

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

April 7, 2022



**Contact:**

Tim Kelley

Office: 757.514.4103

Mobile: 757.871.3039

### **NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK RECOGNIZED**

SUFFOLK, VA (April 7, 2022) The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Fire & Rescue would like to notify our citizens that the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 16, 2022, has been designated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. In 1991, a Congressional resolution designated the second full week in April each year as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Since that time, public safety agencies nationwide have recognized telecommunicators, dispatchers, communication operators, and radio control personnel for the critical role they play in public safety. It is a week where everyone can celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public.

In 2021, Suffolk's Dispatchers received a total of 176,701 calls, including 55,192 9-1-1 calls, 72,242 administrative calls, and 134 Text to 9-1-1 messages.

Public safety dispatchers provide an important service to the community and all emergency personnel while performing their duties with integrity, quality, accountability, and respect. As the first person on the scene of nearly every crime, fire, and medical emergency, the 9-1-1 dispatcher continues to be an invaluable resource for agencies of all sizes. These knowledgeable and highly trained individuals help save countless lives by answering emergency and non-emergency calls, dispatching law enforcement, medical and fire professionals and equipment, and providing support to citizens in distress — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

###