



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Couple Arrested for Burglary After Moving Family Into Vacant Residence

Date: September 20, 2019

On 09-16-19, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence in Spring Hill regarding a Residential Burglary in progress.

The homeowner, who currently lives in Pennsylvania, contacted the HCSO after receiving information from her property maintenance crew that there were people inside the residence that was supposed to be vacant.

Upon arrival, deputies made contact with a male and female, later identified as Robert and Lucille Guzman. The couple presented a "lease agreement" that appeared to have been signed by the homeowner, along with a story about how they knew the home was vacant so they contacted the owner by phone to inquire about a lease. They stated a lease was arranged via fax, and they had moved in on 09-07-19.

Lucille's brother, who was also on scene at the time, told deputies he is the great-great-grandson of the homeowner, and he had flown to see her one time, years ago, in Pennsylvania. He also told deputies that the homeowner has dementia, and she may not remember signing the lease.

Deputy V. Flynn again made contact with the homeowner via telephone. The homeowner advised that she did not know any of the individuals who had taken up residence in her vacant home and had not provided permission for anyone to be there. The homeowner advised that she never received nor signed a lease agreement and confirmed that she could not possibly have a great-great-grandson, as she only has one child, a daughter, who doesn't have any children.

A request was made by Hernando County deputies for law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania to respond to the residence of the homeowner to obtain a statement and a

sample of her signature. Once obtained, the signature sample was relayed to deputies on scene. The signature did not match the signature of the “homeowner” on the lease.

On 09-19-19, District Two Detective Greg Garman again contacted the homeowner to confirm all the information that was originally provided to patrol deputies. All information was confirmed, to include information regarding the suspects utilizing the electric (which was on) and causing the electric bill to increase.

Later on 09-19-19, District Two detectives responded to the residence in question, where the couple, their two children, and Lucille’s brother were still living and conducted interviews with the Guzmans. Both husband and wife denied the allegations, denied falsifying the lease agreement, and claimed they were scammed.

Both suspects were then placed under arrest and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. The suspects were charged as follows:

- **Lucille Mare Abeyta-Guzman H/F DOB/11-19-1985**
 - Burglary
- **Robert J. Guzman H/M DOB/08-10-1980**
 - Burglary

The investigation is ongoing.

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.