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**IN THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
THE STATE OF ALASKA – TWENTY FIFTH  
LEGISLATURE**

**RESPONSE TO SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM DATED  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2008**

Mr. Todd Palin, in accord with AS 24.20.060, AS 24.25.010, Civil Rule 45(a) and Civil Rule 31, and in accord with the stipulated compromise reached between the Judiciary Committee through Sen. Hollis French and Mr. Palin on October 5, 2008, hereby appears, answers, responds and testifies as follows in response to the deposition upon written questions:

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

As an initial matter, and in response to Interrogatory # 31(b), it is an established fact that the trooper at the heart of these interrogatories – Mike Wooten – threatened the public safety. On March 1, 2006, Colonel Julia Grimes, the Director of the Division of State Troopers, issued a report finding that Mr. Wooten had used a Taser stun-gun device on his ten-year-old stepson (my nephew), had drunk beer both before and during the operation of his marked State Trooper patrol car, and had illegally shot a cow moose without a permit. (See Letter from Col. Julia P. Grimes, Division of Alaska State Troopers, dated March 1, 2006 (“Grimes Report”).) Colonel Grimes’s official report on behalf of the Alaska State Troopers concluded that Mr. Wooten’s misconduct was “grave” and “demonstrate[d his] lack of judgment and a profound disrespect for the responsibilities of a law enforcement officer.” (*Id.*) While two of Colonel Grimes’s findings related to conduct involving my extended family, one

1 did not. The Grimes Report recounted an incident involving Adrian and Marilyn Lane, who are  
2 not related to me. As Colonel Grimes reported:

3 In June/July 2004, you stopped at the home of acquaintances of  
4 yours, Adrian and Marilyn Lane. They live in your same  
5 subdivision and on one occasion you pulled your marked trooper  
6 vehicle into their driveway. According to the statement of  
7 Adrian Lane, you walked into their garage, engaged in some  
8 social conversation and then went to a refrigerator located in his  
9 garage and helped yourself to a beer. Mr. Lane stated that he saw  
10 you drink the first beer and then state that you had to go, but that  
11 before you left you helped yourself to a second beer. He said you  
12 opened the beer and got into your marked trooper vehicle  
13 carrying the beer and drove away.

14 (*Id.*) Reviewing the totality of the circumstances, the Grimes Report noted that Mr. Wooten's  
15 "unacceptable conduct appears to have continued and even escalated," and "clearly indicates a  
16 serious and concentrated pattern of unacceptable and at times, illegal activity occurring over a  
17 lengthy period." (*Id.*) Noting that "a civilian investigated under similar circumstances would  
18 have received criminal sanctions," Colonel Grimes imposed a suspension that was "meant to be  
19 a last chance to take corrective action." (*Id.*)

20 In 2005 and early 2006, State Trooper Mike Wooten was the subject of a court-imposed  
21 Domestic Violence Protective Order. Some of this violent behavior, including a death threat,  
22 was directed at my sister-in-law Molly McCann (who was divorced from Wooten in 2006), my  
23 daughter, my nephew, and my father-in-law. Concerns about Wooten's behavior were aired  
24 both by me, members of my family and others before Monegan ever took office as  
25 Commissioner of Public Safety. There is absolutely nothing improper about lodging concerns  
26 about Trooper Wooten with Monegan or his predecessor—complaints about State Troopers are  
supposed to go to the Commissioner. Nor is there anything wrong with Mr. Monegan or his  
predecessor receiving information about threats specifically directed at me or my family.

1 Threats of violence against a public official, and his or her family, fall within the  
2 responsibilities of the Department of Public Safety. The Department of Law website instructs  
3 the public to raise trooper misconduct concerns with the Commissioner of DPS. In addition, we  
4 were specifically given the same instruction by our security detail to inform Mr. Monegan  
5 about our concerns with Trooper Wooten.

6 I was concerned about the lack of diligence from the Alaska State Troopers in the  
7 investigation as part of the issuance of the Domestic Violence Protective Order. The  
8 investigating PSEA trooper would selectively take notes and turn off the interview tape when  
9 he interviewed my daughter Bristol and my wife. Troopers failed to interview many of the key  
10 witnesses: my wife and I had to retain a private investigator in order to conduct interviews to  
11 preserve witness accounts of Trooper Wooten misconduct.

12 I was not aware of the Grimes Report until July 2008, after Monegan left the  
13 government. The DPS never informed me or my wife that Wooten had been disciplined. All  
14 we knew is that Trooper Wooten would repeatedly tell Molly that no one would ever punish  
15 him because he was a trooper, and that Trooper Wooten continued to be assigned to patrol the  
16 neighborhood of my family, even after he had threatened to kill my father-in-law.

17 In 2007, I was in the Yetna River area, where I often spend time practicing snow  
18 machine racing, when I saw Trooper Wooten operating a snow-machine—even as he claimed  
19 to the Alaska State Troopers that he was fully disabled and unable to work. This typically  
20 dishonest disregard of the law offended me, and I offered photographs of Wooten's snow-  
21 machine use to the appropriate authorities. Wooten also went on a spending spree during his  
22 2006 divorce, buying all sorts of expensive toys; then, instead of paying his debts honestly, he  
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1 filed for bankruptcy, and left some local businesses unpaid. I believe this may have been his  
2 second bankruptcy.

