



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 10, 2014

**Wilmington’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2014 Cost of Living Ranks as Average**

Wilmington, N.C. —The costs associated with living in Wilmington increased slightly since 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2014 compared to that of the average city according to the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2014 national ACCRA cost of living survey. The overall composite index for Wilmington came in at 100.5, based on a national average index of 100. Wilmington’s 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2014 index score was 99.3. Local data for the survey is collected by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and submitted to ACCRA.

The Cost of Living Index measures the differences in the cost of consumer goods and services between cities for a middle-class standard of living. 264 urban areas in the United States participated in the most recent study. Manhattan was the most expensive city, with an index of 214.5, more than twice the national average. McAllen, Texas was the least expensive metro area, with an index of 81.5.

The full study results are based on more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items that are priced by area chambers of commerce, economic development groups, or similar organizations in each urban area during the same 3-day time frame. Each community is given a composite index in which the average score is 100, derived from six categories: housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, healthcare, and miscellaneous goods and services. Wilmington’s 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2014 component scores, compared to other southern cities, for these categories are shown below.

Select Southern Cities							
City	Com- posite	Grocery	Housing	Utilities	Trans- portation	Health- care	Misc. Goods & Services
Wilmington, NC	100.5	107.5	88.7	100.4	103.9	111.0	104.2
Raleigh, NC	92.3	97.5	75.5	98.9	99.4	101.2	97.5
Charlotte, NC	95.3	101.9	85.5	105.9	94.6	101.6	96.4
Asheville, NC	103.0	105.2	103.5	101.0	100.0	109.0	102.5
Charleston, SC	101.2	109.7	96.9	111.6	93.8	106.1	100.1
Washington, D.C.	138.8	109.2	246.6	97.5	105.6	95.7	97.3
Norfolk, VA	99.1	99.7	92.5	109.5	94.7	107.2	105.2