

Interview with Mayor Dale Sparks

- Lt. McLaughlin: (test) We have a number of arrest warrants for ah, a number of ah, adult entertainment violations. I'm gonna ask you to come down to the City Hall, and ah, for a formal interview if you would.
- Mayor Sparks: Sure. Sure.
- Lt. McLaughlin: And ah, I'd like to go ahead and do that here pretty soon if we can. You could drive down or you could ride with me. It's up to you.
- Mayor Sparks: Okay. Uhm...
- Lt. McLaughlin: The business one, won't be ah, were not closing it but ah, it, it won't be ah, running, so ah, do you have everything you need? You're free to go back and get what you need er, anything, You are, you are free to ah, uhm, to leave. You don't have to come with me, I'd appreciate it.
- Mayor Sparks: Oh no, well sure. Sure.
- Lt. McLaughlin: You're not in custody...
- Mayor Sparks: I, I just need to get my pills.
- Lt. McLaughlin: That'd be good. Yep.
- (inaudible)
- Mayor Sparks: Uhm, like to the, to the back side there?
- Lt. McLaughlin: We'll just go to the Police Department you know. We'll do it, I'll just meet you there.
- Mayor Sparks: Okay. The back?
- Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah the back side of the PD would be good.
- Mayor Sparks: Okay.
- Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.
- (tape paused)
- Mayor Sparks: Man that's, that's stuff you see on, like on Cops on TV.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yep. (pause) We'll do the interview in here and...

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: Were waiting for Gary, he's right behind me.

Mayor Sparks: Oh, okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: And I'm gonna turn on the record...

Mayor Sparks: Sure. Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: (inaudible) It's gonna be video taped.

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: What I need you to do here is just have a conversation with you about what's going on at the Bare Essence.

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, we, we could sit down there, we could have a search warrant that were serving and we have quite a few arrest warrants for ah, various people down there. And ah, some of the charges range from ah, prostitution to ah, adult entertainment code violations that are, those are violations that are intrinsic to Federal Heights and our adult entertainment code. Uhm, Mayor before I talk to you about this I need to advise you of your rights.

Mayor Sparks: Sure.

Lt. McLaughlin: And I'm gonna read this to you verbatim, and then I'll have you look it over and make sure that you ah, are willing to have this conversation with me.

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: Can I get your date of birth?

Mayor Sparks: Ah, 7/31 of 51.

Lt. McLaughlin: I am a law enforcement officer and to interview you concerning adult entertainment code violations and complicity to commit such. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to speak with an attorney and have him present during questioning. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney the court will appoint one for you free of charge. And you have the right to stop this interview at any time. Why don't you take a look at this and... What I'm gonna ask you to do is, is ah, let me know if you understand that and all it means basically is, is that you have the constitutional right not to ah, make an incriminating statement or any statement for that matter. Uhm, we can't hold it against you in a criminal case if you decide not to, not to ah talk with me.

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, and ah, do you understand all of these?

Mayor Sparks: Yeah, yeah.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. I would ask that ah, if you wish to have this conversation with me that you would ah, sign where it says that you understand the rights.

Mayor Sparks: Okay. Uh, date and time?

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah, please.

Mayor Sparks: What is today?

Lt. McLaughlin: It is still the 15th.

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright. Thank you.

Mayor Sparks: Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, I have a variety of questions to ask you, and, and uhm, some of them are just ah, ah pretty simple and...

Mayor Sparks: Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: ...there straight forward and I have to tell you that some of them might be difficult, and uhm, uhm, before we get started I'll tell you we've been conducting a investigation, it's a joint investigation between the North Metro Task Force and the Federal Heights Police Department. We've been working on it for several months, uhm, we have uhm, secured, like I said a search warrant and a number of arrest warrants. It's uhm, evident to us that every night the business is open, there are obvious and blatant violations of the, of the municipal code, as it relates to adult entertainment and there is prostitution. And, uhm, by virtue of the fact that you work there, and you have worked there for quite some time, uhm, you are a suspect and ah, conspiring or complicity to ah commit these violations. And ah, I'm not gonna, uhm, you're the Mayor, you've always been a good guy to me, uhm, but I have a job to do and I want you to understand that I'm not gonna mince words and I'm not gonna pull any punches as this goes on. Okay?

Mayor Sparks: Sure.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, this is gonna be ah, pretty straight forward and, and ah, if you get to a question that you just don't want to answer be sure that you just tell you don't, I don't want to answer that. And that's fine with me. We can go on to the next one or uhm, you, you have the right to stop this interview at any time. Okay?

Mayor Sparks: Yeah.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, can you tell me how long you have worked at the Bare Essence?

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, well April 1st would have been a year. I started April 1st of last year.

Lt. McLaughlin: Of 2005.

Mayor Sparks: 2005. Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright. Uhm, what are your duties down there and how often do you work?

Mayor Sparks: Oh, for the first ah, I wanna say probably six to eight months, that's ball park, uhm, I worked only Friday and Saturday nights. From eight to two a.m. Until closing. Sometimes they closed earlier. Uhm, after that period of time, I'm gonna say within the last six months or so, four to six months, he's asked me to start working Wednesday nights. So as of now I work Wednesday night, and on Wednesday night I come in at six ah, till closing.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, so I work Wednesday nights, Friday nights, Saturday nights. (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: Is there, is there an occasional ah, time when you work other nights as well?

Mayor Sparks: Very seldom but yes. And there are occasions when he'll call me and say can you work ah, ah tonight, for instance. Like I believe I worked a week ago Thursday night. Uhm, occasionally he'll call me and I'll go in for a couple of hours like say after a council meeting on a Tuesday night.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: But for the most part it's Wednesday's, Friday's, and Saturday's.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: And as far as my job duty there I ah, uhm, I just collect money at the door. And then I ah, after I get the money at the door I check their i.d.'s, get the money at the door and I ah, uhm, sometimes I walk them over to the bar uhm, where they're served their ah, pop, juice or (inaudible) beer, or like if Leo happens to be there on a Friday or Saturday night, at lot of times he'll basically meet me right there also, to where I don't walk much beyond (inaudible) entry way in there.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, how did you become connected with the owner down there?

Mayor Sparks: He started ah, shopping with me at the store when we had our barbeque shop.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: And this was ah, oh gosh, I'm gonna say probably around the first of '05. The first month of '05. And ah, he had told me that he ah, was needing to replace or to fill a vacancy with his, his doorman would be leaving. And ah, I just simply found that he was asking me if I knew of somebody that wanted to work.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: And I said well I'll keep my eyes open for you. No I don't know of anybody off hand. And then he said, No, no, he said, I'm, I'm thinking more of, of you. And I said Oh God. I said I don't, I don't that I would ah, I'd feel comfortable doing that. And ah, he said well I understand he said, but ah, he said I, I, I need somebody that I could count on to be there, you know, I need him to be there. And ah, he said so that's, that's kind of the deal. He said the guy, I, I believe he told me the guy gave him a months notice or something like that, and I said well, I, I don't know, you know. And ah, then, oh I'm gonna say maybe a couple weeks pass, maybe a month, something like that, and he came back and ah, said that the doorman or who ever had found another job sooner then he

thought and that he needed to have this position filled. And ah, he said, you know, are you sure you don't wanna, wanna do it? And I said well, dang you know, I just, I really hadn't thought about it. And ah, then about that point in time uhm, business was struggling at the store and I thought well, gees, that's good income you know...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...and ah, I asked Leo, I said now all I do is collect money? He said yeah, he said I just want you to check i.d.'s and, and collect money. And I said well, Okay. So that's really how that started.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, are you comfortable telling me how much you were paid?

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, sure. He pays me a hundred dollars a night.

Lt. McLaughlin: And how does he pay you? Is it cash or check?

