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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
119–219

IN THE MATTER OF ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO REPRESENTATIVE ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

JULY 29, 2025.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2025.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: Pursuant to clauses 3(a)(2) and 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, we herewith transmit the attached report, "In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez."

Sincerely,

MICHAEL GUEST,
Chairman.
MARK DESAULNIER,
Ranking Member.

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Mr. GUEST, from the Committee on Ethics, submitted the following

R E P O R T

In accordance with House rule XI, clauses 3(a)(2) and 3(b), the Committee on Ethics (Committee) hereby submits the following Report to the House of Representatives:

I. INTRODUCTION

On June 23, 2022, the Office of Congressional Conduct (OCC), then known as the Office of Congressional Ethics, transmitted a Report and Findings (Referral) regarding allegations that Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez may have accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the 2021 Met Gala.[1]

The Committee reviewed the allegations referred by OCC pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee found that Representative Ocasio-Cortez proactively took steps to comply with the Gift Rule, including by arranging to pay for various services and to "rent" apparel out of her personal funds that might normally be loaned or gifted to Met Gala participants. Nonetheless, despite Representative Ocasio-Cortez's significant attempts, the Committee found that she failed to fully comply with the Gift Rule by impermissibly accepting a gift of free admission to the 2021 Met Gala for her partner and by failing to pay full fair market value for some of the items worn to the event. The Committee did not find evidence that Representative Ocasio-Cortez intentionally underpaid for any goods or services received in connection with the Met Gala; in many instances, the congresswoman relied on the advice of counsel in determining appropriate payment amounts, and

[1] Report and Findings from the Office of Congressional Conduct (Review No. 22–8546) (Appendix A) at 3 (hereinafter OCC Referral). The Met Gala is a charity event organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) in partnership with Condé Nast, publisher of Vogue.

most discussions about payment were handled through a campaign staffer. However, the Committee did find evidence suggesting that the designer may have lowered costs in response to statements from Representative Ocasio-Cortez's staff, and that payments to vendors were significantly delayed and, in several cases, did not occur until after OCC initiated its investigation. The Committee also found that Representative Ocasio-Cortez's staff was overly reliant on the vendors themselves to ensure the congresswoman's compliance with the Gift Rule, despite the vendors' countervailing incentives to ensure she would be able to promote their goods and services.

Based on its findings, the Committee determined that it would be appropriate for Representative Ocasio-Cortez to make additional payments of personal funds to compensate for the fair market value of certain expenses. Upon confirmation of the completion of those payments, the Committee will consider this matter closed. Accordingly, on July 22, 2025, the Committee unanimously voted to issue this Report.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

OCC undertook a preliminary review of this matter on February 19, 2022. On March 21, 2022, OCC initiated a second-phase review of this matter. The Committee received the OCC Referral on June 23, 2022. On December 7, 2022,[2] the Committee publicly announced that it was reviewing an OCC Referral related to Representative Ocasio-Cortez. On February 28, 2023, the Committee determined to carry over the deadline from the 117th Congress and release the OCC Referral two days after the Committee's organizational meeting for the 118th Congress, consistent with Committee precedent. That same day, Representative Ocasio-Cortez submitted a written response to the OCC Referral through her counsel. On March 2, 2023, pursuant to House and Committee Rules, the Committee publicly released the OCC Referral, along with a copy of Representative Ocasio-Cortez's written response.

The Committee reviewed materials provided by OCC, including the transcript of OCC's interview with Representative Ocasio-Cortez. The Committee also requested and received information from Representative Ocasio-Cortez, including documents and narrative responses. In total, Committee staff reviewed over 12,100 pages of material and interviewed Representative Ocasio-Cortez's then-campaign staffer (hereinafter, Former Campaign Staffer), as well as several other individuals who were involved in Representative Ocasio-Cortez's attendance at the 2021 Met Gala.

On July 22, 2025, the Committee unanimously voted to adopt this Report with respect to Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

III. RELEVANT LAWS, RULES, AND OTHER APPLICABLE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A federal statute, 5 U.S.C. § 7353, prohibits federal officials, including Members of Congress, from soliciting or accepting anything of value, except as provided in rules and regulations issued by their supervising ethics office. For House Members, either the Com-

[2] The counting of the 45 and 90-day deadlines related to OCC referrals is tolled during the 60-day blackout period prior to any elections in which the subject of the referral is a candidate.

mittee or the "House of Representatives as a whole" is the "supervising ethics office."[3] Accordingly, the House, through House rule XXV, clause 5 (the Gift Rule), has defined the gifts Members may accept consistent with federal law. The Gift Rule prohibits a Member from knowingly accepting a gift unless it fits within one of the rule's enumerated exceptions.[4] The Gift Rule defines a "gift" broadly, as "a gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value."[5] It includes "gifts of services, training, transportation, lodging, and meals, whether provided in kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred." The gift prohibition does not apply to anything for which the Member pays the market value or does not use and promptly returns to the donor.[6]

There are exceptions to the Gift Rule for attendance at "widely-attended" events and "charity" events.[7] The widely-attended events exception provides that Members may accept an unsolicited offer of free attendance for a widely-attended event for themselves and any "accompanying individual."[8] "Free attendance" includes all or part of the cost of admission, local transportation, food and refreshments, entertainment, and instructional materials provided to all event attendees.[9] Similarly, a Member may accept an unsolicited offer of free attendance for a charity fundraising event.[10] Though the Committee's guidance on this subject has evolved in recent years, at the time of the event in question, an unsolicited offer of free attendance could also be accepted for a spouse or dependent child.[11] The "value of tickets to charity or political fundraisers is the value of the meal [. . .] not the ticket's value."[12]

Additionally, clauses 1 and 2 of the Code of Official Conduct (House rule XXIII) provide that "[a] Member . . . of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House," and "shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House."

IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Each year, the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) hosts a Costume Institute Benefit, commonly known as the Met Gala, to

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[3] 5 U.S.C. § 7353(d).

[4] House rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(1)(A)(i). If no exception applies, House Rules permit a Member to accept a gift not otherwise prohibited if the Member "reasonably and in good faith believes" the gift has a value of less than $50 and a cumulative value from one source during a calendar year of less than $100. House rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(1)(B)(i).

[5] House rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(2)(A).

[6] House rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(3)(A). The Committee's Gift Guidance provides that the "[t]angible gifts are generally valued at the item's fair market value, even if the item is not typically for sale. Fair market value is the item's retail price, not the wholesale price, or the reasonable estimate of an item's cost if it were available for sale." Comm. on Ethics, *Gift Guidance*, https://ethics.house.gov/house-ethics-manual/gifts (hereinafter House Gift Guidance) (citing House rule XXV) (last visited July 24, 2025).

[7] House rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(4)(A) and (C).

[8] House Gift Guidance.

[9] *Id*. Free attendance does not include entertainment collateral to the event or food and refreshments outside the group setting of the event, such as giveaways.

[10] *Id*.

[11] On September 19, 2022, the Committee issued a pink sheet with new guidance regarding the House Gift Rule related to event attendance. This guidance now permits the acceptance of an offer for free attendance for any guest if attendance otherwise complies with the rule. Comm. on Ethics, *Guest Policy Change and Reminder of Gift Rules for Attendance at Events* (Sept. 19, 2022) (hereinafter 2022 Pink Sheet), https://ethics.house.gov/gift-pink-sheets/guest-policy-change-and-reminder-gift-rules-attendance-events/.

[12] *House Ethics Manual* (2022) at 26 (hereinafter *Ethics Manual*).

raise funds for the museum's Costume Institute.[13] The Met Gala is the primary source of funding for the Costume Institute, and the Met describes the event as "one of the most visible and successful charity events, drawing attendees from the worlds of fashion, film, society, sports, business, and music."[14] Condé Nast, "renowned media compan[y]" and publisher of Vogue,[15] partners with the Met in organizing the event under the leadership of Anna Wintour, the Artistic Director of Condé Nast, now-former Editor-in-Chief of Vogue,[16] and an Honorary Trustee of the Met.[17] Ms. Wintour's role in the gala included determining a significant portion of the event's guest list.[18] However, the Met has also historically extended a limited number of invitations each year, including to certain government officials, free of charge.

Representative Ocasio-Cortez has served as a Member of the House since 2019, representing the Fourteenth Congressional District of New York. She received invitations to attend the Met Gala in 2019, 2020, and 2021, but only attended in 2021.[19] Her attendance at the Met Gala on September 13, 2021, garnered extensive media attention in the days following the event, including questions regarding whether her attendance met ethics requirements.[20]

A. INVITATION TO THE 2021 MET GALA

On May 13, 2021, Condé Nast emailed Former Campaign Staffer to extend an invitation to Representative Ocasio-Cortez and her then-partner, Riley Roberts, for the 2021 Met Gala.[21] The invitation stated that "Anna [Wintour] would be thrilled to have you and Riley Roberts join us at the gala this September, as guests of Vogue."[22] On June 24, 2021, Former Campaign Staffer accepted the invitation on their behalf.[23]

On July 14, 2021, Ms. Wintour called Designer and asked her to "dress AOC for the Met[.]" In discussing this request with another individual, Designer noted that it was "going to be a lot of work because [she would] have to make a dress from scratch."[24] She also referred to the request as "insane" and said that she "do[es]n't make clothes;"[25] Designer, and her brand, Brother Vellies, are primarily known for their "luxury accessories," including shoes and

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[13] The Met, *The Costume Institute*, THE MET, https://www.metmuseum.org/departments/the-costume-institute (last visited July 24, 2025) (hereinafter *The Costume Institute*).

[14] *Id.*

[15] Condé Nast, *About*, CONDÉ NAST, https://www.condenast.com/about (last visited July 24, 2025).

[16] *The Costume Institute.*

[17] *Anna Wintour Elected Honorary Trustee*, THE MET (Jan. 12, 1999), https://www.metmuseum.org/press/news/1999/anna-wintour-elected-honorary-trustee.

[18] *See* Amy Odell, *How Anna Wintour Wields Her Power*, TIME (April 25, 2022), https://time.com/6170179/anna-wintour-met-gala-amy-odell-book/.

[19] *See e.g.*, Exhibit 1 (declining invitation to the 2019 Met Gala due to prior commitments). The 2020 Met Gala was canceled due to the COVID–19 pandemic. Stuart Emmrich, *There Will Be No Met Gala This Year*, VOGUE (May 19, 2020), https://www.vogue.com/article/met-gala-has-been-cancelled-2020.

[20] *See e.g.*, Megan C. Hills, *AOC caused a stir with her statement-making Met Gala gown*, CNN (Sept. 14, 2021), https://www.cnn.com/style/article/aoc-met-gala-alexandria-ocasio-cortez-dress/index.html; Stuti Mishra, *AOC hit with ethics complaint over Met Gala appearance as she fires back at critics 'policing her body'*, INDEPENDENT (Sept. 15, 2021), https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/aoc-met-gala-dress-criticism-b1920415.html#comments-area.

[21] OCC Referral Exhibit 3.

[22] *Id.* (emphasis in original).

[23] Exhibit 2.

[24] Exhibit 3.

[25] *Id.*

handbags.[26] Later in July, staff at Vogue connected Former Campaign Staffer with Designer.[27] Representative Ocasio-Cortez also agreed to participate in a video for Vogue, which documented the creative process around the design of her look, as well as her getting ready to attend the Met Gala.[28] Prior to attending the event, Representative Ocasio-Cortez also engaged counsel to ensure her attendance was compliant with House Rules.[29]

Although tickets to the Met Gala were sold for $35,000 each that year, with proceeds benefiting the Met's Costume Institute, Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Roberts received free admission to the event. Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel "reached out to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to confirm that the event met the criteria for a permissible charity event under House [R]ules" as part of their due diligence prior to the event, "and the general counsel of the museum confirmed that it met those criteria."[30] Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel thus correctly understood that she could accept the offer of free admission to the event, along with food and beverage, because the invitation was extended by the Met as the charitable sponsor of the event.[31] Counsel also indicated that the "Congresswoman was offered a guest ticket under the same criteria, and her longtime partner attended the event as well."[32]

B. REPRESENTATIVE OCASIO-CORTEZ'S RELATED EXPENSES

In addition to free admission, Representative Ocasio-Cortez was provided with a designer gown, handbag, shoes, jewelry, and a floral hairpiece, and hair, makeup, transportation, and ready-room services for herself, as well as a bowtie, shoes, and tailoring services for Mr. Roberts. These goods and services were provided, or coordinated, by either Condé Nast or Brother Vellies, both of which primarily communicated with Former Campaign Staffer on Representative Ocasio-Cortez's behalf.

According to Representative Ocasio-Cortez and her counsel, they determined prior to the event that she would be paying for the goods and services received and her "staff explicitly told vendors prior to the Met Gala that the Congresswoman would be paying for many of the benefits provided *personally*."[33] Representative Ocasio-

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[26] *Our Story*, BROTHER VELLIES, https://brothervellies.com/pages/about-brother-vellies (last visited July 24, 2025).

[27] OCC Referral Exhibit 6.

[28] Sarah Spellings, *Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Sent a Message with her First Met Gala Appearance*, VOGUE (Sept. 16, 2021), https://www.vogue.com/article/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-met-gala-2021.

[29] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

[30] Letter from Counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (July 8, 2022) (Appendix B).

[31] *See* OCC Referral Exhibit 11. Although Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel has indicated that the invitation was extended by the Met, OCC "found significant documentary evidence suggesting that [her] invitation is most appropriately characterized as an invitation from Vogue" and that there may have been "some attempt to obfuscate Vogue's role in the invitation process" by counsel. Nonetheless, OCC found that, even if Vogue invited the congresswoman, her attendance was permissible under the charitable events exception to the Gift Rule because "Vogue is appropriately characterized as an event organizer given the significant and active role it plays in organizing the Met Gala." OCC Referral n. 46; *see also* OCC Referral Exhibit 14.

[32] OCC Referral Exhibit 11.

[33] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (July 8, 2022) (Appendix B) (emphasis in original). *See also* OCC Interview of Former Campaign Staffer. Documents suggest some ambiguity about the source of payment in the days leading up to the event. *See e.g.*, Exhibit 4 (Sept. 11, 2021, email thread between Condé Nast staff stating, "Getting on a call with AOC and they said that designers can't pay for stuff needs

Continued

Cortez's staff directed vendors to "keep costs down" in light of that, although her counsel acknowledged that "it proved to be exceptionally difficult to educate vendors on the ethical requirements that the Congresswoman is subject to," noting, "multiple occasions where the Congresswoman and her team were met with responses from collaborators and involved companies to the effect of 'Met Gala attendees don't normally pay for this.'"[34] Representative Ocasio-Cortez ultimately paid for most of the goods and services received out of personal funds, although the payments were significantly delayed and some payments fell short of fair market value. Most payments occurred after OCC initiated its review, "[b]ut for" which, OCC stated "it appears that [she] may not have paid for several thousands of dollars" worth of goods and services provided to her."[35] Additional details regarding the goods and services received, the delays in completing payment, and fair market valuation are discussed further below.

1. Services Provided or Coordinated by Condé Nast

Condé Nast assisted with the coordination of hair and makeup services for Representative Ocasio-Cortez related to her attendance at the Met Gala and production of the associated "getting ready" video for Vogue.[36] Both vendors initially billed Condé Nast for their services, but Condé Nast informed them on September 21, 2021—approximately one week after the event—that they had a "small shift on our end with billing and the talent's team will be handling directly."[37] Former Campaign Staffer was identified as the point of contact for Representative Ocasio-Cortez in both instances.[38] As discussed in further detail below, both vendors were unable to collect payment on their invoices until months after the event and after repeated attempts at collection.

Condé Nast also provided Representative Ocasio-Cortez with transportation from her home to The Carlyle hotel, where she got ready for the event. Condé Nast appeared to have initially covered the cost of the transportation but provided Former Campaign Staffer with an invoice for reimbursement after Former Campaign Staffer reached out to them following the initiation of OCC's review, which the congresswoman paid in May 2022.

a. Hair Styling

Representative Ocasio-Cortez received hair services for the Met Gala from Hairstylist.[39] The agency representing Hairstylist sent an invoice for $477.73 to Former Campaign Staffer on September 30, 2021, per Condé Nast's instructions.[40] The invoice noted that payment was due by October 30, 2021.[41]

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to be a gift."); OCC Referral Exhibit 10 (Undated text message from Former Campaign Staffer to Designer stating, "I don't want to do anything that we find out later will need to be a personal expense for her").

[34] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).

[35] OCC Referral at 8.

[36] *See* OCC Referral Exhibits 16, 20.

[37] OCC Referral Exhibits 16, 20. Representative Ocasio-Cortez was the "talent" referenced.

[38] *Id.*

[39] *See* OCC Referral Exhibit 16.

[40] *Id.*

[41] *Id.*

On November 16, 2021, Hairstylist's agency emailed Former Campaign Staffer about the past due payment and requested that she provide proof of payment by the end of the week.[42] Former Campaign Staffer did not respond to the email, nor any of the other emails sent by the agency throughout December.[43] After Condé Nast was looped back into communications on the issue in mid-January 2022, the agency noted that Former Campaign Staffer "has never responded to any requests for payment. Obviously it would look terrible if we had to file a complaint with the NY Dept of Labor against Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress. Do you have an active contact on AOC's team who will pay for the work done by our artist?"[44] Former Campaign Staffer responded to the email thread on January 26, 2022, and requested a credit card authorization form. The agency provided the form the same day, but Former Campaign Staffer did not complete the payment.[45]

One month later, on February 23, 2022, the agency notified Former Campaign Staffer and Condé Nast that they would be filing a complaint against Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress if payment was not deposited by the end of business on the following day.[46] Former Campaign Staffer requested a call with Hairstylist's agency.[47] On February 24, 2022, the invoice was paid[48] from Representative Ocasio-Cortez's personal funds.[49]

Former Campaign Staffer advised OCC that "on one level [the payment] did fall off my radar and I think I remember getting e-mails from them usually when I was somewhere else where I couldn't [ ] be at my laptop and focus on it."[50] She also noted that there were some logistical issues in completing the payment.[51] The Committee did not receive any evidence that Representative Ocasio-Cortez was personally made aware of the communications from Hairstylist's agency regarding the late payment. Representative Ocasio-Cortez testified to OCC that she was not aware at the time how each good or service was to be billed and believed that they would perhaps be reimbursing Brother Vellies for all costs:

> So I didn't know in terms of how it was structured if we were paying each vendor individually, if it was Brother Vellies covering the cost and then us—you know, of all of these things because we hadn't shared, or, you know, same provider, same vendor and that we were reimbursing them. I also was under the impression it was the latter, that we were reimbursing Brother Vellies for the cost, but I really did not know the details at the time of how things were itemized.[52]

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[42] OCC Referral Exhibit 17.
[43] *Id*
[44] *Id.*
[45] *See id.*
[46] *Id.*
[47] *Id.*
[48] OCC Referral Exhibit 18.
[49] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.
[50] OCC Interview of Former Campaign Staffer.
[51] *See id.*
[52] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

b. Makeup Services

Representative Ocasio-Cortez received makeup services for the Met Gala from Makeup Artist.[53] Several days after the event, on September 17, 2021, the agency that represented Makeup Artist in the transaction invoiced Condé Nast for $344.85.[54] On September 23, 2021, after receiving instructions from Condé Nast to bill Representative Ocasio-Cortez directly, Makeup Artist's agency asked Former Campaign Staffer to provide the correct billing address for the invoice.[55] Former Campaign Staffer did not reply, and there was no further communication between the parties until January 2022.

On January 10, 2022, Makeup Artist's agency emailed Condé Nast another copy of the invoice, indicating that it was outstanding and asking for payment "as soon as possible[.]"[56] On January 13, 2022, Condé Nast rejected the invoice noting that it was "[t]o be paid out by AOC team."[57] The notification also provided Former Campaign Staffer's email address. Former Campaign Staffer replied to further inquiry from the agency and advised them that "we are taking care of it, and apologies-this should have been taken care of a while ago."[58] However, by January 25, 2022, Makeup Artist had still not received payment, and the agency again followed up with Former Campaign Staffer, who did not respond.[59]

Makeup Artist's agency followed up again on February 7, 2022, and noted that the "invoice is still outstanding and EXTREMELY overdue."[60] Former Campaign Staffer did not respond. On February 11, 2022, the agency emailed Former Campaign Staffer again and asked if the invoice needed to be reissued to a different party so that it could be paid.[61] Former Campaign Staffer apologized and indicated that they believed payment had already been made, but that they would issue payment the following business day.[62] The agency reached out to Former Campaign Staffer three more times in February after not receiving payment.[63] On February 24, 2022, Former Campaign Staffer indicated to the agency that payment had been completed.[64] However, the agency informed her the following day that the payment had been rejected.[65] The invoice was not successfully paid until March 16, 2022, approximately two weeks after the congresswoman and her team were informed of OCC's review.[66] The invoice was paid from Representative Ocasio-Cortez's personal funds.[67]

Former Campaign Staffer indicated to OCC that the delayed payment to Makeup Artist's agency was due in part to issues in completing the payment with the vendor and because "other things

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[53] OCC Referral Exhibit 19.
[54] *Id.*
[55] OCC Referral Exhibit 20.
[56] OCC Referral Exhibit 21.
[57] *Id.*
[58] *Id.*
[59] *Id.*
[60] *Id.*
[61] *Id.*
[62] *See* OCC Referral Exhibit 21.
[63] *Id.*
[64] OCC Referral Exhibit 22.
[65] *Id.*
[66] OCC Referral Exhibit 23.
[67] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

kind of took precedence[.]"[68] The Committee did not receive any evidence that Representative Ocasio-Cortez was personally made aware of the communications from Makeup Artist's agency regarding the late payment. As noted above, Representative Ocasio-Cortez indicated she was under the impression that Brother Vellies had paid the vendors and that she would be reimbursing Brother Vellies.

c. Transportation to The Carlyle

Condé Nast coordinated transportation for Representative Ocasio-Cortez from her home to The Carlyle (where she got ready for the Met Gala). Two days prior to the event, individuals at Condé Nast initially discussed renting a sprinter van, as "AOC team asked if we could have one that will transport crew and AOC from location to location and then to the [hotel] and then to The Met."[69] However, after estimating the van's potential cost, individuals at Condé Nast instead internally proposed renting two SUVs in an attempt to "make it slightly more cost effective."[70] In a later response to the same email thread, Condé Nast staff said: "Getting on a call with AOC and they said that designers can't pay for stuff[, it] needs to be a gift. So just double checking."[71] There is no indication that Condé Nast provided Representative Ocasio-Cortez, or anyone on her team, with an invoice for the transportation costs until after OCC initiated its review.

On March 16, 2022, approximately two weeks after OCC notified Representative Ocasio-Cortez of its review, Former Campaign Staffer was in contact with Condé Nast regarding transportation costs.[72] Condé Nast provided a receipt showing that the total transportation cost was $586.84.[73] However, because there were four riders—three of whom were Vogue crew members—Condé Nast suggested that it might be appropriate to divide the hourly rate between the four individuals.[74] Former Campaign Staffer replied, "Can we get an invoice for $180? We can split this evenly."[75] An invoice in that amount was provided to Former Campaign Staffer the following day on March 17, 2022.[76] The invoice was paid in full almost two months later, on May 10, 2022,[77] from Representative Ocasio-Cortez's personal funds.[78]

2. Goods and Services Provided or Coordinated by Brother Vellies

Brother Vellies either directly provided or coordinated the other goods and services received by the congresswoman and Mr. Roberts related to their Met Gala attendance. Specifically, Representative Ocasio-Cortez was provided with a gown, handbag, shoes, jewelry, and a floral hairpiece, and ready-room services for herself, and a bowtie, shoes, and tailoring services for Mr. Roberts.

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[68] OCC Interview of Former Campaign Staffer.
[69] Exhibit 5.
[70] *Id.*
[71] Exhibit 4.
[72] OCC Referral Exhibit 34.
[73] *Id.*
[74] *Id.*
[75] *Id.*
[76] *Id.*
[77] OCC Referral Exhibit 35.
[78] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

As discussed further below, Representative Ocasio-Cortez and her team were provided with multiple invoices from Brother Vellies which accounted for most, but not all, goods and services received in connection with the Met Gala. Complete payment to Brother Vellies for the invoiced costs did not occur until May 10, 2022, nearly eight months after the event. During its review, the Committee received information indicating that the invoiced costs did not reflect the fair market value of the goods and services provided.

a. Custom Designs by Brother Vellies

The gown, handbag, and shoes were all designed specifically in contemplation of Representative Ocasio-Cortez's Met Gala appearance, although some iterations of the handbag and shoes were later sold at retail.[79] Representative Ocasio-Cortez, through Former Campaign Staffer and her counsel, communicated to Brother Vellies at the outset that costs should be kept down, although the Committee's record suggests that no specific budget number was discussed.[80]

Nonetheless, the record shows that Designer, and a team of subcontractors, spent considerable time and effort in creating custom apparel for the congresswoman's Met Gala appearance. This process included drafting numerous sketches of possible gown designs[81] that were then narrowed down in lookbooks presented to Representative Ocasio-Cortez (through Former Campaign Staffer) seeking her feedback.[82] Designer also sought out Artist for paper flowers to be included in the design of "a pair of custom shoes[.]"[83] When asked about the budget for the shoes by another individual, Designer indicated "I don't know really. We are making 10 shoe options, th[e paper flowers are] for one."[84]

b. Invoices

On September 19, 2021, Publicist—who was associated with Designer and Brother Vellies—provided Former Campaign Staffer with an itemized invoice for rental of the gown and handbag, as well as purchase of the shoes, in the amount of $2,283.93.[85]

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[79] *See* OCC Referral Exhibits 24, 25; *see also Nile Bag in Checkers,* BROTHER VELLIES, https://brothervellies.com/collections/bags/products/checkers-nile-handbag (retailing at $1,195 and noting that "Several customized versions were worn at the 2021 MET Gala.") (last visited July 24, 2025).

[80] *See* 18(a) Interview of Designer (Designer noted that Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel asked her to "keep a record," but when asked "a record of what," she responded, "I don't really remember." She then explained, "it was supposed to stay, like, cheap. Q: Okay. Was there discussion of a specific budget? A: I don't remember. Q: 'Cheap' means different things to different people. Do you have any sense of what that meant in this case? A: I don't remember. I just remember, like, trying to keep it affordable.").

[81] *See e.g.,* Exhibit 6.

[82] *See e.g.,* Exhibit 7.

[83] Exhibit 8.

[84] *Id. See also* Exhibit 9 (noting multiple shoe and handbag design options produced for Representative Ocasio-Cortez).

[85] OCC Referral Exhibit 28.

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$1,300.00
Met Gala Handbag Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 170.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 635.00
Sales Tax 8.5%	$ 178.93
Total	$2,283.93

The following day, on September 20, 2021, another invoice was provided to Former Campaign Staffer, but with a reduced total amount of $990.76.[86] A jewelry rental had been added to the invoice, but the prices listed for the gown and shoes decreased significantly from $1,300 to $300 and $635 to $160, respectively.

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$ 300.00
Met Gala Handbag & Jewelry Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 450.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 160.00
Sales Tax 8.875%	$ 80.76
Total	$ 990.76

When asked about the revisions, Former Campaign Staffer advised OCC that she spoke to Publicist after receiving the first invoice because she noted some issues that she wanted to address.[87] Specifically, Former Campaign Staffer told OCC that prior to the event, they had discussed the attire totaling around one thousand dollars.[88] Additionally, Former Campaign Staffer's understanding was that the shoes were to be a rental, rather than purchase as indicated in the invoice, because Brother Vellies intended to use the shoes in other photo shoots.[89] Because of these discrepancies, Former Campaign Staffer said that she wanted to confirm the bill's overall accuracy.[90]

Although Former Campaign Staffer indicated that the price of the shoes was lowered to reflect that they were a rental, the description in the revised invoice still indicated an intent to purchase the shoes. The Committee found evidence that the originally quoted price of $635 was a figure provided by Designer to Brother Vellies' then-accountant, when he asked Designer what she thought the fair market value would be for the shoes.[91] When asked to confirm whether the shoes were in fact returned to Brother Vellies after the event, counsel for Representative Ocasio-Cortez indicated to the Committee that the "shoes were returned September 15, 2021 (two days after the Met Gala), in good condition (worn once)."[92] However, other evidence collected by the Committee suggests that the return did not occur on the date provided by counsel and that there was some intention to purchase the shoes—or at least confusion be-

[86] OCC Referral Exhibit 29.
[87] OCC Interview of Former Campaign Staffer.
[88] *Id.*
[89] *Id.*
[90] *Id.*
[91] Exhibit 10.
[92] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (July 29, 2024) (Appendix B).

tween the parties around this point—in the weeks following the event.

For example, two days after the alleged return of the shoes, Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel responded to proactive outreach from Committee staff asking counsel if "your client had any questions for us about the ethics rules and how they apply to events like the Met Gala"—"something we commonly do, particularly when there has been a high profile matter and we don't have a record of the office seeking the Committee's guidance on the issues involved"; in that response, counsel asserted in relevant part that "the Congresswoman is paying personally for all other benefits, including the rental value of her dress, handbag, and accessories, as well as the full value for the shoes worn."[93] In addition, on September 18, 2021, correspondence between Condé Nast and Publicist noted that "the pumps that were worn by AOC haven't been returned yet."[94] Publicist replied: "The plan is for [Representative Ocasio-Cortez] to keep the shoes since she can't rent them. She is planning to pay in full."[95]

An invoice produced to OCC also indicates that a courier delivery to Brother Vellies was not scheduled until September 21, nearly a week after the Committee's September 15 outreach (and the date counsel asserts that the return occurred).[96] The timing of the delivery was also corroborated by correspondence between Publicist and Condé Nast. In reply to the previously discussed email thread about return of the shoes, Publicist informed Condé Nast on September 27, 2021, that "[t]hey returned the dress last week but I know she wanted to keep the shoes. I can help track them down if there is still a need."[97] The Committee could not definitively establish that the shoes were also included in the delivery (or perhaps returned at a later date), but Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel represented that the congresswoman "no longer has the shoes, and is unaware as to what may have happened to them after they were sent back with the courier."[98]

OCC also asked Former Campaign Staffer why the rental value of the gown was reduced from $1,300 to $300 after she spoke to Publicist, but Former Campaign Staffer said that she did not know.[99] OCC attempted to discuss these invoices (and other matters) with Designer and Publicist, but they did not agree to interviews; Designer and Publicist did, however, participate in voluntary interviews with the Committee

Designer informed the Committee that she had no knowledge about the prices included in the invoices nor why they might have been changed.[100] However, Publicist recalled that Former Campaign Staffer asked for the costs provided in the original invoice to be lowered and suggested specific prices that were "[s]ignificantly lower numbers."[101] Publicist stated that she was "given guidance

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[93] OCC Referral Exhibit 11 (emphasis added).
[94] Exhibit 11.
[95] *Id.*
[96] Exhibit 12. Other documentation shows that the courier invoice was paid by the campaign.
[97] Exhibit 13.
[98] Email from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Committee staff, Committee on Ethics (Sept. 30, 2024) (Appendix B).
[99] OCC Interview of Former Campaign Staffer.
[100] *See* 18(a) Interview of Designer.
[101] 18(a) Interview of Publicist.

to adjust things as needed"[102] by Former Campaign Staffer and that there was some back and forth between the teams to determine the pricing:

> I mean, we would go back and forth on comparing items to what she saw on Rent the Runway, and that was a big comparison for [Former Campaign Staffer], which, you know, could be a little offensive if I was [Designer]. Like, stuff is not intended to be on Rent the Runway. This is very different, very different.[103]

Brother Vellies' then-accountant similarly testified that Representative Ocasio-Cortez's staff was part of a discussion prior to the event about valuing the dress compared to services like Rent the Runway.[104] Former Campaign Staffer denied requesting the prices to be lowered, stating that she "only asked that they confirm that [the invoice] was correct."[105] She also denied that she indicated to Publicist that she would have expected the gown's rental cost to be lower than the original quote based on a comparison to rentals featured on Rent the Runway.[106]

Although the revised Brother Vellies invoice was provided to Former Campaign Staffer in September 2021, payment was not made until the following year. Former Campaign Staffer told OCC that payment was not made at that time because she "didn't consider it the final invoice because I knew we still had to work through the hotel and so I did not treat it as a final invoice."[107] She similarly informed the Committee that she "would share with [Representative Ocasio-Cortez] that I got an invoice from [Brother Vellies], that there were corrections [that] needed to be made, and that we understood that it wasn't the full scope of what we would need to pay out to Brother Vellies."[108]

However, Publicist did contact Former Campaign Staffer about collecting payment on the invoice in October 2021. Specifically, on October 4, 2021, Publicist wrote to Former Campaign Staffer, "hi stranger! bumping this as we have yet to receive payment. how are you doing over there?" Former Campaign Staffer replied, "Trying! Is my answer to both of your questions :D"[109] The following day, Publicist contacted Former Campaign Staffer again asking her to "keep me posted on that invoice so we can close that work out."[110] There was no further correspondence regarding payment until after OCC initiated its review.

On March 3, 2022, two days after OCC provided notice of its review to Representative Ocasio-Cortez, Former Campaign Staffer emailed Publicist "to collect payment confirmation to process for the Congresswoman and to 'close the books' so to speak for the event."[111] On March 7, 2022, Publicist responded that "finance is saying they never received the payment via invoice sent. Can you

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[102] *Id.*
[103] *Id.*
[104] 18(a) Interview of Former Accountant.
[105] 18(a) Interview of Former Campaign Staffer.
[106] *Id.*
[107] OCC Interview of Former Campaign Staffer.
[108] 18(a) Interview of Former Campaign Staffer.
[109] Exhibit 14.
[110] Exhibit 15.
[111] OCC Referral Exhibit 30.

confirm when/how payment was made?"[112] Former Campaign Staffer indicated that they would "have to take care of this asap."[113] The invoice was paid in full on March 9, 2022.[114]

On April 15, 2022, counsel for Brother Vellies and Designer contacted Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel in response to their "request for an invoice and supporting documentation for any goods, services or amenities which Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Riley Roberts may have received from your clients in connection with the September 13, 2021, Met Gala" that were as yet unpaid.[115] In their response, Brother Vellies and Designer's counsel identified six additional expenses (car service, shared hotel rooms, and Mr. Roberts' shoes and bow tie) requiring reimbursement in the total amount of $5,579.99, and provided supporting documentation for the expenses.[116]

- LV Services, Inc. (car service): $571.59.
- Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 12, 2021: $1,214.61.
- Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $1,205.04.
- Room 0911 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $2,182.67.
- Shoes for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $136.08.
- Bow tie for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $270.00.
- TOTAL: $5,579.99.

The Committee did not receive information about why Brother Vellies did not initially seek repayment for these goods and services. Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel referred to the April 2022 invoice as "new" costs that make clear that "[n]o one appeared to be thinking about the cost of anything, despite the fact that they were told to keep the costs down by the Congresswoman's staff because the Congresswoman had and has limited financial means."[117]

The record suggests that Brother Vellies may have been under the impression that the congresswoman did not have to pay fair market value for the shoes and bow tie provided to Mr. Roberts based on a text message exchange with Former Campaign Staffer. Specifically, prior to the event, Former Campaign Staffer sent text messages to Designer stating, "Ah just confirming you're thinking of providing Riley with a tie/cummerbund? . . . There is no restriction on Riley btw[,]" seemingly in reference to his ability to accept gifts.[118]

On May 10, 2022, the April 2022 invoice was paid in full[119] from Representative Ocasio-Cortez's personal funds.[120]

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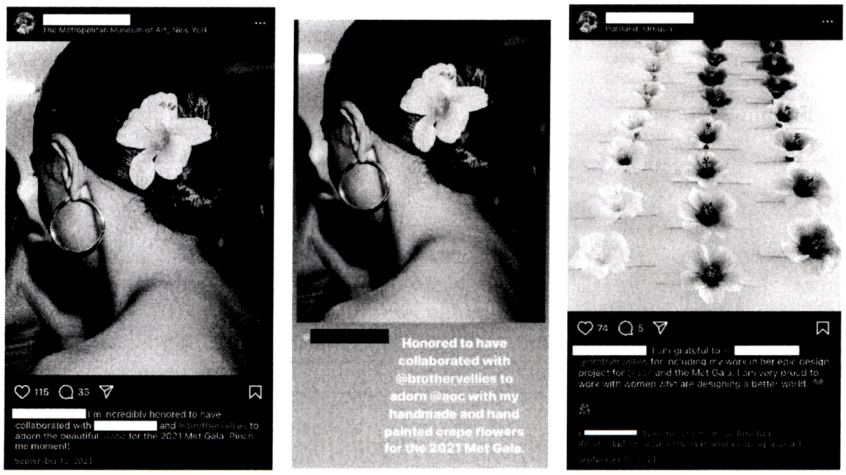
[112] *Id.*
[113] *Id.*
[114] OCC Referral Exhibit 31.
[115] OCC Referral Exhibit 32.
[116] *Id.*
[117] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).
[118] Exhibit 16.
[119] OCC Referral Exhibit 33.
[120] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

c. Additional Expenses

Although Representative Ocasio-Cortez ultimately completed payment on both invoices provided to her by Brother Vellies, two expenditures related to her and Mr. Roberts' Met Gala appearance were not accounted for in the invoices.

First, Representative Ocasio-Cortez was provided with a floral hairpiece by Brother Vellies. When asked about the hairpiece by the Committee, her counsel indicated that the flower "was a live flower without future potential use" so it had not been returned; it was their "impression that the cost of this accessory was covered under either hair [or] makeup vendor[.]"[121] However, counsel provided no information supporting this belief and there is no indication that the accessory was covered under either vendor's invoices. Further, evidence collected by the Committee—including the below social media posts by Artist—suggests that the accessory was not a live flower but rather a "handmade and hand painted crepe flower" made by Artist that matched similar flowers that were incorporated in the shoes designed by Brother Vellies. Documents indicate Brother Vellies paid $1,000 for 28 "Paper Hibiscus" flowers from Artist.[122] Several of the flowers were incorporated on the shoes that were designed for the occasion, and the hair piece was selected to match the shoes.[123]



Second, Mr. Roberts received additional tailoring services—separate from the Suit Supply tailoring related to his tuxedo purchase—that were coordinated by Designer with assistance from Former Campaign Staffer.[124] When asked by OCC whether Mr.

[121] Email from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Committee staff, Committee on Ethics (Sept. 30, 2024) (Appendix B).

[122] Exhibit 17.

[123] *See* Jessica Testa, *A.O.C.'s Met Gala Designer Explains Her "Tax the Rich" Dress*, NEW YORK TIMES (Sept. 16, 2021), https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/16/style/aoc-designer-tax-the-rich-dress.html ("There was an artist . . . that I found through a friend who makes these really beautiful flowers out of paper; she created the Flor de Maga, which is the Puerto Rican national flower, for me in the very beginning, and we designed the shoes around the idea of adorning them with that flower."); *see also* Brothervellies, INSTAGRAM (Sept. 14, 2021), https://www.instagram.com/p/CT0GjU3JUqk/.

[124] Exhibit 18.

Roberts received these services, Representative Ocasio-Cortez stated: "It never happened, but [Designer] extended that offer [to have his suit tailored], yes."[125] When later asked the same question by the Committee, Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel stated that "[o]n further discussion between the Congresswoman and Mr. Roberts, she has learned that additional tailoring was done on his tuxedo without her prior knowledge, *that Mr. Roberts paid for personally*."[126] Counsel also produced a screenshot of a text message indicating that Mr. Roberts received an invoice for $103 for the alterations from Ignacio's Tailor.[127] The Committee asked counsel to clarify why Mr. Roberts provided the receipt to Former Campaign Staffer and requested that they provide documentation showing that Mr. Roberts paid for the services personally.[128] In response, counsel indicated that "[a]ccording to Mr. Roberts' recollection, [Former Campaign Staffer] told him to hold on to receipts related to the Met Gala, so he sent to her for safe keeping, not to seek reimbursement, approval, or the like."[129] Counsel also provided a bank statement from Mr. Roberts indicating that he withdrew cash to pay for the tailoring services.[130]

d. Fair Market Value of Goods and Services

According to Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel, "[t]o ensure that these costs invoiced were the 'fair market value' for rental of these items, the congresswoman and her team conducted a separate analysis."[131] Counsel explained this analysis as follows.

Brother Vellies had indicated to Representative Ocasio-Cortez and her team that "their costs to create the dress and handbag were $1,000."[132] The Committee did not receive information about how the $1,000 cost was conveyed. Based on that figure, counsel calculated a $3,000 market value for the dress and handbag, explaining that, according to Vogue, the industry standard markup is approximately "2.2 to 2.5 times cost,"[133] but counsel applied "a greater markup [. . . (of 3 times cost)] given the time [Designer] spent on the dress and handbag, time for fittings, and the like, *and came to a $3,000 market value*."[134] "Publicly available data points" were then used to determine the rental cost, including comparisons to Rent the Runway."[135] Based on this analysis, counsel determined that the anticipated fair market value for rental of the dress and handbag was $473.94 (15.80% of their calculated $3,000 market value). Calculations for the other items were performed using similar methods:

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[125] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.
[126] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (July 29, 2024) (Appendix B) (emphasis in original).
[127] *Id.*
[128] Email from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Committee staff, Committee on Ethics (Oct. 15, 2024) (Appendix B).
[129] *Id.* (emphasis removed).
[130] *Id.*
[131] Exhibit 19.
[132] *Id.*
[133] Emily Farra, *What Is the Right Price for Fashion?*, VOGUE (June 29, 2020), https://www.vogue.com/article/what-is-the-right-price-for-fashion ("The industry standard for a profit margin is between a 2.2 and 2.5x markup, meaning a dress that cost a designer $100 to produce might be sold to a retailer for $220. That retailer has to mark it up by 2.2x again to make its own profit, bringing the final price up to $484.").
[134] Exhibit 19 (emphasis in original).
[135] *Id.*

ITEM	Anticipated FMV Rental Value	Retail Value (at 3x)	Rental/Retail	Assumed Cost of Goods ("COG")	ACTUALLY PAID
Dress	$473.94	$3,000.00	15.80%	$1,000.00	$ 300.00
Shoes	$97.16	$615.00	15.80%	N/A	$ 160.00
Handbag	(Combined with Dress)				$ 450.00
Earrings	$65.89	$450.00	14.64%	N/A	Combined with Handbag
Ring	$12.58	$65.00	19.35%	N/A	
TOTAL	$649.56				$ 910.00

Based on these calculations, Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel determined that she was charged and paid "greater than the 'fair market value' projections."[136]

However, the Committee received evidence that the Cost of Goods (COGS) for Brother Vellies to create the dress was $6,279.10, rather than $1,000.[137] The invoice indicating the COGS also noted, "AOC Met Gala Rental Invoice Per Rent the Runway $300."[138] When asked why the dress rental amount invoiced was decreased from $1,300 to $300, as discussed above, the former accountant for Designer stated, "I don't know why there was a reduction [. . .] this wasn't me making those decisions; it was them telling me, 'Here is what should be.' [. . .] I presented to them what I had and then they made the decisions off of that."[139] The accountant also explained that he used the $300 valuation based on a chiffon gown available on Rent the Runway at the time, which retailed for $2,280 but was available to rent for $330.[140] The Committee did not receive any evidence that Representative Ocasio-Cortez or her team received the invoice reflecting the true COGS or otherwise had reason to know the actual design costs until the Committee inquired about the information. When presented with the documents reflecting the $6,279.10 COGS by the Committee on May 5, 2025, counsel for Representative Ocasio-Cortez asserted that the congresswoman was not aware of these costs and "did not authorize these costs."[141]

Applying the methodology used by Representative Ocasio-Cortez's team—multiplying the updated COGS by a markup of 3 times cost ($6,279.10), the retail value of the dress would be $18,837.30. Applying the cited rental percentage of the retail value (15.8%) results in a rental value of approximately $2,976.29.

With respect to the shoes worn to the event, the full fair market value for their purchase would be approximately $635.[142] As Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel noted, "[t]here is no comparable market for shoe rental to compare prices."[143]

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[136] *Id.*
[137] Exhibit 17.
[138] *Id.* (emphasis in original).
[139] 18(a) Interview of Former Accountant.
[140] Unlike the new, custom-made gown worn by the congresswoman, the comparator gown was a ready-to-wear item and a screenshot taken by the accountant at the time indicates that dozens of renters had previously rented the gown at the time it was renting for $330.
[141] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).
[142] Exhibit 10; *but see* OCC Referral Exhibit 25 (indicating that a version of the shoes worn by Representative Ocasio-Cortez was later sold at retail for $795).
[143] Exhibit 19 n.19.

The retail value of the jewelry listed in counsel's calculations is consistent with listings on Mejuri's website for the pieces worn by Representative Ocasio-Cortez.[144]

Finally, a version of the handbag designed in contemplation of Representative Ocasio-Cortez's Met Gala appearance was later sold by Brother Vellies at retail for $995. This version did not include the custom "Tax the Rich" slogan featured in the design worn by the congresswoman, but the handbag's description on the website noted its connection to the one worn at the event.[145] Applying 15.80% to a retail value of $995 produced an approximate rental value of $157.21.

V. FINDINGS

A. REPRESENTATIVE OCASIO-CORTEZ IMPERMISSIBLY ACCEPTED GIFTS RELATED TO HER ATTIRE AT THE 2021 MET GALA

Under federal law and House regulations, Members may not accept gifts unless they meet certain requirements; gifts may include any "item having monetary value," a well as "gifts of services, training, transportation, lodging, and meals, whether provided in kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred."[146] This prohibition does not apply to anything for which the Member pays the fair market value,[147] which is the item's retail price, or the reasonable estimate of an item's cost if it were available for sale."[148]

As Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel acknowledged, "[t]he Met Gala is primarily an event for celebrities, who are not subject to any legal restrictions on acceptance of gifts and who are routinely given complimentary benefits in connection with their attendance."[149] Unlike many other attendees at the Met Gala, Representative Ocasio-Cortez, as a Member of Congress, could not accept gifts or loans of goods and/or services associated with her attendance at the event, although her personal attendance at the event otherwise complied with House Rules.

In recognition of that limitation, Representative Ocasio-Cortez proactively took steps to ensure her compliance with the Gift Rule, including by engaging counsel prior to her attendance and by arranging to "rent" her apparel and to pay for various services out of her personal funds. The Committee acknowledges these significant attempts at compliance.

Nonetheless, Representative Ocasio-Cortez's attempt to apply a retail rental cost to a handmade couture gown was unrealistic.[150] Although Representative Ocasio-Cortez relied on the advice of her counsel and information provided by her staff, and the designer of her attire, to calculate an appropriate rental cost, those calcula-

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[144] OCC Referral Exhibits 26, 27.

[145] OCC Referral Exhibit 24 ("The Nile Handbag is a beloved lady. She enjoys skirt suits, candlelight dinners, and well thought out plans. And an occasional Met Gala.").

[146] House rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(2)(A); *see also* 5 U.S.C. § 7353.

[147] *Id.* at cl. 5(a)(3)(A).

[148] House Gift Guidance.

[149] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).

[150] *See* Tahirah Hairston, *Who Pays for Those $10,000 Met Gala Dresses: Five Designers on the High, Unreimbursed Costs of Dressing a Celebrity for the First Monday in May,* THE CUT (May 5, 2025), https://www.thecut.com/article/met-gala-costs-designers.html (noting that "[f]or independent designers, the cost of creating a single custom look can range from $5,000 to more than $10,000.").

tions did not fully account for the true cost of the unique goods and services she received, or the countervailing incentives of the vendors whose good and services would be showcased.

1. Delay in Payments

As OCC found, while Representative Ocasio-Cortez did ultimately pay for most of the goods and services received, "payment [. . .] did not occur until after the OC[C] contacted her in connection with [its] review. But for [. . .which,] it appears that [she] may not have paid for several thousands of dollars" worth of goods and services provided to her." [151] While forbearance may itself constitute a gift, and the Committee has concerns about whether Representative Ocasio-Cortez's delays in making payments for the goods and services received is itself a violation of the Gift Rule, the Committee did not find any indication that the delays in making payments were intentional or that Representative Ocasio-Cortez was aware of the extent to which they occurred.

Her counsel noted, "[h]owever, the delay in payment by itself is not evidence that the Congresswoman did not intend to pay for personal expenses related to Met Gala, especially given the explicit, documented communications which took place prior to OC[C]'s review that show she did intend to pay, and that her staff was collecting invoices and consulting with Counsel to that effect." [152] Nonetheless, Representative Ocasio-Cortez stated to OCC that "it is just a deeply regrettable situation" and that she "feel[s] terrible for especially the small businesses that were impacted." [153]

2. Fair Market Value

With respect to whether Representative Ocasio-Cortez paid fair market value for the goods and services received, the Committee acknowledges that she and her counsel took some steps to determine fair market value. However, these efforts failed to account for the true cost of such unique goods, particularly considering that they were custom-made for the congresswoman and likely had no further use after the event. The Committee agrees with Publicist—the comparison of a one-of a kind, custom-made designer gown to those sold commercially and rented to numerous individuals on Rent the Runway is simply inapposite.

Even so, there must be some method by which to determine the rental value of the items received. The Committee finds it appropriate to generally employ the methodology used by Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel but with some adjustment and acknowledgement of the difficulty of this endeavor for all parties involved. Thus, using the revised cost of goods provided to the Committee, the Committee finds that the true retail value of the gown designed for Representative Ocasio-Cortez was likely approximately $18,837.30, and $2,976.29 would be a more reasonable fair market value for rental of the gown.

With respect to the shoes worn by Representative Ocasio-Cortez, it seems the parties initially intended for the congresswoman to pay full value for purchase of the shoes ($635). As her counsel pre-

[151] OCC Referral at 8.
[152] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (July 8, 2022) (Appendix B) (emphasis removed).
[153] OCC Interview of Representative Ocasio-Cortez.

viously noted, there is no comparable market for shoe rentals.[154] However, because the Committee did not find evidence that the shoes are still in Representative Ocasio-Cortez's possession, it finds that the $160 already paid is sufficient fair market value for rental of the shoes.

A version of the handbag designed in contemplation of Representative Ocasio-Cortez's Met Gala appearance was later sold by Brother Vellies at retail for $995.[155] This version did not include the "Tax the Rich" slogan featured in the design worn by Representative Ocasio-Cortez, but the handbag's description on the website noted its connection to the one worn at the event.[156] Applying the 15.80% retail to rental valuation used by counsel, with the retail value of $995, produced an approximate rental value of $157.21. Representative Ocasio-Cortez was initially invoiced $170 for rental of the handbag. The Committee therefore finds the originally invoiced $170 to be a reasonable approximation of fair market value.

The Committee accepts counsel's determination of fair market value for rental of the jewelry—totaling $78.47. As noted above, Representative Ocasio-Cortez was not invoiced for the handmade paper flower that was worn in her hair. Brother Vellies was billed $1,000 for 28 flowers, so the per flower cost was approximately $35.71. Accordingly, the Committee finds the below to be an appropriate estimation of the fair market value of the items provided to Representative Ocasio-Cortez by Brother Vellies:[157]

Description	Amount Paid	Fair Market Value
Gown Rental	$300	$2,976.29
Shoe Rental	$160	$160
Handbag Rental	$450	$170
Jewelry Rental		$78.47
Floral Hairpiece	$0	$35.71
Sales Tax (8.875%)	$80.76	$303.57
	$990.76	**$3,724.04**

Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel asserts that "[i]t would be nonsensical to suggest that the Congresswoman should have been prepared to pay for aspects of items and services that she didn't know about and didn't authorize," and repeatedly invokes the "due diligence" conducted by her team, which "should be worth something."[158] Indeed, the Committee has considered the efforts made as evidence that the congresswoman did not intend to receive a significant discount on the costs incurred in connection with her Met Gala attendance. Nonetheless, the Committee's record indicates

[154] Exhibit 19. *See also* 18(a) Interview of Publicist (Q. "In your response to him, you wrote that he should also include the price of the shoes, too, since she has to buy them. So why did you say that she needed to buy the shoes?" A. "I am trying to remember. I mean, typically—again, I am not an expert even on the fashion side, but typically, with shoes, you buy them. You should not be renting. That would be a little nasty to rent shoes.").

[155] OCC Referral Exhibit 24.

[156] *Id.*

[157] The goods and services included in the April 15, 2022, invoice were set at market value and require no additional consideration by the Committee.

[158] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).

that the "due diligence," which was primarily done by Former Campaign Staffer and the same counsel who represented her before the Committee, fell short. Despite counsel's characterization of the costs at issue as "new," they are the actual costs incurred by Brother Vellies in the making of a custom-designed gown for an evening on the red carpet.[159] Counsel's letter references Brother Vellies "discovering" new costs, but the Cost of Goods was not provided to the Committee by Brother Vellies, but instead by the accountant they employed. Acting on the instruction of Brother Vellies, the accountant did indeed generate an invoice that vastly undervalued the apparel. Given the inherent value gained from the exposure of a sitting congresswoman wearing their designs to the Met Gala, it is not surprising that Brother Vellies did not seek the congresswoman's "authorization" for the gift they provided.

Counsel has asserted that under the Committee's analysis, there is no level of diligence that could have been done that would have been sufficient but also rejects the argument that the congresswoman "just shouldn't have gone" to the event.[160] The Committee does not take the position that the congresswoman's attendance at the event was itself impermissible, nor does it find that she necessarily should have declined the opportunity to be dressed by a professional designer. Once she accepted that opportunity, however, it was unrealistic for her team to communicate a general desire to keep costs down and then develop a price based on inapt comparators and loose quotes from the designer. Counsel asks, "What other due diligence could the Congresswoman and her staff have done before the event that would have satisfied the Committee?" The answer is simple: they could have called the Committee's staff for assistance.

Representative Ocasio-Cortez has informed the Committee through her counsel that she will pay "amounts directed and invoiced by Brother Vellies for services rendered," but the burden of the House Gift Rule does not fall on those who would seek to *give* the gifts; to suggest otherwise misses the point of the rule, which serves to protect the integrity of the House. Counsel argues that Representative Ocasio-Cortez "cannot and should not be held to verifying the accuracy of those invoices."[161] While the congresswoman's ethical obligations do not require her to verify the accuracy of every invoice she receives, they do require her to reject or repay all improper gifts, regardless of whether she solicited them. This obligation is not unique to Representative Ocasio- Cortez, and she is not the first Member to receive a gift without "authorization."

For example, in 2013, several House Members traveled to a foreign country and found miscellaneous tangible gifts waiting for them in their hotel rooms and received inconsistent answers about the source of the gifts. In that matter, the Committee noted its history of requiring repayment for improper gifts, "even where the

[159] Counsel similarly described the April 2022 invoice as "new" and "discovered" costs, but those were also actual costs incurred at the time and which Representative Ocasio-Cortez had reason to know existed, as she herself was present in the cars and hotel rooms for which she was later charged.

[160] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).

[161] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).

Member was initially unaware that they had received an improper gift"; all Members complied with the Committee's guidance to return the gifts or committed to take the corrective action recommended.[162] The Committee also acknowledged the Members acted in good faith and imposed no sanction, but nonetheless found that repayment was necessary. In another matter reviewed by the Committee around the same time, an investigative subcommittee determined that, due to the "corrosion of evidence over time, it could not recommend a finding that [the Member] purposefully or corruptly accepted any of the gifts" at issue, but that his "state of mind at the time he obtained the gifts did not impact whether he must repay."[163] In that matter, which involved additional allegations of misuse of campaign funds and tens of thousands of dollars of gifts over several years, the Committee did determine to reprove the Member, noting the "lack of appropriate safeguards and an inattention to the relevant standards of conduct." Here, the Committee found Representative Ocasio-Cortez's conduct with respect to the fair market value discrepancy to be more akin to the foreign travelers dealing with a dishonest trip sponsor. However, as discussed further below, some of the actions of her staff, acting under her supervision, exacerbated the situation.

Based on the above, the Committee finds that it would be appropriate for Representative Ocasio-Cortez to remit payment of an additional $2,733.28 for the goods that she received in connection with her attendance at the 2021 Met Gala to comply with the Gift Rule.[164]

B. REPRESENTATIVE OCASIO-CORTEZ IMPERMISSIBLY ACCEPTED A GIFT OF FREE ADMISSION TO THE 2021 MET GALA FOR HER THEN-PARTNER, RILEY ROBERTS.

OCC found that Representative Ocasio-Cortez's acceptance of free admission to the Met Gala for her then-partner, Mr. Roberts, was permissible because it "opted to treat a long-term significant other as synonymous with a spouse" which was "[c]onsistent with prior decisions[.]"[165] However, OCC's decision to treat a long-term significant other as a spouse for purposes of the Gift Rule is not based on any law or precedent then in existence.[166]

Under House Rules and guidance as applied at the time of the event, a Member was only permitted to accept an unsolicited offer

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[162] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Officially-Connected Travel by House Members to Azerbaijan in 2013,* H. Rept. 114–239, 114th Cong., 1st Sess. 25 (2015).

[163] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Don Young,* H. Rept. 113–487, 113th Cong., 2d Sess. 4 (2014).

[164] The total amount for repayment is based on a highly conservative estimate of the actual value of the goods and services that the congresswoman received. For example, the Committee could reasonably have determined that applying a reduced "rental" value to the retail cost was an undue discount considering the lack of market for custom-made designs (as opposed to ready-to-wear designs). This is even more true for the shoes, for which there is no rental market even for ready-to-wear designs. The Committee also could have considered whether the various designs sketched by Designer and not ultimately used should have been separately valued.

[165] OCC Referral n.47.

[166] The Committee also found evidence that Representative Ocasio-Cortez listed Mr. Roberts as her "spouse" on paperwork filed with the House relating to privately sponsored travel, although the two were not legally married at the time of the gifted travel. It is not clear whether these misstatements were made on the advice of counsel; indeed, counsel acknowledged in his May 16, 2025, letter that the Travel Regulations provide that Mr. Roberts was not a "relative" under the applicable regulations. The Committee further notes that at the same time Representative Ocasio-Cortez was seeking to take advantage of exceptions to the Gift Rule only applicable to spouses and/or certain relatives, she was not disclosing Mr. Roberts' financial interests as is required of Members who are legally married.

of free attendance to a charity fundraising event—such as the Met Gala—for themselves and either a spouse or dependent child.[167] The *Ethics Manual* defines "spouse" as "someone to whom you are legally married."[168] Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel was also informed of this guidance when Committee staff conducted outreach in the days after the event; counsel was explicitly told that a Member could only accept free attendance for a "spouse," and that "the Committee has taken a fairly narrow view of who counts as a 'spouse or dependent child.'"[169] Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel sought no additional clarification.

Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel later informed the Committee that the "Congresswoman chose to follow campaign finance laws [. . . which] was and is a reasonable and logical conclusion to make, and the Committee should not so brazenly apply guidance limited to other sets of rules in other contexts."[170] If counsel was unsure what guidance applied to the situation, counsel (or the congresswoman herself) should have contacted the Committee for advice, rather than "choosing" which law to apply. The Committee "takes very seriously its obligation to provide sound and dispassionate advice to the Members of this House" and would have informed Representative Ocasio-Cortez and her counsel that Mr. Roberts did not fit the definition of a "spouse" for purposes of the Charitable Events Exception.[171] Further, acting on the advice of counsel does not excuse a Member from a long-held "duty of reasonable inquiry" and "even if Representative [Ocasio-Cortez] believed h[er] actions were consistent with what the law required, that belief was mistaken, as the Committee would have informed h[er], had [s]he only asked."[172]

While the Committee has since updated its guidance and now permits the acceptance of an offer for free attendance for any guest—as long as the attendance otherwise complies with the Gift Rule—the Committee may not retroactively apply that guidance to prior conduct.[173] Accordingly, Representative Ocasio-Cortez impermissibly accepted a gift of free admission to the 2021 Met Gala for Mr. Roberts, even if she was acting on the advice of her counsel. Per House Gift Guidance, the "value of tickets to charity or political fundraisers is the value of the meal [. . .] not the ticket's value."[174] Therefore, the Committee finds that Representative Ocasio-Cortez should donate the per-person cost for Mr. Roberts' meal at the gala, which the Met determined to be $250, to the Costume Institute.[175]

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[167] House Gift Guidance.
[168] *Ethics Manual* at 39.
[169] OCC Referral Exhibit 11.
[170] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B).
[171] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative David McKinley*, H. Rept. 114–795, 114th Cong., 2d Sess. 18 (2016).
[172] *Id.* at 20–21.
[173] *See* 2022 Pink Sheet.
[174] House Gift Guidance; *Ethics Manual* at 26.
[175] Exhibit 20 (noting that the "goods and services are $250 per ticket" in response to a request from Representative Ocasio-Cortez's counsel for the per-person cost of the meal at the event).

C. REPRESENTATIVE OCASIO-CORTEZ FAILED TO EXERCISE PROPER OVERSIGHT OVER STAFF

The *Ethics Manual* also warns Members against actions that "may create an appearance of impropriety that may undermine the public's faith in government."[176] The Committee has repeatedly cautioned that Members should avoid even the appearance of impropriety, which undermines the public's confidence in the integrity of government officials.[177]

The Committee found no evidence that Representative Ocasio-Cortez was aware of Former Campaign Staffer's attempts to lower the congresswoman's costs with respect to the Met Gala, but those attempts nonetheless occurred. Former Campaign Staffer was also tasked with making payments to the various vendors for the goods and services received by Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Roberts, and those payments were delayed well beyond the date of the event. In fact, most payments were not made until after repeated attempts at collection from unpaid vendors, threatened legal action, or following the initiation of OCC's review. While Representative Ocasio-Cortez may not have been fully aware of these issues, she bears ultimate responsibility for their occurrence. Had she more diligently supervised a staffer working on her behalf, she may have identified these issues prior to the initiation of OCC's review nearly six months after the event. Nonetheless, the Committee acknowledged Representative Ocasio-Cortez's general good-faith efforts at compliance, as well as her reliance on the actions of her staff and the advice of her counsel, in determining that a sanction is not necessary.

The Committee has previously sanctioned Members in a variety of recent matters, including: where a Member failed to employ appropriate safeguards to prevent a pervasive and years long misappropriation of resources;[178] where a Member was unaware of improper activity but failed to take appropriate steps to address misconduct when it came to light;[179] where a Member engaged in repeated unwanted advances towards a woman who was required to work with him;[180] where a Member was found to have unintentionally used MRA funds in a "substantial, non-technical" violation of House Rules;[181] and where a Member accepted a substantial gift

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[176] *House Ethics Manual* (2008) at 24.

[177] *See, e.g.*, Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers*, H. Rept. 116–359, 116th Cong., 1st Sess. 52 (2019) ("Nonetheless, the Committee cautions Representative Rodgers and the whole House community to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest when entering into relationships with contractors on behalf of the House.") (hereinafter *Rodgers*); Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Thomas Garrett*, Staff Rept. 115th Cong., 2d Sess. 38 (2019) ("However, Members have a duty to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. When Members accept gifts from their employees, it can lead to an appearance that the Member lacks impartiality and create an environment in which staff attempt to win a Member's favor not based on their work product or effort, but by offering to perform unofficial favors for or providing gifts to the Member."); Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Luis V. Gutiérrez*, H. Rept. 115–617, 115th Cong., 2d Sess. 31 (2018) ("The Committee has also long cautioned Members that when taking official actions, they must 'avoid situations in which even an inference might be drawn suggesting improper action.'") (hereinafter *Gutiérrez*).

[178] *Rodgers*.

[179] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Mark Meadows*, H. Rept. 115–1042, 115th Cong., 2d Sess. (2018).

[180] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Ruben Kihuen*, H. Rept. 115–1041, 115th Cong., 2d Sess. (2018).

[181] *Gutiérrez* at 29.

due to inattention to the rules.[182] In other recent matters, however, the Committee has declined to recommend a sanction where it found a violation to have occurred, including: where a Member violated campaign finance restrictions but engaged in good faith efforts to comply, did not seek to unjustly enrich herself, and made required repayments;[183] where a Member showed poor judgment in his official communications, acted in a manner that did not reflect creditably upon the House, but did not intend to violate any laws or rules;[184] and where a Member engaged in an "inadvertent, technical violation" of a House Rule.[185]

Although Representative Ocasio-Cortez failed to exercise proper oversight over a staffer working on her behalf, the Committee did not find evidence that she intended to seek to lower the cost of goods provided to her or to delay payment for those goods and other services received by her and Mr. Roberts. Communications about payments, or the lack thereof, were handled solely by Former Campaign Staffer. Representative Ocasio-Cortez and her counsel also made efforts to ensure her compliance with House Rules and to pay fair market value for the goods and services received. Although their efforts at valuation fell short, and efforts to make appropriate payment were delayed, the Committee nonetheless recognizes that those efforts occurred, and that Representative Ocasio-Cortez sought to act consistently with her ethical requirements as a Member of the House. In light of this, the Committee determined that no sanction was merited, provided Representative Ocasio-Cortez: (1) donates the $250 value of Mr. Roberts' Met Gala meal to the Costume Institute and (2) pays Brother Vellies an additional $2,733.28 for the fair market value of the goods that she received in connection with her 2021 Met Gala attendance.

The Committee also acknowledges Representative Ocasio-Cortez's general cooperation in the matter. Counsel suggested that Representative Ocasio-Cortez's cooperation "increased the scrutiny that the Committee has placed on this matter,"[186] but the Committee credits the congresswoman for her participation throughout its review. Most notably, the Committee relied on the transcript of the congresswoman's testimony to OCC rather than requesting she appear for an additional interview before the Committee. When certain inconsistencies were identified in the OCC testimony, such as Representative Ocasio-Cortez's initial assertion that Mr. Roberts did not receive tailoring services, the Committee provided her with the opportunity to correct the record. While counsel is correct that Committee staff conducted a thorough investigation and "rechecked" OCC's work, such diligence is in no way unique to this

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[182] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Bobby L. Rush*, H. Rept. 115–618, 115th Cong., 2d Sess. (2018).

[183] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Rashida Tlaib*, H. Rept. 116–473, 116th Cong., 2d Sess. 4 (2020).

[184] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Matt Gaetz*, H. Rept. 116–479, 116th Cong., 2d Sess. (2020) (in that matter, the Committee did determine its report should serve as an admonishment of the Member).

[185] Comm. on Ethics, *In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Ben Ray Luján*, H. Rept. 115–272, 115th Cong., 1st Sess. (2017).

[186] Letter from counsel to Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Tom Rust, Committee on Ethics (May 16, 2025) (Appendix B). Counsel also seemed to suggest that it may not have been an actual coincidence that the Committee sent correspondence to Representative Ocasio-Cortez on the day of the 2025 Met Gala. The Committee generally does not track when the annual Met Gala occurs, and the date was indeed a coincidence.

matter. The Committee independently reviews all referrals from OCC.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Committee determined that Representative Ocasio-Cortez's conduct was inconsistent with House Rules, laws, and other standards of conduct with respect to her acceptance of certain goods and services associated with her attendance at the 2021 Met Gala, and her delay in making appropriate payment for their receipt. While the Committee did not find that Representative Ocasio-Cortez's violations were knowing and willful, she nonetheless received impermissible gifts and must bear responsibility for the other conduct that occurred with respect to the delays in payment.

The Committee also reminds all House offices that Members and their congressional staff may always seek guidance from the Committee and encourages them to do so proactively, even if they are represented by counsel.

Following the publication of this Report and repayment of the value of the improper gifts, the Committee will consider this matter closed.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER HOUSE RULE XIII CLAUSE 3(c)

The Committee made no special oversight findings in this Report. No budget statement is submitted. No funding is authorized by any measure in this Report.

APPENDIX A

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT

Review No. 22-8546

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (hereafter "the Board"), by a vote of no less than four members, on June 17, 2022, adopted the following report and ordered it to be transmitted to the Committee on Ethics of the United States House of Representatives (hereafter "the Committee").

SUBJECT: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

NATURE OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION: Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez may have accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala in 2021. If Rep. Ocasio-Cortez accepted impermissible gifts, then she may have violated House rules, standards of conduct, and federal law.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board recommends that the Committee further review the above allegation concerning Rep. Ocasio-Cortez because there is substantial reason to believe that she accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala in 2021.

VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: 5

VOTES IN THE NEGATIVE: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR STAFF DESIGNATED TO PRESENT THIS REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: Omar S. Ashmawy, Staff Director & Chief Counsel.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CITATIONS TO LAW

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Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CITATIONS TO LAW

Review No. 22-8546

On June 17, 2022, the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (hereafter "the Board") adopted the following findings of fact and accompanying citations to law, regulations, rules and standards of conduct (*in italics*). The Board notes that these findings do not constitute a determination of whether or not a violation actually occurred.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Summary of Allegations

1. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez may have accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala in 2021. If Rep. Ocasio-Cortez accepted impermissible gifts, then she may have violated House rules, standards of conduct, and federal law.

2. The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics of the United States House of Representatives ("Committee") further review the above allegation concerning Rep. Ocasio-Cortez because there is substantial reason to believe that she accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala in 2021.

B. Jurisdictional Statement

3. The allegations that were the subject of this review concern Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, a Member of the United States House of Representatives from the Fourteenth District of New York. The Resolution the United States House of Representatives adopted creating the Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") directs that, "[n]o review shall be undertaken … by the [B]oard of any alleged violation that occurred before the date of adoption of this resolution."[1] The House adopted this Resolution on March 11, 2008. Because the conduct under review occurred after March 11, 2008, review by the Board is in accordance with the Resolution.

C. Procedural History

4. The OCE received a written request for a preliminary review in this matter signed by at least two members of the Board on February 18, 2022. The preliminary review commenced on February 19, 2022.[2]

5. On March 1, 2022, the OCE notified Rep. Ocasio-Cortez of the initiation of the preliminary review, provided her with a statement of the nature of the review, notified her of her right to

[1] H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress § 1(e) (2008) (as amended) (hereafter the "Resolution").
[2] A preliminary review is "requested" in writing by members of the Board of the OCE. The request for a preliminary review is received by the OCE on a date certain. According to the Resolution, the timeframe for conducting a preliminary review is 30 days from the date of receipt of the Board's request.

be represented by counsel in this matter, and notified her that invoking her right to counsel would not be held negatively against her.[3]

6. At least three members of the Board voted to initiate a second-phase review in this matter on March 18, 2022. The second-phase review commenced on March 21, 2022.[4] The second-phase review was scheduled to end on May 4, 2022.

7. On March 21, 2022, the OCE notified Rep. Ocasio-Cortez of the initiation of the second-phase review in this matter, and again notified her of her right to be represented by counsel in this matter, and that invoking that right would not be held negatively against her.[5]

8. The Board voted to extend the second-phase review by an additional period of fourteen days on April 19, 2022. The additional period ended on May 18, 2022.

9. The Board voted to refer the matter to the Committee for further review and adopted these findings on June 17, 2022.

10. The report and its findings in this matter were transmitted to the Committee on June 23, 2022.

D. Summary of Investigative Activity

11. The OCE requested documentary and in some cases testimonial information from the following sources:

(1)	Rep. Ocasio-Cortez;
(2)	Campaign Staffer;
(3)	Aurora James;
(4)	Brother Vellies;
(5)	Janna Pea;
(6)	Mejuri, Inc.;
(7)	The Metropolitan Museum of Art;
(8)	Advance Magazine Publishers, Inc., d/b/a Condé Nast;
(9)	Met Gala Organizer; and
(10)	Stylist 1.

[3] Letter from Omar S. Ashmawy, Chief Counsel and Staff Dir., Office of Cong. Ethics, to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (Feb. 22, 2022). Since the review commenced on Saturday February 19, 2022 and because February 21, 2022 was a federal holiday, the OCE initially contacted Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's staff on the morning of Tuesday, February 22, 2022. *See* Emails between Indhira Benitez, Investigative Counsel, Office of Cong. Ethics, and Gerardo Bonilla Chavez, Chief of Staff to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (Feb. 22, 2002 - Mar. 1, 2022). In that initial communication, the OCE noted that it had a confidential communication for Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and sought the opportunity to speak to her directly regarding the matter. *Id.* Despite several follow up communications to her Chief of Staff during the week of February 22, 2022, the OCE was not provided with an opportunity to speak with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez. Accordingly, the OCE hand-delivered notice of the review to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's office on March 1, 2022. *Id.*

[4] According to the Resolution, the Board must vote (as opposed to make a written authorization) on whether to conduct a second-phase review in a matter before the expiration of the 30-day preliminary review. If the Board votes for a second phase, the second phase commences the day after the preliminary review ends.

[5] Letter from Omar S. Ashmawy, Chief Counsel and Staff Dir., Office of Cong. Ethics, to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (Mar. 21, 2022).

12. The following individuals and entities refused to cooperate with the OCE's review:

(1) Aurora James;
(2) Brother Vellies; and
(3) Janna Pea.

II. REP. OCASIO-CORTEZ MAY HAVE ACCEPTED IMPERMISSIBLE GIFTS

A. Applicable Law, Rules, and Standards of Conduct

13. Federal Statutes

Under 5 U.S.C. § 7353(a), "no Member of Congress . . . shall solicit or accept anything of value from a person— (1) seeking official action from, doing business with, or (in the case of executive branch officers and employees) conducting activities regulated by, the individual's employing entity; or (2) whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the individual's official duties."[6]

14. House Rules

House Rule XXIII, clause 4 states that "[a] Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House may not accept gifts except as provided by clause 5 of Rule XXV."[7]

Under House Rule XXV, clause 5 "the term 'gift' means a gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value. The term includes gifts of services, training, transportation, lodging, and meals, whether provided in kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred."

