



NEWS RELEASE

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY FOLLOWING ISOLATED INCIDENT AT BON AIR JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is appreciative of assistance provided by Virginia State Police, Chesterfield County Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Chesterfield Police and the Virginia Department of Corrections following a disturbance that took place at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (BAJCC) on Sunday, Feb. 9. The situation was quickly brought under control and remains under investigation.

At approximately 4:30 p.m., 11 residents in a single housing unit comprised of 14 male youth became unruly and noncompliant, prompting staff to summon additional help. Although facility staff are trained to use intervention techniques designed for managing youth, pursuant to state regulation (6VAC35-71-1170) they are not allowed the use of practices or equipment generally available to law enforcement and adult correctional facilities – such as chemical agents like pepper balls – that facilitate an appropriately expedited and safe response to a large number of noncompliant residents actively threatening or displaying signs of violence.

Meanwhile, residents in the remaining housing units at BAJCC remained safe and secure. A scheduled pizza dinner provided by a local restaurant was able to proceed that evening for those residents.

BAJCC, located in Chesterfield, is a secure facility with an operational capacity of 272 beds and houses youth up to 21 years of age. In 2024, the average age of direct-care

youth was 17 years, and approximately 68% of those youth have committed felonies against a person.

DJJ is proud of the fast response of BAJCC staff to ensure the safety of everyone at the facility. Based on the serious nature of the charges placing the residents at BAJCC, DJJ is grateful that law enforcement was able to provide additional resources and return those involved in the disturbance to their rooms without injury or further incident. The investigation is ongoing and charges are pending.

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