



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

January 23, 2026

Warden Randall Polk
Florida State Prison
7819 N.W. 228th Street
Raiford, Florida 32036-1000

Re: Execution Date for Melvin Trotter, DC# 573461

Dear Warden Polk:

Enclosed is the death warrant that I signed to carry out the sentence for Melvin Trotter, as well as certified copies of his judgment and sentence. I have designated the week beginning at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, through 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, for the execution. I have been advised that you have set the date and time of execution for Tuesday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m.

This letter is incorporated into and made a part of the death warrant identified above.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Enclosures

FILED
2025 JAN 23 PM 2:55
TALLAHASSEE, FL
OFFICE OF THE STATE
CLERK

Warden Randall Polk
January 23, 2026
Page 2

cc:

Honorable Carlos G. Muñiz
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Florida
500 S. Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Honorable Diana Moreland
Chief Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit
1051 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Secretary Ricky Dixon
Department of Corrections
501 S. Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500

Marilyn Muir
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol, FL-01
Tallahassee, Florida 32300-0001

Eric Pinkard
Capital Collateral Regional Counsel
12973 N. Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, Florida 33637

Office of Executive Clemency
4070 Esplanade Way
Building C, Room 229
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2450

Melvin Trotter, DC# 573461
Union Correctional Institution
7819 N.W. 228th Street
Raiford, Florida 32083

Ali Andrew Shakoor
Capital Collateral Regional Counsel
12973 N Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, Florida 33637



STATE OF FLORIDA

JAMES UTHMEIER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 23, 2026

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399—0001

RE: Melvin Trotter

Dear Governor DeSantis:


On June 16, 1986, a truck driver entered Langford's Grocery Store in Palmetto, Florida, and found the seventy-year-old owner, Virgie Langford, lying on the floor at the back of the store. Ms. Langford told the driver that she had been stabbed and robbed. Ms. Langford had suffered a total of seven stab wounds and there was a large abdominal wound that resulted in disembowelment. Several hours after surgery for her wounds, Ms. Langford suffered cardiac arrest and died. Trotter was found guilty of and sentenced to death for the murder of Ms. Langford.

The Florida Supreme Court affirmed Trotter's convictions but reversed and remanded for a new sentencing. *Trotter v. State*, 576 So. 2d 691 (Fla. 1990). At resentencing, he again was sentenced to death. That death sentence was affirmed. *Trotter v. State*, 690 So. 2d 1234 (Fla. 1996), *cert. denied*, 522 U.S. 876 (1997).

In the decades that followed, Trotter engaged in extensive and unsuccessful postconviction litigation in state and federal court. *Trotter v. State*, 932 So. 2d 1045 (Fla. 2006) (affirming denial of initial postconviction motion); *Trotter v. Sec'y, Dep't of Corr.*, 2007 WL 3326672 (M.D. Fla. Nov. 6, 2007) (denial of federal habeas corpus petition); *Trotter v. Sec'y, Dep't of Corr.*, 535 F.3d 1286 (11th Cir. 2008) (affirming the denial of federal habeas corpus petition), *cert. denied*, 555 U.S. 1087 (2008); *Trotter v. State*, 10 So. 3d 633 (Fla. 2009) (Table) (affirming denial of successive postconviction motion); *Trotter v. State*, 235 So. 3d 284 (Fla. 2018) (affirming denial of successive postconviction motion).

The record has been reviewed and there are no stays of execution issued by any court of competent jurisdiction in this cause. Based upon the above-referenced summary of litigation affirming the judgment and sentence of death imposed for first-degree murder, the record is legally sufficient to support the issuance of a death warrant.

Sincerely,


James Uthmeier
Attorney General

Probation Violator
 Community Control Violator
 Retrial
 Resentence

FILED
 R. B. SHORE
 JUL 23 1993

In the Circuit Court, Twelfth Judicial Circuit,
 in and for Manatee County, Florida
 Case Number 86-1225-F

9/8/93 re-recorded to change trial date

State of Florida v. CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Best Image Available

Defendant MELVIN TROTTER aka MELVIN TURNER
 BK 1415 PG 2486 DKT # 000661503

JUDGMENT

The defendant, MELVIN TROTTER aka MELVIN TURNER, being personally before this court represented by DAVID BLOUNT & JAMES SLATER, ASST PUB DEF, the attorney of record, and the state represented by DOUG CROW & FRED SCHAUB, and having

been tried and found guilty by jury ~~by court~~ of the following crime(s) ~~8/23/88~~ 05/18/87
 entered a plea of guilty to the following crime(s)
 entered a plea of nolo contendere to the following crime(s)

Count	Crime	Offense Statute Number(s)	Degree of Crime	OBTS Number
I	FIRST DEGREE MURDER	782.04	CAPITAL	

and no cause being shown why the defendant should not be adjudicated guilty, IT IS ORDERED THAT ~~the defendant is hereby ADJUDICATED GUILTY~~ of the above crime(s), the judgment of guilt is reaffirmed.

