

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Diana L. Klink

757.514.4104

757.775.7144

2010 National Night Out Community “Kick-Off” Meeting

SUFFOLK, Virginia (May 28, 2010) On Tuesday, August 3rd, neighborhoods throughout Suffolk are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the **27th Annual National Night Out** (NNO) crime, drug and gang prevention event. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Suffolk Police Department, this event involves over 35 million people in more than 11,000 communities from all 50 states, U. S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world.

In an effort to provide information on this year’s National Night Out, the city of Suffolk National Night Out Committee is hosting a community “Kick-Off” meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2010, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 441 Market Street. Community representatives, faith-based groups and business operators are invited to officially pre-register their neighborhood, church or business to be included in this year’s festivities and to be placed on the visitation route of local dignitaries and police/fire units. Representatives will also receive a National Night Out “Party Box” with lots of great National Night Out information and be able to register to win an official National Night Out 27th Anniversary Banner, along with other door prizes.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for (and participation in) local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and

fighting back. Suffolk's National Night Out events have ranked **first in the nation** in our population category (30,000-99,999) for the last two years. In fact, Suffolk was the only city in Virginia to finish in the top five in 2009!

Even with last year's success, there is much work to be done. As Suffolk continues its unprecedented evolution as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Virginia, we recognize that we'll need to maintain the momentum gained by City leaders and community members as we continue to bring together citizens across our 430 square miles – from our most rural communities in southern Suffolk to our high-tech modeling and simulation corridor in the northern part of our city. Public safety is critical to our growth and well-being as a city. Therefore, we have established as our Project 365 theme for National Night Out 2010: "A Safe Odyssey".

For more information about National Night Out, or to see photos from last year's event, please visit our website at www.suffolknno.org. Should you have any questions, please call Diana Klink at 514-4104, or Debbie George at 514-4106.

We hope to see you at the National Night Out Community "Kick-Off" on June 3rd!

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