Committee Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATION

"The testimony of Michael Drewniak concerning the committee's investigation into all aspects of the finances, operations, and management of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and any other matter raising concerns about abuse of government power or an attempt to conceal an abuse of government power, including, but not limited to, the reassignment of access lanes in Fort Lee, New Jersey, to the George Washington Bridge"

LOCATION: Committee Room 11
State House Annex
Trenton, New Jersey

DATE: May 13, 2014
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:
Senator Loretta Weinberg, Co-Chair
Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski, Co-Chair
Senator Nia H. Gill
Senator Linda R. Greenstein
Senator Kevin J. O'Toole
Assemblywoman Marlene Caride
Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald
Assemblyman Paul D. Moriarty
Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle
Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll
Assemblywoman Amy H. Handlin
Assemblywoman Holly T. Schepisi

ALSO PRESENT:
Charles A. Buono Jr.
Michael R. Molimock
Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aides

Francisco Maldonado
Senate Majority
Kath McDonnell
Assembly Majority
Committee Aides

Frank Dominguez
Senate Republican
Keith Loughlin
Assembly Republican
Committee Aides

Reid Schar, Esq.
Special Counsel

Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey
COMMITTEE NOTICE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

FROM: SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG, CO-CHAIR AND ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI, CO-CHAIR

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEETING - MAY 13, 2014

The public may address comments and questions to Charles A. Buono, Jr., Michael R. Molimock, Committee Aides, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Kimberly Johnson, Secretary, at (609)847-3840, fax (609)292-0561, or e-mail: OLSAideLSI@njleg.org. Written and electronic comments, questions and testimony submitted to the committee by the public, as well as recordings and transcripts, if any, of oral testimony, are government records and will be available to the public upon request.

The New Jersey Legislative Select Committee on Investigation will meet on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 10:00 AM in Committee Room 11, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, New Jersey.

The committee has subpoenaed Michael Drewniak to testify before the committee concerning the committee’s investigation into all aspects of the finances, operations, and management of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and any other matter raising concerns about abuse of government power or an attempt to conceal an abuse of government power, including, but not limited to, the reassignment of access lanes in Fort Lee, New Jersey to the George Washington Bridge.

Issued 5/7/14

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For changes in schedule due to snow or other emergencies, call 800-792-8630 (toll-free in NJ) or 609-292-4840.
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**APPENDIX:**

**Appendix A**

**Appendix B**

Documents submitted by Michael P. Drewniak

pnf: 1-234
Good morning, everyone. I’d like to call this meeting of the Joint Select Investigative Committee to order.

May we have a roll call, please?

MR. MOLIMOCK (Committee Aide): Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator O’Toole.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblyman Carroll.

ASSEMBLYMAN CARROLL: Present.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN VAINIERI HUTTLE: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblyman Moriarty.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Majority Leader Greenwald. (no response) Senator Greenstein. (no response)

Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Here.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Present.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Present.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Weinberg.
SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG (Co-Chair): Here.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you. We have a quorum.

Today we are scheduled to hear from Michael Drewniak, Press Secretary in the Office of the Governor, who is here responding to a subpoena we had issued. If no one has anything else, I’m going to go right into that.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Chair, just one question.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Senator O’Toole.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Thank you, Chair.

I just want to reiterate-- I had a pleasant conversation with the counsel, Reid Schar, and, I assume, his associate last week with regard to a possible briefing of the Republican members, post Judge Jacobson’s ruling. And Reid had agreed, if time permitted today, to have a briefing with the Republicans; if not, to arrange, either later this week, a conference call – or if he’s around early next week. I just want to confirm that that’s the case with our counsel.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes, he had advised us of your call; that’s fine. I don’t know how long the questioning will take today. I think you would agree, since we have a witness here, let’s get to the questioning, and then if time permits at the end -- or you can confer with Reid and set up a conference call or a separate time if you think it more productive.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Well, through you, Chair, I just want to ask: Is it limited to the Republicans? I assume the Democrats have had their briefing?
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, we could all participate. We could all participate in that.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: So you have not had a briefing?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We’ve had a discussion -- we had -- in the executive session we had immediately after Judge Jacobson’s ruling. So we could-- I mean, if you’d like to have one for your members that’s certainly fine.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Yes, I don’t think we’ve ever had that briefing. I think the counsel would acknowledge that. So we’d like to have it. And if it’s going to run long today -- which I suspect it will -- perhaps we can arrange it for later this week; a conference call because he’s going to go back to Chicago.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Without any objection.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Great, thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: I also, Mr. Chair, have--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: --one quick question.

When we were here a week ago we did put forth a motion for some additional subpoenas. We also brought forth some concerns regarding confidentiality, both of which were going to be taken under advisement. We haven’t heard anything since that time. I just wanted to see what the status of that was, and whether or not we will have an opportunity to discuss those items or if a determination has been made.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I believe both those items were tabled.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: They were tabled, but there were comments made that they were going to be taken under advisement. So the fact that they were tabled is fine; but we’ve reiterated these issues numerous times in letters and we’ve never gotten a response. I was just wondering where we stand on them.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I think that the vote last week says where we stand. Obviously, we had a discussion then, but I know separately I’ve had a discussion with Assemblywoman Handlin. And I know that Co-Chair Weinberg at the last meeting said that we will consider those. I mean, one of the individuals that was mentioned in the list, Pat Foye, had already been in front of the Committee -- whether it was the Transportation Committee at the time -- but testified under oath. And he is scheduled to come back here on June 3. Other individuals -- Cedric Fulton, Robert Durando -- had already testified under oath in front of the Transportation Committee. But if an argument could be made that there is something that was omitted, I certainly would be willing to consider having them come back under subpoena. I’m not sure that they have anything significant to contribute after that testimony, but we’re certainly willing to hear arguments to that effect.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Will we have an opportunity to have some sort of dialogue where -- meaning, other than merely taking testimony, to talk about some of these issues?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We can schedule an executive session if the time allows today, or on another day.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay.
SENATOR O'TOOLE: Chair, you say Foye is confirmed to come back on June 3?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: My understanding of our calendar right now is we have -- next Tuesday, May 20, we have Matt Mowers scheduled. We take a break for the following week, which is Memorial Day week, and come back on June 3. We have Pat Schuber and Mr. Foye scheduled for that day. And then as we get closer to the budget, we’re not taking any testimony; I think it would be an overload on our staff to expect them to prepare the budget and for this Committee. And then we’ll pick up right after the budget is done.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Well, I like your idea, Chair, of having an executive committee at some point soon after this meeting so we can start to coordinate, or at least have input on our side as to what we think are important points. And to the point of Assemblywoman Schepisi about whether we should have additional say as to individuals from the Port or from the New York side who should come over here -- I think that’s something that’s important this Committee should hear.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And I’d like to hear from the attorney at the executive committee if he, in his wisdom and travels, could identify experts -- either dealing with this port or entities like it -- that would add value to this Committee, either in executive subpoena, hostile witness, or just come talk in a friendly -- to give us some of their thoughts.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I think those are good suggestions.

Okay. Anybody else? (no response)
Thank you, all.

Mr. Drewniak, thank you for appearing here today. I'm chairing this Committee; my name is John Wisniewski. My Co-Chair is Senator Loretta Weinberg. I see you are accompanied by counsel today.

Do you understand that the statements you make today, Mr. Drewniak, if willfully false, if you fail to answer pertinent questions or commit perjury you may be subject to penalties under the law?

MICHAEL P. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you receive a subpoena from this Committee compelling your testimony at this meeting?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you receive a copy of the Code of Fair Procedures, together with the subpoena?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Do you understand that you have certain rights under the Code of Fair Procedures, including the right to be accompanied by counsel -- who is sitting with you? You are permitted to confer with your counsel during your questioning, advise you of your rights, and submit proposed questions on your behalf. Do you understand that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I do, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Does your counsel have any questions to submit today?

ANTHONY J. IACULLO, ESQ.: We have no questions to submit today, thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you.
Mr. Drewniak, as you can see, this hearing this morning is being transcribed by a Hearing Officer from the Office of Legislative Services. The testimony is recorded with the microphones -- not the illuminated ones, which are for amplification, but the ones that are not illuminated. It’s important that all of your responses be verbal; sometimes we say things like “uh-huh” or “uh-uh” or shrug shoulders or nod heads. Those can’t be recorded and will affect the quality of the testimony. Do you understand that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I do, sir.

MR. IACULLO: Chairman, I have one question, then -- with respect to the black microphone. That will be recording continuously, even when I confer with my client?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes, so I would suggest you either turn around or put your hand over it. The illuminated ones are just for amplification for the sound system.

MR. IACULLO: Thank you, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Mr. Drewniak, you have a right to file a brief sworn statement relevant to your testimony, for the record, at the conclusion of your examination. Do you understand that?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I understand that you have a statement you would like to make at the beginning of your testimony. And as soon as we proceed with the oath we’ll allow you to do that.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir, I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Mr. Drewniak, could you please stand and raise your right hand?
(witness stands and raises right hand)

Mr. Drewniak, do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give is true, correct, and complete to the best of your information, knowledge, and belief?

MR. DREWNIAK: I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Please be seated and please state and spell your name for the record.

MR. DREWNIAK: My name is Michael, middle initial P for Paul, last name Drewniak, D-R-E-W-N-I-A-K.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you very much. Mr. Drewniak, you may proceed with your statement.

MR. DREWNIAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Co-Chairs and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give a brief opening statement.

What needs to be said right up front is that I had no knowledge or involvement in the planning or execution of this strange, unnecessary, and idiotic episode that brings us here today; nor did I play any knowing role in any actual or perceived cover-up. I, too, would like to know from those who hatched and carried out this scheme just what it was they hoped to accomplish and, very simply, why. Those infamous e-mails leaked the morning of January 8 which revealed the true abusive nature of what actually occurred last September are shocking and disorienting. Disorienting because the conduct, callousness and cavalier attitude expressed in them was like nothing I’ve witnessed in my entire working lifetime -- and certainly not in this Administration.
The e-mails and conduct that became public between David Wildstein and Bridget Kelly also represented a deep betrayal on both a personal and professional level for me. In my role as Press Secretary to the Governor and to his Administration I rely upon and assume the truth of the information and statements I gather every day from dozens of people at all levels -- whether they be Department Commissioners, Chiefs of Staff, Deputies, Press persons -- literally everyone I encounter. In particular, the personal betrayal by David Wildstein came from someone I trusted, someone I considered a friend, and someone who I knew worked very hard and long hours, seemingly and convincingly, with New Jersey’s and the public’s best interest always in mind.

With all that we’ve learned since January 8, I now know how badly, regrettably, even naively I misplaced that trust.

As you know, for many years I’ve worked for and with numerous colleagues who left the United States Attorney’s Office and the Department of Justice to join Governor Christie in Trenton. I am proud of my affiliation with each and every one of these individuals and many others who joined us from outside that circle.

I can say with complete confidence and comfort that none of these people -- starting with Governor Christie -- had any involvement whatsoever in this reckless and perplexing episode.

Finally, I take seriously and carry great respect for this Committee’s role. And it is my abiding hope that each member of the Committee can act fairly, impartially, and without undue partisanship.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you at the outset. I am now pleased and obliged to answer your questions.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you very much.
Let’s start with your current position. You work for the Governor?

MR. DREWNIAK: I do. I work for the Administration.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what specifically is your current role in the Administration?

MR. DREWNIAK: I am the Press Secretary to the Governor, but it’s a wider role -- it’s also to the Administration.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And has that role changed in any way from September 9 to now?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, it hasn’t.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you made a distinction that you’re Press Secretary to the Governor, but also to the Administration. So in your mind there’s a distinction there. Can you explain that distinction?

MR. DREWNIAK: I work, obviously, with the Governor and the senior staff. But I also work with all of the departments in dealing with press matters.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So as Press Secretary for the Governor -- let’s start there -- I guess commonly you’d be referred to as the Governor’s spokesperson.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Would it be fair to say that the things that you say in that capacity are things that are approved by the Governor?
MR. DREWNIAK: Not always. I have a level of authority to act on my own.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How would one know the distinction between when you are speaking on behalf of the Governor and you’re speaking on your own authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have the authority to speak on behalf of the Governor using the best available knowledge to me. Obviously, there are times where it’s elevated and I’m going to seek further approval than my own.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. But if I’m listening to or reading something that’s in the paper that is attributable to you, is there something or some way that you caveat or note what you’re saying as, “This is coming from Mike Drewniak,” as opposed to, “This is the Governor’s opinion”?

MR. DREWNIAK: In all instances I’m speaking on behalf of the Governor and his Administration. On occasion I would be speaking just as myself, but that’s usually on matters that aren’t policy-related subjects.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, so for instance, you just read an opening statement. Is that spoken on-- Did the Governor review that statement?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did anybody in the Governor’s Office sign off on that statement?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So in this particular case, that’s just simply Mike Drewniak speaking on his own?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

You had a professional and social relationship with David Wildstein, is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Can you tell me which preceded the other -- was it first a social relationship, or was it first a professional relationship?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would characterize it as professional.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And how did you begin your professional relationship with Mr. Wildstein?

MR. DREWNIAK: With some limits, during my time at the United States Attorney’s Office, with contact with someone I didn’t know then to be David Wildstein; rather the individual known as Wally Edge with the website Politics NJ, which became Politicker NJ.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you started your--

You would characterize the beginning of your professional relationship with Mr. Wildstein was when you didn’t even know he was Mr. Wildstein -- when he was known by the pseudonym Wally Edge.

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what was the occasion of your communicating with him while you worked in the U.S. Attorney’s Office?

MR. DREWNIAK: It would typically be informational follow up to things, to stories, or to actions by the United States Attorney’s Office.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And when did you learn that David Wildstein was Wally Edge?

MR. DREWNIAK: In approximately March of 2010.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And that was after you both -- you working for this Administration in your current capacity and he working for the Port Authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: It was simultaneously -- approximately simultaneous, by the best of my recollection, to when he became an employee of the Port Authority, or shortly before that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And at some point in time you then became social acquaintances?

MR. DREWNIAK: To a degree, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And how did that come about?

MR. DREWNIAK: He called me one day and said, “Listen, I’m Wally Edge. And my real name is David Wildstein.” And he asked if I wanted to meet him for dinner, and I did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It’s hard to say no when you get that kind of opening. (laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I think I was, like many of us in the State of New Jersey -- we were very curious about who this individual was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Absolutely. And how frequently did you socialize with Mr. Wildstein from that point forward?

MR. DREWNIAK: Infrequently.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have dinner?
MR. DREWNIAK: Only occasionally. I could count on, really, maybe one-and-a-half hands how many times that we got together for a lunch or dinner.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Would you have considered him a friend at that point in time?

MR. DREWNIAK: He became a friend.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And when you met for dinner on the one-and-a-half-hands worth of times, did you discuss what was going on in State government, what was going on in his world, what was going on in your world -- professionally, professional world?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So now I’d like to move you forward to September, 9, 2013. That’s the day that the lane closures -- lane realignments first started happening.

The Governor’s Office of Constituent Relations received--Jeanne Ashmore, the Governor’s Office of Constituent Relations received constituent complaints that day about the lane closures. Were you aware of the complaints that the Office of the Governor was receiving during that time period -- September 9 to 13?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have any conversations with Jeanne Ashmore during that time period?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How about with Paul Rosenberg?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Can you-- Did you have any kind of working relationship -- professional relationship -- with Jeanne Ashmore?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Describe that for me.

MR. DREWNIAK: Jeanne-- If something rose to a level of, perhaps, heavy complaints -- I mean, it was just a determination that she would typically make -- she would alert us to it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you understand what constituted heavy complaint--

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: --or it really was an issue for her to decide?

MR. DREWNIAK: It was a subjective decision by Jeanne. She’s a very trusted and hardworking individual, and she had a good ear for when something needed to be brought to the Press Office.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: On September 12, Mayor Mark Sokolich called and complained to the Governor’s Office, and that was received by Evan Ridley who then communicated that to Christine Renna, and ultimately to Bridget Kelly. Were you aware of Mr. Ridley’s conversations with either Christina Renna, or were you aware of Renna’s e-mail to Bridget Kelly?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I was not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Can you describe what your working relationship was with Christina Renna?
MR. DREWNIAK: Limited; it was mostly just a friendship. She’s a lovely individual who -- just friends; stop in the office when she wasn’t busy to chat with us. That was about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: She was in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And was there any occasion where the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs would have to reach out to you about any particular issue that required the guidance or the input of the Governor’s spokesperson?

MR. DREWNIAK: Extremely rare.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did you ever have any interactions with Christina Renna in that capacity?

MR. DREWNIAK: Only if I knew that -- and this really applies to all of IGA -- only if I knew that something had risen to a level, usually because of a press inquiry that I received about a particular town. And that’s when I might go talk to somebody. But it was so rare I could count that on, probably, less than one hand.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry. It was on an as-needed basis -- the contact.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I understand it was as-needed.

Was there an accepted methodology that –IGA would reach out to you? Is there somebody that it was their job to first contact you if there was an issue that needed your attention?
MR. IACULLO: Could we have a moment?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Sure.

(attorney/client confer)

MR. IACULLO: Thank you.

MR. DREWNIAK: I actually am not sure what their procedures are exactly, and I can’t speculate on what they might have had in their procedures for that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So let me ask you this way: In your experience, in your time working in the Office of the Governor, if IGA needed to reach out to you, is there a person who would normally reach out to you?

MR. DREWNIAK: I guess what I’m trying say is there really was no need for them to reach out to me unless it was -- perhaps one example would be for a scheduled event with the Governor if I was staffing, and I might seek whatever briefing information that they might have. It was always for my benefit; I was the one who would typically reach out.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you would initiate the contact with IGA?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And on less than one hand you can recall the times that IGA reached out to you?

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Can you tell me what those were for? You mentioned one.

MR. DREWNIAK: I was being general. I could never-- I can’t possibly recall that.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

So staying with September 12--

(lights flicker)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Port Authority. (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It happens to anybody standing there.

So on September 12, on the same day that David Wildstein forwarded to Kelly -- he also forwarded to you an inquiry from John Cichowski, the Road Warrior, concerning the lane realignment. Do you recall that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I do now, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You recall receiving the e-mail?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not at the time.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you do now?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why would David Wildstein send you that e-mail?

MR. IACULLO: Well, Chairman, I don’t know if Mr. Drewniak could testify as to why Mr. Wildstein would do something. I think that would call for speculation. And he’s here, obviously, to answer questions as best he could.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So let me rephrase the question. Did Mr. Wildstein normally send you press inquiries or clips?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, he did.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why would he send them to you?

MR. DREWNIAK: It was part of his nature to send me all kinds of things -- often randomly. I think it kind of reflected his personality.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I don’t want you to get into personality, because I don’t think any of us are qualified to address that.

MR. DREWNIAK: I understand.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Would Mr. Wildstein send you clips about Port Authority matters?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When he would send you clips about Port Authority matters, would you discuss those Port Authority matters with him?

MR. DREWNIAK: Sometimes, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Was there a-- You say sometimes. Is there a distinction on why he would on certain occasions, and why he wouldn’t on others?

MR. DREWNIAK: He didn’t need to send me clips because we get all the clips in our office; but he just would.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So you said you now recall receiving the Wildstein e-mail with the Road Warrior -- John Cichowski article. But your testimony also is, is at that time you didn’t recall.

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. You had mentioned that you received clip packages, as every front office staff does. Do you recall seeing the John Cichowski article in that clip package?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not exactly; not-- I may have seen it, but I can’t say specifically that I saw it.

MR. IACULLO: Could we have a moment, please.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Sure.

(attorney/client confer)

MR. IACULLO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, go ahead.

MR. DREWNIAK: Just understanding, I think what you’re looking for, contextually: A traffic matter, something about a traffic matter on just about any location in New Jersey -- at least at that stage -- is one of the things that I would just flip flop. Contextually, also, I receive literally hundreds of e-mails and press clippings -- not just in the morning from the day before, but throughout the day, literally hundreds of e-mails every day. So it wasn’t something that registered, and it just didn’t register.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It didn’t register at the time; in retrospect now, it registers?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, with everything we know now -- yes, sure, sure.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That same e-mail was sent also to Bridget Kelly who was, at the time, head of IGA, but not Regina Egea or Nicole Crifo who are in the Authorities Unit. Do you have any understanding as why that distinction was made?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would only be speculating.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you find it unusual that an e-mail about the Port Authority and traffic issues at the Port Authority was going to IGA, and not to the Authorities Unit?

MR. DREWNIAK: Again, at that time, it meant nothing to me. I just flipped right through it and was on to other business. I just saw “traffic problems at the GWB.” I can’t imagine how many traffic problems happen in Jersey in a day. It seemed like a -- and I don’t mean this with everything we know now -- but it seemed at the moment like a bottom-of-the-barrel issue for any attention to be paid.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I’d like to draw your attention to Tab 3, which is in the binder there.

So a short time after the e-mail--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It’s okay.

So a short time after the e-mail that we just discussed, that you had testified that you didn’t have a contemporaneous recollection of it but you do now, there’s a subsequent e-mail that’s shown on the screen. And it’s about seven minutes later after the first one. And it is again to Bridget Kelly and to you -- which appears to be a statement that ultimately appeared in press accounts. “The Port Authority is reviewing traffic safety patterns.” Did you recall receiving this e-mail seven minutes later?

MR. DREWNIAK: Again, no. And the context of this is that we were dealing with an extremely unexpected and unfortunate event that occurred, I guess, approximately contemporaneously to this -- when reports first came to me about the fire in Seaside Heights and Seaside Park. I didn’t care about this at that point. I was-- We were completely focused--
And I was reaching out to local officials and others trying to get a real read on what we were dealing with. This was not anything meaningful.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When you said “real read on what we were dealing with,” you’re not talking about this issue; you’re talking about Seaside?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, the fire.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. At some point in time did this e-mail come to your attention?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes. For the next two days I spent a lot of time, both with the Governor and others, in Seaside and Seaside Park. And I either read this at some point, as I often do, the next day, or then we get to the weekend; it could have been any day after that or maybe even Monday when I finally looked at it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And when you finally looked at it, did you call or speak with David Wildstein about it?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t recall if I spoke to him; I still don’t think I did because, again, it looked like something very minor.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did it strike you as curious why David Wildstein would be crafting what appears to be a response to the press when the Port Authority has its own press shop?

MR. DREWNIAK: He took it upon himself often to do this. I can’t explain why he would avoid the press shop, although I know that often he’ll do this and then the press shop is releasing it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever -- because, as you’ve testified earlier, you not only had a professional but a social
relationship with him -- did you ever say, “Hey, David. Why don’t you let the press shop handle this?”

MR. IACULLO: Could we have one moment, please?

(attorney/client confer)

MR. DREWNIAK: I do not know what his practices are and whether he runs things by the press shop.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I appreciate the answer. My question was, just simply, did you have a conversation with him at some point and say, “David, why are you doing this? Why don’t you send it to the press shop?”

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I only began discussing this with him later.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have any discussion with Bridget Kelly about this e-mail?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did at one point -- but that was only once the Wall Street Journal made contact with me on it, the following week.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. We’ll get to that in a minute.

When you looked at it -- you said it might have been two or three days later -- did you have any concern about whether the statement was factually accurate or correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. I have to-- When I’m dealing with any PIOs, and as I said in my opening statement--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Could you explain what a PIO is?
MR. DREWNIAK: Oh, I'm sorry -- Public Information Officer, press officer, for any of the departments or authorities. I'm expecting that-- And they have certainly a level of trust to do smaller items on their own. I can’t-- There are so many things that we deal with on a higher level that I can’t be concerned with what appears to be minor things. Unless, of course, I have nothing else to do; but I had plenty to do.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The e-mail to you implies that you understood the context. Did you understand the context?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I did not understand the context.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Once you received this, did you reply either through an e-mail, or text message, or phone call?

MR. DREWNIAK: Again, at this early stage I don’t know that I did anything at all with it; certainly nothing I can recall – again, only because of the preoccupations we were dealing with. I mean, it’s possible I did; but it really only became something that I dealt with later.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How would you normally communicate with David Wildstein?

MR. DREWNIAK: By telephone, typically, office telephone; or after hours with my iPhone or via e-mail.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you text message with him?

MR. DREWNIAK: Some, but not frequently.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The State has State-issued BlackBerries. Did you use the PIN messaging feature to communicate with him?
MR. DREWNIAK: Sometimes yes. I don’t like the BlackBerry because of its size in my large hands. (laughter) But I probably did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. The next day, September 13, the Port Authority Executive Director sent an e-mail -- a forceful e-mail -- directing that the lanes be reopened, and he characterized the closures as “dangerous, hasty, and ill-advised.” Were you aware of Foye’s e-mail on September 13?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Were you aware of-- Separate and apart from the e-mail, were you aware of the direction to reopen the lanes on September 13?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, sir, that came later.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have any conversations with either Egea or Crifo about the lane closures and the order to reopen by Pat Foye on that day?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. We talked earlier about IGA, and I had asked you the question about why the communication was coming from Mr. Wildstein to Bridget Kelly at IGA and not somebody in the Authorities Unit. Talk to me about your interactions with the Authorities Unit insofar as the Port Authority is concerned. Did the Authorities Unit reach out to you for press guidance with regard to Port Authority matters?

MR. DREWNIAK: They would-- On all the large authorities, they would typically advise us simply of meetings and any major issues that would be coming up.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And from the Authorities Unit, who would do that communication to you?

MR. DREWNIAK: It would-- I mean, it varied dependent on which person in the Authorities Unit-- I think what they would do is, like, the senior members -- perhaps Regina -- would say, “Just let the Press Office know about this -- that this is coming up.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Would they ask the Press Office advice or opinions on how to communicate something?

MR. DREWNIAK: Sometimes, yes; but typically they were just, say, flagging things for us.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: In this particular case, with this September 13 e-mail from Pat Foye, did either Egea or Crifo flag this for you?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not that I recall, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. When did you become aware of the September 13 e-mail from Pat Foye?

MR. DREWNIAK: On the evening of -- that would have been October 1 before the publication of the first Wall Street Journal story, if I have that correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So I just want to run through where we’re at. This is Friday, September 13. And I just want to make sure I understand what your testimony is. We’ve heard that beginning on September 9, Ashmore and Constituent Relations had been receiving complaints about the lane realignment.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Lane closures.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The lane closures. Thank you, Co-Chair. We know that Mayor Sokolich complained, through Evan Ridley, to Renna and to Kelly. We know that the Road Warrior, John Cichowski, forwarded something to David Wildstein, who then forwarded that to Bridget Kelly and yourself. There was an online publication of that article that John Cichowski wrote, and then there was Foye’s e-mail of September 13. So there were a number of communications into the Office of the Governor to a variety of different departments. At that point in time, this did not come to your attention in any way?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, it didn’t.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did anybody else in the Governor’s Office -- did this come to their attention that you’re aware of?

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t answer that question.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: On Friday, September 13, you’re not aware that anybody else--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not--

MR. IACULLO: Chairman, I don’t think he can testify to what someone else knew.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: All right -- whether he’s aware that anybody else knew about this on Friday, September 13?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no idea.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

On September 16, the DOT -- the New Jersey Department of Transportation -- received an inquiry from John Cichowski about the lane diversions. So this is in the following week after that Friday, September 13, that we just left off on. Were you aware at that point in time that there
was this subsequent inquiry on September 16 about the lane closures? So this is the following Monday.

(attorney/client confer)

MR. DREWNIAK: I became aware of the issue on September 17 -- that’s when it was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So on Tuesday, September 17. How did you become aware of the issue?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry; I’m just refreshing my recollection.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That’s fine; take your time.

MR. DREWNIAK: I received an inquiry; I believe it was from either and/or Heather Haddon and Ted Mann of the Wall Street Journal. I think that was my first inquiry.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what did they inquire to you?

MR. DREWNIAK: I believe it was Heather asking about the scuttlebutt -- that word sticks out -- about the purpose of the lane closures or realignment.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And do you recall what part of the day that inquiry came to you?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not exactly, but if you could refresh my recollection -- or point to a tab, please.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, in Tab 9 there’s an e-mail at the bottom of the page from Heather Haddon to Colin Reed and yourself.
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, thank you. That does refresh my recollection.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you forwarded this that afternoon -- it’s 4:03 p.m. So it came in at 2:00, and you forwarded it at 4:00. And you forwarded it to Bridget Kelly and you said, “Coming to chat.”

MR. DREWNIAK: Right; now I remember.

At this point, this is the first time that anybody had made a press inquiry to me on this. And I had spoken-- I think I had spoken to Heather after receiving this as well. But then I recalled at some point after the fire, on the weekend or on that Monday, I recalled, “Oh. I’ve had this -- something like this in my e-mail box. What is it?” And that’s why I said-- Because they were from Wildstein and to Kelly, I then went down and said, “What’s this all about?”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So I just want to make sure I understand your answer. So you received this-- This came to you at 2:16 p.m. At 4:03 you forwarded -- did a reply or forwarded it to Bridget Kelly saying, “Coming to chat.” I just want to make sure that the record is clear. Why did you e-mail Bridget Kelly saying, “Coming to chat”?

MR. DREWNIAK: As I just described, now I’m recollecting, “Oh, I’ve seen something about this before.” So I looked back at those e-mails, saw who was on them, and went to run it by her.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why didn’t you communicate to David Wildstein similarly? Because, I mean, you got some of the information from-- Earlier, David had sent you that press statement about why the lanes were closed. So that was also in your inbox, and you
said you had received that around the time of the fire so you didn’t pay much attention to it. Now that you’ve received this on September 17, your testimony is you reflected on the documents you had; you thought you should respond to Bridget Kelly. Why is there not a response also to David Wildstein, “What’s this about?” or words to that effect?

MR. IACULLO: Chairman, that’s just kind of a compound question. Because you started off asking about--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I was--
MR. IACULLO: --David Wildstein. I know you made a transition--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, no. All right, so let me clarify.

