



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Fugitive on the Run for Over a Year Apprehended Only to be Released by a Volusia Judge Despite No Bond Warrants from Flagler County

On Tuesday afternoon, March 24, members of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) conducted surveillance at an apartment complex located in Ormond Beach looking for 31-year-old Rondal Gibson (DOB 8/18/88), a wanted fugitive out of Flagler County since last summer's Operation Heat Wave. Gibson has also been featured in an episode of Fugitive Friday Bingo. SIU Detectives observed Gibson smoking a cigarette on the balcony of one of the apartments.

Officers with the Ormond Beach Police Department and deputies with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office responded to assist with Gibson's apprehension.



Gibson at the time of arrest.

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Contact was made with Gibson’s girlfriend at the front door of the apartment. At this same time, officers observed Gibson enter the bathroom of the apartment. Gibson’s girlfriend confirmed that Gibson was inside the residence and was the only other occupant.

Numerous verbal commands were given to Gibson to exit the bathroom. He ignored commands and barricaded himself inside. A Volusia County Sheriff’s K-9 Unit responded to the scene to clear the apartment. Gibson was subsequently taken into custody in the bathroom.

Gibson had three felony warrants. One for Order Revoking Bond for Trafficking Schedule I Controlled Substance (Synthetic Cathinones), Possession of Schedule I Substance with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Cannabis over 20 Grams, and Possession of Paraphernalia. The second warrant was for Failure to Appear for Sale of Cannabis and Unlawful use of a Two Way Communications Device. The third warrant was for Failure to Appear for Sale of a Schedule I Substance and Sale of a Schedule III Substance.

Gibson was booked into the Volusia County Branch Jail on the three Flagler County warrants ordering that he be held without bond. The FCSO sent a detainer to Volusia County requesting extradition to Flagler County so that Gibson can face his charges. At first appearance on Wednesday morning, Volusia County Court Judge Judith Campbell released Gibson on his own recognizance.

“This guy has been hiding from us since last summer after he was arrested during Operation Heat Wave,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “At that time he posted bond and was released from jail, but never appeared at this court date. Our SIU detectives did a great job in tracking him down and we appreciate the Ormond Beach Police and Volusia County Sheriff’s Office for helping us get him off the streets. Unfortunately, a Volusia Judge decided to release him on ROR. What a joke! With his record of fleeing and failing to appear, why would anyone think he will change his behavior? This is very frustrating to the hard working men and women of FCSO. Criminals are being allowed to take advantage of the system because of coronavirus and decisions like this.”

Gibson has a lengthy criminal history including Trafficking a Controlled Substance, Sale of Cocaine, Violation of Probation, Failure to Appear, Multiple Driving with License Suspended arrests, Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Distribute, Resisting an Officer without Violence, Tampering with Evidence, Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement, Sale of Cathinones, and Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communications Device.

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