

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Case No.: 2023-02935-CF

TOMASZ KOSOWSKI,

Defendant.

_____/

VIRTUAL DEPOSITION OF JOHN MELTON

DATE TAKEN: MARCH 7, 2024

TIME: 2:05 p.m. - 2:54 p.m.

Examination of the witness taken virtually before:

Tammy Kelley

Verbatim Court Reporting, Inc.
728 S. New York Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33815 863-500-3603

APPEARANCES

Counsel for the Plaintiff:

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615 Turner Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

I N D E X

MARCH 7, 2024

WITNESS

Called by the Defendant:

JOHN MELTON

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ERRATA SHEET..... 38

CERTIFICATE OF OATH..... 39

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER..... 40

SIGNATURE LETTER..... 41

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Would you raise your
2 right hand, please. Do you swear or affirm the
3 testimony you shall give in this cause shall be
4 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
5 truth?

6 THE WITNESS: I swear, yes.

7 JOHN MELTON, called as a witness by the
8 Defendant, having been virtually duly sworn,
9 testified as follows:

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. BRUNVAND:

12 Q My name is Bjorn Brunvand. We're here on
13 State of Florida versus Tomasz Kosowski. Present
14 are Mr. Vonderheide, Ms. Spadaro, and the court
15 reporter.

16 If you could please state your name,
17 Detective.

18 A Court reporter or me?

19 Q No, you. I'm sorry, Detective, yeah.

20 A That's okay. John Melton, detective with
21 Tarpon Springs Police Department.

22 Q And, Detective Melton, how long have you
23 been with the Tarpon Springs Police Department?

24 A This is my eighth year.

25 Q And any previous law enforcement

1 experience prior to Tarpon Springs?

2 A I do. I started with the Pinellas County
3 Sheriff's Office in 1989 and I left service with the
4 sheriff's office in 2008.

5 Q Okay. And did you prepare a report or
6 multiple reports detailing your involvement in this
7 case?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q One or more?

10 A I did one report under case number TS23,
11 dash, 7723 and assist other agency for the Largo Police
12 Department.

13 Q Okay. Have you had a chance to review
14 your report prior to coming in here today?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And I say coming in here today. We're all
17 appearing via Zoom. But having done these for so
18 long, saying come in here, I guess why I still use
19 that language.

20 Did your report appear to be complete and
21 accurate as to describing your involvement in this
22 case?

23 A Yes, sir. To my involvement, yes.

24 Q Okay. The report that I have that appears
25 to be yours, the narrative part is about a

1 page-and-a-half. It starts out on page three of
2 mine and it says, "On 3/23/23 at 1700 hours,
3 Detective Warwick, Sergeant Crawford, and I were
4 assigned to assist Largo P.D. on a missing person
5 investigation."

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Would that appear to be the same report
8 that you're looking at?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q All right. Tell us what, what is the
11 initial information that you were provided with at
12 that time as it relates to this report.

13 A Sure. I got -- I was advised by Sergeant
14 Crawford that Largo Police department would be coming
15 to Tarpon Springs to conduct a missing persons
16 investigation. We were just put on standby because
17 there might be a search warrant involved and our CID
18 would go and assist them. To what level at that point
19 in time, I did not know what level of assistance we
20 would be providing. We just got put on standby.

21 So I had already -- you know, I had worked
22 my full day. This was roughly 5:00 p.m. on that day
23 and --

24 MS. SPADARO: Can I stop you. I'm really
25 sorry to interrupt. It just looked like we

1 lost our court reporter. I don't want you to
2 keep talking if we don't have her.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay.

4 MS. SPADARO: Sorry.

5 THE WITNESS: It's all right.

6 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Yeah, I think we did.

7 THE COURT REPORTER: Did you notice I
8 dropped out?

9 MR. BRUNVAND: We did.

10 THE WITNESS: I did.

11 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you. Thank
12 you. My computer totally shut down on me. And
13 where it shut down is whenever, Mr. Brunvand,
14 you were, your report that I have. So I don't
15 know how soon you noticed I was gone.

16 MR. BRUNVAND: I don't know either. Would
17 it be possible to -- I don't think you were
18 gone for a long time. Would it be possible for
19 me to share the recording with you and then you
20 can -- whatever was said in your absence you'll
21 be able to --

22 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes, that will be
23 fine. As long as I can --

24 MR. BRUNVAND: That will probably be the
25 easiest way to do it than try to --

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. Yes, that will
2 be fine.

