



Hampton Police Division Media Release

40 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669



For Immediate Release

December 29, 2014

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A BELL NOT A BANG

In partnership with the Hampton Commonwealth Attorney's Office, The Urban League of Hampton Roads and the Hampton Police Division are asking the citizens of Hampton to participate in a campaign of celebrating the 2015 New Year with the theme, "RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A BELL NOT A BANG".

The City of Detroit initiated this campaign after a 47-year-old woman was shot and killed inside of her residence on December 31, 1997 after a celebratory new year's action went tragically wrong. Last year on New Year's Eve, the Hampton Police Division responded to 60 shots fired complaints. Based on those investigations, officers discovered that two occupied homes and five unoccupied vehicles were struck. We are asking the citizens of Hampton to celebrate the 2015 New Year safely and with caution. As the countdown to the 2015 New Year approaches the Hampton Police Division encourages its citizens to participate in this campaign by ringing a bell rather than utilizing a firearm and discharging rounds into the air. Remember, "**WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN**"!

The Hampton Police Division would like to remind citizens that Discharging a Firearm within city limits is considered a Class 1 Misdemeanor and is punishable by either/both confinement in jail for not more than twelve months and a fine of not more than \$2,500.00.