



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Traffic Stop on a Scooter Leads to Trafficking in Methamphetamine Arrest

**Date:** July 22, 2019

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On 07-19-19 just after 11 p.m., Deputy Kevin Keiper was on proactive patrol in the area of Lakefront Road (Royal Highlands) when he spotted a male, who is known to him and does not have a valid driver's license, operating a motorized scooter.

Deputy Keiper conducted a Traffic Stop on the motorized scooter in the area of Nightwalker Road and Day Owl Avenue. The driver, James Hunt, was initially compliant with the deputy but soon decided to flee, on foot, from the Traffic Stop.

A foot pursuit ensued into a nearby wooded area where Deputy Keiper caught Hunt and escorted him to the ground. After a short struggle, Deputy Keiper gained control of Hunt and placed him into custody.

A search of Hunt's backpack revealed a clear, air-tight container which contained a clear, crystal-like substance, which later tested positive for methamphetamine. The total weight of the methamphetamine was 31.08 grams. Another air-tight container found in the backpack contained a scale, consistent with those used to weigh narcotics, and several small plastic baggies, commonly used to hold narcotics. It should be noted the scale contained residue that tested positive for methamphetamine.

**James Hunt W/M DOB/07-29-1968** was found to have \$905 in cash on his person.

All items, including the cash, were seized.

Hunt was placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Trafficking in Methamphetamine
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Driving While License Suspended or Revoked

- Resist w/o Violence
- Bond \$53,000

#### **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, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.**