



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Director of Public Relations, 352-797-3609

Re: Former Deputy Accused of Theft

Date: November 19, 2024

On Friday, 11-08-24, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 164 notified the Hernando County Sheriff's Office that they suspected their (now former) treasurer had been utilizing FOP credit and debit cards for personal use.

On 11-14-24, after conferring with the membership, the FOP requested a criminal investigation.

A criminal investigation commenced.

On Friday, 11-15-24, Detective Bruce Nichols, the former treasurer, resigned his position with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

With the investigation in the preliminary stages, there are very few details that can be released at this time; however, Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "Despite Nichols having a career marked with significant achievements, we can assure the victim organization and the public, the investigation will be thorough and complete. It is our hope that the investigation will either definitively exonerate Nichols or provide the State Attorney with a prosecutable case that will allow the victim organization to obtain justice."

Bruce Nichols, age 45, had been employed by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office since November of 2006.

Additional information will be provided when available.