	Page 1
1	BEFORE THE
2	ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3	97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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5	
6	HOUSE SPECIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
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14	Hearing held, pursuant to Notice, on the
15	27th day of March, 2011, between the hours of
16	11:00 a.m. and 11:21 a.m., in Room 114, Capitol
17	Building, Springfield, Illinois.
18	
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20	
21	
22	
23	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
24	

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1	I	N D E X	Page 2
2	WITNESSES		PAGE
3	Representative Jim Sacia		7
4			
5			
6			
7			
8	EXI	HIBITS	
9	EXHIBITS D	ESCRIPTION	PAGE
10	Exhibit No. 1	e-mail	б
11	Exhibit No. 2	written charge	10
12	Exhibit No. 3	criminal complaint	10
13	(The exhibits were re	etained by the committe	ee.)
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16			
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24			

1	COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	Page 3
2	Representative Elaine Nekritz, Chairperson	
3	Representative Dennis M. Reboletti,	
4	Republican Spokesperson	
5	Representative William Davis, Member	
6	Representative JoAnn D. Osmond, Member	
7	Representative Andre´ M. Thapedi, Member	
8	Representative Franco Coladipietro,	
9	Substituting for Member Jil Tracy	
10		
11	ALSO PRESENT:	
12	Mr. Dave Ellis, Counsel	
13		
14	COURT REPORTER:	
15	Ms. Dorothy J. Hart, CSR, RPR	
16	Illinois CSR No. 084-001390	
17	Midwest Litigation Services	
18	15 South Old State Capitol Plaza	
19	Springfield, Illinois 62701	
20	(217) 522-2211	
21	1-800-280-3376	
22		
23		
24		

1	Page 4 (The hearing commenced at 11:04 a.m.)
2	
3	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Good morning,
4	everyone. I'd like to call the House Special
5	Investigating Committee to order.
6	I have one initial order of business.
7	That would be that I have a letter from Republican
8	Leader Tom Cross replacing permanent Member Tracy with
9	temporary Member Franco Coladipietro.
10	Welcome, Franco.
11	With that, the clerk shall call the roll.
12	CLERK: Nekritz.
13	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Yes.
14	CLERK: Reboletti.
15	REPRESENTATIVE REBOLETTI: Present.
16	CLERK: William Davis.
17	REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Present.
18	CLERK: Osmond.
19	REPRESENTATIVE OSMOND: Present.
20	CLERK: Thapedi.
21	REPRESENTATIVE THAPEDI: Here.
22	CLERK: Coladipietro.
23	REPRESENTATIVE COLADIPIETRO: Present.
24	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Six members being

	Page 5
1	present, we have a quorum.
2	I would like to note that Representative
3	Derrick Smith is not here today. And we are required
4	to give him notice under the House Rules for the
5	special for the disciplinary proceedings. For
6	that, to talk about the notice that was provided to
7	Representative Smith, I would like to recognize the
8	counsel for the Special Investigating Committee,
9	Mr. Dave Ellis.
10	MR. ELLIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
11	This special committee was created last
12	Wednesday, March 21st. On that day, at the direction
13	of the Chair, I telephoned Representative Derrick
14	Smith. I spoke with him briefly. I informed him of
15	the creation of the Special Investigating Committee
16	and that we were presented a petition to create the
17	committee.
18	The following day, Thursday, March 22nd, I
19	followed up with an e-mail. E-mail was his chosen
20	method of being contacted. In that e-mail I enclosed
21	a copy of the petition and again notified him of the
22	date and time of the hearing.
23	I do have a copy of that e-mail here that
24	is redacted, redacted just to take out his e-mail

1	$$\operatorname{Page}6$$ address, and I would like to at the appropriate time
2	suggest that it be admitted as Exhibit Number 1 into
3	the record.
4	Subsequently, I have spoken with
5	Representative Smith. He assured me that he was aware
6	of the hearing. He had read the petition.
7	I also spoke with an attorney yesterday
8	who had authorization to contact me. I don't know if
9	this is the person who will be Derrick Smith's
10	attorney ultimately, but he did have authorization to
11	discuss the matter with me, and we discussed in
12	general terms what this hearing would be about and
13	obviously the timing of it.
14	And so, Madam Chair, I think it's clear
15	that the subject of this investigation has been made
16	fully aware of the date and time of this hearing. It
17	is my understanding from yesterday he was choosing not
18	to appear today. And in addition to the e-mail and
19	telephonic notice that we've discussed, there was also
20	public notice done pursuant to House Rule, six-day
21	posting. All of that being the case, I would submit
22	that notice has been more than proper thus far.
23	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Thank you,
24	Mr. Ellis.