House Rule XXV, clause 5(a)(1)(A) states: "(i) A Member . . . of the House may not knowingly accept a gift except as provided in this clause. (ii) A Member . . . of the House may not knowingly accept a gift from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity

[6] In *In the Matter of Rep. Charles B. Rangel*, 111th Cong., 2nd Sess. (Nov. 29, 2010) at 114, the Committee outlined what constitutes solicitation or acceptance under 5 U.S.C. § 7353, emphasizing that the prohibition has three components: "(1) a solicitation or acceptance; (2) of anything of value; (3) from a person seeking official action from the House or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the individual's official duties." With respect to the third prong, the Committee emphasized its breadth by explaining: "the relevant inquiry is whether the person solicited had an interest in affecting the legislative process. In some instances, that will be reflected by lobbying on particular pieces of legislation. In other instances, there might be a request for a Member to intervene with a government agency. But it also includes recognizing the fact that most entities, including multi-national corporations and large foundations, will always have some interest in matters within the ambit of Congress. The performance or nonperformance of a Member's official duties can affect the interests of those entities, and that effect can be substantial." *Id.* at 117.

[7] While House Rule 25 outlines the House's gift rules, as discussed more fully below, the Committee released online gift rule guidance that provides details and examples on how House Rule 25 should be interpreted. *See infra*. Accordingly, the OCE primarily references the Gift Guidance below.

that retains or employs registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal except as provided in subparagraph (3) of this paragraph."

Pursuant to Rule XXV, clause 5(a)(3): "The restrictions of [House Rule XXV, clause 5(a)(1)] do not apply to the following . . . (Q) free attendance at an event permitted under [House Rule XXV, clause 5(a)(4)]."

Pursuant to House Rule XXV, clause 5(a)(4)(C): "A Member . . . of the House, or the spouse or dependent thereof, may accept a sponsor's unsolicited offer of free attendance at a charity event, except that reimbursement for transportation and lodging may not be accepted in connection with the event unless— (i) all of the net proceeds of the event are for the benefit of an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; (ii) reimbursement for the transportation and lodging in connection with the event is paid by such organization; and (iii) the offer of free attendance at the event is made by such organization."

15. House Gift Guidance[8] and Committee Precedent

Consistent with House Rules, the Committee's Gift Guidance defines a gift in a broad manner: "[a] gift is something with monetary value for which you do not have to pay."[9]

Regarding valuation of gifts, the Committee's Gift Guidance indicates that "[t]angible gifts are generally valued at the item's fair market value, even if the item is not typically for sale. Fair market value is the item's retail price, not the wholesale price, or the reasonable estimate of an item's cost if it were available for sale."[10]

The House Gift Guidance explains that, "[t]he Gift Rule starts with the premise that you may not accept a gift ***unless*** *it meets an exception to the Gift Rule."*[11] *The Gift Guidance outlines several permissible gift exceptions, including an exception for charitable events.*

Under the charitable events exception, "[y]ou may accept an unsolicited offer of free attendance for a charity fundraising event for you and a spouse or dependent child. 'Free attendance' includes all or part of the cost of admission; local transportation to and from the event; and the food, refreshments, entertainment, and instructional materials provided to all event

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[8] In a December 31, 2020 Press Release, the Committee announced that it "ha[d] been working to update … the Travel and Gifts sections of the Ethics Manual" and that updated travel and gifts guidance provided by the Committee online now "supersede[s] the corresponding chapters in the *2008 House Ethics Manual."* Press Release, House Committee on Ethics, Statement of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics Regarding Modernization of the Committee's Website, Ethics Manual Updates, Revised Travel Regulations, and Revised Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act Regulations (Dec. 31, 2020). Accordingly, the OCE draws relevant gift rule guidance from the superseding materials provided by the Committee online at https://ethics.house.gov/house-ethics-manual/gifts.

[9] *Gift Guidance*, House Ethics Committee, https://ethics.house.gov/house-ethics-manual/gifts ("House Gift Guidance") (citing House Rule XXV). The guidance goes on to explain that "[g]ifts include gratuities, favors, discounts, entertainment, hospitality, loans, forbearances, services, training, travel expenses, in-kind contributions, advanced payments, and reimbursements after the fact." *Id.*

[10] House Gift Guidance.

[11] *Id.*

attendees. Free attendance does not include entertainment collateral to the event or food and refreshments outside the group setting of the event, such as giveaways."[12]

"A charity fundraising event must meet the following criteria.

- *You are invited by the event organizer directly, and*
  - *The event organizer is the organization(s) doing the work to put the event on, not a monetary event sponsor or table sponsor.*
- *The event's primary purpose must be to raise funds to benefit an organization qualified under § 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.*
  - *The primary purpose is usually met if at least half of the proceeds are tax-deductible charitable contributions."*[13]

House Gift Guidance elaborates on the meaning of event organizers and sponsors, explaining in a footnote that "'[e]vent organizer' and 'event sponsor,' as those terms relate to events, mean 'the person, entity, or entities that are primarily responsible for organizing the event. … [T]here may be more than one event organizer if those entities 'play[] significant, active role[s] in organizing the event in a manner that is roughly comparable' to another event organizer or sponsor."[14]

B. <u>Background on the Met Gala and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Attendance</u>

16. The Metropolitan Museum of Art ("the Met") hosts an annual Costume Institute Benefit (commonly known as the "Met Gala") in order to raise funds the museum's Costume Institute.[15] The Costume Institute is a collection of "more than thirty-three thousand objects represent[ing] seven centuries of fashionable dress and accessories for men, women, and children, from the fifteenth century to the present."[16] The Met Gala "provides The Costume Institute with its primary source of annual funding for exhibitions, publications, acquisitions, operations, and capital improvements."[17]

17. Condé Nast, which identifies itself as "a global media company that produces some of the world's leading print, digital, video and social brands," including Vogue,[18] "partners with the [Met] in the organization and execution of the [annual Met Gala]."[19] Anna Wintour, who is the Global Chief Content Officer for Condé Nast, Global Editorial Director of Vogue,[20] a

[12] *Id.* (footnotes omitted).
[13] *Id.* (footnotes omitted).
[14] *Id.*
[15] *See e.g.*, 2021 Met Gala Announcement (Exhibit 1 at 22-8546_0002).
[16] The Met, *The Costume Institute*, https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/collection-areas/the-costume%20institute#:~:text=The%20Costume%20Institute's%20collection%20of,fifteenth%20century%20to%20the%20present (last visited June 7, 2022).
[17] 2021 Met Gala Announcement (Exhibit 1 at 22-8546_0002).
[18] Condé Nast, *About*, https://www.condenast.com/about (last visited June 7, 2022).
[19] Condé Nast Declaration Regarding Met Gala Activities (Exhibit 2 at 22-8546_0007).
[20] Press Release, Condé Nast, *Condé Nast unveils new global content strategy* (Dec. 15, 2020).

Met Trustee,[21] and a Chair of the annual Met Gala,[22] is meaningfully involved with Met Gala planning and invitations.

18. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez was invited to the Met Gala in 2019, 2020, and 2021. She could not attend in 2019 and the 2020 Met Gala was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez attended the Met Gala in 2021 along with her partner, Riley Roberts. As discussed more fully below, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez received a series of goods and services which she did not pay for until the OCE opened this review.

C. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Attendance at the 2021 Met Gala

19. In 2021, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez was invited to and attended the Met Gala with Mr. Roberts. As part of her attendance, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez was provided with a couture dress, handbag, shoes, and jewelry. She also received hair, makeup, transportation, and ready-room services. Riley Roberts received a bowtie and shoes in advance of the event.

20. While Rep. Ocasio-Cortez appears to have now paid for the rental value of the attire she wore to the Met Gala and for the goods and services she and her partner received in connection with this September 2021 event, payment for these goods and services did not occur until after the OCE contacted her in connection with this review. But for the OCE opening this review, it appears that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez may not have paid for several thousands of dollars' worth of goods and services provided to her.

i. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Preparation for and Attendance at the 2021 Met Gala

21. On April 12, 2021, the Met announced that its 2021 Met Gala would be held on September 13, 2021.[23] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez received an invitation to the Met Gala in a May 13, 2021 email to Campaign Staffer.[24] Specifically, the email said:

> Dear Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:
>
> I am writing about the 2021 [Met Gala], which I am delighted to say will be back this year to celebrate the new exhibition and the 75th anniversary of The Costume Institute. . . . To celebrate … we are planning to hold a slightly smaller [Met Gala] on Monday, September 13, 2021. . . . **Anna [Wintour] would be thrilled to have you and**

[21] *See e.g.*, Press Release, The Met, *Anna Wintour Becomes an Elective Trustee of The Metropolitan Museum of Art* (May 10, 2011); The Met, Board of Trustees (as of Nov. 2018), https://www.metmuseum.org/-/media/files/about-the-met/annual-reports/2017-2018/annual-report-2017-18-the-board-of-trustees.pdf (identifying Anna Wintour as an Elective Trustee).
[22] *See e.g.*, Press Release, The Met, *Costume Institute's Spring 2019 Exhibition to Focus on Camp in Fashion* (Oct. 9, 2018) (identifying Anna Wintour as a chair of the 2019 Met Gala); Press Release, The Met, *Costume Institute To-Part Exhibition to Focus on American Fashion* (Sept. 7, 2021) (identifying Anna Wintour as a chair of the 2021 Met Gala).
[23] 2021 Met Gala Announcement (Exhibit 1 at 22-8546_0002).
[24] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez 2021 Met Gala Invitation from Vogue (Exhibit 3 at 22-8546_0009-13).

> **Riley Roberts join us at the [Met Gala] this September, as guests of Vogue**."[25]

22. On June 24, 2021, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, through Campaign Staffer, accepted the invitation to attend the Met Gala.[26] Campaign Staffer was told to expect a "celebratory digital invitation" in "the coming weeks."[27] On August 5, 2021, Campaign Staffer received that celebratory digital invite in the form of an email from the Met (events@metmuseum.org).[28]

23. It is customary for fashion designers attending the Met Gala to dress Gala attendees. Accordingly, shortly after she accepted the invitation to the Met Gala, Vogue connected Rep. Ocasio-Cortez with Aurora James, the creative director and founder of the fashion brand Brother Vellies, who had agreed to dress Rep. Ocasio-Cortez in connection with the 2021 Met Gala.[29] Aurora James worked with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and her team between July 2021 and the date of the Met Gala to design Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's attire.

24. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez told the OCE that given the nature and visibility of the Met Gala, she retained counsel to ensure she and her team complied with all ethics rules.[30] Campaign Staffer echoed these same sentiments, noting that counsel was hired in advance of this "non-traditional" event to ensure that all Met Gala decisions were made in accordance with applicable ethics requirements.[31] Campaign Staffer explained that she worked with counsel and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez to address compliance-related concerns involving attendance, attire, transportation, and other issues that arose in connection with the event.[32] Documents produced by Rep. Ocasio-Cortez evidence her team working through some of these compliance related-concerns in advance of the Met Gala.[33]

25. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez told the OCE that a determination was made, in advance of the Met Gala and in conjunction with her team and counsel, that she would be personally paying for the attire and services she received in connection with the Met Gala (as opposed to paying with campaign or official funds).[34]

26. On September 13, 2021, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez attended the Met Gala with her partner. She also took part in a Vogue video which documented her getting ready for the event.[35] Rep.

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[25] *Id.* (Exhibit 3 at 22-8546_0009) (emphasis in original).
[26] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez 2021 Met Gala Invitation Acceptance Email Chain (Exhibit 4 at 22-8546_0015).
[27] *Id.*
[28] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez 2021 Met Gala Invitation from the Met (Exhibit 5 at 22-8546_0019-20).
[29] Aurora James Introduction Email Chain (Exhibit 6 at 22-8546_0023-24).
[30] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0038-39). Rep. Ocasio-Cortez told the OCE that it is common practice for her to have her counsel vet events that might warrant extra scrutiny. *Id.*
[31] Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0092-98, 0101-02).
[32] *Id.*
[33] *See e.g.*, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Counsel's Emails Regarding Attendance Concerns (Exhibit 9 at 22-8546_0192-99); Campaign Staffer and Aurora James Text Messages (Aug. 2021 – Mar. 2022) (Exhibit 10 at 22-8546_0211, 0217-18, 0237).
[34] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0040-42, 0045-46)).
[35] Video: Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Gets Ready for the Met Gala, Vogue (Sept. 16, 2021), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4yq726SUpE (last visited June 7, 2022).

Ocasio-Cortez received the following rental goods and services in connection with the video and her Met Gala attendance:

a. Transportation from her home to Carlyle Hotel;
b. Access to a ready room at the Carlyle Hotel on the day of the Gala (and also the Saturday before the Met Gala for dress fitting purposes);
c. Hair and makeup services;
d. A dress, handbag, shoes, and jewelry from Brother Vellies; and
e. Transportation to the Met Gala from the Carlyle Hotel.[36]

27. Brother Vellies also provided Riley Roberts with a pair of shoes and a bowtie.[37]

28. The day after the Met Gala, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez received significant press coverage regarding her attendance and attire, and much of the coverage focused on the extent to which her attendance and attire were permissible under House ethics rules.[38] In wake of this press, the Committee's Director of Advice and Education contacted Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's staff regarding her attendance at the Met Gala.[39] Ultimately, on September 16, 2021, the Committee's Staff Director & Chief Counsel emailed with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's counsel about her attendance.[40]

29. The Committee's Staff Director & Chief Counsel noted that the Director of Advice and Education initially contacted Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's staff "not because the Ethics Committee had any questions."[41] Instead, the Committee's contact had been "common, compliance-related outreach" designed to "proactively check[] if your client had any questions for us about the ethics rules and how they apply to events like the Met Gala. This is something we commonly do, particularly when there has been a high profile matter and we don't have a record of the office seeking the Committee's guidance on the issues involved."[42] The Committee's Staff Director & Chief Counsel went on to explain that the goal of the outreach "was a brief, informal phone call" in which they could address any questions Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's staff might have about her attendance, including whether she could accept a free ticket for herself and a guest, whether she could receive a custom gown for the event, and how to address gifts that may have been accepted in contravention of House rules.[43]

30. The Committee's Staff Director & Chief Counsel concluded his email to counsel by explaining that any phone call would be "entirely voluntary and meant in the spirit of proactive customer service. If we can be of help with regard to these questions (or any others), please let us know. Often with these kinds of things phone calls are quicker and

[36] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0042-45); Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0115-126).
[37] *See infra*, Section II.C.ii.
[38] The OCE considered whether Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and her partner's attendance were permissible under House ethics rules. *See infra*, note 46.
[39] Email Chain with House Ethics Regarding Met Gala Attendance (Exhibit 11 at 22-8546_0242-46).
[40] *Id.*
[41] *Id.*
[42] *Id.*
[43] *Id.*

easier (and where outside counsel is involved, cheaper for the client). However, if you prefer to correspond in writing, that would be fine."[44]

31. Rep. Ocasio Cortez's counsel responded to this email in writing by outlining the reasons why he believed her attendance and receipt of certain services were permissible under House rules:[45]

> In this case, the situation was straightforward: the Congresswoman's accepted complimentary attendance at this event, which was a fundraiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a 501(c)(3) charity. The invitation was extended directly by the sponsor of the event, which was the Met. The Congresswoman was offered a guest ticket under that same criteria, and her longtime partner attended the event as well.
>
> Apart from the ticket, the meals, and beverages at the event, the Congresswoman is paying personally for all other benefits including the rental value of her dress, handbag, and accessories, as well as the full value for the shoes worn.
>
> The Congresswoman is also paying for the services related to her hair and makeup, transportation related to the event, and the pro-rated value of a hotel room that was shared with others for staging prior to the Met Gala.
>
> If the Committee's staff has additional questions regarding the Congresswoman's compliance with the gift rules, we'd be happy to provide information or substantiation.

32. As evidenced above, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's counsel emphasized that: 1) he believed her and her partner's attendance qualified as a permissible exception to the House gift rules – specifically the exception that permits attendance at charity events; and 2) Rep. Ocasio-

[44] *Id.*
[45] *Id.*

Cortez would be personally paying for the attire and services she was provided.[46, 47] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez told the OCE that she was aware that her counsel was communicating with the Committee on these issues in or around this time.[48]

ii. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Payment for Met Gala Services

33. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez told the OCE that while she would pay for the above-described services with her personal funds, Campaign Staffer was tasked with making the actual payments.[49] As discussed in more detail below, while the services identified above have been paid for as of the date of this report, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez neglected to pay for these services until after the OCE opened this review.[50] Thus, despite various efforts to address compliance concerns in advance of the Met Gala through counsel,[51] and despite representations to the Committee

[46] *Id.* The OCE considered whether Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and her partner's attendance was permissible under House Rules. The OCE found significant documentary evidence suggesting that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's invitation is most appropriately characterized as an invitation from Vogue. *See e.g.*, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez 2021 Met Gala Invitation from Vogue (Exhibit 3 at 22-8546_0009) ("Anna would be thrilled to have you and Riley Roberts join us at the [Met Gala] this September, as guests of Vogue"); Rep. Ocasio-Cortez 2021 Met Gala Invitation Acceptance Email Chain (Exhibit 4 at 22-8546_0015-16) (indicating that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez accepted the invitation from Vogue); August 2, 2021 Email Regarding Important Information for 2021 Met Gala (Exhibit 12 at 22-8546_0248) (noting that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's RSVP was already noted prior to her receiving the celebratory digital invitation from the Met). While Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's counsel attempted to confirm that her invitation came directly from the Met, *see* Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Counsel's Email Exchanges Regarding Attendance Concerns (Exhibit 9 at 22-8546_0198), and while Rep. Ocasio-Cortez did receive an email invitation from a Met email address, *see* Rep. Ocasio-Cortez 2021 Met Gala Invitation from the Met (Exhibit 5 at 22-8546_0019), the other documents identified above suggest that Vogue was the original source of the invitation. Additionally, the OCE reviewed numerous communications from the day after the Met Gala that related to press inquiries about her attendance. These documents also indicate that Vogue was the source of the invitation and suggest that there was some attempt to obfuscate Vogue's role in the invitation process. *See e.g.*, Sept. 14, 2021 Email Chain 1 Regarding Press Inquiries (Exhibit 13 at 22-8546_0251); Sept. 14, 2021 Email Chain 2 Regarding Press Inquiries (Exhibit 14 at 22-8546_0254-61); Sept. 14, 2021 Email 3 Regarding Press Inquiries (Exhibit 15 at 22-8546_0263). The OCE determined that, even if Vogue was the source of the invitation (and not the Met), Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's attendance would still be permissible under House Rule XXV, clauses 5(a)(3)(Q) and 5(a)(4)(C). Vogue is appropriately characterized as an event organizer given the significant and active role it plays in organizing the Met Gala. *See supra,* Section II.A. (outlining the charity events exception and defining an event organizer); *see also* Condé Nast Declaration Regarding Met Gala Activities (Exhibit 2 at 22-8546_0007). Additionally, the Met is a 501(c)(3) organization qualified under Sec. 170 of the tax code, and the primary purpose of the Met Gala is to raise funds for the Costume Institute. *See e.g.*, Met 2020 IRS Form 990 (designating the Met as a 501(c)(3); *see also* Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Counsel's Email Exchanges Regarding Attendance Concerns (Exhibit 9 at 22-8546_0198).

[47] In response to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's counsel's email detailing why he believed her and her partner's attendance was permissible under House Rules, Committee Staff Director & Chief Counsel noted that only spouses and dependent children qualified as permissible guests under the charitable events exception to the gift rule. Email Chain with House Ethics Regarding Met Gala Attendance (Exhibit 11 at 22-8546_0168). Consistent with prior decisions, the OCE Board opted to treat a long-term significant other as synonymous with a spouse.

[48] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0047).

[49] *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0048).

[50] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez produced various documents to the OCE evidencing payment for the services she received in connection with the Met Gala. The payments were made on a series on American Express cards during the course of this review. While the OCE could not determine the ultimate source of the funds used to pay for these services, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Campaign Staffer each told the OCE that the services had been or would be paid from Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's personal funds. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0053-59); Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0155-59, 0168-69, 0173, 0180, 0184-86).

[51] *See supra*, Section II.C.i.

regarding compliance with House rules,[52] it appears several thousands of dollars' worth of services may have remained unpaid absent the OCE initiating this review. Below the OCE identifies these goods and services provided to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and the details regarding when and how payment was made:

a. *Hair Services*

34. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez had her hair done by Stylist 1 on September 13, 2021 in preparation for the Met Gala.[53] This hair service was arranged for and coordinated by employees at Condé Nast in connection with the Vogue video.[54]

35. On September 21, 2021, Condé Nast advised the agency representing Stylist 1 – Streeters – that billing would be handled by Campaign Staffer, and copied Campaign Staffer on that email.[55] On September 30, 2021, Streeters provided Campaign Staffer with a $477.73 bill for services.[56]

36. Between September 30, 2021 and February 24, 2022, the bill for hair services went unpaid. During this time, Streeters' accounts receivable department made repeated attempts to secure payment, culminating in a February 23, 2022 email threating to "file a complaint with [New York City's Office of Labor Policy and Standards for Workers] against Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress if payment is not deposited before end of business tomorrow."[57]

37. On February 24, 2022, two days after the OCE first contacted Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's staff about this review, Campaign Staffer paid for Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's hair styling services.[58]

38. When interviewed, Campaign Staffer did not provide the OCE with a clear explanation for these payment delays, aside from acknowledging that it "fell off [her] radar" and she often received emails from Streeters at times when she could not focus on their payment requests.[59] Campaign Staffer told the OCE that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez would periodically follow-up with her about needing to pay for these hairstyling services, but that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez was not aware at the time of the company's escalating payment demands.[60]

b. *Makeup Services*

39. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez had her makeup done by Stylist 2 on September 13, 2021 in preparation for the Met Gala.[61] This hair service was arranged for and coordinated by employees at Condé Nast in connection with the Vogue video.[62]

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[52] *See supra*, Section II.C.i.
[53] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0042-43).
[54] Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0119-20).
[55] Hairstyling Billing Emails 1 (Exhibit 16 at 22-8546_0266-67).
[56] *Id.* (Exhibit 16 at 22-8546_0265-68).
[57] Hairstyling Billing Emails 2 (Exhibit 17 at 22-8546_0271-86).
[58] Hairstyling Payment Confirmation (Exhibit 18 at 22-8546_0288-94).
[59] Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0162-65).
[60] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0165-66).
[61] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0042-43).
[62] Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0119-20).

40. On September 17, 2021, the agency representing Stylist 2 – The Wall Group – invoiced Condé Nast for $344.85.[63] On September 21, 2021, Condé Nast advised The Wall Group that billing would be handled by Campaign Staffer, and copied Campaign Staffer on that email.[64] On September 23, 2021, The Wall Group asked Campaign Staffer to provide a billing address for the invoice.[65] It does not appear this was provided as the Wall Group attempted, unsuccessfully, to have Condé Nast pay for the bill in or around January 2022.[66] Condé Nast rejected that payment request on January 13, 2022, and provided the email address for Campaign Staffer as the appropriate billing point of contact.[67]

41. Between January 13, 2022 and February 24, 2022, The Wall Group's collections team made repeated attempts to secure payment from Campaign Staffer, noting on multiple occasions that the invoice was "EXTREMEMLY overdue."[68] Campaign Staffer initially attempted to pay the outstanding bill on February 24, 2022, two days after the OCE first contacted Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's staff, but the payment was rejected.[69] Campaign Staffer finally made payment for the service on March 16, 2022.[70]

42. When interviewed, Campaign Staffer did not provide the OCE with a clear explanation on the basis for this delay in payment, aside from acknowledging that other things took precedence over The Wall Group's payment requests.[71]

c. *Attire Provided by Brother Vellies*

43. On September 13, 2021, the day of the Met Gala, Aurora James and Brother Vellies provided Rep. Ocasio-Cortez with a custom dress, shoes, and handbag.[72] They also provided her with jewelry.[73] These items were all provided to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez as rentals and later returned to Brother Vellies.[74]

44. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Campaign Staffer told the OCE that they were not involved in the rental valuations – that was left to the discretion of Ms. James.[75] Ms. James and Brother Vellies declined to cooperate with this review, so the OCE could not address this issue with her or more specifically determine the manner in which rental valuations occurred.[76]

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[63] Makeup Invoice for Condé Nast (Exhibit 19 at 22-8546_0297).
[64] Makeup Billing Emails 1 (Exhibit 20 at 22-8546_0299).
[65] *Id.*
[66] Makeup Billing Emails 2 (Exhibit 21 at 22-8546_0309).
[67] *Id.*
[68] *Id.* (Exhibit 21 at 22-8546_0302-09).
[69] Makeup Billing Emails 3 (Exhibit 22 at 22-8546_0313).
[70] Makeup Payment Confirmation (Exhibit 23 at 22-8546_0323).
[71] Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0169).
[72] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0042-43).
[73] Mejuri, Inc. provided the jewelry to Brother Vellies, which in turn rented it to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez.
[74] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0043, 0059-60).
[75] *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0060-61); Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0110-12, 0128-29).
[76] The OCE gathered information about the retail costs of certain items Rep. Ocasio-Cortez wore in connection with the Met Gala. *See e.g.*, Brother Vellies Handbag Advertisement (Exhibit 24 at 22-8546_0326) (valuing a similar handbag at $995); Nordstrom Shoe Advertisement (Exhibit 25 at 22-8546_0328) (valuing similar shoes at $795);

45. On September 19, 2021, Janna Pea, a publicist associated with Brother Vellies, provided Campaign Staffer with a bill for $2,283.93 from Brother Vellies:[77]

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$1,300.00
Met Gala Handbag Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 170.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 635.00
Sales Tax 8.5%	$ 178.93
Total	$2,283.93

46. A day later, on September 20, 2021, another bill was provided to Campaign Staffer, this time totaling $990.76:[78]

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$ 300.00
Met Gala Handbag & Jewelry Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 450.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 160.00
Sales Tax 8.875%	$ 80.76
Total	$ 990.76

47. When asked about the billing revisions, Campaign Staffer acknowledged calling Ms. Pea to discuss the original bill.[79] Campaign Staffer told the OCE that she understood that the shoes would be rentals, and not a purchase, so she "flagged that for [Pea]."[80] She also told the OCE that she "want[ed] to confirm the gown rental price [was] correct."[81] According to Campaign Staffer, prior to the Met Gala, she had some general discussions regarding overall rental costs and was told a final bill would likely be around a thousand dollars.[82] Because the original bill had an error regarding the shoe purchase and was higher than expected, Campaign Staffer asked Ms. Pea to confirm the overall bill was correct.[83]

48. Campaign Staffer could not explain why the gown rental costs were reduced from $1,300 to $300.[84] The OCE sought to interview Ms. Pea on these matters, but she declined to cooperate.

Mejuri Dome Ring Advertisement (Exhibit 26 at 22-8546_0330) (valuing the Dome Ring at $65); Mejuri Large Tube Hoops Advertisement (Exhibit 27 at 22-8546_0332) (valuing the Large Tube Hoops at $450).

[77] September 19, 2021 Brother Vellies Bill (Exhibit 28 at 22-8546_0334-35).

[78] September 20, 2021 Brother Vellies Bill (Exhibit 29 at 22-8546_0337-39).

[79] Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0139).

[80] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0140).

[81] *Id.*

[82] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0140).

[83] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0140-43).

[84] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0144-45).

49. As of March 2022, the $990.76 Brother Vellies bill remained unpaid. When asked why this bill was not paid before the OCE opened its review, Campaign Staffer told the OCE that she did not think she had received a final invoice.[85] She believed other items that Brother Vellies paid for would need to be added to the invoice, including costs for Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's use of space at the Carlyle Hotel and transportation from the Carlyle Hotel to the Met Gala.[86]

50. Campaign Staffer told the OCE that she identified these issues for Ms. Pea after receiving the second invoice, and at that point, she expected Ms. Pea to provide her with an updated invoice that addressed those outstanding items.[87] When asked if she ever followed up on the invoice, Campaign Staffer acknowledged that she did not, and explained that payment "didn't become a focus [again] until" the OCE opened this review.[88]

51. When asked about the extent to which Rep. Ocasio-Cortez was aware that this payment was not made, Campaign Staffer told the OCE that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez knew that payments were not made since they had not been put on her credit card or withdrawn from her account; however, she indicated that she was not providing Rep. Ocasio-Cortez with regular status updates on the matter.[89] Instead, she told Rep. Ocasio-Cortez that she was waiting to hear from Janna Pea regarding an updated invoice.[90]

52. On March 3, 2021, two days after the OCE provided formal notice to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez of this review, Campaign Staffer emailed Janna Pea seeking "a confirmation of payment on the invoice from Brother Vellies."[91] In response to that email, Janna Pea explained that Brother Vellies never received payment.[92] Campaign Staffer replied, noting "[w]e will have to take care of this ASAP."[93] On March 9, 2022, Campaign Staffer made a $990.77 payment to Brother Vellies.[94]

d. *Other Services Provided by Brother Vellies*

53. After the OCE opened this review, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's counsel contacted counsel for Aurora James and Brother Vellies and requested "an invoice and supporting documentation for any goods, services or amenities which Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Riley Roberts may have received from [Brother Vellies or Aurora James] in connection with the September 13, 2021, Met Gala, for which Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Roberts may not have yet paid."[95] As set forth below, in an April 15, 2022 letter, counsel for Aurora James and Brother Vellies identified $5,579.99 worth of unpaid goods and services provided

[85] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0146-50).
[86] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0146-50, 0176).
[87] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0149-50).
[88] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0148-50).
[89] *Id.* (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0160-61).
[90] *Id.*
[91] March 2022 Emails Between Campaign Staffer and Janna Pea Regarding Payment for Brother Vellies Attire (Exhibit 30 at 22-8546_0341).
[92] *Id.*
[93] *Id.*
[94] Brother Vellies Proof of Payment 1 (Exhibit 31 at 22-8546_0345-47).
[95] April 15, 2022 Letter from Aurora James and Brother Vellies' Counsel to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Counsel (Exhibit 32 at 22-8546_0349-50).

to Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Riley Roberts, including transportation services to the Met Gala, room usage at the Carlyle Hotel, and shoes and a bowtie for Riley Roberts:[96]

> Our clients, Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC d/b/a Brother Vellies and Aurora James, are in receipt of your request for an invoice and supporting documentation for any goods, services or amenities which Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Riley Roberts may have received from our clients in connection with the September 13, 2021, Met Gala, for which Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Roberts may not have yet paid. Our clients have reviewed their records and identified the expenses below:
>
> - LV Services, Inc. (car service): $571.59.
> - Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 12, 2021: $1,214.61.
> - Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $1,205.04.
> - Room 0911 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $2,182.67.
> - Shoes for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $136.08.
> - Bow tie for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $270.00.
> - **TOTAL: $5,579.99.**

54. On May 10, 2022, a $5,579.99 payment was made to Brother Vellies.[97]

e. *Condé Nast Transportation*

55. During this review, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's team also identified unpaid transportation services, from Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's home to the Carlyle Hotel on the morning of the Met Gala.[98] These services were provided by Condé Nast in connection with her participation in Vogue's Met Gala video shoot.[99] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's team determined that an appropriate payment for the transportation service was $180.00, and that amount was paid to Condé Nast on May 10, 2022.[100]

iii. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Explanations for Her Failure to Pay

56. When asked about the delays in payments for the variety of goods and services described above, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez acknowledged "there was a ball that was dropped" and described the situation as "deeply regrettable."[101]

---

[96] *Id.* The April 15, 2021 letter from Aurora James and Brother Vellies' counsel suggests that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez used space at the Carlyle Hotel on September 12, 2021; however, that usage, for dress fitting purposes, actually occurred on Saturday, September 11, 2021. *See* Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0178).
[97] Brother Vellies Proof of Payment 2 (Exhibit 33 at 22-8546_0367-68).
[98] Condé Nast Transportation Repayment Emails (Exhibit 34 at 22-8546_0371-75).
[99] Campaign Staffer Transcript (Exhibit 8 at 22-8546_0119-20).
[100] Condé Nast Transportation Payment Confirmation (Exhibit 35 at 22-8546_0377-80).
[101] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Transcript (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0052, 0063).

57. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez recalled following-up with Campaign Staffer several times after the Met Gala about the need to pay for the services she was provided and being told that they were in a "holding pattern" since Brother Vellies needed to provide them with a revised and updated invoice.[102] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez acknowledged she was not privy to the details about how payment was supposed to be structured and or when demands for payment were sent, and she relied on Campaign Staffer to address these matters.[103] Rep. Ocasio-Cortez told the OCE that she only "learned about the extent of the nonpayment" on May 11, 2022, the day before her interview with the OCE.[104]

58. Based on the foregoing information, the Board finds that there is substantial reason to believe that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala in 2021.

III. CONCLUSION

59. Based on the foregoing information, the Board finds that there is substantial reason to believe that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala.

60. Accordingly, the Board recommends that the Committee further review the above allegation that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala.

IV. INFORMATION THE OCE WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN AND RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS

61. The following witnesses, by declining to provide requested information to the OCE, did not cooperate with the OCE review:

    a. Aurora James;
    b. Brother Vellies; and
    c. Janna Pea.

62. The Board recommends that the Committee on Ethics issue subpoenas to Aurora James, Brother Vellies, and Janna Pea.

[102] *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0050-53).
[103] *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0048-53, 0063).
[104] *Id.* (Exhibit 7 at 22-8546_0058, 0063).

EXHIBIT 1

THE MET

News Release

Communications
communications@metmuseum.org

Contact
Nancy Chilton
Mika Kiyono

Exhibition Dates:
Part One: September 18, 2021–September 5, 2022
Part Two: May 5, 2022–September 5, 2022

Exhibition Locations:
The Met Fifth Avenue—Anna Wintour Costume Center (Part One) and American Wing Period Rooms (Part Two)

www.metmuseum.org/InAmerica
#MetInAmerica
@metcostumeinstitute

For Immediate Release

Costume Institute Two-Part Exhibition to Focus on American Fashion

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The exhibition is made possible by Instagram.

Additional support is provided by Condé Nast.

In celebration of the first opening, a more intimate Costume Institute Benefit (also known as The Met Gala) is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021, pending government guidelines. The Met Gala for Part Two will be on May 2, 2022. The Benefit provides The Costume Institute with its primary source of annual funding for exhibitions, publications, acquisitions, operations, and capital improvements.

"Fashion is both a harbinger of cultural shifts and a record of the forces, beliefs, and events that shape our lives," said Max Hollein, the Marina Kellen French Director of The Met. "This two-part exhibition will consider how fashion reflects evolving notions of identity in America and will explore a multitude of perspectives through presentations that speak to some of the complexities of history with powerful immediacy. In looking at the past through this lens, we can consider the aesthetic and cultural impact of fashion on historical aspects of American life."

Andrew Bolton, the Wendy Yu Curator in Charge of The Costume Institute, said: "Over the past year, because of the pandemic, the connections to our homes have become more emotional, as have those to our clothes. For American fashion, this has meant an increased emphasis on sentiment over practicality. Responding to this shift, Part One of the exhibition will establish a modern vocabulary of American fashion based on the expressive qualities of clothing as well as deeper associations with issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Part Two will further investigate the evolving language of American fashion through a series of collaborations with American film directors who will visualize the unfinished stories inherent in The Met's period rooms."

Exhibition Overview

Part One—*In America: A Lexicon of Fashion*

The Costume Institute's Anna Wintour Costume Center galleries will feature a fictional American home constructed of transparent walls that intersect and overlap, blurring the boundaries of the interior rooms. Examples of 20th- and 21st-century fashion will populate the rooms, reflecting the customs and behaviors of the imagined occupants. Designs by pioneers of American sportswear will be displayed alongside works by a diverse group of contemporary designers to illustrate a shifting emphasis in American fashion defined by feelings of fear, delight, comfort, anxiety, well-being, loneliness, happiness, belonging, self-reflection, and self-representation among other qualities.

Melina Matsoukas will create a specially commissioned, open-ended film to project in the galleries, the content of which will evolve over the course of the exhibition.

Part Two—*In America: An Anthology of Fashion*

Opening May 5, 2022, Part Two of the exhibition is a collaboration between The Costume Institute and the American Wing. It is the final installment of The Costume Institute's trilogy of period-room shows, which began with *Dangerous Liaisons: Fashion and Furniture in the 18th Century* (2004) in the French Period Rooms, followed by *AngloMania: Tradition and Transgression in British Fashion* (2006) in the English Period Rooms.

Part Two of the exhibition will feature women's and men's historical and contemporary dress dating from the 18th century to the present in vignettes installed in select period rooms. The interiors present a survey of more than 300 years of American domestic life and tell a variety of stories—from the personal to the political, the stylistic to the cultural, and the aesthetic to the ideological. The exhibition will reflect on these narratives through a series of three-dimensional cinematic "freeze frames" produced in collaboration with notable American film directors. These mise-en-scènes will explore the role of dress in shaping American identity and address the complex and layered histories of the rooms.

Spanning the years 1670 to 1915, the interiors include a Shaker Retiring Room from the 1830s that explores the defining characteristics of American sportswear, such as utility, simplicity, and practicality, through the work of Claire McCardell. A 19th-century parlor from Richmond, Virginia, will feature the intricate designs of Fannie Criss, a highly regarded local dressmaker active at the

turn of the 20th century. John Vanderlyn's panoramic 1819 mural of Versailles will set the stage for a re-creation of the historic 1973 "Battle of Versailles" that pitted American designers against their French counterparts. A 20th-century living room designed by Frank Lloyd Wright will highlight the architectural gowns of Charles James to examine notions of creative genius and the tensions between artist and patron.

Credits

Part One is organized by Andrew Bolton and Amanda Garfinkel, Assistant Curator of The Costume Institute. Part Two is organized by Bolton and Jessica Regan, Associate Curator of The Costume Institute, and Amelia Peck, the Marica F. Vilcek Curator of American Decorative Arts and Supervising Curator of the Ratti Textile Center, with the support of Sylvia Yount, the Lawrence A. Fleischman Curator in Charge of the American Wing.

LAMB Design Studio's Nathan Crowley and Shane Valentino, film production designers who have worked on past Costume Institute exhibitions, will oversee exhibition design with The Met's Design Department. Cinematographer Bradford Young (whose film projects include *Selma*, *Arrival*, and *When They See Us*) will work with Crowley and Valentino on the sets and lighting. Franklin Leonard, a film executive and founder of *The Black List*, will be an advisor on the exhibition.

Related Content

A publication by Andrew Bolton and Jessica Regan, with Amelia Peck and others, will accompany the exhibition. Available in May 2022, the book will be designed by Willem Van Zoetendaal and include new photography by Bradford Young. It will be published by The Metropolitan Museum of Art and distributed by Yale University Press.

A special feature on the Museum's website, www.metmuseum.org/InAmerica, provides further information about the exhibition. Follow us on Facebook.com/metmuseum, Instagram.com/metmuseum, and Twitter.com/metmuseum to join the conversation about the exhibition and gala. Use #MetInAmerica, #CostumeInstitute, @MetCostumeInstitute, and #MetGala on Instagram and Twitter.

About the American Wing Period Rooms

In 1909, The Metropolitan Museum of Art hosted the Hudson-Fulton Exhibition, in which early American decorative arts—glass, silver, ceramics, and furniture—as well as paintings were featured together for the first time in an American art museum. An overwhelmingly positive public response led to the creation of the Museum's American Wing, which opened in 1924. Conceived as three floors of decorated rooms surrounding central furniture galleries, the wing was intended to transport visitors back to a certain time and place—the term "period room" was used to describe the immersive interiors. The architectural elements of the 15 original rooms, removed from 18th- and early 19th-century houses along the Eastern seaboard, provided an innovative framework for The Met's growing collection of American fine and decorative arts, tracing a chronological progression of design in the United States from the Colonial to early Federal period. Today, following several expansions, the American Wing houses 21 period rooms spanning some 300

years, now interpreted through more expansive and inclusive narratives that foreground gender, race, and class.

###

April 12, 2021

EXHIBIT 2

On file with the OCE

EXHIBIT 3

To: Rebecca Rodriquez[redacted]
Cc: Kiernan, Eaddy[redacted]; Concetta Ciarlo[redacted]; Jessica Nichols[redacted]; Pape, Sophie[redacted]; Brittany Daulton[redacted]
From: Holloway, Jenae
Sent: Thur 5/13/2021 11:00:28 PM
Subject: 2021 Costume Institute Benefit Invitation | Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
CI2021+2022Announcement Release.pdf

Dear Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez,

I am writing about the 2021 Costume Institute Benefit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, which I am delighted to say will be back this year to celebrate the new exhibition and the 75th anniversary of The Costume Institute. We are doing things a little differently this year, and the show will be in two parts.

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Thank you,
Jenae

Jenae Holloway
Special Events | VOGUE
[redacted]

THE MET

News Release

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###

April 12, 2021

EXHIBIT 4

To: Rebecca Rodriguez[redacted]
Cc: Kiernan, Eaddy[redacted]; Concetta Ciarlo[redacted]; Jessica Nichols[redacted]; Pape, Sophie[redacted]; Brittany Daulton[redacted]
From: Holloway, Jenae
Sent: Thur 6/24/2021 7:47:15 PM
Subject: Re: 2021 Costume Institute Benefit Invitation | Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Hi Rebecca,
Thank you so much for confirming that the Congresswoman will attend -- we are so thrilled to have her. Will you please kindly confirm if she plans to bring Mr. Roberts as a guest or if she will be attending alone? We will be in touch in the coming weeks with the celebratory digital invitation, health and safety procedures, as well as guest entry details.

However, if there are any other questions we can answer for you more immediately, we'd be happy to set up a call with you to discuss more!

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you,
Jenae

On Thu, Jun 24, 2021 at 9:06 AM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> Good morning all, apologies for my delay! The Congresswoman would like to attend and sends her appreciation for the invitation. Can we get on a call to discuss details?
> Best,
> Rebecca

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 2:37 PM Holloway, Jenae <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Rebecca,
> I hope you're having a lovely week! I'm kindly reaching out to follow up on the invitation for Rep. Ocasio Cortez and Riley Roberts.

We look forward to hearing from you,
Jenae

On Mon, May 24, 2021 at 5:50 PM Holloway, Jenae <[redacted]> wrote:

> Thank you, Rebecca. I'll standby to hear from you.
> Best,
Jenae

On Mon, May 24, 2021 at 4:40 PM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hello Jenae,

Thank you so much for the invitation and the follow up; please expect a response from me within another day or two.
Best,
Rebecca

On Mon, May 24, 2021 at 3:03 PM Holloway, Jenae <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi Rebecca,
I hope you had a lovely weekend. I'm kindly following up on the invitation below. Will you please let us know at your earliest convenience if Rep. Ocasio Cortez and Riley Roberts may be available to join us this year? We'd be thrilled to confirm them for the event!

Thank you,
Jenae

On Thu, May 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM Holloway, Jenae <[redacted]> wrote:

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Thank you,
Jenae

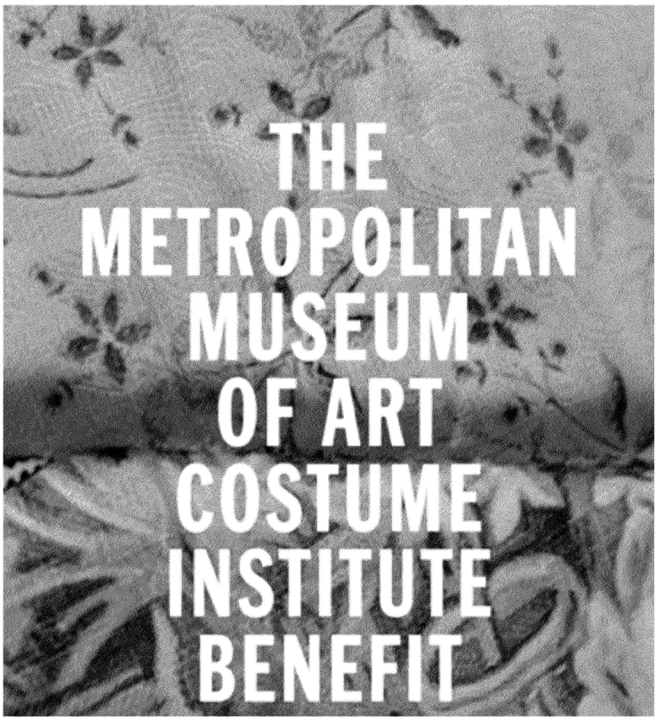
Jenae Holloway
Special Events | VOGUE
[redacted]

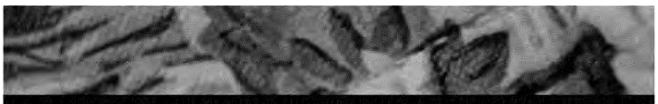
EXHIBIT 5

Monday, March 7, 2022 at 18:39:36 Eastern Standard Time

Subject: Fwd: 2021 Costume Institute Benefit Invitation | Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Date: Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:36:34 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** <events@metmuseum.org>
Date: Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 1:57 PM
Subject: 2021 Costume Institute Benefit Invitation | Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
To: <rebecca[redacted]>





THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART COSTUME INSTITUTE BENEFIT

IN AMERICA: A LEXICON OF FASHION

MONDAY, THE THIRTEENTH OF SEPTEMBER
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AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

COCHAIRS
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AMANDA GORMAN, AND NAOMI OSAKA

HONORARY CHAIRS
TOM FORD, ADAM MOSSERI,
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--
Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

EXHIBIT 6

To: Aurora Kiernan Jenae Jessica Alexandra Virginia[rebecca+track[redacted]
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
Sent: Mon 7/26/2021 5:01:40 PM
Subject: Re: Met Gala x Aurora James

Aurora,
Thank you, thank you, thank you for accepting and being a part of this experience with us - we are honored and excited!

In discussing this with the Congresswoman last week, she mentioned she was very familiar with your work especially with regards to Brother Vellies, and she would like to understand a bit more about your style with apparel. Is there anything your team can share with me in advance of a conversation with you and the Congresswoman? I think it would help her get a better sense as to your style, which would be helpful in the discussion around the Met Gala.

The Congresswoman will be in NY this weekend, if at all possible maybe we can arrange something in person?

Best,
Rebecca

On Mon, Jul 26, 2021 at 10:13 AM Aurora James <[redacted]> wrote:

> Good Morning Rebecca,
> Its a pleasure to meet you and I have to tell you I am truly honored to have the opportunity to be working on this for the Congresswoman.
> Please let me know when might work to connect, I would love to get a sense of anything she might be gravitating towards so I can be sure to design around that and present things she's excited about.

All my love,
Aurora

Aurora James
Creative Director

Brother Vellies
71 Franklin Street
Brooklyn, NY
www.brothervellies.com

@BrotherVellies
@AuroraJames

On Jul 23, 2021, at 9:58 AM, Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted]> wrote:

Dear Rebecca,

I'm delighted to introduce you to Aurora James. We are all so excited about this partnership, and know that Aurora will make something truly incredible for the Congresswoman.

Please let us know if we can help to coordinate next steps.

All the best,
Eaddy

EXHIBIT 7

CONFIDENTIAL
Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

Transcript of Interview of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Review No. 22-8546

Date: May 12, 2022

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. BROWN: For the record, this is Jeff Brown with the Office of Congressional Ethics. With me is my colleague Omar Ashmawy. We are undertaking a remote video interview of the congresswoman. It is May 12, 2022. We are just a couple minutes after 2:00 p.m. The congresswoman has been provided with a copy of 18 USC 1001, signed an acknowledgement noting that it applies to today's conversation, and with that we will get started.

BY MR. BROWN TO THE CONGRESSWOMAN:

Q Thank you, Congresswoman, for being with us today.

A Thank you for having me.

Q We will probably spend the majority of our time talking about the 2021 Met Gala. I'm sure that's what you are anticipating we will be talking about, but I did want to start by asking you a couple of questions about invitations that you received to prior Met Galas.

So my understanding is you were invited

to the 2019 Met Gala, couldn't attend for either scheduling or some personal reasons so declined that invitation but that you were invited to the 2020 Met Gala, and I would like you to walk me through how that invitation came about.

A I think a lot of it was just an extension of the fact that we couldn't attend the 2019 Met Gala, so we were invited, we couldn't attend the first time, and it -- you know, the invitation stood for the next year and then the year after to 2021 when 2020 was canceled.

Q Tell me about that. When you say the invitation stood, what do you mean by that?

A I had spoken with a journalist at Vogue at an event, I don't recall which one, and they had communicated to me that the invitation still stood and they had communicated that to me verbally, and that's my interpretation.

Q Okay. Do you remember who the journalist was or when that conversation occurred?

A Well, there were several journalists who had communicated it over a time period. I

remember one of them was Bridget Reed at Vogue, but I don't remember if she was the one who had communicated the 2021 or the 2019 one. And these were kind of like chance encounters at other events. So I don't remember specifically the 2021. It could have been her, it could have been someone else.

Q I realize it has been a little while so let me show you a couple documents and see if these jog your memory at all. You are not on these documents, but I would like you to see them and then I will ask you a couple questions about them.

MR. BROWN: Ian, if you could, could you pull up Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 and give me control of those.

A/V TECHNICIAN: Yes, counsel. Please stand by.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

(Exhibit 1, Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 3 were marked.)

Q Congresswoman, let me direct your

attention to this first exhibit up here.

MR. BROWN: Just let me, for the record, say this is Exhibit 1, THAOC_0196.

Q I want to preface this with these couple of e-mails I am having you read are February 8, 2020, communications with individuals who I understand to be on your staff to folks at Condé Nast or Vogue. I'm going to let you read these. Let me know when you are done with each one and I will move you on to the next one.

A Uh-huh. Okay.

Q Moving onto Exhibit 2, and I will blow this up for you a little bit here.

MR. BROWN: For the record, this is Exhibit 2, THAOC_0184.

Q Congresswoman, I just want to direct your attention to the February 8 e-mails right here, if you want to read those. You are more than welcome to read the rest of the e-mail string, too, if you would like, but I'm just going to focus on the February 8 communications.

A Okay.

Q And now this is Exhibit 3. I will zoom in for you a little bit here.

MR. BROWN: For the record, this is THAOC_0182.

A Again, I'm just going to scroll down to the February 8 communications right here. Congresswoman, if you want to read those and let me know when you're done.

A Yes, that's correct.

Q Okay. These are all, like I said, e-mails from February 8, it looks like the afternoon, February 8, 2020, from, as I understand it, individuals on your staff to individuals at Vogue. Does this help jog your memory at all about how the invitation to the 2020 Gala came about?

A Yes. It says here at the last e-mail that the event was the Little Women premier. And I do remember after the premier two journalists or employees affiliated with Vogue had approached me about attending the Met.

Q And tell me, what did they say? What are

your recollections of what you discussed?

A I mean I remember it was something loosely along the lines of, you know, we know you couldn't make it last year, we would still love to have you, please reach out, you know, to our team because we would love to still have you come.

Q My understanding is the Little Women premier occurred somewhere around like December of 2019. Does that sound about right?

A I think that sounds about right. I remember it was cold outside.

Q And I see these e-mails are from February 8 of 2020. So talk to me about how these e-mails come about. It looks like you have a sitdown with some staff members and direct them to reach out to Condé Nast. Is that how it happened?

A I remember right after the event I had passed along the communication from Vogue, what they had told me at the event, to my staff and I had asked them to follow up. And, you know, this may have been in response to sometime later I may have asked them did you follow up after that

initial conversation, perhaps they just followed up a little late, but that's what I imagine, yeah.

Q So when you were talking about following up after this event, you mean following up after the Little Women premier?

A Yes, yeah.

Q So your recollection is asking someone on staff to follow up on it sometime in December and then these e-mails may be in response to you following up with your staff to see sort of where things stood?

A Yeah, because -- so basically our office -- if it happened around December 2020, our office and most of Capitol Hill is closed for a decent amount of time during the holidays. So if it happened during December, it could have happened like right before Christmas and New Year's, which leaves the office closed for several weeks. And so, you know, right after in January everything opens up. I imagine this wasn't the most urgent thing that we were dealing with and so this was probably one of those tasks that had been

pushed a few weeks and so it kind of makes sense that they had followed up in February because we probably had a lot of other top priorities to contend with in January.

Q Do you recall sitting down or having a phone call with Campaign Staffer or Corbin about the Met in or around February?

A I don't. I mean, I have had so many phone calls with them. But I don't recall. It is entirely possible, but I just don't recall.

Q It does seem to me -- and I just want to make sure I am not misinterpreting this. It looks like there were probably some communications between you and staff on February 8 that would have led to these communications.

A Well, again, it is entirely possible. We do weekly -- we do weekly -- I do check-ins with my directors and my campaign manager once a week. So that gives us after the holiday season, after the office reopens, that puts like maybe four meetings between -- or four check-ins between the reopening of the office and around the time of

this e-mail. So I could see us just -- you know, it very well could have come up on a check-in where I asked like have we done this, did we follow up with those folks, and they -- that could have been what prompted this.

Q Does the name Vogue Entertainment Director mean anything to you?

A No. (Name) means something to me because that's my father's name.

Q I don't think that's who I'm referring to here.

Let me direct your attention then back to Exhibit 2 here. And I will scroll up and give you a chance to read this. Was staff keeping you up to date on their correspondence with the Met? And in particular I would just like to draw your attention to this February 11 e-mail. You are not on it, but it is an e-mail from Condé Nast to Corbin Trent and it looks like it occurs on February 11. I will let you read these e-mails.

And my question really is: To what extent is staff keeping you apprised of their

communications with Condé Nast?

A I mean they really weren't. It was one of those things that I remember it was just like a yes/no item. I didn't really get any details about this at all. It was just I really just remember kind of it being like -- I remember asking about it at some point. I imagine that was probably around this time. And then hearing a decent amount of time later saying like yeah, you've been -- they've -- you have been invited. And so I wasn't really apprised of any of it extensive back and forth. I mean, honestly, I had the impression that it was a pretty simple exchange, but I'll read the e-mail. I apologize.

Q No, go ahead. Take your time.

A Okay.

Q I will scroll up there for you so you can see the last part of it.

As you mentioned, at some point it is confirmed, you see here in this Friday, February 21, e-mail from Met Gala Organizer, "We are delighted to confirm Ms. Ocasio-Cortez as a guest

of this year's Met Gala."

At some point your partner, Riley Roberts, gets invited as well. How does that come about?

A I remember asking if he was invited as well, if it was like a plus-one.

Q You didn't ask anybody at Condé Nast, though; you probably would have asked that of Campaign Staffer, who would have asked that of Condé Nast?

A Yes.

MR. BROWN: Ian, you can take down these exhibits for me.

Q Congresswoman, I'm going to shift gears to the 2021 Met Gala. Probably a little easier to remember stuff associated with this one. That's the last Met Gala you went to. You didn't go a couple weeks ago, did you?

A No.

Q So my understanding from the documents that your counsel provided to us is that you get invited somewhere around May 13 and at some point

thereafter you and your team decide to hire counsel, Dave Mitrani. I would just like to know when do you hire Dave and why do you hire Dave in connection with the Gala?

A Well, I mean when I have -- I've worked with Mr. Mitrani a very long period of time. He's generally our general counsel for the campaign. You know, one of the reasons I asked him is because I had a conversation with Campaign Staffer and I really wanted to make sure that we were in compliance with ethics rules. It is a very visible event. It is one that features a very prominent cultural institution in New York City and I just really wanted to make sure that we had all of our Is dotted and Ts crossed and so I wanted to make sure that we conducted all the steps of this in compliance with ethics rules.

And given all of the technicalities and logistics involved in the event, you know, I -- it was just the responsible thing to do to bring in counsel to make sure we could very easily vet this event. This is also a pretty routine practice for

myself and the team. Just, I mean, due to the visibility of my office, I try to steward the responsibility as best as I can.

Q Okay. That certainly makes sense from the documents that we saw and I just -- without -- I'm not going to ask you the advice that Dave provided to you in your campaign, but I do want to get a sense for Dave and Sandler Reiff were hired to address some of the compliance-related concerns that you had in anticipation of the Gala and I'm assuming that meant things like can you attend in the first instance, you know, and how are you going to pay for these services associated with the Gala. Is that fair?

A Yes. I mean everything under the sun. I mean it is really not just about can I attend. I mean, if I can be candid, you know, I can't have a hair out of place without somebody noticing, and so the instruction to my counsel is, you know, literally anything, any conceivable situation, anything at all, to just vet as many details as possible.

Q And who is Dave's primary point of contact on these sort of things connected to the Gala? Are you and Dave having these conversations or is it --

A No; it is Campaign Staffer, Campaign Staffer and Dave.

Q So aside from Campaign Staffer and Dave, in terms of staff who are involved with the Gala, it looked to me maybe one of the key people in this is Lauren, your comms director, and she handles comms-related stuff for the Gala?

A Correct. The day of the event we also had a campaign photographer on staff by the name of Corey Torpey, and she was present the day of.

Q Just walk me through pre-Gala and as you and your team are thinking about attending this event and paying for the things, services that are going to be provided to you along with this event, are you guys thinking of this as is this a campaign event, is this a personal event, is this an official event? What's the thought process there?

A Well, in terms of compliance, you know, the resources, the payment is personal. I pay for the event. It is handled outside without any official capacity staff present. So costs of the event are personal. And facilitation is -- you know, official staff and government resources are explicitly prohibited from facilitating details.

MR. BROWN: Dave, did you want to jump in?

MR. MITRANI: Jeff, I want to just say, as we stated in our response, this was generally thought of as an officially connected event that a campaign could assist upon.

A Yes. And there are several examples of this within House rules. For example, campaign travel. In terms of travel to officially connected events, unofficial staff, and in some instances campaign resources are allowed to pay for travel to officially connected events. So the event itself was officially connected, but the conduct of execution and the costs of attending were personal and unofficial.

Q Yeah, okay. I wasn't trying to ask a tricky question there. I just realize, as Campaign Staffer said, yes, this is a bit of a non-traditional event so I was trying to get a sense of how you and the team were thinking about it in advance. So I appreciate that. But that is helpful to understand.

So the thought process going into the event is the cost of this you will be paying for, you would be bearing personally, and that campaign staff would be assisting with the staffing of it for lack of a better word.

A Uh-huh.

Q Okay. What I would like to do now is just walk through and sort of tick off the services that you received in connection with the Gala and make sure I and we have a full and complete understanding of what was provided to you. And then after we get that straightened out, we can kind of go back and talk about how everything was paid for. Okay?

A Uh-huh.

Q So my understanding is that the morning of the Gala you received some sort of transportation that Condé Nast paid for originally from your home to the Carlyle Hotel and that would have been in connection with this Vogue video that you guys were partaking in?

A Correct.

Q You also received a manicure and a pedicure while at the Carlyle in anticipation of the event?

A Correct.

Q Your hair was done by Stylist 1?

A Yes, correct.

Q And makeup by Cassandra Garcia?

A Correct.

Q And then I know Brother Vellies and Aurora James, I might use those terms interchangeably, provided you with the dress, the shoes, the bag, and the jewelry; right?

A I rented from them, yes.

Q And then Brother Vellies or Aurora James also provided you space to both do a fitting on

Saturday at the Carlyle and space to get ready at the Carlyle on the day of the Gala?

A Correct.

Q Okay. And then Brother Vellies also provided transportation from the Carlyle to the event?

A Correct.

Q And Brother Vellies also provided Mr. Roberts with shoes and a bow tie?

A Correct.

Q I understand from some of the documents that Mr. Roberts also had purchased a tux from Suitsupply, had some tailoring done at Suitsupply, and it sounds like Aurora James had coordinated him getting some additional tailoring services with a friend or colleague of hers. Is that accurate?

A It never happened, but she extended that offer, yes.

Q Okay. So Mr. Roberts, he never had tailoring services done by anybody besides Suitsupply?

A No.
Q Thank you. That clarifies that.
That, as I understand it, is sort of the list of things that were connected to the Met Gala, services that were provided to you, but am I missing anything?
A I think that's -- I think that's everything. There was so much going on that day, but, you know, someone brought pastries to the room. I didn't eat one, but they were brought.
Q We don't have to delve into the pastries.
A Okay.
Q Any other more substantive services? I think your counsel has provided us with some details about this. I think that covers it, but I just want to ask in case anything else comes to your mind.
A No, nothing that I recall, no.
Q Let's shift gears and talk a little bit about payment for services.
You said previously your understanding prior to the Gala is that you were going to have

to pay for these services personally out of your own funds?

A Yes.

Q I take it after the Gala that same understanding applied?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And were you aware that the House Ethics Committee, so not this office but the House Ethics Committees, reached out to your office the day after the Gala about the Gala?

A Yes.

Q And were you aware that your counsel had communications with counsel over at the Ethics Committee?

A I am aware there was communication, but I don't really know what the detail of the communication was.

Q Were you aware that they were communicating the day of -- sorry; let me rephrase that.

MR. BROWN: Dave, I will let you jump in first.

MR. MITRANI: The extent of our conversation with Tom Rust was that e-mail that they had sent and we thanked them for reaching out. I don't believe there was significant substance to that.

MR. BROWN: Yeah. No, I just wanted to know if the congresswoman --

Q Were you aware that the committee reached out and that your counsel had communications with counsel over at the committee?

A I knew that it had occurred, yes.

Q And did you know that it occurred in or around that time or did you learn that it occurred as a part of this OCE review process?

A I think I -- I believe it was around that time.

Q Okay. I just wanted to verify because your counsel says in that e-mail to the Ethics Committee, "The congresswoman will be paying for all of these things personally." I just wanted to make sure you were aware that that was being conveyed at the time to the committee.

A We had all agreed on it prior, yeah.

Q Okay. So the Met Gala comes and goes. It is a couple days after. You have to pay for all of these services. How do you decide or who is tasked with sort of documenting and coordinating payment for the services received in connection with the Met Gala?

A Campaign Staffer.

Q And who is ultimately going to -- I know you are ultimately going to pay for it. Who is ultimately going to get on the computer, plug in the credit card numbers, and hit the purchase button?

A She was.

Q I want to talk to you a little bit about your awareness of when payments occurred. And so were you aware that between the time of the Gala, so September of 2021, and the time that this review got opened that the services that we talked about, the hair, the makeup, the dress, the transportation, that they weren't paid for?

A I was not aware. I mean really what I

remember in that time was that Brother Vellies was supposed to invoice me and they were having trouble pricing it because they don't normally make dresses, they make accessories, they make shoes and purses. So this was one of the first ever garments that they were going to make and design. And so there was a delay while they tried to figure that out. And so what Campaign Staffer had communicated to me was that they were trying to figure this out for themselves, it is the first time they have ever had to do this, and then price a rental on it on top of that but that they were going to get an invoice over.

Q And so do you become aware of this because you are talking to folks over at Brother Vellies or Aurora James or do you become aware of this through Campaign Staffer?

A Through Campaign Staffer.

Q To what extent is Campaign Staffer keeping you informed between these early days after the Gala up until more recently about the delays associated with this invoice or the fact

that we need to pay for the hair, the makeup? Like to what extent are you guys communicating about payment for these services?

A You know, we are not communicating with much detail. I usually ask if something has been taken care of or I will follow up on something. And so I wasn't really given much detail. I remember following up after the Met and basically hearing -- like having her tell me like they are still trying to figure things out and following up maybe once or twice and still kind of getting that holding pattern kind of answer. But I did not really have any specificity in logistical detail.

Q Okay. So you are aware that things aren't being paid in the sense that you have not gotten the invoice that you are expecting?

A Yes. What was communicated to me was that we haven't received from them -- we were waiting on them essentially to receive what was necessary to pay.

Q So that, I understand, is primarily with respect to Brother Vellies. How about with

respect to the other vendors?

A So the manicurist I had paid in cash day of. But in terms of -- I mean, honestly, I really was not apprised about the specificity of the -- how the line items were going to be billed. So I didn't know in terms of how it was structured if we were paying each vendor individually, if it was Brother Vellies covering the cost and then us -- you know, of all of these things because we hadn't shared, or, you know, same provider, same vendor and that we were reimbursing them. I also was under the impression it was the latter, that we were reimbursing Brother Vellies for the cost, but I really did not know the details at the time of how things were itemized.

Q So you follow up with Campaign Staffer a couple times somewhere in the weeks or months after the Gala. None of this gets paid, though, until more recently; right? This review got opened up in March. So walk me through. In more recent months does it just get put on the back burner, does somebody drop the ball? You know it

has not been paid because it hasn't been withdrawn from your account.

A Yeah, yeah. I remember I continued to follow up on this thing because it was stressing me out and I genuinely do not know what had happened. I had continued to get this kind of holding pattern response. And I continued to follow up and, you know, it's -- I mean clearly with what I have learned since, it just really seems like there was a ball that was dropped. But, I mean, I remember following up several times, hey, what's the deal with this, I need to -- I need to pay this out.

Q Yeah. Okay.

MR. BROWN: Ian, could you pull up Exhibits 5 and 6 for me.

(Exhibit 5 and Exhibit 6 were marked.)

Q While he is doing that, is Campaign Staffer -- what is she telling you when you are like this is stressing me out, Campaign Staffer? What is she telling you at the time?

A She was telling me that it is just that

it has been very -- it has been challenging to get a hold of Brother Vellies and that they had been waiting for things from them for -- I don't know. Yeah.

Q Does she have everything she needs in terms of having access to your personal credit cards to be able to pay this?

A Yes, she does.

Q She does, okay. Because at some point -- you have probably seen this in the documents -- like the makeup artist or the hair artist is threatening to file a lawsuit.

A I had discovered this for the first time yesterday. Yeah.

Q All right.

MR. BROWN: Ian, you can take down Exhibits 1, 2 and 3.

Q Congresswoman, I would like to focus on payments and how these things eventually do get paid and so I have up here on the screen -- Ian, do I have control? Thank you very much -- I have on screen some documents that your counsel

provided to us. The first document here is this Business Platinum Card. It looks like it is in your name. And the second exhibit I have up here is another American Express gold card. You know, this is an account ending in 1008.

Can you walk me through real quick, is this American Express gold card, is this a personal credit card of yours?

A Yes.

Q So things that are put on this credit card will be paid with your funds personally?

A Yes.

Q What is this AmEx Business Platinum Card?

A This card is a card that is opened on a personal -- you know, my personal credit is connected to it, but it is a way to organize my finances. So sometimes expenses that could be campaign related or potentially reimbursable will go on there. Or this is -- this is the card that my scheduler has access to. So if she needs to make a payment in order to facilitate -- in order to facilitate anything that the schedule may need,

daily logistics, he scheduler has access to this card so that if someone makes a charge that I'm not familiar with, it should be in that separate card. The gold card is generally -- with the exception of my campaign manager -- my scheduler doesn't have -- generally doesn't have access to it unless there is some really I don't know -- yeah, but -- yeah, I mean it's a way that people use business cards to organize their finances, have them in buckets.

Q Some of these expenses were put on the gold card and some of these expenses were put on the platinum card. Is there a reason why certain things go on the gold card and certain things go on the platinum card?

A I mean my campaign manager is the only one that has access to both. Generally, you know -- well, actually at this -- I'm sorry. I'm trying to make sure I have the timeline because they were opened up at different times. But the gold card was opened later than the -- no, maybe it was -- I don't want to get into it because I

don't remember the timeline of it.

But in general it is a way to organize finances. My campaign manager is the only one that has access to both. But any other staff such as my scheduler, they have access to this Business Platinum Card so that I can see and organize what charges were put on it.

Q Okay.

MR. BROWN: Dave, did you need to jump in? No, okay.

Q Easier way to go about this, Congresswoman, maybe let's walk back through the expenses. I'm going to ask you a couple brief questions about each one of them and I think we can go at it this way.

So the manicure and the pedicure, you said that you paid for those personally in cash that day; is that right?

A Yes.

Q So that was with your own personal funds?

A Yes.

Q The transportation from your home to the

Carlyle the morning of the Gala, I think that was for about $180 or so, that was put on the 1008 card, the AmEx gold. Was that charge -- or was this expense paid for by you personally with your personal funds?

A If it's -- yes, yes.

Q You hesitated there.

A Well, I mean, if it is on that 008 card, like nothing -- I basically consider nothing on that card is ever something that I would ever pull for reimbursement. So it is not even something that would accidentally happen. It is not just something that even comes up.

Q And so the Business Platinum Card or the one that several folks on your staff have access to, this is a way of you sort of organizing -- this is a card, in other words, that you go through the charges at the end of each month and pick out personal, personal, personal, campaign, personal, personal, personal. Is that correct?

A I mean once a month is aspirational. I wish. But yes, that is the goal.

Q Let me just go back to the services, and I want to confirm that you paid for each one of them personally with your own personal funds.

So the transportation day of, the morning of, to the Carlyle from your home, you paid for that personally?

A Yes. I mean, as you mentioned, I discovered a lot of the itemization of these items in very recent days due to the withdrawals that happened at -- you know, late. And so I was not aware of the way that these items were itemized until very, very recently. So the answer is yes, but at the time the answer was no.

Q In other words, as we have gotten to the end of this review, you guys have gone back through and kind of tried to double-check, make sure that everything was being paid for personally by you with your personal funds?

A Yes, yes.

Q So let's just walk through them real fast. I realize that was the case then and I just want to know as of now, today.

A Okay, yes.
Q So payment to Great Bowery, which would have been for the hair services, that has been paid for by you personally?
A Yes.
Q And payment to The Wall Group for the makeup, that has been paid by you personally?
A Yes.
Q And same thing on both the Brother Vellies invoices? I know there was an early -- an original invoice and then a second one that came from their counsel. You paid for both of those personally with your own funds?
A Correct.
Q Okay. I have one other thing I want to talk about, Congresswoman, and I think we can wrap up. I want to talk a little bit more about the Brother Vellies, you know, the shoes, the dress, the bag, the jewelry. You said this before, but I just want to confirm. You rented all of that stuff and then returned all of that stuff?
A Correct.

Q Because one of the invoices says "shoe purchase." I just want to make sure that is not correct, you didn't keep the shoes?

A No, no. I mean if they didn't receive it back, but I returned everything.

Q You don't have those in your closet right now?

A No, they are not. I will not wear them to a hearing, you won't find them anywhere.

Q That is consistent with what Campaign Staffer told us but, like I said, the documents look different so I wanted to confirm that.

How did you end up deciding what the rental cost of these items was going to be?

A I mean I didn't decide. I just waited for the invoice.

Q Did you have any conversations with Aurora James or anybody at Brother Vellies talking about what you thought rental costs should be?

A No.

Q Did anybody on your staff have that conversation that you are aware of?

A I'm not privy, but that I'm aware of, no.
Q Did you ever suggest anything to your staff like this is an acceptable amount of money that we could or I could personally pay for these items?
A No. I really was just waiting for the invoice.
MR. BROWN: Ian, if you could pull these exhibits down, please, and if you could put up Exhibit 11.
(Exhibit 11 was marked.)
Q Congresswoman, you are not on this e-mail. This is an e-mail from a Janna Pea to Campaign Staffer with a copy of the invoice from Brother Vellies. I'm just going to scroll down to that so you can see it. So this is a September 19, 2021 invoice from Brother Vellies for the gown, handbag and shoe rental. I will give you a chance to look at it and let me know when you're done.
Have you seen this invoice before?
A I saw it for the first time yesterday.

Q So you did not receive a copy of this invoice on or around September 19, 2021?
A No.
Q Because this invoice is significantly higher than the ultimate invoice, so I'm wondering did you talk to Campaign Staffer around the time this came in about this invoice?
A No. I never saw it.
MR. BROWN: Ian, you can take this exhibit down, please.
Q Congresswoman, we covered a lot of ground. I just want to ask a final question here at least on my end. Given the questions I asked you, the ground that we have covered here, is there anything that you felt like we didn't talk about that you wanted to talk about or questions you thought I would ask that I didn't ask and you would like to share something? You don't have to. I just wanted to give you the opportunity.
A Really just that, as you mentioned, you know, as a member of congress, especially one that I really try to conduct myself ethically

especially -- and that includes even things that are permissible under ethics rules that I personally disagree with, and that's one of the reasons why retaining general counsel was so important to me because it was extremely, extremely important to me that every detail of this was done in accordance with ethics.

There were a lot of these documents that, as mentioned during our conversation, that I saw for the first time yesterday. And I learned about the extent of the nonpayment and the way things are itemized really yesterday in preparation for this hearing. And I just never, ever, ever would have allowed that to happen knowing what I have learned, but that I wasn't privy to the invoices, I wasn't privy to the ones that had been sent. I wasn't privy to the dates that they were sent. And it is just a deeply regrettable situation. I feel terrible for especially the small businesses that were impacted.

But everything that I try to do and I hope is communicated is the fact that we took

every step in retaining general counsel, vetting with the event, speaking with the Met Museum itself in order to make sure that everything possible was in compliance with ethics.

Q I appreciate that, Congresswoman.

MR. BROWN: Dave or Omar, did you have anything you wanted to chime in on?

MR. ASHMAWY: No.

Thank you very much for your time, Congresswoman. We sincerely appreciate not only your cooperation and your time today but just overall everything. Thank you.

THE CONGRESSWOMAN: Thank you very much. I appreciate you both. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

MR. BROWN: Dave and Joe, before we go off the record, is there anything else that we needed to cover?

MR. MITRANI: No.

MR. BROWN: I will just ask that we wrap up these proceedings and go off the record.

(Off the record at 2:51 p.m.)

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
		None.	

