



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Public Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: UPDATE – SENTENCING INFORMATION - Early Morning Traffic Stop Lands
Convicted Felon Back in Jail – 2023-12683

Date: November 9, 2023

UPDATE – SENTENCING INFORMATION

Kirk Wendall Bleich Jr. DOB/10-09-1963 has been sentenced to 41 months in the Florida Department of Corrections.

ORIGINAL INFORMATION – 04-20-23

On 04-20-23 at approximately 2 a.m., Deputies D. DiMartino and C. Valenti were just finishing up a call for service in the area of Sunnyside Drive and Wardwell Road in Brooksville, when they spotted an individual riding a bicycle on the roadway without proper safety equipment.

As a result of not having the proper safety equipment, no front or rear lights, the deputies conducted a Traffic Stop on the operator of the bicycle on Sunnyside Drive.

The operator of the bicycle stopped, got off the bicycle, and actively walked away from the stop. As the deputies approached the operator, later identified as Kirk Bleich, Bleich continued to actively walk away from them.

The deputies caught up with Bleich and attempted to detain him.

While attempting to place Bleich in handcuffs, Bleich continued to resist by tensing his body and pulling away from deputies. Bleich was eventually placed into handcuffs.

While performing a search of Bleich's person, incident to arrest, deputies located a loaded handgun and a blue zippered bag, in his jacket pockets.

Bleich, a convicted felon since 04-04-1989, is not permitted to own or possess firearms and/or ammunition.

Inside the blue zippered bag, deputies located the following items:

- Small container containing a rock-like substance (later tested positive for the presence of **methamphetamine**)
 - o Total weight – 10.4 grams
- Small container containing a white powdery substance (later tested positive for the presence of **methamphetamine**)
 - o Total weight – 6.9 grams
- Small baggie containing a green leafy substance (later tested positive for the presence of **marijuana**)
 - o Total weight – 1.1 grams
- Small baggie containing a white rectangular pill (later identified as **Alprazolam**) and multiple **Buprenorphine** tablets
 - o Total weight – 16.1 grams
- Numerous items of drug paraphernalia
 - o Glass pipe containing a brown residue (later tested positive for the presence of **methamphetamine**)
 - o Two broken glass pipes containing a brown residue (later tested positive for the presence of **methamphetamine**)
 - o One broken pipe without residue
 - o Two syringes
 - o One torch lighter.

Kirk Wendall Bleich Jr. DOB/10-09-1963 was issued a traffic citation for the safety equipment violation, and charged as follows:

- Resist Officer w/o Violence
- Possession of Firearm by Felon
- Carrying Concealed Firearm
- Possession of Ammunition by Felon
- Possession of Marijuana
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Possession of Controlled Substance
- Possession of Methamphetamine
- Bond - \$29,000.