



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Man Pleads Guilty to Sexual Battery on Child - 2021-16858

Date: June 24, 2022

On June 1, 2021, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a reported Sexual Battery on a child.

The child victim provided detailed information on the offense(s) and the identity of the suspect.

Detectives and Forensic Specialists responded to the location where one or more of the offenses occurred to collect physical evidence.

Detectives then made contact with the suspect, identified as **Anthony Sapp DOB/02-15-1988**, who agreed to come to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office to be interviewed by detectives.

While being interviewed by Detective Eric Miller, Sapp confessed to lewd acts and sexual battery on the child.

Sapp was then charged with Sexual Battery, Lewd and Lascivious Battery, and Lewd and Lascivious Molestation.

On 06-23-22, Sapp appeared in a pretrial hearing before Judge Merritt. During the hearing, Sapp plead guilty to Sexual Battery on a Child.

Anthony Sapp was then sentenced to 20 years in the Department of Corrections, followed by Sexual Offender probation. Upon his release, Sapp is required to register as a Sexual Predator.

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.