Mayor Sparks: Sometimes it's cash, sometimes it's a check. Now here lately it's been cash.

Lt. McLaughlin: And does he pay you uhm, uhm, every, each night?

Mayor Sparks: No, at the end of the week.

Lt. McLaughlin: End of the week. Okay. Uhm, can you tell me what your arrangement is with the owner with respect to your flea market, on the Bare Essence property?

Mayor Sparks: Oh, you know, really, he, he signed a letter for me uhm, that I presented to P and Z saying that they, that he allowed me to use the parking lot.

Lt. McLaughlin: I guess what I mean is, do, do you have to pay them to use that parking lot?

Mayor Sparks: No.

Lt. McLaughlin: Do you know if ah, the people at Comcast which is across the street uhm, have to pay them to park in there? Can you tell me about that situation?

Mayor Sparks: You know, I do remember him telling me that ah, Comcast used to use that for overflow parking. It seems to me I remember him saying that they paid him, but I, I don't, I, I, I guess I don't know for sure. But I, I, it, it seems to me that he did say that.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. Uhm, can you tell me a little bit about the owner of Bare Essence? His family, things like that?

Mayor Sparks: Very little. Uhm, I mean I've only known him for a little over a year, uhm, and the, his ah, you know, I don't even think he and Tasha, I don't even know her last name, I don't thing they're husband and wife. I don't think. Uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: Did she work at the Bare Essence?

Mayor Sparks: Yeah, yeah. She's there ah, she's ah, works behind the, the bar there and ah, ah keeps the ash trays empty. And ah, she'll seat people every now and then.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. Uhm...

Mayor Sparks: As far as, you know, my, I don't know what exactly, what to tell you as far as my, ah, my re..relationship er if I could tell you anything about him. I,I don't know.

Lt. McLaughlin: How, have you ever been to his house?

Mayor Sparks: No.

Lt. McLaughlin: Has he ever been to your's.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, yeah, uh, when I was recovering from my hip surgery for instance, he ah, he came ah, stopped by and ah, one time he brought me a card. Another time he did bring me some uhm, Cognac or some goofy thing that, I really don't drink of course, so that's still sitting there. But yes, he, he, he has been to the house ah for an application. I believe there was one time, possibly twice, that ah, he had taken me home at night. And either Sharon and dropped me off or my daughter had dropped me off there and I needed a ride home.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. You don't know if he and this Tasha are married or not?

Mayor Sparks: I don't, no I don't know that.

Lt. McLaughlin: Do you have her last name?

Mayor Sparks: I don't.

Lt. McLaughlin: Do you know what Leo's last name is?

Mayor Sparks: Oh God, just ah, Tesnikov or something like that I can't...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, who was the normal D.J.. that works there? (inaudible)

Mayor Sparks: Don and I don't know his last name.

Lt. McLaughlin: Can you describe him for me?

Mayor Sparks: Yeah he's tall, think, uhm, quite tall, I'm saying probably six...at least six foot, maybe six one.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: Very thin. Uhm, he might weigh 170 lbs., 180, something like that. Wears glasses.

Lt. McLaughlin: How long has he worked there? Okay glasses. Got you.

Mayor Sparks: Wears glasses. Balding. You know he's, he was working there when I started so I don't know for sure how long he's been there.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, do you know he's, how he was ever connected to Leo or this owner down there?

Mayor Sparks: I don't know. I mean I don't know if he was there when Leo took over or, or what. I, I, don't know.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. How well do you know any of the dancers that work there?

Mayor Sparks: I don't know any of them socially. Uhm, I just know um from just being there.

Lt. McLaughlin: How many of them do you think you know, by maybe their, they usually use stage names er first names from what I understand?

Mayor Sparks: Well I pretty much, I mean I could I guess give you ah...

Lt. McLaughlin: Just a ball park so I have a number.

Mayor Sparks: ...description, or I mean I could, I guess you could say I know all of them, I just don't know um out of the club, but...

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. Gotcha.

Mayor Sparks: ...ah, like for instance tonight I believe we had nine girls there. Ah, the one that was there had just started today, so I don't even know what her stage name is. Ah, other than that, the other ones that have been there, I guess I know just from them working there at the club.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. Can you tell me about what kind of entertainment that your business down there provides it's customers? What, what actually goes on there?

Mayor Sparks: Yeah. Uhm, well I can tell you what I, what I know of, uhm, uhm, you know, what's there, what, what the uhm, process is. Once, once they pay they come in, their served a ah, a drink, uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: It's like pop or something like that?

Mayor Sparks: Pop, juice or a Bush (inaudible) beer. Uhm, one of the dancers usually meets them at the bar, takes them to their seat. Uhm, then they sit with them. Uhm, and I have no idea what the conversations are, I'm never over there. Uhm, but they sit with them, uhm, and when it's their turn to dance they get up on stage. The first dance is ah, uhm, they have their (inaudible) on. Their g-strings on. Uhm, then the second dance is when they take off their g-strings. So like the second dance (inaudible)...

Lt. McLaughlin: This is in a common area where, the big area?

Mayor Sparks: Yes, yes, yeah. On the main stages there.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, and the people at the bar tip um. Uhm, at the end of their ah, second song, they ah, they don't leave the stage till they're clothed the same way they were when they got on the stage.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, then they take ah, their dollars, they should be all dollars, take their dollars over to uhm, the bar area and they count out how much money they got and then Leo or Tasha counts the money, and, and then they write it down on some kind of a paper they have.

Lt. McLaughlin: Like (inaudible)

Mayor Sparks: Sure.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: Then the ah, private dance area is located in the back, corner of the building, ah that'd be, the northwest corner of the building, no east corner. Northeast corner I believe it would be.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well that's actually northeast corner is where the D.J.'s both is. It's like the north...

Mayor Sparks: Well then it'd be the, it, it's on the total opposite end. So I guess that'd be...

Lt. McLaughlin: Could it be the south?

Mayor Sparks: (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: Well it's uhm, probably on the west end, toward the mountains. If you're looking, the business faces the east. The front door faces the east so, it's probably toward the west. North or southwest.

Mayor Sparks: No, I'm, I'm trying to think now, cause the ah, uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: Could you draw a picture of it?

Mayor Sparks: Yeah. That hey, that makes it easier. So, ah (inaudible) Bare Essence. This right here would be Umatilla. And of course this up here is facing north. So as they come down, there is (inaudible) those are the entry doors. Uhm, I would say as they ah, as they come in the door, God Rodger I, I need to stand up and think about this.

Lt. McLaughlin: That's okay.

Mayor Sparks: This, this is crazy. My God I worked there for a year. What the hell's going on here. Uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: That way, that way right now is east.

Mayor Sparks: As, as they come in the door...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...they open the door up, and I'm standing right there...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...and then to the left, okay if I'm coming in the door right, right here...

Lt. McLaughlin: Here's the D.J.'s both over on the right side.

Mayor Sparks: Okay. The D.J.'s both, the private dance area is on the same side in the opposite corner.

Lt. McLaughlin: Over here?

Mayor Sparks: Uh huh.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: And the bathroom's was back in this corner.

Lt. McLaughlin: So this is the south (inaudible) and this is west. And ah, this is east, this would be north.

Mayor Sparks: But, okay but now where is ah, where's in the bar...where's Miller Stockman?

Lt. McLaughlin: It's over here.

Mayor Sparks: And the, the, I'm turned around then, because the ah, ah, and this is like 85th Avenue that turns around?

Lt. McLaughlin: No this is ah, ah, Miller Stockman's over here so you come down (inaudible)...

Mayor Sparks: Okay, go this way.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: The dance area, the dance area is back here then.

Lt. McLaughlin: (inaudible) Okay.

Mayor Sparks: So. And I believe that's where their receiving door is also.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: Cause I know they ah, uhm, stack the ah beer back in that corner.

