

AFFIDAVIT OF CYPRUS COSMOS

1 After being duly sworn upon oath, the Affiant hereby states as follows: I am over 18 and
2 competent to make this affidavit. I was subpoenaed to testify, of course. I have far better things
3 to be doing now. But I must admit, it is rather flattering to know that you need me to see that
4 justice is done.

5 As you know, my name is Cyprus Cosmos. I am one of Santa Ivo City's proudest
6 humanitarians, activists, and philanthropists. In fact, I dare say that my generosity and reputation
7 extend all throughout Midlands. I feel blessed to be able to help all the disadvantaged residents
8 of the state. Additionally, I am also an actor (you'll remember my line from my role in Santa Ivo
9 City Theater's production of *Midland Summer Night's Dream*), a poet (I have a poem scheduled
10 to be published in my friend J.T. Tung's online journal in 2025), and I fancy myself an emerging
11 visual artist (though I have yet to get started on that). People think that having such wealth and
12 fame makes life easy, but it does not. I cannot express how exhausting spa lunches and gallery
13 openings and charity dinners can be. It is a wonder that I am even able to maintain my esteemed
14 Executive Board position at Santa Ivo City University and Board of Directors position for the
15 Sohi Children's Hospital.

16 Naturally, I know Berkley F. De la Porta, although I cannot say that I am a big admirer.
17 There is something a bit sinister about De la Porta, and I don't say that just because De la Porta
18 always seems to be outbidding me at our charity auctions. Maybe it's because De la Porta insists
19 on going by "B.F." when no one knows what the "F" stands for, and De la Porta has a reputation
20 for always getting what De la Porta wants. Our paths often cross, and we have friends in similar
21 circles. We serve together on the Sohi Children's Hospital Board of Directors, and we are both
22 long-time Executive Members of the Harper Country Club. More recently, we were supposed to
23 go in together as 50/50 investors (\$500,000 each) in the newly renovated Peony Estates Winery,
24 but De la Porta backed out at the last moment. I heard from a mutual friend that De la Porta was
25 having some financial trouble and was unable to liquidate some of De la Porta's assets.

26 At one time, we were much closer. In 2016, a year after we met, De la Porta invited me
27 and my partner to a screening on De la Porta's yacht, the *Hepburn*. De la Porta was showing an
28 advanced screening of *Olson's Eleven*—a picture filmed and produced by Trifecta

29 Entertainment, right here in Santa Ivo City. The film starred Alex Grace (a close friend of De la
30 Porta, of course) as Brianne Olson, a Robin Hood-like thief who assembled a crew of misfits to
31 rob the fictional Alexis Blueblood, the owner of the real (and famous) Black Bear Casino. All
32 night, De la Porta kept saying how De la Porta thought De la Porta was just like the film's hero
33 Olson. But those of us on the yacht kept looking at each other, as if we all knew that De la Porta
34 was much more like Blueblood than Olson. Someone even made a little joke about it, and De la
35 Porta said something like "when I end up robbing a casino, you'll see that I'm the real hero."
36 After that night, De la Porta and I were always cordial to each other, but more in a professional
37 sense. I was never invited back on the yacht, but it was probably because De la Porta had to sell
38 the yacht a couple months later when, as I heard, De la Porta couldn't keep up the financing.

39 As I said, De la Porta and I are both on the Board of Directors for the Sohi Children's
40 Hospital. We meet each month and sometimes more often if something important arises. Because
41 De la Porta and I are both on the Planning Subcommittee for our Annual Gala Auction, we met
42 every other week from mid-July 2022 through October 2022. De la Porta was actually the co-
43 chair of the seven-person Planning Subcommittee—something De la Porta said they wanted to
44 do for a long time. The committee selected Miller Tower as our location for 2022, put together a
45 special invitation list of a hundred and fifty of Midlands's luminaries and affluent individuals,
46 and designed a general overview of the night's artistic staging and dinner menu. We didn't wade
47 too far into the details—that is for the less important people to do.

48 Our biggest task for the event was assembling the materials for auction. As is customary
49 for our gala, 90% of the sale price would go to the item's owner, 5% would go toward the annual
50 gala fund, and 5% would go directly to the Sohi Children's Hospital. This was an important year
51 for us because the Board was planning to construct a new hospital wing, beginning in 2026. Most
52 of the money for the wing is to come from donations for various naming rights, but we hoped to
53 supplement the endowment with funds from the yearly gala auctions.

