

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

Case Number: 21-01099CFANO

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION OF: AMALIA ANAMUAH-MENSAH
TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Defendant
DATE: April 17, 2025
TIME: 9:42 a.m. - 10:54 a.m.
PLACE: Pinellas Co. Justice Center
14250 49th Street - 1100-4
Clearwater, FL
REPORTED BY: Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
Notary Public, State of FL

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 AMALIA ANAMUAH MENSAH

3 (adduced as the deponent herein, being first duly sworn
4 upon oath, was examined and testified as follows:)

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

7 Q. We are here on a continuation of a deposition on
8 case number 21-01099CF, touching a bit on 21-01513CF. I
9 know that your police case number is different. It is
10 2021-004037, and that's associated with the 21-01099CF
11 case.

12 So you've just been sworn in by our court
13 reporter. Can you please put your name on the record.

14 A. Amalia Anamuah-Mensah.

15 Q. Okay. Julia Seifer-Smith and Margaret Russell.
16 We represent Cornelius Whitfield in these matters. There
17 are also two prosecutors who are present from the State
18 Attorney's office.

19 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Would you all like to put
20 your appearances on record as well.

21 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Theodora Taktikos-Danzig.

22 MR. KOSKINAS: Tom Koskinas.

23 Q (By Ms. Seifer-Smith) So there was kind of, I guess,
24 like an off record investigation that you undertook to see
25 if there were some things on AXON that we had discussed at

1 our previous deposition about ten days ago or so regarding
2 text messages. You had described them as text messages
3 between Cornelius and Deronrick that you recalled having
4 taken photographs of and uploading to AXON.com. I
5 understand that you undertook an investigation to see if
6 those were available because we hadn't seen those. What
7 did you discover?

8 A. That the photos that I had taken, they were the
9 screen-shots from Rodney's phone, not the screen-shots of
10 text messages.

11 Q. Were they call logs rather than text messages?

12 A. They were call logs. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. Were those actually from Rodney's phone, or were
14 they from Deronrick's phone?

15 A. Rodney's phone.

16 Q. Okay. So I guess kind of two errors there.
17 Like, not from Deronrick?

18 A. Correct. I misspoke on the brothers.

19 Q. Okay. And the reason I'm asking in part two,
20 this came directly from your report where you say D. Green
21 provided screen-shots of the text messages Cornelius sent
22 him in the days leading up to the homicide. So are you
23 saying that those do not exist?

24 A. D did show text messages. I didn't take a photo
25 of the text messages.

1 Q. okay. Were those text messages memorialized in
2 any way? Like, were you able to obtain them in any other
3 way, through a download from his phone or through a
4 warrant to his service provider?

5 A. The warrants and the downloads were done by
6 other detectives, so we would have to follow up and see if
7 they were pulled off from there.

8 Q. okay. So you do not know if Deronrick actually
9 was able to provide those text messages to you?

10 A. Aside from showing them physically to me.

11 Q. Are you able to tell me now what those text
12 messages say?

13 A. No, ma'am.

14 Q. And is that because you just don't remember?

15 A. It's been four years. I don't remember.

16 Q. okay. That's fair. I just wanted to be clear
17 on the provision because, like, your report says D. Green
18 provided screen-shots of the text messages Cornelius sent
19 him in the days leading up to the homicide, attempt
20 homicide, and robbery. So he provided -- when you're
21 saying provided --

22 A. Like, flip it over and here you go. So when
23 we're in the interview, he flips it over and here you go.

24 Q. And you showed me your phone.

25 A. Right. Just like as a, look, here you go.

1 Q. okay. So when you're saying "provided," he just
2 like showed you in the room?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And in part, the reason I have questions like
5 this is because you did not memorialize the interview that
6 you had with Mr. Green. Like, it wasn't on audio. It
7 wasn't on video. Correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. okay. Was there anything else that we had
10 discussed last week that, like, to your recollection you
11 might need to correct or change with regards to your
12 testimony?

13 A. I don't know because I haven't seen the
14 transcripts, so I don't know.

15 Q. okay. But just in terms of your memory of our
16 discussion, at this moment right now, you don't know?

17 A. Not that I can recall.

18 Q. And, of course, we'll reserve your right to read
19 at the end of this conversation. Once you get a copy of
20 the transcript, you can go through it.

21 A. okay.

22 Q. So where we left off was kind of talking about
23 the interrogation of Mr. Whitfield.

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. okay. That's your recollection. That's my

1 recollection.

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. So I had asked you before you stepped out to do
4 that investigation if you had a copy of the Rights
5 Advisement form. I found a copy of it. I'm happy to
6 share it with you now if you need to refer to it.

7 A. It's pretty self-explanatory.

8 Q. I'm going to be asking you some questions about
9 it. I'll make it available to you.

10 A. Okay. That's fine.

11 Q. So before I kind of jump in to things, was there
12 anything that you, like, reviewed or rereviewed between,
13 you know, our conversation last week and today?

14 A. Some of the video. That's it.

15 Q. And when you say the "video," is that the
16 interrogation?

17 A. The interrogation, yes, ma'am.

18 Q. I have one video, and it's -- here, I'll just
19 kind of show you a snapshot of it. Like, does that look
20 familiar?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Do you know if there was more than one video,
23 like more than one camera angle?

24 A. There's only one camera angle in each of the
25 interview rooms.

1 Q. okay. And so the camera angle that we both just
2 looked at, it seems as though the camera is kind of up
3 pretty high, probably where the wall meets the ceiling?

4 A. I believe so. It's one of those things like,
5 where's the camera? Where's the camera?

6 Q. Okay. But certainly you can see the top of your
7 head?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And that's you? You're able to identify
10 yourself?

11 A. That's me and Detective Harris and Cornelius
12 whitfield.

13 Q. Okay. And so we can see that like your -- well,
14 you and Detective Harris are much closer to Cornelius
15 whitfield than the camera itself?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Okay. So -- and I'd say that you were probably
18 like very, very close to him. I think at one point or a
19 couple of points, you kind of bump feet, legs. You're
20 probably within about two feet of him. Is that fair?

21 A. That's fair.

22 Q. And so like your -- and you're much lower than
23 the camera. You're able to see his face and his facial
24 features much better than the camera is able to capture
25 that?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And so I wanted to kind of talk a little bit
3 about that in terms of any observations that you made
4 before you went into the room, if you made any.

5 A. Before going in, no. It was all upon entry.

6 Q. Okay. Because my understanding is that in
7 addition to the camera capturing for like a recording,
8 that there's also like a live feed within your department.

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. You didn't look at him beforehand?

11 A. No, ma'am.

12 Q. Okay. And I think you told me last week that
13 your initial impression upon coming into the room was that
14 he was very small?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And is this the first time that you're actually
17 seeing him in person?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Okay. You did not see him on the scene. Is
20 that right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And any kind of impressions of like his, like,
23 physical movement or behavior when you guys are in there?

24 A. Physical movement, he would shake his head up
25 and down, as in acknowledging saying, like, yes. The

1 typical fashion that we all do, up and down, yes,
2 left-right, no.

3 He would -- if there was something that he
4 didn't want to answer, it seemed like he would drop his
5 head low. He would keep his arms usually crossed in front
6 of him. He would look at the pictures that were put on
7 the table and then shuffle them back if there was one that
8 he didn't want to look at particularly and do that. I
9 mean, he was pretty much like -- I can't do it in uniform
10 but like rolled over in on himself. Like, just kind of --
11 if he was a large person, he would be making himself
12 smaller. He's already a small person, so he's just kind
13 of down in on himself.

