



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: Celebratory Gunfire – 4th of July

Date: July 2, 2021

For many communities, Independence Day is a holiday some people celebrate by firing gunshots into the air. Illogical thinking we agree, because we all know that what goes up must come down; and in these cases, it's bullets moving at deadly speed.

In years past, many people have been seriously wounded or killed by falling bullets on July 4th and New Year's Eve. Those tragic deaths and serious injuries, which resulted from stray bullets, continue to motivate Sheriff Nienhuis to remind citizens that stray bullets can injure or kill innocent bystanders.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero tolerance stance on illegal gun use at any time, especially during a holiday. Please do your part to make the holiday a happy and safe one.

“There are many ways to safely celebrate with family and friends. Discharging a firearm is NOT one of them,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. “It's just too easy for people to get hurt. Leave the firearms at home, in a safe and secure location.”

If you hear gunfire or see something suspicious, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

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.