

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF CHESAPEAKE

Nancy G. Parr
Commonwealth's Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two warrants were obtained today by the lead detective as a result of the investigation of the death of Jiansheng Chen. The warrants charge Johnathan Cromwell with second degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of murder.

The charges were announced by Commonwealth's Attorney Nancy G. Parr and Colonel Kelvin Wright, Chief of Police.

On January 26, 2017, at approximately 11:00PM, Jiansheng Chen, age 60, was driving a blue van and turned into the driveway of the River Walk clubhouse parking area. After seeing the van turn into the driveway, Mr. Cromwell confronted Mr. Chen by stopping his vehicle directly in front of Mr. Chen's. Mr. Chen backed up and turned his vehicle around to the point that it was at the entrance of the driveway facing River Walk Parkway when he was shot. Mr. Cromwell had exited his car and did say "stop" before he fired his weapon.

Mr. Chen has gunshot entry wounds to his upper body area. The gunshot entry wounds are one (1) in his left upper arm and four (4) in his upper left chest.

The Chesapeake Police Department responded immediately to the scene and began their investigation. On January 27, 2017, the lead detective asked the River Walk Community manager whether or not there were cameras on the property and were there videos. The manager advised the detective that there was one camera on the building and that it was not working. The detective confirmed this information with the manager on February 7, 2017. The camera is located on the building at its entrance and not at the two entrances to the parking lot.

The Chesapeake Police Department has diligently and thoroughly investigated this case since January 26, 2017. They will continue to investigate any additional information. I have reviewed and discussed this evidence with the detective and Chief Wright. The decision to

pursue these criminal charges is based solely on the evidence collected pursuant to the investigation which began on January 26, 2017 by the Chesapeake Police Department.

These charges are allegations at this point and Mr. Cromwell is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This is a criminal investigation and now a prosecution. I must adhere to the Virginia State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct. I will not release any other information regarding the evidence (see applicable Rules below). This case will be tried in the courtroom and not in the media. All parties will receive a fair and impartial trial.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Rule 3.6

Trial Publicity

- **(a) A lawyer participating in or associated with the investigation or the prosecution or the defense of a criminal matter that may be tried by a jury shall not make or participate in making an extrajudicial statement that a reasonable person would expect to be disseminated by means of public communication that the lawyer knows, or should know, will have a substantial likelihood of interfering with the fairness of the trial by a jury.**
- **(b) A lawyer shall exercise reasonable care to prevent employees and associates from making an extrajudicial statement that the lawyer would be prohibited from making under this Rule.**

Rule 3.8

Additional Responsibilities Of A Prosecutor

(e) not direct or encourage investigators, law enforcement personnel, employees or other persons assisting or associated with the prosecutor in a criminal case to make an extrajudicial statement that the prosecutor would be prohibited from making under Rule 3.6.