

# EXHIBIT 1



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# Transcript of Omari Ho-Sang, Corporate Representative

**Date:** August 29, 2023

**Case:** Nairne, et al. -v- Ardoin

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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DR. DOROTHY NAIRNE, :  
et al., :  
Plaintiffs, : Civil Action No.  
v. : 3:22-cv-00178-SDD-SDJ  
R. KYLE ARDOIN, in :  
his official capacity :  
as Secretary of :  
Louisiana, :  
Defendants. :

- - - - - x

Deposition of Black Voters Matter  
By Omari Ho-Sang, Corporate Representative  
(Conducted Remotely)  
Tuesday, August 29, 2023  
10:31 a.m.

Job No.: 504602  
Pages: 1 - 68  
Reported By: Leonora L. Walker, Court Reporter

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1 Deposition of OMARI HO-SANG, held at the  
2 offices of:  
3  
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5 (All parties appeared remotely via Zoom.)  
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10 Pursuant to notice, before Leonora L. Walker,  
11 Court Reporter, Notary Public in and for the State  
12 of New York.  
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A P P E A R A N C E S

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John Conine and John Walsh for Defendants

Michael Safee - Technician Specialist

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 O M A R I H O - S A N G

4 Called as the witness, having been duly sworn by a  
5 Notary Public, was questioned and testified as  
6 follows:

7 E X A M I N A T I O N

8 BY MS. HOLT:

9 Q Good morning. My name is Cassie Holt, as  
10 I've been introduced before, and I'm with Nelson  
11 Mullins. We represent the defendant, Secretary of  
12 State, in the matter of Nairne v. Ardoin that's  
13 currently pending in the Middle District of  
14 Louisiana.

15 Ms. Ho-Sang, if you could, please, state  
16 your name again for the record?

17 A Yes. My name is Omari Ho-Sang.

18 Q And have you ever gone by a different  
19 name?

20 A No.

21 Q And what is your current address?

22 A It is 4646 Hilry Huckaby, III, Avenue,  
23 Shreveport, Louisiana 71107.

24 Q And I believe you said previously that  
25 you've never been deposed before; is that correct?

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1 A Correct.

2 Q And not testified in a court hearing?

3 A I have not.

4 Q So I'm going to quickly go through a few  
5 ground rules that will help us and will help the  
6 court reporter capture the record of what we  
7 discuss today. So if you can, please, make sure  
8 to give verbal responses to all of my questions.  
9 And to avoid confusion and make it a little  
10 easier, I ask that you, please, wait until I  
11 finish a question before you give your answer.

12 Does that sound good?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Great. And I'm going to try to ask  
15 questions that are as clear and concise as  
16 possible. I might not achieve that goal, so if at  
17 any point in time there's a question that is  
18 unclear, please let me know and I will do my best  
19 to rephrase it.

20 Does that sound good?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Great. And this is not an endurance test.  
23 So, you know, thank you for your patience with the  
24 technical difficulties this morning. If you need  
25 a break at any time, please let me know. I just



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1 ask that if I've asked a question you answer it  
2 before we go on break.

3 A Yes, I understand. Thank you.

4 Q Great. And do you understand that you're  
5 testifying here today under oath as if you were in  
6 a real courtroom testifying before a judge or  
7 jury?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And is there anything that would prevent  
10 you from answering my questions honestly and  
11 completely today?

12 A No.

13 Q All right.

14 MS. HOLT: I'm going to ask the tech to  
15 please pull up a document called amended 30(b)(6)  
16 notice, and if we can have that marked as  
17 Exhibit 1.

18 (Whereupon, Exhibit 1 was marked for  
19 identification.)

20 BY MS. HOLT:

21 Q Thank you. And Ms. Ho-Sang, I believe you  
22 also have some hard copies of a few of the  
23 documents that we're going to go over today. If  
24 you prefer to reference those, that's completely  
25 fine. Just whatever is easier for you to see and

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8

1 read.

2 Does that sound good?

3 A Yes, thank you.

4 Q Great. No, problem.

5 Ms. Ho-Sang, do you recognize this  
6 document?

7 A I do.

8 Q And what is it?

9 A It's the amended notice of rule 30(b)(6)  
10 deposition of Black Voters Matter Capacity  
11 Building Institute.

12 Q Thank you.

13 Do you understand that you've been asked  
14 to testify here today on behalf of the Black  
15 Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And if I refer to the organization as BVM  
18 to speed things along a little bit here, will you  
19 understand what I'm referring to?

20 A I will.

21 Q Great.

22 MS. HOLT: Now, if the tech can, please,  
23 go page six of the PDF, the very last page of  
24 Exhibit 1.

25 BY MS. HOLT:

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1 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, is it your understanding that  
2 you're here today testifying to the topics listed  
3 here in Exhibit A?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And what did you do to prepare for this  
6 deposition today?

7 A I met with my attorney and reviewed the  
8 documents.

9 Q You said reviewed the documents, what  
10 documents did you review?

11 A The documents that I reviewed are the one  
12 that is on the screen, the amended complaint for  
13 declaratory judgment and injunctive relief. I  
14 reviewed that document. I also reviewed the  
15 interrogatories and responses.

16 Q And when you say interrogatories and  
17 responses, I believe there's also a supplemental  
18 interrogatory and response. Did you review both  
19 of those?

20 A Yes, I reviewed that as well.

21 Q Great. And were there any other documents  
22 than those that you reviewed?

23 A No. These are the main documents that I  
24 reviewed.

25 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, are you an employee of BVM?

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1 A Yes, I am.

2 Q And what is your current job title?

3 A My current job title is senior state  
4 organizing manager for Louisiana.

5 Q Okay. How long have you held that  
6 position?

7 A I was first hired in April 2020 as the  
8 Louisiana state coordinator which is essentially  
9 the same position.

10 Q Okay. So I believe you said there's a  
11 senior state organizer now in the title.

12 A Yes.

13 Q When did that title change occur?

14 A We became state organizing managers around  
15 2021, and then I became a senior state organizing  
16 manager in 2023.

17 Q And is that a full-time job?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And it's paid or unpaid?

20 A It is paid.

21 Q And what are your job duties?

22 A As the state organizing manager, I'm  
23 responsible for working with our partners in  
24 Louisiana across the state to help them get out  
25 the vote, to increase voter participation, and to

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1 also support their work around other community  
2 issues that they or their members or constituents  
3 or community are concerned about. I'm also  
4 responsible for assisting with our mini grant  
5 process for our partners and making  
6 recommendations around grants and providing  
7 training for partners based on their needs.

8 Q And I believe I heard you say a few times  
9 the term "partners."

10 A Yes.

11 Q Can you tell me what "partners" means?

12 A A partner is an organization or entity  
13 that we work with around increasing voter  
14 participation. Many times they are grassroots or  
15 community-based organizations that work -- have a  
16 specific mission and we provide support around  
17 that mission. And we also help them to increase  
18 their capacity to address their concerns as well  
19 as increase their capacity to get out the vote in  
20 their community.

21 Q And in your current role, who do you  
22 report to?

23 A I report to my deputy field director.

24 Q And who is that?

25 A Fenika Miller.

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1 Q Would you mind spelling that for the  
2 record?

