



Richmond City Sheriff's Office
Sheriff C. T. Woody, Jr.



PRESS RELEASE

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SHERIFF WOODY STATEMENT ON DALLAS POLICE SHOOTINGS

Richmond, Virginia – Today, Sheriff Woody made a statement regarding the shootings in Dallas, Texas the night of July 7, 2016.

“What occurred in Dallas, Texas last night was an act of senseless violence. I send my condolences and heart felt prayers to all those affected by this tragedy, and I encourage and ask for peace and calm from members of every community during this time.

I know that there are many questions surrounding the deaths of two individuals earlier this week in separate incidents with police officers. I grieve with their families, their relatives, and their friends as well. Many have been affected by the events of this week, and it is important that we recognize and are empathetic to those who have questions surrounding the violence we have witnessed. It is imperative that we allow these investigations to lead wherever they may, and that we allow the rule of law to deliver justice to those who are responsible.

We, as a community, will persevere through these struggles, and we will be stronger and more united on the other side of these struggles. We cannot allow ourselves to become divided, distrustful, or hateful towards one another. I am reminded of the wise words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when incidents like this occur: “Returning violence for violence only multiplies violence...Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

I urge everyone, law enforcement and community leaders and members alike, to increase their dialogue with one another, and to not let incidents such as those which have occurred this week dampen or weaken the wonderful relations law enforcement has with the citizens of Richmond. Indeed, we understand the value of every life, and the desire of every person to live that life free of threat or fear. We stand together today, and every day after, to deliver a very simple, yet clear message: We will not bow to hate or violence, but stand tall through love and peace.”

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining a secure jail and a safe court system, along with seamless inmate transport and civil process to preserve public safety. We remain committed to performing these duties with unsurpassed integrity and professionalism, with progressive training that incorporates best practices and technology. While partnering with the community, we strive to lower recidivism by providing faith-based and community-based programming that empowers ex-offenders to become productive members of society.

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