



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Man Charged in Masaryktown Vehicle Burglary Spree

Date: September 9, 2021

On 08-29-2021, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received numerous reports of vehicle burglaries occurring in Masaryktown.

Six victims living on Roosevelt Avenue reported seven vehicle burglaries.

Items take from the unlocked vehicles included cash, a tablet, tools, a purse, a cell phone, and personal identification.

A witness observed a male suspect enter a neighbor's vehicle. The witness confronted the suspect who then fled the area on foot.

A short time later, the witness observed a female driving a truck in the area. The female driver advised she was looking for her brother-in-law who matched the witness's description of the suspect. The witness, however, did not get the woman's name prior to her driving off.

Several of the burglarized vehicles were ransacked, but had nothing taken.

Deputies were able to collect evidence from the scene.

On 09-07-2021, detectives were able to identify **Jacob Zuniga DOB/05-19-1998**, who lives at 531 Roosevelt Avenue, as a possible suspect.

On 09-08-2021, detectives made contact with Zuniga's brother at the 531 Roosevelt Avenue address. The brother indicated his wife was out looking for Zuniga the night the vehicle burglaries were committed.

The brother further advised they had been drinking heavily and were involved in verbal altercation when Zuniga left the residence on foot. Detectives were unable to locate Zuniga at the residence.

Later on 09-08-2021, Zuniga called the Sheriff's Office where he agreed to meet detectives after work. During questioning, Zuniga advised he was heavily intoxicated and was belligerent toward family members the night of the vehicle burglaries.

Zuniga, who indicated he blacked out, advised he went through numerous vehicles in the neighborhood in an attempt to find a pair of lost glasses.

Zuniga was arrested and charged with seven counts of **Burglary of a Conveyance**. He was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he is being held in lieu of a \$7,000 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.