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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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United States of America,	)	File No. 22-cr-223
	)	(NEB/DTS)
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	Courtroom 13W
Aimee Marie Bock(1),	)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Salim Ahmed Said(3),	)	Monday, March 3, 2025
	)	9:00 a.m.
Defendants.	)	
	)	

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BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY E. BRASEL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT JUDGE  
  
**VOLUME XIII - JURY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS**

Court Reporter:                   RENEE A. ROGGE, RMR-CRR  
United States Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street, Box 1005  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography;  
Transcript produced by computer.

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1 Do you recall that?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. And can you remind the jury just briefly what you  
4 testified to earlier?

5 A. That attendance rosters similar to the ones we've seen  
6 throughout this trial were in fact required as part of  
7 documentation to support reimbursement claims through the  
8 Federal Child Nutrition Program.

9 Q. And when we were talking about that last week, we  
10 started with Exhibit A82, which you see now in front of you.  
11 That's that email we talked about last week; is that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And remind us just briefly what the gist was of that.

14 A. This is an email from Aimee Bock to Feeding Our Future  
15 staff, notifying them that as part of a collection of  
16 documents that have been requested from MDE she is telling  
17 them to bring in said documents, including menus, receipts,  
18 meal counts, attendance rosters or any other relevant  
19 document that they may have at their homes.

20 Q. And what did you tell us you understand attendance  
21 rosters in the context of Feeding Our Future paperwork to  
22 be?

23 A. These are documentation to show the purported students  
24 or children receiving the meals that have been claimed for  
25 reimbursement. So the exact kids receiving said meals that

1 are being claimed.

2 Q. That's the rosters we talked about at some length,  
3 including with Special Agent Parks from the IRS?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. Is there any other evidence that you've gathered in the  
6 investigation concerning whether rosters were required and  
7 used?

8 A. There is.

9 Q. Including documentary evidence?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Let me show you Government's A83, which is in evidence.  
12 This is an email; is that right?

13 A. Yes, it is.

14 Q. Who are the participants?

15 A. This is from Aimee Bock at Feeding Our Future to Ikram  
16 Mohamed. That's a name that's been seen on some  
17 documentation, including the board minutes, which listed her  
18 as an adviser to Bock at Feeding Our Future.

19 Q. I'm pulling up on the screen Y23, which is in evidence.  
20 Do you recognize that photo?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. Who is that?

23 A. That's Ikram Mohamed.

24 Q. Did Ikram Mohamed work at Feeding Our Future at some  
25 times? Is that your understanding?

1 A. Yes, it is.

2 Q. So this is an email from Aimee to Ikram; is that right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. October 2021. I'm going to put Ms. Bock's picture on  
5 the screen as well, as we've seen in Government's Y1; is  
6 that correct?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. You described that Ms. Mohamed was, among other things,  
9 an adviser at times to Feeding Our Future or at least  
10 according to FOF paperwork?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Has she been charged in this broader scheme?

13 A. She has.

14 MR. UDOIBOK: Counsel.

15 (Counsel confer)

16 MR. BOBIER: Your Honor, defense counsel is  
17 telling me his monitor is not on.

18 THE COURT: Is it really just a matter of plugging  
19 it in?

20 COURTROOM DEPUTY: I can call IT.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Could we -- can we share for  
22 the moment?

23 MS. MALLETT: Absolutely.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. I'm sorry about that. We  
25 will get IT up here.

1                   Let's continue.

2                   MR. BOBIER: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 BY MR. BOBIER:

4 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, we were talking a bit  
5 about rosters.

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. We were looking at this October 2021 email from Ms. Bock  
8 to Ms. Mohamed, who you have just described; is that right?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. I want to look at the attachment that Ms. Bock sent in  
11 October 2021. It's titled CACFP Required Elements Centers;  
12 is that right?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Let's go to the attachment.

15                   Can you tell whose form this is?

16 A. This is a Feeding Our Future document.

17 Q. Do you see their logo right on top of the first page  
18 there; is that right?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. At the top of this form, there's an area titled "What is  
21 the Child and Adult Care Food Program, CACFP"?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And can you read us the first sentence of the second  
24 paragraph there?

25 A. "The CACFP provides cash reimbursement for serving meals

1 to participants that meet federal nutritional guidelines,  
2 outlined in the CACFP meal pattern."

3 Q. Have we heard a little bit about what a meal pattern is?

4 A. We have.

5 Q. At a high level, can you remind us what that is?

6 A. It is requirements that must be met for the individual  
7 meals being served which are in place to ensure that the  
8 food being provided meets the nutritional needs of the  
9 children that are receiving it.

10 Q. All right. So this sentence describes the CACFP as a  
11 reimbursement program? Is that your understanding how the  
12 program was supposed to work?

13 A. Yes, it is.

14 Q. And reimbursement for meals to children, if the meals  
15 meet the meal pattern; is that right?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Is that also your understanding of how the program was  
18 supposed to work?

19 A. It is.

20 Q. All right. At the bottom of that page is a section  
21 titled Meal Counts and Attendance Records; is that right?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. What's the first line there in bold?

24 A. "Meal counts must be done while the participants are  
25 eating."

1 Q. What's your understanding of what that means?

2 A. That the meal counts must be recorded in realtime as the  
3 people receiving the meals are actually present at the meal  
4 distribution site.

5 Q. So the meal counts, according to this Feeding Our Future  
6 document, can't be done after the fact?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Can't be done later in the day?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Can't be done at week's or month's end; is that right?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Then at the bottom, so now the last paragraph of this  
13 page 2 in A83, there's a discussion of roster-based meal  
14 counts; is that right?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And what is the gist of the discussion in this  
17 paragraph?

18 A. That roster-based meal counts must be completed to  
19 document who is receiving the meals.

20 Q. And what does Feeding Our Future say in this document  
21 they will do with the rosters that are provided to them by  
22 their sites?

23 A. They will analyze this information to ensure that the  
24 maximum reimbursement for each participant is received.

25 Q. And remind us again. Feeding Our Future as a sponsor,

1 what is their job in this program?

2 A. Their job is to provide oversight to the sites and  
3 vendors participating underneath their sponsorship to ensure  
4 that the claims that are being reimbursed are correct and  
5 done according to the regulations that cover them.

6 Q. Including by analyzing the documents provided to them?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. By the sites?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Including, according to the Feeding Our Future document  
11 we're reviewing, the rosters?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. Let's go to the next page. There's another note here  
14 about when meal count records have to be completed; is that  
15 right?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. It says again meal counts have to be done at the time  
18 the meals are served, right?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Or else what?

21 A. They will not be allowed to be reimbursed.

22 Q. And Feeding Our Future lays out a number of on-site  
23 records that need to be kept for each site; is that correct?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. And among the records that Feeding Our Future says have

1 to be kept are invoices and receipts; is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And meal count and attendance records.

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Like the rosters.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Let's go to claims and submission, a little lower in  
8 this document on page 3. Attendance and meal counts done on  
9 paper need to be sent to Feeding Our Future on a weekly  
10 basis.

11 Did I read that right?

12 A. That is what it states.

13 Q. And the records to submit, again, reiterating attendance  
14 and meal counts are required?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. From the site?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. To Feeding Our Future?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In order for the sites to get paid?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. Do you see the last heading on page 3 says Review and  
23 Processing by Feeding Our Future?

24 A. Yes, I see that.

25 Q. And if we go to page 4 to the content under that

1 heading, again this describes Feeding Our Future reviewing  
2 the information provided to them; is that right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Cue read that second sentence?

5 A. "The items reviewed included attendance and meal count  
6 sheets, menus, receipts/invoices, and license capacity."

7 Q. Also so this document, Special Agent Wilmer, in A83 is  
8 emailed from Aimee Bock to Ikram Mohamed; is that right?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. But to be clear, are you aware of this document  
11 appearing in the investigation anywhere else?

12 A. Yes, I am.

13 Q. For example, are you aware of law enforcement finding  
14 the document attached here in Aimee Bock's email at some of  
15 the locations that law enforcement searched?

16 A. Yes, I am.

17 Q. Can you think of any off the top of your head?

18 A. S & S Catering, Southcross, both sides we've heard from  
19 previous testimony that were sites that operated under the  
20 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future, as well as email  
21 communications between some of the site operators and  
22 vendors, including Hanna Marekegn, who we've heard previous  
23 testimony from.

24 Q. And what if anything did it indicate to you that this  
25 Feeding Our Future document explaining, among other things,

1 that rosters are required for reimbursement was found at  
2 sites and in email traffic between site operators and  
3 Feeding Our Future personnel?

4 A. That this is the understanding of Feeding Our Future,  
5 that these were required documents and processes in place  
6 and that that was communicated out to the sites and  
7 individuals underneath their sponsorship.

8 Q. When we left off on Thursday, the last thing we were  
9 discussing were some approaches that Feeding Our Future had  
10 taken when dealing throughout the course of 2020 and 2021  
11 with MDE.

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. One of the things we discussed was a protest organized  
14 outside MDE's building; is that right?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And can you remind us what we heard about that?

17 A. That that occurred in June of 2021. This followed the  
18 stop pay and friction between MDE and Feeding Our Future  
19 concerning sites and applications for sites under their  
20 sponsorship.

21 Q. And can you remind us, including from the text messages  
22 of Ms. Bock that we reviewed last week, your understanding  
23 as to whose idea that protest was?

24 A. The evidence in the investigation has shown that  
25 Ms. Bock was an active participant in organizing and getting

1 people out for the protest.

2 Q. All right. So that was June 2021; is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And then toward the end of your testimony last week, we  
5 went all the way back to April 2020 toward the beginning of  
6 the program during COVID; is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. And during this time you'd explained to us that MDE was  
9 not approving certain Feeding Our Future sites or at least  
10 in Feeding Our Future's view quickly; is that right?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And what was Ms. Bock's reaction that we talked about  
13 last week to MDE not, in her view, quickly enough approving  
14 those sites?

15 A. We reviewed several emails from the attorney for  
16 Ms. Bock and Feeding Our Future in which a lawsuit was  
17 threatened, and also there were allegations of racism.

18 Q. We were looking last week at A23; is that right?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. And just to quickly remind the jury, this is the email  
21 in which Ms. Pace from MDE reached out to Ms. Bock for  
22 clarification about what issue?

23 A. That there were two site applications for the same  
24 address.

25 Q. Seem to be a request by Feeding Our Future for multiple

1 sites at the same physical location; is that right?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. And we had left it here at the very end of your  
4 testimony at an email from Mr. Watkins. You told us that's  
5 Ms. Bock's attorney; is that right?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. He forwarded Ms. Pace's concern to Daron Korte of MDE  
8 who you described was someone a little higher up in the  
9 organization; is that right?

10 A. Yes, assistant commissioner.

11 Q. Okay. We had left it right here on the first page of 23  
12 where Mr. Watkins quotes Ms. Pace's concern that she had  
13 sent Ms. Bock either earlier that day or a day before; is  
14 that right?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. Her concern being what are those two sites purportedly  
17 operating at the same physical location doing to ensure  
18 there isn't overlap, right?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. Because, again, overlap permitted or not permitted in  
21 the program?

22 A. Not permitted. The expectation is that meals are  
23 reimbursed for each meal served with each child, so you need  
24 to be able to track who is receiving them to ensure that  
25 there is not overbilling or, you know, double dipping.

1 Q. And consistent with the approach we'd seen down the line  
2 with the rally and subsequent litigation that we discussed,  
3 remind us how Aimee Bock's attorney responds to the  
4 compliance question from MDE?

5 A. Described it as the epitome of systematic racism.

6 Q. I think you told us epitome is the perfect example of  
7 something?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. At least in Feeding Our Future's view?

10 A. That's what it states.

11 Q. Special Agent Wilmer, does this approach by Feeding Our  
12 Future toward MDE reflect something you've seen multiple  
13 times in the investigation?

14 A. It does.

15 Q. How so?

16 A. This is a tactic that they use to aggressively fight  
17 back against, you know, concerns regarding their operations  
18 or sites or additional scrutiny of the claims or sites being  
19 submitted by them.

20 Q. You say it's a tactic? What do you mean by that?

21 A. A way of going about things and approach taken when  
22 faced with concerns or scrutiny for their sites.

23 Q. Have we heard testimony in the case from other witnesses  
24 about, to use your word, that "tactic" of Feeding Our Future  
25 responding to MDE?

1 A. We have. When discussing the celebration for Ms. Bock  
2 following her what they described as winning against MDE and  
3 thus allowing claims and reimbursement to continue, we've  
4 heard from several witnesses that they were celebrating that  
5 because they were greedy and wanted to continue to receive  
6 funds for themselves.

7 Q. Was one of the witnesses who spoke on that issue Hanna  
8 Marekegn?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. Can you remind us who that was?

11 A. She operated Brava Cafe, which is a site that under the  
12 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future received several millions  
13 of dollars for reimbursements and then continued to  
14 participate as a vendor within the program.

15 Q. A witness who was charged in this case?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. And as Ms. Marekegn told us, a witness who has pleaded  
18 guilty in this case?

19 A. She has.

20 Q. Did we hear from Ms. Marekegn at all about this  
21 particular tactic, that being Feeding Our Future claiming  
22 that MDE was discriminating against them or the sites under  
23 their sponsorship?

24 A. Yes. According to her, the community was used  
25 essentially as shield against scrutiny for the program.

1 Q. So according to Ms. Marekegn's testimony, were in  
2 Feeding Our Future's view the claims of systemic racism and  
3 discrimination well-founded?

4 A. I do not believe so.

5 Q. Why is that?

6 A. I believe that that is something that was used to push  
7 back and quickly quash any scrutiny of the applications and  
8 sites being submitted and was not founded in actual evidence  
9 of what was taking place.

10 Q. I'm going to show you what's in evidence as BB32b.  
11 Another text message; is that right?

12 A. Yes. This is a text message exchange between number  
13 ending in 2480 identified as Aimee Bock and a number ending  
14 in 4970 identified as Ikram Mohamed, the same Ikram Mohamed  
15 we just discussed previously.

16 Q. Ikram Mohamed who, among other things, was an adviser to  
17 Feeding Our Future; is that right?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And has been charged in the broader investigation?

20 A. Yes, she has.

21 Q. This communication is from June of 2022. I'd like to go  
22 through it with you, but before we do, in the first text  
23 Ms. Bock uses the name "Watkins" to refer to someone. Can  
24 you remind us who Watkins?

25 A. My understanding, this is Rhyddid Watkins, the attorney

1 that we saw on the emails previously.

2 Q. The attorney whose email we just read claiming MDE was  
3 engaged in systemic racism by asking a compliance question?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, let's look at what's  
6 in the text here.

7 Can you read the first text for us from Ms. Bock?

8 A. "Watkins is prepped if we need to remind our friends who  
9 the real fucking boss is."

10 Q. Ikram Mohamed responds with an emoji. It looks like a  
11 laughing with tears on its face; is that right?

12 A. That's what appears to be there.

13 Q. What does Ms. Bock say in response?

14 A. "I don't play."

15 Q. Ms. Mohamed, "I know and you are crazy."

16 Let's just change off reading and do it more  
17 quickly?

18 A. Aimee Bock, responds, "I protect this company and me  
19 people at all costs."

20 Q. Ikram says, "You're a real boss coming across some  
21 peasants."

22 A. Aimee Bock responds, "Exactly. I'm going to show them  
23 how real bosses play."

24 Q. This June 2021 conversation continues. What does  
25 Ms. Bock say?

1 A. "Slap them with a defamation lawsuit. Slander my  
2 company and my team. Get the fuck out of here."

3 Q. Ikram says, "Just let me massage their egos and  
4 apologize and then we'll see if they still continue with the  
5 bullshit."

6 A. Aimee Bock responds, "I am. Just loading the gun in  
7 case," followed by a kissy face emoji.

8 Q. Ikram says, "LOL. But I still think you should point  
9 out the facts that they were not there when it was important  
10 to times."

11 A. Aimee Bock responds, "I'll check them when the time  
12 comes. They don't really know who I am."

13 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, what's your  
14 understanding at a high level of what's being discussed  
15 here?

16 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Vague.

17 THE COURT: Overruled.

18 THE WITNESS: This is a discussion between Aimee  
19 Bock and Ikram Mohamed, and it appears that they're  
20 discussing responding to individuals who speak out in a way  
21 that they don't appreciate or believe to be slandering their  
22 company, in this case Feeding Our Future.

23 BY MR. BOBIER:

24 Q. Now, you say that they believe to be slandering. On the  
25 top of page 2 of this document, Ms. Bock texts Ikram

1 Mohamed, "Slap them with a defamation lawsuit"; is that  
2 right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Do you know what a defamation lawsuit is?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. What is that?

7 A. My understanding is that it is suing someone when you  
8 believe that they have lied in a way that tarnishes your  
9 reputation.

10 Q. Do you know if Ms. Bock and Feeding Our Future ever  
11 slapped someone with a defamation lawsuit?

12 A. They did.

13 Q. What happened there?

14 A. Previous to this text exchange, Daron Korte of MDE, who  
15 had previously been discussed on the emails, was sued  
16 personally for defamation.

17 Q. Do you understand, do you have an understanding of what  
18 the basis was according to Feeding Our Future for that  
19 defamation suit against an MDE employee?

20 A. My understanding is that he had made comments publicly  
21 that there was concerns, given the number of sites that it  
22 was hard for MDE to, as a result of the number of sites that  
23 were being submitted, identify fraud that was taking place.

24 Q. So Daron Korte who worked at MDE, who we've seen on  
25 these emails is someone Mr. Watkins, Ms. Bock's attorney,

1 has exchanged messages with; is that right?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. Daron Watkins is quoted in the press as having concerns  
4 that fraud is occurring at Feeding Our Future; is that  
5 right?

6 A. I do not believe this comment was that explicit, but it  
7 could be read from it that there was concerns of fraud given  
8 the number of sites coming in under Feeding Our Future.

9 Q. The word "fraud" is in the article, and so is Daron  
10 Korte; is that fair?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And as a result of that press release, is it your  
13 understanding that Ms. Bock investigated whether the  
14 concerns raised in the article were actually occurring at  
15 Feeding Our Future?

16 A. I haven't seen evidence that that occurred.

17 Q. Is it your understanding that after that article came  
18 out, Ms. Bock investigated any particular sites in order to  
19 find out if the concerns identified by Mr. Korte were true?

20 A. Again --

21 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Leading.

22 THE COURT: Sustained.

23 BY MR. BOBIER:

24 Q. When that article came out, do you know what Ms. Bock  
25 did?

1 A. I have not seen evidence that additional steps were  
2 taken to investigate prior to the defamation lawsuit.

3 Q. What did she do?

4 A. Sued Daron Korte.

5 Q. Can you just remind us. What is Feeding Our Future  
6 supposed to be doing in the food program?

7 A. Providing oversights to the sites under their  
8 sponsorship to ensure that all rules are being followed and  
9 meals are being distributed as claimed.

10 Q. And they're supposed to operate that program under MDE's  
11 administration; is that right?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. MDE pays out the claims provided by Feeding Our Future  
14 to MDE, correct?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. But in your testimony last week, in the exhibits we've  
17 reviewed this morning, when MDE raised concerns to Feeding  
18 Our Future about Feeding Our Future's operations in the  
19 program, how consistently did Feeding Our Future respond?

20 A. They consistently fought back aggressively against MDE.

21 Q. And from what you are aware of in the investigation, did  
22 those aggressive tactics, the threats of the suits, the  
23 actual suits, did they work?

24 A. They did.

25 Q. How so?

1 A. Claims continued to be submitted. New sites continued  
2 to apply and begin to operate under the sponsorship of  
3 Feeding Our Future, and reimbursement dollars continued to  
4 flow out for those sites.

5 Q. Okay. All right. So we've just discussed Aimee Bock's  
6 reactions to concerns raised by MDE over time; is that  
7 right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Are you aware of any concerns raised about Feeding Our  
10 Future by members of the communities?

11 A. I am.

12 Q. And are you aware of Ms. Bock's reaction to those  
13 concerns?

14 A. I am.

15 Q. In your role in the investigation, have you reviewed any  
16 text messages on that subject?

17 A. I have.

18 Q. Let me show you what's in evidence as BB30b. Another  
19 text message; is that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. When is this one from?

22 A. This is a text message correspondence between number  
23 ending in 2480, identified as Aimee Bock, and a number  
24 ending in 8354 labeled here in Ms. Bock's phone as Safari,  
25 identified as Salim Said.

1 Q. Now, we talked about this a bit last week. The Safari  
2 we see on the screen, you know that to be Salim Said's phone  
3 number?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Why does it say Safari?

6 A. Again, this text string comes from Ms. Bock's phone, so  
7 the label that we see is a label that has been set up in her  
8 phone for that number, the same way that you might label  
9 something "mom" instead of writing mom's legal name.

10 Q. And as a reminder, to show you Government's X1, which is  
11 in evidence, when we're talking about Safari in the food  
12 program, who is Safari?

13 A. Safari Restaurant is the site under the sponsorship of  
14 Feeding Our Future that received the largest amount of  
15 funds, over \$12 million in 2020 and 2021 alone.

16 Q. Single largest site under Feeding Our Future; is that  
17 right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. So Ms. Bock's phone, according to the way it's labeled  
20 in her phone, when she's talking to Mr. Salim Said, what  
21 she -- to whom is she speaking?

22 A. Safari.

23 MR. MONTEZ: Objection, Your Honor.

24 Argumentative.

25 THE COURT: Overruled.

1 BY MR. BOBIER:

2 Q. And we've heard testimony about the Safari Group; is  
3 that right?

4 A. We have.

5 Q. And have we heard testimony about who the leader of the  
6 Safari Group was?

7 A. We have.

8 Q. And what was that testimony or who has the leader,  
9 rather?

10 A. Salim Said.

11 Q. Okay. All right. Let's read through this a little bit,  
12 Special Agent Wilmer.

13 The first text in this thread appears to be  
14 Ms. Bock sending a screenshot of something to Salim Said; is  
15 that right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. The next page, there's another screenshot. Appears to  
18 be the same individual; is that right?

19 A. Yes. These are screen grabs from the same Instagram  
20 account labeled underscore Blenderr.

21 Q. Blenderr with two Rs?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And in this second one, the person pictured seems to be  
24 holding a fistful of cash; is that right?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. We go down a little more to page 3 in this exhibit. Is  
2 that another picture from what appears the Blenderr account;  
3 is that right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. The gentleman pictured there is counting dollars again,  
6 seems to be?

7 A. Appears to be the same individual, again holding a stack  
8 of cash.

9 Q. Does Ms. Bock describe those pictures that she's just  
10 sent in this text thread to Ikram Mohamed?

11 A. To Salim Said, yes, she describes it.

12 Q. Thank you. To Salim Said. And what does she say?

13 A. "This little boy flexing like he is some rapper. Boy  
14 sells carrots. Get real."

15 Q. "Boy sells carrots"?

16 A. That's what it states.

17 Q. From the investigation, Special Agent Wilmer, do you  
18 know what individual is pictured here in the screen grabs  
19 Ms. Bock is sending from the Blenderr account?

20 A. From our investigation, the individual's account and who  
21 we believe is pictured here is an individual by the name of  
22 Cadnaan Deeq, who is associated with Peak Distribution, a  
23 purported distribution company that worked extensively with  
24 Shanghai Wholesale who operated multiple sites under the  
25 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future and also was a vendor for

1 several sites.

2 He also had through Peak Distribution several  
3 financial transactions with Mr. Eidleh, a Feeding Our Future  
4 employee who we've heard extensive testimony about.

5 Q. All right. So to put a fine point on it, your  
6 understanding is that Mr. Deeq, the guy pictured in these  
7 photos from Ms. Bock, he operated in the food program?

8 A. He did.

9 Q. Including as a vendor?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And exchanged payments with, among other people,  
12 Mr. Eidleh, the Feeding Our Future employee we've heard a  
13 lot about?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. And Ms. Bock in describing Mr. Deeq flexing in these  
16 photos, to use her word, she says, "Boy sells carrots."

17 A. That she does.

18 Q. But we were talking, Special Agent Wilmer, about  
19 community concerns; is that right?

20 A. Yes, we were.

21 Q. Now, that part of the text thread was from earlier in  
22 January. Lower down in the same exhibit appears to be the  
23 start of a new conversation on the 16th of January; is that  
24 right?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. Ms. Bock sends a longer text to Mr. Said. Could you  
2 read that for us?

3 A. "Explain to me why the fuck your social media guy is  
4 blasting FOF and my staff all over social media?

5 "That man better get his facts straight or he will  
6 be joining me in court. I do not play when it comes to my  
7 team or my company.

8 "You know damn well no one on my team gets money  
9 in a shady ways. I do not tolerate that shit and won't  
10 tolerate false rumors.

11 "I'll shut down the whole damn program and every  
12 site to prove we don't have anything to hide.

13 "Get that shit cleaned up."

14 Q. There's more to this conversation; is that right?

15 A. There is.

16 Q. So to be clear, this is Ms. Bock communicating with  
17 Salim Said, right?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. About the social media posts that she's clipped or  
20 rather -- let's keep reading for the context.

21 Salim Said responds, "Okay"?

22 A. He does.

23 Q. And what does Ms. Bock say afterwards?

24 A. "To name me by name? And FOF? You said he was your  
25 man. Are you behind this?"

1 Q. Then there's a picture of what appears to be a screen  
2 grab; is that right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. We will read that in just a moment.

5 How does Ms. Bock respond after sending the screen  
6 grab?

7 A. "What the fuck."

8 Q. And in this part of the conversation Salim Said  
9 responds, "Ikram sent me yesterday."

10 Is that right?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. I want to look at this social media post Ms. Bock has  
13 captured.

14 Is it your understanding from this thread in the  
15 investigation that this post is what Ms. Bock is reacting to  
16 here in the thread with Salim Said?

17 A. That's my understanding.

18 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Calls for speculation.

19 THE COURT: Overruled. It will stand.

20 BY MR. BOBIER:

21 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, in this social media  
22 post it's from someone called Abdihakim Osman Nur; is that  
23 right?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. And he describes here a few things. He says at the

1 beginning, "The most amazing incident that you all witnessed  
2 happens last night in Minneapolis. We all witnessed a  
3 wedding of a young Somali woman who works at the office of  
4 Feeding Our Future."

5 Is that right?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. The post goes on, "A nonprofit that helps provide meals  
8 to indigent children who need supportive food programs who  
9 are enrolled in schools."

10 But he says, "Last night what happened at that  
11 staff member's wedding was shocking to the entire city."

12 Is that right?

13 A. That is what it states.

14 Q. He says, "The contractors gifted the young woman in  
15 charge of coordinating the program gold worth \$10,000 each,  
16 so much gold that it was wheeled in on a gold tray."

17 Is that right?

18 A. That is what it states.

19 Q. He says, "The people who gifted her that entire tray are  
20 the very contractors in charge of that delivery."

21 Right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Then he says, "Can someone tell me how and with what  
24 funds they were able to gift an office person that expensive  
25 gift individually and collectively almost a hundred thousand

1 dollars, these same people some of whom are under  
2 investigation for forging names of young children they are  
3 supposed to serve."

4 Is that right?

5 A. That is what it states.

6 Q. There's a little more to the post. He says, "We cannot  
7 close our eyes to such corruption which will put our entire  
8 community's name in the news as fraudsters and criminals  
9 when we only have a few bad apples."

10 He says, "These women who are gifting this have  
11 been submitting names of thousands of children who are in no  
12 database anywhere and are still being audited for those  
13 invoices."

14 Is that right?

15 A. That is what it states.

16 Q. And the final paragraph of this post that Ms. Bock sends  
17 to Salim Said, the post reads, "I'm saddened that this same  
18 bride was once asked why she had signed people as vendors  
19 who were clearly unqualified and unable to follow the  
20 program's rules."

21 Is that right?

22 A. That is what it states.

23 Q. He says, "These are the same characters who did a song  
24 and dance event for the lady contracted to manage this  
25 program whose name is Aimee."

1 Right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. He says, "I would like the entire community to be aware  
4 we are following this event very closely as these  
5 unfortunate events unfold."

6 Is that right?

7 A. That is what it states.

8 Q. At the bottom of this post, Special Agent Wilmer, it  
9 describes a song and dance event done for a woman named  
10 Aimee; is that right?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Do you have an understanding of what song and dance  
13 event done for a woman named Aimee is being described here?

14 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Call for speculation.

15 THE COURT: Overruled as to speculation.

16 You can answer if you can.

17 THE WITNESS: My understanding is this is  
18 referencing the, what's been described as a party for Aimee  
19 that we've seen in video several times and discussed through  
20 several testimonies in this trial.

