

EXHIBIT 21

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE DIVISION

ROPHEAL MCGEE, JR.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO: 1:25-cv-36-AW/HTC

CITY OF GAINESVILLE and
CASEY WALSH,

Defendants.

Tallahassee, Florida

August 13, 2025

1:58 p.m.

VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF:

CHRISTIAN DOUGLAS HICKEY

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2 FARNITA SAUNDERS-HILL, ESQUIRE
3 Rachel Spencer, Paralegal
4 Marie A. Mattox, P.A.
5 203 North Gadsden Street
6 Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7637

7 Appearing on behalf of the Plaintiff.

8 MATTHEW J. CARSON, ESQUIRE
9 Sniffen & Spellman, P.A.
10 123 North Monroe Street
11 Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1509

12 Appearing on behalf of the Defendants.

13 ALSO PRESENT: Ropheal McGee, Jr.

14 - - - - -

15 I N D E X

16 TESTIMONY OF CHRISTIAN DOUGLAS HICKEY:

17 Direct Examination by Ms. Saunders-Hill 3

18 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 35

19 SUBSCRIPTION OF DEPONENT 36

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1 A Christian Douglas Hickey.

2 Q Okay. And, excuse me. I'm having a little
3 bit of a tickle in the throat today, Mr. Hickey, so
4 please forgive me.

5 My name is Farnita Hill and I'm an attorney
6 who represents Mr. McGee, Ropheal McGee, and he has
7 brought a case against the Gainesville Police
8 Department and an Officer Walsh in her individual
9 capacity. And I have you here today to have you help
10 me understand what you may know about the case.

11 Have you ever given deposition testimony
12 before?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Okay. When was the last time you gave
15 deposition testimony?

16 A Probably 2022.

17 Q Okay. And are you currently employed with
18 the City of Gainesville Police Department?

19 A No, ma'am.

20 Q Okay. Are you employed as an officer? And
21 the reason I'm asking is because I'd like to make sure
22 I address to you in terms of your rank. If you're an
23 officer or major, captain or whatever, I'd like to make
24 sure I address you appropriately.

25 A Sergeant First Class.

1 Q Okay. And who are you employed with, sir?

2 A The Florida Army National Guard.

3 Q Florida Army National Guard; okay.

4 Are you in any way, like, stationed? Well,
5 strike that.

6 Is it like a military branch, the National
7 Guard?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Okay. Where are you stationed?

10 A I'm currently at Camp Blanding, Florida.

11 Q Okay. Camp Blanding. And where is that?
12 What's the nearest city to Camp Blanding?

13 A Stark, Florida.

14 Q Stark, Florida. Over near Jacksonville,
15 maybe Gainesville, Jacksonville?

16 A Between Gainesville and Jacksonville.

17 Q Okay. How long -- I think you just told me
18 this, but what position do you hold there?

19 A I am a sergeant first class.

20 Q Sergeant first class, okay. How long have
21 you served in the role as sergeant first class?

22 A 2018.

23 Q Okay. And immediately prior to serving in
24 the role as a sergeant first class, where were you
25 employed?

1 A At the same time I was at the Gainesville
2 Police Department.

3 Q Okay. What were -- for example, if you were
4 employed with the Gainesville Police Department and the
5 Florida Army National Guard, were you working maybe one
6 full time and one part time, both full time or how did
7 you work that out with your schedule?

8 A Full time with the Gainesville Police
9 Department, part time with the Florida Army National
10 Guard.

11 Q Okay. Yeah. And when you were employed with
12 -- full time with the Gainesville Police Department,
13 what was your -- your job title there?

14 A I was a Patrol Officer.

15 Q So you're a patrol officer there?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. So when did you -- when did you start
18 working as a patrol officer? Well, at the time -- I'm
19 assuming you're no longer there; correct?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Okay. When did you leave the employment of
22 the Gainesville Police Department?