54 The Planning Committee, including De la Porta and myself, worked tirelessly over the
55 summer of 2022 securing items for the auction. These items included statues, 18th- and 19th-
56 century artwork, rare jewelry, several authenticated pre-Revolutionary documents, and one of
57 Alexander Hamilton's drafts of Federalist No. 78 of *The Federalist Papers*. The total pre-auction
58 valuation of the various items was around \$24 million, which meant \$1.2 million toward the new
59 hospital wing.

60 I tried to get De la Porta to sell the gem of De la Porta's collection, *Dans les Terres du*
61 *Milieu*, by the great French impressionist Berthe Morisot (valued at over \$8 million), but De la
62 Porta laughed in my face. However, De la Porta said that they would lend the auction the *Dans*
63 *les Terres du Milieu* painting for display purposes only if we were able to get Morisot's two
64 companion paintings from Bancroft Estates, which has had them in its possession, to be
65 displayed at the auction as well. De la Porta told me that De la Porta had tried for years to
66 purchase the two companion Morisot paintings held by Bancroft Estates. "Those greedy
67 scumbags won't let their dirty hands off those great works, and they won't even take my calls
68 anymore. *My* calls." So, I tried to get those works for our auction instead. I was not able to get
69 the Morisot paintings to auction them off, but, since this gala was for a great cause, Bancroft
70 Estates did agree to loan us the artworks for the evening, just so De la Porta's *Dans les Terres du*
71 *Milieu* could be viewed among them. At our Planning Committee meeting during the first week
72 of August, I told De la Porta the good news. De la Porta was initially upset, sweeping the agenda
73 pages and a glass of water off the board room table. But then De la Porta quickly expressed
74 regret for their actions and said, "It'll be good to have the pieces there anyway. I will figure
75 something else out." I did not know what else De la Porta had in mind, but, De la Porta always
76 says when there is a dispute, "De la Porta eventually gets what De la Porta wants."

77 Everything else leading up to the gala seemed to go according to plan. I oversaw the
78 decoration arrangements. De la Porta was in charge of where the auction items would be placed
79 for viewing. De la Porta also wanted to make sure that the items would be kept in extra-secure
80 spaces (the Miller Tower has a secure vault on its 40th floor and extra security guards would be
81 hired for the event). To this end, Director of Security at Miller Tower, Emory Sands, told me that
82 De la Porta spent quite a few afternoons at Miller Tower going over all the security arrangements
83 with their staff and guards. I accompanied De la Porta on one of these afternoons, a week before
84 the auction. The Miller Tower event staff was setting up for a different event that night, so the
85 floor was already buzzing, but we were still able to walk through the space with a security team,
86 double-checking what the set-up would be for our upcoming event. Each of the organizers for the
87 charity gala were given individual keycards so that we would have special access to some of the
88 more secure locations. During our walkthrough of the 40th floor, security told all the event
89 organizers that we could keep our phones if we didn't take them out during the tour (they didn't
90 want anyone taking pictures inside). Joking, De la Porta said, "don't worry if you want to know

91 all the vault blueprints and how the security system works just ask because I have it all
92 memorized,” and we all laughed. We then all left the vault area, except De la Porta, who hung
93 back beside the open vault door to take a phone call. I am pretty sure I heard De la Porta say, “I
94 can send a snapshot of the vault spec—” but I was walking away so I can’t be 100% sure. After
95 most of the group dispersed, De la Porta found me in the North Staging Area of the 40th floor. “I
96 have to show you something,” De la Porta told me, and took me down the hallway to the
97 staircase accessing the roof. De la Porta slid the Miller Tower security keycard through the
98 mechanism, the door unlocked, and we were headed up the staircase. It was one of the most
99 amazing views of Santa Ivo City I had ever had!

100 October 31—the day of the 2022 gala—soon arrived. The executive assistant to the Chair
101 of the Board of Directors for the Sohi Children’s Hospital called me around 11am to tell me that
102 De la Porta had called the hospital earlier that morning. The executive assistant said that De la
103 Porta said that their cousin was in a car accident the night before, and De la Porta wouldn’t be
104 able to attend our gala. This was unbelievable. De la Porta had never missed one of our annual
105 galas, and De la Porta was supposed to offer some of the opening remarks. Of course, I said I
106 would be honored to offer those remarks instead.

