

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.

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DEPOSITION OF: CHARLES BLUMBERG  
TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Defendant  
DATE: March 28, 2024  
TIME: 3:09 p.m. - 3:23 p.m.  
PLACE: ZOOM videoconference  
REPORTED BY: Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR  
Notary Public, State of FL

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## ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCES

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 DETECTIVE CHARLES BLUMBERG

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. BLAQUIERE:

7 Q Hi, Detective Blumberg. My name is Nichole  
8 Blaquiere, and together with Maria DeLiberato, who is not  
9 present at the moment but might log on in a minute, we  
10 represent Juan Molina-Salles. And present for the State  
11 is Mr. Nathan Vonderheide. How are you this morning or  
12 afternoon?

13 A I'm good. How are you?

14 Q Good. Headed to the Rays game later.

15 A Oh, it's very soon. It's at four, I think.

16 Q Yeah. Right after you and I are done talking.  
17 Can you go ahead and give me your full  
18 background and law enforcement experience, please.

19 A Yeah. So my full name is Charles Gregory  
20 Blumberg, B-L-U-M-B-E-R-G. I work at the Pinellas County  
21 Sheriff's Office in the Robbery and Homicide Division  
22 right now. Obviously, I started my career in the Patrol  
23 Operations Bureau. Then I went to economic Crimes and  
24 then I went to homicide. I've been in homicide now for  
25 four years, three months, something like that, and that's

1 where I remain right now at this time.

2 Q Okay. I'm just asking all law enforcement.  
3 Have you had any complaints sustained against you in your  
4 experience in law enforcement?

5 A No, no complaints.

6 Q Great. Have you had a chance to review your  
7 supplements before today?

8 A Yeah, I had four supplements involved in this  
9 case, particular investigation.

10 Q What are all four?

11 A All four you said?

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A There's one where it was a call out response.  
14 There's another one that's a scene documentation. There's  
15 another one that's --

16 Q Do you have the numbers?

17 A Oh, I can get them for you. Supplement No. --  
18 Let's see -- 45, Supplement 54, Supplement No. 93. And I  
19 missed one. There was Supplement No. 44. So 44, 45, 54  
20 and 93.

21 Q Okay. Can you go ahead and tell me how your  
22 involvement started with the case, please.

23 A Yeah. I was contacted by my sergeant, Sergeant  
24 Robinson, and I was advised to respond out to 275 -- I  
25 believe it was near exit 30 -- in reference to a deputy

1 being deceased at the location.

2 (Ms. DeLiberato enters Zoom.)

3 Q Okay. And what was the first thing you did once  
4 you got on scene?

5 A The first thing I did was meet with my sergeant,  
6 figure out what was going on and figure out what my  
7 particular assignment would be. We get assignments when  
8 we first arrive on scene like do this, do this, do this,  
9 and my assignment was scene documentation.

10 Q Which scene were you documenting? Which part of  
11 the scene?

12 A The part where his body was and his motor  
13 vehicle.

14 Q Okay. There were other areas of the scene that  
15 were documented as well, right?

16 A Yes. Not by me.

17 Q It was a pretty big scene where the front  
18 loaders were, where Deputy Hartwick was, and a few other  
19 items?

20 A Yeah. I imagine -- I would just be guessing,  
21 but yeah, it was probably the biggest one we've had. I  
22 mean, it's a roadway.

23 Q When you got to the scene, I think you noted  
24 that the light conditions were dark?

25 A It was. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q And additional lights had to be brought in so  
2 that you and the other crime scene technicians and  
3 detectives could locate all the relevant evidence?

4 A Yes, ma'am, to help search. Visibility  
5 purposes.

6 Q Okay. A couple other things of note that I just  
7 wanted to ask about at the scene where Deputy Hartwick was  
8 found that you documented, did you find a hearing aid?

9 A I do recall there being some sort of device,  
10 yes.

11 Q Okay. And did you find Deputy Hartwick's  
12 prescription glasses?

13 A I don't remember if there were glasses. I think  
14 I have to -- can I refer to my report?

15 Q Of course. Just let us know whenever you have  
16 to do that.

17 A Yes, ma'am, a pair of prescription glasses, and  
18 you are right about the hearing aid as well.

19 Q Were the prescription glasses for distance? Did  
20 you look at them?

21 A Oh, I don't know. I don't know. I just know  
22 they were prescription. Did I lose you? Hello. Sorry.

23 Q No, you're fine. I'm just -- I have a million  
24 questions to ask you. Were you still on scene when  
25 deputies found Juan Molina-Salles?

1           A     I don't -- I'd have to look at what I remained  
2 on scene for. I don't actually remember. I wasn't paying  
3 attention to the suspect search. I was really engrained  
4 in the scene at the time. I couldn't actually tell you  
5 when they actually did find him. I never saw the man.

6           Q     Okay. It looks like in Rhonda Klein's  
7 supplement, Supplement 5, she references that she gave you  
8 Deputy Hartwick's handcuffs. Do you remember that?

