



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Traffic Stop Leads to Drug Arrest in Spring Hill

Date: March 23, 2021

On 03-21-2021 at 10:17 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop on Ken Lake Avenue in Spring Hill on the driver of a vehicle who failed to come to a complete stop at a stop sign.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as **Antonio Serrano DOB/04-24-1997**.

Serrano advised he did not have a valid driver's license due to it being suspended.

The deputy noted a strong odor of marijuana was emanating from the vehicle.

Serrano advised there were no weapons or contraband inside the vehicle.

Upon searching the vehicle, deputies located large amounts of cash in the vehicle's center console, inside of a purse belonging to a passenger and inside a backpack located in the back seat.

The backpack also contained 191.3 grams of marijuana that was separated into two containers. A scale and baggies were also located in the backpack.

A gun was found in the vehicle's glove compartment, and a loaded magazine was found in proximity to the backpack.

Investigation revealed the gun, drugs, and money belonged to Serrano. The suspect claimed the marijuana was for personal consumption, and he uses the scale to accurately roll his cigarettes with cannabis.

Serrano was charged with **Possession of Marijuana over 20 grams, Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Sell, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Carrying a Concealed Firearm during a Felony, Driving While License is Suspended.**

Serrano was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he's being held in lieu of a \$22,500 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.