

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

Case Number 21-01513CFANO
21-01099CFANO

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION OF:

DETECTIVE JASON HARRIS

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

February 25, 2026

TIME:

9:41 a.m. - 12:23 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 - 138

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INDEX

	PAGE:
Examination by Ms. Seifer-Smith.....	4
Certificate of Oath.....	136
Certificate of Reporter.....	137
Errata/Signature Page.....	138

EXHIBITS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
1	NIBIN chart.....	88

1 WHEREUPON,

2 DETECTIVE JASON HARRIS

3 (the deponent herein, being first duly sworn, was examined
4 and testified as follows:)

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

7 Q. Can you please introduce yourself for our
8 record.

9 A. My name is Jason Harris. I'm a detective with
10 the City of St. Petersburg Police Department in the Major
11 Crimes Unit.

12 Q. We're here in the matters of Cornelius
13 Whitfield. My name is Julia Seifer-Smith. Together with
14 Margaret Russell and Lamark McGreen, we represent
15 Mr. Whitfield. Also present is Theo Taktikos-Danzig from
16 the State Attorney's office.

17 Detective Harris, I would love to run through
18 your professional development within the department
19 because I don't think we've ever met before. If you could
20 please kind of get me up to speed on when you started,
21 where you are now, all the places you've been in between,
22 and any kind of formal experience you think might be
23 relevant.

24 A. I have no former experience prior to working for
25 St. Pete. I was hired in August of '07, sworn in March of

1 '08. I spent about four years in patrol, two of which was
2 FTO. I then got transferred to -- technically, it was
3 part of COTA, Safe Harbor.

4 Q. What is COTA?

5 A. It was the Career Offender Tracking Apprehension
6 Unit. It doesn't exist any longer.

7 Q. Got it.

8 A. I was assigned to Safe Harbor as part of that
9 when that opened, about a year after it opened, then to
10 property crimes, and I made my way to Major Crimes since
11 December of '17.

12 Q. And you've been there ever since?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Within Major Crimes, have you always held the
15 same position as a detective?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And I'm kind of curious about staffing.
18 I know things kind of fluctuate, but generally, how many
19 people do they want to have on staff as detectives,
20 supervisors in Major Crimes?

21 A. We always have -- we've always had two
22 sergeants, and sometimes it's a lieutenant. Now it's a
23 major. That's shifted a couple of times in my time there.
24 We don't have a lieutenant anymore. We just have a major.
25 We usually have -- we have two squads, the A Squad and B

1 Squad. I'm on the B Squad. And usually we have about
2 twelve to fourteen detectives, depending on acting or
3 people being out or whatever.

4 Q. Is that total, including both squads?

5 A. Yeah. It's around that average. It might be a
6 little more. I mean, I could try to count it out in my
7 head. Right now, we're kind of influx because I'm not in
8 there right now. I'm acting as a sergeant in Property
9 Crimes.

10 Q. When did that happen?

11 A. January.

12 Q. And how long do you think that's going to be?

13 A. It's supposed to be ninety days.

14 Q. It seems like we're coming up on ninety days.

15 Do you think it's going to continue?

16 A. I don't think so. It will probably be April
17 I'll be out.

18 Q. And what are you doing in Property Crimes as an
19 acting sergeant?

20 A. Just approving reports and signing reports.

21 Q. Seems a little bit different than what you do on
22 a day-to-day in Major Crimes.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you miss it?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. So you're waiting to get back?

2 A. I'm hoping to get promoted. I've done eight
3 years. I think I've done my time, but yeah.

4 Q. Are you hoping for a promotion within Major
5 Crimes, so a sergeant within Major Crimes or elsewhere?

6 A. I mean, I'd come back, but if you get promoted,
7 generally you have to go to the street first.

8 Q. So that's what you potentially anticipate?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. Is that a yes?

11 A. Yes. Sorry.

12 Q. In terms of like your professional development,
13 training, certifications, any courses, can you tell me
14 what that looks like in your history?

15 A. I know I've been to death investigations class,
16 interview and interrogations class, part of CERT. I did
17 the mobile field stuff years ago. I'm not in it anymore,
18 so out of date on all that stuff. That's --

19 Q. Do you do any kind of ongoing education? I'm
20 not sure what they call it for police. We call it
21 continuing legal education.

22 A. Whatever is mandated by FDLE. They have stuff
23 that comes up that we have to watch, but I don't know if
24 that's considered like --

25 Q. So that sounds like webinars type of thing --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- you would be watching? Do you ever go to any
3 trainings?

4 A. Yeah. I've been to -- it's been a bit. I've
5 been to conferences, stuff like that.

6 Q. Have you done any trainings on interviewing?

7 A. Yeah, interviews and interrogations.

8 Q. Okay. And you just kind of differentiated
9 between interviews and interrogations.

10 A. Well, it's all one class.

11 Q. So interviews I'm assuming would refer to like
12 victims or potential witnesses, while interrogations would
13 refer to suspects. Is that fair?

14 A. Yes, that's fair.

15 Q. Can you tell me just generally what you recall
16 learning and when that was?

17 A. It's been years now. It was probably when I was
18 in property crimes. I couldn't give you an exact date.
19 Just different aspects of, you know, speaking with people.
20 I believe there was some stuff about looking at body
21 language, stuff like that. You know, the legal aspects of
22 it, that type of stuff.

23 Q. Would you say that there is a different way of
24 speaking to a victim or a witness than there is with a
25 subject?

1 A. It really depends. It's a case-by-case
2 scenario. It depends on who you're dealing with. I
3 generally try to talk to everybody the same. There are
4 times where maybe you have to be a little louder, but I
5 generally don't have to do that. It may come across as --
6 there have been times where maybe I come across as gruff
7 or mean, I guess, but I don't think -- that's very few and
8 far between generally. I try to treat everybody with
9 respect. So I don't --

10 Q. Do you think that's just kind of who you are
11 rather than like a persona that you adopt to speak with
12 people?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You had mentioned something about the legal
15 aspects of interviews or interrogations. Can you tell me
16 what you recall?

17 A. Just the main thing that they teach you from the
18 Academy, that if you're in custody, you know, Miranda.

19 Q. Fair enough. It sounds like you have not taken
20 any additional courses regarding, like, the legal aspects
21 of interrogations?

22 A. I may have. I would have to look. It's all
23 kind of -- I'm at a point now where everything just kind
24 of flows together.

25 Q. Fair. It sounds too as though like most of this

1 is in the distant past in your history?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So nothing recent?

4 A. Nothing recent, no.

5 Q. It sounds like more recently you've been
6 interested in like a leadership track than doing the
7 nitty-gritty?

8 A. Well, I wouldn't say nitty-gritty. I still
9 think I'm probably considered number one or two in our
10 office for this stuff. You know, I mean, I do my share.
11 Not that you're insinuating I didn't. I don't know. I've
12 been there a long time. Like, if something comes up where
13 they think I should go, I would definitely go. Generally,
14 we have younger people in our office now, so they try to
15 get those people into classes.

16 Q. Of course. Makes sense. And then they would
17 probably be following you around for on-the-job?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. When you joined the Major Crimes Unit in 2017,
20 did you have a period of like sort of -- I don't know if
21 it would be a probationary period or where you were
22 shadowing somebody who was senior to you?

23 A. No. Well, I mean, everybody in our office, we
24 work as a team. Everybody is always available to help.
25 It's not like you're on an island.

1 Also, like, I didn't -- I don't think I had --
2 my first real homicide was like a year. It was a year
3 before I even got assigned one, I think. There may have
4 been one before that that was like Stand Your Ground. I'm
5 pretty sure it was almost October of '18 before I got -- I
6 remember that case. It's still open.

7 Q. Is that usual for somebody to like join the unit
8 and then just not have an assignment as lead?

9 A. It really depends. We had a good unit back
10 then. So it's one of those things where you're not -- I
11 wasn't in there -- like, I just kind of knew my place. I
12 was the low man; so I just did what I was told, waited
13 until they came to me.

14 Q. You had mentioned being on B Squad. Were you on
15 B Squad the entire time?

16 A. I believe so. The squad thing is just for the
17 sergeants.

18 Q. It's not a timing issue?

19 A. No. No. We all work the same stuff. It's just
20 a categorization thing.

21 Q. And when you say for the sergeants, does that
22 just mean like who you would be reporting to directly?

23 A. Correct. But I could report to both. Generally
24 who is approving my reports will be my sergeant, although
25 I can get it signed from both. They can both do it. I

1 mean, it's possible, but generally, it's kind of a
2 template.

3 Q. That sounds a little confusing.

4 A. No. I mean, we all talk. We're all around each
5 other all the time.

6 Q. By 2021, you had been in the unit for about --
7 well, I guess the beginning of 2021, it would have been
8 three-and-change years?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Had there been much turnover, or was it like
11 pretty static?

12 A. So we were going -- that was nearing the end of
13 the pandemic. I remember that. That was a pretty rough
14 year for us.

15 Q. And for us.

16 A. Yes. Yes. We had a lot that year. We had
17 newer people, but we also had some senior guys in there as
18 well. I don't remember it being -- I just remember the
19 numbers being a lot. Like, I think -- I want to say I had
20 this one, and then the summer I had -- I think it was '21
21 I had a double. So, like, it was -- it was -- we also had
22 the Bandy (phonetic) one the same day as the double. That
23 year was trying.

24 Q. And then obviously, the cases that started in
25 2020 don't necessarily close the same day that the

1 homicide occurs.

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. So those would remain open?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And I know the pandemic was kind of difficult
6 everywhere?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. During that time period, you started to say I
9 think that there was some transition or changes that were
10 happening within the Major Crimes Unit, or was it just
11 that it was very full-on in terms of the number of cases?

12 A. It was just the number of cases. I mean, we had
13 all been working -- we usually won't have more than --
14 when I first started, within a year I want to say they
15 promoted like six people out of our unit. That would have
16 been '18 I want to say, maybe early '19. Then after
17 that -- so that was -- we had a bunch of new people come
18 in, but after that, it was pretty consistent. We haven't
19 had any, like, major changes. Maybe a person here or
20 there, but not anything like that.

21 Q. Okay. So by 2021, beginning of 2021 when these
22 cases came in, it sounds like you were probably pretty
23 familiar with all the detectives on the A and B squad, as
24 well as obviously the sergeants?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. I imagine that this was a difficult case
2 to work.

3 A. It was in just the seriousness of it. I'm still
4 very thankful that the little girl wasn't killed.

5 Q. I think we all were.

6 A. It could have been way worse. Yeah, it's up
7 there. It's up there.

8 Q. Before we kind of dive into the case, can you
9 tell me what, if anything, you reviewed before coming in
10 to talk with us today?

11 A. I reviewed the whole report, but there's a lot
12 of stuff in there. Obviously, I reviewed mine a couple of
13 times now. I went back through the NIBIN stuff. The
14 NIBIN stuff, the way they put it in here is very difficult
15 to register. So I went to Morgan, who is one of our
16 analysts who oversees the NIBIN stuff, and she kind of
17 walked me through it so I could get a little better
18 understanding of what I was looking at. Because I knew
19 multiple guns were used, but I wanted to make sure I knew,
20 okay, which guns were used here and then obviously the
21 prior one so I had some idea of what we were dealing with.

22 Q. And Morgan is somebody at your office?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. Is that a yes?

25 A. Yes. Sorry.

1 Q. Detective or otherwise? I know there's like --

2 A. She's a civilian.

3 Q. She's a civilian. Okay. Is she -- she has
4 NIBIN access, like the ability to upload into NIBIN?

5 A. I believe so.

6 Q. I know it was Clague, I think is what his name
7 is.

8 A. We have a few people who can do it.

9 Q. And just so that I have a sense of things, with
10 regard to the report, the way that the St. Petersburg
11 Police Department reports come out, it's like if there's
12 an addendum, it just kind of gets added at the very end.
13 You reviewed your report right before coming in, so --

14 A. No. I've been reviewing it since Monday and
15 late last week.

16 Q. So certainly the past few days.

17 A. Right. Everything should be -- there is one
18 report I still have to do in reference to that.

19 Q. To the USB?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How many pages are in your report now, the
22 updated one?

23 A. That I don't know. I can tell you when you
24 print it out what it shows you on -- this is what I
25 learned in a prior case. What it shows you as the --

1 what's the file, the name of this program? The PDF, it
2 will give you a certain number of pages. When you print
3 it out, the way the printer formats it, it throws it off.
4 So like the pages won't match up, but it is the full
5 report. It's just like the way the formatting is with
6 this stuff, it sometimes carries over or retracts, and
7 then you end up with less or more.

8 Q. So I guess maybe a better question would be, I
9 know you're anticipating like an update to the report
10 based on the new pulls from the phones, the USB that you
11 handed over to the State and to me this morning. Any
12 other fairly recent updates?

13 A. I know last March, we re-downloaded I believe
14 Darren Barnes' and Cornelius Whitfield's phones. That
15 would have been probably the last ones. I don't know if
16 there was anything else.

17 Q. And then in terms of like the NIBIN stuff you
18 were discussing a couple of moments ago, is that something
19 new?

20 A. Well, the NIBIN stuff has been attached since
21 the beginning or whenever it first got attached to the
22 report. Usually the stuff gets put in NIBIN right away.
23 I believe we had NIBIN in 2021. I don't think it came in
24 later. It should say the dates. Yeah, 2/17/21 is the
25 creation on that one, for example. That was Clester, I

1 believe.

2 Q. Clester. That was the name I was trying to
3 remember. I was looking at Clague's body-worn camera.
4 That's why that was on my brain.

5 Okay. In terms of your supplement report that
6 documents most, if not all of your involvement, about how
7 many pages would you say that is, and could you tell me
8 the date when that was finalized?

9 A. It will say it in the actual thing. I don't
10 know when it was finalized.

11 Q. Is it the supplement date up top? I have a
12 supplement date of 3/8/21, but I know you were doing work
13 beyond that?

14 A. Is it here? That would probably be it, yeah. I
15 don't want to say for certain, but that would make sense.

16 Q. Okay. And do you know who approved your report?

17 A. That I don't know. It would have been either
18 Sergeant Demark or Sergeant Elizondo, I believe.

19 Q. So before your involvement on the 16th of
20 February, was Cornelius Whitfield familiar to you for any
21 reason?

22 A. So there was apparently PC out for him for a
23 homicide that had happened north side. I didn't really
24 work that case at all. I'm sure it came up at some point.
25 I don't know where I was, but I didn't really know a whole

1 lot about it. I know they said, Hey, it's going to be
2 blue. We have PC out for the person.

3 Q. It's going to be blue?

4 A. Meaning it's going to -- we have a good suspect.
5 Like, if we don't know or have any good leads, then the
6 case will be red.

7 Q. Interesting.

8 A. So it's -- whenever something comes up, one of
9 the questions I'll also ask is, is it blue or red so I
10 know kind of where we're going. That's just for me
11 because I like to know what's going on.

12 In this case, I just -- I know that day I had
13 gotten called by Sergeant Demark that something was going
14 on, and then it came up that, hey, it's at this house
15 where they believe the suspect from the other case had
16 been and I needed to get to the hospital to interview the
17 witness.

18 Q. From what we've kind of learned in the course of
19 discovery is that obviously there was a homicide like the
20 very early morning hours of the 1st of February. A
21 subject was developed that was Cornelius Whitfield, and
22 then he was suspected to be ultimately at the address
23 where your case began but that surveillance had been
24 occurring for quite some time.

25 Did you know anything about that? It seemed

1 like there were a lot more officers and detectives
2 involved than we initially anticipated.

3 A. So I do recall them having one of the family
4 members come in and talk, the sergeants did, to say, Hey,
5 this is a dangerous situation. I believe he's at the
6 house.

7 I don't -- as far as the surveillance and stuff
8 goes, it doesn't surprise me. I don't recall it though.
9 It seems like, I mean, when I have suspects in places that
10 I think they may be, I would send surveillance there. So
11 that's not surprising to me, but it's usually not like
12 24-7 coverage.

13 Q. Okay. What kind of coverage is it usually then
14 in terms of surveillance?

15 A. Whatever their shift is. It really depends. If
16 we have like -- it depends on what the intel is. Every
17 scenario is different. So like if, hey, there's an
18 individual that we're looking for for a homicide and we
19 have a CI or a witness who says, hey, we saw him go in
20 this house, they're probably going to sit on it for an
21 extended period of time and try to see if they can get
22 him. If it's, well, we know this is one of his
23 residences, they're going to spot check it or sit there
24 for a few hours. They're not just going to -- because
25 they don't know.

1 Q. Is there a particular unit within the police
2 department that handles surveillance?

3 A. Yes, the SIU Unit.

4 Q. Is that going to be Surveillance Intelligence
5 unit?

6 A. They call it Special Investigations Unit.

7 Q. That does sound fancier. And are those
8 detectives then?

9 A. Yes. They're plain clothes, regular cars.

10 Q. Do they do their own investigations in terms
11 of -- what I mean by that, do they develop intelligence
12 that they can use for surveillance, or do they rely on
13 Major Crimes or other departments?

