

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:

KENT SNAVELY

TAKEN BY:

Counsel for the Defendant

DATE:

November 21, 2024

TIME:

11:14 a.m. - 11:21 a.m.

PLACE:

ZOOM Videoconference

REPORTED BY:

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

Pages 1 - 13

JTP REPORTING (727)422-8287

ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCES

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 KENT SNAVELY

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. BLAQUIERE:

7 Q Hi, Deputy Snavely. My name is Nichole
8 Blaquiere. With Ms. Maria DeLiberato, we represent
9 Mr. Juan Molina-Salles. Present also for the State is
10 Ms. Elizabeth Constantine.

11 A Okay.

12 Q Can you tell me your full name and where you
13 work for the record.

14 A Deputy Kent Snavely, Pinellas County Sheriff's
15 Office. I'm currently in the Civil Division.

16 Q Where were you back in September of 2022? Which
17 division?

18 A Civil also.

19 Q Okay. Did you know Deputy Michael Hartwick?

20 A Yes, I did.

21 Q And how long did you know him? Was it
22 professionally or personally?

23 A Both. And probably about -- I've been with the
24 agency 18 years, so probably about 10 to 13 years.

25 Q Okay. Did you guys ever hang out outside of

1 work?

2 A Occasionally. I wouldn't say it was, you know,
3 a friendship that was outside the agency, but every so
4 often we'd get together.

5 Q When was the last time you interacted with him
6 before his passing?

7 A Probably about -- I talked to him about two
8 weeks prior to.

9 Q Did he ever mention anything about the Archer
10 western detail that he would occasionally work?

11 A Yes. He also worked it. I knew he worked that
12 frequently.

13 Q And did he ever make any statements about it,
14 whether it was safe or unsafe? Anything like that?

15 A Not that I was told, no.

16 Q Did you ever work the Archer western detail?

17 A No, I did not.

18 Q Okay. And can you tell me your full law
19 enforcement experience real quick?

20 A I've been with the Sheriff's office for almost
21 eighteen years. Prior to that I was two years with
22 Belleair Police Department. Prior to that I was with the
23 Seminole County Sheriff's Office for a year.

24 Q Okay. I have here that you authored one report,
25 Supplement 106. Is that accurate?

1 A Correct.

2 Q Okay. Can you -- have you had a chance to
3 review that in preparation of your deposition today?

4 A I did. I also have it pulled up now too.

5 Q Okay. Was there anything else that you reviewed
6 to prepare for today as well?

7 A No, I did not. I just reviewed my supplement.

8 Q Okay. Do you have an independent memory of your
9 involvement in this case?

10 A Yes, I do.

11 Q And can you go ahead and just tell me from the
12 beginning what you remember from that day?

13 A I got a phonecall saying that there was an
14 accident up on the Archer Western detail that involved
15 Michael Hartwick, and I responded out to Roosevelt and 275
16 to assist with blocking the traffic from going onto the
17 interstate. That was my first task.

18 And then I was told after that to ask -- I'm on
19 the CISM Team, and I was asked to go to the office and
20 print out material to hand out and give to people that
21 were on scene reference to CISM-related material. As soon
22 as I did that, I went out to the scene, handed out the
23 material that was printed out.

24 And then I was asked to meet to a secondary
25 location, a staging location, which was the Publix down

1 off of Gandy, and to do any tips that came in, to respond
2 out to a tips location.

3 Q And did you do anything once you got to the
4 Publix staging area?

5 A Once I got there, I was also tasked with doing
6 research on the name that was provided. The exact name,
7 which was Victor Vazquez Real was the name I was given to
8 research. Come to find out, that was a fake name. In all
9 the research I found, I was not able to locate a real
10 person with that name.

11 Q What led you to determine it was a fake name?

12 A Going through all the different databases and
13 realizing that name did not match anybody.

14 Q Did you have a photo of Mr. Molina-Salles to
15 compare with the records of any potential Victor Vazquez
16 Real?

17 A No. There was no photos for Victor Vazquez
18 Real.

19 Q Or how about Mr. Juan Molina-Salles?

20 A That I was not made aware of.

21 Q Okay. What time did you respond to the Publix
22 staging area? Do you remember?

23 A I don't know the exact time. It was -- if I had
24 to guess, it was probably somewhere around early morning,
25 probably 7, 8 o'clock in the morning, 6, 7, 8 o'clock in

1 the morning.

2 Q It was before Mr. Molina-Salles was taken into
3 custody?

4 A Correct.

5 Q And then what did you do, if anything, after
6 researching the name Victor Vazquez Real?

7 A I researched it and gave the information to the
8 supervisors on scene, and then we heard over the radio
9 that he was taken into custody.

10 Q Did you go to where he was taken into custody
11 after you heard about it?

12 A No, ma'am.

13 Q Okay. And what did you do after he was taken
14 into custody, if anything?

15 A I did nothing else after that.

16 Q Okay. Did you get to -- was that your normal
17 shift, the night-shift, or was it day-shift?

18 A I work day-shift.

19 Q So then did you have a normal shift to go work?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Okay. Earlier you mentioned the acronym CISM.
22 Can you tell me a little bit more what that means?

23 A CISM is the Critical Incident Stress Management
24 Team. We respond to any incidents that involve law
25 enforcement or law enforcement family to help out with

1 giving them information and talking to them.

2 Q And were your overtures responded with, you
3 know, reception? Like, did anyone take you up on your
4 offers for counseling or anything like that in the CISM
5 paperwork?

6 A That's all confidential.

7 Q Pardon?

8 A (No response.)

9 THE REPORTER: He said that's all confidential.

10 Q Thank you.

11 A All that stuff is all confidential.

12 Q Understandable. I appreciate it.

13 Were you a part of any Sheriff's office or State
14 Attorney's office briefings after that day?

15 A No.

16 Q Anything else about your involvement that we
17 have not discussed already?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q Have you understood all my questions completely?

20 A Yes, I have.

21 Q Great. Have you been able to answer them
22 completely and accurately?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. BLAQUIERE: I appreciate it. I don't know
25 if my co-counsel, Ms. DeLiberato has any questions.

1 MS. DELIBERATO: (Shakes head.)

2 MS. BLAQUIERE: She does not. And unless
3 Ms. Constantine pipes up, we're all set. Thank you
4 so much for your time today.

5

6 (Deposition concludes at 11:21 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 KENT
6 SNAVELY 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 KENT SNAVELY; 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: KENT SNAVELY

CASE NUMBER: 22-09348CFANO

PAGE	LINE	ERROR/AMENDMENT	REASON FOR CHANGE
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Date