



Media Contact:

Jessie Nunery
Interim Director
Communications, Marketing & Public Relations
(252) 972-1268

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2021

RMPD makes multiple agency enhancements entering 2022

Rocky Mount, N.C. – The Rocky Mount Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of services to the community. Despite the 13 murders reported in a recent article published by 24/7 Wall St. via The Center Square, the Rocky Mount Police Department continues to make significant progress regarding its crime reduction efforts, strengthening of criminal investigations, and community outreach.

The article accurately reported the number of murders but it did not factor in the hard work of our dedicated Homicide Investigation Unit, which brought closure to families of those victims with a 77% clearance rate. In 2020, the national clearance rate was 54.4%. The Rocky Mount Police Department knows one murder is too many, but in the event of any such incidents, all resources will be utilized to solve cases.

The Rocky Mount Police Department has implemented numerous crime reduction strategies resulting in a 21% decrease in crime activity from December 2021 compared to December 2020. Such strategies include:

- The implementation of NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network), which compares images of submitted ballistic evidence from shooting scenes and recovered firearms and produces a list of possible similar results
- The establishment of a Violent Crime and Gang Task Force, which utilizes data-driven strategies to prevent, enforce and enhance public safety
- Strengthened relationship with federal partners to remove illegally obtained and stolen guns off the city's streets. Efforts resulted in nearly 400 firearms seized in 2021

The department continues its efforts in strengthening criminal investigations and response times. Efforts have included:

- The outfitting of every patrol vehicle with an Automatic Vehicle Locator, which allows the 911 Emergency Center to identify the closes patrol unity of crimes in progress, which

has provided for better response times, and in many cases reduced the ability of situations to become more violent

- Implementation of FUSUS system, a real-time intelligence center with numerous cameras strategically placed throughout the ShotSpotter areas of the city. FUSUS has enhanced investigations and assisted officers in locating shooting suspects and the recovery of stolen vehicles
- The continued use of ShotSpotter, a gunfire detection system, has alerted the department on average 40% faster in more accurately identifying the location of shots fired incidents

Ultimately, the Rocky Mount Police Department strives to be engaged with members of its community. The department has accomplished this during the past year via:

- Increased public service announcements (PSAs) with the objective of having an informed and safer community
- Implementing a community engagement application, Atlas One. The department is just the second organization in North Carolina to utilize the application, which is focused on creating two-way communication between RMPD and the citizens of Rocky Mount. Atlas One will notify citizens of crimes occurring within the city in nearly real-time
- Creation of an additional Facebook page, “Rocky Mount Police 2 Citizen,” dedicated to notifying citizens of wanted individuals. More than 50% of the tips received from the new page have led investigators to clear criminal cases
- Continued promotion and engagement with the Police Athletic/Activities League. In 2021, the Rocky Mount Police Department became an official PAL chartered member. The program allows officers and members to engage with community youth via athletics and recreational activities

“I’m proud of the work the men and women of the Rocky Mount Police Department continues to provide city of Rocky Mount citizens and visitors,” Hassell said. “We will continue to work tirelessly to reduce crime and create a safer environment for the community.”

###