

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2021-01513 CFANO  
2021-01099 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: 10:44 a.m. - 10:55 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  
OFFICER EDWARD M REGAN  
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## APPEARANCE:

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

JULIE 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 EDWARD M REGAN

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 My name is Edward Regan. R-e-g-a-n.

Q We're here in the matter of Cornelius  
Whitfield. I have two court case numbers, which is  
one supplement report numbers. So our court case  
numbers are 21-01099 CF and 21-01513 CF. I have a St.  
Petersburg Police Department case number of  
2021-006023, which should be on the report in front of  
you.

A That's the one I have.

Q And it looks like you wrote a report with a  
supplement date of 2/16/21? At least that's what I  
see at the top.

A That's it.

Q Okay. Did you have an opportunity to review  
this report before getting started?

1           A       I did.

2           Q       And having reviewed that report did it jog  
3 your memory as to your involvement in the case?

4           A       It did.

5           Q       So as we sit here today you have an  
6 independent recollection of your involvement in the  
7 matter?

8           A       I do.

9           Q       Great. So let's get started. It looks like  
10 February 2021 you were a member of S.W.A.T.; is that  
11 right?

12          A       Correct.

13          Q       And you became involved in this case pursuant  
14 to a S.W.A.T. call up; is that right?

15          A       Correct.

16          Q       When you got the call up was the name  
17 Cornelius Whitfield familiar to you for any reason?

18          A       We had heard about the case.

19          Q       Tell me about that?

20          A       Just throughout the department just of what  
21 happened, but no direct information as to the  
22 specifics of the case. We had heard that the incident  
23 happened and they were looking for this person, but  
24 nothing specific about him.

25          Q       So was this a previous incident and that

1       they're looking for him, or is this the incident on  
2       February 16th that you're talking about?

3           A       It was a different -- it was another  
4       incident, but I remember the name Cornbread. I just  
5       remember the name Cornbread and that they were looking  
6       for him and that's it.

7           Q       Were you involved in any part of that  
8       previous investigation?

9           A       No. No information, no knowledge of it  
10       whatsoever.

11          Q       So when you get this call out you're like,  
12       oh, that rings a bell?

13          A       Yeah. Just like I kind of know what but I  
14       have no -- I really had no idea but I just know the  
15       name.

16          Q       Once you got the call up what did you do?

17          A       What did I do. I responded to the scene and  
18       I was assigned to the rescue team.

19          Q       What does that mean? I'm not super familiar  
20       with S.W.A.T. protocols?

21          A       What's the rescue team?

22          Q       Yeah.

23          A       The rescue team, it would be a team that is  
24       put in close proximity as we are gaining information  
25       and intelligence about what is happening at the moment

1 to react to anything that happens at that location  
2 should we need to.

3 Q So does that mean like if there are people  
4 who need rescuing you are part of the team that would  
5 rescue them?

6 A If that were to emerge as things are  
7 unfolding on scene, we would have been the ones to  
8 make the rescue or make the arrest or what have you,  
9 whatever needed to be done at the moment.

10 Q Who was on your immediate team, like in the  
11 group that you were like immediately involved with?

12 A It was myself, Officer Jordan at the time,  
13 officer. Officer Peters. And we had two S.W.A.T.  
14 medics.

15 Q And where did you all go?

16 A We went to the alley south and west of the  
17 target, which would have been the west side of 30th  
18 Street, and we held in that area as the other team  
19 members went to a different location.

20 Q Was the address 2968 Emerson Avenue South  
21 familiar to you for any reason?

22 A No.

23 Q So like no previous calls out that you've  
24 been on?

25 A No.

1           Q     And did you receive any kind of information  
2     from colleagues like while you were at the location  
3     that you described?

4           A     No.

5           Q     Were you able to hear anything going on?

6           A     It was a lot of chatter over the radio and  
7     giving out information about what was occurring at the  
8     time, yeah.

9           Q     Were you able to hear anything from the home,  
10    like not necessarily from --

11          A     No. We were too far away.

12          Q     Okay. And were you able to observe anything  
13    like with your eyes?

14          A     I was just looking at the house from my  
15    respective position, which was behind a house on the  
16    west side of that 30th Street.

17          Q     And what did you observe happen?

18          A     I observed our team going up to get in  
19    position, and then our equipment kind of working to --

20          Q     Tear the house apart?

21          A     To make a hole in the house, yeah.

22          Q     Were you able to see Mr. Whitfield come out  
23    of the house from where you were?

24          A     No, I did not see him come out.

25          Q     Did you just hear about this via the radio?

1           A       Yes.

2           Q       Okay. Was there any kind of description of  
3       like what he was doing other than that he was just  
4       like coming out of the house and complying with  
5       commands?

6           A       Not that I can recall from memory. At the  
7       time it was happening and at the moment right now I  
8       don't remember what the exact description was.

9           Q       Okay. And did you see him taken into  
10      custody?

11          A       I didn't.

12          Q       Did you hear about him being taken into  
13      custody?

14          A       I believe it was advised over the radio.

15          Q       Just he's been taken into custody?

16          A       Right.

17          Q       So I'm assuming, but please correct me, that  
18      when something like that happens you would assume that  
19      the threat has abated?

20          A       Correct. So like my team didn't move up. We  
21      would not have moved up unless he was secured. So  
22      once he was secured we moved up.

