



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: K-9 Valor Helps Apprehend Commercial Burglary Suspect

Date: January 6, 2017

On 1-5-17 at 4 a.m., deputies on proactive patrol in the area of the Diamond Dust Sweepstakes, 3616 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, were drawn to the business by the sound of breaking glass.

Deputies immediately noticed the glass door to Diamond Dust Sweepstakes had been broken. A K-9 unit was called in to assist with a search of the building.

Upon arrival, K-9 Deputy Jeff Andrews proceeded to give several verbal warnings through the shattered door directing anyone inside to exit before he released K-9 Valor to search the building.

Receiving no response, K-9 Valor was deployed into the building. Valor quickly located **Ryan Sullivan, W/M DOB/12-6-81**, and was able to apprehend him with a bite to the left thigh.

Once bitten, Sullivan yelled out to deputies alerting them to his exact location. Sullivan was found lying face-down on the floor. Sullivan did not immediately comply with verbal commands to show his hands and continued to push Valor away. Once he stopped fighting the dog Sullivan was then secured in handcuffs. A pair of brown gloves, along with a tire iron, were found lying next to Sullivan.

Sullivan was taken to Oak Hill Hospital for treatment of several dog bites, which required 20 staples.

Sullivan was charged with **Commercial Burglary and Possession of Burglary Tools**. His bond was set at \$4,000.

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.