Lt. McLaughlin: (inaudible) Alright. Uhm...

Mayor Sparks: And I ah, I have never been back in the private area, so, other then to ah, one time I brought (inaudible) I brought some beer up from the back area. Uhm, but I, I've never been back there when there's been performances so, beyond that I (inaudible).

Lt. McLaughlin: What do you know about the performances back there?

Mayor Sparks: Well very little to be honest with you. I just, you know, I, I can tell you what they're supposed to be. Uhm, you know, they ah supposed to maintain their three foot ah, clearance.

Lt. McLaughlin: Are you familiar with the Federal Heights adult entertainment code?

Mayor Sparks: Well, Rodger not verbatim, no.

Lt. McLaughlin: No, no, but it...

Mayor Sparks: But I know that there's a, I know that there's a three foot ah barrier or what ever you want to call it. Uhm, I know that their not supposed to be ah, that they need to be clothed. Uhm, when they're not on stage.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, and as far as how they do their dancing in the back, I, I, I don't know.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well do you get into the ah common area here sometimes? Here's the...

Mayor Sparks: I walked, I walk through there oh two or three times a night when I go to the bathroom. To walk back to the bathroom...

Lt. McLaughlin: And ah, do you, being to door guy you usually stand up here somewhere?

Mayor Sparks: Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: And ah, here's the D.J.'s both up in here. Can you see ah, any part of the ah, the ah private area from where you're at?

Mayor Sparks: Private. No, because it's ah, it's, they got a lot of flower uhm, what do you call uhm, flower decorations all around it. Uhm, and it is, I, I believe, I believe it's a stained glass kind of thing too. So no, from, from walking by you, you can't, you can't see back in there.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright. Uhm, we've had a undercover operative acting as our agent, working for us in there for, for some time now. And ah, this undercover person we have er, in there, uhm, has some very high tech, microwave technology surveillance equipment in the form of a body mike, and a ah, pin hole covert camera, and ah, we have had this person in there for some time like they say, and we know, we know things that go on in there. It's, it's not speculation on our part. We know what's going on. And ah, your in a spot here Mayor because uhm, uhm, we believe that uhm, uhm, you do know what's going on in there. We believe that you, we, we know that you know what's going on in there. We have audio tapes of people talking about the Mayor and how he knows what's going on in there, and how he ah, how you ah, uhm, help with the (inaudible) system at times when ah, you know cops come in and ah keep the cops busy. And how they notify the dancers in the back when, when there ah, committing a violations, including prostitution. And obvious violations of the adult entertainment code have, there's a little code that goes on when the cops walk in and it's announced to the ah dancers in the back and they jump off the guy and get legal again until the cops are gone and get back to normal business. You know that happens while you're there and it happens while you're monitoring.

Mayor Sparks: Rodger I'll, I'll, I'll volunteer this right now, ah, I'll, I'll take any kind of test you want me to take. Because I, I absolutely, uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: I don't want to give you a test right now, I just want to talk to ya.

Mayor Sparks: That, that I know of Rodger, there is no code. I mean...

Lt. McLaughlin: There are codes Mayor.

Mayor Sparks: ...but (inaudible)...

Lt. McLaughlin: I've heard uhm. I've heard uhm on a tape. There are codes. I actually have talked to our, our operative in there more then I've

listened to the tape I should say, and ah, I know how the code works. And uhm, here's the deal, if I, I'm going to be blunt with ya. If you just started working there last night or two nights ago, and we did this, I, we could understand maybe not knowing what's going on but you've been working there for, for a year. And every night the place is open, the place is out of control, as it relates to these, these, these ah, violations of the prostitution law, and ah, our adult entertainment code here in Federal Heights. It happens every single night. Every single night we believe that there's a dance, a private dance, there are violations going on. Well, about a week or so ago, a little more than a week ago, you saw Pat Murphy in there...

Mayor Sparks: Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: ...we sent him in there specifically to see what, how you would react. And ah, we were hoping for the best and unfortunately you didn't do the right thing, and ah, we're not too happy about that.

Mayor Sparks: Well I did Rodger. I did go out to ah, to Tasha, and I said, you know, Tasha I don't know what's going on here, if, if he's here for a reason or not, ah, but he is with Metro Drug Task...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...uhm, beyond that, I mean, for instance Leo wasn't even there that night.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright.

Mayor Sparks: So, I mean, I, beyond that I don't know if...

Lt. McLaughlin: Why would you go and tell them that there's a, a police officer from ah, our city, in the task force that (inaudible) as, as our Mayor.

Mayor Sparks: Well, Rodger I didn't, to be very honest with you I didn't think otherwise about it. I, it didn't really mean anything. I, I guess...

Lt. McLaughlin: Did you ask any questions about any investigations going on in the days after that?

Mayor Sparks: Did I ask any questions...

Lt. McLaughlin: Of anybody here in this city?

Mayor Sparks: No! I made, I made a comment to, let's see who did I talk to? I believe I, I made a comment to ah, gosh, one of the officers that Pat was in. Uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: That same night?

Mayor Sparks: That same night?

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah the same night.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, Oh!

Lt. McLaughlin: You told Pete Hemschoot.

Mayor Sparks: Pete, Pete was in that night later.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah, we sent him in there and that was a, a special thing too.

Mayor Sparks: Oh.

Lt. McLaughlin: To see how you guys reacted, and you guys reacted really uhm, illegally that time (inaudible) too.

Mayor Sparks: But, Rodger I don't understand how, how did I react?

Lt. McLaughlin: Did you have any conversation with anybody here in the, uhm, city, city hall, police department, uhm, about ah, Pat Murphy being in there, that night?

Mayor Sparks: Well, ah, other than Pat, or I'm sorry, other than Pete?

Lt. McLaughlin: Other than Pete, yeah? In the days following. While you're here and working here in the city, the city hall.

Mayor Sparks: You know, I think I might have mentioned something to Les. I, I don't remember if it was Les or not. I, I think I might have mentioned something to Les that I saw Pat in there. And I, I made the comment, I said, you know, I don't know if they were there for a sting or, if they were just in there visiting.

Lt. McLaughlin: Where did you see the Chief at to have that conversation?

Mayor Sparks: Well, and, and Rodger I don't remember that it was Les. Ah, I, I honestly don't remember who I made that comment to.

Lt. McLaughlin: Let me ask you...

Mayor Sparks: I'm trying to think of who (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin:well whoever this person is you made the comment to, did you ask specifically if there was an investigation going on there?

Mayor Sparks: Absolutely not. Absolutely not.

Lt. McLaughlin: (inaudible)

Mayor Sparks: And, and, and Rodger, then we, I'll volunteer this, my gosh, when an officer comes in...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...I meet him at the little, ah gate thing...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...and ah, they stand there. I don't, a lot of times I, I don't stand with them. I'll go back over and sit down there where I usually sit. Leo is usually there. I mean Leo usually comes up and talks to them.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yes he certainly does.

Mayor Sparks: Oh, but, you're saying there's a code and...

Lt. McLaughlin: I know you know Mayor.

Mayor Sparks: ...Rodger I'm telling you I don't know about no code. I, you, you, I don't know about a code.

Lt. McLaughlin: I, I, I don't want to be rude, but I, I have to tell ya, you expect us to believe or anyone else to believe that you're absolutely oblivious to that system and it's ah impossible for us to believe.

Mayor Sparks: Well I expect you to believe that.

Lt. McLaughlin: I don't believe it. Uhm...

Mayor Sparks: Cause I...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, when Pete Hemschoot come in the other day...

