



MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RICHARD A. RAMSAY, SHERIFF

May 4, 2021

Marathon City Council

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

Dear Council,

March continued to be very busy with tourist and traffic. Deputies responded to over 4,397 calls for service this month. Deputies were able to make 82 arrest and Notice to appear cases and 17 DUI arrest investigations. Traffic continues to be heavy and concentration is for vehicle/pedestrian safety. Due to the issues, traffic stops this month were 616.

Marathon Deputies continue to make an impact in our community with local clean ups and community projects. Several of our Deputies have been attending Stanley Switlik School and reading to students. Graffiti continues to be addressed immediately and our community is clean.

No significant crimes or crime trends to report.

The 40th Annual 7 mile bridge run was a tremendous success. This year the race was turned around, resulting in being more efficient for law enforcement and race personnel. We were also able to reduce the officers needed. It also opened the bridge early with a majority of cars dispersed within a half hour of the race ending. All runners enjoyed the new route also.



Crime/Arrest Report:

MCSO21OFF003060: Aggravated Assault

Reported: May 3rd, 2021

Occurred: Boot Key Harbor

The victim reported that John Ralph Zens attacked him with a machete under the 20th Street Bridge. The victim explained that he was standing on the seawall while Zens threatened him from aboard his dinghy. The victim believes that Zens is jealous over his ex-girlfriend (also a witness). Witnesses to this incident have conflicting testimony. Detective O'Neill is investigating this case.

MCSO21OFF003048: Vehicle Burglary

Reported: May 2nd, 2021

Occurred: Steak and Lobster house parking lot

The victim reported that someone had broken the front passenger window and took her small purse from the passenger floor-board. Video surveillance footage from the restaurant did not capture the incident, but there is an audible smash heard at 1741 hours. The victim noticed an unauthorized charge of \$23.21 from the Exxon Gas station at 13155 Overseas Highway, Marathon made on 5/2/2021.

Detective Blanton is investigating this case and has obtained video surveillance footage from the gas station. Lt. Alvarez has issued a BOLO for the suspect vehicle described as a black GMC Yukon rental, which is rented in the name of a fraud victim. This case is pending further investigation.

MCSO21OFF003016: Battery

Reported: May 1st, 2021

Occurred: Boot Key Harbor

The victim reported that his boat-mate, Adrian Yarbrough, grabbed him by his throat and slammed him on the deck of their sailboat. The victim could not breathe and felt as though he was going to blackout. The victim also suffered lacerations to his arms and legs. Yarbrough was

arrested on scene, charged with battery by strangulation and felony battery due to prior convictions.

MCSO21OFF003004: Child Abuse

Reported: May 1st, 2021

Occurred: Key RV

The victim reported that his father became angry with him for using his computer when he was supposed to be sleeping. His father yelled at him, pulled the laptop out of his hands, and then slapped his face. His father then pulled his hair and both of his ears, and then hit him with a can of sunscreen. The victim suffered a red mark on his thigh, a red mark on his face, and scratches on his neck. The victim ran to a neighbor's house for help. John Johnson was arrested for child abuse without great bodily harm. DCF was notified.

MCSO21OFF002930: Grand Theft

Reported: April 27th, 2021

Occurred: Coral Lagoon Marina

The victim reported that (6) fishing rods and reels were taken from his boat during the night of April 23rd while the vessel was docked at slip 27. The victim delayed reporting the incident until after he made an insurance claim and the insurance company requested a police report. A crime scene was not observed. There is no physical evidence or video evidence. There are no known suspect(s) or witness(es). This case is pending patrol follow-up.

Case Updates

MCSO21OFF002639: Battery/Criminal Mischief

Reported: April 15th, 2021

Occurred: Sunset Grill

Deputies responded to a report of an intoxicated male that had punched the headlight out of a taxi over the price of the fare. Upon arrival, deputies found a white van with a broken headlight and blood spatter on the hood. The suspect, Dale Courville, stated that he had contacted a taxi to pick him up from Sunset Grill. When a taxi arrived, the price was \$30 dollars for what Courville believes usually costs \$20. Courville also wished to stop by the store and get groceries and was told him it would be \$30 plus the cost of stopping at the store. When Courville said he would call another taxi, the driver got out of the car and spit on him.

The taxi driver claims that Courville did not like the rate so he told him to call another company. When the driver got out to close the passenger door and Courville spit on him. After closing the door Courville attempted to punch him, but was apparently too intoxicated to land a punch. Instead, Courville punched the headlight out. They both started fighting and rolling around on the car and on the ground.

Detectives Bragg and O'Neill investigated this case. Video surveillance footage shows the taxi driver approach the suspect. The driver apparently spits at the suspect, who then punched the driver's arms. The driver returned punches and then Driver then pushed the suspect to the ground. After engaging in a 25 second pushing match, the suspect punched the headlight out of the taxi, and the two men separate. Case pending conclusion.

Detective Bragg obtained and served an arrest warrant for Dale Courville. He was charged with battery, assault, and criminal mischief.

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.

A suspect, Manuel Ruiz Jr., has been identified by zone deputies using video surveillance footage. Detective Blanton obtained an arrest warrant for Ruiz, which was served after deputies made contact with the defendant on Stock Island. Case closed by arrest.

Marine Unit

Two men caught with illegal fish/lobster in separate cases

Middle Keys Marine Deputy Willie Guerra made two large wildlife cases over the weekend, one involving an arrest.

- Luis Martinez, 48, of Miami, was given a mandatory notice to appear in court citation on Saturday after Deputy Guerra found him in possession of six undersized mutton snapper. He was also cited for over-the-limit mutton snapper.
- Lazaro Rodriguez Alonso, 38, of Miami, was arrested Sunday while fishing on the south end of the Seven Mile Bridge after Deputy Guerra spotted him spearfishing. Deputy Guerra inspected his catch and found him in possession of 11 wrung, out-of-season lobsters with six lobsters undersized. Alonso also had an undersized, out-of-season black grouper. Alonso was taken to jail and charged with possession of out-of-season, speared, undersized, over-the-limit, wrung lobster tails in the water. He had no measuring device. He was also was charged with possession of an out-of-season, undersized black grouper.





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 3 deputies down. No budget concerns at this time.

Respectfully,

Capt. Don Hiller

