

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:	PAMELA BREDA
TAKEN BY:	Counsel for the Defendant
DATE:	November 18, 2024
TIME:	11:28 a.m. - 11:42 a.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 PAMELA BREDA

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. BLAQUIERE:

7 Q Hi, Ms. Breda. My name is Nichole Blaquiere.
8 Along with Ms. Maria DeLiberato, we have the privilege of
9 representing Juan Molina-Salles. Also on the call is
10 Ms. Elizabeth Constantine from the State.

11 And can you tell me what your background and
12 experience in law enforcement is, please.

13 A So I started my career with the Pinellas County
14 Sheriff's Office in 2021. I went through basic law
15 enforcement training through them through St. Petersburg
16 College of Public Safety. I did six months of the Police
17 Academy there. I graduated and became certified as a
18 deputy in Pinellas County where I worked as a patrol
19 deputy for three-and-a-half years. I did several
20 trainings as a patrol deputy, including criminal
21 investigations, interviews and interrogations, any
22 elements of that sort. And then I recently left the
23 Sheriff's office, and now I'm employed in North Carolina
24 as a special agent with the State Bureau of Investigation.

25 Q Good for you. What made you change?

1 A I just wanted to move out of state, so it's been
2 kind of my goal.

3 Q Born and raised in Florida?

4 A I was born and raised in Brazil actually and
5 moved to Florida in 2011.

6 Q All right. Nice to meet you.

7 A Nice to meet you as well.

8 Q Did you write any reports in this case?

9 A I don't remember if they had us do a supplement.
10 If I did, it was a very brief one. During the incident, I
11 was actually off duty. I was not on duty. Along with
12 Deputy Hartwick, we were both working the same detail,
13 which was the Archer Construction. All I did, once I
14 found the news, they had every personnel available
15 assigned to the call, and all I did was really direct
16 traffic to try to block people from coming into the
17 interstate.

18 Q Anything else that day that you can recall
19 regarding your involvement?

20 A No, other than I heard originally when the call
21 came out on the radio, we just knew that there was a
22 deceased person. There was not really any further
23 information. Because I was within close proximity of
24 where it happened, I assigned to the call; however, upon
25 arrival, I saw that there were several units there. So

1 they just had us fill in to block traffic, and it wasn't
2 until much later on that I found out that it was actually
3 one of our deputies that was involved.

4 Q Were you at the construction site near 118th
5 Avenue and 43rd Street? Is that where you were assigned
6 that evening?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q And how often had you worked that detail?

9 A I did it several times. I think back before --
10 up until that incident happened, I worked them pretty
11 often. I think -- I would say every other shift I would
12 do the construction details.

13 Q So that's two or three times a week you would do
14 the construction detail?

15 A I'd say more or less, yeah.

16 Q Okay. For how many months do you think?

17 A I don't know exactly how many months, but it was
18 several.

19 Q Okay. Did you have any complaints about the
20 safety prior to Deputy Hartwick's death?

21 A There was several incidents. I mean, it's an
22 interstate. A lot of times when we're assigned to
23 interstate details there's been close calls. I think
24 people when they see lights, either they don't slow down
25 like they're supposed to. They just continue at a normal

1 rate of speed. It's an interstate, so it's
2 understandable; but with the active construction zone, the
3 reason they ask us to do those details is for safety. Not
4 just us but the construction workers as well. So I think
5 there's been other kind of close-calls, at least from my
6 experience from when I was sitting on the interstate of
7 people just flying by my cruiser.

8 Q And that's regular drivers using the interstate,
9 correct?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q What were the safety protocols that you were
12 instructed to utilize while you were working the Archer
13 Western detail?

14 A So every time, whenever they placed us where we
15 were supposed to go, we were supposed to activate our
16 emergency red-and-blue lights, which is what I did.
17 Obviously, if anything egregious happened to where, you
18 know, a drunk driver came or something, we still had a
19 duty to intervene. But most of the time the supervisors
20 of the Archer Construction were aware of that, and they
21 did appreciate any time that we did intervene in a case
22 like that for the safety of not just us or other drivers
23 but also their construction workers.

