

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:

ZACHARY DENUCCIO

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

November 18, 2024

TIME:

2:38 p.m. - 2:43 p.m.

PLACE:

ZOOM videoconference

REPORTED BY:

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

Pages 1 - 13

JTP REPORTING (727)422-8287

ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCES

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## EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 ZACHARY DENUCCIO

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

9 A My name is Deputy Denuccio. It's spelled  
10 D-E-N-U-C-C-I-O.

11 Q And how are you employed?

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

13 Q My name is Maria DeLiberato. I'm an assistant  
14 public defender. Myself and Nichole Blaquiere represent  
15 Juan Molina-Salles. Present for the State are Nathan  
16 Vonderheide and Elizabeth Constantine.

17 We're here for your deposition today. It's PCSO  
18 case number 22-305232. It looks like you authored just  
19 one very brief supplement. I don't think it has a  
20 narrative to it, Supplement 34. Is that right?

21 A Correct.

22 Q Did you have a chance to review that before our  
23 depo today?

24 A Yes, I did.

25 Q And do you have an independent recollection of

1 your involvement in this particular case?

2 A Yes. I -- (technical interruption).

3 Q Your mic just went out for a second. I don't  
4 know why.

5 A Can you hear me?

6 Q Yeah. It just sounds like you're underwater.

7 A How about that?

8 Q Yes.

9 A Yeah. I did traffic control on the highway and  
10 then did the impound sheet for the front-loader.

11 Q Okay. So before we get into that, I just want  
12 to get your background, law enforcement background a  
13 little bit. How long have you been employed with PCSO?

14 A I've been employed with them since 2021.

15 THE REPORTER: Since 2021?

16 A Correct.

17 Q It's weird. Somehow when you step away, it gets  
18 quiet. I don't know what's wrong, but we'll try.

19 A Is that better?

20 Q Yeah.

21 A Yeah, 2021.

22 Q Any prior law enforcement experience before  
23 that?

24 A None.

25 Q Any complaints sustained against you for any

1 reason since 2021?

2 A None that I know of, no.

3 Q So were you working on duty the night of the  
4 incident?

5 A Not the night of the incident, no.

6 Q Okay. So how was it that you got called in to  
7 the scene?

8 A I got called in because I was the day-shift, and  
9 I relieved the night-shift on scene.

10 Q Okay. And what did you -- what were you asked  
11 to do?

12 A The first task I was asked to do was to use my  
13 marked patrol vehicle as traffic control on 275.

14 Q And what did you learn about the scene or what  
15 had happened or anything like that when you came on?

16 A Nothing definite. I wasn't present on scene.  
17 That was all probably third, fourth, fifth-hand  
18 information at that point.

19 Q And what was it?

20 A That just a deputy was killed.

21 Q Okay. Did you know Deputy Hartwick?

22 A No, I did not.

23 Q You never had any conversations with him?

24 A No, ma'am.

25 Q Were you familiar at all with the Archer Western

1 Construction detail?

2 A Very little to none knowledge about it.

3 Q Did you ever do that detail?

4 A No, I did not.

5 Q Not since then either?

6 A Not -- since then, yes, I think I've done one.

7 Q Okay. Do you know when that was?

8 A Probably earlier this year at some point.

9 Q Was it an overnight duty?

10 A Correct.

11 Q And what did you have to do?

12 A Just sit on the highway with my marked patrol  
13 vehicle as traffic control.

14 Q Okay. Did they give you any specific safety  
15 instructions, anything like that before you went out  
16 there?

17 A No, just have your red-and-blue lights on in  
18 your marked patrol vehicle as traffic awareness.

19 Q And did they instruct you to stay inside the  
20 vehicle or anything like that?

21 A No.

22 Q So you're controlling traffic. You never  
23 actually get to the scene where Deputy Hartwick is  
24 deceased. Is that right?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q And then at some point you had something to do  
2 with the front-loader?

3 A Yes. One of the lieutenants -- I believe it was  
4 Lieutenant Scarpati -- told me to do the impound sheet for  
5 the front-loader.

6 Q And what does that mean? What is the impound  
7 sheet? What did you do?

8 A All you would do is look at the -- if it was a  
9 vehicle, it would have had a license plate. In this case,  
10 it had probably a serial number or VIN, vehicle  
11 identification number, and you would type out a small  
12 little form that you would hand to the tow truck company  
13 that was coming to take possession of it.

14 Q Did you do anything with the front-loader  
15 yourself? Did you take pictures of it, examine it,  
16 operate it, anything like that?

17 A No, I did not.

18 Q Anything that you remember about the  
19 front-loader? Any type of evidence? Anything like that?

20 A Nothing. The only thing I looked at was the  
21 number on the side of the vehicle for the impound sheet.

22 Q Okay. And when -- when did you do that? What  
23 time of day?

24 A It was most likely in the afternoon. They were  
25 still processing the scene. I don't remember the exact



1 time.

2 Q Did you talk to any witnesses, lay witnesses,  
3 civilians on scene about the front-loader?

4 A No, I did not.

5 Q Anybody -- any employees from Archer Western  
6 about it or anything like that?

7 A No, I did not.

8 Q Any other involvement that you had in this case  
9 that I haven't asked you about?

10 A No. Just those two things.

11 Q Okay. And did you participate afterwards in any  
12 briefings in your department or the State Attorney's  
13 office about this particular case?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you do any research about my client, Juan  
16 Molina-Salles or his background or the charges that he's  
17 facing or anything like that?

18 A I did not.

19 Q Were you on the scene at all when he was taken  
20 into custody?

21 A No, I was not.

22 Q You never laid eyes on him either?

23 A I never saw him.

24 MS. DELIBERATO: Okay. I don't have any further  
25 questions. I don't know if my co-counsel does or the

1 State does.

2 MS. BLAQUIERE: No. Thank you.

3 MS. DELIBERATO: You're all set. Thank you so  
4 much.

5 THE DEPONENT: Thank you have a good one.

6 (Deposition concludes at 2:43 p.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 ZACHARY DENUCCIO personally appeared before me and was  
7 duly sworn.

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

10  
11 Tamara M. Pacheco

12 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR  
13 COMMISSION # 474485  
14 EXPIRES: March 30, 2028  
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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )

3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS )  
4

5 I, Tamara M. Pacheco, certify that I was  
6 authorized to and did stenographically report the  
7 Deposition of ZACHARY DENUCCIO; that a review of the  
8 transcript was requested; and that the transcript is a  
9 true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

10 I further certify that I am not a relative,  
11 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor  
12 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
13 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
14 financially interested in the action.

15 *Tamara M. Pacheco*16 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR  
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# ERRATA SHEET

IN THE CASE OF:        STATE OF FL v. JUAN MOLINA-SALLES

NAME OF DEPONENT: ZACHARY DENUCCIO

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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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Signature

Date