



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

---

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

**Re:** Search Warrant – Illegal Gambling – Lucky Star

**Date:** April 29, 2021

---

On 04-28-2021 at 10:30 p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit executed a search warrant at 4576 Commercial Way in Spring Hill. The business, "Lucky Star," was an illegal gambling "game room."

The Sheriff's Office has been working for months to educate the owners and operators of these establishments to work within the Florida State Statute (law).

Businesses were provided a "cease and desist" letter advising them they are operating illegally, allowing the owners to adjust their operations to comply with Florida Statute. Several establishments changed their practices or shut down completely.

An investigation revealed Lucky Star was operating in violation of Florida State Statute, and detectives also noted narcotics activity in and around the business.

Upon execution of the search warrant, two employees, **Samson Baryamichael DOB/03-01-1988** and **Nayizg Nuwayu DOB/01-01-1990**, were each charged with **Keeping a Gambling House**, Florida State Statute 849.01. They were transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where their bonds were set at \$1,000 each.

During the execution of the search warrant, detectives seized \$18,923 in cash, various gambling machines, and two large televisions.

Eleven patrons were observed on scene and actively gambling. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office educated the patrons explaining that they too can be charged with a crime for participating in these game rooms. Eight of the patrons were issued warnings and released on scene.

Additionally, three patrons were arrested on various drug charges.

**Nakia Williams DOB/09-26-1996** was charged with **Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Crack Cocaine, Possession of Prescription Medication without a Prescription, and Possession of Marijuana**. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

**Desiree Kearney DOB/07-05-1993** was charged with **Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**. Her bond was set at \$2,000.

**Christian Stinson DOB/10-19-1991** was charged with **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**. His bond was set at \$1,000.

While these types of establishments are considered enjoyment by some citizens, they also attract a criminal element to the area. Drug use and sales, weapons disturbances, fights, and robberies are known to occur at these types of establishments.

This creates a safety concern for the patrons and employees of these game rooms, as well as the surrounding businesses and neighborhoods. The Sheriff's Office will continue to investigate other businesses in violation of Florida gambling laws, and we are committed to educating our citizens on the matter.

#### **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.