



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Sergeant Donna Black
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

Re: Fugitive Search—James Rayford

Date: September 11, 2009

Case#: 2009-32361

On September 10, 2009, in the late afternoon, Pasco County Detectives contacted Hernando County Warrant Detectives reference to a possible location of a subject wanted on multiple Pasco County Warrants.

Detectives received information that wanted subject, James Rayford, B/M, DOB 09/21/1973 was on Hunters Lake in a boat fishing. Detectives from both agencies maintained a visual on the subject as he returned the boat to a dock closest to the end of Kimball Ct. in Spring Hill. As the subject got to the dock he apparently became aware of law enforcement waiting for him so he jumped into a kayak and started paddling toward an island in Hunter Lake.



James Rayford, B/M, DOB 09/21/1973

Our Hernando County Sheriff's Office Helicopter had a visual on the subject when he jumped out of the kayak into the water. The subject was observed coming to the top of the water several times and then the helicopter pilot lost visual on him.

A search by deputies and detectives which included marine, K-9, helicopter, and members from Fresh Water Game Commission met with negative results in locating the subject. Divers from

the Pasco County Sheriff's Office responded but were unable locate the subject. The search last night was suspended due to the darkness. Patrol deputies were left over night at the scene.

This morning the search for the subject was resumed utilizing our helicopter, marine unit and divers from Hillsborough. As of this time the subject has not been located and the search continues.

Family members of James Rayford have been notified about the incident.