21 BY MR. BOBIER:

22 Q. That's the video the jury has seen with Ms. Bock seated  
23 in a chair and a number of folks around her celebrating and  
24 singing; is that right?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And what is the testimony we've heard about why that  
2 party was thrown for Ms. Bock?

3 A. To celebrate their win over MDE which allowed the  
4 submission of claims and participation of food program to  
5 continue by these individuals.

6 Q. And to be clear, we heard about that from Lul Ali and  
7 Hanna Marekegn; is that right?

8 A. And Qamar Hassan, amongst others.

9 Q. And those witnesses who told the jury about that video  
10 throughout this trial, was it their testimony, the  
11 celebration was about feeding kids or the celebration was  
12 about their continuing to personally benefit?

13 A. It was for their personal gain.

14 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, it's a longish social  
15 media post; is that fair?

16 A. That is fair.

17 Q. Can you give us the gist now that we've read it? What's  
18 the concern being expressed, if any?

19 A. A member of the community appears to be concerned that  
20 jewelry witnessed at this wedding indicates to them that  
21 there's some sort of corruption taking place, that these  
22 individuals who participate and work for a nonprofit and a  
23 reimbursement program have the amount of money capable to  
24 buy such gifts for an individual.

25 Q. And according to the post, whose wedding was it?

1 A. It references a Somali woman who works at the office of  
2 Feeding Our Future, and my understanding is that is Hani  
3 Mohamed.

4 Q. Now at the bottom of this post, at least as pictured in  
5 the screen grab Ms. Bock sent to Salim Said, there looks  
6 like a bit of an image or something; is that correct?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. When this post was originally made on social media, is  
9 it something you had occasion to view?

10 A. It is. This is a screen grab of a post on Facebook.

11 Q. Do you know from having viewed this when the social  
12 media post was live what we're seeing at the bottom of this  
13 grab, and there's a little image there?

14 A. Yeah, there was a video included with the text that  
15 we've read in the original posting.

16 Q. When this was originally posted, did you watch that  
17 video?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Would you recognize it if you saw it again?

20 A. I would.

21 Q. If I pull up what is in evidence as BB30f. Okay.  
22 Special Agent Wilmer before I hit play, have you had an  
23 opportunity to review BB30f?

24 A. I have.

25 Q. It's in evidence, but is it your understanding that

1 BB30f is the video that was originally attached to this  
2 social media post we've just read together?

3 A. That's my understanding.

4 Q. Let's play some of it together.

5 (Video recording played)

6 Q. The social media post, I paused this right at the  
7 beginning, described a gold tray; is that right?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. A gold tray bearing, according to the post, gold for the  
10 bride?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. According to the post, gold for the bribe purchased by  
13 contractors in the food program?

14 A. Correct.

15 (Video recording played)

16 Q. Do you have an understanding of when this, the events  
17 depicted in this video occurred?

18 A. January 15th of 2022.

19 Q. Okay.

20 (Video recording played)

21 Q. All right. Let me skip ahead a little, Special  
22 Agent Wilmer. I'm going to go to about 1:20.

23 And before I hit resume, the video still from 1:20  
24 in this footage shows a woman sitting down in a chair; is  
25 that right?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. Do you have an understanding of who that is?

3 A. My understanding is that is the bride that we previously  
4 described.

5 Q. And where, according to your understanding, did that  
6 bride work?

7 A. At Feeding Our Future.

8 Q. What's your understanding of what her name was?

9 A. Hani Mohamed.

10 Q. Okay.

11 (Video recording played)

12 Q. And you describe to us what's happening here?

13 A. In the videos we're seeing, in the videos we're watching  
14 there, jewelry is being presented to the bride as a supposed  
15 gift.

16 Q. It looks like the jewelry presented to her is being  
17 brought up by number of different individuals; is that  
18 right?

19 A. That is correct.

20 (Video recording played)

21 Q. I'm going to skip ahead a little to about the two-minute  
22 mark.

23 (Video recording played)

24 Q. We continue in this video to see this gold tray in the  
25 background; is that right?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. Can you remind us what the social media post said about  
3 a gold tray at this wedding?

4 A. That it was used to present the jewelry to the bride.

5 Q. I'll go forward just a little to 2:46.

6 (Video recording played)

7 Q. And now at about 2:45, it looks like a woman has entered  
8 the screen holding a purple basket of some kind; is that  
9 right?

10 A. That's what it appears to be.

11 (Video recording played)

12 Q. It looks like what appears to be still more gold in that  
13 basket; is that right?

14 A. That is correct.

15 (Video recording played)

16 Q. As we watch a bit more, we continue to see individuals  
17 from the group come up and pull gold from the tray or that  
18 purple basket up to what we understand to be the bride; is  
19 that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Can remind us what the social media post described as  
22 the attendees at this wedding providing all that gold?

23 A. Participants in the food program.

24 Q. I'll go ahead to 3:50.

25 (Video recording played)

1 Q. There we get a closer view of that purple basket; is  
2 that right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. We saw one of the participants put what appeared to be  
5 one of the many gold necklaces back in that basket as it's  
6 passed around; is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 (Video recording played)

9 Q. And just so the record's clear, I know it's not the  
10 clearest video, how much, given from what you've seen  
11 individual items taken out of that basket, appears to be in  
12 there?

13 A. Numerous pieces of gold jewelry.

14 Q. It's not just one or two?

15 A. It is not. Significantly more than one or two.

16 Q. According to the social media post, what was the  
17 collective value of the gold provided to Hani, the Feeding  
18 Our Future employee, at this wedding in the video?

19 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Calls for speculation.

20 MR. BOBIER: According to the post, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Overruled.

22 THE WITNESS: According to the post, it says  
23 collectively almost a hundred thousand dollars.

24 BY MR. BOBIER:

25 Q. With each, according to the post, of the program

1 contractors chipping in how much?

2 A. \$10,000 worth.

3 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, this gets posted  
4 online. And you told us that was January 15th?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Now, the text message exchange we were just reading in  
7 Government's BB30g between Ms. Bock and Salim Said, that was  
8 January 16th, right?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. Next day?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And when Ms. Bock sees the social media post of that  
13 video and the description of it as gold being paid for by  
14 program participants and provided to an employee at Feeding  
15 Our Future, what's her response?

16 A. Amongst other things, she tells Mr. Said to, "Get that  
17 shit cleaned up."

18 Q. What do you understand that to mean?

19 A. Have the post removed.

20 Q. Have it taken down?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Make it go away?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And here on page 4, we see her sending that picture of  
25 the post of the video to Mr. Salim Said. And what is

1 driving her reaction, according to her text?

2 A. That it names her and Feeding Our Future directly.

3 Q. And what else?

4 A. Immediately following that there's a text from Ms. Bock  
5 to Mr. Said that reads, "One of my employees gets married,  
6 and now it's proof that I'm a fraud?"

7 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, you saw -- you said  
8 you saw this post when it was up originally; is that right?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. Are you aware from your role in the investigation of  
11 Ms. Bock investigating whether the description in the post  
12 was accurate?

13 A. I have not seen evidence that that occurred.

14 Q. Have you seen evidence that she spoke to Ms. Hani, the  
15 woman who got married in this video, her employee, to ask  
16 whether the post was true?

17 A. I have not.

18 Q. What are you aware of Ms. Bock's reaction being when  
19 this post about her specifically and Feeding Our Future  
20 specifically was made online?

21 A. Directing Mr. Said to have it removed.

22 Q. Do you know whether he was successful in getting it  
23 removed?

24 A. It was removed shortly thereafter.

25 Q. All right. We talked earlier about MDE raising concerns

1 to Feeding Our Future; is that right?

2 A. Yes, we did.

3 Q. And in those examples what was Ms. Bock's response to  
4 MDE's concerns?

5 A. To aggressively fight back.

6 Q. To keep the program open, you said?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Now we've talked about a community concern being raised  
9 on social media about Feeding Our Future; is that right?

10 A. Yes, we did.

11 Q. And here what was Ms. Bock's reaction to that concern  
12 being raised?

13 A. To have it removed.

14 Q. Taken down?

15 A. Take it down.

16 Q. Same aggressive response you've described earlier; is  
17 that fair?

18 A. That is fair.

19 Q. Have we seen other examples of Ms. Bock acting this way  
20 when concerns are raised about Feeding Our Future or about  
21 her?

22 A. We have.

23 Q. Including in her personal communications?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. Let me show you BB40a, which is in evidence. Yet

1 another text message; is that right?

2 A. Yes, this is another text exchange from a number ending  
3 in 2480, identified as Aimee Bock, and a number ending in  
4 1161, identified as Hadith Ahmed.

5 Q. And we have heard the name Hadith Ahmed a few times in  
6 this trial; is that right?

7 A. Yes, we have.

8 Q. Let me pull up Y22, which is in evidence.

9 Is that a picture of Hadith Ahmed?

10 A. It is.

11 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, who is Hadith Ahmed?

12 A. A former Feeding Our Future employee who had a role  
13 similar to Abdikerm Eidleh. He was responsible for  
14 recruiting sites and then providing oversight to sites under  
15 their sponsorship.

16 And as part of his time as a Feeding Our Future  
17 employee, he solicited and received multiple kickbacks from  
18 sites under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

19 Q. You said that when Hadith Ahmed worked at Feeding Our  
20 Future, he had a role similar to that of Mr. Eidleh; is that  
21 right?

22 A. Yes. He had several roles over his course of employment  
23 there, but one of which was recruiting sites to operate  
24 under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

25 Q. Was Hadith Ahmed charged in the broader investigation

1 here?

2 A. Yes, he was.

3 Q. So let's look at the text message from February 2021,  
4 between Ms. Bock and Mr. Ahmed.

5 Start at page 4. Why don't I be Hadith and you  
6 will read Aimee.

7 Hadith Ahmed opens this part of the conversation,  
8 "I got that Khadra from Karmell number." It includes a  
9 phone number and writes Khadra?

10 A. Ms. Buick responds, "Okay. I'll see if attorney will  
11 call."

12 Q. Mr. Ahmed says, "Please and please, please let the  
13 lawyer call and scare the shit out of her. If he can't, I'm  
14 gonna hire someone to call her."

15 Is that right?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. How does Ms. Bock respond?

18 A. "Definitely. What's Khadra's last name? What is she  
19 saying about us?"

20 Q. The next page Hadith Ahmed says, "Wait. DHS lookup.  
21 Gimme one minute."

22 A. Ms. Bock responds, she said, "We don't pay. What else?"

23 Q. And Hadith writes, "Yes, that we are going down."

24 He then adds, "Anab Awad."

25 And what does Ms. Bock say?

1 A. "What is her company name? Her legal name is Anab  
2 Awad?"

3 Q. All right. Let's pause there. Do you know the name  
4 Anab Awad?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. From your work on the investigation?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Who is Anab Awad?

9 A. Anab Awad is another individual that has been charged as  
10 part of the larger investigation. She operated multiple  
11 sites within the Federal Child Nutrition Program during the  
12 same time period we've been discussing.

13 Q. And on page 4 of Government's BB40a, the conversation  
14 had opened with Hadith Ahmed describing a person named  
15 Khadra; is that right?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Who do you understand that to refer to?

18 A. Khadra is a nickname of Ms. Anab Awad.

19 Q. Okay. So this whole conversation we've been reviewing  
20 so far, your understanding is it concerns this Anab Awad who  
21 participated in the food program, right?

22 A. This is my understanding.

23 Q. All right. What is your understanding from this  
24 communication about what is driving Ms. Bock and Mr. Ahmed  
25 on this occasion to discuss Anab Awad?

1 A. My understanding is that Anab Awad has said things about  
2 Feeding Our Future, in this case Aimee Bock and Hadith, and  
3 they are trying to understand exactly what she said and also  
4 as Hadith said, scare her.

5 Q. All right. So first in this conversation they want to  
6 make sure they know who they are talking about; is that  
7 right?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. What is her legal name, asks Ms. Bock?

10 A. Yes, she does.

11 Q. Then Hadith Ahmed sends some information. He had  
12 mentioned in an early part of the communication, "DHS  
13 lookup"; is that right?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. Do you have an understanding of what that means in this  
16 context?

17 A. Yes, in this context, it's the Department of Human  
18 Services for the State of Minnesota.

19 Q. So to put a fine point on it, Mr. Ahmed is looking at  
20 government records to confirm the name of this person who  
21 apparently has said some things that are causing him and  
22 Ms. Bock concern about Feeding Our Future?

23 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Leading. Assumes facts  
24 not in evidence.

25 THE COURT: Sustained.

1 BY MR. BOBIER:

2 Q. Can you tell from the context here, Special  
3 Agent Wilmer, why they are looking at a DHS lookup for Anab  
4 Awad?

5 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Calls for speculation.

6 THE COURT: Overruled.

7 You may answer.

8 THE WITNESS: My understanding is that an  
9 individual identified as Khadra made some comments, and they  
10 want to identify who that person is and what their business  
11 is.

12 BY MR. BOBIER:

13 Q. All right. And you said part of what Hadith Ahmed  
14 suggests is they should let the lawyer call to scare the  
15 shit out of her; is that right?

16 A. That is what he states.

17 Q. Let's read the rest of this communication.

18 What does Ms. Bock say?

19 A. "He wants to send her a subpoena."

20 Q. Hadith writes, "Absolutely"?

21 A. Ms. Bock responds, "He will call her in the morning.  
22 She is going to be terrified."

23 Q. Now Hadith asks, "Tomorrow? Saturday?"

24 A. Correct. And Ms. Bock responds, "If it doesn't go well,  
25 he will subpoena her and MDE will get a copy of it. Yes.

1 We don't play. He has wanted blank destroyed since they  
2 hurt me."

3 Q. All right. This is a redaction for relevance in this  
4 case; is that right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. All right. But afterward Mr. Ahmed says, "I fully  
7 support you. Destroy those MTF playing FOF"; is that right?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. And what at the end of this part of the thread does  
10 Ms. Bock say?

11 A. "She is the only problem you guys are having so she  
12 needs to be handled. It's on. We may have become the mob."

13 Q. Special Agent Wilmer, earlier when you were talking  
14 about Ms. Bock's approach to MDE when MDE raised concerns,  
15 you used the word "aggressive"; is that right?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. What are we seeing in this text message?

18 A. They are taking action to scare individuals who speak  
19 out against them.

20 Q. In fact, when Ms. Bock explains that Anab Awad, whom  
21 they are discussing, is going to get a call from the lawyer  
22 in the morning, what does Ms. Bock say?

23 A. "She is going to be terrified."

24 Q. Is that consistent with what we've seen earlier from  
25 your testimony today in terms of Ms. Bock responding to

1 concerns about Feeding Our Future?

2 A. It is.

3 Q. In your review of Ms. Bock's communications, have you  
4 seen any evidence, any more evidence, about her discussing  
5 concern that her role or Feeding Our Future's role in the  
6 program would end?

7 A. I have.

8 Q. Let me show you BB32g, which is in evidence.

9 Yet another text?

10 A. Yes, this is another text exchange between number ending  
11 in 2480, identified as Aimee Bock, and a number ending in  
12 4970, labeled Ikram understood to be Ikram Mohamed.

13 Q. All right. Ms. Bock and Ikram Mohamed, August 2021; is  
14 that right?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. What does Ms. Bock say here?

17 A. Ms. Bock states, "Also Blackie hates white people and  
18 has shit to take me down. The entire community is going to  
19 hang up on me to take me down."

20 Q. Ikram replies, "What? Is that what he told Malcolm?"

21 A. Correct. And Ms. Bock responds, "Yes."

22 Q. To break that down, Special Agent Wilmer, remind us who  
23 uses the nickname "Blackie"?

24 A. Salim Said.

25 Q. The defendant in this case?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And Ms. Bock tells Ikram Mohamed in August 2021 that  
3 Salim Said has shit to take me down; is that right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. She adds, "The entire community is going to hang up on  
6 me and take me down," right?

7 A. That is what she states.

8 Q. Do we know someone in this case named Malcolm?

9 A. It's understood to be her boyfriend at the time Malcolm  
10 Watson.

11 Q. And according to this text, that's what Salim Said had  
12 told her boyfriend around August of 2021; is that right?

13 A. That is what's stated here.

14 Q. All right. We started this morning by talking about MDE  
15 raising concerns and Ms. Bock's reaction there.

16 We looked at that wedding video. We talked about  
17 community concerns and Ms. Bock's reaction to that.

18 Are you aware of any concerns about Feeding Our  
19 Future ever being raised by Ms. Bock's employees?

20 A. I am.

21 Q. Have we heard any testimony about that in this trial so  
22 far?

23 A. We have. Genesis Alonso mentioned red flags that were  
24 raided for her in documents that she reviewed and taking  
25 them directly to Ms. Bock, setting them on her desk, some of

1 those claims still be paid after the fact.

2 She discussed Norma Cabadas, her mother, who also  
3 worked there who after hearing something from another  
4 individual concerning fraud at Feeding Our Future took those  
5 concerns directly to Ms. Bock.

6 Soon thereafter, Ms. Cabadas no longer felt she  
7 could work at Feeding Our Future, amongst others.

8 Q. You say, "Amongst others." Are you aware from the  
9 investigation of other examples of Feeding Our Future  
10 employees raising concerns to Ms. Bock?

11 A. I am.

12 Q. Including from her communications?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Let me show you Q84, which is in evidence. All right.  
15 Now we have an email, not a text, correct?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Who is it from and who is it to?

18 A. This is an email from Hadith Ahmed to Aimee Bock, dated  
19 February 27th of 2021, the subject of Xogmaal.

20 Q. Now, just a moment ago you told us who Hadith Ahmed is,  
21 but could you remind us at a high level?

22 A. Former Feeding Our Future employee who had several roles  
23 within the company, including recruiting sites and providing  
24 oversights for sites under the sponsorship of Feeding Our  
25 Future and has been charged as part of the larger

1 investigation for, amongst other things, soliciting and  
2 receiving kickbacks from sites.

3 Q. Do you know whether Hadith Ahmed worked closely with  
4 Aimee Bock?

5 A. He did.

6 Q. Now in this February 2021 email from are Hadith to Aimee  
7 the subject is Xogmaal, X-O-G-M-A-A-L; is that correct?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Do you know what Xogmaal?

10 A. Xogmaal references a media company in the local  
11 Minneapolis community, and it also became a site under the  
12 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

13 Q. A media company did?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. Is in this email from Hadith Ahmed he writes, "Hello,  
16 boss," correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. He says, "We took a lot of organization that don't work  
19 with children or are advocate, I am just realizing that now.  
20 For example, Xogmaal is a TV show program."

21 Is that right?

22 A. That is what it states.

23 Q. Mr. Ahmed says, "They have no interest with children."

24 And he ends, "these are the things we need to  
25 clean up."

1 Correct?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. That's Hadith Ahmed's email to Aimee Bock, February of  
4 2021?

5 A. Yes, it is.

6 Q. Do you know if Ms. Bock responded to that?

7 A. She did.

8 Q. Let me show you Q85, which is in evidence.

9 Q85 includes that email from Hadith we just  
10 reviewed, correct?

11 A. Yes, it does.

12 Q. Ending with, "These are things we need to clean up,"  
13 right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Including as Hadith Ahmed describes it that Xogmaal,  
16 which you told us was a site, "Has no interest with  
17 children," right?

18 A. That is what it states.

19 Q. And they don't work with children?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And they are not an advocate?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So he says we need to clean that up. Does Ms. Bock  
24 agree?

25 A. She responds several days later and states, "Yes, I

1 agree."

2 Q. And really just a few days later, February 27th to  
3 March 2nd, right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. So Ms. Bock agrees the kind of things that needs to be  
6 cleaned up, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Okay. Do you know if after this point, March of 2021,  
9 Feeding Our Future and Ms. Bock cleaned up Xogmaal's  
10 participation as a site under Feeding Our Future?

11 A. It continued to operate a site, as a site and receive  
12 significant amount of reimbursement payments through Feeding  
13 Our Future.

14 Q. Even after this point?

15 A. After this point.

16 Q. When Ms. Bock's employee says, "This is an organization  
17 that doesn't work with children," right?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. And Ms. Bock agrees it needs to be cleaned up?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Let me show you Q85, which is in evidence. I'm sorry.  
22 Q86.

23 All right. Ms. Bock agrees to clean up Xogmaal  
24 and other things March 2021, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And then in Q86, first we see an email from someone  
2 called Coley Flynn; is that right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Now, this is forward a few months in July 2021, correct?

5 A. Yes, it is.

6 Q. Remind us who Coley Flynn is at a high level.

7 A. Coley Flynn is a Feeding Our Future employee. He was  
8 the neighbor of Jamie Phelps who worked with Ms. Bock at  
9 Feeding Our Future for the essentially duration of Feeding  
10 Our Future's existence as an organization.

11 Q. Okay. So he's a Feeding Our Future employee; is that  
12 right?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. All right. So Coley Flynn now in July emails Ms. Bock,  
15 correct?

16 A. Yes, he does.

17 Q. And what does he say at a high level in that email?

18 A. That an individual from Xogmaal came to the office and  
19 is looking for payments for several months.

20 Q. All right. So March 2021 Ms. Bock agrees with Hadith  
21 Ahmed that Xogmaal needs to be cleaned up, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Xogmaal being the organization that according to  
24 Hadith's email doesn't work with kids.

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. And has no interest in children.

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Now all the way forward in July, Xogmaal's coming  
4 looking for their money, right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. All right. Do we know if Ms. Bock responded to Coley  
7 Flynn?

8 A. She did.

9 Q. What did she say?

10 A. "Please pull his meal counts for me."

11 Q. Okay. So let's look at the meal counts, which is Q81.

12 This is a folder labeled Xogmaal, obtained during  
13 the execution of one of the government's search warrants; is  
14 that right?

15 A. Correct, a search warrant at the Feeding Our Future  
16 office.

17 Q. At the FOF office?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. Okay. If we look at these claims, just to give the jury  
20 an idea, similar type of clicker count we've seen for other  
21 sites?

22 A. Yes, very similar.

23 Q. What do you note as being similar about it to many of  
24 those counts we've reviewed before?

25 A. Claiming to have prepared a very high number day after

1 day, month after month.

2 Q. And the exact same high number day after day; is that  
3 right?

4 A. Exact same number prepared, the exact same number served  
5 to children, and the exact same number of children  
6 requesting meals after food is gone.

7 Q. The hallmarks that in previous testimony have been  
8 described as indicating a lack of legitimacy; is that  
9 correct?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. All right. So just a few of those claims by way of  
12 example.

13 When we were looking at Ms. Bock's email to Coley  
14 Flynn in July 2021 a moment ago, she said pull the counts  
15 for me, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Way back in March she agreed Xogmaal needed to be  
18 cleaned up, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Do you know if Xogmaal got paid as a site operating  
21 under Feeding Our Future?

22 A. They did. Over a million dollars.

23 Q. Over a million dollars?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Let me show you Government W2, which is in evidence. Is

1 this one of those payments you were talking about?

2 A. This is. This is a check from Feeding Our Future to  
3 Xogmaal Media Group, dated June 22nd, 2021, signed by Aimee  
4 Bock.

5 Q. It's from the Feeding Our Future account at Bank of  
6 America according to the check; is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Remind us. Who is the only signatory on that account?

9 A. Aimee Bock.

10 Q. What does that mean?

11 A. She's the only one who has control of those funds in  
12 that account.

13 Q. Here we see about a hundred grand in June going to  
14 Xogmaal from Feeding Our Future; is that right?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. Go to the next page. They get paid again?

17 A. Yes, just a couple weeks later, another check for over  
18 \$300,000.

19 Q. Over triple the last check; is that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Again to Xogmaal?

22 A. Correct, Xogmaal Media Group.

23 Q. Again signed by Aimee Bock?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And there are more of these, right? Like in the next

1 page, there's another check; is that right?

2 A. That's correct. Another check for over \$70,000.

3 Q. Again signed by Aimee Bock?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. Again to Xogmaal?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And to be clear, these last ones we're looking at, for  
8 example the \$330,000 check from Aimee Bock to Xogmaal,  
9 that's dated July, right?

10 A. Correct, July 9th.

11 Q. Remind us the date of the email when Hadith Ahmed says  
12 Xogmaal needs to be cleaned up?

13 A. Hadith sent that email February 27th of 2021.

14 Q. Before July, correct?

15 A. Well before.

16 Q. Well before. This is the email where he said Xogmaal  
17 doesn't work with kids, right?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. And Ms. Bock agreed?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And then for months thereafter what are we seeing?

22 A. Payments to Xogmaal.

23 Q. Signed by Aimee Bock?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And you mentioned the total that Xogmaal received

1 working under Feeding Our Future. If we look at  
2 Government's X1, which is in evidence, to put some precision  
3 on it, how much did that organization that Ms. Bock's  
4 employee told her did not work with kids receive from  
5 Feeding Our Future?

6 A. Over \$1.3 million.

7 Q. All in checks signed by Aimee Bock?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. All right. We talked about concerns raised by MDE; is  
10 that right?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Talked about concerns raised from the community; is that  
13 right?

14 A. Yes, we did.

15 Q. And here we're seeing in the Hadith and Aimee Bock  
16 exchange concerns raised from her own employees; is that  
17 correct?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. What throughout those examples we've looked at today and  
20 last week was the reaction of Ms. Bock to those concerns  
21 being raised?

22 A. Claims continued to be submitted for reimbursement,  
23 funds continued to be paid through Feeding Our Future.

24 Q. No matter those concerns we looked at, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Xogmaal keeps getting paid?

2 A. Yes, they did.

3 Q. Feeding Our Future's number of sites and claims continue  
4 to expand; is that right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. So if I show you BB32f, which is in evidence, this is  
7 another text message between Ms. Bock and Ms. Ikram Mohamed;  
8 is that correct?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. This one February -- I'm sorry -- September of 2021?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And in this exchange what does Ms. Bock say is the goal  
13 this year, 2021, for Feeding Our Future?

14 A. To make FOF nationally recognized.

15 Q. Ikram Mohamed agrees. And what does Aimee Bock say?

16 A. "Yup, we will rule the world, or at least Minnesota."

17 Q. Special Agent Wilmer, remind us what Feeding Our Future  
18 was supposed to be doing.

19 A. Providing oversight so that children in need can be fed.

20 Q. Feed kids?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Reimbursement program?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And the goal with the nonprofit Feeding Our Future,  
25 according to Ms. Bock in this text message, is what?

1 A. Become nationally recognized and rule the world or at  
2 least Minnesota.

3 Q. Okay. A couple times this morning, Special  
4 Agent Wilmer, we looked at Government's X1; is that right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And the jury's seen this on and off throughout the  
7 trial, but just as a quick reminder, what is X1 showing?

8 A. This is showing the total amount in dollars of claims  
9 broken out by site processed through and under the  
10 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

11 Q. In 2020, how many sites according to X1 were operating  
12 under Feeding Our Future sponsorship?

13 A. 174.

14 Q. And between 2020 and 2021 about how many dollars in  
15 federal food program money flowed through Feeding Our  
16 Future?

17 A. Over 240 million.

18 Q. Do you know which account every one of those  
19 \$240 million flowed into from MDE?

20 A. Yes. It's a Feeding Our Future account we've seen  
21 through many checks so far.

22 Q. The checks signed by Aimee Bock?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. And who is the only signatory on that Feeding Our Future  
25 account through which all of those dollars flowed?

1 A. Aimee Bock.

2 Q. We've talked about a lot of the sites on this list  
3 already throughout the trial; is that fair?

4 A. That's fair to say.

5 Q. So if I just zoom in, for example, on the top dozen or  
6 so, we've talked at length about Safari; is that correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. That's Salim Said's site at the Safari Restaurant with  
9 his partners, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. The jury's heard about ASA Limited?

12 A. Yes, they have.

13 Q. Which one is that?

14 A. Abdihakim Ahmed's site that operated at the storefront  
15 we watched pole cam footage of in the St. Paul area.

16 Q. And the ASA, that's Mr. Salim Said?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. We heard testimony about Brava Restaurant; is that  
19 right?

20 A. Correct. That's a restaurant located in Rochester that  
21 Mr. Jama provided testimony regarding.

22 Q. Okay. Sharmake Jama, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. There are a number of Stigma-Free entries on here, at  
25 least two in the selection I've zoomed in on. What was

1 Stigma-Free?

2 A. Stigma-Free International was a nonprofit acquired by  
3 Salim Said and associates to continue to operate new sites  
4 under, once the ruling came that for-profit restaurants and  
5 entities could no longer operate sites.

