Exhibit 8
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
REPORT TO PROSECUTOR
Title: Sgt. Bloodworth's investigation

During the week of 01/03/2005, I was assigned to investigate election fraud allegations in Bowie County, Texas. The case was previously assigned to OAG Sgt. Forrest Mitchell. On 01/12/05, I contacted the complainant, Rusty Hicks, and inquired if he and his wife, Kathy Hicks would be available to meet with myself and another OAG investigator the following week. He advised he would be at our disposal, and that he had more information about the case. He did not want to discuss it over the phone, but did mention that he had proof that a woman named Willie Ray had ordered a batch of mail-in-ballots "by the hundreds," and that the order form should have been included with the packet he sent to the Secretary of State's Office. He said, "You are not going to believe all the stuff that is going on," and that the voters of Bowie County deserve to have a clean voting system.

ALLEGATIONS:

I reviewed the documents provided by Rusty Hicks and the Secretary of State's Office, including a 1996 investigation of election fraud allegations by American International Investigations, Inc. (Exhibit A) and compiled a list of allegations based on statements by various poll watchers. They are as follows (applicable Sections in parenthesis):

I. Willie Ray illegally reproduced mail-in-ballots for the general and/or primary elections. (Sect 6.010)

II. Rusty Hicks also indicated that several applications for mail-in ballots were obviously filled out by someone other than the listed voter. Many of the signatures on these particular applications were poorly written and did not match the handwriting on the applicant information section. Also, the handwriting on the applicant information section on several of the applications obtained from the Bowie County Elections Administrator appeared to have been written by the same person. Hicks suggested that Willie Ray or someone working for her pre-filled multiple applications, assisted more than one applicant not related to the person, and did not sign any applications as a witness. (Sect. 84.003-84.004)

III. Willie Ray illegally handled multiple ballots during the primary and general elections. Kathy Hicks called three Pct. 1 voters in particular who advised that Willie Ray had helped them obtain a mail-in ballot and then returned to collect their ballots to mail them once they had voted. These three voters were Elisha Roach, Elbert T. Jones, and Melinda Hunter of Texarkana. (Sect. 86.0051-86.006, 86.010)

IV. Kathy Hicks advised that the mail-in ballots for the general election were opened and counted by the Early Voting Ballot Board before Election Day, which is only permitted in counties where the population exceeds 100,000. Hicks stated that the Bowie County Voter Administrator put bricks on top of the ballots, apparently to flatten them out so they could be scanned on Election Day. (Sect. 87.0241)

V. Pct. 1A - Poll watcher Jody Treadway advised that Election Judge Aline Kirk allowed various campaign materials inside the polling place, violated one voter's civil rights by spoiling his ballot after his parents allegedly voted on his behalf yet against his wishes, did not have a list of absentee voters,
and made overt actions to prevent Mr. Treadway from following the ballot box to the courthouse. Treadway also advised that the police were called on him because he was "writing things down and asking questions to the judge," and that a member of the NAACP threatened him for being a poll watcher. (Sect. 61.003, 61.010, 61.011, 64.007, 64.032, 33.060, 33.061, 33.056, 87.122)

VI. Pct. 1B - Poll watcher Randall White had several complaints about Pct. 1B. He observed several people campaigning within the required 100' of the poll place, one voter wearing a badge for a particular candidate, witnessed Election Judge Harriet McGary improperly seal the ballot box and mishandle Provisional ballots not placed in the ballot box. Also, several people witnessed the Pct. 1B ballot box arrive at the Bowie County Courthouse over 3 hours after the polls had closed, and the seal was broken when it arrived. The allegation is that the ballots might have been tampered with en route to the courthouse. (Sect. 61.003, 61.010, 61.005, 64.008, 64.011)

VII. Pct. 1E - Kathy Hicks advised that Early Voting Ballot Board Election Judge Pat Allen denied her access to clearly observe the processing of early voting ballots, and began counting ballots 1 hour earlier than had been told to the Secretary of State's Office. Hicks also advised that Bowie County Judge James Carlow was allowed in the commissioners' courtroom during the Early Voting Ballot Board's counting of the mail-in ballots and early voting ballots on Election Day. (Sect. 33.034, 87.026)

VIII. Pct. 2C - Steve Hicks, Poll Watcher and son of Rusty Hicks, witnessed possible tampering with the ballot box from 2C. His statement advised that the Election Judge put the ballot box in the backseat of her car, and stopped at 2 different houses before driving to the Courthouse. During the first stop he witnessed the backseat passenger handling something on the floorboard where the ballot box was sitting. During the second stop, he witnessed someone come out of the house with a black bag and get into the car, after which he stated there was a lot of activity in the backseat of the car.

IX. Truman Arnold, a local businessman paid Willie Ray as much as $15,000 to pick up mail-in ballots to ensure a win for specific Democratic candidates, for both the primary and general elections. (Sect.253.062)

INVESTIGATION:

I spoke with Vallery Watson, the Bowie County Elections Administrator via telephone on 01/12/05. She stated she had dealt with Rusty Hicks in the 1996, 2000, and 2004 elections, but has not received any other allegations about the 2004 elections from anyone other than Hicks. She advised that she is not involved in partisan politics, as her office is appointed. She further advised that she does not deal with poll watchers at polling places, nor handle the counting of the ballots but that she would provide me whatever documentation I needed. I requested the following documents pertaining to 2004 elections from Watson at that time:

- List of registered absentee voters by mail for Democratic primary
Watson advised that she would have the documents ready when I arrived in Bowie County the following week to conduct my investigation.

After sorting through the documents forwarded by Mr. Hicks, I found the order form that allegedly showed that Willie Ray had absentee ballots reproduced at a local print shop (Exhibit A). Job ticket #68855 from Insty Print of 3101 New Boston Rd., Texarkana, shows that Willie J. Ray of Texarkana ordered 150 copies of a document described as "Official Election Mail." I contacted Jeannie at Insty Print and learned that the order was printed on white 4.75 X 11 cardstock. She agreed to fax me a copy of the ordered document (Exhibit B), and I identified it as an official application for ballot by mail, as issued by any county clerk's office, not an actual ballot. I contacted AAG Adrienne McFarland who confirmed that copying applications for ballots by mail does not violate the election code, as it clearly states in Sect. 84.001 that a voter is not even required to use the official application form. The only requirements are that the application must be in writing and signed by the applicant, and must be submitted by mail to the early voting clerk.

I ran a DL check for Willie Ray and found that DL# [redacted] is registered to Willie Howard Ray, black male, date of birth 04/24/1937 with address of 1617 Gatlting, A Lexis search of Ray showed a SSN of [redacted]. Included in the original case file was a copy of Ray's voter registration application, which showed her middle name as Jewel and contained a note stating that Ray was a sitting city council board member. The City of Texarkana's website confirmed that Ray holds the Ward 2 City Council office. The site showed her employment as a retired registered nurse. (Exhibit C)

On 01/19/05, Sgt. Jesse Soliz and I traveled to Bowie County to conduct an investigation into the allegations listed above. We retrieved the requested documents from the Voter Administrator Vallery Watson (white female, dob at the Bowie County Courthouse, and she attached a note on the documents stating that Pct. 1A and 4A are combined precincts, meaning both precincts vote at the same polling place.

We then traveled to Texarkana and met with complainant Rusty Hicks (white male, dob 05/20/1958), his wife Kathy Hicks (white female, dob 04/13/1964), and her brother, Bryan Sundberg (white male, 09/19/1964) at 9000 South Lake Dr. Hicks advised that he ran for County Commissioner, Pct. 1 under the Republican ticket in the 2004 election, but lost to Democrat Jack Stone in the general election. Pct. 1 includes sub-precincts 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 3B, 4A, 8A, 8B, and 8C. He advised that his complaint stems back to the 1996 election, which he also lost. After that election, Hicks testified on illegal handling of ballots, but the Bowie County Grand Jury returned a No Bill. He stated that the same corruption and illegal assistance had occurred in the 2004 elections.

In an effort to curb the corruption during the 2004 general elections, Kathy Hicks had gathered a petition requesting that inspectors from the Secretary of State's Office be present at precincts 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C,
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3B, 4A, 8A, 8B, and 8C, and the "vote counting room night of election." The anticipated problems were listed as the following: "Vote counting machine breaking down hourly, in violation of HB 54 (mail-in ballots), boxes coming in with seal broken, unqualified voting being allowed, voters voting multiple times, campaign workers having possession of ballots by the hundreds, and county judge in and out of vote counting room." This request was made in September of 2004.

Hicks stated that the corruption in the 04 elections began in the application process. He alleged that Willie Ray broke the law by reproducing 150 official applications for mail-in-ballots. I explained to him that I had consulted with our attorneys and they did not find language that prohibited the reproduction of applications. The Hicks' did not appear to be pleased with my explanation, but Mr. Hicks continued to discuss other allegations. He stated that the applications, which he had copied at the elections administrator's office, appeared to have been pre-filled by someone other than the voter (Exhibit D). I explained to him that pre-filling an application is not illegal, although failing to sign as a witness on an application is. He went on to note that the postmark on several of the applications in question showed they were mailed from the same zip code in Texarkana, AR, which he believed showed that they were collected and mailed by the same person. He gave me the copied applications and several other documents he had obtained from the elections administrator.

Rusty and Kathy Hicks went on to explain Bowie County politics. They stated that it is known throughout the county that the Democratic Party and/or Democratic candidates hire Willie Ray to win elections. Admittedly based on hearsay, Hicks stated that for $10,000, Ray would win an election for a candidate by at least 1,000 votes. He accused Ray of handling ballots in order to collect those votes.

Kathy Hicks went over the notes from telephone conversations she had with Pct. 2C absentee voters Elbert T. Jones, Melinda Hunter, and Elisha Roach (Exhibit E). She stated that all three told her that Willie Ray had come by their residence to pick up their ballots. She also stated that Willie Ray had offered stamps to the voters, and she believed that could be considered as a bribe for a vote.

Kathy also informed me of possible violations surrounding the Early Voting Ballot Board. She stated that Vallery Watson told her that the mail-in ballots had been opened before Election Day and laid out under bricks, supposedly to flatten them out so they could be easily counted by machine. Hicks believed this violated Sect. 87.0241 of the election code because Bowie County's population is fewer than 100,000. She went on to say that during the actual early ballot counting on 11/02/04 in the Commissioner's Courtroom, she served as a poll watcher, but was not allowed to effectively observe the proceedings. She said that Early Voting Ballot Board Judge Pat Allen was extremely rude and told the poll watchers to "sit down in the audience and keep [their] mouth(s) shut." Kathy said that Allen made them sit in an area approximately 15 feet from the judges and she could not clearly see or hear any of the activity. Kathy advised that she approached Allen and informed her of HB 54, which allowed her to clearly observe the proceedings, and Allen took her out of the room and into the hall. According to Kathy, Allen berated her for interfering in the proceedings and told her that she was a lawyer, and Kathy was not. Allen told Kathy if she wanted to come back in the room, she must sit down and keep her mouth shut. Kathy did not return, but chose to call MaryAnn Conkel, the inspector from the Secretary of State's Office, instead. Conkel was assigned to observe the Bowie elections on 11/02/04, after the Hicks'
requested that inspectors from the SOS be present during the elections. Conkel advised Kathy that she had a right to observe the counting. Kathy waited for Conkel to arrive at the courthouse, at which time they entered the early ballot counting room and observed the proceedings until the board finished counting 15 minutes later. Kathy advised that Jeannette McLeod was also a poll watcher at the early ballot counting and could verify the events of the night. I informed her that I would take all of this information to our attorneys to determine what violations, if any, had occurred.

The Hicks' son, Steve (white male, dob 10/12/1979), arrived later and we discussed his observations as a poll watcher on election night. Confirming the statement he made to the Secretary of State's office, Steve stated that he followed the Pct. 2C ballot box from the poll place at the 15th Street School to the Bowie County courthouse in New Boston. His statement noted that during the drive to the courthouse, there was "a lot of activity in the backseat." He stated that at approximately 7:45PM, while sitting in the parking lot of the poll place, he witnessed a black female, who he assumed to be the election judge, place the ballot box in the backseat of a green Oldsmobile with TX license plate [redacted]. Two other women got in the car, and he followed them until they stopped at a residence a few blocks away. When the vehicle stopped, Steve slowly drove past and observed that the passenger seated behind the driver had the back door open, and appeared to be leaning over and handling the ballot box in some way. He pulled in front of the car and parked. At that time a black female approached him from the car and asked him if she could help him. He declined and she returned to the car. He then followed the car to the courthouse, during which time he said that the women in the backseat seemed to move around a bit. He asked him to describe their activity and he said that it was dark and raining, and he could not see inside the car very well, but that the women were definitely moving around in the backseat. I typed up Steve's statements, but due to a printer malfunction was unable to print it for him to sign. I agreed to print it up and have him sign it at a later time. Hicks provided original photos of the vehicle and 2nd residence the vehicle stopped in front of on election night (Exhibit A). The address on the mailbox of the residence read 2205 W. 9th St. I later learned that the address is the residence of Felecia, George, and Sheila Washington.

Kathy and Rusty Hicks requested that Sgt. Soliz and I speak with Judge Buddy Hawkins in reference to Texarkana election fraud. On 01/20/05, Sgt. Soliz and I met with Judge Buddy Hawkins (white male, 09/03/1941) at Denny's restaurant in Texarkana. He advised that after he lost the 2000 election for county judge, he called back several elderly voters who had promised to vote for him only to learn that Willie Ray had picked up their mail-in-ballots. He also advised that he had knowledge that Willie Ray collects voted ballots and mails them in mass from the New Boston post office. Judge Hawkins stated that a woman named Pat Allen told him that some of the mail-in-ballots that Willie Ray handled had been thrown out and not counted because the signatures on the applications did not match the envelopes of the ballot. He stated that it is known around town that Willie Ray has no direct income, but she has taken "lavish trips" to Spain, South Africa, and several cruises. He stated that these trips are funded by working for the highest bidding candidate in any election. He also accused Willie Ray of hauling voters to polls on Election Day.

Hawkins also provided the background on three local individuals who he believed influenced Texarkana politics. He stated that Truman Arnold, a local businessman, Frederick Gene Joyce, and Judge Ed Miller
were all good friends at one point, but due to a falling out over a business deal, Miller split from Arnold and Joyce. Hawkins believes that Joyce or Arnold might fund Willie Ray to "pick up votes." He also gave a list of the following people who might be able to provide more information about Arnold, Joyce, or Miller's involvement with Willie Ray: Vernell Hunter, a local nurse; Lovie Heron, a woman from Hooks, TX; JP Nancy Talley, used to "pick up votes" but is not a friend of Willie Ray's any longer; Brent Langdon, Democratic party chair, handles accounts for the party.

On 01/20/05, I received a call from Bowie County District Attorney Bobby Lockhart. He advised that he had sent a letter to Vallery Watson, the elections administrator, requesting that she preserve all materials related to the 2004 elections, and that if I ran into any problems that I should let him know. I told him that everyone had been very helpful thus far but I would call him if I needed anything.

Sgt. Soliz and I met with Lt. David Grable from Texarkana Police Department. He provided us a copy of a disturbance report taken from the Pct. 1A poll place at 3201 Lincoln St. on 11/02/04 at 4:49PM. The report states "Jody Treadway is a poll watcher who is getting threatened... called in by Rusty Hicks.... Some of the people in line to vote are threatening him." The report noted that TISD PD responded as well as Officer Greg Vickers from Texarkana PD. Grable played back the 911 call made by Rusty Hicks, and it was obvious that Hicks was not present during the disturbance, he was merely calling on behalf of Treadway. Grable said that the call was cleared with "No action necessary." Officer Vickers was not on duty until the evening of 01/20/05, so Sgt. Soliz and I met with Raymond Calhoun from the Texarkana Independent School District PD later that afternoon. Calhoun advised that he had responded to the disturbance call at the Lincoln St. School, but that the woman who allegedly threatened Treadway had left before any officers arrived. According to witnesses, the belligerent woman did not make specific threats to anyone, but was merely angry with the election judge and Treadway because she had not been allowed to vote for lack of proper identification. She said things like, "You're going to be sorry!" Calhoun advised that no one knew who the woman was, but there were no further incidents at that location.

