



# NEWS

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Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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## **STATEMENT FROM DJJ DIRECTOR VALERIE BOYKIN FOLLOWING RETURN OF BON AIR ESCAPEES**

**Richmond, VA, July 26** – First and foremost, we wish to thank the Virginia State Police, the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI, the Michigan Law Enforcement agencies and all who were involved in the safe apprehension of the two individuals who escaped from the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center last week. We also continue to cooperate fully with the Virginia State Police in their ongoing investigation in connection with this incident. All of the dedicated professionals committed to the rehabilitation of the youth in our care at Bon Air join me in hoping that investigators will get to the bottom of this incident so that appropriate action may be taken.

I also have ordered a complete security analysis of the Bon Air campus in the wake of the escapes. Our DJJ investigators and Residential Services management team are conducting internal reviews, and I am bringing in an external team to conduct an independent analysis to augment our findings. We are committed to determine if more immediate security enhancements are needed at Bon Air. Bon Air is an old campus, and this incident highlights the need for a more modern state-of-the-art secure treatment facility. Prior to this incident, we had not had an escape in over 20 years. It is extremely important to us to continue to be a good neighbor to the Bon Air community as we fulfill our role in public safety.

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