



## Division of Capitol Police News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# Capitol Police set major planning exercise

**RICHMOND** -- The Virginia Division of Capitol Police, a leader in threat response and security planning, will welcome more than two dozen agencies and corporations to Richmond next week for an exercise to help first responders better prepare for large-scale public events.

The tabletop exercise, titled "Jefferson's Resolve," will be held Tuesday, June 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Bon Secours Washington Redskins Training Center at 2401 W. Leigh St.

The exercise will give area police agencies, other first responders and community partners hands-on training in how to work collaboratively to better respond to large-scale public safety events.

As part of their mission to provide progressive law enforcement, Capitol Police officers routinely respond to large-scale public safety events on and around the grounds of the Virginia Capitol, and the agency frequently joins with area police departments and other first responders to design response plans.

Capitol Police are funding the tabletop exercise with a grant awarded through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and made available through the U.S. Department of Justice's Byrne/Justice Assistance Program.

“This grant is one component of Virginia’s effort to better prepare communities to respond to public safety events,” said Col. Anthony S. Pike, chief of the Capitol Police. “We’ve already established a strong track record for managing large events, and exercises such as this tabletop will allow us and our public safety partners throughout the region to build even better relationships and help make this a safer place for people to live and work.”

Founded in Jamestown in 1618, the Virginia Capitol Police in 2010 became one of less than 20 percent of the eligible law-enforcement agencies in the state to earn accreditation from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, a distinguished status the force continues to maintain.

Agencies and corporations planning to join Capitol Police at Tuesday’s tabletop exercise are: Chesterfield County Police, Chesterfield Fire & Emergency Medical Services, CSX Transportation, Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition, Greater Richmond Transit Co., Hanover County Sheriff’s Office, Henrico Fire Department, Henrico Police Department, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Richmond Ambulance Authority, Richmond Fire Department, Richmond Office of Emergency Management, Richmond Police Department, Virginia Commonwealth University Health Care System, Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Fire Programs/State Fire Marshal’s Office, Virginia Department of General Services, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Division of Legislative Automated Systems, Virginia Fusion Center, Virginia National Guard, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Virginia State Police.

Those interested in more information about the tabletop may contact Capt. Steven A. Witmer, senior legal specialist for Virginia Capitol Police, at (804) 786-0413 or [switmer@dcp.virginia.gov](mailto:switmer@dcp.virginia.gov).

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