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Witness Signature: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Date: 6/14/2022

22-8546_0065

EXHIBIT 8

CONFIDENTIAL
Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

Transcript of Interview of Campaign Staffer

Review No. 22-8546

Date: May 11, 2022

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. BROWN: This is Jeff Brown with the Office of Congressional Ethics. With me is my colleague Omar Ashmawy. Today we are undertaking a remote video interview of Campaign Staffer. It is May 11, 2022. It is shortly after 10:00 a.m. Campaign Staffer has been given a copy of the False Statements Act and signed an acknowledgment in advance of this interview. With that we will get started.

BY MR. BROWN TO CAMPAIGN STAFFER:

Q Thank you again for being here today and answering some questions for us. I'm going to start hopefully with some of the easiest questions you will get all day.

What is your current title and roles and responsibilities with the congresswoman.

A My current title is campaign manager for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress. The main duty tied to that is to manage her campaign operation, which the congresswoman operates year-round, and so our focus shifts depending on

whether we are in the electoral cycle versus not. So obviously during the electoral year the goal is to and my duties are focused on reelecting -- her reelection campaign.

In the off year, if there is such a thing as an off year, we focus on supplementing some of the organizing work in the district and we will handle things that don't fall under her like federal hat but are appropriate for a campaign to manage.

Q So currently the campaign manager. Have you had any prior titles or prior roles and responsibilities with the congresswoman?

A In her first campaign in 2018 I operated as a fundraising director and then during 2019 is when I shifted over to campaign manager. So that was the only other previous title I have had.

Q So since 2019 you have been campaign manager for the campaign?

A Correct.

Q Okay. Do you do any work on the official side of things?

A I do not.

Q We will get into this in some more detail, but with respect to the Met Gala, can you describe for me what your role and responsibilities were with respect to the congresswoman's participation in or attendance at the Met Gala?

A Like with events that the congresswoman may do, there are things that if she gets an invitation to something, we will decide where it might fit best. And given that this was sort of new for all of us, it seemed like a good fit to operate on the campaign side. And what's typical for us with events, is that we will connect with the host, figure out what her participation would be, try and understand the focus of the event, the parameters around it, whatever information would be helpful to us in aligning with a goal to an event, and also understanding what her role would be there.

So there is a good amount of back-and-forth conversation that we have when we

are working with the congresswoman to participate in an event and of course her input as well. And so we put that together, we package it, try to make sure we understand it as a team. And that's primarily done on the staff side. And then we will staff her for the events themselves.

Q Okay. All right. We can get into that in a little more detail as we go through this interview.

MR. BROWN: Let me ask, Joshua, can you pull up Exhibit 1 for me.

(Exhibit 1 was marked.)

Q I will just note we are going to start with the 2020 Met Gala.

A Okay.

Q Which I know did not occur, but we are going to start there.

A Okay.

A/V TECHNICIAN: Mr. Brown, just click your screen and you will have control.

MR. BROWN: Thank you very much.

Q So I'm going to give you a chance to

review this e-mail, and just let me know after you have had a chance to look at it.

A I have looked at it, thank you.

Q Okay.

MR. BROWN: Just for the record, this is an e-mail, Exhibit 1. The Bates is THAOC_0196.

Q Can you tell me what prompted you to send this e-mail?

A Yes. So this was I heard from a staffer that the congresswoman was at an event that I was not participating in, was not sort of the -- the campaign did not run her participation in this event, where it was brought up to her that there was interest in having her be a guest at the Met Gala. And so this seemed to be something that would fall under the campaign side to do. So I was given the e-mail that you see there and was told to reach out so we could find out more, and that's what prompted that.

Q And who asked you to reach out?

A This was done through our comms director at the time, Corbin Trent.

Q And when you said earlier that you had heard from a staffer --

A It was Corbin, our comms director.

Q Corbin Trent, okay. Tell me more. What did Corbin say to you?

A He said she went to an event and she spoke to someone there who said -- who mentioned the Met Gala to her and that there would be interest in having her participate as a guest, I think gauging to see if that would be something she would be interested in. And he -- I don't know if he spoke to her directly, but what was communicated to me was that she would be interested, and so this was my follow-up.

Q And that was communicated to you, her interest in attending the event was communicated to you, through Corbin?

A Correct.

Q Okay. Did you ever have any conversations with the congresswoman about the 2020 Met Gala?

A We did talk about it. I did let her know

that I sent the e-mail just kind of sort of handing it over for me to manage and that I would keep her updated with whatever we found out.

Q In this e-mail when you say "she has expressed an interest in participating in the Met Gala," that interest that she expressed was expressed to you by Corbin?

A Correct.

Q Okay. Did you get any reply to this e-mail, either a phone call or a reply e-mail?

A I believe I did get a reply. I don't recall exactly when and I don't remember how the reply came. It could -- I believe they probably reached out to my phone number through text.

Q Okay. And you think those texts were with Ms. Amatya? I'm probably messing that last name up, but the individual that is on this e-mail?

A Yes. That was my -- she was my first contact.

Q Okay.

MR. BROWN: You can take Exhibit 1 down

and put up Exhibit 2.

(Exhibit 2 was marked.)

Q This is another e-mail here, which I'm going to start here at the beginning. And let me zoom in a little for you. I would like to just start by asking you some questions about the first e-mail down here that is Saturday, February 8, 4:02 p.m. So I will give you a chance to read that, but, just for the record, the Bates is THAOC_0183.

Just let me know when you have had a chance to look at that.

A Yes, the e-mail that says on Saturday, February 8, 2020?

Q Right.

A Yes, yes.

Q Who is Tommy Alter?

A Tommy is someone who works in entertainment. I don't know his exact role, but he has been a contact for us for some time now and he -- because he has a connection to us, when he hears stuff around the congresswoman, he will

routinely reach out either through e-mail or text.

Q What prompts this e-mail by Tommy?

A I don't know what prompts it. I can tell you he probably heard it in conversation somewhere and thought to reach out to facilitate.

Q Did you reach out to Tommy at any point in time to prompt this e-mail?

A I did not.

Q How about -- am I saying this right, Tanushiri?

A Tanushiri.

Q Tanushiri.

A That was pretty good.

No.

Q No, okay. Let's move up to the second e-mail in this string, so just above. You respond and say "Thank you Tommy! Moving you to bcc. Nice to meet you, Jill and Remi! Alexandra is interested in participating in this years' Met Gala. I know there is a process around designers, so we're hoping it is not too late. We are looking to find out how to proceed."

When you say the congresswoman is interested in participating in this year's Met Gala, where do you get that information from?

A I was going off of what I had heard from the team, that she was interested.

Q And this is what we talked about earlier, Corbin Trent had conveyed to you that the congresswoman was interested in attending the gala?

A Correct.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you could give the campaign staffer control.

A/V TECHNICIAN: Just click your screen and you will have control.

Q I'm going to let you scroll back up through that e-mail and take your time reading it. I'm going to ask you a question about some e-mails on the next page, but I will let you get through the string first.

A Okay.

Okay, ready.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, can you give me

control again.

A/V TECHNICIAN: One moment.

Q So let me just take you through this real quick. It looks to me like that last e-mail we went over, you dropped Tommy into the bcc, you expressed the congresswoman's interest in attending, and then you get an e-mail back from a Remi Berger at Condé Nast who says we are going to loop you in with Jessie and Jenae.

You respond on February 11, "Thank you all! Looking forward to connecting." On the 17th you say "Hi all, just checking in here." What prompts this e-mail? Is it just a lack of response from the folks you were looped in with?

A It was a lack of response and I think I indicated in connection with them, since I wasn't familiar with the timelines that they would need or were involved, I wanted to make sure that we were kind of on it. So yeah, it was just a lack of response.

Q Okay. And then this last e-mail here, it looks like Met Gala Organizer finally responds to

you and says, you know, "We typically sell out in November so we are in a difficult spot in terms of space right now, but we would be happy to discuss with Anna Wintour..."

You mentioned earlier that you were keeping the congresswoman updated. Is this something that you conveyed to the congresswoman?

A Yes, I did.

Q And what was her reaction when you conveyed that?

A She said okay.

Q Okay. Did you guys have any substantive discussion about it?

A No. The reason why we didn't have a substantive discussion about it is because there -- I don't think there was much to talk about. If it was possible for us to go, then I think we would kick up more conversation, but it didn't seem guaranteed at that time, so I just shared with her an update.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can take down Exhibit 2 and please put up Exhibit 3.

(Exhibit 3 was marked.)

Q Exhibit 3 is another e-mail that starts on February 8. You are not on the initial part of the string, you are on the later part of the string. Before we get to the e-mail, let me just ask you a couple quick questions.

You mentioned previously Corbin Trent was a part of the campaign at the time and I think you said he was involved with comms. Is that right?

A Correct. He had a campaign and congressional role.

Q Can you tell me more about what his roles were, both campaign and official?

A He operated as the communications director on the congressional side and had a similar role on the campaign side. And so I think where things were best handled under the campaign side, he would move it over to there, and just to kind of create that separation.

Q And with respect to the Met Gala, the 2021 Met Gala, can you give me a better understanding for what his role would have been

regarding the Gala?

A His role would have been -- I think he would have just participated with me in helping us shape the event, to know the event, understand the press parameters around it, since that was his expertise within the team, and I would probably handle things more like logistics and coordinating with the different parties that we would be in touch with.

Q You mentioned earlier that Corbin was the one that told you the congresswoman had expressed an interest in attending the Met Gala. I would note that the previous e-mails we looked at were all from February 8, the afternoon of February 8. They started there; excuse me.

This e-mail here at the bottom if you look at it -- and let me zoom in on it. I will give you a chance to read it -- is another e-mail on February 8 from Corbin Trent to somebody at Condé Nast. I will give you a chance to read that and let me know when you have finished.

A I have read the e-mails on February 8.

Q Okay. Do you know what prompted Corbin to send this e-mail?

A No.

Q Okay. Would it be safe to assume that this e-mail was likely prompted by the interest that the congresswoman had expressed to Corbin about attending the Gala?

A Potentially.

Q It looks to me like -- and, again, I realize you weren't the one having the conversation with the congresswoman, but I'm just trying to get a sense of things here. It looks to me like on February 8 the congresswoman had a conversation with someone on staff, and it sounds like that is Corbin Trent, about the Met Gala and then these e-mails emanated from that conversation.

A Yeah. It looks like someone had approached her, like Tommy had indicated, at the Little Women premier, and that is kind of where this started. And she might have expressed an interest in following up with the team to Corbin

and he looped me in.

Q Okay.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, let's give her control here and let her review this screen.

Q And let me know when you are done and I will have some questions about the last e-mail in the string.

A Okay, read it.

Q Okay. Thank you.

With respect to the last e-mail here, so I'm looking at the top e-mail in this string, it is sent on Friday, February 21, 2020, at 2:15 p.m. It looks like it is from Met Gala Organizer to you. She says "Of course-just rang you on my cell." And that is in response to a series of e-mails here just below where she indicates that we are delighted to confirm the congresswoman can be a guest for this year's Met Gala. Corbin loops you in and says you would be the one to be in touch with.

You say "I have a few questions. Can we connect via phone?" And it looks like she rang

you. Did you guys have a conversation?
A Yes, we did.
Q What did you guys talk about?
A I wanted to learn more about the Met Gala itself. You know, I think like most of us have heard of it but wanted to sort of wrap my head around the theme for it, wanted to get her to kind of frame it for me, what does participation look like. So it was kind of a broad conversation but it was more just to help me start to understand what this is.
Q Okay.
MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can go to Exhibit 4, please.
(Exhibit 4 was marked.)
MR. BROWN: If you can give her control of this, that would be great.
Q I will give you a chance to scroll through and look at this, but just let me know when you've finished.
A Finished, thank you.
Q For the record, this is THAOC 0190. This

is an e-mail from Met Gala Organizer to you on Saturday, the 22nd of February, 2020. It says "Pleasure speaking with you. Please find a press release attached. Will be in touch soon on the other points."

It does look like from this e-mail consistent with what you just told me, you were having conversation about the Gala generally and I assume that is why she sent you the press release announcing the Gala?

A Correct. And in there is like the theme of it.

Q She mentioned some other issues that you wanted to discuss. Can you walk me through what those were?

A Yes. The other points I think because -- so a lot of -- and I think this still goes along with sort of framing and trying to understand what this participation in the Met Gala looked like.

So one piece here which you see has to do with the theme of the event. I did ask how does it work in terms of working with designers and

just in my understanding that the Met Gala, aside from its theme and its presentation, is a way for designers to like spotlight and feature their work. And that's completely absent from our world and so I was asking Met Gala Organizer how do they help their guests who aren't in entertainment and fashion, how do they work with supporting them to get ready for it or at least to understand what would be included in that. And those were the other points that she was referencing.

Q Did you guys also have a conversation about Riley Roberts attending?

A At the time, no, I don't think -- I don't think Riley was -- at least not a core part of the conversation. I think I was still kind of trying to set my footing on the framing of it first.

Q Did you guys ever have a conversation about whether or not -- you got the e-mail the congresswoman is invited. Did you ever have a conversation of whether she gets a plus-one or she can bring somebody?

A I think at some point there was -- I

think it was through e-mail Riley came up. I don't think it was at this time, though.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, you can take down -- actually, leave up Exhibit 4 and if you can pull up Exhibit 5, I'm going to jog your memory a little bit.

A Thank you.

A/V TECHNICIAN: One moment.

Q I will give you a chance to read this. You let me know when you're done. But I will just note the first e-mail down here at the bottom -- and this is THAOC_0177 -- is that prior e-mail we were just looking at. "Please find a press release attached" and "will be in touch soon on the other points." So read that and just let me know when you're done.

A Can you zoom in a little bit more, please?

Q Sure.

A Thank you.

Okay.

Q Does that jog your memory at all about

how the conversations with Riley Roberts developed?

A I think -- I think in my trying to figure out how this works she may have mentioned that a plus-one was allowed. I don't think I brought it up is where I'm -- I don't think it was in my awareness at the time. She might have said that a guest was allowable and asked me if the congresswoman -- about the congresswoman -- who the congresswoman would potentially have. I think at this time I was not sure that Riley would go. I had not had conversations around that yet. But I may have said who her partner was in our conversation.

Q When I read these e-mails, you know, it is Saturday, February 22, you know, it was a pleasure speaking with you. Clearly you guys had a conversation.

A Uh-huh.

Q She attaches the press release and says I will be in touch on the other points. I read that as I will be in touch with the other points that

we discussed.

A Yes.

Q And then the reply says Anna would be delighted for Riley Roberts to join the congresswoman as our guest. That would suggest to me some conversations about whether or not Riley could attend, that you guys had that conversation on that phone call.

A Yeah. I don't think -- what I want to clarify here is it became apparent to me that a plus-one could be there. I did not expressly ask if Riley Roberts could participate there. It was is it customary for a guest to be able to attend? Yes. And then we had a conversation on who -- and then she asked me if the congresswoman has a partner. I said yeah, she has a partner, Riley Roberts, but if memory is serving me correctly, I did not expressly ask if Riley Roberts can attend because the congresswoman had not shared that with me. And, also, she could take somebody else. It doesn't have to be Riley.

So since I didn't have like enough

direction from her on where she wanted to go, I don't think I asked expressly for Riley Roberts, but his name probably came up.

Q Did you ask Met Gala Organizer about plus-ones or did Met Gala Organizer volunteer that information?

A I think -- I don't remember. I think -- I mean I could see that I would ask her like what is -- just in them going into the framing of this, what is customary. I could see myself asking that and she could have also just offered it, in which case I said okay, I'm going to bring that up to her and see. It wasn't a focal point of our conversation.

Q Okay. After folks at Condé Nast indicated that the congresswoman was invited, at any point in time did the congresswoman ask you whether or not she could bring somebody?

A At some point it came up.

Q Was it in advance of these conversations with Met Gala Organizer?

A No, no. I had barely spoken to her about

this at all because -- I think, just going back to some of the e-mails we just reviewed, we were still going back and forth if she was actually going to attend. There are questions that I ask when we are entertaining something and there are questions that I ask when we are like set on yes, we are going, and so I think at this point I was still exploring. So it was more sort of the first for me. I don't think I -- I think after this point I might have mentioned to her at some point in time that a plus-one could come, but I am sure she wasn't settled on who that would be because that didn't become apparent to us until later.

Q Eventually the Met Gala is postponed and this 2020 event does not occur. But let me ask you a couple more questions about the 2020 Gala. Does the name Vogue Entertainment Director mean anything to you?

A It does not.

Q Okay. Then I want to transition to a conversation about the 2021 Met Gala if we can.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can take down

the exhibit, that would be great.

Q As you heard me mention to your counsel earlier, I'm going to ask a couple of questions about him and his involvement. I'm not trying to get at specific conversations that you have had with your counsel. So just bear that in mind when I ask these questions. But at some point Dave Mitrani was hired to assist with planning in preparation for the Met Gala.

MR. BROWN: Go ahead, Joe, Dave. Did you want to jump in?

(No verbal response.)

Q At some point Dave is hired to assist with the planning, preparation for the Met Gala. I would just like to ask you to let me know when does he first get involved in preparations for or assisting the campaign with Met Gala-related activities?

A I can answer that initially more broadly. Mitrani has been our counsel -- for as long as I have been involved he's been involved. I think he has been involved before me. Actually I'm sure

before me. And our process in involving counsel, because, as you know, that like I have a good enough broad understanding of compliance, but it is not like I engage directly with House ethics. I'm on the campaign side. So we rely on counsel for that. We typically would loop in counsel once we felt like things were a more concrete possibility.

So obviously counsel was looped in at some point. I don't think, outside of maybe mentioning this maybe, they were looped in for the 2020 conversation because it was still very preliminary.

Q We can just focus on 2021.

A Oh, 2021, okay. Yeah, we looped in counsel there once it was like, okay, this is a possibility to happen. The interest is still there on her part and we might be able to make this work on the schedule. So once I have sort of an understanding of like a more likely certainty of those three, I would engage counsel.

Q Okay. And you guys produced to us -- I'm

sure you have seen some of these documents. We received from you guys a string, an e-mail string, in which Dave is looped in with folks at the Met and Condé Nast. I think that is in late August. August 27 I want to say is the date. And then I think the invite to the Gala occurs sometime earlier in May.

Do you know when roughly you reached out to get counsel involved in this; in your words, sort of like when this felt more real or like a possibility?

A I know that counsel was aware of this, aware of it as a possibility, in 2021 I think likely shortly before you see activity from them on it.

Q You mentioned you have an understanding of compliance issues but obviously you have counsel that you are close with to get involved when things, you know, get more serious or some advice may be necessary. Without again getting into the advice that is provided to you, I would like you to walk me through the issues that you

were as a team focused on, the potential ethical concerns or issues surrounding her attendance at the Gala in advance of her attending or getting ready to attend.

A I think so if I go through the checklist of things, I wouldn't say that anything was obviously like a strong concern. It was more we engaged counsel to make sure we are following through and that the actions the congresswoman is taking are allowable. And I don't always have a good sense as to what that is, so pull in counsel for that. And I think we view it less of like addressing concerns and more like how should we frame this. This is all going to how do we frame our participation in a manner that will meet requirements that have to be there.

So on the checklist is, one, can she go. So we started with that. And then the second question, which is where some complexity developed because of the nature of the event, is how can she go and what we as a team need to do in terms of doing our own sort of due diligence to be able to,

if anything is called into question, understanding that we have done our homework, if you will, in our proceeding in a good faith manner and in meeting what she would need to meet to be there as a member.

Q And these are issues that you as a team are thinking about and are concerned about in advance of her attendance at the Gala.

A I would say this applies to the Gala and at anywhere that is sort of one where we understand that there's layers to it.

Q Okay. I heard you say you guys were -- and I'm not trying to say concerns as in you are worried she's doing things the right way, but you are trying to be cognizant of the fact that there are rules and issues that you need to work through around these things.

So you have mentioned rules and concerns are surrounding her attendance. How about with respect to payment for services that she may be provided in connection with the Gala; are those issues that came up in advance of her attendance?

A Certainly an awareness, sure.
Q Okay. How about payment for the dress and the other attire that she was going to wear; are those things that the team was focused on in advance of the Gala?
A So I think with that, yes, I would say that is also how, that falls into the how can she participate, because it is understood that when you look at folks who attend the Met Gala, these are like design showcases. So dresses aren't normally purchased. They are, whatever they do, borrow, barter, whatever. I'm not as familiar with like all the options.
Q You haven't attend the Gala previously is what you are saying?
A Correct, or know anyone who has, frankly.
And so we know it is an event that like there is a ticket price to attend but do these folks pay that to go there? Probably not. And is what they are wearing something they have paid to wear? Probably not. And so I think for us that's where the how is, like understanding where we are

at here, how can she participate here and be a part of it without causing something that would -- because for us it is we have no idea how much market rate for prices for dresses are, but we would say it is untenable to buy a dress for this event, as an example.

Q So, in other words, Dave is engaged for compliance-related concerns with respect to if and how she can attend this event and that would involve her actual ability to attend, you know, what she can wear, what she needs to pay for, how she needs to pay for it, and it is fair to say these are issues that you guys were aware of and working through prior to the Gala?

A Working through, yes; and we worked through with the design team on this.

Q Okay. I'm going to walk through now some communications that you provided us in advance of the Gala, so communications you had in advance of the Gala.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can pull up Exhibit 6, please.

(Exhibit 6 was marked.)

Q I think the next couple of questions will relate to a series of text messages that you had with Aurora James and that you guys provided to us. I should say I have done my best to put these in date and time order.

A I know that was tough. Thank you. That was tough.

Q So bear with me here.

A Are these all the text messages between her and I?

Q These are. They are in order. I don't plan on going through all of them obviously.

A Okay.

Q Just for the record here, these are text messages between yourself and Aurora James; is that correct? Is that what these look like?

A Yes.

Q I am on Page 10 right now and I will zoom in so you can see. It looks like this series of text messages that I want to talk to you about first appears on Monday, August 30. I'm going to

scroll down a little bit here. Stop me if you need me to, but I'll go to Page 10 to show you that it is the 30th and now I want to ask you about -- here we are on Page 11. If you look at those texts on the right-hand side in the blue --

A Yep.

Q Forgive me; one up from there. I believe Aurora James is asking you did you have any luck with the Carlyle?

A Yes.

Q What prompts that message from her?

A So the Carlyle is a central location for a lot of the folks who are getting ready for the Met Gala because of its proximity to the Met, and so Aurora had suggested if we were looking at hotels that we look and see if the Carlyle had availability. I think this was her often suggestions.

Q And these would be hotels for getting ready in advance of the Gala?

A Correct.

Q I want to turn to your response, which is

"I have nothing reached out." I think you --
A Have not.
Q Have not.
A Auto correction doing its work.
Q Very familiar with that, obviously. I have not reached out yet. Since this is a non-traditional, I'm working things through congressional ethics to see what our parameters are.
When you say this is non-traditional, tell me what you mean by that.
A I meant it is not common for us to get ready for an event that has so many components to it, non-traditional for us because I have not had to participate or to help the congresswoman get ready for an event of this class and these many layers to them.
Q What do you mean when you say "layers"?
A Because it is like, frankly -- like when you talk about the Met Gala, it's in many respects a different world so understanding what is customary there and having us sort of pause at

every step as to what that means for the congresswoman's participation was something that we worked closely with counsel on, but usually, you know, it is like getting to the location. So like I will say one thing that is not traditional is where she would have to get ready outside of her home. That's not something that typically we have to deal with. Or understanding that since she is working with a designer that they would have to be in proximity to each other, that it is common to book a hotel right next to the Gala, that transportation was going to be a thing because the dresses are beautiful but you can't really walk in them, so like that's a thing. I would put all of that and probably more under non-traditional for us.

Q And then you say "I'm working things through congressional ethics." What do you mean by that?

A That was my way of telling her I was talking to counsel, but I thought it was important for her to understand like ultimately, you know,

the ethical guidelines that we are looking at.

Q In other words, when you say there were all of these layers we need to work through with respect to transportation, the dress, attendance, these are things that you are needing to or feeling like you need to get guidance on from counsel?

A Absolutely.

Q Okay.

A I also, just on the second bullet there, I wanted to, just for consideration for the congresswoman, wanted to avoid having her in a situation where she wasn't aware she would have to personally pay for something and then find out after, which I don't think we were completely able to avoid, but just in understanding that in an ideal world she would know ahead of time and then would be able to say yes, I want to move forward with this or, no, I would want to do something differently.

Q So again this is August 30 so this is a couple weeks in advance of the Gala which I think

was the 13th.

A Yes.

Q What's your understanding at the time of how things are going to be paid for?

A I was still exploring that at the time. And I would say at this point in time they had just had their first meeting. I wasn't a hundred percent convinced that this was a go yet completely. So yeah, I was still exploring that.

Q When you say, you know, I don't want to do anything you find out later will need to be a personal expense, did you have a conversation with the congresswoman in advance about how to pay for things associated with the Gala?

A I think she reached a point where she understood there would have to be that personal expenses was going to be a factor. We just didn't know to what extent or how much and I just think it is a courtesy and also just understanding that the congresswoman has expenses, that it would be appropriate to provide her something where she would have to -- where she would kind of plan and

make that conscious decision of this all factors into do I want to move forward with going. So I was trying to have a picture of like what that would mean for her personally so she could make that decision.

Q Did you guys have a conversation at any point in time where she said or she discussed, you know, I am treating this as a campaign event, I want this to be put -- I want to try to pay for this with the campaign or I'm going to treat it officially, let's try to have it be paid for with official funds, or I recognize that this is personal stuff, I'm going to have to pay for it personally? Did you have that conversation? Did you have it in advance of this text message or at some point after this text message?

A I think the conversation was not around necessarily like what she would like. It was more around if we were going, this is what it would have to be. So not directed by her. And so I think in this we leaned to -- this is where I think I leaned more heavily on counsel and their

advice.

Q But at this time and at the point where you send this text message, she has not said to you, like, I don't want to pay for any of this personally?

A No. And I would say she never said that.

Q I'm going to stick with the text chain but I'm going to move down in time here to Page 17. So if you look here, I'm a little further in time here, I'm on Wednesday, September 8, 9:44 a.m.

You send a text message that says "Morning, Aurora! I spoke with our lawyer. He is free at 1 to 2 p.m. or after 5."

She says "Awesome. Can we do 1 p.m.?"

I'm going to keep scrolling here. We are still on Wednesday, September 8, but, for the record, I'm now on Page 18 of Exhibit 6. It looks like you schedule a call between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8. What is this meeting?

A This meeting is -- I think it is part of

our understanding that a lot of our -- well, I think there were two things: One, Aurora needed to understand what our parameters were because just like me defining that this is a different world for us and where I talked about wanting to wrap our heads around what this meant, I think there was also like a sharp learning curve for her in that our participation in here meant we couldn't do this the way she would proceed normally on this and understanding that part of I think Aurora's excitement in participating is that she viewed the congresswoman as like talent here, that that didn't necessarily fit the way we viewed her participation here, and that they would need to have conversations around that.

So that's what that was.

Also, a lot of participation in the Met Gala is at the discretion -- there is a lot that is left to the discretion of the designer that is almost like -- it definitely does not come up in conversation with the guest. So -- and I believe this was under advice from counsel as I was

talking with him about it. It was like let's just all come together and make sure we are all on the same page and where we can make sure this kind of doesn't become too grandiose or beyond our scale, that for her to participate it would have to be able to fit and so that was the point of meeting.

Q Who is on this call?

A It is David Mitrani, Aurora James, she talked about having her CFO there. I don't think her counsel was there, although David can correct me. I believe her CFO was there maybe. There was somebody else there.

Q And were you on that call?

A I was on the call, yes.

Q Okay. Walk me through a little more concretely the specific issues that were discussed.

A We concentrated the conversation on things that would fall under what Aurora was working on, which is, one, figuring out the attire, what she was thinking about that. Counsel went through with Aurora what our parameters were.

Q What do you mean by that?

A Our parameters were in terms of I'll say as an example what would be -- understanding that she would have to rent the dress, communicating with Aurora that we would need to come up with something -- that she would need to have something that she felt was like market equivalent and how do you do that, you know, in her case where it is for this event.

And so I think it was part exploratory in Aurora's case where she was able to test off like I'm thinking this, I'm thinking that, and where counsel was able to tell her, you know, in thinking of dress rental, these are some things that we have in mind.

So I think the most important thing that came out of the call was that this was a framing conversation for the design team and for me started to really kick in to this is where I went from more likely that we are going to like 90 percent this is possible, we can have her participate and it meet the compliance

requirements that we need.

Q So you are talking about the need for her to rent the dress. Are you also talking about the need to rent any other things provided by Aurora James?

A I think the conversation mostly focused on the attire at the time. It moved to other things eventually but I think the focus of the conversation had more to do -- especially since at this point she was still conceptualizing what the design would look like. I think we kept it mostly to the dress itself with Aurora.

Q Okay. And what was the conversation with respect to how you would come up with a price for a rental?

A I -- so Aurora felt confident that she just from her own experience in fashion and in understanding like what are acceptable practices for them, she felt confident that she would come up with a metric that wasn't a creation of her own making but one that exists that can -- that is used by designers. She didn't elaborate what that

was, but she expressed a confidence during the call.

Q So who was tasked with valuing the rental of this dress?

A The designer.

Q Did you guys on that call talk about hotels, or getting-ready rooms, excuse me?

A I don't remember if that came up on the call.

Q Transportation, same question?

A No.

Q Let me go down a little bit here. Before we get to this, let me just follow up on something you just said. What was the conversation with Aurora when you said she would ultimately be tasked with valuing this. What was sort of her -- what was your takeaway on what she would be doing in order to value the dress?

A I don't know specifics because this is not my world, but what I did hear from her was that she felt good and comfortable in coming up with something that she felt was reasonable and

that was common for designers.

Q Did you guys talk about like price points that would be acceptable for the congresswoman?

A Not on the call, no. I think it was still too conceptual at that time.

Q Did you have a sense or did you talk about on the call whether or not the congresswoman would be paying for this with her personal funds, via the campaign, officially?

A I believe by then we understood the congresswoman was paying for it personally.

Q And so the thought process on your end is that at some point in time in the future, perhaps after the Gala, you will receive a bill for services?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Did you plan on having any input on that bill?

A No.

Q Okay. I have moved down a little bit in the text messages. Let me just make sure. So at the top here you can see -- I'm on Page 19 for the

record, we are at Wednesday --

A That's where the name comes from that you testified about.

Q Vogue Entertainment Director. There you go. Does that ring any bells now that you see it there?

A Actually, no. I don't think -- I don't think I spoke to him.

Q You may not have. I just was curious if that name meant anything to you and it is fine if it doesn't.

But here we are, we are at Wednesday, September 8, so we are still a couple days out from the Met Gala. Aurora sends the text to you. At the bottom here you say "Just confirming you're thinking of providing Riley with a tie/cummerbund? There is no restriction on Riley btw." Tell me what prompts that text message.

A Sure. This is making me think that Aurora and I had a phone conversation at some point where she possibly reviewed drawings with me and asked about Riley and colors. Because I know

at some point, I don't remember the exact, I know at some point I had confirmed for her that Riley was getting a tux and so she had loosely suggested providing him something that would be color complementary. Because the color of the dress went through a last-minute change. So I think -- I think that was me confirming what she was thinking of through text.

Q She was thinking of providing Riley -- she was thinking of designing either a tie or a cummerbund for him?

A I don't know if she was designing it but I think she wanted to make sure they looked coordinated in some way.

Q What do you mean "there is no restriction on Riley btw"?

A Because the focus of our conversation was always the congresswoman as a person who is the member so at the time we were under the impression that Riley didn't kind of fit into it because he is not a member of congress.

Q In other words, that the ethics rules you

had been considering and contemplating were not applicable to Riley because he is not a member of congress?

A Did not necessarily apply to him. So yes, while we were talking through parameters for the congresswoman, that those did not necessarily relate to Riley.

Q Did that point of view change at any point in time?

A During discovery.

Q Okay. We can get to some of that later.

A Yeah.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can take this exhibit down, we can just go back to the screens here. Okay.

Q So what I would like to do at this point is I would like to just sort of tick off for you the services that I think were provided to the congresswoman in or around her participation with the Gala. And then after we I think get a sense for the parameters of what services or gifts that she received in connection with the Gala, we can

talk a little bit about how those things were paid for. Does that work?

A Sure.

Q Gala occurs on the 13th. That is Monday, the 13th. You are with her that day; correct?

A Correct.

Q Up until the point of them departing in a limousine of some kind for the Gala itself?

A I was with them on the limousine. It's one of those standing --

Q Buses?

A Yeah.

Q Yeah, okay. And so you are with her up until the point that she walks the carpet and heads on inside?

A Correct.

Q Did she receive manicure and pedicure services of some kind?

A She got a manicure and I believe a pedicure, yes.

Q How was that arranged or how was that coordinated?

A That was not coordinated through me, but I was there while she was getting it done. And yeah.

Q Who did coordinate that?

A I don't know if she did it or if someone -- because there are these app services you can use to procure the services of they're getting hair blown out or a mani/pedi wherever you are. So I don't know if that was done through an app that the congresswoman did or somebody did it for her. I did not.

Q Do you know how those services were paid for?

A It was paid for by cash.

Q How do you know that?

A I know that because the woman there said she needed -- she would need to be paid by cash.

Q So you witnessed it?

A Uh-huh.

Q And the congresswoman herself used her own cash to pay for those services?

A Sure.

Q The congresswoman also had her hair done and I believe that was by an Stylist 1, who is affiliated with Streeters. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And Streeters, as I understand it, also does business as Great Bowery?

A Yes.

Q The congresswoman had her makeup done by Cassandra Garcia who looks like she is represented by The Wall Group. Is that right?

A Correct.

Q The congresswoman also received a ride from her home the morning of the Gala to the Carlyle that was provided by Condé Nast. Is that right?

A Correct.

Q And then Brother Vellies, Aurora James, we may use those terms sort of interchangeably, but I believe Brother Vellies through Aurora James provided her with the dress; correct?

A Uh-huh, yes.

Q The shoes she wore?

A Yes.
Q The purse or the handbag?
A Yes.
Q And the jewelry?
A Yes.
Q My understanding with the jewelry is that a jeweler provided jewelry to Aurora James and Aurora James then provided that through Brother Vellies to the congresswoman. Is that a correct understanding?
A From the Post article I think you read about that, I think that is correct.
Q But you don't have any firsthand knowledge?
A No. Also, just to note, the transportation from her home to the Carlyle, the hair and the makeup, were put together under a separate press feature called -- which focused on getting ready for the Met Gala. So that was not --
Q This is the video?
A Yes.

Q Can you tell me why that distinction was important to make?

A Because I said earlier that a lot of this was under the discretion of the designer. The designer could also do hair, makeup, nails, all of that because that is all part of the presentation, making the distinction that that was not the case here.

Q So the hair, the makeup and the transportation to the Carlyle were associated with, affiliated with, this getting ready video?

A (Indiscernible) yes.

Q Sorry. What was the thing you just said?

A I call it a press event.

Q A press event?

A Yes.

Q Back to the jewelry that was provided to the congresswoman, you don't know how it worked that Aurora James or Brother Vellies came in possession of the jewelry, but it is your understanding that Aurora James of Brother Vellies provided the jewelry that the congresswoman wore

at the Gala to her?

A Right, correct.

Q In addition, it looks like Brother Vellies/Aurora James also provided the use of a hotel room for getting-ready purposes. Is that right?

A Yes. So as we were getting down to the days leading up to it, it became clear that the designer and the person wearing the design had to be in close proximity to each other. So Aurora had secured some rooms at the Carlyle. As I understood, we didn't look into the Carlyle itself, but rooms were booked months in advance in preparation for the Met Gala. So Aurora indicated to us that she had a room where the congresswoman can get ready.

Q Let me make sure I have this correct. There are two separate days in which Aurora had rooms booked that the congresswoman showed up at the Carlyle. That would have been Saturday, a couple days in advance of the Gala, for a fitting of some kind. Is that correct?

A Yes. And that's where we saw what the dress actually would look like.

Q Right. And then the congresswoman also used one of Aurora's rooms that she had reserved the day of the Gala itself. So Saturday and Monday?

A Yes. So the Saturday event, it was final fitting and they wanted to make sure that everything would work well for that Monday. The hotel room was used because it had become Aurora's sort of base of operations at the time. So that is why we met her there. We also had in that getting ready, there was also press coverage there, too, because they recorded some footage that eventually made it to that video.

Q Brother Vellies also provided Riley with a couple of things, Riley Roberts that is. And that was shoes, as I understand it?

A Yes. She came with a pair of shoes. They were not Brother Vellies shoes but they were shoes.

Q And a bow tie?

A Uh-huh.
Q And then Brother Vellies also provided transportation from the Carlyle to the Gala?
A Yes. Yes.
Q You were starting to say earlier that's what I'm envisioning as one of those sort of party buses, you know, big enough for you to stand up in. Is that --
A Yeah. I don't think they would call it a party bus but I think we would, we would kind of look at it that way. There is a -- and I'm forgetting the name. Sprinter, kind of like those Sprinter vans, kind of like that.
Q And that's what you can see in that video, is them --
A Yes.
Q -- in that transportation? Okay.
A And me desperately trying to stay off of camera, yes.
Q I will have to go back and look for that.
It also appears that there was a courier service that I think we just got some documents on

last night. And let me just make sure I understand. The courier service was you guys, you know, your team taking the Brother Vellies rental materials or attire that you had and couriering it back to Aurora James' team?

A Correct.

Q Am I missing anything in terms of services that were provided to her, you know, gifts that she may have received, related to the Met Gala?

A As far as I know, she received no gifts. And I think you have covered everything.

Q Okay. There was some talk of a headpiece that Aurora James was designing for the congresswoman. Did the congresswoman ever receive a headpiece of any kind?

A No. I mean, there was at that Saturday, the fitting, there were a couple of options, one was a headpiece, one was a hat, one was a flower. And so the day of the congresswoman actually wore a flower. It was -- these are design options that were put out, tried on her, see what fits, decided

against all of them.

Q Okay, understood. And for Riley, Riley Roberts, the congresswoman's partner, did he receive any other services? I saw in the text messages that he had a suit from Suitsupply.

A Uh-huh.

Q And then there was some conversation about him getting tailoring done by I believe a friend or a colleague of Aurora James'. I think the name was somebody by the name of Brown. Is that right?

A I don't remember his name, but yes, I remember her referencing a design colleague.

Q Did the congresswoman attend an after-party?

A She did not.

Q So in terms of again services or things that were provided to the congresswoman surrounding the Met Gala, it seems like we have ticked off everything that is -- all the relevant services that she may have received in connection with the Gala?

A Yes. I think the only thing I want to note is what you shared about Riley is correct. He had his suit tailored by the place where he purchased it because when he purchased it, he arranged the tailoring on the spot there. And he came with like a haircut. So he didn't need hairstyling or anything like that. So less work for the gentleman.

Q Right, right. Let's go over a couple communications that you had immediately following the Gala.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you could bring up Exhibit 6, please.

Q Just so you are aware, Exhibit 6 is still the text messages.

A Okay.

Q I'm on Page 37, for the record, although I'm going to scroll up so you can see the date on which these text messages occurred.

A Thank you.

Q Sorry; screen is a little slow to respond. So we are on Tuesday afternoon,

September 14. So this is the day after the Gala. If it is okay with you, I'm going to keep scrolling because I'm not going to talk to you about these text messages here, but I am going to talk to you about what's on Page 37.

A Yep.

Q You can see here at the bottom of 36 you say "I have a couple of logistical/compliance things left to work through." And I'm scrolling to get down through the full text there. Let me direct your attention -- this is the text message on Page 37 where you say "I have a couple of logistical/compliance things left to work through." What prompts this text message to Aurora?

A I wanted to wrap it up.

Q What do you mean by that?

A Wrap up whatever we needed to finalize. I didn't know how long things would take on their end. So I just wanted to leave out what we would potentially need.

Q So this text message is an attempt for

you to flag for Aurora the handful of things that you think still need to be taken care of with respect to her and the Gala?

A Correct.

Q Let's walk through these one by one. You say "Happy to put this in an e-mail if that is easier. We have to set the rate for the rental of the dress."

A Yes.

Q What do you mean by that?

A So that was me asking her what the rental rate will be for the dress.

Q You say "we have to set the rate for the rental of the dress." Were you going to have any input or participation in --

A No, that is not my wheelhouse.

Q So back to our prior conversation, Aurora James and her team are going to set the rate?

A Correct.

Q And there was no discussion at any point prior to this what would be or would not be an acceptable or unacceptable rate?

A No. I think I was getting -- I was asking them when they were ready, because understanding there are a lot of very last-minute changes to this, when they were ready, if they can give me a roundabout range so I can at least tell the congresswoman I don't have hard numbers but I'm thinking it will be around X. So we had loosely had those conversations but I knew they were not formalized. And I wanted to give them kind of like their time to work that through. We were making changes I think even the day of, Aurora was making design changes, so...

Q What is your understanding at the time of this text message of how the dress and the attire would be paid for?

A By this time I know the congresswoman was paying for it.

Q Personally?

A Yes.

Q And when you say "we have to set the rate for the rental of the dress," you don't just mean the dress, you actually are sort of --

A I mean the whole --
Q -- suggesting the dress --
Go ahead. Sorry I cut you off.
A Sorry to interrupt.
I mean all things Aurora was working on.
Q Dress, handbag, shoes. And am I missing anything, jewelry?
A Uh-huh.
Q Next bullet point, "I need to know how much the Gap paid for the room." Explain that to me.
A Yes. So in us trying to figure out the hotel situation, I had expressed to Aurora's team that we would have to pay for -- we understood the congresswoman would have to pay for her use of the room. They had some concerns with that. I don't think -- you know, and I mentioned the Gap here and I mentioned it because it was shared offhand -- it wasn't like Aurora had shared this with me, but someone on her team had indicated that another vendor was paying for the hotel rooms and that that vendor was potentially the Gap.

Q We are talking about the clothing company?

A Yes. Because she, Aurora, has like other contracts. And I obviously am not familiar with how designers make sure they are cash positive with all things related to the Met Gala or if this was tied to something else, tied to Aurora's business, but they did flag for me that they would have to work through how they would be able to do that, being that the room was likely being paid for by another party. My impression was that that was potentially the Gap. So I was trying to get -- and this is me looking for like what is -- trying to get roundabout figures on things. Let me know more or less what this cost would look like is what I'm trying to get from them.

Q And what's your understanding of how the room will be paid? Will that be paid by the campaign, will that be paid personally?

A We knew that would be paid for personally.

Q So at this time the day after the Gala

you don't have a full and complete understanding of who paid for the rooms that the congresswoman got ready in, but you're trying to figure out how we don't receive a gift of some kind that's improper under the ethics rules and so you are trying to figure out who do we pay, what are we paying?

A Correct.

Q Have you figured out since this text message between now and then who paid for the rooms and who was appropriate to reimburse?

A My assumption is that Brother Vellies ended up paying it because that's who we paid our share or that is who the congresswoman paid her share to.

Q And that is consistent with the letters that we received about Brother Vellies effectively billing for services that had not been paid for previously?

A Correct. That weren't worked out by then, or at least not to my knowledge, hence my inquiry.

Q It wasn't worked out at the time of this text message?

A Correct.

Q Understood.

"What method should Alexandria use to pay for the shoes/dress rental?" That is just you trying to figure out how are we ultimately going to pay for these things?

A Yes. What method we would use, yes.

Q Was there any follow-up here, or was there any response by Aurora?

A I think -- there wasn't a direct response by Aurora. I was in conversation with her team.

Q How does this all ultimately get sorted and paid for?

A Ultimately the congresswoman paid for it. And we eventually received an invoice that became two invoices. I think what was worked out at the time was the first invoice that we got and then in finalizing all of this was the second invoice.

Q We can get to those in a second. Let me jump down a couple of text messages here and we

will come back to that.

You see here we are on Wednesday, September 15, so this is a day after -- September 14 is the day after the Gala so now we are September 15, two days out. You are texting Aurora, "Hi friend. I hope you are hanging in there. I know there's a lot going on. I have a proposal for you" -- you see that continues on the next page -- "I have a proposal for you, or we have a proposal for you."

What's going on in these text messages?

A So I think what is happening there is that Aurora is getting a lot of negative press at this time and that was my "hope you're hanging in there. I know there's a lot going on."

I think the subsequent days like the picture got worse before it got better, but what I wanted to propose to her, if memory serves correctly, was to explore the potential of them like releasing some sort of either statement together or doing something together to help kind of mitigate the negative press that she was

beginning to get.

I think the participation in the Met Gala I think for them was like something that we were really excited about and we felt was positive in many ways. But there's -- you know, I say there's always a pendulum sort of effect. And I thought that while Aurora understood this and saw this as a good moment for her as a designer, there were also negative things tied to it. So this was my way of trying to think through how we could potentially help her with that.

Q When you say -- go ahead. Sorry.

A My proposal for her was not tied to the compliance aspects to the Gala, it was more like PR.

Q When you say "I have a proposal" and you sort of changed course and said "we have a proposal," who is the "we"?

A I had asked the congresswoman if she would be open to doing something with Aurora.

Q What did the congresswoman say?

A She said yes, she felt -- she felt like

if there was some way she could help, she would like to.

Q Did the proposal or what you had suggested in terms of some sort of press or joint press release, did that ever come to fruition?

A No.

Q Let me back up just a moment because, as you point out, there is a lot of press regarding her attendance at the Gala, whether and to what extent it complies with ethics rules, and I know there's a lot of inquiries being made of the congresswoman's team and also of the Met and of Condé Nast.

And I know there is a phone call, there is a conference call that occurs on the evening of the 14th around 6:00 p.m. with -- I know Dave is on that call, the Met, people from Condé Nast, and folks from your team. Are you on that call as well?

A You said the evening of the 16th?

Q The evening of the 14th, so the day after.

A Yes, I believe I'm on that call.
Q And, again, that's a phone call in which Dave is talking with folks at the Met and Condé Nast how are we --
MR. BROWN: Joshua, are you still there?
(No response.)
MR. BROWN: This is actually a good time. Why don't we take a five-minute break.
(A recess was taken).
MR. BROWN: This is Jeff Brown with the Office of Congressional Ethics. We are back on the record with Campaign Staffer.
BY MR. BROWN:
Q I think right before we cut for a break I was asking you about the day after the Met Gala. There were all sorts of press inquiries and there was a conference call at the end of the day. Really what I wanted to drive at with that question is, was there ever any sort of like official statement put out by the office or by the campaign in response to some of those media inquiries, or was the Instagram post and the

Twitter post of the Instagram post, is that sort of everything that was out there at the time you sent that "I have a proposal for you" text?

A Yeah. The only thing that has gone out there was the congresswoman's Instagram post.

Q I thought that was the case. I just wanted to verify. So thank you.

A Yes, that's correct.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can pull up Exhibit 8.

(Exhibit 8 was marked.)

Q We will get to the exhibit in a second, but let me just ask you, who is Janna Pea?

A I view her as an extension of Aurora's team. I believe she is part of her I guess it is PR team, but Janna was there the same day as the Met Gala and my sort of impression of her is that she is someone who helps make things happen for Aurora, helps facilitate things for her, and she was our like team contact, our main team contact.

Q Okay. And it looks like she had some involvement with billing?

A She was my main conduit. So outside of talking to Aurora, I spoke with Janna.

Q And so here before you I have an e-mail. For the record, this is Exhibit 8 and it is THAOC_1667. It is an e-mail to you from Janna Pea. It is sent Sunday, September 19, 2021. And it says "Invoice for MET attire. See below and let me know if you have any questions."

I have attached the pdf that is referenced here below. Can you tell me what this invoice is?

A That was the first one that I had received from them.

Q So this is the first invoice from Cultural Brokerage Agency doing business as Brother Vellies. This is an invoice that you received on September 19, 2021. I would note that the total here is $2,283.93.

Did you guys have a conversation in the wake of receiving this invoice, you and Janna?

A Yes. I called Janna.

Q What did you call her and talk about?

A I told her that I wanted to confirm that that was the correct invoice. One of the things that was incorrect about it is that by that time we had understood it was going to be a shoe rental, not a shoe purchase, and the reason for that is that Janna had indicated they were using the shoe for some shoots. So it wouldn't make sense for us to buy it. So I flagged that for her.

And then I also asked her just -- I didn't know like what they had settled on in terms of those items until I saw the invoice. But in talking to her, I said and I just want to confirm that the gown rental price is correct as well. Since we had hit a loose range, I know it wasn't confirmed, but I would like -- if it's okay, I just want to make sure that this is correct. And so she said she would get back to me.

Q What was the loose range that you guys had hit on?

A We had said it would land somewhere around about a thousand dollars, which I think

that's kind of there, too, but I just wanted to confirm with them that that was correct.

Q When did you land on that amount and how?

A It wasn't a firm number. None of these numbers were firm until after; right? So prior -- and you have seen this -- I start asking questions of give me a rough idea just so that I can prep the congresswoman. And so they said the attire would land at maybe around a thousand, a little more or less, and so I had given her sort of like just to prepare, because I know you have to work your personal financial situation, this is kind of what they told me we are at, it is not set in stone and we won't know, but just to do my due diligence. And since I saw that the shoe was a purchase and that kind of was a flag to me, can we look at all of this over again just to make sure it is correct before I pass it on.

Q I appreciate nothing was set in stone, but when were you having these conversations where you were getting the impression like it will roughly be close to a thousand dollars?

A I would say Saturday, that Saturday of the fitting. Because by then we have like materials, for example. Like a lot of stuff has become more concrete by then, you know, again, like you confirmed, knowing that it wasn't a hundred percent set.

Q So you get this invoice from Janna on the 19th and it's fair to say that that is not what you were expecting, that 2,283.93 figure?

A I'm not going to say it wasn't what I was expecting. I just noticed an error is what I would say. That's what prompted me to, like, question it.

Q Okay. So you call her. And just walk me through that. What do you say to her?

A I said Hey, Janna, just got the invoice. I think that there is -- there's incorrect information on there. Can you take a look at this? And I outlined for her the same as here what was a flag to me.

Q And that would have been the shoe purchase?

A Uh-huh.

Q And that would have been the fact that we were anticipating something closer to a thousand dollars as opposed to --

A No, I didn't say what we were anticipating. I asked her to just confirm that that was correct.

Q Okay. Let's go to that subsequent invoice that you get.

MR. BROWN: So Joshua, can you please pull up Exhibit 9.

(Exhibit 9 was marked.)

Q I'm going to scroll down a little bit so you can see this e-mail from the beginning.

A Thank you.

Q So you can see Monday, September 20, so we are talking about the next day here, another invoice is sent. The first e-mail says "Hi Janna" from a Brandon Proctor. He's forwarding the invoice, and then she, Janna, forwards it to you on again the 20th, which is a day later. I will give you a chance to read that and you can tell me

when you're done.

A I'm done, thank you.

Q Just for the record, again, this is Exhibit 9, THAOC_1573. I'm going to scroll down. Attached to this is the second invoice. So just to confirm, this is the invoice you received a day later and it is the one you received after that conversation with Janna you just referenced?

A Yes.

Q Okay. I will note that it still says "Met Gala Shoe Purchase, Ribbon Pump"?

A Uh-huh.

Q Did the congresswoman purchase the shoes or did she return the shoes?

A No, she returned the shoes.

Q So this invoice is in error when it says "purchase." It is actually a rental of the shoes?

A Correct.

Q Did you have a conversation with Janna about this invoice when you received it?

A No. I let it go.

Q Do you have any idea why the dress went

from, you know, what it cost down to $300?

A No.

Q Who is tasked or who is responsible for paying this invoice when it comes in?

A The congresswoman.

Q Do you send this invoice to the congresswoman?

A I did not send it to her. I just told her that we got it.

Q Let me make sure I was asking that last question appropriately. The congresswoman is going to pay for it personally, as we have previously discussed. But who is actually going to do the entering of the credit card information and actually filling out what needs to be filled out to make sure it gets paid?

A That would be me.

Q And you have access to her personal credit card information such that you can do that?

A I do now. I didn't at that time.

Q Are you aware whether anybody besides yourself had conversations with Aurora James,

anybody at Brother Vellies, Janna Pea about the invoice and the changes between the invoice on the 19th and the 20th?

A Outside of what we just discussed, no, no additional conversation.

Q None that you're aware of?

A Correct. None from me and none that I'm aware of from our team.

Q Understood. This invoice is not paid in September. Why isn't it paid for in September of 2021?

A I didn't consider it the final invoice because I knew we still had to work through the hotel and so I did not treat it as a final invoice.

Q Did you reach out at any point in time to anybody at Brother Vellies or Aurora James or Janna Pea to follow up on the invoice?

A I spoke with Janna.

Q When was that?

A This was -- I don't remember if it was before I got the second invoice or if it was that

day, it happened to be that day, that I had flagged to her that I was waiting on additional items and she indicated to me it would be some time before they could figure it out.

Q Okay. So let me make sure I have this straight. You get the first invoice on the 19th, you and Janna have a conversation in which you flag some concerns about the correctness of that bill.

A Yes.

Q She sends you another bill on September 20, which is for $990.76. That is the one we have in front of us right now. At some point either in that conversation on the 19th or at some point on the 20th --

A It was -- yes, it was --

Q It was after the 20th after you received this -- let me get this straight then.

So after you received this second bill, you and Janna have another conversation in which you say got it on the dress rental, the jewelry rental and the shoe rental, but we're still

missing some outstanding stuff including --
A The hotel was the primary one for me at this time.
Q Was there anything else?
A I think I only focused on the hotel. I think it had also come into my radar that we would have to work out the transportation from the Carlyle to the Met Gala and I wasn't -- I wasn't -- I don't -- I knew at that point that that was a question, but I hadn't -- I hadn't gotten clarity on like what that would look like so I hadn't known yet what to ask them for yet.
Q So as of the 20th then you feel like the ball is in Janna's court, Brother Vellies' court, and you are waiting to hear from them, you are waiting to get an updated invoice from them?
A Correct.
Q Do you ever follow up with anybody over there about an updated invoice?
A After that conversation with Janna, no.
Q Does anybody from Brother Vellies or does Janna follow up with you about these sorts of

things?

A Not about it directly. We will periodically -- Janna will periodically be in touch about other things and sometimes they would circle around like Aurora, but nothing -- nothing from her indicating that like another invoice was imminent.

Q So after the 20th you don't reach out to them, they don't provide you with another invoice, and we get to the point in time where the OCE sends notice to the congresswoman about an open review.

MR. BROWN: And then if we can bring up Exhibit 10, Joshua.

A Before you do that, just to clarify, after the second invoice I did indicate to Janna that I knew that wasn't the final invoice. And she shared with me that she would need some time to work that through.

Q Okay. And, in other words, you were just sort of waiting at that point. It is like I have put the ball in your court, you guys need to send

me another invoice so we can get this squared away?

A Yes.

Q And then it sort of just falls through the cracks until the OCE comes a knocking?

A Yeah, I think so. I think it didn't -- it didn't become a focus until then.

Q Okay. Let's pull up Exhibit 10. Thank you, Joshua.

(Exhibit 10 was marked.)

Q And I will just flag for you that the March 3 here, is this -- well, go ahead. I will let you read this e-mail and then I will ask you some questions about it, but I will just show you here at the bottom this is the Monday, September 20, 2021, e-mail in which Janna has forwarded the invoice, and then this e-mail right here on the next page is where it's forwarded to you, and then I will let you read these next couple of e-mails and you let me know when you are done.

MR. BROWN: For the record, this is Exhibit 10, THAOC_ 1556.

Q I can zoom in for you.

A/V TECHNICIAN: While she is reading that, it looks like we lost Mr. Sandler. I just wanted to let everyone know.

MR. MITRANI: Yeah. He had to jump to another call.

A Oh, yes, uh-huh, thank you.

Q So again this is Exhibit 10. Let me just confirm -- I assume I know the answer to this, but let me just confirm the OCE notifies the congresswoman of a review, I believe documents are delivered on March 1 and 2, and then I see here on the 3rd you reach out to Janna, "Hi, Janna, long time no speak to!" and you say at the bottom there "Would it be possible for me to get confirmation on the invoice from Brother Vellies?"

I assume that the statement and the nature and the review, the document request that we asked is what -- we provided to you guys is what prompted you to reach back out to Janna?

A Yes. This is me circling back, let me pick this up again.

Q Effectively what happened here is Janna says I will get that for you, and then she says "quick bump" -- I assume that means bump in the road -- I can't get you that because we never got payment?

A Uh-huh.

Q And then you say "Ok. We will have to take care of this asap. Can I give you a call tomorrow?"

Did you guys end up having a conversation?

A I believe we did. I believe we did. I think when I talked to Janna, I said, you know, I'm sorry -- I was kind of re-upping this in my head as well, and I think I reviewed with her that there were some things that were pending as well.

Q What do you mean by that?

A In having the conversation with her, I was reminded, you know, I reminded -- I'm trying to remember if she reminded me, I reminded her, that we still had not factored in the hotel.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can bring up

Exhibit 11.

(Exhibit 11 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: And if you can give her control, that would be great.

Q Just if you want to take control and read through this and then I will ask you some questions.

A Okay.

Right.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can give me control back.

Q So this looks like to me, but correct me if I'm wrong, you and Janna have a conversation in the wake of the OCE review and you guys have that conversation you just mentioned and then this looks to me like a receipt that was provided by Brother Vellies to you confirming payment of that September 20 invoice?

A Correct.

Q September 20, 2021 invoice? That's correct?

A Correct. I think at this point it was

pay whatever you have and then understanding that there were still some things they were working through that we would, you know, in the process of going through this, need to pay a separate invoice.

Q Okay. So let me again make sure I just understand that.

In the call you had with Janna you discussed that there were probably some other things that needed to be taken care of but either your thought process or her thought process was we have this invoice, let's pay this invoice and we can deal with the other things later?

A That was counsel's process, to just pay what we have, yeah.

Q Understood. Let's talk about this receipt quickly. I'm going to zoom in here. You can't see it particularly clearly, but I think you have seen this document and understand that this is the $300 for the gown rental, the handbag and the jewelry rental, and then the ribbon pump. And the total is $990.77. Again, that is consistent

with the second invoice we have seen.

If you look here on the left side, just flagging this for you, it says "Contact Information" and that has your e-mail address and it looks like it is paid with an AmEx ending with 1004.

A Uh-huh.

Q What AmEx is that?

A That is the congresswoman's AmEx.

Q Okay. Is that a personal or a campaign AmEx?

A It is a personal card that she uses when there are times she has to make campaign reimbursable expenses, but it is her personal card.

Q Explain that to me a little further. Sorry.

A So like if she is buying a gift for a member or going out to lunch and uses the card, stuff like that.

Q But is it a card that is used for her personal card that she uses for campaign expenses

or is it her personal card that comes out of her personal funds?

A It is her personal card that comes out of her personal funds.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, can you go to Exhibit 23 -- actually, sorry, Joshua, 22.

A/V TECHNICIAN: Stand by.

(Exhibit 22 was marked.)

Q I will let you scroll through this as you want, but as you are looking, I will just mention, this is one of the AmEx bills you provided to us. It is redacted, but I'm going to ask you a couple questions about it. You can take control and scroll through it.

CAMPAIGN STAFFER: Joshua, would you be able to give me control?

A/V TECHNICIAN: My apologies. I gave it to Mr. Brown instead. You have control now.

CAMPAIGN STAFFER: Thank you.

A Okay. I looked through it.

Q Yeah, so let me just ask you a couple things because this doesn't look like a personal

card to me. It says "Business Platinum Card" at the top and I also see here -- sorry, Joshua, if you can give me control -- you saw it at the bottom, so I will -- let me scroll through it again. You are, it looks like, an authorized user on this card along with some other folks. So I'm just -- I guess I'm just trying to verify this is a -- it doesn't seem like a personal card because it says "Business Platinum Card" and there are other authorized users, but is it your understanding this is a personal card?

A It is my understanding this is a personal card. I'm the only one that has authorized use of it.

Q Okay. And because you are an authorized user and because, you know, you have some, it sounds like, oversight of these sort of things, you know, your understanding is when the congresswoman pays for things using this card, that comes out of her personal funds and not campaign funds?

A Yes. When she has personal expenses

here, it would come out of her personal card. There isn't a -- I think the fact that it is a business card under like a business-type account is more in the way that she set it up. But AmEx, as far as I understand, gauges this account on personal credit and she uses this -- she uses it for personal use.

Q You started to say something earlier about like if she has to reimburse the campaign or something like that. What were you getting at?

A Like travel. Because she doesn't always have her campaign card handy, so there are times when we would have to reimburse, but there is no like auto pay feature. You can pick what accounts you are paying something into and we itemize everything. So whatever is a campaign expense, the campaign would cover, and what is her expense she would cover.

Q Okay. Give me one quick second here.

MR. ASHMAWY: Can I ask a quick question?

MR. BROWN: Yes.

BY MR. ASHMAWY TO THE CAMPAIGN STAFFER:

Q Is there a separate campaign card?
A Yes.
Q Does that happen to also be an AmEx card?
A We have one now. We did not -- I think we started using AmEx cards a couple months ago.
Q Okay. Previous to using an AmEx card for the campaign, what kind of card did you use?
A A Brex card, which we still have. Some staff still have the Brex cards.
BY MR. BROWN TO THE CAMPAIGN STAFFER:
Q The Brex card is the campaign card, is that what -- previously the Brex card was the campaign card?
A Yes. And we still have it.
Q And you produced some documents with the Brex card and again that is the campaign card?
A Yes. I don't know what documents we produced under the Brex card.
Q That's fair. I can follow up with counsel if need be.
A Thank you.
MR. ASHMAWY: Thank you very much.

Q Okay. Regarding the Brother Vellies reimbursement here which -- or payment for, excuse me -- back to Exhibit 11, this 990.77, you ultimately paid -- you actually physically did the paying for that on the credit card; right?

A Correct.

Q What's the congresswoman's awareness of the fact that this hasn't been paid between September and whatever the exact date of payment is here?

A I don't think she had an awareness of it. I think she knew that it -- she knew that it wasn't -- obviously she knew that it wasn't paid, but like where were we in there, I wouldn't say she was given regular updates or anything like that.

Q Why do you say obviously she knew it wasn't paid for?

A Because she would be the one paying for it or at least being aware that it is hitting her account.

Q Okay. You said you are not providing her

regular updates. Are you providing her updates of some kind on these, the need to make payments here?

A The update that she had until we got advice from counsel was that we knew there were still some things pending.

Q And that relates back to the conversation we had about you talking with Janna Pea in or around September 20 that we can and should expect another invoice?

A Correct.

Q But she didn't follow up with you after that?

A We had -- when you say "she," you mean Janna?

Q I'm sorry. I mean the congresswoman.

A Oh, the congresswoman. We did have another conversation about it and I had said to her that I was kind of -- I knew they were working through some things on their end and I didn't know what that would look like. So I was just -- what I said to her, I'm kind of leaving it on them.

Q And roughly when would that have occurred?
A It was definitely in the fall.
Q So we are talking September, October, November time frame?
A Yeah.
Q And then once we get to 2022, you don't hear anything from Janna and this is not the focus of -- focus for you. You are not updating the congresswoman and none of this is really getting dealt with until early May when we saw this e-mail traffic we just looked at with Janna?
A Uh-huh, yes.
Q Okay.
MR. BROWN: If you can take these exhibits down, Joshua, that would be great.
Q I want to change gears and talk about the hairstyling services that the congresswoman received. From the documents you guys produced to us, we got a September 30 invoice from Stylist 1, I think via Streeters, which is his representation. That doesn't get paid until

February 24. So what's the basis for the delay there?

A I think the delay there for me was I didn't have access to her personal credit card at that moment, but also I think it was just -- I think our focus at the time was just clarifying to them who needed to pay it and it was something that kind of like, you know, it fell off my radar.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, can you bring up Exhibit 13.

(Exhibit 13 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you could give her control of that.

Q I will let you scroll to the bottom and make your way up, kind of refamiliarize yourself with this string. It is a part of a very long string in which you are all having communications with Stylist 1 and his team, but for your purposes, the string really starts with Condé Nast I think flagging that you, I think they say team AOC, will be taking over the billings.

A Uh-huh.

Q So go ahead. Just refamiliarize yourself with this string and I can ask you some questions after that.

A Okay, thank you.

Q Does this string help you remember any better about the basis for the delay here?

A So yes and no. So on one level it did fall off my radar and I think I remember getting e-mails from them usually when I was somewhere else where I couldn't like be at my laptop and focus on it. But another issue that came up there, and I think it's noted here, like -- I'm actually trying to see if it's noted here -- there wasn't a way to pay for the invoice using a credit card.

So once I made contact with Danielle, it took a few days from here, but we were able to settle it. And there were some -- there were some sort of like -- there had to be some back and forth that I had with her on making sure that we were able to secure payment for it.

So it took some time to do once I like

focused on it, but --

Q It looks to me like it is certainly not the priority given all the --

A It is not, but also I also --

MR. MITRANI: I don't think that is a fair characterization, Jeff.

Q Go ahead. Go ahead and characterize it yourself.

A I think for me it was a matter of like finding a way that we could pay for this using the congresswoman's personal credit card, and that was part of the delay back and forth once I was able to have like actual contact with someone on there.

Q What's the congresswoman's awareness of the delays with respect to payment to Stylist 1 and Streeters for this, these services?

A She was not aware at the time I think. She became aware after I had made payment.

Q Is she aware they are threatening to file lawsuits?

A No.

Q She is aware, though, in the same sense

that she was aware that the Brother Vellies payments had not been paid in the sense that this hadn't been drawn down on her personal account?

A Correct.

Q Is she following up with you at all about this, these issues?

A She would bring it up periodically, yeah.

Q So then what's the issue or what's the challenge in getting access to her personal credit card?

A I think she -- I think she was just let me know when you're ready and I said when I have a chance to settle on it, we can take care of that.

Q But I think you said earlier up until more recently you didn't actually have access to her personal card or you didn't have, physically have, the card that you could make payment with. Is that correct?

A Yes. It isn't because she withheld it from me or anything like that. I had told her once I focus on this I'm going to need this information from you and she said okay.

MR. BROWN: Let's pull up Exhibit 14, please.

(Exhibit 14 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: If you can give her control of that, that would be great.

CAMPAIGN STAFFER: Thank you.

Q Take your time and familiarize yourself with that document.

A Okay, thank you.

Q If you can make it easier and scroll all the way down to that Great Bowery receipt for me.

A Uh-huh.

MR. BROWN: For the record, this is Exhibit 14. We are at THAOC_1082.

Q This is the receipt from Great Bowery that you received confirming payment for the hair services that were provided to the congresswoman in connection with the Gala?

A Yes.

Q So I see here that they are on an AmEx that ends in 1012. What card is that?

A I believe -- hold on; I'm looking. I

believe it is the card -- because one of these vendors I had to use -- I had to use my authorized card for. If you give me a second, I can confirm that.

MR. MITRANI: Jeff, the 1012 card is a subaccount of the 1004 card.

MR. BROWN: Right. Let me just make sure. I will ask her this, but, Dave, you can chime in here if you want to or need to.

Q The 1012 card I understand is an authorized user. You are an authorized user on this card. And again this is the AmEx business card that I pulled up previously. I can pull that up again if it is helpful.

A Yes, yes, it is. The reason why I did it under my authorized user is because it required a wet signature and I wasn't around the congresswoman, and in the interest of expediency I just did it that way.

Q Okay. And consistent with our prior conversation, this AmEx card is a card that the congresswoman pays for out of her personal funds?

A Yes. When she has personal expenses, she pays for it under her personal card, yes.

Q It is the business card but she pays for these things personally?

A Yes.

MR. BROWN: Let's take this exhibit down, Joshua.

Q Same series of questions but with respect to the makeup services that the congresswoman received. So it looks like September 23, shortly after the Gala, The Wall Group reaches out about billing information and then this doesn't get paid until March 16. So same question. What's the basis for the delay in payment to The Wall Group for the makeup services?

A I think they are all under the same sort of line of thinking where other things kind of took precedence and I think I put all of this in my head as like these are things that are still sort of pending to deal with and move to deal with it at the time that you see in the documents.

That was also a situation where there

was -- there needed to be a conversation had with making sure that we could do payment and that payments were done with the credit card and they had to brief me on a separate process in order to do that.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, can you bring up Exhibit 17, please.

(Exhibit 17 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: If you could give her control.

Q Please take some time and familiarize yourself with it.

MR. BROWN: Just for the record, it is THAOC_1741 it starts at.

A And I'm starting from the bottom?

Q Yes. This is a series of e-mails that you exchanged with accounts receivable at The Wall Group. I really just want to ask you about the last e-mail in the string so the first e-mail of the top e-mail.

A Okay.

Q But take your time and read it as you

would like.

A Yes, I'm there. Thank you.

Q So we are at Friday, February 25, 2022, and somebody at The Wall Group, collections specialist The Wall Group, says "I'm not sure if Melio reached out to you but your payment has been rejected. Can you please advise or reach out to Melio..."

In the documents we received at the OCE, it looks like this is sort of the last communication until payment is made on I think March 16. So I'm just wondering who this Melio is and how things ultimately got resolved and payment was made?

A Sure. So Melio is a third-party credit card processing vendor that The Wall Group uses. And the way it is set up with them, it takes several days for payments to process and then a few days for The Wall Group to receive notification. The payment was rejected because I had used a personal card and it was not set up to accept personal cards. So in my conversation with

Nathreen we figured that out, and then I had to do it what she determined was sort of the original way they did it, was through just filling out a credit card authorization form and it was processed that way.

Q And so that's what is occurring between the 25th here and March 16th when these credit card receipts -- all right.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can pull up Exhibit 18, please.

(Exhibit 18 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: If you can give her control, please.

Q Just let me know when you have had a chance to look through that, but I think these are the receipts associated with The Wall Group credit card payment?

A Yes. Yes.

Q Okay. For the record, Exhibit 18, THAOC_0162, we have two sets of receipts and you can see here one of them is under your name, one of them is under the congresswoman's name. It

looks like the ones under the congresswoman's name say "Credit Card Sale" and the ones under your name say "Credit Card Return." I'm just trying to figure out what happened here.

A I think it was that I had used -- yeah, I think I had used the wrong card. I had confused my cards. And I had them return it and then reissue.

Q And it gets reissued on this 1004 American Express card it looks like. Is that right?

A Yes.

Q And that 1004 again, just so we have it all right over here, is the AmEx Business Platinum Card that the congresswoman is the holder of that card?

A Correct.

Q And this is the AmEx that we have talked about before. It doesn't really look like a personal card but you have told us that she uses that card to pay for personal expenses?

A Correct.

Q Okay. Let's go to Exhibit 19.

(Exhibit 19 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: If you could give her control, Joshua.

Q I just want to ask you about this letter here on the first page, but there are some attachments to that letter. Take a look at the document and let me know when you're ready.

Maybe I should start by asking have you seen that letter before?

A Yes.

Q I'm actually not going to ask you about any of the exhibits. I will just ask you about the letter.

A Okay.

Q You have seen this letter so I just want to get your sense for, I think, Brian Svoboda says here something like we are in receipt of your request for an invoice and supporting documentation for any goods, services or amenities which Representative Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Riley Roberts may have received from our

clients in regard to the September 13, 2021, Met Gala for which no payment has been made yet.

How does that request to Brother Vellies and Aurora James come about?

A This is one -- so Aurora James, as you see here, secured counsel and someone who has an understanding of -- sorry. Let me -- I'm sorry.

Q That's okay.

A I am putting it on do not disturb. Sorry about that.

So after Aurora secured counsel, I think the counsel was able to thoroughly review what was supporting documentation for this and gave us a more complete picture of the expenses incurred.

Q Do you know when the request was made of Aurora and Brother Vellies roughly?

A When the request was made. It was made I believe soon or shortly after she secured counsel.

Q Which, again, do you roughly know just a time frame?

A The exact date I'm not sure.

Q And I want to make sure I understand this

correctly so interrupt me or correct me if I'm getting this wrong, but when the OCE contacts the congresswoman, that is in or around March 1st or 2nd. And then you reach out to Janna Pea and have some conversations about paying the Brother Vellies invoice. That happens shortly thereafter. But you also said there were some conversations about outstanding items that you were aware of. Does this letter relate to those outstanding concerns? Like how do those two things factor in together?

A Yeah. So we knew the hotel was an outstanding item and we knew that from September. And we knew there was going to have to be something for the car service. So at minimum we knew there were outstanding items. Once counsel became involved here, I think he was able to give a more thorough review and have a more thorough accounting from Aurora, understanding his expertise is in compliance, and this is where we get the fullness of it.

We had not discussed Mr. Roberts',

Riley's, items beforehand and we were not -- we were not aware that the -- we were I think focused on the hotel the day of, and so in getting this, we saw that like the entire use of the hotel was to be factored in.

Q Let me ask you about this. I see there are two separate rooms, 1122 and 911, and I see a charge for the 12th and two charges for the 13th. Again, it was my understanding that the congresswoman used the hotel room on the 11th. I think that was Saturday. And then the 13th as well. Can you help me understand why the charges are two on the 13th and one on the 12th?

A So the 12th is where we met with Aurora for the fitting. I was not aware that that was going to be factored in here. So I think that's why you have two separate days. But she was in the room during the fitting and there was some shooting like we talked about earlier.

On the 13th there are two separate rooms here. The congresswoman stayed at Room 1122 that day. And so one of the things that occurred in

the days leading up to the Met, the day of the Met Gala itself, is that she had a -- she had a hearing for a committee that she had to be online for. And so Aurora gave her use of one of like the rooms for that purpose so that she could have some privacy there.

