



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Search for Wanted Subject ends with Three Arrests – 2022-07186

Date: March 11, 2022

On 03-10-2022 at 9:30 a.m., detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Intelligence Unit attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the driver of a black BMW sedan for multiple traffic violations.

The driver of the vehicle, **Stephan Vassel DOB/07-08-2002**, refused to stop and sped down Lema Drive in Spring Hill.

Detectives did not chase Vassel as he was driving recklessly through a residential neighborhood.

At 10:55 a.m., the same detectives observed Vassel along the shoulder of Linden Drive, just west of Mariner Boulevard. Vassel was sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle that had jumper cables connected to another vehicle. Two individuals, Nyzarian Thompson DOB/01-01-2004 and a juvenile were located along with Vassel.

Vassel was immediately taken into custody at the scene. Thompson and the juvenile were found in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. They were also arrested at the scene.

During a search of Vassel's vehicle detectives located a backpack that contained three pounds of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Vassel was arrested on charges of **Fleeing to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell within a 1,000 feet of a Church, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**. Vassel was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where his bond was set at \$13,000.

Thompson was charged with **Possession of Marijuana** and **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**. His bond was set at \$1,500.

The juvenile was arrested on charges of **Possession of Marijuana** and **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**. After possessing at the detention center, he was released into the custody of his parents per the direction of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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.