

1           IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
2                           IN AND FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

3   STATE OF FLORIDA,

4           Plaintiff,

5   v.

CASE NO. 01-2021-CF-3691-A

6   ANDRE ABRAMS, SR.,

7           Defendant.

8   \_\_\_\_\_ /

9                           DEPOSITION OF: Wilfredo Perez

10                          DATE:                July 17, 2024

11                          PLACE:             209 Southwest Second Street  
12    Gainesville, Florida

13   APPEARANCES

14           On Behalf of the State:

15           Andrew McCain  
16           Assistant State Attorney  
17           120 West University Avenue  
              Gainesville, Florida 32601

18           On Behalf of the Defendant:

19           Aubroncee S. Martin  
20           Assistant Public Defender  
              151 Southwest Second Avenue  
              Gainesville, Florida 32601

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I-N-D-E-X

Witness                            Direct   Cross   Redirect   Recross

Wilfredo Perez

By Aubroncee S. Martin      3

E-X-H-I-B-I-T-S

(No exhibits offered.)

1 COURT REPORTER: All right. And it is -

2 MR. MARTIN: How you doing?

3 COURT REPORTER: - 2:50 on July 17th, State  
4 versus Andre Abrams. Do you swear or affirm the testimony  
5 you're about to give will be the whole truth?

6 THE WITNESS: I do.

7 COURT REPORTER: Please state your full name and  
8 occupation.

9 THE WITNESS: Officer Wilfredo Perez with the  
10 Gainesville Police.

11 COURT REPORTER: Thanks.

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. MARTIN:

14

15 Q. Good afternoon, Office Perez.

16 A. Hey, how you doing?

17 Q. I'm all right.

18 A. All right.

19 Q. My name is Aubroncee Martin, and I'll be  
20 representing Mr. Andre Abrams here today. Now, Mr. Abrams  
21 is charged with the offense of aggravated assault with a  
22 deadly weapon. And your name was listed as a  
23 law-enforcement officer involved in this case. Is that  
24 correct that you were involved in this case in some  
25 manner?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. All right. Well, if you wouldn't mind, if you  
3 would describe what your involvement entails, and then,  
4 I'll follow up with specific questions if necessary.

5 A. I was dispatched to a call in reference to a  
6 subject with a flamethrower and responded and determined  
7 that there were three victims and that Mr. Abram was the  
8 one using the flamethrower. And I placed him under arrest  
9 for the aggravated assault for using the flamethrower  
10 towards the three victims.

11 Q. Okay. Did you yourself see a flamethrower?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. When you observed this flamethrower, where was  
14 it?

15 A. I don't recall -

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. - where it initially was.

18 Q. All right. Did you see Mr. Abrams using the  
19 flamethrower?

20 A. I did not.

21 Q. All right. So did you see any evidence,  
22 physical evidence, that the flamethrower had been used?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. Can you tell me about that?

25 A. There were burn marks in the street. And then

1 also he showed us video surveillance of his door camera.  
2 I don't know if it was a door camera or just his  
3 surveillance system that he has. He showed us some of the  
4 videos of him using it, and then, he stopped showing us  
5 because I assumed that it was because he was kind of  
6 incriminating himself at that point because he was in the  
7 road near the car with the flamethrower and it was  
8 shooting out at the time in the video that I saw.

9 Q. Did you collect this video?

10 A. I did not.

11 Q. Okay. Why not?

12 A. So the - he wouldn't give it to us, and then,  
13 the wife initially said she would give it to us, and then,  
14 she went inside and they ended up closing the doors, not  
15 answering us, not responding to us. So they didn't give  
16 us that video.

17 Q. Did you take any other steps to retrieve this  
18 video?

19 A. I did not. Usually what happens with most of  
20 these cases is once we get it submitted, it goes to  
21 detectives. Detectives do any other follow up or state  
22 attorney's office to do any kind of subpoenas or anything.  
23 But as the road officer, I didn't complete any kind of  
24 subpoenas or anything to try to get the video  
25 surveillance.

1 Q. All right. But you saw this video surveillance?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. All right.

4 A. I believe some of it was also captured on my  
5 body camera.

6 Q. Did you review that?

7 A. I did not.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I did not review it -

10 Q. All right.

11 A. - to see how clear it was on there.

12 Q. Do you - were you able to make a determination  
13 as to the timing of this recording? As in, can you - how  
14 do you know that this was the same instance in which you  
15 were - you were investigating as far as a agg-assault as  
16 opposed to some other time in which he was using it?