Mayor Sparks: Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: ... uhm, you were out, according to him walking in the middle of the floor out here, and ah, that very time, uhm, this is just one of many operations, but ah, that very time we had an undercover back here getting a private dance, and it was an illegal private dance. There was ah, all kinds of inappropriate touching and contact

going on. And we choreographed it so at that very moment when Pete Hemschoot walked in, uhm, they were, had uhm, a camera back here. We had a body mike. Pete was paying attention. We had undercover people in here in addition. And uhm, as always, the D.J., what he did in this case, is he announces the girls name twice, and there's another girl back there too, I believe on that occasion, uhm, getting, giving a stranger a dance that we don't know who that was. And these girls jump up off the top of um. They, they grab their clothes, they get back up on the stage. Our ah, undercover says, Gee what's going on? and acts bewildered, and the girl says the cops are in the house here. The cops are in here. (inaudible) And after she gets the all clear she ah, goes ahead and finishes her dance. I'm not finished though, Pete Hemschoot believes that he sees you, er, sees ah, the D.J. uhm, jester to you with his hand, and he thought that ah, you walked up here to run interference. Uhm, kept, tried to keep the cops busy. Would, our ah, undercover people have been told by uhm, dancers, that ah, that's part of your job. Is to run interference. Mayor that's, that's were told. And then, that's, these aren't interviews, this is common conversation taking place and these girls don't even know that we're recording them.

Mayor Sparks: And Rodger I...

Lt. McLaughlin: And I have to tell you right now, this investigation, this would be a good time to tell you, isn't geared towards uhm, investigating you. However we can't turn our head. We have information uhm, from several different sources uhm, for some time that there was illegal activity going on there all the time. And so, uhm, we started checking into it. We developed ah, an operational plan, and ah, we started working this thing. And uhm, our goal is to investigate the business and uhm, we were finished. It is what it is. We are not quite finished, but it is what it is and, it's looking pretty bad for you. You, I, I'm, I'm not, I'm, I'm just a, a ah, this isn't about me but I, I'm just a ah, a police officer working for the city of Federal Heights, and it's not my job to ah, uhm, judge you or any of those people down there. We just (inaudible), and there are criminal violations taking place and it's the police departments job to investigate (inaudible). I have to tell you this looks bad for you. Uhm, we have people telling us, when they don't even know that the cops are listening, that the Mayor is involved. And that, ah, uhm, that's the reason that Leo, this guy Leo, the owner, employees you there. It's to run interference with the cops. And a quote is, "It's to keep..." uhm, hang on (inaudible) a quote, "To cover our ass. To cover Leo's ass." That's the quote. So...

Mayor Sparks:

You know Rodger, I'm, I don't know what else to tell you. I, I can sit right here very honestly, (inaudible) believe it, that's, that's your opinion. I, I know nothing about a code. I absolutely know nothing about a code. If there is this code, then it existed long before I got there, or it exists apparently while I'm there, but I know nothing about a code.

Lt. McLaughlin:

But the building isn't that big. And you're not that far away from, every time you go to work in there, there are criminal violations, including prostitution taking place, not very far from where you, where you are. And you're walking around here, it's, it's happening right here. And it's happened up here. And it's happening out, there are other things happening in here. We have an undercover guy sitting here, and, and this is just recently. Out of all the times we've been in there. Right here in the open, uhm, this girl rubbing his crotch in front of everybody. It, it's, what goes on in there is really obvious. These people aren't afraid of what's going on. They, they aren't intimidated. And we believe we know that this guy who owns the place isn't intimidated by the police by virtue of the fact that you seem to be working there. Mayor we happen to know that, in, in most establishments when, when a, a person, I don't, I can't say um all, I'm just talking about most, ah, most of the time when a uhm, employer hires a door man, most, most places, have him act as a, as a bouncer. And obviously you're, you're a good natured guy, and you don't like bouncing people out of there. Why is Leo paying you money to, to work at this place? Uhm, just to take money, that's, and, and you, it, it's really uhm, obvious to us that the guy and these dancers aren't intimidated by the cops coming in there at all. At one point we had a, we did another one of these ah tests, little test things that we did, and ah, police officer coming in at the same time we have a undercover getting a private dance back here, and she's, she's doing all kinds of ah, lewd stuff to this guy and we choreographed it so that ah, at this very same time it's going on, police officer comes in, the signal goes out. It's on the tape. The girls talk about it. The girl, we have our undercover, a different undercover at this point, act dumbfounded, said, Geez what's going on? Ah the cops are in here again. And I can't ah, I, I'm not, cause she jumps back on the stage and she says, I, I can't be touching, I get, it's against the law, I could get a big fine. And everybody knows what the law is down there. But everybody violates the law down there. There, there isn't a, we haven't uhm, ah, have, we don't, we haven't a..attempted to uhm, get violations on every dancer. It doesn't work out that way sometimes. But ah what we have done is shown

that there is a, an obvious pattern to what's going on. There is a pattern of conduct on the part of this business. This isn't one or two or three rouge dancers, who ah, get out of line back here and touch more than they should. It's, it's every dance. We, we've uhm, every uhm, dancer uhm, our people have asked for or solicited for and it's usually soliciting, these girls get up here and they talk dirty, get the guy all wound up and take him, ask if they'll pay for a private dance. They go back there and they ah, uhm, it happens every time. We haven't had a time when these girls haven't violated uhm, the code. We have uhm, uhm, some cases of prostitution and uhm, some of those happened while we were there. Some happen while we, while we're not there. We uhm, were in there various times over the past uhm, over a period of time, and uhm...

Mayor Sparks: You're, you're, you're talking that there's sex going on back there? Rodger I'm, I'm not trying to be indignant here. I'm not trying to make anybody believe me.

Lt. McLaughlin: I didn't call you that Mayor, but, but...

Mayor Sparks: I, I, no I (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: ...for you to stand up here and then walk around here occasionally when you don't know every night, every single dance that takes place, is illegal back there, virtually. Everyone that we have encountered is illegal. Everyone that when there's more than one dance going on here, and we have an undercover guy here, these people are getting violated. Er, these girls are violating the, the code or the, the prostitution thing just like it's, it's, it's everyday business. And I, what we uhm, have concerns with, it's so blatant that uhm, we think he has you working there and you work there for a reason. I know that you, you, you haven't survived in business, uhm, your business had some trouble, and uhm, apparently you, just use this as, in order to ah, make ends meet as I understand. But bottom line is you're working in an establishment that conducts illegal business every stinking night.

Mayor Sparks: And, and Rodger, if that's happening, okay...

Lt. McLaughlin: We're telling you Sir, it is happening. It's not an if. We watch you on camera. We have our c.i.'s tell us about it. We have a person who's working, for our working down there as our agent telling us what's going on, what, what we have going in there. And it goes on every night Mayor.

Mayor Sparks: No, what I'm saying, what I'm saying, I have never seen that. Maybe I am totally ignorant and stupid...

Lt. McLaughlin: That's not what the, well that's not what the employees say.

Mayor Sparks: ...because I, I, I haven't never...

Lt. McLaughlin: Some of the employees say that you know what's going on.

Mayor Sparks: I have never been back there.

Lt. McLaughlin: You don't have to be standing back there to ah, know what's going on. How can Leo make a business, how, how can he make money, this, this owner Leo, if, if uhm, these guys come in and pay ten bucks to get in basically, and then they ah, throw a few dollars at this girl up here. How can that make any money unless uhm, they're doing these private dances. Why would, intern, why would anybody pay, go back here, pay fifty dollars a shot for a, for a private dance in there, if they can watch the same thing here. Why, why would they come back here for a private dance, if there's no touching going on or anything weird. Why would anybody do that? Everybody who comes back here, whether it's an undercover cop, or one of our ah, informants, or it's a ah, just a normal everyday guy who comes in there for a little ah, after hours entertainment, they know they're going to get touched every time they come in there. They know, they have an option, uhm, besides just sitting up here watching this girl up here on this stage. They know every time they come in they're going to get something more for their money. Why would they just go back there and pay fifty bucks to watch some girl stand on a stage when it's the same thing that's happening here? That's the same thing that should be happening. Here should be happening in the private area. Never happens in the private area. Every stinking night. When you're there, when you're not there, when Leo's there, when he's not

there. It happens every time. This is more than just ah, uhm, uhm, on or two rouge dancers, it's obviously every dancer does this.