3 A Sure. Fenika, F-E-N-I-K-A; last name  
4 Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R.

5 Q Great. Thank you.

6 Do any other BVM employees report to you?

7 A Yes. I have one person who reports to me,  
8 and that is the southern regional organizer,  
9 Keturah Butler-Reed.

10 Q What is the Black Voters Matter Fund?

11 A The Black Voters Matter Fund is the C4 arm  
12 of BVM.

13 Q What is the difference between the fund  
14 and the Capacity Building Institute?

15 A The BVM Capacity Building Institute is the  
16 C3 nonpartisan arm of Black Voters Matter. And  
17 that is -- that represents a bulk of the work that  
18 we do. The majority of the work that I do as a  
19 state organizing manager is -- concerns BVM  
20 Capacity Building Institute function or work. And  
21 then the Black Voters Matter Fund is the C4 arm of  
22 Black Voters Matter.

23 Q Okay. They are separate entities, but do  
24 they have shared staff?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q Okay. Do they have the same board of  
2 directors?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And your employment is with the C3 arm; is  
5 that correct?

6 A My employment is with Black Voters Matter  
7 Fund.

8 Q With the fund, okay. Yeah, I just want to  
9 make clear for the record here, but you understand  
10 that you're here today testifying for the Capacity  
11 Building Institute?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. And I believe you have an e-mail  
14 address that's at Black VotersMatterFund.org?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Do you have one that's for the Capacity  
17 Building Institute?

18 A No. We utilize our Black Voters Matter  
19 Fund address.

20 Q Okay. And what is your role within --  
21 well, I believe you said you were employed by the  
22 Fund.

23 Is your position within the Fund the same  
24 as it is with the Capacity Building Institute?

25 A Yes, it is.

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1 Q Okay. Has it ever been different?

2 A No, it has not.

3 Q All right. So just to clarify here, I'm  
4 going to go back to saying BVM, and when I do,  
5 it's going to be about the Capacity Building  
6 Institute; is that understood?

7 A Understood.

8 Q Okay, great.

9 So did you have a position with BVM before  
10 becoming the state organizing manager?

11 A No, I did not.

12 Q What did you do prior to joining BVM?

13 A Prior to joining BVM, I was a community  
14 organizer, and I did essentially the same types of  
15 work that I do now.

16 Q And was that community organizing in  
17 Louisiana?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And was it in Shreveport?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Anywhere outside of Shreveport?

22 A On occasion I would do some work in Baton  
23 Rouge because that's our state capitol, but my  
24 primary work at that time was in Shreveport.

25 Q And about how long have you lived in



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1 Louisiana?

2 A Since 2013, so ten years.

3 Q And have you lived in Shreveport for that  
4 ten-year period?

5 A For a majority of the time I have lived in  
6 Shreveport. I technically live in Bossier now  
7 which is a sister city of Shreveport.

8 Q So in and around the Shreveport area; is  
9 that fair?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Are you registered to vote at your current  
12 address?

13 A Yes, I am.

14 Q And at the previous addresses that you  
15 lived at in Louisiana, were you registered to vote  
16 there?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did you vote in the 2021 special  
19 elections?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And both the primary and the runoff; do  
22 you recall?

23 A To my recollection, I think I did, but I  
24 would have to -- to even think back to what that  
25 election even was because there are so many

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1 elections --

2 Q Yes, yes, there are.

3 A -- but most likely if there is an election  
4 in my district where there was something on the  
5 ballot for me, I voted.

6 Q Thank you.

7 And are you involved with any other  
8 nonprofit organizations?

9 A I do work with other nonprofit  
10 organizations, yes.

11 Q And what are those organizations?

12 A All Streets All People, ASAP, is one of  
13 the organizations that I work with. And I work  
14 with lots of other organizations. I mean, within  
15 my role, we are partner with nonprofit  
16 organizations so there are many that I can name.  
17 So I don't know if you want me to list all of  
18 those organizations, but I do work with them.

19 Q We don't need to go into to that right  
20 now. But ASAP is All Streets, All People, what  
21 does that organization do?

22 A All Streets, All People works with every  
23 day people to engage them in systems change, what  
24 we refer to as systems change.

25 Q And did you found that organization?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q And what do you mean by systems change?

3 A So systems, say, for example, like the  
4 electoral system that has historical  
5 disenfranchised and disengaged individuals, we  
6 work to change that system to make it more  
7 accessible to more people.

8 There are other systems that we work with  
9 such as our food system so that all people can  
10 have access to healthy food, clean water, and  
11 other things. And so when I refer to systems, I  
12 mean the functions of society and helping or  
13 working with every day people, not just advocates  
14 or professionals, but, you know, our every day  
15 citizen to help them be empowered to impact those  
16 systems positively.

17 Q Where does All Streets, All People operate  
18 within Louisiana?

19 A It's based out of Shreveport.

20 Q Based out of Shreveport.

21 Does All Streets, All People have any  
22 members?

23 A No members.

24 Q No members, okay.

25 And what parish -- are there any other

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1 parishes outside of Shreveport that All Streets,  
2 All People works in?

3 A We've organized across the state in  
4 various parishes.

5 Q I'd like to switch gears a little bit and  
6 ask you a few questions about BVM's operations.

7 Where is BVM's corporate office?

8 A BVM's corporate office is in Atlanta,  
9 Georgia.

10 Q And what states does BVM operate in?

11 A It operates in 25-plus states. There are  
12 core states, which Louisiana is one of the core  
13 states. There are about 12 of those states.  
14 Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Georgia, Florida,  
15 North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan. Tennessee  
16 I believe is a core state, but I'm not absolutely  
17 sure about Tennessee. And then are -- so maybe  
18 that's not 12 that I've just named. And then are  
19 what we call light states that does not have  
20 dedicated staff. Like Louisiana has a -- two  
21 dedicated staff. Those are light states, and  
22 there are many more. I'm not completely aware of  
23 all of the light states that we have, but those  
24 states have a deputy director that runs those  
25 light states.

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1 Q What makes a state a core state?

2 A So as mentioned, a core state is defined  
3 by having a permanent staff member or a team that  
4 is employed by Black Voters Matter, and -- I mean,  
5 that's one of the key -- the key markings, and I  
6 would say that they're -- because of having  
7 personnel there, there's a budget that is  
8 dedicated to funding partners in the core states.  
9 Whereas, with light states, there's not a core  
10 staff person dedicated to that state alone.

11 Q And who decides if a state is a core state  
12 or a light state?

13 A Our effective leadership.

14 Q And who is your executive leadership?

15 A Cliff Albright is our executive director  
16 as well as LaTosha Brown, our chief doer is her  
17 title, and April Albright our legal counsel. They  
18 comprise our executive leadership.

19 Q Does BVM have physical offices in all of  
20 its core states?

21 A So I'm not absolutely sure about physical  
22 offices in all the core states. Now, we have a  
23 physical office that I utilize in Shreveport, in  
24 Louisiana, and we have a physical office  
25 headquartered in Atlanta. Those are the two I

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1 know for sure about.

2 Q And you said utilize that physical office  
3 in Shreveport.

4 Do you report to that office every day --

5 A No.

6 Q -- for work?

7 A No. All of BVM's employees work remote,  
8 so...

9 Q So Ms. Butler-Reed does she report to that  
10 physical office?

11 A She's our southern regional organizer, so  
12 she works in the southern half of the state, so  
13 no.

14 Q I see. And how long has BVM had that  
15 Shreveport office space?

16 A I've utilized it since 2021.

17 Q Do you know if BVM had the office before  
18 then?

19 A No, it did not.

20 Q So I believe you said previously that you  
21 and Ms. Butler-Reed are the BVM employees in  
22 Louisiana.

23 Are there any other BVM employees in the  
24 state?

25 A No.

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1 Q And do you know if BVM has a certificate  
2 of authority to do business in Louisiana?

