

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING - September 11, 2019

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

1001 Preston Street, 9th Floor

September 11, 2019

1:30 p.m.

HARRIS COUNTY BAIL BOND BOARD MEETING - September 11, 2019

A P P E A R A N C E S

Glenn Strickland, Chairman

Troy McKinney, Vice Chairman

Michael Butera, designee for District Attorney Kim Ogg

David Chang, designee for Dylan Osborne

Kathryn Kase, designee for Lina Hidalgo

Honorable Esmeralda Pena Garcia, designee for

Honorable J. Elaine Marshall

Honorable Angela D. Rodriguez

Judith Snively, designee for Marilyn Burgess

Sergeant Sisto Deleon, designee for Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

Tommy Ramsey, Harris County's Attorney

Deputy Joseph Jackson, Harris County Sheriff's Office

Leslie Rubio, Recorder, Harris County Sheriff's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. It is 1:30. I
3 would like for everyone to take their seats and we are
4 going to call the meeting of the September 11th, 2019
5 Harris County Bail Bond Board meeting. It is 1:30.

6 Before we get started -- considering
7 what's today is -- it seems appropriate that we have a
8 moment of silence for 9/11 from 18 years ago.

9 So if you will and I'm going to -- I'm
10 going to give us just a few minutes. So if we could
11 have that moment of silence starting now.

12 (Board recognized 9/11 with moment of silence.)

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you very much.

14 All right. Starting with today, I'd like
15 to start -- hello, Tommy.

16 MR. RAMSEY: Hi.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I'd like to start
18 around the horn in introducing yourself. Today, we do
19 not have a tape recorder. We don't have a court
20 reporter.

21 Leslie, are you going to put your phone
22 up here?

23 SERGEANT DELEON: They're on.

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Or what are we going
25 to do?

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1 SERGEANT DELEON: They're on.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Oh, they're on?

3 SERGEANT DELEON: Yeah, the phones are
4 on.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Then I'd like
6 to start with --

7 Sergeant, introduce yourself, please.

8 SERGEANT DELEON: Sisto Deleon, Sergeant,
9 Harris County Sheriff's Office.

10 MS. KASE: Kathryn Kase, representative of
11 the Harris County judge's office.

12 MR. CHANG: David Chang, representative for
13 Harris County Treasurer's Office.

14 HONORABLE GARCIA: Judge Esmeralda Pena
15 Garcia representing the City of Houston municipal
16 courts.

17 MR. BUTERA: Michael Butera representing
18 Kim -- Kim Ogg and the District Attorney's Office.

19 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Justice of the Peace,
20 Angela D. Rodriguez with the justice of -- justices of
21 the peace.

22 MS. SNIVELY: Judith Snively representing
23 the District Clerk's Office.

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And my name is
25 Glenn Strickland representing the bonding community.

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1 All right. We're going to start with the
2 agenda, reading of the prior minutes. Chair will
3 entertain.

4 MS. KASE: Move that we adopt the prior
5 minutes.

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: By ...

7 MS. KASE: Kathryn Kase.

8 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.

9 HONORABLE GARCIA: Seconded by Judge
10 Garcia.

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you. Any
12 discussion?

13 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

14 THE BOARD: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed? Same
16 sign.

17 Okay. Old business. Request made by
18 First Community Insurance Company, Agent Jonathan Abel
19 DBA 24/7 Bail Bonds, #2, License No. 74594 to open the
20 following address and phone number as a satellite
21 office: 320 East Main Street, Humble, Texas 77338.
22 Phone number is (281) 623-5706.

23 And this phone number has never been used
24 before; is that correct?

25 MR. ABEL: That's correct.

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1 (Witness sworn.)

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name
3 loudly for the record.

4 MR. ABEL: Jonathan Abel.

5 MR. JOHNSON: Drew Johnson, corporate rep
6 and attorney for First Community Insurance Company.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you very much.
8 Sergeant ...

9 SERGEANT DELEON: Other than the question
10 you just asked --

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I didn't ask a
12 question.

13 SERGEANT DELEON: You didn't ask a
14 question?

15 So Jonathan, you -- this is a satellite
16 office in Humble and the question that came up was in
17 regards to a phone number used.

18 To your knowledge, had this phone number
19 has not been used by any bail bond company?

20 MR. ABEL: No, it hasn't, not to my
21 knowledge.

22 MS. KASE: No questions.

23 MR. CHANG: No questions.

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chair will entertain.

25 MR. BUTERA: If I could just --

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1 HONORABLE GARCIA: I said no questions.

2 MR. BUTERA: Just very quickly. Tommy was
3 informing me that there's a legislative change that
4 happened, I guess -- that before we move to adopt any
5 item on the agenda, it's incumbent upon us now to ask if
6 there's any public comment.

7 MR. RAMSEY: I think that's the best
8 practice.

9 MR. BUTERA: Okay. Or that's the
10 best practice. It was his advice so ...

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Where does that come
12 from?