3 MR. BRUNVAND: Okay.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: I mean the question
5 prior was with regard to did your report appear
6 to -- my timeclock's blocking it -- but as to
7 describing your involvement in this case. And
8 then the answer was yes, sir, to my
9 involvement, yes.

10 MR. BRUNVAND: Okay.

11 THE COURT REPORTER: Because I don't know
12 how many questions --

13 MR. BRUNVAND: Yeah, I'm not sure. So I
14 think we were just at the very early stages of
15 talking about what was taking place up in
16 Tarpon.

17 Q So why don't we -- Detective Melton, why
18 don't you start over and just tell us the
19 information that you had obtained --

20 A Sure.

21 Q -- and where you were standing and what
22 was happening early on in your investigation.

23 A Sure. So it would have been roughly 5:00
24 p.m. on March 23rd and Sergeant Crawford had notified
25 the folks that were here in NCID, which was myself and

1 Detective Warwick, that we were probably gonna have to
2 assist Largo Police Department in a missing persons
3 case.

4 And at that, and at that point in time we
5 were just put on kind of standby to help them as
6 other information came in.

7 I don't know what information Sergeant
8 Crawford knew about it. I know Major Trill was
9 going in and out of Crawford's office, they were
10 having discussions, and I wasn't privy to their
11 discussions.

12 But I just sat at my desk. I went out and
13 got food and I stood by. I stood by until -- I
14 can't tell you the exact time later. But at some
15 point earlier -- later than 5:00 but early in the
16 early evening hours I was told we were going to help
17 Largo serve a search warrant at a house at 511
18 Seaview in Tarpon Springs and it's possibly
19 involving a homicide case.

20 Q Okay. Were you familiar with 511 Seaview
21 prior to this?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. And do you, do you go to 511
24 Seaview at some point?

25 A Yes. So later that evening at roughly

1 11:00 -- it was just after 11:00, I'm not looking at my
2 report but I think it was roughly 11:09, we arrived on
3 scene.

4 I had been tasked to assist. I am not on
5 SWAT. There is a SWAT team that was tasked with
6 serving or assisting Largo in serving a search
7 warrant at the house.

8 My initial role was to be the lead car
9 leading the SWAT team up to the residence and then
10 taking -- establishing, like, a perimeter position
11 on the northeast corner of the property while the
12 SWAT team did their business.

13 Q Okay. So yesterday we spoke with a
14 witness, and I can't remember who it is, but that
15 witness's idea of where the northeast corner is on
16 the property and my idea was slightly different.

17 Where is the northeast corner of the
18 property?

19 A So my opinion is as you're facing -- when
20 you're standing in the roadway in front of 511
21 Seaview --

22 Q Right.

23 A -- and you're looking at the front door --

24 Q Right.

25 A -- the northeast corner would be that corner

1 of the property. Not entering the property, but you
2 just walk to the right toward Fred Howard Park to that,
3 to that corner that borderlines the roadway and the
4 north side of the property.

5 Q Sure. That would -- I would agree, that
6 would be the northeast corner. So we're on the same
7 page.

8 A Yeah. So that -- so, yes, that was -- if we,
9 if we extracted northeast, if you drove past the front
10 door of the property to the very next property line,
11 that's where I was in position.

12 Q Okay. Were you present for the briefing
13 with the SWAT team earlier? If you, you know --

14 A I was.

15 Q Was that a few minutes earlier or when did
16 that take place?

17 A I don't know the exact time of that to be
18 honest, sir. However, it was in the -- within the hour
19 preceding 11:00 p.m. So we met at First Baptist Church
20 out there on Gulf Boulevard.

21 Q Okay. Is that also next to, like, a fire
22 department?

23 A It is next to Fire Station 70, yes.

24 Q Okay. And what do you recall about the
25 debriefing? Who was conducting it and what kind of

1 information was being presented?

2 A Largo -- I don't remember the officer's name
3 with Largo, the detective's name or what rank he had.
4 But it was a Largo officer who was explaining or just
5 telling us what they were doing, that they had the
6 search warrant, what they were looking for at the
7 house.

