

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:

ELIZABETH TEMPLE

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

November 21, 2024

TIME:

1:18 p.m. - 1:28 p.m.

PLACE:

ZOOM Videoconference

REPORTED BY:

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

Pages 1 - 16

JTP REPORTING (727)422-8287

ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCES

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 ELIZABETH TEMPLE

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. DELIBERATO:

7 Q Could you please state and spell your name for
8 the record.

9 A Deputy Elizabeth Temple, E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H,
10 T-E-M-P-L-E.

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

16 It's case number 22-305232. I note that you
17 authored two supplements, Supplement 12 and Supplement 87.
18 Is that right?

19 A I know I authored Supplement 12. I don't
20 remember 87. Hold on, let me check. No, ma'am.
21 Supplement 87 is not me. That is actually my spouse.

22 Q Oh, okay. I just wrote -- I guess I just
23 searched Temple, and they both popped up. So you're
24 Elizabeth Temple, and you did number 12?

25 A Yes. My spouse is crime scene.

1 Q Okay. So can you walk me a little bit through
2 your law enforcement career?

3 A I've been only with the Sheriff's office. I
4 started with them in 2012 working at the courthouse. I
5 then went to the Police Academy 2013 and became sworn in
6 2014. Again, I've only been with the Sheriff's office.
7 I've been a member of our DUI Unit. I've been a field
8 training officer, and I am in -- I am currently and at the
9 time was a member of our Major Accident Investigation
10 Team.

11 Q Okay. And since your time with PCSO, ever had
12 any complaints sustained against you for any reason?

13 A No.

14 Q So how was it that you got called out to the
15 scene here?

16 A I was working on that day, working in Squad 2,
17 and a hit-and-run call had come out, and I responded to
18 the scene.

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

21 A Just professionally. I didn't know him outside
22 of work.

23 Q Do you recall kind of the last time you had a
24 conversation with him?

25 A I do not.

1 Q when you got to the scene -- you heard the call
2 and you went. what was happening when you arrived on
3 scene?

4 A The medics were there, and when I arrived on
5 scene, I consoled Deputy Hirshman, now Corporal Hirshman.

6 Q And he was the sort of first responding officer
7 to approach Deputy Hartwick. Is that right?

8 A That is correct. I knew that he knew him. They
9 did a lot of details together, so he was pretty shook up.

10 Q Yeah. I think there was some body-camera sort
11 of indicating his understandable level of upset. So you
12 spoke with him and kind of tried to keep him calm?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And how long did you stay with him?

15 A It wasn't too long. Another deputy came, and
16 because I'm on the Major Accident Investigation Team, it
17 wasn't a hundred percent clear at that moment if we were
18 going to be investigating it or if our homicide team was
19 going to be investigating it. Ultimately, it was our
20 homicide team.

21 So my team leader at the time was Corporal
22 Laney. He was also there. He told me to go back and
23 console Deputy Hirshman. So I went back to Deputy
24 Hirshman and stayed with him until I was asked to find out
25 who was south at the scene, other deputies who were south

1 of the scene who were working the Archer Western detail.
2 So I found out who those people were so I could get that
3 information to homicide when they arrived.

4 And then I was also asked to find out who the
5 9-1-1 callers were. I contacted our -- I'm sorry. I
6 contacted our Communications Division to get that
7 information to pass that along to homicide when they
8 arrived.

9 Shortly thereafter, some -- I don't know how the
10 front-loaders came into play, but then there was some
11 motion down by the front loaders. I went over there. I
12 saw that there was a container that held some food and a
13 half eaten ham sandwich. I was then instructed to just
14 maintain scene security at that point for a brief time. I
15 was relieved from there.

16 As the DUI Unit, unfortunately we have been
17 tasked with all of our deputies that have been killed with
18 transporting them. So I was instructed to get my car
19 ready and be ready when they were ready to transport
20 Deputy Hartwick to the medical examiner's office, and then
21 I escorted him to the medical examiner's office.

22 Q He went in the ambulance. Is that correct?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q Your police cruiser escorted the ambulance?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

1 Q You spoke -- it looks like from your report when
2 you were trying to determine who the other deputies were
3 on the detail, you spoke to Kody. Is that Kody Gardner,
4 the project -- like the foreman supervisor?

5 A Foreman I believe. Kind of like the guy that's
6 in charge, yes.

7 Q What do you remember him telling you?

8 A I believe it was just telling me who was south
9 of the scene. He was trying to get me that information.

10 Q Did you ask him any details about the
11 construction detail or any instructions that he might have
12 given the officers?

13 A I do not recall that, no.

14 Q Are you familiar with that construction detail?

15 A I had worked the detail, and, pardon me, I don't
16 know the exact number but less than a handful of times
17 prior to this incident.

