

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chief of Police Selected

Suffolk, VA (May 15, 2009) City Manager Selena Cuffee-Glenn announced today the appointment of Thomas E. Bennett as the City's new Chief of Police. Bennett brings twenty-five years of experience in the area of law enforcement to Suffolk.

The City of Suffolk began a comprehensive nationwide search for a police chief in November. That process has involved input from stakeholders throughout Suffolk including community members, business leaders, constitutional officers and members of the police department.

Bennett began his career in law enforcement as an auxiliary officer for the City of Newport News in 1984. He worked his way through the ranks of that department, serving in Uniform Patrol, Major Crimes Investigation, Anti-Crime Task Force, and Vice and Narcotics and Special Projects. In 2005 he was promoted to Deputy Chief. Since that time he has been responsible for areas of the department including: Criminal Investigations Division, Organized Crime Division, Crime Analysis Unit, Intelligence Unit, Records Section, Property & Evidence, Support Services, Communications Division, Planning Unit, Training/Recruiting Division.

Bennett was responsible for the development of the department's COMSTAT process, Weapons of Mass Destruction planning and training, Terrorism Response Plan, Sniper Response Plan, Hurricane Response Plan, Radiological

Response Plan, Alternative Dispatch Center, Motor Carrier Safety Unit and other innovative programs.

Bennett has a B.A. in Criminology from St. Leo College. He received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Old Dominion University. Bennett is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy. He completed the Senior Management Institute for Police – Police Executive Research Forum’s 35th Session, United States Secret Service Dignitary Protection School, and is a FEMA PDS Certified Emergency Management Professional.

Bennett serves as an assessor and team leader for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He has completed the Leadership Institute of the Peninsula and has been extensively trained in Incident Command and Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Cuffee-Glenn is pleased that Bennett will be joining Suffolk’s leadership team, stating “We did a very thorough search to fill this critical position. Thomas’ career reflects high standards for integrity, professionalism and excellence. We feel he is a perfect fit to lead a department with a history of those standards.”

Bennett is excited to be selected, “I consider it an honor and privilege to have been selected to lead such an outstanding law enforcement agency. I am looking forward to working with the members of our law enforcement team, our citizens and our city leaders to continue Suffolk’s legacy of opportunity, security and vitality. Suffolk’s future is very bright and I am excited about my opportunity to play a role in its continued development,” Bennett added.

Bennett does have ties to Suffolk. His parents moved to the City in 1977. In addition to the years spent in Suffolk as a youth, Bennett again lived in Suffolk from 1996-2003. Bennett’s mother Sarah currently lives in the Bennett’s Creek area of Suffolk.

Bennett and his wife Diana have three children, Rebecca, Emily and Matthew.
His employment with Suffolk will begin June 15th.

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