8 I come to find out later more information.
9 But at that time I did not know -- well, I knew they
10 were going to go to the house, that it was a
11 suspected -- involved in a homicide investigation
12 and that we were gonna -- our SWAT team was gonna
13 assist them in doing a search warrant at the house.

14 Q Okay. Were you guys informed that they
15 did not believe that the suspect would be present at
16 the home?

17 A I don't recall that at that briefing. I do
18 recall that once we served the search warrant on the
19 scene, because I heard people talking and saying he's
20 possibly 15 minutes out. That's not -- that was not in
21 my purview. I was not engaged in that conversation. I
22 just overheard people saying I think he's 15 minutes
23 out.

24 Q And that's actually on the 25th, right,
25 not on the 23rd?

1 A Nope, that's on the 23rd. My only
2 involvement in this case is the night of the 23rd the
3 serving of the search warrant until about 2:00 a.m. on
4 the morning of the 24th.

5 So we served the search warrant just after
6 11:00 on the 23rd and then I completed my
7 involvement at 511 Seaview at 2:00 a.m. on the 24th.

8 Q Okay. So on -- is it on the 24th then
9 that you're hearing that he's 15 minutes out?

10 A No, that would be -- that would still be
11 before midnight on the 23rd.

12 Q And --

13 A I have to, I have to look at the body camera
14 just to get that exact time. But I know it's recorded
15 on that body camera. You hear chatter in the
16 background, radio chatter.

17 Q Okay, all right. And is the person that's
18 being referred to, is it your belief that that's Tom
19 Kosowski or someone else?

20 A Yes, Mr. -- yes.

21 Q Okay. Tom Kosowski?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay.

24 A I say Kosowki. Kosowski, sorry.

25 Q Yeah. Okay. So during the debriefing,

1 any photographs shared of the location, the back
2 yard, anything like that?

3 A Not during the briefing. Prior to leaving
4 the police department here we, we did look at
5 photographs of the house on Google, you know, just
6 typing the address in.

7 Q Okay. Like Google Earth type information?

8 A Yes. Just to -- just so we had where the
9 location of the house was. Especially since I was the
10 lead car in the motorcade I needed to know that it was
11 the second house north from where you make the
12 right-hand turn, that it was the second house north,
13 third house north, whatever it was. And so I
14 understood how far north I had to go.

15 Q Okay. And what about any printed-out
16 BOLOs or photographs of Tom Kosowski, was any
17 information like that shared?

18 A I don't recall any of that, sir.

19 Q Okay. What about Largo Police Department
20 showing photographs that they may have taken while
21 doing surveillance at the house prior to the search
22 warrant?

23 A I did not see any of those, sir.

24 Q Okay. You say you covered the ground
25 floor entry door also on the east side. I'm trying

1 to remember. Is that next to the garage, or where
2 is that?

3 A So, okay, so from my position, my, my
4 direction was once the SWAT team had made entry to the
5 house there was a door that was -- if you're at the
6 stairwell or a stairway going up to the front, to the
7 left, so it would be on the south side of that
8 stairway, there's a entryway into the first floor, the
9 ground floor.

10 So once the SWAT team went in -- because
11 they went in up on the one floor above the ground
12 level --

13 Q Right.

14 A -- I came over, I came over and held that
15 door in case somebody ran out of the house or something
16 like that and I held that door while the SWAT team went
17 through the house until such point as one of the
18 members of the SWAT team came out of that door.

19 Q Okay. Were you wearing any type of
20 recording device?

21 A I did.

22 Q A body cam of sorts?

23 A I did, yes.

24 Q Was it activated?

25 A It was.

1 Q Okay.

2 A And that video was downloaded and is in our
3 case file.

4 Q Okay. And you viewed it?

5 A I did.

6 Q And listened to it?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Okay. And it appeared to capture the
9 things that you saw and experienced?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. So the next thing that happens,
12 SWAT team completed the sweep and then you read the
13 search warrant?

14 A Yes. So we did not -- so, yes. So then
15 after the SWAT officers came out of that door I thought
16 that I was done and I went over to where the leaders
17 were huddling and then I was asked to read the search
18 warrant.

19 I did not know that I was going to be
20 doing at that. And I -- it was made known to me
21 that a member of Tarpon Springs Police Department,
22 since the house was in our jurisdiction, needed to
23 read the search warrant. So they asked me to read
24 the search warrant and I did.

