



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Jessica Burns
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: Operation Failed Flush – 202600115529

Date: January 23, 2026

On 01-21-2026, detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit conducted an operation and executed a search warrant targeting **Daniel "Blanco" Velazquez, DOB/09-15-1988**, at a residence located on Ortega Boulevard. The operation was the result of an investigation that revealed Velazquez was selling large quantities of fentanyl throughout Hernando County.

During the takedown, Velazquez was located in the front yard of the residence; however, he fled into a side garage door. The garage had been converted into an Airbnb by the homeowner and was being rented by Velazquez. Vice detectives, along with K-9 Deputy J. Arnold and K-9 Odin, breached the door to secure the residence and take Velazquez into custody.

Once inside, detectives located Velazquez inside the bathroom actively flushing narcotics down a toilet and refusing to comply with commands. During the apprehension, Velazquez sustained a K-9 bite from K-9 Odin and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Also located inside the residence was Velazquez's girlfriend, **Jahira Rodriguez, DOB/08-27-1987**. Rodriguez refused commands to open the door and attempted to conceal Velazquez's location while he was attempting to destroy evidence. A search of Rodriguez's purse revealed a small amount of methamphetamine and marijuana.

Detectives accessed the residence's septic tank and recovered two plastic baggies containing a white powdery substance. During further execution of the search warrant, detectives flushed the plumbing lines and recovered two additional baggies containing a large amount of a white powdery substance. The toilet was then dismantled, at which time a larger bag containing a white powdery substance lodged in the plumbing was recovered. All of the white powdery substances recovered tested positive for fentanyl.

Also recovered inside the residence and in Velazquez's possession were a small amount of methamphetamine and one alprazolam pill.

After being treated at the hospital, Velazquez was interviewed and admitted to selling large amounts of fentanyl and flushing multiple baggies of fentanyl down the toilet in an attempt to destroy evidence.

Daniel “Blanco” Velazquez was arrested and charged with:

- **Trafficking in fentanyl (four counts)**
- **Possession of methamphetamine**
- **Possession of alprazolam**
- **Felony evidence tampering**
- **Maintaining a structure for trafficking fentanyl**
- **Unlawful use of a two-way communication device (three counts)**
- **Possession of drug paraphernalia**

Jahira Rodriguez was charged with:

- **Resisting an officer without violence**
- **Possession of marijuana**
- **Possession of a controlled substance without a prescription**

Narcotics Recovered From the search warrant:

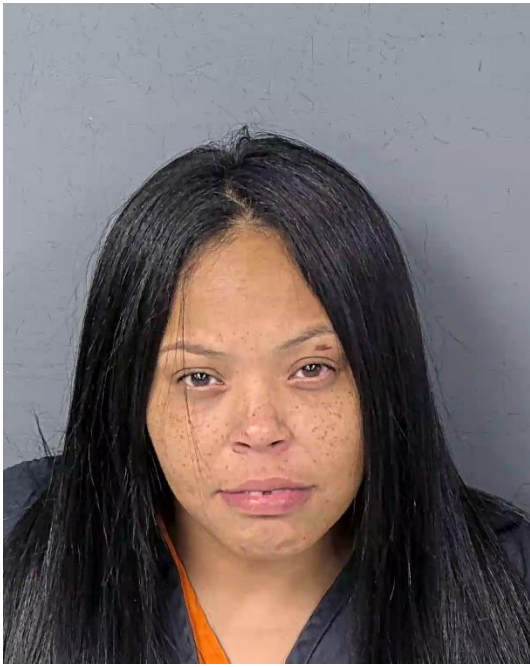
- 240.8 grams of fentanyl
- 6.5 grams of methamphetamine
- 5 grams of marijuana
- 1 alprazolam pill

Total recovered during the operation:

- 383.9 grams of fentanyl
- 6.5 grams of methamphetamine
- 5 grams of marijuana
- 1 alprazolam pill

Velazquez and Rodriguez were transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. Velazquez is being held on a no bond status in accordance with the bond schedule. Rodriguez’s bond was revoked due to a preexisting criminal case.

The Hernando County Sheriff’s Office Vice and Narcotics Unit remains fully committed to identifying, investigating, and arresting anyone who traffics fentanyl in our community. These dangerous substances continue to devastate families and neighborhoods, and our detectives will aggressively pursue those responsible for bringing them into Hernando County



Jahira Rodriguez



Daniel Velazquez

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!