



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Detectives Investigating Suspicious Fire - 2023-02215

Date: January 20, 2023

On 01-20-23 at approximately 1:20 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies along with Hernando County Fire and Emergency Services were dispatched to a residential Structure Fire on Harwell Street in Brooksville.

The caller, a neighbor, reported the entire residence was engulfed in flames.

Hernando County Fire and Emergency Services personnel arrived on scene within 12 minutes and began an immediate attack on the fire. The fire was so intense, it took firefighters approximately 90 minutes to extinguish it.

Upon entering the residence, firefighters located multiple deceased animals of various types.

A further search of the residence revealed the remains of one individual who has yet to be identified.

It is very early in the investigation, the aforementioned information is preliminary. Hernando County Sheriff's deputies, detectives, and forensic technicians, along with investigators from the State Fire Marshal's Office remain on scene investigating the incident.

Animal Enforcement Officers (AEO), with assistance from a Livestock Officer, removed several other (uninjured) animals from the property.

The investigation continues.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!

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.