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Date: Oct. 17, 2014
Time: 3 P.M.
Contact: Jamie Brown – Public Information Officer

ARREST MADE IN RAPID CASH ROBBERY

Winter Haven Police have made an arrest in the reported robbery at Rapid Cash in Winter Haven that occurred on 8-16-14. The 39 year-old clerk working at the business has been charged with grand theft.

On 10-15-14 during a follow-up interview with Winter Haven detectives, 39 year-old Alice Sue Haggard (DOB 10-19-74, 1150 3rd St., SW, Winter Haven) was taken into custody after she stated that she worked in concert with her boyfriend to stage the robbery. Haggard was the Rapid Cash clerk in the store at the time of the reported robbery. Haggard was booked into the Polk County Jail for Grand Theft (F3) and Filing a False Report in Commission of a Crime (M1). Haggard bonded out on 10-16-14.

The events unfolded like this:

Haggard told detectives that in June 2014, she started taking money from her employer, Rapid Cash in order to cover her own personal checks she would cash at various Publix locations throughout the county. She cashed numerous \$75 checks through the months of June, July and August, 2014. The cash she would take from her employer to cover the checks is estimated to total \$6,000.

Haggard feared her employer would become suspicious of the missing cash so she devised a scheme with her boyfriend, 46 year-old Joseph Washington Harris, to stage the robbery. Although Harris is reported to not have committed the robbery, Haggard told detectives that Harris lined up the unknown suspect to stage the robbery.

Haggard is seen on the video showing the staged robber where the cash was located. During the event, she did not appear scared and after the staged robber left, she waited for a short time before she picked up the phone to call to report the incident. The total cash from the staged robbery is estimated at \$17,964. Detectives have still not been able to identify the staged robber who came into the store.

When Detectives learned that Harris was the boyfriend of Haggard, a background was conducted and it was determined that Harris had battered Haggard in September 2014, which she reported, but then denied to officers who arrived on scene. Although a report was taken, Harris was not charged at the

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time. (During her interview on 10-15-14, Haggard told detectives she lied to officers who responded to the domestic call in September because she feared Harris would hurt her worse when he got out of jail.) Detectives also found that Harris is a registered Sex Offender and he had not updated his current address, which is a felony.

On 10-16-14, Detectives learned that Harris was in the city of Bartow. Working with the Bartow Police Department, Harris was taken into custody without incident. He was booked into the Polk County Jail on the Domestic Battery charge and Sex Offender Failure to Comply with Registration law. During an interview, Harris denied any involvement in the staged robbery.

Harris, who was released from state prison in September 2012, has a significant criminal history, which includes Sexual Battery, Grand Theft, Robbery and Resisting Arrest With Violence. He remains in the Polk County Jail with no bond.

*** ORIGINAL RELEASE OF ROBBERY FROM AUGUST 16, 2014 ***

WINTER HAVEN – Winter Haven Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect who robbed the Rapid Cash business on Saturday.

On 8-16-14 at approximately 5:08 p.m., the female employee of Rapid Cash (1138 6th St., NW, Winter Haven) entered the locked business after leaving for a few minutes to go to the convenience store across the street.

As she unlocked the door and began walking inside, the suspect entered directly behind her and pushed an unknown object into her back and demanded that she take him to the safe. The clerk walked behind the counter with the suspect directly behind her. The suspect took two bank bags filled with an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the business. The clerk was not injured. The suspect is seen leaving in a newer model four door car, stock rims, dark tinted windows, and chrome around the window seals (possibly an Acura TL).

The suspect is described as a black male in his thirties, 5'5" with a stocky build. He was wearing a black shirt, black shorts, black shoes with red socks and a white hat.

Anyone with information on the identity of this suspect or any information regarding this case is asked to call Heartland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS (8477). Callers can remain anonymous and could be eligible for a CASH reward.