

From Palm Beach officials on Lists
of People and Departments in PB Raids.
- with Lee County-Hodges

From: Hansen-Morency, Mary B Hansen-MorencyM@pbso.org

Subject: RE: Animal Control Assignments

Date: October 9, 2015 at 5:21 PM

To: David Walesky dwalesky@pbcgov.org, Kovacs, Cassana M KovacsC@pbso.org, Senecal, Terrance Charles SenecalT@pbso.org, Dianne Sauve dsauve@pbcgov.org, Shannon Fox SXfox@pbcgov.org, kudo@arminvestigations.org

I just talked to Sgt C White of Hendry County Sheriff's Office. He is also the current President of the FACIU (Florida Agricultural Crimes Intelligence Unit) and he stated that he talked to Collier County Sheriff's Office and Lee County Sheriff's Office, and Hendry County Sheriff's Office will all be there on Tuesday. They will be meeting on Monday and will call me to confirm and then I will find out exactly the type of trailers they are bringing.

Detective M. Hansen-Morency
Agricultural Crimes Unit
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
38840 SR 80
Belle Glade, Florida 33430
561-992-1133
hansen-morencym@pbso.org<mailto:hansen-morencym@pbso.org>

From: David Walesky [dwalesky@pbcgov.org]

Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 13:50

To: Kovacs, Cassana M; Senecal, Terrance Charles; Hansen-Morency, Mary B; Dianne Sauve; Shannon Fox; 'kudo@arminvestigations.org'

Subject: FW: Animal Control Assignments

Hello All,

The below information details our agencies staff assignments at this point. Please remember that these people still believe they are responding to help with a puppy mill raid in Miami-Dade and will not know the truth until Tuesday morning.

It would be ideal if the PBSO's small horse trailer could plan to respond to Medina farms, and if ARM can plan to drop off some of their chicken crates to the Medina farm. That will give our smallest team something to do while we focus our remaining resources on clearing the other 2 properties first.

All other available trailers can be spread out between Garcia Farms and the Pasofino Farms. Our own stock trailer, along with our portable corral set up, will be directed to the Pasofino Farms.

Let me know if there are any questions or concerns. Thanks.

Dave
(561) 797-9105

Capt. David Walesky
Operation's Manager, Field Services
Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control
7100 Belvedere Road.
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411
(561) 233-1212 - Office
(561) 233-1277 - Fax

From: David Walesky

Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 11:37 AM

To: 'grossog@pbso.org'

Subject: Animal Control Assignments

Hello Sgt. Grosso,

The first couple names from each team will be at the staging area at approximately 06:30. The remaining names from each team will respond directly to their respective properties once given the all clear to come in.

We anticipate the property on Collecting Canal Road to be the most labor intensive, so our current plan is to have Team 1 join Team 2 when they are done at Garcia Farms. Once the property is cleared at Collecting Canal Road, then everyone will move over to C Road and finish up there.

ACC Team 1 will respond to Garcia Farms 15703 Orange Blvd.

- Lt. Misti Scaggs, Field Supervisor Staging Area
- Sgt. Jennifer Batchelor, Investigator Staging Area
- Sgt. Deborah Coutts Directly to property
- Ofc. Wayne Brandes Directly to property
- Ofc. Michael Grant Directly to property
- Ofc. Jeff Hepburn Directly to property

ACC Team 2 will respond to Pasofino Farms 14873 Collecting Canal Road

- Lt. Wesley White, Field Supervisor Staging Area
- Sgt. Suzy Dannelevitz, Investigator Staging Area
- Sgt. Paul Kelso Directly to property
- Sgt. Nicole King Directly to property
- Ofc. Chase Cook Directly to property
- Ofc. Adam Moulton Directly to property
- Ofc. Michael Knowles Directly to property
- Ofc. Patrick Prentice Directly to property

ACC Team 3 will respond to Medina Farms 2151 C Road

- Lt. Michele Fox, Field Supervisor Staging Area
- Sgt. Max Sharpe, Investigator Staging Area
- Dr. Kristen Coates, Veterinarian Staging Area
- Sgt. JoAnn Holloway Directly to property
- Ofc. Catania Black Directly to property

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks

Dave

Cell # (561) 797-9105

Capt. David Waleskv

Operation's Manager, Field Services
Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control
7100 Belvedere Road.
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411
(561) 233-1212 – Office
(561) 233-1277 – Fax

Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

From: Margot Ryan margot@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Fwd: Meeting
Date: January 11, 2018 at 10:02 PM
To: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org



----- Forwarded message -----
From: Hodges, Randy <rhodges@sheriffleefl.org>
Date: Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 10:26 AM
Subject: RE: Meeting
To: Margot Ryan <margot@arminvestigations.org>

yes

-----Original Message-----
From: Margot Ryan [mailto:margot@arminvestigations.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Hodges, Randy
Subject: Meeting

Hi Sargent,

Kudo said that Thursday, March 3rd works for him. 11am right?
Thank you

Margot Ryan
Animal Recovery Mission
786 346 1910
www.animalrecoverymission.org

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

--
Margot Ryan

Animal Recovery Mission
786 346 1910
Margot@arminvestigations.org
www.animalrecoverymission.org



From: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: RE: Follow up
Date: March 22, 2016 at 6:52 PM
To: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Cc: Margot Ryan margot@arminvestigations.org

Good Afternoon,

Your welcome, DFC T. Lewis and I delivered the reports and the video to the state attorneys office for review and expect to hear back from them soon.

Randy

Sergeant Randy Hodges # 96-168
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Agricultural Crimes Unit

From: KUDO * [mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:10 PM
To: Hodges, Randy
Cc: Margot Ryan
Subject: Follow up

Sargent,

I would like to thank you for meeting with me on March 3rd at your office along with the four other officers who took part in the meeting. We discussed two of ARM's current investigations which were labeled as Operation Rancho Santa Barbara and Operation Rancho Delicioso. I would also like to follow up on the meetings with the State Attorney and if you had the chance to involve them yet. If you did already meet, i would be very interested in knowing how it went and if they had any additional questions that they would like ARM to answer.

My other question is what is our next step in the procedure, and is there anything I and ARM's staff can assist with to move forward?

If you have any questions on the two reports or the hard drive that was given to you during our meeting, please feel free to contact me so I can answer any questions or concerns you or the State Attorney may have.

Again, thank you so much for taking your time to meet with me, and I hope we can move forward with taking action.

Best Regards,

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
Founder, Lead Investigator

[p:\(305\) 494 2225](tel:3054942225) | [e:kudo@arminvstigations.org](mailto:kudo@arminvstigations.org) | [w: www.animalrecoverymission.org](http://www.animalrecoverymission.org) **a:** P.O Box 403344 Miami Beach FL, 33140

Copyright ©2014 All Rights Reserved

richard couto

To: Hodges, Randy
Re: Follow up

March 22, 2016 at 7:35 PM

RC

Sounds good!

[See More from Hodges, Randy](#)

Hodges, Randy

To: KUDO * Cc: Margot Ryan
RE: Follow up

March 22, 2016 at 6:52 PM

All Mail - Google

HR

Good Afternoon,

Your welcome, DFC T. Lewis and I delivered the reports and the video to the state attorneys office for review and expect to hear back from them soon.

Randy

Sergeant Randy Hodges # 96-168
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Agricultural Crimes Unit

[See More from KUDO *](#)

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

KUDO *

To: Randy Hodges Cc: Margot Ryan
Follow up

March 22, 2016 at 6:10 PM

All Mail - Google

K

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Re: 2 cases if u want them
Date: September 30, 2016 at 10:16 AM
To: Kaile, William - FSIS William.Kaile@fsis.usda.gov



Hey Bill,

Have time to look at the 2 cases I sent you? If you don't have interest I can
On Sep 22, 2016, at 3:50 PM, KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org> wrote:

Hey Bill,

Wanted to see if you got a chance to look over the videos and ARMs cases in Lee County , FL?

The crimes against animals in the properties are pretty extreme. I have full reports on both sites if your interested. Either way let me know what you think.

Hope your doing well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 30, 2016, at 9:41 AM, Kaile, William - FSIS <William.Kaile@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

Richard,
No worries I know you are busy. I will watch the videos and look into these matters. Thanks for the information.

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

From: KUDO * [mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org]
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 1:32 PM
To: Kaile, William - FSIS
Subject: 2 cases if u want them

Bill,

First please accept my apologies for the last time we spoke. At my request a meeting was set with you and your team that I missed. I logged it into my phone incorrectly as a reminder. It was also during a time when my personal home and 2 locations of my business were being moved. Things were very much out of whack and unorganized at that time. It is unlike me to miss meetings and am very sorry.

On another topic, ARM has been undercover on 2 illegal slaughter farms in Florida where animals are being butchered alive and sold illegally for human consumption. They are also cooking and selling the meat onsite along with selling to local stores for resale. Please let me know if you are interested in taking action on the farms?

The following are 2 videos of the farms ongoing. Please all details of these 2 investigations must be kept privet

Farm 1 Password: arm1 <https://vimeo.com/172827366>

Farm 2 Password: arm2 <https://vimeo.com/172826888>

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Re: 2 cases if u want them
Date: September 30, 2016 at 1:07 PM
To: Kaile, William - FSIS William.Kaile@fsis.usda.gov



Ok..... We r in deep in both places as u saw from the videos..... He or she can come in with us

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2016, at 11:15 AM, Kaile, William - FSIS <William.Kaile@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

I have been in PR working a case; however, I had a investigator look into those places just not sure what he found out yet.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2016, at 10:18 AM, KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org> wrote:

Hey Bill,

Have time to look at the 2 cases I sent you? If you don't have interest I can go a different rout.

On Sep 22, 2016, at 3:50 PM, KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org> wrote:

Hey Bill,

Wanted to see if you got a chance to look over the videos and ARMs cases in Lee County , FL?

The crimes against animals in the properties are pretty extreme. I have full reports on both sites if your interested. Either way let me know what you think.

Hope your doing well.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 30, 2016, at 9:41 AM, Kaile, William - FSIS <William.Kaile@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

Richard,

No worries I know you are busy. I will watch the videos and look into these matters. Thanks for the information.

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

From: KUDO * [mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org]

Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 1:32 PM

To: Kaile, William - FSIS

Subject: 2 cases if u want them

Bill,

First please accept my apologies for the last time we spoke. At my request a meeting was set with you and your team that I missed. I logged it into my phone incorrectly as a reminder. It was also during a time when my personal home and 2 locations of my business were being moved. Things were very much out of whack and unorganized at that time. It is unlike me to miss meetings and am very sorry.

On another topic, ARM has been undercover on 2 illegal slaughter farms in Florida where animals are being butchered alive and sold illegally for human consumption. They are also cooking and selling the meat onsite along with selling to local stores for resale. Please let me know if you are interested in taking action on the farms?

The following are 2 videos of the farms ongoing. Please all details of these 2 investigations must be kept privet

Farm 1 Password: arm1 <https://vimeo.com/172827366>

Farm 2 Password: arm2 <https://vimeo.com/172826888>

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil

From: **Hodges, Randy** rhodges@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: SAO warrant request denial
Date: April 17, 2017 at 9:11 AM
To: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org



Richard,

After reviewing your email, I would like to correct several inaccurate details that you have stated in your email. The Lee County Sheriff's Office's at no time made any indications that an investigation would not be made into the allegations ARM was claiming against Rancho Delicious or Rancho Santa Barbara. In fact, the information was documented in an information report and submitted to the State Attorney's Office with all supporting documents that ARM provided the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

After several weeks, the Lee County Sheriff's Office received a written response from the SAO stating the allegations ARM had documented in the form of audio/video along with written/photographs, did not support probable cause for any arrests. In fact, the SAO determined no animal cruelty had occurred. DFC Lewis spoke with you via a phone conversation and provided you this information along with the case number and the SAO's name.

