

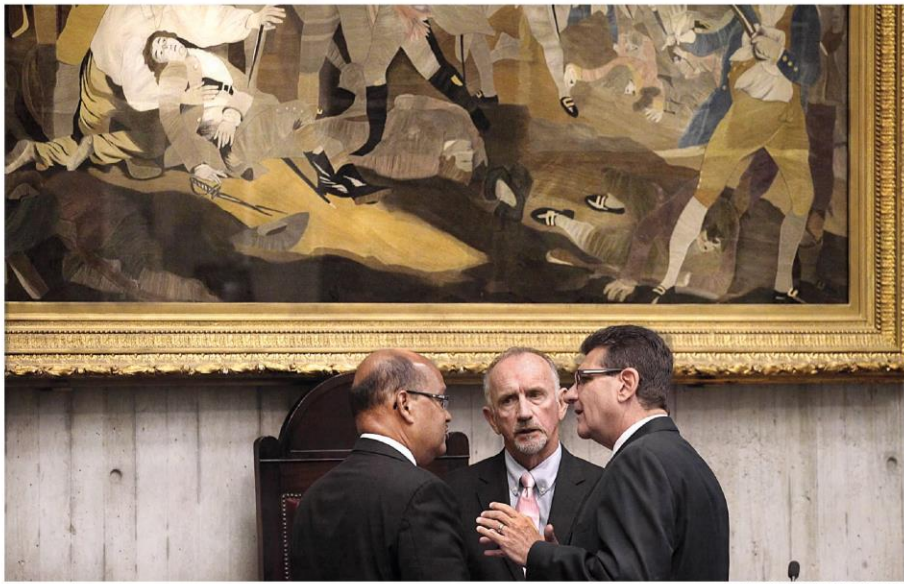
EVERY BEAT IS INVESTIGATIVE

Tips for digging deep,
even on deadline





- Think in terms of **records** and **data**
- Play power centers off each other to develop sources
- Gather data and records before you need it for a story
- Chip away at long-term projects



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

City Councilors Charles Yancey, Bill Linehan, and Mark Ciommo (left to right) discussed the pay raise issue prior to the vote.

Money in their own pockets

City councilors approve \$20,000 pay raise; Walsh silent on whether he'll veto it

By Andrew Ryan and Meghan E. Irons
GLOBE STAFF

Boston city councilors debated for an hour Wednesday about fair pay and the sacrifice of public officials before voting to give themselves a \$20,000 raise in January 2016, which would boost their annual salaries to \$107,500.

The wage increase must still be approved by Mayor Martin J. Walsh, who would not say Wednesday whether he will sign the measure. Walsh has 15 days to issue a veto, but with a 9-4 vote, the council possessed the two-thirds majority needed to override the mayor.

"You all can count," City Council president Bill

Linehan told reporters after the vote. "There's nine votes."

Final passage came after councilors delayed the raise until after the next election to comply with state ethics law. The council also lowered the raise by \$5,000 because Walsh had threatened to veto a salary increase to \$112,500, the amount first proposed by Linehan.

Four councilors objected to the pay increase because they said that it was too large and that councilors should not vote on their own salaries. The majority who favored the raise maintained that councilors' pay had not increased since 2006. They argued that other municipal employees have had

SALARY, Page B5

How they voted

YEA
Bill Linehan
Frank Baker
Mark Ciommo
Michael F. Flaherty
Tito Jackson
Salvatore LaMattina
Timothy McCarthy
Stephen J. Murphy
Charles C. Yancey

NAY
Matt O'Malley
Ayanna Pressley
Michelle Wu
Josh Zakim

City Council votes for pay raise

► SALARY

Continued from Page B1

several raises, and that the media were crusading against fair pay for councilors.

Councilor Charles C. Yancey said that in today's real estate market, the current salary of \$87,500 would not be enough to buy a home in Boston. Councilor Stephen J. Murphy said he is never allowed to "turn this job off" and that he was still "Councilor Murphy" at Sunday Mass, taking constituent service requests on the church steps.

Councilor Tito Jackson and several others spoke about the financial sacrifices they made to run for office, in some cases



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

City Councilor Stephen Murphy stated his case to his fellow councilors. "Recovery has come for mostly everybody, but the council still has not gotten its fair share," he said.



The Boston Globe

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

For some, short days in City Hall

Records show a range of councilors' work routines, attendance as their pay raise nears

By Andrew Ryan
GLOBE STAFF

Boston City Councilor Stephen J. Murphy argues that he deserves a raise because he works tirelessly. But Murphy, who owns a condominium in Florida, was absent from Government Center for weeks at a time the last two winters, ac-

ording to an analysis of his schedule and time-stamped data from City Hall's executive parking garage.

Councilor Timothy McCarthy's schedule in his first year in office had golf penciled in for 14 workdays — days on which there is no evidence he ever came to City Hall. McCarthy

said he hit the links only six of those days. The Hyde Park councilor took three weeks of vacation during his freshman year and a two-week, all-expenses-paid trip to Israel with colleagues.

Councilor Michael F. Flaherty Jr. earned \$100,000 to \$200,000 last year as a partner

at a law firm while collecting \$87,500 as a full-time city councilor. Records show that on many days, Flaherty did not access City Hall's parking garage until 10:30 a.m. or later and was often gone before 3:30 p.m.

A yearlong push by most councilors to give themselves a substantial pay raise has cast a

spotlight on the enduring debate about the workload of the 13-member body. Councilors don't punch a clock. They have unlimited vacation days.

Their bosses — the city's voters — will go to the polls Nov. 3. Five councilors have no opponent, and three others face only

COUNCIL, Page A6

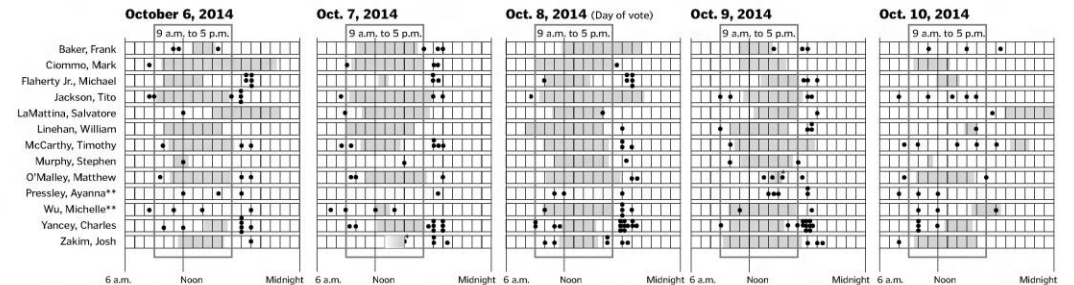
Work habits of Boston city councilors

On Oct. 8, 2014, Boston city councilors voted 9 to 4 to give themselves a \$20,000 raise, a boost that would have increased their annual salaries to \$107,500. Mayor Martin J. Walsh vetoed the pay hike and proposed a lower increase — to \$99,500 — which is poised to become law next month. The Globe tried to quantify how much councilors worked the workweek they voted to give themselves a raise. Councilors noted they also often attend events on weekends.

HOW TO READ THIS GRAPHIC

The Globe tried to confirm councilors' attendance at all events before they arrived at the parking garage and after they left the garage for the day.

- SPAN BETWEEN THE FIRST AND LAST TIME COUNCILORS ACCESSED THE EXECUTIVE GARAGE EACH DAY
- START OF AN EVENT THE GLOBE CONFIRMED THEY ATTENDED OR COULD NOT DISPROVE



*The garage data had quirks, and there was no record of Councilor Josh Zakim entering the garage Tuesday morning, or of Councilor Matt O'Malley entering on Thursday morning. Both councilors did exit the garage those afternoons.

**Councilor Ayanna Pressley does not drive. Councilor Michelle Wu sometimes takes public transportation and did not use the garage that Monday.

