

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CRIMINAL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 22-09348-CF-T

STATE OF FLORIDA,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
vs.)
)
)
JUAN ARIEL MOLINA-SALLES,)
)
 Defendant.)
)
-----/

DEPOSITION

OF

LIEUTENANT JOHN LUCKETT

(Appearing via Zoom.)

TAKEN BY: Defendant

DATE: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

TIME: 1:28 p.m. - 1:36 p.m.

PLACE: Videoconference (Zoom)

Reported By: Gina M. Manning
Court Reporter, Notary Public
State of Florida at Large

A P P E A R A N C E S

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APPEARING VIA ZOOM ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:

NATHAN VONDERHEIDE, ESQUIRE
ELIZABETH CONSTANTINE, ESQUIRE
County Justice Center
Office of the State Attorney
14250 49th Street North
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Phone: 727-464-6221

APPEARING VIA ZOOM BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:

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NICHOLE BLAQUIERE, ESQUIRE
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Office of the Public Defender
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762
Phone: 727-464-6516

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	Page Number
TESTIMONY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN LUCKETT	
Direct Examination by Ms. DeLiberato	4
No Cross-Examination	--
CERTIFICATE OF OATH	11
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	12
ERRATA SHEET	13

E X H I B I T S

(No exhibits.)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Thereupon,

LIEUTENANT JOHN LUCKETT

was called as a witness by the DEFENDANT and having first been duly sworn by the court reporter was examined and testified on his oath as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. DELIBERATO:

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

A. It's John Lockett, L-U-C-K-E-T-T.

Q. And how are you employed?

A. I'm a lieutenant with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office over their ACIS division.

Q. Okay.

My name is Maria DeLiberato. I'm an assistant public defender. Myself and Nichole Blaquiere represent Juan Molina-Salles in this case.

Present for the State are Nathan Vonderheide and Elizabeth Constantine. We're here for your deposition. It's Case Number 22-305232.

I don't have that you authored, personally, any supplements. Is that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. Did you just oversee some of the scene in

1 a supervisory capacity?

2 A. No. I was there strictly as a part of our
3 Critical Incident Stress Management team, nothing to do
4 with the case specifically or any of the activities going
5 on. More for if we had a deputy that was in distress or
6 just having a hard time with everything, to work with them.

7 Q. Okay. Can you just tell me briefly what this
8 CISM is.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Critical Incident Stress Management is just...
11 We have the regional team, an agency team. It's strictly
12 peer support for traumatic incidents.

13 Q. Do you oversee that division as part of your
14 lieutenant duties?

15 A. I did at the time for the unit I was in, but
16 I'm no longer in that position, but I did at the time.

17 Q. And so how was it that... Were you on duty?
18 Did you get a call that this happened? How did you get out
19 there?

20 A. When I logged on that morning. Or, actually,
21 I guess I got the call that the incident had happened, that
22 we had a deputy involved in an injury. Then I responded
23 to the scene and then later on to the comm center just to
24 check on our members.

25 Q. Did you actually get to the accident scene where

1 Deputy Hartwick was deceased?

2 A. I did.

3 Q. Did you know Deputy Hartwick professionally or
4 personally?

5 A. Professionally, yes.

6 Q. Do you remember, like, the last time you had
7 a conversation with him before the accident?

8 A. It would have been months, if not years.
9 Probably back when I was in patrol. I'm going to probably
10 say a few years back.

11 Q. Did you ever talk to him about that specific
12 Archer Western construction detail?

13 A. Not that I recall. There was a short time that
14 I was one of our off-duty coordinators, but I don't ever
15 remember speaking to him about that detail.

16 Q. Did you know anything about that detail?

17 A. Other than that, it was one of the details that
18 was scheduled through the off-duty services program.
19 That's all I know.

20 Q. Did you ever yourself work the detail?

21 A. No. No.

22 Q. So your role on the scene there is to see if any of
23 the officers need assistance, I assume, because of the
24 emotional stress and shock of a deputy death. Is that
25 right?

1 A. Exactly. Exactly.

2 Q. Quite frankly, I don't know if you're allowed to
3 answer this question, and I don't mean any disrespect by
4 it, but did any of the deputies take you up on that?
5 Are there records of that?

6 A. No. We don't keep records because, again, the most
7 that we would do is, I mean, God forbid we saw somebody in
8 severe distress, which didn't happen up there that night
9 that I encountered, you know, we would potentially have to
10 Baker Act somebody if they were just totally distraught and
11 at wit's end.

