



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Teen Intentionally Crashes Vehicle into HCSO building in Brooksville

Date: July 9, 2022

On 07-08-2022 at 10:41 p.m., a Hernando County Sheriff's deputy observed a vehicle traveling eastbound on Sheriff Mylander Way in Brooksville without its headlights being activated.

The deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the driver of the vehicle in the area of Cortez Boulevard and Horse Lake Road. It was later determined the driver was a 16-year-old male. As the deputy approached the vehicle, the driver proceeded to drive off. The driver then immediately made a U-turn and headed westbound on Cortez Boulevard.

As the driver approached the intersection of Cortez Boulevard and West Jefferson Street he drove through a red light. In an abundance of caution the deputy disengaged from attempting to stop the vehicle. The driver sped north on Cobb Road.

The deputy was able to run the vehicle's tag number and determine it was a rental vehicle.

Less than an hour later at 11:27 p.m., reports were received that a vehicle had crashed into the Hernando County Sheriff's Office main building located at 18900 Cortez Boulevard in Brooksville.

A deputy who was inside the building and heard the collision went outside to investigate.

The deputy observed a teenage male in the driver's seat of a black Toyota RAV4. The driver had crashed into the west side of the building, by a rear entrance.

The driver exited the vehicle and then made a statement about wanting to commit self-harm. As the deputy attempted to take the driver into custody, the teen proceeded to shove the deputy in the upper body. The deputy took the driver into custody without further incident.

Deputies walked the perimeter to look for additional damage. Deputies observed damage to the east side fence near the front parking lot and to the south side exterior of the building. This was in addition to the damage done to the west side of the building. The total damage was estimated at \$16,000.

Contact was then made with the driver's father. The father advised about 45 minutes prior to the crash he and his son had been at the New Beginnings Youth Shelter located off Sheriff Mylander Way.

While inside the building, his son returned to the vehicle the pair arrived in and drove off. It was during this time that deputies initially attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the teen's vehicle. After fleeing the traffic stop, the teen later returned to the HCSO property where he intentionally crashed through a fence and collided with the building twice.

The father advised he never notified law enforcement as he believed the teen was planning to return home.

The teen was taken into protective custody under a Baker Act.

He will later face charges of **Fleeing and Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer, Criminal Mischief, Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, and Trespassing.**

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.