NORFOLK

Memorandum

TO:	City Council
FROM:	Lori A. Crouch, Public Relations Manager
COPIES TO:	City Clerk, City Attorney
SUBJECT:	Council Interests
DATE:	March 28, 2014

I hope you had a nice week. You will find some information on several items of interest raised during Tuesday's Informal Session.

Gun-Related Crime Prevention: The Norfolk Police Department conducts several initiatives to prevent gun-related crimes. Attached to this memo, you will find information on their efforts from Chief Michael Goldsmith. The Chief also provides information on gun buyback initiatives. The General Assembly requires a locality to adopt an ordinance to participate in the program. State code states any gun received shall be sold at public auction or to a licensed firearms dealer.

NPD Boating Accident: The Virginia Marine Police (VMP) is currently investigating the accident. The accident took place on Friday, March 21st during a test of two new boat motors. Five adults were onboard, three officers and two mechanics. VMP has not provided its findings to us yet.

Cox Communications: It is no longer the policy of Cox to verify a deceased customer. Cox Communications staff notified city staff that the customer service representative misspoke. The Customer Care Management Team has been notified of the issue to ensure all representatives are correctly communicating with customers.

Development Services Center: The Development Services Center opened Monday to rave reviews. Located on the 4th floor of City Hall, the center provides a convenient location for most requested city transactions. Hundreds of customers helped and 250 permits issued in the first week.

Food Truck Program: The 2014 Food Truck program kicks off on April 1st with six vendors and 8 alternates. All of the vendors will have opportunities to participate in the program and Food Truck Rodeos every third Thursday of the month.

Have a nice weekend.

NORFOLK

Inter Departmental Memorandum

TO:	Marcus Jones
FROM:	Chief of Police
COPIES TO:	
SUBJECT:	Reduction and Prevention of Gun Related Crime
DATE:	March 27, 2014

The NPD employs a robust and multi-faceted approach to the prevention of gun-related crime. Below is a description of the primary NPD activities which focus on the reduction of illegal firearms and the violence associated with their presence in the community:

Patrol Divisions

Officers patrol proactively throughout the city, focusing on hot spots based on current crime trends and data. Gun related crimes are aggressively prosecuted in cooperation with the Commonwealth's Attorney's (CWA) Office. The CWA's Office assists with the prosecution of most gun-related misdemeanor charges including carrying a concealed weapon, discharging a firearm, brandishing a firearm, and others, in addition to all gun-related felony charges.

In response to the recent shooting incidents, members of the First Patrol Division have increased their enforcement efforts specifically in the Huntersville and Public Housing areas. Those enforcement efforts will consist of bike sweeps, members of SOT, Gang & Fugitive Investigators, and an additional patrol unit. Additionally, in response to recent events, the Blue Sector CRO's were contacted by the community leaders of Barraud and Bruce's Park regarding organizing a Community Block Watch program.

Since December of 2012, the First Patrol Division's Tac Unit and NRHA CRO's have removed 119 handguns from the streets through arrests in those areas considered to be hot spots. The First Patrol Division will continue to work diligently in an effort to avert crime in those areas most affected.

Criminal Intelligence Unit

The Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) receives and maintains records of notifications received from the Virginia State Police when a machine gun is registered in Norfolk. CIU also receives and maintains

records of notifications received whenever an individual applies for a Federal Firearms License in Norfolk. CIU then determines if there is information available which would disqualify the applicant from obtaining the license. Any such information is forwarded to the BATFE for further action.

The Criminal Intelligence Unit staffs an Investigator to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATF&E) through a formal task force agreement which gives the NPD direct access to the federal legal system to prosecute many of our most violent or repeat firearm offenders. The benefits to the citizens of Norfolk include a longer sentencing requirement based on federal guidelines which in turn removes many violent and potentially violent individuals from the general population. To maximize the number of adopted cases, Task Force investigators review felony arrests at each division on a weekly basis. All cases that potentially meet the federal requirements are evaluated by the task force Investigator for federal prosecution.

