

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CASE NO.: 16-2012-CA-8054-MA

DIVISION: CV-E

WALTER HAMMOND, an individual;  
JOHN HANSFORD JOINER, an individual  
and a Representative of the Class,  
and HUGH A. WILSON, an individual  
and a Representative of the Class,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF  
FLORIDA, a non-profit corporation,  
and ROBERT P. HARRY, JR.,

Defendants.

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**DEPOSITION OF:**  
**FRANCISCO P. VELASCO**

Taken on behalf of the Plaintiffs

DATE TAKEN: Wednesday, December 11, 2013  
TIME: 12:55 PM - 3:15 PM  
PLACE: Grand Lodge Building  
220 North Ocean Street  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Examination of the witness taken before:  
Laurie J. Miller, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and  
for the State of Florida at Large.

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Jacksonville, Florida 32246 (904)355-0198

## A P P E A R A N C E S

KEVIN S. SANDERS, ESQUIRE,

Kevin S. Sanders, P.A.  
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Jacksonville, Florida 32205  
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Appearing on behalf of the Plaintiffs.

WILLIAM M. DOUBERLEY, ESQUIRE,

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1000 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway, Suite 590  
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Appearing on behalf of the Defendants.

JACK M. LARGE, ESQUIRE,

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Jacksonville, Florida 32222  
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Appearing on behalf of John R. Stokes.

ALSO PRESENT: Walter M. Hammond  
and Richard E. Lynn.

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1 FRANCISCO P. VELASCO,  
2 having been produced and first duly sworn as a witness on  
3 behalf of the Plaintiff, then testified as follows:

4 THE WITNESS: I do.

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. SANDERS:

7 Q If you could, please state your full and complete  
8 name for the benefit of the record.

9 A My name?

10 Q Yes, sir.

11 A Originally, Francisco P. Velasco. They call me  
12 "Freddie."

13 Q They call you Freddie?

14 A -I-E.

15 Q All right. And would you mind if I call you  
16 Freddie, or do you want me to call you Brother Velasco  
17 or --

18 A Freddie is fine.

19 MR. SANDERS: Freddie is fine; okay.

20 Then, just for purposes of the record, any time I  
21 call him "Freddie," it would be in reference to the  
22 witness.

23 BY MR. SANDERS:

24 Q Have you ever had your deposition taken before,  
25 Freddie?

1           A     Deposition?

2           Q     This proceeding is called a deposition.

3                     Have you ever had one taken before?

4           A     No.

5           Q     I ask just to see what you're expecting.  And I  
6 just want to lay down a little bit of information so that  
7 you could have that.

8                     A deposition is, essentially, a  
9 question-and-answer proceeding.  I ask the questions --  
10 and, perhaps, Counsel for the Defendant will ask some  
11 questions -- and you have to provide all the answers, if  
12 you have knowledge of the situation.  If you don't have  
13 knowledge, telling me that you don't know or you don't have  
14 enough facts is a fine answer, too.

15                    All answers must be verbal.  We have a tendency  
16 sometimes to nod our heads, and I'll even acknowledge that  
17 sometimes, but sometimes the court reporter doesn't know  
18 what to do because there wasn't any verbal exchange, and  
19 she may type down "nodded head in the affirmative," but the  
20 Court still requires that it be a verbal answer.  So, if  
21 there's a yes-or-no question, just answer it "yes" or "no."

22                    If you don't understand a question that I ask,  
23 let me know, and I'll do my best to either rephrase the  
24 question or explain it or try to give you a preface to the  
25 question, and we can go forward like that.

1 I don't anticipate your deposition being long.  
2 We went a little bit long with Most Worshipful Griffith  
3 because he's involved in many more details of this case  
4 than you are; so, hopefully, this will go somewhat quickly,  
5 and -- and we'll just have to see how it goes.

6 If, however, you, at any time, need to take a  
7 break or need to go to the restroom, or you need a glass of  
8 water or something like that -- I'm not here to challenge  
9 you or to test your will or something like that -- just let  
10 me know; we'll take a short break, you can use the  
11 restroom, we'll grab a glass of water for you, or something  
12 like that. We just want to make sure that you're  
13 comfortable with the deposition process.

14 MR. DOUBERLEY: Go ahead.

15 MR. SANDERS: Do I need to wait?

16 MR. DOUBERLEY: Go ahead and do preliminaries  
17 with him, but --

18 MR. SANDERS: I'm about done with preliminaries.

19 MR. DOUBERLEY: Then just wait a minute.

20 MR. SANDERS: I'm fine.

21 And our first break.

22 (Brief recess.)

23 BY MR. SANDERS:

24 Q We're back on the record.

25 Freddie, just a little bit of, I guess,

1 technically, preliminary information, and it's just --  
2 what's your home address?

3 A 12414 Good Neighbor Trail, Jacksonville, 32225.

4 Q And how long have you lived there?

5 A Since 1990, January.

6 Q Are you employed?

7 A I am retired Navy, and still working.

8 Q And where are you working at?

9 A I'm working at Vicar's Landing.

10 Q Could you spell Vicar's, just --

11 A V-A-C-A-R-S.

12 Q Okay. And what do you do there?

13 A I'm a -- what you call it? -- I'm doing the  
14 ordering for all the food that they use.

15 Q Now, you are a Freemason; is that correct?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Okay. And what Lodge do you belong to?

18 A Originally, I'm from Solomon Lodge, No. 1, in  
19 Charleston, South Carolina, and I moved to Albert J.  
20 Russell Lodge.

21 Q And how long have you been at Russell Lodge?

22 A Approximately since 1995.

23 Q And do you have any titles or responsibilities at  
24 Albert J. Russell Lodge?

25 A I am the secretary, current secretary.

1 Q And how long have you been secretary there?

2 A I took over summer -- June of 19-- -- excuse me --  
3 2007.

4 Q And, as secretary, briefly, what are your duties?

5 A To write down the minutes, send dues notices for  
6 all the members, and all other duties of a secretary.

7 Q Are you familiar with the situation with Walter  
8 Hammond being indefinitely suspended?

9 A I am.

10 Q Was he a member of Albert J. Russell Lodge at  
11 that time?

12 A Correct.

13 Q At any time while you've been secretary, since  
14 2007, did Walter ever file a Petition with the Lodge for  
15 reinstatement?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And did he file that with you, or how -- what was  
18 the process of receiving that Petition?