14 A. So my understanding of it is, I will, if it's
15 like my case -- I can only speak for myself, but I assume
16 everybody else does this too since this is kind of how I
17 would do it. I would send them the information. We have
18 usually a contact or one of the sergeants and say, hey,
19 this is what we have. This is what we're looking for.
20 Here's their info. Here's potential locations, vehicles,
21 family members, stuff like that.

22 Now, I know in some cases they've -- they'll get
23 the information. They'll do their own digging and looking
24 into things. I don't know that it happens every time. I
25 don't know who -- you know, I can't tell you who would do

1 it. I just know that I've had on occasion in the past
2 where I'll get a call and say, Hey, did you see this? We
3 found this. And then -- you know, that does happen. It's
4 not like you just give it to them generally. In my
5 experience, I haven't just given them stuff and then it's
6 just like, oh, there's nothing else. They usually do
7 digging of their own.

8 Q. Okay. You weren't involved before the 16th?

9 A. Not that I recall. I looked at the report, and
10 I didn't see myself attached. I know I wasn't at the
11 scene that night.

12 Q. I didn't see your name attached to anything,
13 except for some conversations obviously more related to
14 this case --

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. -- we're here for today. Was there any kind of
17 debrief afterwards, like regarding any of the surveillance
18 or anything that had occurred up until the 16th?

19 A. I don't recall. We usually will have meetings.
20 We will have meetings or debriefs -- however you want to
21 frame it -- during an investigation. So like if they
22 would have been out there that night, sometime the next
23 morning we as a unit would have met, and people would have
24 been assigned things to do that needed to be done. And
25 then we would reconvene to see where everybody was at on

1 that status of what they were assigned to do.

2 I don't recall ever being assigned anything
3 during this. So they apparently had the people that they
4 needed to work it. I don't -- I don't recall the meeting
5 at all, but I'm sure they did it. Because -- I don't know
6 if I was off during that time. I don't know what was
7 going on. Generally, I'm very -- at the very least, I
8 have a better understanding what's going on with
9 everything. I read every report that comes in. So I
10 don't know what was going on during this time, but I
11 didn't have a whole lot of knowledge on this one.

12 Q. I guess my question is, this seems like it would
13 have been a pretty distressing case, probably for
14 everybody. I know Sergeant Elizondo and I think Demark
15 spoke with Ms. Harilal at some point.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It seems like folks were at least trying to take
18 this pretty seriously in terms of attempting to get in
19 touch with Mr. Whitfield.

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. And then the tragedy of the 16th occurs.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So my question is, was there any kind of meeting
24 after the fact attempting to look at what had happened
25 between the 1st and the 16?

1 A. I don't recall. I don't recall.

2 Q. If there were meetings, it sounds like they were
3 above your paygrade at that point?

4 A. Maybe, yeah. I mean, that's possible. I know
5 there had to have been something going on because we
6 generally don't call -- for sergeants to call in a family
7 member to talk to them, that's the only time I can ever
8 remember seeing that.

9 Q. I was going to ask. It seemed unusual.

10 A. Yes. Clearly, something was going on. I don't
11 know.

12 Q. Okay. It sounds like you found out about that
13 after the fact?

14 A. No. I vaguely remember that they had them in.
15 They had interviewed her, and I was like, well, that's --
16 okay. I don't know if I was working something else or
17 what was going on at the time. I just was like, well,
18 that's unique. Because I hadn't seen that before, and I
19 don't think I've seen it since quite honestly.

20 Q. Did you watch the interview? I know it was in
21 one of the interview rooms at the station.

22 A. I've seen bits and pieces of it, but I haven't
23 watched it in full.

24 Q. Did you watch it while it was happening?

25 A. I don't recall.

1 Q. Just seeing some snippets at some point in time?

2 A. In my mind, I can see them sitting at the table
3 with her, but I don't -- I don't recall what was said.

4 Q. Okay. So it sounds like by the 16th of
5 February, you have a vague, I guess, recognition or
6 familiarity with the name Cornelius Whitfield, just that
7 he was associated as a subject who had PC out on another
8 case?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. But it sounds like you weren't really part of
11 meetings or anything on that case?

12 A. If I was, I don't recall them, and I didn't get
13 assigned anything to do.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Because looking through that report, I don't see
16 myself coming in there until Mensah transferred out. Then
17 things needed to be done for that, so they came to me
18 because of this one.

19 Q. Any familiarity with 2968 Emerson Avenue before
20 the 16th of February?

21 A. Not that I can recall.

22 Q. And any familiarity with any of the other people
23 involved, Patricia, Sallie, or Antonio?

24 A. It's always possible at some point in time we
25 crossed paths, but I don't recall it, no.

1 Q. Shirleyleene Harilal, was she familiar to you
2 for any reason?

3 A. Not that I can recall, other than obviously I
4 think that's who they brought in to interview that day. I
5 could be wrong on that, but I'm pretty sure it was her.
6 Other than that, I don't think at that time I even knew
7 what her name was.

8 Q. So when you saw her in the hospital on the 16th,
9 did you recognize that was the same person?

10 A. I don't think so.

11 Q. Okay. So tell me how you got involved on the
12 16th of February.

13 A. So it was a regular day. It was the afternoon.
14 we became aware that there was a potential shooting in
15 progress and officers responding. I didn't even realize
16 at first what was -- the location where it was happening,
17 that it had anything to do with the other thing. I just
18 know Sergeant Demark said, hey, you're going to be the
19 lead on this. I need you to get to the hospital to talk
20 to the victim to kind of sort this out. Then on the way,
21 it kind of started to become clear, like, okay, this is --
22 yeah.

23 Q. Before we get any further, I just have a
24 question kind of about the report. Like, in terms of the
25 demographic information on those first few pages, is that

1 something that automatically gets filled out, or is that
2 something you fill out?

3 A. Generally, it's automatic. If you put in name
4 and date of birth, it will auto populate with whatever was
5 there before.

6 Q. I saw for Cornelius Whitfield that it has a
7 different address of 6194 Lynn Lake Drive South.

8 A. So that probably would have been one of his
9 previous addresses. I don't know.

10 Q. So not necessarily entered by you?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And the a/k/a is "C", which is a nickname for
13 him I've never heard.

14 A. Yeah. I've heard Cornbread. That's what his
15 family has referred to him. But I never heard "C," so I
16 don't know.

17 Q. Again, it sounds like that was just like an
18 auto-populated by the system?

19 A. No. Somebody would have had to put that in
20 there at some point in time. That wouldn't have
21 auto-populated.

22 Q. Any way of knowing who the person was?

23 A. If you go into the module, it should show you.
24 You should be able to see who placed it in there, but I
25 don't know.

1 Q. You said that you were starting to connect the
2 dots kind of once you heard that initial call out about
3 the shots and then the scene itself. Was it just you kind
4 of mulling things over?

5 A. I don't know if it was that or if Sergeant
6 Demark said, hey, this is potentially the same person who
7 was involved with Detective Mensah's. I just know by the
8 time I got there, I kind of had a better understanding. I
9 don't know if I was looking at -- I don't know if we had
10 active calls yet or if it was just from listening to the
11 radio on the way. But it became kind of clear, hey, this
12 might be linked to the other thing, which, again, I didn't
13 have a ton of information on. So I was like, okay, well,
14 I'm just going to kind of focus on what I have here
15 because this is now and this is mine.

16 Q. So were you told before you got to Emerson
17 Avenue that the case is going to be yours as a lead?

18 A. I believe so, yes.

19 Q. So the initial information that you had, it
20 sounds like that was by radio?

21 A. No. He -- well, yeah. There was the radio, and
22 then when Sergeant Demark called me and said, hey, we've
23 got an active situation over -- he gave the address. The
24 address didn't even register with me, but I'd already
25 heard kind of what was going on. He was like, we need you

1 to -- I believe that's when he told me I was going to be
2 lead. Yeah, I heard it go out over the radio and then
3 Demark called.

4 Q. Do you remember what the radio call was?

5 A. I don't. Just that, hey, we've got a lady ran
6 up to her neighbor's. Like, the usual call notes saying
7 there's a woman shot. Just claiming there's other people
8 in the house or something to that effect.

9 Q. Okay. Were you just at the station?

10 A. Yeah, I believe so. I wasn't anywhere near the
11 scene. I know that.

12 Q. And you said the call from Demark told you
13 rather than go to the scene to go directly to the
14 hospital. Is that right?

15 A. Yes, because she had been transported by that
16 point I think.

17 Q. Did you receive any other information like after
18 Demark called you but before you got to the hospital?

19 A. I don't know.

20 Q. And did you go to the hospital by yourself or
21 with anybody else?

22 A. No. I believe I was alone when I went to the
23 hospital. I don't think I -- I'm pretty sure I was alone.
24 If you watch the officer, when I took her statement,
25 there's body cam. I had him record it on his body cam. I

1 think if there was anybody there with me, you would see
2 them on there, but I can't recall. I think I was by
3 myself, but I'm not sure.

4 Q. There was somebody else. It was hard to
5 recognize anybody because it was during COVID and a
6 hospital, so everybody was wearing masks.

7 A. And generally, we don't record inside the
8 hospital either.

9 Q. Oh, so I guess lucky we have that.

10 A. I told him to. I was like this is important.

11 Q. Okay. But your recollection is that it was you
12 by yourself. So it's possible there was --

13 A. Yeah, it's possible. I don't think -- because I
14 think Detective Mensah was my assist in this, but I don't
15 think she was with me. She might have been at the scene.

16 Q. I didn't see her.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. It was a gentleman, probably about your height
19 wearing a mask.

20 A. Okay. If I saw him, I could probably tell you
21 who it is.

22 Q. Was Clague the only officer you interacted with
23 at the hospital?

24 A. I don't recall. Quite honestly, I don't know
25 what Officer Clague looks like. So if you put him in here

1 right now, I wouldn't know.

2 Q. And before you got to the hospital, did you know
3 what you were going to do when you got there?

4 A. My whole -- the hope was to be able to talk to
5 Ms. Harilal. I didn't know if that was going to be
6 possible because I wasn't sure what the injury was going
7 to be or severity of it. There's many times we show up
8 and they're already in the operating room. I didn't know.
9 My goal was at first, best case scenario was to be able to
10 take a statement from her. worse case scenario, at least
11 get an idea of the severity of the injury to let
12 supervisors know, hey, this is what we're dealing with.
13 That's what we have to do when you're there, try to get as
14 much info as I could from the people who brought her
15 there.

16 Q. Okay. So in the hospital, it seems like Officer
17 Clague directed you to one of the paramedics who had been
18 treating Ms. Harilal?

19 A. Yes. Yes.

20 Q. And you had an opportunity to speak with that
21 person. Is that right?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. Can you tell me about that contact? Obviously,
24 it's recorded on the body-worn camera, but just tell me
25 what you recall.

1 A. well, from my -- I only recall what was in my
2 report. So, yeah, it was basically that she had spoken
3 with the victim and that she had told her she was talking
4 on the phone with somebody named Twin. I don't know who
5 that is. She came home --

6 Q. Did you ever learn who that was?

7 A. I didn't. Quite honestly, I never asked her.
8 She came home with a guy named Tony, who I'm assuming
9 ended up being Mr. Graham.

10 Q. Antonio Graham?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. That makes sense.

13 A. She walked in the house, saw her grandma and
14 another female on the couch with blood coming out of their
15 mouth and chest. She then heard shots. Tony yelled for
16 her to run, and she ran out the back door. And she stated
17 that there was a child in the house when McAfferty, who's
18 the rescue worker, arrived on scene.

19 Q. So was it your impression that this is something
20 McAfferty overheard Ms. Harilal saying on the phone or
21 that Ms. Harilal said directly to McAfferty?

22 A. My understanding was that it was said directly
23 to her, but it's possible. I don't believe I
24 differentiated when I was talking to her.

25 Q. Okay. And it sounds like Ms. McAfferty didn't

1 identify anybody as having been identified by Ms. Harilal
2 as having been the shooter?

3 A. No, I don't believe so.

4 Q. And, in fact, it sounds like the only names of
5 any people who were in the home was just Tony?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Okay. Did you speak with any other, like,
8 paramedics or fire rescue folks?

9 A. I don't think so.

10 Q. And do you know if you spoke with any medical
11 personnel at the hospital?

12 A. I'm sure I would have asked for the chart
13 number, as well as the severity, which luckily was a
14 through-and-through. Nothing major hit. But I think I --
15 I don't know if the officers told me that when I got
16 there. I didn't speak to any doctors about anything that
17 she may have said to them, no.

18 Q. Okay. And you made contact with Ms. Harilal in
19 the hospital. Is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. Can you tell me what your initial
22 impressions were of her?

23 A. My initial impressions was that she was just
24 scared. I think just really, really in fear. Just kind
25 of -- yeah.

1 Q. Did she seem as though she was in shock?

2 A. I mean, I'm not a doctor. I mean, I could say
3 it wouldn't be unreasonable to feel that way, sure. I
4 mean, I don't think her vitals or anything. But again,
5 there's different ways people handle that type of thing,
6 so I couldn't say.

7 Q. By the time you saw her, did it appear as though
8 she had at least some initial treatment by medical
9 personnel?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And do you know if any kind of like drugs
12 had been administered to her?

13 A. I do not know.

14 Q. When you were speaking with her, was she
15 responsive to your questions?

16 A. Yeah. I mean, it's on video. I believe so. I
17 mean, I got answers.

18 Q. And do you feel like she was able to kind of
19 have a conversation with you?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Did she appear as though she was afraid of
22 anybody that was in the hospital, like of the police or
23 medical personnel or anything?

24 A. It's very possible that all that could be true.
25 I don't know. She seemed fine with me, but again, maybe

1 it was I wasn't noticing it because I was just assuming
2 that it was, you know, because of what she had just
3 experienced. I don't know.

4 Q. Okay. And it seemed like she was also -- I
5 don't know if confused is the right term, but she wasn't
6 totally certain of what she had just experienced?

7 A. My understanding is -- because I know I asked
8 her who started the shooting. And her response was, I
9 think it was my son. I don't know. I just saw black.

10 Q. So she wasn't definite about what had occurred
11 in the house?

12 A. Not with me, no.

13 Q. Okay. And do you know if you were the first
14 detective to speak with her?

15 A. I believe -- I don't know. I believe I was, but
16 I don't know if somebody may have at the scene, initially
17 if there was an officer who talked to her. I think an
18 officer may have talked to her when she was on scene. I
19 don't know if it was a detective or not.

20 Q. And do you know if Officer Clague had already
21 spoken with her?

22 A. I believe so, but again, I would have to go back
23 and look through his report. I'm almost positive somebody
24 spoke to her when she was at the chair when medics first
25 arrived, but I can't remember who it was.

1 Q. If there was somebody who had spoken to her
2 prior to the conversation you had, had that information
3 been relayed to you?

4 A. I don't know that it had at that time, unless it
5 was Officer Clague. He would have I'm sure told me that
6 when I got there. I don't recall.

7 Q. Okay. Did you ask her who had done this?

8 A. Yeah, I said who started the shooting.

9 Q. And the most she gave you was I think it was my
10 son, but I just saw black. Is that about right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And was she able to give you any
13 particular detail about what she saw in the house?

14 A. She basically said when I got there, the front
15 door was locked. The van -- her grandma's van wasn't
16 there. She thought, well, they weren't there. And then
17 she knocked, and nobody answered. And then Mr. Graham
18 pulled up in the van, and they went to the back and
19 unlocked the door and went inside. And I guess Mr. Graham
20 went in first, and they noticed one of their family
21 members. I don't know exactly which one. She saw Sallie
22 on the sofa bleeding, and they went to go find out what
23 was wrong.

24 Q. Sallie is Tony and Shirleyleene's grandmother.
25 Is that right?

1 A. Grandmother or great-grandmother, yeah.

2 Q. And she provided some more detail after that?

3 A. Yeah. Just that when they went to go find out
4 what was wrong with her, approached her, she said they
5 came -- from out of nowhere, he just came out and started
6 shooting. And Mr. Graham said run, and she just ran.

7 Q. Did she tell you anything about Mya Murry?

8 A. She said Mya was in the house, but she didn't
9 see her, I believe.

10 Q. Mya was the little girl. Is that right?

11 A. Maybe she didn't. Oh, yeah, she did. She said
12 her grandmother and her granddaughter, Mya Murry were in
13 the house.

