



# PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

WORK IN PROGRESS 2013

## Vision

*Petersburg, Virginia, a city rich in history, is dedicated to providing superior services and promoting community pride.*

Work In Progress is a review of the many 2013 accomplishments and ongoing projects to improve quality of life in the City of Petersburg. This overview is for our 33,000+ stakeholders and those who are considering Petersburg as a place to work, live and play. Our many initiatives and priorities include youth and family, neighborhood & infrastructure, economic development and jobs, public safety, transportation and organizational effectiveness.

I'm proud of our many achievements in 2013. But a long-term vision for the future is not realized in just a year. Petersburg will continue its Work In Progress as we grow and move forward in making our City a great place to be for our families, friends, businesses, newcomers and visitors.

City Manager William E. Johnson, III

## Economic Development

- Southside Regional Medical Center completed a \$10 million state-of-the-art Medical Arts



Pavilion. The pavilion includes: Radiation Therapy; Oncology Infusion; Women's Imaging, and Medical Practices.

- HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital completed a 3rd expansion, making it the largest HealthSouth operation in Virginia.
- Poplar Springs Hospital opened a 32-bed, multi-million dollar treatment center for active duty military personnel.
- Franklin Development Group expanded the former Brown & Williamson complex, by adding an additional 115 market rate apartments and converting 163,000 square feet into commercial space.
- Renovation began on the former Butterworth's building. Space will include 45 apartments, 78 artist studios, and an event area, representing an investment of \$6.2 million dollars.

- Demolition of the old Holiday Inn at exit 52, the entranceway from I-95/I-85 began.
- Petersburg became a destination for food lovers, as several new specialty restaurants including Croaker's Spot and Neptune's opened.
- Petersburg's population grew, making it the 22nd fastest growing locality in Virginia (UVA Weldon Cooper stats).



## Planning and Community Development, Museum and Visitor Services

### Planning

- Processed and approved plans for thirteen new businesses and developments.
- Capital Improvements Program adopted for fiscal years 2013-2018.
- Comprehensive Plan update began with completion in Spring, 2014.





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## Community Development

Community Development Block Grant funds supported many projects including:

- YMCA After School swim program and summer camp.
- New HVAC for Centre Hill Museum.
- New sidewalks, tennis and basketball courts.
- Gateway signs designed.

The Petersburg Freedom Support Center opened, offering a wide range of services for veterans and their families.

## Museum and Visitor Services

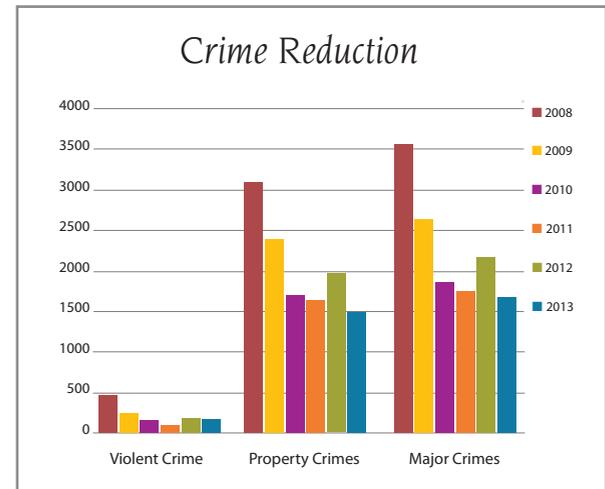
- Grants totaling \$752,000 received for restoration and conversion of South Side Depot into a visitor contact station for Petersburg National Battlefield.



- First annual "Week of Wonder History Camp" held for youth.
- Window and roof repairs completed at Centre Hill Museum.
- Visitation increased.

## Public Works, Utilities, and Transit

- Over \$1.9 million dollars spent paving city streets and over 1,300 potholes repaired.
- First curbside recycling started.
- Four new buses purchased with grants.
- Traffic signal lights removed from ten intersections improving traffic flow and saving \$50,000 dollars per year.



## Petersburg Bureau of Police

- Crime hit a 10-year low.
- Violent crime down 36%.
- Property crime down 47%.
- All major crime down 46%.
- 89% clearance rate for homicides. Clearance rates for robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary above national averages.
- Partnered with the Virginia National Guard in "Operation Renew" to demolish 15 blighted structures. "Operation Renew" allows police to identify blighted structures that contribute to a negative perception of crime, and the City's ability to attract businesses and residents.



## Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

- Government Outreach launched. With mobile app or on website, citizens can submit requests/concerns and follow responses on-line.
- Over \$188,000 in grants received for fire programs.
- Code Compliance coordinated demolition of more than 25 blighted buildings.



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- Impeccable safety record maintained, with no firefighter killed in the line of duty for more than 30 years.
- New Medic Unit replaced 1995 ambulance.
- Fire and life safety education provided to citizens.



- “Golf for Life”, providing free golf clinics for Petersburg youth expanded.
- Uniforms and golf bags donated to Petersburg High golf team.

### Parks & Leisure Services

- Six new tennis courts, including a backboard, fencing, nets, and lighting, completed at Lee Memorial Park.
- Youth gardening program started.



- Basketball courts at Lee Memorial Park resurfaced, new rims, nets and painting.
- Health & Wellness Program launched for city employees and citizens.
- First annual Parks & Leisure Services brochure, highlighting programs and activities, distributed.
- Trails at Lee Memorial Park reopened in partnership with Willcox Watershed Conservancy.

### Dogwood Trace Golf

- Visitors played over 21,000 rounds of golf.
- Over 30 tournaments and events were held, representing a 15% increase over the previous year.
- Golf cart paths paved.
- Council approved funding for new clubhouse and maintenance building.

### Finance, Purchasing, and Risk Management

#### Finance, Purchasing

- Reduced revenue anticipation note by \$1 million dollars.
- Government Finance Officers Association award for Excellence in Financial Reporting (FY12) received for the 11th straight year.
- Procurement Policy revised.

#### Risk Management

- Workman Compensation claims decreased nearly 43%, representing a savings of over \$207,000.
- Preventable accidents by city employees dropped 72%, savings over \$132,000.

#### Information Technology

- First information technology (IT) division created.
- New city website launched, providing user-friendly and informative platform for citizens and employees.





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### Human Resources

- Employee Training Needs Assessment Survey completed.
- Task Force established to launch and oversee management of Volunteer Program.

### Library Services

- Partnership with Petersburg Library Foundation for funding new library construction continued. Library assisted Foundation in acquiring \$2.5 million dollars in New Market Tax Credits.
- Healthy Living and Learning Center opened in partnership with the Crater Health District and VCU Massey Cancer Center, providing health literacy services.
- E-readers, e-books, and mobile apps offered.
- Two awards received from the Virginia Public Library Directors Association for Outstanding Cooperative Program and Outstanding Young Adult Program.



### Social Services

- *Common Help* launched, an on-line application for citizens applying for Social Services Benefits.
- Family Services team established for the prevention of abuse/neglect and out of home placement.
- *Smart Start*, a collaboration between Petersburg Schools and Social Services, initiated to prevent chronic absenteeism.
- Supported Alternatives for Valued Youth (SAVY) started a Youth Council.
- *Safe Sleep* educational campaign launched to prevent sleep-related infant deaths.

### Hispanic Liaison Department

- Liaison office opened on County Drive.
- Hispanic radio station began featuring Petersburg events.
- Assisted Hispanic community in using bus service.
- Mexican Embassy officials visited, met city leaders, and held Immigration Reform Forum.
- First "How to Buy a House" seminar in Spanish held.



### Community Corrections

- Received Byrne Jag grant for pretrial services.
- Facilitated interventions for Anger Management and Shoplifting Awareness groups.
- Opened free HIV testing site in partnership with the Minority Health Consortium.

### Petersburg Office on Youth

- Served 78 youth between the ages of 14 to 21.
- 88.9% participants between 18 and 21 increased their literacy and numeracy scores.
- 69.23% participants entered into full and part time employment or secondary education.
- 100% participants who were seniors graduated.
- 43 youth participated in summer employment program.

## Work In Progress 2014

- Exit 52 Redevelopment Continues.
- New Library Opens.
- Former BB&T Building Redevelopment Begins.
- High Street Lofts, 4th Phase, Opens.
- New City Hall Moves Forward.
- Special Events for 150th Commemoration of Siege of Petersburg.
- More Specialty Dining Opens, Increasing Visitation.