



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Recover Stolen Vehicle - Locate Illegal Narcotics

Date: November 2, 2018

On 10-31-18, Deputies Trevor Jones and Zachary Burkhart (in training) took a Stolen Vehicle report on a 2016 Chevrolet Camaro.

Investigation revealed that the vehicle was last seen at the owner's residence on 10-25-18. The owner believed that an acquaintance may have taken the vehicle; he waited to see if the vehicle would returned. After six days, the owner reported the vehicle stolen.

On 11-01-18, while on proactive patrol, Deputies Jones and Burkhart spotted the stolen vehicle travelling south on Commercial Way from Toucan Trail in Spring Hill.

Deputies Jones and Burkhart were in an unmarked vehicle, allowing them to follow the stolen vehicle while awaiting the arrival of patrol deputies. While waiting for additional units to arrive, the driver of the stolen vehicle pulled into the 7-Eleven convenience store, located on Commercial Way near Berkeley Manor Boulevard.

Once the vehicle was stopped, deputies made contact with the two individuals inside the stolen vehicle, taking them both into custody.

The driver of the stolen vehicle was identified as Carrie Kearns. The passenger was identified as Noel Figueroa. A search of the pair, incident to arrest, revealed the following items:

- 5.0 grams of methamphetamine
- 6.5 grams of marijuana – located with 25 individual baggies and a digital scale
- 5 tablets of MDMA (Ecstasy).

The pair were charged as follows:

- **Carrie Kearns W/F DOB/07-19-1986**

- Grand Theft Auto
 - Possession of Methamphetamine
 - Possession of Marijuana w/Intent to Sell
 - Possession of Heroin
 - Introduction of Contraband
 - Once at the detention center, it was determined that Kearns had a cut straw hidden in her bra, which contained a crystal-like substance, consistent with methamphetamine
 - Possession of MDMA/Ecstasy
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
 - Bond - \$13,000.
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- **Noel Figueroa H/M DOB/02-22-1978**
 - Possession of Methamphetamine
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
 - Bond - \$3,000.

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.