



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017

Contact: Brittany Kershaw; (386) 586-2637; bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com

Juvenile Arrested for July Fireworks Burglary **Stolen fireworks believed to be the cause of severe injuries to two young children**

Around 1:15 p.m. Thursday, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office arrested Jovawn Namor McClendon, 16, on charges of burglary of a structure, petit theft, and criminal mischief for burglarizing Big Nick's Boom Boom Sticks in July.

On July 10, 2017, Flagler Sheriff's Detectives, while investigating injuries to two children from exploding fireworks, discovered the fireworks business on County Road 13 in Bunnell had been burglarized. The building was rented to Big Nick's Boom Boom Sticks for the sale of fireworks leading up to the 4th of July holiday. Evidence collected at the scene was submitted to DNA Labs International for a forensic examination. Detective made contact with McClendon and his parent on July 19th and he voluntarily provided a buccal swab for DNA comparison. The report from the lab found that the blood collected from the scene matches Jovawn McClendon with a one in every 280 septillion individuals.

The fireworks stolen from this business were the same type that ultimately resulted in the injury of two young children on July 9th when they found and lit fireworks that exploded on them at Dr. Carver Park in Bunnell. One child, Faizon Brown, sustained severe injuries to his hand and is now receiving care from Shriners Hospital for Children in Tampa, Florida, through the coordination of Sheriff Rick Staly.

"The improper use of fireworks is extremely dangerous," Sheriff Staly said. "In this case, the burglars were in a hurry and broke off the stem of the fireworks in order to fit more inside their backpacks. This ultimately resulted in life altering injuries to two young kids. Our detectives worked hard to solve this case."

McClendon was processed at the Flagler County Detention Facility and released to his mother, as the Department of Juvenile Justice declined to hold him in custody.

###

Proudly Serving the Community for 100 Years – Centennial Anniversary 1917 - 2017
An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

