



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Arrest of Hernando County Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson

Date: April 19, 2018

On 02-20-18 at approximately 6 p.m., Hernando County deputies were called to a residence located at 4580 Tiburon Avenue in Spring Hill regarding a domestic disturbance. The home is the primary residence of Hernando County Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson.

Upon arrival, deputies met with the female victim, Valerie Surette, in the doorway of the residence. The victim told deputies she had been involved in a heated verbal altercation with her husband, Kendel Surette, and he threw a screwdriver at her, hitting her in the face.

Deputies noted that both of the Surette's had red, glassy eyes and slurred speech, indicating they were under the influence of an unknown substance.

Physical evidence (injury to Valerie's face) of domestic violence was present; therefore, Kendel was placed under arrest for Domestic Battery.

During the investigation, information was obtained regarding allegations of additional criminal activity occurring within the residence and/or involving persons living in the residence. As a result of said allegations, the case was turned over to Hernando County Vice and Narcotics Unit.

A complete and thorough investigation was conducted by detectives in the Vice and Narcotics Unit, working in conjunction with Special Agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The law enforcement investigators also maintained continuous communication and coordination with the State Attorney's Office of the Fifth Judicial Circuit (SAO).

As result of the evidence in the case, the SAO has direct filed charges, which resulted in the arrest of Hernando County Commissioner Nicholas Nicholson.

Nicholas “Nick” W. Nicholson W/M DOB/02-17-1947 was placed under arrest today and charged as follows:

- Own, Establish, Maintain, or Operate any Place, Structure, Building, or Conveyance for the Purpose of Lewdness, Assignment, or Prostitution – 1 count
 - Bond - \$1,000
- Purchase the Services of any Person Engaged in Prostitution – 2 counts
 - Bond - \$2,000 (\$1,000 each charge)
- Total Bond - \$3,000.

The case remains under investigation.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.