23 A I went on a leave of absence February of
24 2022.

25 Q Okay. And when did you -- or do you recall

1 when you started working with the -- and I may refer to
2 Gainesville Police Department as GPD just to sort of
3 acronym it today. When did you start working with the
4 Gainesville Police Department as a patrol officer?

5 A I think it was 2012.

6 Q 2012, Okay.

7 Now, once you went on the leave of absence in
8 February of 2022, did you -- was that your final stint
9 with the -- with GPD not returning back?

10 A I was on a leave of absence and I stayed on
11 leave of absence for almost two years.

12 Q Okay. And did you at any time return after
13 that leave of absence in February of 2022?

14 A No, ma'am.

15 Q Okay. Did you resign from that position or
16 how did you separate from there?

17 A Resigned.

18 Q Okay. What was the reason for your
19 resignation?

20 A I became a missionary, overseas missionary.

21 Q Okay. And thank you for your service.

22 A Thank you.

23 Q All right. So when you -- when you took that
24 leave of absence or at the time of your resignation
25 from the Gainesville Police Department, were you still

1 in the position of a patrol officer or had you taken on
2 another role?

3 A No, ma'am. I left there as a patrolman in
4 February 2022 and went on a leave of absence.

5 Q Okay. All right. So that clarifies my
6 question. Just want to make sure. You said you
7 started as a patrol officer. Just wanted to make sure
8 when you left, if you were still a patrol officer.

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Okay. Tell me, what were your -- what were
11 your primary duties and responsibilities as a patrol
12 officer?

13 A Wow. Answer calls for service according to
14 Florida State law and the needs of the community of
15 Police of Gainesville.

16 Q Okay. Did you have the occasion to supervise
17 anybody, any other employees?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q Who was your supervisor?

20 A At the time, I believe it was Sergeant
21 Kerkau.

22 Q Okay. And, I apologize, can you spell that
23 for us to the best of your ability?

24 A Kerkau, K-e-r-k-a-u, I believe.

25 Q Kerkau, okay. Got it.

1 Okay. Do you recall the time frame of
2 approximately November 7th, 2021, when you were -- when
3 you reported to the scene where Mr. Ropheal McGee was
4 believed to have been located?

5 A Do I recall it in detail, no.

6 Q Okay. Do you recall anything regarding the
7 November 7th, 2021 incident, whether in detail or just
8 a broad overview?

9 A Just a broad overview.

10 Q Okay. Tell me if you recall what shift you
11 may have been working back then.

12 A Mids, I believe.

13 Q Okay. And I'm sorry, was that mids?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Midnights?

16 A No. It came in mid. So it's third -- it's
17 second or third shift. Come in at roughly -- I think
18 it's like 3:00 or 4:00, and then go home around 2:00.

19 Q 2:00 a.m.?

20 A I'm completely guessing, but around that time
21 period.

22 Q Okay. Do you recall -- not that you -- if
23 you don't recall specifically, that's -- that's
24 perfectly fine. You can just let me know.

25 But do you remember on this particular day or

1 November 7th, November 8th time frame, were you
2 dispatched there or were you kind of working that area
3 already?

4 A Do not recall. Do not recall.

5 Q Okay. At some point, you ended up there;
6 correct?

7 A Correct.

8 Q Okay. Tell me what you remember about the
9 situation.

10 A In broad strokes, Mr. McGee created -- did an
11 armed robbery. He fled the scene. It took about three
12 or four days of trying to locate him again. And once
13 he was located again at his apartment complex, he fled
14 again on foot after being outside of the apartment
15 complex and was apprehended by the K-9, at which time
16 we put him into custody.

17 Q Okay. All right. Let's go back a little
18 bit. I appreciate your broad overview of that.

19 You said he fled. Where did he -- where did
20 he flee to?

21 A I don't know.

22 Q Where did he go? But you remember him
23 fleeing?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Okay. You remember him fleeing, but you

1 don't remember where he went; correct?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Okay. How far did he flee?

4 A I don't know where he went, so how would I
5 know how far he fled?

6 Q Okay. And -- and, sir, today it's going to
7 be a hard road for you because I get to ask the
8 questions and you have to answer, unfortunately.

