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MEDIA RELEASE

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT SUSPECT ARRESTED

Earlier today the following subject was taken into custody with the assistance of Deputies from the Highlands County Sheriffs Office after he threatened the safety and well-being of an Avon Park Police Officer.

- **A-1: Miguel Angel Morales Lopez**, 20 years of age, was taken into custody shortly after 3:00 a.m. this morning and charged with the following crimes;
 1. **Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer**, pursuant to Florida State Statute 784.07 (2) (C).
 2. **Committing a 2nd Degree Felony while Wearing a Mask or Hood**, pursuant to Florida State Statute, 775.0845 (2) (B).
 3. **Loitering or Prowling**, pursuant to Florida State Statute, 856.021.
 4. **Resisting an Officer without Violence**, pursuant to Florida State Statute, 843.02.
 5. **Tampering with Evidence**, pursuant to Florida State Statute, 918.13.

At approximately 1:20 a.m. this morning Avon Park Police Officer Allison Smith was on proactive foot patrol in the area of Lakeside Park. Upon approaching a pavilion on the south side of Lake Tulane, Officer Smith encountered two (2) subjects that were clad in dark clothing and wearing bandanas over their faces. While speaking with the first two (2) subjects, an additional two (2) subjects who were also wearing dark clothing and bandanas over their faces began walking toward Officer Smith. After identifying herself as a Police Officer one (1) of the two (2) subjects walking toward the pavilion stopped and with both hand pointed an unknown object at Officer Smith. The subject was standing in a position commonly used to fire handguns and a projectile was fired at Officer Smith.

The subject fled the scene on foot and evaded capture near Fogle Street and the CSX railroad tracks. At approximately 3:08 a.m. A-1 Lopez was the subject of a suspicious person call on Grouper Avenue and Highlands County Sheriffs Deputies responded. Upon arrival of the Deputies, A-1 Lopez again fled on foot and was taken into custody. Located on A-1 Lopez were

“BB’s” and post Miranda he advised that he fired a “BB” at Officer Smith, although he was not aware that she was a Police Officer.

Chief Doughney reports that Officer Smith was uninjured as a result of this incident.