3 All of this upset me, and I had hundreds of conversations and communications about  
4 Trooper Wooten over the last several years with my family, with friends, with colleagues, and  
5 with just about everyone I could—including government officials. (In fact, I talked about  
6 Wooten so much over the years that my wife told me to stop talking about it with her.) In  
7 response to the questions posed here, I have tried to remember as many of these conversations  
8 as I can, but it is possible that I have failed to recollect conversations about Trooper Wooten,  
9 since no one can be expected to remember every communication they have had over the course  
10 of several years.

11 I have heard criticism that I am too involved with my wife's administration. My wife  
12 and I are very close. We are each other's best friend. I have helped her at every stage in her  
13 career the best I can, and she has helped me. Few complained when Susan Knowles was  
14 helping Tony Knowles. Few complained when Nancy Murkowski helped Frank Murkowski.  
15 Frank Murkowski even issued a memo telling everyone his wife was his closest advisor and  
16 would travel wherever he went. It is unfair to apply a double standard against my wife just  
17 because she is the state's first female governor. Like most couples we talk about our jobs, our  
18 work, the issues of the day, and of course, our family. These discussions occasionally included  
19 Molly, Wooten, and matters going on with the State.

20  
21 *My concerns over Wooten were not why Monegan was reassigned. To the best of my*  
22 *knowledge based on information that I received from members of my wife's administration*  
23 *including Mike Nizich and Randy Ruaro, Monegan's dispute with the governor and her staff*  
24

1 *over budget issues and failure to fill trooper vacancies are the main reasons for Monegan's*  
2 *reassignment.* Anyone who knows Sarah knows she is the Governor and she calls the shots.

3 I make no apologies for wanting to protect my family and wanting to publicize the  
4 injustice of a violent trooper keeping his badge and abusing the workers' compensation system.  
5 The real investigation that needs to be conducted for the best interests of the public at large is  
6 the Department of Public Safety's unwillingness to discipline its own. As was documented in  
7 the Grimes report about Trooper Wooten, and as shown in the settlements related to Trooper  
8 Spitzer, troopers who believe they are above-the-law endanger the public safety, tarnish the  
9 reputation of the vast majority of troopers who do not violate the law, and cost the public  
10 millions of dollars from lawsuits and jury verdicts issued against abusive troopers.

11 I am concerned about the fairness of this investigation. My wife has disclosed  
12 documents that demonstrate that she reassigned Mr. Monegan because of legitimate policy  
13 differences and disputes over the budget. Yet Mr. Branchflower, in a rush to judgment, has  
14 seemingly done nothing to investigate or verify these facts; he has failed to interview Karen  
15 Rehfeld, the Director of Office and Management & Budget who has first-hand knowledge  
16 about the budget disputes that resulted in Monegan's reassignment.

17  
18 It is tragic that because Trooper Wooten told a false story to a blogger who repeated it,  
19 the legislature has allocated over \$100,000 of public money to harass me and numerous other  
20 innocents about the fact that I had legitimate concerns about my family's safety and the public  
21 safety. It disappoints me that some members of the legislature and the police union care more  
22 about political point-scoring, spending the public's money to try to portray our legitimate  
23

1 concerns about the troopers as something wrongful than about actually protecting the public  
2 safety.

### 3 GENERAL OBJECTIONS

4 Todd Palin objects to each and every one of the deposition interrogatories on the  
5 following grounds. These general objections shall be incorporated into each of Mr. Palin's  
6 responses to the individual deposition interrogatories set forth below.

7 1. Mr. Palin has made diligent and reasonable efforts to respond to each and every  
8 deposition interrogatory as Palin understands and interprets the interrogatory. If Mr.  
9 Branchflower subsequently asserts an interpretation of any interrogatory that differs from that  
10 of Mr. Palin's, Mr. Palin reserves the right to supplement his objections and responses.

11 2. Mr. Palin objects to each and every deposition interrogatory to the extent it seeks  
12 privileged information; information prepared in anticipation of litigation, constituting attorney  
13 work product, or disclosing mental impressions; conclusions, opinions, or legal theories of any  
14 attorney or other representative of Mr. Palin; information containing privileged attorney-client  
15 communications; and/or information that is otherwise protected from disclosure under  
16 applicable privileges, laws, or rules, including, but not limited to, spousal privilege, executive  
17 privilege, deliberative process privilege, the joint defense and/or common interest doctrines.  
18 Any disclosure of such protected or privileged information in response to the requests for  
19 production is inadvertent and is not intended to be, and shall not operate as a waiver of any  
20 privileges or protections; nor is such inadvertent disclosure or production intended to be, nor  
21 shall it constitute a waiver of the right to object to any use of such response, document, or of  
22 the information contained therein.  
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1           3.       Mr. Palin objects to each and every deposition interrogatory to the extent it seeks  
2 to impose any requirement or discovery obligation beyond those required by the Alaska Rules  
3 of Civil Procedure, the Alaska Constitution, or any other applicable law or rules.

