



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: Vice and Narcotics Search Warrant – 13155 Siam Drive – 2023-02226

Date: January 25, 2023

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit recently received information regarding the sale of illegal narcotics (methamphetamine) from a residence within Hernando County.

Investigation revealed the resident of 13155 Siam Drive in Spring Hill, identified as James Lupini, was the individual who was selling illegal narcotics.

An undercover operation was initiated which resulted in Lupini selling methamphetamine to undercover operatives.

Probable cause was developed for a search warrant. The search warrant was executed on 01-25-2023.

A search of the residence revealed the following items:

- **7.7 grams of fentanyl (trafficking amount)**
- **19.4 grams of methamphetamine (trafficking amount)**
- **Drug paraphernalia (baggies and scales to weigh the substances for distribution)**
- **1 firearm**
- **\$2,900.00 in U.S. Currency**

As a result of the items located during the search warrant, **James Lupini DOB/05-07-1971** was charged as follows:

- **Trafficking in Fentanyl**
- **Possession of Fentanyl w/Intent to Sell**
- **Trafficking in Methamphetamine**

- **Possession of Methamphetamine w/Intent to Sell**
- **Possession of Structure for Sale of Controlled Substance**
- **Possession of Paraphernalia**
- **Bond - \$116,000.**

Lupini was also arrested and charged for the following offenses relating to the sale and distribution of narcotics:

- **Trafficking in Methamphetamine (3 counts)**
- **Possession of Methamphetamine w/Intent to Sell (3 counts)**
- **Person in Possession of Structure for the Purpose of Sale of a Controlled Substance (3 counts)**
- **Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device (3 counts)**
- **Possession of Paraphernalia (3 counts)**
- **Bond - \$198,000.**

In addition to the information provided above, further charges are forthcoming against James Lupini for Animal Cruelty.

Upon executing the search warrant, Vice Detectives were confronted with deplorable conditions within the residence. Inside, detectives located 16 pit bull terriers (several of which were aggressive), living in conditions not suitable for any living being.

All of the animals were removed and transported to Hernando County Animal Services for care and examination.

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.