



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Operation Safe Surrender - 2021

Date: April 21, 2021

Sheriff Al Nienhuis is pleased to announce another collaborative effort of **Operation Safe Surrender** in Hernando County.

Operation Safe Surrender was introduced in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2005, by U.S. Marshal Pete Elliott. After losing a fellow officer in June of 2000, Elliott designed the program in hopes that fewer law enforcement officers would be hurt or killed in the line of duty.

Since the inception of **Operation Safe Surrender**, more than 35,000 individuals have surrendered voluntarily throughout the United States.

Several law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Florida have participated in events similar to this and have experienced great success, saving wanted persons time, money, resources, and embarrassment.

Operation Safe Surrender allows individuals with **non-violent** misdemeanor warrants a chance to have their warrant reviewed, and potentially resolved, instead of being arrested. Additionally, **Operation Safe Surrender** is not an amnesty program, but will offer favorable consideration from the Court.

Representatives from numerous agencies are working together to coordinate this event. These agencies are the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Hernando County Court, Hernando County State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Hernando County Clerk of Circuit Court.

There are currently over 680 misdemeanor warrants on file at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. Those individuals with warrants for non-violent offenses (retail theft, unlicensed animal, trespass, etc.), are encouraged to contact the **Warrants Division** at **352-797-3654** or

follow the link - <https://www.hernadosheriff.org/applications/records/localwarrants.aspx> to determine if they qualify for **Operation Safe Surrender**.

Hernando County Operation Safe Surrender

- **Date**
 - Friday, May 21, 2021
- **Time**
 - 9AM to 2PM
- **Location**
 - Hernando County Clerk's Office – Spring Hill Location
7405 Forest Oaks Boulevard
Spring Hill, FL 34606
- **Important Information**
 - Please bring a valid photo ID
 - No weapons or children are allowed
 - Fines and/or fees may be reduced and collected at the event.

Please direct all question to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Warrants Division at 352-797-3654.

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.