Mayor Sparks: And Rodger I don't know what...

Lt. McLaughlin: Leo is up to his neck in this thing Mayor. He's up to his neck. And he employees you there for a reason.

Mayor Sparks: Well, all I can...

Lt. McLaughlin: You work there for a reason Mayor.

Mayor Sparks: ...I can, I, I do work there for a reason. I work there to pay my health insurance.

Lt. McLaughlin: I understand that.

Mayor Sparks: Rodger.

Lt. McLaughlin: I understand that Sir, what I'm saying though is, it's impossible for us to believe that you don't know anything about what's going on back there. And that you, at, at the, at, at the very best Mayor you'd have to turn a blind eye, and intentionally turn a blind eye to, to obvious uhm, violations of the law going on here. Now, every time you turn a blind eye, if you could live with that, that's up to you. But I think it's more than that. We think it's more than that.

Mayor Sparks: Here, you're telling me there's some guy getting, getting his crotch rubbed.

Lt. McLaughlin: There's more (inaudible)

Mayor Sparks: I don't see that! I, you know, I don't see it. I do not see that. I've asked the question before, why would anybody go back there for fifty, pay fifty bucks. I also ask the question, why would somebody pay five dollars for ATM machine.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah.

Mayor Sparks: I don't know why people do that Rodger.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: I, I don't do that, and the common area you're talking about, the only time, and show me when I'm in this common area, is when I'm walking to the bathroom.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well that's fine.

Mayor Sparks: Where ever this is.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well I'm not saying you just stand around out here, but...

Mayor Sparks: (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: ...if you could have free access on other occasions, when you have free access to come and go, I just can't believe that you don't see things going on.

Mayor Sparks: (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: You, you, you've never imagined about the things that could be going on back there. And, and I can't get passed being some of these employees talk about how the Mayor uhm, works there. And how the Mayor runs ah, interference for, for Leo to help him out with the cops.

Mayor Sparks: And, and I'll tell ya I can't get passed that either. Because I do not know anything about any codes or about anything. It's quite evident when an officer comes in, there, he'll arrive in the front door...

Lt. McLaughlin: True.

Mayor Sparks: ...I go over and I greet them like I greet everybody else.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: I open up the gate, they come in. Other than for Corey, I can't, I can't sit here and tell of any officers that even walk beyond that area. And it's certainly not because I stood there in front of um or something.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well I can tell you this though Sir, I've been a cop for twenty five years in this city, and I have quite a bit of (inaudible), and I'm intimidated by this thing, by investigating this business and having to interview you. Imagine how a police officer who hasn't been a cop for very long, is required to do, you know, you know, for him to go in here too often. But we hired um to ah, ah watch their beat. Can you imagine them walking up here and here's the Mayor. Why would any cop feel comfortable walking back here while the Mayor works up here. It doesn't make sense.

Mayor Sparks: Well...

Lt. McLaughlin: Leo, this man Leo...

Mayor Sparks: I would say Chase(?) did it all the time.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah, and you told the Chief of Police, that you, you told the Chief of Police that uhm, and the Chief of Police, and the City management didn't know this investigation was taking place for quite some time. Uhm, just, just very recently. However, just in normal conversation and he wasn't narcing you out, but in normal conversation just talked about you not being pleased with Jason going in and walking around in there and the same with Corey.

Mayor Sparks: Jason? I, I, I'm sorry, Jason?

Lt. McLaughlin: Jason Cirbo.

Mayor Sparks: I, I don't, I can't say I remember Jason Cirbo in there. The thing about Corey is I made the comment that he's the only one that does that.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah.

Mayor Sparks: That doesn't upset me in any way, shape, or form. He was the, he's the only one that does that.

Lt. McLaughlin: Did you expect...

Mayor Sparks: I even told...

Lt. McLaughlin: (inaudible) special protocol or anything about that?

Mayor Sparks: Oh heavens no! I even told Corey, and by all, please ask him this, I even told Corey, I said none of the other officers do what you do Corey. I said, I told him, I said, I would have no problem with other officers walking through here like you do. I told him that. So you know, beyond that, that's, your investigations are investigations Sir, but, if there's a code that I'm involved with...

Lt. McLaughlin: There is a code.

Mayor Sparks: ...somebody better inform me of, of, to, to make...

Lt. McLaughlin: I am, I'm telling you there's a code. When you're standing right here. Every night that you're in here and a cop comes in, they have some little system down, and I described it to you and that's what they do every single time when you're there and that's what they do every single time when you're not there.

Mayor Sparks: And that, that code could exist, is it not possible that I don't know about that? You're sitting here saying there's no way I couldn't know. I don't know about it. The D.J. stands there...

Lt. McLaughlin: You worked there for a year.

Mayor Sparks: ...that's right. The D.J. stands there...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...he looks out over that...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...he says, ah, ah, Suzie or whoever...

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: ...coming up on stage. Or if there's a private, if they're waiting for their private dance, he'll say I see we got ah, ah Angel with a gentleman in the back waiting for a private dance. They go and do the private dance. Ah, when the song is over, the gal stands up, or gets visible, let me put it that way, ah, she waves her hand like this, and the disc jockey, Don, he says, Oh I see that Angel has a second dance. Or he'll say, gentleman just finished up the second dance with (inaudible) dance with Angel, or whatever.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah.

Mayor Sparks: The thing is, ah...

Lt. McLaughlin: Listen, we, we know about that happening.

Mayor Sparks: Beyond an officer walking in and Don saying, well I don't know what the code is so I, I couldn't even speculate.

Lt. McLaughlin: I told that to you in this room. And we've, we've seen you go on time and time again.

Mayor Sparks: But, you, you, you didn't tell me, Rodger. You said...

Lt. McLaughlin: I'll tell you again.

Mayor Sparks: ...that there's something by the door.

Lt. McLaughlin: I said that, I said that ah, this, this ah d.j. announces the girls name back here twice and that's her, that's her cue (inaudible). That's what the girls tell our, our, our ah undercovers, that's what we see happening, and it happens every time. That is the system that they have. Just a little code, or system where they, they have it down. Do you watch the, the ah TV cameras up here?

Mayor Sparks: The...

Lt. McLaughlin: Surveillance cameras for the outside?

Mayor Sparks: Yes.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, I have a difficult question for you here.

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, we've been using ah, you know, our, our undercover people in the, our operatives have a camera and we have a, a body mike working Mayor.

Mayor Sparks: Okay.

Lt. McLaughlin: When you see a police car pull up in front, you tell ah, the d.j. or uhm, a lady working the bar, or Leo that a cop's pulling up in front.

Mayor Sparks: Absolutely not.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: A lot of times I can't even tell if it's an officer because those cameras are funny. I can't even tell if there's a police car.

Lt. McLaughlin: Why did you feel compelled to tell uhm, ah, the lady working the bar the other night that, that Pat was in there? I wanna know why you would say that.

Mayor Sparks: No reason. I, I didn't, it didn't mean, I mean I, I didn't do it for any reason ah, Rodger. I just made the comment that you know, undercover officer here, uhm, but I didn't even know he was an undercover officer working in that capacity.

Lt. McLaughlin: True.

Mayor Sparks: Maybe I should have known that. Or maybe I should have guessed that. I don't know. But I didn't...

Lt. McLaughlin: No, what we do, there's no implication there. It's just...

