

— SHERIFF — Al Nienhuis

Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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<u>Media Release</u>

From:	Michael Terry Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608
Re:	Owner of Hernando County-Based Pole Barn Supplier Arrested on 12 Counts of Grand Theft - 2022-02838
Date:	November 19, 2024

An ongoing investigation into the owner of a Hernando County-based pole barn supplier recently resulted in the arrest of the company's primary owner on multiple counts of grand theft.

On 11-13-2024, detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office arrested **Zelora Vernon Hall DOB/02-20-1966,** owner of Florida Pole Barn Kits, on 12 counts of felony **Grand Theft.**

Hall was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he was initially held in lieu of a \$27,000 bond.

Investigation revealed between December 21, 2021, and November 22, 2022, Hall accepted payments from 12 customers totaling more than \$135,681.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office started its investigation in January 2022, after receiving several complaints from Hall's customers indicating they paid him thousands of dollars in deposits for pole barns that were never built.

In February 2022, records show Hall filed for a voluntary dissolution of the company, just weeks after accepting thousands of dollars in deposits.

Now with the investigation complete, the State Attorney in the Fifth Judicial District currently plans to handle the prosecution of the 12 current cases.

In addition to the cases in the Fifth Judicial District which encompasses Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties, dozens of additional victims have been identified outside of this area.

In an effort to get justice for victims living outside of the Fifth Judicial District, the Florida Attorney General's Office has assigned the Office of Statewide Prosecution to handle those cases involving Hall.

"We know that both our local State Attorney, Bill Gladson, and Florida's Attorney General, Ashley Moody, are equally passionate about holding lawbreakers accountable," Sheriff Al Nienhuis. "We, therefore, look forward to working with both the State Attorney's Office and the Office Statewide Prosecution as this case moves through the court system, in an effort to ensure that justice is obtained for all the victims in this case."



Zoloran Vernon Hall

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 <u>http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com</u>.

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