



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
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Re: Two Major Crime Categories Close the Year with a 100 Percent Closure Rate

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The Hernando County Sheriff's Office investigated a total of eight homicides and one manslaughter during the 2011 calendar year. Sheriff Al Nienhuis is pleased to announce that all 9 of those investigations have been solved. Eight of the cases were cleared with arrests, and one case was closed after the offender committed suicide. While the majority of our homicides had suspects immediately, two of them (Michael Pfeifer and Joey Lynn Hattenbrun) required numerous hours of investigation. One of the cases (Raymond Burke) turned into a homicide upon further investigation into a missing person's case. "These three cases were solved through patient and tenacious investigation by a team of Major Case Detectives and their supervisors," said Sheriff Al Nienhuis.

Homicides were not the only area the Sheriff's Major Case Unit had a 100 percent clearance success. All four bank robberies committed in 2011 were also solved and closed with an arrest.

Both types of violent felonies are difficult to prevent and are not typically closed at 100 percent in most law enforcement agencies. Nationwide, for example, in 2010, the FBI reports that 35 percent of murders were not solved. The difference lies in the way the Hernando County Sheriff's Office immediately saturates major scenes with every available investigative resource including Major Case Detectives, Forensics, Crime Analysis, district detectives, Selective Enforcement Unit, vice and patrol. As soon as a homicide, bank robbery or any violent felony occurs, the Major Case Unit is called out to the scene to begin their investigation. This unit will utilize every available detective and supervisor from their unit to investigate the scene, establish a lead(s), and evaluate what additional Sheriff's Office resources are necessary to solve the case and make an arrest(s).

"Public safety and continued violence is an immediate concern when a murderer or bank robber is at large," said Major Case Sergeant Phil Lakin. "We are fortunate in Hernando County to be led by a Sheriff who makes every resource within the Sheriff's Office available to the Major Case Section in order to solve these crimes and remove the threat from the citizen's in Hernando County."