



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Nikole Wilson
Community Outreach Coordinator, 352-797-3680

Re: Hernando County Detention Center Secures New \$116 Federal Inmate Rate

Date: August 7, 2025

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has secured a new federal per diem rate of \$116 per inmate per day, effective Aug 1, 2025. This replaces the previous \$75 rate that had been in place since 2020 and reflects a major advancement in aligning compensation with the actual cost of care, custody, and housing of federal inmates.

The federal rate has increased 84 percent since 2014, when it was \$63 per day. The increase from \$75 to \$116 between 2020 and 2025 represents a 55 percent increase. This newly secured rate substantially strengthens the revenue capacity of the Hernando County Detention Center. Based on current contract inmate population, the facility is now generating more than \$20,000 per day, or approximately \$7.3 million annually. This marks an annual increase of \$2.2 million compared to previous projections.

To support Pasco County Corrections in meeting their internal budget timelines, the per diem rate for Pasco inmates was raised from \$75 to \$95 per day for the upcoming fiscal year. At the time of that agreement, Hernando County was still in negotiations with the federal government and chose not to propose a higher rate until the new federal rate was finalized. Now that the \$116 rate has been secured, the Pasco rate is planned to increase to \$116 per day beginning October 2026, aligning with the newly established federal rate.

As of June 2025, the Hernando County Detention Center has generated a combined total of \$29,648,111 in inmate housing revenue from outside jurisdictions:

- \$574,957 from the Federal Bureau of Prisons
- \$7,675,401 from Pasco County Corrections
- \$21,397,753 from the United States Marshals Service

All funds generated through these housing partnerships are earmarked exclusively for jail operations, including:

- Funding 23 Full Time staff positions
- Supporting capital repair and infrastructure projects

While housing inmates from other jurisdictions places a significant burden on the staff at the detention center, it is widely recognized as the right decision for Hernando County taxpayers. This funding model helps offset operational costs, supports essential staffing, and reduces the need for additional local tax dollars for capital projects and repairs at the detention center.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis stated, "This new rate reflects staff's professional reputation and the strength of our partnerships with federal and regional agencies. The additional revenue will allow us to maintain a safe and secure detention environment while simultaneously reducing the tax burden on local taxpayers."