



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: UPDATE - Deputy Injured During Traffic Stop

Date: August 8, 2018

Update

On 08-07-18 at approximately 3:27 p.m., Deputy Tonya Shutt conducted a Traffic Stop on a silver GMC Sierra pickup truck at McKethan Road, near Rowntree Drive, for various traffic violations, including violation of right of way, reckless driving, speeding, and failure to obey a traffic control device.

As Deputy Shutt approached the driver's side of the GMC, she recognized the driver, Melissa Elaine Lloyd, from previous law enforcement contacts. Deputy Shutt had knowledge that Lloyd's Florida driver's license was suspended and that Lloyd knew of the suspension.

Deputy Shutt advised Lloyd to step out of the vehicle as she was going to be placed under arrest for driving on a suspended license. Lloyd ignored the lawful command. As Deputy Shutt attempted to open the driver's door, she observed that the exterior door handle was broken off. Deputy Shutt then reached into the vehicle, through the open driver's window, in order to open the door from the inside.

With the deputy's right arm inside the vehicle, Lloyd put the vehicle in drive and began to accelerate, driving off with Deputy Shutt's arm still inside the vehicle. Deputy Shutt continued to give verbal commands for Lloyd to stop, which were ignored. Deputy Shutt fell off the side of the truck, landing in the roadway where she sustained minor injuries to her leg.

Lloyd fled south toward Pasco County.

As this was happening, a retired law enforcement officer (Kentucky and Tennessee) of 17 years was passing by. He observed the traffic stop and the fact that the deputy's arm was

inside the truck. After he passed, the gentleman observed in his rearview mirror, the driver flee from the scene, dragging the deputy. He then saw the deputy fall off and the driver accelerate even faster.

The driver of the GMC then passed the witness on the right, in the grass – leaving the area at a high rate of speed. She continued to drive in a reckless manner, passing numerous vehicles.

The witness called 9-1-1, advising Pasco County operators of the events that were unfolding. Eventually, the suspect driver pulled into the parking lot of PK's Discount Beverage and Cigarettes located at 38141 Trilby Road in Pasco County. The witness provided this information to Pasco County operators and Melissa Lloyd was taken into custody by a Pasco County deputy.

Inside the GMC, Pasco deputies located marijuana and methamphetamine. Lloyd, who was on Felony Probation, was charged accordingly by the Pasco Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Shutt was treated at Bayfront Health Brooksville for her injuries. She is recovering at home and has been referred to a specialist.

Lloyd remains in jail in Pasco County.

Original Information

On today's date at approximately 3:27 p.m., Deputy Tonya Shutt conducted a Traffic Stop on a grey GMC Sierra on McKethan Road, south of Cortez Boulevard, almost to the Pasco County Line.

Deputy Shutt approached the vehicle, on the driver's side, to speak with the driver and obtain a driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. Almost immediately, at 3:28 p.m., the driver began to flee from the stop, dragging Deputy Shutt for a short time/short distance.

Deputy Shutt advised over the radio that the driver fled, southbound toward Pasco County, that she had been dragged by the suspect vehicle, and was in need of medical attention. Backup units and Fire Rescue were dispatched immediately.

With assistance from the Pasco Sheriff's Office, the vehicle and driver were located moments later at a location in Pasco County.

Deputy Shutt, 48, was transported to a local hospital with injuries that are considered non-life-threatening.

The driver, identified as **Melissa Elaine Lloyd W/F DOB/09-10-1970** was placed under arrest in Pasco County. Lloyd is charged as follows:

- Fleeing to Elude
- Aggravated Battery on a LEO
- Resisting Arrest w/Violence

- Felony DWLSR.

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.