

Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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<u>Media Release</u>

From:	Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Vice and Narcotics Search Warrant - 3138 Glenbrook Avenue - 2022-19974

Date: July 21, 2022

On 07-21-2022, detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit executed a residential search warrant at 3138 Glenbrook Avenue in Spring Hill.

Vice and Narcotics detectives recently received information in regards to an individual who resides at this address, selling a variety of controlled substances.

The subsequent investigation revealed that Kristen Elizabeth Whalen, who resides at the residence, was dealing in narcotics, specifically methamphetamine and fentanyl.

An undercover operation was initiated. The operation resulted in purchases of both methamphetamine and fentanyl from Whalen.

Evidence was developed to obtain a search warrant for the residence. Upon execution of the search warrant, detectives located Stephanie Marasco and Richard Watkins, who reside together in one of the bedrooms.

As a result of the search warrant, a felony amount of narcotics was located, which resulted in the following arrests.

Richard Watkins DOB/10-22-1968

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Hydrocodone)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$3,000

Stephanie Marasco DOB/06-12-1973

- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$1,000.

As detectives were executing the search warrant, they received information that Whalen was at the Hernando County Detention Center, picking up an inmate that was being released.

Detectives responded to the Hernando County Detention Center and located Whalen, who was seated in a vehicle, in the parking lot. Also in the vehicle were Angela Kronemberg and Lindy Carter.

A search of the vehicle and the three individuals revealed various narcotics and paraphernalia. All three individuals were placed under arrest and charged as follows.

Lindy Carter DOB/08-13-1982

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (4 counts) Carfentanil, Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, and Hydromorphone
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$42,000

Angela Kronemberg DOB/01-30-1992

- Possession of a Controlled Substance Fentanyl
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$12,000

Kristin Whalen DOB/10-31-1989

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (2 counts) Fentanyl and Methamphetamine
- Introduction of Contraband to a Correctional Facility (2 counts)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$21,000.

Whalen was also charged as follows, for transactions that occurred during the undercover operation.

- HCSO Case 2022-12453
- Sale of Methamphetamine w/in 1,000 Feet of Place of Worship
- Possession of Methamphetamine w/Intent to Sell
- Person in Possession of a Structure for Sale of a Controlled Substance
- Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communication Device
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$41,000
- HCSO Case 2022-18542
- Sale of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl) w/in 1,000 Feet of Place of Worship
- Possession of a Controlled Substance (Fentanyl) w/Intent to Sell
- Person in Possession of a Structure for Sale of a Controlled Substance
- Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communication Device

- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$41,000.

Whalen is being held at the Hernando County Detention Center on a total bond of \$103,000.

If you would like to report suspected drug activity within Hernando County, please contact the **Vice and Narcotics Office** at **352-754-6830**. Please keep in mind, investigations of this nature can take a considerable amount of time. While you may not see anything indicative of an investigation, including marked patrol cars, rest assured, the detectives follow up on all leads and/or information provided.

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.