3 A I'm not aware of a certificate of  
4 authority or familiar with what that is.

5 Q Okay. How did you BVM become involved in  
6 this case?

7 MS. KEENAN: At this time I'm going to  
8 object just to the attorney-client privilege just  
9 to make sure that none of that answer that Omari  
10 gives invites the conversations that she or BVM  
11 has had with counsel.

12 But you can go ahead and answer as long as  
13 you avoid those conversations.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay. All right. So we  
15 were involved with redistricting since around  
16 2021, and overtime, as the process went forward,  
17 and our partners began to engage and see the maps  
18 that were going to be produced there became a  
19 concerned sentiment around what was being produced  
20 and what was actually voted on, and from there we  
21 got involved in this case.

22 BY MS. HOLT:

23 Q And I'm not looking for any discussions  
24 you've had with counsel for these next couple of  
25 questions, but generally, does the board need to

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1 approve before BVM becomes involved in litigation?

2 MS. KEENAN: I will also object to  
3 privilege to the extent this involves  
4 conversations with your in-house counsel and not  
5 just with the ACLU.

6 So I defer to you on any conversations  
7 that you may have had with your in-house counsel  
8 and avoiding those in answering this question,  
9 Omari.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay. So can you repeat the  
11 question?

12 BY MS. HOLT:

13 Q Absolutely.

14 Before BVM becomes involved in litigation,  
15 does the executive board need to approve that  
16 action?

17 A So in terms of -- I can only answer the  
18 question -- so the legal counsel approved us being  
19 apart of this litigation.

20 Q Okay. Do you know if any funding was set  
21 aside or allocated for the cost of this  
22 litigation?

23 A No, I'm not aware.

24 Q Is it your understanding that BVM is  
25 challenging the entire state house and state



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1 senate plans?

2 A That is my understanding.

3 MS. HOLT: So I'd like for the tech to,  
4 please, pull up a document called Nairne amended  
5 complaint, which I'd ask be marked as Exhibit 2,  
6 please.

7 (Whereupon, Exhibit 2 was marked for  
8 identification.)

9 BY MS. HOLT:

10 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, do you recognize this  
11 document?

12 A Yes, I do.

13 Q And I believe you said this is one of the  
14 documents you've reviewed in preparation for  
15 today; is that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Great. And again, if you want to refer to  
18 a hard copy that you might have, that's completely  
19 fine as well. Whatever is easiest for you.

20 If we could, please, turn to page nine of  
21 this document, and I'm going to refer you to  
22 paragraph 28 that begins with "BVM has a  
23 significant constituency."

24 Do you see that paragraph?

25 A I see it.

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1 Q Okay, great.

2 So if you can read that first sentence to  
3 yourself, and I'm going to ask you a couple of  
4 questions about that. If you can just let me know  
5 once you're done reviewing.

6 A Okay. I've read it.

7 Q What does a constituency of individuals  
8 and organizations mean in the context of this  
9 case?

10 A Yes. So a constituency is essentially our  
11 partners, their communities, their members.

12 Q Okay. Does BVM have any individual  
13 members?

14 A No, we don't have members. We just have  
15 partners.

16 Q And how many partners does BVM have?

17 A Roughly, based on my last count, around  
18 50, in the upper 50s, or around 57 or 58 partners.

19 Q Is there a criteria to become a partner  
20 organization?

21 A So there is a process to become a partner  
22 that individual groups would go through and it  
23 looks different each time. Kind of how that  
24 partnership happens. But Louisiana has a process  
25 where we meet with our potential partners, and we

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1 kind of do an assessment of their capacity.

2 Because again, you know, a majority of the work  
3 that we do is capacity building, and so we assess  
4 their needs of our resources.

5 Q And when you say "we assess," is that you  
6 personally that's doing that assessment?

7 A So it's staff. So either myself or  
8 Keturah, the southern regional organizer, we'll  
9 conduct assessment or partner intake as we call  
10 the process.

11 Q Now, to become an official -- well, I'm  
12 going to say official partner in the sense that  
13 you're using the term.

14 Does an organization have to have members?

15 A No. You know, sometimes an organization  
16 will not have been formed yet, but they would like  
17 to build an organization because again we are a  
18 capacity building institute, and so we have the  
19 resources to help a group become an organization,  
20 so there are no requirements necessarily of what  
21 that organization has to look like. We do have  
22 organizations that are members, that do have  
23 members rather.

24 Q Okay. So if I was interested in becoming  
25 a partner with BVM and I didn't have an

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1 organization yet, what would you look for, like,  
2 for me to come into this assessment process? What  
3 would I need to have?

4 A You would really just need to understand  
5 what do you want to focus on, what is your  
6 community concern, and then we build from there.  
7 You know, capacity kind of looks different for  
8 different people and it can be defined in  
9 different ways. And so, you know, do you have the  
10 people or the access to people to help volunteer  
11 for a cause. You know, how easily will you be  
12 able to address the issue that you're most  
13 concerned about. We start there and then we help  
14 them build to be able to address the concern that  
15 they bring to the table.

16 A majority of the organizations that we  
17 work with are focused on increasing voter  
18 engagement in their community, and so that is a  
19 majority of what we deal with. However, there are  
20 a lot of community concerns and issues that are  
21 brought to us, and so we want -- our end goal is  
22 to be able to help an organization or a group be  
23 able to meaningfully and substantively address  
24 their issue of concern.

25 Q Now, does it have to be a specific issue

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1 of concern in order to be granted partnership  
2 status?

3 A No. It could be just a general concern  
4 about the state of their community. Or it could  
5 just -- they want to lend their talents or skills  
6 or time to helping our general mission, right, of  
7 increasing black voter turnout.

8 So, you know, as I mentioned earlier, it  
9 looks different, you know, based on the community  
10 or the group or the issue, and our end goal is to  
11 help them to address whatever general concern  
12 however they want to engage in helping us reach  
13 our ultimate goal or objective of increasing black  
14 voter turnout as well as black civic engagement.

15 Q So speaking about the overall mission of  
16 BVM, and I believe you've used the phrase engaging  
17 with the community.

18 What does BVM do to engage with its  
19 communities?

20 A So we support partner initiatives or  
21 events that they're planning, we help with the  
22 planning process if needed by the partner  
23 organization. One of our most well-known  
24 engagements is our bus tour that we conduct across  
25 the country. That looks different again. And so

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1 our most recent bus tour we had a variety of  
2 events that took place that allow opportunities  
3 for community education. We did a community  
4 Caravan. We did a rally, block party, but we had  
5 the bus there with us to really draw attention and  
6 bring awareness to what we were doing. We -- so  
7 we do Caravans, we do bus tours, and we support  
8 partner events, and so, of course, there's a  
9 diversity of events and a diversity of approaches  
10 that our partners have, you know, to engage their  
11 community. And so sometimes it also looks like  
12 canvassing where we knock on doors and have  
13 conversations with people in their community. So  
14 we go to the community and have those  
15 conversations. And we also phone bank, so we call  
16 people and have conversations with community  
17 members.

