



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: Michigan Man Arrested in Grand Theft Investigation

Date: February 11, 2021

On 02-09-2021, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to The Home Depot located at 4765 Commercial Way in Spring Hill to conduct a grand theft investigation.

A loss prevention manager advised deputies that **Deon Griffin DOB/12-22-1989** rented a 2020 Gehl RT105 skid steer and trailer from the store on 02-08-2021 and failed to return the items.

Griffin, who was visiting the area from Michigan, rented both items valued at more than \$30,000 for a period of four hours. Investigation revealed Griffin transported the trailer and skid steer to an area off Halls River Road in Homosassa where he unsuccessfully attempted to disable the GPS tracking device.

Deputies were able to locate Facebook posts where Griffin was attempting to sell the stolen skid steer.

On 02-09-2021, Hernando County Sheriff's detectives in conjunction with the Citrus County Sheriff's detectives made contact with Griffin at the Halls River Road address. Contact was also made with an individual who was preparing to purchase the skid steer from Griffin.

The buyer showed text messages from Griffin regarding the details of the purchase.

Griffin was uncooperative with detectives at the scene as his account of the incident changed numerous times.

Griffin was arrested by Citrus County Sheriff's detectives on a charge **of Dealing in Stolen Property**. A warrant was later issued out of Hernando County for **Failure to Return Rental/Leased Property**.

Deputies located additional individuals at the property who were arrested for having active warrants.

Those arrested are as follows:

- **Randall Isaac Rice DOB/07-12-1988** was arrested for a warrant out of Texas for **Failure to Return Rental/Leased Property**.
- **Darrius Renard Homesly DOB/06-16-1988** was arrested for a warrant out of Virginia for **Failure to Return Rental/Leased Property**.

A third individual located on scene is also being investigated for a similar incident that occurred on 02-06-2021 in Pinellas County.

The investigation is ongoing and no additional information is available at this time.

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.