

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



Date of entry 02/22/2022

John Robinson Walker (Walker), [REDACTED], date of birth [REDACTED], was interviewed at the law offices of DLA Piper, 500 Eighth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004. Walker was accompanied by his attorneys, Edward McAndrew and Evan North. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lesley Wolf, Attorney Mark Daly with the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division, Trial Attorney Matthew McKenzie with the U.S. Department of Justice, National Security Division, Special Agent (SA) Joseph Ziegler, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, SA [REDACTED] Dzielak and Forensic Accountant [REDACTED] Hoffman of the FBI, were present for the interview. Prior to starting the interview, Walker was advised of his requirement to be truthful when answering questions per Title 18 U.S.C. 1001. After being advised of the identities of the interviewers and the nature of the interview, Walker voluntarily provided the following information:

Walker attended the University of Arkansas, graduating in 1996 or 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He does not have any professional licenses, but he had a secret clearance with the U.S. government. Walker did perform some volunteer work for the Clinton-Gore campaign. After graduation he worked for the real estate company Lindsey and Associates, then worked for a development company near Fort Worth, TX. Walker worked on the Clinton campaign in 1996 while finishing up college. Walker worked for the public affairs company Shandwick on a project for the steel industry. Walker worked for the Democratic National Committee for about a year, then worked in the Clinton administration as an appointee to Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater. He worked for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator, Jane Garvey during the Bush administration. Walker then became a lobbyist for ANPC (Advanced Navigation and Positioning Corporation), doing all of their government affairs work. He then worked for the lobbying firm Oldaker, Biden, and Belair (Oldaker) for six months before Joseph Biden (Biden) ran for vice president. Walker noted he also worked for Wesley Clark's presidential campaign in 2004.

Walker joined a lobbying firm started by Hunter Biden (RHB) and Eric Schwerin (Schwerin), Rosemont Government Affairs (RGA), six months before Biden was asked by Barack Obama to be his running-mate. Obama was very much

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Investigation on 11/23/2021 at Washington, District Of Columbia, United States (In Person)

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by DZIELAK [REDACTED], [REDACTED] HOFFMAN

against lobbyists at the time so RGA dropped all of their clients and did little work for six months. RGA then started working with Chris Heinz's (Heinz) fund named Rosemont, as he needed help with business development. Walker, RHB, and Schwerin decided to join businesses with Heinz and Devon Archer (Archer) to form Rosemont Seneca Technology Partners, a technology investment fund. Not long after, RHB tested positive for cocaine while in the Navy, so he was dropped from the firm; the firm was renamed RSTP. Archer was also "in the news", likely due to his indictment, so he was dropped as well; the firm was renamed Pilot Growth (Pilot). Even though RHB was still vested in RSTP, RHB was no longer an active part of the firm; his equity in RSTP was not bought out by the other partners. RHB was "pissed", but he agreed to leave; Walker noted the firm had little value at the time.

Walker met RHB when Walker was with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and RHB was an appointee with the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). The DOT did a lot of work with the DOC at that time, so their paths crossed often. Walker met Schwerin around the same time; Schwerin was in the Office of Business Liaison. Walker's relationship with RHB and Schwerin was mostly social, but some work was involved. Walker never signed a contract with Oldaker when he worked for them. He does not recall knowing if RHB had any financial problems at the time. Walker understood Schwerin as someone who "kept him (RHB) organized", as he was in charge of cash flow, contracts, and scheduling. Throughout their (RHB and Schwerin's) relationship, Walker understood Schwerin to be the organizer. RHB was more responsible for the business development side of the business and Schwerin was responsible for the operations and administration side of the business.

Walker was not involved with Rosemont Realty, but he may have introduced a project to them. Walker does not know the names Alex Kotlarsky or Vitaly Pruss. He would often shake hands with people who came into the office, but that was the extent of interaction Walker had with them. Walker recalls finding out that RHB was appointed to the board of directors of Burisma; he is not sure how or when, but believed he likely found out from Schwerin. Walker does not recall knowing and/ or discussing RHB's compensation for the position with Burisma nor how he was paid. He assumes it was through Rosemont Seneca but then stated that he did not know. Walker is familiar with RHB's entity Owasco P.C. He had no understanding of the difference between Rosemont Seneca and Owasco. Walker is familiar with Rosemont Seneca Bohai (RSB); he believes it was created with a Chinese fund. He is aware that RHB and Archer were involved with RSB, but Walker is unsure if Schwerin was involved with RSB. Walker was never asked to join RSB or Bohai Harvest. Walker moved out of the Rosemont Seneca offices shortly after RHB tested positive for cocaine, likely in late 2014. Walker moved back to Little Rock

soon after. RHB's office was located at 1010 Wisconsin Ave. Walker would go to the office daily. Schwerin, Joan Mayer, Katie Dodge, Annemarie Person, and Michael Muldoon were in the office most days. Archer would come down from New York from time to time, possibly every few weeks.