17 A. Because he - he told us that.

18 Q. What did he tell you?

19 A. He told us that it was - that, that was the time  
20 that it happened. And he was - I believe he was trying to  
21 prove the case initially, that he didn't harm them.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Which, he didn't harm them, but it was still a  
24 threat to them and they were in fear.

25 Q. Did you explain that to him, that that's what

1 you were investigating? Not an actual touching, but  
2 a - a threat?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You didn't explain that to him?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. So - but there's a - there was a  
7 conversation between you and Mr. -

8 A. There - there was a conversation about the - the  
9 allegations that were made that he was shooting the  
10 flamethrower towards them.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. And then he made a comment about - he admitted  
13 to using the flamethrower.

14 Q. Uh-huh.

15 A. And he talked about his issues with the parking.  
16 With them parking where they were parking.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Now, you - I just - it looked like you were  
19 gonna say something. Sorry. So he - he mentioned the  
20 vehicle giving him trouble and it's actually been an  
21 ongoing issue in the - in the neighborhood -

22 Q. Uh-huh.

23 A. - that he's been having with a bunch of the  
24 neighbors. Because I guess across the street, a lot of  
25 family would park on the side of the road. But the thing

1 is, is there's nothing that's posted there and we've  
2 talked to him about it. You know, there's nothing that we  
3 can enforce. He's not - they're not blocking your  
4 driveway. They're not blocking the street. They're  
5 parked in the grass across the street from your driveway.

6 Q. So he says that there was an ongoing issue with  
7 parking with his neighbors. Have you been involved in  
8 that ongoing issue?

9 A. Issue in the past, yes.

10 Q. Yeah. Tell me about it. So what exactly was  
11 his complaint again? If you can be as clear  
12 as -

13 A. I want to say that - because I don't remember  
14 specifically. I - I've talked with Mr. Abrams a few times  
15 over the years with different issues with different  
16 neighbors -

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. - that he's had. But I believe for that - for  
19 that incident and most of the incidents that he complains  
20 about is that when he backs out of his property that the  
21 vehicle is in the way and that, you know, it's possible  
22 that he could strike it and he - he doesn't want them  
23 parking there.

24 Q. It is pretty - is it pretty tight quarters on  
25 that road?



1           A.    I mean, it's just a two lane - A regular average  
2 two lane street.

3           Q.    Uh-huh.

4           A.    And then they would park - like, if you look at  
5 the - in front of the house where the grass is at, you  
6 could see all the grass is pretty much dead right there.  
7 Because what they do is they pull into the - onto the  
8 grass -

9           Q.    Uh-huh.

10          A.    - across the street from his apartment.

11          Q.    Okay. And he was trying to show you video  
12 surveillance of where they were parking at. Was that his  
13 effort to - is it -

14          A.    No. It was to show me that he wasn't burning  
15 them with the flamethrower, pretty much.

16          Q.    Okay.

17          A.    Yeah.

18          Q.    So -

19          A.    And he - he said something like, you know, if he  
20 wanted to, that he could have, but he didn't.

21          Q.    Okay. Anything else as far as your  
22 investigation?

23          A.    No. I just talked to the - to the three females  
24 that were in the vehicle, and then, spoke to him, and then  
25 , spoke to his wife briefly. I didn't get her

1 information. She - she wasn't there during the whole  
2 thing, but she was kind of helping and with the laptop or  
3 the - the iPad, I guess, you would say.

4 Q. So you wrote a report, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. So there were three individuals that  
7 were victims in this case?

8 A. The three girls.

9 Q. Yeah. Could you - can you tell me  
10 what - what - who they were and - and what they told you?

11 A. Let's see. All right. "A [REDACTED] S [REDACTED]." And  
12 she stated that "she was driving" - "she was in the  
13 driver's seat of her car and that one of the other girls  
14 said he has the flamethrower." "So then initially she  
15 wasn't concerned because he's been known to be out there."  
16 We've had multiple 911 calls about him out in the street  
17 with the flamethrower, intimidating people and people  
18 being scared. But every other time that we've shown up on  
19 scene, nobody wanted to be a victim. Nobody wanted to  
20 come forward. And of course, when we would show up, he  
21 would be inside and there would be no flamethrower. But  
22 there have been videos circulating in the neighborhood of  
23 him doing that, going out in the street and just blasting  
24 this flamethrower in the street. And then, let's  
25 see - okay yeah. So - so then she says something along

