



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Hernando County Detention Center Passes Scheduled Annual Florida Model
Jail Standards Inspection

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Sheriff Al Nienhuis is pleased to report that on January 30, 2024, the Hernando County Detention Center successfully passed its annual scheduled Florida Model Jail Standards Inspection, drawing high praise from inspectors from the Sheriff's Offices of Marion County, Pinellas County, Seminole County and Sumter County, along with inspectors from Pasco County Corrections.

This is the 14th consecutive inspection that the facility has passed while being operated by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

The Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) are the statutorily mandated minimum standards that jails across Florida must meet to ensure the constitutional rights of those incarcerated are upheld. Prior to 1996, the Florida Department of Corrections was responsible for the standards and inspection process for local county jails through the Office of the Inspector General.

Legislation was passed in 1996 that gave the authority of inspections to the local level. This change required the Florida Sheriffs Association and Florida Association of Counties to appoint individuals to serve on a Committee that would govern standards that local jails must comply with.

Taken over by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office in August of 2010, this annual inspection of both detention and medical operations ensures that the Hernando County Detention Center and Sheriff's Office staff meet or exceed the minimum performance standards to operate a constitutional jail in the state of Florida.

The Inspection Team, led by outside law enforcement agencies, scrutinized both the conditions and policies of the Detention Center, continually praising daily operations and found all to be well above minimum standards.

Twenty different areas were inspected to include housing, kitchen, medical, programs and sanitation. Inmate disciplinary actions and reports were also examined. Both inmates and staff were interviewed at length for an independent view of daily operations.

The Lead Operations Inspector wrote in the final report, “During the course of the inspection, we highly commended them (HCDC staff) on the cleanliness of their facility, and the professionalism demonstrated by all of the staff members we encountered during the inspection.” The Lead Operations Inspector continued, “In addition, several inmates were interviewed regarding confinement conditions; none expressed any significant complaints.”

The Lead Medical Inspector wrote in the final report, “It was evident during our inspection that your staff and leadership work diligently daily to provide high-quality care to your population. I commend your team for their effort in making your facility run smoothly and ensuring consistent care for your inmates.”

“Over the last 14 years we have maintained a culture of being inspection-ready at all times. The praise received from the FMJS inspectors is an absolute testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff who do the job day in and day out. It is an honor to work alongside these hidden heroes,” said Major Shaun Klucznik.