Walker was getting paid by Rosemont Seneca Advisors (RSA) in 2014. He spent most of his time working on CARE International matters, a non-government organization (NGO), and One, another NGO. He set up trips to Africa, Central America, and Haiti. Walker would attempt to bring members of Congress and other influential people to locations, so they could see their development funds at work. Again, Walker does not recall RHB's appointment to the Burisma board of directors being discussed, as he does not remember it being "that big of a deal." Walker left for RSTP as he believed it had a lot of promise.

Walker recalls RHB having a Porsche. Walker knows that RHB had a Fisker at first, but does not know how he acquired it. Walker does not know how RHB acquired the Porsche. Walker does not know the name Kegnes Rakishev; Walker did not have any dealings with anyone in Kazakhstan. He recalls a someone from Kazakhstan sent a painting of a Kazakh warrior to the office that appeared to be very old, however, an art dealer looked at it and said it was worthless. Walker was not at a birthday party for RHB where he was given a photo of a Tesla and/ or another expensive vehicle. He did attend birthday parties for RHB and his family, but does not recall a vehicle photo at any he attended.

Before RHB tested positive for cocaine, RHB was in the office "here and there", not every day and/ or full days; he was not a "nine to five person". RHB was "scattered" some days, but he was capable. Walker recalled that RHB was sober for about ten years prior. It was sometimes difficult to get RHB to attend meetings, but Walker did not suspect that RHB had substance abuse problems. Walker smelled alcohol on RHB once in the office, but he did not think anything of it. Walker recalls being at a Notre Dame football game with RHB when RHB was drinking a few beers. Walker confronted him and RHB said it was fine. RHB went to rehab multiple times, and he would say things were going well, and then something would happen to cause a relapse. Walker never witnessed RHB using drugs.

Walker does not recall having specific discussions with Schwerin about RHB's finances. He would not be surprised if they had conversations about RHB's "spending problems", such as when RHB got a room at the Four Seasons hotel. Walker recalls complaining to Schwerin when RHB gave one of his daughter's a brand new Apple computer for her birthday, when at the same time Walker had a computer that did not work well. RHB spent lavishly in

general, as he had nicer things than Walker. RHB borrowed money from Walker one time right before his divorce, but not in 2014. Walker thinks that Archer and RHB received money from Burisma that went to RSB in 2015 or 2016. Walker had a conversation with RHB about money RHB believed he was owed, which went to RSB. Walker believes the conversation occurred after Archer was arrested. RHB mentioned that Archer was "sloppy and unorganized." Walker does not recall if RHB said Archer was supposed to pay taxes on his behalf. Walker does not recall any discussions with Schwerin about Schwerin having to straighten out finances between RHB and Archer. Walker recalls Archer being at very few Pilot meetings. Walker recalls issues with other partners in Pilot feeling that RHB and Archer were not doing enough for the firm. Archer may have complained to Walker about Schwerin. Walker explained that Schwerin had a "stranglehold" on his relationship with RHB and acted as a gatekeeper for RHB. Walker considers Schwerin a good person who believed he was doing the right thing. Walker does not recall Schwerin ever mentioning having to file an amended return for RHB due to unreported Burisma income.

