

Police Department

Public Safety Center
5925 Cove Road • Roanoke, Virginia 24019
Non-Emergency (540) 562-3265
Emergency Dial 9-1-1



News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Amy Whittaker
Public Information Officer
Cell: (540) 589-3089
awhittaker@roanokecountyva.gov

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.

###