SOURCE: Analysis of City Hall's executive garage, attendance at hearings and meetings, councilors' calendars, and social media feeds

MEGHAN E. IRONS, ANDREW RYAN, TONIA COWAN/GLOBE STAFF, FELICIA GANS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Data show a mix of work habits for councilors





HOW TO HUNT FOR PUBLIC DATA AND RECORDS

- Think about where your institution intersects with city, state, or the federal government?
- Taxes, permits, inspections

START WITH DATA AND RECORDS THAT ARE ALREADY PUBLIC

Look for Open Data Portals

- Curated data made public by cities, towns, state, and others
- Does not include all data fields, and often I ask for more
- Can be a great place to see what's available
- Always call agency and make sure you understand data before publishing
- Ask for underlying documents or reports
- Example: [Analyze Boston](#) -- 246 data sets that include approved building permits, [food establishment inspections](#), 311 service requests, building and property violations, [code violations](#), police records, [rent smart](#), and much more.
- Fun: Inspection records from [Harvard Business School Cafeteria](#)
- Example: [Cambridge Data Portal](#):



MORE DATA AND RECORDS THAT ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE OLINE

Property Records

- Property sale records: [Registry of Deeds](#)
- Property Tax / Assessing Records: [Boston Assessing Records](#)
- Interactive Property Maps: [Boston](#), [Cambridge](#), [Massachusetts](#)
- Building Permits: [Boston](#), [Cambridge](#)





LOBBYING

- How does your institution get what it wants from the government?

MOST LOBBYING RECORDS ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE ONLINE

- State lobbying records: [Massachusetts](#)
- City lobbying records: [Boston](#)
- Federal Lobbying: [US Senate](#), [US House](#)
- Always call to ask to make sure you understand the records
- Ask whether there are more records not online
- Note the names of your school's lobbyists so you can see where else they show up
- Examples:

[Harvard state lobbyists](#), [Harvard Boston Lobbyists](#), [US Senate Lobbying Report](#)



FUN RECORD REQUEST: LOBBYISTS EMAILS

- You may not be able to make a public record request for your institution's emails, but there are workarounds
- Make public record requests to city and state officials for emails with key school officials and lobbyists.
- In Massachusetts, the governor's office is not subject to FOIA, but I've accessed the emails of the gov's staff and political advisors by FOIAing their messages to other state agencies.

Keolis adviser helped shape Baker's strategy, e-mails show

By Andrew Ryan and Mark Arsenault
GLOBE STAFF

On one side was the commuter rail company with one of the largest contracts in state history, seeking still more money to run the system. On the other, Governor Charlie Baker's administration, charged with holding this company accountable.

But a review of e-mails obtained by the Globe shows that a consulting firm working for Keolis Commuter Services helped orchestrate the communication strategy with the administration on a controversial proposal to grant the company an additional \$66 million in July.

State officials may have had reason to listen: The firm was Keyser Public Strategies, founded by Will Keyser, the architect of Baker's 2014 campaign.

"Really important that everyone be aligned on messaging, along with game plan for media briefing next week," wrote Eileen O'Connor, a partner in the firm and Keyser's wife, in a June 30 e-mail to Baker's communications director, his press secretary, and communications directors for the

KEOLIS, Page A6





CRAFTING RECORD REQUESTS

- Record requests don't have to be complicated
- Always submit a request in writing
- Learn the basics of the law

TIPS FOR RECORD REQUESTS

- Use a public records letter generator to help with the legal language but kept it simple and don't try to be a lawyer.
- The Student Law Press Center has one at splc.org/lettergenerator
- Be specific as possible in the records you are seeking. Looking at data in record portal to get a sense for how records might be kept and what's available.
- Be iterative. Start with a smaller request and grow.
- Request record layouts or datamaps so you know what available.
- Learn the deadlines.
- Massachusetts has a good guide you can find [here](#).





DEVELOPING SOURCES

- Look for former or departing employees.
- Exploit competing power centers for sources. Faculty vs administration. Law school vs Biz school.
- Write fair stories.



FERPA

- Family Educational Rights Privacy Act
- Often used to shield access to records.
- One key detail: FERPA does not apply after death.

GLADIATOR ▾



Aaron Hernandez (left) celebrated with his University of Florida teammates after they won the Southeastern Conference Championship trophy in 2008. (Dave Martin/Associated Press)

GLADIATOR
AARON HERNANDEZ & FOOTBALL, INC.

PART 2 OF 6: FLORIDA
**LOST IN
"THE SWAMP"**

BY THE SPOTLIGHT TEAM

OCTOBER 14, 2018

The series was reported by Andrew Ryan, Beth Healy, Bob Hohler, Sacha Pfeiffer, and editor Patricia Wen. Today's story was written by Ryan.

An official transcript has heat-sensitive ink on the reverse side.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Office of the University Registrar
222 Criser Hall, Box 114000
Gainesville, FL 32611-4000
www.registrar.ufl.edu
352-392-1374

STUDENT NAME: AARON JUAN HERNANDEZ
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: [REDACTED] UFID: 0255-6989
DATE OF BIRTH: NOVEMBER 04, 1989
SEX: MALE
BASIS OF ADMISSION: HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE: LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
MAJOR: SOCIOLOGY
RESIDENCY STATUS: NON-FLORIDA RESIDENT
DATE PRINTED: APRIL 13, 2018
TYPE OF CREDIT: SEMESTER HOURS
COPIES REQUESTED: 2 COPY NUMBER: 02 PAGE NO.: 01

GENERAL COUNSEL: [Signature]

