



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

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

Re: Paving Scheme

Date: December 9, 2008

Case#: 2008-39811

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office would like to alert the public about a transient "paving" crew working our area.

On December 5, 2008 a group of (4) white males knocked on a residence door located on Tayco Drive, Off Sunshine Grove Road, posing as a work crew for a paving company. The resident who is 77 years old opened the door and had a conversation with the 'paving' crew men. The men tried to convince her to let them "pave" her driveway. The victim told them she did not have any money and could not afford to pay. The scammers went ahead and "paved" her driveway despite her protest. Once they were finished throwing down some black colored gravel on the driveway, they tried to charge her \$7,000.00 for the work completed. The (4) males actually entered the elderly female's residence and tried to talk her into calling multiple banks to get the money. Finally she responded to her bank in attempt to withdraw money where the bank teller called law enforcement for her.

The victim described the vehicles that the suspects were driving as follows: the main vehicle was a dump truck, the cab was orange, the top portion of the rear of the dump truck was yellow and the bottom part was black. She advised that it was towing some type of equipment trailer. She advised that the other two vehicles were white pick up trucks, the make and model are unknown.

It appears this incident is part of a transient criminal group, known as the Travelers. This scam occurs year after year and is prevalent during this time of year all over the State of Florida. If anyone has had contact with this group please contact Hernando County Sheriff's Detective Ed Ciccone, 352-754-6830.

Please remember to be very cautious about doing business with people who come knocking on your door. In these days and time we urge our citizens not to let strangers into their houses. If someone makes you feel threatened or enters your home uninvited call 911 immediately.

If you have information regarding this crime, please contact the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the Hernando County Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-866-990-8477(TIPS) or you may email your tip by clicking below.

<http://www.hernandosheriff.org/Tips/>

You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.