

# EXHIBIT 26

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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.

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Tallahassee, Florida

August 13, 2025

3:33 p.m.

VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF:

ETHAN SEVOR

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 Casey Walsh

15 - - - - -

16 I N D E X

17 TESTIMONY OF ETHAN SEVOR:

18 Direct Examination by Ms. Saunders-Hill 3

19 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 27

20 SUBSCRIPTION OF DEPONENT 28

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1 legal name for the record?

2 A Ethan Sevor.

3 Q Mr. Sevor, have you ever had your deposition  
4 taken before?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. When was the last time you gave  
7 deposition testimony?

8 A I'm not sure of the exact date.

9 Q Okay. Can you give me an approximate time  
10 frame? Last month, last year?

11 A Last month.

12 Q Okay. Was that for a GPD case or a personal  
13 matter?

14 A GPD case.

15 Q Okay. All right. What's your current title  
16 with the Gainesville Police Department?

17 A Police Officer.

18 Q Are you on patrol or in a different  
19 department?

20 A Patrol.

21 Q How long you've been working as a patrol  
22 officer with GPD?

23 A Roughly six years.

24 Q Did you start out as a patrol officer as  
25 well?

1 A I did.

2 Q Are you a member of the K-9 Unit?

3 A I am not.

4 Q Have you ever been?

5 A No.

6 Q Have you ever assisted a K-9 Unit with their  
7 -- their functions and apprehending a suspect?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. When was the last time you did that?

10 A I'm unsure.

11 Q Last year?

12 A I honestly don't know.

13 Q Okay. All right. Well, let's try to give it  
14 your best guess. Within the last two years?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. Let me go back and introduce myself.  
17 My name is Farnita Hill and I'm an attorney who  
18 represents the Plaintiff in this matter, Mr. McGee,  
19 Ropheal McGee, who has brought suit against the  
20 Gainesville Police Department and Officer Walsh in her  
21 individual capacity. And I'm just going to ask you a  
22 few questions about your involvement in this case to  
23 see what you may know.

24 Do you recall your involvement or being  
25 dispatched to go to the scene of an incident on

1 November 7, 2021 that involved the Plaintiff, Mr.  
2 McGee, Ropheal McGee?

3 A I remember my involvement.

4 Q Okay. What did you do to prepare for your  
5 deposition here today, sir?

6 A I reviewed my body-worn camera footage.

7 Q Okay. Did you prepare -- I mean, did you  
8 review any written documents associated with this  
9 matter?

10 A I did not.

11 Q Okay. Do you know if any written documents  
12 exist?

13 A A police report exists.

14 Q Okay. Did you review that?

15 A I did not.

16 Q Okay. All right. And when did you last  
17 review your -- your body-worn video footage?

18 A Right before my deposition.

19 Q So that would have been today.

20 Do you recall how you came to be dispatched  
21 to the scene of this incident? I mean, did 9-1-1 call  
22 you or did another officer call you to report to the  
23 scene?

24 A Another officer asked me to assist.

25 Q Okay. Was that Officer Hickey?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And did you report to the scene as a  
3 result of Officer Hickey's request?

4 A I met with him beforehand.

5 Q Okay. Okay. And were you able to meet with  
6 him offsite or beforehand once you got at the place  
7 where it was believed Mr. McGee was located?

8 A Offhand, initially -- offsite initially.  
9 Sorry.

10 Q No worries.

11 Okay. And once you -- moving forward in  
12 time, you show up at the scene, are you -- are you  
13 there with other officers as well, in addition to  
14 Officer Hickey?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. Tell me, if you remember, who were the  
17 other officers who were present that night?

18 A I know myself, Officer Hickey, Corporal Walsh  
19 and Officer Milman.

20 Q Okay. When you -- before this incident  
21 occurred, I mean, did you ever have -- and during your  
22 meeting with Walsh, Officer Walsh, was there a plan of  
23 action that you guys discussed in order to try to  
24 arrest or apprehend Mr. McGee; do you recall?

25 A Yes. There was a plan.

1 Q Okay. Can you tell me what that plan -- what  
2 that plan was about?

3 A I don't remember the exact plan, but I  
4 remember my role in the plan.

5 Q Okay. And what was your role in the plan?

6 A I was to set up to try to see the front door  
7 of his apartment and notify officers whenever he  
8 exited.

9 Q Okay. Now, where -- do you remember -- I  
10 know it's been quite some time. But do you remember  
11 where you were located to be able to see the front  
12 door, determine when he exited where he was believed to  
13 be?