Prefix & Course Number	Course Title	Section	Grade	Credits	Credits for GPA	Prefix & Course Number	Course Title	Section	Grade	Credits	Credits for GPA
CLAS1 M 997 R	M	E	11/01/04			UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	21L	2008 SUMMER			
CLAS1 M 997 R	998	998	E 08 12/22/08			UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	21L	JUNE-AUGUST - 6 WEEKS			
SANTA FE CITY COLLEGE-FL 2007 SPRING						UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2008 SUMMER					
ENC 0620	WRITING 2			I B	4.00	ENP 3091	CITIES OF THE WORLD			B	3.00 3.00 3.00
SEA 0002	PREP READ 2			I C+	4.00	ENP 4060	SOC HUMAN SEXUALITY			C+	3.00 3.00 3.00
EARNED HRS	0.00	GRADE PTS	0.00	HRS CARRIED	0.00	EARNED HRS	3.00	GRADE PTS	9.00	HRS CARRIED	3.00
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 1LS 2007 SPRING						UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2008 FALL					
COM 1000	INTRO COMMUNICA	STU		B	3.00 3.00 3.00	ENH 3612	HISTORY OF CONSTR			B+	3.00 3.00 3.00
LET 2000	INTRO TO RECREATION			B	3.00 3.00 3.00	ENH 2210	TECHNICAL WRITING			A	3.00 3.00 3.00
SON 3400	STU DEVY UNIV GETTING			B	2.00 2.00 3.00	GLY 1102	AGE OF DINOSAURS			C	3.00 3.00 3.00
SFC 2400	INTRO PUBLIC SPEAKING			B	3.00 3.00 3.00	SVP 2552	BIODIVERS CONG GLOBAL			C+	3.00 3.00 3.00
EARNED HRS	11.00	GRADE PTS	27.00	HRS CARRIED	9.00	COLLEGE LEVEL ACADEMIC SKILLS TEST COMPLETE BY ALTERNATIVE METHOD					
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 1LS 2007 SUMMER						UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2009 SPRING					
ENC 1101	EXPOS & ARGU WRITING			C	3.00 3.00 3.00	ENP 5536	C MED TERM HLTH PROFESS			E	3.00 3.00 3.00
EARNED HRS	3.00	GRADE PTS	6.00	HRS CARRIED	3.00	ENP 2007	WORLD OF MATHE			C+	3.00 3.00 3.00
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 1LS 2007 SUMMER						UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2009 SUMMER					
ENH 4410	INTERPERS COMM SKILLS			A	3.00 3.00 3.00	STA 2023	INTRO TO STATISTICS 1			B	3.00 3.00 3.00
EARNED HRS	3.00	GRADE PTS	12.00	HRS CARRIED	3.00	ENP 3700	REINTEGRATE IN HR SOC			B	3.00 3.00 3.00
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 1LS 2007 SUMMER						UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2009 FALL					
VEC 2100	WORLD HERBS & VEGETAR			B+	3.00 3.00 3.00	ENP 4930	SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE			C	3.00 3.00 3.00
EARNED HRS	3.00	GRADE PTS	10.50	HRS CARRIED	3.00	EARNED HRS	3.00	GRADE PTS	6.00	HRS CARRIED	3.00
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 1LS 2007 FALL						UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2009 SUMMER					
AEE 3633	C RESEARCH/BUSINES WRIT			A	3.00 3.00 3.00	STA 3024	INTRO TO STATISTICS 2			E	3.00 3.00 3.00
EDP 3110	HUMAN GROWTH & DEVEL			B	3.00 3.00 3.00	EARNED HRS	.00	GRADE PTS	.00	HRS CARRIED	3.00
ENH 3531	HLTH & HED TERMINOLOGY			A	3.00 3.00 3.00	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2009 FALL					
ORH 1030	PLANTS GARDEN & YOU			A	1.00 1.00 1.00	ENP 3840	CAREER/LIFE SPAN PLAN			C	3.00 3.00 3.00
PEL 2112	BOWLING 2			B	2.00 2.00 2.00	STA 3824	INTRO TO STATISTICS 2			D	3.00 3.00 3.00
THE 2000	THEATRE APPREH 1			C+	3.00 3.00 3.00	STO 3534	POVERTY			D	3.00 3.00 3.00
EARNED HRS	15.00	GRADE PTS	50.50	HRS CARRIED	15.00	ENP 3600	SOCIETY & INDIVIDUAL			B-	3.00 3.00 3.00
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2008 SPRING						UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA 21L 2009 FALL					
ANT 2301	HUMAN SEXUALITY & CUL			B	3.00 3.00 3.00	EARNED HRS	7.00	GRADE PTS	17.01	HRS CARRIED	5.00
NSF 1107	MATH FOR LE MATHS 2			B	3.00 3.00 3.00	DECLARED APR 19 2017					
ROM 4016	HISTORY OF JAZZ			C+	3.00 3.00 3.00	SUN TOTAL	95.00	UF CUM GP	270.01	UF CUM NC	99.00
SYG 2000	PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY			B	3.00 3.00 3.00	UF CUM GPA = 2.72					
KIS 2240	WILDLIFE ISSUES			A	3.00 3.00 3.00	END OF TRANSCRIPT.					
EARNED HRS	15.00	GRADE PTS	46.50	HRS CARRIED	15.00	A transcript explanation and a test for authenticity are printed on the back of this document.					

To: Office of Student Life, University Athletic Association
From: University of Florida Admissions Office
Re: High School Transcript Evaluation

Date: 5-8-06 Update: _____

Name: Hernandez, Aaron J. UF ID Number: D255-6989
Sport: MEB Month/Year of Entry: 071 Class Rank: 92/324
HS Transcript from: Central HS, CT Official: Unofficial:
HS reported GPA: 3.51 NCAA Core GPA: 3.5 UF Core GPA: 3.38 Predict: 2.71

TEST INFORMATION:
PSAT: _____ PLAN: _____ (preliminary college placement exam)

ACT Information: (UF Minimums in parenthesis)
Highest: Eng (17) Math (19) Reading (18) Sci Reasoning (16) = Composite (19)/Sum
Combined: _____

SAT Information: (UF Minimums in parenthesis)
RSAT/date: 11/05 Verbal (440) 420 Math (440) 550 Total (950) 970

EVALUATION OF HIGH SCHOOL COURSES:
NCAA Core Minimums: _____ UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Minimums: _____

English (4) B/B B/B A/A English (4) B/B B/B A/A
Math (2- Alg & Geom) A/A A/A Math (3) A/A A/A B/B B/B
Math (2) B/B B/B Nat Sci (3) B/B B/B B/B
Soc Sci (2) B/A B/B Soc Sci (3) B/B B/A B/B B/B
Additional Eng, Math, or Sci (1) B/B For Lang (2) A/A A/A A/A

Additional academic courses as above or
For Lang, Philosophy, or
Nondoctrinal Religion (3) A/A A/A A/A

NCAA CORE GPA = 3.5 UF CORE GPA = 3.38
91 grade points/units 115 grade points/units
EVALUATED BY: Angie Hinson Comments: Needs reading & writing remediation. 34 Needs one English unit.

OFFICIAL VISIT APPROVAL: Yes No _____ ONLY with interview
FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT: Complete Admit on Probation _____
CURRENT ADMISSIONS STATUS **IF SCHOLARSHIP IS OFFERED:**
Regular Admit _____ Admissions Committee* Special Admit** _____ Deny _____
* COMMITTEE & SPECIAL ADMITS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SUMMER B TERM.
** SPECIAL ADMITS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PROVOST FOR ADMISSION TO UF.





BACKGROUNDING APPOINTEES

- New dean or chancellor?
Always ask for a resume for everyone
- Do basic checks for red flags

BACKGROUND CHECKS . . .

- **Do a clip check** to see what else has been written about him or her locally or in the city or town where they are coming from
- **Check property records / Registry of Deeds** for liens, tax issues, and other red flags. Always call the agency before reporting to make sure you have it right because records can be confusing
- Check **police records**, sex offender registry, etc.
- Check **Court records** – both criminal and civil. The site [Masscourts.org](https://www.masscourts.org) is very helpful, although not all records are available online. Confirm with a birthday, middle initial that you have the right person.
- Check **divorce records**. I always go pull the physical file from the courthouse.



'We will get through this together. But we will have to make changes. In doing so, I am proud to represent the department on the mayor's task force for police reform.'

BOSTON POLICE COMMISSIONER DENNIS WHITE *on rebuilding community trust in law enforcement*

New Boston police head sworn in



JIM DAVIS/GLOBE STAFF

Dennis White (right) with William Gross before he was sworn in as the 43rd commissioner of the Boston Police Department Monday.

In speech, vows to reform department

By John R. Ellement

GLOBE STAFF

and Charlie McKenna

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Dennis A. White pledged to reform the Boston Police Department as he was sworn in as its 43rd commissioner Monday, saying it would be his "duty and honor" to see that a slate of proposed changes are adopted.

White, 59, is the second Black man to lead the nation's oldest police force, succeeding William Gross, who made history as the city's first Black commissioner. Gross resigned last week, saying he had always planned to step down when Mayor Martin Walsh left office. Walsh has been nominated by President Biden to lead the US Department of Labor.

White, who served as Gross' chief

WHITE, Page B4

EXAMPLE: BPD'S NEW COMMISSIONER

- Mayor Walsh unexpectedly announced a new police commissioner with no public process
- I had police internal affairs records on my hard drive that show potential red flags
- After basic background checks, I pulled his divorce file and found what I was looking for



TWO DAYS LATER ...

The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

New police commissioner placed on leave

Walsh says city will hire outside group to conduct probe about allegation of domestic abuse in 1999

**By Andrew Ryan
and Dugan Arnett**

GLOBE STAFF

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh placed newly appointed Police Commissioner Dennis White on leave Wednesday night and said the city would hire an outside group to conduct an investigation following Globe inquiries about the handling of a 1999 allegation of domestic violence involving White.

The announcement came just two

days after White, a veteran officer little known outside the department, was sworn in as the 43rd commissioner of the country's oldest police force, replacing William Gross, who abruptly retired last Friday.

In a statement Wednesday night, Walsh said he appointed Superintendent-in-Chief Gregory Long to serve as acting commissioner while the city hires an outside lawyer "to conduct a full and impartial investigation" into allegations that

White pushed and threatened to shoot his then-wife, also a Boston police officer, and was later ordered to stay away from his family.

