

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2021-01513 CFANO

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STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD

Defendant.  
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TAKEN BY: Defendant  
DATE: June 12, 2025  
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 10:43 a.m.  
PLACE: Criminal Justice Center  
14250 - 49th Street North  
Clearwater, Florida  
REPORTED BY: Sharon K. Allbritton  
Shorthand Reporter  
Notary Public  
State of Florida at Large

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DEPOSITION OF  
DETECTIVE CAMREN K HUDSON  
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## APPEARANCE:

THOMAS KOSKINAS, ESQ.  
ANTHONY BRADLOW, ESQ.  
Assistant State Attorney  
14250 - 49th Street North  
Clearwater, FL 33762

JULIA B SEIFER-SMITH, ESQ.  
MARGARET RUSSELL, ESQ.  
LAMARK MCGREEN, ESQ.  
Assistant Public Defender  
14250- 49th Street North  
Clearwater, FL 33762

P R O C E E D I N G S

WHEREUPON,

OFFICER CAMREN K HUDSON

the deponent herein, being first duly sworn, was  
examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

Q Can you please state your name for the  
record?

A Camren Hudson.

Q We're here in the matter of Cornelius  
Whitfield. Our court case number is 21-01513 CF. We  
have a police case number of 2021-006023.

My name is Julia Seifer-Smith. I'm an  
assistant public defender, together with Margaret  
Russell and Lamark McGreen. We represent Mr.  
Whitfield. Also present from the state are Tony  
Bradlow and Tom Koskinas.

Detective Hudson, can you tell me what, if  
anything, you reviewed before being sworn in by the  
court reporter for the deposition this morning?

A I reviewed my report.

Q I have a short report that was authored on  
February 17th, is that the same one that you took a

1 look at?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Having reviewed that report, did that  
4 jog your memory as to your involvement in the case?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Can you tell me how you got involved?

7 A We was training, S.W.A.T. was training that  
8 day. As we was about to leave we had a call up in  
9 reference to somebody was shot.

10 Q I guess my other question is, I understand  
11 S.W.A.T. is kind of like a part time job?

12 A Yes.

13 Q So like you respond to all calls but you're  
14 gonna have like a normal day-to-day job--

15 A Yeah, normal day. That day we just training.  
16 It was S.W.A.T. week--

17 Q S.W.A.T. week.

18 A -- so that whole week, we just train the  
19 whole week.

20 Q What at the time, like in 2021--

21 A (Phone ringing). I'm sorry.

22 Q It happens. In 2021, like February 2021,  
23 what was your other job like with the department, like  
24 what unit were you in?

25 A I think I was on patrol. I was in vice and

1       narcotics.

2           Q       Okay. Did you have any previous involvement  
3       in either this case or any other cases involving  
4       Cornelius Whitfield?

5           A       No.

6           Q       Okay. So when you became involved as a  
7       member of the S.W.A.T. team, was this the first time  
8       you had ever heard that name?

9           A       Yes.

10          Q       So you're at this training and you get a call  
11       up, like a S.W.A.T. call up.

12          A       Yes.

13          Q       So what did you do?

14          A       Switched gears. Load up my vehicle and drove  
15       to the area of Emerson and 30th. 30th Street and  
16       Emerson Avenue.

17          Q       Is that area familiar to you for any reason?

18          A       Yes.

19          Q       Why is that?

20          A       I work that district. That was my zone area.

21          Q       The particular address of 2968 Emerson  
22       Avenue, is that home familiar to you for any reason?

23          A       I went to that home earlier in my career like  
24       once or twice.

25          Q       Do you remember what for?

1           A       I can't remember.

2           Q       Like drugs, domestic violence? Anything ring  
3 a bell?

4           A       It don't ring a bell. I just remember the  
5 house, the layout of the house. I think we was  
6 looking for somebody or something, got called for  
7 something. Not involving--

8           Q       Not involving Mr. Whitfield?

9           A       No.

10          Q       Do you recall who it involved?

11          A       No.

12          Q       Was it of another family member of his?

13          A       I have no idea. I don't know if it's the  
14 same residence, same people who lived there.

15          Q       Do you remember about when that was?

16          A       I got hired in 2016, so between 2016 and  
17 2021.

18          Q       Okay, narrowing it down.

19          A       Yeah.

20          Q       Okay. So what did you do once you arrived at  
21 that particular intersection where you all were  
22 staging?

23          A       I met with the S.W.A.T. commander to get our  
24 assignments. He advised me to get in the front seat  
25 of our armored vehicle and I will be the one to talk

1 to him over the PA system.

2 Q Okay. So tell me what happened next?

3 A After everybody was assigned, everybody will  
4 load up in the vehicle. We drove to the address and  
5 parked on the street right in front of the house, to  
6 the north west of the house on the Emerson Avenue.

