

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.

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DEPOSITION OF: KRISTI KLOTZ  
TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Defendant  
DATE: November 20, 2024  
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 10:35 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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Assistant State Attorneys

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Clearwater, Florida 34620

Attorneys for the State of Florida

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 KRISTI KLOTZ

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 full name for the record, please.

8 A My name is Kristi Klotz. Last name is  
9 K-L-O-T-Z.

10 Q And where are you employed, Ms. Klotz?

11 A I am a forensic science specialist at the  
12 Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

13 Q How long have you been with them?

14 A I've been with the Sheriff's office for eighteen  
15 years. I believe eleven of those have been as a forensic  
16 science specialist.

17 Q The last eleven?

18 A Correct, yes.

19 Q Just making sure. And what are your general  
20 roles in the Forensic Science Division? Any specialties?  
21 Are you a supervisor?

22 A No. I'm just basically a crime scene  
23 investigator. I go out to crime scenes, document crime  
24 scenes generally with photographs, collect items of  
25 evidence, process them for fingerprints, DNA, things of

1 that nature.

2 Q Okay. I have your name on two reports,  
3 Supplement 72 and 73. Is that right?

4 A That's correct. Yes.

5 Q Any others?

6 A No, that's it.

7 Q Okay. Can you tell me what led you to the scene  
8 on September 22nd, 2022, please.

9 A So I believe this is reference Supplement 72. I  
10 was called out to meet with Detective Berezney. I was --  
11 it was at a place kind of near the interstate. I was  
12 advised that the suspect's vehicle was there, and they  
13 wanted me to photograph it. The vehicle eventually I was  
14 told was going to get towed, that we were going to process  
15 it. That did not end up happening. They called back  
16 later and said they did not want it processed. So I  
17 basically just photographed the vehicle.

18 Q Okay. Why did they change their minds on it  
19 being processed?

20 A I do not know. All I know is that Detective  
21 Berezney contacted my supervisor, Camacho, and advised her  
22 that the vehicle was not going to be processed any  
23 further.

24 Q Okay. And then I see -- what else did you do  
25 after taking photos of the -- I believe it was a 2002

1 Honda CRV?

2 A Let me look at my -- yes. I was told it wasn't  
3 his vehicle. I was just told that he was driving the  
4 vehicle to and from work. But that was it. I  
5 photographed it, and then I sealed it because we did think  
6 it was going to be transported to get processed. I sealed  
7 it with evidence tape, and that was it.

8 Q All right. And then what did you do after that?

9 A After that, later on in the afternoon I  
10 responded to the medical examiner's office, and I  
11 collected fingerprints from Deputy Hartwick.

12 Q Also a buccal swab, chest hair, and blood  
13 specimen?

14 A That's correct. Items that were collected  
15 during the autopsy, I did collect those three items as  
16 well.

17 Q Why were those items requested to be collected?

18 A Those are standard items that are collected at  
19 autopsies in these type of cases.

20 Q Is it because of the status of Deputy Hartwick  
21 being law enforcement or just because it's a deceased  
22 person and an ongoing investigation?

23 A From my understanding, they usually will collect  
24 those types of items on homicides, you know, this type of  
25 case being -- involving a deputy. I know that they will

1 collect them on suicides as well, and it's just kind of  
2 standard practice that the medical examiner's office does.

3 Q Okay. Anything else after your medical  
4 examiner's office trip?

5 A No. That was all of my involvement in this  
6 case.

7 Q Okay. Did you know Deputy Hartwick either  
8 professionally or off-duty?

9 A No, I did not.

10 Q Okay. And do you know anything about the Archer  
11 Western Gateway Expressway project?

12 A I'm familiar with the project, yes.

13 Q Do you know anything about its safety standards  
14 and how they attempt to instruct law enforcement officers  
15 working the detail?

16 A All I know is that we had law enforcement  
17 working details for Archer. That's about it.

18 Q Okay. Have you done any research about this  
19 case or my client outside of what's in your supplements?

20 A No.

21 Q Have you been involved in any case briefings  
22 with the Sheriff's department or State Attorney's office  
23 after your supplements?

24 A No.

25 Q Anything else about your involvement that we

1 have not discussed noteworthy?

2 A No.

3 Q Have you understood all of my questions?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Great. Have you been able to answer them  
6 completely and accurately?

7 A Yes.

8 MS. BLAQUIERE: Okay. I don't have anymore  
9 questions. I don't know if Ms. DeLiberato does.

10 MS. DELIBERATO: (Shakes head.)

11 MS. BLAQUIERE: She does not.

12 MS. CONSTANTINE: I have no questions.

13 MR. VONDERHEIDE: No questions from me.

14 THE DEPONENT: Okay.

15 MS. BLAQUIERE: This is the end of the depo. Do  
16 you want to read the depo before it's submitted, or  
17 do you want to waive your right to read it?

18 THE DEPONENT: I'll waive it. That's fine.

19 (Deposition concludes at 10:35 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 KRISTI KLOTZ personally appeared before me and was duly  
7 sworn.

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

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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 KRISTI KLOTZ; 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