For Immediate Release
Sep 17, 2013

Wanted Fugitive, Three Others Arrested on Charges of Child Abuse

Fugitive:
Matthew Wehunt
W/M, DOB 5/20/87
Home Address: 1301 79th Av N
Warrants for Auto Theft, also charged with Child Abuse

Other Arrests:
April Star Dominguez
H/F, DOB 3/22/90
Home Address: 1301 79th Av N
Charges: Obstruction and Child Abuse

Ashley Nicole Dixon
H/F, DOB 11/2/87
Home Address: 1301 79th Av N
Charges: Obstruction and Child Abuse

Samantha Daniel Dixon
W/F, DOB 1-19-89
Home address: 1301 79th Av N
Charges: Obstruction and Child Abuse

At about 7:00 a.m. this morning the United States Marshal Service along with members of the St. Petersburg Police Department Intelligence Unit, COTA and DROP responded to 1301 79th Av N in reference to fugitive Matthew Wehunt. Wehunt had outstanding warrants for 2 counts of Auto Theft and other crimes with a total bond of $152,000. Information was developed during the investigation which indicated Matthew Wehunt was now residing and hiding out at this location.

April Dominguez and Ashley and Samantha Dixon were observed by detectives leaving the residence in a vehicle. That vehicle was subsequently stopped and all three females were separated and interviewed in reference to Wehunt’s presence.
inside the residence. The residence was immediately surrounded and secured. A knock and announce, along with K-9's barking was given at every door and window to the residence with no response from within.

All three females denied Matthew Wehunt’s presence inside the residence. Even after being warned the residence would be tactically entered with police K-9 and the United States Marshal Service, all three females continued to deny their children or Wehunt were in the residence. They were warned numerous times of the dangers of entering a residence to apprehend a potentially violent felon, however all three insisted their kids were not inside the house.

After over an hour of having the residence secured, blinds in the residence were observed moving. We approached and observed Matthew Wehunt shove a 3 month old male into the Venetian blinds of the window beside the front door we were starting to breach. Wehunt placed the child between the entry team and himself, almost as if shielding himself from the team.

Entry was made into the residence and Wehunt was placed into custody. Three other children, all under the age of 4, were hidden inside a small, locked bathroom of the residence. The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Child Protection investigators responded to the scene and placed the children into the custody of family members.

All three females were charged with Child Abuse based on their statements made at the scene and later with police detectives. Matthew Wehunt was charged with his felonious warrants and Child abuse.

Any additional questions can be directed to Information Deputy Ron Lindback (813-299-6982) with the United States Marshal Service.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org