"These disturbing issues were not known to me or my staff, but should have been at the forefront," said Walsh, who was in Washington, D.C., for his Thursday nomination hearing to become President Biden's labor secretary. "Upon learning of these serious allegations, I immediately acted."

The Globe first pressed the Police Department last week about White's work history, including three internal affairs cases, just hours after Walsh announced



JIM DAVIS/GLOBE STAFF

Dennis White had been sworn in on Monday.

he would name him commissioner. White had served as Gross's chief of staff. The department provided some basic information, but declined to provide internal affairs cases.

The Walsh administration responded Wednesday after a Globe reporter presented the city with the domestic violence allegations that were outlined in court documents.

A judge issued a restraining order on May 5, 1999, that forced White to vacate his home, stay away from his wife and children, and surrender his service weapon. The Globe could not find evidence

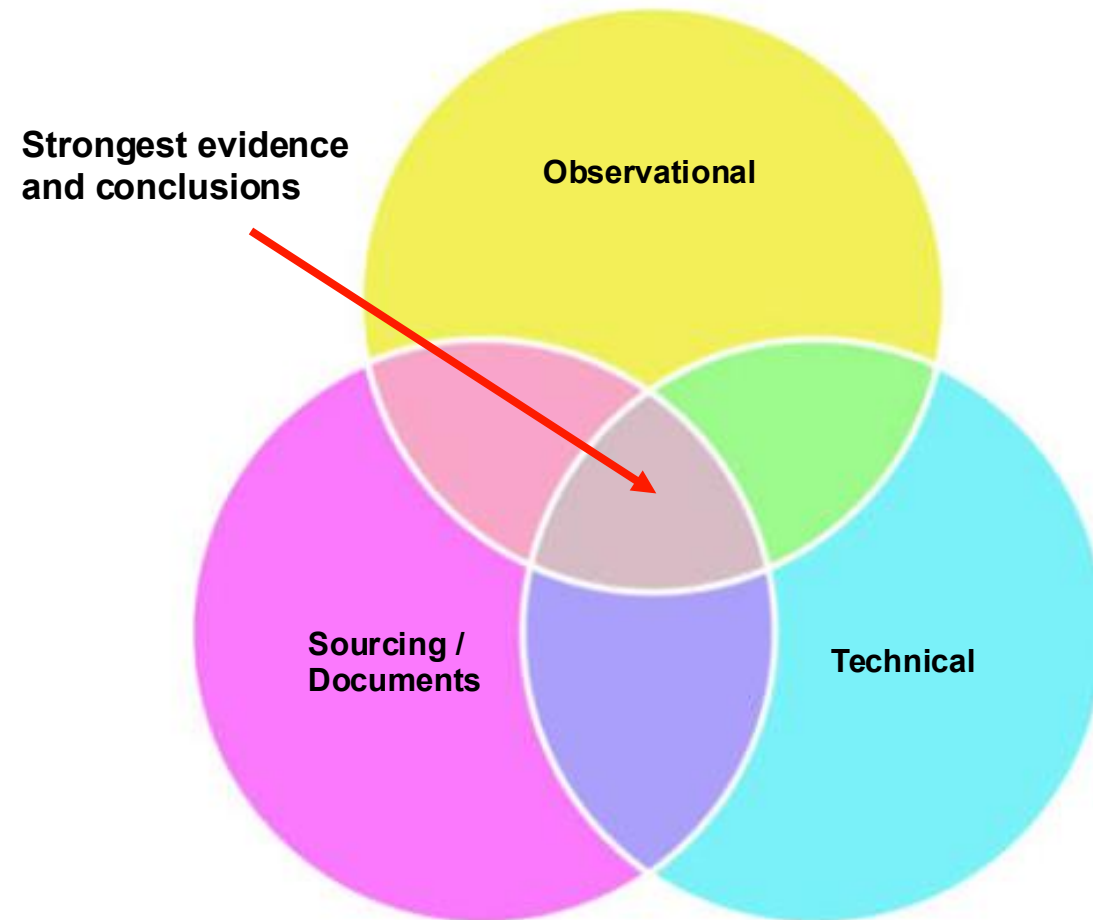
COMMISSIONER, Page A5



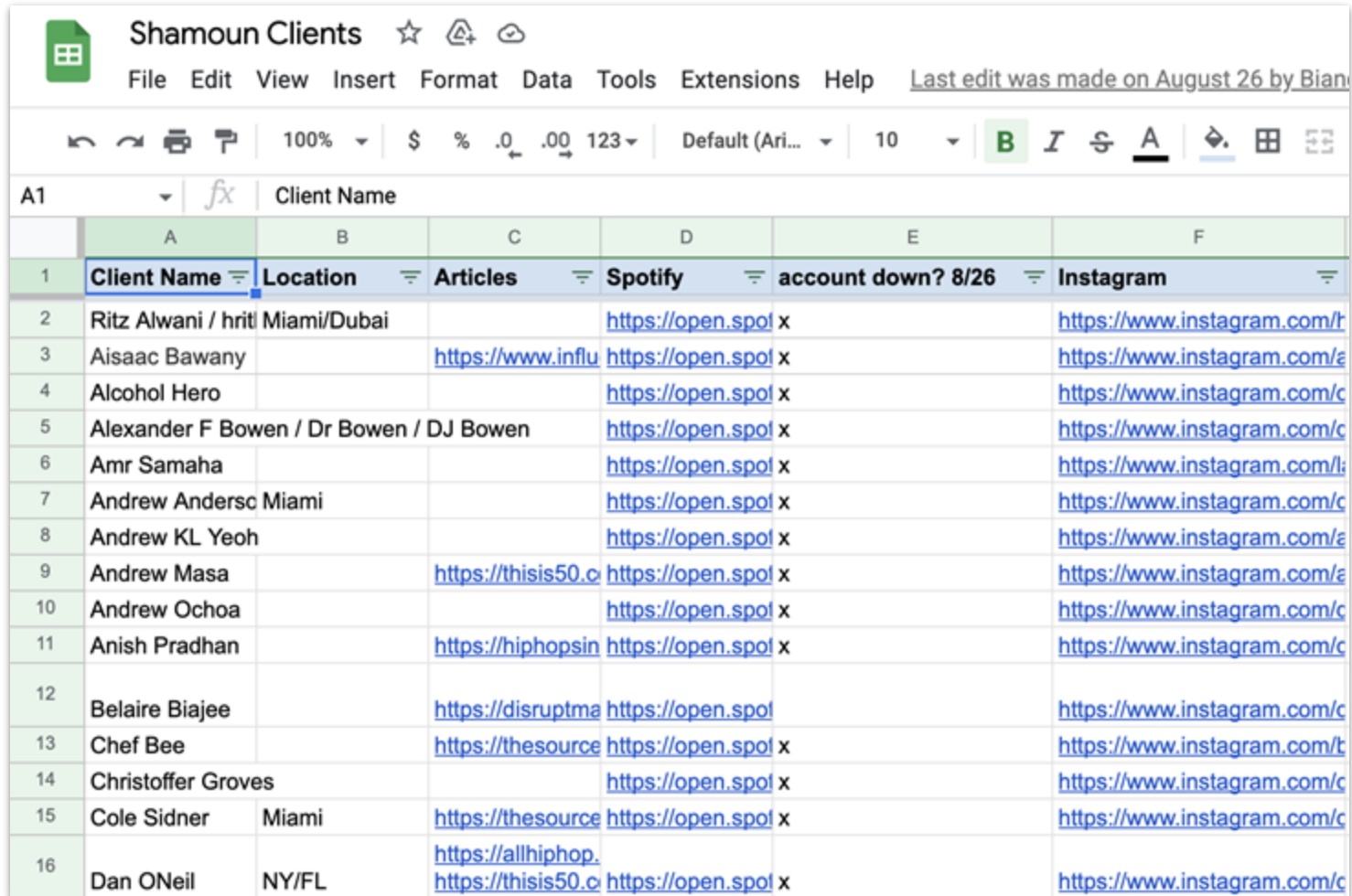
Building datasets from
scratch for investigative
reporting



