



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Deputies Use Drone to Locate Male Threatening Self-Harm – 2022-11742

Date: April 22, 2022

On 04-21-22 at approximately 7:30 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to the area of Newhope Road in Spring Hill regarding a Suicide Threat.

Prior to deputies arriving on scene, the suicidal male fled from his residence on foot. Before he left, he placed a knife to his throat and told someone in the residence that he was going to kill himself.

Deputies immediately began searching the surrounding areas for the male.

Deputy William Harsanyi responded to Pioneer Park, which is nearby, to launch a drone. Shortly after launching, Harsanyi spotted an individual lying in a retention area behind a residence, about ¼ mile away from the scene. The individual in the retention area was wearing clothing that matched the description of the clothing worn by the suicidal male.

While continuing to monitor the individual, Harsanyi directed ground units to the area. During this time, the individual rose to his feet and attempted to conceal himself in a tree line.

The individual, who if confirmed to be the suicidal male, was thought to be armed with a knife, emerged from the tree line and began walking toward Pioneer Park.

Harsanyi continued to direct ground units to the individual he was following with the drone.

Deputies made contact with the individual and confirmed it was who they had been looking for. The male was placed into protective custody and delivered to a mental health facility under the Baker Act.

Fortunately, with the use of a drone, along with a well-trained drone operator, we located this individual before he injured himself or took his own life.

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.