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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
21-01099-CF
SECTION M

STATE OF FLORIDA,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD,
Person ID: 1566510,

Defendant.

_____ /

DEPOSITION OF: BRIAN BUNICH

DATE: February 21, 2023

TIME: 2:29 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.

PLACE: County Justice Center
14250 49th Street North
Room 1100
Clearwater, Florida

PURSUANT TO: Notice by counsel for
Defendant for purposes of
discovery, use at trial
or such other purposes
as are permitted under
the Florida Rules
of Civil Procedure

BEFORE: Nathan F. Perkins, RDR
Notary Public, State of
Florida at Large

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APPEARANCES:

THEODORA TAKTIKOS-DANZIG, ESQUIRE
THOMAS KOSKINAS, ESQUIRE
County Justice Center
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762
Attorneys for Plaintiff

JESSICA MANUELE, ESQUIRE
Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit
County Justice Center
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762
Attorney for Defendant

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E X H I B I T S
(None marked)

1 BRIAN BUNISH,
2 the witness herein, being first duly sworn on oath, was
3 examined and deposed as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MS. MANUELE:

6 Q. Could you please state your name and
7 occupation for the record?

8 A. Officer Brian J. Bunish. Occupation, police
9 officer for the St. Petersburg Police Department.

10 Q. And how long have you been with St. Pete?

11 A. Four years.

12 Q. Any prior law enforcement experience?

13 A. Yes. I was with the Kansas City Police
14 Department for 15 years.

15 Q. And then you moved to paradise?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. We're here today because you have been listed
18 as a witness in the State of Florida versus Cornelius
19 Whitfield regarding a homicide and attempted homicide
20 from February 1st and February 2nd of 2021. Are you
21 familiar generally with the circumstances?

22 A. Generally, yes.

23 Q. Okay. And did you write, like, two
24 supplements detailing your involvement?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. You don't have a copy with you?

2 A. I don't.

3 Q. Did you review them prior to coming in?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. There was, like, one paragraph.

6 A. Very short.

7 Q. In reviewing your supplements, was there
8 anything that you found to be inaccurate that you would
9 like to change?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. And if you want to take a look or
12 reference it for any reason, just let me know.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. You can have a copy.

15 Tell me how you became involved in the case.

16 A. I became involved in the case because I did
17 not go to the initial scene. I was -- I was dispatched
18 to go to headquarters where I was given the directive to
19 be posted outside the witness interview room to where no
20 unauthorized personnel would come in.

21 Q. And do you know who was in the witness room?

22 A. I do not.

23 Q. Okay. Do you know if it was just one person
24 or multiple people?

25 A. I do not.

1 Q. Okay. Did anybody go in or go out?

2 A. Just police, police detectives and police
3 personnel.

4 Q. Were you to keep a log of any sort of
5 personnel that went in the interview room?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. What was your call sign back then?

8 A. Oh, that. I do not know that one.

9 Q. Some options that it could be?

10 A. 2020. So it was probably 3, probably 60
11 something.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. You know, off the top of my head.

14 Q. We won't hold to you it.

15 A. I was probably on evenings then.

16 Q. Evenings. What time was the evening?

17 A. It would have been from, like, 4:00 in the
18 afternoon to 2:00 in the morning.

19 Q. Okay. So there's at least two witnesses.
20 Officer Robison transported both witnesses back to the
21 scene, you indicate in your report anyway.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Did you transport anyone to or from?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Do you know if those witnesses, if it was a

1 man and a woman or two men or --

2 A. I don't recall.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. You know Officer Robinson is no longer with
5 us?

6 Q. I did know that. He --

7 A. He passed away last year.

8 Q. Oh, shit. I did not realize that. Okay.

9 A. Yeah. He's been sick for very long. He's
10 been sick for a long time.

11 Q. I thought I had heard something bad, but I
12 couldn't remember. That must have been what it was.
13 And I looked automatically for like bad stuff, not
14 tragic things.

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Sorry. So he was with St. Pete when he
17 passed?

18 A. Uh-huh (Affirmative response).

19 Q. Would you have been equipped with a body
20 camera on this day?

21 A. I would have.

22 Q. Do you know if you -- if it was ever
23 activated?

24 A. It was never activated. Our cameras are never
25 activated when we are in the police station.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So we're always told to turn it off.

3 Q. Why is that?

4 A. I would assume because of all the sensitivity
5 that we have within the police station that we don't
6 want nothing recording unless --

7 I would be able to turn it on if there was a
8 situation arose to where I felt that I needed it.

9 Q. Okay. So it's not a situation where they
10 just -- there's like a computer block or something, they
11 won't go on in the building?

12 A. No, no. I could turn it on if the situation
13 arose.

14 Q. Gotcha. Were you watching, from the interview
15 rooms, were you at all like in the another room paying
16 attention to what was going on in the interview room?

17 A. No. So as you walk in, there's like a little
18 stand around a little lobby and then you've got like the
19 four rooms.

20 Q. Is this the new department you would have been
21 in?

22 A. Uh-huh (Affirmative response).

23 Q. And is that the extent of your involvement at
24 the police station?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Where do you respond after that, if anywhere?

