initial
- 7 draft report done by the officer was vetted by others,
- 8 not by you?
- 9 A. The initial report, to my knowledge, was not
- 10 vetted by anyone, it was just turned in.
- 11 Q. It was reviewed after it was turned in?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And then vetted by others, not by you?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. There were command staff-level meetings?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you direct or order anything about how to
- 18 go through the process of working from that initial
- draft report to get it into the final official
- 20 version?
- A. Not at all.
- Q. Who was in charge of that --
- 23 A. Ultimately --
- 24 Q. -- process?
- 25 A. Ultimately, the undersheriff was in charge of

- 1 the process.
- 2 Q. The undersheriff had that responsibility?
- 3 A. Yes, he did.
- 4 Q. And then once that's done, you're the final
- 5 authority?
- 6 A. That's correct. I would take the final
- 7 responsibility for the end product.
- 8 Q. And you explained how that process got to
- 9 you?
- 10 A. T did.
- 11 Q. Was BSO in the Sheriff Israel tenure focused
- on and did it learn from the events at the Los Angeles
- 13 airport?
- 14 A. Absolutely.
- 15 Q. That was another attack, right?
- 16 A. It certainly was.
- 17 Q. And did that become part of the BSO process
- 18 of understanding what might happen in our community?
- 19 A. Yes. Actually, at the Broward Sheriff's
- Office, I particularly on purpose made sure that our
- 21 command staff was diversified regarding talents and
- 22 how we all came to the ranks of colonel and lieutenant
- colonel and majors. And we had about three or four of
- our upper command staff, including myself, who were
- former SWAT commanders. So we understood the adage

when we were young in this profession, we understand

2 that when people need police, they call 911. When the

- 3 police need police, they call SWAT. So I've always
- 4 understood how important it is to be cognizant of
- 5 training, preparation, planning.

- 6 Every critical incident in this country that
- 7 would happen, within a day or two, myself and four or
- 8 five or six other upper-command staff would sit in the
- 9 office and we would read and talk about lessons
- 10 learned from that. Now, they haven't even done action
- 11 plans yet, but we were talking about the Pulse
- 12 Nightclub the next day and what are the take-aways,
- what could we learn initially. We certainly have
- 14 ability to talk to men and woman in the profession and
- 15 learn these things. So training and preparing for the
- 16 next attack, because, sadly, as I sit here and testify
- 17 today, somewhere in this country, there's going to be
- 18 another active killing. It's not a matter of if, it's
- 19 a matter of when. And that's why we have to be
- 20 vigilant, vigilant. And that was kind of the -- the
- 21 underlying tone of our administration, be vigilant.
- 22 We know we can't prevent a crazed individual from
- doing what he or she is going to do, but perhaps if we
- 24 plan our response better and we learn, we can save
- 25 people's lives, we can get there quicker, we can get

- 1 there safer.
- 2 Training -- we throw the word "training"
- around, but training is an ever-evolving thing. Every
- 4 time a critical incident happens, police train
- 5 differently. We learned from Columbine. Now we do
- 6 things a different way.
- 7 And my biggest take-away, Mr. Kuehne, at
- 8 Marjory Stoneman Douglas was we realized that we want
- 9 to enter a building as soon as possible and we want to
- 10 do one of three things: We want to eliminate the
- 11 target, we want to arrest the target, we want to have
- the target flee or barricade himself or herself
- without hostages. And as we went through Stoneman
- Douglas, we realized that although the killer was
- already gone, we no longer want to continue to push
- 16 forward. If we don't know where the killer is, we
- 17 want to stop and triage and we want to start to save
- 18 lives.
- One thing the governor never brought out -- I
- 20 don't even know if they know -- is that police, Coral
- 21 Springs, BSO, and other police officers -- I'm not
- talking about paramedics, but police transported 19
- gunshot victims to area hospitals that day, and 17 of
- those 19 lived because of our training, because we had
- tourniquets, because we had the equipment we needed,

and that's why to be accused of not training right and

2 not training rigorously and not being vigilant, it's

- 3 not accurate, sir.
- Q. Did you, in addition to what you've explained
- 5 with your command staff, post some notorious event,
- 6 also see what was going on in the law enforcement
- 7 community as a result of those things by communication
- 8 with others in other agencies?
- 9 A. Always.
- 10 Q. So, for example, you mentioned the -- the
- 11 sit-down discussion, the analysis, after Pulse?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Did you learn that FBI and other sheriffs'
- 14 offices and other law enforcement agencies around the
- 15 country were essentially doing the same thing?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17. Q. And is it ordinary as a part of your job as
- sheriff to get a feel, get a sense, get an
- 19 understanding what thoughts and developments have the
- 20 larger law enforcement group figured out from this?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 O. One of the previous witnesses mentioned that
- 23 after Fort Lauderdale airport -- Fort
- 24 Lauderdale-Hollywood shooting, BSO was asked to make a
- 25 presentation before some fairly significant national

anoung De Hou nomember that testimenus

- groups. Do you remember that testimony?
- 2 A. I do.
- Q. Did you participate in any presentations to
- 4 law enforcement organizations post Fort
- 5 Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport shooting?
- 6 A. I did. Myself and Colonel Jack Dale were
- 7 invited to the Major County Sheriffs' Association,
- 8 they have a conference the first week, and then the
- 9 National Sheriffs' Association, their conference
- 10 begins when the other one concludes in the same venue.
- 11 It was in Reno. And Colonel Jack Dale and I went out
- 12 to that conference post airport, and not only we were
- 13 students at the -- or members of the conference, but
- 14 we taught a -- I think a 90-minute block on what
- 15 happened at the airport, lessons learned, because most
- 16 major county sheriffs or national sheriffs are going
- 17 to have some airport in their jurisdiction. So it was
- 18 very applicable and it was very important that we
- 19 share that information.
- Q. And in the process of that presentation and
- 21 that series of meetings, did you have give-and-takes
- so you got questions from the participants,
- 23 suggestions, in essentially being a learning
- 24 experience for BSO, as well as for everybody else?
- 25 A. If you've ever been into these conferences,

- there were quite a bit of questions. There was a lot 1
- 2 of dialog back and forth.
- 3 Did anybody in those series of meetings when
- you're making the presentation, suggest to you that 4
- 5 when there is an airport shooting, the immediate
- 6 response is to shut down the entire airport, no ifs,
- ands or buts? 7
- A lot of people think like that.
- 9 And did you have some discussion there about
- 10 the practical realties of doing such a thing?
- We did. And at that time, I knew how an 11 Α.
- 12 airport needs to get shut down and the protocols to
- 13 go -- you know, to go through it, but I -- my main
- 14 message was although no sheriff, to my knowledge, in
- 15 the country has the power to shut down an airport, we
- 16 can certainly be, you know, aggressive in a very
- 17 positive manner, letting the airport folks and the
- 18 folks nationally know that it's a safety issue and the
- 19 airport needs to be shut down until we say it's an all
- clear, no fire in the hole, and we feel people can 20
- 21 move about safely.
- 22 And is that a lesson learned from Fort Ο.
- 23 Lauderdale airport shooting?
- 2.4 Absolutely. Α.
- 25 And did it appear to you that it was a lesson Q.

- 1 that was important for everybody to hear?
- 2 A. Absolutely.
- Q. That the thought of how you go about shutting
- down an airport was really not within then law
- 5 enforcement experience?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. But yet you would work through that with the
- 8 FBI during the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport
- 9 incident?
- 10 A. That was less of a problem or an issue with
- 11 the FBI. In fact, it wasn't even an issue with the
- 12 FBI. That was more with the Broward County Airport
- 13 Division, and we worked through it in a very positive
- 14 manner, exchanging information --
- 15 Q. You and the FBI and BCAD --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- worked through the issues?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Now, you mentioned that the first draft gets
- 20 reviewed and that was the normal course of how these
- things are done?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And Captain Diefenbacher was assigned to do
- 24 the next series of reviews?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Did you assign him to that task?
- 2 A. I did not.
- Q. Now, he's -- was a captain in the BSO when
- 4 you were the sheriff?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And he remains a captain in the BSO post
- 7 Sheriff Israel?
- 8 A. Yes. And I don't know if this was brought
- 9 out yesterday, but what was so important, the
- 10 undersheriff told me later to having Diefenbacher run
- 11 the next step was that he was also an attorney besides
- 12 being an accomplished police leader.
- 13 Q. And did you give direction to Captain
- 14 Diefenbacher what to do or how to do it?
- 15 A. Not at all.
- 16 Q. And Captain Diefenbacher goes through his
- 17 review process and rewriting. Was it your
- 18 understanding that once Captain Diefenbacher finished,
- 19 that's it, we have a final report?
- 20 A. No, sir.
- Q. Is that how those things work?
- 22 A. No, sir.
- 23 Q. This final report, the offense incident
- 24 report, came out in I think November of 2017, October
- or November 2017. So airport incident shooting,

January to say November, a 10-month period. For an

- 2 event of that magnitude, is that a reasonable amount
- 3 of time to do a complete offense incident report?
- 4 Ouite reasonable. Α.
- 5 Ο. And when Captain Diefenbacher did his
- 6 processing, did you understand that it included an
- 7 evaluation of subject matter experts getting input
- from different agencies, et cetera? 8
- 9 Well, I would have assumed that because I
- 10 know the kind of work that Captain Diefenbacher
- produces, but I never had a conversation with him or I 11
- 12 was never apprised he was doing that.
- And you didn't look at his draft report? 13 Ο.
- 14 No, I did not. Α.
- 15 And are you familiar with how many more Q.
- 16 versions, edits, red lines, strike-outs, reviews
- 17 happened before it got to the critical incident
- 18 report, the final report?
- 19 Α. I actually have no idea.
- 20 And we looked at it yesterday, but just so Ο.
- 21 it's clear, the final report is Governor Exhibit 6,
- 22 and that's dated October 6, 2017?
- 23 SPECIAL MASTER: Sheriff, please say "yes" or
- 2.4 "no." The court reporter has a hard time with
- 25 nods.

1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

- 2 SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you.
- 3 BY MR. KUEHNE:
- 4 Q. Did the critical incident report, the final
- 5 incident report, become part of the materials that you
- and BSO used when you made presentations on the Fort
- 7 Lauderdale-Hollywood incident?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And was it widely distributed?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did you get any push-back from national law
- 12 enforcement circles that the critical incident report
- wasn't complete, wasn't the right form, didn't have
- 14 enough criticisms in it?
- 15 A. Just the opposite. I know the undersheriff
- had gone to at least three or four venues throughout
- 17 the country, and I might have had other colonels, I
- can't specifically say, that went to locations. I
- 19 believe the undersheriff was actually invited to
- 20 Montreal as one of his stops to do a presentation of
- 21 what happened at the airport. And after one of the
- 22 presentations, I would get calls from the folks that
- 23 hosted the conference, thanking them for allowing
- 24 staff to go up there and make such a professional and
- 25 worthwhile presentation.

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1 Q. Did the critical incident report emphasize

- 2 the importance of effective trainings?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And is that something that was encouraged
- 5 when presentations were made to other organizations?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Now, the governor's memorandum adds as
- 8 additional reason for your suspension for neglect of
- 9 duty and incompetence, this, and this is on page 7,
- 10 they say, "The report" -- referring to the final
- 11 report -- "never acknowledges failures on the part of
- 12 Israel or BSO. Rather, as highlighted above, the
- final report claims you cannot prevent or prepare for
- 14 this type of event, and that through the leadership of
- 15 Sheriff Israel, the event was mitigated and the scene
- 16 was secured and handled."
- You remember that part of the governor's
- 18 memorandum?
- 19 A. Oh, very well.
- Q. Now, isn't it accurate to say that the
- 21 governor's memorandum truncates and selectively
- identifies portions of the report and takes them out
- 23 of context?
- 24 A. Yeah. We used the word "cherry-pick" when we
- 25 spoke.

1 Q. Doesn't the report actually say -- and I'm

- 2 quoting -- "Through the leadership of Sheriff Israel,
- BSO personnel, the FBI, BCAD, and other law
- 4 enforcement agencies, fire rescue, regional
- 5 communications, and community partners, this tragic
- 6 event was mitigated and investigated in an
- 7 extraordinary manner"?
- 8 A. That's exactly what it said, and that's why I
- 9 just -- you know, I realize I stay in my lane and I'm
- only the sheriff of one of many counties in the state,
- and the power of a governor far surpasses that of a
- sheriff, but that is the reason I just shake my head
- 13 that how could I not be called to a conference with
- 14 the governor to explain these things to him. Governor
- 15 Scott and I sat in an office and we went over as much
- detail as we could of what happened. But to be
- 17 suspended and be called incompetent and not even have
- 18 the chance to explain what actually happened. I was
- 19 there. I left -- I was running an obstacle course in
- 20 the park that day, it was my day off, and I went to
- 21 the airport. I got there about an hour and a half
- later and stayed for maybe 12 hours. I just wanted to
- share what my observations were, what I did.
- 24 Q. The -- I mentioned when I was reading the
- 25 governor's memorandum it says -- and the memorandum

1 says, "The final report claims you cannot prevent or

- 2 prepare for this type of event." Doesn't the report
- 3 itself say the following: Not you cannot prepare for
- 4 this type of event, but doesn't the report actually
- 5 say, "there is no way to prevent this tragedy or to
- 6 prepare completely for the amount of unique obstacles
- 7 that had to be overcome in a very short period of
- 8 time"?
- 9 A. That's --
- 10 Q. Isn't that what the report says?
- 11 A. That's exactly what it --
- 12 Q. And is that an accurate observation in the
- 13 report?
- 14 A. Yes, it is.
- 15 Q. Did you say, as the governor claims, you
- 16 cannot prevent or prepare for this type of event?
- 17 A. That was never said. It's an absolute false
- 18 statement.
- 19 Q. In fact, doesn't the report conclude that you
- 20 can prepare for it, you just can't prepare completely
- 21 for the amount of unique obstacles that had to be
- 22 overcome in a very short period of time?
- 23 A. Yes, and we had that conversation, and what
- the undersheriff was saying in that report is even in
- training, at the airport we found that day there were

approximately -- the airport aviation division said

- 2 there were approximately twenty to twenty-two thousand
- 3 people that were either on planes, in turnstiles, or
- 4 somewhere within the proximity of that airport.
- 5 There's really no way to re-create training and
- 6 experience 20,000 people running haphazardly. That's
- 7 what they were trying to say, that you can't
- 8 completely prepare for that type of event, but you can
- 9 plan, you can prepare, and we did.
- 10 Q. Did BSO as part of its pre-Fort
- 11 Lauderdale-Hollywood training and its post Fort
- 12 Lauderdale training try to prepare officers to prepare
- for the unexpected?
- 14 A. Yes, we did.
- 15 Q. Is that an important part of law enforcing?
- 16 A. One of the most fundamental parts of law
- 17 enforcement.
- 18 Q. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy happened
- 19 February 14, 2018?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. BSO had an agreement with Broward County
- 22 Schools to staff a certain number of schools with an
- 23 SRO, school resource officer?
- 24 A. That's correct.
- Q. Marjory Stoneman Douglas was one of them?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. And the agreement specified that a school
- 3 resource officer would be assigned to that school?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And then the agreement had other schools
- 6 assigned an officer?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. The officer assigned was former Deputy Scot
- 9 Peterson?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did you have any role in his assignment to
- 12 that location?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. Did the Broward County Schools have input
- into evaluating what they thought of their SRO
- 16 assigned to the schools?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And had SRO Peterson been at Marjory Stoneman
- 19 Douglas for some period of time before that mass
- 20 tragedy?
- 21 A. Quite some time.
- Q. And he had been an SRO for a lot of years?
- 23 A. He had been an SRO for a lot of years, he was
- considered a very good SRO, and I think he was --
- 25 might have been selected as SRO of the year, and he

actually taught some of the courses on how a school

- 2 resource officer should react to an active killer
- 3 situation.
- 4 Q. You're aware that he did, in fact, teach
- 5 Broward County personnel in how to respond to an
- 6 active shooter situation?
- 7 A. I do know that.
- 8 Q. Now, as you understand, you understand some
- 9 of what goes into training non-law enforcement into
- 10 responding to an active shooter situation?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 O. That's different from the active shooter
- policy, 4.37, of Broward Sheriff's Office?
- 14 A. Yes. The fundamental premise of the training
- is completely different.
- 16 O. But SRO Peterson was nonetheless a trainer
- for Broward schools personnel?
- 18 A. Absolutely.
- 19 Q. And you understand that -- now that SRO
- 20 Peterson actually met with and worked with people at
- 21 that school, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, at the
- beginning of the school year and other times during
- the school year to essentially practice or get ready
- or be aware of?
- 25 A. I do know that now.

Q. And that one of the responsibilities of SROs,

- 2 as you understand it, is as events unfold, if there's
- 3 something that needs to be imparted to school
- 4 administration, the SRO has the ability to do that?
- 5 A. He does.
- 6 Q. And BSO on its own, not through the SROs,
- 7 regularly communicates threats, issues of concern,
- 8 other incidents to the school system?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And that's done as a matter of conserving the
- 11 peace in Broward County?
- 12 A. Exactly.
- Q. And is there -- let me ask you this: You
- 14 became -- you were elected sheriff in November of
- 15 2012?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. And then became sheriff. You were sworn in
- 18 in early 2013?
- 19 A. January.
- 20 Q. January 2013.
- During -- what was one of the first projects
- 22 you instituted upon becoming sheriff in January of
- 23 2013?
- 24 A. I think when I -- the first SWAT commander
- 25 that I -- well, first individual I made SWAT commander

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when I came over was Lieutenant Colonel Michael
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- 2 DiMaggio. Mike is a consummate professional, lives,
- 3 eats and breathes SWAT, and the first meeting I had
- 4 with Mike, I told him I wanted a full-scale school
- 5 active shooter scenario. I told him it was a
- 6 priority. I told him it wasn't going to be able to be
- 7 done with it within a week or a month because of all
- 8 the work that was going to go into it. And then I
- 9 believe a few months later at Pompano Beach High
- 10 School in Broward County, we had one of the most
- 11 comprehensive full-scale trainings I've ever been a
- 12 part of. We actually had helicopters allow SWAT team
- 13 members to repel into the school to -- if students
- 14 were shot and injured in upper classrooms, so they
- 15 entered in through upper classrooms. In the scenario,
- 16 there was an active killer, still uncaptured. And
- 17 we -- incredible training. We repelled a K-9 dog down
- off the helicopter into those upper classrooms so that
- 19 the K-9 dog could search out the killer. There were
- 20 so -- we had fire -- Pompano Beach has their own fire
- 21 department. We just do police. So Pompano fire was
- 22 there. They did an incredible job. And so many
- 23 different units and components came together. It was
- 24 a complete day-long training, and I want to say there
- 25 were about 200 to 300 students who volunteered their

- 1 times to be victims, observers, students.
- 2 Q. I want you to take a look at Israel Exhibit
- 3 29, and that's Israel Bates No. 2139. Is this an
- 4 accurate article in a police newsletter about the
- 5 Pompano Beach High School active shooter training?
- 6 A. It is.
- 7 Q. You've read it before?
- 8 A. I have.
- 9 Q. And does it explain the complexity and
- involvement of so many different people, including
- 11 Broward County Schools?
- 12 A. It does.
- 13 Q. Is that an easy exercise to organize?
- 14 A. It's probably one of the more complex
- trainings to organize that you will have.
- 16 Q. DiMaggio was your SWAT captain -- was he a
- major?
- 18 A. Major.
- 19 Q. Major DiMaggio was your SWAT captain, and he
- 20 was overall in charge of this?
- 21 A. He was overall in charge of this with -- the
- 22 SWAT captain was Captain Ed Grant.
- Q. Were you called upon in your position as
- 24 sheriff to pick up the phone, make a request, to use
- your official status to get the school board to help

- 1 you accomplish this?
- 2 A. Yes. I actually had direct calls with the
- 3 school superintendent, Robert Runcie, who was very
- 4 cooperative and very willing to work with me on this
- 5 endeavor.
- 6 Q. Nothing like this had ever before been done
- 7 in Broward County, had it?
- 8 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 9 Q. Are you aware of anything like this having
- 10 been done in South Florida?
- 11 A. I'm not.
- 12 Q. Did this real-life, large-scale, active
- shooter at a school scenario become looked at by other
- law enforcement officers around the country?
- 15 A. I got quite a few calls on the training.
- 16 Q. Did you send other law enforcement officers
- 17 and offices around the country the material and the
- 18 backup to help them develop such a preparation?
- 19 A. I believe Lieutenant Colonel DiMaggio did
- 20 just that.
- Q. Was it your understanding that law
- 22 enforcement around the country was actually surprised
- 23 that such a full-scale scenario could be -- could be
- implemented?
- 25 A. Yeah, I remember one time Lieutenant Colonel

- 1 DiMaggio coming into my office and saying -- I said,
- 2 "How's it going with the -- with, you know, our
- 3 brothers and sisters in law enforcement?" He goes,
- 4 "The one question I get asked, Sheriff, is how did you
- 5 guys pull that off?" So it was appreciated. I think
- 6 law enforcement around the country appreciated the
- 7 efforts that we had to go through to even bring this
- 8 training to Pompano.
- 9 Q. And how about within BSO? Did having this
- 10 full-scale active shooter scenario in a school help
- emphasize the importance of protection of our very
- vulnerable child population?
- 13 A. Yes, and I think, you know, through -- the
- 14 men and women in the agency have heard me campaign,
- 15 they know that -- with all the hats I wear, they know
- that the most important hat I wear is that of dad. I
- have triplets, two boys and a girl. I coach the boys
- throughout every sport they play, coached other kids
- in the community, coached at two different high
- schools, and just my whole essence of becoming sheriff
- 21 was to make Broward County a better place for kids.
- 22 So I think that sent the message. They knew that
- 23 already, and then when they saw the first mass
- training we're doing is at a high school, I think I
- 25 set -- I think it set the tone for the agency that the

- 1 safety of children is going to be preeminent
- 2 responsibility for us during Sheriff Israel's
- 3 administration.
- 4 Q. Since that time, since that active shooter
- 5 training, did you detect any complacency or
- 6 laissez-faire attitude among any deputies when it came
- 7 to situations like school incidents?
- 8 A. I've never witnessed it, no.
- 9 Q. Did you sense any complacency among SROs that
- 10 they're just there to be glorified security guards, no
- 11 big deal?
- 12 A. Just the opposite. I went to countless
- schools, and our SROs were -- they were exuberant,
- they were excited to be there, and the reason I know
- they enjoyed being there is because the principals of
- 16 those schools, when I do these walk-throughs and stop
- 17 to do readings with kids or stuff like that, the
- 18 principals were complimentary of the men and women
- 19 that we had assigned to the school. So I know that
- our leaders selected the right people to be in our
- 21 elementary and middle and high schools.
- Q. When it came to the SRO selection at BSO,
- somebody has to apply or invite themselves to be an
- 24 SRO candidate?
- 25 A. Correct.

Q. Is the BSO philosophy of selecting the

- 2 appropriate candidate to look for experienced
- 3 deputies?
- 4 A. It's to look for putting a round plug in a
- 5 round hole. I tell the folks that select their units:
- 6 Don't have any preconceived notions, don't have
- 7 anybody first on the list or last on the list, let the
- 8 folks come in, let them interview fairly, and just
- 9 because a person might have come in fifth when they
- 10 put in for a burglary job doesn't mean they won't be
- 11 first for an SRO job. So I said be open-minded, know
- what dimensions and disciplines you're looking for,
- and pick the person that is most likely going to give
- 14 you what you're looking for and be able to serve the
- public and make that presentation.
- 16 Q. As you understand it, as part of the SRO
- overall responsibility, did the SROs work with the
- schools' personnel to essentially inventory the
- schools, get a sense of what the physical plant is?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Offer suggestions on safety and security?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Who ultimately, though, was responsible for
- the operation of the physical plant?
- A. Of the school?

- 1 Q. Of the school.
- 2 A. Superintendent.
- 3 Q. So the -- the governor criticizes you and BSO
- 4 that at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School the day
- of the incident, there were several entryways into the
- 6 school. Do you remember that criticism?
- 7 A. I do.
- 8 Q. Is there some uniform law passed by the State
- 9 of Florida that requires at high schools, a single
- 10 entrance that you know of?
- 11 A. No, not that I know of.
- 12 Q. Is there any Broward County ordinance or
- school board policy that you know that says all high
- schools have to have one in, one out?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Has the BSO encouraged the Broward County
- 17 Schools to limit access in and out of schools --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- all schools?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And do you understand that to be a dialog,
- BSO is looking for safety first, but the school system
- has a lot of factors that it has to put in?
- 24 A. Yes. One particular example, we heard a
- 25 witness testify yesterday that when school personnel

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were feverishly trying to track the killer's
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- 2 movements, they rewound the camera a certain way, and
- 3 when they were giving out what they thought was
- 4 real-time intelligence to police, it was actually
- 5 about 20 minutes behind. So I knew that was something
- 6 that needed to be fixed, and for almost a year I had
- 7 conversations, fervent conversations, with the school
- 8 superintendent, and our staff had conversations with
- 9 his staff, and I wanted to make sure that if a
- 10 critical incident occurred, we as police could take
- 11 over without asking anyone for permission, complete
- 12 autonomy of the cameras that existed in schools
- 13 throughout Broward County. There was no time to call
- 14 up and ask for permission or get a phone call. We
- just want to be able to flick a switch. And the
- school board, I understand that they had legal issues
- and their attorneys were worried and concerned about
- 18 some things regarding the rights of privacy and the
- 19 rights of students, and we had these discussions, and
- 20 shortly before the governor suspended me, we signed a
- 21 memo of understanding that at the time I left office,
- we had access to cameras immediately, and that was
- 23 something very -- very important and something that we
- 24 worked feverishly on.
- 25 Q. Take a look at Exhibit 24, which starts at

1 Israel 1923. It's actually two documents in one. One

2 document is dated January 8, 2019. That's the first

- document. And the second document is February 19,
- 4 2019. So during your tenure and after your tenure.
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. Is this apropos of the negotiation leading to
- 7 improvements in camera access from the Broward County
- 8 School Board to the BSO?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Did you get involved at that high level of
- discussions, or was this done at levels below you?
- 12 A. I got involved.
- 13 Q. Do you get involved in all discussions and
- 14 negotiations with the school board and other
- 15 governmental entities?
- 16 A. Not at all.
- 17 Q. How do you decide when to get involved and
- 18 not?
- 19 A. Based on the nature of importance and based
- on what -- when I think it's time for me to get
- 21 involved. You don't want to -- from a leadership
- 22 perspective, you don't want to pull things away from,
- you know, the men and women you work with when they're
- 24 working on something and they're working to accomplish
- 25 something. But I know when I need to be involved, and

1 when I feel I need to be involved, I get involved.

- 2 Q. The governor's memorandum also criticizes
- 3 you, the BSO, that the SRO at Marjory Stoneman Douglas
- 4 was not actually carrying his rifle at the time he was
- 5 acting as SRO and had to go get the rifle. Do I
- 6 understand that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. Is that a fair criticism?
- 9 A. Of me?
- 10 Q. Of the process.
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Have you had discussions at your level where
- 13 the Broward County Schools' response to you is
- 14 effectively our schools not armed camps?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. We don't want to have a military operation
- 17 daily at our schools?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. We want to encourage schools and children to
- 20 have a healthy respect for police?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And we want our SROs to be the kind of SROs
- 23 who essentially can help our kids feel good about law
- 24 enforcement?
- 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And do those goals sometimes conflict a
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- 2 little bit with a law enforcement goal of we want to
- 3 make sure we can do everything to limit the ability of
- 4 things to happen?
- 5 A. Of course, they conflict. One school -- I
- 6 don't know if it was a teacher or principal, but one
- 7 school person once told me about their SRO, that I
- 8 want the SRO to be a combination -- what makes him or
- 9 her so good is they're a combination of Santa Claus
- 10 and the Easter bunny. And, you know, you like to hear
- 11 things like that, but sometimes when a person has the
- 12 personality to be Santa Claus and the Easter bunny,
- they're not going to turn in to be a Navy SEAL. It
- doesn't -- you know, people have different
- 15 personalities, different skill sets, but yes to your
- 16 question.
- 17 Q. So when you hear a principal saying "Easter
- bunny, Santa Claus," is the BSO response "Yes, but
- 19 he's a deputy"?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. So is that -- do you trade off the friendly
- 22 Easter bunny/Santa Claus in lieu of being a law
- 23 enforcement officer?
- A. No, there's no trade-off. You bring over
- 25 highly-trained school resource deputies that are

1 qualified, that want to be there, that the schools

- 2 want them there, and you give them the training
- 3 that -- you know, that as a sheriff, I'm obligated to
- 4 give them, you provide them with the policies and
- 5 procedures. But no matter what, the governor's
- 6 attorney says at any time. If they think I can
- 7 provide any woman or man on this earth with courage
- 8 and the desire to go inside when their conscience is
- 9 telling them I'm not going in there, there's no
- sheriff, there's no police leader, there's no football
- 11 coach or there's no general that's going to get
- someone to go in when the human element takes over and
- they say to themselves "I'm not going in."
- 14 Q. Did you have any reason to believe on
- 15 February 14, 2018, that then SRO Peterson would not
- immediately or promptly go in?
- 17 A. Had I had that knowledge, I would have
- 18 removed him as a deputy.
- 19 Q. Did you have any knowledge?
- 20 A. No, sir, not at all.
- Q. Have you since looked at his personnel file
- 22 to see if there's anything that indicates an unfitness
- for service or lack of knowledge of the training?
- 24 A. I have. It has been shown to me, yes, and --
- 25 O. Is there anything like that?

- 1 A. Absolutely not.
- 2 Q. But does his report reflect significant
- 3 active shooter course participation?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Now, BSO, in addition to the contract with
- 6 the school system to provide SROs, also helps the
- 7 school system with issues of law enforcement, safety,
- 8 security, including planning?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And there's a part of the Broward County
- 11 Schools that's their law enforcement unit called
- 12 special investigative unit?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. You're familiar with that. That's like their
- police department, but it doesn't do a full policing
- job, like, for example, the Dade County School Board
- 17 has their own police force that actually polices their
- 18 schools?
- 19 A. You're talking about one agency that has
- thousand employees and one that just has maybe 30 or
- 21 40.
- Q. Okay. So does the BSO help facilitate
- 23 training programs for the Broward County Schools law
- 24 enforcement unit?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I'm going to hand you Exhibit 31. Let me

- 2 just find the right page. Israel Exhibit 31, starting
- 3 at page Israel 2849.
- 4 A. I'm familiar with it.
- 5 Q. That's a January 2018 -- January 2018 seminar
- 6 at the Broward County Schools, correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And that deals with their special
- 9 investigations law enforcement function?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Did BSO assist in preparation for that
- 12 seminar?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did BSO provide personnel for presentation at
- 15 the seminar?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did BSO discuss with Broward County Schools
- 18 at that seminar, security issues, including security
- 19 policies?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And is that a regular occurrence?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, that was, sadly, a month before the
- 24 Marjory Stoneman Douglas massacre?
- 25 A. Yes.

Q. Was there any part of that training, that

- 2 seminar, that report, that in any way led to a lax of
- 3 security at any of the schools, including Marjory
- Stoneman Douglas? 4
- 5 Α. No.
- Was it instead part of the effort of 6
- coordination between BSO and Broward schools to
- enhance safety of the children in the schools? 8
- 9 Α. Certainly.
- 10 Ο. Did anybody at that seminar clamor, demand
- that BSO conduct another full-scale at a school, high 11
- 12 school or any school, active shooter/killer scenario?
- 13 I wasn't at the seminar, but when Colonel
- 14 Polan briefed me on it, he never mentioned anything
- like that being brought up. 15
- 16 And Colonel Polan is one of the command
- officers? 17
- 18 Α. Yes, he is. He was in charge of the
- 19 Department of Law Enforcement.
- 20 But didn't he discuss with you that some of Ο.
- 21 the people remembered and were aware of that
- 2.2 large-scale active shooter scenario?
- 23 Α. He certainly did.
- 24 That from 2013 to 2018, it was still fresh in Ο.
- 25 some people's minds, as far as Colonel Polan had

252 explained to you given the dialog and discussion?

- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. We've heard much testimony that the response
- 4 of SRO Peterson was a failure, correct?
- 5 A. Correct.
- Q. Do you agree?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And was it immediately evident, immediately
- 9 in the aftermath, that Deputy Peterson had so failed
- 10 to discharge his responsibilities?
- 11 A. Absolutely not.
- 12 O. It took some time?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And you're aware that Deputy Peterson in his
- SRO capacity did call for a code red at the school?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Now, that's -- means something, right?
- 18 A. To the school.
- 19 Q. To the school. It's a system in the school
- 20 that a code red essentially shuts down the school
- 21 in -- not preparation for, but in response to a likely
- 22 major incident?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. And that establishment of a code red for the
- 25 school and the implementation is something that was

1 worked through between BSO and Broward County

- 2 Schools --
- 3 A. Correct.
- Q. -- to develop that process?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And that code red process was initiated by
- 7 SRO Peterson?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. He, however, didn't follow the training, the
- 10 policy of 4.37, active shooter?
- 11 A. He did not.
- 12 Q. Now, that policy -- and we've heard lots of
- discussions about it. That policy, you're familiar
- 14 with, but I'll give you a copy of it. Exhibit 1,
- 15 Bates Israel 1.
- You had involvement in the development of
- 17 that policy?
- 18 A. I did.
- 19 Q. Generally explain how that policy -- strike
- 20 that.
- 21 Was the review and development of that policy
- 22 into that version of 4.37 part of a regular policy
- 23 review process?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have at BSO an established process

- for policy review and evaluation?
- 2 A. Yes, we did.
- 3 Q. Did it include involvement by Executive
- 4 Director Pusins?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And is that because of his national expertise
- 7 in police practices and policies?
- 8 A. Clearly.
- 9 Q. Did it include not just high-level rank
- officers, but also -- I'll call them on the ground --
- 11 boots on the ground officers?
- 12 A. Yes. One of the things that Colonel Polan
- and I used to talk about all the time is when
- developing policies, make sure we're not only having
- discussions with command staff, but the ultimate boots
- on the ground, the user of those policies. I'm a
- 17 user-friendly sheriff. I wanted input from the folks
- 18 that are going to actually carry out through those
- 19 policies and hear what they have to say. So they were
- 20 always used in the development of those policies.
- 21 Q. Did the development of that policy include
- 22 reviewing the literature out there, meaning in law
- enforcement circles, on such policies?
- 24 A. From my perspective, it did because I would
- 25 always read policies, as did most of the -- if not all

- 1 of the command staff.
- 2 Q. And was that the process used?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Did -- you knew at the time that the State of
- 5 Florida, FDLE, and the Justice Training Standards
- 6 Commission had no requirement for an active shooter
- 7 policy?
- 8 A. I did know that.
- 9 Q. And did you know at the time that some
- sheriffs' offices didn't have any policy whatsoever?
- 11 A. No, I did not know that.
- 12 Q. You've since learned that?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And did you understand that policies in
- 15 Florida were looked at to try to compare and contrast?
- 16 A. I actually looked at some.
- 17 Q. In addition to you, did the team look at
- 18 others?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And was the development of that policy in the
- language used consistent with model policies?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Consistent with standard practices in law
- 24 enforcement?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Inconsistent in any way with desirable or
- 2 desired active shooter policies?
- A. It was completely in line with desired active
- 4 shooter policies.
- 5 Q. It was in place, revised in 2016?
- A. It was.
- 7 Q. And from 2016 to February 14th of 2018, was
- 8 there any criticism about that policy?
- 9 A. None at all.
- 10 Q. Within law enforcement circles?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. How about outside law enforcement circles,
- 13 like among politicians?
- 14 A. No, nobody criticized it. Matter of fact,
- 15 the policy -- as a reader, when I had input in that
- final policy in 2016, I read many of the policies --
- many of the policies in Florida and throughout the
- 18 country, and I didn't reinvent the wheel, I didn't
- 19 create my own policy, I didn't author some -- you
- 20 know, have some magic mantra and author some policy.
- 21 I read quite a few policies, and then we worked to
- tailor our policy to what we thought was a compilation
- of getting the best policy we could that sent the
- 24 message to our deputies how we wanted them to respond
- and how we expected them to perform.

And what -- when that policy was up to final 1 Q.