4           4.       Mr. Palin objects to each and every deposition interrogatory to the extent that it is  
5 overbroad, unduly burdensome or seeks information that is neither relevant to the subject  
6 matter of the investigation, nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible  
7 evidence.

8           5.       Mr. Palin objects to each and every deposition interrogatory to the extent it may  
9 be read as requiring the use of unreasonable data recovery processes.

10          6.       Mr. Palin objects to each and every deposition interrogatory to the extent that is  
11 vague and ambiguous, or cumulative or duplicative of other requests for production, and  
12 would subject Mr. Palin to oppression, harassment, undue burden or expense.

13          7.       Mr. Palin objects to each and every deposition interrogatory to the extent it seeks  
14 information that is (a) not in Mr. Palin's possession, custody, or control; or (b) publicly  
15 available.

16          8.       Mr. Palin's responses to the deposition interrogatories are made without in any  
17 way waiving or intending to waive, but on the contrary intending to preserve and preserving:  
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19           a.       The right to raise all questions of authenticity, foundation, relevancy,  
20                   materiality, privilege and admissibility as evidence, for any purpose, of  
21                   information identified in response to the request for production that may arise in  
22                   any subsequent proceedings;

23           b.       The right to object to the use of these responses in any subsequent proceeding;  
24

1 c. The right to object to introduction into evidence of these responses; and

2 d. The right to object on any ground at any time to other interrogatories, requests  
3 for production, or other discovery involving the subject matter thereof.

4 9. Mr. Palin objects to the Subpoena on the ground that the Judiciary Committee  
5 lacks authority to issue subpoenas or otherwise investigate matters relating to the Office of  
6 the Governor, the Department of Administration, or the Department of Public Safety.  
7 Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Uniform Rules of the Alaska Legislature, the Judiciary  
8 Committee's jurisdiction is limited to "the programs and activities of the Alaska Court  
9 System and the Department of Law, and the legal and substantive review of bills referred to it  
10 for that purpose." Pursuant to Rule 20, the State Affairs Committee is the legislative  
11 committee with jurisdiction over the Office of the Governor, the Department of  
12 Administration, and the Department of Public Safety.

13  
14 10. Mr. Palin objects to the Deposition Interrogatories to the extent they seek  
15 information protected from disclosure by the doctrine of executive privilege. As the spouse  
16 of the Governor, Mr. Palin regularly communicates with the Governor, and the  
17 communications are covered by the executive privilege. *See, e.g., Association of American*  
18 *Physicians & Surgeons, Inc. v. Clinton*, 997 F.2d 898 (D.C. Cir. 1993); *In re Grand Jury*  
19 *Proceedings*, 5 F. Supp. 2d 21 (D.D.C. 1998) ("The Court finds that conversations between  
20 the First Lady and [presidential advisers] Lindsey or Blumenthal fall under the executive  
21 privilege.").

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23 11. Mr. Palin objects to the Deposition Interrogatories to the extent that they seek  
24 information protected from disclosure by the deliberative process privilege. The decision



1 making process by which the Governor decided to reassign a public safety commissioner is  
2 inherently pre-decisional and deliberative, and the interest in confidentiality outweighs any  
3 purported public interest in disclosure. *See, e.g., Gwich'in Steering Committee v. Office of*  
4 *the Governor*, 10 P.3d 572 (Alaska 2000).

5 12. Mr. Palin objects to the Deposition Interrogatories on the ground that the  
6 Legislative Council lacked jurisdiction to authorize the investigation pursuant to which the  
7 Deposition Interrogatories were issued. The Legislative Council's authority to conduct  
8 investigations is limited to investigations in support of its statutory purpose to assist the  
9 legislature in reviewing, assessing, drafting, and revising legislation and providing  
10 administrative services to the legislature in connection with the development of legislation.  
11 *See* AS §§ 24.20.010, 24.20.060(2).

12 13. Mr. Palin objects to the Deposition Interrogatories on the ground that the special  
13 counsel engaged by the Legislative Council to pursue the investigation of which the  
14 Interrogatories are a part has a conflict of interest. On information and belief, former public  
15 safety commissioner Monegan was the supervisor of Special Counsel Branchflower's wife  
16 Linda Branchflower when both worked at the Anchorage Police Department. Linda  
17 Branchflower publicly praised Mr. Monegan's appointment as public safety commissioner  
18 and received a contract under Mr. Monegan for the cold case unit from which she has  
19 financially benefited. And Special Counsel Branchflower essentially functioned as Mr.  
20 Monegan's attorney when Mr. Branchflower was a district attorney in Anchorage and Mr.  
21 Monegan was Anchorage police chief.  
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1           14.     Mr. Palin objects to the Subpoena on the ground that the “project director” of this  
2 investigation, Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Hollis French, has either engaged in  
3 impropriety or has created the appearance of impropriety by making public statements  
4 appearing to prejudge the outcome of the investigation before it had even commenced. Mr.  
5 French has been quoted in the media as stating his belief that the results of the investigation  
6 would be “damaging” to the Governor’s administration, could lead to “impeachment,” and  
7 could result in an “October surprise.” Such statements evidence a prejudgment of the merits  
8 that violates Article I, Section 7 of the Alaska Constitution – a provision drafted in the wake  
9 of the abusive McCarthy investigations – which provides that “the right of all persons to fair  
10 and just treatment in the course of legislative and executive investigations shall not be  
11 infringed.”

