



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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### Media Release

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**From:** Sergeant Donna Black  
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

**Re:** Emily Vernon arrested for DUI Property Damage

**Date:** July 21, 2008

**Case#:** 2008-22789

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Emily Dawn Vernon, current Finance Director for the Hernando County Sheriff's Office was arrested today for one count of DUI Property Damage.

The arrest stems from a single car accident that occurred on July 11, 2008 on Lake Lindsey Road approximately 1 mile West of Daly Road in Brooksville. Witnesses called Hernando County Sheriff's Office dispatch to advise of a reckless motorist traveling northbound on US 41. The witnesses lost sight of the vehicle for a short period of time. When all three witnesses caught up with the vehicle again they observed that it had crashed into a road sign. Ms. Vernon was outside of the vehicle. At the time of the initial reporting there was no one on scene that could place Ms. Vernon behind the wheel at the time of the crash. Due to the lack of a witness to put her behind the wheel (wheel witness) Emily Vernon was not charged with DUI Property Damage Crash. Hernando County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Matt Lillibridge did later confer with State Attorney Prosecutor Don Barbee who agreed with the decision due to the lack of a "wheel witness".

On 7/15/08 Sgt. Lillibridge received notification that four separate citizens had been on the scene at the time of the crash and witnessed Ms. Vernon exiting the vehicle but they had left without waiting for Law Enforcement. Due to the new information presented to law enforcement, the DUI accident was re-opened and the witnesses interviewed. Two of the four witnesses positively identified Ms. Vernon from a Photo Pack presented by Hernando County Deputies. Armed with witnesses that could put Ms. Vernon behind the wheel at the time of the crash, an affidavit was prepared by Hernando County Deputy G. Mulverhill charging Emily Vernon with one count of DUI Property Damage.

The case was sent to the State Attorney's Office for review and a Capias was issued by Prosecutor D. Robert Lewis, State Attorney's Office for one count of DUI- Impairment-Property Damage (M1) 316.193 bond amount \$500.00