

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: 2:05 p.m. - 2:10 p.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 WILLIAM A VICKERS

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APPEARANCE:

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

JULIA SIEFER-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 WILLIAM A VICKERS

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 William Vickers.

Q We're here in the matter of Cornelius
Whitfield. My court case number is 21-01513 CF. I
have a St. Petersburg Police Department case number of
2021-6023. Is that what you have?

A Yes, ma'am.

Q Great. My name is Julia Seifer-Smith. I'm
an assistant public defender, together with Ms.
Russell and Mr. McGreen, and we represent Mr.
Whitfield. Also present for the state are Theo Danzig
and Tom Koskinas.

Did you have an opportunity to review the
report that you wrote in connection with the case?

A I did.

Q Was there anything else that you reviewed in

1 connection with this case before being sworn in by our
2 court reporter?

3 A No, ma'am.

4 Q Was there anything else that you needed to
5 review before going further?

6 A No, ma'am.

7 Q Having reviewed that report, did that jog
8 your memory as to your involvement?

9 A Very minor.

10 Q Do you remember anything about your
11 involvement in this case?

12 A I managed traffic while everybody did their
13 thing at a location near Fremont, 31st.

14 Q It sounds like you had contact with somebody,
15 like a member of the community at some point.

16 A Based on what I reviewed in the report, yes.
17 Somebody claimed to be a stepfather I believe.

18 Q As you sit here today do you actually
19 remember having a conversation with this person?

20 A Not one bit.

21 Q So you don't remember what this person looked
22 like or anything like that?

23 A No, ma'am.

24 Q Based upon what you wrote in your report it
25 sounds like, for whatever reason, your contact with

1 this person was notable enough that a report was
2 written.

3 Do you know why this person would have been
4 important for you to make note of?

5 A It's pretty common practice that if you get
6 information relating to a case of this nature, that
7 you followup with all your actions and any
8 observations. Somebody claiming to be, per my report,
9 stepfather of a child, and knowing the mother of the
10 child, would be reasonable information to pass along
11 and to note.

12 Q Okay. So this person approaches you. Are
13 you holding a crime scene or are you just of like --

14 A Traffic.

15 Q Traffic. Okay. And he identifies himself as
16 Albert Andrews; is that right?

17 A According to my report, yes, ma'am.

18 Q And that he was the stepfather of a child was
19 who was located within a crime scene that was being
20 investigated by St. Petersburg police?

21 A To my knowledge. I had no direct involvement
22 with the scene. I had no direct involvement with any
23 of the investigation at all.

24 Q But the traffic role that you were playing
25 was in connection with that crime scene; is that

1 right?

2 A Yes.

3 Q So it makes sense that somebody's gonna
4 approach a police officer believing them to be
5 associated in some way with that particular crime
6 scene, right?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q So Mr. Andrews tells you that the mother of
9 the child is out of state?

10 A According to my report, yes, ma'am.

11 Q And so what did you do with this person, like
12 did you provide him with additional information, like
13 what was that --

14 A I relayed the information to Sergeant Gaskins
15 and Major Furse who told me to let him know that the
16 child had been transported, was okay, and that they
17 requested him to respond to police headquarters so he
18 could be interviewed.

19 Q Do you know if he did go to headquarters?

20 A No clue.

21 Q And you did not conduct any further interview
22 of Mr. Andrews; is that right?

23 A No, ma'am.

24 Q And it's indicated in your report that Mr.
25 Andrews was on the phone with Japana Murray, who is

1 the child's mother.

2 Did you ever speak with her on the phone?

3 A No, ma'am. Someone claiming to be. That's
4 who he said he was on the phone with.

5 Q You didn't speak with her. Did you overhear
6 her on the phone? Like --

7 A No, ma'am.

8 Q -- did you hear anything that was said?

9 A No, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. And is it Sergeant Gaskins and Major
11 Furse, are they or were they your supervisors at the
12 time?

13 A They were not my supervisors. My supervisor
14 at the time is retired Sergeant Genolisi (phonetic).
15 Sergeant Gaskins is a District 1 sergeant. This
16 happened at the time that she would have been working.
17 This occurred in District 1. I don't remember what
18 Major Furse's role was at the time, but I believe he
19 was a district major at the time.

20 Q Okay. Did anybody come over to escort Mr.
21 Andrews anywhere or did you just give him directions
22 on like where to go?

23 A I just told him that he needed to go -- was
24 asked to go to the station. And I continued trying to
25 manage traffic on 31st Street, which is a pretty busy

1 roadway.

2 Q Anything else in terms of your involvement in
3 the case that we haven't discussed?

4 A No.

5 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Anybody else have any
6 questions?

7 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it. Thank you, sir.

8 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 2:10 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
OFFICER WILLIAM A VICKERS, 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 8, 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 WILLIAM A VICKERS

Date: _____

CORRECTIONS

PAGE / LINE#

COMMENTS

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 WILLIAM A VICKERS; 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*

17 _____
SHARON K. ALLBRITTON