

Timeline Operation Barker

Time Line

11/13/ 2023- Funny Biz was Killed. This was the end of ARM's case.

11/13/2023- ARM contacted (called) FDLE to report crimes on said property. (No Response)

11/20/2023- Finalized Operation Barker report.

11/30/2023- Finalized LE sample report.

12/8/2023- Full case Operation Barker complete.

12/11/2023- ARM followed up with FDLE (Called), (No Response)

12/15/2023- Contacted Hernando County Sheriff's Office. (left Message)

12/16/2023- I called the Detective Division. I spoke with a woman concerning the case, and she said someone would reach out.

12/19/2023— Call (Incoming) from Sargeant Owens, a sergeant from the Detective Division for Hernando County. He said he has been following ARM for years and has rescued tattooed Thoroughbreds. We set a meeting to discuss the case.

12/26/2023-Attended meeting at Sheriff's Office (veterans location) Sasha Owens, Animal Control Head Captain, and two other detectives attended.

In the meeting, I showed videos and gave copies of the footage along with ARM reports and copies of past search and arrest warrants (case law, similar cases). I also provided contacts to detectives and SAOs from other counties who are knowledgeable about ARM cases and raids and Florida.

In response, they said they wanted ARM to be a confidential informant for officers to go into the business and make additional buys for them. I agreed; they responded that they would be in touch.

January 2024- Did not hear from the Sheriff's Office.

2/2/2024- I left messages (called) at the Sheriff's Office asking for an update on when I would be registered as a confidential informant.

3/10/2024—Detective Muhammad called, introduced herself as the Head Detective on the case, and stated she was working on the case.

3/12/2024- Sent Detective Muhammad information and contacts for the case.

3/13/2023- I received confirmation that Detective Muhammad received the email I sent.

3/27/2024-Emailed Detective Muhammad (no response)

3/27/2024- I called Sergeant Owens, and she stated she had yet to receive a response from Muhammad.

3/28/2024- I received a call from Muhammad saying sorry due to the county fair. They have been busy with other cases, but she is working on it, and they have a case number.

4/8/2024- I received an incoming call from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office; Detective Dezmin asked me to come in and register as a confidential informant to do an undercover buy at Ortiz Slaughter Farm in Brooksville

I explained that there was a task force meeting at their Office on April 25th, 2024. I could do confidential informant paperwork on April 24th, 2024, do the meat buy the same day, and then attend the task force meeting the next day. Dezmin's response was perfect.

4/8/2024—Detective Muhammad emailed me and ARM to invite us to a task force meeting at the Sheriff's Office on April 25th, 2024.

4/21/2024- Kudo called Juan, the owner of the illegal Slaughter Farm, to set up a horse meat and goat buy at the farm (for confidential informant buy)

4/23/2024- Kudo texted Detective Dezmin to set up confidential informant registration and meat buy on April 24th, 2024.

4/23/2024- Kudo emailed Muhammad to confirm the task force meeting; her response was yes.

4/24/2024- Kudo went undercover to the slaughter farm and bought a goat for evidence.

Dogs attacked the goat illegally, hoisted alive, and stabbed to death. Over 75 chickens were being killed unlawfully and packed for resale to a "fruit stand" in Tampa.

4/25/2024- Task Force meeting held at Hernando County Sheriff's Office titled "Operation Funny Biz".

Lieutenant Brandan Cox stated the evidence ARM collected was weak, and the state attorney had issues with it.

Cox stated arrests could not be made on horse slaughter because no one could prove the meat was not stamped or marked. Cox saw a few problems with the pigs being tortured with 2x4 wood boards.

Cox saw no problem with how Funny Biz was killed.

Cox commented that ARM should have notified his Office before our investigation started.

I reminded the room that we could use case law from other Florida counties. Sargent Owns said things worked differently in his county.

At the end of the meeting, Detective Muhammad assured me the case was now being treated seriously.

4/30/2024- Kudo to Muhammad email, Kudo summaries April 25th, 2024 meeting and sent again information from the case given to Saint Lucie County "Operation Lebo" (received no response from email.

4/30/2024- Kudo emailed USDA asking for involvement.

5/2/2024-USAD emailed Kudo asking for information on the Slaughter Farm in Brooksville.

5/2/2024- Kudo emails information to USAD.

5/2/2024- Kudo contacts the Florida Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement.

5/3/2024- Kudo goes undercover in Ortiz Slaughter Farm. Farm hand killing and torturing pigs with hammers, then stabbing the pigs while still alive.

I spoke to Juan (the owner), who confirmed that he and no one at the farm mark or stamp any of the meat sold, including the horse meat.

Kudos bought four turtles, saying they were for "sacrifice, Santeria". Juan said they poach them illegally in the Louisiana area and smuggle them into the state of Florida.

5/6/2024- Email to Muhammad sent a video.

5/7/2024- An email from Muhammad said they received all emails.

5/8/2024- Email to Muhammad sent, vet reports of illegal animal killings.
(No response)

5/8/2024- Kudo emails reports, videos, and vet reports of the Slaughter Farm to USDA.

5/10/2024- Emailed Muhammad asking if her Office and SAO are taking case.

5/10/2024- An email from Muhammad said that decisions had been made by her Office and SAO, but she could not comment because it was an ongoing case.

5/14/2024- Email to Muhammad, stating illegal meat is going across county lines to many counties.

5/22/2024- Detective Whitlock calls Kudo to set up a photo pack to identify workers from Ortiz Slaughter Farm.

5/22/2024- Kudo calls Muhammad to ask what charges are being given for the Slaughter Farm case. She said I needed to identify the two people for for a few of the animal cruelty crimes.

I asked if the "Funny Biz" Horse slaughter case was being taken and she said no, Because I committed a felony by buying the meat and was as guilty as they were.

I explained we buy meat for evidence and not for human consumption.

I said arrest both of us.

5/30/2024—Kudo did a photo pack with detectives Withlock. (It took place in a public waiting room.) in front of strangers while standing at the front door.

5/30/2024-Kudo called the Florida Department of Agriculture, and asks them to take the Ortiz illegal slaughter farm to register Kudo as a confidential informant and do a controlled horse meat buy in both Tampa and Orlando. Kudos gives the phone number of Muhammad so she will let go of the horse meat area case.

5/30/2024- Kudo goes undercover at slaughter Farm, speaks to Juan Ortiz Jr. He said he can sell and bring horse meat when delivering to Tampa and Orlando problem.

June 2024—Kudos, Emailed Florida Agriculture Law Enforcement and said the horse meat buy is set up. You can pick up horse meat anytime.

June 2024—An email to Kudo from a Florida Department of Agriculture agent states that they will no longer work with ARM or Kudo.

June 2024- Kudo emails the state attorneys generals asking for help with the case.

June 2024—The Attorney general emailed Kudo, saying only the Hernando County Sheriff can help. They would contact them for us.

7/1/2024-USAD emails Kudo asking for the contact information of the Hernando County detective.

7/14/2024—Kudo Contacted USDA special agents to take the case because the Sheriff's Office and SAO dropped the ball.

7/16/2024- USAD emails Kudo saying they are putting plan together.

Sain Lucie County Case

2024CF000585 A - STATE OF FLORIDA vs. GONZALEZ, YSAIRIS

SUMMARY

Judge:	LINN, MICHAEL JAMES	Court Type:	Criminal Felony	Case Type:	CRIMINAL FELONY
Case Number:	2024CF000585 A	Uniform Case Number:	562024CF000585AXXXXX	Status:	OPEN
Clerk File Date:	2/27/2024	Status Date:	2/27/2024	Waive Speedy Trial:	
Total Fees Due:	0.00	Custody Location:	ST LUCIE COUNTY JAIL	Agency:	ST LUCIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Agency Report Number:	2372791				

PARTIES

TYPE	PARTY NAME	ATTORNEY
DEFENDANT	GONZALEZ, YSAIRIS	
PLAINTIFF	STATE OF FLORIDA	

CHARGES

COUNT	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL	DEGREE	PLEA	DISPOSITION	DISPOSITION DATE
1	CRUELTY TO ANIMALS-TORTURE (828.12.2a)	F	T			
2	CRUELTY TO ANIMALS-TORTURE (828.12.2a)	F	T			

EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	JUDGE	LOCATION	RESULT
	No Events on Case			

CASE DOCKETS

DIN	DATE	ENTRY
10	3/5/2024	CASE UNSECURED
<u>Requested</u> 9	3/5/2024	ARREST REPORT - NOT INITIATING CASE
11	2/27/2024	ARREST WARRANT STATUS CHANGED TO SERVED
8	2/27/2024	WARRANT NUMBER: 2372791
7	2/27/2024	ARREST WARRANT BOND AMOUNT SET TO \$30000.00
6	2/27/2024	ARREST WARRANT STATUS CHANGED TO SENT TO SHERIFF
5	2/27/2024	CASE SECURED FOR ACTIVE PROCESS
4	2/27/2024	ARREST WARRANT ISSUED: WARRANT OF ARREST
<u>Requested</u> 3	2/27/2024	WARRANT/SWORN COMPLAINT
2	2/27/2024	CIRCUIT JUDGE LINN, MICHAEL JAMES: ASSIGNED
1	2/27/2024	CASE FILED 02/27/2024 CASE NUMBER 2024CF000585 A

Case given to St Lucie sheriff
same time as case given to
Hernando county sheriff.
- without saint lucie sheriff
making ARM a C.I. The case
was taken using only ARM
in recover footage.
- farm Raided, Arrests made,
farm closed and animals rescued
now living at ARM ARM sanctuary.

St Lucie County
FBI govt
will

**IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT 19th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
SAINT LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA**

AFFIDAVIT

Court Case Number
562024CF000585AXXXXX

Agency Case Number
23-72791

State of Florida
vs. YSAIRIS GONZALEZ
In SAINT LUCIE COUNTY,
State of Florida

To all and singular Sheriffs of the State of Florida whereas Detective Clay E Mangrum has made an oath on Feb 23, 2024, that YSAIRIS GONZALEZ in the aforesaid county did unlawfully violate

Count(s)	Offense Code	Charge Description
2	FSS 828.12 (2)	TORTURE INFLCT PAIN SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJ DEATH

contrary to the law in such case and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida

Statement of Probable Cause / Narrative

Date of Crime: 12/9/2023 5:00:00 AM
Time of Crime: 16:00

On 12/13/2023 I met with Richard COUTO (Reporting Party) at St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (4700 W. Midway Rd.), in reference to a complaint of illegal activity involving animals. Reporting Party told me the following:

He is the founder of A.R.M. Investigations (Animal Rescue Missions). A.R.M. utilizes tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. COUTO provided video recording of his investigation to view while I spoke with him.

In May 2023, he found an ad on Craigslist for animals and meat for sale from a farm in Fort Pierce, FL. He made contact (via text message) to number provided. He was answered by "Maria Jose" (via text message), who confirmed that he could purchase animals, including goats, for sale and human consumption. The animal could also be killed and butchered on site. COUTO utilized video / audio recording during his investigation, as the information provided to him thus far was consistent with an illegal slaughterhouse conducting business to the public.