In 2012, 11 subjects arrested by Norfolk Police officers were convicted of various offenses to include firearms related offenses in Federal Court in cases adopted by BATFE through the efforts of the Norfolk Task Force investigator assigned to the agency. The charges associated with the subjects are as follows:

- Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon
- Possession of Firearm while distributing Narcotics
- Possession of a Machine Gun
- Distribution of Narcotics
- Conspiracy
- Maintaining a Drug House

Sentencing:

- Minimum Sentence – 37 months
- Maximum Sentence – 190 months
- Average Sentence – 93.7 months

In 2013, ten subjects arrested by Norfolk Police officers were charged of various offenses to include firearms related offenses in Federal Court in cases adopted by BATFE through the efforts of the Norfolk Task Force investigator assigned to the agency. As of this date only four have been adjudicated. The charges associated with the subjects are as follows:

- Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon
- Possession of Firearm while distributing Narcotics
- Distribution of Narcotics
- Conspiracy
- Maintaining a Drug House

Sentencing:

- Minimum Sentence – 36 months
- Maximum Sentence – 120 months
- Average Sentence – 84 months.

To date in 2014 there are four adopted Federal Firearms Cases pending trial or sentencing. The charges associated with the subjects are as follows:

- Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon
- Possession of Firearm while distributing Narcotics
- Distribution of Narcotics/Marijuana

Detective Division

The NPD participates in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) in partnership with ATF and the Virginia Department of Forensic Science. Under this program, all firearms recovered by NPD officers are submitted to the state crime lab (DFS) for ballistic analysis. Digital images are made of the markings found on fired cartridge cases and bullets from all firearms submitted for analysis as well as from those recovered from crime scenes. These images are then compared electronically to prior images to determine if a match can be found. Firearms examiners confirm all matches (or NIBIN hits). This program allows NIBIN partners to discover links between crimes on a local, regional, or national level. The Homicide Section of the Detective Division receives and maintains records of the results of all firearms submitted for NIBIN testing by the NPD.

Crime Prevention

Crime Prevention utilizes the Eddie Eagle program provided by the NRA to promote gun safety for kids. These presentations are made in elementary schools, day care centers, and other appropriate venues. The program teaches the proper steps to be taken by a child who finds a gun which are: 1) Stop! 2) Don't Touch. 3) Leave the Area. 4) Tell an Adult. The program also provides good safety practices for adult firearms owners such as always pointing firearms in a safe direction, keeping your finger off of the trigger until ready to shoot, and always storing firearms unloaded until ready for use.

In addition to the Eddie Eagle program in 2013 and 2014 the Crime Prevention Section gave presentations on guns safety in a variety of different forums. At two Neighborhood Watch Quarterly meetings, officers and representatives from the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office gave presentations on gun laws and firearms safety. Handouts and gun locks were provided to the Neighborhood Watch coordinators for distribution in their communities. We also presented to our military personnel at safety stand downs conducted on the local military bases.

The Department has partnered with the Norfolk Sherriff's Office, Parks and Recreation, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, CHKD and the Norfolk Public Schools to conduct similar presentations at a Community Safety Forum, for youth participating in the Police Athletic League, and at our Youth Academies which are conducted by our CRO's at elementary schools throughout the city.

Property & Evidence

All firearms submitted to Property & Evidence are securely stored after NIBIN testing. Firearms are returned to rightful owners when appropriate; but only after a records check to ensure the owner is legally eligible to be in possession of a firearm. All unclaimed firearms are destroyed.

Gun Buyback Initiatives

Code of Virginia 15.2-915.5 *Disposition of firearms acquired by localities* requires localities to adopt an ordinance authorizing the locality, or agent of the locality, to participate in any program where individuals are provided an item of value in exchange for surrendering a firearm. The ordinance is required prior to participation in such a program. The state code further mandates that such local ordinance **shall require that any firearm received,** with limited exceptions, **shall be offered for sale** by public auction or sealed bids to a person licensed as a firearms dealer.

