



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Inmate Resuscitated at the Hernando County Detention Center

Date: February 13, 2019

On 02-12-19 at approximately 8 p.m., an inmate at the Hernando County Detention Center experienced a medical emergency.

Detention deputies were alerted by another inmate that an inmate, who was previously walking around, talking, and acting normal, had just become unresponsive. Detention deputies immediately radioed medical staff and responded to the cell where the inmate was located.

The medical emergency quickly escalated to a full code - the inmate was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Detention Center staff immediately began CPR. An AED was then applied to the inmate. The AED fired twice and the inmate's heart began beating again.

The inmate became stable enough to transport and was taken to a local hospital. Once at the hospital, the inmate was intubated (placed on a breathing machine) and admitted into the Intensive Care Unit .

The inmate, who was booked into the facility on 02-11-19, showed the presence of methamphetamine and benzodiazepines in a toxicology report. It is believed this is residual from recent and prolonged drug use, outside the facility.

Upon initial intake at the detention center, the inmate indicated regular use of IV drugs and pills.

We do not believe that any illegal substances were introduced into the facility and/or given to any inmate.

The inmate remains hospitalized.

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.