

TO: Sheriff Prendergast, Citrus County, FL

FROM: Andy Schippers - president

Property Owners Association of Hampton Hills

DATE: March 17, 2023

By way of introduction, my name is Andy Schippers, the newly elected president of the Property Owners Association of Hampton Hills. Some years back I had the pleasure of attending the Citrus County Police Academy where I had a brief opportunity to meet you. I am very much impressed, along with my fellow neighbors, as to what you and your department are doing to keep our County safe and free of crime.

On that note I would like to bring to your attention an issue that surfaced in our last homeowners meeting concerning the number of individuals who have chosen to come to our community to celebrate Halloween. Each year it seems more and more people make the decision to come to our community to celebrate Halloween. As an Association we take great pride and joy in the fact that families with their young children decide to come into our neighborhood to experience a safe and fun filled evening. While we have no official counts, I have heard numbers of more than 1200 people participating this past year. While our streets are a public throughfare and come under your department's jurisdiction, and that this is not a community sponsored function on our part we nevertheless, as an Association, have concerns about safety. We have in the past taken it upon ourselves to hire two off duty deputies to patrol our neighborhood during the evening of Halloween. Regrettably this past year due to the Sheriff Department's staffing circumstances we were unable to secure those deputies. In our last homeowners meeting the concerns were expressed that during this recent Halloween we had several near misses with vehicles and small children, due in part to careless individuals. In my thirteen years living in this community this is a first and hopefully it is not the start of a trend! Given the ever-increasing number of people on this given evening, would it be possible for the Sheriff's Department to take on the need for additional coverage from approximately 6:00pm to 9:00pm?

Let me conclude by saying that even though Halloween is a few months away we as a community will continue to give our full attention to keeping Halloween as safe and joyful as possible despite the fact, we do not officially promote or recognize it as an event. As an Association we would also like to extend an open invitation to you as Sheriff of Citrus County to come at any time to speak to our members about any concerns or thoughts you may have. We hold our Association meetings quarterly, at residence homes, with the three remaining meetings in 2023 being scheduled for June 6th, September 12th, and November 7th, respectively.

Sincerely

Andy Schippers

POAHH president

352-270-8623

andyschippers@tampabay.rr.com