



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Michael Terry  
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**Re:** HCSO Obtains State-of-the-Art Rapid Evidence Screening Tool

**Date:** September 11, 2020

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The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has a new tool in the fight against crime.

On 09-10-2020, the Forensics Unit received training on the Crime-lite ML PRO, a rapid-evidence screening tool.

The HCSO is the first agency in the United States to receive this state-of-the-art equipment.

The ML PRO has a fully integrated UV-Vis-IR illumination and an 'intelligent optics' imaging system. The equipment can be used to detect the presence of bodily fluids, gunshot residue and locate trace evidence such as hairs and fibers to name a few.

If a bodily fluid is detected, a presumptive test is performed to indicate what that particular fluid may be. Once areas of interest are detected and documented, a report is then generated and uploaded into the case file. This piece of equipment will play a vital role in criminal investigations.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "This light source will likely be used in our more violent and/or serious crimes. It will allow our Forensics team to quickly determine if an item has evidentiary value, where that evidence is located, and prioritize that item for further testing. I have no doubt that this piece of equipment will allow us to solve more crimes and/or solve them quicker than we have ever done in the past. This labor savings will allow our Forensics Team to spend even more quality time on our investigations."

**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.**