



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Feisty Clerk Thwarts Robbery Attempt

Date: April 18, 2013

On 04-17-13 at approximately 8:08 p.m., a white male wearing a black ski-mask, black gloves, blue jeans, a green shirt and a blue jean vest entered the Village Pizza located at 4070 Deltona Blvd. in Spring Hill. Oddly enough, he wasn't there to pick up a pizza.

Once inside the business, the masked male brandished a black knife and demanded money from the female clerk. She assumed he was joking and told him "no", twice.

After receiving the bad news (that he was not getting the money), he got into his small silver car and drove away.

As the suspect was exiting the business, he removed the ski-mask and one of the employees got a good look at him. Most likely at this same time, a passing motorist noticed something out of the ordinary (someone leaving a business removing a ski-mask) and decided to follow the small silver car.

The passing motorist, who chose to remain anonymous, called 9-1-1 and advised dispatchers of the situation. Deputies were dispatched immediately. The caller followed the silver car to 3228 Painters St. in Spring Hill.

When the deputies arrived, they located a 1996 Mitsubishi in the driveway, and a male attempting to place the tag back on to the vehicle. When speaking with this individual, he stated that he had loaned his vehicle to a friend so the friend could go buy liquor. The friend, also at the residence, advised the car owner that Village Pizza had been robbed by someone matching his own description. The friend commented that he did not want to be mistaken for the robber so he removed the vehicle's tag. The above mentioned "friend" was identified as Phillip Steinberg.

After receiving permission from the owner to search, the ski-mask was located inside the vehicle. The knife and clothing worn during the robbery were located inside the residence. Steinberg was identified by the employee that was able to see his face, and the gloves used in the robbery were located in the yard.

Phillip Steinberg W/M DOB/07-01-1990 was placed under arrest for ARMED ROBBERY. His BOND is set at \$50,000.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "Law enforcement typically discourages robbery victims from resisting the criminal's demand for money. Although this robbery had a happy ending, the situation could have escalated quickly.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis and the deputies who worked this case, however, would like to thank the anonymous citizen who assisted in capturing this dangerous felon. This individual was in custody exactly 12 minutes from the time the robbery occurred. As stated earlier in the week, our citizens are the eyes and ears of community, and we rely on you. Please do not do anything to place yourself or anyone else in harm's way, but please call 9-1-1 if you observe anything suspicious.