



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Deputy Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Request for Help from Citizen's in Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas County

Date: July 11, 2011

At approximately 4:00 am on Sunday, July 3, 2011 the Brooksville Police Department observed a vehicle traveling southbound in the northbound lane on U.S. 41 just north of the Hernando County Courthouse. The Brooksville Police Department attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle; however, the vehicle ignored the lights and sirens that had been activated by the officer. The driver of the 1991 Honda 4-door, later identified as Michael James Anthony, DOB 12/18/1975, continued southbound in the northbound lane and was observed by law enforcement officers, running numerous vehicles off the roadway. This incident resulted in the minor injury crash involving Sgt. Brandon Ross and the fatal crash involving Deputy John Mecklenburg.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office would like to speak with anyone who witnessed this event on U.S. 41 in Brooksville just after 4:00 am on Sunday, July 03, 2011. Detectives would also like to speak with anyone who witnessed the 1991 Honda 4-door, driven by Michael James Anthony, as he was traveling through Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas County. If anyone witnessed a vehicle matching the description of the 1991 Honda 4-door driving recklessly, or in the wrong lane, on the morning of July 3, 2011 between the hours of 4:00 am – 5:05 am you are encouraged to contact the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830 and request to speak to Sgt. Phil Lakin or Lt. Cyrus Robinson. Detectives believe Michael Anthony traveled south on U.S. 41 to Nebraska Ave where it is believed he accessed I-275 and continued across the Howard Franklin Bridge into Pinellas County.