

# VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

**February 21, 2025** 

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from February 14, 2025 to February 20, 2025. Readers are reminded an "arrest" is based upon probable cause and does not always mean someone was physically taken into custody. Furthermore, it does not mean an individual is automatically guilty of a crime. Judicial outcomes and post-arrest proceedings can be researched through the appropriate court's website.

(VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS IS NOT MEANT TO BE A LISTING OF EVERY INCIDENT OR CALL HANDLED BY THE Vienna Police, but merely a more substantive summary of several incidents, which may be of interest to the community. Some reports may be outside the date parameters due to extended investigations or other circumstances. Some cases are not included at all due to ongoing investigations. Please contact Juan Vazquez for further information at Juan.vazquez@viennava.gov)

On July 1, 2021, citizens will be able to access Community Policing data via <a href="https://data.virginia.gov/stories/s/rden-cz3h">https://data.virginia.gov/stories/s/rden-cz3h</a>. The Vienna Police Department had started complying with this state law in July of 2020. The portal will contain all non-consensual investigatory stops made by the Vienna Police Departments and other law enforcement agencies in the commonwealth.

# **UPDATE - Car Thefts and Tamperings**

The National Capital Area, specifically the Northern Virginia area, has seen increased vehicle tampering incidents and vehicle thefts. A recent pattern has been identified where suspects enter the area in stolen vehicles and cruise streets between 3:00 AM and 7:00 AM. In addition to rifling through unlocked cars for valuables and money, they steal the vehicle when they encounter keys left in it. The Vienna Police Department would like to remind our community members to please stay vigilant, secure their cars and take the keys inside, and close and lock all doors of residences and garages to prevent criminals from targeting your property. Additionally, please call the police if you notice suspicious vehicles or people in your area, and share Ring doorbell or other security camera footage with us if you capture video related to these incidents. The Vienna Police Department is working closely with other Law Enforcement agencies in the region, coordinating our resources to investigate these crimes.

If you see suspicious activity or persons, we ask you to immediately notify the police department at 703-255-6366 or, in case of emergency call 911.

## **INCIDENTS**

Police Service 25-01094 Beulah Road, NE January 30 5:51 p.m.

At the request of Child Protective Services, a detective spoke to a resident regarding a statement their child made to a teacher. The detective determined that no crime was committed.

Fraud 25-00994

700 Block Plum Street, SW

February 4 between 12:01 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

A resident reported someone hacked her WhatsApp account.

Fraud 25-01456

500 Block Yeonas Drive, SW

Between February 6 at 12:00 a.m. and February 10 at 11:00 p.m.

A resident reported that she searched on Google for a Microsoft Support Line to assist her with a computer issue. She received a phone call from someone claiming to be a Microsoft employee and allowed him access to her computer. The employee advised her that they had accidentally deposited money into her bank account and that he needed her to withdraw the money and provide it to a courier that he would send to collect it. The woman complied and gave money to a man claiming to be a courier who came to her home. The resident provided two more payments to the company and also found that someone had withdrawn additional funds from one of their accounts.

Arrest – Drunk In Public 25-01214 Pazzo Pomodoro 118 Branch Road, SE February 11 5:01 p.m.

An employee reported a man who was acting disorderly and aggressively with other customers and employees. Officers located the man outside of the business. Upon the officer's interaction with the man, they detected signs of intoxication. They also found an active warrant for the man in Montgomery County, Maryland charging Acting as a Contractor Without a License.

PFC Garcia arrested the 42-year-old man from Highgate Terrace in Brambleton, Virginia. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Drunk In Public and the warrant for extradition on the Maryland charge was served on him.

**Burglary 25-01297** 

300 Block Nutley Street, NW

Between February 12 at 6:00 p.m. and February 14 at 10:00 a.m.

A property manager reported forced entry into a vacant home that is undergoing renovations. Nothing in the home appeared to have been disturbed.

Suspicious Event 25-01272 500 Block Lincoln Street, NW Between February 12 at 6:53 p.m. and February 13 at 6:16 p.m.

A resident reported some suspicious alerts they received.

Animal Case – Quarantine 25-01281 Veterinary Surgical Center 124 Park Street, SE February 13 3:00 p.m.

