



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Use Airboat and K-9 to Apprehend Criminal

Date: October 30, 2019

On 10-24-19 just before 10:30 a.m., Deputy A. Valdez was conducting proactive patrol in the area of Falcon Avenue and Cambay Lane in Spring Hill when he observed a male riding a bicycle approaching him.

Deputy Valdez immediately recognized the male on the bicycle, from previous law enforcement contacts, as Gary Francis Molloy. Deputy Valdez also had knowledge that Molloy had an active felony warrant for his arrest. After Molloy passed the deputy and turned onto Falcon Avenue, Deputy Valdez turned his patrol vehicle around and began to follow him. Molloy was now operating his bicycle in the opposing lane of traffic.

Molloy noticed that the deputy was behind him and began to ride faster.

Deputy Valdez attempted to initiate a Traffic Stop by activating his overhead lights and very briefly, his siren. Molloy turned around, looked at the deputy, and began pedaling even faster. Molloy then rode his bicycle off the roadway into the front yard of 8405 Apple Orchard Road, then continued into the backyard of a neighboring residence.

Deputy Valdez exited his vehicle and began chasing Molloy on foot, all the while giving him verbal commands to stop. Molloy lost control of his bicycle and began running on foot. Deputy Valdez caught up to Molloy and grabbed him by the backpack that he was wearing. The deputy told Molloy that he was under arrest. Molloy continued running, turned his body and struck the deputy. The strike caused the deputy to lose his balance and his grip on Molloy. Molloy fled near Waterfall Drive.

Multiple units responded to the scene, set up a perimeter, and a K-9 was deployed. The K-9 tracked to the area where Deputy Valdez first spotted Molloy. It was then confirmed (with the resident) that Molloy had been there, earlier, but hadn't come back. The resident allowed deputies to search the residence. Molloy was not located.

The bicycle Molloy was riding was collected as evidence and the deputy completed paperwork for a warrant for the arrest of Molloy.

On 10-25-19 just before 7:30 a.m., Deputy J. Crespo was responding to a call regarding a Suspicious Person in the area of 7309 Gates Circle when he spotted Gary Molloy riding another bicycle in the area.

Molloy immediately fled when he observed the deputy.

Numerous units responded to the area in an effort to locate Molloy.

During the search, Sgt. S. Johnson spotted Molloy in the center of the lake located behind the residences on Gates Circle.

Numerous deputies and detectives responded to the lake side and ordered Molloy to surrender and to stop swimming away. Molloy refused to comply with commands.

Given the totality of the circumstances, the HCSO Marine Unit (airboat) and a K-9 team responded to the scene.

Once the airboat was deployed in the lake, Molloy was successfully placed into custody.

During his interview with detectives at the District Two office, Molloy stated he should have “come back” and he “made the biggest mistake of his life” for not listening and continuing to swim away.

At the conclusion of the interview, Molloy was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. **Gary Francis Molloy DOB/06-22-1983** was charged as follows:

- Resist Officer/Obstruct w/o Violence
 - Bond - \$1,000
- Resist Officer/Obstruct w/o Violence
- Resist Officer/Obstruct with Violence
 - Bond - \$2,000
- Failure to Appear – Burglary of Conveyance
 - Bond - \$10,000.

Molloy remains in jail.

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.

