



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

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **CASE UPDATE: Career Criminal Pleads No Contest to Flagler, Volusia Charges – Sentenced to 11 Years**



*Richard Westervelt, Flagler County Jail Mugshot*

BUNNELL, FL – Career criminal Richard Westervelt, 32, was sentenced to a total of 11 years in the Florida Department of Corrections after pleading no contest to charges stemming from crimes committed in both Flagler and Volusia Counties.

The Honorable Judge Perkins sentenced Westervelt to five years for Attempted Burglary of a Dwelling and Battery in Flagler County. He also received a sentence of six years for his arrests in Volusia County for Trafficking in Methamphetamine (14g-28g), Trafficking in Fentanyl (4g-14g), Possession of Schedule III Substance, Possession of Cannabis in Excess of 20g, possession of Paraphernalia, and Resisting an Officer without Violence.

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“This career criminal knew he would be convicted and face life in prison, so he made a deal. We can only hope he uses the next 11 years in prison to turn his life around and leave the violent and poison peddling path behind him,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “Again, I commend the outstanding work by our deputies and the Real Time Crime Center, along with the East Volusia Narcotics Task Force and the Volusia Sheriff’s Office for a combined effort to get him off the streets and behind bars.”

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## FCSO, VSO Arrest Fugitive Stabbing Suspect

BUNNELL, FL – On January 10, 2023, FCSO deputies responded to a residence off County Road 13 in Bunnell in reference to a stabbing. When deputies arrived, the victim stated that two known males had broken into the residence, and an altercation ensued. During the altercation, the victim was stabbed with a pocketknife by a male who was later determined to be Richard Westervelt.

On February 7, 2023, the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office Major Case Unit obtained a felony warrant for the arrest of Richard Westervelt for Burglary While Armed, Burglary with Assault or Battery, and Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon. In addition to the new charges, Westervelt was also classified as a Prison Releasee Reoffender (PRR) which carries a penalty enhancement.

Through investigative efforts of the FCSO Major Case Unit, FCSO PACE Unit, and FCSO Real Time Crime Center, it was determined that Westervelt was located at a residence in Ormond Beach. On February 16, 2023, the East Volusia Narcotics Task Force and the Volusia Sheriff’s Office Crime Suppression Team located Westervelt at the residence. Westervelt fled from deputies on a bicycle and later fled on foot, but was taken into custody shortly after when he was stopped with a Taser. Westervelt was carrying a fanny pack with a large amount of narcotics on his person when he fled from Volusia deputies.

Westervelt was transported to the Volusia County Branch Jail on his Flagler County warrant as well as the following charges from VSO: Trafficking Methamphetamine (28-200 grams), Trafficking Fentanyl (4-14 grams), Possession of Suboxone, Possession of Cannabis over 20 Grams, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Resisting an Officer Without Violence. He is being held at the VCBJ with no bond and will be returned to Flagler County in the near future.

“Outstanding work by our deputies and the Real Time Crime Center resulting in the arrest of a prison

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releasee reoffender,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “Another dirtbag thought he could hide in a nearby county and avoid arrest but he learned the hard way about the long-arm reach of the law. A big thank you to the East Volusia Narcotics Task Force and the Volusia Sheriff’s Office for their assistance in taking him into custody and getting his poison off the streets too.”



Richard Westervelt (VCBJ Mugshot)

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