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## MEMORANDUM

TO The Arizona House of Representatives Ethics Committee

FROM Mark Kokanovich and Jacey Skinner

DATE June 25, 2020

RE Addendum to Report of Ethics Investigation Regarding Representative Cook

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On June 11 at 11:40 a.m., the foregoing investigative report was made available to Representative Cook via email. At 11:53 a.m., the investigation team granted Representative Cook and his attorneys direct access to the report and its supporting document production through an electronic file-sharing system. Representative Cook downloaded the report at 6:04 p.m. on June 11.

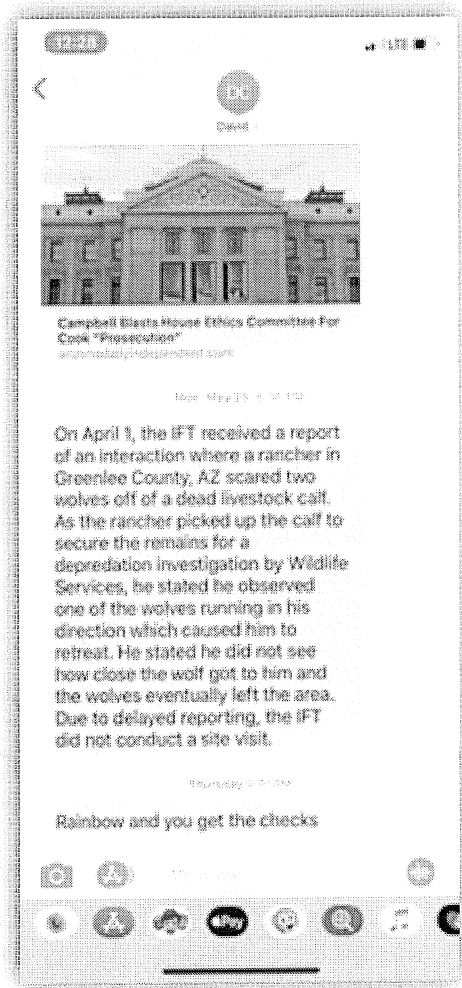
On the same evening, at 8:57 p.m., Patrick Bray—a witness interviewed in the investigation—received a call from Representative Cook’s cell phone. Representative Cook’s wife, Diana Cook, left a voicemail asking Mr. Bray to return her call. Almost immediately, Mr. Bray received another phone call from Representative Cook’s number. Then, at 9:01, Mr. Bray received a text message from Representative Cook that read “Rainbow and you get the checks.” (Appendix 1). Mr. Bray interpreted this message as a threat pertaining to a cattle-grazing arrangement that he has with the owner of Rainbow Ranch in Arizona.

Mr. Bray also reported receiving a text message from AnnaMarie Knorr referencing the cattle-grazing arrangement on February 15, 2020. (Appendix 1). In that message, Ms. Knorr said “Fun fact of the day: it’s illegal to get paid a consulting fee to lease land for ag property tax status, at least according to the Maricopa County Assessor’s Office.” Mr. Bray interpreted this message as a threat to take legal action against him based on the assertion that his business arrangement was somehow improper. Upon receiving a second text on the same subject from Representative Cook on June 11, Mr. Bray concluded that Representative Cook was attempting to make the same sort of threat.

Soon after receiving Representative Cook's text message, Mr. Bray called Michael Hunter, Chief of Staff for the Arizona House of Representatives, to notify him of the message and his interpretation of it as a threat of retribution related to Mr. Bray's participation in the ethics investigation.

