



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Kirk Turner
Public Service Technician

Re: Deputies Locate Numerous Illegal Narcotics During Traffic Stop

Date: August 22, 2018

In the wee hours of the morning on Monday, August 20, Deputies J. Mitro and J. Rodriguez, Brooksville patrol deputies, observed a vehicle fail to come to a complete stop at a stop sign while turning onto Broad Street.

Deputy Mitro and Deputy Rodriguez quickly caught up with the vehicle and proceeded to conduct a routine traffic stop near the intersection of Broad Street and Candlelight Boulevard.

Upon making contact with the driver and passenger, the deputies learned that the driver was knowingly driving with a suspended license. The passenger, who is the legal owner of the vehicle, was aware of the driver's license status, yet chose to remain a passenger and allowed the driver to operate his vehicle.

Shortly after the initial stop, Deputy E. Harris and Deputy J. Andrews, along with his K-9 partner Valor, arrived on scene and began to assist Deputy Mitro with the investigation.

K-9 Valor quickly alerted his partner to the presence of narcotics following a sweep of the vehicle.

Upon a thorough search of the vehicle, Deputies Andrews and Rodriguez located 27.4 grams of marijuana, 5.1 grams of methamphetamine, 16 Alprazolam pills, 5 Oxycodone pills, and drug paraphernalia including scales and needles, as well as 5 sealed Suboxone sublingual films.

The passenger, **Armando Vazquez W/M DOB/10-27-1957**, revealed through questioning that the pair had been selling drugs in the area that night. Vazquez was found to be in possession of \$320 in cash. **Vazquez** is charged with:

- Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Permitting an Unauthorized Operator to Drive a Motor Vehicle
- Bond – \$21,000.

The driver, **Krysta Penney W/F DOB/12-14-1993**, confessed to owning the marijuana found in the vehicle and is charged with the following:

- Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell
- Possession Drug Paraphernalia
- Driving while License Suspended or Revoked – Second Offense
- Bond - \$5,000.

Penney and Vazquez were placed under arrest and were transported to the Hernando County Detention Center.

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.