18 Q Okay. And I believe you mentioned earlier  
19 mini grants?

20 A Yes.

21 Q The mini grant process. And is that way  
22 BVM supports its partners?

23 A Yes, it is.

24 Q Where does the funding for those grants  
25 come from?

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1           A    The funding that we receive comes from  
2           either foundation grants, individual donations, or  
3           fundraising, digital fundraising.

4           Q    So are the grants from the Capacity  
5           Building Institute or the Fund?

6           A    SO both organizations can receive grant  
7           funding. A majority of our funding is through our  
8           C3, and hence, a majority of our work is C3.

9           Q    I believe we discussed this a little bit  
10          previously, but who decides which partners receive  
11          grants?

12          A    So the staff in the state is a part of the  
13          additional recommendation process. We typically  
14          meet with our partner before they submit, and then  
15          we provide a recommendation. If the grant comes  
16          out of the southern region, Keturah will provide a  
17          recommendation in addition to my recommendation.  
18          And then from there our deputy field director, who  
19          I report to, will review the recommendation and  
20          ask any questions or ask for additional  
21          information that may need to be provided by the  
22          partner. And then from there a decision is made  
23          around the grant whether the organization will  
24          receive it and how much they will receive. And  
25          then from there, a memorandum of understanding is

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1 sent to our partner to sign which our executive  
2 director once our partner has signed will review  
3 and execute. And then from there, the grant goes  
4 to our finance department for disbursement to the  
5 partner.

6 Q And who makes that -- I believe you said a  
7 decision is made to grant the funding.

8 Who makes that decision specifically?

9 A The final call is our executive director.

10 Q Do you know if the executive director has  
11 any criteria in making that final call?

12 A Yes. We have a grants manual that  
13 internally guides our process.

14 Q I believe you said that you give or help  
15 give the initial recommendations?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Have you ever had -- have you ever given a  
18 recommendation and it not succeed through the  
19 grant process?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Do you know about how many times that's  
22 happened?

23 A It doesn't happen often.

24 Q Okay. And when we were talking about  
25 BVM's activities you mentioned the bus tour.



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1 A Yes.

2 Q And one of those tours was related to the  
3 2022 redistricting cycle; is that correct?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And was that -- how long was that event?

6 A So that was a two-day event. It was two  
7 or three days because it was kind of in two  
8 different parts. We had the mobilization portion  
9 of the event where people were mobilizing from  
10 different parts of the state into Baton Rouge, and  
11 then we had a rally event and kind of teaching,  
12 and then we went to the state capitol and did a  
13 press conference and then participated in the  
14 actual hearings or the legislative session and  
15 provided testimony.

16 Q So is it fair to say the majority of that  
17 event or two to three-day event was in Baton  
18 Rouge?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And about how many people attended?

21 A We had at least a hundred people in the  
22 hearing across the state. I mean, across the  
23 senate and the house. So everyone didn't attend  
24 one hearing at one time.

25 Q I see?

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1           A   We engaged at least a hundred individuals  
2           during that process.

3           Q   When you say "engaged," what do you mean  
4           by that?

5           A   So there was a Caravan mobilization where  
6           we stopped in difference cities along the way, and  
7           there were individuals who came to those stops,  
8           kind of as a send off, but did not come to the  
9           other events in Baton Rouge, so I'm counting those  
10          folks that we engaged in addition to those who  
11          attended our rally the day before the session,  
12          those who attended our press conference as well as  
13          those who attended the redistricting session.

14          Q   And could anyone attend any of these  
15          events that made up the two day --

16          A   Yes. They were open to the public. We  
17          did request for people to register so we would  
18          have a sense of who was participating, but  
19          everyone who attended didn't register.

20          Q   Did you keep an attendance list?

21          A   So people did sign in. People did sign in  
22          at our pep rally and we had our registration ahead  
23          of the event. So those were the two -- I think  
24          those were the two places where we took attendance  
25          was the pep rally and then a registration for the

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1 overall mobilization.

2 Q So with those attendance lists for the pep  
3 rally and the overall registration amount to over  
4 one hundred individuals?

5 A Yes, I think so. I think so. I don't  
6 want to give you an exact number because I haven't  
7 looked at that registration list since 2022, nor  
8 the supplemented lists.

9 Q So I'm trying to get a sense of how many  
10 people there were record for and how many people  
11 joined and others, but we can move on from that.

12 Does BVM have meetings with its partner  
13 organizations?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And how often are those meetings?

16 A We meet at least once a month with our  
17 entire partner network. We call those statewide  
18 partner calls. And we also have one-on-one and  
19 group meetings with our partners as needed. Our  
20 goal is to meet with, you know, a majority of our  
21 partners at least once a month. But, you know,  
22 sometimes we meet with our partners more often,  
23 more frequently based on what's happening in the  
24 community.

25 Q Those monthly calls, are they in person or

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1 virtual?

2 A They are virtual.

3 Q Do you keep an attendance list for those  
4 monthly calls?

5 A There's a registration list, yes.

6 Q Are those meetings open to the public?

7 A They're for our partners.

8 Q For your partners.

9 So they're closed meetings, not open to  
10 the public?

11 A They are not open to the public, no.

12 Q I'd like to switch gears a little bit.

13 Ms. Ho-Sang, are you aware that the  
14 legislature hosted road show hearings across the  
15 state ahead of the 2022 redistricting cycle?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And actually, we've been going for about  
18 45 minutes now. Before jumping in full force to  
19 this new topic, is now a good time for a comfort  
20 break?

21 A Sure. I'll take it.

22 MS. HOLT: Let's do a five-minute comfort  
23 break and come back at 11:20 -- it's 11:20 a.m. my  
24 time. I believe it's 10:20 a.m. your time. Does  
25 that sound good?

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1 THE WITNESS: 10:20 it is.

2 (Whereupon, a break was taken at  
3 11:15 a.m.)

4 MS. HOLT: So we're back on the record  
5 now.

6 BY MS. HOLT:

7 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, right before we went on a  
8 quick break I asked if you were familiar with the  
9 road show hearings that the legislature held  
10 across the state?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you ever attend any of those hearings?

13 A I did. I attended one.

14 Q And which one did you attend?

15 A I attended the road show hearing that took  
16 place in Shreveport.

17 Q Did you offer any testimony at that  
18 roadshow hearing?

19 A Yes.

20 MS. HOLT: And I'd ask the tech to,  
21 please, pull up a document called Ho-Sang roadshow  
22 transcript which will be marked as Exhibit 3, I  
23 believe, please.

24 (Whereupon, Exhibit 3 was marked for  
25 identification.)

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1 BY MS. HOLT:

2 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, I'm going to represent to you  
3 that this is a transcript that's been produced by  
4 one of the plaintiffs in this matter, the  
5 Louisiana NAACP, of the October 21st roadshow  
6 hearing, and it has some Bates labels at the  
7 bottom that show NAACP LA Legislature 702. So  
8 I'll let you read through the first little bit,  
9 but do you generally recall testifying at this  
10 roadshow hearing?

11 A Yes, I do.

12 Q Okay. And in what capacity were you  
13 testifying?

14 A I was testifying in multiple capacities.

15 Q Okay. And what were those multiple  
16 capacities?

17 A As a Louisiana resident, citizen, as the  
18 founder of All Streets, All People, ASAP, as well  
19 as the state organizing manager for Black Voters  
20 Matter.

