1 2 CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE BOARD OF ETHICS 3 -----X IN RE: : 4 ETHICS COMPLAINT OF ROBERT COX : 5 ----X 6 515 North Avenue New Rochelle, NY 10801 7 April 12, 2022 4:40 p.m. 8 9 Examination of CHARLES STROME and KATHLEEN GILL, in the above-captioned matter, held at the 10 above time and place, before Howard Breshin, a Notary Public of the State of New York. 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Page 2 1 2 APPEARANCES: 3 WILSON, ELSER, MOSKOWITZ, EDELMAN & DICKER, LLP 4 Attorneys for the ETHICS COMMITTEE 1133 Westchester Avenue 5 White Plains, New York 10604 BY: PETER A. MEISELS, ESQ. 914 391-3690 6 7 ALSO PRESENT: 8 CHARLES PHIPPS, Ethics Committee Member 9 DAVID BLUMENTHAL, Ethics Committee Member NEW ROCHELLE LAW DEPARTMENT 10 BY: DAWN WARREN, ESQ. 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Page 3 1 STROME 2 CHARLES S T R O M E, a witness called 3 on behalf of the City of New Rochelle, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified 4 5 as follows: THE COURT REPORTER: Can I have 6 7 your name and address for the record. 8 THE WITNESS: Charles Strome, 515 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York, 9 10 10801. 11 EXAMINATION BY 12 MR. MEISELS: 13 Q. Mr. Strome, we probably made a 14 tactical mistake in having you be our first 15 witness because after we heard from other people 16 we have got a few questions, not a lot. To a 17 large extent they really relate to some of the specifics that we didn't know to ask and also to 18 19 get a sense of the timeline. 20 Α. Okay. 21 So this may appear to you to be Ο. 22 somewhat disjointed, and the reason for that is 23 we are not going to repeat what you already told 24 us and it is just a question of filling in some 25 blanks.

	Page 4
1	STROME
2	A. Okay.
3	Q. In reference to what was actually the
4	second complaint concerning an alleged effort to
5	try to have you rescind the appointment of
6	Kathleen Gill as the deputy city manager, I have
7	a couple of questions.
8	At any time did the mayor say to
9	you in words or substance that I don't want to
10	stick the new city manager with her?
11	A. So the only change that would be, I
12	don't think he said her, he just said I don't
13	want to stick I don't know if stick was the
14	word or hinder the new manager with a management
15	team already in place when we hire the new
16	manager.
17	My assumption, of course,
18	obviously that dealt with the deputy city manager
19	position which, you know, a little surprising to
20	me because I appointed a human resources
21	commissioner and a development commissioner and a
22	finance commissioner all within the last three or
23	four months and commissioner positions are
24	actually higher on the management scale than the
25	deputy city manager is so we sometimes have

	Page 5
1	STROME
2	deputy city managers, we sometimes don't and ${\tt I}$
3	was a little taken aback only because chief of
4	staff and deputy city manager in my view, and if
5	you read my memo are essentially the same thing
6	anyway. I was just kind of formalizing what was
7	already in existence. So I won't say those exact
8	words but that was the substance of what I got,
9	yes.
10	Q. Were you ever informed by any
11	councilperson that the mayor spoke to Martha
12	Lopez-Hanratty and Yadira Ramos-Herbert in a
13	conference call concerning your appointment of a
14	deputy city manager and suggested that they were
15	also opposed to it, as he was, that they join him
16	in visiting you to express their concerns?
17	A. I was told that the mayor made several
18	calls about this subject. The four people he
19	called were Councilmember Fried, Councilmember
20	Lopez, Councilmember Kaye, Councilmember Ramos
21	Herbert to see if there were four people, because
22	we have a seven person council who had the same
23	concerns as him and that if there were, he was
24	going to come talk to me about those concerns.
25	So I was told that but that was third-hand

Page 6 1 STROME 2 information, somebody telling me something 3 somebody else told them, so I was told that and in fact, I was also told that he was, you know, 4 5 or maybe I just deduced that he was gathering three votes to terminate my employment which is 6 7 the reason I went to see him the next morning and 8 that's when he said no, I was just concerned 9 about the timing of the deputy city manager 10 appointment. 11 Was there any reason that he needed Ο. 12 three other council people before he could 13 express that opinion to you, that he was 14 concerned about the timing of it? That has never been the history. If 15 Α. 16 he or any member of the council had a concern, 17 they were always free to talk to me individually. 18 No one has ever come to me as a group, actually, 19 so I was a little miffed there was an attempt to 20 get three votes because we never had that kind of 21 dynamic. 22 If it is a concern about a 23 personnel appointment or some other matter that 24 is going on, council people and several mayors, 25 two of them, anyway, have never felt the need to

Page 7 1 STROME That's what I was told was get votes to come in. 2 going on so, you know, if he was getting votes to 3 come talk to me that would have been a very 4 unusual circumstance. That was never required 5 before nor does it really matter, honestly. 6 7 I think I said this the last time, 8 he can have seven votes, it doesn't matter. My 9 belief is that on matters of personnel it is 10 totally up to the city manager and the council 11 has no real input. I can inform them. I can ask 12 for input but they really have no say. 13 I think the charter is relatively clear all these appointments are at the 14 15 discretion of the city manager, so in this 16 instance, if somebody came and said they had 17 seven votes I would have said I don't really care, this is my appointment and I am making it. 18 19 So that aspect of the events surprised me. 20 There was never -- I don't 21 remember ever in my time as city manager where 22 anybody has come to me saying I have four votes 23 to express a concern about something. 24 Q. Did you ever learn from any 25 councilperson that the mayor advised Martha Lopez

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1	STROME
2	and Yadira Herbert that both councilpersons Sara
3	Kaye and Liz Fried agreed with his position on
4	the appointment of a deputy city manager?
5	A. I heard a lot of things but I never
6	heard that dynamic. I heard that he had two
7	people and went to one of the other ones. I
8	don't think he ever, from what I was told, that
9	he never had Liz Fried. I was told that he had
10	he talked to Martha and said I have Yadira and
11	Sara and you would be the fourth, and I was then
12	told again third-hand that she said no, but I
13	think from what I gather, from what I heard again
14	third-hand, that Martha and Liz didn't entertain
15	the discussion at all. Sara and Yadira might
16	have entertained it but in the end, whether they
17	decided to agree or not agree, apparently because
18	there wasn't four, he was never going to come see
19	me but I did go to see him because I was a little
20	annoyed the next morning when I heard about all
21	this.
22	Q. In reference to the allegations that
23	he sought an appointment for himself to be
24	commissioner, okay, we would like to do two
25	things. One, get a sense of the timeline and

