MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2010

Suffolk
VIRGINIA
It's a good time to be in Suffolk

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UPDATE 12

SUFFOLK, Va. (February 4, 2010) Cedar Hill Cemetery has reopened to visitors.

UPDATE 11

SUFFOLK, Va. (February 2, 2010) Because of icy conditions, Cedar Hill Cemetery. located on Main Street, is closed to visitors. This closure was necessary due in part to the narrow paths of the cemetery which do not allow for snow plow clearing. Also, because of the topography within the cemetery, even walking when the pathways are covered with ice and snow can be extremely dangerous.

Should a burial need arise during the time of the closure, city staff will work with the funeral home and family to accommodate. The Department of Public Works plans to reopen the cemetery as soon as it is safely possible.

UPDATE 10

SUFFOLK, Va. (February 1, 2010) Department of Public Works crews continue to clear Suffolk roadways. All primary roadways are substantially clear. Many of the major secondary roadways, such as Wilroy Rd., Nansemond Rkwy., Pitchkettle Rd., Ruritan Blvd., are also clear. Crews will continue to focus on secondary and neighborhood roadways this evening and tomorrow.

UPDATE 9

SUFFOLK, Va. (February 1, 2010) All Suffolk Public Libraries will be closing at 6 p.m. this evening.

City of Suffolk offices will open on a two hour delay Tuesday. Liberal leave for non-alpha personnel will be allowed.

UPDATE 8

SUFFOLK, Va. (February 1, 2010) Suffolk Department of Parks and Recreation announces that East Suffolk Recreation Center will close at 6 p.m. tonight. Also, all Parks and Recreation athletic events and practices (youth basketball, indoor soccer and cheerleading practices) have been cancelled as well for this evening. The Adult Men's Flag Football Interest Meeting, which was to be held this evening, has been rescheduled for next Monday @ 6:30 p.m. at the Athletics Main Office at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts.

The Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Suffolk Leadership Academy scheduled for Tuesday evening has been rescheduled until Monday, February 8th at 5:30 in the City Council Chamber.

UPDATE 7

SUFFOLK, Va. (January 31, 2010) City of Suffolk offices will open on a two hour delay tomorrow. Liberal leave for non-alpha personnel will be allowed.

UPDATE 6

SUFFOLK, Va. (January 31, 2010) – The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Department of Public Works advise that roadways are still icy and driving conditions are dangerous. They are requesting that citizens assist them by staying off the roadways, if at all possible.

Public Works Crews have continued to work around the clock clearing primary roadways. Once those are adequately addressed, crews will be able to move on to secondary roadways and into neighborhoods. Citizens can greatly assist in these efforts by remaining off roadways and not parking vehicle in the public right of way.

Your cooperation and assistance in these efforts are appreciated.

UPDATE 5

SUFFOLK, VA (January 30, 2010) Suffolk Public Works crews continue to work 12 hour shifts. The priority for the crews is primary roadways (those being ones with route numbers lower than 600, such as Bridge Road, Godwin Blvd., Nansemond Parkway, Portsmouth Blvd., Carolina Highway, Holland Road, Rte 58 Bypass, Main Street, and E. Washington Street).

Public Works anticipates beginning to clear the major secondary roadways early tomorrow. Residents may begin seeing the snow plows on neighborhood streets and on the more rural roadways by late Sunday or Monday. The time frame is dependent upon Public Works efforts to ensure the primary roadways and major secondary roadways are cleared.

There will be no trash pick up on Monday. Trash collection routes will run one day behind next week, with Friday's refuse collection being done on Saturday.

UPDATE 4

SUFFOLK, VA (January 30, 2010) The City of Suffolk Emergency Operations Center will return to monitor status at 1500 hours today.

Public Works currently has 24 trucks deployed which are continuing to plow and salt the primary roadways. Primary roadways are passable but still considered dangerous. Secondary roadways have not been plowed or treated.

