

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Debbie George
757.514.4106
757.374.1770

David Seals
757-514-4105

SUFFOLK POLICE OFFICER HONORED FOR WORKING WITH KIDS

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA (October 19, 2010) A Suffolk Police officer who walks a very special beat, is connecting with Suffolk teens and helping to change their lives. Officer Robert Burton's dedication to this very important assignment garnered him the Top Cop Award for Suffolk, presented at the Hampton Roads Crime Line Top Cop Awards Dinner on October 16.

Officer Burton began as a School Resource Officer at John F. Kennedy Middle School in September 2009. He teaches Virginia Rules, Gang Resistance Education and Training classes and is always available when needed by students. Officer Burton's role is so much more than providing security. He is there to interact with students, counsel them and challenge them. Some JFK Middle School students joke that Officer Burton knows everything that happens in the school. Assistant principal Jennifer Presson describes Officer Burton using just two words, "He's Awesome!"

Not long after Officer Burton started at JFK Middle, he became involved with the Southeastern Cooperative Education Program for special needs students. He made sure SECEP students were also exposed to programs to help them avoid gangs and drugs.

Officer Burton is also credited with acquiring grant money to buy video monitors for the school and having them installed. The monitors are used to show anti-gang, anti-drug and other safety related messages.

A fellow officer nominated Officer Burton for the award. Suffolk City Manager Selena Cuffee-Glenn, and Councilmen Leroy Bennett and Joseph Barlow were among 500 people who attended the Awards Dinner. The Top Cop Awards recognize officers in each Hampton Roads city or county who are making significant contributions to the Hampton Roads region. The honorees are role models for both their peers and the community.

About Hampton Roads Crime Lines

Since 1982, Crime Line and Crime Solvers in Hampton Roads have recovered more than \$24 million in stolen property and illegal drugs. The success can be further measured by the fact that 97% of those arrested through Crime Line tips are convicted.

Crime Line is NOT a police program. Crime Line and Crime Solvers are funded entirely by private donations from concerned citizens and businesses. Volunteer citizen boards administer the program, raise funds and approve and pay rewards to "tipsters."

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