

PEMBROKE PINES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**9500 Pines Boulevard
Pembroke Pines, FL 33024
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954-431-2200 24 Hour Dispatch Center
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NEWS RELEASE

PIO ASSIGNED THIS INCIDENT: Captain A. Xiques

PPPD CASE NUMBER: 2013-094924 **DATE:** 01-22-15 **TIME:** 2:00 pm

CHARGE/INCIDENT: Criminal Use of Personal Identification / Information, Theft From Persons
65 Years of Age or Older

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE: Century Village - Pembroke Pines

VICTIM(S) – NAME, AGE, DOB, RACE, SEX, ADDRESS:

1) State of Florida

2) _____

SUSPECT(S) – NAME, AGE, DOB, RACE, SEX, ADDRESS:

1) H/M Hernandez, Ariel L. 12-14-67, 1584 SW 159 Ln. Pembroke Pines, Fl. 33027

2) _____

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

******* Update 07-15-15 / 5:00 PM Additional Criminal Charges *******

On Tuesday July 14th, 2015, the listed subject (Hernandez) who remains in custody at the Broward County Jail, was charged with an additional count of Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information, Theft From Persons 65 Years of Age or Older and Fraudulent Use of Credit Card.

Similar to the previous cases for which Hernandez had been arrested for, he victimized a senior citizen (currently 92 years of age) who also resides within the Century Village Community, who had entrusted him to handle her financial affairs as her financial advisor. Between the dates of May 2010 - Dec 2014, Hernandez orchestrated and executed a course of conduct in which he unlawfully utilized the victim's personal identification information and Discover Financial Services account to unlawfully obtain merchandise and funds belonging to the victim which totaled nearly \$200,000.00. This total loss to the victim included funds related to a home equity line of credit taken out on the victim's residence.

In addition, the Broward County State Attorney's Office will be upgrading one of the previous criminal charges, as a result of an additional \$137, 805.00 identified as having been unlawfully obtained from a previous victim.

The total loss suffered by all of the victims to date, as a result of Hernandez unlawful actions is \$637,668.29.

The Pembroke Pines Police Department is encouraging anyone, specifically seniors whom Hernandez may have targeted or had dealings with, to check their financial records and contact the police if they find any discrepancies or unauthorized transactions.

Attached are still pictures of Hernandez making unauthorized bank transactions while committing the listed crime, as well as video of him picking up merchandise he had purchased online with the victim's credit card. Also attached is the arrest warrant for the new charges as well as the arrest affidavit.

On 11-19-13, a report was made to the Pembroke Pines Police Department regarding the above listed criminal allegations. A preliminary investigation by our department's Economics Crimes Unit, revealed that the suspect in this case was already being reviewed by the State of Florida's Office of Financial Regulation, at which time a joint investigation began along with the United States Secret Service.

During the course of the investigation, additional victims all of whom were senior citizens who lived within the Century Village community were identified. Upon obtaining all of the information and evidence required to prove that the suspect had committed the above listed crimes, an arrest warrant was filed with the Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, and the suspect was later arrested.

Due to Mr. Hernandez' previous employment as an employee at local Bank located adjacent to the Century Village community, where he befriended several of his future clients/victims as their financial advisor, the Pembroke Pines Police Department believes that there are likely to be several additional individuals throughout the community who may also have been victimized by Mr. Hernandez. We are asking for assistance from the media in highlighting this story, in an effort to identify those potential victims.

We are currently communicating with some of the victims in this case, in an effort to facilitate interviews from the media, as they live in a gated community which would limit access. Please keep in mind that the victims are senior citizens, some very elderly and have been significantly impacted as a result of these crimes. Once we have obtained confirmation on a time, place, and location, to facilitate any request for interviews, we will forward the information immediately.

Captain Xiques will be available at PPPD Headquarters at 3:30 pm (in front of the building), to answer any questions and provide sound if requested in English and Spanish.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Pembroke Pines Police Department at 954-431-2200, email to Tips@ppines.com, or call Crimestoppers at 954-493-TIPS

