



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** UPDATE - Human Remains Found at West Hernando Transfer Station

**Date:** July 17, 2014

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#### Update

On 07-17-14 at 11:53 a.m., workers at the West Hernando Transfer Station located at 2525 Osowaw Boulevard in Spring Hill notified the Hernando County Sheriff's Office that they had possibly located human remains in one of the bins on site. Deputies were dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival deputies determined that the remains did appear to be human.

While deputies were still on scene, the individual that originally dumped the remains, returned in the same vehicle to drop off another load of garbage. Landfill workers quickly identified the vehicle and the driver and notified deputies immediately. The individual was promptly detained by deputies.

Deputies questioned the driver of the vehicle regarding the human remains/body that was dropped off at the landfill earlier. The driver stated that he and a friend were hired to clean out a vacant house on Treehaven Drive in Spring Hill. While cleaning the house, they located what they both believed to be a mannequin hanging in the garage. Both individuals as well as the property owners believed the lifelike mannequin was a distasteful "Halloween-like" hoax left by the former renters. They cut the mannequin down, placed it on top of a pile of garbage in the back of the pick-up truck and proceeded to the landfill.

The driver, Israel Lopez, 50 of Zephyrhills drove the pick-up truck, loaded with garbage and the body, west on Spring Hill Drive then on to Osowaw Boulevard to the landfill. His co-worker, Adam Hines, 30 of Zephyrhills, remained on site at the Treehaven Drive location, cleaning up the residence, awaiting Lopez' return. When Lopez returned to the Treehaven

Drive location, they filled the truck with more debris before Lopez returned to the landfill a second time.

When Lopez arrived at the landfill the second time, he was detained by deputies.

Investigation revealed that the human remains were that of **Jeremy Witfoth W/M DOB/06-10-1981**. All indications are that Witfoth took his own life by hanging sometime within the last several weeks. His body was in a state of decomposition similar to mummification. Lopez and Hines as well as the property owners advised they thought the body hanging was that of a mannequin and had no idea that it was a human.

The investigation continues.

### **Original Information**

On 07-17-14 at approximately 11:53 a.m., workers at the West Hernando Transfer Station located at 2525 Osowaw Boulevard in Spring Hill located human remains in one of the bins.

At this time detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office are working diligently to identify all parties involved in this case.

It is known that there are two crime scenes, one being the West Hernando Transfer Station and the other a private residence located at 6527 Treehaven Drive in Spring Hill.

Detectives are currently interviewing two individuals who may have knowledge regarding the remains.

The investigation is active at this time. More information will be provided when available.