

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK POLICE OFFICER HONORED BY HAMPTON ROADS CRIME LINE'S BOARD

SUFFOLK, VA (November 9, 2011) The Hampton Roads Crime Line's Board recently named Suffolk Police Department Investigator Jason E. Lyons the 2011 Suffolk Top Cop Award honoree during the 11th Annual Hampton Roads Crime Line's Dinner and Top Cop Awards, November 5, 2011 held in Newport News, Virginia.

Investigator Lyons has been assigned to the Suffolk Police Department's Special Investigations Unit for the past year. During that time, he has proven to be a fiercely dedicated, knowledgeable and hard-working team player. Suffolk Police Chief Thomas Bennett noted, "Each day we have Officers who demonstrate their willingness to go above and beyond my expectation as a Chief. It is an honor to recognize such an Officer as Jake Lyons for his inexhaustible work ethic and commitment to keeping the citizens of Suffolk safe from drug dealers and violent criminals."

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In 2010, Lyons opened a case on a major heroin dealer within the city. During the course of the six month investigation, he was able to identify several other subjects who were involved with the target. His investigation culminated in the service of search warrants at two locations in January 2011. Those searches produced \$2,000 of heroin along with two assault rifles and two handguns. In addition, over \$50,000 cash and over \$13,000 in property were seized. This seizure was one of the largest in the history of the Special Investigations Unit in Suffolk. Three individuals were arrested and charged with distribution of heroin and conspiracy to violate the drug control act.

In June 2011, Investigator Lyons concluded an investigation which resulted in a search warrant being obtained for a marijuana dealer. The service of this warrant produced over two pounds of marijuana, a handgun, and over \$4,500 cash. Both occupants of the home were charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of a firearm while in possession of drugs.

Investigator Lyons' influence is felt deep within the department and the law enforcement community. He works closely with the Detective Bureau, sharing information he obtains from informants and assisting with interviews. On two occasions in the last year, he has assisted federal agencies with cases in the city. His assistance led to a break in a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives case where an individual in Suffolk was identified trafficking stolen weapons to New York. Agents from that state had come to Suffolk looking for assistance, which Lyons provided. He was also instrumental in assisting the U.S. Marshals in the capture of a fugitive from New York who was also trafficking cocaine from New York to Suffolk.

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With the information provided by the Marshals, Lyons utilized an informant to determine that the suspect was traveling back from New York and where he was traveling to in Suffolk. The fugitive was ultimately arrested based on the information Investigator Lyons shared.

The Hampton Roads Crime Line's Board honors police officers and others who have demonstrated a commitment to a safer Hampton Roads community. These award recipients are leaders and role models for both their peers and their community. Nominations for these awards come from law enforcement agencies, civic leaders, key individuals, and hundreds of business leaders throughout the Hampton Roads area.

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