

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 18, 2018

Richmond Area Media Representatives:

In collaboration, the chief law enforcement officers of Chesterfield, Henrico, and Richmond write to inform you that our agencies will be encrypting police radio frequencies on July 2, 2018. Once this change occurs, law enforcement radio transmissions can only be monitored by authorized public safety personnel.

There are two reasons area law enforcement agencies are moving to encrypt their radio transmissions:

The first reason is to promote the safety of first responders and community members by ensuring that the dissemination of in-progress tactics and activities during high-risk events is limited to those whose mission is to resolve events swiftly and with minimal risk to those involved. The second reason is to ensure that sensitive personal information being communicated to resolve an event does not violate legal rights or reasonable expectations of privacy.

We are mindful of the impact that police radio encryption may have on our media partners. In response, we have tasked our staffs with developing alternative ways of keeping you informed of active, real-time information. Though each agency's approach may vary somewhat, the objective of each is to work with and support you as you fulfill your mission.

In the near future our public information officers will be communicating with you about how our respective agencies will be enhancing the ways we will share information.

Chief Jeffrey Katz
Chesterfield County

Chief Humberto Cardounel, Jr.
Henrico County

Chief Alfred Durham
Richmond City