How we get to findings and attribution



Truth 1: You gotta keep a spreadsheet, and you gotta update it

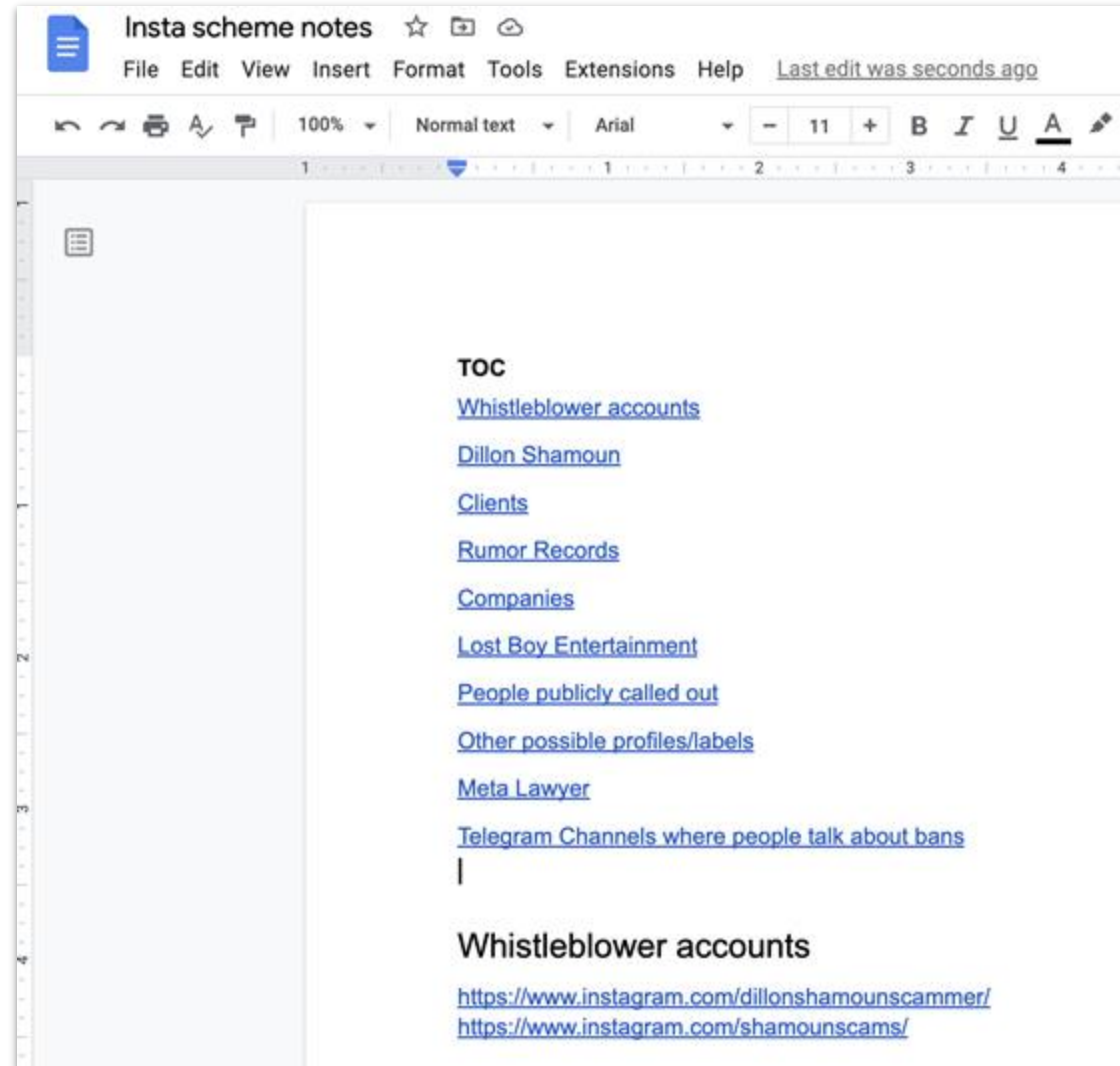


The screenshot shows a Google Sheet titled "Shamoun Clients" with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Data, Tools, Extensions, Help) and a toolbar with various icons. The spreadsheet has the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Client Name	Location	Articles	Spotify	account down? 8/26	Instagram
2	Ritz Alwani / hriti	Miami/Dubai		https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
3	Aisaac Bawany		https://www.influencer.com/	https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
4	Alcohol Hero			https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
5	Alexander F Bowen / Dr Bowen / DJ Bowen			https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
6	Amr Samaha			https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
7	Andrew Andersc	Miami		https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
8	Andrew KL Yeoh			https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
9	Andrew Masa		https://thisis50.com/	https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
10	Andrew Ochoa			https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
11	Anish Pradhan		https://hiphopsin.com/	https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
12	Belaire Biajee		https://disruptmag.com/	https://open.spotify.com/		https://www.instagram.com/
13	Chef Bee		https://thesource.com/	https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
14	Christoffer Groves			https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
15	Cole Sidner	Miami	https://thesource.com/	https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/
16	Dan ONeil	NY/FL	https://allhiphop.com/ https://thisis50.com/	https://open.spotify.com/	x	https://www.instagram.com/



Truth 2: You gotta keep notes (and timelines), and you gotta update and organize them



Why build your own dataset?

Turning data gaps into exclusive investigations

- ❑ Official data often missing, messy or politicized
- ❑ Custom dataset → unique angle & competitive edge
- ❑ Full control over variables, quality and timeline
- ❑ Solid base for FOI follow-ups, interviews, visuals and impact

F	G	H	I	J	K
arinetraffic_L	Vessel	IMO	Type	Flag	Year_Build
tps://www.mari	ENERGY ADVA	9269180	LNG Tanker	(Japan)	2005
tps://www.mari	RIVERA	9777943	Crude Oil Tanker	(Malta)	2017
tps://www.mari	NISSOS ANTIM	9895226	Crude Oil Tanker	(Marshall Islands)	2021
tps://www.mari	FRONT COUGA	9686649	Crude Oil Tanker	(Marshall Islands)	2016
tps://www.mari	MINERVA OLYM	9787194	Crude Oil Tanker	(Greece)	2019
tps://www.mari	MINERVA_OLYM	9787194	Crude Oil Tanker	(Greece)	2019
tps://www.mari	CHAMPION ENI	9288813	Oil/Chemical Tar	(Marshall Islands)	2005
tps://www.mari	CARMEL	9308857	Crude Oil Tanker	(Malta)	2006
tps://www.mari	MONTEGO	9297553	Oil Products Tan	(Malta)	2006
tps://www.mari	MINERVA ELEC	9276573	Crude Oil Tanker	(Greece)	2004
tps://www.mari	CAPE GUINEA	9391402	Oil/Chemical Tar	(Marshall Islands)	2008
tps://www.mari	WAIKIKI	9776755	Crude Oil Tanker	(Malta)	2017
tps://www.mari	VERNADSKY PI	9843560	Crude Oil Tanker	(Liberia)	2019
tps://www.mari	PACIFIC SKY	9408554	Crude Oil Tanker	(Malta)	2009
tps://www.mari	AGRARI	9389083	Crude Oil Tanker	(Malta)	2009
tps://www.mari	GEORGY MASL	9610793	Crude Oil Tanker	(Liberia)	2012
tps://www.mari	INDIGO SUN	9592288	Crude Oil Tanker	(Liberia)	2012
tps://www.mari	CARLTON	9288851	Crude Oil Tanker	(Marshall Islands)	2004
tps://www.mari	CYGNUS PASS.	9376294	LNG Tanker	(Bahamas)	2009
tps://www.mari	FRONT OCELO	9726580	Crude Oil Tanker	(Marshall Islands)	2016
tps://www.mari	ALHANI	9331153	Crude Oil Tanker	(Libya)	2007
tps://www.mari	PAVEL CHERNY	9301380	Crude Oil Tanker	(Cyprus)	2005
tps://www.mari	WAIKIKI	9776755	Crude Oil Tanker	(Malta)	2017



The power of absence: what missing data tells us

“Missing data sets are the blank spots that exist in spaces that are otherwise data-saturated. [...] That which we ignore reveals more than what we give our attention to. It’s in these things that we find hints of what is deemed important. Spots that we’ve left blank reveal our hidden social biases and indifferences.”

