

First question, we're asking everybody: in five words or less, what is the theme of your campaign?

Of my campaign ... Oh, there, I just took up five words. [laughs] Um, the theme of my campaign is to clean up and protect Malibu.

OK. Perfect, that's five. [laughs] Can you tell me about your history in Malibu—just getting to know you—and what prepares you to take on this role?

Sorry, again? What was that? Sorry.

That's OK. Just an easy "getting to know you" question: What prepares you to take on this role, what's your history in Malibu?

OK, well, I mean, I've done this two times before. I ran in 2012 and 2014 and so, uh, you know, I've grown up in Malibu my whole life; I've been here, so that's pretty much what's prepared me. Being here this whole time. You know, I didn't really want it, but it seems like the people who are running the city right now are just running it into the ground.

Interesting.

I just don't wanna be sitting on the sides again and going up and trying to fight City Hall every other week.

Yeah! You know what, I had a lot of other questions about the issues in Malibu, but we can get to those later. I'm really interested in some of the language you use on Facebook, um, talking about your campaign. On Instagram, you wrote, "If you wanna help save Malibu, vote for me." And then, I think you also wrote, "There's a well-oiled machine running/ruining Malibu," and that you're coming to fix that. Save Malibu from what? And who are you talking about?

Well, you know, I mean, there's this group that's been basically running the city, you know, back to Sharon Barovsky and, you know, that whole crew of people have just pretty much controlled everything the whole, you know, couple decades almost. That—well, it's just the machine, I guess if you want to have, have, you know ... It's like the man behind the curtain in "The Wizard of Oz." You don't know who's really running things at City Hall. So that's the well-oiled machine I'm talking about, is just, you know, what I, I see as going back to the Andy Sterns, the Laura Rosenthals—all these people, you keep going back and back—Joan House, Sibert, same group, same people, they support the same things. The city managers and city attorneys have been there forever, not really doing anything. It's just, it's the whole, it's the whole thing that's just keeping Malibu on the track of, you know, the inside, backroom deals. It's so complicated but it's not; I mean, it's pretty simple to see if you follow it. A lot of people don't understand how it's working. I've been following it since I, since trying to stop the lagoon. I saw how, how, you know, how things were working down there. So, you know, it's important to get behind everybody. It's really whose, whose kind of thing is down there.

Yeah. I mean, would you say that, yes, it's a machine, and the same people keep running the scenes, but they keep winning their elections—so do you think they're, maybe that's evidence that they're doing a good job running the city? Because they continue to win?

No. I mean, before, the fact that the elections were always held in the springtime, that was one of the ways they limited participation. Malibu's been—you know, it was, like, offseason voting, it was ... you know, I mean, there's not a lot of participation from voters. It was like they had their hands on this goldmine and they sort of, you know, people weren't really paying attention to it. I mean, there's a lot to be made off of things that happen in Malibu. I mean, Malibu's like a famous place, there's a lot of big money coming in here, and it's sort of like they just had the run of it. You know, people just wanna be here in Malibu and just enjoy themselves, they wanna think that everybody's doing the right thing, but they're not.

OK—

That's the truth of the matter—is that they're not. Whether you see those people that were all, you know, running with the Bay Company, you know, I mean—the reason we became a city was to fight a sewer, and then, um, you know, Lou and Laura and Sibert were going to town ... Kearsley and all these other people that were, you know, Andy Stern, everybody who was, like, running with the Bay Company to make sure that we got this sewer plant put in, so they, you know, their property, which was chili cook-off, you know, would be able to be turned into something, too. These guys, all they saw was development for a long, long time, and, you know, I mean, that's just sort of how it is, I guess everything—the reason we became a city for.

Mhmm. So when you say, “If you wanna help save Malibu, vote for me,” specifically, save Malibu from development, save Malibu from these people? Like what?

Oh, develop—to save Malibu, well, there's a lot of stuff that doesn't get done because they don't really, I don't know, they don't have the best representation as the city attorney—whether they don't wanna change things, whether it's not challenging homeless camping on the beach, whether it's they don't wanna challenge parking restrictions, whether they don't wanna, you know, whether they don't wanna pony up the money to get more police or sheriffs out here or fire protection. Whatever it is! With Reva, it's her triple-A bond rating, it's more important than protecting Malibu, you know. We don't wanna dip into that, you know, we got a whole bunch of money; at some point, you go, “Well, what's more important? Is that rating more important than having protection?”

Mm. OK. I guess in that way, you are kind of set apart from the rest of the people running in this race because many of them, I think, are older than you? At the very least, I think you're the only candidate who has—

[Laughs] You know, I'm gonna be 58 in November, so ...

Oh, really?

Yeah. I just come off as ... I mean, I was always like—I'm like the obstructionist; they called me the obstructionist. You know, I'm a surfer, I've lived here. I'm the only one that's, I'm the only one that's grown up here. I'm the only person that was, like, raised here from a kid. I went to Webster, my kids went to Webster, you know, I went to Malibu Park Junior High School, my kids went through the high school. I'm the only one that has ... I have one kid that wasn't in Malibu High School because of the PCBs and poisons and stuff and then I'm the only one that has another kid coming into the system.

Yeah, that's the point I was gonna make.

Yeah, I'm, like, I'm set apart from so many different things on that. You know, true local, life-long, third-generation. So when people are, like, talking, you know, somebody says, "Oh, the way of life in Malibu, what we love about Malibu—" it's like they don't even know what they're talking about! It's already been so far down the line, it's like "What are you ..." You know, at this point, it's like, no, there's so many problems we gotta try to fix. We can't just sugarcoat, just like, "Oh, we're just this community in Malibu," it's like, go out to—every day now, there's, like, robberies, vehicle thefts, meth head tweakers walkin' around, you know, I mean, robberies here and there. I mean, it's just all this stuff's coming. It's, like, you know, at some point, we gotta, like, admit that and not try to protect the license plate brand statement, you know, like la-di-da! No, there's some real problems going on and to sit there and worry about saving a triple-A bond rating while we're like—life and limb—is stupid. And to see what's going on, you know, just driving down, you know, Corral Beach, you know, everybody's just coming here, all these problems from Santa Monica, all those, all the, you know, I don't know, I mean, to me it's like, I don't know, I don't wanna leave Malibu because I've been here my whole life, but, I've seen a lot of people ready to just, like, throw in the towel, just like, it's done, but, you know, all you do is stare at the place. Yeah, we had it when it was great, but it's never gonna be like that. But you know, I am here, you know, this is where, you know ... gotta do something, I don't wanna, you know. I didn't run away after losing in 2014 and I thought, "Keep fighting and going down there and calling 'em out and stuff." It's sort of just like that, I tried to warn people about the lagoon in 2012 ...

Yeah, you just touched on a bunch of stuff that I'm gonna ask you about. I guess, let's go back to—development is one of the things that you mentioned—

Yeah.

You're a Realtor, though. So how does that work being—it sounds like you're anti-development, and correct me if I'm wrong, but is that kind of paradoxical to be a realtor and be anti-development?