1	Page 7 So I think at this point I'd like to enter
2	a copy of the e-mail from Counsel Ellis to
3	Representative Smith into the record as Exhibit 1.
4	And, as Mr. Ellis noted, Representative Smith's e-mail
5	address has been redacted. And the attachment to the
6	e-mail, which is in fact a copy of the petition, will
7	also not be included, as it is, under the House Rules
8	to remain confidential.
9	This Special Investigating Committee has
10	been created by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 91,
11	and for the most part, this committee will operate as
12	any other House committee, under the same House Rules.
13	There are some special provisions,
14	however, governing disciplinary proceedings such as
15	this. So in accordance with those rules, I believe
16	our first order of business is for this Special
17	Investigating Committee to hear from Representative
18	Sacia, who will present and file with this committee a
19	written charge.
20	So, Representative Sacia, are you prepared
21	to present the committee with a written charge?
22	REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: I am, Madam Chair.
23	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Please, proceed.
24	REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Madam

	Dogs 9
1	Page 8 Chair, Members of the Committee.
2	The House Rules for the 97th General
3	Assembly were adopted by a majority of the members of
4	the House on February 8th, 2011.
5	Article XII of the House Rules details
6	procedures for disciplinary proceedings against
7	members of the House. House Rule 91(a) specifies
8	mandatory creation of a Special Investigating
9	Committee if a petition containing suggested charges
10	is signed by three or more members of the Illinois
11	House.
12	The petition signed by five members of the
13	Illinois House and filed with the Speaker of the House
14	on Wednesday, March 21st, 2012, contains charges
15	which, if true, may subject the member named in the
16	petition to disciplinary action by the House.
17	Pursuant to House Rule 92(b), a list of
18	suggested charges is submitted to the Special
19	Investigating Committee for a thorough investigation
20	of all allegations and charges of impropriety
21	concerning Representative Derrick Smith, 10th
22	District. Detailed below is the charge brought
23	forward for the committee's consideration.
24	In addition, a copy of the sworn criminal

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1	complaint, United States of America versus Derrick
2	Smith, filed in the United States District Court,
3	Northern District of Illinois, on March 12th, 2012, is
4	submitted to the committee for its review and
5	consideration. The criminal complaint made by Special
6	Agent Bryan M. Butler of the Federal Bureau of
7	Investigation before the Honorable Nan R. Nolan, U.S.
8	Magistrate Judge, details the alleged facts of the
9	complaint. It is relevant to the charge and
10	allegations set forth against Representative Smith.
11	Charge number 1: Representative Smith
12	provided an official letter of support on his
13	letterhead for a daycare owner's application for a
14	state grant from the Illinois Capital Development
15	Board in exchange for personally accepting a \$7,000
16	bribe.
17	Conclusion: The acts detailed in this
18	charge constitute a level of misconduct and misuse of
19	the office to which Representative Smith was
20	appointed, a gross breach of the public trust, and a
21	violation of federal and state laws, prompting me to
22	submit this charge to the Special Investigating
23	Committee for its consideration.
24	Submitted March 27th, 2012, and signed by

CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Thank you, Representative Sacia. So the committee is in receipt of the charges charge, which will be entered into the record as Exhibit 2. The committee is also in receipt of the document that you referenced entitled a Criminal Complaint in the matter of United States of America versus Derrick Smith, and a copy of that document wi be entered into the record as Exhibit 3. Is there any other evidence that you have that you're aware of that we would need to admit? REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Only at your direction, Madam Chair. CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Okay. I'm not aware of anything. So I appreciate your being here, Representative Sacia. REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Now that we have completed the formal the formal submission of the charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and wi	1	Page 10 me, Jim Sacia, State Representative, 89th District.
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16 CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Okay. I'm not awa 17 of anything. So I appreciate your being here, 18 Representative Sacia. 19 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Madam 20 Chair and members of the committee. 21 CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Now that we have 22 completed the formal the formal submission of the 23 charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and wi	14	REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Only at your
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REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Now that we have completed the formal the formal submission of the charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and wi	16	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Okay. I'm not aware
19 REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Madam 20 Chair and members of the committee. 21 CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Now that we have 22 completed the formal the formal submission of the 23 charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and wi	17	of anything. So I appreciate your being here,
20 Chair and members of the committee. 21 CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Now that we have 22 completed the formal the formal submission of the 23 charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and wi	18	Representative Sacia.
21 CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Now that we have 22 completed the formal the formal submission of the 23 charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and wi	19	REPRESENTATIVE SACIA: Thank you, Madam
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23 charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and wi	21	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Now that we have
	22	completed the formal the formal submission of the
24 offer that opportunity to my colleagues to do the sa	23	charge, I'd like to make some opening remarks and will
	24	offer that opportunity to my colleagues to do the same

