



City of Virginia Beach

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April 24, 2020

The Honorable Robert M. Dyer, Mayor
and Members of City Council

Subject: VBPD Interim Investigative Executive Summary – May 31, 2019

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

Attached for your review are the Police Department's Interim Investigative Executive Summary of the May 31, 2019, Building 2 tragedy and the transmittal memorandum from Chief of Police Jim Cervera. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the investigation and progress made to date by the Police Department and its cooperating agencies.

Our detectives have dedicated countless hours identifying the who, what, where, when and how of this senseless tragedy. Unfortunately, the answer to "why" may be something we will never know.

Please contact me or Deputy City Manager Steve Cover should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Leahy
Acting City Manager

Attachment (1)



City of Virginia Beach

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INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2020
TO: Thomas M. Leahy, City Manager *TML*
Via: Steven R. Cover, Deputy City Manager *SR*
FROM: Chief James A. Cervera *JAC*
SUBJECT: May 31, 2019 Mass Homicide Updated Executive Summary

Attached is an updated summary of the status of the investigation into the mass shooting in building 2 on May 31, 2019. As we approach the anniversary of that tragic day, our entire agency, and no doubt our community, have reflected on that day and individually or collectively sought to understand why this tragedy took place. It should go without saying, the suspect had a reason for why he decided to bring two weapons to work on that day and waited until 4 pm to engage in a shooting spree, killing 12 innocent people and injuring 5 others. His actions were not an accident. For 329 days, members of the Virginia Beach Police Department's Detective Bureau, along with others, have sought to discover what that reason might have been.

The contents of this updated executive summary are an attempt to provide context into the many days invested in pursuit of answers. We have sought to clarify open source information that has already been reported by others, address some commonly held inaccuracies and theories as well as provide the reader with a clearer understanding on how the investigative team operated and drew conclusions.

Although we have yet to determine a motive for this senseless crime, we continue to seek answers.

On the eve of my last week as the leader of the finest police department in the country, I want to take this opportunity to brief you and City Council on the dedicated work performed by the men and women of the Virginia Beach Police Department's Investigative Division. We will never forget May 31, 2019. We will never forget how we felt that first hour, day, week or month. A year later, we will never, and should never, take for granted how precious life is and how important each member of our workforce is to the fabric of our community.