As of this date and time, I am not at liberty to discuss any active ongoing investigations that the Lee County Sheriff's Office is conducting with you or anyone from the USDA. If you would like a copy of the LCSO information report, I have provided you the Call For Service number and the LCSO Public Information Officer's phone number so you may request a copy.

If for any reason the Lee County Sheriff's Office determines the need for assistance from ARM or the USDA, we will reach out and make an official request for such assistance. Thank you for your time and concerns. I can assure you that the Lee County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Crimes Unit investigates all claims of animal cruelty and will pursue any and all persons found violating these laws.

Thank you,

Sergeant Randy Hodges # 96-168

CFS # 16-124188

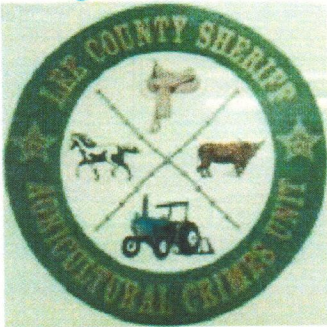
LCSO Public Information Officer: 239-477-1340

Sergeant Randy Hodges 96-168
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Agricultural Crimes Unit

Office: 239-258-3695

Cell: 239-691-9062

rhodges@sheriffleefl.org



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Fwd: CFS 16-124188
Date: April 17, 2017 at 4:29 PM
To:



Randy,

Just confirming the CFS # that was included in your responds to me this morning. The PIO email that I received is bellow

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pickering, Colby" <CPickering@sheriffleefl.org>
Subject: CFS 16-124188
Date: April 17, 2017 at 3:14:59 PM EDT
To: "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Good Afternoon,
There is no report in our system for the CFS 16-124188. Thanks and have a good day.

Sincerely,
Colby Pickering 15-047
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Public Information Office
14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy,
Fort Myers, FL 33912
(239)-477-1339

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Lee County cruelty case
Date: April 26, 2017 at 9:27 PM
To: Randy Hodges rhodges@sheriffleefl.org



Dear Sargent Hodges,

Thank you for responding to my email dated April 13, 2017. Since receiving your response, ARM reached out to the Lee County PIO and have received the information from that department containing the report you spoke of. Please excuse the error in our previous email sent to you on April 13, 2017. At the time the email was composed we lacked to attach the new findings.

As previously relayed in our email, following the conveyance and discussion of ARM's first report with you, ARM resumed undercover work at Rancho Delicias. And, as stated in our previous email, operations at the "ranch" have become decidedly more abusive and violent towards the animals. Thus ARM has accumulated new evidence of horrific and illegal activity, unseen by either the Lee County Sheriff's Department or the Lee County State Attorney's office.

We are attaching a small sample of the horrendous activities against animals at Rancho Delicias. As a seasoned sargent of the Lee County sheriff's department agriculture unit, ARM is sure you will see a clear violation of state animal cruelty laws that have occurred at Rancho Delicias in Lee County over the past months. Additionally, this new report provides ARM's new evidence of the heinous and illegal killings and sale of horsemeat at Rancho Delicias.

We are confident you are aware of the statute making possession of non USDA uninspected horsemeat (a statute that was founded and constructed as the result of ARM investigators' documentation of horses being killed in the State of Florida for human consumption). Since the 2010 passing of this statute, there have been 4 felony arrests in the state of Florida. All arrests stemmed from relationships and operations that ARM operatives conducted with arrestees, prior to transferring the evidence to local enforcement. Without a doubt, ARM has the most seasoned individuals within this investigatory realm. Additionally as stated in our previous email, as well as since our initial in-person meeting at your department on March 3, 2016, ARM operatives have further fortified trusting relationships with the owners and workers at Rancho Delicias, and based on this will be able to purchase horsemeat for human consumption from the property accompanied by an official agent.

Given the documented evidence already provided by ARM, as well as established relationships, we hope that the Lee County sheriff's department will allow ARM to assist with moving forward on the illegal horse killings and the other felony animal cruelty crimes being committed against animals on the property of Rancho Delicias, as we will certainly take part in all areas we can be of assistance.

Myself, and other ARM operatives are at the Lee County sheriff's department's disposal. We are willing to meet with you, superiors and prosecutors at the Lee County state attorney's office at anytime to discuss the crimes being committed to the animals of Lee County. Also, as stated in our first report, ARM has handled up to 140 similar cases in the state of Florida. All our cases were handled by county, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecutors, all of whom have offered their assistance on these Lee County cases. Their information is in the first report that you received on March 3, 2016. If you or SAO have difficulty contacting these officials, please contact me and I will gladly connect you.

Ultimately, the longer that time goes by the greater the numbers of animals (including horses) will suffer the same horrific cruelty as seen on the attached film. You have stated the Lee County sheriff's department takes animal cruelty crimes and human protection very seriously, as do we at the Animal Recovery Mission. I am hopeful that after reviewing our emails and new evidence, that we will work together on helping protect the tortured animals of Lee County, as well as the humans who are being put at risk. We look forward to moving forward together. On behalf of the animals and humans of Lee County, as well as us here at ARM, thank you for your time and consideration.

VIDEO EVIDENCE: <https://vimeo.com/214941003> Password: arm1

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Fwd: CFS 16-124188
Date: April 17, 2017 at 4:29 PM
To:



Randy,

Just confirming the CFS # that was included in your responds to me this morning. The PIO email that I received is below.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pickering, Colby" <CPickering@sheriffleefl.org>
Subject: **CFS 16-124188**
Date: April 17, 2017 at 3:14:59 PM EDT
To: "kudo@arminvestigations.org" <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Good Afternoon,
There is no report in our system for the CFS 16-124188. Thanks and have a good day.

Sincerely,
Colby Pickering 15-047
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Public Information Office
14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy,
Fort Myers, FL 33912
(239)-477-1339

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Complaint- Action Request
Date: April 27, 2017 at 12:30 PM
To: Kaile, William - Fsis william.kaile@fsis.usda.gov



Complaint- Action Request

Dear Mr Kaile,

Stemming from our first investigation we spoke of months ago on a Custom Exempt slaughter house in Lee County, Florida named "Rancho Delicias" the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) is once again reaching out to you for assistance. ARM resumed undercover work at Rancho Delicias. ARM operations at the "ranch" have become decidedly more abusive and violent towards the animals. Thus ARM has accumulated new evidence of horrific and illegal activity, unseen by either the USDA, Lee County Sheriff's Department or the Lee County State Attorney's office .

We are attaching a small sample of the horrendous activities against animals at Rancho Delicias. ARM is sure you will see a clear violation of federal animal cruelty laws that have occurred at Rancho Delicias in Lee County over the past months. Additionally, this new report provides ARM's new evidence of the heinous and illegal killings and sale of horsemeat at Rancho Delicias.

Given the documented evidence already provided by ARM, as well as established relationships, we hope that the USDA will allow ARM to assist with moving forward on the illegal horse killings and the other felony animal cruelty crimes being committed against animals on the property of Rancho Delicias, as we will certainly take part in all areas we can be of assistance.

Myself, and other ARM operatives are at the USDAs disposal. We are willing to meet with you, superiors and prosecutors at the USDA office at anytime to discuss the crimes being committed to the animals of Lee County. Also, as stated in our first report, ARM has handled up to 140 similar cases in the state of Florida and beyond. All our cases were handled by county, state and federal law enforcement, and state and federal prosecutors, all of whom have offered their assistance on these Lee County cases. If the USDA have difficulty contacting these officials, please contact me and I will gladly connect you.

Ultimately, the longer that time goes by the greater the numbers of animals (including horses) will suffer the same horrific cruelty as seen on the attached film. I am hopeful that after reviewing our emails and new evidence, that we will work together on helping protect the tortured animals of Lee County, as well as the humans who are being put at risk. We look forward to moving forward together. On behalf of the animals and humans of Lee County, as well as us here at ARM, thank you for your time and consideration.

VIDEO EVIDENCE: <https://vimeo.com/214941003> Password: arm1

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: lee County, FL Slaughter House
Date: May 3, 2017 at 5:26 PM
To: william.kaile@fsis.usda.gov



Hey Bill,

I just wanted to confirm that you received the email sent last week containing the new video from The slaughter house in Lee County?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kaile, William - FSIS William.Kaile@fsis.usda.gov
Subject: Automatic reply: lee County, FL Slaughter House
Date: May 3, 2017 at 5:26 PM
To: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org



I will be out of the office until 9/19/2016.

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



From: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: Re: Investigation follow up
Date: May 4, 2016 at 11:49 AM
To: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org

We just received a response back from the SAO and are completing our report and will inform you when you may receive a copy of the final completed report.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2016, at 10:28 AM, KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org<mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org>> wrote:

Sergeant Hodges,

As time passes, I have not heard from you or the State regarding the cases we spoke about a couple months ago. Please inform me of the status of these cases and where we are at with them. These are very serious cases and we cannot let time slip by. I appreciate your efforts and would like to know what we or ARM can do to proceed.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Richard "Kudo" Couto

Animal Recovery Mission
Founder, Lead Investigator
p:(305) 494 2225<tel:(305)+494+2225> | e:kudo@arminvestigations.org<mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org> | w:
www.animalrecoverymission.org<http://www.animalrecoverymission.org/> a: P.O Box 403344 Miami Beach FL, 33140

Copyright ©2014 All Rights Reserved

*****IMPORTANT MESSAGE*****

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Lee County Animal Cruelty Case
Date: May 4, 2017 at 3:22 PM
To: Randy Hodges rhodges@sheriffleefl.org



Sargent,

This email is to ensure that you received ARMs email sent to you on 4-26-2017. In that email was new evidence of violent crimes against animals in Lee County, FL that ARM is requesting action be taken on. Once again we are attaching our video evidence to this message. Thank you in advance for responding to this email.

EVIDENCE: <https://vimeo.com/214941003> Password: arm1

From: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: RE: Lee County Animal Cruelty Case
Date: May 4, 2017 at 3:28 PM
To: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org



We did receive it, thanks.

Sergeant Randy Hodges 96-168
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Agricultural Crimes Unit
Office: 239-258-3695
Cell: 239-691-9062
rhodges@sheriffleefl.org

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

From: KUDO * [mailto:kudo@arminvestigations.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Hodges, Randy <rhodges@sheriffleefl.org>
Subject: Lee County Animal Cruelty Case

Sargent,

This email is to ensure that you received ARMs email sent to you on 4-26-2017. In that email was new evidence of violent crimes against animals in Lee County, FL that ARM is requesting action be taken on. Once again we are attaching our video evidence to this message. Thank you in advance for responding to this email.

EVIDENCE: <https://vimeo.com/214941003> Password: arm1

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject:
Date: June 6, 2017 at 8:19 PM
To: * Kudo kudo@arminvestigations.org



Sargent Hodges,

All from ARM that attended the meeting held at the Lee County State Attorneys office on Monday June 5, 2017 would like to thank you for your time, patience, and support.

As stated to you and assistant state attorney Ziggs and yourself over a lengthy period of time ARM workers have developed a strong relationship with the owners and workers in the Lee County Slaughter Farms. Entering the farms and viewing illegal horse meat sales and felony animal cruelty is now done effortlessly by myself and supporters. We were sorry to hear from you that your department is experiencing road blocks in collecting the same evidence.

As stated numerous times in the past to you, ARM is at your disposal in putting an end to the illegal animal torture and illegal horse meat sales in your county.

