

THE PROSECUTOR'S PROGRESS

AN UPDATE FROM THE VIRGINIA BEACH COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY



I recently attended the Crime Prevention Awards and got the chance to speak to citizens and fellow law enforcement about the fight against crime in our community. This event was the perfect opportunity to reflect upon the role we all play in keeping our community safe. While we have officers patrolling the streets 24/7, and prosecutors in court every day seeking justice, it is you, the

community, who deserves a great deal of credit for keeping Virginia Beach safe. You are vigilant, concerned, and engaged. You are the ones keeping watch in your neighborhoods for suspicious activity, and law enforcement cannot do it without you. It is a partnership that I value greatly.

As we start a new school year, remember to talk to your children about online predators and cyberbullying. Our children are our most valuable assets, and we must make sure they are safe both in the community and online. I encourage you to check their online activity regularly and report any suspicious activity to the police if you believe they may be in danger.

I truly appreciate all that you do day in and day out to keep Virginia Beach a safe, family-friendly city.

Sincerely,
Colin Stolle
Commonwealth's Attorney

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Message from the Commonwealth's Attorney: Everyone Plays a Role in Keeping Virginia Beach Safe*
- *New: Virginia Beach Drug Treatment Court*
- *Featured Cases of the Quarter*
- *Consumer Corner: IRS Scam Very Prevalent In Virginia Beach*
- *New App Alert: Musical.ly*

NEW: VIRGINIA BEACH DRUG TREATMENT COURT

The Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney's Office announces the formation of Drug Treatment Court in the Circuit Court of Virginia Beach. The Virginia Beach Drug Treatment Court (VBDC) screening process began June 1, 2017, and it will commence as soon as suitable defendants are arrested and recommended for entry. Up to ten (10) offenders will be selected to start the program at any given time, and additional offenders may enter the program when a member graduates or is terminated. The thorough planning process began in April 2016 when the VBDC was approved, and it included the following Virginia Beach agencies: Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, Circuit Court (with the guidance of Judge Steven Frucci), Probation and Parole, Community Corrections, Department of Human Services, Public Defender's Office, Police Department, Sheriff's Office and City Attorney's Office.

The CWA Office looks forward to continuing to work with local law enforcement partners to combat drug addiction in our city. This will make Virginia Beach an even safer place to live. Drug addiction often leads defendants to commit other more serious crimes including theft, burglary, robbery, manslaughter, and even murder. The goal of VBDC is to rehabilitate non-violent drug offenders and addicts and provide them with an alternative to prison in order to change their long-term behavior.



In order to qualify for the program, offenders must reside in Virginia Beach, may not have a violent criminal history, may not have any prior convictions for Possession with Intent to Distribute drugs, and must have a previously suspended jail or prison sentence in excess of 12 months.

The selection process begins when an offender violates terms of his or her probation by testing positive for an illegal substance. Offenders may not be referred to the VBDC if the basis for their probation violation is a new criminal charge. Once Probation and Parole determines an offender is qualified for the program, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office does an additional screening. The offender is then evaluated by the Drug Court Team, which is comprised of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, Probation and Parole, Department of Human Services, and Circuit Court.

The VBDC involves several phases which have specific requirements for advancement. Incentives and sanctions are imposed when necessary. Offenders will attend the VBDC Docket in Circuit Court every Thursday at 2 p.m., will report daily to their treatment provider, must maintain employment, complete community service, must complete homework, may not reside with other drug users, and will undergo frequent random drug testing. A positive drug screen or violation of a condition of the program can result in a variety of sanctions, including community service, jail time, or expulsion from the program.

"Drug addictions are very difficult to overcome," Stolle said. "The VBDC is designed to be easy to get in and hard to get out. We hope to equip these offenders with the resources they need to kick their habits and change their entire lifestyle."

FEATURED CASES OF THE QUARTER

Commonwealth v. Timothy Watson



Charge: First Degree Felony Murder, Robbery (2 counts), Use of Firearm (2 counts), Conspiracy

Sentence: Life in Prison Plus 53 Years

Facts: On May 30, 2015, the victim, Paul Abbey, and his friend were robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of Cheetah's Gentleman's Club by Watson and Raiquan Turner. During the robbery, Abbey was shot and killed. Abbey's friend suffered a graze wound to the head. The two groups of men did not know each other, but had made small talk earlier in the night at the club. Turner is serving three (3) life terms plus 18 years. Keith Mitchell, the getaway driver, pled guilty to Accessory after the Fact-Homicide and is serving one (1) year.

