

## Walker, Tracy L. - Police

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**From:** Walker, Tracy L. - Police  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022 1:53 PM  
**To:** Smith, Gerald M. - Chief of Police; Massenburg, Grace N. - Police  
**Subject:** Print for Chief  
**Attachments:** 070622 Mass Shooting Thwarted.docx

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- Please know that this is still a very active investigation at this time. There is some information I won't be able to provide at because it is ongoing.

The concerned citizen that brought this to our attention should be commended for their heroism.

**-Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>** late afternoon:

RPD detectives received credible information about the threat of a mass shooting planned for July 4 in Richmond

The tip received from an individual included Information about:

- An adult Hispanic male having access to substantial firearms
- by the name of Rolman Balacarcel (Row-mawhn Bala –Car- Cell)

- planning an attack in the City of Richmond
- on July 4<sup>th</sup>
- **the location was unknown**
- **threat of mass shooting**

-**Friday evening, July 1:** RPD officers immediately began their investigation with the assistance of Homeland Security Investigations

-That evening, **within hours of the information received** RPD detectives arrived at the home where the suspect of interest was said to reside to investigate further.

- They knocked on the door of the home where the person of interest resided.
- Were met by Julio Alvarado, the renter of the home....who was not the intended person of interest.

- With pistol and rifle magazines and ammo in plain view [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- With consent detectives entered the home
- They located a rifle and handgun [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] detectives located another rifle and a cache of magazines and ammunition
- **Friday evening:** 52 y/o Julio Alvarado was taken into custody
  - Charged with: non-US citizen in possession of firearms
  - Currently being held in Richmond City Jail

### **Over the weekend:**

Over the course of the weekend detectives continued surveillance and talking with sources of information, which lead us to

July 5<sup>th</sup> when detectives obtained a warrant.

**-Tuesday, July 5:** detectives received more information to corroborate the alleged threat.

- Detectives obtained a warrant for Balacarcel's arrest and executed the warrant that afternoon
- Detectives deemed the threat credible
- Received information that Balacarcel was located in the Charlottesville area
- RPD worked with Virginia State Police to locate Balacarcel
- Tuesday evening: 38 y/o Rolman Balacarcel was arrested
- Charged with: non-US citizen in possession of firearms
- Currently being held in Albermarle County in the Charlottesville area

## **Thank:**

- Federal partner assistance through task force support (FBI wants to take back seat)
- Virginia State Police
- Homeland Security Investigations
- RPD Special Investigative Division and members of Operation Red Ball

FBI: Their task force is assisting with anything that is needed.

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## **Anticipated questions:**

- # of Non-Fatal Shootings: 126 this year compared to 119 in 2021.

**Q: When was the last “mass shooting” in Richmond?**

-Last mass shooting in Richmond, was in November of 2021, 3000 block of Nine Mile Road 4 victims, 2 adults who survived  
- 2 juveniles died.

**Q: Was there social media talk by either person ahead of this?**

-no social media activity by either suspect

**Q: Do either suspects have prior criminal records?**

-no previous charges on record that we are aware of in Virginia

**Q: Do you suspect anyone else was involved? Family?**

**Are you looking for others connected to this threat?**

-RPD's investigation has concluded and local and state charges have been filed. The Federal detainers are being executed now.

Rolman Balacarcel is being held in Albermarle County ...and will be transported to Richmond.

**Q: Where are the suspects from, country of origin?**

Guatemala

**Q: Was this intended to be a random act?**

-We received information that a person was boasting about executing a shooting. RPD acted quickly, collaborating with our federal partners.

The complaint or tip did not include specifics on location, time or intended targets.

Even after debriefs there is no information that has become clear.

The bottom line is, we can't take anything for granted.

**Q: What was the reason for such planned attack?**

-There was a threat to public safety. RPD investigated it and located and seized the weapons, and took individuals into custody.

Every threat we take seriously.

**Q: What measures in the department taking to prevent other such events?**

What does anybody do in this situation?  
As law enforcement we want to prevent every threat possible, but we simply can't do it alone. No law enforcement agency can.

This is where our schools, our business and community contacts are so important.

This is a prime example of how vital it is for our community to let us know immediately when and if you hear something.

Please don't sit and wait.

It is incumbent upon all of us as citizens of Richmond and the Commonwealth to step up and be an active participant in public safety.

**Q: How did they obtain the weapons?**

- We are working with our state and federal partners who are working to determine this at at this time.

**Q: How long have these people been in Richmond, VA?**

-It is unknown. We are working with federal partners on this. Homeland Security is involved in this process.

**Q: Are they affiliated with gangs or MS13?**

-Not that we know of at this time, again this is an active investigation that is ongoing.