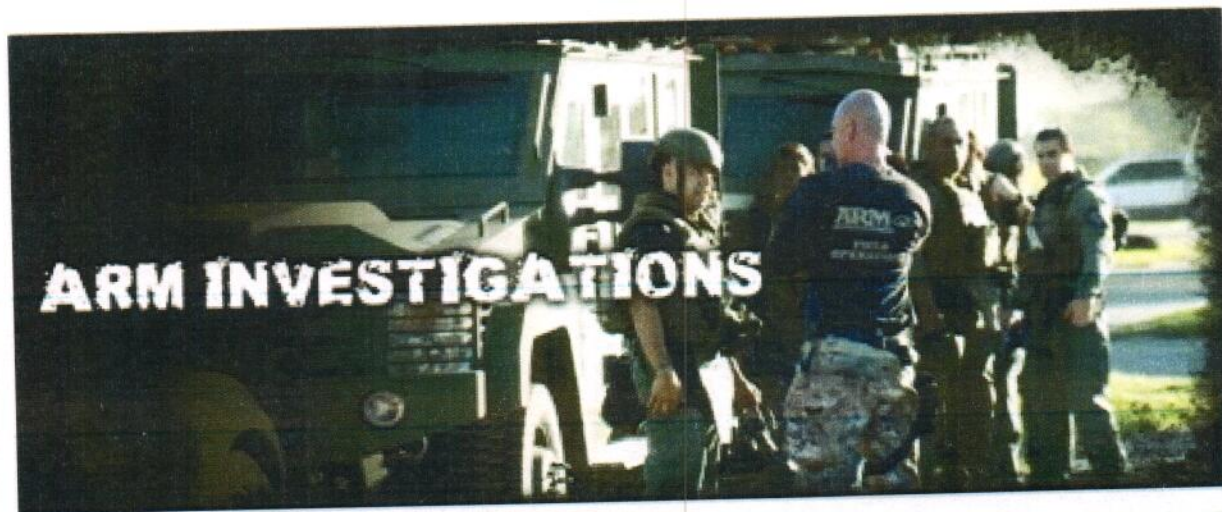


## ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION



Established in 2010, The Animal Recovery Mission is a non profit investigative organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM stands out as a vanguard and uncompromising defending force for the welfare of animals. In addition, ARM strives to put an end to and preventing pain, suffering and torture inflicted as a result of inhumane practices.

The mission of the organization is to implement direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of extreme animal cruelty. The organization's primary goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and to educate the public regarding animal cruelty, the practices that contribute to animal cruelty and illegal animal slaughter. Achieving these goals contribute to an increased awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

Animal cruelty investigations taken on by ARM operatives include illegal animal slaughter farms, animal sacrifice operations, illegal horse sales and slaughter, and animal fighting operations. All of which are being conducted on the property explained in detail throughout this report. Since 2010, ARM's undercover investigations have led to the closure of up to 137 illegal animal cruelty operations in the state of Florida.

---

## **OFFICIAL REFERENCES**

Scott Leon:  
Davie Police Department (Broward County)  
(954) 693-8200

Warren Eth:  
Miami Dade County Assistant State Attorney (Organized Crime Unit)  
305-547-0895

Jason Pizzo:  
Miami Dade County Assistant State Attorney (Major Crimes Unit)  
305-505-8478

Marcus Lois:  
Miami Dade County Police Department (Agricultural Patrol Unit)  
305-989-1496

Candito Cera:  
Miami Dade County Police Department (Organized Crime Unit)  
305-994-1000

Mario Fernandez:  
Detective Miami Dade County Police Department Ag Patrol Unit  
305-951-0110

Susan Dannelly:  
St. Johns County, Volusia County, Flagler County, Putnam County Assisted State Attorney  
(Major Crimes Unit)  
305-498-7295

Terry Senecal:  
Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office  
561-714-1048

William Kaile:  
USDA Chief inspector (Southeast Region)  
954 218 0224

Alex Oliveira (DVM)  
Florida Department of Agriculture District 5 Veterinarian Division of Animal Industry  
863-993-4541

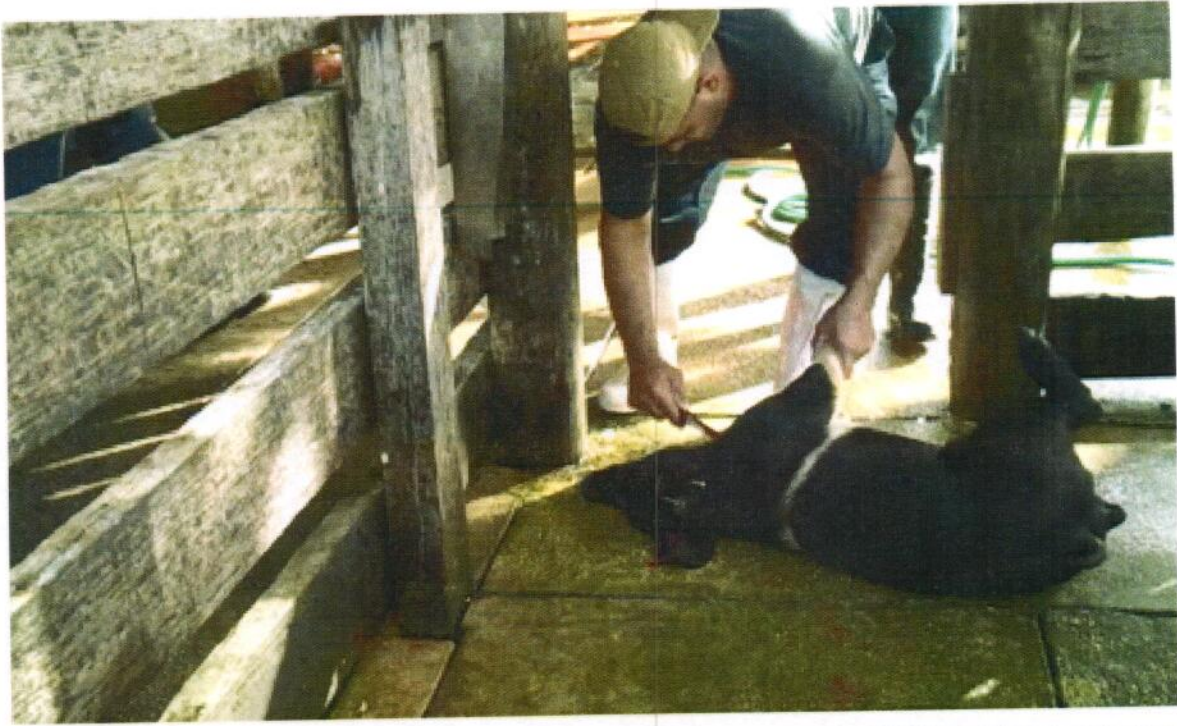
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## VIOLATIONS

- Building and Zoning
- Neighborhood Compliance
- Environmental
- Agriculture
- Inhumane animal handling
- Inhumane animal slaughter
- Inhumane animal transport
- No food/water for animals
- Health codes/ Food safety
- Operating business without a license
- Inhumane packaging and animal transport



## OPERATION: RANCHO SANTA BARBARA



Status as of March 3, 2016:

ARM investigators began undercover operations of this property after an anonymous tip was sent to ARM, asking to investigate a possible inhumane and illegal animal slaughter farm. After an 8 month long investigative period in which ARM conducted short and long distance surveillance, it became clear that operators of this farm are in fact illegally and inhumanely slaughtering animals on a regular basis. The farm is known to the public as Rancho Santa Barbara and is located at 7160 Eastwood Acres Rd. Fort Meyers, FL 33905. The Folio ID for the property is 10314901.

Video and audio footage has been collected from each visit upon the farm and displays clear evidence of brutal, inhumane and illegal animal slaughter, among other illegal activities, in exchange for profit.

A detailed overview and explanation of findings to date is included in this report.



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## **2015-2016 INVESTIGATION**

Animal Recovery Mission first entered this farm on July 13, 2015 after suspicions of illegal animal slaughter and extreme animal cruelty were being regularly executed by owners and employees of this property known as Santa Barbara Ranch. Throughout ARM's 8 month long investigation, ARM undercover investigators were able to collect video and audio evidence of a total of 13 felonies of animal cruelty.

Santa Barbara Ranch is not incorporated on Sunbiz but is listed as a poultry and egg farm according to several online websites. The farm has been recorded with the state of Florida since 2010 and has a documented annual revenue of \$89,000. The Lee County property appraiser website lists the land owners as Alex and Carmen Interian which may be the legal names for the husband, Guillermo, and wife, couple who live on site and are the owners and main operators of Santa Barbara Ranch. Guillermo is Cuban, born just outside of Havana, in his 60's, is bilingual and says to have come to the United States in the mid 1970's. Guillermo's wife is Cuban, in her late 50's and only speaks Spanish. Although the ranch is unincorporated, Guillermo told undercover investigators that he has personally been in animal slaughter operations for 18 years.

At the foot of the property's entrance, there is a large sign advertising the business and it's gates are open for public access. Often seen on the left side of the driveway are cows who have access to the front and the back of the property and to right of the driveway, small goats and sheep have been seen. The driveway leads to a yellow house where owners, Guillermo and his wife, reside. Customers park their cars at the end of the driveway in front of the owners house. Just outside of the yellow house there is a red statue symbolizing a person widely idolized in Santaria practices. ARM investigators suspect that Guillermo and his wife are actively practicing Santaria involving animal sacrifice. Behind the house is where the animals are kept inside of several different holding areas. Animals on site include cows, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, pigeons, rabbits, dogs and cats. Hours of operations are during regular business hours of 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

ARM undercover investigators first entered the property on July 13, 2015 at 2:30PM and posed as customers looking to purchase animals for human consumption. Investigators drove into the property and up the driveway and was greeted by an employee. After inquiring about purchasing a pig, he led them towards the back of the property to the slaughter area, located directly behind the owner's house, and then to a cemented enclosure with several dividers, holding approximately 60 pigs. This enclosure is located adjacent to the killing and slaughter area, which allows pigs to clearly see each and every animal slaughter. The pig enclosure is extremely



unsanitary, filled with urine and feces and there is absolutely no food in sight. After a pig was selected, the employee dragged it out into a small attached area where it waited while Guillermo retrieved his gun. Guillermo then shot the pig in the head using a .22 caliber rifle and it was then ruthlessly stabbed it in the heart area by the employee. After watching it convulse and letting it bleed out for some time, while it was still alive, the employee hosed off the blood from the pig's body and from the ground. Guillermo then dragged the pig to a scale to determine weight and price. Once determined, the pig was then dragged again to a tub of boiling water by the employee and Guillermo and it was thrown inside. They both held the pig down with a shovel and moved it around to soften the skin. They then took it out of the tub and brought it to an industrial machine to thoroughly remove its hair. They then took the pig off the machine and put it on a table for gutting and butchering. It was then hung upside down, cleaned with a hose and packaged for transport. During the kill, investigators noticed several roaming chickens licking the pig's blood off of the ground which also seeped into the live pigs holding pens. Guillermo took the money from ARM investigators, the employee placed the pig in ARM's undercover truck and investigators left the property around 3:30PM. Santa Barbara Ranch sells their pigs for \$2.20 a pound. During this visit, ARM investigators noticed that there were several cows in the field behind the slaughter area.