19 A It was filed -- well, it was filed in April 2011.  
20 It was signed by Past Master Hardin A. Goff and myself.

21 Q Those are the only two signatures on the  
22 Petition?

23 A Yes, two; two signatures on the Petition.

24 Q Okay. And do you have a copy of that with you  
25 today, or are you just reading from notes?



1 A I have the Petition, itself; the original.

2 Q May I see it, please?

3 A (Witness tendering document to Mr. Sanders.)

4 Q And what you've presented me is -- it looks  
5 like -- it does look like an original, with the ink.

6 This is the original Petition?

7 A That's the original.

8 Q Okay. And it's printed front and back.

9 Where did you get this particular Petition form  
10 from?

11 A From the Grand Lodge.

12 Q So did you write, call, request Grand Lodge for a  
13 copy of a Petition for Reinstatement? How did you -- how  
14 did it come in your possession, the form?

15 A The form is -- you get it from the Grand Lodge.

16 Q Did you request --

17 A You request it from the Grand Lodge.

18 Q Do you recall when you requested it?

19 A Any day I come here, I get petitions, membership  
20 petitions -- all kinds. I don't recall.

21 Q So it wasn't by correspondence, then. You came  
22 up here, likely requested it, and they gave you a copy of  
23 it?

24 A Yes; if I asked for it, yes.

25 MR. SANDERS: Okay. We'll just go off the record

1 for a second.

2 (Discussion off the record.)

3 BY MR. SANDERS:

4 Q We'll get a copy of this, but I'll return the  
5 original back to you.

6 How is it that you have the original, and not  
7 Grand Lodge?

8 A The original is kept by the secretary, for his  
9 folder.

10 Q So, after this Petition was filled out and signed  
11 by you and Hardin Goff, as recommendations -- it also has  
12 Walter Hammond's signature, down at the bottom; does it  
13 not?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. And how did you get it to Walter, to get  
16 him to sign it?

17 A He was there with me, visiting Hardin Goff, in  
18 one of these -- where old people live.

19 MR. HAMMOND: It's the Atrium.

20 THE WITNESS: Atrium. We were there, and we did  
21 it right there.

22 BY MR. SANDERS:

23 Q Okay. So it wasn't on Masonic property?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay. After all this was signed, what, if

1 anything, did you do?

2 A I took it to the Master, the Worshipful Master at  
3 that time.

4 Q Do you recall who that was?

5 A It was Worshipful Valeriano Doras.

6 Q I'm going to have to ask you, for the benefit of  
7 me and for the court reporter, could you spell that for me?

8 A V-, as in Victor, -A-L-E-R-I-A-N-O.

9 Q And what did the Worshipful Master do, of Albert  
10 J. Russell Lodge?

11 A Later on, we sent a letter to the Grand Master,  
12 to ask to do the reinstatement for Walter.

13 Q And do you have a copy of that letter with you  
14 here today?

15 A (Witness tendering document to Mr. Sanders.)

16 Q You've presented me what appears to be a copy.

17 Is that a copy of the letter?

18 A It's a copy, yes.

19 Q The original was sent to the Grand Master?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And it's dated October 4th of 2011, and it was  
22 send to Most Worshipful Jim Harris?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And in the letter, you're requesting permission,  
25 pursuant to 44.76 of the Masonic Digest, to take up a

1 Petition for Reinstatement?

2 A (Witness indicating affirmatively.)

3 Q You have to --

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. What response, if any, did you get to  
6 this?

7 A (Witness tendering document to Mr. Sanders.)

8 Q You've presented me with another copy of a  
9 letter. It looks like it's dated October 20th of 2011. It  
10 looks like it's addressed to the Worshipful Master.

11 And Doras -- just for the court reporter's  
12 sake -- is spelled D-O-R-A-S.

13 And it says: In response to your letter dated  
14 October 4th, after due consideration, it's my decision, as  
15 Grand Master, to deny your request to allow Albert J.  
16 Russell to receive and act upon a Petition for  
17 Reinstatement for Walter Hammond.

18 Is that what it says?

19 A That's what you read.

20 Q So what, if anything, did you do after receipt of  
21 this letter?

22 A Nothing.

23 Q Nothing? Did you consider this, essentially, a  
24 denial of the Petition?

25 A Uh-huh.

1 Q You have to say "yes" or "no."

2 A Yes.

3 Q What, if anything, happened with regards to  
4 either the Petition or otherwise, with regards to the  
5 possibility of reinstatement of Walter Hammond, after you  
6 received this letter?

7 A At a later date, I received a letter from the  
8 Grand Master, Danny Griffith.

9 (Witness tendering document to Mr. Sanders.)

10 Q So the letter from Most Worshipful Jim Harris was  
11 received on October 20th, and you've now presented me with  
12 a letter of July 18th, 2013, from Most Worshipful Danny R.  
13 Griffith; is that correct?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Did you request this letter, or did it come as a  
16 surprise? Were you expecting it?

17 A I did not expect it. It just came.

18 Q Upon receipt of this correspondence from Most  
19 Worshipful Danny Griffith, what, if anything, did you do?

20 A I told my Worshipful Master that, whatever the  
21 letter says, we have to process.

22 Q And what, if anything, did you process?

23 A So we did -- come the stated meeting, we voted on  
24 Walter Hammond for reinstatement.

25 Q Now, what did you vote on at that meeting? Did

1 you vote on the original Petition or --

2 A We vote on the letter from the Grand Master.

3 Q So you just voted to receive the letter?

4 (Mr. Sanders exhibiting document to witness.)

5 I'm trying to figure out what you actually voted  
6 on.

7 A We voted on the reinstatement of Walter Hammond.

8 Q Okay. Was it your belief and the Brothers  
9 beliefs they were voting on reinstating Walter Hammond?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Okay. Was that what was told to all the Brothers  
12 prior to the ballot?

13 A That's -- yes, of course.

14 Q And, I guess, just for clarification of the  
15 record, when you say you were voting on reinstatement, what  
16 exactly did you believe would happen if you had voted yes?

17 A If we voted yes?

18 Q Yes.

19 A That means he's back.

20 Q Okay. So -- and that's what everybody else  
21 believed; that, if they voted yes, Walter would be  
22 reinstated?

23 A (Witness indicating affirmatively.)

24 Q You have to say --

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay; thank you.

2 Now, what was the procedure prior to the vote?  
3 Did this get noticed in the trestle board, was an e-mail  
4 sent out that this was going to be brought up, or was this  
5 just brought up for the first time at that stated  
6 communication?

7 A It was brought up for the first time at the  
8 stated communication.

9 Q So there was no notice to the general membership  
10 of the Craft of Albert J. Russell that this was going to be  
11 considered?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Do you recall how many brothers were at this  
14 particular meeting?