A meeting was arranged with COUTO and "Maria Jose" on 05/30/2023 at 5:00 p.m. at 3301 Brocksmith Rd in Fort Pierce, FL. He met with "Maria Jose" at this location and was introduced to a Hispanic male she referred to as "the butcher". No animals were available for sale at this location. "The butcher" had COUTO follow him to another address in Fort Pierce, FL which was identified as 200 Godwin Rd. The "butcher" identified his name to COUTO as "Miguel", who was later identified as Miguel CABRERA. CABRERA pointed out a goat to COUTO and told him he would kill and butcher the goat for him for \$200.00. COUTO agreed to a tan and white goat pointed out by CABRERA. COUTO observed CABRERA grab the goat and inhumanely drag the animal to the butcher / slaughter area. While CABRERA dragged the goat, it screamed while a dog followed close by the goat biting and barking at it. CABRERA then secured a rope to a back leg of the goat and hung it upside down (suspended in air). He needed assistance from another male on site due to the struggle of the goat. The goat was not stunned in any way and was left hanging upside down while CABRERA prepped his knives / tools. CABRERA then stabbed the goat in the throat with a large knife. The goat began thrashing and struggling. The goat was not stunned prior to being stabbed in the throat and was fully conscious at the time this occurred. The goat continued to show apparent signs of life for several

Agency Name: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office	Defendant Name: YSAIRIS GONZALEZ
Agency Case # 23-72791	SA Case ID: 2024-56-000477
Reviewing Prosecutor: Robert Eugene Stone Jr	Judge Approved on: Feb 27, 2024

minutes and continued to do so as CABRERA began the skinning (removing hide) process. The area where the goat was killed / butchered was unsanitary and flies were present. The blood from the goat was draining into open dirt ground. I was able to confirm this information by viewing the video of the incident provided by COUTO. While viewing the video of the incident, I saw CABRERA grab the goat and drag it, while a loose dog barked and bit the goat. The goat screamed as CABRERA dragged it to the area for slaughter. The goat was hung upside down by one leg by CABRERA, with the assistance of another male on scene. The goat was not stunned in any way prior to this and was left hanging upside down while CABRERA is observed preparing his tools. CABRERA then stabbed the goat in the throat. The goat thrashed and gargling sounds were audible from the goat, which is consistent with it's windpipe being damaged. The goat continued to thrash while CABRERA stood by. CABRERA then began to skin (removing of hide) the goat. The goat showed tension in the neck and movement consistent with response to pain stimulus while CABRERA began the skinning process. The area where the butchering of the goat took place appeared unsanitary and flies were observed in the immediate area. The blood was draining onto a wood plank platform that was over the dirt ground.

COUTO then showed me the video for the incident at the same location on 12/09/2023. COUTO responded to the same Craigslist ad and made contact with "Maria Jose" on 12/08/2023 for the purchase of animals. "Maria Jose" asked COUTO if he wanted the animals for meat, or religious sacrifice. COUTO told her it was for meat. She gave COUTO the contact number for CABRERA. COUTO met with CABRERA on 12/09/2023 at the same location of 200 Godwin Rd. COUTO met with CABRERA for the purchase of a goat for meat and a pig. COUTO provided vehicle tag numbers of CABRERA's white Ford truck and a second vehicle believed to belong to "Maria Jose". Based on information provided, CABRERA was positively identified as Miguel Cabrera (H/M 10/19/1966) and "Maria Jose" was positively identified as Ysairis GONZALEZ (H/F 01/01/1974).

CABRERA dragged a goat to the butchering area. The goat was screaming while being dragged and was suspended upside down by a rope CABRERA tied to the back leg of the goat. GONZALEZ assisted CABRERA with securing the goat's hind legs to hang it upside down. Both CABRERA and GONZALEZ made no attempts to render the goat insensitive to pain and suffering prior to this. CABRERA then utilized a large knife and stabbed the goat in the neck. This was done without stunning the goat in any way. The goat was fully conscious and it was fully apparent that CABRERA's method was causing pain to the goat, as it continued to thrash and shake after being stabbed in the throat. CABRERA butchered the goat in a manner consistent with the manner he used in May of 2023.

GONZALEZ was also present with CABRERA during the butchering of the goat. I observed her on the video assisting with securing the goat's back legs to hang the goat upside down for the butchering process. GONZALEZ was present during the killing of the goat and at no time did she make any attempt to interfere with the suffering of the goat, or render the goat insensitive to pain prior to being butchered. The video showed Gonzalez' direct participation in the inhumane manner in which the goat was killed.

CABRERA also butchered a pig as a part of the purchase. CABRERA entered a raised wooden pig pen with another unknown male. There were several pigs (approximately 9 pigs) at that time. CABRERA and the male grabbed the pig and slammed it on it's side. The pig was pinned to the ground and CABRERA plunged a knife into the chest area of the pig. The pig began screaming, as no attempt was made to stun the pig and render it insensitive to pain. The pig was stabbed several more times by CABRERA, as it continued to scream and thrash. It stood up at one point and fell. Other pigs were present and approached the wounded pig as it suffered. The unknown male took a hose and began spraying the pig in a manner consistent with waterboarding it as it continued to suffer. With assistance, CABRERA then threw the pig over the railing and

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into a wheeled cart. The pig was still alive and suffering when this occurred. I also observed GONZALEZ' presence during the killing and butchering of the pig. GONZALEZ was present and stood by while the pig was killed in a inhumane and brutal manner. At no time GONZALEZ made any attempts to interfere with the inhumane killing and was a willing participant in this process. I also observed GONZALEZ calculate the cost and collecting money for profit from the inhumane butchering of the goat and pig.

COUTO agreed to the purchases of these animals for meat to view the manner in which the animals were being killed and whether it was done legally.

I reviewed FSS 828.12 after viewing the video provided by COUTO. The statute provides the following, as it pertains to this investigation:

- 828.12 Cruelty to animals.-

(2) A person who intentionally commits an act to any animal which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

Based on my review of the video provided by COUTO, CABRERA did commit acts to the goat killed on 05/30/2023 that inflicted unnecessary pain and suffering. On 12/09/2023 CABRERA committed acts that inflicted unnecessary pain and suffering to the goat and pig he slaughtered. No attempts to stun the animal, or humanely render it insensitive to pain were made on any animal slaughtered by CABRERA during both incidents. CABRERA's actions while handling the goats and pig during the slaughter clearly exposed the animals to unnecessary stress and torment and the manner CABRERA killed the animals led to the animals left to suffer extensively prior to death. At no time during this incidents did CABRERA attempt to expedite the killing of the animals to prevent any further pain and suffering. During the acts committed on 12/09/2023 GONZALEZ was observed to be directly involved with facilitating and participating in the inhumane killing of both the goat and the pig. GONZALEZ was also observed collecting the money to profit from these inhumane killings.

Furthermore, COUTO began his investigation with this location under suspicion that it was functioning as an illegal slaughterhouse. He provided documentation of date, time and location of his contacts with CABRERA and documented that it was occurring within the boundaries of St. Lucie County, FL. COUTO observed signage on and around the property listing animals and food for sale. The property appeared to be marketed as a business open to the public for profit.

I verified the address of 200 Godwin Rd as the address in the video by driving by the residence. The residence of 200 Godwin Rd is the same residence in the video I observed. The mailbox had the number "200" attached to the wooden mailbox post and a red wooden sign with white numbers "200" set at the base of the entry gate to the property. I confirmed that this was the location of the criminal acts of CABRERA and GONZALEZ and that this address is in the jurisdiction of St. Lucie County, FL.

An arrest warrant for (2) counts of Aggravated animal cruelty F.S.S. 828.12(2) was issued and signed for CABRERA on 02/12/2024.

Based on my observation of GONZALEZ involvement with the above criminal acts on 12/09/2023, I determined that probable cause exists for the following charge:

- (2) counts FSS 828.12(2) Aggravated animal cruelty

A warrant affidavit was completed for GONZALEZ on the above charges.

Agency Name: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office	Defendant Name: YSAIRIS GONZALEZ
Agency Case # 23-72791	SA Case ID: 2024-56-000477
Reviewing Prosecutor: Robert Eugene Stone Jr	Judge Approved on: Feb 27, 2024

Witnesses

Richard Couto
A.R.M. Investigations
P.O. Box 403344
Miami Beach, FL., 33140

Victims

State of FLORIDA

Vehicles

N/A

I hereby request that an arrest warrant be issued for YSAIRIS GONZALEZ for violation of Florida State Statute(s) listed above. Under penalties of perjury, I, Detective Clay E Mangrum, declare that I have read the foregoing and that the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Detective Clay E Mangrum
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this the 23rd day of Feb, 2024.



Detective Edwilky Paulvil

Law Enforcement Officer Authorized to Administer Oaths under F.S. 117.10.

Agency Name: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office	Defendant Name: YSAIRIS GONZALEZ
Agency Case # 23-72791	SA Case ID: 2024-56-000477
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PERSONAL DATA INFORMATION SHEET

ALL INFORMATION MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER

COURT CASE NUMBER: 562024CF000585AXXXX

DEFENDANT: YSAIRIS GONZALEZ

ALIAS: N/A

ADDRESS: 200 Godwin Rd Fort Pierce Florida, 34945

DOB: 01/01/1974

SSN: ██████████

PHONE:

MARITAL STATUS: Unknown

POB:

DL: FL G524-960-74-501-0

RACE: White

SEX: Female

ETHNICITY: Hispanic

CITIZENSHIP: UNK

HGT: 5' 01"

WGT: 160

HAIR: Brown

EYES: Brown

COMPLEXION: Light

SCARS: N/A

OCCUPATION: N/A

EMPLOYER: N/A

FBI NUMBER:

FDLE NUMBER:

FINGERPRINTS AVAILABLE:

yes no

Per Fl.CrRule 3.121 attach photo - SOPICS preferred!
Originating Source of PHOTO:
 SOPICS Docket #
 FL DL # DAVID Photo confirmed accurate by: Det. C.
Mangrum #474
 Other State DL # G524-960-74-501-0 State: FL
 Other Photo Source
 NO PHOTO AVAILABLE — Explanation for No Photo:



Agency: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

Investigating Officer: Clay E Mangrum

Agency Name: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
Agency Case # 23-72791

Defendant Name: YSAIRIS GONZALEZ
SA Case ID: 2024-56-000477

Reviewing Prosecutor: Robert Eugene Stone Jr

Judge Approved on: Feb 27, 2024

a ARM undercover Buying Horse meat as evidence and w/ at Law Enforcement and later handing it to Palm Beach Detectives.

case taken man arrested farm Raided animals Rescued.
STATE OF FLORIDA - PALM BEACH COUNTY

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2015CF010211CMB
DIV: X
OBTs NUMBER:



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the record in my office with redactions, if any as required by law.

THIS 14 DAY OF November, 2016
SHARON R. BOCK
CLERK & COMPTROLLER

By [Signature]
DEPUTY CLERK

STATE OF FLORIDA

v.

