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**ALACHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

15000 NW 142ND TERRACE  
ALACHUA, FL 32615

2024 JAN 17 PM 1:36

REPORT NUMBER  
**23APD01562**

**ARREST**

Report Type <b>ARREST</b>	Report Date / Time 01/12/24 14:07	Agency Case # 23APD01562	OBTS Number MIS	Jail Booking Number	Agency ORI Number FL0010800
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**LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE**

County <b>ALACHUA</b>	Address <b>15303 NW 134TH TER, ALACHUA, FL 32615</b>		
Range of Occurrence Date / Time <b>12/12/23 11:59 -</b>	Latitude <b>29.795133</b>	Longitude <b>-82.488210</b>	

**PERSON: SUSPECT**

Name (Last, First, Middle) <b>MERRICKS, RAYMOND LEON J, JR</b>		Date of Birth <b>12/7/79</b>	Phone Number <b>Cell - (352) 328-6666; Cell</b>	US Citizen? <b>Yes</b>	Place of Birth <b>USA, FL</b>
Address <b>15303 NW 134TH TER ALACHUA, FL 32616</b>			Driver's License State/Number <b>FL M-620-732-79-447-0</b>	Social Security Number [REDACTED]	
Race <b>Black or African American</b>	Sex <b>Male</b>	Height <b>5' 11"</b>	Weight	Hair <b>Black</b>	Eyes <b>Brown</b>
				Complexion <b>Black</b>	Build <b>Small</b>

**CHARGES**

CHARGE #1	Counts <b>02</b>	Statute Number/Charge Description <b>828.12-2 - CONSERVATION-ANIMALS CAUSE CRUEL DEATH PAIN AND SUFFERING</b>	Charge Degree/Level <b>Felony</b>
	Victim's Name (Last, First, Middle) <b>STATE OF FLORIDA</b>		Victim's Address <b>15000 NW 142ND TER ALACHUA, FL 32615</b>
CHARGE #2	Counts <b>02</b>	Statute Number/Charge Description <b>828.12-1 - CONSERVATION-ANIMALS TORMENT. DEPRIVE MUTILATE KILL</b>	Charge Degree/Level <b>Misdemeanor</b>
	Victim's Name (Last, First, Middle) <b>STATE OF FLORIDA</b>		Victim's Address <b>15000 NW 142ND TER ALACHUA, FL 32615</b>
CHARGE #3	Counts	Statute Number/Charge Description	Charge Degree/Level
	Victim's Name (Last, First, Middle)		Victim's Address

**PROBABLE CAUSE**

On December 12, 2023 at 1153 hours, officers responded to the Defendant's address to assist Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS) with an investigation in reference to a stray male Pit-bull gray in color whose body score is a three on a 1-9 scale (ribs easily palpable and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.) running at large and attacked and killed the neighbors' chickens. ACAS confirmed with the Defendant's neighbor that the dog belonged to the Defendant. ACAS was able to capture the stray dog.

While attempting to knock on the Defendant's door, the officers observed a brown male Pit-bull on a heavy chain in the front yard. The dog was tied to a tree stump. The dogs had a small piece of carpet on the floor, but the area around the chain was covered in feces. The dog also had hair loss and fleas crawling on it.

Officers walked around to the rear of the residence and observed two makeshift confinements containing a gray female pit-bull who was very skinny and malnourished. The body score for this animal was a 2 on a 1-9 scale (Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.)

The second makeshift confinement contained a male pit-bull mixed (adjacent to the female pit-bull). This dog appeared to be deceased. The dog's tongue was protruding from its mouth and it was not breathing. It was determined that the dog was in fact deceased when officers attempted to wake the dog up by touching it. This dog was extremely thin. The body score was 1-2 on a 1-9 scale. (ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.) This dog was tied up inside the kennel using a leash that was strung up through the wiring and hooked to the top of

ARREST AFFIDAVIT

Case: 2024 CF 000173 A

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the kennel. The makeshift confinement was littered with trash and feces, and there was mold on the feces. Next to the makeshift confinement, there was a dog house that had tethering and chains wrapped around a tree. The water bucket was knocked over and empty and there was a green film in it along with mud.

The makeshift confinement had no gate. Officers had to pry the confinements open to remove the dogs.

All dogs were covered in feces and infested with fleas. One of the dogs had missing teeth and pressure sores on it's skin. Although there was no food in any of the dog bowls, The Defendant had a large unopened bag of dog food in the garage.

On December 13, 2023, ACAS officers responded back to the residence to attempt to make contact with the Defendant. Contact was made with the Defendant's elderly mother who confirmed that the dogs belonged to the Defendant. ACAS officers spoke with the Defendant via telephone who admitted that the dogs belonged to him. I made several attempts to contact the Defendant with negative results.

The Defendant is being charged with two (2) counts of Felony Animal Cruelty (FSS. 828. 12 (2) and two (2) counts of Misdemeanor Animal Cruelty. (FSS 828.12 (1).

**CO-DEFENDANTS**

#1	Name (Last, First, Middle)	Date of Birth	Race	Sex	Disposition	Charge	Juvenile
							No
#2	Name (Last, First, Middle)	Date of Birth	Race	Sex	Disposition	Charge	Juvenile
							No

**JUVENILE**

Juvenile Disposition	Name of Parent/Guardian (Last, First, Middle)	Address	Phone Number
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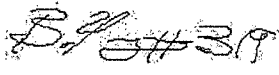

**ARREST INFORMATION**

Arrest Date / Time	Location of Arrest	County ALACHUA
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**NOTICE TO APPEAR**

<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Court Appearance at: <b>220 S. Main Street Gainesville, FL 32601</b>		Date and Time of Appearance	Thumbprint
I agree and promise to comply and answer to the charges and instructions specified in this notice to appear. Willful refusal to accept and sign this notice to appear may result in physical arrest. I understand my signature is not an admission of guilt or waiver of my rights.		Defendant (Signature)	Date

**ARRESTING OFFICER**

Sworn to and subscribed to before me on: <u>01/17/24</u>   Signature	Law Enforcement Officer Title	I swear the above and reverse and attached pages and statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.   Signature	<u>332 - Hunt, Carlos</u> Officer ID#/Name  <u>Alachua Police Department</u> Agency
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