14 A I don't remember my exact positioning.

15 Q Okay. Were you anywhere near the doorway?

16 A I was close enough at one point where I could  
17 see it, and then I had repositioned at another point,  
18 and at that time I had -- wasn't able to see the  
19 doorway anymore. I thought I was able to, but I  
20 wasn't.

21 Q Okay. And do you know or do you recall maybe  
22 the reason why you had to reposition?

23 A I'm sorry. You kind of broke up there. Can  
24 you repeat the question?

25 Q Cut out there again. Sorry about that. I

1 think my Internet is kind of unstable, so I apologize.

2 Do you recall -- I think I know. You  
3 testified that at some point you could see the doorway,  
4 but then you had to reposition for some reason. Do you  
5 know or remember why you had to reposition to another  
6 -- another spot?

7 A You broke up again. But are you -- can you  
8 just repeat the question? I'm sorry.

9 Q Yes. I'm sorry. I don't know what's going  
10 on.

11 Do you know why you had to reposition to  
12 another location?

13 A I was trying to get a better vantage point to  
14 the doorway and it actually ended up being worse.

15 Q Okay. Although it turned out to be worse,  
16 were you able to get back to that original position or  
17 you end up having to stay there?

18 A I stayed where I was.

19 Q Okay. Approximately what time was this; do  
20 you remember?

21 A I don't recall.

22 Q But it was at night or is it during the day?

23 A It was nighttime.

24 Q Okay. And do you recall what made it  
25 difficult for you to be able to get a good vantage

1 point of the door where you were trying to see the  
2 doorway?

3 A I don't recall.

4 Q Okay. But you remember that you had to move  
5 because you didn't have a good vantage point?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. All right. Did an officer at that  
8 time -- were you in communication with an officer to  
9 say, hey, listen, I'm going to a different spot, can't  
10 really see? Do you remember that?

11 A I don't recall.

12 Q Okay. And you were wearing your body-worn  
13 camera on that on the day in question; correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. Do you know whether or not you had any  
16 problems with your body-worn camera that day?

17 A Not that I'm aware of.

18 Q Okay. So your audio and the video portions  
19 were working just fine?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay.

22 A As far as I'm aware.

23 Q Okay. And you -- you heard those before your  
24 deposition today, and did there appear to be any issues  
25 with what you heard?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. Audio pretty audible to you?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Video seemed to be an accurate depiction of  
5 what occurred at the scene that night?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. All right. Now, tell me, at some  
8 point do you recall before -- at some point, was Mr.  
9 McGee apprehended that night?

10 A I'm sorry. Can you repeat your question?

11 Q Was Mr. McGee apprehended that night?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. And that resulted in his arrest?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. Before Mr. McGee was apprehended and  
16 arrested -- well, he was taken to the hospital, and  
17 I'll get to that. But do you know, did you -- do you  
18 recall whether or not at any time before he was  
19 apprehended, did you go to the door to knock on the  
20 door to try to communicate with him to get him to come  
21 outside?

22 A I don't recall.

23 Q Okay. All right. So it could have happened;  
24 you just don't remember?

25 A I don't recall.

1 Q Okay. All right. And my question is, even  
2 though you don't recall, could that have happened since  
3 you don't remember, remember knocking on the door?

4 A I don't remember knocking on the door; no.

5 Q Okay. Do you remember having any  
6 conversation with Mr. McGee before he was apprehended,  
7 whether on the door or through the wall or the window  
8 or anything like that, any conversations?

9 A No.

10 Q Okay. Do you remember hearing -- after  
11 listening to your bodycam video, do you recall hearing  
12 any other officer or seeing any other officer knock on  
13 the door and make an announcement that they were  
14 outside wanting to communicate with Mr. McGee?

15 A No.

16 Q Okay. Now, moving forward in time, was there  
17 a point in time when something triggered or tripped Mr.  
18 McGee's car alarm?

19 A It is going off in my video.

20 Q Okay. And you can hear it sort of going off  
21 in your bodycam video that you listen to?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. Do you know who may have caused the --  
24 or did any of the officers cause his -- like, the car's  
25 alarm to go off?

