



MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RICHARD A. RAMSAY, SHERIFF

November 2, 2021

Marathon City Council

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

Dear Council,

October was very busy and active month. Deputies responded to over 4,808 calls for service this month. Even with COVID issues, Deputies still were able to make 134 arrest and Notice to appear cases and 7 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. Extra patrols produced traffic stops this month were 661.

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.

The annual Halloween event behind the airport went off without any issues and was a huge success.



Crime/Arrest Report:

MCSO21OFF007035: Vehicle Burglary

Reported: October 2nd, 2021

Occurred: CALLE LIMON

The victim routinely leaves all of three his vehicles unlocked. The victim believes his wallet was stolen from one vehicle and his handgun, a Springfield XD .45, was stolen from another. The victim last saw his firearm about a week prior during a trip to Miami. He last saw his wallet a couple days prior. Latent prints were collected on scene. There are no known suspect(s) or witness(es) at this time. Detective Bragg is investigating this case.

MCSO21OFF007370: Vehicle Burglary

Reported: October 12th, 2021

Occurred: 9 Ibis Ln

The victim reported that he drove his truck from Georgia to Marathon. Upon unpacking his truck, the victim's stepson noticed the key fob missing from the dash. The victim then noticed his Glock 17 (9MM) was missing from his center console compartment. The victim also had a .357 in the same compartment and that was not taken. The victim placed the firearm in his truck last night prior to his trip, in Georgia. The weapon was entered into F/NCIC as stolen. The vehicle was processed for latent prints. Detective Blanton is investigating this case.

MCSO21OFF007327: Domestic Battery

Reported: October 11th, 2021

Occurred: 35 Sombrero Blvd

On October 11th, 2021, deputies responded and investigated a domestic battery by firearm. The suspect was identified Michael Wayne Taylor. The victims reported that during an argument on their vessel, Michael picked up a revolver, and hit her on the side of the head with it. Deputies noted injuries consistent with the victim's testimony.

Post Miranda, Michael told deputies that he had firearms in the vessel, which belong to him. Michael refused to provide details about the firearms.

Both Michael and Barbara denied consent to search their vessel. Michael was arrested for domestic battery.

Detectives Ponce, Blanton and Wirth investigated. A search warrant for evidence of aggravated battery with a firearm was obtained and executed on the premises of Michael and Barbara's vessel. The search revealed (1) Smith and Wesson .357 fully loaded (5) shot revolver and (1) fully loaded .357 (5) shot speed loader, both located in the bedroom closet.

A search of Michael's criminal history revealed (2) felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance in Volusia County, Florida.

Michael Taylor was charged with possession of firearm and/or ammunition by a convicted felon ...11 counts.

MCSO21OFF007165: Fraud

Reported: October 6th, 2021

Occurred: Via Facebook messenger

The victim believed that she a Facebook message from an old friend who told her about the "Paycheck Protection Program" for people who were out of work. The victim followed a link and opted to apply for \$500,000, which required her to pay \$1,500 in (3) separate Visa gift cards of \$500 each. Deputy Szymanski is investigating this case. Visa gift card transaction records have been subpoena requested.

MCSO21OFF007506: Vessel Burglary

Reported: October 17th, 2021

Occurred: Coconut Cay Marina

Two vessels were burglarized from slip #69 and #70 at Coconut Cay. Both victims reported several fishing rods were taken from their vessels between the hours of 3am-7:30am. Surveillance cameras do not capture the location of the burglarized vessels. There are no witnesses or suspects at this time. Detective Bragg is investigating this case.

Suspected migrants found in boat following traffic stop

More than 30 suspected Cuban migrants were found hiding in a go-fast boat that was stopped on U.S. 1 Monday morning. There were four passengers/suspected migrants with three young children ages 1½, 4 and 5 in the truck pulling the boat. A 17-year-old was among many people later found hiding in the forward v-berth area of the boat — for a total of 32 suspected migrants. Two women were pregnant and evaluated by Marathon Fire Rescue.

The driver of the truck — 29-year-old Reidel Garcia-Espino of Seffner, Florida — was charged with child neglect as the none of the three children in the truck were restrained by any type of seat belt or child seat.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Homeland Security Investigations agents as well as Key Colony Beach Police and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers also responded.

The migrants were turned over to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Garcia-Espino was taken to jail on the child neglect charge.



Case updates:

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 investigated this case and identified the suspects as Tony Lewison of Minatare NE, Alicia Antepara of Denver CO, and Shayne Moy of Leander TX, by bank records and financial institution surveillance footage. This case is pending warrant service.

MCSO21OFF006961: Stolen Vehicle

Reported: September 29th, 2021

Occurred: Crystal Cove Apartments

The victim reported his 2005 F150 stolen from the Crystal Cove Apt complex. Last seen at 2130 hours last night. Keys left inside truck. Low on fuel and engine cooling problems.

The vehicle was recovered at the end of 41st Street, not damaged. Detectives Bragg and Ponce responded to the scene. The vehicle was processed for latent prints and DNA evidence, and released to the owner. Detectives collected video surveillance footage from the recovery scene and matched the suspect image to video surveillance footage from Tom Thumb on the night of the incident. The suspect is identified as Manuel Ruiz Jr. This case is pending warrant service.

MCSO21OFF006623: Vehicle Burglary

Reported: September 17, 2021

Occurred: 245 110th street in Marathon

The victim reported she went inside her grandfather's residence and left her vehicle unlocked ton 09/16. When she returned she noticed the interior light on, she noticed two subjects in the vicinity, one of them being her aunt's boyfriend whom she does not get along. The next day she noticed her sunglasses were missing from the center console. There was a witnesses who saw her aunt's boyfriend, Brian Hills, go inside the vehicle and take the victim's sunglasses. **An arrest warrant was issued and served.**

Marine Unit

. Man cited for undersized lobster

A 24-year-old Hollywood, Florida man was given a mandatory notice to appear in court citation for possessing four undersized lobster. Middle Keys Marine Deputy Willie Guerra was on patrol Sunday when he observed four divers in wetsuits loading items into a black Cadillac. The divers stated they didn't own the Cadillac. The owner gave Deputy Guerra permission to search the vehicle. Four undersized lobsters were found.



Community involvement



Dep Megan Foster decorated her patrol car truck with lights, candy and water for a trunk or treat behind the airport

Personnel and Budget:

Currently 3 deputies down. No budget concerns at this time.

Respectfully,

Capt. Don Hiller