Q It looks to me, though, like Saturday, the 11th of September, was the fitting. Didn't the fitting occur on a Saturday?

A Yes, it was a Saturday.

Q That's why I'm confused about the charge for the 12th here.

A Yeah, it should be the 11th.

Q And the other room, you said the congresswoman used 1122?

A Yes, she used 1122.

Q And what do you think the charge is for 911? Is that where Aurora James was getting ready but the congresswoman used the space? Or I'm trying to get a better sense for what the specific usage was here.

A Yeah, I'm -- I don't -- I'm not clear on

that.

Q Okay.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, can you go to 19-A for me.

(Exhibit 19-A was marked.)

MR. BROWN: If you can give her control, please.

Q Just take a look at that and let me know when you're ready.

A I'm done, thank you.

Q I just want to make sure I understand. This looks to me like the payment or receipt for payments in response to the letter that Brian Svoboda, counsel for Brother Vellies, and Aurora James, sent to you. Is that a correct understanding?

A Correct.

Q And if you can scroll down just a little bit for me to the next page, this is made on an AmEx ending in 1008. What kind of card is that?

A That is the congresswoman's personal card.

Q And that is different than the Business Platinum Card that we have been talking about --

A Yes.

Q -- previously?

Okay. And this is a personal AmEx?

A Yes. This is the card number she gave me specifically for these purchases.

Q Okay.

MR. BROWN: Can you pull up Exhibit 23, Joshua.

(Exhibit 23 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: If you can give her control.

Q I just want to confirm this is the AmEx card we were just talking about. You produced a copy of it to us and I believe these are the most recent charges there that relate to the Met Gala?

A Correct.

Q And this ends in 1008. This is the congresswoman's personal credit card that she uses personal funds to pay for?

A Yes.

Q Bear with me for a second. I'm getting

close to wrapping up here.

MR. BROWN: Joshua, if you can go to Exhibit 20 -- I'm sorry. Can you pull up Exhibit 21.

(Exhibit 21 was marked.)

MR. BROWN: If you could give her control, please.

Q Just take your time and kind of refresh your recollection with respect to this e-mail string and then I want to ask you just a couple brief questions about it.

A Sure.

I am ready. Thank you.

Q I just want to make sure I understand. These are e-mails regarding reimbursement -- not reimbursement -- invoicing for the congresswoman's use of a ride from her home to the Carlyle on the day of the Met Gala?

A Correct.

Q What prompts these communications with Condé Nast?

A So at the time where it was booked,

because this was all part of the getting ready feature, we were not clear that this would be something that the congresswoman would have to personally expense until after, after the event, and so what spurred this on is a conversation with counsel where they confirmed that she would have to personally expense it, and that's where you see the subsequent requests.

Q And so you have the understanding that this should be paid for -- or you as a team have an understanding that this should be paid for right after the Met Gala? Is that what you said?

A No. We weren't clear on it until shortly before engaging them.

Q Shortly before engaging counsel?

A No, shortly before engaging the Vogue folks. So I will clarify why. So when we set out that they were going to do this feature for a precedent, the Vogue folks indicated what they needed, because obviously the congresswoman doesn't need a van, she could drive herself. And so since they set staff that they wanted there and

what size of the vehicle, et cetera, that they would need, it wasn't clear to us that that would be also part of what she would have to personally cover until much later.

Q And so I guess that's what I'm trying to get at. When do you as a team understand that or decide that she should reimburse for this expense?

A Post discovery.

Q So during the associated review process?

A Yes.

MR. BROWN: Can I get control of the document, Joshua. Thank you.

Q This e-mail is Wednesday, March 16. You are talking a little bit about effectively how to divvy up the expense. How do you get to the 180?

A It was math by amount of persons in the vehicle I believe divided by the total cost.

Q So 586 divided by 4?

A Uh-huh.

Q And that comes out to something a little lower for me so I was trying to figure out if I missed something there --

A Yeah, I mean -- yeah.
Q -- but, in any event, the thought process is we are just trying to divide this up evenly?
A Correct.
Q Okay. In this e-mail I think at the bottom you say -- never mind. Scratch that. I think I have one more question about this before I start wrapping things up.
MR. BROWN: You can take that down.
Q So I understand we have this personal card, this personal AmEx card, that the congresswoman recently used to pay for the 5,000 and change to Brother Vellies. And then there's this separate card, this AmEx Business Platinum, that is also a personal card. What's the difference between the two cards? When were you instructed to use a certain card versus another card? Walk me through the distinction between those two cards.
A The cards that we used for the purchases that you most recently reviewed, I just -- in this sense I went with the card that she gave me to use

specifically for this. It's not a card that I had access to prior or anything like that.

The other card, I understood it -- the way we understand it to be is that it is a card that is her personal card that she will at times use campaign expenses for. So we itemize those out and we pay out what belongs to the campaign and we leave the rest. So for us functionally, that is a personal card. And to me it is just a matter of her giving me a different card to use.

Q So you don't really have an appreciation for why she would use one or the other but for your purposes you understand both of those to be personal cards --

A Right.

Q -- that she pays for personally? Okay.

A Correct. I have spoken -- in us looking to like prepare for this, I think we moved to try and like quickly address like anything outstanding leading up to this process, understanding that this is something that is important and we do take seriously and that I think in some ways expediency

took over going over line item detail just to kind of -- for us to be able to say we do want this handled, we do want this settled, and that was our priority.

Q Okay. I just have a couple I think hopefully quick questions and then I will wrap things up before I give you an opportunity to touch on anything else you feel like we should touch on.

I know you guys collected communications from yourself, from the congresswoman, from Riley. We didn't get a lot of communications, e-mail communications, from the congresswoman regarding the Gala. So I guess I have two questions about that. You know, were her records or her e-mails searched and did you play a part in that? And is it does she not do a lot of communicating via e-mail about something like the Gala? How does she communicate about these sort of things with staff?

A So I can say as part of our documentation discovery, counsel did request personal and

campaign e-mails with the specific search terms, and that included her e-mail. From what you see here -- and this is the picture presented -- this was all handled mostly under -- my correspondence -- Lauren Hitt, who is our comms director, handled the press pieces of this and the congresswoman did not engage through e-mail anything related here. I think for us this was something that like the bulk of it actually didn't have directly to do with her in terms of preparation and compliance. When I say didn't have to do with her, meaning we were trying to figure out what it was, and then the pieces that were hers were determined to be hers and we didn't do those through e-mail, those were conversations with her.

Q Yeah, that is consistent with the documents that I saw, but I did want to verify that you're primarily having in-person or virtual communications with her about these things. Okay.

We have touched on a lot of stuff today. Is there anything that we didn't touch on that you

feel we should touch on in light of some of the questions I have asked? Is there anything you feel I didn't give you an opportunity to share?

A No. I think the only thing for me that I think is important to clarify, and I think this has to do with the delay in some of the invoice payments, is that this was always something that was understood, you know, at the time even and I believe to some there is correspondence indicating that it was clear that these were expenses that the congresswoman had to personally incur and that we were always under that understanding that that would be honored, and I think that's important to say.

MR. BROWN: Well, unless, Dave, you have anything or, Omar, you have anything, I think we can go off. I think I will just thank you -- Omar, did you have anything?

MR. ASHMAWY: No, I don't. Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

MR. BROWN: I will also just echo that. Thank you for your time and I will say we can go

off the record.

(Off the record at 12:53 p.m.)

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
		None.	

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name: [redacted]

Witness Signature: [redacted]

Date: 6/15/22

EXHIBIT 9

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 10:32:07 Eastern Standard Time

Subject: Re: Met Gala
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 at 1:13:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)

Yes I saw when I clicked thanks so much - sorry for the call out

On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 1:12 PM David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]> wrote:

> Apologies for that, I had the correct entity, wrong acronym (d'oh!). I made that change below for reference.
>
> --
>
> David Mitrani
>
> Senior Counsel
>
> Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.
>
> 1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
>
> Washington, D.C. 20005
>
> [redacted]
>
> sandlerreiff.com
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy <[redacted]>
> **Date:** Friday, August 27, 2021 at 1:05 PM
> **To:** David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]>
> **Cc:** Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted]>, Pape, Sophie <[redacted]>, Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
> **Subject:** Re: Met Gala
>
> These are super helpful David thank you. One thing to note, the Costume Institute benefit supports the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met) not the MOMA. Just wanted to clarify that at the top. Eaddy and I will connect and can share answers on the below.
>
> On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]> wrote:
>
> > Thanks: please see below – and I'll apologize in advance that some of these questions are pretty invasive!
> >
> > What we're getting at here is the exemption from the House of Representatives' gift rules for a charity event, which

would allow the Congresswoman to accept:

> "*a waiver of all or part of a conference or other fee, the provision of local transportation [directly from the charity], or the provision of food, refreshments, entertainment, and instructional materials furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the event*".

These questions should get us started, and thanks in advance for your help!

1. **To absolutely be 100% sure, contributions to the gala benefit MMA, as a 501(c)(3) public charity with EIN 13-1624086 (IRS record here)?**

2. **How do contributions for the event get to MMA?** Where are the admissions fees paid to, directly to MOMA? Or, to a third-party who pays the costs, then gives the profits to MMA (like a commercial coventure sort of setup)?

3. **Who has invited the Congresswoman to the event?** Under House Ethics rules, the Congresswoman can only accept an invitation to a charity event from the sponsor of that event – where the sponsor is the group "primarily responsible for organizing the event." So, the Congresswoman could accept an invitation from MMA, but *not* from Vogue or Conde Nast.

   What level of involvement does MMA – versus Vogue/Conde Nast – have in the planning and organizing of the event – the guest list, seating arrangements, and the like?

   Since Advance Publications is a registered lobbyist, we'll need to be extra careful on this one!

4. **Are there any other incidental benefits that we should know about, such as gift bags, souvenirs, or the like?**

5. **Are there events other than the gala that the Congresswoman has been invited to as a part of the above invitation?**

   (Of note – this goes to the fact that the Congresswoman would not be able to accept entertainment collateral to the event, food or refreshments taken other than in a group setting with all or substantially all other attendees at the event (an afterparty, for example)).

--

David Mitrani

Senior Counsel

Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750

Washington, D.C. 20005

[redacted]

sandlerreiff.com

From: Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy <[redacted]
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 at 11:37 AM
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]
Cc: Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted]>, Pape, Sophie <[redacted]>, Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Met Gala

yes that would be wonderful thank you! I am sure we can also bring in Met counsel if we need to.

On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 11:31 AM David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted] wrote:

> Hildy – that's absolutely right, I'm very much focused on the gift/ethics rules here! Happy to send along a series of questions at the outset if that's easier.
>
> --
>
> David Mitrani
>
> Senior Counsel
>
> Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.
>
> 1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
>
> Washington, D.C. 20005
>
> [redacted]
>
> sandlerreiff.com

From: Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy <[redacted]
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 at 11:27 AM
To: Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted]
Cc: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted], Pape, Sophie
<[redacted]>, Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Met Gala

sure - I am sure this is also about the value of the ticket and if she can accept it within gifting guidelines vs. Charities.

On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 11:18 AM Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted] wrote:

> David, it's a pleasure to meet you.
>
> I'm happy to talk you through our protocols at your convenience. You will see in the guidelines, but we are following very stringent protocol to ensure the health and safety of our guests.
>
> **Sophie, could I trouble you to please send through the guidelines for this year's event?
>
> Please note, every guest will be required to register proof of a full course of vaccination (including the two week immunization period), in addition to a same-day negative PCR test, and will need to be masked any time they are in the museum, unless of course they are actively eating or drinking, or at their table for dinner.
>
> All the best,
>
> Eaddy
>
> On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 11:11 AM David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted] wrote:
>
> > Eaddy – very good to meet you! Can you please send along the invitation, as well as any information that is/has been provided to guests of the event this year?
> >
> > I'll likely have more than a few questions – my read is that this would only be the second time a Member of Congress has attended in recent memory!
> >
> > Thanks,
> > Dave

--

David Mitrani

Senior Counsel

Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750

Washington, D.C. 20005

[redacted]

sandlerreiff.com

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 at 10:38 AM
To: Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted], David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]
Subject: Met Gala

Hello Eaddy, I'm connecting us here with our counsel David Mitrani, who is helping us out in making sure the Congresswoman's participation falls within ethics guidelines.

He has some questions about the event and I thought it would be good to connect with you on them, and you'd be able to pull in any other team members as needed.

Best,

Rebecca

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 16:13:20 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: RE: [External] - Re: Met Gala
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 11:45:02 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Chey, Kimberly
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff), Kiernan, Eaddy
CC: Rebecca Rodriguez, Hildy Kuryk-bernstein

Hi David,

The goods and services are $250 per ticket. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks,
Kim

--
Kimberly Chey
she/her/hers
Senior Development Officer for Events
Development
[redacted]

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028
@metmuseum
metmuseum.org

From: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted]>
Cc: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>; Hildy Kuryk-bernstein <[redacted]>; Chey, Kimberly <[redacted]>
Subject: [External] - Re: Met Gala

Eaddy (and Kim) – thanks very much!

This is extremely helpful, and I just have one additional question for now: what will be per-person cost for the meal be at the event? We'll likely need that for reporting purposes on the Congresswoman's financial disclosure statement.

Thanks again!

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005
[redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted]>
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 10:37 AM

To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]>
Cc: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>, Hildy Kuryk-bernstein <[redacted]>, Chey, Kimberly <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Met Gala

Hello David and Rebecca,

I'm connecting you here with Kimberly Chey from the Met Museum. Kim coordinated the below answers to your questions with the Museum's Counsel. Please let us know if the below answers your questions sufficiently, or if you would prefer to connect on the phone.

Many thanks,
Eaddy

1. To absolutely be 100% sure, contributions to **The Costume Institute Benefit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art**, as a 501(c)(3) public charity with EIN 13-1624086 (**IRS record here**)? **YES, The Metropolitan Museum of Art is a 501(c)(3) public charity with EIN 13-1624086 as you note above. The Metropolitan Museum of Art hosts The Costume Institute Benefit. All proceeds from the Benefit are used by The Met to fund the Costume Institute's staff and annual programming.**

2. **How do contributions for the event get The Met?** Where are the admissions fees paid to, directly to the Met? Or, to a third party who pays the costs, then gives the profits to Met (like a commercial coventure sort of setup)? Ticket, table, and contribution payments are sent directly to The Metropolitan Museum of Art

3. **Who has invited the Congresswoman to the event?** Under House Ethics rules, the Congresswoman can only accept an invitation to a charity event from the sponsor of that event – where the sponsor is the group "primarily responsible for organizing the event." So, the Congresswoman could accept an invitation from MOMA, but *not* from Vogue or Conde Nast.

   What level of involvement does **The Met** – versus Vogue/Conde Nast – have in the planning and organizing of the event – the guest list, seating arrangements, and the like?

   Since Advance Publications is a registered lobbyist, we'll need to be extra careful on this one!

The invitations come directly from The Metropolitan Museum of Art and that is who (along with the co-chairs and honorary chairs) invited the Congresswoman. The Museum produces and hosts the event, pays all the vendors and performers for the event, and signs off on all aspects of

the event.

4. **Are there any other incidental benefits that we should know about, such as gift bags, souvenirs, or the like? NO**

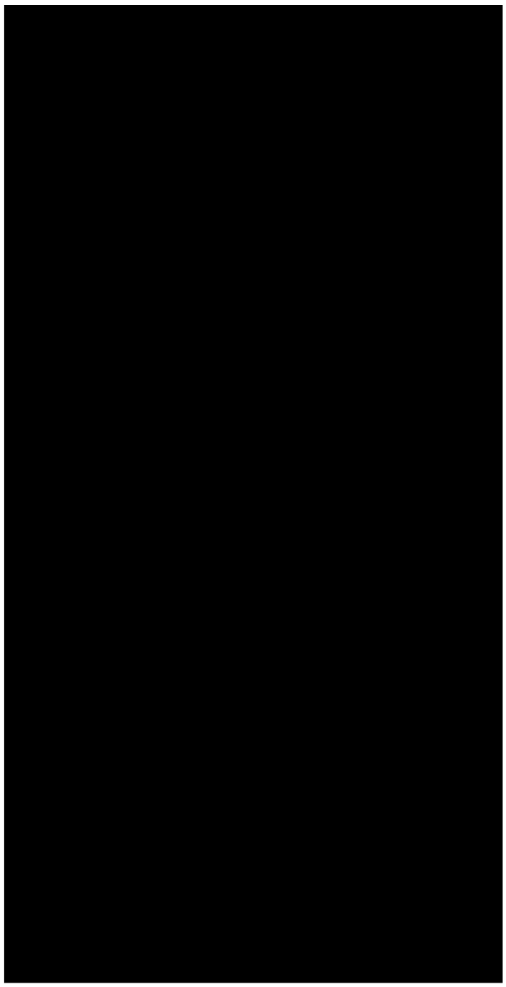
5. **Are there events other than the gala that the Congresswoman has been invited to as a part of the above invitation? NO**

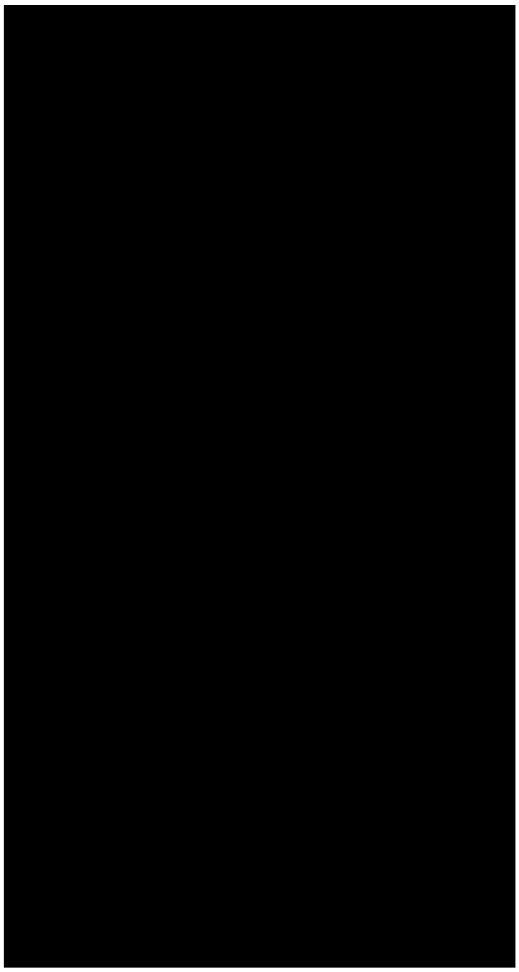
   (Of note – this goes to the fact that the Congresswoman would not be able to accept entertainment collateral to the event, food or refreshments taken other than in a group setting with all or substantially all other attendees at the event (an afterparty, for example)).

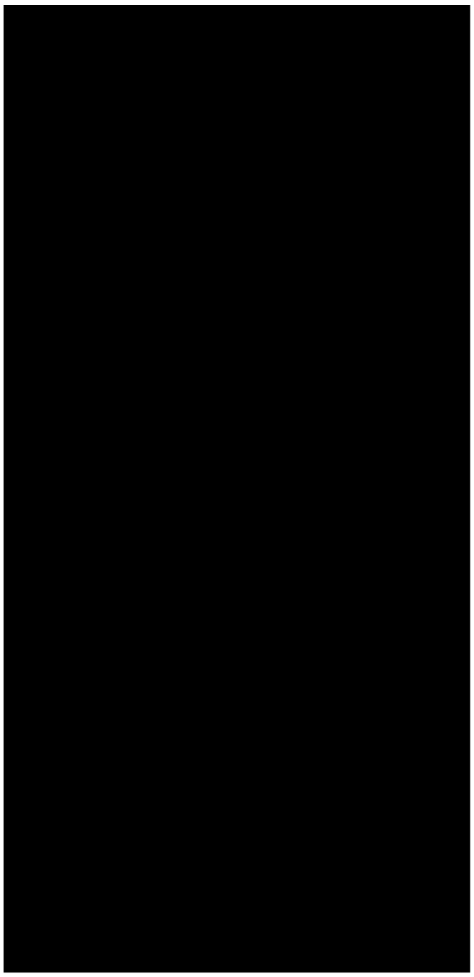
On Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 11:11 AM David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted] wrote:

> Eaddy – very good to meet you! Can you please send along the invitation, as well as any information that is/has been provided to guests of the event this year?
>
> I'll likely have more than a few questions – my read is that this would only be the second time a Member of Congress has attended in recent memory!
>
> Thanks,
> Dave
>
> --
> David Mitrani
> Senior Counsel
> Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.
>
> 1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
> Washington, D.C. 20005
> [redacted]
> sandlerreiff.com
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
> **Date:** Friday, August 27, 2021 at 10:38 AM
> **To:** Kiernan, Eaddy <[redacted]>, David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)
> [redacted]
> **Subject:** Met Gala
>
> Hello Eaddy, I'm connecting us here with our counsel David Mitrani, who is helping us out in making sure the Congresswoman's participation falls within ethics guidelines.
>
> He has some questions about the event and I thought it would be good to connect with you on them, and you'd be able to pull in any other team members as needed.
>
> Best,
> Rebecca

EXHIBIT 10







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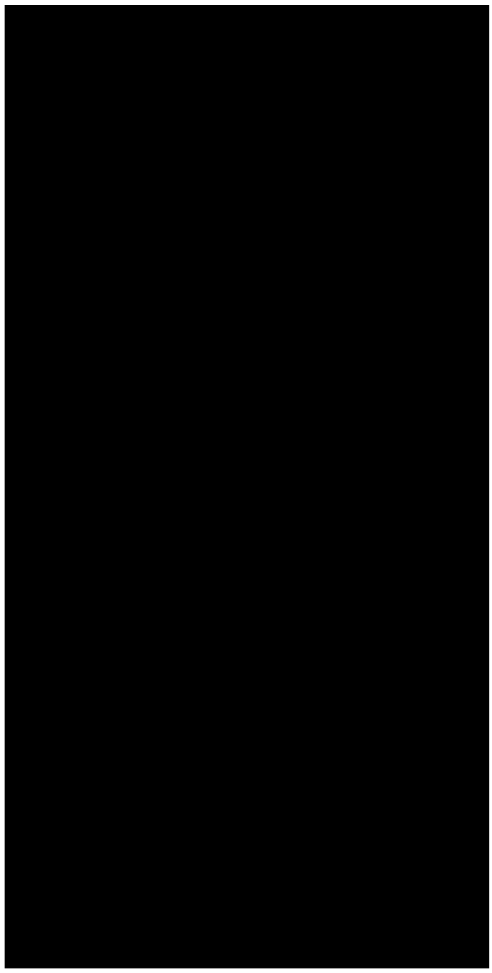
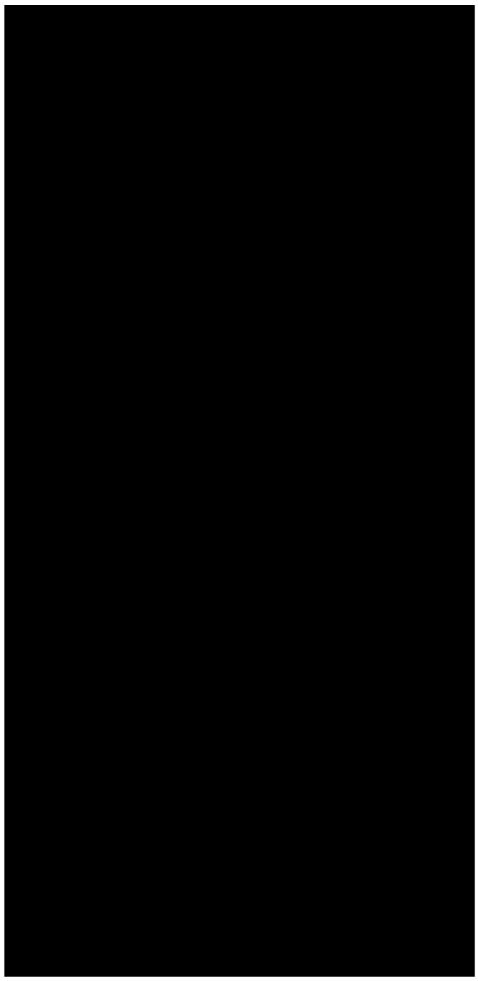
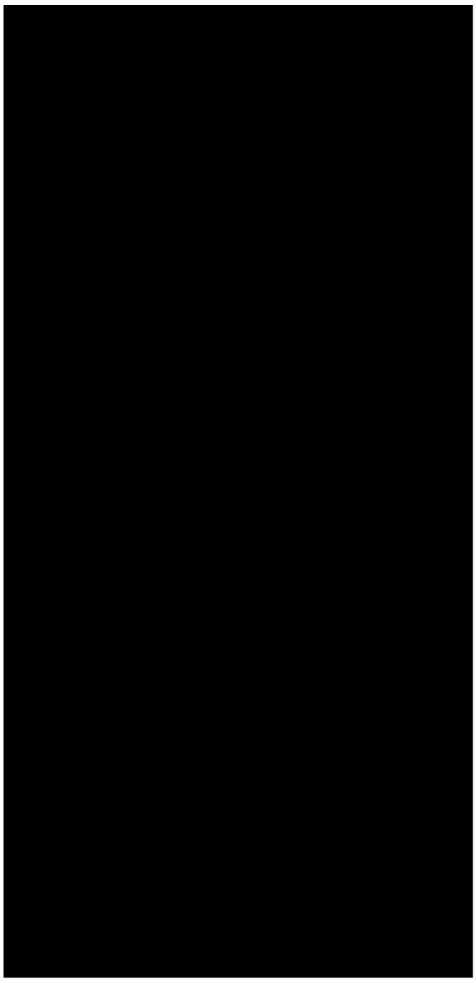
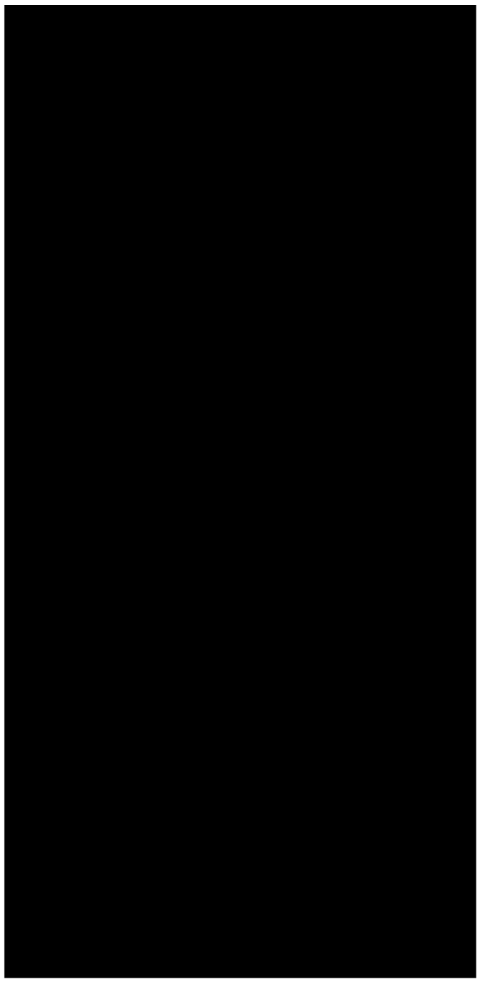
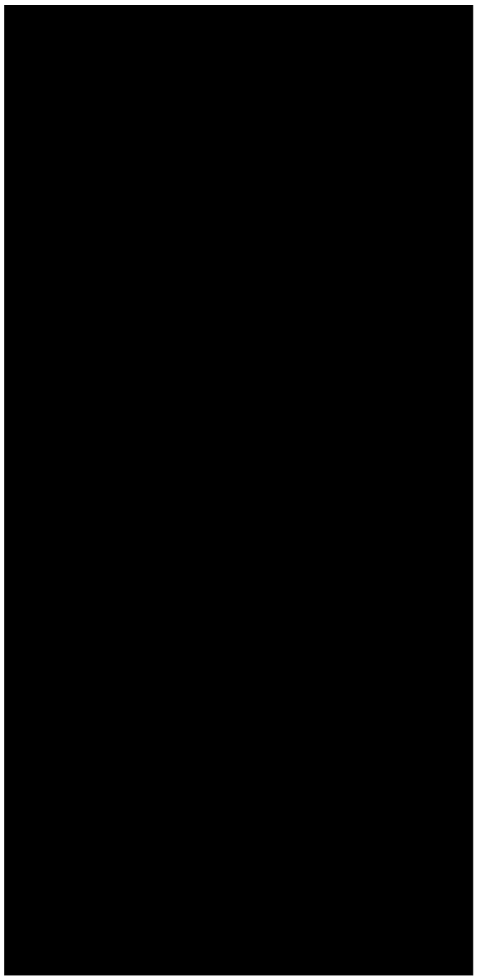
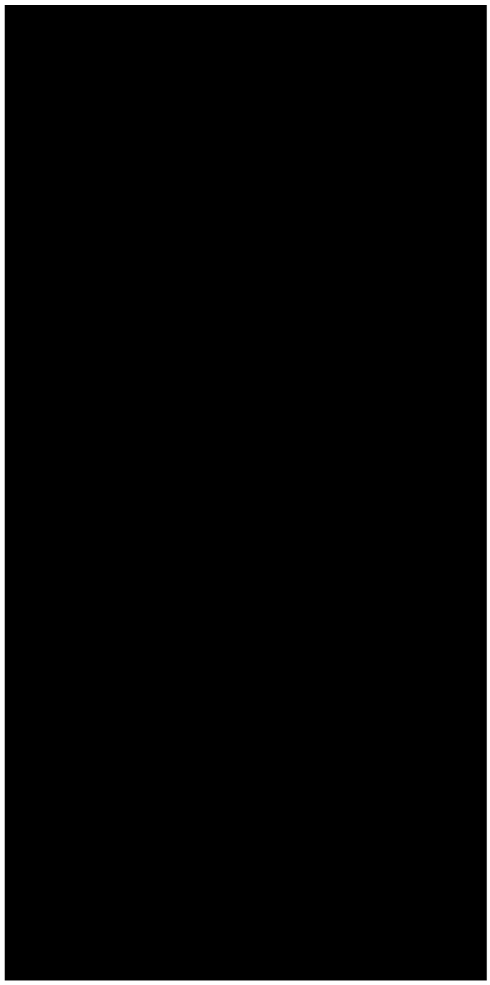


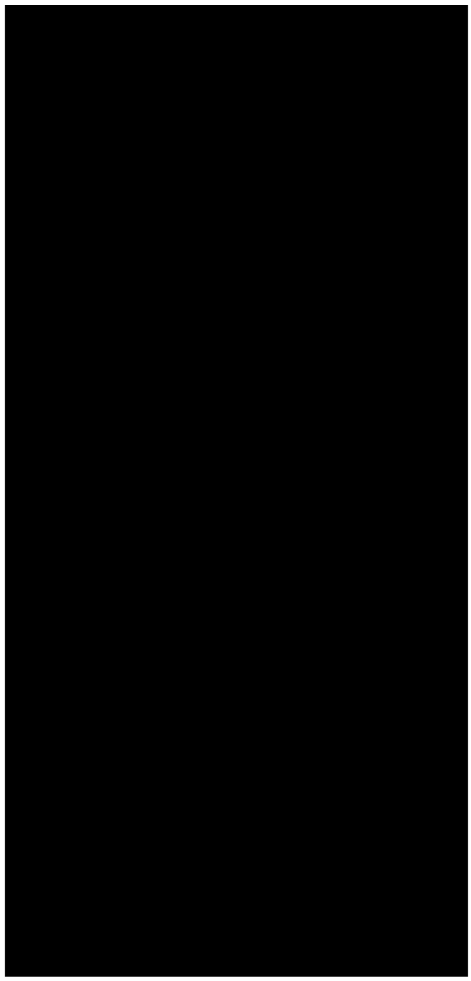


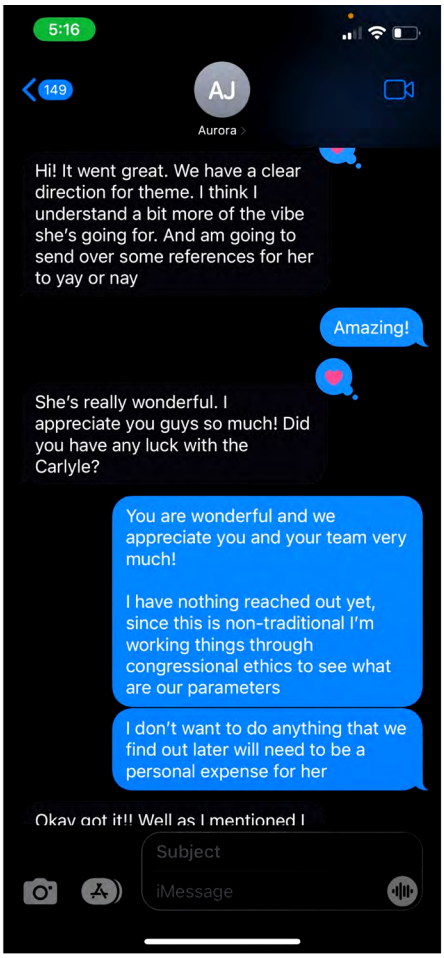




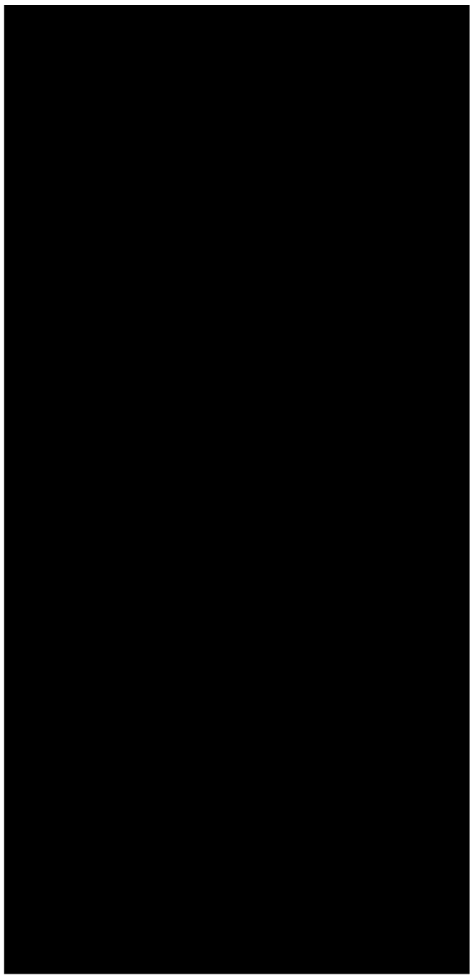


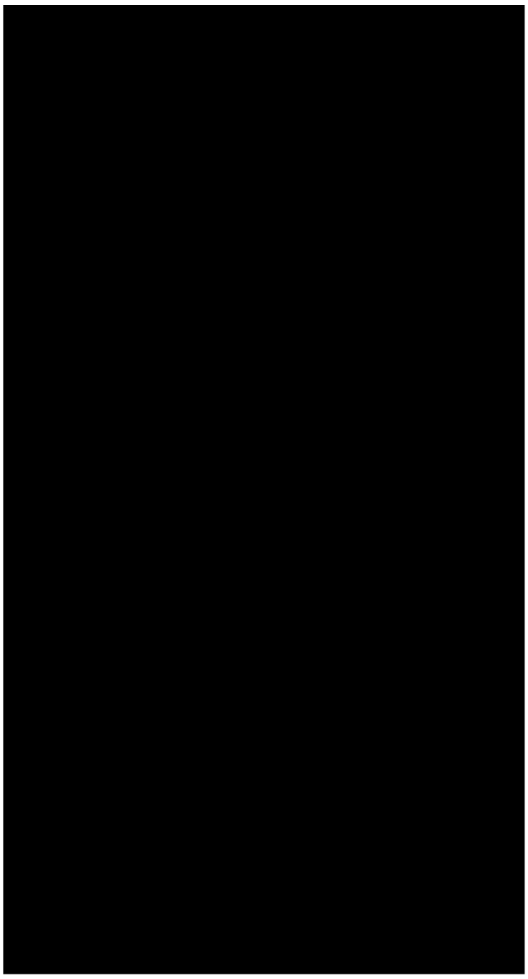


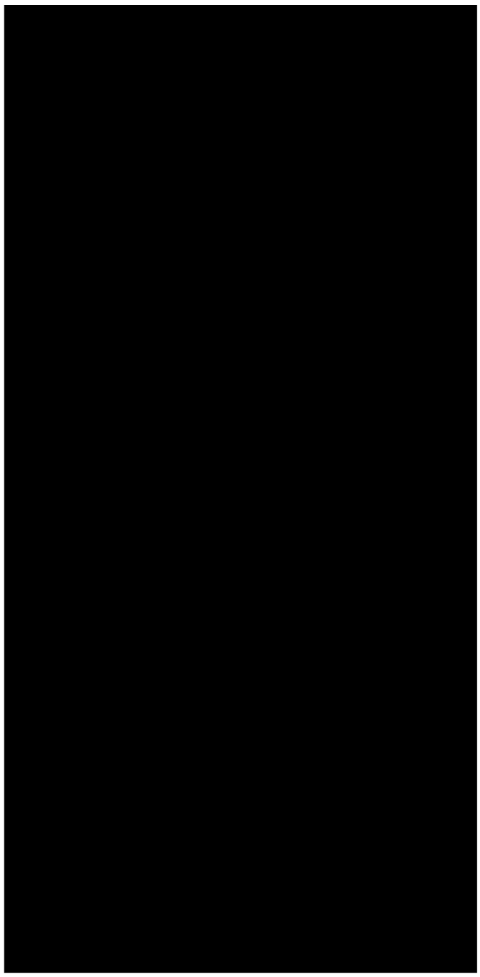


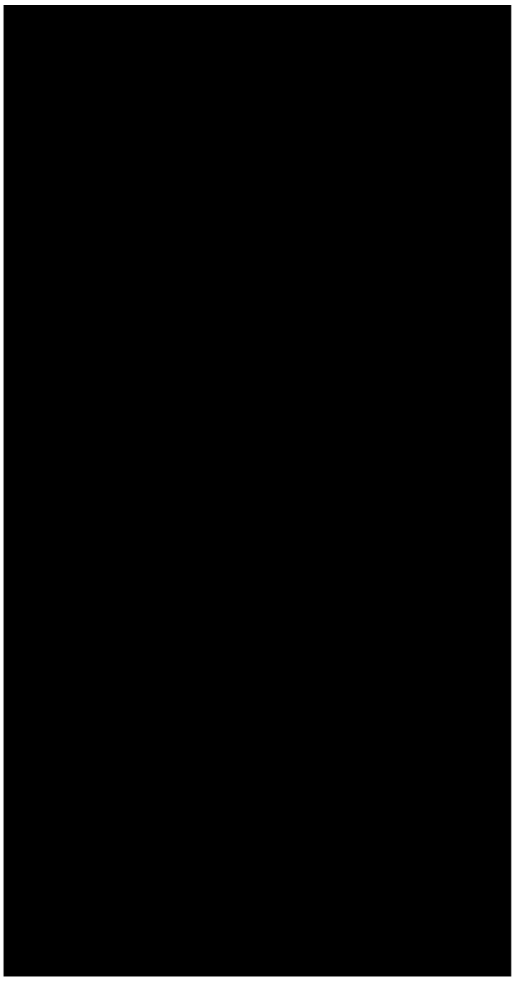

5:16
149
AJ
Aurora
Hi! It went great. We have a clear direction for theme. I think I understand a bit more of the vibe she's going for. And am going to send over some references for her to yay or nay
Amazing!
She's really wonderful. I appreciate you guys so much! Did you have any luck with the Carlyle?
You are wonderful and we appreciate you and your team very much!
I have nothing reached out yet, since this is non-traditional I'm working things through congressional ethics to see what are our parameters
I don't want to do anything that we find out later will need to be a personal expense for her
Okay got it!! Well as I mentioned I
Subject
iMessage

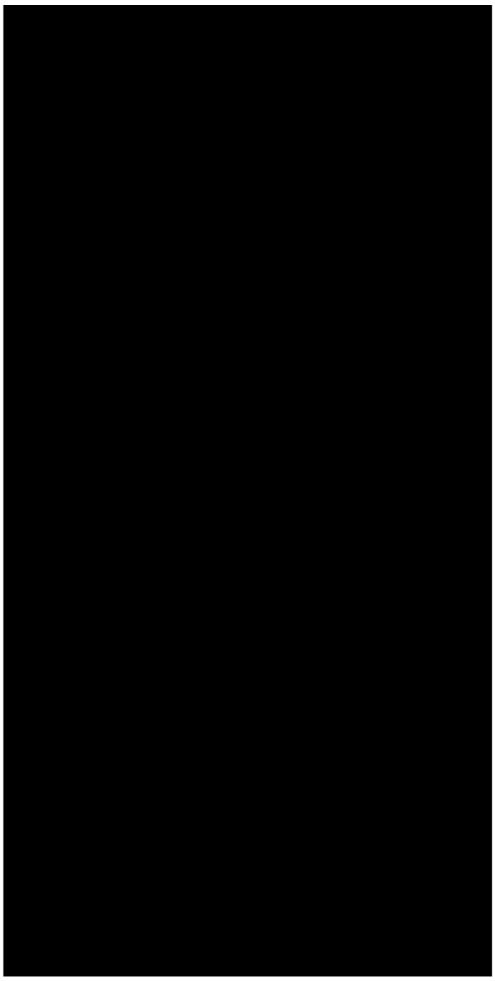
11

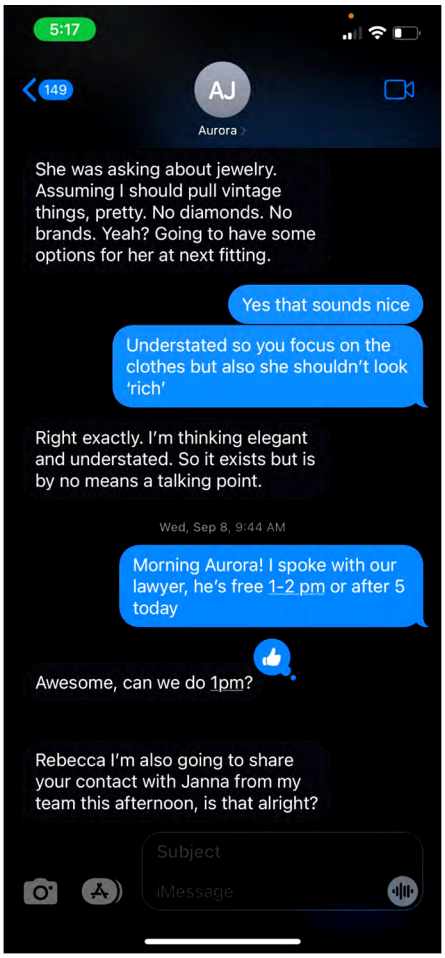


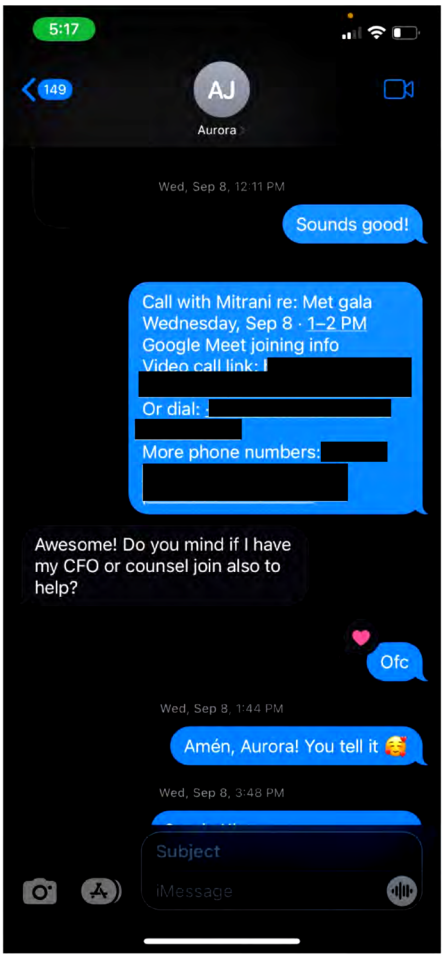


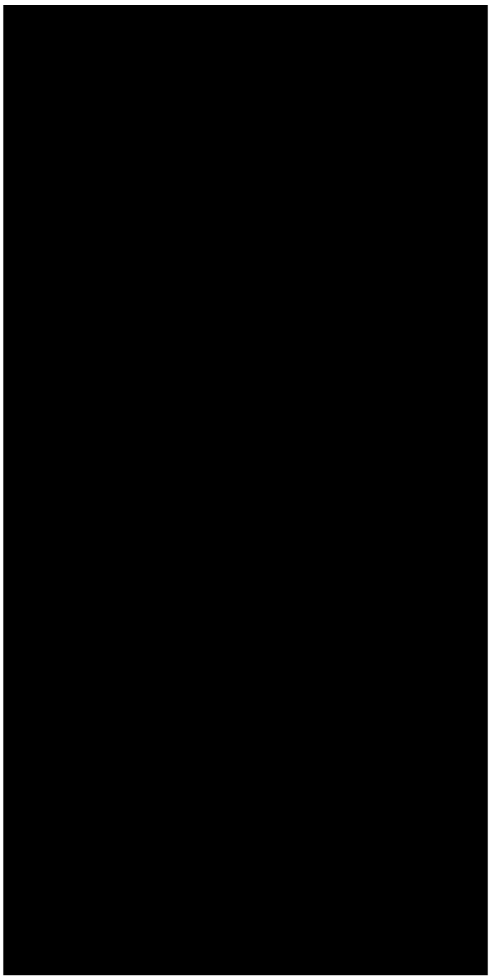


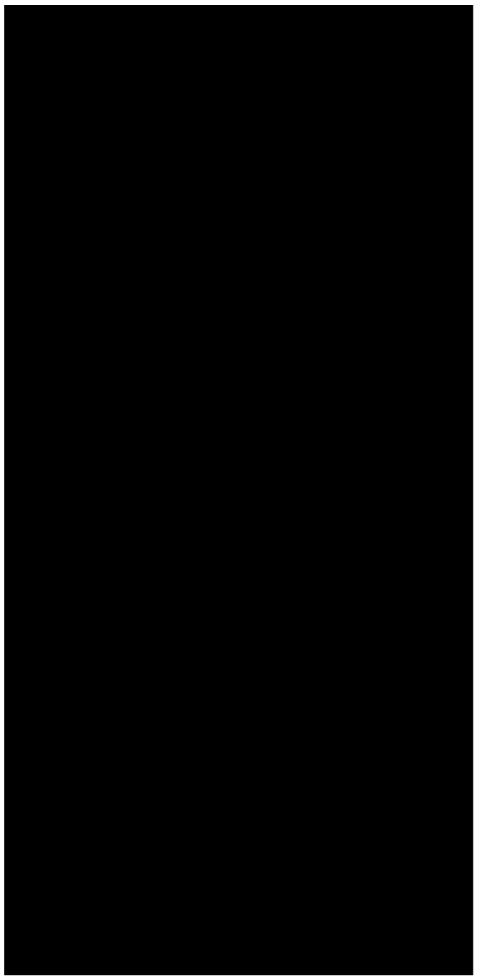


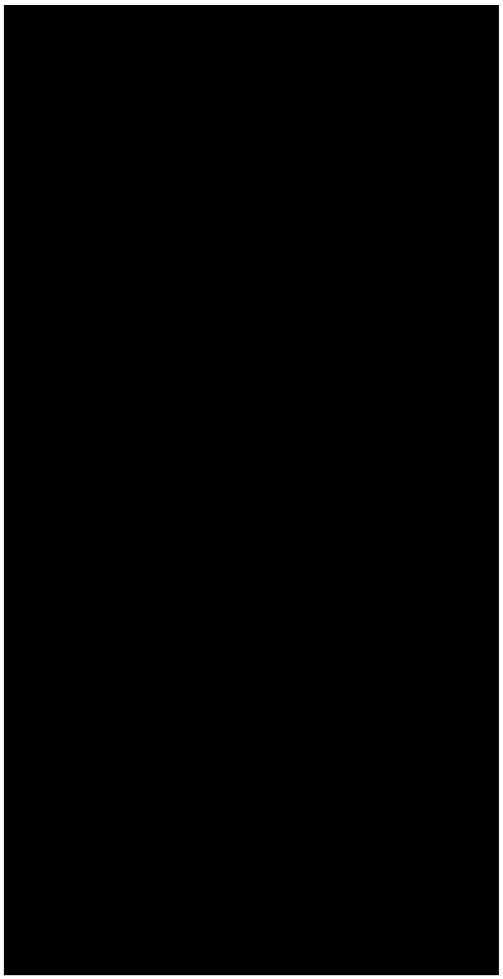


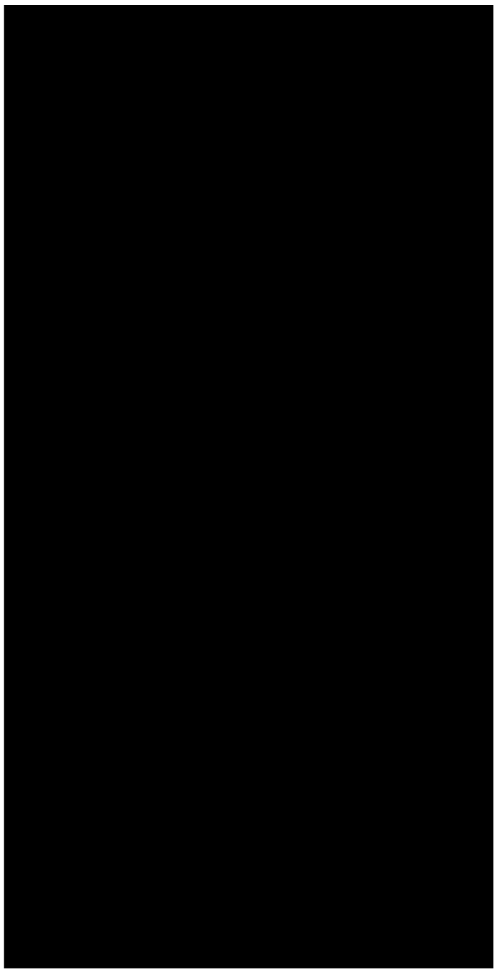

5:17
149
AJ
Aurora
She was asking about jewelry. Assuming I should pull vintage things, pretty. No diamonds. No brands. Yeah? Going to have some options for her at next fitting.
Yes that sounds nice
Understated so you focus on the clothes but also she shouldn't look 'rich'
Right exactly. I'm thinking elegant and understated. So it exists but is by no means a talking point.
Wed, Sep 8, 9:44 AM
Morning Aurora! I spoke with our lawyer, he's free 1-2 pm or after 5 today
Awesome, can we do 1pm?
Rebecca I'm also going to share your contact with Janna from my team this afternoon, is that alright?
Subject
iMessage

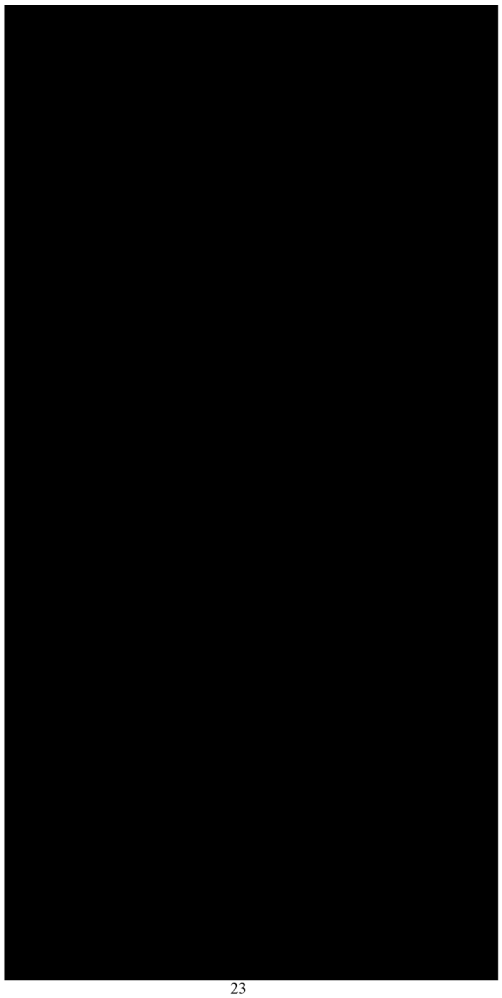

5:17
149
AJ
Aurora
Wed, Sep 8, 12:11 PM
Sounds good!
Call with Mitrani re: Met gala
Wednesday, Sep 8 · 1–2 PM
Google Meet joining info
Video call link:
Or dial:
More phone numbers:
Awesome! Do you mind if I have my CFO or counsel join also to help?
Ofc
Wed, Sep 8, 1:44 PM
Amén, Aurora! You tell it
Wed, Sep 8, 3:48 PM
Subject
iMessage

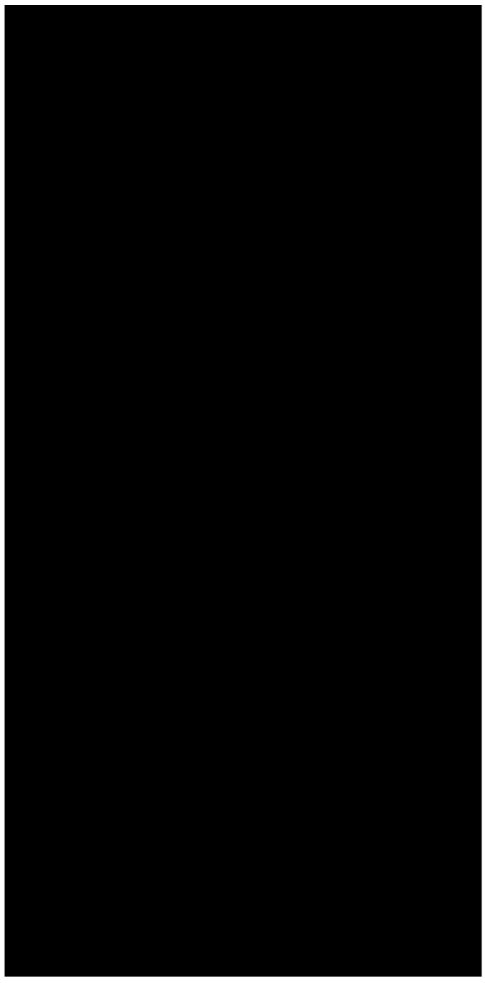


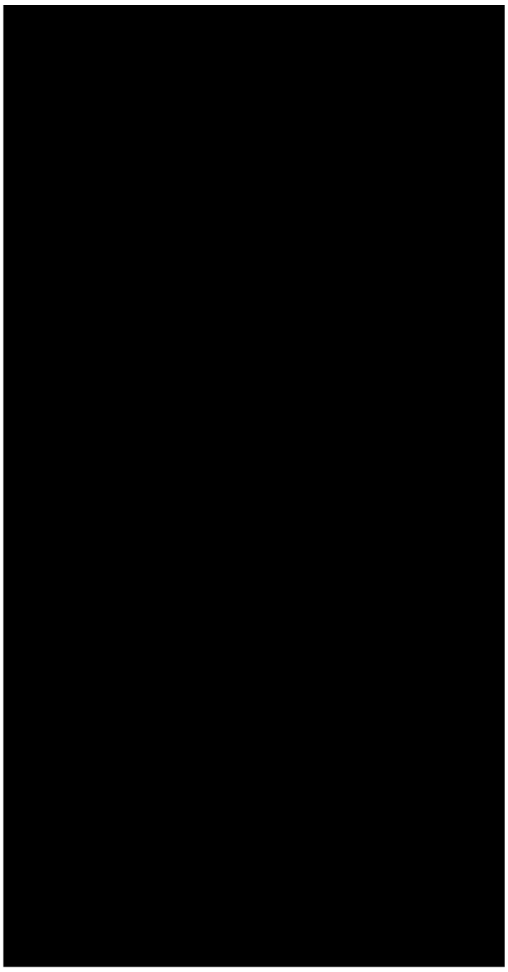


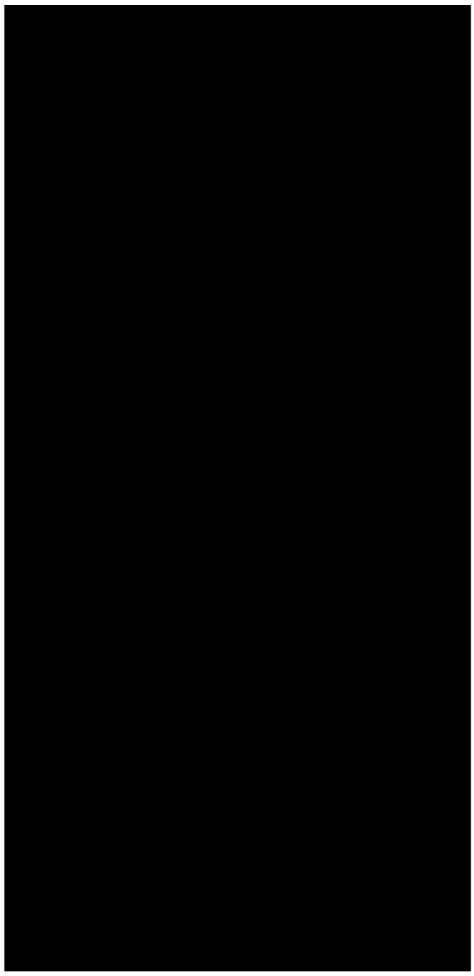


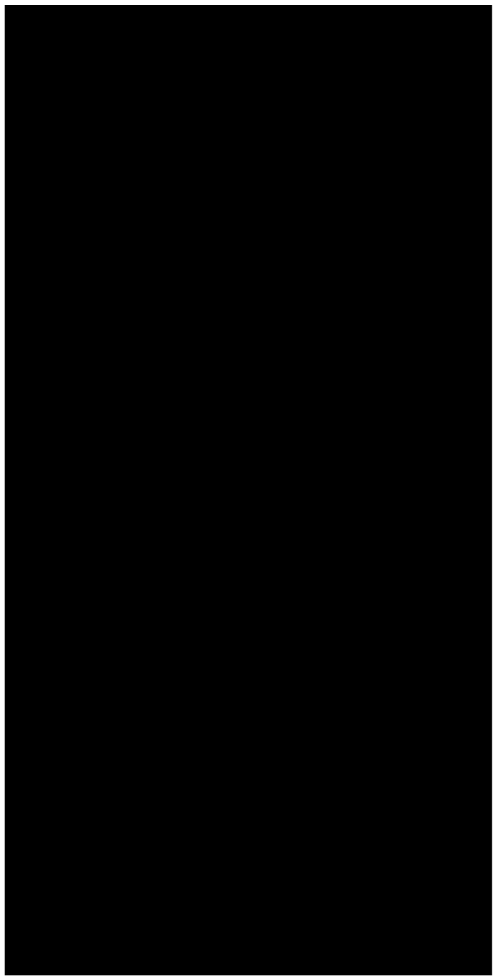


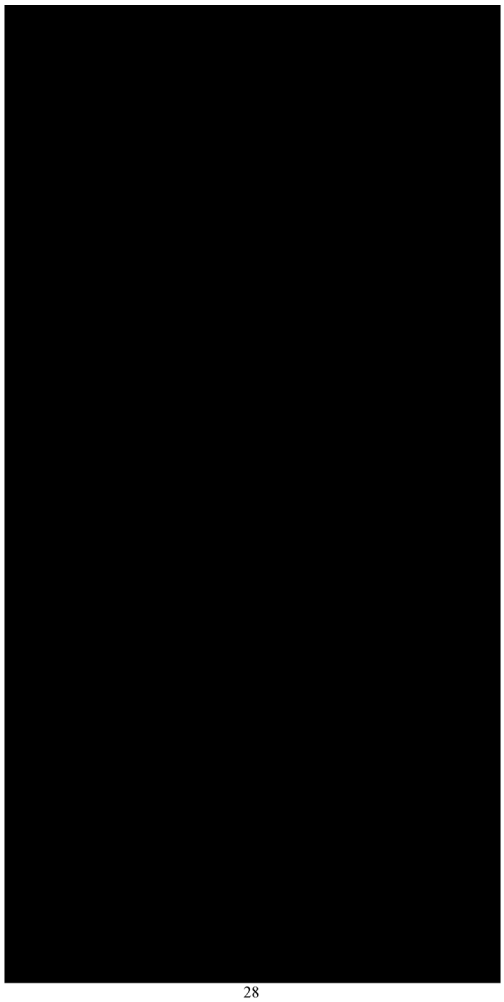


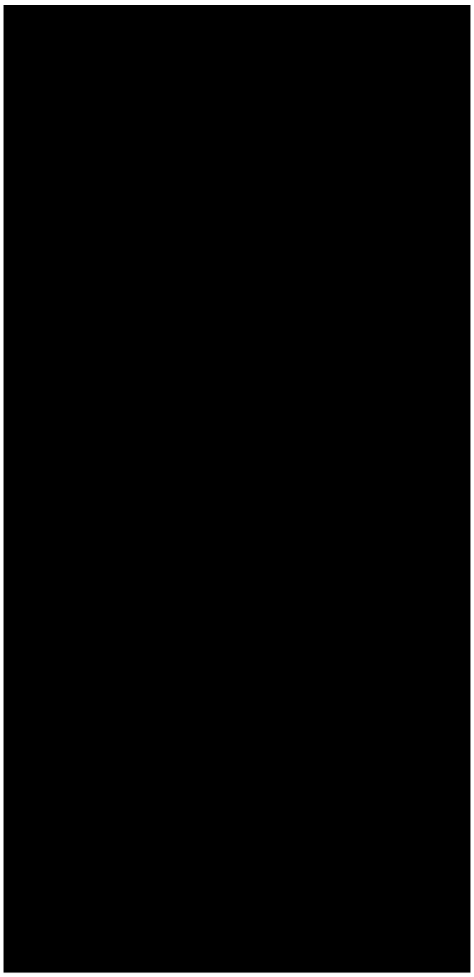


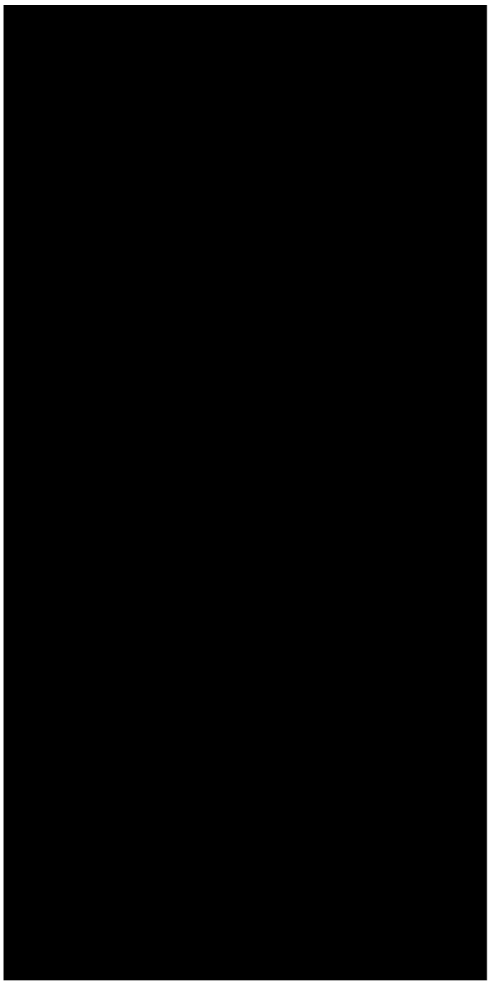


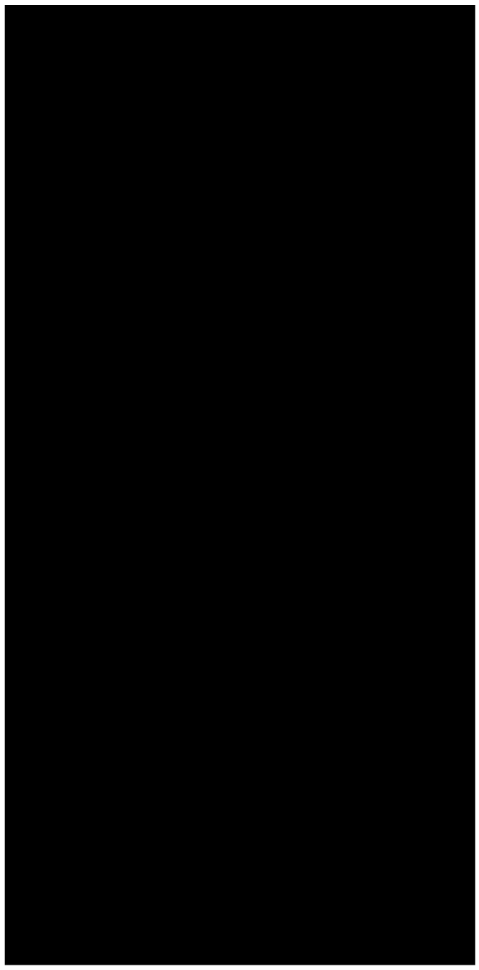


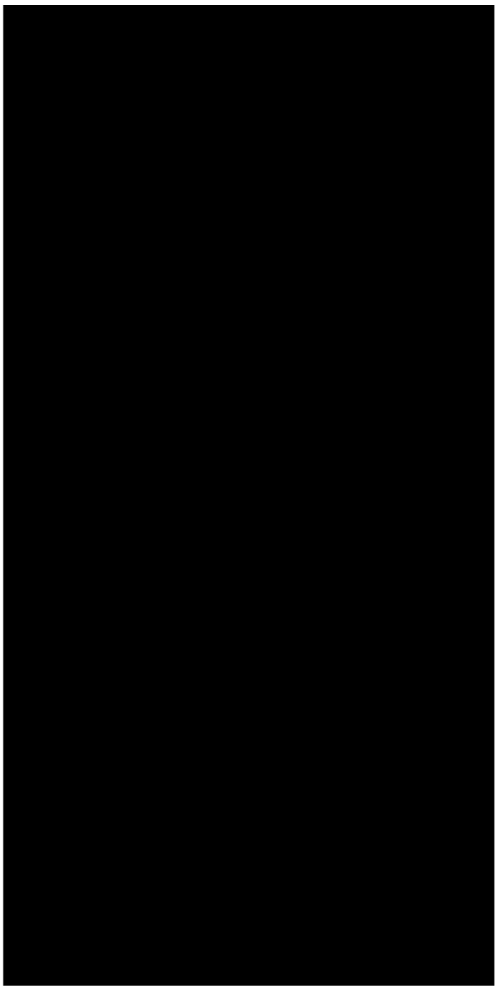


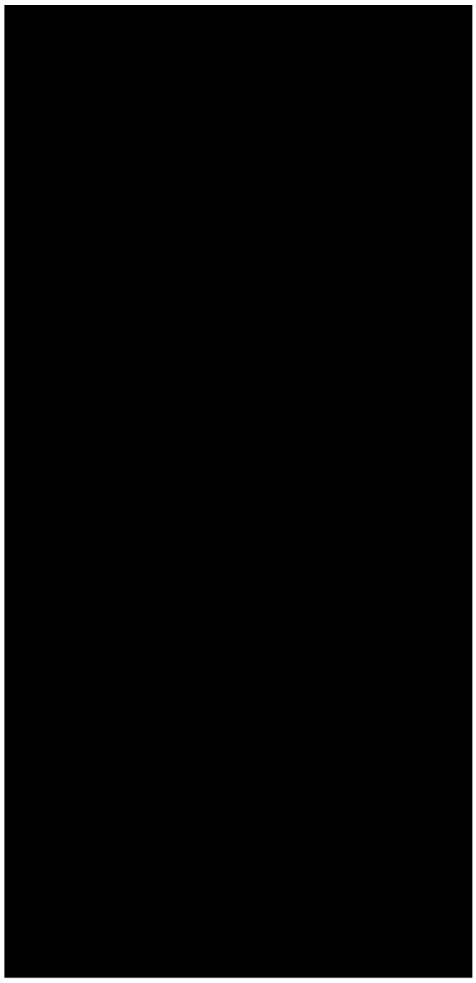


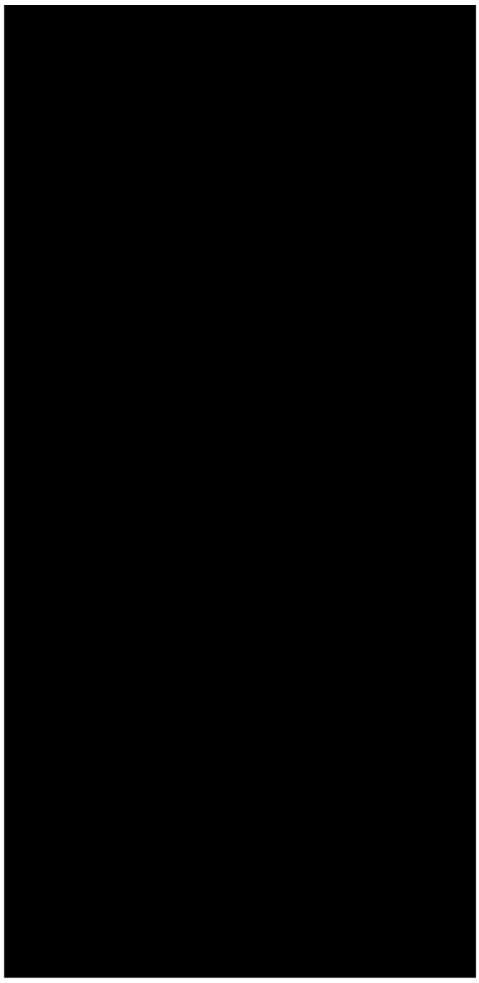


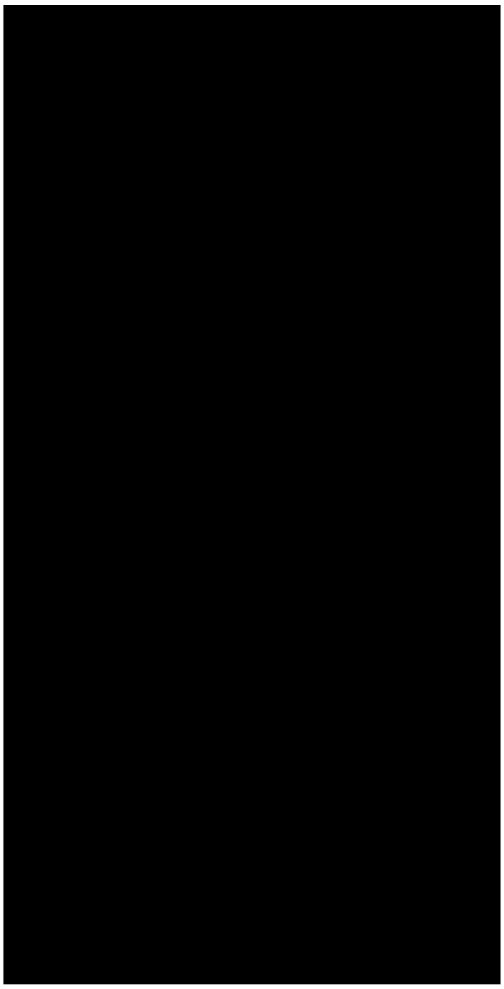












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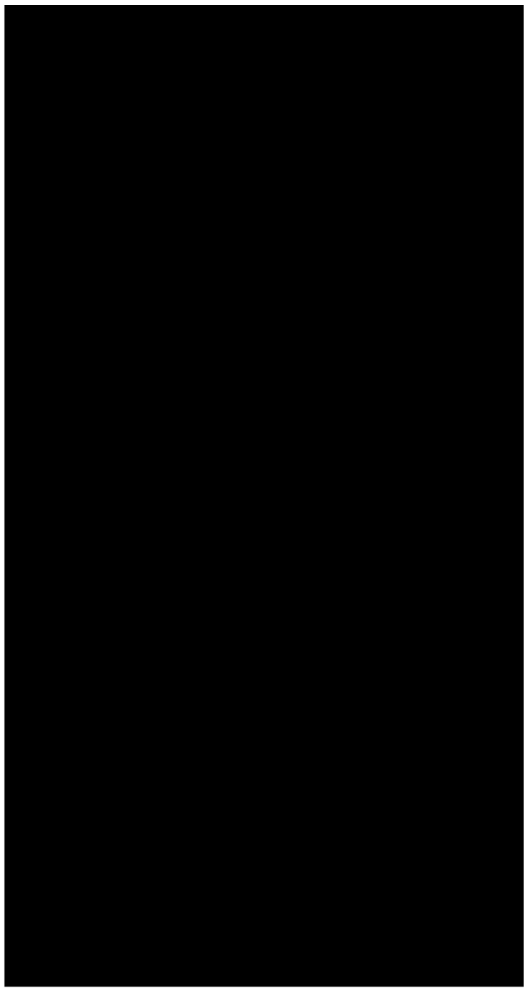

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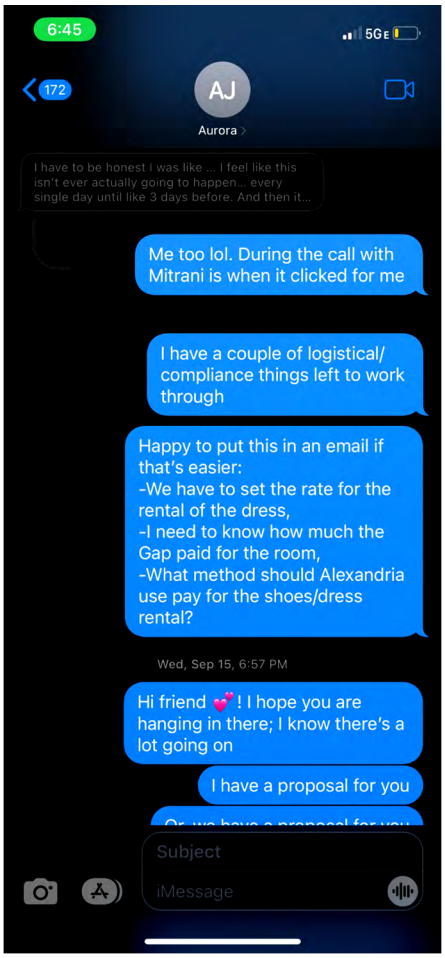
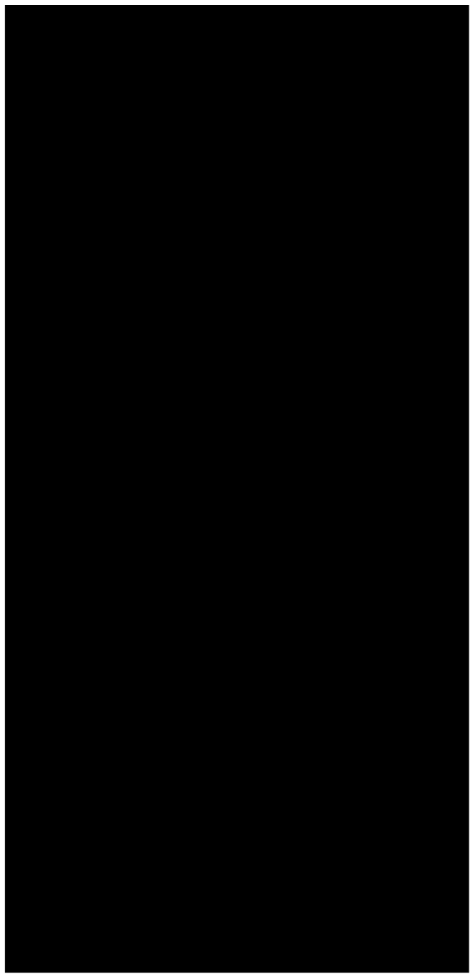
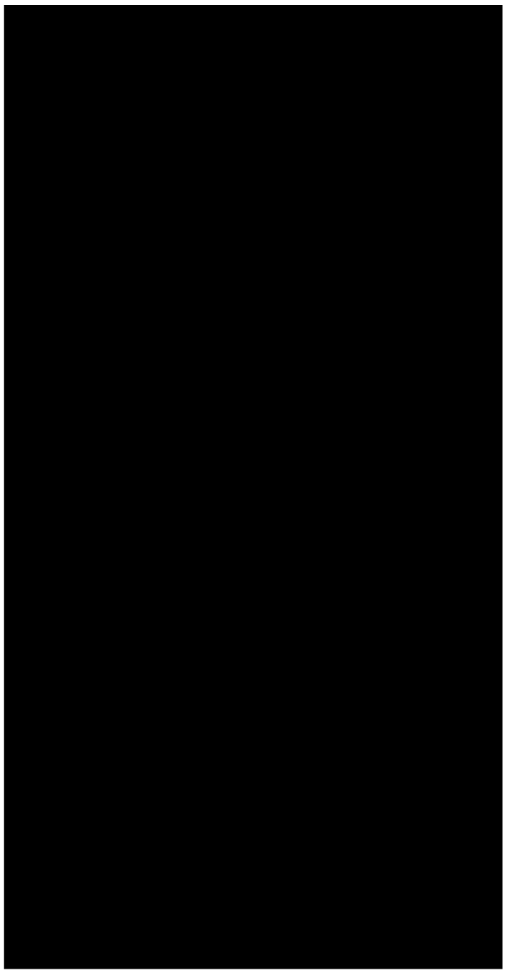

6:45
5GE
172
AJ
Aurora
I have to be honest I was like ... I feel like this isn't ever actually going to happen... every single day until like 3 days before. And then it...
Me too lol. During the call with Mitrani is when it clicked for me
I have a couple of logistical/ compliance things left to work through
Happy to put this in an email if that's easier:
-We have to set the rate for the rental of the dress,
-I need to know how much the Gap paid for the room,
-What method should Alexandria use pay for the shoes/dress rental?
Wed, Sep 15, 6:57 PM
Hi friend 💞! I hope you are hanging in there; I know there's a lot going on
I have a proposal for you
Subject
iMessage





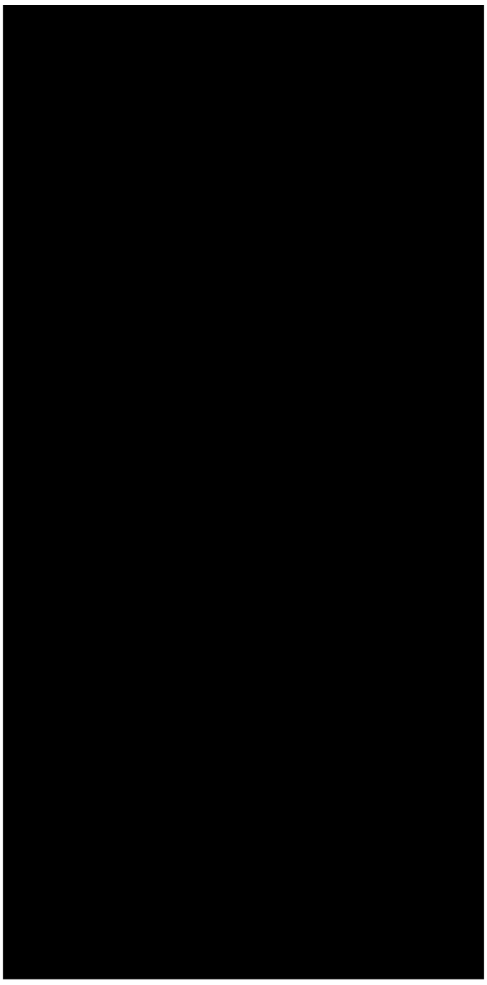


EXHIBIT 11

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 15:49:38 Eastern Standard Time

Subject: RE: Met Gala
Date: Friday, September 17, 2021 at 4:36:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Rust, Tom
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)
CC: Joseph E. Sandler

David,

I wanted to flag one thing for you. The Charitable Event Exception to the Gift Rule has some fairly narrow wording. Under the exception, Members can accept free attendance for themselves and "the spouse or dependent child thereof." *See* House Rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(4)(C). As a general matter, the Committee has taken a fairly narrow view of who counts as a "spouse or dependent child." This is in contrast to the Widely Attended Event exception which permits acceptance of free attendance for the Member and "an accompanying individual." *See* House Rule XXV, cl. 5(a)(4)(B).