15 A I don't recall.

16 Q You don't recall.  
17 Was the Lodge full? Was it unusually light?  
18 unusually full? Was it just another regular night?

19 A About 20 members were there.

20 Q How many members does Albert J. Russell have,  
21 dues-paying members, active members?

22 A I don't have it at the top of my head. I  
23 wouldn't know.

24 Q Is it more than 20?

25 A Yes, of course, but I cannot give you the exact

1 figure.

2 Q Is it in the hundreds?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is it more than 100?

5 A Yes.

6 Q More than 200?

7 A Yes.

8 Q More than 300?

9 A No.

10 Q No? So it's somewhere between 200 and 300  
11 members?

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q Okay. And just to confirm, those 200 or 300  
14 members, there was no posting in the trestle board or  
15 communication with them that this was being brought up that  
16 night?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And, if you could, I guess, explain to me the  
19 process of how it was balloted upon.

20 A The Master called on the Senior Deacon to prepare  
21 the ballot box.

22 Q Well, let me ask you: Before that was called  
23 upon, was this letter read?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So the letter was read --



1 A Yes.

2 Q -- to those in attendance?

3 A Yes.

4 Q The 20 in attendance; okay.

5 Was it discussed, in any way? Did people make  
6 comments, suggestions, inquiries as to what it meant or  
7 anything, or it was just read, and then the ballot started?

8 A It was before the meeting, I have approached my  
9 Right Worshipfuls and my Past Masters, if this was correct,  
10 so it was discussed before that.

11 Q So it was discussed with all 20 people, or just  
12 with the Past Masters and the --

13 A And the --

14 Q -- Right Worshipful Masters from Albert J.  
15 Russell Lodge?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. And what, if anything, was said during  
18 those discussions?

19 A Just said -- well, I showed them the letter,  
20 here, asking what -- I showed them the letter from the  
21 Grand Master.

22 Q And did anyone comment or say anything or ask  
23 questions, that you can recall?

24 A They -- the DDGM was on a visit at that time, so  
25 they asked the District Deputy Grand Master.

1 Q So the District Deputy Grand Master was there for  
2 that visit?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Do you recall who that was?

5 A It was Jeff Foster.

6 Q Did Jeff Foster provide any input on how things  
7 should proceed?

8 A No. Albert J. Russell has nothing to do with  
9 proceedings on --

10 Q Okay. Was that ballot taken, I guess, before  
11 business was suspended for the visiting District Deputy, or  
12 was it done after?

13 A It was done before the District Deputy, through  
14 his part.

15 Q And I just want to confirm this: So, after you  
16 showed the letter to everybody, there was no discussion,  
17 comments, or anything that you can recall?

18 A No. I read that.

19 Q Okay. Now, only the members of Albert J. Russell  
20 Lodge voted; is that correct?

21 A Correct.

22 Q What was your understanding -- I'm trying to  
23 phrase it the right way -- what was your understanding of  
24 what would be a ballot against reinstatement?

25 A My understanding is, if there's a -- black cubes

1 come up with the -- if it's one or more, two or more --

2 Q Well, that's what I'm trying to figure out: Was  
3 it one --

4 A One or --

5 Q -- or two or three or four? What was your  
6 understanding?

7 A My understanding: If it's one, you have to  
8 re-ballot; two or more, it's closed.

9 Q Did you have more than one ballot?

10 A Yes.

11 What do you mean, one or more ballot?

12 Q Well, you said if there's one cube --

13 A One cube, yeah.

14 Q -- you would re-ballot?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did you have to re-ballot?

17 A We don't have to re-ballot.

18 Q Okay. So there was two or more cubes?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did you or did the Worshipful Master ever speak  
21 with anybody at Grand Lodge, to clarify the procedure of  
22 how to proceed on this letter?

23 A Say it again.

24 Q The letter that you received, the July 18th,  
25 2013, letter --

1 A Uh-huh.

2 Q -- which you said indicated that you could,  
3 essentially, ballot on reinstatement, did you, or did  
4 anybody -- the Worshipful Master -- address any confusion  
5 or issues of how to proceed with this ballot?

6 A To my understanding, he didn't; he did not.

7 Q So no one at Albert J. Russell called the Grand  
8 Lodge or called the Grand Secretary or called the Grand  
9 Master or the secretary or anybody at Grand Lodge to say,  
10 "How are we supposed to proceed on this?"

11 A No, we didn't call; I didn't call.

12 Q You just presumed, with it saying "ballot on  
13 reinstatement," that you were balloting on reinstatement?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And then, one ballot, and the matter was closed  
16 at that point in time; is that --

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. Was there any follow-up communications  
19 with Most Worshipful Danny Griffith or anybody at Grand  
20 Lodge with regards to the results of the ballot?

21 A We sent him a letter.

22 Q Do you have a copy of that with you?

23 A I -- I didn't make a copy of the letter that I  
24 sent to the Grand Master, but I have the format copy of  
25 what I sent.

1 (Witness tendering document to Mr. Sanders.)

2 Q Okay. So what you've presented to me is a letter  
3 on Albert J. Russell letterhead, dated August 6, 2013.

4 This is the one that you prepared?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And it was signed by your Worshipful Master,  
7 Reynaldo C. --

8 Is it Viray?

9 A Viray.

10 Q -- Viray; and that's V-I-R-A-Y.

11 Now, it's not signed by him, because you didn't  
12 make a copy of the actual signed one, but did he actually  
13 sign this?

14 A The original was signed, and then that's the one  
15 I sent to the Grand Master.

16 Q Okay. And there were no changes in the letter,  
17 other than what is here?

18 A No changes.

19 Q And you mentioned down here, at the bottom, in  
20 the last sentence of this, it says: Therefore, I'm  
21 reporting to you that Walter Hammond's ballot to be  
22 reinstated was rejected.

23 A Correct.

24 Q At any point in time, did you believe that you  
25 were balloting on whether or not to accept a Petition for

1 Reinstatement from Walter?

2 A I know we are balloting for reinstatement for  
3 Walter.

4 Q But were you balloting on -- you have to listen  
5 clearly -- were you balloting to decide whether or not to  
6 accept a new Petition from Walter Hammond for  
7 reinstatement?

8 A There is no new Petition.

9 Q Right; there is no new Petition.

10 But did you, at any time, or anybody believe that  
11 you were balloting for the sole and only purpose to decide  
12 whether or not to accept a Petition from Walter Hammond for  
13 reinstatement?

