

BEFORE THE IOWA SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

STATE OF IOWA

)

AFFIDAVIT OF CHRISTOPHER DORR

)

COUNTY OF DALLAS

)

SS.

COMES NOW Christopher Dorr, being first duly sworn, and states for the record:

I am 30 years old, a native Iowan, now residing in Van Meter, Iowa. For 4 years I have worked in various political campaigns. I thereby gained significant knowledge of the way Iowa political campaigns operate and are managed.

Due to my experience I was interviewed and hired as a field staffer by Congresswoman Michele Bachmann's chief of staff, Andy Parrish, in the hotel lobby of the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines in late March of 2011.

The campaign started in earnest late in the season leading up to the August Ames straw poll. We had a relatively short amount of time to outfit an office for the duties of a campaign headquarters.

Unfortunately, as the most technologically literate individual in the campaign office, many duties unrelated to being a field staffer were left to me:

- Procuring internet service.
- Procuring wireless network capabilities.
- Networking campaign laptops.
- Procuring central print and scan facilities.
- Scanning, filing and emailing documents such as campaign strategy memos for the candidate, bills, invoices, employee contract and tax information, event contract documents and other items as necessary to campaign managers and accountants.
- Installing and reinstalling print drivers on a continual basis both for incoming laptops as well as

It was my understanding Mr. Waldron was brought aboard as a pastoral outreach staffer, having fulfilled similar roles for previous candidates during previous election cycles.

At no time was I, nor to my knowledge the rest of the office staff, informed that Mrs. Heki had data on her campaign computer that was proprietary and/or off-limits to the campaign or campaign staff.

At no time was I, nor to my knowledge the rest of the office staff, informed that anybody else in the office, with one exception being Peter Waldron (mentioned below), was in possession of proprietary data that was off-limits to the campaign staffers.

At Mrs. Heki's request, I set up her computer on the wireless network on multiple occasions as necessary due to wireless network password changes.

Also at Mrs. Heki's request, I took physical possession of her computer on multiple occasions to perform technological updates and/or services as necessary, as printer networking was a common problem.

I was not informed during these multiple occasions by Mrs. Heki that the computer was her own, personally paid for, computer.

At this point, some context is needed to illustrate the political and office environments.

At the Ames Straw Poll, our campaign utilized a paper card check-in system. In order to receive tickets to vote in the straw poll from the Bachmann campaign, attendees had to fill out information cards at our tent, and in turn were allocated a single ticket to vote.

After the Ames Straw Poll victory, the Iowa campaign staff lobbied to keep the cards in Iowa to get the data entered. We did so in the hopes we could capitalize on our momentum and convert these identified activist/supporters into a statewide leadership structure for the Iowa Caucus.

We were unsuccessful in our attempts to keep the cards. They were shipped out of state and the data remained unavailable for a period of several critical weeks.

In lieu of that data, we went to work recruiting county leadership from pre-Straw Poll data. We plugged holes in our maps using available resources, and we were encouraged by Bachmann's chief political consultant, Guy Short, to work together and share data to fill those gaps.

In light of Governor Perry's rapidly rising momentum at the time and in light of the fact that our own campaign was undergoing a leadership change, Guy Short explained to me that we needed to get all of our lists into the campaign so that the campaign could continue communicating and messaging to them to try to keep our supporters in our camp.

That was the political context.

The campaign headquarters context must also be illustrated. The office was an open office environment. Lists and data and computers and office space were shared and swapped and utilized by staff and volunteers on a routine basis as we worked toward our goal.

Phone calls, conference calls, debate prep and conversations and meetings of a private nature were held in the interior board room behind closed doors.

There were campaign computers throughout the campaign headquarters.

I had a laptop reimbursed for in part by the campaign. I believe Tony Eastman had a laptop reimbursed for by the campaign. I believe both Wes Enos and Drew Klein had laptops reimbursed for by the campaign, although I was not involved in their procurement or selection.

I had my own, privately purchased desktop computer in my office in addition to my campaign laptop. I had personal information on it, and as such, it was password protected, and when I left for any period of time, I locked my door.

Not until the public filing of the lawsuit against Senator Kent Sorenson did I know that the computer in Mrs. Heki's campaign office was a private one.

In addition to the multiple times I was requested by Mrs. Heki to help her with technical issues with the computer in question, I remember one conversation with her about the computer in question where I teased Mrs. Heki that her keyboard cover didn't fit very well, and she responded that her kids had bought it for her when they heard she got a Mac product. I assumed it was recently obtained as were the rest of ours.

In my attempt to fill holes in my geographical area, I asked Mrs. Heki, in her role as the homeschool coordinator, on several occasions if she had homeschoolers in certain areas of my assigned region of the state. She looked on her computer list of homeschoolers and gave me several handwritten possibilities to contact.

It was a natural thing to do in an open-office campaign headquarters environment, and I made similar requests of Wes Enos, Kent Sorenson, Tony Eastman and Peter Waldron as well.

During a conversation in this context with fellow staffer Tony Eastman, Tony referenced the list of homeschoolers that Barb was using to help him find precinct captains in his geographical area.

To the best of my knowledge, up through this point I had not received any electronic data from her for her homeschool coordinator efforts.

Heki was offering written data from a campaign list she had on her computer to Bachmann staffers in the campaign office.

The only list I encountered in the campaign headquarters that was personal or private in nature belonged to Peter Waldron. It was a list of pastors and evangelical leaders from around the country that he made clear to me was assembled outside of and previous to his work for the Bachmann campaign.

His stated intentions to me were that he wanted to communicate to them privately and outside of the campaign communications methods, so I assisted him in his efforts to do that.


I did not upload his contact list to the campaign.

In regards to the other allegations involving alleged payments to Senator Sorenson, I was not privy to any information either directly or indirectly. I have learned of these allegations as they have become public.

Further affiant sayeth not.


Christopher Dorr

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Christopher Dorr on the 30th day of April 2013, as his voluntary act and deed.


Notary Public in and for Iowa