12           15.     Mr. Palin objects to the subpoena and to the Deposition Interrogatories to the  
13 extent they are interpreted to require the production of documents. At no time was there a  
14 vote to authorize a subpoena for the production of documents from Todd Palin.  
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16           16.     Mr. Palin responds to these interrogatories in accordance with Mr. Palin’s  
17 knowledge and best recollections at this time. While Mr. Palin believes that each of the  
18 answers below provides a complete and substantive answer to the question posed, Mr. Palin  
19 is continuing to search for information responsive to these interrogatories, and reserves the  
20 right to supplement, amend, or correct his response to each interrogatory with additional  
21 information should material arise that refreshes his recollection.  
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1           17.     Mr. Palin submits these responses to deposition interrogatories in full satisfaction  
2 of the subpoena that was issued to him by the Senate Judiciary and served upon his attorney  
3 on September 12, 2008.

4           Subject to these objections, Todd Palin answers the Deposition Interrogatories as follows:

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6           ***1. What communications have you had with Governor Sarah Palin Regarding Walt Monegan?***  
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8           I first recall becoming aware of Walt Monegan during the transition phase in late 2006.  
9 I vaguely recall knowing that he was part of the DPS transition team. I do not recall if that  
10 knowledge came from discussions with Sarah but it may have. I was directed by Bob Cockrell,  
11 of the governor's security staff, to express concerns that I had about anyone who had made a  
12 threat against Sarah or her family to DPS. Pursuant to that instruction, I discussed Mike  
13 Wooten and the threats he had made against our family with Walt Monegan in late 2006 or  
14 early 2007. Sometime after this discussion, I mentioned to Sarah that I had talked to Walt  
15 Monegan about Mike. During the transition time Sarah and I had a short conversation about  
16 Walt. I recall discussing the fact that he was from rural Alaska, that he seemed respected in the  
17 law enforcement community, and that he could potentially help with communication and image  
18 problems that the troopers have historically had with rural communities.  
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20           I recall a discussion in the summer of 2007 when a friend's husband drowned in Lake  
21 Louise and she was upset with the way the body recovery was being handled. We called  
22 Monegan.  
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1 On or about the fall of 2007, Sarah and I had a discussion regarding the resolution of the  
2 Trooper Spitzer taser incident that resulted in a lawsuit and a substantial jury verdict against the  
3 state of Alaska. It is possible during this discussion that Monegan's name came up.

4 Sarah and I talked about Sarah's plans to visit the rural communities in Alaska. Many  
5 rural communities in Alaska are accessible only by plane. The state uses a King Air Turbo  
6 Prop for such travel, which is managed by the Department of Public Safety. There were some  
7 discussions about Monegan related to travel and the lack of availability of the King Air Turbo  
8 Prop. It seemed like whenever Sarah needed this plane, it was unavailable. Our discussion was  
9 generally that Monegan didn't seem to understand how difficult it was to reschedule these trips  
10 on short notice and his failure to get on top of this issue was preventing Sarah from traveling to  
11 out-of-the-way rural bush communities to visit her constituents. We were concerned that the  
12 Department of Public Safety was retaliating against Sarah for selling the Murkowski jet that  
13 Department of Public Safety officials enjoyed using.

14 I recall asking Sarah about the claim of PSEA, the police union, that the DPS budget  
15 had been cut and she told me that it had actually been increased by two million dollars. She  
16 expressed frustration that Walt was not disputing this misinformation. Throughout 2008, I  
17 became aware from discussions with Sarah that she was becoming more dissatisfied with  
18 Monegan's work, particularly on budget matters, and lack of progress in achieving policy  
19 goals.  
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21 There was an email on June 30, 2008 from Monegan that had the annual AST 2007  
22 report. I was aware that Sarah was not happy with the report. Sarah was having difficulty  
23 finding out who had actually authored it and who was going to take responsibility for it.  
24

