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<u>Media Release</u>

From:	Michael Terry Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608
Re:	HCSO Investigates Suspicious Incident at School Bus Stop in Ridge Manor 2022-11403
Date:	April 19, 2022

On 04-18-2022, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Ridge Manor Boulevard in reference to a report of a suspicious incident that occurred shortly after three middle-school aged children got off a school bus.

Investigation revealed the children exited the school bus shortly after 5 p.m. in the area of Ridge Manor Boulevard and Leisure Street when they noticed an unknown adult male parked in a nearby vehicle.

The children advised that the unknown man motioned for them to approach his vehicle. The children immediately ran to a nearby house where one of the children lives.

The children advised the vehicle was some sort of white SUV with a yellow and a white pinstripe along the driver side of the vehicle. It had a large tire attached to the trunk.

Deputies were able to obtain video that showed the man's vehicle was likely a white Isuzu Rodeo.

The man was described as a white male who was in his 40s or 50s and is balding.

Deputies were unable to locate an individual or vehicle that matched the description in the area.

The investigation remains active. As an added precaution, deputies plan to conduct additional patrols in the area for the foreseeable future.

Anyone with information about this incident may call the Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830.

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 reelected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.