



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Catch Vehicle Burglary Suspects Moments after Crimes Committed

Date: April 6, 2018

On 04-05-18 at approximately 5:50 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to Delta Woods Park in Spring Hill regarding a Vehicle Burglary. Investigation revealed that a window was broken out of the vehicle by unknown suspect(s) and a handbag stolen.

At approximately 6:05 p.m., a call was received from Erin's Danceworks located at 3013 Landover Boulevard in Spring Hill. The caller stated that while a parent was dropping a child off for dance class, persons unknown entered the vehicle and stole a handbag and nearly \$1,000 in cash. A witness nearby observed a suspect vehicle and described it as a blue SUV.

At approximately 6:57 p.m., an alert citizen observed suspicious activity at Anderson Snow Sports Complex on Anderson Snow Road and immediately called the Sheriff's Office. The citizen reported a suspicious vehicle in the complex, along with a white female, a white male, and a black male. The white male and white female were observed exiting the blue SUV and "looking into vehicles" to potentially commit vehicle burglaries.

Deputies immediately responded to the sports complex where a traffic stop was conducted on a blue SUV with three occupants inside. Deputies immediately observed several handbags and miscellaneous items, in plain view, that were consistent with items stolen in the vehicle burglaries that had just taken place. Deputies also observed broken glass inside the SUV, possibly from one of the windows the suspects had smashed during the burglaries, and the black male had a fresh cut on his arm.

District Detective Chris Owens was called out to handle the investigation.

All three occupants of the vehicle, identified as Margaret Morgan, Cletus Jones, and Randall Brooks, were taken into custody and transported to the District Two Office for questioning.

Upon questioning, both Jones and Morgan, who are boyfriend and girlfriend, provided statements consistent with each others. Both stated Brooks offered them money to drive around to various locations with him so he could commit vehicle burglaries. Jones and Morgan tried to minimize their involvement; however, witness statements indicate they were also involved in the crimes.

Brooks refused to speak to detectives.

Investigation revealed the trio committed vehicle burglaries at the following locations:

- Delta Woods Park
- Erin's Danceworks
- Veterans Park
- Anderson Snow Sports Complex (three burglaries).

Detectives believe they have recovered a majority of the numerous items stolen by the trio. Detectives are currently working on returning the property back to the rightful owner(s).

Detectives would like to thank the citizens who assisted in this investigation by calling our office when they observed something they believed to be suspicious.

The individuals below were placed under arrest by detectives and charged as follows:

- **Margaret Morgan W/F DOB/07-16-1980** (transient/Tampa)
 - o Vehicle Burglary with F.S.S 843.22 enhancement of traveling across county lines with intent to commit a burglary (7 counts)
- **Cletus Jones W/M DOB/11-12-1988** (transient/Tampa)
 - o Vehicle Burglary with F.S.S 843.22 enhancement of traveling across county lines with intent to commit a burglary (7 counts)
- **Randall Brooks B/M DOB/01-07-1982** (Ft. Lauderdale)
 - o Vehicle Burglary with F.S.S 843.22 enhancement of traveling across county lines with intent to commit a burglary (7 counts).

The investigation remains active.

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.