

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

Case Numbers: 21-01513CFANO/21-01099CFANO

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD,

Defendant.

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DEPOSITION OF: JOSHUA JORDAN  
TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Defendant  
DATE: December 4, 2023  
TIME: 2:16 p.m. - 3:02 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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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 DETECTIVE JOSHUA JORDAN

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 Yes. My name is Joshua Jordan. I'm a police  
10 officer with the City of St. Petersburg.

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

12 A Almost twelve years.

13 Q Any former or prior law enforcement experience?

14 A No.

15 Q All right. And what unit are you currently  
16 assigned to?

17 A I'm a sergeant in the Major Crimes Unit.

18 Q How long have you been in Major Crimes?

19 A As a supervisor, just over a year.

20 Q How long as a detective?

21 A Almost two years.

22 Q Were those two years immediately preceding  
23 sergeant status of the unit?

24 A Yeah. I did like a year in Sex Crimes, two  
25 years in Major Crimes almost, and then got promoted. I

1 went back to the street and then back to Major Crimes.

2 Q Gotcha. We're here today because you've been  
3 listed as a witness in the State of Florida versus  
4 Cornelius Whitfield regarding the homicide of Darren  
5 Barnes from February 1st of 2021 and then a homicide --  
6 triple homicide from February 16th of 2021. Are you  
7 familiar with the circumstances?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. And did you write a supplemental report  
10 for each case?

11 A I did.

12 Q Do you have copies of those supplements with you  
13 today?

14 A I do.

15 Q Have you had an opportunity to review both?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And was there anything in those supplements that  
18 you found to be inaccurate or that you'd like to correct  
19 or change?

20 A No.

21 Q And then likewise, was there anything in  
22 reviewing those supplements that you realized you didn't  
23 include that you should have or you should have elaborated  
24 more that you would like to add?

25 A No.

1 Q Okay. Going back to February of '21 then, what  
2 was your call sign?

3 A I was assigned as the assistant detective to  
4 this case.

5 Q As far as like for looking at call notes and  
6 stuff when you would have got on scene, what would they  
7 have put you as?

8 A Oh, my D number?

9 Q Yes.

10 A That's a good question. I don't know.

11 Q Throw out ones you've had in the past that it  
12 could have been.

13 A D50-something.

14 Q D50-something. Okay.

15 A Yeah. I'd be in the D50s.

16 Q Do those get assigned in order or just whatever  
17 is available at the time?

18 A No. There's an order to it. So D50, D60 are  
19 the two units in Major Crimes, and then they're broken  
20 down 51, 52, 53, 54. So whatever is open when you come  
21 into the unit, that's what you get.

22 Q All right. St. Pete could also keep those the  
23 same. You know, like Largo, they use payroll numbers.

24 A We've got that too.

25 Q But it stays the same on all the records.

1 A Just like to make it confusing.

2 Q All right. So starting then with February 2nd,  
3 early morning hours I'm guessing, you get a call about the  
4 homicide at Emerald Pointe Apartments. Is that right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Do you respond out to that scene?

7 A Yes.

8 Q When you get out there, walk me through kind of  
9 what's taking place.

10 A Sure. So I walked out. I responded out to the  
11 scene. Detective Mensah was the lead. Once we all got  
12 there, there was a briefing. Patrol gave us a quick  
13 synopsis briefing of what happened. We learned that one  
14 individual was inside presumably deceased. Another  
15 individual was at the hospital, and he suffered a gunshot  
16 wound to his face. That was Rodney Green. Once we  
17 learned that information, a warrant was going to be  
18 obtained to process the apartment. Detective Mensah and I  
19 went back to the police station to interview two of the  
20 witnesses who responded to headquarters.

21 Q And about how long do you think you're on scene  
22 when you get out there before you head back to  
23 headquarters?

24 A I guess 20 minutes, give or take approximately.

25 Q Okay. And the people that you went back to the

1 scene to interview, was that Deronrick and --

2 A Yeah, Deronrick and Laquanda Green.

3 Q Okay. Were they already at the station when you  
4 first had contact with them?

5 A Yes. I was at the scene, and I was told they  
6 were at the station.

7 Q Okay. So you didn't have any visual contact  
8 with them at the scene?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Gotcha. The -- as part of the briefing, you  
11 were told that Rodney Green had been shot. Is that right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. Do you know where that information came  
14 from?

15 A Like specific source?

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A I don't.