14 Q. Like hunching his back?

15 A. Yeah, just rounding. So instead of sitting up
16 with posture, like an erect posture, he's hunched over.

17 Q. Did any of those movements or gestures make you
18 think anything, like any impressions because of that?

19 A. The ones that did, it would be when you would
20 ask him a question, and instead of him answering the
21 question with words, he would use his head and his body
22 language, so tilting his head like up and down.

23 (Indicating.)

24 Q. Okay. I see you nodding your head. Is that
25 what you're describing?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. Okay. Did you notice him rubbing his arms a lot
3 with his hands?

4 A. So he -- at times he started rubbing his hands.
5 I thought maybe he was cold. It was COVID, so everybody
6 was afraid of touching stuff at that time. So I got him
7 one of the thermal blankets, but then that was so loud and
8 rattly, I ended up finding a jacket that they could put on
9 him.

10 Q. And I think both you and Detective Harris
11 actually had masks on. Is that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. But Mr. Whitfield did not have a mask?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Did he appear to be ill at all, like coughing or
16 sneezing?

17 A. No, ma'am.

18 Q. All right. I want to talk to you about, like,
19 going over the Miranda rights waiver. I'm happy to turn
20 the form over to you. I have it titled as a Rights
21 Advisement form. I guess kind of first off, do you
22 recognize this?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And it looks as though it might be a color copy.
25 I see a signature in blue down there. Does that look as

1 though it's like a perfect kind of colored copy of the
2 Rights Advisement form you used in this case?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you recognize the handwriting on this form?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell me whose handwriting you recognize
7 that to be?

8 A. It's my handwriting.

9 Q. Is there any handwriting that you do not
10 recognize?

11 A. The interviewee signee signature that I don't
12 recognize.

13 Q. And there are three signatures at the bottom of
14 that form.

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Can you describe to me whose signatures those
17 are?

18 A. The top one is the interviewee's signature, so
19 that would be Cornelius Whitfield. The investigator
20 signature, that would be me. That's my signature. And
21 then the witness is Detective Harris.

22 Q. And so was this the one that we saw completed
23 during the video?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. So I want to talk a little bit about your

1 undertaking of the Rights Advisement. I think we -- you
2 mentioned that you ask him, like, silly questions, and you
3 kind of, you know, just broadly said I need to ask you
4 some silly questions. Do you remember that?

5 A. Yes. And the silly is you're already having --
6 you're already exchanging words and speaking with
7 somebody, and then you turn around and ask them can you
8 hear.

9 Q. Well, you actually said, like, I've got some
10 silly questions to ask you, and then you asked him if he
11 was taking any kind of prescription drugs.

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Okay. So that was the first question after
14 saying I've got to ask you some silly questions. Is that
15 fair?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. And his response, do you remember it?

18 A. For prescription drugs, it was no. Alcohol, no.
19 Illegal drugs, yes.

20 Q. Well, do you recall his response to prescription
21 drugs was actually, "Probably so. I smoked so many
22 drugs"?

23 A. That I don't recall hearing.

24 Q. But the video would be like the best reflection
25 of what was --

1 A. But prescription drugs --

2 Q. I'm sorry, if I can just finish my question

3 before you answer.

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. The video would be the best reflection of his

6 immediate response to the question that you asked?

7 A. Yes, ma'am. And I just want to clarify that

8 prescription drugs and stuff that you smoke tend to not go

9 hand-to-hand.

10 Q. Right. So his question -- or his answer to your

11 question was actually nonresponsive?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. okay. And it was clarified for him that you

14 were asking him specifically about prescription drugs?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And then ultimately, he said no to the

17 prescription drugs?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. okay. And it was kind of clarified, like, we're

20 asking about medication?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And I think that it was like both you and

23 Detective Harris clarifying that particular question?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Okay. He was asked if he drank any alcohol. Is

1 that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And do you recall his response?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You don't recall his response, or his response
6 was no?

7 A. No. The response was no.

8 Q. And then he was asked about any, like, illegal
9 drugs or illegal narcotics. Do you recall his response to
10 that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What did he say?

13 A. The marijuana.

14 Q. He said that he had smoked some weed earlier.

15 He didn't say marijuana.

16 A. Well, weed/marijuana.

17 Q. So he said weed, which is also marijuana?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. You didn't ask him what he smoked?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. You didn't ask him if he was under the influence
22 of marijuana when he was speaking with you?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Could you smell marijuana on him?

25 A. Not that I recall.

1 Q. Were you able to see his pupils?

2 A. They were pretty dark, so -- his eyes are dark,
3 pupils are dark. So to differentiate between his iris and
4 pupils, I couldn't differentiate.

5 Q. Okay. So you don't know if his pupils were
6 dilated or not?

7 A. No, ma'am.

8 Q. And could you tell if the whites of his eyes
9 were bloodshot at all?

10 A. No, ma'am.

11 Q. No, you couldn't tell, or no, you didn't notice?

12 A. I didn't notice if they were.

13 Q. Did he appear to you to be under the influence
14 of any illegal drugs?

15 A. No, ma'am.

16 Q. And you asked him about the last grade that he
17 had completed in school?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. What did he respond?

20 A. He said he completed his GED.

21 Q. Okay. And did you ask him when he completed his
22 GED?

23 A. No, not the year.

24 Q. Did you ask him how far he got in school before
25 completing the GED?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. And just to clarify too, you hadn't done any

3 kind of research into his school history, anything like

4 that?

5 A. No, ma'am.

6 Q. You then asked him if he could read. Is that

7 right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And what did he say?

10 A. A little.

11 Q. Okay. And he actually like had some gestures

12 around that. Is that right?

13 A. I believe so, I mean, without seeing it

14 physically.

15 Q. Did you ask him if he could write?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What did he respond?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. I think he said -- like, he shrugged, and he

20 said, I guess, and he kind of moved his hands around. Do

21 you recall that?

22 A. without watching it second-for-second, no.

23 Q. And it was only at this point then that you

24 asked him can you hear. Does that seem right in terms of

25 the direction of questions?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And then you said, I told you that some of these

3 questions were silly, right, going back to that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then you moved on to like the Miranda rights

6 advisement. Does that sound right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you tell me what you recall in terms of like

9 going over these rights with Mr. Whitfield?

10 A. Just standard. Just --

11 Q. What does that mean?

12 A. I just read each one and write down the answer

13 that they give.

14 Q. And so is that what is documented here?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. So like you read out verbatim what's

17 written on that sheet and then write down verbatim what

18 their response is?

19 A. When you say verbatim, when I'm writing it down,

20 if it's -- essentially, if it's a yes or no.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. So if they say yes and then they continue

23 speaking in a sentence, I'm not writing the full sentence.

24 The answer was yes.

25 Q. Okay. So if they said yes but I have some

1 questions about that, you wouldn't necessarily write down
2 but and then the question?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And did he have questions about any of the
5 rights that were read to him?

6 A. About the -- no.

7 Q. Okay. And what you wrote down was yes, yeah,
8 yeah. So it kind of varies?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you tell me why?

11 A. That's how he speaks.

12 Q. Okay. Now, in going over those questions, he
13 did a lot of, like, kind of gesticulating, head movements.
14 He laughed. Do you recall seeing that in the video?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Laughing, that's not necessarily responsive to
17 the question, is it?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And then that kind of -- well, not the final
20 question, but there was a question of do you understand
21 that you can decide at any time to exercise these rights
22 and not answer my questions. Did you read that to him?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And what was his response?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. okay. Now, what I recall was a very rambling
2 answer that never arrived at either a yes or no. Do you
3 remember --

4 A. without watching it verbatim word-for-word, that
5 I don't recall.

6 Q. Okay. But what you wrote down on your form was?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And then he went on to say I don't really
9 understand what's going on today. Do you remember that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And I think you kind of talked to him,
12 you and Detective Harris about -- I guess kind of like a
13 metaphor, that this was like a puzzle to be put together?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And have you and Detective Harris worked
16 together in terms of interviewing people together before?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Is there a particular way that the two of
19 you go about that?