12 But what usually tends to happen is we just provide
13 some informational sheets on how to deal with traumatic
14 stress. And then we'll have somebody follow-up from the
15 team a few days later to make sure they're doing okay if
16 we'd encountered anybody that we just thought was not
17 dealing with it extremely well that night.

18 Q. Okay. And do you know if that happened here,
19 in part, either that night or on the follow-up?

20 A. I did not have anybody that I encountered.
21 I talked to a few deputies up there. I did not have
22 anybody that, you know -- everybody expressed, obviously,
23 sadness; upset; expressed, you know, a traumatic incident,
24 but nothing that required anything long term or referrals.

25 Q. And if you in that role noticed anybody in that

1 level of distress or had to do follow-up, is it part of
2 your job to sort of either notify their supervisor, or
3 whatever, to make sure that they're not continuing to work
4 while under that level of stress?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay.

7 How long did you stay at the command post that day?

8 A. I was there probably -- it was more in the morning,
9 probably somewhere around 5:00, 4:30, 5:00 in the morning.
10 I was there for a couple few hours at the most.

11 Q. Did you do anything else after that?

12 A. I went up to our communications center and again
13 just checked on their... We already had team members that
14 were up in that area, so I never had any contact with our
15 members up there. I just made sure our team was up there
16 and they were good.

17 Q. Were you present on the scene when
18 Mr. Molina-Salles was located and taken into custody?

19 A. I was present on the scene, but I was not in the
20 exact area that he was taken into custody, so I couldn't
21 see that occur but I was still in the physical location
22 of that.

23 Q. Okay. Did you ever -- you never laid eyes on him
24 directly?

25 A. Not that I recall. I remember seeing several cars,

1 you know, flee up to the area where they said they had him
2 identified, but I don't recall seeing him after that.

3 Q. Did you attend any meetings or briefings in your
4 department or anywhere else after this about this
5 particular case?

6 A. I did not.

7 Q. Did you do any research into the case after the
8 fact? Into my client? His background? What he was
9 charged with? Anything like that?

10 A. No. I mean the most would have been reading, you
11 know, the papers or online. That would have been the most
12 that I did. I didn't do any independent research or
13 anything.

14 Q. Do you remember anything from the newspapers or
15 online that you read about the case?

16 A. You know, to regurgitate something back to you, I
17 would say no. I do remember just, like, you know, he was
18 in custody. He was transported. He was -- I think
19 something regarding he may have been in the country
20 illegally. And, again, it was all through the newspaper,
21 just secondhand.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MS. DELIBERATO: I don't have any further
24 questions for you. I don't believe my co-counsel
25 does; if she does, she'll pipe up. Otherwise, if

1 the State doesn't have any questions, you are free
2 to go.

3 MS. CONSTANTINE: No questions.

4 MS. DELIBERATO: Thank you for working
5 through our technological difficulties together.

6 THE DEPONENT: No, it's on my end. This is
7 a new computer. I just didn't realize I didn't
8 have camera until I went, "Where's my camera?"
9 So sorry about that.

10 MS. DELIBERATO: No worries.

11 THE DEPONENT: All right. Have a good
12 day, everybody.

13 (The deposition concluded at 1:36 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
LIEUTENANT JOHN LUCKETT appeared before me via Zoom
teleconference and was duly sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 16th day of
December 2024.



GINA M. MANNING
Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public - State of Florida
My Commission Number: HH261227
Expires: September 5, 2026



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REPORTER'S DEPOSITION CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH)

I, GINA M. MANNING, Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the teleconference deposition of LIEUTENANT JOHN LUCKETT and that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate 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.

Dated this 16th day of December 2024.

GINA M. MANNING
Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public - State of Florida
My Commission Number: HH261227
Expires: September 5, 2026

1 IN RE: DEPOSITION OF: LIEUTENANT JOHN LUCKETT

2 DATE TAKEN: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

3 IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FLORIDA, Plaintiff, vs.
4 JUAN ARIEL MOLINA-SALLES, Defendant.

5 ERRATA SHEET

6 DO NOT WRITE ON TRANSCRIPT - ENTER CHANGES

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22 Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read
23 the foregoing document and that the facts stated in it
24 are true.

25 _____
DATE LIEUTENANT JOHN LUCKETT