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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.)
-----/

TELEPHONIC DEPOSITION

OF

SCOTT BEARD

TAKEN BY: The Defendant
DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2020
TIME: 2:19 p.m. - 2:31 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

I N D E XWITNESS

SCOTT BEARD

DIRECT EXAMINATION PAGES

By Ms. Miller 4-11

CROSS EXAMINATION PAGES

By Mr. Bolan 11-11

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION PAGES

By Ms. Miller 11-13

EXHIBITS

No exhibits.

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. MILLER: There's not a way for us to
3 formally swear you in, obviously, because you're on
4 the telephone, but I'm going to assume that you're
5 going to tell us the truth. Would that be a fair
6 assumption?

7 THE DEPONENT: Yes, absolutely.

8 MS. MILLER: And your name is Scott Beard,
9 just for the record?

10 THE DEPONENT: Yes. Scott Michael Beard.

11 MS. MILLER: Are you married to Shannon?

12 THE DEPONENT: Yes, I am.

13 MS. MILLER: But she's not with you; correct?

14 THE DEPONENT: No.

15 MS. MILLER: She was set for deposition at 2.
16 You don't happen to know where she is by any
17 chance, do you?

18 THE DEPONENT: She's at home. I could go
19 there and call you in about 30 minutes if you want
20 to put both of us on at the same time.

21 MS. MILLER: No. I prefer to speak with each
22 of you individually.

23 THE DEPONENT: She's with our daughter
24 right now.

25

1 MS. MILLER: But you all did get the subpoenas
2 mailed to your home; correct?

3 THE DEPONENT: Yes.

4 I believe last week or so we got a phone call
5 saying that everything got postponed so we weren't
6 sure if this also did.

7 MS. MILLER: The trial was postponed.

8 Do you still live at 2890 Keene Park Drive?

9 THE DEPONENT: No. We have moved. We did
10 call and update the state attorney's office.
11 We did move, though.

12 MS. MILLER: But somebody has your current
13 address?

14 THE DEPONENT: Yes. The state attorney's
15 office does.

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. MILLER:

18 Q. You're listed as a witness in the State of Florida
19 versus Charisse Stinson. Do you know that you're listed as
20 a witness?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. Do you know why you're listed as a witness?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. Tell me what your understanding is, please.

25 A. Do you want my understanding of why I'm a witness

1 or of the entire incident?

2 Q. Let's go with the entire incident.

3 A. Okay. So this was a while ago so I don't remember
4 the exact date but let's start at the beginning.

5 An AMBER alert went out and --

6 Q. Oh, no, no, no. I know about that case. I mean
7 your involvement with the case in its entirety.

8 A. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. So basically, police came
9 to our door. They said they were responding to the
10 AMBER alert. They were in our neighborhood. We lived in
11 the neighborhood where this took place in. They came to our
12 door specifically because they saw that we had a video
13 camera security system facing the street. Upon seeing that
14 camera, they approached us and asked us for a review of our
15 footage. They identified themselves them properly. I don't
16 remember their names. It was two officers, though. They
17 identified themselves and showed proper badge and everything
18 and then proceeded through our footage.

19 It was myself and my wife who were viewing the
20 footage because we know how to operate our security system.
21 After about 30 minutes of browsing footage, they noticed
22 something that our camera picked up. Do you want me to be
23 more specific with that?

24 Q. Did you actually watch the security footage with
25 them, like you observed what they were observing?

1 A. Yes because they needed us to operate our cameras.
2 It was all -- On our computer is where all of the footage
3 was kept, so we were operating it while they observed.

4 Q. The camera system, to my understanding, is
5 a Vivint, V-I-V-I-N-T, security camera system; is that
6 correct?

7 A. Yes, that's correct.

8 Q. And is the date and timestamp on the camera
9 accurate to date and time?

10 A. Yes, it was. I don't remember the actual date and
11 time but yes, the timestamp is accurate.

12 Q. Okay, I understand. So like if we're watching it
13 now, it would accurately reflect that today is February 4th
14 at approximately 2:25?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Tell me what you saw on the camera system.

18 A. So this is a year-and-a-half ago, I believe.
19 At roughly 11 p.m. is when we -- My times might be wrong.
20 We have two cameras. The doorbell camera was much fuzzier,
21 but the driveway camera clearly saw a woman walk past our
22 house holding what appeared to be an infant; it was clear
23 enough that you could see something was not right the way
24 that the child was... Being a father myself, it was
25 a little emotional. Sorry, I'm kind of recalling the

1 memory of this.

2 What I saw -- I'll re-start. What I saw was
3 a woman walking in front of our house carrying a limp infant
4 and the arm was dangling so it was kind of visible that
5 something was not right. And she walked passed our house
6 at nighttime.

7 Q. Could you --

8 A. So the police saw that footage and we turned over
9 that segment to the police right then and there.

10 Q. Were you able to just like -- Does your security
11 system record to disk? Were you able to burn just that
12 segment? What did you actually, physically give the police?

13 A. It was a digital. We did not give them a physical
14 copy because we didn't have means for that. The system
15 let's you pick and choose segments so we gave them like
16 five minutes prior and then the event and then five minutes
17 after; we e-mailed that to the proper police channels.

