



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Aviation and K-9 Units Help Apprehend Fleeing Suspect

Date: October 27, 2020

On 10-25-2020 at 4:30 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to the Motel 6 located at 6172 Commercial Way in reference to a physical disturbance.

Witnesses advised 911 dispatchers that one of the individuals involved in the altercation fled the scene on a motorcycle prior to law enforcement's arrival.

The HCSO Aviation Unit was called in to assist in the search for the motorcycle as it was already in the area conducting a proactive patrol.

The pilot and tactical flight officer were quickly able to locate the fleeing motorcyclist as he came off a frontage road and onto Cortez Boulevard before pulling into the Weeki Wachee Village Shopping Center.

The air unit observed as the motorcyclist cut through the shopping center's parking lot and proceeded north on Commercial Way at a high-rate of speed.

Deputies in pursuit backed off as the air unit continued to follow the suspect who was later identified as **Brian Mikkelsen Jr. DOB/07-29-1989.**

Mikkelsen eventually turned right onto Bourassa Boulevard where after a short distance he crashed the motorcycle in an area where the paved portion of the road ended.

The suspect proceeded to flee on foot into a wooded area to the north of Bourassa Boulevard.

The air unit monitored Mikkelsen's position until deputies on the ground could arrive on scene.

With assistance from the air unit, K-9 Meck was able to locate Mikkelson hiding in the woods.

Mikkelson was taken into custody without further incident.

Mikkelson was charged as follows:

- Fleeing/Attempting to Elude a Police Officer
- Driving while License is Suspended (Habitual Offender)
- No Motorcycle Endorsement

He was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where his bond was set at \$7,500.

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.