



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputy Drives Up on Drug Deal in Progress

Date: October 22, 2018

On 10-20-18 just before 10 p.m., Deputy David Merced was conducting proactive patrols and security checks in the area of the Spring Hill Library at 9220 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill.

As Merced approached the rear of the library, in his marked patrol car, he spotted a male and a female behind the library in a dry retention pond. The male immediately took flight. The female slowly approached the deputy.

Deputy Merced placed the female into custody and notified dispatch that the male fled. Additional units were dispatched to the area to set up a perimeter. Corporal Stephen Miller and K-9 Justice responded to the area in an attempt to track the suspect.

The male who fled was identified as Lindy Frank Carter. Investigation revealed that there was an active warrant for the arrest of Carter for Retail Theft.

Deputy Merced checked the area where the two were originally spotted to find three syringes, a spoon, and a crystal-like substance consistent with methamphetamine. The female, identified as Rebecca Lashbrook, denied knowledge of any drugs and/or paraphernalia. Deputies searched the bag that Lashbrook had with her and located a syringe cap. Lashbrook advised "that was from a prior use, and not now."

Corporal Miller and K-9 Justice tracked, and quickly located, Carter east of the library, in a pond. Carter was almost entirely submerged under water. K-9 Justice apprehended Carter by biting him on the head and left arm.

Carter was treated for the dog bite at a local hospital where he received 14 sutures and 15 staples. Carter was then transported to the Hernando County Detention Center.

Rebecca Lashbrook was also transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. The pair was charged as follows:

- **Rebecca M Lashbrook W/F DOB/05-12-1990**
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
 - Bond - \$1,000
- **Lindy Frank Carter III W/M DOB/08-13-1982**
 - Possession of Methamphetamine
 - Loitering Prowling
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
 - Resist Arrest w/o Violence
 - Bond - \$7,500.

The crystal-like substance weighed 3.3 grams. The three syringes tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine.

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.