

NEWS RELEASE

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YOUTUBE VIDEO LEADS TO ARREST OF SEVEN

Suffolk, VA (December 28, 2009) A large street fight with multiple participants and an uncooperative crowd provided few answers for responding police officers, but a video posted on YouTube and some determined officers helped close the case and hopefully send a message.

Just before 3 p.m. on December 14, officers of the Suffolk Police Department responded to the 1400 blk. of Sierra Dr. in reference to reports of a large fight in the street, shortly after students exited a school bus. Upon arrival, police found the fight had ended and the participants and numerous witnesses refused to share any information. Officers were concerned that what had transpired in the street could elevate or spread into the schools.

Police received a huge boost in the investigation days later when they learned that video of the fight was posted on YouTube. Members of the department's Neighborhood Enforcement Team and School Resource officers worked together, reviewing the video dozens of times and interviewing numerous subjects in order to place charges in the case. Police wanted to be sure that all involved were identified and charged so that participants and witnesses knew that this behavior wouldn't be tolerated.

As a result of their investigation, seven subjects – five adults and two juveniles – were charged with disorderly conduct. Five of the seven individuals charged are current students. Members of the Neighborhood Enforcement Team picked up four of the five adults involved on December 22. The fifth adult turned himself in to police on December 23. Petitions were secured for the juvenile.

Charged: Tywann Roshawn Eley, age 19, of the 6200 blk. Hightower St. Portsmouth

Vontray Jerrell Jennings, age 18, of the 1400 blk. of Sierra Dr

Ray Johnson II, age 18, of the 40 blk. of Stacey Dr.

Darold Lavell Lewis, age 22, of the 1400 blk. of Sierra Dr.

Nathaniel Carpri Shaw, age 19, of the 1400 blk. of Sierra Dr.

NET investigator W. Shockley and School Resource Officer K. Mayo are the lead investigators on the case.

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