	- ·
1	if they choose. Page 11
2	I'd first like to thank the members of the
3	committee for of the Special Investigating
4	Committee for their willingness to serve. This is not
5	easy duty that we're undertaking here. And I know
6	that each of us will take the task before us very
7	seriously.
8	In carrying out this responsibility, I
9	hope to keep three things in mind: First, being fair
10	to Representative Smith; second is respecting and
11	protecting the institution of the House of
12	Representatives, which is something I hold near and
13	dear to my heart; and last, but certainly not least,
14	is safeguarding the public trust.
15	A couple of notes just on the process.
16	The purpose of this committee is not to
17	discipline Representative Smith. We are in fact only
18	to inquire into the underlying facts as thoroughly as
19	possible and to determine whether disciplinary charges
20	are in fact warranted.
21	If they are, under the House Rules,
22	another tribunal of twelve House members will
23	determine whether or not to recommend discipline to
24	the full House. If that tribunal so chooses, the

	Page 12
1	House as a body will ultimately determine the
2	appropriate discipline for Representative Smith.
3	Representative Smith has not been
4	convicted of a crime. He has been arrested on the
5	basis of a sworn criminal complaint. He is accused
6	but presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a
7	reasonable doubt following a full, fair trial.
8	Nonetheless, I have to say the allegations
9	in the criminal complaint allege a gross breach of
10	public trust that is placed in every elected official.
11	They're very serious allegations to be investigated by
12	this committee. Our work will be as thorough as
13	possible, despite the fact that an ongoing federal
14	investigation is taking place, which may very well
15	limit our ability to do so.
16	This committee will at times provide
17	Representative Smith with as much notice and
18	information as possible. He and his attorneys will
19	have the right to be present at all public hearings.
20	Representative Smith will have the right
21	to speak to the substance of these charges if he so
22	chooses, but he will do so under oath. Representative
23	Smith will also have the right to provide this
24	committee with any evidence that he believes will lead

1	to his exoneration.
2	This committee will do its best to make
3	all information public that comes into our possession.
4	And I think we're proposing to establish a website
5	where the exhibits will appear. To the extent that
6	the House Rules do not otherwise require, we will post
7	all exhibits on the website.
8	We will give as much public notice as we
9	can for the dates of all hearings.
10	In the end, in committee's work must be
11	thorough, open, and transparent. And as I indicated
12	earlier, its conclusion must be fair for
13	Representative Smith, for this institution, the
14	Illinois of the House of Representatives, and for the
15	public.
16	Representative Reboletti, would you like
17	to make some remarks?
18	REPRESENTATIVE REBOLETTI: Thank you,
19	Madam Chair, members of the committee.
20	My name is Dennis Reboletti. I'm a
21	Representative from northeast Du Page County. Prior
22	to coming to the General Assembly, I worked as a Will
23	County assistant state's attorney and have prosecuted
24	numerous misdemeanor and felony cases. During that

	D 14							
1	Page 14 professional experience I was involved in grand jury							
2	investigations of hundreds of felony cases.							
3	And this is a first for this state. I'd							
4	like to thank our legal research unit for providing as							
5	much of the legislative history as possible. But							
6	never before have we had a sitting State							
7	Representative alleged to have used his office to							
8	exact a bribe for an official act.							
9	Pursuant to House Rules 91 and 92, this							
10	committee has been duly constituted by the Speaker and							
11	House Republican Leader, and that following the filing							
12	of the petition by five individual members of the							
13	House. Our mission will be to review the sole charge							
14	presented by Representative Sacia, which he has signed							
15	and testified to, and to review the exhibits in							
16	support of the charge.							
17	We must thoroughly investigate this charge							
18	and use our subpoena powers judiciously in pursuit of							
19	all relevant and probative evidence. It is our charge							
20	to determine if grounds exist to bring charges against							
21	Representative Smith for formal disciplinary							
22	proceedings because the charges contain a level of							
23	misconduct and misuse of the office and a gross breach							
24	of the public's trust.							

	De-c. 15
1	Page 15 Pursuant to House Rule 92, Representative
2	Sacia, as the principal sponsor of the petition, has
3	submitted a charge and all relevant information at his
4	appearance before this committee.
5	As I see it, the Special Investigating
6	Committee is a hybrid that blends elements of a grand
7	jury and elements of a preliminary hearing.
8	We are convened with multiple members, and
9	like a grand jury, if the majority of members prefer
10	charges, we must sign a report indicating that and the
11	reasons behind our decision, similar to a grand jury
12	signing a true bill, and also indicating that there's
13	probable cause to support an indictment or a charge.
14	If we do not prefer charges, it is like a
15	no bill in the grand jury, and Representative Smith
16	would be exonerated.
17	However, we do meet in public, like a
18	preliminary hearing. And like a preliminary hearing,
19	Representative Smith is allowed to attend and testify
20	on his behalf, be represented by counsel, confront and
21	cross-examine any witnesses that appear before this
22	committee. And after a thorough investigation, this
23	committee must review all evidence and determine if we
24	should author a report preferring charges, which must

