

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: 2:11 p.m. - 2:23 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
FORENSIC TECHNICIAN KAITLIN BEAM

PAGES 1-17

APPEARANCE:

THOMAS KOSKINAS, ESQ.
THEODORA DANZIG, 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,

FORENSIC TECHNICIAN KAITLIN BEAM

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 Kaitlin Beam.

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
2021-006023.

Is that what you have in front of you?

A Yes.

Q My name is Julia Seifer-Smith. I'm an
assistant public defender, together with Margaret
Russell and Lamark McGreen we represent Mr. Whitfield
in this matter. Also present is Theo Danzig and Tom
Koskinas from the state.

Can you tell me what, if anything, you
reviewed in preparation for you deposition today?

A My report and my photographs.

1 Q Having reviewed those items did that jog your
2 memory as to your involvement in the case?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And my understanding is that you were a
5 forensic tech in February of 2021?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And was that your role and responsibility
8 with regards to your involvement in this case?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Can you tell me how you came to be involved
11 and when that was?

12 A So I was assigned to respond to the scene. I
13 got there just before 6 o'clock in the evening.
14 Myself and two other technicians were tasked with
15 photographing and processing the scene, as well as the
16 victims that were there.

17 Q And that was on the 16th; is that right?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Do you know who requested that you come to
20 the scene?

21 A One of the detectives. I met with Detective
22 Bilbrey out at the scene.

23 Q And when you got there and you had a meeting
24 with Detective Bilbrey, what were you told, if
25 anything?

1 A That S.W.A.T. was used to get the suspect out
2 of the residence. And that there were three victims
3 inside and a fourth one had run down the street to a
4 different house to seek help. She was transported to
5 the hospital. And the other three were deceased
6 inside the residence.

7 Q And, I'm sorry, I think you said that you
8 went with, was it one colleague, more than one
9 colleague?

10 A Goodman and Lansbury were both there.

11 Q So there were three of you from your unit?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Was there any kind of decision making in
14 terms of like who was gonna have what kind of role or
15 responsibility from the forensics unit?

16 A I think we discussed amongst ourselves who
17 was gonna do what.

18 Q And what was it determined that you would do?

19 A I was going to photograph the house that the
20 living victim ran to, and the house with the deceased
21 inside, and then photograph each of the deceased and
22 their injuries when they came out of the house.

23 Q And it looks like you also took videos; is
24 that right?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And in what order would you have done that,
2 video first, photographs?

3 A Videos, then photographs.

4 Q And so there are a number of videos. Can you
5 just explain to me briefly why there are so many?

6 A So we found that trying to shoot one straight
7 video makes it very difficult to view, so instead we
8 stand in one spot, pan up, down, left, right, stop it,
9 go to the next spot and continue on until we get
10 everything that we need rather than trying to shoot it
11 in one straight video.

12 Q And so you documented in, it looks like kind
13 of a property note, that there were 26 videos that
14 were taken; does that seem right?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And, again, the documentation would have been
17 for the crime scene itself of 2968, the home that the
18 surviving victim ran to, the pathway. Both
19 essentially?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And was there any kind of assistance that you
22 had from any colleagues either within the forensic
23 unit or from the Major Crimes Unit in doing your work?

24 A In the video or everything in general?

25 Q Everything in general I guess.

1 A No, we each kind of did our own thing, I
2 think.

3 Q So it sounds like videos first and then you
4 undertook the photographs; is that right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Were you asked to photograph anything in
7 particular or did you get to determine what you
8 thought might be of evidentiary value?

9 A So I just did mostly overall photographs as
10 far as I could go into the residence, since all the
11 damage from what S.W.A.T. did. And then when the
12 victims were pulled out of the house and once the
13 medical examiner arrived, I did all of the close ups
14 of the injuries and stuff like that.

15 Q And is this, like were you doing all of this
16 on that particular evening?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And it was February so it started to get dark
19 kind of early, right?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Was there anything that was done in order to
22 I guess kind of like have additional light, like were
23 lights put out or were you just relying on the flash
24 from the camera?

25 A For photographs it would have been the flash

1 from the camera. But we have portable lighting that
2 we put up to be able to process the victims once they
3 came out.

4 Q And that's what you did?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did you go inside of the home?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Did you go inside of the home that evening?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Was there anything done in order to like
11 shore up a wall? It looked like it had been partially
12 pulled down in a number of places.

13 A I don't think anything was put in place, we
14 just went as far as we could safely and make our way
15 back out.

16 Q Okay. And was there anything about like what
17 had been done by S.W.A.T. that made your work maybe
18 more or less difficult?