[REDACTED]

Walker did not know at the time what the compensation would be; RHB said it would have to be significant as having a business relationship with someone accused of such crimes would not look good. Walker told RHB he would ensure the compensation was good as there was some exposure. Walker does not recall believing that RHB was abusing any substances at the time or anything indicating RHB was not of sound mind.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The monthly amount was the annual amount of the contract divided by twelve. Sometimes there was a delay by Walker as he did not see it as a priority to send it. Gilliar would sometimes call Walker to prompt him to send the invoice. This was a significant amount of Walker's income, but his finances had improved at this time, so Walker was not in dire need of the money. RHB would not inquire about the payments from [REDACTED]

Walker spoke with P [REDACTED] and Gilliar quite a bit. Robinson Walker LLC (RWLLC) was an entity Walker created a long time ago but was reactivated to receive the income from [REDACTED]. The funds he received into the RWLLC account were split three ways between him, Gilliar, and RHB. Walker does not think he had a contract with RHB. He does not recall RHB ever asking him draft one, but Walker believes he probably should have had one between him and RHB. Schwerin was aware of the arrangement between Walker, [REDACTED], and RHB because Walker discussed it with him. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Walker may have had a conversation with RHB about excluding Schwerin as Walker believed Schwerin would have balked at it since he could not control it. He does not recall having a specific conversation with RHB about it, but believes they discussed it. Walker does not recall RHB telling him not to discuss it with Schwerin. Walker did not discuss this business venture with his partners at Pilot, at least initially, because he was working with RHB.

RHB never asked Walker to treat the payments from [REDACTED] as a loan. There may have been individual payments that were treated as advances, but RHB did not ask him to treat them as loans. RHB initially directed Walker to send the payments to one account, but then later asked Walker to send them to other accounts. RHB verbally made the request for Walker to send the payments to other accounts. RHB told Walker that his sister-in-law, Liz Secundy (Secundy) was behind on rent, so RHB told Walker to send a specific amount to Secundy's account. Walker did not know why RHB directed him to send a payment to RHB's daughter Finnegan's bank account. Walker does not recall knowing at the time that he was sending funds to Finnegan's account. Walker acknowledged that RHB may have sent requests and instructions to send payments to other bank accounts via email.

Walker had a conversation with RHB's former wife, Kathleen Biden (Kathleen) regarding these payments. She asked to speak with him about it

[REDACTED]

over coffee. Walker does not recall if Kathleen and RHB's divorce was final when they spoke. Walker told her the money was due to RHB, so Walker was going to send the money to bank accounts directed by RHB. Walker heard afterwards that Kathleen was not happy with Walker and believed he was not truthful with her.

Walker maintained a handwritten ledger for money sent to Gilliar and RHB and for funds received related to State Energy HK. Walker did not issue a 1099 to RHB for one year. He discussed it with his accountants whether he should go back and issue it to RHB, but he decided not to issue one; Walker acknowledged that he should have. Schwerin would have wanted to know RHB's income for tax purposes, so Walker would have shared RHB income information with Schwerin. During this time period, Walker spoke with RHB possibly weekly, or every other week. He spoke with Schwerin daily. Walker considers Schwerin a friend, so they would not necessarily talk about business.

Walker worked out of his home, but maintained a WeWork office in Washington, DC as having a presence there was crucial to the group. Walker did not have anyone working for him in either Washington, DC, or Little Rock. Walker is aware that Owasco is an LLC. Walker did not maintain an Excel spreadsheet of [REDACTED] advances to RHB, but he kept track of them. Walker does not know "off the top of his head" if he had any loans to RHB in 2016. He recalls RHB needed a lump sum payment related to his divorce in 2017. Walker does not owe RHB any money from [REDACTED]. Walker gave \$50,000 to RHB that was never paid back, but he does not recall if he treated it as a loan for tax purposes.

[REDACTED]

The last invoice from Walker to [REDACTED] was in March of 2017. Walker recalls receiving one final payment from [REDACTED] in November of 2017. Walker tried on more than one occasion to help RHB with his addiction issues. Walker would not have yelled at RHB after the sobriety issues at the Four Seasons meeting. Walker does not specifically recall having a discussion with Gilliar about RHB's conduct at the meeting. Walker does not recall specifically having a conversation with Schwerin about it but is certain that he did. Both were well aware of RHB's "peaks and valleys." They both

looked at rehabilitation facilities for him, some located out of the country. RHB would check into rehabilitation places. RHB said he was going to a yoga camp one time, he also said he was going to a place in New York for executives, but Walker described it as "bullshit." RHB said he knew what they were going to tell him while he was in rehab.

Walker reviewed a contract with State Energy HK dated 2/13/2017 (Exhibit 117). He assumes State Energy HK drafted the contract, but he is not sure. RHB had some role, "but not really" in securing the \$3 million contract. Walker and Gilliar knew they wanted to introduce CEFC to various energy projects. Walker understood that State Energy HK was an entity used by CEFC.