ARM undercover investigators returned to the property on August 27, 2015 at 1:00PM, again posing as customers. When they arrived they parked in front of Guillermo's house where he greeted investigators and asked them what they were there to purchase. After inquiring about purchasing 1 pig and 2 ducks, he sent them to the back towards the slaughter area. There were 2 employees working on this day who led them to the pigs holding area. Investigators estimated about 40-50 pigs to be inside the filthy concreted area. The pigs again had no food available to them. A pig was chosen and brought to the enclosed kill area by one of the employees. Guillermo shot the pig with his .22 caliber rifle and an employee follows by stabbing it in the heart area. While the pig is still alive and convulsing in pain, it is then hosed off by the employee. Guillermo and the employee both dragged the pig to the scale to determine weight and price. They then brought it to the tub of boiling water, dumped it inside and held it down with a shovel. They then transferred it to the industrial machine to remove its hair. After that, they brought to the butcher table where it was sliced and gutted. The employees then brought it to a meat hook and hung it from its mouth to hose off its insides. Guillermo took the cash from ARM investigators for the purchase of the pig. ARM investigators noticed that he was wearing a hat with a cock fighting symbol on it, indicating that he is involved in the cock fighting industry. The cost of the pig was \$167.98.

After the pig was packaged and ready for transport, an employee led the ARM investigators to the caged in duck area, located before entering the slaughter area, where there were roughly 30



ducks mixed with chickens. He grabbed one duck by its neck and stretched and twists it with force in attempts at breaking its neck. The duck however, did not die instantly but instead struggled in pain as the employee dropped the duck on the ground. The employee then grabbed another duck and did the same thing as he did to the first. He grabbed both ducks and took them to the butcher area. They were still alive, moving in his hand and showing evident signs of life before being dropped directly into a pot of boiling water where they kicked in the air after being submerged, showing signs that they were boiled alive. They either burned or suffocated to death in the pot of boiling water. They were then brought to a de-feathering machine by both an employee and Guillermo, and then to a table there they were butchered and packaged for transport. While ARM investigators were awaiting their birds, they witnessed the killings of 2 chickens, which were purchased from another customer. An employee led the customers to the fenced in chicken holding area located across from the duck holding area, where there were about 100 chickens. They were living in an unsanitary and unhealthy environment with no food or water in sight. The employee grabbed one chicken, twisted it's neck and threw it into a tall plastic barrel to contain the bird. He grabbed another chicken, twisted its neck, grabs the one from in the barrel and brought them over to the slaughter area. The chickens were still moving and flapping about when they were dropped into the pot of boiling water showing signs that they were both boiled alive. The chickens were then de-feathered, butchered and cleaned for packaging. The costs of the ducks were \$60. After the employee put ARM's animals their undercover truck, they left the property.

The next visit to the ranch was on December 23, 2015 which is the day Before Christmas Eve, otherwise known in the Latin community as Noche Buena. On Noche Buena, it is customary for families to serve pig or horse meat during their dinner meal. For this reason, slaughter farms generate a large revenue of profit and costumers on this day. Guillermo had 3 butcherers assisting him on this day, due to the amount of customers constantly entering and exiting the ranch.

On this day, ARM undercover investigators entered the property in 2 separate teams. The first team entered the property at 1:30PM and parked their cars in front of Guillermo's house. Guillermo saw them approach and came out from his house asking what they were there to purchase. After investigators told him they were looking to purchase 2 pigs, he directed them towards the back of the property and to the slaughter area. An employee greeted them and showed them to the pig holding area. Again investigators saw no food or water available to them and many looked emaciated and ill. Once a pig was chosen, the employee dragged it into the small kill enclosure. An employee shot the pig with a .22 caliber rifle and then violently stabbed it in the heart area. The pig thrashed for some time until it was dragged to the scale where Guillermo confirmed the price with ARM investigators. Employees then dragged the pig to the tub of boiling water where it was submerged, brought to the hair removal machine, was



butchered and finally hung to hose off. The employees executed the exact same procedures to the second pig purchased from investigators. While awaiting their pigs to be cleaned and packaged, ARM investigators also witnessed the kill of a pig for another customer. This pig was also killed in the same illegal and extremely inhumane manner as the others. During the time that the investigators were in the slaughter area, they noticed that Guillermo's pet dogs and multiple roaming chickens were licking the blood off the ground and from canals of blood which run throughout the ranch and flows into a holding pond located in the back of the property. Guillermo's wife handled the money on this day and ARM investigators paid her for the two pigs they had ordered. Once the employees put the animals in the back of ARM's undercover truck, investigators walked over to a large caged in enclosure, located about 200 feet from the kill area, where chickens, pigeons and rabbits were held. There was no food or water in sight for any of the animals and their living conditions were extremely unsanitary, covered in filth and looked as if it were never cleaned. Investigators also witnessed more pigs located to the far right of the enclosure. Investigators then walked back to their car and left the property at 2:30PM.

The second team entered into the property at 4:00PM also posing as customers looking to purchase a pig for human consumption. As they arrived, they noticed there were several other customers purchasing or placing orders animals as well. As they approached the slaughter area, they saw a pig was already confined into the shooting area, waiting to be killed for another customer. Guillermo walked over and shot the pig in the head with his rifle, an employee followed and stabbed the convulsing pig in the heart area. During this extremely inhumane kill, investigators noticed a truck being loaded with several already slaughtered and packaged pigs. The truck was labeled as *Lozano's Spanish American Grocery Store*, located in Ft. Meyers, Florida. The phone number displayed on the truck was 941-334-7299. When investigators pointed their attention back to the pig, they collected footage of the pig being roughly held down by one employee and 2 customers. One person was grabbing and stretching its head and the other two were holding its legs and pinning its body down as they collected the blood gushing from the pig's neck and into a metal pot. The pig was alive and squirming throughout this process which lasted for some time. While still alive, they then held the pig upside down by its hind legs to drain more blood from its neck. Once they drained as much blood as they could, they brought the pig to the scale to weigh it for a price. The customer took the pot full of blood with him. The pig was finally brought to the tub of boiling water and dropped inside and held down for about a minute. It was then transferred to the hair removal machine, then over to the adjacent table for butchering and lastly hung for cleaning and packaging. Two employees were handling many of the pigs on this day, Guillermo was in charge of doing the shooting and determining price.

A pig was then chosen for ARM investigators and the process was again the same inhumane and illegal kill and slaughter. It was dragged to the kill area, shot by Guillermo, stabbed by an



employee and left to bleed out. It was then hosed off by the employee, brought to the weigh station and then dragged to the tub of boiling water. After dumped, it was brought to the hair removal machine and then butchered and cleaned for the customer. Consecutively, another pig was purchased and killed for a customer and the kill execution was delivered in the exact same manner. ARM investigators paid Guillermo's wife in cash for the pig that they purchased. The pig was placed into ARM's undercover truck and they left the property at around 4:45PM.

The next visit to the property was on January 29, 2015. The ARM undercover investigator entered the property at 11:00AM to purchase a pig for human consumption. After walking directly to the back of the property towards the slaughter area, he met with Guillermo to select a pig for slaughter. Once selected, it was brought to the kill area where Guillermo shot the pig and an employee stabbed it in the heart area and proceeded with the same violent actions as every pig kill previously mentioned. During the kill process the ARM investigator witnessed and captured footage of Guillermo urinating in the butchering area which provides for an extremely unsanitary food environment on top of the already filthy and fly infested areas in which animals are kept and killed for human consumption. Once the pig was ready for transport, an employee put the pig in ARM's undercover truck and the investigator left the property at 11:40PM.

ARM investigators found out that The Florida Department of Agriculture has *5 visits so far* approved Guillermo's property as a garbage feeder farm which allows for animals to be fed cooked garbage. The permit number for this approval is 0275A. ARM has also understood that Guillermo is a former employee from the Florida Department of Children and Families and is now receiving a pension. Guillermo says that he has been retired from this department for about 2 years. Throughout ARM's investigation of the farm, on multiple occasions, children under the age of 6 accompanying their parents, have been seen on site and just feet away from loaded fire arms, kill weapons and are present for the entire duration of the animal killings. Animals are regularly sold alive for sacrificial purposes which the owners and employees are well aware of.


The owners of the property have been in operations for many years and both illegally and inhumanly kill animals for profit on an everyday basis. It is extremely important to ARM's investigation, the people of the community, and above all, the animals regularly being abused and tortured, that this property be permanently shut down, the animals rescued, and the offenders arrested.

# COMPANY INFORMATION



# Santa Barbara Ranch - Fort Myers Florida 33905

Santa Barbara Ranch is a business in Fort Myers, FL.



Aspen 20ft Gullwing Pop-Up Display - Full Graphics

Santa Barbara Ranch classified under , with principal employer is located in 7160 Eastwood Acres Road, Fort Myers, Florida FL 33905. For sales, support, account inquiries, and how to be an affiliate, the best way to get in touch is through numbers: (/tel/4123894847) (412) 389-4847 (tel/4123894847).

It has been operating since , boasting total quality assurance, and an annual revenue of \$50,000 to \$99,999. Their Single Location can be reached with the use of the following coordinates: 26.638724,-81.74564. They currently have 1 to 4 employees, and you can learn more about their offerings at .

**\$1,895**

Buy

You can also view their clients' testimonials, government compliance and annual reports through their website. Santa Barbara Ranch aims to strengthen their BOTH relationships through advertisements and brand promotion.

Registered codes from Standard Industrial Classification is 0259, and 112390 from North American Industrial Classification System. Customer feedback is highly appreciated; be sure to leave your comments on their website through survey forms. These are necessary for company service improvements.



Aspen 20ft Serpentine Pop-Up Display - End Caps

**\$2,599**

Buy now

[Update This Listing \(https://updatelisting.com/business/santa-barbara-ranch\)](https://updatelisting.com/business/santa-barbara-ranch)

[+ Add Your Business \(https://updatelisting.com/add-your-business\)](https://updatelisting.com/add-your-business)

[B2B Data For Marketers \(https://buybizdata.com\)](https://buybizdata.com)

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[in United States \(/search?sic=\)](/search?sic=)

[in Florida \(/search?sic=&geo=FL\)](/search?sic=&geo=FL)

[in Fort Myers, FL \(/search?sic=&geo=Fort Myers, FL\)](/search?sic=&geo=Fort+Myers,+FL)

[in 33905 Fort Myers, FL \(/search?sic=&geo=33905 Fort Myers, FL\)](/search?sic=&geo=33905+Fort+Myers,+FL)

[All businesses in Florida State \(/search?geo=FL\)](/search?geo=FL)

[All businesses in Fort Myers, FL \(/search?geo=Fort Myers, FL\)](/search?geo=Fort+Myers,+FL)

[All businesses in 33905 Fort Myers, FL \(/search?geo=33905 Fort Myers, FL\)](/search?geo=33905+Fort+Myers,+FL)

Business Name: Santa Barbara Ranch

Categorized In:

Address: 7160 Eastwood Acres Road Fort Myers, FL 33905

Phone Number: (/tel/4123894847) (/tel/4123894847)(412) 389-4847 (tel/4123894847)

NAICS Code: 112390

SIC Code: 0259


Business Type: B2B & B2C

Employee #: 1 to 4

Location Type: Single Location

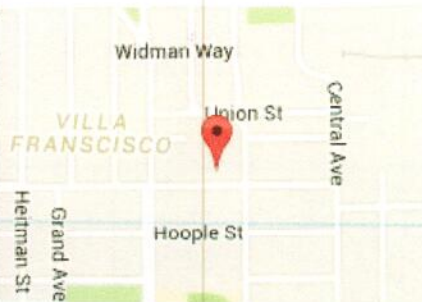
Annual Revenue (\$): \$50,000 to \$99,999

Share This Business:



- This operation is being visited By Florida AG workers!!





