



Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail

For Immediate Release
Date: February 17, 2023

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VPRJ ANNOUNCES RECOVERY OF TWO HANDGUNS BY WORK FORCE CREWS

Williamsburg, Virginia – Superintendent Colonel Roy Witham today announced the recovery of two weapons by the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail’s (VPRJ) inmate work force team. In the last two weeks and on two separate occasions, members of VPRJ’s inmate work force team, under the direct supervision of VPRJ Officers, identified and reported what appeared to be handguns discarded just off of roadways where the work force teams were assigned for the day. On Saturday, February 4, a handgun was spotted, later confirmed to be a 9mm firearm, and on Wednesday, February 15, a handgun was located and later confirmed to be an air pistol that visually mimicked a firearm.

On both occasions, inmate members of the work force crews ceased work and the supervising officer secured and made safe the area. Immediate notification on both occasions was made to the James City County Police Department, and responding officers secured and recovered both weapons.

Colonel Witham stated that he appreciated the quick action of the assigned officers and inmates. “With these weapons now in the possession of local law enforcement, I am grateful that they are off the streets and removed from the possibility of being involved in a tragic circumstance. As always, we appreciate the partnership and swift response by our colleagues at the James City County Police Department.”

For more than a decade, VPRJ has partnered with our four jurisdictions - James City County, York County, and the cities of Williamsburg and Poquoson - to provide a community work force comprised of volunteer, minimum security inmates to tend to certain outdoor projects. These assignments include lawn mowing on public stretches of medians and roadways, liter removal, and other environmental and horticultural tasks which provide community contribution opportunities for inmates while serving their sentence.