



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Aviation Unit Assists in Capturing Fleeing and Eluding Suspect

Date: December 16, 2016

On 12-15-16, at 10:15 p.m., Deputy Joseph Merando was investigating two previous fleeing and eluding cases, when he spotted the suspect, later identified as Anthony Cino W/M DOB 11/26/1995, entering the parking lot of the Publix located at 4158 Mariner Boulevard, Spring Hill.

Cino's vehicle, a white Nissan Frontier, matched the description of the vehicle used in the two previous fleeing and eluding incidents.

When Deputy Merando confronted Cino, he proceeded to drive away. A short time later, deputies located Cino's vehicle traveling along Barclay Avenue.

The Aviation Unit was called in to assist in the search and apprehension of Cino. Eventually, Cino pulled into the Circle K gas station located at 14195 Elgin Boulevard and parked his vehicle.

While the truck was parked, a deputy was able to position a vehicle deployment device, which is designed to disable a vehicle by flattening the tires.

Cino proceeded to drive away, however not before running over the device causing the vehicle's tires to deflate.

Cino proceeded west on Elgin Boulevard in the eastbound lane with the Aviation Unit in pursuit. The vehicle eventually came to a stop near the intersection of St. Ives and Elgin boulevards.

Cino exited the vehicle in an attempt to escape. Following a short foot chase, a deputy was able to take Cino into custody in the parking lot of Challenger K-8.

Cino was charged with Fleeing and Eluding a Police Officer, Resisting an Officer Without Violence and Driving Without a License.

Cino indicated he kept running from authorities because he has never obtained a Florida driver's license. Cino was also charged in connection with the two previous fleeing and eluding cases. His bond was set at \$17,500.

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.