



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Jessica Burns
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Re: **Traffic Stop Turns Into Drug and Firearm Recovery**

Date: March 04, 2026

What started as a regular traffic stop on 02-26-2026 quickly became a significant enforcement action for Hernando County deputies. While patrolling Mariner Boulevard, deputies noticed an orange pickup with a broken left taillight and initiated a stop at Mariner Boulevard and Tara Street. The driver, Raymond Alers, DOB/04-22-1982, and passenger, Tyler Humphrey, DOB/03-13-1988 were immediately identified.

Deputies called in their K9 partner for an exterior sniff of the vehicle. As Raymond stepped out, a bag he had been holding was left on the driver's seat. The K9 quickly alerted to the presence of narcotics inside the truck.

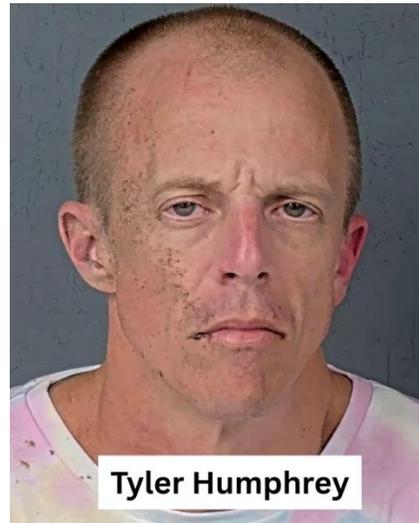
A search revealed that Raymond's bag contained 2 grams of methamphetamine. Inside a pink Hello Kitty pouch, deputies found two glass meth pipes and a loaded syringe containing 3.5 grams of methamphetamine. A Canik TP9 9mm firearm was also discovered in the back seat. During the search, Tyler stated he had marijuana in his pocket, but when deputies attempted to search him, he tried to run.

Deputies quickly took him to the ground and recovered 3.4 grams of methamphetamine and 0.5 grams of marijuana from his pockets, along with paraphernalia.

Raymond said he had borrowed the bag and didn't know meth was inside. He also stated the firearm, and vehicle belonged to his brother. Tyler admitted to having a Hello Kitty wallet but denied the matching pouch.

Both were arrested without further incident. Raymond was charged with possession of methamphetamine and paraphernalia, and Tyler was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, and resisting without violence. Bonds were set at \$6,000 for Raymond and \$9,500 for Tyler.

This case is a clear example of how traffic enforcement, combined with trained K9 partners and attentive deputies, helps keep dangerous drugs and weapons off our streets. After being treated at the hospital, Velazquez was interviewed and admitted to selling large amounts of fentanyl and flushing multiple baggies of fentanyl down the toilet in an attempt to destroy evidence.



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!