2 A. So my next report would have been, if the
3 scene was held for a certain period of time, then
4 officers would have took turns just patrolling or
5 standing outside being posted outside the crime scene --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- making sure that no one went in or out.

8 Q. Okay. And you were scene security?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. You are not in control of the crime scene log?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. No. That's just -- if the scene is being held
14 for a particular period of time --

15 Q. Uh-huh (Affirmative response).

16 A. -- or they assume that the crime scene is
17 going to last longer for, like, them collecting the
18 evidence that they need, then certain officers will take
19 turns and just be posted up there while they are on
20 shift.

21 Q. Okay. And while you were posted up, did you
22 overhear any lay witness statements or anything --
23 either --

24 I'm guessing you were not questioning
25 witnesses.

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did any witnesses or laypersons come by and
3 make any statements in your presence?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay. And you said February 3rd, 2020. Is it
6 fair to say that's supposed to be '21, right?

7 A. Yes, probably, yes.

8 Q. Okay. Just wanted to -- I assumed, but okay.
9 Were you still on scene when they were doing
10 any kind of, like, processing of the apartment? Do you
11 know? Or do you know if they were processing while you
12 were on scene?

13 A. No, I don't think anybody was on scene. I
14 think we were just watching to make sure that no one
15 went in or out.

16 Q. All right. As far as you know, have you ever
17 had any contact with Cornelius Whitfield?

18 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

19 Q. February 16th, so a couple weeks after this he
20 was arrested and there was a triple homicide. Were
21 you -- so far as you know, were you ever on that scene
22 at Emerson Avenue?

23 A. No, not -- not to my knowledge, no.

24 MS. MANUELE: Okay. I don't have any other
25 questions.

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MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: I don't.

MR. KOSKINAS: All right. Thanks, Officer.

THE WITNESS: Okay.

(Concluded at 2:35 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
Brian Bunich, personally appeared before me and was duly
sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 26th day
of September, 2023.



Nathan F. Perkins, RDR
Notary Public - State of Florida
My Commission Expires: 7/18/2025
Commission No. HH 122841

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, Nathan F. Perkins, Registered Diplomate Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the deposition of Brian Bunich; that a review of the transcript was requested; 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 26th day of September, 2023.



Nathan F. Perkins, RDR

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WITNESS' SIGNATURE PAGE

PLEASE ATTACH TO THE DEPOSITION OF BRIAN BUNICH, TAKEN
ON FEBRUARY 21, 2023, IN THE CASE OF STATE OF FLORIDA
VS. CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD.

Job No. FLA5759448

PAGE LINE CORRECTION AND REASON THEREFOR

I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING PAGES AND, EXCEPT FOR ANY
CORRECTIONS OR AMENDMENTS INDICATED ABOVE, I HEREBY
SUBSCRIBE TO THE ACCURACY OF THIS TRANSCRIPT.

BRIAN BUNICH

DATE

WITNESS TO SIGNATURE

DATE

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September 26, 2023
Officer Brian Bunich
C/O: Theodora Taktikos-Danzig, Esquire
County Justice Center
eservice@flsa6.gov

Re: 2/21/2023 deposition of Fred David Alphonse
State of Florida vs. Cornelius Trevon Whitfield

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is to advise that the transcript of the above-referenced deposition has been completed and is available for review. Please email the signed errata sheet to transcripts-fl@veritext.com or sign below to waive review of this transcript.

It is suggested that the review of this transcript be completed within 30 days of your receipt of this letter, as considered reasonable under Federal Rules*; however, there is no Florida Statute to this regard.

The original of this transcript has been forwarded to the ordering party and your errata, once received, will be forwarded to all ordering parties.

Sincerely,

Nathan F. Perkins, RDR
Veritext Legal Solutions

Cc: Jessica Manuele, Esquire

WAIVER:

I, _____ hereby waive the reading & signing of my deposition transcript.

Deponent Signature

Date

*Federal Civil Procedure Rule 30(e)/Florida Civil Procedure Rule 1.310(e)

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FLORIDA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

Rule 1.310

(e) Witness Review. If the testimony is transcribed, the transcript shall be furnished to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by the witness unless the examination and reading are waived by the witness and by the parties. Any changes in form or substance that the witness wants to make shall be listed in writing by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making the changes. The changes shall be attached to the transcript. It shall then be signed by the witness unless the parties waived the signing or the witness is ill, cannot be found, or refuses to sign. If the transcript is not signed by the witness within a reasonable time after it is furnished to the witness, the officer shall sign the transcript and state on the transcript the waiver, illness, absence of the witness, or refusal to sign with any reasons given therefor. The deposition may then be used as fully as though signed unless the court holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of

the deposition wholly or partly, on motion under
rule 1.330(d)(4).

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES
ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.
THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,
2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE STATE RULES
OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

Veritext Legal Solutions is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of client and witness information, in accordance with the regulations promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as amended with respect to protected health information and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, as amended, with respect to Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Physical transcripts and exhibits are managed under strict facility and personnel access controls. Electronic files of documents are stored in encrypted form and are transmitted in an encrypted

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