On 01/20/05, Sgt. Soliz and I traveled to the Robison Terrace apartment complex, "The High-Rise," as it is commonly referred to in Texarkana. Most of the people listed on the questionable applications provided by Rusty Hicks reside in the complex as well as Melinda Hunter and Elbert Jones, who told Kathy Hicks that Willie Ray handled their ballots. I met with Melinda Hunter in the break room of the complex to inquire about her mail-in-ballot. Hunter is identified by TXDL 3: black female, dob 05/23/1971 (Exhibit F). She advised that she did vote by mail, and that she had assisted Willie Ray with helping the tenants of the building vote by mail. She told me that Willie Ray gave her the applications for mail-in-ballots, she filled them out with the tenants' information, and then took them to the tenants for signatures. When she said that she had assisted voters with their applications, I stopped the interview and read Hunter the Miranda warnings. I advised her that assisting voters with applications and failing to sign as a witness is a Class A Misdemeanor, and she agreed to waive her rights and continue the interview. She signed the Miranda warning form at 10:51AM (Exhibit G).

Hunter advised that each of the voters signed their own applications, so she never signed as a witness. Willie Ray had told her that she only had to sign as a witness if she had to make a mark for a voter who
was unable to sign the application. She stated that she collected approximately 40-45 applications from the tenants, affixed the stamps provided by Willie Ray, and then mailed them from the mailbox outside the front doors of the complex. Hunter went on to say that she had assisted approximately 5 voters in filling out their mail-in-ballots once they arrived in the mail. She stated that there are many elderly and disabled people in the building, and some of them asked that she help them with their vote. She said she never told them who to vote for because most of them already knew whom they wanted to vote for. Hunter told me that she had mailed ballots for more than one voter during the 2004 election. I then concluded the interview and asked Hunter to give a written statement of her involvement in the Bowie County elections, which she provided willingly. Hunter signed her statement (Exhibit G), I signed as a witness, and Hunter left the room. The interview was audio taped (Exhibit H).

Sgt. Soliz and I then consulted and developed a few more questions for Hunter, so we approached her in the hallway of the lobby and asked her if she had been paid to help people with their mail-in ballots. The conversation was not recorded, but Hunter advised that Willie Ray had paid her $50-60 in cash. She indicated that a candidate had also taken her and other "workers" out to eat at one point. She could not remember which candidate had provided the dinner, but she advised that she was one of the candidates on the ballot in which Willie Ray had given her. I asked if she still had the ballot, and she agreed to take me to her apartment to retrieve the document. When we arrived at #905 Robison Terrace, Hunter pulled out a yellow sample ballot for the 2004 Democratic primary election and identified it as the sample Ray had given her (Exhibit I). The following candidates were marked as whom Hunter was to support: Residential nominee - John Edwards; U.S. Representative, Dist. 4 - Jim Nickerson; State Representative, Dist. 1 - Stephen J. Frost; Judge, County Court at Law - Jeff Addison; Sheriff - James Prince; County Chairman - Brent Langdon. Hunter said that she did not tell people how to vote when she helped them with their ballots, but if they asked her who to vote for, she would show them the sample ballot with the marked candidates.

I then spoke with Mattie Pilot (black female, dob 01/20/1914) at 207 Robison Terrace (Exhibit J). She advised that Melinda Hunter had come by her apartment and helped her vote. She said that if she didn't know which candidate to vote for, she asked Melinda and Melinda told her whom she had voted for. Ms. Pilot turned 91 yoa the day I interviewed her, and it was obvious that she had a difficult time getting around. I did not take an oral or written statement from Ms. Pilot.

Sgt. Jesse Soliz interviewed the following tenants of Robison Terrace on 01/20/05, all of whom advised that Hunter had mailed their mail-in ballots in the 2004 elections: Lillie Briscoe (black female, dob 05/13/1936); Mary Ann Marshall (black female, dob 08/22/1932); Melba Scott (black female, dob 07/29/1929); Opal Hart (black female, dob 07/25/1975); Vernice Simon (black female, dob 08/23/1929) - (Exhibit K). The interviews were audio recorded (Exhibit L - not transcribed).

On 01/20/05, I interviewed Eugene Grant (black male, 06/01/1950) and Reuben Robinson (black male, 03/20/1947), also residents of Robison Terrace (Exhibit M). Grant advised that Melinda Hunter mailed his ballot for him after he had received it in the mail and voted it. He said he believed Melinda had been helping the tenants in the building vote by mail for several years. I took a written statement from Grant (Exhibit N). Robinson advised that Melinda had also mailed his ballot, and that he had watched her put
his ballot in the mailbox outside the building. I recorded an oral statement from Robinson (Exhibit H).

I also interviewed Veola Hopkins (unknown female, dob 02/10/1918), Rebekah Jones (unknown female, dob 10/07/1945), and Doris Teel (black female, dob 11/13/1923) at the Robison Terrace apartments. Hopkins, Jones, and Teel all advised that they received applications from Melinda Hunter but mailed them themselves. When their ballots arrived in the mail, they voted, used their own stamps, and mailed them themselves.

Sgt. Jesse Soliz and I then met with Myrtle Fletcher (black female, dob 06/20/1930) of 666 Williams Homes. Fletcher, who's residence is near the Robison Terrace complex, advised that Melinda Hunter helped her "sign up" for a mail-in ballot, but that she filled out her own ballot and mailed it from her mailbox. She advised that Mrs. Gowans used to bring applications by and help local residents with their ballots. I recorded an oral statement from Fletcher (Exhibit H - not transcribed).

On 01/20/05, I called the 1-800 number for the Secretary of State's Office to try to contact Mary Ann Conkel, the SOS inspector assigned to the Bowie County elections on 11/02/04. I was put through to the inspectors' supervisor, and after properly identifying myself, I explained that I needed to speak to Conkel regarding the investigation that stemmed from the SOS complaint to the OAG. The supervisor advised that she protects the identities of her inspectors and would not give me any contact information for Conkel. I asked her to give Conkel my phone number and to have her contact me so we could discuss the events of election night in Bowie County, which she agreed to do. I then contacted OAG Analyst Paula Martinez to locate a phone number for Conkel, which she did. I left a phone message for Conkel at her office, identifying myself and requesting to meet with her to discuss her observations on Election Day. Later that afternoon I received a phone call from CID office manager Tamara Chandler advising me that the SOS had called her to verify my employment with the OAG.

Sgt. Soliz and I also met with Willie Murphy (black male, dob 06/04/1951) and Louise French (black female, dob 07/26/1946) of 601 Allen Ln. #146 (Exhibit O), and James Stewart, Jr. (black male, dob 05/04/1927) and Elvirie Stewart (black female, dob 12/21/1906) of 1604 Gatling St. (Exhibit P) on 01/20/05. Murphy and French advised that a young woman they knew to be Willie Ray's granddaughter had picked up their mail-in ballots for the general election. They normally voted in person, but Ray's granddaughter brought them applications then returned later to pick up their ballots. Stewart and his mother, Elvirie, also advised that Willie Ray's granddaughter brought them applications for mail-in ballots, and that she returned to pick up their ballots. They advised that the granddaughter was present when they voted the ballots, although she sat in another room while they voted. When they finished voting, Ray's granddaughter collected their ballots and they believed she mailed them. The interviews with Murphy, French, and the Stewarts were audio recorded (Exhibit H).

We then met with Vernel Hunter (black female, dob 07/15/1949) at her residence at 3102 Hamilton (Exhibit Q). Hunter was extremely apprehensive about discussing her involvement with and knowledge of the actions of Willie Ray. She advised that she would not discuss the actions of anyone other than herself unless she was under oath in a courtroom, because she did not want to incriminate herself or others. Hunter is active in the NAACP, the AFLCIO, and the Texas Democratic Women, and most of her...
political involvement revolves around getting people registered to vote, telemarketing, and passing out literature on particular candidates that she chooses to back. She is also a deputy voter registrar. The interview was recorded (Exhibit H).

During the week of 01/24/05, I obtained campaign finance reports for the following candidates in the Bowie County general election of 2004: Stephen Frost, TX House of Representatives; Jack Stone, County Commissioner; Jeff Addison, County Court at Law Judge; and James Prince, Sheriff. Addison’s report included political contributions made by Truman Arnold, F. E. Joyce, Susannah M. Joyce, Frederick E. Joyce III, and Holman & Langdon, LLP, and 3 loans totaling $19,384 from Century Bank in Texarkana, which I learned is owned by Truman Arnold. None of the reports included contributions or payments to Willie Ray or any other individual named in this investigation.

On 01/25/05, I spoke to Mary Ann Conkel (white female, dob 05/07/1954) from the SOS. She asked if I had a copy of her report of observations from the Bowie County elections and I advised I did not. She said it should have been sent with the complaint referral to the OAG. She agreed to have it faxed to me, and we set up a meeting time for the following day to discuss the fraud allegations. I then notified Capt. Lucas that the SOS had neglected to provide all pertinent information to the allegations when they made their referral, and he advised that he would notify Chief David Boatright. I received a faxed copy of Conkel’s report that afternoon. She made observations at the Lincoln St. School (Pct. 1A), West 15th St. School (Pct 2C), LE Kindergarten Center (Pct 2A), Texarkana City Hall (Pct 3B), Central Count, and the Early Voting Ballot Board counting. The report also contained the observations of another SOS inspector assigned to Bowie County, Becky Hendrickson. Hendrickson made observations at Eylau Methodist Church (Pct 8B), Buchanan Baptist Church (8C), LE Intermediate School (Pct 1B), and Macedonia School (Pct 8A).

On 01/26/05, I met with Mary Ann Conkel at the Rutter building in Austin. She advised that she witnessed several questionable events at the Bowie County elections on 11/02/04. Conkel made report of improper assistance to voters at Pct. 1A, citing “When assistance was needed and they brought no one with them, only the election judge assisted and the poll watcher was allowed to observe. The oath of assistance was never given. I asked the election judge why the oath wasn’t given and was told they couldn’t find it. It was noticed that a lot of conversing going on among the voters in the voting booths. I observed assistance being given to a first time voter who appeared to be mentally disabled.” Conkel advised that the disabled individual has Down’s syndrome and might not be mentally competent to vote. At Pct. 2A, Conkel noted, “I observed that periodically a person (not an election official), would come in the polling place to see if the election workers needed anything. It was noticed that an individual brought in refreshments for the election workers. They were not working as a judge or clerk. They came and went as they pleased.”

Conkel further stated that there seemed to be inconsistencies with the provisional ballots. She noted that they are supposed to be sealed in white envelopes and only opened and counted if the voter was certified, but many of the provisional ballots that came in after the polls closed were loose and not sealed in the proper envelopes. She stated that the voters, and/or election judges did not seem to be educated about the provisional ballot system as they were handled improperly.
She stated that per the election code, counties with populations less than 100,000 may not count early voting ballots before election day, and the time for the counting must be posted with the SOS at least 48 hours ahead of time (Sect. 87.0241). Conkel picked up her Bowie County elections packet from the SOS on 11/01/04, which showed a time of 4PM for early voting counting in Bowie County, yet when she arrived at the courthouse in New Boston at 3:45 PM, she learned that the Early Voting Ballot Board had begun counting at 3PM. She contacted her office in Austin and confirmed that the time change had not been reported to the SOS. Her report reads, "The time was changed for the EVBBM. I arrived at the early ballot at the original time and unable to observe all of the early stages."

Conkel also stated that it was brought to her attention that during the early vote counting, poll watchers were not being allowed to observe the activities of the Early Voting Ballot Board. She could tell that there was tension between poll watcher Kathy Hicks and the election judge, Pat Allen, but her objective opinion was that the poll watchers could not clearly see or hear much from where they were told to sit in the courtroom, and they "probably should have been closer." She estimated that they were told to sit approximately 15 feet from the table where the judges sat. Her report reads, "The poll watcher attempted to watch the procedures and was told to be seated and observe from their chair. From the seating area, you were not able to see all of the procedures clearly."

Conkel also observed the aftermath of the Pct. 1B ballot box arriving at the courthouse significantly later than the rest of the ballot boxes after the polls closed on election night. She remembers being told that one of the boxes was late and that the election judge had been asked what the hold up was. Conkel remembered being told that the election judge had cited "problems closing the polls" as the reason it was later than the rest. She estimated that the box had come in after 10PM, but could not be sure. Conkel also made note that the box was sealed with a jumbo paper clip, and that the paper seal was not affixed properly. Her report reads, "At the central count, there was a ballot box that came in that was not sealed. There was an attempt to keep the box closed by using a paper clip." Conkel advised that the ballots from the box were counted that night.

During the week of 01/24/05, Kathy Hicks called me at my office to discuss the copying of official applications for mail-in ballots. She stated that she believed Willie Ray violated Sect. 276.010 of the Election Code by reproducing the applications, as the section cites that, "A person commits an offense if the person buys... any other original election record." I explained to Hicks that I was aware of the section, however, the AAG's had already determined that copying official applications did not constitute a violation of the section because Sect. 84.001 states that, "An applicant is not required to use an official application form." It would be unreasonable to assume that a voter can submit an application in any written format, but one could not simply use a copy of an official application. Hicks accepted my explanation, but called back a few minutes later to argue the point. I reiterated that the AAG's had already made a determination as to the applicability of Sect. 276.010 to the copying of official applications, but that I would voice her concerns to them once again. On 02/07/05 and 02/08/05, I received 2 emails from Hicks regarding the issue. She cited Sect. 276.010, 51.013, 52.008, and 84.013. I responded to her emails advising that other than 276.010, which had already been addressed, none of the sections cited criminal violations.
On 01/31/05, I contacted Vallery Watson via email and requested copies of the applications for mail-in ballots for the General Election for Pcts 2A, 2C, and 1B, as the Hicks' had only provided a few specific applications to me. She agreed to have them ready for me upon my next trip to Texarkana.

On 02/01/05, I met with Capt. Lucas and AAG's McFarland and White. I advised them of my conversations and emails with Kathy Hicks. They reiterated that copying an official application for mail-in ballot does not constitute "buying or selling... official election record" because an application does not have to be submitted on an official form provided by the county. They agreed that the other sections cited by Hicks did not constitute criminal violations and were not pertinent to our investigation.

On 02/02/05, I retrieved the requested applications for Pcts 2A, 2C, and 1B from Vallery Watson. She had separated the applications belonging to voters whose ballots were rejected by the Early Voting Ballot Board on Election Day. Although Watson could not advise why each ballot had been rejected, I noted that Mattie Pilot and Rebekah Jones' ballots were included with those that had been rejected. There were a total of 28 rejected ballots from Pcts 2A, 2C, and 1B during the general election.

Sgt. Steve Ried and I met with Randall White (white male, dob 06/20/1961), the poll watcher assigned by Bowie County Sheriff candidate Mike Landers to observe the Pct. 1B poll place, at the Pizza Hut in Texarkana. The interview was digitally recorded. He advised he was the only poll watcher at the location. He advised that the ballot box was not locked at all during the voting, and the election judge, Harriet McGary, appeared to be very unorganized and overwhelmed during the polling. White stated that among other minor poll place violations he pointed out to McGary, groups of people were campaigning within the 100-foot barrier to the entrance of the school. White stated that McGary went outside to move them, but they told her they were standing under the eaves of the roof to shield them from the rain. White insisted that McGary force them to move, which she then did. She also had to remove another man from the 100-foot barrier later, and asked several people to remove hats and other campaign materials from their persons while inside the polling place. She did not seem to have a problem with allowing people to wear hats with candidate's names on them until White pointed them out to her.

White later noticed a woman in her 20's with a sign saying something to the effect of, "See me for voting assistance," who was standing within the required 100 feet from the poll place. The woman handed out yellow sample ballots to voters as they entered the poll place. White felt that McGary might have known the woman, but McGary approached her and made her move back beyond the 100-foot marker. McGary put a trashcan near the door and put up a sign that read, "Put all campaign material in the trash can."

White's most disturbing observation at the Pct. 1A poll place was the sealing of the ballot box itself. He advised that due to the inclement weather, he moved the vehicles of the election judges closer to the door of the school at their request. When he returned from moving McGary's car, he realized that the time was 7:05PM and the ballot box had not been closed and sealed. He alerted McGary, at which time they closed the box. She lifted the flap over the slot for the ballots, then looped the seal through the
latch hole and clamped the seal closed. White pointed out to McGary that she had not latched the flap before she closed the seal through the latch hole, and she began to pry the seal open. "It was destroyed," White said. She broke the seal, and then tried to jimmy it back together properly. He stated he never saw McGary affix a paperclip to the ballot box in any fashion, nor did he sign or initial a paper seal on the box.

White also noted that McGary had approximately 4-5 loose provisional ballots stacked up outside the ballot box after the polls had closed. The provisional ballots were inside green envelopes, but not sealed. He questioned McGary about the ballots and she stated that they were the ballots of voters who did not have proper identification, proof of residency, etc... and had been told to return with that documentation before their ballots would be cast. White insisted that McGary write, "spoiled" across those particular provisional ballots, which she did. She then stated that she would turn them in with the rest of the ballots at the courthouse.

White then carried the box to McGary's car and she opened the backseat door. He asked if he should put the box in the trunk rather than the back seat, but McGary insisted that it be placed in the backseat. White complied, assisted in cleaning up the poll area, then got in his car and left the poll place at approximately 7:40PM. He did not follow McGary to the courthouse because he was not asked to by Landers. White signed the statement he had provided to the Secretary of State's Office, and Sgt. Ried and I signed as witnesses.

Sgt. Ried and I then interviewed Jody Treadway (white male, dob 04/03/1978), the poll watcher assigned by Rusty Hicks to observe the Pct. 1A poll place, at the Jack in the Box in Texarkana. The interview was digitally recorded. He was also the only poll watcher at the location, although he had never been a poll watcher before. He stated that he observed several violations, one of them being political signs & campaign material being displayed within 100 feet of the poll place. He noted that several students wearing shirts, hats, etc... for State Representative candidate Stephen Frost were passing out yellow sample ballots marked straight Democratic Party well within the 100 feet marker. Treadway alerted Betty Helms, the alternate election judge, and she made the students turn their shirts inside out and take off their hats.

Treadway also noted that many of the elderly voters appeared to be bussed to the poll place. According to Treadway, a young white male in his mid-thirties appeared to use 3 different vehicles to drop off voters; two different blue Ford vans, and one white commercial van. The driver wore a John Kerry hat, and an election judge told him to remove it when he walked into the poll place, which he did. Treadway advised that the driver assisted one elderly female with a walker to the poll booth.

Treadway also had concerns that one voter's rights might have been violated. A mentally handicapped black male in his 20's or 30's came to the poll place with who Treadway assumed to be his parents. Treadway watched the group walk into the poll place, check in with the judge, present their ID cards and/or voter registration cards, then the older couple walked to poll booths and voted. Then they took the handicapped man to a poll, looked over the ballot with him, and assisted him to vote. Treadway stated that he alerted Aline Kirk, the presiding election judge, that the voter was being assisted, and he
and Kirk stood behind them as the man voted. Treadway overheard the man state that he wanted to vote a straight ticket for Republicans and he went to make his mark of such, but he was not physically able to do so. His father marked the ballot as straight ticket for the Democratic Party. Treadway alerted Kirk, and she tried to give the man a new ballot. The father went to vote for the man a second time, but Kirk stepped in. Although the second ballot was not marked, Treadway suggested to Kirk that she spoil the ballot, and Kirk wrote, "spoiled" on both ballots. Treadway heard the older couple tell Kirk that they disagreed with her actions and that they would contact the NAACP to investigate the matter. Treadway advised that the group left the poll place at that time. He felt that the man should have been allowed to vote the way he wanted to, not the wishes of who he presumed to be the man's parents.

Treadway also observed that one voter was listed on the voter roster twice. He could not remember the name of the voter in question, but called his wife who read the name "Jamie Josey Valasquez," off of the notes Treadway had taken on Election Day. He stated that the name and voter registration number appeared twice on the same list, and Judy Sangolli, the alternate election judge, marked the voter as having voted beside both of his name listings. Sangolli also logged Valasquez's driver's license number on the combination form.

In regards to the allegation that the police were called on Treadway for serving as a poll watcher at Pct. 1A, he stated that a black female in her 40's seemed to be irritated that he was working at the poll place. The woman never spoke to Treadway, only to the election judges, but her heard her ask one of the judges, "Who is that?" referring to Treadway. Sangolli advised the woman that Treadway was a poll watcher overseeing the elections. The woman became angry and began jerking her arms around. She said things like, "This isn't allowed," and "I'm going to call the NAACP." Treadway called Rusty Hicks at that point and advised him of the situation. Hicks told Treadway that he was going to call the police, although Treadway stated that he never felt threatened by the woman in any way.

Treadway advised that he did not observe anything out of the ordinary in regards to the sealing of the ballot box, but he felt that the election judge purposely tried to evade him as he followed her from the poll place to the courthouse in New Boston. He said that he told Aline Kirk that he planned to follow the ballot box to the courthouse and not to drive off and leave him, but that after he and a TISD police officer secured the ballot box in Kirk's trunk, she left the parking lot before he could get to his vehicle. He felt that she had intentionally left him behind. He stated that she was nearly 2 football fields away when he spotted her as he got in his vehicle, and by the time he pulled out of the parking lot, she was out of sight. When he finally caught up to her approximately 10 minutes later, he observed that Kirk, who had left the poll place alone, now had her daughter, also an alternate judge, Judy Sangolli riding with her. Treadway signed the statement he had previously made to the SOS, and Sgt. Ried and I signed as witnesses.

I then received a call from Jan Landers (white female, dob 08/19/1947), the wife of Sheriff candidate Mike Landers. She wanted to reiterate what Kathy Hicks had stated about the early ballots being spread out under bricks before the general election on 11/02/04. She learned of the situation from Walt Davis, who served on the Early Voting Ballot Board. She also stated that Judge Ed Miller had paid Willie Ray in the 966 elections, but could not provide any proof of such.
On 02/03/05, I spoke to Vally Watson via the telephone in reference to the Early Voting Ballot Board counting ballots early and possible problems with tampering of ballots on Election Day. She advised that Charles Hlavinka was in charge of the counting board for the 2004 elections. He would be responsible for counting the signatures on the combination forms of all the precincts and comparing them with the actual number of ballots in the ballot boxes. She further advised that in regards to the Early Voting Ballot Board, she is not involved in the process of actually counting votes. She said that the board did meet on the Saturday before the election to count the ballot envelopes and compare the number to the number of ballots reportedly received by her office. The numbers matched. They then compared the signatures from the applications to the signatures on the outside of the carrier envelopes. Inside the carrier envelopes are white envelopes in which are the actual ballots. The board opened the white envelopes that day to flatten the ballots, which have to be folded up to fit inside the white envelopes. Vally statrd that due to the volume of mail-in ballots Bowie County received in the 2004 general election, it would have been a tedious task to flatten the ballots on Election Day, so the early meeting was necessary to speed up the counting of votes on Election Day. She advised that they are allowed to prepare mail-in ballots prior to Election Day as long as they do not actually count votes, according to Sect. 87.0241(a). Once the ballots had all been laid out, Vally placed them back inside the ballot box, placed a board on top of them, and the Early Voting Ballot Board sealed the box. From Saturday, 10/31/04 until the boxes were brought to the Early Voting Ballot Board counting on Tuesday, 11/02/04, the boxes were kept in a locked storage room in Vally's office, to which only she has a key.

Vally stated that if Central Counting had a problem with the combination form numbers not matching the number of ballots cast, she was not made aware of it. To her knowledge, all of the ballot box numbers were balanced. She advised that her records showed the following totals for ballots cast for the following precincts: Pct. 1A - 585 votes; Pct. 1B - 461 votes; Pct. 2C - 407 votes. These totals did not include the provisional ballots. Sgt. Ried and I compared the totals to the number of signatures on the combination forms we had obtained for those precincts from Vally, and our totals are as follows: Pct. 1A - 586 votes; Pct. 1B - 462; Pct. 2C - 346. (Note: Pcts. 1A and 4A share the same poll place and thus, the same combination form. I made a working copy of the combination form and notated each voter registered in 1A as such. The total listed above for 1A does not include the signatures of 4A voters.) I also observed that there is one female listed as having voted on the Pct. 1A combination form that was not listed on either the 1A or 4A list of registered voters. Franshicka Banks, VR 971231, signed the combination form and was marked as "Not on List," but not marked as having voted a provisional ballot. Although I counted Banks as having voted in my tally of 586 votes, it became apparent that the election judge had not counted her vote in the reported 585 votes, therefore the totals match for Pct. 1A. However, Pct. 1B was off by one vote, and Pct. 2C appeared to be off by 61 votes.

In reference to the serial numbers on the ballots, Vally advised that each ballot has a unique number, and those numbers are assigned to each precinct and then reported to Central Counting. Pct. 1B was assigned a total of 1150 ballots ranging from serial #1051-2200. These ballots were broken down to 800 ballots for the general election and 350 for the early election. Vally advised that the election judge counts unvoted ballots at the end of Election Day and all totals are recorded on the "Register of Ballots." These totals should include the total number of signatures on the combination form, spoiled...
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ballots, and uncast ballots. The election judge is responsible for turning in the Register of Ballots upon returning the ballot box to the Central Counting at the courthouse. The election judge also receives a Ballot Seal and Certificate form upon turning in the ballot box. The election judge is given a duplicate copy of both the Register of Ballots and the Ballot Seal and Certificate forms, and upon the completion of the count of ballots, each original form is sealed in the box with the counted ballots.

In reference to the Pct. 1B ballot box arriving at the courthouse late, Vallery could not remember exactly what time the box came in other than it was significantly later than the rest. When she was alerted that a box was still out, the Central Counting board called the party chairs to inquire whom had the box and where it was, as party chairs assign election judges. When the box finally arrived, Vallery asked members of the board why the box was late and was told that the election judge had problems with paperwork. She stated that no one seemed to question that, nor did they question that the box’s seal was broken when it arrived.

When asked if she felt that the ballot box could have been tampered with to affect the election, Vallery stated that, "If a box was not sealed properly, and if a judge were dishonest, yes - a box could have been stuffed." However, the biggest obstacle a dishonest judge or other individual would face in tampering with the ballots would be the reproduction of the actual ballots and forging signatures on the combination forms. As previously stated, the ballots are assigned specific serial numbers and then assigned to certain precincts. The ballots themselves are printed on white, 8-1/2 X 14" legal paper with optical coding. The coding is similar to a bar code that runs the length of the ballot and is readable by a scanner. They are printed by Hart Intercivic, a company out of Dallas/Fort Worth. Bowie County has used the printer for official election materials since 1996. To her knowledge, the Central Counting Board did not discover any forged or tampered ballots or combination forms at any time during the 2004 elections.

Sgt. Ried and I met with Steve Hicks at the Whataburger in Texarkana that afternoon. Steve signed the statement I had taken from him on 01/19/05.

I then left messages for several people who were possible witnesses to the Pct. 1B ballot box arriving at the courthouse late. These included Brent Langdon, the Democratic Party chair, Errol Owen, the presiding judge over the Early Voting Ballot Board, and Jeanette McCloud, a poll watcher at the Early Voting Ballot Board.

Vallery called me again on 02/03/05 and advised that she had found the Register of Ballots for Pct. 1B. She noted that the serial numbers listed on the register started at 1251, not 1051, as her records showed. When she discovered the discrepancy, she went to the storage room where the unused ballots were stored and located the 200 unaccounted for ballots, still wrapped up from the printer. Vallery believed that the election judge simply returned them when she turned in the ballot box and did not indicate the unused ballots on the register.

Then received a call from Jeanette McCleod’s husband, who advised that the Hicks’ had told him that I was trying to identify Willie Ray’s granddaughter. He gave me the name of Jamillah Johnson with an
address of 7407 W 7th St., Texarkana, TX. Sgt. Ried and I drove to the residence and observed a green Ford Explorer with TX license plate T86MHM. I contacted OAG analyst Paula Martinez, who ran a check of the LP and advised that it returns to a Cynthia Jackson. No one was home at the residence at the time.

On 02/03/05, Sgt. Ried and I returned to the Robison Terrace apartments. We met with Phillip Houff, a handicapped black male dob 11/08/1953), and his daughter, Reshanna Houff (black female, dob 07/25/1975) - (Exhibit R). The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit S). I showed Phillip a copy of his application (Exhibit R) for mail-in-ballot, and he advised that the signature on the top of the form was his, but the signature on the bottom of the form was not his. He advised that Melinda Hunter took his application after he signed it and told him that she would mail it for him. He then received his ballot in the mail, at which time Hunter came by his apartment and assisted him in voting. She "pointed out which candidate to mark and [he] marked the ones she stated." Hunter did not sign the ballot as a witness in his presence. Houff then put the ballot in the envelope, Hunter sealed it, and Houff signed the outside of the envelope. Hunter told Houff she would put a stamp on the envelope and mail it for him. Reshanna Houff wrote a statement for her father in his own words, which they both signed, and Sgt. Ried and I signed as witnesses. P. Houff also signed his name 10 times on the back of the statement his daughter wrote for him (Exhibit T).

On 02/03/05, Sgt. Ried and I met with Melinda Hunter at her residence to discuss further her involvement with Willie Ray and the 2004 elections. The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit S). I re-read her the Miranda warnings and she signed the warning form at 4:45PM (Exhibit U). At that time, Hunter advised that Willie Ray had taken a group of approximately 15-20 volunteers to eat dinner at the Catfish King restaurant in Texarkana in September or October of 2004. She could not advise who the other volunteers were. She clarified that Willie Ray paid her $50 after the election, and that is was a "thank you" from Ray, not directly from any particular candidate.

Later that afternoon, Sgt. Ried and I met with Jeanette McCloud (white female, 08/01/1948), the Early Voting Ballot Board poll watcher in the lobby of the Comfort Suites in Texarkana. The interview was digitally recorded. She stated that she and Kathy Hicks sat in seats across from a bar rail in the county commissioner’s courtroom during the early vote counting on 11/02/04. She estimated they were seated approximately 15-20 feet away from the judges, and neither one could see what was going on. They could not read any of the documents from across the room. She advised that the atmosphere was not very professional; the judges were "cutting up" and talking about everything except the counting. McCloud stated that Kathy Hicks challenged Pat Allen, a presiding judge, on House Bill 54. Allen took Hicks outside and came across very rude to Hicks. McCloud agreed with Hicks’ statements that they should have been allowed to view the events closer, possibly compare signatures themselves, but she never raised issue with any of the judges. McCloud provided me the statement she had provided to the SOS, as I had not received it with the original complaint referral from the agency. McCloud signed her statement to which Sgt. Ried and I signed as witnesses.

Then spoke to Errol Owen (white male, dob 04/25/1949) via the telephone. He advised that although he presided over the Early Voting Ballot Board, he was not in charge of the actual receiving of the ballot.
boxes. He advised that he did not handle any of the boxes until the receivers had already opened them. He believed that David Hlavinka was in charge of receiving on election night, and provided me Hlavinka's contact information. Owen did not have knowledge of any of the boxes being improperly sealed with a paperclip.

Sgt. Ried and I then met with Charles Hlavinka (white male, dob 10/16/1932), David Hlavinka’s father, as he was also present at Central Counting on election night. Although Hlavinka was not in charge of receiving ballot boxes that night, he remembered that the latest box came in sometime after 9PM. Hlavinka stated that all of the numbers reported on the Registers of Ballots, etc. checked out and that there were no leftover ballots unaccounted for on 11/02/04. He also stated that he did not have any problems with the optical scanners scanning the ballots that day. Hlavinka suggested we talk to Verble Kingston, as she might have been located in the receiving area of the courthouse on election night.