18 Q Okay.

19 A So I'm a bit familiar with it. I can't tell you
20 what every position there did. So I may be able to answer
21 a question or two, but I don't know how helpful I would be
22 with that.

23 Q Did you ever do the construction detail after
24 Deputy Hartwick's accident?

25 A I have not.

1 Q Do you remember anything from the handful of
2 times that you did it about any kind of safety
3 instructions as far as the officers, what they're supposed
4 to be doing or not supposed to be doing?

5 A The only thing I recall from doing the details
6 is we would meet at a stationary location, and then a
7 foreman or somebody would come and say I need three
8 deputies or I need X number of deputies, and they would
9 take us to a location. They'd just give us a brief
10 rundown of what we were going to be doing. We were always
11 in our cars with our lights on.

12 Q And were you instructed to stay inside your
13 cars?

14 A I don't recall that, no.

15 Q Okay. And you were supposed to put the
16 blue-and-red flashing, swirling lights on, right?

17 A Yes. Yes.

18 Q Did you -- when you got the 9-1-1 and identified
19 the 9-1-1 callers, you didn't actually do any of the
20 interviews of the caller himself, right, Kenny Rogers?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q You just got the information and relayed it to
23 Lieutenant Killian?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And your report indicates this, but I just want

1 to confirm. It sounds like you heard Deputy Hirshman on
2 the radio sort of advise the deputy was down and then
3 within a minute advised -- call the Signal-7. Is that
4 right?

5 A That is correct.

6 Q The front-loaders, did you do anything with
7 noting the food particles or the food container on the
8 front-loaders? Did you document that in any way, or you
9 just noted it and put it in your report?

10 A Just in my report. That would all be physically
11 documented by our Forensics Unit.

12 Q Right. And then basically, it sounds like you
13 just sort of stayed by the front-loaders. You were
14 instructed to kind of secure that area once it was pretty
15 clear there was some evidentiary value there?

16 A Correct.

17 Q And then you stayed there until Deputy Reidy
18 relieved you so you could transport -- escort Deputy
19 Hartwick to the medical examiner?

20 A That is correct.

21 Q Once you escorted him to the medical examiner's
22 office did you do anything else?

23 A I was told to go home. I made it home, and I
24 was called immediately back to take him to the funeral
25 home.

1 Q Okay. So you went back to the medical
2 examiner's office after the autopsy and escorted him to
3 the funeral home?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Anything else that you did?

6 A Just assisted with the funeral.

7 Q Okay. Did you check back in on Deputy Hirshman
8 over the coming days and weeks to see how he was doing?

9 A So Deputy Hirshman and I work very closely
10 together. We are in the DUI Unit together. He's a pretty
11 quiet person. I would ask him just here and there how are
12 you doing. You know, he seemed quiet, but -- I mean, I
13 made it clear to him if he needed anything that he could
14 reach out to me.

15 Q Understood. And did you do any investigative
16 work on the case after all the involvement that we've
17 discussed today?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q And you didn't write any other reports or any
20 other supplements?

21 A No. Again, that 87 is my spouse.

22 Q Got it. I don't -- actually, I think I missed
23 setting her for depo. I'll get back to that soon. So
24 after this, did you remember attending any meetings or
25 briefings in your department or in the State Attorney's

1 office about this case?

2 A I did not.

3 Q Did you do any research into the case sort of on
4 your own kind of following the case through the criminal
5 justice system?

6 A I have not.

7 Q Do you know anything or remember hearing
8 anything about the background of my client, his
9 immigration status? Anything like that?

10 A I believe I had heard on the news that he was an
11 illegal citizen, but I don't know him. I haven't Googled
12 him. I don't know anything about him.

13 Q Were you aware of any investigation into Archer
14 western after this incident about -- specifically about
15 their hiring practices?

16 A I'm not aware of anything.

17 Q Okay. You weren't tasked to do any of that or
18 participate in any of those investigations?

19 A No, ma'am.

20 MS. DELIBERATO: I don't have any further
21 questions for you today. Thank you so much for
22 coming in, especially when you're not feeling well.
23 I appreciate it.

24 THE DEPONENT: Absolutely.

25 MS. DELIBERATO: I don't know if my

1 co-counsel -- I don't think she has any questions,
2 and I don't believe the State does.

3 MS. CONSTANTINE: No questions. Thank you.

4 (Deposition concludes at 1:28 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 ELIZABETH TEMPLE personally appeared before me and was
7 duly sworn.

8 witness my hand and official seal this 4th day
9 of February, 2025.

10
11 _____
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 ELIZABETH TEMPLE; 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 _____
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: ELIZABETH TEMPLE

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

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Date