Page 9 1 STROME 2 two, some facts came to our attention during the 3 course of this investigation that we just didn't ask you about it. We want to clear this up. 4 5 Am I correct, and please let me 6 know if I am not, that the practical timeline 7 begins when you had a conversation with him 8 saying that you are having a hard time finding a 9 suitable applicant for the commissioner of 10 economic development and said to him why don't 11 you apply; is that sort of the beginning of it? 12 Α. That's correct. 13 Q. And am I correct that it ends with a 14 memo that you wrote, the memo you wrote to the 15 mayor? 16 Correct. Α. 17 Q. Approximately between the time that 18 you had that initial conversation and the time 19 that you delivered that memo to him, how much 20 time transpired? 21 I would say it was-- my memory is not Α. 22 like what it used to be. I would say like a year, maybe a little more than a year. 23 24 Q. Okay. 25 I can go through it if you want me to Α.

1	STROME
2	go through the time. I can go through what
3	happened.
4	Q. That would be great.
5	A. Okay. So my recollection is that it
6	started with the comment, offhanded or not it
7	came from me, maybe you should apply because I
8	was quite frustrated that we hadn't had a good
9	recruitment. I figured it was a good job.
10	He then came back to me and said
11	I was a little surprised but he came back and
12	said yes, this might be something I might be
13	interested in so I said okay, we'll give it some
14	thought.
15	There was some discussion among
16	myself and others on the staff, high level people
17	and I was struggling with it from shortly after
18	the beginning because it is very unusual and I
19	was kind of kicking myself for starting this
20	process but I accept responsibility for that.
21	At one point I was very much
22	leaning in not going in this direction and
23	cutting it off, and Kathleen Gill and I had lunch
24	with the mayor where I expressed my concerns
25	about the optics of it and how I didn't think it

1	STROME
2	was really something that we could proceed with,
3	and his response was the optics aren't really
4	important. If you think I am the best person for
5	the job you should consider hiring me.
6	The next meeting was a meeting
7	with Kathleen and myself and the mayor where
8	Kathleen said that she was uncomfortable being
9	involved in these discussions. She thought there
10	might be some charter implications and she
11	withdrew and wasn't involved anymore after that.
12	Shortly after that, I can't
13	remember how long, I went to the mayor and said I
14	am not comfortable doing this, I do have charter
15	concerns and some ethics concerns but I am not
16	comfortable doing it.
17	A few days later, I believe it
18	was, he came back to my office and asked me to
19	reconsider. Reluctantly I said yes saying that
20	perhaps if the second round of recruitment
21	provided no appropriate candidates it could be a
22	consideration. I suggested he take part in the
23	application process by submitting a resume. He
24	said he did not want to do that, and then there
25	was really no formal conversation after that but

1	STROME
2	he would bring it up, how is your search going?
3	How many candidates are there? Why was it taking
4	so long? And then we went through the process.
5	By the way, the person who was
6	appointed, Adam, our internal person was not a
7	participant in the first round. He applied the
8	second time. Then towards the end of that
9	process when the recruitment firm, we engaged a
10	recruitment firm to help us engage in the second
11	recruitment. They had narrowed down the resumes
12	and he asked for a copy of the resumes which I
13	gave to him because this is the conflict that I
14	had. He is the mayor, and not that he has any
15	say, but I always had shown the mayor a few other
16	times that we hired development commissioners,
17	mayors happen to be interested in development,
18	who the finalists were just for their information
19	and I did the same with the police commissioners
20	and some other high level commissioners.
21	He said he tapped the resumes
22	and he said it is obvious I am the best candidate
23	and that's when I decided I had to write the memo
24	to cut this off.
25	I also requested and received

1	STROME
2	shortly after that an ethics opinion from my
3	professional organization which you folks had
4	seen which said no.
5	So it was a difficult time because
6	I knew he was I want to try to be clear here.
7	There was no outward pressure by him put on me
8	although. I felt his interest was pressure
9	enough after I had already said no and that made
10	me uncomfortable but it wasn't because he was,
11	you know, demanding that he get the job or
12	demanding that I make a decision, it is just the
13	nature of the events and him remaining interested
14	in it and really being interested in it.
15	I think I don't know what he
16	would tell you but I think he really wanted the
17	position so I had a lot of uncomfortable moments
18	during that time, and a memo which maybe I should
19	not have written in the end was my way of really
20	just ending it and that's why I wrote the memo,
21	got the opinions that I did, both the charter
22	opinions and the ethics opinion.
23	I had never had a conversation
24	with him about that memo or those opinions. He
25	accepted the results of them. There was never

STROME any problem with that after I gave him the memo. The next thing was, the second memo that I sent about the deputy manager and Adam being the commissioner, that's when all this other hoopla began, so that's my recollection of the timeline on the development of the commissioner of development position. Q. Now, you had mentioned that there was a point in time when you and the corporation council had lunch with the mayor. There was a time that you and corporation council and the mayor had lunch together to discuss this. Α. Correct. And at that time there was a Q. discussion as to whether or not this would be a good idea, am I correct? Α. The purpose of the lunch, from my perspective and I believe Kathleen's prospective, was sort of indicate to him that it really wasn't a good idea to pursue this any further. Q. And I know that you ultimately got an opinion from outside counsel. Did the corporation council offer an opinion as to what

25 she thought about the legality of that?

