



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Michael Terry  
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

**Re:** Detectives Catch Motorcycle Thief in the Act

**Date:** December 20, 2019

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On 12-18-19 at 10:25 a.m., detectives in the area of U.S. 19 and Hexam Road observed an individual attempt to steal a motorcycle from the parking lot of the Dollar General Store located at 10210 Hexam Road, in Weeki Wachee.

The suspect, later identified as Caleb Joseph Baier, W/M DOB/02-23-1991, was seen getting out of a Cadillac CTS prior to approaching the motorcycle.

Baier immediately began pushing the motorcycle out of the parking lot and on to Hexam Road.

The Cadillac CTS Baier got out of, which later was also determined to be stolen, also exited the parking lot.

Deputies approached Baier at the intersection of Hexam Road and Richmond Street. Baier was taken into custody following a short struggle.

The driver of the Cadillac CTS fled east on Hexam Road at a high-rate of speed. The vehicle was not immediately located.

A closer inspection of the motorcycle revealed the ignition was damaged, which prevented the motorcycle from starting.

During questioning, Baier, who was released on 12-10-19 following an arrest for Grand Theft Auto, confessed to stealing the motorcycle.

Baier told detectives he planned to sell the motorcycle for drug money. Baier also admitted to committing an Occupied Structural Burglary and a Grand Theft Auto, which was the Cadillac CTS, on 12-17-19.

Baier told detectives he intended to sell the Cadillac CTS, but gave the vehicle to two individuals he was riding with so he could steal the motorcycle instead.

Baier is currently incarcerated at the Hernando County Detention Center on a no bond status. Detectives are continuing to attempt to identify the two suspects who drove away in the stolen Cadillac CTS, which was later recovered by detectives. The investigation remains active.

**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.**