Good Evening,

A cell phone video was recently shared on social media that shows a VCU Police officer using force during a traffic stop. The VCU Police Department is releasing the following statement, and accompanying body-worn camera footage:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/155tsgloVOBjcTi3_aXLEiaLqM8HrWUu_/view?usp=share_link

On Sat., Feb. 4, 2023, VCU Police were conducting speed enforcement in the 300 block of West Main Street. At 10:53 a.m., a VCU Police officer attempted to stop a vehicle being driven 50 mph in a 25 mph zone. The driver of the vehicle did not stop for the officer until they entered the 400 block of North Belvidere Street.

As the officer approached the car, Paul Willis IV exited the vehicle and failed to follow the instructions of the officer. The officer immediately advised Willis of the reason for the stop and instructed the driver to get back into his car. Willis refused to follow the officer's instructions, lunged forward, and grabbed the gun of the VCU Police officer. At that time the officer used physical force to retain his firearm and subdue Willis. The officer's body-worn camera captured the incident and corroborates these details.

The suspect and the officer were treated at a local hospital for minor injuries. Willis, 31 of Richmond, was subsequently charged with Obstruction of Justice, and felony Assault and Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer. Willis is unaffiliated with VCU.

The investigation into this incident is ongoing and this matter is pending adjudication in the Richmond City court system. No further details will be released at this time.

Sincerely,
-Corey Byers

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Note: *I occasionally send emails after business hours and do not expect a response if you are out of the office.*