We are pleased that Assistant State Attorney Ziggs saw felony animal cruelty violations in the ARM undercover videos shown during our meeting and that he has agreed to prosecute based on ARM video evidence shown. As Mr. Ziggs stated in the meeting that search and arrest warrants would be written up we at ARM will be available upon request to give official statements and testimony of our experiences in the slaughter farms in Lee County, FL.

You stated in your past email to me that the Lee County State Attorney saw no violation of animal cruelty based on ARM's footage in the Lee County Slaughter Farms shot on 2015/2016 (ie. black cow killing). You being in full command of this case for the Lee County Sheriff's Department and the head Agriculture crimes unit I'm sure share in our of the Lee County State Attorneys office has agreed to prosecute the offenders but also move ahead with the development of each and arrest warrants based on ARM's footage and testimony.

As stated in the past ARM has handed this same type of evidence to numerous county law enforcement, federal agents Florida State Attorneys and federal prosecutors. We at ARM are at your disposal and upon your request will help in developing the case with your department, if needed.

As stated in our meeting the horse killers in your county will have horse meat available this week for purchase. Due to our strong relationship with the horse meat dealers it is quite effortless for us to make the purchase accompanied by the appropriate county, state or federal agent.

As we speak many animals are suffering the highest levels of felony cruelty in Lee County, FL. Based on the felony evidence already collected by ARM accompanied by proper enforcement this will be a thing of the past. ARM's only motive in Lee County, FL is to help and assist the suffering animals in the area.

Thank you in advance for you and your department's assistance in this at hand matter.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject:
Date: June 7, 2017 at 12:08 PM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org



Cameron,

All of us at ARM that attended the meeting at your office in Lee County on Monday would like to thank you for your time and patients. All that you met from ARM has been in the slaughter farms and have witnessed the needless torture of the animals in your county. All that attended came from the meeting with a positive feeling and happy that you saw felony violations of animal cruelty laws and agreed that you would prosecute on the footage we showed you. The first video that was shown of the goat being cut "unstained" is attached in this email for your future viewing.

We look forward in working with you and your office in the very near future.

Link

<https://vimeo.com/220566747> Password: arm

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject:
Date: June 7, 2017 at 8:57 PM
To: * Kudo kudo@arminvestigations.org



Sgt. R. Hodges,

Representatives of Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) that attended the meeting held at the Lee County State Attorneys office on Monday June 5, 2017 would like to thank you for your time, patience and support.

As stated to Assistant State Attorney Cameron Siggs and yourself, ARM has developed a strong relationship with the owners and workers in the Lee County Slaughter Farms where extreme animal cruelty is occurring. Entering the farms and viewing illegal horse meat sales and felony animal cruelty is now done effortlessly by myself and ARM investigators. This is do to an extended relationship created with the offenders.

As stated numerous times in the past to you, ARM is at your disposal in putting an end to the the illegal animal torture, illegal horse slaughter and meat sales in your county.

We are pleased that Assistant State Attorney Ziggs observed felony animal cruelty violations in the ARM undercover videos shown during our meeting and that he has agreed to prosecute based on ARM's video evidence shown on Monday, as you and we now know.

Being that you are in full command of this case for the Lee County Sheriffs Office and the head of Agriculture Crimes Unit, I'm sure you share in our appreciation that the Lee County State Attorneys Office has agreed to not only prosecute the offenders for felony animal cruelty violations but also move ahead with warrants based on ARMs footage and testimony. We're sorry to here from you that your department has been experiencing road blocks in collecting the same evidence on the very same properties in which ARM has been working in for the past 2 years. Do to the recent decision of the Lee County State Attorneys office the time and taxpayer expense needed for your department to create the very same relationships that ARM now secured may not be nesassary for your department.

In past emails you stated that the only hold back for moving forward on the criminal cases was the Lee County State Attorneys Office. Now that the SAO is on board and in agreement that state law is being violated based on ARMs footage there should now be no reason for delay in putting an end to the extreme animal torture in Lee County. We at ARM are at your disposal and upon your request will help in developing the case with your department in any way.

As stated in the past, ARM has delivered this same type of video evidence to numerous county Law Enforcement, Federal Agents, Florida State Attorneys and Federal Prosecutors which has led to the development of warrants, felony arrests, slaughter farm raids, illegal business closures and of course the rescuing of innocent animals residing at the properties. As stated in the meeting, The Animal Recovery Mission has a well respected sanctuary devison in the State of Florida. ARM would like to offer lifelong homes at the protected sanctuary for life of the animals which was explained to you and Mr. Siggs at our meeting. This will come at NO expense to the tax payers of Lee County, Fl. As Mr. Siggs stated in our meeting, search and arrest warrants would be written and as we have assisted with in the past, ARM will be available upon request to give official statements and testimony of our experiences as witnesses in the slaughter farms in Lee County, Fl. Law Enforcement and SAO in various counties have also offered (through ARM) their expert support and help to Lee County and State Officials in your slaughter farm cases.

Also to reiterate what was explained to Mr Siggs and yourself in the meeting, as time goes by not only are the animals at the farms now experiencing needless torture but additional illegal slaughter farms are opening in Lee County do to lack of enforcement. Understand, when arrests are made and illegal farms raided by law enforcement, this sends a strong message to other illegal farms. Violent actions towards animals will not be tolerated in that county. Illegal farms actually close there doors due to fear of arrest and it hampers other illegal slaughter farms in the future from developing in surrounding areas. We at ARM have seen this happen after raids over the last 8 years.

As stated in our meeting, the horse killers in your county will have horse meat available this week for purchase. Due to our strong relationship with the horse meat dealers and horses killers, it is quite effortless for ARM to assist with buys of this product.

As we speak, many animals are suffering the highest levels of felony cruelty in Lee County, Fl. Based on the felony evidence already collected by ARM accompanied by proper enforcement, this will be a thing of the past in the at hand slaughter farms. Therefor we at ARM look forward in working with the Lee County Sheriffs Office and the Lee County State Attorneys Office in the final stages of this case. ARMs only motive in Lee County, Fl is to help and assist the suffering animals in the area.

As stated in our meeting, our investigators were on site of an illegal slaughter farm within the jurisdiction of Lee County prior to our meeting. They witnessed and recorded the illegal slaughter of a goat. The first video shown during our meeting of the goat being cut "unstunned" in the described incident above is attached in this email for your viewing/review.

(Link) <https://vimeo.com/220566747> password: arm

Thank you in advance for you and departments timely assistance with the Lee County, Fl animal cruelty cases.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Fwd: Farm # 4 lee county florida (Complaint)
Date: June 8, 2017 at 3:55 PM
To: Dewey dewey@lifeactually.org



Begin forwarded message:

From: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
Subject: Farm # 4 lee county florida (Complaint)
Date: June 7, 2017 at 9:03:22 PM EDT
To: "Kaile, William - Fsis" <william.kaile@fsis.usda.gov>

Bill,

This is a formal extreme animal cruelty complaint made by the Animal Recovery Mission.

Do to county, state and federal lack of enforcement on custom exempt slaughter houses and illegal slaughter houses and farms in Lee County, Florida animal cruelty levels have skyrocketed in that county and beyond.

The video attached is an example of the levels of these crimes being committed towards animals on these farms. This is a NEW farm that ARM has entered this week. In this clip a undocumented cuban immigrant is violating both state and federal laws on killing animals for human consumption. The "farm" is also violating adulterated meat processing laws and selling of un inspected meats to the public.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/220566747> Password: arm

Thank you in advance for helping with this matter.

From: Lewis, Thomas TLewis@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: Texts
Date: June 9, 2017 at 12:29 PM
To: kudo@arminvestigations.org



Kudo,

We just spoke to the State attorney. It is imperative that we get the texts related to the horse meat sale that you have. We will have them translated when we receive them.

Thanks,
DFC. Tom Lewis

Thomas Lewis | Deputy Sheriff First Class
Desk: 239-477-1000
Lee County Sheriff's Office
TLewis@sheriffleefl.org | www.sheriffleefl.org

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Horse Meat Case
Date: June 20, 2017 at 4:22 PM
To: csiggs@sao.cjis20.org



Cameron,

I have had an depth conversation with a senior investigator from the USDA's FSIS (Food Safety and Inspection Service) Division in charge of the Lee County, FL District. During our meeting on 06-05-2017 I explained the great possibility of a Federal Investigator to accompany myself to an illegal horse slaughter farm within your jurisdiction. Arms relationship with the owners and horse killers is one of the strongest we have had to date. Our horse meat buys take no longer than 10 min to acquire all credible evidence for the states case. The USDA approved a joint horse meat buy between their agency and myself. The horse killers have just contacted me and are once again ready to sell ARM Horse Meat. In the meeting at your office, which took place on 06-05-2017, you did state that the Lee County State Attorneys Office would take the horse meat charges if the meat was purchased with a federal agent and tested at the USDA Laboratory in Washington, DC.

This operation will be lead by Head Investigator, Regional Supervisor, William Kaile whom you have already met with at your office. William is asking (through myself and ARM) for you to contact him to ensure you will take the case after the operation has been completed. William can be reached at 954 218 0224 and by email at William.Kaile@fsis.usda.gov. Felony animal torture has gone on long enough at this property and this buy will be our last entry to this site.

ARM and the USDA are quite certain that you and Lee Countys elected State Attorney are apauled by the illegal treatment to animals on these properties and that the brutality must stop. If you have difficulty reaching William for any reason, please contact me and I will put you in touch with him.

Please confirm receiving of this email.

LINK TO LAST HORSE MEAT BUY: <https://vimeo.com/222108248> Password: arm

Thank you for your time.

From: **Levine, Gary** GLEvine@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: RE: CFS 16-124188
Date: January 4, 2018 at 11:26 AM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org



Good morning:

The case was classified as "Information" when the CFS number was generated.

The address listed is 2501 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers.

Gary Levine | Public Information Officer 2

Desk: 239-477-1393

Public Affairs Unit

Lee County Sheriff's Office

GLEvine@sheriffleefl.org | www.sheriffleefl.org

From: Rodrigo Mello [<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>]

Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 11:12 AM

To: Levine, Gary <GLEvine@sheriffleefl.org>

Subject: Re: CFS 16-124188

I'm looking at an email requesting us to retrieve a copy of the report pertaining to CFS # 16-124188..

Do you have any notes pertaining to this case or what the call/case was classified as when the case number was issued?

Rodrigo Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell:(754) 224 6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

On Jan 4, 2018, at 11:09 AM, Levine, Gary <GLEvine@sheriffleefl.org> wrote:

Good morning.

A report was not completed for incident 16-124188.

Thank you,

Gary Levine | Public Information Officer 2

Desk: 239-477-1393

Public Affairs Unit

Lee County Sheriff's Office

GLEvine@sheriffleefl.org | www.sheriffleefl.org

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

From: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org 
Subject: Copy of Report
Date: January 9, 2018 at 11:01 AM
To: centralrecords@sheriff.lee.fl.org
Cc: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org

RM

I am requesting a copy of report #16-433349

I have attached a department letterhead with the request and identification

Thank you



Animal Recovery Mission
PO Box 433349 Miami Beach, FL 33149
Tel: (754) 224-2224 Fax: (754) 224-2225
info@arminvestigations.org

January 9th, 2017

My name is Rodrigo Mello and I am an Investigator for the Animal Recovery Mission. I am requesting a copy of a report from case number 16-561775. The Animal Recovery Mission filed a complaint on Las Delicias Ranch in 2016 regarding the maltreatment and inhumane slaughter of animals at 7161 Eastwood Acres Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33905.