18 Q Because like -- well, are you aware Rodney Green  
19 didn't even know he had been shot? When they took him to  
20 the hospital, he was saying -- when they're like, Oh, were  
21 you shot, he's like, I don't know, I don't know. Were you  
22 aware that he didn't even know?

23 A No. Huh-uh.

24 Q When you -- do you enter the apartment at all  
25 prior to speaking to Deronrick and Laquanda?



1 A No.

2 Q Your interviews with them, were those recorded?

3 A Laquanda and --

4 Q Deronrick, yeah.

5 A No, I don't believe they were.

6 Q And why not?

7 A well, really, I leave it up to the case agent,  
8 Detective Mensah. For my cases, I don't typically record  
9 witnesses.

10 Q well, at this point, how do we know if they're  
11 witnesses or suspects or what?

12 A well, I believe at least they had told us their  
13 relation to the incident, that Gerard Green (phonetic), I  
14 guess, was the brother, and he was married to Laquanda.  
15 So that's what we were given before we went in to talk to  
16 them.

17 Q Okay. So who is doing the questioning of those  
18 two individuals? Are they questioned together or  
19 separate?

20 A They're separated. But it's Detective Mensah.

21 Q Okay. Are you taking notes for her?

22 A No. I don't think I was, but if I did, I give  
23 them to Detective Mensah right after the interviews are  
24 over.

25 Q Okay. But you don't recall doing that in this

1 case?

2 A Yeah, I don't remember.

3 Q Okay. So it's not recorded, and then the person  
4 who's doing the questioning is also responsible for like  
5 documenting what was said?

6 A It's up to them. If they -- everybody is  
7 different. For me, if I'm doing my interviews, I like to  
8 write stuff down, but everybody has their own preference  
9 in how they like to interview and take notes and stuff.

10 Q Did you review Mensah's report regarding these  
11 two interviews?

12 A No, I did not.

13 Q So what, if any, details do you recall from  
14 Deronrick's statements?

15 A Very briefly is that he was -- actually, I don't  
16 want to speak to it because I don't remember that much of  
17 his or either one of theirs.

18 Q So same question for Laquanda.

19 A Yes.

20 Q As far as you don't feel comfortable speaking to  
21 any details of her statement either?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q And fair to say there's not a recording for you  
24 to go back and watch?

25 A Correct.

1 Q Do you -- at one point in Mensah's report, she  
2 indicates that detectives continued to speak with  
3 Deronrick while trying to console him. What, if anything,  
4 do you remember about what you guys said to him while  
5 trying to console him?

6 A I don't remember specifically what we said to  
7 him. I know he was very upset.

8 Q Did you do -- did Deronrick Green tell you guys  
9 where he went in Tampa?

10 A I don't remember.

11 Q Do you know if anybody was ever able to verify  
12 where he was when he said he was in Tampa?

13 A I don't know that either.

14 Q Do you know if anybody -- if they ever pulled  
15 his phone records to pull his location data?

16 A I don't know.

17 Q Okay. Did Deronrick ever give you, best you  
18 recall, any indication of a motive or why Cornbread or  
19 Cornelius would want to hurt these people?

20 A Not that I remember.

21 Q Was this the only interview of Deronrick you  
22 were involved in, or was there any follow-up or subsequent  
23 interviews?

24 A I believe that was it.

25 Q Okay. What about Laquanda?

1 A No, I believe that was it.

2 Q After speaking to those two individuals at the  
3 station, where do you go from there? what's your next  
4 involvement?

5 A The hospital. went down to the hospital to meet  
6 with Rodney.

7 Q Okay. And walk me through your contact with  
8 Rodney, that first contact with Rodney.

9 A Sure. So we first met with a nurse. The nurse  
10 said he was able to communicate with head nods. He could  
11 not talk yet, but he could answer basic questions. We  
12 walked over to him. The nurse put her hand on his  
13 shoulder, shook him a little bit and woke him up. I  
14 introduced myself to him, told him who I was and why I was  
15 there. Then I asked him if he could recognize a person  
16 who injured him if he saw a picture of the person. He  
17 shook his head up and down to indicate yes, he could.

18 Q And then did you show him a picture?

19 A Detective Mensah did.

20 Q Of who?

21 A Cornelius Whitfield.

22 Q A single picture?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Any particular reason you guys didn't use a  
25 photo-pack?