RAFAEL RAMIREZ,
W/M,
08/23/1965, [REDACTED]

- PROBATION VIOLATOR
- COMMUNITY CONTROL VIOLATOR
- RETRIAL
- RESENTENCE

JUDGMENT

The above defendant, being personally before this Court represented by PUBLIC DEFENDER - DIVISION X (attorney)

<input type="checkbox"/> Having been tried and found guilty of the following crime(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Having entered a plea of guilty to the following crime(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Having entered a plea of nolo contendere to the following crime(s):
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COUNT	CRIME	OFFENSE STATUTE NUMBER(S)	DEGREE
1 & 3	CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	828.12 (1)	1 MM
2 & 4	KILLING ANIMALS BY NON-HUMANE METHODS	828.24(1)(2) & 828.26(1)	2 MM
5	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OR SALE OF HORSEMEAT	500.451	3 FEL

and no cause having been shown why the Defendant should not be adjudicated guilty, IT IS ORDERED THAT the defendant is hereby ADJUDICATED GUILTY of the above crime(s) in Counts 1,2,3,4

and being a qualified offender pursuant to s. 943.325, the Defendant shall be required to submit DNA samples as required by law.

and good cause being shown: IT IS ORDERED THAT ADJUDICATION OF GUILT BE WITHHELD as to Count 5.

SENTENCE STAYED

- The Court hereby stays and withholds imposition of sentence as to count(s) and places the Defendant on
- probation and/or Community Control under the supervision of the Dept. Of Corrections (conditions of probation set forth in separate order).

SENTENCE DEFERRED

- The Court hereby defers imposition of sentence until

The Defendant in Open Court was advised of his right to appeal from the Judgment by filing notice of appeal with the Clerk of Court within thirty days following the date sentence is imposed or probation is ordered pursuant to this adjudication. The defendant was also advised of his right to the assistance of counsel in taking said appeal at the expense of the State upon showing of indigency.

DONE AND ORDERED in Open Court at Palm Beach County, Florida, this 19th day of May, 2016.

FILED
Circuit Criminal Department
MAY 19 2016
SHARON R. BOCK
Clerk & Comptroller
Palm Beach County

pg 1 of 2

Feb 2012

ARM investigators going undercover w/ at Law Enforcement collecting animal cruelty charges. case taken, arrests made.

Palm Beach Sheriff case

OBTS Number		PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT			3		Juvenile	
Agency ORI Number FLO 5 0 0 0 0 0		Agency Name PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE			Agency Report Number 06 - 15-121934			
Charge Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Felony <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Ordinance Check as many <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Traffic Felony <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Traffic Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Other as apply.					Special Notes:			
Defendant's Name (Last, First, Middle) Ramirez, Rafael					Race W	Sex M	Date of Birth 08/23/1965	
Charge Description Animal Cruelty 828.12(2)					Charge Description Shackle or hoist an animal with intent to kill prior to rendering the animal insensitive to pain. 828.24(2)			
Charge Description					Charge Description			
Victim's Name (Last, First, Middle) State of Florida					Race	Sex	Date of Birth	
Victim's Local Address (Street, Apt. Number) (City) (State) (Zip)			Phone		Address Source			
Victim's Business Address (Name, Street) (City) (State) (Zip)			Phone		Occupation			
The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe that the above named Defendant committed the following violation of law. The Person taken into custody...								
<input type="checkbox"/> committed the below acts in my presence.			<input type="checkbox"/> was observed by _____ who told _____ that he/she saw the arrested person commit the below acts.					
<input type="checkbox"/> confessed to _____ admitting to the below facts.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> was found to have committed the below acts, resulting from my (described) investigation.					
On the 22 day of Aug, 20015 at 1200 <input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.M. (Specifically include facts constituting cause for arrest).								

NARRATIVE:

On Friday, September 4, 2015, I was contacted by PBSO K-9 Deputy Justin Rigney. He requested that I make contact with a male identified as Richard Couto regarding possible Illegal Slaughtering of Animals occurring in Palm Beach County. I was given the contact information.

On the afternoon of Friday, September 4, 2015, I made contact with Richard Couto. I learned that he is the founder/investigator for a non-profit organization called "Animal Recovery Mission" (ARM) which he founded in 2010. I was told that the mission of ARM 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. Mr Couto stated that investigations taken on by ARM employees include suspected illegal animal slaughter farms, illegal horse sale and slaughter, and animal fighting operations. He stated that his organization is currently investigating illegal slaughter operations and animal cruelty that is occurring in Palm Beach County. One of the locations was identified as Rancho Garcia Farm located at 15703 Orange Blvd, Loxahatchee, Fl. This farm is owned and operated by the co- defendant Jorge Garcia.

On Friday, September 11, 2015, I met with Richard Couto. He provided me with a white notebook containing dates that ARM employees entered the property and details of what they witnessed. Mr. Couto also provided me with a CD containing videos documenting the illegal activities that occurred while his investigators were on the

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Rancho Garcia Farm property. He stated that at all times he and his employee's entered the property for the sole purpose of posing as customers in order to video and audio tape all that occurred with the intention of providing this information to local authorities. Mr. Couto stated that Rancho Garcia Farm is open to the public and other customers were videoed purchasing meat and poultry while his investigators were present. I was told in a sworn statement provided by Richard Couto, that Rancho Garcia Farm has a large sign at the front entrance to the property advertising "Sheep", "Pigs" and "Goats" for sale. Reportedly when the "ARM" employees first entered the farm they were able to walk directly to the area where the illegal butchering and extreme animal cruelty occurred. There were no gates, fences or signs to stop them from entering that part of the farm. The ARM employee involved in this case is identified as "J.M." at this time Mr. Couto stated that on several occasions he was at the Rancho Garcia Farm and witnessed the slaughtering and sale of animals. Mr. Couto gave me a sworn statement stating that he provided the CDs containing video's pertaining to this investigation.

On Thursday, September 17, 2015, I began reviewing the video's supplied by Mr. Couto. The sections of the video's that show the extreme animal cruelty are dated Saturday August 22, 2015, and Saturday September 12, 2015. The video was recorded by ARM employee identified as "JM".

The video, identified as visit #3, was recorded by ARM employee "J.M." on or about Saturday August 22, 2015. The video depicts the defendant tying a brown and white full size goat to a fence post with a rope around the goat's head. The co-defendant, Jorge Garcia, appears in the video and grabs the goat by the left rear leg and places a rope around the leg. A third subject, later identified as Jose Pena, was seen helping to control the animal which was struggling violently. In the video, the co-defendant, Jorge Garcia, was seen removing the rope from the goat's head. Garcia and subject Pena hung the goat upside down by the animal's two back legs approximately three feet off of the ground. As the goat was struggling and without being rendered insensitive to pain in any manner, (stunned, sedated, shocked or shot with a firearm in the head) the defendant approached the animal and stabbed it in the throat with a large knife. The goat began bleeding profusely and continued struggling violently. It was obvious by the video that this animal was suffering unnecessarily and in excruciating pain. The defendant stuck the knife in the goat's throat a second time while the animal was still alive and made a larger incision. The animal continued bleeding and struggling for several more minutes. While the animal was still alive and struggling the defendant began cutting the skin away from its legs. The goat finally bled to death and died.

The video, identified as visit #5 and #6, was recorded by ARM employee "J.M." on or about September 12, 2015, this video shows the co-defendant, Jorge Garcia, walking out to an open field and shooting a white goat with what appears to be a .22 caliber

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

rifle. The animal was only wounded in the ear and ran off. The animal was later captured by the defendant who tied it up with ropes, by its back legs, upside down off of the ground. The video shows the goat struggling violently and not rendered insensitive to pain by any humane means. The defendant approached and stabbed the animal in the throat with a large knife. The goat began bleeding profusely for several minutes before dying. It was obvious that this animal suffered unnecessarily for several minutes and was in excruciating pain before dying. The video shows that the defendant caused the unnecessary painful death of this animal.

On October 1, 2015, ARM employee "J.M." provided me with a sworn recorded statement attesting to the above recorded facts.

On Tuesday, September 22, 2015, I received a veterinarian report from Doctor Heidi Thomas regarding her examination of the above described video's. Regarding the video dated August 22, 2015, Doctor Thomas stated that the brown and white goat which was hoisted completely unstunned suffered unnecessary pain. The goat was struggling and crying out as he tries to break free. The goat was bled out with no effort to stun or sedate. Doctor Thomas stated that the goat was skinned while there are still signs of life such as kicking, raising head and tail shaking. Doctor Thomas rendered this opinion within a reasonable degree of medical/veterinary probability.

Regarding the video dated September 12, 2015 Doctor Thomas noted the goat had been shot in the ear with a .22 caliber rifle. The animal was still walking around and fully conscious although obviously exhausted from being chased by farm attendants. This animal was also hoisted and bled out while alive. The goat is also showing signs of life as the defendant was skinning him. Doctor Thomas opined that the goat was alive and in pain as it was being hoisted above the ground. She further opined that hoisting an animal, especially one shot already, is cruel and painful.

In her expert opinion Doctor Thomas stated that the practices on this slaughter farm are "inhumane, primitive and frankly disgusting". She stated that the animals are undergoing unnecessary pain and suffering as they are slaughtered in a primitive, disrespectful and unsanitary manner. She further noted that none of the animals were rendered insensitive to pain prior to being slaughtered which is required under the humane method as outlined by the statute.

Due to the above facts and statements Probable Cause exist to charge the defendant with two felony counts of "Animal Cruelty" (828.12(2)), two misdemeanor counts of

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

"No person shall shackle or hoist with intent to kill any animal prior to rendering the animal insensitive to pain" 828.24(2).

Please note the following:

Florida State Statute 828.23 Definitions;

(3) "Slaughter" means the act of killing one or more livestock animals for any purpose.

(4) "Slaughterer" means any person other than a licensed veterinarian, or any employee of a humane society or animal control agency who kills "livestock".

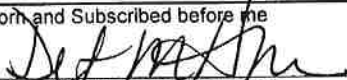

(5) "Livestock" means cattle calves, sheep, swine, horses, mules, goats, ostriches, rheas, emus, and any other domestic animal that can or may be used in preparation of animal products. For the purposes of ss. 82.22-828.26 "livestock" does not include poultry and aquatuck species.


(6) "Humane method" means:

(a) a method where by the animal is rapidly and effectively rendered insensitive to pain by electrical or chemical means or by a penetrating captive bolt or gunshot. with appropriate caliber and placement or

(b) A method in accordance with ritual requirements of any religious faith whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument.

It should be noted that none of the slaughtering in this case was for religious purpose.