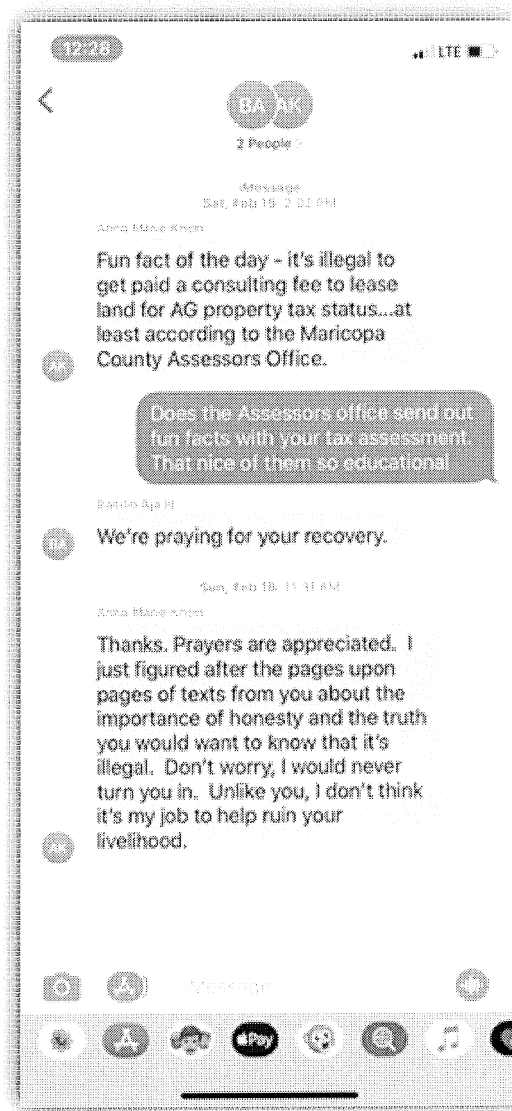
# **APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1



Text Message from Representative Cook to Patrick Bray on June 11, 2020

## APPENDIX 1



Text Messages between AnnaMarie Knorr and Patrick Bray on February 15, 2020

# **APPENDIX 2**

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PRIVILEGED ATTORNEY / CLIENT COMMUNICATION AND WORK PRODUCT

## MEMORANDUM

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Date: 06/17/2020

To: Mark Kokanovich  
Ballard Spahr LLP

From: J. Swain Granieri

In Re: Representative David Cook Investigation

### PREDICATION

Interview with Patrick Bray.

### SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

On June 15, 2020, I conducted a follow-up interview with Patrick Bray regarding a text message he received from Representative Cook.

On the evening of Thursday, June 11, 2020, Mr. Bray received a call from Representative Cook's cell phone at 8:57 PM, and Representative Cook's wife, Diana Cook, left a voicemail. Almost immediately, Mr. Bray received another call from Representative Cook's number, which he also did not answer. At 9:01 p.m., Mr. Bray received a text message from Representative Cook's phone number. The text said, "Rainbow and you get the checks." Mr. Bray believes the text refers to his cattle business in Rainbow Valley, where he leases private land from a developer and shares a financial arrangement that is beneficial to both parties. Based on Mr. Bray's understanding, the business practice is a legitimate arrangement that violates no laws and is a common occurrence among cattle owners.

Given that the investigative report was soon to be released to the public and that Mr. Bray had been interviewed for that report, he perceived the text message from Representative Cook as a threat. While Mr. Bray does not believe any of his conduct related to his cattle operations is

## **GRANIERI PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS & CONSULTING**

illegal or improper in any way, he believes that Representative Cook was threatening to report his business arrangement as illegal as retribution for Mr. Bray's cooperation with investigators. Mr. Bray contacted Michael Hunter, Chief of Staff for the Arizona House of Representatives, to inform him of the message and share his concern that it constituted a threat related to the House Ethics Committee investigation.

Upon reading the investigative report once it was made public, Mr. Bray was further convinced that Representative Cook's message was intended as a threat, as Mr. Bray's first interview was discussed in the report, and he thought it would likely upset Representative Cook. Mr. Bray also believes that Representative Cook would consider him an "easy target" for retribution.

Mr. Bray believes his interpretation that the text message from Representative Cook was a threat is further supported by a February 15, 2020 text message from AnnaMarie Knorr to Mr. Bray and Mr. Bas Aja (Ms. Knorr's brother, who is also Mr. Bray's business partner). In that message, which was sent without prompting or previous conversation, Ms. Knorr said, "Fun fact of the day: it's illegal to get paid a consulting fee to lease land for ag property tax status, at least according to the Maricopa County Assessor's Office."

At the conclusion of his interview, Mr. Bray agreed to provide investigators with the text messages from both Ms. Knorr and Representative Cook.