



*ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY*



# **COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **Operation River Ratt NEWS RELEASE – July 1, 2015**

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**FAX TO: LOCAL MEDIA**

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This summer, the Albemarle County Police Department will be focusing patrols in southern Albemarle County, specifically along the James River. Operation James River RATT is an effort to reduce the dangerous and illegal behavior that takes place along and on the James River. By patrolling in kayaks along the river, there will be an increased police presence in an area that does not typically see law enforcement. Officers will also be placed at the boat landings and along the Hatton Ferry Crossing to address traffic problems and potential DUI drivers.

In recent years, officers have seen an increase in alcohol related incidents along the river and at the boat landings. In the past, during the month of July, a person died as a result of an alcohol related accident while on the river. Operation River RATT is an initiative to reduce the dangerous behavior with targeted enforcement and education. The ACPD will be partnering with State Law Enforcement Agencies like Virginia State Police and Virginia Conservation Police, as well as businesses, residents and visitors to improve the safety of those who use and live near the James River.

The James River is a beautiful asset in Albemarle County and visitors flock to the river in the summer. Our goal is to ensure those visits are safe and responsible.

We would also like to thank our community partners at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports for providing advanced kayak training to our officers who will be patrolling on the James River this summer.

**Carter Johnson  
Public Information Officer**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: CARTER JOHNSON 434.972.4032