



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

December 9, 2016

Chairman Nick Nicholson  
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners  
20 North Main Street, Room 460  
Brooksville, FL 34601

Dear Chairman Nicholson:

Although I was in Tallahassee and unable to attend your recent meeting, I have learned that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has scheduled a workshop for February intended to address the budget needs of my Office. While I greatly appreciate Commissioner Champion's gesture in calling for such a meeting, and the subsequent support of his fellow Commissioners, I am disappointed that the first such discussion is some eight weeks away.

Because the budget needs of the Sheriff's Office are critical, and in a spirit of cooperation, I would like to update you on our status so that we can explore a more timely solution to this matter. As I know you are aware, I swore an oath that my original 2016-17 budget request was both reasonable and necessary for the responsibilities of my office. However, due to the unfortunate decisions by the former Board in September, and the subsequent delay in resolution, we are now in a position where some of the requested funds simply cannot be used. In addition, as a good faith effort to assist the BOCC in finding the necessary funding, I am willing to make some concessions.

Therefore, from my original budget request I am now able to reduce by \$119,000 the amount of needed funding for my requested new positions. This is money that now cannot be spent due to the delay in approval for this year's budget.

Additionally, and as a further concession, I am willing to reduce the amount of capital funds requested by \$250,000. While it is still imperative that the BOCC consider the ongoing capital needs of the Sheriff's Office, I offer to make do on those needs during this unique one-year period.

I hope that reducing my budget needs by the aforementioned \$369,000 will greatly aid us in securing the remaining needed funds and in moving past the current impasse. I look forward to working with the new Board in resolving this matter as soon as possible for the benefit of our citizens and the hard-working men and women of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully,



**Al Nienhuis**  
Sheriff

AN/jdp

cc: Katie Cunningham, Policy Coordinator for Governor Scott  
Commissioner John Allocco  
Commissioner Steve Champion  
Commissioner Wayne Dukes  
Commissioner Jeff Holcomb (via e-mail)