— **Mimi Onuoha**,
The Library of Missing Datasets



‘Without justice’

How Eswatini’s system is failing victims of gender-based violence

October 24, 2024



Zodwa Nkambule, 56, inside her home in Mahlanya Village in Eswatini.



Start with a focused story hypothesis

This can include

Someone doing something for a reason

- ❑ A company is illegally exporting products through a country to avoid its final destination being traced.
- ❑ A person is committing a crime by doing something illegal.
- ❑ In our case, the **Eswatini government** is neglecting to prevent cases of sexual violence by failing to enforce and sensitize the population around its new legislation and due to weak court structures.



Identify the points to prove it

A guiding document

My focused hypothesis:

- In our case, the Eswatini government is neglecting to prevent cases of sexual violence by failing to enforce and sensitise the population around its new legislation and due to weak court structures.*

What do we know so far (sourced information)?

- An example: NGOs say more than a third of women have experienced sexual violence and many don't see justice.

What questions do we need to answer/what information do we need to prove it?

- What are the reasons cases don't make it to a successful conviction?



Build an information map

Think about the hypothesis.

Where would information be gathered and where would it live?

If someone experiences a crime involving sexual violence, they might:

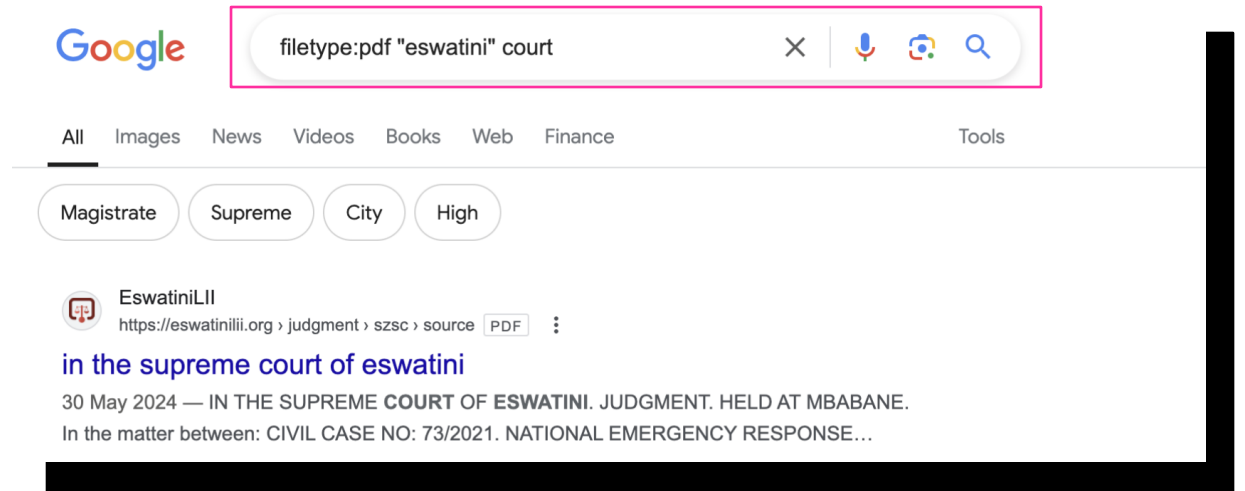
- Seek medical help ⇒ medical records, receipts, pharmaceutical support
- Call a helpline ⇒ a database of phone numbers, calls, referrals
- Report it to the police ⇒ police reports, evidence, phone calls on the victim's phone to confirm, court records
- Experience trauma ⇒ school drop-out numbers, mental health support data
- Become sick ⇒ rates of sexually-transmitted diseases
- Protest ⇒ registration at the local office
- Speak publically ⇒ videos livestreamed of their speech



For Eswatini, we used tailored online searches:

- Filetype: pdf
- Name of perpetrator
- Eswatini
- Court

✓ We found a public database! We were lucky.



The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the query "filetype:pdf \"eswatini\" court". Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for "All", "Images", "News", "Videos", "Books", "Web", "Finance", and "Tools". Underneath these tabs, there are four filter buttons: "Magistrate", "Supreme", "City", and "High". The search results show a link to "EswatiniLII" with the URL "https://eswatini.lii.org > judgment > szsc > source" and a PDF icon. The title of the result is "in the supreme court of eswatini". The snippet below the title reads: "30 May 2024 — IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ESWATINI. JUDGMENT. HELD AT MBABANE. In the matter between: CIVIL CASE NO: 73/2021. NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE..."





High Court of eSwatini

4,612 judgments

Search High Court of eSwatini

Search

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 - [1979](#)
 - [1978](#)
 - [1977](#)

Filters

Judges

- Annadale JA
- Annadale AJA
- Annadale J
- Cloete J
- Daniels J
- Dlamini J
- Dunn ACJ
- Dunn J
- Fakudze AJA
- Fakudze J
- Hlonhe A. A.

Topics

- Abuse of Process
- Accidents and emergencies
- Administrative Law
- Administrative Review
- African customary law and rights of indigenous peoples
- Attribution of Costs
- Caselaw
- Civil Procedure
- Civil Remedies
- Constitutional Law

Filter documents Sort by: Date (Newest first) Filter

Citation	Judgment date ↓
September 2024	
Municipal Council of Mbabane v The Minister of Housing And Urban Development and Others (1654/2024).[2024] SZHC 293 (16 September 2024)	16 September 2024
First National Bank of Eswatini v Afreeca Investment (PTY) LTD And Others (43/2022).[2024] SZHC 291 (13 September 2024)	13 September 2024
Rex v Simelane (88/2022).[2024] SZHC 292 (13 September 2024)	13 September 2024
August 2024	
King v James (382/2023).[2024] SZHC 288 (23 August 2024)	23 August 2024
king v Mtsetfwa (172-2018).[2024] SZHC 287 (23 August 2024)	23 August 2024
King v Shabangu (271/2022).[2024] SZHC 286 (23 August 2024)	23 August 2024
Mndzebele v Eswatini Government and Others (969-2023).[2024] SZHC 285 (23 August 2024)	23 August 2024
Municipal Council of Manzini v Magistrate Khumalo And Others (866/2023).[2024] SZHC 290 (23 August 2024)	23 August 2024
Smith v Hlanze N.O. And others (612/2019).[2024] SZHC 289 (23 August 2024)	23 August 2024
African Echo(Pty) LTD and Others v Sihlongonyane.(11/2023).[2024] SZHC 284 (22 August 2024)	22 August 2024



Brainstorm

What we found and what can we do with it?

High Court of eSwatini

4,612 judgments

Director of Public Prosecutions v Lukhele and Another [1994] SZHC 77 (26 October 1994)



Download PDF (272.6 KB)

Report a problem

Document detail

Citations 2/-

Citation	Director of Public Prosecutions v Lukhele and Another [1994] SZHC 77 (26 October 1994) Copy
Media Neutral Citation	[1994] SZHC 77 Copy
Court	High Court of eSwatini
Judges	Dunn J
Judgment date	26 October 1994
Language	English
Type	Judgment



Technical | Python & Terminal



IN THE HIGH COURT OF SWAZILAND

Crim. Rev. Case No. 33/94

In the matter of:

1.
THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS Applicant
vs
1. THE SENIOR MAGISTRATE, NHLANGANO First Respondent
2. PHILLIP KHESHE LUKHELE Second Respondent

And in the matter of:

2.
THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS Applicant
vs
1. THE SENIOR MAGISTRATE, NHLANGANO First Respondent
2. TIMOTHY MCHONTA Second Respondent

CORAM: Hill, C.J.
 Dunn, J.
 Strydom, J.