On February 14, a citizen reported that she had taken her dog to the Veterinary Surgical Center on February 13. She advised that her dog was bitten by another dog while they were in the lobby. The citizen was advised of the 10-day quarantine. ACO Barker later followed up with the owner of the other dog as they were not there when the bite occurred. He verified that both dogs were current with their vaccinations and that no humans were bitten during the incident. No further quarantine was necessary.

Arrest – Threats 25-01289 200 Block Whispering Wind Court, SE February 14 4:31 p.m.

A resident reported a suspicious event with his neighbor. The resident advised that his kids were playing outside with friends when the neighbor began sending him threatening messages. The officer attempted to speak to the neighbor, but the attempts were unsuccessful. Other individuals in the neighborhood were also receiving concerning and threatening messages from the man. Investigation revealed that the man had also purchased a firearm earlier in the day.

Due to the threats the man was making, and the other information that was developed, Ofc. Thompson obtained a felony warrant for the man. To ensure the warrant was safely executed, assistance was requested from our department's detectives and the Fairfax County Special Weapons and Tactical Team (SWAT). The 52-year-old man was safely taken into custody by SWAT officers. Ofc. Thompson transported the man to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where the warrant charging Felony Written Threats to Kill or Injure was served and he was held without bond. An Emergency Protective Order was issued against him to prevent further contact with his neighbor.

Domestic Dispute 25-01322 Panda Dumpling 155B Maple Avenue, West February 15 11:05 a.m.

An officer responded to a verbal domestic dispute between two employees.

## Petit Larceny 25-01332 Virginia ABC Store February 15 7:45 p.m.

An employee reported two separate incidents a few minutes apart that occurred earlier in the evening when men entered the store and stole alcohol. The first incident involved three men. The second incident involved two men.

## Arrest – Drunk In Public 25-01330 Hillcrest Drive, SW February 15 7:53 p.m.

A resident reported that his adult son was intoxicated and trying to enter his home after just being released from detox. Upon the officer's interaction with the man, they detected signs of intoxication.

Ofc. Thompson arrested the 41-year-old man from Hillcrest Drive, SW in Vienna. She transported him to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Drunk In Public. Before the man was processed at the jail, he began suffering a medical emergency. Rescue personnel responded and transported him to an area medical facility for treatment. The man was released on a summons for the charge. *Reference Incident #25-01344*.

Domestic Dispute 25-01343 Gibson Drive, SW February 16 7:11 a.m.

A resident reported he was having a dispute with his parents over his medication.

Domestic Dispute 25-01344 Hillcrest Drive, SW February 16 8:10 a.m.

A resident reported that his son was released from the hospital after being charged with Drunk In Public. When he returned home, he began drinking perfume and household cleaners that he believed contained alcohol. Rescue personnel responded and transported the man to an area hospital for treatment. *Reference Incident #25-01330*.

Assist Fire & Rescue 25-01355 300 Block Broadleaf Drive, NE February 16 4:07 p.m.

Officers assisted Fire and Rescue personnel when a tree fell onto a home. The resident and his pets who were in the home were uninjured. The fire department cut off the gas and electricity from the home until the Fire Marshall and utility companies could inspect it.

Grand Larceny 25-01399 Anita's Restaurant 521 Maple Avenue, East February 17 between 7:00 p.m. and 7:50 p.m.

A federal officer reported someone forced entry into his vehicle and stole a bag containing his credentials, a firearm, and his bank cards.

Arrest – Drunk In Public 25-01444 Wawa 465 Maple Avenue, West February 19 10:07 a.m.

An employee reported a man who locked himself in the restroom and refused to leave. Upon the officer's interaction with the man, they detected signs of intoxication.

PFC Reed arrested the 28-year-old man from Buccaneer Court in Fairfax, Virginia. The employee trespassed the man from the establishment, and he was advised that he would be charged with trespassing if he returned. The man was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Drunk In Public.

# CASE UPDATES

None.

## **CRASHES**

### Nutley Street and Tapawingo Road, SW 25-01126

### February 8 2:00 a.m.

Vehicle-1 was traveling southbound on Nutley Street, SW, lost control of the vehicle at the intersection of Tapawingo Road, and struck a speed limit sign.

