Media Release

From: **Michael Terry**
              Community Relations Specialist, 352-797-3608

Re: **UPDATE -- Operation Safe Surrender – New Date**

Date: **September 9, 2019**

Update

The new date selected for Operation Safe Surrender is **Saturday, 09-21-19**. All other aspects of the operation are the same.

Update – 08-30-19

Due to the possible effects of Hurricane Dorian, Operation Safe Surrender, which was scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8, has been postponed.

The program will be rescheduled at a later date.

Original information

Sheriff Al Nienhuis is pleased to announce another Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Operation Safe Surrender.

Operation Safe Surrender was introduced in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2005, by U.S. Marshal Pete Elliott. After losing a fellow officer in June of 2000, Elliott designed the program in hopes that fewer law enforcement officers would be hurt or killed in the line of duty.

Since the inception of Operation Safe Surrender, more than 35,000 individuals have surrendered voluntarily throughout the United States.

Several law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Florida have participated in events similar to this and have experienced great success, saving wanted persons time, money, resources, and embarrassment.

Operation Safe Surrender allows individuals with non-violent misdemeanor warrants a chance to have their warrant reviewed, and potentially resolved, instead of being arrested. Additionally, Operation Safe Surrender is not an amnesty program, but will offer favorable

consideration from the Court.

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.

Representatives from numerous agencies are working together to coordinate this event. These agencies are the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Hernando County Court, Hernando County State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Hernando County Clerk of Circuit Court.

There are currently over 650 misdemeanor warrants on file at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. Those individuals with warrants for non-violent offenses (retail theft, unlicensed animal, trespass, etc.), are encouraged to contact the Warrants Division at 352-797-3654 to determine if they qualify for Operation Safe Surrender.

Hernando County Operation Safe Surrender

• Date
o Saturday, September 7, 2019
• Time
o 9 a.m. to noon
• Location
o Hernando County Courthouse
20 N. Main Street
First Floor – Courtroom D
Brooksville, FL 34601
• Important Information
o Please bring a valid photo ID
o No weapons or children are allowed
o Fines and/or fees may be reduced and collected at the event.

Please direct all question to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Warrants Division at 352-797-3654.

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