107 I arrived at the gala at 5:30pm. It is usually important for me to arrive late, so that I can
108 make a grand entrance, but this time I wanted to make sure everything was arranged. Some of
109 the flowers were in the wrong places and the greeting table in the Entryway was situated in the
110 wrong spot, so I took care to let the help know this needed to be fixed. It was good I got there
111 early. Soon after these things were moved around, the spaces looked impeccable—clearly due to
112 my tireless work on the Planning Committee. I am sure others helped, too, though. Around 6pm,
113 the security detail started to bring our auction items to the Cocktail Room. The plan was to have
114 a cocktail hour accompanying our silent auction. Our guests would mingle, masked in their
115 Halloween attire, as they walked around the Cocktail Room submitting bids on our magnificent
116 items. We wanted to keep the bidding time short, in order to keep the pressure up. (Our guests
117 were provided a beautiful brochure of most of our auction items, including all of our featured
118 items, two weeks earlier.) The auction items were all secured in the Cocktail Room by 6:20, and
119 ten minutes later the room was opened for the guests. I could see about a half dozen members of
120 the security team safeguarding the room, and there were others patrolling the 40th floor. Berthe
121 Morisot’s *Dans les Terres du Milieu* (De la Porta’s painting) was the clear treasure of the

122 evening. Placed between its two Morisot companion pieces, its beauty and value shone. I can't
123 even imagine how much they would have gone at auction (if their owners had wanted to sell).

124 The cocktail hour went well. Most guests remembered to dress up in costume. I didn't
125 recognize many of these costumes, though. I imagine they were all Tikchat or TwitterTube stars.
126 I asked a couple about two of the masks I didn't recognize, and they said they were dressed as
127 Kelly Doos and I can't remember the other one. But I do remember that, later in the week, the
128 police asked me about some of the masks I had seen. Santa Ivo City's own Mayor Leapheart was
129 in attendance, as were Drew Walton Jr. (whom I hear is considering a gubernatorial run),
130 councilmembers Kenough, Zeigler, and Racheter, and I swear I caught a glimpse of Blake
131 Lexington as well! There was even someone dressed as the mayor. If you weren't close enough,
132 you wouldn't be able to tell them apart. I could see our guests place auction bids via the secure
133 app designed by De la Porta's company, MSIG. About fifteen minutes before the bidding was
134 supposed to end, one of the clumsy servers dropped a tray of hors d'oeuvres in the middle of the
135 room, startling everybody and halting the conversations and bidding momentarily. I kindly
136 informed the server (obviously, I didn't know the server's name) that they were perhaps better
137 off remaining in the kitchen the rest of the night. I often have a good sense of what is best suited
138 for those struggling common people. As was our tradition for the last couple years, at 7:29, we
139 gave our 1-minute warning and then a reminder with 30 seconds to go, and then everyone did a
140 countdown from twenty for the bidding to close. There was a loud ovation once we hit zero, and
141 afterward the servers begin to motion our guests into the Ballroom.

142 Despite the night's energy, our guests were sluggish departing the Cocktail Room, but by
143 around 7:35pm they had all taken their seats at the couple dozen large round tables in the
144 Ballroom. The sun had gone down, and the sunset colors through the windowed wall were
145 simply extraordinary. The first courses of dinner were served around 7:45pm. During this time,
146 the security team was tasked with returning the auction items to the vault through the event
147 staging area. They would then secure and seal the vault. At 8:00pm, we began our award
148 ceremony in the Ballroom. Although I was not asked to deliver the opening remarks (another
149 Board member was asked), they still went well. We then recognized the hospital's major donors,
150 our top doctors, and bestowed our "Caring Professional of the Year" award and the highly
151 cherished "Adolescent Medical Technician Award." Then, a few minutes after 8:30pm, we
152 began to announce the auction winners.

