

WINTER HAVEN POLICE

125 N. Lake Silver Dr., NW • Winter Haven, FL 33881 • Phone: 863-291-5858 • www.winterhavenpd.com

Date: Oct. 12, 2015
Time: 11 A.M.
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WINTER HAVEN – A tip from a concerned citizen regarding suspected drug sales has resulted in the arrest of a convicted felon.

On 10-10-15 at approximately 4:45 p.m., Jovante Torrez Hill (DOB 12-28-83, 2500 21st St., NW, Winter Haven) was arrested after he was seen at the Lake Hartridge boat ramp and the Chevron Gas Station conducting what appeared to be illegal narcotic sales.

Based on a tip received in September 2015, members of the Tactical Patrol Unit started an investigation into the alleged sales. At that time, they observed a blue Mercury at the boat ramp on multiple occasions and saw “hand to hand” transactions, which is consistent with narcotic sales. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle when it left the park, but the driver was able to get away and was not located.

On 10-10-15 at approximately 4 p.m., officers saw the same blue Mercury at the park and watched another transaction occur. When the Mercury left the park, the driver went to the Chevron Gas Station located at the corner of 21st St NW and Havendale Blvd. An officer in the area confirmed that there was one occupant in the vehicle and that it was the same driver seen at the park. Once again, an unknown subject made contact with the driver and another transaction occurred.

When the vehicle left the gas station, officers attempted to make a lawful traffic stop due to the fact that the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. As the officer activated his emergency lights, the driver sped away, turning onto Marilyn Dr. and then to Leisure Dr. at a high rate of speed. As he turned onto Leisure Dr. the vehicle struck a mailbox and continued through the area at a high rate of speed. The officer immediately turned off his emergency equipment and left the area for the safety of the residents.

Shortly after, the subject was seen walking in the area along Leisure Dr. The subject, later identified as Hill, was carrying a small black bag. When the officer approached Hill, he began reaching into the bag. He refused commands to stop and the officer deployed his Taser, with no affect on Hill. Hill ran northbound towards Casa De Sol apartments and was located by another officer. Once again, Hill

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refused to comply with commands to stop and began walking towards an apartment. The officer deployed his Taser, which struck Hill in the upper body. He was then taken into custody without further incident.

In addition to the narcotics Hill had in his possession, he had multiple pieces of identification from other individuals, including drivers' license, credit cards, a health insurance card and EBT cards. Hill, who has an extensive criminal history including five years in State Prison, was booked into the Polk County Jail on the following charges:

Possession With Intent to Sell of Oxycodone within 1,000 Feet of Special Area (F1), Fleeing to Allude (F3), Possession of Ammunition by Convicted Felon (F2), Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell within 1,000 feet of Special Area (F2), Knowingly Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (F3), Unlawful Possession of Personal ID 5 or more (F3), Possession of Cocaine (F3), Leaving the Scene of Crash with Property Damage (M2), Reckless Driving (M2), Resisting Without Violence (M1), Keeping Vehicle for Drug Use (M1), Giving False ID to Law Enforcement (M1) and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (M1).

"This is a perfect example of how citizens can help law enforcement by making an impact in their neighborhoods," said Chief Charlie Bird. "The tip that came in was anonymous, but ultimately led to the arrest of a career criminal."



HILL