If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Tom Rust
Staff Director & Chief Counsel
Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
[redacted]

From: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Rust, Tom <[redacted]>
Cc: Joseph E. Sandler <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Met Gala

Tom,

Thank you for this information – the Committee's staff has always been extraordinarily helpful with answering questions that our clients have had, and we very much appreciate Tonia reaching out.

In this case, the situation was straightforward: the Congresswoman's accepted complimentary attendance at this event, which was a fundraiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a 501(c)(3) charity. The invitation was extended directly by the sponsor of the event, which was the Met. The Congresswoman was offered a guest ticket under that same criteria, and her longtime partner attended the event as well.

Apart from the ticket, the meals, and beverages at the event, the Congresswoman is paying personally for all other benefits including the rental value of her dress, handbag, and accessories, as well as the full value for the shoes worn.

The Congresswoman is also paying for the services related to her hair and makeup, transportation related to the event, and the pro-rated value of a hotel room that was shared with others for staging prior to the Met Gala.

If the Committee's staff has additional questions regarding the Congresswoman's compliance with the gift rules, we'd be happy to provide information or substantiation.

Thanks,
Dave

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005
[redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Rust, Tom <[redacted]
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 4:21 PM
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) [redacted]
Cc: Joseph E. Sandler <[redacted]
Subject: FW: Met Gala

David:

Tonia forwarded your email to me so I could clarify the scope of her outreach. Her initial email to your client's office was not because the Ethics Committee had questions for your client. To the contrary, Tonia is the Committee's Director of Advice and Education, and her email was a common, compliance-related outreach in which she was proactively checking if your client had any questions for us about the ethics rules and how they apply to events like the Met Gala. This is something we commonly do, particularly when there has been a high profile matter and we don't have a record of the office seeking the Committee's guidance on the issues involved.

In the course of providing that advice we would try to answer questions like:

1. How can a Member obtain a ticket, and if not paying for it, from whom can they accept a free ticket?
2. If the Member accepts a free ticket, can the Member accept more than one ticket, and if so, who can use the second ticket?
3. How can a Member obtain use a gown for such an event?
4. If something of value has been accepted that does not fit within a gift rule exception, what are the ways to rectify the situation?

Our initial goal was a brief, informal phone call on these issues, and as noted this is entirely voluntary and meant in the spirit of proactive customer service. If we can be of help with regard to these questions (or any others), please let us know. Often with these kinds of things phone calls are quicker and easier (and where outside counsel is involved, cheaper for the client). However, if you prefer to correspond in writing, that would be fine.

Tom Rust
Staff Director & Chief Counsel
Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

[redacted]

From: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Bonilla Chavez, Gerardo <[redacted] Smith, Tonia [redacted]; Joseph E. Sandler <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Met Gala

Tonia – very good to meet you! My firm is outside counsel to the Congresswoman, and adding Joe Sandler from our firm as well – we've corresponded with Ethics' staff many times, including for the Congresswoman (and others).

Is there any information that we can provide to Ethics? If there are questions that we can respond to in writing, we'd be more than happy to.

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005
[redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Bonilla Chavez, Gerardo <[redacted]
Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 3:01 PM
To: Smith, Tonia <[redacted]
Cc: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Met Gala

Shoot, I'm been in back to backs for the rest of the day. Anyway in particular that I can address now?

Plus David Mitrani, who is running point on this.

GBC

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 14, 2021, at 3:37 PM, Smith, Tonia <[redacted] wrote:
>
> If now works, I can be reached at [redacted].
>
> Thanks,
>
> Tonia Smith
> Director of Advice and Education
> Committee on Ethics
> U.S. House of Representatives

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
[redacted]

From: Bonilla Chavez, Gerardo <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 3:10 PM
To: Smith, Tonia <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Met Gala

Hi Tonia,
Happy to jump on a call later today or tomorrow if you are free.

Best,
gbc

Gerardo Bonilla Chavez
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) | Chief of Staff
He/Him/El

From: Smith, Tonia <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Hernandez Rivera, Maribel [redacted]
Cc: Bonilla Chavez, Gerardo [redacted]
Subject: RE: Met Gala

Maribel, it was great working with you as well—I appreciate all of your thoughtful questions. I wish you all the best.

Take care,

Tonia Smith
Director of Advice and Education
Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
[redacted]

From: Hernandez Rivera, Maribel <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:08 PM
To: Smith, Tonia <[redacted]
Cc: Bonilla Chavez, Gerardo [redacted]
Subject: Re: Met Gala

Hi Tonia,

Thank you for reaching out. Today is my last day with the Congresswoman's office. So, I'm adding our Chief of Staff, Gerardo Bonilla Chavez, so that the two of you can connect. It's been great working with you and thank you for all your guidance these past few years.

Kind regards,

Maribel

From: Smith, Tonia <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 11:55 AM
To: Hernandez Rivera, Maribel <[redacted]>
Subject: Met Gala

Good Morning:

I hope you are well. Can you please give me a call at ([redacted]

Thanks,

Tonia Smith
Director of Advice and Education
Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
[redacted]

EXHIBIT 12

To: Rebecca Rodriguez[redacted]
Cc: Kiernan, Eaddy[redacted]; Concetta Ciarlo[redacted]
Brittany Daulton[redacted] Sophia Medrano[redacted] Pape,
Sophie[redacted]; Jessica Nichols[redacted]
From: Holloway, Jenae
Sent: Mon 8/2/2021 11:38:23 PM
Subject: Important Information for Costume Institute Benefit | Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Dear Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez,
In the coming days we will be emailing important arrival and safety protocol for this year's Costume Institute Benefit. In advance of our official guidelines, we need to draw your attention to a few important points.

1. **Invitation:** Initially, you will receive a digital invitation (*your RSVP is noted*).

2. **Health and Safety:** Attached to the invitation, you will receive event and arrival information to disseminate to your guests. Out of concern for the safety of our guests, we will require all guests to provide proof of full vaccination status. Further details to follow.

3. **Guidelines and Entry:** In the final email, you will receive entry materials along with a recap of the aforementioned and any updates.

We will continue to follow up with you directly about your registration status. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

All the best,
Jenae
Jenae Holloway
Special Events | VOGUE

EXHIBIT 13

To: Chilton, Nancy
Cc: Lauren Hitt[redacted]; Janna Pea[redacted]; Jill Weiskopf[redacted]; Rebecca Rodriguez[redacted]; Remi Berger[redacted]
From: Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy
Sent: Tue 9/14/2021 5:16:21 PM
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquries

Lauren are you comfortable with that? If yes we will give it to Annie and others

On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 12:52 PM Chilton, Nancy <[redacted]> wrote:

> Actually, can we say: Met trustee Anna Wintour invited AOC, who was a guest of the Museum?
>
> --
>
> Nancy Chilton
> Chief External Relations Officer for The Costume Institute
> [redacted]
>
> **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**
> 1000 Fifth Avenue
> New York, NY 10028
> @metmuseum
> metmuseum.org
>
> **From:** Lauren Hitt <[redacted]>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:32 PM
> **To:** Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy <[redacted]>
> **Cc:** Janna Pea <[redacted]>; Jill Weiskopf <[redacted]>; Chilton, Nancy <[redacted]>; Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>; Remi Berger <[redacted]>
> **Subject:** [External] - Re: Inquries
>
> Hey all, that's all consistent with what we have been saying publicly. That she was a guest of the Museum's - not Vogue.
>
> I'm at [redacted]. Text or call if anything else comes up that's very urgent.
>
> Lauren

On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 11:54 AM Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy <[redacted]> wrote:

Looping in Nancy from the met. The times, Annie karni has reached out inquiring about her ticket (in addition to other outlets) they are also asking where she sat and fact checking that she was invited and declined in 2019 and attended this year.

Here is what we are proposing to say

On background - the congresswoman was invited as a guest of the metropolitan museum.

Re the table seating we never release that information

And confirming the timeline for invitations.

PleSe let us know if there are any issues with the above as we would really like to get back to folks by 1pm if we can.

Thanks.

On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 09:20 Kuryk-bernstein, Hildy <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi Lauren -

Happy tuesday! Hope the congresswoman had a great time last night! I wanted to check in and loop in you with Jill and Remi who run Vogue comms. we have had a number of inquiries re: AOC's invitation and if she paid for her ticket etc. Mainly from Page Six.

We also alerted the museum. Given that she was a guest of vogue we were planning to say on background that she was a guest of Anna's. Of course wanted to check with you before responding.

Thanks,

H

EXHIBIT 14

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10:53:37 Eastern Standard Time

Subject: RE: [External] - Re: Inquiries
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:33:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Rhatigan, Chloe
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)

Hi David,
We sent a Teams invite earlier today but please let us know if we can cancel. The invitation details were sent to Sujin and Clyde.

6pm - Call re: CIB Inquiries

If Zoom or just phone is best please advise and we can adjust invitation

---

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting
Or call in (audio only)
[redacted]tates, Brentwood
Find a local number | Reset PIN
Learn More | Meeting options

--
Chloe Rhatigan
Executive Assistant
External Affairs
[redacted]

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028
@metmuseum
metmuseum.org

-----Original Appointment-----
From: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Maloni, Elyse; Logan, Margaret-Anne; Rhatigan, Chloe
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries
When: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 6:00 PM-6:40 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: https://us02web.zoom.u[redacted]

(I didn't see an invite, so sending one here!)

From: Lauren Hitt <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:19 PM
To: Weine, Kenneth <[redacted]
Cc: Chilton, Nancy <[redacted]>, Cott, Sharon <[redacted]>, David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) [redacted], Janna Pea [redacted], Jones III, Clyde B. [redacted] Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>, Rhatigan, Chloe <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Ok talk at 6!

On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 5:18 PM Weine, Kenneth <[redacted]> wrote:
That's fine too.

From: "David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)" <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:17 PM
To: "Weine, Kenneth" [redacted], Lauren Hitt <[redacted]>, "Jones III, Clyde B." [redacted]
Cc: Nancy Chilton <[redacted]>, "Cott, Sharon" [redacted], Janna Pea [redacted], Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted] "Rhatigan, Chloe" [redacted]
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

All – I've made a few small edits (and got some feedback from internal to my firm incorporated in the first paragraph).

Is the highlighted still accurate?

> The Congresswoman's acceptance of complimentary attendance at the event was clearly permissible under the House Ethics rules. Under House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C)·(D), a member of Congress may accept an offer of "free attendance at a charity event" along with food, beverages, and entertainment at the event. We worked with the Met to confirm that the offer of free attendance in this case fully complied with the Rules:
>
> 1. The Metropolitan Museum of Art sponsors The Costume Institute Benefit. Contributions to The Costume Institute Benefit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as a 501(c)(3) public charity.
>
> 2. The primary purpose of the event is charitable. All proceeds from the Benefit are used by The Met to fund the Costume Institute's staff and annual programming.
>
> 3. The invitation to the event was extended specifically by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Anna Wintour, **in her capacity as a** trustee of the Met and the organizer of this event, and not by any outside organization.
>
> 4. The Met is primarily responsible for organizing the event, the Met produces and hosts the event, pays all the vendors and performers for the event, and signs off on all aspects of the event.
>
> The Congresswoman has complied with all ethical guidelines for a Member of the House of Representatives. The Congresswoman takes these restrictions very seriously.

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005
[redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Weine, Kenneth <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 4:39 PM
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted], Lauren Hitt <[redacted],
Jones III, Clyde B. <[redacted]
Cc: Chilton, Nancy <[redacted], Cott, Sharon <[redacted],
Janna Pea <[redacted], Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted], Rhatigan,
Chloe <[redacted]
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Thanks. By my view all if fine with the addition in bold, which is important and accurate.

From: "David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)" <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 4:34 PM
To: Lauren Hitt <[redacted], "Weine, Kenneth" <[redacted]
Cc: Nancy Chilton <[redacted], "Cott, Sharon"
<[redacted], Janna Pea <[redacted] Rebecca Rodriguez
<[redacted] "Rhatigan, Chloe" <[redacted]
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

All: in advance of our call, please see below for a proposed response that we'd give to inquiries, attributable to me as the Congresswoman's counsel.

This isn't necessarily what we'd say publicly, but would be a way to handle inquiries from legitimate outlets asking questions about the application of the ethics rules.

The Congresswoman's attendance at the event was permissible. Under House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C)-(D), free attendance to the event, along with food, beverages, and entertainment at the event, are permissible, since they were offered directly by a charitable organization. We worked with the Met to confirm that the exception was met.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art hosts The Costume Institute Benefit. Contributions to The Costume Institute Benefit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

The primary purpose of the event is charitable. All proceeds from the Benefit are used by The Met to fund the Costume Institute's staff and annual programming.

The invitation to the event was extended specifically by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's **Anna Wintour, who is a trustee of the Met and the organizer of this event**, and and not by any outside organization.

The Met is primarily responsible for organizing the event, the Met produces and hosts the event, pays all the vendors and performers for the event, and signs off on all aspects of the event.

The Congresswoman has complied with all ethical guidelines for a Member of the House of Representatives. The Congresswoman takes these restrictions very seriously.

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005
[redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Lauren Hitt <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 4:02 PM
To: Weine, Kenneth [redacted]
Cc: Chilton, Nancy <[redacted] Cott, Sharon <[redacted]
David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted], Janna Pea [redacted]
Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>, Rhatigan, Chloe
<[redacted]>
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Talk to everyone at 6.

On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 3:38 PM Weine, Kenneth <[redacted]> wrote:
Adding Chloe in my office to send a Teams invite. If Zoom or just phone is best please advise.

From: "David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)" [redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3:38 PM
To: "Weine, Kenneth" <[redacted], Lauren Hitt [redacted],
"Cott, Sharon" <[redacted]>
Cc: Nancy Chilton <[redacted], Janna Pea <[redacted]>,
Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted]
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

That'd work for me.

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005
[redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Weine, Kenneth <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3:37 PM
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]>, Lauren Hitt <[redacted],
Cott, Sharon <[redacted]>
Cc: Chilton, Nancy <[redacted], Janna Pea <[redacted],
Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Thanks David and Lauren: I just talked to our General Counsel, Sharon Cott, who I'm adding here. Seems a call is best. We have a board meeting 4 to 6pm. Can we have a call at 6? Thanks, Ken

From: "David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)" <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3:32 PM
To: Lauren Hitt <[redacted] "Weine, Kenneth" <[redacted]
Cc: Nancy Chilton <[redacted], Janna Pea [redacted]
Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted]
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Very good to meet/re-meet everyone!

The Congresswoman was able to accept free attendance to the event, along with food, beverages, and entertainment at the event, ***only because they were offered directly by a charitable organization.***

From the legal side, in order to be permissible, the invitation to the event needed to have been extended specifically by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and not by any outside organization or individual. So, can we say "she was a guest of the museum", and not a guest of Anna's.

I've included the rest of the test below for reference!

1. The Metropolitan Museum of Art hosts The Costume Institute Benefit. Contributions to The Costume Institute Benefit The Metropolitan Museum of Art, as a 501(c)(3) public charity with EIN 13-1624086 (IRS record here).

2. The primary purpose of the event is charitable. All proceeds from the Benefit are used by The Met to fund the Costume Institute's staff and annual programming.

3. The Met is primarily responsible for organizing the event, the Met produces and hosts the event, pays all the vendors and performers for the event, and signs off on all aspects of the event.

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1090 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005
[redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Lauren Hitt <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3:26 PM
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) [redacted] Weine, Kenneth
<[redacted]
Cc: Chilton, Nancy <[redacted], Janna Pea <[redacted]
Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted]
Subject: Re: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Hey all, unfortunately that still doesn't work. I've added our legal counsel and we're happy to hop on the phone to describe in more detail why if necessary.

On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 3:10 PM Weine, Kenneth <[redacted]> wrote:
Thanks. Nice to meet on email and we were so honored that the Congresswoman joined last night. We think this needle can be thread with the following: Anna wintour -- a Met Trustee and organizer of the event -- invited AOC as a guest of the Museum. Thanks, Ken

Ken Weine
Vice President, External Affairs
Chief Communications Officer
[redacted]
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028
@metmuseum
metmuseum.org

From: Nancy Chilton <[redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 2:58 PM
To: Lauren Hitt [redacted] "Weine, Kenneth" <[redacted]
Cc: Janna Pea <[redacted], Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted]
Subject: RE: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Looping in Ken Weine, our chief comms officer who oversees government relations at The Met, for further discussion of below and your concerns.

--
Nancy Chilton
Chief External Relations Officer for The Costume Institute
[redacted]

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028
@metmuseum
metmuseum.org

On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 12:52 PM Chilton, Nancy <[redacted] wrote:

Actually, can we say: Met trustee Anna Wintour invited AOC, who was a guest of the Museum?

--
Nancy Chilton
Chief External Relations Officer for The Costume Institute
[redacted]

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028
@metmuseum
metmuseum.org

From: Lauren Hitt <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Chilton, Nancy <[redacted] Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Subject: [External] - Re: Inquiries

Hey all, that's all consistent with what we have been saying publicly. That she was a guest of the Museum's - not Vogue.

I'm at [redacted] Text or call if anything else comes up that's very urgent.

Lauren

Dave Mitrani is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us[redacted]

Meeting ID[redacted]
One tap mobile
[redacted]

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: [redacted]
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/[redacted]

EXHIBIT 15

To: Janna Pea[redacted]
From: Lauren Hitt
Sent: Tue 9/14/2021 12:33:09 PM
Subject: Tricky Q&A

There's a lot of legalese behind all of this so if you have questions about why we're saying things a particular way just give me a call.

Did she pay for a ticket?
As with most guests, she did not.

Who paid for the ticket? Did you?
No, she was invited to attend by the Met.

How much did the dress cost?
(Thought her original answer here was perfect - I haven't tabulated all costs but I did use sustainable materials etc)

Does she get to keep the dress?
As with most guests, no. (Would leave it there - we can't say it was loaned because we're going to report it as rented but that's for compliance purposes and really exhausting to explain).

EXHIBIT 16

To: Rebecca Rodriguez[redacted]
Cc: Kit Fogarty[redacted] Lila Benaissa[redacted] Michelle Wong[redacted] Nishi, Naomi[redacted] Rayna Donatelli[redacted]; Tara Homeri[redacted]; Yates, Emily[redacted]
From: Tyler Williamson
Sent: Thur 9/30/2021 1:11:53 PM
Subject: FINAL INV. 145352 | MET GALA 2021
FinalInvoice.145352.pdf

Good morning -

No worries; thank you, Rebecca!

Please see attached for the invoice.

Eric adored collaborating with AOC on her Met Gala look, and he hopes to work with her again! Xx

All my best,
Tyler

TYLER WILLIAMSON
PRODUCER

STREETERS
[redacted]
WWW.STREETERS.COM
@STREETERSAGENCY

Streeters is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community within our industry. We pledge to continue representing diverse talent, creating and celebrating imagery that represents the world in which we live, and fostering a positive work environment for our team.

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]
Cc: Kit Fogarty [redacted]; Lila Benaissa [redacted]; Michelle Wong <[redacted]; Nishi, Naomi <[redacted] Rayna Donatelli [redacted]; Tara Homeri [redacted]; Yates, Emily [redacted]
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Whoops, thank you for checking in, please send me the invoice. Thanks!

On Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 4:14 PM Tyler Williamson <[redacted] wrote:

Hi!

Following up on billing. Can we send an invoice? X

Thanks,

Tyler

TYLER WILLIAMSON
PRODUCER

STREETERS
[redacted]
WWW.STREETERS.COM
@STREETERSAGENCY

Streeters is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community within our industry. We pledge to continue representing diverse talent, creating and celebrating imagery that represents the world in which we live, and fostering a positive work environment for our team.

From: Tyler Williamson [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Yates, Emily <[redacted]

Cc: Nishi, Naomi [redacted]; Lila Benaissa [redacted] Rayna Donatelli [redacted]; Michelle Wong <[redacted]; Kit Fogarty [redacted]; Tara Homeri <[redacted]; rebecca[redacted]
<rebecca[redacted]
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Good morning!

Sounds good - thank you, Emily.

Nice to meet you, Rebecca!

TYLER WILLIAMSON
PRODUCER

STREETERS
[redacted]
WWW.STREETERS.COM
@STREETERSAGENCY

Streeters is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community within our industry. We pledge to continue representing diverse talent, creating and celebrating imagery that represents the world in which we live, and fostering a positive work environment for our team.

From: Yates, Emily <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:14 AM
To: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>
Cc: Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]; Lila Benaissa [redacted] Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]; Michelle Wong <[redacted]; Kit Fogarty [redacted]; Tara Homeri <[redacted]; rebecca[redacted]
<rebecca[redacted]
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Good morning Tyler and Ranya!
Hope you are doing well. We've actually had a small shift on our end with billing and talent's team will be handling directly. I've copied Rebecca here who will take it away.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thanks!
Emily

On Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 9:32 PM Tyler Williamson <[redacted] wrote:

All good, thank you for the update!

TYLER WILLIAMSON
STREETERS

[redacted]
www.streeters.com
@streetersagency

From: Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 9:30:39 PM
To: Tyler Williamson [redacted]
Cc: Lila Benaissa <[redacted] Rayna Donatelli [redacted]; Michelle Wong <[redacted]; Emily Yates <[redacted] Kit Fogarty <[redacted] Tara Homeri <[redacted]
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Hi Tyler!

For Eric's arrival - The room will be under Aurora James!

If Eric has any issues please have him call me [redacted]

Catching up on these changes now, an official call sheet for your records will go out later tonight, but will be the same schedule x

Thank you!!

On Sun, 12 Sept 2021 at 20:49, Tyler Williamson <[redacted] wrote:

Thank you!

TYLER WILLIAMSON
PRODUCER

STREETERS
[redacted]
WWW.STREETERS.COM
@STREETERSAGENCY

Streeters is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community within our industry. We pledge to continue representing diverse talent, creating and celebrating imagery that represents the world in which we live, and fostering a positive work environment for our team.

STREETERS

FINAL INVOICE

Great Bowery Inc. dba Streeters
433 Broadway STE 420, New York, NY 10013

TO
REBECCA RODRIGUEZ
ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ FOR CONGRESS
[redacted]
UNITED STATES

JOB CONTACT
REBECCA RODRIGUEZ

DATE	30-SEP-2021
INVOICE NUMBER	145352
TERMS	NET 30
JOB NUMBER	STR118059
JOB TITLE	EW
	VOGUE - "GETTING READY WITH AOC" X MET GALA 2021
REPRESENTATIVE	RAYNA DONATELLI
CLIENT	ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ FOR CONGRESS
TOTAL DUE	$477.73
DUE DATE	30-OCT-2021

ARTIST	ELEGANT HAIRADDITIONS INC
DESCRIPTION	
USAGE	
JOB DATES	13-SEP-2021 - 13-SEP-2021
JOB LOCATION	NEW YORK NEW YORK

FEES	Assignment	1 x Event	300	1		300.00
	Agency Fee	10%	30	1		30.00
					FEES USD	$330.00
EXPENSES	Travel Expenses					132.88
					EXPENSES USD	$132.88

*see page 2 for further breakdown of expenses

TOTAL USD	$462.88
SUB TOTAL USD	$462.88
TAX TOTAL USD	$14.85
BALANCE DUE	$477.73

PAYMENT INSTRUCTION: ACH / WIRE TRANSFER TO:

Citibank N.A. USA , 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103
Account Name: [redacted]
Routing Number: [redacted]
Account Number: [redacted]
Swift Code: [redacted]
Payment Advice To: ar@streeters.com

*Great Bowery Inc. dba Streeters
invoices are no longer payable via check. Invoices are only payable via ACH / Wire or via credit card. An additional 3% fee is required for all credit card transactions. Credit card form provided upon request.

STREETERS

EXPENSE DETAIL

INVOICE: 145352

TRAVEL EXPENSES			
Per Diem/Meals	Working Lunch		90.12
Transportation	Cars To / From Event		42.76
		SUBTOTAL	$132.88
		EXPENSES USD	$132.88

PAYMENT INSTRUCTION: ACH / WIRE TRANSFER TO:

Citibank N.A. USA , 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103
Account Name: [redacted]
Routing Number: [redacted]
Account Number: [redacted]
Swift Code : [redacted]
Payment Advice To: ar@streeters.com

*Great Bowery Inc. dba Streeters
invoices are no longer payable via check. Invoices are only payable via ACH / Wire or via credit card. An additional 3% fee is required for all credit card transactions. Credit card form provided upon request.

EXHIBIT 17

Message

From: Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted]
on behalf of Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted]
Sent: 2/23/2022 3:02:01 PM
To: AR Streeters [redacted]
CC: Edith Pauccar [redacted]; Emma Gil [redacted]; Homeri, Tara [redacted] Kit Fogarty [redacted] Lauren Hitt [redacted] Magnuson, Tina [redacted]; Nishi, Naomi [redacted] Paula Martone [redacted]; Rahel Gebreyes [redacted] Rayna Donatelli [redacted]; Tyler Williamson [redacted]; Yates, Emily [redacted] ivet [redacted]
Subject: Re: Payment Required: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

Hi all, can someone give me a call? [redacted]

On Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 2:55 PM AR Streeters <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hello Everyone,
>
> We will need to file a complaint with OLPS against Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress if payment is not deposited before end of business tomorrow.
>
> The lack of attention and urgency to this payment withholding is really not acceptable.
>
> Best,
>
> Danielle
>
> **DANIELLE WILLSEN**
>
> SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER
>
> **GREAT BOWERY**
>
> **Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:**
>
> ***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**
>
> **COMPANY NAME:** Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters
>
> **US FEDERAL TAX ID:** [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: 021000089, Swift: CITIUS33

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: AR Streeters
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:52 AM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Cc: Lauren Hitt <[redacted]>; [redacted]; Yates, Emily <[redacted]>; Homeri, Tara <[redacted]>; Magnuson, Tina <[redacted]>; Paula Martone <[redacted]>; Edith Pauccar <[redacted]>; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Emma Gil <[redacted]>; Rahel Gebreyes <[redacted]>; Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>; Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>; Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Payment Required: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

Hello Rebecca,

Please see the CC form attached for you to complete and return for payment processing of Streeters Inv. 145352.

If you do not have access to submit the form via fax and would like to submit the completed CC form via email for processing you are welcome to do so at your own risk, Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters is not liable.

Thank you.

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: [redacted], Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:39 AM
To: AR Streeters <[redacted]>
Cc: Lauren Hitt <[redacted]>; ivct[redacted] Yates, Emily <[redacted]>; Homeri, Tara <[redacted]>; Magnuson, Tina <[redacted]>; Paula Martone <[redacted]>; Edith Pauccar <[redacted]>; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Emma Gil <[redacted]> Rahel Gebreyes <[redacted]>; Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>; Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>; Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Payment Required: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

Good morning all, can you send me your credit card authorization form? We cannot do a wire transfer here unfortuantely.

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Wed, Jan 26, 2022 at 11:11 AM AR Streeters <[redacted]> wrote:

*Looping in Ivet per Lauren's OOO.

Hello Ivet,

Confirming Streeters Inv. 145352 is attached with payment instructions.

Thank you in advance for stepping in to provide proof of electronic payment this week to avoid further collections escalation.

All previous ignored requests for payment are below addressed to Rebecca dating back to November.

Recap:

The job was negotiated and set up by Conde Nast but we were informed by Emily Yates from Conde on 9/21 that : *We've actually had a small shift on our end with billing and talent's team will be handling directly. I've copied Rebecca here who will take it away.*

Rebecca Rodriguez confirmed we were to bill AOC's team direct on 9/28 and Streeters Inv. 145352 was submitted on 9/30 for payment processing and we haven't heard anything from AOC's team since despite follow up.

All of the above noted correspondence and chase correspondence is below, further payment withholding is not acceptable and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress is in violation of the Freelance Isn't Free Act.

Thank you.

With Regret,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: [redacted], Swift [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 5:31 PM
To: AR Streeters <[redacted]>
Cc: Homeri, Tara <[redacted]>; Magnuson, Tina <[redacted]>; Paula Martone <[redacted]>; Edith Pauccar <[redacted]>; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Emma Gil <[redacted]>; rebecca[redacted] Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>; Rahel Gebreyes <[redacted]>; Lauren Hitt <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Payment Required: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

HI Danielle,

Rebecca from her office is on this chain, adding in another representative from the office, Lauren Hitt in hopes to get this resolved ASAP.

Lauren, Streeters is the agency that represents the Hair Stylist from our Vogue Met video back in September. They have been reaching out to the office for payment for some time now. Can you please advise as soon as possible per below communications?

Thank you in advance for your help!!

Best,

Naomi

On Tue, 25 Jan 2022 at 14:10, AR Streeters <[redacted]> wrote:

Hey Tara,

Confirming Rebecca has never responded to any requests for payment.

Obviously it would look terrible if we had to file a complaint with the NY Dept of Labor against Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress.

Do you have an active contact on AOC's team who will pay for the work done by our artist?

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: [redacted], Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Homeri, Tara <[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 4:58 PM
To: AR Streeters <[redacted]
Cc: Magnuson, Tina <[redacted]; Paula Martone <[redacted]; Edith Pauccar <[redacted]; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]; Emma Gil <[redacted]; rebecca@[redacted]; naomi_nishi@[redacted]; Tyler Williamson <[redacted]; Rahel Gebreyes <[redacted]

Subject: Re: Payment Required: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

Thank you for raising this again, Ed.

@Rebecca Rodriguez I understand this was being handled on your end and confirmed, please let us know so that we can get this one resolved asap.

Thank you,

Tara

On Tue, 25 Jan 2022 at 16:03, AR Streeters <[redacted]> wrote:

Hello Everyone,

Stepping in here as this invoice needs to be paid by EOD tomorrow.

Please review in detail and advise whether payment is being withheld for Streeters Inv. 145352 because the invoice is not billed to Conde Nast and was never submitted to Epayables for payment processing.

Currently Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress is on credit hold due to ongoing payment withholding and being in violation of the Freelance Isn't Free Act.

We were advised to bill Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress.

Thank you.

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: [redacted], Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Magnuson, Tina <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Homeri, Tara <[redacted]>; Paula Martone <[redacted]>
Cc: AR Streeters <[redacted]>; Edith Pauccar <[redacted]>; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Emma Gil <[redacted]>; rebecca@[redacted]; naomi_nishi[redacted]; Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>; Rahel Gebreyes <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: OVERDUE: Attn Rebecca: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

I'm still trying to get this issue resolved. I'm not getting anything in my Word Day box. They are still being routed to Jess Shier who is out on maternity leave.

Adding in +Paula Martone for vis.

Tina Magnuson | Line Producer

Condé Nast Entertainment

[redacted]

[redacted]

On Thu, 13 Jan 2022 at 13:52, Homeri, Tara <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi Ed,

Looping in some key members who can better assist with this! Thank you for flagging.

Best,

Tara

On Thu, 13 Jan 2022 at 13:36, AR Streeters <[redacted]> wrote:

Good Afternoon Team,

Happy New Year! Hope everyone is doing well. Can someone kindly assist upon receipt. Unfortunately, we have not received payment or an update since our previous email. Can someone advise why payment is being withheld? We need to secure payment this week and have been inquiring to no result for months.

Please confirm the correct contact who can initiate payment.

Thank you in advance.

Best,

Ed

ED GUZMAN

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ASSOCIATE

GREAT BOWERY INC

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted] Routing: [redacted] Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: AR Streeters
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 12:11 PM
To: rebecca[redacted]
Subject: Overdue: Attn Rebecca: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

Good Morning Rebecca,

I hope you had a great few weeks. Unfortunately, our records show that Streeters Inv. 145352 was never paid. Payment was due no later than October 30th and is now urgently past due. Payment instruction is on the invoice, in my signature and attached. Please provide proof of electronic payment upon receipt of this email.

*Kind reminder we do not accept check payments.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention.

Best,

Ed

ED GUZMAN

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ASSOCIATE

GREAT BOWERY INC

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: [redacted], Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: AR Streeters
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:46 PM
To: rebecca@[redacted]
Subject: Inquiry: Past Due: Attn Rebecca: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

Good Afternoon Rebecca,

Hope all is well! We just wanted to kindly follow up on invoice 145352 and confirm it was received and processed with a payment date. Thank you in advance for your response!

All the best,

Ed

ED GUZMAN

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE ASSOCIATE

GREAT BOWERY INC

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: [redacted], Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: AR Streeters
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 5:30 PM
To: rebecca@[redacted]
Cc: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]
Subject: Past Due: Attn Rebecca: Streeters Inv. 145352 : Eric Williams "GETTING READY WITH AOC" x MET GALA 2021

Hey Rebecca,

I hope you've had a great couple of months.

Confirming payment is past due for Streeters Inv. 145352.

Can you kindly provide proof of electronic deposit per payment instruction before end of week?

Thank you in advance for your prompt resolution.

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted], Routing: [redacted], Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Cc: Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Lila Benaissa <[redacted]>; Michelle Wong <[redacted]>; Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>; Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]>; Tara Homeri <[redacted]>; Yates, Emily <[redacted]>
Subject: FINAL INV. 145352 | MET GALA 2021

Good morning -

No worries; thank you, Rebecca!

Please see attached for the invoice.

Eric adored collaborating with AOC on her Met Gala look, and he hopes to work with her again! Xx

All my best,
Tyler

TYLER WILLIAMSON

PRODUCER

STREETERS

[redacted]

WWW.STREETERS.COM

@STREETERSAGENCY

Streeters is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community within our industry. We pledge to continue representing diverse talent, creating and celebrating imagery that represents the world in which we live, and fostering a positive work environment for our team.

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>
Cc: Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Lila Benaissa <[redacted]>; Michelle Wong <[redacted]>; Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>; Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]>; Tara Homeri <[redacted]>; Yates, Emily <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Whoops, thank you for checking in, please send me the invoice. Thanks!

On Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 4:14 PM Tyler Williamson <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi!

Following up on billing. Can we send an invoice? X

Thanks,
Tyler

TYLER WILLIAMSON

PRODUCER

STREETERS

[redacted]

WWW.STREETERS.COM

@STREETERSAGENCY

Streeters is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community within our industry. We pledge to continue representing diverse talent, creating and celebrating imagery that represents the world in which we live, and fostering a positive work environment for our team.

From: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Yates, Emily <[redacted]>

Cc: Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>; Lila Benaissa <[redacted]>; Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]>; Michelle Wong <[redacted]>; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Tara Homeri <[redacted]>; rebecca@[redacted] <rebecca@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Good morning!

Sounds good - thank you, Emily.

Nice to meet you, Rebecca!

TYLER WILLIAMSON

PRODUCER

STREETERS

[redacted]

WWW.STREETERS.COM

@STREETERSAGENCY

Streeters is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community within our industry. We pledge to continue representing diverse talent, creating and celebrating imagery that represents the world in which we live, and fostering a positive work environment for our team.

From: Yates, Emily <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:14 AM
To: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>
Cc: Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>; Lila Benaissa <[redacted]>; Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]>; Michelle Wong <[redacted]>; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Tara Homeri <[redacted]>; rebecca@[redacted] <rebecca@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Good morning Tyler and Ranya!

Hope you are doing well. We've actually had a small shift on our end with billing and talent's team will be handling directly. I've copied Rebecca here who will take it away.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thanks!

Emily

On Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 9:32 PM Tyler Williamson <[redacted] wrote:

All good, thank you for the update!

TYLER WILLIAMSON

STREETERS

[redacted]

www.streeters.com

@streetersagency

From: Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 9:30:39 PM
To: Tyler Williamson <[redacted]>
Cc: Lila Benaissa <[redacted]>; Rayna Donatelli <[redacted]>; Michelle Wong <[redacted]>; Emily Yates <[redacted]>; Kit Fogarty <[redacted]>; Tara Homeri <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Hi Tyler!

For Eric's arrival - The room will be under Aurora James!

EXHIBIT 18

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 18:10:42 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Fwd: cc authorization
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:04:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)
Attachments: Your Great Bowery receipt [#1480-4998].eml.eml

Payment confirmation for hair and makeup #2 (final one)

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **AR Streeters** <[redacted]>
Date: Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 5:09 PM
Subject: RE: cc authorization
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>

Hey Rebecca,

Confirming your receipt is attached here for your records.
Thanks for your payment have a great night.

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN
SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER
GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account:[redacted] Routing: [redacted] Swift:[redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:37 PM
To: AR Streeters <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: cc authorization

Thank you!

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 4:31 PM AR Streeters <[redacted]> wrote:

> Received and forwarded will update you when it is run.
>
> Best,
>
> Danielle
>
> **DANIELLE WILLSEN**
> SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER
> **GREAT BOWERY**

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted] Routing: [redacted] Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:29 PM
To: AR Streeters <[redacted]
Subject: Re: cc authorization

Updated, including validated signature.

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

ALEXANDRIA ¡OCASIO! CORTEZ
REPRESENTATIVE FOR CONGRESS NY-14

On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 2:14 PM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted] wrote:

> Working on that now, will send an updated form in a few minutes.
>
> On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 1:45 PM AR Streeters <[redacted] wrote:
>
> > Hello Rebecca,

Can you please send me a valid form asap?

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account: [redacted] Routing: [redacted] Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: AR Streeters
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: cc authorization
Importance: High

Hello Rebecca,

Confirming our team could not charge your card because we were told the card number provided on the form is incomplete.

Please revise and resend.

Thank you.

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account [redacted] Routing: [redacted], Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: AR Streeters
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: cc authorization

Hello Rebecca,

Thank you confirming receipt and will send a receipt to you for your records when processed.

Best,

Danielle

DANIELLE WILLSEN

SENIOR AGENCY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MANAGER

GREAT BOWERY

Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters Payment Instruction:

***We ONLY accept electronic payments.**

COMPANY NAME: Great Bowery, Inc. dba Streeters

US FEDERAL TAX ID: [redacted]

WIRE / ACH: Citibank USA; Account [redacted], Routing: [redacted] Swift: [redacted]

ADDRESS: 433 Broadway STE 420 New York, NY 10013

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 9:13 AM
To: AR Streeters <[redacted]>
Subject: cc authorization

Good morning Danielle, please confirm receipt; would appreciate it if we can get confirmation of the charge as well.

Thank you,

Rebecca

--

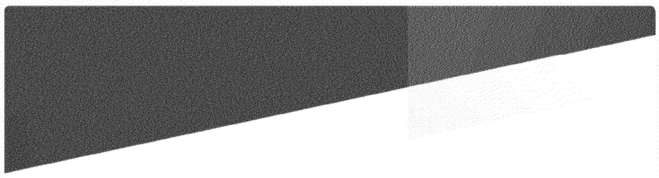
Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 18:10:22 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Your Great Bowery receipt [#1480-4998]
Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 5:05:16 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Great Bowery
To: Danielle Willsen



Receipt from Great Bowery

Receipt #1480-4998

AMOUNT PAID	DATE PAID	PAYMENT METHOD
$492.06	February 24, 2022	AMERICAN EXPRESS [redacted]

SUMMARY

STR145352	$492.06
Amount charged	**$492.06**

If you have any questions, contact us at [redacted]@greatbowery.com or call at +1 [redacted]

Something wrong with the email? View it in your browser.

You're receiving this email because you made a purchase at Great Bowery, which partners with Stripe to provide invoicing and payment processing.

EXHIBIT 19

Page: 1 /1

THE WALL GROUP

THE WALL GROUP, LLC
38 W. 21ST ST, 11TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10010
T: +1 (212) 352 0777

INVOICE

DATE : 17 SEP 21
INVOICE # **6504578**
DUE DATE : 17 SEP 21

TO:

CNE PRODUCTIONS, LLC
ATTN: EMILY YATES
22ND FLOOR
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
NEW YORK NY 10007

USA

REMIT-TO:

THE WALL GROUP, LLC
ON BEHALF OF: CASSANDRA GARCIA
FILE 2227
1801 W. OLYMPIC BLVD
PASADENA CA 91199-2227

USA

DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
MAKE UP CASSANDRA GARCIA ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ / MET BALL + VOGUE GETTING READY SHOOT NY FROM 09/13/2021 TO 09/13/2021		
SERVICE FEE ARTIST FEE	USD	300.00
10% AGENCY FEE	USD	30.00
4.5% NYC BEAUTY TAX	USD	14.85

IF YOU RECEIVE A REQUEST TO REVISE OR UPDATE OUR BANKING INFORMATION, PLEASE TELEPHONE YOUR KNOWN CONTACT AT IMG/ENDEAVOR IMMEDIATELY TO CONFIRM BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGES.
VOICE CONFIRMATION IS CRITICAL TO PROTECT AGAINST SPOOFING, PHISHING AND OTHER FORMS OF FRAUD OR CYBERCRIME.

BANK DETAILS: CITY NATIONAL BANK, ABA: [redacted] SWIFT: [redacted] 1140 AVE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036
ACCOUNT NUMBER: [redacted] PLEASE DO NOT WITHHOLD TAXES - WE PROVIDE IRS TAX CERTIFICATIONS. TAX ID# [redacted]

TERMS: NET DUE ON DUE DATE (PAST DUE SUBJECT TO INTEREST) **AMOUNT DUE:** 344.85

REMITTANCE COPY

THE WALL GROUP

CUSTOMER : 806914

CNE PRODUCTIONS, LLC
ATTN: EMILY YATES
22ND FLOOR
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
NEW YORK NY 10007
USA

INVOICE # : 6504578
INVOICE DATE : 17 SEP 21
SALES ORDER # : 7196946 / 2002395 / 236

REMIT-TO :

THE WALL GROUP, LLC
ON BEHALF OF: CASSANDRA GARCIA
FILE 2227
1801 W. OLYMPIC BLVD
PASADENA CA 91199-2227
USA

DUE DATE : 17 SEP 21
INVOICE AMOUNT : 344.85
CURRENCY : US DOLLAR

22-8546_0297
THAOC_0166

EXHIBIT 20

To: Yates, Emily[redacted]; Fogarty, Kit[redacted]
Cc: rebecca[redacted]
From: Caitlin Mazonas
Sent: Thur 9/23/2021 6:27:25 PM
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

Thank you, Emily.

Hi Rebecca. Please let me know the billing address for the invoice. TY!

Caitlin Mazonas
Director, Entertainment Relationships
THE WALL GROUP
38 W 21st St, 11th Fl
New York, NY 10010
[redacted]

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From: "Yates, Emily" <[redacted]>
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 10:14 AM
To: "Fogarty, Kit" <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>, "rebecca[redacted]" <rebecca@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: VOGUE VIDEO | Getting Ready With - The Met / Hair+Makeup | 9/13

EXTERNAL

Good Morning Caitlin!

Hope you are doing well. We've actually had a small shift on our end with billing and talent's team will be handling directly. I've copied Rebecca here who will take it away.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thanks!
Emily

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 3:47 PM Fogarty, Kit <[redacted]> wrote:
Hi Caitlin,

Happy Friday!

Finally wrapping up our Met projects and I just realized that we don't have Cassandra set up in our payroll system!

Can you send me her email address so that I can send her the digital paperwork? Do you know if she is classified as an individual or a loan-out?

Thanks!
Kit

Kit Fogarty | Production Coordinator
CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT | [redacted]

CONDÉ NAST
It Starts Here.

Bon Appétit | Epicurious | Condé Nast Traveler | Architectural Digest | GQ Sports | Self | Healthyish | Clever | Basically | Vogue | Vanity Fair | Glamour | GQ | The New Yorker | Allure | Wired | W | Teen Vogue | GQ Style | Pitchfork | Backchannel | Ars Technica | Hive | Them | Iris

On Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 10:53 AM Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted] wrote:
Thanks. It seems they've made contact.

Caitlin Mazonas
Director, Entertainment Relationships
THE WALL GROUP
38 W 21st St, 11th Fl
New York, NY 10010
[redacted]
CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This message is only intended for the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential and privileged information. This message is not to be forwarded to anyone without express written consent from sender. If you received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by reply and delete this message and any copies of it from your system. Disclosure or use of any part of this message by persons other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited.
Please consider the environment before printing.

On Sep 13, 2021, at 10:40 AM, Nishi, Naomi <[redacted] wrote:

EXTERNAL

HI Caitlin, How are you?

Cassandra is in touch with our onsite Producer. Talent and team hit traffic which delayed their arrival, they should be set now to come and get her.

@Katie Nixdorf for vis!

On Mon, 13 Sept 2021 at 10:37, Caitlin Mazonas [redacted] wrote:
Hi all. Can I please have an update on the schedule for the day? Cassandra has been in the lobby for over an hour.

Thank you!

Caitlin Mazonas
Director, Entertainment Relationships

EXHIBIT 21

To: Nathreen Bonnet[redacted]
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas[redacted]; Maria Solano[redacted]; TWG US Outstanding Invoices[redacted]
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
Sent: Fri 2/25/2022 1:58:28 AM
Subject: Re: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

Hi all, I just put payment through - please confirm receipt if you can.
Thanks,
Rebecca

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 8:51 PM Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Rebecca,
>
> This invoice is still outstanding and EXTREMELY overdue. Can you please update us on the current payment status ASAP?
>
> Thank you!

Nathreen Bonnet
Collections Specialist
THE WALL GROUP
700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069
[redacted]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This message is only intended for the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential and privileged information. This message is not to be forwarded to anyone without express written consent from sender. If you received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by reply and delete this message and any copies of it from your system. Disclosure or use of any part of this message by persons other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. Please consider the environment before printing.

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 5:03 PM

To: 'Rebecca Rodriguez' <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>;
TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

We still have not received this payment. Can you please look into this and update us on the current payment status ASAP?

Thank you!

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 3:49 PM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>;
TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

We still have not received this payment. Can you please look into this and update us on the current payment status ASAP? Alternatively, if you would like to pay for this invoice via ACH/Credit Card/Debit Card, you can do that by clicking on this self-service payment link:
https:[redacted]

Thank you!

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 9:22 PM
To: Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>;
TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>

Subject: Re: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

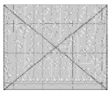
EXTERNAL

Hi all, apologies for this, there was some confusion on our end as we thought this was paid out already. I will issue out payment on Monday - again, apologies for the delay!

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com



On Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 8:42 PM Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]> wrote:

> HI Rebecca,
>
> Can you please advise if this invoice needs to be reissued to a different billing party in order to be paid? Is that why this hasn't been paid?
>
> Thank you!

Nathreen Bonnet
Collections Specialist

THE WALL GROUP

700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069
[redacted]

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Please consider the environment before printing.

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 6:16 PM
To: 'Rebecca Rodriguez' <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

I hope you are well.

This invoice is still outstanding and EXTREMELY overdue. Can you please update us on the current payment status ASAP?

Thank you!

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 6:09 PM
To: 'Rebecca Rodriguez' <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

We still have not received this payment. Can you please look into this and update us on the current payment status ASAP?

Thank you!

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:12 PM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>; emily_yates([redacted]; naomi_nishi([redacted]
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

Understood. Thank you for confirming!

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>; emily_yates([redacted]; naomi_nishi([redacted]
Subject: Re: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

EXTERNAL

Yes, we are taking care of it, and apologies-this should have been taken care of a while ago.

Best,

Rebecca

On Thu, Jan 13, 2022 at 7:14 PM Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi Emily / Naomi / Rebecca,

We received the attached email from ePayables notifications saying that this invoice was denied because it is "To be paid out by AOC team - rebecca@[redacted]" Can you please advise?

Thank you!

Nathreen Bonnet
Collections Specialist

THE
WALL GROUP

700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069
[redacted]

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Please consider the environment before printing.

From: TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 11:15 AM
To: emily_yates@[redacted] naomi_nishi@[redacted]
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>
Subject: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Emily/Naomi,

I hope you are well.

Please find the attached outstanding invoice open on your account with The Wall Group

and is in ePayables as "In Process".

I would appreciate it if you could pay this invoice as soon as possible and confirm the expected payment

date.

Please also send us a remittance advice for our records.

Thanks,

Annaliza Dsouza

THE
WALL GROUP
NEW YORK
LOS ANGELES
LONDON
PARIS

700 North San Vicente Blvd.

Suite G600, 6th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90069

If you receive a request to revise or update our banking information, please telephone your known contact at IMG/Endeavor immediately to confirm before making any changes.

Voice confirmation is critical to protect against spoofing, phishing and other forms of fraud or cybercrime.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Sarah Snell <[redacted]>
To: Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>
Cc: Maria Solano <[redacted]>
Bcc:
Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2022 20:35:43 +0000
Subject: FW: Your Invoice 6504578 has been Denied

Just in care you weren't aware

Sarah Snell

Billing Coordinator

THE WALL GROUP

700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069

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Please consider the environment before printing.

From: Condé Nast ePayables <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:52 AM
To: Sidney Vazquez <[redacted]>; ARModelsLA <[redacted]>; Gaurang Patel <[redacted]>; Ruddy Matos <[redacted]>; Soroya Anglin <[redacted]>; Athena Engkabo <[redacted]>; William Qi <[redacted]>; Pam Steffancin <[redacted]>; Pete Villejo <[redacted]>; Dorothy Lui <[redacted]>; Michael Cruz <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; Neomi Jadhav (WNS) <[redacted]>; Anju Nair <[redacted]>; Sarah Snell <[redacted]>
Subject: Your Invoice 6504578 has been Denied

EXTERNAL

[redacted]

Dear WME IMG HOLDINGS LLC,

We would like to inform you that your invoice number **6504578** in the amount of **$344.85** has been rejected and denied by Condé Nast.

Denied Reason: **To be paid out by AOC team -** rebecca@[redacted]

Regards,
Condé Nast Disbursements

If you or any of the authorized account users did not submit this supplier portal activity change request, please contact us immediately at vendorcontrolsgroup@condenast.com.

Need Help?

Vendor profile questions:

- Vendor Login
- Password and Account Setup
- Registration Form
- Sub-Account Setups

Vendor Controls Team

VendorControlsGroup@condenast.com

[redacted]

eInvoicing questions:

- eInvoice Creation and Submission
- eInvoice Navigation

Disbursements Customer Service Team

eInvoicing@condenast.com

[redacted]

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This is a notification email from Condé Nast ePayables. If you don't want to receive these email updates _ to unsubscribe

--

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

EXHIBIT 22

To: 'Rebecca Rodriguez'[redacted]
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas[redacted]; Maria Solano[redacted]; TWG US Outstanding Invoices[redacted]
From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Fri 2/25/2022 6:41:11 PM
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Re: N/A's payment to Endeavor Parent, LLC dba The Wall Group, LLC via Melio

Hi Rebecca,

I am not sure if Melio reached out to you, but your payment has been rejected. Can you please advise or reach out to Melio to find out what happened?

Thank you!

Nathreen Bonnet
Collections Specialist
THE WALL GROUP
700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069
[redacted]

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From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 6:06 PM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

Hi Rebecca,

I will confirm next Tuesday when it hits our account.

Thank you!

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:58 PM
To: Nathreen Bonnet [redacted]
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]
Subject: Re: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

EXTERNAL

Hi all, I just put payment through - please confirm receipt if you can.

Thanks,
Rebecca

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 8:51 PM Nathreen Bonnet [redacted] wrote:
Hi Rebecca,

This invoice is still outstanding and EXTREMELY overdue. Can you please update us on the current payment status ASAP?

Thank you!

Nathreen Bonnet
Collections Specialist
THE WALL GROUP
700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069
[redacted]

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From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 5:03 PM
To: 'Rebecca Rodriguez' <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano [redacted]; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

We still have not received this payment. Can you please look into this and update us on the current payment status ASAP?

Thank you!

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 3:49 PM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

We still have not received this payment. Can you please look into this and update us on the current payment status ASAP? Alternatively, if you would like to pay for this invoice via ACH/Credit Card/Debit Card, you can do that by clicking on this self-service payment link: http[redacted]

Thank you!

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 9:22 PM
To: Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

EXTERNAL

Hi all, apologies for this, there was some confusion on our end as we thought this was paid out already. I will issue out payment on Monday - again, apologies for the delay!

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 8:42 PM Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]> wrote:
HI Rebecca,

Can you please advise if this invoice needs to be reissued to a different billing party in order to be paid? Is that why this hasn't been paid?

Thank you!

Nathreen Bonnet
Collections Specialist
THE
WALL GROUP
700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069
[redacted]

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Please consider the environment before printing.

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 6:16 PM
To: 'Rebecca Rodriguez' <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

I hope you are well.

This invoice is still outstanding and EXTREMELY overdue. Can you please update us on the current payment status ASAP?

Thank you!

From: Nathreen Bonnet
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 6:09 PM
To: 'Rebecca Rodriguez' <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Rebecca,

We still have not received this payment. Can you please look into this and update us on the current payment status ASAP?

Thank you!

From: Nathreen Bonnet

Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:12 PM
To: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>; emily_yates[redacted] naomi_nishi@[redacted]
Subject: RE: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

Understood. Thank you for confirming!

From: Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>; emily_yates@[redacted]; naomi_nishi@[redacted]
Subject: Re: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group

EXTERNAL

Yes, we are taking care of it, and apologies-this should have been taken care of a while ago.

Best,
Rebecca

On Thu, Jan 13, 2022 at 7:14 PM Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]> wrote:
Hi Emily / Naomi / Rebecca,

We received the attached email from ePayables notifications saying that this invoice was denied because it is "To be paid out by AOC team - rebecca@[redacted]" Can you please advise?

Thank you!

Nathreen Bonnet
Collections Specialist
THE WALL GROUP
700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069
[redacted]

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Please consider the environment before printing.

From: TWG US Outstanding Invoices <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 11:15 AM
To: emily_yates@[redacted] naomi_nishi@[redacted]
Cc: Caitlin Mazonas <[redacted] Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>

Subject: Invoice number 6504578 From The Wall Group
Importance: High

Hi Emily/Naomi,

I hope you are well.

Please find the attached outstanding invoice open on your account with The Wall Group and is in ePayables as "In Process".

I would appreciate it if you could pay this invoice as soon as possible and confirm the expected payment date.

Please also send us a remittance advice for our records.

Thanks,
Annaliza Dsouza

THE
WALL GROUP

NEW YORK
LOS ANGELES
LONDON
PARIS

700 North San Vicente Blvd.

Suite G600, 6th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90069

If you receive a request to revise or update our banking information, please telephone your known contact at IMG/Endeavor immediately to confirm before making any changes.

Voice confirmation is critical to protect against spoofing, phishing and other forms of fraud or cybercrime.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Sarah Snell <[redacted]>
To: Nathreen Bonnet <[redacted]>
Cc: Maria Solano <[redacted]>
Bcc:
Date: Thu, 13 Jan 2022 20:35:43 +0000
Subject: FW: Your Invoice 6504578 has been Denied
Just in care you weren't aware

Sarah Snell
Billing Coordinator
THE WALL GROUP
700 N. San Vicente Blvd.
Suite G600, 6th Fl
Los Angeles, CA 90069

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Please consider the environment before printing.

From: Condé Nast ePayables <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:52 AM
To: Sidney Vazquez <[redacted]>; ARModelsLA <[redacted]>; Gaurang Patel <[redacted]>; Ruddy Matos <[redacted]>; Soroya Anglin <[redacted]>; Athena Engkabo <[redacted]>; William Qi <[redacted]>; Pam Steffancin <[redacted]>; Pete Villejo <[redacted]>; Dorothy Lui <[redacted]>; Michael Cruz <[redacted]>; Maria Solano <[redacted]>; Neomi Jadhav (WNS) <[redacted]>; Anju Nair <[redacted]>; Sarah Snell <[redacted]>
Subject: Your Invoice 6504578 has been Denied

EXTERNAL

[redacted]

Dear WME IMG HOLDINGS LLC,

We would like to inform you that your invoice number **6504578** in the amount of **$344.85** has been rejected and denied by Condé Nast.

Denied Reason: **To be paid out by AOC team -** rebecca@[redacted]

Regards,
Condé Nast Disbursements

If you or any of the authorized account users did not submit this supplier portal activity change request, please contact us immediately at vendorcontrolsgroup@condenast.com.

Need Help?

Vendor profile questions:

- Vendor Login
- Password and Account Setup
- Registration Form
- Sub-Account Setups

Vendor Controls Team

VendorControlsGroup@condenast.com

+[redacted]

eInvoicing questions:

- eInvoice Creation and Submission
- eInvoice Navigation

Disbursements Customer Service Team

eInvoicing@condenast.com

+[redacted]

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--
Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

EXHIBIT 23

3/16/22, 5:42 PM Receipt

THE WALL GROUP LLC
38 WEST 21ST STREET, 11TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10010
212-352-0777

THE WALL GROUP LLC

Date: 03/16/2022 05:42:16 PM

CREDIT CARD SALE

AMERICAN EXPRESS
CARD NUMBER: **********[redacted]K

TOTAL AMOUNT: $368.94

APPROVAL CD: 221303
RECORD #: 000
CLERK ID: walladmin
SALES TAX: $0.00
INVOICE #: 6504578

X_____
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

I AGREE TO PAY THE ABOVE TOTAL AMOUNT
ACCORDING TO THE CARD ISSUER AGREEMENT
(MERCHANT AGREEMENT IF CREDIT VOUCHER)

Merchant Copy

THE WALL GROUP LLC
38 WEST 21ST STREET, 11TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10010
212-352-0777

THE WALL GROUP LLC

Date: 03/16/2022 05:42:16 PM

CREDIT CARD SALE

AMERICAN EXPRESS
CARD NUMBER: **********[redacted]K

TOTAL AMOUNT: $368.94

APPROVAL CD: 221303
RECORD #: 000
CLERK ID: walladmin
SALES TAX: $0.00
INVOICE #: 6504578

Customer Copy

EXHIBIT 24

Nile Handbag in Tomato Satin

$995

The Nile Handbag is a beloved lady. She enjoys skirt suits, candlelight dinners, and well thought out plans.

And an occasional Met Gala.

Color: Tomato

Quantity:

− 1 +

Only 1 piece in stock!

ADD TO CART

Size Guide

Shipping & Returns

EXHIBIT 25

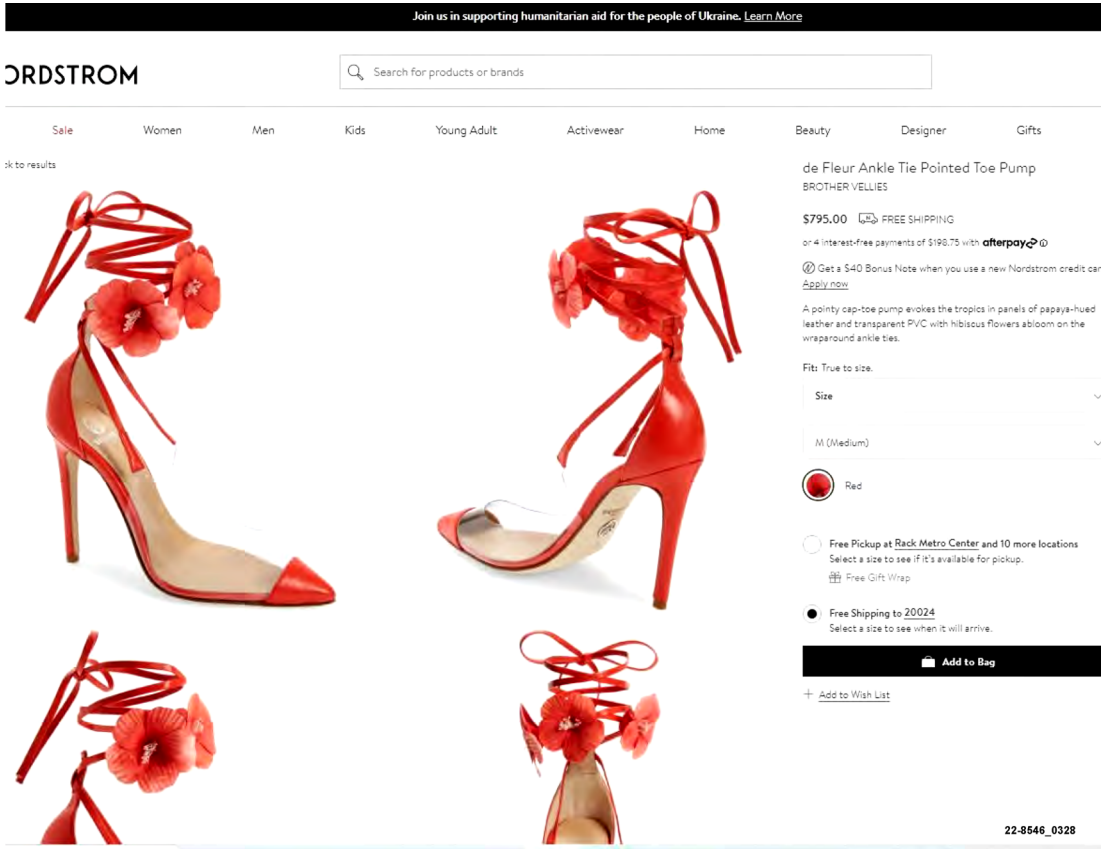

Join us in supporting humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine. Learn More
ORDSTROM
Search for products or brands
Sale
Women
Men
Kids
Young Adult
Activewear
Home
Beauty
Designer
Gifts
k to results
de Fleur Ankle Tie Pointed Toe Pump
BROTHER VELLIES
$795.00
FREE SHIPPING
or 4 interest-free payments of $198.75 with afterpay
Get a $40 Bonus Note when you use a new Nordstrom credit car
Apply now
A pointy cap-toe pump evokes the tropics in panels of papaya-hued leather and transparent PVC with hibiscus flowers abloom on the wraparound ankle ties.
Fit: True to size.
Size
M (Medium)
Red
Free Pickup at Rack Metro Center and 10 more locations
Select a size to see if it's available for pickup.
Free Gift Wrap
Free Shipping to 20024
Select a size to see when it will arrive.
Add to Bag
Add to Wish List
22-8546_0328

EXHIBIT 26

Free shipping + Extended returns on all US orders.

OUR COMMITMENT

MEJURI

SEA

Dôme R

4 interest-free payments of $

4

Gold

Ring Size:

3 4 5 6

ADD T

Add to

Free expedited shipping on al

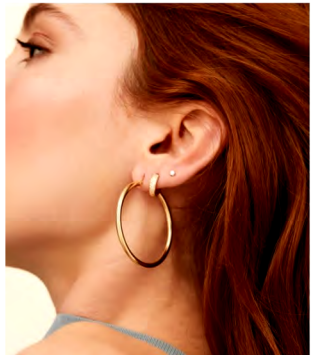
60-Day Returns

2 Year Warranty

22-8546_0330

375

EXHIBIT 27



Large Tube Hoops - $450

4 interest-free payments of $112.50 with **Klarna**. Learn more

★★★★★ 4.9 | See 8 reviews

14k Yellow Gold

✓ In Stock - Ships on Feb 23

ADD TO BAG

Add to Wishlist

Free expedited shipping on all orders

60-Day Returns

2 Year Warranty

FAIR PRICING Le

$450 MEJURI | $ 1000 ESTIMATED RETAIL

DESCRIPTION & DETAILS

These large 3mm thick hoops are necessary for when you've got sor to say. Handcrafted in 14k solid gold with a hollow interior for light a comfortable everyday wear.

- Diameter: 40 mm.
- Width: 3 mm.

22-8546_0332

EXHIBIT 28

To: rebecca@[redacted]
From: Janna Pea
Sent: Sun 9/19/2021 9:32:05 PM
Subject: Invoice for MET attire
Cultural Brokerage Agency - Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Invoice.pdf

See below and let me know if you have any questions.

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
(DBA Brother Vellies)

Invoice #3519

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
71 Franklin Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

September 19, 2021

Please remit payment to:
Routing : [redacted](Chase Bank)
Account : [redacted]
EIN [redacted]

Bill To:
Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$1,300.00
Met Gala Handbag Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 170.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 635.00
Sales Tax 8.5%	$ 178.93
Total	$2,283.93

EXHIBIT 29

To: Rebecca Rodriguez [redacted]
From: Janna Pea
Sent: Mon 9/20/2021 7:45:54 PM
Subject: Fwd: Invoice Met Gala Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Cultural Brokerage Agency - Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Invoice.pdf

here you are!

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Brandon Proctor** <[redacted]>
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 3:41 PM
Subject: Invoice Met Gala Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
To: Janna Pea <[redacted]>
Cc: Ace He <[redacted]>, Aurora James <[redacted]>

Hi Janna,
Please find the invoice for the Met Gala with regards to Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks,

Brandon

--

Brandon Proctor
[redacted]
PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS AS OF 11/1/19
Absolute Financial Management Inc.
1560 Broadway, Suite 1211
New York, NY 10036
[redacted]

--
Janna Pea
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers

[redacted]

berlinrosen.com

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
(DBA Brother Vellies)

Invoice #3519

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
71 Franklin Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

September 20, 2021

Please remit payment to:
Routing :[redacted](Chase Bank)
Account : [redacted]
EIN [redacted]

Bill To:
Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$ 300.00
Met Gala Handbag & Jewelry Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 450.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 160.00
Sales Tax 8.875%	$ 80.76
Total	$ 990.76

EXHIBIT 30

To: Janna Pea[redacted]
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
Sent: Mon 3/7/2022 11:31:56 PM
Subject: Re: Invoice Met Gala Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Ok. We will have to take care of this asap. Can I give you a call tomorrow?

On Mon, Mar 7, 2022 at 10:41 AM Janna Pea <[redacted]> wrote:

> Quick bump as finance is saying they never received the payment via invoice sent. Can you confirm when/how payment was made?

On Mon, Mar 7, 2022 at 10:40 AM Janna Pea <[redacted]> wrote:

> Rebecca, hi! Tough winter indeed though today's weather is giving me joy. I hope you've been well. I thought this was completed so apologies that it is not. Will get you something from the team as soon as I can.
> Happy Monday,
> Janna

On Thu, Mar 3, 2022 at 4:48 PM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Janna, long time no speak to!
> I hope you are well and successfully getting out of hibernation mode - this winter has felt a bit tougher than normal!

I am reaching out because I need to collect payment confirmation to process for the Congresswoman and to 'close the books' so to speak for the event. Would it be possible for me to get a confirmation of payment on the invoice from Brother Vellies?

Thank you!

Best,
Rebecca

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 3:43 PM Janna Pea <[redacted]> wrote:

> here you are!

---------- Forwarded message ---------

From: **Brandon Proctor** <[redacted]>
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 3:41 PM
Subject: Invoice Met Gala Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
To: Janna Pea <[redacted]>
Cc: Ace He <[redacted]>, Aurora James <[redacted]>

Hi Janna,
Please find the invoice for the Met Gala with regards to Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks,

Brandon

--

Brandon Proctor
[redacted]
PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS AS OF 11/1/19
Absolute Financial Management Inc.
1560 Broadway, Suite 1211
New York, NY 10036
[redacted]

--
Janna Pea
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers

[redacted]

berlinrosen.com

--
Janna Pea
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers

[redacted]

berlinrosen.com

--
Janna Pea
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers

[redacted]

berlinrosen.com

--
Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

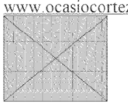


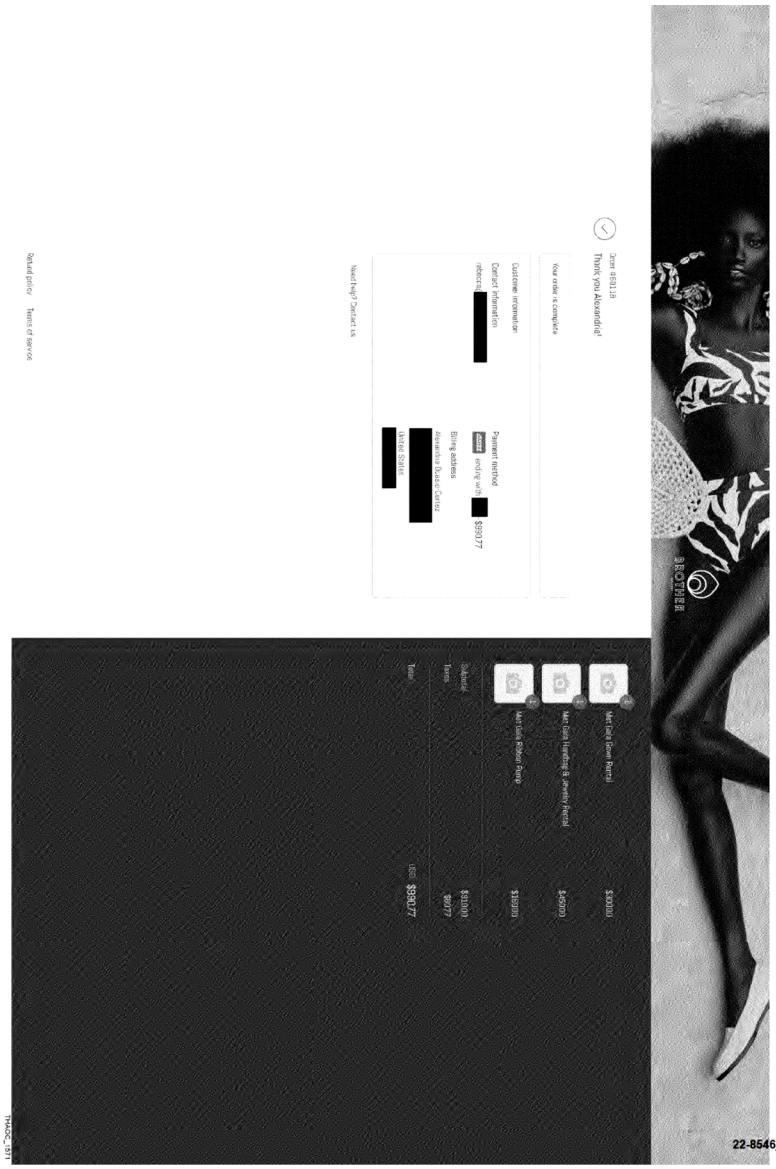
EXHIBIT 31

To: Rebecca[redacted]
From: Na'Kayla James
Sent: Wed 3/9/2022 2:57:58 PM
Subject: Brother Vellies Order #60118
Order #60118 Receipt .pdf
Packing_slip.pdf

Hi Rebecca,
Hope you are well. We appreciate your team's support of Brother Vellies. I've attached a receipt and packing slip of the order. Thank you!

--
Na'Kayla James
Store Manager
Brother Vellies

71 Franklin Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222 USA
@BrotherVellies


Order #8318
Thank you Alexandria!
Your order is complete
Customer information
Contact information
redacted
Payment method
ending with
$939.77
Billing address
redacted
Shipping address
redacted
Need help? Contact us
Refund policy
Terms of service
Mini Gala Gown Rental
$300.00
Mini Gala Headpiece & Jewelry Rental
$40.00
Mini Gala Ribbon Pump
$599.00
Subtotal
$939.00
Taxes
$0.77
Total
USD $939.77
22-8546_0346

BROTHER VELLIES

Order #60118
March 8, 2022

SHIP TO

No shipping address

BILL TO

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
[redacted]
United States

ITEMS	QUANTITY
Met Gala Gown Rental	1 of 1
Met Gala Handbag & Jewelry Rental	1 of 1
Met Gala Ribbon Pump	1 of 1

Thank you for shopping with us!

Brother Vellies
71 Franklin Street, Brooklyn NY 11222, United States
info@brothervellies.com
brothervellies.com

EXHIBIT 32

PERKINSCOIE

700 13th Street, NW
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005-3960
[redacted]
PerkinsCoie.com

April 15, 2022

Brian G. Svoboda
[redacted]

VIA EMAIL

Dave Mitrani, Esq.
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.
1090 Vermont Ave. NW
Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Met Gala Invoice

Dear Mr. Mitrani:

Our clients, Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC d/b/a Brother Vellies and Aurora James, are in receipt of your request for an invoice and supporting documentation for any goods, services or amenities which Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Riley Roberts may have received from our clients in connection with the September 13, 2021, Met Gala, for which Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Roberts may not have yet paid. Our clients have reviewed their records and identified the expenses below:

- LV Services, Inc. (car service): $571.59.
- Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 12, 2021: $1,214.61.
- Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $1,205.04.
- Room 0911 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $2,182.67.
- Shoes for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $136.08.
- Bow tie for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $270.00.
- **TOTAL: $5,579.99.**

Receipts supporting these items are attached. In the case of Room 1122, we understand that Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Ms. James had equal use of that room on the relevant dates, and so we have included in the above calculations one-half of the charges indicated for that room on the folios for those dates. In the case of Mr. Roberts' bow tie, our clients understand that four

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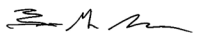
bow ties were purchased, but Mr. Roberts chose to only wear and keep the bow tie listed for $270. We accounted for this price in the above calculations. If you believe that our understanding or calculations in this matter are incorrect, please let us know.

We understand and seek to assist Representative Ocasio-Cortez in her desire to comply with the laws, rules and regulations that apply to her as a Member of Congress. Toward that end, our clients are prepared to accept payment from her in the total amount indicated above, which you may provide directly to us. We reserve all rights, including the right to modify the requested payment if further review of our clients' records warrants any such modification.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions about these matters.

Very truly yours,



Brian G. Svoboda
Danielle Sivalingam

BGS:mcj

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Exhibit A

INVOICE

LV Services Inc
Jamaica, New York 11434
United States

9175927977
info@lvservicesinc.com

BILL TO
Cultural Brokerage Agency dba Brother Vellies
J'Mill Smith
71 Franklin St.
Brooklyn, New York 11222
United States

[redacted]

Invoice Number: 21100
Invoice Date: September 13, 2021
Payment Due: September 28, 2021
Amount Due (USD): **$571.59**

Pay Securely Online

Services	Hours	Price	Amount
As Directed 09/13/21 - Met Gala (Sptr)	3	$175.00	$525.00

Subtotal:	$525.00
NY 8.875%:	$46.59
Total:	$571.59
Amount Due (USD):	**$571.59**

Pay Securely Online

link.waveapps.com/pyy7t9-a9tu7y

Notes / Terms
Please make checks payable to LV SERVICES INC.
RT:[redacted] AC:[redacted]

Thanks For Your Business Quality Service Fit for You!

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Exhibit B

35 East, 76th Street, New York, New York 10021 212.744.1600

Ms. Aurora James
[redacted]
United States

INFORMATION INVOICE

A/R Number :
Group Code :
Company Name :

Room No. : 1122
Arrival : 09-11-21
Departure : 09-14-21
Page No. : 1 of 2
Folio No. : 460714
Conf. No. : 11280093
Cashier No. : 319
User ID : FCHERY
Date : 03-16-22

Date	Description	Charges	Credits
09-11-21	Deposit Transfer at Check in		1,050.00
	20% deposit - staying over Met Gala		
09-11-21	Deposit Transfer at Check in		-1,050.00
	refund on deposit due to Tablet policy discrepancies		
09-11-21	Room Service - Dinner	267.61	
	Room# 1122 : CHECK# 163362		
09-11-21	Room Charge	1,750.00	
09-11-21	4.375% NYS SalesTax	76.56	
09-11-21	4.5% NYC Sales Tax	78.75	
09-11-21	$1.50 NYC Hotel Unit Fee	1.50	
09-11-21	NYC $2.00 Occupancy Tax	6.00	
09-11-21	5.875% NYC Hotel Occupancy Tax	102.81	
09-12-21	Room Service - Breakfast	86.58	
	Room# 1122 : CHECK# 176819		
09-12-21	Minibar Food	205.77	
	Room# 1122 : CHECK# 49094		
09-12-21	Room Service - Dinner	120.64	
	Room# 1122 : CHECK# 163482		
09-12-21	Room Charge	1,750.00	
09-12-21	4.375% NYS SalesTax	76.56	
09-12-21	4.5% NYC Sales Tax	78.75	
09-12-21	$1.50 NYC Hotel Unit Fee	1.50	
09-12-21	NYC $2.00 Occupancy Tax	6.00	
09-12-21	5.875% NYC Hotel Occupancy Tax	102.81	
09-13-21	Restaurant - Breakfast	34.84	

The Carlyle
A Rosewood Hotel
New York

35 East, 76th Street, New York, New York 10021 212.744.1600

Ms. Aurora James
[redacted]
United States

INFORMATION INVOICE

A/R Number :
Group Code :
Company Name :

Room No. : 1122
Arrival : 09-11-21
Departure : 09-14-21
Page No. : 2 of 2
Folio No. : 460714
Conf. No. : 11280093
Cashier No. : 319
User ID : FCHERY
Date : 03-16-22

Date	Description	Charges	Credits
	Room# 1122 : CHECK# 32207		
09-13-21	Room Service - Dinner	94.48	
	Room# 1122 : CHECK# 163605		
09-13-21	Room Charge	1,750.00	
09-13-21	4.375% NYS SalesTax	76.56	
09-13-21	4.5% NYC Sales Tax	78.75	
09-13-21	$1.50 NYC Hotel Unit Fee	1.50	
09-13-21	NYC $2.00 Occupancy Tax	6.00	
09-13-21	5.875% NYC Hotel Occupancy Tax	102.81	
09-14-21	Guest & Tenant Pass Through Charges	55.00	
	Rental for Met Gala: 1 set of Directo'rs chairs at $55 ea.		
09-15-21	Minibar Food	210.13	
	Room# 9803 : CHECK# 49225 F&B Vacant Room Charges #9803=>James Aurora #1122		
09-17-21	Paid - American Express		7,121.91
	XXXXXXXXXXX[redacted] XX/XX		
	Total	7,121.91	7,121.91
	Balance	0.00 USD	

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Exhibit C

35 East, 76th Street, New York, New York 10021 212.744.1600

Ms. Aurora James
[redacted]
United States

INFORMATION INVOICE

A/R Number :
Group Code :
Company Name :

Room No. : 0911
Arrival : 09-13-21
Departure : 09-14-21
Page No. : 1 of 1
Folio No. : 460500
Conf. No. : 11284174
Cashier No. : 368
User ID : FCHERY
Date : 03-16-22

Date	Description	Charges	Credits
09-13-21	Room Service - Lunch	103.02	
	Room# 0911 : CHECK# 176934		
09-13-21	Room Service - Dinner	64.03	
	Room# 0911 : CHECK# 163616		
09-13-21	Room Charge	1,750.00	
09-13-21	4.375% NYS SalesTax	76.56	
09-13-21	4.5% NYC Sales Tax	78.75	
09-13-21	$1.50 NYC Hotel Unit Fee	1.50	
09-13-21	NYC $2.00 Occupancy Tax	6.00	
09-13-21	5.875% NYC Hotel Occupancy Tax	102.81	
09-14-21	Paid - American Express		2,182.67
	XXXXXXXXXXX[redacted] XX/XX		
	Total	2,182.67	2,182.67
	Balance	0.00 USD	

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Exhibit D

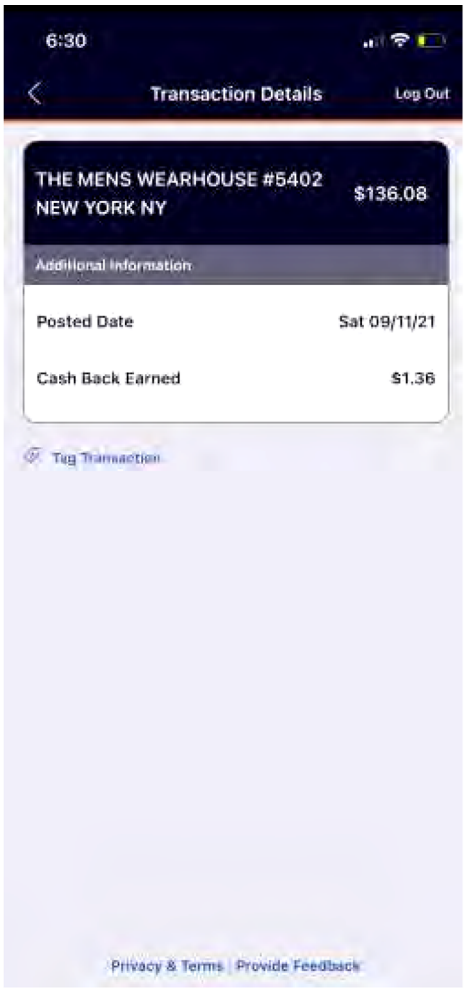
6:30
Transaction Details
Log Out
THE MENS WEARHOUSE #5402
NEW YORK NY
$136.08
Additional Information
Posted Date
Sat 09/11/21
Cash Back Earned
$1.36
Tag Transaction
Privacy & Terms | Provide Feedback

Exhibit E

[redacted]

ACCOUNT ENDING [redacted]

Delta SkyMiles® Platinum

CARD MEMBER

AURORA JAMES

DATE		DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Sep 12, 2021	**BERGDORF GOODMAN** 754 5TH AVE	**BERGDORF GOODMAN 064New York** Will appear on your Oct 7, 2021 statement as BERGDORF GOODMAN 064New York	**$1,028.93**

[redacted]

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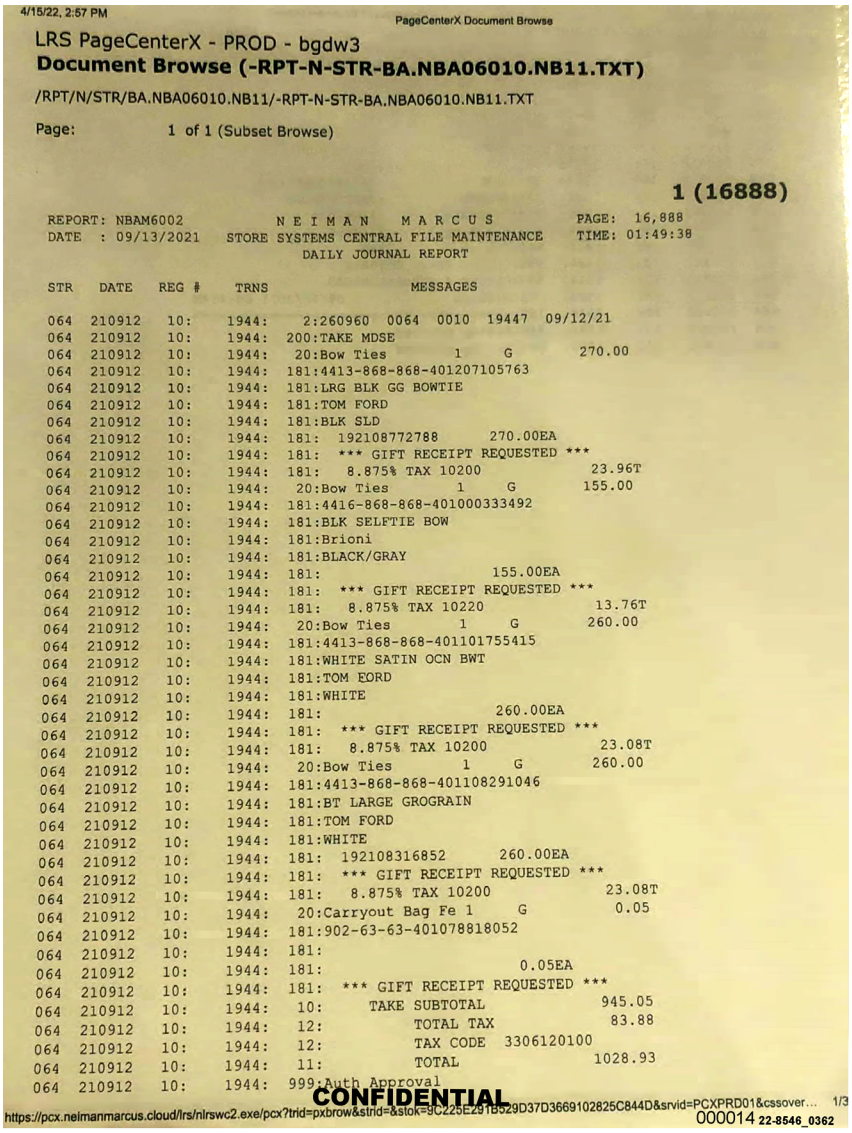

4/15/22, 2:57 PM PageCenterX Document Browse

LRS PageCenterX - PROD - bgdw3

Document Browse (-RPT-N-STR-BA.NBA06010.NB11.TXT)

/RPT/N/STR/BA.NBA06010.NB11/-RPT-N-STR-BA.NBA06010.NB11.TXT

Page: 1 of 1 (Subset Browse)

1 (16888)

```
REPORT: NBAM6002          N E I M A N   M A R C U S          PAGE:  16,888
DATE  : 09/13/2021   STORE SYSTEMS CENTRAL FILE MAINTENANCE   TIME: 01:49:38
                          DAILY JOURNAL REPORT

STR   DATE    REG #    TRNS                  MESSAGES

064  210912   10:    1944:    2:260960  0064  0010  19447  09/12/21
064  210912   10:    1944:  200:TAKE MDSE
064  210912   10:    1944:   20:Bow Ties        1     G        270.00
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:4413-868-868-401207105763
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:LRG BLK GG BOWTIE
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:TOM FORD
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:BLK SLD
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:  192108772788      270.00EA
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:  *** GIFT RECEIPT REQUESTED ***
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:   8.875% TAX 10200              23.96T
064  210912   10:    1944:   20:Bow Ties        1     G        155.00
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:4416-868-868-401000333492
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:BLK SELFTIE BOW
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:Brioni
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:BLACK/GRAY
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:                          155.00EA
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:  *** GIFT RECEIPT REQUESTED ***
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:   8.875% TAX 10220              13.76T
064  210912   10:    1944:   20:Bow Ties        1     G        260.00
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:4413-868-868-401101755415
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:WHITE SATIN OCN BWT
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:TOM FORD
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:WHITE
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:                          260.00EA
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:  *** GIFT RECEIPT REQUESTED ***
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:   8.875% TAX 10200              23.08T
064  210912   10:    1944:   20:Bow Ties        1     G        260.00
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:4413-868-868-401108291046
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:BT LARGE GROGRAIN
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:TOM FORD
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:WHITE
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:  192108316852      260.00EA
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:  *** GIFT RECEIPT REQUESTED ***
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:   8.875% TAX 10200              23.08T
064  210912   10:    1944:   20:Carryout Bag Fe 1     G          0.05
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:902-63-63-401078818052
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:                            0.05EA
064  210912   10:    1944:  181:  *** GIFT RECEIPT REQUESTED ***
064  210912   10:    1944:   10:     TAKE SUBTOTAL            945.05
064  210912   10:    1944:   12:          TOTAL TAX            83.88
064  210912   10:    1944:   12:          TAX CODE  3306120100
064  210912   10:    1944:   11:          TOTAL               1028.93
064  210912   10:    1944:  999:Auth Approval
```

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https://pcx.neimanmarcus.cloud/lrs/nlrswc2.exe/pcx?trid=pxbrow&strid=&stok=9C225E291B529D37D3669102825C844D&srvid=PCXPRD01&cssover... 1/3

000014 22-8546_0362

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
(DBA Brother Vellies)

Invoice #3519

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
71 Franklin Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

September 19, 2021

Please remit payment to:
Routing : [redacted] (Chase Bank)
Account : [redacted]
EIN [redacted]

Bill To:
Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$1,300.00
Met Gala Handbag Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 170.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 635.00
Total	$2,105.00

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
(DBA Brother Vellies)

Invoice #3519

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
71 Franklin Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

September 19, 2021

Please remit payment to:
Routing : [redacted] (Chase Bank)
Account : [redacted]
EIN [redacted]

Bill To:
Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$1,300.00
Met Gala Handbag Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 170.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 635.00
Sales Tax 8.5%	$ 178.93
Total	$2,283.93

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
(DBA Brother Vellies)

Invoice #3519

Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC
71 Franklin Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

September 20, 2021

Please remit payment to:
Routing : [redacted] (Chase Bank)
Account : [redacted]
EIN [redacted]

Bill To:
Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Met Gala Gown Rental – September 13, 2021	$ 300.00
Met Gala Handbag & Jewelry Rental – September 31, 2021	$ 450.00
Met Gala Shoe Purchase - Ribbon Pump	$ 160.00
Sales Tax 8.875%	$ 80.76
Total	$ 990.76

EXHIBIT 33

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 12:56:48 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Fwd: Order #63619 confirmed
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 11:12:42 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)

Two more confirmations incoming later this afternoon!

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress
Schedule a meeting with me here

www.ocasiocortez.com

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Brother Vellies** <[redacted]>
Date: Tue, May 10, 2022 at 11:11 AM
Subject: Order #63619 confirmed
To: <rebecca@[redacted]>

Order #63619

Thank you for your purchase!

View your order or Visit our store

Order summary

Met Gala Invoice × 1	5,579.99

Subtotal	5,579.99
Shipping	0.00
Total	**$5,579.99 USD**

Customer information

Billing address

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

[redacted]

[redacted]

United States

Payment method

AMEX Ending in [redacted] — **5,579.99**

If you have any questions, reply to this email or contact us at [redacted]

22-8546_0369
THAOC_3164

EXHIBIT 34

To: Fogarty, Kit[redacted]
Cc: Lauren Hitt[redacted]; Nishi, Naomi[redacted]
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
Sent: Thur 3/17/2022 10:25:56 PM
Subject: Re: VOGUE MET - AOC

Ok sounds good - will follow up with them.
Thank you!

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 6:09 PM Fogarty, Kit <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Rebecca,
> I unfortunately do not have the access to process something like that.

If you follow up on the chain with the invoice our accounting team may be able to help.

Best,
Kit

Kit Fogarty | Production Coordinator
CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT | m: [redacted]

CONDÉ NAST
It Starts Here.

Bon Appétit | Epicurious | Condé Nast Traveler | Architectural Digest | GQ Sports | Self | Healthyish | Clever | Basically | Vogue | Vanity Fair | Glamour | GQ | The New Yorker | Allure | Wired | W | Teen Vogue | GQ Style | Pitchfork | Backchannel | Ars Technica | Hive | Them | Iris

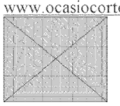
On Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 6:08 PM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> Kit, would it be possible to arrange payment via credit card? I don't have access to her banking information and would rather use a card if that is at all possible.
> Thank you!

Best,
Rebecca

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com



On Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 10:16 AM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> I just saw it, thank you so much!
> Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
> **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress**
>
> www.ocasiocortez.com
>
>

On Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 9:10 AM Fogarty, Kit <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Rebecca,
> Our accounting team should have reached out this morning with an invoice.

Please reach out if you need anything else!

Thanks,
Kit

Kit Fogarty | Production Coordinator
CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT | m: [redacted]

CONDÉ NAST
It Starts Here.

Bon Appétit | Epicurious | Condé Nast Traveler | Architectural Digest | GQ Sports | Self | Healthyish | Clever | Basically | Vogue | Vanity Fair | Glamour | GQ | The New Yorker | Allure | Wired | W | Teen Vogue | GQ Style | Pitchfork | Backchannel | Ars Technica | Hive | Them | Iris

On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 5:28 PM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Kit, here you go:

Contact name Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Mailing address [redacted]
E-mail address rebecca@[redacted]
Phone number [redacted]

On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 5:25 PM Fogarty, Kit <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Rebecca,
> Can you please provide with the following for the invoice:

Contact name
Mailing address
E-mail address
Phone number

Thanks,
Kit

Kit Fogarty | Production Coordinator
CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT | m: [redacted]

CONDÉ NAST
It Starts Here.

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On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 3:21 PM Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> If I have something I can make a credit card payment to, yes I think this would suffice.

On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 3:20 PM Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Rebecca,
> Copy! Can you please send us invoicing details? Please note accounting is a little under water and are moving pretty slowly so I'm not sure how quickly they can get this drafted up. Will this email chain suffice in the meantime for what you need?

On Wed, 16 Mar 2022 at 12:18, Rebecca Rodriguez <[redacted]> wrote:

> Yes, correct, we are all set on the ride to the Met. Can we get an invoice for $180? We can split this evenly.

On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 3:11 PM Nishi, Naomi <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Rebecca and Lauren,

Please see below receipt from the day of the Met - (9/13)

9/13 - Monday
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Route: Bronx - Carlyle Hotel
Total Cost $586.84 *see receipt attached
Riders: 4x passengers (AOC + 3x Vogue crew members)

The charges are starting at 6:30 as the van picked up our crew, so if you want to divide the hourly rate by the time we started with her.

8:30 AM - Talent call
8:30 - 9:30 AM - Walk and Talk n Bronx
9:30 AM - Wheels up to the Carlyle

I would say at the most she was in our booked caf for 1 hour? Let me know your thoughts. We can take the hourly rate and divide by 4x people (inclusive of her).

Charges Detail

Hourly Charge 04:30 hours @ $105.00/hour	$472.50
STC	$94.50
Taxes:	$17.09
NYC Congestion Schg	$2.75
Total:	**$586.84**
Total Payments:	$586.84

9/13 - Monday
Route: Carlyle to the Met
Want to confirm your team had handled her riding TO the Met, as we don't have this - let me know! Maybe Aurora booked?

--
NAOMI NISHI | PRODUCER
CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT
6300 Wilshire Blvd, 12th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90048

--
Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

--
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--
Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
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EXHIBIT 35

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 16:00:46 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Fwd: Thank you for your payment
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 3:09:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Rebecca Rodriguez
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)

Second confirmation

Rebecca Rodriguez, Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress
Schedule a meeting with me here

www.ocasiocortez.com

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Condé Nast Account Receivables** <[redacted]>
Date: Tue, May 10, 2022 at 3:04 PM
Subject: Thank you for your payment
To: ALEXANDRIA OCASIO CORTEZ <rebecca@[redacted]>

CONDÉ NAST

Hello, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO CORTEZ

We have received your payment.

Payment Amount: $180.00

Received on: May 10, 2022

Payment Authorization Reference: [redacted]

You're all set. Please allow 4-5 business days for the payment to be processed and applied to your account.

Thank You!
Condé Nast Account Receivables Team[redacted]

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22-8546_0379
THAOC_3170

Receipt

Condé Nast Publications, a division of Advance Magazine Publishers, Inc.

Invoice Number	Paid Amount
5055024	**$180.00**

TOTAL: $180.00

Transaction Date	May 10, 2022 03:52 PM
Authorization Reference No	[redacted]
Payment Method	Credit Card
Card Holder Name	Alexandria Ocasio Cortez
Credit Card Type	Amex
Credit Card Number	**********[redacted]
Billing Address	Alexandria Ocasio Cortez [redacted] [redacted] US

Thank you for your payment.

We've sent a confirmation email to rebecca@ocasiocortez.com.

APPENDIX B

SANDLER REIFF
SANDLER REIFF LAMB
ROSENSTEIN & BIRKENSTOCK, P.C.

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July 8, 2022

Via E-Mail

Tom Rust, Esq.
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328

Re: In the Matter of U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)
Committee on Ethics Review of OCE Rev. 22-8546

Mr. Rust:

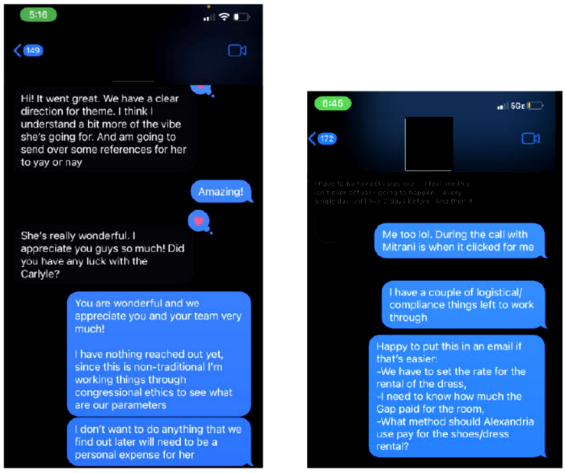
This letter will respond on behalf of our client, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), to the referral sent to the House Committee on Ethics (the "Committee") from the Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") on June 23, 2022 related to the Congresswoman's attendance at the 2021 Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Benefit.

We are disappointed that – despite fully cooperating with OCE's investigation, producing hundreds of documents, making the Congresswoman and key campaign staff available for interview, and, most importantly, substantiating that all benefits received by the Congresswoman related to the event have been paid for by the Congresswoman personally, with her own funds – OCE still voted to refer the matter to the Committee.

OCE agreed that the Congresswoman's attendance at the event was permissible under House Rules and, again, that she has personally paid for all benefits received that required reimbursement.[1] Despite this, OCE appears to have referred the matter to the Committee primarily because they believed, "but for" their review, the Congresswoman *may not have* paid for benefits provided to her. The Congresswoman *always* intended to pay for all expenses related to the Met Gala that required reimbursement under House Rules, as clearly evidenced by the involvement of Counsel prior to the event, and documented communication between the Congresswoman's staff, vendors and OCE in the days immediately surrounding the event.

[1] OCE Report, Review No. 22-8546, at 8; 12 footnotes 46 and 47 ("While Rep. Ocasio-Cortez appears to have now paid for the rental value of the attire she wore to the Met Gala and for the goods and services she and her partner received in connection with this September 2021 event, payment for these goods and services did not occur until after the OCE contacted her in connection with this review. But for the OCE opening this review, it appears that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez may not have paid for several thousands of dollars' worth of goods and services provided to her").

The Congresswoman's staff explicitly told vendors prior to the Met Gala that the Congresswoman would be paying for many of the benefits provided *personally*. The most involved vendor - and the largest personal expense - was for the services of Brother Veilles and [redacted], who created the Congresswoman's dress, and rented numerous other items to the Congresswoman and to her partner. The following text messages, which took place between a senior campaign staffer and [redacted] in the days prior to and immediately following the Met Gala, clearly show that the Congresswoman's staff was conscious that Brother Veilles' expenses would need to be incurred by the Congresswoman personally and that they were seeking the correct form of payment for the Congresswoman to use:



In addition, the Congresswoman's intent to pay for these benefits personally was clearly communicated via email by Counsel to Ethics on September 17, just days after the Met Gala:[2]

> In this case, the situation was straightforward: the Congresswoman's accepted complimentary attendance at this event, which was a fundraiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a 501(c)(3) charity. The invitation was extended directly by the sponsor of the event, which was the Met. The Congresswoman was offered a guest ticket under that same criteria, and her longtime partner attended the event as well.
>
> Apart from the ticket, the meals, and beverages at the event, the Congresswoman is paying personally for all other benefits including the rental value of her dress, handbag, and accessories, as well as the full value for the shoes worn.
>
> The Congresswoman is also paying for the services related to her hair and makeup, transportation related to the event, and the pro-rated value of a hotel room that was shared with others for staging prior to the Met Gala.
>
> If the Committee's staff has additional questions regarding the Congresswoman's compliance with the gift rules, we'd be happy to provide information or substantiation.

[2] Email between myself as counsel to the Congresswoman and Tom Rust on behalf of the Committee, September 17, 2021.

OCE notes that several invoices were not paid until after they initiated their review in February 2022, and uses that fact as the primary basis for their belief that "but for" their review, the Congresswoman *may not have* paid for benefits provided to her. Though deeply regrettable, the delay in payment to some vendors is easily explained. The Congresswoman tasked a senior campaign staffer with collecting and paying the invoices, but due to the other significant demands of their job and a lack of familiarity with high-profile, multi-layered events such as these, this staffer lost track of some of the many invoices. In addition, the invoice of the greatest value – from Brother Veilles – was not paid because, at the time OCE initiated their review, the Congresswoman and her staff believed that they were still awaiting a final invoice from the vendor. This final invoice was not received until April 15, 2022.

As the Congresswoman said in her interview with OCE, she deeply regrets that payment to many vendors took as long as it did. ***However, the delay in payment by itself is not evidence that the Congresswoman did not intend to pay for personal expenses related to Met Gala, especially given the explicit, documented communications which took place prior to OCE's review that show she did intend to pay, and that her staff was collecting invoices and consulting with Counsel to that effect.***

Nothing remains to be investigated in this matter. We hope that – based on documents produced to OCE and the below – the Committee will recognize the Congresswoman's good faith efforts to comply at all times with House Rules, and will decide to dismiss this matter.

1. **The Congresswoman and her staff invested clear effort into ensuring that her attendance at the Met Gala was permissible, and that vendors were made aware that personal expenses would need to be paid by the Congresswoman.**

As a part of determining whether her attendance at the 2021 Met Gala would be permissible under the House Rules, the Congresswoman's staff consulted counsel - as counsel to the Congresswoman, I am routinely involved in conducting due diligence for her activities to ensure compliance with the various rules that regulate her activities. For this event, I reached out to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to confirm that the event met the criteria for a permissible charity event under House rules (where she could accept complimentary attendance and related benefits), and the general counsel of the museum confirmed that it met those criteria.[3]

Prior to the event, the Congresswoman's staff and I conducted extensive due diligence to ensure that her attendance at this event was permissible, and that any benefits that the Congresswoman was provided in connection with her attendance that could not be accepted under House Rules would be paid for by her, personally – including the rental value of her dress, fees for her hair and makeup, costs of hotel rooms used, transportation, and similar benefits. This due diligence included significant education for collaborators about how House ethics rules

[3] OCE Report, Review No. 22-8546, Exhibit B, pages 57-59.

affected the Congresswoman's participation.[4] For nearly all of the vendors involved, it was their first time being exposed to House gift rules and ethical restrictions.

From this, it proved to be exceptionally difficult during the due diligence phase to determine which individuals or entities should be reimbursed for which benefits, and how much each should be reimbursed. The Met Gala is primarily an event for celebrities, who are not subject to any legal restrictions on acceptance of gifts and who are routinely given complimentary benefits in connection with their attendance. This led to several occasions where the Congresswoman and her team were met with responses from collaborators and involved companies to the effect of "Met Gala attendees don't normally pay for this."

The Congresswoman's staff diligently educated vendors on her ethics requirements – compliance with House Rules was always at the forefront of planning.

2. The Committee should affirmatively dismiss this matter.

The Congresswoman has worked to create a culture in her office and on her campaign that not only meets but aims to exceed the highest ethical standards.

We hope that the Committee will recognize our commitment to compliance in this matter, and that that commitment was fulfilled. Since the Congresswoman has paid for all benefits received at the Met Gala – with her own personal funds – the Committee should affirmatively vote to dismiss the matter, and not proceed with further investigation.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at [redacted]@sandlerreiff.com.

Sincerely,

David Mitrani

Counsel for Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

---

[4] See, e.g. OCE Report, Review No. 22-8546:

Exhibit B, pages 57-59 (August 2021 discussion with Metropolitan Museum of Art regarding ethical boundaries of the Congresswoman's attendance), page 71 (conversation between senior campaign staffer and [redacted]), page 78 (discussion regarding legal call between Brother Veilles and the Congresswoman's team and counsel);

Exhibit C, page 17 (conversation between senior campaign staffer and [redacted]), page 34-41 (September 2021 discussion with Metropolitan Museum of Art and Vogue staff).

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February 27, 2023

Via E-Mail
Tom Rust, Esq.
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328

Re: In the Matter of U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Committee on Ethics Review of OCE Rev. 22-8546

Though no Ethics violation has been found, the Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") did identify that there were delays in paying vendors for costs associated with the Congresswoman's attendance at the Met Gala. The Congresswoman finds these delays unacceptable, and she has taken several steps to ensure nothing of this nature will ever happen again.

However, while regrettable, this matter definitively does not rise to the level of a violation of House Rules or of federal law. Even after OCE's exhaustive review of the Congresswoman's personal communications, there is no evidence that she ever intended to avoid these expenses. To the contrary, the record clearly shows that the Congresswoman always understood that she had to pay for these expenses personally – and she even worked with the undersigned counsel prior to the event to ensure that she complied with all applicable ethics rules.

We are confident the Committee on Ethics will dismiss this matter.

Sincerely,

David Mitrani

Counsel for Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

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July 29, 2024

Via E-Mail

Tom Rust, Esq.
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328

Re: In the Matter of U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) Committee on Ethics Review of OCE Rev. 22-8546

Dear Mr. Rust:

This letter will respond on behalf of our client, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), to requests for additional information by the Committee on Ethics (the "Committee") on July 8, 2024 related to the Congresswoman's appearance at the 2021 Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Benefit.

Responses to the Committee's questions are below, in **bold.**

1. Please confirm whether the following items were provided (*footnote: This includes items provided to you, regardless of whether the item was actually worn to the 2021 Met Gala*) to you in connection with the September 13, 2021, Met Gala (2021 Met Gala). For any items provided, state whether the item was purchased, rented, loaned, or gifted:

    a. Dress

    The Congresswoman's dress for the 2021 Met Gala was rented from Brother Veilles.[1]

[1] Office of Congressional Ethics Rev. 22-8546, Exhibits Part C, Exhibit 32, 22-8546_0365 (invoice), Exhibit 31, 22-8546_0346 (payment).

b. Shoes

The Congresswoman's shoes for the 2021 Met Gala were rented from Brother Veilles.[2] As the Congresswoman testified to OCE, the shoes were rented and were returned, although the invoice mistakenly stated they were a purchase.

c. Jewelry

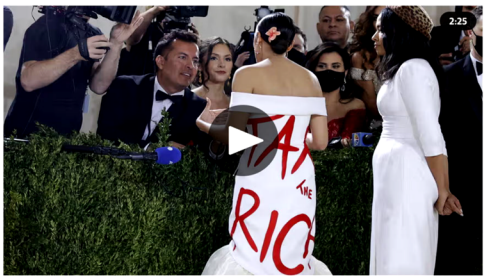
The Congresswoman's jewelry for the 2021 Met Gala were rented from Brother Veilles.[3]

d. Handbag

The Congresswoman's handbag for the 2021 Met Gala was rented from Brother Veilles.[4]

e. Hair accessories

The Congresswoman wore a small flower in her hair to the 2021 Met Gala, as shown below:[5]



[2] Office of Congressional Ethics Rev. 22-8546, Exhibits Part C, Exhibit 32, 22-8546_0365 (invoice), Exhibit 31, 22-8546_0346 (payment); Exhibits Part A, 22-8546_0059-0060 (substantiation of rental).

[3] Id.

[4] Id.

[5] See The Guardian, "'Medium is the message': AOC defends 'tax the rich' dress worn to Met Gala", September 14, 2021, at https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/14/aoc-defends-tax-the-rich-dress-met-gala (last accessed July 25, 2024).

It is our impression that the cost of this accessory was covered under either hair and makeup vendor – The Wall Group, or Streeters.[6] There was not a separate charge for this item outside of these invoices.

2. For each of the items in question 1 that were rented or loaned, inform the Committee whether, when, and to whom the item was returned, as well as the condition the item was in at the time it was returned.

   a. Dress

   The dress was returned on September 15, 2021 (two days after the Met Gala), in good condition (worn once).

   b. Shoes

   The shoes were returned September 15, 2021 (two days after the Met Gala), in good condition (worn once). As the Congresswoman testified to OCE, the shoes were rented, and were returned.[7]

   c. Jewelry

   The jewelry was returned to Brother Veilles on September 15, 2021 (two days after the Met Gala), in good condition (worn once).

   d. Handbag

   The handbag was returned to Brother Veilles on September 15, 2021 (two days after the Met Gala), in good condition (used once).

   e. Hair accessories

   The flower cited above was not returned, as it was a live flower without future potential use.

---

[6] Office of Congressional Ethics Rev. 22-8546, Exhibits Part C:

- Streeters: Exhibit 16, 22-8546 0268-0268 (invoice), Exhibit 18, 22-8546_0294 (payment).
- The Wall Group: Exhibit 19, 22-8546_0297 (invoice), Exhibit 23, 22-8546_0323 (payment).

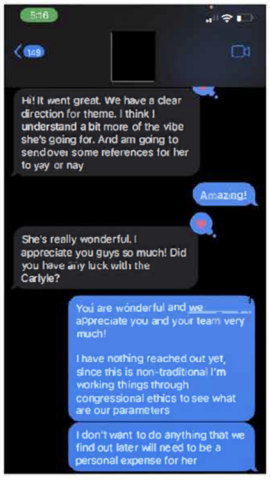
[7] Office of Congressional Ethics Rev. 22-8546, Exhibits Part A, 22-8546_0059-0060.

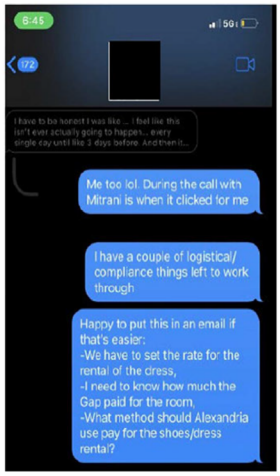
3. Did you or Mr. Roberts intend to pay for Mr. Roberts' bowtie and shoes in connection with the 2021 Met Gala at the time those items were provided by Brother Vellies?

Yes. The Congresswoman *always* intended to pay for all expenses related to the Met Gala that required reimbursement under House Rules, as clearly evidenced by the involvement of counsel (the undersigned) prior to the event, and documented communication between the Congresswoman's staff, vendors and the Committee in the days immediately surrounding the event.

The Congresswoman's staff explicitly told vendors prior to the Met Gala that the Congresswoman would be paying for the benefits provided *personally* as required by House rules. The most involved vendor – and the largest personal expense – was for the services of Brother Veilles and [redacted], who created the Congresswoman's dress, and rented numerous other items to the Congresswoman and to her partner.

The following text messages, which took place between a senior campaign staffer and [redacted] in the days prior to and immediately following the Met Gala, clearly show that the Congresswoman's staff was conscious that Brother Veilles' expenses would need to be incurred by the Congresswoman personally and that they were seeking the correct form of payment for the Congresswoman to use:[8]





[8] Office of Congressional Ethics Rev. 22-8546, Exhibits Part B 22-8546_0211; Part C, 22-8546_0237.

In addition, the Congresswoman's intent to pay for these benefits personally was clearly communicated via email by the undersigned counsel to Ethics on September 17, just days after the Met Gala:[9]

In this case, the situation was straightforward: the Congresswoman's accepted complimentary attendance at this event, which was a fundraiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a 501(c)(3) charity. The invitation was extended directly by the sponsor of the event, which was the Met. The Congresswoman was offered a guest ticket under that same criteria, and her longtime partner attended the event as well.

Apart from the ticket, the meals, and beverages at the event, the Congresswoman is paying personally for all other benefits including the rental value of her dress, handbag, and accessories, as well as the full value for the shoes worn.

The Congresswoman is also paying for the services related to her hair and makeup, transportation related to the event, and the pro-rated value of a hotel room that was shared with others for staging prior to the Met Gala.

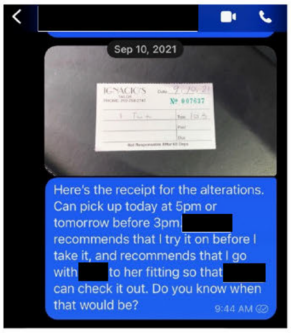
If the Committee's staff has additional questions regarding the Congresswoman's compliance with the gift rules, we'd be happy to provide information or substantiation.

4. You testified to OCE that, although [redacted] had extended an offer to assist Mr. Roberts with finding tailoring services, it "never happened," and Mr. Roberts did not have any tailoring services done by any vendor other than Suitsupply.

   Can you provide further explanation for what happened after Ms. [redacted] extended her offer, including whether Mr. Roberts communicated with any tailor she had suggested and why no further tailoring was ultimately completed?

   The cited comments to OCE reflected the Congresswoman's recollection at the time of the interview. On further discussion between the Congresswoman and Mr. Roberts, she has learned that additional tailoring was done on his tuxedo without her prior knowledge, <u>that Mr. Roberts paid for personally</u>.

   According to Mr. Roberts' recollection, the cost of those additional alterations was $103, paid to Ignacio's Tailor, as below:



[9] Office of Congressional Ethics Rev. 22-8546, Exhibits Part C, Exhibit 11, 22-8546_242-243.

5. Prior to paying any rental costs, did you have any discussions with anyone at Brother Vellies or on your congressional or campaign staff about what a possible rental value would be for any of the items in question 1?

   If so, please provide details of the discussion, including the approximate date and names of the individuals present. Please also address whether any of your discussions about rental costs associated with the 2021 Met Gala included discussion of whether Rent the Runway was an appropriate comparator.

   Yes: however, such discussions were solely anecdotal, around the potential personal cost of attending the event. To the Congresswoman's recollection, these discussions were with former campaign manager [redacted], and would have taken place around August of 2021.

   Estimations were collected (working with the undersigned counsel) based on public resources such as Rent the Runway – a well-known "clothing as a service" brand – but those discussions were solely used for estimation purposes as to whether the Congresswoman could afford to attend the event. The Congresswoman in no way directed others to use these estimations to influence the potential cost of a rental.

6. Did you, or anyone acting on your behalf, ever request, suggest, or imply that any of the items and/or services provided to you and/or Mr. Roberts as part of your 2021 Met Gala attendance should fall within and/or not exceed a particular budget?

   If yes, please provide details. If no, please explain why you did not discuss a budget, including whether you had any financial need to set a limit on the expenses.

   No. To the Congresswoman's best recollection, the Congresswoman was presented a decision of whether she could attend based on the estimates, and she chose to attend and bear the personal cost of doing so as required by House rules.

7. Are you aware of any of the expenses incurred by Brother Vellies in connection with making or designing your dress, such as materials, labor, or expedited shipping?

   If so, explain what expenses you are aware of, the approximate amount of those expenses, and how you became aware of those expenses.

   No.

8. Prior to OCE's review, were you aware that invoices provided by Brother Vellies to your campaign manager were revised after she received them?

   If so, please describe your knowledge of these revisions, including the reasoning behind any such revisions and any related conversations that you may have had or been privy to, the approximate date of any such conversations, a summary of those conversations, and list any other individuals present.

   No. As the Congresswoman testified to OCE, preparation for the OCE's interview was the first time she became aware of this fact.[10]

9. Did you, or anyone acting on your behalf, ever request or suggest that payment be delayed for any of the items and/or services provided to you and/or Mr. Roberts as part of your 2021 Met Gala attendance?

   No.

10. Did you understand, expect, and/or intend that any of the vendors that provided you and/or Mr. Roberts with items and/or services related to your 2021 Met Gala attendance would receive increased media exposure because of your position as a Member of Congress and/or public figure?

    If yes, did you or anyone acting on your behalf at any time suggest or imply that such exposure could serve as compensation for the items or services provided?

    While it did stand to reason that involvement with the Congresswoman's Met Gala appearance would bring additional media exposure to vendors, this was in no way stated, implied, or in any way communicated whatsoever that it could serve as compensation for services provided.

    The Congresswoman would consider this unethical behavior if it did occur. If this did occur, the Congresswoman was unaware, and would have declined the offer if she had become aware.

    As discussed above, the Congresswoman always intended to pay for all expenses related to the Met Gala that required reimbursement under House Rules, in cash (not in-kind), from personal funds.

[10] Office of Congressional Ethics Rev. 22-8546, Exhibits Part A, Exhibit 7, 22-8546_0061-0062.

11. Did you, or anyone acting on your behalf, ever have any discussions with anyone associated with Brother Vellies about whether the dress that you wore to the 2021 Met Gala could be auctioned or otherwise used for some charitable purpose?

    If so, please describe such discussions, including the approximate date(s) and name(s) of any individuals present.

    No. The Congresswoman does not recall having such discussions, and did not direct anyone to do the same.

12. Other than the 2021 Met Gala, have you, or anyone acting on your behalf, received complaints from any vendors who provided goods or services to you, for which you intended to pay with personal funds, regarding late or missing payment for such goods or services?

    If so, please provide details.

    We presume that this question is regarding activities related to the Congresswoman's official or candidate work that she would be required to pay for with personal funds, and not her personally. With that assumption, no.

13. Are there any aspects of the Office of Congressional Ethics' (OCE) Report and Findings that you found to be inaccurate or that you would otherwise like to address at this time?

    Yes. OCE's referral to the Committee based on the assumption that the Congresswoman would not have paid for these benefits "but for" their intervention, despite all evidence to the contrary, runs counter to logic, and to an efficient use of government resources. The Congresswoman produced hundreds of documents, participated in an interview, and most importantly provided substantiation that all benefits received by her and by Mr. Roberts were paid for, using personal funds.

    OCE agreed that the Congresswoman's attendance at the event was permissible, that Mr. Roberts' attendance as her spouse was permissible and, again, <u>that she personally paid for all benefits that required reimbursement.</u>[11] In short, OCE substantively agreed that the Congresswoman was in compliance with House Rules.

---

[11] Office of Congressional Ethics, Review No. 22-8546, at 8; 12 footnotes 46 and 47 ("While Rep. Ocasio-Cortez appears to have now paid for the rental value of the attire she wore to the Met Gala and for the goods and services she and her partner received in connection with this September 2021 event, payment for these goods and services did not occur until after the OCE contacted her in connection with this review. But for the OCE opening this review, it appears that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez may not have paid for several thousands of dollars' worth of goods and services provided to her").

Despite this, OCE refused to take this as sufficient to dismiss the matter. OCE faulting the Congresswoman for the time taken to pay is emblematic of a culture within the House of Representatives that discriminates against Members who are not independently wealthy and actively makes it more difficult for people not of financial means to serve in Congress. OCE's finding that the Congresswoman would not have reimbursed benefits "but for" its inquiry is insulting, offensive and completely unfounded – it failed to take into account the countless hours of work that the Congresswoman, her staff (including the undersigned counsel) put into due diligence and cooperation in this matter, and the significant personal burden on the Congresswoman to pay the amounts owed.

The Congresswoman very clearly intended at all times to pay for all expenses related to the Met Gala – and OCE agreed that she did in fact pay for all expenses. From this, nothing remains to be investigated in this matter. The Committee should use its finite resources to investigate matters where there are outstanding issues – and should therefore dismiss this matter despite OCE's referral.

As discussed in our original letter dated July 8, 2022, we hope that the Committee will recognize that this culture of compliance led to a commitment to compliance in this matter and that that commitment was fulfilled. Since the Congresswoman has paid for all benefits received at the Met Gala – with her own personal funds – the Committee should affirmatively vote to dismiss the matter, and not proceed with further investigation.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at [redacted]@sandlerreiff.com.

Sincerely,

David Mitrani

Counsel for Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

Declaration

I, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, declare (certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the responses and factual assertions contained in the attached letter dated **July 29**, 2024, relating to my response to the July 8, 2024, Committee on Ethics request for information, are true and correct.

Signature:

Name: Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Date: July 29, 2024

From: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)
To: Gwinn, Christine
Cc: Pescatore, Brittney
Subject: Re: Committee on Ethics - Representative Ocasio-Cortez
Date: Monday, September 30, 2024 5:32:20 PM

Christine,

After speaking with the Congresswoman, we respond in **bold** below. Mr. Roberts will need additional time to respond to his questions, we hope to follow up later this week on those.

The Congresswoman has been cooperative throughout this entire process: given this, may we ask whether the Committee is close to completing its inquiry in this matter?

- Question 2(b.) - You noted that the shoes worn by Representative Ocasio-Cortez were returned on September 15, 2021 (two days after the Met Gala). However, the Committee has reviewed communications from Brother Vellies indicating they had not received the shoes as of at least September 27, 2021. Could you please let us know whether there is any additional information that you can provide about the return of the shoes, including whether there are any additional documents or other records that could corroborate the date of return?

  On September 15, 2021, a courier was secured to send the items back, as described in our previous responses and in the Congresswoman's OCE interview (cited in the previous July 29 letter). The Congresswoman dropped the items off at the office for the courier to return.

  The Congresswoman no longer has the shoes, and is unaware as to what may have happened to them after they were sent back with the courier.

- Questions 1(e.), 2(e.) – You noted that it is your understanding that the hair accessory provided to Representative Ocasio-Cortez was a live flower whose cost was included in either of the invoices for the hair or makeup vendors. In some social media posts, the flower appears to have been described as a "handmade and hand painted crepe flower" made by artist [redacted] in collaboration with Brother Vellies. We understand that Ms. [redacted] made the flowers for the shoes but wanted to confirm whether Representative Ocasio-Cortez is confident that the flower in her hair was not similarly handmade. See also the Vogue video of her getting ready around 2:30, which appears to show a flower identical to the one in her hair (distinct from the ones on her shoes): https://www.vogue.com/video/watch/tax-the-rich-with-aoc.

  The Congresswoman has responded to inquiries with her best recollection and in good faith. Her recollection is that The Wall Group or Streeters did not specifically note that the flower had particular significance, and that it was put it in her hair while getting ready. The Congresswoman did not keep the flower after the event.

  It is our impression that the cost of this accessory was covered under either hair and makeup vendor – The Wall Group, or Streeters. There was not a separate charge for this item outside of these invoices.

--
Dave Mitrani
Partner

From: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)
To: Gwinn, Christine; Pescatore, Brittney
Subject: Re: Committee on Ethics - Representative Ocasio-Cortez
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 5:31:58 PM
Attachments: Riley Roberts Documents Regarding Ignacios Tailoring.pdf

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Christine – we have discussed with Riley, and respond in **bold** below.

- Question 4 – Could you please explain why Mr. Roberts sent the receipt for the tailoring services to [redacted]?

  According to Mr. Roberts' recollection, [redacted] told him to hold on to receipts related to the Met Gala, so he sent to her for safe keeping, not to seek reimbursement, approval, or the like.

  Please also provide any additional information and/or documentation demonstrating that Mr. Roberts did in fact pay for this cost out of personal funds.

  As discussed in our previous response, the cost of Mr. Roberts' additional alterations were $103, paid to Ignacio's Tailor, which only accepts cash (link). We have attached the ATM transaction from Mr. Roberts' personal account on the same day as the invoice for the tailoring, September 10, 2021, representing cash used for the payment when he paid the tailor on the next day.

--
Dave Mitrani
Partner
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

1620 Eye Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20006
T: [redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: Gwinn, Christine <[redacted]@mail.house.gov>
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 14:58
To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]@sandlerreiff.com>, Pescatore, Brittney <[redacted]@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Committee on Ethics - Representative Ocasio-Cortez

Dave,

Following up on the below correspondence. Please inform the Committee whether you anticipate providing responses to the Committee's questions regarding Mr. Roberts or whether staff should contact him directly.

Thank you,
Christine

BANK OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 15284
Wilmington, DE 19850

RILEY S ROBERTS
[redacted]

Customer service information

Customer service: 1.800.432.1000
En Español: 1.800.688.6086
bankofamerica.com
Bank of America, N.A.
P.O. Box 25118
Tampa, FL 33622-5118

Your Adv Plus Banking

for August 13, 2021 to September 13, 2021

Account number: [redacted]

RILEY S ROBERTS

Account summary

Beginning balance on August 13, 2021	[redacted]
Deposits and other additions	
Withdrawals and other subtractions	
Checks	
Service fees	
Ending balance on September 13, 2021	

Your account is enrolled in Balance Connect™ for overdraft protection. You can manage your overdraft protection preferences, including linked accounts, in Online and Mobile Banking.

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SSM-01-21-3113.B | 3414266

Withdrawals and other subtractions - continued

Date	Description	Amount
[redacted]		
09/10/21	ISPA/PIMDS 09/10 #000007725 WITHDRWL PAI ISO BRONX NY	101.99
[redacted]		

continued on the next page

SANDLER REIFF
SANDLER REIFF LAMB
ROSENSTEIN & BIRKENSTOCK, P.C.

May 16, 2025

Via E-Mail

Tom Rust, Esq.
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328

Re: In the Matter of U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) Committee on Ethics Review of OCE Rev. 22-8546

Mr. Rust:

This letter will respond on behalf of our client, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), a letter sent by the Committee on Ethics (the "Committee") on May 5, 2025 related to the Congresswoman's appearance at the 2021 Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Benefit ("Met Gala"). We incorporate by reference previous responses provided on July 8, 2022, February 27, 2023, and July 29, 2024.[1]

The Committee's letter presents additional "discovered" costs for Brother Veilles to produce the Congresswoman's dress and hair, which dramatically increase the amount that the Congresswoman has been asked to pay. The Congresswoman was not aware of these costs incurred by Brother Veilles until the May 5, 2025 letter and exhibit were sent (on the day of the 2025 Met Gala, which is a "coincidence" not lost on the Congresswoman). She did not authorize these costs. In summary, the Committee should close this matter privately, as:

I. **The Congresswoman has made every effort to comply with the law, and with OCE's and the Committee's requests in this matter.** Unfortunately, there is little to show for this cooperation – if anything, it has resulted in *more* scrutiny.

II. **The Congresswoman will pay additional amounts if presented with an invoice from Brother Veilles.** Given the circumstances, any additional invoice must be *without* any interest or penalties.

III. **The Congresswoman would be happy to contribute $250 to the Met's Costume Institute,** but objects to the Committee making a finding that Mr. Roberts' attendance was impermissible.

[1] While the Office of Congressional Ethics' name has changed to the Office of Congressional Conduct, we will refer to that body as "OCE", since the matter began before the name was changed.

Concluding this letter here would leave far too much off of the public record.

The Congresswoman was unaware that Brother Veilles incurred these additional costs for the creation of her dress – and solely acted on the facts previously provided by Brother Veilles and by [redacted].[2] When she has been presented an invoice, she has paid it, from personal funds – she has taken Brother Veilles' and [redacted]' word time and time again for how much she owed to them for the evening – and the number keeps getting larger. It is not the Congresswoman's fault that Brother Veilles or [redacted] seemingly withheld these additional costs from the Office of Congressional Ethics (or seemingly even from the counsel who they hired to conduct a review of costs during the OCE phase).

Yet, here we are again. For the second time, Brother Veilles has "found" additional costs that the Congresswoman will be directed to pay. How have these costs not come to light until now? In preliminary questions regarding to the Committee's letter, the Committee's staff was unable to provide assurances that – *even if the Congresswoman did pay these extra amounts* – this matter would come to a close (and if it did, it would likely be a public one).

This is unacceptable. The Congresswoman has paid thousands of dollars for this one evening that happened years ago. Continuing to leave this matter open flies in the face of the immense personal expense for the Congresswoman, the years of good faith cooperation, the hundreds of documents reviewed, the multiple interviews sat for (and not to mention the cost of doing so). ***The Committee should close this matter privately once the Congresswoman pays the amounts Brother Veilles has discovered.***

Continuing to keep this matter open serves no one and diverts crucial resources from the Committee that can be used on other matters. A public release closing this matter also serves no one, as the scrutiny the Congresswoman has been subject to in this matter has been well documented. So far, the Congresswoman has very little to show for complete, good faith cooperation with this investigation outside of more scrutiny seemingly *because of* her cooperation, and more money that she's being required to pay ***for actions taken by others without her knowledge or authorization.***

However, multiple facts in this matter have remained constant: the Congresswoman *always* intended to pay for all expenses related to the Met Gala that required reimbursement under House Rules, as clearly evidenced by the involvement of the undersigned Counsel prior to the event, and documented communication between the Congresswoman's staff, vendors and OCE in the days immediately surrounding the event.

The goalposts for the standards that others would hold the Congresswoman to keep being moved. We hope they are not moved again beyond the amounts the Congresswoman is being asked to pay in the May 5, 2025 letter and this matter is closed privately.

[2] We will assume that the costs in Exhibit 1 of the Committee's letter are actual, legitimate costs that have somehow been discovered years after the fact.

1. **The Committee should close this matter privately once the Congresswoman pays the amounts Brother Veilles has discovered. While the Committee has thanked the Congresswoman for her cooperation, it has meant little in practice. If anything, it has seemingly increased the scrutiny that the Committee has placed on this matter.**

While many Members of Congress do not cooperate with OCE (now the Office of Congressional Conduct), or provide the bare minimum to the Committee, the Congresswoman and her staff fully cooperated with this inquiry in good faith.[3] The Congresswoman produced hundreds of documents to OCE, voluntarily sat for an interview herself, and has been open and honest with OCE and with the Committee.

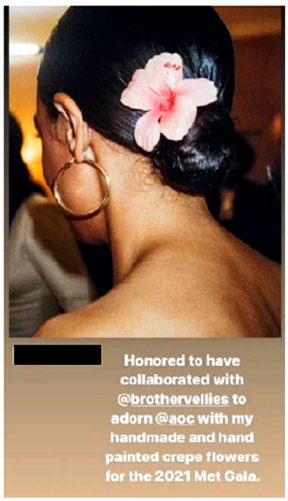
In turn, since OCE referred the matter in June of 2022, the Committee appears to have spent significant staff time both rechecking OCE's work, and *searching for* additional things that the Congresswoman would need to pay for. For example, it is clear that Committee staff went *frame-by-frame* reviewing the Congresswoman's appearance at the 2021 Met Gala – photos and videos – to see whether there were additional items that had not previously been discovered for her to pay for.

In a September 16, 2024 email, the Committee asks the Congresswoman (through the undersigned counsel), specifically pointing out zoomed-in social media posts and parts of videos:[4]

> **Questions 1(e.), 2(e.)** – You noted that it is your understanding that the hair accessory provided to Representative Ocasio-Cortez was a live flower whose cost was included in either of the invoices for the hair or makeup vendors. In some social media posts, the flower appears to have been described as a "handmade and hand painted crepe flower" made by artist [redacted] in collaboration with Brother Vellies. We understand that Ms. [redacted] made the flowers for the shoes but wanted to confirm whether Representative Ocasio-Cortez is confident that the flower in her hair was not similarly handmade. See also the Vogue video of her getting ready around 2:30, which appears to show a flower identical to the one in her hair (distinct from the ones on her shoes): https://www.vogue.com/video/watch/tax-the-rich-with-aoc.

[3] See, e.g. Campaign Legal Center, "Members of Congress Are Refusing To Cooperate With Ethics Investigations" (November 2, 2023) at https://campaignlegal.org/update/members-congress-are-refusing-cooperate-ethics-investigations (last accessed May 14, 2025).

[4] Email from Christine Gwinn to David Mitrani, September 16, 2024.



It is clear that cooperation has only brought more scrutiny – the Congresswoman's answers to questions have brought more questions. Investigation and enforcement in this matter has been unrelenting. OCE agreed that the Congresswoman's and her now-fiancé Riley Roberts' attendance at the 2021 Met Gala was permissible under House Rules and that she has personally paid for all benefits received that required reimbursement (that we were aware of at the time).[5] Despite this, OCE referred the matter to the Committee primarily because they believed, "but for" their review, the Congresswoman *may not have* paid for benefits provided to her.

OCE faulting the Congresswoman for the time taken to pay is emblematic of a culture within the House of Representatives that discriminates against Members who are not independently wealthy and actively makes it more difficult for people not of financial means to serve in Congress. OCE's finding that the Congresswoman would not have reimbursed benefits "but for" its inquiry was insulting, offensive and completely unfounded – it failed to take into account the countless hours of work that the Congresswoman and her staff put into due diligence and cooperation in this matter, and the significant personal burden of paying the funds determined to be owed by her personally.

[5] OCE Report, Review No. 22-8546, at 8; 12 footnotes 46 and 47 ("While Rep. Ocasio-Cortez appears to have now paid for the rental value of the attire she wore to the Met Gala and for the goods and services she and her partner received in connection with this September 2021 event, payment for these goods and services did not occur until after the OCE contacted her in connection with this review. But for the OCE opening this review, it appears that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez may not have paid for several thousands of dollars' worth of goods and services provided to her").

Now, with the receipt of the Committee's May 5, 2025 letter, we are aware of $2,983.28 ($2,733.28 plus $250) in new costs, in addition to the around $7,500 already paid. What other due diligence could the Congresswoman and her staff have done before the event that would have satisfied the Committee, since Brother Veilles keeps "discovering" new costs? Seemingly, nothing would have been sufficient.

The Congresswoman has and will pay for all costs with personal funds – all told, ***over $10,000*** in total for ***one evening.*** While some may argue that the Congresswoman "just shouldn't have gone" to the event if she could not afford to, that argument simply disregards the due diligence conducted, and the fact that so many of the expenses were incurred without the Congresswoman's knowledge or authorization, but still require her payment despite this. It would be nonsensical to suggest that the Congresswoman should have been prepared to pay for aspects of items and services that she didn't know about and didn't authorize.

The Congresswoman's cooperation in this matter – including the significant due diligence conducted before the event – should be worth something. The Committee should close this matter privately as an incentive for others to cooperate and to strive for compliance in the same manner as the Congresswoman has.

2. **The Committee should close this matter privately once the Congresswoman pays the amounts Brother Veilles has discovered. It is not the Congresswoman's fault that Brother Veilles appears to have withheld their costs from her (and from others).**

As described above, the Congresswoman was unaware that Brother Veilles incurred these additional costs for the creation of her dress – and solely acted on the facts provided by Brother Veilles and by [redacted]. The Congresswoman – and to the best of her knowledge neither did her agents – did not authorize Brother Veilles to incur these costs to create her dress.

Brother Veilles' interaction with the Congresswoman was primarily through her agent, former campaign manager [redacted], interacting with Brother Veilles' owner, [redacted]. Ms. [redacted], on behalf of the Congresswoman, explicitly told vendors prior to the Met Gala that the Congresswoman would be paying for many of the benefits provided *personally*, including Brother Veilles.

As we conducted due diligence to determine whether it was permissible for the Congresswoman to attend the event and what costs she would need to pay, it proved to be exceptionally difficult to educate vendors on the ethical requirements that the Congresswoman is subject to. The Met Gala is primarily an event for celebrities, who are not subject to any legal restrictions on acceptance of gifts and who are routinely given complimentary benefits in connection with their attendance. This led to multiple occasions where the Congresswoman and her team were met with responses from collaborators and involved companies to the effect of "Met Gala attendees don't normally pay for this."

Nonetheless, the Congresswoman's staff diligently educated vendors on her ethical requirements – compliance with House Rules was always at the forefront of planning.

Unfortunately, it is clear that the same cannot be said for vendors that the Congresswoman used for that evening. For nearly all of the vendors involved, it was their first time being exposed to House gift rules and ethical restrictions.

No one appeared to be thinking about the cost of anything, despite the fact that they were told to keep the costs down by the Congresswoman's staff because the Congresswoman had and has limited financial means, recognizing that she would have to pay for everything personally.

This is regrettably no clearer than with Brother Veilles and [redacted]. In 2022, Brother Veilles retained Brian Svoboda of Perkins Coie, an extraordinarily accomplished and well-respected practitioner in the field of Political Law, to conduct a review of Brother Veilles' costs to ensure that it charged the Congresswoman the correct amount for the evening.[6] Mr. Svoboda wrote to me on April 15, 2022, in part as below:

> Our clients, Cultural Brokerage Agency LLC d/b/a Brother Vellies and [redacted] are in receipt of your request for an invoice and supporting documentation for any goods, services or amenities which Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Riley Roberts may have received from our clients in connection with the September 13, 2021, Met Gala, for which Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Roberts may not have yet paid. Our clients have reviewed their records and identified the expenses below:
>
> - LV Services, Inc. (car service): $571.59.
> - Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 12, 2021: $1,214.61.
> - Room 1122 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $1,205.04.
> - Room 0911 at the Carlyle Hotel on September 13, 2021: $2,182.67.
> - Shoes for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $136.08.
> - Bow tie for Mr. Roberts' attendance at the Met Gala: $270.00.
> - **TOTAL: $5,579.99.**

Mr. Svoboda's review found $5,579.99 in new costs for the Congresswoman to pay, which she did from personal funds – these new costs were from invoices dated September 11, 12, 13, and a re-run invoice from March 16, 2022, and included *two* hotel rooms.[7]

As a part of its May 5, 2025 letter, the Committee attached additional dress costs charged to Brother Veilles for the creation of the Congresswoman's dress (a dress that was rented by the Congresswoman and returned to Brother Veilles after the event) which included a cover page indicating which costs were attributable to the Congresswoman.[8] In correspondence, Committee staff confirmed that "The Committee's understanding is that the first page of the exhibit was

[6] See OCE Exhibit C at 129; 22-8546_0349.

[7] OCE Exhibit C at 132-142; 22-8546_0352-0362.

[8] May 5, 2025 Committee letter, Exhibit 1.

created by Brother Vellies' accountant at the time of the event."[9] These invoices were dated to Brother Veilles on:

- August 31, 2021 ([redacted]),
- September 8, 2021 ([redacted]),
- September 13, 2021 ([redacted]),
- September 15, 2021 ([redacted]),
- September 6, 2021 ([redacted]), and
- September 17, 2021 ([redacted]).

To state the obvious – ***these dates for invoices fall far, far before Mr. Svoboda's review for Brother Veilles would have been conducted*** – and an accounting of costs was created "at the time of the event" – in September of 2021.

From this, how did these costs not come to light during Mr. Svoboda's review? These costs clearly fall into the scope of "*goods, services or amenities which Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Riley Roberts may have received from [Brother Veilles] in connection with the September 13, 2021, Met Gala, for which Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mr. Roberts may not have yet paid*" that Brother Veilles hired Mr. Svodoba to catalogue.[10] These invoices were addressed to Brother Veilles – how were they not included? It is not a logical leap to say Brother Veilles did not provide these costs to their counsel, since if they had they would have been integrated into the above letter sent April 15, 2022, and the Congresswoman would have paid these amounts years ago.

So, here we are again: taking Brother Veilles' word that this is actually, truly all of the costs the Congresswoman owes them for their work at the 2021 Met Gala. While the Congresswoman ***will*** pay amounts directed and invoiced by Brother Veilles for services rendered – it is not her fault that Brother Veilles seemingly keeps "discovering" new costs – first on Mr. Svoboda's review, and second on Brother Veilles' accountant's ledger of costs sent with the Committee's May 5, 2025 letter.

The Congresswoman has paid Brother Veilles' invoices and will pay this one once received – but cannot and should not be held to verifying the accuracy of those invoices. She does not control Brother Veilles, does not have access to their internal systems to verify invoices, or anything of the sort. All she can do is pay an invoice when directed.

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[9] Email from Christine Gwinn to David Mitrani, May 14, 2025.

[10] OCE Exhibit C at 129; 22-8546_0349.

From this, the Committee should close this matter privately once the Congresswoman pays the new amounts Brother Veilles has discovered.

3. While the Congresswoman is happy to contribute towards the Met Gala's Costume Institute, the Committee's letter threatening a negative finding disregards that there are different definitions of "spouse" under different sets of law.

The Committee's May 5, 2025 letter states that there is "no legitimate basis" for the assertion that, as of September 13, 2021, the Congresswoman's now-fiancé Riley Roberts was a permissible guest at the event, and that the Committee is considering finding that the Congresswoman "impermissibly accepted a gift of free admission to the Met Gala for Mr. Roberts."

This is simply not correct and would be inconsistent with the law applicable at the time. For one, it is crucial to note that OCE found that Mr. Roberts <u>was</u> a permissible guest as a "spouse" – stating "*Consistent with prior decisions, the OCE Board opted to treat a long-term significant other as synonymous with a spouse*."[11] This in and of itself is a legitimate basis for the Committee to do the same.

The Committee now saying that Mr. Roberts' attendance was impermissible *nearly four years later* would not only be inconsistent – two ethics bodies interpreting the same laws making opposite findings – it would bring Mr. Roberts, a private figure, back into the public eye for no fault of his own. The Committee – which it correctly notes has expanded its guidance *beyond* a broader view of "spouse" to allow "any guest" under the charitable event exemption – would be saying that ***the Congresswoman was right in premise*** that the Committee adopted a year later, but the Committee had not yet caught up to the reasoning as to *why*.

That would be an illogical result. Mr. Roberts accepted complimentary attendance to the Met Gala under the "charity event" exception of at the time House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C)-(D), which allows a Member of Congress to bring a "spouse or dependent" to an event meeting the exception.[12]

Mr. Roberts and the Congresswoman have been together since 2014, and have lived together since 2016. Mr. Roberts has had a spouse pin since the Congresswoman entered Congress in 2019. It is clear that the term "spouse" – as utilized in this former rule and as seemingly accepted by the Committee by expanding "spouse or dependent" to *any guest* – was intended to allow a Member of Congress to bring the individual that they've decided to share their lives with to a charity event, regardless of whether they had taken steps to bring the law or religion into their relationship.

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[11] OCE Report at 12, fn 47.

[12] House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C)-(D).