Thank you,

Rodrigo Mello
Investigator
Email : mello@arminvestigations.org
Phone : (754)224-6092

From: **Rodrigo Mello** mello@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Re: Lee County Slaughter Farms
Date: January 18, 2018 at 11:16 AM
To: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org

RM

I guess I can't send a folder.. I'll attach each one

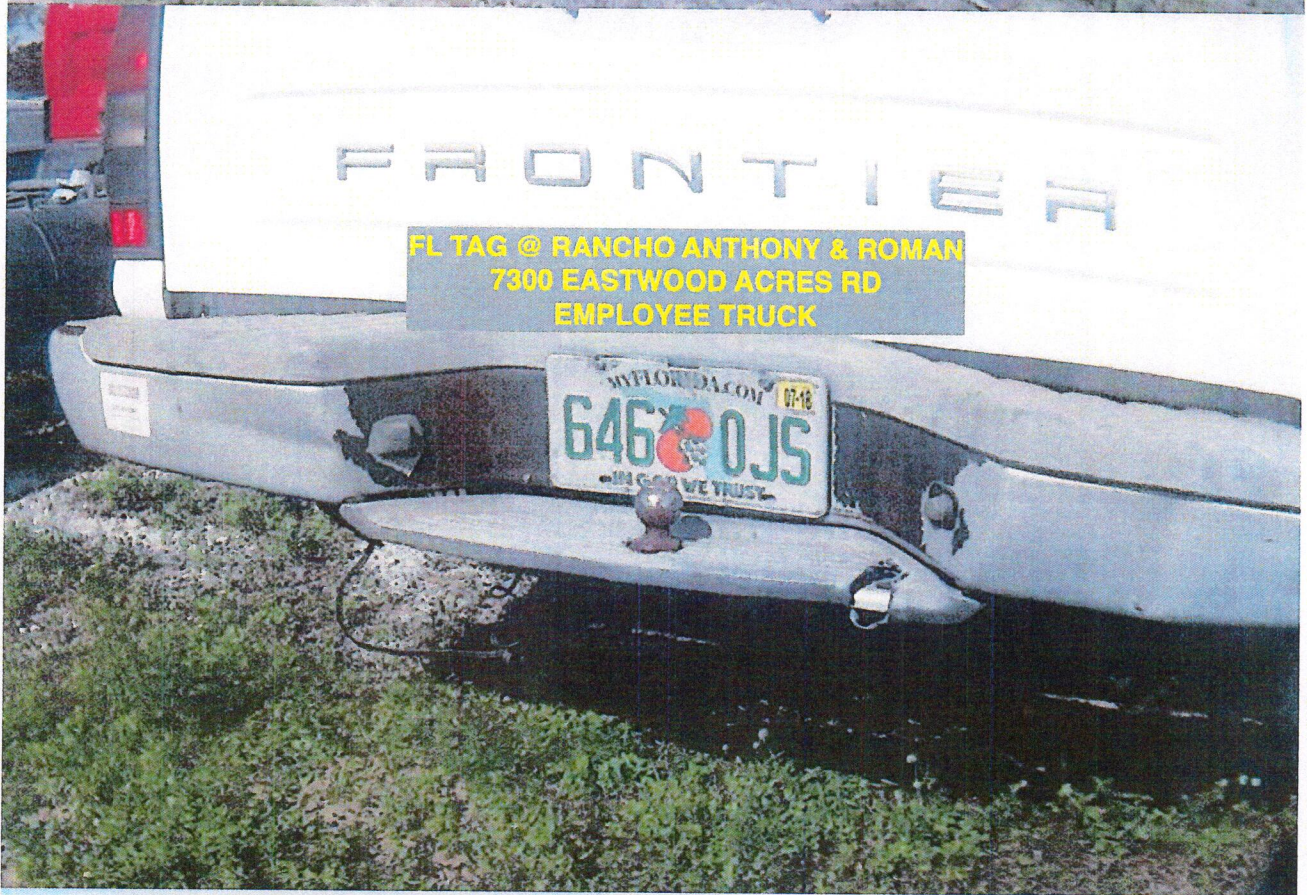
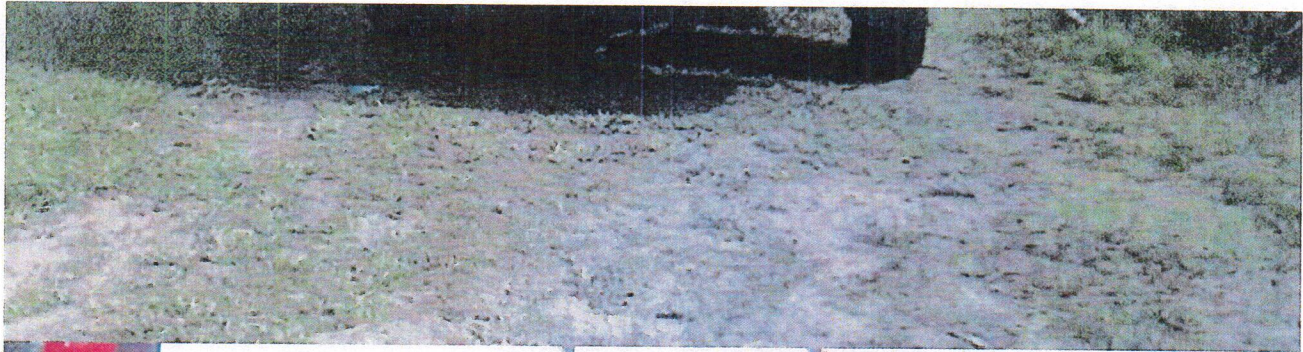


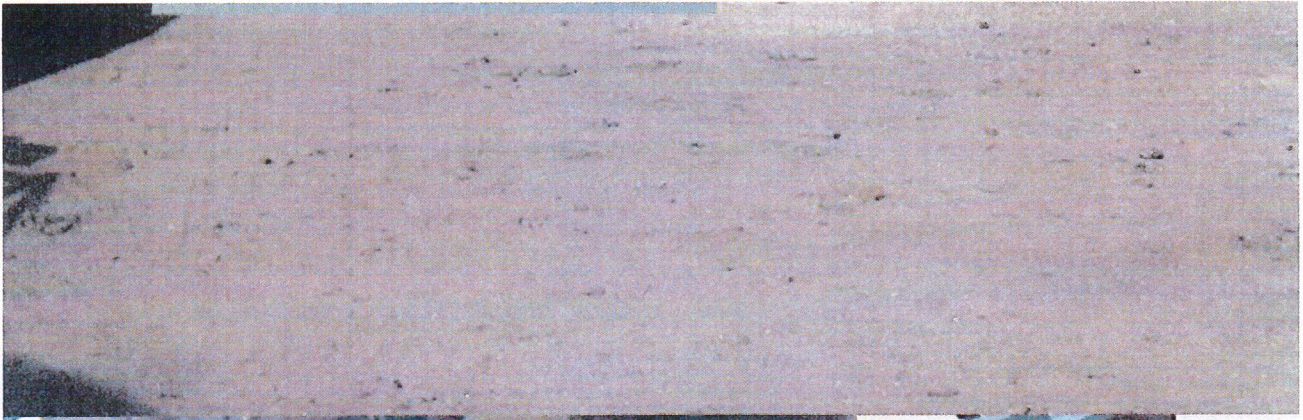


**FL TAG - GME S74
VEH @ UNNAMED SLAUGHTER FARM**



VEH @ UNNAMED SLAUGHTER FARM





**EMPLOYEE FL TAG -
GEK E67
@ RANCHO LAS
DELICIAS**



EMPLOYEE VEH FL TAG - PF5 72F



Rodrigo Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell:(754) 224 6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

On Jan 18, 2018, at 11:11 AM, Hodges, Randy <rhodges@sheriffleefl.org> wrote:

This is what was attached[image1.PNG]

Randy Hodges | Sergeant

Desk: 239-258-3695 | Cell: 239-691-9062

Agriculture

Lee County Sheriff's Office

rhodges@sheriffleefl.org <<mailto:rhodges@sheriffleefl.org>> | www.sheriffleefl.org <<http://www.sheriffleefl.org>>

*****IMPORTANT MESSAGE*****

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may

Officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

On Jan 18, 2018, at 11:09 AM, Rodrigo Mello
<mello@arminvestigations.org<<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>>> wrote:

Attached are the vehicles associated to each property. The next email will contain images of the employees. Hopefully one of these tags pan out.

Rodrigo Mello
Investigator
Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)
Cell:(754) 224 6092
Email: mello@arminvestigations.org<<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>>
Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

<1_warning.htm>
<image1.PNG>

From: **Rodrigo Mello** mello@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Lee County Slaughter Farm
Date: January 18, 2018 at 11:38 AM
To: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org

RM

Completely forgot I had a picture of the Cuban male (Oswaldo) in a truck. I have attached it with him driving as well.





Rodrigo Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell:(754) 224 6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

From: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: Re: Lee County Slaughter Videos
Date: January 19, 2018 at 11:13 AM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org



Thanks

Randy Hodges | Sergeant
Desk: 239-258-3695 | Cell: 239-691-9062
Agriculture
Lee County Sheriff's Office
rhodges@sheriffleefl.org<mailto:rhodges@sheriffleefl.org> | www.sheriffleefl.org<http://www.sheriffleefl.org>

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

On Jan 19, 2018, at 10:19 AM, Rodrigo Mello <mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>> wrote:

Attached are the videos you requested. Kudo asked that I go ahead and attach the videos from previous cases. If you have any questions let me know.. Thank you

This is the video for Dec 23rd 2017 (3 farms)
<https://vimeo.com/251696857> password arm

This is the goat slaughter from the unknown Cuban male in the white pickup truck
<https://vimeo.com/220566747> password arm

These two are the older videos which I was asked to include.
<https://vimeo.com/224376002> password arm

<https://vimeo.com/224376002> password arm

Rodrigo Mello
Investigator
Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)
Cell:(754) 224 6092
Email: mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>
Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

From: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: Re: Lee County Slaughter Farm
Date: January 18, 2018 at 12:07 PM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org



Both

Randy Hodges | Sergeant
Desk: 239-258-3695 | Cell: 239-691-9062
Agriculture
Lee County Sheriff's Office
rhodges@sheriffleefl.org<mailto:rhodges@sheriffleefl.org> | www.sheriffleefl.org<http://www.sheriffleefl.org>

On Jan 18, 2018, at 11:55 AM, Rodrigo Mello <mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>> wrote:

Yes. Will have to get it from Kudo.. You want the one from Dec 23rd or the one pertaining to Oswaldo?

Rodrigo Mello
Investigator
Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)
Cell:(754) 224 6092
Email: mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>
Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

On Jan 18, 2018, at 11:48 AM, Hodges, Randy <rhodges@sheriffleefl.org<mailto:rhodges@sheriffleefl.org>> wrote:

Can you send me the video also?

Randy Hodges | Sergeant
Desk: 239-258-3695 | Cell: 239-691-9062
Agriculture
Lee County Sheriff's Office
rhodges@sheriffleefl.org<mailto:rhodges@sheriffleefl.org><mailto:rhodges@sheriffleefl.org> |
www.sheriffleefl.org<http://www.sheriffleefl.org><http://www.sheriffleefl.org><http://www.sheriffleefl.org>>

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

On Jan 18, 2018, at 11:39 AM, Rodrigo Mello <mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>> wrote:

Completely forgot I had a picture of the Cuban male (Oswaldo) in a truck. I have attached it with him driving as well.