14 A We are balloting for reinstatement for Walter  
15 Hammond.

16 Q Okay. And it has nothing to do with accepting a  
17 Petition for Reinstatement?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Okay. And it has nothing to do with the previous  
20 Petition that was denied; is that correct?

21 A If you look at the Grand Master's letter --

22 Q Right. That's what I said.

23 You weren't presuming that what Most Worshipful  
24 Griffith was referring to was the previous Petition by  
25 Walter Hammond, which is going to be the first exhibit --

1 A Right.

2 Q -- because that was already denied, right?

3 A It was denied by the past Grand Master.

4 But, if you read the letter from the Grand Master  
5 Griffith, it states --

6 Q It just says to ballot on reinstatement; does it  
7 not?

8 (Mr. Sanders exhibiting document to witness.)

9 A Not that.

10 Q I'm sorry.

11 A It says, right here: A review of our Grand Lodge  
12 files reflects correspondence referencing the reinstatement  
13 of Walter Hammond from Albert J. Russell Lodge, No. 126.  
14 The correspondence dated October 4, 2011, was addressed to  
15 the Grand Master, Jim Harris, requesting permission to  
16 undertake procedures on balloting for a Petition for  
17 Reinstatement of Walter Hammond, in accordance with  
18 Regulation 44.76 of the Digest. It is my decision, based  
19 upon the review of said correspondence, to permit Albert J.  
20 Russell Lodge, 126, to proceed with the process of the  
21 reinstatement of Walter Hammond.

22 He said that.

23 Q And you did a great job reading that.

24 A Thank you.

25 Q My question is: Based on that language, did you

1 and the Lodge believe that you were voting on whether to  
2 reinstate, or were you voting on the previous Petition that  
3 was denied by the previous Grand Master?

4 A We were voting on the reinstatement of Walter  
5 Hammond.

6 Q Okay. And it had nothing to do with the previous  
7 Petition that was denied?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. Well, let me clarify that, because you  
10 said "yes": Did it have anything to do with the previous  
11 Petition or did it not?

12 A It did not.

13 Q It did not have; okay.

14 Other than the correspondence that was sent,  
15 indicating that the ballot was dark, has there been any  
16 additional action on any reinstatement or any petition on  
17 behalf of Walter Hammond?

18 A None.

19 Q I'm just trying to get them back in order, the  
20 way we talked about them.

21 And you may have answered this indirectly, but  
22 I'm going to ask you a direct question: Prior to balloting  
23 on Most Worshipful Griffith's letter regarding  
24 reinstatement, were there any discussions with regards to  
25 that ballot?



1           A     There were no discussions.  It was -- the letter  
2 was read, and there was no discussion.

3           Q     So, the letter was read, it was called for a  
4 ballot, and it was balloted?

5           A     Correct.

6           Q     Did you get a copy of your Notice of Deposition  
7 today?

8           A     No.

9           Q     You didn't?

10          A     No.

11          Q     So you wouldn't have brought any documents  
12 requested, as far as the Notice of Deposition, today, other  
13 than what you have in your file?

14          A     No; correct.

15          Q     Is there anything in your file related to this  
16 matter, other than additional copies of what you've already  
17 presented?

18          A     Just some minutes on what happened that night.  
19                 (Witness tendering document to Mr. Sanders.)

20          Q     And the minutes are signed by you and the  
21 Worshipful Master?

22          A     Correct.

23          Q     And there's two pages?

24          A     Yes.

25          Q     And it's with regards to the stated communication

1 of August 6th of 2013?

2 A Correct.

3 Q And that was the date that the ballot was held?

4 A Right.

5 Q And it indicates, under -- on the second page, it  
6 says "Balloting." It says: A ballot was spread to proceed  
7 with the process of reinstatement of Walter Hammond.

8 A Correct.

9 Q Is that what it says?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Anything else that you've got in there that  
12 hasn't already been produced?

13 A No.

14 MR. SANDERS: That will be --

15 MR. DOUBERLEY: Here's a copy, right here.

16 (Discussion off the record.)

17 (Mr. Lynn leaving room.)

18 BY MR. SANDERS:

19 Q I guess I could ask a few questions without the  
20 need for those.

21 You were never given a copy of the Notice of  
22 Deposition that requested documents?

23 A Correct.

24 Q When were you actually noticed of your  
25 deposition?

1           A     I was asked by the Grand Secretary, that one of  
2 these days we will meet. And I told him the best day for  
3 me is on Wednesday; it's my day off. So I'm ready for you  
4 every Wednesday. And yesterday I received a call that I  
5 have to be here.

6           Q     Okay. So you had less than 24 hours' notice?

7           A     Yes.

8           Q     Other than any conversations with Counsel for the  
9 Grand Lodge, how did you prepare for your deposition today,  
10 or did you?

11          A     I know it's about Walter Hammond, so I just took  
12 whatever I have in my file for Walter.

13          Q     Okay. But you didn't do any preparation for your  
14 deposition today?

15          A     Why?

16          Q     Okay.

17          A     This is what I know. This is what I gave you.

18          Q     You're not under the influence of any medications  
19 or anything like that that may impair your ability to  
20 understand or know what I'm talking about, are you?

21                   I just have to ask. It's sort of a base thing.

22          A     I'm not on any kind of drugs; regular, but no --

23                   MR. DOUBERLEY: While we have a moment, I want  
24 him to read the exhibit to the Notice of Depo.

25                   MR. SANDERS: Okay. He can do that on

1 cross-examination.

2 MR. DOUBERLEY: He can do it now, while we wait.

3 MR. SANDERS: Well, I was going to ask him some  
4 other questions.

5 MR. DOUBERLEY: Go ahead.

6 MR. SANDERS: I kind of lost my train of thought.

7 MR. DOUBERLEY: It worked.

8 The question is going to be if there's anything  
9 you didn't bring.

10 (Mr. Lynn reentering room.)

11 BY MR. SANDERS:

12 Q You've had an opportunity to look at the exhibit  
13 that was attached to the deposition.

14 A (Witness indicating affirmatively.)

15 Q Do you have anything in your possession that you  
16 haven't presented today, or back at the Lodge, that has  
17 been requested?

18 A I have given you them all.

19 Q Did Albert J. Russell, during the process of the  
20 charges being brought against Hammond, ever request the  
21 Grand Master of the Grand Lodge to take jurisdiction over  
22 the trial of Walter Hammond?

23 A I have a letter there from Worshipful Valeriano  
24 Doras for the reinstatement.

25 Q No. I'm going back to the original charges, not

1 to the reinstatement.

