

WARRANT TYPE: ARREST WARRANT  
AWPS#: 16000907  
COURT CASE NUMBER: F1623093

CASE TYPE: FELONY  
REFILE INDICATOR:  
DIVISION: HERSCH

TO ALL AND SINGULAR SHERIFFS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, GREETINGS:  
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO IMMEDIATELY ARREST THE DEFENDANT AND BRING HIM OR  
HER BEFORE ME, A JUDGE IN THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, TO BE DEALT  
WITH ACCORDING TO LAW:

DEFENDANT'S NAME: COTO-MARTINEZ  
LAST MANUEL FIRST MIDDLE TTL

AKA(S):  
STR/APT/CITY/ST/ZIP: 13202 NW 182ND ST / / HIALEAH / FL/ 330186422  
DOB: 05/07/1946 RACE: W SEX: M HEIGHT: WEIGHT: HAIR: EYES:  
SOC SEC #: CIN #: SID #: FBI #: IDS #: 3103885  
SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS:  
DRIVERS LICENSE #: STATE: FL  
VEH TAG #: STATE: MAKE: MODEL: YEAR: COLOR:  
COMMENTS:

PROBATION:  
\*\*\*\*\*  
BEFORE ME PERSONALLY CAME LOIS, MARCUS (AFFIANT) WHO, BEING DULY  
SWORN, STATES THAT THE DEFENDANT \*\* COTO-MARTINEZ, MANUEL \*\*, DID COMMIT THE  
ACTS STATED IN THE ATTACHED STATEMENT OF FACTS. BASED UPON THIS SWORN STATEMENT  
OF FACTS, I FIND PROBABLE CAUSE THAT \*\* COTO-MARTINEZ, MANUEL \*\* DID COMMIT  
THE CRIME(S) OF:  
F 3 500.451 SELL BUY POSS TRANSPORT HORSEMEAT WO STAMP 5000  
F 3 934.215 COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE/UNLAWFUL USE 5000

IN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONTRARY TO FLORIDA STATUTES AND AGAINST THE PEACE AND  
DIGNITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.  
POLICE CASE #: PD160901331901 AGENCY: MIAMI DADE POLICE  
ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY: ETH, WARREN UNIT: 065

EXTRADITE INFORMATION  
EXTRADITION CODE: 1 - FELONY - FULL EXTRADITION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN MIS FIEL  
EXTRADITION MAY BE CONFIRMED WITH THE METRO-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT, DADE COUNTY  
\*\* IN ANY EVENT, DEFENDANT WILL BE ARRESTED IF FOUND IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA \*\*

SWORN TO BY AFFIANT LOIS, MARCUS COURT ID 030-099 5449  
SO ORDERED THIS DAY OF November, 2016.

JUDGE IN THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DADE COUNTY FLA  
( ) FIRST APPEARANCE JUDGE MAY NOT MODIFY CONDITION OF RELEASE  
(RULE 3.131(D)(1)(D))  
\*\*\*\*\*  
( ) TO ANSWER UNTO THE STATE OF FLORIDA ON AN INFORMATION OR INDICTMENT  
FILED AGAINST HIM OR HER BY THE STATE ATTORNEY FOR THE CHARGE(S) OF:  
( ) UPON ORDER OF A JUDGE IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA FOR  
FAILURE TO APPEAR IN COURT TO ANSWER THE PENDING CHARGE(S) FOR THE  
CHARGE(S) OF:  
HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK OF THE COURT

BY DEPUTY CLERK DATE

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

STATE OF FLORIDA                     )  
   )  
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE            )

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ARREST WARRANT**

Before me, Dennis J Murphy, a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, personally appeared Det. Marcus LOIS 30-5449, of the Miami-Dade Police Department, hereinafter your affiant, who being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says that he has probable cause to believe and does believe that he has probable cause for the arrest of:

**SUBJECT**

**Manuel COTO-MARTINEZ**

DOB: 05/07/1946

FL DL: [REDACTED]

**AFFIDAVIT**

Your Affiant is Det. Marcus LOIS 30-5449, of the Miami-Dade Police Department. Your affiant has been a police officer for approximately 15 years. Your affiant is currently in the West District Agricultural Patrol Section and has been for the last 5 years, prior to that your affiant was in the Street Gangs Unit. As a detective within Agricultural Patrol your affiant investigates all crimes that are agriculture related and any livestock crimes. Your affiant, through experience, is familiar with animals, proper care for animals and Florida's animal cruelty laws. Your affiant is also familiar with the distinct issue facing the region involving horse slaughter and the illegal sales of horse meat. In 2010, under the "Ivonne Rodriguez and Victoria McCullough Horse

Affiant 

Judge 

Protection Act”, the sale of horse meat, under specified conditions enumerated in the statute, became a felony in the State of Florida. Investigating the illegal slaughter and black market horse meat trade has been an investigative priority of the West District Agricultural Patrol Section.

