



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**  
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**THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**  
***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
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Richmond-Dr. Antionette V. Irving, Sheriff has been making a strong effort to save as many lives as possible by helping our returning citizens with any issues that they may face with their addictions.

Due to the widespread use of prescription and nonprescription drugs that were highly addictive the opioid crisis began. The Opioid epidemic is a sad reality in the city of Richmond that we have been facing in the wake of so many other issues. The Opioid Epidemic caused more than 42,000 deaths in the year 2016. The opioid epidemic started oddly enough by way of pain management. Through the efforts of pain management, particular drugs became highly addictive. As this crisis continuously hit home in the City of Richmond we found it necessary to do our part to help save as many lives as possible in and out of the jail systems.

A total of 140 inmates at RCJC received the Naloxone training. Naloxone (Narcan) is used to reverse the effects of opioids. Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids for 30 to 90 minutes. It can also be distributed several different ways, by spraying into the nose, intravenously, or being injected into the muscle.

Sheriff Irving is very passionate about the residents we have returning to society. She wants them to be safe not only inside of the Richmond City Justice Center but also safe outside of the Justice Center as well. If a resident is in jail they are able to become clean from their addiction but it does not mean the addiction goes away.

Unfortunately, when they return to their normal lives they are still faced with addiction. Therefore we give them naloxone training inside the facility so that they are aware of how to help save others once presented with a situation of a possible overdose of a friend or loved one.

As we are now faced with an increase in drug overdoses we are now training inmates how to use the Fentanyl Test Strips in 2022, to detect fentanyl in substances prior to usage. Our hope is they will realize the danger and make an informed decision regarding the lethality and not use. Additionally, they will be able to inform the medic of what was in the substance when their friend or loved one is in a crisis.

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