



# Richmond Police Department

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## PRESS RELEASE – June 4, 2013:

### 1. Misdemeanor-Domestic Assault & Disorderly Conduct:

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at approximately 10:48 PM, Patrolman Jeffrey Vaughn arrested **Alan Papesh**, age 44, of 57 Lakeview, West Brookfield, MA on a charge of (1) *Domestic - Simple Assault*, and (2) *Domestic - Disorderly Conduct* after a resident called 911 to report a disturbance near 235 Richmond Townhouse Road. The caller stated they could hear a car horn sounding and a woman screaming. Officer Vaughn, who was patrolling nearby, arrived to discover a vehicle parked with its hazard lights engaged and approached the vehicle undetected. Officer Vaughn observed Mr. Papesh holding a female passenger in a headlock, and intervened to free her. The victim reported that they were driving home from the beach when an argument ensued, at which time the suspect allegedly punched her in the face and bit her arm as she struggled to get away from him. The victim reported that she activated the vehicles "flashers" and sounded the horn for help. Mr. Papesh was arrested and transported to the station where he was processed and was held overnight. The following morning, he was transported to 4<sup>th</sup> District Court where he was arraigned on the above charges, and was released on \$1,000 personal recognizance with a No-Contact Order barring him from contacting the victim.

## SERIOUS HEAD-ON COLLISION:

On Saturday, June 1st, 2013, at approximately 12:39 PM, the Richmond Police Department received reports of a head-on collision in the area of 320 Kingstown Road (Route 138), in front of Jules Antiques. Officers arrived on scene to find two heavily damaged vehicles containing injured occupants, and were subsequently joined on scene by the Carolina Fire Department, Hope Valley-Wyoming Fire Department, and Hope Valley Ambulance Corps, who tended to the injured.

Officers identified three (3) eyewitnesses to the collision, who independently reported that a 2003 Ford Taurus station wagon, traveling eastbound on Route 138, veered over the double yellow line into oncoming traffic in the westbound lane and collided with a 2005 Chevrolet Malibu head-on. The Chevy, which was operated by Joan Bennett, age 59, of 42 New London Turnpike, Richmond, sustained heavy front-end damage that was most pronounced on the passenger's side, and came to a rest facing north in the eastbound lane and partially in the westbound lane. Mrs. Bennett was transported by rescue to RI Hospital where she was listed in critical condition, and is expected to recover.

The Ford, which was operated by Ian Lesniak, age 18, of 12 Marie Court, West Greenwich, sustained heavy front-end damage, spun off of the roadway into a ditch on the north side of Route 138, and came to a rest on the passenger's side of the vehicle, trapping the operator and a female passenger, identified as Otera Ortega, age 18.

Due to the extensive damage to the Ford station wagon, firefighters had to use the Jaws-of-life to cut the roof away from the vehicle in order to extricate the occupants. Mr. Lesniak was transported by rescue to RI Hospital. Ms. Ortega suffered significant injuries, including possible leg fractures, and was taken from the scene by a Boston MedFlight helicopter to RI Hospital. Both occupants of the Ford were expected to survive.

Roadway markings were consistent with eyewitness accounts, which showed that Mr. Lesniak veered into the opposite lane of travel without braking, and the point of impact was in the westbound lane. Officers believe that both operators and Mr. Lesniak's passenger were wearing safety belts at the time of the collision.

The cause of Mr. Lesniak's vehicle traveling left of center is currently unknown, but investigators reported that there was no indication of alcohol, drugs, or excessive speed.

**END OF PRESS RELEASE**