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

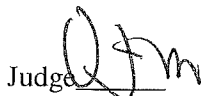
**On or about August 30, 2016**, your affiant received word from Det. Jonathan Santana (30-5925) of the Miami-Dade Police Department reference information he received from a Confidential Informant (CI) regarding two locations where there were illegal sales of horse meat. Based on that phone call, your affiant made contact with the CI and established that the CI had two targets he believed were involved in the illegal sale of horse meat. One of the targets presented was a person by the name of **Manuel COTO-MARTINEZ, DOB: 05/07/1946**, hereinafter COTO. Based on the intelligence and the potential for actionable cases, your affiant agreed to meet with the CI the next day.

**On or about August 31, 2016**, your affiant first met with Det. Santana and thereafter with the CI. The target COTO was believed to do business at his residence, located at 13202 NW 182<sup>nd</sup> Street, Miami, FL. According to the Miami-Dade Property Appraisers website, the listed folio is 30-2911-001-0330. The property is owned by M-D-FLA Investments LLC, which also appears to be incorporated out of the State of Delaware. The property is in a rural section of the County, near the Everglades and the Broward County line.

Affiant



Judge



**On or about September 1, 2016**, your affiant received word from the CI that he/she had spoken to COTO and was informed that COTO had 20 pounds of horse meat in his possession and that he would sell it to the CI for \$7 a pound. Your affiant met with his immediate supervisors to brief them on the progress. **On September 3, 2016**, your affiant and Sgt. Zahalka, of the Miami-Dade Police Department investigated a location for a secure meeting, close to the target location.

**On or about September 6, 2016**, your affiant, Sgt. Zahalka and Det. Santos all responded to a location to debrief with Narcotics personnel (as Det. Santana is assigned out of the Narcotics Unit) and members of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It should be noted that the USDA is a federal agency that has oversight over agriculture. However, the agency also conducts food safety functions and inspection functions, as well as having state of the art laboratories to test meats for species determination, including equine (horse). The CI was informed that the first operation would begin on September 8, 2016 and the CI was informed of the briefing location.

**On or about September 7, 2016**, the CI again contacted your affiant and advised that he had spoken to COTO via phone and again reassured him that he had horse meat at his property for sale. The CI advised COTO he would go by his house at 4pm to purchase several pounds. COTO agreed and the conversation ended.

**On or about September 8, 2016**, Lt. Garcia, Sgt. Zahalka, Det. Suarez, Det. Santos and your affiant responded to the staging area for the commencement of the buy/walk operation. A buy/walk operation is where law enforcement or a CI on request of law enforcement approaches a target and purchases contraband and thereafter walks away with it. The cash used to purchase

Affiant



Judge



the contraband remains with the seller. This method allows for the retention of evidence and the building of trust with the target who sold the contraband. A briefing was conducted with elements of MDPD Narcotics, Agriculture Patrol and USDA. The funds for the operation were provided by USDA (\$50) and the Narcotics Unit (\$90) for a buy total of \$140. All of the bills were photographed and placed within the case file.

At 1425 the CI arrived at the staging area. At 1430 the CI was searched, along with his vehicle to ensure no contraband was on his person or within his vehicle. At 1440 the CI was briefed and at 1525 the buy money was provided to the CI along with an audio recording device. At 1535 the CI and Det. Santana drove to the target location at 13202 NW 182<sup>nd</sup> Street. At 1556 the CI and Det. Santana returned to the staging area and the CI produced approximately 20 pounds of suspected horse meat from the trunk of his vehicle. Photographs were taken and made a part of the case file. The suspected horse meat was released to USDA Inspector J. Pereira via a property receipt. The meat would be taken under USDA control to a laboratory in Georgia. Your affiant went to a USDA field Office and witnessed the portioning of 2 pounds of suspect horse meat. Once the 2 pound specimen was portioned out, it was prepped and sent to the laboratory. The remaining 18 pounds was kept by USDA for proper storage.

During a post operation debrief the CI and Det. Santana, it was learned that the CI and Det. Santana drove onto the property via the entrance on NW 182<sup>nd</sup> and drove up to the stables and the CI exited the vehicle and walked towards the mid area of the property by the stables and stalls whereupon the CI met with an unknown male. Thereafter, the CI and the unknown male went out of sight of Det. Santana who remained in the vehicle. The CI went to the "pole" barn behind the dwelling and retrieved a bag from the fridge inside the "pole" barn and a male who

Affiant 

Judge 



has been identified as COTO's brother. The CI handed the male the money and went back to the vehicle.

A photo of the horse meat and the bag it was sold (cut open to show contents) in is depicted below:



The USDA laboratory finished their species testing in regards to the first buy/walk and the result was positive for equine, i.e. horse meat.

**On or about October 13, 2016**, your affiant, Lt. Garcia, Sgt. Zahalka, Det. Suarez and Det. Santos along with personnel from MDPD Narcotics Unit and the USDA responded to the staging area to commence a second buy/walk operation. At 1630 your affiant briefed the CI and provided him/her with \$140 worth of buy money. The money used was documented via



Affiant  Judge 

photographs which were made a part of the case file. At 1638 the CI and undercover officers, i.e. Det. Santana and Det. Lageyre accompanied the CI in his vehicle.

