



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Sheriff Warns Retailers of Telephone Scam

**Date:** January 19, 2018

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Sheriff Al Nienhuis is warning retailers and other business owners of another telephone scam plaguing Hernando County.

This new scam involves an individual calling a retail establishment identifying themselves as a representative from “corporate” (the suspect). The suspect asks to speak to a manager or someone in charge at the establishment. Once in contact with the manager or person in charge, the suspect advises that the retail establishment’s taxes are in arrears and that if the manager does not rectify this situation immediately, he or she will be “arrested or detained.” The manager is then advised to remove a given amount of money from the cash register or safe and to go purchase Green Dot Cards (pre-paid debit cards).

Once the cards have been purchased, the numbers from the cards are supplied to the suspect via telephone. The manager is then directed to mail the cards to a bogus address.

It should be noted that once the numbers from the cards are provided to the suspect, the funds are immediately withdrawn from the pre-paid debit card. There is no need for them to be mailed, it is just another part of the scam to confuse the retailer.

If you or any representative from your business receive a call like this, please do not fall victim to this scam. You should never place money on a Green Dot Card for someone you do not know personally. If anyone pretending to be in an official capacity attempts to persuade you to put money on a pre-paid card, you should assume it is a scam.

If you have already fallen victim to this scam (and you are in Hernando County), please call our office at 352-754-6830. Outside the county, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

### **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.