The defendant is hereby ordered to pay the following sums if checked:

- A sum of \$255.00 (two hundred fifty-five dollars), the amount determined by Florida Statutes:
 - \$200.00 pursuant to FS 27.3455 (Local Government Criminal Justice Trust Fund);
 - \$ 50.00 pursuant to FS 960.20 (State of Florida Crimes Compensation Trust Fund);
 - \$ 3.00 pursuant to FS 943.25(3) (State of Florida Criminal Justice Trust Fund);
 - \$ 2.00 pursuant to FS 943.25(13) (Criminal Justice Education by Municipalities and Counties).

Restitution in accordance with separate order.

The Court hereby waives costs.

Other _____

BK 1411 PG 7804 DKT # 000650219











MELVIN TROTTER aka MELVIN TURNER
Defendant

BK 1415 PG 2487 FILED AND RECORDED 09/10/1993 8:57AM RECORD VERIFIED
R. B. SHORE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT MANATEE COUNTY FL

_____ and pursuant to section 943.325, Florida Statutes, having been convicted of attempts or offenses relating to sexual battery (ch. 794) or lewd and lascivious conduct (ch. 800) the defendant shall be required to submit blood specimens.

_____ and good cause being shown; IT IS ORDERED THAT ADJUDICATION OF GUILT BE WITHHELD.

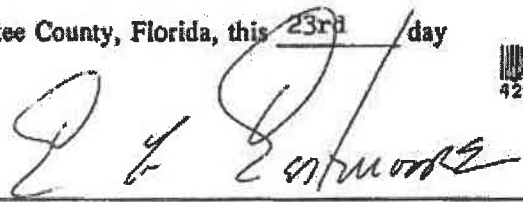
FINGERPRINTS OF DEFENDANT

1. Right Thumb	2. Right Index	3. Right Middle	4. Right Ring	5. Right Little
				
6. Left Thumb	7. Left Index	8. Left Middle	9. Left Ring	10. Left Little
				

Fingerprints taken by: Name E Anderson Title BALIF

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing are the fingerprints of the defendant, MELVIN TROTTER aka MELVIN TURNER, and that they were placed thereon by the defendant in my presence in open court this date.

DONE AND ORDERED in open court in Manatee County, Florida, this 23rd day of JULY, 19 93.



Judge



****CORRECTED****

SENTENCE

(As to Count I)

The defendant, being personally before this court, accompanied by the defendant's attorney of record, DAVID BLOUNT & JAMES SLATER, ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS and having been adjudicated guilty herein, and the court having given the defendant an opportunity to be heard and to offer matters in mitigation of sentence, and to show cause why the defendant should not be sentenced as provided by law, and no cause being shown

(Check one if applicable.)

and the Court having on _____ deferred imposition of sentence until this date.
(date)

and the Court having previously entered a judgment in this case on 4-9-87 now resentsences the defendant.
(date)

and the Court having placed the defendant on probation/community control and having subsequently revoked the defendant's probation/community control.

It Is The Sentence Of The Court that:

The defendant pay a fine of \$ _____, pursuant to section 775.083, Florida Statutes, plus \$ _____ as the 5% surcharge required by section 960.25, Florida Statutes.

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Sheriff of _____ County, Florida.

The defendant is sentenced as a youthful offender in accordance with section 958.04, Florida Statutes.

PUT TO DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION

To Be Imprisoned (Check one, unmarked sections are inapplicable)

For a term of natural life.

For a term of _____.

Said SENTENCE SUSPENDED for a period of _____ subject to conditions set forth in this order.

If "split" sentence, complete the appropriate paragraph.

Followed by a period of _____ on probation/community control under the supervision of the Department of Corrections according to the terms and conditions of supervision set forth in a separate order entered herein.

However, after serving a period of _____ imprisonment in _____, the balance of the sentence shall be suspended and the defendant shall be placed on probation/community control for a period of _____ under supervision of the Department of Corrections according to the terms and conditions of probation/community control set forth in a separate order entered herein.

In the event the defendant is ordered to serve additional split sentences, all incarceration portions shall be satisfied before the defendant begins service of the supervision terms.

****CORRECTED****
SPECIAL PROVISIONS
 (As to Count I)

By appropriate notation, the following provisions apply to the sentence imposed:

Mandatory/Minimum Provisions:

