



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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From: Denise M. Moloney  
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Re: Man Charged with Aggravated Battery in Stabbing Incident – 2022-28888

Date: September 30, 2022

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On 09-27-22 at approximately 10:42 p.m., a 9-1-1 call was received in the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center regarding a Stabbing in the area of the Freedom Gardens Apartments in Brooksville. The caller/victim, told the operator he had just been stabbed in the abdomen by an unknown suspect. While the victim was unable to provide the identity of the suspect, he did provide a detailed physical description of the individual.

The physical description of the suspect was relayed to deputies responding to the call.

While responding to the area, deputies located a male, who matched the description provided, walking on Main Street. The male was detained.

In the meantime, the victim was treated on scene by Hernando County Fire and Emergency Services. Due to the severity of the stab wound, the victim was transported to a local trauma center.

Detectives arrived on scene and conducted a roadside interview with the suspect, who was identified as Zell Dean Mitchell. After initially stating he was not involved in the incident, Mitchell eventually admitted to stabbing the victim with a knife.

Mitchell told detectives the altercation started because he suspected he and the victim were both involved in a romantic relationship with the same woman.

Detectives placed **Zell Dean Mitchell DOB/05-29-1987** under arrest, charging him as follows:

- Aggravated Battery w/a Deadly Weapon
- Tampering With or Fabricating Evidence
- Bond - \$30,000.

The victim is expected to recover from his injuries.

The investigation continues.

#### *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.*