1	Page 16 be supported by a majority of the members of this
2	committee.
3	If the majority does not prefer charges,
4	we must file a resolution to exonerate Representative
5	Smith and state our reasons why.
6	We are committed to working in bipartisan
7	fashion and follow the evidence wherever it may take
8	us. We are prepared to take the necessary time to
9	obtain and review all evidence before a decision is
10	rendered, which will somewhat be dictated by what, if
11	anything, the U.S. Attorney is able to provide us.
12	We also want to make sure that we're not
13	interfering with the criminal prosecution of
14	Representative Smith, and that we will act as the
15	finders of fact and are charged with rendering a
16	decision that is supported and based on the totality
17	of the evidence that has been submitted to us or been
18	obtained by way of subpoena.
19	We must definitely preserve the integrity
20	and dignity of the legislative institution and its
21	proceedings.
22	And we also must take a look at if
23	Representative Smith is in some way disabled,
24	handicapped, or impeded from discharging the duties of

	Page 17
1	his office.
2	Madam Chair and members of the committee,
3	I look forward to working with you in expeditious
4	fashion to review all the evidence, to take the time
5	that we need to consume to resolve this matter, and
6	that we do so in a bipartisan fashion.
7	Thank you.
8	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Thank you,
9	Representative.
10	Any other members wishing to make some
11	opening remarks?
12	All right. Seeing none, I think our next
13	order of business is to determine what the first step
14	is in our investigation going forward.
15	Based on some discussions that we've had
16	with Representative Reboletti and Counsel, before we
17	would want look further into the realm of subpoenas or
18	otherwise gathering information, we feel we should
19	consult with the U.S. Attorney in Chicago.
20	And there is precedence for doing this
21	precedent for doing this. During the House
22	investigation of Governor Blagojevich, the Special
23	Investigating Committee agreed at the outset that it
24	would consult with Mr. Fitzgerald and avoid taking any

1	Page 18 action that he would consider an interference with an					
2	ongoing federal investigation.					
3	So again, Representative Reboletti and I,					
4	along with the attorneys, would suggest to the					
5	committee that we contact Mr. Fitzgerald in order to					
6	obtain any relevant information that he may possess					
7	and to seek his guidance on whether any independent					
8	investigation undertaken by this committee would be					
9	considered an interference with the federal					
10	investigation.					
11	So I would ask for approval of the					
12	committee to take this first step. Is there a motion					
13	that Representative Reboletti and I contact					
14	Mr. Fitzgerald for this purpose?					
15	Representative Davis so moves.					
16	Is there any discussion from the committee					
17	members?					
18	Seeing none, the clerk shall call the					
19	roll.					
20	CLERK: Nekritz.					
21	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Aye.					
22	CLERK: Reboletti.					
23	REPRESENTATIVE REBOLETTI: Aye.					
24	CLERK: Davis.					

	Page 19
1	REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Yes.
2	CLERK: Osmond.
3	REPRESENTATIVE OSMOND: Yes.
4	CLERK: Thapedi.
5	REPRESENTATIVE THAPEDI: Yes.
6	CLERK: Coladipietro.
7	REPRESENTATIVE COLADIPIETRO: Aye.
8	CHAIRPERSON NEKRITZ: Aye votes, six
9	voting yes, none voting no, none voting present on the
10	motion, and it's carried to proceed at once to contact
11	the U.S. Attorney in Chicago to have this discussion.
12	We will be scheduling the next meeting
13	after receiving the response from the U.S. Attorney.
14	My expectation, based on some prior history and
15	discussion, is that we would anticipate that taking
16	place the week of April 9th, although we don't have a
17	date set yet. We will give notice of that public
18	hearing out to the public, and we will provide
19	Representative Smith and his counsel with that same
20	notice.
21	Again, I appreciate the remarks from
22	Representative Reboletti, and I do look forward to
23	working with everyone on the committee in open and
24	bipartisan fashion.

_	Page 20
1	So unless there's any other business to
2	come before the committee today, seeing none, the
3	House Special Investigating Committee will stand in
4	recess until the call of the Chair. Thank you, all.
5	(The committee recessed at 11:21 a.m.)
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1	Page 21 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER				
2					
3	STATE OF ILLINOIS)) ss				
4	COUNTY OF SANGAMON)				
5	I, DOROTHY J. HART, a Certified				
6	Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter				
7	and Notary Public within and for the State of				
8	Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing				
9	proceedings were taken by me to the best of my ability				
10					
	and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my				
11	direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to,				
12	nor employed by any of the parties involved in this				
13	proceeding, and further that I am not a relative or				
14	employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the				
15	parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise				
16	interested in the outcome of the action.				
17					
18					
19	Natara Dublic in and for				
20	Notary Public in and for				
21	the State of Illinois				
22					
23					
24					

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