



## VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

December 30, 2020

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from December 23, 2020 – December 29, 2020. Readers are reminded that an “arrest” is based upon probable cause and does not always mean that someone was physically taken into custody. Furthermore, it does not mean that 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 Ruth Rohr for further information at [Ruth.Rohr@viennava.gov](mailto:Ruth.Rohr@viennava.gov))

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**\*\*In the last few weeks, the Town of Vienna Police Department responded to multiple cases of vehicle tamperings and stolen vehicles. In almost every case, the vehicle was left unlocked and/or keys left inside. The criminals responsible for these thefts target unlocked vehicles to steal valuables, money, electronics, etc., and all it takes is them pulling on the door handle of an unlocked car. They rarely break into a locked vehicle. Vienna police officers proactively patrol all areas of the town to protect its citizens and their property and would like your assistance in curbing this crime of opportunity by removing all valuables from your vehicles, removing all keys (to include valet keys), and report suspicious activity immediately by calling 703-255-6366 or 911.\*\***

**The Vienna Police Department would like to warn citizens that mail has been stolen from the US Post Office collection boxes at the corner of Church St NW and Lawyers Rd NW after being broken into several times this year. The most recent incident occurred overnight from November 22nd to November 23rd. If you used these mailboxes during that time, please ensure that any checks, banknotes, or other important mail reached its intended destination. Mail theft or tampering is investigated by the US Postal Inspection Service and may be reported via their website at <https://www.uspis.gov/report/>. The Vienna Police department cooperates fully with their investigations and forwards all mail theft reports to the Postal Inspection Service. If you see suspicious activity at the mail collection boxes, contact the Vienna Police Department for an immediate response.**

**To avoid theft, citizens are advised to use the collection mailboxes inside the post office.**

## **INCIDENTS**

### **Suspicious Event 20-009288**

**200 Block Cedar Lane, SE**

**December 23 10:45 a.m.**

A citizen reported that as she left the Dollar Tree Store, entered her vehicle, and locked her doors, a man attempted to open the rear door of her vehicle. The citizen reported the event to the police several hours after the incident.

### **Found Property 20-009281**

**300 Block Maple Avenue, East**

**December 23 11:33 a.m.**

A citizen turned in several gift cards that she found in the parking lot of the shopping center.

### **Arrest – Drunk In Public 20-009290**

**Maple Avenue and Nutley Street, SW**

**December 23 8:14 p.m.**

Officers responded to the report of a man standing in the middle of the roadway harassing motorists. Upon the officer's interaction with the man, they detected signs of impairment.

Ofc. McElhattan arrested the 37-year-old man from 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW in Washington, DC. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with Drunk In Public. It was discovered that there was an active warrant for the man in Arlington County charging Felony Violation of Probation. The warrant was served on the man.

### **Grand Larceny 20-009297**

**7-11**

**537 Maple Avenue, West**

**December 24 12:35 p.m.**

An employee reported that someone entered the back office of the store, forced entry into a filing cabinet, and stole the deposit bag that contained a large sum of US currency.

**Juvenile Case 20-009296**

**Hillcrest Drive, SW**

**December 24 1:52 p.m.**

Officers responded to a domestic dispute. A juvenile reported that her brother, also a juvenile, assaulted their mother. The mother reported that her son was upset and threw a small Christmas tree that accidentally struck her and caused a minor injury. The mother stated that her son did not intentionally strike her with the tree.

**Open Door 20-009309**

**Michaels**

**311 Maple Avenue, East**

**December 25 6:24 a.m.**

Officers responding to an alarm found the rear fire exit door ajar. The officers searched the building and found nothing suspicious.

**Domestic Dispute 20-009313**

**Holmes Drive, NW**

**December 25 9:33 p.m.**

A resident reported that her adult son was intoxicated and causing a disturbance. The son left the area before officers arrived.

**Assist Rescue 20-009320**

**200 Block Ceret Court, SW**

**December 26 12:24 p.m.**

Officers responded to assist rescue with an elderly man who is in Hospice care. The man was transported to an area hospital by rescue personnel.

**Grand Larceny 20-009347**

**100 Block Wilmar Place, NW**

**December 27 5:21 a.m.**

A resident reported that someone rummaged through his vehicle and stole a ring and a pair of sunglasses.

**Vehicle Tampering 20-009353**

**800 Block Cottage Street, SW**

**December 29 between 12:01 a.m. and 12:01 p.m.**

A resident reported that someone rummaged through his unlocked vehicle.

**Assault 20-009361**

**200 Block Locust Street, SW**

**December 29 5:20 p.m.**

A resident reported that her roommate struck her in the face, and was banging on her bedroom door and screaming. There were no signs of injury. The resident was advised of the warrant process should she wish to pursue charges.

**Emotionally Disturbed Person 20-009365**

**200 Locust Street, SE**

**December 29 10:12 p.m.**

A resident called 911 to report that she was considering harming herself. An officer transported the woman to an area medical facility for evaluation and counseling.

**CRASHES**

**700 Block Nutley Street, SW 20-009335**

**December 28 1:57 a.m.**

Vehicle-1 was traveling northbound on Nutley Street when the vehicle left the roadway, struck a utility pole, and caught on fire. The driver was distracted while texting. There was no serious injury. Northbound Nutley Street was blocked for several hours to allow crews to repair the damage to the pole and utilities.