14 Q. She didn't provide you with more details about
15 anything?

16 A. Not at that time, no.

17 Q. Okay. And she seemed very upset?

18 A. Oh, yeah. For sure.

19 Q. She gave you the phone numbers for her family
20 members. Is that right?

21 A. She did, yes.

22 Q. And can you tell me why you asked for those?

23 A. Because, generally, we'll use -- I didn't know
24 what we were walking into because I hadn't been to the
25 scene. Generally, when she's saying, yeah, I saw Sallie

1 on the chair, it's like, okay, well, that's not good. I
2 wanted to have some idea because generally when you get
3 assigned a homicide, you're going to end up doing a
4 subpoena of the phone records. So I just wanted to have
5 some idea of what down the road I would be subpoenaing and
6 wanting to know. As you can see, with some of these
7 phones, it's not always -- they don't always download or
8 cooperate. So I figured if anybody would know the
9 numbers, it would be her.

10 Q. Okay. So just getting kind of a jump on it, and
11 she would be able to confirm --

12 A. Right.

13 Q. -- whose number was assigned to them?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I see. Did you do anything else at the hospital
16 that you recall now?

17 A. I'm sure we had a tech come too. We requested a
18 tech to come and take photographs and swabs and process.

19 Q. Did you stay for that?

20 A. Generally the officer stays for that. When they
21 show up, I would generally say, hey, this is what I need,
22 and then the officer would stand by with her.

23 Q. And what would you have needed?

24 A. On that, I would have just asked them to do
25 everything.

1 Q. what is that?

2 A. Just photos. Potential hand swabs. Stuff like
3 that. I don't think we would have took nail clippings on
4 that because there would have been no reason. There was
5 nothing she indicated where she would have got into a
6 fight with the attacker. Just make sure that we've got a
7 buccal swab because, you know, we were going to be sending
8 DNA off, and her DNA was going to be -- she had been shot.
9 So we would want that for elimination purposes. It's
10 pretty obvious when we send stuff off, her DNA is probably
11 going to show up somewhere in there. That type of stuff.

12 Q. was there anything else that you wanted
13 collected from her? Any personal belongings?

14 A. They would have collected clothing as well.

15 Q. But that's all as far as personal belongings
16 from Ms. Harilal?

17 A. I think I read in Detective Marzo's report that
18 they had taken her purse and stuff, but they had to
19 rerelease that to her.

20 Q. Is that the extent of what you did at the
21 hospital?

22 A. I believe so.

23 Q. Okay. By the time -- obviously some time
24 passed. Did you learn anything when you were getting
25 ready to leave the hospital, like anything that had

1 occurred by the other investigators?

2 A. That -- because I guess there was a SWAT
3 standoff, and then Mr. Whitfield had come out peacefully.
4 And he had been transported to the station and was in one
5 of the interview rooms, so I needed to return to interview
6 him.

7 Q. So that had all occurred by the time you
8 finished with Ms. Harila?

9 A. I believe so, yes.

10 Q. And so that was communicated to you by whom?

11 A. Oh, wait. No. I went to the scene and was
12 advised by Sergeant Demark. So I left there and went to
13 the scene, and Sergeant Demark said, Yeah, he came out.
14 He's at the station.

15 Q. Everything is fairly close to each other down
16 there in St. Pete?

17 A. Yeah. It wasn't that far.

18 Q. Can you tell me, when you went to the scene,
19 that was the first time you had been there. Is that
20 right?

21 A. I believe so. I don't think I'd been there
22 prior.

23 Q. And what did you observe when you got there?

24 A. The front of the house was kind of sagging down.
25 It was all roped off. You couldn't really see anything

1 because everything was -- it's not like right up on the
2 street. We're obviously going to be getting a warrant to
3 go in after they had cleared it. I didn't really see a
4 whole lot of anything other than the house -- the front of
5 the house being kind of destroyed.

6 Q. And this is where you had the conversation with
7 Demark?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So you weren't involved in the clearing at that
10 point?

11 A. No. I don't know that I ever actually spent a
12 whole lot of time in the house.

13 Q. Okay. So Demark says, by the way, your guy is
14 at the station. You better go there.

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. Is that about right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you have contact with anybody else, like any
19 of your other colleagues while you were at the scene?

20 A. Probably. I don't recall. I know Detective
21 Mensah and I -- I met with her at the station because she
22 was going to be my assist, and she also needed to
23 interview him about her case.

24 Q. Okay. Any sense of what the other kind of
25 delineations were in terms of roles? Do you have a crime

1 scene detective by that point?

2 A. Yeah. Detective Bilbrey was the crime scene.

3 Q. So you knew that Bilbrey was already assigned?

4 A. Correct. I didn't have to -- the way we work,
5 it's like a team. I've worked numerous things with
6 Detective Bilbrey. I have full trust in him. He knows
7 what he's doing, so I don't really question it. Like, I
8 know if there's something that needs to be found or a way
9 it needs to be done -- I would say that about anybody in
10 our unit. We make sure everything, there's checks and
11 balances. I knew it was going to be hours before we were
12 able to even go in the house after it was cleared out.

13 Q. You said that you were going to wait for a
14 warrant in order to go into the house. Is that right?

15 A. That's my understanding. That's what I would
16 have done but --

17 Q. I mean you globally, as like --

18 A. Yeah, that was my understanding. After the
19 house was cleared, back out, get the warrant, and then go
20 from there.

21 Q. Do you know who was tasked with writing the
22 affidavit for the warrant?

23 A. I don't know. Generally, it would be the person
24 who's the crime scene person. It wouldn't surprise me if
25 it was somebody else. It may have been Detective Bilbrey,

1 I'm not sure.

2 Q. Okay. But it wasn't going to be you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Is that because you had another task waiting for
5 you?

6 A. Correct. Yes.

7 Q. Did Demark tell you anything about
8 Mr. Whitfield, like the circumstances of him coming into
9 custody, what he was like, anything like that?

10 A. Just that he had -- just that there had been --
11 he had come out. They had taken him. Nobody had gotten
12 hurt, and he wasn't causing any issues when he was brought
13 in.

14 Q. Did he give you any kind of impressions of what
15 his behavior was like or expressions?

16 A. No. He just said -- generally, the warnings
17 would be like, hey, you know, he might be violent or he
18 was kicking the windows in the cruiser. It was nothing
19 like that. So it was just like, go in and see if he wants
20 to talk.

21 Q. Were you told that Mr. Whitfield had said
22 anything?

23 A. Not that I recall.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I don't recall being told anything.

1 Q. And were you advised anything at all about any
2 of Mr. Whitfield's property that was either on his person
3 or if he had any bags with him or anything like that?

4 A. I don't know if he had his phone on him or not.
5 when it came in -- if I'm remembering correctly, I don't
6 think he had a shirt on. I think he was just wearing
7 pants. I don't remember what he had on. That would have
8 come up when they would have searched him. I don't know.
9 They may have taken his phone off of him already. I don't
10 recall.

11 Q. Okay. So it sounds like as you sit here today,
12 you don't recall whether or not you were informed anything
13 about property that was taken off of his person?

14 A. Right. I don't think there was any guns or
15 weapons or anything found on him, which would have been
16 basically what I would have wanted to know the most of.

17 Q. Okay. And were you told anything about any
18 other property that might have been of any evidentiary
19 value?

20 A. At that point?

21 Q. Yeah, at that point.

22 A. No.

23 Q. Any other information you had from Demark or any
24 of your colleagues before going to the station?

25 A. Not that I can recall. They did say that the

1 girl was okay. I did know that. At that point, they said
2 Mya was okay. I said, Okay, good.

3 Q. I imagine that must have been something that was
4 on everybody's mind.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That must have been a great deal of relief for
7 everyone.

8 A. Very much so.

9 Q. Do you know if that was communicated to
10 Ms. Harilal at the hospital?

11 A. I don't know. If it was -- because I don't know
12 that I knew that until I got back to the scene. I know I
13 read in somebody's report where -- maybe it was Detective
14 Marzo or somebody said that they had done the notification
15 to her, and then there was a large contingent of family in
16 the waiting room, and they had gone out and explained
17 everything to them. I know I read somewhere that they had
18 told family members that Mya was at All Children's to get
19 checked out, but she didn't appear injured. But I don't
20 know exactly when that happened. I don't believe I told
21 her because I don't know that I knew that at that point.

22 Q. Okay. Sorry, I should have asked earlier. When
23 you left the hospital, did you leave Officer Clague there
24 at the hospital to stay with --

25 A. I believe so, unless he was replaced by somebody

1 else, which is -- you know, depending on the time of day
2 and shift, sometimes they will.

3 Q. But just generally, would the idea have been to
4 leave an officer with Ms. Harilal?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Basically until she is discharged?

7 A. No, not necessarily until she is discharged.
8 well, when you have -- they would probably have sent more
9 units, especially if there was a large group of family
10 showing up because they want to make sure everything stays
11 peaceful.

12 Q. Of course.

13 A. And there's a lot of high emotions at that
14 point. I don't know. Generally, the officer will stand
15 by until the tech is done. If there's any issues, they
16 can be there for the tech. We don't generally stay until
17 the end. You know, I would always provide my info and
18 say, hey, this is where I'm at. I'll give my cell phone
19 number. Like, you can call me directly at this. If you
20 have any questions or anything comes up, let me know right
21 away.

22 Q. Were you alerted to anything coming up? Like,
23 did Officer Clague or any other officers call you from the
24 hospital and say --

25 A. Not that I recall.

1 Q. Were you told anything about Ms. Harilal or any
2 other family members at the hospital saying anything?

3 A. Not that I recall.

4 Q. So, sorry, back to the scene, it sounds like
5 you're not there for very long before you're asked to go
6 to the station?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Any other information that comes to you before
9 you actually arrive at the station?

10 A. Other than Mya being okay and that he was there
11 and came out peacefully, I don't believe so. We hadn't
12 really anything in the house. We didn't know.

13 Q. Okay. So Cornelius Whitfield is still like a
14 stranger to you. Is that fair?

15 A. Yeah. I don't think I'd ever had interaction
16 with him that I can recall prior to that.

17 Q. And you hadn't done any kind of research to
18 learn anything else about him?

19 A. At that time, no.

20 Q. Okay. By the time you got to the station, did
21 you have anything like that? I know you guys have
22 analysts who are able to pull prior contact and see that?

23 A. Well, with Detective Mensah being my assist, she
24 pretty much had already done all of that.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. So I was -- I don't -- there wasn't really a
2 purpose in me having somebody do that when they had just
3 done it. I leaned on her quite honestly for that bit.
4 But again, my focus was on what I was dealing with and
5 what we were there for that day, and she was there to deal
6 with what hers was. I would help out if she needed it,
7 but again, I had so little information on it. I don't
8 know that there's much I could have helped her with.

9 Q. So when you got to the station -- up until this
10 point you're traveling by yourself it sounds like?

11 A. I believe so.

12 Q. When you got to the station, was Mensah there?

13 A. I believe so. She was either already there or
14 showed up right after.

15 Q. Do the two of you then meet to discuss anything?

16 A. We may have just to be like, hey -- I'm sure at
17 some point. Again, I'm just saying from my experience, I
18 would have said, okay, who wants to -- I understand I'm
19 the lead on this. What do we want to start with? We
20 start with why we're here fresh and then get into yours
21 and go that route if he's willing to talk to us type of
22 thing.

23 Q. Did you ever have any kind of conversations with
24 Detective McQueen about his prior contact with Cornelius?

25 A. I may have. I don't recall. Did I document it?

1 Q. I don't think it's in your report.

2 A. Yeah. It's possible. Is it in Detective
3 McQueen's?

4 Q. So Detective McQueen had contact with
5 Mr. Whitfield because Mr. Whitfield's girlfriend, Julia
6 Gary, was involved in a case in November. So I was just
7 curious if you had any impressions from Detective McQueen
8 about that.

9 A. I don't recall that, no.

10 Q. So if you had had a conversation with him, it
11 sounds like it was so informal that it didn't make it into
12 your report?

13 A. Right. Again, my whole thing was, we have a
14 house with potentially three victims in it. I was kind of
15 just focused on the then and there. Like, the other stuff
16 would come later. You know what I mean? Like, I know --
17 having known that Detective Mensah had already worked the
18 other case, I was very comfortable with her being my
19 assist because she had knowledge about him while I'm just
20 kind of being thrown into this all of a sudden.

21 Q. So if you had any kind of meeting with Detective
22 Mensah or any other detectives about Mr. Whitfield once
23 you got there, it sounds like that was quite short?

24 A. Yeah, it wasn't very long.

25 Q. You were just interested in making contact with

1 Mr. Whitfield?

2 A. And making sure that we would go like -- since I
3 was the lead, making sure we're on the same page as far
4 as, if he's willing to talk to us, we'll start with today,
5 and then we'll work towards yours. Just to make sure that
6 we didn't say, hey, we just pulled you out of this house,
7 and let's talk about two weeks ago.

8 Q. So it sounds like that was a conversation you
9 had?

10 A. I would imagine so, yes.

11 Q. Was there any kind of other discussion about
12 like a delineation of roles once you were going to be in
13 the room with him?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. So no, here, you do the rights waiver.
16 I'm going to sit back and do this.

17 A. I don't believe so. It might have been, hey, do
18 you have a form, a Miranda form. She probably said yes.
19 Okay. Let's go.

20 Q. So Mr. Whitfield would have already been in
21 custody in the interrogation room before you even arrived?

22 A. I believe he was there about an hour before we
23 came in to talk to him. When I was watching the recording
24 of it, I think I had to fast forward almost an hour to get
25 to before we come in.

1 Q. Okay. So as far as you know, that would have
2 happened well before you even got to the station?

3 A. What?

4 Q. You didn't see Mr. Whitfield outside of the
5 interrogation room?

6 A. No, not until I got there.

7 Q. And as far as you know, everything that occurred
8 in the interrogation room with Mr. Whitfield was recorded
9 by video?

10 A. That's my understanding. It should have been.

11 Q. Okay. Were you told by like -- because I know
12 it's officers typically who will transport somebody to the
13 station and then like walk them into an interview room.
14 Were you told anything by any officers before you made
15 contact with him, like made any statements, anything else?

16 A. Not that I recall.

17 Q. Did you watch Mr. Whitfield on the video? My
18 understanding is there was a live feed. Did you watch
19 that live feed before actually going into the room?

20 A. I'm sure they had it up on the screen. I don't
21 remember there being anything out of the ordinary about
22 it.

23 Q. Do you know how long you would have watched
24 before going in?

25 A. We would have been getting ready to go in.

1 Like, I wouldn't have spent time just staring at it. It
2 would have been like, okay, let me get my stuff together
3 and figure out what exactly I have that I want to ask him
4 about.

5 Q. And when you say getting your stuff together,
6 like actual things to bring in?

7 A. In my brain.

8 Q. Did you have any notes for yourself in terms of
9 questions that you wanted to ask?

10 A. Not really because, again, this all happened so
11 fast. I obviously had mom's statements. That was about
12 it and Ms. McAfferty's and what I heard on the radio and
13 what was relayed to me by supervisors. But I didn't have,
14 like, as much as I would like to have for sure.

15 Q. At the time of the 16th of February, had any
16 reports come in for the 1st of February that you would
17 have had access to? Because you said you read all the
18 reports.

19 A. Okay. When I say I read all the reports, I read
20 them when they come in. So I don't necessarily read all
21 the supplements. I just like to have some idea of what's
22 going on in the city on a daily basis so if something
23 comes up down the road. I don't know if there was any
24 supplements because they wouldn't get routed to me. I can
25 see -- I can see the cases as they come in when they're

1 first reported or they first get sent to Major Crimes, so
2 then I would go through.

3 Q. Got it. So you would have seen officer
4 Holster's report, who was the primary officer on the
5 Darren Barnes homicide, but you wouldn't necessarily have
6 seen all the investigative reports?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. I got you. And by the time that you were
9 interviewing Mr. Whitfield, I imagine there weren't any
10 reports that had come in from the initial officers?

11 A. I have no idea.

12 Q. Okay. You weren't looking for that?

13 A. No. No. Like I said, I just like to have a
14 general idea of what's going on. I can't get in too deep
15 on all the stuff that everybody else is working. I just
16 like to have a knowledge of, okay, if something pops up,
17 do I remember something else, something that links or
18 whatever.

19 Q. Okay. And I saw on the body-worn camera in the
20 hospital that you have your very own notebook.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Larger than it looks like the patrol officer's
23 would be.

24 A. Oh, was I still using the --

25 Q. Yeah, you were using a spiral bound.

1 A. Oh, yes, yes.

2 Q. Yes, little unwieldy.

3 A. The leather bound ones.

4 Q. Tell me how you take notes.

5 A. Generally, I'll just get their overall
6 information. I think that I probably already had hers at
7 that point. I would have to watch the video. I'm just
8 trying to write down as accurately as I can what's being
9 said.

