



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Proactive Patrols Lead to Three Drug Arrests

Date: August 2, 2017

On 08-01-17, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies on proactive patrol were able to make three arrests in two separate incidents that resulted in a vast quantity of illegal drugs and weapons being taken off the street.

The first incident occurred at 8:49 p.m. when a deputy was called to 7455 Pond Circle, Spring Hill, in reference to the report of a suspicious vehicle.

The deputy approached the driver and immediately noticed the driver, **Jason Sausto, W/M DOB/6-29-1989**, was in possession of drug paraphernalia used to smoke marijuana.

Sausto told the deputy that the pipe had been under the seat and contained marijuana.

Receiving Sausto's consent, the deputy searched the vehicle where he found several Morphine Sulfate, Alprazolam, Methadone and Oxycodone pills packaged individually. The deputy also found 5.1 grams of methamphetamine.

In addition to the drugs, the deputy also located four 8-inch fixed blades, one brass knuckle, and one extendable baton.

Sausto was charged as follows:

- **Possession of Methamphetamine**
- **Possession of Oxycodone**
- **Four counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Carrying a Concealed Weapon.**

Sausto is being held without bond.

The second incident happened shortly before midnight as a deputy conducted a traffic stop for speeding along Copperfield Road, Spring Hill.

Upon approaching the driver, the deputy immediately noted the odor of unburnt marijuana coming from inside the vehicle.

The driver, **Jakari Jones, B/M DOB/3-23-1999**, admitted to having marijuana in the center console.

As Jones exited the vehicle, the deputy located a plastic bag with five smaller bags inside containing marijuana. Jones was arrested on charges of **Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Sell** and **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**. His bond was set at \$3,000.

A passenger in the vehicle, **Tracy Bennett, W/M DOB/7-3-1995**, was charged with **Possession of Marijuana and Carrying a Concealed Firearm**. His bond was set at \$1,000.

Upon searching the vehicle, deputies found Bennett in possession of a handgun. Bennett also told deputies he was in possession of marijuana. Both men were transported to the Hernando County Detention Facility without further incident.

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.