



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Detectives Investigating Early Morning Murder-Suicide

Date: September 23, 2021

On 09-23-21 at approximately 12:21 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence on Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville regarding reports of two persons being shot.

Within three minutes, deputies arrived to find two males lying in the roadway; both suffering from gunshot wounds. Shortly thereafter, both males were pronounced deceased on scene. Also located in the roadway, a few feet from one of the deceased persons, was a firearm.

Preliminary investigation revealed, the two deceased males, who were related to one another, have had a very close relationship and would disagree on occasion, but would reconcile within days.

Recently, the disagreements became more frequent.

On 09-23-21, after most family members went to bed, the victim and the suspect were heard arguing. As this was not uncommon, family members were not alarmed.

Within minutes, family members heard gunshots and rushed outside to check on them. After searching the property and meeting with negative results, family members located the men in the roadway. A family member then called 9-1-1 to summon help.

Preliminary investigation reveals the argument escalated to the point of the suspect producing a handgun and shooting the victim. The suspect then utilized the same handgun to take his own life.

As stated, this information is preliminary as autopsy results are pending.

There is no additional information available. The names of the deceased are not being released due to Marsy's Law and the familial relationship between the two parties.

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.