



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Michael Terry  
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**Re:** HCSO Partners with ICE for Immigration Enforcement in Hernando County

**Date:** December 28, 2017

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The Hernando County Sheriff's Office recently received word from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that its application to participate in the 287(g) Program has been approved.

The **287(g) Program**, one of ICE's top partnership initiatives, allows a state or local law enforcement entity, like the HCSO, to enter into a partnership with ICE, under a joint Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), in order to receive delegated authority for immigration enforcement within their jurisdictions.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "Illegal immigration is a very emotional and complicated issue. Our goal is to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain those here illegally, without violating the rights of U.S. Citizens."

In November, ICE convened a meeting of the 287(g) Program Advisory Board, at which time the HCSO's request to participate in the program was recommended for approval.

On Dec. 12, Acting ICE Director Thomas D. Homan officially approved the HCSO's request for Declaration of Authority under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The HCSO will be in contact with ICE's Miami field office during the coming weeks regarding implementation of an MOA with ICE for immigration enforcement within Hernando County.

**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.**