- 2 approval, did you give final approval?
- 3 Α. I did.
- 0. Was the general counsel for the Broward
- 5 Sheriff's Office a participant in discussions
- 6 regarding the formulation of that policy?
- 7 Α. He was.
- 8 Ο. And that was Ron Gunzburger?
- 9 Α. Yes.
- 10 Did he have extensive experience in legal Ο.
- matters involving law enforcement? 11
- 12 Α. Yes.
- He had been general counsel for quite some 13 0.
- 14 time?
- 15 Α. Six years.
- 16 So the policy gets approved, and now we know
- 17 post Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy that the "may"
- 18 word has been singled out and criticized and used by
- 19 the governor as a reason to say you neglected your
- 20 duties and were incompetent. You understand that?
- 21 Α. Yes.
- 22 Is there any part of that policy that led to
- 23 or caused deputies, as you understand the training, to
- 24 hesitate, to take no action in the face of an active
- 25 shooter?

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1 A. Absolutely not.
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- Q. What do you understand the training -- strike
- 3 that.
- 4 You were not a trainer?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Did you go to trainings?
- 7 A. I did.
- Q. Did you go to active shooter trainings?
- 9 A. I would go into different ones at different
- 10 times. I've went to quite a few, not for the whole
- 11 day, but different trainings for different segments.
- 12 Q. And is that part of your role as sheriff, to
- be visible among the line troops?
- 14 A. Absolutely.
- 15 Q. To know what's going on?
- A. Absolutely.
- 17 Q. Not just sit in an office and get a report
- 18 going up?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. You were sheriff, would you go on occasion
- 21 with road patrol to see what they're doing?
- 22 A. I would go -- I wouldn't go in the car with
- another deputy, but I rode with a deputy constantly,
- Deputy Conroy, and if an officer needed backup or we
- 25 needed to do a traffic stop, we would do -- or help

out in any way. Not only BSO, but if we could back up

- 2 a Florida highway trooper on the road or back up a
- 3 police officer in another city in Broward County,
- 4 they -- you know, sheriff's here to back me up, you
- 5 know. So we were cops.
- 6 Q. As a career law enforcement officer, boots on
- 7 the ground never leaves you?
- 8 A. Never leaves you.
- 9 Q. So -- by the way, were you aware of any
- 10 federal legislation by the Congress that required
- 11 active shooter training for large law enforcement
- 12 agencies?
- 13 A. I'm not aware of any, no.
- Q. Were you aware of any proviso set by the
- 15 Congress that said if you're getting federal grant
- 16 money, you have to have active shooter training or
- 17 active shooter policies?
- 18 A. There was no industry standard for active
- 19 shooter training.
- 20 Q. And no congressional mandate?
- 21 A. No congressional mandate.
- 22 Q. Broward sheriff got federal funds --
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. -- or grants, right?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did Broward Sheriff's Office comply in

- 2 every respect with the requirements of those grants?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, you may not be aware of this, maybe you
- 5 are, but before the governor became governor, he was a
- 6 member of Congress, right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. Are you aware of anything that he did as a
- 9 member of Congress to require active shooter policies
- to be implemented by law enforcement circles?
- 11 A. I'm not aware of anything, no.
- 12 Q. Nothing?
- A. Nothing.
- Q. What was your -- what is your understanding
- of the training on the active shooter policy? What
- are officers trained to do in pursuance of that active
- 17 shooter policy?
- 18 A. Well, I witnessed it, so I know what the
- 19 training was because I had influenced my will on the
- 20 training.
- 21 Special Master, you've heard a lot about
- 22 "may" and "shall," and you'll read it all yourself and
- 23 come to your own conclusions, but I tell you it's a
- 24 red herring. I've read hundreds of policies with
- 25 "may" and hundreds of policies with "shall," and they

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1 say the same thing.
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- 2 The purposes of the policy is to give the
- 3 officer discretion not to go into a suicide mission.
- 4 If your child was inside a school, you'd want an
- 5 officer to go in, but you want him to go in alive so
- 6 he can do what he was trained to do, and that's
- 7 eliminate the threat to the student, to the citizen.
- 8 And the policies you read, you'll read on
- 9 "shall." It says "shall," and then it says a comma,
- 10 "when reasonable information." Well, when I told my
- 11 kids you shall do something, I didn't give them a
- 12 caveat with a comma. I said "You shall be home by
- 13 11:00." Whenever there's that comma and there's that
- 14 caveat, "shall" and "may" are the same. All lawyers
- in Broward County that have spoke to me say they're
- 16 exactly the same. It's a red herring.
- Our training told our deputies you will go in
- as soon as you possibly can through the closest
- 19 entrance. Barring a booby trap door or gunfire coming
- through that doorway, you will go in, you will push,
- 21 you will engage, you will eliminate the threat,
- 22 whether it's through using lethal force, apprehending
- 23 the individual, surrender, having the individual flee.
- 24 But our training was specific, you will pursue, you
- 25 will enter, and you will take that person into custody

1 as soon as is humanly possible, with no exceptions

- 2 other than developing intell or witnessing or seeing
- 3 or hearing something that says it's life-threatening
- for me to go in here this second. Not to enter into a
- 5 life-threatening situation, we must do that, but to
- 6 open this door like the hero in Thousand Oaks,
- 7 California, did a few months ago when that sergeant
- 8 was killed going through a door in an active shooter
- 9 situation. That's what may -- that's what I was
- 10 trying to prevent, that's what I am trying to prevent.
- 11 That's why we went with the policy, "may." It's a red
- 12 herring.
- Q. Was it your demand in developing the 4.37
- 14 policy to make sure all of your people agreed that you
- wanted "may" in there and it was going to go in there
- 16 whether it was consistent or inconsistent with
- 17 national standards?
- 18 A. No, it was -- first of all, I would never do
- 19 anything that was inconsistent with national
- 20 standards. It was quite consistent with national
- 21 standards. It was -- it's shared by hundreds and
- 22 hundreds of law enforcement agencies around the
- 23 country. And the command staff understood that, and
- 24 we -- as one. I take full responsibility for the
- 25 word, I take full responsibility for the institution

1 of maline but them was a let of support

- of policy, but there was a lot of support.
- 2 Q. Now, the governor contends in his memorandum
- 3 to the Special Master that SOP 4.37 goes against
- 4 accepted practices. Do you remember that as part of
- 5 his argument?
- 6 A. I do.
- 7 Q. Is there any validity to that whatsoever?
- 8 A. No validity. It's a fictional statement.
- 9 Q. Does 4.37, as written in Exhibit 1 and as
- 10 trained, act entirely consistent with accepted
- 11 practices?
- 12 A. Absolutely does.
- 13 Q. Is it consistent with national standards?
- 14 A. It absolutely is.
- 15 Q. Is it consistent with what goes on in the
- 16 State of Florida?
- 17 A. It certainly is.
- 18 Q. Is it consistent with the policies of the law
- 19 enforcement agencies that are certified by the Florida
- 20 Department of Law Enforcement?
- 21 A. It surely is.
- 22 Q. The governor also contends in that same
- argument that the policy is "wholly inadequate and
- insufficient." Do you have a response for that?
- 25 A. As the kids text, SMH, shaking my head. If

1 he only understood how many policies -- tried and

- 2 tested policies state just that, appropriately so.
- 3 Q. And you've mentioned that you were never
- 4 given an opportunity to explain any of that policy to
- 5 him?
- 6 A. Never.
- 7 Q. And since you've been suspended as sheriff,
- 8 have you kept up on FDLE standards, accessing the
- 9 website, seeing what they do and say?
- 10 A. I have not.
- 11 Q. Now, the governor, also in an effort to claim
- 12 neglect of duty and incompetence, asserts that two of
- your deputies, Deputy Eason and Treijs, had
- 14 interactions with the shooter --
- A. Uh-huh.
- 16 Q. -- and were later disciplined, and had those
- interactions been done properly, the governor claims
- 18 the shooting would never have occurred. You
- 19 understand that argument --
- A. Yeah.
- 21 O. -- the sheriff makes?
- Now, my question is meant respectfully
- 23 because many lives were lost that day.
- A. Uh-huh.
- 25 Q. Lives for which -- do you grieve for those

- 1 lives?
- 2 A. Every day. A lot of people don't know this,
- 3 but our house that we used to live in for 20 years, we
- 4 raised our kids in, was between the two schools, West
- 5 Glades Middle School and Parkland. You can see
- 6 Stoneman Douglas from my back yard. My triplets went
- 7 to Stoneman Douglas. I'll never -- I wish I could see
- 8 -- it's indelible in my mind. I wish I could forget
- 9 it. I never will, but when I walk through the crime
- 10 scene, not only was I grieving and emotional about
- 11 what I saw, but thinking how my kids could have been
- 12 sitting at those desks a year or two earlier. It was
- a terrible, terrible, terrible situation.
- 14 Q. As a person and as the sheriff, have you
- shared that grief with survivors of MSD?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Do either of the incidents, the Eason
- incident and the Treijs -- let me change that from
- 19 "incident" -- interactions.
- 20 Do either of those interactions, Eason and
- 21 Treijs, that are used as accusatory comment by the
- 22 governor have anything to do with whether the shooter
- would have been on the streets on February 14, 2018?
- A. Not one thing.
- 25 Q. Do either of those events involve criminal

1 activity on the part of the shooter that would have

- 2 resulted in, under any scenario, his arrest --
- 3 apprehension and arrest?
- A. Absolutely not.
- 5 Q. Do you -- you were not involved in the
- discipline of those two officers, were you?
- 7 A. Well, to the point where I -- discipline, as
- 8 always, goes through me. The colonel will always
- 9 bring the final discipline to me.
- 10 Q. It ultimately goes to you --
- 11 A. Ultimately.
- 12 Q. -- but there's a process --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- for determining discipline?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. It's not Sheriff Israel snapped his fingers,
- you're fired, you're demoted, you're this, you're
- 18 that?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. And that process is, as far as you know,
- 21 always followed within the BSO?
- 22 A. Yeah, I mean, I completely respect it, honor
- the law, and I honor the collective bargaining
- 24 agreements. So there are collective bargaining
- 25 agreements and the law and rights of those accused,

and walks always sagnigant of those things

- 1 and we're always cognizant of those things.
- Q. And not in any way intending to diminish or
- demean the requirement to follow the rules, what do
- 4 you understand the rule violations were that led to
- 5 these two officers being disciplined?
- 6 A. It's my understanding that they did not
- 7 completely document or contact as fully as they should
- 8 have, and one of the deputies, it was his second
- 9 offense, so he received a more severe discipline than
- 10 the other deputy. But there were no risk protection
- orders in effect at the time. There were no weapons
- 12 seen. They never even saw the killer. There were
- 13 no -- they wouldn't have been able to arrest him or
- 14 charge -- it was nothing like that. It was just
- 15 the -- they should have done more documentation.
- Q. So on February 5, 2016, Deputy Eason received
- 17 a report of a student Instagram with a gun and the
- 18 words "I'm going to shoot up the school." Is that
- 19 what you understand the Eason matter to be?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. And he did not report that in an incident
- 22 report, just a note?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And the nature of the computer system at the
- 25 BSO is that incident reports get categorized one way

and are searchable, and notes don't rise to the level

- 2 of a searchable incident?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- Q. So if you're typing in the name of a suspect,
- 5 you would link to all the offense/incident reports
- 6 that show up for that?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. But a note is not automatically connected?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. It's only connected once you look at
- information and essentially drill down to see the
- 12 note?

- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. So Eason was disciplined that he should have
- done an incident report?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. And you ultimately approved that discipline?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Now, on November 30, 2017, Deputy Treijs --
- 20 by the way, you were not aware of Eason's failure to
- 21 report in real time?
- 22 A. I had never even heard his name before.
- Q. The deputy's?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Are there that many deputies you don't know

- 1 each of them individually?
- 2 A. Well, we have 6,000 people on the agency and
- 3 approximately 1,800 deputies. It's really impossible
- 4 to know everybody with that large an agency.
- 5 Q. Deputy Treijs on November 30, 2017, received
- 6 a report -- a call that a shooter had weapons and
- 7 wanted to kill people, and he directed the caller to
- 8 another police department because the person who was
- 9 calling was for Palm Beach, had no idea where the
- 10 individual was, and no immediate information about the
- 11 individual?
- 12 A. Right.
- Q. And Deputy Treijs wrote, "Note, the person is
- described as autistic and no current information"?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- Q. And Deputy Treijs was reported for not fully
- 17 making that an incident report?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And was disciplined appropriately as far as
- 20 you approved?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, did you have information on November 30,
- 23 2017, that somebody had reported this information to
- 24 Deputy Treijs?
- 25 A. No.

1 O. Was --

2 A. Counsel, let me just add -- I think this is

- 3 important -- we get approximately almost 750,000 calls
- 4 for service a year. It's not logical to think that a
- 5 sheriff would be apprised of calls for service. I
- 6 mean, how would that -- it's just not fathomable.
- 7 Q. Is that in the ordinary handling of a
- 8 sheriff's office, that there are means and priorities
- 9 to get matters to your attention?
- 10 A. Exactly.
- 11 Q. But is the training that you oversee and
- implement designed to appropriately train your
- officers to handle things correctly?
- 14 A. Exactly. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Did you, after becoming aware of the Treijs
- 16 incident, learn in follow-up that Palm Beach County
- 17 Sheriff's Office did nothing with the report when it
- 18 was made to them about somebody in their county?
- 19 A. I was told that.
- 20 Q. And while there's never an excuse for not
- 21 doing things correctly, did the Treijs report as
- 22 given, would that information have led to an
- 23 arrestable offense?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. And by the way, if the subject was in Palm

Beach County, who ordinarily, as you understand state

- 2 law enforcement responsibilities and statutory
- 3 authorities, had the law enforcement responsibility in
- 4 Palm Beach County?

- 5 A. Well, if it was a city, it would have been
- 6 the whatever city --
- 7 O. West Palm Beach or --
- 8 A. Right. Or if it was the county, the Palm
- 9 Beach County Sheriff's Office.
- 10 Q. You mentioned the Pompano Beach training even
- 11 had helicopters repelling?
- 12 A. We did.
- 13 Q. At the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting, did
- 14 you learn that Deputy Madrigal from Fort
- 15 Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport was actually piloting an
- 16 aircraft over Marjory Stoneman Douglas in an effort to
- assist and aid in the process?
- 18 A. I did learn that.
- 19 Q. And that another aircraft, a second Broward
- 20 County Sheriff's Office aircraft, had been dispatched
- 21 to survey the area?
- 22 A. Yes. So much of the training that we had
- instituted and implemented was evident at not only the
- 24 airport, but also the massacre at Marjory Stoneman
- 25 Douglas. The training that the deputies had received

1 was evident.

- 2 Q. Now, it took a significant amount of time to
- 3 unravel all that happened and didn't happen at Marjory
- 4 Stoneman Douglas; fair to say?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. But you were at Marjory Stoneman Douglas?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. And was there a command staff, a command
- 9 post?
- 10 A. Of course there was. As soon as I got there,
- 11 they had a TOC set up, a --
- 12 Q. A TOC?
- 13 A. -- tactical operations center, and that's
- 14 where the SWAT command was. There was colonels --
- they had Colonel (inaudible), Colonel Dale was there,
- investigations were there, and then a command center
- 17 was later set up. And there's been talk -- I don't
- 18 really even believe that the special council for the
- 19 governor even understands what a command center is or
- 20 what it's supposed to do to write the things that were
- 21 written in that, it was just so egregious, but I
- 22 wouldn't have allowed them to go over to the command
- 23 center at that time even if it was set up. There were
- thousands of people, parents, people looking for their
- 25 children. It was -- it was complete turmoil. There

373 was chaos. The news media, there were hundreds and

- 2 hundreds of news media trucks over there. Elected
- 3 officers were flocking in the area. It was easier --
- 4 it was a better work place for them to work at this
- 5 tactical operation center, to run the -- it was also a
- 6 homicide scene, so we had to have our crime scene
- 7 leaders in one place directing what they want,
- 8 conferring with the FBI, conferring with the Florida
- 9 Department of Law Enforcement. The tactical
- 10 operations center was working seamlessly, and that was
- 11 the place -- I mean, I think they just pulled the term
- "command center" out, heard that there were command
- centers, and there was a little time getting a command
- 14 center set up. It doesn't matter how long it took
- 15 getting the command center. Was information getting
- 16 out as fast as it possibly could? There were radio
- 17 issues, horrific radio issues. Coral Springs and us
- were on different radio channels, we had different
- 19 radios. Coral Springs decided not to go to a regional
- 20 system. So many other variables. But as long as
- 21 communication was as good as it could be at the top, I
- 22 wasn't going to let it go anywhere else anyway.
- Q. As far as you were able to understand, was
- 24 the operation at Marjory Stoneman Douglas involving
- coordination with other reporting agencies?

1 A. Could you repeat your question, sir?

- Q. Did BSO cooperate and coordinate with other
- 3 responding agencies --
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 O. -- not BSO?
- A. Yes, certainly.
- 7 Q. And was that consistent with the law
- 8 enforcement function as you understood it?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Was there any breach of protocol, failure to
- 11 comply with accepted standards, in trying to work
- 12 through that operations center and deal with the
- 13 tragedy?
- 14 A. No. I -- there were so many firefighters and
- police officers from not only the Broward Sheriff's
- 16 Office, but from like cities like Fort Lauderdale,
- 17 Coral Springs, and -- I don't remember seeing a first
- 18 responder from any city that wasn't working as hard as
- 19 he or she could to bring calmness to the community, to
- do the things that they needed to do, to follow up, to
- 21 transport to the hospital. I mean, it was -- I
- 22 don't -- you know, I don't know how you describe it if
- one wasn't there, but it was an incredibly terrible
- 24 situation. It was a massacre, and everybody was
- 25 trying their best. Everybody was in virgin territory.

There's no handbook on, you know, how you're going to

- 2 react. You just rely on your training, you do the
- 3 things you were taught. And everybody was working so
- 4 hard, yet we had a few people who should have done
- 5 things differently and better. But it's a race issue,
- 6 and when you pick first responders from the human
- 7 race, humans are imperfect people and --
- 8 Q. Let me just ask --
- 9 A. -- my heart goes out to the families, it
- 10 really does.
- 11 O. Sheriff, let me ask for clarification. I'm
- 12 not certain that our phrase "a race issue" came across
- as you intended. You're not talking about differences
- in people --
- 15 A. No, I'm talking about --
- 16 Q. -- you're talking about human nature?
- 17 A. -- the human race, yes.
- 18 Q. Making -- decision-making and how people do
- 19 that?
- 20 A. Yes, that's exactly what I'm talking about.
- 21 Q. Now, as part of your job as sheriff, you have
- 22 a community responsibility. You talked about that
- when we opened, right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And was there a need for you as sheriff to

1 communicate post Marjory Stoneman Douglas to the

- 2 greater community?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Was there concern, as you understood it,
- 5 about safety and safety of the children and the
- 6 schools?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. As well as other potential for terrorist
- 9 attacks?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And as part of a sheriff, as part of being
- 12 conservator of the peace, is it your job to let the
- 13 public know what's going on?
- 14 A. Inform and educate.
- Q. And did you do that soon after the Marjory
- 16 Stoneman Douglas tragedy in a town hall meeting?
- 17 A. I did.
- 18 Q. And were you situated opposite a spokesperson
- 19 for the National Rifle Association?
- 20 A. I was.
- O. Dana Loesch?
- 22 A. That's not how it was planned. I got a call
- from the United States congressman, Congressman
- Deutch, and he asked me to be a part of the town hall
- 25 meeting. He thought it would be important that I had

information to impart with the public. And when I got

- 2 there, not only was the congressman there, but Senator
- 3 Nelson, Senator Rubio, and it was kind of like a
- 4 sheriff doesn't belong on stage with those
- 5 individuals. So I was -- I was told that I wouldn't
- 6 be part of that segment. Of course, I said "Roger
- 7 that," and then I was asked if I would go on in my own
- 8 segment with a woman from the NRA. I said "Sure." We
- 9 went on. I think we were on maybe five or ten
- 10 minutes.
- 11 Q. And during that segment, did it end up that
- 12 there were caustic comments by the NRA because of some
- positions you had asserted?
- A. I think there were. I mean, my position is I
- support the second amendment and an American's right
- 16 to bear arms, but I just don't want to see guns in the
- hands of people who are convicted felons, people who
- are on no-fly lists, and people who are suffering from
- mental illness. I pray for them and I hope they get
- better, but I don't think they should have guns while
- 21 they're fighting mental illness. And whatever my
- 22 opinions were, she disagreed, she made that known, and
- there was -- to my knowledge, there was no exchange
- 24 between us as far as, you know, any -- there was no
- 25 argument.

1 Q. And following that interview, did you learn

- of political attacks on you and your position
- 3 regarding the second amendment?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And at that point, did you become a campaign
- 6 issue by one of the candidates?
- 7 A. I don't know at that point. I know one of
- 8 the state -- one of the state reps from Florida, I
- 9 don't remember his name, but he called for me to
- 10 resign a day later or two days later. But then
- 11 eventually both candidates running for governor,
- 12 both -- or two of the Republican candidates said that
- they would suspend the sheriff.
- 14 Q. One of them being now --
- 15 A. One of them being --
- 16 Q. -- Governor DeSantis?
- 17 A. -- Governor DeSantis.
- 18 Q. And in the course of that campaign for
- 19 governor, you were not up for election?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. You were doing your sheriff responsibilities
- 22 during that election time?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And in the course of that political campaign
- 25 season, did you become aware of the NRA actively

- 1 promoting your ouster from office?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did you respond to the NRA?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Are you anti-gun?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. You mentioned you respect the second
- 8 amendment?
- 9 A. I do.
- 10 Q. Your views, however, differed from at least
- 11 what the NRA spokesperson had -- had offered --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. -- when it came to certain conditions for gun
- 14 ownership?
- 15 A. That's where the difference occurred.
- 16 Q. Now, Broward Sheriff's Office has instituted
- a NIMS system, N-I-M-S?
- 18 A. Yes, we have.
- 19 Q. And is that part of the sheriff's oversight
- 20 to develop a means of communication from top to
- 21 bottom --
- 22 A. It is.
- Q. -- at the sheriff's office?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And are there certification standards that --

- 1 that BSO has obtained in developing that
- 2 communications model?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. And does the sheriff's office require that
- 5 all of its staff members, all of its 5,000 plus staff
- 6 members, go through appropriate NIMS training?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. And is that an approach that helps you
- 9 develop policy and practices, as well as training, for
- 10 the sheriff's office?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. All components of it?
- 13 A. All components.
- Q. And if I brought out to you Exhibits 22
- 15 and -- 21, 22, and 23, Israel Exhibits 21, that's
- 16 Israel page 1863, Israel Exhibit 22 marked as Israel
- 17 1771, and Israel Exhibit 23, Bates No. Israel 1776 --
- 18 I'm not -- if you need to see them, I'll show them to
- 19 you, but those are documentation of the NIMS
- certification and training for all the people at BSO,
- 21 right?
- 22 A. Right.
- 23 Q. As well as an explanation of the NIMS model
- or NIMS process?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Sheriff, I want to close with -- with you

- 2 with one area.
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. And I'm going to hand you the Governor's
- 5 Exhibit S, the Governor's Exhibit S, as in Sam. It's
- 6 a transcript of an interview with Jake Tapper.
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. February 25, 2018. So soon after the Marjory
- 9 Stoneman Douglas interview.
- 10 A. Thank you.
- 11 Q. You've read that?
- 12 A. I have.
- 13 O. You're familiar with it?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You did go -- you did go on CNN for an
- interview. And was that part of your role and
- 17 responsibilities of community informing?
- 18 A. Self-imposed, yes.
- 19 Q. Was the community still reeling from,
- 20 reacting from the realization of the scope of the
- 21 Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy?
- 22 A. So much.
- 23 Q. And did you feel that -- from the community
- 24 that there was some potential for false attacks on
- dep- -- not physical attacks, but relational attacks

on BSO and the law enforcement officers who served the

- 2 community?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Some sense of distrust?
- 5 A. Morale at the agency was low. There was so
- 6 much false information out there. And there might
- 7 have been accurate information out there, but it was
- 8 only 11 days after the massacre. Nobody really had a
- 9 handle on -- investigation was still in the embryonic
- 10 stages. There was so -- I can go on and on and
- 11 tell you about made-up, fictional reports that were
- 12 out there. There was one with what I remember that
- was bizarre that said -- it was on one of the national
- 14 news networks that said that when I arrived on the
- scene, the first radio transmission I gave was for
- deputies not to enter into Marjory Stoneman Douglas to
- 17 look for the killer without body cameras. Only the
- 18 deputies with body cameras --
- 19 Q. That you made that announcement?
- 20 A. Yeah. If it wasn't so dreadfully serious, it
- 21 would have been classified as silly. When I arrived,
- 22 the killer was already in custody at another location.
- I'm a former SWAT commander, I'm a tactical person,
- and I know what our training would be. I never got on
- 25 the radio, I never said anything on the radio. So to

1 even say that -- but these are the things that were

- 2 out there. And if you don't -- sometimes if you don't
- 3 feed the story, people say what they want. And I knew
- I had to go on to -- my sole -- my two-fold purpose,
- 5 one was to inform the community of anything that the
- 6 moderator might ask, but the other was to let folks
- 7 know that BSO, if, God forbid, something like this
- 8 happens tomorrow, the next day, next week, you can
- 9 have confidence in this agency. We're prepared to
- 10 handle what we need to, as prepared as any agency
- 11 could be.
- 12 Q. If you had to do that interview over again,
- would there be any differences?
- 14 A. Yes. There would be one. I don't know if
- 15 this is what -- where I would be going, but at one
- point in the interview, I used the term "amazing
- 17 leadership" about myself. I've apologized, and anyone
- 18 who's listening today, I apologize for the use of that
- 19 term. My sole focus -- the only group that I wanted
- to say were amazing were the men and women I work
- 21 with. I just wanted to say don't judge one great
- 22 agency on one incident, judge them by the body of
- 23 their work. I apologize for the use of that word.
- 25 talk about the group, not myself. And leaders don't

go on and tout themselves. They let other people talk

2 about them. I just wanted to let the community know

- 3 that our agency was ready to handle what was coming
- 4 our way, and I apologize for saying that.
- 5 Q. When you were elected and then reelected, do
- 6 you believe that you were elected to serve as sheriff
- 7 for that entire four-year term?
- 8 A. Absolutely.
- 9 Q. Is that your promise to the people of Broward
- 10 County?
- 11 A. My absolute promise to serve and fulfill my
- 12 term and then some.
- 13 Q. And in the course of fulfilling that term,
- 14 have you done all that you reasonably could to be an
- effective, capable sheriff of Broward County?
- 16 A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of
- people are meeting me for the first time and don't
- 18 know me, but if my wife were here today, she'd tell
- 19 you I've been a good husband, and if my kids were here
- 20 today, they'd tell you I've been a good dad, and if my
- 21 community were here today, they'd tell you I've been a
- 22 good sheriff.
- Q. And do you intend to fulfill that promise to
- serve the people of Broward if the senate deems you to
- 25 be able to do that?

A. If that's the senate's will, I will fulfill

2 my term, yes.

- MR. KUEHNE: I tender the witness.
- 4 SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you. We're going to
- 5 take a 10-minute break and we're going to come
- 6 back with cross examination by Mr. Primrose and
- 7 Mr. MacIver. And we'll reconvene at 10 minutes
- 8 till 11:00. Thank you.
- 9 (Brief recess.)
- 10 SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Primrose, it's your
- 11 witness under cross examination. Please proceed.
- MR. PRIMROSE: Thank you, Special Master.
- 13 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 14 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold
- 16 sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it
- was solely under your authority that the sheriff
- 18 office would exist, right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And that's because any function that occurs
- 21 within Broward Sheriff's Office is done entirely under
- 22 what -- either your constitutional -- the creation of
- 23 your constitutional office, right?
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 Q. Or the Florida Statutes that we discussed --

- or you and your attorney discussed?
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. Meaning every employee within Broward
- 4 Sheriff's Office is acting under your authority as the
- 5 sheriff?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. And in the chain of command within
- 8 Broward Sheriff's Office, you were the ultimate
- 9 decision-maker then?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Meaning if you wanted to go to the left,
- 12 everybody had to go to the left?
- 13 A. I don't understand what you're saying.
- 14 O. Meaning if you wanted a policy to go one
- direction, that's the direction the policy was going
- 16 to go?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Didn't matter if anybody else in the agency
- 19 said "We don't want to go that way," it was your
- 20 decision?
- 21 A. After listening to every member of the agency
- 22 that I want -- that I thought should weigh in or would
- 23 weigh in when a policy was going to be changed or not
- 24 changed or re-created or created, I would have final
- 25 say.

1 Q. Okay. And because of that, that also means

- 2 if you didn't want to hire a deputy or any other
- 3 personnel, you could have ultimately made that
- 4 decision?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And you could have ultimately made a decision
- 7 whether an employee was promoted?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 O. Demoted?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You could have had the ultimate decision on
- 12 deputy assignments?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. And you also -- as you mentioned, you had the
- 15 ultimate to say on all agency policy decisions?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. And that includes any training decisions?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And we heard some testimony yesterday that I
- think needs some clarification, and it was questions
- 21 asked by your counsel regarding FDLE and the Criminal
- 22 Justice Standards and Training Commission. Do you
- remember some of those questions?
- A. Questions that were posed to me, sir, or
- posed to other witnesses?

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O. Posed to other witnesses that were testifying

2 on your behalf.

- A. Well, they weren't testifying on my behalf.
- 4 They were just testifying to the truth and facts.
- 5 Q. But they were on your witness list?
- A. They were on my witness list, but not
- 7 testifying on my behalf. So if you're going to ask a
- 8 question, I would -- it's up to the Special Master,
- 9 but I would think if you're going to ask a question
- 10 about another witness, you would ask it to the other
- 11 witness. I can't answer for them, sir.
- 12 Q. Okay. But you were sitting here when they
- were asked some questions?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. And you -- you would agree with their
- 16 answers, that FDLE nor the CJSTC have a requirement
- for active shooter training?
- 18 A. To my knowledge, they don't.
- 19 Q. Okay. And you'd agree that a Florida law
- 20 enforcement officer is required by CJSTC to have 40
- 21 hours of training every four years, right?
- 22 A. To my knowledge, yes.
- Q. Okay. And are you aware of what the topic
- areas are within that 40 hours of training?
- 25 A. I believe -- you mean diffusion -- or

de constation might be one tenie . You'd bore to

- de-escalation might be one topic. You'd have to
- 2 refresh my memory.
- 3 Q. So if I told you that the topic areas that
- 4 were covered were traffic stops and discriminatory
- 5 profiling, domestic violence, juvenile sex offender
- 6 investigations, human diversity training --
- 7 A. Human diversity training.
- 8 Q. -- and use-of-force scenario-based training,
- 9 that's within -- that sounds about right to you?
- 10 A. Does sound about right, yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you realize that those five areas
- 12 are ones that are either authorized or required by
- 13 Florida State Statute?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And those are just minimum requirements to be
- a law enforcement officer anywhere within the State of
- 17 Florida, right?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. But CJSTC nor the Florida Department of Law
- 20 Enforcement dictate specific training to any other
- 21 agency within the State of Florida, right?
- 22 A. Are you telling me that or asking me that?
- 23 I'm not sure.
- Q. I'm asking you if you agree with that, that
- 25 CJSTC does not dictate training policies for

390 individual law enforcement agencies in the State of

- 2 Florida?
- 3 A. I would agree.
- Q. Okay. And so that means that -- there was
- 5 some questions asked -- an officer in a small rural
- town that might only have one stoplight, one school,
- 7 is not going to have the same training required of one
- 8 that might be in Miami-Dade?
- 9 A. I certainly can't answer that question. I
- 10 can only answer the training that we need to supply in
- 11 Broward County. It would be unfair to ask me to
- 12 compare what other officers or deputies would need in
- other places that I've never been to.
- 14 Q. Yeah. But I think you'd have to at least
- agree that it wouldn't be necessarily logical for the
- 16 training that say is required by the Miami-Dade Police
- 17 Department is the same training that would be required
- 18 for the smallest rural town in Florida?
- 19 A. I couldn't possibly answer that question.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. Ask me about training that is apropos for
- 22 Broward County.
- Q. That's absolutely fair that that's your
- opinion. So -- but you would agree that each agency
- leader, meaning each sheriff or each police chief, has

1 a responsibility to determine which additional

- 2 training is -- is best for their agency?
- 3 A. I would agree with that.
- 4 Q. And which training should go above and beyond
- 5 the basic training that's required by -- by CJSTC and
- 6 Florida Department of Law Enforcement to be a law
- 7 enforcement officer?
- 8 A. I would agree.
- 9 Q. Okay. And in the county, you've already said
- 10 that that's the sheriff's responsibility then, what
- additional training above and beyond the minimums?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. Now, a new graduate from the law
- 14 enforcement academy or the police academy doesn't
- 15 necessarily have all the training that would be
- required to be a BSO deputy, right?
- 17 A. Well, when they graduate, they have all the
- 18 training that they're required to be a deputy, of
- 19 course, or they wouldn't be graduating from the
- 20 academy. The academy is giving them their certificate
- and they're saying they're a full-fledged deputy, able
- to work wherever the leader would want them to work.
- Q. But we heard yesterday from Detective Curcio
- 24 that different agencies have different field training
- 25 that officers are required to go to even after they've

1 completed their minimum training at the police

- 2 academv?
- 3 Well, the field training is -- that's Α.
- 4 probably the second most important thing an agency can
- 5 The most important thing you can do, sir, is to
- 6 hire the right people, and the second most important
- 7 thing is to train the people the right way. So you're
- 8 not going to take a person who graduated the police
- 9 academy and put them out in the streets of your county
- 10 without having a field training officer under -- you
- 11 know, train them, monitor them, evaluate them, and
- 12 make sure that he's doing reports or she's doing
- 13 reports, evaluating that, you know, newly-hired
- 14 officer to make sure they can do the job and, you
- 15 know, you're getting feedback on them.
- 16 Ο. But it's not just newly-graduated police
- 17 officers from the academy, because as we heard
- 18 Detective Curcio say, he had 30 years of law
- 19 enforcement experience and he was still required to go
- 20 through Broward Sheriff's Office field training,
- 21 right?
- 2.2 Α. New officers to the agency, probably 90
- 23 percent of them are going to come out of the academy,
- 24 and I assume some are going to come from other
- agencies or other places, but anyone who's new to your 25

- 1 agency.
- 2 Q. And your field training -- your field officer
- 3 training is a specific requirement to your agency?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. There's no FDLE requirement that there's a
- 6 field training program for each agency?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And you didn't need a direction from CJSTC to
- 9 create a field training program?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. And, in fact, you don't need the legislature
- to pass a statute or law that you have a field
- training program specific to your agency?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. And I think you had testified your job is to
- 16 make sure that you hire the best and that you provide
- them the best tools to complete their jobs, right?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Okay. In Broward sheriff's, your officers at
- the time used mobile data terminals, correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. And they needed to be trained on those
- 23 terminals?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And that's not training that's mandated by

- 1 FDLE?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. It's not training that's mandated by CJSTC?
- 4 A. That is correct too.
- 5 Q. Nor the legislature?
- 6 A. Nor the legislature.
- 7 Q. And you testified this morning about the fact
- 8 that your deputies who respond to Marjory Stoneman
- 9 Douglas were carrying tourniquets?
- 10 A. A lot of them were carrying kits.
- 11 O. Kits?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And you highlighted that thankfully they have
- 14 those kits because they were able to save additional
- lives that were brought to the hospital, right?
- 16 A. And not only deputies from the Broward
- 17 Sheriff's Office, but these police officers from other
- 18 agencies as well.
- 19 Q. Okay. Tourniquets aren't covered in first
- 20 aid training under CJSTC guidelines, correct?
- 21 A. I don't think so.
- 22 Q. So the deputies that you hired to BSO, they
- 23 would have required additional training on how to use
- 24 field tourniquets and other first aid measures?
- 25 A. Correct.

Q. And, again, FDLE doesn't require you to do

2 that training?

- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. They didn't set the minimum standards?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. CJSTC didn't do that?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. The legislature didn't pass a law saying that
- 9 each agency needs to teach how to use a tourniquet?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. And so you would agree with me, then, that
- 12 it's the sheriff that requires additional training
- when he believes -- he or she believes it's necessary
- for the agency to adequately protect the community?
- 15 A. I would agree with that statement.
- Q. Okay. And it's not FDLE's responsibility
- that a sheriff office have additional training?
- 18 A. Certainly not.
- 19 Q. Not CJSTC's?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. Not the governor's?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Not the legislature's?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. And as we heard in questions from your

1 counsel, it's not even Congress' responsibility to

- 2 ensure that a sheriff implements the additional
- 3 training that he or she feels is necessary for
- 4 their -- their deputies?
- 5 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. Now, if you wanted to, you could
- 7 implement certain additional trainings?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You could make trainings more frequent?
- 10 A. Not necessarily, no. I would disagree with
- 11 that, and here's why: There's a -- a national issue
- of law enforcement. There are many vacant positions.
- 13 So if you can't fill vacancies on an agency, there's a
- lot of training that you can't do or do as often as
- you want because you can't leave the road or the
- 16 community short of police officers. So sometimes you
- 17 might want to do three, four trainings on something a
- 18 year, but especially in the agency like the Broward
- 19 Sheriff's Office, for example, if somebody would have
- 20 recommend maybe we can train our school resource
- 21 deputies more often, you can't take them out of
- 22 schools. They need to be there to protect children.
- 23 So just because you see sometimes the need for more
- training, you don't have the manpower because of
- 25 vacancy issues and you're not able to do that. So

there's a lot of things that go into -- especially

- with agency our size, there's a lot of variables that
- 3 go into it.
- 4 Q. How many days a week is school in session
- 5 when the school is normally in session?
- 6 A. Five.
- 7 Q. Five. So that leaves two days a week that
- 8 they're not in session?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And do you know how many days a year school
- 11 is actively in session?
- 12 A. Thirty something.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. Forty.
- 15 Q. And they've got summer break, they've got
- 16 spring break, and they Christmas break. So there's at
- 17 least three opportunities throughout a calendar year
- 18 where the deputy assigned to the school doesn't have
- 19 to -- isn't doing his normal SRO duties, correct?
- 20 A. Right, but the -- and that's when we do the
- 21 predominant amount of our training because of exactly
- 22 what you said, when the deputies are off during the
- 23 summer -- or when the schools are off during the
- 24 summer, the summer months are when we -- are when we
- concentrate on the field training, all the mandatory

1 training that has to go into being a field training

- 2 officer -- I mean a school resource officer.
- Q. Right. And it was your decision to only make
- 4 school resource officers go to an annual training in
- 5 the summertime?
- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. But not in -- not during spring break?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Not during their Christmas break?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And, again, that's something that you could
- 12 have implemented, you could have required not even
- just school resource officers, but any of the deputies
- in your agency to attend certain trainings more
- 15 frequently?
- 16 A. Right, but I must say this: We were well
- 17 within the industry standard of training of agencies
- 18 our size to mandate that deputies go through active
- 19 killer training once every three years, with an agency
- of 1,800 deputies or thereabouts is well within
- 21 industry standard, and our deputies were receiving the
- 22 appropriate training and they were receiving the right
- 23 amount of training.
- Q. But, again, I want to go back to this, it was
- your decision, you could have prioritized certain

- trainings more often, right?
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. You could have prioritized certain trainings
- 4 longer, make them more extensive trainings, right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And you could have made the school
- 7 resource officers do the active shooter training on a
- 8 more frequent basis than just -- than just once every
- 9 three years?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And you already testified that you were
- 12 familiar with Florida Statute 30.15?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And that's the duties and responsibilities
- of an elected sheriff in the State of Florida, right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. And there was a long discussion about what
- 18 really was the responsibility of a sheriff, and my
- 19 words in my opening statement were taken, and you said
- you disagreed with me as to what I said what
- 21 "conservator of the peace" meant, right?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And are you aware that the -- the words that
- 24 I was using were actually from a Florida District
- 25 Court of Appeal case?

- 1 A. No.
- Q. Your attorney didn't show you in the
- 3 memorandum that we wrote that he went through that
- 4 that actually is from a Florida Fifth District Court
- 5 of Appeal decision called State v. ARR?
- 6 A. I think it was the interpretation rather than
- 7 the words, the way you were interpreting it.
- Q. Okay. Let's do this exercise: The case
- 9 there -- and it's highlighted -- says, "Section 30.15
- 10 states in relevant part sheriffs in person or by
- deputy shall be conservators of the peace."
- Do you agree that that's the first sentence
- of the highlighted portion?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. And then it says, "And in a complex society,
- 16 police are charged with the duty to protect people and
- 17 property wherever they are situated under a variety of
- 18 circumstances, "right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. That's the first thing I said is they are
- 21 charged with a duty to protect people and property.
- The second -- or the last sentence there
- 23 highlighted says, quote, "In performing this duty,
- they're required to protect against crime without
- 25 waiting for it to occur, "right, that's what it says?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. And that's exactly what I said, right?
- 3 Didn't I say in my opening that the conservator of the
- 4 peace also includes a duty to protect against crime
- 5 without waiting for it to occur?
- MR. KUEHNE: Objection.
- 7 SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed.
- MR. PRIMROSE: Thank you.
- 9 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- 10 Q. That comment that I said was taken exactly
- from a Fifth District Court of Appeal case from the
- 12 State of Florida.
- 13 A. I -- if you said it like that, that's not how
- 14 I received what you were saying. I received as you
- 15 were saying that it's the responsibility of a sheriff
- 16 to eliminate crime and to prevent crime from
- happening, and we both know that's an impossibility.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now, you'd also agree --
- 19 MR. KAPLAN: Special Master, I don't mean to
- 20 interrupt, but the exhibit --
- 21 SPECIAL MASTER: I'm sorry. Please proceed.
- MR. PRIMROSE: Okay. Thank you.
- 23 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- Q. Now, we didn't go into this -- you didn't go
- 25 into this on direct examination, but I think it's an

- 1 important point to mention.
- 2 Do you agree that the deputies that you
- 3 assign or appoint are acting under your authority as
- 4 sheriff?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And are you familiar with Florida Statute
- 7 30.07?
- 8 A. I think so.
- 9 Q. And are you -- do you agree that it says that
- 10 because sheriffs appoint deputies, the deputy -- or
- 11 the sheriff is also responsible for the neglect or
- default of the deputies that they appoint?
- 13 A. You'd have to show that to me, but I would --
- 14 I would think that that's accurate.
- Q. Okay. Would you like me to show it to you?
- 16 I can.
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Okay. So you'd at least agree that it
- 19 says -- and I'm jumbling up the way the words are
- ordered, but essentially because the sheriff has to
- 21 appoint deputies to act with the sheriff's authority,
- the sheriff is responsible if the deputies are
- 23 neglect -- commit neglect or default?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. Now, I want to talk about -- there are

- a lot of discussion about these organizations that
- exist across the United States and globally. One of
- 3 them was CALEA. And you're familiar with CALEA?
- 4 A. CALEA?
- 5 Q. CALEA, excuse me. You're familiar with
- 6 CALEA?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. And CALEA is actually a voluntary
- 9 organization?
- 10 A. It is.
- 11 O. There's no mandate from the State of Florida
- that a sheriff's office or police office be a part of
- this organization?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- Q. And isn't it also true that CALEA requires
- the law enforcement agencies to pay to be a member of
- 17 CALEA?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- Q. And you're paying to get access to some model
- 20 policies that CALEA wants the agencies to follow,
- 21 right?
- 22 A. I don't necessarily know that to be the
- reason you pay, no.
- Q. Were you aware that the way that CALEA
- 25 accredits an agency is by looking to see how many

1 CALEA policies are adopted by the agency?

- A. Well, that's one dimension of CALEA, but they
- do so much more than that. I've been there for their
- 4 reviews.
- 5 Q. Okay. And CALEA -- BSO being an accredited
- 6 agency under CALEA wasn't something new under your
- 7 tenure as the sheriff, right?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Right. BSO's actually been paying to be an
- 10 accredited member of CALEA since 1999?
- 11 A. I didn't know that.
- 12 Q. Okay. And there were a couple other -- you
- 13 remember seeing the exhibit from your attorney showing
- 14 all the different accreditations that BSO has?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Is it fair to say that none of the
- 17 accreditations on that sheet were new under your
- 18 tenure as the sheriff?
- 19 A. I'm not sure.
- Q. Okay. We can pull it up if you'd like, but
- 21 I'd submit to you that none of the accreditations that
- 22 have been highlighted -- and this is Exhibit --
- 23 A. All you'd have to do is also pull up the
- 24 dates of their first accreditation and that would --
- Q. Yeah. So let's -- well, this is Israel

Exhibit 11, and we'll just start with law enforcement.

- 2 CALEA, first accredited 1999, and then the Commission
- 3 for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, 2001. We
- could go through the entire list of accreditations, 4
- but --5
- 6 I trust -- if you say the dates pre-dated me, Α.
- 7 then I would agree with you.
- Okay. And we also heard about the 8
- 9 International Association of Chiefs of Police --
- 10 Α. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- right?
- 12 And that's not an organization that a
- particular sheriff's office or police department 13
- 14 becomes a member of, right?
- 15 Α. Correct.
- 16 That's for individual members to join? Q.
- That is. 17 Α.
- 18 Q. And, again, it's individual members paid to
- 19 join the international association?
- 20 Α. Yes.
- 21 Okay. Now, lot of discussion on the active
- 22 shooter policy, and on direct examination, you talked
- 23 about it being a concerted effort to develop this
- 24 policy, right?
- 25 Α. Yes.

1 O. You had your command staff included?

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You had the road patrol, you got their input,
- 4 right?
- 5 A. Well, actually, it was -- it went the other
- 6 way. The command staff got the road patrol or whoever
- 7 they got involved, and then command staff came to see
- 8 me to discuss they felt it rose to -- you know, it was
- 9 an important policy and it rose to my level, and they
- 10 were absolutely right. So then I engaged in
- 11 conversations with command staff.
- 12 Q. Okay. Am I correct in my understanding that
- 13 the introduction of 4.37, the active shooter policy,
- 14 was under your tenure as sheriff, meaning the creation
- of the policy in the Broward Sheriff's Office standard
- operating procedure occurred under your tenure?
- 17 A. The first policy ever on active shooter? I'm
- 18 not sure.
- 19 Q. Okay. I want to show you -- this is Israel
- 20 Exhibit 4. And Israel Exhibit 4, the first page of
- that says "Date, October 4, 2013."
- 22 THE WITNESS: Special Master, may I get up to
- 23 read it? I can't really see it too well from this
- 24 manner.
- 25 SPECIAL MASTER: Can you see that screen?

1 MR. PRIMROSE: That might be worse.

- 2 SPECIAL MASTER: Is that harder? The answer
- is yes, you may certainly come closer here if
- 4 you'd like to do so.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Okay. Yeah, I don't -- I don't
- 6 know if that was the development of the policy or
- if that was, you know, an amendment to the policy.
- 8 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- 9 Q. Okay. So regardless of if it's the new
- 10 creation or an amendment to the policy, the policy
- 11 that existed -- and this says October 4, 2013, moving
- 12 forward says -- and I've highlighted it here -- "If
- 13 real-time intelligence exists, the sole deputy or team
- of deputies will enter the area and/or structure to
- preserve life, "correct, that's what it says?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Okay. And when you were questioned by your
- 18 attorney, we heard that at some point, it was changed
- 19 to "may"?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. And that was your decision to change it to
- 22 "may"?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And isn't it true that after the Marjory
- 25 Stoneman Douglas shooting, the policy was then changed

- 1 to "shall"?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. But you testified on direct examination that
- 4 "may" and "shall" are essentially the same word?
- 5 A. When "shall" has a caveat in there,
- 6 absolutely. I didn't say "may" and "shall" were the
- 7 same word, but I said in a policy that says "shall"
- 8 and has a comment in it that says "under reasonable
- 9 circumstances" or brings a caveat in to give the
- officer discretion, it becomes the same as "may."
- 11 Q. So what's the purpose of changing it from
- "will" to "may" under your tenure, and then from "may"
- to "shall" under your tenure?
- A. When we changed it back to "shall"?
- Q. Well, this says "will."
- 16 A. This says "will" --
- 0. And this was in October of '13.
- 18 A. And we changed it in 2016 because I felt and
- 19 still feel that the policy we changed it to is better
- 20 for deputies and is more in line with industry
- 21 standard and other policies throughout the nation.
- 22 Most of the policies that -- most of the policies from
- large agencies will be more aligned with "may" and the
- 24 policy that I changed it to in 2016.
- Q. Okay. And then you'd agree with me, though,

- 1 that after Marjory Stoneman Douglas, you changed the
- policy to "shall"?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Why?
- 5 A. I was -- I had a conversation in my office
- 6 with Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, who was the chairman of
- 7 the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Commission, and it was
- 8 one of the things that he said the group was talking
- 9 about and he suggested that -- he was going to be
- 10 talking about other sheriffs and he suggested that we
- 11 change it back to "shall." He said that he thought,
- 12 you know, "shall" was the better way to do it. So we
- developed a policy with "shall," and it basically says
- 14 the same thing. So we -- I just did that -- I felt
- 15 that, you know, I was being asked to do it, I
- 16 wanted -- in the spirit of full cooperation with the
- 17 commission, that's why I did it.
- 18 Q. Even though you don't think the policy change
- 19 from '16 to now, to 2018, has any practical
- 20 difference?
- 21 A. I know I'm not allowed to ask you questions,
- 22 but do you see a practical difference? Not that
- 23 you've ever been in police work or stuff, but I know
- 24 how deputies are going to respond, and the way it was
- 25 in 2016 was appropriate and within the lines of what

- 1 you'd want your deputies to do and how you want your
- 2 deputies to train. And you can't ask questions about
- 3 policy, I don't think, without asking about the
- 4 training that corresponds to it.
- 5 Q. But I guess the point that I'm getting at,
- 6 though, is you've testified that you don't think
- 7 practically there's any difference between the policy
- 8 that existed in 2016 to the policy that you
- 9 implemented before -- right before you were suspended
- 10 from office?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. So, then, why change it? If it has no
- practical effect, why change it, other than to maybe
- try to avoid criticism that "may" provides discretion
- to the deputies and "shall" is a directive that you
- 16 don't have discretion?
- A. Respectfully, it sounds like you're answering
- 18 the question for me. I've already answered that
- 19 question. I did it because I was asked to by Sheriff
- 20 Gualtieri, and that's the answer.
- Q. Okay. Now, an active shooter situations, I
- 22 think we all agree, are an unfortunate reality that we
- 23 now have in this -- in not only the country, but the
- world, right?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And with that, unfortunately, we know that

- 2 schools are becoming a likely target for these events?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And airports at least have similarly started
- 5 to be an increased target for active shooter
- 6 situations?
- 7 A. I don't know to be true.
- 8 Q. Okay. You'd agree that -- well, you
- 9 understand the word "soft target," what that phrase
- 10 means?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 Q. And that's defined by homeland security as an
- area that is easily accessible, contains large numbers
- of people, and has limited security --
- 15 A. I would agree with that.
- 16 Q. -- right?
- And so there's at least an understanding, not
- 18 even just in law enforcement, but globally that soft
- 19 targets are increasingly becoming used for active
- 20 shooter -- people that want to carry out mass casualty
- 21 events?
- 22 A. I don't necessarily agree with that. I mean,
- 23 if you're talking about -- certainly a soft target is
- 24 a (inaudible), and now you have horrific people
- 25 driving trucks into people when they can't find

1 weapons. So I think we're vulnerable. We're a free

- 2 society and I think we're vulnerable everywhere.
- 3 Q. Okay. You'd agree, though -- you at least
- 4 agree with me, though, that, I mean, schools are
- 5 considered soft targets that are being an increasing
- 6 venue for individuals to want to carry out mass
- 7 casualty events?
- 8 A. Well, define "increasing."
- 9 Q. I mean, let's go back. So Columbine in 1999
- 10 was really the first major one that's in a lot of
- 11 folks' minds, right?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And since that time, there have been, it
- 14 unfortunately seems, more than just one every three or
- 15 four years?
- A. Well, if you're going to ask the question,
- 17 I'd ask that you give me the exact number so I can
- 18 give you the answer. I don't know how many have been
- 19 committed since 1999.
- Q. Let me ask you this: You as a sheriff for
- 21 -- you were elected once, you were reelected -- can't
- tell me whether or not you agree that schools have
- 23 become an increasing -- school shootings have become
- increasingly over the past 20 years?
- 25 A. What do you mean by -- I ask you again,

- define "increasing." We have school shootings.
- 2 Protecting schools is -- but when you say
- "increasing," every time a shooting happens anywhere,
- 4 it's increased by what? I don't know what you're
- 5 trying to say by "increasing."
- Q. Okay. Let's do it this way, then, since
- 7 you're having difficulty understanding the question
- 8 here.
- 9 MR. KUEHNE: Move to strike.
- 10 SPECIAL MASTER: Denied. Go ahead.
- 11 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- 12 Q. 1999, Columbine happened, right?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. Since 1999, school shootings are becoming
- more frequent, yes or no?
- 16 A. Well, are you saying that -- I don't
- 17 understand what you're trying to say.
- 18 Q. Let's do it this way: So between -- we know
- 19 that Columbine happened in '99, the Sandy Hook
- 20 massacre happened in 2012?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Today, it is more apparent to law enforcement
- 23 that school shootings are a real possibility maybe
- compared to 20 years ago or 30 years ago?
- 25 A. I would absolutely agree with that statement.

1 Q. Okay. And that's an area that absolutely

- 2 needs to be prioritized by every single law
- 3 enforcement agency in the United States?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. And I noticed yesterday and into today
- 6 you really wanted to talk about the Pompano Beach High
- 7 School training exercise that occurred?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And that occurred in May of 2013, right?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. So about five months after you first took
- 12 office?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. You talked about helicopters were
- 15 involved?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. You repelled a K-9 down the side of the
- 18 school?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. You had multiple agencies within Broward
- 21 County that responded to this training exercise?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. SWAT was included?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. I read an article that was provided by your

1 counsel that the whole premise of it started with an

- 2 SRO was approached by four -- I believe it was males,
- 3 and one of them said "One of those guys has a gun,"
- 4 right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And then the SRO engaged the shooter, right?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 O. SWAT arrived --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- right?
- One of the shooters or maybe two of the
- 12 shooters created a hostage situation, right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. They barricaded themselves --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 O. -- in a classroom?
- 17 Hostage negotiators were used to try to
- 18 defuse the situation?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And this all happened in one day?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. It was a one-day training?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. How many Broward Sheriff's Office school
- 25 resource officers participated in that training?

- 1 A. I'm not sure.
- Q. Did the training happen multiple times that
- 3 day?
- 4 A. It was one continuous training exercise.
- 5 Q. Okay. But I quess my point is it wasn't like
- 6 we're going to start the training at 9:00 a.m., it's
- 7 going to be a one-hour event, and then we're going to
- 8 start it again at 11:00 and take it to 2:00?
- 9 A. No, no.
- 10 Q. So it was you start, you finish, end of the
- 11 day?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And it was one school resource officer who
- engaged the initial shooter, and then SWAT arrives,
- hostage negotiators arrive, and fire rescue?
- 16 A. Correct.
- Q. So it wasn't like every single Broward
- 18 sheriff school resource officer got a chance to
- 19 participate in this Pompano Beach training in May of
- 20 2013?
- 21 A. I don't know how many were there, I really
- 22 don't.
- Q. You have no idea how many of your school
- 24 resource officers --
- 25 A. I don't.

- 1 Q. -- went to a training that was designed to
- 2 test how a school resource officer and Broward
- 3 Sheriff's Office as a whole would respond to an active
- 4 shooter situation in a school?
- 5 A. Correct.
- Q. And how many Broward SROs participated in
- 7 that training in 2014?
- 8 A. In which training in 2014?
- 9 Q. Well, the Pompano Beach High School active
- shooter training that you did in May of 2013, how many
- did it when the training happened in 2014, that
- 12 exercise?
- 13 A. I don't understand your question.
- Q. Okay. Let's go back. May of 2013, you hold
- this large-scale active shooter training at a high
- 16 school?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. That training didn't happen in 2014, did it?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. So no SROs under your agency attended a
- 21 similar full-scale exercise in 2014, right?
- 22 A. I mean, I would say we didn't do a full-scale
- exercise in 2014, but I think it's also important to
- 24 know I don't know that any other county in the nation
- 25 did either. So I don't know where you're -- what your

trying to say, but, no, we did it -- we did it that

- time and the training was incredible and there were
- 3 lessons learned from it, and these lessons were
- 4 taught -- you know, we constantly train. There's so
- 5 much training that goes -- we have training when we do
- 6 clearing training, you know, we talk about active
- 7 killer. So it's constant, so --
- 8 Q. And let me get to that --
- 9 A. It's not going to be done every year.
- 10 Q. Okay. And I want to follow up on that
- 11 because on direct examination, you highlighted how
- renowned it was, not just in Florida, but nationally
- folks are wondering how the heck did Broward Sheriff's
- 14 Office pull off this multi-agency, large-scale active
- 15 shooter training?
- 16 A. I don't know if you'd use the word
- 17 "renowned," but it was -- it was talked about, and our
- 18 colonels and command staff would come to me and they
- 19 would say they would get comments, "How did you guys
- 20 pull this off," because it was a lot that went into
- 21 developing the training.
- 22 Q. Okay. So -- but at a bare minimum, you have
- 23 to be thinking we're onto something here by doing such
- 24 a large exercise to really test every facet of not
- 25 only my agency, but surrounding agencies and fire

- 1 rescue, right?
- A. You're telling me what I was thinking?
- 3 Q. I'm asking you. After you do the exercise
- 4 and you hear from your colonels that other law
- 5 enforcement agencies are asking "How did you pull this
- off, it's great that you did this," you've got to be
- 7 thinking I got to do this more often, right? We've
- 8 got to hold a full-scale, real-life exercise in
- 9 schools more often because it worked so well in 2013,
- 10 I'm hearing that other people are asking about it, we
- 11 must be onto something, we need to do this more often?
- 12 A. I never said that. I mean --
- Q. You never thought that?
- 14 A. There's -- the schools are one soft target,
- but there are airports, there are a host of venues
- 16 that -- you know, there's a -- you know, got to do
- training, you know, in different venues.
- 18 Q. Okay. So taking that, then, you're right,
- 19 there are other venues that are considered soft
- 20 targets that deserve full-scale, real-life exercises,
- 21 right?
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. So you don't do the Pompano Beach training in
- 24 2014, maybe you do it at -- you do another soft
- 25 target. What about in 2015, did you do a similar

full-scale exercise at Pompano Beach High School to

- 2 test the SROs and how you might respond to an active
- 3 shooter situation in a school?
- 4 A. I think in 2015 or 2016 -- you know, I would
- 5 have to ask you to rely on Major Shults. I know he --
- 6 former Major Shults, he gave a deposition. So as far
- 7 as the calendar of training, I can't recall the
- 8 calendar of training. But I know there was a
- 9 full-scale exercise at the airport and seaport. I
- don't remember what month or what year it was.
- 11 Q. Okay. And I'll get to that, I promise you on
- 12 that. Instead of me asking from every single year
- after May 2013, you'd agree with me that in 2014, '15,
- 14 '16, '17, or '18, Broward Sheriff's Office under your
- 15 direction never held another full-scale, real-life
- 16 exercise to test an active shooter situation in a
- 17 school setting?
- 18 A. I think that's accurate.
- 19 Q. Okay. And do you know if SRO Peterson took
- 20 part in that May 2013 training at Pompano Beach High
- 21 School?
- 22 A. I don't know.
- 23 Q. Okay. Any deputy who attended that training,
- it would have been on their training log, right?
- 25 A. Yes.

Q. So if -- and Deputy Peterson's training log,

- 2 which is an exhibit provided by your counsel, it
- doesn't indicate a May of 2013 training, that would
- 4 imply he wasn't there and did not attend that
- 5 training?

- A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Now, going back to the active shooter
- 8 policy, the policy is just the words written down,
- 9 right?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And it's my understanding in some of the
- depositions that the piece of paper that the policy is
- written on is e-mailed to each individual deputy?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And they have to -- they have to attest or
- something that they read and understood the policy?
- 17 A. Sign for it.
- 18 Q. Okay. And then the other aspect of the
- 19 policy is now the training that goes hand in hand with
- the written-down policy?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And in 2016, you then mandate active
- 23 shooter training to coincide with the written policy?
- A. Correct.
- 25 Q. Okay. And we've heard some testimony that it

- was two 4-hour blocks of training, right?
- 2 A. I don't know. You'd have to check with the
- 3 trainers. I don't know the calendar.
- 4 Q. If I told you that the folks that have
- 5 already testified said there was one 4-hour block that
- 6 was titled "Active Shooter" and then there was one
- 7 4-hour block that said "Rescue Task" or something
- 8 similar, does that sound about right to you?
- 9 A. Sounds about right.
- 10 Q. Okay. And you've already testified that the
- 11 two 4-hour blocks of training was once every three
- 12 years, meaning a deputy would do it in Year 1, but
- they wouldn't do it in Year 2 or 3, they'd do it again
- 14 in Year 4?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. Okay. And, again, you could have decided to
- make that, instead of a three-year cycle, a two-year
- 18 cycle, right?
- 19 A. Or a five-year cycle or a six-year cycle.
- 20 Q. Okay. You think active shooter training
- 21 should have been done on a longer time cycle?
- 22 A. No, I think it should have been done exactly
- 23 how it was done. I thought --
- Q. Three years was perfect?
- 25 A. Three years. It's not a perishable skill,

- 1 it's not, you know, studying for a chemistry test,
- 2 it's simply learning the movements and the philosophy
- 3 of what you need to do.
- Q. Okay. I want to go through with you the
- 5 training on active shooter, and this is our Exhibit W.
- 6 And, Mr. Israel, I'll submit to you that this is the
- 7 lesson plan provided to us by BSO for the course
- 8 titled "Response to Active Shooter." Would you agree
- 9 that that's what the course title is?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. I want to direct your attention to the
- 12 course agenda, and if you look at the course agenda,
- you'll see it's broken down into five separate blocks,
- 14 right?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 MR. PRIMROSE: And Madam Court Reporter,
- 17 you're hearing him?
- THE COURT REPORTER: Oh, yeah.
- 19 MR. PRIMROSE: I just want to make sure. And
- 20 you can stand up. I just wanted to make sure she
- 21 heard.
- 22 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- 23 Q. So first block of time, 20 minutes spent on
- 24 introductions, right?
- 25 A. Right.

- 1 Q. Right?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 MR. PRIMROSE: Okay.
- 4 SPECIAL MASTER: He does need to answer the
- 5 questions into the microphone because this is not
- just being transcribed, it's also on the record.
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- 9 Q. If I put that up, is that large enough for
- 10 you to see on the TV?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. So the first 20 minutes is spent on
- 13 introductions, right?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 O. The next 50 minutes is a PowerPoint
- 16 presentation, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And then the third block, 40 minutes is spent
- on two to four-man bounding overwatch practice, right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Bounding overwatch is essentially like a
- 22 leap-frog exercise, right?
- A. Correct?
- Q. So person in the front does something,
- 25 somebody behind them comes and takes over, that's --

- 1 it's a multiple person leap-frog exercise?
- 2 A. Yes. It's basically developed and taught to
- 3 teach the units, teams, how to move towards the -- the
- 4 gunman and engage.
- 5 Q. Okay. And then there's 90 minutes spent on
- 6 practical exercises and scenarios, right?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And then a 10-minute just debrief and
- 9 cleanup?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Are you familiar in the 90 minutes -- let me
- 12 go back.
- 13 The two to four-man bounding overwatch, that
- 14 would not include solo deputy response to an active
- 15 shooter, right?
- 16 A. You would have to bring the instructors into
- 17 that. That would be something to ask the instructors.
- 18 O. You as the sheriff have no idea whether or
- 19 not two to four-man bounding overwatch practice
- includes single deputy response?
- 21 A. I know what two to four-man overwatch means,
- 22 what the practice means, but I'm not at the
- instructions, so I don't know, I couldn't testify as
- 24 to what they're actually doing at the instruction.
- Q. Okay. And so you couldn't actually tell us

in the practical exercises, how many scenarios are

- 2 done with just a solo deputy response?
- 3 A. I've been in -- I've witnessed some of the
- 4 practical exercises, but I couldn't tell you how many
- 5 are done solo.
- 6 Q. Okay. If I told you -- and we can go down to
- 7 it. All right. So we've got Exercise 1. This
- 8 Exercise 1 --
- 9 A. A little larger, sir?
- 10 O. Sure, of course.
- 11 Exercise 1, first scenario, it says "two-man
- 12 deputy team, " right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Exercise 2, "single deputy" --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. -- right?
- 17 Okay.
- 18 A. Could you go back to Exercise 2 so I could
- 19 read it a little bit?
- 20 Q. I'm just asking you what -- if it's solo or
- 21 multiple people.
- 22 A. I'd like you to go back to Exercise 2 so I
- 23 can read it. If you're going to ask me anymore
- questions on this issue, I'd like to read it.
- Q. Mr. Israel, I promise you that after I'm done

- 1 asking questions, Mr. Kuehne is going to get a chance
- 2 to go through every single question I ask and you'll
- 3 have a chance to follow up on any question that I
- 4 asked that you didn't feel you had a full chance to
- 5 respond. So --
- 6 MR. KUEHNE: Objection.
- 7 SPECIAL MASTER: Let me suggest that -- give
- 8 him an opportunity to read the whole section that
- 9 he is responding to. I think that's -- I think
- that's a legitimate question on his part.
- 11 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- 12 Q. Okay. So we'll go back, Exercise 2.
- 13 A. You can move up -- move it. You can keep
- 14 moving.
- 15 MR. PRIMROSE: Special Master Goodlette, at a
- 16 certain point, to ask to go through an entire
- document when my question is very limited to
- whether or not the exercise was a single deputy
- 19 versus two deputy, I mean --
- 20 SPECIAL MASTER: My concern is he's just
- 21 reading what you have highlighted, and I don't
- 22 know what else might be in there that you have not
- 23 highlighted that he's -- you're asking him the
- question -- the question on. That's my only
- 25 concern.

MR. PRIMROSE: The question was only, though,

2 the -- how many individuals were asked to the

- 3 exercise. So, for example, the first -- Exercise
- 4 1, it says, "First scenario, two-man deputy team."
- 5 That's my sole question as to Exercise 1.
- 6 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- 7 Q. And Exercise 2, it says, "Single deputy
- 8 response." We can all agree that it says that, right,
- 9 Mr. Israel?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. And then Exercise 3 -- I'll give you a
- 12 chance to read that, but I'm seeing it says this
- exercise is for a four-man deputy team?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And then -- and then it's done. So
- one, two, three exercises, and then it says "debrief
- and cleanup"?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. Do you have any reason to disagree
- 20 with what was on there, that there were -- there are
- 21 three practical exercises that are gone through in the
- four-hour training?
- A. No reason to disagree.
- Q. Okay. And I want to ask you about this.
- 25 We'll go back -- I told you we'd go back to this. So

- 1 Exercise 2, the single deputy response, which I think
- 2 is the very important part of all the testimony that
- 3 we've been hearing, the Exercise 2 on single deputy
- 4 response says --
- 5 A. Could you make it a little larger?
- 6 Q. Absolutely. There you go.
- 7 Deputy is going to search around a little bit
- 8 after hearing for gunshot, bad guy's going to be
- 9 distance away, blank gun firing intermittently, deputy
- 10 is going to move towards gunfire, passing dead
- 11 students and others running by him. This provides
- 12 real-time intell for the deputy, right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Then it says, "Suspect will drop gun, raise
- hands in surrender prior to the deputy making
- 16 contact"?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And then the single deputy is going to hold
- 19 the suspect at gunpoint, prone the suspect out. That
- 20 just means basically allow him to -- the deputy to pat
- 21 the suspect for guns, right?
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. And then continues on, you're going to look
- for potential weapons on the suspect.
- Now, when it says "watch," that's a directive

- for the instructor, right?
- 2 A. What's the question, sir?
- Q. Under "watch," it says, "Instructors should
- 4 watch deputy." So the reason it says "watch" there,
- 5 am I correct that that is an indication for the
- 6 instructor, look out for the following things while
- 7 this single deputy is going through this exercise?
- 8 A. Yeah. I think a better word might have been
- 9 "evaluate," to evaluate the performance.
- 10 Q. Okay. And then it says "say." And would
- "say" be a directive that the instructor should
- 12 provide some instruction or guidance to the deputy?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. And I want to know about this last
- 15 highlighted line: "Remember the calvary is on their
- 16 way. So it's better to hold than to expose yourself
- 17 to unknown threats." What does that mean?
- 18 A. That means if you're sure that there's not
- 19 active killing going on; in other words, the active
- 20 killing is over or the suspect is barricaded, you
- 21 don't know where the suspect is, but your intell and
- your senses tell you that nobody else is dying, it's
- 23 better to hold a position and wait for SWAT or
- 24 reinforcements. Has nothing to do with an active
- 25 killer situation.

In an active killer situation, you're moving, 1

- 2 you're moving, you're moving, as I said before, to
- 3 either neutralize the target, arrest the target, or
- have the target surrender. But if there was, God 4
- 5 forbid, a shooting in this room and we chased the
- 6 shooter outside to another room, he's still a
- 7 murderer, he's still a felon, we still want to arrest
- 8 him, but there's no reason to go into a room to take
- 9 him into custody without waiting for reinforcements
- 10 because you're not worried about innocents getting
- 11 hurt.
- So the directive -- and that was under the 12 Q.
- 13 "say" section -- where an instructor might tell the
- deputy "Remember calvary is on the way" does not apply 14
- 15 if the deputy still hears gunfire?
- 16 Α. Correct.
- 17 Okay. Now, my understanding is that under
- your tenure, Broward Sheriff's Office had 12 trainers, 18
- and I think that was in some of the testimony we heard 19
- 20 from some witnesses. Does that sound about right to
- 21 you?
- 22 I think -- well, we had -- we had other
- 23 people that do -- when you have an agency that large,
- 24 you have collateral trainers. You have people that
- 25 might do their regular jobs, but for a certain

specific training they will come off the road or away

from their assignment. So how many full-time trainers

- 3 we had compared to, you know, vis-à-vis how many we
- 4 had that do collateral training, I can't answer that.
- 5 Q. Okay. The number of trainers, that's a
- 6 personnel decision that would be up to the sheriff to
- 7 make?

- 8 A. Ultimately responsible for everything on the
- 9 agency.
- 10 Q. And the more trainers you have, presumably
- 11 the more trainings you can do?
- 12 A. No, not necessarily.
- 13 Q. No?
- 14 A. You still -- the number of trainers is --
- that's just a fallacy, and, you know -- and I honestly
- don't appreciate you answering the question for me.
- 17 It doesn't mean that at all. It's not about the
- 18 trainers, it's about the students. And when you have
- 19 an agency our size with all the vacancies we have, you
- 20 could have 100 trainers that could give people
- one-on-one instruction, but if you don't have the
- ability and you're going to make the county unsafe by
- 23 bringing students away from their regularly-scheduled
- 24 assignments to protect and serve and bring them into
- 25 training, that's not the best thing for the community

1 in my mind. So the amount of trainers or telling me

- 2 what the staff has is not indicative of the quality of
- 3 the training or our ability to train. It's about the
- 4 availability of the student and the necessity of that
- 5 specific training.
- 6 Q. Okay. I want to make sure that I -- that I
- 7 didn't mishear anything on direct examination. You
- 8 don't place any fault onto Broward County School
- 9 District for limiting how often you can train your
- 10 school resource officers, do you?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. We'll talk about Fort Lauderdale
- 13 airport shooting for a moment. Five individuals
- 14 unfortunately lost their lives that day at the hands
- of the shooter?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. And the shooter ran out of ammunition at a
- 18 certain point, right?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Dropped his gun, and when Deputy Madrigal
- 21 approached him, the active shooting had commenced,
- 22 wasn't going on anymore?
- 23 A. You'd have to ask Deputy Madrigal what
- 24 time -- at what time -- whether he saw the shot. I
- 25 know he took him into custody within 72 seconds, I was

- 1 told, after the first shot.
- Q. Okay. Before we get into all the events that
- 3 happened that day, want to talk about the role of your
- 4 agency with the shooting. We've already heard, and
- 5 you don't disagree, right, that the Broward Sheriff's
- 6 Office was, in fact, the contracted law enforcement
- 7 agency for the airport?
- 8 A. I agree with that statement.
- 9 Q. Okay. And the essential operation of the
- 10 airport, grounds keeping, cleaning the floors, making
- 11 sure that the building is maintained, that's
- 12 presumably all kept with BCAD, the airport -- the
- 13 aviation district?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 O. Okay. Broward -- the sheriff's office
- 16 agreement with BCAD was not unlike how the sheriff's
- 17 office might contract with a municipality to provide
- 18 law enforcement, right?
- 19 A. I think that's a fair statement.
- 20 Q. Okay. Let's talk about that. When Broward
- 21 Sheriff's Office is approached by a municipality,
- 22 "Hey, we want to outsource all of our law enforcement
- 23 to you, " imagine you sit down with their principals
- and go through some standard terms, right?
- 25 A. Yes.

You look at the size of the municipality, Q.