25 Q Okay.

1 A That is also captured on my body cam.

2 Q Okay. And then what happens? After you
3 read the search warrant, what do you do?

4 A I read the search warrant. And then I was
5 tasked with going into the ground level of the home
6 after the search warrant was read and performing a
7 search of the ground level for items that were in --
8 you know, listed in the search warrant and advised by
9 some members of the Largo Police Department.

10 Q So tell me about that. What -- so you're
11 conducting the search of the ground floor, the
12 garage area?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Okay. And Largo -- who with Largo Police
15 Department is with you?

16 A Is with me. There's a detective that's
17 captured on my camera. His -- I can't remember. His
18 name was Jerry Hunt. That's his name. Jerry Hunt,
19 Detective Hunt. And he was in there with me on the
20 ground floor.

21 And later, later some forensic technicians
22 from the sheriff's office also come into the ground
23 floor. But I was told that they were looking for a
24 gray Toyota Tundra pickup truck, which we located on
25 the ground floor. I was also told that we could

1 possibly be looking for a body or body fluids, i.e.
2 blood. So we looked, we looked for those items.

3 Also I was told we were looking for some
4 type of cart, like a, like a beach-style cart. And
5 we found a cart in the floor and I just pointed the
6 cart out to the Largo officers.

7 There was a freezer, like a, a long
8 five-foot-long deep freezer that we looked in when
9 we searched. There was nothing in there. It was
10 empty. It wasn't even plugged in.

11 There was a refrigerator. We looked in
12 the refrigerator and a small freezer associated with
13 that refrigerator. We looked in there. There was
14 just food items in the refrigerator. That was on,
15 plugged in.

16 We, we looked for -- well, there was --
17 information was passed that he may have, he may have
18 used another car and put a body in the trunk of
19 another car.

20 And we actually found a tire in the
21 garage. I don't know if it was from the car or not.
22 But I pointed it out to the Largo officer that there
23 was a tire here. You know, if it was a small car
24 and they needed room in the trunk of the car, you
25 know, maybe he had to remove the tire. I just

1 pointed out there was just a covered tire in there,
2 spare tire, you know, for a car.

3 And then of course I -- you know, much of
4 what I did see would have been in that gray truck.

5 Q Okay. And tell us about that.

6 A So inside the gray truck, I opened the doors,
7 I did not find, you know, any, any body or anything
8 like that in the passenger compartment of the gray
9 pickup truck. But I did locate keys to the gray pickup
10 truck in the armrest console. Excuse me. I pushed the
11 button to open the tailgate. It did not open all the
12 way because there was a tonneau cover that was on it
13 and we needed the keys for the tonneau cover to open
14 it.

15 Sergeant Crawford had located keys hanging
16 on a, on a key -- I don't know what you would want
17 to call it. It's like a key ring, but it's affixed
18 to a wall and you would hang your keys on it. Like
19 when you walked in your doorway, you left your keys
20 hanging there.

21 Sergeant Crawford found a set of keys
22 there that he believed contained the tonneau cover
23 key. So he gave that key to me. I tried it or he
24 tried it. I can't remember who. I have to look at
25 the body camera, sir. We were able to open that

1 tonneau cover with the key.

2 I think it was me because I remember
3 saying so the -- it was like spring loaded and I
4 remember saying, here, can you grab this. Because I
5 didn't want it to slide open, you know, and rip open
6 across the top and damage or anything else.

7 So I remember saying to Sergeant Crawford,
8 hey, can you grab this so it doesn't, you know,
9 fling up and damage. I just didn't want to damage
10 the truck in any way.

11 So, anyway, we were able to open the
12 tonneau cover and to see into the bed of the pickup
13 truck where I saw what I believed to be or could
14 possibly have been blood in the back of the bed of
15 the pickup truck.

16 There was, there was a stain. I don't
17 know if you'd want to call it a stain. There was
18 like a residue of a former fluid. It was -- had a
19 sheen to it that you could see that was distinctly
20 of a different color than the bed of the truck. And
21 I, and I just pointed that out to the officers and
22 to -- later to the forensic techs.

23 Q Okay. Then what do you do?

24 A Then I just stood by at that point in time
25 while the forensic techs came in and did their

1 photographing.