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q That's what this about. And I understand it
11 may be frustrating for you, but it's not kind of a
12 question thing, so we can get through it fairly
13 quickly.

14 A I'm not frustrated one bit, ma'am.

15 Q Okay. Well, I just wanted to give you the
16 ground rules. I didn't give you any because you --
17 you've given deposition testimony before, and as an
18 officer, I just want to make this really easy for you.
19 I think you know how this goes. I get to answer the
20 question - ask the questions, and unfortunately, today
21 you have to answer.

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And my question is, do you know approximately
24 -- when you said he fled, did you recall -- do you --
25 did you see him fleeing with your -- like do you have

1 personal knowledge, you physically saw him running?

2 A I do not recall.

3 Q Okay. Do you know or do you recall whether
4 or not he was walking briskly from the scene or he's
5 physically running from the scene? Do you remember
6 that?

7 A Do not recall. Do not recall.

8 Q Okay. Did you apprehend him once you saw him
9 running?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. How did you -- do you remember how you
12 apprehended him?

13 A With physical restraint.

14 Q Okay. And what type of physical restraints
15 did you -- do you recall using on Mr. McGee?

16 A Grabbing a hold of him.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Put him in handcuffs.

19 Q Okay. And let me ask you this. So when you
20 arrived on the scene on this particular day, were other
21 officers with you?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Do you remember who those officers may have
24 been?

25 A No, ma'am.

1 Q Okay. Do you know whether or not there was
2 an officer, a K-9 officer present?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. What was her name? What was the name
5 of the K-9 officer?

6 A Corporal Walsh.

7 Q Okay. So you remember Corporal Walsh;
8 correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q You don't remember any of the other officers?

11 A No, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. Do you recall an officer by the name
13 of Officer Sevor?

14 A Who?

15 Q Sevor, S-e-v-o-r.

16 A What's his first name?

17 Q Let's see here. I'd have to get a first name
18 for you. I can find that for you. Give me one second.
19 I have some initials. [Pause]

20 What about an Officer Milman, M-i-l-m-a-n?

21 A Don't know if he was there or not, to be
22 honest with you.

23 Q Okay. And when you arrived on the scene, do
24 you remember what you did first?

25 A At what point?

1 Q When you first arrived on the scene, when you
2 initially got there, do you remember what you did?

3 A On the initial call?

4 Q Yes. When you first arrived you said that
5 you arrived at the scene and you apprehended Mr. McGee.
6 So let's talk about what happened before you
7 apprehended Mr. McGee. Let me be more specific. When
8 you arrived on the scene, did you initially see Mr.
9 McGee?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay. Did you know where you believe -- did
12 you believe that Mr. McGee was in some location on the
13 premises?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q Okay. And how did you learn that? I mean,
16 did someone tell you that or you already knew on your
17 own from surveilling the area?

18 A His vehicle was there. And I don't recall if
19 there was any intel as far as if somebody had placed
20 him there, an eyewitness.

21 Q Okay. And so did you at any time make
22 contact with Officer -- Colonel -- now Colonel [sic]
23 Walsh to get her to come to the scene?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Okay. Why did you need her at the scene for

1 the -- with the K-9, her K-9?

2 A Because he was armed and we found additional
3 weapons in the residence.

4 Q Okay. Did you attempt to -- when did you
5 find the weapons, after he was apprehended or before?

6 A Before.

7 Q Okay. So you found weapons in his apartment
8 before you apprehended him?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Okay. And then if you found the weapons, was
11 he there?

12 A No. He fled.

13 Q Okay. So did you -- when you went back, you
14 -- did you return to the scene at some point later in
15 the day or the night?

16 A Yes, ma'am. This was all over maybe a three-
17 or-four-day stint.

18 Q Okay. All right. And how did you know that
19 that was Mr. McGee's vehicle?

20 A I do not recall how it was all tied into his
21 being in his vehicle. I don't know if it was
22 eyewitness testimony through CAD or DAVID or through
23 NCIC/FCIC.