## Department of Children & Families ★

[Website](#)

[Directions](#)

1.2 ★ 8 Google reviews

State Government Office

**Address:** 2295 Victoria Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33901

**Phone:** (239) 332-2822

**Hours:** Open today · 8AM–5PM ▼

[Claim this business](#) · [Suggest an edit](#)

### Reviews

[Write a review](#)



"He made me look mentally incompetant, and he painted it that way to cps."



"My elderly mother and my senior citizen brother lived in SWFL..."



"CPS is an utter joke."

- Illegal farm owner is retired from DCF and currently receiving a pension.



# LOCATION



## Lee County Property Appraiser

Tax Year [ 2015 ]

[Next Parcel Number](#)
[Previous Parcel Number](#)
[Tax Estimator](#)
[Tax Bills](#)
[Print](#)

## Property Data

STRAP: 19-44-26-06-00005.0000 Folio ID: 10314901

## Owner Of Record

INTERIAN ALEX + CARMEN  
7160 EASTWOOD ACRES RD  
FORT MYERS FL 33905

## Site Address

7160 EASTWOOD ACRES RD  
FORT MYERS FL 33905

## Legal Description

EASTWOOD ACRES UNREC  
OR 596 PG 580  
LOT 5

## Classification / DOR Code

DAIRIES, FEED LOTS / 68

## [ Tax Map Viewer ]



## [ Pictometry Aerial Viewer ]



## Current Working Values



Just

160,359

As Of

07/14/2015

## Attributes

Land Units Of Measure ⓘ

AC

Acres ⓘ

5.00

Frontage

0

Depth

0

Total Number of Buildings

1

Total Bedrooms / Bathrooms

2 / 2.0

Total Living Area ⓘ

1,489

1st Year Building on Tax Roll ⓘ

2004

Historic District

No

## Image of Structure



◀ Photo Date August of 2015 ▶



## Exemptions



## Values (2015 Tax Roll)



## Taxing Authorities



## Sales / Transactions



## Building/Construction Permit Data



## Parcel Numbering History

2 KILLED  
IN ON-AIR  
TRAGEDY

# Naples Daily News

naplesnews.com Thursday, August 23, 2009 \$5.00 (Sat)

Memo Island | Report about restaurant's complaint

## Police employee fired after questioning ch



**By Joseph C. ...**  
A police employee who was questioning a man at a restaurant in Naples was fired after the man's mother filed a complaint with the police department.

**naplesnews.com**  
The police department in Naples, Fla., has fired a police employee who was questioning a man at a restaurant in Naples.

**Police employee fired after questioning ch**  
A police employee who was questioning a man at a restaurant in Naples was fired after the man's mother filed a complaint with the police department.

## Estero | Walmart's grand opening Hoping patience will pay off



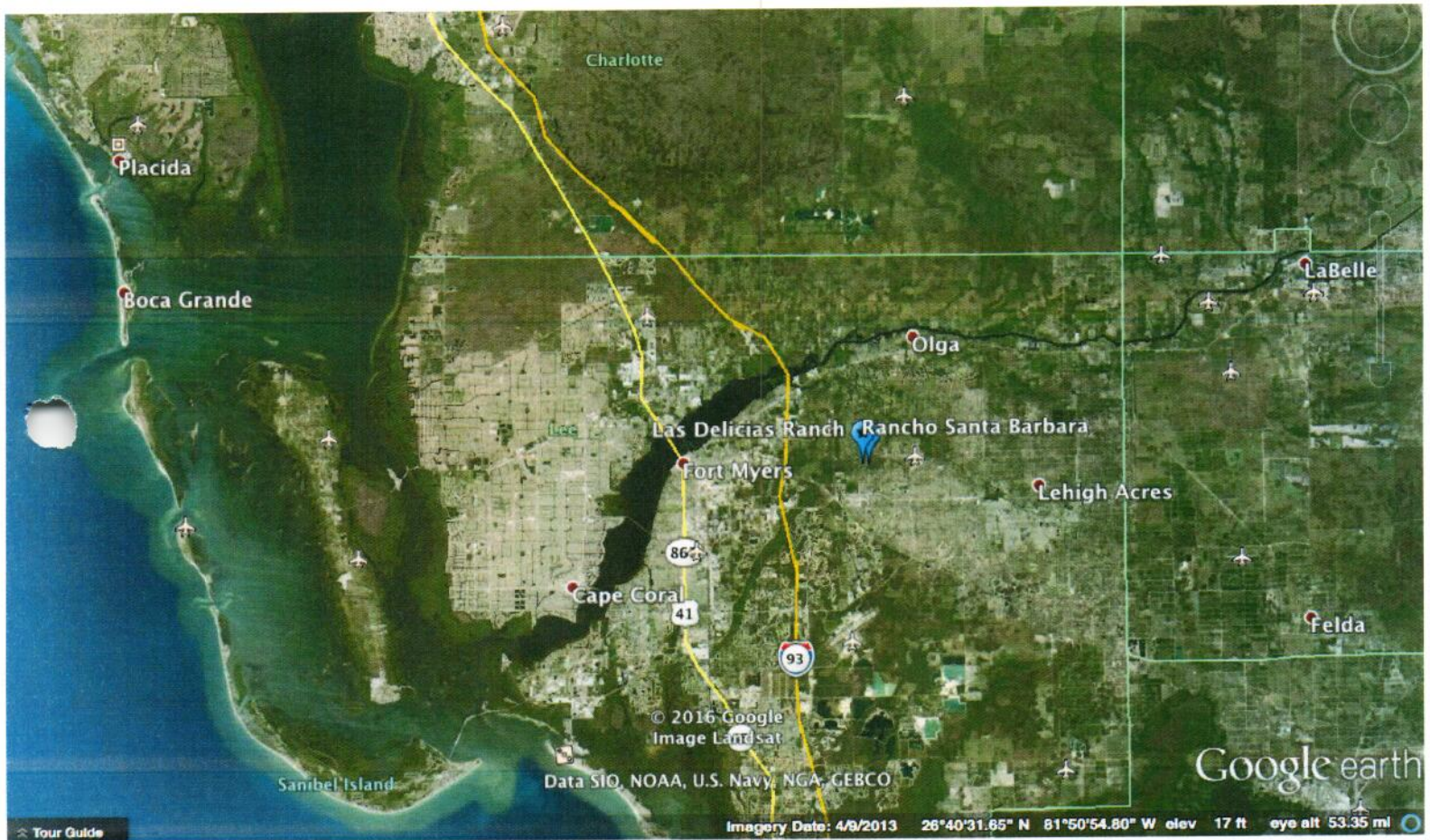
## Homeward bound, with lots of help

■ Women might be back in U.S. by Friday after company looks fair

**By Joseph C. ...**

Naples - After months of waiting, a U.S. court has ruled that women who were deported from the U.S. can return to the country.















