

Operation Vaporize

Mayor Danny Avula, City of Richmond

Director Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review

Chief Rick Edwards, Richmond Police Department

December 19, 2025



Operation Vaporize



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Director Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review

Vape Shop Inspections

Number of Vape Shop Businesses Visited: **30**



Director Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review

Vape Shop Inspections

Number of Vape Shop Businesses Placarded: **18**

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Director Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review

Vape Shop Inspections

No Certificate of Occupancy: 8



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Vape Shop Inspections

Has CO – but Safety Violations cited: **10**



Director Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review

Vape Shop Inspections

Total Violations: **274**



Director Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review

Vape Shop Inspections

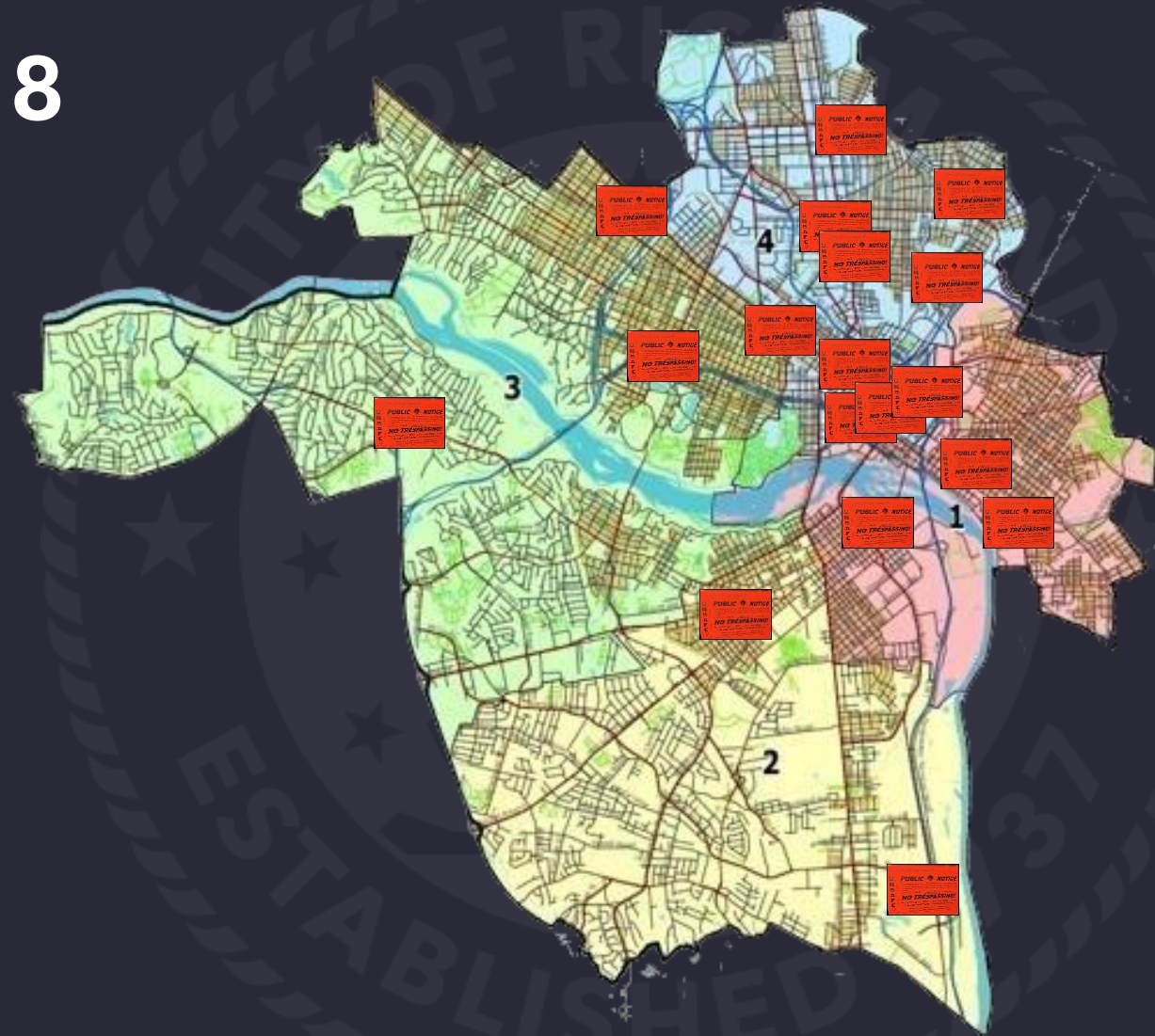
Total Violations PDR: **175**
Total Violations RFD: **88**
Total Violations Finance: **11**