1 A He was known to the defendant.

2 Q well, at this point though, has anybody relayed  
3 that Rodney Green has indicated who hurt him?

4 A That I don't know. That would come from the  
5 interview Mensah did with him, which she documented.

6 Q So --

7 A I'm sorry, you said interview with Rodney?

8 Q Yes.

9 A I got the names mixed up. Say that again.

10 Q So had anybody -- you guys said we didn't do a  
11 photo-pack because he knew the person, but had Rodney told  
12 anybody at that point who had hurt him?

13 A No.

14 Q So we don't know if Rodney knew at that point  
15 prior to showing him the single photograph?

16 A Other than -- well, not from Rodney's mouth.  
17 That's correct.

18 Q Okay. The photo you showed him, what was that a  
19 photo of? Was that a booking photo? a DOC photo?

20 A I don't remember where it came from.

21 Q Was it put into evidence?

22 A Should have been. Yeah, I believe so.

23 Q As far as the questions that were asked of him  
24 to understand if he could shake his head, are all of those  
25 included -- or could nod yes or no, were those included in

1 your report?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And you included the example that whether he was  
4 in pain, he shook his head no?

5 A Right.

6 Q Did anybody go back later and say, hey --  
7 essentially, that was determined that was true because he  
8 was on pain meds, right?

9 A He was on pain meds. That's correct.

10 Q would you agree somebody could be on pain meds  
11 and also be in pain?

12 A Sure.

13 Q Did we ask him anything like are your eyes  
14 brown?

15 A We went back later, and we confirmed to make  
16 sure he could answer a known question. The question I  
17 asked at that time was the night this happened to you, did  
18 you leave the apartment and go to Tampa with Deronrick,  
19 and he said no to that.

20 Q Is that -- believing that to be the accurate  
21 truth, is that based on what Deronrick said or based on  
22 some other evidence that you had at that point?

23 A At that time, it was off of Deronrick's  
24 statement.

25 Q Okay. Were you ever able to establish through,

1 like, physical evidence whether Rodney had actually gone  
2 to Tampa or not that night?

3 A I don't remember that.

4 Q How long do you guys stay -- are you at the  
5 hospital with Rodney the first time?

6 A I'd probably say, ballpark it, 15-minutes-ish,  
7 30 minutes. Probably right in that area.

8 Q what -- I'm sorry, you told me. That was on 2/2  
9 or 2/3?

10 A I'm sorry, when we went to the hospital?

11 Q Yes, sir. Sorry.

12 A No, that's fine. That was on 2/2, the first  
13 time.

14 Q About what time?

15 A Bear with me. I think I put it in my follow-up.

16 Q I thought so too, but now I'm missing it.

17 A That was about 1:30 in the afternoon.

18 Q Oh, okay.

19 A Approximately arrived at 1330 hours.

20 Q At this point when -- so when you're at the  
21 hospital talking to Rodney Green, have you been in the  
22 apartment yet?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. After speaking to Rodney what do you guys  
25 do?

1           A     Spoke with Rodney. After that, we went and  
2 spoke to Rodney and Deronrick's mother, Ms. Winifred  
3 Green.

4           Q     Okay. Was your conversation with Winifred  
5 recorded?

6           A     No.

7           Q     And what information, if any, did she provide  
8 you?

9           A     She was able to tell us that Rodney, Deronrick,  
10 Darren, and Cornelius all grew up together. She was kind  
11 of the neighborhood mom. They would all come to her house  
12 and hang out and play at her house. She told us the boys  
13 continued to stay friends into their adult life, and she  
14 even told us that when Cornelius had been in trouble  
15 before, her boys had sent him care packages and things  
16 like that.

17          Q     Okay. What did she tell you Rodney and  
18 Deronrick did for work, if anything?

19          A     For work? I don't remember.

20          Q     Did you ever ask -- I'm sorry?

21          A     Honestly, I don't remember. I don't know if we  
22 asked that.

23          Q     Did you ask Deronrick what he did for work?

24          A     I don't remember asking Deronrick that.

25          Q     What about Rodney?



1 A Same answer, I don't remember.

2 Q Do you remember asking either of them what  
3 Darren did?

4 A No.

5 Q All of the drugs that were found in the  
6 apartment -- I know at this point you guys hadn't found  
7 all the drugs when you're talking to him. At some point  
8 do you go back and ask them about all the drugs found in  
9 the apartment?

