MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2009

Contact:
Debbie George
757-514-4106
757-374-1770

APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY BEING ACCEPTED

SUFFOLK, VA (September 28, 2009) The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue are pleased to announce that applications are being taken for its third, City of Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy.

This is an 11 week after school program focused on **at risk** youth between the **ages of 13 and 17**. Students gain hands on experience on what it is like to be a police officer, firefighter, and CSI Technician. Participating youth are mentored by police officers and firefighters, while experiencing the value of teamwork and social responsibility.

Lessons and activities include topics such as use of fire extinguishers, arson investigations, computer crime and safety, forensics (CSI), Defensive Tactics and many more. Youth will be treated to a mid term trip where they will learn rope climbing and team building. Each week they are also exposed to service learning, teaching them that they can make a difference in their community. The goal is to complete two civic projects before the end of the program.

The goal of the program is to provide positive role models, build interest in public safety professions, and increase confidence, by expanding experiences. This program is funded, in part, by generous contributions from Target and Wal Mart. The deadline for applications is **October 9th**. The program will run each Tuesday and Thursday from October 27 through January 26, 2010 from 3:30pm to 7:00 pm, with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas school holidays. Transportation is provided to and from

the program by the City's Parks and Recreation staff. Youth will be picked up from their school and transported to Fire Station 3 on White Marsh Road where the Academy is held.

Applications are available by contacting Fire Department Investigator Pam King 757-514-7542 or CSI Supervisor Joan Jones at 757-514-7940. There is no cost for this program.

##