I'm not anti-development, I'm anti-, like ... I was anti how they got around the loophole of development, like with the sewer, they could've—instead of making that massive one which would've double-dipped for the Bay Company because they got rid of that one piece of property that the city overpaid for to put the wastewater system on, which should've been a superfund

site because that had been used for, you know, septic system already, so couldn't do anything there anyways, I mean, they could've—it wasn't even developable, and saved, like, \$4 million for that. They could've ... the [inaudible] to get their thing permitted, they could've put a little pocket plant right there in the center of town to serve the commercial that was going in through the center of town, and served that and then that other piece could've been, like, a recreation center across the street from Webster instead of a wastewater, you know, facility. There were just, like, all these favors for the Bay Company. I'm not against, you know, development, you gotta have stuff to support a city, but, you know, if it's just gonna be more fancy shopping, and, you know, I mean, you look at the Ralphs Center, the city does nothing to put the screws to Kronke to make his place clean. You gotta have stuff to bring people in. But I'm a residential real estate agent, I mean, I'm, yeah, I'm like cuttin' my own foot by saying, you know, bring in problems which a lot of people wouldn't wanna be there, but ... Like the schools, you know! I mean all the problems those guys cause when they, you know, the whole AMPS thing and all that stuff. Here we are still talking about school separation almost 10 years later, you know, another election cycle, it's like "What?"

Mmhmm. Definitely—

Definitely. You know, I mean, I'm not anti-development at all, I mean, you gotta have some, you have to have stores, it'd be nice if they're local stuff, if they could spread out a little bit more, you know ...

OK, so you're pro-development, but pro-a very specific type of development.

Well, I mean, you say "pro-development" and that goes in the thing, then it's like, you know, I mean, I get the, "Oh, you're a Realtor." Well, it's like, "Yeah, I was a waiter too, I was, like, a paperboy, I was, like, the delivery at the Malibu pharmacy, I've washed dishes, I'm everything." But mostly, you know, I wanna be able to sell houses. I've sold houses to families and why they wanna come down here, it's like, that's, that's the goal, is, like, to bring people out here. If there's nothing out here for them to come to, then it's just, what supports that? No, that's not, you know, nice restaurants and stuff, you know, restaurants, you know ...

OK.

You can say, yeah, I'm not a commercial real estate agent, you know, I'm not looking to, you know, sell malls.

OK, I got it. Um, thank you for clarifying that for me. All right. I guess let's go back to—you mentioned that you ran. I think you've run twice, right, for city council?

Yeah! Yep.

And both times you lost. Why are you running again and what did you learn the first two times around?

Um, well, the ... why did I run the first few times, is that ...?

Um, why are you running now, but I'm also happy to hear about why you ran the first two times.

Yeah, OK, so the first time I ran because they were, you know, I had gone and I was fighting the lagoon. I saw that we had a mayor that was definitely siding on the side of developers and was part of the whole, he, he was in with the people doing it and I saw that, saw all that backdoor dealing, so I basically ran to warn everybody what was happening. Because it wasn't just the lagoon, these were the same people that were blaming—the lagoon was the focal point for blaming Malibu to help force the sewer, and that was just another bi-product deal that, you know, they got to do, was that project with the lagoon was basically, like, blaming everybody in Malibu for polluting the lagoon. Anyways, you know, knowing that everything's coming down the creek from Tapia and it has been for years. People didn't realize it, so, I was just blasting that. And then fighting that, I realized all the corruption that was going on with the sewer plant and project coming down the line. It was the same people, it was the same players, it was the same connections with Sibert, it was the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, it was, like, ah, you know, the Bay Company, you know, all these contracts being handed out. And a lot of money and development. And so when I ran in 2014, it was the same thing because we could've stopped it. Thorsen even said, he goes, "Well, we don't know if we're gonna have to get a, ah, it depends on how the election goes." Because if Hamish and I had won, we could've probably stopped that. We could've squeezed, you know, Skylar, who was under the control of everybody else at that point, actually go against putting in a big huge wastewater treatment center. You know, most people don't realize it was put there because they don't know there's a shutdown or anything that can just shoot the water right down, there's a tunnel that goes right onto Colony Beach right there. There's, like, an escape tube right there. You know, people didn't realize that. I was anti ... everybody's been anti-sewer when it was threatened so that was what ... the second time, the sewer was coming, and then all the development, Measure M and R and all that other stuff that happened, so.

OK. So both times you ran on a platform that dealt specifically, you were trying to stop specific issues.

Um, well, the second time was a little bit more broad strokes. I think it was more, like everything was really, there was a lot of issues going on at that time. The first one was really that I saw the lagoon project was imminent, I mean, it was like the day that he won, that Sibert won—because we ran against Sibert and Joan House—the day, we fought, they were like "OK, we're gonna oppose it," the night before the election: "OK, we oppose it." The next day after, he went to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and was like, "Well, we didn't vote for that reasoning." I got him on tape, like, lying to, you know, his buddies there. And then they went through with the project and got it done. You know, I just, I followed the money on everything, you know, whether it was the wastewater advisory, the technical advisory committee was a friend of his from 20 years back and then she got a job with the company that did the sewer project, RMC Water. I mean, it was all these backroom deals going on to get that stuff through. I

went to many meetings with the coastal commission, I got a great photo where Sibert and, um, David Resnick sitting together with Reva and Jim Thorsen all there and not fighting the sewer but actually fighting for the sewer.

OK. Um—

You know, it's just the stuff that got me, like, "Wait a second, you know these guys—" and what comes after people with their deals after they leave city council, you know, whether it's like a library job for Laura or, you know, some kind of consulting job for Sibert or any of these other guys, whatever is going on.

Yeah, so, but now, those people are long gone. I guess not long gone for Laura—

[Laughs] Not long gone at all! They've got their fingers so wrapped up in the city. Sharon Barovsky's running things, I mean, even Arnold. Arnold's got his fingers in there, too. Everybody's got their fingers in City Hall, now. You know, I mean, it's like, there's such an old cronyism thing going on. Sharon, I would imagine that Sharon or Laura are hanging out, you know, the grand wizard behind the curtain of City Hall, you know, I mean, it's just like, Laura's—I had to sit there and listen to Laura tell me during *The Malibu Times*' thing we did last week when we had a little workshop with, uh, Arnold and Karen, and I'm listening to, like, Karen tell me, Laura tell me what you can do and can't do. The ultimate irony of listening to her say what you can do as a city council person is, like, a joke. So she's definitely still got her, you know, I mean, she'll push her candidate. Same as Sharon. I mean, Sharon's got Doug, you know, this time around, I mean ...

OK. So you were—

There's no, they don't leave City Hall just because their term's over, you know.

OK, so—

[motorcycle noise]

Sorry, motorcycle.

That's OK.

So to characterize again, you're running this year, specifically, kind of for the same thing: because you wanna move the old guard, that you think is very corrupt, out.

