



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Find Woman in Car with Drug Paraphernalia and a Baby

Date: September 16, 2019

On 09-15-19 just after 5 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the parking lot of the Brook Haven Apartment Complex on Crystal Brook Circle in Brooksville after an anonymous caller reported suspicious activity in and around a vehicle there. The caller believed a female was possibly attempting to commit a vehicle burglary.

Upon arrival, Deputy Aaron Cochrane located the vehicle in question, a gray Mitsubishi bearing the same Florida tag as provided by the caller. As Deputy Cochrane approached the vehicle, he observed the vehicle to be running, a white female sitting in the driver's seat, and a baby, in a car-seat, in the rear of the vehicle.

Deputy Cochrane immediately recognized the female as someone who is personally known to him from previous calls for service.

As Deputy Cochrane approached the female (driver) to ask whether her vehicle had been burglarized, he observed a syringe with an orange cap on it sitting on the front passenger seat. Sitting next to the syringe was a spoon, with white residue on it. A field presumptive test on the residue in the spoon revealed the presence of methamphetamine.

The female was placed under arrest.

Deputy Cochrane questioned the female regarding the identity and relationship of the baby in the rear of the vehicle. The female, who appeared to be under the influence of methamphetamine, advised that she only knew the first name of the baby, did not know the baby's date of birth, or the legal name(s) of the baby's parents.

The female provided a nickname for the father of the baby. Deputies located contact information for the father, a convicted felon, through HCSO databases. The father was

notified of the situation on scene and advised to come retrieve his baby. He agreed but never showed up.

While awaiting the arrival of the father, deputies questioned the female about the drugs and paraphernalia inside the vehicle. The female denied ownership, stating the drugs belonged to the baby's father.

A short time later, a vehicle arrived on scene that contained two adult females, one of whom claiming to be the mother of the baby. The female had no documentation to support this claim. Deputies on scene noted that both females also appeared to be under the influence of methamphetamine and/or some other narcotics. A records check revealed the female claiming to be the mother of the child was currently out on bond, from a recent methamphetamine charge (in addition to retail theft and possession of drug paraphernalia).

The two females also had two children in their vehicle. The female identifying herself as the mother of the baby refused to identify the children in the vehicle, when asked by the deputy.

When the female, claiming to be the baby's mother, was asked by the deputy how she knew the female who had already been placed under arrest, the female's response was that she did not know her; she only knew that she was recently released from jail on "drug charges."

At that time the decision was made to contact the Department of Children of Families (DCF) regarding the welfare of the three children on scene.

Deputy Cochrane noted that he handled an overdose call the day prior, 09-14-19, involving the same female, who had the baby in the back seat. During that call, the female accidentally overdosed and was revived by Hernando County Fire Rescue with the use of Narcan. He also noted just before the overdose on 09-14-19, the female had been released from the Hernando County Detention Center on a charge of Burglary. At the time of the overdose, the female was in possession of a unique spoon, exactly the same type of spoon that was in her vehicle on 09-15-19.

As per the DCF investigator, the children were removed from the women and turned over to a relative, as they were considered in imminent danger while in the care of the women.

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.