



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE GABRIEL CAMACHO

101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

NONEMERGENCY NUMBER: (540) 434-4436

FAX NUMBER: (540) 437-2691

WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

For Immediate Release
March 22, 2021

Lt. Pete Ritchie, Jr., HPD Public Information Officer
(540) 434-2314
hpd-pio@harrisonburgva.gov

Update Regarding Officer Shot During Animal Complaint

HARRISONBURG, VA – Recognizing that there has been considerable interest into this incident, the Harrisonburg Police Department wishes to clarify as much about what took place as possible, while also respecting the fact that it remains an active investigation. The officer who was shot during the animal complaint call for service on March 20, 2021 remains at UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville, Va. He continues to be in stable condition, alert, and in good spirits.

During the incident in which he was injured, HPD officers had received several complaints regarding a cow that had escaped from a local stockyard. The cow was reported to have been running through public streets in both commercial and residential areas. Individuals affiliated with the stockyard from which the cow had escaped attempted to corral it, but the animal was injured during the process.

After the cow was injured, officers with the Harrisonburg Police Department became increasingly concerned about the potential threat to public safety the injured animal presented. In the process of humanely euthanizing the injured animal, it suddenly charged at officers on the scene, hitting one officer, and Master Police Officer Bradley Boyce was struck in the legs by one bullet from an officer's firearm. Officers were then able to euthanize the cow. MPO Boyce was treated at Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital and later transported to UVA Medical Center. HPD Interim Chief Gabriel Camacho stated that, "on behalf of the HPD, we thank all of the members of the community who have expressed their concern for MPO Boyce and for all of the wishes for his speedy recovery."

As per department protocol, any discharge of a firearm with injury to a person is investigated and referred to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review. This investigation remains active and additional updates will be provided as they become available.



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE GABRIEL CAMACHO

101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

NONEMERGENCY NUMBER: (540) 434-4436

FAX NUMBER: (540) 437-2691

WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

###