Well, that, and just to get, I mean, there's a lot of stuff they say is out of our hands. That was their big thing last time, too, it's like, "Oh, it's out of our hands, we can't do anything, we can't do anything." And I just feel like now it's like with this, you know, people have just got their head in the sand with the kind of stuff that's moving up from Santa Monica and Venice into Malibu every single day. You know, when I grew up here it was Malibu Joe. And that was it! Malibu Joe. And

I'm not, like, anti-homeless people or anything like that, I get a lot of grief on that, but we don't do anything, we're not set up for any of this stuff and to keep laying out the welcome mat and to keep going back to Sheila Kuehl like she's some friend of ours and saying, "OK, cool, it's gonna be like the Cuban refugees coming—oh, well, we'll just empty our jails and our mental institutions and let 'em go up to Malibu."

OK, uh, I see your point and you're right by the numbers at least. The number of homeless people in Malibu has extremely increased, at least in the past two years, so that's definitely correct. Again, I mean, I don't wanna ... like, I wanna hear your response to what was essentially Laura's point which was, "Yeah, there's a lot of problems, but, like" a lot of the problems with homeless has to do with policy that's passed at the county level instead of city council level and that there's not that much that you can really do on city council about some issues. Do you think that's not the case?

I think that they just don't, they're like, well, they go after, like, you know, I mean, the one, whatever, they'll just listen and, "Well, we can't do anything."

Mm.

They can't do anything, they don't think outside the box, they don't even know they're in the box, they couldn't get out of the box. I mentioned the other day with the parking thing down in Corral, I'm like, go to the county beaches and harbors and tell them to put another lifeguard tower in that corner pocket at the end of Malibu Road where the highway, where it comes back up onto the highway and where everybody's taking over that big, like, area there. Put a lifeguard tower there and close it off completely to parking in that whole area, get rid of 'em out there, and then you can start working with, like, height and length restrictions, you're blocking views, you're blocking visual enjoyment of the highway, you know, like a bike lane, do something so it makes it hard for a person to come in and do free RV parking. Or just go ahead and clear the road and put signs up. They did it in front of Nobu the other day, they just changed to like, Uber-riding, Uber, uh, ridesharing parking only.

OK—

Like, the sign just came up, I don't know what they had to do to get that, I mean, that's real parking right there, just restricted from 6–10 p.m. without any kind of like, you know, anything, they didn't, I don't know where they went to get that, but they were able to, like, shut everybody down. It's just different things, it's like, are we not, are people just allowed to sleep on the beach now? I guess because how how they did it in Boise?

OK—

I don't know, I just think there's always a path. It might also be somebody's, like, personal agenda. I don't know if we're gonna save everybody and you know, bring people further into Malibu. You know, I don't know, it's hard but it's also like, we're giving more money to the labor exchange than we are to like any kind of, you know, it's like \$25,000 to the labor exchange and

then, you know, those guys sit on one side of the street and then the city pays a million dollars for, like, a company to go and clean the Legacy Park. I don't understand how, like, they clean up the mess and the guys sitting at the labor exchange not working, like you know, Chrysalis has a great program that brings people out and they go and clean up stuff on the side of the road. I don't know why the city is, doesn't, I mean, that's one thing I'm looking at doing is like if there are gonna be people here, it's like let's try and work 'em back into society or something, you know, other than—I don't know too many people that actually go down to that thing and actually get somebody to go to work from the labor exchange, you know? And there's you know, guys, like [inaudible], you know that guy—people aren't aware of like, the meth problem that goes through that place and when the guy brings his load in and they all tweak out for a couple weeks and freak out. Um, you know, there's a lot of problems—people don't wanna see it because it's like, until somebody's kid gets dragged around and killed or raped or something happens that's really bad, it's like we're right on that verge of something really bad happening, you know, it's just gonna be like “Oh my God, Malibu's great, I love it.”

OK—

“There's no problems in Malibu—” There's, like, the real problems of the world are coming to Malibu. It's like, “OK, what are you gonna do? You gonna sit there and, like, worry about your triple-A bond rating? Or are you gonna, like, pony up and get more than just two sheriff cars in Malibu at night?” Everyone knows coming around and can look on these Facebook pages and knows that we are, like, super understaffed at night and so, you know, we're gonna be, you know, we're gonna be, you know, targeted. Like we are daily. It's gonna get worse and worse. That's the thing is, now it's like, for me, there's some really serious, like, safety issues, like the fires, highways. Every night it's a racetrack. I don't know if you live in Malibu or not, but every night it's like, by my house, there's guys goin' like, you know, like, unchecked.

Yeah, and we've heard so much about that issue just from people talking to us about it. The cars with no mufflers, stuff like that. So yeah, you just touched on a bunch of things. I guess, then, my question would be, yeah, so these issues are, like—

That's what I'm looking, like, there's some things that are like, when I ran before, there's priorities. Like, the lagoon was a priority to me, because it was, like, the most pressing thing that was coming right at the time I was running and that's what I was running on. Now, there was other stuff, I mean I ran with Hamish that time too, you know, but it was like, we knew that that was like, the lynch pin that certain things were gonna happen, so now it's the same thing, like, if you start going, “Oh, we're gonna make a homeless shelter next to the library,” like, forget, the library's gone!

OK. So—

Are you gonna let people park up at Zuma Parking Lot where Tom Corliss has run the Malibu Makos for like 20-plus years and just give away that zone? That's done. The further you get people coming into Malibu, the further they're away from services. Like, are we gonna, are we

gonna provide services for people we're inviting into town or are we gonna force, like, state parks to maybe to give up their parking lot down by Topanga where it's closer into town to offset the parking? I don't know.

OK—

There's been—you know, that's the thing, you got state parks, I mean, they can put 'em in the lagoon parking lot because it's really just a dirt lot right now and you can't really see it from the highway until you get a little closer, but you keep coming further in—they, they're trying to claim that this 12 midnight to 2 a.m. "No Parking" thing is gonna work when they can't even, they can't do anything about, like, people racing around and all this other stuff. And that does nothing. It does nothing. And they were saying it was a, you know, it worked well at Costa Mesa and Tuna Beach but really it's just pushed the problem further up. You know, and now those are filling up again, so it's just creeping and creeping and creeping. It's not a solution, it's not, it's like a, it's like, it's worse! It sends a message that it doesn't matter. It's like you don't have to ...

[Background noise]

Sorry.

... and start enforcing some of the things you can. I just don't, I think they just listen to, you know, they got a city attorney that just will advise, she's getting paid regardless, right, so ...

Yeah, you're talking about Christi, right?

Yeah!

OK.

I mean, that's a whole 'nother thing, why she's still there, I don't know, you know, she got fired, then she got rehired, she's been there forever, you know, I mean, personally I don't know, if I just was to talk to her on the side, I'd be like, "OK, whatever," I mean, it's whatever, but I mean, are we being served the right way? You know, I would love to be able to get paid for not showing a house!

[Laughs] Um, OK, so, yeah. So would it be fair to say you aren't buddies with Christi Hogin, you aren't buddies with a lot of people who are currently on council?