2 At some point after the charges -- well, I'll  
3 take it piecemeal, then: Were charges against Walter  
4 Hammond filed with Russell Lodge, or were they filed  
5 someplace else, to your knowledge?

6 A It was somewhere else; it's not in my Lodge.

7 Q So you don't have a copy of the actual --

8 A No.

9 Q -- charges that were filed against Walter  
10 Hammond?

11 A Correct.

12 Q And would that mean that you lost those charges  
13 or, based on the fact that you've been there since 2007,  
14 that the charges were never filed with Russell Lodge?

15 A To my knowledge, I didn't do charges for Walter  
16 Hammond.

17 Q So charges against Walter Hammond weren't filed  
18 with Albert J. Russell Lodge?

19 A No.

20 Q And Albert J. Russell Lodge is Walter Hammond's  
21 home Lodge; is it not?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Okay. Would you know why charges weren't filed  
24 with Albert J. Russell Lodge?

25 A They're not filing for anything for Walter

1 Hammond. He's one of our best Past Masters.

2 Q Now, after the charges were filed against Walter  
3 Hammond, did Albert J. Russell Lodge ever request the Grand  
4 Lodge to take jurisdiction over those charges?

5 A I do not recall.

6 Q You don't have any independent recollection, and  
7 there's not a letter in your file, or would that letter be  
8 in Walter Hammond's file, requesting taking jurisdiction  
9 over the matter?

10 A I do not recall.

11 MR. SANDERS: Okay. How many copies did you  
12 make?

13 MR. LYNN: Of what?

14 MR. SANDERS: Of those documents.

15 MR. LYNN: I made two copies of everything,  
16 except that. I only made one copy.

17 (Discussion off the record.)

18 MR. SANDERS: We'll make the Petition for  
19 Reinstatement -- did you do both sides?

20 MR. LYNN: No, but I can. It's just a blank;  
21 nothing's filled in.

22 MR. SANDERS: I'll just get him to put that on  
23 the record.

24 BY MR. SANDERS:

25 Q I've made a -- well, I haven't made -- Most

1 Worshipful Richard Lynn made a copy of the Petition for  
2 Reinstatement. It was two-sided; was it not?

3 A Correct.

4 Q If you could just double-check, by looking at it  
5 right now, there was really -- other than another part of a  
6 form on the back side of it, there was nothing printed on  
7 the back side, nothing filled in, or anything like that,  
8 was there?

9 A Nothing filled in; correct.

10 Q Okay. So this document here actually represents  
11 everything that was submitted, as far as the Petition on  
12 the front part of the form?

13 A Correct.

14 MR. SANDERS: Okay. We'll make that 1.

15 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 1 was marked for  
16 identification.)

17 We'll make the letter of October 4th, 2011, to  
18 Most Worshipful Jim Harris No. 2.

19 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 2 was marked for  
20 identification.)

21 We'll make the letter of October 30th, 2011, from  
22 Most Worshipful Jim Harris to Worshipful Master Doras,  
23 D-O-R-A-S, No. 3.

24 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 3 was marked for  
25 identification.)

1           We'll make the letter from Most Worshipful Danny  
2           Griffith, of July 18th, 2013, to the Honorable  
3           Reynaldo C. Viray, Worshipful Master at Russell Lodge,  
4           No. 4.

5           (Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 4 was marked for  
6           identification.)

7           (Mr. Lynn leaving room.)

8           We'll make the letter of August 6th, 2013, to  
9           Most Worshipful Danny Griffith, August 6th of 2013,  
10          No. 5.

11          (Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 5 was marked for  
12          identification.)

13          And the two-page exhibit regarding the minutes of  
14          the meeting of August 6th, 2013, in response to Most  
15          Worshipful Danny Griffith's edict command to ballot on  
16          reinstatement, No. 6.

17          (Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 6 was marked for  
18          identification.)

19          BY MR. SANDERS:

20           Q       Other than the communications, the letters that  
21       we've entered in as exhibits to this deposition, do you  
22       recall or did you have any other communications with any  
23       other Grand Lodge officer regarding the Walter Hammond  
24       matter?

25           A       No.



1 MR. SANDERS: No further questions.

2 MR. DOUBERLEY: Let's go off the record a minute.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 (Mr. Lynn reentering room.)

5 MR. SANDERS: Freddie, I was afraid to end the  
6 deposition, and Most Worshipful Richard Lanier (sic)  
7 was kind enough to find the document that I was unable  
8 to pull up.

9 MR. LYNN: It's Lynn, not Lanier.

10 MR. SANDERS: Oh, I'm sorry. Lynn; you're right.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION (continued)

12 BY MR. SANDERS:

13 Q A letter of May 7th, 2008 -- it looks like it is  
14 from you, Francisco P. Velasco, Secretary of Albert J.  
15 Russell Lodge. You didn't have any independent  
16 recollection of this, but I'm going to allow you an  
17 opportunity to read it and then see if it refreshes your  
18 recollection.

19 (Mr. Sanders tendering document to witness.)

20 A (Witness perusing document.)

21 Q Have you had an opportunity to review the letter?

22 A Yes.

23 Q By reading the letter, does it refresh your  
24 recollection of sending a letter to the Grand Lodge, to  
25 request jurisdiction for Albert J. Russell Lodge on the

1 charges of Walter Hammond?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Okay. And that was by, according to your letter,  
4 ballot of the Brothers present at the -- I guess, whichever  
5 meeting you had with regards to that?

6 A Right.

7 Q This will ultimately be 7.

8 Now, this wasn't in your file -- correct? -- or  
9 do you know if there's another file where letters like this  
10 or any response to it would be located?

11 A The letter officially was coming from me, but the  
12 response I do not recall.

13 Q Okay. So you don't know if there was any  
14 response to this?

15 A I cannot remember.

16 Q Okay. So I'll ask it a different way: Did  
17 Albert J. Russell actually receive jurisdiction and have  
18 the trial of Walter Hammond at Albert J. Russell?

19 A I cannot recall.

20 Q You don't recall if Walter Hammond was tried at  
21 Albert J. Russell Lodge?

22 A No, he's not tried at Albert J. Russell Lodge.

23 Q Okay. So there was a request --

24 A Right.

25 Q -- to have him tried at Albert J. Russell Lodge?

1 A Correct.

2 Q And that's this letter of May 7th, 2008?

3 A Uh-huh.

4 Q But you know that he was not tried at Albert J.  
5 Russell Lodge?

6 A He was not tried at Albert J. Russell Lodge.

7 Q Okay. Now, you indicate in the letter that the  
8 Grand Master does not agree with or approve the lodge's  
9 position, and you requested that this be resolved by the  
10 Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee.