<p>Sworn and Subscribed before me</p> <p></p> <p>Signature Notary Public / Clerk of Court / Officer (F.S.S 117.10)</p> <p>Det. M. Hansen-Morency 5596</p> <p>Name of Notary Public / Clerk of Court / Officer (F.S.S 117.10)</p> <p>Oct 10, 2015</p> <p>Date</p>	<p></p> <p>Signature of Arresting / Investigating Officer</p> <p>Detective T.Senecal 9029</p> <p>Name of Officer (Please Print)</p> <p>Oct. 10, 2015</p> <p>Date</p>
---	--


 STATE OF FLORIDA • PALM BEACH COUNTY
 I hereby certify that the foregoing is a
 true copy of the record in my office with
 redactions, if any as required by law.
 THIS 14 DAY OF November, 2015

By 
 SHARON R. BOCK
 CLERK & COMPTROLLER
 DEPUTY CLERK

Hillsborough County Case

TAMPA > | JUNE 7, 2024 | 3:01PM ET

Tampa, FL EDIT

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Tampa man arrested for selling horse meat

BY BAY NEWS 9 | HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
PUBLISHED 2:09 AM ET NOV. 30, 2012

A Tampa man has been charged with the sale of horse meat for human consumption, the State Attorney's Office confirms.

Florida made the buying and selling of horse meat a felony two years ago and Jorge Ortega Jr., 26, was the first person to be charged under the new law.

Officials say Ortega was involved with multiple slaughter farms in Citrus Park and Hillsborough, where they say he took part in killing horses and selling meat.

Video of Ortega was recorded as he sold a 40-pound bag of meat to an undercover USDA agent during an investigation in February.

The meat was tested at a lab and it was confirmed that the product was horse meat.

Ortega was released on a \$2,000 bond. He is expected to appear in court next week.

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Kudo (ARM) Buying Horse
meat for evidence with out
Law Enforcement and giving to
USDA agent for code.

Arrest was made

CRIME

Man pleads guilty to meat inspection violations

A Tampa farmer faces jail time for selling improperly inspected meat.



Jorge F. Ortega's booking photo

Author: 10 News Staff
Published: 1:15 PM EDT May 16, 2014
Updated: 1:15 PM EDT May 16, 2014



00:02 / 00:50

IN OTHER NEWS

Woman shot in Manatee County during domestic confrontation



Tampa, Florida -- A Tampa farmer faces jail time for selling improperly inspected meat.

27-year-old Jorge Ortega, the operator of Jorge's Farm, pleaded guilty to three violations of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. The US Attorney's Office says the violations include selling adulterated or misbranded meat, selling uninspected meat, and improper slaughter of swine.

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In October of 2011, Ortega slaughtered a pig that was contaminated with insects and other filth, and then sold the carcass to an undercover agent without labeling it properly and without the required federal meat inspection.

In 2012, an animal rights group filed civil lawsuits against Ortega and another Hillsborough County farm over animal cruelty and health code violations.

Ortega faces up to three years in prison for each violation.

Miami Dade Case

F15-5235B
F15-5235A

(X) IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
() IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CRIMINAL DIVISION	AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT, SEARCH WARRANT, INVENTORY AND RETURN	CASE NUMBER PD150309-088332
		CLOCK FILED FOR RECORD 2015 APR -1 PM 1:13 STATE CIRCUIT & COUNTY COURTS MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FL CIRCUIT CRIMINAL # 10

L. Green

Arrested:

1. Gregorio Santa Ana, White Male, Date of Birth 03-30-1945
2. Jose Solis, White Male, Date of Birth 08-24-1980

Address:

1. 11800 NW 41st Street, Miami, Florida 33182 (Farm Land "Coco Farms")

Offense(s):

1. Cruelty to Animals
2. Confinement of Animals without Sufficient Food, Water or Air
3. Illegally Shackling/Hoisting Animal with Intent to Kill

Miami Dade
- Pigs and goats killed
- Kudo Affiant

ARM w/ undercover and collected all footage w/ out Law Enforcement help. Case was taken, farm raided, arrests made, All 10,000 animals rescued. All evidence was collected by ARM no involvement by Law Enforcement.

Date: April 1, 2015

~~Harvey Ruvin~~

Kudo was Affiant.

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF DADE
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original on file in this office. APR 20 2015

HARVEY RUVIN, Clerk of Circuit and County Courts

Deputy Clerk

NANCY GAYBLE 0964



**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

STATE OF FLORIDA)
) SS
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE)

AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT

Before me, Dana J. Tunis, a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, personally appeared Richard Couto, and Detective Karel Rosario, badge number 30-5706, a Detective with the Miami-Dade Police Department, Miami-Dade County, Florida, who being by me first duly sworn depose and say that they have probable cause to believe and do believe that felony crimes have been committed at the below described premises, which is located in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County, Florida, and hereinafter referred to as the "Premises."

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES TO BE SEARCHED

The Premises to be searched is a plot of land located at 11800 NW 41st Street, Miami, Florida 33182, in unincorporated Miami-Dade County. The property folio number is 30-3925-000-0010, geographical location 25°48'39.30"N and 80°23'17.86"W. The plot of land is the first plot of land west of The Florida Turnpike and is located on the south side of NW 41st Street. The front entry gate is a double swinging chain-linked fence with its address identified as "11800 NW 41st Street." Within this plot of land, there are numerous structures and conveyances. See the Google Earth aerial below:

FILED FOR RECORD
2009 APR - 1 11:00 AM
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Judge's Initials DJT
Affiant's Initials RC
Co-Affiant's Initials KAR



STATUTE(S) BEING VIOLATED

Florida Statutes § 828.12(1), 828.12(2) Cruelty to animals.

Florida Statute § 828.22 Humane Slaughter Act

Florida Statute §828.24 Illegal shackling/hoisting animal with intent to kill.

Florida Statute §828.13 Confinement of animals without sufficient food, water, or exercise.

The Florida Legislature has established a public policy in Florida Statutes § 828.22 that regulates the slaughter of livestock in the State of Florida. Known as the Humane Slaughter Act, Florida Statutes § 828.22 provides for the prevention of inhumane slaughter methods.

In Florida Statutes § 828.22(2)(a) “The Legislature of this state finds that the use of humane methods in the killing of livestock prevents needless suffering, results in

Judge's Initials *WJ*
Affiant's Initials *AC*
Co-Affiant's Initials *AC*

safer and better working conditions for persons engaged in the slaughtering industry or other livestock operations, brings about improvement of products and economy in slaughtering or other livestock operations, and produces other benefits for producers, processors, and consumers which tend to expedite the orderly flow of livestock and their products.”

In Florida Statutes § 828.22(2)(b) provides “It is therefore declared to be the policy of this State to require that the slaughter of all livestock and the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter shall be carried out only by humane methods and to provide that methods of slaughter shall conform generally to those employed in other states where humane slaughter is required by law and to those authorized by the Federal Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, and regulations thereunder.”

PROPERTY SOUGHT

Your Affiant seeks to search the Premises described above and to photograph, seize and conduct forensic tests on the below-described evidence hereinafter referred to as the “Property.”

1. Animals that are being kept in unsanitary, dangerous and/or illegal conditions;
2. Tools and equipment used to slaughter animals including but not limited to knives, swords, machetes, sledge hammers, slaughter tables, boiling basins, cutting tables, block and tackle, buckets, ropes, bindings, storage containers, packaging materials, crates, butcher aprons, boots, gloves and other protective clothing;
3. Firearms and ammunition used in the slaughter of the animals including but not limited to shotguns;
4. Records evidencing creation, use, ownership, or temporary or constructive possession of the property described above, including, but not limited to, lease agreements, mortgage documents, property deeds, utility and telephone bills, mail envelopes, or addressed correspondence;
5. Records evidencing the sale of animals, including receipts, ledger books, financial records, invoices, bills of lading or any other document evidencing the purchase and/or sale of animals.

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[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten initials]

6. Digital Video Recording Device and its hard drive, video recording device, camera equipment, computer and/or any other device capable of recording historically and/or viewing the Premises in real time including all mediums upon which such footage may have been recorded including but not limited to hard drives, DVDs, CD-Roms, video tapes, flash drives, etc.

All of the items detailed in paragraphs Number 1 through Number 6 above are hereinafter referred to as the "Property".

GROUND FOR ISSUANCE

Evidence relevant to proving a felony has been committed is contained therein. Additionally, some of the aforementioned items were used as an instrumentality of the crimes committed. The facts establishing the grounds for this affidavit and the probable cause for believing that such facts exist are detailed below.

PROBABLE CAUSE

Your Affiant, Karel Rosario, is a police detective with the Miami-Dade Police Department and has been a sworn police officer for approximately thirteen (13) years. Specifically, your Affiant works in the Economic Crime Bureau/Organized Crime Section and his duties include, but are not limited to, the investigation of organized crime organizations, including fraud, organized gambling, money laundering, murder for hire, extortion violations and animal cruelty. Your Affiant has attended numerous training courses for the aforementioned.

Your Co-Affiant, Richard Couto, is the founder and lead investigator for a non-profit animal rescue organization known as the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM). The Animal Recovery Mission is dedicated to raising awareness while fighting to stop illegal horse slaughter, shutdown of any and all illegal slaughter farms, animal sacrifice farms and animal fighting farms. Your Affiant was previously affiliated with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and remains a Board member of that organization.

This affidavit is based upon information known personally to your Affiants based upon investigation, and information obtained from others who have investigated this matter and/or have personal knowledge of the facts herein. Your Affiants have participated in this investigation and

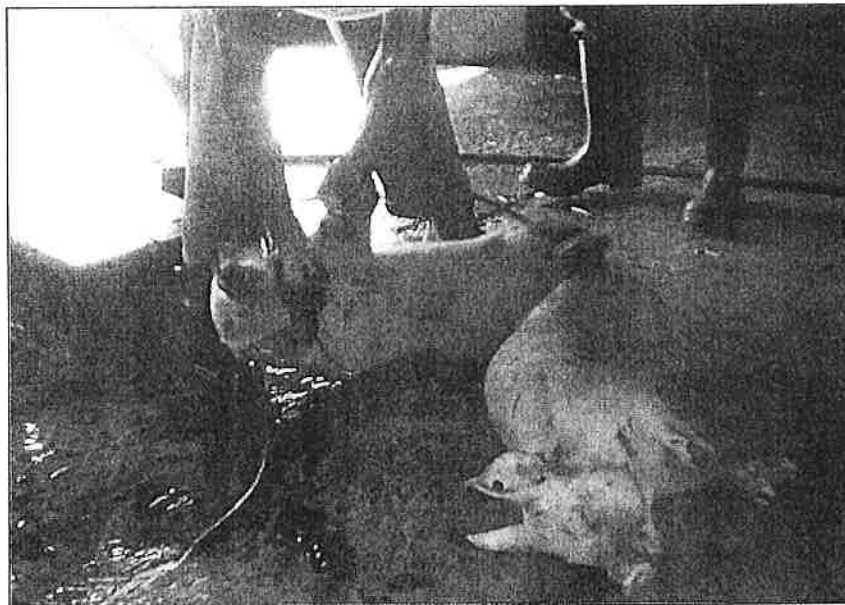
spoken with other law enforcement agents. Because this affidavit is being submitted for a limited purpose of establishing probable cause, your Affiants have not included every aspect, fact, or detail of this investigation.

