

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **ISAIAS DAMAGES AND EXTENDED DOWNTOWN ROAD CLOSURES UPDATES**

SUFFOLK, VA (August 17, 2020) The Suffolk Department of Community Development advises that following the impact of two tornadoes that touched down in Suffolk early Tuesday morning, August 4, 2020, a total of 114 residential and commercial structures have been reported to have sustained damage ranging from minor (missing shingles, etc.) to total losses (not economically feasible to rebuild). Estimated damage values at this time are approximately \$4.3 million dollars.

In fact, a century-old commercial building in Downtown Suffolk that was mostly vacant was declared a total loss following inspections by various Engineers. The structure, including 101 to 113 S. Saratoga Street, is scheduled to be demolished within the next week to 10 days. As a result, the Downtown Suffolk extended road closure to thru traffic previously in place will remain in effect from West Washington Street at Main Street to Pine Street, as well as Saratoga Street at West Washington Street to Smith Street. Public Works crews have previously placed detour signage in these areas. Sidewalks in several areas also remain closed, however, businesses that were not directly impacted remain open.

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