



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Sheriff to Unveil Crime Prevention Vehicles

Date: May 16, 2018

Deputy Mike Woodward, a Community Policing Deputy with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, was trying to think of innovative ways to get crime prevention messages out to as many people in Hernando County as possible, when he came up with this...

Being that our deputies drive their vehicles all over the county for numerous hours every day, what about wrapping the patrol vehicle with a crime prevention message?

There are so many crime prevention messages, which one(s) should we choose?

Recently, deputies have observed an increase in vehicle burglaries, in most cases the vehicles were left unlocked. We post messages on our social media accounts daily, send out media releases, even talk on the television and the radio about it. The problem persists.

While conducting investigations and follow-ups, the one statement that Deputy Woodward kept hearing (and saying) over and over again was "If you see something, say something." Deputy Woodward said, "If people would just call us when they actually see something, we would have a much better chance of solving the crime(s). Many times they wait until we get there and start asking questions, or we are conducting a follow-up, then they tell us. The sooner we have the information, the better."

After careful consideration, Woodward decided it was these two messages that he wanted on the vehicle wraps. "Lock It or Lose It" and "If You See Something, Say Something." He presented the idea to his chain of command and received approval.

Not having any artistic abilities, Woodward was in a quandary. How would he begin to design the wraps?

Suddenly, Woodward was temporarily assigned to the cover the School Resource Deputy position at Nature Coast Technical High School (NCTHS) for three weeks while the regular SRO completed a special assignment. During his time at the school, Woodward noted there was a Graphic Arts class there. Maybe the students would like to design the vehicle wraps?

Deputy Woodward contacted the Graphic Arts teacher, Mr. Trevor Barlow, and told him about his idea. Barlow loved the idea and promptly launched a class project.

Numerous submission were received from the students. It was virtually impossible to select just one of each design. A collective decision was made to design two vehicle wraps, using artwork from several of the submissions.

Deputy Woodward then obtained quotes to have the wraps made.

Illusions, Inc. was selected to make the vehicle wraps and complete the project.

Within two weeks, the wraps were completed and installed on both vehicles.

On Wednesday, 05-23-18 at 9 a.m., Sheriff Nienhuis will unveil both newly wrapped vehicles to the public, the media, and the students, staff and faculty at NCTHS.

The students from Mr. Barlow's Graphic Arts class will be on hand at the event as will a representative from Illusions, Inc. The talent demonstrated by these students in creating the designs used to wrap the vehicles.

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.