

## **Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis forced to make public his \$623,145 Pension Bonus and broken Promise to Resign by State Attorney William Glasson's Office--*Just in time for National Sunshine Week***

March 13, 2024



In a shocking taxpayer money grab, Hernando County Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis decided his Salary of \$ 198,960<sup>1</sup> was not enough money and applied for a special \$623,145<sup>2</sup> taxpayer-funded pension bonus!

Al Nienhuis exploited his political position by signing up for a Triple Dipper Program where Nienhuis collected a paycheck and a pension at the same time to do the same job and didn't pay 3% of his \$198,960 salary \$5,968, into the Florida Retirement System like other public employees. After taking the \$623,145 Pension cash bonus, Republican Politician Nienhuis used his Political Position as Sheriff to shamelessly break his contract promise to resign as a condition of receiving that \$623,145 taxpayer-paid bonus.

On January 19, 2024 Sheriff Al Nienhuis's staff unlawfully rejected a Public Records Request for a copy of Al Nienhuis's signed pension bonus documents<sup>3</sup> from Dave Jaye, Researcher, [www.tripledippers.org](http://www.tripledippers.org) .

Dave Jaye then filed a complaint about Sheriff Nienhuis's violation of Florida's Sunshine Law with State Attorney William M Gladson's office. Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis was forced to make public his signed documents applying for and receiving a \$623,145 Pension bonus and his broken promise to resign.

Source documents at: <https://TripleDippers.org/hall-of-shame>  
And <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555625861400>

“Just because Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis is worried that he will lose votes this 2024 election when taxpayers learn about his Pension cash bonus and renegeing on his

<sup>1</sup> <http://edr.state.fl.us/content/local-government/reports/finsal23.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Division of Retirement (850) 778-4408 Florida Department of Management Services

<sup>3</sup><https://www.myfloridalegal.com/open-government/the-quotsunshinequot-law>

contract promise to resign, he doesn't have the authority to hide his public documents. We thank State Attorney William Gladson's office for the quick investigation and the release of Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis's pension cash bonus and broken promise to resign--just in time for Government Records Sunshine week March 10-17 sponsored in 2024 by Florida's Brechner Freedom of Information Project.

<https://www.jou.ufl.edu/2023/12/11/brechner-freedom-of-information-project-to-lead-national-sunshine-week/>

Dave Jaye, a researcher at [www.tripledippers.org](http://www.tripledippers.org) comments, "Sneaky Politician Al Nienhuis is greedy. How many gourmet meals, luxury cars, and vacation homes does one person need or can even use? Al Nienhuis setting a disgraceful benchmark for personal enrichment in politics."

While Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis is not satisfied with his \$198,960 salary plus approximately a \$6,200 a month pension for life, the average Hernando County Deputy's salary is \$41,000<sup>4</sup> and the average County worker makes only \$19 an hour, \$38,986<sup>5</sup>. The average Hernando man and woman would have to work 16 years to make Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis's outrageous \$623,145 Pension cash bonus. Politician Al Nienhuis stated in his re-election announcement "**I look forward to leading my team during these next five years as we become even more efficient ...**"<sup>6</sup> "Politician Sheriff Al Nienhuis collecting a \$198,960 salary and a \$623,44 pension cash bonus at the same time to do the same job and not paying 3% of his salary \$5,968 into the Florida Retirement system *is not providing efficient services* for taxpayers," noted Dave Jaye.

On December 14, 2015 Al Nienhuis signed and submitted his "**Resignation From Employment to Participate in DROP**" The Deferred Retirement Option Program which included a contract promise to resign as a condition to be eligible for the \$623,145 taxpayer-funded pension bonus, which he received on December 20, 2020.

But Al Nienhuis decided his \$623,145 pension bonus was not enough. Tricky Al Nienhuis applied for special politician permission to break his contract promise to resign on December 20, 2020 as a condition of receiving his \$623,145 pension cash bonus on that day. Non politician Florida public employees who cannot break their contract to resign or they will forfeit their cash pension bonus.

