



**NNSO**

# Newport News Sheriff's Office

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **September 14, 2011**

### Education is part of prisoner re-entry

In an effort to improve inmate skills and abilities, the Newport News Sheriff's Office continues to prioritize its GED program. Providing a basic education is part of a larger re-entry strategy to reduce costly recidivism rates by improving *pre-and-post* release services.

Studies have identified re-entry barriers and needs. The Virginia Department of Social Services lists them as: housing, financial obligations, and community resources; **EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION**; family and community reintegration; and health, mental health, and substance abuse.

On Wednesday, September 14, ten inmates will celebrate an important step toward good-decision making. A GED graduation ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Jail Annex. Each inmate is permitted to invite family for what will be their only contact visit while incarcerated in the City's jail. A system of family and community support is essential for successful re-entry. As Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has said, "An effective prisoner re-entry plan is good government. It improves public safety, reduces recidivism and victimization, and improves the outcome for offenders returning to our communities. Everyone deserves a second chance."

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is proud to be a collaborative partner in the Newport News Re-entry Council and on the Mayor's Task Force on Teenage and Young Adult Violence Reduction.

WHO: Ten inmates earn GED  
WHAT: Graduation Ceremony  
WHEN: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.  
WHERE: Newport News Sheriff's Office  
Jail Annex  
228 -- 25th Street; Newport News, VA

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