



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Jessica Burns
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: HCSO Arrests Suspect in Neighborhood Shooting – 202600171082

Date: April 8, 2026

On 04-07-2026, at approximately 4:31p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a family member reporting that a male victim was bleeding from his arm and that they were unsure what had occurred.

Hernando County Fire Rescue personnel arrived on scene and immediately began life saving measures on the victim. Deputies determined the incident was likely the result of foul play after observing shell casings in the driveway and what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the victim's left shoulder.

The victim, identified as 52-year-old Francis Biegaj, was transported for medical treatment; however, despite life-saving efforts, the victim succumbed to his injuries. Next of kin notifications have been made.

A witness advised deputies they heard multiple gunshots and, upon exiting their residence, observed the suspect walking away from the victim's home toward a nearby residence while holding what appeared to be a pistol.

Based on the information obtained during the investigation, deputies responded to the residence located at 89 Gillian Circle, where the suspect was believed to be located. Deputies established a perimeter and attempted to make contact with any occupants that may be inside. The suspect was identified as **Tony Deuser, DOB/12-19-1974**, who resides at the location.

After multiple attempts to contact the occupants were unsuccessful, members of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office SWAT team and Crisis Response Team (CRT) responded to the scene. Following announcements of their presence, Deuser exited the residence and was taken into custody without incident.

While speaking with Deuser he stated that he became upset with the victim over loud music. According to Deuser, the victim refused to lower the volume and told him to leave the property at which time Deuser shot at the victim twice before returning to his residence.

Deuser was placed under arrest and charged with:

-Murder in the Second Degree.

Deuser was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he is currently being held without bond.

This remains an active investigation.



Tony Deuser

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!