



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

Media Release

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

Re: HCSO Awarded Re-Accreditation from Commission
for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation

Date: October 23, 2020

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has been awarded Re-Accreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA).

The accreditation process measured the HCSO's compliance with 239 state-recognized standards that are deemed necessary to maintain a properly functioning and fully accountable Sheriff's Office.

"The accreditation process reviews dozens of standards and practices to ensure our agency's policies meet the high standard of best practices," Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhuis said. "Going through this stressful event makes the agency better and, at the same time, gives the public confidence that the Hernando County Sheriff's Office and its employees are doing an exceptional job at keeping our community safe."

The assessment requires an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations, and administration.

The culmination of this assessment showed the HCSO was in 100% compliance with all 209 applicable standards, while the remaining 30 were not applicable to HCSO daily operations.

These standards ensure that HCSO employees are following the best practices for law enforcement agencies as determined by the state.

The assessment team noted in their final report that "The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has ingrained accreditation into its everyday culture. This was evident by the professionalism of its members as well as their overall knowledge of the law enforcement profession."

The Commission meets three times per year to oversee the state's accreditation program and to officially accredit agencies that have passed the rigorous review process.

Lisa Iannone, HCSO Accreditation Manager said, "Achieving this reaccreditation represents our consistent commitment to professionalism, and dedication to our citizens. This accomplishment could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of every

member of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.”

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.