2 And, and I believe that they -- as it was
3 getting towards the time now 2:00 when I left, they
4 had performed a presumptive test on that, you know,
5 that discolored area in the truck, and it was
6 positive for human blood.

7 Q Okay. Presumptive test positive for human
8 blood or positive for blood?

9 A My understanding, it was human blood.

10 Q Okay, all right. But you'll leave that to
11 the experts?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay, all right.

14 A I did not do the test. They did the test.
15 I'm not trained in that presumptive test. They, you
16 know, they executed it and that's what I was told.

17 Q Did they indicate -- do you recall them
18 saying this is positive for human blood or positive
19 for blood? Or you're not sure?

20 A It's sticking out in my mind that they said
21 human blood.

22 Q Okay. And who was present when they said
23 that?

24 A I don't remember the tech's name, sir.

25 Q Okay.

1 A Would it be all right if I look in my report
2 and I'll see if it's in there?

3 Q One hundred percent. You can look at your
4 report anytime you want to.

5 A Yeah, my report doesn't say that. I would
6 have to go, I would have to go and look at their
7 forensic report to tell you who it was.

8 Q Okay.

9 A And that's going to be associated with
10 Largo's case not my case. So I don't have it in front
11 of me.

12 Q Okay. Did someone from Largo -- going
13 back to the beginning of this. Did someone from
14 Largo contact you directly about becoming involved
15 and assisting in this case?

16 A I don't recall that.

17 Q Do you recall Largo calling you on the
18 phone?

19 A I don't recall that that night. I know that
20 in a, I know that in a subsequent, subsequent day I
21 spoke with Detective Bolton --

22 Q Okay.

23 A -- on the phone and provided him with a list
24 of the items that the sheriff's office had taken from
25 the house, you know, that he needed for the subpoena

1 return or the -- I'm sorry. Did I interrupt you?

2 Q No, no. I interrupted you. For the
3 subpoena return, or?

4 A Search warrant return. Excuse me, the search
5 warrant return.

6 Q Search warrant.

7 A Yeah.

8 Q All right.

9 A And I had contacted him with that information
10 and then I had to -- I met him at his police department
11 to give him the return, because he filed the return
12 with the State. Or with the clerk's office, excuse me.

13 (Ms. Ramos Wicks joins the virtual
14 deposition.)

15 Q So I know we've gone -- I think we've gone
16 through this. But other than the Google Earth
17 photographs, you had indicated that you have no
18 recollection of seeing any other photographs of the
19 property prior to going out to the property to
20 assist with the search.

21 A Somebody did come up with photos of the
22 interior of the property that they found off of -- I
23 don't know if it was -- I don't know what website it
24 was, sir. It was like real estate --

25 Q Okay.

1 A -- like realtor photos, like, if the house
2 had been for sale previously.

3 And that was done -- the reason that's
4 done is for the, for the SWAT team, for the tach
5 team, to know what they're -- when they go into a
6 house to kind of get a general idea of the layout of
7 the house I'm guessing for their safety.

8 Like I said, I'm not on SWAT team or
9 anything like that. But I'm just looking at it from
10 a tactics perspective.

11 And I did see these pictures. I'm not
12 sure who generated those pictures or, you know,
13 what -- if it was realtor.com or Zillow or what. I
14 don't -- that I don't know.

15 Q But what about potentially having been
16 shown photographs that may have been taken by
17 members of the Largo Police Department the day prior
18 or a couple days prior?

19 A I don't -- I have no recollection of those
20 pictures, sir.

21 Q Okay, all right. Do you know whether or
22 not such photos exist?

23 A I do not.

24 Q Do you know who made the decision to use
25 the SWAT team to enter 511 Seaview?

1 A I'm -- I do not know. I do not know, no.
2 This is the right answer. I do not know. I can
3 speculate. But I don't want to speculate, sir.

4 Q Well, why don't you speculate. I mean as
5 long as you say I'm speculating, then you're okay.

6 A Well, just like I said earlier, right,
7 Major -- now Major Crawford, then Sergeant Crawford,
8 was talking with Major Trill. They had had some
9 meetings. So I'm gonna guess that that's where it came
10 down from.