You sent this e-mail on September 17 at 4:03; your testimony was because you looked at your e-mails and concluded that you ought to find out something from Bridget Kelly about this inquiry from Heather Haddon. Why didn’t you also send something to David Wildstein and say, “What’s this about?” or words to that effect?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not sure that I didn’t talk to him, but all I knew is that I went down and talked to Bridget with the specific purpose of saying, “Can you shed any light on this? Is this an issue I have to deal with?”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: All right. So I just want to make sure I understand it completely, because David Wildstein is not in the same building with you. He’s--

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: --somewhere north of you. You phoned him, or you think you may have phoned him?

MR. DREWNIAK: I just am not sure.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, okay. But you e-mailed Bridget Kelly.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, and I went down to talk to her.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: She’s right around the corner?

MR. DREWNIAK: She’s downstairs.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Downstairs.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m right over the Governor’s Office.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: This e-mail from Heather Haddon deals with an Authority -- the Port Authority. Did you communicate with anybody in the Authorities Unit -- Regina Egea, or anybody?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t recall. And, again, this goes back to, I still did not see this as a major issue except that now the Wall Street Journal is asking. I subsequently-- Not long after this, then it became something of a different matter. But at this point, I was just like, “Do I need to worry about this?” And that’s how I addressed Bridget Kelly.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you go to talk to Bridget Kelly?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what did you speak to Bridget Kelly about?
MR. DREWNIAK: I said, “I’ve just received this e-mail and I noticed that there were other e-mails on this earlier in the week. Anything you need to tell me about this?”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What did she tell you?

MR. DREWNIAK: She was kind of just back-of-the-hand dismissive, “Oh, it’s nothing. It’s Port Authority stuff.” And she was just very quick and dismissive of it, and then told me she had to run out the door to pick up her kids.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So she told you, “Not a big deal.” What did you do next?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t think I did anything at this point. I don’t think that I had a basis-- I communicated-- I’m sorry; I did talk to Wildstein.

(attorney/client confer)

No, I didn’t. It was only on October 1 that I spoke with Wildstein.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So Bridget Kelly responds that’s it’s not a big deal -- that was your testimony -- or brushed you off in some sense.

MR. DREWNIAK: Total-- Yes, brush-off.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You inquired of no one else?

MR. DREWNIAK: At this stage I don’t believe so, to the best of my recollection.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Didn’t you think it was odd that the Wall Street Journal is calling about a traffic problem?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, I did. It seemed kind of minor.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So your curiosity wasn’t piqued at that point in time -- that there might be more to this story than Bridget’s brush-off would suggest?

MR. DREWNIAK: I guess not, Co-Chair.

MR. IACULLO: Could we have one second, Chair?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Sure.

(attorney/client confer)

MR. IACULLO: Thank you.

MR. DREWNIAK: I think I can clear this up. I’m just mixing up my timeline.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, please, if you want to correct--

MR. DREWNIAK: At some point I communicated with Wildstein. And it was when-- That’s when he first said to me, “This is about” -- he was very matter-of-fact -- “This is about a traffic study. We conducted a traffic study; no big deal. It’s our prerogative and it’s going to be short-lived,” or something like that. And that’s, again, how amongst the many inquiries I get it sounded like a very legitimate answer. Again, I have to trust the people who are talking to me and telling me these things. It really was, simply, a “get it, and done; next.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Just to refresh your recollection: I show you what’s marked as Tab 91, Page 8 of that document. The second paragraph at the bottom, the interview memo says that later that afternoon-- Do you have it?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: The second paragraph at the bottom of the first full paragraph, right? It says later that day you sent an e-mail to Wildstein essentially memorializing Wildstein’s explanation of the lane realignment.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, right. This refreshes my memory.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you had the brush-off from Kelly, and then you called Wildstein?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And Wildstein explained to you that this was-- Why don’t you tell me what Wildstein explained to you.

MR. DREWNIAK: In short, to the best of my recollection, he was extremely factual, “Yeah, we’ve been doing a traffic study,” and he explained the basis for it, for the Fort Lee and the number of lanes. I can’t tell you exactly what he said. Over time he expanded on that explanation; but that’s about what he told me at the time.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Was that acceptable--

MR. DREWNIAK: I accepted it as a very rational explanation.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Was that the first time you heard of the traffic study explanation?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And when you received that traffic study explanation, why did you send Wildstein an e-mail memorializing it? What was the purpose of you reducing that--

MR. DREWNIAK: Because--
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Let me just finish. I just want to understand, because in your mind your testimony was that at this point in time this was not a big deal. But the act of memorializing it says to me that you might have thought that it was more than you’re saying now.

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, this is what I related to Heather Haddon; and this is what I told her. Based on what you’ve described to me, this is what I gave to Heather Haddon. I don’t believe Heather or Ted quoted me in the story the next day.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Now, this was a Port Authority issue.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It was traffic leading up to the George Washington Bridge lane closures. Why didn’t you refer Heather Haddon to the Port Authority press shop?

MR. DREWNIAK: I actually did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why did you then respond to Heather Haddon-- You did both.

MR. DREWNIAK: I did both. I said this is a Port matter.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But in light of the testimony, in which you -- clearly you’ve got a lot of balls in the air in your position as the Governor’s spokesperson, a number of e-mails coming in-- You took the time on this particular issue to send a response to Heather Haddon when this wasn’t an Office of the Governor issue -- at least in your mind.

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t tell you that-- I just-- I mean, I just-- It was a simple response. I got his answer. I respect Heather; I gave
her something, but I told her, “Look, you really should just go to the Port Authority on this.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And when David Wildstein gave you that explanation about the traffic study -- because you had a social relationship with him as well as a professional relationship -- did you say to him, “David, what do you know about traffic?” (laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: No, he’s a-- No, I did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did it strike you as odd that he would be talking to you about a traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: No -- not David, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why do you say it that way?

MR. DREWNIAK: Because he’s an extremely hands-on, involved person.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have an understanding of what his role was at the Port Authority -- what his job was?

MR. DREWNIAK: I had an understanding, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What was your understanding?

MR. DREWNIAK: He was-- He did a lot of the planning and operational issues that concerned New Jersey. He helped execute those.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What kind of issues?

MR. DREWNIAK: Everything from planning capital projects to-- I mean, I don’t have a great understanding, but that’s about it.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you think traffic studies were part of his portfolio?

MR. DREWNIAK: I had no idea.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: It didn’t strike you at all as odd?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, not given his involved nature when he is involved with work, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: At one point in time you had been a reporter. Your reporter instincts didn’t kick in and say, “This makes no sense”?

MR. DREWNIAK: I really don’t have any response to that, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You weren’t curious?

MR. IACULLO: I think-- Chairman, I think it was asked and answered.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: My question is, were you curious?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would just say at this point my level of curiosity was, I think, reasonably low. That changed.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When did it change?

MR. DREWNIAK: October 1 when I get the inquiry from, again, I believe it was Ted Mann and Heather, where they described for me an e-mail from Patrick Foye, the Executive Director of the Port Authority. And I read the e-mail, obviously, and-- Well, I didn’t -- I’m sorry -- I didn’t get the e-mail. I then called up Wildstein and said, “What’s this all about?” And so now it became more interesting.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So I’d like to draw your attention to Tab 11, which is an e-mail that you sent to David Wildstein, which I believe is your memorialization. Is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Right. That was to Heather.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, it says it’s to David Wildstein.

MR. DREWNIAK: But that’s what I had given -- based on my conversation with him, I gave to Heather.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Now, you verbally gave that to Heather?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I think I sent an e-mail to Heather.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Because the Gmail that we’re looking at -- it appears that you’re suggesting to Mr. Wildstein that he give this to Heather.

MR. DREWNIAK: No. This is what he described to me. He explained why traffic studies would not be unusual and why they’re done this way. I took that and gave it to Heather, but I also said to Heather, I said, “Look, please call the Port Authority on this.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Then your e-mail to Heather is Tab 12. And the language that you used in your e-mail to David Wildstein is repeated here, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And then there’s the parenthetical at the bottom, where you said, “They don’t warn of traffic studies because it would ruin the data.” That’s something that David
Wildstein told you as the rationale why there was no advance notice -- is that not correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I thought I had come up with that because I knew we were dealing -- we had dealt with a similar problem on Route 1 -- DOT. I can’t remember who came up with that exactly. But I recall that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Do you recall David Wildstein telling you that as the rationale why no one was noticed of the traffic -- of the lane closures?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry -- could you repeat that?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Do you recall David Wildstein telling you that that was the rationale why no one was noticed about the lane closures?

MR. DREWNIAK: It may have been; I don’t recall if it was. But I was aware of the issue; I just can’t remember who raised it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But to the best of your recollection, you’re saying for this particular e-mail you believe you wrote that because of something you recall on Route 1?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Now, this e-mail came from your personal e-mail account as opposed to your State e-mail account.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why, if this was a communication about a lane closure on the George Washington Bridge and David’s capacity as Director of Interstate Capital Planning, and yours as
spokesperson for the Governor -- why would you use personal e-mail as opposed to your governmental e-mail?

MR. DREWNIAK: I use them interchangeably, especially if I will be leaving the office. It was just-- There was no consistency in using one or the other.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How did you communicate by e-mail? Did you do it from a terminal at your desk or from your handheld?

MR. DREWNIAK: If I needed something-- If I knew something I was going to be dealing with if I left the office, I would forward it to this so I could use this to communicate with.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And this is your--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry-- Yes, my iPhone.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And do you have access to both your State and personal e-mail accounts on that?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, just my Gmail.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And your Gmail-- And what device do you access your State e-mail account from?

MR. DREWNIAK: My BlackBerry.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And did you carry that with you at the same time?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes. I forward, like, my clips files to my Gmail so I can read things, because I can’t read-- Especially if I’m driving or it’s easy to work off of those. I think that’s not an uncommon practice.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. I guess what I’m trying to get at is Tab 11 is a personal e-mail, and Tab 12, I think, is your work e-mail. So you kind of migrated between--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Other way around.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Other way around? I’m sorry. So you migrated between one e-mail being on your government account, and the other e-mail being on your personal account. Why make that decision?

MR. DREWNIAK: I really can’t recollect why at that moment I did it. I often do the same thing with reporters.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Around this same time, Ted Mann of the Wall Street Journal called David Wildstein on his cell phone, and the records have Baroni’s response to Wildstein: “Jesus. Call Drewniak.” I know you didn’t receive that, but did you get a call from David Wildstein reflecting the fact that he had gotten this call from Ted Mann?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t recollect it specifically, but I’m sure I did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever interface with Bill Baroni on Port Authority issues?

MR. DREWNIAK: Infrequently.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What would be the circumstances under which you would deal with Bill Baroni on Port Authority issues?
MR. DREWNIAK: He occasionally would reach out to me, but again it was very infrequent. Or if he was in the State House he would come by just typically for a friendly visit.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So there was no specific working relationship with Baroni insofar as your press responsibilities and his Deputy Executive Director responsibilities?

MR. DREWNIAK: Occasionally, but again, just very infrequent.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That evening the Wall Street Journal article is published online and raised the possibility that the lane closures were in political retribution -- done for political retribution, potentially for Mayor Sokolich’s failure to endorse Governor Christie. When did you first hear that theory?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think I heard it first from Ted Mann. I’m not entirely certain, but it might have been from him.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And was it that night before that you had mentioned you knew that the Foye e-mail was coming out?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, could you repeat that?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You had said, when we talked about the Foye e-mail of September 13, that you at first learned about it the night before.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, for this article.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And was that the first time that you had heard the theory that the lane closures were for political retribution?
MR. DREWNIAK: It was around that time. Whether I heard it from Ted Mann previously, or Heather, I can’t say.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you were aware at that point in time at least it was an allegation?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, it had been floating— I’m sorry for interrupting.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That this was done for political retaliation.

MR. DREWNIAK: That had been floated.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, you had heard it.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So you were aware that there was a theory out there -- an allegation.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. What did you do with that information? Now this sleepy issue that you thought was not a big deal has suddenly taken on a higher context, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What did you do with that information, now that you hear an allegation that this is being done for -- this had been done for political retaliation?

MR. DREWNIAK: It was after-- Once I received-- Since I had not received this letter in a timely manner -- that would be the Foye letter -- I asked Wildstein to give it to me. And so he gives it to me for the first time. I alerted some people in senior staff, and it may have been-- It was
definitely Charlie McKenna, and it may have been Maria Comella. And I said, “Hey, look at this.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And do you recall where you were when you did that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I was in the Governor’s Office.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And were they in your office? Were you in their office?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I went downstairs.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you were down with them in Charlie McKenna’s office?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what was their reaction to your inquiry?

MR. DREWNIAK: Charlie was aware of it, and he was ascribing to it. He says a couple things: “Look, this is the silly season of politics. There’s bad blood with Foye. And they, too, were operating on the information that this was a valid traffic study,” at least as relayed to them.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When you say, “They too were operating under the assumption that this was a valid traffic study” -- who are the “they too” who you are referring to?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know -- whatever members of senior staff also knew.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, I just-- You had mentioned McKenna and Comella. So you had gone downstairs to talk to them both, correct?
MR. DREWNIAK: I think so, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And in that conversation, was it just the three of you?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, it wasn’t together.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, that’s what I’m trying find out.

MR. DREWNIAK: I went to Charlie.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: Maria was dismissive of it, in the sense of it being just politics -- it’s the problems with Foye. And then I went also just to raise it to Charlie. I said, “Look, I want you to be aware of this.” He said, “Yes, we’re aware of it.” And he, too, gave a very similar -- very similar replies as I just related.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Just so I’m clear. So you went downstairs, you went to Comella’s office first?

MR. DREWNIAK: I believe so. I can’t remember specifically.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Raised it with her.

MR. DREWNIAK: It sounds like -- it seems that’s what I did, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: You raised it with her and she was dismissive.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: She said she was aware of the issue?
MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know if she said she was aware of it, but she was, “It’s not a big story, it’s not a big deal. Nobody’s reading this. Don’t worry about it, it’s a Port Authority problem.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And then you went to McKenna.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you raised the same issue. And you had said a few moments ago that he was aware of it.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, I believe he did.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Did he elaborate as to how or why he was aware of it?

MR. IACULLO: Could I have a moment, please, Chairman?

(attorney/client confer)

Thank you.

MR. DREWNIAK: I cannot say with specificity what the order of the conversation was. It’s too long ago that it happened, and a lot has happened since then.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. But going back to the question -- where your testimony was that Charlie McKenna said he was aware of it. Did you inquire of him how or why he was aware of it?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. I’m satisfied when I bring it to senior staff. I just want to alert them to things: “Are you guys aware of this?” And I’m pleased with that, and I feel like I’ve accomplished my role.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: After you spoke with Comella and McKenna -- maybe I misunderstood what you were saying. It sounded like that you may have spoken to other people.
MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t think so.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So it was just those two, and you were done with that issue for that day?

MR. DREWNIAK: I believe so.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you reach out to David Wildstein after that?

MR. DREWNIAK: Only because I wanted further explanation about this, since this had been raised with Foye.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And so after that McKenna/Comella conversation you reached out--

MR. DREWNIAK: I am not going to be able to say, like, after and when exactly-- I just cannot remember the order of conversations. I don’t want to speculate on what those--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We don’t want you to speculate. If you can’t recall, you can just say you can’t recall.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: On September 18 -- I’ll show you Tab 14 -- you were forwarded, from David Wildstein, a copy of the Wall Street Journal article that we had just discussed. Your comment is, “At least it doesn’t run wild with that crazy allegation it was done as political retribution.”

MR. IACULLO: Retaliation.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Retaliation. “That was a nutty suggestion.” Did you have a discussion with Wildstein, other than this e-mail, about that allegation of political retaliation?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t recall if I had it with him.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. And then his response to you was, “I was unusually nervous over this one.” Do you have any understanding of what he meant by that?

MR. DREWNIAK: None whatsoever.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Why would you call the allegation of retribution “crazy”?

MR. DREWNIAK: Because I thought it was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you have any other discussions with anyone in the Governor’s Office before you sent this e-mail about that “crazy allegation”?

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t recall.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Now, around September 23 Senator Weinberg sent the letter to Commissioner Schuber. Were you aware of that letter?

MR. DREWNIAK: I became aware, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: How did you become aware of it?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t recall exactly how.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. What did you do with that information when you became aware of it?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would typically-- Actually, I’m not sure when I became aware of it. So maybe you could rephrase the question.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: All right. So Senator Weinberg sends a letter. Did Ashmore contact you about the letter to let you know that she had sent the letter?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did Bridget Kelly?
MR. DREWNIAK: No.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did Crifo raise it with you, or Regina?
MR. DREWNIAK: Not that I recall.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Was there anyone else in the Governor’s Office who would have raised this issue with you?
MR. DREWNIAK: Somebody did, and I just cannot recall who that was.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I’d like to show Tab 16, 17, and 18, and then I’m going to turn the questioning over to my Co-Chair.

Just starting at Tab 16: You were forwarded this e-mail from David Wildstein, which was an e-mail from Steve Coleman to Bill Baroni, David Wildstein, and others, talking about Ted Mann working on a story for tomorrow’s paper -- that’s in Tab 16. Kevin Roberts’ response to you is, “Unreal.” -- that’s in Tab 17 -- “How did you guys handle before? Just kicked to the Port Authority?”

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: When you received that e-mail from Kevin Roberts where he was asking you, “How did you guys handle before?” do you have an understanding of what he was talking about?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, he was just-- There had been stories; he knew that I had been -- I dealt with it, and he wanted to know how I handled it.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, how did he know you had dealt with it?

MR. IACULLO: That would call for speculation, Chairman, as to how Mr. Roberts--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you communicate with Mr. Roberts about how you handled it?

MR. DREWNIAK: If questions are coming-- This was not unusual, and I think you would see this between a Press Office and a Governor’s Office and a campaign. Reporters often come to both of us, and we have to make decisions if it’s something you’re handling, I’m handling, or we’re both going to respond to. That would be it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But you don’t have a specific recollection on how he came to know? You didn’t talk to him specifically about this issue?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no specific recollection.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Then the following e-mail, Tab 18. This is on October 1. Your communication, from you to Maria Comella and Colin Reed, says, “I think we should talk about this below from Ted Mann, WSJ. I will next forward you an earlier e-mail I had sent to Heather when they did their first story on this.” And you mention lunch. (laughter) Why, at this point in time, were you involving Maria Comella and Colin Reed in this story? Because you had mentioned before you had talked to Maria, and she dismissed it. Is there something now that made you think that you now needed to get Maria involved?

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t remember my exact thinking; maybe it was the phraseology that Ted had on his e-mail. I just-- We would
normally talk about issues that are rising and meet over them.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: In your Gibson Dunn interview, you talked about lines of communication within the Governor’s Office and said that generally you would go through Maria, but at times you would directly talk to the Governor. Is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: At this point in time, I know initially you had said that, in your mind, this did not rise to a significant occasion; now there are multiple Wall Street Journal inquiries on this. Did you talk to the Governor at this point in time and say, “You just ought to know there’s something strange going on here”?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I didn’t.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Was there a point in time when you did?

MR. DREWNIAK: Only one time did I ever speak to the Governor about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And when was that?

MR. DREWNIAK: That would have been December 5.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what was the nature of your conversation?

MR. DREWNIAK: That was after my dinner with Wildstein.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And was the conversation about Wildstein’s departure from the Port Authority, or was it about this issue, or was it about both?

MR. DREWNIAK: It ended up being about both.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And did you have a discussion about the press inquiries with the Governor at that time?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. But there already had-- By that point there had been press inquiries in which the Governor was involved in answering himself.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But what I wanted to just try to get at-- So on December 5 you have a conversation with the Governor about this issue, and I want to make sure I understand what it is you spoke about. Leaving aside David Wildstein’s departure from the Port Authority and the discussion about that, what did you talk to the Governor about the lane closure issue?

MR. DREWNIAK: I talked about what Wildstein had now been relating to me at our dinner.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And what did Wildstein relay to you that you relayed to the Governor?

MR. DREWNIAK: We talked about many things at the dinner; it was not just that. And at some point he -- David was very concerned about whether he was going to be able to stay at the Port Authority. I knew that he wasn’t going to be allowed to stay and was going to be asked to resign. David was concerned about his reputation, and that he had worked so hard; he actually rattled off all the things he had accomplished. And then he says to me that other people knew about this. And he had previously mentioned Bill Stepien and Bridget Kelly. And now he throws in -- and I told the Governor about this, and I was, like, surprised--

MR. IACULLO: Can we have a second?
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI:  Sure.
(attorney/client confer)
MR. DREWNIAK:  And when he said this -- and this is an important clarification -- every time David spoke to me about this, it was in terms of a traffic study; and that’s all he ever said it was -- traffic study -- and he was persistent to the very end that they had done a legitimate traffic study, notwithstanding what other people’s conclusions had been.

And, in fact, at the end of that evening of our dinner, he pulls out a large Redwell (sic) and says, “Here’s the traffic study,” and presents it and begins to lay it out on the table.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI:  So then you spoke to the Governor about your dinner conversation with David Wildstein.
MR. DREWNIAK:  Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI:  And did you relay, to the Governor, David Wildstein’s statement that Kelly and Stepien knew about the lane closures?
MR. DREWNIAK:  Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI:  And did you relay, to the Governor, Wildstein’s desire to stay and his worry about his reputation?
MR. DREWNIAK:  Yes -- at least in part. It wasn’t a long conversation.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI:  Okay. And did you--  I have no further questions on that.

I will turn this over to my Co-Chair, Senator Weinberg.

Thank you very much.

MR. DREWNIAK:  Yes, sir.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you, and good morning.

MR. DREWNIAK: Good morning, Senator. How are you?

SENATOR WEINBERG: I appreciate your being here, and your trying to answer all these questions as directly and honestly as you can and as you can recall.

And let me go back a little way -- not directly pertinent to the lane closures. But I'd like to ask you a question about the toll hikes. Were you ever in communication with David Wildstein about the potential toll hikes, or about the way the toll hikes were handled?

MR. DREWNIAK: Very little. That was really handled at a much higher level between the Governor’s staffs.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So you did not have any contact with Mr. Wildstein?

MR. DREWNIAK: Some, but just about, really-- Once things had been determined -- what information was available about the toll hikes -- I was given reports.

SENATOR WEINBERG: May I ask your attorney -- can you turn off your microphone; it won’t amplify.

MR. IACULLO: Oh, I’m sorry.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I’m sorry, go ahead.

MR. DREWNIAK: And I was given reports from which to present and write press releases, and assist in statements.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And you did that in conjunction with Mr. Wildstein?

MR. DREWNIAK: It was really with the Governor’s Office of New York.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And then let me also ask you a question about when you found out -- I guess David Wildstein called you and said, “How do you do? I’m Wally Edge,” in essence. Had you communicated with Wally Edge when you were the Communications Director -- or communications person for the U.S. Attorney’s Office?

MR. DREWNIAK: Occasionally, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And under what conditions would you be communicating with Wally Edge?

MR. DREWNIAK: Carefully. A lot of reporters would call me with information that they wanted to confirm -- typically about investigations, subpoenas, search warrants. And I think I was very good at my job, and I did not reveal that information to anyone. However, if they were going to write something based on belief, or knowledge, or sources and I knew it to be incorrect, I would very often say, “If you write that, it will be wrong.” I had a national security clearance and I was very careful.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So you would, kind of -- these are my words -- tip off Wally Edge if you knew other reporters had -- or were following up on a story.

MR. DREWNIAK: No, that’s not what I said.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Could you clarify then?

MR. DREWNIAK: He, as other reporters -- although he was not a reporter, per se -- would come to me with information he received.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. But you never went to him with information?

MR. DREWNIAK: For example, if you or I had been called to a grand jury and they would say, “Hey, I hear Senator So-and-So or you
were called to a grand jury.” And I would say, “I can’t tell you that,” but I might tell them, “Don’t write that.”

SENATOR WEINBERG: Which would be kind of a clue that that’s not so.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, I don’t want that sort of information out there.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, all right. I just wanted to clarify some of that.

Now, in your opening statement, Mr. Drewniak, you talked about what you learned on January 8.

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s correct.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Or as of January 8. What I’m interested in -- not only from you, but you’re the one who is here today, but from other witnesses who will appear before us -- is what happened between September 13 and January 8? October, November, December -- three-and-a-half months, give or take. When did you first learn about Pat Foye’s e-mail?

MR. DREWNIAK: Upon the request for comment from the Wall Street Journal.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So in that e-mail the Executive Director of the Port Authority says, “Laws were broken; State and Federal laws were broken here.” Did you note that -- those sentences in the e-mail?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, yes I did. But he-- The letter contained a lot of inflammatory language.

SENATOR WEINBERG: The e-mail?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, the e-mail. And the difficulty here is that there is a very strained relationship that existed between Pat Foye -- I think it’s pretty well known -- and the New Jersey representatives of the Port Authority; in particular, David Wildstein. So yes, my view of this was colored, and I found the language-- At this point we have no reason to question whatsoever the nature of the traffic study. It seems, on its face, completely legitimate -- at least in a common sense sort of way.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So when you read an e-mail from the Executive Director of the Port Authority that said this -- even if this was a traffic study, “It followed none of the processes that we usually follow with the Port Authority.” And when you read an e-mail that said, unequivocally, “Laws have been broken here,” that was all attributed to -- and I think I read in your Gibson Dunn interview -- that was colored by the fact that you knew that Pat Foye -- and I’m kind of quoting from the documents -- you knew that Pat Foye hated David Wildstein.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, could we have one second, please?

(attorney/client confer)

Thank you.

MR. DREWNIAK: I would ask you to repeat that question, Senator, if you wouldn’t mind, and breaking it into parts that might not include assumptions that I’m unaware of, or--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Pat Foye’s e-mail stated--And I’m paraphrasing, now, I’m not reading it -- it’s certainly present in the documents -- that if, in fact, there was a traffic study, it followed none of
the processes that the Port Authority usually follows if it’s going to do a traffic study. And the second part of his e-mail was that he stated, “Both State and Federal laws were broken.”

MR. DREWNIAK: That is what his e-mail said, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And then it went on to say that-- In the Gibson Dunn interview papers with you, you ascribed Pat Foye’s statement -- that you looked at it, somehow, with colored thinking because you knew that Pat Foye hated David Wildstein.

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s a fair paraphrase, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So was that kind of the correct information you gave to Gibson Dunn, or not? I’m-- The phrase hated comes from the Gibson Dunn report.

MR. DREWNIAK: No, that’s fair -- yes. I would say that is absolutely accurate.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, how did you know that?

MR. DREWNIAK: From my conversations with Wildstein and, occasionally, Baroni.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. But there was nobody in this whole chain who thought to find out, were there laws broken? And, if there were--

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, he can’t possibly comment as to what other people in the chain--

SENATOR WEINBERG: I agree; okay. Thank you.

Mr. Drewniak, did you or anybody in your office call anybody’s attention to the fact that this e-mail said “laws were broken”?
MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, he can testify as to what he did. But as opposed--

SENATOR WEINBERG: That’s what I-- I believe that was my question.

MR. IACULLO: You said did Mr. Drewniak or anybody in his office--

SENATOR WEINBERG: I said did you notify anybody in the Governor’s Office or in the senior Administration that the e-mail stated “laws were broken.”

MR. DREWNIAK: Remember, respectfully, that I didn’t get that letter. I actually had to-- I didn’t have it in advance. I actually had to ask him, Wildstein, “Send me this letter” -- which was upsetting to me that I didn’t know about this. But it became quickly apparent to me -- and I don’t remember who I spoke with -- that the letter was in the bloodstream at a senior level of the Administration.

SENATOR WEINBERG: It’s an e-mail; I know you’re referring to it as a letter.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry. I keep--

SENATOR WEINBERG: But it was actually an e-mail; sorry.

MR. DREWNIAK: I do mean Patrick Foye’s e-mail.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Would you repeat what you just said -- that you were aware that the e-mail was what?

MR. DREWNIAK: Clearly, and especially with everything that we know now, the e-mail was in circulation within the Administration.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So you stated you knew it was clearly in circulation. Between September 13 and covering the period
up through October 1 or October 2 when it appeared, up to December 5 or December 3 -- whenever it was when you had the discussion with the Governor -- did you discuss that e-mail with anybody in senior Administration or in the Governor’s Office, particularly with reference to the allegation that laws had been broken?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no specific recollection. That’s all I can say.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Were you a participant in any discussions that took place among senior staff or in the Governor’s Office about Pat Foye’s e-mail that stated, “laws were broken”?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m going to make an assumption here that I talked to someone about it, because that’s what I would do. But my role is to make sure that if something is being handled by someone else -- particularly at a senior level -- it now leaves my-- You have to remember what I am. I have a discreet role; I’m the Press Secretary. And I’m not focused continuously on this Bridge matter. What I need to be concerned with now is that we have the ED at the Port Authority saying this, and I’m sure -- and I knew that it was in the mix within the Administration. We particularly know that now, given the facts since revealed.

SENATOR WEINBERG: My Co-Chair referred to my letter dated September 19--

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: --which I sent to Commissioner Schuber. But I also copied the Governor on that letter. You said you became aware of it; do you remember when you became aware of it?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t remember exactly what day, no.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So who would you assume in the Governor’s Office would be handling issues that now-- And I realize that hindsight is a lot clearer for all of us, on a whole variety of reasons -- for a whole variety of reasons. But who in the Governor’s Office, if you put together-- You have an e-mail from the Executive Director of the Port Authority; it stated, “laws were broken.” You have a letter from a Senator making inquiries. You have the press reports, which you referred to sometimes in your interview papers, about the fact that I, and then later Assemblyman Wisniewski and Assemblyman Johnson, appeared at the Port Authority. All of this predates December 1 -- all the things that I’ve just outlined. Can you tell me when this -- before January 8, or before December 1 -- when this might have triggered in your mind that there was something a little more serious going on here?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I can’t pinpoint that. But, again, I’m coming back to what I have to do in my job, which involves literally hundreds of issues, e-mails, phone calls on a daily basis. I’m happy that and comforted by the fact that I know that it is within the Administration, and they are aware of it. I don’t make those decisions on how to address this at that stage.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. You referred about your dinner with Mr. Wildstein.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And you reported that dinner -- or what took place at that dinner directly to the Governor?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.
SENATOR WEINBERG: And did you tell him that Mr. Wildstein was aware now that he was going to have to resign?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry -- repeat that, please?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Did you tell the Governor that Mr. Wildstein was aware that he was going to have to resign?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t recall if I-- I don’t know if I said that to him.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, what did you tell the Governor about the dinner?