<Screen Shot 2018-01-18 at 11.31.58 AM.png><Screen Shot 2018-01-18 at 11.33.21 AM.png><Screen Shot 2018-01-18 at 11.33.57 AM.png>

Rodrigo Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell:(754) 224 6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org><mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

<Screen Shot 2018-01-18 at 11.31.58 AM.png><Screen Shot 2018-01-18 at 11.33.21 AM.png><Screen Shot 2018-01-18 at 11.33.57 AM.png>

From: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: Re: Lee County Slaughter Farms
Date: January 18, 2018 at 11:11 AM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org



This is what was attached[image1.PNG]

Randy Hodges | Sergeant
Desk: 239-258-3695 | Cell: 239-691-9062
Agriculture
Lee County Sheriff's Office
rhodges@sheriffleefl.org<mailto:rhodges@sheriffleefl.org> | www.sheriffleefl.org<http://www.sheriffleefl.org>

*****IMPORTANT MESSAGE*****

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

On Jan 18, 2018, at 11:09 AM, Rodrigo Mello <mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>> wrote:

Attached are the vehicles associated to each property. The next email will contain images of the employees. Hopefully one of these tags pan out.

Rodrigo Mello
Investigator
Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)
Cell:(754) 224 6092
Email: mello@arminvestigations.org<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>
Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

<1_warning.htm>

McAfee®

Unwanted File Detected

A file has been blocked by a file-filtering rule.

Information:

Rule: 'Block Zip Files'
Context: 'Tags.zip'
Disallowed due to filename

See your system administrator for further information.

Copyright © 1993-2016 Intel Corporation.
All Rights Reserved.

<http://www.mcafee.com>

From: **Rodrigo Mello** mello@arminvestigations.org
Subject: Lee County Slaughter Employees
Date: January 18, 2018 at 11:18 AM
To: Hodges, Randy rhodges@sheriffleefl.org

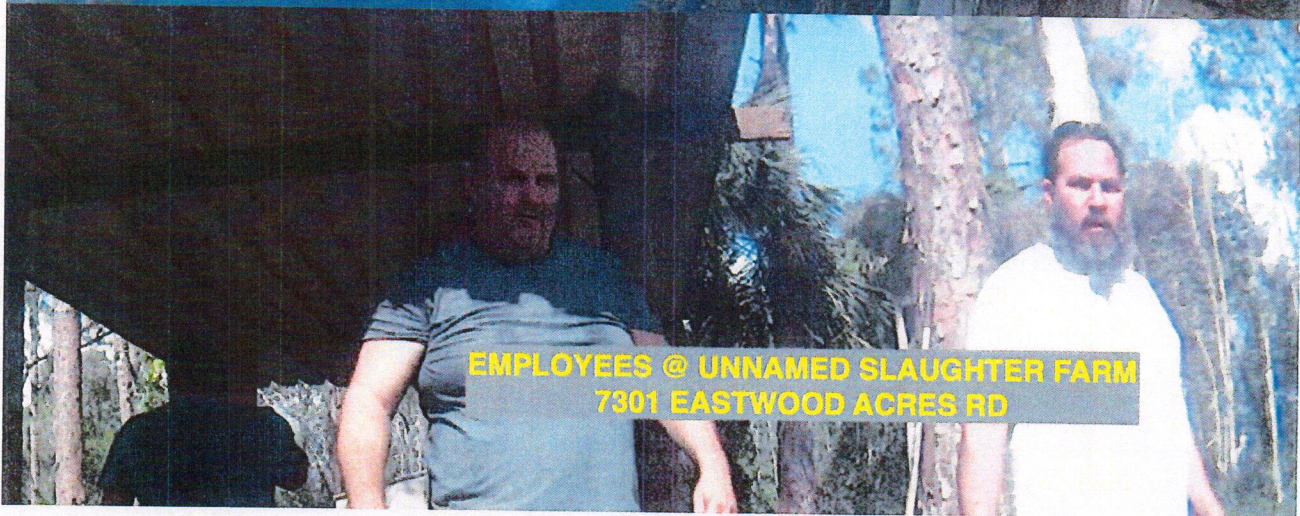


Attached are images of the employees. Hopefully one matches up. Thank you





**EMPLOYEE @ UNNAMED SLAUGHTER FARM
7301 EASTWOOD ACRES RD**



**EMPLOYEES @ UNNAMED SLAUGHTER FARM
7301 EASTWOOD ACRES RD**





Rodrigo Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell:(754) 224 6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

From: Riley, Felicia FRiley@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: RE: Lee County Slaughter Farms Investigation
Date: February 13, 2018 at 4:22 PM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org



Good Afternoon,

Your complaint was forwarded to Sergeant Hodges's supervisor. I was advised the Sheriff's Office has an active criminal investigation against the named farms in your complaint and in an effort to alleviate your concerns, I can only advise you that there is an ongoing criminal investigation. I cannot disclose any further information.

Thank you

Felicia Riley | Lieutenant

Desk: 239-477-1079

Internal Affairs

Lee County Sheriff's Office

FRiley@sheriffleefl.org | www.sheriffleefl.org

From: Rodrigo Mello [mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org]

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:23 PM

To: Riley, Felicia <FRiley@sheriffleefl.org>

Subject: Re: Lee County Slaughter Farms Investigation

Good afternoon,

I wanted to see if there was an update available in regards to the outcome of my complaint? I understand that information can not be provided regarding the actual ongoing investigation, but I'm more concerned with the lack of enforcement or the statements made by Sgt Hodges pertaining to him being unable to identify people "because he can't walk up to someone and ask for their name"? This is after his acknowledgement of crimes being committed by an individual.

Thank you

Rodrigo Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell:(754) 224 6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end

From: Riley, Felicia FRiley@sheriffleefl.org
Subject: CC2018-021 Complaint
Date: February 22, 2018 at 8:59 AM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org



Good Morning,

Please see the attached correspondence regarding your complaint.

Thank you!

Felicia Riley | Lieutenant
Desk: 239-477-1079
Internal Affairs
Lee County Sheriff's Office
FRiley@sheriffleefl.org | www.sheriffleefl.org

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

Mike Scott
Office of the Sheriff



State of Florida
County of Lee

To: Rodrigo Mello
Mello@arminvestigations.org
From: Lieutenant Felicia Riley
Date: February 22, 2018
Re: CC2018-021 / LCSO case#18-023193

Sir,

This memo is to advise you a warrant request was submitted to the Office of the State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit of Florida in reference to the above listed criminal case. The warrant was denied. Furthermore, your complaint involving the Lee County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Unit's "continuous lack of enforcement" has been unfounded.

If you are wanting any documents pertaining to either complaint, please contact the Lee County Sheriff's Office Public Information Office.

Thank you,

4
Lieutenant Felidia Riley
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Professional Standards Division

CC: Investigation File



Lee County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Division
14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway • Fort Myers FL 33912-4406 • (239)-477-1000

result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

On Feb 1, 2018, at 7:09 AM, Riley,Felicia <FRiley@sheriffleefl.org> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Mello,

Thank you for your correspondence. All of the information you provided will be forwarded to Sergeant Hodges's supervisor for review. Internal Affairs will monitor the outcome and address any policy violations should any arise from the supervisory review. Below is my contact information should you have any questions.

Thank you!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is governed by applicable law. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this email by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message. This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, worms, hostile scripts and other email-borne network threats. PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government officials are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure per Sec. 119 F.S.

Felicia Riley | Lieutenant

Desk: 239-477-1079

Internal Affairs

Lee County Sheriff's Office

FRiley@sheriffleefl.org | www.sheriffleefl.org

From: Rodrigo Mello [<mailto:mello@arminvestigations.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 11:41 AM

To: Internal Affairs <ia@sheriffleefl.org>; Marceno, Carmine <CMarceno@sheriffleefl.org>

Cc: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Subject: Lee County Slaughter Farms Investigation

This letter of complaint stems from the continuous lack of enforcement shown by Det. R Hodges and the Agricultural Unit within the Lee County Sheriff's Office. There is clear evidence of felony crimes being committed and not properly investigated. Since March 03rd, 2016, several meetings and several emails have been exchanged between the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), Lee County Sheriff's Office and the State Attorneys Office. On multiple occasions Det R Hodges and Attorney Cameron Ziggs have acknowledged the clear felony violations displayed in the evidence provided. One excuse provided regarding lack of enforcement by Det. R Hodges during a January 15th 2018 meeting, was that ARM was unable to gather and identify everyone involved. When asked why Det. R Hodges couldn't obtain the names of individuals involved in the possible commission of a felony, he stated "because I can't just walk up and ask someone their name". It is to our understanding of the law, that Law

Enforcement is allowed to detain and/or question any individual they have reasonable suspicion or have probable cause that criminal activity is occurring or has occurred. This is a clear sign of a refusal to conduct a thorough and prompt investigation. It has also been stated that the State Attorneys Office is reviewing the case which has been doing so for almost a year now. Det. R Hodges has stated that the State Attorneys Office won't accept the case if all suspects aren't identified. Our last meeting and case review with SAO Cameron Ziggs and Det. R Hodges, took place on June 5th, 2017, where Cameron Ziggs was still the Attorney reviewing the case despite being placed into a new position (as stated by him).

An extensive (since July 2015) investigation into the illegal slaughtering of animals and the illegal sale of horse meat for human consumption has been conducted by the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM). The investigation took place within Lee County and has been submitted to their Sheriffs Office (Det. R Hodges) and State Attorneys Office (Attorney Cameron Ziggs) on numerous occasions. For over two years ARM has gone undercover off of Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers. Throughout the two years multiple slaughter farms have opened. With each farm opening, the killing of animals has only increased and become more inhumane. There is a complete disregard for animal care and treatment. There is also a complete disregard by the Lee County Sheriff's Office in enforcing any felony violations which have clearly been displayed and agreed upon.

Undercover ARM Investigators first entered into Santa Barbara on July 13th 2015. While inside they obtained footage showing pigs being shot in the head and afterwards repeatedly stabbed in the chest area. On another incident, employees attempted to kill ducks by twisting their necks. They were unsuccessful but went ahead and placed them into boiling water while still alive. Due to these incidents, ARM placed all of its efforts into infiltrating the surrounding illegal slaughter farms.

Santa Barbara, Rancho Las Delicias, Rancho Anthony & Roman and an unnamed slaughter farm behind a residence were all infiltrated by ARM Investigators. At each location, ARM has captured footage of employees at each farm slaughtering animals by slicing into their necks. In one incident at Rancho Anthony & Roman, an employee is observed slicing into a goats throat. At no time was the goat made insensible to pain. The employee sliced into the goats neck and pushed down on its head as if appearing to snap it off with his hands. Throughout this incident, the goat screamed and bled out and continued to show clear signs of life for over 5 minutes.

At Rancho Las Delicias employees are constantly recorded slaughtering animals with just the blade of a knife. Allowing them to bleed out in pain. Several hours of evidence have been recorded and submitted showing the torture each animal is faced with at the hands of this slaughter farm. In addition to the inhumane slaughters, ARM Investigators have been able to purchase horse meat on numerous occasions for the sole purpose of human consumption. Horses are slaughtered on the property and their meat sold illegally.

On June 13th 2017, Richard Kudo agreed and attempted to conduct a controlled buy of horse meat with the Lee County Sheriff's Office through Det. R Hodges at Rancho Las Delicias. During the meeting conflicting statements were made to Richard and the other Investigator pertaining to the release of their names due to being a confidential informant. Once everything was worked out, Richard agreed to the controlled buy. He was later told that the buy would not be conducted due to safety concerns. Richard Couto immediately left the property and continued to Rancho Las Delicias. He and the Investigator were able to safely and quickly complete the successful purchase of horse meat. The horse meat was then packaged and sent to the USDA for equine positive verification.

