



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Hernando County Deputies Assist Sumter County Deputies in Arresting  
Armed and Dangerous Felon

**Date:** July 22, 2019

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In the early morning hours on 07-22-19, the Sumter County Sheriff's Office contacted the Hernando County Sheriff's Office to request assistance in locating and arresting Charles Rice. Rice had multiple felony warrants for his arrest from Sumter County and was considered armed and dangerous.

Sumter County Sheriff's deputies believed that Rice was located at 7306 Slingshot Drive, on the extreme eastern side of Hernando County.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, along with their Bearcat (armored vehicle) had just cleared an activation in Sumter County, and responded to Hernando County to assist with the apprehension attempt.

As the Sumter County Sheriff's Bearcat approached the front of the residence, Rice fled out the back door.

Hernando County Sheriff's K-9 Deputy Greg Locke who was waiting nearby, ordered Rice to stop or the K-9 would be released. Rice ignored the lawful commands and continued to flee. Deputy Locke deployed K-9 Argo, who tracked for a short distance and located Rice hiding in thick brush. The deputies were unable to see Rice due to the thick brush.

K-9 Argo apprehended Rice, biting him on the lower left leg/shin.

Rice was treated on scene for the dog bite, then transported to a local hospital for additional treatment.

Once cleared from the hospital, Rice was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he will be held on the Sumter County Warrant. Rice's charges are listed below:

- Count 1 - Possession of Short Barreled Gun – No Bond
- Count 2 - Fleeing to Elude Police – No Bond
- Count 3 - Violation of Injunction for Protection from Domestic Violence – No Bond
- Count 4 - Violation of Injunction for Protection from Domestic Violence – No Bond
- Count 5 - Resist Office w/o Violence – No Bond
- Count 6 - Drive While License Suspended – No Bond
- Count 7 - Domestic Battery – No Bond – No Bond
- Count 8 - Domestic Battery – No Bond – No Bond
- Count 9 - Knowingly and Intentionally Discharging a Firearm from a Moving Vehicle – No Bond

#### **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, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.