I then spoke to Verble Kingston (unknown female, dob 10/09/1934) via the telephone. She stated that Mark Hlavinka, also Charles’ son, was actually in the receiving area when the Pct. 1B box was brought in to the courthouse. She said that she could not remember much about that night, including a box being sealed with a paper clip, but that she had signed the receipts for the ballot boxes after Mark had received them.

I then spoke with David Hlavinka (white male, dob 03/19/1962) via the telephone. He stated that he did not actually see the Pct. 1B box arrive, but he got the box once it was brought to the counting room. He stated that the lock was looped, not latched, and that the seal was clipped around the loop as if the judge had tried to latch it after the seal had been affixed. He remembered a wire or paper clip attached to the top where the seal should have been affixed. He believed the box arrived around 9 or 9:30PM on election night, but he did not remember whether the provisional ballots were sealed inside or loose outside the ballot box.

Sgt. Ried and I then met with Aline Kirk (white female, dob 04/14/1920), the Pct. 1A Election Judge, at her home. The interview was digitally recorded. She stated that she did not know that the OAG was investigating the elections, but that she had been an election judge for many years. She did not remember Treadway’s account of a handicapped black male not being allowed to vote. She stated that she helped several handicapped individuals to vote, but that all individuals whose ballots had been spoiled were given a second ballot without exception. She stated that she never saw a woman outside the poll place with a sign within the 100-foot barrier, but that she immediately took campaign material away from people who entered the poll place. In regards to Treadway’s claim that Kirk tried to evade him after the polls had closed, Kirk scoffed at the notion because she told Treadway that her daughter, Judy Sangolli was going to drop off her car a couple blocks away and they were going to ride to the courthouse together. She told Treadway exactly where they were going but once they dropped off Sangolli’s car, they could not find Treadway. Kirk said she told her daughter, “Oh, we’ve lost him,” but then they saw him pull onto the street they were on and she honked her horn to get his attention. When he was within a closer distance, they drove on to the courthouse. Kirk reiterated that they did not intentionally evade Treadway because she knew he planned to follow her to the courthouse.
We then met with Harriet McGary (black female, dob 06/09/1945), the Pct. 1B Election Judge, also at her home. The interview was digitally recorded. She stated that contrary to Randall White's statement, the ballot box was most definitely locked during the voting. She advised that she had never had a poll watcher before, but that when White pointed violations out to her, she addressed them. She said that she did not know who the woman with the sign saying, "See me for voting assistance," but that she did make her move and made the voters throw campaign material away at the door.

Regarding the provisional ballots being improperly handled, McGary stated that although some provisional envelopes were sealed by the voters, she did not seal any herself. Most were put in a smaller box inside the ballot box, but she turned the rest in with the box when she arrived at the courthouse.

McGary stated that she did improperly seal the ballot box after the poll had closed. Once she realized she had sealed the box incorrectly, she broke the seal, then bent the seal, twisted it and pulled it through the latch loop. She did not specifically remember using a paper clip to "rig" the seal, but she said that, "a paper clip might have been used." She also did not remember signing a paper seal and affixing it to the box, but that she might have signed one. She advised that once the box was closed after the polling, she had the box placed in her backseat because it would not fit in her trunk due to other clutter. She left the poll place with Deborah Brown, but could not remember at what time. After she left the poll place, she and Brown went to McGary's house, used the restroom, ate some fruit, and then drove to the courthouse in New Boston via Interstate 30. She said that at some point, she and Brown made various stops to pick up election materials such as posters, signs, etc. along the roadside. McGary believed that they arrived at the courthouse sometime between 8:30-9:15PM, and that it is usually a 30-minute drive from her house to New Boston. She advised that Democratic Party Chair Brent Langdon was present when she brought the box into the courthouse. When I asked if she had, in any way, tampered with the ballots or the ballot box, McGary adamantly said, "No, ma'am."

On 02/04/05, Sgt. Ried and I met with Pct. 2C Election Judge Marie Williams (black female, dob 08/01/1922) at her home. The interview was digitally recorded. Williams stated that in contrast to Steve Hicks' statement, she most definitely put the ballot box in the trunk of her car, not the back seat. She did put the polling booths in the back seat of her car, but she knew that putting the ballot box in her trunk was the right thing to do. After the polls closed on 11/02/04, Williams and alternate judge Louise Ivory drove Williams' car to her home where their neighbor, Floyd Rogers was waiting. Williams is an elderly black female; and she advised that she is no longer able to drive at night, so Rogers agreed to drive her to the courthouse. They then took Williams' car to the home of alternate judge Lola Washington a few blocks away, at which time Washington got into the car. The address of 2205 W. 9th St. listed in Steve Hicks' statement is consistent with that being Washington's address. Williams had noticed that someone was following them, so she approached the vehicle and asked the driver (Steve Hicks) if he was looking for someone. He said no, so she returned to her car and they continued on to the courthouse. Williams advised that she and Washington sat in the back seat, and Ivory sat in the front passenger seat while Rogers drove the car. Williams stated that Hicks appeared to be following her car too closely considering the inclement weather and driving conditions.
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We advised Williams that there was a discrepancy in the number of ballots reported cast compared to the number of signatures on the combination form. Williams said she was not aware that there was a problem because everything had checked out when she turned in the ballot box. Williams had retained copies of all of the election documents pertaining to the 2004 general election, so Sgt. Ried and I began to compare her copies to the documents obtained by the Elections Administrator's Office. We discovered that Williams' combination forms consisted of 17 pages, whereas the copies I obtained from the county only consisted of 14 pages. Each missing page contained 25 signatures, 75 total. The previously counted 346 signatures plus the missing 75 signatures equals the 421 total signatures reported on the Register of Official Ballots. The only other discrepancy found in the Pct. 2C documents is that there are 15 signatures marked as having voted a provisional ballot, but there are only 14 names listed on the List of Provisional Voters. There could be many reasons for this discrepancy, but Sgt. Ried and I felt that there was no fraud committed by Williams.

Sgt. Ried and I then met with Brent Langdon (white male, dob 07/21/1964) at his office at 2222 St. Michael Dr., Texarkana. The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit R). He stated that Mark Hlavinka was present at the receiving area at the courthouse on 11/02/04 and would probably be able to better advise what time the Pct. 1B ballot box arrived at the courthouse. He also suggested that we talk to Kyle Davis, as he was also present at the Early Voting Ballot Board.

In reference to Willie Ray's involvement with Bowie County elections, Langdon advised that she has a major influence in the community, specifically with the black population. He said she is not one to go door-to-door to get out the vote, but her influence comes from people calling her asking for voting advice or driving by her residence to see who's campaign signs she has posted in her yard. He has never known her to actually campaign for any particular candidate. When a candidate wants her support, as he did when he ran for Democratic Party Chair, they call Willie Ray and ask her to support them by posting a sign in her yard or by word-of-mouth. He has never paid Willie Ray in any fashion for any service, and as the chair in charge of the Bowie County Democratic Party's accounting, Langdon advised that neither has the party itself. Langdon advised that Vernel Hunter is also very involved in the Democratic party, but that she does not seem to influence the general vote as much as Willie. He estimates that Hunter wants to have Ray's status in the community, but Ray has just made impressions on people for years, and they trust her opinions. Langdon also advised me that Willie Ray's granddaughter's name is Jamillah. The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit S - not transcribed).

On 02/04/05, I called Willie Ray's residence numerous times and finally left a message for her to call me, as Sgt. Ried and I needed to return to Austin.

On our way out of Texarkana, Sgt. Ried and I met with Vallery Watson at the Bowie County courthouse to discuss the ballot boxes. She took us to the basement storage room where the boxes have been stored since election night. She showed us the Pct. 1B box, which had not been sealed properly. Using an empty ballot box, Vallery showed us step-by-step how the box was supposed to be secured, then explained how Harriet McGary had simply not latched the flap over the ballot slot before she secured the seal through the latch loop. The Pct. 1B box seal was intact, as it had been received on election night, including the paper seal, which McGary, poll watcher Randall White, and Election clerk Beebe
Lachewsky had signed and affixed to the top of the box. Vallery stated that had McGary affixed the paper seal to the flap itself and not the top of the box, there would have been no suspicion about the security of the box.

Vallery asked if I had found any discrepancies thus far in her documents or record keeping and I told her about the duplicate name on the Pct. 1A voter list. She took note that Jose Jamie Velasquez, VR #231690 was listed on the poll register twice, but only voted once. She advised that she would take care of the situation if it had not already been addressed. I also told her that the Pct. 1B totals were off by one vote, but that we had reconciled the Pct. 2C totals with the 3 missing combination forms and all the totals matched. Vallery said that it is somewhat normal for totals to be off by one or two votes, depending on how the election judge marks the paperwork.

Upon our return to Austin, OAG Analyst Landrah Polley identified Willie Ray’s granddaughter as Jamillah Earliyah Johnson, TX DL # [redacted], black female, dob 11/30/1975 (Exhibit V). The address listed on her driver’s license is 7407 W. 7th St., Texarkana, TX, which was the address Sgt. Ried and I had located. During the week of 02/07/05, Willie Ray returned my call at my office and advised me that she was not aware that the OAG was conducting an investigation of election fraud, but that she would be willing to talk to me about her involvement in the elections.

On 02/22/05, Capt. Greg Lucas and I met with both Willie Ray and Jamillah Johnson in the lobby of the Comfort Suites hotel in Texarkana. Ray declined to give a recorded interview, but was willing to “just talk.” She stated that she knows Melinda Hunter from the church they both attend. Hunter took over helping the elderly and disabled people in the Robison Terrace-area vote after another tenant of the complex, Laurie Gowans, "retired." Apparently Gowans had helped people vote for many years, but due to her age and health problems she had "trained" Hunter to assist the voters. Ray advised that she did give Hunter voter registration cards, applications for mail-in ballots, an information sheet on the election with important dates, etc., stamps for mailing mail-in ballots, and a sample ballot that was pre-filled. Ray also advised that she had copied the applications at a local printer because the county had run out of the forms, but I advised her that it did not constitute a criminal violation. She stated that she received the yellow sample ballot from someone in the Democratic Party, and it was probably already filled out at that point. She could not remember who in the party gave it to her.

Ray advised that she knew that some of the election laws had changed in 2003 but had never seen them anywhere to really know what the changes were. She said she gave Hunter advice and instructions on assisting people with their mail-in ballots, but she never explained to Hunter that some of the laws had changed. Ray took responsibility for Hunter if Hunter violated the election laws and said that she should have explained the laws better to Hunter. Ray never actually saw Hunter or Johnson pick up ballots, but when asked if she had picked any up, Ray said she "might have." At that time I stopped the interview and advised Ray of the Miranda warnings. She signed the warning form at 9:24PM (Exhibit W). At first Ray could not remember paying Hunter $50 as a "thank you" for volunteering to help the voters nor did she remember taking Hunter and other volunteers to eat at the Catfish King restaurant, but she said, "It sounds like something I would do." She later remembered that she had paid Hunter, and said, "I'm pretty sure it was my own money." Ray was very adamant that she loves to help people, and that
she does a lot of things for people who need help. If an elderly person needs someone to take them to the store to pick up their prescriptions, or if they just need someone to stay with them while they’re sick, she does.

I told Ray that Texarkana rumors were that she gets paid $15,000 per election, and uses the money to take lavish trips to Europe and Africa. Her response was quite outlandish, almost overly dramatic. She yelled, "Oh Lord!" and continued to say that she had traveled many times, but it was always paid for with her own earnings or the earnings of her husband. She denied that she had ever been paid for any involvement in the elections process, because she felt that the joy of helping people was enough payment. Ray stated, "I am not paid by the Democratic Party or any other candidate. I volunteer, but I pay a lot (i.e. gas, etc...). I think I paid out less in the 2004 election than ever before. I know that some of the workers get paid, but not by me." She stated that when a candidate or the Party pay volunteers, she makes sure that the money is distributed to the younger workers, but never keeps any for herself.

Ray mentioned that she was recently audited by the IRS, but did not disclose further details. I typed a statement on behalf of Ray, which she signed. Capt. Lucas and I signed as witnesses (Exhibit X).

I then interviewed Jamillah Johnson. She advised that she had been assisting her grandmother in elections since she was very young, possibly for 25 years. She, like Ray, volunteers and does not accept payment unless it is for the purpose of distributing it among other volunteers on behalf of a candidate. Johnson said that she did distribute money to volunteers for Jim Nickerson's campaign. For the most part, though, her involvement was passing out literature on doors. She stated that once in the 2004 elections, as she posted literature on the door of a residence, a resident of the house opened the door and asked her to put something in the mailbox at the front of the house. Johnson accepted the mail, but asked what it was. The female resident told Johnson it was her mail-in ballot, and Johnson said she immediately refused to do so. The resident told her that she would watch Johnson put the envelope in the mailbox and to be sure to raise the flag, so Johnson did so and promptly left the residence. As soon as Johnson told me that she had handled one ballot, I stopped the interview and read her the Miranda warnings. She signed the warning form at 10:18PM (Exhibit Y). She said she did not handle any other mail-in ballots during the 2004 elections.

I told Johnson that there was a family on Gatling St. that old me that she had taken their ballots to mail. She said that she knew the Stewarts and had been at their house passing out literature when they asked her to help them with their ballots. She sat in their living room while they voted their ballots in another room, and the Stewarts' niece needed assistance with the envelopes. Johnson said the niece was confused about which envelope the ballot goes in and which was the outer envelope, so Johnson told her how to properly seal them up to be mailed. She said they sealed their own ballots, and then she left the residence. Johnson said she did not mail the Stewarts' ballots, but she assumed they mailed them themselves. She said she did not assist anyone else with their mail-in ballots at any time during the 2004 elections. I typed a statement in Johnson's words, which she signed and Capt. Lucas and I signed as witnesses (Exhibit Z).

Ray and Johnson hugged Capt. Lucas and I at the conclusion of the interviews and said that they were glad the OAG was investigating this matter and hoped that we would settle it once and for all. Johnson
asked what would happen and when they should expect to hear an outcome, to which we advised that we could not give an answer because the matter was an ongoing investigation.

On 02/23/05, I spoke to Mark Hlavinka (white male, dob 03/05/1964) via the telephone regarding the Pct. 1B ballot box arriving to the courthouse late on 11/02/04. He advised that the box arrived at approximately 10PM. He did not actually help bring any of the boxes in to the courthouse, but remembered that Pct. 1B was, "awful late." He did not remember the election judge's reason for being late, but he said that Harriet McGary seemed pretty forthcoming with why the box was sealed improperly. She told him that someone had accidentally put something in the ballot box (possibly an election judge timesheet) that was not supposed to be sealed inside, so she had to open it back up to get the paperwork out. He remembered that the party chairs discussed the matter, but does not know what was said or what the outcome was.

Capt. Lucas and I met with Pat Allen (white female, dob 11/19/1969) later that morning in the lobby of the Comfort Suites in Texarkana. Allen was one of the presiding judges of the Early Voting Ballot Board for 2004. Kathy Hicks alleged that Allen had violated House Bill 54 by not allowing her to clearly observe the proceedings on Election Day. Allen stated that she remembered telling Hicks that she could observe, but that the argument ensued when Hicks wanted to look over the shoulders of the judges while they compared signatures on the applications and mail-in ballot envelopes. Allen felt that it was an intimidation because Hicks was the wife of one of the candidates and she had become belligerent because she was not allowed to look at the signatures herself. She said that the poll watchers were allowed to observe from 3-5 feet away, and that she did not feel that observers should be any closer or be allowed to check signatures. That is the election judges' job, and they take precautions to make sure that the judging and counting is done in a fair manner by assigning the judges to be paired up by party. As Pat Allen is a Republican, she was paired with Errol Owen, a Democrat.