153 Just before 9pm, the announcements had concluded, and it was now time for celebration.
154 We had raised \$1.25M for the Sohi Children’s Hospital. I was proud that this had been in no
155 small part thanks to my individual efforts. We were instructed to return to the Cocktail Room for
156 dancing and dessert. The staff had already set up the beautifully arranged dessert tables along the
157 back wall, and the bistro tables from earlier had been removed so that the center of the room
158 could be free for dancing. By now, most of the waitstaff had already left for the night. The music
159 was thunderous, and our guests had been appropriately satiated. I wanted to call De la Porta to
160 tell them how well the night went but, oddly, my cell phone was not working. I thought nothing
161 of it. A few minutes later, I tried again. This was at 9:21pm. I remember seeing that time
162 explicitly on the cell phone. I asked the two guests beside me if their phones were working; one
163 (implausibly) did not have a phone and the other’s phone was also not working. I excused myself
164 and headed to the Entryway beside the elevators.

165 As I walked toward the Entryway, I saw two people come out from behind the event
166 staging area door and into the Cocktail Room. They were not wearing a full costume that I
167 recognized from earlier that evening. One of them was wearing a black ski mask (how unoriginal
168 for a Halloween party!). The other person had a mask on top of their head, but it wasn’t covering
169 their face at all. At first, the maskless person was standing so that I could only see a side profile
170 of their face. It was a bit dark, but the maskless person had the same skin color, eye color, hair
171 color, and face shape as the pictures I saw of Poe Cameron on Blitz News Network. I was able to
172 clearly see the profile view of Cameron’s face for 10 seconds before Cameron and I made eye
173 contact and Cameron quickly pulled the mask down to cover Cameron’s face. Once Cameron
174 had the mask on, Cameron turned towards me, for maybe two or three seconds to see if I was
175 still watching them so I was able to clearly see the mask Cameron had pulled down over
176 Cameron’s face. I recognized the mask Cameron put on as one that I had seen earlier during the
177 cocktail hour.

178 I yelled out, “hey, what are you two doing? This is a private event! Show me your
179 invitations!” It was at that point that I noticed that the security guards were strangely absent from
180 the Entryway. Cameron and the other person in the ski mask looked at each other. They didn’t
181 speak but Cameron gestured Cameron’s head towards me twice and then Cameron raised their
182 shoulders like it was a question. The person in the ski mask nodded and started to reach for their
183 back pants pocket. Suddenly, a member of the waitstaff appeared through one of the Ballroom

184 doors. When I turned to look, Cameron and the other masked individual pushed past me and ran
185 into the Entryway. When I turned back around, I didn't see exactly where they went but I saw the
186 leg of Cameron (it matched the dark outfit they were wearing) disappear into the emergency exit
187 stairway.

188 I very politely but sternly asked the server (I later learned was named Parker something
189 or other) where the security guards had all gone. The server seemed stunned, so I grabbed the
190 server's arms, shook them, and told the server to take me through the staging area to the Security
191 Office. We reached the Security Office at precisely 9:30pm. (There is a large clock on the wall
192 outside it.) No one was there. We knocked loudly on the door anyway, in case anyone was
193 picking up paper clips behind the desk or whatever those people do in the downtime when they
194 are supposed to be working. Nothing. Suddenly, the server pointed out that the door to the vault
195 was open. We ran over and looked inside and saw someone wearing a security guard uniform
196 unconscious on the vault floor. I couldn't see the person's face at first. But once we got closer to
197 the person, I recognized the person to be Security Director Emory Sands! Sands was bleeding all
198 over and their eye was swollen to the size of a Fabergé egg. All at once, I realized what was
199 happening. We were being robbed! The Sohi Children's Hospital Gala Auction was being
200 robbed! On impulse, I reached for my phone. Again, there was no signal. I told the server to stay
201 with Sands (I did not want to get any blood on my clothing), and I headed back into the
202 Entryway. As soon as I came through the doors, I saw a mass of police officers in the room and
203 still others coming through the stairwell. I told them about Sands and collapsed onto the floor. It
204 was all just too much.

205 Even after the area had been secured, the police kept everyone there for hours, asking
206 questions and checking IDs. I was approached by Kit Bahmani and explained over and over the
207 plan for the gala and described all the auction items that were listed in our brochure including the
208 Morisot paintings that were on loan and just for display. Even though I hadn't been in the vault
209 that night, I presumed all of the items, including the Morisot paintings, had been stolen. More
210 importantly, however, I kept telling Bahmani that they needed to release our guests. These were
211 the cream of the crop of Midlands, and they needed to go home after this terrible occurrence.