10 Now, in the interview room, I'll do as much as I
11 can; however, it is recorded. But I also have a fear of
12 technology, so I'm always worried, like, I don't want to
13 just depend on this thing that could just magically
14 disappear and then what do I do. So I'll try to take
15 concise and quick notes to remember exactly how everything
16 went.

17 Now, generally, on this one, obviously the video
18 is still there. So when I was typing my report, I just
19 kind of went through it. I don't usually even transcribe
20 this. I don't anymore. But in this case, it felt like it
21 was kind of necessary.

22 Q. When you say transcribe, are you referring to
23 that very long section in your report where you're writing
24 down statements from Mr. Whitfield?

25 A. Correct. Correct.

1 Q. So the notes that you were taking, do those get
2 incorporated into what becomes the final report?

3 A. They are part, yes.

4 Q. And it sounds like, for you at least, for the
5 final report, you also incorporated maybe if there were
6 additions or changes based on like review of other
7 people's reports, video, audio, things like that?

8 A. Yeah. I mean, I'll go back. I'll always go
9 back and watch the interview itself, the recording of it.
10 I don't generally worry about other people's reports
11 because they'll write what they did. You know what I
12 mean? So like it's not --

13 Q. I just mean in the sense that I saw in your
14 report you said refer to Officer Clague's report as an
15 example.

16 A. Right. Because I don't know everything they did
17 or how they went about doing it, so I just let them
18 explain their actions.

19 Q. What then happens to your notes after you finish
20 writing your report? And by "notes," I mean your
21 handwritten notes.

22 A. They're probably still in a notebook somewhere.

23 Q. Do you know where that might be?

24 A. I have no idea. I can check, but I don't --

25 Q. Does your department keep like hard files for

1 cases?

2 A. Not really. We pretty much went all digital.
3 Now, there is -- like, this is obviously hard. Generally,
4 my report is an exact reflection of the notes. There's
5 not going to be anything in the notes that wouldn't be in
6 the report.

7 Q. Okay. Are other people able to read your notes?
8 Like, are they legible?

9 A. Oh, no. My handwriting is terrible.

10 Q. That's very self-aware of you.

11 A. Yes. It gets worse as time goes on.

12 Q. Fair. So the video that I have seen uploaded to
13 evidence.com is six hours and five minutes. Is that the
14 same video that you have seen with regards to
15 Mr. Whitfield's time within the interrogation room?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any additional time
18 outside of the room that anybody in your office might have
19 had contact?

20 A. I'm not aware of it, no. The only thing that
21 should have happened from there was he was walked down to
22 the cruiser, and then that would have been it. There
23 wouldn't have been any other questions asked, or there
24 shouldn't have been.

25 Q. Okay. So the video itself is obviously a very

1 good reflection, probably a pretty accurate reflection of
2 what actually occurred in the room.

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. I just want to ask you some impression questions
5 just because the video camera is much further away from
6 Mr. Whitfield than you were in the room.

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. So when you first entered, can you tell me about
9 your impressions of him?

10 A. I've done this so many times. I don't ever
11 really have anything that I expect anymore, right? So,
12 like, I know I was still somewhat new, but I had three
13 years on at that point. It's never really what you think
14 it's going to be I guess is what I would say. It's not
15 like they make it out in movies or TV. It's not like --
16 you know, somebody who doesn't do this job, they don't
17 understand. It's just a person who is there, and you have
18 to have a very difficult conversation with them.

19 He seemed fine. Like, he seemed calm, I guess.
20 Probably a little bit nervous because, you know, you're in
21 an interview room and it's scary. But I didn't notice
22 anything that, like, had me concerned. Generally, one of
23 our main concerns is officer safety. I don't want to get
24 into a fight with the guy. I don't want to have any
25 issues. I just want to have a conversation. There was no

1 alarms going off that there was going to be an issue or
2 anything.

3 Q. Did he at any point during the time that you
4 were with him, did he seem like he was a danger to himself
5 or to anybody else around him?

6 A. Not while I was in there.

7 Q. Okay. Did you --

8 A. Now, I know that there was mention of him
9 looking at like people's waistbands and stuff and their
10 guns. I don't recall having that feeling when I was in
11 there, but I can't speak for others. Generally, anytime
12 I'm in there, I'm always like this has to stay here.
13 (Indicating.) So that's just -- I always just assume --
14 like, they've always taught us just assume if you're at a
15 car, they're just going to -- (indicating). So I would
16 just assume he has the potential to do that, like whether
17 he does or not.

18 Q. Sorry, you just gestured to your waistband. Are
19 you --

20 A. My gun. I don't have my gun on me right now,
21 but yes.

22 Q. Was your gun on you when you went into the
23 interview room?

24 A. I would have to look at the video. Probably. I
25 know there was a time where we were kind of getting away

1 from that, but then -- I don't know if it was in that
2 timeframe.

3 Q. I wasn't totally sure.

4 A. I would have to look at the video.

5 Q. But the video should reflect?

6 A. Oh, yeah. You should be able to tell.

7 Q. So it sounds like at one point the department
8 was getting away. Was there a policy?

9 A. No. I don't remember what it was. It came up.
10 Somebody said something. Then we had an ISB meeting, in
11 which it was like, Nobody ever said that. What are you
12 guys talking about? The question was, well, who said it,
13 and nobody could answer. Then it was, okay, don't worry
14 about it.

15 Q. So at some point in time, it sounds like maybe a
16 short period of time when you were doing interviews, you
17 were not wearing your gun?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Unclear as to whether or not this is one of
20 those times?

21 A. The video, you'll know when you see if it's on
22 me.

23 Q. Okay. Fair. So you said a few moments ago that
24 your impression of Mr. Whitfield was that he was fine,
25 maybe a bit nervous.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. He said a lot of really odd things though,
3 didn't he?

4 A. Yeah. When we got talking, yes, for sure.

5 Q. So when you said he seemed fine, a little bit
6 nervous, is that his initial --

7 A. This is when I first walked in, yes. Initial
8 when I walk in.

9 Q. Gotcha. And I know you didn't have the time to
10 watch what he was like in that room before you actually
11 went in?

12 A. I watched a little bit of it, but it was not --
13 you're right. I don't have an hour to spend.

14 Q. So you didn't see him, like, laughing to himself
15 or anything like that?

16 A. I did not see that.

17 Q. Okay. And did your kind of initial assessment
18 of like he seems fine, maybe a little bit nervous, did
19 that change during the many hours that you spent with him?

20 A. Yeah. There was definite signs that he was
21 going through some stuff for sure. He was very open about
22 it, so it wasn't like he was hiding it.

23 Q. Okay. I mean, he said things like that he heard
24 voices, which is not something that people generally do?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Okay. Did this make you think anything in
2 particular?

3 A. I'm not a doctor, so I'm not -- and I say
4 this -- probably if you watch any of my interviews, I'm
5 not a judge. Like, I'm not there to judge him. My goal
6 was to just try to get the truth. That's all I want. It
7 doesn't matter to me what the truth is, as long as it's
8 the truth, right? So when he's saying all of that, yes, I
9 could see where, okay, maybe he has issues. All right.
10 But can we still get to some semblance of what happened?
11 That's what my goal was.

12 I don't know if he has mental illness. It's
13 very possible. I could certainly see if somebody wanted
14 to make the argument, hey, you just killed half your
15 family. You're probably not okay. Fair enough. I can't
16 argue that.

17 Q. And I should have asked earlier. By the time
18 that you were entering the room, it was clear to you that
19 Sallie Whitfield, Patricia Whitfield, and Antonio Graham
20 were killed?

21 A. I don't know exactly when it timed out, when
22 they had verified the identities; so I can't say for that
23 for certain. I think because of what Ms. Harilal had told
24 us, we were pretty certain it was Mr. Graham. We were
25 pretty sure it was Sallie. As far as Patricia goes, I

1 think we all kind of thought, hey, that's most likely it,
2 but I don't know exactly in the timeline of when I started
3 talking to them or if it was before when it was confirmed.
4 Because I know they -- I don't think we could actually
5 confirm-confirm until they had the warrant.

6 Q. I see. Had you confirmed that there were three
7 bodies that were found?

8 A. I believe so, yeah. Because when they were
9 clearing the house, they found the three.

10 Q. So confirmed that there were three people who
11 were deceased in the home and that the child, Mya Murry
12 was fine?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. Or at least appeared to be fine.

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And obviously that mom, Ms. Harilal was shot and
17 injured but was going to be fine?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Okay. So that's kind of the information you
20 have walking in?

21 A. Uh-huh. Yes. Sorry.

22 Q. You're fine. In terms of -- I guess I'm trying
23 to understand. You said earlier you just kind of want to
24 get after the truth.

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Do you need to?

2 A. What do you mean?

3 Q. I mean, is it a mystery, a who-done-it here?

4 A. Well, I still -- as I told him, this is an
5 opportunity for you to provide your side of the events
6 because we're only going to have this one chance, right?
7 Now, you can tell me. You never know what people are
8 going to say. Like, I don't know what he's going to tell
9 me. Whatever he tells me I'm going to have to look into
10 to verify, right? So, you know, I just want to hear what
11 happened, what led up to it, what was the trigger point.
12 Maybe he says it wasn't him. I don't know. I wasn't
13 there. So I'm just trying to document, get the best idea
14 of what happened.

15 Q. Were you involved in the reading of Miranda
16 rights to Mr. Whitfield?

17 A. So Detective Mensah -- I watched that numerous
18 times. Detective Mensah provided Miranda rights. There
19 were numerous times where he wasn't sure what he wanted to
20 do. Anytime he would start talking, I can say I was very
21 adamant like, hey, we can talk about whatever you want,
22 but you have to agree to want to talk to us. We can't do
23 this, right? So, eventually, I believe he agrees -- well,
24 he does agree. He agrees, and then we go from there.

25 There was numerous -- there was a good I want to

1 say probably fifteen minutes where he'll start to talk and
2 I'm like, listen, this is great, but in order for us to
3 get into this, you have to understand your rights. I
4 don't want to take a statement from you without you
5 understanding your rights. I would treat anybody that
6 way. Like, I don't --

7 Q. And during that time, would you agree that
8 Mr. Whitfield was not entirely responsive to some of the
9 questions? What I mean is, a question would be posed to
10 him, and he wouldn't answer the question directly. He
11 would kind of answer beside it.

12 A. Are you talking about the Miranda questions?

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. I would have to look at it again. It seems like
15 in the beginning everything was good, and then when we got
16 to the end, he was like, I don't know if I should. I
17 can't say this or that. I don't know what happened.
18 Okay, well. Then he would start to kind of talk about
19 stuff, his mindset and stuff. I would just like try to
20 get him recentered to be like, hey, listen -- I know I
21 said to him we can talk about anything under the sun.
22 You've got my full attention. But in order for us to
23 talk, you have to decide whether you want to or not.

24 Q. Did you think some of his behaviors during this
25 time was a little bit odd or strange?

1 A. It's a tough -- it's a good question. I would
2 say -- I would say he seemed very conflicted on what he
3 wanted to do there. Maybe that was -- it felt like he
4 wanted to talk, but he didn't know if he should. He
5 wasn't sure how far he wanted to go. I reiterated,
6 listen, we can start talking about anything. Anytime you
7 want to stop, we can stop. It ends.

8 Like, again, I'm not trying to violate anybody's
9 rights. That's not my thing. So I'm just like, hey -- if
10 he would have said no, I don't want to talk to you, okay.
11 I'm not going to get mad.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. That's what it is. I've had that happen many
14 times. Okay. We'll just go with the evidence and see
15 where we go. It's not the end of the world. If you've
16 watched it, you'll see where I'm like, hey, listen. This
17 is fine. We can talk, but you need to decide. I actually
18 told him you're in control here. It's up to you. It's
19 your choice.

20 Q. He -- I think you said earlier he was not
21 wearing a shirt.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Just wearing pants?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And maybe shoes. Is that right?

1 A. I don't know if there were shoes or not. I
2 would have to go back and look.

3 Q. Okay. Was he offered anything during the period
4 of time that he was in that room?

5 A. We didn't have -- we didn't have a shirt. I
6 know Detective Mensah said she'd offer him a shirt, but we
7 didn't have one. Which we may have. I just don't know
8 where they would be. Then I know she offered him food and
9 drink.

10 Q. Okay. And did he accept the food and drink?

11 A. I don't believe so.

12 Q. And that wasn't initially, was it?

13 A. I think that's while we were -- I remember
14 seeing that during the -- when we were going through
15 Miranda or like right after Miranda or just before. Like,
16 it was in that time period.

17 Q. Okay. Maybe that's just my memory. Now,
18 Mr. Whitfield endorsed using narcotics, right?

19 A. He did what now?

20 Q. He said that he had used narcotics. Is that
21 right?

22 A. Yes. I believe he said he had smoked marijuana.

23 Q. And that, just generally, he uses more than
24 marijuana?

25 A. Yes. Yes, he did.

1 Q. And some of his behaviors were odd, like maybe
2 he had been using illicit substances. Is that fair?

3 A. I didn't smell anything that I can recall. It's
4 possible, sure.

5 Q. What about his eyes? Were you able to see
6 whether or not his pupils were dilated or if they were
7 bloodshot?

8 A. I didn't notice any of that. Maybe the pictures
9 could tell a better story. He was looking at the ground a
10 lot.

11 Q. Okay. So it sounds like, from your
12 recollection, you couldn't smell anything indicative of
13 marijuana usage?

14 A. But it's possible, like you said, he used other
15 stuff. So it's always possible.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. He wasn't really slurring his words or anything.
18 I don't know.

19 Q. Okay. Did you have any kind of concerns about
20 his ability to understand the Miranda waiver questions?

21 A. I did not. The reason being is, he was -- he
22 seemed like when she was asking questions, he was very
23 responsive at first, very much yes, yes. I understand, I
24 understand. Or doing what I do and saying, uh-huh, and we
25 have to say, you know, you've got to say yes.

1 I didn't have any thought that -- the one thing
2 I thought was he was conflicted on whether or not he
3 wanted to. Not that he didn't understand. Just that I'm
4 not sure that I should, to which point, again, I tried to
5 express to him, look, it's up to you. I can't, you
6 know --

7 Q. Is there anything that Detective Mensah did in
8 that portion of the interview, like the reading of Miranda
9 rights, that kind of engagement that she did that you
10 would have done differently?

11 A. I don't think so. I think it was -- between the
12 two us, we tried to make sure that he understood and that
13 we -- like, I tried to make it like feel like there wasn't
14 pressure. Like, hey, it's up to you. Whatever you want
15 to do here, it's your world. You let us know. I'll sit
16 here and talk to you all night, or we don't have to. It's
17 okay. Like, I don't know -- I don't know what else we
18 could have done differently.

19 Q. Do you think that Detective Mensah didn't feel
20 quite that way? You know, like, hands off. He can decide
21 whatever he wants. Do you think she was kind of too
22 emotionally invested in what had occurred?

23 A. I did not get that feeling. But I think we were
24 just trying to get to an answer. You know, I didn't want
25 to --

1 Q. Detective Mensah left the Major Crimes Unit
2 fairly shortly after this case, didn't she?

3 A. I'm not sure when exactly it was, but yeah, she
4 did leave.

5 Q. Do you know why she left?

6 A. She transferred out -- I don't think she was
7 very happy in the unit. Maybe there was -- you know, you
8 have an office full of people who are kind of like
9 go-getters and alpha and like, hey, and I think she just
10 got tired.

11 Q. That doesn't really describe her?

12 A. No, she is, but also, when you have that, you
13 have the inability to be like -- you know what I mean? I
14 don't know how to explain it, but I think after a while,
15 it can definitely wear on you. I know there's been days
16 where I'm just like -- like, after eight years --

17 Q. It's hard work for sure?

18 A. -- I'm fine going somewhere else now. If they
19 transfer me, I'm not going to cry.

20 Q. Sergeant of property crimes.

21 A. Right. I'm not going to cry about it, just to
22 be fairly honest. It doesn't surprise me because we've
23 had people do that. We've had people who they brought in
24 there. If you're there and you don't want to be there,
25 you should not be there, right?

1 Q. Fair.

2 A. Now, while I'm not going to cry if I get
3 transferred tomorrow, I still want to be there. I'm still
4 going to do the work. But if you bring somebody in who
5 doesn't want to be there, they shouldn't be there because
6 it's not going to work. We've had detectives where it's
7 like you don't want to be here, right? No. Okay. Thank
8 you for trying.

9 Q. Anybody who was working on this case?

10 A. I don't think so.

11 Q. Had you and Detective Mensah interrogated
12 subjects before, suspects?

13 A. I'm sure at some point we have, yeah. We worked
14 together for a couple of years. I would assume at some
15 point in time we had to have.

16 Q. It sounds like nothing really jumps out at you
17 right now though?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you feel as though when you -- when the two
20 of you engage with somebody that you adopt a certain
21 persona?

