



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Deputy uses Drone to Locate Suicidal Subject Hiding in the Woods

Date: December 3, 2020

On 12-02-2020 at 5:31 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Winter Street in reference to a suicidal subject who had left the residence prior to law enforcement's arrival.

According to witnesses, the female subject had made statements threatening to commit self-harm and threats to harm a family member.

An initial ground search yielded negative results for the subject.

A deputy, certified in drone piloting, deployed his drone in an attempt to locate the suicidal subject.

While surveying a wooded area adjacent to Winters Street, the deputy noticed some movement along the tree line. Using the drone, the deputy was able to positively identify the person hiding in the tree line as the suicidal subject.

The deputy used the drone to direct deputies on the ground to the subject's location.

The woman was immediately taken into protective custody.

She was 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.