

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
FIFTH DISTRICT

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO
FILE MOTION FOR REHEARING AND
DISPOSITION THEREOF IF FILED

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Appellant,

v.

Case No. 5D13-1034

HERNANDO PELECIO CLARKE,

Appellee.

_____ /

Opinion filed September 19, 2014

Appeal from the Circuit Court for
Orange County,
Heather Pinder Rodriguez, Judge.

Pamela Jo Bondi, Attorney General,
Tallahassee, and Wesley Heidt, Assistant
Attorney General, Daytona Beach, for
Appellant.

James S. Purdy, Public Defender, and
Steven N. Gosney, Assistant Public
Defender, Daytona Beach, for Appellee.

PER CURIAM

The State appeals the trial court's order granting Hernando Pelecio Clarke's motion to suppress. Because the trial court erred when it concluded that the law enforcement officer did not have probable cause to stop Clarke, an issue not contested below, we reverse and remand for consideration of the actual issues raised by the

parties.¹ See State v. Johns, 920 So. 2d 1156, 1158 (Fla. 2d DCA 2006) (reversing order granting motion to suppress, but remanding for further consideration because the trial court did not address whether the defendant's consent was voluntary).

REVERSED and REMANDED.

ORFINGER, BERGER and WALLIS, JJ., concur.

¹ The trial court's ruling that the initial stop was not warranted is erroneous as a matter of law, and not supported by its own findings of fact. See State v. Lee, 957 So. 2d 76, 79 (Fla. 5th DCA 2007) ("[T]he decision to stop an automobile is reasonable for purposes of the Fourth Amendment where the police have probable cause to believe that a traffic violation has occurred." (citing Whren v. United States, 517 U.S. 806, 809-10 (1996) and Holland v. State, 696 So. 2d 757, 759 (Fla. 1997))); see also State v. Rodriguez, 904 So. 2d 594, 598 (Fla. 5th DCA 2005) ("A stop may be justified even in the absence of a traffic infraction when the vehicle is being operated in an unusual manner.").