22 A. No. So I know I can comfortably say if you go
23 back and watch my interviews, I'm pretty much the same
24 every time. You're not going to get a big differentiation
25 from me. I'm going to tell you the same. I'm going to be

1 polite until -- unless the situation, which rarely
2 happens, calls for me to be a little rude. You're going
3 to get the same thing from me no matter what.

4 Now, if I'm in there as an assist, I'm going to
5 let the lead -- say she was the lead. I'm just going to
6 sit and listen. Then if something comes up that comes to
7 mind to me, I might step in and say, well, what about
8 this. But I'm not going to lead it. You're not. So it
9 really -- you generally -- if you're the lead, you should
10 be leading.

11 when she's talking to him about the first
12 homicide, I'm probably not saying a whole lot in that
13 you'll notice. I might catch something in my brain, like,
14 oh, this would be a good question and like interject at
15 some point, but it wouldn't be me leading that.

16 Q. Okay. There was several times when the two of
17 you left the room.

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. Were there conversations that you all were
20 having outside of the interview room?

21 A. Yes. So when we're doing that, we have
22 sergeants who are watching. I believe the state attorney
23 at the time was there.

24 Q. Do you know who it was?

25 A. What was her name?

1 Q. Not Theo?

2 A. No. who was the first person? She left.

3 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Abbey, the little blonde
4 girl?

5 THE DEPONENT: Yeah.

6 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Abbey King.

7 THE DEPONENT: what was her last name?

8 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: King.

9 THE DEPONENT: Yes, that's it.

10 A. Okay. So when we would go in, our sergeants
11 would say, okay, you know, you're missing this question or
12 maybe you should ask them this or try this. what was
13 exactly said that night, I don't know. I guess you could
14 probably figure it out by watching after we come back in.
15 The questions we're asking would probably be the best way
16 to know. Generally -- and it was a long interview. I
17 mean, we were in there hours. Sometimes you've just got
18 to kind of reset.

19 Q. Mr. Whitfield was kind of bizarre throughout in
20 terms of like his statements, some of his mannerisms.
21 would you agree with that?

22 A. Yeah. There were some things that stood out.

23 Q. Anything in particular that stands out to you
24 now as we sit here today? I know I've read your report,
25 and obviously, we can watch the video.

1 A. Uh-huh. The one thing that stood out -- it's
2 right here when he stated it feels like he would be
3 thinking about or say something about the mother of his
4 child, and then something would be said. And the response
5 would be the correct response to what he just said, but
6 you didn't say what you just said. So that kind of talk,
7 that stuck out to me. Like, I don't know what any of this
8 has to -- like, you know what I mean?

9 Yeah, I get if he's dealing with mental illness,
10 okay. Again, I'm not a doctor. It just seemed -- there
11 was statements like that throughout where it was like,
12 hey, I don't know where this is going.

13 Q. So a lot of confusion of thoughts?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. And I think some paranoia?

16 A. Yeah, absolutely.

17 Q. Like this perception that people were talking
18 about him?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I think he also identified voices or some entity
21 telling him things but also like requiring that he do
22 things?

23 A. That may be in there. I would have to go back
24 and watch it. It wouldn't surprise me. I know he did
25 mention about him being disrespected since being out and

1 not being able to like handle jokes I guess it would be,
2 like when people would make comments about being in prison
3 and it bothering him. You know, he used to be like chill
4 and would just let things slide, and since he's gotten
5 out, it's been harder, and he's been having a hard time.

6 Q. I know you were with him for a very long time.
7 Did it appear as though he was becoming tired over that
8 time period?

9 A. I don't think so. Again, it's been like four
10 years, five years now, so I don't know.

11 Q. Do you recall any kind of conversation with him
12 about sleep, like if he had been sleeping?

13 A. I don't, but it wouldn't surprise me. I feel
14 like he said he hadn't been, but I can't -- I don't know
15 for sure. I would have to go back and watch it.

16 Q. If you had a conversation with him about it, it
17 would be on the video?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Okay. In any of the time periods that you were
20 stepping outside having conversations amongst yourself and
21 Detective Mensah or supervisors, et cetera, did you
22 receive any other information either about the crimes --
23 I'm talking about the Barnes homicide, as well as the
24 family homicide -- or anything else about his life, about
25 that November issue with his baby momma?

1 A. I don't recall anything coming up about anything
2 in November. I'm sure things were brought up about the
3 Darren Barnes case. What that was -- at some point in
4 time, I would imagine during this we would have gotten
5 verification who the victims were. I believe before he
6 would have left we would have that. Again, without
7 knowing the exact timeline, it's hard to say, but I don't
8 remember there being anything crazy that we -- any kind of
9 new information. Because we didn't know anything about
10 the evidence in the place until the next day.

11 Q. Okay. That was going to be my next question, if
12 the warrant was executed while you were still in with
13 Mr. Whitfield or no.

14 A. No, I don't think so. I think they went -- I
15 would have to look at the report, but I think they went
16 out the next day. Like, they held the scene all night,
17 and I think they went the next day or the next morning. I
18 didn't really participate in that. I was dealing with
19 other stuff. Detective Bilbrey kind of oversaw that. I
20 would get the -- we would have our meetings, and it's,
21 okay, this is what we have, this is what was found.

22 Q. I saw that there was an evidence voucher for
23 some photos that were shown to him, an evidence voucher
24 that your name was on.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. Does that mean that you would have been the
2 person who like put something into property and evidence?

3 A. What photos did I show him? I don't even recall
4 showing him photos.

5 Q. Great question. It just says photos shown.

6 A. Okay. So if I showed him photos, then I would
7 take those physical photos and put those into evidence.

8 Q. Okay. Do you recall showing him photos in the
9 course of your case?

10 A. I don't. But if it says I did, it was either me
11 or Detective Mensah. It should be on the video.

12 Q. Is it possible that they were photographs that
13 were related to Detective Mensah's homicide?

14 A. Probably. I don't know why I would be showing
15 him photos, unless he -- unless he said something about
16 somebody. Yeah, I don't know. Because generally, if I'm
17 showing you a photo, it's to verify an identity of
18 somebody or a location. I don't know. I would have to go
19 back. I didn't see that part. If they're in there,
20 whatever they are, they're in evidence.

21 Q. Okay. So when there's an evidence voucher, that
22 means that the specific thing is going into property and
23 evidence?

24 A. Physical evidence, yeah. If it's a physical
25 document -- they like us to now scan in the Miranda and

1 stuff, and I hate doing it. I'd rather just put the whole
2 physical thing in, but they're trying to limit that now.

3 Q. Were you -- so Mr. Whitfield was ultimately
4 processed by forensic techs?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you tell the tech what you wanted in terms
7 of the processing?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. So it would have been overall pictures,
11 fingernail clippings, buccal -- I don't know if we -- did
12 he consent to a buccal? We wouldn't have collected a
13 buccal unless he consented. We would have swabbed his
14 hands, collected his clothing.

15 Q. Were there any issues during the processing?

16 A. Not that I recall.

17 Q. There was some note about him grabbing a sheet
18 of paper.

19 A. Oh, when she was clipping. Yes. Yeah, yeah.
20 Something like he jerked it real quick. I don't know what
21 that was.

22 Q. Do you recall him saying anything or
23 anything else?

24 A. I don't.

25 Q. So your recollection is just like jerking the

1 piece of paper?

2 A. Yeah, and like some of the clippings falling
3 off. That's weird. That was the only thing he did. I
4 totally forgot about that. Yeah.

5 Q. And that was -- the processing was at like the
6 very end after he already --

7 A. Very end, after we'd already talked to him.

8 Q. Do you think it's fair to say that like his kind
9 of oddness, like some of the bizarre things he said, some
10 of the odd mannerisms occurred throughout his time in the
11 interrogation room?

12 A. Oh, yeah.

13 Q. So not just at the beginning?

14 A. No, not just the beginning. It was the entire
15 time.

16 Q. Okay. And did he say anything during the
17 processing?

18 A. I don't recall. If he did, it's on there.

19 Q. And you stayed in the room during the
20 processing?

21 A. I think -- I think I was in there. Although
22 thinking back to it now, it's hard to say. You should be
23 able to hear me if I am. If I stepped out, somebody would
24 have been in there with him while it's being done.

25 Q. I know we talked a little bit about this

1 earlier. In terms of like the scanning of the waistbands,
2 you said that you didn't particularly observe that
3 yourself.

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. But it sounds like that was communicated to you
6 by somebody else, that they either observed it or felt
7 that was something that Mr. Whitfield was doing?

8 A. I guess, yeah. I don't necessarily recall that.
9 I know I read it in the report, and it was like, okay.
10 But I don't -- I don't remember him really -- I didn't
11 even remember the fingernail thing until you brought it
12 up, pulling the paper. He didn't really cause any issues.

13 Q. After the processing, like the forensic
14 processing of Mr. Whitfield was completed, what happened
15 with him?

16 A. He would have been transported to the Pinellas
17 County Jail.

18 Q. Were you told about any kind of issues in the
19 transport?

20 A. Not that I can recall, no.

21 Q. Okay. So nothing from either the officer that
22 transported, and you didn't hear anything from the jail
23 about any issues at booking?

24 A. Not that I can recall, no.

25 Q. Did you do anything else that day? I guess it

1 would have been very late on the 16th at that point.

2 A. So would have done the -- either myself or
3 Detective Mensah would have done the affidavits, whoever's
4 name -- I think hers were probably already done because
5 she had PC out for him, so I would have done that. I
6 probably at some point in time -- I don't know if it would
7 have been that night. I like to get ahead of things. I
8 may have done the subpoenas that night, but I don't know
9 for sure. It may have not been until the next day, or it
10 may have been assigned to somebody else.

11 Q. Subpoenas for what?

12 A. The phone numbers, yeah. I may have stopped by
13 the scene that night before I went home, but again, I
14 don't -- I think that was just -- I vaguely remember the
15 medical examiners being there, so we weren't even doing
16 the search at that point. It was just to get the bodies
17 out and processed. So like it was very, very much just --
18 because I think they came to the determination that the
19 search -- the house would be held all night, and they
20 would be doing it in the morning.

21 Q. So does that mean that processing of at least
22 some of the scene, the space surrounding the bodies would
23 have been done that night?

24 A. That I don't know.

25 Q. You weren't involved in that?

1 A. No. No, no.

2 Q. When you say that you at least observed the
3 medical examiners were there that night --

4 A. I believe they were, yes.

5 Q. -- did you go into the home?

6 A. I think I may have stepped into the cleared in
7 area where the porch was where it was knocked down. I'm
8 not even sure. I know at some point in time I was in that
9 area. I couldn't tell you exactly when. I don't know if
10 it was that night or the next morning or if it was still
11 dark out. I don't know. I know there was -- I believe I
12 was there when the medical examiners were there. I know
13 there was worry about the structural issues with the house
14 was part of the problem. So I don't know if they had
15 already fixed that or if things are just running together.

16 Again, my interaction with the house and the
17 evidence in the house is very minimal. I probably -- I
18 know I stopped there that night, and I know I stopped
19 there that next morning on my way in just to talk to
20 people and see how things were going because I felt
21 terrible that they were going to have to go do all of this
22 work and I wasn't going to be there. So I just wanted to
23 let them know, hey, thanks for doing this type thing.
24 Because I knew it was going to be a huge task, and we had
25 other units it helping out from like property crimes, like

1 other detectives. So I just -- yeah, I just swung in. So
2 I don't know exactly, but I can't imagine they would have
3 left the victims in there all night long.

4 Q. Right. Mr. Whitfield spoke kind of at length
5 about the conditions in the home?

6 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

7 Q. And the conditions in the home being very
8 distressing to him?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. When you went either that night or in the
11 morning, what were your observations of the home?

12 A. From what I could see, it looked like a horder's
13 house from the body cam I watched. Again, I didn't go
14 through the whole house. I've seen the body-cam footage
15 and whatnot. It looked sad. It looked like -- we saw
16 kind of the area where he and his mom was sleeping. It
17 was pretty depressing.

18 Q. He complained I think about filth and rodents or
19 vermin kind of generally. Did you see any evidence of
20 that?

21 A. I did not, but again, I wasn't up in the house.
22 I saw stacks of stuff. Obviously, when they pulled out
23 the porch, there was a whole mess of stuff. I know that
24 they were literally just emptying the house while they
25 were searching it, getting stuff out is what I was told.

1 Q. That would have been later?

2 A. That would have been the next day, yeah.

3 Q. Okay. So obviously, at some point, you had to
4 go home and sleep.

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. So you continue your work the following day?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. So the 17th. Can you tell me about like what
9 you were doing at that point? What was there kind of
10 generally to do?

11 A. So he had mentioned having gone to Choice Gas
12 Station, so myself and Detective Mensah went to Choice.
13 It's at 534, so 5th Ave South and 34th Street South.

14 Q. Okay. Familiar with that location?

15 A. Oh, yes. Pulled video from there.

16 Q. Anything of --

17 A. I did not see him on there. Maybe he's wearing
18 something else. I didn't notice it. We also did a search
19 warrant for his cell phone. Received the NIBIN stuff back
20 linking the 45 cal Jag shell to the homicide at Darren
21 Barnes. Ms. Harilal came to the station and was
22 interviewed by Detective Bletsch and Detective Wester.

23 Q. Why by Bletsch and Webster?

24 A. I don't know. It was something -- I must have
25 been out of the office, and she was available. I would

1 imagine Detective Webster maybe had a good rapport with
2 her. I don't know. I can't answer that for certain.
3 Generally, I would have been the one, but I don't know why
4 that day, what was going on where I couldn't be there to
5 do it.

6 Q. Do you know why she came to the station? Was
7 she asked?

8 A. Yeah. I think we wanted to follow up with her a
9 little bit more now that things had settled down and she
10 had some time to regroup. Talking to her at the hospital,
11 she's got a hole in her arm. Just figuring out, hey,
12 closest family members are dead.

13 Q. It sounds like she didn't come in response to a
14 call from you?

15 A. It may have been from me, or it may have been we
16 asked them, hey, can you get her back in here and talk to
17 her more. Again, we would have had a meeting that
18 morning.

19 Q. Of next steps?

20 A. Yeah, dolled things out.

21 Q. It sounds like you said you would have done the
22 interview if you were available. So you wouldn't have
23 watched the interview while it was happening on the live
24 feed or anything?

25 A. No, I couldn't image. I would have done it

1 myself if I was there to watch it.

2 Q. Did you ever watch the video of it?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. How close in time, if you know?

5 A. Oh, I have no idea.

6 Q. Just at some point in time?

7 A. I know at some point I've watched it, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Any impressions of that interview?

9 A. I'd have to watch it again. It's been so long.

10 Q. So you don't remember now what your impressions
11 would have been it sounds?

12 A. Huh-uh. No.

13 Q. Okay. Did you ever have any further contact
14 with Ms. Harilaḷ after your conversation with her in the
15 hospital?

16 A. She came in for the invest I want to say, but I
17 don't know that I talked to her a lot then. I believe she
18 came in for the invest. I think Detective Marzo had
19 documented that in her report, but I could be wrong on
20 that. I hate doing this because I feel like I know she
21 was there, but I can't remember if she did. I don't
22 recall really having a whole lot of contact with her after
23 all of this.

24 Q. Any particular impressions, like takeaway
25 impressions that you had of Ms. Harilaḷ based on whatever

1 contact you have had with her?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. Anything?

4 A. Seems like somebody who has basically been put
5 through hell. I don't know any other way to describe it.

6 Q. Do you know if Ms. Harilal or her family
7 received any kind of assistance from your department --

8 A. I don't.

9 Q. -- as a victim?

10 A. I would imagine the victim's advocates would
11 have reached out to her. I'm sure there may have been
12 things done for Mya. I don't know for certain.

13 Q. And do you know who the victim's advocate is on
14 this case?

15 A. I don't. Back then it could have been -- I
16 can't remember her name. I can tell you definitely right
17 now who it would be, if it was Arley (phonetic). Who was
18 it?

19 Q. Actually, now, it's Mary Recinelli or Recinella.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. I don't know if she was there from the beginning
22 though.

23 A. Yeah, I'm not sure either.

24 Q. I don't know how much contact you have with the
25 victim's advocate or if you just leave them as a liaison.

1 A. If they come to me and need something, then yes.
2 Now, with Ms. Arley, the stuff that I've worked the last
3 couple of years, much more involved.

4 Q. She's incredible.

5 A. Right. So with her, I speak to her probably on
6 a weekly basis about stuff that we keep up to date on.
7 Not that the other ones are bad. I just -- during that
8 time, it wasn't really like -- it's not like it is now, I
9 guess, where Ms. Arley like is showing up to court and
10 telling, hey, this is what you need to look out for as far
11 as family members are upset about this or that. She's a
12 great communicator. She really does a great job. Again,
13 I'm not disparaging the other people. They do a fine job.
14 I don't remember.

