



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: K-9 Valor Apprehends Wanted Person

Date: July 25, 2017

On 07-24-17 just after 8 p.m., while on proactive patrol, Deputy Joe Merando observed David Jose Orama walking in the area of Bayside Court in Spring Hill. Deputy Merando recognized Orama from previous law enforcement contacts and had knowledge that two active felony warrants were on file for Orama's arrest.

Merando approached Orama in the area of 9553 Bayside Court and attempted to speak with him. When Merando addressed Orama by name, Orama told Merando to "peace out" and then fled on foot in a westerly direction. Merando gave chase, while ordering Orama to "stop." Orama failed to comply with the lawful orders to stop.

Deputy Jeff Andrews and K-9 Valor responded to conduct a track.

Deputy Merando provided a physical description and a clothing description of the suspect while a perimeter was being established.

While the K-9 team was enroute to the scene, Deputy Troy Hyler observed the suspect running eastbound through a lakebed near Sailfish Court.

Deputy Andrews arrived on scene and deployed K-9 Valor in the area of 3314 Sailfish Court. The K-9 team quickly spotted a white male, matching the suspect description, running eastbound through the lakebed. The suspect was wading through chest-high water, headed toward Bayside Court, approximately 75 yards ahead of the K-9 team. Deputy Andrews provided two verbal announcements for the suspect to stop. The suspect looked directly at the deputy and continued to flee.

The suspect exited the water and ran behind a residence near 9261 Bayside Court. In this yard, K-9 Valor located a black pair of sandals then tracked toward a chain link fence. K-9

Valor continued to track to the address of 9290 Bayside Court where a 2001 blue Dodge pickup truck was parked in the driveway. K-9 Valor alerted on the vehicle.

Deputy Andrews observed the rear window of the vehicle to be down or missing. Deputy Andrews looked inside the vehicle to find a white male lying across the rear seat. The male matched the description of the suspect.

The suspect's hands were not visible to Deputy Andrews, and the suspect ignored several verbal commands to show his hands. Deputy Andrews opened the door and deployed K-9 Valor inside the vehicle to apprehend the suspect. K-9 Valor made contact with the suspect's left hand.

Orama began screaming and trying to resist by pulling away from K-9 Valor. Verbal commands were provided for Orama to stop resisting and to exit the vehicle. K-9 Valor assisted Orama out of the vehicle and onto the ground.

Once on the ground next to the vehicle, Orama continued to resist by screaming and flailing his arms and legs. Orama was placed into custody by deputies.

Hernando County Fire Rescue was called to the scene. Sgt. William Hillman rendered first aid to Orama while awaiting the arrival of Fire Rescue.

Orama was transported by Hernando County Fire Rescue to Oak Hill Hospital where he was treated for dog bites.

David Jose Orama W/M DOB/11-25-1979 was then transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. He was charged as follows:

- Violation of Probation – Failure to Deliver Hired Vehicle (**Warrant**)
 - o **No Bond**
- Possession of Controlled Substance w/o Prescription (**Warrant**)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Possession of Methamphetamine w/Intent to Sell, Manufacture, Deliver
 - o **Bond - \$4,000**
- Burglary Vehicle
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Resist LEO w/o Violence
 - o **Bond - \$14,000.**

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.