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1	STROME
2	A. She said she had some concerns, and as
3	a result I asked her to contact the outside
4	attorney. I felt it would be better to get an
5	opinion from an outside attorney on a matter of
6	this because she works here and works closely
7	with myself and the mayor. I didn't think it
8	would be appropriate or fair to put her in a
9	position to have an opinion on that so we asked
10	for outside counsel for an opinion.
11	Q. Now, did there ever come a time that
12	the mayor initiated a meeting with you and
13	advised you that he thought that the position
14	that you were taking was standing in the way of
15	his career?
16	A. When he asked me to reconsider he did
17	say this was a pivotal moment in his career but I
18	would <mark>n't say it is fair for me to say that he</mark>
19	said I was hindering his career, but he made it
20	clear to me that this is a direction that he
21	wanted to go and that he would like the position,
22	so I guess I could have assumed that I was
23	hindering his career but I wouldn't put it in
24	those terms. He just let me know that he really
25	wanted the position and so you would have to ask

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1	STROME
2	him if I was hindering his career.
3	Q. All right. Did he ever say to you in
4	words or substance, this is my career, I need an
5	answer by the end of the year?
6	A. He never gave me a deadline on when he
7	needed an answer. Although he might have
8	indicated because of the fact that he is up for
9	election next year that that would be the
10	timeline. I don't think he ever demanded
11	anything.
12	In the end I don't recall him ever
13	saying I need an answer from you.
13 14	saying I need an answer from you. Q. Okay.
14	Q. Okay.
14 15	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that
14 15 16	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that he was also going to be applying for another
14 15 16 17	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that he was also going to be applying for another position outside of the city which I encouraged
14 15 16 17 18	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that he was also going to be applying for another position outside of the city which I encouraged him to do and he told me that he was a finalist
14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that he was also going to be applying for another position outside of the city which I encouraged him to do and he told me that he was a finalist and then came to me I am withdrawing myself from
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that he was also going to be applying for another position outside of the city which I encouraged him to do and he told me that he was a finalist and then came to me I am withdrawing myself from that position because I really want to be the
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that he was also going to be applying for another position outside of the city which I encouraged him to do and he told me that he was a finalist and then came to me I am withdrawing myself from that position because I really want to be the development commissioner. This is where his
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. Okay. A. I will say this. He did tell me that he was also going to be applying for another position outside of the city which I encouraged him to do and he told me that he was a finalist and then came to me I am withdrawing myself from that position because I really want to be the development commissioner. This is where his heart is but there was no demand behind that. It

1	STROME
2	corporation council and yourself to discuss his
3	desire to be appointed to the position of
4	commissioner.
5	A. So after the lunch and after the
6	meeting that I told him no, there was only one
7	other formal meeting which is when he came and
8	asked me to reconsider, and after the lunch there
9	were no meetings with the corporation council on
10	this particular subject.
11	The discussions, though, happened
12	informally. He would mention it to me, "Where
13	are you with the recruitment?" He asked me for
14	my advice on his seeking this other position. He
15	came to me to tell me that he was withdrawing
16	from that application process and he would ask me
17	for updates on the development commissioner job,
18	what was taking so long for the recruitment firm?
19	It wasn't a malicious question. It was
20	summertime. People don't apply for jobs in the
21	summer so it was really going to be a fall
22	recruitment so there really were no formal
23	meetings scheduled to discuss this but it kept
24	coming up and I meet with the mayor once a week
25	so it would come up. He would occasionally ask

Page 18 1 STROME 2 me how it was going in those weekly meetings, 3 among other things. You referred to formal meetings and 4 Ο. 5 informal meetings. What is the difference between them? 6 7 Α. So lunch was probably the only 8 scheduled formal meeting on this subject because 9 we scheduled a meeting to specifically talk about 10 this subject. Every other time was basically I 11 would go into his office or he would come into my 12 office and just bring it up. It wasn't a 13 scheduled meeting. It never appeared on my 14 calendar as a meeting to discuss a position of 15 development commissioner, so the lunch, however, 16 did, so I call that a formal meeting when you set 17 something up. I just want to understand. So a 18 Q. 19 formal meeting would be one that was preplanned 20 and scheduled? 21 Α. Correct. 22 Q. While informal would be --23 Came up in the context of another Α. 24 meeting or just sidebar, whatever you want to 25 call it.

1	STROME
2	Q. Now, you had mentioned that there was
3	a meeting from which Corp Counsel excused
4	herself, is that right?
5	A. She said she was uncomfortable being
6	involved in a further conversation about this. I
7	believe she mentioned she had some charter
8	concerns and she said she didn't want to be
9	involved in the discussion anymore and that was
10	shortly after the lunch. That is my recollection
11	of the timeline.
12	Q. Okay. Did the mayor suggest to her
13	that if she was feeling uncomfortable that maybe
14	she should step out?
15	A. No, because she just stepped out.
16	Q. Okay.
17	A. I don't think you have to ask him.
18	I don't think he understood her discomfort but it
19	didn't matter, she wasn't comfortable and she had
20	some concerns so, you know, in the end it was
21	going to be my decision anyway, so
22	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Peter, may I cut
23	in?
24	MR. MEISELS: Sure.
25	MR. BLUMENTHAL: When Kathleen

STROME

1	STROME
2	said that she has charter concerns, how
3	frequently did she offer her, I will
4	say, her legal opinion? I don't want
5	to say summarily, I don't mean it in
6	that context but it was ignored. I
7	mean I think you said in the prior
8	hearing or whenever, part of the
9	investigation, you said the mayor sort
10	of didn't take it and said I don't
11	think that is an issue.
12	THE WITNESS: I am not sure it was
13	her opinion. I cited specific language
14	in the charter which I read, so he
15	dismissed my concern which was there is
16	a section of the charter that says no
17	member of the city council, and as you
18	all know a mayor is a member of the
19	c <mark>ity</mark> council, shall be appointed to the
20	city manager during their term of
21	office, and I said I would deduce from
22	that that they wouldn't be appointed to
22 23	that that they wouldn't be appointed to any commissioner type position because

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1	STROME
2	official to a management position.
3	That's the reason there is a city
4	manager in the first place.
5	You know, you have to ask him but
6	his immediate reaction to that was he
7	did not agree, and when Kathleen had
8	mentioned I didn't have real
9	significant conversations with Kathleen
10	on her charter concerns, she said she
11	had them, I had them, mentioned it to
12	him.
13	He disagreed with my position on
14	that and I said so I am going to get a
15	legal opinion on that to see what it
16	means. So that's when I asked Mr.
17	Toomey I asked Kathleen to ask Mr.
18	Toomey for the opinion on the charter.
19	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Also, go back
20	about seven or eight minutes ago. You
21	said you didn't feel pressure but you
22	did feel pressure.
23	THE WITNESS: So it is hard for me
24	to explain this, but when one of your
25	employers, he's one of my employers, is

