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THE STATE OF ARIZONA
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona
October 6, 2026
2:30 p.m.

By: Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50666

**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**

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<p>1 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING BEFORE THE CITIZENS 2 CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION convened at 2:30 p.m. on 3 October 6, 2026, at the State of Arizona, Clean 4 Elections Commission, 1110 West Washington, Conference 5 Room, Phoenix, Arizona, in the presence of the 6 following Board Members: 7 8 Mr. Mark Kimble, Chairman 9 Mr. Galen Paton 10 Ms. Christina Werther 11 Mr. Sam Crump 12 Mr. Steve Titla 13 14 OTHERS PRESENT: 15 Thomas M. Collins, Executive Director 16 Paula Thomas, Executive Officer 17 Mike Becker, Policy Director 18 Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director 19 Alec Shaffer, Web Content Manager 20 Bill Richards, Richards & Moskowitz 21 Samantha Fox, Richards & Moskowitz 22 Kate Hofland, Richards & Moskowitz 23 Craig Morgan, Taft Law 24 Cathy Herring, KCA 25 Baron Glassgow, Member of the Public Barbara Grout, Member of the Public Nathan Madden, Member of the Public</p>	<p>1 here. Then we will hear from Mr. Collins. Then public 2 comment, if any. Then Mr. La Sota again, if he chooses 3 to appear. 4 We'll hear first from Mr. La Sota on his -- 5 his objections. We may go into executive session, 6 which will not be open to the public, for legal advice 7 from independent counsel Bill Richards and Samantha Fox 8 of Richards and Moskowitz. 9 For the record, is Mr. La Sota present? 10 (No response.) 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. I guess he has 12 chosen not to attend. 13 Mr. Collins, do you want to speak? 14 MR. COLLINS: Sure. Yes. I think first I -- 15 I want to quick make a record. And Paula, I think -- 16 correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe Mr. La Sota 17 received the notice he's always received for these 18 meetings, and I want to make sure that that's clear. 19 MS. THOMAS: Chairman, Tom, yes, that's 20 correct. He did receive the 24-hour meeting notice. 21 MR. COLLINS: Okay. And, in fact, my counsel 22 in this matter has been e-mailing with Mr. La Sota all 23 afternoon, so I -- he's certainly not ignorant of the 24 fact that we're here. 25 With respect to the objections, I mean, I --</p>
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<p>1 P R O C E E D I N G 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Good afternoon. I'm 3 Mark Kimble and I call this meeting of the Citizens 4 Clean Elections Commission to order. It is 2:30 p.m. 5 on October 6, 2026. Today's meeting is being held 6 virtually. 7 With that, we will take attendance. 8 Commissioners, please identify yourselves for the 9 record. 10 COMMISSIONER PATON: Galen Paton. 11 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Sam Crump. 12 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Christina Werther. 13 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Steve Titla. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Commissioners. 15 All five of us are here today. We have a quorum. 16 Item II, review, consideration, discussion, 17 analysis, and possible action on requests to quash 18 subpoena duces tecum by Risa Lombardo, participating 19 candidate for Governor, and Duwayne Collier, 20 participating candidate for Secretary of State, 21 including a potential invitation to hear arguments 22 related to the requests, and Executive Director's 23 request for extension of investigation. 24 We will hear from Mr. La Sota first on his 25 objections, if he is here. He does not appear to be</p>	<p>1 I guess I don't have a lot to add to the response that 2 I submitted. I do want to supplement and just sort of 3 make clear what the timeline is here in terms of the 4 decision, apparently, by Mr. La Sota and his clients 5 not to participate in this process while at the same 6 time seemingly claiming that this process isn't moving 7 fast enough. 8 The first time that I requested material from 9 -- after the Commission meeting that I requested 10 material from the respondents was on August 31st, and I 11 asked Mr. Collier And Ms. Lombardo via Mr. La Sota to 12 produce the receipts of their \$5 qualifying 13 contribution slips that they're obligated to maintain 14 under 16-946. I asked them to bring them to the office 15 by September 2nd. We got no response whatsoever to 16 that request. 17 We then served the subpoena, and we can talk 18 a little bit about what the scope of the subpoena is in 19 a moment. But we did get the objection then, you know, 20 which was timely. 21 You know, at the -- we had a hearing in front 22 of Judge Julian. Mr. La Sota complained that we hadn't 23 yet asked Ms. Collier and Mr. -- or, Ms. Lombardo and 24 Mr. Collier to sit for interviews, so we promptly did 25 so on September 24th. And when Mr. Morgan followed</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 up with them today, Mr. La Sota informed us that he's 2 not available until November and that his clients 3 would not be sitting for anything until the election 4 is over. 5 At the hearing in front of Judge Julian 6 Mr. La Sota, which this is in -- and we have a 7 transcript we can make available to you. But at Page 8 18 of that transcript Mr. La Sota told the court that 9 his clients were going to comply with the audit 10 requests and -- and we have asked, through the audit 11 process, for information about the subvendors that we 12 know -- at least we know two of them, and we asked for 13 that information. We have not been told anything, 14 other than by the accountant for the campaign that he 15 doesn't have any information he can provide us other 16 than what we already have. But Mr. La Sota said -- 17 told the court that he would be -- they would -- there 18 would be compliance there and -- so that hasn't 19 happened. 20 And I think -- interestingly enough, at the 21 hearing, and this is at Page 10 and 11 of the 22 transcript, Mr. La Sota confirmed that two of the 23 vendors identified in my letter that are not identified 24 in their campaign finance reports are, in fact, 25 vendors, so -- but we don't have anything other than</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 supposed to be maintained. 2 So, in other words, there's not a record that 3 we've asked for in the subpoena that the respondents 4 here aren't obligated to provide on request. We don't 5 have to resort to -- we oughtn't have to resort to a 6 subpoena, but I think the course of dealing here, you 7 know, is such that that -- that it was reasonable, 8 necessary in order to move this along. 9 And now we've reached a point where, you 10 know, it seems like we're not going to see any -- well, 11 I mean, I don't -- I don't really know what Mr. La Sota 12 proposes to do other than to be too busy to attend to 13 this until November. 14 So that's -- that's where things are. I -- 15 as I said, I don't know that I want to belabor any of 16 this, but I did want to make -- make a clear record on 17 those issues, and certainly I'm happy to answer any 18 questions the Commission has. 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Do any Members of the 20 Commission have any questions of Mr. Collins? 21 (No response.) 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I just want to reiterate 23 one thing that -- that Tom said. In his letter to us 24 Mr. La Sota said there is obvious retaliation against 25 my clients for criticizing the Commission's Executive</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 his, if you will, testimony in front of Judge Julian on 2 that. We don't have the documents either via requests 3 under audit, we don't have copies of the \$5 slips under 4 just a request, and so, you know, in that context I 5 think it becomes quite obvious that a subpoena was 6 necessary in order just to get the slips alone and 7 remains necessary. 8 And I want to -- so, you know, I'm not going 9 to spend a lot of time on this notion that the subpoena 10 is retaliatory other than to say that there's no 11 evidence that it is, and it is not. 12 I will -- and then Mr. La Sota also has 13 chosen not to submit any sort of categorical ways in 14 which the subpoena is overbroad. But under our rules, 15 principally R2-20-703(A)(2), participating candidates 16 are required to retain records with respect to each 17 expenditure and receipt, including bank records, 18 vouchers, worksheets, receipts, bills, accounts, 19 journals, ledgers, fundraising solicitation material, 20 accounting systems documentation, and any related 21 material documenting campaign receipts and disbursement 22 for a period of three years, and they're supposed -- 23 those are supposed to be presented to the Commission on 24 request, so -- and as I mentioned, 16-946(C) 25 specifically says that the \$5 slip receipts are</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 Director, which as -- as Tom said, there's absolutely 2 no evidence of that and it's -- it's a totally 3 irresponsible statement. 4 And he also says that the subpoena is overly 5 burdensome and harassing and intended to further harm 6 the candidacy of Lombardo and Collier, who the 7 Commission's Executive Director opposes politically and 8 has suggested are sham candidates. 9 This is the opportunity for Mr. La Sota to 10 back up those claims with some evidence. He's chosen 11 not to -- not to appear. We are here because of him, 12 and we'll proceed, but it irritates me that he has 13 chosen not to appear after sending us this letter. 14 Are there any comments from members of the 15 public? Any member of the public who wishes to 16 comment, raise your hand or wave your arms at me so I 17 can see you. 18 (No response.) 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: At this time, I don't see 20 any member of the public. 21 And once again, Mr. La Sota, this is your 22 chance to state your case, and I don't see you here. 23 As indicated in the Agenda, the Commission 24 may vote to go into executive session for legal advice 25 pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3).</p>

