



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

MEDIA RELEASE

From: Michael Terry
Community Relations Specialist, 352-797-3608

Re: Stolen Vehicle Recovered from Waters at Weeki Wachee Preserve

Date: August 24, 2018

During a recent investigation into a series of vehicle burglaries in Trillium, detectives learned of the possible location of a stolen vehicle submerged in a lake at the Weeki Wachee Preserve.

A suspect in the Trillium vehicle burglaries, **James Mackey B/M DOB/07-03-2000**, drew a map of where the vehicle was possibly located.

On 08/22/18, deputies responded to the Weeki Wachee Preserve where, using the map, they located an area where the vehicle had possibly entered the water.

Due to concerns for the potential of the waterway being polluted from gas and oil, detectives requested the assistance for the Florida Fish & Wildlife dive team to help locate and remove the vehicle from the water.

Members of the dive team deployed sonar equipment to locate the vehicle.

They located the vehicle about 30 yards from the shoreline, in about 28 feet of water.

Divers proceeded to attach straps to the vehicle, and with the help of a tow truck, pulled the vehicle onto shore.

The vehicle was examined at the scene.

The vehicle, a 2017 Toyota Camry owned by Enterprise Rent-A-Car, was confirmed to be the same vehicle reported stolen out of Spring Hill on 7-13-2018. The vehicle was returned to Enterprise.

The investigation remains active.