

1 [REDACTED]

2

3 In the matter of:)

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED])

6 WITNESS: Michael Johnson

7 PAGES [REDACTED]

8 PLACE: [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 DATE: [REDACTED]

13

14 The above-entitled matter came on for hearing, pursuant to

15 notice at 9:17 a.m.

16

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 CONTENTS

2

3 WITNESS: EXAMINATION

4 Michael Johnson [REDACTED]

5

6 EXHIBITS: DESCRIPTION IDENTIFIED:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15

16

17

[REDACTED]

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of the [REDACTED] n

[REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8

9 On behalf of the Witness:

10 MICHAEL JOHNSON, [REDACTED]

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] We're on the record as of this morning at

3 9:17 a.m. on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5 Q Would you raise your right-hand please?

6 A Indeed, yes, I will.

7 Q Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and

8 nothing but the truth?

9 A Yes

10 Whereupon,

11 MICHAEL JOHNSON

12 Was called as a witness and, having been first duly sworn,

13 was examined and testified as follows:

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

16 Q Would you please identify yourself for the record in

17 accordance with your previous sealed deposition and

18 declaration.

19 A My name is Michael Johnson

[REDACTED]

1 Q And your current address of residence in
2 accordance with your previous sealed deposition and
3 declaration?

4 A My current legal residence [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] Good morning I am [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] and this [REDACTED] and for the sake of the
8 record we are [REDACTED] for the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

10 This morning we have been authorized to take testimony in
11 a sealed form in these proceedings and to request that
12 others also provide documents, oral testimony and other
13 evidence. As we have previously [REDACTED] regarding
14 your identity, your place [REDACTED] personally
15 identifiable information we will not be gathering testimony
16 regarding those [REDACTED]

17

18 [REDACTED] We are currently conducting an
19 investigation in the matter of [REDACTED]. This is
20 a criminal investigation regarding [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3

4 [REDACTED] Moving along, this document is

5 document [REDACTED] This document is a

6 report you filed with the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] regarding several threats that were made toward

8 yourself and your significant other [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] Can you please confirm for the record that you made

10 this report to the [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. I am the person who filed

14 this report.

15

16 [REDACTED] Can you also confirm that the

17 contents of this report are accurate?

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: I can. Yes.

20

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Thank you Mr. Johnson.

2

3 [REDACTED] I would also like to present this

4 order from the [REDACTED]

5 ordering you to turn over all relevant materials regarding

6 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This order states you would

7 also provide relevant information regarding your source of

8 unpublished documents in the matter of [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13

14 [REDACTED] Can you confirm that you did not

15 fully cooperate regarding [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED] and refused to provide

18 identifying information regarding your source of nonpublic

19 documents but did however provide [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] with relevant information regarding [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. Yes, I provided

5 [REDACTED] with information that would

6 assist in the narrative of the threats I received but failed to

7 provide the identifying information of my sources for

8 nonpublic, confidential information from [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10

11 [REDACTED] Can you also confirm for the

12 record the contents of this document titled [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] as being a statement

14 showing you were not engaged in trading, purchasing,

15 speculating, holding, receiving or [REDACTED] of the

16 virtual currency [REDACTED]

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Correct, this document shows that

19 I was not.

20

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Are you personally aware of the
2 fact that [REDACTED] obtained a copy of your
3 bank statements from [REDACTED] and other
4 information to determine you were not engaged in trading
5 or speculating on [REDACTED]?

