

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:

CURTIS WRIGHT

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

August 12, 2022

TIME:

3:59 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

PLACE:

Pinellas Co. Justice Center
14250 49th Street - 1100-4
Clearwater, FL

REPORTED BY:

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

Pages 1 - 11

JTP REPORTING (727)422-8287

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 CURTIS WRIGHT

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 for the record.

9 A Officer Curtis Wright. I'm a police officer
10 with St. Petersburg Police Department.

11 Q How long have you been with St. Pete PD?

12 A Thirteen years.

13 Q Any prior law enforcement experience?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And where was that?

16 A Three years Parkersburg, West Virginia.

17 Q Parkersburg. Can you spell that?

18 A P-A-R-K-E-R-S-B-U-R-G.

19 Q Anything else?

20 A No.

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

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And did you write a supplemental report
3 detailing your involvement?

4 A I did.

5 Q Do you have a copy with you today?

6 A I've got it memorized.

7 Q Okay. You reviewed it prior to coming in?

8 A Correct.

9 Q And was there anything that was inaccurate or
10 that you would like to change?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. What was your call sign back the
13 beginning of February of '21?

14 A It should have been 364 Delta.

15 Q You may have just solved a mystery. Oh, never
16 mind. Somebody else couldn't remember if there was a
17 change. That wasn't one of the options I thought it was.

18 And were you a patrol unit at that time?

19 A Yes.

20 Q About what time are you called out to the scene?

21 A It would have been on the 2nd, so it was early
22 morning.

23 Q Your supplement indicates 1:41. Is that your
24 supplement time, or would that be about the time you got
25 out there, if you know?

1 A That would have been the time of the supplement
2 I do believe. I logged on immediately. I wasn't there
3 very long.

4 Q Okay. And when you arrived on scene, had the --
5 had the ambulance already left or was --

6 A I never saw the ambulance.

7 Q Okay. Did you ever approach Unit 113?

8 A I did not.

9 Q Who did you make contact with as far as getting
10 your orders or your assignment at the scene?

11 A I don't remember who I initially made contact
12 with. I was just advised they needed officers for a
13 neighborhood canvass.

14 Q Do you remember if it was a detective or not?

15 A No.

16 Q No, you don't remember or no, it wasn't?

17 A No, I don't remember.

18 Q Okay. Was the entirety of your canvass recorded
19 on your body-worn camera?

20 A It should have been. I didn't review because
21 there was nothing of value with what I obtained.

22 Q Well, I guess at least one person indicated to
23 you that there were always people in and out of that
24 apartment, right?

25 A Do you have --

1 Q I don't have that -- you wrote that apartment
2 207 heard and saw nothing, but she did actually provide
3 some information, didn't she?

4 A No, that's not what I wrote.

5 Q Right, right, right. That's what I'm saying,
6 that's what you wrote, and then in your video, she
7 actually does make a statement. So I guess I'm trying to
8 figure out when you say there's nothing of value what it
9 is you're considering valuable.

10 A That evening she heard and saw nothing.

11 Q Okay. So anybody -- unless they heard or saw
12 something that night, it's considered not to be of value?
13 Is that what that means?

14 A That's what my statement meant, yes.

15 Q But you said as far as your -- it should have
16 all been -- I haven't gotten through all of it, so I don't
17 know.

18 A It should have. Like I said, I did not review
19 my body camera.

20 Q Okay. Other than the canvassing, were you
21 tasked with any other assignments in the investigation?

22 A No.

23 Q What's your shift? What would your shift have
24 been?

25 A 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

1 Q Any reason -- do you remember if you got off at
2 2 a.m. on this day?

3 A I don't remember.

4 Q Were you asked to do any follow-up work any
5 subsequent day?

6 A No.

7 Q As far as you know, had you ever had any contact
8 with Cornelius Whitfield before?

9 A Not to my knowledge.

10 Q As far as you know, had you ever had any contact
11 with Rodney or Deronrick Green?

12 A Not to my knowledge.

13 Q And Mr. Barnes, Darren Barnes, as far as you
14 know, had you ever had any contact with him?

15 A No.

16 Q Any additional involvement other than what we've
17 discussed?

18 A None from me.

19 MS. MANUELE: Do you have any questions?

20 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: No.

21 MS. MANUELE: Anything from you?

22 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: No.

23 MS. MANUELE: Thanks, officer. Be safe.

24 Thanks for coming in.

25

1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4
5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that
6 CURTIS WRIGHT personally appeared before me on the 12th
7 day of August, 2022, and was duly sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 20th day
9 of December, 2024.

10
11 Tamara M. Pacheco

12 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
13 COMMISSION #942612
14 EXPIRES: March 30, 2024
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IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL V. CORNELIUS WHITFIELD

NAME OF DEPONENT: CURTIS WRIGHT

CASE NUMBER: 21-01099CFANO

PAGE	LINE	ERROR/AMENDMENT	REASON FOR CHANGE
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Date

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)
4

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

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

15 Tamara M. Pacheco16 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
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