Rancho Santa Barbara

Eastwood























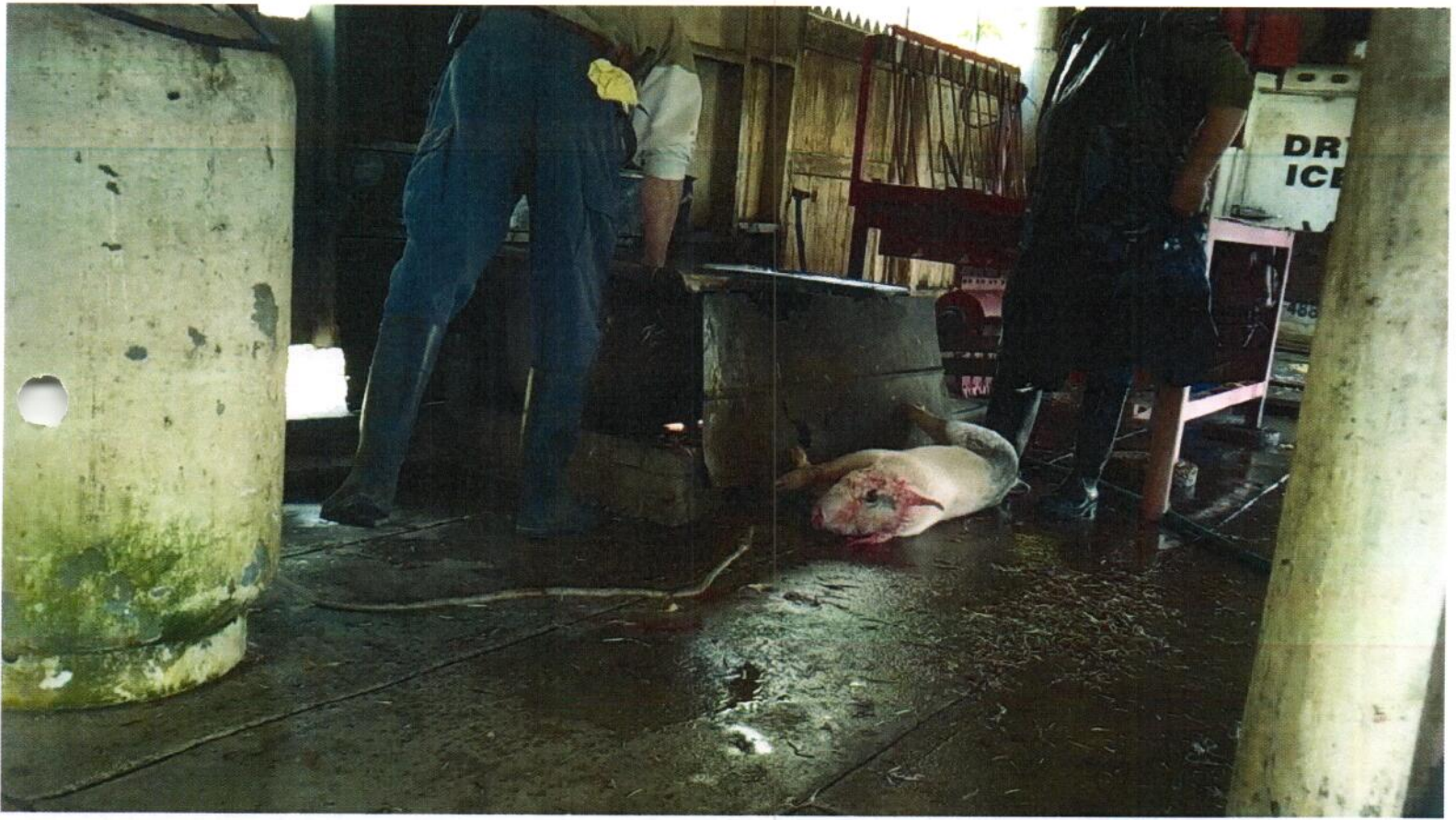






























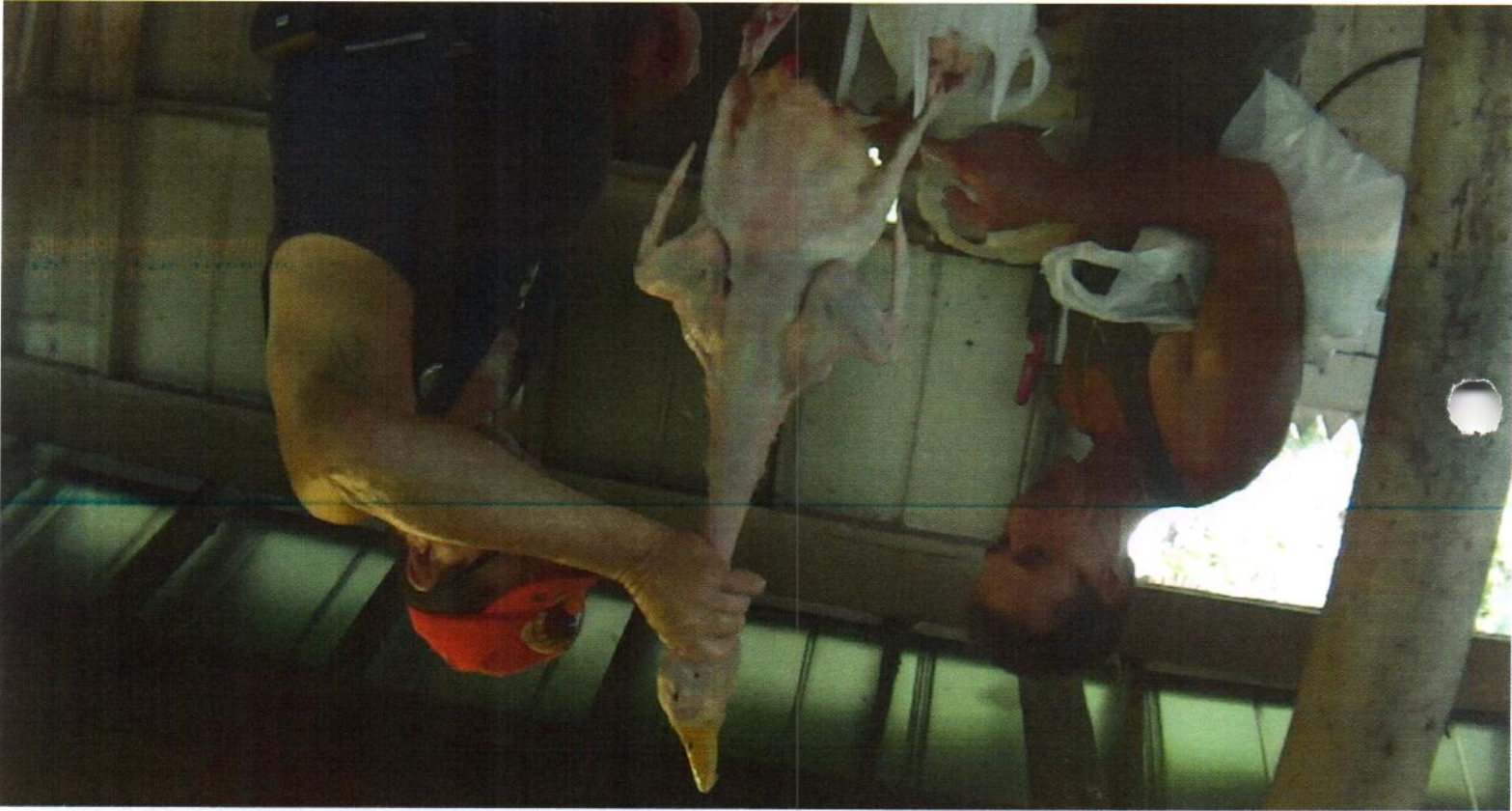


































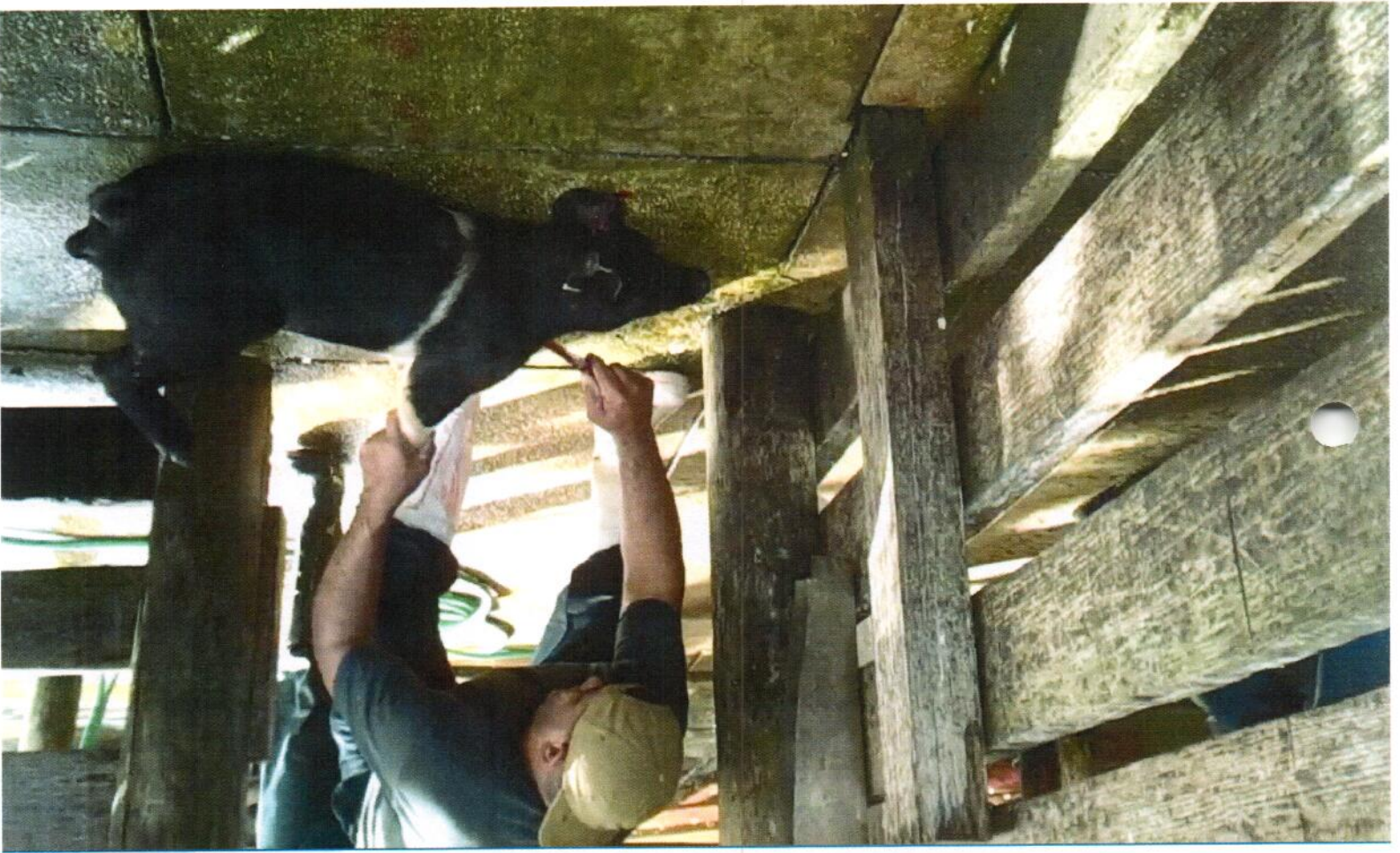










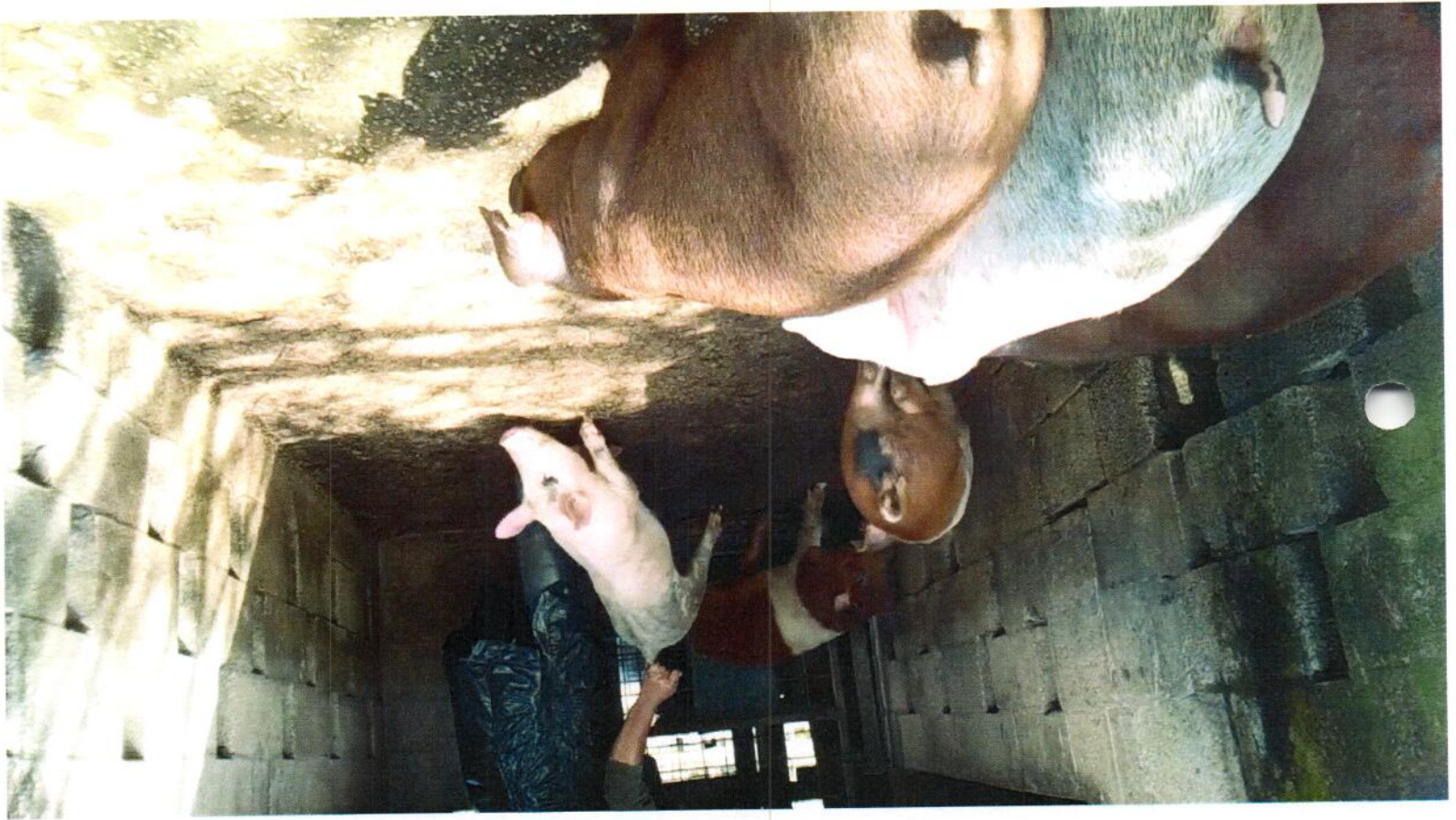


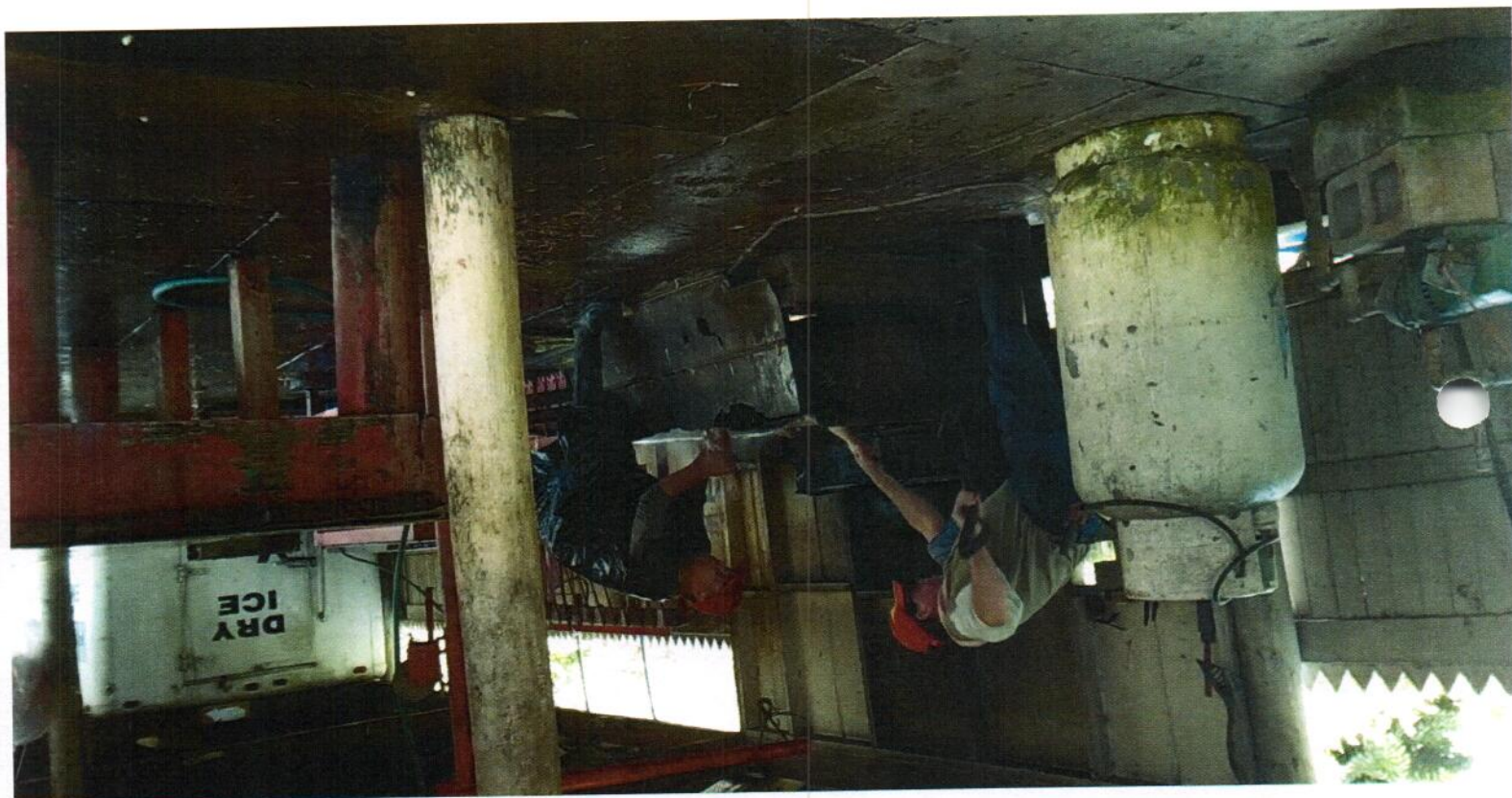












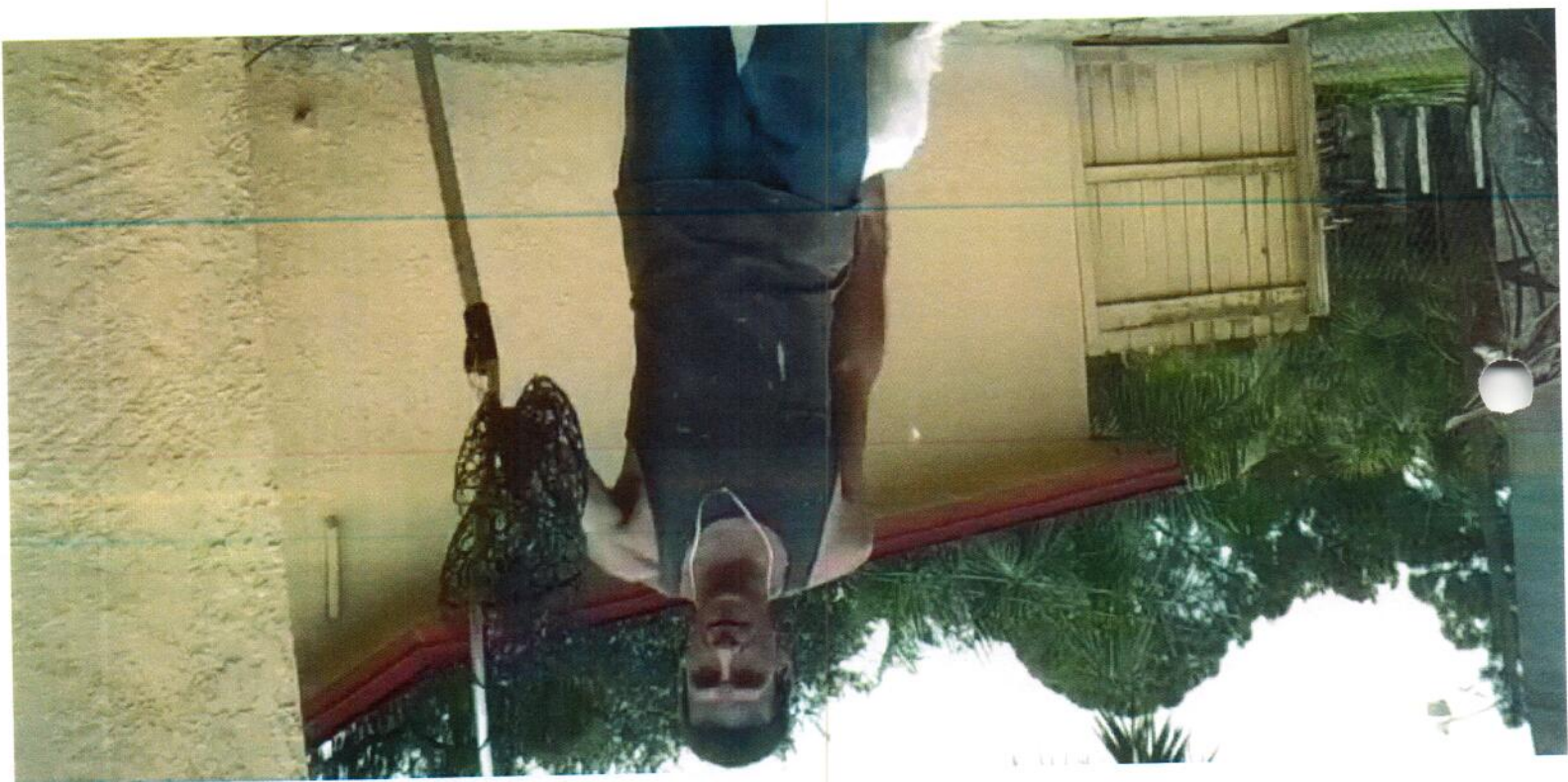




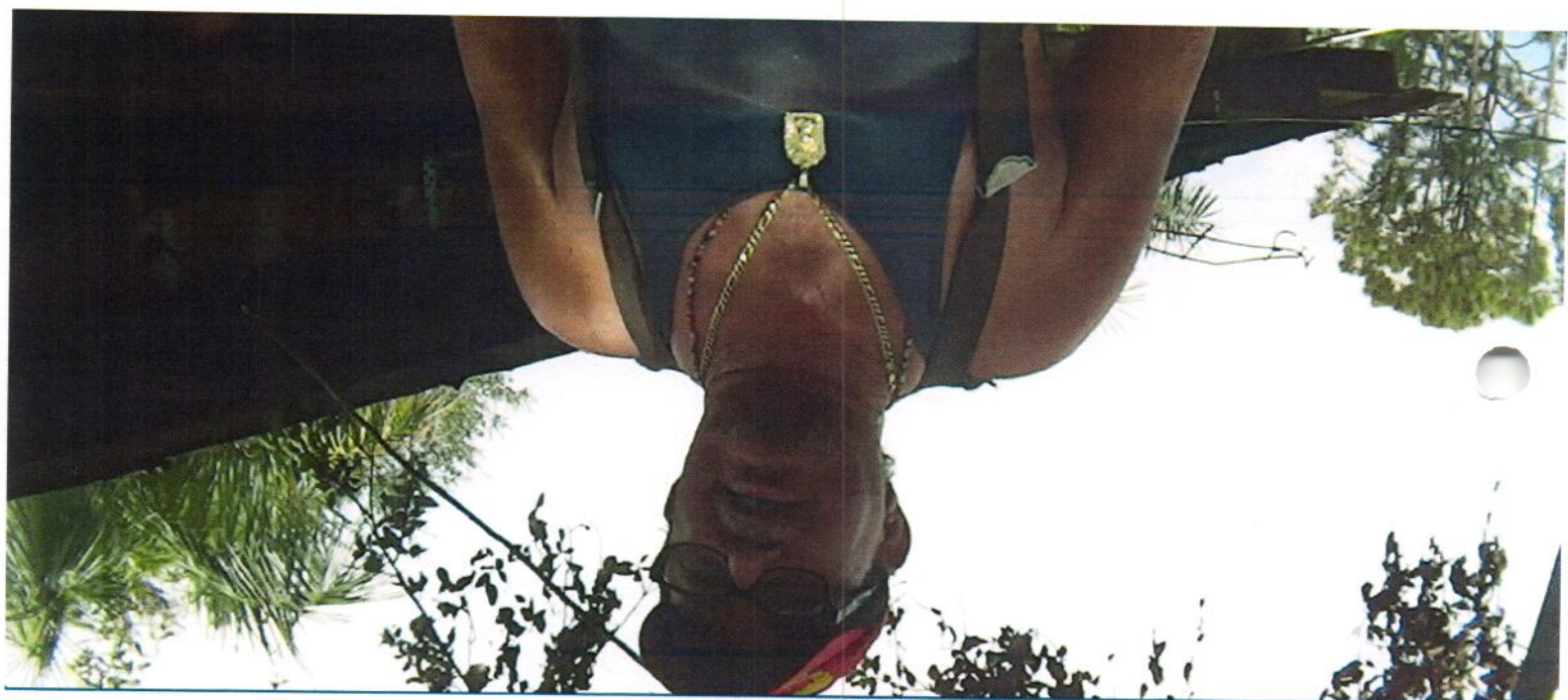




EMPLOYEES

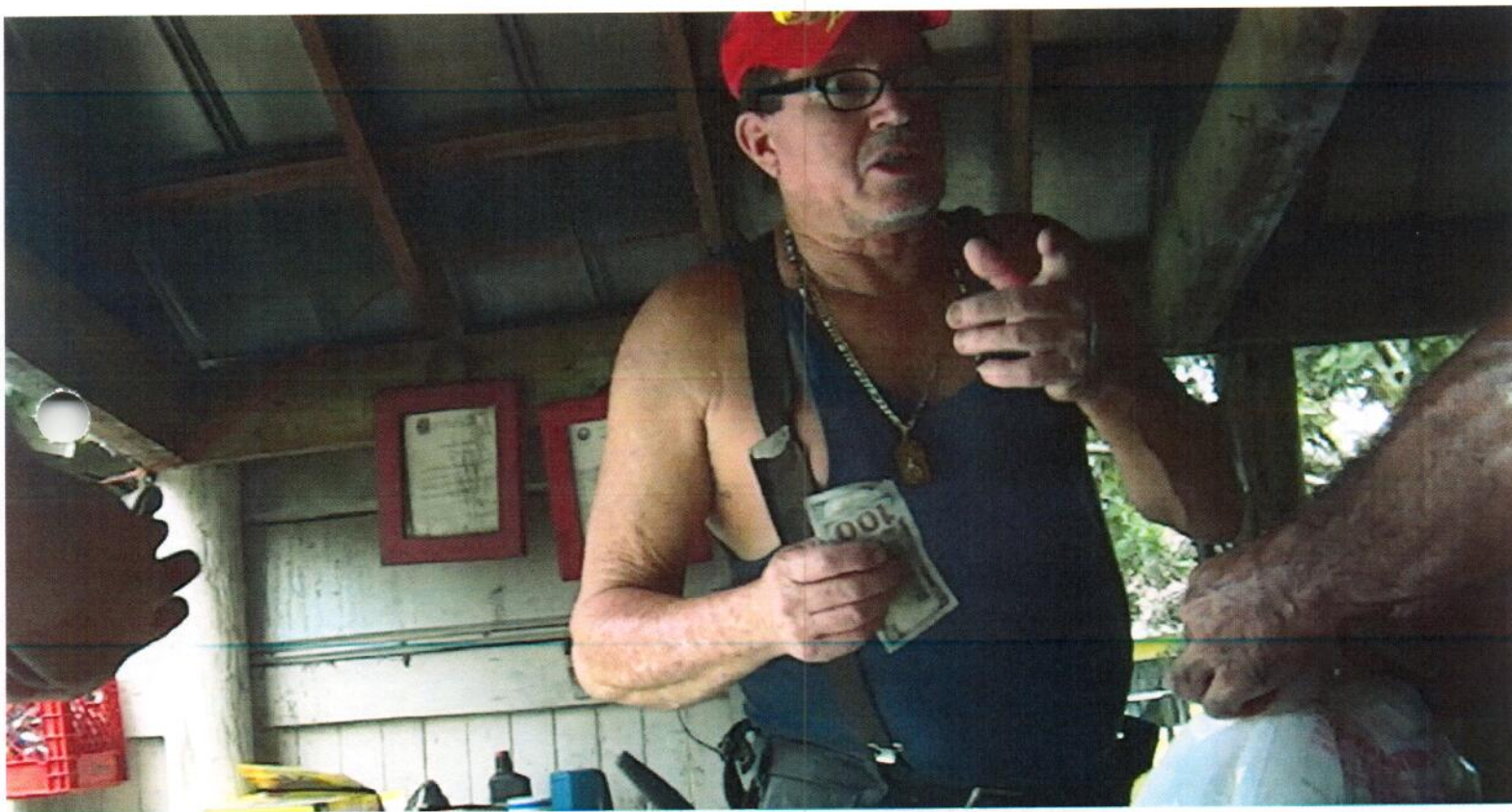


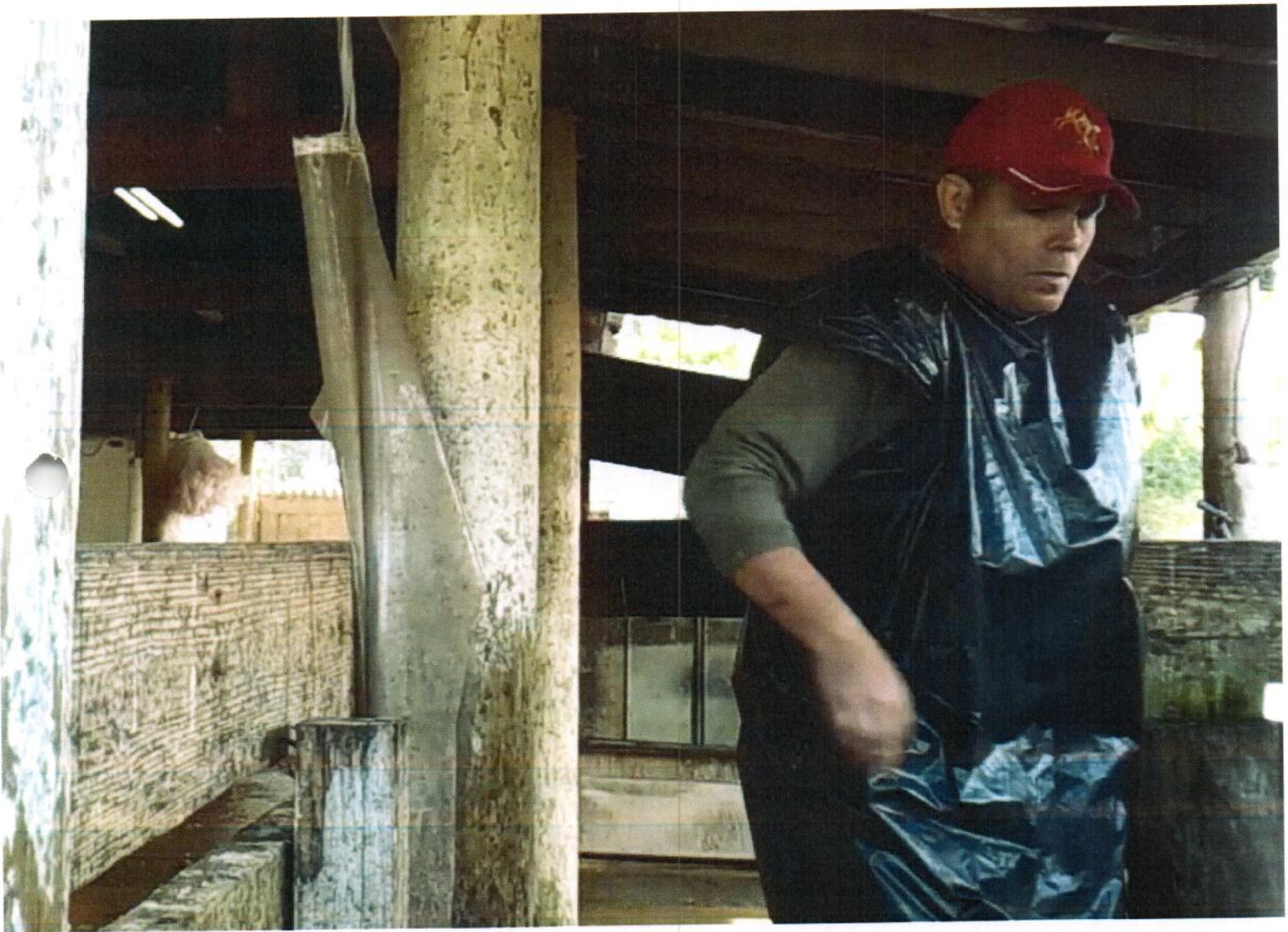










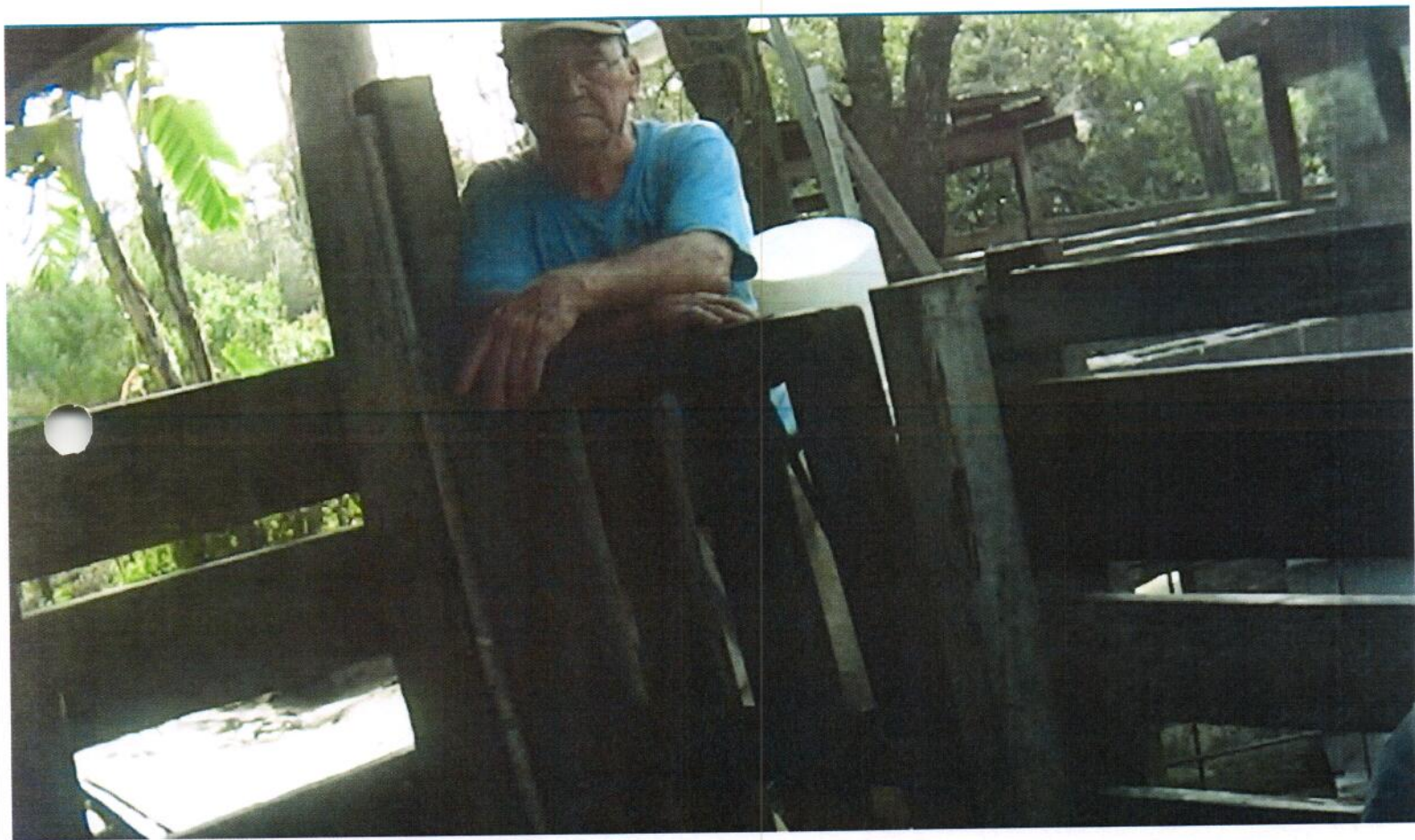


















# CUSTOMERS

































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\$29.  
foot



**GUM**  
Granite

Don't Pay Retail  
Buy Factory Direct!



315 MBB  
LEC





# MISCELLANEOUS



# Similar case : Operation Gaffney miami Dade ~~Florida~~

This affidavit is based upon information known personally to your Affiant based upon investigation and information obtained from others including but not limited to Richard Couto, who have investigated this matter and/or have personal knowledge of the facts herein. Because this affidavit is being submitted for a limited purpose of establishing probable cause, your Affiant has not included every aspect, fact, or detail of this investigation.

Richard Couto (hereinafter, "COUTO") is the founder and lead investigator for a non-profit organization known as the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM). The Animal Recovery Mission is dedicated to exposing illegal operations that inflict abuse and cruelty upon animals including the black market horse meat trade and illegal animal slaughter, sacrifice and fighting farms, as well as raising awareness of these crimes against animals. ARM has assisted and facilitated in investigations on prior occasions, in this County and other Florida Counties.

COUTO and his organization became aware of an animal slaughter operation that is operating on a piece of land owned by Rancho YCasa Vargas LLC<sup>1</sup>, located at 19400 SW 136<sup>th</sup> Street, within the County of Miami-Dade, property appraiser folio number 30-5823-000-0400, hereinafter referred to colloquially as "the farm" or "farm", that is illegally slaughtering animals, and in doing so, slaughtering said animals in a cruel manner, resulting in unnecessary pain and suffering to said animals in violation of the Florida Humane Slaughter Act, Fla. Stat. §828.22. Once aware of this activity, COUTO or another member of his organization, in an undercover capacity, entered the farm during their normal business hours while they were conducting the business of animal slaughter and posed as a potential customer. COUTO or another member of his organization, in an undercover capacity, with the use of camera equipment, was able to record the activities that were carried out within the farm that constitute the felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty as detailed below. The videos and reports that constitute much of