7 Q So it sounds like you all staged about a half  
8 a block away?

9 A About a block away we staged.

10 Q What were your initial observations of the  
11 home?

12 A No movement.

13 Q Did you hear anything coming from the home?

14 A No.

15 Q Would you have been able to inside of --

16 A No.

17 Q And so what did you do next?

18 A Got on the PA system, asked for Whitfield to  
19 come out.

20 Q And did you all have to ask more than once?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. What happened?

23 A I eventually seen movement. Then I said -- I  
24 seen the movement inside the house like through the  
25 blinds or whatever, then I yelled for his name again,

1 told him to come out. He started slowly coming out  
2 outside of the front of the house. Then I asked him  
3 to like lift his shirt up and turn around. Do you  
4 have any weapons in his waistband. And after that,  
5 that's when the other S.W.A.T. operators took over the  
6 scene by directing him to them.

7 Q So all these commands that you were giving to  
8 Mr. Whitfield, were those all given from inside of the  
9 BearCat?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And you said you observed movement  
12 like somebody looking through the blinds?

13 A It looked like slight movement inside.

14 Q And he was then told to come outside with his  
15 hands up and he did so?

16 A Yes.

17 Q So he followed instructions?

18 A Yeah, he followed instructions.

19 Q Were you able to like see his face from where  
20 you were?

21 A Like I said, I didn't know how he looked, but  
22 I could see his face, yes.

23 Q Can you describe him in terms of like his  
24 expression, his demeanor?

25 A Just monotone. It was a black male. No, not



1 crying, not happy, just like still face. Just walking  
2 out complying to my commands.

3 Q Did you hear or see him say anything?

4 A No.

5 Q I know you might not have been able to hear  
6 it from inside the BearCat.

7 A No, I didn't see him like respond, say  
8 anything about responding to what I was saying, he  
9 just reacted.

10 Q And he was following your instructions?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You said at one point you told him to like  
13 lift his shirt up?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Did he do that?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And did you see any weapons?

18 A No.

19 Q Did you see anything on him like any bags,  
20 like any bulging pockets, anything like that?

21 A I couldn't see from that distance.

22 Q Okay. And at a certain point did you get out  
23 of the BearCat?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Was that before or after Mr. Whitfield was

1 already in custody?

2 A After he was in custody.

3 Q Did you observe him being taken into custody?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Who did that?

6 A Other members of the S.W.A.T. team.

7 Q You don't recall the names right now?

8 A No.

9 Q And did you see any kind of resistance from  
10 Mr. Whitfield during that time?

11 A No.

12 Q Did you see any kind of search of Mr.  
13 Whitfield by those officers?

14 A I think they probably-- that's recommended  
15 for a search pat down before we placed him in the  
16 vehicle. Like I don't recall, but they probably did  
17 it.

18 Q As we sit here today you don't remember  
19 seeing that?

20 A No.

21 Q When you got out of the BearCat what did you  
22 do?

23 A Approached the house. We rushed up to the  
24 house, looked inside, see like three people dead  
25 inside the house.

1 Q Do you remember where you saw them?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Where?

4 A There was a lady on the couch in front of us  
5 facing north. There was another lady on the couch.  
6 Like they had like an ottoman. Like two couches, like  
7 L shape couch. Laying on this couch. And the guy on  
8 the floor on the right laid down on the floor.

9 Q Anything notable about that?

10 A They were not responsive. The guy -- I think  
11 one of the ladies had like a pen in her hand. I still  
12 remember to this day. She had a pen in her hand like  
13 she was writing something. She had a pen in her hand.  
14 And that's it. That's the noticeable thing I remember  
15 from that scene.

16 Q You just kind of raised your right hand. Was  
17 it her right hand that you recall--

18 A I don't know which hand she was writing with.

19 Q Just it was remarkable to you that she still  
20 had a pen in her hand?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And did you do anything else inside of the  
23 home?

24 A We knew that there was a little kid in the  
25 house still. They found her in one of the rooms.

1       Somebody had passed her to me and then I passed her to  
2       another S.W.A.T. operator and they took her outside.

3           Q       And you're kind of like brief moments with  
4       her, did you observe any kind of physical injuries to  
5       the child?

6           A       No, I didn't see nothing.

7           Q       And did she say anything while she --

8           A       No. She was quiet.

9           Q       Did she see anything in the home?

10          A       Did I see anything?

11          Q       Did she. Like--

12          A       Oh, I didn't question her. I didn't talk to  
13       her.

14          Q       Okay. And did you do anything else in the  
15       home?

16          A       No, that's it.

17          Q       And it sounds like besides like the commands  
18       from the BearCat you didn't have any contact with Mr.  
19       Whitfield?

