TO: Sheriff David E Vincent, Citrus County, Fl

FROM: Andy Schippers - President

 Property Owner’s Association of Hampton Hills

DATE: July 1 ,2025

TOPIC: Halloween

 My name is Andy Schippers, and I am currently the President of the “Property Owners Association of Hampton Hills.” Before getting into the reason for this letter, I would like to take just a moment to congratulate you, both on behalf of myself as well as the members of our community, on your win for the Sheriff of Citrus County. You have many challenges ahead of you but please note you have our full support and best wishes!

The reason for this letter is to share with you our concerns as a community in anticipation of an upcoming activity, “Halloween.” While this festivity is still some months away, you no doubt are aware, having been a long-time resident of the County, that our community, “Hampton Hills” has over the years become an ever-increasing focal point for the County’s trick or treaters. People from all parts of the County converge on our community during this event. They bring with them mobile floats, recreational vehicles, golf carts etc., all making for a very congested and chaotic environment. While it is difficult to estimate the exact number of people involved, we do have approximate estimates ranging anywhere from 1200 to 1500+ trick or treaters and those numbers do not include their accompanying families and friends. I must point out that most of the people coming into our community are respectful and orderly but as this last Halloween reminded us, that is not always the case as several of our residents regrettably had to witness an altercation.

It should be noted that, as a community, we have neither promoted nor sponsored this event. Over the years people have had on their own initiative, and mainly through word of mouth, decided to make our community their Halloween destination of choice. Given the fact we are not a gated community, we do not have the authority or the means of controlling this large influx of people, all coming together in a rather brief period. We are respectful of the fact that the Sheriff’s Department has the entire County to service with a limited number of available personnel. We have in recent years taken it upon ourselves, at our own expense, to hire two off duty Deputies for the hours of 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (the peak period). We have decided to do this in the hope of maintaining some sense of order and most importantly to help minimize any risk of injury or mishap to both our visitors as well as our own residents. As the number of people coming into our community continues to grow year after year, so do our worries about potential safety issues such as distracted drivers accidentally hitting a small child. We are reaching out to you in the hope that someone in your department might be able to look at our situation and do some risk assessment. It is our hope that an extra set of eyes might help generate some additional safety thoughts or measures, such as possibly several more deputies for a short duration or even blocking off several streets or street entrances for a limited period. Any guidance or assistance your department can provide would be much appreciated!

Sincerely

Andy Schippers

POAHH President

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