MR. DREWNIAK: I told him that Wildstein is concerned about whether he has a future; that he is concerned about if he has to resign; or if he does resign, how this would impact his resignation. He was concerned if -- whether he could have a place in the Administration. Those are some of the things that Wildstein discussed with me. Wildstein also told me that he took responsibility for the -- full responsibility. “I created the-- This was my idea.” He stuck to it as valid. I cannot tell you exactly everything I then related to the Governor in what was a short conversation.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. He said what was his idea?

MR. DREWNIAK: The traffic study and the lane diversions or closures.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So he explained to you it was his idea to close the lanes?

MR. DREWNIAK: He was taking responsibility in his discussion with me.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes, but you did use the phrase, “He said it was my idea.”
MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

Let me backtrack a little bit to Mr. Baroni’s testimony before the Assembly Transportation Committee back on November 25. Did you watch that testimony, or catch it? I’m not sure if that was while you were on vacation or not.

MR. DREWNIAK: It was while I was on vacation. I was on vacation from November 16 -- actually part of the day before November 16, through November 25.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And November 25 was the day of Mr. Baroni’s testimony. Were you back in the office that day or travelling back?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, Senator. We were travelling back on November 25.

SENATOR WEINBERG: On November 25, okay. So when you learned of Mr. Baroni’s-- When did you learn of Mr. Baroni’s testimony?

MR. DREWNIAK: I knew he was testifying.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Did you know what he was going to testify to?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, none whatsoever.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Did you have anything at all to do with the preparation of his testimony?

MR. DREWNIAK: Nothing at all.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So when you found out-- When did you find out about his testimony -- the day you came back, the next day, or--?

MR. DREWNIAK: On my way back; I’d lost my iPhone, actually. And--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Cause for panic. (laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: It was; in Mexico. But in the airport I was able to read news reports, because my wife’s phone had -- we had Wi-Fi. So I read a couple of NJ.com or something stories. I sent him an e-mail saying, “Oh, sounds like it’s going okay,” among other things, if I remember.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So again, I think there is something -- is it Tab 91, you’re saying? Yes, Tab 91, Page 12 of the Gibson Dunn report. And it says, “Drewniak recalled he had a brief encounter with Baroni at the State House.”

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, what page are we on now?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Page 12.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. “Drewniak recalled he had a brief encounter with Baroni at the State House, during which encounter Baroni said words to the effect of, ‘We’re fine; we have a traffic study.’” And -- I’m skipping over some sentences here -- when you were directed to the November 25 e-mail exchange between you and Wildstein, in which you said that Baroni’s testimony “seems to be going okay overall,” you believed-- “Therefore Drewniak believed he must have seen news reports online suggesting that the testimony is going well.” So I assume you read news statements that the testimony was going well?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, as I just described. I believe it was when we were at the airport and I was able to -- as we were waiting for our flight, I read something.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, it’s actually unclear if--

MR. IACULLO: Can we have one second, Senator?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

(attorney/client confer)

MR. IACULLO: Thank you.

MR. DREWNIAK: Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: It’s actually unclear in the Gibson Dunn interview, and again also on Page 12 -- what I referred to earlier -- that you had a brief encounter with Baroni at the State House prior to his November 25 testimony. Do you recall that, or--?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, what is unclear?

SENATOR WEINBERG: What the interview notes said is that you had a brief encounter. It’s unclear; it doesn’t state when this encounter took place, but that you had a brief encounter with Baroni about his testimony before the November 25 hearing.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes -- that was the extent of it.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. But you had a discussion with him whenever that brief encounter was prior to his testimony.

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I don’t want there to be any-- I’m not sure if you’re suggesting that it is contradictory to what I said before. I had-- It was basically a friendly conversation, “Hey, I understand you’re going before the Committee. I’m going on vacation. Good luck.”

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.
MR. DREWNIAK: That was it.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Again, I’m now looking at Page 11 of the Gibson Dunn interview which covers that period from -- which I referred to earlier -- from October 2013 to November 16, 2013, when -- I guess that was the day you went on vacation. So again in the notes it says that, “during the period October 2, 2013, to November 16, the press became increasingly focused on the issue,” which the Gibson Dunn report consistently refers to as lane realignment, when actually it was a lane closure. “Wildstein began claiming to Drewniak that others, namely Stepien and Kelly, knew about the traffic study.” Did you report that to anybody else?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, I did.

SENATOR WEINBERG: To whom did you report that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I reported it to, I believe, again to Charlie McKenna, then Chief Counsel.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And Charlie McKenna said--?

And when did you-- Do you know-- Can you give us a ballpark date of when you might have reported that to him?

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t remember when; it was some time later -- late October and before I went on vacation. Clearly David was feeling and reacting specifically to this -- more pressure on this thing. And he was basically telling me that, “Look. This is not something I did without letting people know.” And he said, “I let Stepien and Kelly know about it.” So I went to -- as would be my obligation, I think, with that information -- I went and talked to Charlie McKenna about it.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And Charlie McKenna said--?
MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t specifically recall what he said, but he said, “We’re looking into this,” or words to that effect. I cannot say precisely what he said.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, that was before November 16 -- before you left on vacation.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So at that point we know that -- or, I shouldn’t say, *we know* -- at that point Charlie McKenna gave you some indication that, “they were looking into it.”

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: To the best of my recollection.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And what was Mr. McKenna’s role at that point?

MR. DREWNIAK: He was the Governor’s Chief Counsel.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So we know that prior to Mr. Baroni’s testimony on November 25 before the Assembly Transportation Committee, the Chief Counsel to the Governor indicated to you, at some point prior to that, that they were looking into this, meaning the lane closures and whatever else was on your mind and his mind at that moment.

MR. DREWNIAK: Everyone was aware of it because it had risen up to a legislative concern level, as well as the regular and continuing press inquiries.

MR. IACULLO: Could we have one moment, Chairwoman?

(attorney/client confer)

Thank you.
MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Were you going to say something?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I want to go back to the fact that Mr. Baroni testified -- not under oath, not with a subpoena -- that there was a traffic study. And that this traffic study was done because of some belief that there were private roads of some type from Fort Lee for the use of only Fort Lee residents. And then the Governor in his press conference early in December seemed to reiterate that. Had you had any discussion with the Governor that first week in December before he kind of kidded around about moving the cones himself, or I think he used some terms about-- I know, I guess we all concentrate on our own names, but I remember his referring to me about “bringing home the bacon,” which I don’t quite understand. But this was a press conference.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: The Governor was talking about lane closures. It was after Mr. Baroni’s testimony, and after his Chief Counsel said, “We are looking into this.” So were you aware of any kind of information between then and that press conference in December when the Governor made these statements -- which certainly seemed like he didn’t know anything about any of this?

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, I don’t know if that’s a question--

SENATOR WEINBERG: It is a question. Your-- Mr. Drewniak, you’re the Press Secretary to the Governor. He is having a press conference. In the press, we know that this has been in the news through
October and through November. There have been allegations made about political retribution. You know, as you said, that it rose to the legislative level; you know that people appeared at the Port Authority meeting.

Now, the Governor is getting ready to stand up in front of the people of New Jersey, as he does on a regular basis, and he’s going to speak about this where you know there’s going to be press questions. That was a long preface because I wanted to kind of spell out what the environment actually was.

So did you have a conversation at all with the Governor, as the Press Secretary, that, “Hey, look, these questions are going to come up. Your Chief Counsel told me he was looking into this and I want you to know that your Deputy Chief of Staff and your campaign manager were informed about this.” Did you give him any of that information at all?

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, your question is, specifically: Did he provide that information to the Governor?

SENATOR WEINBERG: To the Governor, correct.

MR. IACULLO: That’s really the question.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Prior to that December press conference -- in his role as Press Secretary.

MR. DREWNIAK: No, because I didn’t think that it was necessary. This was all in the public domain at this time. In fact, for whatever reason, I had no involvement in his preparation for the December 2 press conference. And as to the Governor’s flippant remark, he clearly was still trusting and believing, reasonably, someone who he had trusted -- and that would be Senator Baroni and his people.
So while I understand the view that has been taken of that, I think that actually his remarks that day suggest very clearly to me -- as someone who has known him for 12 years -- that he was still operating under the assumption that this was a traffic study. And I can assure everyone that had we known what we knew later, he would never have made those remarks.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Again, now, I’m not talking about the Governor’s remarks, I’m talking about what you knew. I think I just went over all the things that you said you knew. You knew that Kelly and Stepien were informed about this; you knew that it was a big issue in the press; you knew that it rose to the legislative level; and you knew that his Chief Counsel said, “We’re looking into this.” Would you ordinarily play a role in preparing the Governor, or filling him in, or getting him ready for what questions might come from the press, or--

MR. DREWNIAK: Often; often but not always.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: It depends on the event.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And who would do that if you didn’t?

MR. DREWNIAK: If, for example, I’m not there, the Communications Director would do that, the Deputy Communications Director would assist in that as well -- typically with Q and A preparation.

MR. IACULLO: Could we have one second? Can we have one second, please?

(attorney/client confer)
MR. DREWNIAK: To clarify -- which goes to this whole line of questioning: I was operating with what, one, David Wildstein told me. I have no knowledge of the veracity of it. I did provide a little context -- that now I have somebody throwing people into the mix who had not previously been thrown into the mix. I can’t say--

SENATOR WEINBERG: By those people, you mean Kelly and Stepien?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma'am. And, again, there is further that this is happening at a time when-- I have to say this, and I do not mean disrespect to the Co-Chair. There was a belief that this is being ginned up by two of the most -- and again, no offense, please.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I understand.

MR. DREWNIAK: Two of the most--

SENATOR WEINBERG: I won’t hold you responsible for it, either.

MR. DREWNIAK: Two of the most partisan members of the Legislature on the other side of the aisle. So that had a role in the coloring and thinking of numerous people until certain information was made available to us. That made the Governor regret his remark that day, and other things; and a way we had proceeded where we wished that we had proceeded differently.

SENATOR WEINBERG: You handled that quite well, by the way. (laughter)

I understand, and the way you described it came across in some of the interview issues -- that, “Oh, well, Senator Weinberg criticizes the Governor, so therefore don’t pay any attention to this.” I think that came
across from the statement you just made, and I understand the thinking, obviously, in some portion of the front office about all of this which, really -- my own editorial comment -- mystifies me. But that’s okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry -- what does?

SENATOR WEINBERG: I said that mystifies me, because actually those are the times you should pay attention. That’s an editorial comment from me.

But now we move ahead to, there’s a December 13 issue. There’s a senior staff meeting; the Governor holds a press conference where he is going to announce Baroni’s resignation, the transition -- the new Port Authority person.

Let me go back to David Wildstein here before we get to that.

Do you remember when David Wildstein was hired at the Port Authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: When?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes. I don’t mean the date, but do you remember what period of time?

MR. DREWNIAK: Again, approximately early 2010 -- March or April.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t remember.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Do you remember that the press made inquiries about his position there?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR WEINBERG: And who described Mr. Wildstein as his position there was going to be the Governor’s eyes and ears? Do you recall that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know if that was me, or--

SENATOR WEINBERG: So there was--

MR. DREWNIAK: I think that the press also used that quite a lot.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, I would assume that somebody had to tell the press that David Wildstein was the Governor’s eyes and ears at the Port Authority.

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, obviously he can’t comment about something that he would have to assume in order to formulate an answer.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. You don’t remember whether it was you who gave that information to the press at the time?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t remember that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And then it became apparent that, I guess from other testimony that’s been heard, that Mr. Wildstein actually functioned almost all over the Port Authority. He was the author of traffic studies, of various pieces of news releases, publications, etc. And you talked about working -- correct me if I’m wrong here -- on the statement about Mr. Wildstein’s resignation to show what he had accomplished at the Port Authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And your belief that he worked very, very hard at the Port Authority.
MR. DREWNIAK: He did.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Do you know what he accomplished during the period of time he was there? Did he have any accomplishments to point to?

MR. DREWNIAK: I cannot-- I’m sorry, I cannot say with great specificity what he did on a day-to-day to basis. But I do know that he was one of these individuals who was the first into the office and the last to leave.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. So now I’m back to December and the Governor’s press conference -- or the senior staff meeting. And according to the Gibson Dunn interview, on December 5 you told the Governor about Wildstein’s claims that he had told the Governor about the lane closures on September 11. That’s Tab 91, pages 14 to 15. The Governor’s statement to the press was accurate or inaccurate?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry.

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, you’re asking him to comment about the Governor’s statement?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, if you told the Governor on December 5 that somebody made an allegation -- in this case, David Wildstein -- that he had spoken to the Governor on September 11 about the traffic study--

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s what David Wildstein said to me, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes. So you told that to the Governor on December 5, according to the Gibson Dunn, right? Is that correct?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And now the-- Did you discuss the fact that the Governor said he didn’t know anything about this, or did you correct it; and that David Wildstein said that Kelly and Stepien were involved? Did you correct that before his next press conference?

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, could you reword that, because it seems you’re asking two separate things there.

SENATOR WEINBERG: All right. Let me read from the documents.

MR. IACULLO: Page 15?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Following -- This is Tab--

MR. IACULLO: Tab 91.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. IACULLO: Page 15?

SENATOR WEINBERG: “Following the senior staff meeting,” it says-- The question here is-- Let me backtrack here, and I realize I might be confusing you because the dates are confusing. Did you tell Governor Christie -- or when did you tell him about David Wildstein’s allegation that he had told the Governor on September 11 about the issue of the George Washington Bridge lane closures? When did you tell that to the Governor?

MR. DREWNIAK: That would have been on December 5.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And that was during that senior staff meeting?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, ma’am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: When was that?
MR. DREWNIAK: That was when I was in Kevin O’Dowd’s office -- the Chief of Staff’s Office -- and the Governor walked in.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And did you state at that point that Mr. Wildstein said that Kelly and Stepien were involved?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes. I told him what he had said, and then I said, and basically, “You’re not going to believe this. He’s now thrown you in too.”

MR. IACULLO: Could we have one second, please?

(attorney/client confer)

Thank you.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. You had dinner with David Wildstein. David Wildstein told you at some point about Kelly and Stepien being involved.

MR. DREWNIAK: Knowing about the lane realignment or the study.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Right. When the Governor had his December 13 press conference he stated nobody on his senior staff knew anything about this. Did you correct him at some point -- or that Kelly and Stepien knew about it?

MR. DREWNIAK: You mean, December 13?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, but I think that the Governor has addressed that publicly quite a bit -- that he went directly -- as did Kevin O’Dowd and Charlie McKenna -- went directly to these individuals and asked them, point blank, “Do you know more about this?”
SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, you knew that Charlie McKenna knew about it because he told you that he was checking into it.

MR. DREWNIAK: Right.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And you knew -- or at least you thought -- maybe Kelly and Stepien knew about it because that’s what David Wildstein told you, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

MR. IACULLO: Assuming that was true.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, I think I prefaced that appropriately. But you didn’t attempt to correct the Governor -- that people on his senior staff not only knew about it but they were looking into it?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I’m sorry; unless I’m misunderstanding, we’re making the assumption that everything that I am reporting about David Wildstein -- to be true. What we do know is that the Governor has unequivocally addressed this -- about how he and his senior -- closest senior staff addressed everyone on this. And that was the reemphasized nature of the meeting with the senior staff and I on December 13 to say, “Enough of this. We’re going to talk to each-- We want--” “You have two hours,” basically, “to come forward and tell us if you know anything about this at all.”

SENATOR WEINBERG: And would that -- were you present at that meeting?

MR. DREWNIAK: I was.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So would that have been a time for you to tell the Governor what you knew about it? And I’m not insinuating
that you knew anything beyond what you already testified to -- that you
know that Charlie McKenna said he was looking into it, that David
Wildstein told you that Ms. Kelly and Mr. Stepien knew about it. So did
you, at that point, tell any of this to the Governor?

(attorney/client confer)

MR. DREWNIAK: Respectfully, Senator -- I don’t know if
we’re talking about different dates or something, or if there’s some mix up
or confusion here. I talked to the Governor on December 5 and told this to
him. There was nothing to correct then, subsequently, unless I’m missing
or misunderstanding the question.

SENATOR WEINBERG: The December 13 press conference.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Prior to that when he had his
meeting with senior staff.

MR. DREWNIAK: The meeting of December 13--

SENATOR WEINBERG: The press conference on December
13.

MR. DREWNIAK: Oh, okay.

SENATOR WEINBERG: I believe it was there -- the December
13 press conference -- when the Governor stated that he asked his senior
staff, and they didn’t know anything about this.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And my question to you was, did
you correct him in any way: either before that, when you filled him in on it;
at the meeting of the senior staff when you knew what I outlined a little
earlier -- about Charlie McKenna, about Kelly and Stepien?
MR. DREWNIAK: We’re having some kind of disconnect here. The Governor’s relying--

SENATOR WEINBERG: In other words, people on his senior staff knew about this, or were looking into it. Did you relay that information to Governor Christie prior to his statement that no one on his senior staff knew anything about this?

MR. DREWNIAK: I didn’t have to. This is already in the--There had already been discussions with senior staff and this was a final opportunity for anybody who may not have come forward already or may not have told the truth -- “This is your last option, today, before I go out there at a press conference in two hours. This is your--” “The confessionals are open,” to quote him from that day.

SENATOR WEINBERG: So you felt you didn’t have to give the information that you had to the Governor -- that he might have already known it?

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, I think he’s answered that numerous times. I think he gave his response.

SENATOR WEINBERG: No, I’m sorry, Mr. Attorney, I don’t agree with you. We’re trying to get these dates down. If you choose not to answer, that’s--

MR. IACULLO: No, we don’t choose not to answer, with all due respect. I think he’s answered the question numerous times. I think he’s been very patient in trying to formulate his answers. If it’s not responsive, or you don’t feel that it’s appropriate, that’s the best answer that Michael can give.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Then let me see if I can rephrase this. And I’m basing it on what you told us, Mr. Drewniak -- that you spoke to Charlie McKenna some time in November and that he said he was looking into this -- the Governor’s Chief Counsel. That you had information from David Wildstein that both Ms. Kelly, the Governor’s Deputy Chief of Staff, and Mr. Stepieen, who had taken a leave of absence to serve as the Governor’s campaign manager and was about to take over the reins of the Republican State Committee -- that you testified that other people told you these people knew about this lane closure or were looking into it. The three people I just mentioned: the Governor’s Chief Counsel, the Governor’s campaign manager, and the Governor’s Deputy Chief of Staff. That’s what you testified to. Am I incorrect there?

MR. DREWNIAK: The chronology is that I had mentioned it to McKenna that Wildstein had alleged that these other two folks had knowledge of a traffic study or a lane closure -- I don’t remember exactly his wordage. I’m not sure entirely when that was -- some time in November, perhaps when I came back from vacation -- I can’t say specifically. I just raised it with him. So it’s now in the bloodstream.

On December--

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, but excuse me, just before you go on to the next. You said earlier that he answered you and said, “We’re looking into it.”

MR. DREWNIAK: To the best of my recollection.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know if they have the same information from another source--
SENATOR WEINBERG: Right.
MR. DREWNIAK: I just felt obligated to raise it.
SENATOR WEINBERG: And he answered your raising the issue.
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, go ahead.
MR. DREWNIAK: Then on December 5 I have what was an unexpected encounter with the Governor when I was in Mr. O'Dowd’s office, and I relate the same thing. And then add that--
SENATOR WEINBERG: You relate that to both Mr. O'Dowd and to the Governor?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, but I was basically talking to the Governor.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, you were in the presence of both of them.
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, exactly.
SENATOR WEINBERG: In an office.
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma'am.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Not in front of a--
MR. DREWNIAK: No.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, go ahead.
MR. DREWNIAK: And then I said, “And by the way, he’s now thrown in the idea that he told you about the traffic study,” or whatever he said. And I don’t know exactly what his words were. So there we have by December 5 -- there’s no need for me now to bring it forward again on
December 13. It was all well understood what we were dealing with by that time.

SENATOR WEINBERG: All right. Well--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m really not trying to be evasive.

SENATOR WEINBERG: No, I know that. And I’m trying not to ask you a question that would be, “Well, then, why would the Governor say nobody on his senior staff knew about this?” when, in fact, you-- So I’m trying not to put that question to you--

MR. DREWNIAK: Okay.

SENATOR WEINBERG: --because you couldn’t--

MR. DREWNIAK: The only thing I could add to that is that the Governor-- These people had been asked; they had been asked directly, “Did you have anything to do with this?” When people tell you they didn’t, that’s the best you can do. And when you confront them -- and I think the Gibson Dunn report actually goes--

SENATOR WEINBERG: That’s the best the Governor could do, based on what they were telling him. What I’m asking you is the information that you had at that stage -- that you testified that you had. And the question becomes: Did you tell the Governor, prior to that press conference -- or correct him some time privately after the press conference -- that David Wildstein told you that he had told him about it on September 11; that two members of his senior circle knew about it; and that, in fact, his Chief Counsel told you that he was somehow looking into this? Those facts -- were they given to the Governor prior to the public statement, “I asked my senior staff.”
MR. DREWNIAK: I related the things that you seem to be asking about. Whether I did it on December 13, I had answered and provided that information to the Governor. I had already provided it -- part of it -- to Charlie McKenna previously.

I was definitely covered here, in the sense that I had done my duty to alert. Those facts, the very facts you are now asking if I then did again on December 13 -- by December 13 we were way past that and I am going to make a reasonable assumption that Charlie McKenna, and perhaps others, had related these things further and discussed these things further. Beyond that, I just can’t -- I have nothing else to offer aside from the Governor’s public remarks on December 13. That’s it.

SENATOR WEINBERG: That what?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry?

SENATOR WEINBERG: You didn’t finish the sentence. Aside from the fact that the Governor’s public remarks on December 13 that-- I thought you were--

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s really it.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. I’m just going to ask one more question here, and then we can break for a half hour for lunch, and resume.

There’s a lot of, in your testimony-- And I realize you had a social relationship with David Wildstein. But you seem to have believed that there was a traffic study. You had no reason-- Well, let me put that in the form of a question. Did you believe him, that there was a traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did.
SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. Then did you believe him when he told you that Ms. Kelly and Mr. Stepien knew about this whole issue of traffic study/lane closures?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would say that later and specifically at the dinner I became more concerned, because he seemed to be offering up people. And I couldn’t understand why. So I would say it’s fair to say that-- But see, I’m also dealing with somebody who is so consistently believingly -- or convincingly, rather, presenting things to me. I have Senator Baroni doing the exact same thing. And, again, notwithstanding your own experiences, these are my experiences based on the people I’ve known and had no reason -- particularly Senator Baroni -- to disbelieve or disrespect. So that’s how I reacted and handled this for a very long time. And again, back to my effort to be respectful -- the members of the Legislature who were coming after this, I think, colored it and, for right or wrong, in my view that did contribute to it; as well as the fact of what I knew to be very extreme dysfunction of the Port Authority with Patrick Foye.

And again, looking back, and as I said in my opening statement, I wish I had done better; I wished or I implied that. I was, with all the knowledge that we have now, probably naïve to some degree to listen to somebody who I trusted. I cannot explain it better than that, ma’am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. And, again, I think you have explained your feelings that you trusted the information -- which is why I’m curious about whether or not you believed Mr. Wildstein that Ms. Kelly and Mr. Stepien knew about this; and, in fact, whether or not you believed
Mr. Wildstein that he mentioned it to the Governor, or told it to the Governor at that September 11 observance.

MR. IACULLO: Chairwoman, I think he answered that question already. And I don’t think he can testify as to whether or not information provided was truthful by Mr. Wildstein and those statements were accurate. That’s something he wouldn’t know.

Excuse me, one second.

(attorney/client confer)

I’m sorry, with that preface Mr. Drewniak would like to make a comment.

MR. DREWNIAK: I will say this. I do not know what to believe about David Wildstein or Bridget Kelly, in particular. This is one of the strangest things I have ever witnessed. I don’t know why; I know even you had looked for alternate theories at times because it was so bizarre. It made no sense, and had no value. So I don’t know who to believe and why they would do such a thing. I can’t pass on it, otherwise I would just simply be speculating. But it is a mystery to me, to this day, and I wish I knew the answers.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Well, I will tell you I certainly agree with at least one statement you made, and that was the term bizarre -- a term I’ve used quite often over the last number of months.

I will turn it back over to my Co-Chair, John Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Senator.

I’m going to turn the questioning over to Senator O’Toole, who will be our last questioner before we break for lunch.
SENATOR O’TOOLE: Through the Chair, if you need a break now -- Michael or the attorney -- let us know. I’m hoping to get through at least my first round of questions in the 15 or 20 minutes which the Chair has allotted. Are you okay?

MR. DREWNIAK: Frankly, Senator, I’d rather do it now. I think this is going to be a long day.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: The attorney?

MR. IACULLO: Thank you. We’re ready to proceed.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Through the Chair-- Michael, I’ve listened to the last two hours of your answering the questions here. I’ve given a lot of thought to these questions, and I think you’re giving the best recollection of what you recall -- sitting here the 13th of May -- of items going back to August and September of 2013.

Your opening statement -- it struck me, Michael, in your second paragraph you said the -- and I’ll quote, “Those infamous e-mails leaked that morning of January 8, which revealed the true abusive nature for what actually occurred last September, were shocking and disorienting.” You know, harking back to the testimony of Christina Renna, she said when the office -- when she had heard or read the article, that there was an absolute devastation in the office -- her office of IGA. And there was a similar feeling I get from you when you say it was shocking and disorienting. Given your background as a reporter, as someone who worked in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, as a professional, and working the last four years as a press spokesperson, what is it that was shocking and disorienting that was revealed that you haven’t seen in your years running up into that moment?
MR. DREWNIAK: That anybody would use -- scheme-- Anybody in a position of government responsibility would use their position or authority, presumed or real, to use an interstate facility to shut down traffic, for whatever reason. When I first got those words from Shawn Boborg, it’s like remembering where you were when the Space Shuttle blew up. It was that level of shock. And that I had an association-- Because now the clarity was unmistakable, the mystery was solved; the shoe had dropped, and I was disgusted beyond belief.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Through the Chair, your second-to-last paragraph, “I can say with complete confidence and comfort that none of these people, starting with Governor Christie, had any involvement whatsoever in this reckless and perplexing episode.” How was it that you could--

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Excuse me. I am so sorry. I am so sorry to interrupt.

No one on this side has a copy of this statement. How is it that you do?

SENATOR O’TOOLE: It was on my desk when I got here, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: No, I understand. No one here has it.

MR. DREWNIAK: I provided it to-- I’m sorry. I provided it to -- I’m blanking on it -- Rich.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Sufficient copies for the whole board?
SENATOR O'TOOLE: Assemblyman, it was literally in front of me--

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Oh, I’m not trying to say anything except that we would like to have a copy so we can follow along.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Ah, now you know how we feel. (laughter)

Well, I was under the impression it was handed out. It was, literally, on my -- in front of my microphone.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: All the Committee documents are on the website. Is that on the website?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF COMMITTEE: Through the Chair--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Is it a Committee document yet? Have we entered it into the record yet?

SENATOR WEINBERG: Stop, both of you. (laughter)

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Oh, I see.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Senator, I’m sorry to interrupt. I just wanted to get a copy for this side, if that’s okay. I’m sorry.

MR. DREWNIAK: I did give it to Rich McGrath at the outset.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Thank you.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I’m sorry, do you have a copy now, Assemblyman?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I think it’s coming.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: So if I can just restate that question, through the Chair. The second-to-the-last paragraph, “I could say with
complete confidence and comfort that none of these people, starting with Governor Christie, had any involvement whatsoever in this reckless and perplexing episode.” That was your testimony here today, in your opening?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: And how was it that you can say that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’ve worked with these people and the Governor for 12 years. Looking back at the time when this occurred, there was no reason to do it, no value in it politically. And from our former lives, and currently, we weigh things; and you weigh things for their value. There was no value in doing something this asinine.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: You testified under Chairwoman Weinberg’s questioning about the December 2 press conference with the Governor, where he made certain comments. And I think your response -- I don’t want to paraphrase, if you could just repeat what was your response -- had he, or you, or the staff known about what we have come to learn, post January 8, I think you said he would not have made the comments that he made?

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct. I mean, when he made that remark, it made complete sense. With everything we subsequently know, nobody would mock something as egregious as what we now know transpired because of our receipt of those e-mails on January 8. This Governor, and none of the people around him, would ever make a mockery of something so abusive on its face.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Could I just make a housekeeping request? Not in terms of time, but I know that, Counsel, you had placed objections on the record -- quite frequently -- asking that there
not be speculative questions. I think that ought to apply to all questions, because speculating whether somebody could conceivably do something falls into that category. And I would like to make sure that that continues forward.

MR. IACULLO: Chairman--

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Is that what he testified to under-- I thought that was his response. If that was not his response, through you, Chair, then I stand corrected. I thought he testified to that.

MR. IACULLO: Senator, could I just put this-- If I do feel a question is objectionable, of course I’ll -- and I don’t want to use the term objection; obviously you can see I’m used to a courtroom. But if I do think a question is improper, obviously I’m going to continue to object.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Through the Chair, thank you.

Through the Chair: Michael, if we could step back for a moment. Those of us in Trenton think that everything we do is kind of important, and the world is watching -- and that’s not always the case.

You talked about a little of what your role was and is as the spokesperson for the Governor. And the same type of question I asked Christine Renna: Just walk me through a typical day as the spokesperson -- how frenetic, how slow-paced, how fast-paced, how many people do you interact with. You mentioned that you get several hundred e-mails. Just walk me through a typical day here in the State House.

MR. DREWNIAK: All the days are different, as you would imagine. But my primary role is to receive all press inquiries. That includes an obligation from the departments for anything that’s not routine that would invoke policy, controversies, pending policies of the Governor’s
Office. They are supposed to come through me and the Deputy Press Secretary. So we handle all those, we help formulate answers, we check policy. We deal with the lawyers all day and policy people all day. I keep a list of all my press calls all day, which can range anywhere from a couple of dozen to 20 to 30, depending on the nature of the day. Those calls can come from anywhere, from your local patch.coms, to the Washington Post, to the Jerusalem Post. And I spend a lot of time then chasing down -- if I don’t know the answers, or our policy positions, or as such, I have to chase down and verify information. Policies are often changing in response to bills and legislation, so we have to make sure that we’re up-to-date. So there is a lot of that; there is a lot of information gathering and fact-checking.