24 Q Okay. And did you -- when you met with --
25 made contact with Colonel Walsh, did you guys come up

1 with a plan as to how you were going to try to
2 apprehend Mr. McGee?

3 A Yes, of course.

4 Q Do you remember what the plan may have been?

5 A To get him outside of his residence.

6 Q Okay.

7 A And/or coming back and forth from his
8 vehicle.

9 Q Okay. I'm sorry, I missed that part. You
10 said he was coming back and forth to his vehicle?

11 A Yeah. Try to catch him outside.

12 Q Try to catch him outside. What did you do?
13 Did you do anything to try to catch him outside?

14 A I created a ruse.

15 Q Okay. What was the ruse that you were trying
16 to create?

17 A His car alarm to go off.

18 Q Okay. Did you do anything to make his car
19 alarm go off?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q Okay. What did you do?

22 A I'm not -- maybe it was in my report, but I
23 don't know if I tapped on the window, opened the door,
24 something to make the alarm go off.

25 Q Okay. Did the alarm go off?

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q Okay. And then what happened?

3 A About five or six minutes later, McGee came
4 out of his residence.

5 Q Okay. When he came out of his residence,
6 what do you remember Mr. McGee doing when he first
7 walked outside?

8 A He walked out to check his truck.

9 Q Okay. And did he walk around the truck, do
10 you remember?

11 A No, ma'am.

12 Q Okay. Where did you -- do you recall whether
13 or not he went to the door or looked inside or do you
14 recall anything he may have done to check his truck?

15 A No, ma'am. Turned the alarm off, I know
16 that.

17 Q Okay. He turned the alarm off. And then
18 what happened? Did he go back inside or did he stay
19 outside?

20 A Yeah. He turned around and go back into his
21 residence.

22 Q Okay. And were you wearing a body-worn
23 camera at this time?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Okay. So if I were to see that body-worn

1 camera, do you know if you were there -- was it
2 operative at the time?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. Were there -- had you had any issues
5 with the body -- the video portion of the body-worn
6 camera that day?

7 A Not that I recall.

8 Q Okay. All right. Sorry, we lost you there
9 for a moment.

10 Now, what about the audio portion?

11 A Sorry.

12 Q That's okay.

13 What about the audio portion? Do you know if
14 -- had you -- do you recall having any issues with the
15 audio function on your body-worn camera?

16 A Not that I recall.

17 Q Okay. All right. All right. So in watching
18 that video, your -- your body cam video, I should be
19 able to see that Mr. McGee came outside, went back into
20 his house?

21 [Whereupon, a videoconference technicality
22 occurred, after which the following transpired:]

23 THE WITNESS: I do not recall the video
24 camera, what it's going to show, what it's not
25 going to show.

1 BY MS. SAUNDERS-HILL:

2 Q Okay. Have you had the chance to review any
3 body cam footage in preparation for your deposition
4 today?

5 A I have no access to body cam footage or
6 reports written.

7 Q Okay. All right. So moving forward in time,
8 we have your testimony that you recall Mr. McGee coming
9 out, going back inside. Did he at some point ever come
10 back outside?

11 A He came outside one time, turned his vehicle
12 off and then tried to go back inside.

13 Q He tried. You said he tried to go back
14 inside. Does that -- am I to understand that as he
15 never made it back inside?

16 A No.

17 Q Okay. No. He never -- he never made it back
18 inside?

19 A No, ma'am.

20 Q Okay. And at this time, had any officer made
21 contact with him? Because he's trying to go -- he
22 comes out, checks his vehicle and he goes back inside
23 after turning the alarm off.

24 Does anyone approach him at this point to say
25 we're out here? Do you recall?

1 A Yes, ma'am. Myself and Corporal Walsh.

2 Q Okay. You made contact with Mr. McGee?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. What did you say to Mr. McGee?

