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News Release

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St. Charles Parish Crime Falls to an 18 Year Low

Sheriff Greg Champagne reports that crime in St. Charles Parish fell by 19% in 2014. The overall crime totals represent an 18 year low for The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.

In 2014, a total of 1,777 U.C.R. crimes were reported in the parish. This number is substantially down from the 2,197 crimes reported in 2013. Also, this represents a 32% drop from the 2,639 reported crimes in 2012.

The breakdown in the 7 categories tracked by The Federal Bureau of Investigation is as follows:

	2013	2014	%Change
Murder	5	4	-20%
Rape	5	10	+100%
Robbery	33	22	-33.3%
Assault	846	706	-16.5%
Burglary	300	208	-30.7%
Theft	949	738	-22.2%
Auto Theft	59	89	+33.7
TOTAL	2197	1777	-19.1

The Sheriff's Office releases quarterly Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) regarding seven (7) Index Crimes compiled for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

STATEMENT BY SHERIFF GREG CHAMPAGNE ON 2014 CRIME STATISTICS

I am extremely pleased to report a very significant drop in reported crimes in St. Charles Parish during calendar year 2014. These numbers reflected an 18 year low in crime in our parish and the best numbers since I became Sheriff in 1996.

Regarding the specific categories: The offenses of murder and rape are typically in the single digits annually and one or two offenses more or less can swing percentage increases or decreases significantly. In the early part of 2014, an auto theft ring from Eastern New Orleans moved in and was able to steal several trucks and SUVs causing an increase in that crime category during a few short weeks. It was, however, St. Charles Parish Detectives who broke that trend by apprehending one of the ring's key players - a career criminal who was arrested and subsequently sentenced to prison.

As far as the overall drop in crime, the credit, first and foremost, goes to the hardworking deputies and detectives of The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office. As the experience level of both our command staff and deputies have increased, the crime level, conversely, has gone down. Numerous other factors also contribute to our success in fighting crime. The SCSO still provides the highest level of patrol visibility possible. We are employing the latest developments in technology to develop a more strategic approach to predicting and solving crime. The implementation of regular in-service training and leadership skills are very important. An aggressive approach to promptly executing court ordered attachments for criminal defendants who fail to show up for court dates has also paid off in keeping chronic offenders "off balance". Our deputies and detectives are playing offense instead of defense in our crime fighting efforts.

Citizen involvement in providing us with valuable information on criminal activity via social media and otherwise is at an all-time high. The people of St. Charles Parish are fully invested in assisting us in preventing and solving crime and it truly is a partnership. Technology, including the more widespread use of private video surveillance, also plays an important role in both the deterrence of crime and the apprehension of those who commit crime.

Finally, we could not maintain this high level of crime reduction success without a District Attorney's Office that is aggressively prosecuting career criminals. These chronic repeat offenders are receiving the prison time they deserve. The working relationship at all levels between our two agencies has never been better.