I help supervise our Communications staff, and brief Maria and other senior staff on issues that are coming in, as needed. I mean, that’s a nutshell. I also staff the Governor according to logistics and whether it’s best -- making a determination whether I should be staying at the State House to deal with press issues, or if somebody else can do it. But I frequently staff the Governor at public events.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Through the Chair, the duties that you discussed, under direct from Chairman Wisniewski, is that you serve as a spokesperson for the Governor and the Administration; and then you rolled into including Department heads, information officers, underlings, other communication folks in your office as well. I’m just trying to get the width and depth as to how many individuals do you deal with in a given day -- or say, a given week; say, every day is different.

MR. DREWNIAK: It all depends, again, if the Legislature is in session. That creates a different kind and number of people I’m dealing
with. But on a busy period, or after we’ve done policy announcements, that’s when it’s going to be much more intense if we’ve done-- It really depends, of course, on the Governor’s activities. But I can deal with just dozens of people every single day.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Through the Chair, we have been referred to -- I think it was Tab 91 -- which is the Gibson Dunn report. And in the first sentences on January 19, March 10, March 22, you were interviewed by four and/or five lawyers from Gibson Dunn. You are aware of that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry?

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Have you read that in the summary report -- Gibson Dunn?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, yes, sir.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Have you read all 20 pages of the Gibson Dunn report?

MR. DREWNIAK: Related to me -- yes, sir.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Related to you. Do you take any objection to what was written, any inaccuracies -- significant or otherwise -- in the 20-page report?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I was very happy -- or pleased with the fact that it reflected the substance and tone of my interview.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Under the questioning -- I think it was from Chairwoman Weinberg -- the question about why is it that you had any dealings with the Port Authority at all-- And you explained, on a given day, issues would be kicked your way, with the Port Authority, whether it be toll hikes -- whatever it is -- and you’d find some way either to handle it
or address it in a manner -- giving it back to the Port or in some other fashion, I think I heard your testimony about the Port.

Did you ever deal with any other Authority, serving as a spokesperson -- Delaware, Passaic Valley, Passaic Water -- any other at North Jersey? Did you, as a spokesperson, ever have to deal with any other Authority for a communication or a policy issue in the last four years?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, most of--

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Can you expand upon that, please?

MR. DREWNIAK: Most of them, whenever an issue of policy that involves our office. And I will communicate with them or their Commissioners, Directors, as needed on press matters.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Can you give me -- through the Chair -- an example or two of other Authorities you’ve interacted with, or had press inquiries on?

MR. DREWNIAK: Two that immediately come to mind are the -- or three -- would be the DRPA, for which there has been a lot of controversy, and issues to deal with, and policy issued from the Governor’s Office; the -- you mentioned one -- the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission for, I think, what are obvious reasons for a lot of people here; and I was thinking of one more.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: How about the Sports Authority, or Passaic Valley--

MR. DREWNIAK: Oh, Sports Authority. Sports Authority, quite a bit as well. And the Casino Authorities -- those, quite frequently, including their staff and directives.
SENATOR O'TOOLE: So those are inquiries made to you about policies made by the Authorities?

MR. DREWNIAK: Both. They are coming to me, and I’m coming to them.

I would just clarify: the Authorities Unit in the Governor’s Office also -- they routinely just send me notes to say, “This is an issue, this is an issue,” or, “There’s a meeting coming up” -- that sort of thing.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Switching gears a little bit, through the Chair, you mentioned that at your dinner with Mr. Wildstein that he actually pulled out a large Redwell, you said, and showed you a traffic study. Could you detail what he actually showed you that he said was a traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: At that stage the dinner had become quite uncomfortable. But he wanted me to see this. He came into the restaurant with it tucked under his arm, and he said, “Let’s talk, and at the end of dinner I want to show you this.” And I didn’t ask him what it was. I was, like-- What started out to be a completely social dinner-- And then he pulls it out at the end of the dinner and he says, “Look. You just have to know. This is the traffic study. We should have been able to get this out there, and that was a failure on everybody’s part. We could have relied on this.” And he started explaining, taking out different pieces of it. “Here is the communications with all the engineers before September 9; here are renderings and options,” color displays that he opened up. But I was, like, “Okay, fine,” and basically that’s the way the diner ended. I didn’t pay close attention to what he had.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Did he give you a copy of that?
MR. DREWNIAK: No, he did not.

But the handwriting was on the wall, at this point, that he was not going to be staying -- that he was going to be asked to resign.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Through the Chair, Mr. Drewniak, you testified that with regard to Mr. Foye, the current Executive Director, he had -- and I’m not sure you said strained or strange relationship with the New Jersey representatives. What was your testimony? Was it strained, strange, or estranged? I wasn’t quite clear how you--

MR. DREWNIAK: There was a lot of conflict between them.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: And you said that you got that from Senator Baroni and Mr. Wildstein -- you got some of that characterization or that feeling from them? I think that was your testimony?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: I’m trying to understand what it is-- How is it that you came to know that Mr. Foye had a strained or a strange relationship with the New Jersey side?

MR. DREWNIAK: Most of it came from Wildstein because there were-- I’m not naïve in the sense that I get, when you’re hearing it from one person only, there’s always two sides to the story. But there were a couple of things that occurred that seemed to me to be objectively, obviously bad involving Mr. Foye, and that did color my view. Again, rightly or wrongly, it did color my view of Mr. Foye.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Through the Chair, did you hear from any Commissioners or other members of, say, the Port Authority, or members of the public, who told you about the either frayed or strained relations; that New York had a feeling -- one side -- and New Jersey had
another? I’ve read that in clips; I’m just trying to find out from you. Did you ever get that from any member of the public, or member of the Port Authority, or Commissioner?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’ve gotten it from individuals. But look, one thing that I don’t want to do -- and as the Governor said to me in my meeting with him on December 5; or not meeting but, like, contact -- we have to work closely with the Port Authority. The dysfunction that’s occurred has to be repaired. We have to work with Mr. Foye, and that was one of the reasons that Baroni and Wildstein had to go. So what I don’t want to do is add any bad blood as necessary. I would like to leave my answers at this.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: “Add bad blood” suggests that bad blood currently exists, through the Chair.

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I just-- Again, only within the context that I’ve described. And, yes, people have talked to me about it, people in government. That’s it.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Through the Chair, Senator Weinberg said you answered, I think, this one artfully, or smartly. I’m going to bring you back there and try to trip you up a little bit.

You said that there was a belief that -- I’m going to try to use your words -- these hearings, at some point, were “ginned up” by two of the most partisan members of the other side of the aisle. Did you have that belief? And did that belief-- Did you hold that belief September, October, November, December? And if you don’t know, then we can move on to the next question.
MR. DREWNIAK: My experience in Trenton has been that we work in a highly charged, partisan environment. I get that. I also have deep respect for Senator Weinberg, who I’ve had many numerous conversations with, and she knows that -- private, personal, and enjoyable conversations.

I introduced myself to Assemblyman Wisniewski some months ago, and interestingly I really enjoyed talking to him. (laughter)

SENATOR WEINBERG: I’m waiting for the, “However--”

MR. DREWNIAK: Now, that said, I think we are fully cognizant of the facts that we come from different places; that Assemblyman Wisniewski was the former Democratic Party Chair, and a fine questioner as well, and a good lawyer. But we come from very different places. But I am respectful of that. But I do have-- There is obviously something that drives these things in addition to the egregious things that have occurred.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Last question, through the Chair. Page 17, Tab 91, first paragraph, last sentence. The sentence reads, “This meeting was one of the most powerful things Drewniak has ever witnessed the Governor to do.” That line caught my attention. I assume you read that line?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Okay. What is it that-- I assume that that’s a characterization that the Gibson lawyers put in there. It’s not verbatim; it’s not a comment or a quote from you -- or maybe it is. Can you tell me what was so powerful that occurred at that meeting that was one of the most powerful things you have ever seen the Governor do?
MR. DREWNIAK: I’ve known Governor Christie for all my seven years with him at the U.S. Attorney’s Office. And, by the way, I worked for three U.S. Attorneys, not just Chris Christie. And I’ve seen him -- the many faces of Chris Christie -- and I’ve seen him angry, I’ve seen him treat his staff extremely well. And this was an uncharacteristic moment that combined very constructive anger -- as I described it, I think -- and it was a powerful, period. Everybody in the room was absolutely riveted because we had never heard him talk to us this way.

I had made a mistake, and he was directing his anger at me. But I fully understood it; he was right about my handling of one issue. And he went around the table and said -- just said so eloquently that, “This is no time for you to screw up,” the whole notion of senioritis. He was just very moving, strict, but in such a constructive way. And then he moved to the point where, “We can fall on our faces; we can be -- the spotlight can turn into a searchlight if I can’t trust all of you. And I’ve trusted all of you. Many of you have been with me for years. And if you want to continue to have a good and viable government I must have your attention, and you must always tell me the truth.”

And, it’s funny. They asked me, “What were people’s expressions? What was Bridget Kelly’s expression?” I have no idea, because I don’t think anybody took their face off the guy. He is a strong leader, and this was a fascinating, unforgettable moment for somebody who I’ve worked with for a very long time.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Those are all the questions I have right now, Chair. Thank you for the time.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Senator.
Mr. Drewniak, Counsel, we’re going to take a lunch break for 30 minutes. We will be back here at 1:25. I believe there’s been a place arranged for you to meet with your client during this break, and staff will let you know where that it.

MR. IACULLO: Thank you, Chairman.

(recess)

(return from recess)

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I’d like to call the meeting back to order, relatively on time for Trenton.

We’ll continue with our questioning.
Counsel, Mr. Drewniak, are you prepared to proceed?
MR. IACULLO: Yes.
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.
MR. IACULLO: Thank you, Chairman.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I’d like to turn the questioning now over to Assemblyman Moriarty.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Mr. Drewniak, thank you for appearing here today.
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Mr. Drewniak, in your opening statement you say that when you looked at those e-mails on January 8 you said -- you talk about, “the callousness and cavalier attitude expressed in those e-mails was like nothing I witnessed my entire working lifetime.” Have you ever read your e-mails?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Well, would you say that they’re calloused and cavalier?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, by comparison, and what’s actually involved when it comes to misuse of public property -- I would say that there’s a difference.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Let’s talk about when you first met Mr. Wildstein -- or you met him, I guess, by phone?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And it wasn’t Mr. Wildstein; it was Wally Edge?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So your relationship began with talking about information having to do with the U.S. Attorney’s Office?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, no. I never spoke to him by phone at that time; only by--

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: By e-mail? I think you said AOL?

So he would ask you questions about the U.S. Attorney’s Office?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: About investigations?

MR. DREWNIAK: Like other reporters, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And you would either confirm or deny information?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes. Well, no. I would-- Generally speaking, yes, confirm or deny. I would not confirm or deny investigations.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Was that appropriate? I mean, the FBI doesn’t confirm or deny information. You can ask them a hundred different ways as a reporter or something, and they don’t confirm or deny. But you were, in fact, by saying, “You probably don’t want to write that,” you were confirming or denying information that probably was sensitive, perhaps not in the public domain.

MR. IACULLO: Assemblyman, I think we’re making a big jump here -- first of all, asking my client about what the FBI does or does not do.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I didn’t ask him about that.

MR. IACULLO: Well, I think you phrased that in your question.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I made a statement that the FBI does not confirm or deny--

MR. IACULLO: I don’t think anybody or any of us right here are qualified to say what the FBI does or does not do. And I know Michael’s not.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Well, I am. I was a reporter for 20--

MR. IACULLO: (Indiscernible) for the FBI.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Let me just jump in here. Counsel, if you have an objection, place it on the record.

MR. IACULLO: Chairman, with all due respect, I was not looking to play to the camera, so to say.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, no, no it’s fine. Look, if you have -- just lawyer-to-lawyer -- if you have a question or a problem with a question, state your objection. If the questioner can rephrase the question, that’s fine; but what I’d like to ask everybody is, we don’t need to characterize or paraphrase the question. Just let’s--

MR. IACULLO: Fair enough.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: --make the objection, and try to work through it.

MR. IACULLO: Fair enough, Chairman.

Can you rephrase the question, please?

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Were you doing something that was inappropriate at that time, in confirming or denying information that was not public -- not meant to be public at that time?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not whatsoever.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So it was okay when you were the Press Secretary at the U.S. Attorney’s Office to confirm or deny information that reporters had pertaining to investigations?

MR. DREWNIAK: I worked for three U.S. Attorneys. I was hired primarily by Stuart Rabner -- even though the U.S. Attorney at the time was Faith Hochberg. Stuart Rabner was, and remains, my mentor. I learned very well from him, and maintained the standards of the United States Attorney’s Office and the Department of Justice consistently. I would never have violated or put at risk what I eventually came to possess, and that was a national security clearance.

So I understand what you’re saying, but I think that you’re mischaracterizing what I was doing.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay, fair enough.

In your role at that time do you know whether a U.S. Attorney would leak information to the press?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I don’t know the answer to that.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: You have no understanding if the U.S. Attorney ever called up newspaper reporters, or TV reporters, or radio reporters, and said, “Be outside this Senator’s home; there’s going to be a raid this morning”?

MR. IACULLO: Assemblyman, and again, with respect to what the Chairman said, I’m going to limit my objection. Number one, I don’t think it’s proper for him to comment on something that may or may not have happened because, obviously, he doesn’t have knowledge of that. But number two, I didn’t think we were here to discuss what happens at the U.S. Attorney’s Office. I thought we were here for an investigation -- as the Chairwoman and Chairman discussed -- about the realignment of the lanes at the George Washington Bridge.

So I don’t know that this information is relevant. And I would ask for a ruling on that, I guess, from the Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Understand.

Mr. Drewniak talked about his career at the U.S. Attorney’s Office. I’ll allow the Assemblyman some latitude in asking questions. Obviously, if it’s a question that he doesn’t have an answer to, then he could indicate that. I think it could be a yes or no, or it could have a contextual answer. But I’ll leave it up to the witness to provide the answer, if he can.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I'm trying to understand the witness’ background as a Press Secretary, press spokesman -- how he interacts with the press; how he’s done that job for the citizens of New Jersey. And I think it’s relevant. And I did not ask if he-- I asked him if he has any understanding if the U.S. Attorney at that time would leak information to the press.

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no such information in that regard, but if you have a basis, I’d be happy to hear it.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I may come back to that. Thank you.

And when you say, if I have a basis, what do you mean by that?

MR. DREWNIAK: Your-- This seems to be coming out of right field. I don’t know what support you’re offering in that regard.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: It’s very simple -- if you had any information or not.

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. Thank you very much.

Let’s talk about this information that you received some time between October and November -- you’re not sure when. You say that during this time David Wildstein begins to suggest that Bridget Kelly and Bill Stepien knew of the traffic study, or the incident at the Bridge -- that he started to lay the groundwork for saying that they were somehow involved or knew of. Can you explain more about that?

MR. DREWNIAK: He never said involved. He said that he had made them aware.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Made them aware of what?
MR. DREWNIAK: Of a traffic study.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And made them aware of it in what timeframe?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not sure what timeframe. I know what I’ve read in the Gibson Dunn report. I don’t recall exactly what timeframe. To me he’s telling me that they had an awareness of a traffic study.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And what did you do with that information, if anything?

MR. DREWNIAK: As I described earlier, I did bring it to the front office to, I believe, first to Mr. McKenna.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Did you ever mention it to the Governor during that time period?

MR. DREWNIAK: As I also described earlier, there were two people closest to the Governor and report directly to the Governor. That would be Mr. McKenna and Mr. O’Dowd, at the time.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Are you trying to say that you don’t have -- or you did not have much access to the Governor even though you had the ability to speak for him?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have access to the Governor as necessary, but we do have strict reporting lines. And I did not understand, or I had-- I questioned the veracity of it, especially since we were now dealing with heightened attention, and when it was coming.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Would you ever text, or e-mail, or phone the Governor directly?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Which ones -- all of the above?

MR. DREWNIAK: Typically, I might give him a phone call.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Well, what might you discuss with him?

MR. DREWNIAK: Topic-by-topic basis.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And did you ever e-mail, phone, or text him regarding anything that had to do with the Bridge?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Never?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not ever.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And if you had, we would have those documents?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: You would have turned them over?

MR. DREWNIAK: I presume that the attorneys would have turned those over.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So then you have dinner with David Wildstein on December 4.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Where did you have dinner?

MR. DREWNIAK: I forget the-- It was either 65 or 85 Church, which is a restaurant -- it’s actually an address -- in New Brunswick.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Who picked up the tab?
MR. DREWNIAK: He did.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: What did you order?

(laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: I had a steak.

MR. IACULLO: Assemblyman, are you going there?

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I’m thinking about it.

MR. IACULLO: Okay.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: You had a steak?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, an excellent restaurant.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Was it medium-well or medium?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t remember.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: But you do remember what you ate. So let’s talk about what the conversation was.

MR. DREWNIAK: It’s a steakhouse. It’s a restaurant that I’m very familiar with and I go to routinely.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay, so you pretty much know what you ordered. I don’t even know if I had breakfast today, so I can appreciate sometimes having problems with timelines, certainly.

So let’s talk about what you did talk about.

Now, you said that you knew he was going to have to resign. He wasn’t going to be sticking around. And you knew this how? Had someone said to you, “He’s finished, we’ve got to get rid of him”?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m trying to remember exactly where it first came from. It might have been Charlie McKenna on that very day, actually.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And why did he say he had to go?

MR. IACULLO: Well, I’m going to ask you, Assemblyman, that would call for Mr. Drewniak to speculate.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: No, I’m just asking what he said. Did he say, “He has to go because--” fill in the blank. Or did he just say, “He has to go,” and no explanation why?

MR. IACULLO: Fair enough.

MR. DREWNIAK: The explanation I had was that-- We all knew that they weren’t going to last into a second term. But that, in itself, was not unusual. The “traffic study” and their mishandling of it, the level of attention they had drawn to the topic, and all those things certainly accelerated the discussion.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: When you said, “We all knew they weren’t going to last,” can you be more specific about why it was such common knowledge? I thought at that time people are still saying, “It’s a Bridge study. It was a legitimate study.”

MR. DREWNIAK: I think that they had mishandled it and we had had Mr. Baroni’s testimony. And the way it was being reacted to, and his acknowledgement that they had handled it poorly, and it continued to be a daily preoccupation of the press and of members of the Legislature -- that this is something that they had created, and for other reasons that maybe I’m not privy to -- that there was going to be a change.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So you go--
MR. DREWNIAK: And I would also say that it was also known that the relationship with Mr. Foye had deteriorated; it was certainly-- And that also contributed to it.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So you’re going to this dinner with someone who’s basically a dead man walking. Were you given any marching orders as to how to treat him or deal with him?

MR. DREWNIAK: None. Mr. McKenna said that I -- he left it to my judgment; it’s not something I wanted to do; I wasn’t going to have a discussion about whether he was going to remain or not. I still considered him a friend.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So you did let Mr. McKenna know that you were going to have dinner with David Wildstein, and that knowing that he was going to be asked to resign, I’m guessing that you might have said, “Do I need to know anything? Do I have to talk to him in any way? Is there any information that we need?” Were any of these questions asked or answered?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. I went to see Charlie -- I’m close with Mr. McKenna, I’m close with Mr. O’Dowd from our long association. It is not uncommon at the end of a day for me to stop in and see either of them. And I just said -- and it was kind of a, “Oh, by the way. I’m going to have dinner with Wildstein.” And I said, “What should I do if-- What can you recommend if anything comes up about his employment?” He said for me to use my own judgment.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Did you speak to the Governor that day to let him know you were going to have dinner with David Wildstein?
MR. DREWNIAK: No, there was no reason that I would do that.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And so then you go have dinner. So this is December 5. And at this time -- just so I can make sure I have this right--

MR. DREWNIAK: December 4.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: December 4, correct. So December 4 you know that Wildstein and Baroni are going to be gone, is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. Did you know that Baroni was going to be gone after he testified?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: You didn’t know the timetable?

MR. DREWNIAK: I had no idea.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. So you know he’s going to be gone. At this time we’ve had a few months here where we’ve had angry letters from the Mayor of Fort Lee, we’ve had angry e-mail from Patrick Foye saying laws had been broken, we’ve had numerous news articles -- not just local, but in the Wall Street Journal, an international paper, perhaps. This topic has come up as a subject in the Governor’s debate. And it’s also the subject of a legal investigation with subpoena power -- not a legal, a legislative investigation with subpoena power. And this is not enough for you to elevate any of this to the Governor by text, e-
mail, in person, phone, or to mention that you’re going to out to dinner with David Wildstein, who is on a death watch?

MR. DREWNIAK: That would all be your characterization, and your reading into it. I’m not--

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: No, no. I’m just saying, had all those things happen as of December 4?

MR. DREWNIAK: I guess, by and large, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And yet you hadn’t had a discussion with the Governor, as his Press Secretary, to prepare him for questions and answers on this issue, to prepare him and protect him, or to seek information, or investigate any of the allegations.

MR. DREWNIAK: One thing, Assemblyman, is I hadn’t been around for a good chunk of time leading up to this dinner. I was on my delayed first anniversary vacation with my wife -- first election. I came back on November 25. We had the holidays that intervened. I really didn’t get back to working until later. And Wildstein, he initiates a dinner, and to me it was because things were still quite slow in the office, we were in that quiet period, there’s not a lot going on. And this issue-- By the way, it was ebbing and flowing. It would disappear for a couple of weeks. So I simply said to myself -- or when he initiated the invitation, I’m like, “Sure, I’d love to go out and have dinner. Let’s go to my favorite restaurant.” And that’s what it was.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And he paid, so that was good. (laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I’ve paid before too. (laughter)
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. But I just find it curious that all these things are going on, and have gone on. And now the subject of one of the people at the nexus of this you’re having dinner with. And at this point, up to this point, you have not mentioned anything to the Governor, nor has he asked you to research anything to prepare him in case he has a question on this. I would think, as Press Secretary, part of your job would be to prepare the Administration and the Governor for potential questions, how to respond to them and put the Administration in the best light. Would that be part of the job of a Press Secretary?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, and it is, and I performed that regularly.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: But not on this issue?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not on this issue, probably because of timing, that I wasn’t there for that segment. I can’t give you an exact reason, but I do a lot of preparation with the Governor when information becomes available to us.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And yet you were getting inquiries from the Wall Street Journal, and the Star-Ledger, and the Bergen Record, and routinely saying, “Go to the Port Authority. They’re an independent Authority.”

By the way, do you feel that you were disingenuous with some reporters who were contacting you about questions about this Bridge issue? And you would send them to the Port Authority as if, “Hey, this has nothing to do with us. They’re an independent Authority; go to them and get your answers,” and then you’re having these backdoor communications with the Port Authority that you say we have nothing to do with.
MR. IACULLO: Well, Assemblyman, is there a question--

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: The question is, do you feel that you were disingenuous in any way with the media regarding this issue?

MR. IACULLO: Well, Assemblyman, I would just ask for a ruling from the Chairman. It seems that there is a lot of statements being made when a question is being posed. I don’t know what happened after lunch, but it just seems that things have changed a little bit with respect to that.

So I would just ask, Chairman, that my client-- If there’s a question to be put to him, that it be direct as to the issue. I understand that there’s going to some background; but to have him say yes or no after a two or three minute statement has been made, I don’t think is fair to my client.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I understand. And I’m sure Assemblyman Moriarty can phrase his question in a way that would enable your client to answer the question.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I have read several of the e-mail -- correspondence -- with journalists. My question to you is, do you feel that you were ever disingenuous with any of these journalists who were trying to get to the bottom of this issue?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. And that’s because this problem, which became and grew more apparent over time, was and remained a Port Authority creation. It wasn’t something that made me happy; it didn’t make any of us happy that they had attracted this much attention to themselves.
So that has a lot to do with, like, “Look. This is your self-created problem, and we’re going to--” We assumed, based on all the information that they were providing to us for some period of time, that they were being honest with us.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And you never asked for the traffic study? Did you ever ask for the traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: Again, I wasn’t there. But the assumption, I think, on behalf of other members of senior staff was -- I wasn’t here when this was delivered -- that he had presented some form of a traffic study. And I understand the way the traffic study is looked at, but many of the things-- Again, I can’t actually speak to the traffic study, because I never really looked at it.

MR. IACULLO: Can we have one moment?

(attorney/client confer)

Thank you.

MR. DREWNIAK: Sorry.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I just find it odd; you tell me whether -- because you said that you’ve dealt with other Authorities quite frequently. The Governor has frequently vetoed the minutes of Authorities, so it’s not like he’s not paying attention, or his Administration isn’t paying attention. So when this continues to drag on, and flare up, and then go away, and then flare up again and we have a legislative investigation with subpoena power, we have continued interest from national media on this issue -- you never prepared any responses on this? The Governor or his staff never said, “Let’s get a hold of that study”? Is that correct?
MR. DREwnIAK: There is an Authorities Unit, and I had done my job and raised it with them, okay? And again, because of the ebb and flow of interest -- sure, there was not really any time until the thing bubbled open fully, in full exposure of what it was.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Did you say that you raised this issue with the Authorities Unit?

MR. DREwnIAK: It had been raised. I knew that it was in the Administration’s bloodstream. And I also knew -- recall that both the Foye e-mail and the Sokolich letter of September 2 and 13, respectively, I had not received them. I had to ask Wildstein once reporters asked me about them.

At that point, then I am put in the position of having to respond to newspapers. Otherwise this is something for them to deal with. They are an Authority, and we had no reason -- for reasons I have already explained-- This should be something that they should be able to deal with on their own.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Who heads the Authorities Unit that would have been looking into this?

MR. DREwnIAK: Regina Egea.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So it was your understanding that it was before her and her unit, and they were dealing with it.

MR. DREwnIAK: Yes. Previous to that, it was Deb Gramiccioni. They were always pretty good about dealing with these things.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Let’s go back to the night of December 4. You’re having dinner, you’re having steak, you’re at your
favorite place. David Wildstein is wondering whether he has a future; you know that he doesn’t. You never mention that at all?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I basically didn’t have the heart to do it.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Did you ever lean over to David and say, “Hey, what the hell went on there?”

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And what was his answer?

MR. DREWNIAK: He was apologetic for how badly it was handled; realized that it had caused more trouble than-- He was regretful about that. But his persistence, ending with when he pulled out a traffic study and he says-- And he actually -- as did Mr. Baroni one time -- complained that they, “Should have been able to nip this in the bud earlier by doing a press conference or something.”

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Did you two talk about Bridget Kelly at all that evening?

MR. DREWNIAK: Just to the extent that he said, “I created this whole idea for a traffic study. It’s mine, but I let them know -- I let others know about it.”

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So if he created--

MR. DREWNIAK: He seemed bitter about that. “I told people.”

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: If he created it, why would Bridget Kelly be sending an e-mail saying, “Time for some traffic trouble in Fort Lee”? I’m sorry; that’s speculative.

MR. IACULLO: Yes, yes.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Sorry about that one.
MR. IACULLO: That’s all right.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I caught myself.
MR. DREWNIAK: You knew that was coming.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I caught myself on that one; I’m sorry.

So how long was this dinner?
MR. DREWNIAK: Approximately-- I’m recollecting it was approximately 90 minutes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And how did you leave things? Was there an ask from him? Was there something he wanted you to do for him?

MR. DREWNIAK: My clear impression is that he wanted me to take this back to the Administration, because he wanted to stay on, if possible. He also wanted -- and he expressed that, “Look, if this goes further, or if there’s a Presidential, maybe I can participate in that. I just don’t want to go out this way, although I’m willing to accept responsibility for it.” And I’ll leave it at that.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Well, had some people given him the idea he was going away? Is that why he was somber?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know. I don’t recall what--
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And again, at this meeting, he mentions that Bridget Kelly and Bill Stepien were aware of this traffic study back in September?

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And did he mention someone else too?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, as I described earlier. He said now -- for the first time, he throws in the Governor.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. So he says, “And the Governor knew as well.”

MR. DREWNIAK: It was said, “I told the Governor about the traffic study,” and he said that he had done that on September 11.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: When they were seated together at the memorial? Okay.

So -- and anyone else? Did he mention anyone else--

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: --who may have had knowledge?

MR. DREWNIAK: He did not.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Baroni, certainly? Or was that a given?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, yes, that was like just implied throughout.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. So the next day, December 5-- And by the way, was that the day he’s told he’s finished?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, that was December 6. But I know that Mr. McKenna-- I know subsequently McKenna called him that evening and said, “Please meet me at the Newark office of the Governor on December 6.”
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So it’s December 5; you are in a meeting with Mr. O’Dowd, and Governor Christie enters.

MR. DREWNAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Do you know what time that was?

MR. DREWNAK: Like, 4:00 or 5:00-ish.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. So walk me through that conversation -- what happens? He walks in; what takes place?

MR. DREWNAK: I had been talking to Mr. O’Dowd. The Governor walks in -- as he often does -- and I had been telling Kevin about the dinner from the previous night. And I think the Governor actually came in, in the middle of that. And so then I restarted to retell the details. And I told him that, “Look, he mentioned again that Stepien and Kelly were aware of this study; he was angry about it because he felt that he was being treated badly when other people knew that he had done this.” And then I said, “And you’ll be surprised to hear he now threw you into this.”

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: What was the Governor’s reaction?

MR. DREWNAK: He was incredulous, and said something to the effect -- like a rhetorical remark. “What? He tells me something about a traffic study and I’m supposed to know what he’s talking about?” -- something -- words to that effect. I can’t remember exactly.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Did he tell you to do anything about it? Did he tell you to contact him and say, “That isn’t the case.” Did he ask you to do anything to prepare for questions regarding the Bridge at that point?
MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t really understand why would he be asking me to prepare questions.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: To prepare answers.

