

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** \_\_\_\_\_

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SUFFOLK, VA (September 28, 2011) – The City of Suffolk announces that on September 19<sup>th</sup>, Solomon H. Ashby, Jr. joined the Office of the City Attorney as an assistant City Attorney. Ashby was previously a Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City of Atlanta where he represented police officers in personal injury lawsuits and was a key litigator for the office. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Science – Food Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin.

Additionally, Debbie White assumed her new role as the City's new Director of Finance on September 25<sup>th</sup>. White possesses over ten years of public accounting and government finance experience, most recently serving as Director of Finance/Chief Financial Officer for the Augusta County Service Authority in Verona, Virginia. White has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Virginia, where she received the Hugh Miller Award for Distinction in Studies. She also has a Master of Business Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she was the recipient of the Dean's Scholar/Thalhimer Family Award for Excellence in Business.

Several temporary assignments were also announced. As the City moves forward with the design and construction of the E-911 Call Center and Municipal Center, an important component of the planning and design of the facility will be a focus on electronic records management and related technology improvements to better provide for streamlined services for citizens and businesses. Additionally, an important goal is to move City offices into the new facility and to leave behind a number of antiquated, costly and time consuming record keeping and document management systems and outdated business processes. Sherry Hunt has been assigned as temporary Special Project Manager for the duration of the records retention and management element of the E-911 Call Center and

Municipal Center Project. This will allow the City to gain and maintain compliance with State records retention laws. Hunt prior experience with inventory management will be beneficial in this assignment.

Debbie George will be temporarily assigned as the City's Chief of Staff. Debbie will remain the City's spokesperson and handle media inquiries. Diana Klink will oversee the day to day operations of Department of Media and Community Relations. These changes will be effective on October 3rd.

Also on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Gerald Rhoads will begin as the Assistant Director of Capital Programs and Buildings. Rhoads possesses over 10 years of private sector project management and operations experience. Rhoads has a BS in Public Administration from Christopher Newport University.

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