- 2 right?
- 3 Α. Yes.
- You look at maybe how many large buildings or 4 Q.
- 5 areas that might be of concern from a law enforcement
- 6 perspective, right?
- 7 Α. Yes.
- How many schools are in the municipality? 8 Ο.
- 9 Α. Yes.
- 10 You probably even look at the crime rate in Ο.
- that municipality when entering into a discussion to 11
- 12 provide law enforcement?
- Α. 13 Yes.
- 14 And so if a municipality came to you and they Ο.
- 15 had a high percentage -- a high crime rate and said,
- 16 "But we only want to pay for one Broward sheriff
- 17 deputy to be our law enforcement for our
- 18 municipality," you'd probably push back in that
- discussion, right? 19
- 20 Α. I can't answer a question with supposition.
- You would have to give me a specific question. You 21
- 22 can't give me what would I have done in this
- 23 (inaudible), what would I have done -- that's not
- 2.4 fair. You ask me a specific question about a specific
- 25 contract, I can answer it, but unless ordered to by

1 the Special Magistrate, I'm not going to answer

- 2 questions about supposition.
- 3 Q. I'm just quessing -- or I'm just interested
- 4 in this question, though, is when you are approached
- 5 to provide law enforcement services to a
- 6 municipality --
- 7 A. Which municipality?
- Q. I'm just -- in any situation, a municipality,
- 9 the airport district, for an outside event, you are
- 10 going into it with an understanding of what's going to
- 11 be requested of my law enforcement agency, what's the
- threat of crime, how much crime is there, you want to
- 13 know all of those factors before you would ever enter
- 14 into an agreement to provide law enforcement services
- for somebody outside of your agency?
- 16 A. I really don't even understand your question,
- 17 what you're trying -- I don't understand your question
- 18 at all.
- 19 Q. Let me try to break this down, and if you
- don't want to answer hypotheticals, I'm not going to
- 21 ask the Special Master to require you to answer a
- 22 simple hypothetical, but here's what I want to --
- MR. KUEHNE: Move to strike.
- 24 SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed.
- MR. PRIMROSE: Thank you.

- 1 BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- Q. When you go to discuss with Broward County
- 3 Aviation District the contractual agreement to provide
- 4 law enforcement --
- 5 A. I've never had a discussion with aviation.
- 6 I've never been in on any of their conversations. So
- 7 I don't know what you're talking -- I can't answer the
- 8 question.
- 9 Q. You've never gone to a meeting with -- with a
- 10 representative of BCAD to discuss what law enforcement
- 11 services your agency would provide to the airport?
- 12 A. I don't believe I ever have. I think that's
- all been brought back to me by staff. The
- 14 negotiations have been so seamless and so --
- everybody's been on the same page, I don't believe
- 16 I've ever been part of a negotiation.
- 17 Q. But you would agree that your staff that you
- 18 have entrusted will come back to you with what they've
- 19 learned?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Or how their discussions went?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And you're ultimately the one that has to
- 24 sign the agreement --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- with BCAD, right?
- 2 A. With the county.
- 3 Q. With the county to provide law enforcement
- 4 for BCAD?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. So you're going to want to know all of the
- 7 statistics or the requirements that you're going to
- 8 put your agency in charge of protecting?
- 9 A. I'm going to want to know simply what
- 10 personnel BCAD is asking for, what they're willing to
- 11 pay for. You can't give them more resources or more
- 12 assets than they're going to pay for.
- Q. Okay. Let's talk about that then. So you
- said you do want to know how many deputies they're
- asking for and how many they're willing to pay for?
- 16 A. Right. And of course, we make a
- 17 recommendation as to how many deputies they think they
- should have, but, you know, if we recommend five, they
- want 10, you know, there has to be a negotiation.
- Q. If you want 150, they're only willing to pay
- for 100, what happens at that point?
- 22 A. You'd have to give me a specific. I can't
- give you a hypothetical answer.
- Q. So we've already discussed that at the time
- 25 the airport shooting happened, there were

439 approximately 122 BSO deputies that were budgeted to

2 the airport?

- A. Correct.
- Q. And based on the reports, in 2007, there was
- 5 actually 150 BSO deputies that were budgeted for the
- 6 airport, right?
- 7 A. Right.
- 8 Q. So at some point between '07 and 2017, budget
- 9 dropped for law enforcement?
- 10 A. Well, I don't know if the budget dropped.
- 11 That's -- I mean, I'm not saying your information
- 12 isn't accurate, but there's more to it than that.
- 13 There might have been less deputies there, but there
- 14 might have been more civilians there to handle certain
- 15 of the traffic positions or posts that civilians are
- able to handle. It's often said, PSA, police service
- 17 aide, community service aide, can actually do 65
- 18 percent of what a police officer could do for about --
- or do 75 percent of what a police officer could do for
- 20 60 percent of the salary.
- So 2007 pre-dated me. I didn't become the
- 22 sheriff until 2013. I don't know what contract -- I
- don't know the date of the last contract with BCAD
- 24 and, you know, if I signed it or not, but I can tell
- you that just because there were less police out there

or less deputies out there doesn't mean it was unsafe.

2 There could have been more civilians doing

- 3 non-life-threatening, you know, jobs.
- Q. But I'll go back to this though. At a bare
- 5 minimum, if you believed that it was ill-advised to
- 6 have a minimum number of deputies there, you would
- 7 have made it known?

- 8 A. Let me answer it this way: The airport was
- 9 accurately staffed the day of the shooting. We had
- 10 the necessary assets and resources there. I don't
- 11 know what your contracts tell you, but the right
- 12 amount of people were there. The airport was as safe
- as -- I wish I could go back in time and not have
- 14 that -- you know, the killer fly down on that plane.
- 15 But a killer entered a plane in Anchorage, Alaska,
- 16 flew to Minnesota, retrieved his baggage at a terminal
- 17 legally, loaded his gun, and killed five people and
- 18 shot six more. I ask you what could any Broward
- 19 sheriff deputy --
- MR. MACIVER: Mr. Special Master, this is
- 21 nonresponsive to Mr. Primrose's question.
- 22 SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed to answer the
- question that was asked, if you would.
- BY MR. PRIMROSE:
- Q. Let me go to this. You mentioned after every

major law enforcement event, you and a small group of

- 2 command staff grouped together, read whatever
- 3 information you could, and kind of discussed what
- 4 happened, what could we maybe learn from this, right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And so we know that in 2013, the LAX shooting
- 7 happened?

- 8 A. Two thousand what?
- 9 O. 2012 or '13?
- 10 A. I thought it was '12, I'm not sure.
- 11 Q. Yeah, I think you're right, 2012. But you
- 12 would have -- at that point, you weren't sheriff, but
- an event like that, an airport shooting or school
- shooting or any major event that was probably
- 15 reported, you would get together and try to learn as
- much as you can and take some lessons away?
- A. Absolutely.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now, you discussed on direct
- 19 examination about the oper- -- the training exercise
- 20 that I believe was called Operation Vigilant Port?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. And that happened in 2015, that exercise,
- 23 right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Let me make sure that I understand this

1 right. The training started as an exercise where

- 2 terrorists took over a seaport terminal?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. It involved a SWAT and hostage negotiators,
- fire rescue, everybody that might respond?
- A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And eventually it transitioned, I think -- I
- 8 believe he's a major, Major Grant?
- 9 A. Yes, retired.
- 10 Q. Retired. Said it was like a twenty -- it was
- from the show 24, the terrorism moved from the cruise
- 12 terminal to the airport?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And he testified that the intell they got was
- 15 the terrorists were trying to highjack an actual
- 16 airplane?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Believe he said that BCAD has a
- 19 decommissioned FedEx cargo carrier that was utilized
- in the exercise?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. A car had driven through the fence line, onto
- 23 the tarmac, and taken over a plane?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Never had to go into the terminals, the

443
1 airport terminals? Exercise didn't include the

allpoit terminals: Exercise didn't include the

- 2 airport terminals, did it?
- 3 A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. Okay. And do you know if any airport -- any
- of the deputies that were assigned to the airport
- 6 actually took place in the -- the part of the exercise
- 7 that include going onto the tarmac, onto the plane?
- 8 A. See, I think what you're not understanding is
- 9 maybe the exercise didn't include the airport
- 10 terminal, but it did include Publix and it did include
- 11 the library. It's teaching deputies the concept of
- 12 how to act to an active killer. It's not specifically
- about the location. It's about teaching them
- 14 movements and teaching them how to understand their
- policies and move forward. There were more places --
- 16 it wasn't about the beach, it wasn't about the 7-11.
- 17 It was about teaching deputies how to react during
- 18 these circumstances. You're not going to be able to
- 19 train at every venue, sir.
- Q. Let me ask you this, though: Was that
- 21 exercise, Operation Vigilant Port, designed to test
- 22 how BSO and BCAD would deal with evacuating an entire
- 23 airport terminal, the passengers, the airline
- employees, or the employees of the airport?
- 25 A. You'd have to ask Major Grant that. I --

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- 1 Q. You don't know one --
- 2 A. I was there, but I don't know what the --
- 3 what the methodology was.
- 4 Q. Okay. And did I hear correctly on direct
- 5 examination this morning, I believe you said this,
- 6 that you were aware of what it takes to stop air
- 7 traffic at an airport?
- 8 A. I wasn't aware. I learned that.
- 9 Q. Okay. So leading up to the Fort Lauderdale
- 10 airport shooting, you as the sheriff providing law
- 11 enforcement to the airport, had no idea what it would
- 12 take to shut down the entire air traffic in the event
- that there was a large-scale, mass casualty event?
- 14 A. Is your question -- I want to make sure I
- 15 understand. Is your question as a sheriff, would I
- 16 know the protocols of the airport and what the airport
- director needed to shut down an airport?
- 18 Q. Yes.
- 19 A. I would not have any knowledge of that, no,
- 20 of course not.
- 21 Q. Would you have any knowledge of how your
- 22 agency would interact with the airport district in the
- 23 event of a large-scale active shooter situation within
- the airport?
- 25 A. Of course, I would. We would be -- we would

do what the airport needed. We don't -- we're an

- 2 agency that when it's our -- when we're in control and
- 3 we're in command and we are in charge of a situation,
- 4 that we would expect other agencies to assist us. And
- 5 if the airport needed to shut down their airport,
- 6 whether it was life-threatening or maybe it was an
- 7 issue, anyway we can help out, we would help out.
- 8 So, you know, you don't need to -- if a
- 9 family member needs knee surgery, you don't need to
- 10 know how to do the knee surgery, just know how to take
- 11 them to an orthopedic surgeon who can do it. So as
- 12 long as I know what the -- as long as the airport
- manager knows what to do and he knows that he can
- count on me and BSO, we're good.
- Q. But wasn't there a conflict, though? The
- 16 testimony I remember was you told BCAD "You need to
- 17 shut down -- shut down this airport."
- 18 A. There wasn't a conflict. There was -- we
- were both experiencing an airport shooting for the
- 20 first time. It was a horrific incident, and it was
- 21 what two leaders -- it was a fervent discussion that
- 22 two leaders would have. The airport director, his
- 23 mission and scope was to keep the airport open for
- commerce and do the things he needed to do, rightfully
- 25 so. And I was supporting that endeavor. But as I

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said yesterday, when I found out that other people
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- 2 were calling in and we were getting calls of gunshot
- 3 victim, woman down, I thought -- logically so, I
- 4 thought that this could be a systematic terrorist
- 5 attack where they're going to attack different
- 6 terminals. So I decided to -- having read about 9/11
- 7 more times than I wish I did, I thought this could be
- 8 a multi-faceted attack like the Pentagon,
- 9 Pennsylvania, the twin towers, and I thought that we
- 10 needed to shut down the airport because we were
- 11 getting calls of active killing, and I wasn't going to
- 12 let the airport director continue to have normal
- operations. So we had a discussion. I told him that
- I thought he needed to shut down the airport. He
- agreed with me, he did it, and he shut down the
- 16 airport and we worked together seamlessly. It was
- just a -- it was just a normal discussion between
- 18 leaders.
- 19 Q. Okay. Now, after the entire incident was
- 20 over, I don't know if it was the next day or
- 21 thereafter, but your agency had a policy we need to
- 22 conduct an after-action report into what happened and
- 23 create lessons learned?
- A. There was no policy, we don't -- to my
- knowledge, there's no policy to do an after-action

- 1 report. It was -- command staff came to me and they
- 2 said they felt that we should enter into the exercise
- 3 of doing an after-action report, was the logical way
- 4 to approach it. I knew there were lessons to be
- 5 learned from us and others, and I approved the -- the
- 6 compilation of that report.
- 7 Q. Okay. So -- and you understand that Major
- 8 Angelo Cedeno was chosen to be the lead author or
- 9 the -- the leader of this effort to do an after-action
- 10 report?
- 11 A. No, that's incorrect. He was chosen to be a
- 12 gatherer of facts. I hope I didn't, you know,
- trivialize my analogy yesterday, but he was basically
- 14 sent out to buy the ingredients. There were many,
- many other chefs and cooks who were going to put that
- 16 final report together. He was just gathering the
- 17 facts.
- 18 Q. Okay. He was selected to gather facts and he
- 19 was assisted by an Executive Lieutenant Furman, right?
- 20 A. He was an executive lieutenant --
- 21 Q. Do you know if he was credited as being a
- 22 contributing author?
- A. I don't know that.
- Q. Okay. And what about the inclusion of Deputy
- 25 Vincent Torres as a research, intelligence, and

- 1 coordination contributor?
- A. Don't know that.
- 3 Q. Okay. I don't think that this is what you
- 4 meant, but I want to give you the opportunity to tell
- 5 me if -- what you actually meant. Major Cedeno was
- 6 not some first-year, low-level road cop, was he?
- 7 A. Not at all.
- 8 Q. In fact, when Major Cedeno was chosen to go
- 9 out and get the ingredients, as you say, he was
- 10 actually a major within Broward Sheriff's Office?
- 11 A. Yes. If I said anything to trivialize his
- importance, thank you for correcting that on the
- 13 record because, no, he was a quality leader who was
- 14 given that assignment.
- 15 O. Yeah, and I've got bio here, and it says he
- 16 had been with Broward Sheriff's Office since 1989. Do
- 17 you have any reason to disagree with that?
- 18 A. No reason to disagree with that.
- 19 Q. And he's held everything from a deputy
- 20 sheriff in the Department of Detention, Central
- 21 Booking, through sergeant of a road patrol division,
- 22 auto theft task force. He was then the lieutenant of
- 23 the City of Pompano Beach district, an executive
- lieutenant, a captain, and then now -- now a major.
- 25 That is a significant promotion within the ranks of

- the sheriff's office, right?
- 2 A. I would say so.
- 3 Q. Okay. And my understanding is that when he
- 4 drafted -- or when he was asked to -- when he was
- 5 asked to go gather the ingredients, he was the major
- 6 over the Department of Professional Standards,
- 7 Division of Internal Affairs, Public Corruption and
- 8 Internal Audit?
- 9 A. I think that's correct.
- 10 Q. That a pretty high-level position, right?
- 11 A. I think so.
- 12 Q. Would that be considered command staff?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. And as part of that, he would have
- 15 actually conducted managerial duties as part of that
- 16 role?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. He would have been in charge of analyzing how
- 19 his subordinates are doing in their jobs?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. He would be able to pinpoint if there were
- deficiencies in the individuals that he had working
- within his department?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And so when Major Cedeno is going out

- 1 there, this is more than just, again, some newer law
- 2 enforcement officer just going out and doing
- 3 interviews or pulling documents or reviewing footage,
- 4 this is a guy who has spent 25 to 30 years in law
- 5 enforcement and knows what he's looking for, right,
- 6 knows to spot out good and bad?
- 7 A. Major Cedeno went out there, I'm proud of the
- 8 rank he established and I'm proud of him as an
- 9 individual, but nothing changes with my answer. He
- 10 went out there to look for facts, opinions, and
- 11 nothing changes with my answer. He just went out
- there to find the ingredients. He was only one
- person, and a plethora of people were going to review
- 14 the report.
- 15 Q. Let me ask the question this way: You don't
- 16 necessarily discount the opinions that Major Cedeno
- 17 put in his report, do you?
- A. Absolutely not.
- 19 Q. They are valid opinions of Major Cedeno based
- on his 30-plus years of experience in law enforcement
- 21 and a major over professional -- the Department of
- 22 Professional Standards?
- A. As I like to say, everybody's entitled to
- their own opinion, but nobody's entitled to their own
- 25 set of facts, so he went out and gathered facts,

451 opinions, and certainly a lot of other people -- it 1

- was -- to get an accurate document, it was necessary
- 3 that many people weigh in on it.
- Okay. And Major Cedeno, along with Executive 4
- 5 Lieutenant Furman and Deputy Torres, they were doing
- just that, they were going out and gathering facts, 6
- 7 right?
- Α. I don't know what they were doing. They 8
- 9 were -- I can't testify as to what Furman and Torres
- 10 were doing.
- Did any of your command staff, after 11
- 12 authorizing Major Cedeno to go do this, tell you,
- "Hey, as an update, here's who he's going to talk to, 13
- here's" --14
- 15 Α. No.
- -- "any meetings he's having"? 16 Q.
- 17 Α. No.
- 18 Q. Okay. So want to show you -- this is
- Governor's Exhibit C, and this is the first draft that 19
- 20 was issued by Major Cedeno. And Major Cedeno in --
- and this is on EOG Bates stamp 63 -- puts a section 21
- 22 called "Meetings, Debriefs, Summits, and Proposals,"
- 23 and he goes through everything that they did in
- preparation for this. January 20th, he meets with BSO 24
- airport district command, and they discuss a whole 25

- plethora of topic areas, right?
- 2 A. Right.
- 3 Q. Topic areas related to staffing, terminal,
- 4 personnel assignments, current initiatives, trends,
- 5 stats, airport extension -- or expansion, excuse me,
- 6 and all the stakeholders, right?
- 7 A. Right.
- Q. And a few weeks later, Major Cedeno on
- 9 February 15th and Colonel Polan meet with airport
- 10 command captain to discuss a review of the timeline of
- 11 events, look at video surveillance, right?
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. Two days later, February 17th, Major Cedeno
- 14 meets with Fort Lauderdale PD and fire rescue
- emergency management to discuss their interaction
- 16 during the events?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. March 1st, Major Cedeno chairs a formal BSO
- 19 debrief on the active shooter situation, including
- 20 agency department heads that played a role in it,
- 21 right?
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. So he's got BSO -- what I'm going to call
- 24 senior staff from different agencies. He's got
- 25 airport district, criminal investigations, SWAT, CSU,

- 1 crime scene unit, investigations, COMs (phonetic),
- 2 fire rescue, Department of Law Enforcement, he has all
- of those folks in a debrief on March 1st, right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And it even says, if you go further, that
- 6 those individuals were able to speak at the debrief
- 7 about their experiences and observations, right?
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. It says there that they were able to discuss
- 10 recommendations and perceive strengths and areas of
- improvement?
- 12 A. I just want to ask you a question for
- 13 clarification. The document that you're showing me,
- it has the word "draft" going across it. Is that
- 15 something that Major Cedeno had on it when you got
- this document? Did it have the word "draft" across
- 17 it?
- 18 Q. This document, the only way that it has been
- 19 altered, sir, is the highlights that I put on it.
- 20 A. Okay. So, then, as you can see as you show
- 21 me that document, even Major Cedeno knew when he wrote
- it, he has the word "draft" on it. So it wasn't
- 23 written with any finality. He knew he could write
- 24 whatever he wanted and put in whatever we needed to
- 25 read, because in his mind, he knew it was a draft, he

1 knew this wasn't even anywhere near the final

- 2 document. It's just a simple draft.
- Q. Completely understand it's a draft, but the
- draft -- let me ask it this way: You're in no way
- 5 saying that Major Cedeno put things into a draft that
- 6 were -- that were patently false?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. So if Major Cedeno puts that on March 1st,
- 9 2017, he meets with all of these senior staff at
- 10 different agency departments and they discuss their
- observations, recommendations, strengths and area of
- improvement, you don't have any reason to believe that
- 13 that did not happen?
- 14 A. I have no reason to believe that, no.
- 15 Q. Okay. Keep going, March 10th, Major Cedeno
- 16 and Colonel Polan meet again with BCAD to discuss
- 17 their areas of concern, conversations, some proposals,
- and then as I've highlighted, in Major Cedeno's
- 19 opinion, part of this meeting was that a tac- -- "The
- 20 tactical posture of the Fort Lauderdale airport was
- 21 deficient and several years behind local surrounding
- 22 airports and national/international airports in the
- 23 areas of tactical presence and response, training and
- 24 counter-terrorism strategies."
- Now, do you agree with that statement, the

- highlighted one I just read?
- 2 A. Can you read it again, please?
- 3 Q. You want me to read it out loud?
- 4 A. If you can.
- 5 Q. So the highlighted portion there at the
- 6 bottom, this is what Major Cedeno puts as an
- 7 observation from the March 10th, 2017, meeting Major
- 8 Cedeno and Colonel Polan had with the BCAD division
- 9 director, Mark Gale, and he wrote: "The tactical
- 10 posture of the" -- and I'm going to say it the way
- 11 that it's written -- "FLL airport is deficient and
- 12 several years behind local surrounding airports and
- 13 national/international airports in the areas of
- 14 tactical presence and response, training, and
- 15 counter-terrorism strategies."
- 16 Do you disagree with that statement?
- 17 A. I might. I mean, I don't know enough about
- it to agree or disagree. I don't know -- I would ask
- 19 Major Cedeno what other airports you spoke to. Is
- 20 this just one person who said it -- you know, opinion?
- 21 Is this something you can document? You know, you
- need more than a statement. What other airport
- 23 directors were spoken to? What other tactical units
- were spoken to? So I don't know where he developed
- 25 that information, and that's why these are drafts and

- 1 not final products.
- Q. But, again, as you've already said, you don't
- 3 believe that Major Cedeno put anything in the report
- 4 that would be patently false?
- 5 A. No, but I don't -- I can't say without -- you
- 6 know, with certainty that his observations were
- 7 correct or myself or command staff would have the same
- 8 observations or come to the same opinions. He was a
- 9 highly decorated and important member of command
- staff, but he was one of 30 members, and 30 other
- 11 people were going to weigh in on it. So to say what
- 12 he said is the actual way, you know, I mean, he put
- down this about the airport, but we would have to talk
- 14 to, you know, other airports and where did he get that
- 15 information from. I would have a lot more questions.
- Q. Okay. So March 15th, now Major Cedeno and
- 17 Furman go to Miami-Dade airport district and meet with
- 18 a major there, and it says that they actually saw a
- 19 physical exercise presentation that included some
- 20 discussion about outline missions, standards of
- 21 operation, and criteria for deployment. So at least
- there, it looks like Major Cedeno went to another
- airport district and saw maybe how they were doing
- 24 things?
- 25 A. Correct.

Okay. Two weeks later, it says Major Cedeno, Q.

- 2 along with Colonel Polan and a captain, actually
- 3 attended a round table with Congressman Debbie
- 4 Wasserman Shults, right?
- 5 Α. Yes.
- So at least there was an understanding within Q.
- 7 BSO that the person told to go gather the ingredients
- 8 was being trusted enough to have formal discussions
- 9 with members of Congress about what he was learning
- 10 and what they were seeing in the lessons learned?
- 11 That's exactly what -- you know, what we Α.
- 12 That's what an after-action report does, it wanted.
- 13 sends you to places where you can tell others what you
- 14 did right and what you did wrong, and the goal is
- 15 lessons learned, areas of improvement, and how can we
- 16 get better, and that's what he was out there doing,
- 17 trying to find out how we can get better.
- 18 So are you suggesting that the formal round
- 19 table he had with Congressman Debbie Wasserman Shults
- 2.0 was so that he could learn ways to do it better?
- 21 Α. No, I'm sure it was probably a debriefing
- from him to her about what we've learned so far. 22
- 2.3 Okay. And it says in there, at least what
- 24 Major Cedeno writes, is that they actually discussed
- 25 mass evacuations, planning, gaps in security, training

- 1 exercises, policy revisions. Those are conversations
- 2 that he was trusted to have with a member of Congress
- 3 about the lessons learned from the Fort Lauderdale
- 4 airport shooting?
- 5 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And we go -- and a couple weeks later,
- 7 he's now flying to New York City to -- to have a
- 8 discussion with Port Authority of New York and New
- 9 Jersey Police Department about addressing terrorist
- 10 threats and experiences that they've learned on
- 11 attacks at airports?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. So, again, I mean, he's trusted to be an
- 14 outward-facing person for Broward Sheriff's Office on
- the information he's gathered and the opinions he has
- 16 about what we need to learn from this incident?
- 17 A. I don't dispute that.
- 18 Q. Okay. And we know that sometime in April,
- 19 Major Cedeno did another briefing with BSO senior
- 20 staff. I believe -- let's see. I believe we've got
- 21 right here on April 10th, it says he met with a formal
- 22 meeting at BSO headquarter with all incident
- 23 management, and then April 12, 2017, a formal debrief
- 24 with BCAD on it as well. So we've got a timeline of
- 25 all the different events that Major Cedeno -- all the

meetings he had, round tables, and discussions prior

- 2 to the releasing of his first draft?
- A. I'll agree with you, we have a timeline.
- 4 Q. Okay. So we know based on this report that
- 5 the draft was completed on or about May 3rd of 2017,
- 6 but if I understood you correctly, you actually never
- 7 read the first draft?
- 8 A. I did not.
- 9 Q. So you had no idea what actual observations
- or recommendations were made from the individual
- 11 chosen to go gather the ingredients and write them
- 12 down?
- 13 A. I don't know if -- I don't remember, I can't
- 14 recall now if I had discussions with other members of
- 15 command staff about some of his take-aways, but I --
- 16 I'm just telling you I didn't read the draft at that
- 17 point.
- 18 Q. Okay. You do know that at some point,
- 19 somebody within -- a senior staff at BSO wanted
- 20 another review of the first draft?
- 21 A. Say that again.
- 22 Q. Somebody within BSO --
- 23 A. Who?
- Q. No, no, that's my point. Somebody higher
- 25 than Major Cedeno wanted his -- Major Cedeno's draft

1 to be looked at, a second set of eyes, another round

- of revisions, right?
- 3 A. Is that a question?
- Q. Yes. That's your understanding?
- 5 A. No, that's not my understanding. Who --
- 6 Q. You don't --
- 7 A. Who are you telling me would have asked for
- 8 that request? I'm not sure I'm following you.
- 9. Q. So you know -- you know Captain Diefenbacher?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And I believe you testified you read his
- 12 deposition --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- right?
- 15 And you saw where Captain Diefenbacher said
- 16 either Colonel Polan or an assistant general counsel
- 17 asked him to look at Major Cedeno's report?
- 18 A. I thought that eventually came from the
- 19 undersheriff, but I would agree with you.
- Q. Okay. And that's my point. Somebody else
- 21 looked or found Captain Diefenbacher and said, "you're
- trusted, you're an attorney. We want you to take a
- look at Major Cedeno's report"?
- A. No. It wouldn't have been that way, take a
- 25 look at major's report. There would have been a

1 logical next step. It would have just been the second

- 2 step in the progression of doing an after-action
- 3 report. It wouldn't have been "We want you to take a
- 4 look at Major Cedeno's," it would have been
- 5 preplanned. Major Cedeno is going to do the initial
- 6 work, he's going to do the work-up, and then it's
- 7 going to go to -- the etymology of it is that it's
- 8 going to go to a round table or one other person or
- 9 two other people, and eventually it's going to work
- 10 its way up to a final product that I'm going to review
- 11 before it gets published.
- 12 Q. Well, you remember reading in Captain
- 13 Diefenbacher's testimony where he said he was
- 14 approached by -- and I think you might be right --
- 15 Undersheriff Kinsey?
- 16 A. That's -- I think so.
- 17 O. Or an assistant general counsel to look at
- 18 the report because there was a public records request
- 19 from I believe The Sun Sentinel asking for the report?
- 20 A. Yeah, I remember the public records request
- coming in clearly and I remember being briefed on
- 22 that. But like I said, it wouldn't be to over -- you
- 23 know, to review and grade Major Cedeno's work. It
- 24 would have been a logical next step.
- 25 Have you ever been part of an after-action

1 report before? I mean, do you know how it goes?

- 2 Because it's going to be a document that you want to
- 3 make sure is as good as it could be to teach and to
- 4 learn and what not to do, what we did wrong, and what
- 5 we did right. And we're not ashamed to put areas of
- 6 improvement in. I've never been on any operation yet
- 7 that's been perfect. Even our Safe SWAT operations,
- 8 nobody goes home until we go in the room and we
- 9 debrief. We go into the SWAT locker room and we
- 10 debrief, did it go good. Even if -- some briefings
- last five minutes, some 50 minutes, but it was just
- 12 a -- a next step, sir.
- 13 Q. Okay. If Captain Diefenbacher testified that
- 14 he was asked to look at it because there were some
- 15 grammatical issues and, in his words, the report was
- 16 too emotional and non-pragmatic, you wouldn't disagree
- 17 that that's what he said?
- 18 A. If Captain Diefenbacher testified to
- 19 something, I wouldn't disagree with it, no.
- Q. Okay. Now, you never looked at Captain
- 21 Diefenbacher's draft, what we'll call the second draft
- of the report?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. So you don't know if there were some areas of
- improvement that he kept from Major Cedeno's version?

I just told you I didn't look at it. Α.

- 2 Okay. And I'm not going to go through all of Q.
- these with you, but you would agree with me that you 3
- have no idea if there were areas of improvement that 4
- 5 both Major Cedeno and Captain Diefenbacher believed
- 6 should be in the report that were ultimately cut out
- 7 of the final critical incident report that you signed
- off on? 8
- 9 Α. That would have been at the level of
- lieutenant colonels, colonels, and undersheriff to 10
- decide, and I wouldn't have been involved in that. 11 Ι
- 12 would have been involved at -- when I should have
- 13 been, at the very -- before the final product was
- released and I had a chance to weigh in on it. 14
- 15 Well, you keep saying "when I should have Ο.
- been involved," but don't you want to know what the --16
- 17 the major who's been over professional standards and a
- captain who had legal experience, and you testified 18
- this morning he was an amazing leader, had long 19
- 20 experience, don't you want to know what those two
- 21 individuals say are areas of improvement to them?
- 22 Α. I want to know everything. I want to know
- 23 the reports that Treijs -- I want to know what he did.
- 24 I'd like to know about the 750,000 reports that come
- You have -- you work with an agency with almost 25

6,000 people and you work and serve a community of two

- 2 million, you can't know everything and you can't want
- 3 to know everything, because then you get caught up in
- 4 not -- in not doing the things that you need to do.
- 5 The men and women I put in place as colonels, majors,
- 6 captains, and lieutenant colonels, they know at what
- 7 point they need to sit down and address issues with
- 8 me. So I hope I answered your question.
- 9 Q. But, see, that's where I've got a concern
- 10 now, because this airport shooting was a big deal,
- 11 right?
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. This is not a -- a traffic stop that went
- 14 wrong, it's not a -- it's not a robbery. This is a
- 15 mass casualty event at one of the fastest-growing
- 16 airports in the country, and you're saying you just
- 17 relied on what your undersheriff was telling you this
- is what should be important to you?
- 19 A. No, I relied on a command staff, starting
- 20 with Major Cedeno gathering facts, gathering
- 21 opinions --
- 22 Q. But if you rely on Major Cedeno --
- 23 MR. KUEHNE: Objection; cut off the witness
- 24 during a responsive answer.
- 25 SPECIAL MASTER: Please let him finish, but

try to be brief in the answer. Please continue.

-

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

As we -- as was testified this morning, I 3 think the report took 10 months to complete. I 4 5 didn't rely on the undersheriff. I relied on 6 everybody to be doing their jobs. And if you read -- and I did, I'm sure you did too -- the 8 final product, the final product was excellent. It talked about the positives and the things --9 10 the areas for improvement, and I think that's what 11 an after-action report should do and did do. 12 was really proud of the way the agency came together to develop that product. 13

14 BY MR. PRIMROSE:

- 15 Q. Do you believe that there are more than three 16 drafts of the report done on Fort Lauderdale airport 17 shooting?
- 18 A. I don't know how many drafts there were.
- 19 Q. If I told you that through requesting
 20 these -- of all drafts through Sunshine, was given one
 21 draft dated May 3rd, 2017, Major Cedeno's, another
 22 draft dated June 2nd, 2017, Captain Diefenbacher's,
 23 and then the critical incident report that I believe
 24 was issued October 6 of 2017 as the full universe of
 25 drafts that existed of this, you don't have any reason

to believe that there was a fourth, fifth, sixth, and 1

- 2 seventh versions --
- 3 Α. No.
- Ο. -- of this?
- 5 Α. No.
- Okay. So we're not talking about thousands 6 Q.
- 7 of drafts that you would have to look at to determine
- the full scope of what happened and what were areas of 8
- concern to Major Cedeno and Captain Diefenbacher, 9
- 10 right?
- What's your question? 11 Α.
- Well, my question is you're saying there's 12
- all of these calls that come in, but there was one 13
- Fort Lauderdale airport shooting, there were two draft 14
- 15 versions and one critical incident report. These are
- 16 not thousands of pages of documents that you couldn't
- read through the two draft versions to say "Let me see 17
- 18 what the other -- the front-line person who did this
- said and let me compare it to what Undersheriff Kinsey 19
- is telling me should go in the final report"? 20
- I read the final product and -- I don't know 21 Α.
- 22 what -- I read the final product.
- Okay. And because you read the final 23
- product, you did not know at that time that Major 24
- 25 Cedeno and Captain Diefenbacher included this area of

- 1 improvement listed at EOG 00070 about an area of
- 2 enhanced active shooter training lesson plans and the
- 3 implementation of an active shooter vetting process,
- 4 or the second one about enhanced training specific to
- 5 the BSO airport district and partner agency personnel?
- A. I did know about that, not through the rough
- 7 draft, but I had conversations with the undersheriff
- 8 about those issues. So just because I didn't read the
- 9 rough draft doesn't mean the undersheriff or Colonel
- 10 Polan wouldn't have taken aspects out of the rough
- draft or facts that they learned and told me about
- 12 what -- you know, what they thought we needed to do to
- be a safer agency. So that's not necessarily true.
- Q. Okay. Did the undersheriff also tell you
- 15 about Major Cedeno's highlighting of a concern about
- 16 complacency with the BSO district staff?
- 17 A. I don't remember.
- 18 Q. This one right here on Bates stamp EOG 00070,
- 19 "Area of Improvement 3: BOS district personnel,
- 20 though many are tenured, must avoid complacency based
- on their environment and a perceived sense of
- 22 security. BSO deputies assigned to the airport
- 23 district can mistake the assignment as a lessened
- 24 exposure to harm or perceived retirement when the
- 25 contrary is highly needed to vigilantly address and

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deter active shooter and bombing si- -- events.
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- 2 Historically it has been an accepted practice, but
- 3 times have changed immensely, requiring a global view
- 4 to assigned personnel."
- 5 Did Undersheriff Kinsey tell you about that
- 6 area of improvement?
- 7 A. No, but just reading it now, that just seems
- 8 like the opinion -- that would be Major Cedeno's
- 9 opinion. I would doubt seriously he would have went
- 10 to the airport or served any time out there and been
- able to make these evaluations at that time.
- 12 Q. Okay. So this is one area of improvement
- 13 that you believe Major Cedeno might not have actually
- 14 gotten the information to come up with this opinion?
- 15 A. No, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying
- 16 that was an opinion and -- sounds like an opinion,
- 17 that's all I'm saying.
- 18 Q. An opinion of a captain and a major over the
- 19 Department of Professional Standards wrote that?
- 20 A. Right. I mean, how he -- I would -- my
- 21 question to him if he were here is I'd say "How do you
- 22 know about complacency at the airport, and if there is
- complacency out there, then, you know, what are the
- 24 sergeants, what are the lieutenants, what are they
- 25 doing about that?" So, I mean, it's a --

- 1 Q. But again, you didn't know that that was an
- 2 area of concern when Undersheriff Kinsey brought you
- 3 the final critical incident report, right? Because I
- 4 can submit to you that that area of concern is
- 5 completely absent from the critical incident report
- 6 that was finalized in October.
- 7 A. I don't remember hearing that, but whether --
- 8 and I don't know what -- I can't speak for Major
- 9 Cedeno, but I know -- look, I'm not -- no sheriff, no
- 10 leader's going to support complacency by their men or
- 11 women, but whether there was complacency in doing work
- 12 out at the airport, let's be crystal-clear and fair to
- our community, that was going to have nothing to do
- 14 with a man getting off a plane and shooting five
- people. So to correlate one to the other is grossly
- 16 unfair to the Broward Sheriff's Office.
- 17 MR. PRIMROSE: Okay. I'm just going to
- 18 submit for the record, Special Master, that all
- 19 three versions are listed as Governor's Exhibits
- C, D, and E, and we will let them stand for
- themselves.
- 22 SPECIAL MASTER: That's fine. Let me -- I
- hate to interrupt, but let me just -- how much
- longer do you think you're going to be in the
- cross examination, Mr. Primrose? I want to try to

1	manage the time. I'm sensitive to the court
2	reporter who's been at it for a while now, and I
3	want to schedule a break, but I don't want to
4	I'd just like some indication of how much longer
5	you think you might be.
6	MR. PRIMROSE: At least an hour.
7	SPECIAL MASTER: Okay. Let's go ahead and
8	take a break now and let's reconvene at 1:15.
9	(Brief recess.)
10	(Proceedings continued in Volume IV.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
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3	
4	
5	I, JESSICA RENCHEN, Registered Professional
6	Court Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and
7	did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings
8	and that the transcript is a true and complete record
9	of my stenographic notes.
10	
11	DATED this 19th day of June, 2019.
12	
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14	Jessica Lerchus
15	JESSICA RENCHEN, Court Reporter
16	obssica kenchen, coult kepoitei
17	
18	JESSICA RENCHEN Commission # GG 243316
19	Expires August 13, 2022 Bonded Thru Troy Fain Insurance 800-385-7019
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	THE FLORIDA SENATE	308
Broward County, Florida		
	NOTIONE TIT	
VOLUME III (Pages 308 through 471)		
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS		
EV	HEARING FOR REVIEW OF	
TIME:	9:00 a.m 12:40 p.m.	
LOCATION:	404 South Monroe Street	
BEFORE:		
	Suspension of Broward County EX DATE: TIME: LOCATION:	IN RE: EXECUTIVE ORDER OF SUSPENSION, NUMBER 19-14, Suspension of Mr. Scott Israel, Sheriff Broward County, Florida VOLUME III (Pages 308 through 471) TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS HEARING FOR REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE ORDER OF SUSPENSION DATE: June 19, 2019 TIME: 9:00 a.m 12:40 p.m. LOCATION: Room 110, Senate Office Building

JESSICA RENCHEN, Court Reporter For the Record Reporting, Inc. 1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 140 Tallahassee, Florida, 32308

INDEX OF WITNESSES

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FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

Reported by:

FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

PROCEDINGS

(Proceedings continued from Volume II.) WITNESS PAGE SPECIAL MASTER: Good morning. It's 9:00 SCOTT ISRAEL a.m. on Wednesday, June 19th, and this is the Continued Direct by Mr. Kuehne Cross Examination by Mr. Primrose continuation of the final hearing with regard to **** Executive Order of Suspension 19-14, suspension of REPORTER'S PAGE Scott Israel, Sheriff of Broward County. Counsel, before hearing further testimony **** from Sheriff Israel this morning, there is a brief procedural matter that I would like to discuss. At the conclusion of the hearing, I will be requiring the parties to submit proposed findings of facts and conclusions of law. I would like to have those submissions staggered, with the governor's brief coming a week before the sheriff's -- Israel's brief. I would encourage the parties to -- during the break today to discuss the -- and see if they can consent to a 1.8 timeframe for these submissions, and if that can't be accomplished, if you're not able to do so, then I will enter an order with a briefing schedule after the hearing. Also, given that the parties will have an opportunity to present their case in writing, I plan to forego closing statements today.

