

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR STORY COUNTY

ALEXANDRA “SONDRA” WILSON,	)	
<i>Plaintiff,</i>	)	CASE NO. LACV053674
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
RELIABLE STREET INC, LOCKWOOD	)	
CAFE, LOVE CLUB LLC, LYND SAY	)	
NISSEN, SHARON STEWART, WILLA	)	
COLVILLE, DENISE MARTINEZ, and	)	
CHARLIE ESKER	)	
<i>Defendants</i>	)	
_____	)	

**Exhibit F — Statement prepared by Defendant Esker, then sent by Defendant Stewart to Iowa Civil Rights Commission (“ICRC”) (on or around May–July 2022)**

This exhibit contains statements submitted by Defendant Esker to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, together with contemporaneous communications referenced elsewhere in the record.

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**Section 1 (Exhibits F-1): Defendant Esker’s Statement to ICRC (on or around May 1 through July 20, 2022).**

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*Exhibit F-1 — Esker’s Statement to the ICRC (on or around May 1 through July 30, 2022).*

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**Nature of Document:** Third-party letter of support for Defendants, submitted to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

**Author:** Charlie Esker — Nonbinary transgender artist, frequent exhibitor in the Reliable Street gallery who maintained social interactions with Defendant Colville outside of Reliable Street

To whom it may concern,

My name is Charlie Esker. I am a trans resident of Ames, graduate of ISU, regular at Lockwood cafe, community member, and artist. I fervently support Lockwood Cafe, Reliable St., Sharon Stewart, Lyndsay Nissen, and all lockwood staff. I reject wholeheartedly any accusations of discrimination or slander by Sondra Wilson.

In principle and in practice, Reliable St. has been and is a safe space for all people. Lockwood cafe and Reliable St. have time and time again donated their time, energy, space, and money to the queer community. Hosting a trans vigil, queer renaissance show, multiple pride events, and a queer singles mingle. All of my queer friends and I have always felt accepted and bolstered by the community at Lockwood and Reliable St., and these are all examples of the community that has been cultivated around Reliable St., a community that welcomes everyone with open arms.

Sondra, too, was welcomed into this community; it was through her own actions that she had to be removed from the space. This has nothing to do with Sondra being trans, and I am confident that Sondra was not discriminated against nor was her reputation "slandered." Only those of us unfortunately involved know anything about why or how Sondra was banned. *Sondra is not the victim in this situation.* Sondra made Lockwood staff, along with queer and POC community members uncomfortable, constantly. Sondra would call and text me often, and I witnessed Sondra do the same to my best friend everyday, multiple times a day, with no response. I witnessed Sondra make racially insensitive comments and display culturally appropriated artwork. I witnessed her harass the Lockwood staff at their place of work nearly every day of the week. I witnessed her insert herself into leadership positions without listening to the input of the community. In these positions, she spent her own money without asking anyone

or getting prior acknowledgement that she would be refunded and expected compensation for her unnecessary purchases. She went as far as asking people in Lockwood cafe, at the open mics, and *highschoolers* in SHEPH for money. It is abundantly clear that any "volunteering" or "community work" she did was for her own selfish gain: to build *her* portfolio, to grow *her* skills, and to give *her* a space to express *herself*.

This is a sad situation, one that could have been a wakeup call to a woman who was harming the community of which she was a part. An opportunity for her to learn from her mistakes and take that knowledge into the next community she is in so she doesn't hurt people again. Sondra's perception of everything that has happened, her claims of discrimination and slander, are so disconnected from reality that it is genuinely shocking. Instead of apologizing even once, she immediately went on a crusade to discover who reported her and how to get revenge. All of which only confirms that asking her not to return to Reliable St. was the correct and only response.

## **Relevance and Context**

This exhibit contains a written statement submitted by Defendant Esker to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in support of co-Defendants.

In the statement, Esker asserts that Plaintiff engaged in conduct including harassment, racist comments, solicitation of money, and other misconduct.

The contemporaneous communications reproduced in this exhibit are presented for comparison with those later assertions.

Esker's Statement to ICRC — page 2 of 2.

