

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

March 17, 2011



Contact:

Debbie George

757.514.4106

757.374.1770

DRIVER CHARGED WITH RECKLESS DRIVING IN MORNING ACCIDENT

Suffolk, VA (March 17, 2011) – The operator of the van that crossed into oncoming traffic, striking a school bus, has been charged with reckless driving. Police investigation into the two vehicle accident that occurred just before 8:30 a.m., revealed that the operator of the west bound van, Josette A. Winfield of Corapeake, N.C., fell asleep before striking the school bus head on.

Nine people were transported to area hospitals from the accident scene. Six of those transported were students of Driver Elementary School. Two additional children, ages five and seven months, who were passengers in the van were also transported, as well as the driver.

Parents were called to pick up the remaining students from the accident scene. All but one child was picked up from the scene. That child was transported to school, where efforts to reach a parent will continue. Five of the students picked up have been taken to local emergency rooms by their parents. The school bus driver was also treated for minor injuries and released.

None of the injuries from this accident are considered life threatening. All patients examined at area hospitals are being treated and are scheduled to be released.

Officer J. Salmon is the investigating officer.

###