



## **Division of Capitol Police News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 7, 2016

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Captain Randall E. Howard  
Division of Capitol Police  
Office: 804-786-5035

### **Capitol Police Investigate Suspicious Substance**

**RICHMOND, VA** — On Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at approximately 2:45 pm, the Capitol Police responded to a report of a suspicious substance at the Virginia Supreme Court Building at 100 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. A preliminary investigation revealed that when a piece of mail was opened in the Clerk's Office on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the building, a white powder spilled out. The area was isolated by Capitol Police and the remainder of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor was evacuated. Richmond Fire Department and HAZMAT responded and collected a sample of the substance for testing. The sample was transported to the State Lab at 600 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, where it tested negative for hazardous material. The criminal investigation into the source of the envelope and a possible motive is on-going, with the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The person responsible could be charged with Virginia Code Section 18.2-46.6(C), "Possession, manufacture, distribution, etc. of weapon of terrorism or hoax device", which is a Class 6 Felony punishable by up to 12 months in jail and/or a \$2500 fine. Additional information about the handling of suspicious packages, as well as other important topics, can be found on the Division's website at [http://dcp.virginia.gov/crime\\_prevention.htm](http://dcp.virginia.gov/crime_prevention.htm).

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