

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:	CANDACE MARKLIN
TAKEN BY:	Counsel for the Defendant
DATE:	October 23, 2023
TIME:	1:53 p.m. - 2:06 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

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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 SERGEANT CANDACE MARKLIN

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 Candace Marklin, sergeant with the City of
10 St. Petersburg Police Department.

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

12 A Twenty-eight plus years.

13 Q Any prior law enforcement experience?

14 A No. I did an internship, but no, that's it.

15 Q Oh, where? With St. Pete?

16 A No. Nassau County Police in New York.

17 Q Oh, okay. How long -- so like 28 years before?

18 A Yeah. That was like summer of '94.

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

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. And you were a patrol sergeant that

1 night. Is that right?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Have you ever been in St. Pete Major Crimes or
4 Homicide Unit?

5 A No.

6 Q were you -- tell me how you became involved in
7 the case.

8 A Monitoring the radio as the patrol sergeant,
9 heard the call being dispatched, units arriving. I
10 started responding. When units got on scene, I wasn't
11 there yet. They asked me to respond. Upon arrival, I was
12 advised there was one person already in route to the
13 hospital and one person on scene pronounced deceased.

14 Q Okay. And you didn't actually enter the
15 apartment yourself, correct?

16 A Correct.

17 Q At any time after a warrant was obtained, were
18 you ever on scene when they were doing any of the
19 processing?

20 A I don't believe so.

21 Q So as far as you know, you never entered the
22 apartment?

23 A I'll tell you for a fact I never entered the
24 apartment. On scene to me is just at the complex. So, I
25 mean, I might have been in the parking lot when they were

1 doing whatever inside just securing.

2 Q But you never would have been inside while they
3 were processing?

4 A Never entered.

5 Q And the -- was Deronrick Green on scene still
6 when you were there, if you know? He was not injured.
7 Black male uninjured.

8 A So that was the complainant, I believe. Is that
9 the person that called?

10 Q Well, I was trying to figure that out too. I
11 believe Rodney Green, the living victim was the
12 complainant, but I'm not positive.

13 A No. I think it was the other -- the gentleman
14 Deronrick? Is that his name? He's the one that called
15 us. Because I believe Rodney, if that's the living
16 victim, called him, and he's the one that arrived on scene
17 as we were there saying his brother had been shot.

18 Q Okay. Do you know, was he on scene when the
19 first officers arrived, or is it your understanding that
20 he had arrived after them, if you know?

21 A I believe we were on scene already.

22 Q When he came?

23 A He came up.

24 Q Mr. Rodney Green, he had already been
25 transported by the time you arrived. Is that right?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Did you at any point have contact with Rodney
3 Green either at the hospital or any subsequent day since
4 February of '21?

5 A No.

6 Q Did you ever -- were you ever responsible or
7 present to overhear any of Deronrick Green's questioning?

8 A I didn't overhear any of his questioning. I
9 just assigned an officer to stand by with him and to take
10 a statement from him.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Then I think eventually they had him bring
13 Deronrick to the station.

14 Q Do you remember who you had stand by with him?

15 A I believe it was Officer Casey Robison.

16 Q At some point, some additional family I think
17 showed up in the parking lot. Did you have any contact
18 with those individuals?

19 A I believe his mom. Maybe an aunt might have
20 shown up. We just kept them in the parking lot.

21 Q Okay. Did you arrange for anybody to be
22 transported to the station for questioning?

23 A Besides Deronrick, who was the original
24 complainant, I don't recall if there was anybody else that
25 they brought to the station at that point.

1 Q Okay. And then you kind of -- am I correct that
2 you kind of then start telling officers to start doing a
3 canvass?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. Are you giving them any specific
6 parameters that they should be asking about or just every
7 officer, kind of leaving it to them to ask for dates and
8 times they may have seen or heard anything? How does that
9 get worked out?

10 A Just ask them to knock on doors, see if they
11 heard anything recently as to what -- any yelling,
12 screaming, any gunshots. Heard anything.

13 Q Okay. When you first arrive, you are having
14 some contact with -- you're in contact with Officer Gerry
15 and Hollister, right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And there -- Officer Gerry makes a number of
18 statements about the blood being coagulated or thinking it
19 happened some time before. Was that information ever
20 relayed to the witnesses doing the canvass?

21 A I don't know what she told them.

22 Q Okay. Like, I have some reports about
23 canvassing where it specifically talks about they were
24 asking if any residents saw or heard anything between the
25 hours of 11:50 p.m. on 2/1 to 12:10 a.m. on 2/2. I'm

1 trying to figure out who created that 20-minute window or
2 where that came from.