MR. DREWNIAK: I can only tell you what was said.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I guess my speculation would be that -- and I ask you to bear with me for a second -- if the Governor knows that David Wildstein is about to be fired--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not going to speculate with you.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I didn’t even get there yet.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m just not going to speculate along with you.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I’m not asking you to; I’m not.

If David Wildstein-- If he knows he’s going to fire David Wildstein, and David Wildstein has just told you that he knew something back in September, would you, as his advisor, be concerned that he should be prepared to answer questions? So as a Press Secretary, would you not want to be prepared to answer those questions that are going to come?

MR. IACULLO: Could we have one second?

(attorney/client confer)

Assemblyman--

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Yes?

MR. IACULLO: --I think based upon the question that you pose, it is premised upon speculation, and you’re asking him to draw a conclusion from that speculation. And I don’t think that’s fair for Michael to do at this point.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay, but let’s just ask it this way. You didn’t advise him at that time that maybe we should get some talking points or some rebuttal to this so that we have it in our arsenal?

MR. DREWNIAK: Built into your question are assumptions.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: You’re suggesting that -- and I’ve encountered this a couple of times today -- you’re assuming that we believed what Wildstein was telling us and that it’s true.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: No, I’m not.

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, actually, yes you were--

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: I’m not believing--

MR. DREWNIAK: --the way you posed your question, you posed it as though I’m telling you something that -- you knew that you knew. Well, he didn’t know, and that was my impression from the Governor -- and that this is Wildstein now saying this. There was nothing for us to prepare for at this time, except for what would be the announcement the next day that Wildstein is voluntarily resigning.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Forgive me if you thought that I was assuming that Wildstein was telling the truth; I wasn’t. Not to say he wasn’t, but I take no position on that. My point being, as a spokesperson and advisor, the question would be: Why wouldn’t you, when you have knowledge that someone is about to be fired who has been saying things, right or wrong, that the Governor may know more than he’s told the public -- that wouldn’t you be concerned for the Governor, and what could come out in the press that could be accusatory, and want to prepare him?
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: That’s why I’m actually there telling him this. There’s nothing, at that point, to prepare for other than to give him the knowledge that this fellow is now saying this.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Which he flatly denied and--

MR. DREWNIAK: Look, I’m not going to continue a narrative I think that -- like I had some-- At that moment, I had no further obligation with him. And it also was not a long conversation.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. Let’s move on.

Also on that day you got an e-mail from David Wildstein -- correct? -- which said, “Thanks again for all your sound advice last night. I always appreciate your friendship.” What was the sound advice that you gave him that he was appreciative of?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no idea what he was referring to other than the fact that David -- and to a lesser degree, Baroni -- used me as like a sounding board, or even they would often want to know from me how they were perceived. I called it -- it was almost an insecurity of, “All right, so this is happening. What’s the word? What’s going on?” And, again, I did not tell him that he was going to be asked to resign. And he was working under the assumption that maybe he could survive this.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Was your advice to him, at that time, “Hang in there?”

MR. DREWNIAK: It was basically, “Look, let’s see how things work out.” But the handwriting was on the wall. I knew that.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay.
MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not good at firing or asking people to resign. It’s not my role whatsoever. I knew that this would be handled in the course -- which typically is by the Governor’s Counsel or Chief of Staff.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: The e-mail goes on to say, “Spoke with O’Toole this morning and he will talk with you later today.” Do you know what that’s about?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no idea, and I never once talked to Senator O’Toole. He didn’t call me, I didn’t call him.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Had you spoke to him the night previously and given him some advice about reaching out to legislators or a particular legislator?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, no. I think that he felt that maybe he could get some assistance elsewhere into the Administration. But I’m speculating. I just have no idea.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: You just have no idea.

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no idea.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. I have no more questions at this time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, sirs.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Assemblyman, thank you.

Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Good afternoon.

MR. DREWNIAK: Good afternoon, Assemblywoman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Just something that I wanted to touch upon and that you had mentioned to the Assemblyman. You said that Mr. Baroni and Mr. Wildstein, for some reason, would use you as a
sounding board. They would use you as a sounding board and they would ask you how the Administration felt about or perceived them. Did you ever do anything to try to stop that perception, or to stop them from coming to you all the time?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t want you to get the wrong idea. It wasn’t like it was a constant thing; it was now and again. And as the traffic thing— And for whatever reason, and others can speculate on -- they seemed more concerned about how they were being viewed in the Administration.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: The reason I’m asking if you ever did anything to stop them is because I know that there are some text messages between Stepien and, I believe, Baroni where they don’t respond to an article; and pretty much the response was, “Per Drewniak, we’re not responding.” I mean, did you give them advice on how to handle PR situations?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not sure-- Are we talking about a specific e-mail, or--? I don’t think that was a frequent thing.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay, let me see if I find anything.

It would be Tab 24. And, again, it refers to, I guess, an article that was going to be written at the Wall Street Journal.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And Baroni responds to Stepien, “Per Drewniak, we’re not responding.” And I was just wondering if this was part of their insecurities, or if you were also giving them, from time to time, PR advice?
MR. DREWNIAK: Time to time PR advice. They would both sometimes come to me, “What do you think we should do about this?” -- yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Did you ever refer them to their own press secretary over at--?

MR. DREWNIAK: Sometimes they would say-- I’m sorry for interrupting.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: That’s okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: Sometimes they would say -- I would say, “Look, give that to the Press Office. You guys make the call on it.” Or I might say, “Look, right now it’s at this stage.” I’d say, “Ignore it,” or not respond to it. It’s something like I might do if I were in another situation.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: For how long did this kind of relationship carry on between yourself, Baroni, and Wildstein -- in that they would look to you for advice?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, again, it goes back to my duties that I discussed earlier. Other Commissioners, other public information officers, department heads do the same thing -- they seek advice all the time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Now, I read in the Gibson Dunn report that Mr. Baroni and Mr. Wildstein were trying to encourage you to make a move to the Port Authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Did anything come of that?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. I was very interested for a time; you know, I’ve been doing this for a long time, and I was thinking about a change. I went to the Governor and discussed it with him. I actually was
very interested in the Port Authority -- as what it does and the more global thing, and I was fascinated by the airlines and international shipping. And I wanted an opportunity to learn something new, perhaps. And somebody had left that position, and I was interested in it, but I was also uncertain whether I wanted to do it. But they very much wanted me to come there.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: For how long of a time period had they been trying to encourage you to make the move?

MR. DREWNIAK: It wasn’t really their call to make the move; but they had asked and they said they would actually hold it open for me if I really wanted it. And that probably goes back to sometime in 2012 -- probably later in 2012, like the end of the summer or something like that.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Back in that period of time -- back in 2012 -- was Mr. Wildstein sending you e-mails just of things that were going on at the Port Authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: He sends me all kinds of random things. (laughter)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I noticed through the documents that you provided that you were constantly -- you were in the loop as far as things happening at the Port Authority.

MR. DREWNIAK: I wouldn’t say everything. It was very changeable.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: But based on these documents, would it be fair to say that they kept you in the loop with regards to what took place in the month of September?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, but that would also include other issues that occurred at the time. Things that implicated New Jersey, New
Jersey policy, infrastructure -- he would send me clips all the time to warn me, “This topic’s coming up.” There was something about Chinese steel; there was the lawsuit from Jersey City; there was something going on with the police union. Oh, whenever there was a security threat -- small or large -- he would always send me information on those things. Things that he thought might be of some interest.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And that would be, like you said, to give you the head’s up.

MR. DREWNIAK: Head’s up, or sometimes he would say, “Look, this one directly involves the Governor; this one directly involves” -- you know, again, implicating us.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And you reciprocated, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Sometimes, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Because I noticed in the e-mails that anything that had to do with an article coming out, that you might have found out about, you would turn around -- from what I saw in your documents -- e-mail yourself from your government e-mail to your private e-mail, and then e-mail Wildstein from your private e-mail.

MR. DREWNIAK: Wildstein -- sometimes, yes. Sometimes from my-- Like I said, it was interchangeable. Sometimes he’d send it directly, but it really was a matter of convenience, typically. And we were always told-- The one thing that the Counsel’s Office told all of us regularly, “Nothing you do, no matter which e-mail you’re using, is private.” Paul Matey, in particular, made it very clear, “Everything is considered discoverable.”
ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: My question, though, has to do with the consistency in-- Based on your documents, where you would e-mail yourself, and then from your private e-mail, e-mail Wildstein. Why would you just not CC him along with everyone else that you might have sent the e-mail to? I mean, why take the trouble to go that extra step of e-mailing yourself?

MR. DREWNIAK: I can only say that often it would be as a matter of convenience that I’m going to -- I’ll deal with this later; I can deal with it in the car. I drive 195 every day; it’s a straight road; I do a lot of--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: You’re not texting and driving, correct? (laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: You can read into that whatever you want.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. And I understand convenience of texting later on, but we’re talking about, maybe, 10-, 15-, 20-minute gaps in between an e-mail from yourself and then to Wildstein.

MR. DREWNIAK: I definitely understand what you’re saying; I truly do. And I assure you it’s not going to happen anymore. But it was always a matter of convenience.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Now, I know that one of the Co-Chairs had asked you with regards to Tab 12, which was a response to an inquiry from a reporter -- is that Heather Haddon’s?

MR. DREWNIAK: Tab 12?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Yes.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And you had in parenthesis a comment about the possibility of something that took place in Princeton.
And I know that the question that had been asked you was, was that information something that Mr. Wildstein had given you?

MR. DREWNIAK: I thought I had come up with that. But DOT is one of those ones that I deal with a lot, and I remember this issue very well -- when this was happening. And we actually helped DOT with their press releases and their announcements. Maybe he did, maybe I did. I thought I did because I was very familiar with it as a “public controversy,” along the Route 1 corridor.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Well, the reason I brought it up is because I wanted to draw your attention to the Gibson Dunn report, Page 8, I guess the second paragraph. That would be Tab 91. And I just wanted to know if this report was inaccurate when it states that, “Wildstein also told Drewniak that the Port Authority often conducted traffic studies and that the Fort Lee traffic study was blind,” which pretty much goes hand-in-hand with your e-mail. There is no mention of Princeton, so I was just wondering, was that an inaccurate statement that was put into the report?

MR. DREWNIAK: If you look at the next paragraph-- Again, I’m not sure-- I thought that I had come up with the Princeton at Route 1 part. In the next paragraph it attributes to me -- and this is probably what I told Gibson Dunn, “Except for a reference to an unrelated DOT study which something -- which Drewniak independently recalled.”

So I’m sorry; you had-- It was like a two-part.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay, all right.

MR. DREWNIAK: Okay.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Thank you.
Now, with regards to your dinner of December 4 with Mr. Wildstein, up until that point everyone thought it was a legit traffic study, correct? Up until December 4, I mean, you believed it was a legitimate traffic study that had taken place in Fort Lee?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have somebody-- When he started adding in that other people knew about this, I became more concerned about it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Well, that’s my question. Why would you be concerned if it was considered a legitimate traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: It was-- Remember, I-- Again, I was gone for several weeks -- almost a month, and then the testimony of Senator Baroni came. I don’t expect Baroni, of all people -- and a lot of people in this building knew him and I knew him as somebody who could be trusted to say the truth. That was very reinforcing. If Baroni is saying this -- if Senator Baroni is saying this, I’m good with it. And I didn’t have any-- Even that night at that dinner when he’s showing me these actual reports, I’m like, “Geez, that really does look like something valid,” because it was thick. They had hired actually a -- as he described it, and I think it was true -- a traffic consultant. How do you do a traffic study without hiring a traffic consultant? I guess that made sense. He said all the right things that reinforced it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: But then--

MR. DREWNIAK: Do I regret, now? Yes, very much so. But I had really no reason to doubt it -- it was a traffic study.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: But that’s what I wanted to ask you. Because if you had no reason to doubt it, then why did you start having doubts at that dinner?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, when he threw in the Governor, which I had never heard before, I’m like, “Now what’s this all about?”

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: So was it when he threw in the Governor the conversation made you start having doubts; or was it when he threw in Kelly and Stepien?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, the Bridget Kelly thing made sense to me because this was something—Especially when it starts involving complaints from a community and—That implicates IGA, okay? That made sense to me.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: But I come back to this important point: that I wasn’t obsessing over this or living with this on a day-to-day basis. It was just a very small part of my life. Just like when I went out to dinner with him. I wasn’t going out there to talk traffic studies.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Well, I understand. You were going to catch up like two friends, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And I understand that this was not a daily topic that you lived with, because there were many things that go on in this state, and Bergen County and North Jersey is just a little part of it; I understand that. But when you started to have the inkling at that dinner that things weren’t correct in the stories that Mr. Wildstein was
telling you, did you do anything afterwards to try to determine whether or not it really was a traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did what I described to Assemblyman Moriarty. I brought it to the Governor. I have a discreet role.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: What about your curiosity? I would think -- and, of course, this is me, because I get curious about things -- that you being a former reporter and being the Press Secretary -- wouldn’t you have been a little bit more curious about, now, these allegations of political retaliation; that maybe there was more to it and you would look into it on your own? Never mind reporting to someone in the front office, but on your own, wouldn’t you look it up?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would say that we all knew that they had messed this thing up, and I knew what the consequences were going to be. Maybe I let, you know, a friendship get in the way, but once I knew that these guys were going to be -- that there’s going to be a change at the Port Authority, I was very pleased with that. I did raise it with people in the senior staff who needed to know about it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: But you personally, since you knew that they were going to be gone -- was it just easier for you to just like sweep it under the table and forget about it? If you weren’t curious enough to say, “Well, this was a friend that I trusted,” shouldn’t you have just gone into it a little bit more?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I’m not discounting the possibility that these guys thought they were doing the right thing. You know, their insistence that, “Look, the cops knew about this, the engineers knew about this.” I just thought the whole thing had been handled very badly.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And I understand that. But you didn’t have any red flags when you had the Wall Street Journal calling you up about the e-mails where the local officials had no clue about this so-called study or the lane closures? The constant media contacting—You know, people were reaching out to you via e-mail,

MR. DREWNIAK: Actually, I just want to correct you on that. It stayed, rather—Remember, even on December 2 during the press conference, there was one question asked about it. So, you know, the media issues were ebbing and flowing. And I’ve described also the context, especially earlier when it first really hit, like with the Wall Street Journal, and my personal thinking with the time of the year and the individuals who were doing the complaining. And then I was gone, and then it became quiet. But I’m still left with people who I had a level of respect for, particularly Senator Baroni -- that he went before the Committee.

Do I have regrets now? I have plenty of regrets.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Sure; hindsight is 20/20.

But getting back to what happened at that time: Did you instruct anyone in your office to, maybe, look into the possibility--

MR. DREWNIAK: In my office? No. My office is the Communications Office.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Because, I mean, we’re talking -- they’re throwing around rumors of possible political retaliation. That wouldn’t have rung a bell?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think I’ve addressed that a couple of times, and I won’t belabor it. But from where I sit, that was the most insane thing to even contemplate: shutting down lanes of a bridge for
political retaliation against a mayor I’d never heard of, who seemed to have no relevance -- and I don’t mean that in an insulting way. I mean, I remember somebody talking about this, and I’m like, “What’s a Sokolich?” It made no sense on the scale of value or benefit. And it’s just not conceivable that anyone in the Administration that I know and work with would ever conceive of doing such a thing. It was too over the top. And that’s why I think we saw so much speculation -- because people were looking for alternative theories: development issues; all those things that, to this day, as we all sit around and we can say -- we scratch our heads over, you know -- “What the hell happened here?”

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: The complaints that were filed by the citizens of Bergen County who were stuck in that traffic -- that came to the office here -- did anybody red flag them? There were complaints written by constituents.

MR. DREWNIAK: Oh, you mean to the Office of Constituent Relations. We get tens of thousands of those. And I don’t know that there was a huge volume on that; I don’t know. It’s not something I was involved in.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. I’m just having a difficult time of understanding not redflagging political retaliation, and I can tell you--

MR. DREWNIAK: I just never bought it. At some levels today I don’t even buy it except for what they said. I still can’t figure out what other motives might have been behind this because we-- when I say we, I mean the Governor and his campaign -- had no basis, or reason, or value in retaliating against Mayor Sokolich.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: And I understand what you’re saying. And I would think that that would be the reason why to look further into this -- to see why they would be promoting that kind of a rumor.

But we’ll move on.

Tab 37 -- it’s an e-mail that you had sent to Mr. O’Dowd back on October 18, with regards to bringing him into the fold and letting him know what’s going on. Why did you reach out to him at that point on October 18?

MR. DREWNIAK: Kevin O’Dowd is a highly respected member, I think, who Senator Weinberg, Wisniewski, and other senior members of the Legislature know, and was somebody who they dealt with routinely on many, many issues. Since it had risen to the level, including a political level and for the other reasons I discussed, I said, “Kevin, look--” My idea was to bring it to him and say, “A Senator and others are interested in this.”

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I was going to ask you if you did anything at that point with that information, but that would be speculation, wouldn’t it?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, that’s it. I’m sorry -- me?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Right.

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s what I did -- by raising it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Do you know if he did anything with that information?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: In Tab 92 -- it’s the report from Gibson Dunn with regards to the interview with Mr. DuHaime -- Page 9.

MR. IACULLO: Could I have one second?

(attorney/client confer)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I’d like to draw your attention to Section K.

MR. DREWNIAK: K?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: K. And it would be the third sentence from the bottom of that particular paragraph. Mr. DuHaime expressed to the attorneys at Gibson that in his conversation with Wildstein he was 100 percent certain that Kelly had prior notice, and Mr. Wildstein had e-mails to confirm that she had notice of it. When you went to dinner with him on December 4 and he started to talk to you about Ms. Kelly, did he at any time mention to you about e-mails -- possible e-mails?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. I had no knowledge of e-mails and all that Wildstein did, or any idea that there was speculation about e-mails. All I did was-- Wildstein told me that they knew about it, and that was it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: In your job description, did you have to also interact with the Press Secretary for the campaign, Kevin Roberts?

MR. DREWNIAK: Occasionally, yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Okay. And was this done during work hours, or on the weekends, after hours?

MR. DREWNIAK: Both. But, as I described here earlier, there was very little interaction between Kevin and I, and an extremely small
amount of e-mail traffic because we-- The only time we ever had to interact was when -- and this probably makes some sense to just about anybody who has dealt with campaigns, and government, or Administration -- questions would come to me that were wrongly directed to me and I would e-mail to Kevin. I would say, “Kevin, you need to handle this; this is pure campaign.” Sometimes they were questions that went to both and deserved to be answered by both of us. And I would say, “All right. I’m going to answer this aspect of it,” and I might even tell him, “This is what I’m going to say,” and he’s going to answer his part that’s campaign related. But that was extremely infrequent.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: But you didn’t mix the business of the office with the campaigning at the time?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did no such thing.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I have no further questions, Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Yes, thank you.

Through the Chairs, Mr. Drewniak, I have three simple yes or no questions, if I may.

The first question is: It’s my understanding you testified this morning that Mr. Wildstein, at your dinner, accepted full responsibility for this entire fiasco -- yes or no?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Second question: Again, it’s my understanding that you testified this morning that Mr. Wildstein, at the dinner, said it was his idea to bring about whatever transpired -- yes or no?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Okay. The third question: Did it appear to you that he, Mr. Wildstein, was proud of what he had wrought -- this apparently somewhat peculiar and amoral individual?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would say no.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Okay. Instead, your observation was that he was--

MR. DREWNIAK: Regretful.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: He wasn’t sorry that he had done it; he was just sorry that he got caught?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not coming to his defense here, but I think he was, at this stage, regretful that it had gone so badly, that they handled it badly. He was very, like, I don’t know -- effusive in his regrets about it.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: But never denied that it was his baby?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Yes, good afternoon, Mr. Drewniak.
MR. DREWNIAK: Good afternoon, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: I will tailor my questions either to the documents or, in advance, to some source.

And the reason is, I will ask you about the issue with Wally Edge.

The *New York Times* reported, on February 7 (*sic*), that, “David Wildstein had few intimates, but Wally Edge had many in New Jersey politics. His sources -- including the United States Attorney at that time, Christ Christie -- plied him with tips and poured out their souls in e-mails and instant message conversations at all hours, knowing little more about him than an e-mail address: politicsnj@aol.com” Were you aware if Chris Christie, at the time that he was the Attorney General--

MR. DREWNIAK: He was the United States Attorney.

SENATOR GILL: Oh, I didn’t mean to demote him.

At whatever time he was the Attorney General -- United States Attorney General (*sic*) -- did he have this kind of relationship with Wally Edge -- if you know?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I had no idea. And I’m not even-- But this is an important point that my attorney has made before: I’m not assuming what the *New York Times* is saying is true, or the characterization whatsoever.

SENATOR GILL: Right. That’s why I asked you if you knew. I understand that this is a third-party reference, and that’s why I sourced it as such.

MR. IACULLO: Senator, do you have the date of that?

SENATOR GILL: So I’m asking--
MR. IACULLO: I’m sorry, do you have the date of that? You said--

SENATOR GILL: February 7 -- or 6.

MR. IACULLO: What year?

SENATOR GILL: Of this year.


SENATOR GILL: And you’ve already established that you did not participate in any leaks, did you?

MR. DREWNIAK: Nothing inappropriate.

SENATOR GILL: Did you participate in appropriate leaks with Wally Edge?

MR. DREWNIAK: The same thing that I would do with other reporters too.

SENATOR GILL: So were they leaks?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry?

SENATOR GILL: Were they leaks? Did you consider them leaks?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I don’t leak. I was extremely careful, as I already described. I believe firmly that things will take care of themselves. Yes, people leak -- it’s a hazard of the job, whether it be in the United States Attorney’s Office or any government agency, the Legislature, or the Governor’s Office. I often had my suspicions about where leaks came from when I was in the United States Attorney’s Office.

SENATOR GILL: What did you do with Wally Edge?

MR. DREWNIAK: I would do as I do with other reporters, and that would be to-- They would come to me, because they’re getting
tips. This is like a routine part of my job today. I have this information, and I’m going to say this. And they would want confirmation. I was never an affirmative confirmer of, for example, grand jury information or anything of the kind. But if they had that X person was in the grand jury, or they would say, “I understand they’re being investigated,” that’s one thing that always drove me crazy. I said, “Just because somebody receives a subpoena I’m not going to let you say that they’re being investigated.” So I would spend a lot of time -- including with Mr. Wildstein -- saying, “If you write that, that person will be tarred and feathered.”

SENIOR GILL: So in fact you were providing information to either confirm, deny, or explain issues with respect to cases -- pending cases and investigations from the United States Attorney’s Office.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m going to be careful answering that, because I’m not sure what you’re trying-- If you’re implying something inappropriate, what I was doing was actually my job and it was always done very carefully. I was pretty well respected throughout my years at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, no matter who I worked for, to handle grand jury materials and investigative materials extremely carefully.

SENIOR GILL: And I’m not attempting to impugn your reputation. I’m simply here to elicit from you what you did as part of your job.

MR. DREWNIAK: Okay. So I think I explained that.

SENIOR GILL: Okay. And when did you start providing information to Wally Edge?
MR. DREWNIAK: I have no idea. But I was very-- Look, since I didn’t know who the guy was -- he was-- This was an e-mail thing only. I was very careful.

SENATOR GILL: I assume you were. I just wanted to know when you started providing. But if you don’t know, that’s fine.

MR. DREWNIAK: I just don’t know.

SENATOR GILL: And the reason why I ask you that is because, would it be correct to say that even though you didn’t know who the person was, you were building a trust relationship with the person, or the e-mail address?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, but still it’s not somebody-- Like, there were regular reporters I dealt with who I trusted very much. I recall a John Martin of the Star-Ledger, someone who I knew and I would deal with face-to-face, on the telephone, and via e-mail, or who would come to my office. Those are the people you have a whole other level of trust with.

SENATOR GILL: And then you have the other level of working trust, or working relationship with, like, Mr. Wally Edge?

MR. DREWNIAK: Anybody who’s an anonymous blogger you would have to be careful with. And, in fact, the U.S. Attorney instructed me at one point to, “Be very careful; we don’t know who this guy is.”

SENATOR GILL: And the reason I also ask you a question -- if you look at Page 7 on the Dunn report -- and you’ve already said that it is accurate -- it is Page 3--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, which page now?

SENATOR GILL: Page 3.
SENATOR GILL: And we’ve already determined that you have stated that this report is accurate, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, where are we? Which letter?

SENATOR GILL: We are on Page 3. And that would be Tab 90--

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I have the Tab. What on Page 3--

SENATOR GILL: Of your interview.

MR. IACULLO: Section D or Section E?

SENATOR GILL: Section E, Subsection 1, “Relationship with David Wildstein and Bill Baroni.”

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: And it says here, “Drewniak developed a trusting relationship with the blogger, but did not know his identity.” Is that the correct reading, first of all?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And is that factually correct -- that you developed a trusting relationship with the blogger, even though you didn’t know the blogger’s identity?

MR. DREWNIAK: Over time, yes.

SENATOR GILL: So over time you had a trusting relationship with Wally Edge.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: Thank you.

Now, when you discovered that Wally Edge and David Wildstein were one in the same -- that’s after Mr. Wildstein was hired by the Port Authority, or was it before?
MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t remember. It went like this: Governor gets elected; at some point after the election, one Wally Edge -- AKA David Wildstein, or vice versa -- contacts me; surprisingly, he got my phone number -- I have no idea where -- and he calls me and he has this conversation, and I’m like, “Wow, mystery revealed.” And some time shortly thereafter we had dinner together in Clinton, New Jersey.

SENATOR GILL: So from 2010 to January 2014 you and Mr. Wildstein would speak on a regular basis.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And I’d like to turn -- and this question is Page--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry for interrupting now.

SENATOR GILL: No, go ahead.

MR. DREWNIAK: It developed over time.

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. DREWNIAK: Again, later. It wasn’t like in 2010 we were good buddies or anything like that.

SENATOR GILL: From 2010 through January 2014, you and Mr. Wildstein would speak on a regular basis.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: Correct? Okay.

My next question is Tab 91, Page 4. In your description--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry; Tab 91, Page 4?

SENATOR GILL: Yes, sir. And I’ll direct you to the sentence so that we can determine if that was--

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, Senator.
SENATOR GILL: Did you describe that when Mr. Wildstein accompanied Baroni to the State House for a meeting, Wildstein would often drop by your office to say hello? Correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And also in your interview you described Mr. Wildstein as a “facts guy.” What do mean?

MR. DREWNIAK: He would often accompany-- The best I can tell, only because we were on different floors, but I would actually witness this sometimes. I do a lot of running up and down the stairs between 2 and down to the Governor’s Office and Counsel’s Office to find information. Sometimes I would see David sitting outside the Governor’s Office when I knew that there were meetings going on inside, say with Baroni or Samson or something like that. And typically -- or sometimes he would come up to my office while those meetings were happening and he would just stop by and chit chat. And I just knew him -- he was somebody who just developed and kept a massive amount of information on Port operations and such.

SENATOR GILL: Now, Ms. Maria Comella, the Governor’s Communications Director, says that you had a “particular focus on the Port Authority issues.” What was your reason for your particular focus on Port Authority issues?

MR. IACULLO: Senator, I think that’s something you’re saying someone else said about Mr. Drewniak.

SENATOR GILL: You know what, Counsel? I’ll rephrase that.

MR. IACULLO: Thank you, thank you, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: You’re welcome.
Ms. Maria Comella, the Governor’s Communications Director, states that you had a particular focus on the Port Authority issues. Would that statement be correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, kind of by default -- and I’m not sure why.

SENATOR GILL: Was there any reason for your particular focus on Port Authority issues?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think that really developed over time, because when I became interested in considering the job--

SENATOR GILL: Then you--

MR. DREWNIAK: --then they would communicate with me more.

SENATOR GILL: And so--

MR. DREWNIAK: But-- I’m sorry for interrupting. I also did a lot of any of the Authorities stuff. And as issues became more prevalent or something, I would deal with any of the Authorities more frequently.

SENATOR GILL: And that’s what the question went to. We all know -- and I’m assuming; this is an assumption on my part. So I could assume, Counsel, that Comella knew that you had interaction with all the other Authorities, but notwithstanding that there was this particular focus on the Port Authority issues.

Were you offered a job at the Port Authority by Baroni?

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Roberts.

SENATOR GILL: Or Roberts? (laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: Offered?

SENATOR GILL: I’m sorry.
MR. DREWNIAK: He wanted me for the job.
SENATOR GILL: And what job was what?
MR. DREWNIAK: I forget what the exact title was, but it would have been in charge of all communication aspects, including community communications, and advertising, etc.
SENATOR GILL: So it would have been in the--
MR. DREWNIAK: Promotions, etc.
SENATOR GILL: So in an area of communications, press--
MR. DREWNIAK: It would have been a wider job than what I do now -- much wider.
SENATOR GILL: And Mr. Baroni, did he offer you the job?
MR. DREWNIAK: I mean, I guess that’s what he was doing. We just never got to the point where I said, “Yes, can you please offer me a job.”
SENATOR GILL: Well, you got to a point that it was serious enough that you went to the Governor to tell him about the job; that you were considering the job at the Port Authority, correct?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR GILL: Now, is that, if you know -- did Mr. Wildstein and Mr. Baroni consider you the point person in the Governor’s Office with respect to Port Authority issues?
MR. DREWNIAK: No.
SENATOR GILL: Now, you’re constantly coordinating with Mr. Wildstein and Mr. Baroni. And I think, perhaps, you answered this. The Port Authority does have its own press staff, correct?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR GILL: And why didn’t you work directly with the press staff at the Port Authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: Sometimes I did, but what would typically unfold is that if it was a Jersey-centric policy -- something of policy importance, Baroni and Wildstein would manage the issues between the Governor’s Office. That’s really not something that the press office in the Port Authority does. And I think the same thing goes for the New York side.

SENATOR GILL: So you weren’t directed by anyone to focus on Port Authority issues?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, it just happened over time and by default. But, again, it also goes to, as I described, I did a lot of the Port Authority interaction -- Authority interaction.

SENATOR GILL: And you say by default -- by default of what?