This cunning maneuver allowed Al Nienhuis to continue to avoid paying 3% of his \$198,960 salary \$5,968 to the Florida Pension program even after collecting the \$623,145 pension bonus shifting his personal responsibility to taxpayers. Al Nienhuis is illegally hiding this public document he signed by refusing to provide this public document **DP-TEOC-2 Elected Officer DROP Termination Notification**<sup>7</sup> as required by Florida's Sunshine Law Public Records Request.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Hernando-Sheriff's-Office/salaries/Deputy-Sheriff/Brooksville-FL>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/-in-Hernando,FL> <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/hernado-county-fl>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.sheriffnienhuis.com/re-election-announcement>

<sup>7</sup> <file:///C:/Users/succe/Downloads/DP-TEOC-2%20updt%205-17.pdf>


Sheriff Al Nienhuis knows that 66% of males in Florida’s Jails and State Prisons lack a high school diploma and 33% read below a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level<sup>8</sup>. But Politician Al Nienhuis prioritized his \$675,047 pension over advocating for the use of Politicians' pension bonuses for tutors.

Only 49% of Hernando County High School Students are job-ready and only 23.3% are college-ready<sup>9</sup>. Yet 92% of High School Students graduate with what is often viewed as a worthless diploma. Al Nienhuis’s \$623,145 taxpayer funded pension bonus would be better spent on providing 41,542 tutor hours<sup>10</sup> to Hernando County School Children and jail inmates.

DP-11  
Rev. 11/10  
Calculations

**Florida Retirement System Pension Plan  
Application for Service Retirement and the  
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**

PO Box 9000  
Tallahassee FL 32315-9000  
850 488-6491 Toll Free 888 738-2252  
Fax 850 410-2195



Member Name Alvin D. Nienhuis Member SSN [REDACTED]  
 Position Title Sheriff Birthdate [REDACTED]  
 Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone (352) 797-3600  
 Home Mailing Address [REDACTED] Present FRS Employer(s) Hernando County Sheriff's Office

I have resigned my employment on the date stated below and elect to participate in the DROP in accordance with s. 121.091(13), Florida Statutes (F.S.). My DROP participation cannot exceed a maximum of 60 months from the date I first reach my normal retirement date as determined by the Division of Retirement.

I understand that I must terminate all employment with FRS employers to receive a monthly retirement benefit and my DROP benefit under Chapter 121, F.S. If I fail to terminate my employment in accordance with s. 121.021(39)(b), F.S., on my DROP termination date, my retirement will be null and void and my FRS membership shall be established retroactively to the date I began DROP. Termination requirements for elected officials are different as specified in s 121.091(13)(b)(4), F.S. Participation in the DROP does not guarantee my employment for the DROP period. I cannot add service, change options, change my type of retirement or elect the Investment Plan after the DROP begin date. I have read and understand the DROP Accrual Distribution information provided with this form.

**Beneficiary Designation:** All previous beneficiary designations are null and void. To designate more than one primary beneficiary, attach a Beneficiary Designation Form, FST-12.

Primary [REDACTED] Primary SSN [REDACTED]  
 Relationship [REDACTED] Primary Birthdate [REDACTED]  
 Contingent [REDACTED] Contingent SSN [REDACTED]  
 Relationship [REDACTED] Contingent Birthdate [REDACTED]

DROP begin date: 01 / 01 / 2016 DROP termination and resignation date 12/30/2020

Member Signature: (sign in the presence of a Notary) *Alvin D. Nienhuis*

Notary: State of Florida, County of Hernando The above named person has sworn to and subscribed before me this 14 day of December 2015 and is personally known

Politician Al Nienhuis’s pension cash bonus is formally called the “Deferred Retirement Option Program” (DROP). DROP’s original intent: helping the state retain essential and rare skill sets and experience in mission-critical jobs-- not for politicians and low-skill jobs. For the list of the names, employers and pension cash bonuses of approximately 28,536 Florida's Triple Dippers, visit <https://tripleddippers.org/fl-statewide-2023-june-28537-tripleddippers/> .

Governor Jim DeSantis signed SB 7024 effective July 1, 2023 allowing politicians and bureaucrats to extend pension bonuses by 60% from 5 to 8 years and up to 10

<sup>8</sup><https://www.news-journalonline.com/story/news/state/2019/07/27/bars-to-learning-inmates-languish-in-florida-prisons-with-little-access-to-education/4597062007/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/florida/districts/hernando-105171>

<sup>10</sup>[https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Tutor-Com-Salary--in-Florida#:~:text=As%20of%20Feb%2017%2C%202024,\(75th%20percentile\)%20in%20Florida.](https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Tutor-Com-Salary--in-Florida#:~:text=As%20of%20Feb%2017%2C%202024,(75th%20percentile)%20in%20Florida.) \$675,947 Pension bonus/\$15 an hour average Tutor Wage in Hernando County = 41,542

years for School Employees and increasing the pension bonus interest rate from 1.2 to 4% and allowing many to collect pension bonuses earlier<sup>11</sup>. The Triple Dipper Pension Bonus system has created \$39 billion in unfunded Florida Retirement obligations, amounting to a \$1,725 liability for every man, woman, and child in Florida.