### 120 Church Street, NW 25-01287

### February 14 3:02 p.m.

Vehicle-2 was traveling eastbound on Church Street when they were struck by Vehicle-1 who was backing up to park on the roadway.

### 9745 Vale Road 25-01351

### February 16 6:00 a.m.

Vehicle-1 was eastbound on Vale Road when it struck a pothole causing damage to his right rear tire and the axle assembly.

### 9745 Vale Road 25-01348

### February 16 1:40 p.m.

Vehicle-1 was eastbound on Vale Road when it struck a pothole causing damage to both right-side tires.

Please contact Juan Vazquez for further information on any of these cases at Juan.Vazquez @viennava.gov or 703-255-7845.

# <u>CITIZEN NOTES</u>

### Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department



**September 12, 2023** 

**Alert Number** 

#### I-091223-PSA

Questions regarding this PSA should be directed to your local FBI Field Office.

Local Field Office Locations: <a href="https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices">www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices</a>

#### Violent Online Groups Extort Minors to Self-Harm and Produce Child Sexual Abuse Material

The FBI is warning the public of violent online groups deliberately targeting minor victims on publicly available messaging platforms to extort them into recording or live-streaming acts of self-harm and producing child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These groups use threats, blackmail, and manipulation to control the victims into recording or live-streaming self-harm, sexually explicit acts, and/or suicide; the footage is then circulated among members to extort victims further and exert control over them.

#### **VIOLENT ONLINE GROUPS**

The violent online groups use many names, including 676, 764, CVLT, Court, Kaskar, Harm Nation, Leak Society, and H3ll, but continuously evolve and form subgroups under different monikers. They operate on publicly available platforms, such as social media sites or mobile applications. To gain access to a majority of these groups, prospective members are required to live-stream or upload videos depicting their minor victims harming animals or committing self-harm, suicide, murder, or other acts of violence. The key motivators of these groups are to gain notoriety and rise in status within their groups.

#### **TARGETING**

The groups target minors between the ages of 8 and 17 years old, especially LGBTQ+ youth, racial minorities, and those who struggle with a variety of mental health issues, such as depression and suicidal ideation.

#### **EXTORTION AND SELF-HARM**

The groups use extortion and blackmail tactics, such as threatening to SWAT¹ or DOX² the minor victims, if they do not comply with the groups' requests, manipulate and extort minors into producing CSAM and videos depicting animal cruelty and self-harm. Self-harm activity includes cutting, stabbing, or fansigning³. Members of the groups threaten to share sexually explicit videos or photos of the minor victims with their family, friends, and/or post to the internet. The groups control their victims through extreme fear and many members have an end-goal of forcing the minors they extort into committing suicide on live-stream for their own entertainment or their own sense of fame.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The FBI urges the public to exercise caution when posting or direct messaging personal photos, videos, and identifying information on social media, dating apps, and other online sites. Although seemingly innocuous when posted or shared, the images and videos can provide malicious actors an abundant supply of content to exploit for criminal activity. Advancements in content creation technology and accessible personal images online present new opportunities for malicious actors to find and target minor victims. This leaves them vulnerable to embarrassment, harassment, extortion, financial loss, or continued long-term revictimization. Further, the FBI recommends looking out for warning signs indicating a minor may be experiencing self-harm or suicidal ideations. Being able to recognize the warning signs of self-harm will help you provide immediate support.

The FBI recommends the public consider the following warning signs regarding self-harm or suicide:

- Sudden behavior changes such as becoming withdrawn, moody, or irritable.
- Sudden changes in appearance, especially neglect of appearance.
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits.
- Dropping out of activities and becoming more isolated and withdrawn.
- · Scars, often in patterns.
- Fresh cuts, scratches, bruises, bite marks, burns, or other wounds.
- Carvings, such as words or symbols, on the skin.
- Wearing long sleeves or pants in hot weather.
- Threatening to commit suicide and openly talking about death, not being wanted or needed or not being around.

The FBI recommends the public consider the following when sharing content (e.g., photos and videos) or engaging with individuals online:

- Monitor children's online activity and discuss risks associated with sharing personal content.
- Use discretion when posting images, videos, and personal content online, particularly those that include children or their information.