15 Q. So it sounds like you're assuming there was some
16 sort of assistance, not sure what it is?

17 A. I would hope so. I would hope so.

18 Q. Did either Bletsch or Webster talk to you -- I
19 guess it's Marzo now -- talk to you about their interview
20 of Ms. Harilal after the fact?

21 A. Just that it was recorded.

22 Q. And available to you?

23 A. Yes. I mean, I don't think -- I don't even
24 remember -- I know Detective Bletsch didn't have a whole
25 lot to do with this. I was actually going through the

1 report. I was surprised at how much Ms. Marzo did because
2 I didn't even remember -- like, there must have been some
3 -- she must have built some kind of rapport with
4 Ms. Harilal.

5 Q. Anything else on the 17th?

6 A. That I can recall --

7 Q. I didn't see anything in your report.

8 A. -- I don't think so.

9 Q. So, I guess, why don't you just tell me
10 generally about the NIBIN notifications that you received.
11 It doesn't matter what day.

12 A. Yeah. So it looks like the first one came
13 back -- so that was 17th. Yeah, like here. This is kind
14 of what they are so you see it.

15 Q. And this is how you receive it, right?

16 A. Yes. Again, it makes my eyes cross, so that's
17 why I was like, I don't -- is it saying it's linked? Is
18 it saying it's not? Why do they -- I hate how they put it
19 on here. I feel like there would be a much user-friendly
20 way to be able to determine this stuff. But I was told,
21 yes, that they're linked. The 45 anyway was at that time.

22 Q. And you said that more recently you consulted
23 with somebody at your office to kind of help you decipher
24 this language?

25 A. Yeah. Yes.

1 Q. And what did that person tell you?

2 A. She just -- I just said can you -- you can have
3 this if you want. I just said can you give me like a
4 chart so I can just -- like, think of me as like a
5 preschooler who doesn't know what he's doing when he's
6 looking at this, and make this as easy as possible for me
7 to see. I have it here. I gave her all of these and said
8 can you decipher this for me, and that's what she came up
9 with.

10 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Great. Why don't we make it
11 an exhibit.

12 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Exhibit or I can make you
13 a copy of that as well, either/or.

14 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Let's make it an exhibit, and
15 then we all get it. Is that fair?

16 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Okay.

17 (Exhibit 1 marked for identification.)

18 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

19 Q. Well, that was very helpful of her.

20 A. Yes, I agree.

21 Q. So the NIBIN comes in to you very, very quickly
22 it seems?

23 A. Yeah. That did, yeah.

24 Q. And my understanding of NIBIN is that it's
25 basically a database that is available nationally, but it

1 sounds like you yourself don't interact with it. It's
2 some boffins at your office.

3 A. So there's people who are qualified to do it.
4 They're trained to do it. I'm not one of those people.
5 Morgan, who is our civilian investigator -- whatever her
6 title is -- she kind of oversees it. Detective
7 Intravichit, Detective Bauer, Detective Bilbrey, they have
8 a few people.

9 Q. Okay. When you get a return for NIBIN
10 indicating that there might be a case link, does that clue
11 you to do anything?

12 A. Yes, send the stuff to FDLE.

13 Q. So it's like, boom, that's red flag, send it
14 off.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that what you did?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you send everything from your case off?

19 A. I don't think everything. What was sent is --

20 Q. Just for the record, you're looking at the FDLE
21 forms?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And so because you're the lead on this, it
24 sounds like it's your responsibility to make sure that
25 this gets there?

1 A. Yes. Well, so there's two ways to do it. I
2 would tell -- I don't actually send it in. I think at the
3 time it may have been Tiffany that was sending it, one of
4 our civilian analysts.

5 Q. It does say Tiffany Jordan on the top.

6 A. So I would tell her, hey, this is what I need
7 sent there. Now, if it's a rush, I will take it to the
8 building in Tampa myself. I don't know that we did that
9 on this case. If not, they go out there I want to say
10 every Tuesday. They go once a week. Our property and
11 evidence will take stuff out there.

12 Q. So it looks like there are, at least according
13 to the FDLE form for the submission, thirty separate
14 items. Maybe some of those are joint items, but thirty
15 items that they logged. Does that sound about right to
16 you in terms of what's submitted?

17 A. That's what's on there, yeah. There was a lot
18 of stuff.

19 Q. You weren't involved in the discovery of any of
20 these items that were ultimately submitted to the FDLE?

21 A. What do you mean by discovery?

22 Q. You weren't at the home. Like, you didn't take
23 this into property yourself?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So how is the determination made that these were

1 the items that were going to be sent?

2 A. We would have sat down with the State and gone
3 through, okay. Just like on DNA, you sit down at the lab
4 and the State and say, hey, this is what we think would be
5 the best to go through.

6 Q. So it was collaborative?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. It looks like this was not sent until or at
9 least not received by FDLE until February of this year,
10 2025. Does that seem right?

11 A. That's what it says. Received on 2/11/25. So
12 on that one -- yes. So at the time -- I don't know why
13 the delay. Generally, again, it would have had to have
14 been a collaborative thing. So if it wasn't -- yes.
15 Generally, if NIBIN comes back, you send the stuff to
16 FDLE; however, in my experience, it would be, okay, the
17 State and you would sit down to determine what should go
18 so you're not tying up resources and whatever to help make
19 the determination. I guess it would have been about the
20 time you took over. Probably said, hey, probably need to
21 send the stuff off.

22 Q. Okay. So it sounds like the decisions to send
23 evidence to FDLE for further analysis isn't just made by
24 you as the lead? It's more collaborative?

25 A. I think if it was like one -- I would generally

1 say, again, with my experience, if it's just one or two
2 things, like, I could do it, right? But if I'm looking at
3 a whole scene, like a major thing where there's lots of
4 evidence, I can't just send everything. So I would want
5 input on what would be good to go. Now, whether it was
6 with the State or with my sergeants or it could have even
7 been when she took over -- the State took over and said,
8 hey, this hasn't been done, we need to get this in. Okay.

9 Q. Does FDLE have a limit on the items they'll
10 receive?

11 A. That I don't know. I know the lab does on some
12 things.

13 Q. You mean like the Pinellas County Lab?

14 A. Forensic lab, yes, but I don't know on FDLE.

15 Q. Do you know what the limit is at the Pinellas
16 County Lab?

17 A. It varies depending on the crime. They get so
18 many for first round, and then if you have to have a
19 second round, then you can go from there. Again, if it's
20 a vehicle burglary, maybe one thing.

21 Q. Okay. Those thirty items that were sent to the
22 FDLE in February of 2025, do you know if they had been
23 analyzed in any way in your office prior to having been
24 sent?

25 A. The only thing that would have been, would have

1 been the NIBIN right off the bat, which they did right
2 away. But the rest would have -- they would have been in
3 evidence the rest of the time.

4 Q. Those items, do you know when the request was
5 made to FDLE, was it made just for firearms?

6 A. No, because there's projectiles and stuff in
7 here too.

8 Q. Well, I guess my question -- sorry, I asked it
9 very inartfully. Were you in charge of making this
10 request? I know it says return to Investigator Tiffany.

11 A. Yes. As the lead, I would have said -- I would
12 have told Tiffany, hey, can you do a request for me. This
13 is the stuff that needs to go.

14 Q. So of all those items, I know it's firearms,
15 projectiles, partial projectiles. Let's say just
16 firearms-related evidence. Was there a request for
17 analysis in the firearms unit, or was there also a request
18 that any of this be either, like, swabbed for DNA or --

19 A. Well, they had already been swabbed for DNA.

20 Q. Okay. You knew that?

21 A. Yes. Yeah, all that was done when they were
22 initially collected, all the DNA stuff. All this is is to
23 verify NIBIN and to maybe -- I guess there's ways --
24 again, you would have to talk to them -- where maybe they
25 can determine by the weights or the scale of a projectile

1 potentially what bullet it could be, what caliber, that
2 type of thing.

3 Q. Okay. And it sounds like you're not certain why
4 there was the extraordinary delay from 2021 to '25?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you mentioned a few moments ago that all of
7 these items or as far as you know all of these items were
8 swabbed for DNA --

9 A. They should be.

10 Q. -- and those swabs were submitted?

11 A. Oh, yes, they were.

12 Q. would that have been -- rather than to FDLE,
13 would that have been to the Pinellas County Forensic Lab?

14 A. Yes. Yes.

15 Q. Did you receive any kind of returns?

16 A. Yes. They should be attached to the report. I
17 don't have them here. But, yeah, they're -- I did go
18 through them. Yes, we got results.

19 Q. And in addition to swabs for DNA, do you know if
20 there were any fingerprinting of those items as well?

21 A. There was, but I don't recall seeing anything of
22 value. I believe there was because I remember seeing a
23 report -- I've read so many reports. I believe there was,
24 but I don't recall in my case anything being out of the
25 ordinary. I would have to go back and look at the whole

1 thing. I know they dusted for some stuff. Like, I know
2 on the car they dusted for stuff. The car didn't mean
3 anything to any of this, so --

4 Q. And you all have latent examiners within the
5 St. Petersburg Police Department?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So it could have been done in-house?

8 A. It would have been done in-house, yeah.

9 Q. All right. So you did more work on this case.
10 Sorry, we kind of got off track a bit. But you continued
11 to do work in February of 2021, like following up of
12 additional things it seems.

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

15 A. So I got the warrant for Mr. Whitfield's phone.
16 The phone and the warrant was provided to Detective
17 Vanderbilt. She did the digital forensic extraction.
18 There was not much found in the phone. Now, again,
19 there's lots of files. We try to get through every single
20 one and see everything. You're seeing like emojis eighty
21 times, and each one is a file.

22 It's just -- there didn't seem to be anything
23 outstanding in it. There was some stuff in the call logs.
24 As far as -- my stuff is all messed up here. Okay. So
25 the call logs around that time, there was nothing prior to

1 February 9th of '21 on the phone.

2 Q. This phone that you had evaluated, do you know
3 where it was found?

4 A. I don't recall. I would have to check. It may
5 have been on his person when they took him into custody.
6 I don't believe it was in the house.

7 Q. Any other phones that were associated with
8 Mr. Whitfield that were discovered?

9 A. Not that I can recall.

10 Q. Any phones related to Mr. Whitfield for any data
11 prior to February 9th?

12 A. Not that I recall. I don't know what Detective
13 Mensah may have had on hers, so I'm not sure. I think
14 there was a total of four phones. I could be off on that.

15 Q. So would that be Mr. Whitfield, Sallie
16 Whitfield, Patricia Sharp Whitfield, and Antonio Graham?

17 A. Uh-huh. Maybe five. I think --

18 Q. Something from Ms. Harila?

19 A. No. I don't think we ever had her phone.

20 They -- the Motorola came back to Patricia Sharp, but I
21 feel like we already had -- I'm not sure. Patricia might
22 have had two, but I would have to look at it. The only
23 one that I can recall is the LG for Mr. Whitfield.

24 Q. Anything of evidentiary value discovered in the
25 course of reviewing all the phone records, either the cell

1 extraction or anything else related to the phones?

2 A. No, not that I could find.

3 Q. And it looks like you went through the phone
4 looking at some of the phone numbers or some of the
5 contacts to determine if there was going to be anybody who
6 could give you any kind of information?

7 A. Correct, anybody who would answer around that
8 timeframe. And a lot of it was like either people
9 wouldn't call back, their area code wasn't a Florida area
10 code, or it was like a warranty hotline. One guy known as
11 Mr. Paris was like, yeah, this used to be -- he had a new
12 work phone number.

13 Q. One of the phone numbers that you wrote out was
14 associated with a Mary Brooks.

15 A. Yes, that's the 404 number.

16 Q. And you called that number. Is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You weren't able to reach her?

19 A. Huh-uh.

20 Q. Is that a no?

21 A. No. Sorry. I even sent her a text message
22 requesting a callback, but I didn't receive anything.

23 Q. Okay. And I didn't see any kind of indication
24 of a callback, but I know this report was kind of
25 finalized in March of 2021. Any callbacks after that

1 time?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you look into who Mary Brooks was?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you know if any of your colleagues ever had
6 any kind of contact with Mary Brooks?

7 A. I have no idea, no.

8 Q. So you don't know if Detective Mensah or
9 Detective McQueen ever had contact with Ms. Brooks?

10 A. I have no idea.

11 Q. Okay. So you didn't know that Mary Brooks is
12 the mother of Julia Gary, Mr. Whitfield's paramour who has
13 custody of their child?

14 A. No, I didn't. No.

15 Q. So you don't know if any of your colleagues ever
16 went out and spoke with her?

17 A. They could have. I have no idea.

18 Q. Got it. Okay. And none the other phone numbers
19 appeared to have any kind of relation to Mr. Whitfield,
20 the ones that you noted I don't think?

21 A. No. I mean, nothing of anything that would have
22 been of evidentiary value one way or the other.

23 Q. I guess kind of same question with regard to
24 that one phone number associated with Onree Jackson.
25 Onree is O-N-R-E-E. You called that number. You weren't

1 able to get in touch with this person?

2 A. So looking into this, yes. So on that, that
3 phone number is the same as that phone number that is on
4 the flip phone that we could only get the SIM extraction
5 from that appears to be Mr. Graham's. So my guess is that
6 at some point in time, Mr. Jackson provided Mr. Graham
7 with this phone to use.

8 Q. This sounds like supposition, something that you
9 weren't able to verify?

10 A. Well, I called. It was -- in the SIM download,
11 it has contacts in there. I spoke with a female I have in
12 my notes. It might be in a follow-up. She was logged in
13 as "Little Ma." I asked her. I said, well, who put you
14 in there? She was like, Oh, Antonio was my godson, so he
15 would have me put in there as that. She was like, I don't
16 have that number anymore, so I can't tell you -- her son
17 is supposed to be calling me back to verify it, but that's
18 the same exact phone number that is on that phone.

19 Q. Okay. And how much contact was there between
20 the phone that Mr. Whitfield had and the number associated
21 with Onree Jackson?

22 A. I have no idea. I'd have to go back and look.

23 Q. Got it. But it should be in the extraction
24 report?

25 A. Yeah. It will be in the Cellebrite report. You

1 can go to call logs. You can literally put in the phone
2 number, and it will come up with the amount of times.

3 Q. Anything else notable from these call logs?

4 A. Not that I noticed.

5 Q. Okay. I guess while we're talking about cell
6 phones, I know you did some work recently.

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. And I guess without having seen this, maybe you
9 can just tell me what you did recently with regards to the
10 phones.

11 A. So there was three phones found at the scene.
12 There was a Motorola, an LG flip phone, and one of them
13 was Sallie Whitfield's that was on her person. We got
14 warrants for the Motorola and the LG SIM -- the LG flip
15 phone, and then Sallie's we had downloaded. Nothing out
16 of the ordinary there that sticks out that I noticed. You
17 have the full downloads of what we were able to get from
18 them.

19 Q. It's supposed that this LG is Antonio Graham's.
20 Is that right?

21 A. That's -- based on what I'm seeing from the
22 phone, yes, because the phone number attached to it is the
23 same as that, and then the one person who I was able to
24 get to respond -- actually, I can give you her name. It's
25 within the last week here. Last week she called me. Oh,

1 I'll get the name. It will be in the report. She called
2 me. I can't remember her name.

3 Q. So we're talking about the USB that you just
4 turned over to us this morning that it sounds like you're
5 still working on just kind of summarizing what was
6 discovered.

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Can you tell me why it took so long?

9 A. So the phones that were in there, there was
10 three phones. We didn't have a high expectation that
11 there would be much on there given fact that -- we knew
12 Sallie would be on there because the phone was on her.
13 Just there's no guarantee that we could get them
14 downloaded. I know with the LG, it wouldn't download
15 anything but the SIM card information. But as this got
16 closer and we reviewed, we went back through the stuff
17 that was there and made the determination to get it done.

18 Q. So was -- were the phones initially sent to one
19 of the forensic digital techs?

20 A. They were put in property and evidence.

21 Q. Oh, just hung on to.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay. So more recently a decision was made
24 let's take a look?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Got it. Okay. Was that your decision, or was
2 it a team decision, like you and the state attorney?

3 A. It was a team decision.

4 Q. Okay. Who was driving that train?

5 A. I mean, I didn't have a problem doing it.

6 Q. It sounds like you weren't the conductor.

7 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: I can clarify, if you want
8 me to.

9 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Sure.

10 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: You had sent an e-mail
11 asking if we had a download of Antonio Graham's phone. I
12 went through the property and evidence list. I got with
13 the detective. I said, Can you download it?

14 THE DEPONENT: Right.

15 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: I said, Can you link up
16 which phones belonged to who, at which point he lets me
17 know these have not been downloaded. Would you like me to
18 go forward with the download? I said why not. That's
19 where we got all that stuff.