1 In that same email, Monegan stated that he had heard a rumor from an unnamed source  
2 that Sarah was supposedly driving Trig, then around 9 weeks old, in her car without “an  
3 approved infant car seat” and that this situation could be “awkward.” This odd and offensive  
4 email was forwarded to me. I was in Dillingham at the time. She was not happy with  
5 Monegan’s false accusation or his implied threat that it was “awkward” as if he now needed to  
6 issue a citation. Sarah has always been a good mother and to accuse her of something like that  
7 was very offensive. Sarah responded that “I’ve never driven Trig anywhere without a new,  
8 approved car seat. I want to know who said otherwise—pls provide me that info now.”  
9 (Emphasis added). I am not sure Monegan ever responded to the Governor’s direct order. The  
10 next day it was learned through Kris Perry that this false allegation of her driving was really  
11 about a group tour of a Point McKenzie farm and a big diesel truck that everyone rode in on a  
12 private farm road without traffic at low speed. *Sarah was not driving*, she was a passenger with  
13 others, and it was like taking a shuttle. Later, the same false rumor was repeated on an anti-  
14 Palin blog.  
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16 In May of 2008, the troopers issued a poster that featured Mike Wooten on it. I arrived  
17 at Sarah’s office shortly after the Department of Public Safety dropped off the poster there.  
18 Sarah and I discussed this later. It seems odd to me now, after Monegan claims all this  
19 “pressure” about Wooten, that in May 2008 he did not know what Wooten looked like.  
20

21 From approximately June 19 until July 14, I was in Dillingham. Sarah was also  
22 traveling during part of this time. I do not believe that we had many conversations during this  
23 time about Monegan.  
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1 I heard about Walt Monegan leaving state service after the fact. After the dispute arose  
2 and we learned that Monegan, or people on his behalf, were claiming he was fired because he  
3 would not fire Wooten, Sarah and I had numerous discussions regarding Monegan, and how  
4 inaccurate this was. We also discussed some of the reasons Sarah lost faith in Monegan, such as  
5 his lack of cooperation, his seeming unwillingness to defend the administration against false  
6 claims by PSEA, and his inability to coordinate his work with the Governor's office.

7 ***2. What communications have you had with Governor Sarah Palin regarding Mike***  
8 ***Wooten?***

9 Many over the years. Wooten was a threat to our family. He was dishonest. He was not  
10 a good man. He threatened to kill Sarah's dad. I often raised my concerns about Wooten, and  
11 what I thought was the unfairness of his remaining on the state troopers when he was obviously  
12 so unfit for the job. At some point Sarah told me to "drop it" and stop talking about the issue  
13 and I discussed it with her much less often. We also discussed Wooten's 2006 bankruptcy,  
14 which he declared after an extensive spending spree where he ran up tens of thousands of  
15 dollars of debt at local businesses. I thought that this was inappropriate for a police officer.

16 ***3. What communications have you had with Mike Tibbles regarding Walt***  
17 ***Monegan?***

18 I do not recall specific conversations with Tibbles about Monegan other than about  
19 routine things such as scheduling the King Air and Monegan's leadership issues.

20 ***4. What communications have you had with Mike Tibbles regarding Mike Wooten?***

21 Quite a few, so many I can not remember them all. Tibbles was chief of staff. I told  
22 him about Wooten being a threat to my family. I gave Tibbles the whole story about Wooten,  
23 gave him the packet of information I had collected about Wooten and informed him regularly  
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1 of my serious concerns about Wooten. I also talked to him about the litigation over Trooper  
2 Spitzer and Trooper Osborne, and the jailed Trooper Scott. I spoke to him a couple of times  
3 about my questions whether Wooten was following the law on his workers' comp claim.

4 **5. *What communications have you had with Annette Kreitzer regarding Walt Monegan?***

5 I don't recall having any communications with Annette Kreitzer about Monegan.

6 **6. *What communications have you had with Annette Kreitzer regarding Mike Wooten?***

7 I don't recall having any communications with Annette Kreitzer regarding Mike  
8 Wooten.

9 **7. *What communications have you had with Brad Thompson about Walt Monegan?***

10 I don't recall having any communications with Brad Thompson about Walt Monegan.

11 **8. *What communications have you had with Brad Thompson about Mike Wooten?***

12 I believe I called Brad Thompson about Wooten possibly committing workers' comp  
13 fraud. I personally saw Wooten riding a snowmachine on the Yetna River trail when he was  
14 supposedly fully disabled from work. I took pictures. I was told Brad Thompson was maybe  
15 looking in to this. He confirmed that the case was being looked at.

16 **9. *What communications have you had with Mike Nizich about Walt Monegan?***

17 I don't remember that many conversations with Nizich about Monegan. I think I talked  
18 with Nizich and got a general sense of his frustration with Monegan's lack of performance.  
19 After Monegan was reassigned I remember Nizich saying something to the effect that Kopp  
20 understood the direction of the department and the duties of a commissioner in short order  
21 whereas Monegan did not.  
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5 **10. What communications have you had with Mike Nizich about Mike Wooten?**

I talked to Nizich and gave him the whole story about Wooten. I never asked Nizich to do anything about Wooten. He simply listened. This was probably in Juneau, but I am not sure, and I think it was in early 2008.

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10 **11. What communications have you had with Ivy Frye regarding Walt Monegan?**

I remember talking with Ivy during the last session probably in Juneau during the PSEA negotiations. PSEA was publicly providing incorrect information about the Governor's public safety record and running untrue ads about the administration and I said to her something to the effect that "Walt's not doing anything about it."

