



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 01/17/2018

PRAKAZREL SAUMUEL MICHEL, also known as PRAS, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] date of birth October 19, 1972) was interviewed in a media room in the building containing his office and studio, located at 10000 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90067. The interview was conducted by FBI Special Agent Robert B. Heuchling and Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General (DOJ-OIG) Special Agent Harry Lidsky. The interviewing agents explained the purpose of the interview, and MICHEL provided the following information:

The interviewers asked MICHEL about his relationship with HIGGINBOTHAM and the \$41 million in HIGGINBOTHAM'S escrow account.

MICHEL met GEORGE HIGGINBOTHAM (HIGGINBOTHAM) through the music business in New York years ago. Later, while MICHEL was working with the Obama administration on recovery work in Haiti, he bumped into HIGGINBOTHAM at the United States Agency for International Aid, where HIGGINBOTHAM was then working, and the two stayed in touch. MICHEL then reached out again to HIGGINBOTHAM in early 2017.

MICHEL is engaged in a business deal with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who is called [REDACTED], pronounced [REDACTED] because of the length of and difficulty pronouncing his name. [REDACTED] is a Thai billionaire tycoon. [REDACTED] owns a company or companies that manufacture ceramic trinkets and similar items that are sold to tourists in China Towns all over the world. MICHEL identified [REDACTED] company as "Mark something," but later identified it as LUCKY MARK. All of [REDACTED] money comes from his businesses and is legit.

MICHEL asked HIGGINBOTHAM to travel to Hong Kong for "optics," because MICHEL wanted to make it appear like he was a professional and had counsel. MICHEL also needed HIGGINBOTHAM to advise him in case there were contracts or business arrangements to review while they were in Hong Kong.

MICHEL owns PRASPARITY GROUP (PRASPARITY), which is the umbrella or holding company for all of MICHEL'S entertainment and business projects. For example, when MICHEL made the movie "Sweet Micky," he created SWEET MICKY, LLC as part of PRASPARITY specifically for the project. MICHEL is

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Investigation on 01/08/2018 at Los Angeles, California, United States (In Person)

File # 205B-NY-6730302-OIG Date drafted 01/10/2018

by Robert B. Heuchling

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the "product" that he is selling, meaning MICHEL has the ideas, connections and ability to create entertainment and media business. MICHEL is currently working on multiple entertainment projects that include technology, music and video. HIGGINBOTHAM has no official position in this business, but provides ad hoc services. MICHEL's newest project is Blacture, which is an app that is to act as a central medium for all of black culture, including movies and commerce, and can be thought of as a "black Amazon." HIGGINBOTHAM does not work specifically for Blacture. MICHEL is also working on a business called BlackFilm.com.

MICHEL met [REDACTED] on a yacht. [REDACTED] a good friend of MICHEL's, invited MICHEL to the yacht to watch the World Cup in Brazil. This yacht is the fourth largest in the world and is owned by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a friend with Saudi princes. MICHEL and [REDACTED] discussed politics and business, and the two stayed in touch.

Greenberg Traurig assisted MICHEL in drafting his music investment contract with [REDACTED]. During the interview, MICHEL showed the interviewing agents a contract on his phone that he said was drafted by Greenberg Traurig. MICHEL said the contract was with RED ROCKS LIMITED, which was one of [REDACTED] companies.

MICHEL initially re-contacted HIGGINBOTHAM in 2017 because he needed a recommendation for a new business manager. MICHEL trusted HIGGINBOTHAM because they were friends, and HIGGINBOTHAM wasn't going to take advantage of him. HIGGINBOTHAM was also smart and handled business and legal things well.

MICHEL needed a new business manager because his current manager (later identified in the interview as [REDACTED] was not transparent, and [REDACTED] used MICHEL's money to pay for his own legal expenses. HIGGINBOTHAM recommended [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had control of some of MICHEL's companies and accounts. For example, URBANE LLC is another of MICHEL's companies. [REDACTED] set up URBANE and its purpose is to pay MICHEL's bills and to pay MICHEL's taxes.

MICHEL thought [REDACTED] was greedy, and MICHEL and [REDACTED] did not get along. In late September or early August 2017, MICHEL and [REDACTED] broke off their business relationship. MICHEL subsequently asked HIGGINBOTHAM to help him out until he got his business accounts in order. MICHEL told HIGGINBOTHAM he intended to put his investment money with "a girl" who does some financial work for him. HIGGINBOTHAM advised him not to, and HIGGINBOTHAM and MICHEL decided to use HIGGINBOTHAM's attorney escrow account to hold MICHEL's money.