3 A Yeah, I don't recall telling them anything about
4 a specific timeframe, just if they heard anything.

5 Q Okay. Did you do any canvassing yourself?

6 A No.

7 Q If somebody -- do you guys have any kind of, I
8 guess, procedure in place to follow up? Like, if somebody
9 sees a Ring camera on somebody's door and nobody answers
10 the door, is there like a procedure or protocol to make
11 sure somebody follows up on that address?

12 A No exact procedure. A lot of times the officers
13 will write it in the police report that they noted a
14 camera somewhere, couldn't make contact, and a lot of
15 times the detectives may follow up to see if they got
16 anything off of the camera.

17 Q But there's no procedure in place that you're
18 aware of?

19 A No general orders or SOPs that I'm aware of that
20 states specifically this will be done.

21 Q Okay. You indicate there was a black male and
22 black female who arrived on scene. Is this in addition to
23 Deronrick, or is this Deronrick is the black male and
24 there's a black female?

25 A I don't know exactly. I think it was Deronrick.

1 I'm not sure who the female was at this time. And that's
2 when I believe I asked Officer Robison to stay with
3 them -- I had two officers, and I don't know who the
4 second officer was -- to split them up, take statements.

5 Q Okay. And then Officer Ruiz you had -- I'm
6 sorry. You had units checking all the tags on the
7 vehicles. What do you mean by that?

8 A With the parking lot, there were a lot of
9 vehicles parked. So just taking down license plate tags.
10 Being that the homicide occurred at the apartment complex,
11 just take down any tags of the vehicles in the parking
12 lot. They can be checked later to see if any of them were
13 involved.

14 Q Who they go to?

15 A Yeah, related to whoever, if they belong to
16 someone in the apartment or to follow up with someone
17 later to see if they seen something, heard something, or
18 if they were involved.

19 Q So when they're doing that, are they just
20 writing down the tag numbers, or are they running them at
21 the time?

22 A A lot of times they'll just write down the tag
23 numbers, and they can run them later. But it's just each
24 officer will write down what the tag numbers are of the
25 tags in the parking lot.

1 Q And you indicate that Officer Ruiz attempted to
2 contact management but was never -- wasn't able to reach
3 anybody. Do you know -- like, does that mean the entire
4 time you're on scene or just initially? Do you know if
5 management or anybody was in contact with them that night?

6 A I don't remember talking to anybody from
7 management. And Officer Ruiz told me he tried to get in
8 contact but he hadn't heard back. I don't know if they
9 ever talked to anybody that day. We leave and things
10 still happen, so I don't know if they ever got in touch
11 with someone. I'm sure as daytime came on, the management
12 is on scene. They may have been in contact with someone.

13 Q And you indicate that you remained on scene
14 until you're relieved by day-shift supervisors. So like
15 you left -- well, I guess tell me what you mean by on
16 scene. Where are you?

17 A In the parking lot, just outside next to the
18 building.

19 Q Where was considered, like, the entrance to the
20 crime scene? Where was the log being kept?

21 A The way the buildings were, there was kind of a
22 little breezeway, and it kind of broke off to the right,
23 which opened up into like a courtyard area.

24 Q Yeah.

25 A And we had the tape kind of across there and the

1 officer standing there.

2 Q Is there anybody monitoring the apartment --
3 like, I guess as far as, were vehicles able to come and
4 go, or was there anybody that would get the driver
5 information if a vehicle was leaving the scene? Anything
6 like that? Being the apartment complex, not the specific
7 scene.

8 A We were in the parking lot, but as the day went
9 on, there were cars that were coming and going. I don't
10 know if anybody wrote the rest of the tag numbers down or
11 anything.

12 Q And like throughout the night, were cars able
13 to -- was there anybody stopping cars as they were leaving
14 or no?

15 A No.

16 Q And then you indicate in your report you had
17 body-worn camera on after first arriving but turned it off
18 as there was no evidentiary value to the recordings. Did
19 you have it on, or had you forgot it in the car?

20 A I believe I -- if I wrote I had it on, it was
21 turned on, and then after I left the front door and stayed
22 in the parking lot, I didn't have it on at that point.

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

24 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it.

25 (Deposition concludes at 2:06 p.m.)

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COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

STATE OF FLORIDA)

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
Sergeant Candace Marklin personally appeared before me and
was duly sworn.

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

Tamara M. Pacheco

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

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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 SERGEANT CANDACE MARKLIN; 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