That section states:

"92. If a decision is given by a magistrate's court in a criminal case on a matter of law, and the Director of Public Prosecutions or his representative is dissatisfied with such decision, the Director of Public Prosecutions or his representative may seek the ruling thereon of the High Court, and the High Court may set down the matter to be argued before it."

The application in fact relates to two separate criminal cases. On 25th March 1994, the respondent Timothy Mchonta was arrested and charged with rape. The offence was allegedly committed on 15th March. On the following day, i.e. 26th March, the respondent Phillip Lukhele was arrested and charged also on a charge of rape, which was said to have been committed on that later day. The two charges were thus unrelated. Strictly, I think that there ought to have been two separate applications under section 92, but they can be heard conveniently together, as they involve the same point.

The men were first brought before a Magistrate, in the Magistrate's Court at Nhlangano, on 28th March, in Criminal Cases NHO 66/94 and NHO 65/94 respectively.

According to the court records, on that day each was remanded in custody until 5th April, pending the completion of police investigations. When they returned to Court on 5th April, each was again remanded in custody for two days, for the setting of a trial date.

On 7th April they were remanded in custody again, until 14th April, for the setting of trial dates and on that day in custody to 19th April, once more for the setting of trial dates.

- 9 -

told to do so, but because as the presiding Magistrate, and in the exercise of my own discretion, I consider it reasonable to do so."

On that basis, the Director's objection on the second ground of review, on this application, is sustained. If the Director of Public Prosecutions is still proceeding on the charges, and the accused are not in custody, they should be taken into custody accordingly.

HILL, C.J.

I concur.

DUNN, J.

I concur.

pp. Strydom, J.

STRYDOM, J.

It is so ordered.



We used web scraping to get access to the data

A	B	C	D	E	F
Case Link	Case Title	Case Date	Year	Jurisdiction	Citation
https://eswatini.lli	Mkhonta vs The	20 June 2022	2022	Eswatini	Mkhonta vs The
https://eswatini.lli	Rex v Lusenga (23 September 21	2020	Eswatini	Rex v Lusenga (
https://eswatini.lli	Tfwala v The Kir	14 September 21	2022	Eswatini	Tfwala v The Kir
https://eswatini.lli	Dlamini v Dlamir	26 October 2017	2017	Eswatini	Dlamini v Dlamir
https://eswatini.lli	Ntshangase v R	5 March 2020	2020	Eswatini	Ntshangase v R
https://eswatini.lli	Magagula v Dire	19 August 2022	2022	Eswatini	Magagula v Dire
https://eswatini.lli	Ntimane v Rex (22 June 2023	2023	Eswatini	Ntimane v Rex (
https://eswatini.lli	Shongwe v Sithc	11 July 2018	2018	Eswatini	Shongwe v Sithc
https://eswatini.lli	Rex v Sibanyoni	10 June 2019	2019	Eswatini	Rex v Sibanyoni
https://eswatini.lli	R v Shongwe (1	17 February 200	2005	Eswatini	R v Shongwe (1
https://eswatini.lli	Dlamini v Dlamir	11 June 2018	2018	Eswatini	Dlamini v Dlamir
https://eswatini.lli	Ginindza v Myer	30 March 2017	2017	Eswatini	Ginindza v Myer
https://eswatini.lli	R v Simelane (1	15 February 201	2017	Eswatini	R v Simelane (1
https://eswatini.lli	Nyawo v Maziya	3 May 2013	2013	Eswatini	Nyawo v Maziya
https://eswatini.lli	R v Dlamini (42	17 June 2011	2011	Eswatini	R v Dlamini (42
https://eswatini.lli	Rex v Dlamini ar	17 March 2020	2020	Eswatini	Rex v Dlamini ar
https://eswatini.lli	Gadlela v Direct	28 November 20	2022	Eswatini	Gadlela v Direct
https://eswatini.lli	Ngwenya v The	14 September 21	2022	Eswatini	Ngwenya v The

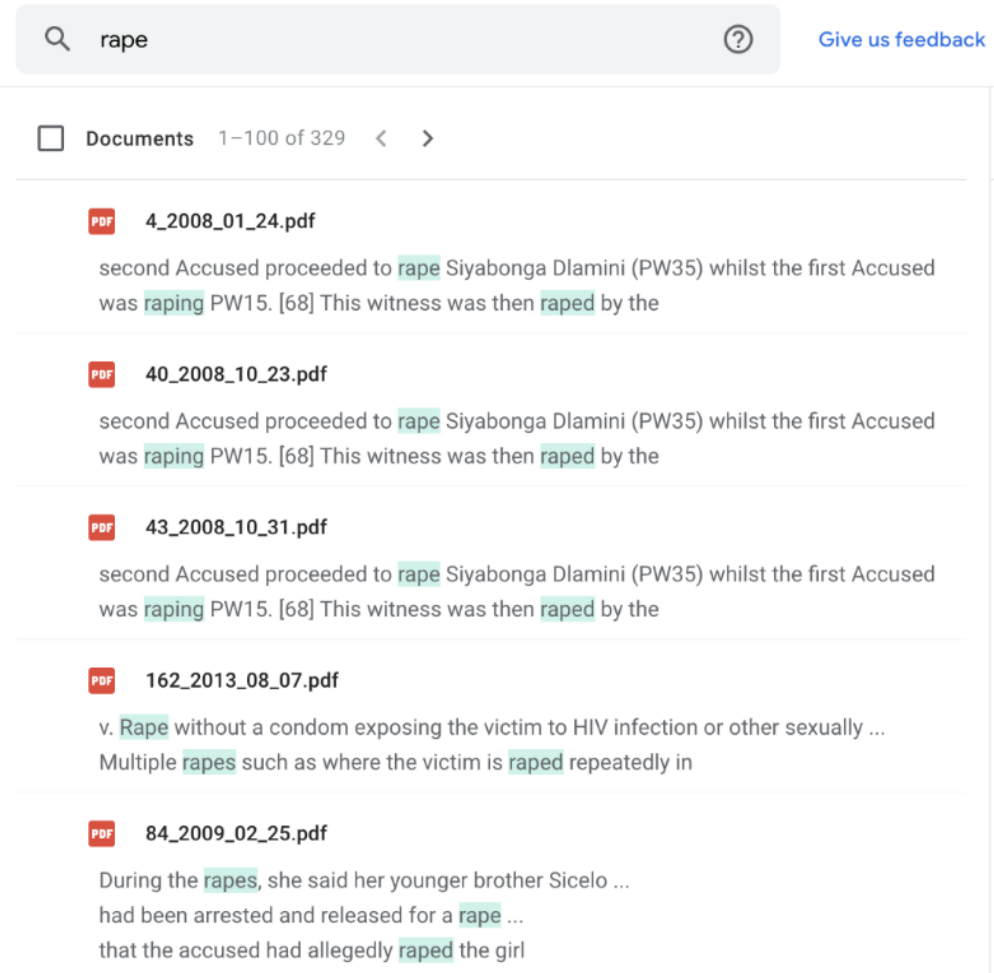
- ❑ Web scraping gathered all the pdf files in a folder and created a spreadsheet with the accessible data from these documents on the site already plus some we added:
 - ❑ File name
 - ❑ Date of the case
 - ❑ Court



Filter

Focus on the data you need

- Will you download it all?
- We decided to filter based on key words:
 - Rape
 - Sexual assault
 - Domestic violence
 - SODV