13 MR. RAMSEY: There's a new bill alluding to
14 the fact that may come to a bit -- may come to a
15 surprise for a lot of folks that previously, it wasn't a
16 right for public comment in meetings. That has now been
17 included in the Opening Meetings Act. And the language
18 of the new bill indicates that public comment on any
19 agenda item should be had either at the beginning of the
20 meeting as or as the item is brought up in the course of
21 the agenda. So my suggestion would be in terms of best
22 practice, just to ask if there's any comment --

23 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have two questions
24 Number 1, do you know the bill number?

25 MR. RAMSEY: HB 2840.

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1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: 2840?

2 MR. RAMSEY: Let me double check that.

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: The second question I
4 have is: Do we do that on each and every single item on
5 the agenda or at the end of the day?

6 MR. RAMSEY: No. I -- I think it's -- we
7 should do it on each and every item prior to voting on
8 the item.

9 MR. BUTERA: We do it at the end, then ...

10 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: We could do it
11 (inaudible.) today until we figure out what we're doing
12 it for.

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah.

14 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay then. Having
16 said that, before we vote, is there anybody with a
17 public opinion about this?

18 All right. Board Members, all those in
19 favor, signify by saying aye.

20 MR. MCKINNEY: Has there been -- it hasn't
21 been a motion yet.

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Forgive me
23 then.

24 Chair will entertain a motion.

25 And by the way, Mr. McKinney has appeared

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1 as vice chairman of the Harris County Bail Bond Board
2 and is sitting in his position.

3 Go ahead now.

4 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Judge Rodriguez
5 moves.

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Judge Rodriguez moves
7 to approve.

8 HONORABLE GARCIA: Judge Garcia seconds.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion? And
10 we've already asked for public comment.

11 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

12 THE BOARD: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed? Thank
14 you very much.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 MR. ABEL: Thank y'all very much.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Number 2 is a request
18 made by Financial Casualty & Surety, Inc.,
19 Agent Lafayette Taylor DBA Nonstop Bail Bonds, License
20 74518 to return the security deposit to Bank of River
21 Oaks, CD No. 5793 for \$50,000. JP letters mailed on
22 7/18/2019.

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you. State
25 your name for the record.

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1 MR. MCGUIRE: Darius "McGuire", assistant
2 vice president.

3 SERGEANT DELEON: The Sheriff's Office
4 receives -- received no notification of any liabilities
5 owed to the justice of the peaces and the letters that
6 were sent out so we know of no reason not to return,
7 release the funds.

8 MR. BUTERA: So I do have unfortunately two
9 cases that came to our attention that I did not about at
10 the last meeting or we would have taken them -- taken
11 care of them before now. One is a misdemeanor case, one
12 is a felony case that is still pending under
13 Mr. Taylor's license.

14 MR. MCGUIRE: Okay.

15 MR. BUTERA: But now that I have some time
16 to -- I just found out about them late last week.

17 Now, that I have some time to try to take
18 care of them, if we could possibly table it to the next
19 agenda, I'm certain we could get them resolved so that
20 there would be no pending cases that would prevent
21 the -- the collateral from returned.

22 MR. MCGUIRE: Yeah. That would be fine.

23 MR. BUTERA: So that's my only comment. I
24 make a motion to table, if possible.

25 MR. MCKINNEY: Second, Troy McKinney.

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1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion and a
2 second. Is there any public comment?

3 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

4 THE BOARD: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed? Tabled
6 till next month.

7 Under new business, C., request for
8 renewal of license, Joseph R. Villarreal DBA 3-Amigos
9 Bonding Mobile, 1302 Munger Street, #2, Houston, Texas
10 77023. Original date is 11/8 of 2011. Expiration date:
11 11/28 of 2019. License No. 74530. Phone number
12 (713) 337-2245. Three-year license.

13 Joseph ...

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name for
16 the record, louder, please.

17 MR. VILLARREAL: Joseph Villarreal.

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Thank you.
19 Sergeant ...

20 SERGEANT DELEON: So in reviewing the
21 application, the Sheriff's Office has a couple of
22 comments. One, that this license is a -- it's really
23 cash, \$50,000, that's on deposit with the Treasurer's
24 Office that he uses as his collateral. So --

25 But in his financial report, we did

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1 notice that his home was listed at 280,000, but his
2 documentation that he submitted was not a appraisal
3 that's really requested and needed. It is more of a
4 comparison of listings of homes that is in his area.

5 So we went to HCAD and looked at his
6 property values which came in at 2.1. I'm sorry.
7 It's -- the exact is 221,573 which puts the difference
8 at -- as far as his total value, his total personal --
9 total personal value at \$58,427 less than what's
10 indicated on the report.

11 So I'm okay if the Board -- I'm okay if
12 the Board approves it. I motion that we let him adjust
13 it and submit the paperwork to the Sheriff's Office on
14 this item. His net worth would be -- again, would be
15 \$58,427 less than what's currently listed on page 12.
16 That's my motion, is to accept the -- an updated
17 document for the Sheriff's Office to make sure we have a
18 correct (inaudible.) on file on this particular item.