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15 **12. What communications have you had with Ivy Frye regarding Mike Wooten?**

I think I forwarded emails to Ivy about our communication with Col. Grimes, and gave her the Hacket information with the witness statements and the other information we had about Wooten. We became friends during the campaign because she was a hard worker. I am certain I talked to her several times about problems with Mike Wooten. We talked on the phone and in person. I don't recall details but it would have involved Wooten's actions and my feelings about that.

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19 **13. What communications have you had with Frank Bailey regarding Walt Monegan?**

Probably several phone calls and in person discussions in Anchorage, but the conversations were more about DPS than about Monegan. We discussed problems with the system, the plane, and the lack of accountability in DPS.

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23 **14. What communications have you had with Frank Bailey regarding Mike Wooten?**



1 We had a lot of conversations about a guy who threatened my family and verbally  
2 assaulted my daughter. We talked about my concerns. We talked about Wooten possibly  
3 pulling over one of my kids to frame them, like throwing a bag of dope in the back seat just to  
4 frame a Palin. We talked about Wooten's statements or actions against Molly and Wooten  
5 being a ticking time bomb mentally and my concern for the safety of my father in-law and the  
6 rest of my family. I told Frank about my concerns about Wooten supposedly being disabled but  
7 at the same time riding snowmachines or motorcycles. I told him how I could not understand  
8 how a person like that could do all these things and still carry a gun and a badge. We  
9 communicated about Wooten being on shift but waiting in front of schools for 45 minutes  
10 while on duty running his kids around in a patrol car. Frank and I discussed Wooten a lot in  
11 the last few years, in person and over the phone and by email. I never asked Frank Bailey to  
12 call Rodney Dial for me about Wooten, but I repeatedly expressed my frustration to Frank  
13 about Wooten and, in my opinion, a flawed system that protected Wooten.

15 **15. *What communications did you have with Randy Ruaro regarding Walt***  
16 ***Monegan?***

17 I may have had conversations about Monegan with Randy prior to July 2008, about  
18 routine matters such as the lack of availability of the King Turbo Prop. In July 2008 I spoke  
19 with Randy in the context of state infrastructure projects. During that conversation, we talked  
20 about other issues including that someone from Bethel had mentioned for DPS and Walt to use  
21 the returning Iraq vets in Bethel to fill law enforcement vacancies. There were a lot of  
22 vacancies and a need in rural Alaska. I got the sense that Randy was frustrated with Monegan  
23 about several issues particularly about not filling DPS vacancies. I think we talked about  
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1 improving public safety in rural Alaska. I recall talking with Randy and getting the impression  
2 that Randy was very frustrated with Monegan.

3 **16. What communications did you have with Randy Ruaro regarding Mike**  
4 **Wooten?**

5 I told Randy that Wooten threatened to kill my father in-law. I told Randy about  
6 Wooten and gave him a rundown of what had occurred and his history. I wanted everyone to  
7 know about the risk Wooten was to my family in case anything ever happened. I am certain we  
8 spoke on the phone several times in which Wooten came up, and we talked about it in person.

9 **17. What communications have you had with John Glass about Walt**  
10 **Monegan?**

11 I do not recall having any communications with Glass about Monegan, though we may  
12 have discussed Monegan in the context of the issue of plane transportation. I spoke with Glass  
13 as a routine matter, so some of those conversations may have touched upon Monegan.

14 **18. What communications have you had with John Glass about**  
15 **Wooten?**

16 I know John through the Iron Dog. We would talk shop. I spoke to Glass about Wooten  
17 when Glass was police chief of Wasilla. I told him "I hope you guys aren't considering hiring  
18 him." Glass said "Believe me, we already know" or something to that effect. I had other  
19 conversations with Glass in the Capitol Building probably around March or April 2008 about  
20 Wooten. I remember him saying: "I'm telling you as a friend, I love the Governor, but I am  
21 telling you, you stay away from this Wooten situation." I felt it was more of the same with  
22 troopers protecting a "brother" officer.

23 **19. What communications did you have with Audie Holloway regarding**  
24 **Monegan?**

1 I do not recall talking with Holloway about Monegan, but I did tell Holloway that  
2 Monegan told me that Holloway had my papers from the Hackett private investigation.

3 **20. What communications did you have with Audie Holloway regarding Mike**  
4 **Wooten?**

5 My first contact was probably about April 2007, when I told him I had pictures of a  
6 trooper, Wooten, riding about 100 miles out of Wasilla on the Yetna River but was supposedly  
7 on worker's comp for months. I spend a lot of time out on the Yetna River using my snow-  
8 machine, and by coincidence saw Wooten there one day, and took photos. Holloway said  
9 "bring them on in" and later he took the pictures from me. In September 2007 I called  
10 Holloway and said "Walt said you had my papers." He said he did not remember anything  
11 about this. I ran down the Wooten situation for him since he said he did not remember this at  
12 all. I also told him that we were getting a lot of calls at the house about Trooper Spitzer and the  
13 state getting hit with a million dollar verdict because of him. He told me "I cannot talk to you  
14 about Trooper Spitzer but Trooper Spitzer did nothing wrong."

