



# **KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
301 VIRGINIA STREET EAST  
CHARLESTON, WV. 25301  
304-357-0169*

**Sheriff Michael Y. Rutherford**  
**Chief Deputy Joseph H. Crawford**

## **NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**September 20, 2024.**

**Contact:** Sergeant Joshua L. Lester  
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681.910.3649 cell

### **Gun Shots Near Sharon Dawes Elementary School**

**Dawes, WV-** On Friday, September 20, 2024, around 7:45 a.m., Kanawha County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a gunshot call near Sharon Dawes Elementary School. Maintenance workers on the school roof heard the shots and the sound of pellets hitting the rooftop.

Sharon Dawes Elementary School immediately went on lockdown and deputies were placed inside the school along with Kanawha County School Security as a precautionary measure. The West Virginia State Police, The US Marshall's, Kanawha County School Security, and deputies saturated the area to locate the suspect(s).

A police helicopter was requested from the WVSP to help in the investigation as it was believed the gunshot had come from the nearby woods. With hunting season starting, it was considered possible by officers that the gunshot was a careless and dangerous mistake from a hunter; however, an abundance of caution was still used due to the proximity of the school.

Officers located several hunters in the woods and detained those individuals for investigation interviews. At this time no charges have been filed and it has not been determined who fired the shot. Shotgun projectile evidence was located on the school's rooftop and several weapons were collected until the investigation is complete.

We do not believe the school is at any further risk but due to the seriousness of this incident school officials closed the school for the day and allowed students to return home to their families.

The shots fired call remains under investigation by the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office and the West Virginia Natural Resources Police. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office at 304-357-0169.



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