The screenshot displays a search interface with a search bar containing the word "rape". To the right of the search bar is a question mark icon and a "Give us feedback" link. Below the search bar, there is a "Documents" section with a checkbox and the text "1-100 of 329" and navigation arrows. The results are listed as follows:

- 4_2008_01_24.pdf**
second Accused proceeded to **rape** Siyabonga Dlamini (PW35) whilst the first Accused was **raping** PW15. [68] This witness was then **raped** by the
- 40_2008_10_23.pdf**
second Accused proceeded to **rape** Siyabonga Dlamini (PW35) whilst the first Accused was **raping** PW15. [68] This witness was then **raped** by the
- 43_2008_10_31.pdf**
second Accused proceeded to **rape** Siyabonga Dlamini (PW35) whilst the first Accused was **raping** PW15. [68] This witness was then **raped** by the
- 162_2013_08_07.pdf**
v. **Rape** without a condom exposing the victim to HIV infection or other sexually ...
Multiple **rapes** such as where the victim is **raped** repeatedly in
- 84_2009_02_25.pdf**
During the **rapes**, she said her younger brother Sicelo ...
had been arrested and released for a **rape** ...
that the accused had allegedly **raped** the girl



Brainstorm

Now we need to assess our data and think about what it might do for us

- We go back to our guiding document and our focused hypothesis. **What are we trying to prove?**
- Then we thinking through the ways our data could help answer these questions.
- We push the data toward the answer, by combining simple datapoints with interpretative assessment.



Brainstorm ⇒ Filter

An example:

- Is the case a sentencing?** Yes or no
- Was the sentence after an appeal/going to the high court?** Yes or no
- What number of years in the local courts and after the appeal?** 7 ⇒ 9
- Did the sentence increase or decrease?** Increase
- What happened in the high court?** The sentence was increased
- Is this sentence an example of effective justice?** Well, it's complicated.



Technical

Now it's time to build a methodology

Bail decision upheld	If the case is about a bail decision and the judge in the high court doesn't change the initial bail decision, for example they uphold it
Bail granted	If the case is about a bail decision and the high court judge grants bail when the lower court didn't

Find the age of the victim of the crime and identify if they are a child/underage at the time the crime was committed.

Child/Underage	Any of the victims in the case are under the age of 18 (17 and under) who is referenced as a victim of the crime
Adult	If all the victims of the case are 18 and above who are referenced as a victim of the crime
Unknown	The age of the victim is not clearly identified or defined

What was the charge (or were the charges) laid? Identify any legal charges, as defined in the list below from the SODV Act. Refer to the section of the law, and the summary title name for the charge. Include every charge in the case.

Examples:

Section 77 (1) (a) Domestic Violence, Section 3 (1) Rape	Sexual assault
--	----------------

Give clear instructions of what you need to do for the people or tool you are going to use

- A methodology means **everyone** is aligned so all data is filled in the same way
- A methodology can be published so others can review your methods and choices
- A methodology can be fed into an AI tool to ensure it understands what you want



Research

Now it's time to fill in the data. Automatic, manual, or AI?

Data points and what they mean

- **Case_Title:** Title of the case
- **Case_Link:** Link to the case on eswatinilii.org
- **Judgment_Date:** Date of judgment
- **Jurisdiction:** Always Eswatini
- **Citation:** Same as Case_Title
- **Media_Neutral_Citation:** Alternative case citation
- **Hearing_Date:** Date of hearing (limited entries)
- **Court:** Always the High Court of eSwatini
- **Case_Number:** Case number
- **Judges:** Name(s) of the judge(s)
- **Language:** Always English
- **Type:** Always Judgment
- **Case_Summary:** Short summary of the case
- **Download_Link:** Link to download the case file
- **Content:** Text content of the document
- **Keyword:** Indicates presence of terms - rape, sexual assault, domestic violence
- **Filename:** Name of the downloaded file

Important consideration

The presence of one of the three keywords (rape, sexual assault, domestic violence) in any of the 645 documents collected does not necessarily indicate that the associated case pertains to GBV. This is because the keyword may only appear once or twice within the document, which may not be sufficient to classify the case as GBV-related.

Automatic:

- ✓ When the data is simple and clear to extract
(`<h1>High court</h1>`) or date format

Manual:

- ✓ When the data is interpretative

AI:

- ✓ When you can filter semi-interpretative data faster with this tool and then check it before publishing



– For cases before the date in 2018 when the SODV law came into effect, would any of these charges have qualified under what the SODV law defines as a crime?

- **Before 2018, SODV-eligible case?**

- Yes: If the case has any charges that fall under the SODV law
- No: If no charges in the case are SODV charges
- Unclear: If it's unclear whether the charges are within the SODV law
- Not applicable: If the date of the Judgment date is after the SODV law came into effect. When this is the case, respond to the "SODV case?" with the following:
 - SODV case?: "Not applicable"
 - JUSTIFICATION - SODV case: "The SODV Act was not in force at the time of the alleged crimes or the trial."
 - EXACT QUOTE - SODV case: "Judgment date:" + the actual Judgment date of the case

– For cases after the date in 2018 when the SODV law came into effect, do any of the charges fall under the SODV law?

- **SODV case?**

- Yes: If the case has any charges that fall under the SODV law
- No: If no charges in the case are SODV charges
- Unclear: If it's unclear whether the charges are within the SODV law
- Not applicable: If the date of the case is before the law came into effect
- In your justification, include the year of the case and where you did find it.

– **Original sentence**

- What sentence is stated in the document as the one already assigned, before the case was reviewed by the high court? This is a sentence applied by a lower court before the court. Write the number of years in prison or jail, the value of the fine, or any other details.


Tagging with GPT4




Checking

Finally, manually check the data you plan to publish

- 100% necessary
- We found many mistakes and missed data points
- None changed our findings - they actually made the story stronger
- But LLMs are just tools and they will hallucinate, miss things, or lack context

 **You**
isn't there a part in the text mentioning nine years?

 **ChatGPT**
You're right; I missed that detail in my previous response. The document does indeed mention that the original sentence imposed by the Senior Magistrate was set to follow the minimum prescribed by Section 185 bis, which suggests a sentence of nine years. This was subsequently reduced by the High Court to seven years due to jurisdictional limits of the Senior Magistrate.
Thank you for pointing that out.



Checking

J	K	L	M	N
Download Link	filename	Year of case number starting in high court	Year of judgment	Years between case in high court and hearing
https://eswatini.li/94_2008_03_13	94_2008_03_13	2007	2008	1
https://eswatini.li/13_2001_03_31	13_2001_03_31	1999	2001	2
https://eswatini.li/41_2005_03_24	41_2005_03_24	2002	2005	3
https://eswatini.li/91_2005_08_23	91_2005_08_23	2004	2005	1
https://eswatini.li/30_2001_10_11	30_2001_10_11	1998	2001	3
https://eswatini.li/59_2008_04_08	59_2008_04_08	2007	2008	1
https://eswatini.li/19_1980_11_27	19_1980_11_27	1994	1996	2
https://eswatini.li/28_2005_03_11	28_2005_03_11	2003	2005	2
https://eswatini.li/38_2005_03_18	38_2005_03_18	2003	2005	2
https://eswatini.li/265_2009_12_1	265_2009_12_1	2009	2009	0
https://eswatini.li/173_2012_08_0	173_2012_08_0	2011	2012	1
https://eswatini.li/96_2000_11_16	96_2000_11_16	1998	2000	2
https://eswatini.li/17_1984_11_23	17_1984_11_23	1984	1984	0
https://eswatini.li/9_1984_04_04	9_1984_04_04	1984	1984	0
https://eswatini.li/125_2006_08_1	125_2006_08_1	2006	2006	0
https://eswatini.li/129_2004_10_1	129_2004_10_1	1997	2004	7
https://eswatini.li/39_2004_04_07	39_2004_04_07	1997	2004	7
https://eswatini.li/49_2004_04_07	49_2004_04_07	1997	2004	7

Work with an expert to review your methods and findings

