



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Detectives Need Help Locating Homicide Suspect

Date: March 26, 2020

On 03-25-20 just before 6 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence on Bluestone Avenue in Spring Hill regarding a Shooting. Several different callers advised 9-1-1 operators a man had been shot multiple times in front of a residence.

Deputies arrived on scene minutes later and located a male victim in the front yard with multiple gunshot wounds.

The victim was transported to a local hospital by Hernando County Fire Rescue. Just after 6:30 p.m., physicians pronounced the victim deceased.

Preliminary investigation revealed the victim and his wife moved into the residence on Bluestone Avenue approximately two weeks ago. The suspect reportedly rented a room from them during this time. On 03-24-20, the victim asked the suspect to move out over an issue that arose between them. The suspect agreed to move out and left, temporarily.

On 03-25-20, sometime after 5 p.m., the suspect arrived back at the residence and began moving his belongings out. The suspect asked the victim's wife when the victim would be home. The wife said she did not know. The suspect apparently waited outside.

At approximately 5:40 p.m., the victim arrived home. The victim's wife, who was inside the residence, heard the two males arguing outside. She went outside in an attempt to calm things down.

When the victim's wife got outside, she observed her husband put his hands up and begin walking toward their residence (backing away from the suspect). At that time she heard several gunshots and observed her husband fall, face first, to the ground.

The suspect then got onto his white motorcycle and fled the scene.

Several witnesses who were present, or very close by, have positively identified the suspect.

The suspect is identified as **Antonio Rafel Rivera**. Rivera's description is as follows:

- **Hispanic/Male**
- **DOB/12-19-92 (27 YOA)**
- **Height/5' 8"**
- **Weight/135**
- **Hair/Black – Long in Dreadlocks**
- **Eyes/Brown**
- **Facial Hair/Mustache and Beard**
- **Tattoos**
 - **Neck – Dove**
 - **L Chest – Nancy**
 - **R Chest – Scroll w/Words**
 - **Entire Chest and Neck Covered w/Tattoos**
 - **Tattoo on L Hand.**

Rivera should be considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information on this case or the whereabouts of **Antonio Rafel Rivera** is asked to contact **Detective Chris Kraft** at **352-754-6830**.

Please call 9-1-1 to report sightings.

If you have information and would like to remain anonymous – Please call Hernando County Crime Stoppers at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> . You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$3,000 cash!

Pictured below are current photos of Rivera (if he has not changed his appearance) and a current photo of the motorcycle he used to flee the scene of the Homicide.





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 remains accountable to them.