Allen addressed the Early Voting Ballot Board's meeting on the Saturday before the election to verify that the number of envelopes matched the number reported by the Election Administrator's Office. She said that this process was also done in a bi-partisan way, and that 8 pairs of Democrats and Republicans were present. Allen stated that a legal notice of the pre-Election Day meeting was posted at the courthouse outside of Vallery Watson's office. The party chairs were notified, and they provided the list of judges to the county for the process. Allen believed that the same 8 pairs from the Saturday process were also present at the Election Day counting. Allen also stated that a poll watcher from Stéphen Frost's campaign was present on 10/31/04.

Allen addressed several things in regards to the Early Voting Ballot Board's proceedings on 11/02/04. First, she stated that the county judge has a tendency to wander around the courthouse during the counting of ballots. On 11/02/04, a woman named Lisa Shumaker read the law stating who was allowed in the proceedings to the group and made everyone who was not supposed to be there leave. This included the judge. Allen further stated that the inspector from the SOS had questioned the timing of the board's counting the ballots, but Allen pointed out to her Sect. 67.0241, and the SOS inspector agreed that they were in the right. Allen also addressed troubles with the mail-in ballots. She stated that approximately 95 ballots were thrown out, many of those because the signatures on the
applications did not match the signatures on the carrier envelopes, some were missing signatures altogether, or because the person voting by mail did not complete and return the required change of address form to verify their residence in the county. Allen remembered that Pcts. 1 and 6 seemed to have the most rejected ballots. She stated that many of those ballots seemed to come from senior citizens' homes or the Williams Homes, a low-income community. It was obvious to Allen and many of the judges that the applications were pre-filled by someone other than the voter because the signatures were obviously shaky, whereas the handwriting on the voter information section was very legible. Allen believed that some of the signatures were forged altogether, although very few had witness signatures. She remembered one ballot in particular, that of a "Mr. Houff," which was rejected because the signatures did not match. However, she recalled that Errol Owen claimed he knew Mr. Houff and that the ballot should be counted. Allen stated that it was a judgment call, they are not handwriting experts, but that she would have thrown it out. Out of 150 ballots previously questioned by other election judges, Owen allowed 30-40 of them to be counted. Allen stressed that all of those ballots totaled together would not have decided any of the elections, but she felt this fraud had definitely decided Democratic primary elections in the past. She suggested it might have affected the State Representative race in the Democratic primary in 2004.

Allen also noted that many of the ballots, which appeared to be pre-filled, also bore postmarks from the New Boston post office. It was too much of a coincidence that all of the ballots were from a particular precinct in Texarkana, yet they were all mailed on the same day from the same drop box. Allen suspected that Willie Ray and her granddaughter pre-filled the applications in question, either signed for or had the voters sign them, and then they took the ballots when the voter received them and mailed them for the voters. Allen believed that Ray and her granddaughter had "assisted the voters on every level." She had seen Ray haul voters to poll places and attempt to assist voters, but she never wanted to sign as a witness.

Allen had much to say about why Willie Ray is so involved in Bowie County elections. She believes that Ray works so hard to gather voters because she is paid to do so, although not by a candidate. Allen believed that Ray of accepted $15-20,000 in union money from either Truman Arnold or one of the candidates on his "slate" for the 2004 elections. Allen noted that those candidates are as follows: Stephen Frost, Jim Nickerson, Jeff Addison, James Prince, and Brent Langdon. Allen said that Arnold has supported both Democrats and Republicans in the past, including Governor Rick Perry, and that he uses his wealth to influence elections for his own needs. According to Allen, Willie Ray had worked for Judge Ed Miller in the past, and Miller had told other candidates that they would not win if they ran against Arnold's candidates because Ray had such an influence in the community.

On 02/23/05, Capt. Lucas and I also interviewed Kyle Davis (white male, dob 08/19/1975), the brother of Democratic candidate for State Representative Lynn Davis. Davis advised that he had been told many things about Willie Ray's involvement in the early voting process of the 2004 elections. He said that in Pct. 2, which he called "Willie Ray's precinct," approximately 50 mail-in ballots were thrown out because the signatures on the application and the carrier envelopes did not match. Paula Williams, an employee of the New Boston post office, advised him that she had seen trends in the mailing of applications from Texarkana. She had noticed that ballots were being mailed in bulk from her post office, and she
suspected that someone had picked them up from the voters and mailed them all at once. Davis believes that Ray and her granddaughter forged the signatures of elderly and/or infirm voters, and mailed the ballots themselves.

Davis stated that there are two "factions" in the Democratic Party in Bowie County. The factions are head by Judge Miller and Truman Arnold. Miller once told Davis that Willie Ray "works for the highest bidder." Apparently Willie Ray approached Miller and offered to support him for $5000. When Miller refused, she reportedly began campaigning for one of Arnold's selected candidates instead. Davis advised that Ray never approached him or his brother with an offer to campaign for Lynn Davis. Davis believes the Democratic Party pays Willie Ray. He stated, "No one works that hard for free." Davis said that if the party paid Ray, Brent Langdon would have had to write the check. He suggested that we speak to Vernel Hunter, Ed Miller, Lovie Herron, and Nancy Talley, as they all dealt with Ray in some political fashion over the last few years.

Davis' final words about Ray were that she is not quite the public servant that people think she is. Ray has been known to get extremely angry at people at poll places, in fact Davis had seen her cuss at several people at one poll place. He said that his brother was speaking at a predominantly black church during his campaign one night, and Ray and her granddaughter were seen putting sample ballots marked with Stephen Frost's name on the church members' cars. Davis said that both Republicans and Democrats are tired of the dirty politics and want to see the Bowie County elections cleaned up.

OAG Analyst Landrah Polley searched CBRS for information on the following people associated with the investigation: Willie Ray, Vernel Hunter, Jamillah Johnson, Truman Arnold, Ed Miller, Brent Langdon, Dr. Frederick Joyce and Frederick Joyce, III. No travel information, CTR's or SAR's were found on any of the subjects, although Dr. Joyce's wife appears to hold several foreign bank accounts in Canada.

On 03/03/05, I spoke with Robbie Miller of the Texas Ethics Commission. She stated that the Bowie County Democratic Party had not filed a disclosure report of contributions and expenditures since 1996. She transferred me to Ethics Commission Attorney Christopher Burnett, who advised that the party might not be required to file a report if their contributions and/or expenditures did not exceed $5000. He also stated that a third party who is not the candidate but pays campaign expenditures is required to file a "notice" of such expenditures if they exceed $100. This is considered a Direct Expenditure under Sect. 253.061 and 253.062, and the third party must report the expenditure as if he/she were the campaign treasurer. However, if the third party notifies the candidate of such expenditure, the responsibility lies on the candidate to report such on his/her campaign finance report under #13, which is titled "Direct Campaign Expenditure by Other Individuals." I reviewed the campaign finance reports for Stephen Frost, Jack Stone, Jeff Addison, and James Prince, and none of the reports claimed such expenditures.

On 03/14/05, I received a phone message from Vernel Hunter regarding a question she had about the investigation. I returned Hunter's call and left a message at her residence on same date. I then received a phone call from Dan Powell who claimed to be a friend of Vernel Hunter. He stated that he knew that an FBI agent and I had met with Vernel and he wanted to know the status on the investigation on Willie
Ray. Captain Greg Lucas was present during the phone call, and he advised Powell that the OAG would only confirm that we are the only agency investigating voter fraud in Bowie County at this time. Powell stated that he wanted to know about Ray because she had filed for candidacy for her current city council position, and that a lot of people are saying that she should not be allowed to run if she is under investigation. Neither Capt. Lucas nor I would comment other than to tell him that it was an ongoing investigation. On 03/17/05, I spoke to Vernel Hunter. She advised that she had received a call from the Texarkana Gazette and was not sure if she should talk to the press or not. I advised her that I could not advise her not to talk to the Gazette, but that the OAG would prefer that she not due to the fact that she is a witness in an ongoing investigation. I then advised her that the OAG planned to call her as a witness before the Bowie County grand jury on 03/24/05, and she said that she would be available and await the subpoena for her appearance.

On 03/17/05, I notified Vallery Watson that I intended to obtain a court order to search the ballot boxes for Pcts. 1B and 2C. She advised that the Registers of Official Ballots, Ballot and Seal Certificates, and Lists of Provisional Voters should be sealed inside the ballot boxes, but that she would try to locate copies of those documents on the chance that they are not inside the boxes. She also advised that the "rumor mill" had a lot of people in Texarkana calling her with questions about the investigation, including the Texarkana Gazette, but she had declined to give any information to anyone.

On 03/22/05, Bowie County District Attorney Bobby Lockhart issued a subpoena to Vernel Hunter to appear before the Bowie County Grand Jury on 03/24/05. Bowie County DA Investigator Gary Owen served the subpoena (Exhibit AA). On 03/23/05, AAG's Adrienne McFarland and Harry White met with 102nd District Judge John Miller to obtain a court order to impound all ballot boxes from the Bowie County 2004 general election. The signed order was filed with the District Clerk at 3:55PM on same date.

On 03/24/05, I testified before the Bowie County Grand Jury as to the allegations of this case and why the OAG felt it necessary to recount the Pct. 1B and 2C ballots and hear testimony from Vernel Hunter. AAG's Adrienne McFarland and Harry White then questioned Hunter before the Grand Jury.

McFarland, White, Sgt. Soliz and I then opened the Pct. 1B and 2C ballot boxes. Each wearing gloves, we sorted the ballots in each box numerically by their serial numbers then noted which serial numbers were missing. We reconciled the missing numbers with the serial numbers of the provisional, spoiled, and unused ballots for those precincts and found that two ballots in each precinct were unaccounted for: 46878 and 01493 in Pct. 1B, and 47243 and 47246 in Pct. 2C. After consulting with Vallery Watson about the missing ballots, McFarland, White, Soliz, and I agreed that there were any number of possible explanations, but we agreed that there was no overwhelming evidence pointing to fraud. The ballots were then placed back inside the ballot boxes, which were resealed with paper seals. McFarland, White, Soliz, and I all signed the seals, and then the boxes were returned to Vallery Watson.

Sgt. Soliz and I then went to the residence of Elvirie and John Stewart, who had previously stated that Willie Ray's granddaughter had retrieved their mail-in-ballots during the general election. Orsuliec Larry (black female, dob 09/29/1953), granddaughter of Elvirie and niece of John Stewart, met us at the door.
Title: Sgt. Bloodworth's investigation

(Exhibit AB). We explained to her that we needed the Stewarts to identify the woman they know as Willie Ray's granddaughter from a line-up, and Larry said that the Stewarts were not in good health. She advised that although she did not vote in the 2004 elections, she remembered that both Jamillah Johnson and Willie Ray had in some way assisted her grandmother and uncle to vote by mail. She stated that Johnson had brought the applications to the Stewarts to get their signatures, and she assumed Johnson mailed them because the Stewarts received their mail-in ballots a short time later. She also remembered that Ray came to the door a short time later after the ballots had arrived, asking about their mail-in ballots, so Larry let her in to visit with the Stewarts. Larry distinctly remembered that the green ballot envelopes sat on a table in her grandmother's room on the day that Ray came by their house. She did not follow Ray into Stewart's room, but she did notice later that day after Ray had left, the green envelopes were gone. She did not actually see Ray with the ballots, but reasonably deducted that Ray had taken them with her that day, as she had done for many years prior. Larry went to her grandmother's room while Sgt. Soliz and I waited, and Larry asked her if she remembered that Willie Ray had picked up the ballots, not Jamillah. Larry said her grandmother said, "Yeah, that's right. Now I remember that Ms. Ray did pick them up." I recorded an oral statement from Larry (Exhibit AC), and she identified Johnson from the color photo line-up we had (Exhibit AD).

Larry's mother, Margaret Jenkins (black female, unknown dob), was also present at the Stewart's home on 03/29/05. Jenkins is an election judge in Georgia and advised that she is appalled at the way elections are handled in Texarkana. She advised that Georgia does not allow people to go door-to-door to collect ballots, as they appear to do in Texarkana. She stated that Willie Ray had picked up her mother's ballots for years, and that Ray seems to have a heavy influence over the elderly in the community. She believes the cause of the influence is a lack of education on the part of the voter; they simply do not pay attention to politics to choose a candidate themselves, and "they follow Ray like sheep." Jenkins said that while in town visiting her mother one year she discovered that someone had put a political campaign sign in her mother's front yard. Jenkins asked her mother about the sign, and Stewart advised that Ray had put it there. Jenkins asked her mother who the candidate was, what his/her political views were, etc... and her mother could not answer because she had no knowledge of the candidate other than that was who Willie Ray wanted her to vote for. Jenkins refused to give a statement, but I gave her my business card in the event that she changed her mind.

Sgt. Soliz and I then met with Edna Roach (black female, dob 11/17/1938) at her residence at 1408 N Robison Rd (Exhibit AE). She advised that her husband, Elisha Roach, who had previously spoken to Kathy Hicks about Willie Ray picking up his mail-in ballot, was now deceased. Roach advised that she, too, had voted by mail, and that Willie Ray had taken her ballot and mailed it as well. She said that Ray helped her sign up for a mail-in ballot for the 2004 general election, then returned to help her mail it. Roach marked her ballot, signed the envelope and gave it to Ray, although she was not clear about whether the ballot was filled out in front of Ray or not. She did not see Ray sign the envelope, but assumed that Ray put a stamp on it and mailed it because she took it with her. Roach made it clear that she has had a friendship with Ray for a long time, as they both attend the same church, and that she did not want to incriminate Ray in any way. She declined to make a statement, but I gave her my business card and asked her to call me if she changed her mind.
Title: Sgt. Bloodworth’s investigation

On 04/13/05, Sgt. Jesse Soliz and I returned to Bowie County to review the carrier envelopes for the general election mail-in-ballots and interview additional witnesses. We met with Vallery Watson at the courthouse, who provided us with the carrier envelopes and original applications, which were paired with the appropriate envelopes by the early voting ballot board. The documents had been stored in a secure closet inside her office since the night of the general election. Wearing latex gloves, Sgt. Soliz and I sorted through the envelopes and applications for the 1B, 2A, and 2C precincts. We discovered that most of the envelopes had one of three postmarks: East Texas P&DC 75708, Texarkana, AR-TX 755, and New Boston. We noted that several of the envelopes bearing the East Texas postmark were dated 10/23/2004, and were affixed with the "Test Early for Sickle Cell" postage stamp, bearing a black female and her child. Most of the other envelopes were affixed with an American flag stamp, although a few others bore floral, Disney, or other stamps. I also noted that all of the applications linked to these particular envelopes were printed in the same handwriting. Among these envelopes was that of Edna & Elisha Roach. Based on Ms. Roach's previous statement that Willie Ray had collected her ballot and during the 2004 general election, I collected all of the envelopes that matched the postage, postmark, and date of the Roach's envelopes; there were 6 in all. We also found one application for mail-in ballot that also matched the Roach's envelopes, belonging to Warren Ganter of 1104 Capp St., Texarkana, although the carrier envelope was dated 10/30/04 from New Boston. We were not able to locate the carrier envelopes for Elvirie & John Stewart. I then made copies of these 7 carrier envelopes and their coordinating applications (Exhibit AF), and gave the original documents back to Watson to store in her office.

Sgt. Soliz and I then began to interview the voters listed on the copied carrier envelopes and applications. We first met with Dorothy Ganter, the wife of Warren Ganter, as Mr. Ganter was too ill to meet with us. Mrs. Ganter advised that she had voted in person during the general election, but that she did remember a woman coming by her house to help Mr. Ganter vote. Mrs. Ganter identified Willie Ray from a photo line-up I provided to her (Exhibit AG), although she could not say that she had seen Ray with Ganter's ballot.

We then interviewed Mae Rodgers (black female, unknown dob) of 3535 S. Lake Dr. #3701, Texarkana. She advised she had been ill around the time of the election and could not clearly remember voting. She was, however, able to verify her signature on both the copied application and carrier envelope for her ballot. She said she did remember that a woman came to her house, possibly campaigning. Ms. Rodgers identified Willie Ray from the photo line-up as that woman (Exhibit AG). The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit AH).