19 All these other documentations seem to be
20 correct. It was in order. That was the one -- the one
21 thing that we saw and we wanted to make sure there no
22 incorrect (inaudible.) on file.

23 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We'll want to go
24 around the Board before we hear a second.

25 MS. KASE: No questions.

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1 MR. BUTERA: As -- oh, I'm sorry.

2 MS. KASE: Go ahead.

3 MR. BUTERA: No questions.

4 HONORABLE GARCIA: No questions.

5 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: No questions.

6 MR. BUTERA: Give you an opportunity,
7 Mr. Villarreal, to say: Where did that \$280,000 value
8 on page 13 come from? What is the --

9 MR. VILLARREAL: So what I had a realtor do
10 is put a comprehensive report together of all the
11 properties that have actually sold in my area. I don't
12 know too many people who actually use the HCAD's system
13 to determine the value of their property 'cause nine
14 times out of ten, it's a lot higher than HCAD actually
15 list. So I didn't think that was a good idea to put
16 that in there.

17 So I had a realtor do some research in
18 there. I provided a packet with it. It's a good
19 analysis of what the value of the property's have sold
20 for and are right now. So that's -- I felt like it was
21 a fair price. The realtor said it was about 300 -- 302.
22 I was like no, I want it to be fair. I want it to be
23 realistic. I'll take about 280.

24 MR. BUTERA: Do you know if that realtor is
25 a certified appraiser, the actual appraisal license

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1 through the State?

2 MR. VILLARREAL: I do not know.

3 MR. MCKINNEY: Here's the problem that is a
4 practical matter. It violates the realtor's statutory
5 obligations to give an opinion of value.

6 MR. VILLARREAL: Okay.

7 MR. MCKINNEY: They are prohibited from
8 doing so, combined with obviously not being a licensed
9 appraiser on top of that. And as I recall, either the
10 statutes or the Bail Bond Board rules require use of the
11 property tax assessed value unless there is an
12 appraisal --

13 SERGEANT DELEON: Unless -- correct.

14 MR. MCKINNEY: Or something else will
15 support the value.

16 SERGEANT DELEON: Unless there's an
17 appraisal within 90 days. An appraisal of 90 days is
18 what I didn't have in my hand so I went to the other
19 which is HCAD.

20 MR. MCKINNEY: Knowledge for you for the
21 future.

22 SERGEANT DELEON: Right.

23 MR. MCKINNEY: And since this is a cash
24 bond, it doesn't really make a whole lot of difference
25 in the end --

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1 SERGEANT DELEON: Exactly.

2 MR. MCKINNEY: -- on your application. And
3 if this was property up for it, it wouldn't make any
4 difference.

5 SERGEANT DELEON: Right.

6 MR. MCKINNEY: Since I'm talking, I've got
7 two questions. Item No. 7 on page 6 on employees, it
8 says there are none.

9 Nobody works at that business doing
10 anything other than you?

11 MR. VILLARREAL: No. It's just me.

12 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay. My next question on
13 page 9, Item 13. That question asked: If you have
14 complied with this Chapter and you checked "no".

15 Did you mean to check "yes"?

16 Would you like to amend that answer to
17 "yes"?

18 MR. VILLARREAL: I would -- I would amend
19 that answer to yes.

20 MR. MCKINNEY: Okay. I have no other
21 questions.

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Final motion on the
23 Board by the Sergeant's department -- by the Sergeant
24 to approve with a stipulation that Mr. Villarreal submit
25 the documentation using the HCAD number.

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1 SERGEANT DELEON: Correct.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And submit that to
3 the Sheriff's Department.

4 SERGEANT DELEON: Yes, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Do I have a second?

6 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: One moment. I have a
7 quick --

8 Is he able to amend his application
9 assuming arguendo that we approve it today?

10 Will he be able to amend it to say "yes"
11 on page 9?

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes.

13 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: All right.

14 MR. MCKINNEY: We have traditionally when
15 there's been a question versus what's on the application
16 versus -- allowed them to tell us what the correct
17 answer is when they've made a mistake.

18 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I'm
19 satisfied.

20 HONORABLE GARCIA: I have another question.

21 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am.

22 HONORABLE GARCIA: Well, can -- will he be
23 allowed to either submit HCAD -- amend with HCAD or a
24 certified appraisal, either/or?

25 SERGEANT DELEON: At this point, I would

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1 just choose the --

2 HONORABLE GARCIA: 81 -- okay.

3 SERGEANT DELEON: HCAD. I mean --

4 HONORABLE GARCIA: That's all I have.

5 SERGEANT DELEON: -- it'd be a whole lot
6 simpler. (Inaudible.) go to through the cost, most of
7 them --

8 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Do I have a motion?

