



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

**Re:** Teens Charged in Connection with Two Grand Theft Auto Incidents

**Date:** June 12, 2020

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On 06-10-2020 at 5:17 p.m., Hernando County sheriff's deputies responded to the 7-Eleven located at 4710 Commercial Way in reference to the report of a stolen vehicle.

The female victim went inside the gas station to prepay for gas. The victim realized she left her debt card in her vehicle. Upon exiting the business, she observed an unknown individual entering her vehicle.

The suspect, later identified as **Jaydon Kyle Meal W/M DOB/02-11-2002**, proceeded to use the keys to start the vehicle and drive off.

Witnesses at the scene quickly alerted a deputy, who had arrived at the gas station while the incident was occurring.

The deputy attempted a traffic stop, but Meal failed to stop. Meal drove the vehicle into the back parking lot of Lowe's Home Improvement, where he lost control on the vehicle and crashed into a retention area.

Meal fled the area on foot, and he was not immediately located.

Deputies were able to locate the vehicle Meal had arrived in at the gas station.

The vehicle was located traveling south on Commercial Way and was reported stolen out of Tallahassee a day earlier. Deputies detained the occupants of that vehicle, **Jaydon Ashton Johnson W/M DOB/04-01-2005** and **Jasmine Quijada Salazar W/F DOB/01-06-2003**.

During questioning, Salazar admitted to stealing the vehicle on 06-10-2020 while in Tallahassee. Salazar said she then drove to Lake City to pick up her boyfriend Johnson.

Johnson then had Salazar drive to Old Town, near Gainesville, to pick up Meal.

Once all three were in the vehicle, they proceeded south until they arrived in Hernando County. Salazar said the only reason they stopped in Hernando County was to get gas.

Salazar said once they arrived at the gas station, Meal saw someone had left keys inside of a vehicle and decided to steal it.

While Salazar was being questioned, her phone kept ringing. Salazar advised it was Meal who was calling.

Meal told Salazar, while deputies were listening, he was hiding just east of the gas station, near Staples, which is just south of 7-Eleven.

Meal told her he had to abandon the stolen vehicle due to being pursued by law enforcement.

Deputies responded to the area of Staples and SunTrust Bank and located Meal, who attempted to flee on foot. He was quickly apprehended.

**Meal** was charged with **Grand Theft Auto** and **Fleeing/Attempting Elude Law Enforcement**. His bond was set at \$4,000.

**Salazar** and **Johnson** were each charged with one count of **Felony Grand Theft Auto**. Salazar was charged with an additional count of **Petit Theft**, and Johnson was charged with an additional count of **Not Possessing a Valid Driver's License**. Both juveniles were transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice in Ocala.

#### **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.**