



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Jessica Burns
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: UPDATE #2 Spring Hill Man Removes Ankle Monitor before Sentencing
ORIGINAL: Man Shot in Parking Lot of Mermaids Lounge -- 2022-05049

Date: April 04, 2025

Update #2

On 04-03-2025, Jerae N. Crussell DOB/11-10-1983, appeared in District Court for his trial on charges of Aggravated Battery and Felon in Possession of a Handgun-Causing Serious Bodily Injury. During a break, prior to the verdict, Crussell, who was out on bond, returned home, cut off his ankle monitor, and fled the area. His whereabouts are still unaccounted for.

The trial proceeded without Crussell, where he was found guilty of Aggravated Battery and Felon in Possession of a Handgun-Causing Serious Bodily Injury.

Crussell currently has an active warrant for his arrest and the U.S. Marshal's task force is assisting in locating him.

Crussell remains at large. Anyone with information on Crussell's whereabouts is asked to call their local law enforcement agency.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!



Jerae N. Crussell

Update #1

On 05-13-2022, through investigation a suspect was identified as Jerae N. Crussell DOB/11-10-1983 and a warrant was issued for his arrest for the charges of Aggravated Battery with Great Bodily Harm - Possess/Discharge/Injury and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

On 05-20-2022, Crussell was arrested at his place of employment in Pasco County.

Original Information

On 02-19-2022 at 2:10 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to Mermaids Lounge located at 4564 Commercial Way in Spring Hill in reference to a report of a shooting.

Witnesses called 9-1-1 to advise a man been shot several times while in the parking lot of the establishment.

The suspects, an unidentified black male and an unidentified Hispanic male, fled the scene prior to law enforcement arrival.

The victim was treated by patrons inside the bar until EMS arrived on scene.

The victim was transported to a local trauma center for treatment of his gunshot wounds.

The victim is expected to recover from his injuries.

The investigation remains active and no additional details are available at this time.

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