



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Investigation Into 2021 Extortion-Shooting Ends with Arrest - 2021-31874

Date: November 18, 2022

On 10-21-2021, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Union Street in Brooksville regarding a Shooting.

The victim told deputies they had received several death threats, via email, stating if they did not pay the sender \$10,000, the threat would be carried out. During the time frame the emails were sent, the suspect followed through and fired several shots into the residence and vehicle belonging to the victim.

Shell casings were found on scene. Further investigative leads led to the recovery of a firearm.

With assistance from the FDLE forensics laboratory, the firearm was confirmed to have been used in this crime.

A suspect was developed and was identified as **Jason Wells** DOB **02/15/1988**. Wells was known to the victim.

Hernando County Sheriff's detectives interviewed Jason Wells at the Reception and Medical Center (Florida Department of Corrections) located at 7765 South County Road 231 in Lake Butler, Florida, where he is serving a 10-year sentence on an unrelated case.

Wells admitted to his involvement in the incident. That, along with evidence collected during the investigation, allowed detectives to obtain a warrant for the arrest of Wells.

A warrant was issued for the charges of Extortion, Written Threats to Kill, Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling, Possession of a Firearm by Felon and Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device.

The arrest warrant will be served upon Wells, at the Florida Department of Corrections facility in Lake Butler. At a later date, he will appear in court, in Hernando County, to answer for the charges.

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.