



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Amber R. McClanahan
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Re: K-9 Chase Alerts to 38 Grams of Narcotics During Traffic Stop - 2023-03776

Date: February 6, 2023

On 02-02-2023 around 11 p.m., a white Ford F-150 was observed speeding near the intersection of Cortez Boulevard and Lockhart Road, in eastern Hernando County. A patrol deputy conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle where the driver, later identified as Clifton Pottberg Jr. DOB/08-31-1988, appeared extremely nervous while speaking with the deputy.

K-9 Deputy Chelsea Reid, and her partner K-9 Chase, responded to conduct a sniff search for illegal narcotics. K-9 Chase alerted to the presence of narcotics inside of the vehicle. After a search of the vehicle, deputies located a clear baggie that contained a white powdery substance, a digital scale with white powder residue, and a \$5 bill that also contained white powder residue.

The white powdery substance inside the clear baggie, and residue from both the scale and \$5 bill, field tested positive for cocaine. The cocaine weighed 8.9 grams. Additionally \$4,540 in cash was also located inside of the vehicle.

Pottberg also admitted to having concealed more plastic baggies on his person. Pottberg told deputies the baggies in his possession contained Ketamine. The total weight of the substance was 29 grams. This unknown substance was sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for further testing.

Pottberg was placed under arrest and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center with the following charges:

- Possession of Cocaine
- Possession of Paraphernalia

His bond was set at \$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, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.