Mayor Sparks: ...I didn't think anything of it. I honestly didn't think anything of it.

Lt. McLaughlin: You didn't think anything of it. Are you holding to your, to, to your, to your ah, statement that you didn't tell anybody else who works for the city, who uhm, anybody who is in an official capacity ruled by this city, city hall, police department, anybody, you didn't uhm, I'm just making sure I got this right...

Mayor Sparks: Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: ...you said that you did not ask if there was an investigation taking place. Is that correct?

Mayor Sparks: I didn't ask if there was an investigation taking place. No. I'm, and you know, and let me, let me think here, I might, and if it was Les I talked to, I might have, I think I said something like I don't

know if they were there under an official, an official thing or if they were just there ah, spending a few hours, er, a half hour out, out on the town.

Lt. McLaughlin: If you'd seen Pat at the grocery store that would not raise any red flags, but we send Pat in specifically to see how uhm, you and this management and other people react, uhm, and because it's not say a grocery store we're sending an undercover policeman in here to an establishment that we know, ah, criminal violations are taking place that specific night. We already had one back here. We had one after we left too. Uhm, and ah, it's, it's not like its King Soopers or some place and, and you say, Hey I saw Pat. You know it's an establishment that's uhm, got crimes taking place in it every time. It's an establishment where you work and uhm, you tell the lady that there's a cop in there. I just don't understand why you'd have to tell her there's a cop, and I know if it's just common conversation so be it. But uhm, uhm,...

Mayor Sparks: And that's exactly what it was.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well, that, that, that I don't (inaudible)...

Mayor Sparks: I, I, I can, I can sit, I can sit here and say that that was extremely poor judgment, looking on it now.

Lt. McLaughlin: It was I think. And I have to be blunt with ya, and ah, I believe that you uhm, uhm, asked a city employee uhm, if they knew if uhm, why Pat was in there and if we were conducting an investigation down there.

Mayor Sparks: I, I didn't not ask that question.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright.

Mayor Sparks: And like I said, I might have said something like, I don't know if he was in there because they, they were checking up on something or if they were just there to spend an hour.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah.

Mayor Sparks: And I absolutely did not ask any employee uhm, if they were doing an investigation.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, alright.

Mayor Sparks: And, and I'll, I'll, I'll state it again, this code of calling out their names twice, I'm certainly not going to dispute that that's not the code if you guys have proof that that's the code. I don't know anything about that.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright.

Mayor Sparks: I have never been asked by Leo, uhm, I never, Don and I don't hardly even get along that well. We don't even communicate.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, he helps me cause I can't walk that much. He'll jump down off the d.j. thing and walk people over to the bar, beyond that he and I don't even ah, ah talk much.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. Has Leo ever asked you to ah, do anything inappropriate down there?

Mayor Sparks: Like, I, like find out if there's an investigation? (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah for one thing, yeah.

Mayor Sparks: No.

Lt. McLaughlin: Has he ever ah...

Mayor Sparks: Like he did, he, he did ask me, he did say one time, he said uhm, ah, if there was a problem, ah, if there was an investigation, I don't know how exactly the terminology,(inaudible), if there was

something going on ah, would it be, God I don't even remember now how he sa..how he asked me. I told him, I said, Probably if there was an investigation of some kind going on, it would be done with totally undercover people that nobody ever knew. I said I wouldn't even know um. And I told him that. I said wouldn't even know these people.

Lt. McLaughlin: Explain to me better, try to explain to me better what he was asking you.

Mayor Sparks: Well, I, I just, that came up one time.

Lt. McLaughlin: How long ago was that?

Mayor Sparks: Oh several months ago. And I'm talking oh, at least six months ago. Several months, and it was just out of the blue. It was just totally out of the blue.

Lt. McLaughlin: (inaudible)

Mayor Sparks: (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: You being the Mayor and he's asking you a question like that. That, that'd send up a red flag to me right now.

Mayor Sparks: Well, I, I believe when he asked me that was after an officer had stopped by to do a business check uhm, as a matter of fact it might even have been, and I don't know this for a fact, but it might even have been Corey. Cause I said he's the only one that ever walked around. Uhm, and, and I can't even, I can't tell you exactly how he asked me that. Should have a red flag went up? I guess it probably should have had I had any inside information on any investigations.

Lt. McLaughlin: I know...

Mayor Sparks: But nobody tells me anything like that.

Lt. McLaughlin: ...but, but, well they wouldn't tell you that, but, doesn't it seem like he's conspiring with you er, try...attempting to conspire with you to find out if there's an investigation, would you help him out, would you tell him what you know something along those lines. That's, that's what I'm hearing when you, the way you described it.

Mayor Sparks: Rodger I guess I could sit here and say yeah, that probably does. All I can say is at the time, no. At the time it didn't affect me like that. It, I didn't hear it like that.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well I'm just...

Mayor Sparks: I just know...

Lt. McLaughlin: I'm just trying to hear what you said, and I, that's the way I take it is, why would he ask you that. Uhm, he knows that you're the Mayor and you have a lot of power here in the city of Federal Heights, why, why would he ask you something like that? That, that's a problem for us.

Mayor Sparks: And, and I don't know why (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: Do you know how hard it is to, to try to investigate a business Mayor, when you work there? And uhm, it puts a lot of people in a bad spot here. And, and we're not passing a judgment on you. But I'm telling you Sir, that it is very difficult to conduct a business in an illegal establishment like this where we have stuff going on every night while our Mayor works there. It makes it very difficult for us to work around everything. We don't know ah, (inaudible), what you knew, what you were doing there, what you were ah, how you were going to react. And we've worked into that slowly to figure out what's going on. And ah, uhm, we have some strong beliefs about what's going on down there with that.

Mayor Sparks: I'm sure this, I'm sure this wouldn't have been protocol uhm, and in hind sight I would uh, I wish somehow, when I even first started there, I don't know if this had been going back that long or not, if

somebody just would have said, It'd be a really good idea for you not to be there. And, and I know that's not probably the right thing to say. I'll I'm saying is that, I started there and I'm there now for one reason and one reason only. I made that perfectly clear the whole time. Uhm, I don't know anything about a code. I have never run interference against, with an officer er, however you said that. I haven't purposely detoured an officer from doing, walking through there. Uhm, as a matter of fact the only time that I can think of, and that just happened here a few weeks ago, when I went into the common area and told a, a dancer there that an officer wanted to talk to her and to just be very calm, be, tell her, tell this officer exactly what you told me. There was a problem, it was a family problem.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright.

Mayor Sparks: Ah, dad and the brother didn't know the gal worked there. They found out she worked there, they came in, and ah, when I had Don call her name, she came around, there they were.

Lt. McLaughlin: And that kind of stuff is not a problem at all. That's just normal course of business for us.

Mayor Sparks: But what I'm, but what I'm saying is, is that uhm, that is the only time I ran any interference and that was because she was scared to death.

Lt. McLaughlin: Well that's, that's not an issue for us.

Mayor Sparks: So...

Lt. McLaughlin: We're talking about things...

Mayor Sparks: ...but I have not ever detoured an, an officer. Let me put it this way, purposely doing that. If it's because of my title as being Mayor, uhm, sure I, I guess I can understand that, to where that would be maybe intimidating to some officers or something. That certainly was never a case on my part. What went through Leo's mind, I have no idea. Uhm, like I said, I, I will, I would gladly take any test you want me to take about my knowledge of a code,

about my knowledge of prostitution, uhm, there's... I didn't... I don't know that that's happened there. Your question as far as why would anybody in their right mind pay fifty bucks to see that, to go back in this private dance area...

Lt. McLaughlin: If it's not illegal.