MR. DREWNIAK: Because they were coming to me. There was this job thing floating out there, but also because I dealt with two things: I dealt with other of the large Authorities; and Deb Gramiccioni, with whom I was good friends from the Department of Justice, when she was running the Authorities Unit, she would also say, “Hey, here’s an issue” or “call Drewniak about that.” That was not uncommon, either.

SENATOR GILL: And it wasn’t uncommon that you would speak directly to the Commissioners of these other Authorities?

MR. DREWNIAK: Occasionally Commissioners, or their EDs.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever speak to any Commissioner from the Port Authority with respect to the traffic study, or the issue surrounding the lane closing?
MR. DREWNIAK: No. I wouldn’t really-- It’s not typically Commissioners; it’s typically EDs or their staff.

SENATOR GILL: Right, but you indicated for other Authorities you talked directly to the Commissioners on issues.

MR. DREWNIAK: I did. And--

SENATOR GILL: And I’m asking you -- I don’t mean to speak over you; I can see your Counsel raising his eyebrows. (laughter)

So with respect to other Authorities, you spoke directly with the Commissioners about particular issues, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And my question to you is did you speak to any Commissioners on the Port Authority about the lane closings?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not that I ever recall, except for maybe in a social situation.

SENATOR GILL: And to whom did you speak, and where would that social situation have transpired?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think I -- because I have a relationship with him, I probably talked to Commissioner Bagger -- remember, he was our Chief of Staff early on, and I respect him a great deal. But that was generalized discussion. We never discussed this issue in particular.

SENATOR GILL: Well, we’ll get to what you discussed.

So with Commissioner Bagger -- are you in a social situation with Commissioner Bagger on or about when the issue of the lane closings has happened?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I think that would have been last -- not this past New Year’s Eve, but the New Year’s Eve before that.
SENATOR GILL: But you do have a personal relationship -- or social, with Commissioner Bagger.

MR. DREWNIAK: It’s infrequent. I don’t want you to get the wrong idea. I just kind of offered that by way of an example. I never discussed, like, business in any great detail ever with Rich Bagger.

SENATOR GILL: I won’t belabor it, but you categorized it as a social relationship because he was the Chief of Staff, and you know him and respect him. Is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes. Like, for example, I recently saw him at his place of business when the Governor was there about an expansion there at Celgene.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: And it was great to see him, and we talked for 15 minutes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

Now, Ms. Comella says that you only reported to her as a technical matter -- that you interacted directly with the Governor. Is that a correct characterization?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, on paper I report to Maria a lot. She’s very good at her job. I go to her for advice all the time. And on the employment chart I work beneath her, and she is one of my bosses. But the Governor’s my boss as well.

SENATOR GILL: If she says as a technical matter that you report to her, but you interact directly with the Governor--

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, the only time you’ve ever been to the Port Authority is when Mr. Wildstein gave you and your children a tour of the World Trade Center?

MR. DREWNIAK: My wife and my twin girls, yes.

SENATOR GILL: A couple of more questions. On Tab 35, Mr. Wildstein provided you with a copy of the September 12 letter from the Mayor to Baroni, and we know that that’s where the Mayor states that the closure wreaked havoc on Fort Lee, and that the town received absolutely no notice of the lane closures. And that it is, unquestionably, this decision has negatively impacted public safety in Fort Lee. You received a copy of that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I received it when the -- I think it was the Wall Street Journal which broke that story. And I didn’t know about it until I was asked by the reporter about it. And then I contacted Wildstein and said, “Hey, could I have this letter?”

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Well, when you contacted Wildstein, did you ever ask Mr. Wildstein why the lanes were closed on the George Washington Bridge?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, that was a continuous explanation that we were receiving, as I have described.

SENATOR GILL: And that’s when he told you it was a traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever ask Mr. Wildstein, “Did anyone ever approve the traffic study that you used to close down a lane?”

MR. DREWNIAK: Pardon me just a moment.
(attorney/client confer)

Senator, I apologize.

SENATOR GILL: That’s okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: Ask that question again.

SENATOR GILL: Oh, man, we don’t even have a court reporter.

Did Mr. Wildstein ever tell you who approved the traffic study that he used to close down the lanes?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think this came-- This followed the Foye -- what I call the angry Foye letter -- not e-mail. So that had already kind of been explained by him at length about--

SENATOR GILL: And that explanation was that he had a traffic study.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, and it was his view that this is New Jersey’s prerogative. He would say things -- additional things--

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever ask him, “David, who approved you undertaking a traffic study?”

MR. DREWNIAK: He said-- Well, he was consistent always. He said, “This was my idea,” and I think there’s even testimony about that in--

SENATOR GILL: Did you ask him if anyone approved it? Because there’s a distinction here, and I’ll tell you where I’m going so you’ll know ahead of time, all right?

MR. DREWNIAK: Okay. The only thing is Foye’s letter claimed that there was no approval. I’m sure I said, “What the hell?” and
he was protesting the need to get approval from New York on a New Jersey George Washington Bridge-side traffic issue. He was protesting that to me.

SENATOR GILL: So when you asked that question, you already had the e-mail from Foye that said there was no approval of a traffic study.

MR. DREwnIAK: I don’t mean to be redundant, and perhaps I’m missing something. But I had to ask him for the Foye e-mail, which he also didn’t provide to me on a timely basis.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREwnIAK: And he immediately took credit for it and said, “I don’t have to ask,” or “We don’t have to ask. The Jersey side does not have to ask their permission.” And I did ask, myself, “Do they do things unilaterally?” And they said yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, as a former employee at the United States Attorney’s Office--

MR. DREwnIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: --during 9/11, and with your national security clearance, when Mr. Wildstein begins to communicate with you about the lane closures and/or reported traffic study, did you ever say, “David, why would there be a traffic study on the George Washington Bridge into Manhattan during the anniversary of 9/11?”

MR. DREwnIAK: I guess because-- I did not. And I guess that’s simply because I only learned subsequently when it was.

SENATOR GILL: But even when you learned when it was, and even if you learned it was -- that information after 9/11, you were at the United States Attorney’s Office during 9/11. You have a national security
clearance. You know that on 9/11 that’s a heightened status for terrorists, and that this took place on 9/11. With those facts, did you ever ask David, or Kelly, or Stepien why you would close down lanes on the highest terrorist watch day, on the anniversary of 9/11?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, the short answer would be no.

SENATOR GILL: When the Mayor asks a question in his letter, “What do I do when our billion dollar redevelopment is put online at the end of next year?” And by way of background, there’s a talking points memo in a February 6 article, and it describes this billion dollar redevelopment project as “a massive rental, retail, and hotel development planned at the foot of the Bridge. It consists of two parcels -- Hudson Lights, which is being built by Tucker Development, and the Modern, a pair of residential towers proposed by Fort Lee Redevelopment Associates. Meeting minutes from the Fort Lee Planning Board show traffic on the Bridge was often a topic of discussion and concern. Developers attempted to allay these fears by conducting multiple studies and simulations to analyze traffic patterns as they attempted to obtain approval for the project.”

Did you have any knowledge of this project?

MR. DREWNIAK: None whatsoever.

SENATOR GILL: Did Mr. Wildstein ever mention to you anything about the billion dollar redevelopment project in Fort Lee with respect to the lane closures?

MR. DREWNIAK: Never whatsoever.

SENATOR GILL: Did anyone ever discuss with you this project in relationship to the lane closings?
MR. DREWNIAK: No, never.

SENATOR GILL: And did you ever ask any questions about the traffic situation in relationship to the lane closings as discussed in the Mayor of Fort Lee’s letter?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, regarding the construction or the building plans, the redevelopment--?

SENATOR GILL: And the traffic and the lane closings?

I will withdraw that and rephrase it.

Now, Mr. Foye’s e-mail -- and I just have a couple of general things about that. You said in there -- however you want to color it, or you didn’t like him, or you do like Senator Weinberg or you don’t, or they’re partisan and you’re a wonderful advocate for the Governor--

MR. DREWNIAK: It’s not a question of like.

SENATOR GILL: Okay, yes. But it’s a question of being partisan.

And so when-- And you came from the U.S. Attorney’s, and most of the people in the Governor’s Office are from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, correct? O’Dowd--

MR. DREWNIAK: A lot of the main players are.

SENATOR GILL: O’Dowd, McKenna, and others -- they’re prosecutors, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: And when Foye’s letter is saying that there’s a possibility of violation of both Federal and State laws in New Jersey and New York, you discussed that with O’Dowd, didn’t you?

MR. DREWNIAK: With McKenna.
SENATOR GILL: You discussed it with McKenna. And did you two discuss that whatever we may think about Foye -- who likes who, and who’s not getting along, and all of that -- he’s making serious allegations here about a violation of both Federal and State laws? Did anyone ever investigate the possible violation of Federal and State laws with respect to the lane closures?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know the answer to that.

SENATOR GILL: When you were with Mr. McKenna, did you ask him if this was going to be investigated criminally?

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t say whether -- if Patrick Foye is saying that-- And I’m not trying to instigate an argument or anything here. I’m not sure that Pat Foye knew if this is even -- if there was some kind of violation of law.

SENATOR GILL: Well, from the Attorney General-- And you worked with the U.S. Attorney’s Office; and when you get information about a possible criminal violation, these are prosecutors. So that even if the source of the information is not someone you may want to have dinner with at the steakhouse -- you may not even like the person -- you want to find out if the allegations of a violation of Federal and State law have validity.

MR. IACULLO: Is there a question, Senator?

SENATOR GILL: And so did you say to Mr. McKenna, “Are these allegations of possible criminal violations going to be investigated?”

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, let me say this -- and this comes from my experience at the United States Attorney’s Office, and as a reporter who covered the Attorney General’s Office for a long time. You know when
things like this happen, and there are statements made by proper authorities -- people in a position of authority-- You do know that if the question is valid -- and this is kind of a given -- that valid authorities, meaning prosecutorial or civil authorities, will investigate. And, in fact, that’s what’s happened here.

So I think I just know that if Pat Foye, or Assemblyman Wisniewski, or Senator Gill raises this point to a prosecutor, they’re going to take a look. And that has unfolded.

SENATOR GILL: And the prosecutors are right in the Governor’s Office. Mr. McKenna was a former prosecutor; Mr. O’Dowd, a former prosecutor.

So my statement is this: When there’s a violation-- Because you went to Mr. O’Dowd and he was busy, right?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: You went to tell him.

MR. DREWNIAK: I told Mr. McKenna.

SENATOR GILL: And you told Mr. McKenna, and you told Mr. Matey, and Mr. Matey told you to tell someone else, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, yes, but that wasn’t like a brush-off or anything like that.

SENATOR GILL: You told Mr. Matey, and Mr. Matey was the Deputy Counsel to the Governor.

MR. DREWNIAK: You know, one thing-- I’m not sure that I went to Paul on the initial issue. I’m not sure when that happened.

SENATOR GILL: Okay, but at some point--
MR. DREWNIAK: Well, it was aware to everybody, apparently, at this stage. Because remember, the -- I only got the Foye e-mail quite late because Wildstein or Baroni did not forward it to me -- I had to ask for it. And again, this comes back to-- Just by a process that I’m very familiar with, if somebody raises this and makes a referral -- and, basically, that’s what that becomes -- you know it’s going to be investigated.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: And as somebody who has been, before, with the U.S. Attorney’s Office -- I mean, as part of this and a Federal grand jury, we know that it is being investigated. That’s the best I can do, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, on October 1 you spoke to Comella, and possibly O’Dowd and McKenna, about the e-mail and the article. Why did you feel that it was necessary to speak to members of the Governor’s senior cabinet?

MR. DREWNIAK: Senior staff.

SENATOR GILL: Yes.

MR. DREWNIAK: Only because it -- as I think I’ve explained -- now that it’s come to this level, “Okay, I just want to make sure, are you all aware of this?” And I rely on other people to now -- and I think reasonably so, because I do trust and I have worked with them -- to make any decisions and move the ball to the next level as necessary.

SENATOR GILL: I only have about five more questions.

And the next morning, on October 2, Mr. Wildstein e-mails you another article discussing Mr. Foye’s e-mail.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, what date, ma’am?
SENATOR GILL: October 2, and it would be Tab 25.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: He e-mails you another story discussing Mr. Foye’s e-mail. And you also, according to your memo, spoke and met with Ms. Kelly about the lane closures on October 2, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: I spoke to her two times, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Did you ever ask Ms. Kelly why was she involved in lane closing if she was in the Governor’s Officer, and she was not an employee of the Port Authority?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I didn’t ask her that. I asked her only because I knew that she received the earlier inquiry or e-mails from Wildstein. And I’m going to her a second time because of her IGA role dealing with community complaints, mayors. And I’m like, “Once again, anything that you know about this?” So I went back to her again because she had had exposure to it earlier. “Do you have any light to shed on this?”

SENATOR GILL: Did you ever ask her -- after you found out about the -- that she was involved -- did you have any opportunity after that to speak with her?

MR. DREWNIAK: I never had an opportunity to do that, no.

SENATOR GILL: Now, on that afternoon--

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, ma’am. She did try to reach me the morning of January 8, but I think that’s a matter of record here.

SENATOR GILL: And you were not available?

MR. DREWNIAK: I tried to call her; she didn’t pick up.
SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, that same afternoon, the day after you realized you were dealing with something not ordinary -- those are your words, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry?

SENATOR GILL: Not ordinary -- your words?

MR. DREWNIAK: On what date?

SENATOR GILL: The afternoon -- the same afternoon, the day after you realized you were dealing with something “not ordinary” -- meaning the e-mail--

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, particularly with the Foye e-mails.

SENATOR GILL: And you were receiving e-mails from the press and your two friends at the same time. And we know your two friends being Wildstein and Mr. Baroni, because at that time they were still your friends, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And we know this from the State House sign-in sheet -- as well, that Wildstein e-mails and texts you. So when you spoke to Mr. Wildstein on October 1, did he tell you that he was going to be in the State House the next day, on October 2?

MR. DREWNIAK: Unless I’m mixing it up, I think that’s the time that he had communicated that he wanted to talk about trash and going on the train through Westfield or something.

SENATOR GILL: He wanted to talk to you about trash or -- what was that? Or he wanted to talk trash to you -- I don’t know what--

(laughter)
MR. DREWNIAK: No, I think that’s the time where he said, “I’m going to be in the State House, and I’m going to talk to some people about a Port Authority plan about trash being hauled by train through certain communities.” I’m not sure if we’re talking about the same time or not.

SENATOR GILL: Did you meet with Mr. Wildstein or Mr. Baroni on October 2?

MR. DREWNIAK: If we’re talking about the same thing--

SENATOR GILL: And that would be the day after the Foye e-mail -- just to direct the time. The day after the Foye e-mail, Mr. Baroni and Mr. Wildstein come to the Governor’s Office -- or the State House, I’m sorry, as per the sign-in sheet.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, I don’t think I recall. There was that time when he had signaled to somebody that he wanted to talk and meet with people about this issue about shipping trash through certain towns, communities and, I think, Union County.

SENATOR GILL: So that we’re clear: On October 2, you don’t recall if you met with Mr. Wildstein.

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t. I’m not saying I didn’t; I just don’t know.

SENATOR GILL: You could have met with Mr. Wildstein.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: But you just can’t recall.

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

SENATOR GILL: Now, the next day you communicate to senior staff about the lane closures was on October 7, when you received an
e-mail from Chief of Staff O’Dowd about a press conference inquiry -- that’s Tab 29. And then on October 16 there’s an e-mail sent to you, Chief of Staff O’Dowd, and Chief Counsel McKenna from Regina Egea about Senator Weinberg’s attendance at a Port Authority Board meeting where -- and on Tab 32, if you put it up -- Egea discusses holding to a script. What script were they discussing?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t have personal knowledge of that, but I think that’s what the Port Authority -- that appears to be a reference to the early Port Authority statement which was -- according to, I forget where -- that also, I guess for the time being, Pat Foye agreed to as “under review.”

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no direct knowledge of that.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. Now, you recall-- I just want to point out -- and I won’t go through all of them -- but I just want to point out that you had at least nine interactions with senior staff about the lane closings -- Mr. Wildstein’s involvement, Ms. Kelly’s involvement, and Mr. Stepien’s involvement -- from October 1 to the middle of November. All of this was prior to the Governor’s conference on December 2 where he makes some comment about moving cones there.

Now, following the release of the now-infamous e-mail, “Time for some traffic problems,” you were called to Drumthwacket, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: And who called you to Drumthwacket?

MR. DREWNIAK: Paul Matey made the call.
SENATOR GILL: And describe the scene when you walked into the Governor’s mansion.

MR. DREWNIAK: I walked into the second floor dining room where I met a number of people. But immediately Chief Counsel Porrino and the Deputy Chief Counsel Matey took me into an anteroom off of the dining room.

SENATOR GILL: And at that table -- I think you remember -- was Kevin O’Dowd?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: Of course, Chris--

MR. DREWNIAK: Porrino.

SENATOR GILL: Porrino. Regina Egea--

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, Ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: Michele Brown?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think so.

May I just interrupt for a moment? People came and went, so I didn’t see everybody who may have been there.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So if you’ve seen these-- It’s been reported that they were there, through other people’s interviews. So this is not anything--

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: The Governor’s brother?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: Michael DuHaime?

MR. DREWNIAK: When I came out of my interview with the attorneys I saw Mike, yes.
SENATOR GILL: Bill Palatucci?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR GILL: And David Samson?
SENATOR GILL: Mr. Samson was there when I was leaving -- or as I was coming in, he was leaving.
SENATOR GILL: And also Jeff Chiesa?
MR. DREWNIAK: Senator Chiesa was there as well.
SENATOR GILL: Now, when you were called to the Governor’s mansion, did you know why you were being called?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR GILL: And what was that, and who told you?
MR. DREWNIAK: Well, yes-- I’ll just explain.
Obviously, we know what had transpired that morning with the release of the e-mails, Shawn Boborg’s call to me and his story, and then the stories that then followed. I went straight to the Governor’s Office that day, to my office, and meanwhile other senior staff went straight to Drum -- the Governor’s mansion. I assumed, correctly, when they called that they wanted to talk to me because my name was featured in several of the e-mails.
SENATOR GILL: When you arrived, did you know you were going to be questioned by Chief Counsel?
MR. DREWNIAK: I didn’t know who was going-- I had an assumption I was going to be questioned by somebody.
SENATOR GILL: Okay. How long did your interview last?
MR. DREWNIAK: Approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, or 2-and-a-half -- something like that.
SENATOR GILL: And they took you into another room in the Governor’s mansion.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, like a sitting room off of the dining room.

SENATOR GILL: Off of the dining room upstairs.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: Correct? So at the big table we have these people, and they take you to a--

MR. DREWNIAK: Not everybody was at the table.

SENATOR GILL: But the table we’re talking--

MR. DREWNIAK: Some people were in the living area off the dining area.

SENATOR GILL: Yes, and then they take you into a side room.

MR. DREWNIAK: I went into a private, closed-door--

SENATOR GILL: And you went in with, that would be, Chief Counsel and Deputy Chief Counsel.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, Ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: And for that two-and-a-half hours that you were interviewed, what did they question you about?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not going to be able to remember every question, but--

SENATOR GILL: In sum and substance.

MR. DREWNIAK: --it’s fair to say that we tried to do a chronological of going back to August and all through September. I brought as many e-mails as I could scoop up in the short period. We went over
those, and we went right through to the present, basically, in as close to a chronological order as we could, about my contacts, communications, knowledge -- basically the questions we were asking here, and I've also answered with the Federal authorities. It was very detailed.

SENATOR GILL: It was very detailed, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: And you took notes that were handwritten notes?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I took no handwritten notes.

SENATOR GILL: Did you have e-mails that had handwriting on them?

MR. DREWNIAK: My recollection is, is that as I was going through e-mails I made notes on the side that if I couldn’t find a reply or something like that -- like “no reply found.”

SENATOR GILL: Did you make copies of those documents?

MR. IACULLO: That would have been made by counsel and supplied.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I had nothing to do with it. I turned everything over and then everything was ultimately managed by the lawyers.

SENATOR GILL: Did you turn those documents over to the Governor’s Chief Counsel that day?

MR. IACULLO: They would have had those documents, since they were work related.

SENATOR GILL: No, that’s not my question.
MR. IACULLO: He didn’t turn them over.

SENATOR GILL: My question is--

MR. IACULLO: They were in the possession of the Office--

SENATOR GILL: My question is this: Did he turn the documents over to Chief Counsel? The documents that he had -- did he give them to Chief Counsel?

MR. IACULLO: Senator, I don’t mean to be evasive, but--

SENATOR GILL: We will-- I will move on with that question if we have those documents with respect to the document discovery.

Now, at any point did you remind Mr. Matey that you spoke to him about Kelly’s and Stepien’s involvement in November?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, I told him, again, basically everything -- I mean, this was my first recitation and attempt to remember everything. So it’s much more detailed today.

SENATOR GILL: Did you feel like you were going to be fired?

MR. DREWNIAK: Not for having any involvement in this mess, because I know I had none.

SENATOR GILL: But you felt that you were going to be fired, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: I felt that -- I felt if I had overly embarrassed anyone, because of the language in some of my private e-mails -- sure. I mean, who knows what level we’re at, at that point. And if I had embarrassed somebody enough, and deserved to be fired, then I would accept that. I serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

SENATOR GILL: And after you finished your two-and-a-half hour meeting, Counsel and Deputy Counsel left the room, correct?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, they did.

SENATOR GILL: And who walked in-- No, you were in that room by yourself.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: The door was closed.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: Then someone walked in that room, and you and that person were in that room alone, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, that’s false.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. It’s incorrect.

MR. DREWNIAK: It’s incorrect.

SENATOR GILL: It’s not false. (laughter)

So when they left the room -- Counsel and Deputy Counsel -- the door was closed, and in walked Governor Christie, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: What happened was the two attorneys left; they were out of the room for approximately 15 minutes; I sweated it out in the room by myself. And then the door opened and all--

SENATOR GILL: That’s usually the way they do it at the U.S. Attorney’s.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes. And in walked both attorneys again with the Governor.

SENATOR GILL: And did the Governor have a conversation with you?

MR. DREWNIAK: A brief conversation, yes.

SENATOR GILL: Did the Governor ask you what you knew about the lane closings?
MR. DREWNIAK: No, that’s what he had--

SENATOR GILL: No, I didn’t. I asked you, did he ask you?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

SENATOR GILL: Did the Governor ever ask you who you spoke to with respect to the lane closings?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

SENATOR GILL: Did the Governor ever ask you, “Did you speak to Kelly or Stepien about the lane closings?”

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

SENATOR GILL: Did the Governor ever ask you, “Did you ever speak to, before today, my Chief Counsel or my Chief of Staff about the lane closings?”

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

SENATOR GILL: The Governor asked you nothing about the lane closings?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I didn’t have-- No.

SENATOR GILL: And so did the Governor have a conversation with you about your ill-advised language?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, but I talked to him later about that.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So exactly what did the Governor say to you when he walked in the room?

MR. DREWNIAK: The Governor came in-- It was only a couple of minutes, and he said, “I’ve talked this through fully, and they’ve reported back to me. I’m comfortable with, at this point, that you had no involvement in this -- and you’re good.”
SENATOR GILL: You’re good. You mean you went out and you took your seat at the table.
MR. DREWNIAK: I did.
SENATOR GILL: And when you took your seat at the table, you then began to prep the Governor with respect to the press conference?
MR. DREWNIAK: I did.
SENATOR GILL: And at any point -- and this is the last question -- on Friday January 31, there was-- The Governor’s Office begins to attack Wildstein.
MR. DREWNIAK: Sorry?
SENATOR GILL: The Governor’s Office, in a press release, begins to -- I’ll say *attack* David Wildstein. Were you involved in that press release -- in formulating that press release at all?
MR. DREWNIAK: No, I was not involved whatsoever.
SENATOR GILL: And then on February 11 the Governor’s Office sends an e-mail attacking the reporter from the *New York Times*, stating that his reporting was misleading. Were you involved in that press statement at all?
MR. DREWNIAK: And it would be easier-- I could probably dispense with all this, because it had been decided, and I agreed, that I would be recused; because of the perceived -- any perception created by my e-mails, that I would be recused from anything related to this issue.
SENATOR GILL: My absolute last question -- last question from a politician and a lawyer -- but believe me, this is the last question.
MR. DREWNIAK: I understand.
SENATOR GILL: Okay. It is your recollection that the Governor remembered David Wildstein telling him about the traffic study on September 11?

MR. DREwnIAK: I'm sorry, would you repeat that one more time?

SENATOR GILL: It is your recollection that the Governor remembered David Wildstein telling him about the traffic study on September 11?

MR. DREwnIAK: No.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So I thought you testified that David Wildstein told the Governor about the traffic study on September 11, and the Governor said something -- my words will be sarcastic.

MR. DREwnIAK: David Wildstein-- Two things: David Wildstein said he told the Governor something about a traffic study on September 11. That’s what David Wildstein said. The Governor did not acknowledge ever remembering such a thing. He’s like, “Wait a minute. What was this? Some kind of drive-by remark about traffic, and I’m supposed to know what he’s talking about?” That was the substance of the Governor’s response.

SENATOR GILL: So he--

MR. DREwnIAK: He thought it was ridiculous.

SENATOR GILL: I know you don’t like to speculate, but you said the Governor said, “What does he think? I would remember a traffic study?” Is that what you just said?

MR. DREwnIAK: I’m relating--

SENATOR GILL: What the Governor said.
MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

SENATOR GILL: Because you told the Governor, “Governor, he’s now saying that you knew about the traffic study, and he told you on September 11,” correct? You’re talking to the Governor.

MR. DREWNIAK: The second part-- I am going to be very careful on this, because I understand what we’re trying to get at. And I need this to be very accurate.

Again, I’m sorry -- two things: Wildstein is alleging to me that “I” -- David Wildstein – “told the Governor about this on September 11.” I don’t know the veracity of that.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: And I have no way of knowing. And I know that’s a central question here. But I can’t answer that.

And then all I did was basically report the very same thing to the Governor.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: To which the Governor’s response was, “What? He tells me at a September 11 event some fly-by or drive-by remark about -- something about traffic, and I’m supposed to understand what he’s talking about?” And that’s it.

SENATOR GILL: Okay, thank you very much.

MR. DREWNIAK: Thank you, Senator.

MR. IACULLO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Senator Gill.

Majority Leader Greenwald.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry; could I take a very short break?
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Absolutely; five minutes.

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s all I need. Thank you.

(recess)

(return from recess)

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Members, please take your seats.

Majority Leader.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Chairman, thank you.

Mr. Drewniak, thank you for taking the time to come here today. I know it’s not easy for you; and I know it may not feel like it right now, but this has been helpful.

MR. DREWNIAK: My pleasure, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: And I don’t want to put words in your mouth and, again, I know a lot of people are hitting you with dates, and we’ll go to the tabs if it helps you. But, again, as I did with Ms. Renna, I’m trying to listen to what you’re saying so that I can get to what the purpose is, I think, for this Committee and my purpose for serving on this Committee.

MR. DREWNIAK: I understand.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So as I say continuously when questioned about this, and when presented by and before witnesses like yourself-- And I’m hearing it in your voice and, again, I don’t want to put words in your mouth, but there doesn’t seem to be a question anymore whether or not there was an abuse of power here. Do you agree with that?

MR. DREWNIAK: Emphatically.
ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. And Ms. Renna felt the same way. So the purpose of this Committee, for me, is to find out who was the architect of this, who orchestrated it, and why. And, you know, your testimony today was very helpful in that regard because I believe that Mr. Wildstein confessed to you that he was the architect of this idea. Is that fair to say?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m just not prepared to ascribe that word to it.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I mean, I don’t understand, I think like most of us, what exactly happened here.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. Did he say to you it was his idea?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. And when he said it was his idea, the idea was to close the lanes for some reason.

MR. DREWNIAK: His idea, as he described to me, was to conduct this traffic study.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. And that involved closing the lanes.

MR. DREWNIAK: I just want to be really clear: he was consistent in every conversation about a traffic study.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Yes.

MR. DREWNIAK: And this is by no means to protect anyone.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: No, you know-- For everybody who is watching this -- and this is an historic building; it’s a lot
smaller than it looks on the inside. And we’ve all worked with each other, so I don’t mean any disrespect. But I know Michael, so I’m going to call you Michael, if that’s okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s quite all right, Assemblyman.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So you know, Michael, I actually find that very compelling, and I’m going to come to that in a second.

You had a relationship with him as Wally Edge; but when did you become friends with David Wildstein? Were you friends with him before you knew he was Wally Edge?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. So after you took on this job, he made that phone call to you that you referenced earlier. You went to a dinner, you hit it off, you became friends.

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, it really developed over time.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Yes.

MR. DREWNIAK: I was just fascinated at meeting who this character was that had written all that stuff, all those years.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: I’m with you.

MR. DREWNIAK: And to be honest with you, when he walked in the door at the Clinton House restaurant, you know when you see somebody you go, “Really?” (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: I know that feeling, so-- (laughter)

I share your fascination with it. I actually share a fascination because he had a remarkable touch on the history of the State, and I think
an insight to its events over the course of time. So I can certainly appreciate the fascination and what led to that.

But at some point, over a period of time, you became friends.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: And you’ve alluded to, here, that that friendship no longer exists. Is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t think it possibly could.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. And you’ve alluded to that you lost trust in him. Is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: That would be extremely correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: What was the event that caused you to lose trust, and then the friendship? Was it the disregard for the closure of the lanes; was it the callousness with which he treated the folks, and the families, and the children on the first of school, and the first responders; or was it that he lied to you; or was it all of the above?

MR. DREWNIAK: It was definitely all of the above -- that he took advantage of my wanting to believe in him, for all the right reasons that I thought made him a good person.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Right.

MR. DREWNIAK: The disappointment in having -- in my not recognizing that I was dealing with somebody who would conduct such a thing. I mean, I’m embarrassed by it.

The clincher for me was -- okay, there was the January 8 e-mails. Then when the subsequent ones were released about the Chaplain -- the Rabbi -- of the Port Authority, I was just positively--

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Blown away.
MR. DREWNIAK: Blown away.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: As we all were.