21 Q And if we can turn to page three of the  
22 PDF, please.

23 And Ms. Ho-Sang, are you familiar with how  
24 these transcripts work? We have the lines on the  
25 left-hand side with the numbers, and then at the

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1 very top right is the page number; do you see  
2 that?

3 A Yes, I do.

4 Q So starting on line five, there's a  
5 sentence that begins "I'm sure a lot of people."

6 MS. KEENAN: I'm going to object for just  
7 a moment.

8 MS. HOLT: Sure.

9 MS. KEENAN: Omari, you have a chance to  
10 read the second page and would you like for the  
11 full context where you read for page three?

12 THE WITNESS: Sure. That would be  
13 helpful.

14 MS. HOLT: Yes. We're in this virtual  
15 zoom process, so if we can ask the tech to,  
16 please, go back to page two and just let us know  
17 once you've finished reading that.

18 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

19 BY MS. HOLT:

20 Q No problem.

21 A Okay. I'm ready for the next page phase.

22 Q And if we can get the tech to, please, go  
23 to page three.

24 And you can go ahead and read the full  
25 paragraph on that page and let me know once you're

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1 done.

2 A Okay.

3 Okay. I'm ready.

4 Q Thank you. So starting on line five -- on  
5 page three of the PDF, yes -- line five, I'm going  
6 to read a sentence out loud, and let's see. It  
7 starts with: I'm sure a lot of people in this  
8 room have heard it "my vote doesn't count," and  
9 who am I to tell any marginalized Louisianian any  
10 different? In a state that has never, never,  
11 never had a non racist map.

12 Did I read that correctly?

13 A Yes, you did.

14 Q Now, I believe there's a potentially typo  
15 in there. I believe "none" should be "non"; is  
16 that your understanding?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Now, what did you mean by Louisiana has  
19 never had a non racist map?

20 A To my understanding, from many trainings  
21 that I attended during this process, subject  
22 matter experts and historians demonstrated that  
23 throughout history Louisiana has not produced --  
24 and I'm not sure on, like, which map, because I  
25 know that there are two different kind of entities



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1 that were talked about during that process, but  
2 that there's never been a map that has been  
3 produced by the state of Louisiana that adequately  
4 represents black citizens, black voters.

5 Q And when you say "adequately represents,"  
6 what do you mean by that?

7 MS. KEENAN: Objection to the extent that  
8 questions calls for a legal conclusion, but you  
9 can answer, Omari.

10 THE WITNESS: So when I say "adequate," I  
11 mean that the map represents in a proportion to  
12 the population, to the black population in a  
13 particular district or geographic area.

14 BY MS. HOLT:

15 Q Okay. And you said to the black  
16 population and a specific geographic area?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Does that include any other racial  
19 minorities?

20 A When I say black or?

21 Q Or the proportionality to the community?

22 MS. KEENAN: Again, objection to the  
23 extent that calls for a legal conclusion, but  
24 Omari, you can answer.

25 THE WITNESS: So I just want to make sure

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1 that I answer correctly based on the question that  
2 you're asking me. So are you asking me when I say  
3 geographic area, do I mean all -- all non white  
4 citizens?

5 BY MS. HOLT:

6 Q So let me back up a little bit. That was  
7 a poor question. Let me rephrase that for you.  
8 I'm not trying to make it too much of a bubble.

9 So how would one draw a non racist map?

10 MS. HOLT: Objection to the extent that  
11 calls for a legal conclusion, but you can answer.

12 THE WITNESS: How would one draw a non  
13 racist map? They would a draw map that is  
14 proportional to the population where all people in  
15 a geographic location can have the opportunity to  
16 elect somebody who represents them.

17 BY MS. HOLT:

18 Q So does it matter who is drawing the map?

19 MS. KEENAN: Objection again, but you can  
20 answer.

21 THE WITNESS: Does it matter who is  
22 drawing the map? So in my experience as a state  
23 organizing manager with Black Voters Matter, there  
24 have been instances where who has drawn the map  
25 has impacted the process.

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1 BY MS. HOLT:

2 Q Okay. So to achieve the proportion to the  
3 population that you mentioned earlier, does it  
4 make a difference who or what entity draws the map  
5 to achieve that result?

6 MS. KEENAN: Objection, but you can  
7 answer.

8 THE WITNESS: I think that as long as the  
9 person is drawing a legal map, it doesn't matter.

10 BY MS. HOLT:

11 Q Okay. So does that person have to  
12 consider race when drawing the proportionality of  
13 a specific population?

14 MS. KEENAN: Objection to form and to the  
15 extent it calls for a legal conclusion.

16 You can answer.

17 THE WITNESS: I really -- you know, so --  
18 and even here in this transcript throughout the  
19 process we leaned on experts to make those types  
20 of decisions. And our main focus was ensuring  
21 that whatever the law said and whatever  
22 preconditions were required by law, whatever  
23 information was necessary and important to this  
24 redistricting process that our partners knew that.  
25 So I'm not very comfortable answering questions

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1 that we leaned on -- we lean on experts to answer.

2 BY MS. HOLT:

3 Q Okay. And who are those experts?

4 A So the NAACP, LDF, and other organizations  
5 listed in the transcript like Power Coalition and  
6 those that they were working with to provide and  
7 teach and inform the community around the  
8 redistricting process, what to look for, and then  
9 later on, who provided information on the  
10 redistricting session.

11 Q Is it BVM's position today that Louisiana  
12 has never had a non racist map?

13 MS. KEENAN: Objection to form and the  
14 legal conclusion.

15 You can answer.

16 THE WITNESS: In terms of the  
17 organization, there is -- that has not been a part  
18 of our external facing messaging that we've put  
19 out to my understanding. However, what I will say  
20 organizationally we have signed onto letters and  
21 we did send as an organization in agreement with,  
22 you know, put the governor's veto of the maps that  
23 were produced. So I can -- yes, that's what I  
24 will say. That is my response to your question.

25 BY MS. HOLT:

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1 Q When you gave this testimony at the  
2 roadshow hearing, you were giving it in part as a  
3 representative of BVM, correct?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Now, I believe you testified earlier --  
6 and we can take this Exhibit 3 down, thank you.

7 I believe you testified earlier about  
8 BVM's redistricting initiative takeover, I  
9 believe, was the term; is that correct?

10 A Yes.

11 MS. HOLT: I'd ask the tech to, please,  
12 pull up a document that's previously been labeled  
13 BVM LA LEG 1012 which has been produced in  
14 discovery in this matter, and I'd ask be marked as  
15 Exhibit 4, please.

16 (Whereupon, Exhibit 4 was marked for  
17 identification.)

18 BY MS. HOLT:

19 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, can you see this okay? Do we  
20 need to zoom in a little bit?

21 A I can see it good. Thank you.

22 Q And I'll give you a minute to review and  
23 familiarize yourself with this document?

24 A Okay.

25 Okay.

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1 Q What is this document?

2 A These are talking points produced by our  
3 COMMS department for the redistricting takeover.

4 Q And they're contained within an e-mail,  
5 correct?

6 A Correct.

7 Q And it looks like the e-mail is from --  
8 the main body of the e-mail is from you?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And what is the date of this e-mail?

11 A February 7, 2022.

12 Q You said these are talking points. Did  
13 you draft these talking points?

14 A I collaborated on the talking points, but  
15 they were officially produced in their format by  
16 our COMMS team.