11 Q Okay.

12 A I'm not privy to those meetings though. So I
13 don't know.

14 Q May they have had contact with Largo P.D.
15 independently of you and then --

16 A Oh, yes.

17 Q -- got some of that information? Okay.

18 A Oh, yeah. It came down to me from -- through
19 Sergeant Crawford.

20 Q Okay. So Sergeant Crawford may be the
21 person to talk to about what kind of contact was had
22 between him and Largo P.D.?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Okay. What do you recall as far as
25 information that had been relayed to you about this

1 Toyota Tundra and what significance that might have
2 and why, why it was being sought?

3 A Basically the search warrant says they were
4 looking for a gray Toyota Tundra pickup that had Tundra
5 written on it, TRD Pro written on it. Just like the
6 truck we found in the garage.

7 Q Right.

8 A And that, that came out of the warrant. And
9 then in the warrant, you know, it talked about, it
10 talked about looking for blood and bodily fluids and
11 things like.

12 So I assumed it had been involved in a
13 homicide or that a homicide could have occurred or
14 the truck could have been involved in a homicide.

15 Q Okay. And I guess I wasn't being real
16 clear. I was more curious about whether or not
17 there was any conversation or information provided
18 to you before you, you know, ended up reading the
19 search warrant about the Tundra and about what you
20 guys were looking for during this search.

21 A I'm sure there was. I don't remember any
22 exact, you know, specific conversations, but I'm sure
23 it was. Because when I was getting the advice from the
24 Largo detective about looking in the ground floor, you
25 know, they wanted to look in the back of that pickup

1 truck specifically.

2 Q Okay. And is this once you've entered the
3 property or is it prior to?

4 A This is after the search warrant has been
5 served. And it was either prior to going in or once we
6 went in the ground floor just in our conversation over,
7 you know, their advising me.

8 Q Okay. What about during the debriefing,
9 anything?

10 A I'm sure that there was something said, sir,
11 because obviously they were interested -- like I said,
12 it's in the warrant and they were interested --

13 Q Right.

14 A -- in the gray pickup.

15 Q But you don't recall the specifics?

16 A I don't, sir. But I was, I was there to form
17 a overwatch position on that northeast corner. I did
18 not know I was doing all this other stuff that I ended
19 up getting into.

20 Q Okay, all right. Was your recording
21 device activated during the debriefing?

22 A No. Yes. If you're talking about the
23 meeting that occurred prior to serving the search
24 warrant at First Baptist Church, no, it was not
25 activated.

1 Q Not. Okay. And what's the reason for
2 that?

3 A Not required to. They're talking about
4 tactical operations and I'm not required to have it
5 going during that.

6 Q Okay. Sometimes I'll see body cam
7 recordings that are activated with video only and
8 sound is turned off because of, you know, having
9 discussions about tactical issues and what have you.
10 Do you know whether or not your recording
11 might have been on recording video or was it just
12 not on at all?

13 A It -- all of our recorders have that -- I
14 think it's called pre-event recording.

15 Q Right.

16 A So if one of my officers doesn't have his
17 camera activated and has an interaction with the public
18 that results in a complaint, right --

19 Q Yeah.

20 A -- I can go back and if -- within a certain
21 amount of time I can go back and I can bring up the
22 pre-event recording as long -- again, as long as it
23 hasn't been recorded over on --

24 Q Right.

25 A -- mistake and I can get video from it. It

1 does not give me audio. It only gives me video from
2 it.

3 Q Okay.

4 A So the camera is -- to answer your question,
5 the camera is always recording. But if it's not
6 marked -- you know, if it's not activated to record the
7 audio and the whole thing, like for a case, then
8 there's no audio and eventually it will go away.

9 Q Okay. Do you know the time -- so not just
10 the date, but the date and the time that the search
11 warrant was signed by Judge Federico?

12 A Not without looking at it. Not off the top
13 of my head.

14 Q Do you have a copy there with you?

15 A I do.

16 Q Okay. Take a look at it and see if that
17 information is on there.

18 A So on page four right above the signature it
19 says, "Done and ordered in Pinellas County, Florida the
20 23rd day of March 2023, Philip J. Federico" signed and
21 then underneath it "Philip J. Federico, Circuit Court
22 Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit."

23 Q Okay. So it doesn't have a time?

24 A It just says 23rd day of March.

25 Q Okay. All right. Do you know whether or

1 not when you first arrived for the debriefing
2 whether or not the search warrant had already been
3 obtained? Or was there a delay awaiting to get the
4 search warrant?