15 **21. What communications have you had with other members of the Department of**  
16 **Public Safety regarding Walt Monegan?**

17 I don't recall having communications with anybody else in DPS about Monegan, but I  
18 can't say for sure. I may have discussed Monegan in the course of communications with  
19 Chuck Kopp.

20 **22. What communications have you had with other members of the Department of**  
21 **Public Safety regarding Mike Wooten?**

22 I recall Chuck Kopp talking to me about Wooten at the governor's picnic in Wasilla.  
23 We heard that Wooten was at the picnic, in uniform, armed and it was just after he made a  
24 threat to take "Sarah down" and my wife felt threatened. She talked with Kopp. Kopp was at

1 the picnic at some point. Kopp handled the situation and Wooten, who was not assigned to  
2 work the picnic, was removed.

3 I spoke to Kim Peterson about Wooten on the information I dropped off for Holloway  
4 regarding the workers' comp fraud.

5 I told Bob Cockrell the full story about Wooten and how I thought he was a security  
6 threat to me and my family and that the security detail needed to know about Wooten's past in  
7 order to understand why Wooten was a threat. Cockrell told me to talk to the DPS  
8 commissioner (Monegan) about our concerns about Wooten.

9 Between August and December 2005, as a private citizen, I had several communications  
10 by e-mail and two by phone with Colonel Julia Grimes about Wooten. I may have also spoken  
11 to her in 2006; I don't recall if I spoke with Colonel Grimes in 2007.

12 In 2005 and 2006, as a private citizen, I spoke to Jim Cockrell twice about Wooten.

13 As part of the troopers' investigation into Wooten, Ron Wall interviewed me on or  
14 about August 18, 2005. I gave Wall a copy of my Hackett investigation report shortly  
15 thereafter at his request.

16  
17 **23. What communications have you had with Kris Perry regarding Walt**  
18 **Monegan?**

19 I spoke with Kris Perry regularly, often many times a day, about everything going on  
20 that day. I know I spoke to her about Monegan not getting the King Air in shape and available  
21 for the Governor to visit the Bush communities. One issue with Monegan that I recall was the  
22 way he threatened the Governor about an "anonymous" complaint that she supposedly drove  
23 Trig without a car seat. I gave the details of this above.

24 **24. What communications have you had with Kris Perry regarding Wooten?**

1           There were many conversations with Kris about Wooten. Kris is a family friend we  
2 have known for a long time. She probably knew about Wooten issues when they happened and  
3 we would have many contemporaneous discussions about the latest Wooten problem.

4           **25. What communications have you had with Nicki Neal regarding Walt Monegan?**

5           I don't recall having communications with Nicki Neal about Walt Monegan.

6           **26. What communications have you had with Nicki Neal regarding Mike Wooten?**

7           I don't recall having communications with Nicki Neal about Mike Wooten.

8           **27. What communications have you had with Janice Mason regarding Walt Monegan?**

9           I think we talked about Monegan whenever we tried to schedule the King Air.  
10 Monegan had difficulty getting the plane in service for us. We were all somewhat frustrated  
11 with this.

12           **28. What communications have you had with Janice Mason regarding Mike Wooten.**

13           I don't recall specifically having communications with Ms. Mason about Wooten, but I  
14 may have given her the full rundown about Wooten's misconduct at some time.

15           **29. What communications have you had with any other member of the Palin Administration regarding Walt Monegan?**

16           On various occasions through-out the course of the Administration, I may have had  
17 some communications with various people about routine issues that would involve Monegan,  
18 such as scheduling the King Air, if he was going to come to a function or to the house, etc.

19           **30. What communications have you had with any other member of the Palin Administration regarding Mike Wooten?**

1 This answer assumes that the other responses regarding administration members are not  
2 included in this response so I don't have to repeat everything. I talked to many people in the  
3 Palin Administration about Wooten, usually when there was some incident with Wooten or I  
4 was following up. I warned people about the threat this guy was to me and my family and in  
5 my opinion to the community at large. I talked to Talis Colberg, I think somewhere in late  
6 2007, maybe early 2008, about the Wooten death threat against my family and if there was  
7 anything that could be looked into because of this. Talis told me a few days later that it was a  
8 personnel matter and it was resolved, but how it was resolved was not disclosed.

9 I spoke to Sharon Leighow, and told her about Wooten being a threat. I spoke to  
10 Bitney about Wooten. I am certain I told Bitney the whole story about Wooten and probably  
11 expressed my candid opinion about Wooten's unfitness to be a cop.

12  
13 **31. What actions did you take involving Walt Monegan or Mike Wooten?**

14 (a): **Monegan:** I had interactions with Monegan that are "actions" such as plane trips to  
15 Dillingham together; flying to New Stuyahok, flying to Bethel. I believe I first met Monegan  
16 after he was hired as a Commissioner. In the summer of 2007 we got a call from a friend  
17 whose husband was missing in Lake Louise, and she was frustrated about the lack of search  
18 effort by the troopers. I called Monegan. He said it was a "recovery operation" and that there  
19 was "no need for the wife to get all excited" and that he had "people on it."

