

NEWS RELEASE

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News Media Contact:
Lieutenant Shane Riggle
Public Information Officer
City of New Smyrna Beach
(386) 424-2220



Title

Man's Erratic Behavior Frightens Bank Employees; Mental Health Issues Suspected

Case #: 17-04-00318 **Type of Incident:** Mentally Ill Subject

Date/Time/Location of Incident: 04-21-17 / 1708 Hours / 1880 State Road 44

New Smyrna Beach FL.

SUBJECT INFORMATION: 44 year old, white male of Oak Hill, FL.

Synopsis of Incident:

On 04-21-17, officers responded to 1880 State Road 44 in reference to a male subject who entered the business stating he was being followed by people who wanted to kill him. The subject asked the employees to call the police to help him. While inside waiting for the police, the subject began acting erratic, making statements that he will pray for everyone in the business and that god will forgive him. The employees were able to lock themselves away from the subject in another room.

The subject removed his shoe and claimed that it was an explosive device. Officers made verbal contact with the subject who refused to open the doors to the business or follow any other commands. After multiple failed attempts to have the subject come out of the business, officers went inside where the subject immediately complied with commands and was taken into custody without incident. After speaking with all parties involved, it appeared the subject was suffering from a metal health issue. The subject was taken into protective custody under Baker Act Criteria and was transported to the Halifax Medical Center for a mental evaluation.

A section of State Road 44 was shut down during the incident, however it is now open to travel.