



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Underage Alcohol & Nicotine Sales and Compliance Checks – March - 2023

Date: March 15, 2023

On 03-14-2023, undercover detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office conducted Compliance Checks and Alcohol/Nicotine Buys at various locations throughout Hernando County. A total of 13 locations were visited throughout the evening.

At the conclusion of the operation, **nine** clerks **did not permit** the sale of alcoholic beverages to the underage customer, successfully following the law. Clerks at **four** businesses **did allow** the underage customer to purchase an alcoholic beverage, a violation of the Florida Beverage Law, F.S.S. 562.11.

The offenders are mandated to complete Responsible Vendor Training (RVT), an online course which is administered by the Hernando Community Coalition, within 30 days of the violation. The course reinforces the importance of responsible alcohol and tobacco sales and service, reviews Florida beverage laws and demonstrates practices on how to prevent alcohol sales to underage persons. All four clerks have already completed the course.

Stores in VIOLATION (allowed the sale of alcohol to underage person) were as follows:

- **Marathon** – 4707 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, FL
- **7 Eleven** – 18226 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL
- **7 Eleven** – 13495 County Line Road, Spring Hill, FL
- **7 Eleven** – 7170 Barclay Avenue, Brooksville, FL.

Stores in COMPLIANCE (did not allow the sale of alcohol to underage person) were as follows:

- Vape & Smoke – 31134 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, FL
- Circle K – 3275 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL
- Circle K – 6227 Deltona Boulevard, Spring Hill, FL
- Marathon – 7410 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL
- Rebel/Mobil – 75 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL
- Speedway – 100 Mariner Boulevard, Spring Hill, FL
- Dollar General – 2901 Forest Road, Spring Hill, FL
- Dr. Smoke Tobacco & Vapor – 4383 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, FL
- 7 Eleven – 15310 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville, FL.

More operations of this nature are planned for the future.

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.