6 Q. You described last week that the Stigma-Free sites under  
7 Salim Said and his partners operated according to a certain  
8 model; is that right?

9 A. Yes. It was a franchise model. Each site followed the  
10 same structure organizationally and financially.

11 Q. Okay. And we won't go through all of these sites I've  
12 zoomed in on here, but safe to say the jury has heard from  
13 agents or witnesses who have pleaded guilty about a lot of  
14 them?

15 Is that fair?

16 A. That's fair to say.

17 Q. But, Special Agent Wilmer, this is Government's X1, this  
18 is a big list; is that right?

19 A. It is.

20 Q. Far more sites than the 15 or so the jury has heard  
21 about so far?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. To be clear, did the broader investigation include  
24 investigation into many of these other sites?

25 A. Yes, it did.

1 Q. And whether that was you personally doing it or other  
2 agents on the team, you're aware that that work was  
3 undertaken; is that right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. All right. I want to go through just a few of these  
6 that the jury has not yet heard about.

7 So if I zoom in, for example, on the top third or  
8 so, go all the way down to the top third of page 3 because  
9 X1 is a multiple-page document; is that right?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. One of the items here is called Great Lakes Inc.; is  
12 that right?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Is that a site with which you are familiar?

15 A. It is.

16 Q. How much did Great Lakes Inc. get in federal food  
17 program money in 2020 and 2021?

18 A. Just under \$350,000.

19 Q. All from Feeding Our Future?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. All from the account controlled solely by Ms. Bock?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. So if I show you on the other side of the screen what's  
24 in evidence as Q55, here we have an email to Ms. Bock in  
25 June 2021; is that correct?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. Who is it from?

3 A. From Sade Hashi to Aimee Bock.

4 Q. Do you know who Sade Hashi is?

5 A. I do. He's another individual who's been charged for  
6 his role as part of the larger investigation, and he's the  
7 purported GM of Great Lakes Inc. and operated the Great  
8 Lakes site under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

9 Q. Sade Hashi, he's the Great Lakes guy; is that right?

10 A. That's fair to say.

11 Q. Let's take a look at the claims. Similar clicker count  
12 to what we've seen before; is that right?

13 A. Yes, very similar to many meal counts that we've gone  
14 through so far.

15 Q. Has many of what have been testified to as those  
16 hallmarks of illegitimacy; is that right?

17 A. That's fair to say.

18 Q. Could you name some for us?

19 A. Flat numbers day after day with no variation claiming to  
20 have served a very high number of children day after day.

21 Q. And if we keep going down, day after day after day,  
22 we're seeing the same hallmarks on this Great Lakes meal  
23 count sheet; is that fair?

24 A. That's fair.

25 Q. All right. So those are the claims coming from Great

1 Lakes to Feeding Our Future. Do you know if they were paid?

2 A. They were.

3 Q. On checks from Ms. Bock?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. From the Feeding Our Future account that only she  
6 controlled; is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. So if I pull up Government's W2, at page 276, we see a  
9 check; is that right?

10 A. We do.

11 Q. To Great Lakes?

12 A. Correct. For over \$330,000.

13 Q. Are there other payments like that, do you know?

14 A. There are.

15 Q. To Great Lakes from Aimee Bock?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. That one was May 14, 2021.

18 Looks like they got another 82 grand in March; is  
19 that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. And 74 grand in February.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And earlier in February, another \$59,000?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And as I'm tabbing through further and further into

1 Government's W2, what are we seeing?

2 A. Additional checks from Feeding Our Future to Great Lakes  
3 Inc. signed by Aimee Bock.

4 Q. Check after check after check?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. About a dozen of them; is that right?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. That's Great Lakes.

9 Then let's talk about another one. Let's go to  
10 the top quarter of the page of page 1 in Government's X1.  
11 Have you ever heard of distribution site Evergreen Grocery  
12 and Deli?

13 A. I have.

14 Q. Why are you familiar with Evergreen?

15 A. This is another site that was investigated and husband  
16 and wife Said Ereg and Najmo Ahmed were both charged for  
17 their role operating this site out of a small grocery and  
18 deli here in Minneapolis.

19 Q. I'll pull up Q117, which is in evidence. We see an  
20 email from Said Ereg 00 gmail. Is that your understanding  
21 that's an email for one of those two people you just  
22 described who operated the Evergreen site?

23 A. Correct. That's my understanding.

24 Q. And who were charged for doing so?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Where does Mr. Ereg send his February claims for  
2 Evergreen?

3 A. This is submitted to claims at Feeding Our Future, and  
4 copied on that is Eidleh at Feeding Our Future.

5 Q. Claims at Feeding Our Future, the email we've heard that  
6 Ms. Bock has access to; is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. From a scan, these claims are a little faint, but to put  
9 it simply, when we look at the claims, are we seeing similar  
10 hallmarks again?

11 A. We are.

12 Q. Of illegitimacy?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Big round numbers day after day?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Very little variation?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Very high numbers?

19 A. Day after day.

20 Q. Day after day.

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Do you know if Evergreen was paid by Feeding Our Future  
23 for submitting claims like this one?

24 A. They were. A very significant amount.

25 Q. Let me show you the bank records again, 274, or rather

1 274 of Government's W2.

2 Same story?

3 A. Correct. We see a check from the Feeding Our Future  
4 account at Bank of America to Evergreen Grocery and Deli for  
5 over \$400,000 signed by Aimee Bock.

6 Q. About half a million in one check; is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. And as I go to earlier pages in this exhibit, here in  
9 January we see about another half million check; is that  
10 right?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. To Evergreen from Aimee Bock?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Earlier page, another half million to Evergreen from  
15 Aimee Bock?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Another half million on the page before that, March of  
18 2021?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And these keep going; is that right?

21 A. They do.

22 Q. In Government's X1 can you tell us, Special  
23 Agent Wilmer, the total amount of federal food program money  
24 that Evergreen Grocery received from the account that  
25 Ms. Bock controlled?

1 A. Just under \$5 million in just two years.

2 Q. In fact a little under two years; is that right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. So that's Evergreen.

5 Let me talk about just a few more with you,  
6 Special Agent Wilmer, if we can.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Bobier, what I'd like to do is  
8 take our morning break, and then we will come back to that.

9 MR. BOBIER: Great, Your Honor. Thank you.

10 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

11 All rise for the jury. We'll return at 10:50.

12 10:29 a.m.

13 **IN OPEN COURT**

14 **(JURY NOT PRESENT)**

15 THE COURT: We're in recess until 10:50.

16 (Recess taken at 10:50 a.m. till 10:52 a.m.)

17 10:52 a.m.

18 **IN OPEN COURT**

19 **(JURY PRESENT)**

20 THE COURT: You may all be seated.

21 Mr. Bobier, you may continue.

22 MR. BOBIER: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 BY MR. BOBIER:

24 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, before the break, we  
25 were quickly ticking through a few additional sites under

1 the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future; is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. If I go, for example, about half way down on the first  
4 page of X1, there's a site called Singletree.

5 Are you familiar with Singletree?

6 A. I am.

7 Q. Was that a site under Feeding Our Future?

8 A. It was.

9 Q. Did that site consistently go by the name Singletree, or  
10 was it sometimes called something else?

11 A. No. It was multiple names associated with that site.

12 Q. Are you familiar with the name Southwest Metro Youth?

13 A. I am. That's another one of those names associated with  
14 that site.

15 Q. Okay. Singletree/Southwest Metro Youth, same site?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Do you know what operated the Singletree site?

18 A. Hadith Ahmed, Feeding Our Future employee we just  
19 discussed previously.

20 Q. The Hadith Ahmed in Y22, that photo that we looked at a  
21 little earlier today?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. He's the one you described as having a role at Feeding  
24 Our Future sort of similar to that of Mr. Idleh; is that  
25 right?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And he, Hadith Ahmed, worked closely with Aimee Bock,  
3 right?

4 A. He did.

5 Q. From your investigation into this case, are you familiar  
6 with the claims submitted by Singletree, at least at a high  
7 level?

8 A. I am.

9 Q. And from that background, do you believe those claims to  
10 be legitimate representations of meals provided to kids?

11 A. I do not.

12 Q. I'm going to show you what's in evidence. It's  
13 Government's Q39a. Another email; is that right?

14 A. Yes. This is an email from Southwest Metro Youth at  
15 gmail to claims at Feeding Our Future and Aimee at Feeding  
16 Our Future.

17 Q. Again Southwest Metro Youth, the same as the Singletree  
18 site, different name for it, right?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. So these claims go directly to Aimee Bock's email  
21 address, including the claims address; is that right?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. If we take a look at some of these claims in  
24 Government's Q39a, go to the third page for example, what do  
25 we see, Special Agent Wilmer?

1 A. Similar to many of the claims we looked at previously,  
2 purporting to provide, prepare and serve exactly 2,000 meals  
3 a day, day after day.

4 Q. Similar hallmarks of illegitimacy we've seen on the  
5 other counts that we've discussed; is that right?

6 A. That's fair to say.

7 Q. And page 4 of this same set of email attachments for the  
8 Singletree, also known as Southwest Metro Youth account,  
9 rather site, there's an invoice. Do you see that?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. Who is that from?

12 A. This is an invoice from Hope Suppliers LLC, billed to  
13 Southwest Metro Youth.

14 Q. We'll talk more about Hope Suppliers in a minute, but at  
15 a high level what is Hope Suppliers?

16 A. This is one of several shell companies that Abdikerm  
17 Eidleh used to receive proceeds through the food program,  
18 including the kickbacks that have been referenced  
19 previously.

20 Q. So to be clear, this site Singletree or Southwest Metro  
21 Youth, who is it operated by?

22 A. Hadith Ahmed.

23 Q. The Feeding Our Future employee?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And who is being invoiced by Mr. Ahmed, who runs the

1 site, for the food supposedly provided to the site?

2 A. A company belonging to Abdikerm Eidleh, another Feeding  
3 Our Future employee.

4 Q. Where we started in Q39a, was that all those materials,  
5 the claims, the invoice, which we'll look at more in a  
6 moment, all of that is sent to Feeding Our Future, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And to Ms. Bock directly?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. I'm going to show you some more meal counts from that  
11 site in Q34, which is in evidence. This one from  
12 March 2021. Another email; is that right?

13 A. Yes. This is another email from the Southwest Metro  
14 Youth gmail account to claims at Feeding Our Future, and  
15 copied on that is Hadith at Feeding Our Future.

16 Q. Do you know who controls the Southwest Metro Youth at  
17 gmail account?

18 A. My understanding is that is also Hadith.

19 Q. So in this email Q34, we have Hadith sending an email to  
20 FOF and copying himself?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Because he works at Feeding Our Future and he also ran  
23 this site?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Let's look at the February claims that are attached.

1 The site in the top left is SWMY. Do you have an  
2 understanding of what that stands for?

3 A. My understanding is that stands for Southwest Metro  
4 Youth.

5 Q. And what are we seeing in this clicker account?

6 A. Again a very high number, the exact same number prepared  
7 and served day after day. Nothing else filled in.

8 Q. Do you believe that account is legitimate?

9 A. I do not.

10 Q. Do you believe it represents actually 1642 meals fed to  
11 children every day?

12 A. I do not.

13 Q. Has the same hallmarks of illegitimacy you've seen in  
14 the other accounts that we've discussed; is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Do you know whether Ms. Bock knew that her employee  
17 Hadith Ahmed was operating this Southwest Metro Youth site  
18 under Feeding Our Future's sponsorship?

19 A. My understanding is she did.

20 Q. Is that understanding based in part on communications?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. Let me show you what's in evidence as Government's Q39b.

23 Now, if we go to the second page of this exhibit  
24 to show the email that begins this thread, who sends the  
25 email in Q39b in April of 2021?

1 A. This is an email from Hadith Ahmed to MDE.

2 Q. And he includes in that email, among other things,  
3 contact information; is that right?

4 A. He does.

5 Q. Where he specifies Hadith Ahmed, executive director for  
6 Southwest Metro Youth; is that true?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. If we go back up to page 1, there's a response from MDE;  
9 is that correct?

10 A. Yes. This appears to be an email from an MDE employee  
11 responding to the Southwest Metro Youth email account.

12 Q. And in that whole thread, including the first page where  
13 Hadith Ahmed is identified as the executive director of  
14 Southwest Metro Youth, that gets forwarded, correct?

15 A. It does. To Aimee at Feeding Our Future.

16 Q. From Southwest Metro Youth at gmail?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Which to your understanding is an account controlled by  
19 who?

20 A. Hadith Ahmed.

21 Q. Let me show you BB40a, which is also in evidence. Back  
22 to text messages.

23 This one February 2021 between Ms. Bock and  
24 Mr. Ahmed; is that right?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. And in this February exchange why don't I read for  
2 Mr. Ahmed. Let's start, well, let's start at the top?

3 Mr. Ahmed says, "Abdiaziz is not happy with us."

4 A. Aimee Bock responds, "Why?"

5 Q. "Writing a check to Madina. He forwarded me a text he  
6 sent you."

7 A. Aimee Bock responds, "I haven't read it yet."

8 Q. Mr. Ahmed says, "I don't know how it works, payment. I  
9 told Aimee decides it."

10 A. Aimee Bock responds, "Who did he want it to?"

11 Q. Okay. Mr. Ahmed says, "Read the text he sent."

12 And he adds, "I think Empire or nonprofit Mind  
13 Foundry."

14 A. Aimee Bock responds, "We can do Mind Foundry."

15 Q. Ahmed says, "Yes."

16 A. Aimee Bock responds, "Or Southwest, not Empire. He  
17 didn't text until late. If I knew before, I would have  
18 written it differently."

19 Q. "I know," Mr. Ahmed says.

20 "Which one do you prefer? And safer for us?"

21 A. Ms. Bock responds, "Is your name on SOSW?"

22 Q. Mr. Ahmed says, "Yes."

23 A. Which Ms. Bock responds, "then Mind Foundry."

24 Q. All right. Special Agent, let's break that down just a  
25 bit.

1           It seems like in this text thread Mr. Ahmed and  
2 Ms. Bock are discussing payment; is that correct?

3 A. That's my understanding.

4 Q. And where a payment should go; is that right?

5 A. That is my understanding.

6 Q. Are you familiar in the context of the Feeding Our  
7 Future investigation of an entity called Empire?

8 A. I am.

9 Q. At a high level what is Empire?

10 A. Empire is a for-profit restaurant that operated as both  
11 a site and then a vendor within the Federal Child Nutrition  
12 Program.

13 Q. Under what sponsor?

14 A. Feeding Our Future.

15 Q. Have the principals of Empire been charged in the  
16 broader investigation?

17 A. They have.

18 Q. The folks who ran it, I mean?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And Mind Foundry, is that an entity that operated in the  
21 food program as well?

22 A. It is, and it is a nonprofit entity that was used for  
23 multiple sites.

24 Q. Has the person or persons in charge of Mind Foundry been  
25 charged in the broader investigation?

1 A. They have.

2 Q. Okay. So in this thread, Ms. Bock and Mr. Ahmed are  
3 talking about where to send a payment, correct?

4 A. That's my understanding.

5 Q. And Ms. Bock says, maybe Southwest, maybe not Empire,  
6 correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Remind us if we know of any entity in this case called  
9 Southwest?

10 A. Southwest Metro Youth that we just discussed.

11 Q. The one run by who?

12 A. Hadith Ahmed.

13 Q. And to be clear, Ms. Bock says, "Is your name on SW?"

14 Is that right?

15 A. She does.

16 Q. In the context here, do you understand that to be  
17 Southwest?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. And what does Hadith Ahmed say?

20 A. "Yes."

21 Q. From that, do you understand, and other things, that  
22 Ms. Bock knew that Hadith Ahmed, her employee, was the one  
23 running the Singletree site?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. The site also known as Southwest Metro Youth?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Let me show you Government's Q37, which is in evidence.

3 This is an email from Mr. Eidleh; is that right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. To hadithay@gmail. Do you know who controlled that  
6 account?

7 A. That's Hadith Ahmed's personal email account.

8 Q. Okay. The subject is Invoices. And there are a whole  
9 lot of attachments; is that right?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. So earlier, Special Agent Wilmer, you saw a document and  
12 told us briefly about Hope Suppliers; is that correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. You described it as one of Mr. Eidleh's entities.

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. How did Mr. Eidleh use Hope Suppliers in the food  
17 program?

18 A. As a purported vendor. There's invoices from Hope  
19 Suppliers to numerous sites that submitted claims and  
20 received reimbursement through the food program.

21 Q. And on this email from Eidleh to Hadith Ahmed, there are  
22 pages and pages and pages of Hope Suppliers invoices; is  
23 that correct?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. Let's look at one of them. Hope Suppliers, that's

1       Eidleh's company, right?

2       A.    Correct.

3       Q.    Billing to Southwest Metro Youth on Singletree Lane,  
4       right?

5       A.    Correct.

6       Q.    And what's Southwest Metro Youth on Singletree Lane?

7       A.    That's the Singletree site that we saw on Exhibit X1.

8       Q.    The one that Hadith Ahmed ran; is that true?

9       A.    Correct.

10      Q.    And this is the email address, one of them, that you  
11      said your understanding is, it's operated by Hadith Ahmed?

12      A.    Correct.

13      Q.    Okay.  Let's just look at a few of the menu items here  
14      that Mr. Eidleh is charging Mr. Hadith, one Feeding Our  
15      Future employee to another.  One of them is 2,000 pounds of  
16      rice; is that right?

17      A.    That is correct.

18      Q.    For how much money?

19      A.    Just under \$14,000.

20      Q.    Then we've got 20 units of 25 pounds each of onion; is  
21      that right?

22      A.    That is correct.

23      Q.    Is that a lot of onions?

24      A.    It's quite a few onions.

25      Q.    For about \$600?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. We also have an entry for black beans. It looks like  
3 200 units of maybe eight cans each?

4 A. That's what it appears.

5 Q. Yep.

6 A. Appears to be 250 units, each one having eight 15-ounce  
7 containers in it.

8 Q. And in this one invoice, how much does Mr. Eidleh charge  
9 the site run by Hadith Ahmed for black beans?

10 A. Over \$3,000 just for black beans.

11 Q. This invoice is from August -- I'm sorry -- July of  
12 2021. What's the total?

13 A. Over \$56,000.

14 Q. Now you said this is Mr. Eidleh's company; is that  
15 right?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. According to this invoice, where's the company based?

18 A. According to the invoice, it's based out of Columbus,  
19 Ohio.

20 Q. And what state is the Singletree, also known as  
21 Southwest Metro Youth, site that Hadith Ahmed operated?

22 A. Minnesota.

23 Q. According to the invoice, to deliver and stock all these  
24 materials, and so there's a charge for that; is that right?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. How much is charged for just delivery and stocking on  
2 this one invoice?

3 A. \$750.

4 Q. And if we go through, here's a second invoice on page 4.  
5 This one is also July; is that right?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. For other 70 grand?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Here's one at the beginning of August on page 6 and 7  
10 for another 70 grand; is that right?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And on and on similar type invoices in a similar  
13 fashion; is that true?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. From your review of these invoices, Special  
16 Agent Wilmer, and your background in the investigation, do  
17 you believe these to be legitimate?

18 A. I do not.

19 Q. Why?

20 A. It's large quantities purportedly being delivered from a  
21 company out of state, when in reality that company is a  
22 shell organization operated by Mr. Eidleh.

23 Q. So let me show you Government's W77, which is in  
24 evidence. This is the bank account for what entity?

25 A. Southwest Metro Youth.

1 Q. And who is the only person that controls that account?

2 A. Hadith Ahmed.

3 Q. Do you know whether Southwest Metro Youth got paid for  
4 its participation in the federal food program under Feeding  
5 Our Future?

6 A. It did.

7 Q. So if we look at the bank records again in Government's  
8 W2, what do we see?

9 A. This is a check from the Feeding Our Future bank account  
10 at Bank of America, dated May 19th, 2021, to Southwest Metro  
11 Youth for just under \$300,000 signed by Aimee Bock.

12 Q. And who is the only signatory in that Feeding Our Future  
13 account?

14 A. Aimee Bock.

15 Q. And who is she paying? Who is the person behind  
16 Southwest Metro Youth?

17 A. Hadith Ahmed, Feeding Our Future employee.

18 Q. Aimee Bock's employee?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Are there other checks like this \$300,000 check from  
21 Ms. Bock to Hadith Ahmed's site?

22 A. There are.

23 Q. Look on the next page, page 122 for about another  
24 \$300,000?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And the next page for \$188,000, right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. This one is also to Southwest Metro Youth, but the memo  
4 line specifies Singletree, February '21; is that correct?

5 A. Yes, it does.

6 Q. Again, that's the same site Singletree Southwest Metro  
7 Youth?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And there's still other checks like this from Aimee Bock  
10 to Hadith Ahmed's site; is that correct?

11 A. Yes, it is.

12 Q. Is it your understanding from the investigation that the  
13 Southwest Metro Youth site with those claims we reviewed was  
14 operating legitimately, really feeding the kids it claimed  
15 to be feeding?

16 A. That is not my understanding.

17 Q. What is your understanding about how Hadith Ahmed's site  
18 for which he received these check from Aimee Bock was  
19 operating?

20 A. That those were fraudulent claims. The reimbursements  
21 were for inflated numbers for kids that weren't actually fed  
22 in that quantity.

23 Q. Not about feeding kids?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. What was it about?

1 A. Enriching themselves.

2 Q. Let me show you Government's X1 again. I want to look  
3 at just one more, okay, from this list?

4 A. Sounds good.

5 Q. Southwest.

6 If I zoom in on the middle, page 1 of X1's site  
7 called Southcross, do you see that?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. A moment ago we were talking about Singletree, Hadith  
10 Ahmed's site, that got over \$1.6 million in federal food  
11 program money; is that correct?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. How much did a site called Southcross receive?

14 A. Over \$2 million in less than two years.

15 Q. From Feeding Our Future?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Checks signed by Aimee Bock?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Who ran Southcross?

20 A. It varied from time to time.

21 Q. Okay. Were there times when Southcross was run by  
22 Feeding Our Future itself?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. So there were times when the Southcross site was  
25 sponsored by Feeding Our Future and at the same time

1 operated by Feeding Our Future; is that true?

2 A. That is true.

3 Q. I show you Government's P21, which is in evidence. I  
4 want to look at a few of the claims for Southcross. Can you  
5 tell us what this email is?

6 A. This is an email from a personal account of Mr. Abdikerm  
7 Eidleh to Aimee at Feeding Our Future, dated September 3rd  
8 of 2021, the subject: Southcross Burnsville August and  
9 September claims.

10 And then there are multiple attachments.

11 Q. Where geographically, if you know, was the Southcross  
12 site located?

13 A. In Burnsville, Minnesota.

14 Q. So you understand the subject to be referring here to  
15 the Southcross site we were just talking about?

16 A. That's my understanding.

17 Q. Okay. So let's see the claims for Southcross that  
18 Mr. Eidleh sent directly to Ms. Bock.

19 Let's go down to page 3, for example. Yet another  
20 clicker sheet?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Have those hallmarks of illegitimacy we've discussed a  
23 few times today?

24 A. That's fair to say.

25 Q. Consistent numbers of meals purportedly fed to kids; is

1 that right?

2 A. Yes, a high number every day of meals purportedly  
3 prepared and served to children.

4 Q. Very little variability; is that right?

5 A. Fair.

6 Q. And you said a high number.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Day after day, at least in this month of August that  
9 we're looking at; is that correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. So a moment ago, we were talking about Hope Suppliers,  
12 Mr. Eidleh's company writing invoices you believe not to be  
13 legitimate for Hadith Ahmed's site over at Singletree,  
14 right?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Well, now in the Southcross submission that went  
17 directly to Ms. Bock, what do we see?

18 A. Again, Hope Suppliers LLC invoices. This time billed to  
19 Southcross, Burnsville, and then it lists the site address  
20 underneath it.

21 Q. The site address for the Southcross site; is that right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. Just very quickly a few more examples. On this  
24 Hope Suppliers invoice, 1400 pounds of rice?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. That's almost a ton of rice?

2 A. That's a lot of rice.

3 Q. For ten grand, give or take, correct?

4 A. Correct, just under ten grand.

5 Q. It looks like on this invoice we also have substantial  
6 amount of milk; is that right?

7 A. Correct, just under 400 cases.

8 Q. 400 cases of 18 milks each according to the paperwork;  
9 is that right?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Do you know what 18 times 390 is?

12 A. It's a lot.

13 Q. Would you believe me if it's over 7,000?

14 A. I would.

15 Q. 7,000 individual milks in this one line item from Hope  
16 Suppliers?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. On an invoice sent from a Feeding Our Future employee  
19 directly to Ms. Bock.

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. What's the total of this one invoice?

22 A. Over \$70,000.

23 Q. Again, because Hope Suppliers, according to the  
24 paperwork is in Columbus, we have a delivering and stocking  
25 fee; is that right?

1 A. Correct. For \$14,000.

2 Q. Because for some reason the quantity of delivery and  
3 stocking on this invoice is five?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Another 14 grand for delivery and stocking?

6 A. That's what's purported here.

7 Q. Okay. Do you believe this invoice and the other Hope  
8 Suppliers invoices in Government's P21 to be legitimate?

9 A. I do not.

10 Q. Why not?

11 A. Again, these are coming from Hope Suppliers LLC, which  
12 evidence has shown is not a legitimate vendor company within  
13 this program, did not supply very large quantities of food  
14 and supplies to these food sites.

15 Q. We've looked just at the Singletree site run by Feeding  
16 Our Future employee, and now at Southcross, you've told us  
17 run at times by Feeding Our Future itself.

18 And for both, we saw Hope Suppliers invoices; is  
19 that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Do you know if Hope Suppliers invoices were submitted to  
22 support claims to Feeding Our Future for other sites?

23 A. They were.

24 Q. For many other sites?

25 A. I'd say numerous sites.

1 Q. For supposed delivery from a company in Ohio; is that  
2 right?

3 A. That's what's documented on the invoice.

4 Q. All right. The ones we were looking at were sent from  
5 Mr. Eidleh to Ms. Bock in Government's P21; is that correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. All right. Well, do you know what Ms. Bock did with  
8 those claims submitted to her for the Southcross site,  
9 including all those Hope Suppliers invoices we just paged  
10 through?

11 A. Claims were submitted for reimbursement and paid.

12 Q. They were paid.

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. So, for example, if I show you Government's P44, which  
15 is in evidence, the bottom of this page, this is the email  
16 we just read, right, where Eidleh attaches those claims and  
17 sends them to Ms. Bock?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. That's on September 3rd. What does Ms. Bock do with all  
20 those claims?

21 A. She forwards them to the claims department at Feeding  
22 Our Future.

23 Q. The email address to which documents should be submitted  
24 for payment?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Who according to the testimony we've heard in this case  
2 controls if claims at Feeding Our Future get paid?

3 A. Ms. Bock submits claims for reimbursement through MDE.

4 Q. Up through that CLiCS system; is that right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Who controls once MDE gives the money to Feeding Our  
7 Future for the submitted paperwork, whether the sites get  
8 paid?

9 A. Again, Aimee Bock.

10 Q. Who controls the account through which every dollar that  
11 flowed through Feeding Our Future went from MDE to the  
12 sites?

13 A. Again, Aimee Bock.

14 Q. While we're on the subject of Hope Suppliers, do you  
15 know if Ms. Bock ever wrote checks to Hope Suppliers?

16 A. I believe she did.

17 Q. Her employee, Mr. Eidleh's company; is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Which you've told us was producing those invoices we've  
20 just reviewed that you don't believe to be legitimate?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. I show you bank records again, Government W2d which is  
23 in evidence. What do we see here?

24 A. This is a check from the Feeding Our Future bank account  
25 at Bank of America to Hope Suppliers, referencing Singletree

1 June of 2021, signed by Aimee Bock.

2 Q. Payment on the type of invoices we've just reviewed; is  
3 that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. That charges \$14,000 on an invoice, for example, for  
6 delivery; is that right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. There are other checks in this collection; is that  
9 right?

10 A. There are.

11 Q. This one memo line says Southcross, the other site we  
12 were looking at, true?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. How much is this one?

15 A. This one is for over \$300,000.

16 Q. Signed by Ms. Bock?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. From Feeding Our Future?

19 A. Yes, it is.

20 Q. To her employee's company, Hope Suppliers?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And there are still others of these; is that right?

23 They keep going.

24 A. There are more.

25 Q. Here's one on page 5 for another 343,000; is that

1 correct?

