

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:

CHRISTIAN LIRA RANGEL

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

November 20, 2024

TIME:

11:15 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

PLACE:

ZOOM Videoconference

REPORTED BY:

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

Pages 1 - 15

JTP REPORTING (727)422-8287

ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCES

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 CHRISTIAN LIRA RANGEL

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. BLAQUIERE:

7 Q Can you please state your name for the record.

8 A It's Christian Lira Rangel.

9 Q And how -- my apologies. And where do you
10 currently work?

11 A I work at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

12 Q How long have you worked for them?

13 A It's been approximately four years.

14 Q Any law enforcement experience before the
15 Sheriff's office?

16 A No.

17 Q And what is your current role with the Sheriff's
18 office?

19 A I am a deputy, patrol.

20 Q Was that your title back in September of 2022 as
21 well?

22 A Yes.

23 Q It looks like in this lengthy police report we
24 have, I don't have any supplements written by you. Is
25 that accurate?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And then I'm asking nearly every single
3 law enforcement officer that I can remember to, so don't
4 take it personally, have you had any work complaints
5 sustained?

6 A Any work complaints what? I'm sorry.

7 Q Sustained.

8 A What do you mean by that?

9 Q Citizen, coworker, any work complaints that have
10 been sustained to find you at fault for anything.

11 A Oh, not that I'm aware of.

12 Q Okay. Great. Can you tell me what you were
13 doing on September 22nd, 2022? Do you have any
14 independent memory of that?

15 A Yes. So, I mean, we -- I remember Deputy
16 Hartwick was not answering the radio. After the fact, I
17 then set up a perimeter just south of Ulmerton Road on
18 I275. And then when K9 apprehended a suspect, I just
19 assisted in placing the suspect in Deputy Yeargin's
20 vehicle. That was the end of my involvement.

21 Q Okay. I will have a couple of follow-up
22 questions about that, but before that, were you out there
23 in your official capacity or were you originally out there
24 for traffic detail for Archer Western?

25 A I was out there for a traffic detail originally.

1 Q And in your experience in the traffic detail for
2 Archer Western, how often did you guys have safety review
3 standards with their supervisors employed there?

4 A What do you mean by safety?

5 Q Did he ever go over any safety procedures for
6 law enforcement officers who would be working the traffic
7 detail for them?

8 A I mean, I remember going through them at least
9 once, yes.

10 Q Was that before Deputy Hartwick's passing or
11 after?

12 A Beforehand.

13 Q Okay. Did they ever review those policies,
14 those safety policies with you again after Deputy
15 Hartwick's passing?

16 A I mean, honestly, not that I'm aware of.

17 Q Okay. What were those safety procedures that
18 Archer Western went over with you? Do you remember?

19 A I mean, it was just about what we were going to
20 be doing that day.

21 Q Did they tell you to wear your safety vest if
22 you were ever outside of your vehicle?

23 A That's -- I mean, that's a Sheriff's office
24 policy to wear your traffic vest if you're conducting
25 traffic.

1 Q Okay. Where were you originally supposed to be
2 stationed that day for the traffic detail?

3 A I actually had not gotten my spot yet. I was
4 still waiting.

5 Q Okay. So then you went to you said just south
6 of the Ulmerton and 275 exit?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Were you on the southbound side?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. There's a retention pond and some
11 mangroves over there?

12 A Yeah. There's the mangroves nearby.

13 Q And that's ultimately where Mr. Molina-Salles
14 was later found the next morning?

15 A I mean, I wasn't the one that found him.

16 Q Okay. Were you on scene when he emerged from
17 that area?

18 A I was on scene when K9 had him by the off-ramp
19 of Ulmerton and 275.

20 Q Okay. How far away were you from him where you
21 were stationed to keep traffic off of the interstate?

22 A I couldn't tell you an exact.

23 Q Okay. Were you just north of where he was
24 brought out by the bloodhounds?

25 A I was south of that onramp or offramp.

1 Q How far south? Do you remember?

2 A I don't know exactly.

3 Q Okay. North of Deputy Hartwick's vehicle and
4 where he had been struck, correct?

5 A I know it was north of that; however, I never
6 went to the scene.

7 Q Yeah. I apologize. I thought I said north.
8 That was what I meant.

9 So you never made it over to where Deputy
10 Hartwick was laying on the ground you're saying?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. Did you know Deputy Hartwick?

