



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT

**POLICE CHIEF KELLEY WARNER**

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## For Immediate Release

September 15, 2021

Contact: Lt. Todd Miller, Criminal Investigations Commander  
(540) 437-2650  
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# HPD Investigates Shooting Incident

HARRISONBURG, VA – At approximately 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, an HPD officer responded to a residence in the 2300 block of Purple and Gold Way for a report of threats. While an officer was on the front porch speaking to the complainant, the suspect, a male known to the complainant, fired at least a dozen rounds from a vehicle towards the residence and fled the scene.

Fortunately, neither the Officer or the complainant were struck by any of the rounds and there were no injuries reported. Multiple rounds did strike the residence several feet from where the officer and complainant were standing.

Due to the immediate danger to nearby residents, a “shelter-in-place” order was sent through the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (HRECC). Additional officers quickly converged on the scene and secured the immediate area. HPD’s Major Crimes Unit (MCU) responded, and detectives were able to quickly identify the suspect as John Fitch, 21, of Henrico County, Virginia. Assistance was requested from law enforcement agencies including the James Madison University Police Department, Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office, Goochland County Sheriff’s Office, Henrico County Police Department and the Virginia State Police.

HPD detectives obtained warrants against John Fitch for Attempted Capital Murder of a Police Officer and Attempted Capital Murder. Through investigative efforts, HPD was able to direct the Goochland County Sheriff’s Office, with assistance from the Virginia State Police, to the suspect’s location. Shortly after midnight, Fitch was located inside his vehicle deceased from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.



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This incident remains under investigation by the Harrisonburg Police Department Major Crimes Unit.

If you were a witness to this crime or have any further information to assist in the investigation, please call Detective Alan Dyer at 540- 437-2650 or email him at alan.dyer@harrisonburgva.gov. Anonymous tips related to this incident, or any crime can be sent to Crime Solvers at (540) 574-5050 or by texting "HPD" plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).

Approved for Release by:

Chief Kelley Warner

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