

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

Case Numbers: 21-01099CFANO

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION OF:

STEPHANIE SISTI

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

October 23, 2023

TIME:

9:24 a.m. - 9:31 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

Pages 1 - 13

JTP REPORTING (727) 422-8287

## APPEARANCES

THEODORA TAKTIKOS-DANZIG, ESQUIRE

THOMAS KOSKINAS, ESQUIRE

Assistant State Attorney

14250 49th Street North

Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorney for the State of Florida

JESSICA MANUELE, ESQUIRE

Assistant Public Defender

14250 49th Street North

Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorney for the Defendant

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## EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 STEPHANIE SISTI

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 Stephanie Sisti, S-I-S-T-I. I work for the  
10 St. Petersburg Police Department as a forensic technician.

11 Q And how long have you been with St. Pete  
12 forensics?

13 A Nine years.

14 Q Any prior law enforcement -- no. Any prior  
15 experience in the same field?

16 A No.

17 Q And just generally, what's your educational  
18 background in the field?

19 A I have an associate's in crime scene technology,  
20 a bachelor's in biochemistry.

21 MR. KOSKINAS: Impressive.

22 Q And then as far as like any specific training in  
23 processing crime scenes, has that all been through  
24 St. Pete, training with them?

25 A All through St. Pete, yeah.

1           Q     We're here today because you've been listed as a  
2 witness in the State of Florida versus Cornelius Whitfield  
3 regarding a homicide of Darren Barnes and an attempted  
4 homicide of Rodney Green from February of '21. Are you  
5 familiar generally with the circumstances?

6           A     With my involvement, yes.

7           Q     Okay. And as far as your involvement goes, did  
8 you ever respond out to any homicide or attempted homicide  
9 shooting scene?

10          A     No.

11          Q     Was your involvement strictly related to doing  
12 some work at the hospital?

13          A     Yes.

14          Q     Okay. And what was your -- what would have been  
15 your call sign?

16          A     ID-10.

17          Q     ID?

18          A     ID-10.

19          Q     Okay. Thanks. And what were you tasked to do  
20 in this case?

21          A     Respond to the hospital. Collect clothing or  
22 the victim's belongings. Take photographs of the victim  
23 and any processing done on the victim.

24          Q     Okay. And the victim that you were dealing  
25 with, is that Rodney Green?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. The belongings that you collected, did  
3 you actually -- were you responsible for taking the  
4 clothes from his person and, like, emptying things from  
5 his pockets, or was that already -- had that already been  
6 removed from his person and set aside when you got there?

7 A They're already removed. So I collected two  
8 victim belonging bags from the hospital.

9 Q Okay. As far as items that -- where the items  
10 came from, you wouldn't be able to provide any testimony  
11 as to that?

12 A No.

13 Q And was Mr. Green -- was medical staff tending  
14 to him when you were there?

15 A I believe so.

16 Q Okay. Do you know if he had already, like, been  
17 in any surgeries or anything?

18 A I don't recall.

19 Q Okay. Were you the only technician on this  
20 particular scene with Mr. Green?

21 A At that time, yes.

22 Q Okay. And the detective that was present, was  
23 that Gaddis?

24 A Yes.

25 Q The -- you had indicated that you were not able

1 to collect a buccal swab because the victim was unable to  
2 give consent. Was that -- was he conscious?

3 A I do not know.

4 Q I was just trying to get, if you recall, whether  
5 it was just like he was awake but couldn't speak or was  
6 unable to speak because he was unconscious or unable to  
7 speak because he had medical equipment, if you recall at  
8 all.

9 A I don't.

10 Q Okay. How long do you think you were at the  
11 hospital with Mr. Green, if you have an estimate?

12 A If I had to estimate, 20 minutes possibly.

13 Q Okay. Would you get called -- would your  
14 arrival and departure times get entered into the CAD notes  
15 at all?

16 A My arrival time was 4:32.

17 MR. KOSKINAS: P.m.

18 A A.m.

19 MR. KOSKINAS: A.m. Oh, okay.

20 Q And then do you know if it would say, like, on  
21 the call notes or anything what time you left, if that is  
22 input or not?

23 A No. It would be -- if you wanted to track my  
24 GPS, you could see what time I left the hospital. We will  
25 usually note what time we finish the call, but whether

1 that's -- sometimes, like, if I leave the hospital, I stay  
2 on my call to give myself time to get back to the station,  
3 put the packaged items, do other things. On this one, I  
4 do not have the time that I left the hospital.

5 Q Okay. After you left the hospital, was it --  
6 did you photograph everything then back at forensics, or  
7 was it come back to the next shift?

8 A I would put -- when I came back to the station,  
9 I put the items in a dryer, an evidence dryer.

10 Q Okay. And would all of them go or just the  
11 clothes?

12 A Depends. Sometimes if I'm just doing the  
13 clothes, then I can package the other things at that time  
14 if they're requested. Sometimes they all go in.

15 Q Do you remember in this case?

16 A No.

17 Q Were you responsible for ultimately collecting  
18 and putting it into evidence? You had some evidence  
19 vouchers. Does that mean that you actually put it into  
20 evidence too?

21 A Yes. The clothing and items that I collected  
22 and the swabs that I did I submitted into evidence.

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

25 EXAMINATION



1 BY MR. KOSKINAS:

2 Q what did you swab?

3 A His face.

4 Q "His" meaning Rodney Green?

5 A Yes, Rodney Green's face, his right hand, left  
6 hand, both arms, his legs.

7 Q Okay.

8 A It's typical to do any exposed areas that  
9 possibly came in contact.

10 Q Okay. And your understanding of the purpose of  
11 those swabs?

12 A To collect any possible biological evidence, any  
13 contact DNA from a potential suspect.

14 Q Okay. Anything else you think we need to know  
15 that you've not been asked about --

16 A No.

17 Q -- regarding your participation?

18 A No.

19 MR. KOSKINAS: Good enough. Thank you  
20 very much for your time.

21 BY MS. MANUELE:

22 Q I forgot to ask you on the record, you have one  
23 supplement that you authored. Is that right?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And have you had an opportunity to review it?

1           A     Yes.

2           Q     was there anything you found to be inaccurate or  
3 that you'd like to change?

4           A     No.

5                 MS. MANUELE:  Nothing else.

6                 MR. KOSKINAS:  That's it.

7                         (Deposition concludes at 9:31 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  
6 STEPHANIE SISTI personally appeared before me and was duly  
7 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 # 474485  
14 EXPIRES: March 30, 2028  
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# ERRATA SHEET

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

NAME OF DEPONENT: STEPHANIE SISTI

CASE NUMBER: 21-01099CFANO

Please read the transcript of your deposition.  
If you feel you need to make corrections, please note on  
this page. DO NOT mark on the transcript itself.  
Sign and date the transcript below.

| PAGE | LINE | ERROR/AMENDMENT | REASON FOR CHANGE |
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Signature

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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 STEPHANIE SISTI; 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. Pacheco*16 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR  
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