



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **June 4, 2010**

Newport News Sheriff's Office
Succeeding with
Rehabilitation Mission

Ten Inmates are the Latest to Earn GED

Serving a jail sentence has been time well spent for ten (10) inmates at the Newport News Adult Detention facility (a.k.a. Jail Annex). The five men and five women earned their GED while behind bars. They become the largest class size in Newport News Sheriff's Office history.

A graduation ceremony will be held Tuesday, June 8 at 3:30 p.m. at the Annex. Inmates are permitted to have loved ones attend the ceremony. Because family support is an essential component to success on the outside, the Newport News Sheriff's Office encourages those healthy relationships.

Opened in 2009, the Jail Annex was created as a rehabilitative facility. It also helps to ease overcrowding in the main City Jail. There are forty-four (44) inmate programs operated by the Newport News Sheriff's Office. Academic and vocational training are especially important in reintegrating offenders back into the community upon their legal release.

The success of the Newport News Sheriff's Office GED program cannot be ignored. The inmate pass rate is 65% -- competitive with any other GED testing site. Since the program was revamped in 2006, a total of 147 inmates, including this latest class of ten, have left jail with their high school diploma or equivalent.

The Honorable Jerrauld C. Jones will be the Commencement Speaker. Jones is currently a Norfolk Circuit Court judge. He has a long and respected history of helping Virginia Youth, including as the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice for the Commonwealth of Virginia, a

position that gave him the responsibility of transitional reentry of juvenile offenders. He also represented the 89th District as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1988-2002. It is an honor for the Newport News Sheriff's Office to have Judge Jones as the commencement speaker for this latest group of GED graduates. (*Find the Honorable Jerrauld Jones full Bio in a separate e-mail attachment.*)

The ceremony promises to be emotional as families reunite with a face-to-face visit. One inmate will hold his 6-month old daughter for the first time, as he's been behind bars for a year. Another will hug her ailing mother. Yet another personal tale involves a promise made by a mother to her son. This female inmate told her teenage son if he earned his GED, she would get hers. Turns out, they had the same instructor. Ms. Nancy Redd taught the boy at a City GED site and his mother in jail.

WHO: Ten inmates earn GED
WHAT: Graduation Ceremony
WHEN: Tuesday, June 8 at 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: Newport News Sheriff's Office
Jail Annex
228 -- 25th Street; Newport News, VA

COMMENCEMENT

SPEAKER: The Honorable Jerrauld C. Jones
Norfolk Circuit Court

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For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747 or 757-813-6139.