



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** K-9 Judge Apprehends Burglary Suspect

**Date:** November 28, 2016

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Anthony Loren Edwards was extremely busy on Sunday morning.

At around 7 a.m., Edwards stopped at Walmart on Commercial Way in Spring Hill where he decided to shoplift 120 items from the store. These items included jewelry, clothing, a hamper, gloves, a few key rings, several watches, a coloring book, gel pens, lip gloss, and numerous other miscellaneous items, totaling \$1,597.93. He simply tried to push the basket full of items out of the store. That plan didn't work out so well.

When confronted by Walmart loss prevention employees, Edwards fled on foot into a wooded area north of the store.

Deputies arrived on scene to observe Edwards running from the store with loss prevention employees chasing him. Deputies also gave chase. Edwards failed to comply with deputies' commands to "stop."

A K-9 team was called to assist in locating Edwards. Deputy Brandon Cox and K-9 Judge responded to the scene, while a perimeter was established around the wooded area.

Deputy Cox and K-9 Judge began tracking in the wooded area on the north side of the Walmart. The track proceeded north through the wood line to a fence that separates the Walmart from the Hernando County Water Treatment Facility on Osowaw Boulevard. The K-9 team and assisting deputies then responded to the Hernando County Water Treatment Facility.

Shortly after arriving at the water treatment facility, Deputy Jefferson Rodriguez observed Edwards running southeast within the facility's enclosure. At that time Deputy Cox and Deputy Joe Merando gave Edwards multiple commands to stop running. Edwards refused and continued running away.

Deputy Cox then deployed K-9 Judge in an effort to apprehend the fleeing felon. K-9 Judge immediately made contact with Edwards' lower extremity and apprehended him. During the apprehension, Edwards hit and punched K-9 Judge in the head and in the snout. Edwards was charged accordingly.

Anthony Edwards was transported to Bayfront Spring Hill where he received 18 sutures to his right thigh and ankle for punctures and lacerations from the dog bite.

Edwards was charged with Commercial Burglary for entering the Hernando County Water Treatment Facility to elude arrest and for helping himself to food and drink that were located in an office in the building.

Edwards was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. His bond was set at \$13,000.

#### **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.