



## 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:** Craigslist Rental Scams on the Rise

**Date:** June 12, 2017

---

There has been a recent resurgence of property rental scams in Hernando County.

These scams are being facilitated through Craigslist ads, where scammers are posting legitimate property listings from real estate websites while trying to illegally rent the properties to unwitting victims.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office Economic Crimes Unit urges sellers and realtors to be vigilant in monitoring Craigslist to determine if their properties have been illegally posted – and have the listings removed. Potential buyers and renters should also perform their due diligence when searching for properties by researching owner information on the Hernando County Property Appraiser's website.

#### **How to Spot a Craigslist Scam:**

- Rentals listed at an unbelievable price
- Wire money requests
- Requesting too much personal information
- Suspicious story or out-of-town landlord
- Incorrect information

#### **How to Avoid Falling Prey to a Craigslist Rental Scam:**

- Insist on meeting in person
- Do not wire transfer money
- Guard your money and information
- Do your research
- Reverse Image Search - *right-click the images and select "Search Google for image."*  
*Doing so will allow you to see if the same pics have been used in postings anywhere else on the web.*

## **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.**