24 Q Any kind of special gear that you were supposed
25 to wear? Any yellow vests or anything like that?

1 A Mainly, we just wore our issued Class-A
2 uniforms, which would be your regular patrol uniforms,
3 which is the full green suit. Usually it's a good
4 precautionary thing. At least for me, if I were to step
5 out of my vehicle, I would put my vest on. We did have
6 our vests in our vehicles at all times.

7 Q What color is that vest?

8 A It's bright yellow.

9 Q Is that, just for purposes of calling it
10 something, a safety vest?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q So whenever you stepped out of your vehicle when
13 you were working the Archer Western Construction detail
14 you wore your bright yellow safety vest?

15 A Yes, ma'am. If I was doing something outside of
16 my patrol vehicle that would put me in harms way or to
17 direct traffic or for whatever reason it was, I would do
18 the same as I would do on my regularly scheduled duty,
19 which would be to wear my safety vest.

20 Q Okay. Did you know Deputy Hartwick personally
21 or professionally?

22 A I knew him for a brief period. We worked the
23 same squad at one point but for very brief. I've had, I
24 think, one conversation with him prior to this happening.
25 So I don't know him on a personal level. Just on a

1 professional level we worked together.

2 Q Okay. Did he ever make any statements about the
3 Archer western detail that he was working as well? Did he
4 ever make any positive or negative statements one way or
5 the other?

6 A No, ma'am. Like I said, I only had one
7 interaction with him, one kind of conversation. We never
8 really talked about anything related to Archer western or
9 any off-duty details.

10 Q Okay. What was the closest that you got to
11 where Deputy Hartwick's vehicle was that night?

12 A I drove by on the interstate, but I never
13 actually made it to where he was. Because I remember I
14 had to go all the way to the Tampa side to U-turn because
15 they had everything blocked off, and then by the time I
16 got to where the accident had happened, they were
17 diverting people over. So I had to go over, and then I
18 blocked traffic just a little bit ahead. I would say
19 probably at least a couple of miles ahead of where he was
20 is where my cruiser was originally until I was directed to
21 move somewhere else.

22 Q Were you directing traffic near Roosevelt and
23 275?

24 A At the end of -- yes. At the end of my shift, I
25 was on Roosevelt and 275.

1 Q And that was after Deputy Hartwick's passing?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q while the scene was still being investigated?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q So you were part of the scene?

6 A I was part of directing traffic. I never
7 actually went to the scene where he was pronounced
8 deceased at or anything like that. I didn't participate
9 in any sort of investigation. We were strictly told to
10 just direct traffic and block off this intersection and
11 have people reroute a different way.

12 Q Okay. So no civilians were able to get between
13 you and the rest of the scene?

14 A Yes, ma'am. There's several other Largo police
15 officers and other local jurisdictions there as well.

16 Q Right, but no civilians were able to get
17 through, correct?

18 A No civilians. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Okay. Have you done any research about this
20 case or my client?

21 A I don't recall doing that. I just had to
22 refresh my memory when I got the subpoena as to who this
23 was pertaining to. So I did talk to the state attorney
24 and ask, hey, is this pertaining to Deputy Hartwick's
25 death, and they said yes. That was pretty much the

1 extent.

2 Q which attorney? The PCSO ones or
3 Ms. Constantine or Mr. Vonderheide?

4 A I think it was Constantine.

5 Q Okay. And then did you have any body-camera on
6 that evening?

7 A I did have it on me, but it was not activated.
8 Usually when we do off-duty details, they'll stay in sleep
9 mode unless something happens. For example, if we stop
10 somebody for a DUI or suspected DUI or something like
11 that. We -- all of our cruisers have AXON in-car cameras.

12 Q Did your in-car camera activate once you removed
13 yourself from the traffic -- from your standard Archer
14 western standard traffic duty to assist with securing the
15 scene?

