

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 National Night Out Community “Kick-Off” Meeting

On Tuesday, August 4, neighborhoods throughout Suffolk are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the **26th 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, May 28, 2009, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. Community representatives and business operators are invited to officially pre-register their neighborhood or business to be included in this year’s festivities and 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 26th 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 neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Suffolk’s National Night Out events of 2008 ranked first in the nation in the population category of 30,000 – 99,999. In fact, Suffolk was the highest ranking city in the state of Virginia in any population category, and the only city in Hampton Roads to be recognized.

Touted as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Virginia, we recognize for Suffolk to continue to develop into the great city we know that it can be, we cannot do it alone. Our efforts will take leaders and community members working together, with common goals and objectives, for the good of our city 365 days a year. Therefore, we have established as our Project 365 theme for National Night Out 2009: "Leading Suffolk: Our Future...Our Responsibility."

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 May 28th!