Not that I'm not buddies with them, I just, I'm, you know, I get labeled, like, this is the thing: I was an obstructionist. Laura came, Laura was like, her dad was like a lobbyist guy, I think he even worked for the tobacco industry, right, so I mean she knows how to twist things around, the whole city is like, you know, "Oh these people," it's like if you disagree with somebody and they're doing something wrong, they can twist it around on you and be like, "Well, you just don't get along with people, you know, you don't know how to play right." And it's like, well, what, I'm supposed to go, if I get up there, I'm supposed to just go along with stuff or if I say something,

you know, I'm gonna have the police show up at my house in the morning, like Jefferson? You know, it's, it's, that's not how things work, like, you know. And that's always been the problem is that, you know, "Oh, you're an obstructionist, you know, you don't ..." But if you call them out on stuff, they either ignore you, if you've got your three minutes they just completely ignore you, look away, don't comment on what you said, or they'll, you know, I love when they, "Don't believe what people say!" I remember Laura used to say that all the time. "You just don't need to believe what people say, just 'cause they say it," you know, and, like, "Facts!" You know, she would say, she would throw her head and go "Facts! Facts!" Well, what, I mean, OK, well ... not that I don't, I don't, uh, don't dislike them, I just, they, you know, they need to be called out.

Yeah, OK. So—

I mean, if Reva's doing a good job as city manager and she's an employee ... she's not, she's not the mayor, she's not the queen, she's not the one, you know, with the ultimate pow—she doesn't live here, she wasn't elected.

Yeah—

She was voted in by 20 people or what, you know, she can stay there and just be given raises by people, you know, and it's like, she has no term limit, she can stay there for as long as she wants. Or until she gets something better.

OK, so—

It's a pension and she can go get another job. Like Jim Thorsen did, Jim Thorsen got another job, still had his Malibu pension going.

OK, um, so, yeah, you have a lot of criticism—which is definitely healthy for democracy—of these, of a lot of the people that, if you were to win the city council race, you would have to work with Reva, you would probably be around a lot of the people that you are fairly critical of. Do you think you would struggle being on city council because you're so far, so different than their views, sometimes?

Well, I mean, again, that's like an opinion of, "Well, you know, just because I have a different opinion, then we should only hire, or we should only elect people that have the same opinion and we'll get the same result."

OK—

You know, and I think everybody—I'll, I'll throw that out there. If everybody's happy with the way Malibu's being treated, then vote for somebody that's gonna be another Mikke and Karen to keep everything going the same way. We can just like, you know, it can be Mikke's, Mikke's agenda of how he wants to do it. I mean, the joke of the whole thing with Mikke not letting people—voting against even exploring the idea of a stronger, or strong mayor system, like, don't even, don't let people even, don't even get it on the ballot just to be able to even look at it, and

the first chance he gets, he acts as mayor and sends off this letter. I don't care what side of the aisle you're on, the fact of the matter is that he acted unilaterally, like there was some emergency that he sent out that letter where him and, you know, where Reva did the, you know, her little League of Cities, you know, whatever, whatever else it was and he defended that as a, as a, as a timely matter thing. But, you know, if you wanna be mayor, then be mayor, like, you know.

Yeah, and the strong mayor thing is something we've talked a lot about looking into doing a story here at *The Malibu Times*. But for now, what the—

The first week, he acts like a strong mayor! But meanwhile, Reva gets to act like however she wants, she can make whatever, you know, decisions she wants to make. She can do whatever. She's not elected, she doesn't have to answer to anything. I mean, there should be a real mayor, I think. If they wanna big time, I mean, big time politicians and act like it, then, you know, be a real mayor. It's paid, it should be a paid job, it should be a full time job, you know, 24/7, should be on-call all the time then.

Right, but right now, that's not the case and the way the electoral system—the way the election system—works and the way city council works in Malibu, would probably, just because of the way, like, you need to vote, and you, even if you won the election, you would still only have one vote. I would be worried that you couldn't get a lot of the things done that you wanna get done because, you know, there's a lot of just checks—you're right! Reva doesn't, like Reva's not elected—

The thing is, is that nobody's questioning even the other people at this point. If somebody's gotta sit up there and call them out, like goin' "Hey Karen, you're full of it," "Hey Mikke, you're, you're, you know what, this isn't right," like none of those guys will do it, they're all, like, sort of, I don't know, what the problem is, but you know, at some point you gotta bring in ...

Yeah, some diversity of voice—

Everybody goes, "Oh, you're gonna be, like, another Jefferson, it's gonna be four to one, four to one, four to one." Well, you know what, if Jefferson, I, I mean, I applaud him for bein' there and takin' the hits and stuff, but if you're gonna do that, also you need to be, you know, call out to say Mikke's people and everybody who thinks he's so great and say, "Look, look what he's doing, though." Like if he's gonna do this, you gotta bring in the crowds. Like it's a sporting event. You gotta bring in the home court, you know, band if you, like, listen, you guys gotta get involved, like that was always my thing was bringing in people. Like, this is what's going on! I'm just trying to warn you what's happening.

Got it. So if you were to win, you'd be an important voice on council?

Everybody thinks, yeah, it's like bring in the, you know, the bench, like bring in the people, the other people that are voting, or the people that are, like, how are you gonna, how are you gonna

go to the market, Mikke? People that are, you know, have people question you, like “Wait, why?” Like go up to them, let ‘em know what’s going on. This is what’s happening.

OK. I wanted to touch on Jefferson, uh, specifically. You’ve kind of framed yourself at least in some social media posts as a successor to Jefferson and I think, um—

I think a lot of people did that to me. I think, you know, I mean, they see me as an outsider, I guess.

Yeah. My thing with Jefferson is, you’re right, it is four to one, those votes are four to one. But Jefferson’s abstaining. He’s not voting “no,” necessarily. Would you be voting ... like, I kind of think abstaining sometimes is kind of like a cop-out because you’re not saying “yes” or “no,” you’re not doing either thing. In those types of votes, would you be voting “no” or would you be abstaining like Jefferson does?

I don’t even know which ones he’s abstaining, which one you’re talking about, so I don’t know how I would ... but I would definitely be the opposing vote. If it was something I disagreed with, I wouldn’t just go “Never mind.” I mean, I think sometimes these guys, like, they call the roll and they know they got it and they just pass by. They pass it, they don’t even bother, like I think there was one pretty recently where they knew Jefferson wasn’t gonna vote, they already got the number and they didn’t even have to ask him what his vote was. And then maybe that’s why they’re calling it “abstain.”

I got it. The two ones I was gonna bring up specifically that Jefferson abstained on was, ah, the short term rental ordinance, um, and then Reva Feldman’s salary increase, which makes sense to me that you would vote “no” on that. Um, the short term rental thing, I had a question on that if you wanna talk about it, but if you feel like there’s some more issues and we wanna get to some other ones—

Well, I mean, I think the, ah, yeah, the Reva thing with her raise, her pay increase and all that stuff, I mean, I don’t know how many she’s gotten in the last three years. Do you guys know how many she’s gotten? She’s gotten a few.