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1	STROME
2	applying for a job or suggesting he
3	would like a job and I have already
4	said no and he asked me to reconsider,
5	because of the nature of that
6	relationship I believe there was
7	inherent pressure.
8	So he wasn't coming into my office
9	every day saying is there a decision,
10	am I going to be it? The simple fact
11	that he was still interested in it at
12	least to me made me feel uncomfortable
13	and pressured because I didn't really
14	want to be in a position of having to
15	turn him down for this because of the
16	relationship I have with him and
17	because of the working relationship I
18	have with him, so I don't know how you
19	characterize it but I believed the fact
20	that it proceeded and continued after I
21	originally said no, I felt tremendous
22	pressure in that he was not happy with
23	my decision that he wasn't the person
24	and that he wanted to keep it going.
25	I never felt that I was going to

Page 23 1 STROME 2 be terminated if I didn't appoint him. 3 I never felt he was going to make my 4 life miserable if I didn't appoint him, 5 I just felt it was uncomfortable and I 6 felt pressure that he really wanted 7 this position and I really didn't think 8 there was a way to do it and I probably 9 expressed that to quite a few people. 10 I probably expressed it to the 11 council people who I spoke with and I 12 had told the mayor in the beginning I 13 was going to talk to a few members of 14 the council and I spoke to 15 Councilmember Tarantino and 16 Councilmember Lopez. Counsellable 17 Tarantino then spoke to Councilmember 18 Hyden. 19 I had lunch with Councilmember 20 Tarantino specifically about this, told 21 him how uncomfortable it was making me 22 feel and I am just not sure if that 23 lunch was before or after the original 24 no. It was probably before because I 25 was talking to those folks before I

STROME

1 2 told him the ultimate decision, the 3 first decision, but I saw Councilmember Hyden a couple of times in his store 4 5 because I was buying some things for Christmas and he mentioned it to me and 6 7 I expressed to them how uncomfortable I 8 was and I felt some pressure that he 9 really wanted this job and I was not 10 comfortable giving it to him and that 11 made me very uneasy. 12 So I want to be clear. 13 MR. BLUMENTHAL: It was just the 14 relationship that caused this? 15 THE WITNESS: I don't know whether 16 the mayor could be assuming I was 17 pressured but I do want to be clear. 18 There was no overt, you know, you must 19 tell me, you must do this, you must 20 hire me. That was never a part of the 21 equation, but I do think coming back to 22 me after I had said no and saying 23 please reconsider through the second 24 process, not participating in the 25 second process, there was inherent

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Page 25 1 STROME 2 pressure by those actions. 3 If it was meant or not I don't know. I am not a mind reader, but I 4 5 did feel it. 6 MR. BLUMENTHAL: You can plow 7 ahead. 8 MR. MEISELS: Okay. 9 Ο. As we understand it you did conduct a 10 search to fill the position of commissioner of 11 economic development? 12 Α. We hired a recruiting firm to do it 13 for us. 14 And based upon their efforts you Ο. 15 received resumes? 16 Α. That is correct. 17 And as I understand it the mayor asked Q. to review those resumes? 18 19 Yes, in fairness as did Councilmember Α. 20 Tarantino. I provided them to both of them and I 21 would have provided them to any councilmember who 22 would have asked with the caveat that it is for 23 information only. 24 Q. And based upon his review of them did 25 he express the opinion that he was more qualified

Page 26 1 STROME 2 than any of the applicants? 3 He did, not any of the applicants. Α. Ι think I provided him with the finalists. 4 There 5 were a number of applicants. I don't think I gave him all 70, but whatever the watered down 6 7 I can't remember if I gave them all list was. 8 but it doesn't matter. The finalists were obviously included in the resumes I gave him. 9 10 I mean he sort of tapped the 11 resumes, come on, it is obvious I am the best 12 candidate. 13 Q. Now, in terms of the timeline of this, 14 did that occur-- that occurred before you wrote 15 your memo? 16 Α. Right before. 17 Okay. So would it be fair to say that Q. you wrote your memo probably about five or six 18 19 weeks ago? 20 To be fair, that conversation happened Α. 21 a couple of weeks before that, prior to the 22 interviews that we conducted. 23 So that would mean that that would 0. 24 have occurred probably sometime in February of 2022? 25

	Page 27
1	STROME
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And that would, am I correct that
4	would be a little more than a year before you had
5	your initial conversation with him?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Okay. Now, based upon we understand
8	Councilman Hyden was one of the councilpeople you
9	consulted?
10	A. No, he consulted me. My intent was to
11	consult with Councilmember Tarantino, who is the
12	Republican, and Councilmember Lopez who was a
13	Democrat to just get their feelings which I did,
14	and Councilmember Tarantino I think passed it
15	along to Councilmember Hyden so I didn't
16	proactively speak to him, he brought it up to me.
17	Q. Now, as I understand it he has a
18	gallery?
19	A. He does.
20	Q. And you are one of his customers?
21	A. I used him several times.
22	Q. Drawing your attention to December of
23	2020, okay, did you
24	A. '21, I think.
25	Q. '21. I apologize. Let me rephrase

Page 28 1 STROME 2 that, withdraw and rephrase the question. 3 Did there come a time that you 4 discussed this issue with him in his gallery? 5 Α. Yes. And when was that? 6 Ο. 7 I think it was twice, December when I Α. 8 ordered the Christmas gift I was getting for 9 somebody and then in January because he had to 10 touch it up, so twice. 11 That would be --Q. Okay. 12 Α. '21 and then January of '22, I think, 13 were the times. 14 Okay. And who brought the subject up? Ο. 15 It is probably mutual. He might have Α. 16 asked me what was going on and I don't remember. 17 I will tell you that on some occasions I took the initiative to unburden myself with all this 18 19 discomfort I was self-inflicting upon myself. 20 Q. Did you tell him that you repeatedly 21 told the mayor that you couldn't do this and 22 nevertheless the mayor continued his efforts? 23 I would say everything in that is Α. 24 accurate except for the word repeatedly. I told 25 the mayor once that I couldn't do it and he

