



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Deputies Make Arrest in Armed Robbery - Kidnapping Case – 2020-03750

Date: February 3, 2020

On 02-02-2020 just before 4 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Stillwater Avenue in Spring Hill regarding a possible Kidnapping.

A third party caller reported that "an unknown male" had taken the caller's friend at gunpoint.

Upon arrival, deputies learned that the caller had been "hanging out with a friend" at the residence on Stillwater Avenue when the unknown male, who they only knew as CJ, showed up. When CJ arrived, he started a verbal altercation with the caller's friend over a \$20 debt the friend owed to CJ.

CJ then produced a handgun and forced the caller's friend out of the residence and into the CJ's vehicle, a red Chevrolet SUV. At this time the caller notified 9-1-1.

Two other individuals who were present in the residence at the time of the incident provided very similar accounts of the incident to deputies.

Deputies then spoke with the victim. The victim provided a similar statement, stating the victim was at the residence with the others when an unknown male arrived and became confrontational with the victim for no reason, only stating that the victim owed him \$20. The victim confirmed that the suspect then produced a handgun, pointing it at the victim, and demanding the money.

The suspect then forced the victim into the red SUV, at gunpoint. The suspect drove the victim to an unknown female's residence to retrieve \$40 (reason unknown for additional funds). The victim retrieved the money. The victim gave the suspect the \$40 and was then taken back home.

The victim provided deputies with limited information regarding the identity of the suspect. Utilizing various databases available to law enforcement, deputies located information on what was believed to be the suspect.

Deputies responded to the residence of the possible suspect, identified as Curtis Jerome Neraasen "CJ", to attempt to make contact with him. Upon arrival at the residence, deputies noted there was a red Chevrolet SUV in the driveway. Deputies made contact with Neraasen. Neraasen confirmed that he was at the residence on Stillwater. Neraasen agreed to speak with deputies.

When initially asked about the firearm, Neraasen told deputies that he did own a firearm and was legally permitted to carry it. When asked to produce the firearm, Neraasen became agitated, stating he did not own a firearm and was never at the residence on Stillwater.

Deputies were able to see the firearm, as described by witnesses, in plain sight, inside the red SUV.

Curtis Jerome Neraasen DOB/07-23-1996 was placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Aggravated Assault w/Firearm
- Kidnapping While in Possession of Firearm
- Robbery While in Possession of Firearm
- Bond - \$82,000.

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.