And you may now proceed. At the conclusion 312 investigative reports. And one of my concerns to $^{\rm 313}$ yesterday, we were under direct examination of you, Special Masters, was not only whether or not 2 Sheriff Israel. And just remind Sheriff Israel, actual due process may be at risk, but also, as 4 as you jump back on the witness stand, that you 4 you know, the appearance of due process is always are still under oath. called into question, especially when we talk THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. about what the public's perception is. SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed, Counsel. It wasn't two seconds after I sat down. MR. KUEHNE: Special Master, we do have one Special Masters, that the governor's attorney В item we want to add to the record to preserve the q stood up in his opening statement to you. And it 10 record. It will just take a moment. 10 is interesting to me that sometimes government SPECIAL MASTER: Okay, sir. attorneys, whether they're on the state level, 11 11 12 MR. KAPLAN: Special Master, if I may? 12 local level, or federal level, fail to realize 13 SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Kaplan. 13 that they are still regulated under the Florida 14 MR. KAPLAN: Thank you. Bar, as well as the ABA, with respect to the code 15 Special Masters, good morning. As you 15 of conduct, as well as the ethical requirements. 16 recall, one of the first things that I did And you may recall, Special Masters, that the 16 17 yesterday morning was obviously we addressed our 17 governor's attorney called out Scott Israel as by 18 concern with respect to whether or not in any way 18 contesting these -- this removal as, 19 Scott Israel's due process rights may be at risk quote/unquote, being shameful. Mr. Primrose said 19 on the record that it is shameful that Scott 20 with respect to the failure to be able at this 20 21 point to have the benefit of the FDLE 21 Israel is basically coming before Your Honor in investigation. contesting this removal. I equated that statement 22 22 23 As you know, there were -- it's been made as if a prosecutor in a criminal case was to 24 public that there were over 180 witnesses who were 24 identify in a closing argument the failure of a defendant taking the witness stand. As you would 25 interviewed, as well as 200 or 200 plus 25

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know, that would be an automatic mistrial, and

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certainly that government attorney would be dealt with and probably sanctioned for those type of Notwithstanding, we let it go. Obviously, 5 there has been the undertone of our concern that the removal of Scott Israel was not based upon any 8 merits or facts, but it was politically motivated, 8 and we do know that several months ago when 10 Governor DeSantis was making his speech before the 10 11 Florida Senate almost as if to strong-arm the 11 12 senators, he made it well-known that anybody who 12 13 would vote against his suspension or removal of 14 Scott Israel may have to deal with him later on. 14 And that's certainly -- we took that as a clear, 15 16 overt threat. 16 Notwithstanding, Your Honor, after last 17 17 night's proceedings, and notwithstanding that 1.8 18 19 these proceedings are still open, the fact that we 19 have not had an opportunity to present our closing 20 20 21 remarks and certainly to allow the process to take 21 its course. Governor DeSantis went on record last 23 night and, guote, said, "It is shameful Israel is 23

sir, you can only interrupt those statements as trying to influence the ultimate decision-maker in these proceedings. And that is of great concern to Scott Israel, to Mr. Kuehne, and to myself, because as a practicing attorney, having been admitted to the New York State Bar 30 years ago, I stand before you with a tremendous respect and deference and understanding that while some may look at the practice of law now in this day and age in 2019 more like a sporting contest other than what it should be in the application of the administration of justice and to ensure that justice is administered equally and fairly, I am concerned and I wanted to call to your attention so that we would make a record of our concern that, again, the governor and through his attorneys have made these type of statements that certainly would cause condemnation in the public's eye, as well as his attempt to circumvent the process and interfere and try to coerce or influence the ultimate decision-makers. And so I just wanted to call that to your attention and make a note of it and certainly make a record of

still fighting the reasons for his dismissal when

SPECIAL MASTER: Let me just say -- I want to

1	ask Mr. Primrose to respond, but let me just say	1	public. The governor is an independently-elected $^{ m 317}$
2	that whatever comments the governor has made will	2	official who can make comments about why he chose
3	not influence the report that I am going to	3	to suspend Scott Israel from office. And Scott
4	provide to the senate president.	4	Israel is provided the opportunity to come before
5	Mr. Primrose.	5	the senate and the entire media and make his case
6	MR. KAPLAN: May I just say I appreciate that	6	for why he thinks that he should not be removed
7	response, sir.	7	from office.
8	SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Primrose.	8	But I will say this: There are 40
9	MR. PRIMROSE: First of all, it's deeply	9	independently-elected Florida senators that will
10	concerning that as a member of the bar, that there	10	read your report and they will take into
11	even be an accusation that I somehow committed	11	consideration all of the evidence and testimony
12	unprofessional or unethical conduct. However, Mr.	12	provided by Scott Israel and the governor's office
13	Kaplan, if he feels that that has happened, there	13	in making their decisions, and I would assume that
14	is an appropriate procedure to do that, and I	14	all 40 independently-elected Florida senators will
15	certainly would enjoy my due process rights if he	15	make their decisions based on their thoughts and
16	believes that I've somehow violated my oath to the	16	opinions, not based on what any other elected
17	Florida Bar and the professional rules of conduct.	17	official in the State of Florida says.
18	What I will say is this: That the Florida	18	SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you, Mr. Primrose.
19	voters in 1968 approved an amendment to the	19	Let me just say that the statements that have been
20	Florida Constitution giving the Florida Senate the	20	made are now part of the transcript.
21	power to develop the rules and procedures, that	21	Okay. Let's please continue with the
22	the Florida Senate would conduct a removal or	22	proceedings. Your witness, Mr. Kuehne.
23	reinstatement process. It's the Florida Senate's	23	MR. KUEHNE: Thank you.
24	rules and procedures on what is due process. This	24	SPECIAL MASTER: And, Sheriff, you're still
25	procedure is due process. It's open to the	25	under oath, if you will.
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Q. Good morning, Sheriff. When we broke last

Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport shooting. Do you recall

Q. And I had posed a number of observations to

you that were raised by the governor in support of the

position that you were negligent or incompetent. Do

SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Kuehne, is your

Q. The governor's bench memorandum submitted in

Q. -- includes this statement in support of

the -- the governor's suspension claim. And it says,

and I'm quoting, this is at page 5, "While not an

THE WITNESS: Understood, sir.

CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION

night, we were speaking about the Fort

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BY MR. KUEHNE:

A. I do.

you recall that section?

microphone on?

A. I have.

BY MR. KUEHNE:

A. I do recall that.

Q. So let me -- let me continue.

(Discussion off the record.)

this case -- and you've read that, right?

that?

findings, it reveals faults with BSO, especially given the November 1, 2013, shooting that occurred at the Los Angeles International Airport and acts of terrorisms that have elevated the need for efforts to protect airport." That's the statement. Is it your understanding that the initial draft report done by the officer was vetted by others, not by you? A. The initial report, to my knowledge, was not 9 10 vetted by anyone, it was just turned in. Q. It was reviewed after it was turned in? 11 12 A. 13 And then vetted by others, not by you? ο. 14 A. That's correct. Q. There were command staff-level meetings? A. Yes. 16 Did you direct or order anything about how to go through the process of working from that initial 18 draft report to get it into the final official 20 version? 21 A. Not at all. 22 Q. Who was in charge of that --23 A. Ultimately --24 Q. -- process?

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A. Ultimately, the undersheriff was in charge of

the process.

- Q. The undersheriff had that responsibility?
 - A. Yes, he did.
- 4 Q. And then once that's done, you're the final authority?
- A. That's correct. I would take the final
 responsibility for the end product.
- 8 Q. And you explained how that process got to 9 you?
- 10 A. I did.
- 11 Q. Was BSO in the Sheriff Israel tenure focused 12 on and did it learn from the events at the Los Angeles 13 airport?
- 14 A. Absolutely.
- 15 Q. That was another attack, right?
- 16 A. It certainly was.
- 17 Q. And did that become part of the BSO process
 18 of understanding what might happen in our community?
- 19 A. Yes. Actually, at the Broward Sheriff's 20 Office, I particularly on purpose made sure that our
- 21 command staff was diversified regarding talents and
- 21 Command Starr was diversified regarding talents and
- 22 how we all came to the ranks of colonel and lieutenant 23 colonel and majors. And we had about three or four of
- 24 our upper command staff, including myself, who were
- 25 former SWAT commanders. So we understood the adage

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when we were young in this profession, we understand
that when people need police, they call 911. When the
police need police, they call SWAT. So I've always
understood how important it is to be cognizant of

training, preparation, planning. 6 Every critical incident in this country that would happen, within a day or two, myself and four or five or six other upper-command staff would sit in the 9 office and we would read and talk about lessons learned from that. Now, they haven't even done action plans vet, but we were talking about the Pulse 11 Nightclub the next day and what are the take-aways, 12 13 what could we learn initially. We certainly have 1.4 ability to talk to men and woman in the profession and 15 learn these things. So training and preparing for the next attack, because, sadly, as I sit here and testify 16 17 today, somewhere in this country, there's going to be 18 another active killing. It's not a matter of if, it's 19 a matter of when. And that's why we have to be vigilant, vigilant. And that was kind of the -- the 20 21 underlying tone of our administration, be vigilant. We know we can't prevent a crazed individual from 22 23 doing what he or she is going to do, but perhaps if we

people's lives, we can get there quicker, we can get
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plan our response better and we learn, we can save

there safer.

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lives.

Training -- we throw the word "training" around, but training is an ever-evolving thing. Every time a critical incident happens, police train differently. We learned from Columbine. Now we do things a different way.

And my biggest take-away, Mr. Kuehne, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas was we realized that we want to enter a building as soon as possible and we want to do one of three things: We want to eliminate the target, we want to arrest the target, we want to have the target flee or barricade himself or herself without hostages. And as we went through Stoneman Douglas, we realized that although the killer was already gone, we no longer want to continue to push forward. If we don't know where the killer is, we want to stop and triage and we want to start to save

19 One thing the governor never brought out -- I
20 don't even know if they know -- is that police, Coral
21 Springs, BSO, and other police officers -- I'm not

talking about paramedics, but police transported 19

gunshot victims to area hospitals that day, and 17 of

24 those 19 lived because of our training, because we had

25 tourniquets, because we had the equipment we needed,

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and that's why to be accused of not training right and 323 not training rigorously and not being vigilant, it's

Q. Did you, in addition to what you've explained
with your command staff, post some notorious event,
also see what was going on in the law enforcement
community as a result of those things by communication
with others in other agencies?

A. Always.

not accurate, sir.

10 Q. So, for example, you mentioned the -- the 11 sit-down discussion, the analysis, after Pulse?

A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you learn that FBI and other sheriffs'
14 offices and other law enforcement agencies around the
15 country were essentially doing the same thing?

A. Yes.

Q. And is it ordinary as a part of your job as sheriff to get a feel, get a sense, get an understanding what thoughts and developments have the larger law enforcement group figured out from this?

A. Yes.

Q. One of the previous witnesses mentioned that after Fort Lauderdale airport -- Fort

24 Lauderdale-Hollywood shooting, BSO was asked to make a 25 presentation before some fairly significant national

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2 A. I do.

Z A. 1 do.

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- 3 Q. Did you participate in any presentations to
- 4 law enforcement organizations post Fort
 - Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport shooting?
- A. I did. Myself and Colonel Jack Dale were
- 7 invited to the Major County Sheriffs' Association,
- 8 they have a conference the first week, and then the
- 9 National Sheriffs' Association, their conference
- 10 begins when the other one concludes in the same venue.
- 11 It was in Reno. And Colonel Jack Dale and I went out
- 12 to that conference post airport, and not only we were
- 13 students at the -- or members of the conference, but
- 14 we taught a -- I think a 90-minute block on what
- 15 happened at the airport, lessons learned, because most
- 16 major county sheriffs or national sheriffs are going
- 17 to have some airport in their jurisdiction. So it was
- 18 very applicable and it was very important that we
- 19 share that information.
- 20 Q. And in the process of that presentation and
- 21 that series of meetings, did you have give-and-takes
- 22 so you got questions from the participants,
- 23 suggestions, in essentially being a learning
- 24 experience for BSO, as well as for everybody else?
- 25 A. If you've ever been into these conferences,

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- 1 there were quite a bit of questions. There was a lot 325
- 2 of dialog back and forth.
- Q. Did anybody in those series of meetings when
- 4 you're making the presentation, suggest to you that
- when there is an airport shooting, the immediate
- 6 response is to shut down the entire airport, no ifs,
 - ands or buts?
- A. A lot of people think like that.
- 9 Q. And did you have some discussion there about
- 10 the practical realties of doing such a thing?
- 11 A. We did. And at that time, I knew how an
- 12 airport needs to get shut down and the protocols to
- $\,$ go -- you know, to go through it, but I -- my main
- 14 message was although no sheriff, to my knowledge, in
- 15 the country has the power to shut down an airport, we
- 16 can certainly be, you know, aggressive in a very
- 17 positive manner, letting the airport folks and the
- 18 folks nationally know that it's a safety issue and the
- 19 airport needs to be shut down until we say it's an all
- 20 clear, no fire in the hole, and we feel people can
- 21 move about safely.
- Q. And is that a lesson learned from Fort
- 23 Lauderdale airport shooting?
- A. Absolutely.
- Q. And did it appear to you that it was a lesson

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- that was important for everybody to hear?
- A. Absolutely.
- 3 Q. That the thought of how you go about shutting
- down an airport was really not within then law
- 5 enforcement experience?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. But yet you would work through that with the
- 8 FBI during the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport
- 9 incident?

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- 10 A. That was less of a problem or an issue with
- 11 the FBI. In fact, it wasn't even an issue with the
- 12 FBI. That was more with the Broward County Airport
- 13 Division, and we worked through it in a very positive

O. You and the FBI and BCAD --

- 14 manner, exchanging information ---
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- worked through the issues?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Now, you mentioned that the first draft gets
- 20 reviewed and that was the normal course of how these
- 21 things are done?
- 22 A. Yes
- 23 Q. And Captain Diefenbacher was assigned to do
- 24 the next series of reviews?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. Did you assign him to that task?
 - A. I did not.
- 3 Q. Now, he's -- was a captain in the BSO when
- 4 you were the sheriff?
 - A. Yes
- Q. And he remains a captain in the BSO post
- 7 Sheriff Israel?
- 8 A. Yes. And I don't know if this was brought
- 9 out yesterday, but what was so important, the
- 10 undersheriff told me later to having Diefenbacher run
- the next step was that he was also an attorney besidesbeing an accomplished police leader.
- 13 Q. And did you give direction to Captain
- 14 Diefenbacher what to do or how to do it?
- 15 A. Not at all.
- 16 Q. And Captain Diefenbacher goes through his
- 17 review process and rewriting. Was it your
- 18 understanding that once Captain Diefenbacher finished,
- 19 that's it, we have a final report?
- 20 A. No, sir.

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- Q. Is that how those things work?
- 22 A. No, sir.
 - Q. This final report, the offense incident
- 24 report, came out in I think November of 2017, October
- or November 2017. So airport incident shooting,

January to say November, a 10-month period. For an 328 event of that magnitude, is that a reasonable amount 3 of time to do a complete offense incident report?

A. Ouite reasonable.

5 Q. And when Captain Diefenbacher did his processing, did you understand that it included an evaluation of subject matter experts getting input

from different agencies, et cetera?

A. Well, I would have assumed that because I know the kind of work that Captain Diefenbacher 10 11 produces, but I never had a conversation with him or I 12 was never apprised he was doing that.

13 O. And you didn't look at his draft report?

A. No. I did not.

O. And are you familiar with how many more 15 16 versions, edits, red lines, strike-outs, reviews happened before it got to the critical incident 17 report, the final report?

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A. I actually have no idea. 19 20 Q. And we looked at it yesterday, but just so it's clear, the final report is Governor Exhibit 6, 21 22 and that's dated October 6, 2017?

SPECIAL MASTER: Sheriff, please say "yes" or 23 24 "no." The court reporter has a hard time with nods.

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SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

BY MR. KUEHNE: 3

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Q. Did the critical incident report, the final 4 incident report, become part of the materials that you and RSO used when you made presentations on the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood incident?

A. Yes.

Q. And was it widely distributed?

A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you get any push-back from national law 12 enforcement circles that the critical incident report 13 wasn't complete, wasn't the right form, didn't have enough criticisms in it?

A. Just the opposite. I know the undersheriff 15 had gone to at least three or four venues throughout 16 the country, and I might have had other colonels, I 17 can't specifically say, that went to locations. I 18 believe the undersheriff was actually invited to 19 20 Montreal as one of his stops to do a presentation of 21 what happened at the airport. And after one of the presentations, I would get calls from the folks that 22

hosted the conference, thanking them for allowing

staff to go up there and make such a professional and 24

25 worthwhile presentation.

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 ${\tt Q.} \qquad {\tt Did} \ \, {\tt the} \ \, {\tt critical} \ \, {\tt incident} \ \, {\tt report} \ \, {\tt emphasize} \qquad \qquad 330$ the importance of effective trainings?

A. Yes.

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Q. And is that something that was encouraged when presentations were made to other organizations?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, the governor's memorandum adds as additional reason for your suspension for neglect of duty and incompetence, this, and this is on page 7, they say, "The report" -- referring to the final report -- "never acknowledges failures on the part of Israel or BSO. Rather, as highlighted above, the final report claims you cannot prevent or prepare for this type of event, and that through the leadership of Sheriff Israel, the event was mitigated and the scene was secured and handled."

17 You remember that part of the governor's 18 memorandum?

A. Oh, very well.

O. Now, isn't it accurate to say that the governor's memorandum truncates and selectively identifies portions of the report and takes them out of context?

A. Yeah. We used the word "cherry-pick" when we 24 25 spoke.

Q. Doesn't the report actually say -- and I'm 1 guoting -- "Through the leadership of Sheriff Israel, BSO personnel, the FBI, BCAD, and other law enforcement agencies, fire rescue, regional communications, and community partners, this tragic event was mitigated and investigated in an extraordinary manner"?

A. That's exactly what it said, and that's why I just -- you know, I realize I stay in my lane and I'm only the sheriff of one of many counties in the state, and the power of a governor far surpasses that of a sheriff, but that is the reason I just shake my head that how could I not be called to a conference with the governor to explain these things to him. Governor Scott and I sat in an office and we went over as much detail as we could of what happened. But to be suspended and be called incompetent and not even have the chance to explain what actually happened. I was there. I left -- I was running an obstacle course in the park that day, it was my day off, and I went to

20 the airport. I got there about an hour and a half 21

later and stayed for maybe 12 hours. I just wanted to

23 share what my observations were, what I did. 24 Q. The -- I mentioned when I was reading the

governor's memorandum it savs -- and the memorandum 25

1	says, "The final report claims you cannot prevent or	1	approximately the airport aviation division said
2	prepare for this type of event." Doesn't the report	2	there were approximately twenty to twenty-two thousand
3	itself say the following: Not you cannot prepare for	3	people that were either on planes, in turnstiles, or
4	this type of event, but doesn't the report actually	4	somewhere within the proximity of that airport.
5	say, "there is no way to prevent this tragedy or to	5	There's really no way to re-create training and
6	prepare completely for the amount of unique obstacles	6	experience 20,000 people running haphazardly. That's
7	that had to be overcome in a very short period of	7	what they were trying to say, that you can't
8	time"?	8	completely prepare for that type of event, but you can
9	A. That's	9	plan, you can prepare, and we did.
10	Q. Isn't that what the report says?	10	Q. Did BSO as part of its pre-Fort
11	A. That's exactly what it	11	Lauderdale-Hollywood training and its post Fort
12	Q. And is that an accurate observation in the	12	Lauderdale training try to prepare officers to prepare
13	report?	13	for the unexpected?
14	A. Yes, it is.	14	A. Yes, we did.
15	Q. Did you say, as the governor claims, you	15	Q. Is that an important part of law enforcing?
16	cannot prevent or prepare for this type of event?	16	A. One of the most fundamental parts of law
17	A. That was never said. It's an absolute false	17	enforcement.
18	statement.	18	Q. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy happened
19	Q. In fact, doesn't the report conclude that you	19	February 14, 2018?
20	can prepare for it, you just can't prepare completely	20	A. Yes.
21	for the amount of unique obstacles that had to be	21	Q. BSO had an agreement with Broward County
22	overcome in a very short period of time?	22	Schools to staff a certain number of schools with an
23	A. Yes, and we had that conversation, and what	23	SRO, school resource officer?
24	the undersheriff was saying in that report is even in	24	A. That's correct.
25	training, at the airport we found that day there were	25	Q. Marjory Stoneman Douglas was one of them?
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A. That's correct. 1 Q. And the agreement specified that a school resource officer would be assigned to that school? Q. And then the agreement had other schools 5 assigned an officer? A. Yes. Q. The officer assigned was former Deputy Scot 8 Peterson?

A. Yes. 10

Q. Did you have any role in his assignment to that location? 12

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Q. Did the Broward County Schools have input 14 15 into evaluating what they thought of their SRO assigned to the schools? 16 17

A. Yes.

18 Q. And had SRO Peterson been at Marjory Stoneman Douglas for some period of time before that mass 19

A. Quite some time.

And he had been an SRO for a lot of years?

A. He had been an SRO for a lot of years, he was

considered a very good SRO, and I think he was --

might have been selected as SRO of the year, and he

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actually taught some of the courses on how a school resource officer should react to an active killer situation.

Q. You're aware that he did, in fact, teach Broward County personnel in how to respond to an active shooter situation?

A. I do know that.

of what goes into training non-law enforcement into

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policy, 4.37, of Broward Sheriff's Office?

A. Yes. The fundamental premise of the training is completely different.

Q. But SRO Peterson was nonetheless a trainer 17

A. Absolutely.

O. And you understand that -- now that SRO 19 20 Peterson actually met with and worked with people at that school, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, at the

21 22 beginning of the school year and other times during

the school year to essentially practice or get ready 23

24 or be aware of?

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Q. Now, as you understand, you understand some

10 responding to an active shooter situation?

A. I do.

Q. That's different from the active shooter

for Broward schools personnel?

A. I do know that now.

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Q. And that one of the responsibilities of SROs, $^{\rm 336}$

as you understand it, is as events unfold, if there's 2

something that needs to be imparted to school

- administration, the SRO has the ability to do that?
- 5 A. He does.
- Q. And BSO on its own, not through the SROs,
- 7 regularly communicates threats, issues of concern.
- other incidents to the school system?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. And that's done as a matter of conserving the 10
- peace in Broward County? 11
- A. Exactly. 12
- And is there -- let me ask you this: You 13
- 14 became -- you were elected sheriff in November of
- 2012?

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- A. Yes. 16
- Q. And then became sheriff. You were sworn in
- in early 2013? 18
- 19 A. January.
- Q. January 2013. 20
- 21 During -- what was one of the first projects
- 22 you instituted upon becoming sheriff in January of
- 23

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- 24 A. I think when I -- the first SWAT commander
- 25 that I -- well, first individual I made SWAT commander
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- when I came over was Lieutenant Colonel Michael
- DiMaggio. Mike is a consummate professional, lives,
- eats and breathes SWAT, and the first meeting I had
- with Mike. I told him I wanted a full-scale school
- active shooter scenario. I told him it was a
- priority. I told him it wasn't going to be able to be
- done with it within a week or a month because of all
- the work that was going to go into it. And then I
- believe a few months later at Pompano Beach High
- School in Broward County, we had one of the most 10
- comprehensive full-scale trainings I've ever been a 11
- part of. We actually had helicopters allow SWAT team
- members to repel into the school to -- if students
- were shot and injured in upper classrooms, so they 14
- entered in through upper classrooms. In the scenario,
- there was an active killer, still uncaptured. And 16
- we -- incredible training. We repelled a K-9 dog down
- off the helicopter into those upper classrooms so that 18
- the K-9 dog could search out the killer. There were 19
- so -- we had fire -- Pompano Beach has their own fire 20
- department. We just do police. So Pompano fire was
- there. They did an incredible job. And so many
- different units and components came together. It was 23
- a complete day-long training, and I want to say there 24
- were about 200 to 300 students who volunteered their

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- times to be victims, observers, students.
- 2 Q. I want you to take a look at Israel Exhibit
- 29, and that's Israel Bates No. 2139. Is this an 3
- accurate article in a police newsletter about the
- Pompano Beach High School active shooter training? A. It is.
- O. You've read it before?
- A. I have.
- And does it explain the complexity and
- involvement of so many different people, including 10
- Broward County Schools? 11
- A. It does. 12
- Q. Is that an easy exercise to organize? 13
- It's probably one of the more complex 14
- trainings to organize that you will have. 15
- Q. DiMaggio was your SWAT captain -- was he a 16 17 major?
- A. Major. 18
- 19 Q. Major DiMaggio was your SWAT captain, and he 20 was overall in charge of this?
- A. He was overall in charge of this with -- the 21 SWAT captain was Captain Ed Grant. 22
- 23 O. Were you called upon in your position as
- 24 sheriff to pick up the phone, make a request, to use
- 25 your official status to get the school board to help

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- you accomplish this?
 - A. Yes. I actually had direct calls with the
- school superintendent, Robert Runcie, who was very
- cooperative and very willing to work with me on this
- endeavor.
- Q. Nothing like this had ever before been done
- in Broward County, had it?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Are you aware of anything like this having
- been done in South Florida? 10
- 11 A. I'm not.

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- Q. Did this real-life, large-scale, active
- shooter at a school scenario become looked at by other
 - law enforcement officers around the country?
 - A. I got quite a few calls on the training.
- Q. Did you send other law enforcement officers 16 17 and offices around the country the material and the
- backup to help them develop such a preparation?
- A. I believe Lieutenant Colonel DiMaggio did 19
- just that. Q. Was it your understanding that law 21
- enforcement around the country was actually surprised
- that such a full-scale scenario could be -- could be 23
- 24 implemented?
- 25 A. Yeah, I remember one time Lieutenant Colonel

DiMaggio coming into my office and saying -- I said,

- 2 "How's it going with the -- with, you know, our
- brothers and sisters in law enforcement?" He goes,
- 4 "The one question I get asked, Sheriff, is how did you
- 5 guys pull that off?" So it was appreciated. I think
- 6 law enforcement around the country appreciated the
- 7 efforts that we had to go through to even bring this
- 8 training to Pompano.

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- 9 Q. And how about within BSO? Did having this
- 10 full-scale active shooter scenario in a school help
- 11 emphasize the importance of protection of our very
- 12 vulnerable child population?
- 13 A. Yes, and I think, you know, through -- the
- 14 men and women in the agency have heard me campaign,
- 15 they know that -- with all the hats I wear, they know
- 16 that the most important hat I wear is that of dad. I
- 17 have triplets, two boys and a girl. I coach the boys
- throughout every sport they play, coached other kids
- to direagnost every opera ener pray, concentrational kind
- in the community, coached at two different high
- 20 schools, and just my whole essence of becoming sheriff
 - was to make Broward County a better place for kids.
- 22 So I think that sent the message. They knew that
- 23 already, and then when they saw the first mass
- 24 training we're doing is at a high school, I think I
- 25 set -- I think it set the tone for the agency that the

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- 1 safety of children is going to be preeminent
- 2 responsibility for us during Sheriff Israel's
- 3 administration.
- 4 Q. Since that time, since that active shooter
- 5 training, did you detect any complacency or
- 6 laissez-faire attitude among any deputies when it came
- to situations like school incidents?
- 8 A. I've never witnessed it, no.
 - Q. Did you sense any complacency among SROs that
- 10 they're just there to be glorified security guards, no
- 11 big deal?

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- A. Just the opposite. I went to countless
- 13 schools, and our SROs were -- they were exuberant,
- 14 they were excited to be there, and the reason I know
- 15 they enjoyed being there is because the principals of
- 16 those schools, when I do these walk-throughs and stop
- 17 to do readings with kids or stuff like that, the
- 18 principals were complimentary of the men and women
- 19 that we had assigned to the school. So I know that
- our leaders selected the right people to be in our
- 21 elementary and middle and high schools.
- Q. When it came to the SRO selection at BSO,
- 23 somebody has to apply or invite themselves to be an
- 24 SRO candidate?

25 A. Correct.

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- Q. Is the BSO philosophy of selecting the appropriate candidate to look for experienced
- deputies?
- A. It's to look for putting a round plug in a
- found hole. I tell the folks that select their units:
- 6 Don't have any preconceived notions, don't have
- 7 anybody first on the list or last on the list, let the
- 8 folks come in, let them interview fairly, and just
- 9 because a person might have come in fifth when they
 10 put in for a burglary job doesn't mean they won't be
- 11 first for an SRO job. So I said be open-minded, know
- 12 what dimensions and disciplines you're looking for,
- 13 and pick the person that is most likely going to give
- you what you're looking for and be able to serve the
- 15 public and make that presentation.
- Q. As you understand it, as part of the SRO
- 17 overall responsibility, did the SROs work with the
- 18 schools' personnel to essentially inventory the 19 schools, get a sense of what the physical plant is?
- 20 A. Yes

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Q. Offer suggestions on safety and security?

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- 22 A. Yes
- 23 Q. Who ultimately, though, was responsible for
- 24 the operation of the physical plant?
- 5 A. Of the school?

- Q. Of the school.
 - A. Superintendent.
- 3 Q. So the --- the governor criticizes you and BSO
- 4 that at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School the day
- of the incident, there were several entryways into the
- 6 school. Do you remember that criticism?
 - A. I do.
- 8 Q. Is there some uniform law passed by the State
- 9 of Florida that requires at high schools, a single
- 10 entrance that you know of?
- 11 A. No, not that I know of.
 - Q. Is there any Broward County ordinance or
- school board policy that you know that says all high
 - schools have to have one in, one out?
 - A. No
 - 16 Q. Has the BSO encouraged the Broward County
- 17 Schools to limit access in and out of schools --
 - A. Yes
 - Q. -- all schools?
- 20 A. Yes
 - Q. And do you understand that to be a dialog,
- 22 BSO is looking for safety first, but the school system
- 23 has a lot of factors that it has to put in?
- 24 A. Yes. One particular example, we heard a
- 25 witness testify yesterday that when school personnel

just want to be able to flick a switch. And the school board, I understand that they had legal issues

17 and their attorneys were worried and concerned about
18 some things regarding the rights of privacy and the

19 rights of students, and we had these discussions, and

20 shortly before the governor suspended me, we signed a

21 memo of understanding that at the time I left office,

 $\,$ 22 $\,$ we had access to cameras immediately, and that was

something very -- very important and something that we

24 worked feverishly on.

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Q. Take a look at Exhibit 24, which starts at

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Israel 1923. It's actually two documents in one. One document is dated January 8, 2019. That's the first

3 document. And the second document is February 19.

4 2019. So during your tenure and after your tenure.

A. Okay.

Q. Is this apropos of the negotiation leading to mprovements in camera access from the Broward County

8 School Board to the BSO?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you get involved at that high level of 11 discussions, or was this done at levels below you?

A. I got involved.

13 Q. Do you get involved in all discussions and 14 negotiations with the school board and other

15 governmental entities?

16 A. Not at all.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{17}}$ Q. How do you decide when to get involved and

18 not?

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19 A. Based on the nature of importance and based 20 on what -- when I think it's time for me to get

21 involved. You don't want to -- from a leadership

22 perspective, you don't want to pull things away from,

you know, the men and women you work with when they're

 $\,$ 24 $\,$ working on something and they're working to accomplish

25 something. But I know when I need to be involved, and

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when I feel I need to be involved, I get involved.

Q. The governor's memorandum also criticizes you, the BSO, that the SRO at Marjory Stoneman Douglas

was not actually carrying his rifle at the time he was

acting as SRO and had to go get the rifle. Do I

6 understand that?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that a fair criticism?

A. Of me?

10 Q. Of the process.

11 A. No

12 Q. Have you had discussions at your level where

13 the Broward County Schools' response to you is

effectively our schools not armed camps?

A. Yes

16 Q. We don't want to have a military operation

17 daily at our schools?

A. Yes

19 Q. We want to encourage schools and children to 20 have a healthy respect for police?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And we want our SROs to be the kind of SROs
23 who essentially can beln our kids feel good about la

23 who essentially can help our kids feel good about law
24 enforcement?

5 A. Yes.

1 Q. And do those goals sometimes conflict a

2 little bit with a law enforcement goal of we want to $% \left(1,0,0,0\right) =0$

make sure we can do everything to limit the ability of

4 things to happen?

5 A. Of course, they conflict. One school -- I

6 don't know if it was a teacher or principal, but one

7 school person once told me about their SRO, that I

8 want the SRO to be a combination -- what makes him or
9 her so good is they're a combination of Santa Claus

10 and the Easter bunny. And, you know, you like to hear

11 things like that, but sometimes when a person has the

12 personality to be Santa Claus and the Easter bunny,

13 they're not going to turn in to be a Navy SEAL. It

14 doesn't -- you know, people have different

personalities, different skill sets, but yes to your

16 question.

17 Q. So when you hear a principal saying "Easter

8 bunny, Santa Claus," is the BSO response "Yes, but

19 he's a deputy"?

20 A. Yes

21

Q. So is that -- do you trade off the friendly

22 Easter bunny/Santa Claus in lieu of being a law

23 enforcement officer?