9 MR. MCKINNEY: I second, Troy McKinney.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And I have a second.

11 Any discussion? Is there any public
12 comment?

13 All those in favor, signify by saying
14 aye.

15 THE BOARD: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

17 Congratulations, sir.

18 MR. VILLARREAL: Thank you, thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Request for renewal
20 of license, Financial Casualty & Surety, Inc., Agent
21 Jack Meyer DBA Bada Bing Bail Bonds, 803 West 20th
22 Street, Houston, Texas 77008. Original date:
23 12/21/2011. Expiration date: 12/28/2019. License
24 No. 74531. Phone number (713) 864-2464. Three-year
25 license.

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1 (Witness sworn.)

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: State your name
3 loudly for the record.

4 MR. MEYER: Jack Meyer.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And the other
6 gentleman has already been sworn in.

7 State your name for the record, though

8 MR. MCGUIRE: Darius "McGuire".

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Keep in mind that
10 we're working off of audio.

11 MR. MCGUIRE: Got you.

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Sergeant ...

13 SERGEANT DELEON: Application seems to be
14 complete. The Sheriff's Office knows of no past due
15 judgments owed to Harris County as of 9/10.

16 MS. KASE: No questions.

17 MR. CHANG: No questions.

18 HONORABLE GARCIA: Clear with the City. No
19 questions.

20 MR. BUTERA: No questions from the DA's
21 Office.

22 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: No questions.

23 MR. MCKINNEY: No questions.

24 MS. SNIVELY: No questions.

25 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chair will entertain.

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1 MR. BUTERA: Michael Butera. I'll make a
2 motion to approve.

3 HONORABLE GARCIA: Judge Garcia, the
4 second.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion? Is
6 there any public comment?

7 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

8 THE BOARD: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

10 Congratulations, sir.

11 MR. MEYER: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: That public comment,
13 I've got to tell you something ...

14 HONORABLE GARCIA: Well, I'm kind of
15 anxious to hear something.

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Number 3, discuss and
17 confirm date and venue for abbreviated bondman
18 education, a four-hour training course with Roger Moore.
19 There are two options available for the venue.

20 A., is the Harris County Administration
21 Building, Commissioner's Courtroom, 101 Preston Street,
22 9th floor, Houston, Texas 77002 on Wednesday,
23 September 18th, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The
24 second choice is B., Harris County Sheriff's
25 Office-Jail, Admin Conference Room, 701 North San

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1 Jacinto Street, 1st floor, Houston, Texas 77002,
2 Wednesday, September 18th, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to
3 1:00 p.m.

4 Any discussion?

5 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: I'm comfortable here.

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: You like it here?

7 SERGEANT DELEON: Here?

8 MS. SNIVELY: Better than jail.

9 SERGEANT DELEON: Do you agree?

10 MR. MCKINNEY: I'll be on a golf course in
11 Las Vegas. Y'all do whatever you want.

12 MS. SNIVELY: I'll be in Austin.

13 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Comfortable there,
14 too.

15 MR. BUTERA: My belief -- Michael Butera
16 from the DA's Office. My only comment is I wish we had
17 more leave time because two of my attorneys, me and
18 somebody else is going to be in training out of town.

19 MS. SNIVELY: Yeah.

20 MR. BUTERA: We could attend -- just one of
21 us couldn't attend.

22 MS. SNIVELY: I'm going to be in Austin, a
23 conference.

24 MR. BUTERA: But -- I've had the training
25 before so if the Board wants to go ahead, that's

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1 certainly fine. I just wish we had more than a week to
2 know that we were going to have these --

3 SERGEANT DELEON: So yeah. So we put the
4 -- we put the three days out in an email but -- so we
5 would talk at those three days. We did get some
6 feedback on the options and that's how we came up with
7 the date. So this wasn't (inaudible.) just the
8 Sheriff's Office. It was -- either had some, you know,
9 comments (inaudible.).

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And I did speak with
11 Roger Moore and Roger's good with any three of those
12 dates or this one in particular. I just spoke to him
13 this morning.

14 As always, the Board is a 900-pound bear.
15 We do what we want to do. I move -- if you want to not
16 do this and reschedule it to another date, we can do
17 that, too.

18 MR. BUTERA: If it works for the majority
19 of the people, then I would say, you know, especially --
20 I think it is more important for many people who haven't
21 heard Roger speak because he's a great resource for what
22 the Occupations Code says and what the Board's limited
23 powers are, what the Board can and can't do.

24 So if it works for people who have not
25 heard him speak, then I -- I'd be eager to keep that

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1 just so that everyone who needs to hear it or would like
2 to hear for the first time can go.

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: How many people do we
4 have that would be there?

5 SERGEANT DELEON: One -- (inaudible.), are
6 you going as well?

7 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: I make myself
8 available for our business.

9 SERGEANT DELEON: (Inaudible.)

10 MS. SNIVELY: I will be in Austin seminar
11 but I send my assistant, Michelle. She came today.

12 HONORABLE GARCIA: I'm on vacation.

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: You're going to be
14 there?

15 MS. KASE: Yes, yes. I'm going to be.

16 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Do we have a date
17 that you have in mind where Vegas can do without you?

