

**Police Department**

Public Safety Center

5925 Cove Road • Roanoke, Virginia 24019

Non-Emergency (540) 562-3265

Emergency Dial 9-1-1



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## News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Unattended Firearm Discovered**

**UPDATE—Friday, December 15, 2023**

The officer involved in Wednesday evening's incident at Hidden Valley Middle School has been placed on administrative leave while the department conducts an internal investigation consisting of administrative and criminal review.

**(Roanoke County, VA—December 13, 2023)** Wednesday evening an unattended firearm was discovered in a restroom at Hidden Valley Middle School during a basketball game versus William Byrd Middle School. The firearm was discovered by an adult who notified school staff. Staff quickly locked the restroom to secure the firearm, secured the building and contacted the Roanoke County Police Department. Within minutes, Roanoke County Police discovered it was a department-issued firearm belonging to an off-duty Roanoke County Police officer who was attending the game and left the firearm unattended after leaving the restroom. The firearm was quickly recovered by the officer.

Police commend the quick actions and calm demeanor of school staff to ensure the safety of the student-athletes and attendees.

The Police Department is reviewing the circumstances around this matter.

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