



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Sergeant Donna Black
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

Re: Information Regarding Inmate Food & Commissary

Date: September 17, 2010

Hernando County Sheriff's Office Response to Calorie Count of Inmates.

In response to Hernando Today article dated September 11, 2010 written by Tony Holt 'Inmate talks about sheriff's jail'.

We want to make it clear this story written Tony Holt is a result of an interview with one inmate. The inmate gave his opinion to the reporter on what he thought was the food calorie count. Tony Holt did not contact anyone from our agency to verify facts for his story about the inmate meals. If he had asked about our food service he would have found out the correct information.

So, here are the facts. Our menus are prepared in a four week cycle and use the three major food groups when preparing meals based on nutritional values. Conservatively, each inmate receives 2000+ calories per day. The cyclic menu changes every 30 days and provides sufficient quantity, nutritional value and variety for the inmates. Once the menu is developed it is sent to the Hernando County Health Department Dietitian to be reviewed and approved.

It has been decided as a continuing effort to provide the facts to the public, the inmate meals will be posted on the jail website for everyone to view much like how the school menus are posted in the paper. Everyone can then rest assured that the tax payers are providing three balanced nutritional meals to the inmates.

Also, in a letter to the editor dated September 17, 2010 by Katy Adams regarding the jail commissary (canteen), we would like everyone to know we follow Florida State Statute 951.23 (9) (b), regulates how we must operate it. The prices are based on local convenience store retail pricing. Periodically, matching items are purchased at a local convenience store and prices are verified as fair market value. The "profit" from the commissary statutorily goes into the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Fund and must be used for the overall inmate welfare.

In Ms. Adam's letter she stated "most families have children who do without because the spouse is giving them (inmate) a few extra dollars". There is absolutely no reason that a parent should deny their children food in order to provide an inmate with comfort food such as candy bars and potato chips.

Our goal is to run a constitutionally correct detention facility and not a day spa on the tax payers' dime.