24 A. No, there's no trade-off. You bring over

 $25\,$ highly-trained school resource deputies that are

qualified, that want to be there, that the schools

- want them there, and you give them the training
- 3 that -- you know, that as a sheriff, I'm obligated to
- 4 give them, you provide them with the policies and
- 5 procedures. But no matter what, the governor's
- 6 attorney says at any time. If they think I can
- provide any woman or man on this earth with courage
- 8 and the desire to go inside when their conscience is
- 9 telling them I'm not going in there, there's no
- sheriff, there's no police leader, there's no football
- 11 coach or there's no general that's going to get
- someone to go in when the human element takes over and
- 13 they say to themselves "I'm not going in."
- 14 Q. Did you have any reason to believe on
- 15 February 14, 2018, that then SRO Peterson would not
- immediately or promptly go in?
- 17 A. Had I had that knowledge, I would have
- 18 removed him as a deputy.
- 19 Q. Did you have any knowledge?
- 20 A. No, sir, not at all.
- 21 Q. Have you since looked at his personnel file
- 22 to see if there's anything that indicates an unfitness
- 23 for service or lack of knowledge of the training?
- 24 A. I have. It has been shown to me, yes, and --
- Q. Is there anything like that?

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- 1 A. Absolutely not.
- Q. But does his report reflect significant
- active shooter course participation?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Now, BSO, in addition to the contract with
- 6 the school system to provide SROs, also helps the
- 7 school system with issues of law enforcement, safety,
- 8 security, including planning?
 - A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And there's a part of the Broward County
- 11 Schools that's their law enforcement unit called
- 12 special investigative unit?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. You're familiar with that. That's like their
- 15 police department, but it doesn't do a full policing
- 16 job, like, for example, the Dade County School Board
- 17 has their own police force that actually polices their
- 18 schools?
- 19 A. You're talking about one agency that has
- 20 thousand employees and one that just has maybe 30 or
- 21 40.
- Q. Okay. So does the BSO help facilitate
- 23 training programs for the Broward County Schools law
- 24 enforcement unit?
- 25 A. Yes.

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- Q. I'm going to hand you Exhibit 31. Let me
 just find the right page. Israel Exhibit 31, starting
 at page Israel 2849.
- 4 A. I'm familiar with it.
- Q. That's a January 2018 -- January 2018 seminar
- 6 at the Broward County Schools, correct?
 - A. Yes
- 8 Q. And that deals with their special
- 9 investigations law enforcement function?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. Did BSO assist in preparation for that
- 12 seminar?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did BSO provide personnel for presentation at
- 15 the seminar?
 - A. Yes
- 17 Q. Did BSO discuss with Broward County Schools
- 18 at that seminar, security issues, including security
- 19 policies?

- 20 A. Yes
 - Q. And is that a regular occurrence?
- 22 A. Yes
- Q. Now, that was, sadly, a month before the
- 24 Marjory Stoneman Douglas massacre?
- 5 A. Yes

- Q. Was there any part of that training, that seminar, that report, that in any way led to a lax of
- 3 security at any of the schools, including Marjory
- 4 Stoneman Douglas?
 - A. No.
- 6 Q. Was it instead part of the effort of
- 7 coordination between BSO and Broward schools to
- 8 enhance safety of the children in the schools?
 - A. Certainly.
- 10 Q. Did anybody at that seminar clamor, demand
- 11 that BSO conduct another full-scale at a school, high
- school or any school, active shooter/killer scenario?
- 13 A. I wasn't at the seminar, but when Colonel
- Polan briefed me on it, he never mentioned anything
- 15 like that being brought up.
- 16 Q. And Colonel Polan is one of the command
- 17 officers?
- 18 A. Yes, he is. He was in charge of the
- 19 Department of Law Enforcement.
- 20 Q. But didn't he discuss with you that some of
- $21\,$ the people remembered and were aware of that
- 22 large-scale active shooter scenario?
 - A. He certainly did.
- $\,$ Q. $\,$ That from 2013 to 2018, it was still fresh in
- 25 some people's minds, as far as Colonel Polan had

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- A. Correct.
- Q. We've heard much testimony that the response 3
- 4 of SRO Peterson was a failure, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Do you agree?
- A. Yes.
- And was it immediately evident, immediately
- in the aftermath, that Deputy Peterson had so failed
- 10 to discharge his responsibilities?
- A. Absolutely not.
- Q. It took some time? 12
- 13
- 14 O. And you're aware that Deputy Peterson in his
- 15 SRO capacity did call for a code red at the school?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Now, that's -- means something, right?
- A. To the school. 18
- 19 Q. To the school. It's a system in the school
- that a code red essentially shuts down the school 20
- in -- not preparation for, but in response to a likely 21
- 22 major incident?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. And that establishment of a code red for the
- school and the implementation is something that was 25

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- 1 worked through between BSO and Broward County
- Schools --

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- A. Correct.
- Q. -- to develop that process?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And that code red process was initiated by
- SRO Peterson?
- R A. Yes.
 - He, however, didn't follow the training, the
- 10 policy of 4.37, active shooter?
- A. He did not.
- Q. Now, that policy -- and we've heard lots of 12
- discussions about it. That policy, you're familiar
- with, but I'll give you a copy of it. Exhibit 1, 14
- 15 Bates Israel 1.
- 16 You had involvement in the development of
- 17 that policy?
- A. I did. 18
- 19 Q. Generally explain how that policy -- strike
- 20 that.
- 21 Was the review and development of that policy
- into that version of 4.37 part of a regular policy 22
- 23 review process?
- 24 A. Yes.
- O. Did you have at BSO an established process 25

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- for policy review and evaluation?
- A. Yes, we did.
- Q. Did it include involvement by Executive
- Director Pusins?

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- O. And is that because of his national expertise 6
- in police practices and policies?
- A. Clearly.
- Q. Did it include not just high-level rank
- officers, but also -- I'll call them on the ground --10
- 11 boots on the ground officers?
- A. Yes. One of the things that Colonel Polan 12
- 1.3 and I used to talk about all the time is when
- developing policies, make sure we're not only having 14
- discussions with command staff, but the ultimate boots 15
- on the ground, the user of those policies. I'm a
- user-friendly sheriff. I wanted input from the folks 17
- 18 that are going to actually carry out through those
- policies and hear what they have to say. So they were 19
- always used in the development of those policies. 21 Q. Did the development of that policy include
- 22 reviewing the literature out there, meaning in law
- enforcement circles, on such policies? 23
- 24 A. From my perspective, it did because I would
- always read policies, as did most of the -- if not all

- of the command staff. 1
 - O. And was that the process used?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Did -- you knew at the time that the State of
- Florida, FDLE, and the Justice Training Standards
- Commission had no requirement for an active shooter
- policy?
- A. I did know that.
 - Q. And did you know at the time that some
- sheriffs' offices didn't have any policy whatsoever? 10
- 11 A. No, I did not know that.
 - O. You've since learned that?
- 1.3 A. Yes.
- And did you understand that policies in
- 15 Florida were looked at to try to compare and contrast?
 - A. I actually looked at some.
- Q. In addition to you, did the team look at 17
- 18 others?

- A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And was the development of that policy in the
- 21 language used consistent with model policies?
- A. Yes. 2.2
- Consistent with standard practices in law
- 24 enforcement?
 - A. Yes.

1	${\tt Q}.$ Inconsistent in any way with desirable or	1 Q. And what when that policy was up to final
2	desired active shooter policies?	2 approval, did you give final approval?
3	A. It was completely in line with desired active	3 A. I did.
4	shooter policies.	Q. Was the general counsel for the Broward
5	Q. It was in place, revised in 2016?	5 Sheriff's Office a participant in discussions
6	A. It was.	6 regarding the formulation of that policy?
7	Q. And from 2016 to February 14th of 2018, was	7 A. He was.
8	there any criticism about that policy?	8 Q. And that was Ron Gunzburger?
9	A. None at all.	9 A. Yes.
10	Q. Within law enforcement circles?	10 Q. Did he have extensive experience in legal
11	A. No.	11 matters involving law enforcement?
12	Q. How about outside law enforcement circles,	12 A. Yes.
13	like among politicians?	13 Q. He had been general counsel for quite some
14	A. No, nobody criticized it. Matter of fact,	14 time?
15	the policy as a reader, when I had input in that	15 A. Six years.
16	final policy in 2016, I read many of the policies	16 Q. So the policy gets approved, and now we know
17	many of the policies in Florida and throughout the	17 post Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy that the "may"
18	country, and I didn't reinvent the wheel, I didn't	18 word has been singled out and criticized and used by
19	create my own policy, I didn't author some you	19 the governor as a reason to say you neglected your
20	know, have some magic mantra and author some policy.	20 duties and were incompetent. You understand that?
21	I read quite a few policies, and then we worked to	21 A. Yes.

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shooter?

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Q. What do you understand the training -- strike

Did you go to active shooter trainings?

A. I would go into different ones at different

Q. And is that part of your role as sheriff, to

Q. Not just sit in an office and get a report

Q. You were sheriff, would you go on occasion

A. I would go -- I wouldn't go in the car with

another deputy, but I rode with a deputy constantly,

Deputy Conroy, and if an officer needed backup or we

with road patrol to see what they're doing?

times. I've went to quite a few, not for the whole

day, but different trainings for different segments.

and how we expected them to perform.

A. Absolutely not.

You were not a trainer?

O. Did you go to trainings?

be visible among the line troops?

O. To know what's going on?

A. Absolutely.

A. Absolutely.

going up?

A. No.

tailor our policy to what we thought was a compilation

of getting the best policy we could that sent the

message to our deputies how we wanted them to respond

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that.

A. No.

A. I did.

out in any way. Not only BSO, but if we could back up a Florida highway trooper on the road or back up a police officer in another city in Broward County, they -- you know, sheriff's here to back me up, you know. So we were cops. O. As a career law enforcement officer, boots on the ground never leaves you? В A. Never leaves you. 9 Q. So -- by the way, were you aware of any 10 federal legislation by the Congress that required active shooter training for large law enforcement 11 agencies? A. I'm not aware of any, no. 13 14 Q. Were you aware of any proviso set by the Congress that said if you're getting federal grant 15 16 money, you have to have active shooter training or 17 active shooter policies? 18 A. There was no industry standard for active 19 shooter training. Q. And no congressional mandate? 20 21 No congressional mandate. Q. Broward sheriff got federal funds --22 Q. -- or grants, right? 24

Q. Is there any part of that policy that led to

or caused deputies, as you understand the training, to

hesitate, to take no action in the face of an active

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Q. And did Broward Sheriff's Office comply in
every respect with the requirements of those grants?
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A. Yes.

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Q. Now, you may not be aware of this, maybe you 4 5 are, but before the governor became governor, he was a member of Congress, right?

A. Yes.

Are you aware of anything that he did as a member of Congress to require active shooter policies to be implemented by law enforcement circles?

A. I'm not aware of anything, no. 11

Q. Nothing?

13 A. Nothing.

14 Q. What was your -- what is your understanding 15 of the training on the active shooter policy? What 16 are officers trained to do in pursuance of that active 17 shooter policy?

18 A. Well, I witnessed it, so I know what the training was because I had influenced my will on the 19 training. 20

Special Master, you've heard a lot about "may" and "shall," and you'll read it all yourself and come to your own conclusions, but I tell you it's a red herring. I've read hundreds of policies with "may" and hundreds of policies with "shall," and they

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The purposes of the policy is to give the officer discretion not to go into a suicide mission. If your child was inside a school, you'd want an officer to go in, but you want him to go in alive so he can do what he was trained to do, and that's eliminate the threat to the student, to the citizen. And the policies you read, you'll read on "shall." It says "shall," and then it says a comma, 9 "when reasonable information." Well, when I told my kids you shall do something. I didn't give them a 11 caveat with a comma. I said "You shall be home by 12 13 11:00." Whenever there's that comma and there's that 1.4 caveat, "shall" and "may" are the same. All lawyers 1.5 in Broward County that have spoke to me say they're exactly the same. It's a red herring. 16 17 Our training told our deputies you will go in 18 as soon as you possibly can through the closest entrance. Barring a booby trap door or gunfire coming through that doorway, you will go in, you will push, 20 you will engage, you will eliminate the threat, whether it's through using lethal force, apprehending 22 the individual, surrender, having the individual flee. 23 24 But our training was specific, you will pursue, you

say the same thing.

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will enter, and you will take that person into custody FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850,222,5491

1 as soon as is humanly possible, with no exceptions other than developing intell or witnessing or seeing or hearing something that says it's life-threatening for me to go in here this second. Not to enter into a life-threatening situation, we must do that, but to open this door like the hero in Thousand Oaks. California, did a few months ago when that sergeant was killed going through a door in an active shooter situation. That's what may -- that's what I was 10 trying to prevent, that's what I am trying to prevent. That's why we went with the policy, "may." It's a red herring. 12 13 O. Was it your demand in developing the 4.37 policy to make sure all of your people agreed that you 14 15 wanted "may" in there and it was going to go in there whether it was consistent or inconsistent with 16 national standards? 17 A. No, it was -- first of all, I would never do 18 19 anything that was inconsistent with national 20 standards. It was quite consistent with national standards. It was ~- it's shared by hundreds and 21 22 hundreds of law enforcement agencies around the country. And the command staff understood that, and

1 of policy, but there was a lot of support. Q. Now, the governor contends in his memorandum to the Special Master that SOP 4.37 goes against 3 accepted practices. Do you remember that as part of his argument? A. I do. Q. Is there any validity to that whatsoever? A. No validity. It's a fictional statement. 8 Does 4.37, as written in Exhibit 1 and as 1.0 trained, act entirely consistent with accepted 11 practices? A. Absolutely does. 12 13 Is it consistent with national standards? 14 It absolutely is. Α. O. Is it consistent with what goes on in the 15 16 State of Florida? 17 A. It certainly is. Is it consistent with the policies of the law 18 19 enforcement agencies that are certified by the Florida 20 Department of Law Enforcement? A. It surely is. 21

we -- as one. I take full responsibility for the

argument that the policy is "wholly inadequate and

insufficient." Do you have a response for that?

The governor also contends in that same

A. As the kids text, SMH, shaking my head. If

he only understood how many policies -- tried and

- tested policies state just that, appropriately so. 2
- Q. And you've mentioned that you were never given an opportunity to explain any of that policy to

3

- A. Never. 6
- Q. And since you've been suspended as sheriff,
- 8 have you kept up on FDLE standards, accessing the
- website, seeing what they do and say? 9
- A. I have not. 10
- 11 Q. Now, the governor, also in an effort to claim
- 12 neglect of duty and incompetence, asserts that two of
- 13 your deputies, Deputy Eason and Treijs, had
- interactions with the shooter --
- A. Uh-huh. 15
- -- and were later disciplined, and had those
- interactions been done properly, the governor claims 17
- the shooting would never have occurred. You 18
- understand that argument --19
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. -- the sheriff makes?
- 22 Now, my question is meant respectfully
- 23 because many lives were lost that day.
- A. Uh-huh. 24
- Lives for which -- do you grieve for those

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- A. Every day. A lot of people don't know this,
 - but our house that we used to live in for 20 years, we
- raised our kids in, was between the two schools, West
- Glades Middle School and Parkland. You can see
- Stoneman Douglas from my back yard. My triplets went
- to Stoneman Douglas. I'll never -- I wish I could see
- -- it's indelible in my mind. I wish I could forget
- it. I never will, but when I walk through the crime
- scene, not only was I grieving and emotional about 10 11 what I saw, but thinking how my kids could have been
- 12
- sitting at those desks a year or two earlier. It was
- 13 a terrible, terrible, terrible situation.
- O. As a person and as the sheriff, have you
- shared that grief with survivors of MSD? 15
- 17 ο. Do either of the incidents, the Eason
- incident and the Treijs -- let me change that from
- "incident" -- interactions. 19
- 20 Do either of those interactions, Eason and
- 21 Treijs, that are used as accusatory comment by the
- 22 governor have anything to do with whether the shooter
- would have been on the streets on February 14, 2018?
- A. Not one thing. 24
- Do either of those events involve criminal

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- activity on the part of the shooter that would have $$^{}$$ resulted in, under any scenario, his arrest --
- 3 apprehension and arrest?

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- A. Absolutely not.
 - Q. Do you -- you were not involved in the
- discipline of those two officers, were you?
- A. Well, to the point where I -- discipline, as
- always, goes through me. The colonel will always
- bring the final discipline to me.
- Q. It ultimately goes to you --10
- A. Ultimately. 11
- Q. -- but there's a process --12
- 1.3 Yes.
- 14 Q. -- for determining discipline?
- 15
- Q. It's not Sheriff Israel snapped his fingers, 16
- 17 you're fired, you're demoted, you're this, you're
- that? 18
- 19 A. No.
- O. And that process is, as far as you know. 2.0
- 21 always followed within the BSO?
- 22 A. Yeah, I mean, I completely respect it, honor
- the law, and I honor the collective bargaining 23
- 24 agreements. So there are collective bargaining
- 25 agreements and the law and rights of those accused,

- and we're always cognizant of those things.
- Q. And not in any way intending to diminish or demean the requirement to follow the rules, what do 3
- you understand the rule violations were that led to
- 5 these two officers being disciplined?
- A. It's my understanding that they did not
- completely document or contact as fully as they should
- have, and one of the deputies, it was his second
- offense, so he received a more severe discipline than
- the other deputy. But there were no risk protection 10 orders in effect at the time. There were no weapons 11
- 12 seen. They never even saw the killer. There were
- no -- they wouldn't have been able to arrest him or 1.3
- 14 charge -- it was nothing like that. It was just
- 15 the -- they should have done more documentation.
- Q. So on February 5, 2016, Deputy Eason received a report of a student Instagram with a gun and the
- words "I'm going to shoot up the school." Is that 18 what you understand the Eason matter to be? 19
- A. Yes. 20

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- And he did not report that in an incident
- 22 report, just a note?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And the nature of the computer system at the 24
- 25 BSO is that incident reports get categorized one way

and are searchable, and notes don't rise to the level

- of a searchable incident?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- Q. So if you're typing in the name of a suspect,
- you would link to all the offense/incident reports
- 6 that show up for that?
 - A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. But a note is not automatically connected?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. It's only connected once you look at
- 11 information and essentially drill down to see the
- 12 note?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. So Eason was disciplined that he should have
- 15 done an incident report?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. And you ultimately approved that discipline?
- 18 A. Yes
- 19 Q. Now, on November 30, 2017, Deputy Treijs --
- 20 by the way, you were not aware of Eason's failure to
- 21 report in real time?
- 22 A. I had never even heard his name before.
- Q. The deputy's?
- 24 A. Correct.

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Q. Are there that many deputies you don't know

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- 1 each of them individually?
- 2 A. Well, we have 6,000 people on the agency and
 - approximately 1,800 deputies. It's really impossible
- 4 to know everybody with that large an agency.
- Q. Deputy Treijs on November 30, 2017, received
- 6 a report -- a call that a shooter had weapons and
- 7 wanted to kill people, and he directed the caller to
- 8 another police department because the person who was
- 9 calling was for Palm Beach, had no idea where the
- individual was, and no immediate information about the
- 11 individual?
- Q. And Deputy Treijs wrote, "Note, the person is
- 14 described as autistic and no current information"?
- 15 A. That's correct.

A. Right.

- Q. And Deputy Treijs was reported for not fully
- 17 making that an incident report?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And was disciplined appropriately as far as
- 20 you approved?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, did you have information on November 30,
- 23 2017, that somebody had reported this information to
- 24 Deputy Treijs?
- A. No

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O. Was --

important -- we get approximately almost 750,000 calls

- 2 A. Counsel, let me just add -- I think this is
- 4 for service a year. It's not logical to think that a
- 5 sheriff would be apprised of calls for service. I
- 6 mean, how would that -- it's just not fathomable.
- Q. Is that in the ordinary handling of a
- sheriff's office, that there are means and priorities
- 9 to get matters to your attention?
- 10 A. Exactly.
- 11 Q. But is the training that you oversee and
- 12 implement designed to appropriately train your
- officers to handle things correctly?
 - A. Exactly. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you, after becoming aware of the Treijs
- 16 incident, learn in follow-up that Palm Beach County
- 17 Sheriff's Office did nothing with the report when it
- 18 was made to them about somebody in their county?
- 19 A. I was told that.
- Q. And while there's never an excuse for not
- 21 doing things correctly, did the Treijs report as
- given, would that information have led to an
- 23 arrestable offense?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. And by the way, if the subject was in Palm

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- Beach County, who ordinarily, as you understand state
- 2 law enforcement responsibilities and statutory
- 3 authorities, had the law enforcement responsibility in
- 4 Palm Beach County?
- A. Well, if it was a city, it would have been
- 6 the whatever city --
- Q. West Palm Beach or --
- 8 A. Right. Or if it was the county, the Palm
- 9 Beach County Sheriff's Office.
- 10 Q. You mentioned the Pompano Beach training even
- 11 had helicopters repelling?
 - A. We did.

- 13 Q. At the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting, did
- 14 you learn that Deputy Madrigal from Fort
- 15 Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport was actually piloting an
- 16 aircraft over Marjory Stoneman Douglas in an effort to
- 17 assist and aid in the process?
- 18 A. I did learn that.
- 19 Q. And that another aircraft, a second Broward
- 20 County Sheriff's Office aircraft, had been dispatched
- 21 to survey the area?
- 22 A. Yes. So much of the training that we had
- 23 instituted and implemented was evident at not only the
- 24 airport, but also the massacre at Marjory Stoneman
- 25 Douglas. The training that the deputies had received

was evident.

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Q. Now, it took a significant amount of time to unravel all that happened and didn't happen at Marjory Stoneman Douglas; fair to sav?

- O. But you were at Marjory Stoneman Douglas?
- 8 O. And was there a command staff, a command
- post? q
- 10 A. Of course there was. As soon as I got there, 11 they had a TOC set up, a --
 - Q. A TOC?
- 12 13 A. -- tactical operations center, and that's 14 where the SWAT command was. There was colonels --15 they had Colonel (inaudible), Colonel Dale was there, investigations were there, and then a command center 16 was later set up. And there's been talk -- I don't 17 18 really even believe that the special council for the 19 governor even understands what a command center is or 20 what it's supposed to do to write the things that were 21 written in that, it was just so egregious, but I wouldn't have allowed them to go over to the command 22 23 center at that time even if it was set up. There were

children. It was -- it was complete turmoil. There FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

thousands of people, parents, people looking for their

was chaos. The news media, there were hundreds and

- hundreds of news media trucks over there. Elected
- officers were flocking in the area. It was easier --
- it was a better work place for them to work at this
- tactical operation center, to run the -- it was also a
- homicide scene, so we had to have our crime scene
- leaders in one place directing what they want,
- conferring with the FBI, conferring with the Florida
- Department of Law Enforcement. The tactical
- operations center was working seamlessly, and that was 10
- the place -- I mean, I think they just pulled the term 11
 - "command center" out, heard that there were command
- 13 centers, and there was a little time getting a command
- 14 center set up. It doesn't matter how long it took
- getting the command center. Was information getting 15
- out as fast as it possibly could? There were radio 16
- issues, horrific radio issues. Coral Springs and us 17
- 18 were on different radio channels, we had different
- radios. Coral Springs decided not to go to a regional 19
- 20 system. So many other variables. But as long as
 - communication was as good as it could be at the top, I
- wasn't going to let it go anywhere else anyway. 22
- Q. As far as you were able to understand, was
- 24 the operation at Marjory Stoneman Douglas involving
- coordination with other reporting agencies?

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- A. Could you repeat your question, sir?
- Q. Did BSO cooperate and coordinate with other
- responding agencies --
- - O. -- not BSO?
- A. Yes, certainly.
- O. And was that consistent with the law
- 8 enforcement function as you understood it?
- A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Was there any breach of protocol, failure to 11 comply with accepted standards, in trying to work
- 12 through that operations center and deal with the
- 13
- 14 A. No. I -- there were so many firefighters and
- police officers from not only the Broward Sheriff's 15
- 16 Office, but from like cities like Fort Lauderdale.
- Coral Springs, and -- I don't remember seeing a first 17
- responder from any city that wasn't working as hard as 18
- 19 he or she could to bring calmness to the community, to
- do the things that they needed to do, to follow up, to 20
- transport to the hospital. I mean, it was -- I 21
- don't -- you know, I don't know how you describe it if 23 one wasn't there, but it was an incredibly terrible 24 situation. It was a massacre, and everybody was trying their best. Everybody was in virgin territory. 25

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- There's no handbook on, you know, how you're going to 375 react. You just rely on your training, you do the
- things you were taught. And everybody was working so
- hard, yet we had a few people who should have done
- things differently and better. But it's a race issue,
- and when you pick first responders from the human
- race, humans are imperfect people and --
 - Q. Let me just ask --
- 9 -- my heart goes out to the families, it A.
- 10 really does.
- 11 Q. Sheriff, let me ask for clarification. I'm
- 12 not certain that our phrase "a race issue" came across
- as you intended. You're not talking about differences 1.4
 - in people --
 - A. No, I'm talking about --
 - Q. -- you're talking about human nature?
- 17 -- the human race, yes.
- O. Making -- decision-making and how people do 18
- that? 19

16

21

- 20 A. Yes, that's exactly what I'm talking about.
 - Now, as part of your job as sheriff, you have
- a community responsibility. You talked about that 22
- 23 when we opened, right? A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And was there a need for you as sheriff to

1	communicate post Marjory Stoneman Douglas to the	1	information to impart with the public. And when I got
2	greater community?	2	there, not only was the congressman there, but Senator
3	A. Yes.	3	Nelson, Senator Rubio, and it was kind of like a
4	Q. Was there concern, as you understood it,	4	sheriff doesn't belong on stage with those
5	about safety and safety of the children and the	5	individuals. So I was I was told that I wouldn't
6	schools?	6	be part of that segment. Of course, I said "Roger
7	A. Yes.	7	that," and then I was asked if I would go on in my own
8	Q. As well as other potential for terrorist	8	segment with a woman from the NRA. I said "Sure." We
9	attacks?	9	went on. I think we were on maybe five or ten
10	A. Yes.	10	minutes.
11	Q. And as part of a sheriff, as part of being	11	Q. And during that segment, did it end up that
12	conservator of the peace, is it your job to let the	12	there were caustic comments by the NRA because of some
13	public know what's going on?	13	positions you had asserted?
14	A. Inform and educate.	14	A. I think there were. I mean, my position is I
15	Q. And did you do that soon after the Marjory	15	support the second amendment and an American's right
16	Stoneman Douglas tragedy in a town hall meeting?	16	to bear arms, but I just don't want to see guns in the
17	A. I did.	17	hands of people who are convicted felons, people who
18	Q. And were you situated opposite a spokesperson	18	are on no-fly lists, and people who are suffering from
19	for the National Rifle Association?	19	mental illness. I pray for them and I hope they get
20	A. I was.	20	better, but I don't think they should have guns while
21	Q. Dana Loesch?	21	they're fighting mental illness. And whatever my
22	A. That's not how it was planned. I got a call	22	opinions were, she disagreed, she made that known, and
23	from the United States congressman, Congressman	23	there was to my knowledge, there was no exchange
24	Deutch, and he asked me to be a part of the town hall	24	between us as far as, you know, any there was no
25	meeting. He thought it would be important that I had	25	argument.
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379
         Q. And following that interview, did you learn $^{378}$
1
                                                                          1 promoting your ouster from office?
     of political attacks on you and your position
                                                                                 A. Yes.
                                                                          2
2
     regarding the second amendment?
                                                                          3
                                                                                   Q. Did you respond to the NRA?
        A. Yes.
                                                                                  Α.
                                                                                       No.
5
         Q. And at that point, did you become a campaign
                                                                                 Q. Are you anti-gun?
     issue by one of the candidates?
                                                                                 A. No.
        A. I don't know at that point. I know one of
                                                                                  Q. You mentioned you respect the second
в
     the state -- one of the state reps from Florida, I
                                                                               amendment?
     don't remember his name, but he called for me to
                                                                                  A. I do.
10
     resign a day later or two days later. But then
                                                                         10
                                                                                  Q. Your views, however, differed from at least
     eventually both candidates running for governor,
                                                                               what the NRA spokesperson had -- had offered --
11
                                                                         11
12
     both -- or two of the Republican candidates said that
                                                                          12
13
     they would suspend the sheriff.
                                                                          13
                                                                                   Q. -- when it came to certain conditions for gun
14
        Q. One of them being now --
                                                                          14
                                                                               ownership?
15
         A. One of them being --
                                                                          15
                                                                                  A. That's where the difference occurred.
         Q. -- Governor DeSantis?
                                                                                   Q. Now, Broward Sheriff's Office has instituted
16
                                                                          16
17
         A.
             -- Governor DeSantis.
                                                                         17
                                                                               a NIMS system, N-I-M-S?
         Q. And in the course of that campaign for
1.6
                                                                         18

 Yes, we have.

