



Joint News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Suspect Apprehended in Theft from Autos and Break-ins

Petersburg, Virginia: The Petersburg Bureau of Police and the Colonial Heights Police Department have been collaborating to investigate a series of burglaries and thefts occurring in both jurisdictions. Through their joint efforts, a suspect was identified in connection with break-ins at several churches, residences, and thefts from vehicles. This suspect has now been taken into custody.

On May 24, 2025, at approximately 4:30 a.m., the Colonial Heights Police Department received a call regarding multiple vehicles being broken into in the 700 block of Hamilton Avenue.

Upon arrival, officers canvassed the area and spotted a male suspect who matched the description provided by one of the victims. When officers approached, the suspect fled on foot. After a brief foot chase, officers apprehended the suspect near the intersection of Colonial Avenue and East Westover Avenue. During the arrest, they discovered a bag containing burglary tools, facemasks, and a firearm.

The suspect has been identified as Robert Allen Branch, age 50, a resident of South Chesterfield. Branch has been charged with several offenses, including Larceny of a Firearm, Possession of Burglarious Tools, Petit Larceny, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Obstruction of Justice,

Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and Providing False Identification to Law Enforcement.

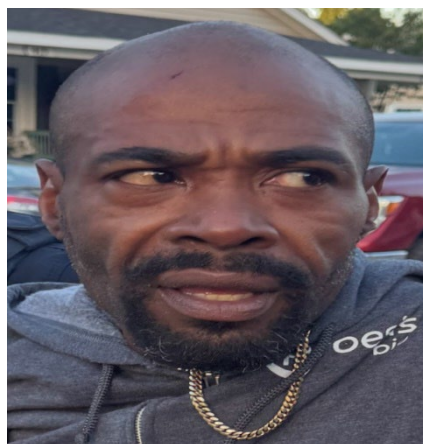
Branch has been identified as a suspect in a burglary that occurred on May 23, 2025, in the 200 block of Danville Avenue. He faces additional charges for Breaking and Entering, Grand Larceny, Wearing a Mask, and Vandalism. Branch was transported to Riverside Regional Jail, where he is being held without bond.

In Petersburg, Branch has been charged with multiple break-ins of churches as well as a residential burglary and remains incarcerated on those charges as well.

Detectives from Colonial Heights are collaborating with Petersburg detectives to investigate any additional crimes that may be linked to Branch.

If any members of the community have information regarding these incidents, please contact Officer Peter at 804-520-9300 ext. 7 or via email at petera@colonialheightsva.gov. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can reach out to Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Crime Solvers at (804)748-0660 or submit a tip using the P3 mobile app.

In Petersburg, please contact Detective Grey at 804-732-4222 or provide a tip to Petersburg/Dinwiddie Crime Solvers at 804-861-1212 or through the p3tips.com app. Remember, Crime Solvers offers a reward for information that leads to an arrest and conviction.



Robert Allen Branch

