



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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

**Re:** HCSO Investigates Two Separate Incidents Involving High School Students

**Date:** September 8, 2021

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On 09-08-2021, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office investigated two separate incidents involving two Hernando County high school students.

The first incident involved a student who attends Hernando High School.

A tip was received from FortifyFL, a suspicious activity-reporting app, indicating a specific student at Hernando High School made a post on Instagram attempting to sell an AR-15-style rifle.

The person making the report indicated the sale of the rifle might occur on school grounds.

Deputies responded to the student's home where they spoke with the student's father.

The father provided deputies access to the firearm in question, which turned out to be a BB gun. The student advised he was not planning to bring the BB gun to school.

The school was advised of the outcome of the investigation.

A second incident occurred on 09-08-2021 involving a student at Springstead High School.

School officials received multiple reports regarding a potential threat of a school shooting at Springstead High School.

Deputies were able to identify the identity of the student who supposedly made the threat.

The student was involved in a verbal altercation with a teacher just prior to being overheard by another student making the school threat.

Deputies responded to the student's home to speak with the student and his parents.

The student advised he was upset, but never made a threat to hurt anyone.

The parents signed a waiver of search for their home. Deputies did not find anything suspicious in the home to indicate the student was planning to harm anyone.

The information collected was turned over to school administration for review.

No additional details are available, on either incident, at this time.

**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.**