**Section 2 (Exhibits F-2 and F-3): Esker’s prior communications contradict their statement (March – April 2022).**

The following contemporaneous text messages between Plaintiff and Defendant Esker, dated **March 16 and April 1, 2022**, demonstrate that Esker:

- Maintained friendly, casual communication with Plaintiff;
- Expressed no concern or objection regarding any alleged racist or harassing conduct;
- Stated directly that they were “not really involved in any of that” when informed about Plaintiff’s exclusion; and
- Made no reference to having personally witnessed any misconduct.

These communications contain no reference to the allegations later described in Esker's ICRC statement.

Exhibit F-2 — Friendly exchange between Plaintiff and Esker (March 16, 2022).

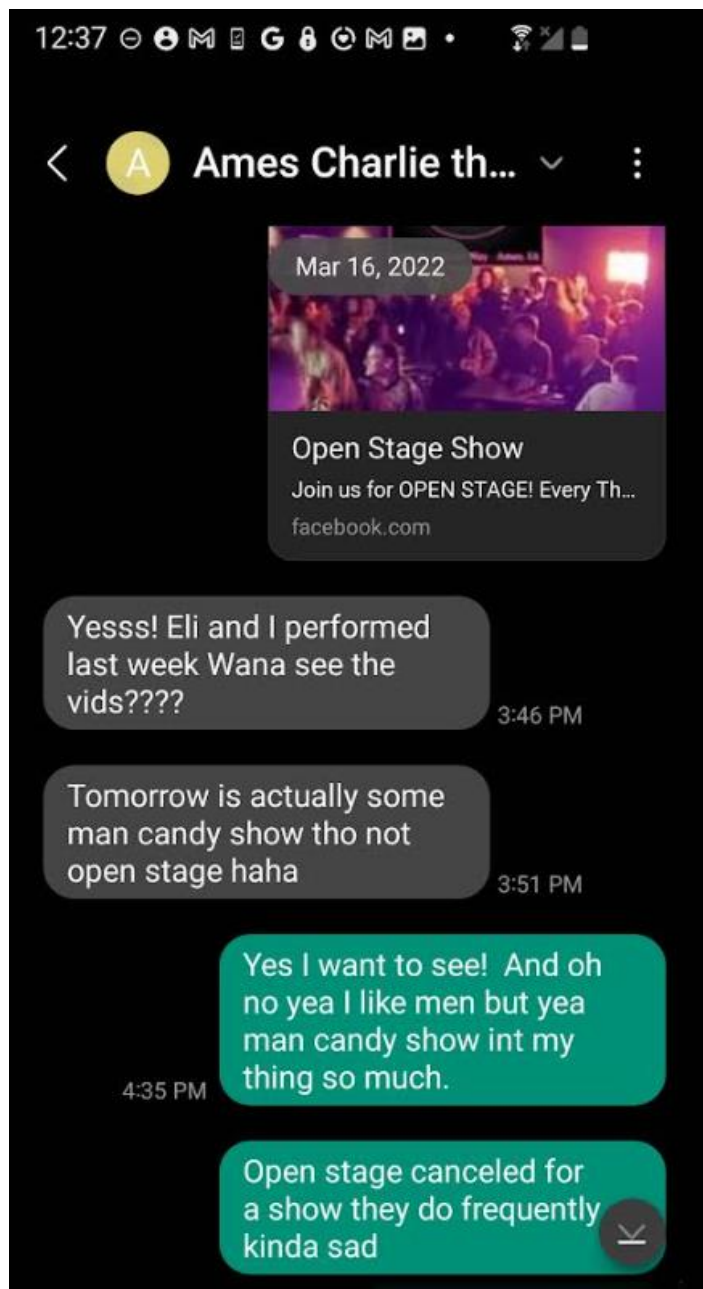
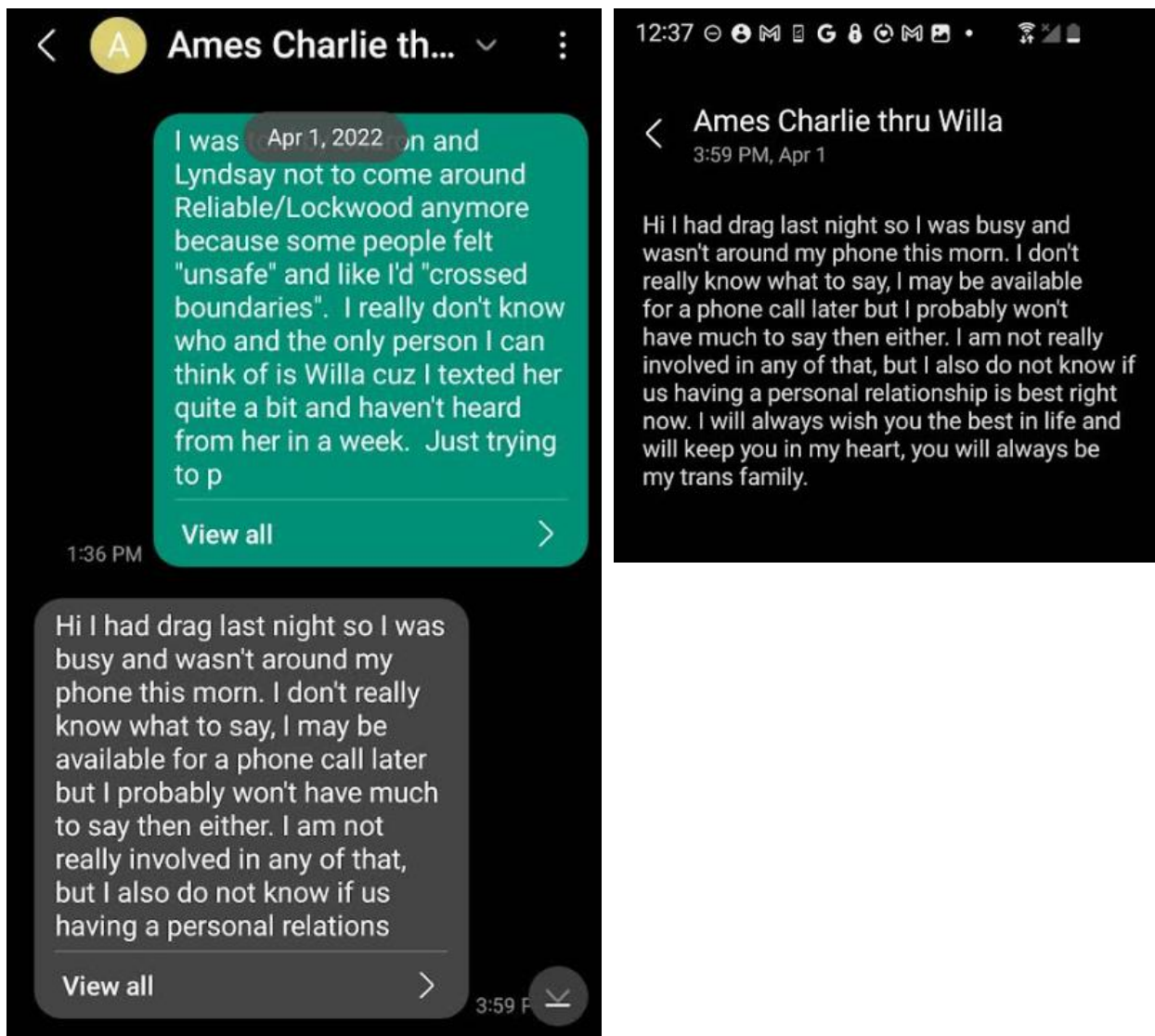


Exhibit F-3 — Plaintiff inquires about being barred from Reliable/Lockwood; Esker responds kindly with no reference to allegations later used in statement to ICRC (April 1, 2022).



## **Timeline**

- March 16, 2022: Friendly conversation between Plaintiff and Esker.
- April 1, 2022: Esker states they are "not really involved in any of that" regarding Plaintiff's exclusion from Reliable Street and Lockwood Café.
- May–July 2022: Esker submits a statement to the ICRC describing conduct they state they personally witnessed.

## **Conclusion**

The communications reproduced in this exhibit are presented for comparison with the statements later submitted by Esker to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.