

The following excerpts are from the Rough Draft Transcript of the April 28, 2021 public hearing conducted by the House Ethics Committee in the matter of Representative Aaron von Ehlinger. More specifically, the following excerpts relate to Representative Priscilla Giddings' testimony regarding her social media activity.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: Please raise your right hand, Representative. Thank you. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you will give before this committee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: So help me God, yes.

Page 204, Lines 13-20.

LESLIE HAYES: *And after these ethics proceedings became public, you posted a picture of Jane Doe; is that correct?*

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: *That is not correct.*

LESLIE HAYES: *Did you post her name?*

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: *No.*

Pages 212, Line 21 through Page 213, Line 1 (emphasis added).

REPRESENTATIVE CRANE: I'd like to pick up on that line of questioning and ask maybe if you have any understanding why Ms. Doe would be so upset with you.

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: Sure, Representative Crane. So on the 16th when the proceedings of this committee went public, I instantly wanted to find out as much as I possibly could. So in my official capacity, I put out a newsletter at the end of every week. Sometimes it goes out on Friday or Saturday. And I provide a comprehensive overview of what has happened in the legislature and the things that I find of great interest and are relevant. And if anybody out there would like to receive a copy of my newsletters, you can e-mail me and I'd be happy to send those newsletters. On -- that became public, this committee's actions became public Friday morning, so I opened up the rule book and saw that it says the whole thing can become public, so I asked our chief of the legislative services office if it was his opinion that both the complaint and counter complaint are part of the legislative -- the committee's process. He agreed.

I asked for a copy of both the complaint and the counter complaint because only the complaint was made public. I only received a copy of the complaint. I heard that, you know, various people had the counter complaint, and then I heard that it was made public to the press.

I included in my weekly newsletter an update of what had happened, and I referenced a press article that had more information. So in my newsletter, and I do have a copy of it here I can share with you, I specifically just said the situation was happening, and that, you know, more could be read here. And I linked to a news article.

*It is my understanding that Jane Doe's name was in that article. I had not, you know, thoroughly examined all of that. I wanted both sides of the story to be accurately*

*represented.* It was my understanding there was no criminal proceeding going on at the time, therefore everything was in accordance with the House Rule 45, and if Representative von Ehlinger's name was going to be made public, I believe that everybody should be innocent until proven guilty, and that both sides of the story need to be equally represented.

Pages 213, Line 5 through Page 215, Line 5 (emphasis added).

REPRESENTATIVE CRANE: So is that the Facebook post that has -- that caused her to become upset where you put on your Facebook this newsletter referencing an article that had been written about Ms. Doe and Mr. Von Ehlinger.

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: Representative Crane, I did not post my newsletter on social media. I do and I did post an article about the situation to social media, and that potentially could be -- I don't know that she sees my social media, but that could be potentially what has concerned her.

Page 215, Lines 9-20.

REPRESENTATIVE CRANE: So in that article though that you posted, her name was revealed; is that correct.

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: *I'm not sure what that status is right now.* I'd be happy to look it up and pull it up.

Page 216, Lines 8-13 (emphasis added).

REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: I'm looking at the Facebook post now, and there is a picture of -- you did post a picture of Jane Doe on there.

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: Representative Gannon, I posted a link to a news article.

REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: Are there pictures?

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: You're saying that there are, so --

REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: Are -- to the best of your recollection, did you post pictures?

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: Representative Gannon, I posted a link to a news article.

REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: With pictures.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: I think we --

REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: And also states "follow the money." What do you mean by that?

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: Representative Gannon, I don't know that I can -- I'm not sure that I understand the question.

REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: On your post on April 16th at 9:43 p.m., it says: Follow the money. Idaho's very own Kavanaugh. I'm just wondering what you mean by "follow the money."

REPRESENTATIVE GIDDINGS: Nothing significant that's worth -- I think relevant to the situation.

Page 216, Line 19 through Page 217, Line 20.