



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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**From:** Michael Terry  
Deputy PIO, 352-238-4801

**Re:** Weeki Wachee Man Charged in Jewelry Store Burglary

**Date:** March 20, 2020

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On 03-18-20 at around 2 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a report of an unknown individual throwing bricks at a front window to Nature Coast Jewelers located at 7223 Forest Oaks Boulevard in Spring Hill.

The suspect's actions were caught on video surveillance.

The individual was eventually able to break the window and gain access into the business. Once inside, the suspect, later identified as **Buster Lanard Petaway B/M DOB/03-23-1966**, used a brick to break into glass cases where he then stole various jewelry.

Petaway exited the store with the stolen jewelry and got into a waiting vehicle. He left the area prior to law enforcement's arrival.

Later that morning, with the help of video surveillance, detectives were able to develop a lead in the case by possibly identifying the getaway vehicle.

Upon making contact with Petaway at his residence in Weeki Wachee, he surrendered and was immediately arrested.

Petaway confessed to committing the burglary, saying it was due to his drug addiction.

Petaway was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center on charges of **Burglary of an Unoccupied Dwelling with Damage in excess of \$1,000 and Grand Theft**.

His bond was set at \$15,000.

Utilizing a search warrant, detectives were able to locate a majority of the stolen jewelry inside of Petaway's residence. All of the stolen jewelry was returned to the jewelry store owner.

## **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.**