



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Working closely with most of the of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies between here and Naples over the last three decades has given me a unique perspective and, I believe, has made me well qualified to assess the quality of a law enforcement agency and its people. Since taking office on January 1, 2011, I have discovered, over and over again, what a great asset the citizens of Hernando County have in their Sheriff's Office. The members of this Sheriff's Office understand the importance of their role in the community. They know that their role is not just to address crime, but to instill confidence in the citizens we serve. It seems as though just about daily I receive a letter or message about one of our members going well beyond what was expected to assist a citizen in need. They often have a right to be prideful. This is especially true knowing how much training they have to go through and how well they handle even the most difficult situations. They, however, have humility that is seldom seen among their profession. I am proud to be associated with such a dedicated and caring group of professionals.

My primary goal, therefore, is twofold. The first goal is to keep the county safe and relentlessly strive to make it even safer. Our second goal, which on the surface seems similar, is to make Hernando County residents and visitors feel safe. My deputies and I want everyone to feel confident that Hernando County is a great place to live, play or open a business. Although these two goals may, at first, seem the same, they can be worlds apart. Many law enforcement agencies work hard at making the streets safe, but their residents may not feel safe. We have a lot of data and technology that allows us to attack crime. Only two-way interaction, however, allows us to judge how our citizens feel about the safety of the community and how they feel about our commitment to their protection.

As Sheriff, I would like for every citizen to get a glimpse of what I get to see every day. There is one such opportunity that citizens rave about -- our Citizen's Academy. It is an all classroom experience, with an optional deputy ride along and optional tours of the jail. It allows for that two-way communication that is vital to our success. Without exception, every participant relates that the lessons learned are a jaw dropping experience. I would strongly encourage you to consider attending our next session. You will not regret it for a moment. Please visit this link for more information:

<https://www.hernandosheriff.org/CitizensAcademy.aspx>

Sheriff Al Nienhuis