Per Det. Santana who accompanied the CI, they exited the vehicle and approached the stables area in the mid-area of the property (Det. Lageyre remained in the vehicle). The CI approached an unknown white Hispanic female who later became known as COTO's wife. The CI told her that this was the guy (Det. Santana) that he had spoken with "Manuel", so that he would not need to come every time with his "friend" (in reality the undercover). She relayed that COTO was not there but was off of I-75 and Okeechobee. At that time she got on the phone with what seemed like Manuel, and she went to the dwelling and entered through a rear door (rear of the home) and told the CI and the undercover to remain outside. She then exited the dwelling with a heavy plastic white bag that was frozen and extremely cold to the touch. She exchanged the bag for \$140 that was handed to her by the CI. The CI and Det. Santana returned to the vehicle and the trio (CI, Det. Santana and Det. Lageyre) departed.

Thereupon the trio returned to the staging area for a debrief and to turn the suspected horse meat over. A 2 pound sample of the horse meat was dissected at the debrief area and thereafter the 18 pounds and the 2 pound sample were released to USDA for transfer to their lab. A photo of the horse meat and the bag it was sold (cut open to show contents) in is depicted below:



Affiant  Judge 

The USDA laboratory finished their species testing in regards to the second buy/walk and the result was positive for equine, i.e. horse meat.

**On November 10, 2016 at 1500 hours**, Lt. Garcia, Sgt. Zahalka, Det. Suarez and Det. Santos along with personnel from MDPD Narcotics Unit and the USDA responded to the staging area to commence a third buy/walk operation. Prior to the meeting Det. Santana communicated with the CI who had communicated with COTO to ensure that he had horse meat on hand and to ensure that COTO was on premises. The CI informed Det. Santana that COTO was present and did in fact have horse meat on hand. This operation would only include the undercover detective. Photos were taken of the buy money and Det. Santana was released to respond to the premises with the money to purchase the suspected horse meat from COTO.

Det. Santana responded to the premises in an undercover vehicle and entered through the NW 182<sup>nd</sup> Street entrance. Det. Santana made contact with someone he was able to positively identify via previously established photographs. Upon making contact with COTO, Det. Santana asked COTO, "do you have the meat?" in Spanish. COTO indicated he did. COTO asked him if he was the one who was previously outside of the property in a maroon vehicle. Det. Santana indicated that was not him and that he had driven a silver Cadillac. COTO made a few a phone calls, but did not speak to anyone. Det. Santana followed COTO to a large pole barn that is behind the dwelling. COTO informed Det. Santana to wait there. COTO thereafter walked to the dwelling and went inside the rear left door. The door was left ajar and Det. Santana was able to see a large white freezer and saw COTO receive a white plastic bag. COTO walked back to Det. Santana and handed him the frozen bag and meat. Det. Santana handed COTO \$140 and COTO wanted him to walk around the same way around. However, because the door was open, Det. Santana wanted to walk back around the other direction to get a better view of the area wherein

Affiant 

Judge 



the meat was stored. COTO didn't seem to mind and that direction was taken. Det. Santana walked back to his car and returned to the staging area for a debrief and to turn the suspected horse meat over. Det. Santana thereafter departed. A 2 pound sample of the horse meat was dissected at the debrief area and thereafter the 18 pounds and the 2 pound sample were released to USDA for transfer to their lab.

The USDA laboratory finished their species testing in regards to the third buy/walk and the result was positive for equine, i.e. horse meat.

A photo of the horse meat and the bag it was sold (cut open to show contents) in is depicted below:



COTO knew the horsemeat would be consumed by a human, as the back story for the undercover detective was that the Detective had an anemic child and the meat was to help his anemia (this is a common belief that horsemeat can cure or aid in treating that disease and others). Furthermore, COTO sold the meat directly to the undercover detective. Furthermore, the

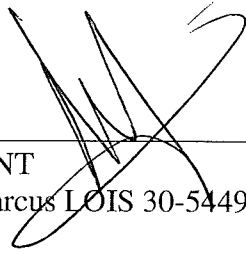
Affiant 

Judge 

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packaging was "not clearly stamped, marked, and described as horse meat for human consumption" and furthermore the horse meat was "not acquired from a licensed slaughterhouse". Per the USDA there is currently no facility in the United States that is licensed to slaughter horses for human consumption and in addition the meat and packaging is entirely devoid of any markings, point of origin etc.

Based upon the foregoing your affiant has probable cause to believe and does believe that there is probable cause for the issuance of an Arrest Warrant charging Manuel **COTO-MARTINEZ, DOB: 05/07/1946** with one count of Unlawful Sale of Horse Meat, contrary to Florida Statute §500.451, and one count of Unlawful Use of a Two Way Communications Device Florida Statute §934.215, both third degree felonies, against the peace and dignity of the people of the State of Florida.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AFFIANT  
Det. Marcus LOIS 30-5449  
MDPD

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS THE 17 DAY OF November, 2016.

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

Affiant 

Judge 