Your Co-Affiant became aware of a farm operating known as “Coco Farm” within unincorporated Miami-Dade County, Florida at the intersection of Turnpike South and NW 41st Street, 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, your Co-Affiant entered the farm during their normal business hours while they were conducting the business of animal slaughter and posed as a potential customer. Your Co-Affiant 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 land that the illegal operations are conducted on is a designated wetlands and grazing area which is zoned to remain vacant. There should not be a single structure occupying this space, however, seven (7) illegal structures have been built on the property. Those structures include the main slaughter area located at the southwest end of the farm and a possible horse slaughter zone which is positioned at the back end of the property. Coco Farm is open to the public seven days a week from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Coco Farm is operating on a parcel of land owned by Turnberry/Doral Develop LMT Part but is being illegally run and managed by Gregorio Santa Ana (hereinafter, “SANTA ANA”) who also appears to be living on site. A review of online records of the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations confirms SANTA ANA as the Registered Agent and President of Coco Farms Inc. The property folio number is 30-3925-000-0010, geographical location 25°48’39.30”N and 80°23’17.86”W, and the entrance to the property is just west of the intersection of Turnpike South and NW 41st Street, at 11800 NW 41st Street (hereinafter referred to as the “Premises”).

On December 24, 2014, ARM investigators, posing as customers, first entered the Premises at approximately 12:30 p.m. to confirm and document illegal and inhumane animal slaughter and the purchase of animals for human consumption. On this day, ARM investigators parked their car and met Marco Brenes, a farm employee, who directed them to the slaughter area. A pig was sprawled out on the table for an existing customer. Three farm employees were

OK
[Signature]
AC

inside the kill area: Ruben M. Rodriguez (hereinafter, "RODRIGUEZ"), Henry (last name unknown), and Jose (last name unknown). After inquiring about purchasing a pig, RODRIGUEZ directed ARM investigators to a black 30-foot stock trailer that contained approximately 7-10 pigs. Henry captured the pig, slammed it to the floor and tied rope around its legs while stepping on its head.¹ Henry then inhumanely carried the tied swine to the butcher area.² Video evidence shows that RODRIGUEZ, without first rendering the animal insensitive to pain, began the killing process by stabbing the pig in the heart multiple times and then allowed it to suffer while slowly bleeding out.³ The price of the pig was \$180.00 which included a killing fee of \$20.00.



ARM investigators then asked Jose about purchasing a goat. Jose and RODRIGUEZ brought them to the goat pen which had no food available to them.⁴ Jose and RODRIGUEZ wrangled a goat and transported it to the kill area via truck (Florida tag # CCTV96). Once at the slaughter area, RODRIGUEZ hung the goat upside down by its hind legs without first rendering the animal insensitive to pain.⁵ RODRIGUEZ then slashed the goat's throat, left it to bleed out for a minute, and then, while still alive and screaming in pain, began the skinning process.⁶ He started around the goat's ankles then cut from its chest to its neck. While the goat was thrashing

¹ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(1).

² Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(1).

³ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

⁴ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.13.

⁵ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.24(2).

⁶ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

and clearly displaying signs of life, RODRIGUEZ killed the goat by twisting off its head.⁷ RODRIGUEZ then butchered the goat and packaged its meat. The price of the goat was \$160.00.



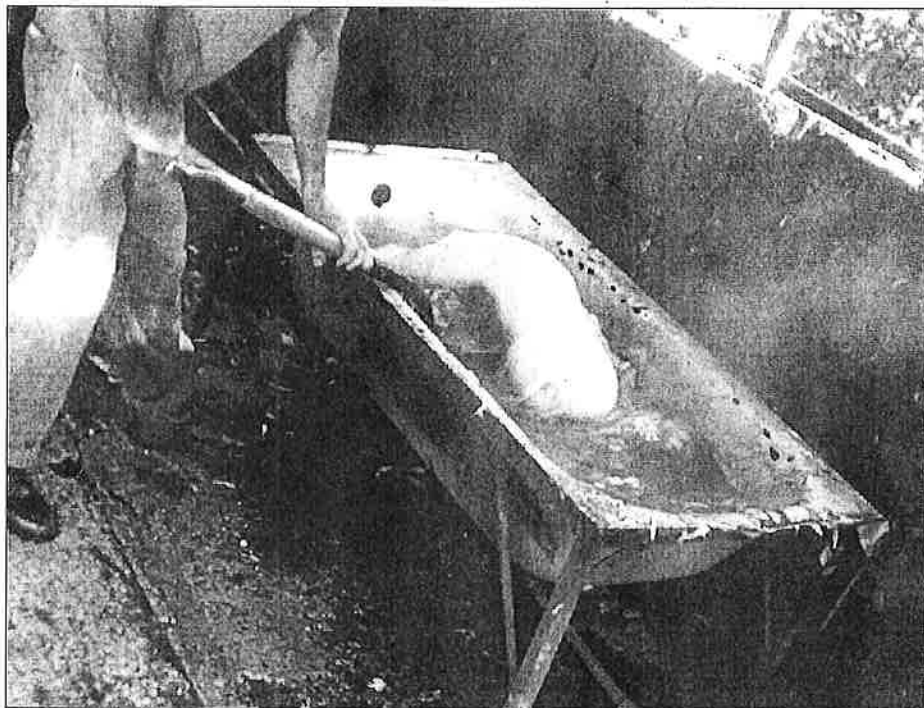
On December 30, 2014, at approximately 12:30pm, ARM investigators entered the Premises for a second time to capture and confirm evidence of illegal animal slaughter. They parked and walked directly over to the farm owner, SANTA ANA's, office quarters. SANTA ANA informed them that the farm was not killing today but instead transporting animals to and from the property. As ARM investigators were leaving the property, they saw Jose (butcher) who told them to come back tomorrow as they were transporting animals today.

On December 31, 2014, ARM investigators entered the Premises for a third time at approximately 12:30pm. After parking, they walked to SANTA ANA's (owner and decision maker) office quarters where he was sitting in front of a property surveillance camera system overseeing the farm activities. ARM investigators inquired about swine for sale. SANTA ANA ordered an unidentified male, but who is regularly in charge of the pig transport, to assist them. The unidentified male took ARM investigators to a large white double decker trailer (US DOT #035509 with "Jolley's" displayed on the side) with a connected weighing machine and

⁷ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

containing approximately 45 pigs. The pigs in the trailer had no food or water access.⁸ Jose and Henry (butchers) came over, grabbed a pig from the trailer and stomped and kneeled on the pig while tying rope around its feet.⁹ Jose and Henry then weighed the pig on the attached scale and completed the same routine for a second pig. While still tied, Henry inhumanely carried the pigs to the slaughter area.¹⁰ RODRIGUEZ (butcher) stabbed both pigs in the heart multiple times and let them bleed out for several minutes¹¹ before RODRIGUEZ and Henry placed them in boiling water while one pig clearly still showed signs of life.¹² The pigs were then butchered. The price of the two pigs was \$360.00.



Jose and Henry then walked to the goat pen to capture two goats to be slaughtered for human consumption. The goats were visibly ridden with disease and sores, had no food or water and were surrounded by rotting carcasses.¹³ There was a dead goat in the pen that was emaciated and possibly died from extreme dehydration and starvation.¹⁴ Henry and Jose captured two goats

⁸ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.13(2).

⁹ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(1).

¹⁰ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(1).

¹¹ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

¹² Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

¹³ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.13(2).

¹⁴ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

and inhumanely packed them inside chicken crates that were a mere one foot in height for transport to the slaughter area.¹⁵ This was done in the presence of two other customers who carried children. Once at the slaughter area, RODRIGUEZ and Henry hung the goats by their hind legs side by side.¹⁶ Jose began slicing one of the goat's throats and let it bleed out for a minute. While the goat was still alive, squirming and struggling, Jose sliced more of its neck, then twisted its head around and yanked it off while the animal was still alive.¹⁷ RODRIGUEZ killed the second goat in the same violent manner as Jose.¹⁸ Jose and RODRIGUEZ then completely skinned and butchered the goats for packaging. During the skinning process, Jose walked over and assisted Henry in stabbing a swine to death for another customer who was carrying a small child.¹⁹ The price of the two goats was \$320.00.



ARM investigators witnessed Henry collecting seven Guinea Fowl and chickens to slaughter. Henry brought them to the slaughter area and packed them together into a small chicken crate that measured on 9 ½ inches tall. One at a time, Henry pulled the birds' heads through a small hole in the crate and slowly cut their throats with a dull blade knife. He pushed their heads back down and let them bleed out next to each other while the others were still alive. He then water-boarded the animals with a high pressured hose thereby adding to their level of

¹⁵ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(1).

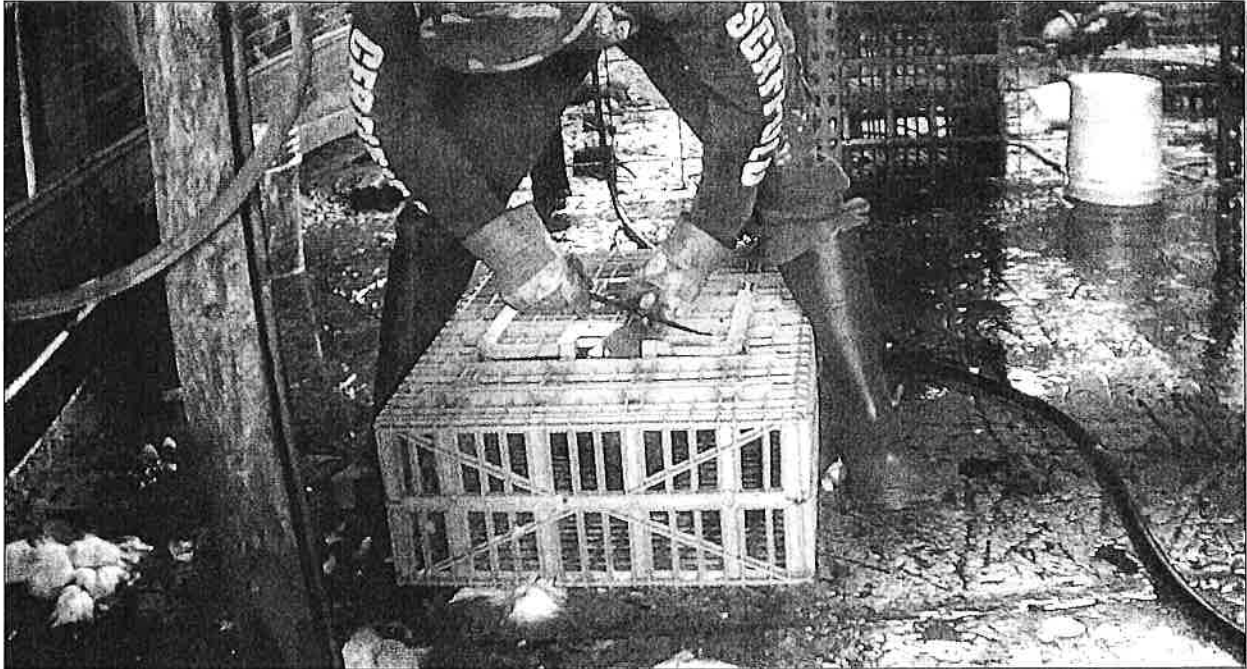
¹⁶ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.24(2).