11 Do you know why you did that?

12 A I cannot remember.

13 Q Okay. Do you believe you have other  
14 correspondence related to this at Albert J. Russell that's  
15 not in a file under "Walter Hammond"?

16 A Not that I know of.

17 Q Okay. Could you look, whenever you get there,  
18 and -- I guess you'd have to let Counsel know, and then  
19 Counsel will let me know?

20 A I will.

21 MR. SANDERS: Okay. This will be -- this letter  
22 will be No. 7.

23 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit No. 7 was marked for  
24 identification.)

25 Do you have a response letter that you want to

1 show me, or --

2 MR. DOUBERLEY: Oh, there's no letter after that  
3 one, no. This is April, April 2011.

4 MR. SANDERS: Okay.

5 MR. DOUBERLEY: You're done?

6 MR. SANDERS: Yes.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. DOUBERLEY:

9 Q Okay. Looking at Exhibit 7, in fact, was there a  
10 meeting where a vote was taken?

11 A I do not remember.

12 Q If there were, would there be minutes to reflect  
13 that?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Have you looked for those minutes?

16 A I will go back to the date and --

17 Q You haven't looked for them before today?

18 A No.

19 Q This issue hasn't come up with the Grand Master  
20 here or with the Grand Secretary, to look and see if there  
21 was anything documenting this?

22 A I do not recall.

23 Q Okay. Did you type this letter?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Who dictated the language that went in this

1 letter, or did you prepare it, yourself?

2 It's been a long time.

3 A It's been a long time. I can't remember.

4 Q Well, you know, I'm looking at the last sentence:  
5 If the Grand Master does not agree with or approve of the  
6 lodge's position, we request that this issue be resolved by  
7 the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee.

8 Is that your language, or do you remember?

9 A I do not remember.

10 Q This word "prerogative," is that a term that you  
11 use regularly?

12 A No.

13 Q No, it isn't, is it?

14 A No.

15 Q Somebody gave you this to type up, didn't they?

16 A I do not recall, but --

17 MR. DOUBERLEY: Well, look for the minutes, and  
18 we'll see if they're there. Give them to Richard, and  
19 he'll pass them on.

20 Thank you. Nothing more.

21 MR. SANDERS: Well, just to keep the record  
22 clear, I'll just then reserve and suspend, in case  
23 something comes up, so that I could possibly ask you  
24 additional questions on whatever you may find.

25 That doesn't necessarily mean that I will recall

1 your deposition. If they present documents, and they  
2 seem clear and obvious, we probably won't recall you,  
3 but I will reserve just based on that.

4 Are you going to make any pronouncements for him,  
5 or --

6 MR. DOUBERLEY: No. We'd better let him make  
7 that call.

8 MR. SANDERS: Okay. This will likely get  
9 transcribed. That means I'm going to ask her to type  
10 it up, print it in a form that I can present to the  
11 Court. As such, you, as the deponent, have the right  
12 to review what's been transcribed. You can't,  
13 technically, change anything --

14 MR. DOUBERLEY: Yes, he can.

15 MR. SANDERS: -- in the deposition --

16 MR. DOUBERLEY: Yes, he can.

17 MR. SANDERS: -- but you can add an addendum to  
18 the back of the deposition, citing a particular  
19 section that you believe would have been a different  
20 response, a different word, or something like that,  
21 and then the Court can take that under consideration  
22 at the end of the deposition.

23 So you can read after it's printed up, or -- and,  
24 if so, you'd have to give a phone number, some kind of  
25 contact for the court reporter to get in touch with

1 you, so that she could get a copy to you so that you  
2 could read it. Or if you believe that she will type  
3 it up appropriately and not change any of your words  
4 or make any corrections to it, you could waive that.  
5 So it's up to you, if you want to either read or  
6 waive, but you have to pronounce it on the record.

7 MR. DOUBERLEY: We trust the court reporter and  
8 normally waive it.

9 I will provide you a copy, no matter what, but  
10 it's usually accurate.

11 THE WITNESS: Okay.

12 MR. SANDERS: So you have to make the  
13 pronouncement: Waive or read?

14 MR. DOUBERLEY: "I'll waive it," he says.

15 THE WITNESS: Waive.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 (Thereupon, the deposition was adjourned at  
18 approximately 3:15 p.m.)

19 \* \* \*

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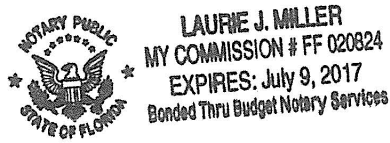
CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
                          )  
COUNTY OF DUVAL )

I, Laurie J. Miller, Court Reporter, certify that FRANCISCO P. VELASCO, personally appeared before me and was duly sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at Jacksonville, this 30th day of March 2014.

  
Laurie J. Miller





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DEPOSITION CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA   )  
                                  )  
COUNTY OF DUVAL   )

I, Laurie J. Miller, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing deposition and that the transcript is a true record of the testimony given by the witness.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 30th day of March 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie J. Miller, Court Reporter

PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT

JACKSONVILLE, Florida this 27th day of APRIL, (year) 2011  
To the Master, Wardens and Members of Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126, F. & A.M.:

The undersigned, formerly a member of your Lodge, hereby tenders the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, and respectfully requests to be restored to membership.

Do you believe in the existence of one ever-living and true God? Yes

What is your full name? WALTER MARNAN HAMMONA

Where do you reside? House and Street No. PO BOX 6  
Indicate Post Office Box or Mailing Address if other than your residence

City JACKSONVILLE State FL Zip 32201 Phone 866-8634

How long resided there? 28 YRS How long resided in the State of Florida? 47 YRS

Where have you resided during the past five years? 5529 NETTIE RD

What is your present occupation? INSURANCE SALES/SERVICE How long? 25 YRS

What is your business address? N/A Zip - Phone -

By whom and where employed in the past five years? SAME/SELF

Where were you born? CHICAGO IL (Town or City) (State)

Date of your birth: 7/7/38 day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Age 72

Have you ever plead guilty, or been convicted of any crime? No

If so, give details of when and where: \_\_\_\_\_

PETITIONER MUST READ THE FOLLOWING: To be eligible for resident, non-resident or other relief programs a Florida Mason must have been a member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for not less than 10 years, the last 3 years whereof must have been continuous at the time application is made and he would not be eligible for such relief if he had already attained the age of 66 years at the time he became a Florida Mason.

