



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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

**Re:** HCSO Aviation Unit Helps Apprehend Suspect in Stolen Vehicle Incident

**Date:** February 9, 2021

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On 02-06-2021 at 1:15 a.m., 911 dispatchers received a report of a single-vehicle crash in the area of Powell Road and Saturn Road in Brooksville.

An off-duty Pasco Sheriff's deputy reported locating a vehicle parked on the roadside with front-end damage.

The off-duty deputy activated his overhead emergency lights and observed as three individuals fled on foot from the scene and into a wooded area.

Hernando County Sheriff's deputies soon arrived on scene to begin searching for the suspects.

The HCSO aviation and K-9 units responded to search for the suspects.

With the assistance of the aviation unit, two of the subjects were found hiding in separate wooded lots. The subjects were immediately detained. Both subjects identified the driver of the stolen vehicle as Port Richey resident **Vaughn McClellan Jr. DOB/04-15-2000**.

The subjects advised McClellan had picked them up earlier in the night.

The owner of the vehicle, who lives in Pasco County, advised her ex-boyfriend, McClellan, did not have permission to drive her vehicle. She advised she had only recently noticed her vehicle was missing. The victim proceeded to sign a stolen vehicle affidavit.

A short time later McClellan called the Sheriff's Office using his cell phone to surrender. McClellan was located waiting outside of a residence on Crum Road.

McClellan was charged with **Grand Theft Auto** and **Resisting an Officer without Violence**.

The Florida Highway Patrol cited McClellan for **Reckless Driving, Driving without a License, and Leaving the Scene of an Accident.**

McClellan was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he was being held in lieu of a \$3,000 bond.

Neither of the other two subjects were charged in the incident.

**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.**