On 04/14/05, Sgt. Soliz and I met with Katie Powell (white female, dob 10/01/1946), the Customer Services Supervisor at the US Post Office at 2211 N. Robison Rd., Texarkana. Powell examined the postmarks on the carrier envelopes in question and advised that the postmarks from East Texas P & DC were scanned at the Tyler, TX post office. She stated that mail collected in any Texarkana post office or mailbox after hours on Fridays or on Saturdays are automatically sent to Tyler to be scanned. She further advised that any mail postmarked with Texarkana, TX 755 or 718 goes through her post office. The Texarkana AR-TX 755 postmark would have been dropped at the post office downtown, at the state tie. Powell also told us that the sickle cell stamp was popular in the community, not necessarily
Later that morning, Sgt. Soliz and I interviewed Mary Blackwell (black female, dob 09/23/1928) at 3312 Jones St., Texarkana (Exhibit AI). Ms. Blackwell verified her signature on her application and carrier envelope. Blackwell had some difficulty remembering, but she finally stated that Willie Ray had come to her house to help her with her mail-in ballot. She identified Ray from the photo line-up (Exhibit AG) and stated that Ms. Ray had stated that she would "turn her head while [Blackwell] signed [her] ballot and sealed it up." Blackwell stated that Ray then took her ballot to mail it. I showed Blackwell the sickle cell stamp, and she said she had never seen it before. Blackwell declined to give an oral or written statement.

We then met with Opal Ball Walker (black female, dob 08/20/1925) at 800 Butler St (Exhibit AJ). She, like Rodgers, was very sick around the time of the general election, and had difficulty remembering the events. I showed Walker her application and carrier envelope, and she was able to verify her signature. She then remembered that someone had come to her house to pick up her ballot. Walker identified Willie Ray from the photo line-up (Exhibit AG) as the woman who took her ballot. The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit AH).

We also met with Bernice N. Jones (black female, dob 06/07/1932) at 815 Butler St. Jones advised that Willie Ray brought her an application, but that she mailed her ballot herself. She verified her signature on the application and carrier envelope, but stated she had never seen the sickle cell stamp before. She said she usually buys the American flag stamps. The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit AH).

Sgt. Soliz and I then contacted Katie Powell at the US Post Office and requested change of address information for Louise French and Willie Murphy, the couple who had previously stated that Willie Ray's granddaughter had picked up their mail-in ballots. Powell requested an official letterhead request, which Capt. Greg Lucas provided to her via facsimile (Exhibit AK). Powell provided 4615 Summerhill Rd. #205, Texarkana as Murphy's new address. We located the new address and met with Mr. Murphy. Murphy advised that he had seen Willie Ray on a news clip recently, but that she was not the one who had picked up his ballot. I showed Murphy a photo line-up containing a photo of Jamillah Johnson, and he pointed her out (Exhibit AD). He said the woman that had picked up his ballot "looked a lot like her." The interview was digitally recorded (Exhibit AH). Shortly after Murphy identified Johnson, Ms. French arrived at the residence. She looked over the line-up (Exhibit AG) and positively identified Johnson. She stated that her hair was different, but that [Johnson] was definitely the one who had picked up her mail-in ballot. The interview with French was recorded (Exhibit AH).

On 05/13/05, I spoke to Donna from the Bowie County Voter Administrator's Office and requested copies of Mattie Pilot's general election application and carrier envelope to show that the signatures did not match, thus causing her ballot to be rejected. I also requested Phillip Houff's general election carrier envelope to compare the signature to his application which Early Voting Ballot Board Judge Pat Allen had noted did not match, but his ballot was not rejected. I received the request documents via facsimile on same date (Exhibit AL).
Sgt. Bloodworth's investigation

On 06/17/05, I emailed a request for copies of the carrier envelopes from the General election for the following voters to the Bowie County Voter Administrator's Office: Briscoe, Grant, Hart, Marshall, Robinson, Scott, Simon, French, Murphy, E. Stewart, and J. Stewart. I then spoke to Donna from that office and she agreed to fax the copied documents to me. I received the requested documents on 06/20/05 (Exhibit AM).

CONCLUSIONS OF ALLEGATIONS:

I. Willie Ray did, in fact reproduce applications for mail-in-ballots, however, this does not constitute a criminal violation according to the TX Election Code due to the fact that applications do not have to be submitted on an official form provided by the county.

II. Melinda Hunter did, in fact pre-fill applications for mail-in-ballots, however, this does not constitute a criminal violation according to the TX Election Code. It is presumed that Willie Ray also pre-filled applications.

III. Melinda Hunter did, in fact violate Sect. 84.003 and 84.004 by providing assistance to more than one voter with their applications for mail-in ballots, and not signing as a witness on any of those applications. Hunter assisted the following voters with their applications and did not sign as a witness: Phillip Houff and Mattie Pilot. Based on a statement by Houff, Hunter possibly violated TPC 37.10, Tampering with Governmental Record by forging Houff's signature on his application. It is presumed that Hunter also forged Pilot's signature on her application, which had an impact on the outcome of the election because her ballot was ultimately rejected by the Early Voting Ballot Board based on the inconsistencies of the signatures of her application and carrier envelope.

IV. Willie Ray, Jamillah Johnson, and Melinda Hunter did, in fact violate Sect. 86.0051 and 86.006 by handling one or more 2004 primary and/or general election ballots other than their own or that of a family member's without signing as witnesses. It appears that Ray handled at least 6 ballots, Johnson handled at least 2, and Hunter handled at least 9. Hunter also admitted to violating Sect. 86.010 by marking approximately 5 ballots for voters who requested her to do so, but did not provide the information required of an assistant on the carrier envelopes of such ballots. Mary Ann Marshall of 712 Robison Terrace has been identified as one voter for whom Hunter marked a ballot, and it is suspected that Mattie Pilot of 207 Robison Terrace is another such voter.

V. The Early Voting Ballot Board did meet prior to Election Day to sort through the mail-in ballots, but they did not count the votes, thus they did not violate Sect. 87.0241, nor is this section a criminal offense.

VI. Pct. 1A Election Judge Aline Kirk was aware that some voters displayed various campaign materials inside the poll place on Election Day, but she promptly made them remove or discard the materials. Kirk also advised that several people assisted voters on Election Day, and that anyone who's ballot had been spoiled for any reason received a second ballot to vote. Due to the fact that neither Poll watcher...
Jody Treadway nor Kirk could identify which voter was potentially denied the right to vote and there have been no other complaints of the same allegation, I can only determine the allegation to be unfounded. The lack of an early voter list at the poll site proved inconsequential, as no single voter in Pct. 1A voted twice. Poll watch Jody Treadway alleged that Kirk purposely tried to prevent him from following her ballot box to the courthouse, but interviews with Kirk lead me to believe that Treadway was either mistaken or had exaggerated Kirk's actions. As for the allegation that the police were called on Treadway for observing the polling place, the situation proved to be nothing more than a minor verbal disturbance that did not involve Treadway in any way. No criminal offense was committed in this precinct.

VII. Pct. 1B - The allegation that Election Judge Harriet McGary allowed loitering within 100' of the poll place and campaign badges inside the poll place was dispelled by McGary's statement that she ran off several people from the poll place or asked them to remove the badges upon her becoming aware of them. McGary also explained how she improperly secured the ballot box, but due to inconsistencies in witness statements on the time the box was received and no further indicators that the box or ballots were tampered with between the time McGary closed the box and arrived at the courthouse, this allegation is dismissed. McGary did, however, allow voters to vote provisional ballots if they were unable to show identification, but if the voter did not return to provide that identification, McGary did not allow the voter to deposit the provisional ballot in the ballot box. Although Sect. 64.008 addresses the depositing of provisional ballots in a ballot box, McGary's actions do not satisfy a criminal violation in the Election Code.

VIII. Pct. 1E - Kathy Hicks alleged that Early Voting Ballot Board Election Judge Pat Allen violated Sect. 33.060 by not allowing Hicks to observe the signature verification of the applications and carrier envelopes, however, Allen advised that Hicks was on the verge of becoming belligerent and interfering with the proceedings. Witnesses confirmed that Hicks and the other poll watchers present were not allowed to sit near enough to actually inspect signatures or other election records, as provided in Sect. 33.056, but Sect. 33.060 is vague in that it does not specify whether it is an offense to obstruct a poll watcher from doing anything other than "observing," and it does not give a definition of a "convenient" distance. Although Hicks would have preferred to observe from a closer view, she was, in fact allowed to observe the proceedings from an approximate 15' distance.

IX. Pct. 2C - Poll Watcher Steve Hicks' allegations that Election Judge Marie Williams possibly tampered with or "stuffed" the ballot box en route to the courthouse from the poll place were not supported by this investigation. Williams' documentation of the election proceedings were consistent with the results found by the counting board on Election Day and by OAG investigators, and Hicks' statement that multiple people got in and out of Williams' car on multiple stops that night appears to be nothing more than an elderly woman needing someone to drive her at night.

X. Due to lack of viable witnesses or evidence, the allegations against Truman Arnold for paying Willie Ray a $15,000 direct expenditure to campaign for specific candidates are unproven. Although this investigation does not dismiss that Ray did receive a payment for her political involvement, the payment could be considered an ethical violation, not a criminal offense. This possible offense will be referred to the Texas Ethics Commission for further investigation.
Title: Sgt. Bloodworth's investigation

** All witness information, documents, or recorded interviews which are not otherwise documented as exhibits are in possession of Sgt. Bloodworth and are not being introduced as evidence at this time. **
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Address:
- **3510 SKYLINE BL**
- **3312 JONES ST**
- **3207 WILLIAMSBURG**
- **808 ROBISON TERRACE**
- **PO BOX 5969**
- **7105 SHADOW BRK**
- **2004 LANDON LN**

City, State, Zip Code:
- **TEXARKANA TX 75503**
- **TEXARKANA TX 75503**
- **TEXARKANA TX 75503**
- **TEXARKANA TX 75501**
- **TEXARKANA TX 75501**
- **TEXARKANA TX 75501**
- **TEXARKANA TX 75501**

DOB:
- 01/04/1936
- 09/23/1928
- 08/19/1975
- 03/06/1928
- 09/03/1941
- 03/19/1962
- 03/05/1964

City, State, Zip Code:
- **TEXARKANA TX 75503**
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Local ID #:
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Home Phone:
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- (903) 277-1645
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Officer ID: Jennifer Bloodworth, Sgt. JKB5

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Officer ID: Jennifer Bloodworth, Sgt. JKB5
Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at the request of Captain Gregory Lucas, Sergeant Soliz traveled with Sergeant Jennifer Bloodworth to New Boston, Bowie County, Texas reference OAG case number 04-000530 Voter Fraud. Sergeant Bloodworth is the lead investigator in the aforementioned case.

Sergeant Bloodworth began by stopping at the Bowie County Court House to pick up voter documentation needed for the case.

Sergeant Bloodworth then proceeded to Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas several miles away.

Upon arrival to 9000 South Lake Drive, Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas, Sergeant Bloodworth was met by the complainant:

Mr. Edsel Ray "Rusty" Hicks Jr. (May 20, 1958)
1204 FM 2148 South
Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas 75501
Tx.DL [Redacted]
Home: (903) 832-8725
Preferred contact (903) 748-2569

and witness: Bryan Sundberg (09/19/1964)
320 Lakeview
Jefferson, Texas 75657
Tx.DL [Redacted]
Office: (903) 237-1741
Home: (903) 665-9519

whom were already at the location.

Sergeant Soliz assisted in setting up the interview area which occurred in open hall type building. A table approximately 8' long was set up near an electrical outlet in the corner of the building with chairs on each side. Sergeant Bloodworth sat across from the interviewee's with note pad, pen and laptop computer accessible. Sergeant Soliz sat at the end to observe both interviewer and interviewee.

Sergeant Soliz then observed as Sergeant Bloodworth conducted her investigation (see Sergeant Bloodworth's report for details).

During the investigation we were joined by the complainant's spouse:

Katheryn Renae Wright Hicks (April 13, 1964)
1204 FM 2148 South
Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas 75501
Tx.DL [Redacted]
Home: (903) 832-8725
Mrs. Hicks assisted "Rusty" with the chronological order of events.

Upon completion of Mr. "Rusty" Hicks interview, Sergeant Bloodworth requested that he contact his son to meet with us to provide a statement.

Mr. James Steven Hicks (October 12, 1979)
Route 17 Box 226
Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas 75501
Tx.DL
Home: (903) 832-8725
Preferred contact (903) 748-2569

Ms. Steven Hicks arrived to 9000 South Lake Drive Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas, entered the building and sat across the table from Sergeant Bloodworth, with Mrs. Katheryn Renae Wright Hicks, his mother, seated to his left. Sergeant Soliz noted that after every direct question asked of Steven he looked to his mother as if seeking approval. As in "Rusty" Hicks interview, Mrs. Hicks again would assist Steven with responses to direct question.

Thursday, January 20, 2005, approximately 7:30 AM, Sergeants Bloodworth and Soliz traveled to the Denny's to meet with Mr. Buddy Hawkins. Sergeant Soliz observed as Sergeant Bloodworth interviewed. (See Sergeant Bloodworth's report for details).

Thursday, January 20, 2005, Sergeant's Bloodworth and Soliz traveled to the Texarkana Police Department to inform Chief of our presence as a professional courtesy. Sergeant Bloodworth and Soliz were able to obtain a copy of the Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) printout initiated by Mr. Edsal Ray "Rusty" Hicks Jr. (See Sergeant Bloodworth's report for details).

Thursday, January 20, 2005, Sergeant Bloodworth and Soliz traveled to Robison Terrace complex to conduct witness interview pertaining to individuals who voted absentee by mail.

Sergeant Bloodworth provided Sergeant Soliz with copies of Absentee Voter Applications registration cards for each of the following individuals:
Ms. Lilly Briscoe
509 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501

Mary Ann Marshall
712 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501
Sergeant Bloodworth instructed Sergeant Soliz to interview each of the aforementioned individuals in attempt to find out what assistance, if any, they received in filling out the applications and voters ballots.

The following is the result of those interviews:

Ms. Lilly Briscoe (April 13, 1936)
509 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501
09:45 AM, Sergeant Soliz met with Ms. Briscoe in the visitor’s area of the Robinson Terrace complex. Sergeant Soliz asked Ms. Briscoe if she had voted absentee in the last election and Ms. Briscoe confirmed she had.

Sergeant Soliz presented a copy of the application for absentee ballot and asked if anyone had assisted her in filling it out. Ms. Briscoe identified Ms. Melinda Hunter B/F (05/23/1971) as being the person who brought the application to her.

Ms. Briscoe stated Melinda had already filled out the "Voter Registration Information" area before presenting it and requesting that she (Ms. Briscoe) sign her name.

Upon receiving her ballot to vote Melinda once again made herself available to assist Ms. Briscoe.

Ms. Briscoe stated she sealed the ballot in the envelope and again turned it over to Melinda. Ms. Briscoe stated she was not influenced in her vote.

Mary Ann Marshall (August 22, 1932)
712 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501
(903) 838-9038

10:50 AM, Sergeant Soliz met with Ms. Marshall in the visitor’s area of the Robinson Terrace complex. Sergeant Soliz asked Ms. Marshall if she had voted absentee in the last election and Ms. Marshall confirmed she had.

Sergeant Soliz presented a copy of the application for absentee ballot and asked if anyone had assisted her in filling it out. Ms. Marshall identified Ms. Melinda Hunter B/F (05/23/1971) as being the person who brought the application to her.

Ms. Marshall stated Melinda had already filled out the "Voter Registration Information" area before presenting it and requesting that she (Ms. Marshall) sign her name. Ms. Marshall confirmed she signed the document.

Upon receiving her ballot to vote Ms. Marshall stated she asked Melinda to assist her in filling the ballot out. Ms. Marshall stated she met with Melinda in the lobby area of Robison Terrace. Ms. Marshall stated she told Melinda who she wanted to vote for and Melinda filled out the card.

Ms. Marshall stated she sealed the ballot in the envelope and again turned it over to Melinda.
11:20 AM, Sergeant Soliz met with Ms. Scott in the visitor's area of the Robinson Terrace complex. Sergeant Soliz asked Ms. Scott if she had voted absentee in the last election and Ms. Scott confirmed she had.