<sup>1</sup> According to the official records on file with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, Ranch YCasa Vargas, LLC was incorporated in 2008 and was originally located in Hialeah and the managing partner was Yamil Ycasa. On April 4, 2009 Angel R. Vargas was added as a member of the corporation. His address in the corporate amendment was listed as 19400 SW 136<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33177. On or about August 5, 2009, the articles of incorporation were amended and Angel R. Vargas became the manager of the LLC. On August 27, 2009, the principal place of business and mailing address became 19400 SW 136<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33177. As of the last filing/reinstatement, the current mailing address is 19400 SW 136<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33177, the current registered agent and general manager is Michael R. Vargas at that same address.



this affidavit have been personally reviewed by your affiant, who agrees with the findings insofar as felonious conduct.

During an investigation in 2014 of a property slaughtering horses in Miami Dade County, Florida, a tip was given to ARM undercover investigators to purchase meat from another farm nearby, which also may also be providing horse meat. Due to lack of manpower at the time, the investigation was put on hold until April of 2015, where ARM began long range surveillance of the property located at 19400 SW 136th Street, Miami, Florida 33175, aka the farm.

Since that time, ARM conducted long and short range surveillance of the property suspected of brutally killing and selling animals illegally for human consumption. A seven month long investigation was then commenced by ARM. During this investigation, undercover investigators documented video and audio evidence of extreme animal cruelty acts and felony charges of farm operators.

Over the course of the investigation, ARM personnel entered a farm on multiple occasions after suspicion of illegal animal slaughter arose. Upon each visit, ARM investigators documented and collected video and audio footage of extremely cruel and inhumane acts against animals carried out by the owner and operators of the farm. Evidence gathered through ARM's investigation proved that these acts were indeed taking place regularly on this illegal slaughter farm.

