



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Escaped Inmate - Captured

**Date:** August 17, 2017

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On 08-17-17 just before 9 a.m., operators in the Emergency Communications Center at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call from a resident on Jenkins Avenue in Masaryktown, reporting a suspicious person.

The caller advised that a male, who she believed was the escaped inmate Joshua Holmes, was on the back porch of a home on Jenkins Avenue. Deputies were dispatched immediately.

Upon arrival, deputies observed an individual on the roof of the residence. The individual jumped off the roof and fled into a wooded area. Deputies gave chase, losing sight of the individual.

K-9 teams and the Aviation Unit were dispatched to the scene while deputies secured a perimeter in the area.

During this time, units on scene received information from residents that the individual was, in fact, escaped inmate Joshua Holmes. Holmes had ties to the neighborhood and residents were familiar with him.

Not long after the initial sighting, a Text-2-911 call was received in the Emergency Communications Center from a resident on Grand Avenue in Masaryktown. The text message stated that the suspect was at the address on Grand Avenue. Numerous deputies responded to the address.

Upon arrival, Sergeant Tom Brooks observed a female (clearly in fear) and two small children fleeing from the residence. The female and her children were removed to a safe location by another deputy while Sergeant Brooks and other deputies secured the residence.

A search of the interior of the residence yielded negative results for the suspect.

Having arrived on scene first, Sergeant Tom Brooks believed the suspect had not had time to flee from the residence and was probably hiding in the attic. Brooks and other units made entry into the attic and located Holmes hiding.

When deputies engaged Holmes, he refused to comply with lawful commands and continued to evade them, inside the attic. During this time, Holmes fell through the attic/ceiling into the house. He then jumped out a window, where deputies awaited his arrival.

Holmes was immediately taken into custody.

Holmes was treated on scene by Hernando County Fire/Rescue as he received injuries from falling through the ceiling and jumping out the window. He was then transported to a local hospital for additional treatment.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis would like to thank all agencies and personnel who assisted in the search and capture of Holmes, to include the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Florida Department of Corrections, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

#### **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.**