



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Deer in Roadway causes Deputy to Crash Patrol Vehicle into Canal

Date: July 30, 2018

On 07-30-18 at 12:03 a.m., Deputy David Merced was traveling north on Shoal Line Boulevard when a deer in the roadway caused him to crash his patrol vehicle into a canal.

Deputy Merced had just cleared a call for service when he spotted the deer.

He swerved in an attempt to avoid the deer. In doing so, he veered off the west side of the roadway and into a canal, just north of Petite Lane, in Hernando Beach.

His patrol vehicle was partially submerged.

Emergency personnel assisted Deputy Merced out of the vehicle and onto the roadway.

Deputy Merced was not injured in the crash. His vehicle was towed to the Sheriff's Office garage for possible repairs.

The crash remains under investigation. No additional information is available at this time.

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.