



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Two Employees Charged in Organized Fraud at Lowe's Home Improvement

Date: December 4, 2020

On 12-03-2020 at 3 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to Lowe's Home Improvement located at 4780 Commercial Way in reference to an organized fraud investigation.

Upon arrival, deputies spoke to a loss prevention officer in reference to an ongoing internal fraud investigation at the store.

The Lowe's investigator advised two employees, **Timothy Rivett DOB/07-24-1983** and **Drew Hall DOB/06-09-1989**, were conducting fraudulent returns and taking cash from the register.

Rivett worked as a cashier in the customer service area, while Hall worked in the curbside pickup area.

A customer service manager became suspicious of the pair and decided to investigate. An internal investigation discovered Rivett had completed numerous cash returns with no customers present. Rivett would then give the money to Hall.

Between 11-04-2020 and 11-29-2020, Rivett made 183 transactions. From 04-20-2020 to 11-29-2020, Rivett completed a total of \$15,710 in cash returns.

Upon questioning, Rivett admitted to conducting the fraudulent returns.

Rivett advised he used the money to support his drug addiction.

Hall also confessed to participating in the fraudulent returns to help fund his drug addiction. Various paraphernalia and drugs were found on both Rivett and Hall at the time of their arrests.

Rivett was charged with **Organized Fraud, Grand Theft, Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device, Possession of Paraphernalia, and Violation of Probation.**

Rivett is being held on a no bond status due to the Violation of Probation charge for **Trafficking in Stolen Property.**

Hall was charged with **Organized Fraud, Grand Theft, Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device, Possession of Hydromorphone, and Possession of Paraphernalia.**

Hall is being held on an \$8,500 bond.

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.