



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Vice & Narcotics Search Warrant – 8869 Highpoint Boulevard – 2022-36304

Date: December 12, 2022

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit was made aware of a possible drug dealer who was selling fentanyl within Hernando County, in the Highpoint Community.

Subsequent investigation revealed that **Steven Barlock DOB/08-18-1961** was residing at 8869 Highpoint Boulevard in Brooksville. He was also identified as the person who was dealing in illegal narcotics. An undercover operation was initiated, which resulted in narcotics purchases made from the aforementioned residence. Probable cause was developed for a search warrant of the residence.

On 12-09-2022, the search warrant was executed and the following items were located:

- **Approximately 3.3 grams of Fentanyl**
- **Approximately 1.1 grams of Methamphetamine**
- **Approximately 1.6 grams of Marijuana**
- **Drug Paraphernalia (digital scales, glass smoking pipes, and baggies for packaging narcotics)**
- **Evidence of fraud taking place, with identifications and credit cards belonging to individuals not present on scene (attempts have been made to contact the victims)**

Barlock is a convicted felon, and has previously been convicted for the offenses of **Felony Theft, Driving While License Suspended, Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Property Damage, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Possession of Cocaine.**

As a result of the search warrant, Barlock was placed under arrest and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center for the following offenses:

- **Possession of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl)**
- **Possession of Marijuana**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**

- **Total bond -- \$17,000**

Barlock was also arrested for the following offenses relating to the undercover operation:

2022-28759

- **Sale of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl)**
- **Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Sell (Fentanyl)**
- **Person in Possession of a Structure for the Purpose of Sale of a Controlled Substance**
- **Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Total bond -- \$46,000**

2022-32691

- **Sale of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl)**
- **Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Sell (Fentanyl)**
- **Person in Possession of a Structure for the Purpose of Sale of a Controlled Substance**
- **Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Total bond -- \$46,000**

2022-35306

- **Sale of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl)**
- **Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Sell (Fentanyl)**
- **Person in Possession of a Structure for the Purpose of Sale of a Controlled Substance**
- **Unlawful Use of a Two Way Communication Device**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Total bond -- \$46,000.**

Three other individuals were located within the residence during the execution of the search warrant and found to be in possession of various narcotic related items. The following individuals were also arrested during this operation:

Michael Wein DOB/05-04-1987

- **Possession of Controlled Substance (Fentanyl)**
- **Possession of Methamphetamine**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Unlawful Possession of Personal Identification Information**
- **Total bond -- \$12,000**

Wein is a convicted felon, and has been previously convicted for the offenses of **Possession of a Controlled Substance (multiple times), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Criminal Use of Personal Identification information, Dealing in Stolen Property, Defrauding a Pawnbroker, and Criminal Mischief.**

Joseph Connors DOB/08-30-1984

- **Possession of Controlled Substance (Fentanyl)**

- **Possession of Methamphetamine**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Unlawful Possession of Personal Identification Information**
- **Total bond -- \$12,000.**

Connors is a convicted felon, and has been previously convicted for the offenses of **Possession of a Controlled Substance (multiple times), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Trespassing, Possession of Marijuana, Petit Theft, Tampering with Physical Evidence, Battery, Resisting Arrest without Violence, and Defrauding a Pawnbroker.**

India Barlock DOB/12-16-1965

- **Possession of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl)**
- **Possession of Marijuana**
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**
- **Total bond -- \$17,000.**

India Barlock has no previous criminal convictions.

A records search also indicated that since 2021, there have been four calls for service at 8869 Highpoint Boulevard for **Accidental Overdoses** involving various forms of narcotics.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, “I am extremely thankful for the tenacity of my Vice and Narcotics detectives in not only this instance, but in all of their investigations. My hope is that the criminal justice component will decisively deal with these individuals, so as to prevent additional drug overdoses and/or deaths.”

Further investigation is forthcoming.

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.