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Page 29 1 STROME 2 continued after I told him no. 3 And did you express to Councilman Q. Hyden how you felt about it? 4 5 Α. Yes. What did you tell him? 6 Ο. 7 Α. Basically what I told you a couple of 8 minutes ago, that I was feeling pressure because 9 of the circumstances around myself, his position, 10 the mayor. Again, I don't want to cast 11 dispersions that there was direct pressure but 12 there was certainly indirect pressure. 13 Q. In terms of this pressure, of course 14 nobody knows how somebody else feels or what they 15 intend, but so the question is about how you 16 felt. 17 Α. Yes. Which you described. Did you ever --18 Q. 19 I can perhaps put it in a -- I believe Α. 20 I have been clear on this, that a continued 21 conversation after I originally said no was 22 unfair to me and resulted in everything that I 23 felt after that. 24 I think that the conversation 25 should have been over, in my opinion, after I

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Page 30 1 STROME 2 said no, and the fact that it continued at his 3 request bothered me and made me feel pressure. That's the best way I can describe it. 4 5 Did you ever learn that Councilman Q. 6 Hyden actually confronted the mayor on January 7 21st of this year? 8 Α. Yes, he told me he was going to and then he told me he did. 9 10 Okay. How did you feel about that? Q. 11 I felt pretty good. I felt the more Α. 12 people that told him it wasn't a good idea the 13 better for me. Okay. Fair enough. Now, in reference 14 Ο. 15 to the conversations you already described that 16 you had with Councilman Hyden, am I correct you 17 had similar conversations with Councilman Tarantino? 18 19 The first one was more formal and then Α. 20 after that just occasionally, yes, I had lunch 21 with him to really gauge his reaction if I would consider it and then a few more after that but 22 23 they were informal. 24 Meaning they weren't scheduled? Q. 25 I didn't -- you know, we Α. Correct.

Page 31 1 STROME talk on other issues and he would ask me what is 2 3 going on with this. And did you share with him how you 4 Ο. 5 felt about it? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Did you share with him internally how Q. 8 you felt in terms of the pressure you were 9 feeling? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Ο. Okay. And on one occasion you did 12 that over lunch? 13 Α. Well, the lunch was to -- was prior to 14 my initially telling the mayor no, and as I said 15 I was going to just broach the subject. I told 16 the mayor I was going to do this, broach the 17 subject with some elected officials to get their reactions so I cover all the bases so that lunch 18 19 was prior to me telling the mayor, you know, and 20 then there were other conversations over the eight months after that initial declining to make 21 22 the appointment. 23 Okay. When Councilman Hyden reported 0. 24 back to you that he on January 21st had 25 confronted the mayor with this issue, did he

Page 32 1 STROME 2 report to you what the mayor said to him? 3 Α. Yes. 4 Q. What did he tell you the mayor said? 5 Α. He said the mayor told him he had no 6 interest in the commissioner of development 7 position. 8 Q. Okay. 9 Α. Something like that. 10 When you heard that, how did you react Q. to that? 11 12 Α. I said surprising because it is not 13 true. It didn't change what I was going to do or how I felt. I was surprised that he would tell 14 15 him that but I will say this: We agreed at the 16 beginning of the process to try to keep this as 17 quiet as possible so I did not tell the mayor 18 that I was going to talk to Councilmember Hyden. 19 I told him who I was going to talk to but it 20 surprised me that he would not tell him the 21 truth. I don't know, you have to ask the mayor 22 why he would say no to something that was 23 obvious. He might tell you it is because Chuck 24 never told me he was going to talk to 25 Councilmember Hyden, but whatever, because my

Page 33 1 STROME understanding is when he talked to Councilmember 2 3 Tarantino he did not say no because he knew I talked to Councilmember Tarantino but I don't 4 5 want to dip into areas that are not of my 6 knowledge but I was surprised. I mean in 7 fairness I was surprised, but if you really want 8 to know why he told Councilmember Hyden no you 9 should ask the mayor that question. 10 I was asking you about how you felt Q. 11 when hearing that. 12 Α. Whether he expected him to ask him 13 about it or not, I am surprised that he did not 14 tell him he was interested or denied that he was 15 interested in the position. 16 MR. MEISELS: Do you have any 17 questions? MR. BLUMENTHAL: I will ask an 18 19 opinion question which I think I know 20 what your answer is. 21 With your knowledge of the charter 22 and the mayor, even though you brought 23 it up originally, from your 24 perspective, it not asking you about 25 redress or punishment.

Page 34 1 STROME 2 Did the mayor cross the line? 3 THE WITNESS: So I would say -- I 4 will answer it in two ways. I think he 5 crossed the line. I don't think he knew he was crossing the line. I think 6 he crossed the line much more with the 7 second issue than the first issue based 8 on what I heard. I wasn't involved in 9 10 the conversation but, you know, I had 11 come -- I did not really give the mayor 12 the opinion from the legal counsel on 13 the charter issue, on the development 14 commissioner job until I sent that 15 memo. 16 So his opinion, I am sure he 17 expressed to you and he expressed to me was he did not think it was a violation 18 19 of the charter so it is hard for me to 20 say he intentionally crossed the line 21 because he did not agree it was a 22 violation of the charter. 23 The second issue, that to me was a 24 clear -- if the facts are what they 25 intend to be that was a more

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-	SIROME
2	problematic issue because the council
3	is not to get involved in specific
4	personnel decisions. It is clear in
5	the charter they shall not and it is
6	clear that I as the city manager have
7	the absolute right to name a deputy
8	city manager at any time I want,
9	whether I want one or don't want one,
10	and gathering votes to talk about that
11	or to ask me to rescind or whatever you
12	want to say, to me, I think I said it
13	in the memo, that speaks for itself,
14	that was a clear violation but I would
15	get an opinion from the legal counsel
16	which is another opinion which I don't
17	know if you have all seen but I did ask
18	Mr. Toomey for a second opinion.
19	So if I can remember correctly,
20	Councilman Tarantino sent me the
21	request about both, not about the his
22	e-mail was about the gathering of four
23	votes, the deputy city management
24	position.
25	I responded, I think it was pretty

