

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Homicide Investigation Results in Multiple Arrests**

Today the Hanover County Sheriff's Office arrested three individuals in connection with the recent shooting incident that occurred on January 21, 2012, in the 7300 block of Verdi Lane.

Investigators have arrested Da'von T. Byars, 19, of the 1400 block of Mechanicsville Turnpike in the City of Richmond; Kevin M. Drayton, Jr., 18, of the 8300 block of Rollins Lane in Mechanicsville; and, Xavia S. Highsmith, 18, of the 2000 block of N. 28<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Richmond. All three suspects have been charged with first-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and aggravated malicious wounding. All three subjects are currently incarcerated at Pamunkey Regional Jail in Hanover County.

The preliminary investigation indicates that a prior arrangement was made to purchase a quantity of marijuana from the victim. However, the intention of the suspects was never to purchase the marijuana. Rather, they intended to steal it. As a result, a physical altercation ensued during the transaction, which led to Brett A. Wells being shot once in the chest. Subsequently, as the suspects were fleeing the scene, an additional shot was fired, which struck the second victim.

"I am exceptionally proud of the exhaustive efforts of our investigative staff in resolving this case in less than 48 hours. They have literally worked non-stop and are to be commended for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the City of Richmond and Henrico County Police Departments for their direct assistance in furthering our investigation. Lastly, I would like to thank the community for their cooperation during this very trying time," said Colonel David R. Hines, Sheriff of Hanover County.

The Sheriff's Office joins the community in mourning the death of Brett Wells. We ask that the community keep the Wells family in their thoughts and prayers during this extremely difficult time.

**HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
**COLONEL DAVID R. HINES, SHERIFF**



Byars, Da'von T.



Highsmith, Xavia S.



Drayton, Jr. Kevin M.

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*"CONTINUING TO BE A PART OF, NOT APART FROM, THE COMMUNITY"*