1 A I'm not sure. I don't remember.

2 Q Okay. Did you set his alarm off in his  
3 vehicle?

4 A I did not.

5 Q Okay. All right. But at some point it went  
6 off; correct?

7 A Yes. To go back to your previous question,  
8 there was talk about the car alarm going off. I don't  
9 remember if the alarm was actually going off in my  
10 video.

11 Q Okay. So you could not -- in your video, you  
12 couldn't hear? There was no --

13 A I don't remember. I don't remember.

14 Q Okay. And from you watching this a few  
15 minutes -- at least today before your deposition, you  
16 just don't remember hearing that sound or it going off?

17 A I don't remember.

18 Q Okay. All right. Now, tell me, when you say  
19 there was talk about the alarm going off, who is  
20 talking about the alarm going off?

21 A Mr. McGee did as well. And there was  
22 conversation between officers about the alarm.

23 Q Okay. Mr. McGee told you that the alarm was  
24 going off that -- that night?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. And how did he end up telling you that  
2 or when did he tell you that?

3 A He said he -- I don't remember exactly when.

4 Q Okay. Was it before or after he was  
5 apprehended?

6 A After.

7 Q Okay. And so based on that, if I were to  
8 listen to your bodycam video, I would hear Mr. McGee  
9 telling you his alarm went off?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. Do you know where I -- at what point  
12 that would be in the video? The first part or the  
13 middle or latter part, not sure?

14 A I'm unsure.

15 Q Okay. All right. So, okay. Tell me, Mr.  
16 McGee, does he eventually -- after the alarm goes off,  
17 does he eventually come out of his house?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to cut you  
20 off.

21 Does he come out of the residence where he  
22 was located?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. And once he comes out, tell me, were  
25 you able to make contact with him at any point after he

1 comes out?

2 A I was unable to until he was apprehended.

3 Q Okay. And why were you unable to make  
4 contact with him until after he was apprehended?

5 A Because I didn't know he came out of the  
6 house.

7 Q Okay. So from your vantage point where you  
8 said it had gotten worse, you were not able to see at  
9 all whether or not he came out of the house?

10 A I was not.

11 Q Okay. And how -- how long after you  
12 determined that you were not able to see him or have a  
13 good vantage point did you -- did you reach him to  
14 apprehend him? Can you remember the passage of time?  
15 Approximately how long did it take? Let me rephrase  
16 that.

17 From the moment -- you said you switched to  
18 another location to be able to see the door; correct,  
19 the doorway?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q But you also said that you -- your vantage  
22 point wasn't as good as you thought it would be;  
23 correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. From that point, when you said, geez,

1 I can't really see, you know, the doorway as I should,  
2 at some point you made it over to where Mr. McGee was  
3 located; correct, to apprehend him?

4 A The apprehension was already taking place  
5 before I got over there.

6 Q Okay. All right. Let's assume the  
7 apprehension has already taken place.

8 How long did it take you from the time you  
9 realized that you could not see him to the time you  
10 approached him? Even assuming the apprehension's  
11 already taken place, how long did it take you to get  
12 there? Does that make sense?

13 A I'm unsure that -- of the exact amount of  
14 time.

15 Q Okay. Five minutes?

16 A I wouldn't say that long.

17 Q Okay. Okay. All right. Well, moving  
18 forward.

19 When you approached him, tell me, what did  
20 you see?

21 A The officers were attempting to take him into  
22 custody.

23 Q Okay. Did you -- all right. Let's go back.  
24 Because there was a dog bite somewhere between; am I  
25 correct?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Did you see the dog bite, or did you  
3 just see officers taking him into custody?

4 A I didn't see the initial dog bite.

5 Q Okay. But when you made it over there, was  
6 the dog still latched on his arm?

7 A I'm not sure, and it would have been in my  
8 video possibly.

9 Q Okay. Did you witness Mr. McGee -- any blood  
10 at the scene?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. And was that blood from the dog bite?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. Did you hear Mr. McGee at any time  
15 saying that he was in pain?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. Did you at any time witness Mr. -- or  
18 hear Mr. McGee saying that he could not feel his  
19 throat?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay. Did you hear Mr. McGee at any time say  
22 that he could not feel his fingers?