Michael G. Goldsmith
Chief of Police

MGG/jnc

☐ Approve

☐ Disapprove

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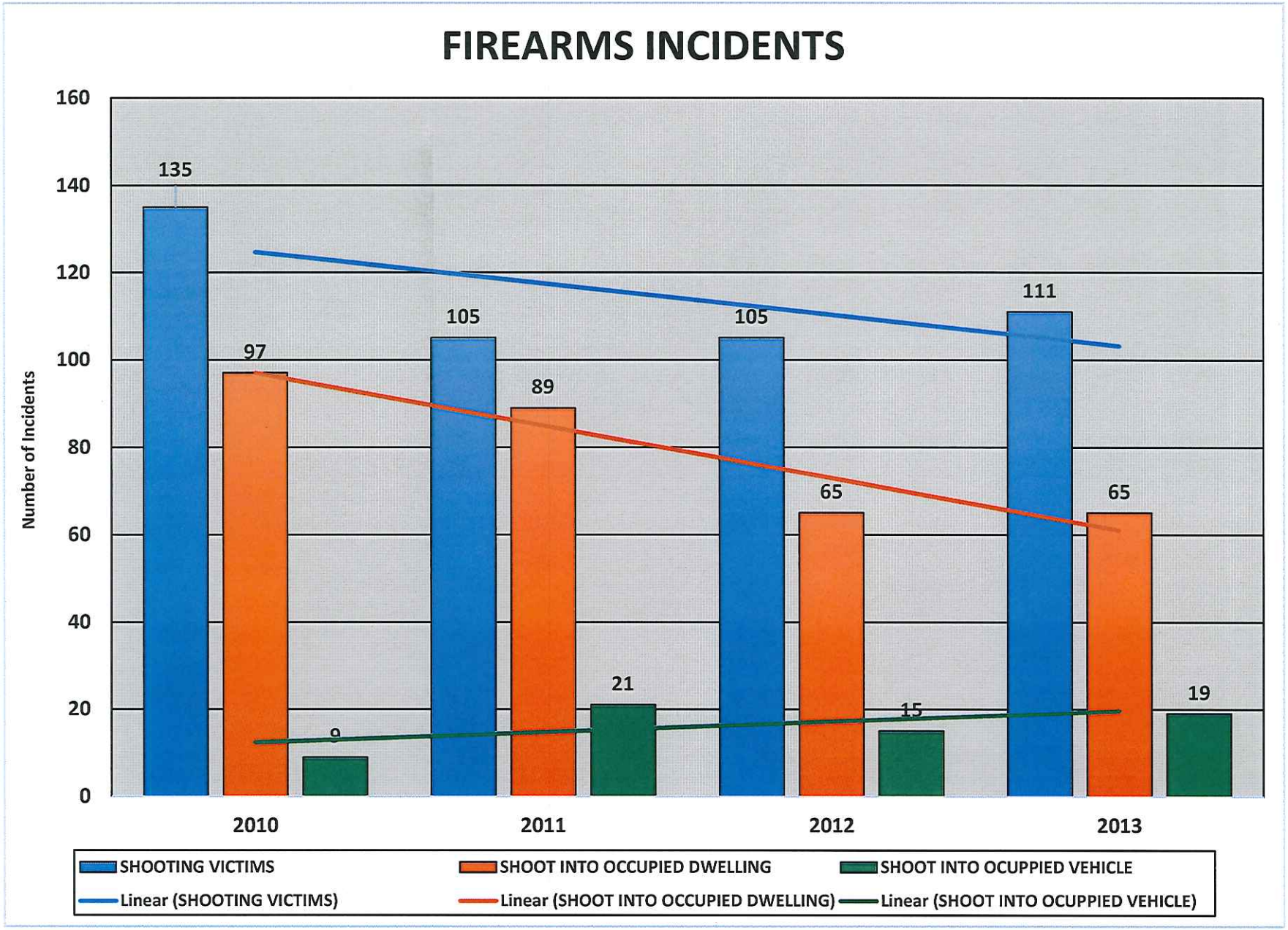
Marcus D. Jones
City Manager


