



SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2017

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Early morning wake-up call leads to arrest

Early this morning members of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office SWAT team and Tactical Impact Unit (TIU) executed a search warrant at 2187 S. Border Ave in Inverness. Deputies with the TIU's Intelligence Led Policing (ILP) Squad received information that the owner of the home, Steven Lockyer, 55 of Inverness, was actively dealing in methamphetamine. Intelligence gathered prior to the search warrant indicated that Lockyer was allowing his residence to be used as a "flop house" for drug users to use illegal narcotics. An in-depth investigation confirmed that Lockyer utilized the home to use, and distribute, narcotics. "Lockyer's residence has been a known drug house in the Inverness area and a constant nuisance for surrounding citizens in the neighborhood for some time," said case agent Deputy Jon Seffern Jr. "We know the citizens didn't mind the early morning wake up call."

Based on Lockyer's violent criminal history, and the criminal histories of other known associates that frequent the house, the decision was made to utilize the SWAT team. As the SWAT team approached the residence, a subject inside was observed running into the master bathroom. It was later determined that the subject running was Lockyer and he was attempting to destroy evidence by flushing hypodermic needles that contained methamphetamine down the toilet. These narcotics were later retrieved from the septic tank resulting in Lockyer being charged with tampering with evidence.

"This was an excellent example of teamwork between the Tactical Impact Unit, patrol and SWAT to put an end to a longtime problem house in our community," said ILP Sgt. Craig Callahan. "It is very rewarding when neighbors come up to you during the search warrant just to say thank you for shutting this dope house down." In addition to the tampering evidence charge, Lockyer was also charged with Possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, and possession of paraphernalia.

Charges for Steven B. Lockyer 11/3/1961:

Possession of controlled substance with intent to distribute. Bond: \$2,000

Evidence tampering. Bond: \$5,000

Possession of paraphernalia. Bond: \$1,000