20 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Got it. Thank you. It was a
21 mystery.

22 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

23 Q. Did you download them yourself, or did you send
24 them to somebody else?

25 A. No. They went to --

1 Q. Is it Vanderbilt?

2 A. Those I believe were done by Detective Hager.

3 Q. Oh, that's a new name to me.

4 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: By "you," I mean whatever
5 unit over there at St. Pete PD does the cell phone
6 downloads that Vanderbilt is a part of it, not Detective
7 Harris specifically.

8 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Got it. Perfect.

9 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

10 Q. In your review of the data, anything of note?

11 A. Not that I could find.

12 Q. Okay. Was anybody talking about how weird
13 Cornelius was?

14 A. I didn't notice anything. The text messages
15 that I've been able to see are very much like spam, and
16 then there's a few calls to people who I could not get
17 ahold of that I tried. Most of the numbers because it's
18 been so long are no longer active. They have, like, names
19 like --

20 Q. Like nicknames?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. So super easy for you to find out who they are.

23 A. Right, right. Yeah. I could search. The ones
24 that did answer were like, yeah, I've only had this phone
25 for the last two years. I don't know.

1 Q. Got it. Have we covered your work with regards
2 to the cell phones in this case, or is there anything
3 else? I know that your work is really just kind of taking
4 a look at extractions and things like that?

5 A. I believe in this case, I think we've covered
6 everything.

7 Q. Did you do any kind of location data with
8 respect to Cornelius's phone?

9 A. I don't recall if we did location data. I don't
10 think we did.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I don't see that anywhere in my report. I don't
13 remember writing a warrant for that.

14 Q. The warrant inventory return from the 19th of
15 February, would that have been with regard to the warrant
16 that was executed on the house?

17 A. I don't know. I would have to see it. It could
18 have been for the phone possibly. I don't know.

19 Q. And then it looks like you had a couple of days
20 off until coming back on the 22nd and reviewing some
21 footage.

22 A. Okay. Yes, the stuff Detective Buchanan had.

23 Q. What was --

24 A. Oh, the cell phone. So the Cellebrite report,
25 yes. The warrant inventory return would have been for the

1 phone. Yeah, yeah. Sorry. I was confused by what you
2 were --

3 Q. No, no, no. I was not clear. So the 22nd of
4 February in Detective Buchanan's work was to pull
5 surveillance footage?

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. What was particular about this location that you
8 wanted the footage?

9 A. It was one of the few places that had cameras.

10 Q. Nearby to the home?

11 A. Correct. It was at Fifth Ave South and 30th
12 Street South. It had multiple angles. And Mr. Whitfield
13 made a statement that he had went up to Choice, so we were
14 just looking for any foot traffic in that area.
15 Unfortunately, the majority of it is too far away. So
16 even if you see somebody walking, you'd never be able to
17 tell who they were. There wasn't really anything on there
18 that we could succinctly say, oh, yes, that's
19 Mr. Whitfield, or no, that's not Mr. Whitfield. I
20 couldn't tell you.

21 Q. So it's possible that he's on the video --

22 A. Sure.

23 Q. -- but it's also equally possible he's not?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Okay. No way of telling. Did you review all of

1 the footage?

2 A. Yeah. During that timeframe, yeah.

3 Q. Okay. And what did you do next?

4 A. On the 24th, we had the invest. During the
5 invest, we found out about the car that was still at the
6 house. We got --

7 Q. This is the volvo?

8 A. Yeah. We didn't know if it had potentially any
9 evidence in it. So we went and had it taken to one of our
10 bays, had it processed on the exterior and sealed and then
11 got a warrant. There was nothing in the car.

12 Q. So then it was returned I think?

13 A. I believe it was, yes.

14 Q. Was it drivable? Do you recall?

15 A. I don't think it was. I know they made a
16 statement about how the battery kept going in and out.

17 Q. It sounds like you don't recall now whether or
18 not it was?

19 A. I don't think we ever started it up, so I have
20 no idea.

21 Q. Got it. There was an indication just a few
22 lines ahead that potential DNA evidence, so like swabs
23 were submitted to the forensic lab.

24 A. They were.

25 Q. Did you ever receive any kind of return from the

1 forensic lab with regards to their findings?

2 A. Yes. Yes.

3 Q. Obviously, it wouldn't have been that day or
4 even the next day.

5 A. No.

6 Q. It was some time in the future. Can you tell me
7 what you received? was it anything of evidentiary value?

8 A. Yeah. So there were -- there's so much. I
9 should have printed them off and brought them here. You
10 have them. You can see on some of the guns,
11 Mr. Whitfield's DNA is on there. I believe Mr. Graham's
12 DNA is on some of the stuff. There may be even Darren
13 Barnes. I would have to go back through. But it looks
14 like there's pretty much DNA across the board. To
15 decipher how they put that in, yeah, you'd need a
16 flowchart.

17 Q. Okay. And whatever you were going to tell me
18 about whose DNA was on what evidence --

19 A. I know the backpack that they got I believe had
20 Mr. Whitfield's and I want to say Darren Barnes or whoever
21 the other individual was that was involved in that. I
22 can't think of his name.

23 Q. Mr. Green, Rodney Green.

24 A. Yes. Yes. I know there was mixtures on that
25 type of stuff.

1 Q. But I guess just in terms of all that
2 information, that was just reported to you. It's not
3 because you did any of the analysis yourself?

4 A. No. No, no.

5 Q. Did you ever speak with any of the analysts
6 about their findings?

7 A. No. I mean, they put it in their report, so it
8 is kind of what it is. They'll put it in to the
9 probabilities in like numbers that I don't even know
10 exist.

11 Q. Did you get anybody to do a flowchart of all
12 that?

13 A. No, but I probably should, as well as that's
14 went over. Probably wouldn't hurt.

15 Q. So we discussed the Volvo. It looks like
16 exactly five years ago, so 2/25/2021, you and Detective
17 Mensah attempted to speak with Julia Gary. Do you know if
18 you had done any kind of research regarding Julia Gary
19 before trying to speak with her?

20 A. I don't. Yeah, I don't remember.

21 Q. Okay. As you sit here right now, I mean, do you
22 know anything about Julia Gary?

23 A. I don't. I don't even remember going there.

24 Q. Okay. Ms. Gary refused, so it sounds like you
25 never had any contact with her?

1 A. Yeah. If we showed up and they said -- if we
2 walk in and they say they won't come down, they don't
3 force them. All right. We turn around and left.

4 Q. And you didn't try again?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And you told me earlier that you don't recall
7 ever speaking with Detective McQueen about his
8 investigation into his case?

9 A. I don't. It's possible I did, but I don't
10 recall talking to him about it.

11 Q. Do you recall speaking with the prosecutor who
12 was handling that case?

13 A. No. Again, very possible. I just don't.

14 Q. All right. I think we talked about the volvo
15 enough. Nothing was found there. Okay. Anything else?
16 I mean, I think the next thing that's kind of interesting
17 is any contact with the medical examiner's office?

18 A. So they just basically provided the report, the
19 manner and cause, and we collected the -- I believe
20 Detective Mensah collected the CDRs with the autopsy
21 photos. And then it also has the medical examiner's
22 photos I think when they first arrived on scene and
23 photographed the victims as well.

24 Q. Did you speak to anybody at the medical
25 examiner's office?

1 A. I don't recall. I know I went through the
2 report showing where --

3 Q. Do you mean for your kind of distillation in
4 your own report the summarization of the findings from
5 that?

6 A. Yeah. I don't know if I talked to Dr. Ignacio
7 himself. Generally I wouldn't because he's pretty busy.
8 It may have just come from me summarizing his report.

9 Q. It sounds like you weren't present for the
10 autopsy?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Was there anybody else from your office who was?

13 A. I have no idea. I don't believe so. We
14 generally don't go to those.

15 Q. So Detective Bilbrey as the crime scene
16 detective wouldn't necessarily have gone. I think Gaddis
17 was maybe assisting him?

18 A. They may have. They may have went to collect
19 the projectiles. That's possible. If there was
20 projectiles in the body, then, yeah, that's very possible
21 they were up there for that. I don't know. I can
22 definitely say I didn't go.

23 Q. And it sounds like the sending of the reports
24 and then the sending of like the CDR with the photographs
25 and maybe somebody picking up the projectiles was the

1 extent of the communication from the medical examiner's
2 office to your office?

3 A. Yeah. Probably, yeah.

4 Q. Did the -- did any of the information you
5 received from their office --

6 A. I would say this.

7 Q. Go ahead.

8 A. You would want to talk to Detective Bilbrey
9 because he would have had contact with the medical
10 examiner investigator too quite a bit. So whatever
11 investigator came out, they would have been in touch and
12 contact throughout the process. He would have let them
13 know when the autopsies were going to be, all that stuff
14 before the autopsy report came out, any information, what
15 it looks like it was going to probably be. They don't
16 ever give a determination, but generally, when you're the
17 person, the scene or whatever that's there when they pick
18 them up, you're kind of attached to that. So he may have
19 better answers on that, had more communication than what I
20 would have had.

21 Q. Okay. That makes sense. Having reviewed what
22 you received from the medical examiner's office, did you
23 have any questions or concerns?

24 A. I did not, no.

25 Q. And so you didn't reach out to them to talk

1 about anything further it sounds?

2 A. Not that I can recall, no.

3 Q. In reviewing the information about the injuries
4 in the medical examiner's report, was there anything that
5 was inconsistent in what you saw in the medical examiner's
6 report versus what you discussed with Mr. Whitfield on the
7 16th?

8 A. I don't know. That's a weird question.

9 Q. That's not something you were looking for
10 necessarily?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. So you don't know?

13 A. Right. Can I use the restroom?

14 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Yeah, let's take a break.

15 (Break at 11:52 a.m. and deposition resumes at
16 11:57 as follows:)

17 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

18 Q. Okay. So we're back from our break, and I think
19 we were talking about some things that you did at the
20 beginning of March in 2021. Was there anything else that
21 you did pursuant to your investigation?

22 A. So let's see. Subpoena preservation letter was
23 sent for Cornelius Whitfield's cell phone. More DNA.
24 Contacted the medical examiner's office. So either I
25 called them and talked to them or report -- I can't

1 imagine they read all this out to me. I would think this
2 came from --

3 Q. I would think so too. That seems like a fair
4 assumption.

5 A. Yeah. Collected video. The video we collected
6 from Choice was put into evidence. Detective Mensah put
7 the CDRs and the autopsy photos and projectiles -- so that
8 tells me if she picked those up on -- if she picked up the
9 projectiles on March 2nd, then nobody was at the autopsy
10 because they would have collected them while they were
11 there. They wouldn't have left them there.

12 Q. You said a few minutes ago it seems like it's
13 not really a policy to have the detectives at the autopsy?

14 A. I've been to one many years ago. Now, on
15 certain things they will. I don't know what the
16 determination is, but yeah, it's not an every time thing,
17 no.

18 Q. Was there a special reason why you attended that
19 one?

20 A. I was new, and I think my sergeant was trying to
21 mess with me. I'm good never going back. Have you ever
22 been to one?

23 Q. I've been to two.

24 A. It's awful.

25 Q. Yeah. Did you have any contact with any of the

1 next of kin besides Ms. Harila?

2 A. I don't know.

3 Q. Okay. Does the name Rashad Whitfield, the
4 brother of Cornelius ring a bell?

5 A. The brother, I remember the brother. I don't
6 know if I ever spoke with him. I may have tried to.

7 Q. I saw something about you attempting contact.

8 A. Right, but I don't know if we ever actually
9 talked.

10 Q. It sounds like you might have had some contact
11 with him over the phone.

12 A. It's possible.

13 Q. Do you recall if it was anything more than
14 wanting to speak with him in person, like communicating
15 that to him I mean?

16 A. The only thing I can think of as to why is just
17 to maybe try to get an understanding of the family dynamic
18 and what was going on. Obviously, you have Ms. Harila
19 saying he's been acting strange since getting out of
20 prison. Just trying to verify some of the stuff. Like I
21 said, I'm not here to judge. I want to paint the complete
22 picture and let people decide what's what. It's not for
23 me to say. Yeah, that's just trying to have a better
24 understanding of what's happening, and it's not surprising
25 because a lot of people don't really want to talk to us.

1 Q. So it sounds like your recollection is not
2 having ever spoken with Mr. Rashad Whitfield in depth?

3 A. I don't remember talking to him.

4 Q. Okay. How about Ms. Japanna or Panna Whitfield,
5 his sister?

6 A. I remember that name, but I don't know if I ever
7 speak with her either. I don't know if that came up
8 because of the daughter, Mya.

9 Q. She is Mya's mom, yes.

10 A. Yes. So I remember seeing the name, but I don't
11 know if I ever spoke with her.

12 Q. Any other family members that --

13 A. I have no idea.

14 Q. Now, I know you had mentioned that there were a
15 lot of family members who went to see Ms. Harilal at the
16 hospital.

17 A. Yeah. I did not see any of them.

18 Q. You never went back to the hospital?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you know if there were ever any kind of
21 meetings that like next of kin or Ms. Harilal and other
22 people had with anybody at the department?

23 A. I don't know. It's possible the victim
24 advocate. I don't know.

25 Q. Do you know if Demark and Elizondo had anymore

1 contact with Ms. Harilal?

2 A. I do not know. I know they had the contact
3 before -- after the first homicide and before the second.

4 Q. After the first, before the 16th.

5 A. I don't know if they had anything else with her.

6 Q. Okay. Do you know if there were any officers
7 who had contact with Rashad or Japanna?

8 A. I do not know.

9 Q. Do you know anything about contact with family
10 the day of the homicides, like the 16th at the scene?

11 A. So I would have had very little contact with
12 family because I was doing all the other stuff. I did not
13 provide the next of kin notification. So once that's
14 done, yeah, there would be followup with Ms. Harilal for
15 the invest, and obviously, we had her come in and provide
16 a followup statement. There wouldn't have been a lot. I
17 would have made it clear with Ms. Harilal, anybody has any
18 information, please have them call me. Here's my number.
19 Call me any time. Phone is on 24-hours a day.

20 Again, we have a -- you also have to keep in
21 mind, we have a very compact crime scene and very compact
22 kind of timeline. So if they didn't actually view what
23 happened, if they weren't actual witnesses to it, then,
24 you know --

25 Q. Okay. So you were interested in speaking with

1 family members who were potential witnesses?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay. Were you made aware of any like family
4 members or loved ones who went to the scene, not
5 necessarily witnesses?

6 A. Me personally, no. I read in the reports that
7 people were trying to run into the scene, which not
8 uncommon. I've had that happen before. Again, emotions
9 are super high, so I get it. I know they detained a guy
10 and then let him go after when he calmed down a little
11 bit. Again, not judging him. I understand, the situation
12 is terrible. They did the right thing by releasing him.
13 Yeah, I didn't -- I knew about that, but I had no
14 interaction or involvement with it.

15 Q. Are you aware of any items of evidentiary value
16 that were found at the scene. I know you mentioned
17 something earlier, but I wanted to make sure we dig into
18 that.

19 A. There was a backpack, guns. I believe there was
20 obviously cell phones, but I don't know how much
21 evidentiary value there were in those. Drugs, but again,
22 I don't know how much evidentiary value that was in my
23 case. The backpack. I think there was a laptop.

24 Q. Okay. So I want to just kind of break all that
25 down. None of these things were found by you. Is that

1 right?

2 A. No. I was not there.

3 Q. You told me earlier that your recollection of
4 like your interaction with the home was you might have
5 stopped by very late on the 16th or very early on the 17th
6 or both?

7 A. Both, yeah.

8 Q. It sounds like you didn't progress past the
9 porch?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you ever progress past the porch?

12 A. Not that I can recall, no.

13 Q. Did you ever go back into the home?

14 A. The only time we went into the home or went to
15 the home was to get the car. I don't think I ever
16 actually went through the whole house. I went through the
17 FARO, the video and the photos, but I never felt the need
18 to go into the house. I generally try to stay out of
19 crime scenes when I can. When we know we're going to have
20 a bunch of people in there already, I don't want to
21 contaminate it more. Also, if it's a tight space, I'm
22 just going to knock stuff over.

23 Q. So Bilbrey, as the crime scene detective, would
24 he have been there during the processing?

25 A. Oh, yes. Yeah, he would have been there the

1 entire time.

2 Q. Okay. So you named a couple of things that were
3 obviously interesting to you that made some sense for the
4 case.

5 A. Really the only thing interesting in my case is
6 the guns.

7 Q. Okay. So tell me about what you know about the
8 guns and like where they were found.

9 A. My understanding, I think the majority of them
10 were found in the backpack. I would have to go back and
11 look at the reports, but I think they were in the
12 backpack.