2 A. Correct. This one references SWMY, which I understand  
3 to mean Southwest Metro Youth.

4 Q. Here's another one for 24 grand. Here's another one on  
5 page 11 for 86. These just keep going; is that right?

6 A. There are numerous checks.

7 Q. Checks from the Feeding Our Future account signed by  
8 Ms. Bock?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. All right. So Hope Suppliers, that's Mr. Eidleh.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Are there any other Feeding Our Future employees  
13 that you are aware having their very own supposed vendors?

14 A. There are. Ikram Mohamed, as we discussed before.  
15 There's a company called Star Distribution, which is a  
16 purported vendor for numerous sites under the sponsorship of  
17 Feeding Our Future.

18 The individual listed on that company is a  
19 relative of hers, where she directs payments to that company  
20 from Ms. Bock.

21 Q. So if I show you Government's P10, which is in evidence,  
22 is this one of those search warrant seized documents that  
23 we've seen?

24 A. This is. This is a digital scan of a paper copy folder  
25 we obtained via a search warrant at the Feeding Our Future

1 office. And this one pertains to the Arcade site, which we  
2 heard testimony regarding from Mr. Fort.

3 Q. Cerresso Fort?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. The gentleman who told the jury he is a boxer; is that  
6 right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. So if I pull up Government P14, which is in evidence, is  
9 that the Arcade Business Center that Mr. Fort testified  
10 about?

11 A. It is.

12 Q. Where purportedly there was a Feeding Our Future site  
13 being operated, right?

14 A. Correct, purportedly.

15 Q. Near his boxing gym?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And what was the name of that Feeding Our Future site?

18 A. Arcade.

19 Q. And sometimes called SIR Boxing; is that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Depending on the paperwork you were looking at?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So let's look in this folder seized from the Feeding Our  
24 Future offices. If we go down to page 9, remind us the name  
25 of the vendor you described as being controlled by Ikram

1 Mohamed, an occasional employee and adviser to Feeding Our  
2 Future?

3 A. Star Distribution.

4 Q. Do you understand this to be one of their invoices?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. Billing to the Arcade site, right?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. What sorts of descriptions do we see in the invoice from  
9 Ikram Mohamed's Star Distribution billing the SIR Boxing,  
10 also known as Arcade, Feeding Our Future site?

11 A. On this invoice, it purports to have provided  
12 approximately 2,000 supper and PM snacks each day for the  
13 month of October, and then there is a rate provided and an  
14 amount charged per day.

15 Q. So no details for the items in terms of what particular  
16 foods were purportedly provided, right?

17 A. No additional details.

18 Q. Just description of supper, snack, full stop?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. From your investigation into these invoices, do you  
21 believe the Star Distribution invoices to be legitimate?

22 A. No, I do not.

23 Q. Why not?

24 A. Again, based on our investigation, the evidence that  
25 I've seen, I believe these invoices are based on inflated

1 numbers of meals that were not provided by Star Distribution  
2 and were not distributed at those sites.

3 Q. And here, just as in some of the accounts we've looked  
4 at today and that the jury has seen throughout trial, we  
5 often see very consistent or really identical numbers of  
6 meals purportedly served each day?

7 A. Correct, and just like on the meal counts.

8 Q. This one Star Distribution invoice for October 2021, how  
9 much does Ikram Mohamed's Star Distribution bill to the food  
10 program through Feeding Our Future for that one month?

11 A. Approximately \$250,000.

12 Q. Are there other Star Distribution invoices like this?

13 A. Many more.

14 Q. For this site and others?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. I know you haven't -- well, have you analyzed every one  
17 individually to determine if every one individually was  
18 paid?

19 A. I have not.

20 Q. That was someone else on the team?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Do you know as a general matter whether the claims  
23 associated with these Star Distribution invoices we're  
24 discussing were paid out?

25 A. Generally, there are many claims that were paid out with

1 Star Distribution invoices included in the documentation  
2 that supports those claims.

3 Q. Okay. So Ikram Mohamed, Feeding Our Future employee,  
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Listed on the Feeding Our Future board minutes as an  
7 adviser to the company, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Runs her own vendor here?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Producing invoices you don't believe to be legitimate?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Do you know if Aimee Bock knew that Ikram Mohamed  
14 operated Star Distribution?

15 A. It's my understanding that she did.

16 Q. Is that understanding based, among other things, on  
17 communications?

18 A. It is.

19 Q. I show you BB32h, which is in evidence. Another text?

20 A. Yes, another text string between Aimee Bock and Ikram  
21 Mohamed.

22 Q. And when Aimee Bock asks who do you want your checks,  
23 Ikram Mohamed, written to, what does Ikram Mohamed say?

24 A. Star Distribution.

25 Q. We talked about Hope Suppliers. We just talked about

1 Star Distribution. And you've said you don't believe their  
2 invoices to be legitimate?

3 A. I do not.

4 Q. How were those invoices from Hope Suppliers, from Star  
5 Distribution, how were they used?

6 A. To support claims for reimbursement through Feeding Our  
7 Future.

8 Q. Reimbursement using federal dollars supposed to feed  
9 kids?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Reimbursement claims that were generally paid?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Are those the only vendors that produced invoices used  
14 to support claims through Feeding Our Future that you  
15 believe to be not legitimate?

16 A. No, they are not.

17 Q. There are still others?

18 A. There are.

19 Q. Let's look at an example. I'm going to show you what is  
20 in evidence as L34. Can you tell us what we're looking at?

21 A. Again, this is a scanned digital copy of a file relating  
22 to the Brava Rochester site, and this is the one Brava  
23 Restaurant that Sharmake Jama testified about.

24 Q. Okay. We go down to page 22 of this folder, which was  
25 seized from the Feeding Our Future offices; is that right?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. Okay. Go down to page 22 of this exhibit, and we see an  
3 invoice from something called Premuim Fresh; is that right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. The "Premuim" is misspelled on this one with the U  
6 before the I, true?

7 A. It is.

8 Q. Okay. Now this exact invoice is one that Mr. Jama  
9 testified to when he was on the stand, correct?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Mr. Jama explains that he was operating illegitimately  
12 in the food program, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Submitting inflated claims, right?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Using bogus paperwork, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Through, to use his word, a shell company?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. That Mr. Salim Said set up and registered for him,  
21 correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Just like --

24 MR. MONTEZ: Objection, Your Honor. Misstates the  
25 testimony.

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 Can you rephrase?

3 BY MR. BOBIER:

4 Q. Have we heard testimony in this case about who  
5 registered the shell companies used by Sharmake Jama and his  
6 other family members for use in the food program?

7 A. We have. Salim Said.

8 Q. Okay. So when Mr. Sharmake Jama was talking to us about  
9 all of that, this was one of the exact invoices he was asked  
10 about in his direct.

11 Do you remember that?

12 A. It is. And I do recall.

13 Q. And he explained that this, among others, was fake,  
14 correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And used to support the inflated claims he was  
17 submitting, right?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. I think his testimony was, he couldn't fit that much  
20 milk in his restaurant. Do you remember that?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. Okay. Is this the only Premium Fresh invoice that  
23 you've seen in this investigation?

24 A. No. There are many of them for many sites.

25 Q. For many sites, right?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. So at H51, which is in evidence, here's a folder taken  
3 from Feeding Our Future for a different site, correct?

4 A. Correct. This one is for Stigma-Free, Mankato.

5 Q. Okay. If we go down to page 11 of this exhibit, here we  
6 see a Premuim Fresh invoice; is that right?

7 A. We do.

8 Q. This one going to Mankato restaurant, and then it says  
9 billed to Horseed Management, Stigma-Free?

10 A. That is what it states.

11 Q. Remind us who Horseed Management was.

12 A. Horseed Management is a purported vendor for the  
13 Stigma-Free, Mankato site operated by Abdinasir Abshir,  
14 another defendant.

15 Q. One of the sites in the Safari Group?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. All right. So the sites in the Safari Group or at least  
18 this one to begin with, they are submitting Premuim Fresh  
19 invoices too; is that right?

20 A. Yes, with the same misspelled header.

21 Q. Do you believe this to be legitimate?

22 A. I do not.

23 Q. If I direct your attention, for example, at four and a  
24 half grand paid for steam table pans, do you have a reaction  
25 to that line item?

1 A. It is a high dollar amount, large quantity just for one  
2 month of pans.

3 Q. Just for one month of pans, right?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And if we go a little further, just as an example, we  
6 see similarly high quantities of other items; is that right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. It looks like we've got an item for frying oil and also  
9 a separate one for cooking oil; is that right?

10 A. That is what it states.

11 Q. Was this the only Premium Fresh invoice you saw  
12 submitted -- actually and I should look at the total.

13 What's the total for this single month?

14 A. This one invoice has a balance due of over \$57,000.

15 Q. Actually the item right above that, looks like five  
16 pounds, 12 units of garlic, 60 pounds of garlic.

17 Is that your understanding?

18 A. That is my understanding of what's listed.

19 Q. It's a lot of garlic; is that fair.

20 A. Seems like a large amount.

21 Q. So if I show you I22, which is in evidence. We just  
22 looked at claim information found at Feeding Our Future for  
23 Stigma-Free International, Mankato, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. What is this folder?

1 A. This is Stigma-Free International, Waite Park.

2 Q. Different Stigma-Free site, right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. But still in the Safari Group, right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Let's go to page 5. What do we see here?

7 A. This is another invoice from the same Premuim Fresh  
8 Produce LLC with the misspelled header.

9 Q. For this month or at least this April 3rd dated invoice,  
10 it's about \$21,000 billing to Feeding Our Youth in Waite  
11 Park?

12 A. Correct. And Feeding Our Youth is the purported vendor  
13 for the Waite Park site we discussed previously.

14 Q. Why do you say "purported"?

15 A. I don't believe they are a legitimate vendor providing  
16 the amount of food that they said they were.

17 Q. If we tab down, February 3rd, Premuim invoice for  
18 21,000, February 10th, Premuim Fresh invoice for 24,000,  
19 May 17th, Premuim Fresh invoice for 28,000. And these keep  
20 going; is that right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. All of these invoices just in this one folder for  
23 Stigma-Free Waite Park, all purportedly from Premuim Fresh  
24 Produce?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Same questions, Special Agent Wilmer. Do you believe  
2 these invoices to be legitimate?

3 A. I do not.

4 Q. What do you believe them to be doing?

5 A. I believe these are invoices with inflated numbers, just  
6 like the meal count sheets that have been created and  
7 submitted to support fraudulent claims for that site.

8 Q. Was Premium Fresh the only vendor whose invoices you  
9 consistently saw in this case beyond those we've already  
10 discussed that you believe was not acting legitimately?

11 A. No. There were more.

12 Q. Did you believe wasn't providing the food their invoices  
13 said they were providing?

14 A. That's correct. There were several.

15 Q. Let's look at one more. Government's L40, which is in  
16 evidence on page 3, who is this an invoice from?

17 A. This is from Afro Produce LLC, and notably the address  
18 is extremely similar to that of the Premium Fresh ones that  
19 we've been looking at.

20 Q. What's extremely similar about it?

21 A. The physical address for the purported vendor.

22 Q. Different food vendor on paper, but coming from  
23 purportedly the same place?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Now, this particular invoice, page 3 of Government's

1 L40, Mr. Jama testified to this one too. Do you remember  
2 that?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. He being the person that runs Brava Restaurant as a site  
5 within the Safari Group, right?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. And under Feeding Our Future?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Remind us what Sharmake Jama told us about this invoice.

10 A. That these were invoices he had never seen and did not  
11 match quantities of food that were actually purchased and  
12 provided to children at his site as claimed.

13 Q. That as far as he knew, not legislate?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Didn't represent food that he provided to kids at his  
16 site?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. And yet invoices he submitted, correct?

19 A. Invoices that were submitted to support claims for his  
20 site.

21 Q. Okay. Were there other Afro Produce invoices submitted  
22 in support of reimbursement claims in this case?

23 A. Many more.

24 Q. For just the Brava Restaurant site or for others as  
25 well?

1 A. No. For many different sites.

2 Q. Let's look at one. E16 is in evidence. This is a  
3 submission of claims; is that correct?

4 A. Correct. This is an email from TFS Auditors to claims  
5 at Feeding Our Future and Hadith at Feeding Our Future.

6 Q. Remind us what TFS is.

7 A. This is the TFS Auditors, a company owned by Abdulkadir  
8 Salah and Omar Ahmed Hashim {sic}, who are both other  
9 defendants in this case and that had the office at the 2722  
10 Park Ave location after that building was purchased by the  
11 Safari related individuals.

12 Q. And those two folks you just described as owning TFS,  
13 they're Mr. Salim Said's partners in the Safari Group as  
14 we've heard; is that correct?

15 A. As we've heard, yes.

16 Q. Okay. So this submission goes from TFS at the Park  
17 Avenue mansion to claims, and for which site are these  
18 claims being submitted?

19 A. Olive Management, which is the company that purportedly  
20 operated the site in St. Cloud at the Hormud Grocery we have  
21 seen previously.

22 Q. Which was described earlier as a site that was not  
23 legitimate; is that true?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. We go to page 13. There's an Afro Produce invoice

1 submitted for Olive Management; is that right?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. And once again, it seems that we've got some thousands  
4 of purported pints of milk; is that true?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. This one invoiced for 51 grand?

7 A. Correct, just for milk and Cheerios.

8 Q. Do you believe this invoice to be legitimate?

9 A. I do not.

10 Q. Is this the only Afro Produce invoice you've seen  
11 submitted?

12 A. No. There are many of them for many different sites.

13 Q. So if we look at the folder seized from, seized during  
14 execution of the search warrants for ASA Limited and we go  
15 to page 8 here in Government's FF12, which is in evidence,  
16 we see something familiar?

17 A. We do. Another Afro Produce invoice.

18 Q. And ASA Limited, that's one of the other sites in the  
19 Safari Group operated by Salim Said and his partners?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Are we seeing similar entries here?

22 A. Yes. Large quantities for some similar items that we've  
23 seen before.

24 Q. Looks like we've got 19 units of something called  
25 kowshar salt, K-O-W-S-H-A-R, for almost two grand; is that

1 right?

2 A. That's what's listed.

3 Q. I won't go through the further items, but this is an  
4 \$83,000 invoice from Afro Produce submitted to support  
5 claims from ASA Limited.

6 Special Agent Wilmer, do you believe this is a  
7 legitimate invoice?

8 A. I do not.

9 Q. Are there still other Afro Produce invoices you've seen  
10 in this case?

11 A. Many more.

12 Q. Including submitted for other sites within the Safari  
13 Group; is that right?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. And for sites outside the Safari Group?

16 A. That is also correct.

17 Q. And you haven't gone through yourself to see if each  
18 individual one of these invoices was paid; is that right?

19 A. I have not.

20 Q. Other folks on the team are responsible for the number  
21 crunching?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. But do you know at a high level whether the claims  
24 supported by Afro Produce invoices that we've reviewed were  
25 generally paid?

1 A. The claims were, yes.

2 Q. Paid by whom?

3 A. Feeding Our Future.

4 Q. And who is responsible for submitting claims to MDE at  
5 Feeding Our Future?

6 A. Aimee Bock.

7 Q. And when MDE makes the payment to Feeding Our Future,  
8 who's responsible for writing the checks and paying the  
9 sites?

10 A. Again, Aimee Bock.

11 Q. All right. Today, Special Agent Wilmer, we've talked  
12 about a bunch of food sites; is that true?

13 A. That's fair.

14 Q. All of which operated under Feeding Our Future, for  
15 example, talked about Xogmaal?

16 A. We did.

17 Q. The media company that needed to be cleaned up but  
18 wasn't shut down?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. We talked about Great Lakes?

21 A. We did.

22 Q. We talked about Evergreen?

23 A. We did.

24 Q. We talked about Singletree, sometimes called Southwest  
25 Metro Youth?

1 A. We did.

2 Q. Run by Feeding Our Future employee Hadith Ahmed?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And we talked about Southcross; is that right?

5 A. We did.

6 Q. Run at times by Feeding Our Future itself?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Are you familiar at a high level with the types of  
9 invoices submitted to support the claims from those sites?

10 A. I am.

11 Q. And are there consistencies among the invoices that you  
12 are describing?

13 A. There are.

14 Q. How so?

15 A. Just like the meal counts, there's trends that we see  
16 across many of these invoices being that they're from the  
17 same vendors over and over for very large quantities week  
18 after week, month after month, for extremely high dollar  
19 amounts.

20 Some of these invoices also lack the descriptors  
21 that you might expect to be on an invoice for such a  
22 quantity.

23 Q. We've looked at a bunch of those invoices this morning;  
24 is that right?

25 A. We have.

1 Q. You have worked on this case for a while.

2 A. That's fair.

3 Q. Did you -- well, strike that.

4 When you were reviewing these invoices, did you  
5 have to rely on your months of experience in this case  
6 before you concluded that the invoices we've reviewed were  
7 not legitimate?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Why not?

10 A. Similar to the attendance rosters, I think regardless of  
11 how long you've investigated a particular case, most  
12 individuals reviewing them would come to the same conclusion  
13 after a fairly quick review of them.

14 Q. Based on, for example, as you've described, the very  
15 high dollar amounts?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. The lack of detail in the item descriptions, among other  
18 things?

19 A. Among other things.

20 Q. You said similar to the meal counts. Are you familiar  
21 with the meal counts from those sites I just named. And  
22 we've looked at some of them today.

23 A. I am.

24 Q. At a high level at least?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Are there consistencies among those meal counts from  
2 those different Feeding Our Future sites?

3 A. Correct. Just like the ones that we've shown on the  
4 screen today, it's flat numbers with little variation for  
5 extremely high amounts day after day, week after week for  
6 these sites.

7 Q. And day after day, week after week, there is consistent  
8 invoices, there is consistent meal counts from all those  
9 sites we looked at this morning and others. Where did all  
10 that paperwork go?

11 A. Was submitted to Feeding Our Future to provide support  
12 for the reimbursement claims.

13 Q. Because what, as the sponsor, is Feeding Our Future's  
14 job in the food program?

15 A. To provide oversight to the sites under its sponsorship  
16 and ensure that the claims being submitted are accurately  
17 and proper.

18 Q. What's the total number of just meals purportedly fed to  
19 children by sites under Feeding Our Future's sponsorship in  
20 just 2020 and 2021?

21 A. Over 89 million.

22 Q. 89 million meals?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. Those meals supported by purportedly the consistent  
25 invoices, the consistent meal counts you've just described?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. And who, Special Agent Wilmer, was the gatekeeper on the  
3 nearly \$250 million that was paid out for those purported 89  
4 million meals to children?

5 A. Aimee Bock.

6 Q. All right. We've heard in this case about -- or from  
7 witnesses who have pleaded guilty in this investigation; is  
8 that true?

9 A. That's true.

10 Q. And we have heard from many of them that they  
11 participated under Feeding Our Future's sponsorship in order  
12 to do what?

13 A. Get rich.

14 Q. Not to feed kids?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. To get rich. Did the sites under Feeding Our Future's  
17 sponsorship stop getting paid when MDE presented the  
18 concerns that we talked about this morning?

19 A. No, they did not. They continued.

20 Q. When MDE presented the concerns way back in the spring  
21 of 2020, did the sites by and large stop getting paid?

22 A. They did not.

23 Q. When MDE raised further concerns and Feeding Our Future  
24 sued them, did the sites stop getting paid?

25 A. Only for a brief time.

1 Q. And what happened after that brief time?

2 A. Payments were issued.

3 Q. After Feeding Our Future sued MDE; is that right?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. Did the sites stop getting paid after concerns were  
6 raised by the community, like in the wedding video post we  
7 discussed?

8 A. No. Payments continued.

9 Q. Did the sites stop getting paid when Aimee Bock's own  
10 employees raised concerns to her, like Genesis Alonso, Norma  
11 Cabadas or in that Hadith Ahmed email we have reviewed about  
12 Xogmaal?

13 A. No. Payments continued.

14 Q. What finally stopped the payments to the sites?

15 A. Overt action by the FBI to include search warrants and  
16 seizure warrants executed January 20th of 2022.

17 Q. Payments kept getting made until the FBI showed up?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. January 20th, 2022; is that right?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. That's when all those search warrants we've heard so  
22 much about, all of those were executed at the same time?

23 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Asked and answered.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25

1 BY MR. BOBIER:

2 Q. Were there any other warrants other than search warrants  
3 executed on that day?

4 A. There were also numerous seizure warrants executed that  
5 same day.

6 Q. What's a seizure warrant?

7 A. A seizure warrant, similar to any other warrant, is  
8 documentation obtained from a judge after evidence is  
9 presented to them that allows for the government to take  
10 possession of an asset, whether it be a car, funds in a bank  
11 account, things of that nature.

12 Q. All right. So just like a search warrant, seizure  
13 warrant, you have to have the judge sign off, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And after the judge signs off, you mentioned one of the  
16 things law enforcement could seize is a financial asset; is  
17 that right?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. Does that include, for example, a bank account?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And when the FBI pursuant to a warrant seizes a bank  
22 account, what does that mean? What does it look like?

23 A. Essentially the government takes control of the funds or  
24 in the account at the time that the warrant is exercised.

25 Q. In cases like this one, when the FBI intends to execute

1 a bunch of seizure warrants and a bunch of search warrants,  
2 are those typically done all at once or staggered over time?

3 A. Typically it's done simultaneously for concerns of  
4 officer safety. You don't want them knowing that you are  
5 coming prior to execution of a search warrant or arrest  
6 warrant.

7 So it's usually done simultaneously so no one is  
8 tipped off of what's coming.

9 Q. You said seizure warrants were done in this case.

10 A. They were.

11 Q. Including on financial accounts?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And bank accounts?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And were they done in this case at the same time as all  
16 of those search warrants on January 20th?

17 A. That was the intent.

18 Q. Why do you say, "That was the intent"?

19 A. It's not exactly how it played out. There was one that  
20 the bank moved on prior to the execution of the search  
21 warrants on that morning of January 20th.

22 Q. What do you mean, "The bank moved on prior to the  
23 execution," on the 20th?

24 A. The warrant was executed, and the funds were taken from  
25 the account the night before, January 19th.

1 Q. Bank moved a day early; is that right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Have you seen text messages about that?

4 A. I have.

5 Q. Let me show you Government GG41c, which is in evidence.

6 This is a text message from January 19th of 2021  
7 correct?

8 A. 2022.

9 Q. 2022. Thank you.

10 That's the day before the search warrants?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. Who are the participants here?

13 A. This is from number ending in 8354, identified as Salim  
14 Said, and number ending in 3417, identified as Abdulkadir  
15 Salah labeled as Fish.

16 Q. All right. Salim Said and Fish or Abdulkadir Salah,  
17 partners in the Safari Group, correct?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. And in fact, the coowners of the Safari Restaurant?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. All right. Let's see what Abdulkadir Salah and Salim  
22 Said are talking about the day before the search warrants.

23 So Salim Said sends a screenshot at 7:00 p.m.

24 What do we see in the screenshot?

25 A. This is a screen grab of his Wells Fargo Salim Limited

1 LLC account that we've discussed previously, and in the  
2 pending transactions you see listed Legal Order, Federal  
3 Bureau of IN.

4 Q. Now, you say, "Discussed previously." We had a witness,  
5 at least one, come and talk about this particular count; is  
6 that right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. You remember when Ms. Shipman testified from Bridgewater  
9 Bank?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. About a Salim Limited account at that bank?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. What was the conclusion of the Bridgewater investigation  
14 into the Salim Limited account?

15 A. That it was not operating as a legitimate business and  
16 therefore they moved to close it.

17 Q. Do you know after Bridgewater closed Salim Limited's  
18 business at their bank where Salim Said took his money for  
19 that company?

20 A. It ended at Wells Fargo, as we see here.

21 Q. And after he took it to Wells Fargo, on the 19th of  
22 January 2022 tell us what the pending transactions identify  
23 as having happened?

24 A. Just over \$196,000 being taken pursuant to a legal  
25 order.

1 Q. And to be clear, that's not Salim Said's only account;  
2 is that right?

3 A. No, it is not.

4 Q. But this is one where news got out a day early; is that  
5 right?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. Then how does his business partner respond?

8 A. He simply says, "That's FBI."

9 Q. Was he right?

10 A. He was.

11 Q. This is 7:00 p.m. on the 19th. Do you know if this fact  
12 that Salim Said's account at Wells Fargo had been seized by  
13 the FBI remained between Salim Said and his partner  
14 Abdulkadir Salah?

15 A. It did not.

16 Q. Was it shared?

17 A. It was.

18 Q. With whom was it shared?

19 A. Aimee Bock and Ikram Mohamed, amongst others.

20 Q. How soon was it shared?

21 A. Within hours.

22 Q. Within hours.

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. So if I show you what's in evidence as BB32e, here we  
25 have a text message between Ms. Bock and Ikram Mohamed from

1 the same night, correct?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. Okay. It looks like Ikram Mohamed sends a screen  
4 capture from a Google search; is that right?

5 A. That is what it appears to be, included here.

6 Q. What reason do bank accounts let frozen, something for  
7 business; is that right?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Concerning freezing of funds at a bank?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. And then Ms. Bock responds from context she  
12 appears to know something about this; is that right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. She says, "It's not frozen, though," right?

15 A. That is what she said.

16 Q. She says, "They levied it"?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. They took it?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. She says, "His balance became zero."

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. She says that at 8:00 p.m. on the 19th of January; is  
23 that right?

24 A. That's right. Within two hours of the screen grab we  
25 saw previously.

1 Q. The screen grab showing that Salim Said's account had  
2 been seized by the FBI and the balance had gone to zero.

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Two hours.

5 A. Less than two hours.

6 Q. What, if anything, did it signify to you that within two  
7 hours of Salim Said texting his business partner about his  
8 account being frozen by the FBI Ms. Bock and Ikram Mohamed  
9 already know about and are texting about it?

10 A. It signified to us that these individuals are not  
11 operating in silos, that they are communicating with one  
12 another about things such as financial transactions of  
13 business -- or banking accounts used to receive proceeds  
14 from their participation in the food program and shows that  
15 they're part of a larger scheme together.

16 Q. Thank you.

17 MR. BOBIER: Nothing further, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: We'll stop here for our noon break.

19 I have a meeting, and so we're going to go a  
20 little bit longer. We will return at 1:30 everyone.

21 All rise for the jury.

22 11:53 a.m.

23 **IN OPEN COURT**

24 **(JURY NOT PRESENT)**

25 THE COURT: Court is in recess until 1:30.

1 (Recess taken at 11:54 a.m. till 1:33 p.m.)

2 1:33 p.m.

3 **IN OPEN COURT**

4 **(JURY PRESENT)**

5 THE COURT: You may all be seated.

6 Good afternoon.

7 Mr. Udoibok, you may inquire.

8 MR. UDOIBOK: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

11 Q. Officer, we meet again.

12 A. Good afternoon.

13 Q. I want to talk to you about your testimony over the next  
14 few days, but I'll try to make it as quick as I can.

15 I want to start off first with Exhibit, Government  
16 Exhibit 32e.

17 Ms. Mallet, would you call up the exhibit, please,  
18 and you go specifically to page 2. Yes, 32e, E like in  
19 Edward, yes. Call out the first portion of the email.

20 GG32, yes. No, no. That's not it.

21 Let go to, let's go to GG41c.

22 MS. MALLET: GG what?

23 MR. UDOIBOK: 41c.

24 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

25 Q. This is an exhibit that you testified to regarding

1 conversation with Fish?

2 A. Correct, between Salim Said and Abdulkadir Salah.

3 Q. All right. And then go to the next page, please. Okay.  
4 There's no other page?

5 MS. MALLETT: No.

6 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

7 Q. All right. So is there anything in this exhibit from  
8 Ms. Bock asking anything to be concealed?

9 A. Not in this particular exhibit.

10 Q. All right. Well, let's see BB32e, if there's one. All  
11 right.

12 You testified about this exhibit from Ms. Bock to  
13 Ikram, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Is there anything in that exhibit where Ms. Bock asked  
16 Ms. -- I'm assuming it's a she? Ikram is a she?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Asking her to conceal anything?

19 A. Not in this exhibit.

20 Q. All right. So I want to direct you to Exhibit -- I  
21 believe it's X1.

22 And you testified significantly about this  
23 exhibit. Why don't you go to page 9?

24 And you testified about page 9 of this exhibit  
25 that Ms. Bock was a gatekeeper?

1 A. I believe that comment was in reference to the document  
2 overall, not specifically page 9.

3 Q. All right. So not specifically this exhibit, but just  
4 generally Ms. Bock was a gatekeeper.

5 A. That comment was made based on the fact that this  
6 exhibit shows the total amount of funds that we want through  
7 Feeding Our Future, and she is the one that controlled where  
8 they went.