18 MR. MCKINNEY: Just not that week.

19 MS. SNIVELY: Never.

20 MR. MCKINNEY: I mean, I -- don't schedule
21 around me. I mean, I ...

22 SERGEANT DELEON: Most definitely, I would
23 prefer -- this is Sergeant Deleon.

24 I would prefer that we target a date
25 right now before we leave so we don't have the whole

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1 question of an email being asked for a date on something
2 so ...

3 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Why don't we project
4 a little further in the future so that some Board
5 members who are not here today might have a chance to
6 pencil it into their schedule. Not Christmas.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Are you talking about
8 months? Are you talking about 30 days or ...

9 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: It could be 30 days.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Two weeks or ...

11 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: About 30 days. I
12 don't think there's a particular rush in completing the
13 training.

14 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No, there's not.

15 You know, how does the rest of the Board
16 feel about that?

17 And I agree with Sergeant. Before we
18 leave, we need to pick a date one way or the other, up
19 or down.

20 SERGEANT DELEON: Okay. So --

21 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: In October, our
22 meeting is on the 9th, the board meeting.

23 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Everybody free the
24 16th of October? That'll be the next week.

25 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: That will be the next

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1 week.

2 MS. KASE: 16th of October?

3 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: That would give me
4 enough time to clear my docket.

5 MS. KASE.

6 MS. SNIVELY: Yeah.

7 MALE: Let's do it in the morning because
8 (inaudible.)

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So is that --

10 MALE: (Inaudible.) a meeting that he's
11 attending.

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: On the 16th?

13 MALE: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: He has meetings to
15 attend?

16 MALE: Yes, he has.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Well --

18 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: What about the 17th?
19 That will be a Thursday.

20 MS. KASE: I can't do that.

21 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Tuesday's pretty free
22 for me sometimes.

23 MR. BUTERA: Do it in the afternoon on the
24 16th?

25 MALE: That'd be fine.

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1 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And then that's --
3 What do you think about the afternoon?

4 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: That sounds good to
5 me.

6 MS. SNIVELY: It's good.

7 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: It's my mother's
8 birthday but I can bring her and she can come.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: But you've got --
10 you've got to bring your dad, too.

11 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Sounds good.

12 MS. KASE: Would she like to serve on the
13 Bail Bond Board, too?

14 SERGEANT DELEON: She can sit in the
15 audience now and just comment.

16 MS. SNIVELY: That's right.

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So what are we going
18 to do? Are we going switch this from the 18th to the
19 afternoon of the 16th?

20 MS. SNIVELY: That sounds good.

21 MS. KASE: October, right?

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: October.

23 Is that what the general opinion is?

24 MS. KASE: That works for me.

25 MR. MCKINNEY: I don't have my calendar

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1 with me so whatever y'all choose is fine with me.

2 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Judith?

3 MS. SNIVELY: That's fine with me, uh-huh.

4 I still may bring my assistant.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Oh, that's fine. Not
6 a problem.

7 MS. SNIVELY: She was looking so forward to
8 it.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: It's not a problem.

10 So ...

11 SERGEANT DELEON: Let's get a motion.

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Let's think for just
13 one second. The afternoon of the 16th, it's a four-hour
14 course.

15 Are you going to do it from 1:00 to 5:00
16 or from noon to 4:00?

17 Because if we're going to make a motion,
18 let's make a motion and be specific.

19 MR. BUTERA: My -- for a quorum?

20 HONORABLE GARCIA: It's your preference.

21 MR. BUTERA: My -- again, I think I speak
22 for a lot of people. I say my preference would be noon
23 to 4:00. Michael Butera from the DA's Office, by the
24 way.

25 MS. SNIVELY: Judith Snively. Yes, I'd

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1 like that.

2 SERGEANT DELEON: Noon to 4:00.

3 HONORABLE GARCIA: Judge Garcia, noon to
4 4:00.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. So then --
6 Then Chair will entertain a motion to
7 switch the training to October the 16th, 2019 from noon
8 to 4:00 p.m.

9 MR. MCKINNEY: We probably all make sure
10 that Roger can do it then.

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Say again.

12 MR. BUTERA: Of course, subject to the fact
13 that --

14 MR. MCKINNEY: Yeah.

15 MR. BUTERA: -- Roger is available that day
16 and --

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Right. I don't know.
18 We hadn't got to the part where we're going to be, here
19 or at the Sheriff's Department.

20 SERGEANT DELEON: I think that was
21 determined, too. Everybody --

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No. We hadn't done
23 that yet.

24 SERGEANT DELEON: Oh, okay.

25 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So the issue is like

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1 we read, either to shift over here and I know that you
2 said here, okay.

3 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: "You" meaning Judge
4 Rodriguez.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, Judge Rodriguez.
6 Forgive me.

7 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: Yes. I wanted to
8 make sure the record reflect that.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. In this room,
10 they have a -- you can't have food or anything like that
11 but if you're doing it in the afternoon, everybody will
12 have eaten lunch. I don't have a problem with that.

