



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Detectives Makes Arrest for Armed Burglary and Grand Theft

**Date:** March 27, 2017

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On 12-30-16, victims Dennis and Melissa Wilkerson reported returning home from vacation to find their home and detached shed had been burglarized.

The Wilkersons advised detectives their home had been completely ransacked and that numerous items were missing from the home, including, four rifles and approximately 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

The Wilkersons told detectives they believed that Barak Bleich was responsible for the burglary to their home.

Detectives followed up on all leads.

In mid-March of 2017, Audrea Sunday (Bleich's girlfriend) contacted the Wilkersons to advise them that she believed she was in possession of their stolen property. Sunday then provided them with photos of their property and advised them that Bleich was gifting the property to her to resolve their relationship issues. Sunday then allowed the Wilkersons to come collect their property. The Wilkersons then contacted the HCSO.

Detectives contacted Barak Bleich at his girlfriend's residence. Bleich admitted to having some of the items taken in the burglary but advised they were given to him by an unknown individual (over the course of several months) because the individual owed him money. Bleich then provided consent to search his vehicle.

While searching the vehicle, detectives located numerous other items which had been stolen in the burglary at the Wilkerson home.

A routine computer check confirmed that Barak Bleich was arrested and convicted (found guilty) of Felon in Possession of a Firearm on 07-01-10. Bleich's right to possess a firearm have not been restored.

**Barak Bleich W/M DOB/10-21-1977**, was arrested and charged as follows:

- Armed Burglary
- Burglary
- Grand Theft
- Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

On 03-21-17, detectives obtained a search warrant for the residence of Barak Bleach. During the search, detectives located numerous items stolen from the Wilkerson home, including a Vizio television, one rifle, a PlayStation, several fishing poles, and a surround sound system.

The Wilkersons were able to positively identify all of the property as their own.

Bleich is currently incarcerated at the Hernando County Detention Center. Detectives added a charge of Dealing in Stolen Property on 03-17-17. Detectives requested that Bleich be held with no bond; the Judge honored that request.

Attached is a photo of the property recovered from Bleich's residence.

#### **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.**