



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
Public Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Hernando County Deputies Apprehend Pinellas Park Carjacking Suspect –
2022-15145

Date: May 23, 2022

On 05-23-22 at approximately 4:25 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to mile marker 295 on I-75 to assist in the apprehension of a Carjacking suspect.

A dispatcher from the Pinellas Park Police Department (PPPD) contacted the HCSO to request units be dispatched to I-75 at the Hernando/Pasco County line. The PPPD dispatcher advised that a stolen vehicle, a white Honda Civic 4-door, was just about to enter Hernando County. Further, the vehicle was stolen in Pinellas Park during the Carjacking of an Uber driver.

As the driver of the stolen vehicle headed northbound, several agencies provided assistance, including the Tampa Police Department (TPD). The TPD's Air Service (helicopter) followed from the air, continually providing location updates to the PPPD dispatcher. In turn, the PPPD dispatcher relayed that information to the HCSO dispatcher. The PPPD dispatcher also told the HCSO dispatcher the suspect was armed with a handgun.

Two Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were at the ready, waiting near mile marker 300, as the driver of the stolen vehicle approached. As the driver passed by, the deputies fell in behind the stolen vehicle, following for a short distance, until additional units arrived in the area.

Just as the driver crossed into Sumter County, the HCSO deputies conducted a Traffic Stop. With the TPD's Air Service monitoring from above, deputies placed the suspect under arrest. With the Traffic Stop occurring in Sumter County, a HCSO deputy delivered the arrestee to the Sumter County Jail.

Cortez D Woredlow DOB/02-19-1991 was charged as follows:

- Grand Theft Auto
- Bond - \$5,000.

Woredlow remains in the Sumter County Jail.

Several individuals, from various law enforcement agencies, were involved in the safe and successful apprehension of this violent criminal (Pinellas Park Police Department, Tampa Police Department, Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Florida Highway Patrol, and Sumter County Sheriff's Office). We appreciate the strong working relationship we have with our fellow law enforcement officers and dispatchers.

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.