**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**IN AND FOR MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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| STATE OF FLORIDA | * | CLERK'S NUMBER: |
| | * | |
| VS. | * | MSO CASE NUMBER: 2026-001353 |
| | * | |
| Ismery Ferrer Alonso | * | S.A.O. NUMBER: |

## AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ARREST WARRANT

Before me, a **JUDGE** of the **CIRCUIT COURT**, in and for Manatee County, Florida, **DETECTIVE Rachael Fossaceca,** a duly sworn officer of the **MANATEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE,** personally or by sworn attestment says that during the time-frame of 10/20/2025 – 01/15/2026 in the aforesaid county, one Ismery Ferrer Alonso, did unlawfully commit:

eWarrant # 108056

Count 1 – Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information (10 or More Persons; < 20 Persons), contrary to Florida Statutes, section FSS 817.568 (2)(b): in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

Count 2 – Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information (Over 60 Years), contrary to Florida Statutes, section FSS 817.568 (6): in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

Count 3 – Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information (Over 60 Years), contrary to Florida Statutes, section FSS 817.568 (6): in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

Count 4 – Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information (Over 60 Years), contrary to Florida Statutes, section FSS 817.568 (6): in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

Count 5 – Scheme to Defraud (Less Than $20,000), contrary to Florida Statutes, section FSS 817.034 (4)(a)(3): in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

To Wit;

On 12/12/2025 the Manatee County Sheriff's Office was notified by a Pastor serving at Harvest United Methodist Church that their church had been experiencing a significant decrease in mail received by the church within the past few months. Several of their parishioners began inquiring if the church had received their monthly tithe checks, which the church had not. Several parishioners then discovered that their tithe checks they had mailed to the church had been stolen and deposited into numerous suspects accounts.

This initial investigation (initially documented under MCSO Case 2025-025414) then ignited a large-scale investigation that resulted in the identification of over twenty suspects, all of Cuban descent residing in the Tampa Bay area, depositing stolen church parishioners tithe checks from over different seventeen churches

located in Manatee County during the approximate time-span of September 2025 through May 2026. This large-scale investigation is being consolidated under MCSO Case 2026-001353. The Modus Operandi of these suspects involved the suspects depositing the ***unaltered*** parishioners checks into the suspects' personally-owned bank accounts. The majority of the check deposits were done via mobile-deposit, which is a preferred method of check deposit by fraudsters as it reduces contact with bank staff that may raise suspicions or question the validity of the suspects' actions. This well-organized scheme to defraud allowed the crimes to go virtually undetected as the church parishioners believed that their churches were receiving their tithe checks, while the churches were virtually unaware that they were having checks endorsed to the churches stolen. Several church parishioners give tithes to their churches via scheduled monthly automatic payments sent from their banks (ex: automatic bill-pay). The churches do not question parishioners if they do not receive a monthly tithe/donation (they may think their parishioners may not have the funds to give a tithe that month).

The Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso was identified as one of the active participants via the following investigation conducted by your Affiant.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

The following churches located in Manatee County were also identified as victims of the Scheme to Defraud:

1- North River Church
2- Risen Savior Lutheran Church
3- St. Frances Cabrini Church
4- Bayside Community Church
5- Faith Lutheran Church
6- Emmanuel Baptist Church

On 01/22/2026, Victim 1 – [redacted] contacted the Manatee County Sheriff's Office to report that he was a victim of check fraud. The victim reported that on 01/21/2026 he discovered that four checks he had authorized his bank to send to North River Church for tithes had been intercepted and deposited into unknown suspect account(s). North River Church is located in Manatee County. Numerous other victims (parishioners at North River Church) came forward to report that they were also victims.

[redacted] provided your Affiant with the copies of the stolen checks. Your Affiant viewed the copy [redacted] JP Morgan Chase check [redacted] in the amount of $978.00 payable to "North River Church"; dated 12/19/2025. The back of the check contained an indiscernible signature. Using investigative resources, your Affiant determined that the bank of first deposit for this check was JP Morgan Chase Bank. It should be noted that the other three checks were investigated by your Affiant and were all determined to have been deposited into three separate suspect bank accounts- criminal charges for those suspects will be forthcoming.

