



## The City of Hopewell, Virginia

Hopewell Police Department  
Kamran Afzal, Chief of Police  
804-541-2282



# MEDIA RELEASE

For Further Information Contact: Lieutenant Michael Langford  
Criminal Investigations Unit - (804) 541-2284  
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February 3, 2020

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### **\*\*UPDATE – Community assistance helps solve several cases\*\***

**[Hopewell, VA]** – On January 26, 2020, at approximately 4:32 PM, officers responded to a call for an armed robbery that had occurred in the 1200 block of City Point Road. The investigation revealed that four individuals conducted the robbery of two juveniles. The juveniles were lured into the area; under the impression they were there to purchase illegal narcotics. At least two offenders produced weapons, and demanded money from the victims. Shortly after this event occurred, the department began receiving information from the community, which assisted in the identification of the offenders in this case.

During the investigation, the Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) obtained warrants against the offenders identified as Mr. Matthew Allen Walker, age 18 of Hopewell and Mr. Chancellor Ryan Rhodes, age 20 of Hopewell. Additionally, two juvenile males, 15 and 17 years old of Hopewell have been charged in the armed robbery. All four have been charged with two felony counts of Robbery and one felony count of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery.

On Friday, January 31, 2020, officers and members of the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force arrested Mr. Walker and Mr. Rhodes without incident and subsequently transported to Riverside Regional Jail pending an arraignment. The two juveniles were taken into custody on Saturday, February 1, 2020 and subsequently transported to Crater Juvenile Detention Center pending an arraignment. The two juveniles whom were involved in the robbery, were identified as offenders in the homicide of Trayvon Evans that occurred on January 27, 2020, in the 700 Block of Blackstone Ave. Both were charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, and firearm related charges.

These subjects are suspected in additional offenses in the City of Hopewell. “The investigation into these incidents continues and we seek the public’s assistance in bringing the person(s) who committed these acts of violence to justice,” said Chief Kamran Afzal. We continue to encourage the public to use the Hopewell/Prince George Crimesolvers hotline in Hopewell at (804) 541-2202 or provide their tip using the P3tips mobile app.

Attached are images of Mr. Matthew Allen Walker and Mr. Chancellor Ryan Rhodes.

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