Sergeant Soliz presented a copy of the application for absentee ballot and asked if anyone had assisted her in filling it out. Ms. Scott identified Ms. Melinda Hunter B/F (05/23/1971) as being the person who brought her the application.

Ms. Scott stated Melinda had already filled out the "Voter Registration Information" area before presenting it and requesting that she (Ms. Scott) sign her name. Ms. Scott confirmed she signed the document.

Upon receiving her ballot to vote Ms. Scott stated she asked Melinda to assist her in filling the ballot out. Ms. Scott stated she filled the ballot out in her room then walked it down to Melinda who mailed it for her.

Opal Hart (October 11, 1934)
402 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501
(903) 838-9485

11:40 AM, While interviewing others Ms. Hart commented that she had been approached by Melinda to fill out an application for absentee ballot. Sergeant Soliz requested Ms. Hart visit with him in the visitor's area of the Robinson Terrace complex. Ms. Hart agreed to do so.

Sergeant Soliz did not have a copy of the application for absentee ballot for Ms. Hart but showed her a copy of Ms. Marshall's and asked if it was what Melinda had approached her with. Ms. Hart recognized the application and identified Ms. Melinda Hunter B/F (05/23/1971) as being the person who assisted her in filling it out.

Ms. Hart believed that Melinda had already filled out the "Voter Registration Information" area before presenting it and requesting that she (Ms. Hart) sign her name. As per Ms. Hart, Melinda stated she was going to place a stamp on it and mail it for her.

Ms. Hart stated she remembered Melinda helping her fill out her ballot to vote then mailing it for her.

Vernice Simon (August 23, 1929)
Tx. DL. 03546751
33 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501
Title: Sergeant Soliz Chronological reports

(903) 832-5102

12:05 PM, Sergeant Soliz met with Ms. Simon in the visitor's area of the Robinson Terrace complex. Sergeant Soliz asked Ms. Simon if she had voted absentee in the last election and Ms. Scott confirmed she had.

Sergeant Soliz asked if anyone had assisted her in filling out the application for absentee ballot. Ms. Simon identified Ms. Melinda Hunter B/F (05/23/1971) as being the person who brought the application to her. Ms. Simon stated Melinda told her she would place a stamp on it and mail it for her.

Upon receiving her ballot to vote Ms. Simon stated she completed it and Melinda picked it up to mail with all the other in the building. Ms. Simon stated Melinda stamped the ballot.

Phillip Lamar Houff (November 8, 1953)
412 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501
(903) 277-1679

Upon knocking on the door of 412 Robison Terrace, Sergeant Soliz was greeted by Reshanna Houff, daughter of Phillip Lamar Houff.

Ms. Houff stated her father was out for the afternoon but would return later. Sergeant Soliz advised Ms. Houff as to the nature of his investigation and requested a telephone number where Mr. Houff could be reached at a later time.

Ms Houff provided the aforementioned telephone number and consented to an interview by phone.

William Wilson (May 16, 1927)
609 Robison Terrace
Texarkana, Texas 75501
(903) 223-5227

1PM, Sergeant Soliz met with Mr. Wilson who stated he received the application for absentee ballot from a black woman he believes to be Melinda Hunter. Mr. Wilson stated Melinda filled out the application and agreed to stamp and mail it for him.

Mr. Wilson stated he received the absentee ballot but never filled it out or mailed it in.

Thursday, January 20, 2004, Sergeant Bloodworth and Soliz traveled to the Sunset Apartments located in the 1600 block of Allen Lane to interview:
Mattie Trailer
1601 Allen Lane #145
NO ONE HOME

Willie Junior Murphy (June 4, 1951)
1601 Allen Lane #146
Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas 75501
Tx.ID
(See Sergeant Bloodworth's report for investigative details)
and

Louise French (July 26, 1946)
1601 Allen Lane #146
Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas 75501
SS#
(See Sergeant Bloodworth's report for investigative details)

Thursday, January 20, 2004, Sergeant Bloodworth and Soliz traveled to the residence of:
Vernel Hunter
3102 Hamilton
Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas 75501
(903) 793-8863
(See Sergeant Bloodworth's report for investigative details)
V.P Texas Democratic Women
Member AFLCIO, NAACP

Thursday, January 20, 2004, Sergeant Bloodworth and Soliz traveled to the residence of:

John Mathew Stewart Jr. (May 4, 1927)
1604 Gattlin
Texarkana, Texas 75501

and

Mrs. Elvirie Stewart (mother)
Same address
(See Sergeant Bloodworth's report for details).

January 24, 2005, Sergeant Soliz called (903) 277-1679 and spoke with Reshanna who stated she was with her father who was currently in the hospital. Ms. Houff stated she would relay any questions and answers. Sergeant Soliz asked if Mr. Houff voted absentee in the last election. Mr. Houff replied, "yes". Sergeant Soliz asked if anyone helped him to fill out the application for absentee ballot. Mr. Houff replied, "yes". Sergeant Soliz asked if it was Melinda Hunter who helped him and he replied, "yes".
Sergeant Soliz could hear as Mr. Houff told his daughter that he didn't know who to vote for and that she, Melinda, told him which ones to mark. Sergeant Soliz asked Ms. Houff if he had heard correctly in that Melinda had told him which ones to vote for. Reshanna asked her father if Melinda had told him who to vote for and again he stated, she told me which ones to mark. Sergeant Soliz advised Ms. Houff that an investigator from the Attorney General's Office would follow up with a visit and request that he give a written or verbal statement confirming what he said. Ms. Houff requested the investigator notify her prior to his arrival. The conversation was terminated and the information was relayed to Sergeant Bloodworth.

Nothing follows.
SUSPECTS & VIOLATIONS
Suspect/ Violations

Bowie County Election Fraud
04-2059188

Hunter, Melinda – bf, 34 yoa, TDL [redacted], 905 Robison Terrace, Texarkana, TX

Election Code Sect. 84.003 - SIGNING APPLICATION BY WITNESS; ASSISTING APPLICANT, Class A Misdemeanor
- Houff, Phillip
- Pilot, Mattie

Election Code Sect. 84.004 - UNLAWFULLY WITNESSING APPLICATION FOR MORE THAN ONE APPLICANT, Class B Misdemeanor
- Houff, Phillip
- Pilot, Mattie

Election Code Sect. 86.0051 - CARRIER ENVELOPE ACTION BY PERSON OTHER THAN VOTER, Class B Misdemeanor
- Briscoe, Lillie
- Grant, Eugene
- Hart, Opal
- Houff, Phillip
- Marshall, Mary
- Pilot, Mattie
- Robinson, Rueben
- Scott, Melba
- Simon, Vernice

Election Code Sect. 86.006 – METHOD OF RETURNING MARKED BALLOT, Class B Misdemeanor
- Briscoe, Lillie
- Grant, Eugene
- Hart, Opal
- Houff, Phillip
- Marshall, Mary
- Pilot, Mattie
- Robinson, Rueben
- Scott, Melba
- Simon, Vernice
Election Code Sect. 86.010 - ASSISTING VOTER, Class B Misdemeanor
- Hart, Opal
- Marshall, Mary
- Pilot, Mattie

Johnson, Jamillah – bf, 29 yoa, 7407 W. 7th St., Texarkana

Election Code Sect. 86.0051 - CARRIER ENVELOPE ACTION BY PERSON OTHER THAN VOTER, Class B Misdemeanor
- French, Louise
- Murphy, Willie

Election Code Sect. 86.006 - METHOD OF RETURNING MARKED BALLOT, Class B Misdemeanor
- French, Louise
- Murphy, Willie

Ray, Willie Jewel – bf, 67 yoa, 1617 Gatling St., Texarkana

Election Code Sect. 86.0051 - CARRIER ENVELOPE ACTION BY PERSON OTHER THAN VOTER, Class B Misdemeanor
- Blackwell, Mary
- Stewart, Elvirie
- Stewart, John
- Roach, Edna
- Roach, Elisha (deceased, Edna Roach can testify about his ballot)
- Walker, Opal

Election Code Sect. 86.006 - METHOD OF RETURNING MARKED BALLOT, Class B Misdemeanor
- Blackwell, Mary
- Stewart, Elvirie
- Stewart, John
- Roach, Edna
- Roach, Elisha (deceased, Edna Roach can testify about his ballot)
- Walker, Opal
WITNESSES
Witnesses relevant to charges

Bowie County Election Fraud
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Allen, Pat – wf, 69 yoa, TDL __________; 3510 Skyline Blvd, Texarkana
Early Voting Ballot Board Judge; testify that she compared signatures of the carrier
envelopes to the applications and that she did not believe that Phillip Houff’s signatures
matched, were possibly forged.

Blackwell, Mary – bf, 76 yoa, TDL __________; 3312 Jones St, Texarkana
Elderly voter; testify that Willie Ray was present while she voted her ballot, but that Ray
had turned her head while Blackwell signed and sealed it up. Then Ray took her ballot to
mail.

Briscoe, Lillie – bf, 68 yoa, TDL __________; 509 Robison Terrace, Texarkana
Resident of Robison Terrace; testify that Melinda Hunter picked up her ballot in the 2004
election.

French, Louise – bf, 58 yoa, TDL __________; 4615 Summerhill #205, Texarkana
Testify that Jamillah Johnson brought her an application to obtain a mail-in ballot for the
2004 General election, then picked up her voted ballot and mailed it for her.

Grant, Eugene – bm, 54 yoa, TDL __________; 313 Robison Terrace, Texarkana
Resident of Robison Terrace; testify that Melinda Hunter picked up his ballot in the 2004
General election.

Hart, Opal – bf, 70 yoa, TDL __________; 402 Robison Terrace, Texarkana
Resident of Robison Terrace; testify that Melinda Hunter marked her ballot for her in the
2004 election, and mailed it for her.

Hicks, Rusty – wm, 47 yoa, TDL __________; 1204 S. FM 2148, Texarkana
Complainant; testify to hearsay knowledge of Willie Ray’s involvement in elections

Hicks, Kathy – wf, 41 yoa, TDL __________; 1105 N FM 2148, Texarkana
Complainant’s wife; testify to hearsay knowledge of Willie Ray’s involvement in
elections

Houff, Phillip – bm, 51 yoa, TDL __________; 412 Robison Terrace, Texarkana
Resident of Robison Terrace; testify that Melinda Hunter picked up his ballot in the 2004
General Election, and that the signature on the instruction side of the application for mail-
in ballot is not his own.
Simon, Vernice – bf, 75 yoa, TDL 413 Robison Terrace
Resident of Robison Terrace; testify that Melinda Hunter picked up her ballot in the 2004 election.

Stewart, Elvirie – bf, 98 yoa; 1604 Gattling St, Texarkana
Might be too elderly to testify; Willie Ray picked up her ballot in the 2004 elections.

Stewart, John – bm, 77 yoa; 1604 Gattling St, Texarkana
Might be too elderly to testify/hard of hearing; Willie Ray picked up his ballot in the 2004 elections.

Walker, Opal – bf, 79 yoa; 800 Butler St, Texarkana
Elderly voter; testify that Willie Ray picked up her ballot in the 2004 General election.

Watson, Vallery – wf, 53 yoa, TDL 2020 FM 1840, New Boston
Bowie County Elections Clerk; verify all election records documented in report.
Exhibits

Bowie County Election Fraud
04-2059188

A – Original complaint and associated documents from Rusty Hicks, referral by SOS
B – Copied document from Insty Print
C - Willie J. Ray DL photo, Lexis search, voter registration application, Texarkana commissioner page
D – Copied applications for mail-in ballots for 24 voters in Texarkana
E – Kathy Hicks’ notes from telephone conversations with Roach, Hunter, & Jones
F – Melinda Hunter DL photo, Lexis search, application for mail-in ballot
G - Miranda warnings form & voluntary statement made by Melinda Hunter on 01/20/05
H - Audio cassette; transcribed interviews with M. Hunter, Robinson, Fletcher, Murphy, French, Stewart, Stewart, and V. Hunter
I – Copy of sample ballot for Dem. Primary election given to M. Hunter by Willie Ray
J – Mattie Pilot Lexis search & application for mail-in ballot for primary
K – Lillie Briscoe, Melba Scott, Opal Hart, Vernec Simon (DL photo, Lexis search, application for mail-in ballots)
L – Audio cassette; interviews with Lillie Briscoe; Mary Ann Marshall; Melba Scott; Opal Hart; Vernec Simon – not transcribed
M – Eugene Grant & Reuben Robinson (DL photo, Lexis search, application for mail-in ballot)
N – Voluntary statement made by Eugene Grant on 01/20/05
O – Willie Murphy & Louise French (DL photo, Lexis search, application for mail-in ballot)
P – John Stewart (DL photo, Lexis search, application for mail-in ballot) & Elvirie Stewart (Lexis search, application for mail-in ballot)
Q – Vernel Hunter DL photo, Lexis search
R – Phillip Houff (DL photo, Lexis search, application for mail-in ballot) & Reshanna Houff (DL photo, Lexis search)
S – CD-R; transcribed interviews with Houff, Earhart, M. Hunter, McCloud, Hlavinka on 02/03/05
T – Voluntary statement made by Reshanna Houff on behalf of Phillip Houff
U - Miranda warnings form, signed by Melinda Hunter on 02/03/05
V – Jamilah E. Johnson (Kirk) DL photo, Lexis search
W - Miranda warnings form, signed by Willie Ray on 02/22/05
X – Voluntary statement made by Willie Ray on 02/22/05
Y - Miranda warnings form, signed by Jamilah Johnson on 02/22/05
Z – Voluntary statement made by Jamilah Johnson on 02/22/05
AA – Grand Jury Subpoena for Vernel Hunter to appear 03/24/05
AB – Orsulic W. Larry DL photo, Lexis search
AC – Audio cassette; interview with Larry - not transcribed
AD – Photo spread containing DL photo for Jamilah E. Johnson (photo #5)
AE – Edna Roach DL photo, Lexis search
AF – Copied applications and carrier envelopes for Blackwell, Walker, Roach, Roach, Jones, Rodgers, Ganter depicting sickle cell stamps
AG – Photo spread containing DL photo for Willie J. Ray (photo #3)
AH – CD-R; transcribed interviews with Rodgers, Walker, Jones, Murphy, French
AI – Mary Blackwell DL photo, Lexis search
AJ – Opal Walker Lexis search
AK – Letter from Capt. Lucas to Katie Powell, USPS requesting change of address information for Murphy and French
AL – Copied application and rejected carrier envelope for Mattie Pilot, carrier envelope for Phillip Houff
AM – Copied carrier envelopes for Briscoe, Grant, Hart, Houff, Marshall, Robinson, Scott, Simon, French, Murphy, E. Stewart, & J. Stewart
Exhibits A thru AM not reproduced here as they are already in the investigative file per Sgt. Bloodworth.
Title: Sgt. Bloodworth’s investigation

During the week of 01/03/2005, I was assigned to investigate election fraud allegations in Bowie County, Texas. The case was previously assigned to OAG Sgt. Forrest Mitchell. On 01/12/05, I contacted the complainant, Rusty Hicks, and inquired if he and his wife, Kathy Hicks would be available to meet with myself and another OAG investigator the following week. He advised he would be at our disposal, and that he had more information about the case. He did not want to discuss it over the phone, but did mention that he had proof that a woman named Willie Ray had ordered a batch of mail-in-ballots “by the hundreds,” and that the order form should have been included with the packet he sent to the Secretary of State’s Office. He said, “You are not going to believe all the stuff that is going on,” and that the voters of Bowie County deserve to have a clean voting system.

