



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Underage Alcohol Sales and Compliance Checks - February 2017

Date: February 21, 2017

On 02-17-17, undercover detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office conducted Compliance Checks and Alcohol Buys at various locations throughout Hernando County. A total of seven convenience stores were visited throughout the evening.

At the conclusion of the operation, three clerks **did not permit** the sale of alcoholic beverages to the underage customer, successfully following the law. Four businesses **did allow** the underage customer to purchase an alcoholic beverage, a violation of the Florida Beverage Law, F.S.S. 562.11.

In lieu of being charged, the offenders agree to attend a Promoting Retailers Education Program which is administered by the Hernando County Community Anti-Drug Coalition. This program reinforces the importance of responsible alcohol and tobacco sales and service, reviews Florida beverage laws, and demonstrates practices on how to prevent alcohol sales to underage persons.

Stores in VIOLATION (allowed the sale of alcohol to underage person) were as follows:

- A & H Liquor and Wine – 7232 Brookridge Central Boulevard, Brooksville, FL
- A Plus Mini Market – 7170 Barclay Avenue, Spring Hill, FL
- Bill's Food Mart – 4121 Deltona Boulevard, Spring Hill, FL
- BP – 13075 Spring Hill Drive, Spring Hill, FL.

Stores in COMPLIANCE (did not allow the sale of alcohol to under age person) were as follows:

- Circle K – 14195 Elgin Boulevard, Spring Hill, FL
- Cumberland Farms – 5244 Mariner Boulevard, Spring Hill, FL
- 7-Eleven – 15310 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, FL.

More operations of this nature are planned for the future.

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.