5 A Well, he -- as he turned around this -- from
6 what I remember, he looked over in our direction and
7 was kind of like squinting, like he could almost see us
8 in the woods a little bit. And soon -- as soon as he
9 stopped and stared, I come -- I committed to coming out
10 of the darkness, announcing myself as Gainesville
11 Police Department and Corporal Walsh and her K-9 was
12 right next to me. And McGee saw us and took off
13 running.

14 Q Okay. Where did he take off running to?
15 That's what I think I asked you that earlier. You said
16 you -- you weren't -- you testified that you weren't
17 really sure where he, where he went?

18 A Yeah. We're a little bit misunderstanding
19 each other. So there's like -- this is a week long
20 process. So the first time when he committed the
21 robbery, he fled. And then this is a -- this is like
22 three or four days later after trying to get him to
23 turn himself in. This is -- this is when this incident
24 occurs.

25 Q Yes. That is -- that is correct. And so

1 that we have the correct moment in time, this is an
2 incident that occurred on the night of November 7th and
3 going into November 8th, 2021. So this is a night
4 incident. Were both of the incidents that you're
5 referring to at night?

6 A Yes. I mean, they started out I think in the
7 evening where it was getting dark, but all the
8 incidents ended up being at night.

9 Q Okay. And do you know, did you have the
10 opportunity to engage with him in well lit conditions
11 as opposed to engaging him at night?

12 A I made several attempts to get a hold of Mr.
13 McGee. I spoke to some of his family members and
14 friends requesting him to turn himself in, but those
15 were unsuccessful.

16 Q Okay. Do you know this -- ultimately Mr.
17 McGee was arrested; is that correct?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Okay. Do you know how his criminal case
20 ended, how it was disposed of? Any idea?

21 A I mean, I saw the email before I left that
22 they dropped the charges on him.

23 Q Okay. All right. Let me -- let me show you.
24 And I know you're -- this is -- I don't want to do
25 this, Mr. Hickey, because I know you're driving.

1 A Unfortunately I have a -- I have a meeting, a
2 very important meeting that I have to make to
3 Jacksonville, so I cannot miss it.

4 Q That's -- that's perfectly fine. I'm going
5 to do my best to get you in and out of here. I'm
6 sorry, what time is your next appointment?

7 A I have an appointment at 3:30.

8 Q Okay. All right. You won't be here that
9 long.

10 A Okay.

11 MS. SAUNDERS-HILL: So I will do my best to
12 sort of help you out with this so that you don't
13 have to take your eyes off of the road. I don't
14 want this to be a dangerous situation for you,
15 okay. So I'm going to present something that's
16 been previously marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 2,
17 and it's an incident report, okay. And I'll
18 represent that to you.

19 I'm almost afraid to have you look at it
20 because I know you're going to have to. I don't
21 want to. I'm -- I'm very fearful of that. I
22 don't want to put you in a dangerous position. So
23 let me just try to get through this without having
24 you look at something, okay, which is going to be
25 very difficult.

1 All right. Let me just try this then.

2 [Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 2 was
3 published for the record.]

4 BY MS. SAUNDERS-HILL:

5 Q Do you recall preparing an incident -- an
6 incident report about this incident?

7 A I do not remember if I was the primary
8 officer or if I did a supplement report. But when we
9 say incident report, that's usually the person, the
10 primary officer who takes down the initial report. And
11 then other officers do supplements. So I'm not sure if
12 I did a supplement or if I did the whole incident
13 report.

14 Q Okay. Well, I will represent to you that I
15 have entered an exhibit, Exhibit 2 from a prior
16 deposition. And the title of it is, Incident
17 Investigation Report. And I will represent to you that
18 as I look at it, and counsel is here today, counsel for
19 Defendant, it says that the ID on the first page of the
20 report is C.D. Hickey, officer number -- Badge Number
21 0899.

22 Do you recall whether or not that was your
23 Badge Number?

24 A That was mine.

25 Q Okay. And I will also represent to you that

1 this report with you being that officer, it also has
2 assisting officers as A.C. Milman, Badge Number 1129.