Your Affiant subpoenaed JP Morgan Chase Bank and the fulfillment revealed that on 12/27/2025 the Victim 1- [redacted] JP Morgan Chase check [redacted] in the amount of $978.00 payable to "**North River Church**" was deposited into the JP Morgan Chase Checking account #[redacted] via ATM deposit, which is owned by SOLE account owner:

Ismery Ferrer Alonso

[redacted]

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[redacted]

Your Affiant reviewed the bank statements from this account [redacted] within the date range: 08/20/2025 – 02/19/2026 and determined that this account is well-established. The account was opened 04/18/2024; contained normal every-day debit card purchases concentrated around Tampa, FL; contained evidence of bill-pay (Spectrum Mobile; Auto Loan etc.) and payment to subscriptions/misc. purchases (Temu).

This account also appears to be used for committing fraud as it contains NUMEROUS stolen church check mobile-deposits, ATM cash withdrawals and Zelle transactions.

Your Affiant viewed evidence of this Defendant's association with other check theft suspects via Zelle transfers to and from: [redacted] (additional suspect in this large-scale investigation- criminal charges for him will be forthcoming).

Your Affiant had requested copies of all checks deposited into this account [redacted] within the date range: 08/20/2025 – 02/19/2026, which was **significant** as there was an excess of **29** deposited checks had been endorsed to churches (or church services). Several of these checks appeared to be auto-bill pay checks printed and mailed from the victims' banks.

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While reviewing these checks, your Affiant observed the mobile-deposited check from Victim 1 [redacted] and also identified the following additional Manatee County victims (includes out of county victims who sent checks to Manatee county churches).

On 10/20/2025 the Victim 13- [redacted] Truist Bank check [redacted] in the amount of $400.00 payable to "**St Francis Cabrini Catholic Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM.

On 10/20/2025 the Victim 9- [redacted] (also [redacted] Wells Fargo check [redacted] in the amount of $400.00 payable to "**North River Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM.

On 10/22/2025 the Victim 11- [redacted] Bank of OZK check [redacted] in the amount of $100.00 payable to **"North River Church**" was deposited via ATM (mixed deposit) into this account.

On 10/22/2025 the Victim 2- [redacted] Truist check [redacted] in the amount of $200.00 payable to **"North River Church**" was deposited via ATM (mixed deposit) into this account. *This was a newly discovered check as his original reported check (check [redacted] had been deposited into another suspect's bank account (Suspect: Yucmercy Espinose Obregon- criminal charges will be forthcoming for her).

On 11/05/2025 the Victim 10- [redacted] JP Morgan Chase Bank check [redacted] in the amount of $250.00 payable to "**North River Church**" was deposited via ATM (mixed deposit) into this account.

On 11/17/2025 the Victim 4- [redacted] Edward Jones Check [redacted] in the amount of $100.00; payable to "**St Francis Cabrini Catholic Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM.

On 11/17/2025 the Victim 14- [redacted] UMB check [redacted] in the amount of $100.00; payable to "**Faith Lutheran Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM mixed deposit.

On 12/22/2025 the Victim 3- [redacted] JP Morgan Bank check [redacted] in the amount of $1,000.00; payable to "**Risen Savior Lutheran Church**" was mobile-deposited into this account.

On 12/27/2025 the Victim 1- [redacted] JP Morgan Chase Bank check [redacted] in the amount of $978.00 payable to "**North River Church**" was deposited via ATM into this account.

On 12/31/2025 the Victim 6- [redacted] Chase check [redacted] in the amount of $550.00; payable to **"Emmanuel Baptist Church"** was deposited into this account via ATM (mixed ATM deposit).

On 12/31/2025 the Victim 10- [redacted] additional JP Morgan Chase Bank check [redacted] in the amount of $250.00 payable to "**North River Church**" was deposited via ATM (mixed deposit) into this account.

On 01/13/2026 the Victim 8- [redacted] Wells Fargo check [redacted] in the amount of $281.00; payable to "**Bayside Community Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM.

On 01/14/2026 the Victim 7- [redacted] check [redacted] in the amount of $5,000.00; payable to "**Faith Lutheran Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM.

On 01/15/2026 the Victim 5- [redacted] Wells Fargo check [redacted] in the amount of $45.00; payable to "**Bayside Community Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM.

On 01/15/2026 the victims- [redacted] check [redacted] in the amount of $50.00; payable to "**Risen Savior Lutheran Church**" was deposited into this account via ATM mixed deposit. These victims reside in Jupiter, FL.

