



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: Five HCSO Detention Center Staff Earn National Jail Certifications

Date: October 3, 2022

Five Hernando County Sheriff's Office Detention Center staff recently received national designations from the American Jail Association.

Lieutenant Teresa Stevens, Sgt. Justin Beetz, Sgt. Philip DiGaetano, and Sgt. Darryl Smith earned the designation of Certified Jail Manager (CJM) and Deputy Brad Collito earned the designation of Certified Jail Officer (CJO) by the authority of the American Jail Association through its Jail Manager Certification Commission.

These certifications are granted upon the successful completion of a rigid experiential background application. An intensive four-hour examination jointly prepared by the American Jail Association and the Jail Manager Certification Commission.

Certification in jail management demonstrates competency and professionalism in the field, indicates a strong level of knowledge in the specialty, and recognizes continuing education and growth.

“Seeking and attaining these designations from the American Jail Association is completely voluntary and shows their knowledge, experience, and commitment to their profession. Hernando County citizens should be very proud of the efforts and commitment of these professionals to the mission of running a constitutional jail,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis.

The American Jail Association is a national, nonprofit, educational organization that delivers professional development, personal certification, and advocacy services to correctional personnel at all ranks and operational levels in the nation's 3,500-plus jails and detention facilities.

It is the only association that focuses exclusively on issues affecting today's jail professionals. The five-member commission is appointed by the association's Board of

Directors. The commission administers the Certified Jail Manager, Certified Jail Supervisor, and Certified Jail Officer programs. They also set policy and assure the three programs reflect the changing needs of the profession.

For more information, visit www.americanjail.org/certification/.

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.