



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO K-9 Unit Assist in Three Arrests Over the Weekend

Date: August 31, 2020

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit had a busy weekend helping take a bite out of crime.

On 08-28-2020, Cpl. S. Miller along with K-9 Justice responded to 9095 Jayson Road in reference to a residential burglary where a suspect was possibly still inside the residence.

Upon arrival, deputies located a vehicle parked in the garage and an air mattress in the bedroom.

The owner advised no one had permission to be in the house.

Cpl. Miller made several K-9 announcements ordering whoever was inside to come out before sending the dog in. Receiving no response, Cpl. Miller deployed K-9 Justice into the residence. K-9 Justice located a female suspect hiding under the air mattress. The suspect, identified as **Jessica Yaccarino DOB/02-14-1989**, was bitten in the arm and on the side of her body. She was transported to a local hospital for treatment of her injuries, then to the jail shortly after.

Yaccarino faces charges of **Burglary of a Dwelling** and **Petit Theft**.

On 08-30-2020, deputies responded to a residence on Hope Hill Road in reference to unwanted individuals possibly staying illegally in the vacant residence.

The homeowner advised she went to the residence and noticed the door to the garage was ajar. She indicated the inside of the residence was ransacked. The victim reported hearing noises coming from the attic. The homeowner confronted the suspect identified as **Todd Charles DOB/04-04-1961**. Charles proceeded to flee the area on foot.

Deputy G. Locke and K-9 Argo arrived on scene and immediately started to track the suspect. K-9 Argo alerted to the presence of the suspect, which led to the suspect surrendering to deputies.

Charles was charged with **Burglary of a Dwelling, Criminal Mischief, and Petit Theft.**

On 08-30-2020, deputies were on the lookout for the driver of a white truck who fled from a traffic stop on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The vehicle was later spotted on Sabra Drive. Upon being spotted, the suspect turned into a residence and fled the vehicle.

Deputy J. Weeks and K-9 Meck located a backpack that contained 216 grams of marijuana and 22.7 grams of crack cocaine. Deputy G. Locke and K-9 Argo were able to track the suspect, identified as **Devonta Washington DOB/05-17-1993**, hiding a short distance from the residence. K-9 Argo bit Washington on the thigh. Washington was taken into custody then transported to a local hospital for treatment. He was then transported to the jail.

Washington was charged with **Possession of Crack Cocaine, Possession of Hashish, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Fleeing/Attempting to Elude a Police Officer.**

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 was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.