



# Newport News Sheriff's Office

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Inmates Earn GEDs and Awarded Celebration for Accomplishments

"The only way we're going to help these folks keep from returning to jail, is to help give them the tools to succeed on the outside," urged Sheriff Gabe Morgan. "And education is key."

Come celebrate the Newport News Sheriff's Office High School and GED Graduation Tuesday, June 27 at 2 p.m. at the Newport News City Jail.

It may be a small graduating class, but it will be a proud one. One inmate tested for and earned his high school diploma. Three others have earned their General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Each inmate has invited family to attend the graduation ceremony. It will also be attended by representatives of Newport News Public Schools: Dr. Wayne Smith, Asst. Superintendent of Equity & Accountability and Mrs. Gloria Thomas, Adult & Continuing Education Coordinator.

"They (the inmates) should be congratulated on their achievements. Holding a special presentation of the certificates sends a message to the other men and women behind bars," said Morgan. "Hey, if he can do it, so can I.' We want to take the population that the rest of the society has tossed aside and make them into believers. If they believe in themselves, they might just turn away from a life of crime."

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