



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Four Juveniles Charged with Armed Residential Burglary and Grand Theft

Date: January 31, 2019

On 01-30-19 just before 7 p.m., Hernando County deputies were dispatched to 13289 Sun Road in Brooksville regarding a Residential Burglary.

Upon arrival, deputies met with the homeowner, Donald Swafford. Swafford told deputies that sometime between 7 a.m. and 6:65 p.m. that day, unknown person(s) had burglarized his home. During the burglary numerous items were taken, including two firearms. Swafford also noted that at least one of the firearms had been fired during the burglary, as a fired round was located in the mattress in the master bedroom.

Investigation revealed that four juveniles had been seen walking back and forth on Sun Road in the afternoon hours. One witness claimed to have observed at least one of the juveniles carrying a gun case. The witness was also able to identify two of the juveniles.

District One detectives were called in to take over the investigation.

Detective Earnest Johnson made contact with the two juveniles who had been identified by the witness and conducted interviews with the juveniles in the presence of their parents.

Detective Johnson obtained confessions from both juveniles and the names of two additional suspects, both juveniles, who were also involved in the burglary.

Detective Johnson, along with a patrol deputy, then made contact with each one of the additional two suspects. Again, interviews were conducted with a parent(s) present. During the interviews, each suspect confessed to his participation in the burglary.

During the interviews with each suspect, it was learned that the foursome committed a burglary, earlier in the day, at another residence on Sun Road. One of the juveniles led a deputy to the location and provided detailed information on the burglary.

Detective Johnson also learned that the round located in the mattress happened when one of the juveniles “accidentally” discharged a pistol he was stealing. The juvenile told detectives he almost shot himself in the right leg.

Detectives recovered a majority of the stolen property, including both firearms.

All four arrestees are 8th grade students at West Hernando Middle School; they are identified as follows:

- **Matthew Ross W/M DOB/04-27-2004**
 - o Burglary of Dwelling
 - o Grand Theft Firearm (2 counts)

- **Zachary Perry W/M DOB/05-30-2004**
 - o Burglary of Dwelling
 - o Grand Theft Firearm (2 counts)

- **Dominic D’Arco W/M DOB/09-08-03**
 - o Burglary of Dwelling
 - o Grand Theft Firearm (2 counts)

- **Breydhun Lawrence B/M DOB/06-29-2004**
 - o Burglary of Dwelling
 - o Grand Theft Firearm (2 counts).

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.