



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: Teens Charged in Burglary of Convenience Store

Date: March 15, 2022

On 03-12-2022 at 12:38 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to Sunoco convenience store located at 6026 Spring Hill Drive in reference to a Commercial Alarm.

Upon arrival, deputies observed the glass front door to the business was shattered.

Deputies observed video surveillance that showed an unknown male suspect using a cinder block to smash the glass front door to gain entry.

The suspect was wearing black jeans with patches, a black Adidas t-shirt, and a large gold chain with a Miami Hurricanes charm. The suspect was also wearing a white shirt over his face to obscure his identity.

The suspect took several tobacco products prior to exiting the store and fleeing the area on foot. Deputies were unable to locate a suspect at the scene.

On 03-14-2022 at 1:42 a.m., deputies responded back to the Sonoco in reference to a report of two individuals who were spotted hiding behind the business.

Deputies were able to locate the suspects on Sonoco property.

One of the juveniles was identified as **Michael Sparacino DOB/02-21-2007**.

Deputies took special note of Sparacino because he was wearing the same clothing as the suspect caught on surveillance video from the incident on 03-12-2022.

During questioning, Sparacino admitted to using a cinder block 03-12-2022 to break the glass door and burglarize the business.

The other juvenile was identified as **Tony Collins DOB/04-17-2006**. Collins told investigators he came with Sparacino on this occasion to steal cigarettes from the convenience store. Collins advised he was aware Sparacino had previously committed a burglary at the same location on 03-12-2022.

Both suspects were taken into custody at the scene.

Sparacino was charged with Commercial **Burglary and Petit Theft in one case, and Attempted Burglary of the same business** in a second case. After being processed at the detention center, he was released into the custody of his parents.

Collins was charged with **Commercial Burglary** in one case, and **Attempted Burglary of the same business** in a second case. After being processed at the detention center, he was transported to the juvenile justice facility in Ocala.

Additional charges for both suspects are pending further investigation.

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.