



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

**Re:** Speeding Lands Man in Jail with \$270,000 Bond

**Date:** March 7, 2013

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On 03-06-13, Deputy Stephen Pritz and Reserve Deputy James Baker (in the same vehicle) were conducting traffic enforcement in the area of Elgin Blvd. and Baylor Rd. in Spring Hill.

At approximately 10:28 p.m., the deputies observed a black Honda Accord travelling westbound on Elgin Blvd. that appeared to be travelling at a high rate of speed. Deputy Pritz activated his radar, capturing a speed of 58 mph, in a posted 35 mph zone.

A traffic stop was initiated on the black Honda. Prior to the vehicle coming to a stop, the deputies observed a gray plastic bag, containing unknown items, project out of the front driver's side window. The bag landed on a lawn on Elgin Blvd. The vehicle came to a stop on Elgin Blvd., east of Landover Blvd.

Deputies Pritz and Baker made contact with the driver and only occupant, Joseph Johnson, who appeared nervous and denied throwing anything from the vehicle. Deputy Pritz then retrieved the items that were thrown from the vehicle. He located a gray plastic grocery bag that contained a large amount of green leafy substance which field tested positive for THC (marijuana). While walking back to the vehicle, Deputy Pritz observed additional items being thrown out of the front passenger side window. Those items were then collected and were found to be a clear plastic Ziploc bag containing a large amount of U.S. currency (\$12,900) wrapped in rubber bands.

The defendant, Joseph Johnson, was then placed under arrest and immediately read Miranda.

Deputy Jason Jernigan and his K-9 partner Dzel responded to the scene and were successful in locating an orange prescription bottle on the ground, just to the north of the front

passenger side of the vehicle, close to where the U.S. currency was located. The prescription bottle contained various types of colored pills which were later identified as (136) 13.7 grams pills stamped K/56 which is Oxycodone 10mg and pink in color, (61) 9.5 grams pills stamped OP/20 which is Oxycodone 20mg and pink in color, (49) 3.8 grams pills stamped 48/11 which is Oxycodone 15mg and green in color, (9) .8 grams pills stamped A/215 which is Oxycodone 30mg and blue in color, (48) 11.15 grams pills stamped OP/60 which is Oxycodone 60mg and red in color, (26) 6.6 grams pills stamped OP/80 which is Oxycodone 80mg and green in color, and (31) 5.4 grams pills stamped OP/40 which is Oxycodone 40mg and yellow in color. The pills were identified via drugs.com and are a schedule II controlled substance.

The marijuana, which was in two separate plastic bags, was later weighed. The first weighed 456 grams; the second weighed 460 grams.

**Joseph Johnson W/M DOB/04-28-1970** was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center, charged with the following:

- Trafficking in Oxycodone (5 counts)
- Possession of Controlled Substance (2 counts)
- Tampering with Evidence
- Possession of Marijuana w/Intent to Sell
- **Total BOND - \$270,000**