



# Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail

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## **VPRJ ANNOUNCES ARRESTS IN DRUG INVESTIGATION**

Williamsburg, Virginia – Today, Colonel Roy Witham, Superintendent of the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail (VPRJ) announced that warrants have been issued and served on two current inmates committed to VPRJ. Inmate John Mark Bellamy, Jr. and Inmate Paul Stephen Trites were charged with one count each of Conspiracy to Deliver Drugs / Synthetic to Prisoner, a violation of the Code of Virginia, §18.2-474.1.

In early May of this year, VPRJ Investigators gathered and developed information that pointed toward a conspiracy to deliver drugs into the jail. VPRJ Investigators shared information and coordinated efforts with the Tri-Rivers Drug Task Force, which led to the discovery of probable cause to execute the two warrants served today.

Inmate John Mark Bellamy, Jr. was committed to VPRJ on September 22, 2021, and is currently serving a one-year sentence for a probation violation of Grand Larceny from the City of Poquoson and a six-month sentence from the City of Chesapeake for Petit Larceny. Inmate Bellamy was scheduled to complete his sentence obligation at VPRJ at the end of August 2022. Inmate Paul Stephen Trites was committed to VPRJ on October 7, 2021, and is pending in James City County Circuit Court for one count of Possession of a Schedule I / II Narcotic and in York County Circuit Court for one count each of Obtaining Money Under False Pretense and Petit Larceny. Inmate Trites has hearing dates scheduled for June 29, 2022 in James City County and July 12, 2022 in York County. Additionally, both Inmate Bellamy and Inmate Trites will be arraigned on June 3, 2022 in James City County General District Court on the new warrants served today.

Colonel Witham stated, “I am thankful for the hard work and quick coordination of this investigation between VPRJ Investigators and members of the Tri-Rivers Drug Task Force. We will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners in our unceasing efforts to prevent illicit drugs and other contraband from being introduced into the jail.”

VPRJ anticipates additional arrests of individuals who are not current inmates at VPRJ as this investigation continues and will provide further updates as warranted.

The Tri-Rivers Drug Task Force is a task force comprised of investigators from the Virginia State Police, York-Poquoson Sheriff’s Office, Gloucester County Sheriff’s Office, Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office, Matthews County Sheriff’s Office, City of Poquoson Police Department, James City County Police Department, and the City of Williamsburg Police Department.