17 Q And if we could, please, turn to page two  
18 of this PDF, and I'll give you some time to review  
19 again. And I'm specifically going to be asking  
20 you about the fifth bullet point down.

21 A Okay. I've read number five.

22 Q Great. Can you, please, read that bullet  
23 point out loud for the record?

24 A Yes. In the spirit of making the process  
25 more inclusive, the legislature held roadshow

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1 hearings across the state to inform voters about  
2 the redistricting process, but these hearings  
3 never came for many black communities even though  
4 these communities would be most impacted by this  
5 process.

6 Q What black communities is this referring  
7 to that the hearings never came for?

8 A So from my recollection, I remember  
9 specifically Jefferson. I heard from a lot of  
10 partners they were concerned about the roadshow  
11 hearing not coming there. And there are some  
12 other specific communities that our partners were  
13 concerned that the roadshow hearing was not coming  
14 to their community. I cannot at this time list  
15 those communities because I don't remember, but I  
16 know Jefferson was -- because we have a very vocal  
17 partner from there that was really concerned about  
18 the lack of roadshow there.

19 Q Who was that local partner that was  
20 concerned?

21 A It's one of the partners that's listed on  
22 our list, the Jeremiah Group is the one that I'm  
23 referring to.

24 Q Does the Jeremiah Group have individual  
25 members?

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1 A Yes, they do.

2 Q And Jefferson parish is a suburb of New  
3 Orleans, correct?

4 A My understanding is that it's a different  
5 parish. I'm not originally from Louisiana, so I  
6 don't -- I don't know if they consider it a  
7 suburb, but I know -- I know it as a separate  
8 parish. That's how I view Jefferson.

9 Q But it's generally close to New Orleans?

10 A Yes, it's close to New Orleans.

11 Q We discussed earlier the Caravans and  
12 things of that nature that BVM organized.

13 Does BVM know if any of its attendees are  
14 registered voters?

15 A Any of the attendees of the bus tour or  
16 the redistricting takeover?

17 Q Both.

18 A Yes.

19 Q We can do one at a time?

20 A Yes. There were registered voters that  
21 participated, yes.

22 Q And how many?

23 A How many of them were registered voters?

24 Q Yes.

25 A I don't have that number.



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1 Q It wasn't all of them; it was part?

2 A So in terms of, like, our partner leaders  
3 that helped us to lead the mobilization, all of  
4 them are registered voters. However, you know,  
5 earlier we talked about, like, engagement and how  
6 we engage with people at the pep rally, we engage  
7 with people along the way. There are many people  
8 who we come into contact with who are not yet  
9 registered which is a part of the purpose of our  
10 tours is to come into contact with those who are  
11 not register, educate them, and register them to  
12 vote.

13 MS. HOLT: You can take down this exhibit.

14 BY MS. HOLT:

15 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, how has BVM been harmed by  
16 the legislative maps in this case?

17 MS. KEENAN: Objection to the extent it  
18 calls for a legal conclusion, but you can answer.

19 THE WITNESS: So, you know, there are a  
20 few ways that I view, you know, harm. And, you  
21 know, one way is that we had to spend a lot of  
22 time that we did not foresee on redistricting.  
23 And so my time, staff time, partner time, in  
24 addition, because of the outcome of the special  
25 session, we, you know, spend additional time

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1 really responding to that. You know, even before  
2 the maps became law and we -- our partners started  
3 to see them and became concerned about them, that  
4 is where the redistricting takeover and  
5 mobilization was born out of those concerns. That  
6 was not something that we entered 2022 saying,  
7 hey, we're going to do this massive mobilization  
8 to the capitol in the way that it happened. So,  
9 you know, we had to take away our focus from,  
10 like, our core, you know, our core mission which  
11 is increase black voter turnout to the polls to  
12 really focus on redistricting which there was a  
13 huge learning curve for me and our team around  
14 redistricting to begin with.

15 So I think apart of the harm is, you know,  
16 a diversion of our attention, our focus, and our  
17 resources because we did provide mini grants to  
18 partners that participated in the process. So  
19 there's kind of a financial harm in a way, too,  
20 because those funds could have been used for more  
21 general GOTV to really increase the number of  
22 registered voters in a community or to have more  
23 teachings, or, you know, kind of, like, really  
24 focus on that core piece, and so there's the  
25 financial aspect of it as well.

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1           And then another way is that when we go --  
2   you know, it was referenced in the transcript,  
3   when we talk to people a lot of people talk about  
4   how they feel that their vote does not count. The  
5   outcome of this redistricting process has made  
6   that sentiment even worse because now people --  
7   especially because the awareness has increased  
8   around it. Now people are like, well, now my vote  
9   really doesn't count, and so we have to really  
10   have a nuanced approach to how we organize because  
11   there is an increasing sentiment among the people  
12   who we want to engage with that their vote does  
13   not count, so...

14   BY MS. HOLT:

15           Q   Okay. So I'm going to try to break those  
16   down in the same three ways that I heard you break  
17   them down.

18           The first, what specific funding has been  
19   diverted due to these legislative maps?

20           A   So we provided mini grants to our partners  
21   to participate in the redistricting takeover  
22   because we did a mobilization from their home  
23   cities into Baton Rouge. Many of the partners  
24   that attended were not local to Baton Rouge, and  
25   so we wanted to make sure that they had the funds

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1 necessary to transport themselves, their members,  
2 and their community members that wanted to  
3 participate. We also brought the big bus for the  
4 redistricting takeover and there are expenses that  
5 are associated with rolling the bus because it's  
6 not headquartered -- it doesn't live in Louisiana,  
7 so there are expenses that are associated with  
8 that.

9 In addition to also lodging partners and  
10 we took on some of the responsibility of paying  
11 for lodging for our out-of-town partners during  
12 the redistricting takeover as well.

13 And so just to be kind of more concise,  
14 the mini grant funding that went to partners  
15 specific to the redistricting takeover, the  
16 expenses associated with the big bus rolling to  
17 Baton Rouge for the tour as well as the cost  
18 associated with lodging our partners, and the food  
19 and, you know, the cost of the events, and, you  
20 know, the event planners that we worked with to  
21 make sure that the event took place. So there  
22 were a lot of expenses, you know, around just that  
23 one mobilization, but there were also other events  
24 that we took part in with other partners leading  
25 up to the event where we did some cost sharing as

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1 well.

2 Q So all of the items you just listed are  
3 for that one two-day event in Baton Rouge,  
4 correct?

5 A Except for the latter half of what I just  
6 said, like leading into it.

7 Q Leading into it.

8 A Yes. There were a lot of expenses. And  
9 then when we give a grant, or when we provide a  
10 grant to our partner there, of course, within that  
11 was a line item for this particular event, but  
12 also just general outreach in their community  
13 around redistricting, the utilized those funds for  
14 that as well. And so I couldn't say that all of  
15 the funding went just specifically to the  
16 mobilization. There was a significant amount that  
17 did, but there were also expenses associated with  
18 just the whole redistricting process. The more we  
19 got involved, the more resolve. We had to do more  
20 outreach, more awareness. We even sent a  
21 broadcast text, which of course there are costs  
22 associated with broadcast texting, to get people  
23 engaged around the session. But also the  
24 follow-up after when we -- when our partners were  
25 urging the governor to veto the maps, so, you

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1 know, there were costs leading into the  
2 redistricting, there were costs during the  
3 redistricting takeover, and then there were costs  
4 after as well.

