

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 VU CONG TRAN

DATE TAKEN: AUGUST 1, 2024

TIME: 11:42 a.m. - 11:59 a.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:

NATHAN VONDERHEIDE, Esquire
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Clearwater, Florida 33762-0500

Counsel for the Defendant:

WILLENGY W. RAMOS WICKS, Esquire
BJORN BRUNVAND, Esquire
Brunvand & Wise, P.A.
615 Turner Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

DEBRA B. TUOMEY, Esquire
Debra B. Toumey LLC
5026 Cumberland Lane
Spring Hill, Florida 34607-2307

I N D E X

AUGUST 1, 2024

WITNESS

Called by the Defendant:

VU CONG TRAN

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. RAMOS WICKS..... 4

CERTIFICATE OF OATH..... 14

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER..... 15

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: Yes, I do.

7 VU CONG TRAN, called as a witness by the
8 Defendant, having been virtually duly sworn,
9 testified as follows telephonically:

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MS. TUOMEY:

12 Q All right, Officer. Although we could see
13 you before, we can't see you now but we can hear you.
14 And I recognize your voice as being the same voice that
15 was the same when you were on video.

16 So my understanding -- we are here on State
17 of Florida verse Tomasz Kosowski 23-CF-2935. It's my
18 understanding that you did one -- or you authored one
19 case supplemental report?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q It would have been for March 22nd of 2023?

22 A That is correct.

23 Q Is that the only report that you authored?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q You didn't have any other involvement in this

1 case?

2 A No.

3 Q All right. So, just briefly, how are you
4 employed?

5 A I am a police officer at the Largo Police
6 Department.

7 Q And how long you been so employed?

8 A It will be 20 years.

9 Q Any previous law enforcement experience?

10 A No.

11 Q And what rank are you?

12 A I'm a patrol officer.

13 Q For those twenty-some years you've been a
14 patrol officer?

15 A Before that I was in the community policing
16 unit doing outreach, crime preventions, and just patrol
17 and that's about it.

18 Q All right. So let me bring you back to March
19 22nd of 2023. It looks like you were dispatched to
20 1501 South Belcher Road Number 6B, Building 6B?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Relieved Officer Jennings?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And Officer Jennings had been guarding the
25 crime scene at that location, correct?

1 A To my knowledge, correct.

2 Q And what part of the crime scene was he
3 guarding?

4 A When I got there, he was standing in front of
5 the business where the main entrance was and he said
6 that's where he was at. And that's the same location I
7 was standing by the whole entire time guarding the
8 crime scene while detectives and crime scene
9 investigators were going in and out to do their
10 investigation.

11 Q So then you took over the crime scene log
12 from Officer Jennings?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Is there anyone that you can think of that
15 may have not been on that crime scene log that wasn't
16 documented by yourself?

17 A No, not that I can think of it.

18 Q Did you enter the building at any time?

19 A No, ma'am.

20 Q Did you speak to any witnesses or overhear
21 any, any witnesses speaking to any other law
22 enforcement agencies?

23 A I don't know if they were witnesses or not.
24 But I know there was someone who is civilian that the
25 detective was talking to. I could overhear it, but I

1 don't pay attention or, you know, in detail to know
2 exactly what they were talking about.

3 Q Do you recall who -- what detective that was?

4 A Well, it was like at least four, five
5 detectives on there. All I remember, there was a
6 person, probably a civilian, and they came back and
7 they talked to that civilian. I just don't know who
8 that person is.

9 Q Do you recall what that civilian looked like?
10 Could you describe that person for me?

11 A No, there's no way.

12 Q Was it a male, a female?

13 A Mail.

14 Q Older, younger?

15 A I would say probably -- he's probably
16 younger. Younger male.

17 Q Younger male. Do you recall whether they
18 were -- what they were dressed in? Like, were they
19 casually dressed, were they dressed in a suit and tie
20 or something different or -- if you recall?

21 A I believe it's casual dressing.

22 Q And your idea of casual dressing would be?

23 A Like, you know, jeans, shorts, you know,
24 shirt. Not like a suit.

25 Q And the conversation that this other

1 detective was having with this civilian, you didn't
2 make any notes regarding what was being said?

3 A No.

4 Q And it looks like you were at the crime scene
5 for -- I guess you can do the math. How long were you
6 at the crime scene?

7 A From 6:00 in the morning to 2:00. So 7:00,
8 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00. Almost eight hours.

9 Q Eight hours. Do you know offhand how many
10 law enforcement officers entered the building?

11 A No. Without looking at the log, there's no
12 way. Keep in mind there's officers and detectives
13 entered before I took over the crime scene log from
14 Officer Jennings. So without looking at it, I wouldn't
15 know.

16 Q Okay. So do you recall if any civilians were
17 allowed to enter that building?

18 A That I don't recall.

19 Q But those would be listed on your crime scene
20 log if they were?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q And when you were assigned this task, what
23 were you specifically told to do?

24 A Just stand outside of the main entrance where
25 the yellow tape I believe was and just maintain the log

1 and anyone coming in and out log them out or log them
2 in if they go in. That's about it.

3 Q And you were there until the crime scene was
4 released?

5 A Well, based on my supplement, it looked like
6 I am. But I don't remember.

7 Q Yeah. Because your report says that at
8 approximately 1420 the crime scene was released, the
9 original crime scene log was given to Detective Hunt.

10 A That's correct. So based on that I'm
11 assuming, yeah, I was --

12 Q That you were there until the crime scene was
13 released?

14 A Yes, from 1420 hours.

15 Q And how were you advised that the crime scene
16 was then released?

17 A I believe the detectives told me that they
18 were done with the crime scene and I asked them what
19 did they want me to do with the crime scene log and at
20 that point I believe Hunt took over, so I gave it to
21 him.

22 Q Did you overhear any of the other officers,
23 detectives or what have you, any law enforcement agency
24 members, speaking about the crime scene or anything
25 related to the crime scene?

1 A There were definitely discussions that I
2 could hear but none that I would -- that I noted down.
3 So I wouldn't be able to tell you what they said.

4 I mean I was in distance of, you know, the
5 detective and the investigator because the location
6 where I was to the main entrance was really close
7 and, you know, people -- the investigators, crime
8 scene investigators, and detectives go in and out
9 and they do talk among themselves.

10 But I don't -- you know, I heard them,
11 what they talked, but I don't know make notes of
12 what they talked about. I couldn't tell you what
13 all was said.

14 Q Do you know in a general sense what was being
15 said, or no?

16 A In a general sense, it's about the case and
17 that's -- I mean that's pretty much it.

18 Q But you don't remember any specifics?

19 A It's because I don't make notes of it so I
20 don't want to say something I don't make notes and say
21 something that I don't remember.

22 Q Do you know whether or not there were other
23 individuals guarding this building?

24 A There may have been someone before Officer
25 Jennings, but that part I don't know.

1 Q No, no, at the same time that you were.
2 Because it looks like you were guarding the front door.
3 Were there other areas of the building being guarded by
4 other --

5 A No, none that I'm aware of.

6 Q And do you recall where the crime scene tape
7 was placed?

8 A From where I was, it's the main entrance of
9 the business.

10 Q And when you say the main entrance, the main
11 entrance to what business?

12 A To the 1501 South Belcher. That's where I
13 was at. 6B there is a -- like when you walk from -- if
14 I remember correctly, the way I was positioned was
15 outside of the entrance. And when you look at it,
16 you're looking south and you walk in, the main entrance
17 is right there. I believe that's the main entrance.
18 And it's kind of like a little small hallway that
19 branches off into different sections of the building.
20 That's where I was, outside of that business.

21 I don't know if that makes sense.

22 Q And when you were guarding the crime scene,
23 were you sitting or standing?

24 A Both. At times my legs tired, I'd sit. But
25 I'd have visual of the -- you know, it's right there.

1 I see everything.

2 Q Okay. And I don't think I asked you this.
3 But what is your full legal name?

4 A My full legal name. My first name is Vu,
5 V-u. My middle name is Huy Cong. And then my last
6 name is Tran, T-r-a-n.

7 Q And if you could spell that for the court
8 reporter.

9 A First name Vu V-u, middle name spelling H-u-y
10 C-o-n-g, and last name T-r-a-n.

11 Q All right. And I think that's all -- you
12 indicated that is all that you were involved in?

13 A Yeah, pretty much just maintaining the log
14 and whoever was coming in or out. That's it. I don't
15 get too heavily involved with the case.

16 Q Understood.

17 MS. TUOMEY: Those are all the questions
18 that I have for you. I don't know if
19 Mr. Vonderheide or are any of the other
20 attorneys on have any questions for you. But
21 those are my questions.

22 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I have no questions.

23 MR. BRUNVAND: I have no questions.

24 THE DEFENDANT: No questions.

25 MS. TUOMEY: And, Officer, would you like

1 to read or waive?

2 THE WITNESS: I can waive it.

3 (The deposition was concluded at 11:59
4 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF POLK)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that
VU CONG TRAN, virtually appeared before me and was duly
sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 17th
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 VU CONG TRAN, that a view of the transcript was not 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 17th day of December 2024.



TAMMY KELLEY