<https://thecapitolist.com/frs-double-dip-retirement-expansion-will-make-it-harder-for-private-sector-to-compete-with-state/>

State and local Politicians are entitled by law to special treatment that allows them to accrue benefits faster and retire with bigger payments than most other workers. The separate class was created and modified over the years by the Florida Legislature, whose 160 members also are covered by pension cash bonuses<sup>12</sup>. Check out our latest investigative Report in **The Hall of Shame** <https://TripleDippers.org/hall-of-shame> where we profile the most Greedy Florida Politicians and Bureaucrats using their public positions for personal enrichment.

## TRIPLEDIPPERS.org



**Exposing Public Corruption and Wasteful Spending**

**Dave Jaye [Researcher] (586) 488-5177**  
dave.jaye55@gmail.com ★ [Facebook.com/tripledippers](https://www.facebook.com/tripledippers)

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<sup>11</sup> <https://thecapitolist.com/frs-double-dip-retirement-expansion-will-make-it-harder-for-private-sector-to-compete-with-state/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2011/03/13/florida-pension-benefits-especially-good-for-elected-officials-judges/>

*Triple Dippers Facebook:*

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555625861400>

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan  
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)  
Elected Officer DROP Termination Notification  
DROP Termination and Refund Payments  
PO BOX 3090  
Tallahassee, FL 32315-3090  
Local: (850) 487-4856 Toll Free: (877) 738-3767



MEMBER NAME Al Nienhuis

MEMBER SSN [REDACTED]

Your DROP termination date is 12/30/20 as an elected officer, you may end your Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) participation without terminating your elected office as provided in s. 121.091(13)(b)(4), Florida Statutes. If you choose to continue your eligible elected employment after DROP participation ends you must acknowledge the following:

1. This provision applies only to employment as an elected official.
2. I cannot be paid monthly pension benefits or my accumulated DROP benefits until all FRS employment is terminated as provided in s. 121.021(39)(b), Florida Statutes.
3. If my DROP participation began before July 1, 2010, at the conclusion of my participation, my DROP account will not accrue additional monthly benefits, but will continue to earn interest through the month of my elected employment termination. If my DROP participation began on or after July 1, 2010, my DROP account will not accrue additional monthly benefits and will not accrue interest during the period after my DROP participation ends through the month of my elected employment termination, as provided in s. 121.053(7)(a)(1), Florida Statutes.
4. My elected employment, from the calendar month after my DROP participation ends through the calendar month that my elected employment is terminated, is subject to the following:
  - Retirement contributions will not be required of my FRS employer; however, Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) contributions will be required.
  - Renewed membership service credit will not be earned.
  - Retirement benefits for this period will be forfeited.
5. I understand that I may not enroll in DROP again.

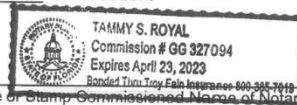
**MEMBER CERTIFICATION:**

My DROP participation will end or has ended on 12/30/2020. I have chosen to continue employment as an elected officer until the end of my current, consecutively held or succeeding term of office, OR an earlier resignation date of 1/2025 or later. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements.

Member Signature: (sign in the presence of a notary) *Al Nienhuis*

Notary: State of Florida, County of Hernando. The above named person who has sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of September 2020 and who is personally known  or produced \_\_\_\_\_ identification.

*Tammy S. Royal*  
Signature of Notary Public



Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

**EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION: TO BE COMPLETED BY AGENCY HEAD OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE:**

I certify that the above elected member's DROP participation will terminate or has terminated on 12/30/2020 with the Agency, who I am authorized to represent. I acknowledge that the member's post-DROP employment (from the calendar month following the month his/her DROP participation ended through the calendar month of his/her elected employment termination is subject to the following:

1. Retirement contributions will not be required.
2. Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) contributions will be required.

I further certify that the above named elected official's anticipated employment termination date is 1/2025 or later

Authorized Signature: *Rhonda Cantu*

Position Title: HR GENERALIST

Print Name: RHONDA CANTU

Phone Number: (352) 754-6830

Agency Name: HERNANDO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Agency #: 37006

Date: 9/15/2020