13 Do you, Sergeant?

14 SERGEANT DELEON: That's true.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. So I have --

16 Do I have a motion for that?

17 MS. KASE: We -- if you want it, we could
18 have this in the conference room.

19 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: There you go.

20 MS. KASE: And then you could eat in the
21 conference room.

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: There you go.

23 MR. BUTERA: In the past, we had -- Michael
24 Butera.

25 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yeah.

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1 MR. BUTERA: We have met in the conference
2 room --

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes.

4 MR. BUTERA: -- behind the courtroom.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And we had asked -- I
6 had asked that very question and we were told that it
7 was in use that day. But you're right, for the 9th --
8 or for the 16th rather, it might not be.

9 MS. KASE: Probably not that far ahead,
10 yeah. We can check.

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So ...

12 MR. MCKINNEY: And we need to make sure
13 that since there'll be a quorum of four present, that
14 notice be given of that meeting publically.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Say again.

16 MR. MCKINNEY: We need to make sure that
17 since there'll be a quorum of the Board present, that
18 public notice be given of that meeting.

19 HONORABLE GARCIA: Is there a meeting?

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: It's ...

21 MR. MCKINNEY: When more than a quorum
22 meets to receive information, it is a meeting.

23 MR. BUTERA: I was going to ask, isn't
24 there a training an exception?

25 MR. RAMSEY: There is an exception for

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1 state and local but for regional, state and national
2 workshops. Given this is a training that is being put
3 on by the Board as opposed to a third-party, that's -- I
4 think all things being equal, give notice of meeting,
5 specifically since the training is subject matter that
6 the quorum (inaudible.)

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I just sent Roger a
8 text. Well, let's give him a minute to text me back.

9 Where do we want to have it? We want to
10 have it in the conference room?

11 Is everybody okay with that?

12 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: What floor is the
13 conference room on?

14 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Right behind us.

15 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: On this floor, not
16 the other one that we were on?

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: No, no. Right behind
18 us.

19 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: The conference room
20 on the 9th floor.

21 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes. Roger just sent
22 me a text back that October 16th, noon to 4:00 is
23 perfect with him, okay.

24 So then the motion is to change the CE
25 class to October 16th, 2019 from noon to 4:00 hopefully

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1 in the conference room behind Commissioner's Court.

2 SERGEANT DELEON: Yes. Sisto Deleon,
3 Sergeant. I make that motion.

4 MR. BUTERA: Michael Butera from the DA's
5 Office also.

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any discussion?

7 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: No comment.

8 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any public comment?

9 All those in favor, signify by saying
10 aye.

11 THE BOARD: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Any opposed?

13 All right. Then that's what we're going
14 to do. October 16th, 12:00 to 4:00.

15 All right. The last item is to discuss
16 setting up the subcommittee to review and update the
17 local rules and the bonding application forms.

18 We have been trying to update the local rules
19 for a long, long, long time. And the issue we always
20 had was the committee, Number 1, was a little bit large
21 and Number 2, it had Board members on it and we must be
22 mindful of the Opening Meetings Act and that was always
23 an issue.

24 Sergeant Deleon and I were talking and
25 that's where the idea of the subcommittee came up. And

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1 the subcommittee could be three or four people to sit
2 down and formulate these rules and then comes to the
3 Board to let the Board look at them. I had spoken to
4 Troy McLehany to ask him if he would sit in for me so
5 that I wouldn't be a Board Member on it and grab someone
6 else who want to do that so we don't run afoul of the
7 Opening Meetings Act.

8 MR. MCKINNEY: Or the safe thing to do on
9 that, just give them notice of it.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Say again.

11 MR. MCKINNEY: The safe -- the only safe
12 thing to do on that is post notice of the subcommittee
13 meeting.

14 MR. BUTERA: Yes. What we had talked about
15 doing before and should have -- you know, I wish we
16 would have (inaudible.) -- have a subcommittee that
17 would meet immediately after the recess of the monthly
18 Bail Bond Board meeting in this room since we knew we
19 already had it. It would be publically noticed as part
20 of the agenda. It'd be open to the public to hear, you
21 know, and comment when appropriate. And that way, there
22 is no concern about the number of people, who those
23 people are and -- that's just my --

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We tried to do that,
25 did we not?

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1 MR. BUTERA: This never happened. These
2 people who wouldn't stay and --

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I know. That's what
4 I'm saying. Because once we had got through with the
5 board meeting, they're tired and they're ready to go on,
6 even after 30 minutes or an hour. (Inaudible.)

7 MR. BUTERA: We had -- you know, there were
8 some different members. The only thing I could say I --
9 we were a member of a subcommittee.

10 As the DA's Office, I would definitely be
11 willing to do that again. We were present for every
12 meeting. I don't know if we'd ever missed a meeting. I
13 am always willing to stay after. This is something
14 we've been wanting to do for the quite some time. We
15 constantly have questions about our application,
16 particularly the financial statement portion. We're
17 very eager to revisit that, make it clear for our
18 sureties to help them, really make clear what the
19 Board's expectations are, what they need to provide and
20 not provide. And in fact, we've already drafted, you
21 know, just in-house, a sample -- potential replacement
22 application. So I'm very eager to try to help out and
23 get this process started.

