



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

POLICE CHIEF KELLEY WARNER

101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

OFFICE: (540) 437-2600

FAX: (540) 437-2691

WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2022

Contact: Capt. Jason Kidd

Special Operations Bureau Commander

(540) 437-2626

jason.kidd@harrisonburgva.gov

HPD Investigates Suspected Overdose Death

HARRISONBURG, VA – On May 6, 2022, the Harrisonburg Police Department received a call for service for an unresponsive male who was later determined to be deceased. The death appears to have been attributed to an overdose, and the preliminary investigation indicates that pure fentanyl was likely involved. Foul play is not suspected and further details on the death will not be released at this time.

The Harrisonburg Police Department wishes to inform the public that this drug is extremely dangerous and that it is present in our community. It is frequently mixed with or mistaken for other drugs, and it can even be absorbed through the skin. While all illicit drugs are dangerous, fentanyl is among the most dangerous. Dr. Kent Folsom, a board-certified physician in emergency medicine and member of the Harrisonburg Police Auxiliary, explained that pure fentanyl would have “nearly immediate and severe effects on the respiratory system, which would be rapidly fatal and difficult to stop even if the overdose were witnessed. It is dangerous even in small amounts and there is no practical way of knowing the potency of any amount that a person might have in their possession. Often, the only indication of the potency is sudden death.”

If you have any information about this case that could assist in the investigation, please call Detective Wetherell at 540-432-7788 or email her at leslie.wetherell@harrisonburgva.gov. Anonymous tips related to this incident, or any crime can be sent to Crime Solvers at (540) 574-5050 or by texting “HPD” plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).

Approved for release by:
Captain Jason Kidd