

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:

DANIEL MAULDIN

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

August 12, 2022

TIME:

2:51 p.m. - 2:59 p.m.

PLACE:

Pinellas Co. Justice Center
14250 49th Street - 1100
Clearwater, FL

REPORTED BY:

Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
Notary Public, State of FL

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APPEARANCES

THEODORA TAKTIKOS-DANZIG, ESQUIRE

Assistant State Attorney

14250 49th Street North

Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorney for the State of Florida

JESSICA MANUELE, ESQUIRE

JULIA SEIFER-SMITH, ESQUIRE

Assistant Public Defenders

14250 49th Street North

Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorneys for the Defendant

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 DANIEL MAULDIN

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. MANUELE:

7 Q Could you please state your name and occupation.

8 A Daniel Mauldin, officer, St. Petersburg Police
9 Department.

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

11 A Four years.

12 Q Any prior law enforcement experience?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And where was that?

15 A Birmingham, Alabama.

16 Q How long there?

17 A Almost five.

18 Q Anything else law enforcement experience I
19 guess?

20 A No.

21 Q We're here today because you've been listed as a
22 witness in the State of Florida versus Cornelius Whitfield
23 regarding the homicide of Darren Barnes that occurred back
24 February 1st/February 2nd of 2021. Are you familiar with
25 the circumstances?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Your part.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And what unit were you assigned to back
5 in February of '21?

6 A I was assigned evening shift District 2.
7 February of '21, I believe that I was on Squad 29, but I'm
8 not completely certain if I was on 29 or 27.

9 Q All right. And that was a patrol unit?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And so the 29 or 27, that is going -- is
12 that going to affect what your call sign would have been
13 then in November?

14 A Yes. It would affect what my call sign would
15 have been.

16 Q Okay. What are our options you think?

17 A I would have either been 62 Delta or 43 Bravo.

18 Q Okay. Do you -- were you riding as a one-man
19 unit on this night?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. And how did you first become involved?

22 A I believe that I was sent after officers were on
23 scene to conduct the neighborhood canvass in the building.

24 Q Okay. And did you write a supplemental report
25 detailing your involvement?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you have a copy with you today?

3 A I have this one that you provided me, yes.

4 Q All right. And did you have an opportunity to
5 review your report?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Was there anything in there that you found to be
8 inaccurate that you'd like to change?

9 A No.

10 Q When you arrived on scene -- do you know what
11 time you got on scene?

12 A I do not.

13 Q Okay. Do you recall if -- the ambulance took
14 one injured party from the scene to the hospital. Do you
15 know if the ambulance had already transported that person
16 when you got there?

17 A I believe everyone had been transported by the
18 time that I got there.

19 Q Okay. And do you recall if there were any lay
20 witnesses on scene still? Living lay witnesses.

21 A I did not go into the apartment or the actual
22 scene. I didn't enter that part of the complex.

23 Q Okay. Did you ever -- I guess did you ever even
24 have a visual on, like, that apartment?

25 A I could see the front door of the apartment, but

1 I never went inside the crime scene that they established.

2 Q Okay. Who directed you to do a canvass?

3 A Sergeant Marco.

4 Q Was your body-worn camera activated throughout
5 the canvass?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Have you reviewed it at all since that night?

8 A No.

9 Q When you uploaded -- do you upload it
10 personally, or does somebody else upload your video for
11 you?

12 A No. We upload it ourselves. We either dock it
13 at the station or upload it through our computers.

14 Q Do you review it when that's happening, like at
15 the end of the shift when you're writing your report or
16 whatever?

17 A Generally, if I'm not the primary on a report,
18 I'm not -- I usually don't look at the video.

19 Q Okay. Do you know if you ever watched your
20 body-worn video in this case?

21 A No, I don't think I did.

22 Q As far as, do you recall ever deactivating it,
23 or should it -- absent any mechanical errors or technical
24 errors, should it capture the whole time you were at the
25 scene?

1 A I can't say for certain. I would imagine I
2 probably deactivated it after I stopped talking to anyone
3 or going to doors. I don't believe I would have had it on
4 at the last sentence where I said I was checking for any
5 blood or other evidence outside of the crime scene.

6 Q Okay. And that's what I was going to ask you.
7 After you talked to everybody, you looked around for some
8 other blood at the complex. Is that right?

