

**June 11, 2013 – THE VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY (VINE®) SYSTEM COMES TO BRISTOL'S JAIL**

The Virginia Center for Policing Innovation Joins the Virginia Sheriffs' Association in Celebrating the Arrival of VINE at the Bristol Virginia City Jail

Bristol, VA – Sheriff Jack Weisenburger and Ms. Lynda S. O'Connell, the Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation, today announced the arrival of the Victim Information and Notification Everyday System (VINE®) in the Bristol Virginia City Jail.

“We are very happy that this important crime victim notification system is available at our local and regional jail facilities,” said John Jones, Executive Director of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. “This system is an invaluable tool for any crime victim, law enforcement officer or concerned citizen. Expanding it to jails and prisons is an important step in helping to protect all citizens of the Commonwealth.”

The Bristol Virginia City Jail offers the VINE® system to crime victims. Individuals may call 1-800-467-4943 day or night to confirm an offender housed in the facility is in jail, and can register to be notified when an offender is released, transferred or escapes. Registration for notification can also be completed online at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com). Any change in the offender's status will trigger a notification. Individuals can choose to be informed over the telephone, through the internet or by e-mail. Users can remain anonymous when using this service.

The VINE system also provides access to the Virginia Statewide Sex Offender Registry. Users can call 1-866-556-2680 or go to [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) and search for offenders by zip code or register to be notified about an offender's change in address and other tracked information.

VINE® is currently available in 47 states and Puerto Rico, covering 80% of communities of the country. The Virginia Center for Policing Innovation in conjunction with the Virginia Sheriffs' Association has been managing the implementation of the VINE program in Virginia's local and regional jails. The program is supported by funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia Compensation Board and the US Bureau of Justice Assistance.



Officers participated in VINE training following the press conference.

“We are proud to offer this critical service throughout the Commonwealth,” states Lynda S. O’Connell. “We want to make sure this resource is used to its maximum potential by those who can benefit most from it: the citizens of Virginia and those working to protect them.”

Since the service was launched in Virginia, VINE has delivered over 100,000 e-mails and over 2.9 million phone calls.

Follow these links to local media coverage: [WCYB](#) and [WJHL](#).