Um, I don’t know, but I do know what the number is.

Yeah, I mean it’s up, well up over the three-something mark, right, I mean ...

Uh, I’m not sure, I thought it was like in the two, two’s ... But I could be—

It’s up over three.

OK.

Maybe with the benefits and all that other stuff, but I don’t know.

OK. So back to the ... you being an important voice on council if you were to win. It would maybe be stronger if you were running on a slate. Why aren't you running with Hamish this time?

Well, Hamish, Hamish lives over the hill, so I'm sure that he wanted ... I mean, if he was here and he was running, I'm sure we'd probably be on the same thing. I mean, I think I'm in line with a couple other people that are also, you know, people you get three votes. So I think there's a couple other people on the ballot that are sort of like minded that way. I don't necessarily, I think that those guys ruined a slate vote. Jefferson not being the one that ruined it, but Skylar and Mullen being just complete flip flops, I mean, you know, he called me specifically, "Oh, you know, I'm gonna get rid of Christi, we've made a pact as soon as we get in there, we're gonna get rid of Christi, we're gonna get rid of Reva, blah blah blah," and I was like, "OK, cool." You know, I'm not, I first saw Mullen down at the coastal commission like in 2010 I think when I was goin' after the lagoon and the next thing was something with Joe Edmiston, Joe Edmiston, he spoke against Joe Edmiston. At the time, I thought, "Oh, OK, he's standing up against Joe Edmiston." But then after that, it was like, you know, as soon as he got in there, it was the curse of City Hall or something happened to him, I don't know what happened but he just, you know, completely changed his whole thing.

Yeah.

His whole stance just became ... a different view.

OK. Um ...

Not a big fan.

OK. [laughs] Going back to the question of—

If I could just run to just keep him from getting back on there, I probably would call that a victory, but ... I don't think he deserves to be back on there after he handled Woolsey.

Ah, OK, let's get into that! I think most people ... my question was, "It's generally acknowledged that Woolsey was mishandled. Um, who do you think is responsible for it and what would you do differently for the next fire? Because we, everyone knows the next one is probably gonna come.

Well, there's always—I've been through so many of these, I mean, I stayed, I was luckily able to save my own house and my neighbor's house, and, uh, but, uh, you know. I mean, two weeks before the fire, that article comes out where Rick is, you know, sort of shamelessly admitting that he's, you know, sleeping his way through \$200,000 worth of overtime and it doesn't affect his business at City Hall on council. I saw that as being like, "Oh my God, people—" not necessarily, I just went, "Well, let's let Malibu burn!" The fire captain workin' the system? Next fire, next wind event we get, people are gonna be throwin' matches upwind of us.

OK—

You know? I just ... and, and, I mean ... to me, the whole way it was handled. I mean, that was another one of those ... the communications from whether it was a blanket evacuation notice to, you know, not having the communication on the ground with those guys? I mean, I just saw us as, I mean, to me, I would hate to think someone would deliberately do something, but then again, I'm like, you know, there's a brotherhood thing in the fire department that he like sorta called it out as being OK to milk the system for overtime and ... was there stand-down orders? Was there, you know, was it just "Park the trucks at Zuma and forget about it?" It's like, I don't know, I mean, it seemed a lot like that.

Right, so for the next one, what would you ... what are your ideas for doing better?

Well, you know, I mean, it would be nice to, you know, I just, like, this last one, that dude in Topanga that was driving down the truck. Somebody up in the hills up there has donated money to have those pump kit things that fill up water, they have the water all over the place. I mean, you have to have prepared, you know, areas for helicopters and have the equipment on call. And just have a better relationship with—I just think that they dropped the ball completely.

Right—

You have to be ... you know, everybody's gotta be prepared, right?

OK.

We've gotta have different stuff in different areas. I mean, it can't just be that they're gonna dip into Pepperdine and have to go back over the other way. We need to have as much money thrown at that stuff when we can, you know, whether it's super scoopers or more of those fire helicopters. Because lots of what they did up in Topanga a couple days ago when it was—69, I mean, that's a, some dude that, he donated those water tanks up there. Up at the top there. There's a great picture of, like, three helicopters dipping at the same time. I mean, those things should be all over the place up in the hills. Those, like, three, you know, so they don't have to go further away than they need to to get water. I mean, these are the kind of things we should have been dealing with for years. Lobbying against the Coastal Commission to allow us to do fire breaks again. When I was a kid, there was fire breaks all across all the hills. Everywhere.

OK—

They stopped allowing that. Um, you know. This new evacuation plan? I mean, that's better, but, you know, I think that having a better liaison than what we had before. Everything is always, it's always gonna be a crapshoot. I think the biggest thing to do, though, is how people are treated after the fire?

Mmm—

How they're allowed back in. What happens if they stay. Um, I mean, you know, I watched this Station 70 drove up my driveway—I was on the highway, I live on the highway, above. And I watched this thing drove away from my house, it drove up the highway and drove away. So I ran up the driveway, saved my house, saved my neighbor's house. But then in return for that I was treated like a criminal for a week.

Wow—

You know, I think that there has to be better communication with the people that are here, you know, the different fire groups, you know, everybody's saying, "Okay, we got Malibu West fire brigade, we got the Point Dume bombers fire brigade, we got this one and that one and the other." The city needs to definitely pony up and get all the generators it can because the day after the fire happened at my house right up on Ramirez Mesa, three houses burned right there because there was no water and there was no power to pump the water to the hydrants right there. Three big houses burned the day after that didn't need to because it was just a little flare up. So all these things need to be in place; that's where they gotta stop penny pinching and being, you know, like, miserly with what they need to spend to make sure that everybody's safe. It's how they, you know, having the water uphill from the fires, you know, having areas that they, they know they're gonna have power.

OK—

Everybody's asking for that stuff. It's like, "Here we are, everybody's been asking," it's like, "OK, we're back in the fire season," like, you know, two months ago they're callin' for Santa Anas, it's like "Where are we?" We're nowhere close to being with a generator in place, with, like, you know, contracts for making sure that we've got all the, you know, helicopters, air support. The fact that that thing got across the freeway and got out here. It should've never happened. I don't know, you know ...

Yeah—

Definitely a breakdown. I mean, I know there's not a lot you can do when it really starts to whip and it's like 60 knots and going higher, you know, even higher than that. At some point, you know, you are really on your own. Um. But you know, there are some things that they could do and those are the things. I mean, having the generators, having some of the, having some of those pump kit things. I don't know if you've seen that picture, check that picture and find that picture that's showing them, it's up on, like, Tuna, up on top of Tuna itself, you just, like, three big, they look like, um, like [cuts out] and they're hooked up to fire hydrants and they, ah, and they fill them and they can just dip in there and they were doing really quick laps to put out that fire in Topanga the other day and they had three helicopters on it and boom, it was out. I mean, if something goes up in Topanga, it's over. So having, having a helicopter and having 'em ready ... I mean, I don't know, they set the bar pretty low, so I don't know, we just gotta keep ... you know, so what people, you know, Scott Dittrich, you know, get the, get the generators. Get the generators, everybody, get the generators up there, get the water pumps going. Get all that

stuff. There's nothing worse than going to, you know, your hose isn't working and you got fire coming.

