



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: DUI Arrest Made in Detention Center Parking Lot

Date: October 22, 2018

On 10-20-18 at just before 12:30 a.m., Detention Sergeant Brad Collito was conducting a security check along the outside perimeter of the Hernando County Detention Center when he observed a 2017 red Chevrolet Impala enter the parking lot.

Sergeant Collito immediately noted that the driver was operating the vehicle in an erratic fashion while pulling into the lot. After a few moments, the driver parked across two parking spaces.

The driver of the Impala, later identified as Joseph Cartagena, got out of the vehicle and began to urinate, in plain sight of the deputies who were in the parking.

Sergeant Collito and Deputy Victor Latty immediately made contact with Cartagena. Both deputies observed Cartagena to be unsteady on his feet. Cartagena quickly began making spontaneous statements about coming from numerous bars and an ethnic festival, in the area.

A Traffic Unit was requested to respond to the scene to conduct a DUI investigation.

Deputy Aaron Cochrane arrived on scene and observed Cartagena to have bloodshot, watery eyes, slurred speech, and a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his breath. Deputy Cochrane noted that Cartagena was unable to stand without assistance and was “constantly falling over.”

Deputy Cochrane made the decision that it would be unsafe for Cartagena to perform Field Sobriety Exercises due to his obvious impairment, along with his advanced age. Based on the totality of circumstances on scene, Deputy Cochrane placed Cartagena under arrest and took him inside the detention center.

Once inside, Cartagena submitted to a breathalyzer test for the purpose of determining the alcohol concentration in his system.

As per protocol, Cartagena provided two breath samples, which were .207 and .208 BAC.

Joseph John Cartagena W/M DOB/0702-1941 was charged with Driving Under the Influence. His bond was set at \$1,000.

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.