ALLEGATIONS:

I reviewed the documents provided by Rusty Hicks and the Secretary of State’s Office, including a 1996 investigation of election fraud allegations by American International Investigations, Inc. (Exhibit A) and compiled a list of allegations based on statements by various poll watchers. They are as follows (applicable Sections in parenthesis):

I. Willie Ray illegally reproduced mail-in-ballots for the general and/or primary elections. (Sect 276.010)

II. Rusty Hicks also indicated that several applications for mail-in ballots were obviously filled out by someone other than the listed voter. Many of the signatures on these particular applications were poorly written and did not match the handwriting on the applicant information section. Also, the handwriting on the applicant information section on several of the applications obtained from the Bowie County Elections Administrator appeared to have been written by the same person. Hicks suggested that Willie Ray or someone working for her pre-filled multiple applications, assisted more than one applicant not related to the person, and did not sign any applications as a witness. (Sect. 84.003-84.004)

III. Willie Ray illegally handled multiple ballots during the primary and general elections. Kathy Hicks called three Pct. 1 voters in particular who advised that Willie Ray had helped them obtain a mail-in ballot and then returned to collect their ballots to mail them once they had voted. These three voters were Elisha Roach, Elbert T. Jones, and Melinda Hunter of Texarkana. (Sect. 86.0051-86.006, 86.010)

IV. Kathy Hicks advised that the mail-in ballots for the general election were opened and counted by the Early Voting Ballot Board before Election Day, which is only permitted in counties where the population exceeds 100,000. Hicks stated that the Bowie County Voter Administrator put bricks on top of the ballots, apparently to flatten them out so they could be scanned on Election Day. (Sect. 87.0241)

V. Pct. 1A - Poll watcher Jody Treadway advised that Election Judge Aline Kirk allowed various campaign materials inside the polling place, violated one voter’s civil rights by spoiling his ballot after
Title: Sgt. Bloodworth's investigation

his parents allegedly voted on his behalf yet against his wishes, did not have a list of absentee voters, and made overt actions to prevent Mr. Treadway from following the ballot box to the courthouse. Treadway also advised that the police were called on him because he was "writing things down and asking questions to the judge," and that a member of the NAACP threatened him for being a poll watcher. (Sect. 61.003, 61.010, 61.011, 64.007, 64.032, 33.060, 33.061, 33.056, 67.122)

VI. Pct. 1B - Poll watcher Randall White had several complaints about Pct. 1B. He observed several people campaigning within the required 100' of the poll place, one voter wearing a badge for a particular candidate, witnessed Election Judge Harriet McGary improperly seal the ballot box and mishandle Provisional ballots not placed in the ballot box. Also, several people witnessed the Pct. 1B ballot box arrive at the Bowie County Courthouse over 3 hours after the polls had closed, and the seal was broken when it arrived. The allegation is that the ballots might have been tampered with en route to the courthouse. (Sect. 61.003, 61.010, 61.005, 64.008, 64.011)

VII. Pct. 1E - Kathy Hicks advised that Early Voting Ballot Board Election Judge Pat Allen denied her access to clearly observe the processing of early voting ballots, and began counting ballots 1 hour earlier than had been told to the Secretary of State's Office. Hicks also advised that Bowie County Judge James Carlow was allowed in the commissioners' courtroom during the Early Voting Ballot Board's counting of the mail-in ballots and early voting ballots on Election Day. (Sect. 33.034, 87.026)

VIII. Pct. 2C - Steve Hicks, Poll Watcher and son of Rusty Hicks, witnessed possible tampering with the ballot box from 2C. His statement advised that the Election Judge put the ballot box in the backseat of her car, and stopped at 2 different houses before driving to the Courthouse. During the first stop he witnessed the backseat passenger handling something on the floorboard where the ballot box was sitting. During the second stop, he witnessed someone come out of the house with a black bag and get into the car, after which he stated there was a lot of activity in the backseat of the car.

IX. Truman Arnold, a local businessman paid Willie Ray as much as $15,000 to pick up mail-in ballots to ensure a win for specific Democratic candidates, for both the primary and general elections. (Sect. 253.062)

INVESTIGATION:

I spoke with Vallery Watson, the Bowie County Elections Administrator via telephone on 01/12/05. She stated she had dealt with Rusty Hicks in the 1996, 2000, and 2004 elections, but has not received any other allegations about the 2004 elections from anyone other than Hicks. She advised that she is not involved in partisan politics, as her office is appointed. She further advised that she does not deal with poll watchers at polling places, nor handle the counting of the ballots but that she would provide me whatever documentation I needed. I requested the following documents pertaining to 2004 elections
Title: Sgt. Bloodworth's investigation

from Watson at that time:

- List of registered absentee voters by mail for Democratic primary
- Combination forms for general election/ Pcts. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C
- Official list of registered voters for general election/ Pcts. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C
- List of registered absentee voters by mail for general election

Watson advised that she would have the documents ready when I arrived in Bowie County the following week to conduct my investigation.

After sorting through the documents forwarded by Mr. Hicks, I found the order form that allegedly showed that Willie Ray had absentee ballots reproduced at a local print shop (Exhibit A). Job ticket #6855 from Insty Print of 3101 New Boston Rd., Texarkana, shows that Willie J. Ray of Texarkana ordered 150 copies of a document described as "Official Election Mail." I contacted Jeannie at Insty Print and learned that the order was printed on white 4.75 X 11 cardstock. She agreed to fax me a copy of the ordered document (Exhibit B), and I identified it as an official application for ballot by mail, as issued by any county clerk's office, not an actual ballot. I contacted AAG Adrienne McFarland who confirmed that copying applications for ballots by mail does not violate the election code, as it clearly states in Sect. 84.001 that a voter is not even required to use the official application form. The only requirements are that the application must be in writing and signed by the applicant, and must be submitted by mail to the early voting clerk.

I ran a DL check for Willie Ray and found that [redacted], registered to Willie Howard Ray, black female, date of birth 04/24/1937 with address of 1617 Gatling, A Lexis search of Ray showed a SSN of [redacted]. Included in the original case file was a copy of Ray's voter registration application, which showed her middle name as Jewel and contained a note stating that Ray was a sitting city council board member. The City of Texarkana's website confirmed that Ray holds the Ward 2 City Council office. The site showed her employment as a retired registered nurse. (Exhibit C)

On 01/19/05, Sgt. Jesse Soliz and I traveled to Bowie County to conduct an investigation into the allegations listed above. We retrieved the requested documents from the Voter Administrator Vallery Watson (white female, dob at the Bowie County Courthouse, and she attached a note on the documents stating that Pct. 1A and 4A are combined precincts, meaning both precincts vote at the same polling place.

We then traveled to Texarkana and met with complainant Rusty Hicks (white male, dob 05/20/1958), his wife Kathy Hicks (white female, dob 04/13/1964), and her brother, Bryan Sundberg (white male, 09/19/1964) at 9000 South Lake Dr. Hicks advised that he ran for County Commissioner, Pct. 1 under the Republican ticket in the 2004 election, but lost to Democrat Jack Stone in the general election. Pct. 1 includes sub-precincts 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 3B, 4A, 8A, 8B, and 8C. He advised that his complaint stems back to the 1996 election, which he also lost. After that election, Hicks testified on illegal handling of ballots, but the Bowie County Grand Jury returned a No Bill. He stated that the same corruption and illegal assistance had occurred in the 2004 elections.
In an effort to curb the corruption during the 2004 general elections, Kathy Hicks had gathered a petition requesting that inspectors from the Secretary of State’s Office be present at precincts 1A, 1B, 2A, 2C, 3B, 4A, 8A, 8B, and 8C, and the "vote counting room night of election." The anticipated problems were listed as the following: "Vote counting machine breaking down hourly, in violation of HB 54 (mail-in ballots), boxes coming in with seal broken, unqualified voting being allowed, voters voting multiple times, campaign workers having possession of ballots by the hundreds, and county judge in and out of vote counting room." This request was made in September of 2004.

Hicks stated that the corruption in the 04 elections began in the application process. He alleged that Willie Ray broke the law by reproducing 150 official applications for mail-in-ballots. I explained to him that I had consulted with our attorneys and they did not find language that prohibited the reproduction of applications. The Hicks' did not appear to be pleased with my explanation, but Mr. Hicks continued to discuss other allegations. He stated that the applications, which he had copied at the elections administrator’s office, appeared to have been pre-filled by someone other than the voter (Exhibit D). I explained to him that pre-filling an application is not illegal, although failing to sign as a witness on an application is. He went on to note that the postmark on several of the applications in question showed they were mailed from the same zip code in Texarkana, AR, which he believed showed that they were collected and mailed by the same person. He gave me the copied applications and several other documents he had obtained from the elections administrator.

Rusty and Kathy Hicks went on to explain Bowie County politics. They stated that it is known throughout the county that the Democratic Party and/or Democratic candidates hire Willie Ray to win elections. Admittedly based on hearsay, Hicks stated that for $10,000, Ray would win an election for a candidate by at least 1,000 votes. He accused Ray of handling ballots in order to collect those votes.

Kathy Hicks went over the notes from telephone conversations she had with Pct. 2C absentee voters Elbert T. Jones, Melinda Hunter, and Elisha Roach (Exhibit E). She stated that all three told her that Willie Ray had come by their residence to pick up their ballots. She also stated that Willie Ray had offered stamps to the voters, and she believed that could be considered as a bribe for a vote.

Kathy also informed me of possible violations surrounding the Early Voting Ballot Board. She stated that Vallery Watson told her that the mail-in ballots had been opened before Election Day and laid out under bricks, supposedly to flatten them out so they could be easily counted by machine. Hicks believed this violated Sect. 87.0241 of the election code because Bowie County’s population is fewer than 100,000. She went on to say that during the actual early ballot counting on 11/02/04 in the Commissioner’s Courtroom, she served as a poll watcher, but was not allowed to effectively observe the proceedings. She said that Early Voting Ballot Board Judge Pat Allen was extremely rude and told the poll watchers to “sit down in the audience and keep [their] mouth(s) shut.” Kathy said that Allen made them sit in an area approximately 15 feet from the judges and she could not clearly see or hear any of the activity. Kathy advised that she approached Allen and informed her of HB 54, which allowed her to clearly observe the proceedings, and Allen took her out of the room and into the hall. According to
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Kathy, Allen berated her for interfering in the proceedings and told her that she was a lawyer, and Kathy was not. Allen told Kathy if she wanted to come back in the room, she must sit down and keep her mouth shut. Kathy did not return, but chose to call MaryAnn Conkel, the inspector from the Secretary of State's Office, instead. Conkel was assigned to observe the Bowie elections on 11/02/04, after the Hicks' requested that inspectors from the SOS be present during the elections. Conkel advised Kathy that she had a right to observe the counting. Kathy waited for Conkel to arrive at the courthouse, at which time they entered the early ballot counting room and observed the proceedings until the board finished counting 15 minutes later. Kathy advised that Jeannette McLeod was also a poll watcher at the early ballot counting and could verify the events of the night. I informed her that I would take all of this information to our attorneys to determine what violations, if any, had occurred.

The Hicks' son, Steve (white male, dob 10/12/1979), arrived later and we discussed his observations as a poll watcher on election night. Confirming the statement he made to the Secretary of State's office, Steve stated that he followed the Pct. 2C ballot box from the poll place at the 15th Street School to the Bowie County courthouse in New Boston. His statement noted that during the drive to the courthouse, there was "a lot of activity in the backseat." He stated that at approximately 7:45PM, while sitting in the parking lot of the poll place, he witnessed a black female, who he assumed to be the election judge, place the ballot box in the backseat of a green Oldsmobile with TX license plate C43-RZY. Two other women got in the car, and he followed them until they stopped at a residence a few blocks away. When the vehicle stopped, Steve slowly drove past and observed that the passenger seated behind the driver had the back door open, and appeared to be leaning over and handling the ballot box in some way. He pulled in front of the car and parked. At that time a black female approached him from the car and asked him if she could help him. He declined and she returned to the car. He then followed the car to the courthouse, during which time he said that the women in the backseat seemed to move around a bit. I asked him to describe their activity and he said that it was dark and raining, and he could not see inside the car very well, but that the women were definitely moving around in the backseat. I typed up Steve's statements, but due to a printer malfunction was unable to print it for him to sign. I agreed to print it up and have him sign it at a later time. Hicks provided original photos of the vehicle and 2nd residence the vehicle stopped in front of on election night (Exhibit A). The address on the mailbox of the residence read 2205 W. 9th St. I later learned that the address is the residence of Felecia, George, and Sheila Washington.

Kathy and Rusty Hicks requested that Sgt. Soliz and I speak with Judge Buddy Hawkins in reference to Texarkana election fraud. On 01/20/05, Sgt. Soliz and I met with Judge Buddy Hawkins (white male, 09/03/1941) at Denny's restaurant in Texarkana. He advised that after he lost the 2000 election for county judge, he called back several elderly voters who had promised to vote for him only to learn that Willie Ray had picked up their mail-in-ballots. He also advised that he had knowledge that Willie Ray collects voted ballots and mails them in mass from the New Boston post office. Judge Hawkins stated that a woman named Pat Allen told him that some of the mail-in-ballots that Willie Ray handled had been thrown out and not counted because the signatures on the applications did not match the envelopes of the ballot. He stated that it is known around town that Willie Ray has no direct income, but she has taken "lavish trips" to Spain, South Africa, and several cruises. He stated that these trips are funded by
working for the highest bidding candidate in any election. He also accused Willie Ray of hauling voters to polls on Election Day.

Hawkins also provided the background on three local individuals who he believed influenced Texarkana politics. He stated that Truman Arnold, a local businessman, Frederick Gene Joyce, and Judge Ed Miller were all good friends at one point, but due to a falling out over a business deal, Miller split from Arnold and Joyce. Hawkins believes that Joyce or Arnold might fund Willie Ray to "pick up votes." He also gave a list of the following people who might be able to provide more information about Arnold, Joyce, or Miller's involvement with Willie Ray: Vernell Hunter, a local nurse; Lovie Heron, a woman from Hooks, TX; JP Nancy Talley, used to "pick up votes" but is not a friend of Willie Ray's any longer; Brent Langdon, Democratic party chair, handles accounts for the party.

On 01/20/05, I received a call from Bowie County District Attorney Bobby Lockhart. He advised that he had sent a letter to Vallery Watson, the elections administrator, requesting that she preserve all materials related to the 2004 elections, and that if I ran into any problems that I should let him know. I told him that everyone had been very helpful thus far but I would call him if I needed anything.

Sgt. Soliz and I met with Lt. David Grable from Texarkana Police Department. He provided us a copy of a disturbance report taken from the Pct. 1A poll place at 3201 Lincoln St. on 11/02/04 at 4:49PM. The report states "Jody Treadway is a poll watcher he is getting threatened... called in by Rusty Hicks.... Some of the people in line to vote are threatening him." The report noted that TISD PD responded as well as Officer Greg Vickers from Texarkana PD. Grable played back the 911 call made by Rusty Hicks, and it was obvious that Hicks was not present during the disturbance, he was merely calling on behalf of Treadway. Grable said that the call was cleared with "No action necessary." Officer Vickers was not on duty until the evening of 01/20/05, so Sgt. Soliz and I met with Raymond Calhoun from the Texarkana Independent School District PD later that afternoon. Calhoun advised that he had responded to the disturbance call at the Lincoln St. School, but that the woman who allegedly threatened Treadway had left before any officers arrived. According to witnesses, the belligerent woman did not make specific threats to anyone, but was merely angry with the election judge and Treadway because she had not been allowed to vote for lack of proper identification. She said things like, "You're going to be sorry!" Calhoun advised that no one knew who the woman was, but there were no further incidents at that location.

On 01/20/05, Sgt. Soliz and I traveled to the Robison Terrace apartment complex, "The High-Rise," as it is commonly referred to in Texarkana. Most of the people listed on the questionable applications provided by Rusty Hicks reside in the complex as well as Melinda Hunter and Elbert Jones, who told Kathy Hicks that Willie Ray handled their ballots. I met with Melinda Hunter in the break room of the complex to inquire about her mail-in-ballot. Hunter is identified by black female, dob 05/23/1971 (Exhibit F). She advised that she did vote by mail, and that she had assisted Willie Ray with helping the tenants of the building vote by mail. She told me that Willie Ray gave her the applications for mail-in-ballots, she filled them out with the tenants' information, and then took them to the tenants for signatures. When she said that she had assisted voters with their applications, I stopped the