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<p>1 If the Commission wishes to go into executive 2 session, is there a motion? 3 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to 4 make a motion for executive session on this matter. 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 6 Commissioner Werther. 7 Is there a second? 8 COMMISSIONER PATON: This is Paton. 9 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second. 10 COMMISSIONER PATON: I'll second. 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton, second. 12 It's been moved and seconded we go into 13 executive session. I will call the roll. 14 Commissioner Werther. 15 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump. 17 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 19 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 21 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We will 23 go into an executive session. 24 * * * * * 25 (End of executive session. Public meeting</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 3 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 5 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The 7 mission is -- the motion is approved unanimously. 8 Secondly, do I have a motion regarding the 9 request by Staff to extend the investigation? 10 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, 11 I'd like to make a motion to grant the Executive 12 Director's request for an extension of the 13 investigation. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 15 Commissioner Werther. 16 Is there a second? 17 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second. 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 19 Commissioner Titla. 20 It's been moved and seconded that we grant 21 the Commissioner's -- Executive Director's request to 22 extend the investigation. I will call the roll. 23 Commissioner Werther. 24 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.</p>
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<p>1 resumes at 2:48 p.m.) 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We are back in regular 3 session. Let me just make sure everyone is here. It 4 appears to be so. 5 Any discussion from Members of the 6 Commission? 7 (No response.) 8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: If not, do I have a motion 9 regarding Mr. La Sota's objections? 10 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like 11 to make a motion to deny the motion to quash the 12 subpoena duces tecum of Duwayne Collier and Risa 13 Lombardo. 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, 15 Commissioner Werther. 16 Is there a second? 17 I'm sorry. Was someone... 18 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second it. 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla, second. 20 I will call the roll on 21 Commissioner Werther's motion to deny the objection 22 from Mr. La Sota. 23 Commissioner Werther. 24 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye. 25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye. 2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla. 3 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye. 4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton. 5 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye. 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. The 7 mission -- the motion is approved unanimously. Thank 8 you. 9 Item III, review, consideration, discussion, 10 analysis, and possible action on litigation involving 11 Risa Lombardo and Duwayne Collier, which now includes 12 lawsuits at both Maricopa County Superior Court 13 Number CV2026-037740, and Arizona Court of Appeals 14 Division One, Number 1 CA-SA 26-0368. 15 We will now Discuss the Lombardo versus 16 Citizens Clean Elections Commission matter. As 17 Commissioners may recall, the Superior Court did not 18 grant the petitioners' relief. Petitioners then sought 19 additional special action relief in the Court of 20 Appeals. We filed a response on Friday and petitioner 21 filed a response on Monday. 22 Before we consider going into executive 23 session, does any Commissioner have a question or 24 comment they wish to make in open session? 25 (No response.)</p>

