



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

**Re:** Paraprofessional Arrested for Possession of Firearm on School Grounds

**Date:** October 4, 2018

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On 10-04-18 at approximately 1:03 p.m., operators in the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center received a text to 9-1-1 call regarding a possible firearm on the campus of Central High School.

The School Resource Deputy was notified immediately, and patrol deputies were dispatched to the campus.

The person who texted 9-1-1 provided the operator with the name of the person who reportedly had a firearm. The person was identified as Ronald Ralph, Jr. This information was relayed to deputies.

Upon contact with Ronald Ralph, Jr., a Paraprofessional on the campus, Mr. Ralph advised deputies that he did have a .380 caliber pistol in the center console of his vehicle.

With assistance from school administrators, deputies located said firearm in the center console of Mr. Ralph's vehicle.

**Ronald Ralph Jr. W/M DOB/06-26-1970** was placed into custody and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center. He was charged as follows:

- Possession of a Firearm on School Grounds
- Bond - \$2,000.

The investigation is still active. No additional information can be released at this time.

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.