

## NEWS RELEASE

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

December 12, 2009

**Contact:**

Debbie George

757-514-4106

757-374-1770

### Suffolk Launches Litter Law Enforcement Campaign

SUFFOLK, Va. (December 12, 2009) – You may want to think twice about throwing that cigarette butt or straw from your fast food cup out of your car window? Starting January 1, 2010, the City of Suffolk will launch a Litter Law Enforcement Campaign.

The Suffolk Police Department will increase their surveillance of motorists littering and known illegal dumping sites. Virginia Code 33.1-346 states that it is unlawful for any person to dump or dispose of trash, garbage, refuse, litter or a companion animal on public property. Officers will issue citations to anyone violating the litter law. The campaign will run through the entire month of January.

“This campaign is designed to encourage citizens to abide by city and state laws governing littering violations. Our officers will be placing additional emphasis on these violations during January,” said Thomas Bennett, Chief of Police.

One of the Rules of Littering according to Keep America Beautiful, Inc. is *Litter attracts litter*. If someone sees litter somewhere, they feel it’s acceptable to litter as well. But litter isn’t natural. It’s an illegal and preventable problem that hurts people and wildlife. You can make a difference by not doing it.

“Litter affects a community’s quality of life. It brings down the property value of homes. It can discourage new businesses from moving to your community,” said Hattie Lester, Litter Control Coordinator. “Suffolk wants to send a message that we will not tolerate litter in our city. We want to keep Suffolk beautiful and a clean place to live, work, and play.”

If you or your group want to organize a neighborhood cleanup or adopt a street or spot to clean, please call Hattie Lester for more information on how to do so at (757) 514-7604 or via e-mail at [hlester@city.suffolk.va.us](mailto:hlester@city.suffolk.va.us).

Photo caption: This is a heavily littered area in the city near White Marsh Road.