



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Brooksville Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest of Individual on Drug Trafficking Charges – 2024-00309962

Date: December 23, 2024

On 12-13-2024, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies D. Barlow and S. Belmonte conducted a traffic stop on the rider of a bicycle in the area of Alberta Street and Tascosa Avenue in Brooksville.

During the traffic stop, it was revealed the bicyclist gave deputies a false name. It was at this time the subject got back onto his bicycle and began to leave. Deputies then stopped the subject and after further investigation it was determined the operator of the bicycle was **Steven Wendt, DOB/09-08-1989**.

During a search of Wendt's person, deputies located two baggies, containing a total of 17.5 grams of a crystallized substance, as well as drug paraphernalia. The crystallized substance tested positive for Methamphetamine. During a search of Wendt's backpack deputies located a scale.

It was revealed Wendt had two active Hernando County warrants for Violation of Probation.

Wendt was arrested on charges of **Trafficking in Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Resisting an Officer without Violence, and Providing False Name to Law Enforcement**.

Wendt is being held without bond.



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!