5 A I was not -- I was told that they have the
6 search warrant. And --

7 Q Okay.

8 A -- and then my leadership said this is what
9 we're doing, so we did it. I was provided a copy of
10 the search warrant to read once we were on scene.

11 Q Was that the first time you saw the search
12 warrant when it was provided to you?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Okay.

15 A And I'm pretty sure that's recorded on my
16 body camera.

17 Q The -- would you agree that the time that
18 you spent at 511 Seaview was approximately three
19 hours?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q 11:09 I think is when it starts. And when
22 do you, when do you leave the following morning?

23 A At 02 a.m.

24 Q Okay. So just shy of three hours?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q Okay. You discussed generally what you,
2 what you did during those three hours. How long did
3 it take for the SWAT team to clear the house once,
4 once you arrived, if you recall?

5 A I don't know the exact time of that, sir. I
6 would have to, you know, go to the body camera and
7 physically --

8 Q Okay.

9 A -- physically review it.

10 Q Okay. But it's your belief that the body
11 camera records the entire time that you're there,
12 right?

13 A My body camera does not run consistently from
14 11:09 to 02.

15 Q Okay.

16 A There's a period of time outside of the house
17 that my body camera is shut off.

18 Q When it's shut off, what are you doing
19 when it's shut off?

20 A Probably just standing there not engaged in
21 any kind of action.

22 Q Okay. Are you waiting for something or --
23 at that point?

24 A No. I just wasn't tasked with anything.

25 Q Okay, all right. Do you know whether or

1 not a copy of the search warrant was left at the 511
2 Seaview?

3 A I was told that Detective Miller had left
4 the copy there.

5 Q Okay. Would that include the affidavit
6 or -- in support of the search warrant or just the
7 search warrant, as far as you know?

8 A I don't know.

9 Q Okay. What about the search warrant
10 inventory?

11 A The search warrant --

12 Q I'm sorry. Go ahead.

13 A No, that's okay. So the search warrant
14 inventory -- I'm just looking at my report here.

15 So I went back to the residence the next
16 day on 3/24 and left a copy of everything that was
17 taken and left a copy on the door. I affixed it to
18 the door. Because the door was shut and locked.

19 The city crew had come out -- according to
20 the report, the city crew had come out earlier that
21 morning and had locked the door, you know, secured
22 the front door. And I went back out, the door was
23 secured, and I had taped a copy -- with Evidence
24 tape I had taped a copy of the items removed from
25 the house to the front door as well.

1 Q I may have already asked you this. But
2 were you paired up with a Largo Police Department
3 officer or detective for your portion of the search?

4 A I was advised by, yes, that previous Largo
5 police officer that I told you his name.

6 Q Hunt?

7 A Jerry Hunt.

8 Q Okay. Were there different teams that
9 were assigned to search different parts of the home?

10 A I believe. I wasn't -- I didn't -- I wasn't
11 part of giving out those assignments.

12 Q Okay. Do you know who would have given
13 out those assignments?

14 A I don't. Maybe, maybe Sergeant Crawford.

15 Q Okay. Sergeant Crawford would make the
16 most sense, right?

17 A Yep. Yes, sir.

18 Q And I'm assuming based on what you just
19 said that you don't know how many search teams there
20 may have been?

21 A I don't.

22 Q You did your part and someone else
23 organized the rest?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Do you, do you know Detective Compton with

1 Largo Police Department?

2 A Not by -- maybe if I saw a picture of him.
3 But not off the top of my head, no.

4 Q Okay, all right. Do you know anything
5 about whether or not Detective Compton or someone
6 else found some lingerie or took some lingerie into
7 evidence during the search warrant?

8 A I am not aware of that, no.

9 Q Okay. You didn't collect any lingerie?

10 A I collected nothing from the house.

11 Q Okay. Did you witness -- during the
12 search of the Tundra, you had indicated that Hunt
13 was with you. Did you also -- do you know whether
14 or not Detective Bolton was also there when you were
15 searching the Tundra?

16 A There is another -- my answer is no. There
17 is another person that appears on body camera in the
18 garage, a detective. I don't know the detective. I
19 don't know his name off the top of --

20 Q Okay. So it could be Detective Bolton,
21 you just don't know?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q Okay. And did either one of them enter
24 the car, the Tundra?

