



Division of Capitol Police

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joe Macenka, Public Information Officer

Division of Capitol Police

Office: 804-786-2522

Cell: 804-382-7447

Email: jmacenka@dcp.virginia.gov

Man charged after Capitol Square incident

RICHMOND – A man faces multiple charges after being arrested by Virginia Capitol Police following an incident Tuesday in which he drove around the Capitol Square grounds at a high rate of speed and ignored officers' attempts to stop him.

No injuries were reported in the incident, which began when the man drove on to the grounds of Capitol Square at 2:53 p.m. and ended with his arrest at 2:55 p.m. on Bank Street just south of the Capitol grounds.

John F. Landers II, 29, of the 5800 block of Lee Avenue in Henrico County, was booked on charges of assault on a law enforcement officer, driving while under the influence of drugs, driving on a revoked license, possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying an open container of alcohol.

Landers, alone in a 2001 gray Honda Accord sedan, drove onto the grounds of Capitol Square at the main entrance at Ninth and Grace streets, where he drove past the manned Capitol Police guardhouse on North Drive and ignored an officer's directions to stop. Landers proceeded eastbound on North Drive at a high rate of speed to the closed gate at the Executive Mansion, where another Capitol Police officer approached his vehicle on foot and attempted to get him to stop.

The officer jumped onto the curb to avoid being struck by Landers as he turned his car around and headed back westbound on North Drive, once again at a high rate of speed, before turning left onto a paved pedestrian path at the west end of the Capitol and following the path back to the South Portico. Landers stopped his car on the South Portico, jumped out and ran down the hill toward the south end of Capitol Square. He left the grounds of Capitol Square and ran across Bank Street, where he was placed in custody by Capitol Police on the sidewalk near the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals building.

A Capitol Police K-9 unit checked Landers' vehicle but found no evidence of explosives.

Note: Capitol Police do not have a booking photo of Landers, who was taken to the city jail for processing. Please contact the jail for the photo.

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