Driver-1 was issued a summons charging Reckless Driving.

**CASE UPDATES**

None

Please contact **Ruth Rohr** for further information on any of these cases at [Ruth.Rohr@viennava.gov](mailto:Ruth.Rohr@viennava.gov) or 703-255-6324.

**On December 10, 2020, Governor Northam issued Executive Order #72, which incorporates earlier Executive Orders Sixty-Three Sixty-Seven that will take effect on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 12:01 a.m. This amended order remains in effect until rescinded or amended by further executive order. Questions, concerns, and complaints of this order's violations should be directed to the VA Department of Health at 1-877-275-8343.**

For more information about COVID-19, navigate to <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/>  
The full text of Executive Order Seventy-Two is available [here](#)



**Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department**  
**Media Information Release**  
**Operations Modifications in**

March 18, 2020

In the interest of public safety for our residents, businesses, and visitors, the Vienna Police Department has modified its operations to increase social distancing and reduce the chance of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

This modified operation entails taking certain police reports for relatively minor and non-violent crimes by telephone. There will be cases where there is no need for evidence collection, not a crime in progress, but the incident still needs to be documented.

If you are calling to file a police report, Communications personnel will ask you questions to help determine if your call meets the criteria for a telephone follow-up and if so, you may be advised that an officer will call you back to assess the need to respond in person or complete the report via telephone. If you feel that an officer is required, you may make that request, and an officer will respond. The incident report over the telephone will go into the same records management system and will be tracked the same as if an officer responded.

If a police officer responds to your location, please be prepared to step outside to meet the officer to encourage social distancing and avoid the spread of the virus.

By using telephone reporting, you will help us limit exposure. We thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to maintain our mission of providing a safe community for all of our citizens, businesses, and visitors.

Out of an abundance of caution, we have also suspended some low-priority services, which include: Ride-Along, PIO public engagements, VIN verifications, and child safety seats installations. Access to our police lobby will be restricted to immediate police assistance only. We do encourage our citizens to call the police department with questions at 703-255-6366 instead of visiting our lobby.

The Vienna Police Department continues to remain staffed, operational, and ready to respond to all emergencies, in-progress incidents, and priority calls. Day and night patrols remain at full strength, so you should not hesitate to call for assistance.

The process of handling some calls for service over the phone and limiting other services is temporary and will be continually reevaluated in the coming weeks.

Thank You,  
Chief Jim Morris



## **Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department Media Information Release**

### **Reminder**

### **Prevention of Stolen Vehicles/Vehicle Tamperings**

With the advent of warmer weather, the Town of Vienna Police Department would like to remind all Town of Vienna residents to secure their vehicles and personal belongings. Recently there have been several vehicle tamperings to include stolen vehicles from Vienna and the neighboring jurisdictions.

The Vienna Police Department would like to remind citizens of the following steps to assist in the prevention of your vehicle being tampered with or stolen:

#### **Lock your Car Doors.**

The majority of the vehicles being entered and/or stolen have been unlocked.

#### **Remove all Valuables.**

In most cases, the subjects responsible for these acts have been targeting vehicles that contain valuables such as, but not limited to, laptop computers, GPS's, pocketbooks/purses, loose change, cameras, etc. If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, please be sure to conceal the items, in the trunk, under the seats or use any other means to make them undetectable. Also, make sure to record all serial numbers, and if possible, engrave them or permanently mark the items with easily identifiable markings, in the event the items are recovered.

#### **Remove all Keys.**

The subjects who commit these crimes are aware that most new vehicles come with valet keys. Most of these keys are kept inside the vehicles, either in the center consoles, or the glove compartments, or other areas easily accessible. In some instances, the owners have left their keys rings containing their house keys, providing access to their homes.

#### **Report Suspicious Activity**

In some cases, the subjects have been observed wearing several layers of clothing, not consistent with the weather conditions. This is used to conceal stolen items and also to make identification difficult as they will shed layers of clothing as they flee the area when they suspect they have been observed committing a crime.

The Town of Vienna Police Department is dedicated to the safety and protection of all persons and property in the Town of Vienna. However, much of our success comes from the assistance of its concerned and observant residents.

**\*\*A reminder to secure your vehicles and remove all valuables! \*\*  
Even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway, please secure all windows and doors and remove all valuables.**



## **CITIZEN NOTES**

### **Vienna Police Department Construction Project Updates**

Updates about the police department construction project will be posted regularly to the "Police Department Renovation" page, located under the Police Department section, at [viennava.gov](http://viennava.gov), or follow the below link.

\*\* As we move forward with designing and ultimately constructing a new facility, Chief Morris is committed to keeping the Vienna community informed and involved in the process. To begin that effort a link has been established on the police department page of the Town of Vienna website (<https://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=1225>), and we will be providing regular updates about the process in these Highlights.

**Citizens are reminded to PLEASE call and report suspicious activity. Even if you choose not to provide your name or other personal information, we still need your help as extra eyes and ears in the community.**

**See or Hear Something? Say Something!  
We WANT to be Bothered! Call 9-1-1.**