FIREARMS INCIDENTS
Number of Incidents
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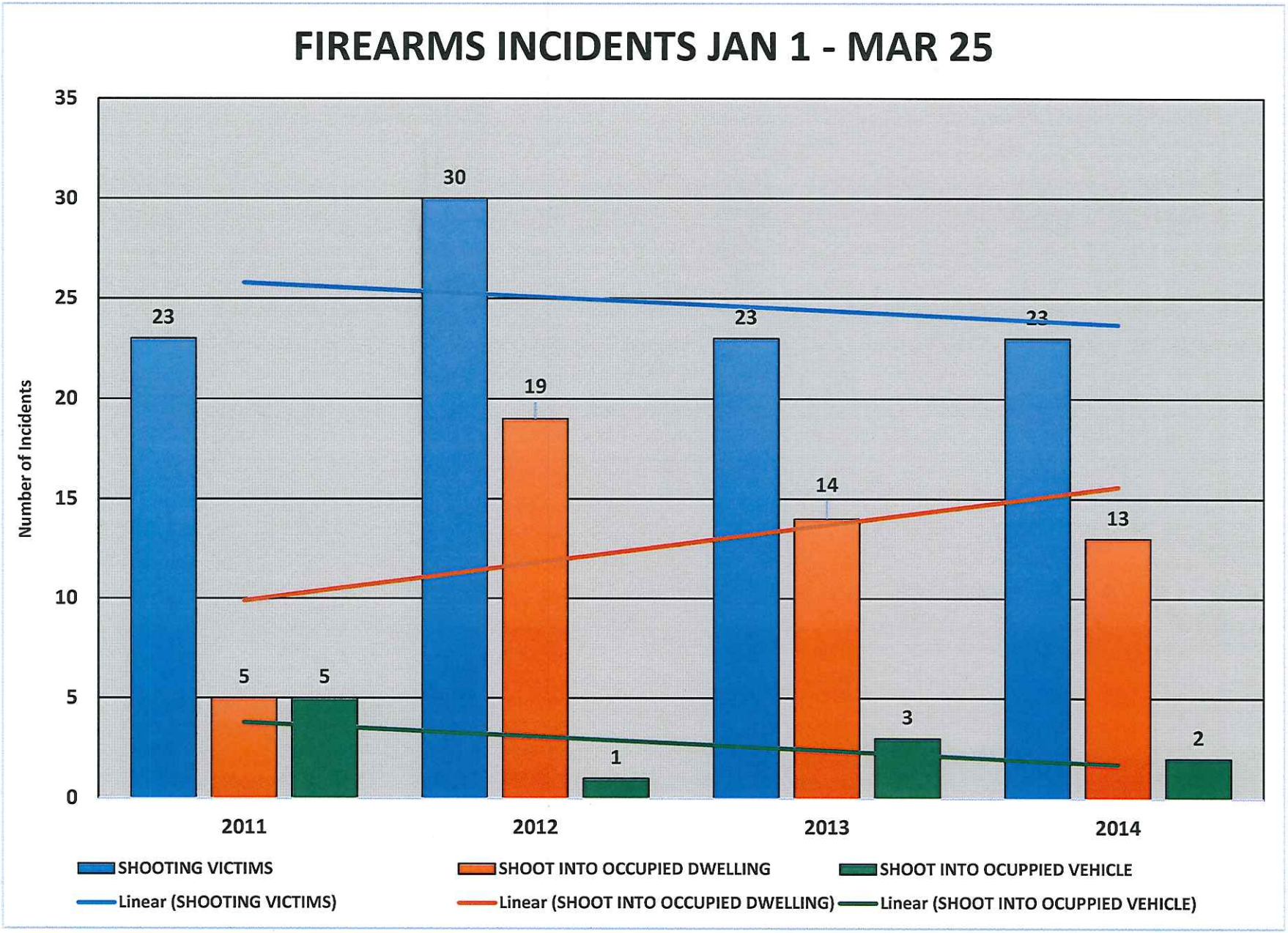
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
135
97
9
105
89
21
105
65
15
111
65
19
2010
2011
2012
2013
SHOOTING VICTIMS
SHOOT INTO OCCUPIED DWELLING
SHOOT INTO OCUPPIED VEHICLE
Linear (SHOOTING VICTIMS)
Linear (SHOOT INTO OCCUPIED DWELLING)
Linear (SHOOT INTO OCUPPIED VEHICLE)


FIREARMS INCIDENTS JAN 1 - MAR 25
Number of Incidents
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
23
5
5
30
19
1
23
14
3
23
13
2
2011
2012
2013
2014
SHOOTING VICTIMS
SHOOT INTO OCCUPIED DWELLING
SHOOT INTO OCUPPIED VEHICLE
Linear (SHOOTING VICTIMS)
Linear (SHOOT INTO OCCUPIED DWELLING)
Linear (SHOOT INTO OCUPPIED VEHICLE)