13 Q. Do you know who found the backpack and where it
14 was?

15 A. I want to say it was Detective Taylor. I don't
16 know exactly. He described it, and then it was provided
17 to Detective Etcheson who was there as well assisting with
18 the scene. And then they took it to -- I think Detective
19 Huffman took the backpack after it was photographed and
20 whatever. They had a crime scene bus out there or
21 something. They took it inside and processed it in there
22 is my understanding.

23 Q. Goodness. It sounds like a game of telephone.
24 And this would have been after the serving of the warrant?

25 A. Correct, yeah. We wouldn't have collected

1 anything until the warrant was signed and read.

2 Q. Okay. You also mentioned that drugs were found
3 in the home?

4 A. I think they were in the backpack, but I'm not
5 even sure. Like I said, that really doesn't play any part
6 as far as I can tell into what I was dealing with.

7 Q. Are you aware of what kind of narcotics were
8 found?

9 A. I know they said marijuana. I want to say meth,
10 cocaine. Again, I'd have to go back and look.

11 Q. It sounds like right now, you're just kind of
12 going off your recollection, which might not be accurate?

13 A. Correct. I would have to look at it again.

14 Q. Generally, you believe there were drugs.

15 A. There was multiple types of drugs, yes.

16 Q. Do you know if they were all found together?

17 A. That I don't know.

18 Q. And certainly not found by you?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And is there any kind of testing that would have
21 been done of the packaging of the drugs or the drugs
22 themselves?

23 A. You would have to ask the techs. I don't know
24 what they're doing now. I know sometimes they can -- with
25 fentanyl and stuff, I know they're very careful in how

1 they handle that now.

2 Q. Not aware of fentanyl found in this case, right?

3 A. No. Not that I'm aware of, no. If you see a
4 white powder, you don't know, right? It's hard to
5 differentiate.

6 Q. In 2021, was that the supposition too?

7 A. I think so, yeah. As far as I know, if it's
8 white powder, you like, okay, we don't know. It could be
9 whatever. I think so. All the years are kind of starting
10 to meld together. When did fentanyl start? It was before
11 '21, right?

12 Q. Probably before '21.

13 A. Right. So you would have to ask the techs on
14 that. I know sometimes they can swab the bags. Sometimes
15 they can fingerprint the bags. I think they do it
16 case-by-case situational basis based on what they're
17 looking at. I don't know.

18 Q. Do you know if any of that was done in this
19 case?

20 A. I would have to go back and look at the reports.
21 I'm sure they did whatever it was that they needed to do
22 or directed to do.

23 Q. So it sounds like it's equally possible that
24 either swabs or fingerprinting was done as it is possible
25 that none of that was done?

1 A. It's possible. Again, I would have to look at
2 the reports to see.

3 Q. And are items like that retained in property and
4 evidence?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. So --

7 A. They may have been sent out for testing. But I
8 don't know they would be sent out for testing because I
9 don't think we charged anybody with it. I don't know why
10 they would send it out for testing is nobody is going to
11 get charged with it.

12 Q. And when you say testing, you mean to verify
13 what it was?

14 A. Verify, yeah.

15 Q. So it might just be that it's supposed that the
16 item found was marijuana or supposed the item found was
17 meth --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- without any kind of chemical analysis?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. I see. Okay. If there was a chemical analysis,
22 would that have come back to you as the lead?

23 A. Yeah. I did not send anything off, so --

24 Q. Okay. You know that this is a death penalty
25 case?

1 A. I'm aware.

2 Q. Do you have any thoughts about that?

3 A. I'll just say what I always say. Nobody wins
4 here.

5 Q. I think that's very true.

6 A. Everybody loses.

7 Q. Did Ms. Harilal or anybody else talk to you
8 about how they don't want Cornelius to be put to death?

9 A. I have not spoken with her about that. That
10 doesn't shock me, if that's the case. I don't have -- I
11 don't know. It's one of those things where it's like,
12 this is the job. It's not -- I'm glad that it's not for
13 me to decide.

14 Q. It seems like your impression of Mr. Whitfield
15 was that he was likely suffering from some sort of mental
16 illness?

17 A. It's possible for sure.

18 Q. Does that have any bearing for you in terms of
19 your investigation?

20 A. I mean, ultimately, that's really going to be up
21 to other people to decide. Like, I can't -- I'm not a
22 judge, and I'm not a jury. Again, I'm just trying to get
23 the facts in order and present them and let the people
24 decide. It's not my -- I don't ever take this stuff
25 personally. That's just a good way to get yourself dead,

1 the stress.

2 Nobody won here. It's a sad situation all the
3 way around. I probably told him during this that I wasn't
4 happy to see him there. Like, it doesn't make me happy to
5 know this happened or that he's sitting there being
6 accused of it. That's doesn't bring me joy. It never
7 does. There's never been a time where I've interviewed
8 somebody and I'm like, oh, yes. It's always been like,
9 ugh, but we're here now.

10 So I don't know. Again, I'm glad I'm not on a
11 jury. I'm glad that I just provide the facts and then
12 kind of be like, okay, you all have to make the bigger
13 decisions. It's not something that I'm really comfortable
14 doing.

15 Q. Did you listen to any jail calls?

16 A. I did not.

17 Q. Okay. Do you know if there was anybody
18 listening to calls related to your case?

19 A. That I do not know. I don't know if Detective
20 Mensah was listening as part of hers. It wouldn't
21 surprise me if she was. Seems like something she would
22 do.

23 Q. Did you review any kind of jail communications
24 besides calls?

25 A. I feel like there was maybe letters sent or

1 something, but I don't recall.

2 Q. And did you have any kind of further
3 involvement? Anybody that Mr. Whitfield might have had
4 contact with at the jail, might have --

5 A. Not that I can recall, no.

6 Q. So you didn't participate in any DIU interviews?

7 A. No. Once he -- once we were done, I've not
8 talked to him since. Once he has representation, I'm out.

9 Q. I don't just mean Mr. Whitfield. I mean like if
10 he had made alleged statements to somebody else, do you
11 recall participating in any kind of potential proffer?

12 A. Oh, proffers. No, I don't believe so. I don't
13 think anything has ever come up like that.

14 Q. Okay. Did you ever have any contact with Rodney
15 Green?

16 A. He came -- I believe I sat in on an invest
17 because I think we held both of them together. He's the
18 one who was shot in the throat?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Yes, he was there. I didn't really talk to him.
21 I just stood by while they had the invest.

22 Q. Any contact with him after that?

23 A. Not that I can recall, no.

24 Q. Did you ever have any contact with Deronrick
25 Green, Rodney Green's brother?

1 A. I don't believe so, unless -- not that I can
2 recall. Not in reference to any of this stuff. Again,
3 with Mensah's case, that was pretty much all -- she had
4 that all taken care of. I'm not one to step on toes or go
5 out of line.

6 Q. At a certain point, it sounds like her case was
7 kind of assigned to you after she left the unit?

8 A. Correct, for follow-up stuff, like the
9 re-download of his phone, stuff like that.

10 Q. Was there anything else that you did, or were
11 you just kind of like sort of babysitting the case in case
12 anything was needed?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. So you didn't do any further investigation?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Are you aware of anything happening over at the
17 jail, like Mr. Whitfield being targeted as a result of the
18 crime?

19 A. No. I've not heard anything.

20 Q. No tips into your office about him? Anything
21 like that?

22 A. Maybe there was at first, but I don't think so.
23 I think it was -- I don't remember there being any tips.

24 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Okay. I don't have -- I
25 don't have anymore questions on the case. Anybody else?

1 MR. MCGREEN: No.

2 MS. RUSSELL: I do not.

3 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

4 Q. I do have a question though. Are those Meta
5 glasses?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Have you been using them in any way during our
8 conversation?

9 A. No. They light up if I do, so you would know.

10 Q. Oh, okay. What kind of fancy things are you
11 able to do with them?

12 A. Bluetooth. I can respond to texts with them,
13 make phonecalls with them.

14 Q. So you're not pulling up reports on your
15 glasses?

16 A. No. Unfortunately, my wrists are too fat for
17 the band. They made me wait for six weeks because you had
18 to do a demo, and you could only do it -- the only place
19 within like 400 miles was the Best Buy on Dale Mabry. So
20 I waited and waited, and they finally called me and said,
21 yeah, come in on this Sunday. So I went in there on that
22 Sunday, and as soon as I walked in, they're like, Yeah,
23 no. I was like -- I live in Ellenton.

24 Q. Rude.

25 A. I was like, well, what do you mean? They're

1 like, Let's see your wrists. They're like, yeah, the band
2 is not going to fit you. In order to control a screen,
3 you have to have the band because it measures your muscle
4 movements. I was like, You guys couldn't have just put
5 that as a disclaimer on there. I went through this thing
6 like eight times looking.

7 Q. Are you using it in your work?

8 A. No.

9 Q. No?

10 A. No, no, no.

11 Q. It seems like it would be a valuable tool.

12 A. We've had discussions about it, just like we've
13 had discussions about AI. I think there's probably maybe
14 applications for it. Like, my thought was I would love to
15 use them when I'm interviewing people on the street
16 because I don't care. If they're going to subpoena my
17 glasses, here you go. I've got nothing to hide, so I
18 don't really care. I don't know that they want to deal
19 with the legal ramifications of whatever that may be stuff
20 that's far out of my realm of thinking. So -- but, yes,
21 it would come in handy. I would like to do that, but I
22 have not.

23 Q. They're your personal glasses?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Not department-issued. Is the department using

1 AI for anything?

2 A. Not that I'm aware of, no.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. This is -- the discussion always comes up
5 because we're like -- at a certain point, there's things
6 that would be easier. Like, I am pushing for the
7 promotions exam. I'm like, why are we paying people to do
8 this. Just dump our general orders in there and have it
9 create a test.

10 Q. Yeah, or even just like basic analysis.

11 A. Correct. I'm sure there's ways it will be used,
12 but I know they want to be very careful. When I say that,
13 I don't mean investigative techniques or report writing
14 techniques, but like if you're doing statistical -- like
15 you said, statistical stuff or, hey, what area should --
16 what area should we have drones readily available or what
17 areas should we have cameras readily available. You know
18 what I mean? That type of stuff, I think it would be very
19 helpful. Everything is slow. You see how long it took us
20 to get body cams.

21 Q. Fair. What are your thoughts on body cams?

22 A. I love them.

23 Q. Same.

24 A. I thought it was the greatest idea ever. I was
25 like, finally, do it. I don't have anything to worry

1 about. I can go to bed at night and sleep. That's all I
2 care about, can I sleep at night.

3 Q. Okay. So in terms of like kind of upcoming
4 things, it sounds like you're still writing your report
5 with regards to the cell phone?

6 A. Just these, yes.

7 Q. That's the only kind of ongoing portion of this
8 investigation?

9 A. I believe so. I don't think in the
10 re-downloads -- the one re-download, according to Lisa --
11 she has a term for it. They're not getting -- even the
12 years later when they redid it last year, they're still
13 just getting fragments. It's not a full download for
14 whatever reason. She had has a term for it.

15 I didn't see anything out of the ordinary on
16 there that was like, oh, this is groundbreaking. You guys
17 should have copies of that now from last year.

18 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Yes.

19 A. So that I don't know. I think I already did the
20 reports on those. That was the last thing.

21 Q. Any other outstanding requests to any other
22 agencies, like FDLE, Pinellas County Forensic Lab?

23 A. I don't think so. I think everything should be
24 done. The only thing that's come up is with re-downloads
25 of the phones and then actually downloading those ones.

1 Now, it may be we may need to talk about the laptop
2 because we haven't downloaded the laptop.

3 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: The one that was found
4 inside of the backpack?

5 THE DEPONENT: Correct.

6 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Okay.

7 A. So that's still --

8 Q. So that's just sitting in property and evidence?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Never was submitted for an extraction?

11 A. No. So we would have to do a warrant for that
12 because we don't know who it belongs to.

13 Q. Have you been asked to do any other types of
14 investigations regarding Mr. Whitfield like in terms of
15 his history, anything like that?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And is any of that part of the file that you now
18 have been babysitting on the other case? Do you know --

19 A. His criminal history might be in the digital
20 files with the rest of the stuff, but generally, I don't
21 ever -- it's very rare that I even need a criminal history
22 because what I'm looking at really has nothing to do with
23 it. To me, if we're trying to generate PC for something
24 like say this guy is a prolific burglar or whatever, okay.
25 On a homicide like this, what does it matter, the past

1 stuff. Let's just --

2 Q. So you haven't pulled records. Possibly
3 Detective Mensah did, but it would have just been a
4 criminal history, not --

5 A. Yeah. The only thing that would have come out
6 would have been the criminal history, and I would have
7 requested one of our analysts to provide it to me. But
8 again, that's -- usually, if that's done, it's just, hey,
9 just make sure we have it in case we need it. I
10 generally -- cases that I work, it plays very little part
11 in anything. It's more of just have it just in case.

12 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: I don't think I have anymore
13 questions. Anything else? Anybody?

14 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: No. Just real quick, the
15 downloads of all of these telephones that you just gave us
16 the thumb drive for, that was done by warrant?

17 THE DEPONENT: All but Sallie. Sallie's was on
18 her person. So, yeah, we did not need a warrant for that.
19 The other two were found. One of them appears to be
20 Antonio Graham's. The other one appears to be Patricia's.
21 When you go into it, all of the accounts have a Patricia
22 Sharp e-mail linked to the accounts that were on the
23 phone. But there's very little communication or texting
24 or anything on there. It's what you would expect with
25 elderly females.

1 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

2 Q. I don't -- I can't imagine I'll have more
3 questions for you once that report comes in, but just in
4 case, I'm going to suspend the deposition as a result.

5 A. That's fine.

6 Q. I just want to tie up with some questions. Have
7 you understood all the questions that you've been asked
8 today?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Have you had an opportunity to answer everything
11 fully and completely?

12 A. I hope so.

13 Q. Is there anything -- sitting here right now, is
14 there anything that you feel like you want to either
15 elaborate upon or change regarding the testimony that
16 you've given?

17 A. As of now, no. I would like to read.

18 Q. Of course, yeah. So what I would ask is -- I
19 know that you're kind of juggling a lot of information
20 because you're covering two cases now essentially, some of
21 which have ongoing requests. So if there's anything that
22 you feel like you inadvertently left out from our
23 conversation today, would you be so kind as to reach
24 out --

25 A. Oh, yes, absolutely.

1 Q. -- to Ms. Taktikos-Danzig's office or my office
2 to let us know. I'll suspend the deposition as a result
3 of some things not being completed. I don't know that
4 we'll need to call you back in. I will reserve your right
5 to read. I know Tammy is very efficient, so I'm sure that
6 this will be done post haste.

7 Oh, I actually did have one more question. I
8 filed a motion to suppress statements in this case. Have
9 you read that motion?

10 A. I thought maybe it was sent to me a few months
11 ago, but I can't find it. So I don't know that I was. I
12 think I might have just been told the details on it. I
13 can get it off of Odyssey, I believe.

14 Q. Okay. It wasn't homework. I was just wondering
15 if you had read it in advance of our conversation.

16 A. No, I need to. No, I have not.

17 Q. So it sounds like your plan before testifying is
18 to read that motion?

19 A. Oh, yes. Of course.

20 Q. Is your plan also to read Detective Mensah's
21 deposition that she gave in conjunction with the other
22 case?

23 A. I can. I didn't think of that. Am I allowed
24 to?

25 Q. Now I'm sorry that I suggested that.

1 A. Am I allowed to? I don't know. The court
2 stuff, it's not --

3 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Your testimony isn't going
4 to change from what you did.

5 THE DEPONENT: Right. That's true.

6 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Okay. Based on those
7 questions, anybody else have any questions?

8 MS. RUSSELL: No.

9 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: we'll suspend the deposition
10 and reserve your right to read.

11 THE DEPONENT: Thank you.

12 (Deposition concludes at 12:23 p.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 DETECTIVE
6 JASON HARRIS personally appeared before me and was duly
7 sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 17TH day of
9 February, 2026.

10
11 Tamara M. Pacheco

12 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
13 COMMISSION # 474485
14 EXPIRES: March 30, 2028
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)
4

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

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

15
16 Tamara M. Pacheco17 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
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IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL V. CORNELIUS WHITFIELD

NAME OF DEPONENT: JASON HARRIS

CASE NUMBER: 21-01513CFANO - 21-01099CFANO

PAGE	LINE	ERROR/AMENDMENT	REASON FOR CHANGE
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Date

* Firearms test find in this case *

21-10023

Taurus 709

9mm
2731014
|

LEAD-used in 21-10023 (#C)

Taurus PT111

9mm
2731017
|

LEAD-used in 21-10023 (#D)
273

Haskell JS45

45 Auto
2731020
|

NO LEADS

Smith & Wesson M1945

45 Auto
2731011
|

LEAD-used in 21-10023 (#A)

LEAD-used in 21-4037 (Em #36)