20 Our security detail said I should keep DPS informed about any security issues. On the  
21 basis of this instruction, I met with Monegan sometime around late December 2006 or probably  
22 in January of 2007. I met with him at the Anchorage Governor's office to discuss Wooten. It  
23 was just me and him. It told him he needed to be aware of a trooper that has threatened my  
24

1 family. I gave him information including the findings from Hacket interviews;  
2 communications between us and Col. Grimes, and statements from Gary Howe, and my  
3 daughter Bristol. Since Monegan was the top cop in the state, I wanted to make sure he had all  
4 information about Wooten's history in case something happened to a member of the Palin  
5 family or the general public by Wooten. He said he would "look into it." A week or two later,  
6 in passing (most likely in the Governor's office in Anchorage), Monegan saw me and followed  
7 up to our meeting saying the investigation "was over with." Monegan said "If you want to  
8 pursue this my recommendation is you talk to the ombudsman." Sometime later, I called  
9 Monegan, and told him about the snowmachine pictures. He told me to call Holloway about  
10 those photos.

11 Monegan never informed me about the substance of any investigation that had been  
12 done. I was told no details could be released. I assumed nothing had been done or that whatever  
13 was done internally must have been a slap on the wrist. Col. Grimes never told me and  
14 Monegan never told me. In fall 2007 I contacted Monegan to try to retrieve the packet of  
15 information I gave him. He told me to "call Audie."

17 Not until Wooten released, and then the ADN posted, his personnel records in July 2008  
18 did I learn that there was a completed internal review by Col. Grimes and what was done. I  
19 learned that there was a ten-day suspension ordered, and that the union successfully reduced the  
20 suspension to five days. To my amazement Col. Grimes said that if any member of the public  
21 had done what Wooten did, they would be charged criminally. The lack of criminal charges  
22 and the reduction of the suspension to five days is a poor reflection on DPS, and undermines all  
23 the good, honest troopers who put their lives on the line.  
24

1 As Monegan has stated, I never told him to fire Wooten. My understanding was that he  
2 was in charge of receiving any kind of complaint about a trooper. That was his job. At no time  
3 did Monegan tell me he felt "pressure" nor would I expect the top law enforcement officer in  
4 our state to feel "pressure" to do anything he did not think was right. He holds himself out as a  
5 man of integrity. I would assume he would tell me if he thought I said or did anything he was  
6 uncomfortable with or was unethical. He never filed an ethics complaint or reported anything.  
7 He never said anything.

8 (b) **Wooten:** My introductory statement regarding Trooper Wooten is fully incorporated  
9 by reference in this answer. I also incorporate my discussions with others about Wooten. In  
10 addition, as to Wooten, I watched him drive a snowmachine and then tip one over to work on it,  
11 all while he was supposedly fully disabled. I took a picture of Wooten. I gave a file of  
12 information to Monegan. Monegan was head of DPS and it was his job to receive complaints  
13 about troopers. I complained about Wooten using a trooper car for personal business since I  
14 saw him using the patrol to bus his kids around to multiple schools during working hours. I  
15 inquired about Wooten's workers comp status to Brad Thompson. I made a complaint about  
16 what I thought was a possible workers comp fraud issue.

17  
18  
19 32. *Are you in possession of any other information, including the actions and*  
20 *communications of others, regarding the events and circumstances*  
21 *surrounding the termination of Walt Monegan? If so, describe that*  
22 *information in detail.*

23 Walt Monegan was, to the best of my knowledge, not terminated. He was offered a  
24 reassignment and he resigned rather than accept the reassignment. I am also in possession of  
25 the publicly-available information about the termination of Walt Monegan and press reports of



1 Walt Monegan's conduct. I incorporate into this response my answers to the rest of the  
2 deposition interrogatories.

3 The statements I made here are true and correct to the best of my ability and  
4 recollection.

5 DATED: October 8, 2008

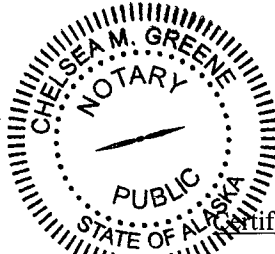
6 BY: Todd M. Palin

7 AS TO THE OBJECTIONS :

8 DATED: October 8, 2008

9 By: Thomas V. Van Flein

10 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, this 8th day  
11 of October, 2008, at Anchorage, Alaska.



Chelsea Greene  
Notary Public in and for  
Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9-4-2012

15 Certificate of Service

16 I hereby certify that on the 8th day of October 2008, a copy of the foregoing document was served by mail on the  
17 following:

18 Talis Colberg, Attorney General  
19 1031 W. Fourth Avenue, Suite 200  
20 Anchorage, AK. 99501

21 The 25<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Alaska

22 Steve Branchflower

23 By: \_\_\_\_\_