



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Brooksville Man Arrested for Sexual Battery

Date: June 25, 2021

On 06-20-21, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence within Hernando County to investigate allegations of a possible Sexual Battery.

Upon arrival, deputies conducted a preliminary investigation and concluded the case would need to be turned over to major case investigators. The likelihood a Sexual Battery did in fact occur was probable and in-depth investigation was required.

Detective Lauren Johnson was assigned to the case.

During the preliminary investigation, deputies were provided with video evidence (along with the device that housed the video) of the crime. As per protocol, the evidence was preserved and collected.

On 06-21-21, Detective Johnson executed a search warrant for the device that housed the video evidence.

Upon reviewing the data on the device, probable cause was established for the arrest of the suspect, identified as **Eliseo Barrios Lopez H/M DOB/02-20-1980**.

Barrios Lopez, suspecting law enforcement was contacted, fled the area on 06-20-21.

On 06-22-21, Detective Johnson obtained a warrant for the arrest Eliseo Barrios Lopez, for the charge of Sexual Battery. Knowing Barrios Lopez most likely fled the state of Florida, detectives enlisted the assistance of the U.S. Marshals, who adopted the case and began the search for Barrios Lopez.

On 06-23-21, the U.S. Marshals located Barrios Lopez in Texas, at which time he was placed under arrest on the Hernando County warrant.

During the investigation, detectives discovered Barrios Lopez is in the United States illegally. Subpoenas to his current employer/payroll company revealed he utilized another person's social security number when completing paperwork.

Additional investigation is required regarding use of the social security number. Additional charges are possible.

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.