



CITY OF
**VIRGINIA
BEACH**



N. D. "Rocky" Holcomb, Sheriff/High Constable
VIRGINIA BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE
2501 James Madison Boulevard Bldg. 7
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-9073

January 4, 2024

Dear Esteemed Judges of the Virginia Beach Judicial System:

In light of yesterday's spontaneous, brutal attack on a Clark County, Nev., District Court judge captured on courtroom video, I wanted to reach out to assure you that the safety and security of Virginia Beach's judges are of the utmost importance to me and the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office.

At the cornerstone of our justice system, courts should be havens of fairness and safety. Yesterday's force against a judge *in her own courtroom* by a disgruntled attacker she was sentencing, among other recent incidents of violence and disruptions in courtrooms across the country, highlighted critical vulnerabilities in existing security protocols. These incidents have not only put judges, court personnel, and witnesses at risk but have also eroded public confidence in the very institution that upholds the rule of law.

Here in Virginia Beach, our courthouse has robust security measures in place, including trained security personnel, metal detectors, video surveillance, and panic buttons. All personnel should be familiar with these measures and know how to access help in case of an emergency. Our bailiffs are also highly trained to protect and defend, at any cost, those judges whose courtrooms they are proudly assigned to.

The safety and security of our courts are paramount. We will prioritize measures that safeguard all individuals involved in the judicial process and ensure courtrooms remain places where justice can be dispensed fairly and without fear. Your concerns are my concerns. I will take all measures to strengthen courtroom security and maintain security in the judicial center.

Please understand YOUR safety and security is of greatest importance to me and my staff. We stand ready to assist in any way.

Your Sheriff,

Rocky Holcomb

T.R.U.S.T

Transparency. Respect. Unity. Service. Training.