10 A I personally did not.

11 Q Either of them, Rodney or Deronrick?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Then I guess as you're leaving Ms. Green's,  
14 Winifred Green's house, that's when you guys hear or  
15 Mensah gets a call from Deronrick. Is that right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Yes.

19 Q Was that -- did you speak to Deronrick again?

20 A No. That was Mensah.

21 Q Okay. And you guys go back to the hospital.  
22 Did Elizondo tell you guys to go back and see if he could  
23 answer a no question?

24 A I don't remember if we were told. I know we had  
25 discussed it with him, but as far as being told -- I don't

1 remember if he told us or if that was just something we  
2 agreed upon or how that played out other than we went.

3 Q Okay. You don't remember why or what made you  
4 guys go back and ask though?

5 A Well, we thought it was important that he could  
6 answer a no question as well. So that was the reason for  
7 us responding back was to confirm that he could -- you  
8 know, knew the difference between yes and no.

9 Q Okay. And best you recall though, that was the  
10 only question you guys asked to determine if he knew no  
11 was if he had gone to Tampa that day?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And then you guys asked if he went to Tampa the  
14 night that everything happened?

15 A Yes.

16 Q So the police were called shortly after  
17 midnight. Was that interpreted in his mind as a Monday  
18 night or Tuesday night? Which day were you guys asking  
19 that question?

20 A I mean, I would assume it would happen the night  
21 the shooting happened.

22 Q Do we know if the shooting happened before  
23 midnight or after midnight?

24 A I don't remember when it happened.

25 Q Okay. The second time you're at the hospital

1 how -- Rodney isn't using words still. He's shaking his  
2 head. Is that right?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Okay. About how long are you there that second  
5 time?

6 A I'd guess probably around the same, about 15 to  
7 30 minutes-ish.

8 Q Other than asking about if he went to Tampa,  
9 what else was there discussed, if anything else that you  
10 recall?

11 A I know we spoke with a nurse about how he's  
12 physically doing. But that's all I -- that's the only  
13 thing I remember speaking about with him and asking him  
14 that question.

15 Q Was he intubated still?

16 A I believe he was, or at least he was covered,  
17 like a bandage there or something.

18 Q After leaving the hospital that second time,  
19 what's your next involvement?

20 A After that hospital, then I do respond back to  
21 the scene and learn the deceased individual is identified  
22 as Darren Barnes. Once we learned it was Darren Barnes,  
23 then we found the next of kin for him, which was his  
24 mother, Leslie Carter, and then we responded to 1325 16th  
25 Street South and informed her of her son's passing. And

1 then that's it for that day. My involvement carries over  
2 to February 3rd.

3 Q what's your first involvement on the 3rd?

4 A Around 10:15 in the morning, I was requested to  
5 go to the wells Fargo Bank. Sergeant Mike Demark had  
6 responded that I go speak with the occupants of a van that  
7 was seen leaving the house where he believed Cornelius  
8 whitfield to be staying.

9 Q And was your contact on that traffic stop  
10 recorded?

11 A I don't think so.

12 Q Okay. Who was the driver?

13 A I don't know who the driver was. Immediately  
14 the driver said that she didn't live there. She was just  
15 picking her up, referring to the grandmother, to go pay  
16 some bills.

17 Q who was the registered owner of the van?

18 A I don't remember that.

19 Q was the driver someone that later got dead on  
20 the 16th or somebody else?

21 A I don't remember.

22 Q Okay. And you said Patricia whitfield Sharp,  
23 she was the passenger. You spoke to her?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And was that conversation recorded?

1 A No.

2 Q Later that day on 2/3 --

3 A On 2/3.

4 Q So later that day on 2/3, detectives brought in  
5 Cornelius' mom and interviewed her, and they went -- got a  
6 whole bunch of permission. They cleared the house. She  
7 called everybody, got everybody to leave the house, take  
8 their belongings. Got permission for them to go in and  
9 search the house and everything for Cornelius. Were you  
10 ever called in to conduct any search later on 2/3 of that  
11 house?

12 A No.

13 Q Were you ever asked to do any follow-up into,  
14 like, those family members that had vacated their house  
15 for the police to do the search?

16 A What do you mean follow up with family members?

17 Q Like reach out to any of those family members  
18 and see -- verify that they had in fact abandoned the  
19 house like they were asked to by police?

