

Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney

Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Detectives Investigating Robbery at Gaming Establishment

Date: November 8, 2021

On 11-07-2021 just after 1:30 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to "Fish Games Skill Games" located at 3484 Commercial Way in Spring Hill in regards to a Commercial Robbery.

A customer in the establishment called 9-1-1 to report the incident after observing another customer become irate and demand money from an employee. While demanding money, the suspect struck the employee.

Upon arrival, deputies met with the (victim) employee. The victim told deputies that one of his regular customers, who he knows only by first name, was playing on one of the gaming systems for approximately 90 minutes. The (suspect) customer began complaining about "losing money."

As the victim waited on another customer at the counter, the suspect approached the counter and stated he was "owed \$240." The victim verified that no money was due to be paid to the suspect and told the suspect he was not owed any money. The suspect then demanded \$240 in cash, which was the amount of money he lost playing the gaming system this day. The suspect told the victim if he (the victim) didn't give him the money, he was going to hurt him.

The suspect then walked behind the customer service counter and grabbed a bank bag. As the suspect attempted to leave he grabbed the victim's shirt and began pulling and pushing the victim.

The victim retrieved the bank bag after providing the suspect with the \$240 he demanded. The suspect then left the establishment.

Deputies spoke with witnesses on scene and reviewed surveillance video from the establishment. Both the witness statements and video matched the victim's account of the incident.

The case has been turned over to Major Case detectives for investigation. In addition to processing physical evidence retrieved from the scene, detectives will attempt to identify and locate the suspect.

There is no additional information available at this time.

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.