



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: St. Petersburg Teen Charged in Spring Hill Vehicle Burglary Spree

Date: September 9, 2020

On the morning 08-23-2020, dispatchers at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received numerous reports of vehicle burglaries throughout Spring Hill.

In all, 37 vehicles were burglarized, and two vehicles were reported stolen.

The suspects stole a variety of items from the vehicles, including multiple credit cards and a firearm. All the vehicles targeted by the suspects were unlocked.

A number of the credit cards were used in Pinellas County just hours after the burglaries occurred.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office worked with agencies from other jurisdictions to develop possible suspects.

One of those possible suspects was identified as **Gregory Brown Jr. DOB/03-19-2003**.

Brown was arrested on an unrelated warrant in Pinellas County for Violation of Probation.

Detectives made arrangements to interview Brown about the vehicle burglaries in Hernando County.

On 09-01-2020, Brown spoke with Hernando County detectives.

Brown admitted to being in Hernando County on the morning of 08-23-2020 where he helped commit numerous vehicle burglaries.

Brown, who resides in St. Petersburg, said he traveled to Hernando County for the sole purpose of committing vehicle burglaries.

Brown declined to identify the other individuals who participated in the crime spree.

The suspect did admit the vehicle he was driving that morning was stolen out of Clearwater.

Brown was charged as follows:

- **36 counts of Vehicle Burglary**
- **1 count of Armed Vehicle Burglary**
- **2 counts of Grand Theft Auto**

Brown remains incarcerated at the Manatee County Department of Juvenile Justice.

The case remains active, and additional charges and arrests are pending further investigation.

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, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.