

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case Number: 2021-01513CF

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CORNELIUS TREVON WHITFIELD,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION OF:

KAYLA LANSBERRY

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

August 12, 2025

TIME:

2:34 p.m. - 2:47 p.m.

PLACE:

Pinellas Co. Justice Center
14250 49th Street - 1100-4
Clearwater, FL

REPORTED BY:

Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
Notary Public, State of FL

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 KAYLA LANSBERRY

3 (the deponent herein, being first duly sworn, was examined
4 and testified as follows:)

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. SEIFER-SMITH:

7 Q. Can you please state your name for the record.

8 A. I'm Forensic Service Technician Kayla Lansberry.

9 Q. Very Patient Forensic Technician Kayla
10 Lansberry. We are here in the matter of Cornelius
11 Whitfield. My name is Julia Seifer-Smith. Together with
12 Margaret Russell and Lamark McGreen, we're assistant
13 public defenders, and we represent Mr. Whitfield in this
14 matter. Our court case number is 21-01513CF. I also have
15 a St. Petersburg Police Department case number of
16 2021-006023. Is that what you have in front of you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you tell me what, if anything -- oh, I
19 apologize.

20 MS. TAKTIKOS-DANZIG: Theodora Danzig for the
21 State.

22 Q. What, if anything, did you review prior to being
23 sworn in by our court reporter?

24 A. I was semi-able to review the video footage that
25 I took and then my photographs. It was, like, locked on

1 the main screen, but if I clicked on each one
2 individually, I was able to visualize it.

3 Q. I imagine that was very tedious.

4 A. A little bit. And then I reviewed my report.

5 Q. Having reviewed what you were able to of those
6 items, did that jog your memory at all in terms of your
7 involvement in the case?

8 A. A little bit. My involvement was pretty small
9 for this case. I think so anyway.

10 Q. And I imagine that since February of 2021,
11 you've had a number of other cases that you worked on of
12 relatively similar nature?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So these things unfortunately kind of run into
15 each other.

16 A. A little bit.

17 Q. In February of 2021, what was your job with the
18 St. Petersburg Police Department?

19 A. I -- my job title?

20 Q. Your job -- yeah, job responsibilities. Just
21 kind of generally.

22 A. I've got the same job title now, same
23 responsibilities. I go out to crime scenes and document,
24 collect, and preserve evidence.

25 Q. Okay. How did you get involved in this

1 particular case, if you know?

2 A. I don't -- I think I was called in, but I don't
3 recall. I think I was off that day.

4 Q. Like --

5 A. I got called in to work this case.

6 Q. Are you guys, like, on call if there's like a
7 need? Is that how it works?

8 A. We can get called in. It's not like a mandatory
9 on call.

10 Q. Got it. Okay. So you get called in. Were you
11 told why you were being called in if you weren't actually,
12 like, on duty at that time?

13 A. We need you to come in to work a case. Then
14 when I get there, I'm briefed by my sergeant at the time,
15 who was Jay Clester.

16 Q. Was that a briefing that occurred at the
17 station, or was it at the site you were going to be doing
18 your work?

19 A. I do not recall.

20 Q. Do you know what you were told?

21 A. I do not recall.

22 Q. Do you remember anything, even like broad
23 strokes generalities of what you were told?

24 A. I think I was just told that SWAT had to knock
25 down the front of the house and that there were deceased

1 that need to be processed and a scene that needed to be
2 processed.

3 Q. Besides your sergeant, Sergeant Clester, do you
4 know anybody else from your particular unit that was
5 called out that day?

6 A. I do not recall. It was so long ago.

7 Q. Okay. And so it sounds like you were given a
8 couple of particular jobs to do at that home. Can you
9 tell me what those jobs were and what you did to prepare
10 for them?

11 A. My duties were to record video footage of the
12 interior of the residence. I believe I only went up to
13 the deceased in the living room, and then we didn't go
14 further than that. I believe we closed the scene and was
15 relieved, or we sealed the scene for the night and
16 continued in the morning.

17 Q. Is there anything you have to do to prepare for
18 taking video like that?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. Just like get out the camera and start
21 rolling?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And do you do it from like a fixed point? Is
24 that why there are multiple videos, so you're not just
25 walking around with a video camera?

1 A. Yes. If you're walking around, it gets a little
2 hard to watch. So we try to stay in one fixed position,
3 scan. Go to another corner, scan, and then continue
4 throughout the rooms.

