



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Suspicious Vehicle Leads to Arrests for Trafficking in Methamphetamine and Cocaine – 2022-37138

Date: December 14, 2022

On 12-14-22 at approximately 2:40 a.m., Deputy Z. Vasquez was conducting proactive patrols in the area of Broad Street and Wiscon Road when he observed a suspicious vehicle backed in to a parking space at Alejandro's Mexican Grill, located at 7380 Broad Street in Brooksville.

As the restaurant was not open for business at the time, Deputy Vasquez suspected the occupant(s) of the vehicle may be involved in some type of illegal activity.

Deputy Vasquez approached the black Kia Optima and observed a male in the driver's seat and a female in the front passenger seat.

As other deputies began attempting to remove the individuals from the vehicle, the Optima rolled forward in the parking lot but was stopped by a curb.

The female passenger, later identified as Crystal Hovis, exited the vehicle and attempted to run away; however, she was quickly apprehended by a deputy on scene.

Upon making contact with the driver, later identified as Samuel Stockdale, deputies located baggies containing a crystal-like substance on his person.

The substances contained in the baggies field tested positive for the following illegal narcotics:

- Methamphetamine – 111.29 grams
- Cocaine – 70.6 grams
- Fentanyl – 3.0 grams

- Marijuana – 3.0 grams
- Pills – 3 whole pills and 3 half pills – 1.2 grams

Both occupants of the vehicle were placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- **Samuel Stockdale DOB/07-06-1985**
 - o Trafficking in Methamphetamine
 - o Trafficking in Cocaine
 - o Possession of Fentanyl
 - o Possession of Controlled Substance (pills)
 - o Possession of Marijuana Under 20 Grams
 - o Loitering and Prowling
 - o Resist Arrest w/o Violence
 - o Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (scale, grinder, plastic container, several baggies).
- **Crystal Hovis DOB/07-08-1992**
 - o Trafficking in Methamphetamine
 - o Trafficking in Cocaine
 - o Possession of Fentanyl
 - o Possession of Controlled Substance (pills)
 - o Possession of Marijuana Under 20 Grams
 - o Loitering and Prowling
 - o Resist Arrest w/o Violence
 - o Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (scale, grinder, plastic container, several baggies).

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.