



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Deputies Nab Bank Robbery Suspects Minutes After Robbery

Date: September 21, 2017

On 09-20-17 at approximately 1:51 p.m., Hernando County deputies responded to the BB&T Bank located at 5331 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill in reference to a Bank Robbery.

Employees inside the bank advised dispatchers the suspect was a white male, wearing a dark-colored shirt and a Dallas Cowboys baseball cap. Just after the robbery, a witness reported seeing an individual matching this description get into a black vehicle that was parked nearby, and flee the area.

All of this information was immediately relayed to deputies via the dispatcher.

Being that the suspect description and vehicle description were similar to a recent Hernando County Bank Robbery and several other Bank Robberies that recently occurred in Florida counties, detectives provided additional information over the radio for responding units. Units were advised to Be On the Look Out (BOLO) for a black Toyota Camry with Georgia tags, occupied by one male and at least one other person.

While responding to the scene of the robbery, Detective Kimberly Burger spotted a black Toyota Camry driving at a high rate of speed east bound on Cortez Boulevard near the Suncoast Parkway. Burger was travelling westbound. Burger turned her vehicle around and observed the Camry to have out of state tags, but she was unable to get close enough to see what state the tag was from. Backup units were dispatched.

Deputy Julio Escoda heard the radio traffic and responded to the area to assist. Deputy Escoda and other units conducted a felony traffic stop on the black Camry at Cortez Boulevard and Cobb Road (just north of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office). ***It should be noted, the traffic stop occurred within 20 minutes of the initial call being received.***

Deputies located John Goff in the back seat, along with a Dallas Cowboys baseball cap and a tan satchel (consistent with the bag carried by the suspect in the robbery, as described by bank employees). The driver of the vehicle was identified as Lemuel Davis.

A bank employee and a witness were brought to the scene, both identified Goff as the individual who robbed the bank.

Goff and Davis were detained and brought to the HCSO for interrogation.

Goff confessed to both robberies at the BB&T Bank in Hernando County. He also confessed to several other bank robberies in other counties throughout the state.

Davis confessed to having knowledge of the robbery and admitted that he was to receive some of the money.

“This is another perfect example of the coordinated effort that goes in to a serious crime. Every available resource turns their focus on to solving the crime and apprehending the person or persons responsible. My people and I try to send a clear message that people who intentionally commit a serious crime in Hernando County will be held accountable,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis.

Both suspects were charged as follows:

- **John Goff W/M DOB/06-05-1971**
 - Robbery (2 counts)
 - Bond - \$20,000

- **Lemuel Davis W/M DOB/06-27-1954**
 - Principle to Robbery
 - Bond - \$10,000.

The case remains under 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.