



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Update - Brooksville Teen Charged with Attempted Murder

Date: March 19, 2020

Update

Through the course of investigation, two other individuals were identified as suspects in this case.

Probable cause was developed for the arrest of Rodney Lawson, and a Juvenile Pick-Up Order was obtained on 03-17-20.

On 03-18-20, Lawson turned himself in at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

On 03-18-20, Warrants detectives located Ke'Andre Hopkins and placed him under arrest.

The individuals were charged as follows:

- **Rodney Lawson DOB/11-03-2002**
 - o Attempted Murder
 - o Aggravated Battery
 - o Aggravated Assault
 - o Kidnapping

- **Ke'Andre Hopkins DOB/07-21-2002**
 - o Attempted Murder
 - o Aggravated Battery
 - o Aggravated Assault.

Anthony Owens, the first suspect arrested in this case, although a juvenile, is being charged as an adult. Owens remains in the Pasco County Detention Center.

The State Attorney's Office is currently reviewing the charges on Lawson and Hopkins; they too will possibly be charged as adults.

All suspects in this case have been accounted for and arrested.

Original Information 01-29-20

On 01-25-2020, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a field in the 22000 block of Jacobson Road in Brooksville regarding an Injured Person. A third party caller advised the 9-1-1 operator there was a person down in the field, and the person was "covered in blood."

Upon arrival, deputies located an adult victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim told deputies that his/her (victim's identity protected by Marsy's Law) vehicle was stolen by the suspect.

The victim was treated on scene by Hernando County Fire Rescue, then flown to a local trauma center where he/she underwent emergency life-saving procedures.

Once the victim was able to speak to detectives, he/she explained that he/she was shot by an acquaintance, after a drug-related dispute. The victim went on to say that he/she begged for his/her life and believed he/she was going to die.

The victim did assist detectives with identifying the individual who shot him/her. Detectives later located the 16-year-old suspect at his residence and placed him under arrest.

Detectives then obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence. During a search of the residence, detectives located several firearms and substances believed to be illegal narcotics.

Detectives also recovered the victim's stolen vehicle.

The suspect, identified as **Anthony Owens B/M DOB/07-14-2004**, was transported to the juvenile detention facility in Ocala. Owens is charged as follows:

- Robbery w/a Firearm
- Carjacking
- Fleeing and Eluding
- Attempted Murder.

The case is still very active. Additional charges may be forthcoming.

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.