5 Q. And how many videos total did you take?

6 A. Eleven.

7 Q. It sounds or it looks like from your report you
8 didn't arrive until the evening hours. Is that right?

9 A. It looks like 2052 hours.

10 Q. When you arrived, were there other personnel
11 from your department who had already been on scene?

12 A. I believe so.

13 Q. Do you know if they had done anything with
14 respect to like crime scene processing? Anything like
15 that?

16 A. I do not recall.

17 Q. Okay. And when you were taking the video, did
18 you ask anybody to do anything, like to stand anywhere, to
19 collect anything, to point anything out? Anything like
20 that?

21 A. Video footage is typically done before anything
22 is collected.

23 Q. Okay. And you said there were eleven videos.
24 What did you do with those videos?

25 A. Once I got back to the station, I uploaded them

1 to -- I don't remember which system we were doing at the
2 time. I don't know if it was before or after AXON.

3 Q. Yeah. It says video clip uploaded in Axon.

4 A. Yes. They're uploaded to Axon.

5 Q. Did you watch the video clips again?

6 A. I watched them last night.

7 Q. Okay. Besides watching them last night, did you
8 watch them in preparation for this report or anything like
9 that?

10 A. Maybe when I was typing my report.

11 Q. Okay. So the first thing that you did was the
12 video clips. What was the second thing that you did?

13 A. I processed Sally Whitfield.

14 Q. Tell me what you did.

15 A. I collected swabs for possible biological
16 material in various areas of her body. Then I collected
17 her clothing and a flip phone and an elimination swab from
18 her.

19 Q. In terms of the swabs from the body, which are
20 listed on two pages of your report, are those standards,
21 or did you swab those locations because you felt that --
22 you saw there was something that you believed to be of
23 evidentiary value there?

24 A. Everything I did was standard for body
25 processing.

1 Q. And do you recall actually seeing something that
2 you thought would be of evidentiary value, or it was just
3 like following protocol?

4 A. I do not recall.

5 Q. What did you do with the swabs that you
6 collected?

7 A. They were brought back to the station and
8 submitted to property and evidence.

9 Q. And you didn't do any particular analysis
10 yourself?

11 A. No.

12 Q. And then it looks like in the processing of her
13 that trace was also collected. Can you tell me about
14 that?

15 A. It's just another standard procedure that we do.
16 I scrape, clip, and collect the nails from each hand.

17 Q. Did you need assistance for that part of the
18 processing?

19 A. Someone might have held a piece of paper under
20 while I scraped.

21 Q. Do you know if anybody from the medical
22 examiner's office was there when you were doing this work?

23 A. There should have been, yes.

24 Q. Is that usually what happens, like a technician
25 with you?

1 A. It depends on the case, but the medical examiner
2 is usually there while we process the body.

3 Q. And trace was collected from both the left and
4 right hand?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then all of her clothing was collected. Is
7 that by you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And you indicated a flip phone was also
10 collected?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you recall where the flip phone was
13 discovered?

14 A. In the second follow-up that I have, it stated
15 that it was in a pocket. So whoever took photos at the
16 scene while I was there, they should be in one of those
17 photographs, but I did not look at the other technicians'
18 photographs.

19 Q. Would there have been a reason why you collected
20 the phone rather than somebody else, or just because you
21 were collecting it together with the clothes?

22 A. Together with the clothes.

23 Q. Okay. What did you do with the trace that was
24 collected from Ms. Whitfield?

25 A. Everything was submitted to property and

1 evidence.

2 Q. So the trace, the clothing, and the phone?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. And you also collect an elimination swab.
5 Is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And was all of this done on scene at the home?

8 A. The processing of the body?

9 Q. The processing.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you indicate in your report that you left
12 that particular location at 0028 hours. So I guess that
13 was probably about --

14 A. A little after midnight.

15 Q. -- three hours later?

16 A. Approximately.

17 Q. You continued to work overnight?

18 A. I went back to the station and then photographed
19 the clothing.

20 Q. And it looks like 48 photographs were taken?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What did you do -- what else did you do while
23 you were at the station?

24 A. It appears that I took photographs of all the
25 clothing and the flip phone and then put them in a dryer

1 to dry.

2 Q. You indicate, like, the phone was placed in a
3 temporary evidence locker for detectives to retrieve. Can
4 you just tell me about that, what that means?

5 A. Sometimes they want it right away to look at it.
6 In this case, they -- I don't know if they did or not. I
7 know on March 2nd, I removed the phone from the locker and
8 submitted it to property and evidence.

9 Q. Okay. Tell me what a temporary evidence locker
10 is versus I guess a more permanent property.

11 A. So property and evidence is downstairs. It's
12 where all of our property evidence gets submitted. These
13 temporary evidence lockers are in our lab where we put
14 them in there and get a key, and then they're easier to
15 retrieve later on if needed, like if we need to continue
16 to process them or wait until the next day. I think they
17 were just limbo with this phone of what they wanted to do
18 with it, so it was just on hold until we turned it in.