1 the lines of sees him getting closer to the car. So she  
2 yells out at him, like, you better not burn my car. And  
3 then he was, I guess, at that time spraying it in front of  
4 the vehicle, on the ground or next to the vehicle, because  
5 the vehicle is parked long ways with the street. And he  
6 was facing the driver's - the driver's side. So it was  
7 kind of like - like they were - he was perpendicular to  
8 the - to the vehicle. And - and then after she told him  
9 that, he brings it up and starts spraying upwards towards  
10 the vehicle. And to her, it was so close that she thought  
11 the vehicle was catching fire. So she jumped over the  
12 center console to jump out of the passenger side of the  
13 vehicle and ran out the door and then took off. And then  
14 the second girl, let's see, "N [REDACTED]" - "N [REDACTED]  
15 B [REDACTED]," I think. I'm not sure how you pronounce that.  
16 It's.  
17 N- [REDACTED]. She was in the passenger seat. And  
18 that she pretty much confirmed the same account as the  
19 driver. That same thing that they're - oh, "there he is  
20 with flamethrower." "Weren't concerned." And then he  
21 started spraying, so they jumped out and ran out the car.  
22 And then the - the third female was "M [REDACTED] E [REDACTED]," and  
23 she was sitting in the rear driver's side. And same  
24 thing. She confirmed the same account and that "she  
25 thought that he had sprayed the - the gas tank because the

1 flame had gotten so big," I guess. So those are the - the  
2 three.

3 Q. So one of the girls said that she tried to get  
4 his attention by saying, don't shoot - don't shoot the  
5 flamethrower towards me?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. All right. Did Mr. Abrams say anything about  
8 being aware that the - the girls were inside of the  
9 vehicle?

10 A. You know, I'd have to review my body cam, but  
11 I - I want to say that he did say that he was - that he  
12 knew they were in there. But he didn't intend on hurting  
13 anybody or burning the car or anything and that the reason  
14 why he took it out there was because of the - the parking  
15 issue, and he's tired of the parking issue, so -

16 Q. Did you collect the flamethrower?

17 A. Yes. It was collected by Officer -  
18 (indiscernible)

19 Q. Okay. Not you?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Anything of note about the flamethrower that you  
22 recall?

23 A. No. I'm not a flamethrower expert, so  
24 I - I - no. I just - he said -

25 Q. Okay.

1           A.    He said - he said it was the - he said he uses  
2 it for weeds, I believe, at some point.

3           Q.    Okay. In your lay opinion about knowledge  
4 of - of flamethrowers, anything of note? Did you touch  
5 it? Anything like that, that you can - you can describe  
6 it?

7           A.    I mean, it was like a - a box with a torch kind  
8 of - you know?

9           Q.    Yeah.

10          A.    I mean, it -

11          Q.    Was it hot?

12          A.    No, no, no. I mean, I didn't grab the part  
13 where the flame comes out.

14          Q.    All right. Right there.

15          A.    But -

16          Q.    Any heat emanating from that when  
17 you - when you - when you -

18          A.    I mean, when - I don't remember specifically if  
19 it was like hotter than -

20          Q.    Right. If it was, that would be something you  
21 would notice?

22          A.    If it was hot enough to - to burn me.

23          Q.    Yeah. Well, it's a flamethrower.

24          A.    Yeah.

25          Q.    And so if heat was emanating from it - but it

1 would have been something you would have noticed?

2 A. No. Not that - I don't - I have no idea.

3 Q. You would have been careful about it?

4 A. I mean - I mean, if it - if it has a handle.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. The handle's not hot. I hope it wouldn't catch  
7 fire if you're shooting it.

8 Q. But, yeah. You're not an expert, though, right?

9 A. Exactly. So I don't - I don't know anything  
10 about it.

11 Q. All right.

12 MR. MARTIN: I don't have any other questions.

13 THE WITNESS: I mean, I guess kind of like -

14 MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

15 THE WITNESS: - a pistol, you know?

16 MR. MARTIN: Right.

17 THE WITNESS: I mean, you shoot a pistol, the  
18 barrel is going to be hot, but you're not going to  
19 necessarily feel it emanating off and - because you're  
20 holding on to the pistol grip.

