

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:

ALEXANDRA MITCHELL

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

March 27, 2024

TIME:

2:50 p.m. - 3:01 p.m.

PLACE:

ZOOM videoconference

REPORTED BY:

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

Pages 1 - 16

## ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCES

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 ALEXANDRA MITCHELL

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. DELIBERATO:

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

9 A Deputy Alexandra Mitchell, A-L-E-X-A-N-D-R-A,  
10 Mitchell, M-I-T-C-H-E-L-L.

11 Q And how are you employed?

12 A I'm currently employed with the Pinellas County  
13 Sheriff's Office.

14 Q My name is Maria DeLiberato. I'm an assistant  
15 public defender. Myself and Nichole Blaquiere represent  
16 Juan Molina-Salles. It's the PCSO Case No. 22305232.  
17 Elizabeth Constantine is here with the State Attorney's  
18 office, and we're here for your deposition.

19 I have that you authored just one supplement,  
20 Supplement 11. Is that right?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Any other supplements that you authored that I  
23 missed?

24 A No, ma'am.

25 Q Have you had a chance to review it before your

1 deposition today?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you have a copy there with you?

4 A I do, yes.

5 Q If you need to refer to it at any time,  
6 perfectly fine. Just let me know that's what you're  
7 doing.

8 A Okay.

9 Q How long have you been employed with PCSO?

10 A A little over five years.

11 Q Any prior law enforcement experience before  
12 that?

13 A No.

14 Q In your five years with PCSO, ever had any  
15 complaints sustained against you for any reason?

16 A Not that I'm aware of. No, ma'am.

17 Q Were you working on the evening of  
18 September 22nd, 2022?

19 A Yes, I was.

20 Q And where were you working and in what capacity?

21 A I'm assigned to the Driving Under the Influence  
22 Unit, so I was in Pinellas County in the area of Seminole  
23 when the call for service came out.

24 Q And what was the call for service that you  
25 heard?

1           A     That there had been a crash, and it potentially  
2 involved a deputy was dispatched. Deputies on scene  
3 confirmed that one of our deputies was involved in the  
4 crash.

5           Q     And did you know from the radio call who it was  
6 or just that it was a deputy?

7           A     I believe it was just a deputy at the time. I  
8 didn't know who it was until we were on scene.

9           Q     Okay. And did you then proceed immediately to  
10 the scene?

11          A     Yes. I proceeded immediately to the scene when  
12 the original call came out while we were still obtaining  
13 information.

14          Q     Okay. And how long did it take you from when  
15 the call came out to when you got to the scene?

16          A     Probably eight minutes.

17          Q     And by the time you got to the scene, did you  
18 hear Deputy Hirshman by that point call the signal 7?

19          A     Yes. Yes.

20          Q     So when you got on scene, were like emergency  
21 personnel still attending to Deputy Hartwick, or was he  
22 covered by a sheet at that point?

23          A     No. He was laying on the side of the road dead.

24          Q     I'm very sorry. I know this is hard. Take as  
25 much time as you need.

1           So what did you do when you got on scene?

2           A     I was tasked with interviewing St. Pete Fire  
3 Rescue, getting their information, and then, of course,  
4 blocking 275 for vehicles to not come down the road.

5           Q     Okay. And I note from your report you spoke  
6 with Lieutenant Pepe, and the other EMT personnel, so  
7 Paramedic Papaj, Oliver, and Wendell it looks like were  
8 the officers that -- the EMT and fire rescue you spoke to.  
9 Is that right?

10          A     I have to look at the names on here. Lieutenant  
11 Pepe, Paramedic Papaj and EMT Oliver, and then it looks  
12 like EMT Wendell -- yeah, Wendell.

13          Q     Okay. And then it sounds like you were tasked  
14 to obtain the next of kin information, and were you able  
15 to do that?

16          A     I utilized SOnet, which is our Pinellas County  
17 Sheriff's website, for emergency contacts for Deputy  
18 Hartwick and then attempted to utilize DAVID.  
19 Unfortunately, DAVID was down that day, and we had to send  
20 a request through the Comm supervisor to reach out to  
21 DAVID's admin.

22          Q     Okay. And then but you never -- you weren't  
23 tasked with contacting the next of kin or anything like  
24 that? You just got the contact information?

25          A     No, ma'am.

1 Q You were asked to interview some semi-truck  
2 drivers, Archer Western employees. Is that right?

3 A Yes, two semi-truck drivers I think contracted  
4 through Archer Western.

5 Q McClean and Francis?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And did they give you any information that was  
8 helpful or relevant about the accident?

9 A They didn't see anything. They advised -- when  
10 they arrived on scene, they advised seeing the Archer  
11 Western employees, along with deputies. Mr. McClean had  
12 cameras in his semi which I believe do a 360-view, which I  
13 reviewed. Those videos did not show the crash.

14 I confirmed that both gentlemen did not observe  
15 the crash. They only saw emergency vehicles responding  
16 and were wondering what was going on. The video  
17 information was provided to homicide, which then had  
18 digital forensics come out to obtain that.

19 Q Okay. And then it looks like you were asked to  
20 sort of watch the -- sort of secure the front loaders on  
21 scene once it was determined that it was the front loader?

22 A Yes. So homicide detectives asked us to stand  
23 by as scene security, myself and a couple other deputies  
24 while they did their investigations and had forensics come  
25 out. So we just made sure no one entered that crime



1 scene.