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<p>1 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none.</p> <p>2 As indicated, the Commission may vote to go</p> <p>3 into executive session for legal advice pursuant to</p> <p>4 A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(3). The public will not be allowed</p> <p>5 into executive session, nor with Mr. Collins -- nor</p> <p>6 will Mr. Collins be. We will seek legal advice from</p> <p>7 independent counsel Bill Richards and Samantha Fox</p> <p>8 of -- excuse me -- Richards and Moskowitz.</p> <p>9 Do we have a motion to go into executive</p> <p>10 session?</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Mr. Chairman. Sorry to</p> <p>12 interrupt, Commissioner Werther. I see somebody has</p> <p>13 their hand up, and I was wondering if you were taking</p> <p>14 public comment on this item before we go to executive</p> <p>15 session.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you for calling my</p> <p>17 attention to that, Commissioner Crump.</p> <p>18 Mr. Madden, do you wish to comment on this</p> <p>19 matter?</p> <p>20 MR. MADDEN: I -- I was seeking the general</p> <p>21 public comment section. I'm not sure if this is it.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: No, this is not it. We</p> <p>23 will have that in just a couple minutes.</p> <p>24 MR. MADDEN: Okay. I can wait for that.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you,</p>	<p>1 go into an executive session.</p> <p>2 * * * * *</p> <p>3 (End of executive session. Public meeting</p> <p>4 resumes at 2:56 p.m.)</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We're back in regular</p> <p>6 session.</p> <p>7 Is there any further discussion on Item III?</p> <p>8 (No response.)</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Hearing none.</p> <p>10 Do I have a motion regarding the litigation?</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: I don't think we need</p> <p>12 any motion, from my understanding.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Mr. Richards, is</p> <p>14 that okay?</p> <p>15 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, Chairman Kimble, I</p> <p>16 believe that's fine.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Fine. Thank you.</p> <p>18 We'll -- then without objection, we'll move</p> <p>19 on to Item IV, public comment. This is the time for</p> <p>20 consideration of comments and suggestions from the</p> <p>21 public. Action taken as a result of public comment may</p> <p>22 be limited to directing Staff to study the matter,</p> <p>23 rescheduling it for further consideration, or</p> <p>24 responding to criticism. Please limit your comments to</p> <p>25 no more than two minutes.</p>
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<p>1 Mr. Madden.</p> <p>2 Okay. Do we have a motion to go into</p> <p>3 executive -- I guess we did have a motion, didn't we?</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: No, not yet.</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Not yet. Okay.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like</p> <p>7 to make a motion to move into executive session for</p> <p>8 Item III.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Commissioner</p> <p>10 Werther.</p> <p>11 Is there a second?</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER TITLA: I second.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you,</p> <p>14 Commissioner Titla.</p> <p>15 It's been moved and seconded that we go into</p> <p>16 executive session. I will call the roll.</p> <p>17 Commissioner Werther.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chair votes aye. We will</p>	<p>1 Does anyone on Zoom wish to make a comment?</p> <p>2 Mr. Madden, I know you are. Thank you for</p> <p>3 being patient. You have the floor, Mr. Madden.</p> <p>4 MR. MADDEN: Thank you, Chairman Kimble and</p> <p>5 Members of the Commission and Staff. I was just</p> <p>6 curious, since we're -- you know, everybody is dealing</p> <p>7 with the Green Party candidates who are balloted and</p> <p>8 going into, you know, the debates and whatnot, I was</p> <p>9 just curious as to why the Libertarian candidates, who</p> <p>10 are also balloted, have been kept out of debates.</p> <p>11 I know tomorrow, I think it's the 7th -- yes,</p> <p>12 tomorrow is the 7th -- there's a Congressional</p> <p>13 District 1 debate. Monica Alponente is a signed,</p> <p>14 certified, and balloted candidate for the Libertarian</p> <p>15 Party, and she's being kept from the debate, according</p> <p>16 to the website on, you know, Clean Elections</p> <p>17 Commission. If -- if you guys are able to respond, I'd</p> <p>18 appreciate an answer. If not, perhaps Staff could take</p> <p>19 a look at this and possibly reach out to the candidate</p> <p>20 and offer a position on stage. Thank you.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Madden.</p> <p>22 Tom, is there anything you want to say about</p> <p>23 this?</p> <p>24 MR. COLLINS: I'm happy to follow up with</p> <p>25 Mr. Madden or the candidate in the meantime. That's</p>

