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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

CRIMINAL DIVISION

CASE NO.: 18-10885-CF

SPECIAL PROSECUTION

STATE OF FLORIDA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
CHARISSE STINSON,)
)
Defendant.)
-----/

DEPOSITION
OF
FREDERICK ADU AKYEA

TAKEN BY: The Defendant
DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2020
TIME: 1:40 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.
PLACE: County Justice Center
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762

Reported By: Gina M. Manning
Court Reporter, Notary Public
State of Florida at Large

MORGAN J. MOREY & ASSOCIATES (727) 894-7407

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A P P E A R A N C E S

APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:

PAUL BOLAN, ESQUIRE
County Justice Center
Office of the Public Defender
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762
Phone: 727-464-6516

APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:

ALLISON MILLER, ESQUIRE
LORI MAHIN, ESQUIRE
County Justice Center
Office of the State Attorney
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762
Phone: 727-464-6221

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I N D E X

WITNESS

FREDERICK ADU AKYEA

<u>DIRECT EXAMINATION</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
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By Ms. Miller	4-9
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<u>CROSS EXAMINATION</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
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No cross examination.

EXHIBITS

No exhibits.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Thereupon,

FREDERICK ADU AKYEA

was called as a witness by the DEFENDANT and having first been duly sworn by the court reporter was examined and testified on his oath as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. MILLER:

Q. If you could please tell us your first and last name and spell your last name.

A. Frederick Adu Akyea, A-D-U space A-K-Y-E-A.

Q. First name Frederick?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Common spelling?

A. Yes.

Q. We're here today on the State of Florida versus Charisse Stinson. Do you know why you're here?

A. I was told that I have to come here because of her.

Q. Better question: Do you know what your involvement was in this case or why you're listed as a witness?

A. Yeah. They said I was a key witness at a gas station where she was passing by, that I saw something. But I didn't see anything.

Q. Where do you work?

A. Dynanet Corporation.

1 Q. Did you receive a phone call from law enforcement
2 in September of 2018?

3 A. They came to my house and dropped -- I should have
4 brought with the complimentary card. They came to my
5 workplace and they dropped a complimentary card and then
6 I have to call them. Yeah, I think I received a phone call.
7 So I call and I have to go to the law enforcement place
8 which is on the Highland Road.

9 Q. And they asked you to watch surveillance footage
10 from 7-Eleven?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. Do you remember doing that?

13 A. Yes, I watch it and it happened to be me.

14 Q. So that's what they were, essentially, asking you
15 to do? To identity yourself?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were you able to identity yourself on that video?

18 A. Yes. I saw it was me, and I saw my vehicle.

19 Q. They asked you if you had seen a pregnant female
20 walking by?

21 A. Yes. They asked me what happened. I was just
22 coming from work and I stopped on East Bay to buy gas at
23 a 7-Eleven. When I got to the gas station, I remembered
24 that I have a Shell Reward Card so I decided to change my
25 mind and go to buy the gas at the Shell place. I didn't

1 talk to anybody. She didn't talk to me. I didn't see
2 anybody screaming or yelling or nothing like that.

3 Q. This police report--again, it's the officer's
4 recitation of what you told him--says:

5 "At the time, he observed a pregnant female
6 walking by herself on the sidewalk of East Bay
7 Drive".

8 Do you remember seeing that pregnant woman?

9 A. If I see her, I don't don't know her. I don't know
10 who this. I don't know who she was.

11 Q. Do you know if she was a black woman? White woman?

12 A. No, no, no, no. Because you're coming from work
13 and you're so tired. I'm just careful about the pedestrian
14 around my sight, you know.

15 Q. But you did not speak to her?

16 A. No, no, no.

17 Q. The police report--and the "I" is the
18 officer--says:

19 "I then asked Frederick if he heard the pregnant
20 female talking or calling out to anyone and Frederick
21 stated no".

22 A. No, nothing like that.

23 Q. Do you remember specifically, though: I saw this
24 pregnant woman and I remember telling this officer this but
25 anything else about her, I don't remember? Is that

1 what you --

2 A. No, no, no, no, no. I saw the pregnant woman when
3 I was trying to buy the gas but I didn't hear anybody
4 screaming for help or shouting or nothing like that.

5 Q. But even like just talking at normal volume?

6 A. No.

7 Q. If you saw that person today, you don't think you
8 would be able to recognize her?

9 A. No.

10 Q. How long would you say you were at the 7-Eleven?

11 A. Oh, like a minute or two minutes, something like
12 that. I just park. I didn't even park. I get there and
13 I zoom out.

14 When I come back to work the next day, my colleges
15 told me, "Hey, man, we saw you on the T.V.," and I said,
16 "Ah, man. This what happened." Then I went to the police.
17 My HR call me and told me they was there.

18 Q. My understanding is that the police officers did
19 ask you to try to write a written statement?

20 A. Yes. They told me to try to write a written
21 statement but with this situation, I won't be able to
22 write well. I said that I will try to put down some things
23 but I can't write well. If you ask me the question, I will
24 tell you. But I will put what I know on there.

25 Q. I asked you this before we started but you're

1 from Ghana?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. Is English your second language?

4 A. English is my first language. My real language
5 is Twi but English is my official language, to speak it.

6 Q. Why do you think, then, that you would have a hard
7 time writing that written statement?

8 A. Because speaking is easy but writing is hard,
9 making some mistakes. I don't want to write something and
10 commit myself.

11 Q. I didn't want to make any assumptions. Writing
12 English is a little bit more tricky?

13 A. Yeah, yeah. I'm not perfect writing it.

14 Q. Totally understand. But everything you told us
15 today is what you believe you wrote in that written
16 statement?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Do you think there's any other information that you
19 possess about what happened at that 7-Eleven?

20 A. No. That's it. I don't have anything. That's it.

21 Q. And you didn't see that pregnant female carrying
22 anything?

23 A. (Deponent moves head to the left and to the right.)

24 Q. A baby? A bag?

25 A. She was just walking all my herself, all by

1 herself. Walking fast. Like I said, all by herself.

2 Nobody with her.

3 MS. MILLER: I don't have any other questions.

4 MS. MAHIN: No questions.

5 MR. BOLAN: No questions.

6 MS. MILLER: Thank you so much.

7 (The deposition concluded at 1:50 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

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STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, Gina M. Manning, certify that FREDERICK ADU AKYEA
personally appeared before me on Tuesday, February 4, 2020
and was duly sworn.

Signed this 22nd day of March 2020.

Gina M. Manning

GINA M. MANNING
Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public - State of Florida
My Commission Number: #GG250426
Expires: September 5, 2022

CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, GINA M. MANNING, Shorthand Reporter
and Notary Public, certify that I was authorized to and
did stenographically report the deposition of
FREDERICK ADU AKYEA, pages 1 through 12, that signatures
and formalities were not waived; and that the transcript
is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

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

Dated this 22nd day of March 2020.

Gina M. Manning

GINA M. MANNING
Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public - State of Florida
My Commission Number: #GG250426
Expires: September 5, 2022

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ERRATA SHEET

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CORRECTION

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FREDERICK ADU AKYEA