

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK CITY OFFICES TO REMAIN CLOSED FRIDAY**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (January 4, 2018) Suffolk City Offices will remain closed on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> based on road conditions and weather-related issues. Suffolk Public Schools made the decision to close earlier in the day, and therefore all before and after school activities at all Parks & Recreation Joint Use Facilities are also cancelled.

Alpha Personnel for the Suffolk Police Department, and others as directed by their Supervisor, should report to duty as usual.

Suffolk Transit will also remain closed tomorrow.

Due to the current weather conditions, the State of Emergency which has been declared, and the extended closure of the SPSA Landfill and TFC Recycling facilities, trash pick-up has been suspended and will resume under the normal operating schedule on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Any extra items, bagged household waste, Christmas trees or bulk waste measuring 8 cubic yards or less may be placed at the curb for collection at the same time. These items will not count towards the 12 annual non-charged bulk pick-up. Staff thanks our citizens in advance for their understanding during this weather emergency.

While Public Works has made significant progress on primary and many secondary roads, they caution drivers to be aware of changing road conditions and the potential for icy spots following today's sun and subsequent freezing. Drivers should continue to exercise caution in their driving even if conditions look very clear. Road crews will continue to work overnight and throughout the weekend in 12-hour shifts in their road clearing efforts. Their first priority is given to all primary or main roadways, followed by secondary arterials and connectors. Neighborhood streets are cleared last; and due to the size of the equipment, configuration of neighborhood streets and the presence of cars parked on the street, may not be accessible by city plows.

Residents can assist in the efficiency of snow removal by doing the following:

- Avoid travel unless absolutely necessary; if you must travel, please drive cautiously and slowly, removing all snow and ice from the whole vehicle before driving
- Leave plenty of room between you and other vehicles
- Stay back and avoid passing snow plows; snow or abrasive can come from the plow while operating
- Avoid parking on streets to allow plow access where possible
- Shovel sidewalks as soon as possible after storm; however, avoid shoveling snow from driveways or sidewalks into the roadway
- Clear snow around fire hydrants; firefighters will be able to respond more quickly in the event of an emergency

To report roadway issues, citizens can contact Public Works at 514-7600.

For afterhours/weekend requests for Emergency Public Utilities Services, call 757-514-7000 (broken water pipes, etc.).

A Wind Chill Advisory is in effect from 10:00 p.m. this evening to 10:00 a.m. Friday morning. We can expect very cold wind chills overnight with chill values

as low as zero to -5 below. Temperatures are not expected to rise above freezing levels until Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

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