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MICHEL wanted to use HIGGINBOTHAM's escrow account so he could avoid using any of his prior business accounts, which are still connected to [REDACTED]. He did not want to use a Greenberg Traurig escrow account because of the fees. MICHEL also wanted to be transparent with [REDACTED], and holding the money in an escrow account provides a sense of security to [REDACTED].

HIGGINBOTHAM never met [REDACTED]. HIGGINBOTHAM's role was to provide the escrow account. HIGGINBOTHAM knew the reason for the investment from [REDACTED], and knew what MICHEL was trying to do. MICHEL expected that HIGGINBOTHAM would tell MICHEL if things weren't right and started going wrong. MICHEL did not need HIGGINBOTHAM's legal opinion on the investment because it was all "above board."

The \$41 million deposited into HIGGINBOTHAM's escrow account all comes from [REDACTED] and is all for entertainment investment purposes. [REDACTED] was supposed to invest \$50 million, but then only sent \$41 million. [REDACTED] told MICHEL if MICHEL showed him proof of success, more money would follow.

MICHEL has no other business deals or arrangements with [REDACTED] and he has received no other money from [REDACTED].

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about HIGGINBOTHAM's visit to the Chinese embassy in the United States.

[REDACTED] is a close friend of MICHEL's. [REDACTED] is a former banker at Deutsche Bank and now lives [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] introduced MICHEL to [REDACTED], who is a Chinese citizen who used to live in California. (MICHEL did not know [REDACTED] full name, nor if he had a Chinese name.) [REDACTED] now works in the Chinese government. [REDACTED] knew that MICHEL was involved with politics in Haiti, and thought he could use MICHEL's connections to get Chinese investment in Haiti for infrastructure and other projects. In return, China would get help from Haiti to "get rid of Taiwan" and exploitation rights to Haiti's gold, copper and oil. MICHEL agreed to help [REDACTED] with this project. MICHEL used WeChat to communicate with [REDACTED].

While working on this project with [REDACTED], MICHEL needed to get a message to the Chinese ambassador to the United States about that status of the project. MICHEL was in California and could not make the trip himself, so he asked HIGGINBOTHAM to go to the Chinese embassy to tell the Chinese ambassador that MICHEL was unable to meet him in person, but MICHEL was working and making progress on the China-Haiti project.

HIGGINBOTHAM's visit to the Chinese embassy had nothing to do with [REDACTED] or LOW, and had nothing to do with the money he received from [REDACTED].

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The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about JHO LOW's involvement with the \$41 million in HIGGINBOTHAM's escrow account.

JHO LOW, also known as LOW TAEK JHO (LOW), has nothing to do with the \$41 million MICHEL received from [REDACTED].

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about the ANICORN and ARTEMUS bank accounts.

[REDACTED] set up two companies for MICHEL: ANICORN and ARTEMUS. ANICORN was a consulting company and ARTEMUS was for entertainment. Neither company had any connection to HIGGINBOTHAM.

ANICORN had no connection with [REDACTED].

The interviewers asked MICHEL what kind of consulting work ANICORN was doing, or going to do. MICHEL said the intent of ANICORN and ARTEMUS was to help MICHEL separate his businesses and finances from [REDACTED].

LOW has nothing to do with anything MICHEL is doing financially. LOW is not investing in MICHEL.

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about the money received into the ANICORN and ARTEMUS bank accounts.

[REDACTED] agreed to and was contracted to give MICHEL \$125 million. [REDACTED] initially gave MICHEL \$8 to \$10 million for start-up capital, and the rest was to follow. This money came in to either the ANICORN or ARTEMUS account. MICHEL made no big payments out of these accounts.

[REDACTED] fee was 5 percent of MICHEL's \$10 million. MICHEL balked at this, and [REDACTED] later said he'd only reduce his fee to 4.5 percent. This led to MICHEL and [REDACTED] falling out.

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about ELLIOT BROIDY

Soon after DONALD TRUMP was elected and before he was inaugurated, MICHEL's driver introduced MICHEL to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a friend of President TRUMP or First Lady MELANIA TRUMP. [REDACTED] told MICHEL that the Trump campaign wanted support from black celebrities, especially at the inauguration, and asked if MICHEL could assist. At some point in their back and forth, [REDACTED] introduced MICHEL to ELLIOT BROIDY (BROIDY).

