



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Kasey Johnson
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: Ridge Manor Felon Arrested for Possession of Firearm – 2024-00105376

Date: March 7, 2024

On 03-05-2024, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received information regarding the location of a possible wanted person at a residence in the 3300 block of Riverdale Drive in Ridge Manor.

Deputy E. Miller responded to the residence, and upon arrival, witnessed a white male loading items into a truck bed and trailer which was parked at the home. After a few minutes, additional deputies arrived in the area to assist, at which time, the male packing items into the truck saw deputies arrive and fled into the home.

As deputies approached the home to make contact with the resident, they passed the truck parked in the yard, into which the subject was earlier loading the items. Through the passenger window, deputies noticed a firearm sitting in plain view on the front seat. Deputies also smelled the strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle and observed a plastic bag containing a green, leafy substance laying in the driver's side floorboard.

Deputies made contact with the individual they had observed at the truck, just minutes prior, and identified him as **Thomas Knight Jr. / DOB 10-10-1978**. Knight was on inmate release status after serving 8 years for a prior charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

A search of the vehicle was then completed, due to the aforementioned items being in plain view. The search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of the loaded firearm, 44 grams of Marijuana, 122 grams of Methamphetamine, and a large sum of cash.

While conducting a search of Knight's person after he was placed under arrest, deputies also found that Knight was in possession of two handcuff keys, which he had concealed on his person.

Knight was then transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he was charged as follows:

- Possession of Firearm by a Felon
- Trafficking in Methamphetamine
- Possession of Marijuana over 2 Grams
- Possession of Concealed Handcuff Key while in Custody

Knight's bond is currently set at \$10,000.

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!