

## Harris County Precinct 8 Phil Sandlin, Constable

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## PRESS RELEASE

August 18, 2020

On August 14, 2020 at approximately 11:09 PM, Precinct 8 Sergeant C. Hulsart drove up on a two car crash in the 6700 block of the E. Sam Houston Parkway S. service road. As Sgt. Hulsart was pulling up, he noticed a Hispanic male wearing all black in the grass line walking away from a fence. The male was placing items in tall grass next to an ice chest. As Sgt. Hulsart began to investigate the crash, the occupants, identified as 24 year old Genesis Rodriguez and 25 year old Martin Martinez, stated that they had stopped due to a flat tire when they were struck from the rear by another vehicle. Sgt. Hulsart noted that there were no flat tires on their vehicle.

When secondary deputies arrived, Sgt. Hulsart located the items that he observed Martinez attempting to hide. The items consisted of two large industrial grinders, several other cordless tools and chargers. Sgt. Hulsart then located a fresh cut hole in the fence that was just adjacent to the crash which surrounded Enterprise Products Facility. Sgt. T. Gossett made contact with Enterprise staff and they identified several offices and store rooms that had been burglarized. These offices belonged to Birdwell Industries and Alliance Tank Services who are contractors for Enterprise Products.

During the investigation, it was determined the vehicle was being driven by Rodriguez and was not actually disabled as the pair reported. Rodriguez stopped the vehicle in a moving lane in order to pick up Martinez and the stolen property and it was at that time their vehicle was rear ended. At the time of the crash, there were three small children in the vehicle as well; ages 3, 4, and 6 years old. It was also learned Rodriguez was out on bond for Aggravated Robbery, Child Endangerment and Abandonment of a child with no intent to return. He was wearing an ankle monitor as well.

It was also learned that after the crash, Rodriguez and Martinez approached the driver of the car that hit them and demanded money by intimidation and ultimately took \$26.00. Martinez was found to have \$26.00 in his possession. It is also believed that Rodriguez and Martinez were communicating via two way radio during the burglary.

Deputies J. Toliver and D. Webber continued with the investigation and representatives from Enterprise Products, Birdwell Industries and Alliance Tank Services were able to recover the stolen property. Overall, the items recovered included four laptop computers, two iPhones, two 7" grinders, one cordless grease gun, one welding helmet, three cordless drills and miscellaneous accessories. Also recovered were the cutters used to enter the property as well as the two way radios.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and accepted charges for Burglary of a Business on Rodriguez and Martinez. They were arrested booked into the Harris County Jail where Rodriguez is being held on a \$75,000 bond and Martinez is being held on a \$2000 bond. The three children were released to a relative. Thankfully, the children and the driver of the other vehicle were uninjured.

Jason Finnen, Deputy Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's Office