23 A Not that I'm aware of.

24 Q Okay. What about his arm? Did you hear him  
25 any time say that he could not feel his arm?

1 A I'm not sure of the exact statements he made.

2 Q Okay. All right. But you do recall him  
3 yelling that he was in pain?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. Were you the officer who called 9-1-1  
6 for medical attention?

7 A I don't know.

8 Q Okay. All right. Did any of the officers  
9 call for medical attention that you can remember?

10 A Yes, we called for EMS.

11 Q Okay. Now, when you say we, you said that  
12 you were not sure if you were the person. Do you know  
13 who called?

14 A I'm not sure. No.

15 Q Okay. At some point, EMS arrived?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. And what happened after that, after  
18 they arrived?

19 A They took him to the hospital.

20 Q Okay. Did you ever report to the hospital  
21 after they had taken him there?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. And what did you do when you get  
24 there? In other words, did you have a chance to talk  
25 with Mr. McGee?

1 A I don't know.

2 Q Okay. All right. You went to the hospital,  
3 but you don't remember why you went to the hospital?

4 A Well, I went to the hospital. I know I went  
5 to the hospital later in the evening because he was  
6 under arrest.

7 Q Okay. Did you go to the hospital to see how  
8 he was doing after a dog bite?

9 A No. He's under medical attention.

10 Q Okay. All right. Do you know whether or not  
11 he was in surgery when you went there?

12 A I don't recall.

13 Q Okay. All right. When did you -- did you  
14 have -- did you make any contact or have any  
15 conversations with Mr. McGee after you first saw him at  
16 the scene that night? How soon -- how soon after that  
17 incident did you have any contact with Mr. McGee, if  
18 any at all?

19 A Can you rephrase your question?

20 Q Sure. After this incident, did you ever have  
21 any conversations with Mr. McGee, whether at the  
22 hospital or otherwise?

23 A Not that I'm aware of.

24 Q Okay. All right. Are you a K-9 officer?

25 A I'm not.

1 Q Okay. Did you ever want to be a K-9 officer?

2 A Maybe at some point.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Earlier in my career.

5 Q Was this your first time witnessing a suspect  
6 being apprehended by the use of -- with the use of a K-  
7 9?

8 A I'm not sure.

9 Q Okay. So in your tenure, your six-year  
10 tenure with the Gainesville Police Department, this --  
11 is this the only time that you can recall seeing a dog  
12 bite a suspect?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. All right. So you have had encounters  
15 where police -- where K-9 has -- has apprehended a  
16 suspect since you've been with the Gainesville Police  
17 Department other than this one?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. All right. But you know -- do you  
20 know how many times?

21 A No.

22 Q Okay. All right. Have you ever been  
23 reprimanded?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. For what?

1 A I don't remember exactly.

2 Q Okay. Who is -- I may have already asked you  
3 this, and if so, I do apologize in advance. Who's your  
4 current supervisor?

5 A Sergeant Kennedy.

6 Q Sergeant Kennedy. How long has Sergeant  
7 Kennedy been your supervisor approximately?

8 A Little less than a year.

9 Q Who was your supervisor before Sergeant  
10 Kennedy?

11 A Sergeant Owens.

12 Q Okay.

13 A He's retired.

14 Q Okay. Do you know if that night -- at the  
15 time of this incident was Sergeant Owens your  
16 supervisor?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay. Who was -- who was the sergeant at --  
19 as of November 21st -- I mean, November 7th, 2021? Do  
20 you remember?

21 A My current supervisor at the time that year  
22 was Sergeant Sweeting.

23 Q Sergeant Sweeting.

24 I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I apologize. I cut  
25 you off. Is that like S-w-e-t-t -- I'm sorry,

1 S-w-e-e-t-i-n-g, Sweeting?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Sergeant Sweeting. And I apologize.  
4 You were about to say something else, but I cut you  
5 off.

6 A No. It's fine.

7 Q Okay. All right. Sergeant Sweeting. And is  
8 Sergeant Sweeting still with the Gainesville Police  
9 Department as far as you know?