¹⁷ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

¹⁸ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

¹⁹ Violation of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

torture.²⁰ Jose then de-feathered the birds and handed them to Henry who butchered them. The price for the birds was \$17.00.



On February 7, 2015, ARM investigators entered the Premises as customers for a fourth time at 12:00 p.m. to document inhumane and illegal slaughter and the purchase of animals for human consumption. ARM investigators met SANTA ANA and his wife (farm owners) in his office quarters, along with Jose (butcher), who told them that the farm workers were not slaughtering today. Instead, they were transporting animals to and from the property. They advised ARM investigators to come back tomorrow if they wanted animals slaughtered.

Your Affiant has viewed the video and audio recorded by your Co-Affiant during the slaughter of each of the animals described above.

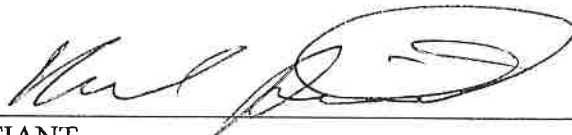
Aerial surveillance photographs of the Premises taken within the last ten days corroborated by physical surveillance clearly confirm the presence of livestock available for slaughter including goats and swine. The photographs clearly show that these animals are being deprived of necessary sustenance or shelter.

Based upon the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that the items described above as the Property are located in the Premises.

²⁰ Seven violations of Fla. Stat. §828.12(2).

[Handwritten signatures]

WHEREFORE, your Affiants pray that a Search Warrant be issued commanding the Director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, who is also known as the Sheriff of Miami-Dade County, Florida, or his Deputies, and the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, or any of his duly constituted agents, and all Investigators of the State Attorney of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, all with the proper and necessary assistance, to search the Premises above-described, and all spaces therein, and the curtilage thereof, any temporary structures, including but not limited to trailers, and/or any and all vehicles including those capable of animal transport, within the curtilage of the Premises above-described, making the search in the Daytime or the Nighttime, as the exigencies may demand or require, or on Sunday, and if the same be found on the Premises to seize the same as evidence.



AFFIANT
Detective Karel Rosario
Badge Number 30-5706
Miami-Dade Police Department


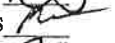



CO-AFFIANT
Richard Couto
Animal Recovery Mission

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the 14th day
of March, 2015.



JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

Judge's Initials 
Affiant's Initials 
Co-Affiant's Initials 



KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org

Operation Barker

KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org

Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 9:17 PM

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Detective Muhammad,

Thank you for meeting with me and your team to discuss Operation Barker on April 25, 2024.

Our first meeting when I transferred the case to your office, took place on December 26, 2023. As you know, time has passed and now been 121 days since The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has had this case and evidence in its possession. Due to this extensive time frame, I had expected our recent meeting would address the logistics relating to arrests, warrants and to finalize proposals and dates for the illegal slaughter farm to be raided. Instead, the main topics were to go over how to compile a case and seek advise, concerning Operation Barker.

Earlier this year, I personally delivered one of ARM's other cases, Operation LEBO (<https://animalrecoverymission.org/operations/illegal-slaughter-farms/operation-lebo/>), to the Saint Lucie County Sheriff's Office in December of 2023. This was an almost identical case to Operation Barker.

On February 14, 2024, that same illegal slaughter farm was raided, arrests executed, animals were rescued and transported to ARM Sanctuary, and the farm closed.

These types of cases are of a serious nature and could possibly be regarded as involving the worst animal cruelty case in the history of your County. In addition, and as you are aware, the illegal horse meat trade has entered your County limits. This puts at risk horse owners and their pets throughout your community.

As stated in December to your office, on average, a shocking estimate of fifty animals are tortured and butchered alive at Operation Barker every day. Alarmed by this statistic, ARM was expecting your response to be quite different than it's been, to say the least.

During our meeting on April 25th, sitting to my left was a Lieutenant named Brandon Cox, who voiced multiple concerns with our evidence and its credibility. Some of the issues brought to my attention included:

1. 'ARM's evidence was dated and old'..... Please recall that the thoroughbred who was inhumanely killed for her meat was documented on November 10, 2023. This was fresh evidence when we met on December 26th. All other felonies that ARM has filmed fall within the two-year statute of limitations and are prosecutable.

2. 'ARM can't prove that the horse meat purchased was not stamped or marked as horse meat'..... To clarify this concern, no one can confirm that it was stamped. At no time did the farm workers or owners mark or stamp the meat at the time of slaughter and sale. ARM's cameras rolled throughout the entire process and at no point will you see the butchers marking or stamping meat or anyone talking about stamping or marking. On the contrary, I had to ask if what I was buying was horse meat during meat buys. This was due to the meat NOT being marked as horse meat. With that

said, none of the meat (cow, goat, chicken, pig) is marked either, simply because they do not mark any of the meat sold.

3. The Lieutenant referred to the pig that was beaten with a 2x6 wood plank as being property and legally stunned before waking during the bleeding process. As stated, the Florida statutes legal and proper forms of stunning involves (a) the use of a proper caliber bullet or (b) using high volts of electricity or a captive bolt (stun gun). In no section of the Florida Statute or the Humane The Slaughter Act of the United States does it read that an animal beaten with a piece of old dirty wood is an acceptable method of stunning an animal before it is slaughtered.

It is also apparent in the video that even when illegally beaten, the pig never lost consciousness before being stabbed. This is clear in the video, although the Lieutenant disagreed.

4. "ARM investigators should have come to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office and gotten approval before looking into animal abuse at the slaughter farm"..... That said, in the State of Florida, civilians do, in fact, have the legal right to document and report crimes of any kind without the approval of law enforcement.

Once again, this case has been in your possession since December 26, 2023. Not once during my months of communication with you did, we discuss any of these concerns outlined above.

The Lieutenant also stated that the "SAO has concerns with the case and its evidence". However, two months ago, you informed me that the SAO had looked at the case, and a green light was given by the prosecutor to move ahead.

Seemingly, Lieutenant Cox is the lead and decision maker on this case. Is this correct? I was told months ago that you were the lead and had control over the case.

The above list concerns ARM, although we are confident this Lieutenant isn't the sole decision-maker regarding the outcome of this case.

As a specialist with these types of crimes and cases and as the main witness of evidence collected, I would like to request the name of the prosecutor who was briefed on this case to discuss further. If you or Lieutenant Cox would yourselves like to schedule a meeting for ARM to go over all evidence with the SAO that would be fine. Joining in the meeting with me, even better.

Since December, your office has been talking with me about becoming a CI to collect evidence for your office, and I agreed to this. I have been waiting for this opportunity for over four months.

In addition to these immediate concerns, in mid-April, I received a call from Detective Desmine to sign me as a CI. After learning of the second meeting date, April 25th, I asked if it would be possible to schedule the CI registration and make the meat purchase a day before our meeting.

Detective Desmine approved this request. I then responded that I would contact him on April 23rd to schedule a time and location to do the

Medical Vet

Reports sent to
Sheriff's office for
Evidence.

- Vet Reports - Hernando County

COPY

I have reviewed the undercover videos recorded by Animal Recovery Mission investigators taken on the following dates: 9/1/2022, 12/23/2022, 7/15/2023, 11/10/2023 and 4/24/2024.

I will reference the Humane Slaughter Act and American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for the Humane Slaughter of animals.

The Humane Slaughter Act requires that animals be rendered insensible to pain before they are slaughtered.

The Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act clearly states that "no conscious animal is dragged, shackled, hoisted or cut inappropriately".

Some signs of an appropriately stunned or unconscious animal are a lack of vocalization and that the animal appear dead with limp, floppy head.

My observations from the Animal Recovery Vet Evidence Video are as follows:

9/1/2022, 10 min. 8 sec.:

White pig with dark spots on hind end:

A rope noose placed on the pig's neck becomes excessively tight evidenced by the struggling and vocalization and eventual respiratory distress of the animal. The pig is slipping on the floor of the enclosure allowing undo injury and pain. The struggle and eventual death take place in front of herd mates causing undo stress to them.

The pig is allowed to struggle until it is bleeding from the mouth and is in respiratory distress and shock. It is sitting in a prone position appearing to be in severe distress trying to breathe. The pig is then hit with a large board which is causing undo pain and suffering. The pig was not insensible to pain before it was stabbed multiple times in the chest.

This slaughter procedure also presents multiple biosecurity hazards including: the unsanitary facility being used for the slaughter and the other pigs consuming the blood of the fallen pig.

12/23/2022, 10 sec.:

White and black pig:

The harness used to restrain the pig is excessively tight, evidenced by marks left on the pig's neck and abdomen after the pig's death. The pig is carried in this harness causing pain indicated by the excessive vocalization. The open mouth breathing or panting indicates stress and potential respiratory distress. There is no attempt to render the animal insensible to pain before it is stabbed and sprayed with the direct force of water. The animal is struggling, vocalizing and slipping while being restrained to endure this pain and suffering until it eventually dies. Also, the struggle and vocalization proximal to other herd mates causes unnecessary anxiety and stress for the other animals. This is an unsanitary environment that presents a biohazard.

May 8, 2024

I have reviewed Animal Recovery Mission's Operation Barker Vet Evidence Video 2 taken on May 3, 2024.

COPY

My observations from this video are as follows:

3 min. 17 sec. – Pink Pig

One of the pigs in this group is breathing rapidly which is a sign of stress and may indicate illness.

3 min. 42 sec. – Pink Pig

The pink pig in this group is hit multiple times in the head with the square end of a hammer. This is a failed attempt at stunning the pig - there is vocalization and struggling. Manually hammering an animal is not a legal form of stunning. The pink pig is knocked down is then struggling and restrained inhumanely while its throat is cut several times. This pig is not insensible to pain and obviously is suffering prior to its death. The blood and other excrement in the pen with the live animals present a biohazard for human consumption of this meat. It also is unhealthy for the other animals on the premises.

6 min. 34 sec. – Multiple turtles

These turtles are not provided with a clean, humane environment. Turtles need clean water and land area. They do not appear to have food available and are in a crowded environment. Turtles can carry and transmit salmonella to humans.

8 min. 8 sec. – White Goat

This young goat is deceased. It is a biohazard to humans and the other animals on the premises to leave this carcass in the sun and elements and where the other animals can access it.

DVM

7/15/2023, 2 min. 30sec:
Recumbent white pig:

This pig has an apparent stab wound. The animal is still struggling indicating it was clearly not insensible to pain before this primitive slaughter technique was used.

The attendant places his foot on the animal's body near the injury to restrain it causing unnecessary pain and suffering. Again, another pig in proximity, allowing for biohazard and herd mate stress.

11/10/2023, 4min. 14 sec.:

Dark bay horse with white star, stripe, snip and white on both front pasterns:

The handlers are not using proper restraint for a horse. The rope around the neck of the horse is painful and stressful to a horse. This is evidenced by the struggle that ensues when the animal is brought to be tied up to a tree. The tarp and other environmental stimulants are also causing unnecessary stress to this horse triggering its natural fight or flight response.