- Firearm _____ It is further ordered that the 3-year minimum imprisonment provisions of section 775.087(2), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Drug Trafficking _____ It is further ordered that the _____ mandatory minimum imprisonment provisions of section 893.135(1), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Controlled Substance _____ It is further ordered that the 3-year minimum imprisonment provisions of section 893.13(1)(e)1, Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
 Within 1,000 Feet
 of School
- Habitual Felony _____ The defendant is adjudicated a habitual felony offender and has been sentenced to an extended term Offender _____ in accordance with the provisions of section 775.084(4)(a), Florida Statutes. The requisite findings by the court are set forth in a separate order or stated on the record in open court.
- Habitual Violent _____ The defendant is adjudicated a habitual violent felony offender and has been sentenced to an Felony Offender _____ extended term in accordance with the provisions of section 775.084(4)(b), Florida Statutes. A minimum term of _____ year(s) must be served prior to release. The requisite findings of the court are set forth in a separate order or stated on the record in open court.
- Law Enforcement _____ It is further ordered that the defendant shall serve a minimum of _____ years before release in Protection Act _____ accordance with section 775.0823, Florida Statutes.
- Capital Offense _____ It is further ordered that the defendant shall serve no less than 25 years in accordance with the provisions of section 775.082(1), Florida Statutes.
- Short-Barreled Rifle, _____ It is further ordered that the 5-year minimum provisions of section 790.221(s), Florida Shotgun, Machine Gun _____ Statutes, are hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Continuing _____ It is further ordered that the 25-year minimum sentence provisions of section 893.20, Criminal Enterprise _____ Florida Statutes, are hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Other Provisions:**
- Retention _____ The court retains jurisdiction over the defendant pursuant to section 947.16(3), Florida of Jurisdiction _____ Statutes (1983).
- Jail Credit _____ It is further ordered that the defendant shall be allowed a total of _____ days as credit for time incarcerated before imposition of this sentence.
- Prison Credit _____ It is further ordered that the defendant be allowed credit for all time previously served on this count in the Department of Corrections prior to resentencing.
- Consecutive/Concurrent _____ It is further ordered that the sentence imposed for this count shall run As To Other Counts _____ (check one) _____ consecutive to _____ concurrent with the sentence set forth in count _____ of this case.

Consecutive/Concurrent
As To Other Convictions

It is further ordered that the composite term of all sentences imposed for the counts specified in this order shall run

(check one) ___ consecutive to ___ concurrent with the following:

(check one)

___ any active sentence being served.

___ specific sentences: _____

In the event the above sentence is to the Department of Corrections, the Sheriff of Manatee County, Florida, is hereby ordered and directed to deliver the defendant to the Department of Corrections at the facility designated by the department together with a copy of this judgment and sentence and any other documents specified by Florida Statute.

The defendant in open court was advised of the right to appeal from this sentence by filing notice of appeal within 30 days from this date with the clerk of this court and the defendant's right to the assistance of counsel in taking the appeal at the expense of the State on showing of indigency.

In imposing the above sentence, the court further recommends _____

DONE AND ORDERED in open court at Manatee County, Florida, this 23rd day of JULY, 19 93.


[Handwritten Signature]

Judge

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF MANATEE
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the document on file in my office.

No redactions Redacted pursuant to law
 Full Document Page ___ of ___
 Not LOA Letter of Administration is in full force and effect

Witness my hand and official seal dated 07/25/93
 MANATEE COUNTY CLERK OF COURT
 By: *[Handwritten Signature]*
 Deputy Clerk



DEATH WARRANT

STATE OF FLORIDA

WHEREAS, MELVIN TROTTER, on or about the 16th day of June, 1986, murdered Virgie Langford; and

WHEREAS, MELVIN TROTTER, on the 7th day of April, 1987, was convicted of first degree murder and, on the 23rd day of July, 1993, was sentenced to death for the murder of Virgie Langford; and

WHEREAS, on the 20th day of December, 1990, the Supreme Court of Florida affirmed the first degree murder conviction of MELVIN TROTTER and, on the 19th day of December, 1996, affirmed the death sentence of MELVIN TROTTER; and

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of May, 2006, the Supreme Court of Florida affirmed the trial court order denying MELVIN TROTTER's initial Motion for Postconviction Relief and denied his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus; and

WHEREAS, on the 6th day of November, 2007, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida denied MELVIN TROTTER's federal Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus; and

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of July, 2008, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the denial of MELVIN TROTTER's federal Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus; and

WHEREAS, further postconviction motions and petitions filed by MELVIN TROTTER have been denied and the denials affirmed on appeal; and

WHEREAS, executive clemency for MELVIN TROTTER, as authorized by Article IV, Section 8(a), of the Florida Constitution, was considered pursuant to the Rules of Executive Clemency, and it has been determined that executive clemency is not appropriate; and

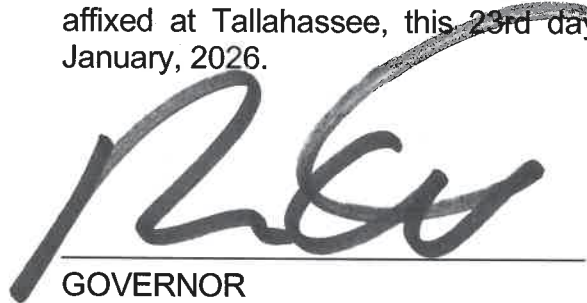
WHEREAS, attached hereto is a certified copy of the record of the conviction and sentence pursuant to section 922.052, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of the State of Florida and pursuant to the authority and responsibility vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of

Florida, do hereby issue this warrant, directing the Warden of the Florida State Prison to cause the sentence of death to be executed upon MELVIN TROTTER, in accordance with the provisions of the Laws of the State of Florida.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 23rd day of January, 2026.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2025 JAN 23 PM 2:56
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL