



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Sheriff's Care Line Program Saves Another Life

Date: April 25, 2022

On 04-22-22, just before 9:30 a.m., a Check Well Being call was requested by a Hernando County Sheriff's Care Line clerk, as she had been unable to reach one of the clients on the Sheriff's Care Line program.

The Care Line program was created over 30 years ago by Sheriff Tom Mylander. The program is operational 24/7/365 and is designed to provide senior citizens (who live alone and/or with another senior who is ill, suffering from Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease etc.) an added sense of security. Seniors who register for this FREE program agree to call the Sheriff's Care Line one time daily, at his or her designated time, to let the clerks know they are OK. If the client doesn't call and the clerks are unable to reach them, procedures are initiated to check the client's well-being.

On 04-22-22, a client failed to call in at his designated time. The clerk attempted to contact him on his landline and his cell phone, meeting with negative results. The clerk followed a few additional protocols to ensure the client was safe, but was still unable to make contact with anyone.

A patrol deputy was dispatched to the client's residence.

As Deputy Bob Cloversettle approached the front door, he passed by the front windows of the residence. Through the windows, the deputy was able to see smoke inside the residence.

Deputy Cloversettle called out to the resident. The resident, who is wheelchair bound, yelled back in response. He requested the deputy to come inside, he needed help.

Deputy Cloversettle entered through the front door and immediately observed thick smoke, throughout the residence. The deputy then spotted the client, sitting on the living room floor in close proximity to three cardboard boxes that were on fire and partially smoldering. The client stated he had fallen out of his wheelchair.

Noting it was very difficult to breathe due to the smoke in the residence, Deputy Cloversettle attempted to place the client back in his wheelchair; however, the attempt was unsuccessful. Deputy Cloversettle dragged the client to the open front door. At that time, Deputy C. Hauenstein arrived. Both deputies then lifted the client into his wheelchair and removed him from the smoke-filled residence.

Deputies then checked the residence to ensure no one else was inside and that no other items were on fire.

Due to comments made by the client, Deputy Cloversettle placed him under the Baker Act, as there was a substantial likelihood that without care or treatment, the client may cause serious bodily harm to himself or others.

After being medically cleared at the hospital, the client was transported to a mental health facility.

If not for the Care Line, this situation may have ended in tragedy.

If you (or someone you know) would like to join the Care Line program, please visit the following link <https://www.hernandosheriff.org/Careline.aspx> or call 352-797-3690. The program is FREE.

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.