



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: HVAC Issues at Hernando County Detention Center

Date: January 8, 2018

On 01-02-18, the Hernando County Detention Center began experiencing heating issues in several areas of the facility. It is important to note that these issues were not isolated to inmate housing areas. The HCSO Detention Center Maintenance Crew and Hernando County Facilities Maintenance began working to resolve the issue. Replacement parts were ordered and repair is scheduled as soon as the parts arrive. During this time the HCSO Detention Center staff were authorized to issue additional blankets to inmates, upon request.

On 01-04-18 at approximately 8 p.m., a gas leak was discovered in the Alpha Pod (inmate housing unit). Hernando County Fire Rescue was summoned to assess the situation. It was determined that natural gas levels were elevated in an area of the Alpha Pod. The inmates housed in this immediate area were relocated to a different housing area. Six (known) inmates claimed to be affected by this incident. All six inmates were triaged by medical staff and cleared with no medical concerns. The affected area of the Alpha Pod was ventilated for approximately seven hours. Inmates were returned to the Alpha Pod in the morning.

On 01-05-18, Hernando County Facilities Maintenance and a private HVAC vendor worked on the HVAC systems until the close of business.

On 01-08-18, repairs are still ongoing to HVAC systems. Repair crews are awaiting the arrival of parts mentioned above. Representatives from Hernando County Facilities Maintenance advised that by the end of business on 01-09-18, 85% of the HVAC systems at the Hernando County Detention Center will be functioning properly.

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.