9 Q. All right. Did your investigation lead you to determine  
10 how many employees worked at Feeding Our Future?

11 A. I don't know the exact number.

12 Q. How about let's go to FF12, please. And the first page  
13 of this document, of this exhibit, your investigation led  
14 you to conclude that it was one of the folders at Feeding  
15 Our Future building, correct?

16 A. Correct. This is a digital scan of hard copy documents  
17 taken as part of the search warrant executed at the Feeding  
18 Our Future office.

19 Q. All right. And I believe you testified to a few pages.  
20 Let's go to page 8 first. And call out Afro Produce,  
21 please.

22 Did your investigation lead you to determine what  
23 Afro Produce is?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What is it?

1 A. Afro Produce is a business located at Como Ave in  
2 St. Paul, Minnesota, and documentation showing invoices such  
3 as this one were used throughout the food program to support  
4 reimbursement claims for sites often tied to things that we  
5 believe based on evidence to be fraudulent claims.

6 Q. All right. Is it an existing business?

7 A. It is.

8 Q. All right. And did you determine whether that phone  
9 number, when you were investigating, was active?

10 A. I do not know if that phone number is active.

11 Q. And did your investigation reveal whether or not  
12 Ms. Bock had called that number to verify?

13 A. I don't know whether she called that phone number or  
14 not.

15 Q. All right. Let's go to, I believe it's E16. Hopefully  
16 it's not --

17 Do you recall testifying about E16?

18 A. Yes. This is an email to claims, with Hadith copied,  
19 related to Olive Management site for the month of July.

20 Q. Now, that email is sent to claims department, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then also Hadith?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Correct? Did your -- is that a yes?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did your investigation reveal to you one way or the  
2 other whether Ms. Bock reviewed that particular email?

3 A. Whether she opened it and read it, I don't know, but she  
4 certainly had access to the account that this was sent to.

5 Q. All right. Let's go to L40. What about, let's -- I'm  
6 not sure you testified to that this time around but earlier.

7 Let's go to L40, please. I want to make sure.

8 No, no. It's L40. Go to page 3 of that.

9 This is another invoice from Afro Produce,  
10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And call out --

13 And this same address and telephone number runs  
14 through the exhibits you have testified to earlier, correct?

15 A. Correct. There's a similar heading on many of these  
16 invoices.

17 Q. All right. And you testified earlier it's an existing  
18 business with an existing telephone number?

19 A. It's an existing business. Whether or not that  
20 telephone number is tied to it or works, I am not sure.

21 Q. And you don't -- I believe you testified the other  
22 exhibit that you not, you don't have -- personally know  
23 whether Ms. Bock contacted that invoice, that telephone  
24 number, correct?

25 A. Whether she herself called that phone number, I do not

1 know.

2 Q. All right. So let's go to Exhibit I22.

3 And you testified that this was another document  
4 obtained pursuant to the search at Stigma-Free  
5 International, Waite Park, correct?

6 A. This is a document related to that site, but this is  
7 from the search of Feeding Our Future's office.

8 Q. Yes. So again, Ms. Mallet, would you go to page 5.  
9 Call out.

10 Is this also, this is Premium Fresh Produce,  
11 correct?

12 A. Correct, that's what's listed.

13 Q. Did your investigation lead you to determine whether it  
14 was a business?

15 A. That business exists in name. I would argue whether  
16 it's a legitimate business or not.

17 Q. All right. Did you determine whether that phone number  
18 existed?

19 A. Whether that particular phone number works or is tied to  
20 this business, I do not know.

21 Q. All right. Go to page 7. You testified to this page.

22 Call out.

23 Again, you don't know whether that phone number  
24 was in existence, right?

25 A. It's the exact same header we just looked at.

1 Q. And you don't know whether Ms. Bock attempted to call  
2 that number, do you?

3 A. No. That was not of importance to our investigation.

4 Q. Let's go to H51.

5 This is another exhibit obtained pursuant to the  
6 search, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Of the Feeding Our Future building?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And this relates to Stigma-Free, Mankato, correct?

11 A. Yes, it does.

12 Q. And it's about June, June 2021?

13 A. Yes. That's what's listed on the outside here.

14 Q. All right. And let's go to page 11.

15 Is this another invoice from the same Premium  
16 Fresh Produce LLC?

17 A. Correct. It's the same header we saw in the previous  
18 two.

19 Q. And your response is consistent with that phone number.  
20 You don't know whether it was a working phone number,  
21 correct?

22 A. I do not know offhand.

23 Q. And you don't know one way or the other whether Ms. Bock  
24 had contacted that number, correct?

25 A. Again, it was not of importance to us.

1 Q. Okay. Ms. Mallet, would you go to L34.

2 This is regarding Brava in Rochester, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. All right. And I believe you testified about page 22 of  
5 that exhibit.

6 Ms. Mallet, would you go to page 22.

7 Is this another invoice from Premium Fresh Produce  
8 LLC?

9 A. Yes, that's what it purports to be from.

10 Q. And I believe you testified -- I don't want to put words  
11 in your mouth -- that it was an existing business, correct?

12 A. In name.

13 Q. In name.

14 A. It exists.

15 Q. All right. And then you don't know whether the phone  
16 number worked or not?

17 A. I do not.

18 Q. All right. Go to page 25.

19 And I don't know whether you testified to this,  
20 but it's in evidence. That's a receipt from Sysco, correct?

21 A. I did not testify to it, but it is a receipt. It  
22 appears to be from Sysco.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 What about page 25? This is another invoice from  
25 a facility, correct?

1 A. That's what it appears to be.

2 Q. All right. And do you personally have any information  
3 whether Ms. Bock had contacted that facility?

4 A. I do not know whether she personally contacted the  
5 facility listed on this invoice.

6 Q. All right. I want to shift focus a bit based on your  
7 testimony to BB32h.

8 And this is an email between, you testified  
9 earlier, between Ms. Bock and Ikram?

10 A. It's a text exchange between them.

11 Q. All right. Now just so -- remind me. Which is the  
12 earliest communication between Ms. Bock and Ikram in this  
13 exhibit? Is it the top one or in the bottom?

14 A. The top one occurring at 9:54:11 a.m.

15 Q. All right. And she asked would you want your checks  
16 written to, correct?

17 A. Yes, Ms. Bock asks that.

18 Q. And the respond was Star Distribution, correct?

19 A. Yes, that was the response from Ikram.

20 Q. While you were investigating this case, did you  
21 determine the employment status of Ikram as it relates to  
22 Feeding Our Future?

23 A. It's listed in various ways. Sometimes as a consultant,  
24 sometimes it's an adviser, but it's clear that she worked  
25 closely with Ms. Bock at Feeding Our Future.

1 Q. I realize that. And so based on your understanding of  
2 this investigation, do you have, do you know the difference  
3 between a consultant and an employee?

4 A. At a high level.

5 Q. Interesting enough, what is "high level"? I know you've  
6 been asked that question repeatedly today. What do you mean  
7 by "high level" and "low level"?

8 A. My meaning of when I say at a high level means without  
9 going into the, you know, every single detail behind it as  
10 kind of assumptive answer.

11 Q. So, at a high level, what is the difference between a  
12 consultant and an employee?

13 A. I understand that to mean a consultant would be somebody  
14 that's paid for work that they do, but they are not  
15 considered a salaried employee of the business.

16 Q. All right. An employee is a salaried, correct?

17 A. That's my understanding.

18 Q. All right. So based on your investigation, do you know  
19 whether a consultant is capable of owning a site?

20 A. By "capable," anyone is capable of owning a site.

21 Q. All right. Thank you.

22 A. Whether or not it's proper, is different.

23 Q. Okay. Ms. Mallet, would you call up W2d.

24 This is an exhibit you testified to. Feeding Our  
25 Future paid Hope Suppliers, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And does Ms. Bock own Hope Suppliers?

3 A. She does not. Her employee does.

4 Q. And who would that be?

5 A. Abdikerm Eidleh.

6 Q. Now, let's talk about Eidleh. Do you know what Eidleh's  
7 employment status was with Feeding Our Future?

8 A. Again, I'm not sure at this exact moment whether he's  
9 listed as a consultant or an employee, but he's paid  
10 regularly by Feeding Our Future for work that he does for  
11 them.

12 Q. My question was about, if he were a consultant, he will  
13 be allowed to own a site, correct?

14 A. Again, whether he's an employee or consultant, I don't  
15 know that that changes whether he's allowed to own a site.

16 Q. Can consultants own site, if you know, as far as you  
17 know?

18 A. Anybody can own a site.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Whether or not it's proper is a different discussion.

21 Q. Ms. Mallet, why don't you call up P21.

22 This is an email from Mr. Eidleh to Ms. Bock  
23 regarding Southcross, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. All right. Let's go to page 3.

1                   And this is a meal count.

2                   Call out the first two lines of the meal count,  
3 please, the sponsor and the site and the meal type.

4                   This is a breakfast and lunch, correct?

5           A.   That is what is documented here.

6           Q.   I want you to note the date.  That's August 2021,  
7 correct?

8           A.   Correct.

9           Q.   And who is the supervisor there?

10          A.   Listed as Suad Muse.

11          Q.   Okay.  Do you know who -- is it a meal or female?

12          A.   I'm not sure.

13          Q.   But nonetheless, it's someone that was attested to the  
14 meal count, correct?

15          A.   I believe it's a Feeding Our Future employee who  
16 attested to the meal count.

17          Q.   All right.  What's -- who signed, who signed it?

18          A.   It appears to also list Suad Muse.

19          Q.   Was it Ms. Bock who signed it?

20          A.   It is not.

21          Q.   Okay.  While we are still on P21, Ms. Mallet, would you  
22 go to page 7.

23                   All right.  And I believe you testified, did you  
24 testify earlier to Hope Suppliers, correct?

25          A.   I did.

1 Q. And does Ms. Bock own Hope Suppliers?

2 A. She does not.

3 Q. Let's go to page 8. This invoice is also from, from  
4 Hope Suppliers, right?

5 A. This is part of the same invoice.

6 Q. Okay. Go to P44, please. Now call out the top.

7 This is Ms. Bock's email to the claims department,  
8 correct?

9 A. Correct. This is where she forwards that same email on  
10 to the claims department.

11 Q. She forward the email to claims. Okay. That's good.

12 So let's, let's just scroll down a bit.

13 Those are meal counts, right?

14 A. Correct, the same ones we were just looking at.

15 Q. All right. And do you have any, do you have information  
16 about what the claims department did with that invoice, with  
17 that submission?

18 A. I believe this was paid, which would lead me to believe  
19 that the claims department submitted it to Ms. Bock who then  
20 input it into CLiCS for reimbursement payment.

21 Q. Do you know the process that the claims department  
22 engaged in before submitting it to Ms. Bock?

23 A. I do not know every detail that took place between those  
24 points.

25 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you call up W77.

1 I believe you testified that this account, it's  
2 owned by Southwest Metro, correct?

3 A. Correct. This is a business account under the name  
4 Southwest Metro Youth, and the controller of that is Hadith  
5 Ahmed.

6 Q. And how did you acquire Exhibit 77?

7 A. I do not recall exactly how we acquired this particular  
8 document.

9 Q. Would it have been one of the documents you would have  
10 obtained at the Feeding Our Future building?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Ms. Mallet, go to W2, page 121. All right. No.  
13 121. Please let's just scroll through the checks from  
14 Feeding Our Future to Southwest Metro Youth. Correct.

15 All right. So those checks, all of the checks are  
16 written to, to a site, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Any of those checks written to Ms. Bock?

19 A. No. They are written by Ms. Bock to Southwest Metro  
20 Youth.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. Which is operated by an employee of hers.

23 Q. Are you sure it was an employee or a consultant?

24 A. A coworker of hers at Feeding Our Future.

25 Q. Coworker. I thought you testified earlier that you

1 weren't sure what the employment status was.

2 A. You haven't asked me about Ahmed yet.

3 Q. All right. So do you know what Mr. Ahmed's status was?

4 A. I do not. He worked with Aimee Bock at Feeding Our  
5 Future. Whether he was listed as a consultant or a salaried  
6 employee, I do not know.

7 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you go, go to the first page of W2.  
8 Go to 121 again.

9 You testified that these checks were written to  
10 Southwest Metro, correct?

11 A. Correct, Southwest Metro Youth.

12 Q. Metro Youth. And the owner of Southwest Metro Youth is  
13 who?

14 A. Hadith Ahmed.

15 Q. Hadith Ahmed. And you know the employment status of  
16 Hadith Ahmed with Feeding Our Future?

17 A. He works with Ms. Bock at Feeding Our Future.

18 Q. So you don't know whether he was an employee or  
19 consultant?

20 MR. BOBIER: Objection, Your Honor. Asked and  
21 answered.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 You may answer.

24 THE WITNESS: I don't know how they listed him on  
25 their org chart at this point in time, but he worked there

1 with Ms. Bock.

2 Q. Do you -- as part of your investigation, did it come to  
3 your knowledge how long Mr. Ahmed worked with Feeding Our  
4 Future?

5 A. I don't know the exact dates, but I know the time frame  
6 generally.

7 Q. What was that time frame?

8 A. At some point in 2020 through I believe the fall of  
9 2021.

10 Q. Okay. Do you know the reason for the separation between  
11 Feeding Our Future?

12 A. I do not.

13 Q. But it's your testimony that he was no longer part of  
14 Feeding Our Future in September 2021?

15 A. Again, I don't know the exact date. Sometime in the  
16 latter half of 2021.

17 Q. What about Idleh? Do you know the time frame of his  
18 employment?

19 A. Again, I don't know the exact --

20 Q. With Feeding Our Future? Sorry.

21 A. I don't know the exact dates, but my understanding is,  
22 he worked there through 2020, through 2021 when he left the  
23 country.

24 Q. Do you know the reason why he separated from Feeding Our  
25 Future?

1 A. I do not.

2 Q. Ms. Mallet, I want to go, start from I believe Q37, and  
3 I want to work up.

4 I believe you testified to this. What is this  
5 email?

6 A. This is an email from Abdikerm Eidleh to Hadith Ahmed.

7 Q. All right. Is Ms. Bock part of that email?

8 A. She is not on this particular email.

9 Q. Okay. Go to page 2 of Q37.

10 That's an invoice from Hope Suppliers again,  
11 correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you call out Q39b. Q39b, like in boy.

14 Now, this is an email from Southwest Youth Metro,  
15 right?

16 A. Yes, Southwest Metro Youth.

17 Q. To who?

18 A. To Aimee Bock.

19 Q. And let's just go slowly.

20 So which is the earlier communication here? Is  
21 it --

22 A. The very bottom is the first communication.

23 Q. All right.

24 A. On the next page.

25 Q. On the next page.

1           Go to the next page. So let's start there so we  
2 all have some clarity.

3           So call out the "to" and "from."

4           So this is an email from Hadith Ahmed to MDE,  
5 correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And in this initial communication, Ms. Bock is not  
8 included, is there?

9 A. No. It's forwarded to her at a later date.

10 Q. Okay. I realize. We will get there.

11           So -- and call out the contact information to the  
12 bottom.

13           So the contact information is Hadith, Executive  
14 Director of Southwest Metro Youth. Do you see that?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. Now, the question is, Which of the following best  
17 describes you? That is a request from MDE?

18 A. This is appears to be an MDE form. So I assume that  
19 question is from MDE, but I'm not sure of the specifics of  
20 how this form was completed.

21 Q. All right. Clear the callout. Let's just see the  
22 picture, the --

23           Based on your review of page 2 of this exhibit,  
24 which of the following best describes you is not a question  
25 from Ms. Bock, is it?

1 A. No, it is not.

2 Q. All right. Go to the first page.

3 Now, so what happens next is that portion of the  
4 email, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And it's from Maria LaChance at MDE correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And the subject is Hadith Ahmed, correct?

9 A. Southwest Metro Youth, Hadith Ahmed.

10 Q. Yes. And is this communication, this one, is it sent to  
11 Ms. Bock?

12 A. No. This is sent to Hadith, and then it is later sent  
13 to Ms. Bock afterwards.

14 Q. We will get there.

15 Thank you.

16 So let's go to the next page is that we just  
17 reviewed.

18 As far as Exhibit 39b is concerned, Ms. Bock has  
19 not been copied in the exhibit, correct?

20 MR. BOBIER: Misstates the document, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Overruled.

22 THE WITNESS: As is shown on page 1, this chain is  
23 sent directly to her.

24 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

25 Q. Okay. Let's go to the first page. This is what I'm

1 trying to get at.

2 So, so Ms. Bock is sent -- call out -- my fault.

3 So Southwest sends Exhibit 39, copies Ms. Bock  
4 twice, I go, correct?

5 A. The email chain we see below this heading is forwarded  
6 from Southwest Metro Youth directly to Aimee at Feeding Our  
7 Future.

8 Q. Okay. All right. So clear and call out --

9 And so I understand, who forwards this email to  
10 Ms. Bock?

11 A. Southwestmetro youth@gmail.com.

12 Q. All right. And with no comment.

13 A. No. I think it speaks for itself.

14 Q. So let's, let's look at the writing.

15 "Hi, Hadith." Would you read that? You read more  
16 clearly than I do.

17 A. "Hi, Hadith. Thank you for reaching out. I will need  
18 to gather information about your site to determine if it is  
19 an eligible site under the child nutrition program that it  
20 operates. If it is eligible, I can either connect you with  
21 another sponsor or you can work with your current sponsor to  
22 continue operating.

23 "I will reach out later this week or next week via  
24 phone to learn more about your operations. Thank you for  
25 your work in feeding children.

1 "Thank you."

2 Q. Do you know one way or the other whether Ms. Bock  
3 reviewed Exhibit 39b?

4 A. What she did after receiving it, I don't know.

5 Q. Okay. Thanks.

6 And what she did after that, you don't know, which  
7 would include whether or not she investigated?

8 A. What exact steps she took to investigate, I don't have  
9 any evidence to say what steps she took.

10 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you call out Q39.

11 This is an email from Ms. Bock to MDE, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And it's regarding what?

14 A. This is from Aimee Bock to MDE. Subject is Site  
15 Application, Feeding Our Future, Singletree.

16 Q. And then importance is what? Normal?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Did your investigation lead you to understand what  
19 "normal" meant then?

20 A. Generally that's used to flag emails that are -- exceed  
21 normal importance.

22 Q. Okay. As against what?

23 A. Can you repeat the question?

24 Q. It's normal as against --

25 A. Most email accounts allow you to flag it as high

1 importance or something of that nature, if needed.

2 Q. All right. And Ms. Bock sends a site application,  
3 correct?

4 A. Correct. There is an attachment included.

5 Q. Okay. Let's just scroll down through. Keep on going.

6 I don't want to bore you through the entire pages,  
7 but this is the typical application that you've seen  
8 throughout this investigation, correct?

9 A. This is Feeding Our Future document that's very similar  
10 to other site applications we've looked at previously.

11 Q. What did you say? I didn't quite get that.

12 A. This is a Feeding Our Future document. This is very  
13 similar to other site applications we've reviewed  
14 previously.

15 Q. Oh, okay. I want to go back to I believe Q34. I  
16 haven't done it.

17 This is an email from Southwest to, Southwest  
18 Youth, Metro Youth, and it's to claims at Feeding Our Future  
19 and copies Hadith?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. I believe you testified earlier that Hadith owned  
22 Southwest Metro Youth, correct?

23 A. Correct. That's the site that he operated.

24 Q. And did your investigation lead you to determine why he  
25 would copy himself in the same email?

1 A. He's including that, which is his work email, as this  
2 was submitted from an email account related to the site  
3 itself. His exact reasoning for doing that, I would be  
4 speculating to say.

5 Q. All right. And let's go to page 2 and call out the top.  
6 That's enough. Yeah.

7 And I believe you testified that the site is  
8 Southwest Metro Youth.

9 A. That's my understanding.

10 Q. And the SWMY is just a short form, correct?

11 A. That's my understanding.

12 Q. Now, the supervisor is Ayan Liban, correct?

13 A. That's who is listed, yes.

14 Q. Now, who is Ayan Liban?

15 A. I'm not sure who that is.

16 Q. And you are not sure. Do you know the relationship that  
17 Ayan Liban had with Metro West?

18 A. I do not.

19 Q. Do you know the relationship that Ayan Liban had with  
20 Feeding Our Future?

21 A. I do not.

22 Q. Do you know, do you have any information whether Ayan  
23 Liban, the relationship with Feeding Our Future was  
24 terminated?

25 A. Again, I don't know who it is.

1 Q. Let's go to Q39a.

2 That's another communication from Southwest Youth  
3 Metro, correct?

4 A. Correct. This one is from Southwest Metro Youth to  
5 claims and Aimee.

6 Q. And this is about the first week of September, Summer  
7 Meals?

8 A. That's what the subject lists, yes.

9 Q. I think you testified to a few pages there. Let's go to  
10 page 2. It's a little blur. Could you call out just a few  
11 pages. There you go.

12 Who is the supervisor there?

13 A. It's listed as Mohamed Hassan.

14 Q. Do you know who that is?

15 A. I do not.

16 Q. And I take it you don't know the relationship that  
17 Mohamed Hassan had with Feeding Our Future correct?

18 A. Again, I don't know who that is.

19 Q. Yeah. Let's go to page 4.

20 And you've testified about Hope Suppliers,  
21 correct?

22 A. I have.

23 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you call up Q55.

24 This is an email from Sade Hashi, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. To Ms. Bock?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Let's see the body, Ms. Mallet.

4 So now I get confused. Which is the earliest  
5 communication in the first page here?

6 A. It starts at the bottom and works its way up.

7 Q. So Sade Hashi, is it Said or Sade?

8 A. I believe it's Sade Hashi.

9 Q. Sade Hashi is communicating with claims department,  
10 correct?

11 A. The email is sent to claims at Feeding Our Future and  
12 Hadith at Feeding Our Future. And then it's forwarded to  
13 Aimee at Feeding Our Future.

14 Q. What I've just -- at this point it's not yet, though,  
15 forwarded?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Okay. So initially it goes to claims, correct?

18 A. Claims and Hadith, yes.

19 Q. Claims and Hadith. But not to Ms. Bock initially?

20 A. Not yet.

21 Q. All right. So let's go to the then -- then Sade  
22 forwards it to Ms. Bock?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. All right. Now, let's go to page, I believe page 13.

25 All right. This is a meal count, right?

1 A. It is.

2 Q. And who is the signatory of that meal count?

3 A. It appears to be Sade Hashi.

4 Q. All right.

5 A. Although not totally clear.

6 Q. Do you know the relationship between Sade Hashi and  
7 Feeding Our Future?

8 A. Sade Hashi operated the Great Lakes site under the  
9 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

10 Q. Okay. But wasn't a Feeding Our Future employee?

11 A. I'm not sure.

12 Q. I take it you don't know whether he was a consultant?

13 A. I believe he did some work for them. Again, whether he  
14 is listed as an employee or a consultant on that org chart I  
15 can't speak to.

16 Q. Now, you just testified about Great Lakes. Was that,  
17 that was a site, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And did your investigation lead you to determine whether  
20 Great Lakes site was terminated by Feeding Our Future?

21 A. I do not know whether it was terminated. I know claims  
22 were paid through Feeding Our Future up to a point.

23 Q. When was the last payment that Feeding Our Future made  
24 to Great Lakes, if you know?

25 A. It was in 2021.

1 Q. 2021. Was it earlier part or later part of 2021?

2 A. I don't recall the exact date.

3 Q. I want to talk about, a little bit about BB32f.

4 And this is, you testified to this as  
5 communication between Ms. Bock and Ikram, correct?

6 A. Correct. This is text message communication between the  
7 two.

8 Q. All right. And call out Ms. Bock -- yep, will like to  
9 rule the world.

10 Do you see that statement?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. All right. I'll show you another statement. Then go to  
13 the next one, "At least Minnesota."

14 Do you see that?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. Does those two statements mean to you that Ms. Bock  
17 wanted to cheat the world?

18 A. I understand that to mean that they want to grow and  
19 continue to grow their influence and power. I don't read  
20 "cheat" out of that.

21 Q. Okay. Thank you. Let's go to, Ms. Mallet, call up Q81.

22 This is the Xogmaal folder that you obtained from  
23 Feeding Our Future building, not you personally, but --

24 A. This is a folder obtained there relating to Xogmaal,  
25 yes.

1 Q. Yes. And there's quite a few pages. I'm not going to  
2 go through them all, but just, Ms. Mallet, just scroll down.  
3 Just stop for a second at page 3. Call out the site and the  
4 meal type and sponsor.

5 What time frame is this February 21st, 2021?

6 A. That is what's listed.

7 Q. All right. And who is the, who is the supervisor?

8 A. Mohamed Noor.

9 Q. And who signed this meal count?

10 A. I'm not sure from that signature. Given that the  
11 supervisor is listed as Mohamed Noor, I think there's a good  
12 chance it could be the same.

13 Q. Based on your investigation, you don't believe Ms. Bock  
14 signed that, did you?

15 A. Not with her own name, at least.

16 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you call out Q83.

17 This is a March folder for, obtained from Feeding  
18 Our Future, correct?

19 A. That is correct.

20 Q. This is -- scroll down to -- this is another meal count,  
21 correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Keep on going. Just scroll down a bit. I'm not going  
24 to go through -- stop. The meal count we -- go back to  
25 page 5, at least, so we can go back and forth.

1           So this meal count, at least as of March 21st,  
2           2021, was signed by Mohamed Noor, correct?

3           A. Mohamed Noor is listed as the supervisor. Whether or  
4           not that's the person who signed that I can't say.

5           Q. Well, he's the supervisor. And then attached to that is  
6           a roster, is it?

7           A. Correct. There is a roster on subsequent pages.

8           Q. Go to page 7.

9           All right. Based on your investigation, you agree  
10          with me that Ms. Bock did not produce that roster?

11          A. I don't know who produced it. It's found at the Feeding  
12          Our Future office.

13          Q. So let's go to Q84. Call out --

14                 So this is an email from Hadith to Ms. Bock on  
15          Saturday, February 27, 2021.

16          A. That's correct.

17          Q. All right. Okay. And then call out the -- the letter  
18          is we look, we took a look at -- we took a look of  
19          organization that don't work with children or are advocate.

20                 Correct? Do you see that?

21          A. I do see that.

22          Q. Do you know based on your investigation what, who the  
23          "we" were?

24          A. My understanding is he's speaking on behalf of Feeding  
25          Our Future as an organization. "We" being Feeding Our

1 Future took on a lot of organizations that don't work with  
2 children or are advocate.

3 Q. He says, doesn't he say, "We took a look of organization  
4 that don't work with children or are advocate"?

5 A. Yes. It says, "We took a lot of organization that  
6 don't" --

7 Q. Oh, sorry.

8 A. -- that don't work with children or are advocate."

9 Q. Took a lot. Okay. Need glasses.

10 So and then he says, "I am just realizing that  
11 now."

12 Right?

13 A. That is what it says.

14 Q. "For example, the Xogmaal is a TV show program. They  
15 have no interest with children. These are the things we  
16 need to clean up."

17 Correct?

18 A. That is what is stated.

19 Q. Is it fair to say that Mr. Ahmed is alerting Ms. Bock  
20 about a problem that exists?

21 A. That's the way I interpret it.

22 Q. Based on your investigation, did you determine whether  
23 or not Ms. Bock took any action?

24 A. I haven't seen any evidence to show she took action to  
25 investigate. However, the claims continued to be paid after

1 that date.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know, based on your investigation -- by  
3 the way, before then you note the date February 27th?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Do you know where the other, whether Feeding Our Future  
6 terminated Xogmaal?

7 A. Whether they terminated it, I don't know. However,  
8 claims continued past this date and are certainly paid after  
9 that date.

10 Q. I realize that. We are going to get to that.

11 My question is, You don't, you don't have  
12 information one way or the other whether Feeding Our Future  
13 terminated Xogmaal, correct?

14 A. I haven't seen evidence that they terminated Xogmaal.

15 Q. So let's go to Q85.

16 So this is, this is Ms. Bock's response to Eidleh,  
17 correct?

18 A. This is Ms. Bock responding to the email we just looked  
19 at from Hadith Ahmed.

20 Q. Yes. And what's her response?

21 A. "Yes, I agree."

22 Q. And that writing to you, did it imply that Ms. Bock  
23 disagreed with the obvious information she received?

24 A. My understanding is, she agrees with the concerns raised  
25 in the previous email.

1 Q. But you don't know whether she investigated it  
2 afterwards?

3 A. I haven't seen any evidence to suggest that she  
4 investigated these concerns. They certainly didn't stop the  
5 claims from continuing.