5 Q You mentioned a broadcast text.

6 A Yes.

7 MS. HOLT: And I'm going to ask the  
8 technician to, please, pull up document that's  
9 been previously marked as BVM LA LEG 977.

10 BY MS. HOLT:

11 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, is this that campaign that  
12 you were mentioning previously?

13 A This is a -- this is the text campaign  
14 that we did for the redistricting takeover.

15 Q Okay. And do you see the event date?

16 A Event date, February 8, 2022.

17 Q And was that before the legislative maps  
18 were passed?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And the launch date was for this campaign  
21 was February 2, 2022; is that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 MS. HOLT: Now, I'd like the tech to,  
24 please, turn to the second page of this PDF, and  
25 I'll give you a chance to review.

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1 THE WITNESS: Okay.

2 BY MS. HOLT:

3 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, do you see the target for --  
4 the targeting for the campaign?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And that includes both active and  
7 registered voters and unregistered voters; is that  
8 correct?

9 A Correct.

10 MS. HOLT: Now, I'd like the tech to,  
11 please, turn to the third page of this PDF, and  
12 I'll give you a chance to review again.

13 THE WITNESS: Okay.

14 BY MS. HOLT:

15 Q Okay. And if we can look at the  
16 additional -- any additional notes, you'll see a  
17 text box down there?

18 A Yes.

19 Q I believe you entered in this information;  
20 is that correct?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And if you can read that first sentence  
23 out loud for the record, please.

24 A The focus for these events is in Baton  
25 Rouge rather than the stops on the way.

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1 Q Okay. And I apologize for flipping  
2 around, but if we can turn back to the second page  
3 of this PDF, please.

4 And do you see the additional targeting  
5 paragraph?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Do you see where it lists New Orleans and  
8 then there's two parishes in parentheses?

9 A Yes.

10 Q The Jefferson parish is part and parcel of  
11 New Orleans; is that correct?

12 MS. KEENAN: Objection to the  
13 characterization, but you can answer.

14 THE WITNESS: For the sake of targeting --  
15 when we put in a request with our text vendor at  
16 that time, it was important to distinguish if  
17 there are different areas within New Orleans that  
18 we wanted to focus on because our text vendor is  
19 from outside of the state, so, yes.

20 BY MS. HOLT:

21 Q And right above this additional targeting  
22 paragraph there's something called an activist  
23 score.

24 What is an activist score? Do you see  
25 that?



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1           A   Yes.   So an activist score is just a  
2   measure of how frequently someone may engage, or  
3   it measures kind of a letter of engagement.   So if  
4   we send a text and, you know, they respond, and  
5   then we send a follow-up text and they would like  
6   to volunteer and they say yes, and they sign up to  
7   volunteer, you know, that would increase their  
8   activist score.   And it really gives our vendor  
9   and us an opportunity to really target and say,  
10   hey, we want to reach out to people with higher  
11   activist scores or just people who are more likely  
12   to engage.

13           Q   So the target for this campaign was an  
14   activist score above 50 percent or 50.   Excuse me,  
15   I shouldn't say percent.

16           A   Yes.   And to be honest with you, that  
17   activist score was -- that was an internal process  
18   with our vendor.   We don't really deal as much  
19   with that.   But, you know, during this process,  
20   like, when we put in a request, we have a  
21   conversation, a follow-up conversation with the  
22   vendor who kind of digs deeper into what our needs  
23   are because they're more familiar with the  
24   software, and kind of, you know, who are you  
25   really trying to reach, and then they go in and

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1 adjust the targeting based on our -- based on our  
2 initial request, but also based on our follow-up  
3 conversation.

4 Q And who is your vendor?

5 A At that time it was Movement Labs.

6 Q And you said at that time, who is your  
7 vendor now?

8 A We no longer have a vendor. Our texting  
9 is now internal.

10 MS. HOLT: We can take this exhibit down  
11 for now.

12 I wanted to make sure that exhibit was  
13 marked as Exhibit 5.

14 (Whereupon, Exhibit 5 was marked for  
15 identification.)

16 BY MS. HOLT:

17 Q All right. So Ms. Ho-Sang, let's go back  
18 to some of the harm that we had been discussing.

19 You also mentioned mini grants going  
20 towards redistricting.

21 In order for an organization to get a mini  
22 grant, does it have to share the same goals as  
23 BVM?

24 A With our partners, there is a clear  
25 alignment with our mission and our focus, yes.

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1 Q Is that alignment a condition to receiving  
2 a grant?

3 A Yes. We grant to organizations that, from  
4 one perspective or another, will help to increase  
5 the black voter engagement and black civic  
6 participation.

7 Q Were there any specific grants that were  
8 not awarded due to these legislative maps?

9 MS. KEENAN: Objection to form.

10 MS. HOLT: Yeah, let me ask that a  
11 different way. That was a poor question.

12 BY MS. HOLT:

13 Q So were there any mini grant applications  
14 for other goals of BVM that were diverted to  
15 redistricting?

16 A Oh, I think I understand your question.  
17 We have a finite granting budget. When we grant  
18 money, that money is gone, and so that means less  
19 money for our other key purposes. And so there  
20 was a significant amount, I don't have an exact  
21 figure of how much we granted for redistricting,  
22 but there was a significant amount of granting  
23 that did go towards redistricting.

24 Q And you said there is a specific granting  
25 amount. Does that change from year to year?

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1 A Insignificantly, but it does change. It  
2 has changed during my time.

3 Q Do you have an example of a specific grant  
4 that wasn't -- that didn't make it through the  
5 process because the funds were already fully  
6 disbursed?

7 A No, I don't have a grant that I can refer  
8 to, no.

9 Q Okay. Now, in terms of a generally  
10 diversion of resources that you've talked about,  
11 has BVM's -- (connectivity interruption.)

12 So in terms of a general diversion of  
13 resources, has BVM's Get Out The Vote initiatives  
14 continued?

15 A Yes.

16 Q So they haven't ceased because this  
17 lawsuit is pending?

18 A No, they have not.

19 Q And has BVM started new Get Out The Vote  
20 initiatives in Louisiana as this lawsuit has been  
21 pending?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And what are those initiatives?

24 A So we are conducting GOTV for our upcoming  
25 gubernatorial election, and we've had one bus tour

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1 so far to get out the vote. That took place early  
2 August. We have another that will be taking place  
3 in early September, and then we have our last bus  
4 tour that will take place in late September, early  
5 October.

6 Q Okay. How have BVM's -- we talked about  
7 BVM's harm, but how have BVM's partners been  
8 harmed as a result of these maps?

9 A I would say in many of the same ways that  
10 we've been harmed. They've had to dedicate, you  
11 know -- even if that funding comes from us through  
12 our mini granting process, they have to dedicate  
13 that funding, or they've had to dedicate it toward  
14 educating their community around the  
15 redistricting, mobilizing them around  
16 redistricting, paying for the events, the food,  
17 you know, all of the expenses that are associated  
18 with educating and mobilizing and organizing in  
19 community. They've also had to, you know, divert  
20 their investment of time in some of their core  
21 mission areas to really focus in and hone in on  
22 redistricting. Then, of course, there's like the  
23 lived impact because many of our partners live in  
24 the districts that have been impacted by this  
25 process. And so, you know, just their everyday,

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1 day-to-day lived experiences have been harmful.  
2 And, you know, it is through our partners that we  
3 really learned about the ways that this  
4 redistricting process and redistricting processes  
5 in the past have impacted their lives, their  
6 families' lives, and their communities.

