



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Sheriff Keeps Tabs on Sexual Offenders and Predators on Halloween

**Date:** November 1, 2021

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Each year on Halloween, representatives from Hernando County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Probation and Parole (Brooksville) work together to make contact with Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators who are on active probation within Hernando County.

Hernando County Sheriff's deputies assigned to the COPPS Unit, and detectives assigned to the Major Case Unit, paired up with Probation Officers to create seven teams. Armed with their lists, the teams deployed to various areas of the county and began making visits. In total, the group visited the residences of the 71 Sexual Offenders/Predators who are on active probation.

During the contact, team members made observations to determine if the offender/predator was adhering to his or her probation regulations. Most importantly, team members verified the absence of Halloween decorations (offenders/predators on probation are not permitted to decorate for Halloween) and ensured the individuals were not having any type of contact with children out trick or treating.

Further, while speaking with each predator/offender, teams provided a reminder regarding prohibited activities.

Each offender/predator was verified by his or her Florida driver's license or ID card. Additionally, team members verified the address shown on the driver's license or ID card was in fact the offender/predator's listed permanent address.

Probation officers also administered field drug testing on occasion. Results are pending.

Three offenders/predators were not at home when teams arrived. Detectives will follow-up with those individuals.

Each contact was documented appropriately and no arrests were made during the event.

***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.***