6 Q. So I just want to understand what this investigation led  
7 you to believe.

8 Do you believe based on Exhibit 84 and 85, Hadith  
9 notified Ms. Bock about his perception about Xogmaal? Do  
10 you believe Ms. Bock should automatically stop payment?

11 A. I believe as a sponsor and as the executive director of  
12 that sponsor, she should take steps to determine whether  
13 that site is operating legitimately or fraudulently. And if  
14 it can't be verified as legitimate, then those payments  
15 should not have happened.

16 Q. Do you know, do you know based on your investigation the  
17 steps Ms. Bock took?

18 A. I do not know the steps she took. However, looking at  
19 that site, very few steps would need to be taken to  
20 demonstrate that it was not operating legitimately.

21 Q. But you don't know the steps she took?

22 A. I do not, if any.

23 Q. And you don't know how long an investigation would take,  
24 would it?

25 A. Again, I don't know if she took any steps to investigate

1 it. But claims continued to be processed in the months  
2 afterwards.

3 Q. How long, how long from February 2021 did the checks  
4 stop?

5 A. Checks, as we saw earlier today, came out in the  
6 following months after that email exchange.

7 Q. I realize that. Do you know when the checks stopped?  
8 If you --

9 A. I don't know the exact date. It was sometime in the  
10 second half of 2021.

11 Q. But it stopped.

12 A. Eventually checks for all of the sites stopped.

13 Q. When did the checks for all of the sites stop?

14 A. The latest date, January of 2022, as we discussed this  
15 morning.

16 Q. All right. Let's go to Q86. This is Ms. Bock, you  
17 testified to this, Ms. Bock's writing to Coley Flynn?

18 A. Correct. This is an email from Aimee Bock to Coley  
19 flip.

20 Q. So which one is the earlier, earlier email?

21 A. The one at the bottom of July 12th. However, the one  
22 above is the same date, just a minute later.

23 Q. So what does the email from Coley Flynn to Ms. Bock say?

24 A. That an individual from Xogmaal came in looking for  
25 payments for March, April and May. And then it lists

1 contact information for him.

2 Q. When is that email?

3 A. July 12th, 2021, at 12:03 p.m.

4 Q. So as of July 2021, the March, April and May payment had  
5 not been made, correct?

6 MR. BOBIER: Misstates testimony, Your Honor, and  
7 the document speaks for itself.

8 THE COURT: Sustained.

9 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

10 Q. All right. So just so I'm clear, the email is from  
11 July 2021?

12 A. Correct. Both the email below and above, both from  
13 July 12th of 2021.

14 Q. And the bottom is from Coley Flynn. And who is Coley  
15 Flynn?

16 A. An employee of Feeding Our Future.

17 Q. An employee of -- and telling Ms. Bock that someone  
18 wants to pick up payment for March, April and May, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. All right. Let's go to BB32g. B like in boy. BB32g.

21 I believe you testified to this earlier that this  
22 was an email between, a text message -- is it text message  
23 or Facebook?

24 A. This is text communication.

25 Q. All right. So I want to understand. Is the source of

1 Aimee Bock's testimony from her phone?

2 A. This text string is from Aimee Bock's phone.

3 Q. Okay. And is there any, any communication here where  
4 Ms. Bock is asking anyone to conceal anything?

5 A. Not in this text communication.

6 Q. Okay. Let's go to BB40. No. BB40. 40a. Sorry.  
7 BB40a. I am sorry.

8 I believe you testified to this string of text  
9 messaging, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. All right. I want to understand. You used the word  
12 while you were, during your direct examination that you  
13 thought Ms. Bock was aggressive, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And let's just go a little bit with the communication.  
16 And this one, unlike emails, the top is the earliest  
17 correct?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. Okay. So Hadith tells Ms. Bock that Abdiaziz, who is  
20 that Abdiaziz?

21 A. Abdiaziz.

22 Q. Abdiaziz is not happy with Ms. Bock.

23 A. He says, "Us." So I understand that to mean Feeding Our  
24 Future.

25 Q. Okay. And Ms. Bock doesn't know why the person would be

1 and obviously she asks why?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. And Hadith writes back and says, "Writing a check to  
4 Madina. He forwarded me a text he sent you."

5 Correct?

6 A. Yes, that's what it says.

7 Q. Do you know what that was about, writing a check to  
8 Madina?

9 A. My understanding is that Abdiaziz is not happy because  
10 of the way a check was made out regarding a site  
11 participating in the food program.

12 Q. Say that again. I didn't quite hear you.

13 A. Abdiaziz is unhappy because of the way a check was made  
14 out related to a site participating in the food program.

15 Q. Okay. So Ms. Bock responded that she hadn't read the,  
16 would it have been the text?

17 A. As stated here there was, according to Hadith, Abdiaziz  
18 had sent a text to Aimee Bock and then forwarded it to  
19 Hadith, which is how he knows he was upset.

20 Ms. Bock states she has not read said text yet.

21 Q. So and the response is who did -- Ms. Bock asks who the  
22 check should be written to?

23 A. She asks, "Who did he want it to?"

24 I interpret that to mean who did Abdiaziz want the  
25 check to.

1 Q. Okay. Now just looking at that first page, this first  
2 page, does it tell you that Ms. Bock is asking anyone to  
3 conceal anything?

4 A. Not on this page.

5 Q. Okay. Let's go to, I believe it's page 5.

6 So Hadith, I believe you testified that Hadith  
7 said, "Wait. DHS lookup," and, "Give me a minute."

8 What was the context of that messaging based on  
9 your investigation?

10 A. As discussed earlier today, this is in the context of an  
11 individual who they understood to be Khadra having made  
12 comments regarding them at Feeding Our Future, and they are  
13 trying to look up who Khadra is and what her business is.

14 Q. Okay. So Ms. Bock said, "She said we don't pay. What  
15 else?"

16 What did that mean to you?

17 A. I understood that to mean this Khadra individual who  
18 they are looking up had said something in regards to them,  
19 being Feeding Our Future, not paying and wants to know what  
20 else she had said.

21 Q. Yeah. Is it fair to say Ms. Bock as stated here, we  
22 don't pay. What's new? What's next? Right?

23 A. I'm not sure what they don't pay for in the context of  
24 this.

25 Q. Go to page 8.

1           So Ms. Bock said, "If it doesn't go well, we will  
2 subpoena her, and MDE will get a copy of it."

3           Correct?

4           A. That is what it states.

5           Q. A copy of what? The subpoena, correct?

6           A. That's what I understand it to mean.

7           Q. And Ms. Bock says, "Yes. We don't play," right?

8           A. That's what it states.

9           Q. I believe I skipped too early. Let's go to page 7.

10           Ms. Bock wants to send out a subpoena, correct?

11           A. Ms. Bock states, "He wants to send her a subpoena," and  
12 in that context I understand "he" to mean Watkins, her  
13 attorney.

14           Q. And Ms. Bock said the person will be terrified after she  
15 gets the subpoena, correct?

16           A. Correct. She says, "She is going to be terrified."

17           Q. All right. Because she doesn't play?

18           MR. BOBIER: Objection. Misstates the document,  
19 which speaks for itself.

20           THE COURT: Sustained. It speaks for itself.

21           BY MR. UDOIBOK:

22           Q. Let's go to BB40a. BB40.

23           Yeah, I know.

24           So I just, I forgot to ask one more question.

25           We've gone through this series of text messaging.

1 A. Portions of it.

2 Q. Yeah, portions -- well, from the Exhibit, Exhibit BB40a.  
3 Is there anything there where Ms. Bock is asking, telling  
4 Hadith to hide meal counts?

5 A. Not meal counts, but payment to a site that he operates.

6 Q. On this exhibit?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Why didn't you -- which -- where is that?

9 A. He continued down. She asks specifically when they're  
10 directing where the check goes to --

11 Q. Where it says wanted the name, the person is upset,  
12 correct? You testified that Abdiaziz is upset?

13 A. Mm-hmm. Correct.

14 Q. And Ms. Bock are wanted to know why, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And then he wanted where should this check go to?

17 A. Correct. And asks which entity is safer for them, and  
18 then asks whether one of those entities is tied to Hadith.

19 Q. Yes?

20 A. To which he says, "Yes."

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. So then she says send it to the other one.

23 Q. All right. So it says, which entity is tied to Hadith  
24 and send it to one that is not tied to Hadith, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. All right. And do you, based on your, I believe it's --  
2 if you look at page 2, right?

3 Do you see there, it says, "I think Empire or  
4 nonprofit Mind Foundry."

5 Do you see that?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Okay. At this point, about what time frame is this, is  
8 this communication by, between Hadith and Ms. Bock?

9 A. This is at, little after 8:00 p.m. I don't remember the  
10 exact date, but it's listed on the previous page.

11 Q. Let's go, let's go to the first page.

12 Do you know what time frame it is?

13 A. February 19th of 2021.

14 Q. All right. And do you know how long past this event  
15 that Mr. Hadith worked with Feeding Our Future?

16 A. At least several months.

17 Q. So three, four, five, six, seven?

18 A. More than three.

19 Q. All right. Do you know whether Ms. Bock was conducting  
20 any investigation?

21 A. Into anything?

22 Q. Into Hadith.

23 A. I have not seen evidence that she conducted an  
24 investigation into Hadith.

25 Q. You don't know one way or the other whether she was?

1 A. I haven't seen any evidence to suggest that she was.

2 Q. So I want to talk a bit about Exhibit 30, BB30. B like  
3 in boy. BB30, 30g.

4 All right. You testified about this exhibit early  
5 on. Do you remember your testimony?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. And just this picture of this young man, do you know,  
8 did your investigation lead you to determine when that  
9 photograph was taken?

10 A. I do not know.

11 Q. Do you know whether that photograph or the scene of that  
12 photograph is any of Feeding Our Future sites?

13 A. I do not know where that photo was taken at.

14 Q. Is it possible that the photo could have been taken  
15 before the food program?

16 A. Possible. I do not believe that to be true.

17 Q. Okay. Let's go to the first page. The second page,  
18 rather.

19 And you don't know when this photograph was taken,  
20 do you?

21 A. I do not know exactly when it was taken. It was posted  
22 to their Instagram relevant -- same time of the  
23 investigation.

24 Q. When you say, "Posted to their Instagram," whose  
25 Instagram was it posted to?

1 A. The account you see there which is Blenderr, which is an  
2 account of Cadnaan Deeq.

3 Q. But not Feeding Our Future?

4 A. No. He was tied to Peak Distribution which worked with  
5 Shanghai Wholesale which operated multiple sites under the  
6 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

7 Q. And those sites were not in any way owned by Ms. Bock,  
8 were they?

9 A. No. They participated under her sponsorship as a site  
10 and as a vendor.

11 Q. Okay. So let's go to page 4. Call out the first two  
12 communication with Ms. Bock.

13 So I want to understand. Is this text messaging  
14 between Ms. Bock and somebody?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And could you read the two messages?

17 A. "To name me by name? And Feeding Our Future? You said  
18 he was your man. Are you behind this?"

19 Q. Okay. Who is Ms. Bock talking to?

20 A. Salim Said.

21 Q. All right. Did you get a sense from this writing that  
22 Ms. Bock was upset?

23 A. From this string, as we discussed this morning, it  
24 certainly seems that she's very upset.

25 Q. All right. Let's call out the -- see if you can call

1 out that part. And is it possible to enlarge it, Ms.  
2 Mallet? Oh, thank you.

3 So let's just slow down a bit about -- could you  
4 read the first sentence, if you can?

5 A. "The most amazing incident that you all witnessed  
6 happens last night in Minneapolis."

7 Q. Okay. And based on your investigation, is it your  
8 understanding that that incident occurred at the Feeding Our  
9 Future building?

10 A. I do not believe so.

11 Q. Okay. What about the next sentence?

12 A. "We all witnessed a wedding of a young Somali woman who  
13 works at the office of Feeding Our Future."

14 Q. All right. And based on your investigation, did you  
15 determine whether or not Ms. Bock was at the wedding?

16 A. I do not know whether she was at the wedding.

17 Q. So go to the middle part. "Can someone tell me how,"  
18 and what funds -- in the middle part.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That part.

21 A. Would you like me to read that?

22 Q. Please.

23 A. "Can someone tell me how and with what funds they were  
24 able to gift an office person that expensive gift  
25 individually and collectively almost a hundred thousand

1 dollars."

2 Q. All right. And based on your investigation, did you  
3 determine the value of the gifts that were given?

4 A. I do not know the exact value --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- of the gold and jewelry that was given in the video  
7 we watched earlier.

8 Q. So you don't know whether it was real gold or fake gold?

9 A. My understanding, it was real.

10 Q. Based on this post, correct?

11 A. Not just this post.

12 Q. How did you determine that it was real gold?

13 A. From speaking with multiple individuals who know more  
14 about the event than I do.

15 Q. Did your investigation lead you to believe that the gold  
16 was given to Ms. Bock?

17 A. No. As stated earlier, my understanding it was given to  
18 the woman who just got married.

19 Q. Okay. Let's go do BB32b.

20 This is an email, not an email, a text message in  
21 between Ms. Bock and Ikram, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And I'm not sure whether I asked this. Do you know what  
24 Ikram's employment status was with Feeding Our Future?

25 A. You did ask that.

1 Q. Oh, I did? What was it?

2 A. She worked with Ms. Bock at Feeding Our Future. Whether  
3 she's listed as a consultant or employee, at this particular  
4 time I do not know.

5 Q. Okay. So she tells Ms. Bock that Watkins is prepared if  
6 we need to remind our friends who the real F'ing boss is,  
7 correct?

8 A. That's what she states.

9 Q. And Ms. Bock replies, "I don't play."

10 Correct?

11 A. She does.

12 Q. And Ikram said, "I know and you are crazy."

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And now did that, "I know you are crazy," do you get  
15 that to be a tongue in cheek sort of comment?

16 A. I can only read it as the way it's written.

17 Q. All right. You believe, do you believe --

18 So the next comment is, "I protect this company  
19 and me people at all costs."

20 Correct?

21 A. That is what she states.

22 Q. Did you get the impression from that writing that she  
23 protects her employee and Feeding Our Future?

24 MR. BOBIER: Objection. The document speaks for  
25 itself.

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

3 Q. All right. And then she writes, "Exactly. I'm going to  
4 show them how real bosses play."

5 Correct?

6 A. That is what she states.

7 Q. Go to the next page.

8 And she said, "I am just loading the gun in case."

9 Right?

10 A. Eventually that's what she states.

11 Q. Before then she said, "Slap them with a defamation  
12 lawsuit. Slander my company and my team."

13 Right?

14 A. She does.

15 Q. And they ask -- "Get the F out of here."

16 A. That's what she states.

17 Q. Does she seem upset when reading that?

18 A. I take that to mean that someone is upset.

19 Q. And she's upset with what she perceived to be  
20 defamation?

21 MR. BOBIER: Objection. Document speaks for  
22 itself. Counsel is testifying.

23 THE COURT: Sustained.

24 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

25 Q. All right. What you believe Ms. Bock was upset about?

1 A. I do not know.

2 Q. Okay. Now let's shift gears to A22. You testified  
3 about A -- no A23. Sorry. I'll go to 22 later. A23.

4 This is an email. Call that out.

5 This is an email from Mr. Watkins, and by the way  
6 you testified that Rhyddid Watkins was a Feeding Our Future  
7 employee, or I mean Feeding Our Future attorney?

8 A. My understanding is Rhyddid Watkins was a previous  
9 attorney for Ms. Bock at Feeding Our Future.

10 Q. Did Feeding Our Future represent, if you know -- I mean,  
11 did Ms. -- Mr. Watkins at any time represent Feeding Our  
12 Future, if you know?

13 A. I don't know the exact representation status between  
14 Feeding Our Future and Ms. Bock personally.

15 Q. Okay. So who is the writer, writer of this email?

16 A. This is forwarded from Mr. Watkins to Daron Korte MDE.

17 Q. All right. Who wrote the email, though? Mr. Watkins  
18 or --

19 Clear the call out.

20 A. My understanding is this top portion we're looking at  
21 now was written by Mr. Watkins.

22 Q. All right. So, but it's not written by Aimee, was it,  
23 Aimee Bock?

24 A. That is not my understanding.

25 Q. Okay. So let's go, because you spoke at length about

1 A23, let's go to the first paragraph, what it appears to be  
2 about.

3 Would you read that into the record, please?

4 A. "There appears to still be an issue with  
5 miscommunications. We have only received four site ID  
6 numbers, and no centers have been approved yet. MDE does  
7 not have the right to make applications a two-step process,  
8 and it certainly does not have the right to substantially  
9 delay allowing sites to apply."

10 Q. All right. I believe you testified that Mr. Watkins is  
11 an attorney?

12 A. That's my understanding.

13 Q. All right. Is Ms. Bock an attorney?

14 A. Not that I'm aware of.

15 Q. Okay. Let's go to the next paragraph. Please read  
16 that.

17 A. "Kendra is also asking about Sambusa and Shafi, two  
18 sites that MDE has not yet allowed to apply. Ignoring for a  
19 moment the inappropriateness of MDE depriving these sites of  
20 the right to apply and yet having the audacity to question  
21 their qualifications, I would like to address the substance  
22 of her comments. These are two separate businesses that  
23 operate out of two separate suites of one larger building.  
24 They are owned by different people and serve different  
25 children. While I may be able to understand Kendra asking

1 one question about it, I don't understand her asking  
2 several, including what they are doing to ensure no  
3 overlap/that the same kiddos are not receiving more one meal  
4 and one snack per day."

5 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you highlight "MDE depriving this site  
6 of the right to apply"?

7 Again, this is not Ms. Bock writing. It's  
8 Mr. Watkins, right?

9 A. My understanding is Mr. Watkins is writing this on  
10 behalf of Aimee Bock and Feeding Our Future, which is why  
11 she is copied on the email.

12 Q. I just want to know, and the issue based on Mr. Watkins  
13 writing is MDE depriving sites of the right to apply,  
14 correct?

15 MR. BOBIER: Objection. The document speaks for  
16 itself.

17 THE COURT: Sustained.

18 MR. UDOIBOK: All right. So let's go to the next  
19 phrase. No. Keep the highlight. Keep the callout.

20 And then highlight what they are doing to ensure  
21 no overlap. Call out that sentence. I mean, highlight that  
22 sentence, please.

23 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

24 Q. What, based on your investigation, was the meaning of  
25 "no overlap"?

1 A. This is a question that was posed from Ms. Pace to Aimee  
2 which led to this email in which two sites applied to  
3 operate the same location. MDE's concern being that if two  
4 sites are at the same location how do we ensure that these  
5 are actually separate meals going to separate children for  
6 reimbursement.

7 Q. All right. So based on your investigation, do you know  
8 whether sites had the authority to reject giving food to any  
9 child that appears?

10 A. My understanding is that sites were in place to provide  
11 meals to children who needed them.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. Providing duplicate meals to the same children would  
14 seem to go against children needing meals.

15 Q. No. I understand what you just said. My question is,  
16 though, did sites have the authority to not give a child  
17 food who appeared at a different site?

18 MR. BOBIER: Objection. Foundation as to site's  
19 authority.

20 THE COURT: Overruled.

21 You may answer if you can.

22 THE WITNESS: My understanding is, the concern  
23 here being if two sites are at the same location. Not that  
24 there's needy children not receiving meals, but rather that  
25 they are not double counting the same meal being provided.

1 In this case, Sambusa is the vendor for Shafi. So having a  
2 Sambusa site and Shafi site seems to be duplication of the  
3 same thing taking place.

4 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

5 Q. Well, can a child go from one site to the other and  
6 collect food?

7 A. They could.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But if they are both at the same exact place, it's not  
10 really going from one site to another.

11 Q. All right. Clear the callout. Let's go to the next  
12 paragraph. Highlight. Call out that paragraph, please.

13 Could you read it?

14 A. "That question to me is the epitome of systemic racism.  
15 While the facilities that my clients operate may not be as  
16 nice as what MDE is used to, it does not make them any less  
17 equal under the law. There is no requirement anywhere in  
18 the federal regulations that centers have to police children  
19 to ensure they only eat one meal a day. MDE does not have  
20 the right to unilaterally create and impose additional  
21 restrictions on sites that serve children of color, no  
22 matter how legitimate its concern that those children only  
23 eat once a day maybe."

24 Q. Call out, I mean, highlight, "There is no requirement"  
25 up until "only eat one meal a day."

1 I believe I may have asked you earlier, but have  
2 you got a chance, had a chance to review the federal  
3 regulation impacting the feeding programs?

4 A. I have not reviewed all of them, no.

5 Q. Let's go to the next paragraph.

6 Could you read that, please?

7 A. "To help clarify the issue, could you please identify  
8 the law that gives MDE the authority to require centers to  
9 police children participation? Could you also please share  
10 with us how many affluent centers have been denied the right  
11 to apply because of their inability to police children  
12 participation?

13 "And could you please identify what policies and  
14 procedures MDE has approved for policing children  
15 participation in the decades that it has been administering  
16 CACFP? From my review of federal regulations, federal  
17 policy, the at-risk/after school handbook, case law, and  
18 MDE's website, I did not find anything to help us understand  
19 MDE's position."

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Let's go to A83. That's an email from Ms. Bock to  
22 Ikram Mohamed, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 MR. BOBIER: Ken, it's not in evidence.

25 MR. UDOIBOK: I tell you what.

1 (Counsel confer)

2 COURTROOM DEPUTY: It went in today.

3 MR. BOBIER: Pardon me?

4 MR. UDOIBOK: Thank God.

5 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

6 Q. That's an email from Ms. Bock to Ikram Mohamed, correct?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. And what is the email in that? What's Ikram's email?

9 A. The subject is CACFP Required Elements.

10 Q. And what is Ms. Ikram Mohamed's email?

11 A. Amaden2@yahoo.com.

12 Q. It is not a Feeding Our Future email, is it?

13 A. This is her personal email account.

14 Q. Okay. Let's go to the next page.

15 So, Ms. Mallet, would you call out the top Feeding  
16 Our Future and CACFP Training? All right.

17 What is that?

18 A. This is the heading of the document that was attached to  
19 the email we just looked at.

20 Q. It is a training, right, CACFP training from Feeding Our  
21 Future?

22 A. That's what's listed.

23 Q. All right. Does that seem to you to be a bulletin from  
24 MDE?

25 A. This appears to be a Feeding Our Future document.

1 Q. Is it, does it appear to you to be a bulletin from USDA?

2 A. Again, this appears to be a Feeding Our Future document.

3 Q. All right. Go to page 2. Call out the first -- there  
4 you go.

5 Could you read that, please?

6 A. "A copy of meal count and attendance records must be  
7 kept on site for review by Feeding Our Future, the Minnesota  
8 Department of Education, or the United States Department of  
9 Agriculture. Feeding Our Future will provide you electronic  
10 access to your records.

11 "If you are mailing your attendance and meal  
12 counts to Feeding Our Future, please make a copy before  
13 mailing. Feeding Our Future is not responsible for records  
14 that are lost in the mail.

15 "Meal count records that are not done while the  
16 participants are eating are not able to be reimbursed."

17 Q. Thank you.

18 Let's go to A82. Call out the top half.

19 You testified about Exhibit A82, correct?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. And highlight the, the letter to team, starting with, "I  
22 am working on collecting." I love it. The whole sentence.

23 What does that highlighted portion say?

24 A. "I am working on collecting the requested documents from  
25 MDE. I know that some of you have brought work home with

1 you, but I need all everything back to the office tomorrow."

2 Q. All right. And then the section with bold letters.

3 What is it? Highlight that and read it, please.

4 A. "If you have menus, receipts, meal counts, attendance  
5 records, or any other docs at your home, please return  
6 tomorrow."

7 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you call up BB301.

8 (Counsel confer)

9 THE COURT: We're going to take our afternoon  
10 break. We will come back at 3:25.

11 All rise for the jury.

12 3:07 p.m.

13 **IN OPEN COURT**

14 **(JURY NOT PRESENT)**

15 THE COURT: Do you have your exhibit? Figure it  
16 out? All right. Figure it out so we can move along,  
17 please. Thank you.

18 3:25, everyone.

19 (Recess taken at 3:08 p.m. till 3:35 p.m.)

20 3:35 p.m.

21 **IN OPEN COURT**

22 **(JURY PRESENT)**

23 THE COURT: You may all be seated.

24 And, Mr. Udoibok, you may continue.

25 MR. UDOIBOK: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

2 Q. Ms. Mallet, would you please call up BB30a.

3 Officer, I believe you testified to this exhibit  
4 earlier. Do you remember?

5 A. Yes, last week.

6 Q. And, Ms. Mallet, is it possible to enlarge the first  
7 check?

8 And this is an email to Safari, correct?

9 A. This is a text exchange between Aimee Bock and Salim  
10 Said.

11 Q. And a photograph of a check, of two checks.

12 A. Correct. The first text is an image from Aimee Bock  
13 containing what appear to be two checks in it.

14 Q. And the check is drawn on behalf of which organization?

15 A. Both checks are from Feeding Our Future to two of the  
16 Stigma-Free sites.

17 Q. All right. And based on your investigation, were the  
18 checks based on meal counts submitted to Feeding Our Future?

19 A. That's my understanding.

20 Q. All right. Does that apply also to the second  
21 highlighted?

22 Call out, please.

23 A. This is an email sent or I mean a text in response from  
24 Salim Said to Aimee Bock, and again there's an image of a  
25 text from an image within the text of a check from Feeding

1 Our Future.

2 Q. All right. And the check is drawn to whom?

3 A. I don't recall specifically which site that's directed  
4 to, and I can't read it from that image that small.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. UDOIBOK: I don't have any further question,  
7 Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Montez or Mr. Colich?

9 Mr. Montez.

10 MR. MONTEZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. MONTEZ:

13 Q. Good afternoon.

14 A. Good afternoon.

15 Q. A couple times now we've seen the social media posts  
16 regarding some wedding where a person is adorned with a  
17 bunch of what appears to be jewelry; is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Now as you just testified on cross-examination, you  
20 don't know for certain whether this jewelry is real or  
21 whether it's not real; is that true?

22 A. My understanding is that it's real.

23 Q. Okay. And that's information that you have testified  
24 now was based on your investigation; is that right?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Okay. Can you explain to the jury what bulakati is?  
2 B-U-L-A-K-A-T-I, bulakati, can you explain what that is to  
3 the jury, please?

4 A. I don't know what that is.

5 Q. Okay. How many Somali weddings have you been to?

6 MR. BOBIER: Objection. Relevance.

7 THE COURT: Overruled.

8 THE WITNESS: Zero.

9 BY MR. MONTEZ:

10 Q. Okay. So if someone were to tell that you bulakati is  
11 gold-plated jewelry that someone is adorned with at their  
12 wedding, would you have any reason to doubt me?

13 MR. BOBIER: Objection. Assumes facts not in  
14 evidence. Counsel is testifying.

15 THE COURT: Sustained.

16 MR. MONTEZ: Okay. I will move on from that.

17 BY MR. MONTEZ:

18 Q. Let's talk about this text message between my client,  
19 Salim Said, and Abdulkadir Salah.

20 Can we please pull up GG41c.

21 (Counsel confer)

22 MR. MONTEZ: There we go.

23 BY MR. MONTEZ:

24 Q. Okay. And now as you testified to earlier, this is a  
25 text message communication between two individuals, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. One of which is my client, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And the other person is Fish, correct?

5 A. That is the label.

6 Q. Now, we've heard throughout this trial Fish is  
7 Abdulkadir Nur Salah, correct?

8 A. That's a nickname that he uses.

9 Q. One of the owners of Safari Restaurant, true?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. He has another business, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. That business is Total Financial Solutions; is that  
14 correct?

15 A. He is part owner of that as well.

16 Q. Part owner with his brother?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, that business is an accounting firm; is that true?

19 A. Amongst other things.

20 Q. So if you were to check your bank account and see that  
21 all of the funds were drained out of it, would you contact  
22 your accountant?

23 A. It's possible.

24 Q. Okay. I want to talk a little bit about a statement  
25 that I've heard several times being made, hallmarks of

1 illegitimacy. Do you recall using that statement?

2 A. I believe I said that it was true -- a fair descriptor  
3 of documents that we reviewed.

4 Q. Okay. And those documents you are referring to when you  
5 use the phrase hallmarks of illegitimacy are these rosters  
6 or meal counts, for example; is that true?

7 A. Those are several of them.

8 Q. Can you please pull up C20.

9 Now, we've seen this email a handful of times  
10 throughout this trial; is that correct?

11 A. I believe so.

12 Q. This is an email from an individual Abdihakim Ahmed; is  
13 that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Who we know is the owner of ASA Limited, correct?

