

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

Case Number: 22-09348CFANO

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

JUAN ARIEL MOLINA-SALLES,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION OF: MICHAEL BEAVER
TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Defendant
DATE: February 9, 2024
TIME: 2:14 p.m. - 2:19 p.m.
PLACE: ZOOM videoconference
REPORTED BY: Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
Notary Public, State of FL

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ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCES

ELIZABETH CONSTANTINE, ESQUIRE

Assistant State Attorney

14250 49th Street North

Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorney for the State of Florida

MARIA DELIBERATO, ESQUIRE

NICHOLE BLAQUIERE, ESQUIRE

Assistant Public Defenders

14250 49th Street North

Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorneys for the Defendant

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 MICHAEL BEAVER

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. DELIBERATO:

7 Q Good afternoon. Could you please state and
8 spell your name for the record.

9 A Michael Beaver, M-I-C-H-A-E-L. Last name is
10 Beaver, B-E-A-V-E-R.

11 Q And my name is Maria DeLiberato. I'm an
12 assistant public defender. Myself and Nichole Blaquiére
13 represent Juan Molina-Salles.

14 we're here on the Sheriff's case number
15 S022-305232. I have that you authored one supplement.
16 It's also sub-headed Clearwater Police Department, but
17 it's Supplement 51. Is that the only report you authored?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Any others -- I haven't missed any other
20 supplements that you authored?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q Have you had a chance to review that before
23 today's deposition?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And if you have any questions or need to refer

1 to it, perfectly fine. Just let me know that's what
2 you're doing. Tell me how you're employed.

3 A I'm a sergeant with the Clearwater Police
4 Homicide Unit.

5 Q How long have you been there?

6 A I started in Clearwater in 2012, and in 2016, I
7 was assigned to the Robbery Unit and then in 2017 got
8 moved over to the Homicide Unit where I was a detective up
9 until I got promoted. This June, it will be two years.
10 So just -- I've been essentially in investigations since
11 2016.

12 Q Got it. Prior to 2012, any previous law
13 enforcement experience?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q Where?

16 A I started in Flint, Michigan in 2004 until 2009.
17 Then I went to -- I moved down to Florida, and I went to
18 the City of Largo from '09 to '12.

19 Q In your time in Michigan or Largo or with
20 Clearwater Police Department, have you ever had any
21 complaints against you that were sustained? Any sustained
22 findings of wrongdoing or misconduct in any of those
23 agencies?

24 A No. The only sustained I had was I think a
25 traffic crash. I think I had a traffic crash down here

1 sustained, and that was pretty much it.

2 Q Okay. I note from your supplement that you
3 actually attended the autopsy of Deputy Hartwick. Is that
4 right?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q How was it that you were asked to do that from a
7 different agency? Is that standard procedure when it's --
8 because it's a deputy?

9 A Yeah. So it was something that we actually
10 offered our assistance in just because, you know, I didn't
11 know Deputy Hartwick. I've never worked with him. So it
12 was just kind of -- it was not easier, but it was -- we
13 were just trying to help out since those detectives knew
14 Deputy Hartwick and there was kind of, you know, that
15 going on.

16 Q Sort of offered kind of emotional support to be
17 able to maintain the evidence without having to have them
18 do it?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Were you actually at the scene at all? Were you
21 called out to the scene the night before or anything like
22 that?

23 A No, ma'am.

24 Q Because I know a bunch of different agencies
25 sort of reported, but you actually never went to the

1 traffic accident or anything like that?

2 A No, ma'am.

3 Q So do you just kind of come on to work that next
4 morning and you find out what happened, and you guys offer
5 your assistance?

6 A I believe that's how that happened because
7 Lieutenant Hasty at the time -- I just remember getting a
8 call from Lieutenant Hasty asking me if I would go to the
9 autopsy. I was informed that the autopsy was at 11 a.m.,
10 and then I just responded over to the Pinellas County
11 Medical Examiner's Office.

12 Q Okay. And you viewed the entire autopsy from
13 start to finish?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q Did you take possession of any evidence or any
16 personal effects of Deputy Hartwick or anything like that?

17 A No, ma'am.

18 Q Just your report notes that you observed visible
19 injuries obviously during the autopsy?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Anything else of note from your autopsy that you
22 remember that's not in your report?

23 A No. No, ma'am.

24 Q Did you do anything else? Did you have any
25 other involvement in this case?

1 A No, ma'am.

2 Q Did you attend any meetings or briefings in your
3 department or with PCSO or with the State Attorney's
4 office about this case?

5 A No meetings or briefings. Except after the
6 autopsy, I just went to the Pinellas County Sheriff's
7 office where I met with some of their detectives, told
8 them, hey, the autopsy is completed, and then I had
9 requested the final autopsy report just be directly
10 delivered to their case agent, and that was it.

11 Q So you didn't need to take possession of that
12 and then turn it over. You just told the medical examiner
13 to send it directly to them?

14 A That's correct.

15 MS. DELIBERATO: I don't have any further
16 questions. Nichole or Liz?

17 MS. CONSTANTINE: No questions.

18 MS. DELIBERATO: Thank you so much. I
19 appreciate you coming in.

20 THE DEPONENT: Thank you very much.

21 MS. DELIBERATO: You can read or waive, if you'd
22 like to read the deposition or you can waive.
23 Obviously, it's pretty short.

24 THE DEPONENT: Yeah, I'll read. I always read.

25 (Deposition concludes at 2:19 p.m.)

1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4

5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that
6 MICHAEL BEAVER personally appeared before me on the 9th
7 day of February, 2024 and was duly sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 10th day
9 of February, 2024.

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Tamara M. Pacheco

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Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
COMMISSION #942612
EXPIRES: March 30, 2024

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, Tamara M. Pacheco, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the Deposition of MICHAEL BEAVER; that a review of the transcript was requested; and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

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

Tamara M. Pacheco

Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR