

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:	MAJOR MARIO ALIBERTO
TAKEN BY:	Counsel for the Defendant
DATE:	December 4, 2023
TIME:	10:34 a.m. - 10:43 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

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## APPEARANCES

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 MAJOR MARIO ALIBERTO

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 Mario Aliberto. I'm a Major with the  
10 St. Petersburg Police Department.

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

12 A Twenty-five years.

13 Q Any prior law enforcement experience?

14 A No.

15 Q And what unit are you currently assigned to?

16 A Currently, I'm over our Strategic Operations  
17 Division.

18 Q what's that?

19 A Basically, our Narcotics Unit and our Special  
20 Investigations Unit, detectives.

21 Q we're here because you've been listed as a  
22 witness in the State of Florida versus Cornelius Whitfield  
23 regarding -- you're for sure listed as a witness in a  
24 homicide that occurred February 1st or February 2nd of  
25 2021. Mr. Barnes was the listed victim in that case. You

1 were involved in that case, correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Then Mr. Whitfield also has a homicide case with  
4 some victims that occurred on February 16th of 2021. Did  
5 you have any involvement in that case?

6 A I don't believe so, but I don't know and was not  
7 prepared for that one.

8 Q I don't believe you were either as far as doing  
9 a search through the report, but I didn't know if you knew  
10 offhand that you had any additional information.

11 A Not that I recall.

12 Q Okay. Regarding the homicide of Mr. Barnes from  
13 February 1st or 2nd of 2021, did you write a report  
14 detailing your involvement?

15 A I did.

16 Q Do you have a copy of that with you today?

17 A I do not have it with me.

18 Q Do you need a copy?

19 A I reviewed it this morning. If I need to review  
20 it again, I will ask if you have a copy to review.

21 Q When you took a look this morning, was there  
22 anything in your supplemental report that was inaccurate  
23 or that you would like to change?

24 A I don't believe so.

25 Q Okay. And was there anything that you in

1 reviewing your report realized you should have included  
2 that you failed to?

3 A I don't think so.

4 Q And I just show a very short supplemental  
5 narrative for you. Is that the same one you reviewed?

6 A Correct.

7 Q Okay. Like two short paragraphs?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. What was your call sign back in February  
10 of 2021?

11 A I'm going to say it was L7, I believe.

12 Q Okay.

13 A I could be wrong.

14 Q Any other guesses that it could have been if  
15 that's inaccurate?

16 A That's my best guess.

17 Q Okay. What unit were you assigned to back at  
18 that time?

19 A I was the midnight-shift watch commander.

20 Q What all does that include?

21 A I'm -- I was the rank of lieutenant at that  
22 time. Basically, I supervised our patrol division  
23 overnights. That encompassed monitoring the radio, calls  
24 for service, staffing, and admin duties.

25 Q All right. What's the -- you said you were the

1 shift watch or the midnight-shift watch commander. How  
2 often does that happen? Is that something you do a week  
3 at a time or every other day? How does that work?

4 A That is the job for that position. So for that  
5 night, that was my job. I think I did that for about a  
6 year. So I would check on at night, I would say 10 p.m.  
7 and work until 6 a.m., and I would monitor all those  
8 duties.

9 Q Okay. So if you were working, that was the role  
10 you were working in?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Okay. During that year or so?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Tell me how you became involved in this case.

15 A I remember a call going out on the radio about  
16 officers finding a deceased person at an apartment, and  
17 then I went to that scene.

18 Q And when you arrived on scene, do you know about  
19 what time you got there?

20 A I don't recall.

21 Q Okay. What's taking place?

22 A Officers are already setting up, containing the  
23 scene. They're at an apartment, and I'm being told  
24 there's a deceased person inside and that somebody was  
25 transported to the hospital.

1 Q The individual that was transported to the  
2 hospital alive, that person had already left the scene  
3 when you got there?

