



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Detectives Seeking Information on Aggravated Assault on Law Enforcement Officer

Date: September 13, 2019

On 09-12-19 just before midnight, a Hernando County deputy conducted a Traffic Stop on County Line Road, just east of the Suncoast Parkway, in the eastbound lanes (on the south side of the roadway) in Spring Hill.

Just after midnight, the deputy completed the Traffic Stop and handed the driver his identification back. As the deputy began to walk back to his patrol vehicle, he observed a white colored sedan travelling westbound on County Line Road. The deputy observed the driver of the white sedan to be light skinned male, as the driver's window was down.

As the driver passed the deputy, the deputy observed the driver put his arm out the driver's window, point a firearm into the air, and fire off two rounds. The deputy observed the muzzle flash, at least twice.

The deputy immediately took cover between his own (patrol) vehicle and the vehicle he had pulled over.

The deputy advised dispatch of what had just occurred.

The driver of the white sedan sped off, westbound on County Line Road, at a high rate of speed.

The deputy immediately checked on the driver of the vehicle he had pulled over. The driver was not injured.

The deputy then got into his patrol vehicle and attempted to locate the white sedan. Other units were being dispatched and were self-dispatching to the area in an effort to assist in locating the white sedan.

Patrol deputies from the Pasco Sheriff's Office and Troopers from the Florida Highway Patrol also responded to the area to assist in the search. The search yielded negative results.

On 09-13-19 at approximately 2:40 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies received information from another party in the same general area, (approximately two and a half hours later) stating they had just experienced a similar situation.

The investigation remains active.

Anyone with information on this incident(s) is asked to contact the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Major Case Unit, at 352-754-6830.

If you have information and would like to remain anonymous – Please call Hernando County Crime Stoppers at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> . You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$3,000 cash!

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.