13 A I did.

14 Q And can you -- did you ever talk with him about
15 the Archer Western detail?

16 A No.

17 Q Do you know -- do you personally have knowledge
18 that he wore hearing aids?

19 A I believe I knew about it after the fact.

20 Q Okay. From who?

21 A From coworkers.

22 Q Okay. Did you have any personal knowledge that
23 he wore prescription eyeglasses?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. Did he have any -- did he ever express

1 immediately before his death anything about his emotional
2 state, whether he was depressed, happy? Anything like
3 that?

4 A Not that I'm aware of, no.

5 Q Okay. Do you remember the last time you did
6 talk to Deputy Hartwick?

7 A Yeah. It was that day.

8 Q Had he just come off his regular shift?

9 A No. It was an off day for us.

10 Q Okay. Was he -- can you remember anything about
11 him that day before his passing that you can tell us?

12 A I mean, we were just talking about what he was
13 going to do after he retired.

14 Q Did you guys ever hang out off-duty?

15 A No. Not that -- no, I don't believe so.

16 Q Did you ever work with him for the Sheriff's
17 office, not on the off-duty traffic details?

18 A As in like did I work near by him or --

19 Q Yeah. Were you in his squad? Were you --

20 A Yeah. I was in a squad with him.

21 Q How long?

22 A I would say about a year.

23 Q Was he your supervisor for the squad?

24 A No.

25 Q Who was?

1 A It was Sergeant Ferdon.

2 Q And then I believe you indicated earlier you
3 assisted in transporting Mr. Molina-Salles to Deputy
4 Yeargin's vehicle?

5 A Yes. I just assisted in walking him to Deputy
6 Yeargin's vehicle.

7 Q Did you talk with him at all?

8 A No. Well, I may have asked him if he had any
9 weapons in his pockets or anything like that, but I didn't
10 interview him.

11 Q Perfect. Did you have your body camera on at
12 the time?

13 A Yes, it should have been.

14 Q Okay. And do you speak Spanish?

15 A I do.

16 Q Okay. So if you talked to him, it would have
17 been in Spanish?

18 A I believe so.

19 Q Is your entire interaction with
20 Mr. Molina-Salles captured on your body camera?

21 A It should have been.

22 Q Any other involvement that day that we haven't
23 discussed?

24 A No.

25 Q Have you done any research about this case or my

1 client?

2 A I have not.

3 Q Okay. Do you have anything about his
4 immigration status or anything like that?

5 A Not that I personally looked up.

6 Q Okay. Anything -- have you been involved in any
7 case briefings with either the Sheriff's office or the
8 State Attorney's office after Mr. Molina-Salles' arrest?

9 A Have I been involved in what? I'm sorry.

10 Q Any briefings about this case either for the
11 Sheriff's office or the State Attorney's office?

12 A No. No, ma'am.

13 Q Okay. Have you understood all my questions so
14 far?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Have you been able to answer them completely and
17 accurately?

18 A Yes.

19 MS. BLAQUIERE: Ms. DeLiberato might have a
20 follow-up question.

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. DELIBERATO:

23 Q My only question is, do you have any
24 recollection about Mr. Molina-Salles' demeanor when he was
25 put into custody? Like was he saying anything? Was he --

1 A Not that I noted.

2 Q Okay. Nothing that you recall?

3 A No. No, ma'am.

4 Q I know it's captured on body cam. I just didn't
5 know if you remembered it.

6 A Yes, ma'am. No.

7 MS. DELIBERATO: That's all I have.

8 MS. BLAQUIERE: No further questions from us.
9 Ms. Constantine.

10 MS. CONSTANTINE: (No response.)

11 MS. BLAQUIERE: It doesn't sound like
12 Ms. Constantine has any questions. So do you want
13 to -- this is the end of your depo. Do you want to
14 read your depo transcript before it's submitted or
15 waive your right to read it?

16 THE DEPONENT: How would I go about reading
17 them?

18 MS. BLAQUIERE: Tammy, the court reporter will
19 forward it to Ms. Constantine or you, and you'll get
20 to read it for accuracy before she submits it.

21 THE DEPONENT: Yeah, I would like that honestly.

22 MS. BLAQUIERE: Okay.

23 (Deposition concludes at 11:25 a.m.)
24
25

1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4
5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that
6 CHRISTIAN LIRA RANGEL personally appeared before me and
7 was duly sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 30TH 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 CHRISTIAN LIRA RANGEL; 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. Pacheco16 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
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IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL v. JUAN MOLINA-SALLES

NAME OF DEPONENT: CHRISTIAN LIRA RANGEL

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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Signature

Date