

## SPECIAL MEDIA RELEASE

### DOB INCLUDED IN ARREST REPORTS

Sheriff McCranie reports on a significant, and to some perhaps troubling, addition to future media releases. In addition to arrest information now included, the full date of birth and mug shot, if available, will be included also. The reason for this change is due to the Virginia's Freedom of Information Act and the phrase "information relative to the identity" of a person arrested.

In March, Mr. Dean Carras filed with this, and other Virginia law enforcement agencies, a Freedom of Information Act Request for "adult arrest information, including photographs and 'information relative to the identity' of each arrestee, from the date of this request back to the earliest date for which data is available (or 10 years). We would like to receive this information daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly depending on the cost of production."

Mr. Carras is the Chief Information Officer for Innovative Enterprises, Inc., a licensed private security service located in Newport News. Mr. Carras says that his company uses arrest and incarceration data to ensure accuracy of information received from the courts.

In order to ensure compliance with Mr. Carras' request, Sheriff McCranie had a staff member contact the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Advisory Council for its advisory opinions. The Council opined that the birth date of any person arrested is part of the information relative to the identity of that individual.

The release of birth date information will apply only to criminal arrest information. It will not apply to non-criminal records (dispatch, civil process, and other such records) known by the sheriff's office.

"Mr. Carras' request for data that goes from the date of his request (March 16) back to the earliest date for which data is available goes beyond the limits of the law, under another advisory opinion of the Council. Arrest information that is not current will not be released" said Sheriff McCranie.

This additional information will be released once the new software for the sheriff's office goes "live" in the next few weeks. "It's a good package, very customizable. We've gotten training on this software, but like anything new there is a learning curve everyone has to go through" said Sgt. Jeffery Haywood, who was instrumental drafting the Request for Proposal for a new criminal history records management system. The change in software vendors became necessary when IDNetworks bought DaProSystems several years ago and the contract expired in 2017. SOMA Systems was found to be the best system economically.