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I was made aware that
8 certain information had been obtained to validate my
9 claims that I was not trading or speculating on [REDACTED]

10

11 [REDACTED] We would like the record
12 to show that Mr. Johnson has been overwhelmingly
13 cooperative in the matter of [REDACTED]
14 even with his refusal and his [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] that he will not disclose the
16 source of his nonpublic documentation regarding the
17 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

18

19 [REDACTED] With that said, we have requested
20 that [REDACTED] not compel Mr. Johnson
21 further to reveal the sources of his information and that in

[REDACTED]

1 the case of [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4

5 [REDACTED] We will begin with

6 [REDACTED] On [REDACTED]

7 you made a statement online that [REDACTED] had

8 been threatened by [REDACTED] after the publishing of

9 several stories regarding [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. In

10 that sworn statement to [REDACTED] you

11 stated that [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] was able to

14 ascertain via a sealed subpoena that electronic messages

15 between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] or

16 [REDACTED] had been exchanged on [REDACTED] in which

17 [REDACTED] indicated that [REDACTED] should make your

18 life a "living hell" via means of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20

21 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, [REDACTED] had sent several

22 emails harassing myself and several staff members of the

[REDACTED]

1 website and further went on to state that he would [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

3

4 [REDACTED] The evidence corroborates that

5 original testimony and further details [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7

8 [REDACTED] In light of this information

9 we would like to direct your attention to [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] This document details the interactions between

11 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] regarding the various

12 levels of harassment.

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

15

16 [REDACTED] As you can see on lines 6 – 36 the

17 discussion is related to [REDACTED] We

18 have determined that [REDACTED] is a member of the online

19 community Bitcoin Talk and that [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] The

21 harassment was originally going to be directed at this

[REDACTED]

1 individual primarily but after [REDACTED]
2 was published the discussion continues on lines 45 – 153
3 on how to deal with yourself and your staff.

4

5 [REDACTED]. You will also note that [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] is actively pursuing any identifiable information
7 about you and seeking your address to give to [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] who had promised according to line [REDACTED]
9 that they could “take you out” to protect the interests of [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] and his partner a [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: I see.

13

14 [REDACTED] When you had made your
15 initial report to the [REDACTED] were you
16 aware of these communications?

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: I was not at that time.

19

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] It was determined in line
2 [REDACTED] that the best course of action was to discredit you via
3 [REDACTED] on Bitcoin Talk and furthermore
4 of [REDACTED] Only after that had failed
5 would [REDACTED] begin increased in person
6 harassment of yourself and [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: That would fall in the time frame
10 that [REDACTED] began sending me
11 electronic messages, instant messages and letters in the
12 mail.

13

14 [REDACTED] You stated in [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had begun attempts to
16 access your work related email accounts at Coin Fire and
17 your server logs would show that [REDACTED] made repeated
18 attempts to circumvent your site security via means of

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21

1 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct.

2

3 [REDACTED] Were you aware on [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was going to communicate
5 with [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] who he would
6 state multiple times online as having been working with
7 [REDACTED] that "you were a thorn and they needed friends
8 from [REDACTED] to make contact with [REDACTED] from
9 [REDACTED] to pay you a visit?"

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: I was not aware at that time.

12

13 [REDACTED] Would you become aware of this
14 communication at a later date?

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, upon receipt of the [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] documents from the [REDACTED]
18 At that time I was made aware [REDACTED] had planned to
19 harass me and that [REDACTED] had even pursued a
20 potential assassination attempt against myself and [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] When I had made my initial report with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] was only aware of the harassment I was
2 receiving and not that [REDACTED] had openly spoke on the
3 Internet with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
4 about a potential assassination attempt.

5

6 [REDACTED] Upon seeing the [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] documents did you approach the [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] regarding the assassination discussion?

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I approached Agent [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] office about
12 those statements and requested protection from [REDACTED]
13 and [REDACTED] who had levied threats against
14 myself, my significant other and staff members of the site
15 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

16

17 [REDACTED] On [REDACTED] an
18 agent for [REDACTED] determined the threats
19 were real and credible based on [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] It was determined then that Mr. Johnson and

[REDACTED]

1 his associates, [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] would cease

3 publishing temporarily on the website Coin Fire and seek

4 protection of [REDACTED] until it was

5 determined that [REDACTED]

6

7 [REDACTED] Do you feel safe?

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: No. Until [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are taken in to custody I do not

12 feel safe at this time.

13

14 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]