

Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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Re: Sheriff Reminds Citizens of Operation 'Eyes on the Street' and 'Neighbors'

App by Ring

Date: February 12, 2020

Operation Eyes on the Street

Sheriff Al Nienhuis would like to remind citizens of an initiative, started about five years ago, to assist law enforcement officers in Hernando County in solving crimes.

"Eyes on the Street" is an initiative of Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhuis, designed to utilize the assistance of citizens and businesses throughout Hernando County in the fight against criminal activity. By voluntarily completing the registration form, detectives will be able to contact the participating citizens and/or businesses for possible investigative leads when crimes occur in specific areas.

The program registry has been named "Eyes on the Street" and will serve as a log of all security cameras and/or surveillance systems throughout Hernando County.

If you have security cameras and/or surveillance systems **and would like to participate** in the "Eyes on the Streets" initiative, please visit the Hernando County Sheriff's Office website and complete the registration form.

http://www.hernandosheriff.org/Applications/CameraRegistration/

All information provided to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office regarding your surveillance system will be for official use only. Personal information will not be available for public dissemination and is protected under Florida State Statute, Chapter 119.071, which is exempt from public record.

Security cameras and/or surveillance systems can provide crucial evidence and leads to solving crimes. Oftentimes, deputies and detectives waste valuable time trying to locate this

information. "Eyes on the Streets" will enable our deputies and detectives to have this information available to them.

"Con artists and other criminals are quick to use technology to further their crimes. Technology, however, has also allowed law enforcement to quickly develop suspects and hold criminals accountable. This program gets our citizens and businesses with surveillance cameras on board with our crime fighting efforts. It is a force multiplier for those of us trying to keep the community a safe place for our residents," said Sheriff Al Nienhuis.

Our goal in implementing this program is to solve crimes and to save lives.

Neighbors App by Ring

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office announced in January of 2019 that it was joining the Neighbors app (available via iOS/Android here: https://download.ring.com/hernando) to provide the Hernando County community with real-time, local crime and safety information.

The Neighbors network already has millions of users and has been instrumental in catching package thieves, stopping burglaries, and keeping neighborhoods safe.

About Neighbors

Neighbors is a neighborhood watch app that provides real-time, local crime and safety information. Download Neighbors (iOS/Android) today to join your digital neighborhood watch. For more information visit www.ring.com/neighbors.

How It Works

- Download the Neighbors app via iOS and Android here: https://download.ring.com/hernando or by texting 'hernandocounty' to 555-888 from your smartphone.
- Opt-in to join your neighborhood.
- Customize the geographic area you want to receive notifications for (users must verify where they are located and cannot participate in other neighborhoods).
- Receive real-time alerts from your neighbors, local law enforcement and the Ring team that inform of crime and safety alerts as they happen.
- View local crime and safety posts via a live feed or interactive map.
- Share text updates, photos and videos taken on any device, including Ring's home security devices.
- Work with your community to make neighborhoods safer.

About Ring

Ring's mission is to reduce crime in neighborhoods by creating a Ring of Security around homes and communities. Ring is an Amazon company. The Ring product line, along with Neighbors by Ring, enable Ring to offer affordable, whole-home and neighborhood security devices and services. In fact, one Los Angeles neighborhood saw a 55 percent decrease in home break-ins after Ring Doorbells were installed on just ten percent of homes. For more information, visit www.ring.com. With Ring, you're always home.

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.