Yeah. I understand.

It's basic.

Um, you touched on something that we are definitely gonna ask—actually, we're asking almost every candidate about it. But what you touched on, is Rick Mullen is also the fire chief, so he does another job in addition to city council. And I wanna ask you, too: would you have enough time to balance your being a Realtor, being a parent, do you have time to do city council and can you afford to do it? Most, like, most city council members are fairly wealthy and some are even retired, so, like, city council elections tend to tilt towards people who are like that already. Are you prepared to put in the time?

I mean, I think at this point, you know, if I was running for real mayor, I'd be like, "OK, you know, it'd be nice if it was a paid position," like if you're gonna do that, you know, step out. I mean, when I ran last time, I mean, it did dip into my regular business and it's also then, you're pointing out problems, you're not pointing out like, "Oh, Malibu's great! Like, come buy a house!" It's like, "No, Malibu's, like, sucking right now, and, you know, not the best place and schools are, you know, whatever, and crime is coming up and the highway's unsafe, and, you know, all that stuff." Yeah, it's sort of, it sort of hits my—you know, I'm in a good position right now, I can cruise. But, and, and being a Realtor is not like a nine to five job, I mean, I can, I can work around all that stuff, it's not like it's ... I like the fact that right now, it's sort of remote anyways. I mean, I had called for city council meetings to be like that before, because that was a stall tactic, that was one of the things I brought up to everybody's attention. It was like, you know, putting important issues on at the end of the night and stalling. That's what made me flip out at my very first council meeting was the fact that they, they put it late, and they ran it late, and then after five-and-a-half hours or something, Sibert called up one of his buddies to, like, answer some question that was like a loaded question to, you know, swayed over into doing the project. Like, what the ...? Just to be able to Zoom in on meetings and be at home and be able to deal with it that way and not have to actually be physically down there for the city council meetings? Super cool. Also for residents to be able to comment. I don't think he sat in on—I called for in 2012, one of my things was to be able to Skype in public comment.

Yeah, I found a transcript where you talked about that.

Yeah, I mean, I was like, I was callin' for that before this because it was like, that was their biggest thing, like, you know, "OK, nobody's here, nobody's left, alright, vote! Boom, done!" And people are like, you know, they're delirious at midnight and they're voting on really important things. And they just stall out the public. So. You know.

OK. Um—

Skylar was never, he's like "Oh, I'm in Fiji now! Oh, I'm in Hawaii, I'm here and I'm there!" Now you don't have to be there, you can call it in.

K—

I, I don't mind, if they get back to whatever they get back to, I don't know, I think it's all, like, we should be hopefully back there, you know. I don't think it's something that's gonna keep me from doing anything at this point. Especially because the job, doing it, like you're around, like, right now, the real job of the mayor is really like Reva, she's the mayor.

Wow.

I mean, that's the way I see it. She's putting out these notices and then, you know, Mikke or Karen has been the one that's just, like, parroting what she's written for the, you know, state or city or whatever. It's almost the same thing.

Yeah. I mean, again, I would press you on that because if you get elected, you're gonna have to work with Reva. Is that gonna be an issue?

No, not at all. Not at all. I, I, you know what, I mean, if she does a good job, that's one thing. But if she's making all her de—you know, I mean, I don't think that she's doing the greatest job and I think she's really the best at being like, "It's not my thing," it's out of her hands and stuff. So I don't really, at this point, it's like, should I have to, like, kiss her ass because I'm on city council or should she have to like, you know ... I don't know! I mean, it becomes, like, "Oh, he's the one who can't get along with her? Or she can't get along with me?"

OK. I got a few more questions if you still got time.

I know a lot of people who are like, "Are you committed to, like, canning her?" I mean, people are not happy with her. But she is in there. She's not voted in. She is basically mayor de facto without being voted by the people she's, like, representing as, you know, as a strong—she's about as strong of a mayor as you can get. Like, she's got way more say in Malibu than any city council member does.

OK—

I think her contract runs for, like, another year beyond, something you have to deal with her in there, like, whatever, you know. I'm not opposed to working with her but I'm also not just gonna sit there and just go along with everything she says. Like no, there's a different way to skin a cat. Like whether there's the homeless problem, the parking situation, the lack of sheriff patrols at night for what we want them to do, um, anything. It's like, no, you gotta be, like, if I'm the thorn in the side or I'm the one squeaky wheel trying to get stuff done for Malibu, then I'll take that role. Like, I'll be the asshole that's like, like speaking out.

OK—

I mean, I've lived here longer than all these guys that are running right now, and I've lived here longer than most people and I think even though I'm younger than them, I'm still just, you know ...

Right—

I grew up, and I grew up in the center of town, too. I grew up in Malibu. I don't, I don't look at the center of town as being the shopping district or the ... I don't live there now but I feel like a lot of them just don't even bother with, like, a throwaway on the weekend. They don't care.

OK, um, that's something I kinda wanted to ask you about because yeah, you've lived here. I know I've read that your kids, your parents, like you have a long history in Malibu. But a lot of the people you're running against have, like, planning commission appointments or, you know, specific experience in government. And I don't know that, I mean—

I was, OK, that's, I mean—

Go for it.

Yeah, planning commission, Steve, I'm not running, I think that Steve, you know Steve's got the bad rap being on the planning commission because the council always sends stuff to them and they gotta deal with it, like the classic one was when, you know, they were trying to reduce, the, the, uh, the amount of square footage on an acre lot or something and everybody went to planning commission but they didn't realize it was the city council that was setting it all up and it was just like the sacrificial lambs.

OK—

You know, I mean, the planning commission, yeah, I mean, I agree with Steve on a lot of stuff. I mean, I'm not, I don't see myself running against Steve. As far as like the public safety commission, tell me what Doug Stewart has done, I mean, I don't know, I mean, he touts that role of "I'm co-chair of, you know, the public safety commission," but like they've just pretty much shut down since COVID, I don't, you know, there's no, like, reports of anything going on, I mean, I don't know what they do. I mean ...

OK. I mean, back, my original question was, ah—

I done, I was on, I was on the wastewater advisory committee.

Oh, OK.

That's a funny thing, I was named to that and then, I'll never forget it because, like, Skylar named it to me, and then Laura just did one of these things where—you know, and I've lived

here, I've dealt with my, Realtor, I understand about septic systems, I understand about wastewater, all this stuff, I've lived here my whole life and she goes, "Ah!" Like, "Oh!" Over her glasses and Skylar's like, "Oh! OK, well, huh." Like, this whole thing, and then, I was on it for a while and I was questioning the whole sewer thing and they got wind of it, was just like one of those things, and all of a sudden, all of a sudden that went from a committee, almost like a commission with only two, there was like a bunch of us on it, and it went down to two members per person and I got bumped. And taken off of it.

