

## **Number of Sex Offenders in Hall County Down in 2013**

December 18, 2013

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### **The Number of Sex Offender Registrations Down in Hall County for 2013**

The Hall County Sheriff's Office has reported that the number of registered Sex Offenders in Hall County, Georgia has dropped to under 300 for the calendar year ending 2013. Lieutenant Stephanie Gilbert, who is in charge of the Hall County Sex Offender Registry Unit, stated that the number registered Sex Offenders in the county has been as high as 308 at the beginning of 2013.

Lieutenant Gilbert noted that the Hall County Sheriff's Office, Sex Offender Registry Unit, has worked with the Georgia Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Office, along with local and federal law enforcement agencies to ensure that offenders residing in Hall County comply with all sex offender registry requirements.

During 2013, the Hall County Sheriff's Office investigated approximately 30 violations of sex offender registry laws that were turned over to the Hall County District Attorney's Office for prosecution. The violations ranged from offenders who did not comply with their annual registration requirements to offenders who failed to notify the Sheriff's Office of changes in their registered addresses, sleeping locations and employment.

Lieutenant Gilbert added that the Sex Offender Registry Unit also investigated two separate cases that resulted in individuals being charged with Harboring a Sex Offender. It is a violation of Georgia law for a person to provide a law enforcement officer with false or misleading information with regards to the whereabouts of a registered sex offender.

While all Sheriffs in Georgia are constitutionally mandated to maintain a sex offender registry in their counties, Sheriff Gerald Couch noted that in Hall County it is the partnership between his office and the community that has been a key factor in his office's ability to successfully enforce the sex offender registry laws. The Hall County Sheriff's Office website <http://www.hallcounty.org/sheriff> provides citizens with the locations of all sex offenders who reside in Hall County.