



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: K-9 Justice Apprehends Burglary Suspect

Date: May 21, 2018

On 05-19-18 at approximately 9 p.m., Deputy Dustin Mormando received information from a citizen regarding the possible location of a stolen vehicle.

The citizen advised Mormando that the Blue Dodge Durango bearing Florida tag/IRJA75 had been reported stolen in Pasco County and was possibly travelling in the Masaryktown area.

Mormando responded to Masaryktown to look for the stolen Durango. At approximately 10:15 p.m., Mormando spotted the vehicle travelling northbound on Broad Street. As Mormando got behind the vehicle and confirmed the tag, the driver turned east onto Ayers Road and then south onto Phillips Road.

Mormando advised dispatch that he was behind the vehicle, following from a distance, and requested the Aviation Unit. The Aviation Unit was dispatched.

Mormando, still following from a distance, observed the driver make a sharp left turn where Phillips Road turns to the west. He then lost sight of the vehicle for a moment. As Mormando continued westbound on Phillips Road, he observed the vehicle to be crashed into a fence at the west end of the road.

Mormando approached the vehicle to find both the driver and passenger doors ajar, indicating at least two suspects fled from the scene. He checked inside the vehicle to be sure there was no one else inside. The vehicle was empty.

A perimeter was established while additional patrol units, K-9, and Aviation responded to the scene.

Upon arrival, the Aviation Unit located two suspects and guided the K-9 team (Corporal S. Miller and K-9 Justice) to their location. Corporal Miller tracked through the wooded area leading up to where the suspects were located, Miller gave several commands for the suspects to surrender; however, they refused. K-9 Justice was deployed over the fence and quickly made contact with the female suspect, biting her leg. Both suspects were then taken into custody.

Already staging in the area, Hernando County Fire Rescue proceeded to the area where the suspect who had been bitten was, and rendered aid. The suspect was then transported to the hospital for treatment.

Deputies searched the Durango and located a purse and several syringes on the passenger side floorboard, and a glass smoking pipe and several more syringes in the center console. In a small compartment in the roof of the vehicle, deputies located a baggie containing a green, leafy substance, believed to be marijuana.

The suspects who were apprehended were identified as Sarah Mack and Kenneth Harbaugh.

Upon interview, Harbaugh admitted to driving the stolen vehicle, knowing his driver's license was suspended, and to driving the vehicle without the owner's permission. Harbaugh also admitted to crashing the Durango into the fence, then fleeing on foot with Sarah Mack. Harbaugh went on to tell deputies that he and Mack jumped a fence to gain access into the property where they were located. Harbaugh took responsibility for the marijuana and the syringes, stating he smoked the marijuana earlier in the day and the syringes were used the day before to inject Dilaudid.

Sarah Mack refused to speak to deputies.

Both suspects were arrested and charged as follows:

- **Kenneth Harbaugh W/M DOB/10-09-1993 (Registered Felon)**
 - Burglary of a Dwelling
 - Possession of Marijuana Under 20 Grams
 - Possession of Paraphernalia
 - Grand Theft Auto (Possession of a Stolen Vehicle)
 - Driving While License Suspended or revoked with Knowledge
 - Leaving the Scene of an Accident
 - Resisting a Law Enforcement Officer w/o Violence.

Harbaugh was on Felony Probation at the time he committed the new offenses; therefore, he was charged with Violation of Probation.

- **Sarah Mack W/F DOB/06-02-1993**
 - Burglary of a Dwelling
 - Trespass of a Conveyance
 - Resisting a Law Enforcement Officer w/ Violence.

Mack was also on probation at the time she committed the new offenses; therefore, she was also charged with Violation of Probation.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.