20 A. Just kind of read the vibe off of each other and
21 we go from there.

22 Q. Was there any discussion the two of you had, the
23 two of you being yourself and Detective Harris had before
24 going into the interview room?

25 A. Not that I recall.

1 Q. okay. And like pretty quickly, Mr. Whitfield
2 asks, "So I'm free to go?" Is that right?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And what was your response?

5 A. No, you're not free to go.

6 Q. And was that because he was not free to go?

7 A. He was already under arrest.

8 Q. So he was arrested no matter what he was going
9 to say to you?

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. And he was going to be under arrest in your
12 case, correct?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. Do you know if he was under arrest for Detective
15 Harris's case as well?

16 A. For Detective Harris's, I believe that's what we
17 were getting to at that point.

18 Q. okay. So not under arrest with respect to
19 Detective Harris's case?

20 A. You would have to ask Detective Harris for that.
21 I know for me, he was under arrest for the arrest warrant
22 that I had issued for him.

23 Q. okay. So you didn't actually need any
24 information from him in order to go forward in terms of
25 having charged him for the crime?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. He was already charged?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. And so what was the purpose of that interview

5 for you?

6 A. The purpose of the interview? I was Detective

7 Harris's assist for the second case, which is 2021-006023.

8 I was his assist. I was sitting in there. So he led off

9 on the questioning and then from there turned over to if I

10 had questions on the 4037 case.

11 Q. So what was your purpose on your case in terms

12 of the questioning? Just kind of like broad strokes, what

13 was your goal?

14 A. To get his side and his account of events that

15 happened at Emerald Point apartments.

16 Q. Would that have helped your investigation in any

17 way?

18 A. It's nice to know.

19 Q. Nice to know in what sense?

20 A. I always like to have the other side's account

21 of events and what they were going through.

22 Q. Why is that?

23 A. Satisfying for me.

24 Q. Okay. So it sounds like it doesn't perform any

25 sort of like investigative function?

1 A. He already had the arrest warrant for that. It
2 helps to know if he gives me a confession, yes.

3 Q. What do you mean it helps to know if he gives
4 you a confession?

5 A. If someone confesses to it and they let me know
6 what their means, their motives, their reasons behind what
7 they did, then, yes, the interview is helpful.

8 Q. Okay. But in terms of proof, you don't need --
9 you don't need motive?

10 A. Probable cause was already established for him.

11 Q. Right. He was already under arrest for your
12 case?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. So it sounds like this was kind of intellectual
15 curiosity in terms of what information he would give you
16 in your case?

17 A. It was also connecting the dots, because we were
18 still looking for him actively for my mine, and the fact
19 that he was found at home under these circumstances, and
20 he was found in the possession of property to one of my
21 victims in the 4037 case. So it all tied together and
22 encompassed.

23 Q. Sorry, connecting the dots, can you just explain
24 a little bit more what you mean by that?

25 A. So like we had said previously, there were other

1 agencies that were looking for him. He had an arrest
2 warrant that was written that was out. So he was a wanted
3 felon. We were looking for him. When you get him and
4 here he is -- you find him. You find he's back at the
5 home that detectives, officers have been out repeatedly
6 saying, hey, you know, asking the family is he here, is he
7 here, and then he turns up here. When he turns up here,
8 he's also in possession of property that was from one of
9 my crimes, from the 4037. So it gives that closure. It
10 connects the dots. It puts him in one place and the next.

11 Q. How many times did officers or detectives go to
12 his home?

13 A. That I don't recall.

14 Q. Okay. Did you ever go to the place where
15 Mr. Whitfield was living?

16 A. No.

17 Q. So the first time was on the 16th when you got
18 that radio call?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. Okay. And did you send anybody else like from
21 your unit or from patrol to go out too?

22 A. I know the sergeants were sending people. They
23 were having the SIU detectives try and keep eyes and watch
24 and see if he was going to stores or anything nearby. So
25 I know that people were going out. I know detectives went

1 in, spoke with his mother, Shirley Leene on a couple of
2 occasions.

3 Q. Do you know if anybody like went up to the home
4 and knocked on the door?

5 A. I wasn't there, so I can't speak for what
6 actions they may or may not have taken.

7 Q. I apologize, SIU, what is that?

8 A. The Special Investigations Unit.

9 Q. Do you know what they were actually doing?

10 A. They're surveillance.

11 Q. When did the surveillance begin, if you know?

12 A. That I don't know.

13 Q. Was that request to SIU done by another officer
14 or detective?

15 A. So when we have an arrest warrant for a violent
16 felon, then we try and locate them. That way we get this
17 violent felon off the streets so nobody else gets hurt.

18 Q. And so is there something that gets put into
19 place in terms of policy or procedures by going out, like
20 SIU surveilling?

21 A. I'm sure SIU -- I've never been a member of SIU,
22 so I'm sure they have their policies and procedures.

23 Q. Okay. Is there something automatic that would
24 be sent like once an arrest warrant is generated by it
25 sounds like you or --

1 A. we have a briefing. we have a briefing, and
2 they'll send either their sergeant or one of the
3 detectives over. They'll get a briefing and a packet and
4 say, hey, this is who we're looking for, this is what's
5 going on.

6 Q. As the case agent, did you receive anything back
7 from SIU in terms of them documenting their surveillance?

8 A. Not that I recall.

9 Q. okay. When they do surveillance, do they
10 document what they're doing?

11 A. Typically, yes.

12 Q. Do you happen to know any officers, detectives
13 -- I'm not sure what they're called, the folks that are in
14 SIU.

15 A. I was not in SIU, so I don't know who was
16 specifically assigned.

17 Q. Do you happen to know who the supervisor was for
18 that unit?

19 A. I do not.

20 Q. Would there have been communication between the
21 supervisors --

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. -- whoever that is? And I guess it was Elizondo
24 for you?

25 A. Either Elizondo and Demark and whoever their

1 sergeants would have been at the time. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. Sorry, I got a little bit diverted there.
3 I think that we had started to discuss previously like
4 some of -- some of Mr. Whitfield's odd behaviors when he
5 was in the room with you, that he laughed kind of
6 throughout the engagement with yourself and Detective
7 Harris. Is that --

8 A. That's correct. He giggles.

9 Q. And he also smiled at like inappropriate times?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Okay. And on a number of occasions, he said
12 things like, I don't want to sound crazy, and then he
13 would start talking about some things?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Okay. So like a number of times, he kind of
16 identified what he was about to say would be something
17 crazy?

18 A. In his eyes, yes.

19 Q. Okay. And he said things like, I just feel like
20 I can't say or can't say the things that I know, and he
21 was like very reticent to talk about some of the things
22 that he was observing or feeling?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And he said a number of these things prior to
25 actually signing this form that we have in front of us,

1 the Rights Advisement form?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And immediately after he said that he was
4 hearing things in his head?

5 A. He said he was hearing things inside his head
6 and outside his head.

7 Q. And he described some of the things that he was
8 hearing inside of his head. Is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. He said like the voices were telling him do
11 this, don't do that, kind of just as a starter?

12 A. Right. And then he would hear the ones on the
13 outside. He would watch TV, and then he'd start feeling
14 and thinking a certain way.