The weapon used to shoot the horse (a .22 long rifle) does not have the muzzle energy to render a horse. The AVMA recommends firearms capable of muzzle energies of 1,000 ft/lb for a 400lb or larger animal. A horse typically weighs 1,000 lbs. A .22 long rifle has a muzzle energy of 117 ft/lb.

The horse was not shot at close range, nor was it shot in the proper site to render an equine insensible to pain. This inevitably caused pain, distress and the eventual collapse of the horse. Once down, the horse was exhibiting signs of consciousness- struggling, vocalizing, eye movement and respiratory distress. The mare was not insensible to pain prior to the stabbing with a knife that was not sufficient to kill an animal of her size.

4/24/2024, 17min. 16 sec.:

Brown and White Goat:

The rope noose on the goat's neck was excessively tight evidenced by his vocalization and resistance.

The dogs chasing and barking at the goat was unnecessary and stressful to the goat.

The goat was not stunned or unconscious before being shackled and hoisted.

The goat clearly was struggling against the frame used to inhumanely restrain it while its throat was cut and bleeding. The direct pressure of the hose on the wound was most likely painful and stressful for this goat until it eventually bled out.

This farm in this evidence video practices inhumane, unsanitary and disrespectful animal slaughter. The animals that were slaughtered in these videos suffered unnecessary pain and distress before each of their deaths.

DVM



Operation Funny Biz Meeting

Muhammad, Sasha <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org> Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 2:46 PM
To: "Owens, Chris" <COwens@hernandosheriff.org>, "Woodward, Michael" <MWoodward@hernandosheriff.org>, "Whitlock, Daniel" <dwhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>, "Nichols, Nathan" <2141@hernandosheriff.org>, "Drake, Nathan" <ndrake@hernandosheriff.org>, "Rowe, Mandy" <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>, "Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov" <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, "Michael.piedad@fdac.gov" <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>, "mwilder@teamhcso.com" <mwilder@teamhcso.com>, "emjohnson@teamhcso.com" <emjohnson@teamhcso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, "Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com" <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>

Good Morning Everyone,

As previously discussed, information has been received from Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) in reference to a farm located within Hernando County, butchering animals for human consumption.

The following date has been set to further discuss the information provided and plan of action:

Who: (1) representative from your agency

When: April 25, 2024 at 0930 hours

Where: Hernando County Sheriff's Office District One Building located at 87 Veterans Ave, Brooksville, Florida

Due to limited sitting, please confirm your attendance by **FRIDAY April 19, 2024**.

(A Zoom link will later be provided for those who are not able to physically attend)

Detective Sasha Muhammad

Criminal Investigation Division, Hernando County Sheriff's Office

3527546830 | ext. 53723 | smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org



Woodward, Michael <MWoodward@hernandosheriff.org> Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 4:01 PM
 To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>, "Owens, Chris" <COwens@hernandosheriff.org>, "Whitlock, Daniel" <dwhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>, "Nichols, Nathan" <2141@hernandosheriff.org>, "Drake, Nathan" <ndrake@hernandosheriff.org>, "Rowe, Mandy" <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>, "Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov" <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, "Michael.piedad@fdac.gov" <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>, "mwilder@teamhcso.com" <mwilder@teamhcso.com>, "emjohnson@teamhcso.com" <emjohnson@teamhcso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, "Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com" <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>

I will be there

MARC WILDER <mwilder@teamhcso.com> Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 9:27 AM
 To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>
 Cc: "Cwens, Chris" <COwens@hernandosheriff.org>, "Woodward, Michael" <MWoodward@hernandosheriff.org>, "Whitlock, Daniel" <dwhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>, "Nichols, Nathan" <2141@hernandosheriff.org>, "Drake, Nathan" <ndrake@hernandosheriff.org>, "Rowe, Mandy" <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>, "Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov" <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, "Michael.piedad@fdac.gov" <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>, ERIC JOHNSON <emjohnson@teamhcso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, "Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com"

<Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>

We will attend.

Corporal Marc A. Wilder #5113
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Homeland Security Division
Agricultural and Environmental Crimes Unit
Office # 813-247-8635
Cell # 813-625-5741
Email: mwilder@hcsso.tampa.fl.us

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From: "Muhammad, Sasha" <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>
To: "Owens, Chris" <COwens@hernandosheriff.org>, "Woodward, Michael" <M'Woodward@hernandosheriff.org>, "Whitlock, Daniel" <dwhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>, "Nichols, Nathan" <2141@hernandosheriff.org>, "Drake, Nathan" <ncrake@hernandosheriff.org>, "Rowe, Mandy" <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>, "Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov" <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, "Michael.piedad@fdac.gov" <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>, "mwilder@teamhcsso.com" <mwilder@teamhcsso.com>, "ERIC JOHNSON" <emjohnson@teamhcsso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, "Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com" <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 2:46:37 PM
Subject: Operation Funny Biz Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External Source**. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

KUDC * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 2:07 PM

Thank you...I'll be there

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
 Founder, Lead Investigator

p: e:
 w: a:

Muhammad, Sasha <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org> Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 2:54 PM
 To: "Woodward, Michael" <MWoodward@hernandosheriff.org>, "Whitlock, Daniel" <dwhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>, "Nichols, Nathan" <2141@hernandosheriff.org>, "Drake, Nathan" <ndrake@hernandosheriff.org>, "Rowe, Mandy" <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>, "Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov" <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, "Michael.piedad@fdac.gov" <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>, "mwilder@teamhcso.com" <mwilder@teamhcso.com>, "emjohnson@teamhcso.com" <emjohnson@teamhcso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, "Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com" <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>

Good afternoon,

Jus: a reminder. This is still set for tomorrow. Hope to see you all there !

From: Muhammad, Sasha

Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 2:47 PM

To: Owens, Chris <COwens@hernandosheriff.org>; Woodward, Michael <MWoodward@hernandosheriff.org>; Whitlock, Daniel <dwhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>; Nichols, Nathan <2141@hernandosheriff.org>; Drake, Nathan <ndrake@hernandosheriff.org>; Rowe, Mandy <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>; 'Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov' <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>; 'Michael.piedad@fdac.gov' <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>; 'mwilder@teamhcso.com' <mwilder@teamhcso.com>; 'emjohnson@teamhcso.com' <emjohnson@teamhcso.com>; 'kudo@arminvestigations.org' <kudo@arminvestigations.org>; 'Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com' <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>

Subject: Operation Funny Biz Meeting

Good Morning Everyone,

MARC WILDER <mwilder@teamhcso.com>

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 9:02 PM

To: Sasha Muhammad <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Cc: Michael Woodward <MWoodward@hernandosheriff.org>, Daniel Whitlock <dwhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>, Nathan Nichols <2141@hernandosheriff.org>, Nathan Drake <ndrake@hernandosheriff.org>, Mandy Rowe <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>, Jacob merritt <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, Michael piedad <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>,

ERIC JOHNSON <emjohnson@teamhcsso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, Ashley tyer <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>

There will be 5 of us on the video link

Corporal Marc A. Wilder #5113
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Homeland Security Division
Agricultural and Environmental Crimes Unit
Office # 813-247-8635
Cell # 813-625-5741
Email: mwilder@hcsso.tampa.fl.us

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From: "Sasha Muhammad" <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>
To: "Michael Woodward" <MWoodward@hernandosheriff.org>, "Daniel Whitlock" <dvhitlock@hernandosheriff.org>, "Nathan Nichols" <2141@hernandosheriff.org>, "Nathan Drake" <ndrake@hernandosheriff.org>, "Mandy Rowe" <MRowe@hernandosheriff.org>, "Jacob merritt" <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, "Michael piedad" <Michael.piedad@fdac.gov>, "mwilder@teamhcsso.com" <mwilder@teamhcsso.com>, "ERIC JOHNSON" <erjohnson@teamhcsso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, "Ashley tyer" <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:54:20 PM
Subject: RE: Operation Funny Biz Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Source. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Good afternoon,

Muhammad, Sasha <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 8:37 AM

To: "Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov" <Jacob.merritt@fdacs.gov>, "mwilder@teamhcso.com" <mwilder@teamhcso.com>, "emjohnson@teamhcso.com" <emjohnson@teamhcso.com>, "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>, "Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com" <Ashley.tyer@myfwc.com>, "michael.piedad@fadacs.gov" <michael.piedad@fadacs.gov>

Belcw is the zoom link for the meeting:

Topic: OPERATION FUNNY BIZ MEETING

Time: Apr 25, 2024 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96826593548?pwd=ZWVPdUw2aGVGWmxBUiFaZW1WQVRBQT09>

Meeting ID:

Passcode:



KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Address Verified - Thank you!

1 message

Muhammad, Sasha <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>
To: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 4:23 PM

Sendio Opt-Inbox™

Your email to
Muhammad, Sasha
<smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>
has been delivered.

Thank you for verifying your email address.
As a trusted sender, your future messages will go directly
to Muhammad, Sasha's inbox.



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the email they want.

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Thanks,
Team Sendio

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "KUDO *" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org
Cc:
Bc:



KUDO: kudo@arminvestigations.org

Operation Barker

12 messages

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Mon, May 6, 2024 at 9:21 AM

To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

The bellow link is to this passed fridays visit to the ilegal uninspected slaughter farm in Brooksville, FL titled Operation Barker.

In the video the operators have graduated to killing animals with hammers.

Aso, conversations were had with the owner that they do not stamp or mark the horse meat sold at the farm, by any means, nor do they mark or stamp any of the meat sold onsite.

As seen in the video also shows the public, on a public trail, talking to us at the kill area from the public trail. This shows there is no expectation of privacy onsite. Conversations and sales that were had of wildlife being illegally poached out of state and brought into Brooksville, Florida for ritualistic sacrifice.

<https://vimeo.com/943035117>

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
Founder, Lead Investigator

p: e:
w: a:

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Mon, May 6, 2024 at 7:55 PM

To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Detective,

Did you receive my email sent this morning concerning the new video Evidence? Please confirm and respond via email please.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 6, 2024, at 9:21 AM, KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org> wrote:

Muhammad, Sasha <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>
To: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Tue, May 7, 2024 at 4:23 PM

Richard,

Yes, I have received your email.

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Wed, May 8, 2024 at 8:04 AM

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 4:23 PM, Muhammad, Sasha <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org> wrote:

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Wed, May 8, 2024 at 7:25 PM

The attached is a vet analysis of the crimes committed against the animals in Hernando County, Florida (Operation Barker).

This Doctor is a specialist in horse and farm animal slaughter in the State of Florida and a leading thoroughbred racehorse vet. Dr. Heidi Thomas has been used by Law Enforcement and State Attorneys Offices in multiple counties in Florida. Cases she has examined have gone to trial leading to convictions by jury and creating cases law.

She is available for comment, upon request.

The attached video link is the very same video link the doctor reviewed and based her findings on.

