



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Respond to Armed Subject in Spring Hill Neighborhood

Date: August 23, 2018

On 08-22-18 at approximately 2 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the area of Lema Drive and Beck Street in Spring Hill, regarding an Armed Subject in a residential area.

The caller, a neighbor, advised 9-1-1 operators that a male subject was walking around in a yard in the area with a firearm, and that he possibly fired off one or two rounds into the air.

Upon arrival, deputies took up tactical positions around the residence at 3211 Lema Drive, where they observed a male, who matched the description the caller provided, standing in the doorway of the residence. Deputies ordered the male, later identified as, Leonamid Rivera, to drop the firearm, to which he complied. Rivera was immediately taken into custody.

While Rivera was being placed into custody, other deputies conducted a safety sweep of the residence – to check for any injured persons. During the safety sweep, deputies observed a safe on the kitchen counter (in plain view); the safe was open. Inside the safe deputies were able to see a white, powdery substance in a clear plastic bag.

The white, powdery substance was collected by deputies and tested on scene. The substance tested positive for cocaine. Further testing will be completed by FDLE to confirm the results. The substance weighed 23.1 grams.

Also inside the safe, deputies observed a box of ammunition and a drinking straw. Rivera told deputies that he used the straw to snort cocaine at around 11:30 a.m.

When speaking to deputies, Rivera stated that "I did cocaine, and I was just playing with it.". Rivera confirmed that "it" meant the firearm.

Rivera told deputies that he received the firearm from a relative who passed away several months ago. Rivera went on to advise that he was currently 'out on bond' from a previous felony case in which he also violated his probation.

Deputies conducted a criminal history check on Rivera to find that he is a convicted felon, and not permitted to own and/or possess a firearm or ammunition.

Rivera was taken to Bayfront Health Spring Hill to be medically cleared before being transported to the Hernando County Detention Center.

Leonamid Joseph Rivera W/M DOB/01-08-1997 was charged as follows:

- Possession of Cocaine
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (3 counts)
- Possession of Firearm by Felon
- Possession of Ammunition by Felon
- Possession of Firearm by Felon
- Discharge Firearm in Public
- Bond – None.

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.