23          Q       So tell me what happened then? You hear that  
24      he's been taken in custody, so then that kind of  
25      triggers action by you all. What did you do?



1           A       So once he was taken into custody I moved up  
2       with my team. We approached the south west door of  
3       the residence.

4           Q       And can you tell me what you observed at that  
5       point?

6           A       We began clearing the house. And as we  
7       entered the house there was just stuff everywhere from  
8       just the way the house was lived in and the holes made  
9       by our equipment. So we made our way through that.

10          Q       I've heard from some people that they  
11       described it as a hoarder house. Does that, like for  
12       you, does that seem like an accurate description?

13          A       Not judging somebody's lifestyle, but the  
14       best description from what you see on TV, there was a  
15       lot of stuff in the whole entire area. For lack of  
16       better terms, not to be negative on somebody's  
17       lifestyle, you could call it a hoarder house.

18          Q       Like a lot of personal belongs?

19          A       Everywhere, yes.

20          Q       Well, I guess with debris everywhere from a  
21       torn out wall it would appear probably a little bit  
22       dirty at that point?

23          A       Not dirty, but there's stuff in the way. I  
24       mean, there was stuff -- I mean, stuff from the  
25       debris, stuff from the house. It was all just stuff

1        everywhere.

2            Q        Okay. Did you make your way through the  
3        house?

4            A        I did. I went through that -- there's like a  
5        south west room. I don't know what you would call it.  
6        Then we went through the kitchen and into the living  
7        room.

8            Q        Can you tell me what you observed in the  
9        living room?

10          A        I saw three victims. They appeared to be all  
11        shot. There were two older black females and one  
12        younger black male. The first older female subject on  
13        the couch on the east wall. The second older female  
14        subject on the couch on the south wall. And the male  
15        subject on the floor towards the west side of the  
16        living room.

17          Q        Did you approach these people?

18          A        I did approach them to look at them. I  
19        looked for circulation, breathing, or any other  
20        indications that they may still be alive and need aid,  
21        medical aid, immediate medical aid, and they did not.  
22        They were motionless. They appeared to be dead to me.

23          Q        Did you touch them?

24          A        I don't recall touching anybody. I don't  
25        think I did.

1           Q     Do you know if your team was the first to  
2     come into the house?

3           A     We were.

4           Q     And during this time like are you recording  
5     like what your observations are in the house like over  
6     the radio?

7           A     When I had the opportune moment once the--  
8     because we're in the building looking for anybody who  
9     needs assistance or any other threat. So once those  
10    tasks are completed and I have an opportunity to get  
11    on I will get on and communicate whatever I need to  
12    communicate, whether it's we need rescue, we have  
13    this, we have that. So I don't recall if I  
14    communicated that on the radio because we were still  
15    actively clearing the house.

16          Q     Okay. I know that this wasn't like your  
17    primary purpose of going into the residence to look  
18    for things of evidentiary value.

19          A     Right.

20          Q     But did you see anything that seemed like it  
21    was evidence in the case?

22          A     Can I refer to my report?

23          Q     Absolutely.

24          A     No.

25          Q     What else did you do in the home?

1           A       So once we got to that living room area with  
2       the three subjects, we then proceeded to the north  
3       west bedroom and we entered the room. Upon entering  
4       that room we observed, or I observed a black female  
5       child. She was no more than two to three years old.  
6       She was sitting upright on the bed and just looking  
7       directly at us.

8           Q       When you saw her did she appear to be  
9       injured?

10          A       She looked like she was terrified, but she  
11       was not injured.

12          Q       Did you see any blood or anything on her?

13          A       No.

14          Q       And did she say anything?

15          A       No.

16          Q       And the entire time you had contact with her  
17       did she say anything?

18          A       Nothing.

19          Q       So you see this child, what do you all do?

20          A       I believe -- well, let me look at my report.  
21       Sergeant Jordan at the time, he took custody of the  
22       child and I proceeded out of the room and started  
23       clearing the rest of the house.

24          Q       Okay. So it was Officer Jordan who was then  
25       in charge of like the custody of the child at that

1 point?

2 A For the moment, yeah.

3 Q Did you observe anything in the other rooms  
4 that you went into, like anything of note?

5 A Nope.

6 Q Anything else that you did in terms of your  
7 involvement in the case?

8 A Nope, nothing else.

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

10 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Anyone else.

11 EXAMINATION

12 BY MS. RUSSELL:

13 Q Did you happen to have any conversations with  
14 colleagues afterwards?

15 A Colleagues?

16 Q Yes, about the things that happened that day  
17 and what you observed?

18 A No. Just on the scene one of our guys was  
19 shaken up and I just kind of coached him and said what  
20 I said to him to kind of help him out on processing it  
21 on a personal level. But as far as anything police  
22 related, tactical related or professionally related,  
23 no.

24 Q And who was that?

25 A That was Sergeant Jordan.

1           Q     All right. Very good. Thank you.

2                   MR. KOSKINAS: That's it. Thanks.

3     Appreciate it.

4                   (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 10:55 A.M.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA       )  
COUNTY OF PINELLAS    )

I, the undersigned authority, certify that  
OFFICER EDWARD REGAN, 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





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 OFFICER EDWARD REGAN; 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  
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