



SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2017

For more information, contact:

Lindsay Blair,
Community Affairs Specialist & Public Information
(352) 341-7460

Operation Street Sweeper Cleaning Up Neighborhoods

(Citrus County) It's no secret - our Tactical Impact Unit has been busy - and it's for good reason. As soon as Sheriff Mike Prendergast raised his right hand on January 3rd, he knew drugs were going to be one of his main concentrations within this organization. "I wasn't kidding when I said we are going to hit the drug issue hard," says Sheriff Mike Prendergast. "Drugs are my top priority because so many other crimes are committed because of addictions."

Did you know most of our retail thefts, residential and vehicular burglaries and robberies to a person stem from drug use? Our Tactical Impact Unit (TIU), detectives and patrol deputies have been ferocious this month in fighting our community's ever-increasing drug problems.

Operation Street Sweeper came about because of so many complaints from residents in Beverly Hills about drug activity, which includes the drug use and sale of methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin. "Beverly Hills used to be a quiet, peaceful and neighborly community. The problem essentially started when either older residents passed away and left their homes to family members who would rent the homes out to unfavorable tenants, or the residence would go into foreclosure," says Sgt. Ed Blair of the Tactical Impact Unit. "It's an unfortunate set of circumstances for the good people still living in this community. It's been our mission to target the drug dealers and users in these areas."

Since January, TIU has executed nine search warrants in Beverly Hills with 21 arrests. The area known as "old Beverly Hills" which is Regina Blvd. north to Forest Ridge Blvd is where we have heavily concentrated our efforts. The types of drugs detectives have targeted are cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

**SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST**



prescription pills. The suspects have been charged with possessing these controlled substances with the intent to distribute, as well as various other drug related charges.

“I’m very proud of our detectives and their proactive approach,” says Sheriff Mike Prendergast. “The Tactical Impact Unit is the tip of the spear in the fight against the drug issue facing Citrus County. This is only the beginning. Reminder to anyone dealing, selling or using drugs - we’ll be knocking at your door very soon.”