



CHRISTIANSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*****

Seven People Facing Charges for Gang Participation

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(Christiansburg, Virginia) - Two adults and five juveniles are facing felony charges for gang participation following a 14-month joint investigation by the Christiansburg Police Department and Virginia State Police.

The seven males are alleged members of the "9 Trey Bloods" street gang, a subset of the United Blood Nation, though the Christiansburg group is not believed to be nationally affiliated.

Elon Blaine Horton III, 20, is facing one (1) felony count of gang participation and one (1) felony count of possession of a firearm.

Michael Allen Simpkins, 19, is facing one (1) felony count of gang participation.

The five juveniles are each facing one (1) felony count of gang participation. Their ages are 13, 15, 16, 16, and 17. Their names are not being released due to their ages.

All seven are from Christiansburg. They were arrested yesterday during a round-up by officers from the Christiansburg Police Department, Virginia State Police, and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation into the alleged street gang began in April of 2010, when the Christiansburg Police Department received a report of possible gang activity. The department requested investigative assistance from the Virginia State Police.

With this being the first gang case of its kind in Montgomery County, Christiansburg Police Sergeant Chris Heidt was complimentary of the assistance received from the Virginia State Police and Special Agent Rolfe Grubb, saying, "I give Special Agent Grubb tremendous credit for how much he helped with this investigation. It was extremely beneficial to have his knowledge and expertise of how to build this type of case, including writing search warrants to photograph tattoos and examine MySpace accounts, among others. The entire investigation and subsequent charges was a great cooperative effort between the two agencies."

The seven individuals facing charges are the only known group actively acting as a street gang in Christiansburg.

Christiansburg Police Chief Mark Sisson stated, "Our Police Department acted swiftly and proactively when we noticed some small-scale gang activity. Gang activity of any kind will not be tolerated in Christiansburg and we will continue to be proactive and address any additional issues as they may arise."

No additional charges against the seven are expected.

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