4 A I believe so.

5 Q As far as you know, did you ever have any  
6 conversation -- Derek Green [sic] was his name. As far as  
7 you know, did you ever have any conversation with Derek  
8 Green about this incident?

9 A I did not.

10 Q Okay. Do you recall if there were any lay  
11 witnesses on scene still when you were there?

12 A I don't recall witnesses.

13 Q Okay. At any point did you, maybe not this  
14 night but on any subsequent nights, have any contact with  
15 Derek Green [sic] either in the hospital or after he was  
16 released?

17 A Not that I'm aware of.

18 Q Okay. Darren Barnes, the individual who was  
19 killed, did you -- as far as you know, have you ever any  
20 contact with him?

21 A I don't believe so.

22 Q Did you do any research on that apartment number  
23 to see if there were any -- if that was a problem unit or  
24 anything like that?

25 A I don't think I did.



1 Q Okay. What was your responsibility in  
2 responding out to the scene?

3 A Basically, my job is just to oversee what's  
4 going on. We have a sergeant that's on the scene. That  
5 was Sergeant Marklin. She was responsible for making sure  
6 the scene was secure. My job is making sure that her job  
7 is being done. It was being done. And then I was  
8 responsible for notifications, which means I call our  
9 Major Crimes Unit, who I believe in the report I listed as  
10 Sergeant Elizondo, and notify them, hey, we have a scene  
11 with a deceased person and see if they want to respond to  
12 investigate.

13 Q Okay. At that time in February of '21, would  
14 you have had any role in either organizing the SWAT Team  
15 for any purpose, like calling out the SWAT Team or issuing  
16 them any, I guess, tasks or investigations?

17 A Not in regards to this case, no.

18 Q Who -- I guess whose job is that? Who gets to  
19 say, Come on, SWAT, we're going?

20 A There is a few different avenues. As a watch  
21 commander, I could do it if there was an emergency  
22 situation. Like let's say we have a hostage situation,  
23 and we need immediate activation of the SWAT Team. And  
24 then there's other ways. You go through the chain of  
25 command who oversees the SWAT Team. I'm not sure who was

1 in charge of the SWAT Team at that time, so I couldn't  
2 tell you an exact name.

3 Q Okay.

4 A But we do have a SWAT Team commander that all  
5 requests go through.

6 Q Did anybody ever contact you in the day or two  
7 after your supplement, which is February 2nd of '21? Did  
8 anybody contact you in the next couple of days, you know,  
9 and talk to you about activating the SWAT Team for  
10 Mr. Whitfield?

11 A Not that I recall.

12 Q And after you arrived that night or early  
13 morning and essentially oversee, I guess, the assignments  
14 as they're given out, do you have any subsequent or  
15 follow-up involvement?

16 A No. I just would probably check in with the  
17 supervisors and make sure that the scene is secure, that  
18 everything is going according to plan and see if they need  
19 anything. I'm also responsible for the rest of the City.  
20 So we could have other events going on that I'm also  
21 responsible for. So as long as the sergeant that's in  
22 charge and Major Crimes if they're on scene, if they're  
23 satisfied with everything, I have very little involvement,  
24 other than checking in to make sure they're okay.

25 Q And at the time of your involvement, do you know

1 if Mr. Whitfield's name was being discussed or tossed  
2 around or anything at all that the time?

3 A I don't recall.

4 MS. MANUELE: Okay. I don't have anything. Do  
5 you have any questions?

6 MS. RUSSELL: I don't.

7 MS. MANUELE: We don't have anything else.

8 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it. Read.

9 (Deposition concludes at 10:43 a.m.)

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COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

STATE OF FLORIDA )

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

I, the undersigned authority, certify that MARIO ALIBERTO 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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ERRATA SHEET

IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL V. CORNELIUS T. WHITFIELD  
 NAME OF DEPONENT: MARIO ALIBERTO  
 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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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 MARIO ALIBERTO; 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