



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Michael Terry  
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**Re:** Hernando County Detention Center Offers FLOW program for Inmates to Obtain Florida Identification Card

**Date:** September 26, 2019

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The staff at the Hernando County Detention Center is continuing to find new ways to assist inmates upon their release from jail.

One obstacle many inmates face upon release is the lack of a valid Florida Identification Card. Such an identification card is needed for everything from signing up for formal schooling to applying for state and federal aid.

In an effort to combat this challenge, the Hernando County Detention Center has partnered with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to make available the “Florida Licensing on Wheels” program (FLOW) to inmates who are nearing their release date.

As part of the program, a FLOW mobile unit comes to the facility to assist inmates in obtaining a valid identification card prior to their release. The first step is ensuring the inmate doesn’t currently have a license in their possession. A detention deputy will then confirm each individual is REAL ID compliant prior to registering them to participate in the FLOW program.

REAL ID is a nationwide effort to improve the integrity and security of state-issued driver licenses and ID cards, which in turn will help fight terrorism and reduce identity fraud.

FLOW is currently being utilized in Citrus, Clay, Collier, Highlands, Lee, Orange and Walton counties. Inmates must pay a \$25 fee to participate in the program. For those inmates who are indigent, there is no charge. The cost will be subsidized by the jail’s Inmate Welfare Fund.

Earlier this month, 20 inmates utilized the FLOW program to obtain a valid Florida Identification Card during its first visit to the Hernando County Detention Center.

The plan is to have the FLOW mobile unit return to the jail as additional inmates request assistance to obtain a valid Florida Identification Card.

“Having a valid ID may, in some small way, reduce the likelihood of an inmate returning to jail,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. “If even a couple of inmates use this program as a first step to becoming productive citizens, it is well worth the effort. We certainly appreciate our partnership with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and their willingness to help.”

**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.**