



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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Re: Search Warrant - Illegal Gambling – The New Treasure Chest

Date: August 20, 2018

On 08-17-18, an investigation into illegal gambling at The New Treasure Chest, located at 136 Commercial Way in Spring Hill, came to an end when members of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit and Selective Enforcement Unit executed a search warrant at the business.

Investigation revealed that The New Treasure Chest had multiple computerized games inside that look very similar to slot machines in a legal casino. These games are considered "games of chance," as the computer decides when the player "wins." The business made cash payouts to any patron who "won." The operation at The New Treasure Chest did not follow Florida state gambling statutes.

Through many previous investigations into illegal gambling establishments, detectives learned that these businesses are also utilized to launder money, and to commit fraud and tax evasion.

The business is "cash only," with the exception of the ATM inside, which did not have records to account for all of the cash recovered during the investigation.

During the execution of the search warrant, detectives seized \$16,268 in cash, multiple computers, and numerous documents relating to the entire operation.

One arrest has been made at this time and additional arrests are forthcoming.

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.