



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: HCSO Investigates Christmas Eve Shooting/Stolen Vehicle Incident in
Brooksville

Date: December 26, 2019

On 12-24-2019 at 5:02 a.m., Hernando County sheriff's deputies responded to the area of Cedar Avenue in the city of Brooksville regarding a report of a possible carjacking.

A homeowner in the area advised being awakened by the sound of gunshots between 4:30 and 4:45 a.m. He then heard his front door open and water running in the bathroom.

The witness told deputies he entered the bathroom where he discovered his son's friend bleeding from the face. The friend had been staying at the residence with his son prior to the incident.

The victim told deputies he was outside sitting in his truck when he heard gunshots. Deputies noted there appeared to be evidence at the scene that shots were fired in the area.

The victim said he fled the area to seek shelter. When the victim returned his truck was gone.

The victim was taken to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The stolen vehicle was recovered a short time later abandoned in Brooksville.

The investigation remains active and no additional details are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830, or 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/>.

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.