



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
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Detectives Act Quickly to Capture Man Making Homicidal and Suicidal Posts on Social Media

Date: October 2, 2018

On 10-01-18, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were alerted to several posts made on social media by an individual identified as Blake Dudkewic. The posts detailed violent crimes that Dudkewic planned to carry out.

Just minutes before contacting our office, the caller observed a post on her Facebook news feed, made by Dudkewic, describing in detail the way he wanted to kill his father. Knowing that Dudkewic suffers from various issues, the caller responded with a message of support, encouraging Dudkewic to seek help and/or treatment.

Dudkewic responded to the post of support with a message about committing a mass shooting, stating he planned to kill more than 400 people. Dudkewic went on to post that he had purchased an AR-15 and would be using that to commit the mass shooting. One of Dudkewic's posts stated that this will be "the most deaths in the history of this XXX country" "my rampage will kill more than 400 people... promise" and "it'll be a devastating day for America."

Deputies responded to Dudkewic's father's residence in Hernando County to check his well-being. Mr. Dudkewic (father) was fine and safe in his residence. Mr. Dudkewic told deputies he lost contact with his son due to threats, similar to this, which his son made in the past. Mr. Dudkewic provided a possible address for his son.

Deputies contacted the Tampa Police Department and requested they check the address for Dudkewic so that a Baker Act assessment could be made. Additionally, an Alert Bulletin was sent to all surrounding agencies, in the event they spotted Dudkewic or unknowingly conducted a Traffic Stop on him.

All of Dudkewic's previous addresses were checked to no avail.

Investigation revealed that Dudkewic was possibly in the area of I-75 and I-4 in Tampa.

Officers with the Tampa Police Department were unable to locate Dudkewic at the address provided.

At approximately 4 a.m., detectives with the Seminole Tribal Police located Dudkewic's vehicle at the Camp Knox Motel on E. Highway 92 in Tampa. Dudkewic was taken into protective custody at this location by the Seminole Tribal Police with assistance from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

A Hernando County warrant for the arrest of Blake Stanley Dudkewic is forthcoming. He will be charged with Written Threats to Kill.

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, and remains accountable to them.