Director Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review

Vape Shops Placarded - 18

2318 4th Avenue
2 ½ North 18th Street
308 North Adams Street
2 East Brookland Park Boulevard
4 West Broad Street
217 West Broad Street
1383 West Broad Street
4001 West Broad Street
415 East Broad Rock Road
3103 West Cary Street
2005 Chamberlayne Avenue
2425 Chamberlayne Avenue
7032 Forest Hill Avenue
5013 Government Road
1420 Hull Street Road
250 East Ladies Mile Road
15 West Main Street
2606 Walmsley Boulevard



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Strategic Response

Property owner responsibility, drug blight ordinance

Code of Virginia 15.2-907 and Richmond City Code 11-155

Joint effort between RPD and Commissioner of Buildings

Criminal Enforcement

Executed by: RPD Narcotics Unit and Street Crimes Unit, FBI, DEA, ATF, and Virginia State Police.

Focus: High-level distribution, weapons seizures, and dismantling criminal networks.



Chief Rick Edwards, Richmond Police Department

2501 Chamberlayne Avenue - Pop's Smoke Shop

A portion of that operation in the summer involved the execution of a search warrant of the vape shop located at Chamberlayne Avenue and Overbrook Road, Pop's Vape Shop.

The owner's home residence was also raided in another jurisdiction. Total seizure involving that vape shop and home residence yielded four firearms, one of which was equipped with an auto sear, over \$10K in currency and over 20 pounds of marijuana.



Chief Rick Edwards, Richmond Police Department

Criminal Enforcement Results

Search Warrant Executions (2025 YTD)

SCOPE

17 RPD LED SEARCH WARRANTS

NARCOTICS SEIZED

OVER 100LBS OF BULK MARIJUANA AND ILLEGAL THC PRODUCTS

WEAPONS RECOVERED

31 ILLEGAL FIREARMS

CASH SEIZED

OVER \$60,000 IN ILLICIT CURRENCY

Cross-Jurisdictional Support: 9 additional warrants executed for Hanover, Chesterfield, and Henrico partners.



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Significant Criminal Cases

MAJOR CASE HIGHLIGHTS



102 W BROAD ST

- Targeted shop + 5 private residences.
- Seizure: 19 firearms & 4.5 lbs marijuana.
- Outcome: 5 individuals charged with conspiracy.



2501 CHAMBERLAYNE AVE

- Seizure: 20 lbs of marijuana, \$10k cash.
- Weapon: 4 firearms seized, including one equipped with an "auto-sear" (machine gun conversion).




3923 HULL STREET

- Seizure: 30 lbs of marijuana.
- Charge: Maintaining a Fortified Drug House.



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Shop



A collection of firearms is displayed on a light-colored surface. At the top, a long-barreled rifle with a scope and a shotgun are visible. Below them, a black assault rifle with a large scope and a green magazine is shown. Further down, a smaller black assault rifle with a green magazine is displayed. At the bottom, three handguns are arranged in a row: a black one, a brown one, and a silver one. The background features a large, faint watermark of a circular seal with the word 'RICHMOND' and stars.



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3923 Hull St – 24/7 Tobacco

On Sept. 3, 2025, Search warrants were executed at two vape shops adjacent to each other (3923 and 3927 Hull St). At 3923 Hull St 30 lbs of marijuana was seized.



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A photograph of various items laid out on a cardboard surface. At the top left is a black handgun. Below it are two boxes of Federal 20 ammunition. To the right of the handgun are two boxes of Sugar Scent. In the center is a grid of 20 colorful markers (purple, pink, green, yellow, and blue). Below the markers are two clear plastic bags filled with US currency. To the right of the bags are two rows of small, round, white objects, possibly pills or capsules, arranged in a grid. The background is a dark blue surface with a large, faint watermark of the Seal of the City of Richmond, Virginia, featuring a star and the text 'CITY OF RICHMOND' and 'ESTABLISHED 1737'.



2905 Chamberlayne Avenue - Metro Vape Shop



Over five pounds of marijuana, two firearms, and nearly \$10,000 in US currency were seized from the business. The offender was charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana, possession of a firearm while possessing over one pound of marijuana.