16 A So the cameras will activate if you go above
17 75 miles-per-hour, so if I happened to go above 75
18 miles-per-hour while I was on the interstate trying to get
19 to the scene. Like I said, when I got there, everybody
20 was already there. It would have automatically activated.
21 It would have been shut off obviously when my lights were
22 activated during the construction because there is no
23 purpose of recording just me standing still for several
24 hours while doing an off-duty detail.

25 Q And you said you had approximately one

1 conversation with Deputy Hartwick prior to his passing.
2 was it that day, or was it before this day?

3 A It was way before.

4 Q Okay. So no conversations with him about how he
5 was feeling that day, whether he was tired, whether he was
6 sick or anything like that?

7 A No, ma'am.

8 Q Okay. And have you been a party to any internal
9 meetings about this case?

10 A I have not, ma'am.

11 Q Have you understood all my questions so far?

12 A I have.

13 Q Have you been able to answer them completely and
14 to the best of your ability?

15 A I have.

16 Q Is there anything else about this case that we
17 haven't discussed today?

18 A No, ma'am. Like I said, my involvement was
19 simply just directing traffic. We just happened to be
20 working the same off-duty that night, and that's pretty
21 much it.

22 Q Okay. I guess the last question, when did your
23 off-duty start that evening?

24 A Every off-duty from that time started at 7 p.m.,
25 and they were supposed to run until 6 a.m. But because of

1 everything that happened, I think I ended up signing off
2 on that sheet -- it was approximately 7 a.m. At some time
3 in the morning because the sun was coming up.

4 MS. BLAQUIERE: All right. I appreciate your
5 time.

6 MS. DELIBERATO: I have two questions. Sorry.

7 THE DEPONENT: No, go ahead.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. DELIBERATO:

10 Q You said that you worked the detail two to three
11 times a week, several months before. Did you work the
12 detail after this?

13 A I did a couple of times, but not as much as I
14 did before.

15 Q Okay. Any reason for doing it less?

16 A Well, with that happening, it was just a little
17 bit -- you know, I needed some time too. Obviously, when
18 a death happens it's difficult, especially with somebody
19 that you used to work with. But also, it kind of started
20 cutting into my personal time working twelve-hour shifts
21 plus and then another ten- to eleven-hours doing off-duty
22 detail just kind of took a heavy toll personally. So I
23 just stepped back and did details that required less of my
24 time.

25 Q The few times that you did the Archer western

1 detail after, was there anything different about the
2 security briefing or anything like that after this
3 incident?

4 A We did have a debrief I think, as far as I
5 remember, with the supervisors from Archer Western, and
6 they did emphasize the whole security vest, wearing a
7 security vest if you're stepping outside of your vehicle
8 and all that. That's all I can recall. It was a little
9 bit ago. That's pretty much one thing that stood out. As
10 soon as I came in for my next shift when I did another
11 Archer detail, they emphasized a lot on not having us step
12 out without a vest on or something that -- you know,
13 especially if we were on the interstate to provide high
14 visibility.

15 Q And the last question, this is a question I have
16 of anybody. Any complaints sustained against you for any
17 reason either at PCSO or now with North Carolina?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q And how long have you been in North Carolina?
20 When did you start there?

21 A I moved -- my official hire date here was
22 July 29th, so I've been here since July 29th.

23 MS. DELIBERATO: Great. I don't have anything
24 else. Thanks so much for your time.

25 THE DEPONENT: Thank you, ma'am.

1 MS. BLAQUIERE: Do you want to read or waive
2 your right to review the accuracy of your deposition
3 before it's submitted?

4 THE DEPONENT: Waive.

5 MS. BLAQUIERE: Thank you so much.

6 (Deposition concludes at 11:42 a.m.)
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1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4

5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that
6 PAMELA BREDA personally appeared before me and was duly
7 sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 18TH day
9 of JANUARY, 2025.

10

11

Tamara M. Pacheco

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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 PAMELA BREDA; 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