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## **Downtown Norfolk Crimes Rate Drops in 2013**

*Incidents of Crime in Downtown Shows Significant Decrease*

**Norfolk, Va.** – (January 22, 2014) –Newly released crime rates from 2013 exhibit a 9.7% decrease compared to 2012 in the greater Downtown Norfolk area. This decrease can be primarily attributed to the 7% fall in vandalism and the 19% decline in larceny from auto crimes. The crime rate in downtown has dropped a total of 29% over the course of 5 years. The progress is a result of the concentrated presence of the Norfolk Police Department, the Downtown Public Service Ambassadors and the citizens in Downtown Norfolk.

“It’s great to see this kind of reduction of incidents at the start of a new year for Downtown Norfolk. Surely our job is never done until there are no significant incidents in the entire City,” said Norfolk Police Chief Goldsmith. “We recognize the impact of this downtrend for downtown, and continue to work towards similar results in other Norfolk communities and neighborhoods.”

In 2012, the Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) contracted with the Southern Institute of Research and conducted a Consumer Usage and Perception Study for Downtown Norfolk. The survey identified that the perception of safety is one of the key drivers of Downtown Norfolk’s overall positive reputation, likeliness to recommend and likeliness to visit.

“It is extremely important that downtown visitors, residents and businesses feel safe,” expressed Mary Miller, President & CEO of DNC. “With our Public Service Ambassadors program, we physically have a presence on the streets to promote safety in downtown. As an organization, we will continue to advocate for a safe, friendly and spotless downtown.”

The Norfolk Police Department continues to work within the community to ensure safety through the Downtown and Freemason civic leagues, the citizens of Norfolk and the Downtown Public Service Ambassadors.

Statistics based on the 2013 Downtown Planning District 59 crime report from the Norfolk Police Department. For a map of the District, click [here](#).

Downtown Planning District 59

December 2013



OFFENSE	2012	2013	+/- RPT	Last Month	YTD 2012	YTD 2013	+/- RPT
Homicide	0	0	0 RPT	0	0	0	0 RPT
Rape	0	0	0 RPT	0	4	1	-3 RPT
Robbery-Business	0	0	0 RPT	0	2	1	-1 RPT
Robbery-Individual	1	0	-1 RPT	1	11	5	-6 RPT
Aggravated Assault	1	1	0 RPT	1	6	15	+9 RPT
Burglary-Commercial	0	1	+1 RPT	0	7	11	+4 RPT
Burglary-Residential	0	0	0 RPT	0	2	1	-1 RPT
Larceny From/Parts From Auto	12	6	-6 RPT	10	105	85	-20 RPT
Stolen Vehicle	3	2	-1 RPT	2	13	14	+1 RPT
Vandalism	10	7	-3 RPT	4	85	79	-6 RPT
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-10 RPT</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>-23 RPT</b>

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*The Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous Downtown. Also, DNC manages the Downtown Norfolk Improvement District, a 48-block Special Services District providing enhanced services that keep Downtown friendly, safe and spotless. Connect with us on Facebook @ Downtown Norfolk, Twitter @NorfolkDowntown, Instagram @downtown757, or visit [DowntownNorfolk.org](http://DowntownNorfolk.org).*