20 A No. Me personally, no.

21 Q And you're SWAT Team, right?

22 A I was at the time.

23 Q Were you ever called up for any SWAT situation  
24 on 2/3?

25 A On 2/3, no.

1 Q And then how long is that -- who all is present  
2 at the traffic stop officer-wise? I'm sorry.

3 A Officer-wise, I believe there was I want to say  
4 two. I think two patrol officers were there. I remember  
5 it was a K-9 officer and another marked police car.

6 Q Gaddis, would that be one of them?

7 A That sounds right, yes.

8 Q Is Gaddis K-9 or regular?

9 A Regular.

10 Q And you think a K-9 was there too?

11 A I'm sorry, she's in patrol now. She was in  
12 Major Crimes at the time.

13 Q I'm sorry, who was? Gaddis?

14 A Yes. She was a detective with me. I believe  
15 one of the K-9s was Kirchgraber.

16 Q Okay.

17 A Matthew Kirchgraber. I don't remember who was  
18 with him. There was another cruiser, I think.

19 Q Okay. About how long was that traffic stop?

20 A I probably only spoke with her for maybe I'm  
21 going to guess five minutes ballpark. From the time they  
22 were stopped to the completion of it, I don't know how  
23 long from the time it was stopped.

24 Q Okay. And as far as you know, was there  
25 constant surveillance on the house by this point?

1 A Yes.

2 Q what is your next involvement after the traffic  
3 stop?

4 A Detective Gaddis and I go back to the hospital  
5 to check on Rodney.

6 Q About what time is this?

7 A We arrived at approximately 11 in the morning.

8 Q Eleven on the 3rd, right, or 4th? Sorry.

9 A I think it's the 3rd. Yes, the 3rd.

10 Q And at this point, is Rodney speaking yet?

11 A No, he's not.

12 Q So are your questions essentially limited to yes  
13 or no questions?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Is your contact with him recorded?

16 A No.

17 Q And other than what you've included in your  
18 report, do you recall any other details of that  
19 interaction?

20 A No.

21 Q Then from there you go out to the apartment. Is  
22 that right?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Is that the first time that you actually entered  
25 the apartment?

1 A Yes.

2 Q were they still processing, or was that like all  
3 done?

4 A No. It was all finished.

5 Q Okay. And then on 2/4, you guys go back to the  
6 hospital?

7 A Correct.

8 Q On 2/4, is Rodney speaking yet?

9 A I don't believe he was.

10 Q Any involvement from that trip to the hospital  
11 where you guys went and took a picture until 2/16?

12 A No.

13 Q On 2/16, tell me how you get involved.

14 A I was a member of the SWAT Team, and we were  
15 having a SWAT training week. So one week out of the year,  
16 we train all week, and this just happened to be when  
17 everybody was there.

18 (Discussion held off the record.)

19 Q So we're at SWAT training week. How do you get  
20 involved?

21 A So we learn of multiple people shot at 2968  
22 Emerson Avenue South, so I respond with the SWAT Team  
23 there.

24 Q How many members are on the SWAT Team?

25 A Currently, I think there's around 30.



1 Q Do you remember how many back in '21?

2 A I think it was bigger. Probably closer to 40.

3 Q And when you guys respond, does like everyone  
4 respond or just like the half that are on duty at that  
5 time?

6 A No, everybody does.

7 Q Everyone. Okay. what time do you think you  
8 guys get called out?

9 A I don't know if I put a time. It was later,  
10 towards the end of our training day. I do remember that.  
11 I don't know.

12 Q Later afternoon some time?

13 A Later afternoon.

14 Q Okay. what happens when you go out there?

15 A So there's a command post that's set up.

16 Q where does the command post go? Is that  
17 something on scene?

18 A It's usually a few blocks away. So that's where  
19 the SWAT commander is. That's where all the SWAT Team  
20 members check in is at the command post, and you get your  
21 assignment from the command post and then go on from  
22 there. My assignment was to be a part of the secondary  
23 arrest/rescue team.

24 Q what does that entail?

25 A Basically rescuing anybody that's left inside.

1 Checking on preservation of life.

2 Q What's primary arrest?

3 A Bad guy. Who's going to get the bad guy.

4 Q Gotcha. So what do you guys -- what's the first  
5 action SWAT Team takes that day?

6 A We are -- SWAT Team that is -- west, set up west  
7 of where the house is. So myself and probably relevant  
8 SWAT members that had the jobs go east down the alley. We  
9 set up in our positions. Depending on what your job is  
10 depends on where you set up and what you do.

