



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Sheriff Al Nienhuis

**Re: Sheriff Announces Sgt. Donna Black's Retirement and
Newly Selected PIO -- Saving the Agency \$20,908 Annually**

Date: June 17, 2011

On July 5, 2011, Public Information Officer Sergeant Donna Black will be retiring from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office after spending three decades in Law Enforcement. In 2003 she accepted a position with the Judicial Services Division at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office and was later selected as the agency's Public Information Officer. Sergeant Donna Black also serves as a Mounted Patrol Officer and as the Liaison to the Civilian Mounted Patrol Unit. She will continue serving the unit in a reserve capacity. "I am thankful for the dedication Sergeant Black has given the citizens of Hernando County for nearly a decade" said Sheriff Nienhuis.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis is pleased to announce Deputy Wendy McGinnis will be the new Public Information Officer for the Sheriff's Office. By changing the Public Information Officer position from a sergeant to a deputy, the agency will see a savings of \$20,908 annually. "We are examining our operations every day and this is just one way we hope to show additional decreases in the 2012 budget," said Sheriff Nienhuis.

Deputy McGinnis has been with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office since January 1999. She has worked as a Communications Operator, Criminal Investigations Clerk, Public Relations Specialist, Patrol Deputy, S.W.A.T. Team Reserve and, for the past six years, a School Resource Officer at Fox Chapel Middle School. Deputy McGinnis received her Bachelor's degree in Business Management and her Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Hodges University. Deputy McGinnis has experience in community interaction, public speaking, report writing, teaching and organizing community events. Deputy McGinnis has worked as a backup PIO for the agency and recently completed a Police Media Relations course in Jacksonville, Florida. "Deputy McGinnis has aggressively pursued her education while working at the Sheriff Office and continues to take on numerous tasks for the betterment of our agency" said Sheriff Nienhuis. "She has proven to be a valuable asset to the Sheriff's Office, and we are pleased to have her as part of our command staff."

Effective Sunday June 19, 2011 Deputy Wendy McGinnis will be working under the guidance and direction of Sergeant Donna Black until Donna's last day in the office. Deputy Wendy McGinnis will assume the position of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer on July 1, 2011, reporting directly to Sheriff Al Nienhuis.