Mayor Sparks: I, I asked that question. I've asked that question to Leo. I asked that question to my wife when I go home. I say, my God, what do, how does people have this kind of money to throw away? But, I don't, I have never been back in that area. Now if, if I can be judged guilty by not knowing what I didn't see, then Sir I, I guess I'm guilty of that. But I have not ever seen anything like that.

Lt. McLaughlin: You mean turn a blind eye intentionally?

Mayor Sparks: There's nothing to turn a blind eye to when I don't see it. I don't see a, a gal rubbing some guy's crotch in the ah, ah mid..middle of the area out there like you said. And as far as the girls saying that I run interference for Leo...

Lt. McLaughlin: And that you know what's going on.

Mayor Sparks: ...I'm gonna sit here and tell ya that's gotta be perception on their part because, damn it, I don't know that. I do not know that.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright. Besides Leo asking you ah, do you want to take a break? We're almost finished.

Mayor Sparks: Well I could wet my whistle.

Lt. McLaughlin: Water okay?

Mayor Sparks: Yeah.

Lt. McLaughlin: I'll go get it for both of us.

Mayor Sparks: Oh. Okay.

(pause)

Lt. McLaughlin: (test) Okay we were off tape for a couple of minutes to take a quick break and get a drink. Uhm, I asked you about Leo doing inappropriate things. I'm talking about anything that you can tell me about ah, inappropriate, unlawful, uhm, anything that's out of the ordinary, that kinda of thing. You mentioned to me about him ah, asking you something to the effect if there was something going on, like an investigation would you know.

Mayor Sparks: Uh hum.

Lt. McLaughlin: Is, is that what I heard?

Mayor Sparks: Yes, but he, he never said investigation.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay tell me what he said.

Mayor Sparks: But, well, and I don't remember what exactly how he said it, no, Sir, but he said uhm, and like I said I really think it was right after one of the officers were in there. And ah, and he did. He asked me, it might have been just as simple as if something was going on. Uhm, and I told him, I said, if there w..and I might have even have said the word, uhm, if there's an investigation or something like that, I said, it would have to be done by a, a totally undercover officers. I said probably from the county. I said, it certainly wouldn't be anybody that, you know, you would recognize I don't think. And it might have even been, you know, what might have even sh...ah transpired that uhm, was ah, a raid by a, down in Denver or some place. Some ah, massage parlor or something like that. That might have been what, what, what started the, the thing. I truly do not remember what, what started that. But I did say that the, uhm, I would think that if there was, if there was an investigation going on that it would be done, you know, county or some level other then internally.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm, can you think of ah...

Mayor Sparks: (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: ...any other occasions that he's asked you to do or, talked about inappropriate or illegal activity down there?

Mayor Sparks: No. The only thing let me, let me do say though Rodger, that ah, uhm, yes I have wondered how on earth can this guy make ah, make any money out of that place. Uhm, and I've, I've had these conversations with my wife. I said, My gosh it's ten dollars to get in, uhm, other then that the only money that I believed, I'll say that past tense, that Leo got was that ten dollars. Now I was told ah, a few months ago, that Leo does in fact pay 20% of the girls pay. Uhm, so then when I'm thinking, well, and I'm told, I don't know this for a fact, but I'm told that the ah, those girls can make two or three hundred dollars a night on a bad night, and they can make six-eight hundred dollars on a good night. So when you look at 20% of eight hundred dollars times how ever many girls, and I don't know that they all make that kind of money, then I'm thinking well, (inaudible) maybe he can pay this here. I know his rent is, I think he has told me something like five, no fifty-five hundred or sixty-five hundred dollars a month er, something like that.

Lt. McLaughlin: On the business there?

Mayor Sparks: On that property. And I'm thinking Jesus, and then he, he tells me that his, his advertising is four thousand dollars a month he spends on advertising, or something like that. Uhm, you know when you add Public Service in there, I mean yeah, when you add it all up it's like Jesus, how is this, I mean how, how does a, how does he pay the bills. But uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: Were there some...

Mayor Sparks: I, I sat I, I, I just sat there and thinking oh, he pays me and I have said from day one that I'm not doing anything wrong. Uhm, gosh if, if you want to say turning a blind eye I would have to see that before I turn that blind eye. And, and I, I don't see that happening.

I don't see...I don't know of this code that apparently happens. Uhm, and as far as the girls, ah, there are, it's, it's, it's ironic, I, maybe I should have caught on to this. I thought it was, ah a lot of the guys when they leave, and I give them their little ah, ah, half off card when they leave, ah, they'll look at me and they'll say, You really are the Mayor? I say, Yeah. And they'll say, Yeah that's what so-and-so said. Beyond that ah, and there's people that come in and actually say, How, how you doing tonight Mayor? I don't, I, I don't, I have never thought ill of that Rodger. Because I'm not, if there's illegal stuff, like apparently there is, I can sit here and say to my narrow mindedness I'm not part of it. Cause I don't, I don't know anything about codes er nothing. I don't. As far as there prostitution going on in the back, I never see that. I have never, it seems to me that ah, ah Leo has told me that he tapes all of that. That there's cameras back there. And I've never even seen a tape.

Lt. McLaughlin: Do you know what he does with the tapes?

Mayor Sparks: No idea. No. No I don't know. I know he tapes the ah, the locker room, where the ah, ah girls und...yeah the locker room area.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, now he's told me that he does that so that he can ah, make sure they're not drinking and stuff back there. I do know that ah, actually last night, he, he asked me to call and ah, have the police come and escort a lady out, a dancer out that had been ah, ah drinking. And supposedly he had that on tape. Uhm, because I even made the comment to him tonight, I said, You know Leo, I said, I asked him I said, Are you, do you keep that tape running all the time? And he said, Yeah. And I said, Well you know, you could get yourself in a bind if one of the girls would accuse you of something like trying to rape um or something back there. And if it was just you and her saying this, cause I said, You know, maybe you should have somebody else back there with you. And he said no, no I keep a tape running so, so ah, that's, that's not the case. What he does with those tapes I have no idea.

Lt. McLaughlin: Have you ever been in Leo's office?

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, well, a, a few times, not much, but a few times yes.

Lt. McLaughlin: Is there a, another little office next to Leo's office or another room back there?

Mayor Sparks: There is an office, an adjacent...

Lt. McLaughlin: What's that look like?

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, it's just a ah, I know he keeps some extra clothes in there.

Lt. McLaughlin: How big is it?

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, not, not real big. Uhm, uhm, might be a little bit bigger than this room. Uhm, I can't remember if there's a, I don't know if there's a shower in there or not. Cause I know...

Lt. McLaughlin: Ever seen a dancer and a customer go in there?

Mayor Sparks: ...the only. No.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: No. And the only time I have ever been in there is ah, ah, I went to work one night, and I had on a black t-shirt and he said, Oh God, I really wish you wouldn't just wear a t-shirt, it doesn't look very professional. He said, I've got a shirt back here, he said, Try it on, so I went back into that office with him and as it turned out, it was kinda nice to see that ah, the shirt was too big for me. But ah, I so, I couldn't wear, I couldn't wear that shirt. Uhm, I, that's the only time I've been back in that office. Now uhm, Leo and I went back into that office about uhm, a month ago with one of the dancers, uhm, Palisade, that's her stage name. Uhm, cause she had apparently been attacked by a Denver Police Officer. Uhm, and she had filed a complaint and all of this stuff, and ah, just asked me, you know, if I knew of, of ah, the kind of procedure that, that she should do. And I said, I'm, I'm no attorney. I don't know anything about that. I said, If you filed a complaint, I said ah, I'm

sure that appropriate actions would be taken. But ah, I think that's the only time I've been back in, and that was in Leo's, ah, first office (inaudible) the real office. Where there's been he and I and, and another girl back there. And I have noticed that the couple times I've been back there he does have the camera on the, ah, uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: The private area?