The Suffolk Police Department reports that there have been a total of 6 accidents between 0830 and 1400 hours with no serious injuries reported. Suffolk Police and Suffolk Fire and Rescue responded to the only significant incident at approximately 1300 hours at the Happy Shopper Convenience Store, 600 E. Washington Street, when a gas pump awning collapsed onto an unoccupied vehicle. No injuries were reported and the store was closed for safety. Suffolk Fire and Rescue responded to four incidents between 0830 and 1400 hours.

Public Utilities reports no significant incidents. Staff will remain on alert status. Backup power generators are on standby.

UPDATE 3

SUFFOLK, VA (January 30, 2010) The City of Suffolk Emergency Operations Center opened at 0700 hours.

A severe winter weather system entered the Commonwealth early this morning. It is forecast to bring up to 15 inches of snow to parts of Virginia. Parts of Virginia have already received enough snow to make traveling on roads difficult. The Suffolk Police Department urges residents to stay off the roads due to the conditions which will continue to worsen throughout the day. If someone must drive, they are encouraged to wear a seatbelt. Road conditions are available by calling 5-1-1 or visiting 511Virginia.org.

The Suffolk Police Department reports a total of 11 accidents since 0000 hours. 8 of those accidents happened between 0000-0700 hours with an additional 3 accidents occurring since 0700 hours. Six of the accidents were reported in the Northern sector with the remaining 5 accidents occurring in the Southern sector. The South precinct reports very light pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The North precinct reports no

pedestrian traffic with light to moderate traffic but heavier traffic on Route 17. There are plenty of available units for both the Northern and Southern parts of the City.

Public Works has 23 trucks working with plows and spreaders Citywide as snow accumulation continues. The concentration of the work is on primary roadways only with secondary roads being addressed following the clearing of the primary roads.

Fire/EMS has responded to seven incidents since 0000 hours with 4 vehicles accidents, 2 medical incidents, and 1 grass fire. Units remain staffed and ready to respond.

Department of Public Utilities reports no issues with the Water System or the Sanitary Sewer System. Staff remains on alert with back-up power generation on stand-by.

UPDATE 2

SUFFOLK, VA (January 29, 2010) City Manager Selena Cuffee-Glenn signed a resolution this afternoon declaring a local emergency for this weekend's severe weather.

Both Suffolk Fire and Rescue and Suffolk Police have increased staffing in anticipation of increased calls for service. All emergency response vehicles and equipment has been inspected and is ready for deployment. Four wheel drive vehicles have been reassigned from other city departments and made available for public purposes and responses. The Suffolk Animal Shelter will also be closed Saturday and Sunday.

The Department of Public Works has dump trucks with salt/sand spreaders and plows on stand-by. Motor Graders are available to assist with plowing. Five loaders are in place to load trucks with salt and sand mixture. Personnel on both day and evening shifts have been increased and are ready to be deployed.

Public Works - Sanitation Division currently has thirty-three operators on stand-by ready to assist roadway crews. Public Works operations phone number (514-7600) will be

manned Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM until 7 PM. Public Works Refuse Division phone number (514-7630) will be manned Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM until 4 PM. VDOT has indicated they are available to assist if needed.

Public Works is requesting that cars not be parked on in the public right of way (streets) if at all possible. This will allow for easier and more thorough clearing the roadways.

The Division of Fleet Management has addressed fuel levels. All generators have been tested and are ready. Fleet has personnel assigned working around the clock to ensure that vehicles and equipment remain functioning and available.

The Department of Media and Community Relations will provide regular updates to citizens and the media via the City's website, municipal channel and social networking sites.

WINTER STORM PREPARATIONS AND CLOSINGS IN SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK, VA (January 29, 2010) As the City of Suffolk prepares for the weekend severe winter weather, the following closings have been announced:

All **City Libraries** will be closed on Saturday. The **Suffolk Visitor Center**, all **City Recreation Centers** and all **City Parks** will be closed on Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, all City sponsored athletic events (youth soccer and basketball games) scheduled for Saturday and Sunday will be cancelled.

The City's Emergency Operations Center, located at 1001 Whitemarsh Road, will go to active status tomorrow morning at 7 a.m. There are no immediate plans to open evacuation shelters at this time.

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