"Spouse" had and has many meanings under different sets of law applicable to the Congresswoman's actions. OCE correctly found that Mr. Roberts was considered a "spouse" under the rules at issue in this matter, "[c]onsistent with [their] prior decisions" – OCE found in this matter that "a long-term significant other [is] synonymous with a spouse" for the purposes of the House rules involved.[13] In addition, under campaign finance law, Mr. Roberts is considered a "spouse." For the purposes of campaign finance law and the Federal Election Commission, a person "*who has a committed relationship with the candidate, such as sharing a household and mutual responsibility for each other's welfare or living expenses"* is treated "*as the equivalent of the candidate's spouse"* for the purposes of the personal use rules.[14]

It is true that under the Committee's Travel Rules and financial disclosure guidance, Mr. Roberts is not considered a spouse. Under the Travel Rules – inapplicable to this matter because there was not a private sponsor – the Committee is correct that "fiancés/fiancées and unmarried significant others are not "relatives."[15] ***However,*** this clause limits the definition's reach to "for purposes of these regulations" – solely the travel rules. The Committee's financial disclosure guide provides that only individuals who are "legally married" are "spouses" solely for the purposes of the financial disclosure report.[16]

It also makes policy sense to treat people in committed long term relationships as spouses. Many states recognize common law marriage, and the law also contemplates that some couples in long term relationships may not have been able to marry due to outdated prohibitions on same-sex marriage. The law and religion shouldn't be required to be involved in a Member's personal relationships to determine who can receive these exemptions – reasoning the Committee has clearly adopted in its September 19, 2022 Pink Sheet.

So, at the time in September of 2021, left with multiple sets of law with multiple meanings for the same word ("spouse") – which should the Congresswoman have followed in the moment? The Congresswoman chose to follow campaign finance laws where definitions are commonly used throughout to guide the Committee's guidance (especially under personal use rules), opposed to definitions that were inapplicable in the Committee's rules on other topics. This was and is a reasonable and logical conclusion to make, and the Committee should not so brazenly apply guidance limited to other sets of rules in other contexts.

From this, the Committee should ***not*** find that the Congresswoman impermissibly accepted a gift of Mr. Roberts' admission to the 2021 Met Gala. Acceptance of Mr. Roberts'

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[13] OCE Report at 12, fn 47.

[14] Federal Election Commission, Federal Register Volume 60, No. 27 at 7872, at https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/notice1995-05-020995.pdf (last accessed May 14, 2025); 11 CFR 113.1(g)(7) (now (g)(8)); also applicable to 11 CFR 113.2(a)(1).

[15] Committee on Ethics, Travel Regulations § 104(z).

[16] Committee on Ethics, 2025 Instruction Guide, Financial Disclosure Reports for Calendar Year 2024 and Periodic Transaction Reports at 24, at https://ethics.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-Final-Instruction-Guide-4-15-2025.pdf (last accessed May 14, 2025).

admission was permissible. Regardless, the Congresswoman would be happy to contribute $250 to the Met's Costume Institute, but insists that a finding of wrongdoing not be made.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at [redacted]@sandlerreiff.com.

Sincerely,

David Mitrani

Counsel to Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

APPENDIX C

EXHIBIT 1

To: [redacted]@condenast.com]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 9/14/2021 3:24:32 PM
Subject: Fwd: MET 2019

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Schedule, AOC** <[redacted]@mail.house.gov>
Date: Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 10:54 AM
Subject: Re: MET 2019
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com>
CC: [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com>, [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com>, [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com>, Press, AOC <[redacted]@mail.house.gov>

Hi [redacted]

Thank you very much for the invitation to the Congresswoman. She was thrilled to be invited. Unfortunately, however, she has obligations out of town that weekend and won't be able to attend.

Thanks again!

[redacted]

--

[redacted]
Scheduler, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez

He/Him

229 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

PLEASE NOTE: Any meetings with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are scheduled pending votes

EXHIBIT 2

On Thu, Jun 24, 2021 at 9:06 AM [redacted] <[redacted]@ocasiocortez.com> wrote:

> Good morning all, apologies for my delay! The Congresswoman would like to attend and sends her appreciation for the invitation. Can we get on a call to discuss details?
> Best,
> [redacted]

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 2:37 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

> Hi [redacted]
> I hope you're having a lovely week! I'm kindly reaching out to follow up on the invitation for Rep. Ocasio Cortez and Riley Roberts.

We look forward to hearing from you,
[redacted]

On Mon, May 24, 2021 at 5:50 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

> Thank you, [redacted] I'll standby to hear from you.
> Best,
> [redacted]

On Mon, May 24, 2021 at 4:40 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@ocasiocortez.com> wrote:

> Hello [redacted],
> Thank you so much for the invitation and the follow up; please expect a response from me within another day or two.
> Best,
> [redacted]

On Mon, May 24, 2021 at 3:03 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

> Hi [redacted]
> I hope you had a lovely weekend. I'm kindly following up on the invitation below. Will you please let us know at your earliest convenience if Rep. Ocasio Cortez and Riley Roberts may be available to join us this year? We'd be thrilled to confirm them for the event!

Thank you,
[redacted]

EXHIBIT 3

Number of participants	4
Participants	[redacted]@gmail.com
Number of messages	21
First message sent date/time	July 14, 2021 18:52:43
Last message sent date/time	July 14, 2021 18:58:35

[redacted]@gmail.com **July 14, 2021 18:52:43**

Hey

[redacted]@gmail.com **July 14, 2021 18:53:35**

Between us -- AW called me this morning and asked me to dress AOC for the Met. I think im goi ng to do it. Feels like a really great moment. But going to be a lot of work because I will have to make a dress from scratch

[redacted] **July 14, 2021 18:53:56**

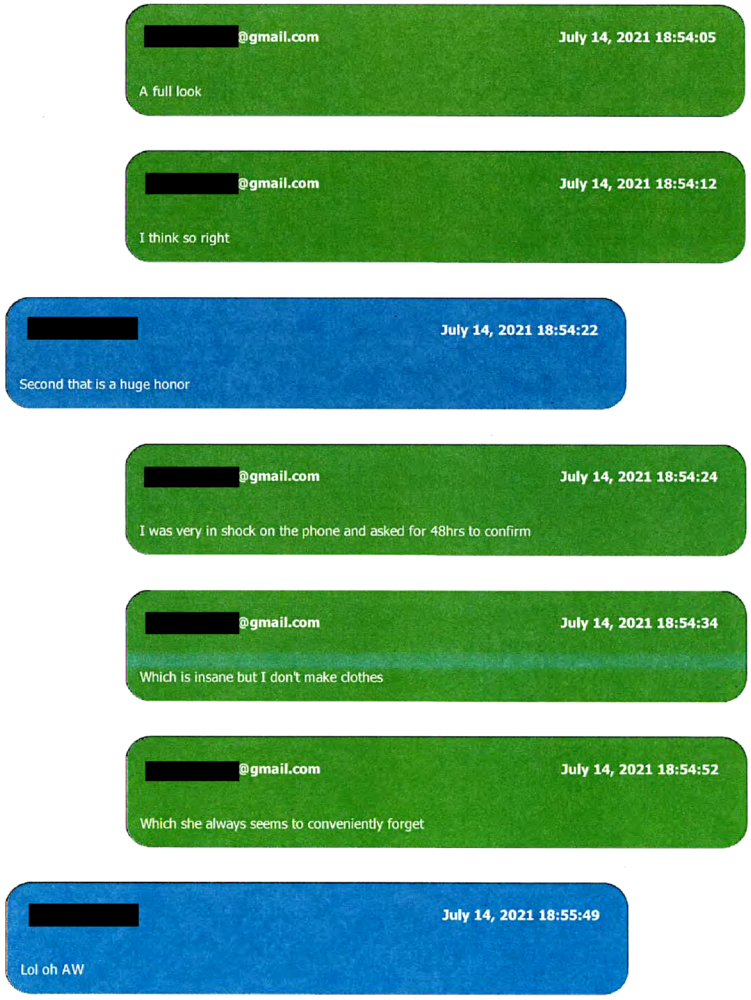
Oh wow — so a full look

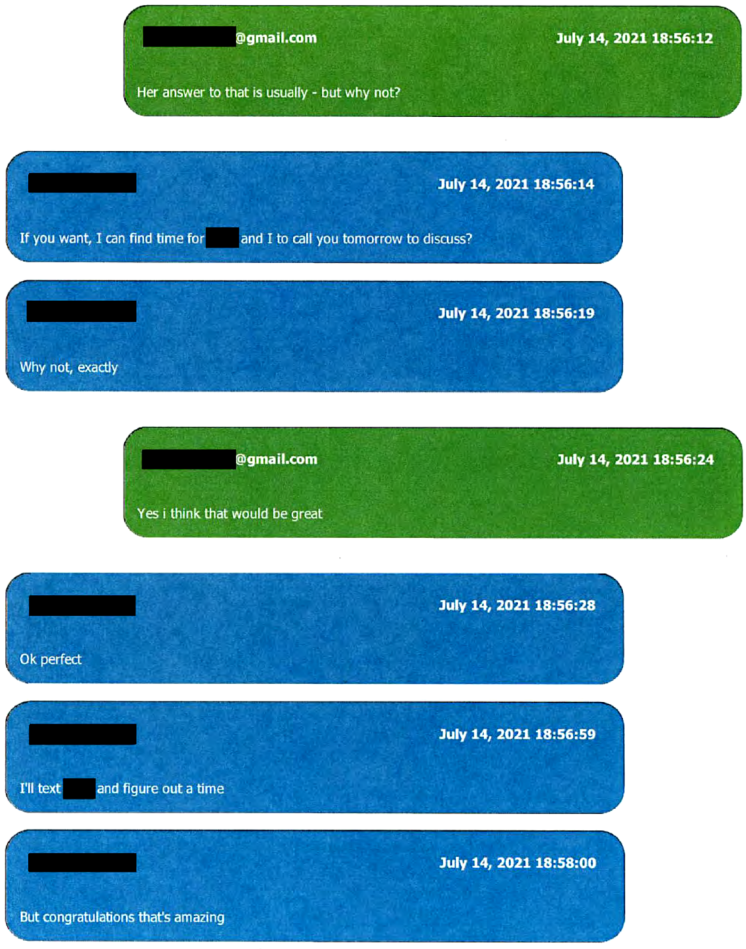
[redacted] **July 14, 2021 18:54:05**

First of all that's fantastic

[redacted]@gmail.com **July 14, 2021 18:54:05**

Terrifying


[redacted]@gmail.com July 14, 2021 18:54:05
A full look
[redacted]@gmail.com July 14, 2021 18:54:12
I think so right
[redacted] July 14, 2021 18:54:22
Second that is a huge honor
[redacted]@gmail.com July 14, 2021 18:54:24
I was very in shock on the phone and asked for 48hrs to confirm
[redacted]@gmail.com July 14, 2021 18:54:34
Which is insane but I don't make clothes
[redacted]@gmail.com July 14, 2021 18:54:52
Which she always seems to conveniently forget
[redacted] July 14, 2021 18:55:49
Lol oh AW


[redacted]@gmail.com
July 14, 2021 18:56:12
Her answer to that is usually - but why not?
[redacted]
July 14, 2021 18:56:14
If you want, I can find time for [redacted] and I to call you tomorrow to discuss?
[redacted]
July 14, 2021 18:56:19
Why not, exactly
[redacted]@gmail.com
July 14, 2021 18:56:24
Yes i think that would be great
[redacted]
July 14, 2021 18:56:28
Ok perfect
[redacted]
July 14, 2021 18:56:59
I'll text [redacted] and figure out a time
[redacted]
July 14, 2021 18:58:00
But congratulations that's amazing

[redacted]
July 14, 2021 18:58:10
We'll figure it out with you :)
[redacted]@gmail.com
July 14, 2021 18:58:35
THANK YOU

EXHIBIT 4

To: [redacted]@condenast.com]
Cc: [redacted]@condenast.com]; [redacted]@condenast.com]; [redacted]@condenast.com]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Sat 9/11/2021 4:47:28 PM
Subject: Re: Mandarin hold

Actually let's not let it go just yet! Please. Getting on a call with AOC and they said that designers can't pay for stuff needs to be a gift. So just double checking.

Thank you,
[redacted]

> On Sep 11, 2021, at 12:23 PM, [redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:
>
> I don't think it will be a problem. Maybe flag it to [redacted] when you are there and I can send her timing.
> I did however just sign the CCA for the Mandarin if that poses an issue.
>
> Thanks,
> [redacted]

[redacted]: Production Coordinator
CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT | m: [redacted]

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On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 12:18 PM [redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi All,
>
> Starting a new thread just in case so it doesn't get lost. It looks like [redacted] team booked the Carlyle for today and Monday for the AOC shoot. [redacted] has a whole set up for the dress and a team and materials for her there. We're thinking if we should let go of the mandarin but wanted to confirm that we can indeed shoot t the Carlyle before we let it go.
>
> Please let me know your thoughts.
>
> Thank you,
> [redacted]

EXHIBIT 5

To: [redacted]@condenast.com]
Cc: [redacted]@gmail.com]; [redacted]@condenast.com]; [redacted]
[redacted]@condenast.com]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Sat 9/11/2021 9:22:38 PM
Subject: Re: Mandarin hold

Hi [redacted],
Just got off a call with [redacted]- right now if we were to break up the cars it would be once we've landed at the hotel for the day. WIP schedule [redacted] talked me through on the phone, we can discuss tomorrow!

TK on the Hotel, they owe us an answer tomorrow re Carlyle or Mandarin-

WIP SCHEDULE

BRONX:
8:45 PM - Crew Call - Load Car with EQ (idle on site)

9am (AOC arrival) - 10:30 AM
Meet at Beauty By Morales
[redacted]
**TKTK Walk around Bronx / Bodega

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (Car ride)
TK HOTEL @ 11:00 AM
TK The Carlyle or The Mandarin

***IF we need to release one of the cars, this would be the time to do it. After Talent and team have been dropped off at the hotel for Glam/Getting Ready.*

HOTEL:
11:00 AM - Glam Call Time / Set Up
11:00 AM - Crew Set Up / Reset

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM - AOC in Glam
12:00 PM - Voting online (Tk duration, 1 hour to 5 hours)

12:00 - 3:00 PM - Crew Break

3:00 PM - [redacted] Team set up TK location
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM AOC Gets Dressed
5:30 PM - Glam touch ups, final touches
6:00 PM - Wheels up to The Met
6:30 PM - Land at Met, capture landing

On Sat, 11 Sept 2021 at 16:50, [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

> Okay just spoke with Big Apple and they're pretty spread thin on sprinter vans on Monday but they can definitely do two larger SUVs.

He's checking on the sprinter for me and will get back to me within the hour. If we had to do 2x large SUVs could we make it work? (tbh might be better for vetting depending on how many people are traveling)

On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 3:19 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

> It's seems like we're still confirming what's happening where and if there was one car to rely on and possibly hold EQ while we move through different places would be more helpful? I'm going to sync

traveling)

On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 3:19 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

> It's seems like we're still confirming what's happening where and if there was one car to rely on and possibly hold EQ while we move through different places would be more helpful? I'm going to sync with her rep in a bit for more clarity shortly.

Thank you,
[redacted]

> On Sep 11, 2021, at 2:57 PM, [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:
>
> Eek - we looked up holding a sprinter van for the entire day and it's running up to about $1,500 for the whole day.
>
> Would love to try to make it slightly more cost effective - Do we think there's a way we could break it up at all? Will she be at one location for a long time? Maybe when she's getting ready?
>
> Not what the most recent schedule is - sorry, I'm catching up on this one still!
>
> On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 2:45 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > Hi [redacted]
> > Could we please have the van available at 845a at beauty by morales [redacted] and drop off at the Met is still tbd. I think she's scheduled to arrive at 6:30p.
>
> Thank you,
> [redacted]
>
> > On Sep 11, 2021, at 2:37 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:
> >
> > Hi [redacted],
> > Copy, I need an address for the first location, timing for when we need the van first, and timing that we are dropping her off at the Met.
>
> Thanks,
> [redacted]
>
> [redacted] | Production Coordinator

CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT | m: [redacted]

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On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 2:33 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

> Ok final update is we are keeping the mandarin. We will also need a sprinter as AOC team asked if we could have one that will transport crew and AOC from location to location and then to the mandarin and then to The Met. It looks like from the Bronx location it will be only AOC in the van and after that location it will be two others from her team.
> Thank you,
> [redacted]
>
> > On Sep 11, 2021, at 12:23 PM, [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:
> >
> > I don't think it will be a problem. Maybe flag it to [redacted] when you are there and I can send her timing.
> > I did however just sign the CCA for the Mandarin if that poses an issue.
>
> Thanks,
> [redacted]
>
> [redacted] | Production Coordinator
> CONDÉ NAST ENTERTAINMENT | m: [redacted]

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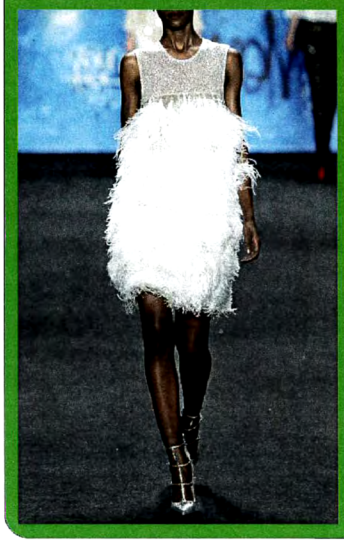
On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 12:18 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi All,

EXHIBIT 6

Number of participants	5
Participants	[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@gmail.com [redacted]
Number of messages	59
First message sent date/time	August 04, 2021 10:26:41
Last message sent date/time	August 04, 2021 16:59:48

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:07:15



[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:07:15

this is pretty

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:07:20

[redacted]and I are on the phone

[redacted]@gmail.com
August 04, 2021 12:11:26

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:11:36

[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:16:46

Oo okay. I'll incorporate something like that

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:17:02

[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:17:11

Were you thinking for both you and AOC?

[redacted]

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:17:14

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:17:19

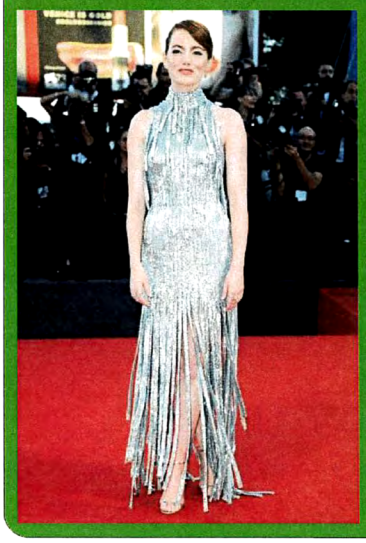
Potentially

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:17:47

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:17:47

like this short one with peopled would of course be a lot more me than AOC because its a little... .. You know

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:18:10



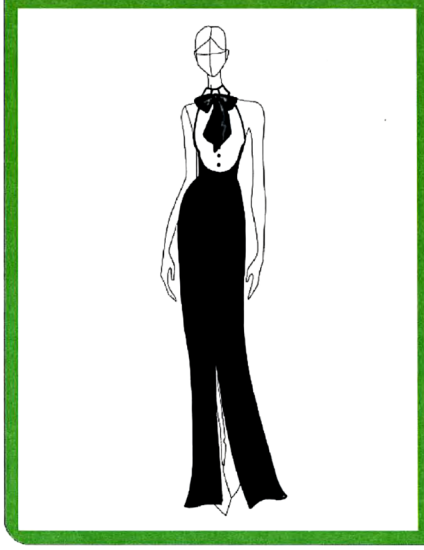
[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:18:26

Maybe we try the tuxedo top and have that turn into a fringe

[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:18:34

Liked "Maybe we try the tuxedo top and have that turn into a fringe"

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:18:45



[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:18:52

A hybrid of the Emma stone and this

[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:19:02

Liked "A hybrid of the Emma stone and this"

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:29:54

Maybe this also turns into fringe on the bottom

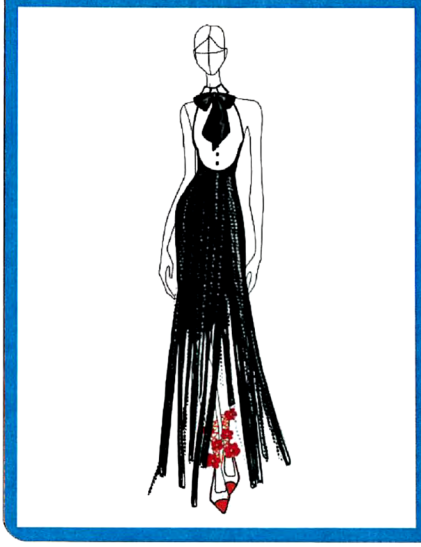
[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:37:07

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:41:27

The last might be more of a layered tom for/gucci fringe

[redacted]

[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:41:55



[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:42:23

Liked "Maybe this also turns into fringe on the bottom "

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:42:40

Maybe a bit shorter on the fringe?

[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:45:57

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:47:15

Hmmm this is getting good! Maybe its string fringe and not straps after all

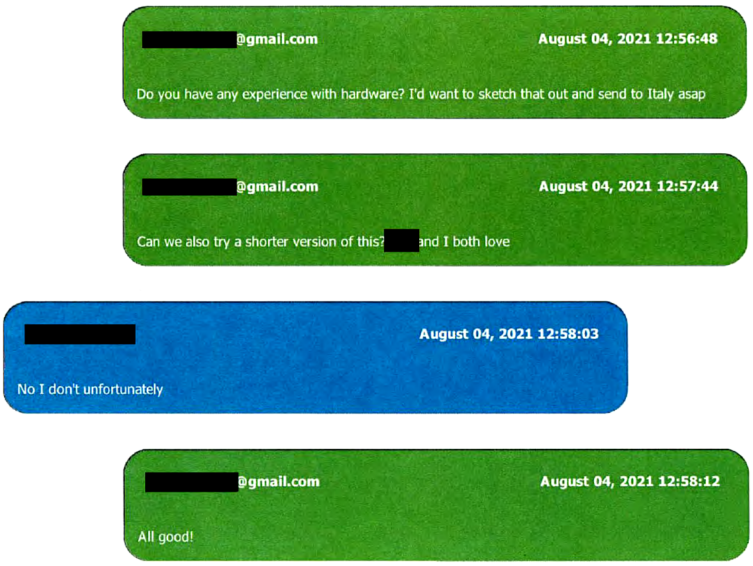
[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:55:11

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:56:17

This is really nice

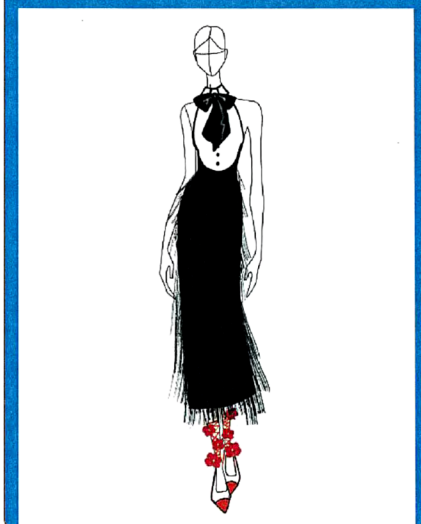
[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:56:33

Probably my favorite so far


[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:56:48
Do you have any experience with hardware? I'd want to sketch that out and send to Italy asap
[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:57:44
Can we also try a shorter version of this? [redacted] and I both love
[redacted] August 04, 2021 12:58:03
No I don't unfortunately
[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 12:58:12
All good!

[redacted]

August 04, 2021 13:02:16



[redacted]

[redacted] August 04, 2021 13:07:12

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 13:07:26

Cute!!!

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 13:07:38

I love these both

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 13:08:29

Would love to think about some of the other options I sent you that are fringed. How we can inc orporate color, texture, artisan work to make it feel more brother Vellies

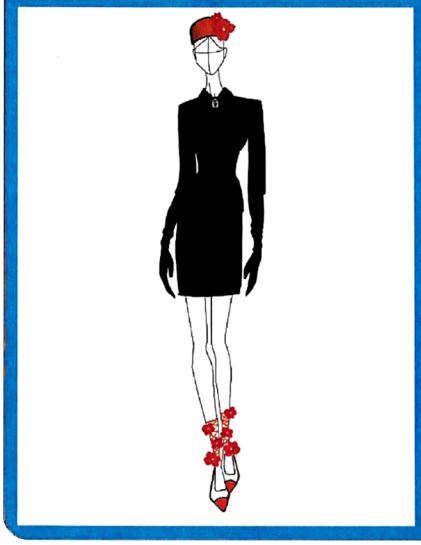
[redacted] August 04, 2021 13:16:28

Loved "Would love to think about some of the other options I sent you that are fringed. How we can incorporate color, texture, artisan work to make it feel more brother Vellies "

[redacted] August 04, 2021 13:17:08

Definitely! I'll do some research and sketches and put together something

[redacted] August 04, 2021 13:34:57



[redacted] August 04, 2021 13:34:57

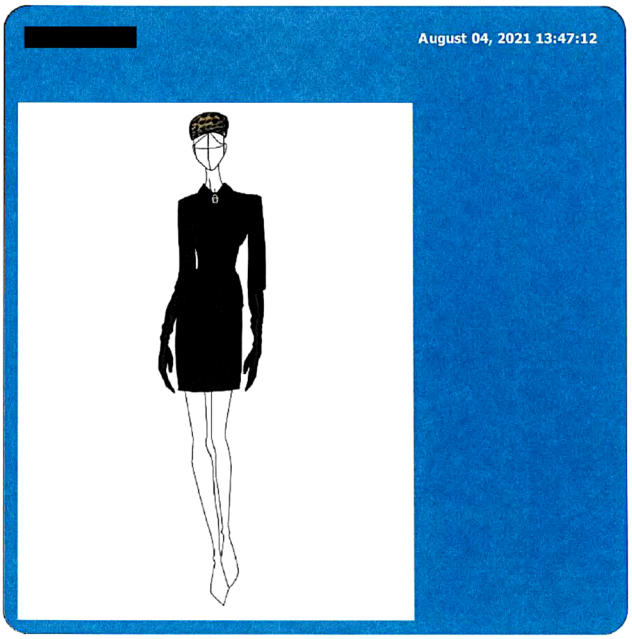
Forgot to share this as well

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 13:45:49

Loved an image

[redacted]@gmail.com August 04, 2021 13:46:22

Cute! Can we try her in a leopard hat


[redacted]
August 04, 2021 13:47:12

[redacted]

August 04, 2021 15:16:18

[redacted]

[redacted] August 04, 2021 15:16:18

[redacted] August 04, 2021 15:16:18

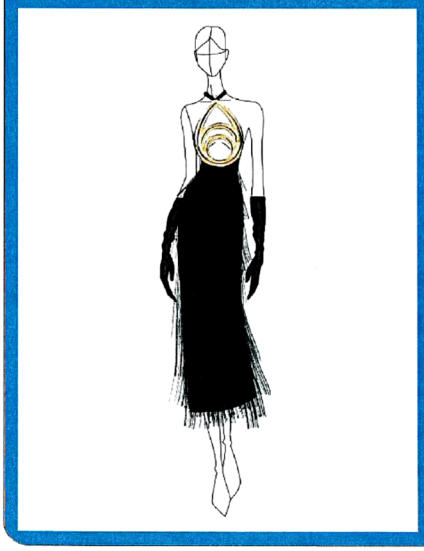
[redacted] August 04, 2021 15:16:18

Would something like this be of interest?

[redacted]

[redacted]

August 04, 2021 16:05:52



[redacted]

[redacted]

August 04, 2021 16:05:52

[redacted]

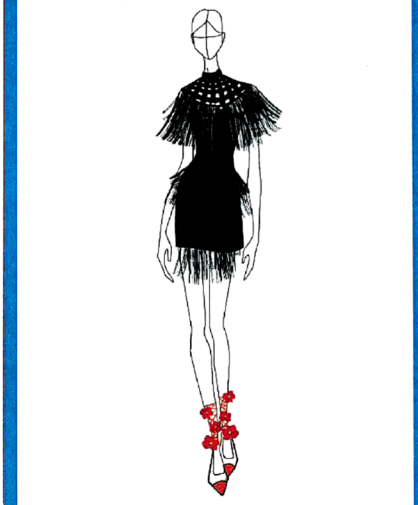
[redacted]

August 04, 2021 16:05:52

[redacted]

[redacted]

August 04, 2021 16:21:10



[redacted]

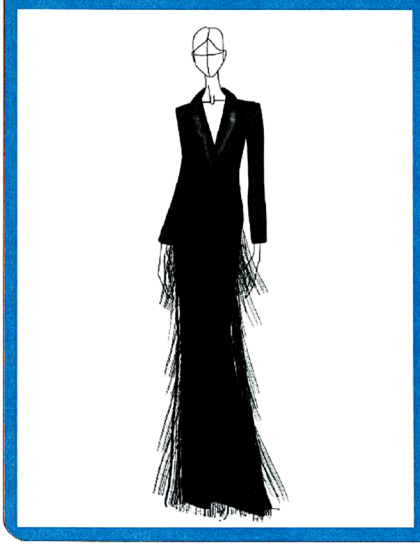
[redacted] August 04, 2021 16:25:52

[redacted] August 04, 2021 16:25:52

Corrected version

[redacted]

August 04, 2021 16:59:48



[redacted]

EXHIBIT 7

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 2:23 AM EDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Met Gala x[redacted]
Attachments: AOC.pdf, Untitled attachment 277531.htm

Hi [redacted],

I'm so sorry for my delay in getting this to you guys.
Please let me know if you'd like me to talk you through any of this.
They are jumping off points and once she sends any indication of feedback (cuts, lengths, colors, moods) I can expand and nail in on a top 2 or 3 looks for direct approval.

I will shoot you a text in the morning as well. Apologies again for sending this so late in the evening.
:)

All my love,
[redacted]

[redacted]
Creative Director

Brother Vellies
[redacted]
www.brothervellies.com

@BrotherVellies
@[redacted]

[redacted]

In Fashion: A Lexicon of Fashion

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009523

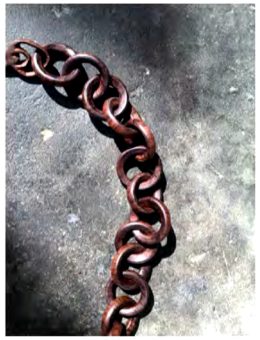
Wardrobe can be used as a brilliant tool for communication, it can also be used as a tool to understand and celebrate culture, identity, belonging and values. Most of the couture details and trends we have seen presented by fashion houses over the years, actually take their inspiration from communities of color and their traditional artisanal skill sets and customs.
What does it look like to involve these artisans in the fashion conversation directly? How have communities of color been underrepresented in these 'classic american fashion' conversations and what can we do to involve them now?

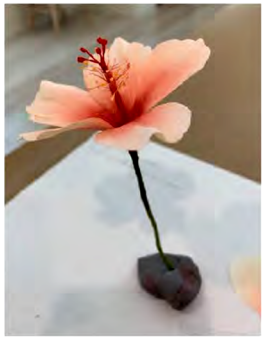
This is the thesis behind Brother Vellies and I hope some things on the following pages resonate with you.

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009524

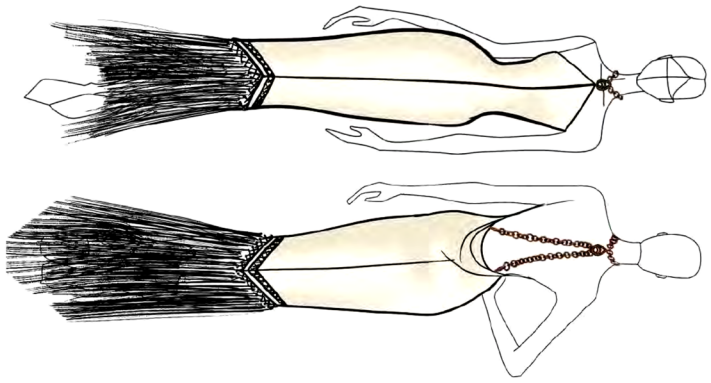
wood and silk

We are designing with handcarved wood from Kenya, beautiful hand dyed silk fringe, paper crafted odes to Puerto Rico's national flower, the Flor de Maga, Brass hardware made from melted down padlocks into beautiful jewelry, wooden sequins and hand appliqued beads… in the Bronx, of course.





COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009525

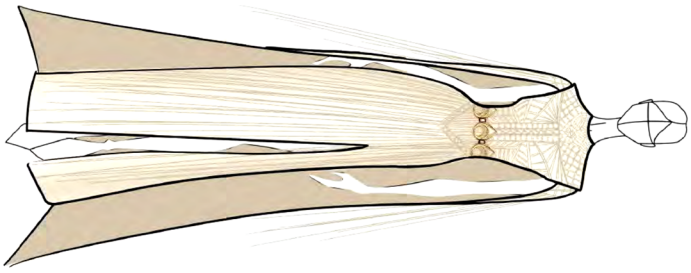


hand carved wooden straps and
hand woven silk fringe train

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009526

an adornment of a handmade Flor De Maga, Puerto Rico's national flower

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009527

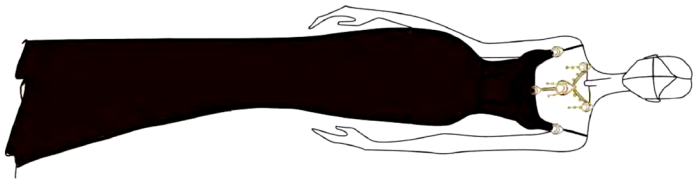


cotton and silk woven together
by hand in traditional macrame
to create a full length gown

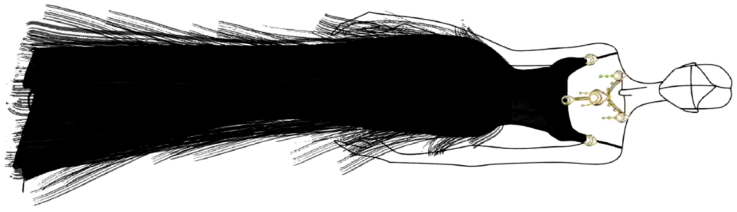
COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009528

Hand embroidered stripes of
gold bugle beads on an
espresso chiffon, can be cut
more modestly

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009529



tiered fringe
or without,
a focus on
hardware
and the
potential to be
reimagined
in any color



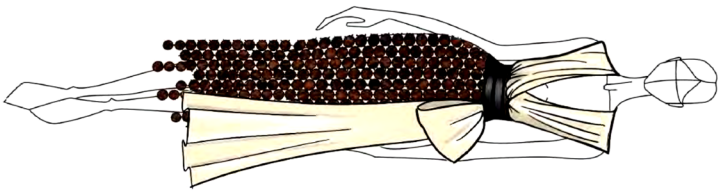
COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009530

Black tweed, redesigning a classic fashion staple and ensemble for progressive women of color, women of the future

Repurposed brass melted down and fashioned into beautiful draping on the waist or neck. Presented on a classic, purposefully constructed black gown.

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009532

Hand carved wooden pieces
interconnected to form this skirt



COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009533

tiered fringe
or without,
subtly
hand-beaded
black scarf and
vintage black
round buttons

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009534

An off the shoulder cape,
suspended by carved wood

thank you

EXHIBIT 8

Number of participants	4
Participants	[redacted]@gmail.com [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
Number of messages	28
First message sent date/time	August 03, 2021 18:31:31
Last message sent date/time	August 03, 2021 23:21:28

[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 18:31:31

Is it [redacted] mom that makes paper flowers???

[redacted] August 03, 2021 18:36:57

Yes!

[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 18:37:21

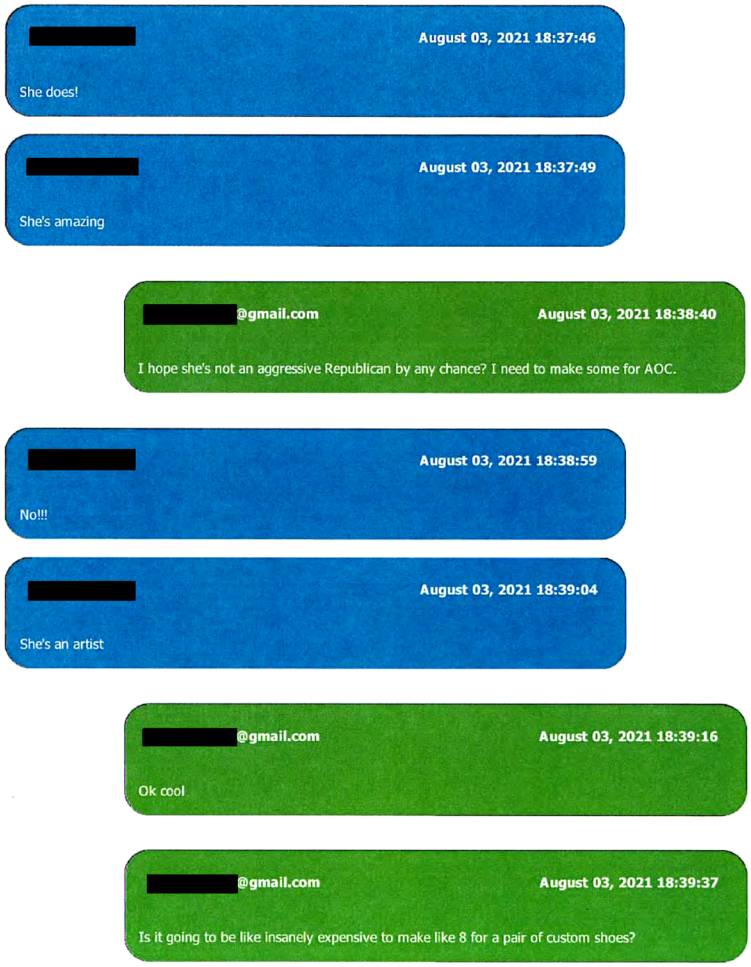
Cool

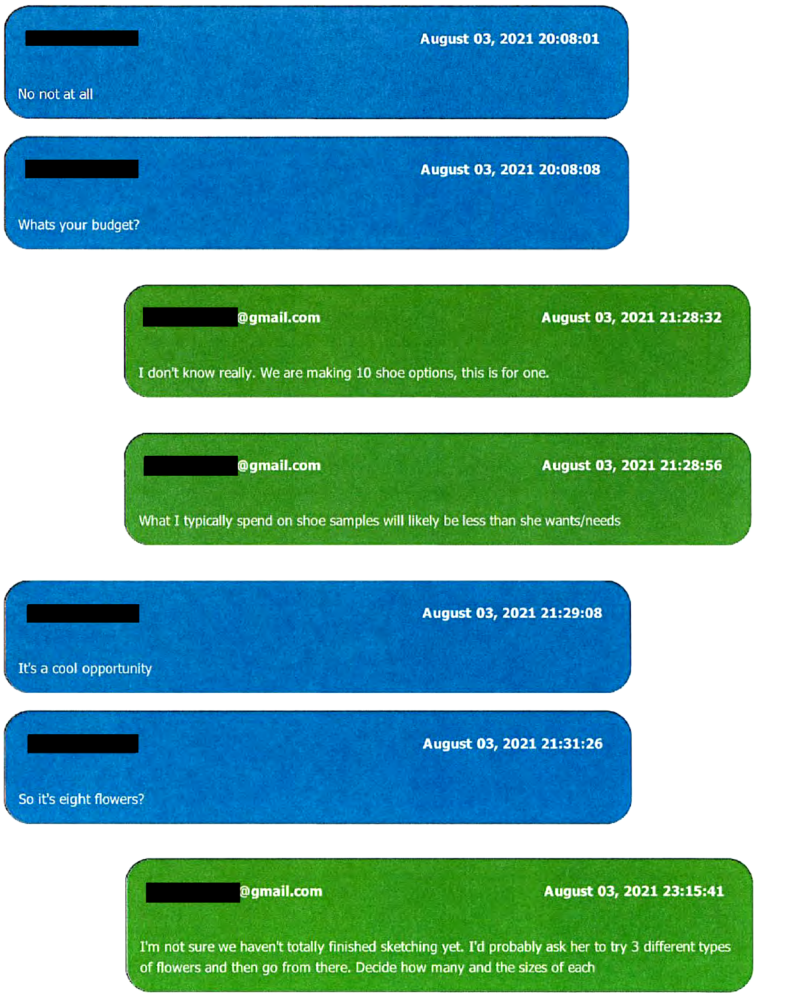
[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 18:37:27

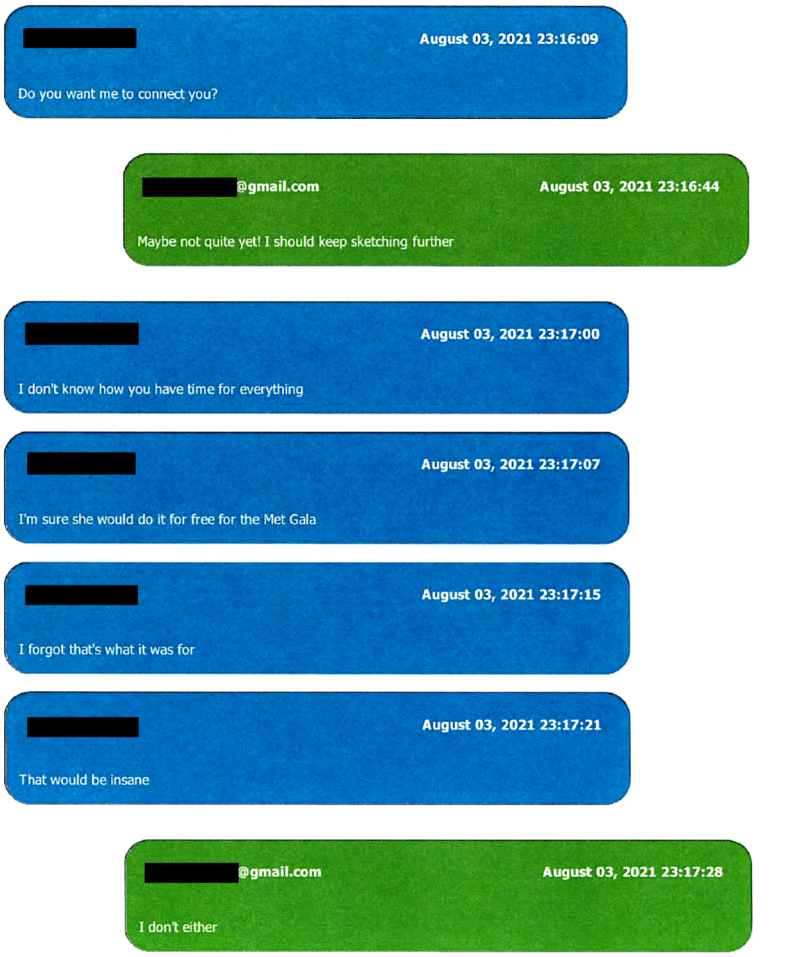
Does she do it often

[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 18:37:35

I might need a few special ones for a project


[redacted] August 03, 2021 18:37:46
She does!
[redacted] August 03, 2021 18:37:49
She's amazing
[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 18:38:40
I hope she's not an aggressive Republican by any chance? I need to make some for AOC.
[redacted] August 03, 2021 18:38:59
No!!!
[redacted] August 03, 2021 18:39:04
She's an artist
[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 18:39:16
Ok cool
[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 18:39:37
Is it going to be like insanely expensive to make like 8 for a pair of custom shoes?


[redacted] August 03, 2021 20:08:01
No not at all
[redacted] August 03, 2021 20:08:08
Whats your budget?
[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 21:28:32
I don't know really. We are making 10 shoe options, this is for one.
[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 21:28:56
What I typically spend on shoe samples will likely be less than she wants/needs
[redacted] August 03, 2021 21:29:08
It's a cool opportunity
[redacted] August 03, 2021 21:31:26
So it's eight flowers?
[redacted]@gmail.com August 03, 2021 23:15:41
I'm not sure we haven't totally finished sketching yet. I'd probably ask her to try 3 different types of flowers and then go from there. Decide how many and the sizes of each


[redacted]
August 03, 2021 23:16:09
Do you want me to connect you?
[redacted]@gmail.com
August 03, 2021 23:16:44
Maybe not quite yet! I should keep sketching further
[redacted]
August 03, 2021 23:17:00
I don't know how you have time for everything
[redacted]
August 03, 2021 23:17:07
I'm sure she would do it for free for the Met Gala
[redacted]
August 03, 2021 23:17:15
I forgot that's what it was for
[redacted]
August 03, 2021 23:17:21
That would be insane
[redacted]@gmail.com
August 03, 2021 23:17:28
I don't either

[redacted] August 03, 2021 23:21:23

She's also an artist and can scratch some stuff for you

[redacted] August 03, 2021 23:21:28

Sketch

EXHIBIT 9

BROTHER VELLIES		MET GALA							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
STYLE	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		
Flor de Maga Pump OTK - THIGH HIGH LA [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	clear pvc tomato nappa handmade paper flowers: pink or red. will choose color when we receive flowers			1				1	AOC
PVC Sandal SHIPPED 9/6	Clear PVC Rose Gold Metallic Nappa			1				1	AOC
Globe Sandal Metal OTK - THIGH HIGH LA [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Gold speccio all over Globe- gold to match speccio			1		1	1	3	AOC - 38 [redacted] - 40,41
Globe Sandal Wood OTK - THIGH HIGH L [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Eartha Suede Straps Whiskey Croc insole & Heel Globe- wood						1	1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Globe Sandal Wood OTK - THIGH HIGH LA [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Maya Suede Straps Whiskey Croc insole & Heel Globe- wood				1			1	[redacted]
Logo Heel [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Gold Nappa HW: match original bangles color beads t-strap, logo hardwear at front, logo lace ends w wood bead Heel: Wood				2			2	[redacted]
Logo Heel [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Purple Nappa HW: match original bangles color beads t-strap, logo hardware at front, logo lace ends w wood bead Heel: Wood					1		1	[redacted]
Logo Heel [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	White Nappa HW: match original bangles color beads t-strap, logo hardware at front, logo lace ends w wood bead Heel: Wood					1		1	[redacted]
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Logo Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LACES [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	tomato nappa handmade paper flowers: pink or red. will choose color when we receive flowers			1				1	AOC
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Logo Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LACES [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	white nappa handmade paper flowers: white					1		1	[redacted]
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Logo Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LACES [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	purple nappa handmade paper flowers: white w purple degrade center					1		1	[redacted]
BROTHER VELLIES		MET GALA							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
STYLE	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.009542

[redacted]

Flor de Maga Sandal Bike Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LA... [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	espresso nappa red, yellow, green flowers				1			1	[redacted]
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Wedge OTK - THIGH HIGH LA... [redacted] Handcarri on 9/10	espresso nappa red, yellow, green flowers wood wedge				1			1	[redacted]
Wood Wedge 1 [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Gold Nappa HW: match original bangles color bangles, beads anklet, logo hardware at front Wood Wedge				1			1	[redacted]
Wood Wedge 2 [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Clear PVC upper whiskey croc insole wood wedge				1	1		2	[redacted] - 40
Bike - Over the Knee Lac SHIPPED 9/6	tomato red all over				1			1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Bike - Over the Knee Lac SHIPPED 9/6	gold speccio all over				1			1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Bike - Over the Knee Lac SHIPPED 9/6	silver speccio all over				1			1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Negril SHIPPED 9/7	Vamp silver cords counter, insole, heel matte white embossed snake blue and silver ribbon laces			1				1	AOC
Bike Sandal with Plur SHIPPED 9/7	Chocolate Leather Straps Chocolate Ostrich Plumes Honey Zebra Pony Hair Insole				1		1	2	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Bike Sandal with Plume SHIPPED 9/7	Espresso Croc Straps Black Ostrich Plumes Black Pony Hair Insole				1		1	2	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
BROTHER VELL		MET GALA							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
STYLE	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		
OTK Brandy Boot SHIPPED 9/7	Tomato Red fabric all over		1	1				2	AOC - 38
OTK Brandy Boot [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Espresso Pony Hair tomato red piping up back seam			1				1	AOC

[redacted]

OTK Brandy Boot SHIPPED 9/7	Leopard Spandex			1	1			2	AOC - 38
Diane Dress Shoe [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	silver speccio laces- 1 matching silver 2 matching gold heel and sole edge - black				1			1	[redacted]
Empire Platform SHIPPED 9/7	red nappa pantone 18-1763 TCX black platform logo on zipper- silver				1			1	[redacted]
Empire Platform SHIPPED 9/7	blue nappa pantone 19-3939 TPX black platform logo on zipper- silver				1			1	[redacted]
Ribbon Pump OTK - THIGH HIGH LACI SHIPPED 9/6	black satin all over black plumes- send separately					1		1	[redacted]
Ribbon Pump OTK - THIGH HIGH LAC [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	neon pink fabric				1			1	[redacted]
Paloma Sandal [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	burgundy leather Pantone 208 C NO feathers						1	1	[redacted]
Nightfall Boot OTK Stretch SHIPPED 9/7	brown spandex				1			1	[redacted]
Nightfall Boot OTK Stretch SHIPPED 9/7	black spandex				1			1	[redacted]
Nightfall Boot OTK Stretch SHIPPED 9/7	tomato red spandex			1				1	AOC
BROTHER VE		MET GALA							FOR
STYLE	COLORWAY	QUANTITY						TOTAL	
Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	black satin gold embroidery and crystal swarovski gold hardware	1						1	AOC
Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	espresso satin gold embroidery and crystal swarovski gold hardware	1						1	AOC

Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on SHTO	cream satin silver embroidery and crystal swarovski silver hardware				1			1	AOC
Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on SHTO	tomato red satin silver embroidery and crystal swarovski silver hardware				1			1	AOC
TOTAL SAMPLES TO PRODUCE								45	
BROTHI		MET GALA - PULL FROM STOCK							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
S1	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		
Paloma	white					1		1	[redacted]
TOTAL SAMPLES TO PULL								1	

[redacted]

BROTHER VELLIES		MET GALA							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
STYLE	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		
Flor de Maga Pump OTK - THIGH HIGH LA [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	clear pvc tomato nappa handmade paper flowers: pink or red. will choose color when we receive flowers			1				1	AOC
PVC Sandal SHIPPED 9/6	Clear PVC Rose Gold Metallic Nappa			1				1	AOC
Globe Sandal Metal OTK - THIGH HIGH LA [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Gold speccio all over Globe- gold to match speccio			1		1	1	3	AOC - 38 [redacted] - 40,41
Globe Sandal Wood OTK - THIGH HIGH L [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Eartha Suede Straps Whiskey Croc insole & Heel Globe- wood						1	1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Globe Sandal Wood OTK - THIGH HIGH LA [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Maya Suede Straps Whiskey Croc insole & Heel Globe- wood				1			1	[redacted]
Logo Heel [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Gold Nappa HW: match original bangles color beads t-strap, logo hardware at front, logo lace ends w wood bead Heel: Wood				2			2	[redacted]
Logo Heel [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Purple Nappa HW: match original bangles color beads t-strap, logo hardware at front, logo lace ends w wood bead Heel: Wood					1		1	[redacted]
Logo Heel [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	White Nappa HW: match original bangles color beads t-strap, logo hardware at front, logo lace ends w wood bead Heel: Wood					1		1	[redacted]
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Logo Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LACES [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	tomato nappa handmade paper flowers: pink or red. will choose color when we receive flowers			1				1	AOC
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Logo Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LACES [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	white nappa handmade paper flowers: white					1		1	[redacted]
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Logo Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LACES [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	purple nappa handmade paper flowers: white w purple degrade center					1		1	[redacted]
BROTHER VELLIES		MET GALA							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
STYLE	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		

[redacted]

Flor de Maga Sandal Bike Heel OTK - THIGH HIGH LA... [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	espresso nappa red, yellow, green flowers				1			1	[redacted]
Flor de Maga Sandal Wood Wedge OTK - THIGH HIGH LA... [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	espresso nappa red, yellow, green flowers wood wedge				1			1	[redacted]
Wood Wedge 1 [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Gold Nappa HW match original bangles color bangles, beads anklet, logo hardware at front Wood Wedge				1			1	[redacted]
Wood Wedge 2 [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Clear PVC upper whiskey croc insole wood wedge				1	1		2	[redacted] - 40
Bike - Over the Knee Lac... SHIPPED 9/6	tomato red all over				1			1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Bike - Over the Knee Lac... SHIPPED 9/6	gold speccio all over				1			1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Bike - Over the Knee Lac... SHIPPED 9/6	silver speccio all over				1			1	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Negril SHIPPED 9/7	Vamp silver cords counter, insole, heel matte white embossed snake blue and silver ribbon laces			1				1	AOC
Bike Sandal with Plu... SHIPPED 9/7	Chocolate Leather Straps Chocolate Ostrich Plumes Honey Zebra Pony Hair Insole				1		1	2	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
Bike Sandal with Plume... SHIPPED 9/7	Espresso Croc Straps Black Ostrich Plumes Black Pony Hair Insole				1		1	2	place holder for last minute requests or afterparty
BROTHER VELL		MET GALA							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
STYLE	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		
OTK Brandy Boot SHIPPED 9/7	Tomato Red fabric all over		1	1				2	AOC - 38
OTK Brandy Boot [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	Espresso Pony Hair tomato red piping up back seam			1				1	AOC

[redacted]

OTK Brandy Boot SHIPPED 9/7	Leopard Spandex			1	1			2	AOC - 38
Diane Dress Shoe [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	silver speccio laces- 1 matching silver 2 matching gold heel and sole edge - black				1			1	[redacted]
Empire Platform SHIPPED 9/7	red nappa pantone 18-1763 TCX black platform logo on zipper- silver				1			1	[redacted]
Empire Platform SHIPPED 9/7	blue nappa pantone 19-3939 TPX black platform logo on zipper- silver				1			1	[redacted]
Ribbon Pump OTK - THIGH HIGH LACI SHIPPED 9/6	black satin all over black plumes- send separately					1		1	[redacted]
Ribbon Pump OTK - THIGH HIGH LAC [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	neon pink fabric				1			1	[redacted]
Paloma Sandal [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	burgundy leather Pantone 208 C NO feathers						1	1	[redacted]
Nightfall Boot OTK Stretch SHIPPED 9/7	brown spandex				1			1	[redacted]
Nightfall Boot OTK Stretch SHIPPED 9/7	black spandex				1			1	[redacted]
Nightfall Boot OTK Stretch SHIPPED 9/7	tomato red spandex			1				1	AOC
BROTHER VE		MET GALA							FOR
STYLE	COLORWAY	QUANTITY						TOTAL	
Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	black satin gold embroidery and crystal swarovski gold hardware	1						1	AOC
Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	espresso satin gold embroidery and crystal swarovski gold hardware	1						1	AOC

Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	cream satin silver embroidery and crystal swarovski silver hardware	1						1	AOC
Nile Bag [redacted] Handcarry on 9/10	tomato red satin silver embroidery and crystal swarovski silver hardware	1						1	AOC
TOTAL SAMPLES TO PRODUCE								45	

BROTHE		MET GALA - PULL FROM STOCK							FOR
		SIZE						TOTAL	
ST	COLORWAY	36	37	38	39	40	41		
Paloma	white					1		1	[redacted]
TOTAL SAMPLES TO PULL								1	

[redacted]

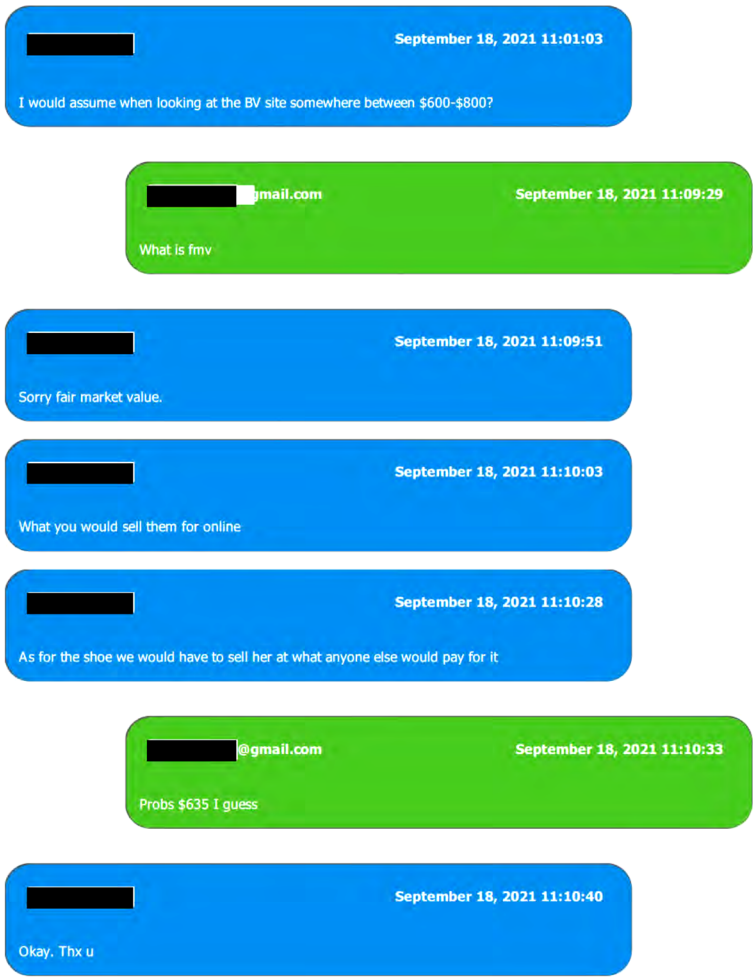
EXHIBIT 10

Number of participants	4
Participants	[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@gmail.com
Number of messages	66
First message sent date/time	September 18, 2021 10:27:00
Last message sent date/time	September 18, 2021 13:22:28

[redacted]

[redacted] **September 18, 2021 10:58:14**

The shoe that [redacted] is talking about I just want to make sure if AOC is buying it we do it at FMV. Would you you normally charge for that?


[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:01:03
I would assume when looking at the BV site somewhere between $600-$800?
[redacted]gmail.com September 18, 2021 11:09:29
What is fmv
[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:09:51
Sorry fair market value.
[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:10:03
What you would sell them for online
[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:10:28
As for the shoe we would have to sell her at what anyone else would pay for it
[redacted]@gmail.com September 18, 2021 11:10:33
Probs $635 I guess
[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:10:40
Okay. Thx u

[redacted]@gmail.com September 18, 2021 11:10:59

We also need to make a seperate invoice to Riley for the Tom Ford bow tie and the shoes [redacted] got him

[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:11:08

I will finalize and then send final invoice once [redacted] gets back to us

[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:11:13

Got it.

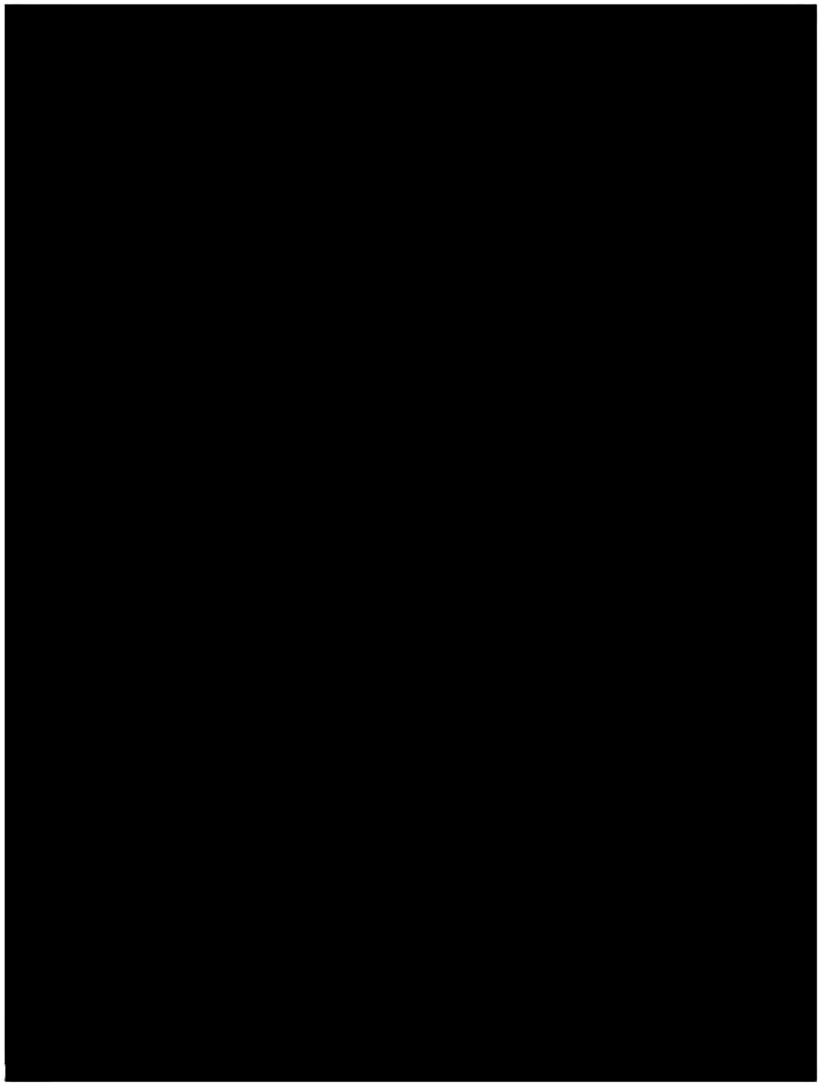
[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:11:15

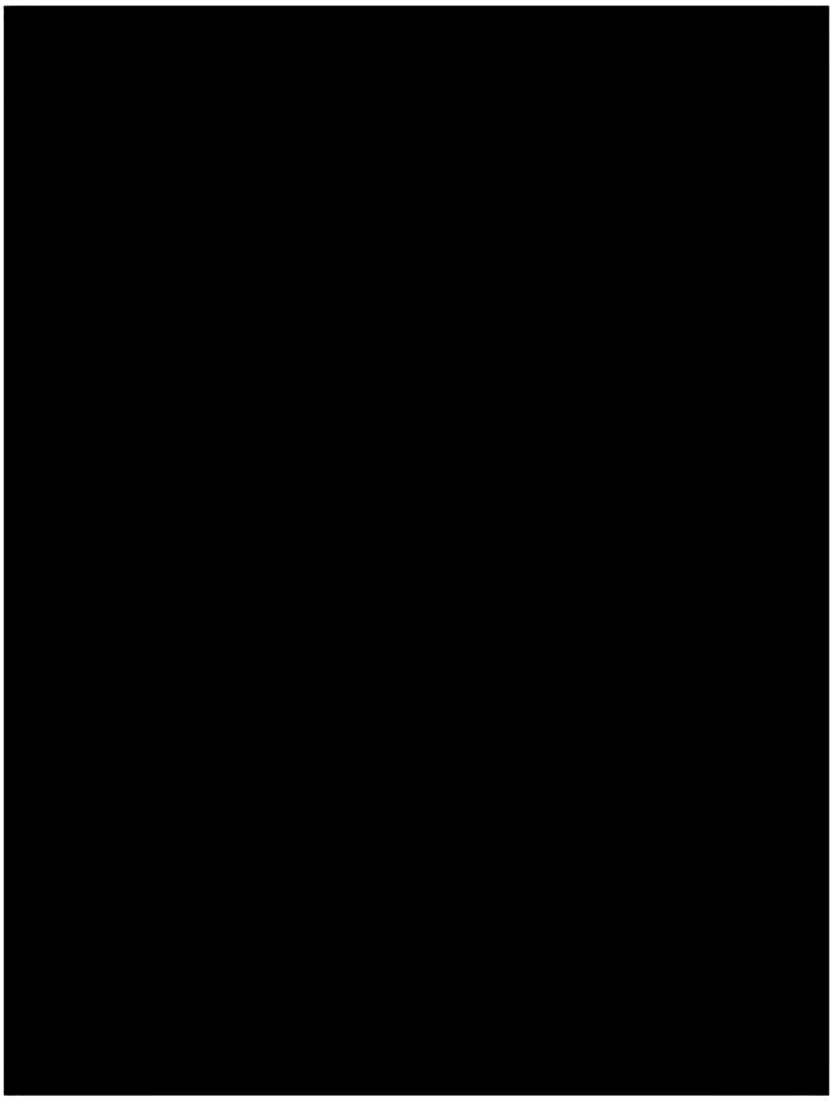
No problem

[redacted] September 18, 2021 11:11:50

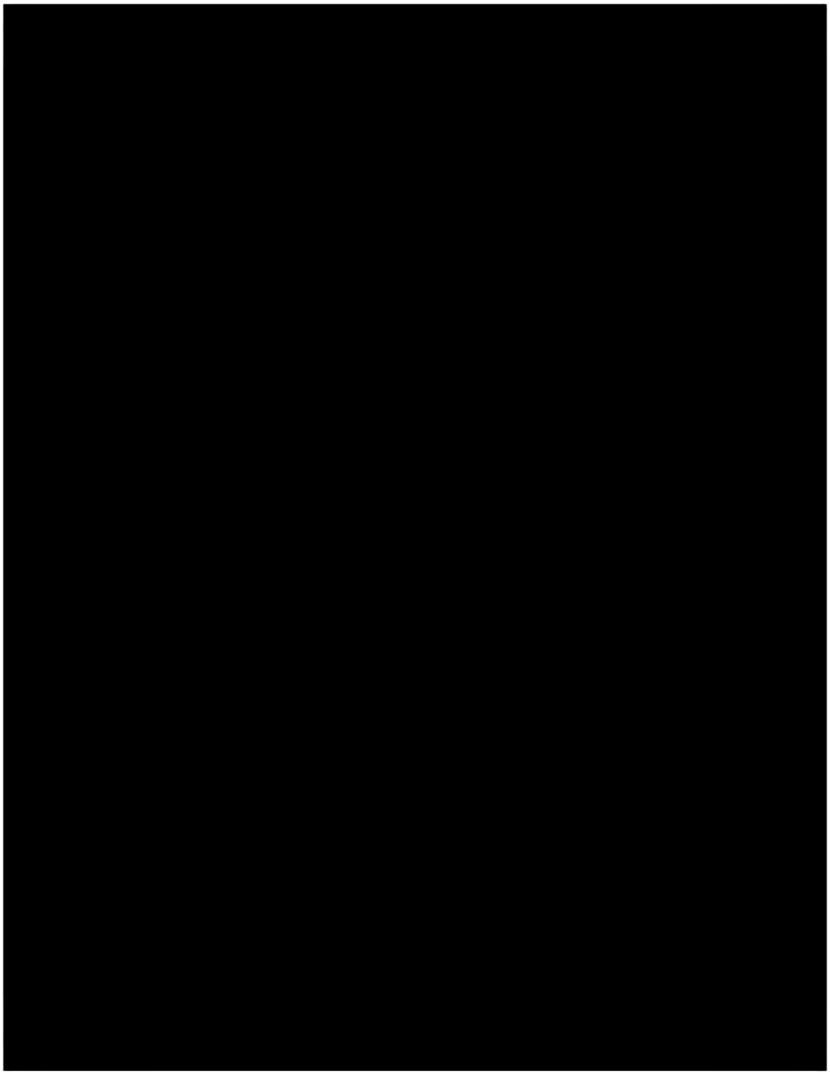
Thx u and sorry to bother you again. Just want to make sure I close the loop

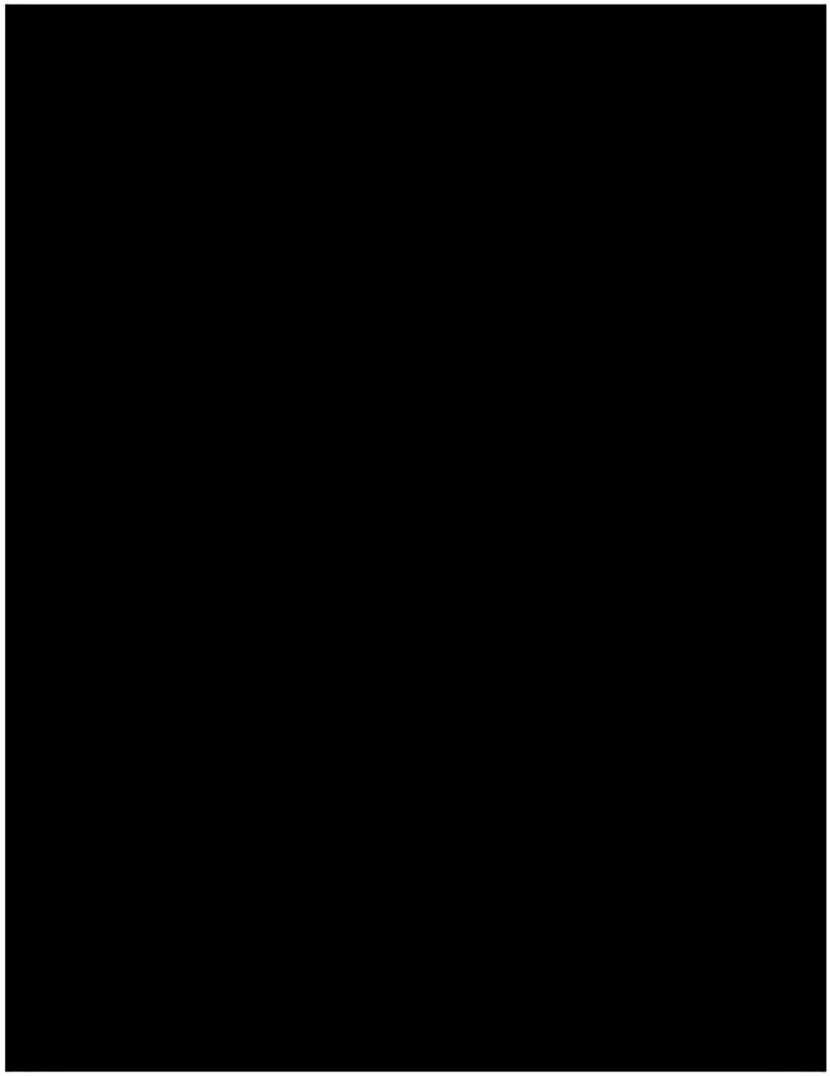
[redacted]

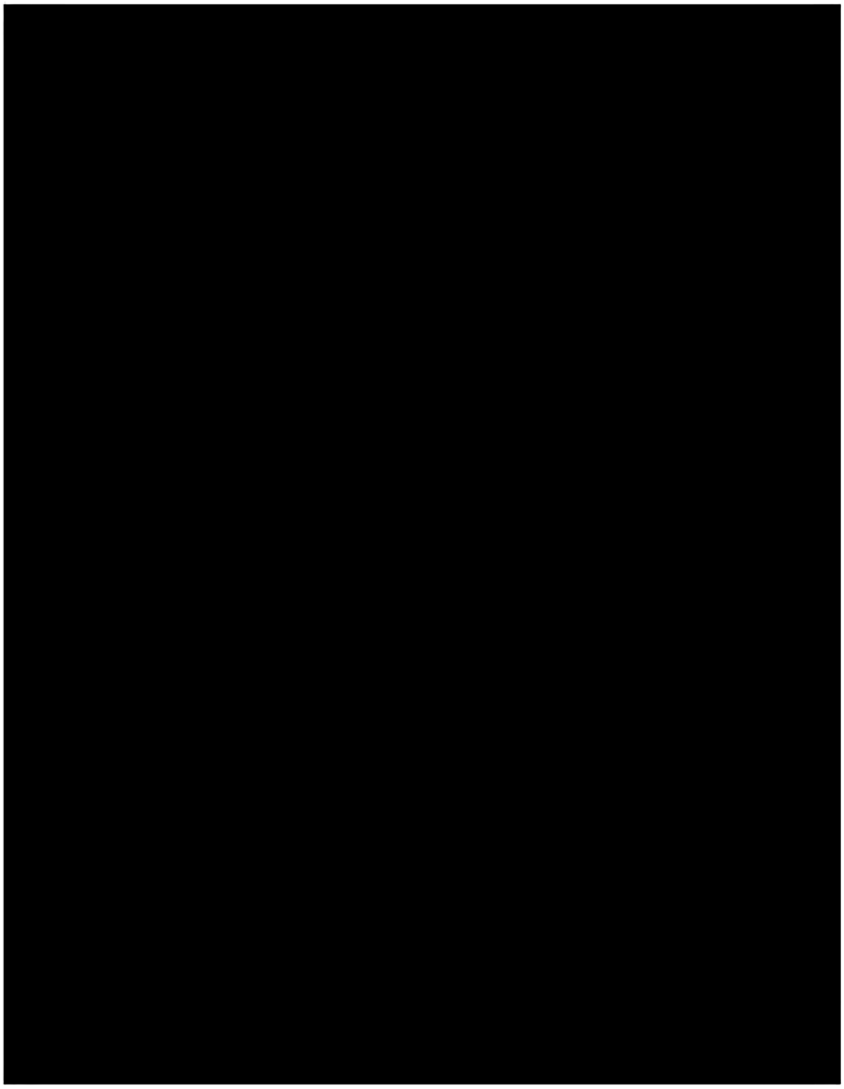




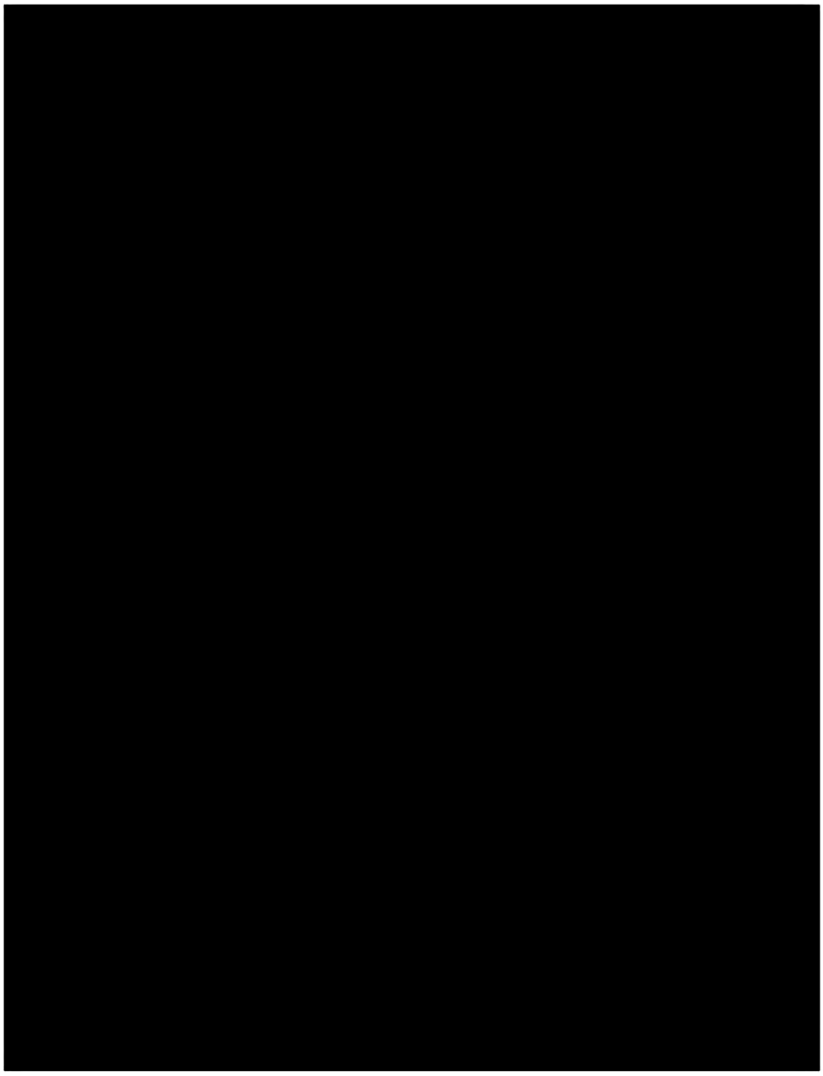
COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.012024 [redacted]







COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.012027 [redacted]



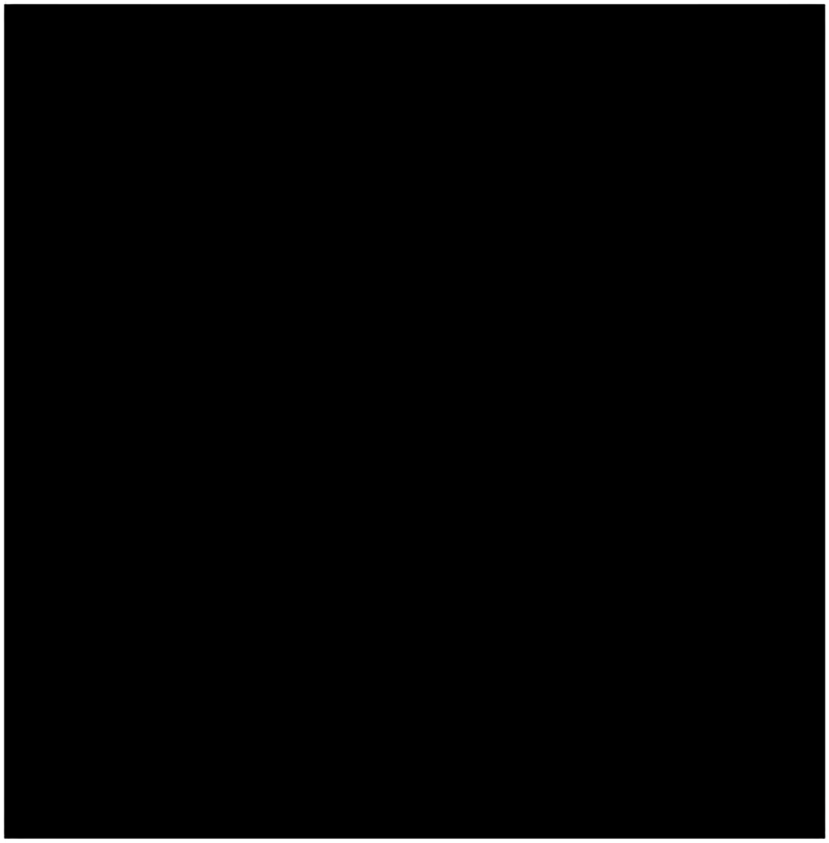


EXHIBIT 11

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:57 AM EDT
To: [redacted]
CC: [redacted] Brother Vellies
Subject: Re: AOC's Brother Vellies Shoes

Thanks, [redacted]! Looping in our team to handle.