The slaughter farm has no business name. According to the Miami Dade County Property Appraisers website, the owner of the property is listed as Rancho Ycasa Vargas LLC and the property's folio number is 30-5823-000-0400. The approximately 205,000 square foot land is zoned solely for mixed agricultural use, however, there is a home and other structures built on the site.

The illegal slaughter farm is owned and operated by a Cuban male in his late 40's named RICARDO, who was later positively identified by ARM investigators as Angel RICARDO Vargas DOB: 5/29/1970 hereinafter RICARDO. RICARDO lives in the house located street side near 36th street, with what is believed to be his wife and children. It is believed that RICARDO operates the business part time, and is suspected of being a contractor as his primary source of income. RICARDO and his wife drive 2 cars that are typically parked on site. One is a black



Toyota Corolla, tag number is DFAQ26, the other is a Silver Nissan Sentra, tag number is 228LGB.

The slaughter area is roughly 400ft from RICARDO's house, and the butcher area is located at the most southern part of the property. Animals on site include pigs, hens, roosters, guinea fowl, ducks, turtles, pigeons, turkeys. Animals on site are either slaughtered and sold for human consumption, or sold for Santaria and black magic purposes. There are also dogs and cats living on site that are friendly and are believed to be pets. There are 5 holding areas on the property which house the animals living on site.

ARM investigators first entered the farm undercover on May 1, 2015, posing as customers looking to buy animals for human consumption. Upon entrance, an ARM investigator witnessed a pig being killed by RICARDO but it was out of site from ARM's undercover cameras. Caught on tape was the butchering and packaging of that pig. Once RICARDO finished packaging the pig, investigators then requested to purchase a larger pig. RICARDO brought the investigator back to the holding areas where there were about 25 pigs housed inside of 2 or 3 separate holding structures which are connected to the butcher area. The pigs on site consisted of farm pigs and wild hogs. Once the pig was selected, RICARDO took an old .22 caliber rifle and shot the pig in the head. The pig immediately dropped to the ground and while thrashing in pain, RICARDO shoved a foot long blade into the pig's heart. The pig then began convulsing in front of the pigs' holding area where the rest of the on looking pigs tried to defend the one suffering. While the pig was still alive and breathing, RICARDO then roughly inserted a gaff hook, a very sharp hook connected to a 5 foot metal pole, into the pig's mouth which tore through to the outside of its face. Hook inserted, the pig was then dragged by the pole for 75 feet to the butcher area