16 A. With two other individuals.

17 Q. Okay. And he's emailing back and forth with Faaris  
18 Studio, Minneapolis, whoever that is, correct?

19 A. That's who this is sent to.

20 Q. Now, I know I brought this up a few different times, but  
21 it's important.

22 Can you remind the jury what the date is on this  
23 email?

24 MR. BOBIER: Beyond the scope, Your Honor. We  
25 didn't cover this email with Special Agent Wilmer.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Montez.

2 MR. MONTEZ: This has to do with rosters, Your  
3 Honor.

4 THE COURT: I'll allow it.

5 THE WITNESS: Can you repeat the question?

6 BY MR. MONTEZ:

7 Q. Sure. Can you remind the jury the date that this email  
8 was sent?

9 A. This particular email was sent on October 7th of 2021.

10 Q. And as we know, this email contains what's purported to  
11 be a fake roster, correct?

12 A. This contains an attachment, which is an Excel file  
13 labeled ASA September Kids Count.

14 Q. Okay. And it's saying, can you make all the kids ages 6  
15 to 17; is that correct?

16 A. That is what is stated, yes.

17 Q. And that has to do with this roster that's eventually  
18 created, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Okay. Is this one of those hallmarks of illegitimacy  
21 that you are referring to, these fake rosters, fake meal  
22 counts, that kind of stuff?

23 A. The hallmark referenced earlier is appearance-related  
24 items being flat numbers with little variation. This  
25 particular email has to do with generating a roster using a

1 formula in Excel.

2 I will say that's beyond a hallmark, that that's  
3 an action taken to create such a thing.

4 Q. Okay. So you would consider a fake roster to be a  
5 hallmark of illegitimacy?

6 MR. BOBIER: Misstates the testimony, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Sustained.

8 BY MR. MONTEZ:

9 Q. Would you consider it to be a hallmark of illegitimacy?

10 A. A fake roster is illegitimate.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It's not a hallmark.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 Can we please pull up FF3.

15 Now, this has already been admitted into evidence.  
16 Okay? Can we scroll down to the next page, please, next  
17 one.

18 Have you seen this document as part of your  
19 investigation?

20 A. I don't recall this particular one offhand.

21 Q. Okay. I'm just going to ask you a question about it.

22 MR. BOBIER: Your Honor, I'm sorry. I renew my  
23 out-of-scope objection. There are thousands of documents  
24 that pertain to rosters. Neither this nor the preceding one  
25 were used with this agent on direct examination.

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 MR. MONTEZ: Okay. We can take that off the  
3 screen, then.

4 BY MR. MONTEZ:

5 Q. Let's talk about the phrase that you used, "franchise  
6 model."

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Okay. Can you explain to the jury what you mean by  
9 franchise model?

10 A. Similar to, I think oftentimes franchise is used to  
11 associate with fast food restaurants in which there is a  
12 large oversight entity, and then individuals take ownership  
13 of a particular branch of that.

14 And all of those follow in the same model in that  
15 they use the same general structure financially and  
16 logistically to provide meals at that location. And the  
17 example being like a McDonalds franchise. All McDonalds  
18 sites are fairly similar in the way they operate, both  
19 financially and logistically under the larger McDonalds  
20 umbrella.

21 In this case we see a slew of sites that are all  
22 set up under the same Stigma-Free International nonprofit,  
23 and they are all set up in very similar ways, both  
24 financially and logistically.

25 Q. So essentially what you are saying is, a bunch of

1 different sites adopt a particular model; is that correct?

2 A. It's one of the things I meant by it.

3 Q. Okay. Is that fair to say?

4 A. I think so.

5 Q. All right. Thank you.

6 MR. MONTEZ: No further questions.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Bobier.

8 MR. BOBIER: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. BOBIER:

11 Q. All right. Special Agent Wilmer, we'll be brief.

12 Now when Ms. Bock's counsel was up here, you went  
13 through some of her text messages; is that right?

14 A. We did.

15 Q. Some of the same messages you and I looked at this  
16 morning and maybe late last week?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And I think there was a suggestion in the questions that  
19 you were getting that in those text communications maybe  
20 Ms. Bock was just joking.

21 Do you remember those questions?

22 A. I think that's fair to characterize some of the  
23 questions.

24 Q. I think counsel specifically asked you if maybe she was  
25 just being tongue in cheek; is that right?

1 A. That was said.

2 Q. So let's look at what she said.

3 Counsel went through this one with you, is that  
4 right, BB032b?

5 A. Yes, we did.

6 Q. This is the one in which Ms. Bock opens in the  
7 communication to Ikram Mohamed, her colleague at Feeding Our  
8 Future, as saying, "Watkins is prepped if we need to remind  
9 our friends who the real fucking boss is"; is that right?

10 A. That is what's stated.

11 Q. Who is Watkins?

12 A. Her attorney.

13 Q. Ms. Bock says at the bottom, "I'm going to show them how  
14 real bosses play"; is that right?

15 A. Yes, she does.

16 Q. And then around it, she says a text later, "Slap them  
17 with a defamation lawsuit"; is that right?

18 A. That's what's stated.

19 Q. Is it your understanding that she is just joking around  
20 in these texts?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Let's talk about what she actually did. Ms. Bock  
23 actually sued MDE; is that right?

24 A. She personally sued an employee of MDE as well as MDE  
25 itself.

1 Q. And what was the subject of the personal suit that  
2 Ms. Bock and Feeding Our Future initiated against an MDE  
3 employee?

4 A. Defamation related to comments of fraud.

5 Q. All right. An MDE employee raises fraud concerns or is  
6 quoted as doing such. Ms. Bock sues him for defamation,  
7 right?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. So here in this text, do you understand with that  
10 context a comment from Ms. Bock about defamation to be a  
11 joke?

12 A. I do not.

13 Q. Do you understand her comments about lawsuits, suing  
14 people raising concerns to be a joke?

15 A. I do not.

16 Q. That's just MDE, is that right, meaning what we're just  
17 discussing now, the lawsuits, the defamation, those are just  
18 Ms. Bock's reactions over time to MDE?

19 A. Amongst other actions she took.

20 Q. Just speaking about MDE, what was the nature of the  
21 accusation that Ms. Bock and Feeding Our Future levied  
22 against MDE?

23 A. They accused them of racism on several occasions.

24 Q. For example, when MDE refused to approve Feeding Our  
25 Future sites?

1 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Leading.

2 THE COURT: Sustained.

3 BY MR. BOBIER:

4 Q. When did Ms. Bock and Feeding Our Future accuse MDE of  
5 racism? What occasioned it?

6 A. One occasion was when sites were not being approved as  
7 quickly as they wanted them to be.

8 Q. Was that accusation renewed in any way related to MDE  
9 not allowing claims to be paid out?

10 A. Correct. That accusation occurred multiple times.

11 Q. Including after the stop pay, which I discussed with you  
12 this morning; is that right?

13 A. Yes, as discussed previously.

14 Q. Did you understand Ms. Bock's commentary about lawsuits  
15 to be a joke?

16 A. I did not.

17 Q. This morning you also used the word "aggressive," and  
18 you used it again on cross in describing Ms. Bock's  
19 reactions to concerns being raised to her about Feeding Our  
20 Future.

21 Is that right?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. Tell us what you meant by "aggressive."

24 A. I believe responding to scrutiny or things being said  
25 about your organization with accusations of racism or

1 threatening lawsuits is beyond what I would consider to be a  
2 mild-mannered reaction.

3 I think "aggressive" is a polite way to describe  
4 it.

5 Q. And on the subject of Ms. Bock's aggressive reactions to  
6 MDE, you testified a little bit about a protest held at MDE;  
7 is that right?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. Remind us about that.

10 A. That there was a protest organized in which Feeding Our  
11 Future employees, as well as participants under their  
12 sponsorship, rallied at the MDE office.

13 Q. Speaking about Ms. Bock's aggression in responding to  
14 folks other than MDE, we talked about BB40a this morning; is  
15 that right?

16 A. We did.

17 Q. You just got a couple questions from Ms. Bock's counsel  
18 about that as well. Do you remember that?

19 A. I do remember that.

20 Q. Text communication between Ms. Bock and her FOF  
21 colleague Hadith Ahmed, true?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. On page 7 of this exhibit, this is where Ms. Bock and  
24 Hadith Ahmed discuss one participant in the food program who  
25 we described earlier. Ms. Bock's suggestion is her lawyer

1 might send him a subpoena, right?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. A subpoena and a call from the lawyer that she says is  
4 going to terrify that site operator; is that right?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Did you understand Ms. Bock to be joking about the  
7 lawyer terrifying that participant in the food program?

8 A. No, I did not.

9 Q. Did we also hear about Ms. Bock acting aggressively, as  
10 you might put it, in responding to other site operators in  
11 the program?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. For example, we heard testimony from Hanna Marekegn; is  
14 that right?

15 A. We did.

16 Q. What testimony did she describe with respect to  
17 Ms. Bock's treatment of her at the end of her participation  
18 in the food program?

19 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Beyond the scope.

20 THE COURT: It's overruled.

21 THE WITNESS: As you might recall, Hanna testified  
22 that after meeting with Ms. Bock and refusing to pay an  
23 extremely large kickback of over a million dollars to her  
24 that Ms. Bock said she was going to report her for  
25 conducting fraudulent activity within the food program.

1 BY MR. BOBIER:

2 Q. After Ms. Bock's request for a kickback from Hanna  
3 Marekegn was denied, Ms. Bock terminated Hanna Marekegn. Is  
4 that what you are telling us?

5 A. That's my understanding.

6 Q. And then Ms. Bock reported Hanna Marekegn for fraud; is  
7 that right?

8 A. That's my understanding.

9 Q. Is that the type of thing that would fit your  
10 definition, Special Agent, of Ms. Bock's aggressive  
11 behavior?

12 A. To put it mildly.

13 Q. A moment ago we were talking about Hadith Ahmed. You  
14 got some questions on cross-examination about the payments  
15 that Ms. Bock signed going from the Feeding Our Future  
16 account to Hadith Ahmed, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. At the Southwest Metro Youth site; is that correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Payments Ms. Bock made to Mr. Eidleh; is that correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Including at his Hope Suppliers vendor, which you  
23 described earlier this morning as one you believe was not  
24 acting legitimately; is that right?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. And payments Ms. Bock made to Ikram Mohamed at her Star  
2 Distribution; is that right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Another vendor you described as one you believe wasn't  
5 acting legitimately?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. When you got those questions from counsel a few moments  
8 ago, there was some discussion about whether Hadith, Eidleh,  
9 Ikram Mohamed, whether these folks were employees of Feeding  
10 Our Future or whether they were contractors.

11 Do you remember those discussions?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. And your answer to one of those questions was, anyone is  
14 capable of running a site. That doesn't mean it's proper.

15 Do you remember saying that?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. What did you mean by that?

18 A. That essentially anyone can be listed on a site  
19 application, and then the sponsor can choose to send that to  
20 MDE to be listed as an operator of a site in the food  
21 program.

22 Whether or not you are an employee, consultant or  
23 anyone else, anyone can be listed on that form. However,  
24 being someone that works on the staff of Feeding Our Future  
25 I think plays a key role in whether that is correct under

1 many different lenses, to then also be operating a site that  
2 you are supposedly providing oversight to.

3 Q. All right. So to be clear, when in the investigation  
4 you saw personnel at Feeding Our Future who both worked  
5 there with Ms. Bock and also operated in the food program,  
6 whether as site operators or as vendors, was that  
7 significant?

8 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Leading.

9 THE COURT: Sustained.

10 BY MR. BOBIER:

11 Q. You described just now that when you were looking at  
12 Ikram, at Eidleh, at Hadith working in the food program, it  
13 didn't mean because they were employees, because they were  
14 contractors, that their operation was proper; is that right?

15 MR. UDOIBOK: Objection. Leading. Compound.

16 THE COURT: Sustained.

17 BY MR. BOBIER:

18 Q. Why, Special Agent Wilmer, in your view based on the  
19 investigation might, for example, Hadith running a site not  
20 have been proper?

21 A. He's an employee or consultant. He works at Feeding Our  
22 Future, which is supposed to as a sponsor provide oversight  
23 to sites under its sponsorship. However, they are using  
24 that position to run a site, in this case run it  
25 fraudulently, to receive proceeds from the same program.

1 Q. To put a fine point on it, was it significant to you at  
2 all whether those individuals, Hadith, Eidleh, Ikram, were  
3 employees or whether they were contractors?

4 A. Their title did not matter. However, that they worked  
5 at Feeding Our Future and then operated these vendors or  
6 sites to receive proceeds themselves through the program was  
7 very significant.

8 Q. Also in the context of these three folks, you received  
9 some questions using the phrase whether each of them owned a  
10 site.

11 Do you remember that?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. Whether Eidleh owned a site. Do you remember those  
14 questions?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Whether Hadith Ahmed owned a site. What is the point of  
17 the Federal Child Nutrition Program?

18 A. It's a program that's set in place to ensure that  
19 children that need meals are able to receive them.

20 Q. Would you describe the site operators in the program, if  
21 run the way it should, as owning sites? Is that a word you  
22 would use?

23 A. No, it's not.

24 Q. Why not?

25 A. I would say you might operate it. However, it's not

1       seen as, a site shouldn't be seen as an asset that you would  
2       own.

3       Q.   Not an asset you would own?

4       A.   Not in my view.

5       Q.   This is a reimbursement program; is that right?

6       A.   That's correct.

7       Q.   Based on your understanding, is the point of this  
8       reimbursement program to make its operators rich?

9       A.   That is not the intent of the program.

10      Q.   How did it work under Feeding Our Future with Hadith  
11      Ahmed?

12      A.   He used it to enrich himself.

13      Q.   Did he make millions of dollars, do you know?

14      A.   He did.

15      Q.   Millions?

16      A.   Over a million.

17      Q.   How much money did Mr. Eidleh work -- make in the food  
18      program?

19      A.   Well over a million.

20      Q.   Including through Hope Suppliers, that vending company  
21      of his?

22      A.   One of many companies that he used.

23      Q.   How much money did Ikram Mohamed make working in the  
24      food program?

25      A.   Ikram, as well as several of her relatives, worked

1 together using several sites and Star Distribution, as  
2 discussed earlier, to take in millions of dollars through  
3 the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

4 Q. So under Feeding Our Future, Special Agent Wilmer, from  
5 the background you have on this investigation, why would  
6 someone want to own a Feeding Our Future site?

7 A. Because the program and the sites under Feeding Our  
8 Future were viewed as a way to make a lot of money.

9 Q. Have we seen throughout this trial that operators of  
10 Feeding Our Future sites, folks that owned those sites, made  
11 a lot of money?

12 A. Yes, they did.

13 Q. Millions?

14 A. Millions.

15 Q. Is that how the program was supposed to operate?

16 A. Absolutely not.

17 MR. BOBIER: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Anything?

19 MR. UDOIBOK: Yes, sir.

20 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. UDOIBOK:

22 Q. Officer, I just have a few questions for you.

23 Do you know what a subpoena is used for, right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Based on your experience -- have you worked with a

1 subpoena before?

2 A. I have.

3 Q. Okay. Who issues a subpoena?

4 A. Depends on the situation.

5 Q. All right. And the subpoena is to do what?

6 A. To legally compel someone to provide documentations or  
7 testimony.

8 Q. Okay. And regarding this Marekegn, do you recall your  
9 testimony about her, Hanna Marekegn?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did she plead guilty to fraud?

12 A. She did.

13 Q. Do you know whether Ms. Bock or Feeding Our Future  
14 terminated her from participating in the Feeding Our Future  
15 program?

16 A. My understanding is that Ms. Bock and Feeding Our Future  
17 no longer submitted claims for her site after she refused to  
18 provide a kickback to Ms. Bock.

19 Q. And you heard, you were here, you heard her testimony,  
20 right?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. And after she was separated from Feeding Our Future, she  
23 went to another nonprofit, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And continued to defraud, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Okay. And you testified that Ms. Bock reported her to  
3 MDE, correct?

4 A. I testified that she threatened to report her to MDE.

5 MR. UDOIBOK: No further questions.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Montez, anything?

7 MR. MONTEZ: No, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Bobier.

9 MR. BOBIER: Nothing further.

10 THE COURT: You may step down, Special Agent.

11 Thank you.

12 And the government may call its next witness.

13 MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor. The  
14 government calls FBI Forensic Accountant Lacro Blackwell.

15 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Raise your right  
16 hand.

17 LACRAMIOARA BLACKWELL,

18 called on behalf of the government, was duly sworn, was  
19 examined and testified as follows:

20 THE WITNESS: I do.

21 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated.

22 And when you are settled there, please state and  
23 spell both your first and last name for the record.

24 THE WITNESS: My name is Lacramioara Blackwell.

25 L-A-C-R-A-M-I-O-A-R-A. Blackwell, B-L-A-C-K-W-E-L-L.

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 Mr. Jacobs, you may inquire.

3 MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. JACOBS:

6 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Blackwell.

7 A. Good afternoon.

8 Q. Could you tell the jury where you currently work?

9 A. Yes, I'm a forensic accountant with the FBI Minneapolis  
10 field office.

11 Q. What does it mean to be a forensic accountant?

12 A. A forensic accountant, in very simple term, is somebody  
13 who follows the money in any criminal investigation.

14 Whenever there are large amounts of financial  
15 records to review and to analyze, there becomes a need for a  
16 specialized member of the investigative team to take the  
17 time and review them and package the financial findings,  
18 excuse me, to the other members of the, of the case team.

19 Q. Prior to working for the FBI, did you have any other  
20 roles in law enforcement?

21 A. Yes. Before joining the FBI in 2019, I worked for the  
22 Georgia Bureau of Investigation in a similar capacity, also  
23 as a forensic accountant. It was called forensic examiner,  
24 and prior to that I worked for the Romanian National Police  
25 since 1999.

1 Q. What types of training and experience have you received  
2 in being a forensic accountant?

3 A. I attended specialized trainings with the National White  
4 Color Crime Center in North Carolina and South Carolina,  
5 financial investigation practical skills, financial records  
6 examination and analysis, money laundering and hazard  
7 forfeiture training and federal law enforcement training or  
8 FLETC in Brunswick, Georgia.

9 I am an active member of the Association For  
10 Certified Fraud Examiners and in Austin, Texas, since 2015.  
11 And also attended the FBI Academy Forensic Accounting Course  
12 in Quantico, Virginia.

13 Q. Okay. So you testified that a forensic accountant  
14 follows the money. Can you give the jury a sense of what  
15 you would do in the course of an investigation to follow the  
16 money?

17 A. Sure. First of all, we would need to obtain the bank  
18 records of the target of the investigation. So in order to  
19 do that, we would send what is called a subpoena, a request,  
20 a legal request to financial institutions, being banks or  
21 credit card companies or various parties, such as title  
22 companies that hold important documents for us to review, in  
23 our attempt to identify bank accounts that belong to the  
24 targets or various assets that they may purchase.

25 Q. Okay. So when the jury is looking at page after page of

1 a bank statement, you are to blame for that?

2 A. We are the ones who obtain them for the benefit of the  
3 whole case team, yes.

4 Q. So turning now to this investigation, what has your role  
5 been in this case?

6 A. Together with the two other forensic accountants, so a  
7 team of a total of three forensic accountants, we started  
8 looking at the, as I said, the bank records and started  
9 tracking down the assets purchased in this larger  
10 investigation.

11 My role specifically when I started in  
12 December 2021 to work on this case was to trace the assets,  
13 but since then it has evolved.

14 Q. So can you give the jury a sense of what you do when you  
15 are tracing an asset and following the money in this case?

16 A. Absolutely. We start looking at the personal or  
17 business records that are flagged down as part of the  
18 initial steps of the investigation, and from there if we  
19 find indications that there are other bank accounts where  
20 the money is being transferred to and from, then we write  
21 down legal requests for documents to those financial  
22 institutions.

23 And then another one and then another one, until  
24 we are confident that we have identified the true and final  
25 beneficiary of the funds.

1 Q. Okay. So you find out about an entity, and you get bank  
2 statements for that entity?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And then you look at those bank statements?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And then you get bank statements or entities reflected  
7 in those statements?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And you follow the money?

10 A. That is right.

11 Q. And you mentioned that in this particular case you're  
12 part of a team of forensic accountants who have in various  
13 ways followed the money?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And in particular today, you are here to talk about a  
16 piece of that, right?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. You are here to talk about a couple of Feeding Our  
19 Future employees and kickback payments; is that right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Can you tell the jury what we mean by "kickback  
22 payment"?

23 A. Well, a kickback payment in very, very simple terms is a  
24 portion of the proceeds that a criminal actor obtains  
25 illegally, and it pays it back to the person who facilitated

1 obtaining those proceeds in the first place, the illegal  
2 money.

3 Q. I want to start with a Feeding Our Future employee named  
4 Hadith Ahmed. Okay?

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. The jury has just heard about Hadith Ahmed, so I'm going  
7 to try to streamline this.

8 But can you tell us who Hadith Ahmed is?

9 A. Hadith Ahmed was an employee of Feeding Our Future. His  
10 title was Director of Growth and Development, I believe.

11 Yes, Director of Growth and Development.

12 And his role was to monitor and support sites that  
13 were participating in the food program under the sponsorship  
14 of the organization Feeding Our Future.

15 Q. Did Mr. Ahmed have a shell company?

16 A. He did.

17 Q. What was that shell company called?

18 A. The company was called Mizal Consulting LLC.

19 Q. M-I-Z-A-L?

20 A. M-I-Z-A-L.

21 Q. And when we talk about a shell company, can you explain  
22 to the jury what you mean when you say "shell company"?

23 A. A shell company is a legal entity that is, that is  
24 incorporated at or around the time that the criminal actors  
25 are actively engaged in their attempts to disguise the

1 nature of the source, the origin of their criminal proceeds.

2 It looks like a legitimate company, but other than  
3 being duly incorporated with a state government agency, it  
4 does not have much beyond that. It does not have employees.  
5 It does not have a legitimate business purpose. It does  
6 not -- it may have a bank account, but it does not have  
7 legitimate income.

8 Q. Okay. And when you are trying to determine whether an  
9 entity is a shell company, what types of things are you  
10 doing to make that determination?

11 A. Well, we basically look everything that the financial  
12 records have to show. And we look at the money going in,  
13 and we look at the money going out.

14 Q. Follow the money.

15 A. We follow the money.

16 Q. See where it goes.

17 I'm pulling up what has already been, already been  
18 admitted into evidence as Government's W78.

19 Ms. Blackwell, can you tell the jury what  
20 Government Exhibit W78 is?

21 A. It's the first page of business records of, of bank  
22 records belonging to Mizal Consulting LLC.

23 Q. Okay. And this particular account is a business account  
24 for Mizal Consulting, and who is the customer, the  
25 individual customer name for this account?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Hadith Ahmed?

3 A. The customer name is Hadith Ahmed, yes.

4 Q. Okay. And if I pull up the date up here, what is the  
5 date that this was opened?

6 A. The opening date is December 27, 2020.

7 Q. And can you orient the jury to what's happening with  
8 Feeding Our Future and the federal food program at the end  
9 of 2020?

10 A. At the end of 2020, they were already part of the  
11 federal food program and have been going on since I believe  
12 April, April 2020.

13 Q. Sites are increasing?

14 A. Oh, definitely.

15 Q. Claims are increasing?

16 A. Definitely.

17 Q. Okay.

18 So I want to go down to page 76 of the Mizal  
19 Consulting bank statements, and this is where checks that  
20 are coming in to that bank account begin.

21 And there's one up on the screen, and this is the  
22 first check coming in.

23 And can you tell the jury the details of this  
24 check into the Mizal Consulting account?

25 A. Sure. The date of this check is January 9th, 2021. So

1 only a few, maybe two weeks after the account was opened.  
2 The check is from Action for East African People, an entity  
3 that was a food site, operated several food sites under the  
4 sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

5 It had, it obtained overall probably more than  
6 \$5 million in reimbursement claims. The check is written to  
7 Mizal Consulting for \$10,000.

8 Q. Okay. The date is January 9th of 2021?

9 A. It is.

10 Q. So about a week and a half after the account was opened?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What was significant to you as a forensic accountant  
13 when you saw this \$10,000 check coming from Action For East  
14 African People to Mizal Consulting?

15 A. Well, first of all, it, it is written to a company, so  
16 not directly to the Feeding Our Future employee. And that  
17 Feeding Our Future employee Hadith Ahmed, who is the owner  
18 of Mizal Consulting, is actually tasked with supervising the  
19 site.

20 So there would be no reason for, for the entity to  
21 pay the employee who is tasked with supervising them.

22 Q. So what was significant in light of that in seeing a  
23 check coming in?

24 A. Again, there would be no reason, no business  
25 relationship between the two from the perspective of a food

1 program participant making payments to the employee of the  
2 sponsoring organization that is tasked with supervising them  
3 and approving their claim and making sure that they are  
4 submitted for reimbursement.

5 Q. Okay. I want to toggle through down to the next page.  
6 This is another cashier's check dated March 16th of 2021,  
7 and it's for \$12,000. And this one is from Eidleh Inc. to  
8 Hadith Ahmed?

9 Are you familiar with Eidleh Inc.?

10 A. I am. Eidleh Inc. is an entity controlled by another  
11 Feeding Our Future employee. His name is Abdikerm Eidleh.  
12 He worked, as I said, at Feeding Our Future pretty much  
13 around the same time as Hadith Ahmed.

14 And here we see a payment from Eidleh to Hadith  
15 Ahmed, even though they were both employees at Feeding Our  
16 Future. I know that they operated together a site. And  
17 this seems to me, this seems as if they are sharing some of  
18 those profits.

19 Q. Okay. The jury just heard some testimony about a site  
20 called Southwest Metro Youth. Are you familiar with that  
21 site?

22 A. I am familiar with that, yes.

23 Q. In the context of Southwest Metro Youth, what was  
24 significant to you about seeing this \$12,000 check come to  
25 the account of Mizal Consulting?

1 A. It looks like they are trying to create a possible  
2 explanation or a front for this payment, as if, you know,  
3 the company of Abdikerm Eidleh pays a share of the proceeds  
4 to Hadith Ahmed.

5 Q. All right. Moving down to page 80, we see another check  
6 coming in, this time from an entity called Actioncare. What  
7 is Actioncare?

8 A. Actioncare is an entity controlled by Ayan Abukar.  
9 She's the same person who controlled Action For East African  
10 People. And we see this payment being made for \$127,000 to  
11 Mizal Consulting.

12 Q. Okay. And if you look down in the lower left-hand  
13 corner of the memo line, the memo is Consulting Contractor.

14 Over the course of your review in this  
15 investigation, did memos such as that become significant to  
16 you?

17 A. Yes, it does. I see it over and over again. To me it's  
18 nothing more than just another way to characterize the  
19 nature of the payment and disguise it as consulting services  
20 when in reality no consulting services were provided.

21 Q. And did you see people use additional memo lines to try  
22 and cover the true source of the payment?

23 A. Yes, frequently.

24 Q. Can you give some examples to the jury?

25 A. Some of those would be loans or equipment purchase or

1 supplies or things of that nature.

2 Q. Okay. And after reviewing the financial records for  
3 Mizal Consulting and Actioncare and other entities related  
4 to Action For East African People, what did you conclude  
5 that this check for \$127,000 was?

6 A. To me it fit the pattern of a kickback.

7 Q. So just to remind the jury, looking at X1 that's already  
8 in evidence, Action For East African People, received --  
9 Action For East African People had multiple sites?

10 A. Yes, it did.

11 Q. And here we're pulling up one such site. How much money  
12 did they get?

13 A. This particular site received over \$2.8 million in 2021,  
14 now that I saw the heading.

15 Q. Okay. Back to the bank statements for Mizal Consulting.  
16 Going down to the next page, 82, we see a \$45,000 check from  
17 an individual Liban Alishire. Who is Liban Alishire?

18 A. Liban Alishire is the person who controlled an entity  
19 called Community Enhancement Services, which is a food  
20 program participant.

21 Q. Okay. Did CES get significant funds from Feeding Our  
22 Future in the course of the Federal Child Nutrition Program?

23 A. Yes, it did.

24 Q. Okay. Can you tell the jury the details of this check  
25 here?

1 A. This check is, is written from Liban Alishire to Mizal  
2 Consulting for \$45,000. The date of it is May 20th, 2021,  
3 and the purpose of the payment lists it as consultation.