When were you suspended? 7/10/08 Cause of Suspension: UMC -  
GM DID NOT LIKE MY EDITORIAL IN TC NEWSLETTER

REFERENCES

Each petitioner is required to furnish in the space provided below, the names of three (3) persons (preferably Masons, local) as references that have known him for a period of five years or more.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY/STATE/ZIP
(1.) J. ROBBY STOKES	_____	_____
(2.) KEVIN SANDERS	_____	_____
(3.) FITZROUGH POWELL	_____	_____

RECOMMENDATIONS

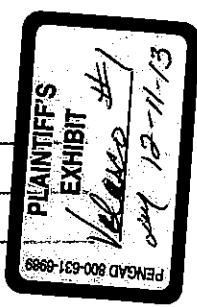
We recommend the above petitioner, based upon our belief that he is of good moral character, temperate, industrious.

Signatures of Members of the Lodge to which the petition is directed.

{ Hardin A. Goff P.M.  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify on my honor that all these answers are true and correct, and that I have read, understood and agree with all statements made on this application form.

SIGN YOUR FULL NAME (in ink) Walter Marnan Hammona



REQUIRES BACKGROUND CHECK

**Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126**  
**Free & Accepted Masons**  
P.O. Box 17711  
Jacksonville, Florida 32245-7711

Grand Lodge of Florida  
220 North Ocean Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
RE Walter Hammond

October 4, 2011

M.: W.: Jim J. Harris,

We have received a petition for reinstatement from Walter Hammond who was given an indefinite suspension approximately three years ago. We are now seeking to follow all the proper procedures necessary to allow a ballot to be spread.

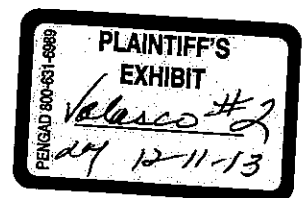
According to the digest of Masonic Law in 44.76 of the Penal Code, it states that: When the Grand Lodge, either in the exercise of its original jurisdiction or on appeal, imposes or affirms a penalty of indefinite suspension or of expulsion, no action in respect to reinstatement shall be taken by a Particular Lodge without express written permission or consent of the Grand Lodge or its authority."

We do hereby formally request permission to go forward with the procedures for balloting on Walter Hammond to be reinstated in Albert J. Russell Lodge.

Fraternally,

*Valvarado Dixon*

Worshipful Master



# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida

M. W. JIM J HARRIS  
Grand Master

P.O. Box 780412  
Sebastian, FL 32978-0412  
Res: (772) 388-5477  
Mbl: (772) 532-4053  
E-mail: jimmyj232@comcast.net

October 20, 2011

Hon. Valeriano R. Doras, Worshipful Master  
Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126  
2019 Forest Gate Drive E  
Jacksonville, FL 32246

Re: Walter M. Hammond

Dear W.: Brother Doras:

In response to your letter dated October 4, 2011, after due consideration it is my decision, as Grand Master, to DENY your request to allow Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126 to receive and act upon a Petition for Reinstatement from Walter M. Hammond.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely and fraternally,

  
Jim J Harris  
Grand Master

JJH/wj

Cc: Grand Secretary  
Chairman, Jurisprudence Committee  
Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel  
D.D.G.M., 12<sup>th</sup> Masonic District  
Secretary, Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126



# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida

DANNY R. GRIFFITH  
Grand Master

July 18, 2013

1059 Birchwood Drive  
Orange Park, FL 32065-6245  
Res. (904) 272-5469  
Mbl. (904) 465-4462  
E-Mail: tdcgriff@bellsouth.net

Hon. Reynaldo C. Viray, Worshipful Master  
Albert J. Russell Lodge No 126  
4492 Summer Haven Blvd. S.  
Jacksonville, Florida 32258

Re: Walter M. Hammond Reinstatement

Dear Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Members.

A review of our Grand Lodge files reflects correspondence referencing the reinstatement of Walter M. Hammond from Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126. The correspondence, dated October 4, 2011, was addressed to then Grand Master, Jim J Harris, requesting permission to undertake procedures on balloting for a Petition for Reinstatement of Walter Hammond in accordance with Regulation 44.76 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida.

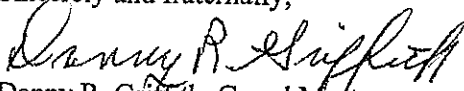
It is my decision, based upon review of said correspondence, to permit Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126 to proceed with the process of the reinstatement of Walter M. Hammond, in accordance with Regulation 44.76. This process will initially require the Lodge to vote to proceed at a Stated Communication. In the event a favorable vote is obtained to proceed, I require that a copy of the Due Notice to the membership be filed with my office a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the final vote.

*44.76 When the Grand Lodge, either in the exercise of its original jurisdiction or on appeal, imposes or affirms a penalty of indefinite suspension or of expulsion, no action in respect to reinstatement shall be taken by a Particular Lodge without express written permission or consent of the Grand Lodge or its authority.*

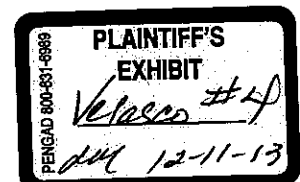
*44.72 A petition for reinstatement from an indefinite suspension may be filed with the Secretary and voted upon at a Stated Communication after being presented at a previous Stated Communication, but the membership must have due notice. Provided, if such petition is rejected, the Petitioner may not petition the Lodge for reinstatement until after one (1) year from the date of such rejection.*

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require additional direction.

Sincerely and fraternally,

  
Danny R. Griffith, Grand Master

Cc: Francisco P. Velasco, Secretary, Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126  
Jeffrey S. Foster, D.D.G.M., 12<sup>th</sup> Masonic District  
Robert P. Harry, P.G.M., Chairman, Masonic Jurisprudence Committee  
Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary  
Alan S. Rosenthal, P.D.D.G.M., Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel



"Together We Can Accomplish Anything"

**Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126**  
**Free & Accepted Masons**  
P.O. Box 17711  
Jacksonville, Florida 32245-7711  
(904) 894-9081 email: Jax\_boyeth@yahoo.com

August 6, 2013

M.: W.: Danny R. Griffith, Grand Master  
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Florida  
220 N Ocean Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

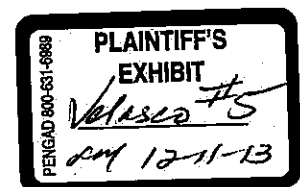
Re: Walter M. Hammond

Dear M.: W.: Danny Griffith:

At our Stated Meeting on August 6, 2013 your letter dated July 18, 2013 was read and a ballot was spread to proceed with the process of the reinstatement of Walter M. Hammond. After the balloting was completed it was found that the ballot was DARK because of the numerous black cubes I declared the ballot was closed. Therefore, I'm reporting to you that Walter M. Hammond's ballot to be reinstated was rejected.

