



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Community Relations Specialist, 352-797-3608

Re: Overall 2017 Unincorporated Hernando County Crime Rate Continues Decline

Date: May 25, 2018

Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhuis announced today that there was a 4.9% overall decrease in the crime rate for the unincorporated area of Hernando County in 2017 as compared to 2016.

The crime rate data is compiled as part of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's annual Uniform Crime Report.

This decrease continues a downward trend in the crime rate for unincorporated Hernando County. Over the last five years, Hernando County's crime rate has decreased four out of the last five years.

Crime Rate decrease/increase comparison

2013 -- -12.2%
2014 – +0.2%
2015 – -0.5%
2016 -- -15.6%
2017 -- -4.9%

In 2017, Hernando County experienced significant decreases in the following categories:

Burglaries – Down 10.8% (620 to 553)
Larceny – Down 4.1% (2,283 to 2,190)
Motor Vehicle Thefts – Down 6.7% (210 to 196).

While several areas experienced a decline, Hernando County did see increases in the following categories:

Murder – Up 100% (4 to 8)
Rape – Up 16.1% (62 to 72)
Aggravated Assault – Up 10.5% (286 to 316).

Of the eight homicides reported in 2017, two involved children that were harmed by their parents. Both cases were closed with arrests.

Another was a domestic related case that involved a wife murdered by her husband, which was closed with an arrest. Two of the cases remain open and are actively being investigated. Another homicide case was closed with an arrest.

Of the two remaining homicide cases that are/have been reviewed by the State Attorney's Office, one has been ruled justifiable and the other is still being reviewed. If they are both ruled justified, then the 2017 homicide number could eventually be reduced from eight to six.

Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "We are very happy with the overall drop in crime in Hernando County. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has very professional people responding to, and investigating, crime."

"There are increases in some areas. The raw numbers are so low in those particular areas; therefore, even a slight numerical increase or decrease can have a large impact on the percentages. Additionally, these are areas where law enforcement has a difficult time either predicting or preventing these crimes from occurring. These include crimes that occur in the home and between persons who are known to one another."

"I continue to be very proud of the hard work performed by the men and women of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office as they continue toward our goal of making the community safer and making our citizens feel safer," he added.

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.