



**The City of
Hopewell, Virginia**

Hopewell Police Department
A.J. Starke, Chief of Police
804-541-2282



MEDIA RELEASE

For Further Information Contact: Lieutenant Cheyenne Casale
Criminal Investigations Unit - (804) 541-2284
Release Number: 2022-03242022 ****UPDATE****

March 31, 2022

****Juveniles Overdose on Prescription Medication ****

[Hopewell, VA] – On Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 4:52 p.m., officers responded to the 100 block of S. 16th Avenue in the City of Hopewell for several juveniles that may have overdosed on prescription medication. The preliminary investigation revealed that a total of seven children, ages one through seven, had in fact overdosed on prescription and were lethargic. Hopewell Fire personnel began administering aid as Hopewell Police officers arrived on scene and assisted. All seven children were transported to John Randolph Medical Center. Subsequently seven children were then transported to Richmond area hospitals due their declining state of health.

As of 03/24/2022, all children are expected to make full recoveries. The Hopewell Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services Unit and the Hopewell Police Department's Criminal Investigation Unit are conducting an active joint investigation. Additionally we are conferring with our Commonwealth Attorney's office to determine what charges, if any are appropriate for this incident. The Hopewell Police Department would like to extend its appreciation to The Hopewell Fire Department, The Hopewell Animal Control Division, medical personnel at John Randolph Medical Center, and the surrounding Jurisdictions and area hospitals that all played a crucial part in treating these juveniles.

****UPDATE**** - All of the children involved in this incident have made a full recovery and are being cared for appropriately. For the safety and welfare of the children we cannot release any further details. The joint investigation into this incident is on-going at this time.

The Hopewell Police Department is requesting that any person(s) who may have information regarding this incident or who may have been in and/or around the area at the time or have any information to provide, to contact Lead Detective Mark Pumbo of the Hopewell Criminal Investigations Unit at (804) 541-2284. Persons with information on this crime and who wish to remain anonymous may contact the Hopewell / Prince George Crime Solvers hotline in Hopewell at (804) 541-2202 or provide their tip using the P3tips mobile app.

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