



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Former Deputy Charged with Sexual Battery - 2022-13600

Date: October 14, 2022

Former Hernando County Sheriff's deputy, Zachary Carter, was arrested on 10-13-2022, and charged with one count of Sexual Battery w/No Serious Personal Injury after coercing the victim to have sexual relations with him.

Earlier this year, detectives were notified that Carter coerced the victim to have sexual relations with him on two different occasions, in two different locations. Carter, who was formerly a Hernando County Sheriff's deputy, was in uniform and on duty during both contacts. Carter indicated the victim would face arrest for failing to comply with his wishes.

A lengthy and thorough criminal investigation ensued.

Once notified of the investigation, Carter immediately resigned from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

Working closely with the State Attorney's Office, a warrant was obtained for the arrest of Zachary Carter.

Investigation revealed that Carter did, in fact, commit the acts of sexual battery, as described by the victim.

Carter turned himself in to the Pasco County Detention Center on 10-13-2022. He was charged with Sexual Battery w/No Serious Personal Injury. His bond was set at \$10,000.

Carter, who is 30 years old, worked at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office from 2018 to 2022. Carter had no previous disciplinary actions in his file.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "I'm both disappointed and appalled by the actions of this former deputy. I hold my employees to the highest standards of conduct and professionalism and will not tolerate any departure from those standards."

The investigation continues. There is no additional information available at this time.

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.