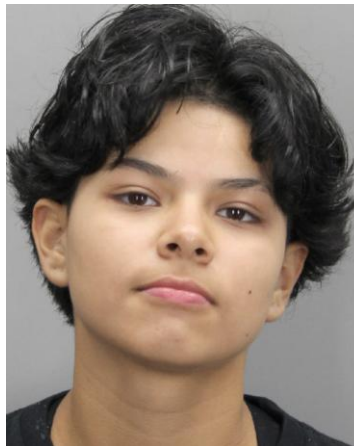




Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department Media Information Release

Vienna Police Announce Arrests Following Fireworks Assault on Officers



Melanie Pedraza-Gutierrez

On September 26, 2025, at approximately 9:20 p.m., officers from the Vienna Police Department responded to a reported fight in progress involving a large group of high school students at the McDonald's located at 544 Maple Avenue West.

As officers began to disperse the crowd and restore order, unknown individual(s) launched fireworks in their direction. The explosive devices were intentionally set off near the officers, causing two of them to sustain minor injuries. Both officers were treated on scene by emergency medical personnel and remained on duty.

The Vienna Police Criminal Investigations Section immediately launched a comprehensive investigation. Led by Detective Herrera, detectives executed multiple interviews and search warrants, which ultimately led to the identification of several suspects connected to the attack.

As a result of this investigation:

- **Melanie Pedraza-Gutierrez, 18, of Falls Church, VA,** was arrested and charged with:
 - Two counts of **Malicious Bodily Injury to Law Enforcement Officers**
 - Two counts of **Malicious Bodily Injury by use of an Explosive or Fire**
 - Two counts of **Throwing a Missile at an Occupied Vehicle**
 - Two counts of **Throwing a Missile at an Occupied Building**
 - One count of **Disorderly Conduct**
 - One count of **Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor**
- **A 16-year-old** (juvenile name and photo intentionally withheld) was arrested and charged with:
 - Two counts of **Malicious Bodily Injury to Law Enforcement Officers**
 - Two counts of **Malicious Bodily Injury by use of an Explosive or Fire**
 - Two counts of **Throwing a Missile at an Occupied Vehicle**
 - Two counts of **Throwing a Missile at an Occupied Building**
 - One count of **Disorderly Conduct**

Both suspects were taken into custody without further incident.

Chief James Morris stated that the deliberate targeting of our officers with explosive devices is not only unacceptable but also a serious criminal act that endangers both our officers and the public. Thanks to the swift action of our officers and detectives, the assistance of the Fairfax County Police Department, the Virginia State Police, and valuable information provided by our community, we were able to identify and arrest those responsible.

The Vienna Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety of our residents, businesses, and officers. This case highlights the importance of community partnership in solving crimes and protecting the Town of Vienna.

Please contact MPO Juan Vazquez for further information at
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