



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Traffic Stop Leads to Arrests and Several Felony Case Closures

Date: May 15, 2017

On 05-12-17, Deputy Corey Zarcone conducted a traffic stop on a red Dodge Neon for a routine traffic infraction.

Upon making contact with the two occupants in the vehicle, Deputy Zarcone identified one of the male occupants as Nicholas C. Sereda and the other as Randall W. Englehardt. Coincidentally, Deputy Zarcone had civil papers in his patrol vehicle that needed to be served on Sereda.

While utilizing in-house computer programs to verify the civil paperwork, Deputy Zarcone observed that both males were listed as suspects in open felony cases in District One. While still roadside, on the traffic stop, Deputy Zarcone contacted the case agent, Detective L. Genovese by phone. Genovese's partner, Detective L. Phelan, was close by and responded to the scene of the traffic stop.

After obtaining consent to search the vehicle, Detective Phelan located property (inside the vehicle) that he believed was related to and stolen from an open burglary case. After confirming the property was in fact stolen, Sereda was placed under arrest and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. Sereda was extremely uncooperative with the investigation.

Later in the evening, Detective Phelan followed up with Englehardt, who was located at a friend's house. Phelan interviewed Englehardt and obtained confessions from him regarding Englehardt's involvement as well as Sereda's involvement in several cases. Englehardt advised Detective Phelan that he and Sereda were responsible for the following crimes:

- Grand Theft Auto of a 2003 Kawasaki 4-wheeler stolen from Lake Lindsey Road
- Burglary to a Structure at Englehardt's grandparents' house on Daleo Lane
- Grand Theft of jewelry from Sereda's mother's house on Chicaric Road

- Burglary to a Structure at Sereda's grandmother's house on Chicaric Road.

It should be noted that Englehardt was cooperative with the investigation.

Detective Wayne Peterson and Detective L. Genovese both responded to assist with the investigation.

Detectives recovered several items of stolen property and will be able to return said items to their respective owners.

Both suspects were arrested and charged as follows:

Nicholas C. Sereda W/M DOB/04-30-1991

- Burglary Unocc Conveyance
- Petit Theft
- Petit Theft
- Burglary Unocc Dwelling
- Grand Theft Motor Vehicle
- Grand Theft
- Petit Theft
- Burglary Unocc Structure
- Bond - \$23,500

Randall W. Englehardt W/M DOB/05-08-1997

- Grand Theft Motor Vehicle
- Petit Theft
- Burglary Unocc Dwelling
- Bond - \$10,000.

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.