



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Three Arrests Made in Two Separate Infant Death Cases

Date: October 26, 2017

Case # 1 – Victim - Carson Abney

On 06-04-17 at 11:45 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to 6455 Treehaven Drive in Spring Hill regarding a one-month old infant who was not conscious and not breathing.

Upon arrival, deputies noted the infant had bruising along the right side of his face, by his eye, and both eyes had blood in the sclera (the white portion of the eye). The child was immediately transported to Bayfront Health Spring Hill by Hernando County Fire Rescue.

The infant received care at Bayfront Health Spring Hill and was then transported to All Children's Hospital in Tampa. Physicians reported blood on the infant's brain and a considerable amount of brain swelling. The infant was in grave condition.

Detectives interviewed the parents, Justine Vansant and Jesse Abney, at the hospital. The parents advised they went out for food earlier in the morning with the infant. When they got home, they put the infant in his crib. The parents then went to take a shower together. After the shower, they attempted to feed the infant. This is when they advised detectives they noticed he was limp and not breathing.

Detectives interviewed Joe Moore (Vansant's uncle) who also lives in the home. Moore advised the couple did enter the shower together, but Abney got out of the Shower before Vansant. Abney made a bottle for the infant and went back into the bedroom. A short time later Vansant got out of the shower and went into the bedroom and started screaming that the baby was not breathing.

A search of the bedroom revealed a green leafy substance on the nightstand and sprinkled all over Vansant and Abney's bed. In a drawer of the nightstand, deputies located several

pills, empty baggies, a glass pipe, and rolling papers. The leafy substance tested positive for the presence of THC.

Detectives received word that Carson Abney died on 06-09-17 at 1:14 p.m. at All Children's Hospital.

The autopsy report on Carson Abney revealed blunt force head trauma and several rib fractures.

Due to the extensive injuries, the death was ruled a homicide.

During the course of the ensuing investigation, evidence was obtained that showed Jesse Abney was responsible for the death of Carson Abney.

On 10-25-17, Judge Curtis Neal signed a warrant for both parents. Abney and Vansant were located this morning at their residence, 16148 Sarasota Street in Brooksville. The couple is charged as follows:

- **Jesse James Abney W/M DOB/08-03-1996**
 - o Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child
 - o Bond - \$30,000

- **Justine Lynn Vansant W/F DOB/03-31-1998**
 - o Child Neglect
 - o Bond - \$5,000.

Case # 2 – Victim – Miles Anchondo Jr.

On 07-19-17 at approximately 5:30 p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call from a male, later identified as Miles Anchondo Sr., who advised his two-month old infant was not breathing.

As the 9-1-1 operator was providing CPR instructions, Anchondo advised he had taken the infant out of the bath and the infant was now naked on the floor.

Upon arrival, patrol deputies located a naked infant on the living room floor, but the infant was dry, conflicting with Anchondo's statement to the 9-1-1 operator. Deputies also observed what they believed to be marijuana in plain view, in the living room.

The infant was immediately transported to Bayfront Health Spring Hill by Hernando County Fire Rescue.

Initial assessments and CT scans revealed a low white blood count, skull fractures on both sides of the infant's head, and a brain bleed. Physicians stated the infant also appeared to have a healing rib fracture. Due to the severity of the injuries, the infant was airlifted to All Children's Hospital.

Detective Chris Kraft spoke with Anchondo who stated he placed the infant in a stroller next to the bed and fell asleep. Anchondo advised he awoke to what he thought was the infant

crying or coughing, only to find the infant limp. Anchondo again told Kraft that he removed all clothing from the infant, placed him in the bathtub, and turned the water on.

During the interview Kraft noted other discrepancies in what Anchondo was stating to him and what he stated during the 9-1-1 call. Also during the interview, Anchondo admitted to smoking marijuana the day before, and stated he knocked over a small bong while he was trying to help the infant. He told Kraft he kicked the broken pieces of the bong under the sofa.

Anchondo then came to the Sheriff's Office for additional questioning.

Once at the HCSO, Anchondo told detectives he was carrying the infant and "he hit his head hard on the door jamb" and that after he hit his head, the infant fell asleep easily. Anchondo advised he knew the child needed medical attention but was going to wait for his girlfriend to get home. During this interview Anchondo also advised that a few weeks ago he was pushing the infant in the stroller "back and forth hard and fast" which caused the child to lunge forward and hit his head on the rails of the stroller. Lastly, Anchondo told detectives that he dropped the infant on his head, on the tile floor.

The mother of the child was interviewed as well. She told detectives she observed some minor bruising on the infant and had questioned the father. The father (Anchondo) told her that the baby must have been sleeping on his pacifier, causing the marks.

Detectives were advised that Miles Anchondo Jr. died on 07-21-17 at 12:05 a.m.

The autopsy report on Miles Anchondo Jr. revealed a left parietal skull fracture, brain and spinal cord injuries of varying stages, retinal and optic nerve sheath hemorrhages, healing fractures of the right seventh, and left sixth ribs, recent fractures of the right fifth and sixth ribs, and pulmonary congestion, edema, and focal acute pneumonia.

Due to the extensive injuries, the death was ruled a homicide.

It was concluded that the incident described by the father was not consistent with the injuries the infant suffered. The infant suffered ongoing physical abuse which resulted in his death.

After a thorough investigation and consulting with the SAO, an arrest warrant was issued on 10-25-17 for Miles Anchondo Sr. With the assistance of the HCSO Warrants Division, the US Marshals Service, and the Pasco Sheriff's Office, Anchondo was arrested on 10-15-17. He was charged as follows:

- **Miles Luke Anchondo W/M DOB/12-07-1991**
 - o Murder While Engaged in Certain Felony Offenses
 - o Aggravated Child Abuse
 - o No Bond.

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.