3 Does that sound like an officer with whom
4 you're familiar; Milman?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q And then I also see at the bottom that
7 another assisting officer is C.E. Walsh, Badge Number
8 0992. Is that the Corporal Walsh that we've been
9 talking about here today?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Okay. And then there's a third officer. It
12 says E.D. Sevor, Badge Number 1147. And I know we were
13 kind of trying to get the first name there, but I don't
14 have her first name and there's E.D. Does that ring a
15 bell after hearing the initials?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q Okay. All right. So there is a narrative
18 here, okay. And I just -- it's a brief narrative, but
19 I wanted to ask you before I ask you a question about
20 the narrative, do you remember. And you -- you talked
21 about this a little bit earlier, but I'm trying to
22 understand, like, positionally, like, where are you
23 located in relation to Corporal Walsh? I think you
24 said she was behind you or near you. Did I hear that
25 correctly?

1 A Can you say that one more time?

2 Q Sure. Do you recall when at -- during the
3 incident where Corporal Walsh appeared at the scene, do
4 you remember where -- where were you located the night
5 that he was apprehended? Were you -- in other words, I
6 just want to get a picture of where everyone is located
7 so I can kind of visualize the scene. Do you remember
8 where you may have been?

9 A Yes. I was standing right next to Corporal
10 Walsh. But it'd be really hard to articulate without
11 looking at a map and identifying exactly where we were
12 standing.

13 Q Okay. And had this incident already
14 occurred? Or at least this -- not really incident, but
15 had the part where you testified earlier that Mr. McGee
16 -- okay, the alarm goes off on the car and then Mr.
17 McGee goes back or tries to go inside, but he doesn't
18 go inside. Is that the same incident? Are we talking
19 about the same thing, or this is a separate where he
20 does go back inside?

21 A He didn't make it back inside.

22 Q He didn't make it; okay. So we are talking
23 about the same -- that's the same night that he was
24 apprehended, that's the time where he never made it
25 back inside?

1 A Correct.

2 Q After checking the truck; okay. All right.
3 And so since he didn't make it back inside, is that at
4 the point where you said that he checked the truck and
5 then he started running?

6 A We had came out of the -- out of the tree
7 line or out of the bushes or out of the darkness after
8 he was staring in our direction for just a moment in
9 time. And then when I came out and announced myself,
10 he took off running.

11 Q Okay. So you came outside -- I'm sorry. He
12 came outside and you -- you approached. Where were
13 you? Okay. I understand you were with -- alongside
14 the officer, the K-9 officer. And you came -- did you
15 come closer to him to announce yourself or where --
16 where were you to have announced yourself?

17 A Yes, ma'am. So at the same time that I came
18 out of the darkness, I was announcing myself with the
19 lights on him, telling him to stop, Gainesville Police
20 Department.

21 Q Okay. You were telling him to stop. At any
22 point did Mr. McGee end up going down to the ground
23 near the sidewalk?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Okay. Are you saying that rather than comply

1 and go down at the sidewalk, Mr. McGee was running away
2 from the sidewalk?

3 A Well, we had to make him go down to the
4 sidewalk, if that's what you're asking me.

5 Q And how did you make him go down to the
6 sidewalk?

7 A Well, he took off running, and then he
8 realized that we were -- I'm not sure if you heard the
9 dog barking or he turned around again and looked and
10 realized that we were right on top of him and he was
11 not going to get away, at which time he stopped running
12 and threw his hands out to his side.

13 Q And he threw out -- threw his hands out to
14 the side.

15 Do you -- well, do you believe he was
16 throwing his hands out to the side as to say, arrest
17 me, or do you know what? What do you remember about
18 that?

19 A Yeah. Basically. Well, he -- once he
20 realized that he wasn't going to make it to his house
21 and that we were going to capture him, he basically
22 gave up.

23 Q Okay. And when he gave up, what did he do?
24 Do you remember was -- did he get on the ground when he
25 realized he couldn't?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. What?