Walker explained how their relationship with CEFC came about: Gilliar is based in the Czech Republic and CEFC had a strong presence there with energy projects. Walker mentioned CEFC to RHB, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Walker is not sure if RHB met with the chairman of CEFC or another senior person at CEFC. Walker spoke with Gilliar about RHB's meeting and he suggested RHB not pursue the contact (Scott Oh) further as Gilliar would deal with the CEFC Officials.

Eventually, Walker, Gilliar, and RHB met with Zhang, CEFC's number two or three person, and Zhang's interpreter, for a dinner in Monaco. They may have previously met Zhang in Washington, DC, but Walker is unsure. [REDACTED] may have been at the dinner in Monaco as he had a home there. CEFC wanted to work in Romania and they were aware of Baneasa, [REDACTED] development outside of Bucharest. RHB was lucid for the day and night of the meeting. RHB was drinking the next night after he spoke at the Burisma conference; Walker thinks RHB "ruffled some feathers" as he spoke of Germany purchasing Russian natural gas and the German delegation in attendance did not appreciate the comments. Walker believes they met Zhang first in Monaco rather than in Washington DC.

Walker explained that he, RHB, and Gilliar made some introductions on behalf of CEFC. One was with an Omani bank and Omani energy company and another was with a Columbian energy company. They had good rapport with CEFC and discussed pursuing infrastructure projects in the US. CEFC was interested in rail projects that US companies would not have found profitable. Walker said they likely needed a US partner, such as them, to provide opportunities. The \$3 million amount was more of a "thank you" from CEFC. They talked of putting together a larger group and discussed acquiring office space.

Walker reviewed Exhibit 116. He explained that this was all money that went to RHB or his entities at RHB's request. RHB directed money to be sent to various third parties. Walker paid for expenses for RHB's trip to Miami where he met with CEFC's Chairman Ye. Walker believes the funds directed to KB Mediation was for RHB's mediation with Kathleen. When asked about payments from Owasco and RSA, Walker said he was not clear on the difference between Owasco and RSA. Schwerin thought that for bookkeeping purposes, it might be better to send invoices to each one. Walker was directed to pages three and four on the Exhibit which listed expenses. Walker explained that these were the expenses that RWLLC incurred for work involving CEFC. On 3/14/2017, a \$20,000 payment was made to a man with the Republican party [REDACTED]. They were seeking his help in putting them in touch with someone in the Trump administration after the infrastructure bill was passed. [REDACTED] introduced them to a senior person with the US Department of Commerce, but they did not pursue anything further.

An expense on 4/13/2017 for \$8,000 for "Pease Education" was for assistance provided for Zhang. Zhang was interested in moving to New York and getting his daughter into a private school, and this payment was for a consultant to assist with it. An expense for \$10,000 for Chateau Marmont is related to a trip to Los Angeles in May of 2017 in which RHB and Walker met with Tony Bobulinski (Tony). Walker believed that RHB told the hotel to charge things to Walker's room. Walker speculates that RHB was using some illegal substances at the time, but he does not believe he was drinking. Walker did not speak with RHB about why the hotel bill was so high.

The relationship between RHB and Tony was not great. There were volatile messages between the two. Tony was brought in as they believed he could help as they pursued deals for CEFC in the infrastructure space. They did not do a lot of vetting of Tony. Walker also thought RHB's uncle, James Biden (Uncle), could help RHB and serve as a father figure. Walker considered Uncle to ultimately be unhelpful and Uncle always "had RHB's back". Tony was arrogant and confrontational; he was a "bad fit for everyone."

On 5/8/2017, there was a charge for \$6,200 from The Refinery, a hotel in New York, labeled as "highway robbery" by Walker. Somehow charges were showing up on Walker's account that were RHB's. There was a meeting in a New York hotel that included Walker, RHB, Uncle, Gilliar, and Tony in which they were meeting with people from CEFC. This bill was for Walker, RHB, and Uncle's two or three night stay at the hotel. Walker does not remember the itemized bill. Walker does not recall speaking with RHB about the bill.

