



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

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

Re: Detectives Arrest School Teacher for Transmission of Harmful Material to a
Minor – 2023-24963

Date: August 9, 2023

On 08-07-23, Hernando County Sheriff's detectives received information regarding inappropriate instant messages being sent to a 14-year-old student by a Hernando County school teacher.

Detectives obtained written consent (from an adult) to search the 14-year-old victim's computer.

After reviewing thousands of messages, detectives learned the teacher had been messaging the victim, almost constantly, for several months. There was very little response and/or interaction from the victim.

Upon interviewing the victim, detectives learned the messaging began when the victim was a student at Powell Middle School, where the suspect was a teacher. The victim told detectives the conversations were "weird" considering the age difference between the two, and the fact that the suspect initiated contact every day.

The victim also told detectives they felt bad ending the conversations, as the suspect had cancer and the victim was the suspect's "only friend."

Detectives confirmed the conversations took place via text message, Snapchat, and PlayStation.

Detectives learned the teacher, identified as George Beall, had just started a new position at Nature Coast Technical High School and responded there to interview him. Incidentally, the victim was slated to attend school at Nature Coast Technical High School this year.

Beall confirmed communicating with the victim via text message, Snapchat, and PlayStation, stating they communicated about "anything and everything" and confirmed exchanging photographs (of themselves) with each other.

When questioned about specific messages and memes Beall had sent to the victim, Beall stated he had no recollection of the messages that contained sexual overtones.

On Beall's cell phone, detectives located numerous GIFs and emoji's that had been sent to the victim. The GIFs and emoji's contained hearts and references of love.

The behavior demonstrated by Beall is consistent with predatory behavior.

Detectives noted the obvious one-sidedness of the conversations, with Beall sending numerous messages to the victim and the victim responding some time later, with one-word responses. Detectives also noted that Beall would become upset when the victim failed to respond or was not interested in playing games on the PlayStation and/or chatting with him.

It should be noted, upon contact with representatives from the Hernando County School District, Beall was immediately removed from student contact and placed on administrative leave by the school district.

On 08-09-23, detectives placed **George Beall DOB/07-19-1990** under arrest, charging him as follows:

- Transmission of Harmful Material to a Minor
- Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device
- Bond - \$5,000.

Currently, there is no indication of other victims; however, the investigation continues.

If any parent or care giver has information regarding inappropriate communication or interaction between Beall and a child in their care, please contact the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

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.