

NEWS RELEASE
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Economic Development Department welcomes new Assistant Director

SUFFOLK, VA., April 16, 2007 – The City of Suffolk Economic Development Department is pleased to announce that Gregory L. Byrd, CEcD will be joining the staff as the new Assistant Director. His focus will be on attracting new business to the City as well as developing, organizing, and implementing plans and policies that will enhance the economic vitality of Suffolk.

“Greg is a highly qualified professional and will be a key player in making sure Suffolk is extremely proactive and competitive in recruiting new business, whether you run a small business or a large corporation.” said Tom O’Grady. “He brings to our City extensive experience in business recruitment, business attraction and workforce development which will compliment our already sound economic development team.”

Byrd comes to Suffolk with a diverse background of executive management experience in the public and military sectors. He was recently the Deputy Executive Director with Empowerment 2010, Inc. where he worked from 2001 to 2007. Under that capacity, he was responsible for the organizations uses of federal funding to develop programs and services for the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth.

In the four years preceding, Byrd worked as a Business Recruitment Manager for the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance. His responsibilities included marketing and business attraction on behalf of the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Isle of Wight County.

The foundation of his executive management experience comes from the final 8 years of service in the United States Navy. He served on the staffs of an Air Force General at the Joint Forces Staff College, a Navy Admiral at the U.S. Atlantic Command, and as Executive Officer on a naval combat ship. Greg is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and retired as a Commander after 20 years of service.

The Economic Development Department looks forward to Greg joining the team and hope that you will join us in welcoming him to the City of Suffolk.

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