212 De la Porta called me the day after the gala, but I was still too shaken to talk. De la Porta
213 called me again the following day. This time, I answered. De la Porta wanted to know everything
214 that happened. After telling De la Porta about seeing Cameron (though I didn't know Cameron's

215 name at the time, I just described the individuals by the masks that I saw them wearing) and the
216 person in the ski mask when I was headed to the Entryway, I remembered about De la Porta's
217 family emergency and felt incredibly rude to not ask about it. I asked De la Porta how their
218 cousin was doing. "What cousin?" De la Porta replied, adding "I don't have any cousins." Then
219 De la Porta began to ask me a lot of odd questions: "*Did I see the faces of the individuals in the*
220 *Entryway?*" (I told De la Porta that I saw the profile of the maskless person) "*Did I recognize the*
221 *person that wasn't masked?*" (I told De la Porta that I didn't recognize the maskless person.
222 Before I saw the news coverage with Poe Cameron's picture, that was true.) "*Did they leave*
223 *anything behind?*" (I told De la Porta I didn't know. I didn't see anything left behind.) "*Was*
224 *there a lot of blood?*" (I told De la Porta Emory Sands was clearly injured and bleeding a lot.)
225 Then I told De la Porta that they might contact the police for better answers than I could give to
226 these questions. It was weird, De la Porta did not even ask about De la Porta's prized Morisot
227 painting that was stolen along with the auction items. Luckily, the auction items were all insured,
228 so the owners will be getting their full value in compensation. Unfortunately, the Sohi Children's
229 Hospital will not be getting any of its share. I am sure, though, that some of our very well-to-do
230 gala invitees will find it in their hearts to make a donation. For my part, I will be donating two
231 hundred dollars.

232 I cannot believe De la Porta was arrested for this heinous crime. Clearly, De la Porta did
233 not do it. De la Porta was not even there that night. And why would De la Porta arrange to have
234 their own masterpiece stolen?! That just does not make any sense.

235 I am familiar with following exhibits:

236 Exhibit 1 is one of our invitations for the October 31, 2022 Sohi Children's Hospital
237 charity gala at Miller Tower. It has not been altered in any way from when we mailed them out
238 to our guests.

239 Exhibit 2 is the auction brochure for the Sohi Children's Hospital charity gala that was
240 held at Miller Tower on October 31, 2022. The brochure has not been altered in any way from
241 when we mailed them out with the invitations (Exhibit 2). All of the items contained in this
242 brochure, including the three Morisot paintings that were for display only, were stored in the
243 vault on the 40th floor of the Miller Tower. All of the items in this brochure, including the
244 Morisot paintings were stolen on October 31, 2022. This brochure has not been altered in any
245 way from the version that was mailed out to our guests.

246 Exhibit 3 is a diagram of the 40th floor of the Miller Tower. It accurately depicts the 40th
247 floor as it existed during our walkthroughs prior to and during the October 31, 2022 charity gala.

248 Exhibit 5 is a picture of a security keycard for Miller Tower. I was given a similar
249 looking security keycard as an organizer for the Sohi Children’s Hospital charity gala. This
250 exhibit is an accurate depiction of the security keycards at that all of the organizers were given
251 prior to the October 31, 2022 charity gala.

252 Exhibits 18 and 19 are copies of articles that I have read. They are fair and accurate
253 copies of the articles. I have no reason to believe the information contained in the articles is
254 inaccurate.

255 Exhibit 23 is the mask that I saw Poe Cameron wearing in the 40th floor Entryway of the
256 Miller Tower during the Sohi Children’s Hospital charity gala on October 31, 2022.

257 Exhibit 25 is a photograph of Poe Cameron. It accurately depicts what Poe Cameron
258 looked like on October 31, 2022 when I saw Cameron in the 40th floor Entryway of the Miller
259 Tower during the Sohi Children’s Hospital charity gala.

260 Exhibit 26 is a photograph of someone that looks like Poe Cameron but clearly is not Poe
261 Cameron. I did not see this person on or before October 31, 2022.

262 I swear or affirm the truthfulness of everything stated in this affidavit. Before giving this
263 statement, I was told I should include everything that I know may be relevant to my testimony,
264 and I followed those instructions. I know that I can and must update this affidavit if anything
265 new occurs to me until the moment before opening statements begin in this case.

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/s/CYPRUS COSMOS

Duly Subscribed and Sworn By Me:

/s/MADHAVI SUBRAMANIAM

Notary Public