Rancho Anthony & Roman have shown the least disregard for animal welfare. Employees are observed time and time again slicing the throats of animals and at no time attempting to follow Florida Law. Goats and sheep are hung by their hind legs while still alive and bleeding out. Pigs are stabbed to death in the chest area while being stepped on by employees. All actions occur in the presence of property owner Roman Hernandez who is the controller of all animals on the property. At no time has an undercover Investigator observed food or water being provided to any of the animals on the property. All animals on the property appear to be sick and malnourished.

The most recent slaughter farm to open is on a residential property located directly across the street from Rancho Anthony & Roman. There is no visible sign to show that it is an active business. Several animals can be seen from the roadway in holding pens. Investigators were invited onto the property in order to purchase an animal for slaughter. Employees at this residence were recorded stabbing pigs in the chest area while stepping on them to allow them to bleed out. At no time were the pigs made insensible to pain and rather just allowed to suffer a long painful death.

Det. R Hodges has been present during 3 simultaneous raids conducted by the Palm Beach Sheriffs Office. The evidence provided for the raids which he was present, were gathered and provided with the assistance of ARM. ARM has worked side by side with several Law Enforcement agencies in order to bring the person(s) involved in illegal slaughter farms to justice. As well as providing our Sanctuary, at no cost to the investigating Law Enforcement Agency, a place to house all rescued/seized animals.

Below you will find all videos which have been submitted for evidence and review to the Lee County Sheriffs Office and State Attorneys Office. A sample (not complete) summary of investigation has also been attached. If you have

any further questions please let us know. Richard Couto can be contacted at kudo@arminvestigations.org or (305) 494-2225.

Thank you,

ARM INVESTIGATIONS

Dec 23rd 2017 Slaughters at 3 locations
<https://vimeo.com/251696857> Password - **arm**

Rancho Anthony & Roman Goat Kill
<https://vimeo.com/224681130> Password - **arm**

Horse Meat Buy after CI buy refusal
<https://vimeo.com/222261777> Password - **arm**

Dec 23rd and Dec 31st 2016 slaughters
<https://vimeo.com/214941003> Password - **arm1**

First video submitted to Law Enforcement 2016
<https://vimeo.com/172826888> Password - **arm 2**

First video submitted regarding Santa Barbara 2016
<https://vimeo.com/172827366> Password - **arm1**

R. Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Phone : (754) 224-6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and

From: Justham, Larry D. ljustham@sao.cjis20.org 
Subject: FW: From Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi
Date: March 19, 2018 at 1:40 PM
To: mello@arminvestigations.org



Mr. Mello,

The Office of the State Attorney of the 20th Judicial Circuit has received the below emails through copy from the Office of the Attorney General. The communications between you and the Attorney General were prior to our meeting on March 1st of this year and hopefully the concerns I have regarding the attachments was made clear during our meeting. In consideration of the content of the attachments, however, please allow me to remind you and your investigators that it is a felony in the state of Florida to surreptitiously record a conversation with someone without their knowledge unless authorized to do so by a law enforcement officer during a law enforcement investigation. It is also a felony in the state of Florida to purchase horse meat unless authorized to do so by a law enforcement officer during a law enforcement investigation. The video included within the attachments wherein a non-law enforcement individual purporting to be working with the Animal Recovery Mission in an investigative capacity attempts to and allegedly does purchase horse meat while recording the conversations could be argued to show the commission of at least two felonies by the investigators.

I understand and share your group's concern with the humane treatment of all animals. It is the Office of the State Attorney's position that we will vigorously prosecute anyone who abuses animals however, as we discussed in our meeting, we need evidence that is admissible in court and that was lawfully obtained without the commission of a felony. Hopefully our meeting resulted in a clear understanding of the law and the requirements of the law by your organization.

I am aware that you submitted matters to our office directly last week and they are currently being reviewed. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at your convenience.

Larry D. Justham
Lee County Circuit Court Division Chief

From: attorney.general@myfloridalegal.com [<mailto:attorney.general@myfloridalegal.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 3:06 PM
To: MELLO@ARMINVESTIGATIONS.ORG
Subject: From Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi

Dear Mr. Mello,

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi received your correspondence regarding your concerns with the handling of a criminal case by the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Twentieth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. Attorney General Bondi is a passionate advocate for the responsible and humane treatment of animals, and she asked that I respond.

We appreciate hearing from you. In Florida, the local police or sheriff's office and elected state

We appreciate hearing from you. In Florida, the local police or sheriff's offices and elected state attorney in each judicial circuit investigate and prosecute violations of the criminal laws. Those offices operate independently and are not part of the Attorney General's Office. We are forwarding your concerns to the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Twentieth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office for review. You may follow up at:

The Honorable Mike Scott
Sheriff of Lee County
14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway
Fort Myers, Florida 33912
Phone: (239) 477-1000
Website: www.sheriffleefl.org

The Honorable Stephen B. Russell
State Attorney, Twentieth Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 399
Ft. Myers, Florida 33902
Telephone: (239) 533-1000
Website: <http://sao.cjis20.org/>

In addition, pursuant to part VI of chapter 112, Florida Statutes, each employing agency is responsible for the internal investigation of complaints against law enforcement officers. Therefore, if you wish to file a complaint against a law enforcement officer, please contact the Internal Affairs Department of the Lee County Sheriff's Office at http://www.sheriffleefl.org/how_do_i/learn_more_about/file_a_complaint.php.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's website also provides information on the complaint process at www.fdle.state.fl.us/CJSTC/Professional-Compliance/PC-Process.aspx. The U.S. Department of Justice may also review alleged police misconduct in some circumstances, as described on its website:

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/polmis.php>

Finally, because our office is not at liberty to give legal advice to private individuals, if you need legal guidance, please consult a private attorney. If you need help finding an attorney, please contact The Florida Bar's Lawyer Referral Service toll-free at (800) 342-8011 or online at <https://www.floridabar.org/public/lrs/>.

Thank you for contacting Attorney General Bondi's office.

Sincerely,

Yuliya Boiko
Office of Citizen Services
Florida Attorney General's Office
The Capitol, PL-01
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050
Telephone: (850) 414-3990
Toll-free in Florida: (866) 966-7226
Website: <http://www.myfloridalegal.com>

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL. THIS ADDRESS IS FOR PROCESSING ONLY.

To contact this office please visit the Attorney General's website at www.myfloridalegal.com and complete the on-line contact form. Again, thank you for contacting the Office of the Florida Attorney General.

Posted Date: 01/30/2018 11:45:04 AM

From: Rodrigo Mello <mello@arminvestigations.org>

To: citizenservices@myfloridalegal.com

cc: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>

Subject: Complaint regarding the Lee County Sheriffs Office and SAO

This letter of complaint stems from the continuous lack of enforcement shown by Det. R Hodges and the Agricultural Unit within the Lee County Sheriffs Office. There is clear evidence of felony crimes being committed and not properly investigated or accepted by the Lee County State Attorneys Office. Since March 03rd, 2016, several meetings and several emails have been exchanged between the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), Lee County Sheriffs Office and the State Attorneys Office. On multiple occasions Det R Hodges and Attorney Cameron Ziggs have acknowledged the clear felony violations displayed in the evidence provided. One excuse provided regarding lack of enforcement by Det. R Hodges during a January 15th 2018 meeting, was that ARM was unable to gather and identify everyone involved. When asked why Det. R Hodges couldn't obtain the names of individuals involved in the possible commission of a felony, he stated "because I can't just walk up and ask someone their name". It is to our understanding of the law, that Law Enforcement is allowed to detain and/or question any individual they have reasonable suspicion or have probable cause that criminal activity is occurring or has occurred. This is a clear sign of a refusal to conduct a thorough and prompt investigation. It has also been stated that the State Attorneys Office is reviewing the case which has been doing so for almost a year now. Det. R Hodges has stated that the State Attorneys Office won't accept the case if all suspects aren't identified. Our last meeting and case review with SAO Cameron Ziggs and Det. R Hodges, took place on June 5th, 2017, where Cameron Ziggs was still the Attorney reviewing the case despite being placed into a new position (as stated by him).

An extensive (since July 2015) investigation into the illegal slaughtering of animals and the illegal sale of horse meat for human consumption has been conducted by the Animal Recovery Mission (ARM). The investigation took place within Lee County and has been submitted to their Sheriffs Office (Det. R Hodges) and State Attorneys Office (Attorney Cameron Ziggs) on numerous occasions. For over two years ARM has gone undercover off of Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers. Throughout the two years multiple slaughter farms have opened. With each farm opening, the killing of animals has only increased and become more inhumane. There is a complete disregard for animal care and treatment. There is also a complete disregard by the Lee County Sheriff's Office in enforcing any felony violations which have clearly been displayed and agreed upon.

Undercover ARM Investigators first entered into Santa Barbara on July 13th 2015. While inside they obtained footage showing pigs being shot in the head and afterwards repeatedly stabbed in the chest area. On another incident, employees attempted to kill ducks by twisting their necks. They were unsuccessful but went ahead and placed them into boiling water while still alive. Due to these incidents, ARM placed all of its efforts into infiltrating the surrounding illegal slaughter farms.

Santa Barbara, Rancho Las Delicias, Rancho Anthony & Roman and an unnamed slaughter farm behind a residence were all infiltrated by ARM Investigators. At each location, ARM has captured footage of employees at each farm slaughtering animals by slicing into their necks. In one incident at Rancho Anthony & Roman, an employee is observed slicing into a goats throat. At no time was the goat made insensible to pain. The employee sliced into the goats neck and pushed down on its head as if appearing to snap it off with his hands. Throughout this incident, the goat screamed and bled out and continued to show clear signs of life for over 5 minutes.

At Rancho Las Delicias employees are constantly recorded slaughtering animals with just the blade of a knife. Allowing them to bleed out in pain. Several hours of evidence have been recorded and submitted showing the torture each animal is faced with at the hands of this

slaughter farm. In addition to the inhumane slaughters, ARM Investigators have been able to purchase horse meat on numerous occasions for the sole purpose of human consumption. Horses are slaughtered on the property and their meat sold illegally.

On June 13th 2017, Richard Kudo agreed and attempted to conduct a controlled buy of horse meat with the Lee County Sheriffs Office through Det. R Hodges at Rancho Las Delicias. During the meeting conflicting statements were made to Richard and the other Investigator pertaining to the release of their names due to being a confidential informant. Once everything was worked out, Richard agreed to the controlled buy. He was later told that the buy would not be conducted due to safety concerns. Richard Couto immediately left the property and continued to Rancho Las Delicias. He and the Investigator were able to safely and quickly complete the successful purchase of horse meat. The horse meat was then packaged and sent to the USDA for equine positive verification.

Rancho Anthony & Roman have shown the least disregard for animal welfare. Employees are observed time and time again slicing the throats of animals and at no time attempting to follow Florida Law. Goats and sheep are hung by their hind legs while still alive and bleeding out. Pigs are stabbed to death in the chest area while being stepped on by employees. All actions occur in the presence of property owner Roman Hernandez who is the controller of all animals on the property. At no time has an undercover Investigator observed food or water being provided to any of the animals on the property. All animals on the property appear to be sick and malnourished.

The most recent slaughter farm to open is on a residential property located directly across the street from Rancho Anthony & Roman. There is no visible sign to show that it is an active business. Several animals can be seen from the roadway in holding pens. Investigators were invited onto the property in order to purchase an animal for slaughter. Employees at this residence were recorded stabbing pigs in the chest area while stepping on them to allow them to bleed out. At no time were the pigs made insensible to pain and rather just allowed to suffer a long painful death.

Det. R Hodges has been present during 3 simultaneous raids conducted by the Palm Beach Sheriffs Office. The evidence provided for the raids which he was present, were gathered and provided with the assistance of ARM. ARM has worked side by side with several Law Enforcement agencies in order to bring the person(s) involved in illegal slaughter farms to justice. As well as providing our Sanctuary, at no cost to the investigating Law Enforcement Agency, a place to house all rescued/seized animals.