15 Q. And he also thought the TV was essentially
16 talking to him as well, right?

17 A. The way I perceived it was, he was getting -- as
18 he would listen and watch the TV, it would make him feel a
19 particular way, which then would make him start thinking
20 that, oh, the TV is telling me this, the TV is telling me
21 that.

22 Q. Okay. He also said a number of times, like, I
23 don't know what's going on, right? Or, I don't know.
24 what's going on?

25 A. In terms to what? Because if he says it

1 numerous times throughout the interrogation, then it's, I
2 don't know what's going on -- like, he said I don't know
3 what's going on in the friend circle. I don't know what's
4 going on in the world right now, because he had been
5 incarcerated for so long. He didn't know how to use a
6 smart phone. So when he says I don't know, it's when
7 applicable to whatever that exact statement was prior to
8 him saying that.

9 Q. But he did use that phrase, like, quite a lot
10 throughout the interview?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. He also said I don't know if the government is
13 involved?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Which is an odd thing to say. You just
16 chuckled, right?

17 A. It's odd, yeah.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. Odd doesn't mean anything other than odd. It's
20 odd.

21 Q. I mean, you're not like a mental health
22 professional, right?

23 A. No. And I'm not a conspiracy theorist. I'm
24 sure people could argue conspiracy theorists, some are
25 mental, some are not.

1 Q. Well, he didn't actually go on much to discuss
2 government involvement, did he?

3 A. No.

4 Q. He just said, like, I don't know if the
5 government is involved or if the streets are involved?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Okay. And then he said that kind of bizarre
8 thing of, "I guess I'm gay. At least that's what people
9 say"?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And he didn't really talk about that -- I don't
12 know -- accusation of homosexuality again?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And that was kind of a nonresponsive answer to
15 anything?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Okay. And then he said with reference to like
18 what had gone on that particular day that he just got to
19 his home like right before the police arrived?

20 A. At -- that he was home, and he was watching TV
21 with Mya.

22 Q. He went on to say that he doesn't trust phones?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And that they actually scare him?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. I think maybe scare was a word used by either
2 yourself or Harris.

3 A. Probably.

4 Q. But what he described is that he felt as though
5 people were disguising their voices or pretending to be
6 not who they said that they were on the phone?

7 A. Initially, yes.

8 Q. Okay. You said initially. Did he say something
9 else later?

10 A. Later on, he said that he gets a hard time from
11 other people. They make fun of him because he doesn't
12 know how to use the smart phones.

13 Q. But he didn't go back to saying like, oh, no,
14 people on the phone, like, they're definitely who they say
15 that they are when they answer the phone?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And I know that it was like your conversation
18 with him and Detective Harris's conversation with
19 Mr. Whitfield was like very intertwined in terms of
20 speaking about the two incidents that were separated by
21 two weeks.

22 A. (Nods head.)

23 Q. But it's all captured on the video itself. Is
24 that right?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. At one point he's confronted -- Mr. Whitfield is
2 confronted by Detective Harris with what Detective Harris
3 learned from Shirley Leene, her saying Cornelius shot me,
4 right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And they go on to have, like, a bit of a
7 conversation about things, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And he identifies more mental health concerns,
10 like mental health things, people influencing his
11 thoughts, things like that, right?

12 A. That's his perception.

13 Q. But that's what he says?

14 A. Correct. That's his perception.

15 Q. And he hears people mocking him and the TV
16 mocking him?

17 A. That's what he believes, yes.

18 Q. And that "they're telling me to do all kinds of
19 shit," either talking about the people or the TV. It's
20 not really clear.

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And at one point he says, I'm not even sure that
23 she's my mother. I want to take a DNA test.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I mean -- and he says that, I mean, she looks

1 like her, but -- like indicating that, like, she looks my
2 mother, but I'm not sure?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Okay. And he goes on to say a number of other
5 very bizarre things throughout?

6 A. Yes. He says, She looks like my mother, but I'm
7 not sure. She hasn't really been there for me lately.

8 Q. Okay. Did he ever say that she was there for
9 him?

10 A. No, not that I recall.

11 Q. And you just don't know anything about their
12 history, right? You hadn't spoken to Shirlelene before
13 running in to her that day?

14 A. Correct. The only time I'd ever spoken to her
15 is when she was on the stretcher.

16 Q. Okay. And did you ever speak with her again?

17 A. No, ma'am.

18 Q. And this one time with Cornelius Whitfield, this
19 was the only time that you had speaking with him. Is that
20 right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. And you and Detective Harris were with him for
23 quite a while?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Okay. And not too long after that, you start

1 talking to him about your case, right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And he engages with you, right? Like, he
4 answers some of your questions?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But he's not entirely responsive to your
7 questions, right? Like not answering directly?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. He rambles quite a bit?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. His voice is pretty low throughout, right?
12 Like, he doesn't raise his voice?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Would you describe him as cooperative in the
15 interview in the sense that like he is -- like, he's not
16 antagonistic? He's not -- well, I don't know. How would
17 you describe that?

18 A. He's not antagonistic. He's cooperative to the
19 extent that he is willing to have a conversation; but the
20 conversation is halted whenever he doesn't want to answer
21 a question, or it's rerouted and he'll change it to
22 something different or just go completely silent. So
23 cooperation, I guess it's kind of objective. I don't have
24 somebody in the interview room that's yelling at me and
25 throwing stuff or being hostile or argumentative, but it's

1 somebody who appears apathetic and flat to what's going
2 on.

3 Q. So when you say flat, like his affect is flat?

4 A. Right. He's just like --

5 Q. Not emotional?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And not emotional at any point during the
8 conversation?

9 A. Not particularly, no.

10 Q. In terms of what you described as him not
11 wanting to answer a question, like how are you able to
12 like draw that conclusion?

13 A. I would ask him a question, and it would -- so I
14 asked him about Rodney Green, about who shot Rodney Green,
15 and he -- I believe he said, "Oh, I shot Rodney Green?"
16 But he said it in a way as like a question. I said, No,
17 I'm asking who do you think Rodney named as shooting him,
18 and he's just like, I don't know.

19 Like, he just shuts down. It's hard to -- he
20 just kind of goes (indicating) when he doesn't want answer
21 it. we'll either say the question again, and then once he
22 realizes that's what the question is and that's where
23 we're going, he stops.

24 Q. Okay. Just for the record, what you described
25 as shutting down was like his kind of hunching forward?

1 A. Yes, the hunch. Hang his head low, hunch
2 forward.

3 Q. And not an immediate verbal response to your
4 question?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Okay. And so your perception was he didn't want
7 to answer that question?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Did you ask him or did you hear Detective Harris
10 ask him at any point during the conversation if he was
11 hearing voices at the time you were speaking with him?

12 A. I don't recall if -- I don't think that I did.
13 I don't recall if Detective Harris did. If it was at the
14 time during the interview, no.

15 Q. Did it appear to you as though he was responding
16 to internal stimuli?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. Do you know what that is?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Like, what would you look for if somebody was
21 responding to internal stimuli?

22 A. That their focus would drift. So my stimuli is
23 here to you, but the focus would kind of drift or, you
24 know, like a rapid head movement maybe in another way or
25 maybe a little more shaky.

1 Q. okay. Mr. Whitfield had some odd facial
2 expressions during the interview. Is that right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Can you describe some of those?

5 A. I believe at one point I showed him a picture of
6 the -- of one of the deceased and he smiles. That to me
7 is odd.