And just to clarify the record: You’re talking about the date of January 8 -- those were previous e-mails from previous dates that were released on January 8.

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Yes.

One of the things that caused you to lose trust was that he lied to you. What was the lie?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, he lied to everybody.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: About the study?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. So that’s my question. He presented to you at dinner that night -- he came prepared. He had a stack of papers and indicated, “Here it is. There are e-mails from engineers -- this is it.” Do you think in his-- There may not have been a grand study that we, who have been involved in the review of infrastructure projects, development, traffic patterns, traffic studies, traffic calming, accident scenes -- he may not have had a study of that magnitude, but in his mind do you think he had a study?

MR. IACULLO: He can’t possibly comment on that -- as to what was in David Wildstein’s mind at that point.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. Well, he had a conversation with him, sir, so I’m trying to understand what was the conversation over dinner.
MR. IACULLO: Well, if he gets a different question, if you want to ask what the conversation was, I think that--

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Sure, go ahead.

MR. IACULLO: The question is, what happened at dinner -- the conversation at dinner?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: The question is, he presented you a stack of papers that he said was a study.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Did you look at it?

MR. DREWNIAK: I let him talk about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: What did he say about it?

MR. DREWNIAK: That we should have been able to-- “We should have gotten out there, front-- He was just full of regret, “Why didn’t we go out and do this earlier?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: And do what? When he said “do this,” what was this?

MR. DREWNIAK: Present the traffic study.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. And why were they doing a study? Did anybody ever ask, “David, why did you feel the need to do a study?”

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: And what was the reason?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did, actually.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: And he said?

MR. DREWNIAK: And he said, “This is something I’ve wanted to do for years.” I’m not from Bergen County; I use the George
Washington Bridge sparingly, so he’s explaining to me the history of this --
again, only somebody with his brain can do so well.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Sure.

MR. DREWNIAK: And he says, “There’s something wrong
with this. There are too many people--“ This is just his justification. Too
many people on what he called the mainline and all of that, and these
dedicated lanes make no sense. “We can do better serving North Jersey
traffic commuters.” I couldn’t pass on that. I just had no great familiarity.
But on the surface it made some sense.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: But you know, from a
common sense approach, we live in South Jersey, and we go over the Ben
Franklin Bridge. And there are, like, four lanes coming in from Camden.
Just from a common sense approach, that traffic is not all coming from
Camden. It’s coming from Haddonfield, Cherry Hill, Voorhees,
Moorestown, Mount Laurel--

MR. DREWNIAK: Everything I’ve learned, Assemblyman, I
don’t disagree with you.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Yes, I mean, this is just one
of those-- People are going through that town to get to the Bridge. You
can’t jump over it. It’s a means to an end.

But Mr. Wildstein-- The one thing no one’s ever accused him
of being is stupid. He’s not a dumb man. And I come back to-- That study
that in his mind he had, may have very well-- I don’t know that it’s fair to
accuse him of saying that he lied about a study. That man came with
documents -- according to you -- he came with documentation papers, e-
mails about engineers. I don’t know if anyone ever asked him -- I thought it
was a great line of thinking, “Did you hire somebody? Did you go out to bid?” It didn’t sound like – it didn’t sound like they used engineers inside. So he’s got documentation; he has something, unless he was pulling the greatest farce ever to say, “No one’s ever going to ask me.”

But the problem with that is Mr. Wildstein does not strike me -- and from your comments-- There was a period where we weren’t even sure what his job description was. Is that correct? I mean, he didn’t really have a job description.

MR. DREWNIAK: I know that’s been said, but I also know that typically the Deputy ED has a number two person.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: I understand that. In the Gibson Dunn report, on Tab 91, Page 3, you commented that Wildstein, “knew his place, and would sit outside of the room and provide information when asked because he was the ‘fact guy.’” That would make Wildstein seem like a lower-level functionary; however, when he (sic) discussed Wildstein’s interactions at the Port Authority, you painted a picture of a more influential figure.

I think that describes Mr. Wildstein perfectly, actually. He’s a guy who understood his place, but when it came to facts would stand up -- because that was his strong suit.

Michael, I asked Christina this about Bridget Kelly, and while she said Bridget was involved, she would not have been able to give the order. David has proudly stated, this time if I understood the implications, that this was his idea. I call it the architect; he drew this picture. I can’t imagine a guy who knew his place, who really didn’t -- I’m going to say -- have an official title or a title of any significance -- could functionally go in
and order the closure of the lanes. In anything that you have seen, from the time you found out about this until today, have you looked back or has anyone indicated that, “Yes, Mr. Wildstein himself had the ability to go in” -- I wouldn’t even know where you’d begin to close the lanes -- but that he had the ability to close those lanes. Has anybody indicated that to you that he could do it himself?

MR. IACULLO: Assemblyman, what exactly is the question you’re asking?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: The question is, in Michael’s time, since he found out that Mr. Wildstein said that it was his idea -- and I’m going to say he’s the architect, because he drew up the idea-- But I would tell you that, understanding someone like Mr. Wildstein-- We have staff all around us here, and you can imagine that they have ideas, like we should form an investigative committee. But I can tell you one thing -- they can’t form an investigative committee without me and without the Speaker.

So Mr. Wildstein could have this idea, but I don’t believe that the title that he had gave him the ability to give the order. So part of what this hearing is about for me is to find out who was the architect -- and I think we now have a stronger idea of that from his own words to you, that this was his idea -- but I don’t believe that he had the ability to give the order.

So the question that I would ask you is, in any time from the time that he brought this up to you, that he had this idea, until today-- Because the purpose of this Committee is to find out who gave the order and who was the architect, and how deep did this go, and why.
And that’s going to be my next question to you. Do you believe that he had the ability to give the order, and did anyone at anytime -- through your meeting with senior staff -- tell you that he had the ability to give the order?

(attorney/client confer)

MR. IACULLO: Assemblyman, the issue that we have with the question is that, obviously, Michael does not work at the Port Authority. So for him to comment on whether or not Mr. Wildstein had the power to, in fact, effectuate the closure of these lanes, I don’t think is something appropriate for him to comment on.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. So my question--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Let me just jump in, because I think that he was asking a straight opinion question of Mr. Drewniak: Does he think that Mr. Wildstein had the power? I think it’s an answerable question. I mean--

MR. IACULLO: Yes, but I don’t think-- Again, just to respond, through the Chairman, I just don’t think that it’s appropriate to have Michael speculate as to what he thinks Mr. Wildstein could do. If I wasn’t representing Mr. Drewniak, I wouldn’t want somebody speculating about what a client of mine who’s not here could, in fact, do when that person doesn’t work at that particular--

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Mr. Iacullo, I understand your concern. Let me just say, Mr. Drewniak has said in the Gibson Dunn report that it was his -- it’s either his opinion or he has seen-- “Mr. Drewniak commented Mr. Wildstein knew his place, and he would sit out=side of the room and provide information when asked.”
MR. IACULLO: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: That he was a fact guy.

So if you’re a fact guy-- I’m asking him to make the same opinion that he made in that report. Is it your opinion that Mr. Wildstein -- as a fact guy, as a guy who knew his place -- could order the closure of the lanes? And the answer may be you don’t know.

(attorney/client confer)

MR. DREWNIAK: Maybe this would help.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Sure.

MR. DREWNIAK: When the-- I think the Chairs had the --

I’m sorry -- Mr. Wisniewski had his initial hearing, we saw a row of professionals from the Port Authority: Mr. Durando, Mr. Cedrick -- Fulton, I’m sorry, and -- well, those two, primarily. And I watched much of that testimony. They made clear -- and they had high operational positions at the Port Authority -- that they could take orders from Wildstein, perhaps based on assumptions on the organizational, and who knew what. I can’t then -- as my attorney was objecting -- then insert myself and make my own really clear and authoritative answer.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: But I draw conclusions based on the testimony of others.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Understanding the chain of command in the Port Authority, did Mr. Wildstein report to Mr. Baroni?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Would Mr. Baroni have to okay a lane closure? Understanding the chain of command -- and not
knowing that you would know that or not -- but would there be a chain of command that Mr. Baroni would have to okay that?

(attorney/client confer)

And Michael, let me just -- before you answer the question -- give you some--  It’s okay to say, “I don’t know.” Again, that’s why I conditioned my statement with--  I’m trying to figure out--  Maybe Mr. Wildstein did have the capacity to order this; I would find that hard to believe, but that’s my opinion.  I’m allowed to have an opinion.

MR. DREWNIAK:  If I remember correctly, Assemblyman -- and somebody could correct me if I’m wrong -- Senator Baroni acknowledged that he was aware and authorized David to do that.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD:  Now, I’m intrigued by the fact that at this meeting at Drumthwacket that took place -- Mr. Samson was there.  Would Mr. Samson also have to give, as Chairman of the Board of the Port Authority, would he have to give approval to something like this, or is that something that would not rise to that level?

MR. DREWNIAK:  My clear understanding is that he would not be involved in operational aspects.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD:  Okay.  Now--  And Michael, let me say unequivocally, that there is no doubt in my mind that you had no role in this, you had no knowledge of this, and from what I can see, you had no participation in this of any kind -- other than to be dragged into this after it got started.  So let me start with that for this next line of questioning.

We talk about this rivalry between Foye and Wildstein.  That’s like the “really?” phase of this hearing, right?  That’s not new, it’s not news;
and it’s probably not going to be the last time. New York and New Jersey -- and I think more so in New Jersey -- has always been trying to fight for its fair share of the proceeds from that Port Authority -- for its representation. I’ll tell you on a side commentary note: In spite of the tragedy for the lives and the people who were impacted on this for four days, it really hurts New Jersey’s standing as to why we should be entrusted with those proceeds -- but that’s a separate point of an abuse that took place here.

But as I said to Christine Renna, and I’ll say to you, there’s a point where the partisan bickering or the State territorial bickering ends and an e-mail comes across from a Mayor that says, “First responders can’t do their job.” Right? And so to me, well, you can look at these and individual entities -- there’s a building block approach to this that, as the blocks continue to pile, somebody has to say, “There’s something going on here.” I mean, it’s just common sense.

And, Michael, I think honestly whether you knew it at the time or you began to know it, you had a gut that something wasn’t right -- because you kept telling people. You know, the first time when he said it, maybe you ignored it. But you went and you told Maria Comella, and Comella said, “That’s a Port Authority issue.” And you know something? That was the most honest answer anybody gave, and that’s where everybody should’ve stayed.

But at some point in this, you kept getting dragged in, and other people kept getting dragged in. And somewhere at some point in time, it seems somewhere around the middle of October when you went to Mr. McKenna and you said, “You know, there’s this thing around the Port
Authority,” and he said, “We’re aware; we’re looking into it--” I’m paraphrasing his words, but that’s what--

MR. DREWNIAK: So was I -- paraphrasing his words.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Yes. But there was an indication here that senior staff-- People were involved in this. And it became an issue that the Governor’s Office was involved in, because Mr. McKenna knew and was looking into it; Ms. Kelly, we now know, was deeply involved; you were being pulled in to give advice on how to deal with the press and the outcomes on this; Ms. Comella, because you brought it to her attention, she said, “It’s Port Authority business;” Egea was involved; Mr. Wildstein, whether he’s part of the Governor’s Office or not, was coming in and scheduling meetings to talk to people in the Governor’s Office; and Mr. Baroni was involved and was asked to testify before the Committee and to give statements.

That is a large number of senior staff that is involved in this process. And at some point -- and I don’t mean this to sound harsh -- the Governor’s Office, in my mind looking at this, I think went into damage control. As opposed to staying with, “This is Port Authority business and we shouldn’t be involved,” for whatever reason somebody made a determination, “We have to do damage control here.”

Now, that’s my view of this. Is that a fair statement?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not going to agree with you on that.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: You’re not going to agree with that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I mean, I’m not going to--
ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: That’s okay; you’re entitled to not agree with that. But if you don’t agree with it, my question is, why were you involved? Because you’re Governor’s Office, and you’re Press Secretary to the Governor; and in my dealings with you -- as fun as they’ve been, from time-to-time -- you’re about driving the Governor’s public policy and driving his image, which you’ve done very well because you’ve gotten him on the doorstep of running for President of the United States of America. So this-- At some point, the only reason you’re involved -- it’s Port Authority business -- the only reason they keep coming to you-- You’re not involved in the campaign, yet you’re on these daily campaign calls. This guy Roberts with the campaign directs people to you. At some point, unbeknownst to you or around you -- but I think by the weight of everyone else who was involved -- this became damage control. Listen, I’m going to condition all this with, I’m looking back and sitting here for six hours listening to your testimony and writing down the names of the people involved. I know that didn’t happen in 15 seconds. But my point to you earlier is this was a building block. At some point somebody should have said, “There’s something going on here.”

MR. IACULLO: Is there a question, Assemblyman?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Yes, the question is-- I asked him, was there damage control going on in the office? He disagreed. So I came back with, you are the Press Secretary -- why are you involved if this isn’t damage control? Why are you involved?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think two points: I can only speak for myself, and my direct involvement with individuals -- which I’ve been
honest and answered, I think, fully to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

I was involved because, and regretfully, I had a relationship with this guy. And I’ve said it, and I know you may be getting tired of hearing it, but I had to trust individuals who, for every reason up until then, had always been honest and truthful with me. And I really liked Senator Baroni; I thought and understood him to be a well respected individual amongst you and your colleagues. It just made no sense to me.

And it’s important to remember that even though I did have involvement and contact with these guys, it was broken up quite a lot. And I’ll be honest with you. With the number of issues and pressures that I deal with -- and this isn’t to be a whiner about it, it’s a job I accept -- but I’m very happy for any nagging controversy to take a rest once in a while. And there were those long periods of time where it would go away, and there were plenty of other things to fill that vacuum. So it’s not like I had a complete focus and was putting everything together or-- Honestly, I wasn’t trying to do it.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: I understand.

All right, so you know, Michael -- and I think, again, you’ve been very honest and that’s why, you know, I conditioned all my comments with what I said earlier. And your answer explains why you would respond when, on September 12, Mr. Wildstein sent a Port Authority press inquiry to you -- because you trusted them, and they were friends, and you were trying to manage that situation.
MR. DREWNIAK: I mean, there were enough times where I said, “David, I don’t care. You handle it; it’s yours. It’s a Port Authority issue.”

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So then there’s the time when Ted Mann of the Wall Street Journal calls Wildstein on his cell phone, prompting Baroni to advise, “Jesus. Just call Drewniak. Drewniak did not receive Baroni’s text to Wildstein.” Do you remember that?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Mann of the Wall Street Journal, separately on October 1, contacts the Port Authority, the Christie campaign, and OOG (sic) regarding the possibility of the lane closures being politically motivated. All of those inquiries -- not just the ones to the Port Authority -- were all routed to you. So now you’re getting them from the campaign, as well as from OOG.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, as well from--?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Office of the Governor. Is that correct? So now your role is increasing, because they’re being-- These people are directing them directly to you. Did you handle those calls?

MR. DREWNIAK: Some; some I ignored. (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Bill Stepien alerts Baroni that the Wall Street Journal’s following up on the George Washington Bridge story. Baroni replies, “Yeah, we’re not responding, per Drewniak.”

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t remember saying, “Don’t respond--”

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: --to that one, in particular.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Kevin Roberts-- I’m sorry.
MR. DREWNIAK: They had offered statements. I said, “Look, you guys have statements, you can issue statements.”

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Kevin Roberts at the campaign tells Stepien he’s coordinating the campaign response with you --- yet, you’re not involved in the campaign. Is that accurate?

MR. DREWNIAK: That is a very minor actual-- The coordination wasn’t any routine matter whatsoever. It probably was a question that came to both of us, and that’s why he’s saying, “Drewniak is going to handle it.” And I don’t recall which one that was; I may not have handled it. I may have just, like -- they want me to do these things and I would often say, “Your problem.”

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Michael, listen, as I said last week, and I’ll say again here today. I don’t care if it’s a political organization, a governmental entity, or a business, every organization has a chain of command. And someone gives orders. Somewhere in here these lines started to blur. And I think you were in a chain of command just taking orders.

I understand the friendship side as to why you were trying to help out your friends at the Port Authority. There are other people who may have been leaning on you because you were the mouthpiece for this organization.

The Governor is questioned about the lane closures on October 3 during a Bergen Record editorial, and according to DuHaime’s interview memo, the Governor joked in response and dismissively addressed the question. According to DuHaime, Kevin Roberts from the Governor’s
Communication Office and a campaign staffer were also in attendance. Were you there at that editorial board meeting?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Were you aware, at any point after that, that the Governor was asked about the lane closures?

MR. DREWNIAK: At that time, at that event, no.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: But afterwards, did they come back and--

MR. DREWNIAK: I do need-- Assemblyman, respectfully, I need to make really clear: Kevin Roberts and I have very little interaction. It was only in those instances where there was crossover. There was no great coordination -- and that’s an unfortunate word that he used, but--

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: I understand.

MR. DREWNIAK: It just doesn’t exist.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: That’s why we’re asking. There are a lot of unfortunate words, unfortunately, though.

Egea reports to O’Dowd on October 16 that McKenna and Drewniak -- that during a press event following the meeting, questions ensued on Fort Lee -- but holding to the “script” of all under review.

Why would she use the word *script*?

MR. IACULLO: I don’t think he can comment on to why she used that particular word.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Were you aware that a script existed?
MR. DREWNIAK: I think that the reference-- No, I was not aware of a script, but I think that’s a reference to the approved statement of both Baroni and Pat Foye.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So, you know, script – that I could also take as talking points. Were there talking points around this topic, or no -- that you’re aware of?

MR. DREWNIAK: Majority Leader, I can only tell you-- No. (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: But, again, I answer what I think that “script” is referring to. I’m pretty sure I’m correct on what that is referring to.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. So Mr. Baroni-- When was the last time you spoke to Mr. Baroni, roughly?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t remember. I don’t think I’ve spoken to him since before I left on vacation.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So Mr. Baroni-- Did your friendship with Mr. Baroni end about the same time as with Mr. Wildstein, based on the same facts?

MR. DREWNIAK: My friendship with Senator Baroni was also limited. He was somebody-- It was much more of a professional friendship.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So is it your belief that Mr. Baroni then was not telling the truth when he testified before the Committee?

MR. IACULLO: I don’t think he can comment on that.
ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. Well, you’ve lost trust with Mr. Baroni, you said here today. So is there a reason—What caused you to lose trust with Mr. Baroni?

MR. DREWNIAK: I actually didn’t mention him, specifically.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. You’ve mentioned him a number of times today-- that you looked to him as someone that you respected, and you put him in the same category, in questions, with Mr. Wildstein. What has caused you to do that?

MR. DREWNIAK: Just wide open questions; that’s it.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Mr. Baroni prepared for his testimony before this Committee for five days with an attorney from the Port Authority, Mr. Kwon. Were you a part of that presentation?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So you have no knowledge as to what that--

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no knowledge--

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: --what five days of preparation on a study that didn’t exist would be?

MR. DREWNIAK: --of the veracity of that assessment, or--

And I certainly had no involvement in any preparation at all.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay.

So Michael, my last question would be this -- and I’m just trying to follow this timeline.

You’ve stated that you met with Mr. Wildstein for dinner. During the dinner, Mr. Wildstein tells you that he actually has this study; that he had talked to the Governor for the first time over the week of the
7th. That dinner is on December 4; on December 5 you’re in a meeting with Mr. O’Dowd. The Governor walks in. You’re telling Mr. O’Dowd--We’ve all been in meetings like this -- the Governor walks in, you catch him up on what you’ve been talking about, and indicate that he’s now saying that he talked to you about this study. The Governor is -- understandably says, “Like I’m supposed to know about a study; an off-the-cuff comment?” That’s basically his reaction.

He then meets with senior staff. And the Governor states to everybody at senior staff, “Anyone who knows anything about this” -- George Washington Bridge – “tell me what they know.” Summarizing his statement, not being in the room, is that an accurate reflection of what he said?

MR. DREWNIAK: “I want--” Yes. “I want anyone with any knowledge whatsoever -- any e-mails, any communications, any involvement in this--” I can’t remember exactly what he said.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: That’s fine.

MR. DREWNIAK: I mean, he was like dismissive--

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Trying to get the tone and tenor.

MR. DREWNIAK: --for what we now know to be something that’s been completely undermined.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Right.

MR. DREWNIAK: “I want final answers. I want to be done with this. I thought I received all of the answers; somebody’s not telling me something. And if you’re in this room, you will report to Charlie or Kevin
promptly before I go out there, and bare my soul, and give -- and have to try and clean up the mess that’s been created.”

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So at that time that he made that statement, Mr. McKenna was in the room.

MR. DREWNIAK: No. Mr. McKenna was not there. I think he was at a funeral -- family funeral.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Bridget Kelly was there?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Comella was there?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Egea was there?
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Mr. O’Dowd was there?
MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Mr. O’Dowd? Kevin O’Dowd was there?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: And you were there.
MR. DREWNIAK: Yes. Paul Matey also--

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Baroni and Wildstein were gone by that point? Baroni and Wildstein were not there, obviously.

MR. DREWNIAK: They would never be at that kind of a meeting, anyway.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So does anybody, in response to that-- All those people who we mentioned had been looking into it, or working on it -- at that point, I would think people would jump in
and say, “Well, look. This is what we found. We’ve talked to so-and-so.” Does anybody say anything to the Governor at that point to brief him on what they know?

MR. DREWNIAK: We were given orders by the Governor at that moment to do what I just described.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. That’s what I—So he asked, but he didn’t really want to know then. He wanted you to report to Kevin and to Charlie.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, but there had—And the Gibson Dunn report does lay this out. There had already been efforts to get to people, and get them to explain. They direct confrontations with people, or—

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: And at that point, you had already told the Governor what about this incident? That the Governor was aware, that you were aware, that Bridget Kelly and Stepien had been mentioned and involved?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Okay. So the next day when he goes out and he says—

MR. IACULLO: Could I have one second?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Sure.

(attorney/client confer)

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: “I’ve made it very clear to everybody on my senior staff that if anyone has—”

MR. IACULLO: Could we have one second?

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Sure.

(attorney/client confer)
MR. IACULLO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So the next day at the press conference the Governor says, “I’ve made it very clear to everybody on my senior staff that if anyone had any knowledge about this, that they needed to come forward and tell me about it. And they’ve all assured me they don’t.”

I mean, that is-- You know that, at that point, that’s not-- That’s either not an accurate statement, or that’s the definition of is is. (laughter)

MR. IACULLO: Assemblyman, I don’t know how Michael can answer what any other member of the staff may have told the Governor during that period of time.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Well, no. Well, here’s what-- No, I’m not asking him that. The Governor said, “They’ve all assured me that they don’t.” But Michael knew that that list of people who we mentioned knew something, and were looking into it. And that’s what I’m saying. He is either saying he and his staff know nothing about this-- And that’s why I’m saying at some point this turned into damage control. And they were trying to start to look at it; or they were investigating it, and he’s saying they don’t know anything the closure, but he wasn’t telling what they knew about -- what they were looking into at that point.

MR. DREWNIAK: I think there’s a lot of description in here about people trying to get answers from people. And the Governor also described in that very lengthy Q and A, when we go to people we ask them point blank, “Did you have any knowledge or involvement?” If they’re saying no, if they’re going to go into their own personal damage control to
save themselves, there’s not a lot that people can do from that -- other than waterboarding, perhaps. I don’t know.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Well, one of the things we could have done is, we could have turned it over to our State Attorney General’s Office.

MR. IACULLO: He’s not going to comment on the legal procedure that could have been taken. I don’t think that’s a fair question for Michael. How can he comment as to a legal course of action? He’s not an attorney, and that would not be a decision that Michael would make.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: So that’s fine, and you can feel that way.

At some point, when we know there’s an abuse of power we all have an obligation at some point -- in particular with the diverse backgrounds that the people in this office bring.

Mr. Drewniak, have you had a chance to read the Gibson Dunn report, obviously, as to your interview?

MR. DREWNIAK: As to my interview; and much of it, but not every single page.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: Are you confident that what’s reflected in that interview as to you -- are they accurate as to the statements that you gave, or are there inaccuracies that you would want to correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I actually was pretty impressed with its reflection of the substance and tone of my interview that I can recollect.

ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: If there was an inaccuracy, I thought it would be-- You should have the opportunity to correct it here.
And I thank you for that.
MR. DREWNIAK: Thank you, sir.
ASSEMBLYMAN GREENWALD: I have no further questions.
MR. DREWNIAK: Thank you, sir.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Majority Leader.
Assemblywoman Schepisi.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Good afternoon.
I know you’ve had a real long day, so I’m going to try to keep this as brief as possible.
MR. DREWNIAK: That’s quite all right; thank you.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: In your capacity of what you do, how often -- is it routinely that you hear rumors or allegations -- political items that have proved to be untrue?
MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I mean, with some frequency. It just comes with territory.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. So it’s fair to say that on a fairly regular basis you’ll hear a story, you’ll hear some sort of allegation that has no basis in fact.
MR. DREWNIAK: Reporters bring-- It’s just amazing some of the things they bring to you. They’re doing their job, and they’re bringing stuff, but a lot of it is tenuous; a lot of it is accurate. And I often have to get to the bottom of it to some degree -- at least feel I have some comfort level in it.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: But do you routinely, as part of your job description as Press Secretary, investigate every rumor,
every allegation, every allegation of a criminal matter? Is that something that you ordinarily do on a day-to-day basis?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, not really, because there are people who are trusted to do that. But also I’m typically working on everything from a day-to-day basis. That is, taking the incoming, chasing the answers, talking to policy heads, talking to Counsel’s Office, talking to the Treasury Department, and any number of officials from all those, to get an answer that I am comfortable presenting.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And based upon the various conversations that you’ve testified to today, from the time you had first learned about the traffic issue until the leaking of the confidential materials from the Transportation Committee to the press on January 8, was there ever a reason for you to believe that this was anything other than a Port Authority issue with a poorly executed traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: I knew it was a botched effort from both a public relations standpoint and an operation on functioning of the Port Authority. That was abundantly clear for some time.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And did you believe that a large portion of this was partisan posturing, based upon what took place during that period of time?

MR. DREWNIAK: I do; but, again, I frame it back the way I did before. I understand the game, and the seriousness, and how they can collide sometimes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Right. And I’m not asking you with the knowledge that you have today, I’m asking you with the knowledge that you had at that time during this period, did you believe that
it was a way of possibly generating negative press as part of either the campaign and thereafter?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Did you at any time during this time believe that there was some sort of conspiracy taking place?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, none whatsoever.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. With respect to-- I know-- I just want to have a couple of clarifications of items that you spoke about earlier.

In your discussions with David Wildstein, did he ever say that Bill Stepien was actively involved in the lane diversions?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Did he ever say that Bridget Kelly was actively involved in the lane diversions?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Did he-- In your conversations, did he state that the Governor was actively aware of the lane diversions -- actively involved-- I’m sorry; actively involved in the lane diversions?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. In your experience, would anyone in senior staff have the ability on their own to close lanes of the George Washington Bridge?

MR. DREWNIAK: No; and frankly, it’s just an absurd thought.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. A lot of questioning has come up with respect to the Governor’s press conference, and parsing the words of the Governor’s press conference. Would it be fair to say, based upon the fact that you’ve testified that on December 5 you had a conversation with the Governor regarding your conversation with David Wildstein; that there were a lot of things in the press at that time that people may or may not have seen-- But is it fair to say when the Governor said that he’s spoken to members of his staff, “and if they had any knowledge, they would have assured me that they don’t,” (sic) that he means knowledge prior to the event, and not knowledge after the event?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, certainly, knowledge of preparation or execution of it. And if anybody had some-- Clearly, it’s implied: If you had any substantive knowledge later that would be of assistance, that was going to be included too. And that’s why I made a point of going and saying, “Okay” -- and I went to Charlie McKenna and just reiterated, “Look, I’ve been dealing with this thing, but I certainly had no operational involvement.”

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And based upon your conversations with Charlie McKenna, Kevin O’Dowd, and Bridget Kelly herself, the information that you received was that this was a traffic study, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And David Wildstein himself confirmed that.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, continually.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. There’s one question that I had that hasn’t been touched upon today, and I’m just going to bring your attention to the Gibson Dunn report. It’s Page 14, section Q.

At your dinner with David Wildstein, Wildstein told you about a letter from Mayor Sokolich in which, according to Wildstein, the Mayor himself threatened to close down the toll entrance lanes from Fort Lee to cause traffic problems because he was not receiving the services that he wanted from the Port Authority. Did you ever get a copy of that letter?

MR. DREWNIAK: I was being solicitous of him just to, kind of, get through at that point. And I said, “Sure, let me take a look at it.” And he did send it to me.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: He did?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. Do you recall when that letter from Mayor Sokolich to David Wildstein was?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think it was in 2010, but I’m not sure specifically.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. So there is a letter from the Mayor to David Wildstein with the Mayor threatening to close down lanes.

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t remember; that might be part of the record somewhere. I thought it was.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. I have no further questions.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Thank you.
Assemblyman Wisniewski: Thank you, Assemblywoman.

Assemblyman Moriarty.

Assemblyman Moriarty: Thank you, Chairman.

Assemblyman Wisniewski: For a second time.

Assemblyman Moriarty: I’ll try to be brief.

Going back to December 4, Mr. Drewniak -- I’m sorry, December 5 -- you provided the Governor, in person, information regarding the George Washington Bridge. Is that correct?

Mr. Drewniak: Yes, sir.

Assemblyman Moriarty: And yet on December 13, the Governor came out and said at a press conference -- and I’ll go back to the statement again, “I’ve made it very clear to everyone on my senior staff that if anyone had any knowledge about this, that they needed to come forward and tell me about it. And they’ve all assured me that they don’t.” How is that an accurate statement since you had come forward and provided information?

