



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: Spring Hill Vehicle Burglars Thwarted by Observant Neighbor

Date: February 2, 2021

On 01-30-2021 at 3:30 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a Spring Hill residence on Colchester Avenue in reference to a vehicle burglary that had just occurred.

A witness advised he observed two unidentified individuals enter an unlocked vehicle belonging to his neighbor across the street.

The witness advised he confronted both suspects as they attempted to flee. The witness was able to detain one of the suspects until law enforcement arrived.

The detained suspect was later identified as **Ashton Mooney DOB/11-05-2003**.

Deputies proceeded to make contact with the owner of the burglarized vehicle.

The owner advised he had not given anyone permission to enter the vehicle.

Through their investigation, detectives identified **Linden Shawcroft DOB/11-06-2004** as the other suspect involved in the vehicle burglary.

Mooney advised the pair also burglarized another vehicle in the area but could not remember the exact location.

Deputies were able to apprehend Shawcroft a short time later after he returned to Mooney's residence on Brookside Street.

Both juveniles were each arrested on a charge of **Conveyance Burglary**, a felony.

Additional charges are pending further investigation.

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.