



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Jessica Burns
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Re: Celebratory Gunfire During the Holidays

Date: December 31, 2024

For many communities, it's the time of year when some people celebrate the festivities by firing gunshots into the air. Illogical thinking we agree, because we all know that what goes up must come down. In these cases, it's bullets moving at deadly speed.

In years past, many people have been seriously wounded or killed by falling bullets on New Year's Eve. Those tragic deaths and serious injuries, which resulted from stray bullets, have motivated Sheriff Nienhuis to remind everyone that stray bullets can injure or kill innocent bystanders.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office will be taking a zero tolerance stance on any and all illegal gun use and gun crime during the holiday. Please do your part to make the holiday a happy and safe one.

"Celebrating the New Year should never be at the expense of someone else's safety. Impaired driving and celebratory gunfire are both ways to start the new year off with the sobering reality that your actions took the life of an innocent person. Please leave the firearms secured and never drive impaired," said Sheriff Al Nienhuis

If anyone hears gunfire or observes suspicious activity, they are encouraged to call their local law enforcement agency.