where it was weighed to determine its price. RICARDO then dumped it into a boiling tub of water where it most likely drowned and burned to death. RICARDO then cleaned and butchered it, inserted it into a plastic bag and put it in ARM's undercover truck. The total price for the pig was \$300 which included the pig, kill fee, and butcher fee. The horrific acts were caught on video and are extremely graphic and utterly disturbing, the video is labeled MAH04916.MP4. Anyone with any degree of common sense can see the animal is panicking and suffering tremendously. The components of the kill and torture were viewed by a licensed veterinarian, Dr. Barbara Tomaras who concluded that "there is obvious signs and prolonged suffering that could



and should be avoided by the use of proper methods", Veterinary Report, Case: Operation Gaff Hook. There is probable cause to believe and your affiant believes RICARDO's conduct violated F.S. §828.12(2) and is felonious. Below are photos captured from video from the May 1, 2015:



ARM personnel reentered the farm again on **May 22, 2015**, to continue to capture video and audio footage of illegal and inhumane crimes against animals. When investigators called



RICARDO, they were told that RICARDO was out with his family and he advised them to come back the next day where he will kill a pig for them.

The next day, **May 23, 2015**, ARM undercover investigators came back to the farm to purchase two animals for human consumption. Instead, they could only purchase one because RICARDO said he was backed up with orders for other customers and the 25 pigs on the property were already accounted for. Investigators gathered that RICARDO had a constant customer flow based on the supply and demand. RICARDO brought investigators back to the holding area where he showed them a 75 pound pig that he would kill for them. He then began the killing process the same way in which he had on the first visit. After snagging the pig out, he shot it in the head with a .22 caliber rifle. In efforts to violently stab the pig in the heart, it begins to thrash around on the ground. RICARDO then stomps on the pigs face and forces the blade deep into its body. While the pig is showing evident signs of life as it continues to thrash, RICARDO jabs the gaff hook into its heart and drags it to the butcher area while it is still shaking from the torment. Then while still alive, the pig is thrown into tub of boiling water where it finally dies. An individual, who is believed to be RICARDO's wife, who was later positively identified as Mayelin Rodriguez, DOB: 11/17/1974, hereinafter RODRIGUEZ, assisted him with the butchering and cleaning of the pig once taken out from the tub. The price of this pig was \$265.

