



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Deputy-Involved Shooting Cedar Lane

**Date:** February 20, 2017

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The names of the individuals involved in the deputy-involved shooting are as follows:

The deputies involved are identified as:

- **Deputy James Desmond**
  - o Deputy Desmond has been employed by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office since 12-03-2012. He is 25 years old.
- **Deputy Earnest Johnson**
  - o Deputy Johnson has been employed by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office since 08-15-2010. He is 46 years old.

The deceased is identified as:

- **Taylor Kendall Hodge W/M DOB/02-13-1991** of Brooksville.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement was notified and will be investigating the case. As per standard protocol both deputies have been placed on paid administrative leave.

#### **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.