

Sheriff

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Media Release

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Villages Battery Suspect Arrested

The Villages, FL. – August 10, 2012



UPDATE: Sumter detectives have now positively identified the suspect as **ROMEO H. PEREZ**. PEREZ was identified with the assistance of Immigration and Customs Enforcement who has deported PEREZ from the United States on six different occasions for illegally entering the country. PEREZ is being held in the Sumter County Detention Center without bond and ICE has placed a detainer on the suspect, who is now facing an additional charge of Resisting an Officer Without Violence.

On August 4, 2012 at approximately 11 a.m., Sumter County deputies responded to the Sweetbay Supermarket located at 820 Old Camp Road in The Villages where a 64 year old female Villages resident reported that a male suspect touched her buttocks while she was shopping. The victim was shopping on the pet isle when the male suspect reached under her dress, placing his hand inside her underpants and touched her buttocks. The victim screamed making the suspect stop, and the suspect hurriedly left the supermarket.

Sumter detectives investigating the case identified the suspect as 27 year old Romeo P. Hernandez after reviewing surveillance video from the supermarket.

Hernandez, who is an employee of a pizza restaurant near Sweetbay Supermarket, met with detectives at the Sheriff's Villages Annex. During an interview with detectives, Hernandez admitted to being in the supermarket at the time of this incident and may have had incidental contact with a female. He was arrested and charged with Battery and taken to the Sumter County Detention Center. Hernandez also told detectives he is in the country illegally from Guatemala, and detectives have alerted officials with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

END



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