18 Q. Were you able to tell anything about the
19 woman herself?

20 A. I had no idea who she is but you could enough
21 details that she was sobbing. You could see tears on her
22 face and you could see, you know, body language. Again, the
23 infant's arm was hanging limp.

24 But that was about the extent of what I could see.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you think you would be able to identify that
3 woman if you saw her again?

4 A. I -- I would have to view the video because it has
5 been so long. I haven't looked at that video since that
6 night but if I were to review the video, I could give a more
7 accurate answer. I could not say yes or no right now,
8 though.

9 Q. Do you know if it was a white woman or
10 a black woman?

11 A. I can't accurately answer that right now.

12 Q. I understand.

13 Do you remember anything else about her or the
14 child? Was she carrying anything else? Her clothing?
15 Anything like that?

16 A. The child was wrapped in like a blanket with the
17 exception of head and arm.

18 So basically what I saw is she passed our house at
19 an average pace holding the child on her chest, baby's head
20 on her shoulder with the arm hanging limp and wrapped
21 in a blanket. It took her maybe ten, fifteen seconds to
22 pass our house.

23 That's about the extent of the footage.

24 Q. When you provided it to law enforcement, other than
25 just providing just the time that's relevant to the case,

1 did you do any other kind of editing? Speed it up?

2 Slow it down? Enhance it in any way?

3 A. Absolutely not, no. All we did was cut the segment
4 with a few minutes before and a few minutes after and
5 provided that to them. Also, we told them if they need
6 anymore "before or after" we will provide it.

7 My other camera, the doorbell camera, is only
8 supposed to like clearly see right in front of the doorbell
9 so it was fuzzy; I don't think we provided that one.
10 We provided the one clear camera.

11 Q. But you didn't like zoom-in or anything like that?

12 A. No. We didn't touch any of the footage itself.

13 Q. Have you heard from law enforcement since then?
14 Have they ever followed up and asked you for additional
15 surveillance?

16 A. I cannot remember. No, they didn't ask for
17 anymore. I updated them with my address that I moved.

18 And then I believe I reached out to the
19 female detective.

20 Q. Freire.

21 A. She retired. I can't remember her name, but she
22 gave me person to talk to who I then updated.

23 Q. If I said Jill Freire, F-R-E-I-R-E, would that...

24 A. Jill. Yes.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. Yes.

2 MS. MILLER: I don't have any additional
3 questions unless Mr. Bolan does.

4 CROSS EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. BOLAN:

6 Q. Can I clarify one thing with you, Mr. Beard.

7 Did you say that in the video that you could see
8 tears on the woman's face?

9 A. Yes. If I had to clarify, it was like a light off
10 of like a screen that was like a stream down her face, from
11 what I remember.

12 Q. Okay.

13 MR. BOLAN: Okay. I just wanted to clarify.

14 A. (By the deponent) It was like part of her face was
15 different. I mean I could be assuming that it was tears but
16 there was a sign of light kind of like a stream on her face
17 and that's when I came to the conclusion that it was like a
18 tear coming down her face. But her body language read
19 upset. And then, you know, the child as I described
20 earlier.

21 RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. MILLER:

23 Q. When you say "her body language read upset"--and
24 I think you mentioned the body language before--do you have
25 any other information?

1 A. No. Just what I described earlier. It has been
2 over a year since I've seen that footage.

3 MS. MILLER: Thank you, we have no further
4 questions. I appreciate your time, sir.

5 THE DEPONENT: Should I reach-out to Shannon
6 for her to get in touch with you?

7 MS. MILLER: I know you can't answer for your
8 wife but presumably she going to say the same thing
9 as you did as far as contact with law enforcement
10 and providing the security footage?

11 THE DEPONENT: I presume her testimony would
12 be similar.

13 We have two computers so I went with one
14 detective and she went with the other so that we
15 could review the footage of the night that they were
16 asking for. I don't remember who, basically, found
17 that clip but we were, you know, operating the
18 computers as asked by the detective.

19 MS. MILLER: You didn't witness any of this
20 first-hand? Like you didn't see this woman with
21 the toddler, her infant --

22 THE DEPONENT: No.

23 MS. MILLER: -- walking by your home when
24 it happened?

25 THE DEPONENT: No. It was the next day when

1 they asked us to review the previous night's
2 footage. They came to us with a time estimate and
3 they said: We believe -- We want to look at your
4 footage between -- I believe they said -- I don't
5 remember. I'm not going to -- I'm not going to
6 assume a timeframe but they came to us
7 with a timeframe and said: Can we see the footage
8 between these hours and then we pulled up the
9 footage as previously discussed.

10 MS. MILLER: If you talk to Shannon and she's
11 be available to call us that would be great but
12 certainly don't drive or go out of your way to find
13 her. We can call her on another day.

14 THE DEPONENT: Okay.

15 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

16 (The telephonic deposition concluded at 2:42 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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 telephonic deposition of
SCOTT BEARD, pages 1 through 15, 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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SCOTT BEARD