



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

**Re:** Update #1 - Weapons Disturbance Results in Deputy-Involved Shooting

**Date:** February 4, 2020

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#### Update

The deceased suspect is identified as **Vincent A. Conti W/M DOB/08-20-1995**.

The injured victim, who was shot by the suspect prior to the arrival of the first deputy, is still hospitalized, listed in stable condition.

As per standard protocol, the deputy involved in this incident was placed on paid administrative leave.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is handling the deputy-involved shooting investigation and will work closely with the State Attorney's Office to determine if the use of force was justified.

The HCSO also investigates the incident internally to ensure agency policy and law enforcement best practices were followed.

#### Original Information 02-01-2020

On 02-01-2020 at 2:33 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 5000 block of Golf Club Lane in Spring Hill (Silverthorn subdivision) regarding a Weapons Disturbance.

The 9-1-1 caller told the operator that a family member had a firearm and was threatening family members with it. Almost immediately, the caller told the 9-1-1 operator that the suspect was firing the weapon, inside the residence.

At some point prior to the arrival of the first deputy, the suspect shot a family member inside the residence (not the caller).

The first unit was arriving on scene at 2:36 p.m. He requested the dispatcher to direct the caller and any other family members to step outside.

At 2:37 p.m., as the deputy began to exit his vehicle, the suspect began firing at the deputy, from inside the house, through a window. The deputy took cover in a neighbor's garage and returned fire. During the gunfire exchange, the deputy was "pinned down" and unable to move to any other location.

The suspect quickly exited the house through the front door and continued firing at the deputy. The deputy, now outside of the garage, continued to return fire.

The deputy advised numerous times over the radio that shots were being fired and he needed more units.

The suspect continued to fire at the deputy.

At 2:39 p.m., the deputy advised the dispatcher that he believed the suspect was "down."

The deputy was treated on scene by Hernando County Fire Rescue for injuries he received while attempting to avoid being struck by the suspect's gunfire.

The family member, a male, who was shot by the victim was flown to a local trauma center. His condition is unknown at this time.

The suspect is deceased.

There is no additional information available at this time. When additional information is available, we will provide an update via Media Release/Media Alert.

#### **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.**