MICHEL had actively raised money for the Hillary Clinton campaign and was surprised to be talking to a representative of the Trump campaign.

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The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about NIKKI DAVIS

NIKKI DAVIS (DAVIS), nee NIKKI LUM, was a Democrat who became a Republican because of her husband, even though her parents were staunch Democratic supporters.

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about his accounts at Morgan Stanley.

Morgan Stanley's compliance department cleared MICHEL's accounts there and had no problems holding his money. [REDACTED], who was MICHEL's relationship manager at Morgan Stanley, had problems with what MICHEL wanted to do with the money, and it was [REDACTED] who caused MICHEL to close his account with Morgan Stanley. This caused Morgan Stanley to give MICHEL a \$32 million check, which he still has.

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about the payments from ANICORN and ARTEMUS to DAVIS and COLFAX.

COLFAX is BROIDY's law firm. MICHEL paid DAVIS and COLFAX for consulting purposes related to Malaysian politics. All of the money MICHEL paid to DAVIS and COLFAX was for this purpose.

Because of the DOJ filings related to 1MDB, MICHEL knew Prime Minister NAJIB RAZAK (NAJIB) and the Malaysian government needed political help in the United States and saw an opportunity to broker a deal and make some money. MICHEL contacted DAVIS and told her he needed an attorney that could help. DAVIS referred MICHEL to BROIDY. MICHEL pitched his idea to BROIDY, and BROIDY said they could use his legal firm, COLFAX, and handle this through his attorneys. BROIDY also said by helping Malaysia, he saw an opportunity for him to get a business deal with Malaysia. The deal was for one of his companies involved in technology and security.

BROIDY went to Thailand and met with an Englishman who works in, or is close to, the Malaysian government. This Englishman traveled with NAJIB to the United States when the prime minister met with President TRUMP.

MICHEL paid BROIDY from the investment money he received from [REDACTED].

COLFAX and BROIDY have not really done anything to help with the Malaysian legal matter. BROIDY is more focused on his business deal with Malaysia.

MICHEL has never spoken on the phone with BROIDY; he goes through DAVIS. MICHEL has met with BROIDY a few times and DAVIS is always present.

Referring to the money MICHEL received from [REDACTED], MICHEL said, "I know something else is going on; no one gives you money like that."

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MICHEL was comfortable with BROIDY having such a high success fee because he knew that the case would never be resolved.

The interviewing agents told MICHEL that they know LOW was involved with his business deal with [REDACTED] and his arrangement with BROIDY and COLFAX. The interviewing agents asked MICHEL to explain LOW's involvement.

MICHEL admitted that his association with COLFAX and BROIDY was not related to Malaysian political help, but was related to assisting LOW.

In 2016, MICHEL bumped into SZEN LOW (SZEN), LOW's brother, in St. Tropez. SZEN asked MICHEL to speak to LOW on the phone. LOW said that the DOJ action against him was all lies. LOW asked if MICHEL knew a lawyer or firm that could help with his case. LOW thought that his current legal team was moving too slowly. LOW wanted it resolved now. MICHEL said he would look into it.

SZEN and MICHEL subsequently communicated via WhatsApp. (MICHEL said these WhatsApp messages were on his old BlackBerry, which he recently replaced, which he has at home. The interviewing agents instructed MICHEL not to delete these messages and to keep the phone safe.)

Sometime later, SZEN texted and asked if there had been any movement, and MICHEL said he'd get back to him. MICHEL later texted SZEN and recommended a law firm. About one month later, SZEN replied and said the firm was no good. In late 2016 or early 2017, MICHEL recommended Boies Schiller. SZEN didn't like this idea either.

MICHEL explained his situation with LOW to DAVIS and said he needed an attorney to help out. DAVIS recommended COLFAX. MICHEL then texted SZEN the name COLFAX. SZEN said: interesting and we'd get back to you. SZEN asked: who at COLFAX? MICHEL replied: ELLIOT BROIDY. SZEN texted back: we want to talk.