8 Q. Do you recall just now like if it was from your
9 case or Detective Harris's case?

10 A. I believe it was from mine.

11 Q. So it would have been a photograph of
12 Mr. Barnes?

13 A. Mr. Barnes or Rodney Green, of his face.

14 Q. It was hard for me to see from the angle of the
15 video, but it looks like at some points, Mr. Whitfield
16 makes like very intense eye contact with you, sometimes
17 intense eye contact with Detective Harris in a way that I
18 think is not normal social engagement. Am I seeing what
19 you experienced in the room?

20 A. No, ma'am.

21 Q. okay.

22 A. I would figure eye contact would be good for
23 most cases.

24 Q. Was he staring, like very starry, like eyes
25 wide? You didn't see that?

1 A. No, not that I recall. I recall him looking at
2 our waistbands for our gun belts.

3 Q. When was that?

4 A. Throughout the interviews, when we were doing
5 the -- when the technician came in. But as far as someone
6 looking me in the eyes, I appreciate it. I'm not averted
7 to it.

8 Q. Did you have your gun on you when you went into
9 the interview room?

10 A. I don't remember if I had it on or not. I know
11 I could see my magazine on the left side, but I don't
12 remember if my gun was on me.

13 Q. Do you happen to remember if Detective Harris
14 had his?

15 A. I don't recall.

16 Q. And you said that's something you recall
17 Mr. Whitfield doing throughout the many hours you all were
18 together?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was that something that you mentioned to anybody
21 else?

22 A. Yes. I mentioned it to Sergeant Elizondo, and I
23 mentioned it to the patrol officers that were transporting
24 him out to jail, and then I also called out to jail.

25 Q. So was this something you mentioned after you

1 left the room?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you talk about it with Detective Harris at
4 all, if you know?

5 A. Both of us, we were saying, Did you notice it?

6 Yes, I noticed it. So we made sure we passed it to
7 patrol. It's just a safety measure for anyone and
8 everyone.

9 Q. When you say you noticed it, do you mean you and
10 Detective Harris both affirmed seeing the same thing?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was there any kind of -- was there any
13 additional odd behavior that you recall now?

14 A. None additional from what's already been said.

15 Q. Okay. And in terms of your description about
16 the constant checks of your gun belt, it sounds like
17 that's something that was unusual?

18 A. Correct, but it's something that we also have to
19 make sure that we look out for as well. You know, it's
20 safety for everybody involved.

21 Q. Has that been something you've noticed in other
22 interviews with people?

23 A. If they're looking or not looking, yes.

24 Q. Looking or not looking --

25 A. At my gun belt, yes. Yes. It's something --

1 Q. So something --

2 A. Just experience. I just make sure that I'm

3 watching and making sure my person, my body.

4 Q. Okay. At any time did he attempt anything

5 physical while he was in the room?

6 A. No, ma'am.

7 Q. And he was not handcuffed at that point? Not in

8 zip ties?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Was there a point in which you thought that it

11 would have been a better idea to leave him like more

12 restrained?

13 A. To leave him more restrained?

14 Q. Because you took him out of the zip ties, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. At any point during the conversation with

17 him, were you like in fear that he would do something

18 physical?

19 A. In the room, no.

20 Q. Okay. How about outside of the room?

21 A. For myself, no.

22 Q. For anybody else?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Before you went into the room, had you heard

25 from any of the transport officers about anything

1 occurring like from his transport from Emerson Avenue to
2 the station?

3 A. No, not that I recall.

4 Q. Okay. Did he ever complain about being cold?

5 A. I don't remember if he complained or if it was
6 noticed.

7 Q. What do you mean by noticed?

8 A. Like goosebumps. He was shirtless.

9 Q. Talk to me about like your kind of interrogation
10 regarding your case. Was there anything in particular
11 that you wanted to learn from Cornelius?

12 A. Let's see. I wanted to know where the firearm
13 came from, if in fact that he did bring the firearm to the
14 house, to the apartment.

15 Q. What did he tell you about the firearm?

16 A. He -- this is what he told me, the up and down,
17 like the nod. (Indicating.) I would ask him questions.
18 He wouldn't say anything. I would say, okay, well, this
19 is what I know, and then he would nod as if in agreement.
20 And then he would say, How do you know all this stuff?
21 How do you already know? It was like --

22 Q. Now, you had kind of initially smiled while you
23 were nodding, was he also smiling when he nodded his head?

24 A. There were times when he would, yes.

25 Q. Did that seem like appropriate to the situation?

1 A. For interviews and interrogations, there's a lot
2 of things that you look for. So if someone is trying to
3 say no but they're smiling and moving their head up and
4 down, it's through kinesis. It's indicative of they're
5 saying yes, even though they're doing it. They're not
6 verbalizing it, but their body motions, facial
7 expressions, gestures are saying yes.

8 It goes the same way. They can say no too.
9 They can shut down, completely say no, shake their head,
10 and while they're saying no, it's like, okay, that's a
11 hard no.

12 Q. Did you talk to him about what occurred within
13 the apartment?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And was he responsive to your questions
16 about what happened in the apartment?

17 A. It was, How do you know? He seemed shocked when
18 I told him that Rodney was alive. He seemed even more
19 shocked when I said Rodney is able to speak.

20 Q. Can you tell me what you mean by shocked? Like,
21 can you describe what you saw and what you observed?

22 A. So for somebody that's pretty much sitting like
23 with their shoulders slumped and head down, when I said
24 that, it was like -- (Indicating). His head kind of
25 twisted to the side, like, oh, and you can see, like, his

1 eyebrows go up, like, oh. So that would be shocked.
2 Usually shocked, eyebrows go up. But the rapid head
3 movement, look at me and address me while I'm saying it.

4 Q. Anything else with respect to that particular
5 response?

6 A. No, ma'am.

7 Q. And did he tell you anything about that when he
8 was confronted?

9 A. I asked him if he had a key, if he locked the
10 door behind him when he left.

11 Q. Why did you ask that?

12 A. Because there was no signs of forced entry. So
13 just thinking, okay, maybe he had a key. Maybe -- you've
14 got to put all the possibilities out there. Maybe he had
15 a key. Maybe they said, Hey, this is great. Come back
16 here tomorrow. Here's a key. Hey, did you have a key to
17 come back in here? Did you lock the door behind you? He
18 was like, No, I didn't have a key. I didn't lock the
19 door. I couldn't lock the door behind me. I didn't have
20 a key.

21 Q. Okay. And had you had a chance to actually
22 speak-speak with Rodney by this time in terms of his
23 recitation of facts?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So you knew by that time that Rodney had locked

1 the door behind --

2 A. Not Rodney. Deronrick. Rodney was already in
3 bed asleep.

4 Q. Okay. So the door was open or closed when --
5 are you talking about the entry or the exit?

6 A. There's only one door into that apartment.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. So Rodney went to lay down. Deronrick and --
9 not Deronrick -- D. There's too many Ds. Darren and
10 Cornelius were there. Darren shows Cornelius out, shuts
11 the door behind him.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Rodney is in the back room asleep.

14 Q. Okay. So, sorry, this is what Cornelius says,
15 that Darren shuts the door behind him?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. I see. Okay.

18 A. Darren shows him out.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Or D. I think -- because we had the same thing
21 that we did in the room before and then we're here where
22 there's too many Ds. It was like, Did D, and he looks and
23 he's not, No, not Deronrick. He was like, The other D.
24 Darren? Darren, yes. Because they both go by D, similar
25 names-ish.

1 Q. So he doesn't know who shot either of them is
2 what he's saying?

3 A. Who's saying that? Cornelius or Rodney?

4 Q. Cornelius.

5 A. Cornelius did not admit to either one.

6 Q. Okay. And did you confront him with having
7 spoken to Rodney?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And what did you tell him about your
10 conversations with Rodney?

