

WINTER HAVEN POLICE

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Date: June 18, 2014
Time: 3 P.M.
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WINTER HAVEN - Winter Haven Police quickly captured a career criminal who robbed a local CVS just after midnight today.

Forty-five year-old John Steven Morgan (DOB 7-12-68, 3731 State Rd. 60, Lake Wales, FL) was ultimately identified as the suspect seen on surveillance video entering CVS (400 6th St., NW, Winter Haven) at 12:50 a.m. on 6-18-14 wearing a motorcycle helmet and black clothing. Morgan approached the clerk with his right hand inside of a pocket indicating to the clerk that he had a weapon. The clerk complied and Morgan fled with an undetermined amount of cash.

(Morgan, who was released from State Prison in November 2013, has served many stints in the Florida State Prison System dating back to 1988. Morgan served time on charges that include Robbery, Burglary, Grand Theft, Grand Theft Auto and Dealing in Stolen Property dating back from 1988.)

Officers quickly apprehended Morgan after a BOLO (Be on the lookout) was immediately issued after the robbery. The BOLO indicated the suspect was wearing a black and red motorcycle helmet and all black clothing. Officers patrolling in the area of Nora Mayo Hall, which is approximately a half-mile away from the CVS, found a motorcycle in a back parking lot. Officers approached the driver and observed a helmet on the side of the motorcycle matching the description of the suspect seen in the video. The driver of the motorcycle was also wearing shoes that matched the suspect seen in the video.

Officers asked for the driver's identification and requested permission to search the storage compartment of the motorcycle. Morgan opened a black pouch located on the top of the fuel tank and gave officers consent to search. Officers located a glass pipe that contained residue that tested positive for cocaine. The driver, identified by his Florida DL as John Steven Morgan, was placed under arrest for possession of paraphernalia and narcotics.

Officers continued canvassing the area and a backpack was found in bushes near where the motorcycle was found. The backpack contained black clothing, which also matched the description of the suspect in the video.

In addition to the drug charges, officers charged Morgan with the Robbery With A Mask since he was wearing the helmet while committing the crime.

Morgan was placed under arrest and booked into the Polk County Jail on charges (one count each) of Robbery With A Mask (F-2), Possession of Cocaine (F-3) and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (M1).