

NEWS RELEASE

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DOWNTOWN MURAL REMINDS CITIZENS TO LOCK IT, DON'T LOSE IT

SUFFOLK, VA (August 23, 2018) A well-known quote states, "If a picture paints a thousand words", however, when it comes to the community mural now on display in front of Suffolk Police Headquarters, Officers want citizens to remember and practice these five important words: *Lock It, Don't Lose It*.

Located on West Washington Street in front of Suffolk Police Headquarters at 111 Henley Place, the 16-foot-long community mural was painted at the National Night Out at Obici & Health Fair event on August 7th at King's Fork Middle School. The project, a partnership involving the Suffolk Art League, SPARC, and Keep Suffolk Beautiful, invited citizens to add their handiwork to the mural highlighting the *Lock It, Don't Lose It* message along with a thank you card of sorts to first responders depicting a police car, fire engine and ambulance painted by local youth. You can check out the fun via a time-lapse video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IXG70AGeZA>.

Linda Bunch, Executive Director of the Suffolk Art League and a member of SPARC, noted, "The mural project has been really fun and brought together public and private groups with public participation. We hope the National Night Out mural will help remind people to keep their possessions safe while also adding a bit of fun to the downtown landscape. We invite everyone to wander around downtown and find the other murals representing different areas of our City."

Sharing his thoughts, Wayne Jones, Suffolk's Litter Control Coordinator and member of Keep Suffolk Beautiful, added, "We had over 50 children and adults take part, with some of the children as young as 4-years-old. Lots more people stopped by and enjoyed watching. It was a great night!"

Suffolk Police challenge everyone to lock up, whether your car or your home, as noted in their video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9kbwPmiw7g&feature=youtu.be>, and remind you these few seconds not only helps you and your family avoid becoming a victim of crime, but also helps the entire neighborhood.

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