



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Handyman Arrested for Armed Burglary

Date: April 17, 2018

On 02-21-18, Hernando County Fire Rescue (HCFR) was dispatched to 7124 Barclay Avenue in Brooksville for a male having a medical episode. The victim, who was very ill, was unable to unlock the door for emergency personnel to enter.

In order to provide emergency medical services to the patient, personnel from HCFR shattered a sliding glass door to gain entry.

The victim was treated on scene by HCFR and then transported to a hospital for additional medical care. The victim remained hospitalized for several weeks.

While the victim was hospitalized, the suspect, Peter Tozzi, contacted family members of the victim to say that he was a “handy man” and could/would repair the shattered glass slider. Tozzi lives nearby in the apartment complex. The victim paid for the service and expected the glass to be repaired.

Upon returning to the residence, the victim observed the glass slider to be damaged and numerous items to be missing from his residence. The victim told detectives the only persons having access to his home were the emergency responders and the “handy man” also known as Peter Tozzi.

Investigation revealed that Tozzi pawned items at a local pawn shop, just days after the victim was hospitalized. The victim was able to positively identify one particular piece of jewelry as being his own. At this time, detectives developed probable cause for the arrest of Tozzi.

Following interviews with Tozzi and the recovery of stolen items from the pawn shop, Tozzi was placed under arrest.

Peter Richard Tozzi W/M DOB/03-10-1949 was charged as follows:

- Armed Burglary of a Dwelling
- Dealing in Stolen Property
- Defrauding a Pawn Broker
- Bond - \$12,000.

Peter Tozzi is self-employed, doing business as “Paradise Handy Man.”

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.