25 A I have no knowledge of that.

1 Q Okay. When you reviewed the -- your body
2 cam, did you recall seeing either one of them
3 entering the Tundra?

4 A I do not recall seeing anybody else enter
5 other than me.

6 Q Okay. Was -- did you -- were you wearing
7 gloves during the search warrant?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Did you have any type of shoe covers on
10 during the search warrant?

11 A I do not recall having shoe covers on.

12 Q Okay. Do you recall seeing anyone else,
13 like Detective Bolton or Hunt, wearing shoe
14 covers --

15 A I do not --

16 Q -- during the search warrant?

17 A I do not recall seeing anybody else with shoe
18 covers.

19 Q Okay. What are you, what are you wearing
20 during the search warrant? Do you have --

21 A I am wearing a -- so I wear khaki trousers
22 with, with a polo shirt.

23 Q Okay. Like a, like a --

24 A Not now, it's cold in here, but it's not --

25 Q Okay.

1 A And then I wear -- you know, I had a -- I had
2 my tactical vest on I believe. I do not recall which
3 boots I had on that day or shoes I had on that day.

4 Q Other than, other than wearing gloves, did
5 you wear anything else that would -- the purpose of
6 which would be to further preserve the crime scene
7 as far as -- we already talked about the shoe
8 covers. You didn't wear those. You know, any type
9 of bodysuit or anything like that?

10 A I did not wear a bodysuit.

11 Q Okay. Do you know whether or not the
12 Toyota Tundra was driven out of the garage prior to
13 being loaded onto the tow truck?

14 A I do not. That occurred after I had left.

15 Q Okay.

16 A When I left, the Tundra was still in the
17 garage.

18 Q Okay. And presumably you don't know
19 anything about what happened to the Tundra once it
20 was towed and went to impound? Do you know anything
21 about that?

22 A I do not. I was not involved.

23 MR. BRUNVAND: Okay. So Willengy Ramos
24 Wicks from my office has joined us.

25 Do you have any questions, Willengy?

1 MS. RAMOS WICKS: I don't have any
2 questions.

3 MR. BRUNVAND: Okay. Anyone else have any
4 questions?

5 MR. VONDERHEIDE: No questions.

6 MS. SPADARO: No questions.

7 MR. BRUNVAND: Okay. Detective Melton,
8 the -- if this is transcribed, would you like
9 for -- to read or waive reading of the
10 transcript?

11 THE WITNESS: I have to refer to my
12 counsel on my reading or waiving. I forget.

13 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I don't know, is your
14 counsel here? I don't see any counsel for you
15 here.

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

17 MS. SPADARO: Not me.

18 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I see counsel from the
19 State.

20 THE WITNESS: He just said to read.

21 Yeah. I'll read.

22 (The deposition was concluded at 2:54
23 p.m.)
24
25

ERRATA SHEET

DO NOT WRITE ON TRANSCRIPT -- ENTER CHANGES HERE

IN RE: STATE OF FLORIDA VERSUS TOMASZ KOSOWSKI

DATE TAKEN: MARCH 7, 2024

REPORTER: TAMMY KELLEY

PAGE NO.	LINE NO.	CHANGE	REASON
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Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read my deposition and that it is true and correct subject to any changes in form or substance entered here.

JOHN MELTON

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF POLK)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
JOHN MELTON, virtually appeared before me and was duly
sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 30th
day of December 2024.

TAMMY KELLEY
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF FLORIDA
MY COMMISSION NO. HH 216644
EXPIRES: 02/07/26



REPORTER'S DEPOSITION CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF POLK)

I, TAMMY KELLEY, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the virtual deposition of JOHN MELTON, that a view of the transcript was requested and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties, nor am I a relative of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 30th day of December 2024.



TAMMY KELLEY

December 30, 2024

Mr. John Melton
bbaldie@largo.com

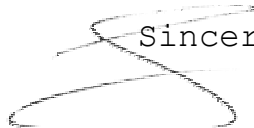
Dear Mr. Melton:

Your deposition taken in State of Florida versus Tomasz Kosowski on March 7, 2024, has been transcribed. Per your request to review the transcript, it is being held at our office at 728 South New York Avenue, Lakeland, Florida.

Please call (863)500-3603 to make arrangements to do this during our regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tammy Kelley', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Tammy Kelley