



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Deputy-Involved Shooting Peach Orchard Road

**Date:** August 20, 2020

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On 08-19-20 at approximately 9:14 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to 15301 Peach Orchard Road in Brooksville to serve civil process (Injunction for Protection).

During the process, deputies were met with resistance. The male barricaded himself inside the structure, refusing to open the door.

Deputies established and maintained a dialogue with the male in an attempt to get him to open the door. He refused.

At approximately 12:46 a.m., while still inside the structure, the male began firing shots at the deputies who were still outside. Deputies returned fire and retreated to safer positions.

The SWAT and Crisis Response teams, along with a drone pilot, were called to the scene.

Upon arrival, the drone pilot deployed a drone into the structure. Once inside, the drone pilot identified the male to be slumped over in a chair. Entry was then made into the structure, and it was determined the male was deceased.

As per standard protocol, the deputy(s) involved in this incident have been placed on 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.

## **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 was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.**