



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Nabs Three Spring Hill Teens who Robbed Taxi Driver at Gunpoint

Date: May 14, 2021

On 05-12-2021 at 10:18 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 4600 block of Chamber Court in Spring Hill in reference to a report of an armed robbery of a taxi driver.

The victim told deputies he was hired to transport three individuals from a residence on Chamber Court to the Taco Bell located at 11140 Spring Hill Drive.

The three juveniles were later identified as **Kylee Champagne DOB/10-25-2004, Michael Nazario DOB/06-08-2007, and Giovanni Pereira DOB/11-19-2003.**

When the taxi driver pulled up to the house he was met by the three teenagers.

Once inside the vehicle, the victim drove a short distance before one of the juveniles asked the driver to stop so one of them could retrieve their cell phone.

All three juveniles exited the taxi. Champagne then proceeded to display a handgun and demand money from the taxi driver.

In fear for his life, the taxi driver gave Champagne all of the money in his pockets.

The three juveniles then ran into a nearby wooded area.

A K-9 and the Aviation Unit were called in to assist in locating the suspects.

K-9 Justice and his handler Cpl. S. Miller were quickly able to locate all three juveniles and take them into custody.

Deputies located two firearms in the backyard of Champagne's home on Chamber Court.

The three juveniles were arrested and each charged with one count of felony **Armed Robbery**.

They were transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. Upon completion of processing, they were all three transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice facility in Ocala.

Additionally, the three juveniles are being investigated as suspects in an Armed Robbery reported by a food delivery driver in Spring Hill on 05-11-2021.

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.