



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Probation Officer Charged with Battery of Three Female Victims

Date: December 6, 2022

In January 2022, a female victim reported to the Florida Department of Corrections and the Hernando County Sheriff's Office that she was battered/touched and kissed inappropriately by Probation Officer Raul Marrero Jr.

She reported he had inappropriately touched her (an unwanted touch) while at her home for probationary reasons and while she was a patient in a local hospital. A cooperative investigation was immediately initiated between law enforcement and the Department of Corrections to fully investigate these allegations.

Due to these allegations Marrero was removed from his position as a probation officer and reassigned within DOC (no contact with females) while the investigations took place.

While the above case was being investigated by law enforcement, in April 2022 another female victim came forward and reported that Probation Officer Raul Marrero Jr. had inappropriately touched/battered (unwanted touch) and kissed her while at her home for probationary reasons. A second cooperative investigation with law enforcement and the Department of Corrections was initiated.

In October 2022, a third victim reported to the Department of Corrections that Probation Officer Raul Marrero Jr. had inappropriately kissed her against her will while at her home for probationary reasons. A third cooperative investigation with both law enforcement and the Department of Corrections was initiated.

As a result of all three investigations by both law enforcement and Department of Corrections, Raul Marrero Jr. was arrested on 12-06-2022 on three counts of **Misdemeanor Battery**.

Due to Marcy's Law, the victims will not be identified.

If you have any information in regards to these cases, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830.

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.