



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Dog Bites Sergeant Responding to Call for Service

Date: May 31, 2017

On 05-31-17 at approximately 11 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's Deputies and an Animal Enforcement Officer were dispatched to a call for service in the 9600 block of River Road in Spring Hill.

The male caller advised dispatchers his dog was attacked by a neighbor's dog. During the attack (and before placing the call to HCSO), the male caller shot the neighbor's dog.

While responding to the call, deputies learned that the injured dog was being taken to a veterinarian by its owner. The dog is reportedly in very critical condition.

Upon arrival on scene, Sergeant Dustin Mormando exited his vehicle and was walking on the sidewalk toward the residence of the original caller. The caller, along with his dog that had reportedly been attacked by the neighbor's dog, were walking on the caller's property.

Suddenly, the dog left his owner's side, charging at Sergeant Mormando. Sergeant Mormando quickly retreated to the street, attempting to get back to his vehicle. Within seconds, the dog caught up to Sergeant Mormando, biting him on the right thigh.

Sergeant Mormando immediately drew his service weapon and discharged it at the dog. The dog released him and ran back to his owner. The dog was not hit by the gunfire.

Sergeant Mormando suffered minor injuries from the dog bite and is being treated by a local physician.

The case is still active with charges pending.

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.