9 A Right.

10 Q And you said you don't think you had it on then?

11 A No, most likely I didn't.

12 Q Okay. Do you recall where around the complex
13 you looked for blood?

14 A I believe it was in the kind of grassy courtyard
15 area outside of the apartment. And I believe I walked
16 around the edge of the building where it occurred to the
17 parking lot, but I can't tell you which side of the
18 building from memory it was on.

19 Q Okay. So it would have been -- you believe you
20 walked along one edge of the building, not like the whole
21 building?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Do you recall if you checked the parking lot
24 specifically, if you looked in the parking lot?

25 A I believe I walked to the parking lot, but I did

1 not check the parking lot itself.

2 Q Okay. And were you only looking for blood, or
3 were you looking for casings or possible bullet fragments?
4 Anything like that?

5 A I believe I was just told to look to see if
6 there was any kind of blood trail or anything.

7 Q Gotcha. Throughout the canvass though, as
8 you're knocking on doors, that should all be on your
9 video?

10 A I believe so.

11 Q Okay. Jermaine Williams from apartment 108
12 according to your report indicated that he heard a bang,
13 and he thought something had possibly fallen in his
14 apartment. He looked outside and didn't see anything.

15 Did he -- do you recall if he indicated when he
16 had heard that bang in relation to when you were at his
17 door?

18 A I don't recall, but usually when I do something
19 like this, I'll ask if they've heard it within the
20 timeframe that the incident that we're investigating
21 occurred.

22 Q Do you know what the timeframe was in this
23 particular case?

24 A I don't remember how long -- how long before I
25 arrived this happened.

1 Q was -- do you recall if you observed any of the
2 homicide detectives on scene, if they had made it on scene
3 yet when you were out there?

4 A I believe that they arrived as I was being
5 relieved and leaving the scene.

6 Q Did you have any contact, or did you speak to
7 them about any --

8 A I don't recall.

9 Q -- any information you had obtained about the
10 case? Sorry.

11 A I don't remember talking to them.

12 Q Okay. As far as you know, had you ever had any
13 contact with Unit 113?

14 A I don't recall --

15 Q Apartment 113 is where the homicide lapped. As
16 far as you know, had you ever had any contact with that
17 apartment?

18 A Not that I know of.

19 Q As far as you know, have you ever had any
20 contact with Cornelius whitfield?

21 A Not that I know of.

22 Q As far as you know, have you ever had any
23 contact with Rodney or Deronrick Green?

24 A Not that I know of.

25 Q And Mr. whitfield has another case pending, a

1 triple homicide. Did you have any involvement in that
2 case?

3 A I don't believe so.

4 MS. MANUELE: Okay. I don't have any other
5 questions.

6 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Just quickly.

7 EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

9 Q In your report, you indicate Ms. Pashalls
10 (phonetic) knows that there have been NDL complaints about
11 the apartment. Were those her words or your words?

12 A Those were my words. That's the Department's, I
13 guess, categorization of narcotic complaints.

14 Q And what does NDL stand for?

15 A Narcotic drug law violation.

16 Q Was she any more specific in terms of what those
17 complaints may have been about?

18 A I don't remember.

19 Q Was she the source of any of the complaints, if
20 you know?

21 A I don't know.

22 Q Like, she didn't say I've called the police on
23 those guys?

24 A I don't remember her saying it; but like I said,
25 I haven't watched the body camera, so I'm not sure exactly

1 what she said.

2 Q was she the only person that you recall
3 interacting with at that location, like that particular
4 apartment?

5 A I don't remember.

6 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Okay. I don't think I have
7 any other questions.

8 MS. MANUELE: State.

9 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: I don't.

10 MS. MANUELE: Thanks, Officer.

11 (Deposition concludes at 2:59 p.m.)

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COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

STATE OF FLORIDA)

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

I, the undersigned authority, certify that DANIEL MAULDIN personally appeared before me on the 12th day of August, 2022, and was duly sworn.

witness my hand and official seal this 28th day of October, 2023.

Tamara M. Pacheco

Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
COMMISSION #942612
EXPIRES: March 30, 2024

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, Tamara M. Pacheco, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the Deposition of DANIEL MAULDIN; 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.

Tamara M. Pacheco

Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR