

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:	YZERE (RODRIGUEZ) FUENTES
TAKEN BY:	Counsel for the Defendant
DATE:	November 21, 2024
TIME:	9:41 a.m. - 9:48 a.m.
PLACE:	ZOOM Videoconference
REPORTED BY:	Tamara M. Pacheco, RPR Notary Public, State of FL

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EXHIBITS

(No exhibits were marked for identification.)

1 WHEREUPON,

2 YZERE (RODRIGUEZ) FUENTES

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

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. BLAQUIERE:

7 Q Good morning, Ms. -- is it Fuentes or Rodriguez?

8 A It is Fuentes now. It was Rodriguez previously.

9 Q Can you state your full name for the record,
10 please.

11 A Yzere Fuentes.

12 Q And Ms. Fuentes, I have before we get started
13 that you wrote two supplements, Supplement 74 and 94. Is
14 that right?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Have you been able to look at any of the
17 material, your supplements --

18 A Yes.

19 Q -- in preparation of your deposition?

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q Okay. Have you done a deposition before?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. So just a couple of ground rules. So
24 that we try not to talk over each other, I'll do my best
25 not to ask long, meandering questions. If you can just

1 wait to the end so that Tammy doesn't have to figure out
2 which one of us is talking in the audio if she has to go
3 back and later listen to it. And then try not to answer
4 in uh-huh. Use yes and no, please, or whatever is the
5 appropriate answer because we can't interpret uh-huh later
6 on.

7 So let's get started. where do you currently
8 work, Ms. Fuentes?

9 A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

10 Q And can you go over your general law enforcement
11 background and experience and how long for each job you've
12 held?

13 A I was a legal secretary for a year, and then I
14 became a forensic science specialist. I was in that
15 position for about eight years, and now I'm an assistant
16 forensic science specialist supervisor.

17 Q Is that all with the Sheriff's department?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. Have you ever had any work complaints
20 sustained?

21 A No.

22 Q And did you review any other materials besides
23 your two supplements in this case?

24 A No.

25 Q Do you have an independent memory of what you

1 did aside from what's in your report?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. I know it was a long time ago, but I just
4 can imagine because there's so few deputy deaths that this
5 may have stuck out regardless of whether you documented it
6 or not. That's why I'm asking.

7 And can you go ahead and tell me what your roles
8 and duties were when you were called out that night for
9 the case?

10 A For this case, I was called to the Sheriff's
11 Administration Building to document the suspect involved
12 in this case. I photographed him and collected his
13 clothing.

14 Q Okay. Was that the first thing that you did?
15 Is that the first you were called out?

16 A Yes. That was on the 23rd, about 11 o'clock.

17 Q Okay. And what were all the things that you
18 processed off of him?

19 A What I collected from him was a buccal swab, a
20 gray long-sleeve sweatshirt, brown cargo pants with a
21 belt, gray and black socks, blue briefs, and brown
22 Caterpillar boots.

23 Q Okay. Was he cooperative in giving those things
24 over to you?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And then what did you do with those items?

2 A Then those items, I took them back to our
3 Forensic Sciences Division, and I took photographs of
4 them. And then I secured the pants, shoes, socks, and
5 briefs in a drying chamber because they were wet and
6 waited for those to dry until I packaged them at a later
7 date.

8 Q And I didn't hear all of the last part. I'm so
9 sorry.

10 A Because those items were wet, the pants, the
11 socks, the shoes and the briefs, they were secured in a
12 drying chamber until they were dry, and then I packaged
13 them on a later date, which is the Supplement 94.

14 Q Okay. How long did they need to be in the
15 drying chamber to dry?

16 A It depends on the item, and it depends what it
17 is. So I just check it periodically until it's dry.

18 Q Okay. And then was there any additional testing
19 or evidence collection done on those items after they were
20 dried?

21 A No.

22 Q Or any of the other items that you collected
23 that didn't need drying?

24 A Huh-uh. No.

25 Q Any other involvement in this case?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. When you saw Mr. Molina-Salles at the
3 Sheriff's Administrative Building, do you remember what
4 his demeanor was like?

5 A I just remember him being quiet. He didn't say
6 a whole lot, but he was cooperative.

7 Q Okay. Do you speak any Spanish?

8 A I can, yes.

9 Q Did you speak with him that day?

10 A I did and I directed him on what I was doing, so
11 things like can you turn to the side, face the back, and
12 then taking off his clothes.

13 Q Okay. Did you ask him any other questions aside
14 from doing those things to help you collect the evidence?

15 A No.

16 Q And I think I forgot to ask, did you know Deputy
17 Hartwick?

18 A I knew of him, but I did not see him very often
19 in my profession.

20 Q Okay. Did you know him off-duty?

21 A No.

22 Q Okay. Have you done any research into this case
23 or about my client aside from what you've documented in
24 your report?

25 A No.

1 Q Okay. Were you involved in any briefings either
2 with the Sheriff's office or the State Attorney's office
3 after that day?

4 A No.

5 Q Okay. Have you been able to understand all my
6 questions so far?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Great. And have you been able to answer them
9 accurately and completely?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And no other involvement other than what
12 we've already talked about, right?

13 A Correct.

14 MS. BLAQUIERE: Okay. I don't have anymore
15 questions at this time. I think if Ms. DeLiberato
16 did, she would pipe up. Same with Ms. Constantine
17 for the State. So we're going to end your deposition
18 today. Thank you so much for coming, Ms. Fuentes.

19 THE DEPONENT: Thanks.

20

21 (Deposition concludes at 9:48 a.m.)

22

23

24

25

1 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 CERTIFICATE OF OATH

4
5 I, the undersigned authority, certify that YZERE
6 FUENTES 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 YZERE FUENTES; 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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ERRATA SHEET

IN THE CASE OF: STATE OF FL v. JUAN MOLINA-SALLES

NAME OF DEPONENT: YZERE FUENTES

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 run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Signature

Date