

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: 11:47 a.m. - 11:53 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 JOHN PACE

PAGES 1-12

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,

OFFICER JOHN PACE

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SIEFER-SMITH:

Q Can you please state your name for the
record?

A My name is Officer John Pace. P-a-c-e.

Q We're here in the matter of Cornelius
Whitfield. Our court case number is 21-01513 CF. I
have a St. Petersburg Police Department 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 is Tom Koskinas from the state. I have a
sort of like half page report from you as well as some
body worn camera footage.

Can you tell me what, if anything, you
reviewed in connection with this case before being
sworn in by our reporter?

A I had three body cam videos that I reviewed

1 and my report.

2 Q Having reviewed those items, did they jog
3 your memory as to your involvement in the case?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Was there anything else that you thought that
6 you might need to review before you went further?

7 A No.

8 Q Okay. Can you tell me what your job was back
9 in February of 2021?

10 A I responded out to the scene regarding the
11 S.W.A.T. call up and the whole incident at the house
12 on Emerson Avenue. I took a position at the
13 intersection of Emerson Avenue and 31st Street for
14 traffic control, blocking off the intersection, and
15 putting up crime scene tape.

16 Q So your responsibility was like that of a
17 patrol officer at the time?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. When you were involved in that
20 particular job, did you have any contact with
21 civilians in the area?

22 A A bunch.

23 Q Can you tell me kind of generally like what
24 those interactions might have been?

25 A There was a lot of people out there. More

1 specific, if we're getting specific, one person in
2 particular.

3 Q I know there's one person in particular
4 but --

5 A The--

6 Q -- is there-- was anybody giving you any kind
7 of information about incidents or people that were
8 like at the subject residence?

9 A What do you mean?

10 Q Like were you receiving any kind of
11 information from the community about like what was
12 going on, what had happened, like anything that you
13 thought was important?

14 A Nothing that I would think that was important
15 or relevant from where I was at.

16 Q Was it more people like looking for
17 information?

18 A I would say so, yeah.

19 Q And it sounds like at a particular time there
20 was some, I don't know if you would call it an
21 incident, but there was something of note that
22 occurred while you were out --

23 A Yeah, there was one person. So where I was
24 at we had crime scene tape on two locations, on the
25 east side of the intersection and the west side of the

1 intersection, kind of like two different barriers, due
2 to where I was at for the intersection. So most of
3 the civilians that were coming out to see kind of what
4 was going on and standing by, were on the west side of
5 the road.

6 There was a white sedan that had showed up.
7 A male subject exited the vehicle, ran under the crime
8 scene tape as we tried to stop him. He then ran south
9 to the next intersection where other officers wound up
10 stopping him.

11 Q Can you describe this person to me?

12 A It was a black male. And he's on my body cam
13 video so I don't remember exactly what he was wearing.
14 And I didn't really have any other interaction with
15 him other than trying to tell him to stop. And he
16 went down to the next intersection where other
17 officers stopped him.

18 Q Any particular impressions of him like in
19 terms of his appearance, his demeanor, like did he
20 seem upset, was he yelling anything?

21 A I believe he was yelling that it was his
22 family at the house. I don't remember verbatim
23 without watching my body cam video.

24 Q Do you remember if he said anything about
25 Cornelius Whitfield or Cornbread or Bread, anything

1 like that?

2 A Not that I recall. Again, without reviewing
3 the video I don't remember verbatim offhand.

4 Q And it sounds like he appeared to be upset.

5 A Yes.

6 Q And so that was obvious to you even though
7 you weren't necessarily like right on top of him?

8 A Correct.

9 Q And was he the only person in that vehicle,
10 the one that he exited?

11 A I don't recall.

12 Q Okay. It sounds like your attention was
13 drawn to him as he was moving?

14 A Say that one more time.

15 Q Your attention was drawn to him as he was
16 moving, not necessarily checking the, I guess
17 occupants of the vehicle?

18 A Yeah, because the vehicle arrived very
19 quickly to the scene. He jumped out, ran under the
20 crime scene tape. And that's-- I was focused on that
21 aspect.

22 Q And he was running towards the scene; is that
23 right?

24 A Yeah. So he was travelling east on Emerson
25 on the west side of the intersection towards 31st

1 Street. The vehicle was parked. He jumped out, came
2 under the crime scene tape where I was at, and then
3 turned south and went down to the next intersection.

4 Q Did you have any personal contact with him?

5 A No.

6 Q He was stopped by other officers?

7 A Correct.

8 Q And do you know who those officers were?

9 A I believe Officer Lynch was one of them. And
10 I don't remember who else was down there because we
11 had a lot of people at the intersection.

12 Q And you didn't have any further contact with
13 him after that?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you go back to your initial position
16 after that?

17 A Yeah. I stayed at -- so because we had so
18 many officers between the two intersections, I was
19 yelling at him to stop, and kind of the other officers
20 took over as he went south.

21 Q Okay. Any interactions with anybody else --

22 A Nope.

23 Q -- like any other civilians?

24 A Just civilians in general talking about kind
25 of why we're there, and to stay on one side of the

1 tape and whatnot.

2 Q Is the name Cornelius Whitfield familiar to
3 you for any reason?

4 A Just from the police report. Nothing that I
5 can of, any other interactions with him.

6 Q Okay. I don't have any further questions.

7 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Anyone else?

8 MS. RUSSELL: Just one. Did you have any
9 further contact with colleagues after that to talk
10 about the case or what happened or what everyone
11 thought happened?

12 A I'm sure it was spoken about just in general,
13 but I don't remember anything specific.

14 MS. RUSSELL: Any recollection of anything
15 anyone told you or --

16 A No.

17 MS. RUSSELL: All right. Thank you.

18 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it. Thanks for your
19 time.

20 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 11:53 A.M.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
OFFICER JOHN PACE, 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

I have read the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 9, 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.

OFFICER JOHN PACE

Date: _____

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 OFFICER JOHN PACE; 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.

14
15 *Sharon Allbritton*

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SHARON K. ALLBRITTON
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