11 A. I said that Rodney named him as the one that
12 shot D/Darren and then the one that shot him.

13 Q. And what was Cornelius's response to that?

14 A. That's when he turns and looks at me like, oh.

15 Q. Did he say anything else to you after that about
16 your case?

17 A. So when he says -- when he denies shooting them,
18 he says, I don't know. I ain't shoot them. These guys
19 here I don't know.

20 So then she goes from knowing D/Darren and
21 Rodney to now he doesn't know them. I know them -- and
22 then he says, I know them, but, you know, honestly, I feel
23 like there's some BS in their circle too. But I don't
24 know. So it's more of the talk in circles.

25 Q. Okay. You showed them -- showed him some

1 photos?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. What photos did you show him?

4 A. I showed him photos of Rodney. I showed him
5 photos of Darren when he was laying down. I showed him a
6 photo of Darren as he was face up. He didn't like the
7 face-up picture. He kept sliding that one underneath the
8 facedown.

9 Q. I think in your report, you wrote it bothered
10 him?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you --

13 A. So if you put the -- so I put the one picture
14 down, and it was there. I put another picture down, and
15 there's that one. And it was kind of like, okay, let me
16 put this under here. Because you don't want to see it.
17 Like, if it's something bad, it's human nature. If it's
18 something bad, you don't want to look at it. You might
19 want to stare at the car accident that happened on the
20 side of the road, but at the end of the day, if you find
21 out what really happened, you really don't want to look
22 and see what happened. So seeing a picture that he didn't
23 want to see, he would replace it with another one. I
24 showed him a third, and again, it was put back to one that
25 made him, in my perception, feel the least affected by.

1 Q. Which photo was that that you felt was affecting
2 him the least?

3 A. The one where Darren was facedown.

4 Q. Okay. And so the other two photos were the --

5 A. Faceup.

6 Q. -- Darren faceup and --

7 A. And Rodney's face.

8 Q. Okay. And you showed him all three of them?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. Did he say anything about those photographs?

11 A. He was just moving them and shuffling them back
12 in an order that he wanted, that made him, as I perceived,
13 comfortable.

14 Q. And the most comfortable in terms of your
15 perception was the Darren facedown photo?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. So didn't turn them over so that he couldn't see
18 the photographs at all?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. It was just those three photographs that you
21 showed him?

22 A. Eventually, we ended up showing him more photos
23 from everybody, but they were also from Detective Harris's
24 case as well. So from everybody that was shot from the
25 6023 case, there's a photo of each one of the family

1 members and then a photo of his niece, Mya. We put all
2 those photos out for him as well.

3 Q. What was his reaction when he was shown those
4 photos?

5 A. It was -- he asked if he could keep Mya's photo.
6 The other photos, he just didn't really want anything to
7 do with any of them.

8 Q. What do you mean by didn't want anything to do
9 with them?

10 A. Kind of like you put some distance between
11 yourself and the photos. (Indicating.)

12 Q. You leaned back. Is that what he did?

13 A. Right, like putting distance between yourself
14 and what happened or yourself and the photos.

15 Q. So he didn't touch the photos?

16 A. I don't recall if he touched them or not. I
17 would have to go back and look at the video. It was --
18 the one for Mya, he kept going back to the one for Mya.

19 Q. The photograph of Mya, was that a photograph
20 that was taken that day?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you know who took that photo?

23 A. I don't know. It's when she was at All
24 Children's.

25 Q. Did you ever have any contact with her?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. So like didn't even see her on the scene?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. And Detective Harris handled the questions

5 regarding his investigation, so the homicides that day.

6 Is that right?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. Did you jump in, in terms of any kind of

9 questions to assist?

10 A. I asked what all these people have in common. I

11 recall that.

12 Q. What was his response?

13 A. That he was just like no response without

14 looking at it word-for-word verbatim, but it was

15 essentially a no response. Like, he couldn't say, oh, I

16 know all those people, and all those people have been

17 shot. He couldn't say that. So when it was presented to

18 him, like, every single one of these people, you're the

19 last person with them, and they all end up shot. They're

20 either shot and injured or shot and dead. He wouldn't

21 admit to anything after that.

22 Q. Okay. In your report, you wrote he showed no

23 emotion and is apathetic until the image of his niece is

24 shown.

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. So was there a change in emotion regarding Mya,
2 or was it just what you described?

3 A. It's just what I described. Like, he wanted to
4 have the picture.

5 Q. Like keep the picture?

6 A. He wanted to keep the picture.

7 Q. Was he allowed to keep it?

8 A. No, ma'am.

9 Q. And was he asked -- was he asked specific
10 questions about that shooting, like if he did it?

11 A. For which?

12 Q. The shooting, sorry, on the 16th.

13 A. On the 16th? I believe so, yes.

14 Q. Do you recall his responses?

15 A. I don't recall without looking at it.

16 Q. But it would be on the video?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Okay. Anything else about like the
19 interrogation that's not captured on the video or that we
20 haven't discussed?

21 A. No, ma'am.

22 Q. When you stepped out of the interrogation room,
23 what did you do next?

24 A. Took a deep breath. Tried to, like, decompress.
25 I got with Sergeant Elizondo, and we had requested a tech.

1 we had a tech come in to process him. Discussed with
2 Detective Harris and Sergeant Elizondo that he was staring
3 at our gun belts. It was noted, like, yes, we saw the
4 same thing. I told patrol just to be careful. And then I
5 called out to county and found out Sergeant Elizondo
6 called out to county as well just to give them a heads up.

7 Q. The jail?

8 A. Yeah. After that, it's just kind of like take a
9 breath and start seeing where we go from there, like what
10 other pieces we have to do.

11 Q. Did you request anything in particular with
12 regards to the forensic processing of Cornelius?

13 A. So for which part? For the scene? For
14 specifically --

15 Q. Talking about that day, like you said that like
16 you stepped out of the interrogation room, and you asked
17 for and requested processing of him.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was there anything specific you asked that tech
20 to do?

21 A. For homicide suspects, they kind of have their
22 standard procedure. So they do the overalls, the clothes,
23 no clothes.

24 Q. Are we talking about photographs?

25 A. Yes. They do, like, fingernail scrapings and

1 clippings. They may or may not do the GSR residue test.
2 So it depends upon what their encompassing is.

3 Q. Did you ask for anything specific? Like, were
4 you like I definitely want you to do GSR? I definitely
5 want to make sure you do X?

6 A. Well, this would have been for Detective
7 Harris's case, so for him in there. GSR would have been
8 irrelevant for my case, the 4037. It would have been
9 relevant for Detective Harris's.

10 Q. So you didn't ask?

11 A. I don't recall asking for that, no.

12 Q. Was that processing done in the interrogation
13 room?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. Okay. Were you there for that?

16 A. I don't remember if I was in there or not.

17 Q. Do you recall anything like abnormal occurring
18 during the processing?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you recall any statements being made by
21 Mr. Whitfield?

22 A. No. If there are, they should be on the video.

23 Q. You don't recall being told by anybody who was
24 part of the processing, hey, he just said this?

25 A. No.

1 Q. And I think you mentioned, like, making sure
2 that patrol knew about like the observations of the gun
3 belt, things like that. Did you hear anything from the
4 transport officers that anything had occurred during the
5 transport from the station to the jail?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you hear anything from the jail about any
8 kind of circumstances regarding booking?

9 A. No, ma'am.

10 Q. Okay. After the forensic processing, did you do
11 anything else like still at the station?

12 A. So then I have to -- I have to call up to get
13 the warrant canceled to show like, hey, we made an arrest.
14 We need to take the warrant out of the system; otherwise,
15 he could be out in three days and be rearrested for the
16 same thing if the warrant is not canceled. So the warrant
17 was canceled. Everything was put in, the arrest
18 affidavits for the other aspects. That was about it.
19 Started typing.