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Page 36 1 STROME 2 clear that I felt that was not 3 according to the charter but I am not a 4 lawyer and I would get an opinion from 5 a lawyer and we got an opinion from Mr. 6 Toomey. 7 MR. BLUMENTHAL: The second 8 question is something that is probably 9 not as relevant and I just want to be 10 clear about that. 11 We heard from a number of the City 12 Councilmembers. It was unusual for you 13 to announce that kind of position selection both of Adam and Kathleen in 14 15 a memo notifying them in closed 16 chambers. 17 THE WITNESS: That's correct that it was unusual. On the Adam one in 18 19 particular. The reason I did that was 20 because it would have been exceedingly 21 uncomfortable to do that with the 22 mayor's interest in the position, and 23 some of the councilmembers I honestly 24 believe had no idea that he had an 25 interest. And I have to be honest, the

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2 deputy city manager position, I didn't 3 need to -- that I didn't find unusual only because, you know, I did that 4 5 before with the previous deputy 6 manager, I just named the person. I 7 didn't have a discussion. It is not 8 like we go through a job interview process for a deputy city manager. 9 Ι 10 have never done that. 11 So the deputy city managers while 12 I have been here are people that had 13 other roles and I would be promoting 14 them so it wasn't really an issue. 15 The fact is when I hire 16 commissioners I usually update the 17 council prior to the public announcement of the commissioners. 18 It 19 is kind of a funny thing about this 20 whole thing. I thought there would be 21 much more angst by the mayor of the 22 development commissioner appointment. 23 When I announced Adam, even though 24 I told him no, I just thought the 25 deputy manager thing was routine. Ι

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1	STROME
2	never went to them when I named her
3	chief of staff, but if you really think
4	about it is a very similar position. I
5	just did it so I was surprised that
6	that was creating discomfort on his
7	part but he has to speak to why, so
8	yes, it would have been unusual for me
9	to hire a commissioner of development
10	and not talk to them about it first but
11	there were circumstances in this case
12	that made that uncomfortable, and the
13	deputy city manager position I was just
14	throwing it in at the end to formalize
15	what I believed was already in place.
16	Remember, I can show you them, for
17	several years, probably five, every six
18	months I write a letter to Kathleen
19	saying that you are the acting city
20	manager when I am not around, or if I
21	become incapacitated you become the
22	acting city manager, and in fact, every
23	time I go on vacation or leave I send
24	an e-mail to the city council saying I
25	am not going to be around. While I am

	Page 39
1	STROME
2	away Kathleen will be the acting city
3	manager.
4	So the idea that naming her deputy
5	city manager was going to be surprising
6	to anybody was weird.
7	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Thank you.
8	MR. PHIPPS: Sir, can I call you
9	Charles?
10	THE WITNESS: I like Chuck.
11	MR. PHIPPS: What is interesting
12	to me is that the mayor was interested
13	in the position, however, he never
14	applied for the position. Applying for
15	the position is an act, is that
16	correct?
17	THE WITNESS: Yes.
18	MR. PHIPPS: But he did not apply
19	to the position so how could he have
20	gotten it, you just would award it to
21	him, is that common?
22	THE WITNESS: Not common but not
23	never done before.
24	MR. PHIPPS: Okay.
25	THE WITNESS: For instance, I have

1	STROME
2	hired former colleagues city managers
3	for positions here when they became
4	open without having to go through an
5	interview process because I knew them
6	so I can understand him saying no to
7	going through the application process.
8	Why do you need to have a resume? You
9	know me. I have worked with you for 23
10	years. Maybe that his motivation.
11	In fairness to him he wanted, you
12	know, he didn't want what is happening
13	now to happen and I did too. I didn't
14	want this happening now too, to keep it
15	as quiet as possible, and by the simple
16	application I believe that becomes a
17	public record so maybe that's what he
18	was thinking. So that's really kind of
19	a distinction without a difference.
20	He didn't formally apply but he
21	clearly applied informally saying he
22	wanted the job.
23	MR. PHIPPS: If you were to
24	appoint him, the city would be in a fix
25	because the part of the charter is you

	Page 41
1	STROME
2	have to review people. You knew him,
3	he has never worked in that position,
4	although as a mayor of the City of New
5	Rochelle there is much development.
6	THE WITNESS: Correct.
7	MR. PHIPPS: So he cannot show you
8	the 10 years of qualifications.
9	THE WITNESS: It would be hard to
10	argue that if you went strictly by
11	qualifications laid out in the city
12	charter, which I have never gone
13	strictly by, they are sort of a
14	guideline but it would be hard to argue
15	that he met any of the qualifications.
16	MR. PHIPPS: Okay.
17	THE WITNESS: For the position,
18	but I don't believe, maybe I am wrong
19	but I don't believe that that
20	automatically disqualifies everybody.
21	I hired former city managers as
22	public works commissioner. I now have
23	one in the human resources department.
24	I just hired that person because but
25	in those cases if you are a manager you

Page 42 1 STROME 2 are sort of involved in everything and 3 I guess you can make the argument that the mayor is involved, certainly is 4 5 involved in development. 6 Developers for right or wrong, go 7 to the mayors of communities first. 8 Whether they are a strong mayor or city 9 manager, they go. They want to talk to 10 the mayors, so I can't say he has had 11 no experience in development, but if 12 you go strictly by the 10 years of 13 planning and this, then you have a hard 14 argument to make. 15 MR. PHIPPS: I have the trouble 16 with not wanting to apply. It is a hot 17 button issue and you are not one to 18 speak to meet not all, at least some of 19 the qualifications to apply. 20 THE WITNESS: Well, you know, 21 formally apply, why he didn't want to, 22 I am only guessing. So that's 23 something you have to ask him if you 24 really need to know why. He didn't 25 want to take part.

Page 43 1 STROME 2 All I know is, I said maybe you 3 should get your resume in as we go 4 through this process because I did 5 suspect, and you saw in the ethics 6 opinion that I got from ICMA, it did 7 say that the hire, whoever it is, 8 should be after a thorough review 9 process based on the qualifications and 10 experience of the candidate, and if you 11 don't participate in the process, then 12 it is hard to say you followed the 13 ethics code by hiring somebody outside 14 of that process. 15 In those other cases where I hired 16 managers, I knew everybody. Do I think 17 I could have done it? Yes, but without 18 the qualifications it is very hard. 19 MR. PHIPPS: From what little I 20 know--21 THE WITNESS: I know where you are 22 going with that, I think. The fact 23 that he was still in the office of the 24 mayor --25 MR. PHIPPS: Yes.