3 A Turned and faced us and just put his hands
4 out to the side.

5 Q Okay. Okay. Now, all right. He's on the
6 -- and are you closer to him now with his -- he's on
7 the ground with his hand -- arms or hands out to the
8 side, realizing he couldn't run away.

9 Do you remember, are you closer to him now?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Okay. Are the other officers closer to him
12 as well at this point? I think you did recall Officer
13 Milman. Do you know where he's located at this time
14 that Mr. McGee is on the ground with his arms out?

15 A I do not recall.

16 Q Okay. And we've not established who Officer
17 Sevor is; correct? Still no memory of that?

18 A If I could just get his first name, it would
19 -- it would probably refresh my recollection.

20 Q Okay. I'll try to see if I can find that for
21 you. I only have an E.D. right now, but we're going to
22 work on getting that for you.

23 All right. So now we're -- we're closer in
24 time. Let's see here, Ethan. Does Ethan Sevor ring a
25 bell?

1 A Oh, yeah. I think -- I think -- yeah. I'm
2 almost positive. Yes. I don't think we called him
3 Ethan. But, yeah. I think I know who you're talking
4 about now.

5 Q Okay. All right. After having recognized
6 the first name being Ethan, does it maybe refresh your
7 memory or your recollection as to where he -- can you
8 put him on the scene anywhere?

9 A No, ma'am. Not -- not -- it's been since
10 2022, and I've -- I've received gunshot wounds and
11 several TBIs since then. So it's -- I would literally
12 have to watch all the body cam footage, read the
13 reports to get a clear picture where everybody's at to
14 reflect my -- to reflect -- refresh my recollection.

15 Q Understandable. Understandable.

16 Okay. You brought me up to speed in terms of
17 Mr. McGee being on the ground with his arms out. We're
18 not sure where the other officers are. On the ground,
19 arms out.

20 At what point do you recall after he has sort
21 of just, I guess you said, gave up because he's not
22 going to be able to go anywhere -- were you able to
23 maintain control of him at that point? I mean, he's on
24 the ground; right?

25 MR. CARSON: Object to form.

1 THE WITNESS: He's standing facing us.

2 BY MS. SAUNDERS-HILL:

3 Q Is he standing facing you, or is he on the
4 ground with his arms out?

5 A He is standing facing us. So this is -- you
6 know, this is like milliseconds. So he's on the
7 sidewalk. Myself and Corporal Walsh come running out
8 of the darkness. I know I was yelling, Gainesville,
9 stop, Gainesville Police, put the light on him. He
10 sees us, takes off running, but we are talking
11 milliseconds where he is -- he takes off running, looks
12 behind him, sees how fast we've gained ground, and then
13 realizes he's not going to make it back to his -- make
14 it back to his residence and then turns around, faces
15 us.

16 I would have to watch the body cam footage to
17 exactly articulate how he went down to the ground, but
18 I went hands on and put him down to the ground. And,
19 honestly, I cannot remember exactly how that all went,
20 but he did not go down to the ground willingly. We had
21 to put him on the ground.

22 Q Okay. So you had to put him on the ground,
23 okay. So was he, like, resisting going to the ground?

24 A Like I said, I don't want to -- without
25 watching my body cam footage and reading the report, I

1 would have to really refresh my recollection.

2 Q Okay. All right. Are you aware -- do you
3 remember whether or not Corporal Walsh's dog, Stern,
4 took him to the ground by biting him?

5 A He was definitely a big part of it, I'm sure,
6 the K-9 presence, because she was sitting right -- she
7 was running right next to me with her K-9. And he took
8 off running and saw us and -- and left and, well, tried
9 to flee. And I'm sure that was a big determining
10 factor why he should probably give up.

11 Q He gave up because he saw the -- is it your
12 contention that he gave up because he saw the dog or
13 because he could not outrun you all? Do you know
14 which? Do you recall if either one --

15 A I could not determine what he was thinking.
16 I was projecting that night and going back into that
17 night. It was he saw us, took off running, looked back
18 to see how far back we were, and then when he -- that's
19 when he realized -- he saw myself, the K-9 and Corporal
20 Walsh. I want -- I don't want to say give a distance,
21 but we were right on top of him.

