

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:

JASON STIBBARD

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

November 21, 2024

TIME:

11:55 a.m. - 12:06 p.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 JASON STIBBARD

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. BLAQUIERE:

7 Q Please state your full name for the record.

8 A Jason Wayne Stibbard.

9 Q And Mr. Stibbard, where do you work?

10 A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

11 Q How long have you worked for them?

12 A Twenty-five years almost.

13 Q And what is your current role for them?

14 A I'm a lieutenant in the Patrol Operations
15 Bureau.

16 Q Was that your role back in September 2022 as
17 well?

18 A No, ma'am. I was a sergeant at that point, and
19 I was assigned to the Community Policing Unit.

20 Q Okay. Do you have any law enforcement
21 experience prior to the Sheriff's department?

22 A Yes, in the military, the U.S. Army.

23 Q How long was that?

24 A Approximately six years.

25 Q Anything else?

1 A No, that's it.

2 Q That's plenty. Great. So did you know Deputy
3 Hartwick either off-duty or professionally?

4 A I knew him professionally through the Sheriff's
5 office. Our paths did not cross often. I don't think I
6 ever worked in a unit with him or supervised a unit that
7 he was in. I just knew him from different events and
8 things like that just professionally through the Sheriff's
9 office.

10 Q Okay. Do you remember about when was the last
11 time you talked to him before his death?

12 A I can't remember that date. It would have been
13 in passing and probably just a hello or something like
14 that, but I can't remember. It wasn't -- again, I didn't
15 have much contact with him. The agency is large, so I
16 didn't know him. Again, I didn't know him personally, and
17 we didn't work in units together. I just kind of knew of
18 him, and obviously, if I'd see him, I would say hello,
19 that type of thing. We weren't close I guess for lack of
20 a better term.

21 Q Okay. Did you yourself ever work the Archer
22 Western detail?

23 A I've worked it many times.

24 Q Did you work it before Deputy Hartwick's death?

25 A I did.

1 Q And did you work it at all after Deputy
2 Hartwick's death?

3 A I have.

4 Q Did you work directly with Kody Gardner, the MOT
5 supervisor?

6 A There's been several of the supervisors, and I
7 remember Kody, yes. I worked it while he was there, yes.

8 Q Okay. And if you can recall -- it's been quite
9 a while, so I understand -- did you work with him prior to
10 Deputy Hartwick's death?

11 A Prior to? I could have. I've worked that
12 detail a lot, and I believe -- there was one other
13 gentleman, and his name slips me at this point. I do
14 remember Kody. I just can't remember if I worked it
15 before or after. It could have been both. It could have
16 been before his death, and it could have been after. I do
17 know Kody, and I recognize the name. I just can't
18 remember -- I can't recall whether it was before his death
19 or after. I want to say that it was both.

20 Q Okay. No worries if you can't remember
21 specifically before or after. Do you recall -- do you
22 recall any of the Archer Western MOT guys giving you
23 safety instructions prior to your traffic detail for the
24 Gateway Expressway project?

25 A No. We've never -- we've never received safety

1 instructions. We discussed what needs to be done, what
2 roads need to be blocked, you know, what we need to do,
3 but the safety instructions are not given from them I
4 wouldn't say. I think it's more of I need you to block
5 this lane. I need you to block this intersection. But
6 there was never any specific safety instructions given
7 from anybody.

8 Q Okay. Not even after Deputy Hartwick's death,
9 they didn't try to reiterate wear your safety vest if
10 you're outside of your vehicle?

11 A No. I've never had any conversation with them.
12 I can tell you I just worked it the other night, and there
13 wasn't any conversation about safety instructions at that
14 point. I do believe internally when you -- it's a
15 possibility when you sign up for the job, I don't know
16 whether it says -- no. In fact, I don't think it does.

17 I wear my safety vest just because I wear it.
18 It's just a part of what I do. If I have to direct
19 traffic or have to get out of the car, I just do it on my
20 own. There has never been any instructions to do that.
21 There has never been anything from Archer Western, the
22 company or a civilian telling us to wear that vest, no.

23 Q Okay. You were called out to the scene I
24 believe this day. Is that right?

25 A No, ma'am. Not the scene. I was not on the

1 actual scene. It was a call-out. At the time I received
2 a call-out, like I said before, I was running the CPO
3 Unit. They called my unit out. I responded to I want to
4 say Ninth Street and Roosevelt Boulevard. I think there
5 is a Winn-Dixie there. It's either a Winn-Dixie or
6 Publix. I responded to that parking lot, and I started
7 gathering the community policing officers to respond there
8 with me.

9 we didn't have any direct role at that point.
10 We were just trying to get -- I was given a quick synopsis
11 of what happened, and I was trying to get personnel ready
12 to assist with whatever the agency needed at that point.
13 That was what we did.

14 Q Okay. So you never made it to the interstate
15 scene either north of Gandy or just south of Ulmerton?

16 A No. That location that I just gave you, I want
17 to say it's a Winn-Dixie or Publix, but I'm not sure.
18 There's a parking lot there. It's like Ninth Street and
19 Roosevelt, right in that area. I think it's on the
20 northeast side there. We responded to that parking lot,
21 and I started gathering the community policing officers or
22 deputies that were assigned to my unit to respond there.
23 But I didn't respond anywhere on the interstate itself.

24 Q What else did you do while you were at the
25 Publix scene?

1 A Just -- we started -- as people started to
2 respond to that location, I started putting together teams
3 because there was a potential that we were going to have
4 to go look for someone that was involved in the traffic
5 crash itself or the incident itself. I started putting --
6 I'm sorry, I started to put together teams to potentially
7 do that, but that never happened. They located the
8 suspect before that, and that was it.

9 Q Okay. Then what did you do once you heard that
10 they located the suspect?

11 A Left. Left the scene. Went and did my normal
12 duties.

13 Q Did you have any role in keeping track of the
14 crime scene log?

15 A I did not.

16 Q Okay. Did you do any research into this case
17 further or about my client, Mr. Juan Molina-Salles after
18 that morning?

19 A Any research into him? No, I don't believe so.
20 No, ma'am. I did -- I did receive a name, and I believe
21 it was your client's name. I think all I did was
22 potentially look him up in our ACISS database to see if
23 there was anything there, and that was it.

24 Q Did anyone ask you to do that, or did you just
25 do that of your own desire?

1 A I think I did that on my own as we started to
2 figure out, you know, what was taking place. There was a
3 name given. I'm not sure how it was given. It may have
4 been in our computer, our CAD dispatch thing, and I just
5 kind of was going through that. We never really got -- at
6 that point we gathered teams, but he was located and there
7 was no -- they basically released us from the scene, and I
8 released all the CPOs to go back and do their own thing.

9 Q Do you remember which name it was, because there
10 were two names?

11 A The name you just gave me, that name sounds the
12 most familiar. I think that's what I did the research on.

13 Q Juan Molina-Salles?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q And what did your research reveal? Do you
16 remember?

17 A I want to say there was nothing in our database
18 on him. I don't think there was anything in the ACISS
19 database, if I remember.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I don't think it was anything. I may have run
22 him in our CAD system too, and I don't think anything came
23 back, if I can remember. That was a long time ago. I
24 just remember doing something with the name, doing some
25 basic research while I was waiting to get further

1 instruction on what we were going to do.

2 Q Understandable. Did you -- were you involved in
3 any briefings with either the Sheriff's office or the
4 State Attorney's office after that day?

5 A No. No, ma'am.

6 Q And anything else about your involvement that we
7 have not discussed?

8 A No, ma'am. That's about the extent of my
9 involvement with that.

10 Q Okay. I just want to doublecheck because I
11 don't know if we went over this at the beginning. We've
12 done so many of these. I didn't see that you authored any
13 reports. Is that correct?

14 A Yeah, I didn't because I really didn't have --
15 there wasn't really anything to report. We didn't do
16 anything that was substantial that would have, you know,
17 required a report.

18 Q Okay. Just doublechecking.

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Okay. And have you understood all of my
21 questions?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Excellent. Have you been able to answer them
24 completely and accurately?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. BLAQUIERE: Okay. We really appreciate your
2 working with us to get the connection on your phone
3 instead of the computer. I don't know if
4 Ms. DeLiberato has any questions.

5 MS. DELIBERATO: (Shakes head.)

6 MS. BLAQUIERE: She is shaking her head no.

7 THE DEPONENT: I'll try to figure out what's
8 going on with the camera. This is the first Zoom one
9 I've done. Sorry.

10 MS. BLAQUIERE: No, we appreciate you coming. I
11 don't think Ms. Constantine has any questions;
12 otherwise, she would have piped up. Thank you so
13 much.

14 (Deposition concludes at 12:06 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 JASON
6 STIBBARD personally appeared before me and was duly sworn.

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

9
10 Tamara M. Pacheco

11 Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR
12 COMMISSION # 474485
13 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 Jason Stibbard; 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: JASON STIBBARD

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