



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Make Arrest in Scheme to Defraud Case

Date: February 11, 2019

On 02-10-19 at approximately 4 p.m., Hernando County deputies were dispatched to the Walmart located at 1485 Commercial Way in Spring Hill after loss prevention officers contacted the Sheriff's Office for assistance.

Upon arrival, deputies met with loss prevention officers (LP) who advised that two males were currently in the store, selecting high-dollar items in an effort to commit a scheme to defraud Walmart.

The LP believed this to be the case as these same individuals had already been to the Walmart in Brooksville, 7305 Broad Street, and the Walmart at 13300 Cortez Boulevard attempting to commit the offense.

The individual appeared to have gotten "spooked" at the Walmart in Brooksville and proceeded to the Walmart on Cortez Boulevard, before travelling to the Walmart on Commercial Way.

Once in the store(s), both individuals selected several high-dollar items and placed them into the shopping cart. The individuals then proceed to the check-out, where one of them distracts the cashier/clerk, while the other presses one or more buttons on the register to obtain a receipt, making it look like they paid for the items.

During one of the attempts, an alert customer who was behind them at the check-out questioned what they were doing, scaring the suspects out of the store, empty handed.

The suspects then headed to the Walmart on Commercial Way, where they attempted to do the same thing and were apprehended by deputies.

Both suspects were transported to the District Two office where they were interviewed by detectives.

One suspect, **Damine Maurice Tyson B/M DOB/01-01-1991**, refused to speak to detectives and was immediately transported to the Hernando County Detention Center.

The second suspect, **Darcell Lamont Douglas B/M DOB/04-26-1994**, agreed to speak to detectives regarding the incident. Douglas admitted going to Walmart to try to make some money by selecting items and walking out of the store with a fraudulent receipt and then returning the items. He told detectives when they reached the register, Tyson would distract the cashier and he would hit various buttons on the register to obtain a receipt. Douglas went on to say that “something didn’t feel right at the first Walmart” so they left and went to the next one, where they got spooked by a customer.

Douglas stated that when they got to the last Walmart they were not successful either, and that is when they were apprehended by deputies.

The suspects were charged as follows:

Darcell Lamont Douglas B/M DOB/04-26-1994

- Fraud, Swindle, Obtain Property Under 20,000
- Bond - \$2,000

Damine Maurice Tyson B/M DOB/01-01-1991

- Fraud, Swindle, Obtain Property Under 20,000
- Bond - \$5,000.

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.