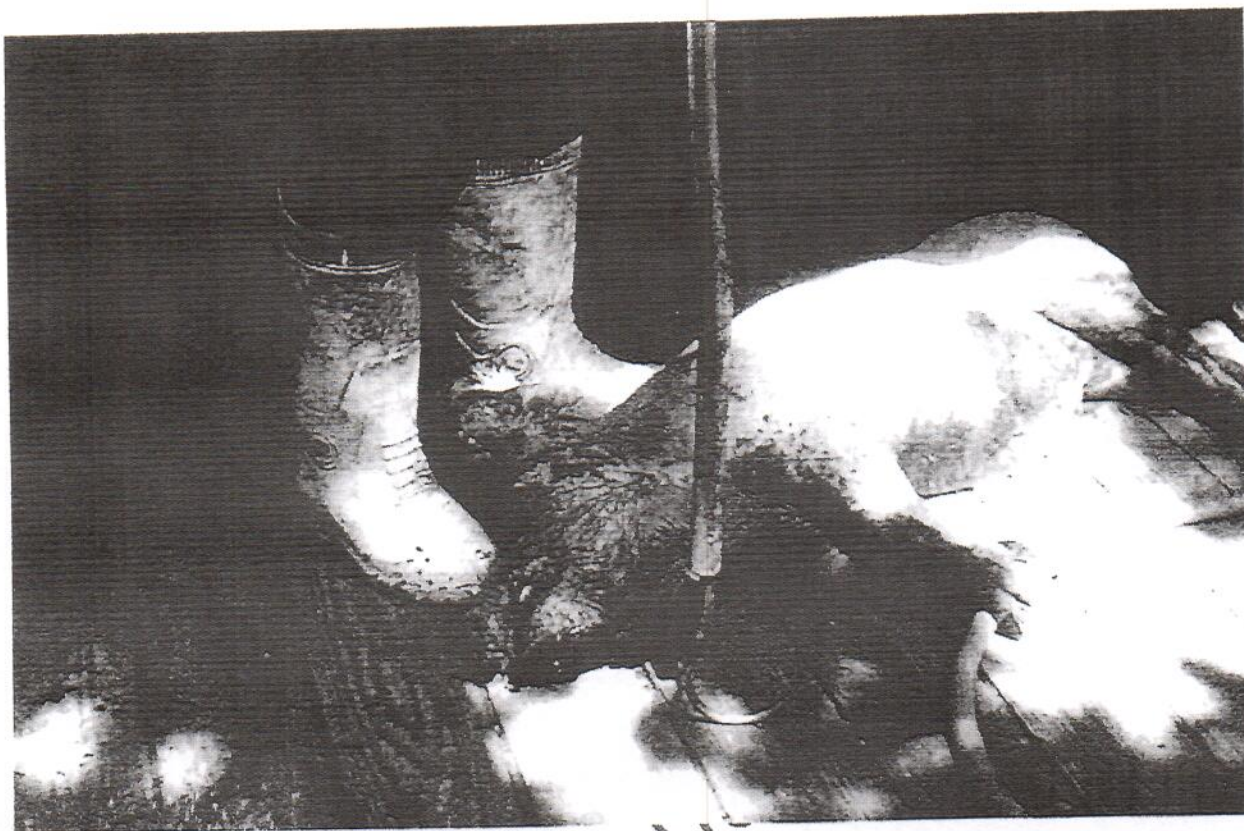
During the butchering of this pig, a customer named Raul Padrons, brings out a live 160 pound boar whose legs were tightly hog tied. Raul was driving a white van with the phone number 305-505-3598 displayed on it, and tag number was DKFA43. He brought the boar to RICARDO to kill, butcher and clean for him to take home for consumption. The hog was left struggling with his legs tied for 10 minutes while they discussed business. After which, RICARDO shot the boar with a .22 caliber rifle in front of the ARM undercover investigators. The boar was then stabbed in the heart and left to bleed out on the ground next to the van for several minutes before it was transported in a wheel barrel to the butcher area where it was butchered and cleaned for packaging. RICARDO brought ARM's pig to the ARM undercover truck, and investigators left the property. The horrific acts were caught on video and are extremely graphic and utterly disturbing, the video is labeled MAH04944.MP4. Anyone with any degree of common sense can see the animal is panicking and suffering tremendously. The

components of the kill and torture were viewed by a licensed veterinarian, Dr. Barbara Tomaras who concluded that "there is obvious signs and prolonged suffering that could and should be avoided by the use of proper methods", Veterinary Report, Case: Operation Gaff Hook. There is probable cause to believe and your affiant believes RICARDO's and RODRIGUEZ's conduct violated F.S. §828.12(2) and 777.011 (principal) and is felonious. Furthermore there is probable cause to believe that, by working together, in agreeing, conspiring, combining or confederating with one another, RICARDO and RODRIGUEZ also conspired to commit the act of animal cruelty violating, F.S. §828.12(2) and 777.04, also felonious. Below are photos captured from video from the May 23, 2015:



(See next page)





On June 5, 2015, ARM undercover investigators entered the farm again as customers and went directly to the back towards the butcher area. Upon arrival, RICARDO was in the middle of killing a pig for 3 awaiting customers. Investigators saw that the pig had already been stabbed in the chest and was bleeding profusely as it convulsed at the foot of the tub filled with boiling water. RICARDO and the customers were watching the pig, waiting for it to die. After 5 minutes passed and the pig was still showing signs of life, the customers began questioning RICARDO on when the pig was going to die so that he could start butchering it. RICARDO then stabbed the pig again in the heart and then dropped it into the tub of boiling water, thrashing as it hit the water. RICARDO took a shovel and held the pig under the water until it eventually drowned and burned to death. Once dead, the pig was then gutted, butchered, cleaned and sold to the awaiting customers. After the pig was sold, RICARDO took ARM personnel to the chicken area where there were about 500 chickens distributed amongst 5 different cage-like holding shelters. ARM requested 2 chickens to be purchased for consumption. RICARDO took the chickens to a silver stainless steel table where he stretched the chickens neck one by one, breaking their bones, killing them slowly. As one was harder to kill, RICARDO held it down against the table as it thrashed until it eventually suffocated or stopped resisting. He then dumped them into a pot of



boiling water to de-feather the birds. They were then butchered and sold to undercover investigators. The horrific acts were caught on video and are extremely graphic and utterly disturbing, the video is labeled MAH04947.MP4. Anyone with any degree of common sense can see the animal is panicking and suffering tremendously. The components of the kill and torture were viewed by a licensed veterinarian, Dr. Barbara Tomaras who concluded that "there is obvious signs and prolonged suffering that could and should be avoided by the use of proper methods", Veterinary Report, Case: Operation Gaff Hook. There is probable cause to believe and your affiant believes RICARDO's conduct violated F.S. §828.12(2) and is felonious. Below are photos captured from video from the June 5, 2015:



On one occasion where ARM was at the property, customers were calling RICARDO on his cell phone to place orders for horse meat. RICARDO was explaining that he did not have any at the time, but will in the future. ARM investigators suspect that RICARDO is supplying the Black Market Horse Meat Trade in Miami Dade County, Florida. It is unlawful to sell horse meat without proper stamping, labeling or processing. Nothing on the farm is stamped, marked or processed with any regard for human health or safety.



On July 1, 2015, ARM investigators tried to enter the farm to purchase animals, but the gate was locked and no one was present inside of RICARDO's home. Investigators called RICARDO's phone and he replied that we was busy with his family and could not kill that day.

On August 7, 2015, ARM investigators again requested animals from RICARDO, but he would not let them in and told investigators that the pigs were attacked by fire ants and he had no pigs to kill. He told investigators to come back another time.

On August 15, 2015, 2 different ARM undercover investigators called RICARDO from different phone numbers, requesting animals for consumption. RICARDO replied to both of them that he was out of pigs and could not do any business with them.

On August 27, 2015, ARM investigators visited the farm where they spoke with a person believed to be RICARDO's wife, RODRIGUEZ, who told them that she and RICARDO were busy tending to the kids before they go back to school in the next week. When requesting animals, she told investigators that they did not have time to kill that weekend.

The next visit was made in the middle of September 2015 when ARM investigators went back to the farm requesting animals for human consumption and again spoke with a person believed to be RICARDO's wife, RODRIGUEZ. RODRIGUEZ stated that they were running low on animals and the ones they had on site had already been sold to other customers.

The last call was made in the beginning of October 2015 when ARM undercover investigators called RICARDO seeking to purchase a pig. RICARDO stated that his animal inventory was low and he would give them a call when he got more animals in. It seemed as though RICARDO was becoming suspicious of ARM's undercover investigators and began stalling by making excuses not to sell them animals. Although ARM was not able to enter the property, long range surveillance was being conducted. Investigators observed the same customers entering and leaving the farm with slaughtered animals, clearly showing business was still occurring. After seeing that RICARDO no longer wanted sell to ARM personnel the investigation was suspended.

On November 14, 2015, COUTO and an ARM Investigator went returned to the farm undercover. Prior to entering the property a long distance surveillance and witnessed customer activity including trucks and cars entering and leaving the property. Once the duo approached the gate, RICARDO greeted the undercover investigators. RICARDO was asked for a pig that they were looking to cook for a BBQ. RICARDO replied that he could not kill for them at that time. One of the ARM Investigators indicated they were referred to RICARDO by a friend. RICARDO indicated that he was no longer killing animals and had stopped killing a week ago. It was evident to the ARM Investigators that RICARDO was not being truthful, as he was covered in blood and wearing the white rubber boots that had he had been documented wearing in every animal kill. The ARM Investigators believe that RICARDO has been tipped off by someone a few months prior reference individuals trying to capture evidence of animal killings. The evidence indicates that RICARDO will now only associate and kill for people he is familiar with and has known for years.

Personnel from ARM contacted the Miami Dade Police Department and your affiant became involved in opening a criminal investigation. Reports, photos, videos and other data were transmitted by ARM to your affiant for review and investigation. Your affiant researched and investigated the property and the subjects, and ascertained a positive identification on both of RICARDO and RODRIGUEZ from an ARM Investigator and as plainly seen in the video. Your affiant contacted the Miami Dade State Attorney's Office and an investigation was commenced and based on the evidence, the instant arrest warrant was drafted.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING, your affiant has probable cause to believe and does believe that Angel Ricardo Vargas, DOB: 5/29/1970 (RICARDO) is chargeable for (4) felony counts of Cruelty to Animals, contrary to F.S. §828.12(2) and 777.011, felonies in the third degree and (1) count of Conspiracy to Commit Cruelty to Animals, contrary to F.S. §828.12(2), 777.011 and 777.04, a felony in the third degree. and FURTHERMORE, your affiant has probable cause to believe and does believe that Mayelin Rodriguez, DOB: 11/17/1974 (RODRIGUEZ) ) is chargeable for (1) felony count of Cruelty to Animals, contrary to F.S. §828.12(2) and 777.011, a felony in the third degree and (1) count of Conspiracy to Commit Cruelty to Animals, contrary to F.S. §828.12(2), 777.011 and 777.04, a felony in the third



degree, all offenses to the evil example of all others in like cases offending and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

Because the evidence is clear that this was an unlawful cash enterprise that unlawfully earned income by torturing and unlawfully butchering animals. Therefore your affiant prays that a *Nebbia* condition be affixed to any bond. Your affiant prays, based upon the quantity and caliber of evidence, as well as the nature of the acts and the enterprise, that a significant bond be affixed with house arrest and GPS monitoring as well a condition that if bond is posted, the subjects can have no contact with or associate with any domestic farm animals or any business that deals, directly or indirectly with domestic farm animals.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Det. Marcus LOIS 30-5449  
MIAMI DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
(AFFIANT)

SWORN TO BEFORE ME, A JUDGE OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in and for MIAMI  
DADE COUNTY, this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of DECEMBER, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

