

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK POLICE TO DEBUT DOG WALKER WATCH PROGRAM

SUFFOLK, VA (July 10, 2015) The Suffolk Police Department is proud to announce a new tool in helping prevent crime and assist in the reporting of crime in our City. The Dog Walker Watch crime awareness program is designed for neighbors who are familiar with their community and out in the neighborhood on a regular basis anyway, whether walking with or without a dog. Unlike a community watch program, Dog Walker Watch requires no commitment beyond an individual's regular routine. Individuals who participate in this program will be trained on how to effectively observe and report suspicious or criminal activity. Not only will this new program improve the health and vitality of our communities, but also the health and wellbeing of participants by encouraging physical activity and exercise, as you don't need to have a pet to participate.

The Dog Walker Watch program will debut with a training session on Thursday, July 23, 2015, at 6 p.m., in the City Council Chamber located in City Hall, 442 West Washington Street. The event will feature members of the Suffolk Police Department who will highlight the program and offer information on what to look for when participants are out and about with their dogs in their own communities. All attendees will receive a gift bag and light refreshments will be served. The

training session is free and open to the public. While pet owners are encouraged to attend, they are asked to leave their dogs at home for the training.

Additionally, Dog Walker Watch information will be on display at the Suffolk Animal Care Center and at the Suffolk Humane Society "Swinging Summer" Adopt-A-Thon from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 12th at the North Suffolk PetSmart® store, 6243 College Drive, where an Officer will be available to talk with the public about this new initiative and citizens can register to attend the upcoming Dog Walker Watch training. The Suffolk Humane Society is also a supporter of this program, as we hope that it may increase adoption efforts for those individuals that perhaps don't already own a dog but would like to add a furry friend to their families.

The Dog Walker Watch program is a crime awareness program sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), who also proudly sponsors National Night Out. Suffolk's 2015 National Night theme is "Working Together to Take a Bite Out of Crime". Residents in neighborhoods across Suffolk and the Nation are being asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outdoors with neighbors and police on Tuesday, August 4, 2015. Thanks to the hard work of the entire community, Suffolk's 2014 National Night Out received First Place in the nation in our population category; the highest honors from the National Association of Town Watch for any city in the state of Virginia. In fact, we continued our award-winning tradition, and earned our ninth top five finish in a row after National Judging in our Population Category.

For more information on how to get involved with the Dog Walker Watch program, contact Suffolk Police Captain James Buie at 757-514-7960. For more information on Suffolk's National Night Out celebration, contact Diana Klink at 757-514-4104 or visit www.suffolknno.com.

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