19 A There's a lot more debris than there normally
20 would have been.

21 Q Did it make like finding things more
22 difficult?

23 A I don't think -- I wasn't really in charge of
24 searching the house or anything. We were just working
25 to get the victims out, so I wasn't really looking for

1 anything evidence wise beyond getting to them.

2 Q Just in terms of like generally of like
3 looking at the scene itself after S.W.A.T. had been
4 there and done their damage, did it appear as though
5 like their work to get into the house like damaged
6 anything that you would have considered like of
7 evidentiary value?

8 A I guess it's possible that there would be
9 damage to walls and surrounding furniture depending on
10 where the bullets went. Because at least two of the
11 walls were missing in the room where they all were.

12 Q And you took I think it was 366 photographs;
13 is that right?

14 A Yes.

15 Q So you document the photographs, like in
16 terms of the documentation, starting at like 3036
17 Emerson Avenue South, which I guess was identified for
18 you as the neighbor's home to which the surviving
19 victim ran?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Can you tell me like how you determined to
22 like photograph these particular things that you
23 document there?

24 A I believe a detective either came with me or
25 had been down there already, advised what was there

1 that was of interest to them and then I photographed
2 it.

3 Q And did you collect anything?

4 A Yes. So on one of the chairs there was some
5 clothing, it was a shirt and then a jacket as well.

6 Q And this is all from 3036?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What did you do with those items?

9 A Those items were collected, and then back at
10 the lab laid out to be photographed.

11 Q So does this mean, just from looking at your
12 report, that you started at 3036 and then went back to
13 2968 Emerson?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. And then back at 2968, did you work
16 your way from like out to in in terms of like your
17 photographs?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And was there a determination of like what to
20 photograph outside or just a general documentation of
21 what you were seeing?

22 A Just general documentation.

23 Q So you weren't told by anybody to photograph
24 anything in particular?

25 A No.

1 Q And did you go any further than the living
2 room inside of the home? And by living room I mean
3 that first room where the deceased were.

4 A I think there was a room next to the garage.
5 That's where we cut through to get in and out of the
6 house. I think the garage was jam packed with stuff
7 so I sat in the doorway to photograph that, cut
8 through the kitchen and then I got to the living room.

9 Q And you didn't go any further than the living
10 room?

11 A No.

12 Q And the photographs that you took, were those
13 in the house? I'm sorry, the photographs of the
14 victims, did you take those in the house?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And did you do any like processing, like DNA
17 or fingerprints of any of these people?

18 A So once they were brought out, since there
19 were three techs and three victims we each processed
20 one.

21 Q And so you're responsible for processing Mr.
22 Graham?

23 A Yes.

24 Q The swabs that you took, were those for the I
25 guess potential identification of DNA?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And it looks like it's pretty like a standard
3 kind of number and from standard places; is that
4 right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q It's kind of like a two step protocol would
7 you say?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And you also collected a buccal from him?

10 A Yup.

11 Q Was the Medical Examiner's Office there, or
12 somebody from the Medical Examiner's Office there for
13 this portion of your work?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you know what the medical examiner
16 personnel was doing; were they assisting you or were
17 you assisting them?

18 A For photographs they were assisting like
19 rolling the body. For processing, I can generally do
20 that by myself.

21 Q And you also collected fingernail scrappings
22 and clippings from Mr. Graham; is that right?

23 A Yes.

24 Q As well as his clothing?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And it looks like you were there for what,
2 about six and a half hours; does that seem about
3 right?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Did you do any additional work back at the
6 station that night or not until the following day?

7 A The items that were collected were placed in
8 a dryer since they were bloody, and then the following
9 day is when I packaged them.

10 Q Okay. And package them for what purpose?

11 A To be submitted in to evidence.

12 Q And would that have just been like to go into
13 evidence and then whomever is responsible for the case
14 can make a determination to have them analyzed
15 further?

16 A Yes.

17 Q But that's not your responsibility; is that
18 right?

19 A Right.

20 Q Any further work on the 17th?

21 A No.

22 Q Any further work on the case?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you have any kind of conversations with
25 your colleagues about their work on the case?

1 A No.

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

3 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Anybody else?

4 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it. Thanks for your
5 time.

6 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 2:23 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
KAITLIN BEAM, 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 14, 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.

KAITLIN BEAM

Date: _____

CORRECTIONS

PAGE / LINE#

COMMENTS

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school handwriting practice paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the entire width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

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 KAITLIN BEAM; and that the transcript is
6 a true record of the testimony given by the deponent.

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

12 Dated this 21 day of JUNE, 2025.

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15 Sharon Allbritton
16 SHARON K. ALLBRITTON
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