



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

### Media Release

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From: Denise M. Moloney  
Public Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Shooting Investigation – Shopping Plaza at Mariner Boulevard and County  
Line Road – 2022-17564

Date: June 14, 2022

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On 6-14-2022 at approximately 10:12 a.m., operators in the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center began receiving 9-1-1 calls in regards to a Shooting that had just occurred behind the shopping plaza at Mariner Boulevard and County Line Road in Spring Hill (plaza where Publix Supermarket is located).

The 9-1-1 callers told operators that a male was behind the plaza with a firearm and had just fired several shots into an occupied vehicle that was parked behind the plaza, striking both the driver and his dog. Callers also stated the suspect left the scene in a dark colored pick-up truck.

Upon arrival, deputies located a male and a dog, inside a vehicle. Both were suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The male was treated on scene, then transported by Hernando County Fire and Emergency Services to a local trauma center. The dog was picked up by an HCSO Animal Enforcement Officer (AEO) and transported to Hernando County Animal Services (HCAS) for immediate treatment. Once stabilized by the veterinarian at HCAS, the AEO then transported the dog to a local veterinarian for additional treatment.

Preliminary investigation revealed, the male (suspect) was involved in some sort of altercation in Pasco County. Pasco Sheriff's deputies advised during the altercation, the suspect was armed with a firearm. It is believed the suspect did not discharge the firearm during said altercation.

The suspect then drove to Hernando County and committed a Residential Burglary. After committing the burglary, the suspect drove to the shopping plaza at Mariner Boulevard and

County Line Road in Spring Hill to confront a family member Victim #1) who is known to be at that location, at that time.

When the suspect arrived at the plaza, he immediately confronted Victim #1, who was sitting in a vehicle in the rear of the plaza. The suspect, armed with a firearm, demanded money and/or valuables from Victim #1. During this altercation, a dog barked and distracted the suspect from Victim #1.

The suspect walked to the area where the barking came from. He quickly located the dog and a male in a vehicle several feet from the original altercation. It should be noted, the male with the dog was not in any way connected to the original altercation, nor was he known by the first victim and/or the suspect. The suspect raised the firearm and began firing into the second victim's vehicle, striking both the driver (Victim #2) and the dog.

The suspect then proceeded back to where the original altercation took place to look for Victim #1. Fortunately, Victim #1 was hiding and was not located by the suspect.

The suspect then got into his black pick-up truck and fled the area.

Deputies arrived on scene very quickly and began providing first aid to Victim #2. Just as deputies began providing aid, witnesses began yelling that the suspect was back. Deputies turned their attention to the suspect.

The suspect, later identified as **Randall Lynn Gerding Jr. DOB/04-29-1971**, was ordered to exit his vehicle with his hands in the air. Gerding complied at first, then appeared to begin reaching inside his vehicle for a firearm. Deputies continued to order Gerding to put his hands in the air/not reach inside his vehicle. Fortunately, Gerding complied and deputies were not required to use lethal force.

**Randall Lynn Gerding Jr.** was taken into custody and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center, where he remains.

As per Marsy's Law, we are unable to provide information on either one of the victims, other than to confirm Victim #1 is a family member of the suspect.

Victim #1 was not injured.

Victim #2 is receiving advanced care at a trauma center. His condition is classified as "stable" at this time.

The dog is also receiving veterinary care at a local veterinarian's office. The dog's condition is listed as "stable" at this time.

Both Victim #2 and his dog are expected to make a full recovery.

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.*