OK—

One of those things. I was on the civic center design task force, they took me off that. They, you know, when I questioned why they were spending \$250,000 on that consulting firm that did nothing. You know, they didn't even mention that I went through that whole thing, that whole process with them.

OK, so I guess, my question was gonna be, I didn't—

[motorcycle noise]

Sorry, motorcycle. There it goes. I didn't know that you had been on task forces, done a lot of work for the city like this. Do you have a website? I couldn't find something that said this about you.

Not right now, no, I mean, I have the—my thing, my thing is that I did, we did a nice webpage on Facebook before for Lyon and Patterson '14.

Uh huh—

And, uh, I just announced today. I'm not raising money. I'm not doing a website for it. I'm doing this all, because people know who I am from running the last two times, I mean, I've been doing well the last time. We came close. They let June Louks in and it disrupted the two-on-two.

Mmmhmm—

And so what my whole campaign now is, it's paid for, I mean, we're like, you know, we're in a, we're in a, you know, economic disastrous time and people are like, you know, have been really hit and to ask, you know, "Oh, give me \$250 because I need to raise, you know, \$30,000 so I can go on a \$200 a month job in Malibu" when I've already, I've already laid the groundwork over years. I've been around here, people know me.

Mmm—

What I stand for. So my thing is like, pay it forward. You know, you wanna donate some money, go find somebody who's out of work, go find somebody that got affected by this, you know, go donate something somewhere else and just pay it forward. I don't need to ... I mean, I see

Doug, Doug's hired some, like, Orange County, you know, campaign firm. He didn't even go local, which is, like, a joke. But you know, to raise, like, the rumor's, like, he's gonna try and get, like, \$50,000 to get his name out there. \$50,000 to run for city council!

OK. So you do feel you already have the name recognition ...

I mean, I've got name recognition from, you know, old school Malibu. I've got you know, tons of parents that, you know, knew my kids growing up. I just, and, you know, to me, it's like, I, I'm, I had ... I'm not sure if I want to but I'm doing it all social media and I'm doing it word of mouth. Again, it's like, am I gonna go through this whole thing, like, "Oh, am I gonna be a politician?" It's like, "No, I'm here to try and do the right thing for Malibu," like, you know, I'm not going to, like, try and raise a bunch of money that I'm gonna have to beholden to anybody that's thrown money my way, I don't wanna, you know, that's not the thing. I'm doing this for the right reason. I'm not trying to be like, "Oh, I can't wait to get there so I can go up to Sacramento and go hang out and go leave the city."

OK. Um, all right, so we've done over an hour. I have two more questions for you if you're still down to take 'em, but if you need to go, let me know.

No, I'm still fired up, yeah, no, I feel like I didn't really get all the way out of everything, but, yeah.

That's O—well, the thing is, I had a bunch of questions for you but then you just touched on all of them. I was gonna ask you about parking, and I do want—this is one of the questions I was gonna clarify on, but you already kind of started talking about parking. You had mentioned that you—so on Facebook, you wrote, "I'm sick of hearing there's nothing we can do, that's a copout" about the parking issue on PCH. Um, but, so if you put up signs, if you put up signs, that kind of makes the city vulnerable to lawsuits from organizations like, ah, organizations that advocate for beach access or homeless issues. Would you put the city through that expense?

Are we just supposed to let, like, the most prime places, you know—then charge for parking. Can you not pay for parking? Is it, like, we're supposed to give out the best, best oceanfront spots to people just to live?

Um ...

Are, are, is that, is that what we're just expected to do? I don't think that we're really, you know, there is public access issues. By somebody never leaving, is that, is that like, is that fair to people that are coming to the beach, that they have to play frogger across PCH because some guy wants to live in his car with his tent and everything and take up space and never leave and probably dump a bunch of stuff on the, on the, on the sand, too? I don't know that it's opening up a lawsuit, I mean, we used to have 12 to five all the time. Twelve to five, no parking, 12 to five, Malibu was like, that was it. I don't know what happened, no camping on—I don't know how the other cities around us do it. I don't know how Thousand Oaks gets away with it or we just,

Malibu is like, you know, afraid of being targeted as an elitist? You know, or do you stand up for it, you just go, “No, you wanna go—”

Yeah. So I think a lot of people agree with you that at the very least there’s an issue, but that signs aren’t the fix because it opens you up to lawsuits and that maybe instead towing would be the fix or more tickets being written, more beach patrol. There are other things that you can do.

You know, there’s, like, enforcement of, like, I mean, are these cars, like, are they roadworthy? I mean, they wanna send these guys out in the middle of the night, 12-2, start, you know, moving your cars around in the middle of the night when people are racing on PCH. Are these roadworthy? Are they—you know, there used to be these things where they’d have these, like, truck checks on the side of the road, you know, have mobile, you know, are they passing smog? Are they, you know, are the brakes good, are they, you know, are these things functioning or are they just junk on the highway, are they just garbage on the side of the road?

Right. OK, so let’s talk about enforcement—

I think there’s other ways. Can you put—like, there used to be parking on Zuma, you had to have two wheels on the side of the, you had to have two wheels on the asphalt. I don’t know what that was for, I think to leave some space on the other side. Do you put up, do you put up a bike lane on Corral and make sure that people can’t park, like, super wide rigs? Do you just make it paid parking? Paid parking, like, you know, there’s all kinds of other options you can do. Can you put gate rails up and bring everything away from the bluff? You can’t park all the way out on the side and you can’t get a huge motorhome like that where you pull out, wide out, you know, all that stuff. Do you let it—how high are they going? I mean, this is ...

Right, again, like, I think these are great ideas and very valid. I don’t know that you could do that on city council because you have to work with other agencies. Like CalTrans, for example. They’re in charge of the highway, not city council. Is, like—this all sounds really good and is certainly fixes to the issue, but not things that—

I think that Coastal Commission, if you see that there, people are, the public is being denied the right to use the property, the parking, they are being denied by this.

OK—

The public is being denied. You know, when you build a house, you gotta have view corridors and things like that. They’re ruining the view corridor for people driving on the highway, that should be, you know, there’s the public is driving on the—you know, they’re limiting the amount of people. When somebody’s going down there and they’ve got a trailer and a truck, everything’s going on there, and they’re taking up, like, 60 feet of beachfront? I mean, these are, like, bigger than house lots.

Right—

There's a guy on Latigo right now that has a full bus and a, like, a 30-foot trailer behind it, plus his car. He's got more beachfront than, like, an average house. And that's fine! You know, an eight million dollar lot that he's takin' up.

OK, but, again, so yeah, certainly an issue but—

You're gonna have to challenge it and you're gonna have to go up and go to the city—you know, Coastal Commission, you're gonna have to lobby to Caltrans, you gotta, the lobbyists we don't get anything for! We don't get any results, we just pay this lobbyist, California Strategic or Strategic or whatever it is. They don't do anything!

