

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

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD

Defendant.

TAKEN BY: Defendant
DATE: June 12, 2025
TIME: 11:41 a.m. - 11:47 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

DEPOSITION OF
OFFICER BRIAN P LYNCH

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APPEARANCE:

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

JULIA 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,

BRIAN P LYNCH

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 Brian Lynch.

Q We're here in the matter of Cornelius
Whitfield. Our court case number is 21-01513 CF. I
have a St. Petersburg police case number of 2021-6023.

Is that what you have in front of you?

A Yes.

Q Great. My name is Julia Seifer-Smith,
together with Margaret Russell and Lamark McGreen, we
represent Mr. Whitfield in this matter. Also present
is Tom Koskinas from the state.

Can you tell me what, if anything, you
reviewed before being sworn in by our court reporter?

A I have the written report from -- well I was
a field training officer that day, and I had a
probationary Officer Haugland with me. She's the one

1 who wrote the report, but she was under my
2 supervision.

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

5 A It does, yes.

6 Q Was there anything else that you reviewed?

7 A No, just the report.

8 Q Was there anything else that you thought you
9 might need to take a look at before we--

10 A No.

11 Q Can you tell me what your job was back in
12 February of 2021?

13 A I was a field training officer.

14 Q And it sounds as though you had a trainee
15 with you.

16 A That shift, yes.

17 Q Trainee Haugland; is that right?

18 A Haugland.

19 Q H-a-u-g-l-a-n-d; is that right?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Okay. And how long had Haugland been with
22 you?

23 A Just a few weeks.

24 Q So still like probationary period?

25 A Correct.

1 Q And can you tell me how you got involved in
2 this case?

3 A I was operating as a field training officer
4 on February 16, 2021. I was dispatched at 1640 hours
5 to the area for just occurred person shot in the area
6 of Emerson Avenue and 30th Street. Upon my arrival I
7 was told by command to block all vehicle and
8 pedestrian traffic in the area of -- I'm sorry, let me
9 get the exact address. 6th Avenue South and 31st
10 Street I believe was what we were blocking.

11 Q And so is that what you did?

12 A Yes. I was on scene just blocking traffic at
13 6th-- west side of the intersection at 6th Ave South,
14 31st Street South.

15 Q Okay. And did something occur while you were
16 located at that intersection?

17 A There was a subject later identified as Lamar
18 Whitfield. He was running away from this
19 intersection. He was detained and identified as a
20 family member of one of the subjects involved.

21 Q Sorry, was he trying to run towards the crime
22 scene?

23 A He was trying to get under the crime scene
24 tape into the crime scene.

25 Q I see. Okay. And was he detained by you or

1 Haugland?

2 A Haugland and some other officers on scene
3 detained him, yeah.

4 Q And can you describe him for me, like what
5 you remember of him physically?

6 A I cannot actually, no. Black male.

7 Q And it sounds like at a certain point, not
8 necessarily right at that moment, he was identified as
9 Lamar Whitfield, a family member of some folds who
10 were involved.

11 Can you tell me how that identification came
12 to be?

13 A I believe he had ID on him.

14 Q Did he say anything that you recall?

15 A I didn't interview him, no.

16 Q Do you recall him shouting anything or saying
17 anything like while he was being chased or detained by
18 other officers?

19 A I do not.

20 Q Do you remember what his demeanor was?

21 A Upset.

22 Q Can you describe what he was doing that makes
23 you say that?

24 A He was upset that he was being -- at the
25 situation. Crying, you know. Obviously mad about the

1 whole situation, yelling.

2 Q Do you remember what he was saying?

3 A I couldn't give you an exact quote of what he
4 was saying.

5 Q Do you recall him saying anything about
6 Cornelius or Cornbread?

7 A I do not, no.

8 Q Do you remember anything at all that he said,
9 like any words?

10 A Nothing memorable, no.

11 Q And do you know how old about Mr. Lamar
12 Whitfield was at the time, like would you be able to
13 give an approximate age?

14 A I couldn't estimate.

15 Q Did you get very close to him at all or was
16 it really just other officers?

17 A Other officers were with him.

18 Q And it sounds like Officer Haugland was
19 closer than you were at the time; is that right?

20 A She assisted in handcuffing him, detaining
21 him.

22 Q Did she actually like have personal contact
23 with him, like a conversation with him, do you think?

24 A I don't believe so, no.

25 Q Do you know if anybody did have a personal

1 conversation with him?

2 A I couldn't tell you.

3 Q And did he actually get on to the crime scene
4 itself?

5 A No.

6 Q And did Officer Haugland make it through her
7 probationary period; is she an officer?

8 A She's no longer with us.

9 Q But she made it through her probation period?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Do you know why she left?

12 A I don't know.

13 Q Did you work with her on any other cases?

14 A On this case she was training. So we had
15 other investigations we did, yeah.

16 Q Anything else that you think is important or
17 relevant to your involvement in this case that we
18 haven't discussed?

19 A No. It was pretty straightforward.

20 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Anybody else have any
21 questions?

22 MS. RUSSELL: Just a quick one. When you
23 were in the vicinity of Lamar Whitfield did you notice
24 any odors?

25 A Any what? I'm sorry.

1 MS. RUSSELL: Odors.

2 A No.

3 MS. RUSSELL: Anything about the smell of
4 alcohol?

5 A No, I did not.

6 MS. RUSSELL: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it.

8 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 11:47 A.M.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
OFFICER BRIAN LYNCH, personally appeared before me and
was duly sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 21
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 BRIAN LYNCH; 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 21 day of JUNE, 2025.

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15
16 *Sharon Allbritton*

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SHARON K. ALLBRITTON
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