

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:	DANIEL MATTOX
TAKEN BY:	Counsel for the Defendant
DATE:	February 9, 2024
TIME:	11:00 a.m. - 11:08 a.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

Assistant Public Defender

14250 49th Street North

Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorney for the Defendant

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 DANIEL MATTOX

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 Could you please state and spell your name for
8 the record.

9 A Yeah. It's Daniel Mattox, D-A-N-I-E-L,
10 M-A-T-T-O-X.

11 Q My name is Maria DeLiberato. I'm an assistant
12 public defender. I represent Juan Molina-Salles.
13 Ms. Constantine is here for the State. We are PCSO case
14 number SO22-305232.

15 I have that you authored just one supplement,
16 Supplement 56. Is that right?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Any other supplements that I've missed?

19 A No.

20 Q Have you had a chance to review your supplement?

21 A Yes, I have.

22 Q And if you need to refer to it at any time, of
23 course, perfectly fine. Tell me how you're employed.

24 A I'm employed at the Pinellas County Sheriff's
25 office currently in the North County Community Policing

1 Unit.

2 Q How long have you been with PCSO?

3 A Five years coming this March.

4 Q Any prior law enforcement experience?

5 A Yes. A little more than two years at Largo
6 Police Department.

7 Q Anything other than that?

8 A No.

9 Q In your time either with Largo or with PCSO,
10 ever had any complaints sustained against you for any
11 reason?

12 A No.

13 Q And were you working -- it sounds like you were
14 working September 23rd, so this is kind of the next day
15 after the accident. Is it overnight? What shift do you
16 work?

17 A At that time I was coming on to dayshift that
18 morning at 7 a.m.

19 Q Okay. So you would have come on duty at 7 a.m.,
20 and what were you assigned to do?

21 A At the time I worked in the Field Training Unit.
22 I was a field training deputy in Squad 2 on dayshift. I
23 had a recruit that day, so I was coming to pick them up to
24 start the shift.

25 Q And had you -- you weren't on call the day

1 before, so you didn't get called out to the actual scene.

2 Is that right?

3 A No, I was not called out. No, I was just coming
4 on for my normal shift.

5 Q And your job was to sort of control traffic
6 around the scene?

7 A Yes. As soon as I logged on, my supervisor told
8 me to pick up my recruit and head to the scene and relieve
9 midnight deputies that were handling shutting down roads
10 and stuff.

11 Q At that point, had they had my client,
12 Mr. Molina-Salles in custody, or were they still searching
13 for him?

14 A They were still searching.

15 Q And did you participate in that search in any
16 way?

17 A No. I just shut down one of the -- like an
18 off-ramp coming off of 275 onto Roosevelt.

19 Q And how were they searching for him? What were
20 they using?

21 A I'm not one hundred percent sure at the time.
22 Like I said, I wasn't involved in it. I know they had
23 some K-9s and whatnot out there and helicopter I believe.

24 Q And at some point during your shift did you
25 learn that he was taken into custody?

1 A Yeah. I heard on the radio that they located
2 him at some point.

3 Q Any details that you remember about where he was
4 or the circumstances of his apprehension?

5 A No. I just saw on the map the general area they
6 said he was, which I think was north of my position by a
7 good ways. It wasn't anywhere near me.

8 Q How far on the map was it from the traffic site?
9 Do you know? Do you remember?

10 A I don't recall because I never made it to the
11 scene of the actual incident, so I can't say how far it
12 was.

13 Q And then were you asked to do something else
14 with respect to Mr. Molina-Salles?

15 A Yes. Eventually, at some point after they got
16 him in custody -- I forgot how long it was -- they called
17 me over to like the command bus area where I assume they
18 brought him back to, and they asked me to assist with
19 transporting him back to the SAB.

20 Q Okay. Did you transport him in your cruiser?

21 A No. Basically, they wanted -- sorry, my
22 computer. Sorry, my reader is going off. Let me mute
23 that.

24 No. We used another deputy's cruiser. Since I
25 had a recruit, I think they wanted two deputies to ride in

1 the cruiser with the defendant. So they had me ride with
2 another deputy in his cruiser, and my recruit drove my
3 cruiser and followed us while I transported the defendant
4 in a different deputy's cruiser. I just sat in the
5 passenger seat. I didn't drive.

