

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES 2017 JOHN T. HANNA DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS AWARD**

SUFFOLK, VA (March 5, 2018) The Suffolk Police Department has been honored as the recipient of the 2017 John T. Hanna Drive Safe Hampton Roads Award for Law Enforcement Initiatives. The Suffolk Police Department was recognized for their Route 58 Traffic Enforcement Initiative which had the goal of reducing the frequency and severity of vehicle crashes on Route 58 between the Chesapeake City line and Route 10 for both eastbound and westbound lanes of the target area.

To accomplish the objective, the Crime Analysis Unit analyzed Route 58 crash data to identify key causation factors, crash type and peak travel times. The primary objective was to reduce all types of crashes involving trucks and cars by continuing aggressive enforcement action for the top three crash causation violations: reckless driving, speed, and following too closely.

Phases of the initiative included increasing RADAR or LIDAR enforcement and high visibility patrols during high peak traffic flow periods. The Suffolk Police Department

also released a Traffic Survey to the public in order to develop more effective traffic enforcement and educational strategies through the capture of public input.

The Route 58 Traffic Initiative is estimated to impact an estimated 74,000 motorists daily according to the Suffolk Department of Public Works Traffic Engineering Division. The Suffolk Police Department is also requiring all Officers who engage in a traffic stop or work a traffic related detail to hand out a traffic safety brochure, "WHAT to do WHEN STOPPED by a POLICE OFFICER."

Data comparison results showed that there were no travel fatalities after the Route 58 Initiative began in January 2017 to the end of the calendar year. Accidents involving personal injury were down 59 percent per month average compared to the year to date average per month for the previous 5 years. Additionally, accidents involving property damage were down 38 percent per month compared to the year to date average per month for the previous 5 years.

Drive Safe Hampton Roads (DSHR) is a non-profit regional coalition whose mission is to increase the community's involvement and awareness of traffic safety issues. This organization is made up of individuals from law enforcement, corporate safety, the military, state agencies, safety advocates, fire safety personnel, city and county municipalities, commercial transportation carriers, and individuals with an interest in preventing crashes, injuries, and fatalities on our roadways.

For 30 years, Drive Safe Hampton Roads has been recognized as a leader in the field of transportation safety and serves as a resource for information and support at the local, state, and national level. The John T. Hanna Awards are sponsored by Drive Safe Hampton Roads and are given to recognize Traffic Safety Excellence in Hampton Roads.

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