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PRESS RELEASE

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Tuscaloosa Police Report Near 30 Percent Increase in Writs and Warrants Served

The Syscon Court Clerk system has been continually updated with new enhancements since it was first implemented in Tuscaloosa, AL back in 2004. These changes have greatly improved efficiencies in document processing, accurate reporting and timely information sharing with other cities and the State. The number of writs and warrants successfully, and safely, served by the Tuscaloosa Police Department has increased by nearly 30 percent since the installation of Court Clerk.

The Court Clerk system's many features include faxing or e-mailing documents to judges, attorneys and police officers. A versatile interface exists to export case information to state and other agencies. The detailed tracking available on court case activities, including due dates for hearings, trails, programs and payments, significantly benefits the Tuscaloosa force.

"We are now light years ahead of the curve," said Tuscaloosa Police Cpt. Jeff Hartley when discussing the enhanced warrant interface recently installed by Syscon. "Syscon maintains our whole writ and warrant system. Whenever the court creates or makes a change to a writ or a warrant, it immediately appears in our system. This means we no longer have to wait for files to be hand-delivered and then manually entered into our system."

Eliminating up to 30 minutes per case previously required to input court information into the police system has improved staff morale, and provided additional time to verify and clarify any inaccuracies or discrepancies. Consequently, more cases are being forwarded quickly to the National Crime Information Center. "No one can apprehend offenders if officials don't know they are wanted," Hartley said.

Another benefit of increased efficiency is improved accuracy, an important element for the 270 sworn officers who serve more than 80,000 citizens.

"Having all information correct and timely means that when our officers go out to serve a warrant they know they are approaching the right person, and they are prepared," Hartley said. "Of the 6,800 active writs and warrants we have right now, 75 of those are felonies. That involves people who are known to be violent, carrying concealed weapons, and are suspected of murder or other violent crimes. The last thing we want is an innocent citizen or an officer to be hurt in the process of serving a warrant."

Hartley is also pleased with the expanding scope of communication with other jurisdictions that use Syscon's Court Clerk docket management system.

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“Northport has also implemented the Syscon system, so we can now share information with each other quickly, Hartley said. “Before, we weren’t able to electronically communicate with our sister city right across the river. This system is of great benefit to the courts, police departments and the communities we serve.”

Syscon, incorporated in 1973, is a leading provider of Windows-based client and server document management software and technology services that address the needs of government entities. Syscon’s family of products and services includes: *PROMIS*, a public records optical management information system; *Court Clerk*, a court records and docket management system; online payment processing; and document preservation to provide digital backup and disaster recovery capabilities for existing paper records. All products feature integrated imaging and are utilized in counties and municipalities with populations ranging from 1,500 to over 750,000.