



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Spring Hill Man Charged with Arson Following Standoff – 2025-00181515

Date: April 15, 2025

On 04-14-2025 at approximately 1:10 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Bromley Avenue in Spring Hill in reference to reports of a man running in and out of a house while screaming he has bombs and brandishing what witnesses believed was a firearm.

Multiple deputies quickly converged on the residence and were able to identify the subject in question as **Leonardo Morales DOB/11-07-1984**.

A perimeter was established around the residence as deputies attempted to communicate with Morales, a registered felon. Morales exited the residence at one point while brandishing what appeared to be a firearm. He quickly retreated back into the residence.

Detectives proceeded to obtain an arrest warrant for Morales and a search warrant for his residence. Members of the HCSO SWAT and Crisis Response teams responded to assist deputies already on scene.

At 4:13 p.m., deputies observed flames coming from the front of the residence. Morales then exited the residence, at which time he was taken into custody. When the fire was finally extinguished, deputies were able to locate the firearm in a closet located in a bedroom.

Upon further investigation, the firearm was determined to be a replica Sig Sauer BB gun.

A search of property records showed the home belonged to the estate of Gloria Morales, who is the deceased grandmother of Morales. The house is currently in foreclosure.

Morales was arrested on a charge of **Arson**. He was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he is being held on a no-bond status.



Leonardo Morales

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!