



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

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

Re: Hernando County Sheriff's Office Successfully Apprehends a Hillsborough
County Murder Suspect

Date: November 30, 2011

Case Number: 2011-41346

Suspect:
Joshua Charles Thomas DOB 10/02/1988
8373 Country Square Ct. Apartment #B
Tampa, Florida 33619

On November 28, 2011 the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office announced the identification of a homicide suspect who is allegedly responsible for the murder of Rafael Perez, DOB 11-15-1980. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Media Release:

On November 23, 2011, at 4:49 a.m., Rafael Perez's roommate arrived home and discovered Perez deceased inside their home located at 5490 Friarsway Drive, Tampa. Deputies arrived a few minutes later and found Perez already dead with multiple gunshot wounds.

Homicide detectives were dispatched and through neighborhood interviews, determined that a 2000 black Chevrolet SUV Suburban was seen at the residence about 20 minutes prior to the roommate arriving home. They also determined the vehicle had been spotted at the residence several times during the last couple of days. One witness confirmed Perez and Thomas were seen inside the residence on November 22, 2011.

Detectives quickly determined that Joshua Thomas was the driver of the SUV, and he was labeled a person of interest. Detectives continued investigating and located other independent witness that provided statements indicating Thomas confessed to them he had shot and killed Perez. Detectives have not yet established a clear motive but believe drugs may have played a role.

Joshua Charles Thomas may be driving the black 2000 Chevy Suburban with Florida tag AAS-P89. Thomas should be considered armed and dangerous.

On November 29, 2011 just before 8:00 p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received an anonymous tip that Joshua Thomas, who had an active Hillsborough County warrant for murder, was located at 5501 Roble Ave, Brooksville. Several patrol units responded to the residence where they were able to locate Joshua Thomas and take him into custody without incident. Mr. Thomas's identity was confirmed, along with the warrant, at which time he was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he is being held without bond awaiting a transfer back to Hillsborough County.



Joshua Charles Thomas 10/02/1988