22 And at the last second, it wasn't like he --
23 like we had, like, a conversation. It was like he was
24 running, he's fleeing. He turns around, realizes he
25 ain't going nowhere, and at the last second, he turns

1 around and throws his hands up.

2 Q Okay. Now, you testified earlier that you
3 didn't want to put words -- I guess, to speculate, put
4 words into his mouth. But you said that he realized he
5 wasn't going anywhere. How do you know that's what he
6 realized?

7 A That's what -- that's my opinion, I guess you
8 would say. Our speculation that if he could have made
9 -- in my opinion, he's been fleeing the whole time, he
10 had several opportunities to turn himself in. My
11 opinion is that he would have never turned himself in
12 without knowing that he was caught.

13 Q Okay. Do you know why the case was
14 dismissed?

15 A No, ma'am.

16 Q Okay. All right. Okay. So I don't want you
17 to have to, like, look at this, but are you able to
18 listen to a body cam video?

19 A I would not feel comfortable listening, and
20 it sounds like you probably need me in person, and I
21 need some time to, like, take this all in and actually
22 prepare, to actually go through my body cam footage,
23 read the reports to give a proper interview.

24 Q Do you have -- do you still have access to
25 the body cam video? I think you didn't. You said you

1 need time to go through it.

2 A No, ma'am. No, ma'am.

3 Q Okay. How would you -- how would you be able
4 to get it if you don't have access to it? You have
5 someone who could give that to you with the Gainesville
6 Police Department?

7 A The State Attorney's Office would send me a
8 link to where I could. They would send me all of the
9 incident reports and supplements, and then they would
10 send me the body cam footage, a link to where I can
11 access the body cam footage.

12 MS. SAUNDERS-HILL: Okay. All right. Okay.
13 That's -- that's fair.

14 Mr. Carson, it sounds as if Mr. Hickey says
15 he needs to review. I know he's headed to
16 somewhere else, but I do need to ask him some
17 questions and I wanted to have him listen to the
18 body cam video. But I understand he's driving and
19 he's not able to do it, and I get that. I don't
20 want him to be in an unsafe position. I
21 absolutely don't want that. I tried to do that
22 myself before. We don't want to do that.

23 So we can go off the record.

24 [Whereupon, a discussion was had off the
25 record, after which the following transpired:]

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[Whereupon, the reading and signing of the
videoconference deposition was reserved.]

[Whereupon, the foregoing videoconference
deposition was concluded at 2:37 p.m.]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA:

COUNTY OF SEMINOLE:

I, Melissa Copenhaver, Court Reporter and Notary Public, State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the videoconference deposition of CHRISTIAN DOUGLAS HICKEY, and that the said witness was first duly sworn by me.

I further certify that the foregoing pages numbered 3 through 34, inclusive, prepared under my direction and supervision, constitute a true, complete and accurate transcript of said witness to the best of my skill and ability.

I further certify that I am not of counsel for, nor related to any party herein or attorney involved herein, nor am I financially interested in the outcome of this action.

WITNESS MY HAND this 24th day of September 2025.

Melissa Copenhaver

MELISSA COPENHAVER
For the Record Reporting, Inc.
Court Reporter, Notary Public,
State of Florida at Large
Commission Number HH 562022
Expiration September 28, 2028

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SUBSCRIPTION OF DEPONENT

I, CHRISTIAN DOUGLAS HICKEY, have read the foregoing videoconference deposition given by me on August 13, 2025, in Tallahassee, Florida, and the following corrections, if any, should be made in the transcript:

PAGE LINE CORRECTION AND REASON

Subject to the above corrections, if any, my testimony reads as given by me in the foregoing videoconference deposition.

SIGNED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

CHRISTIAN DOUGLAS HICKEY