19 Q. Who holds on to the key?

20 A. I do.

21 Q. Okay. So do you notify the detectives where the
22 phone is located or whatever item of evidence is being put
23 in that temporary locker?

24 A. It depends on the case. They could always look
25 at my report because I do turn in a draft or a final

1 report where they can see where everything is located and
2 if they need it later on.

3 Q. Did you hear from any detectives regarding,
4 like, what they wanted to do with the phone?

5 A. I do not recall.

6 Q. Okay. Anything else that you did on that first
7 day, like the 16th I guess into the 17th because you
8 worked overnight?

9 A. I put everything in a dryer. Phone in the
10 locker. Uploaded photos and videos to AXON. And then the
11 swabs and evidence were submitted to the Evidentiary
12 Services Unit, which is also property and evidence.

13 Q. And then it looks like you became reinvolved on
14 the 19th. That was kind of the next entry in the same
15 report. Is that right?

16 A. Yes. That must have been the next time I worked
17 that I removed everything from the dryer, or once they
18 were dry, I removed everything from the dryer and turned
19 those in once they were dry.

20 Q. The Evidentiary Services Unit, is that what we
21 call property and evidence?

22 A. Property and evidence, yes.

23 Q. Okay. So like the more permanent location for
24 evidence?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. Did you have any further involvement in
2 the case?

3 A. Just on March 2nd when I submitted the phone.

4 Q. And tell me about that. How did that come to
5 be?

6 A. I was notified by the detectives that they no
7 longer needed it, and then I turned it in.

8 Q. So just no longer needed it to be retained in
9 the more accessible locker?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you know which detective contacted you about
12 the phone?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. And so what did you do with the phone?

15 A. Then I submitted it to property and evidence
16 once I was notified it was no longer needed.

17 Q. Did you ever make any kind of request with
18 regards to analysis for any of the items that you
19 collected and submitted into evidence?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So none whatsoever. Is that right?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Whose responsibility is it to make those kinds
24 of requests?

25 A. In a case like that, typically one of the

1 detectives.

2 Q. And would any kind of information regarding
3 analysis come back to you, or does that go to the
4 detective?

5 A. If I wanted to look it up, I could look it up in
6 iLeads, but I would assume that it would get sent to the
7 detectives or they'd get a notification.

8 Q. Did you have any additional involvement in this
9 case?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you ever do any kind of follow-up to see
12 what happened with the items that you had yourself
13 collected?

14 A. I do not believe so.

15 Q. Did you ever talk with any of your colleagues
16 about the work that they did or anything that they
17 uncovered in the course of the investigation?

18 A. I do not recall.

19 Q. And in preparation for this deposition, was it
20 just your own review of the report and whatever you were
21 able to see in terms of digital evidence? Like, no
22 contact with colleagues, conversation with them about
23 their report?

24 A. No. I just reviewed my own stuff.

25 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: I don't think I have any

1 further questions. Anybody else?

2 MR. MCGREEN: No.

3 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: State.

4 MR. KOSKINAS: That's it. Thanks for coming in.

5 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: we'll conclude the
6 deposition, and I'll reserve your right to read, if you
7 wish.

8 THE DEPONENT: Yeah.

9 MS. SEIFER-SMITH: Great. Thanks so much. And
10 thanks again for your patience.

11 (Deposition concludes at 2:47 p.m.)

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1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4
5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that KAYLA
6 LANSBERRY personally appeared before me and was duly
7 sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 30TH day of
9 OCTOBER, 2025.

10
11 Tamara M. Pacheco

12 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
13 COMMISSION # 474485
14 EXPIRES: March 30, 2028
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)
4

5 I, Tamara M. Pacheco, certify that I was authorized
6 to and did stenographically report the Deposition of KAYLA
7 LANSBERRY; that a review of the transcript was requested;
8 and that the transcript is a true and complete record of
9 my stenographic notes.

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

15 *Tamara M. Pacheco*16 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
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ERRATA SHEET

IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL V. CORNELIUS WHITFIELD

NAME OF DEPONENT: KAYLA LANSBERRY

CASE NUMBER: 21-01513CFANO

Please read the transcript of your deposition. If you feel you need to make corrections, please note on this page. DO NOT mark on the transcript itself.
Sign and date the transcript below.

PAGE	LINE	ERROR/AMENDMENT	REASON FOR CHANGE
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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with ten evenly spaced horizontal blue lines. The lines are parallel and extend across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

Signature

Date