



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Three Teens Arrested for Grand Theft Auto

Date: July 31, 2017

On 07-30-17, a vehicle pursuit entered Hernando County on Commercial Way (US 19) from the south. Law Enforcement Officers from the New Port Richey Police Department were pursuing a 2017 Chevrolet Cruze, reported stolen in Pinellas County. Three of the four tires on the Chevrolet Cruze had been successfully deflated by Pinellas County deputies, when the driver fled from them in Pinellas County.

Hernando County deputies did not engage in the pursuit, but closed intersections along Commercial Way in Spring Hill to ensure that drivers did not travel into the path of the fleeing vehicle and become victim to a crash.

When the pursuit approached the intersection of Commercial Way and Forest Oaks Boulevard, officers from the New Port Richey Police Department discontinued pursuing the suspect vehicle. Upon seeing the marked patrol cars disengage from the pursuit and turn around to head back to New Port Richey, the driver of the stolen vehicle stopped and abandoned the vehicle in the area of Commercial Way and River Country Drive. Deputies later noted that the tires and wheels on the stolen vehicle were severely crippled, as it had been driven from Palm Harbor with three punctured tires.

As Hernando County deputies arrived at the scene of the abandoned vehicle, they observed three black males fleeing on foot. Two of those suspects were immediately apprehended, later identified to be Ronshauwn Davis from St. Petersburg and Robert Thompson from Largo.

Deputies immediately set up a perimeter to contain the suspects. An extensive track was conducted by the HCSO K-9 Unit, assisted by the Brooksville Police Department's K-9 Unit. The track met with negative results. Deputies continued to canvass the area and provide residents and business owners the description of other suspects.

A short time later, the HCSO received a call from a business in the area of Commercial Way and Northcliffe Boulevard, advising a male was present there, matching the description of the suspect at large. The suspect was located by deputies and taken into custody. He was identified as Padre Mustipher from Largo.

Mustipher lied to detectives regarding how he got to Spring Hill. Davis and Thompson eventually became cooperative with detectives and confessed regarding their involvement.

Davis and Thompson told Detective William Cooper that Mustipher was the driver of the stolen vehicle. The pair told Cooper that they had all met at a park in St. Petersburg and left that area to go steal cars. They also admitted to committing approximately 30 vehicle burglaries before leaving Pinellas County. They also provided identification on the 4th suspect who was with them in the vehicle.

The individuals arrested and their charges are as follows:

- **Padre Mustipher – 14 years old**
 - Grand Theft Auto
 - Per DJJ – Released to Parents
- **Ronshauwn Davis – 12 years old**
 - Principle to Grand Theft Auto
 - Per DJJ – Released to Parents
- **Robert Thompson – 16 years old**
 - Principle to Grand Theft Auto
 - Per DJJ – TOT DJJ in Ocala.

The New Port Richey Police Department will follow up with Reckless Endangerment to the Public and Fleeing to Elude charges.

HCSO detectives will coordinate with Pinellas County Sheriff's Office detectives regarding the original Grand Theft Auto investigation.

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.