



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Deputy Helps Man Threatening to Jump from Rooftop

Date: September 1, 2020

On 08-28-2020 at 8:40 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Covington Avenue in Spring Hill in reference to a man making threats to commit suicide.

Upon arrival, the deputy located the individual running back and forth on the rooftop with a rope tied around his neck.

The man continued to make suicidal statements while threatening to jump off the roof.

Deputy R. Rodriguez, who is certified in Crisis Intervention Training, immediately began trying to build a rapport with the individual.

Eventually the deputy was able to get the man to remove the rope from around his neck. A short time later, the man agreed to climb down from the roof. The man said he was upset about several recent family issues.

The man was placed into protective custody once he was safely back on the ground. He was then transported to Springbrook Hospital under a Baker Act.

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.