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Well, what
25 would be the pleasure of the Board then? A subcommittee

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1 as we've discussed or to do as Michael Butera said and
2 put it on the agenda like we used to do so that there's
3 a notice and whenever the bail bond meeting is over,
4 immediately go into the committee.

5 MR. BUTERA: Well, just for
6 clarification -- this is Michael Butera. I'm not saying
7 we don't -- we cannot do the subcommittee part. We
8 could still have as a subcommittee, a smaller subset of
9 the Board or whoever wanted to be on the subcommittee
10 could. But you know, without the commitment for every
11 single person to stay for an additional hour potentially
12 or whatever to talk about it, we could still do a
13 subcommittee concept but just do it as a noticed agenda
14 item in this place following the adjournment of the
15 regular business.

16 MR. MCKINNEY: I agree.

17 SERGEANT DELEON: So just so every -- so
18 the Board will have -- Sisto Deleon.

19 This is so the Board will have history.
20 I've been at this position now for a year. Looking at
21 the -- looking at the policies and looking at the
22 application, they are very -- very outdated. So this is
23 something that really needs to be addressed.

24 But I would -- I would suggest now
25 after -- who was it -- Michael made a comment a bit ago

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1 in regards to the training. I would now make a motion
2 or would make a suggestion that we -- we start this
3 subcommittee after we've had our training. So we push
4 it until like maybe November. After November, we target
5 to do a subcommittee meeting and everybody has now
6 Roger's training under their belt in October 16 so now,
7 they're fluid on current -- on their current practices
8 of the Bail Bond Board.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. And Mike, how
10 many -- before, we have had ...

11 MR. BUTERA: We have done it twice. Many
12 years ago, we had a three-member subcommittee made up of
13 the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and
14 the surety representative. Then we've done it a second
15 time where we had four-member subcommittee that was a
16 thought, made up of the Sheriff's Office, District
17 Attorney's Office, the bonding representative and the
18 defense attorney representative.

19 MR. MCKINNEY: We had -- there was one
20 particular rule -- I forget. Some of -- one of the
21 voting rules for elections.

22 MR. BUTERA: Yes. There was a legislative
23 change for how a defense attorney representative was to
24 be elected and the bonding representatives was to be
25 elected. So we had a (inaudible.) situation. We had to

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1 get the local rules amended to accommodate that and we
2 did do that. But we've not been off, you know, taking
3 on the entire rule and application like Sergeant Deleon
4 said, it's legal.

5 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I know Mr. McKinney
6 has got a busy schedule and sometimes he is and isn't
7 here. So perhaps, we could set that up with the four
8 and then if you can make it, good. If you can't, that's
9 good, too.

10 MR. MCKINNEY: The -- originally, we had --
11 There were some projects when I was on
12 the Bail Bond Board previously that I wanted to
13 undertake and an election and time just got in the way
14 of that. It's certainly something, that the rules are
15 antiquated. Frankly, the grammar in many of them is
16 terrible. They -- they need a lot of work as does the
17 application. The question I asked about that yes-and-no
18 question on have you complied with this chapter, that's
19 the most commonly misunderstood question and incorrectly
20 answered question we ever see any of these and ought to
21 be an easy fix but we certainly need to do that.

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So ...

23 MR. MCKINNEY: So why don't we -- in light
24 of what -- the suggestions were why don't we plan on
25 that first meeting after the November meeting?

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1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: In November. I -- I
2 think that that's appropriate. And we could put notice
3 on the November agenda.

4 So we're clear on that? And if other
5 board members want to stay, you're certainly welcomed
6 and of course, public comment.

7 MR. MCKINNEY: Well, doing it that way and
8 having it here would mean the bondsmen might be here anyway
9 but at least some might have business. We'll give them
10 the opportunity to have direct input if they so choose
11 to do so.

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And that's right.
13 Now, I'll make sure that word gets out. And they can be
14 here and if they've got something to say, they can say
15 it. Of course, depending upon what Judge Rosenthal
16 says, we might be dust anyway. So -- you know what I'm
17 saying?

18 So do I have a motion for that?

19 MR. MCKINNEY: I don't know if we need a
20 motion for that. The -- just -- we're going to add it
21 to the --

22 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: We're just going to
23 add to the --

24 MR. MCKINNEY: We add to the public notice
25 for the -- for the November meeting.

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1 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. So we got
2 all that?

3 HONORABLE GARCIA: I've got a question.

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes, ma'am.

5 HONORABLE GARCIA: Is there a -- already a
6 forum subcommittee and then the other Board Members can
7 just stay? Is that what -- there is no such thing, all
8 right.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: There is no -- there
10 is no subcommittee.

11 HONORABLE GARCIA: Subcommittee, okay.

12 MR. MCKINNEY: Just call it a working group
13 afterwards so if anybody wants to be here apart of it
14 can be.

15 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. Anybody
16 else have anything?

