



RICHMOND CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
RICHMOND CITY JUSTICE CENTER
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C.T. WOODY, JR., SHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

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STATE I.D.'S OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE JAIL RESIDENTS

This week Sheriff Woody welcomed a team from the Department of Motor Vehicles Connect program to the Richmond City Justice Center. Seventeen residents who are also participants in RCJC's behavioral modification program, the REAL (Recovering from Everyday Addictive Lifestyles) Program, were afforded the opportunity have their state identification made. Many of these individuals did not have their birth certificate, a requirement to get an ID, and as such the RCJC Internal Program Department worked with the Virginia Department of Vital Statistics to obtain birth certificates, which then enabled them to get their ID.

For some, this is the first time they will have an ID in decades. Aurelius Hopkins, who says the last time he had an ID was in 1987, shared with excitement, "I've been homeless for almost 20 years and without identification. I have been in and out of prison this whole time. When out, I haven't been able to get a job or a house because I had no ID and no way of getting it. I have never had a birth certificate that I can remember. But they helped me get that too. Now that I have my ID, I can better apply myself to positive things in life, such as proving who I am when applying for jobs."

Sheriff Woody shared, "There are many barriers to re-entry into the community from an institution. These obstacles, such as lack of housing, clothing, job, or an identification, typically contribute to the potential of re-engaging in past behaviors and ultimately recidivating. Our internal program department works for program participants to overcome these barriers and equips residents with the tools necessary to become successful upon release. Beginning to provide residents in need of an identification and/or birth certificate is one of those tools."

The Richmond Sheriff's Office is excited to join all of Virginia's Department of Corrections' prisons, a couple of federal institutions, and about a dozen other Sheriff's Offices around the Commonwealth to provide such services to our residents.

About the RCJC's Internal Program Department and the REAL Program:

The Richmond City Justice Center (RCJC) will work to bridge the gap from incarceration to reentry into the community by addressing criminogenic needs and barriers most closely related to reoffending, in order to increase public safety, lower the recidivism rate, and transform the lives of those who have been residents of the RCJC.

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining a secure jail and a safe court system, along with seamless inmate transport and civil process to preserve public safety. We remain committed to performing these duties with unsurpassed integrity and professionalism, with progressive training that incorporates best practices and technology. While partnering with the community, we strive to lower recidivism by bridging the gap from incarceration to reentry into the community by addressing criminogenic needs and barriers most closely related to reoffending.

Recovering from Everyday Addictive Lifestyle (REAL) a program name created by the male residents, is the RCJC's premiere program. REAL has a purpose of reducing recidivism through ensuring the individual is prepared for re-entry into society. This is done by assisting residents of the RCJC to positively and comprehensively address their addictions and behaviors, while appropriately modifying their thinking.

About DMV Connect:

DMV Connect is DMV's newest outreach program. Connection teams carry portable equipment to serve incarcerated individuals pending release, connecting Virginians with services they need. Identification is necessary to secure jobs, open bank accounts, enter public buildings, and apply for benefits. To ensure inmates leave incarceration with an ID card to be successful on the outside, DMV Connection teams go inside to provide services to inmates preparing for release.

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