7 Q Is it BVM's position that its partners  
8 have been harmed in every parish of Louisiana in  
9 this way?

10 MS. KEENAN: Objection to the extent it  
11 calls for a legal conclusion, but, Omari, you can  
12 answer.

13 THE WITNESS: To my understanding, BVM has  
14 not taken a position on that particular statement.

15 MS. HOLT: Okay. So if we can go back,  
16 I'd ask the tech to, please, pull up Exhibit 2.

17 MS. KEENAN: Cassie, would you mind if we  
18 went off the record for a second just to talk  
19 about the next break.

20 MS. HOLT: Yes, sure. Absolutely. That's  
21 no problem.

22 (Whereupon, a lunch break was taken at  
23 12:06 p.m.)

24 MS. KEENAN: I think we're ready to go  
25 back on the record.

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1 EXAMINATION RESUMED

2 BY MS. HOLT:

3 Q Ms. Ho-Sang, before the break we were  
4 discussing the alleged harm to BVM's partners.

5 How many parishes do BVM's partners  
6 operate in?

7 A So BVM has target parishes that we  
8 prioritize. Bossier, Cato, Wichita, Rapides,  
9 Lafayette, Lake Charles or Calcasieu, East Baton  
10 Rouge, and Orleans and Iberia parishes. Those are  
11 our target parishes. However, through the course  
12 of our work in Louisiana we have also acquired  
13 partners in additional parishes outside of our  
14 target areas, and so that's -- those parishes  
15 include Jefferson, St. Mary, St. Martin, Jackson,  
16 other parishes outside of our target area, but we  
17 really prioritize our target focus parishes.

18 Q Why are certain parishes targeted?

19 A So those parishes are highlighted based on  
20 their black voting age population and their black  
21 population. The parishes that I named as our  
22 target areas had the largest concentration of  
23 black people in them, so they are targeted.  
24 However, we want to be able to support our partner  
25 communities. So, for example, I live in Bossier,

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1 but it's part of the Shreveport community. So  
2 there are many places that are target areas across  
3 the state that contain partners, and our partners  
4 are involved in the work that happens in those  
5 areas. And so as a matter of supporting our  
6 partners, we expanded to those areas as well.

7 Q Okay. So you've listed certain parishes  
8 for me. Does BVM operate in every single parish  
9 in Louisiana?

10 A No.

11 Q How many parishes are covered in full?

12 A Approximately inclusive of our target,  
13 plus the additional parishes that we picked up,  
14 we're -- we most likely have partners in at least  
15 25 parishes that we work with.

16 Q Okay. So 25 --

17 A That's an approximate number.

18 Q All right. Now, switching to the mini  
19 grants, has All Streets, All People received  
20 grants from the BVM?

21 A Yes.

22 Q About how many grant?

23 A ASAP has received three to five grants  
24 from BVM.

25 Q And what years were those received?



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1 MS. KEENAN: I'm going to object because I  
2 think this is outside the scope of the deposition  
3 or at least we're getting close to it. I'll let  
4 it go a little longer with Omari answering, but  
5 I'm going to object to them.

6 THE WITNESS: So prior my becoming an  
7 employee with BVM, ASAP was a partner. We were a  
8 partner just like our partners that we engage  
9 with. So our first grant was received in 2019  
10 from BVM, and we have received a grant from BVM  
11 each year to the present.

12 BY MS. HOLT:

13 Q Okay. How many of those of grants were  
14 related to redistricting?

15 A One.

16 Q So one out of the five?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And what year was that grant related to  
19 redistricting dispersed to ASAP?

20 A 2022.

21 Q And you said through the present. Has  
22 ASAP received any grants in 2023?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And were those related to redistricting?

25 A Not directly, no.

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1 Q One of the things that we've talked about  
2 or that you've mentioned previously is BVM's Veto  
3 The Map campaign.

4 MS. HOLT: I'm going to ask the tech to,  
5 please, pull up a document that's been previously  
6 produced in discovery as BVM LA LEG number 383,  
7 which I would like to have marked as Exhibit 6.

8 (Whereupon, Exhibit 6 was marked for  
9 identification.)

10 BY MS. HOLT:

11 Q And Ms. Ho-Sang, I'm going to give you a  
12 little bit to review this document, and then I'm  
13 going to ask you some questions specifically about  
14 that second main paragraph.

15 A Okay. Thank you.

16 Okay.

17 Q Do you recognize this e-mail  
18 correspondence?

19 A Yes, I do.

20 Q And what is the date on that e-mail?

21 A March 7, 2022.

22 Q Okay. And the second paragraph -- well,  
23 first it looks like this e-mail discusses two  
24 initiatives; is that correct?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q And it looks like the second paragraph is  
2 about the Veto The Maps campaign?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And can you, please, read the last  
5 sentence of the second paragraph for the record  
6 starting with "we are reminding."

7 A Okay. We are reminding him that the black  
8 community stood behind him during the last  
9 gubernatorial election and are asking him to stand  
10 behind us at this time.

11 Q And is "him" referring to Governor  
12 Edwards?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And what do you think that sentence means?

15 A That sentence means that black voters  
16 played a significant role in the election and the  
17 re-election of Governor John Bel Edwards, and we  
18 are requesting him to stand behind us in our time  
19 of need in terms of the maps.

20 Q Does it mean that Governor Edwards could  
21 have been the candidate of choice for the black  
22 community in the last gubernatorial election?

23 MS. KEENAN: Objection to the extent this  
24 calls for a legal conclusion.

25 Omari, you can answer.

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1 THE WITNESS: Yes.

2 MS. HOLT: Ms. Ho-Sang, thank you so much  
3 for your time today. I have no further questions.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

5 MS. KEENAN: Can we take a quick  
6 five-minute break. We need time just to go off  
7 the record and chat.

8 MS. HOLT: Absolutely.

9 (Whereupon, a break was taken at  
10 1:26 p.m.)

11 MS. KEENAN: If there's nothing else from  
12 the defendants, the plaintiffs don't have any  
13 questions, Ms. Ho-Sang, so I think we are ready to  
14 close the deposition.

15 MS. HOLT: Okay. Let's close the  
16 deposition. Thank you.

17 Megan, do you want to read and sign?

18 MS. KEENAN: Sure, yes.

19 THE COURT REPORTER: May I have the orders  
20 for the transcript, if there are any.

21 MS. HOLT: Allison has our standard order  
22 for defendant, Secretary of State.

23 MS. KEENAN: The plaintiffs would like to  
24 put in an order for a rush transcript as soon as  
25 it's available.

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1 (Whereupon, the deposition concluded at  
2 1:32 p.m.)

3 --oo0oo--

4  
5 STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

6 )

7 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

8

9

10 I, OMARI HO-SANG, the witness herein,  
11 having read the foregoing testimony of the pages  
12 of this deposition, do hereby certify it to be a  
13 true and correct transcript, subject to the  
14 corrections, if any, shown on the attached page.

15

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19 \_\_\_\_\_  
OMARI HO-SANG

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Leonora L. Walker, a Notary Public, the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the testimony given; that said testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my supervision; that reading and signing was requested; and that I am neither counsel for or related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 29th day of August 2023.

My commission expires May 17, 2024.

*Leonora Walker*

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NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
Notary Registration No. 01WA6109670

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