



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Arrest Made in Burglary of Brooksville Bicycle Center

Date: December 6, 2016

On 12-04-16, Hernando County deputies were dispatched to Brooksville Bicycle Center, located at 1110 West Jefferson Street in Brooksville regarding a smashed front window.

Deputies arrived on scene and discovered the business had been burglarized. No suspect(s) were present.

Once on scene, the owner Marc Reusch, confirmed the business had been burglarized and that several high-performance bicycles, worth over \$20,000 were missing.

Deputy Mike Beckwith along with officers from the City of Brooksville Police Department quickly developed several leads in the case. Investigation revealed that **John Hazelton** was seen in close proximity to the bicycle shop, on a brand new bicycle, with the tags and price tag still on it, all around the time of the burglary.

While Detectives Wayne Peterson and Luke Phelan were following up on the initial leads they observed Hazelton near an address on Estates Avenue. Upon speaking to Hazelton post Miranda, Hazelton confessed to detectives that he stole 11 bicycles from Brooksville Bicycle. Hazelton had a list of where he took the bicycles along with a tag from one of the bicycles in his pocket. Hazelton then agreed to show the detectives where all of the stolen bikes were hidden.

Detectives recovered eight of the stolen bicycles, most with the price tags still attached to them. It should be noted the price tags on the recovered bicycles ranged from \$279 to \$6,795.

Mr. Reusch was able to positively identify the bicycles that were recovered as the ones stolen from his shop.

John Samuel Hazelton Jr., W/M DOB/08-31-1965 was arrested by detectives, charged as follows:

- Burglary – Unoccupied Structure (Unarmed)
- Grand Theft
- Bond - \$10,000.

Hazelton remains in the Hernando County Detention Center.

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, and remains accountable to them.