Walker reviewed a loan agreement (Exhibit 110) between Walker and RHB



that was emailed to Schwerin on 3/20/2017. This was the loan Walker noted earlier that was needed to assist RHB in finalizing his divorce. RHB came up with the figure of \$90,000. Walker recalls lending RHB \$50,000, not \$90,000. Walker reviewed wire transfers from his account (Exhibit 104E). Walker was asked about why he was sending a wire to Owasco for \$100,000 and sending an invoice to RSA. Walker does not know why he was billed by a different entity than he sent the payment to, but he believes Schwerin or RHB could explain it. Walker believes it had do with Walker paying all of the expenses rather than splitting them, but he thinks Schwerin and Mayer could figure it out. Walker believes the loan also somehow relates to expenses he incurred for RHB. While the total amount of the expenses was \$94,000, and half was \$47,000, Walker surmises that the taxes may have been added in. Walker ended up paying more taxes as a result. Walker did not recall drafting the loan agreement despite its reference to it being governed by Arkansas law. Walker does not recall being paid back the money he lent RHB, nor did he write it off this loan on his taxes as a bad loan.

Walker had a conversation with RHB about paying back the loan when Walker was back in Little Rock. RHB was very rude about it as he was angry Walker was asking about it considering the problems he was going through. Walker believes the problems RHB meant were the divorce, drugs issues, and being in the media as problems he was experiencing. The last time Walker saw RHB was in 2017 on 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Washington, DC, at about 10:00 PM. RHB was drunk or high and was yelling at Walker. The SinoHawk deal had fallen apart the week prior. Walker spoke with Schwerin about the loan, and Schwerin told him "good luck" ever getting RHB to pay him back.

Walker issued Forms 1099 to RHB in 2017 after consulting with Walker's accountant. Walker believed it was important to issue a Form 1099 with payments going to different places. He does not recall speaking to RHB's accountant, Bill Morgan about it. Walker was never contacted by anyone with the accounting firm Edward White, but he believes they might have contacted his accountant in Little Rock. He does not recall speaking with RHB's attorney, George Mesires (Mesires), about the payments to RHB in 2017. Mesires never represented Walker, but he spoke with Mesires when things "got weird". Walker's name was in the media and he was subpoenaed by Congress.

Walker is not aware of anyone else lending RHB money. Walker gave RHB \$9,000 in cash when they were in New York staying together at The Refinery. RHB asked him for the money, and Walker withdrew it from a Bank of America branch near Bryant Park. Walker thinks it was probably a CEFC payment. Walker does not recall giving him cash on any other occasions, except for smaller amounts, possibly \$20 or \$100. Walker has read about RHB receiving a diamond from people with CEFC, but he never saw the diamond. RHB may have

said something to Walker at the time. RHB never mentioned the size or value of the diamond. Walker does not recall a specific conversation about who gave RHB the diamond, but he believes it was people at CEFC, possibly Chairman Ye.

When Walker was with ANPC, he did domestic, in-house lobbying, along with some business development work overseas. He also worked at the government affairs office at the FAA for a brief period of time. He did not receive any training regarding registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) or the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) while at ANPC or the FAA. He never received formal training at Oldaker, or while he was working with the Rosemont Seneca entities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Walker knows Sally Painter (Painter). Walker may have engaged Painter but decided to work instead with Louis Freeh's office, specifically in 2017. Walker knew Karen Tramontano (Tramontano), Painter's partner at Blue Star Strategies as well. Walker may have mentioned [REDACTED] to Painter and Tramontano, but never worked with them on the matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Walker reviewed an email dated 5/24/2016 from Walker to Gilliar referencing the Vice President having met with the Prime Minister of Romania Walker noted the Vice President Joe Biden did not know who was and RHB did not discuss the case with Joe Biden. Walker is unsure if he heard about the meeting in the media or from RHB and he does not recall why he relayed it to Gilliar at the time.

[REDACTED]

Walker contacted [REDACTED] to assist in obtaining contacts within the executive branch of the Trump administration. Someone with Cornerstone Government Affairs referred Walker to [REDACTED] Walker contacted [REDACTED] after the 2016 presidential election. [REDACTED] Blue Star Strategies (BSS) may have been successful with something they did with Burisma, but BSS was never engaged to assist [REDACTED] Schwerin may have suggested they speak with Painter and Tramontano, but Painter and Tramontano never spoke with [REDACTED]. Walker never spoke with RHB about BSS.

[REDACTED]

Walker agreed that the final payment from [REDACTED] was in January 2017.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Walker is currently being paid \$5,000 a month by Cornerstone for consulting and referrals.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]