

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

May 1, 2010

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## **UPDATE**

SUFFOLK, VA (May 1, 2010) The Suffolk Police Department and the Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue are hosting the graduation of the Spring session of the Youth Public Safety Academy. The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in City Council Chambers located at 441 Market St.

The Youth Public Safety Academy is a program for at risk youth ages 13-17. Sixteen youth will be graduating the academy, having engaged in two community service projects while learning more about the field of public safety service.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY BEING ACCEPTED**

SUFFOLK, VA (January 11, 2010) The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue are pleased to announce that applications are being taken for its third, City of Suffolk Youth Public Safety Academy.

This is an 11 week after school program focused on **at risk** youth between the **ages of 13 and 17**. Students gain hands on experience on what it is like to be a police officer, firefighter, and CSI Technician. Participating youth are mentored by police officers and firefighters, while experiencing the value of teamwork and social responsibility. Lessons and activities include topics such as use of fire extinguishers, arson investigations, computer crime and safety, forensics (CSI), Defensive Tactics and many more. Youth will be treated to a mid term trip where they will learn rope climbing and team building. Each week they are also exposed to service learning, teaching them that

they can make a difference in their community. The goal is to complete two civic projects before the end of the program.

The goal of the program is to provide positive role models, build interest in public safety professions, and increase confidence, by expanding experiences. This program is funded, in part, by generous contributions from Target and Wal Mart. The deadline for applications is **January 28, 2010**. The program will run each Tuesday and Thursday from February 16 through May 4, 2010 from 3:30pm to 7:00 pm, with one week off during spring break. Transportation is provided to and from the program by the City's Parks and Recreation staff. Youth will be picked up from their school and transported to Fire Station 3 on White Marsh Road where the Academy is held.

Applications are available by contacting Fire Marshal Investigator Pam King 757-514-7542 or CSI Supervisor Joan Jones at 757-514-7940. There is no cost for this program.