     governor, you were not up for election?
                                                                                  Q. And is that part of the sheriff's oversight
        A. No.
                                                                               to develop a means of communication from top to
20
                                                                         20
         Q. You were doing your sheriff responsibilities
                                                                               bottom --
22
     during that election time?
                                                                          22
                                                                                 A. It is.
23
       A. Yes.
                                                                          23
                                                                                  Q. -- at the sheriff's office?
                                                                                 A. Yes.
        Q. And in the course of that political campaign
                                                                         24
24
     season, did you become aware of the NRA actively
                                                                          25
                                                                                   Q. And are there certification standards that --
```

- that BSO has obtained in developing that
- communications model?
- Q. And does the sheriff's office require that 4
- all of its staff members, all of its 5,000 plus staff

- members, go through appropriate NIMS training?
- And is that an approach that helps you
- 9 develop policy and practices, as well as training, for
- 10 the sheriff's office?
- A. Yes. 11
- All components of it?
- 13 A. All components.
- 14 Q. And if I brought out to you Exhibits 22
- and -- 21, 22, and 23, Israel Exhibits 21, that's 15
- Israel page 1863, Israel Exhibit 22 marked as Israel 16
- 1771, and Israel Exhibit 23, Bates No. Israel 1776 --17
- I'm not -- if you need to see them, I'll show them to 18
- you, but those are documentation of the NIMS
- 20 certification and training for all the people at BSO,
- right?
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. As well as an explanation of the NIMS model
- or NIMS process? 24

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a transcript of an interview with Jake Tapper. A. Yes. February 25, 2018. So soon after the Marjory

O. And I'm going to hand you the Governor's

Exhibit S, the Governor's Exhibit S, as in Sam. It's

- ٥. Stoneman Douglas interview.
 - A. Thank you.

with one area.

- O. You've read that? 11
- 12

g,

- 13 Q. You're familiar with it?
- 14
- 15 Q. You did go -- you did go on CNN for an
- interview. And was that part of your role and 16
- responsibilities of community informing?
- 18 A. Self-imposed, yes.
 - Q. Was the community still reeling from,
- reacting from the realization of the scope of the 20
- 21 Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy?
- A. So much. 22
- Q. And did you feel that -- from the community 23
- that there was some potential for false attacks on 24
- dep- -- not physical attacks, but relational attacks 25

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- on BSO and the law enforcement officers who served the 382 1 community?
- A. Yes.
- Some sense of distrust?
- 5 A. Morale at the agency was low. There was so
- much false information out there. And there might
- have been accurate information out there, but it was
- only 11 days after the massacre. Nobody really had a
- handle on -- investigation was still in the embryonic
- 10 stages. There was so -- I can go on and on and on and 11
- tell you about made-up, fictional reports that were out there. There was one with what I remember that 12
- was bizarre that said -- it was on one of the national
- 14 news networks that said that when I arrived on the
- scene, the first radio transmission I gave was for 15
- 16 deputies not to enter into Marjory Stoneman Douglas to
- look for the killer without body cameras. Only the 17
- deputies with body cameras --18
- 19 Q. That you made that announcement?
- 20 A. Yeah. If it wasn't so dreadfully serious, it
- 21 would have been classified as silly. When I arrived,
- the killer was already in custody at another location.
- 23 I'm a former SWAT commander, I'm a tactical person,
- and I know what our training would be. I never got on
- the radio. I never said anything on the radio. So to

- even say that -- but these are the things that were out there. And if you don't -- sometimes if you don't
- feed the story, people say what they want. And I knew
- I had to go on to -- my sole -- my two-fold purpose,
- one was to inform the community of anything that the
- moderator might ask, but the other was to let folks
- know that BSO, if, God forbid, something like this
- happens tomorrow, the next day, next week, you can
- have confidence in this agency. We're prepared to
- 10 handle what we need to, as prepared as any agency
- 11

12

- O. If you had to do that interview over again,
- would there be any differences? 13
- A. Yes. There would be one. I don't know if 14
- this is what -- where I would be going, but at one 15
- point in the interview, I used the term "amazing 16
- leadership" about myself. I've apologized, and anyone 17
- who's listening today, I apologize for the use of that
- 19 term. My sole focus -- the only group that I wanted
- to say were amazing were the men and women I work
- with. I just wanted to say don't judge one great 21
- 22 agency on one incident, judge them by the body of
- 23 their work. I apologize for the use of that word.
- 24 I'm not an "I" guy, I'm a "we" -- a "we" leader. I
- talk about the group, not myself. And leaders don't 25

1	go on and tout themselves. They let other people ${\sf talk}^{384}$	1	A. If that's the senate's will, I will fulfill
2	about them. I just wanted to let the community know	2	my term, yes.
3	that our agency was ready to handle what was coming	3	MR. KUEHNE: I tender the witness.
4	our way, and I apologize for saying that.	4	SPECIAL MASTER: Thank you. We're going to
5	Q. When you were elected and then reelected, do	5	take a 10-minute break and we're going to come
6	you believe that you were elected to serve as sheriff	6	back with cross examination by Mr. Primrose and
7	for that entire four-year term?	7	Mr. MacIver. And we'll reconvene at 10 minutes
8	A. Absolutely.	8	till 11:00. Thank you.
9	Q. Is that your promise to the people of Broward	9	(Brief recess.)
10	County?	10	SPECIAL MASTER: Mr. Primrose, it's your
11	A. My absolute promise to serve and fulfill my	11	witness under cross examination. Please proceed.
12	term and then some.	12	MR. PRIMROSE: Thank you, Special Master.
13	Q. And in the course of fulfilling that term,	13	CROSS EXAMINATION
14	have you done all that you reasonably could to be an	14	BY MR. PRIMROSE:
14 15	have you done all that you reasonably could to be an effective, capable sheriff of Broward County?	14 15	BY MR. PRIMROSE: Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold
15	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County?	15	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold
15 16	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County? A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of	15 16	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it
15 16 17	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County? A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of people are meeting me for the first time and don't	15 16 17	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it was solely under your authority that the sheriff
15 16 17 18	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County? A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of people are meeting me for the first time and don't know me, but if my wife were here today, she'd tell	15 16 17 18	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it was solely under your authority that the sheriff office would exist, right?
15 16 17 18	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County? A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of people are meeting me for the first time and don't know me, but if my wife were here today, she'd tell you I've been a good husband, and if my kids were here	15 16 17 18	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it was solely under your authority that the sheriff office would exist, right? A. Yes.
15 16 17 18 19 20	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County? A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of people are meeting me for the first time and don't know me, but if my wife were here today, she'd tell you I've been a good husband, and if my kids were here today, they'd tell you I've been a good dad, and if my	15 16 17 18 19	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it was solely under your authority that the sheriff office would exist, right? A. Yes. Q. And that's because any function that occurs
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County? A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of people are meeting me for the first time and don't know me, but if my wife were here today, she'd tell you I've been a good husband, and if my kids were here today, they'd tell you I've been a good dad, and if my community were here today, they'd tell you I've been a	15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it was solely under your authority that the sheriff office would exist, right? A. Yes. Q. And that's because any function that occurs within Broward Sheriff's Office is done entirely under
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	effective, capable sheriff of Broward County? A. I'll answer that this way because a lot of people are meeting me for the first time and don't know me, but if my wife were here today, she'd tell you I've been a good husband, and if my kids were here today, they'd tell you I've been a good dad, and if my community were here today, they'd tell you I've been a good sheriff.	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. Mr. Israel, when you were elected to hold sheriff within Broward County, you understood that it was solely under your authority that the sheriff office would exist, right? A. Yes. Q. And that's because any function that occurs within Broward Sheriff's Office is done entirely under what either your constitutional the creation of

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Q. Meaning every employee within Broward

Sheriff's Office is acting under your authority as the

Q. Okay. And in the chain of command within

Q. Meaning if you wanted to go to the left,

A. I don't understand what you're saving.

Q. Meaning if you wanted a policy to go one

direction, that's the direction the policy was going

Q. Didn't matter if anybody else in the agency

A. After listening to every member of the agency

that I want -- that I thought should weigh in or would

weigh in when a policy was going to be changed or not

changed or re-created or created, I would have final

said "We don't want to go that way," it was your

Broward Sheriff's Office, you were the ultimate

or you and your attorney discussed?

everybody had to go to the left?

A. Right.

sheriff?

to go?

decision?

A. Yes.

A. Yes.

decision-maker then?

A. Correct.

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Q. Okay. And because of that, that also means
1
   if you didn't want to hire a deputy or any other
     personnel, you could have ultimately made that
     decision?
       A. Yes.
        Q. And you could have ultimately made a decision
     whether an employee was promoted?
         A. Yes.
        Q. Demoted?
10
       O. You could have had the ultimate decision on
11
12
      deputy assignments?
13
        A. Yes.
14
         Q. And you also -- as you mentioned, you had the
15
     ultimate to say on all agency policy decisions?
        A. Correct.
16
         Q. And that includes any training decisions?
18
       A. Correct.
19
       Q. And we heard some testimony yesterday that I
20
     think needs some clarification, and it was questions
      asked by your counsel regarding FDLE and the Criminal
22
     Justice Standards and Training Commission. Do you
23
     remember some of those questions?
       A. Questions that were posed to me, sir, or
24
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posed to other witnesses?

- Q. Posed to other witnesses that were testifying on your behalf.
- A. Well, they weren't testifying on my behalf.

 They were just testifying to the truth and facts.
 - Q. But they were on your witness list?
- 6 A. They were on my witness list, but not
- testifying on my behalf. So if you're going to ask a
- 8 question, I would -- it's up to the Special Master,
- 9 but I would think if you're going to ask a question
- 10 about another witness, you would ask it to the other
- 11 witness. I can't answer for them, sir.
- 12 Q. Okay. But you were sitting here when they
- 13 were asked some questions?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.

2

- 15 Q. And you -- you would agree with their
 16 answers, that FDLE nor the CJSTC have a requirement
- 17 for active shooter training?
- 18 A. To my knowledge, they don't.
- 19 Q. Okay. And you'd agree that a Florida law 20 enforcement officer is required by CJSTC to have 40
- 21 hours of training every four years, right?
- 22 A. To my knowledge, yes.
- Q. Okay. And are you aware of what the topic
- 24 areas are within that 40 hours of training?
- A. I believe -- you mean diffusion -- or

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- de-escalation might be one topic. You'd have to
- refresh my memory.
- Q. So if I told you that the topic areas that
- 4 were covered were traffic stops and discriminatory
- profiling, domestic violence, juvenile sex offender
- 6 investigations, human diversity training --
 - A. Human diversity training.
 - Q. -- and use-of-force scenario-based training,
- 9 that's within -- that sounds about right to you?
- 10 A. Does sound about right, yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you realize that those five areas
 - are ones that are either authorized or required by
- 13 Florida State Statute?
 - A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And those are just minimum requirements to be 16 a law enforcement officer anywhere within the State of
- 17 Florida, right?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. But CJSTC nor the Florida Department of Law
- 20 Enforcement dictate specific training to any other
- 21 agency within the State of Florida, right?
- 22 A. Are you telling me that or asking me that?
- 23 I'm not sure.
- Q. I'm asking you if you agree with that, that
- 25 CJSTC does not dictate training policies for

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- individual law enforcement agencies in the State of
- 3 A. I would agree.
- Q. Okay. And so that means that -- there was
 - some questions asked -- an officer in a small rural
- 6 town that might only have one stoplight, one school,
 - is not going to have the same training required of one
- 8 that might be in Miami-Dade?
- 9 A. I certainly can't answer that question. I
- 10 can only answer the training that we need to supply in
- 11 Broward County. It would be unfair to ask me to
- 12 compare what other officers or deputies would need in
- other places that I've never been to.
- 14 Q. Yeah. But I think you'd have to at least
- agree that it wouldn't be necessarily logical for the

training that say is required by the Miami-Dade Police

- 17 Department is the same training that would be required
- 18 for the smallest rural town in Florida?
- 19 A. I couldn't possibly answer that question.
- 20 Q. Okay.

16

21

- A. Ask me about training that is apropos for
- 22 Broward County.
- 23 Q. That's absolutely fair that that's your
- 24 opinion. So -- but you would agree that each agency
- 25 leader, meaning each sheriff or each police chief, has

- a responsibility to determine which additional
- training is -- is best for their agency?
- 3 A. I would agree with that.
- 4 Q. And which training should go above and beyond
- 5 the basic training that's required by -- by CJSTC and
- 6 Florida Department of Law Enforcement to be a law
 - enforcement officer?
 - A. I would agree.
 - Q. Okay. And in the county, you've already said
- 10 that that's the sheriff's responsibility then, what
- 11 additional training above and beyond the minimums?
 - A. Yes.

12

25

- 13 Q. Okay. Now, a new graduate from the law
- 14 enforcement academy or the police academy doesn't 15 necessarily have all the training that would be
- 16 required to be a BSO deputy, right?
- 17 A. Well, when they graduate, they have all the
- 18 training that they're required to be a deputy, of
- 19 course, or they wouldn't be graduating from the
- 20 academy. The academy is giving them their certificate
 21 and they're saying they're a full-fledged deputy, able
- 22 to work wherever the leader would want them to work.
- 23 Q. But we heard yesterday from Detective Curcio
- that different agencies have different field training

that officers are required to go to even after they've

completed their minimum training at the police academv?

A. Well, the field training is -- that's

- probably the second most important thing an agency can
- do. The most important thing you can do, sir, is to
- hire the right people, and the second most important 6
- thing is to train the people the right way. So you're
- not going to take a person who graduated the police В
- 9 academy and put them out in the streets of your county
- without having a field training officer under -- you
- 11 know, train them, monitor them, evaluate them, and
- make sure that he's doing reports or she's doing
- reports, evaluating that, you know, newly-hired 13
- officer to make sure they can do the job and, you 14
- know, you're getting feedback on them. 15
- 16 Q. But it's not just newly-graduated police
- 17 officers from the academy, because as we heard
- 18 Detective Curcio say, he had 30 years of law
- enforcement experience and he was still required to go
- through Broward Sheriff's Office field training, 20
- 21

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3

- A. New officers to the agency, probably 90 22
- percent of them are going to come out of the academy, 23
- and I assume some are going to come from other 24
- agencies or other places, but anyone who's new to your 25

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agency.

O. And your field training -- your field officer

- training is a specific requirement to your agency?
- - There's no FDLE requirement that there's a
- field training program for each agency? 6
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And you didn't need a direction from CJSTC to
- create a field training program?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. And, in fact, you don't need the legislature
- to pass a statute or law that you have a field
- training program specific to your agency? 13
- A. No. 14

18

- Q. And I think you had testified your job is to 15
- 16 make sure that you hire the best and that you provide
- 17 them the best tools to complete their jobs, right?
 - A. That's correct.
- 19 Okay. In Broward sheriff's, your officers at
- 20 the time used mobile data terminals, correct?
- O. And they needed to be trained on those 22
- terminals? 23
- A. Yes. 24
- Q. And that's not training that's mandated by 25

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FDLE?

1

- That's correct.
- 3 O. It's not training that's mandated by CJSTC?
- A. That is correct too.
- O. Nor the legislature?
- Nor the legislature.
 - And you testified this morning about the fact
- that your deputies who respond to Marjory Stoneman
- Douglas were carrying tourniquets?
- A. A lot of them were carrying kits. 10
- 11
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 O. And you highlighted that thankfully they have
- those kits because they were able to save additional 14
- lives that were brought to the hospital, right? 15
- 16 A. And not only deputies from the Broward 17 Sheriff's Office, but these police officers from other
- agencies as well. 18
- 19 Q. Okay. Tourniquets aren't covered in first
- aid training under CJSTC guidelines, correct? 20
- 21 A. I don't think so.
- 22 Q. So the deputies that you hired to BSO, they
- would have required additional training on how to use 23
- field tourniquets and other first aid measures? 24
- 25 A. Correct.

- Q. And, again, FDLE doesn't require you to do
- that training?
- A. Correct. 3
- Q. They didn't set the minimum standards?
- A. No.
- CJSTC didn't do that?
- No. Α.
- Q. The legislature didn't pass a law saying that
- each agency needs to teach how to use a tourniquet?
- A. No. 10
- 11 And so you would agree with me, then, that
- it's the sheriff that requires additional training 12
- when he believes -- he or she believes it's necessary
- for the agency to adequately protect the community? 14
- A. I would agree with that statement. 15
- Okay. And it's not FDLE's responsibility 16
- 17 that a sheriff office have additional training?
 - A. Certainly not.
- Q. Not CJSTC's? 19
- Α.

18

- ο. Not the governor's?
- A. No.
- 23 Q. Not the legislature's?
- Α.
- 25 ο. And as we heard in questions from your

- counsel, it's not even Congress' responsibility to ensure that a sheriff implements the additional
- training that he or she feels is necessary for 3
- their -- their deputies?
- A. Correct. 5
- Okay. Now, if you wanted to, you could
- implement certain additional trainings? 7
- A. Yes.

16

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4

- Q. You could make trainings more frequent? 9
- 10 A. Not necessarily, no. I would disagree with
- 11 that, and here's why: There's a -- a national issue
- 12 of law enforcement. There are many vacant positions.
- 13 So if you can't fill vacancies on an agency, there's a
- lot of training that you can't do or do as often as 14
- you want because you can't leave the road or the
 - community short of police officers. So sometimes you
- might want to do three, four trainings on something a 17
- 18 year, but especially in the agency like the Broward
- 19 Sheriff's Office, for example, if somebody would have
- 20 recommend maybe we can train our school resource
- deputies more often, you can't take them out of 21
- 22 schools. They need to be there to protect children.
- 23 So just because you see sometimes the need for more
- training, you don't have the manpower because of 24
 - vacancy issues and you're not able to do that. So

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- there's a lot of things that go into -- especially
- with agency our size, there's a lot of variables that
- do into it.
- O. How many days a week is school in session
 - when the school is normally in session?
- O. Five. So that leaves two days a week that
- they're not in session?
- A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And do you know how many days a year school
- 11 is actively in session?
 - A. Thirty something.
- 13 O. Okav.

12

16

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- A. Fortv. 14
- And they've got summer break, they've got
- spring break, and they Christmas break. So there's at
- least three opportunities throughout a calendar year 17
- where the deputy assigned to the school doesn't have 1.8
- 19 to -- isn't doing his normal SRO duties, correct?
- predominant amount of our training because of exactly 21

A. Right, but the -- and that's when we do the

- what you said, when the deputies are off during the
- summer -- or when the schools are off during the 23
- summer, the summer months are when we -- are when we
 - concentrate on the field training, all the mandatory

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- training that has to go into being a field training officer -- I mean a school resource officer.
- Right. And it was your decision to only make school resource officers go to an annual training in
- the summertime?

A. Correct.

- But not in -- not during spring break?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Not during their Christmas break?
- A. Correct. 10
- And, again, that's something that you could 11
- have implemented, you could have required not even 12
- 13 just school resource officers, but any of the deputies
- in your agency to attend certain trainings more 14
- 15 frequently?

21

- A. Right, but I must say this: We were well 16
- within the industry standard of training of agencies 17
- our size to mandate that deputies go through active
- killer training once every three years, with an agency 19 of 1,800 deputies or thereabouts is well within
 - industry standard, and our deputies were receiving the
- 22 appropriate training and they were receiving the right
- amount of training. 23
- Q. But, again, I want to go back to this, it was 24

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25 your decision, you could have prioritized certain

- 1 trainings more often, right? A. Right.
 - You could have prioritized certain trainings
- longer, make them more extensive trainings, right? 4
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And you could have made the school
 - resource officers do the active shooter training on a
- more frequent basis than just -- than just once every
- three years?
- A. Yes. 10
- 11 Q. And you already testified that you were
- familiar with Florida Statute 30.15? 12
- 13
- 14 Q. And that's the duties and responsibilities
- 15 of an elected sheriff in the State of Florida, right?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And there was a long discussion about what 17
 - really was the responsibility of a sheriff, and my
- words in my opening statement were taken, and you said 19
- you disagreed with me as to what I said what 20
- "conservator of the peace" meant, right? 21

22

- Q. And are you aware that the -- the words that
- 24 I was using were actually from a Florida District
 - Court of Appeal case?

Didn't I say in my opening that the conservator of the peace also includes a duty to protect against crime

5 without waiting for it to occur?

6 MR. KUEHNE: Objection.

7 SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed.

8 MR. PRIMROSE: Thank you.

9 BY MR. PRIMROSE:

10 Q. That comment that I said was taken exactly
11 from a Fifth District Court of Appeal case from the

12 State of Florida.

13 A. I -- if you said it like that, that's not how

14 I received what you were saying. I received as you
15 were saying that it's the responsibility of a sheriff

16 to eliminate crime and to prevent crime from

17 happening, and we both know that's an impossibility.

18 O. Okay. Now. you'd also agree --

19 MR. KAPLAN: Special Master, I don't mean to
20 interrupt, but the exhibit --

Intellate, sac and annials

21 SPECIAL MASTER: I'm sorry. Please proceed.
22 MR. PRIMROSE: Okav. Thank you.

22 MR. PRIMROSE: Okay. Thank you.
23 BY MR. PRIMROSE:

Q. Now, we didn't go into this -- you didn't go

25 into this on direct examination, but I think it's an

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A. No.

400

Q. Your attorney didn't show you in the memorandum that we wrote that he went through that

4 that actually is from a Florida Fifth District Court

of Appeal decision called State v. ARR?

6 A. I think it was the interpretation rather than

7 the words, the way you were interpreting it.
8 Q. Okay. Let's do this exercise: The case

9 there -- and it's highlighted -- says, "Section 30.15 10 states in relevant part sheriffs in person or by

states in relevant part sheriffs in person or by
deputy shall be conservators of the peace."

Do you agree that that's the first sentence

of the highlighted portion?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then it says, "And in a complex society,
16 police are charged with the duty to protect people and
17 property wherever they are situated under a variety of
18 circumstances," right?

19 A. Yes.

25

1

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20 Q. That's the first thing I said is they are 21 charged with a duty to protect people and property.

22 The second -- or the last sentence there 23 highlighted says, quote, "In performing this duty,

24 they're required to protect against crime without

waiting for it to occur, " right, that's what it says?

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important point to mention.

Do you agree that the deputies that you assign or appoint are acting under your authority as sheriff?

A. Yes.

6 Q. And are you familiar with Florida Statute

30.07?

8 A. I think so.

Q. And are you -- do you agree that it says that

10 because sheriffs appoint deputies, the deputy -- or

the sheriff is also responsible for the neglect or

12 default of the deputies that they appoint?

13 A. You'd have to show that to me, but I would --

14 I would think that that's accurate.

15 Q. Okay. Would you like me to show it to you?

16 I can.

17

A. No.

Q. Okay. So you'd at least agree that it

19 says -- and I'm jumbling up the way the words are

20 ordered, but essentially because the sheriff has to

21 appoint deputies to act with the sheriff's authority,

 $\,$ 22 $\,$ the sheriff is responsible if the deputies are

23 neglect -- commit neglect or default?

24 A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Now, I want to talk about -- there are

1 a lot of discussion about these organizations that

402

exist across the United States and globally. One of

3 them was CALEA. And you're familiar with CALEA?

4 A. CALEA?

5 Q. CALEA, excuse me. You're familiar with

6 CALEA?

7 A. Yes

8 Q. And CALEA is actually a voluntary

9 organization

10 A. It is.

11 Q. There's no mandate from the State of Florida

12 that a sheriff's office or police office be a part of

13 this organization?

A. That's correct.

15 Q. And isn't it also true that CALEA requires

16 the law enforcement agencies to pay to be a member of

17 CALEA?

14

.8 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And you're paying to get access to some model

20 policies that CALEA wants the agencies to follow,

21 right?

22 A. I don't necessarily know that to be the

23 reason you pay, no.

Q. Were you aware that the way that CALEA

25 accredits an agency is by looking to see how many

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Α.

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"may"?

Correct.

A. Yes. 15 16 Q. Is it fair to say that none of the 17 accreditations on that sheet were new under your tenure as the sheriff? 18 A. I'm not sure. 19

20 O. Okav. We can pull it up if you'd like, but I'd submit to you that none of the accreditations that 21 have been highlighted -- and this is Exhibit --22 A. All you'd have to do is also pull up the 23 dates of their first accreditation and that would --

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Q. Yeah. So let's -- well, this is Israel FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

Q. That's for individual members to join? O. And, again, it's individual members paid to join the international association? A. Yes. Q. Okay. Now, lot of discussion on the active shooter policy, and on direct examination, you talked about it being a concerted effort to develop this policy, right? A. Yes. FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

1 . O. You had your command staff included? O. You had the road patrol, you got their input, 4 right? A. Well, actually, it was -- it went the other way. The command staff got the road patrol or whoever they got involved, and then command staff came to see me to discuss they felt it rose to -- you know, it was an important policy and it rose to my level, and they were absolutely right. So then I engaged in 10 11 conversations with command staff. Q. Okay. Am I correct in my understanding that 12 the introduction of 4.37, the active shooter policy, 13 1.4 was under your tenure as sheriff, meaning the creation of the policy in the Broward Sheriff's Office standard 15 16 operating procedure occurred under your tenure? 17 A. The first policy ever on active shooter? I'm 18 not sure. Q. Okay. I want to show you -- this is Israel 19 Exhibit 4. And Israel Exhibit 4, the first page of 21 that says "Date, October 4, 2013."

MR. PRIMROSE: That might be worse. 1 SPECIAL MASTER: Is that harder? The answer 3 is ves, you may certainly come closer here if vou'd like to do so. THE WITNESS: Okay. Yeah, I don't -- I don't know if that was the development of the policy or if that was, you know, an amendment to the policy. BY MR. PRIMROSE: Q. Okay. So regardless of if it's the new 10 creation or an amendment to the policy, the policy that existed -- and this says October 4, 2013, moving forward says -- and I've highlighted it here -- "If 12 real-time intelligence exists, the sole deputy or team 13 of deputies will enter the area and/or structure to 14 preserve life," correct, that's what it says? 15 A. Yes. 16 17 Q. Okay. And when you were questioned by your attorney, we heard that at some point, it was changed 18 to "may"? 19 A. Yes, sir. 21 Q. And that was your decision to change it to

A. Yes. 23 24 And isn't it true that after the Marjory 25 Stoneman Douglas shooting, the policy was then changed FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

THE WITNESS: Special Master, may I get up to

read it? I can't really see it too well from this

SPECIAL MASTER: Can you see that screen?

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to "shall"?
1
          A. Yes.
2
          Q. But you testified on direct examination that
      "may" and "shall" are essentially the same word?
          A. When "shall" has a caveat in there,
5
      absolutely. I didn't say "may" and "shall" were the
      same word, but I said in a policy that says "shall"
8
      and has a comment in it that savs "under reasonable
      circumstances" or brings a caveat in to give the
      officer discretion, it becomes the same as "may."
10
11
          O. So what's the purpose of changing it from
      "will" to "may" under your tenure, and then from "may"
12
1.3
      to "shall" under your tenure?
          A. When we changed it back to "shall"?
14
15
          Q. Well, this says "will."
              This savs "will" --
16
17
          Q. And this was in October of '13.
          A. And we changed it in 2016 because I felt and
      still feel that the policy we changed it to is better
19
      for deputies and is more in line with industry
21
      standard and other policies throughout the nation.
22
      Most of the policies that -- most of the policies from
      large agencies will be more aligned with "may" and the
23
```

Q. Okay. And then you'd agree with me, though,

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policy that I changed it to in 2016.

24

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world, right?

A. Yes, sir.

3 A. Yes. A. I was -- I had a conversation in my office with Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, who was the chairman of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Commission, and it was one of the things that he said the group was talking about and he suggested that -- he was going to be talking about other sheriffs and he suggested that we 10 change it back to "shall." He said that he thought, 11 you know. "shall" was the better way to do it. So we 12 developed a policy with "shall," and it basically says 13 the same thing. So we -- I just did that -- I felt 14 that, you know, I was being asked to do it, I 15 wanted -- in the spirit of full cooperation with the 16 17 commission, that's why I did it. 18 Q. Even though you don't think the policy change from '16 to now, to 2018, has any practical 19 21 A. I know I'm not allowed to ask you questions, 22 but do you see a practical difference? Not that you've ever been in police work or stuff, but I know 23 how deputies are going to respond, and the way it was 24 in 2016 was appropriate and within the lines of what 25 FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

policy to "shall"?

you'd want your deputies to do and how you want your deputies to train. And you can't ask questions about 2 policy, I don't think, without asking about the training that corresponds to it. 4 5 Q. But I guess the point that I'm getting at, though, is you've testified that you don't think practically there's any difference between the policy that existed in 2016 to the policy that you implemented before -- right before you were suspended 10 from office? A. Correct. 11 So, then, why change it? If it has no 12 practical effect, why change it, other than to maybe 13 try to avoid criticism that "may" provides discretion 14 to the deputies and "shall" is a directive that you 15 16 don't have discretion? 17 A. Respectfully, it sounds like you're answering 18 the question for me. I've already answered that 19 question. I did it because I was asked to by Sheriff Gualtieri, and that's the answer. 20 21 Q. Okay. Now, an active shooter situations, I 22 think we all agree, are an unfortunate reality that we 23 now have in this -- in not only the country, but the

Q. And with that, unfortunately, we know that 411 schools are becoming a likely target for these events? O. And airports at least have similarly started 4 to be an increased target for active shooter situations? A. I don't know to be true. 7 8 Okay. You'd agree that -- well, you ٩ understand the word "soft target," what that phrase 10 means? 11 A. I do. 12 And that's defined by homeland security as an area that is easily accessible, contains large numbers 13 of people, and has limited security --A. I would agree with that. 15 16 Q. -- right? 17 And so there's at least an understanding, not 18 even just in law enforcement, but globally that soft 19 targets are increasingly becoming used for active 20 shooter -- people that want to carry out mass casualty 21 events? 22 A. I don't necessarily agree with that. I mean, if you're talking about -- certainly a soft target is

a (inaudible), and now you have horrific people

driving trucks into people when they can't find

weapons. So I think we're vulnerable. We're a free society and I think we're vulnerable everywhere. Q. Okay. You'd agree, though you at least agree with me, though, that, I mean, schools are considered soft targets that are being an increasing venue for individuals to want to carry out mass casualty events? A. Well, define "increasing." Q. I mean, let's go back. So Columbine in 1999 was really the first major one that's in a lot of folks' minds, right? A. Yes, sir. Q. And since that time, there have been, it unfortunately seems, more than just one every three or	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	define "increasing." We have school shootings. Protecting schools is but when you say "increasing," every time a shooting happens anywhere, it's increased by what? I don't know what you're trying to say by "increasing." Q. Okay. Let's do it this way, then, since you're having difficulty understanding the question here. MR. KUEHNE: Move to strike. SPECIAL MASTER: Denied. Go ahead. BY MR. PRIMROSE: Q. 1999, Columbine happened, right? A. Yes, sir.
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Q. And since that time, there have been, it	13	- ' ' ' '
- ,	-	A. Yes, sir.
unfortunately seems, more than just one every three or		
	14	Q. Since 1999, school shootings are becoming
four years?	15	more frequent, yes or no?
A. Well, if you're going to ask the question,	16	A. Well, are you saying that I don't
I'd ask that you give me the exact number so I can	17	understand what you're trying to say.
give you the answer. I don't know how many have been	18	Q. Let's do it this way: So between we know
committed since 1999.	19	that Columbine happened in '99, the Sandy Hook
Q. Let me ask you this: You as a sheriff for	20	massacre happened in 2012?
you were elected once, you were reelected can't	21	A. Yes.
tell me whether or not you agree that schools have	22	Q. Today, it is more apparent to law enforcement
become an increasing school shootings have become	23	that school shootings are a real possibility maybe
increasingly over the past 20 years?	24	compared to 20 years ago or 30 years ago?
A. What do you mean by I ask you again,	25	A. I would absolutely agree with that statement.
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1	Q. Okay. And that's an area that absolutely				
2	needs to be prioritized by every single law				
3	enforcement agency in the United States?				
4	A. Yes.				
5	Q. Okay. And I noticed yesterday and into today				
6	you really wanted to talk about the Pompano Beach High				
7	School training exercise that occurred?				
8	A. Yes.				
9	Q. And that occurred in May of 2013, right?				
10	A. Yes.				
11	Q. So about five months after you first took				
12	office?				
13	A. Yes.				
14	Q. Okay. You talked about helicopters were				
15	involved?				
16	A. Yes.				
17	Q. You repelled a $K-9$ down the side of the				
18	school?				
1,9	A. Yes.				
20	Q. You had multiple agencies within Broward				
21	County that responded to this training exercise?				
22	A. Yes.				
23	Q. SWAT was included?				
24	A. Yes.				
25	Q. I read an article that was provided by your				

