



York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office

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Shelley Ward, Public Information Officer

P.O BOX 99, Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0099 • www.yorkcounty.gov/sheriff
Phone: 757-890-3654 • Fax: 757-890-3649 • e-mail: shelley.ward@yorkcounty.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2019

Deputy involved in accidental discharge of firearm

On February 21, 2019 at approximately 6:40pm a deputy attempted to stop a vehicle in the vicinity of Advance Auto Parts on Merrimac Trail for not using headlights. The vehicle, which had two occupants, came to a stop at the entrance to Parkway Apartments on Merrimac Trail which is approximately 500 feet over the County line into the City of Williamsburg.

As the deputy approached the vehicle the driver's door of the stopped vehicle swung open and the deputy accidentally discharged his firearm. The firearm was never pointed at the occupants. It appears that the bullet struck the ground, ricocheted and hit the lower portion of the driver's open door.

No one was injured in the incident.

The deputy has been placed on administrative leave pending a completed full investigation. The name of the deputy is being withheld as this is being handled as an internal personnel matter by the Sheriff's Office. Williamsburg Police Department is also investigating as the incident happened just inside of the city limits.

Sheriff Diggs said, "Anything than a less than perfect response regarding an interaction between police and citizens is something that should be reviewed. This was an unfortunate accident with no malice or ill intent towards the occupants of the vehicle. Thankfully no one was injured in this event. We understand how an accidental discharge like this can have an impact on the community and we would like to express our sincerest apology to anyone who has been negatively impacted by this. "

We would like to thank Williamsburg Police Department for assisting in this investigation.

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