

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

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### **2017 SUFFOLK NATIONAL NIGHT OUT COMMUNITY AWARDS PRESENTED**

SUFFOLK, VA (August 23, 2017) While Suffolk's National Night Out event may have come and gone, the spirit of the partnership between the citizens of Suffolk and public safety personnel lives on. National Night Out is a national event celebrated in Suffolk with a main goal of bringing people together in an effort to eliminate crime. Suffolk's National Night Out festivities saw the involvement of over 150 communities, civic leagues, homeowner's associations, apartment and condominium complexes, churches, fraternal organizations and business partners to hold neighborhood socials, cookouts, block parties, and various types of gatherings to "Give Crime a Going Away Party".

The City of Suffolk National Night Out Community Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. During this event, all participating communities were recognized and special awards honoring the "best of the best" from across Suffolk were presented.

### **Honorable Mention**

Suffolk Barber & Beauty (A group of more than 12 Downtown Businesses)

### **Rookie of the Year**

C.H.O.I.C.E. Program

### **Top Business**

United States Army, Including the Army National Guard and Recruiting Center

### **Best Community**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Burbage Grant Neighborhood Watch

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – Lake Kennedy Civic League

### **Best Combined Community**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Saratoga/Philadelphia Civic League

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – Tynes/Spruce Street Communities

### **Official National Night Out Grand Finale Site Awards**

**National Night Out at Obici & Health Fair** – held at King's Fork Middle School including Sentara Obici Hospital, with Applewood Farms Homeowner's Association, Berkshire Meadows, Burnett's Mill, Hillpoint Farms Homeowner's Association, Hillpoint Woods, Kings Fork Farms Homeowner's Association, Kensington Park, Kings Landing Apartments, River Bluff, Riverwood, Wexford

Downs, Willowbrook, invaluable assistance from Suffolk Public Schools, 7-Eleven, the Suffolk Elks and Ruritan Clubs, the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, Southside Baptist Church, Riverbend Church, Suffolk Family YMCA, U. S. Army, Army National Guard, Target Corporation, and their numerous sponsoring businesses and other volunteers

**Greater Oakland & Chuckatuck Civic League** - held at and with assistance by the Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department – with the Boy and Girl Scouts, Greater Chuckatuck Historical Foundation, New Community Christian Center Church, Oakland Christian United Church of Christ, Kitty's Beauty Salon, Bethel Lodge #7, Triple T Sports Center, Music Makes You Happy, and numerous other sponsors and volunteers

### **Spirit Award**

Brittany Hamlin, Member of the National Night Out at Obici & Health Fair Committee

Suffolk's theme for 2017 was *"Lock It...Don't Lose It"*, a campaign launched by the Suffolk Police Department to remind citizens of the three main reasons why residents should always lock their car doors:

- 1) Loss of valuables is the most obvious reason to lock your door. Thieves look for crimes of opportunity and prime targets are unlocked vehicles with GPS devices and electronics, cell phones, jewelry, weapons, money and other valuables in plain sight.

2) Possible entry to your home. If you leave your doors unlocked with a set of house keys or garage door opener in the glove compartment, it could be easy for the thieves to possibly enter your home, and you could become further victimized.

3) Do it for the neighborhood. While the Suffolk Police Department is happy to know that people feel secure in their neighborhoods, they stress that public safety is a shared responsibility. If we tend to keep our cars or homes unlocked, word gets around and this is an open invitation for possible future crime.

The City of Suffolk placed first in the Nation in our population category in 2016, continuing our award-winning tradition earning our eleventh top five finish in a row, also placing first in the Nation in 2008, 2009 and 2014.

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