

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Suffolk Announces Gang Awareness Forum

SUFFOLK, VA (January 20, 2009) The City of Suffolk announces a **Gang Awareness Forum** hosted by Suffolk's Commonwealth's Attorney, C. Phillips "Phil" Ferguson and the Suffolk Police Department on January 27, 2009 at King's Fork Middle School from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The "GANG AWARENESS FORUM" is open to the public and admission is FREE.

The Citizens of Suffolk will be the first locality in the state of Virginia to view Attorney General Bob McDonnell's anti-gang video entitled "The Wrong Family: Virginia Fights Back Against Gangs". The video is a compelling documentary exploring the real nature of gangs in Virginia and what the community can do to fight against the violent nature of gangs. After the video, you will learn of ACTUAL gang activity within the City of Suffolk. This will be followed by a community round table with members representing the Suffolk Schools, Court Service Unit, Parks and Recreation, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, and the Police Department. Anyone attending the "GANG AWARENESS FORUM" will have the opportunity to have their questions addressed by a panel of local officials and experts on gangs.

It is the #1 policy of C. Phillips "Phil" Ferguson, Suffolk's Commonwealth's Attorney to prosecute all gang activity within Suffolk's City limits. Suffolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and the Suffolk Police Department are committed to a community-centered approach that identifies gang activity and then proactively fights gang crime and violence.

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