10 A Yes, he is.

11 Q Okay. Do you know if Sergeant Sweeting  
12 appeared at the scene the night of this incident?

13 A I'm not sure.

14 Q Okay. Do you know if any sergeant appeared  
15 or supervisor appeared at the scene that night?

16 A I don't recall. I'm sorry.

17 Q That's okay. Did you call a supervisor  
18 knowing that force had been used that night?

19 A Yes. I did call for a supervisor.

20 Q All right. Who -- did you call a supervisor  
21 directly or did you go through dispatch?

22 A I went through dispatch.

23 Q But you don't remember who -- who came to the  
24 scene?

25 A I do not.

1 Q Did anyone ride in the ambulance with Mr.  
2 McGee? Do you recall?

3 A Yes. An officer did.

4 Q Do you remember which officer?

5 A No. I don't.

6 Q Is there an Officer Ridley on the force?  
7 Does that name sound familiar?

8 A Ripley?

9 Q I'm sorry, Ripley. Is there a Ripley on the  
10 force or was on the force?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Do you know if Officer Ripley rode  
13 during the transport?

14 A I don't recall if it was exactly him.

15 Q Okay. Do you have any knowledge about the  
16 community having any concerns about the Gainesville  
17 Police Department's K-9 Unit? Have you ever heard  
18 that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. All right. You said that sort of  
21 reluctant, like, yes. So tell me what that means. Did  
22 you hear it from someone in the community or within the  
23 department there or both?

24 THE WITNESS: There's been -- I'm sorry, I  
25 think I'm going to need, like, more of exact

1 question, Mike. I'm sorry.

2 Can you, like, rephrase it for me, please?

3 BY MS. SAUNDERS-HILL:

4 Q Absolutely. My question is -- I asked you if  
5 you were aware of any concerns from the community  
6 about, you know, the K-9 Unit, the operations, and you  
7 said yes.

8 And my question -- the question that I  
9 probably wasn't so clear was I just wanted to know if  
10 you've heard that from just members of the community or  
11 if you heard that kind of internally within the police  
12 department or maybe both?

13 A The community.

14 Q The community.

15 Okay. Are you aware whether or not the City  
16 of Gainesville made some changes to any of its policies  
17 based on the community's concerns with the K-9 Unit?

18 A The K-9 Unit had policy changes. I don't  
19 know if it's a direct reason. You know, the community  
20 was the direct reason.

21 MS. SAUNDERS-HILL: Okay. All right. Let me  
22 do this. Let me check my notes, and I may not  
23 have anything further for you, okay. One moment.

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Sounds good.

25 MS. SAUNDERS-HILL: Thank you.

1 BY MS. SAUNDERS-HILL:

2 Q Okay. Sir, one question for you.

3 At the time you -- you indicated earlier that  
4 Mr. McGee had already been apprehended. When you --  
5 when you came over to where Mr. McGee was located and  
6 the dog had already -- was latched on his arm, what did  
7 you do, if anything, to try to get the dog off of him?

8 A Nothing.

9 Q Okay. Did you -- I know that Officer Milman  
10 was also present. Did you see Officer Milman do  
11 anything to try to get the dog off of Mr. McGee?

12 A That would be something that the K-9 handler  
13 would do.

14 Q Okay. Now, let's say the K-9 handler can't  
15 get the dog off of Mr. McGee with any commands or with  
16 force. Did you see Officer Milman do anything to help  
17 get the dog off of Mr. McGee?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. And what about Officer Hickey at the  
20 time? Do you recall whether or not Officer Hickey did  
21 anything to try to assist the handler in getting the  
22 dog off of Mr. McGee?

23 A No.

24 MS. SAUNDERS-HILL: Okay. All right. I  
25 don't think I have any further questions. I

1 appreciate your time here. I know it's been kind  
2 of a little bit over time today, but I certainly  
3 appreciate your patience as we kind of work  
4 through some issues today.

5 Mr. Carson may have some follow for you, but  
6 otherwise, that concludes your deposition.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. CARSON: I have no questions for the  
9 witness, and he'll read through me.

10 THE REPORTER: Okay.

11 MR. CARSON: Thank you.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you, guys.

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

15 [Whereupon, the foregoing videoconference  
16 deposition concluded at 4:02 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 ETHAN SEVOR, and that the said witness was first duly sworn by me.

I further certify that the foregoing pages numbered 3 through 26, 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, ETHAN SEVOR, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ETHAN SEVOR