Page 44 1 STROME 2 THE WITNESS: -- makes it first 3 optically very difficult. You know, if 4 he had resigned as mayor or had not run 5 and was a year or two out then that's a 6 whole different story, but to do it 7 while someone is in the position of May 8 mayor what made this whole thing 9 complicated and difficult. 10 MR. PHIPPS: That's the charter 11 also. 12 THE WITNESS: Yes. Listen, I kick 13 myself every time I think back and say 14 maybe you should apply. It was 15 probably a dumb thing to say but it was said so I can't dispute that I said it. 16 17 MR. BLUMENTHAL: When the most 18 recent foray with the recruitment firm 19 for your job, the mayor seemed to have 20 inserted comments about adding 21 not-for-profit in that search document. Is that something from your perspective 22 23 would be really unusual, partially 24 unusual or normal? 25 THE WITNESS: Well, I would say it

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1 STROME 2 is unusual because I don't think there is any not-for-profit, a not-for-profit 3 running the government. 4 5 Now, what I have said offhanded to 6 a few of the council people it might be 7 difficult to find a manager only 8 because of the timing. Next year is an 9 election year and the whole city 10 council is running for election so if I 11 were applying for a job and seven 12 people hired me and they may all be 13 gone the next year I would be hesitant 14 so, you know, there are ways around 15 that. You can name an interim person 16 and the next council can hire him. 17 I haven't been through this 18 before. My profession is pretty 19 standard in what the qualifications are 20 and we are the largest city in the 21 State of New York with a council manager form of government so I don't 22 23 really get why we would be adding 24 not-for-profit experience to the 25 qualifications required.

Page 46 1 STROME 2 I wasn't in the executive session 3 when he made that suggestion or when he talked to the recruitment firm. This 4 5 one hire, the city manager is the city council's hire so I would say it is 6 7 unusual. I was surprised. 8 MR. MEISELS: I have one thing I 9 want to clarify. 10 Earlier you referred to a first issue Q. 11 and a second issue. Am I correct what you mean 12 by the second issue is the issue relating to your 13 appointment of the deputy city manager? 14 Α. I don't mean to confuse you but Yes. 15 that -- how do I say this? That whole 16 circumstance, if it is as has been reported to me 17 is odd and is a clearer charter issue than the 18 other one. 19 You can argue I initiated, at 20 least in the beginning, the development thing and 21 I think as I said the first time, it gets tricky 22 and it changes when I said no and then it 23 continued. What happened up to that point was my 24 initiation but I did try to end it early and it 25 kept going.

Page 47 1 STROME 2 The second thing was a different 3 type of thing. 4 MR. BLUMENTHAL: In terms of 5 redress, I am not saying we are going 6 to find the mayor -- I will use the 7 words stepped over the line. In either 8 or both of the cases, what is the 9 redress? 10 THE WITNESS: As I understand it, 11 a violation of the city charter would 12 be a misdemeanor of some kind. I 13 imagine as the advisory, ethics 14 advisory board you would make a report 15 to me and possibly to the City Council, 16 and if it is for a violation of that 17 kind there is nothing I am going to do about it. I would refer it to the 18 19 District Attorney. I imagine I would 20 send it to the Assistant District 21 Attorney. If it came to me I would send it 22 23 to the council and to the District 24 Attorney because misdemeanors are a 25 criminal offense. There is no redress

Page 48 1 STROME 2 for me. There is nothing I can do. Ι 3 don't think there is anything the 4 council can do. 5 MR. BLUMENTHAL: In our opinion if 6 we should go that route can we make a 7 suggestion as to what we think the 8 redress should be or is that something 9 that is outside our purview? 10 THE WITNESS: If it were me I 11 would say you guys are doing what you 12 are doing and you should be able to say 13 whatever you want to say but I think 14 you should defer to your legal counsel 15 on whether you can do that. 16 MR. BLUMENTHAL: For your decades 17 of being in the industry and have 18 spoken to other city managers where 19 this type of thing may have come up --20 THE WITNESS: I never have. Ι 21 will tell you when I talk to the 22 managers I told the mayor that I would 23 talk to a few elected officials, a few 24 managers and a few developers and the 25 managers were ready to slap me in the

1	STROME
2	face for even considering it so nobody
3	that I know of has been you know,
4	the tenet that most concerns me, I am a
5	tenet of the ethics code, I shall not
6	participate in any political activities
7	while I am in service.
8	This is on the borderline there.
9	They didn't cite that one but I don't
10	think anybody has had this experience.
11	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Thank you.
12	MR. PHIPPS: This is something
13	that is
14	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Groundbreaking.
15	THE WITNESS: I think it is all
16	circumstantial about I don't mean
17	circumstantial in the legal term, I
18	mean circumstances are what they are.
19	It is different because of the people
20	that are here, the time that they have
21	been here and I find it all very
22	unfortunate and disheartening but, you
23	know
24	MR. PHIPPS: Question. Because we
25	are in the fix we are in and as you

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STROME
stated the environment that we are in,
your intention is to retire at the end
of the year?
THE WITNESS: More so now than
ever.
MR. PHIPPS: Well, I would like t
know if the council were to ask you to
stay for another six months, would you
consider it?
THE WITNESS: Probably not. You
know, they would have to give me a
really good reason to do that.
MR. PHIPPS: We can motivate you.
THE WITNESS: I am inclined not t
do that. There actually is an option
in my contract. I am already retired,
quote unquote retired. There is an
option in my contract for another year
but I had decided before all of this
that this was it for me and, you know,
I honestly think that whoever the next
person is doesn't need me hanging
around. I have been here long enough.
It should be a clean break and the

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person should come in.

MR. PHIPPS: If they were to ask you for another six months, that is with you in charge.

THE WITNESS: Yes, I understand 6 7 but it doesn't really do much for the 8 circumstances because then you are just getting closer to the hiring of a 9 10 manager when the people that are hiring 11 him are only going to be, him or her 12 are going to be there for only six 13 months. So the issue is really, you 14 know, does this council or the next 15 council hire the next manager? 16 My opinion, it is up to this 17 council. I am leaving during their 18 term. It is their obligation to hire 19 somebody. They have a number of

20options. I have no idea who is going21to run again, who is not going to run22again so I am pointing out the possible23difficulty in attracting good24candidates because of the timing but25this isn't going to help either.