Below you will find all videos which have been submitted for evidence and review to the Lee County Sheriffs Office and State Attorneys Office. A sample (not complete) summary of investigation has also been attached. If you have any further questions please let us know. Richard Couto can be contacted at kudo@arminvestigations.org or (305) 494-2225.

Thank you,

ARM INVESTIGATIONS

Dec 23rd 2017 Slaughters at 3 locations
<https://vimeo.com/251696857> Password - arm

Rancho Anthony & Roman Goat Kill
<https://vimeo.com/224681130> Password - arm

Horse Meat Buy after CI buy refusal
<https://vimeo.com/222261777> Password - arm

Dec 23rd and Dec 31st 2016 slaughters
<https://vimeo.com/214941003> Password - arm1

First video submitted to Law Enforcement 2016
<https://vimeo.com/172826888> Password - arm 2

First video submitted regarding Santa Barbara 2016
<https://vimeo.com/172827366> Password - arm1

(See attached file: DEC 23 Lee County copy.pdf)

Rodrigo Mello
Investigator
Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)
Cell: (754) 224 6092
Email: mello@arminvestigations.org
Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

When printing emails please be environmentally and financially conscious and only print those emails that are necessary.

Disclaimer: Please be advised that Florida has broad Public Records Laws and most e-mail correspondence to this office or anyone employed here may be subject to disclosure. Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. Therefore if you do not want your e-mail address released in response to public records requests, do not send electronic mail to this agency. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.



DEC 23 Lee
County copy.pdf

From: Justham, Larry D. ljustham@sao.cjis20.org 
Subject: FW: From Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi
Date: March 19, 2018 at 1:40 PM
To: mello@arminvestigations.org



Mr. Mello,

The Office of the State Attorney of the 20th Judicial Circuit has received the below emails through copy from the Office of the Attorney General. The communications between you and the Attorney General were prior to our meeting on March 1st of this year and hopefully the concerns I have regarding the attachments was made clear during our meeting. In consideration of the content of the attachments, however, please allow me to remind you and your investigators that it is a felony in the state of Florida to surreptitiously record a conversation with someone without their knowledge unless authorized to do so by a law enforcement officer during a law enforcement investigation. It is also a felony in the state of Florida to purchase horse meat unless authorized to do so by a law enforcement officer during a law enforcement investigation. The video included within the attachments wherein a non-law enforcement individual purporting to be working with the Animal Recovery Mission in an investigative capacity attempts to and allegedly does purchase horse meat while recording the conversations could be argued to show the commission of at least two felonies by the investigators.

I understand and share your group's concern with the humane treatment of all animals. It is the Office of the State Attorney's position that we will vigorously prosecute anyone who abuses animals however, as we discussed in our meeting, we need evidence that is admissible in court and that was lawfully obtained without the commission of a felony.

Hopefully our meeting resulted in a clear understanding of the law and the requirements of the law by your organization.

I am aware that you submitted matters to our office directly last week and they are currently being reviewed. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at your convenience.

Larry D. Justham
Lee County Circuit Court Division Chief

From: attorney.general@myfloridalegal.com [<mailto:attorney.general@myfloridalegal.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 3:06 PM
To: MELLO@ARMINVESTIGATIONS.ORG
Subject: From Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi

Dear Mr. Mello,

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi received your correspondence regarding your concerns with the handling of a criminal case by the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Twentieth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. Attorney General Bondi is a passionate advocate for the responsible and humane treatment of animals, and she asked that I respond.

We appreciate hearing from you. In Florida, the local police or sheriff's office and elected state

We appreciate hearing from you. In Florida, the local police or sheriff's offices and elected state attorney in each judicial circuit investigate and prosecute violations of the criminal laws. Those offices operate independently and are not part of the Attorney General's Office. We are forwarding your concerns to the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Twentieth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office for review. You may follow up at:

The Honorable Mike Scott
Sheriff of Lee County
14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway
Fort Myers, Florida 33912
Phone: (239) 477-1000
Website: www.sheriffleefl.org

The Honorable Stephen B. Russell
State Attorney, Twentieth Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 399
Ft. Myers, Florida 33902
Telephone: (239) 533-1000
Website: <http://sao.cjis20.org/>

In addition, pursuant to part VI of chapter 112, Florida Statutes, each employing agency is responsible for the internal investigation of complaints against law enforcement officers. Therefore, if you wish to file a complaint against a law enforcement officer, please contact the Internal Affairs Department of the Lee County Sheriff's Office at http://www.sheriffleefl.org/how_do_i/learn_more_about/file_a_complaint.php.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's website also provides information on the complaint process at www.fdle.state.fl.us/CJSTC/Professional-Compliance/PC-Process.aspx. The U.S. Department of Justice may also review alleged police misconduct in some circumstances, as described on its website:

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/polmis.php>

Finally, because our office is not at liberty to give legal advice to private individuals, if you need legal guidance, please consult a private attorney. If you need help finding an attorney, please contact The Florida Bar's Lawyer Referral Service toll-free at (800) 342-8011 or online at <https://www.floridabar.org/public/lrs/>.

Thank you for contacting Attorney General Bondi's office.

Sincerely,

Yuliya Boiko
Office of Citizen Services
Florida Attorney General's Office
The Capitol, PL-01
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050
Telephone: (850) 414-3990
Toll-free in Florida: (866) 966-7226
Website: <http://www.myfloridalegal.com>

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL. THIS ADDRESS IS FOR PROCESSING ONLY.

To contact this office please visit the Attorney General's website at www.myfloridalegal.com and complete the on-line contact form. Again, thank you for contacting the Office of the Florida Attorney General.

From: Boltz, Heather hboltz@sao.cjis20.org

Subject: RE: ARM Investigation Reports

Date: March 26, 2018 at 11:33 AM

To: Lauren Mezzanotte mezzanotte@arminvestigations.org

Cc: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org, mello@arminvestigations.org, Hughes, Erin E. ehughes@sao.cjis20.org, Matejkovic, Karen kmatejkovic@sao.cjis20.org



Thank you Lauren!

Heather L. Boltz

Felony Support Supervisor

State Attorney's Office

239-533-1232

hboltz@sao.cjis20.org

From: Lauren Mezzanotte [mailto:mezzanotte@arminvestigations.org]

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 10:37 AM

To: Boltz, Heather <hboltz@sao.cjis20.org>

Cc: KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>; mello@arminvestigations.org

Subject: ARM Investigation Reports

Good morning Heather,

Thank you for speaking with me on the phone last week confirming that our reports were processed and are being reviewed. Please let me know if there is anything else you need from myself, Richard, or ARM to help move these cases forward.

Have a great week!

--

Lauren Mezzanotte

Executive Assistant to the Founder / Project Manager

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell: (786) 501 1792

Email: mezzanotte@arminvestigations.org



[More About ARM and ARM's Mission](#)

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal

From: Rodrigo Mello <mello@arminvestigations.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 5:34 PM
To: Justham, Larry D. <ljustham@sao.cjis20.org>
Cc: tylovejoy@sao.cjis20.org; Hughes, Erin E. <ehughes@sao.cjis20.org>; Boltz, Heather <hboltz@sao.cjis20.org>; KUDO * <kudo@arminvestigations.org>
Subject: Suspect Identified in Lee County Slaughter Cases

ASA Larry Justham,

ARM Investigators have identified an additional suspect from the Lee County Slaughter Farms. We are continuously working hard to see the individuals brought to justice for their heinous crimes.

The subject shown below is identified as Osmani Toledo Suarez W/M DOB 10/07/1971. He is an employee of Rancho Anthony & Roman as well as Rancho Las Delicias. He is believed to be residing at 7161 Eastwood Acres Rd, Ft. Myers FL which is the premise of Rancho Las Delicias. There is reason to believe that he is residing with Aymee Diaz W/F DOB 06/05/1969, who is the controller/business manager of Rancho Las Delicias. She has referred to Osmani as her husband.

Osmani is the subject of several gruesome and extreme animal cruelty felonies displayed in the video evidence which has been provided to your office and previously ASA Cameron Ziggs. Osmani is displayed cutting into several animals throats and then skinning and boiling them alive. All animals he encounters, suffer painful and unnecessary deaths. He is well aware of the laws pertaining to animal cruelty and the Humane Slaughter Act. This is demonstrated by our investigators who have witnessed him discussing killing animals in that manner to be illegal in the United States. Osmani is also shown to be in possession and selling Horse Meat for human consumption which is a felony crime in the State of Florida. He chooses to disregard any laws and continues to torture these helpless animals as the Lee County Sheriffs Office and the State Attorneys Office have allowed him to continue with these acts against animals and remain at large. ARM Investigators have worked endlessly to identify this dangerous individual, while the Lee County Sheriffs Office who has more resources and power have not attempted to do such thing.

ARM has been told on several occasions that Osmani hasn't been arrested due to not identifying him. Now that we have accomplished this, we are hopeful that an arrest will be made immediately. Osmani T Suarez is a danger to animals and the civilians of Lee County. He needs to be placed under arrest before he harms another innocent animal. He has not only committed animal cruelty but has shown to be a suspect in other felony crimes committed in the State of Florida : <http://www.winknews.com/2017/01/12/men-accused-of-twice-robbing-charlotte-county-business/>

Below is a link pertaining to the slaughter of a goat on 06/05/2017. The same video was delivered to your office on 06/12/2017 in which ASA Cameron Ziggs stated that he would take a felony case on.

<https://vimeo.com/224681130> Password: arm

Rodrigo Mello

Investigator

Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

Cell:(754) 224 6092

Email: mello@arminvestigations.org

Website: <http://www.animalrecoverymission.org>

More About ARM and ARMs Mission

Established in 2010, Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) has become recognized as a vanguard non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM's mission is to continue to be an uncompromising protective force for the welfare of all animals. ARM works tirelessly to educate the public and use innovative tactics to investigate, document and expose animal cruelty.

ARM implements direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of animal cruelty. The organization's main goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and educate the public. The end result will raise awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

ARM has become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter and specializes in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States, but their investigations are not limited to slaughter farms as they also actively investigate the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, animal sacrifice farms, fox & coyote penning games, bear bile farms, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs, to name a few.

From: KUDO * kudo@arminvestigations.org 
Subject: Re: Suspect Identified in Lee County Slaughter Cases

Date: April 2, 2018 at 7:51 PM

To: Justham, Larry D. ljustham@sao.cjis20.org

Cc: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org, Lovejoy, Tyler P. tlovejoy@sao.cjis20.org, Hughes, Erin E. ehughes@sao.cjis20.org, Boltz, Heather hboltz@sao.cjis20.org, Hodges, Randy (rhodges@sheriffleefl.org) rhodges@sheriffleefl.org, Jason Pizzo jasonpizzo@gmail.com, Rachel Taylor taylor@arminvestigations.org, Lauren Mezzanotte mezzanotte@arminvestigations.org, Tracy Horton horton@arminvestigations.org



Larry Justham,

As pertaining to the recording laws in the State of Florida, the Animal Recovery Mission is well versed on Statute 934.03. This statute mentions that this does not mean any *public oral communication*. With that said, the evidence obtained by ARM investigators at *Rancho Las Delicias, Ranch Santa Barbara, Rancho Antony and Roman's, and Rancho Cabrera* in Lee County, was clearly in the presence of many other customers (whom were also videoing the crimes) and spectators while these innocent animals were being viciously butchered alive. As you are aware, these properties, advertise their illegal slaughterhouse businesses on the street-side which calls the attention of the public to their businesses and increases the sales. Furthermore, we feel confident we have committed no crime but it surely demonstrates felony crimes against the most innocent of animals.