OK

They're not going to Co—I would go to coastal and be like, "Hey, let's go!" Like, what are you, you know, you're not just doing nothing because Christi says you're gonna get a lawsuit. They're afraid to get a lawsuit!

OK! So you're not afraid to get a lawsuit?

You're gonna back down from a fight about everything, then you're just gonna get picked on and you're gonna get run over.

I gotcha. Um, let's talk about—

Draw a line in the sand, you can't just stick your head in it. You know?

Uh-huh. I wanted to talk again about sheriffs and you brought up crime, which I think is good because a lot of people—we're gonna ask people, everybody who we interview, we're gonna ask about this: Reva, the city manager is predicting that there's gonna be a crisis in the budget next year because of COVID, because of the economic downturn. Um, and then, so—

Uh-uh, there's houses—the most houses being sold right now ever. So I don't know what she's getting her numbers off of, but, you know. I mean, she's not projecting house sales and sales tax and you know, that kind of stuff.

Uh-huh. OK, but, my question still is, do you wanna increase how much money we spend on sheriffs? Is that reasonable especially when LA itself decreased their sheriff's budget?

Yeah, look what happens.

OK.

Yeah, for sure, I mean, if you look at what's happening, what's already happening is that IPS dude is on—he's killing it right now. Because everybody's, like, we don't have enough sheriffs, we don't have enough at nighttime. So everybody's like, they call the sheriffs, it's 45 minutes. She has the nerve to the other night go, "Oh, we have cars at the station." That's, like, 30 minutes away, you know? Like, she was defending her decision to only have two cop cars in Malibu, like, at night. Two. And it was like, "Oh, we have 'em up here and there." So what's happening—I talked to a friend of mine who, she lives right on the beach in Malibu by the pier, she has to, she's like, "Every night, this guy's underneath her house, drinking, playing music, doing, you know, partying and stuff," so she calls the cops, never came. She hired IPS. IPS is now, yeah, they can't hire guys fast enough. So they've got, like, these armed dudes that are, like, you know, are they just bypassing, you know, are they trained with a gun or whatever? But they're not, like, we're just gonna be, you know, IPS, is gonna be running Malibu. Is that what we want? Do we want guys that are like, we don't know if they're capable or properly trained to a certain, you know, running through Malibu and they're gonna be the ones that are gonna be, you know, maybe pullin' a gun on you if they, they ... I don't know.

Uh-huh. Sorry, I just wanna clarify, what is the acronym you're saying? IPF?

IPS, yeah, they're everywhere. IPS is like a security force, they're armed guards that are being hired all throughout—they showed up right around Woolsey and now they are, like, everywhere because people are hiring them, they see 'em. It's like a private police force now that's, like, taking over Malibu. And I don't know that they're, what they're, I'm sure they're ... I don't know how many—I don't know, it's not like the sheriffs' around, they're gonna get bad sheriffs, you're gonna get bad [cuts out]

OK—

You know what I mean? So it's like, you can't afford not to, like, have, to pay for it. To say, you know, and it's like, at what point are the prices of the budget—but then is that not just, like, having more lawlessness and more, like, derelict tweakers cruising around and all this stuff? Doesn't that just hurt Malibu even more? So that just keeps that momentum and that engine running, just like grind Malibu into the ground and make it a further, like, economic disaster? Or do you make sure that everybody's safe and they wanna come here and be here and buy homes and live here and put their kids in school and, you know, help, help Malibu be a good place? Like, if you're gonna just cheap out on, like, "Oh, we can't afford to," you know, because, obviously, her precious triple-A bond rating is gonna be in jeopardy. You know, and from what I was told, like, listening to Kraig Hill when he was doing his presentation, I mean, that guy's so thorough, you know, that they—she's above what she's, by far, to keep that triple-A rating. And even at that place, too, the amount of money to, what, what's more valuable? Like, being safe? Like, is that what everybody wants or do they wanna, "Oh, well, I'm gonna forgo having the sheriffs here as long as, you know, her, her bond rating is good."

OK. Um, Andy, I got one question.

Yeah!

All right, what do you think is the No. 1 issue facing Malibu today and what will you do in your first year in office to tackle it? I know we touched on a lot of stuff. If you could pick one thing.

I mean, I think at this point, it's gonna be public safety and that's, that branches off into, like, you know, highway, that's the fire, and that's the homeless situation and not homeless, but more like crime, increased crime.

Mmhmm.

You know, just protecting Malibu. I mean, because I think that's gonna be, I think that's what people are starting to see as being like, "Oh my God," because you never had to think about that stuff before. You know, growing up here, I never locked my house, never, like, I could leave the keys in the car, like, you didn't have to think about people, like, abducting kids or, you know, you know, crazy people just, like, hauling up and hitting people or, like, packing or raping or all this stuff that, you know, killing, murders, whatever. You know, the stuff that's like, city problems that are coming to Malibu. I think that's the thing that people are really worried about and I think that, you know, having a better handle on, you know, the sheriff and what we get out of what we pay for with them. Having a better, you know, say with what we do with our lobbyists to make sure that our highways, you know, we can, we can deal with, like, homeless stuff and how we, how we, you know, off site parking in another area whether it's down at the Topanga Beach lot or, you know, the state parks and get 'em closer to town where it's closer to services. And then for the fire stuff, I mean, it's just, like, constantly, you know, making sure we're, we're equipped. And emergency supplies for everything. I mean, that's the thing I think is most important at this point is, is what I'd be workin' on. I mean, there's so many different things, but I guess as far as, if you had to prioritize it, I think right now, you know, getting more patrols in the nighttime, the safety.

OK.

Lawlessness on the highway. I mean, it's just dangerous. I don't know. I—I mean, there's a lot of problems in Malibu! It's not just like, "Oh my God, I get to just, like, go cut ribbons or something," haha, you know? It's gonna be serious stuff and, you know, it can't always be "It's out of our hands, oh, it's Caltrans, oh, it's, it's ..." Like at some point, you gotta be ready to, like, get into a scrap and make it happen. So I don't mind, I don't mind, you know. Even if they're all, even if it was four against one, it would be, somebody's gotta sit up there and go, "No, this isn't right," even if you gotta be, like, the guy that's gotta try and, you know, rally the troops behind you to get everybody in, now that's like what I feel like is important. It would be great if there was three of us in there that could come in and, and offset the balance of the, the power that's in there right now. I feel like, you know, couple a guys in there and that are in alignment with Mikke and Karen, even one, nothing's gonna ... it's just gonna be the same excuse, it's always

just like, "Well, can't really do anything," and next thing you know, we're gonna have, like ... problems are just gonna just keep increasing and increasing.

OK.

The excuses are gonna be the same and that triple-A bond rating is gonna be more important than public safety. And it's not just residents either, I mean, this is like public, general public, visitors, everybody. It's not like an elite, "Oh, I just wanna protect Malibu," you gotta deal with, like, on a weekend what's gonna happen.