



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

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Suspect In Custody for Robbing Palm Coast Kay Jewelers

On Tuesday October 6th, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) responded to the Kay Jewelers store in Palm Coast after store staff called to report a theft.

Two Kay Jeweler employees told deputies that a male, later identified as 30-year-old Tyrone Hunter (DOB: 6/17/1990), had entered the store requesting to see some gold chains on display. Both employees described Hunter to be extremely "shaky" during their interactions and gave deputies a description of the suspect.

The employee told deputies that she took one of the gold chains out of the display case to give Hunter a closer look. Hunter then asked if he could try the chain on but the employee informed him that due to COVID-19 guests were not able to try on items. It was at this time that Hunter snatched the gold chain and display from the employee and ran out of the store.

Witnesses on scene and store surveillance verified the employee's version of events and captured the suspect leaving the area in a red Nissan truck at a high rate of speed. Further investigation later discovered that prior to the robbery; Hunter had visited the Cobblestone Village Kay Jewelers in St. Augustine. While there, Hunter was also inquiring about gold chains but ultimately left empty handed.

Through investigative tactics, FCSO detectives and Crime Analysts were able to identify the owner of the red Nissan truck as Leroy Hunter and were also able to place the truck at both the Palm Coast and St. Augustine Kay Jewelers on October 6, 2020.

On October 13, detectives spoke with Leroy Hunter who confirmed the red Nissan was his and that his son, Tyrone Hunter, uses it regularly. Leroy also informed deputies that there is a GPS device monitoring the trucks movements. The GPS device confirmed that the truck was at the Palm Coast and St. Augustine Kay Jewelers locations on October 6 within the times of the reported incidents.

Detectives reached out to Hunter who denied any involvement but said a friend of his did use the truck that day and claims that he may have been set up.

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On October 14, detectives returned to the Palm Coast Kay Jewelers and conducted a photo line-up. Both employees positively identified Tyrone Hunter as the suspect independently. This, combined with other evidence, enabled the FCSO to obtain a felony warrant for the arrest of Tyrone Hunter.

“This is a great example of how technology-led policing and good old fashion police work solve crimes,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “This guy thought he could come into Flagler County and commit a robbery and get away with it. But thanks to the excellent work of our crime analysts and detectives we secured a warrant for his arrest. Our law enforcement partners in Putnam were able to take him into custody for us and he’ll soon be in the Green Roof Inn where he belongs.”

FCSO deputies worked with law enforcement agencies in Putnam County in order to track down an address where Hunter was possibly staying. Deputies from the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office located and arrested Hunter. He is currently being held in Putnam County on the FCSO warrant and is awaiting transfer to the Flagler County jail.

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