20          A       No.

21          Q       Did you do anything else on this case?

22          A       Nope.

23          Q       Did you participate in any kind of debrief  
24       regarding your part?

25          A       Oh, yeah, we did a debrief. About like after

1 every S.W.A.T. call up we meet up together and have a  
2 debrief about what we could have done better, what  
3 took place, what didn't take place. And just for  
4 everybody to know, have an understanding of what took  
5 place.

6 Q Do you recall any kind of suggestions about  
7 what could have been done better?

8 A I don't recall.

9 Q Anything else that you remember being  
10 important or relevant to your involvement?

11 A No.

12 Q I don't think I have any further questions.

13 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Anybody else?

14 MR. KOSKINAS: No, that's it. Thank you for  
15 your time.

16 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Oh, hold on.

17 EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. RUSSELL: I just have a quick followup.

19 Detective, tell me how many years have you  
20 worked on S.W.A.T.?

21 A I just left S.W.A.T. this year, so five  
22 years.

23 Q And so you started in 2020?

24 A Yeah, 2020.

25 Q Okay. And the training is once a month?

1           A       Once a month, but once a year we have a week  
2 long training.

3           Q       All week. How many times during those years  
4 that you worked for S.W.A.T. was S.W.A.T. actually  
5 deployed on average?

6           A       I think that same week we were deployed the  
7 day before. I think the day before or day after that.  
8 But I can't remember exactly a number. I know I was  
9 deployed previous to that but I don't remember when.

10          Q       So, I mean, is it on the average like once or  
11 twice a year, once or twice a month? I'm not gonna  
12 hold you exactly to it but I'm just kind of curious.  
13 Is it like a hundred times over the course of your  
14 time or --

15          A       From 2020 to 2021, from like two, three  
16 times. Average between one and five times.

17          Q       A year?

18          A       Yes.

19          Q       So it's kind of a unique experience when you  
20 do get deployed considering it doesn't happen very  
21 often during the year?

22          A       Not really because we train for it, like  
23 different scenarios. Because we have other people  
24 that have been on the S.W.A.T. team and we go off of  
25 their experiences and what they seen. So we try to --

1 I can't think of the word. We try to imitate what  
2 they've seen in the past and how to do the safest best  
3 way for us and whoever else we got, the suspect, to  
4 get them or whatever. I can't even think of it right  
5 now. But, yes.

6 Q Of all the times that you were deployed over  
7 that period of time, how many times did you see a wall  
8 taken down on the front of a house?

9 A A few times.

10 Q The house on Emerson Avenue?

11 A I seen that house, yes.

12 Q Was that the only time?

13 A After -- before 2021?

14 Q Well just in your time on S.W.A.T. So you  
15 said you were on S.W.A.T. for five years --

16 A I've seen it a few times. I've seen stuff  
17 taken down before on S.W.A.T., a door, a wall. Like  
18 it wasn't actually a wall. It was like a screened in  
19 front porch that was taken down. A screened in porch.

20 Q So is that kind of rear? Would you say  
21 that's pretty rear?

22 A Not when we was told that the mom got shot  
23 and probably three other victims that was shot inside  
24 the house and a kid inside the house as well with the  
25 suspect. You got to do what you go to do to get some

1 type of vision, visibility inside the house.

2 Q Okay. Thank you, detective.

3 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it?

4 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: That's it.

5 MR. KOSKINAS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

6 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 10:43 A.M.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA       )  
COUNTY OF PINELLAS    )

I, the undersigned authority, certify that  
DETECTIVE CAMREN HUDSON, personally appeared before me  
and was duly sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 15  
day of JUNE, 2025.

*Sharon Allbritton*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon K. Allbritton

Notary Public  
State of Florida  
Commission# HH307873  
Expires: January 1, 2027

I have read the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 16, inclusive, and herewith subscribe to same as a correct transcription of the answers made by me to the questions herein recorded, subject to corrections below.

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DETECTIVE CAMREN HUDSON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## CORRECTIONS

PAGE / LINE#

COMMENTS

[illegible]

1 STATE OF FLORIDA )

2 COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

3 I, SHARON K. ALLBRITTON certify that I was  
4 authorized to and did stenographically report the  
5 deposition of SGT. CAMREN HUDSON; and that the  
6 transcript is a true record of the testimony given by  
7 the deponent.

8 I further certify that I am not a relative,  
9 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,  
10 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
11 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am  
12 I financially interested in the action.

13 Dated this 15 day of JUNE, 2025.

14  
15  
16 *Sharon Allbritton*

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
SHARON K. ALLBRITTON