SZEN subsequently provided travel details to MICHEL, and MICHEL flew to China to meet with LOW. MICHEL and LOW met at a restaurant attached to MICHEL's hotel. LOW said: I need more lawyers because mine are moving slowly; I need someone who can talk to the DOJ to get this thing dismissed or move it along, and I'll pay a fine if necessary. MICHEL explained that BROIDY has a law firm and that his wife is an attorney, and that BROIDY is a chairman in the Republican National Committee. LOW asked if BROIDY and his wife would join his team. MICHEL said yes.

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During this meeting, MICHEL told LOW about his new entertainment business ventures, and asked if LOW knew any investors. This was MICHEL's way to charge and to benefit from making the connection. LOW said he'd think about it.

MICHEL knew that LOW could not invest in the United States or send money to the United States because he was "toxic" and like the "Bubonic plague" and U.S. banks would not want to deal with him. MICHEL did not think LOW had a lot of money left to invest.

MICHEL returned to the United States and talked to DAVIS, who set up a meeting with BROIDY. The three met at BROIDY's office in Century City. MICHEL explained LOW's situation to BROIDY, and BROIDY said he would talk to LOW's current lawyers and look into it. BROIDY said that he would consult on the matter and his wife would act as an attorney.

At some point, BROIDY asked how he was going to get paid. BROIDY said he could not be paid by LOW, and said he did not want LOW's money. MICHEL said he understood and that he did not want LOW's money either. MICHEL thought he and BROIDY both understood that LOW could not send money to the United States, and BROIDY wanted to be assured he was paid. Eventually, BROIDY and MICHEL agreed that MICHEL would pay BROIDY.

BROIDY wanted \$15 million in compensation. MICHEL negotiated that to \$8 or \$9 million. MICHEL was comfortable paying BROIDY because he figured he would just add the amount that BROIDY wanted on to the amount he told [REDACTED] he needed for his business investment.

MICHEL paid DAVIS because DAVIS made the introduction and because DAVIS knew that MICHEL was getting lots of money.

At some point, SZEN texted MICHEL to make it happen and get BROIDY on the team.

MICHEL again flew to China to meet with LOW. MICHEL explained that BROIDY was now involved, that he was reviewing the case and that he had met with the other attorneys involved. MICHEL was giving LOW a "bull shit run-around." MICHEL wanted to make LOW think that he and BROIDY were engaged, but MICHEL also wanted to make sure that he was going to get his investment.

After MICHEL returned from China, SZEN texted that [REDACTED] was interested in investing. MICHEL knew that [REDACTED] investment was most likely due to pressure from LOW, or LOW telling [REDACTED] that LOW needed [REDACTED] help with this.

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MICHEL flew to Thailand and met with [REDACTED]. MICHEL discussed his business plan and the investment, and [REDACTED] explained his business, LUCKY MARK. Near the end of the meeting, LOW showed up and acted surprised to see MICHEL. LOW asked about an update on COLFAX, and MICHEL said BROIDY was still trying to figure the case out. (MICHEL did not remember exactly when, but at one meeting, LOW told MICHEL that his attorneys would handle things with BROIDY.)

About two weeks after MICHEL's trip to Thailand, MICHEL received a text on WhatsApp from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told MICHEL the first payment would be coming soon. MICHEL thought [REDACTED] told him the account and bank it would be coming from. MICHEL thought he provided his account and bank information to [REDACTED] at this time.

[REDACTED] continued to text MICHEL prior to each payment he sent to MICHEL.

At some point, BROIDY held a conference call with LOW's attorneys. BROIDY said it was a complicated case and he needed more information, and because there was a new administration, it was going to take a while to get the case moving again. MICHEL subsequently texted SZEN to give him an update and tell him about the conference call.

*The interviewing agents showed MICHEL a document titled "Fee Agreement," dated May 1, 2017, between ANICORN, LLC and TYCOON TALENT LIMITED (a copy of the document is included in the attached 1A envelope).*

On the fifth page (un-numbered in the document), MICHEL identified his signature as the "Authorized Signatory" for ANICORN, and [REDACTED] signature as the "Authorized Signatory" for "Client." MICHEL confirmed that he signed the document, and thought he must have signed it while in Thailand, or on one of his other trips to Asia.

MICHEL said this contract was "bullshit."