- Images, videos, or personal information posted online can be captured, manipulated, and distributed by malicious actors without your knowledge or consent.
- Once content is shared on the internet, it can be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to remove once it is circulated or posted by other parties.
- Run frequent online searches of you and your children's information (e.g., full name, address, phone
  number, etc.) to help identify the exposure and spread of personal information on the internet.
- Apply privacy settings on social media accounts—including setting profiles and your friends' lists as private—to limit the public exposure of your photos, videos, and other personal information.
- Consider using reverse image search engines to locate any photos or videos that have circulated on the internet without your knowledge.
- Exercise caution when accepting friend requests, communicating, engaging in video conversations, or sending images to individuals, you do not know personally. Be especially wary of individuals who immediately ask or pressure you to provide them photos or videos. Those items could be screencaptured, recorded, manipulated, shared without your knowledge or consent, and used to exploit you or someone you know.
- Do not provide any unknown or unfamiliar individuals with money or other items of value. Complying with malicious actors does not guarantee your sensitive photos or content will not be shared.
- Use discretion when interacting with known individuals online who appear to be acting outside their normal pattern of behavior. Malicious actors can easily manipulate hacked social media accounts.
- Secure social media and other online accounts using complex passwords or passphrases and multifactor authentication.
- Research the privacy, data sharing, and data retention policies of social media platforms, apps, and websites before uploading and sharing images, videos, or other personal content.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

If you are worried about someone who might be self-harming or is at risk of suicide the following resources may help:

- Consult your pediatrician or other health care provider who can provide an initial evaluation or a referral to a mental health professional.
- Connecting your child to a mental health resource can help them learn healthy coping skills for intense emotions and help reduce the risk of a serious injury.
- If it is an immediate, life-threatening emergency dial 9-1-1.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children provides a free service known as **Take It Down**, which helps minor victims, even if they are now an adult, but were victimized as a minor, with online image or video files, remove or stop the online sharing of nude, or sexually explicit content taken while under 18 years old. For more information, visit <a href="https://takeitdown.ncmec.org">https://takeitdown.ncmec.org</a>.

If you believe you are the victim of a crime using these types of tactics, retain all information regarding the incident (e.g., usernames, email addresses, websites or names of platforms used for communication, photos, videos, etc.) and immediately report it to:

- FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at <u>www.ic3.gov</u>
- FBI Field Office [www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices or 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324)]
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1-800-THE LOST or <u>www.cybertipline.org</u>)

Reporting these crimes can help law enforcement identify malicious actors and prevent further victimization.

<sup>1</sup>SWAT also referred to as SWATTING is the action or practice of making a prank call to police or emergency services in an attempt bring about the dispatch of armed police officers such as a SWAT team to a particular address.

<sup>2</sup>DOX also referred to as DOXXING is the action of obtaining and publishing personally identifiable information (PII) on the internet, usually for malicious intent.

<sup>2</sup>Fansigning is writing or cutting specific numbers, letters, symbols, or names onto your body.



### **Vienna Police Department**



The emergency technology company, **RapidSOS**, has partnered with the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, and Direct Relief to sponsor a no-cost voluntary health database. RapidSOS is an intelligent safety platform that securely links life-saving data from 500M+ connected devices, apps, and sensors from 90+ global technology companies to over 450,000 first responders across 15,000 agencies nationwide. Whether there's an unsafe moment or an emergency, RapidSOS Ready devices, homes, or buildings deliver essential data to first responders when it matters most.

Town of Vienna residents may create a free emergency health profile that can be easily shared with first responders during a crisis or emergency to ensure they can access your critical health and medical information when you need help. Your created profile provides real-time details about your medical history, emergency contacts, allergies, etc. It only takes a few minutes to set up and is voluntary.

You can enter behavioral health information, pre-existing medical conditions, allergies, emergency contacts, and other relevant details into the database. This information is associated with your mobile phone number and will only be available to first responders when they receive an emergency call from your provided telephone number. You can choose the amount of information you provide based on your discretion.

Regularly reviewing and updating your profile is vital to ensure first responders have the most up-to-date information, especially after significant health or life changes.

We encourage Vienna residents to take the first step in ensuring their safety during an emergency by creating a free emergency health profile today at <a href="https://www.emergencyprofile.org/">https://www.emergencyprofile.org/</a>.