Video : <https://vimeo.com/940994056>

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
Founder, Lead Investigator

p: e:
w: a:

 **ARM 2024.docx**
16K

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Wed, May 8, 2024 at 9:00 PM

Video and vet analysis #2. Pig being illegally hammered. May 3, 2024

Attached is the Vet write up for May 3, 2024

VEDEO: <https://vimeo.com/943035117>

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
Founder, Lead Investigator

p: e:
w: a:

 **Arm Video 2 2024.docx**
15K

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Fri, May 10, 2024 at 7:47 AM

Good morning detective,

Last week you stated you were meeting with SAO pertaining to Operation Barker. Has your counties SAO approved or denied the case? Including the inhumane killing and illegal selling of horse meat from the race horse named Funny Biz?

As stated in the past, federal and state agencies (with arrest powers) have the evidence in this case and would like to move forward. These agencies have worked with ARM in the past and know the serious nature of this case.

Please let me know today as to where Hernando County stands on this case.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2024, at 9:00 PM, KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org> wrote:

<Arm Video 2 2024.docx>

Muhammad, Sasha <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>
To: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Fri, May 10, 2024 at 4:38 PM

Good Evening Richard,

Decisions have been made in reference to the course of action moving forward. The investigation remains on going and your assistance will be requested in the future. I have received all of your emails containing the new videos, these are also being addressed.

I'll be in touch. Thank You.

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Sat, May 11, 2024 at 9:19 AM

Understood.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2024, at 4:38 PM, Muhammad, Sasha <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org> wrote:

To: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

OK. Yikes.

--
Rachel Taylor
Director of Public Relations
Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)
Cell:(305) 807 6252
Email: taylor@arminvestigations.org



Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>
Personal Instagram: @miamidaze
Personal Facebook: Rachel Taylor <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=716041993>

The Animal Recovery Mission is a Non-Profit animal cruelty investigative organization based in Miami Beach, Florida. A defending force for the welfare of all animals, ARM is a vanguard organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide.

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Muhammad, Sasha" <SMuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Tue, May 14, 2024 at 1:55 PM

Detective,

As addressed by myself in the past to your office. You and the county prosecutor's office are aware that illegal meats are being sold and delivered across county lines, correct? Animals and meats from newly slaughtered animals (including horses) are being transported from Hernando County, FL to a minimum of 3 outside counties in Florida. Do to this The StateWide Prosecutors Office would be the primary legal department who would handle this case rather than your county's SAO Correct?

Also, as you know, ARM operatives have been and still are undercover at Operation Barker.

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
Founder, Lead Investigator

p: e:
w: a:



hernando Sheriff Detective... >

Contact with her will be made and I'll provide you with an update once completed.

Thank you.

After our meeting, I reached out to both federal and state agencies that ARM has worked many times with in the past. They have seen the evidence, and are ready to have to have The case transferred from your office to their departments. They both agreed the



Text Message





hernando Sheriff Detective... >

Good afternoon.

After our meeting, I made physical contact with our state attorneys office and showed the videos that have been provided.

I was instructed to contact a state attorney in Lake County in reference to moving forward to clarify, what is required to prosecute.

Contact with her will be made and I'll

*Detective
Sasha*



Text Message





hernando Sheriff Detective... >

Tue, Apr 23 at 1:57 PM

Hi detective, it's KUDO from Arm... I heard the undercover buy is called off are we still having a meeting on Thursday at 9:30 AM?

Tue, Apr 23 at 6:58 PM

We are still having the meeting on Thursday

Ok

Thu, May 2 at 4:39 PM

Good afternoon.



Text Message





hernando Sheriff Detective... >

Smuhammad@hernandosherriff.org

Thank you

No problem .

Tue, Apr 2 at 9:05 AM

Good morning detective... Wanted to see if you had time to meet with me tomorrow afternoon in your office... I have the raw footage and notarized statements for your case on the slaughterhouse... kudo



Text Message





hernando Sheriff Detective... >

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Text Message





hernando Sheriff Detective... >

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Text Message





hernando Sheriff Detective... >

agencies that ARM has worked many times with in the past. They have seen the evidence, and are ready to have to have The case transferred from your office to their departments. They both agreed the abuse towards the animals on this property is of epic proportion, and can no longer wait for enforcement. Please let me know at the beginning of next week, if possible on the outcome.



Text Message





KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

ARM- Horse Slaughter Case

1 message

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 9:57 PM

Detective,

In reference from our phone conversation last week. I have gathered some information you may or may not yet have pertaining to the illegal Slaughter Farm case in Brooksville, FL.

I also have the signed and notarized statements for your files from ARM Undercover investigators as well as a drive that holds all RAW video footage from our visits to the farm. I could deliver this to you the week of 03-19-2024.

The following are the departments and contacts that have been on previous illegal slaughter farm raids.

1. USDA (FSIS division) Thomas Berry 561-284-1054
2. Florida Department of Agriculture (Law Enforcement) James Kussler 941-915-8709
3. DEP
4. County Zoning Dept
5. Outside County AG Units
6. County Health Dept
7. County Animal Control

Note: Detective Clay Mangrum Saint Lucie Sheriffs Office (772-397-3022) is currently the lead on Operation LEBO. He just led a raid on a similar property. Reach out to him if you'd like.

OPERATION LEBO

February 12, 2024 The Saint Lucie County Sheriffs Office conducted a similar raid stemming from an ARM undercover case in Fort Pierce, FL.

All departments met at the sheriffs office where a briefing took place at 6am. ARM answered questions and concerns.

The farm was raided with SRT units followed by uniformed officers and crime scene. I ID the people I was undercover with prior to arrest.

The last unit to enter was ARM Sanctuary. Animals on site were photographed and counted for the case. A animal release form was given to the farm owners with a total of each animal type and number totals. The owner signed the animals over to ARM Sanctuary as the new legal owners.

The animals were then caged loaded and transported to the ARM Compound and put in quarantine. All animals are always watered, fed and vetted upon entry and considered state evidence until the remainder of the criminal cases.

ARM witness are now working with SAO on this case.

Do to the Saint Lucie Sheriffs Office and ARM working closely the case and raid went very smoothly. The one area that wasn't reorganized was media after arrests were made. These cases are top story with local news and through out the state. Both sides agreed, Sheriff PIO and ARM should have worked closer so both are on the same page. I'm willing to meet anytime with your sheriff and or PIO.

Below is a link to the case titled Operation LEBO:

<https://animalrecoverymission.org/operations/illegal-slaughter-farms/operation-lebo-media/operation-lebo-tv-news-coverage/>

Any other questions just reach out.

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
Founder, Lead Investigator

p: e:
w: a:

*- No responds from
Sasha --- she got
E mail and Read.*

Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2024 21:57:57 -0400

Subject: ARM- Horse Slaughter Case

[Message body removed.]

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 12:20 PM

Hi detective,

I'll be in Hernando County beginning of next week. I can drop off the raw footage and notarized statements for your file on the horse slaughter case. Anything else I can do for you while I'm there just let me know. If there's a better day for you maybe Tuesday or Wednesday, I can swing by on one of those days.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 13, 2024, at 4:23 PM, Muhammad, Sasha <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org> wrote:

<Original Message>

- no responds from
Sasha

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To "Muhammad, Sasha" <smuhammad@hernandosheriff.org>

Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 8:53 PM

Hi detective... Let me know if you are available on Wednesday to meet for a bit.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 27, 2024, at 12:21 PM, KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org> wrote:

Hi detective,

- no responds
from Sasha

Emails / Text Messages

Sargent OWENS



+1 (352) 585-7053 > -2024-

Hi Sergeant... I've put a few emails and messages out to detective Mohammed and having a hard time getting in touch... I'm coming into Brooksville this week and wanted to drop off the raw video and our statements on the slaughter case and see where things are at as it's been over 90 days now since we met. Let me know if I can come by and have a quick meeting and drop off the material possibly tomorrow or Thursday..... thank you

Text
Sargent
OWENS
Hernando
county
↑
Sargent of
Detectives



iMessage





+1 (352) 585-7053 >

Good afternoon, she should be reaching out to you today there has been quite a bit of things going on, but none the less we should be getting some more things rolling and our vice detective should be getting you signed up soon. We are working on a game plan and avenue of attack with this.

Thank you ...I appreciate it

You're welcome



iMessage



3:22



+1 (352) 585-7053 >

You're welcome

Wed, Apr 3 at 3:22 PM

I'm holding off coming up there until next week... Maybe we can do the buy on Wednesday and I can drop off the footage and the notarized statements at the same time... It's pretty easy the whole operation should take about an hour... Just let me know. Sorry I haven't heard from the detective.

Delivered



iMessage



Emails / Text messages

Detective Rezmir

4:16

Detective Dezmin
↓ cell (HCSF)

Copy

+1 (352) 238-8372 >

Tue, Apr 23 at 12:16 PM

register AS U.C.

Text to Be
Signed as
Confidential
Informant
Houseboat
BUY.

Hey, it's Kudo from ARM in reference to the illegal slaughterhouse buy. I'm scheduled to meet with the owner of the farm tomorrow between 3 and 4 in Brooksville. Would you have time to sign me up at around 1 o'clock?

I'm not sure if we're going to do the buy right now. Might have to get with Sasha and see what's going on with the case

Ok

Text Message



4:16

To Rog AS V.C.



+1 (352) 238-8372 >

Tue, Apr 23 at 12:16 PM

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I'm not sure if we're going to do the buy right now. Might have to get with Sasha and see what's going on with the case

Ok



Text Message





Florida Dept of Ag.

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Horse meat buy

3 messages

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: Michael.Piedad@fdacs.gov

Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 2:30 PM

Good afternoon,

I have a horse meat buy set up from the farm in Brooksville. They're going to be delivering the horsemeat to the Tampa area and the Orlando area. Can your agency assist?

Sent from my iPhone

Piedad, Michael <Michael.Piedad@fdacs.gov>
To: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Tue, Jun 4, 2024 at 3:54 PM

Good afternoon,

We will not be assisting you or ARM. I would advise you not to conduct any horse meat buys.

Respectfully,

Michael Piedad
Special Agent
Bureau of Investigative Services
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

(941) 467-4560 Cell
Michael.Piedad@FDACS.gov

24059 Childs Road
Brooksville, Florida 34601-4203
www.FDACS.gov

Please note that Florida has a broad public records law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes). Most written communications to or from state employees are public records obtainable by the public upon request. Emails sent to me at this email address may be considered public and will only be withheld from disclosure if deemed confidential pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida.

-----Original Message-----

From: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 2:30 PM
To: Piedad, Michael <Michael.Piedad@fdacs.gov>
Subject: Horse meat buy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
To: "Piedad, Michael" <Michael.Piedad@fdacs.gov>

Tue, Jun 11, 2024 at 11:54 PM

Good evening, Michael,

Thank you for your recommendation concerning Arm's Undercover investigation into Operation Barker. Let me remind you that the Animal Recovery Mission conducts, undercover investigations in illegal horse slaughter facilities throughout the State of Florida and beyond and has been doing so for 15 years.

We will continue our undercover operations until the illegal slaughter farm in Brooksville, Florida is permanently closed.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 4, 2024, at 3:54 PM, Piedad, Michael <Michael.Piedad@fdacs.gov> wrote:

>

> Good afternoon,