During our visits to these "farms", ARM investigators were never alone nor did any investigator have private conversations in a private setting with any individual on these properties. ARM is well known for capturing and collecting documentation in similar cases in several counties in the State of Florida. In these cases, many of the properties were not as public as these four Lee County slaughterhouses.

We at ARM appreciate your expertise as a seasoned Assistant State Attorney, however, standing judges throughout the State have ruled and allowed our video evidence to trial (for your convenience I have attached previous court documents). We appreciate the fact that Lee County differs from other counties in the State of Florida, however, we are discussing a State Law which does not operate separately from county to county.

I find it absolutely shocking that not once have you commented on the individuals committing the violent felony acts towards any of these animals that are seen in our video footage, but rather you are concentrating and commenting on the ARM investigators, in your words, "committing felony acts in collecting evidence". Whether through your eyes and or others at the Lee County State Attorneys Office, it was never our intent to commit a crime (nor did we) - it was always our intent and our mission preform a service that Law Enforcement does not offer and to assist the suffering animals of your county, (*Mens Rae: The intention or knowledge of wrongdoing that constitutes part of a crime, as opposed to the action or conduct of the accused*).

As I have stated in the past, we at ARM are hopeful that your office will aid in the apprehension of the people responsible for the atrocities towards animals in Lee County. Please remember that until you do, the animals of Lee County, Florida will continue to suffer heinous crimes against them, as they are at the mercy of these brutal individuals at this very moment.



Judges Order
on Motion.pdf

On Apr 2, 2018, at 11:59 AM, Justham, Larry D. <ljustham@sao.cjis20.org> wrote:

The information you have provided will be forwarded to law enforcement for their consideration. However, the link you provided appears to show the unlawful interception of oral communications, a felony in the state of Florida.

From: Justham, Larry D. ljustham@sao.cjis20.org
Subject: ARM submissions
Date: April 3, 2018 at 4:20 PM
To: Rodrigo Mello mello@arminvestigations.org
Cc: Hodges, Randy (rhodges@sheriffleefl.org) rhodges@sheriffleefl.org, Lovejoy, Tyler P. tlovejoy@sao.cjis20.org, Hughes, Erin E. ehughes@sao.cjis20.org, Boltz, Heather hboltz@sao.cjis20.org



Mr. Mello,

After a thorough review of the submissions you made to our office through ARM we are declining prosecution. In order to prosecute any case we need to have viable and admissible evidence. As we have discussed several times, no matter how egregious or disturbing the potential crime, the unlawful interception of oral communications cannot be used as evidence. The fact that someone chose to tamper with the original recordings by redacting the oral portion and then submitting the video as if there had not been a violation of the law is disturbing. Altering the evidence to disguise the illegality destroys any credibility of anyone involved.

While attempting to acknowledge and recognize the hopefully primary intent of ARM to protect animals who are being abused, I have tried to be understanding of the conduct I have witnessed by the representatives of ARM. I believe I made it clear in our meeting but, in order to be specific and to memorialize what we discussed:

1. The unlawful interception of oral communications is a third degree felony.
2. Intentionally disclosing the contents of an illegally recorded communication is a third degree felony...which would include links to such communications repeatedly included in e-mails and web-sites with each disclosure a separate felony.
3. Tampering with evidence is a third degree felony.
4. Purchasing horse meat is a third degree felony as much as selling the same.

This office and the law enforcement officers we rely upon to conduct thorough, legal, and unbiased investigations are intent on protecting any and all animals from abuse. Anyone who would abuse an animal deserves to be prosecuted accordingly and it is our practice to do just that. The act of animal abuse is reprehensible. I sincerely hope that the conduct of any non-law enforcement person during what they perceive as justifiable, independent investigations does not jeopardize or obstruct any investigation being conducted by trained and experienced officers cognizant and respectful of the law. The ends cannot and do not justify the means regardless of the crime.

Having reviewed the submissions by ARM, I find that the vast majority of the incidents have already been reviewed by law enforcement, our office, or both of our agencies and prosecutions have previously been declined. I have not found any indication that anything was being held back from this office by law enforcement as was represented.

As a result of what I have found, I am going to ask that any further submissions regarding any further incidents that you believe deserve investigation and prosecution be tendered to the appropriate law enforcement agency as opposed to being brought directly to this office. This is the protocol we follow in all other situations absent particular needs and I believe it is the protocol that should be followed hereafter.

Group that uncovered cow abuse says far worse happening in Lee County

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. Animal abuse that surpasses that shown in a video from an Okeechobee dairy group alleges.

The Animal Recovery Mission, a Miami Beach-based animal cruelty group, says they're investigating for

"We are talking about one of the most violent cases we've ever investigated in the world... in Lee County. The crimes we're showing them and the evidence way surpasses the Larson Dairy investigation."

Couto declined to provide more specifics about the Lee County investigations.

Okeechobee County Sheriff Noel Stephen said during a news conference that he assigned an investigator to do an undercover video that showed a worker kicking cows in the heads and beating them with metal rods.

The video released Thursday was shot by an investigator with Animal Recovery Mission, which began

WARNING — the video below contains disturbing content:

[Operation Larson Dairy Farm](#) from [ARM Investigations](#) on [Vimeo](#).

"These are true modern day concentration camps for animals," Couto said. "They're some of the last I

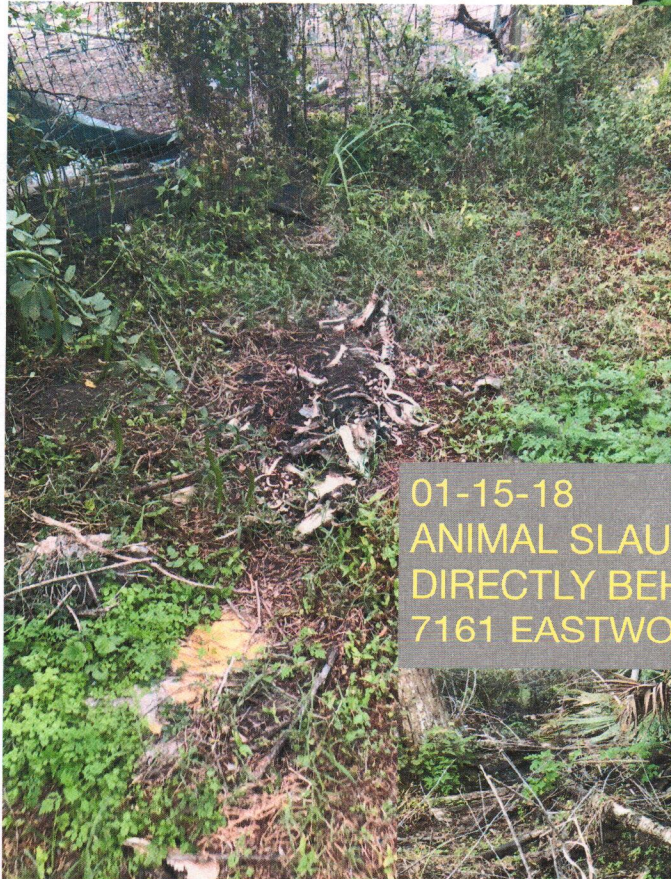
Publix supermarkets announced Thursday it has suspended milk deliveries from Larson, adding in a statement it was "shocked" by the treatment of cows.

In a statement, Jacob Larson said the employee has been fired and company officials are "appalled" by the

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.



HORSE JAW LOCATED AT 7161
EASTWOOD ACRES RD
RANCHO LAS DELICIAS



01-15-18
ANIMAL SLAUGHTER LOCATED IN PRESERVE
DIRECTLY BEHIND RANCHO LAS DELICIAS
7161 EASTWOOD ACRES RD



Probation Report for
Roman's son
Lives at
Slaughter farm
w/ five arms.



17-CF-016291 : State of Florida vs Hernandez, Anthony Roman

- violation -

Case Header

Case Type: Adult - Felony
Date Filed: 05/24/2017
Location: Div R
UCN: 362017CF016291000ACH
Judge: J Frank Porter
Status: Closed
Citation Number: A868S9E
Appear By Date:

Parties

Name	DOB	Type	Attorney	Atty Phone
State of Florida		Plaintiff	Alyssa Wolf	239-533-1000
Anthony Hernandez	08/02/1990	Defendant	Asma Anwar	239-533-2911

Charge Details

Offense Date	Charge	Plea	Arrest	Disposition	Sentence
05/23/2017	1. Driving While License Suspended or Revoked Statute: 322.34(2a) Misdemeanor - Second Degree	10/17/2017 Pled Nolo Contendere	5/23/2017 OBTS:3605002254 Sequence:1 Control Number:17-230696 Arresting Agency:Lee County Sheriff	10/17/2017 Adjudicated Guilty	
05/23/2017	2. POSSESSION OF WEAPON OR AMMO BY CONVICTED FLA FELON Statute: 790.23(1a) Felony - Second Degree	10/17/2017 Pled Nolo Contendere	5/23/2017 OBTS:3605002254 Sequence:2 Control Number:17-230696 Arresting Agency:Lee County Sheriff	10/17/2017 Adjudicated Guilty	

Docket Events

Document Status: = Public = VOR = Confidential = Sealed = Request Pending.

10/04/2017	Notice of Taking Deposition Filed	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/05/2017	Notice of Appearance to Bondsman Mailed & Filed	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/11/2017	Notice of Taking Deposition Filed	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/11/2017	Notice of Appearance to Bondsman Mailed & Filed	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/12/2017	Notice of Appearance to Bondsman Mailed & Filed	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/17/2017		4		
10/17/2017	Fingerprints Taken Filed	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/17/2017	Credit for Time Served Worksheet Filed	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/17/2017	Plea Agreement Between State and Defense Filed	6		<input type="checkbox"/>
10/17/2017	Present With Attorney			

10/17/2017	Pre-Sentence Investigation Waived			
10/17/2017	Final Disposition Filed	3		
10/19/2017	Bond Returned to Depositor/Bondsman			
10/19/2017	Bond Returned to Depositor/Bondsman			
10/27/2017	Sentence & Judgment Recorded and Filed	9		
11/14/2017	Judgment of Guilt & Placing Defendant on Probation Filed	3		

Date	Description	Pages	Doc	Request Doc
------	-------------	-------	-----	-------------

Services

Event	Service	Party	Service Status	Response Status
-------	---------	-------	----------------	-----------------

Hearings

Date	Hearing	Time	Location	Pages	Doc
10/17/2017	Sentencing - Porter, J Frank	9:15 AM	Courtroom 4-A		
10/17/2017	CANCELED-New Court Date Set Motions - Porter, J Frank	9:15 AM	Courtroom 4-A		
08/09/2017	Case Management Conference - Porter, J Frank	9:15 AM	Courtroom 4-A		
06/26/2017	Arraignment - Manalich, Ramiro	8:30 AM	Courtroom 7-B		

Financial

Date	Description	Payer	Amount
05/24/2017	Charge	Anthony Roman Hernandez	50.00
10/17/2017	Charge	Anthony Roman Hernandez	613.00

Bonds

Description	Status Date	Bond Status	Image	Amount
Charge 1 Pretrial Surety Bond T5-50614947	05/24/2017	Posted		2500.00
	10/19/2017	Return to Depositor or Bondsman		
Charge 2 Pretrial Surety Bond T5-50614946	05/24/2017	Posted		2500.00
	10/19/2017	Return to Depositor or Bondsman		

Warrants

Number	Status Description	Issue Date	Service Date	Recall Date	Expiration Date	Warrant Type
--------	--------------------	------------	--------------	-------------	-----------------	--------------