6 Q So who drove? You were just in the passenger
7 seat?

8 A Yes. It was Deputy Yeargin. He was the driver.
9 It was his cruiser.

10 Q That's Y-E-A-R-G-I-N.

11 A Yes. That's correct.

12 Q If you know, his car, did it have in-car camera
13 or anything like that?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Was it on during the transport?

16 A I believe it was, yeah. Like I said, I didn't
17 activate it or anything. I'm pretty sure he had it
18 activated though for the purpose of the transport.

19 Q Did you have any conversation with
20 Mr. Molina-Salles?

21 A No, I did not. He didn't speak any English.
22 Even if he did, I wouldn't attempt to talk to him just
23 based off the investigative situation. But, no, I didn't
24 speak with him at all other than basic orders maybe of,
25 you know, when he's getting in and out talking, hey, come

1 out or whatever, but no, there was no conversation.

2 Q And your body-worn camera was activated?

3 A I believe it was for the transport. I would
4 have to doublecheck.

5 Q And your report notes you just made a small
6 handcuff adjustment. That was once you got to the SAB
7 building?

8 A Yeah. Let me just doublecheck my report. Yeah,
9 it was when we were in the -- yeah. Basically when we
10 were in the interview room, at some point we checked his
11 handcuffs and adjusted them. I can't remember if he made
12 a complaint about it or not as far as being uncomfortable,
13 but we checked them and just ensured they were fit
14 correctly and probably loosened them a little bit.

15 Q Anything you remember about his demeanor?

16 A Nothing in particular. He was just tired. He
17 was sleeping in the interview room while we were waiting
18 for the detectives to come.

19 Q Any display of emotion or anything that you saw?
20 I know you didn't speak the same language, but anything
21 that he --

22 A No. I sat -- me and my recruit, we stood by
23 with him. He was in the room. We were just outside the
24 room with the door open. I could see him from outside the
25 room. But, no, when he was awake, he was kind of just

1 sitting there, just staring. No visible signs of any
2 emotion one way or another.

3 Q Okay. Any other involvement that you had in
4 this case?

5 A No. Once the detectives came, they did their
6 interview. I was not present for that. We were relieved.
7 They assisted escorting him back downstairs to a cruiser.
8 Custody was given to some other deputies, and they took
9 him from there.

10 Q Okay. And I think you said you weren't in the
11 area where he was ultimately apprehended. He was just
12 sort of brought to you, and then you transported him?

13 A Yeah, correct. They just asked me on the radio
14 to -- I forget if someone relieved me from that traffic
15 post or not, but they had us just go to where the command
16 bus was parked, which was on the interstate somewhere. I
17 never made it to the scene of the crash itself. So, like
18 I say, I didn't even know where that occurred. I just
19 know it was somewhere north of there that he was
20 apprehended. So I have no clue how far it was from me or
21 anywhere else from there.

22 Q And anything after this day? Did you attend any
23 meetings or briefings either within your department or the
24 state attorney's office about this case or the prosecution
25 of it?

1 A No.

2 MS. DELIBERATO: I don't have any further
3 questions. Liz, any questions?

4 MS. CONSTANTINE: No questions.

5 MS. DELIBERATO: And obviously up to you whether
6 you want to read or waive.

7 THE DEPONENT: Sorry, were you talking to me?

8 MS. DELIBERATO: Yeah. Up to you whether you
9 want to read or --

10 THE DEPONENT: For the transcripts?

11 MS. DELIBERATO: Yeah.

12 THE DEPONENT: I can waive. That's fine.

13 (Deposition concludes at 11:08 a.m.)

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1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

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5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that
6 DANIEL MATTOX personally appeared before me by ZOOM
7 videoconference and was duly sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 9th 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 DANIEL MATTOX; that a review of the transcript was NOT 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