20 Q. Did you do the arrest warrants -- the complaints
21 rather for the other case, or was that done by somebody
22 else?

23 A. No, ma'am. No. I just did the arrest warrant.

24 Q. Sorry, I interrupted you. What did you do next?

25 A. Like, next-by-next, I'm not sure a hundred

1 percent. Cancel that. I'm not sure.

2 Q. Is there still more work that you were doing on
3 your investigation?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. What kind of work were you doing?

6 A. So the work that ends up afterwards is you get
7 the fingerprints, the DNA, any type of analysis that would
8 have been from the apartment scene, from the 4037. So
9 anything from that that could relate back to the 6023,
10 since now I have a suspect in custody, you're comparing
11 prints, DNA. I'm physically not doing NIBIN, but there's
12 other technicians that are doing NIBIN to see if the
13 projectiles that are recovered, if they match the casings,
14 what type of gun they go back to.

15 You're going back to the medical examiner's
16 office to collect the DNA evidence and the forensic
17 evidence from the victims that are there and then bringing
18 those back and putting them in. So there's still a bit to
19 do.

20 Q. Did you -- is it your responsibility as like the
21 lead, the case agent to make those requests of the lab?

22 A. So you have it to where if they come -- let's
23 say I have another detective go and pick up the stuff from
24 the medical examiner's office. They come back in, and I
25 say, Thank you. Would you mind? I'm tied up on

1 something. Can you put that order in? Sure, no problem.
2 They can do that.

3 Same thing, I know for Detective Harris's case,
4 for the 6023, I was the one that went to the ME's office.
5 So after going to the ME's office, I'm the one that put
6 that stuff into the property and evidence at the
7 department because it saves chain of custody. So if I'm
8 taking it from the ME to me, that's one chain. From me to
9 property and evidence, that's two, right? But if I go,
10 okay, here, let me give this to you while I'm busy, so now
11 that's three. It just makes it shorter if that one person
12 can do it, but it's whoever has the time and availability
13 to do it.

14 Q. When you put something into property and
15 evidence, is it an automatic, hey, lab, I want you to do
16 this analysis, or do you have to make additional --

17 A. You have to make a request.

18 Q. Do you recall what requests were made in this
19 case in terms of analysis?

20 A. I would have to look at the sheets exactly, but
21 I know the fingerprints comparisons that were at the
22 scene, the NIBIN, the casings, the projectiles, those were
23 requested.

24 Q. So were those requested like back in 2021, like
25 as you're kind of tying up everything?

1 A. Right. Then the -- when I found out that he --
2 that Cornelius Whitfield had property on him that belonged
3 to Rodney Green, then I made sure that stuff was processed
4 for DNA so that they would swab the inside of the rings
5 and the jewelry and stuff. That way it could come back
6 and show, yes, Rodney Green's DNA is on these rings that
7 Cornelius Whitfield was wearing.

8 Q. Couple of questions about that. When did you
9 find out about the jewelry?

10 A. It was after he was in the interrogation room.

11 Q. Okay. Before he was released from the
12 interrogation room? Or not released but like processed
13 for the GSR.

14 A. I don't remember if it was right before or right
15 after.

16 Q. Was he confronted about any of the jewelry?

17 A. I don't recall.

18 Q. Okay. And you said that you were having -- you
19 wanted to have the jewelry swabbed?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Okay. And the purpose of that was to see if
22 Mr. Whitfield's DNA was on the jewelry?

23 A. Well, if Mr. Green's DNA was on the jewelry
24 because they came off of Mr. Whitfield's fingers when he
25 was arrested. So if Mr. Green's DNA was on it --

1 Q. So your recollection -- I'm sorry. We talked
2 about rings because you said fingers. So you're talking
3 about rings.

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. So your -- did you take the rings off of his
6 fingers?

7 A. No, ma'am.

8 Q. So they were taken off by somebody else?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you see them being taken off?

11 A. No.

12 Q. So you were told that they were taken off of
13 Mr. Whitfield?

14 A. I wasn't there when he was physically put into
15 custody because SWAT did that.

16 Q. Okay. Do you know who took the rings off?

17 A. I do not.

18 Q. But you were told that the rings were found on
19 his fingers at the time of his arrest?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And do you know what happened with the
22 rings after they were removed?

23 A. I believe -- that would be like a chain of
24 custody. I don't know who took them off and which way
25 they went, but I know eventually they ended up in evidence

1 and then they were swabbed.

2 Q. And it was per your request that they were
3 swabbed?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. Do you recall any of the other requests that you
6 made in terms of analysis?

7 A. Not that I recall.

8 Q. Because you were making the request, do the
9 final analysis reports come back to you?

10 A. Yes. So typically they do come back to you. So
11 if I'm the one that e-mails and I said -- if I'm the one
12 that physically sends the request and my e-mail is
13 attached to it, it's going to come back to me. I could
14 request through another detective can you do this, and if
15 they're the one that sends the e-mail out, it's going to
16 go to them, and they would forward it over to me. There's
17 other requests that in addition to coming directly to us
18 in our computer system they attach right inside, and those
19 would be like FDLE findings, NIBIN. Some of that stuff
20 ends up automatically attached in the report. Instead of
21 coming directly to me, it just attaches to it.

22 Q. In terms of NIBIN and FDLE, NIBIN is for
23 firearms. Is that also what FDLE would be used for?

24 A. So FDLE is -- you can use them for the firearms.
25 I know they've done an overhaul and change since I've been

1 in that unit, and it was four years ago.

2 Q. Let's talk about 2021.

3 A. Again, it was four years ago. So the FDLE, it's
4 FDLE -- if we're using the Pinellas County Lab, if
5 something has to get sent out, then it would go FDLE.
6 Pinellas County Lab, then FDLE. NIBIN, FDLE.

7 Q. Okay. Do you recall any additional requests
8 that you made? Did you make a NIBIN request, or is that
9 something that's automatic when there's firearm evidence?

10 A. Not that I recall. I remember it was related to
11 the other case. The 6023 I made a request. I put the
12 paperwork for the projectiles we submitted to FDLE
13 analysis and placed them into evidence.

14 Q. And was there a direct request that you would
15 have made to FDLE?

16 A. So you fill out the paperwork, and I believe
17 it's an e-mail. It also goes to Tiffany Jordan, who is
18 our -- what do you call her -- analyst.

19 Q. Did you receive returns on any of those
20 requests?

21 A. Not at that time because I had gone to another
22 unit. So then it ends up being forwarded to the next
23 detective.

24 Q. Okay. Any other analyses that you requested?

25 A. Not that I recall.

1 Q. Was there any additional work that you did on
2 the case?

3 A. Let's see. Detective Harris and I went to DIU
4 to attempt to speak with Julia Gary. We got out here, and
5 she refused to speak with us; so there was no interview.

6 Q. Do you remember when that was?

7 A. That was -- I know I saw it.

8 Q. I saw it at some point too. It's in one of the
9 reports.

10 A. Yeah. We went to -- let's see. I know I
11 listened to some jail calls and then, let's see, grand
12 jury was on March 5th.

13 Q. I guess my question -- and I'm guessing the
14 exact date is somewhere in your report. Did she come down
15 and say I'm not talking to you, or did she just refuse to
16 even come down?

17 A. It was the refusal. So you go -- you make an
18 appointment at DIU. You get there. You sign in, and then
19 the DIU detectives -- deputy detectives that are down
20 there, they reach out and call who they need to in the
21 pods. Typically the inmate will come, like, down.
22 They're escorted into the section back into DIU, but we
23 were told she refused.