17 MR. BUTERA: I do have a question. Would
18 we need a -- sort of a quorum of this -- or it is four
19 people -- would we need a quorum to continue on to the
20 subcommittee work --

21 MR. MCKINNEY: No.

22 MR. BUTERA: -- working group meeting?

23 MR. MCKINNEY: No.

24 MR. BUTERA: Meaning we could continue
25 without it? Because we're not going to be making

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1 decisions in that --

2 MR. MCKINNEY: That's correct. The
3 subcommittee cannot make decisions, does not bond the
4 Board.

5 SERGEANT DELEON: We'll bring the -- we'll
6 bring the amended local rules and applications back to
7 the Board for its approval --

8 MR. BUTERA: So less than a (inaudible.)
9 will remain and continue to work through the rules with
10 the understanding that it's up to a full board to
11 approve any proposed changes, yes, absolutely.

12 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: You know, I'm just a
13 simple kind of guy. But I have to tell you if you've
14 got a quorum and a subcommittee that's coming up with
15 rules, that same quorum could pass those rules.

16 And I would think that could be an issue,
17 Tommy. Am I wrong? Tell me I'm wrong.

18 MR. RAMSEY: Well, if you have -- if you
19 have look at the rules, they could. It's -- I guess,
20 people (inaudible.) Members that are there for
21 (inaudible.)

22 MS. KASE: And under the -- Kathryn Kase.

23 Under the Opening Meetings Act, you would
24 have to have notice on the agenda.

25 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And we're doing that.

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1 MS. KASE: No. Notice on the agenda that
2 you were going to adopt rules.

3 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Ah, ah.

4 MS. KASE: Second, if there are -- if the
5 notice is we're just having discussion --

6 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Yes.

7 MS. KASE: -- then that quorum could not
8 adopt rules.

9 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: At that meeting.

10 MS. KASE: At that time, yeah.

11 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: But it could later
12 on.

13 MR. MCKINNEY: Well, based on the --

14 MS. KASE: Assuming there was proper notice
15 on the agenda.

16 MR. MCKINNEY: Based on the --

17 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: What I'm saying is if
18 you -- if you came up with the rules --

19 MR. MCKINNEY: Based on the work of that --
20 here's your answer.

21 Based on the work of that group, any
22 individual member of this board could then propose the
23 rule change at a meeting.

24 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: And that same quorum
25 could pass it.

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1 MR. MCKINNEY: Well, assuming that quorum
2 was --

3 MR. BUTERA: If it was --

4 MR. MCKINNEY: -- an employee of the Board.

5 MR. BUTERA: -- properly noticed and the
6 people present wanted to do that -- which is not our
7 intent to do anything without, you know -- it's not the
8 intent to continue a meeting to have a bear quorum and
9 then to -- to, you know, to quickly pass changes without
10 the rest of the Board weighing in. That's not -- at
11 least as I understand it --

12 MR. MCKINNEY: Nothing -- nothing the
13 working group or subcommittee or whatever you want to
14 call it would be doing would be -- we would not be
15 taking action on behalf of the Board.

16 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay.

17 MR. MCKINNEY: No way.

18 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Okay. Then --

19 MR. MCKINNEY: That would cause problems.

20 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: So you got something,
21 Sergeant?

22 SERGEANT DELEON: No. We're good.

23 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: All right. So we got
24 that down for the November meeting. We're going to put
25 notice on there.

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1 Does anybody have anything else to bring
2 up?

3 HONORABLE RODRIGUEZ: No.

4 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Chair will entertain
5 a motion to adjourn.

6 MR. MCKINNEY: Move to adjourn, McKinney.

7 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: I have a motion to
8 adjourn.

9 MS. SNIVELY: I'll second it.

10 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: A second.

11 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

12 THE BOARD: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN STRICKLAND: Unless there's some
14 public comment.

15 (Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.)

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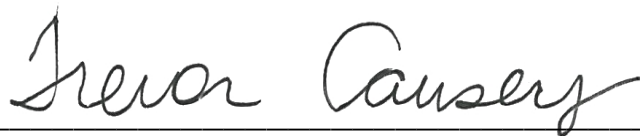
1 STATE OF TEXAS)

2 COUNTY OF HARRIS)

3
4 I, Trevor Causey, do hereby certify that the
5 facts as stated by me in the caption hereto are true;
6 that the above and foregoing transcript of the
7 proceedings was taken in stenograph, reduced to
8 typewriting under my direction, and is a full, true and
9 correct transcript of the proceedings.

10 I further certify that I am not, in any
11 capacity, a regular employee of the party in whose
12 behalf this transcript was taken, nor in the regular
13 employee of any attorney; and I certify that I am not
14 interested in the cause, nor of kin or counsel to any of
15 the parties.

16 GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, on this day, the 11th day
17 of September, 2019.

18 

19 Trevor Causey
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The State of Texas
My Commission expires 5/24/2021

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