Your Affiant viewed a total of **13** checks (it should be noted that these checks totaled **$6,255.12**) that were endorsed to be payable to or written from the following churches located outside of Manatee County:

Christian Life Assembly of God (Ocala, FL)
Sun City Christian Church
Gateway to Hope Ministries Inc
Family Life Church
Trinity Baptist Church
New Wave Church (Dade City, FL)
Christs Church of Marion County
Scott Lake Baptist Church
Friendship Baptist Church
South Hills Church (Wimauma, FL)
Francis Baptist Church

Your Affiant searched D.A.V.I.D. using the Defendant's personal identifying information provided in the JP Morgan Chase Bank's signature card and was presented with the sole Florida driver's license record # [redacted] for Ismery Ferrer Alonso. This record contained a color photograph of the Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso.

The JP Morgan Chase Bank fulfillment also provided JP Morgan Chase Bank high-quality ATM video surveillance that recorded the ATM deposit of the Victim 1- [redacted] JP Morgan Chase check [redacted] in the amount of $978.00 payable to "**North River Church**". Your Affiant viewed the video and observed a white male with a tattoo arm sleeve along his right arm and a tattoo present along his left bicep area depositing the check into the front ATM lobby located at 7319 W. Waters Ave., Tampa, FL on 12/27/2025. Your Affiant immediately recognized this white male to be the Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso depositing the stolen check into the Defendant's sole-owned personal JP Morgan Chase account [redacted] the ATM using a debit card with PIN based on the comparison to his Florida driver's license record # [redacted]

It is clear that the Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso has committed scheme to defraud by targeting churches based on the egregious amount of mobile check deposits of checks endorsed to churches over an extended period time using his sole-owned personal JP Morgan Chase bank account [redacted]

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Your Affiant confirmed that the victims did not know the Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso. He is not employed by any of the churches located in Manatee County nor did any of the victims grant him permission to deposit their checks.

The totality of evidence obtained by your Affiant provides probable cause that the Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso did violate the listed Florida State Statutes when he specifically **targeted** churches located within Manatee County to **systematically defraud** the churches by stealing their funds that churches rely on for every-day operations. The Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso knowingly exploited the fact that tithe/donation checks originate from church parishioners and are made payable to the churches. These checks are not in the same category as a payment on a financial obligation. This is an important distinction as when the Defendant deposits the check, there is never a financial institution that is owed money that later attempts to collect payment from the check originator. This enables the Defendant to continue to commit his nefarious activity undetected. Likewise, the churches do not demand/mandate any funding from their parishioners as any funding would be a voluntary tithe/donation. Churches would never question their parishioners regarding a decrease in giving tithes/donations. This unique parishioner-to-church payment system is commonly exploited by fraudsters for this very reason and is highly lucrative. The Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso continued to engage in this scheme to defraud over a course of several months. His ongoing deliberate course of action ultimately defrauded the churches located in Manatee County a total of **$9,904.00** (Count 5).

Additionally, the Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso used over 10 of the church parishioner victims' (Victim 1-[redacted] Victim 2-[redacted] Victim 3-[redacted] Victim 4-[redacted] Victim 5-[redacted] Victim 6-[redacted] Victim 7-[redacted] Victim 8-[redacted] Victim 9-[redacted] Victim 10-[redacted] Victim 11-[redacted] uniquely assigned personal identification information encompassed by the checks without the victims' knowledge or consent (Count 1).

Lastly, the Defendant- Ismery Ferrer Alonso used additional church parishioner victims' aged over the age of 60 years old (Victim 12-[redacted] Victim 13-[redacted] Victim 14-[redacted] uniquely assigned personal identification information encompassed by the checks without the victims' knowledge or consent (Counts 2-4).

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The Manatee County Sheriff's Office has incurred actual costs, as defined in F.S.S. 938.27 and 755.89 in the investigation and preparation for trial.

☐ Misdemeanor $100 or ☑ Felony (non-detailed) $200

☐ Because Defendant is required to register as a sexual offender under s.943.0435, he is not eligible for release on bail or surety bond until first appearance. His bond amount should therefore be listed as "to be set at first appearance." See Section 903.046(2)(m), Fla.Stat.

☐ Because Defendant is required to register as a sexual predator under s.775.21, he is not eligible for release on bail or surety bond until first appearance. His bond amount should therefore be listed as "to be set at first appearance." See Section 903.046(2)(m), Fla.Stat

The Defendant, Ismerry Ferrer Alonso, did commit the above described offenses contrary to Florida Statutes in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

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D.R. 1100701

AFFIANT Rachael Fossaceca

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of October 2026

D.R. 1100814

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA (F.S.S.117.03)
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (F.S.S. 117.10)