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counsel that the whole premise of it started with an
     SRO was approached by four -- I believe it was males,
     and one of them said "One of those guys has a gun,"
4
     right?
        A. Yes.
         Q. And then the SRO engaged the shooter, right?
8
         Q. SWAT arrived --
       Q. -- right?
10
11
              One of the shooters or maybe two of the
12
     shooters created a hostage situation, right?
13
        A. Yes.
        Q. They barricaded themselves --
        A. Yes.
1,5
             -- in a classroom?
17
              Hostage negotiators were used to try to
      defuse the situation?
        A. Yes.
19
20
         Q. Okay. And this all happened in one day?
21
         Α.
             Yes.
22
         Q. It was a one-day training?
        A. Yes.
         Q. How many Broward Sheriff's Office school
24
      resource officers participated in that training?
```

Q. Did the training happen multiple times that day?

- A. It was one continuous training exercise.
- Q. Okay. But I guess my point is it wasn't like we're going to start the training at 9:00 a.m., it's going to be a one-hour event, and then we're going to start it again at 11:00 and take it to 2:00?
 - A. No, no.
- 10 Q. So it was you start, you finish, end of the 11 day?
- 12 A. Yes.

1

- 13 Q. And it was one school resource officer who 14 engaged the initial shooter, and then SWAT arrives,
- 15 hostage negotiators arrive, and fire rescue?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. So it wasn't like every single Broward

 18 sheriff school resource officer got a chance to

 19 participate in this Pompano Beach training in May of
- 20 2013?
- 21 A. I don't know how many were there, I really22 don't.
- Q. You have no idea how many of your school
 resource officers --
- 25 A. I don't.

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1 rescue, right?

time and the training was incredible and there were 2

3 lessons learned from it, and these lessons were

taught -- you know, we constantly train. There's so

trying to say, but, no, we did it -- we did it that

much training that goes -- we have training when we do

6 clearing training, you know, we talk about active

killer. So it's constant, so --

- Q. And let me get to that --
- It's not going to be done every year.
- 10 Q. Okay. And I want to follow up on that

11 because on direct examination, you highlighted how

2 renowned it was, not just in Florida, but nationally

13 folks are wondering how the heck did Broward Sheriff's

Office pull off this multi-agency, large-scale active

15 shooter training?

q

16 A. I don't know if you'd use the word

17 "renowned," but it was -- it was talked about, and our

18 colonels and command staff would come to me and they

19 would say they would get comments, "How did you guys

20 pull this off," because it was a lot that went into

21 developing the training.

22 Q. Okay. So -- but at a bare minimum, you have 23 to be thinking we're onto something here by doing such

24 a large exercise to really test every facet of not

only my agency, but surrounding agencies and fire

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A. You're telling me what I was thinking?

Q. -- went to a training that was designed to

Sheriff's Office as a whole would respond to an active

O. And how many Broward SROs participated in

Q. Well, the Pompano Beach High School active

shooter training that you did in May of 2013, how many

Q. Okay. Let's go back. May of 2013, you hold

Q. That training didn't happen in 2014, did it?

A. I mean, I would say we didn't do a full-scale

Q. So no SROs under your agency attended a similar full-scale exercise in 2014, right?

exercise in 2014, but I think it's also important to

know I don't know that any other county in the nation

did either. So I don't know where you're -- what your

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did it when the training happened in 2014, that

A. I don't understand your question.

this large-scale active shooter training at a high

test how a school resource officer and Broward

shooter situation in a school?

A. In which training in 2014?

A. Correct.

that training in 2014?

A. Correct.

A. No.

exercise?

school?

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3 Q. I'm asking you. After you do the exercise

4 and you hear from your colonels that other law

5 enforcement agencies are asking "How did you pull this

6 off, it's great that you did this," you've got to be

7 thinking I got to do this more often, right? We've

8 got to hold a full-scale, real-life exercise in

schools more often because it worked so well in 2013,

10 I'm hearing that other people are asking about it, we
11 must be onto something, we need to do this more often?

made be ones something, we need to do this wars agon

A. I never said that. I mean --

Q. You never thought that?

14 A. There's -- the schools are one soft target,

but there are airports, there are a host of venues

that -- you know, there's a -- you know, got to do

17 training, you know, in different venues.

Q. Okay. So taking that, then, you're right,

19 there are other venues that are considered soft

20 targets that deserve full-scale, real-life exercises,

21 right?

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A. Right.

Q. So you don't do the Pompano Beach training in

24 2014, maybe you do it at -- you do another soft

target. What about in 2015, did you do a similar

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422 1 was two 4-hour blocks of training, right? it's not, you know, studying for a chemistry test, A. I don't know. You'd have to check with the it's simply learning the movements and the philosophy trainers. I don't know the calendar. 3 of what you need to do. Q. If I told you that the folks that have Q. Okay. I want to go through with you the 4 already testified said there was one 4-hour block that 5 training on active shooter, and this is our Exhibit W. was titled "Active Shooter" and then there was one And, Mr. Israel, I'll submit to you that this is the 4-hour block that said "Rescue Task" or something lesson plan provided to us by BSO for the course similar, does that sound about right to you? titled "Response to Active Shooter." Would you agree A. Sounds about right. that that's what the course title is? A. Yes. Q. Okay. And you've already testified that the 10 two 4-hour blocks of training was once every three Q. Okay. I want to direct your attention to the 11 years, meaning a deputy would do it in Year 1, but 12 course agenda, and if you look at the course agenda, they wouldn't do it in Year 2 or 3, they'd do it again 13 you'll see it's broken down into five separate blocks, in Year 42 14 right? 14 A. Correct. 15 A. Yes. Q. Okay. And, again, you could have decided to 16 MR. PRIMROSE: And Madam Court Reporter, make that, instead of a three-year cycle, a two-year 17 you're hearing him? cycle, right? 18 THE COURT REPORTER: Oh, yeah. A. Or a five-year cycle or a six-year cycle. MR. PRIMROSE: I just want to make sure. And 19 Q. Okay. You think active shooter training 20 you can stand up. I just wanted to make sure she 21 should have been done on a longer time cycle? 21 A. No, I think it should have been done exactly BY MR. PRIMROSE: 22 23 how it was done. I thought --Q. So first block of time, 20 minutes spent on 23 Q. Three years was perfect? 24 introductions, right? A. Three years. It's not a perishable skill, 25 A. Right.

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Okay. And we've heard some testimony that it

- 10
- 12 Q. Okay. So the first 20 minutes is spent on
- 13 introductions, right?
- A. Yes. 14
- Q. The next 50 minutes is a PowerPoint 15
- presentation, right? 16
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. And then the third block, 40 minutes is spent 18
- on two to four-man bounding overwatch practice, right? 19
- 21 O. Bounding overwatch is essentially like a
- leap-frog exercise, right?
- A. Correct? 23
- Q. So person in the front does something, 24
- somebody behind them comes and takes over, that's --25

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- it's a multiple person leap-frog exercise?
- A. Yes. It's basically developed and taught to
- teach the units, teams, how to move towards the -- the
- gunman and engage.
- Q. Okay. And then there's 90 minutes spent on practical exercises and scenarios, right?
- Q. And then a 10-minute just debrief and В
- cleanup?
- A. Yes. 10
- Q. Are you familiar in the 90 minutes -- let me 11
- 12 go back.

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- 13 The two to four-man bounding overwatch, that would not include solo deputy response to an active 14 15 shooter, right?
- A. You would have to bring the instructors into
- that. That would be something to ask the instructors. 17
- Q. You as the sheriff have no idea whether or 19 not two to four-man bounding overwatch practice
- includes single deputy response? 20
- 21 A. I know what two to four-man overwatch means,
- what the practice means, but I'm not at the
- instructions, so I don't know, I couldn't testify as
- 24 to what they're actually doing at the instruction.
 - Q. Okay. And so you couldn't actually tell us

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in the practical exercises, how many scenarios are done with just a solo deputy response?

A. I've been in -- I've witnessed some of the 4 practical exercises, but I couldn't tell you how many

Q. Okay. If I told you -- and we can go down to it. All right. So we've got Exercise 1. This

Exercise 1 --

A. A little larger, sir?

10 O. Sure, of course.

Exercise 1, first scenario, it says "two-man 11

deputy team," right?

13 A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Exercise 2, "single deputy" --

A. Yes. 15

Q. -- right?

17 Okay.

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18 A. Could you go back to Exercise 2 so I could

19 read it a little bit? Q. I'm just asking you what -- if it's solo or 20

multiple people. 21

A. I'd like you to go back to Exercise 2 so I 22 can read it. If you're going to ask me anymore

questions on this issue, I'd like to read it. Q. Mr. Israel, I promise you that after I'm done asking questions, Mr. Kuehne is going to get a chance to go through every single question I ask and you'll have a chance to follow up on any question that I

asked that you didn't feel you had a full chance to respond. So --

MR. KUEHNE: Objection.

SPECIAL MASTER: Let me suggest that -- give him an opportunity to read the whole section that

he is responding to. I think that's -- I think

that's a legitimate question on his part.

BY MR. PRIMROSE:

12 Q. Okay. So we'll go back, Exercise 2.

You can move up -- move it. You can keep 13 A.

14 moving.

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MR. PRIMROSE: Special Master Goodlette, at a 15 16 certain point, to ask to go through an entire 17 document when my question is very limited to

whether or not the exercise was a single deputy 18

versus two deputy, I mean --

SPECIAL MASTER: My concern is he's just reading what you have highlighted, and I don't know what else might be in there that you have not highlighted that he's -- you're asking him the question -- the question on. That's my only

25 concern.

1 Exercise 2, the single deputy response, which I think 429 MR. PRIMROSE: The question was only, though, 428 is the very important part of all the testimony that the -- how many individuals were asked to the exercise. So, for example, the first -- Exercise we've been hearing, the Exercise 2 on single deputy 3 1, it says, "First scenario, two-man deputy team." response says --A. Could you make it a little larger? That's my sole question as to Exercise 1. Q. Absolutely. There you go. BY MR. PRIMROSE: O. And Exercise 2, it says, "Single deputy 7 Deputy is going to search around a little bit 7 response." We can all agree that it says that, right, after hearing for gunshot, bad guy's going to be Mr. Israel? distance away, blank qun firing intermittently, deputy A. Yes. is going to move towards gunfire, passing dead 10 10 students and others running by him. This provides 11 Okay. And then Exercise 3 -- I'll give you a real-time intell for the deputy, right? 12 chance to read that, but I'm seeing it says this 12 13 exercise is for a four-man deputy team? 13 A. Yes. Q. Then it says, "Suspect will drop gun, raise 14 14 hands in surrender prior to the deputy making Okay. And then -- and then it's done. So 15 contact"? one, two, three exercises, and then it says "debrief 16 16 and cleanup"? 17 A. Yes. 17 A. Yes. Q. And then the single deputy is going to hold 18 the suspect at gunpoint, prone the suspect out. That 19 Q. Okay. Do you have any reason to disagree 19 just means basically allow him to -- the deputy to pat with what was on there, that there were -- there are 20 the suspect for guns, right? three practical exercises that are gone through in the 21 21 four-hour training? 22 A. Right. No reason to disagree. O. And then continues on, you're going to look 23 23 for potential weapons on the suspect. Okay. And I want to ask you about this. 24 24 Now, when it says "watch," that's a directive 25 We'll go back -- I told you we'd go back to this. So 25 FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491 FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

430 for the instructor, right? 1 A. What's the question, sir? 2 Q. Under "watch," it says, "Instructors should 3 watch deputy." So the reason it savs "watch" there. am I correct that that is an indication for the instructor, look out for the following things while this single deputy is going through this exercise? A. Yeah. I think a better word might have been "evaluate," to evaluate the performance. Q. Okay. And then it says "say." And would 10 11 "say" be a directive that the instructor should provide some instruction or guidance to the deputy? 12 13 14 Q. And I want to know about this last highlighted line: "Remember the calvary is on their 15 way. So it's better to hold than to expose yourself 16 17

provide some instruction or guidance to the deputy?

A. Yes.

Q. And I want to know about this last
highlighted line: "Remember the calvary is on their
way. So it's better to hold than to expose yourself
to unknown threats." What does that mean?

A. That means if you're sure that there's not
active killing going on; in other words, the active
killing is over or the suspect is barricaded, you
don't know where the suspect is, but your intell and
your senses tell you that nobody else is dying, it's
better to hold a position and wait for SWAT or
reinforcements. Has nothing to do with an active
killer situation.

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In an active killer situation, you're moving, you're moving, you're moving, as I said before, to either neutralize the target, arrest the target, or have the target surrender. But if there was, God forbid, a shooting in this room and we chased the shooter outside to another room, he's still a murderer, he's still a felon, we still want to arrest him, but there's no reason to go into a room to take him into custody without waiting for reinforcements because you're not worried about innocents getting hurt. 11 Q. So the directive -- and that was under the "say" section -- where an instructor might tell the 1.3 deputy "Remember calvary is on the way" does not apply 14 if the deputy still hears gunfire? 15 A. Correct. 16 17 Okay. Now, my understanding is that under

A. I think -- well, we had -- we had other
people that do -- when you have an agency that large,
you have collateral trainers. You have people that
might do their regular jobs, but for a certain

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your tenure, Broward Sheriff's Office had 12 trainers,

and I think that was in some of the testimony we heard

from some witnesses. Does that sound about right to

- В A. Ultimately responsible for everything on the 9 agency.
- 10 Q. And the more trainers you have, presumably the more trainings you can do? 11
- 12 A. No, not necessarily.
- 13 Q. No? A. You still -- the number of trainers is --14 that's just a fallacy, and, you know -- and I honestly 15 don't appreciate you answering the question for me. 16 It doesn't mean that at all. It's not about the 17 trainers, it's about the students. And when you have 18 19 an agency our size with all the vacancies we have, you could have 100 trainers that could give people 20 one-on-one instruction, but if you don't have the 21
- 22 ability and you're going to make the county unsafe by 23 bringing students away from their regularly-scheduled 24 assignments to protect and serve and bring them into
- training, that's not the best thing for the community

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- in my mind. So the amount of trainers or telling me what the staff has is not indicative of the quality of the training or our ability to train. It's about the availability of the student and the necessity of that specific training.
- Q. Okay. I want to make sure that I -- that I didn't mishear anything on direct examination. You don't place any fault onto Broward County School District for limiting how often you can train your 10 school resource officers, do you?
- A. No. 11

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- Okay. We'll talk about Fort Lauderdale 12 airport shooting for a moment. Five individuals 13 unfortunately lost their lives that day at the hands of the shooter? 15
- A. Yes, sir. And the shooter ran out of ammunition at a 18 certain point, right?
- A. Yes. 19 20 O. Dropped his gun, and when Deputy Madrigal approached him, the active shooting had commenced,
- 22 wasn't going on anymore? A. You'd have to ask Deputy Madrigal what time -- at what time -- whether he saw the shot. I 24
 - know he took him into custody within 72 seconds, I was

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- told, after the first shot.
- Q. Okay. Before we get into all the events that 2 happened that day, want to talk about the role of your agency with the shooting. We've already heard, and you don't disagree, right, that the Broward Sheriff's Office was, in fact, the contracted law enforcement agency for the airport?
 - A. I agree with that statement.
- Q. Okay. And the essential operation of the 10 airport, grounds keeping, cleaning the floors, making sure that the building is maintained, that's 11 12 presumably all kept with BCAD, the airport -- the aviation district? 13
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. Okay. Broward -- the sheriff's office 15 16 agreement with BCAD was not unlike how the sheriff's office might contract with a municipality to provide law enforcement, right? 18
- I think that's a fair statement. 19 Q. Okay. Let's talk about that. When Broward 20 Sheriff's Office is approached by a municipality, "Hey, we want to outsource all of our law enforcement 22 to you," imagine you sit down with their principals 23 and go through some standard terms, right? 24 A. Yes. 25

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- Q. You look at the size of the municipality, 1 right?
- A. Yes. 3
- You look at maybe how many large buildings or areas that might be of concern from a law enforcement 5
- perspective, right?
 - A. Yes.
- How many schools are in the municipality?
- Α.
- Q. You probably even look at the crime rate in 10 11 that municipality when entering into a discussion to provide law enforcement? 12

- O. And so if a municipality came to you and they 14 had a high percentage -- a high crime rate and said, "But we only want to pay for one Broward sheriff 16 deputy to be our law enforcement for our 17 municipality," you'd probably push back in that 18 discussion, right? 19
- A. I can't answer a question with supposition. 20 You would have to give me a specific question. You 21
- can't give me what would I have done in this (inaudible), what would I have done -- that's not
- 24 fair. You ask me a specific question about a specific
- 25 contract. I can answer it, but unless ordered to by

questions about supposition.

- Q. I'm just quessing -- or I'm just interested 3 in this question, though, is when you are approached to provide law enforcement services to a
- municipality --

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- A. Which municipality?
- R Q. I'm just -- in any situation, a municipality, the airport district, for an outside event, you are going into it with an understanding of what's going to 10 be requested of my law enforcement agency, what's the threat of crime, how much crime is there, you want to 12
- know all of those factors before you would ever enter 13 into an agreement to provide law enforcement services 14 for somebody outside of your agency? 15
- A. I really don't even understand your question, 16 what you're trying -- I don't understand your guestion 17 18
- O. Let me try to break this down, and if you 19 don't want to answer hypotheticals, I'm not going to 21 ask the Special Master to require you to answer a 22 simple hypothetical, but here's what I want to --MR. KUEHNE: Move to strike. 23
- SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed. 24 MR. PRIMROSE: Thank you. 25

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BY MR. PRIMROSE:

Q. When you go to discuss with Broward County Aviation District the contractual agreement to provide

law enforcement --

A. I've never had a discussion with aviation. I've never been in on any of their conversations. So I don't know what you're talking -- I can't answer the question.

Q. You've never gone to a meeting with -- with a representative of BCAD to discuss what law enforcement 10 11 services your agency would provide to the airport? 12 A. I don't believe I ever have. I think that's

13 all been brought back to me by staff. The negotiations have been so seamless and so --15 everybody's been on the same page, I don't believe I've ever been part of a negotiation.

O. But you would agree that your staff that you 17 have entrusted will come back to you with what they've 18 19 learned?

20 A. Yes.

21 O. Or how their discussions went?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you're ultimately the one that has to 24 sign the agreement --

A. Yes.

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Q. -- with BCAD, right?

A. With the county.

With the county to provide law enforcement for BCAD?

5 A. Yes.

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Q. So you're going to want to know all of the statistics or the requirements that you're going to put your agency in charge of protecting?

A. I'm going to want to know simply what personnel BCAD is asking for, what they're willing to pay for. You can't give them more resources or more assets than they're going to pay for.

O. Okav. Let's talk about that then. So you said you do want to know how many deputies they're asking for and how many they're willing to pay for?

A. Right. And of course, we make a recommendation as to how many deputies they think they should have, but, you know, if we recommend five, they want 10, you know, there has to be a negotiation.

Q. If you want 150, they're only willing to pay 20 for 100, what happens at that point?

A. You'd have to give me a specific. I can't 22 23 give you a hypothetical answer.

> O. So we've already discussed that at the time the airport shooting happened, there were

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approximately 122 BSO deputies that were budgeted to the airport? 2

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A. Correct.

And based on the reports, in 2007, there was actually 150 BSO deputies that were budgeted for the

airport, right?

A. Right.

So at some point between '07 and 2017, budget dropped for law enforcement?

10 A. Well, I don't know if the budget dropped. That's -- I mean, I'm not saying your information 11 12 isn't accurate, but there's more to it than that.

There might have been less deputies there, but there might have been more civilians there to handle certain 14 of the traffic positions or posts that civilians are

able to handle. It's often said, PSA, police service 16

aide, community service aide, can actually do 65 percent of what a police officer could do for about --18

or do 75 percent of what a police officer could do for 60 percent of the salary.

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So 2007 pre-dated me. I didn't become the sheriff until 2013. I don't know what contract -- I don't know the date of the last contract with BCAD and, you know, if I signed it or not, but I can tell

25 you that just because there were less police out there

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major law enforcement event, you and a small group of 441 or less deputies out there doesn't mean it was unsafe. 440 command staff grouped together, read whatever There could have been more civilians doing information you could, and kind of discussed what non-life-threatening, you know, jobs. happened, what could we maybe learn from this, right? Q. But I'll go back to this though. At a bare minimum, if you believed that it was ill-advised to 5 O. And so we know that in 2013, the LAX shooting have a minimum number of deputies there, you would have made it known? happened? A. Let me answer it this way: The airport was A. Two thousand what? В Q. 2012 or '13? 9 accurately staffed the day of the shooting. We had the necessary assets and resources there. I don't A. I thought it was '12, I'm not sure. 10 10 Q. Yeah, I think you're right, 2012. But you know what your contracts tell you, but the right 11 amount of people were there. The airport was as safe 12 would have -- at that point, you weren't sheriff, but 12 as -- I wish I could go back in time and not have 13 an event like that, an airport shooting or school that -- you know, the killer fly down on that plane. shooting or any major event that was probably 14 14 But a killer entered a plane in Anchorage, Alaska, 15 reported, you would get together and try to learn as 15 flew to Minnesota, retrieved his baggage at a terminal much as you can and take some lessons away? 16 A. Absolutely. 17 legally, loaded his gun, and killed five people and 17 Q. Okay. Now, you discussed on direct shot six more. I ask you what could any Broward 18 examination about the oper- -- the training exercise sheriff deputy --19 19 that I believe was called Operation Vigilant Port? MR. MACIVER: Mr. Special Master, this is 20 A. Yes. 21 21 nonresponsive to Mr. Primrose's question. SPECIAL MASTER: Please proceed to answer the 22 Q. And that happened in 2015, that exercise, question that was asked, if you would. 23 right? 23 BY MR. PRIMROSE: 24 A. Yes. 24 Q. Let me make sure that I understand this Q. Let me go to this. You mentioned after every 25

right. The training started as an exercise where terrorists took over a seaport terminal? Q. It involved a SWAT and hostage negotiators, fire rescue, everybody that might respond? A. Yes. Q. And eventually it transitioned, I think -- I believe he's a major, Major Grant? A. Yes, retired. 10 O. Retired. Said it was like a twenty -- it was 11 from the show 24, the terrorism moved from the cruise terminal to the airport? 13 A. Yes. Q. And he testified that the intell they got was the terrorists were trying to highjack an actual 15 airplane? A. Correct. 17 18 Q. Believe he said that BCAD has a decommissioned FedEx cargo carrier that was utilized 20 in the exercise?

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443 airport terminals? Exercise didn't include the airport terminals, did it? Not to my knowledge. Okay. And do you know if any airport -- any of the deputies that were assigned to the airport actually took place in the -- the part of the exercise that include going onto the tarmac, onto the plane? A. See, I think what you're not understanding is maybe the exercise didn't include the airport terminal, but it did include Publix and it did include the library. It's teaching deputies the concept of 11 how to act to an active killer. It's not specifically about the location. It's about teaching them 13 movements and teaching them how to understand their 14 policies and move forward. There were more places --15 it wasn't about the beach, it wasn't about the 7-11. 16 It was about teaching deputies how to react during these circumstances. You're not going to be able to 18 train at every venue, sir. O. Let me ask you this, though: Was that 2.0 exercise, Operation Vigilant Port, designed to test how BSO and BCAD would deal with evacuating an entire 22 airport terminal, the passengers, the airline 23 employees, or the employees of the airport? 24 25 A. You'd have to ask Major Grant that. I --

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Never had to go into the terminals, the

the tarmac, and taken over a plane?

Q. A car had driven through the fence line, onto

A. Yes.

A. Yes.

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- A. I was there, but I don't know what the -what the methodology was.
- O. Okav. And did I hear correctly on direct examination this morning, I believe you said this, that you were aware of what it takes to stop air traffic at an airport?
 - A. I wasn't aware. I learned that.
- q Q. Okay. So leading up to the Fort Lauderdale 10 airport shooting, you as the sheriff providing law 11 enforcement to the airport, had no idea what it would take to shut down the entire air traffic in the event 13 that there was a large-scale, mass casualty event?
 - A. Is your question -- I want to make sure I understand. Is your question as a sheriff, would I know the protocols of the airport and what the airport director needed to shut down an airport?
 - Q. Yes.

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- A. I would not have any knowledge of that, no, 19 20 of course not.
- Q. Would you have any knowledge of how your 22 agency would interact with the airport district in the event of a large-scale active shooter situation within the airport? 24
 - A. Of course, I would. We would be -- we would FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

- do what the airport needed. We don't -- we're an agency that when it's our -- when we're in control and we're in command and we are in charge of a situation, that we would expect other agencies to assist us. And if the airport needed to shut down their airport. whether it was life-threatening or maybe it was an issue, anyway we can help out, we would help out.
- So, you know, you don't need to -- if a В 9 family member needs knee surgery, you don't need to 10 know how to do the knee surgery, just know how to take 11 them to an orthopedic surgeon who can do it. So as long as I know what the -- as long as the airport 13 manager knows what to do and he knows that he can count on me and BSO, we're good. Q. But wasn't there a conflict, though? The 15
- 16 testimony I remember was you told BCAD "You need to shut down -- shut down this airport." 17 A. There wasn't a conflict. There was -- we 18 were both experiencing an airport shooting for the 19
- 20 first time. It was a horrific incident, and it was what two leaders -- it was a fervent discussion that 21 22 two leaders would have. The airport director, his mission and scope was to keep the airport open for
- 2.4 commerce and do the things he needed to do, rightfully so. And I was supporting that endeavor. But as I
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- said yesterday, when I found out that other people 1 were calling in and we were getting calls of gunshot victim, woman down, I thought -- logically so, I thought that this could be a systematic terrorist 5 attack where they're going to attack different terminals. So I decided to -- having read about 9/11 more times than I wish I did. I thought this could be a multi-faceted attack like the Pentagon, Pennsylvania, the twin towers, and I thought that we 9 10 needed to shut down the airport because we were 11 getting calls of active killing, and I wasn't going to 12 let the airport director continue to have normal 13 operations. So we had a discussion. I told him that 14 I thought he needed to shut down the airport. He agreed with me, he did it, and he shut down the airport and we worked together seamlessly. It was 16 17 just a -- it was just a normal discussion between leaders. 18 Q. Okay. Now, after the entire incident was 19 over, I don't know if it was the next day or 20
- report. It was -- command staff came to me and they 447 said they felt that we should enter into the exercise of doing an after-action report, was the logical way to approach it. I knew there were lessons to be learned from us and others, and I approved the -- the compilation of that report. Q. Okay. So -- and you understand that Major Angelo Cedeno was chosen to be the lead author or the -- the leader of this effort to do an after-action A. No, that's incorrect. He was chosen to be a
- 12 gatherer of facts. I hope I didn't, you know, 13 trivialize my analogy yesterday, but he was basically sent out to buy the ingredients. There were many, 14 many other chefs and cooks who were going to put that final report together. He was just gathering the 16
- 18 Q. Okay. He was selected to gather facts and he 19 was assisted by an Executive Lieutenant Furman, right?
 - A. He was an executive lieutenant --
- Do you know if he was credited as being a 21 contributing author? 22
- A. I don't know that. 23

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24 Q. Okay. And what about the inclusion of Deputy Vincent Torres as a research, intelligence, and

knowledge, there's no policy to do an after-action FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

thereafter, but your agency had a policy we need to

A. There was no policy, we don't -- to my

create lessons learned?

conduct an after-action report into what happened and

coordination contributor?

A. Don't know that.

Q. Okay. I don't think that this is what you meant, but I want to give you the opportunity to tell

me if -- what you actually meant. Major Cedeno was

not some first-year, low-level road cop, was he?

A. Not at all.

Q. In fact, when Major Cedeno was chosen to go out and get the ingredients, as you say, he was 10

actually a major within Broward Sheriff's Office?

A. Yes. If I said anything to trivialize his importance, thank you for correcting that on the 12

13 record because, no, he was a quality leader who was

given that assignment. 14

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15 O. Yeah, and I've got bio here, and it says he 16 had been with Broward Sheriff's Office since 1989. Do you have any reason to disagree with that? 17

A. No reason to disagree with that.

O. And he's held everything from a deputy

sheriff in the Department of Detention, Central 20

Booking, through sergeant of a road patrol division, 21

22 auto theft task force. He was then the lieutenant of

the City of Pompano Beach district, an executive 23

lieutenant, a captain, and then now -- now a major.

That is a significant promotion within the ranks of

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the sheriff's office, right?

A. I would say so.

Okay. And my understanding is that when he 3

drafted -- or when he was asked to -- when he was

asked to go gather the ingredients, he was the major

over the Department of Professional Standards.

Division of Internal Affairs, Public Corruption and

Internal Audit? 8

A. I think that's correct.

Q. That a pretty high-level position, right? 10

A. I think so. 11

Q. Would that be considered command staff?

13 A. Yes.

O. Okay. And as part of that, he would have

actually conducted managerial duties as part of that 15

role?

17 A. Yes.

Q. He would have been in charge of analyzing how 18

his subordinates are doing in their jobs? 19

20

He would be able to pinpoint if there were 21 ο.

deficiencies in the individuals that he had working 22

within his department?

A. Yes. 24

Okay. And so when Major Cedeno is going out 25

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there, this is more than just, again, some newer law $$^{450}\>$

enforcement officer just going out and doing

interviews or pulling documents or reviewing footage,

this is a guy who has spent 25 to 30 years in law

5 enforcement and knows what he's looking for, right,

knows to spot out good and bad?

A. Major Cedeno went out there, I'm proud of the

rank he established and I'm proud of him as an

individual, but nothing changes with my answer. He went out there to look for facts, opinions, and

nothing changes with my answer. He just went out 11

there to find the ingredients. He was only one

person, and a plethora of people were going to review 13

the report. 14

Q. Let me ask the question this way: You don't 15 16 necessarily discount the opinions that Major Cedeno

17 put in his report, do you?

A. Absolutely not.

19 O. They are valid opinions of Major Cedeno based

on his 30-plus years of experience in law enforcement 20

and a major over professional -- the Department of

Professional Standards? 22

A. As I like to say, everybody's entitled to 23

24 their own opinion, but nobody's entitled to their own

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set of facts, so he went out and gathered facts,

opinions, and certainly a lot of other people -- it

was -- to get an accurate document, it was necessary that many people weigh in on it.

Q. Okay. And Major Cedeno, along with Executive

Lieutenant Furman and Deputy Torres, they were doing

just that, they were going out and gathering facts,

right?

I don't know what they were doing. They

were -- I can't testify as to what Furman and Torres 9

"Hey, as an update, here's who he's going to talk to,

10 were doing.

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11 Q. Did any of your command staff, after

12 authorizing Major Cedeno to go do this, tell you,

here's" --14

A. No.

Q. -- "any meetings he's having"?

O. Okay. So want to show you -- this is 18

Governor's Exhibit C, and this is the first draft that

was issued by Major Cedeno. And Major Cedeno in --20

and this is on EOG Bates stamp 63 -- puts a section

called "Meetings, Debriefs, Summits, and Proposals," 22

23

and he goes through everything that they did in

24 preparation for this. January 20th, he meets with BSO

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25 airport district command, and they discuss a whole

Q. Topic areas related to staffing, terminal, personnel assignments, current initiatives, trends, 4

stats, airport extension -- or expansion, excuse me, and all the stakeholders, right?

7 A. Right.

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A. Right.

- Q. And a few weeks later, Major Cedeno on 9 February 15th and Colonel Polan meet with airport 10 command captain to discuss a review of the timeline of events, look at video surveillance, right? 11
- A. Right. 12
- O. Two days later, February 17th, Major Cedeno 13 meets with Fort Lauderdale PD and fire rescue 14 emergency management to discuss their interaction 15 16 during the events?
- 17 A. Correct.
- O. March 1st. Major Cedeno chairs a formal BSO 18 debrief on the active shooter situation, including agency department heads that played a role in it. 20 right? 21
- 22
- A. Right. Q. So he's got BSO -- what I'm going to call 23 senior staff from different agencies. He's got 24 25 airport district, criminal investigations, SWAT, CSU,

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fire rescue, Department of Law Enforcement, he has all of those folks in a debrief on March 1st, right? A. Yes. Q. And it even says, if you go further, that those individuals were able to speak at the debrief about their experiences and observations, right? A. Right. O. It says there that they were able to discuss 9 10 recommendations and perceive strengths and areas of improvement? 11 12 A. I just want to ask you a question for 13 clarification. The document that you're showing me, it has the word "draft" going across it. Is that 14 something that Major Cedeno had on it when you got this document? Did it have the word "draft" across 16 17 O. This document, the only way that it has been 18 19

crime scene unit, investigations, COMs (phonetic),

altered, sir, is the highlights that I put on it. 20 A. Okay. So, then, as you can see as you show me that document, even Major Cedeno knew when he wrote 21 it, he has the word "draft" on it. So it wasn't 22

written with any finality. He knew he could write 23 whatever he wanted and put in whatever we needed to 24 read, because in his mind, he knew it was a draft, he 25

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knew this wasn't even anywhere near the final document. It's just a simple draft.

O. Completely understand it's a draft, but the draft -- let me ask it this way: You're in no way saying that Major Cedeno put things into a draft that were -- that were patently false?

A. No.

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Q. So if Major Cedeno puts that on March 1st, 2017, he meets with all of these senior staff at 1.0 different agency departments and they discuss their 11 observations, recommendations, strengths and area of improvement, you don't have any reason to believe that 12 13 that did not happen?

A. I have no reason to believe that, no.

Okay. Keep going, March 10th, Major Cedeno and Colonel Polan meet again with BCAD to discuss 16 17 their areas of concern, conversations, some proposals, and then as I've highlighted, in Major Cedeno's 18 opinion, part of this meeting was that a tac- -- "The 19

21 deficient and several years behind local surrounding airports and national/international airports in the

tactical posture of the Fort Lauderdale airport was

areas of tactical presence and response, training and 23

24 counter-terrorism strategies."

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Now, do you agree with that statement, the

1 highlighted one I just read?

A. Can you read it again, please?

You want me to read it out loud?

A. If you can.

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Q. So the highlighted portion there at the bottom, this is what Major Cedeno puts as an observation from the March 10th, 2017, meeting Major Cedeno and Colonel Polan had with the BCAD division director, Mark Gale, and he wrote: "The tactical posture of the" -- and I'm going to say it the way that it's written -- "FLL airport is deficient and several years behind local surrounding airports and national/international airports in the areas of tactical presence and response, training, and counter-terrorism strategies."

Do you disagree with that statement? A. I might. I mean, I don't know enough about it to agree or disagree. I don't know -- I would ask

Major Cedeno what other airports you spoke to. Is this just one person who said it -- you know, opinion? Is this something you can document? You know, you need more than a statement. What other airport directors were spoken to? What other tactical units

were spoken to? So I don't know where he developed 24

that information, and that's why these are drafts and

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not final products.

Q. But, again, as you've already said, you don't believe that Major Cedeno put anything in the report that would be patently false?

A. No, but I don't -- I can't say without -- you know, with certainty that his observations were correct or myself or command staff would have the same observations or come to the same opinions. He was a highly decorated and important member of command staff, but he was one of 30 members, and 30 other people were going to weigh in on it. So to say what he said is the actual way, you know, I mean, he put down this about the airport, but we would have to talk to, you know, other airports and where did he get that information from. I would have a lot more questions.

a major there, and it says that they actually saw a physical exercise presentation that included some discussion about outline missions, standards of operation, and criteria for deployment. So at least there, it looks like Major Cedeno went to another airport district and saw maybe how they were doing things?

Q. Okay. So March 15th, now Major Cedeno and

Furman go to Miami-Dade airport district and meet with

A. Correct.

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along with Colonel Polan and a captain, actually 2 attended a round table with Congressman Debbie Wasserman Shults, right? A. Yes. Q. So at least there was an understanding within BSO that the person told to go gather the ingredients was being trusted enough to have formal discussions with members of Congress about what he was learning and what they were seeing in the lessons learned? 10 A. That's exactly what -- you know, what we 11 wanted. That's what an after-action report does, it 12 sends you to places where you can tell others what you 13 did right and what you did wrong, and the goal is 14 15 lessons learned, areas of improvement, and how can we get better, and that's what he was out there doing, 17 trying to find out how we can get better. Q. So are you suggesting that the formal round table he had with Congressman Debbie Wasserman Shults 19 was so that he could learn ways to do it better? 21 A. No. I'm sure it was probably a debriefing 22 from him to her about what we've learned so far. Q. Okay. And it says in there, at least what 2.3 Major Cedeno writes, is that they actually discussed mass evacuations, planning, gaps in security, training FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

Q. Okay. Two weeks later, it says Major Cedeno,

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exercises, policy revisions. Those are conversations 458 that he was trusted to have with a member of Congress about the lessons learned from the Fort Lauderdale airport shooting? A. Correct.

Q. Okay. And we go -- and a couple weeks later, he's now flying to New York City to -- to have a discussion with Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department about addressing terrorist threats and experiences that they've learned on

attacks at airports? A. Correct.

Q. So, again, I mean, he's trusted to be an outward-facing person for Broward Sheriff's Office on the information he's gathered and the opinions he has about what we need to learn from this incident?

A. I don't dispute that.

Q. Okay. And we know that sometime in April, Major Cedeno did another briefing with BSO senior

staff. I believe -- let's see. I believe we've got

right here on April 10th, it says he met with a formal meeting at BSO headquarter with all incident 22

23 management, and then April 12, 2017, a formal debrief with BCAD on it as well. So we've got a timeline of 24

all the different events that Major Cedeno -- all the

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meetings he had, round tables, and discussions prior to the releasing of his first draft? 2 A. I'll agree with you, we have a timeline.

Q. Okay. So we know based on this report that 4

the draft was completed on or about May 3rd of 2017, 5 but if I understood you correctly, you actually never read the first draft?

8 A. I did not.

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9 Q. So you had no idea what actual observations or recommendations were made from the individual 10 11 chosen to go gather the ingredients and write them 12

A. I don't know if -- I don't remember. I can't recall now if I had discussions with other members of command staff about some of his take-aways, but I --I'm just telling you I didn't read the draft at that point.

1.8 Q. Okay. You do know that at some point, 19 somebody within -- a senior staff at BSO wanted another review of the first draft? 20

Α. Sav that again.

Q. Somebody within BSO --

A. Who?

Q. No, no, that's my point. Somebody higher than Major Cedeno wanted his -- Major Cedeno's draft

to be looked at, a second set of eyes, another round 460 logical next step. It would have just been the second of revisions, right? step in the progression of doing an after-action A. Is that a question? report. It wouldn't have been "We want you to take a O. Yes. That's your understanding? look at Major Cedeno's," it would have been A. No, that's not my understanding. Who -preplanned. Major Cedeno is going to do the initial You don't -work, he's going to do the work-up, and then it's going to go to -- the etymology of it is that it's A. Who are you telling me would have asked for Я that request? I'm not sure I'm following you. going to go to a round table or one other person or Q. So you know -- you know Captain Diefenbacher? two other people, and eventually it's going to work 10 A. Yes. 10 its way up to a final product that I'm going to review 11 ο. And I believe you testified you read his 11 before it gets published. 12 deposition --12 Q. Well, you remember reading in Captain 13 Diefenbacher's testimony where he said he was 14 0. -- right? approached by -- and I think you might be right --14 15 And you saw where Captain Diefenbacher said Undersheriff Kinsey? A. That's -- I think so. 16 either Colonel Polan or an assistant general counsel 16 17 asked him to look at Major Cedeno's report? 17 Q. Or an assistant general counsel to look at A. I thought that eventually came from the 18 18 the report because there was a public records request 19 undersheriff, but I would agree with you. 19 from I believe The Sun Sentinel asking for the report? 20 Q. Okay. And that's my point. Somebody else 20 A. Yeah, I remember the public records request 21 looked or found Captain Diefenbacher and said, "you're 21 coming in clearly and I remember being briefed on 22 trusted, you're an attorney. We want you to take a that. But like I said, it wouldn't be to over -- you look at Major Cedeno's report"? 23 2.3 know, to review and grade Major Cedeno's work. It 24 A. No. It wouldn't have been that way, take a would have been a logical next step. 24 25 look at major's report. There would have been a 25 Have you ever been part of an after-action

report before? I mean, do you know how it goes? Because it's going to be a document that you want to make sure is as good as it could be to teach and to learn and what not to do, what we did wrong, and what we did right. And we're not ashamed to put areas of improvement in. I've never been on any operation yet that's been perfect. Even our Safe SWAT operations, R nobody goes home until we go in the room and we 9 debrief. We go into the SWAT locker room and we 10 debrief, did it go good. Even if -- some briefings 11 last five minutes, some 50 minutes, but it was just 12 a -- a next step, sir. 13 Q. Okay. If Captain Diefenbacher testified that 14 he was asked to look at it because there were some 15 grammatical issues and, in his words, the report was too emotional and non-pragmatic, you wouldn't disagree that that's what he said? 17 18 A. If Captain Diefenbacher testified to 19 something. I wouldn't disagree with it, no. 20 Q. Okay. Now, you never looked at Captain Diefenbacher's draft, what we'll call the second draft 21 22 of the report? 23 A. No. 24 Q. So you don't know if there were some areas of

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A. I just told you I didn't look at it. 1 Q. Okay. And I'm not going to go through all of 2 these with you, but you would agree with me that you 3 have no idea if there were areas of improvement that both Major Cedeno and Captain Diefenbacher believed should be in the report that were ultimately cut out of the final critical incident report that you signed 8 off on? A. That would have been at the level of lieutenant colonels, colonels, and undersheriff to 10 decide, and I wouldn't have been involved in that. I 11 would have been involved at -- when I should have 12 been, at the very -- before the final product was 13 14 released and I had a chance to weigh in on it. 15 Q. Well, you keep saying "when I should have been involved," but don't you want to know what the --16 17 the major who's been over professional standards and a captain who had legal experience, and you testified this morning he was an amazing leader, had long 19 20 experience, don't you want to know what those two individuals say are areas of improvement to them? 21 22 A. I want to know everything. I want to know 23 the reports that Treijs -- I want to know what he did. 24 I'd like to know about the 750,000 reports that come 25 in. You have -- you work with an agency with almost

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try to be brief in the answer. Please continue. ^{465}
      6,000 people and you work and serve a community of two $^{464}$
      million, you can't know everything and you can't want
                                                                               2
                                                                                             THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
      to know everything, because then you get caught up in
                                                                               3
                                                                                             As we -- as was testified this morning, I
      not -- in not doing the things that you need to do.
                                                                                        think the report took 10 months to complete. I
      The men and women I put in place as colonels, majors,
                                                                                        didn't rely on the undersheriff. I relied on
                                                                               5
      captains, and lieutenant colonels, they know at what
                                                                                        everybody to be doing their jobs. And if you
      point they need to sit down and address issues with
                                                                                        read -- and I did, I'm sure you did too -- the
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8
      me. So I hope I answered your question.
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                                                                                        final product, the final product was excellent.
          Q. But, see, that's where I've got a concern
                                                                                        It talked about the positives and the things --
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      now, because this airport shooting was a big deal,
                                                                              10
                                                                                        the areas for improvement, and I think that's what
11
      right?
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                                                                                        an after-action report should do and did do. So I
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         A. Right.
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                                                                                        was really proud of the way the agency came
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          Q. This is not a -- a traffic stop that went
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                                                                                        together to develop that product.
      wrong, it's not a -- it's not a robbery. This is a
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                                                                              14
                                                                                    BY MR. PRIMROSE:
      mass casualty event at one of the fastest-growing
15
                                                                                             Do you believe that there are more than three
      airports in the country, and you're saving you just
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                                                                              16
                                                                                    drafts of the report done on Fort Lauderdale airport
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      relied on what your undersheriff was telling you this
                                                                              17
                                                                                     shooting?
      is what should be important to you?
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                                                                              18
                                                                                        A. I don't know how many drafts there were.
19
          A. No, I relied on a command staff, starting
                                                                              19
                                                                                             If I told you that through requesting
      with Major Cedeno gathering facts, gathering
                                                                              20
                                                                                    these -- of all drafts through Sunshine, was given one
21
      opinions --
                                                                                    draft dated May 3rd, 2017, Major Cedeno's, another
                                                                              21
          Q. But if you rely on Major Cedeno --
                                                                                    draft dated June 2nd, 2017, Captain Diefenbacher's,
              MR. KUEHNE: Objection; cut off the witness
23
                                                                              2.3
                                                                                    and then the critical incident report that I believe
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          during a responsive answer.
                                                                                    was issued October 6 of 2017 as the full universe of
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               SPECIAL MASTER: Please let him finish, but
                                                                              25
                                                                                    drafts that existed of this, you don't have any reason
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to believe that there was a fourth, fifth, sixth, and $^{\rm 466}$ seventh versions --4 O. -- of this? A. No. Q. Okay. So we're not talking about thousands of drafts that you would have to look at to determine the full scope of what happened and what were areas of concern to Major Cedeno and Captain Diefenbacher, 10 right? 11 A. What's your question? 12 Well, my question is you're saying there's ο. 13 all of these calls that come in, but there was one 14 Fort Lauderdale airport shooting, there were two draft 15 versions and one critical incident report. These are not thousands of pages of documents that you couldn't read through the two draft versions to say "Let me see 17 18 what the other -- the front-line person who did this said and let me compare it to what Undersheriff Kinsey 19 is telling me should go in the final report"? 20 A. I read the final product and -- I don't know 21 22 what -- I read the final product. 23 Q. Okay. And because you read the final

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improvement listed at EOG 00070 about an area of enhanced active shooter training lesson plans and the implementation of an active shooter vetting process, or the second one about enhanced training specific to the BSO airport district and partner agency personnel? A. I did know about that, not through the rough draft, but I had conversations with the undersheriff about those issues. So just because I didn't read the rough draft doesn't mean the undersheriff or Colonel Polan wouldn't have taken aspects out of the rough draft or facts that they learned and told me about what -- you know, what they thought we needed to do to be a safer agency. So that's not necessarily true. Q. Okay. Did the undersheriff also tell you about Major Cedeno's highlighting of a concern about complacency with the BSO district staff? A. I don't remember. Q. This one right here on Bates stamp EOG 00070, "Area of Improvement 3: BOS district personnel. though many are tenured, must avoid complacency based on their environment and a perceived sense of security. BSO deputies assigned to the airport district can mistake the assignment as a lessened exposure to harm or perceived retirement when the contrary is highly needed to vigilantly address and

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Cedeno and Captain Diefenbacher included this area of FOR THE RECORD REPORTING TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA 850.222.5491

product, you did not know at that time that Major

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deter active shooter and bombing si- -- events.

Historically it has been an accepted practice, but

times have changed immensely, requiring a global view
to assigned personnel."

 Did Undersheriff Kinsey tell you about that area of improvement?

A. No, but just reading it now, that just seems like the opinion -- that would be Major Cedeno's opinion. I would doubt seriously he would have went to the airport or served any time out there and been able to make these evaluations at that time.

Q. Okay. So this is one area of improvement that you believe Major Cedeno might not have actually gotten the information to come up with this opinion?

A. No, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying that was an opinion and -- sounds like an opinion, that's all I'm saying.

Q. An opinion of a captain and a major over the Department of Professional Standards wrote that?

A. Right. I mean, how he -- I would -- my question to him if he were here is I'd say "How do you know about complacency at the airport, and if there is complacency out there, then, you know, what are the sergeants, what are the lieutenants, what are they doing about that?" So, I mean, it's a --

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Q. But again, you didn't know that that was an area of concern when Undersheriff Kinsey brought you the final critical incident report, right? Because I can submit to you that that area of concern is completely absent from the critical incident report that was finalized in October.

A. I don't remember hearing that, but whether -and I don't know what -- I can't speak for Major
Cedeno, but I know -- look, I'm not -- no sheriff, no
leader's going to support complacency by their men or
women, but whether there was complacency in doing work
out at the airport, let's be crystal-clear and fair to
our community, that was going to have nothing to do
with a man getting off a plane and shooting five
people. So to correlate one to the other is grossly
unfair to the Broward Sheriff's Office.

MR. PRIMROSE: Okay. I'm just going to submit for the record, Special Master, that all three versions are listed as Governor's Exhibits C, D, and E, and we will let them stand for themselves.

SPECIAL MASTER: That's fine. Let me -- I
hate to interrupt, but let me just -- how much
longer do you think you're going to be in the
cross examination, Mr. Primrose? I want to try to

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manage the time. I'm sensitive to the court reporter who's been at it for a while now, and I want to schedule a break, but I don't want to --I'd just like some indication of how much longer you think you might be. MR. PRIMROSE: At least an hour. SPECIAL MASTER: Okay. Let's go ahead and take a break now and let's reconvene at 1:15. (Brief recess.) (Proceedings continued in Volume IV.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER I. JESSICA RENCHEN, Registered Professional Court Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes. 1.0 DATED this 19th day of June, 2019. JESSICA RENCHEN, Court Reporter

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