21 MR. MARTIN: Right.

22 THE WITNESS: But the - but if you touch the  
23 barrel, it's going to - it's going to burn you.

24 MR. MARTIN: Right. Flamethrower.

25 THE WITNESS: Oh, yeah. I don't know the

1 science behind it. It's pretty crazy, though, to see that  
2 thing in action.

3 MR. MARTIN: Did you - did you see it in action?  
4 Oh, but you talking about the video?

5 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

6 MR. MARTIN: Okay.

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

8 MR. MARTIN: All right.

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah, it is. And - and I'd seen  
10 it, I don't know, maybe a couple weeks or a couple months  
11 before when somebody sent a video to somebody. You know,  
12 it got passed around, and then, somebody had - and shown  
13 him. But it was like a real low quality and there's  
14 people running around. And the thing is, I mean, at least  
15 20 feet, the - the flame that it throws.

16 MR. MARTIN: So you're saying - he had - okay.  
17 I'm curious now. So this other video that was passed  
18 around, where did that come from?

19 THE WITNESS: The same neighborhood.

20 MR. MARTIN: Yeah. But no, who had it? Who had  
21 the video?

22 THE WITNESS: I don't remember specifically.  
23 Multiple people had it. I think they sent it to a - a  
24 staff member, but it was - it was - it had been sent to  
25 somebody and somebody had recorded it off somebody else's

1 phone. You know, where you go like this?

2 MR. MARTIN: Uh-huh.

3 THE WITNESS: So it was - it was really low  
4 quality. You couldn't identify him in the video - in that  
5 video.

6 MR. MARTIN: Uh-huh.

7 THE WITNESS: But, I mean, everybody knew it was  
8 Abram that -

9 MR. MARTIN: You said it was sent to a staff  
10 member?

11 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So, Gainesville Housing  
12 Authority.

13 MR. MARTIN: Okay.

14 THE WITNESS: I'm the liaison officer with them,  
15 so I - I work side by side with them quite a bit. And so  
16 that's how I'm familiar with Abrams - Mr. Abrams because  
17 he's actually been a help to me a lot of times in the  
18 neighborhood with issues. He was always one of the people  
19 that would, you know, call, voice his opinion. If there  
20 was issues where people would run - these kids would run  
21 by with guns and he had video surveillance. He would help  
22 us with intel. So phenomenal guy for me. I mean, I loved  
23 him being out there because he - he would help us. You  
24 know, there's - there's a lot of people out there that are  
25 doing things that shouldn't be doing things and he would



1 help us. He was a great resource to have out there, so it  
2 was sad for me to have to do that. I didn't want - I  
3 didn't want to take him to jail, but it's like, come on,  
4 man. You leave me no choice, you know? And I know he was  
5 upset with me, but - yeah. I got to do my job. I just -  
6 I hope the best for him and hope he just learns from -  
7 from his mistakes on this.

8 MR. MARTIN: Okay.

9 THE WITNESS: So -

10 MR. MARTIN: Well, I appreciate your time. I  
11 don't have any other questions.

12 MR. MCCAIN: No questions. Read or waive?

13 THE WITNESS: I'll read, please.

14 MR. MARTIN: All right. If you can just give me  
15 your email address or - that you want to be contacted?

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

17 MR. MARTIN: You can leave it on the - on the  
18 record.

19 THE WITNESS: perezw@cityofgainesville.org.

20 MR. MARTIN: All right. Thank you, sir.

21 THE WITNESS: Okay. Awesome. Thanks.

22 MR. MCCAIN: See you. Have a good day.

23 THE WITNESS: Yep. You all, too.

24 (The deposition was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA )

I, Jodi Moore, do hereby certify that the deposition of Wilfredo Perez, taken on July 17, 2024, in the case of State of Florida versus Andre Abrams, Sr., pending in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida, Case No. 01-2021-CF-3691-A was transcribed by me and that the foregoing is true and accurate.

DATED THIS 28TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

*Jodi Moore*

\_\_\_\_\_  
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E R R A T A S H E E T

This is to certify that I, Wilfredo Perez, have read the foregoing transcription of my testimony In Re: State v. Andre Abrams, Sr., given on July 17, 2024, and find the same to be a true and correct transcription of said testimony with the following changes (if any):

PAGE      LINE      SHOULD READ:


\_\_\_\_\_  
Wilfredo Perez

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE