



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputy Attempts Traffic Stop - Drives Flees - Crashes

Date: August 25, 2018

On 08-25-18 just before 5:30 p.m., Deputy Paul Barreto was traveling westbound on Spring Hill Drive in the area of Noah Avenue conducting proactive patrol.

During this time, Barreto observed a motorcycle being operated in a reckless manner, with the driver weaving in and out of traffic.

Barreto attempted to catch up with the motorcycle and was able to do so at Spring Hill Drive and the western Horizon Drive. Barreto pulled his marked patrol car alongside the motorcycle, activated his emergency lights, and directed the motorcycle driver to pull over.

The motorcycle driver continued westbound; accelerating in the area of Arbuckle Avenue and Spring Hill Drive. Barreto observed the motorcycle driver to actively be evading law enforcement.

While still traveling westbound in the area of Valiant Avenue and Spring Hill Drive, Barreto realized the motorcycle driver was not going to stop. Before being able to disengage, Barreto observed the motorcycle strike the rear of a Toyota Camry at the intersection of Waterfall Drive and Spring Hill Drive.

Barreto immediately notified the dispatcher to send Hernando County Fire Rescue and additional patrol deputies.

The driver of the Toyota Camry was not injured in the crash

The motorcycle driver was transported to a local trauma center with life-threatening injuries.

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) responded to the scene to handle the crash.

All information provided is preliminary, as a crash investigation has not been completed yet.

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.