Commonwealth v. Solomon Street



Charges: Malicious Wounding, Robbery, Attempted Robbery (2 counts), Conspiracy, and Use of a Firearm (3 counts)

Sentence: 25 Years

Facts: On September 28, 2014, Solomon Street's co-defendant, Devon Jensen, went to a party in the Windsor Oaks area. Jensen left the party and picked up Street. At approximately 2:30 a.m., Jensen and Street returned to the party and hid in front of a car. Three juvenile victims from the party went to the car. Street pulled a gun on them. Jensen pointed a gun at one victim and said, "Who wants to die?" Street and Jensen demanded the victim's keys, and Jensen pistol-whipped him. Jensen then pulled a knife and lightly slit the victim's throat. Street had a female victim on the ground and would not let her leave. He threw her phone into the grass and placed his gun to her head. Jensen robbed the third victim of his cell phone.

Commonwealth v. Paul James Williams



Charges: DUI – Reckless – Victim Permanently Impaired, Hit and Run – Personal Injury, Hit and Run – Property Damage, and DUI

Sentence: 6 Years and 30 Days

Facts: At 7:40 p.m. on August 5, 2016, Paul Williams rear-ended a vehicle on Holland Road and continued driving in the wrong lane. He then drove on the sidewalk and struck a 16-year-old girl who was walking with a friend. Williams again fled the scene and struck additional cars. He did not stop until his car became disabled at Holland Road and South Plaza Trail. The 16-year-old had significant serious injuries but survived. Hospital records show that Williams' serum blood/alcohol level was .36g/DL, which yields a whole blood/alcohol level of .31. Williams also told police that during the initial crash, he was on his phone playing the Pokemon Go game.

Commonwealth v. Curtiss Allen Kinzey



Charge: Torture Cat Causing Death

Sentence: 3 Years

Facts: On October 26, 2016, Kinzey was in the garage of his home in Virginia Beach with the family cat. A family member heard a disturbance in the garage and went to check on it. She saw Kinzey choking the cat around the neck and there was blood coming from the cat's mouth. She went back into the home to change clothes so that she could take the cat to the veterinarian. When she returned to the garage, the cat was gone. Animal Control officers arrived and found the deceased cat in the trashcan. A necropsy revealed that the cat died from severe head trauma related to multiple blows to the head. Kinzey admitted to killing the cat.

For more details on these cases and other Commonwealth's Attorney's Office news, visit: www.vbgov.com/oca.



Virginia Beach
Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
2425 Nimmo Pkwy,
Building 10 B, 2nd Floor
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Phone: 757-385-4401
E-mail: OCAAdmin@vbgov.com



TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP VIRGINIA BEACH SAFE!

The Office of the
Commonwealth's Attorney is
dedicated to serving our
community.

To request the Office's
assistance at your community
event, please e-mail Public
Information Officer
Macie Allen at
mpallen@vbgov.com.

The Consumer Corner

IRS Phone Scam Very Prevalent in Virginia Beach

Scammers pretending to be IRS representatives have been calling citizens stating there is an arrest warrant or lawsuit pending due to a failure to pay taxes. The scammer leaves a phone number to call to resolve it. In some versions of the scam, the caller pretends to be a Sheriff's Deputy. The scammers provide their names and sometimes badge numbers. They verify the citizen's name, phone number and address, which they have.

They say, "I can keep you from having an arrest warrant in your name but that will take a supervisor's approval." Then, they connect the caller with a supposed IRS "official supervisor." The citizen is then told the only way to avoid arrest is to pay the thousands of dollars they're asking for. They continue the scare tactic by saying that if the money isn't paid immediately, then they will not only send someone to arrest the citizen, but they'll add \$25,000 to what is owed.

Don't provide them with any personal information or give them any money or bank account numbers. Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.



If you receive a call from a scammer pretending to be an IRS representative, report this information to police by calling (757) 385-8101.

New App Alert: Musical.ly

Musical.ly is a video karaoke app in which users can make videos of themselves lip-syncing and post them publicly. When a video is posted, anyone can "like", comment, or message in response to your child's post if his or her privacy settings are set to "public." This means that minors may inadvertently be sharing content with adult strangers. Musical.ly allows users to search for friends nearby and receive notifications when friends come online. The app may contain sexual content, drug references, and swear words. Also, while Musical.ly does not allow nudity, it is possible that your child may stumble upon it before it has been discovered and removed. Parents, if you allow your children to use this app, make sure you are screening their content, put privacy settings in place, and talk to them about not sharing personal info on their profile.