



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Unintentional Discharge of Firearm - Walmart Supercenter Cortez Boulevard

Date: November 26, 2018

On 11-26-18 at approximately 1:16 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the Walmart Supercenter located at 13300 Cortez Boulevard in Brooksville after 9-1-1 operators received calls regarding a firearm being discharged in front of the store.

Callers reported seeing a male drive up on a motorcycle. When the male got off the motorcycle, callers reported hearing a gunshot. The male then walked into the store.

Deputies, who were in the area of the store, arrived on scene as the call was still being dispatched.

Deputies were able to identify, and quickly detain, the male who reportedly fired the weapon.

The male, who is a concealed weapons permit holder, advised deputies that as he was getting off the motorcycle, he accidentally dropped his firearm, a Derringer type handgun. When the firearm hit the ground, it discharged. He was not handling the firearm, nor did he fire it purposely.

No one was injured during this incident.

Deputies checked vehicles (in the vicinity) in the parking lot for the round that was fired, meeting with negative results.

The investigation is still ongoing.

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, and remains accountable to them.