*The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about his correspondence with [REDACTED] and HIGGINBOTHAM about the ANICORN and ARTEMUS accounts.*

*The interviewing agents told MICHEL that [REDACTED] sent an email to City National Bank about the deposits from LUCKY MARK into MICHEL's accounts. The agents told MICHEL that the email indicated that the deposits were for a civil litigation matter involving LUCKY MARK. The interviewing agents asked MICHEL what he told [REDACTED] about LUCKY MARK.*

MICHEL said the information sent by [REDACTED] to City National Bank is false. MICHEL did not tell [REDACTED] to write this information.



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MICHEL told [REDACTED] that LUCKY MARK was owned by a friend and the deposits represented the friend investing in MICHEL's entertainment business. MICHEL may have also told [REDACTED] that his businesses involved entertainment and renewable energy.

*The interviewing agents showed MICHEL an email from HIGGINBOTHAM to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at City National Bank titled "Anicorn, LLC & Artemus, LLC - Banking Relationship," dated September 27, 2017 (the email is included in the attached 1A envelope). The interviewing agents allowed MICHEL to read, then read numbered paragraph 2, on page 2, to MICHEL.*

MICHEL said the statement from this paragraph, "Lucky Mark has retained Anicorn to identify appropriate counsel, as well as other professionals to resolve a highly complex civil litigation matter," is false.

*The interviewing agents allowed MICHEL to read, then read numbered paragraph 4, on page 2, of the September 27 email, to MICHEL.*

MICHEL said the statement from this paragraph, "Lucky Mark requested Anicorn to identify suitable counsel to assist with its legal matters," is false.

*The interviewing agents allowed MICHEL to read, then read numbered paragraph 5, on page 2, of the September 27 email, to MICHEL.*

MICHEL said the statement from this paragraph, "Lucky Mark requested work on a project that was separate from work being done by Anicorn so Mr. Michel directed those funds through Artemus as the fee being charged was to be applied to the entertainment matters as opposed to Anicorn business," is false.

*The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about the source of the information contained in the September 27 email.*

Since HIGGINBOTHAM wrote the email, MICHEL thought HIGGINBOTHAM would know. MICHEL did not know where HIGGINBOTHAM got this information.

*The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about GUO WENGUI.*

LOW informed MICHEL about the GUO WENGUI (GUO) matter, and LOW set up a meeting between the Chinese ambassador and MICHEL. MICHEL informed the Chinese ambassador that there was a sick, pregnant woman who the United States wanted released from China, and if China released her, it would show good faith and help toward resolving the GUO matter. Soon after, China released the woman. MICHEL thought there may have been things going

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on behind the scenes, but that he deserved some of the credit for her release.

The money in HIGGINBOTHAM's escrow account has nothing to do with the GUO matter.

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL about any overseas meetings involving MICHEL, BROIDY, DAVIS and LOW.

MICHEL, BROIDY and DAVIS traveled to Thailand to meet with LOW. The meeting was before he received any payments; he thought it was in May 2017. The point of the meeting was to discuss the status of LOW's legal issues.

During the meeting, BROIDY said he would sit down with LOW's legal team and figure out the best way to get to a settlement. LOW said that was good and that he wanted to settle and resolve the issue.

The interviewing agents asked MICHEL if the investment money he received was a loan.

All of the investment money MICHEL received from [REDACTED] was a loan, which [REDACTED] expected MICHEL to repay. MICHEL expects that he will turn the \$100 million investment into three or four times that, and be easily able to repay [REDACTED].

During the interview, MICHEL provided the following information about his other travels:

MICHEL wanted the interviewing agents to understand that because of his celebrity status and his connections, he travels all over the world and meets with all sorts of people.

MICHEL traveled to North Korea as part of a goodwill trip.

MICHEL traveled to North Sudan to help a friend with a business venture. [REDACTED] (phonetic) ([REDACTED]), a friend of MICHEL's, was working on a deal with North Sudan. During discussions with a representative from the North Sudanese government, [REDACTED] mentioned that he knew MICHEL, which excited the representative. (MICHEL explained that many current African politicians were educated in America and grew up listening to his music.) [REDACTED] knew that MICHEL was involved in politics and had a renewable energy company called DUSABLE. [REDACTED] contacted MICHEL. MICHEL traveled to North Sudan with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and an "Indian guy." The group met with the North Sudanese president and the minister of oil and discussed the U.S. sanctions against the country and the difficulties for

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investment. In October 2017, after MICHEL's travel, the U.S. government lifted its sanctions and the travel ban against Sudan, giving the appearance that MICHEL's delegation had got things done.