Mayor Sparks: ...the private area. And there's a camera that, back into the dressing area. And I'm never there at, at 5:00 when the girls get there, but ah, Leo has told me in the past, he hasn't told me recently but in the past, that he always ah, checks the girls bags and stuff when they come in to make sure they're not bringing in booze or drugs or something.

Lt. McLaughlin: It's just ironic that he ah, he tells you that he's worried about drugs and booze when he has a, all kinds of other things going on in there. Uhm, we believe that ah, at least a couple of dancers conspired to provide drugs in there. While you're working in there too.

Mayor Sparks: Well, and, and all I can tell you is that, ah, I don't know anything about that.

Lt. McLaughlin: I know.

Mayor Sparks: All, all, I said, I'll, I've said it two or three time I'll take any kind of test you want me to take, because I, I do not know that that happens. Common sense, maybe I'm guilty of that. But ah...

Lt. McLaughlin: We're almost finished Sir. Anything else we should know?

Mayor Sparks: No. Gosh I, I guess I would say no.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay. Uhm, by virtue of your ah, status in the, in the city, uhm, some of my colleagues are concerned about reprisal as this investigation progresses and in the future and ah, I can't lie, I'm a little worried about that myself. Uhm, I have to tell you that uhm,

I'm giving you a lawful order not to inve...not to ah, interfere in this investigation in any way because if you do we would be compelled to take legal action against you.

Mayor Sparks: Yes. I understand that totally.

Lt. McLaughlin: Uhm...

Mayor Sparks: And on, on, if I can say this on a side note, uhm, I'm, I'm ah, I guess I could understand, but I'm, I'm saddened by that. Because I really, all I have ever wanted in my position, is to be respectful, to show respect and get respect.

Lt. McLaughlin: It doesn't have anything to do with your interpersonal con...conduct or your, your behavior with employees Mayor, it has to do with your working at this place that we know an illegal activity takes place every night. And ah, it's, it's hard to look passed that. And were, were, were cops, were supposed to investigate this thing and it made it very difficult and it's still making it difficult by virtue of the fact that you work there. And ah, uhm, that's enough said. Uhm...

Mayor Sparks: And I, as I've said I, I can certainly appreciate that. I mean I do appreciate that.

Lt. McLaughlin: (inaudible) on this investigation over a period of time. It's not over tonight. Uhm, Leo's being arrested. D.J. is being arrested. Uhm, a number...quite a few dancers will be arrested, maybe not all tonight by virtue of the fact that they probably not all working tonight. But uhm, cause I left right away so I don't know what's going on with that so much but uhm,...

Mayor Sparks: I, I can tell you one other thing, I don't know bearings or whatever ah, and I mainly only see it on Wednesday nights, uhm, and I don't, I, I, I don't know why it's just Wednesday nights, but ah, Don usually is the taxi driver for almost all the girls that are there on Wednesday nights. Like ah, I believe it was just this last Wednesday night when I got there, about five to six, there were two cars in the parking lot, Leo's 4 runner and Don, he drives an old, I don't know if it's a Cadillac or whatever, but old big kind of

car. There was no other cars in the parking lot. And I walked in and I thought, well when I pulled up I thought My God, because the girls usually are, my understanding there at 5:00.

Lt. McLaughlin: Yeah.

Mayor Sparks: And I'm thinking where's everybody at. Well when I walk in uhm, there's like six dancers in there, uhm, and I go Okay, what's going on. And I did at that time I went up to Don and I said, Are you like the taxi or what? Ah, he said, Yeah, I guess so. And then when we left that night, uhm, a couple of the boyfriends or husbands or something had come to pick up uhm, the girls, some of them. But I think there was four or five that got into Don's car at, you know, 1:30-2:00 in the morning when they left. And I just thought, I only see that on Wednesdays. I don't see that on ah, like for instance tonight, I think, from what I can recognize of the cars, I think they probably all drove their own vehicles.

Lt. McLaughlin: We have seen that too, but ah...

Mayor Sparks: Just on Wednesdays.

Lt. McLaughlin: ...do you draw some kind of an inference from that or?

Mayor Sparks: Well, no, other then it just seemed strange that, that ah, Don picks um up and takes um home on Wednesdays, but I don't see that on Fridays or Saturdays. Now there again I'm not there usually on Tuesdays, and I'm not there, I, I worked last Thursday, but normally I'm not there on Thursdays. So I don't know if it happens any other nights or not. But ah, on several Tuesdays, er I'm sorry Wednesdays, there's just Leo there and Leo's car, and Don. And then Leo usually leaves on Wednesdays, ah, oh, 6:30-7:00, and ah, sometimes he'll tell me that he ah, is gonna go play cards. Other times he'll say that he's got a meeting. As a matter of fact this last Wednesday, uhm, he showed me papers that ah, I believe it was the I.R.S., er, the state or something, that ah, showed like twenty-five thousand dollars in back taxes or something. And he said that, and he showed me these papers and he said, These are, these are even before I took over. He said, This is the other guy. And ah, when he came back he said he was going to go meet with this guy to get that taken care of. And when he ca..and he did

come back that night, a lot of Wednesday nights I don't see him. He doesn't come back until I'm left, I'm gone. But he did come back last Wednesday night and said he met with the guy and the guy said he paid all that and that it was taken care of. The paper was taken care of and so it wouldn't go back on Leo anyhow. Uhm, but as far as any other thing I can share with you, Wednesdays is it.

Lt. McLaughlin: Are there any ah, how many Russian girls work in there that you know of, or Czech Republic girls?

Mayor Sparks: Right now you mean?

Lt. McLaughlin: Uh hum.

Mayor Sparks: Uhm, that I know for sure, ah, stage names Amsterdam is Czech, uhm, Russian, uhm...

Lt. McLaughlin: Let me ask you...

Mayor Sparks: ...I'm trying to think of their stage names.

Lt. McLaughlin: That's okay.

Mayor Sparks: There's, there's like three or four. (inaudible)

Lt. McLaughlin: Let me ask you, not necessarily right now but in the past, over the past year while you were working there have you ever seen any girls that ah, you suspect were under eighteen years old, especially Russian girls?

Mayor Sparks: No. No. There, there, when you say especially Russian I would say no.

Lt. McLaughlin: How about others?

Mayor Sparks: One gal, and I even had asked her, I said, My God are you eighteen, because she sure, certainly didn't look it. Uhm, God, do they, I can't even, I, I can, I can, I can tell you here name if I think about it, but I can't tell you now.

Lt. McLaughlin: Does she work there now?

Mayor Sparks: No, she hasn't worked there for oh several months. And actually she ah, she quit and ah, quit or got fired or something, I never know how that happens, which way it is. Uhm, and then she came back, ah, and then she filled in a few times. Like Leo would call her, I, I believe when he knew he was going to be short of girls that night or something he would call her and she would fill in. But she, I haven't seen her now in ah, I would say at least three or four months probably.

Lt. McLaughlin: Okay.

Mayor Sparks: And let me, let me volunteer this too, I mean, you asked a lot of questions and hopefully I was able to answer some of them, uhm, I mean if, if I can help you any more in this, I mean I'll tell you what I know. I, I certainly am not trying to cover for anybody. Uhm, I just want to say one last time for the record so, I'll take what ever I have to take Rodger, uhm, as far as tests go. Secondly, uhm, this stuff about the, the warning or wh...however you call them, uhm, I can't sit here and say that didn't happen but I can sit here and say that I knew nothing about it. I mean I, I, I don't, I don't hear, I even make the comment to Leo, I said How the hell can you understand what he says. Cause I, I can't understand what he says half the time. Uhm, so, that, that being said.

Lt. McLaughlin: Alright. I'm gonna go off tape. It's ah, about 12:04.