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Page 52 1 STROME 2 MR. PHIPPS: This definitely isn't 3 going to help. 4 MR. BLUMENTHAL: All I can say is 5 thank you. THE WITNESS: Thank you. I am 6 7 sorry you have to deal with this. Those financial forms look a lot better 8 than this stuff. 9 10 MR. BLUMENTHAL: We still haven't 11 done them for this year. 12 (Off the record.) 13 MR. MEISELS: Thank you very much. 14 Thank you, sir, for MR. PHIPPS: 15 your time. I appreciate it. 16 (Witness excused.) 17 KATHLEEN GILL, a witness called on behalf of the City of New Rochelle, having been 18 19 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as 20 follows: 21 THE COURT REPORTER: Can I have 22 your name and address for the record. 23 THE WITNESS: Kathleen Gill, 515 24 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York, 25 10801.

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1	STROME
2	EXAMINATION BY
3	MR. MEISELS:
4	Q. One of the questions is this: There
5	has been testimony about a meeting that you and
6	the mayor and the city manager had together from
7	which you were excused.
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. Do you remember that meeting?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Could you tell us what happened?
12	A. Yes. The meeting was in the mayor's
13	office and we were discussing this possibility of
14	Chuck appointing the mayor to the position of
15	commissioner of development, and at that point I
16	had done a little bit of research.
	I was also concerned that there might
19	be a violation of the Chuck's professional ethics
20	and I was very concerned about the optics of it
21	in the greater community. So I expressed all of
22	those concerns and I said I would like to step
23	out of the meeting. If this isn't going to end
24	here I really don't want to participate in it any
25	further and I was excused from the meeting.

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1	STROME
2	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Who heard your
3	concerns?
4	THE WITNESS: The mayor and the
5	city manager.
6	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Was there any
7	response by either of them?
8	THE WITNESS: The city manager
9	expressed similar concern. He was very
LO	uncomfortable about his professional
.1	ethics. He also was concerned about
.2	the charter, the language of the
3	charter.
4	MR. PHIPPS: That was expressed at
.5	that meeting?
. 6	THE WITNESS: Yes.
.7	MR. PHIPPS: By the city manager?
.8	THE WITNESS: I believe that he
.9	was agreeing with my concerns.
20	MR. PHIPPS: I am sorry.
21	MR. BLUMENTHAL: No, it okay.
22	THE WITNESS:
4	After the meeting the city manager
25	asked me to talk to the outside

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	Page 55
1	STROME
2	attorney, Vince Toomey, and have him
3	really look at this issue and research
4	it.
5	MR. PHIPPS: And your feelings
6	now?
7	THE WITNESS: With respect to?
8	MR. PHIPPS: The charter.
9	THE WITNESS:
20	MR. BLUMENTHAL: Were there many
21	cases in this term in your present role
22	where you expressed, where you deemed
23	to be a legal opinion where the legal
24	opinion was not necessarily heated?
25	Nothing about the mayor, city council,

Page 56 1 STROME 2 any other --3 THE WITNESS: I understand. None 4 come to mind. 5 MR. BLUMENTHAL: Thank you. We understand that there was a time 6 Ο. 7 that you and the city manager and the mayor had 8 lunch to discuss the mayor's possible appointment 9 to the position of commissioner. 10 Α. Yes. 11 Do you recall that? Q. 12 Α. Yes. 13 Q. Do you recall who said what to whom in 14 substance during that lunch? 15 Yes. That was prior to the meeting in Α. 16 the mayor's office and the purpose of the meeting was to go off-site and have a conversation about 17 whether this was something that the city manager 18 19 could really consider. 20 The city manager, I believe, 21 raised concerns about optics, either he raised 22 them or I did. We were both saying that we were 23 very concerned about how it would look. I am not 24 sure if at that point we were talking about the 25 charter, I am not sure but it was certainly

Page 57 1 STROME 2 concern about how it would look. 3 The city manager was concerned 4 that it would look like in the last year of 5 his -- that he was sort of giving the mayor 6 something and that there might have been a quid 7 pro quo and he was very concerned about how it 8 would look to the greater community but also to 9 his peers, fellow city managers, the concern 10 being that hiring a political person into a 11 professional administration. 12 MR. BLUMENTHAL: I want to thank 13 you for all you have done for the city, 14 the amazing work that you have done and 15 thank you very much. 16 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 17 I just have one more. Let's assume Q. 18 that there has been testimony that the mayor 19 attempted to get four people to go to visit the 20 city manager and express displeasure with your 21 appointment as deputy city manager. Do you know 22 why the mayor was displeased with that? 23 Α. So I don't know with any certainty. Ι 24 haven't discussed it with the mayor. I believe 25 it is because I gave a legal opinion that

Page 58 STROME probably influenced the city manager's decision not to appoint him. MR. MEISELS: I don't have any other questions. You gentlemen? MR. BLUMENTHAL: Sorry for making you come in. (Time noted: 5:45 p.m.)

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Page 60 1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 STATE OF NEW YORK) 4) SS. 5 COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER) I, HOWARD BRESHIN, a Court Reporter 6 7 and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify: 8 9 That I reported the proceedings that are hereinbefore set forth, and that such 10 11 transcript is a true and accurate record of said 12 proceedings. 13 I further certify that I am not 14 related to any of the parties to this action by 15 blood or marriage, and that I am in no way 16 interested in the outcome of this matter. 17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto 18 set my hand. 19 20 21 HOWARD BRESHIN, 22 COURT REPORTER 23 24 25

Page 61 ERRATA SHEET VERITEXT/NEW YORK REPORTING, LLC CASE NAME: Board Of Ethics Meeting v. DATE OF DEPOSITION: 4/12/2022 WITNESSES' NAME: CHARLES STROME CHANGE PAGE LINE (S) REASON CHARLES STROME SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20__. (NOTARY PUBLIC) MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

	10.20		41 10 14
&	accept 10:20	anymore 11:11	argue 41:10,14
& 2:3	accepted 13:25	19:9	46:19
1	accurate 28:24	anyway 5:6 6:25	argument 42:3,14
10 41:8 42:12	60:11	19:21	asked 11:18 12:12
10 41.8 42.12 10604 2:5	act 39:15	apologize 27:25	15:3,9,16 17:8,13
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