



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Receives Compliance Award for its 287g Program at the Detention Center

Date: June 4, 2021

Back in August 2020, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office completed its first formal inspection of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement 287g Program.

Participation in this program allows designated Hernando County Detention Center detention deputies to process illegal aliens as U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

The Sheriff's Office recently received a 100 percent compliance award from ICE for maintaining program standards with no discrepancies found.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, an independent, nonpartisan agency of Congress, reviewed the (ICE) 287g program operated at the Hernando County Detention Center.

The Sheriff's Office was selected to provide feedback on the program based on a number of factors to include geographic diversity, type of agreement, and length of time participating in the program.

As part of the audit, interviews with designated immigration enforcement officers in the agency were conducted to help better understand 287g participants' experiences since joining the program, carrying out immigration enforcement responsibilities, interacting with ICE supervisors, and views about the effectiveness of the program.

In addition to the interviews of the deputies, files, and training compliance, additional documentation was reviewed to establish compliance with the standards of the 297g program.

“When someone is in the country illegally and commits a crime, it is important to hold that person accountable,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. “Our close partnership with Immigration and Customs Enforcement is an important part of that commitment. The fact that our facility received a perfect score, something that is very unusual throughout the country, is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of those who work at the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office Detention Center.”

“They have a huge role in keeping our communities safe and holding violators accountable,” the Sheriff added.

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.