Fraternally,

Reynaldo C. Viray  
Worshipful Master



**ALBERT J. RUSSELL LODGE No. 126**  
2015 Gilmore Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32204  
Stated Communication – August 6, A. L. 6013, A. D. 2013

The Chairs were filled by the following officers:

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	<b>W.: Rey Viray</b>	<b>Senior Deacon</b>	<b>Bro. Herman Arellano</b>
<b>Senior Warden</b>	<b>Bro. Gigi Nobleza</b>	<b>Junior Deacon</b>	<b>Bro. Ben Miciano</b>
<b>Junior Warden</b>	<b>Bro. Manny Eco</b>	<b>Senior Steward</b>	<b>Bro. Chris Atwell</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>W.: Leo Castillo</b>	<b>Junior Steward</b>	<b>Bro. Herbert Doliente</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>W.: Freddie Velasco</b>	<b>Marshall</b>	<b>W.: Eddie Dayrit</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>W.: Val Doras</b>	<b>Tyler</b>	<b>Bro. Nestor Abelon</b> <b>Bro. Ed Marayag</b>

The Lodge was opened in due form in the Master Mason Degree at 7:45 PM.

In addition to the above named officers, the following Brothers were present: R.: W.: Raymond Ali, W.: Romy Abas, W.: Bing Barro, W.: Augusto Pabustan, W.: Pete Silva, W.: Preston Moses, and Bro. Adonis Ignacio. Visiting Brethren are: R.: W.: Jeff Foster DDGM 12<sup>th</sup> District, W.: Mike Pease of Riverside Lodge No. 266, W.: Harry Chappell of Ionic Lodge No. 101, and W.: Kevin Spargur of Duval Lodge No. 159. With the above names there are 35 members and visitors present as recorded in the Attendance Register. The Worshipful Master introduced all Past Masters.

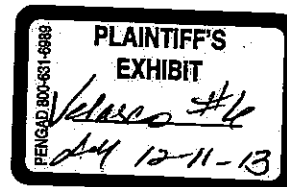
The Worshipful Master then proceeded to demonstrate in rendering Grand Honors to the Craft prior to receiving the R.: W.: Jeff Foster, DDGM of the 12<sup>th</sup> Masonic District.

The Worshipful Master welcomes the DDGM and called on the Brothers to assist him to render Grand Honors to the DDGM. The DDGM went ahead and let the Worshipful Rey Viray to continue the Lodge business.

**Minutes** from the following meeting was read and approved:  
Stated Communication – July 16, 2013

**Correspondence:**

Grand Master's Calendar of events for August and September  
Grand Master's Executive Order No. 4  
Corporate Board Minutes June  
Board of trustees Minutes June  
Information on the passing of M.: W.: John Kavanaugh, Past Grand Master and order to drape the Altar  
Suspension of recognition of the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria  
Letter from Grand Master Petition for Reinstatement of Walter Hammond



**Sickness and Distress:**

Bro. Rey Sanalila is recuperating at home. Bro. Rhyno and Sis Alice are both in Hospital. A Moment of silent was given to our Bros. and Sisters and for speedy recovery.

**Motions:**

Motion was made to pay our bills. Motion Carried

Motion was made replace the front door in the amount of \$1,700.00. Motion Carried

Motion was made to reimburse Worshipful Eddie Dayrit in the amount of \$171.59 for the overage expenses for the roof leaks which it was originally approved in the amount of \$500.00. Motion Carried

Motion was made by R.W. Raymond Ali to add additional \$200.00 for W. Eddie Dayrit for the expenses. Motion Carried.

Motion was made that Albert J. Russell to buy Ads to PMAAI souvenir program in the amount of \$125.00. Motion Carried.

A letter was read from the Grand Master Danny Griffith to proceed with the process of the reinstatement of Walter Hammond.

Bro. Junior Warden Thanks W.: Preston Moses, Brother Ray Holton and Bro. Alfred Latayan who help prepared the set the dining for dinner.

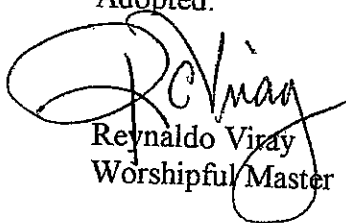
**Balloting:**

A ballot was spread to proceed with the process of the reinstatement of Walter M. Hammond. After the balloting was completed it was found that the ballot was DARK.

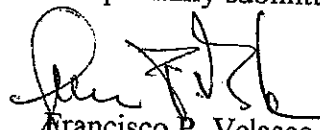
**Masonic Education:**

LYPMGC by Worshipful Bruce Nelson

Adopted:

  
Reynaldo Viray  
Worshipful Master

Respectfully submitted:

  
Francisco P. Velasco  
Secretary



Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126, F.&A.M.  
P. O. Box 17711  
Jacksonville, FL 32245-7711

May 7, 2008

Hon. Richard E. Lynn, PGM, Grand Secretary  
Grand Lodge F&AM of Florida  
P. O. Box 1020  
Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020

Re: Charges vs. R.W. Walter M. Hammond

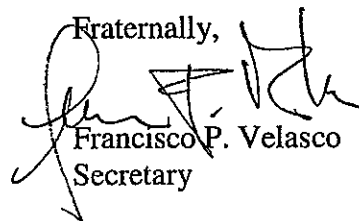
Dear M.W. Brother Lynn:

At our Stated Communication of May 6, 2008, I read the charges brought against the above Brother by M.W. Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master, and R.W. Harry Franklin Hufham. At the same Stated Communication, R.W. Brother Hammond read his letter denying the charges and requesting that they be heard by this Lodge.

By vote of the Lodge, and according to Regulations 44.12, 44.13, 44.24, 44.25, and 44.77, Albert J. Russell Lodge claims penal jurisdiction over R.W. Brother Hammond, and claims the right to consider the charges at a Stated Communication of this Lodge. R.W. Brother Hammond is not a current or past Grand Lodge officer, nor is he a current Lodge Master or District Deputy Grand Master. He also has not been charged with a civil or criminal misdemeanor or felony, and so we believe that he does not fall under the Grand Master's prerogative to assume jurisdiction over him.

If the Grand Master does not agree with or approve of the Lodge's position, we request that this issue be resolved by the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee.

Fraternally,

  
Francisco P. Velasco  
Secretary

c: R.W. Walter M. Hammond

