



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Man Arrested for Carjacking in Spring Hill

**Date:** February 28, 2020

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On 02-28-20 just before 4 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the Walmart Supercenter located at 1485 Commercial Way in Spring Hill in reference to an Attempted Carjacking.

As deputies traveled to the scene, dispatchers received information that the suspect, described as a black male, wearing a brown hooded sweatshirt and brown pants, had left the parking lot and was walking northbound on Commercial Way.

Deputies arriving on scene spotted the suspect near a plaza in front of the Walmart. The suspect fled from the deputies in a northerly direction. The deputies gave chase, catching up to the suspect north of the plaza in front of the Walmart.

As the deputies caught up to the suspect, later identified as Jonathan Lara, Lara began cutting himself with a sharp object he had in his hand. Deputies gave several loud and precise verbal warnings to Lara to drop the weapon and stop cutting himself. Lara refused and continued to harm himself. In fear that Lara was going to cause life-threatening injuries to himself, a Taser was deployed so Lara could be detained.

As Lara was being detained, he told the deputies "You should have just XXX shot me" and "Please, just XXX kill me now."

When deputies asked Lara what occurred prior to their arrival, Lara said, "He must have snitched on me," refusing to make any other statements.

Deputies then interviewed the victim of the Attempted Carjacking. The victim stated that he was resting in his vehicle in the Walmart parking lot when a black male (Lara) began banging on his car doors and windows with an object and pulling on the door handle. During this time, the suspect was screaming "Give me your car."

Fortunately, the victim's car doors were locked. In fear, the victim placed the car in reverse and pulled away. The victim told deputies that Lara followed the victim's vehicle on foot, as the victim drove away. The victim then call 9-1-1 to summon help.

Hernando County Fire Rescue responded to the scene to treat Lara for the injuries he inflicted upon himself. Lara was later transported to a local hospital for medical clearance.

A computer check revealed Jonathan Lara to be on federal probation. Deputies made contact with federal probation officials who advised they would violate Lara's probation during business hours.

**Jonathan Lara B/M DOB/06-18-1989** was then transported to the Hernando County Detention Center, where he was charged with Attempted Carjacking with a bond of \$25,000 and Resisting a Law Enforcement Officer w/o Violence with a bond of \$1,000.

#### **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.