



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Traffic Stop Leads to Stolen Vehicle and Illegal Narcotics

Date: February 22, 2017

On 02-21-17 at approximately 9:25 p.m., K-9 Deputy Jason Jernigan was conducting traffic enforcement in the area of Puckett Street and McKethan Road in Ridge Manor. Deputy Jernigan observed a Kymco moped being operated by a male with a female passenger travelling south on McKethan Road. The moped did not have a license plate, so a traffic stop was initiated.

When Deputy Jernigan approached the moped and began speaking to the driver, later identified as **Riley Singleton B/M DOB/04-05-1959**, Singleton tossed an unknown object from his right pocket and began running from the scene on foot. Deputy Jernigan gave chase and caught him within about 20 feet.

As Deputy Jernigan was attempting to get Singleton in custody, the female passenger, later identified as **Amber Fowler W/F DOB/04-19-1990**, fled on foot from the scene, taking with her a blue and white backpack.

Both Deputy Jernigan and an eyewitness observed Fowler hide the backpack at the base of a tree as she was running from the area. Once back-up units arrived, Deputy Jernigan and his canine partner Dzel attempted a track for Fowler, meeting with negative results.

Upon searching Fowler's abandoned backpack, deputies located methamphetamine, paraphernalia, and marijuana.

Back at the scene of the original traffic stop, deputies learned the following:

- The moped was stolen out of Pinellas County
- Singleton had numerous suspensions on his driver's license
- The item Singleton threw from his pocket was a sock, which contained a meth pipe with a large amount of residue.

Riley Singleton was charged with Grand Theft (moped), Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Paraphernalia, Resisting with Violence, DWLSR, and issued a citation for operating a vehicle with no tag.

A warrant will be forthcoming for Amber Fowler for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Paraphernalia, and Possession of Marijuana. Fowler also has an active warrant out of Pasco County.

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.