4 Q. Okay. What was significant to you about seeing that  
5 consulting or consultation listed again in the check memo  
6 line?

7 A. Given the fact that it comes from a person who  
8 participates in the food program whose claims are being  
9 submitted for payment and the fact that he makes the point  
10 to the site supervisor who is assigned to supervise him, I  
11 conclude that this fits the pattern of a kickback.

12 Q. All right. Page 83, another check here. This one from  
13 ACE Interpretation Services. What is ACE?

14 A. ACE Interpretation Services is an entity controlled by  
15 again Liban Alishire.

16 Q. And if I go back up to the previous check, it's the same  
17 date as that \$45,000 check?

18 A. It is the same date.

19 Q. This one for \$15,000.

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. All right. The memo line here is different. It's  
22 actually Translation/Interpretation.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What's significant to you about that memo line?

25 A. Again, it's another service that is used as to

1 characterize the nature of the payment as something that is  
2 apparently legitimate.

3 Q. Are you familiar with Mizal Consulting performing any  
4 translation or interpretation --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- services?

7 Okay. This check on page 85 is from an entity  
8 that the jury has heard about recently called Hope Suppliers  
9 LLC, but can you remind them what Hope Suppliers is?

10 A. Hope Suppliers is a company that is controlled by  
11 Abdikerm Eidleh, one of a few that he used in the course of  
12 this, of this case.

13 Q. And you testified about this earlier, but did Mr. Ahmed,  
14 the owner of Mizal Consulting, and Mr. Eidleh operate a  
15 fraudulent site together?

16 A. They did.

17 Q. What was that called?

18 A. It was Southwest Metro Youth.

19 Q. And here if we go down to the memo line, you see the  
20 memo is equipment purchase. In your review of the Mizal  
21 Consulting bank statements, did you see any evidence of an  
22 equipment purchase?

23 A. No, I did not.

24 Q. Based on your review of the statements for Mizal  
25 Consulting, Hope Suppliers and Southwest Metro Youth, what

1 did you conclude that this \$64,000 payment was for?

2 A. This appears to me as a -- Mr. Eidleh and Mr. Ahmed are  
3 sharing the profits that they were obtaining operating  
4 Southwest Metro Youth.

5 Q. Okay. Moving down to page 87, we see another check from  
6 May of 2021, this one for \$26,000. Do you see that?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. And this particular one is from Northside Wellness  
9 Center Corporation. What is Northside Wellness?

10 A. Northside Wellness, just like the other entities that I  
11 mentioned, is a food program participant, was a site, an  
12 entity controlled by Hibo Daar.

13 Q. Okay. So pulling up X1, which is our summary exhibit of  
14 all the sites, I won't walk you through meal count after  
15 meal count, but can you tell the jury how much Northside  
16 Wellness Center site received from Feeding Our Future in  
17 2021?

18 A. It was over \$2.4 million.

19 Q. Okay. So going back to that Northside Wellness Center  
20 corporation check, again, we see something in the memo line.  
21 It look like it says Delivery Consultation.

22 What was significant to you about seeing this  
23 check after reviewing the bank records for Northside  
24 Wellness Corporation?

25 A. After looking at the bank records, Mizal Consulting, I

1 can tell Mizal Consulting did not provide delivery or  
2 consultation services to Northside Wellness.

3 Q. Again, what was the role of Mr. Ahmed, the owner of  
4 Mizal Consulting, at this time frame?

5 A. He was a site support or a monitor.

6 Q. For what entity? For Feeding Our Future?

7 A. He was an employee of Feeding Our Future, yes.

8 Q. The same entity that's paying Northside Wellness Center  
9 over \$2 million?

10 A. Over \$2.4 million, yes.

11 Q. Okay. We're now in June of 2021, and this check is from  
12 an entity called Community Enhancement Services. You  
13 mentioned them earlier, but can you remind the jury what  
14 Community Enhancement Services is?

15 A. Sure. Community Enhancement Services controlled by  
16 Liban Alishire is a food program participant. It's a site  
17 under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future.

18 Q. Got millions of dollars for its participation in the  
19 Federal Child Nutrition Program?

20 A. Absolutely.

21 Q. Okay. And here we see a \$33,000 payment to Mizal  
22 Consulting with a memo line Consultation. Conclusion of  
23 this check based on your review of the financial documents  
24 in this case?

25 A. It is, it was not made for consultation. This is just

1 another attempt to disguise the nature of the payment.

2 Q. And flipping through, we'll keep going through, but  
3 another check from CES for \$30,000?

4 A. Another one.

5 Q. Similarly, memo line consultation?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And another one, this one from Great Lakes.

8 A. Yes, this one is from Great Lakes Inc., which is an  
9 entity controlled by Sade Hashi, food program participant,  
10 both as a vendor and as a site. And the memo line for this  
11 \$73,000 check is Loan Repayment.

12 Q. I think you talked about loan repayments as a memo line  
13 earlier, but is that one that you've also seen coming up?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And what was the purpose of a memo line like that?

16 A. Mainly to disguise the nature of the payment, to make it  
17 look like a legitimate payment.

18 Q. Your conclusion of this check based on your review of  
19 the Mizal Consulting, the Great Lakes Inc., and the Feeding  
20 Our Future bank records is what?

21 A. Is that this payment represents a kickback to Hadith  
22 Ahmed.

23 Q. In the course of your work on this investigation, did  
24 you and the team of forensic accountants create various  
25 summary charts?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did they summarize voluminous bank records, such as  
3 the ones we just flipped through?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And have you looked at these bank records?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And are your summaries accurate reflection and shorter  
8 reflection of what's contained in the actual bank  
9 statements?

10 A. Yes.

11 MR. JACOBS: Your Honor, at this time I would  
12 offer Government Exhibit X43.

13 THE COURT: Any objection to X43?

14 MR. UDOIBOK: No objection.

15 MR. MONTEZ: No objection.

16 THE COURT: X43 is admitted.

17 BY MR. JACOBS:

18 Q. All right. Ms. Blackwell, we are looking at Government  
19 Exhibit X43, and I know this is a document and a type of  
20 document that you are very familiar with, but the jury may  
21 be less so.

22 If I refer to this as a sources and uses, do you  
23 know what I'm talking about?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Go ahead.

3 A. Yes. It is a summary of money coming in and money going  
4 out, for lack of a more involved term, explaining what kind  
5 of deposits, what the nature of the deposits coming into the  
6 account and the various ways in which the money was used by  
7 the person who controlled the account.

8 Q. Okay. So if I look up here in the left-hand corner,  
9 this will tell us what accounts we're looking at?

10 A. Absolutely.

11 Q. In this case, the Mizal Consulting and Hadith Ahmed bank  
12 accounts?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then if we look down here, it says Net Sources of  
15 Funds. What's the source of funds mean?

16 A. Where the money is coming from.

17 Q. Money coming in?

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. So could be checks?

20 A. It could be checks. It could be electronic transfers.  
21 It could be wires. It could be cash. It could be a variety  
22 of things.

23 Q. However money comes into the bank account?

24 A. Exactly.

25 Q. And if we jump over here, we get to net use of funds.

1 And can you explain to the jury what the use of funds is?

2 A. It details the various ways in which money was spent  
3 from the account.

4 Q. Okay. So money coming in, money going out?

5 A. Money going out.

6 Q. And I assume that this is what you mean when you say you  
7 follow the money.

8 A. Absolutely.

9 Q. Okay. For Mr. Ahmed and the Mizal Consulting, I want to  
10 focus here on the sources of funds. Okay?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. And in particular, these two sections. So the top  
13 section is Food Program Money. Can you explain to the jury  
14 what we're seeing in these line items here?

15 A. Absolutely. We see that a combined total of \$966,000 is  
16 represented by money or checks deposited or written from --  
17 well, whole host of food program participants to Mizal  
18 Consulting and that were eventually deposited into the Mizal  
19 Consulting account.

20 Q. Okay. So we see up here a couple of entities that we  
21 talked about earlier. Action For East African People, a  
22 combined \$210,000?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Great Lakes Inc., 154,000?

25 A. That is right.

1 Q. CES, 135,000?

2 A. Combined total 135,500.

3 Q. So this is summarizing the bank statements and the  
4 checks that we just looked at?

5 A. Absolutely. This is the total.

6 Q. And here what's the total amount of money that Mr. Ahmed  
7 received from the various sites or vendors participating in  
8 the food program?

9 A. \$966,172.

10 Q. And if we jump down to the bottom, we see another line  
11 item, which is Defendant Abdikerm Eidleh's entities. Can  
12 you explain to the jury what's included in these line items?

13 A. Sure. This is a combined total that details how much  
14 money came to Mizal Consulting from Hope Suppliers LLC,  
15 which is the entity controlled by Eidleh, and also Eidleh  
16 Inc., which is another one of the entities that he used in  
17 this case.

18 Q. Okay. So those were the checks that we saw from Hope  
19 Suppliers or Eidleh Inc.?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay. I want to go down and look at one more item on  
22 here, which is listed as payroll. Under payroll we see  
23 Feeding Our Future and a line item of \$130,000. What does  
24 that reflect?

25 A. That means that during the period of review, which is

1 from April 2020 to January 2022 for this particular account,  
2 Mr. Ahmed received payroll payments from Feeding Our Future  
3 to the total of \$130,000.

4 Q. So while receiving \$130,000 on the payroll of Feeding  
5 Our Future, he additionally received how much money from  
6 other participants in the food program?

7 A. Over \$966,000 net.

8 Q. I want to move on from Mr. Ahmed and talk about another  
9 Feeding Our Future employee named Ikram Mohamed. Are you  
10 familiar with Ms. Mohamed?

11 A. I am.

12 Q. And who is Ms. Mohamed?

13 A. Ms. Mohamed was an employee of Feeding Our Future I  
14 believe from approximately June 2020 till the end of 2021.

15 Q. Okay. And we have just been talking about Mizal  
16 Consulting. Did Ikram Mohamed also have an entity like  
17 Mizal Consulting?

18 A. She did, but I'd like to make a correction. I believe  
19 the period of employment was later than I stated.

20 Q. Okay. What, so what's your recollection of the period  
21 of employment?

22 A. I believe it was around February 2021.

23 Q. I'm pulling up what's already been admitted into  
24 evidence as Government's Exhibit W257. Can you tell the  
25 jury what we're looking at here?

1 A. We're looking at the first page of bank records that  
2 were opened in the name of IM Consultation LLC.

3 Q. Okay. So if we look here, the name of the entity is IM  
4 Consultation LLC?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And the account owner is Ikram?

7 A. Ikram Mohamed.

8 Q. If I go down to the next page, can you tell us  
9 approximately when this account was opened?

10 A. This account was opened March 23rd, 2021.

11 Q. And you mentioned this when we were talking about Mizal  
12 Consulting, but what did you see in the course of your  
13 investigation about entities that were labeled Consultation?

14 A. That they were shell companies.

15 Q. You saw large payments going into them?

16 A. Absolutely.

17 Q. Often unexplained?

18 A. Often unexplained and created at or around the time that  
19 these payments were disguised or needed to be disguised.

20 Q. Well, I want to go down to page 103 of the IM  
21 Consultation bank records and look at a couple checks that  
22 start to come into that account, the sources of the funds  
23 that we just talked about.

24 So here we see two checks, and we can take them  
25 from bottom to top, since that's chronological. Can you

1 tell the jury what we're seeing in these two checks?

2 A. Sure. The first check from Star Distribution LLC to IM  
3 Consultation is written for \$68,000, and the purpose of  
4 payment is listed as September Services.

5 Q. Okay. So first things first. Do you know what Star  
6 Distribution LLC is?

7 A. Yes. Star Distribution was an entity controlled by  
8 Ikram Mohamed's family members, Suleman Mohamed, and it  
9 purported to be a vendor participating in the food program.

10 Q. Okay. So a vendor plays what role in the food program?

11 A. Provides food supplies, food and food supplies.

12 Q. And in this case who did or for what sites did Star  
13 Distribution purportedly vend?

14 A. I believe a variety of sites, multiple.

15 Q. And in this case, you see two checks written within  
16 about a week, one for \$68,000 and one for \$21,000 to IM  
17 Consultation.

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And it looks like the signature line here is Suleman?

20 A. Correct, Suleman Mohamed.

21 Q. What is Suleman Mohamed's relationship to Ikram Mohamed?

22 A. I believe he is her brother.

23 Q. Okay. Moving down to page 104, and again these checks  
24 start on November 30th, so later that same month.

25 Can you tell the jury what we're seeing in these

1 checks?

2 A. Sure. These seem to be similar. The one on top is  
3 written November 30, 2021, for \$48,000, purportedly for May  
4 services. And the second check, the following month,  
5 December 2021, December 15th, 2021, purportedly for October  
6 services, and the amount is \$24,150.

7 Q. Okay. To be clear, at this point in time does Ikram  
8 Mohamed have a relationship with Feeding Our Future?

9 A. Absolutely. She works for Feeding Our Future.

10 Q. And what does that relationship involve?

11 A. She is an employee of Feeding Our Future that should not  
12 be getting payments from other food program participants.

13 Q. She has oversight of the sites that are being regulated  
14 by Feeding Our Future?

15 A. Absolutely.

16 Q. Okay. Here we see three checks all from the same  
17 entity. And this one is United Youth of Minneapolis. What  
18 is United Youth of Minneapolis?

19 A. United Youth of Minneapolis is a site, a food program  
20 participant, under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future  
21 operated by a family member of Ms. Mohamed.

22 Q. Okay. And if I go back to X1, did United Youth operate  
23 multiple sites?

24 A. I believe so, but I don't recall right now.

25 Q. Okay. So if we pull up this one, how much -- this one

1 is called United Youth of Minneapolis, Lake Street. That  
2 site was where?

3 A. In Minneapolis on Lake Street.

4 Q. And how much money did that site on Lake Street get in  
5 2021?

6 A. Over \$3.3 million.

7 Q. Okay. And going down, we see another United Youth of  
8 Minneapolis's site, Logan. How much did this United Youth  
9 of Minneapolis site receive in 2020 and 2021?

10 A. A combined total of over \$2.1 million.

11 Q. Okay. So over \$5 million combined for that one site or  
12 for that one entity?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. Going back to the bank records for IM  
15 Consultation, during this period of time where United Youth  
16 of Minneapolis is receiving upwards of \$5 million from  
17 Feeding Our Future, what are we seeing relative to the IM  
18 Consultation account?

19 A. Well, it receives, and I'm looking at three checks, from  
20 United Youth of Minneapolis written in September, August and  
21 December, all of them for -- the first one for July, August,  
22 the second one for May services, and the third one is  
23 payment for an invoice, purportedly for an invoice.

24 Q. Based on your review of the bank records for IM  
25 Consultation, United Youth, Feeding Our Future, what was

1 significant to you about seeing large checks from the bank  
2 account of a site under the sponsorship of Feeding Our  
3 Future to the bank account of IM Consultation?

4 A. Given the fact that Ms. Mohamed was employed by or  
5 working for Feeding Our Future and her family members  
6 operated sites that were being paid for reimbursed claims  
7 under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future, these look like  
8 kickback payments to me.

9 Q. Okay. We'll go down to, we'll go -- excuse me -- one  
10 check down. And here we see a check from Feeding Our Future  
11 to IM Consultation.

12 Do you see that?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. And it's dated 12 -- December 30th of 2021, and it's for  
15 \$40,000.

16 In your review of the IM Consulting account, did  
17 you see other checks like this from Feeding Our Future?

18 A. Yes. On a monthly basis, there were round payments  
19 coming into the IM Consultation account.

20 Q. Receiving payment checks from Feeding Our Future?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Payroll checks from Feeding Our Future.

23 All right. We talked about Hadith Ahmed and the  
24 checks that he received.

25 We talked about Ikram Mohamed and the checks that

1 she received.

2 I want to pivot, and I want to talk about Abdikerm  
3 Eidleh. Okay?

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. The jury's heard a lot about Mr. Eidleh, so I want to  
6 focus our testimony today, but before we do, I want to go  
7 through some of the entities connected with Mr. Eidleh. All  
8 right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Fair to say that Mr. Eidleh had a lot of different  
11 entities or shell companies?

12 A. He had a few.

13 Q. I want to go through some of them now and have you  
14 explain to the jury a little bit about them.

15 Eidleh Inc., familiar with that one?

16 A. Yes, I am.

17 Q. What is Eidleh Inc.? I'll pull up, I'm showing you what  
18 has not been admitted into evidence as Government  
19 Exhibit S70.

20 MR. JACOBS: Your Honor, we'd offer S70.

21 THE COURT: Any objection?

22 MR. UDOIBOK: No objection.

23 MR. MONTEZ: No objection.

24 THE COURT: S70 is admitted.

25

1 BY MR. JACOBS:

2 Q. All right. Ms. Blackwell, S70 is in front of the jury.  
3 Can you tell the jury what Eidleh Inc. is?

4 A. Eidleh Inc. is an entity that was incorporated with the  
5 State of Minnesota, Minnesota Secretary of State, by  
6 Mr. Abdikerm Eidleh.

7 Q. And it looks like the date that this certificate was  
8 issued in was 2018; is that right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. What was the purpose of Eidleh Inc. during the period of  
11 time that your investigation focused on?

12 A. Based on my review of the records for Eidleh Inc., it  
13 appeared that the role of Eidleh Inc. was as a, at times,  
14 consulting company of sorts, or he used it also in his  
15 operation of Southwest Metro Youth.

16 Q. Okay. Showing you what's not yet admitted into evidence  
17 as S74.

18 MR. JACOBS: Your Honor, we'd offer S74.

19 THE COURT: Any objection?

20 MR. UDOIBOK: No objection.

21 MR. MONTEZ: No objection.

22 THE COURT: S74 is admitted.

23 BY MR. JACOBS:

24 Q. All right. Ms. Blackwell, we're looking at the  
25 Secretary of State Certificate of Organization for Hope

1 Suppliers.

2 And can you tell the jury about Hope Suppliers?

3 A. Hope Suppliers is another legal entity that was  
4 incorporated by Mr. Eidleh, and the date of that filing is  
5 December 2020.

6 Q. Okay. This entity was actually created well into the  
7 scheme that we've been talking about today.

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. I'm finally showing you what is not yet in  
10 evidence as Government's S73.

11 Your Honor, we'd offer S73.

12 THE COURT: Any objection?

13 MR. UDOIBOK: No objection.

14 MR. MONTEZ: No objection.

15 THE COURT: S73 is admitted.

16 BY MR. JACOBS:

17 Q. Okay. Number 3 on the list of Eidleh related companies  
18 is Bridge Logistics LLC. And we're looking at the Minnesota  
19 Secretary of State Certificate of Organization.

20 And can you tell the jury about Bridge Logistics?

21 A. Yes. Similar to Hope Suppliers that we saw earlier,  
22 Bridge Logistics was also incorporated in December of 2020  
23 by Mr. Eidleh.

24 Q. Incorporated close in time to Hope Suppliers?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And moving on to company number 4, Bridge  
2 Consulting and Logistics, what's that entity?

3 A. Bridge Consulting and Logistics is yet another legal  
4 entity that was incorporated by Mr. Eidleh and used by him.

5 Q. What, if anything, was significant to your investigation  
6 about the numerous entities, many of which were incorporated  
7 well into the food program, that were owned by Mr. Eidleh?

8 A. It, it was a red flag for me, but also not surprising.  
9 And based on my training, this is a common methodology for  
10 people who are involved in criminal activity, and they are  
11 trying to create the appearance of legitimacy for the  
12 payments that they received.

13 Q. And how do they use entities or shell companies like  
14 those to create the appearance of legitimacy?

15 A. Because it is a lot easier to explain large payments  
16 coming into the accounts if they belong to business entities  
17 than if you start getting deposits as an individual.

18 Q. Are you familiar -- now we're talking about Abdikerm  
19 Eidleh. Are you familiar with Mr. Eidleh's role with  
20 Feeding Our Future?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. From a high level, can you tell the jury what that role  
23 was?

24 A. His role as an employee at Feeding Our Future was to  
25 recruit sites and also offer site support.

1 Q. While in that role, did he also open and operate a site  
2 that we've talked about?

3 A. Yes. Yes, he did.

4 Q. Southwest Metro Youth?

5 A. It was Southwest Metro Youth, yes.

6 Q. And was he operating that site as a legitimate site?

7 A. Not to my knowledge.

8 Q. In the course of your investigation, did you come to  
9 learn of Mr. Eidleh taking payments from various individuals  
10 involved in the Federal Child Nutrition Program?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Just a couple?

13 A. No. More than a couple.

14 Q. Okay. I want to walk through many of those or some of  
15 those, at least, with you now. All right?

16 I'm pulling up what's admitted into evidence as  
17 Government Exhibit S91. And this is a check that the jury's  
18 seen before, but can you remind them what Karmel Coffee is?

19 A. Yes. Karmel Coffee is an entity controlled by  
20 Mr. Abdulkadir Awale. Karmel Coffee was a vendor in the  
21 food program or Mr. Awale was, had sites and also operated  
22 as a vendor in the food program.

23 Q. All right. And the jury heard from Mr. Awale earlier,  
24 but can you explain or go over the details of this  
25 particular check?

1 A. Sure. This payment is for \$12,000 to Bridge -- from  
2 Karmel Coffee to Bridge Consulting and Logistics, and the  
3 check date is January 21st, 2021.

4 Q. And based on your review of financial documents relating  
5 to Mr. Awale, Karmel Coffee and other entities, what did you  
6 conclude about this payment for \$12,000 from Karmel Coffee  
7 to Bridge Consulting and Logistics?

8 A. It appears it was nothing more than a kickback payment  
9 to Mr. Eidleh from Abdulkadir Awale.

10 Q. Did Mr. Awale receive large amounts of money based on  
11 his participation in the Federal Child Nutrition Program?

12 A. Yes, he did.

13 Q. Is this the only payment that he made to Mr. Eidleh?

14 A. No, it is not.

15 Q. Pulling up what is in evidence as Government  
16 Exhibit W50. And if we go down to page -- these are the  
17 bank statements for Eidleh Inc., another entity connected to  
18 Mr. Eidleh?

19 A. To Mr. Eidleh, yes.

20 Q. I'm showing you another check on page 270. This one  
21 again from Karmel Coffee?

22 A. Yes, this is a payment from Karmel Coffee to Eidleh Inc.  
23 of \$27,000 made in February of 2021.

24 Q. So this check is about one month after the check that we  
25 just saw?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And this particular one is to a different entity, Eidleh  
3 Inc., correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And how much is this check for?

6 A. The amount of the check is \$27,000.

7 Q. And the subject line or the memo line for this check in  
8 the lower left-hand corner is what?

9 A. Is Loan.

10 Q. Based on your review of the financial for Karmel Coffee  
11 and Eidleh Inc., did you ever come across a loan from one  
12 entity to the other?

13 A. No.

14 Q. And what was your conclusion based on reviewing these  
15 financials of what this payment was for?

16 A. This payment was not for a loan. It was in fact a  
17 kickback from Karmel, from Mr. Awale to Mr. Eidleh.

18 Q. Okay. And if we just go down in the same Eidleh Inc.  
19 financial statements, we'll see a check, this one dated  
20 March 23rd of 2021.

21 So we're going ahead about one additional month;  
22 is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And the past two checks were from Karmel Coffee. This  
25 one is from what entity?

1 A. This one is from Sambusa King, but Sambusa King is just  
2 another entity owned and controlled by Mr. Awale.

3 Q. Signature in the bottom right-hand corner appears to be  
4 Mr. Awale?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And how much is this check for?

7 A. This check from March 2021 is for \$22,000.

8 Q. Based on your review of the financials, did you see any  
9 legitimate connection between Mr. Awale and Mr. Eidleh?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Was Mr. Awale operating in the Federal Child Nutrition  
12 Program under the sponsorship of who?

13 A. Of Feeding Our Future.

14 Q. I want to talk about -- I want to go site by site, and I  
15 now want to talk about another entity called Brava Cafe.

16 Are you familiar with Brava?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What is Brava Cafe?

19 A. Yes. Brava Cafe was a restaurant in Minneapolis, also a  
20 food program site owned and operated by Hanna Marekegn.

21 Q. Did Ms. Marekegn and Brava Cafe pay checks to  
22 Mr. Eidleh?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What were those checks for?

25 A. Those checks were for kickbacks.

1 Q. Okay. We've been jumping around a lot between  
2 Mr. Eidleh's four entities, and let me actually take a step  
3 back.

4 You talked about the purpose of having four  
5 different entities. Is one of the purposes of that that  
6 it's confusing?

7 A. Well, it's certainly not easy, as easy as if it was only  
8 one entity, and you would have to sit down and review four  
9 sets of records, assuming that they only have one account  
10 each.

11 Q. Put a different way: Is it easier to follow the money  
12 if there's one account or if there are four accounts?

13 A. It's a lot easier if you only have one account, sure.

14 Q. So now we're looking at the financial statements for  
15 Bridge Consulting and Logistics. So we just looked at  
16 Bridge Consulting, and we looked at Eidleh Inc.

17 Now we're on Bridge Consulting and Logistics?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And can you tell the jury what we're seeing on  
20 page 111 of Government Exhibit W66?

21 A. We're looking at a cashier's check, so payment from  
22 Hanna Marekegn to Bridge Consulting and Logistics. And the  
23 payment is for \$25,000, and the date of the check is  
24 December 8, 2020.

25 Q. And based on your review of the financials for both of

1 these entities, did you see any legitimate purpose for the  
2 exchange of funds from Hanna Marekegn to Bridge Consulting  
3 and Logistics?

4 A. I did not see legitimate purpose behind it, no.

5 Q. Did Ms. Marekegn make other payments to Mr. Eidleh?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But now we're jumping back to Eidleh Inc. And this time  
8 it's a payment from who?

9 A. This time is a payment from Brava Cafe Inc. to Eidleh  
10 Inc. The amount of the check is \$36,000, and the check is  
11 dated a month later in January 2021.

12 Q. This particular check has a memo line of Supplies.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you come across any evidence of Eidleh Inc.  
15 providing supplies to Brava Cafe?

16 A. No, I did not.

17 Q. What was your conclusion then based on this check?

18 A. That the purpose for the payment was not truthful.

19 Q. Pulling up just one more check related to Brava Cafe,  
20 this time to an entity Hope Suppliers?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. That's the fourth of the Mr. Eidleh entities?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell the jury about this check?

25 A. Sure. This check comes from Brava Cafe for \$33,000 to

1 Hope Suppliers, and the date of the check is March 18, 2021.

2 Q. And going back to Government Exhibit X1, just to remind  
3 the jury. Brava Cafe received how much from Feeding Our  
4 Future in 2020 and 2021?

5 A. Between these two years in this two-year time period,  
6 she received over \$5.7 million.

7 Q. What was significant to you about seeing numerous and  
8 large payments from Brava Cafe to an individual employed  
9 with Feeding Our Future, the entity that oversaw the  
10 distribution of \$5.7 million to Brava Cafe?

11 A. Given the fact that this individual was tasked with  
12 overseeing those sites, the only conclusion that I can draw  
13 is that this was a kickback payment.

14 Q. All right. S & S Catering, familiar?

15 A. Yes. S & S catering was a participant in the food  
16 program. He was a site and also vendor for multiple sites.

17 Q. Okay. Here we see a check from S & S Catering on Lake  
18 Street to Bridge Logistics?

19 A. Yes, we do. This check is written for \$2,000 in the  
20 month of March 2021 for, purportedly for delivery services.

21 Q. Okay. And the signature here, it looks like Qamar  
22 Hassan?

23 A. Yes. Qamar Hassan, who owned this company S & S  
24 Catering.

25 Q. Okay. And can you give the jury a rough estimate of how

1 much money S & S Catering received for its participation in  
2 the Federal Child Nutrition Program?

3 A. Oh, millions of dollars.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Jacobs, do you want to come to a  
5 stopping place?

6 MR. JACOBS: Certainly, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Is this all right?

8 MR. JACOBS: Yes.

9 THE COURT: All right. We will break here for the  
10 evening and return at 9:00 in the morning.

11 All rise for the jury.

12 4:57 p.m.

13 **IN OPEN COURT**

14 **(JURY NOT PRESENT)**

15 THE COURT: Does anyone have anything for the  
16 record?

17 MR. UDOIBOK: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. We will see you all  
19 tomorrow morning. Have a good evening.

20 (Court adjourned at 4:58 p.m., 03-03-2025.)

21 \* \* \*

22 I, Renee A. Rogge, certify that the foregoing is a  
23 correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the  
24 above-entitled matter.

25 Certified by: /s/Renee A. Rogge  
Renee A. Rogge, RMR-CRR