



MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RICHARD A. RAMSAY, SHERIFF

March 26, 2021

Marathon City Council

Ref: Monroe County Sheriff's Office
City of Marathon
Monthly Report: March 2021

Dear Council,

March continued to be very busy with tourist and traffic. Deputies responded to over 3,915 calls for service this month. Even with COVID issues, Deputies still were able to make 78 arrest and Notice to appear cases and 14 DUI investigations. Deputies spent a significant amount of time policing the boat ramps. While extremely busy, all were orderly with very little issues. Numerous accidents and pedestrian fatalities continue to be a huge issue throughout the Keys this month. Due to the issues, traffic stops this month were 710.

The new City of Marathon patrol boat was ordered this month. After supplies are ordered for the project, production will start and 6-8 weeks are expected for delivery.

Marathon Deputies continue to make an impact in our community with local clean ups and community projects.

No significant crimes or crime trends to report.

Planning continues for the 40th Annual 7 mile bridge run scheduled for April 17, 2021.



Crime/Arrest Report:

MCSO21OFF1463: Vehicle Burglary

Reported: March 3rd, 2021

Occurred: North end Long Key Bridge Parking Lot

The victim reported that unknown person(s) smashed the passenger side window of his van and stole his wife's purse from the passenger side floorboard while the vehicle was parked and unoccupied. The purse contained the victim's driver's license, credit cards, and a Samsung cell phone.

Detective O'Neill is investigating this case and is in the process of reviewing video surveillance footage from nearby businesses.

MCSO21OFF1398: Grand Theft

Reported: February 27th, 2021

Occurred: Tranquility Bay

The victim reportedly checked in to the resort and left his luggage with the staff. Hours later when the luggage was brought to the victim's room, he noticed \$3,400.00 cash missing. There are no known suspects, witnesses, or evidence. This case is pending patrol follow-up.

MCSO21OFF1381: Grand Theft

Reported: February 27th, 2021

Occurred: 35 Sombrero Blvd

The victim reported that his cell phone (in a wallet style case) was stolen from his vessel. The victim became aware that his phone was missing once his wife received a text from his phone number, to notify her that the phone had been found in the Publix parking lot and would be put

in the mail, presumably to be returned to the victim. Deputies recovered the victim's phone and wallet from the Marathon Post Office. This case is pending patrol follow-up.

MCSO0FF1330: Auto Theft

Reported: February 26th, 2021

Occurred: Banana Bay

The victim parked his convertible Mustang rental in the resort parking lot with the top down and the keys in the cup holder. The victim awoke to find his car missing. Video surveillance footage shows a short male with a dark complexion drive away with the vehicle at about 0200 hours. The vehicle was recovered at 260 41st Street on the following day. The vehicle was locked with the top closed. There was no damage to the vehicle. Video footage from that area shows the same male suspect walking away from the vehicle towards the exit of the apartment complex. Detective Blanton is investigating this case. He has processed the recovered vehicle for evidence and lifted several latent prints for comparison.

MCSO21OFF002024: Felony Battery (Domestic)

Reported: March 23rd, 2021

Occurred: 70th Street

Deputies responded to Fisherman's Hospital whereupon a domestic battery investigation was initiated. The victim reported that the suspect, Jeremy Feathers, stopped her from leaving their home. Feather then pushed the victim to the ground and positioned himself on top of her with his arms around her head and neck, and also covering her mouth. The victim could not breathe and became unconscious. Feathers told the victim that he would kill her. The victim struggled to get away from the Feathers until her landlord came to her rescue. Other neighbors also reported hearing a disturbance. Feathers was arrested and charged with felony battery.

MCSO21OFF001979: Fraud

Reported: March 21st, 2021

Occurred: Craigslist

The victim answered a craigslist rental ad for a 1 bedroom, 1 bath located at 10733 1st Ave Gulf for \$1000 a month. While the victim was in the process of trying to get the lease agreement

filled out “Kevin” instructed the victim to send first month’s rent and security deposit totaling \$1500 to his personal assistant via Zelle. “Kevin” texted the victim that he will be shipping the keys tomorrow because his wife was very busy with work. “Kevin” also said Medrano could move in early for an extra \$350. “Kevin” also told Medrano she would have to pay an additional \$100 for a cleaning fee. Medrano was instructed to send the \$450 to “Kevin’s” wife’s account via Zelle. Kevin” then told the victim to send the \$350 for new appliances plus another \$100 for a “workmanship charge” to his friends Zelle. The victim only discovered the scam after she arrived at the residence to move in. Detective Bragg is investigating this case.

Case Updates

MCSO21OFF00563: Criminal Mischief

Reported: December 20th, 2021

Occurred: CALLE ENSENADA

Deputies responded to a report of a residential burglary, which they unfounded on scene. Whereupon it was discovered that the physical evidence did not match the reporting party’s statements. The residence is, however, damaged in many areas both inside and outside. Most of the damage has been documented as being old.

Detective Bragg investigated and located a witness who stated that he saw the male and female occupants arguing outside during the timeframe of the initial burglary report. Following that argument, the witness saw the suspect, John Brown, break the front windows out. The damage is estimated at \$3,500.00. **An arrest warrant has been issued for felony criminal mischief. Case pending warrant service.**

MCSO21OFF1546: Robbery (Domestic)

Reported: March 5th, 2021

Occurred: Sparky’s Landing Parking Lot

The victim reported that her ex-boyfriend, Anthony Natta, confronted her in the parking lot and an argument ensued. The victim claims that during the argument, Natta grabbed her keys from her hand and threw them in the water, behind the restaurant. Natta then left the area. Natta denies the allegations. Deputies are in the process of reviewing video surveillance footage.

Based on the evidence obtain via video footage and statements made by the victim and the witness, Deputy Vanhooose found probable for an arrest warrant for Anthony Natta for the crime of Robbery by Sudden Snatching. **An arrest warrant has been issued. Case pending warrant service.**

Marine Unit



A 35-year-old Sunrise, Florida man was given a mandatory notice to appear in court citation Sunday for a litany of lobster violations.

Middle Keys Marine Deputy Willie Guerra spotted Eliecer Veloz Martinez diving without a dive flag around noon. A 13-year-old boy was with him. Guerra found the several wrung lobster tails in Martinez's pockets and more lobster were found hidden in the mangroves. In all, he was found to be in possession of 36 undersized, wrung lobster tails. The 13-year-old was not cited as he was not seen harvesting or possessing any lobster.

Martinez had no fishing license nor lobster endorsement. He also possessed a homemade spear device used to harvest small lobsters.

Martinez was cited for harvesting lobster without a measuring device, possession of undersized lobster, possession of over-the-limit lobster, possession of speared lobster and possession of wrung lobster tails in the water.

Community involvement

The Sheriff's Office continues to be very active in the community with clean up projects and other volunteer work. Many continue to be active in Chamber, Rotary, and other organizations.

Personnel and Budget:

Currently 2 deputies down. No budget concerns at this time.

Respectfully,

Capt. Don Hiller