



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Sergeant Donna Black
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Re: Interactive Crime Mapping

Date: July 7, 2008

Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent is proud to announce to the public the launching of a new interactive crime mapping program. The mapping technology utilizes Google Maps to further enhance the viewing of reported crime in unincorporated Hernando County.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is the 6th Law Enforcement Agency in the United States to utilize this innovative program.

The public is able to access to program via the Hernando County Sheriff's Office website www.hernadosheriff.org Once on the crime mapping site the public can view reported crime within Hernando County or even more specific a radius around their address.

The search will only produce current crimes that occurred within the past 30 days. The program doesn't allow for historical data. The crime information is updated every morning at 6:00 a.m. 7 days a week.

Due to exemptions imposed by the Florida Public Records Law, Chapter 119, some restrictions apply therefore some crimes will not appear. Examples are child abuse, sexual assaults, exploitation of the elderly, and stalking. The laws are clear that the identity of the victims of those types of crimes must be protected.

The public may even choose to sign up to be notified about recent crimes occurring within a specified radius of their address. This is accomplished by accessing the crime mapping site.

The program allows anyone with access to a computer the ability to search for crimes in areas and neighbors of Hernando County which they are considering moving in to. This will assist potential new residents from out of town to make a housing decision.

Cost is always a big question. This program is not supported by tax payer's money. The monthly program fee of \$250.00 is paid from Federal Forfeiture Funds. Essentially that means that criminals are paying to catch criminals which Sheriff Nugent feels is an excellent use of drug money. The actual program fees were waived by the Crime Mapping company since our agency is already using other Crime Mapping programs.

Why is the program important? Sheriff Richard Nugent believes the program can assist reducing crime through better informed citizenry and provides another tool to keep the public involved in their community.