Mr. Iacullo: Assemblyman, we went over this, I think, numerous times. I don’t think it’s appropriate to Michael to comment as to whether or not a statement by the Governor is accurate. If you want to ask him questions about information that he has, or if Michael came forward with information, that’s one thing. But to ask Michael to give an opinion as to whether information or a statement by the Governor is accurate, I don’t think is fair, number one: and number two, I think this has been gone over at least two to three times.
ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Well, I think it bears going over, because would you say the Governor is careful with his words?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, to the best that any of us can be, I would say yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Did you help him to prepare that statement?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, because it was spontaneous.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay. So I’m just making the point that Mr. Drewniak came forward with information -- allegations -- I’m not saying that it was true or not -- allegations that were pretty serious; that people in the Governor’s Office or the Governor’s campaign may have been involved, may have had knowledge, and that the Governor himself may have had knowledge; came forward, gave this to the Governor, and the Governor comes out and makes a statement that, “I’ve talked to everybody on my staff and asked them if they know any information about it, and they assured me they don’t.” I don’t know how that statement can be accurate, given the events that occurred on December 5.

MR. DREWNIAK: I think you’re trying really hard to read something-- It’s actually not making sense to me, because -- and I truly don’t mean that in an insulting way.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: No, no, no. I don’t make sense often, so that’s fine. (laughter)

MR. DREWNIAK: I told something that Wildstein suggested. We do know that those individuals who I mentioned, and had been mentioned previously, had been spoken to. And it comes back to, if you’re asking them, “Did you have any involvement,” how does that conflict with
what the Governor said if they say, “No, absolutely not,” or however they answered it? I just think we’re pushing this in a way that— Maybe I’m missing something, but I know don’t what it is.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: No, I— Look, I will concede, since the Governor was speaking off the cuff there, that perhaps he— Maybe it would have been more accurate if he had said, “We’ve asked everybody on our senior staff if they had any direct involvement, and they have all said no.” That isn’t what he said—

MR. DREWNIAK: Versus— I’m sorry. And he said—

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: What he said was, “We have asked all senior staff if anyone had any knowledge about this, that they need to come forward and tell me about it. They’ve all assured me that they don’t.”

MR. DREWNIAK: I’ve got to tell you that— And I understand it’s easy to seize on every word, and it’s our job sometimes to do that.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Sure.

MR. DREWNIAK: But I’ve got to tell you that if you were in the room, as I was — and you can choose to believe me or not -- there was no ambiguity whatsoever in what the Governor was demanding, in a way that I’ve never witnessed before in my years with him. So I think there’s a shading in this that may not be as strong as it should have been, but there’s no question in my mind what the obligation— And everyone in that room knew what their obligation was at a deep, profound, basic level. And if you didn’t get that, then frankly you were stupid or evasive.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Thank you for the clarification.
Was Bill Stepien in the room?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. He apparently was there earlier. I’d seen him in the building.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So you don’t have any direct knowledge whether Bill Stepien was questioned directly, because he was on the campaign staff and not the Governor’s staff?

MR. DREWNIAK: I do not, but I know what I read in the Gibson report.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Thank you.

I want to go back to the texts, and e-mails, and phone calls. You said that you had the ability to text, e-mail, and phone the Governor directly from time-to-time regarding statements that you may need to put out, or information. You testified that you have no texts or e-mails or phone calls -- phone calls, to your knowledge, because it would only be a phone number, you wouldn’t know what the context was -- to your knowledge regarding the George Washington Bridge. Is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: With--?

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: The Governor.

MR. DREWNIAK: The Governor? No, none exist.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: How can you be so sure?

MR. DREWNIAK: My phone was taken and imaged fully. And everything in it was turned over, to the best of my knowledge, by the attorneys involved.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And do you know if there were any-- Do we have everything that relates to the George Washington Bridge and the Governor in your communication? For example, we have an
e-mail where you sent a draft of the comment regarding the resignation of David Wildstein, to which he replied, “Make some changes,” correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: One change, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Is that, as far as you know, the extent of the communication that you had with the Governor on the George Washington Bridge?

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: How about since?

MR. DREWNIAK: I'm sorry, how about--?

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: How about since?

MR. DREWNIAK: No. In fact, the Governor and I-- It’s been a very strange time. The Governor and I do not talk about this -- just like I don’t talk to the Communications staff about this. I've talked to no one. Really, it’s been a very peculiar time because of this. And, you know, there have been stories written about Drewniak, the disappearing Press Secretary, laying low. No, what I did is-- And we decided very affirmatively to do this and everybody agreed -- let’s not be in a position to have to answer that question in any way other than a positive way.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So do we have any texts, e-mails, or phone calls between you and the Governor regarding Mayor Sokolich or Mayor Zimmer?

MR. DREWNIAK: Never.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: None?

MR. DREWNIAK: None.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: And you’ve gone and looked yourself? Is that how you know this?
MR. DREWNIAK: Because when I did deal with-- It’s funny, the lawyers tells you not to use absolutes and I understand why.

MR. IACULLO: Sometimes clients don’t listen.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, and sometimes clients don’t listen. (laughter) But they don’t exist because once this thing started to take off, and once the Legislature got involved, and subpoenas and all that started, there were no communications. But there were none prior because it wasn’t at that level of intensity and scrutiny. And there was no basis for me ever to write about -- to the Governor, for example -- about a Mayor Sokolich. And I mean no offense to Mr. Sokolich. I had no idea-- I had never heard of the guy. Mayor Zimmer -- I know her, but I never had any communications with the Governor about Mayor Zimmer. If anything, this was-- My only communications was with (indiscernible) and the Lieutenant Governor; and, again, in my very strict capacity as answering those early initial questions from MSNBC, for Steve Kornacki’s hit job that weekend.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: So how often would you send the Governor a news release, press release, statement? Would that be normal?

MR. DREWNIAK: I usually don’t have to do it; it’s infrequent. Charlie McKenna asked me. I had already received approval; we were going through this whole difficult thing about collecting Wildstein’s resignation. And I showed-- I said to him and/or Maria -- I can’t remember -- “Look, once this thing is done, we’re going to get questions, obviously. They’re all going to come to us” -- and I even identified which reporters, which news agencies will definitely be -- “so we have to say something.”
And when I went back down to Charlie to talk to him about whether or not the resignation -- whether Mr. Wildstein had actually offered his resignation, I said, “Okay, well then, we’ll execute this plan wherein Wildstein will make his own voluntary phone calls to a couple of newspaper reporters,” at least one of whom is sitting in the room. And then once they came to me I would issue it. And then Charlie said, “Just run that by the boss.”

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: How often would--

MR. DREWNIAK: And that was only a reflection of the -- probably the notoriety that I have been receiving.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: How often would the Governor edit a statement or a news release?

MR. DREWNIAK: Now and again. I write a lot of statements about the passing of major public officials, or controversial issues. And I’ll either bring it to him direct with my recommendation; usually it’s done direct. He was not available to me that day.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Thank you.

Let me go back to back to the Governor’s response when you told him about Mr. Wildstein’s characterization of -- or allegation that he had informed him on September 11 of the closing lanes -- reassignment of the lanes. And I believe you -- I’m paraphrasing here -- said the Governor seemed shocked, and said, “What? At a September 11 event I get this drive-by remark? Am I supposed to understand what that means?”

If you can, did you understand that to mean that, yes, he remembered the remark but it didn’t mean anything to him at the time, or that he didn’t remember the remark at all?
MR. DREWNIAK: That he didn’t remember. He’s like -- he was being rhetorical.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: It’s like, “You mean, somebody comes and tells me something like that, and I’m supposed to know what it is, and--” I can’t characterize it any further than that.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Do you still text, e-mail, or phone the Governor directly?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Have you done so on any issues involving-- I know you said not on the George Washington Bridge; anything about Mayor Sokolich, or Mayor Zimmer, or any of the other issues that have come up around this?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m going to violate the rules again and say, unequivocally, never.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Thank you very much.

MR. DREWNIAK: You’re welcome.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you.

Senator Gill.

SENATOR GILL: Two questions.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am.

SENATOR GILL: Mr. Drewniak, were you aware that Mr. O’Dowd had provided the Governor with a September 12 e-mail given to him by Bridget Kelly before the December 13 press conference? And the e-mail that I refer to is Tab 4. And that e-mail was from Christina Renna.
MR. DREWNIAK: I was only aware of this-- I’m sorry, Tab 4?

SENATOR GILL: Tab 4.

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I only became aware of this in the content of the report.

SENATOR GILL: So when you were in the meeting where you say the Governor was very strong and emotional, you were not aware that the Governor had already been given what’s been marked as Tab 4?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

SENATOR GILL: And you do agree that the Governor said that none of his senior staff had any knowledge of the lane closings?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think I’ve answered that for the record pretty clearly, particularly with Assemblyman Moriarty.

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t really want to do it again, and I don’t mean that disrespectfully.

SENATOR GILL: No, listen. Okay, look--

MR. DREWNIAK: But also--

SENATOR GILL: Let me rephrase it. I just want to make sure that I’m not misunderstanding.

Did the Governor, in his press conference, say that he, “Made it clear to everybody on my senior staff that if anyone had any knowledge about this they needed to come forward and tell me about it. And they all assured me that they didn’t.” Do you remember the Governor saying that? And if you don’t, you don’t.

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not going to disagree with --

SENATOR GILL: Okay.
MR. DREWNIAK: -- what is purported to be a valid transcript. I’m not going to disagree with you.

SENATOR GILL: Okay, because I’m focusing on knowledge here, in the Governor’s statement.

Now, you say-- And I will refer to Tab 91, Page 17; this is the Gibson Dunn report -- and I will give you an opportunity to get it.

MR. IACULLO: Thank you.

SENATOR GILL: And it’s in the first paragraph, almost to the bottom. And it says, “The Governor said that McKenna and O’Dowd would be in their office for the next two hours if anyone had anything they wanted to tell them. At that point, Drewniak was almost certain that Kelly would come forward. Drewniak clarified that it was not because he knew what Kelly knew; just that he suspected that she knew something about the lane realignment.” Can you please explain to me what you suspected that Kelly knew that made you feel that she should come forward in that meeting?

MR. DREWNIAK: I just wanted to be sure, based on the information that I passed on from Wildstein, that she was fully questioned.

SENATOR GILL: And did you go to the Governor and say, “Look, you know, I think Kelly has some information about the lane--”

MR. DREWNIAK: See, again, the Governor had just given very clear instruction -- adamant in a way that-- I mean, you would have to have been there, and I know you’re taking my word on this. But critically and importantly, I’m really relying on two people I know extremely well and trust their honesty and integrity to a very high level -- and that’s Mr. O’Dowd and Mr. McKenna. And when they’re tasked with something after
a meeting like that, and I know there had already been questions raised to these individuals, I’m good with that. I’m just raising-- It’s like a reemphasizing, from my point of view.

SENATOR GILL: And I understand that you respect them; but you work for the Governor to whom you have a loyalty and respect -- probably equal or greater than Mr. O’Dowd and Mr. McKenna, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, I would say there’s some -- particularly with Kevin O’Dowd and the Governor, there’s almost an equality there.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So we do know that you had a high degree of loyalty and regard for the Governor.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And these issues here go straight to what positions the Governor will take at a press conference -- or statements he will make, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, could you say that one more time? I’m sorry.

SENATOR GILL: You knew that the Governor, in two hours, would have a press conference with respect to the issues of the lane closings. And if any of his senior staff had knowledge, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR GILL: And you stated that at that meeting when the Governor says to come forward, “That at that point Drewniak was almost certain that Kelly would come forward.” And you were certain that Kelly would come forward because of what information did you possess that would make you have that position?
MR. DREWNIAK: As I stated, based on the information passed on to me -- by allegations passed on of knowledge of the traffic study -- that I wanted to be sure that those two individuals were adequately questioned.

SENATOR GILL: And did you go to O'Dowd and say, “Question Kelly”?

MR. DREWNIAK: I couldn’t get to Kevin, because Kevin -- according to this report, or the report -- was actually questioning her. And that’s all spelled out in the Gibson Dunn report. Apparently that’s why I couldn’t reach O’Dowd, so I went to Charlie. And he, then-- Or I raised the point with him. They were doing the job; they were. And the Governor, in his instructions, told everybody, “You will go to these two individuals and report what you know.”

SENATOR GILL: And I'm just asking if you went to the Governor and said, “Governor, Kelly knows something; I just want to make sure--”

MR. DREWNIAK: No, and that’s because--

SENATOR GILL: Okay.

MR. DREWNIAK: That's because with my working -- long-time working relationship with Kevin and Charlie, I trust those individuals emphatically and this is what we were told to do and it made perfect sense to me. And I just really can’t add anything else to that.

SENATOR GILL: Because we know you trusted Wildstein, we know you trusted Baroni, and I’m just asking -- and I think you’ve answered it -- did you go directly to the man to whom you had a sense of loyalty and responsibility--
MR. DREWNIAK: I’ve answered that; but I want to add this one point. If there was any implication there that my failure to recognize the loyalty -- or the correctness of my loyalty and friendship with Wildstein and Baroni is somehow being equated to my loyalty and friendship with Mr. O’Dowd and Mr. McKenna, that’s, like, out-of-bounds.

SENATOR GILL: No, it’s not out-of-bounds, because that’s not how it was meant.

MR. DREWNIAK: Okay, well then, I apologize, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: And so let me tell you what my questioning went to.

That your sense of friendship and loyalty dictates a certain path, in terms of actions and reactions -- that was it. Okay?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma’am. Sorry.

SENATOR GILL: And I certainly didn’t mean any umbrage by it.

And the last question: You said that David -- in response to the Assemblywoman’s question -- that David never told you that Bridget was actively involved in the lane closings. Is that correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

SENATOR GILL: And David told you that -- or never told you -- that Stepien was actively involved in the lane closings.

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

SENATOR GILL: And so if Bridget wasn’t actively involved in the lane closing, did David ever tell you what capacity she was involved in the lane closing with -- if at all?
MR. DREWNIAK: That they were aware of his plans for the closing.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So that there was a sense--

MR. DREWNIAK: That’s actually a very important distinction.

SENATOR GILL: There was a sense of knowledge.

MR. DREWNIAK: But that’s why the news of the morning of January 8, I would say, also knocked our socks off.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. So there was a sense of knowledge, but not active participation?

MR. DREWNIAK: According to Wildstein’s many statements to me.

SENATOR GILL: Okay. And then the last question is: Did Mr. Wildstein ever indicate to you -- or state to you that the traffic study or the closure of the lanes were in order to retaliate against the Mayor for threatening to close down the lanes?

MR. DREWNIAK: Never -- never once was it ever--

SENATOR GILL: Thank you very much.

MR. DREWNIAK: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR GILL: You’re welcome.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: I have one question, and I really mean it’s one question. It has to do with curiosity that you’ve piqued this whole day.
Counsel, the answer is going to be speculative, but I’m going to ask you for some leeway because it’s based on his response that he’s made several times here today.

Mr. Drewniak, you said you were colored by the stories because of the information you knew about Mr. Foye and the problems with Mr. Wildstein. And you were colored because of the fact that the two Co-Chairs were the ones who were up-in-front on this particular issue. So the curiosity and the question that I have for you is this: Had you gotten the reports from a Republican colleague, would you have given it a little bit more thought and more seriousness to the question?

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t really think it’s funny because -- if it was a very serious matter, it would have received, hopefully, the same attention.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: But you didn’t give it any attention, and it was a serious matter.

MR. DREWNIAK: It depends on the level of knowledge and information that was given to me.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Fair enough. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Kevin.

SENIOR O'TOOLE: Yes.

Two questions, Chair, through you.

Page 3 of the Gibson Dunn report, Section E, second paragraph. There’s a comment on there that, “Baroni,” -- I’m reading -- “not the Governor, identified and recruited Wildstein to the number two position at the Port Authority.” Is that accurate, to your knowledge?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry; where are we pointing?
SENATOR O’TOOLE: Sure, I’m sorry. It’s Tab 91, Page 3, of the Gibson Dunn report.

MR. IACULLO: Paragraph E?

SENATOR O’TOOLE: In parens, it says, “not the Governor.”

MR. DREWNIAK: Oh, yes.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: And it says, “Drewniak noted that contrary to the news reports, Baroni (not the Governor) identified and recruited Wildstein to be his number two at the Port Authority.” Did you make that comment to the Gibson Dunn lawyers?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Okay. At some point, you said in 2012 Baroni had, in fact, offered or talked about a potential job -- through the Chair -- about you being this global spokesperson or press person at the Port Authority.

MR. DREWNIAK: It was a wider role than just press, yes.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Okay. It dealt with promotions, ads -- it was far more encompassing, I think you testified, than the current job you had.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: And that came from the Deputy Executive Director Baroni.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: At some point in time, I assume, you brought that back to your current employer, Governor Christie.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
SENATOR O’TOOLE: Okay. And I think-- And what was his reaction? And how soon after that offer or conversation?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry; how soon after--?

SENATOR O’TOOLE: How soon after that conversation you had with the Deputy Director Baroni did you have a follow-up conversation--

MR. DREWNIAK: They had mentioned this-- Baroni and Wildstein had mentioned this to me some months after the departure of Jamie Loftus, who previously held the job for, like, the first two years of the Administration. And I thought, “Uh, it’s something I’ll consider,” but it’s not anything I wanted to do at the time. I was happy in my job and wanted to continue it. But as we got closer to the -- we were thinking about a second term; is there anything we want to do? And they were persisting with this. “You should come and do this job, you should come and do this job.”

SENATOR O’TOOLE: I’m sorry, they? Could you define the they?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, they meaning-- My fault. They being Baroni and Wildstein. And at some point -- approximately 18 months ago, I would say -- I went to the Governor, and I said, “Look, I’m considering a change.” And I said, “It could be private sector, but there’s this, and I’m interested in this.” And he said, “Come back to me at the end of the first term, assuming things go well, and we’ll talk about it again.”

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Last question, through the Chair, I don’t remember exactly where I read it; I think it’s in the Gibson Dunn report -- either yours or someone else’s. Did you tell the Governor about
your dinner and, I think it was written somewhere, that he was surprised that you had that personal relationship? Did you say that? I read that somewhere.

MR. DREWNIAK: No, it's in the Gibson report where somebody is saying that he said that. Maybe it was--

SENATOR O'TOOLE: But you didn’t say that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I did not say that.

SENATOR O'TOOLE: Okay.

Thank you, Chair,

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Weinberg, Co-Chair.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We’re almost finished.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Hopefully.

Back on December 5 or December 6, you shared David Wildstein’s potential resignation statement with the Governor.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And the Governor actually tweaked that resignation a little bit, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay. There seemed to have been a feeling that this kind of off-the-wall, crazy, idea man, who thought up this bizarre incident -- all of those sentences I’ve gotten from testimony -- but that we have to be very nice to him and thank him for all the work he’s done for the Port Authority. That seemed to be the thrust of both you and
the Governor working on David Wildstein’s resignation statement, and what the Governor was going to say about the resignation.

MR. DREWNIAK: Actually, it was my idea to do the statement, first, because I knew press would be coming, and you have to say something; second, I wrote the original draft, and friendship may have gotten in the way a little bit. But he, being Wildstein, didn’t find it effusive enough. So I tweaked it a little bit. And as I described earlier, I think to Assemblyman Moriarty -- I’m sorry, I forget who -- I went down to Charlie--There is actually an e-mail in here where Wildstein’s complaining that it’s not enough. So I’m just trying to effectuate the orders or the requests of Mr. McKenna to get him moving. And, you know, he has a deadline to resign. So I didn’t find any trouble in sweetening it slightly myself. What the Governor added was not really a -- it didn’t add any effusiveness to it. He was making it more of his duties to, not just New Jersey, but the region -- being the Port. So I think I did any of the slight sweetening, but--

And I’m working from the -- it’s not even a perception, it was a reality. The guy worked ungodly hours -- didn’t know always what was he doing, certainly -- and I think that also colored how I wrote the thing.

SENATOR WEINBERG: And who set the deadline for this, or why was the deadline set the way it was for the resignation?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not really sure the answer to that.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Okay, thank you.

I don’t have any other questions, but I do want to make two comments.

First of all, in terms of the e-mail that was referred to earlier from Regina Egea to you and, I think, Charlie McKenna -- the e-mail of
October 16 -- where, by the way, I had already spoken before two meetings of the Port Authority -- and Regina Egea says, “We’re sticking to the script, ‘All under review.’”

I must tell you that the Port Authority actually did stick to that script, including Pat Foye. Because I went there in October, November, and December, and every single time the answer I got was, “It’s under review.”

MR. DREWNIAK: That was my recollection.

SENATOR WEINBERG: It’s just a comment, not a question. I wanted to say that they actually stuck to the script that Regina Egea outlined in the e-mail to you.

And my last is also a comment. Unless I missed something, Charlie McKenna’s interview with Gibson Dunn does not mention anything about any meetings with you, or any input that you might have given him, or that he gave to you about looking into this. Just a comment, which you needn’t answer.

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t account for other members.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Thank you very much. Thank you for being here.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Mr. Drewniak, these are the final questions.

Just wanted to go over a couple of things. I wanted to make sure I understood your testimony.

We talked about the December 5 meeting, or encounter, with the Governor in which you relayed, to the Governor, David Wildstein’s allegation that he had talked to the Governor on September 11. And you
had testified that the Governor mentioned something about a drive-by comment and he wasn’t expected to remember that.

But also in that conversation, in the Gibson Dunn interview memoranda, you mention Wildstein’s allegation that Kelly and Stepien knew -- not that they were involved, but they knew. I think was the phrase you used in that memorandum, or that they used about your statement. What was the Governor’s response to that when you told him?

MR. DREWNIAK: This was already -- I was pretty certain -- in the, as I say, the bloodstream, because I had mentioned it previous. I can’t say exactly-- I’m sorry, so the question--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: What was-- You had mentioned two things to the Governor, one, David Wildstein said he told you on 9/11, and he had -- the Governor had his response that he couldn’t be expected to remember that drive-by comment.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And the other thing you told him was that Kelly and Stepien had knowledge. What was his response to that?

MR. DREWNIAK: He had one-- He said one thing to me. He said, “I always wondered if Stepien knew more about this.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So he expressed a question as to whether Stepien knew about this.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

Just going forward-- Oh, you just used the phrase, and you’ve used it at least three or four times today. It was in the bloodstream by that
point in time. And when I think of that, I think of an infection. (laughter) But what does that mean -- it was in the bloodstream? I mean, I don’t-- I mean, a colloquial -- we could all come up with our own interpretation, but what did you mean by that?

MR. DREWNIAK: I meant I’d alerted people to it. And I can’t say what other awareness they may have had, but I had the sense there was awareness.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And that’s how you would define your use of the term bloodstream.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Because I just made a couple of notes where you used that, and it just seemed somewhat of an amorphous answer.

MR. DREWNIAK: I don’t know why I use it, but I-- Meaning it’s of knowledge, or it’s something that’s being tossed about, or--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Because when I had asked you earlier about -- around October 1 or October 2, after the Wall Street Journal article had appeared in print, you had a conversation with Charlie McKenna.

MR. DREWNIAK: Some time around there, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And I remember in your response to that question you had also used the same phrase -- that it was in the bloodstream.

MR. DREWNIAK: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So from October forward you would have said that it was in the bloodstream?
MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not sure when it was, whether it was—
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Would you agree it was shortly after the *Wall Street Journal* article?

MR. DREWNIAK: I think that what I had said earlier is that it happened sometime between late October and before I went on vacation. I think that’s what I said.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And you went on vacation November—

MR. DREWNIAK: November 16.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So sometime between late October and November 16, it was in the bloodstream.

MR. DREWNIAK: It was at a point where Wildstein, clearly feeling the pressure, first mentioned the – Stepien and Bridget Kelly.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Say that again; I’m sorry.

MR. DREWNIAK: When the topic is being raised, and really pressed by you folks and the media, at some point that’s when Wildstein said, “You know, and other people knew about this; I wouldn’t have done this on my own without permission, and they were aware.” I just can’t pinpoint when that was.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Understood. But your testimony is sometime between late October and when you departed for vacation—

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: --that it was in the bloodstream.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And that your definition of what that was, was this notion that David Wildstein had orchestrated the traffic study, and that Bridget Kelly and Stepien knew something about it.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay.

Just a couple of other questions. Are you familiar with the organization table of the Governor’s Office generally, and who reports to who?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m sorry, the what?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Organizational table -- who reports to who?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Who did Bridget Kelly report to?

MR. DREWNIAK: She reported to O’Dowd.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Last week we heard testimony from Christine Renna, who said that Bridget Kelly would take orders from above. Would that be O’Dowd?

MR. DREWNIAK: I’m not going to be able to comment on-- I just don’t how IGA works.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Fine, that’s fine.

And then the final question. You’d mentioned that Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice, was your mentor -- or is your mentor.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Is he currently your mentor?
MR. DREWNIAK: He’s a dear friend.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Dear friend.

My question for you is, is that we all have mentors, and we go to -- especially when there are difficult situations. Did you ever speak to the Chief Justice about this?

MR. DREWNIAK: Never. I wouldn’t do that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Did you ever speak to him about-- Before this issue became the issue that you now acknowledge it has become, when you first thought it was this insignificant, ridiculous traffic issue, did you ever talk to him at that point in time about it?

MR. DREWNIAK: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. What type of issues would you go to him about, then?

MR. DREWNIAK: Well, he’s-- We-- Very infrequently, but occasionally we’ll get together for dinner. I don’t bother him; he is the Chief Justice.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: And then one final question. Your understanding -- through your testimony, as I understand it -- was that David Wildstein took ownership of the traffic study, correct?

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: He claimed it was his idea.

MR. DREWNIAK: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: David Wildstein also said to you that he had obtained approval?
MR. DREWNIAK: No, he said something to the effect, “I would never do this without running up the--” or “getting approval,” or “getting somebody else to--” or “letting people know about it.”

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Running it up the flag--

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t remember exactly how he said it, but it was something like that.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Some type of words that would have indicated that he sought some type of okay on it.

MR. DREWNIAK: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. Do you know who he sought okay from?

MR. DREWNIAK: I have no idea, nor do I understand the veracity of that, or if this was a, as they say, CYA. I don’t know.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Do you think that he wasn’t telling the truth when he said he sought approval?

MR. IACULLO: You’re asking him his opinion, or to speculate?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Well, he just offered-- His testimony was that he wasn’t sure whether it was true or a CYA.

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: I’m trying to understand why he would say that, Counsel.

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t know. This is-- I say that, really, looking back on it all. I think you’ll find two spots in the Gibson report where, looking back, I don’t-- And yes, it is pure speculation, because we know the truth of it now.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So you’re not sure whether to believe him?

MR. DREWNIAK: I cannot say.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: No, no, I'm just saying, whether or not you believe him, you’re not certain.

MR. DREWNIAK: I can’t say with certainty.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay. So could you-- Would that also apply to whether you believe him as to his ownership of the traffic study?

MR. DREWNIAK: No, I believe that because of the consistency with which he acknowledged it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: But he also-- So you’re choosing that -- you’re saying that you believe him on the ownership of the traffic study, but not on his statement that he sought approval.

MR. DREWNIAK: I understand you’re trying to show that I’m being inconsistent, but I think my consistency on the ownership was also verified by, one, Baroni before your Committee. So that combination of things makes me come to believe that--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That he told you the truth on one, but not the other.

MR. DREWNIAK: I just can’t-- I’m not-- I’m saying I cannot be sure. I'm not trying to protect anyone here or anything; I just can’t be certain of the veracity of the-- And it goes to-- Sorry.

MR. IACULLO: Go ahead.

MR. DREWNIAK: --the whole mystery of this thing, and why anybody would do it.
ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Thank you for your time today, and spending so much time with us. As we tell all of the witnesses that we have subpoenaed, we do reserve the right to call you back should there be further questions -- although I think we've covered it very well.

Counsel, thank you. Ladies and gentlemen.

MR. IACULLO: Thank you, Chair.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Motion, motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: We have to do a motion.

Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Yes, Chairman.

I’d like to make a motion that the Exhibits numbered 1 through 93, provided to each of the members of the Committee today, and any other documents submitted by Mr. Drewniak on the investigation in response to the Committee’s January 27, 2014 subpoena, be made part of the official public record and attached to the official transcript of today’s meeting.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Is there a second?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Mr. Chairman, I just have one quick procedural question.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Assemblywoman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: And this is of our Counsel, and just from, once again, a process perspective.

Many of the exhibits that were included were items that were provided by other witnesses that were either not pertinent or that this witness was not copied on. And I just wanted to make sure, once again, that in releasing those items that we are not somehow breeching the rules of
procedure; that we’re not somehow implicating the investigation through the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

MR. SCHAR (Special Counsel): In answer to the question, I think the safest probably would be to release the documents that Mr. Drewniak is on.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: I’m sorry, I missed the last part.

MR. SCHAR: That Mr. Drewniak is on.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: So only the documents that Mr. Drewniak is actually CC’d on.

MR. SCHAR: Or sent, or to, or from, yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So those are the-- The 90 documents are from his submission.

MR. SCHAR: We have to go back and look.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So the documents, 1 through 90, are from Mr. Drewniak’s submission.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Are we certain about that? Because most of the documents, he is not copied on.

MR. IACULLO: Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: So the amended motion is the documents submitted by Mr. Drewniak, or the documents that he was questioned on here in the meeting.

MR. IACULLO: Mr. Chairman, just so we’re clear. There are documents in this binder that obviously were not submitted just by Mr. Drewniak.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: That’s the question that was raised here. So there’s a submission by Mr. Drewniak.
MR. IACULLO: And there are other documents in here, apart from those, that were--

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Only the documents that he was asked questions about will be part of the transcript.

MR. IACULLO: Okay, thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Roll call.

MR. MOLIMOCK: On the motion, Assemblywoman Schepisi.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: It’s the motion as amended, correct?

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SCHEPISI: Okay. In that case, yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Senator O’Toole.

SENATOR O’TOOLE: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblywoman Handlin.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANDLIN: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Assemblyman Carroll. (no response)

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle left a yes vote.

Assemblyman Moriarty.

ASSEMBLYMAN MORIARTY: Yes.

Mr. MOLIMOCK: Majority Leader Greenwald left a yes vote.

Senator Greenstein. (no response)

Senator Gill. (no response)

Assemblywoman Caride.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARIDE: Yes.

MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Wisniewski.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Yes.
MR. MOLIMOCK: Co-Chair Weinberg.

SENATOR WEINBERG: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN WISNIEWSKI: Okay, the documents are released as the motions specifies.

We are adjourned.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)