2 Q Did you interview anybody else that's not  
3 documented in your report? We've got the EMT workers and  
4 the two semi-truck drivers. Anybody else?

5 A I don't believe so.

6 Q Do you remember seeing any other employees  
7 there, Archer Western employees kind of hanging around?

8 A There were employees more towards the south of  
9 the crash location when we arrived, and when we were on  
10 scene, it was a pretty hectic scene in general. So I  
11 believe the Archer Western employees were still on scene.  
12 I know there was a couple that were coming in that other  
13 deputies were trying to get information from.

14 Q Okay. But you didn't conduct any of those  
15 interviews?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q And then I note that you were tasked to be an  
18 escort vehicle for the trip to the medical examiner's  
19 office with Deputy Hartwick and then back to the  
20 funeral -- from the medical examiner's to the funeral  
21 home.

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Any other involvement that you had in this case  
24 after his death?

25 A No. Just his true law enforcement ceremony, we

1 were part of the procession for that. That would be it.

2 Q Did you have any knowledge of Archer western or  
3 that construction detail? Did you know anybody who had  
4 worked on that construction crew -- from PCSO who had done  
5 off-duty work for them before this?

6 A I believe it was a newer detail. Multiple  
7 deputies worked it. I think I worked it after the fact.  
8 I don't think I ever worked it ahead of time. It was one  
9 I believe they had almost every night.

10 Q Okay. And had you spoken to Deputy Hartwick  
11 before, like in days or that day or anything like that  
12 before this happened?

13 A I spoke to him the day before.

14 Q Okay. Did you talk to him at all about the  
15 construction detail or any details about what he was going  
16 to do or anything like that?

17 A No. I just backed him up on a traffic stop and  
18 talked to him as we normally would.

19 Q Okay. And you said you actually did the Archer  
20 western detail after this. Do you remember how long  
21 after?

22 A It was probably three months ago.

23 Q Oh, just recently.

24 A Just recently, yeah. Uh-huh.

25 Q And did you do it more than once?

1           A     I think I've done it a total of two or three  
2 times.

3           Q     Okay. And what does it entail?

4           A     It depends on -- every station is different.  
5 Ideally, you're offering scene security where we utilize  
6 our vehicle's emergency lights to block off the road to  
7 prevent something like that from happening to their  
8 workers or to deputies. So it's always been just closing  
9 a road down.

10          Q     Okay. And do you have any sort of thoughts or  
11 impressions or comments about Archer Western and sort of  
12 either how they run their detail or their hiring practices  
13 or anything like that?

14          A     I have no clue.

15          Q     Okay. Anybody else that you talk to on a  
16 regular basis, any other PCSO deputies that you know that  
17 worked that Archer Western detail quite a bit?

18          A     Looking at CAD, there's a lot of deputies who  
19 choose them. They've got them all over 275 and the  
20 Gateway project. We had one where another crash occurred  
21 a week-and-a-half ago. We -- honestly, it's one that I  
22 won't work anymore, but I know there are multiple deputies  
23 who utilize it as a source of income.

24          Q     You said it's one you won't work anymore?

25          A     No.

1 Q why is that?

2 A Just the danger of it. Along with the crash  
3 that happened a week-and-a-half ago, and then after Deputy  
4 Hartwick's case, it's not worth it to me. There's  
5 different ones that I would choose.

6 Q And I don't know anything about the crash a  
7 week-and-a-half ago. In your opinion -- I understand it's  
8 just your opinion. Is that in part because of Archer  
9 western's failure for security or safety or, I mean, what?

10 A It's just a crash -- unfortunately, three of  
11 their employees were pretty badly hurt from a vehicle  
12 striking them.

13 Q So just in your view, between that and Deputy  
14 Hartwick's death --

15 A It's just -- safety-wise, it's not worth it to  
16 put myself in jeopardy.

17 MS. DELIBERATO: Understood. I don't believe I  
18 have any further questions. My co-counsel may.

19 THE DEPONENT: Okay.

20 EXAMINATION

21 BY MS. BLAQUIERE:

22 Q Are you near the construction vehicles at all  
23 when you were working the detail?

24 A Only once I was close to them. Most of the time  
25 I was just shutting down a road completely.

1 Q Do you remember what type of construction  
2 vehicle that was?

3 A It was like a cone truck. Just like an open  
4 back heavy-duty truck that they place and put the cones  
5 down and pick them up and let people ride in the back of  
6 it.

7 Q Have you ever been near any of the front  
8 loaders?

9 A No. Just that time of this case was the only  
10 time I've ever been near one of them.

11 MS. BLAQUIERE: Okay. I don't -- I don't think  
12 I have anymore questions. I appreciate it.

13 MS. CONSTANTINE: No questions.

14 MS. DELIBERATO: Thank you so much for coming  
15 in. I really appreciate your time.

16 (Deposition concludes at 3:01 p.m.)  
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COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

STATE OF FLORIDA )

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

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

witness my hand and official seal this 24th day  
of September, 2024.

Tamara M. Pacheco

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

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ERRATA SHEET

IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL v. JUAN MOLINA-SALLES  
 NAME OF DEPONENT: ALEXANDRA MITCHELL  
 CASE NUMBER: 22-09348CFANO

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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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 ALEXANDRA MITCHELL; 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