



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
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

Re: Suspicious Incident – Spring Hill – 2012-22772 - UPDATE

Date: July 21, 2012

Update #2

Victim Information – Michael Medina W/M DOB/06-16-1965

Victim Status – Deceased

Synopsis -

On July 20, 2012 at 10:34 a.m., Deputies responded to a home at 7115 Tarrytown Dr. in Spring Hill at the request of Spring Hill Fire/Rescue regarding what appeared to them to be a crime scene. Spring Hill Fire/Rescue was dispatched minutes earlier to a 9-1-1 call that appeared to be medical in nature. Deputies found the residence to be unlocked with no vehicles or persons present.

Initial investigation revealed that Mr. Medina attempted to take his own life inside the residence and then got his roommate to agree to drive him to the hospital. Evidence at the scene and in the vehicle also revealed that the roommate most likely did not know the severity of Mr. Medina's injury, as he had it covered with a cloth or towel. Once in the vehicle, Mr. Medina insisted on going to a hospital in Tampa, refusing treatment at a local hospital. The pair subsequently drove through western Pasco County into Pinellas County and onto the Howard Frankland Bridge.

Once on the bridge, Medina struggled with the driver (confirmed by witness statements) causing the vehicle to come to an abrupt stop. Michael Medina jumped out of the vehicle and into Tampa Bay, where he perished.

Preliminary information obtained by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, the Tampa Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol (who all worked together on this investigation) indicate this was an unusual suicide.

Original Media Release – 07-20-12

On July 20, 2012 at 10:34 a.m. deputies responded to a residence in Spring Hill to assist Spring Hill Fire/Rescue with what appeared to them to be a “crime scene.”

Earlier, at 10:22 a.m. units from Spring Hill Fire/Rescue were dispatched. A male called 9-1-1 and said “hospital,” verified the address, and disconnected. Upon arriving on scene, paramedics found no one in the residence and what appeared to them to be a crime scene. They quickly requested assistance from the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office.

Evidence on scene immediately raised suspicion that someone inside the residence had been seriously injured. Attempts were made to locate the residents, including BOLOs (Be On the Look Out) via the FCIC/NCIC system to other local law enforcement agencies.

At approximately 1:02 p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office Communications Center received a call from the Florida Highway Patrol Communications Center, advising they were out with the vehicle in question on the Howard Frankland Bridge (on the eastbound side). According to preliminary witness accounts, an occupant of the vehicle had jumped off the bridge into the water. The body has been recovered and turned over to the Medical Examiner, who will determine the exact cause of death. The Tampa Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol have taken over that portion of the investigation.