



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: Suspicious Vehicle Leads to Arrest for Trafficking in Fentanyl – 2022-33598

Date: November 14, 2022

On 11-10-2022 at approximately 11:48 p.m., Deputy C. Cobb and her trainee, Deputy J. Rodriguez conducted a security check at the Target, located at 4410 Commercial Way in Spring Hill.

While driving through the parking lot, the deputies observed a silver Ford Taurus which was double parked on the north side of the parking lot. As the store was not open for business, the deputies checked the suspicious vehicle.

Upon approaching the vehicle, Deputy Cobb observed a white female, slumped over in the driver's seat. In order to check the female's well-being, Deputy Cobb called out to her and knocked on the driver's window several times. Eventually, the female became somewhat alert and opened the driver's door. During this time, the female was very lethargic and demonstrated difficulty gaining her senses.

The female, and sole occupant of the vehicle, was identified by her Florida ID card to be Danielle Marie Richards.

When asked if she was "ok," Richards told the deputies she was ok and was just taking a nap.

While conversing with Richards, the deputies observed a syringe, filled with a red liquid substance, on the passenger seat. A second syringe was observed on the floor board, behind the driver's seat.

Based on their observations, the deputies had Richards exit the vehicle so a thorough search could be conducted.

A search of the vehicle revealed a black nylon zip-up bag, which had been placed in the engine bay, next to the vehicle's battery. Inside the bag, deputies located several plastic bags which contained a crystal-like substance and a powder-like substance.

The crystal-like substance was field tested and revealed a positive presence for methamphetamine. The powder-like substance was field tested and revealed a positive presence for fentanyl.

The crystal-like substance weighed 68.2 grams. The eight plastic bags of powder-like substance had a combined weight of 23.2 grams.

Deputies also located a silver cylinder containing 23 pills (6 morphine sulfate 60 mg, 3 Oxycodone Hydrochloride 15 mg, 10 Oxycodone Hydrochloride 5 mg, 3 Clonazepam 1 mg, and several unidentified pills).

Based on the items located in the vehicle, **Danielle Marie Richards DOB/10-04-1972** was placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Possession of Methamphetamine
- Trafficking in Fentanyl
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Bond - \$20,500.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!

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.