

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:	SANDRALEIGH KING COPELAND
TAKEN BY:	Counsel for the Defendant
DATE:	November 20, 2024
TIME:	11:30 a.m. - 11:39 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 SANDRALEIGH KING COPELAND

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. BLAQUIERE:

7 Q State your name for the record.

8 A Sandraleigh Copeland.

9 Q And did you recently have a name change?

10 A Yes. I was previously King.

11 Q Okay. Thank you. I have that you authored two
12 supplements in this case, Supplement 60 and 101. Is that
13 correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Any others?

16 A No.

17 Q Have you ever done a deposition before?

18 A Yes, I have.

19 Q Okay. Great. If you don't understand my
20 question, just say so. If you need me to rephrase it,
21 I'll do so. Just wait until I finish the question so that
22 Tammy, the court reporter doesn't have to figure out who
23 is saying what when.

24 A Okay.

25 Q And then where are you currently employed?

1 A with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in the
2 Forensics Division.

3 Q How long have you been so employed?

4 A Nine years.

5 Q Any law enforcement experience before this?

6 A No.

7 Q What was your education background to achieve
8 your employment status?

9 A I have a bachelor's in psychology, and I also
10 have an associate's degree and crime scene certificate in
11 crime scene technology.

12 Q Can you tell me what led you to be called out to
13 this case back September 22nd, 2022?

14 A Yes. So I believe I was working this night here
15 at the office, and we received a call about a department
16 death. I responded to the scene, along with Assistant
17 Supervisor Sanford and some other members.

18 Q Okay. What did you -- what were you instructed
19 to do on this case once you got to the scene?

20 A It was a little convoluted. Basically, I was
21 requested to photograph Deputy Hartwick and to collect
22 various items that had been -- that photo markers had been
23 placed next to.

24 Q Do you remember about when you made it out to
25 the scene that evening?

1 A In my report, it shows that I was pulled out at
2 about 1:15 in the morning and arrived at 1:23.

3 Q what was your normal shift hours?

4 A I believe it was probably 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

5 Q I reviewed your two reports mostly about
6 photography of the scene and then Deputy Hartwick. I had
7 a couple of questions just out of curiosity. I believe
8 you collected some food items that were found on scene by
9 Deputy Hartwick.

10 A Yes.

11 Q And then you put them in an arson can?

12 A Yes.

13 Q why?

14 A Basically, the arson can preserves the evidence.
15 That way nothing can get into it. If it had been placed
16 into, like, a paper bag, it would have either -- you know,
17 because one of them was a tomato, pizza crust. So it
18 would have either leaked, or it would have been
19 susceptible to having ants or something else go through
20 it.

21 Q Okay. Do you know if anything has been done
22 with those food items since you collected them?

23 A I'm not sure.

24 Q Okay. And then it looks like in -- you're
25 referenced in Supplement 45, in Detective Charles

1 Blumberg's supplement where you helped him place photo
2 markers down.

3 A Okay. I don't recall.

4 Q Do you have access to that?

5 A No, I don't have access to his supplement.

6 Q Okay. I can share the screen. Can you see the
7 screen now?

8 A Yes.

9 Q So Charles Blumberg, Supplement 45.

10 A Okay.

11 Q Fast forward further down. So I have here you
12 and Specialist Mauck helped with the photo markers,
13 placing them down 1 through 23 and then photo marker 27.

14 A Okay.

15 Q Do you see that?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you recall any of that work?

18 A I would have gone -- seeing as we have the photo
19 markers, it would be at the direction of Detective
20 Blumberg as to where he wanted the photo markers.

21 Q And then do you remember some of the things that
22 you may have collected from Deputy Hartwick besides --

23 A No.

24 Q -- the food items?

25 A Yes. So I have a list of the things that I did

1 collect. So I collect several things from his person,
2 like his Taser, Taser cartridges, magazine, round, his
3 gun, a set of keys, his boots, his socks, his ballistic
4 vest, and then also -- also a gold in color chain and a
5 cross pendant, his watch, eyeglasses, a handcuff key, and
6 his agency radio.

7 Q Okay. And were all those things right around
8 within an inch of his body or within a feet or two of his
9 body that evening?

10 A Yes. Most of it was, yes.

11 Q And amongst those items, was there also a
12 hearing aid that was noted?

13 A I believe I did see some, yes, at photo marker
14 6.

15 Q And who collected the hearing aid?

16 A I would have to look at the -- I don't think I
17 did, so I would have to look at the property report.

18 Q Okay. Was the hearing aid found within all
19 those other things that you just listed --

20 A I believe it was close by him, yes.

21 Q Okay. You're doing great. Just let me finish
22 the question before you answer. Because I know you're
23 going to know all these questions. I just want to get
24 them all on the record. Okay?

25 A Okay.

1 Q And then any other involvement in this case
2 besides the things that you photographed and that you
3 collected in your reports?

4 A No.

5 Q Did you go to the MEO's office that day and
6 assist with photography?

7 A I did not, no.

8 Q Okay. Or did you go to the MEO for any other
9 reason that day?

10 A I did not, no.

11 Q Anything else in this case that we haven't
12 talked about or that's documented in your two reports?

13 A No.

14 Q Have you understood all my questions so far?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Great. Have you been involved in any briefings
17 either for the Sheriff's office or the State Attorney's
18 office other than that day on scene?

19 A No.

20 Q Have you been able to answer all of my questions
21 completely and accurately?

22 A Yes.

23 MS. BLAQUIERE: All right. I appreciate it so
24 much. Ms. DeLiberato may have follow-up questions.

25 MS. DELIBERATO: No questions.

1 MS. BLAQUIERE: And Ms. Constantine.

2 MS. CONSTANTINE: I have no questions. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. BLAQUIERE: That will be the end of the
5 depo.

6 (Deposition concludes at 11:39 a.m.)

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COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

STATE OF FLORIDA)

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

I, the undersigned authority, certify that SANDRALEIGH COPELAND personally appeared before me and was duly sworn.

witness my hand and official seal this 30TH day of JANUARY, 2025.

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 SANDRALEIGH COPELAND; 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