11 Q What was the first -- so I guess is somebody  
12 attempting to make contact with the house?

13 A There was a team assigned to make contact with  
14 the house.

15 Q Were you there with them? Are you able to  
16 discuss what their efforts were, or is that something  
17 different?

18 A I could hear them. They were using a loud  
19 speaker on the armored truck, so I could obviously hear  
20 that. But, yeah, I'm not with them. They're on the other  
21 side of the house.

22 Q They're essentially shouting things at the  
23 house, or were they actually calling somebody in the  
24 house?

25 A They were calling Cornelius. They're saying

1 Cornelius come outside, come out with your hands up.

2 Q But, I mean, calling over a loud speaker or the  
3 telephone?

4 A No, it was a loud speaker, like megaphone type  
5 thing.

6 Q But actually shouting?

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q Like yelling out Cornelius?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And how long does that go on?

11 A It was fairly quick. I mean, once all I guess  
12 the damage occurred to the residence, he came out after  
13 that.

14 Q Okay. How -- was SWAT like mobilized or called  
15 up after the call about shots being fired went out?

16 A Yeah. Uh-huh.

17 Q And then do you have any contact with  
18 Shirleyleene Harilal, mom, Cornelius's mom?

19 A No.

20 Q So then you just kind of -- they called SWAT  
21 Team, we have somebody we need you guys to come get?

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q She's already gone from the scene when you  
24 there?

25 A I don't know where she is.

1 Q If she was there, she was already gone?

2 A I have no idea where she was.

3 Q They call out over the loud speaker. Nothing  
4 happens. What tool comes next, or do we just jump right  
5 to the tank?

6 A I think that's when the rook was used, and they  
7 start trying to pry some windows, trying to see into the  
8 house to see if we could see him. That obviously failed,  
9 so they continued, you know --

10 Q Who operates the rook, or who was operating the  
11 rook that day?

12 A I don't remember.

13 Q Are all y'all trained to or just certain people?

14 A Now I believe it's certain people. Now there's  
15 a specific team that just does the heavy-duty equipment.

16 Q Are you on that team?

17 A No. No.

18 Q So the rook tries to open windows?

19 A Open windows. Portholes through the house so we  
20 can see in from the outside. Things like that.

21 Q Holes through walls?

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q And then what happens? What comes next?

24 A At some point Cornelius walks out with his hands  
25 up. Uh-huh.

1 Q Okay. How did the wall get off the house?

2 A The rook just caved it in.

3 Q Okay. Prior to him walking out of the house,  
4 did anybody have eyes on the inside of the house?

5 A No.

6 Q Do you know about how long you would have  
7 been -- like how long we're talking you guys were out  
8 there?

9 A I'd have to guess. In my mind, it all happened  
10 pretty quick. In that situation, everything happens  
11 pretty quick.

12 Q Yeah. Did you have any contact with  
13 Mr. Whitfield?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you overhear him make any statements to any  
16 other law enforcement officers or anybody I guess?

17 A No.

18 Q Once he comes out with his hands up, you're not  
19 responsible for apprehending him, right?

20 A Correct.

21 Q So what do you do then?

22 A Once he's out, we're given the go-ahead to make  
23 entry into the house to check on the family members, the  
24 rest of the folks inside.

25 Q And inside, are you able to -- so there's two

1 women on couches. Is that right?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Are you able to tell from your observations if  
4 that's where they were shot or that's where they landed  
5 based on perhaps the house crumbling?

6 A I couldn't tell. I would have to watch the  
7 video again.

8 Q Did rubble have to be removed in order to find  
9 either of them?

10 A Probably so, yeah. I would imagine so. That  
11 front wall was caved in a good bit. But I wasn't a part  
12 of any of that rubble clearing, so --

13 Q I'm just trying to figure out, when you guys  
14 enter I guess, do you guys have like a video camera going?

15 A No. We don't have cameras. I don't think we  
16 had cameras at the time, or at least the SWAT Team wasn't  
17 wearing it.