[redacted] | Derris | [redacted] |

On Sun, Sep 19, 2021 at 3:32 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi [redacted]

I have the sandals and can pass to a messenger tomorrow. Can you please set up a messenger to pick up from the below address? They will need to call me so that I can run down and pass to them.

[redacted]

Please have them call me when they arrive:
[redacted]

[redacted]- any luck with the pumps? We'd like to pass everything to Vogue together.

Thank you!
[redacted]

On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:16 PM, [redacted] <[redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:

Working on it

On Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 11:48 [redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi [redacted]

Is it possible to borrow them for a Vogue photo shoot? They are going to be featured on January's last page.

Thanks!
[redacted]

On Sep 18, 2021, at 11:28 AM, [redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:

Morning! The plan is for her to keep the shoes since she can't rent them. She is planning to pay in full.

On Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 11:24 [redacted]@derris.com> wrote:
Looping you with [redacted] who might know!

On Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 11:19 AM [redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi All,

I am packing up the pair of sandals now, however the pumps that were worn by AOC haven't been returned yet.

[redacted]- has the Derris team been working w the AOC team? Are you able to advise on when the shoes will be coming back to the Brother Vellies store?

[redacted]- we can ship the sandals priority mail today, so they will arrive in one or two business days. Let me know if that's okay!

Best,
[redacted]

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:22 AM, [redacted]
<[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

Yes, please!

On Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 10:07 AM [redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Thanks [redacted]

Should I send them directly to [redacted] at this address?

[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]
T: [redacted]

Best,
[redacted]

On Sep 17, 2021, at 5:52 PM, [redacted]@derris.com> wrote:

Perfect! We'll send over on Monday. Have a lovely weekend.

[redacted] | Derris | [redacted] |

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 5:49 PM [redacted]
<[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:
Monday is great - thank you!

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 5:48 PM [redacted]@derris.com> wrote:
Hi [redacted]

[redacted] mentioned you've been in touch about shoes for the January Last Look. [redacted] (in cc) is working on pulling them. Is Monday ok for delivery or do you need before? Keep us posted and we'll get them to you.

Best,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Derris | [redacted] |
--
[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]
T: [redacted]

--
[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]

T: [redacted]

--

[redacted] | Derris | [redacted] |

--

[redacted]

Executive Vice President

she/her/hers

[redacted]

[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

--

[redacted]

Executive Vice President

she/her/hers

[redacted]

[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

EXHIBIT 12

Invoice

Customer Number
3386
Invoice Number
243783
Invoice Date
9/30/2021
Invoice Period
9/16/2021-9/30/2021
Invoice Amount
$143.26

[redacted]ortez For Congress
[redacted]

Remit To:
Lightspeed Express Delivery Systems
[redacted]
www.lightspeed.biz

Please detach here and return this portion with your remittance check

PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT

Customer Number	Invoice Date
3386	9/30/2021
Invoice Number	Invoice Amount
243783	$143.26

On Demand

Date Ready Order Type Deliver Date	Order ID Caller	Origin	Destination	References Billing Group
9/21/2021 2:14 PM Boroughs 9/21/2021 6:30 PM	3499825 [redacted]	Alexandria Ocasio-cortez For Cong [redacted]	Brother Vellies [redacted]	

Boroughs		$60.50	
Waiting Time	99	$75.00	at drop
Additional $500 Insurance	1	$0.50	
Fuel Surcharge	1	$7.26	
Order Total:		**$143.26**	

POD: [redacted]1fl

On Demand Totals: **$143.26**

Customer Total: **$143.26**

EXHIBIT 13

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 2:43 PM EDT
To: [redacted]
CC: [redacted] Brother Vellies; [redacted]
Subject: Re: AOC's Brother Vellies Shoes

Thanks, [redacted] Super helpful - I'll connect with the Vogue team and keep you posted here.

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 2:40 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:
hi, we were in touch but I definitely didn't follow through on this. They returned the dress last week but I know she wanted to keep the shoes. I can help track them down if there is still a need. Just lmk.

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 2:37 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@derris.com> wrote:
Hi [redacted] - taking off the Vogue team here so it's just our teams! Our team handled the messenger of the sandals / flowers - to clarify, we weren't in touch with the AOC team re: return of the pumps ([redacted] were you guys in touch?).

That said, can check in with [redacted] Vogue to see if there's anything else needed on the BV end for the inclusion in an upcoming issue - will keep you posted. And should we return the shoes/flowers back to the BV store? We can send that over this week if that works!

Thanks,
[redacted]

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 2:09 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi [redacted]

Thank you.

Did they receive and shoot the pumps that AOC wore as well?

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:55 AM [redacted]@derris.com> wrote:
Jumping in here on the Derris side! [redacted] did receive the sandals last week, and have returned them back to us (we'll connect with you separately there, [redacted] re: returns).

Thanks,
[redacted]

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 11:32 AM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi All,

I wanted to check in to ask if [redacted] was able to pull the lace up pumps from AOC's team for Vogue?

[redacted] - did you receive the sandals?

Thanks,
[redacted]

On Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 12:36 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:
Thank you!

On Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 12:26 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello [redacted]

The sandals are on their way to you now via messenger.

I have also included extra flowers.

We are waiting to receive the pumps that AOC wore to the gala and will send along as soon as we have them. You will need to add the extra flowers to the pumps as we removed a few after taking photos.

Please see attached photos you can use to reference the flower placement.

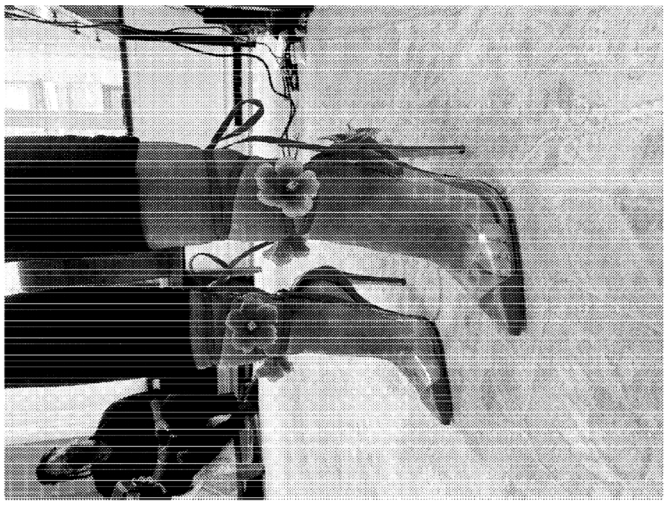
Please feel free to contact me if you need any help!

Best,
[redacted]

Pumps:

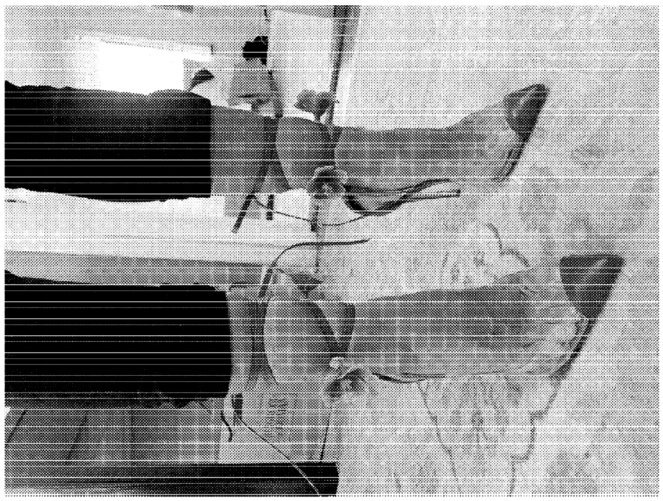
CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.010358



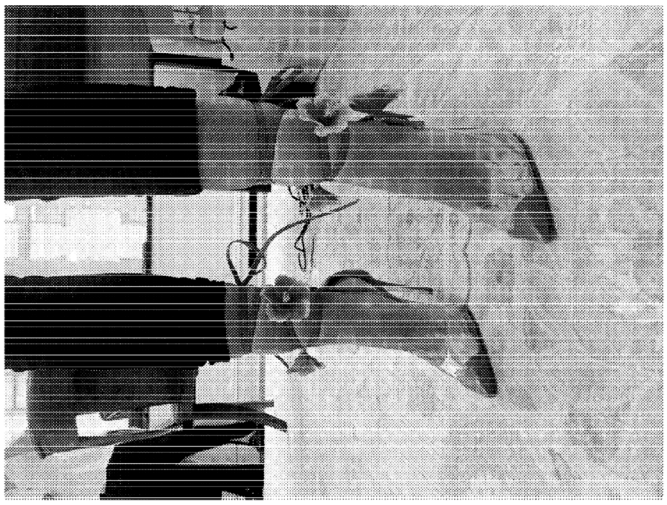
CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.010359

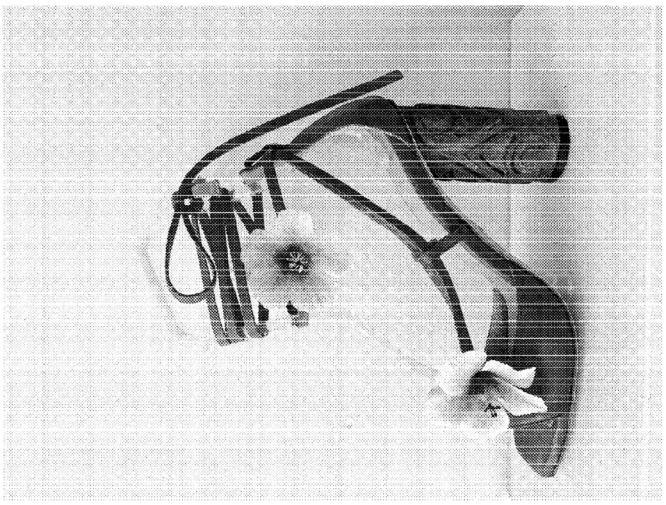


CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]

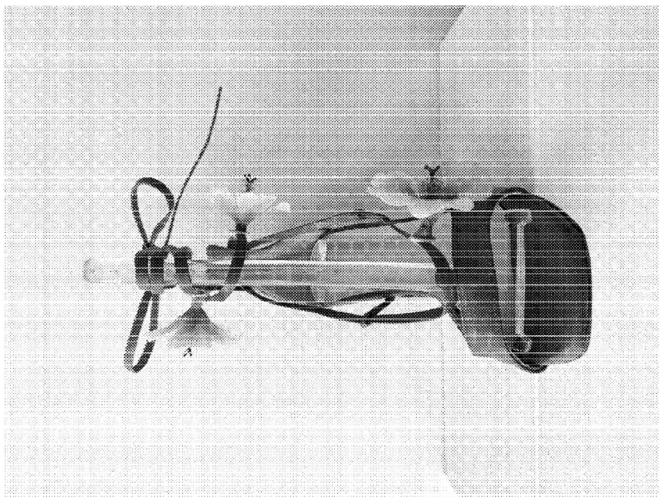
COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.010360



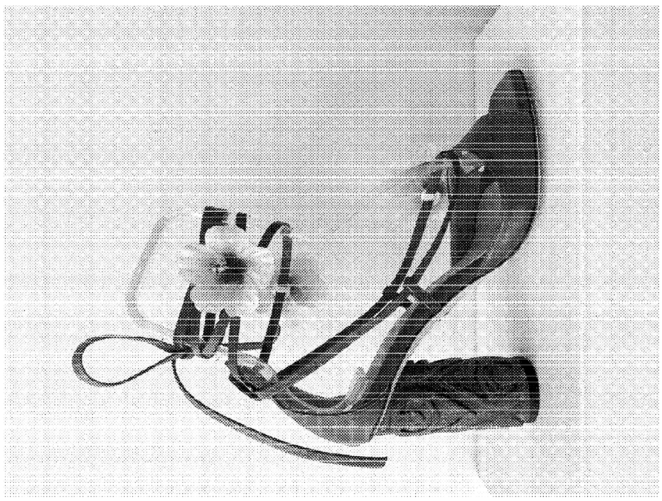
Sandals:



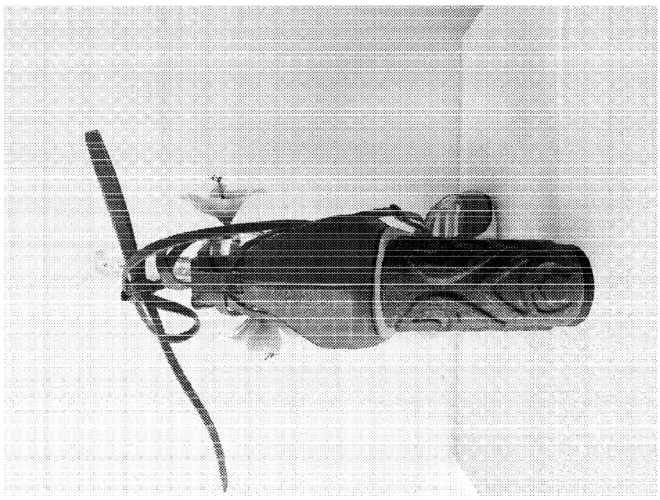
CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

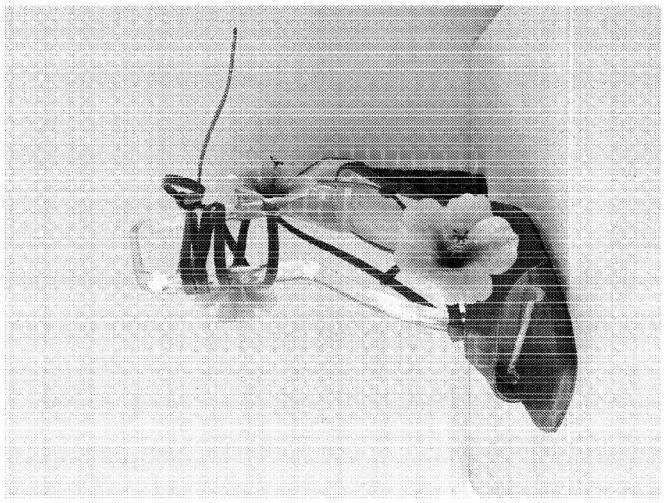


CONFIDENTIAL

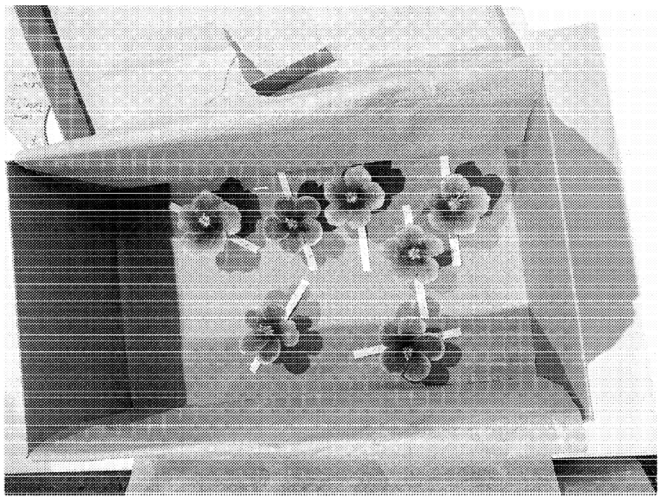


CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]

COE.OCASIO-CORTEZ.010365



Extra flowers: (we used 3 per shoe) (6/pair)



On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:38 PM, [redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

Possible jus tto messenger over Monday am?

On Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 11:19 AM [redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi All,

I am packing up the pair of sandals now, however the pumps that were worn by AOC haven't been returned yet.

[redacted] has the Derris team been working w the AOC team? Are you able to advise on when the shoes will be coming back to the Brother Vellies store?

[redacted] we can ship the sandals priority mail today, so they will arrive in one or two business days. Let me know if that's okay!

Best,
[redacted]

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:22 AM, [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

Yes, please!

On Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 10:07 AM [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Thanks [redacted]

Should I send them directly to [redacted] at this address?

[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]
T: [redacted]

Best,
[redacted]

On Sep 17, 2021, at 5:52 PM, [redacted] [redacted]@derris.com> wrote:

Perfect! We'll send over on Monday. Have a lovely weekend.

[redacted] | Derris | [redacted] |

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 5:49 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com> wrote:

Monday is great - thank you!

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 5:48 PM [redacted]@derris.com> wrote:
Hi [redacted]

[redacted] mentioned you've been in touch about shoes for the January Last Look [redacted] (in cc) is working on pulling them. Is Monday ok for delivery or do you need before? Keep us posted and we'll get them to you.

Best,
[redacted]

[redacted] | Derris | [redacted] |
--
[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]
T: [redacted]

--
[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]
T: [redacted]

--
[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]
T: [redacted]

--
[redacted]
Accessories and Product Collaborations Director
VOGUE
[redacted]
T: [redacted]

--
[redacted] (she/her) | Derris | [redacted] | [redacted]

[redacted](she/her) | Derris | [redacted] | [redacted]

--
[redacted]
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers
[redacted]
[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

[redacted](she/her) | Derris | [redacted] | [redacted]

EXHIBIT 14

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 11:33 PM EDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Invoice for MET attire

Trying! Is my answer to both of your questions 😊

[redacted] Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 2:54 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:
hi stranger! bumping this as we have yet to receive payment. how are you doing over there?

[redacted]

On Sun, Sep 19, 2021 at 5:32 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:
See below and let me know if you have any questions.

--
[redacted]
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers
[redacted]
[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

EXHIBIT 15

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:07 AM EDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: two items for you to consider

hi hi! let's get that lunch or dinner date scheduled. First week of November? Hope you've been well.

On Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 10:21 AM [redacted] <[redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:
Also, re: Kairos - it's a short term log out (not a boycott!!) for three days to prove that users hold the power, but we are not encouraging folks to delete their accounts. we also support small biz and nonprofits that rely on FB for operations -- they deserve for FB to know their power.

On Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 08:15 [redacted] <[redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:
Lunch or dinner! Later in the month? Pick out some dates please. Re: Kairos, maybe it's not the exact language I shared but some version that nods to the work Kairos is doing and that FB remains to be a problem? Her IG video on Monday about FB was spot on.
[redacted], hang in there. Do you have some planned time off soon?

On Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 23:37 [redacted] <[redacted]@ocasiocortez.com> wrote:
[redacted] Hello!

We should do lunch/dinner/coffee one of these days, if you're up for it?

The Congresswoman is back in NY later on this week, I will settle with her when she's here.

1. Re: Kairos, we feel you on facebook! We have not participated in past logout campaigns because we use the platform as a campaign. I'll share this with her for awareness.
2. Re: The Stone Age - sounds fascinating, I think it's a little out of step for her even though we're in support of it. She also happens to not be available.

I see you doing all this fun stuff over there!

[redacted] Campaign Manager
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for Congress

www.ocasiocortez.com

On Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 1:22 PM [redacted] <[redacted]@berlinrosen.com> wrote:

[redacted] hi hi! Don't you miss our time together?! Haha. Seriously, I hope you and the team are doing well and keep me posted on that invoice so we can close that work out. Ok, coming to you with two asks for the congresswoman.

1. We all hate Facebook and we are working with Kairos on a campaign to further create awareness as to how harmful the platform really is. See below ask and please lmk if you think we can get support on her on Twitter or IG accounts.

2. This is a bit of an unconventional ask, at least for me. Curious on your thoughts about this event I am supporting on Friday. My team is on tap for securing press and electeds/influencers/celebs to attend. If it's way out of her alley to attend, let me know. Perhaps there's another way to support? See more info below.

FACEBOOK ASK Partnership opp re: misinfo and racism on Facebook

I'm reaching out to see if you would be willing to support a campaign we're working on to hold Facebook accountable to its users. Our client, digital organizing group Kairos, launched a campaign last month calling on Facebook and Instagram users to pledge to collectively log out of all of Facebook's platforms (temporarily) this November to protest the lack of data privacy and safety, especially that of Black users and other users of color. You can read more about it in this story in USA Today.

Prominent civil rights and social justice organizations including Accountable Tech, MediaJustice, UltraViolet, Free Press and MoveOn are joining Kairos in the Log Out campaign by mobilizing their millions of members to take the pledge in a groundbreaking show of user power.

Would you be willing to post support for the campaign on your social channels?Below are some options for how you can engage -- any one of these would be amazing.

Take the Pledge: First and foremost, we would love to count you among the digital activists who will tell Facebook that enough is enough, and we all deserve safety, protection, freedom of speech and a hate-free environment on the company's platforms. You lead by example, and the most powerful thing you can do for this advocacy campaign is to take the pledge yourself and encourage your followers to do the same. Sign up at **thefacebooklogout.com** .

Amplify Campaign Content: Show your support of the pledge to demand Facebook provide protection to Black and other marginalized communities by retweeting from Kairos' account or sharing an Instagram post to your IG stories or grid. Visual assets are attached, sample language below.

DRAFT TWEET: Social media should work for all of us but Facebook continues to prioritize profits over people. The public provides over 98% of the company's revenue via ad sales - it's time to use our power to demand accountability from FB. Pledge to log out at thefacebooklogout.com.

DRAFT INSTAGRAM CAPTION: Tech and social media should work for all of us. But right now, disinformation and conspiracy runs rampant online, amplifying white supremacy, bigotry, and harassment all while corporations like Facebook profit off dangerous content.

From the January 6 Capitol insurrection to Covid-19 disinformation to the harm Instagram is having on the mental well-being of teen girls, the detrimental impact Facebook has had on our society — and our world — is clear and goes well beyond the platform itself.

The public is tired of providing 98% of Facebook's revenue through ads, yet having no say in the governance of the platform. Along with Kairos, we are coming together to disrupt "business as usual" at the world's largest social media company to demand accountability.

Users make or break social media platforms -- join us to Log Out of Facebook and Instagram in November and help power our movement. Take the pledge at thefacebooklogout.com.

Please let me know if you have questions and/or you are interested in supporting the campaign. I'd be happy to connect you with our team at Kairos to learn more.

ASK TWO: *The Stone Age* -- a first-of-its-kind immersive, cannabis experience
This will be a private VIP party for *The Stone Age* -- a first-of-its-kind immersive, cannabis experience. The 9,000 square foot exhibit walks visitors through a cannabis inspired journey, designed to visually and emotionally spark the senses. Through interactive installations, you'll experience the effects of cannabis on the body, mind, and soul.

The pop-up is an immersive celebration following the legalization of cannabis in NYC that's also designed to bring awareness to the victims of America's war on drugs. In partnership with The Last Prisoner Project, the exhibit will feature artwork from individuals formerly and currently incarcerated for nonviolent marijuana offenses.

You might be familiar with the owners of The Stone Age - Sasha Perelman and Elizabeth Santana are also the executive producers of *Immersion*, the 2017 California-based experiential cannabis event which Rolling Stone named the *'Best Pot Party' in California*.

Can you let me know if you would be interested and available to attend this Friday, October 8? There will be performances, other VIP attendees, and red carpet media opportunities. Let me know if you are interested, and we can discuss next steps. Attaching the invite below and looking forward to hearing from you soon!

When: Friday, October 8, 2021
Where: 607 Avenue of Americas, NYC

Time: 7:30 PM Red Carpet

Thank you!
[redacted]

--
[redacted]
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers
[redacted]
[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

--
[redacted]
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers
[redacted]
[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

--
[redacted]
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers
[redacted]
[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

--

[redacted]
Executive Vice President
she/her/hers
[redacted]
[redacted]@berlinrosen.com

berlinrosen.com

EXHIBIT 16

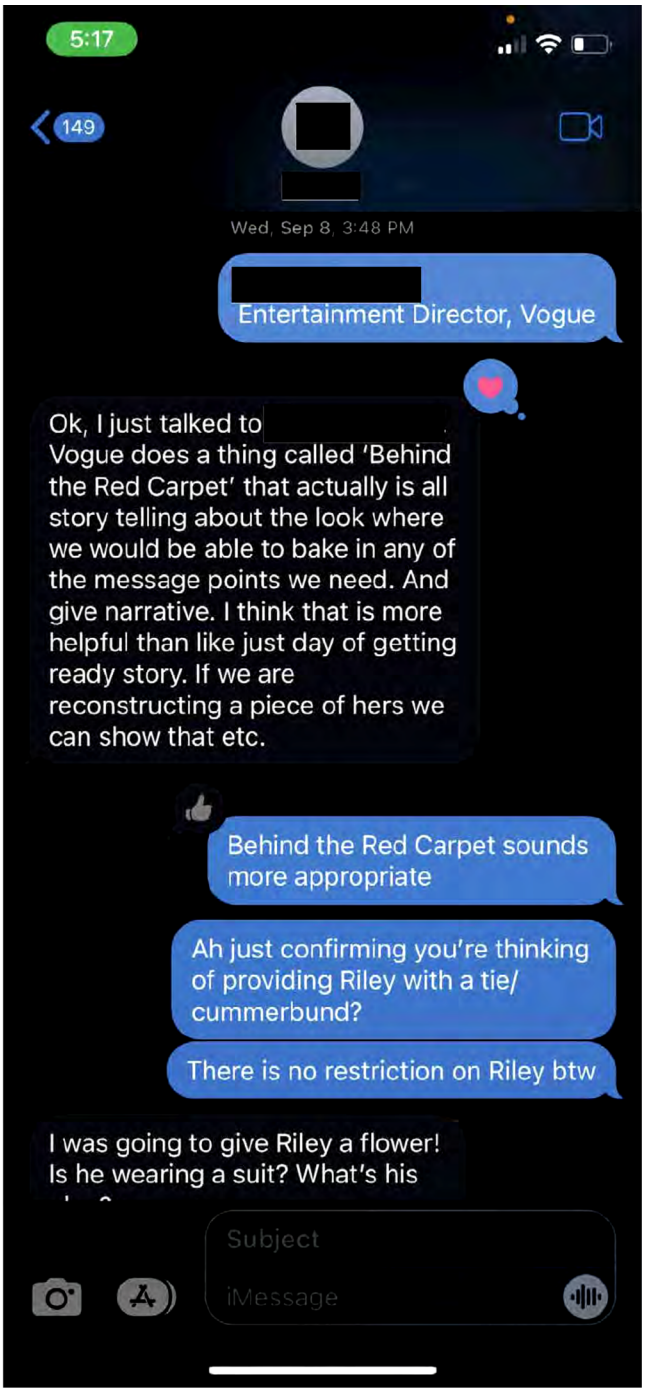

5:17
149
Wed, Sep 8, 3:48 PM
[redacted] Entertainment Director, Vogue
Ok, I just talked to [redacted]. Vogue does a thing called 'Behind the Red Carpet' that actually is all story telling about the look where we would be able to bake in any of the message points we need. And give narrative. I think that is more helpful than like just day of getting ready story. If we are reconstructing a piece of hers we can show that etc.
Behind the Red Carpet sounds more appropriate
Ah just confirming you're thinking of providing Riley with a tie/ cummerbund?
There is no restriction on Riley btw
I was going to give Riley a flower! Is he wearing a suit? What's his
Subject
iMessage

EXHIBIT 17

Met Gala Design - AOC
Final Billing

[redacted]	Custom Pattern & Development	$	750.00
	Custom Pattern & Development		750.00
	Custom Sewing		367.50
	Custom Sewing		192.50
	Custom Sewing		402.50
	Toile Cutting		65.00
	Final Pattern Cutting, Fitting		603.00
	Final Pattern Cutting, Dressing		375.00
	Final Sewing ([redacted])		262.50
	Final Sewing ([redacted])		367.50
	Final Sewing ([redacted])		472.50
	Final Sewing ([redacted])		350.00
	Final Cutting ([redacted])		115.00
[redacted]	2 Paper Hibiscus	$	71.43
[redacted]	Design & Development	$	988.00
	Botani Trimmings		50.00
	Botani Trimmings		50.00
	Botani Trimmings		13.97
	NY Elegant Fabrics		32.70
TOTAL COGS		$	6,279.10
TOTAL		$	6,279.10
AOC Met Gala Rental Invoice	Per Rent the Runway	**$**	**300.00**

INVOICE

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]@gmail.com

8/31/2021

BILL TO

[redacted]
Brother Vellies
[redacted]
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	TOTAL	
8/26/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 01	8	$75.00	$600.00	[redacted]
8/27/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 01	8	$75.00	$600.00	
8/31/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 01	8	$75.00	$600.00	
9/3/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 01	4	$75.00	$300.00	
9/4/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 02	10	$75.00	$750.00	
8/30/2021	Custom 01 Sewing	8	$35.00	$280.00	
8/31/2021	Custom 01 Sewing	8	$35.00	$280.00	
8/27/2021	Toile Cutting ([redacted]			$65.00	

Balance Due $ 3475.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!
Please make check payable to [redacted]

INVOICE

[redacted]
[redacted]@gmail.com

9/8/2021

BILL TO

[redacted]
Brother Vellies
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	TOTAL	
9/5/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 03	10.5	$75.00	$787.00	BROWN SUIT
9/6/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 03, 04	10	$75.00	$750.00	50% [redacted] 50% BROWN SUIT
9/7/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 01, 02	10	$75.00	$750.00	[redacted]
9/8/2021	Custom Pattern and Development 02	10	$75.00	$750.00	
9/5/2021	Custom 01 Sewing	6	$35.00	$210.00	[redacted]
9/6/2021	Custom 02 Sewing	10.5	$35.00	$367.50	
9/7/2021	Custom 01, 02 Sewing	11	$35.00	$385.00	50% [redacted]
9/9/2021	Custom Sewing 02	11.5	$35.00	$402.50	
9/3/2021	Toile Cutting ([redacted]			$65.00	

Balance Due $ 4467.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Please make check payable to [redacted]

INVOICE

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]@gmail.com

9/13/2021

BILL TO

[redacted]
Brother Vellies
[redacted]
[redacted]@brothervellies.com

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	TOTAL	
9/11/2021	Final Pattern Cutting, Fittings	12	$75.00	$900.00	33% VOGUE FILMING
9/12/2021	Final Pattern Cutting, Fittings	12	$75.00	$900.00	[redacted]
9/13/2021	Final Pattern Cutting, Dressing	10	$75.00	$750.00	50%[redacted]
9/10/2021	Final Sewing ([redacted])	7.5	$35.00	$262.50	
9/11/2021	Final Sewing [redacted]	10	$35.00	$350.00	[redacted]
9/12/2021	Final Sewing [redacted]	13	$35.00	$455.00	[redacted]
9/13/2021	Final Sewing [redacted]	10	$35.00	$350.00	[redacted]
9/11/2021	Final Sewing [redacted]	10.5	$35.00	$367.50	
9/12/2021	Final Sewing [redacted]	13.5	$35.00	$472.50	
9/13/2021	Final Sewing [redacted]	10	$35.00	$350.00	
9/9/2021	Final Cutting [redacted]			$115.00	

Balance Due $5272.50

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!
Please make check payable to [redacted]

[redacted]

floral paper artist

INVOICE NO. 102.

9/15/2021

Brother Vellies
c/o [redacted]
[redacted]@hotmail.com

WORK PERFORMED	*COST*
28 Paper Hibiscus	1000.00

TOTAL $1000.00

BALANCE DUE UPON COMPLETION

2/28
Flowers

THANKS!

CONTACT

[redacted]@gmail.com

[redacted]

TERMS

Send Payment to:
[redacted]

Payment is due upon receipt. A late fee can be applied to payments over 30 days.

[redacted]
NEW YORK

[redacted]@gmail.com

[redacted]

INVOICE

5

Date: Sep 6, 2021

Balance Due: **$2,008.50**

Bill To:

Cultural Brokerage Agency, LLC DBA Brother Vellies

Attn: [redacted]

BrotherVellies.com

[redacted]@brothervellies.com

[redacted]

Item	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Design + Development 8/3 - 8/7	25	$26.00	$650.00
Design + Development 8/8 - 8/14	18	$26.00	$468.00
Design + Development 8/15 - 8/21	13	$26.00	$338.00
Design + Development 8/12 - 8/28	20	$26.00	$520.00
Panda Trim International	1	$32.50	$32.50

(1/2)

Total: $2,008.50

Notes:

For Period 8/3 - 8/28

Terms:

PAY TO THE ORDER OF [redacted]

CHASE BANK

Account number: [redacted]

Routing number: [redacted]

[redacted]
NEW YORK

[redacted]@gmail.com

[redacted]

INVOICE

6

Date: Sep 17, 2021

Balance Due: **$484.74**

Bill To:

Cultural Brokerage Agency, LLC DBA Brother Vellies

Attn: [redacted]

BrotherVellies.com

[redacted]@brothervellies.com

[redacted]

Item	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Staples 00115741 - General Office	1	$25.25	$25.25
Sil Thread - [redacted]	1	$16.00	$16.00
Uber Trip 866-576-1039 - [redacted]	1	$78.54	$78.54
Fedex Office - General Office	1	$23.78	$23.78
Botani Trimmings New York	1	$50.00	$50.00
Botani Trimmings New York	1	$50.00	$50.00
M&J Trimmings CO INC - [redacted]	1	$43.00	$43.00
Pacific Trimmings - [redacted]	1	$43.00	$43.00
Botani Trimmings New York	1	$13.97	$13.97
NY Elegant Fabrics	1	$32.70	$32.70
Sil Thread - General Studio	1	$42.00	$42.00
Saks NY 601 9/10 - [redacted]	1	$38.00	$38.00
Sil Thread - General Studio	1	$12.50	$12.50
Sil Thread - [redacted]	1	$16.00	$16.00

Total: $484.74

Notes:

Expenses

Enable Accessibility

PLANS TRENDING NOW CLOTHING Sign in MEMBERSHIPS FROM $69

Most-Loved Plan: 8 Items for $99 Most-Loved Plan: 8 Items for $99 EXPLORE

ACCESSORIES DESIGNERS

Enable Accessibility

CLEARA... ...ASIONS

Customer Photos (27)

(50)

Emanuel Ungaro

Wisp Floral Chiffon Dress

$2,280 original retail

One-time rental

Rent for 4 days

$330

ZIP CODE

10014

SIZE

IT 38 / US 2, Regular (Unavailable)

Please select another size

FREE BACKUP SIZE

No Thanks

SIZE & FIT

DELIVERY + RETURN DATES

4-DAY RENTAL

8-DAY RENTAL

Fri 10/8 – Mon 10/11

20% off your first order with code GETDRESSED!

Size 38R is fully booked on selected dates.

SHOP SIMILAR STYLES

Memberships

From ~~$89/month~~

Memberships from $69

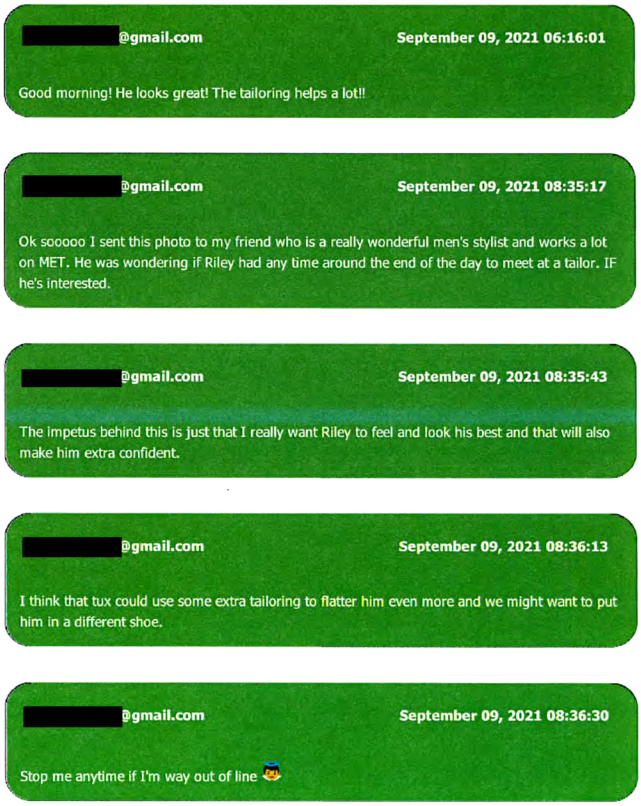
Buy Now

Pre-loved items in excellent condition.

$1596

EXHIBIT 18

Number of participants	4
Participants	[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]@gmail.com
Number of messages	60
First message sent date/time	September 09, 2021 06:16:01
Last message sent date/time	September 09, 2021 19:38:37



[redacted]

[redacted] September 09, 2021 08:36:39
Morning! Ok let's do it!
[redacted] September 09, 2021 08:36:44
Laughed at "Stop me anytime if I'm way out of line"
[redacted] September 09, 2021 08:36:56
Where is the tailor?
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 08:37:28
Okay is he free around 5 or 6? I believe tailor is midtown. I will ask right now
[redacted] September 09, 2021 08:49:53
Ok ty!
[redacted] September 09, 2021 08:51:05
The place he bought it from is making their adjustments so he won't get it until Sunday
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 08:56:34
Hmm where did he buy from?

[redacted]

[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 08:57:05

I wonder if they can just meet there and have some other eyes present to suggest some other ad justments

[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:01:53

I suggested to him if he could get it sans alteration bc I think what these places do in terms of tai loring is standard stuff

[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 09:02:43

Yes I think so too. And it's great. But since this is a special occasion if we can get the brightest mi nds in the biz on it, why not!

[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:15:04

Loved "Yes I think so too. And it's great. But since this is a special occasion if we can get the brig htest minds in the biz on it, why not! "

[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:15:07

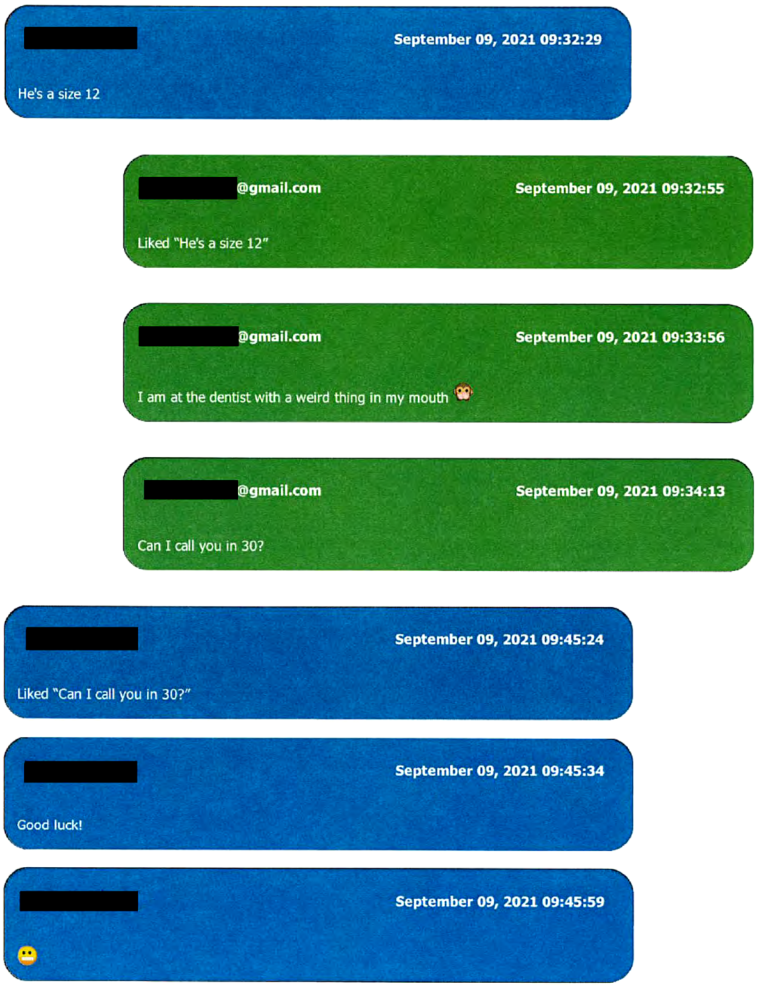
I agree!

[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:15:40

I'll keep you updated he's seeing if he can just get the tux today

[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 09:31:31

Okay also what is his shoe size?


[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:32:29
He's a size 12
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 09:32:55
Liked "He's a size 12"
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 09:33:56
I am at the dentist with a weird thing in my mouth
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 09:34:13
Can I call you in 30?
[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:45:24
Liked "Can I call you in 30?"
[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:45:34
Good luck!
[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:45:59

[redacted]

[redacted] September 09, 2021 09:46:42

^^for this purpose, that emoji is for happy teeth

[redacted] September 09, 2021 10:59:10

Is the address she'd be going to on Saturday the same as she went when you met with her?

[redacted] September 09, 2021 11:06:38

We are a go with Riley! He's able to pick up the suit and he can be there between 5 and 6 today. Let me know what address I should send him to

[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 11:40:29

Ok stylist is on a plane just waiting for him to land!

[redacted] September 09, 2021 11:40:39

Liked "Ok stylist is on a plane just waiting for him to land! "

[redacted] September 09, 2021 15:43:25

HI [redacted] just checking in on the stylist

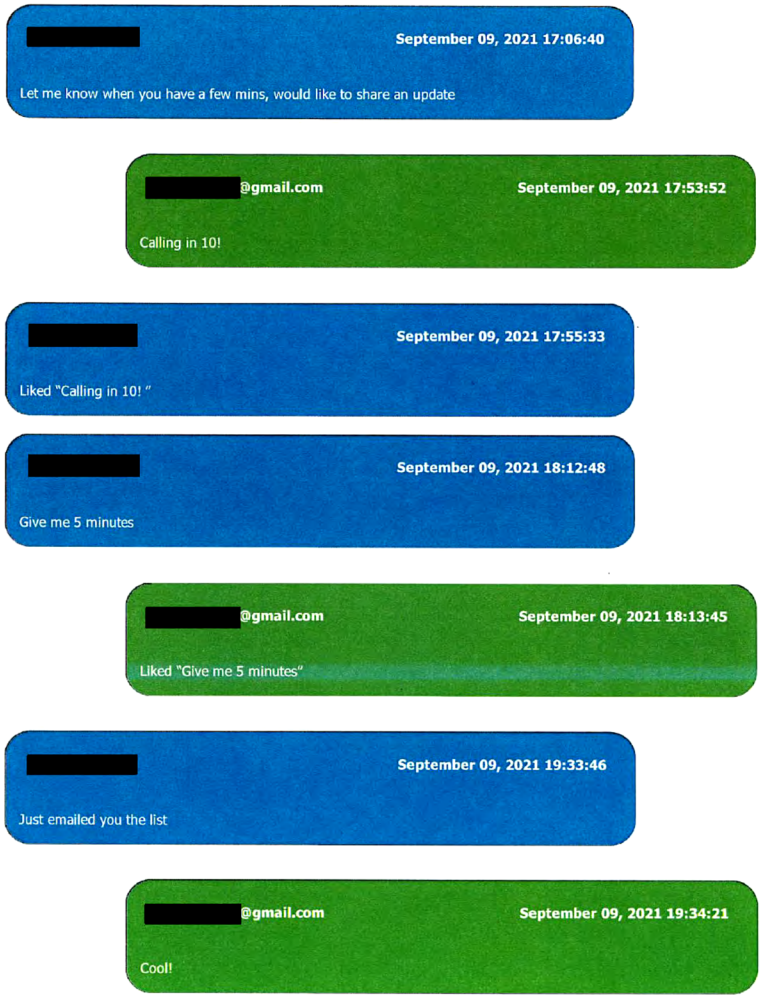
[redacted] September 09, 2021 15:43:31

Also want to give you a small update

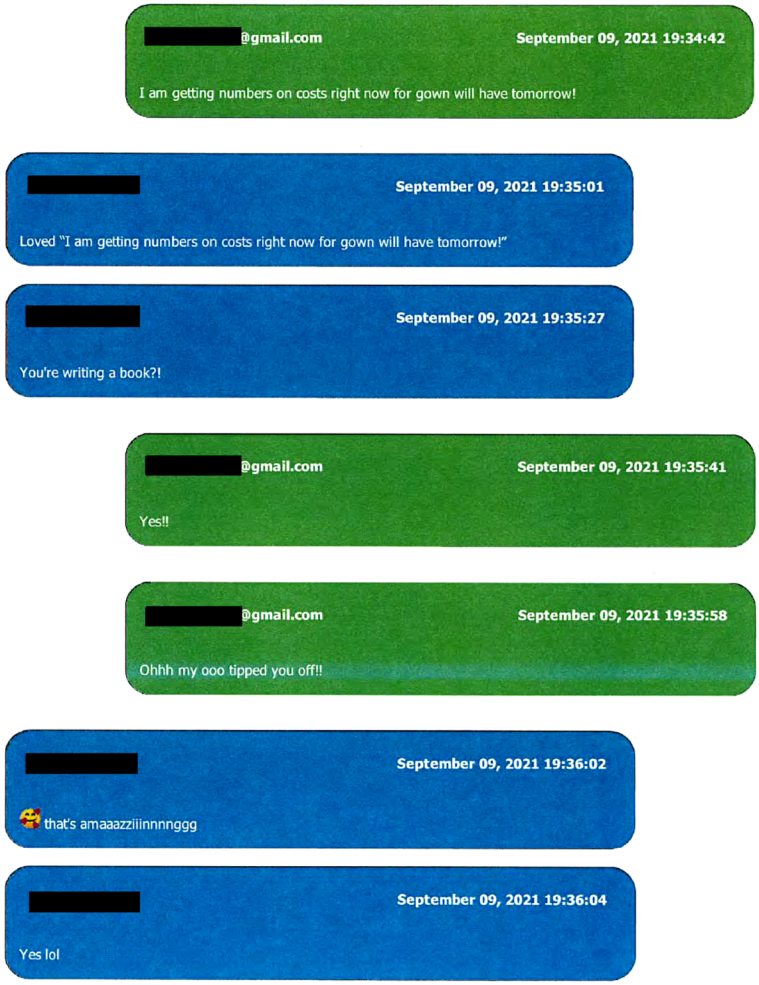
[redacted]

[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 15:53:02
Hi!
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 15:53:07
Just got off phone with stylist
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 15:53:21
Is there ANY CHANCE Riley can do 9am tomorrow
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 15:53:25
[redacted]
[redacted] September 09, 2021 16:19:57
Yes he can do it
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 16:41:54
Amazing!!

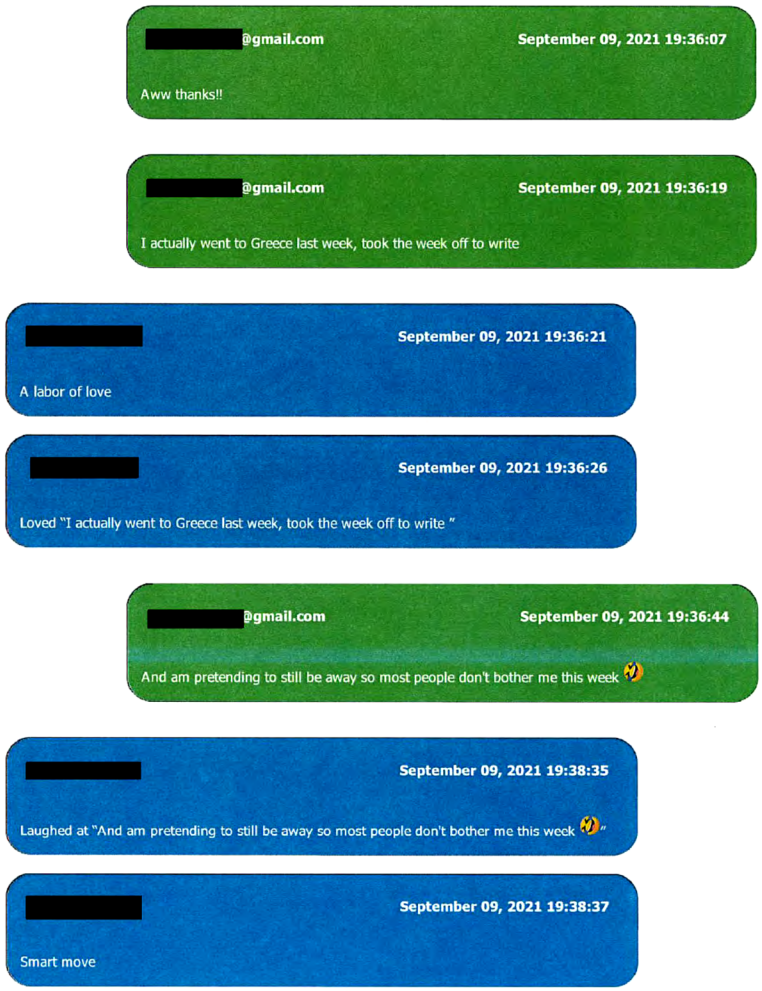
[redacted]


[redacted] September 09, 2021 17:06:40
Let me know when you have a few mins, would like to share an update
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 17:53:52
Calling in 10!
[redacted] September 09, 2021 17:55:33
Liked "Calling in 10! "
[redacted] September 09, 2021 18:12:48
Give me 5 minutes
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 18:13:45
Liked "Give me 5 minutes"
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:33:46
Just emailed you the list
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 19:34:21
Cool!

[redacted]


[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 19:34:42
I am getting numbers on costs right now for gown will have tomorrow!
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:35:01
Loved "I am getting numbers on costs right now for gown will have tomorrow!"
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:35:27
You're writing a book?!
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 19:35:41
Yes!!
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 19:35:58
Ohhh my ooo tipped you off!!
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:36:02
that's amaaazziiinnnnggg
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:36:04
Yes lol

[redacted]


[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 19:36:07
Aww thanks!!
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 19:36:19
I actually went to Greece last week, took the week off to write
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:36:21
A labor of love
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:36:26
Loved "I actually went to Greece last week, took the week off to write "
[redacted]@gmail.com September 09, 2021 19:36:44
And am pretending to still be away so most people don't bother me this week
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:38:35
Laughed at "And am pretending to still be away so most people don't bother me this week "
[redacted] September 09, 2021 19:38:37
Smart move

[redacted]

EXHIBIT 19

SANDLER REIFF
SANDLER REIFF LAMB
ROSENSTEIN & BIRKENSTOCK, P.C.

1090 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20005
www.sandlerreiff.com
T: 202-479-1111

March 17, 2022

Omar S. Ashmawy
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
Office of Congressional Ethics

Re: Review No. 22-8546

Mr. Ashmawy:

This letter will respond on behalf of our client, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), to the letter received from the Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") on March 2, 2022. OCE stated in its letter that the Congresswoman "may have accepted impermissible gifts associated with her attendance at the Met Gala in 2021."

The Congresswoman and her staff consulted extensively with the undersigned counsel to ensure her compliance with the House Rules in connection with her attendance at this event (that other Members of Congress have attended as well).[1] Significant time and resources – both legal and of the Congresswoman's staff – went to ensuring that each aspect of Congresswoman's attendance was fully thought through, and was permissible. As described in this letter, the Congresswoman has sought to pay for all benefits that were not otherwise exempted from gift rules.

Apart from the ticket, the meals, beverages, and entertainment at the event, the Congresswoman has personally paid for the rental value of her dress, handbag, shoes, and accessories. The Congresswoman has also paid fair market value for the services related to her hair and makeup, as well as for her nails for the evening.

However, unfortunately, transportation related to the event, and the pro-rated value of a hotel rooms used for staging prior to the Met Gala have not been reimbursed as of yet. Conde Nast, which owns Vogue, provided transportation from the Congresswoman's home to the hotel, and Brother Veilles provided the staging, as well as transportation to the Met Gala. Since last September, the Congresswoman's staff has been attempting to obtain information from the relevant entities that paid for these facilities and services about their value, but have been unable to do so. The staff will continue to work to obtain this information so that the Congresswoman can reimburse these costs as soon as possible. In addition, we will begin conducting a review of communications responsive to the Request for Information.

[1] See, e.g., People.com, "Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney Calls for 'Equal Rights for Women' with Suffragette-Themed Met Gala Dress" (September 14, 2021), at https://people.com/style/congresswoman-carolyn-maloney-wears-suffragette-themed-met-gala-dress/ (last accessed March 16, 2022).

By way of background, the Congresswoman accepted complimentary attendance at the 2021 Met Gala, a fundraiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a 501(c)(3) charity. The invitation was extended directly by the sponsor of the event, which was the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Congresswoman was offered a guest ticket under that same criteria, and her longtime partner Riley Roberts attended the event as well.

It is crucial to state that ***the Congresswoman or her agents did not solicit any benefits whatsoever.*** The Congresswoman declined any other benefits offered other than those described below, which were or will paid for at fair market value, or clearly fit within an exception to the gift rules.[2] Separately, the Congresswoman ***did not*** attend any ancillary events from the Met Gala, such as after-parties.

1. Overview

OCE has requested that the Congresswoman provide the following information and documents:

I. **Request 1:** Documents and communications related to the Congresswoman's attendance at the Met Gala, including regarding:

a. Her invitation and decision to attend the Met Gala;

b. Her attire at the Met Gala (dress, shoes, bag, jewelry, etc.);

c. Services provided to her in connection with the Met Gala (hairstyling, makeup, transportation, etc.);

d. Her lodging or accommodations for preparation to attend or associated with her attendance at the Met Gala; and

e. The acceptance of any other tangible items or items of value related to the Met Gala.

II. **Request 2:** Documents and communications related to the Congresswoman's long-time partner, Riley Roberts', attendance at the Met Gala.

III. **Request 3:** Communications with the House Ethics Committee on the subjects above.

[2] See Request for Information 1(e).

2. Origins of Inquiry

Before proceeding to a summary of documents initially produced, as well as our responses and legal substantiation, it is crucial to state the origins of this inquiry. It is our understanding that OCE's initiation of this inquiry is based on two complaints filed with it by the National Legal and Policy Center and the American Accountability Foundation, two right-wing organizations that routinely file claims against progressive Members of Congress for political purposes.[3]

These organizations – while ostensibly acting for the benefit of public disclosure – intentionally contort facts and present the Congresswoman in the worst possible light. Right-wing media extensively covered these complaints, which were not otherwise covered in more mainstream news outlets.[4]

3. Responses to Requests for Documents

Initially, the Congresswoman is producing:

I. **Request 1:**

a. Invitation to the Met Gala;

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[3] National Legal and Policy Center, "AOC's 'Tax the Rich' Dress Draws Ethics Complaint" (September 16, 2021), at https://www.nlpc.org/government-integrity-project/aocs-tax-the-rich-dress-draws-ethics-complaint/; American Accountability Foundation, "AAF Demands Accountability for AOC's Blatant Congressional Ethics Violations at NYC Met Gala" (September 14, 2021), at https://www.americanaccountabilityfoundation.com/post/aaf-demands-accountability-for-aoc-s-blatant-congressional-ethics-violations-at-nyc-met-gala (last accessed March 16, 2022).

[4] See, e.g., Daily Caller News Foundation, "Ocasio-Cortez's Attendance At Lavish Met Gala Draws Ethics Complaint " (September 15, 2021), at https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/15/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-ethics-complaint-met-gala/; "EXCLUSIVE: Ocasio-Cortez Hit With Second Ethics Complaint Over 'Tax The Rich' Met Gala Appearance" (September 16, 2021), at https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/16/exclusive-ocasio-cortez-complaint-met-gala/; National Review, "Conservative Watchdog Files Ethics Complaint against AOC over Met Gala Attendance" (September 14, 2021), at https://www.nationalreview.com/news/conservative-watchdog-files-ethics-complaint-against-aoc-over-met-gala-attendance/; Fox News, "AOC hit with ethics complaint over Met Gala attendance" (September 14, 2021), at https://www.foxnews.com/politics/aoc-ethics-complaint-met-gala-ticket (last accessed March 16, 2022).

See also, mainstream news outlets: NBC News, "Conservative group files ethics complaint against AOC for attending Met Gala" (September 15, 2021), at https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/conservative-group-files-ethics-complaint-against-aoc-attending-met-gala-n1279308; The Hill, "Conservative group files ethics complaint over Ocasio-Cortez appearance at Met Gala" (September 15, 2022), at https://thehill.com/homenews/house/572508-conservative-group-files-ethics-complaint-over-ocasio-cortez-appearance-at-met (last accessed March 16, 2022).

b. Correspondence between the undersigned counsel and the Metropolitan Museum of Art regarding acceptance of attendance to and meals at the event;

c. Invoices, and substantiation for payment by the Congresswoman for (by vendor and type of expense):

i. Brother Veilles:

1. The dress worn by the Congresswoman (one-day rental);
2. The shoes worn by the Congresswoman (one-day rental);
3. Earrings and rings worn by the Congresswoman (one-day rental); and
4. Bag held by the Congresswoman (one-day rental).

ii. Vogue and related vendors recruited by the company – The Wall Group and Streeters:

1. Hair; and
2. Makeup.

II. **Request 3:** Communications with the House Ethics Committee on September 14 to September 17, 2021. These communications occurred after the Met Gala.

4. Regarding Riley Roberts

OCE additionally requests documents regarding Riley Roberts, likely in response to the National Legal and Policy Center's complaint.[5] While Mr. Roberts is a private citizen, in the interest of transparency, he is willing to provide information as a part of this matter. We can state that Mr. Roberts:

a. Attended the Met Gala (including food, beverages, and entertainment) as the Congresswoman's "plus one" to the event (as discussed below);

[5] Complaint of National Legal and Policy Center, ("Thus, because her boyfriend is not her "spouse or dependent," her acceptance of an "invite plus one" to the Met Gala would violate the Gift Rule unless AOC or her boyfriend paid for his $35,000 ticket, an unlikely scenario."). ***As noted below,*** the Metropolitan Museum of Art provided the Congresswoman with a value of $250 for the ticket.

b. Rode with the Congresswoman to the event, and drove her home afterwards.

Mr. Roberts did not receive additional benefits that would present concerns about a gift to the Congresswoman under House Rule 25(5)(a)(2)(B)(i).[6]

Mr. Roberts accepted complimentary attendance to the Met Gala under the "charity event" exception of House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C)-(D), which allows a Member of Congress to bring a "spouse or dependent" to an event meeting the exception.[7] Mr. Roberts and the Congresswoman have been together since 2014, and have lived together since 2016. It is clear that the term "spouse" – as utilized in the rule – is intended to allow a Member of Congress to bring the individual that they've decided to share their lives with to a charity event, regardless of whether they have taken steps to bring the law or religion into their relationship.

5. Responses to Requests for Information

a. Acceptance of Attendance to the Met Gala.

In late August of 2021, the Congresswoman received an invitation to the Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual Costume Institute Benefit. After receiving this invitation, the Congresswoman sought guidance from the undersigned counsel to ensure that her attendance would be permissible. Working with the Congresswoman's staff, we confirmed with counsel for the Metropolitan Museum of Art that the Costume Institute Benefit met the requirements for a "charity event" under House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C)-(D):[8]

i. Contributions to The Costume Institute Benefit the Metropolitan Museum of Art ("The Met"), as a 501(c)(3) public charity with EIN 13-1624086.[9]

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[6] House Ethics Manual at 33 ("Under clause 5(a)(2)(B)(i) of House Rule 25, a gift to a family member or another individual will be deemed to be a gift to the official when two circumstances are present: The gift was given with the knowledge and acquiescence of the Member or staff person; and The Member or staff person has reason to believe the gift was given because of his official position with the House.").

[7] House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C)-(D).

[8] House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(C) ("A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House, or the spouse or dependent thereof, may accept a sponsor's unsolicited offer of free attendance at a charity event, except that reimbursement for transportation and lodging may not be accepted in connection with the event unless— (i) all of the net proceeds of the event are for the benefit of an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; (ii) reimbursement for the transportation and lodging in connection with the event is paid by such organization; and (iii) the offer of free attendance at the event is made by such organization.").

[9] Internal Revenue Service file for The Metropolitan Museum Of Art, at https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/detailsPage?ein=131624086&name=The%20Metropolitan%20Museum%20o

ii. The primary purpose of the event is charitable.

iii. All proceeds from the Benefit are used by The Met to fund the Costume Institute's staff and annual programming.

iv. The invitation to the event was extended specifically by the Met, and not by any outside organization.

v. The Met is primarily responsible for organizing the event, the Met produces and hosts the event, pays all the vendors and performers for the event, and signs off on all aspects of the event.[10]

Accordingly, the Congresswoman permissibly accepted attendance to, as well as meals, beverages, and entertainment at, the event. As a ticket to a charity event is valued at the cost of the meal, rather than the cost of the ticket – $250 according to the Met, below the gift reporting threshold – it will additionally not appear on the Congresswoman's 2021 personal financial disclosure statement.[11]

b. The Congresswoman has sought to pay for other costs at their fair market value.

Before describing in detail how the Congresswoman has sought to comply with limits on gifts by reimbursing vendors from her personal funds, at the fair market value of the use of the facilities and services received, it is crucial to note the difficulties that the Congresswoman and her team encountered *while attempting to do so.*

The Met Gala is primarily an event for celebrities – actors, fashion models, and others not subject to gift limitations who are routinely given benefits without cost simply because of their stature. It has proven extraordinarily difficult to determine *which entity or company was paying for a benefit to be reimbursed by the Congresswoman.* On a number of occasions, the Congresswoman and her team were met with responses from collaborators and companies to the

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f%20Art&city=New%20York&state=NY&countryAbbr=US&dba=&type=CHARITIES,%20COPYOFRETURNS&orgTags=CHARITIES&orgTags=COPYOFRETURNS (last accessed March 16, 2022).

[10] Correspondence with the Museum, as well as Conde Nast – which owns Vogue – is included in Initial Production for Request 1a. As the undersigned counsel conducted this inquiry, the Congresswoman waives privilege solely on the produced documents for this purpose. Of note, this reality dispels the American Accountability Foundation's concerns regarding the application of the charity event exception.

[11] See House Ethics Manual at 74. We expect additional complaints to be filed with OCE and House Ethics on this issue, likely from similar right-wing organizations seeking to harm the Congresswoman politically.

effect of "we don't know who is paying for this" – as costs are not a consideration for nearly all attendees of the Met Gala.

Nevertheless, the Congresswoman's staff have invested significant time and resources to ensure that this information was in-fact collected, that collaborators were educated about the requirements under House Rules, so that the Congresswoman is able to reimburse vendors at the fair market value. Additionally, the Congresswoman ***did not*** attend any ancillary events from the Met Gala, such as afterparties.[12]

i. Costs for attire have been paid to Brother Veilles.

The Congresswoman's dress and handbag were created by designer [redacted] and her company Brother Veilles.[13] Additionally, shoes and jewelry were rented from the company. Brother Veilles determined a rental value of these items for one evening of use based on its costs. Separately, the Congresswoman and her team compared the value of the items worn by the Congresswoman to publicly available websites that disclose retail and rental values, such Rent the Runway, to ensure that costs invoiced by Brother Veilles would be fair market value.[14]

The Congresswoman utilized the dress, handbag, shoes, and jewelry for the Met Gala, and promptly returned them to Brother Veilles. The Congresswoman paid this amount on March 8, 2022. In addition, once the credit card was charged, we discovered that charges for transportation and the hotel room used for staging that Brother Veilles had paid for were not included. We have been working closely with their counsel to ensure that all charges attributable to the Congresswoman are personally paid for.

1. Attire

On September 20, 2022, Brother Veilles invoiced the Congresswoman for the following:

a. $300 for her dress;

b. $160 for shoes worn;

c. $450 for handbag and jewelry.

To ensure that these costs invoiced were the "fair market value" for rentals of these items, the Congresswoman and her team conducted a separate analysis.[15] According to Brother

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[12] See House Rule 25(5)(a)(4)(D).

[13] [redacted] at https://[redacted].com/ (last accessed March 16, 2022).

[14] See Rent the Runway, at https://www.rentherunway.com/ (last accessed March 16, 2022).

[15] Initial Production for Request 1 – FMV Calc sheet. This spreadsheet was updated from its original form before the event to reflect the most current information. As the undersigned counsel conducted

Veilles', their costs to create the dress and handbag were $1,000. Industry standard markup, according to Vogue, is 2.2 to 2.5 times cost.[16] From this, a greater markup was assumed given the time Ms. [redacted] spent on the dress and handbag, time for fittings, and the like, ***and came to a $3,000 market value.*** Publicly available data points were then used to determine the rental cost for a $3,000 market value dress and handbag, as well as the anticipated rental costs for the jewelry.

For example, a $2,800 dress rents for $400 (14% of total cost), a $1,100 dress rents for $259 (23.5%), and a $4,400 dress rents for $400 (9.1%).[17] Fourteen data points were considered for the dress. A weighted average for rental cost to retail value was created, and was applied to Brother Veilles to come to a rental cost that would qualify as "fair market value." An identical analysis was conducted for the jewelry worn by the Congresswoman at the event.

Brother Veilles charged the Congresswoman $300 for the dress, and $450 for the handbag and jewelry, greater than the "fair market value" projections.[18] Separately, the Congresswoman rented the shoes used for the Met Gala directly from Brother Veilles for $160.00.[19] The Congresswoman paid this amount on March 8, 2022.

ii. Costs for hairstyling and makeup were paid to vendors secured by Vogue.

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created this document, the Congresswoman waives privilege solely on the produced documents for this purpose.

[16] Vogue, "What Is the Right Price for Fashion?" (June 29, 2020), at https://www.vogue.com/article/what-is-the-right-price-for-fashion#:~:text=The%20industry%20standard%20for%20a,to%20a%20retailer%20for%20%24220 (last accessed March 16, 2022).

[17] Rent the Runway, "Print Patchwork Harness Gown", at https://www.renttherunway.com/shop/designers/adcam/print_patchwork_harness_gown?len=membership; Glam Corner, "Harlow Bow Gown - Black", at https://www.glamcorner.com.au/designers/rebecca-vallance/harlow-bow-gown-black#collectionDesignation=on-demand&sorting=high-price&availableNow=false&style_type=Dresses&dress_length=Floor%20Length; Syle Lend "Diara Dress," at https://www.stylelend.com/item/diara-floral-dress (last accessed March 16, 2022).

[18] Mejuri, "Large Tube Hoops", at https://mejuri.com/shop/products/large-tube-hoops; Mejuri, "Dôme Ring", at https://mejuri.com/shop/products/dome-ring-vermeil (last accessed March 16, 2022); Initial Production for Request 1 – FMV Calc sheet.

[19] Brother Veilles, "Ribbon Pump in Maya", at https://brothervellies.com/collections/all/products/ribbon-pump-in-maya (last accessed March 16, 2022); Initial Production for Request 1 – FMV Calc sheet. ***There is no comparable market for shoe rental to compare prices, in contrast to dresses and jewelry, so the rental to retail percentage for the dress was used in the analysis.***

As a part of her appearance at the Met Gala, the Congresswoman participated in a video series for Vogue, which featured attendees at the Gala getting ready for the event.[20] Vogue specifically requested that, as a part of their piece, they provide transportation from the Congresswoman's home to the staging area, which was be filmed as a part of the piece. A van was provided, whose cost was $586.84 for four passengers (the Congresswoman and three Vogue staffers). The Congresswoman is currently in the process of paying her allocable share of this invoice, one-fourth of this amount, $146.71.

Separately, Vogue provided hair and makeup as a part of their piece, which were provided by The Wall Group ($368.94) and Streeters ($492.06).[21] The Congresswoman paid these vendors personally. The Congresswoman's nails were also done during staging, which were personally paid for in cash.[22]

We will continue to work with the Congresswoman to ensure that costs for transportation and lodging are paid for, and that responsive documents to the Request for Information are produced.

Sincerely,

David Mitrani

Counsel for Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez

[20] YouTube, Vogue, "Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Gets Ready for the Met Gala," at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4yq726SUpE (last accessed March 16, 2022). The full playlist of the series can be found at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLztAHXmlMZFQR8BMPP_uvyJIccOq9AEqE (last accessed March 16, 2022).

[21] Differences in invoiced and charged amounts are attributable to credit card fees.

[22] As such, unfortunately, an invoice and substantiation of payment do not exist.

EXHIBIT 20

To: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff)[redacted@sandlerreiff.com]; [redacted]@condenast.com]
Cc: [redacted]@ocasiocortez.com][redacted]@condenast.com]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 8/31/2021 3:44:56 PM
Subject: RE: [External] - Re: Met Gala

Hi David,

The goods and services are $250 per ticket. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]
she/her/hers
Senior Development Officer for Events
Development
O: [redacted]
M: [redacted]

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028
@metmuseum
metmuseum.org

From: David Mitrani (Sandler Reiff) <[redacted]@sandlerreiff.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:20 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@ocasiocortez.com>; [redacted] <[redacted]@condenast.com>; [redacted]@metmuseum.org>
Subject: [External] - Re: Met Gala

[redacted] – thanks very much!

This is extremely helpful, and I just have one additional question for now: what will be per-person cost for the meal be at the event? We'll likely need that for reporting purposes on the Congresswoman's financial disclosure statement.

Thanks again!

--
David Mitrani
Senior Counsel
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, P.C.

[redacted]
T [redacted]
sandlerreiff.com

From: [redacted]@condenast.com>
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 10:37 AM

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