



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Sheriff Warns of Paving Scam

Date: February 5, 2020

With spring around the corner, and the weather beginning to warm, Asphalt Paving becomes a source of scams across the country. Roving bands of criminals travel through Florida soliciting communities such as ours with paving “deals.” Oftentimes these individuals target senior citizens, but they will exploit anyone who will pay them.

In an effort to thwart the furtherance of these Asphalt Paving scams, our Economic Crimes detectives have compiled a list of warning signs to protect our citizens.

- Selling door-to-door. Legitimate asphalt paving companies will typically not go door-to-door offering work. Legitimate companies are out doing what they do best - paving. Scammers will claim that they have leftover asphalt from another job. Legitimate companies accurately plan how much paving material is needed to complete a project. Rarely will they have leftover material, leftovers cost them money.
- Don't get pushed into making a quick decision. This is a common trait of most scams. Reputable contractors provide written estimates that will be valid for a period of time. If the great deal they are offering you today is not available tomorrow or next week, it is probably a scam.
- Demand a written contract, specifying in detail, the work to be performed and the agreed total price. If the price changes during the job or just before the job begins, this should be a red-flag of a potential scam.
- Be wary of cash only sales. In this day and age, most reputable contractors take checks or credit cards and don't require cash.

- Remember, typically you get what you pay for. A super low price will probably be reflected by a low quality work.
- Asphalt companies are proud of their businesses and use signage to generate new business. Crews showing up in unmarked trucks could be indicative of a hastily fabricated scam. If they have markings, confirm that they are local. A successful paving business shouldn't need to travel long distances to generate customers.
- Ask for references and contact them. Go see the completed work if possible.
- Use the internet. Search the business name with your favorite search engine. Are there any reviews? Does the business name come up in any forums discussing fraud or scams?

Properly constructed asphalt paving should last for many years. Legitimate paving companies will guarantee and stand by their work. Do your research before spending your hard-earned dollars on an unknown paving company. There are many paving company options available to you. Know who you are giving your money to. It could end up costing you more in the end.

To report any person(s) conducting or attempting to conduct this type of activity, please contact the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830.

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.