9           A     Not offhand. But if she put it in her report,  
10 I'm sure it's accurate.

11          Q     Do you have access to that supplement?

12          A     Yeah. I have access to that.

13          Q     Can you take a look at it?

14          A     Yeah, I see it. Supplement No. 5, yeah, down by  
15 the bottom-ish, it says, At the request of command staff,  
16 I removed Deputy Hartwick's handcuffs from the case in the  
17 right side of his gun belt and gave them to Detective  
18 Blumberg.

19          Q     Okay. Do you know what happened to the  
20 handcuffs afterwards?

21          A     I don't. If they're not in property and  
22 evidence, I'm sure I probably gave them to somebody. Let  
23 me see. I'm not sure. I'm sure I gave them to somebody.  
24 No, I don't remember offhand. I'm sorry, ma'am.

25          Q     Okay. How long were you on scene helping



1 document where Deputy Hartwick was found approximately?

2 A Approximately -- it was a long time. Let me see  
3 if I have a start and end time in my report for you.  
4 Probably about seven hours there.

5 Q Can you just run down basically briefly what you  
6 did as part of your documentation of the scene where  
7 Deputy Hartwick's body was found deceased?

8 A Yeah. So we get on scene. Obviously, being the  
9 scene detective, I work closely with forensics. They  
10 collect all the evidence. But I'm just documenting in a  
11 written report what I see, so like in this case where his  
12 body was, it being in the supine position. Like the  
13 injuries to his body, we're talking about it in the scene  
14 report but also further talked about it in his body  
15 documentation. So I talk about that.

16 As in this case, as you spoke about earlier, the  
17 scene is a long street. So I was just talking about items  
18 that were strewn across there. When we got on scene, we  
19 were still putting together what happened to this man.  
20 Did a car come by and hit him? We didn't know. So I'm  
21 just documenting literally everything I can see in the  
22 area to try to give me any sort of clue. And then  
23 eventually, doing that, I also assist with getting him out  
24 of the scene and into an ambulance and to the medical  
25 examiner's office.

1 Q Did you help paramedics get him into the EMS  
2 vehicle?

3 A Yes. Yes, I did.

4 Q Did you go with them in their vehicle to the  
5 medical examiner's?

6 A I did not, no.

7 Q Did you stay on the scene and keep working?

8 A I did.

9 Q What did you do after that?

10 A I continued to document the scene. Just  
11 document -- I go through numerous times to see what I see,  
12 if I missed anything. Really, as you saw from the report,  
13 it's just a long -- putting a picture into words in a way.

14 Q That makes sense. And you don't remember if you  
15 were still on scene when they did find Juan Molina-Salles?

16 A I don't. I don't even know if I knew what time  
17 they got him. I know people were talking the whole time,  
18 like that they were looking for him, but I cannot remember  
19 if I was scene when they got him.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I can't.

22 Q Were you involved in any briefings on this case  
23 after September 23rd or 24th, 2022?

24 A The 24th is the day of the occurred, right, I  
25 believe?

1 Q It happened on September 22nd, and all the  
2 investigation lasted until morning, but one of your  
3 supplements states September 24th.

4 A So we have -- we do have debriefs as it goes on  
5 where people ask -- because my report is not typed right  
6 away. We have debriefs before that. People will ask me  
7 questions. Like, Hey, did you see this? Hey, did you see  
8 that? We've talked about it. I know also I did something  
9 with his -- sort of my later supplement, something with  
10 his firearm, getting it out of evidence. That wasn't a  
11 meeting, per se. I was just told to go get it.

12 Q And who told you to go get it?

13 A I believe it was my Major or my Captain told me  
14 to get the firearm, which would Major Garvey or Captain  
15 Tobeck.

16 Q What was the name again?

17 A Let me make sure I get it right. Property  
18 removed from PED. It's my Supplement No. 94. Yeah, it  
19 was either Major Garvey or Captain Tobeck. Someone from  
20 my chain of command advised me to get it.

21 Q And it was eventually given to Deputy Hartwick's  
22 family?

23 A Yes. It was given to his family, yes.

24 Q Not by you but by someone at the administrative  
25 building?

1 A Yeah, not by me. I just picked it up.

2 Q Have you done any research about this case or my  
3 client, Juan Molina-Salles?

4 A Nothing.

5 Q Were you involved at all in any of the civil  
6 lawsuit by Deputy Hartwick's family?

7 A Didn't know it existed.

8 MS. BLAQUIERE: I don't think I have any  
9 further questions. Let me double check with my  
10 co-counsel, Maria, who is there. She doesn't  
11 have any questions. Then I don't know if  
12 Mr. Vonderheide has any questions.

13 MR. VONDERHEIDE: No questions from me.

14 MS. BLAQUIERE: Thank you for coming in  
15 today.

16 (Deposition concludes at 3:23 p.m.)

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COUNTY OF PINELLAS        )  
STATE OF FLORIDA         )

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

I, the undersigned authority, certify that  
CHARLES BLUMBERG personally appeared before me by ZOOM  
videoconference and was duly sworn.

witness my hand and official seal this 13th day  
of OCTOBER, 2024.

Tamara M. Pacheco

Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR  
COMMISSION # 474485  
EXPIRES: March 30, 2028



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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 CHARLES BLUMBERG; 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