



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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Re: Accreditation Team Invites Public Comments About Hernando County Sheriff's Office

Date: November 4, 2016

A team of assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will arrive December 13, 2016 to examine all aspects of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Sheriff Al Nienhuis announced today. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has to comply with approximately 260 standards in order to receive accredited status. Many of the standards are critical to life, health and safety issues.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. A copy of the standards is available through the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer in Brooksville at 352-754-6830.

For more information regarding CFA or for persons wishing to offer written comments about the (agency's) ability to meet the standards of accreditation, please write: CFA, P.O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302, or email to info@flaccreditation.org.

The Accreditation Program Manager for the Hernando County Sheriff's Office is Lieutenant Ken Hayden. He said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies. The assessors will review written materials; interview individuals; and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed.

"Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to receive accredited status. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office accreditation is for three years. Verification by the team that the Hernando County Sheriff's Office meets the Commission's standards is part of a voluntary process to gain or maintain accreditation—a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence," Sheriff Al Nienhuis said.

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.