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<p>1 about the best I can do.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Mr. Madden, Tom will</p> <p>3 get in touch with you and --</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER PATON: I -- I would like to --</p> <p>5 I would like to make a comment.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Mr. Paton.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER PATON: I mean, I don't know of</p> <p>8 the logistics or anything like that and -- or any of</p> <p>9 the background, but I would support having a</p> <p>10 Libertarian candidate have a chance to debate these</p> <p>11 other people. I think we're about debates and -- I</p> <p>12 mean, if there was a hundred people or whatever, I</p> <p>13 could understand, but -- anyway, that's -- that's my</p> <p>14 input.</p> <p>15 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman,</p> <p>16 Commissioner Paton, as I say, I don't -- I don't know</p> <p>17 enough about the situation to speak to it</p> <p>18 authoritatively.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER PATON: Okay.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you,</p> <p>21 Commissioner Paton. Thank you, Tom.</p> <p>22 Does anyone else have any comments or</p> <p>23 questions?</p> <p>24 (No response.)</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: The public may also submit</p>	<p>1 STATE OF ARIZONA)</p> <p>) ss.</p> <p>2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA)</p> <p>3</p> <p>4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings</p> <p>5 were taken by me; that I was then and there a Certified</p> <p>6 Reporter of the State of Arizona; that the proceedings</p> <p>7 were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter</p> <p>8 transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that</p> <p>9 the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate</p> <p>10 transcript of all proceedings had and adduced upon the</p> <p>11 taking of said proceedings, all to the best of my skill</p> <p>12 and ability.</p> <p>13</p> <p>14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related</p> <p>15 to nor employed by any of the parties hereto nor am I</p> <p>16 in any way interested in the outcome hereof.</p> <p>17</p> <p>18 DATED at Tempe, Arizona, this 6th day of</p> <p>19 October, 2026.</p> <p>20</p> <p>21 </p> <p>22 Kathryn A. Blackwelder, RPR</p> <p>23 Certified Reporter #50666</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
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<p>1 comments by e-mail at ccec@azcleelections.gov.</p> <p>2 Item V, adjournment. At this time, I would</p> <p>3 entertain a motion to adjourn.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Mr. Chair, I move to</p> <p>5 adjourn.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you,</p> <p>7 Commissioner Werther.</p> <p>8 Is there a second?</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: I'll second.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Was that</p> <p>11 Commissioner Crump?</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Yes.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. It's been moved and</p> <p>14 seconded that we adjourn. I will call the roll.</p> <p>15 Commissioner Werther.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER WERTHER: Aye.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Crump.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER CRUMP: Aye.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Titla.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER TITLA: Aye.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Commissioner Paton.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER PATON: Aye.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We are adjourned. Chair</p> <p>24 votes aye. We are adjourned. Thank you.</p> <p>25 (The meeting concluded at 3:01 p.m.)</p>	

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