24 Q. Okay. So you never had any contact?

25 A. I had no contact with her at all.

1 Q. And that was the one and only attempt to speak
2 with her?

3 A. Yes, ma'am, at least as far as I was concerned.
4 I don't know if anybody else went back.

5 Q. Did you listen to any jail calls?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. How many calls did you listen to?

8 A. So many.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I can't give you a number.

11 Q. Were there any that you thought were of
12 evidentiary value?

13 A. So the first time he calls, he talks to his mom.

14 Q. Is this like the very first call that
15 Mr. Whitfield makes in the jail?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What day was that?

18 A. This was his first connected call. You can make
19 a call, and they don't connect. So the first connected
20 call was to his mother.

21 Q. Do you remember when that was?

22 A. That was on February 25th at 2117 hours, and it
23 was -- I have the phone number he called, if you want it.

24 Q. And this was a connection with his mother?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So like mom picks up?

2 A. Yes. Mom picks up. On his GTL, it will say
3 however they identify themselves. He identified himself
4 as Bread. It's the automated recording for their name.
5 She automatically asked him. She goes, what was you
6 thinking about? Do you realize what you've done?

7 Q. Do you -- like, how do you know it was his
8 mother?

9 A. From the phone numbers. I believe they did a
10 phone number check on it. And then she goes -- yes, from
11 the phone number, I believe.

12 Q. So it wasn't like you have such familiarity with
13 her voice that you recognized her voice?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. So it was just that particular phone number was
16 associated with Ms. Harilal?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And do you know like -- maybe you don't know
19 sitting here right now four years later, but do you know
20 how long that call was?

21 A. The length of it, I don't know.

22 Q. Do you recall anything in particular about like
23 Bread's -- like his demeanor, how his voice sounded,
24 anything like that?

25 A. Not that I -- not without listening to it four

1 years later.

2 Q. Have you listened to it recently?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. Was that call downloaded or uploaded anywhere?

5 A. Yes. They're saved on the GTL. You mark them
6 and download them.

7 Q. Did you download all of the calls that were made
8 or just the ones you listened to?

9 A. The ones I listened to. If he's made any since
10 I've left the unit, that I have no idea. I don't have
11 access to that anymore.

12 Q. Were you listening to calls on a fairly regular
13 basis --

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. -- between March and I think you said you left
16 in July?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So was it a lot of calls that you listened to?

19 A. No, ma'am. Not that it wasn't a lot that I
20 listened to, but there weren't a lot I listened to. You
21 could have someone that will place fifty calls in a day
22 and connect to every single person that they're calling.
23 You have someone that will try to call someone twice a
24 week and make no connections.

25 Q. And where was Cornelius then?

1 A. He was on the lower end.

2 Q. So like making a few calls but not connecting?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Was he making a lot of calls and not connecting

5 or just making a smaller --

6 A. I'd have to go back and look at the record

7 exactly to tell you how many connected to him.

8 Q. And were there other calls that you thought were

9 like of particular note in terms of evidentiary value?

10 A. He asked to put money -- it was the first call

11 still. So the first call he makes to his mom, he asked

12 his mom for Hannah's number, to Hannah his sister. He

13 asked that one, and then he asked to put \$50 on his

14 account, which is normal on a jail call for someone to ask

15 for money on their account. Then he also asked to put

16 money in somebody else's account and a little something

17 for herself to bless her.

18 Q. That other account you have in your report,

19 Katrina Rose Kegelman, did you look up to see who that

20 was?

21 A. Yes, and I have no idea who she was or how she

22 relates.

23 Q. Was it somebody who was actually in custody?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did you ever go speak with her?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. Did you ever speak with any officer who is case

3 connected with Ms. Kegelman?

4 A. No, ma'am.

5 Q. Any other calls that you thought were of

6 evidentiary value for your case that you listened to?

7 A. Not that I can recall.

8 Q. Okay. And so you would have stopped listening

9 to calls once you left the unit. Is that fair?

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. Besides attending the grand jury proceedings --

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. -- was there any additional work you did on this

14 case?

15 A. Not that I recall.

16 Q. Did you have any kind of contact with Hannah,

17 his sister?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Any contact with any other family members

20 besides Ms. Harilal?

21 A. I did not personally, no.

22 Q. When you say personally, was it like other

23 people in your department who did?

24 A. I think for the other case, I think someone

25 tried to get ahold of another family, maybe Rashad.

1 Q. Do you know who that is?

2 A. I have no idea who that person is.

3 Q. Do you know if there was successful contact?

4 A. That I don't know.

5 Q. Have you spoken to any colleagues since

6 February 16, 2021 about this case?

7 A. To see if it was going and how long or any

8 updates because I'm not in the unit.

9 Q. Any further conversations about, like, the

10 development of any further evidence, anything like that?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And in terms of those questions about if it's

13 going, what's going on with the case, what were you told?

14 A. As far as I know, it was still going. They

15 haven't heard. I was referred to the state. I think --

16 Theo correct me if I'm wrong -- Abbey King was on it

17 initially. So I think I reached out to Abbey at one

18 point, and she's like, oh, I transferred. I got a job,

19 da-da-da. So then I was redirected to Theo and just

20 making -- trying to tie up loose ends.

21 Q. What loose ends?

22 A. Just making sure the case is there, that I had

23 access to the audio, the evidence. Because when you're

24 out of the unit, like if you're in patrol, then you don't

25 have access to all the photos and everything like that.

1 So I need to be able to see what's there.

2 Q. Okay. And so who became the case agent once you
3 left the unit?

4 A. Detective Harris.

5 Q. And so he's the case agent for both cases
6 essentially?

7 A. Yes.

8 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: I'm not sure I have anymore
9 substantive questions. How about you, Ms. Russell?

10 MS. RUSSELL: I do not. Thank you.

11 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: State.

12 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it. Thank you.

13 Q (By Ms. Seifer-Smith) Have you understood all the
14 questions we've asked you today?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Have you had an opportunity to answer everything
17 fully and completely?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Anything that you wish to add or change
20 regarding your testimony today?

21 A. Not that I can think of without reading it.

22 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: What I'm going to ask --
23 we'll reserve your right to read. What I'm going to ask,
24 if you feel as though, you know, either from rereading
25 your deposition transcripts -- now there's two -- or

1 reviewing anything else, if you feel as though you left
2 something out from our conversation, if you would be so
3 kind as to get in touch with the State or my office to let
4 us know. Obviously, if you call me, then I am required to
5 call them and let them know, and we'll see about reopening
6 your deposition if you need to correct anything. So we're
7 going to conclude and reserve your right to read. Thank
8 you.

9 (Deposition concludes at 10:54 a.m.)

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1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4

5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that AMALIA
6 ANAMUAH-MENSAH personally appeared before me and was duly
7 sworn.

8 Witness my hand and official seal this 20TH day of
9 SEPTEMBER, 2025.

10

11

Tamara M. Pacheco

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Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
COMMISSION # 474485
EXPIRES: March 30, 2028

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

4

5 I, Tamara M. Pacheco, certify that I was authorized
6 to and did stenographically report the Deposition of
7 AMALIA ANAMUAH-MENSAH; that a review of the transcript was
8 requested; and that the transcript is a true and complete
9 record of my stenographic notes.

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

15 Tamara M. Pacheco

16 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR

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ERRATA SHEET

IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL v. CORNELIUS WHITFIELD

NAME OF DEONENT: AMALIA ANAMUAH-MENSAH

CASE NUMBER: 21-01099CFANO

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