18 Q All SWAT Teams have cameras.

19 A No. They might now. They probably do now.

20 Q All SWAT Teams should have cameras.

21 A Yeah.

22 Q If you guys didn't have body cameras, you  
23 wouldn't have had like a Go-Pro or anything documenting?

24 A No. Huh-uh. Huh-uh.

25 Q Do you believe there had to be things moved to

1 find both female victims or --

2 A It was quick. I don't remember. The main  
3 entry -- it was the west side of the house. We had to  
4 climb over some rocks and rubble and stuff to get in  
5 there. Once we got in there, it was dark. I had to use a  
6 flashlight on my rifle to see. I went through a kitchen  
7 area. I think I turned left. I forget what direction.  
8 It's in my report. I make my way through the kitchen and  
9 into the living room, and just prior to going into the  
10 living room, that's where you see the first deceased  
11 individual. And then I turned into the living room.  
12 That's when I saw several other deceased individuals. But  
13 I continued to a bedroom.

14 Q Okay. And there was a child in the bedroom?

15 A Right.

16 Q Was the child crying, or you just found the  
17 child by way of doing regular clearing?

18 A No. She was under the covers. I just saw  
19 something that appeared to be someone under the covers. I  
20 flipped the covers back, and there she was.

21 Q Was this -- I guess, if you know -- I don't know  
22 how much time you spent with the child. Did the child use  
23 words or anything yet?

24 A I don't know. She didn't say anything to me.  
25 She looked -- honestly, she looked terrified. I grabbed

1 her and handed her to one of the SWAT medics.

2 MS. MANUELE: Off record.

3 (Discussion held off the record.)

4 Q (By Ms. Manuele) So luckily the wall in the  
5 bedroom didn't crash in. A different wall was picked.

6 A Yeah. It's a good thing. Uh-huh.

7 Q How long do you think you're in the house  
8 clearing process?

9 A I don't know. I'm not sure.

10 Q Okay. When you come out of the house, is  
11 Cornelius still on scene?

12 A Don't know.

13 Q Okay. Do you enter the house with paramedics or  
14 anything, or who ultimately checks to see if the three  
15 people are in fact deceased?

16 A Two SWAT medics went in behind me. There was  
17 one other SWAT operator and two medics came in. Who  
18 checked the deceased, I don't know.

19 Q Swat medics, explain that role. Are they  
20 officers or just --

21 A No. They work for the fire department, but they  
22 train with us. I'm sure -- I don't know what all their  
23 training consists of.

24 Q But when the SWAT Team gets called up, there's  
25 also a SWAT medic also?



1 A Correct.

2 Q But they're not sworn law enforcement, or maybe  
3 they are sworn for the SWAT Team or no?

4 A No, they're not sworn.

5 Q So it would have been one of those medical  
6 people that checked them?

7 A If I had to guess I would say yeah, probably one  
8 of them.

9 Q Any role in collecting any items of evidentiary  
10 value from that address?

11 A No.

12 Q Were you at all -- like did you stick around for  
13 the processing or at all come back while they were doing  
14 processing?

15 A No.

16 Q Were you ever presented with any evidence from  
17 that Emerson address to compare or indicate if you thought  
18 they had any evidentiary value from the first scene?

19 A I don't know. I don't think so.

20 Q Okay. Did you ever have any contact with  
21 Brittany Barnes, the person who was renting the Emerald  
22 Pointe apartment as far as you know?

23 A I don't think so. Not that I remember. I don't  
24 think so.

25 Q Okay. Did you ever have any contact with

1 Cornelius's mom? I think I asked you about specifically  
2 the SWAT day, but maybe after or anything later.

3 A I don't remember having contact with her.

4 Q Okay. Do you know if the -- because there was  
5 like rubble and stuff to clear, do you know if there were  
6 pictures taken before the stuff was cleared out as far as  
7 how the decedents fell?

8 A I don't know.

9 Q So like one of the -- you indicate one of the  
10 victims is slumped over sitting on the couch, and then you  
11 indicate another victim is slumped over another couch.  
12 I'm trying to figure -- if you recall, like, was it  
13 something like they could have fallen over the couch,  
14 standing behind the couch and slumped over that way? I'm  
15 trying to figure out if there was any way to tell their  
16 positioning prior to the shooting, if that makes sense, or  
17 if the scene was too disturbed to be able to really tell.

18 A I didn't have a good enough look at them. I  
19 can't speak to that. Unfortunately, I don't remember  
20 that.

21 MS. MANUELE: Any questions?

22 MS. RUSSELL: No.

23 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: No. All right.

24 (Deposition concludes at 3:02 p.m.)

25

1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4

5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that  
6 SERGEANT JOSHUA JORDAN personally appeared before me and  
7 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  
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 JOSHUA JORDAN; 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