



**C.H.A.R.G.E UNIT**  
**Combined Harrisonburg and Rockingham Gang Enforcement**  
101 North Main Street  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802  
540-437-2643



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## NEWS RELEASE

Several gang task force investigations during 2012 have recently ended with plea agreements from multiple offenders. The CHARGE Unit, comprised of members of the Harrisonburg Police Department and the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, oversaw these investigations.

Marlon Wright (22) of Harrisonburg, a known criminal gang member (Crips), pled guilty to several charges on March 29<sup>th</sup>. CHARGE had been investigating him for his involvement in a shooting at Ralph Sampson Park that occurred on 3/22/12, a robbery, an assault and gang participation, as well as multiple narcotics and firearms offenses. He pled guilty to several charges (listed below) yielding a sentence of 32½ years, with all but 7½ suspended.

Trey Scott (21) of Staunton, a known criminal gang member (Bloods), pled guilty to several charges on March 5<sup>th</sup>. CHARGE had been investigating him for his involvement in a gang-related assault and robbery that occurred on Devon Lane on 3/31/12. He pled guilty to several charges (listed below) yielding a sentence of 40 years, with all but 14½ suspended.

Leonardo Mendoza-Ramirez (29) and Rafael Mendoza-Ramirez (21) of Siler City, NC, both known criminal gang members (Surenos 13), pled guilty to several charges between 12/28/12 and 2/25/13. CHARGE had been investigating them for their involvement in a gang-related stabbing that occurred in the parking lot of O'Charley's on 8/13/12. Leonardo Mendoza Ramirez pled guilty to charges (listed below) yielding a sentence of 20 years with all but 4 suspended. Rafael Mendoza-Ramirez pled guilty to charge (listed below) yielding a sentence of 5 years with all but 2 suspended.

The CHARGE Unit is responsible for responding to the proliferation of gang activity in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham community. "Arrests and convictions like these go a long way in ensuring the safety of our community. They send a message to gangs and their members that crimes they commit will be thoroughly investigated, and that they will be prosecuted accordingly," says Corporal Bryan Horowitz, the CHARGE Unit Coordinator.

*Taking Back Our Community One Child At A Time*





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In addition to criminal investigations like these, the CHARGE Unit also conducts training for law enforcement, government agencies, schools and their staff and community groups – presenting to well over 1000 adults since the beginning of 2012.

Furthermore, CHARGE also provides gang prevention courses for youth attending local elementary, middle and high schools. In an effort to discourage gang involvement, the unit has met with over 900 elementary and middle school students, in both large and small group settings since the beginning of 2012.

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OFFENDERS REFERENCED ABOVE (arrest photos available through the Rockingham County Jail):

Marlon Wright pled guilty to the following six charges:

- 1) One felony count of possession with the intent to distribute a schedule II narcotic, cocaine (VA code 18.2-248)
- 2) One felony count of possessing a firearm as a convicted felon (VA code 18.2-308.2)
- 3) One felony count of gang participation (VA Code 18.2-46.2)
- 4) One felony count of malicious wounding (VA Code 18.2-51)
- 5) One felony count of the use of a firearm in commission of a felony (18.2-53.1)
- 6) One felony count of robbery of a residence, with a gun (18.2-58)

Trey Scott pled guilty to the following three charges:

- 1) One felony count of unlawful wounding (VA Code 18.2-51)
- 2) One felony count of gang participation (VA Code 18.2-46.2)
- 3) One felony count of robbery on or near a street (VA Code 18.2-58)

Leonardo Mendoza-Ramirez pled guilty to the following two charges:

- 1) One felony count of malicious wounding by mob (VA Code 18.2-51)
- 2) One felony count of gang participation (VA Code 18.2-46.2)

Rafael Mendoza-Ramirez pled guilty to the following two charges:

- 1) One felony count of unlawful wounding (VA Code 18.2-51)
- 2) One felony count of gang participation (VA Code 18.2-46.2)

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