



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

October 8, 2015

The Honorable Chairman Nick Nicholson
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
20 North Main Street, Room 263
Brooksville, FL 34601

Dear Chairman Nicholson:

My office has a reputation of collaboration and transparency regarding matters of mutual concern. I see that the County Administrator is once again resurrecting a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), as well as a Dependent Special District (administered similar to an MSTU in this case). I have worked hard to keep expenses low and increase revenues. My goal has been to ease the burden of Hernando County taxpayers, without sacrificing their safety. This new tax is a concerted effort to undermine everything my people and I have worked toward over the last five years. I must, therefore, adamantly oppose these new taxes for the reasons I pointed out in my letter to you dated April 27, 2015, as well as my presentation before the Board on April 28, 2015.

I find it terribly disappointing that neither you, nor any of your staff notified us of this proposal, much less obtained feedback from the agency most impacted. Even with the limited time to respond, if there remains *any possibility* of a vote on this issue at the October 13 meeting, I would like time to present a *counter proposal*. I believe you will find that my proposal addresses all the concerns of the Administrator and/or the Commissioners who are forcing this ill-conceived plan. My plan, however, will have none of the negative and expensive consequences of these new taxes; however, it will retain accountability for both the Sheriff *and the County Commission*.

I thank you in advance for adequate time on the agenda to provide for a viable alternative to these burdensome new taxes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Nienhuis".

Al Nienhuis
Sheriff

AN/jdp

cc: Commissioner James Adkins
Commissioner Wayne Dukes
Commissioner Jeff Holcomb
Commissioner Diane Rowden
County Administrator Len Sossamon