



NNSO

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

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Conviction and Sentence in Bomb Threat Case

Devon Tyrell Slaughter, 21, pleaded guilty on June 11, 2013 to two counts of "threats to bomb," a Class 5 felony. He was sentenced in circuit court to 10-years on each count with all but 8-months suspended. In addition, he was ordered to pay restitution to each of the public safety agencies that responded to the threat, including Newport News Sheriff's Office, Newport News Police Department, and the Newport News Fire Department.

The bomb threat made February 20, 2013 temporarily shut down all three Newport News courthouses. Newport News Sheriff's Office deputies arrested Slaughter on March 5, 2013 after conducting a thorough investigation. The Sheriff's Office determined that Slaughter was trying to delay his sentencing hearing on a malicious wounding conviction, scheduled the morning of the February 20th bomb threat, as his motive. The investigation by the Sheriff's Office traced the phone call to a payphone outside a convenience store located in the 4700 block of Marshall Avenue. Slaughter also made additional calls from a pre-paid cell phone mistakenly thinking those calls could not be traced. Technology used by the Enhanced 911, or E-911, can automatically associate a location with the origin of the cell phone.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan said, "My position is to send a strong message to anyone who attempts to impede the justice system, whether through witness intimidation or by disrupting court proceedings. We will use all available recourses to bring them to justice. The public should have a high level of confidence in the justice system's ability to not only arrest, but also to ensure they have their day in court without disruption of those proceedings."

This is the second bomb threat arrest made by the Newport News Sheriff's Office (NNSO). In November of 2010, the NNSO arrested a man in connection with the October 20, 2010 bomb threat. That arrest led to a conviction.

These investigations headed-up by the NNSO are all part of the agency's increase in law enforcement activity. This is a force multiplier for the residents of the City of Newport News. The local police department is the primary law enforcement agency for the city. Sheriff's office personnel are supplementing those efforts without any additional tax dollars from citizens.

The booking photo of Devon Slaughter accompanies this media release.

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