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4924 Chamberlayne Avenue – Pop's 1-Stop Shop



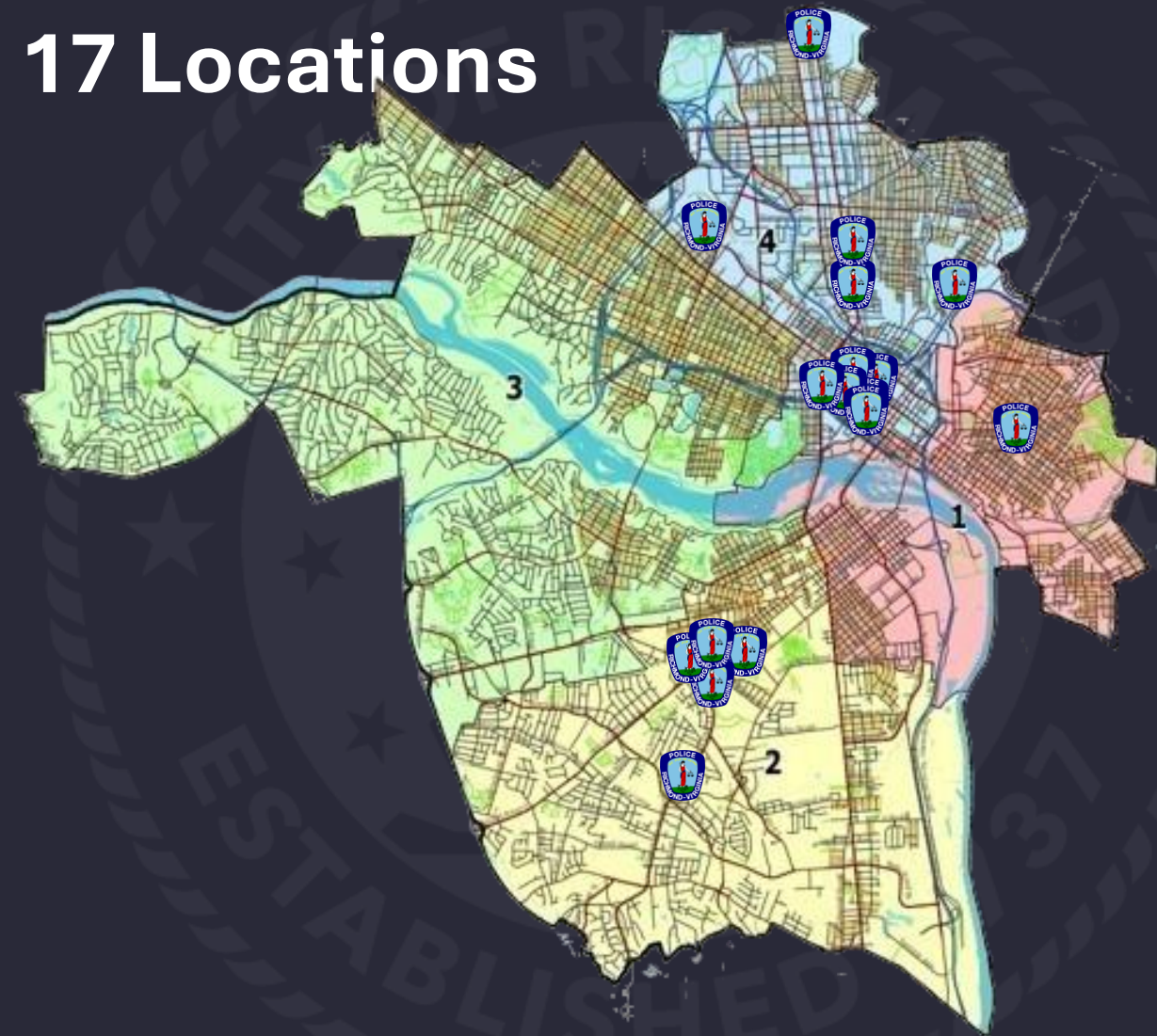
A search warrant was executed at the vape shop at 4924 Chamberlayne Avenue, Pop's 1-Stop Shop, after receiving numerous complaints about the business. Approximately a pound of marijuana and nearly \$2,000 was recovered from the business. Two subjects were arrested for a narcotics-related offenses.



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Executed Search Warrants at 17 Locations

402 North 2nd Street
2318 4th Avenue
308 North Adams Street
4 West Broad Street
102 West Broad Street
217 West Broad Street
2220 Broad Rock Boulevard
415 East Broad Rock Road
3723 East Broad Rock Road
Chamberlayne Avenue/Brook Road
2905 Chamberlayne Avenue
4924 Chamberlayne Avenue
3927 Hull Street
3923 Hull Street
15 West Main Street
3111 Norfolk Street
2438 Venable Street



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