

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact:
Dave Arnold, Chairman
Greater Suffolk Council
757.502.7345
info@greatersuffolk.com

Contact:
Suffolk Economic Development
757.514.4040
www.YesSuffolk.com

Downtown Suffolk Recognized for Continued Development

SUFFOLK, VA. – The Virginia Downtown Development Association (VDDA) recently announced that Downtown Suffolk was the recipient of a 2008 Award of Merit in the Organization category. The Organization category recognizes excellence in the aspects of a local revitalization programs such as consensus building, development of partnerships and outreach activities. The award will be presented tonight during the VDDA's Annual Awards of Excellence Dinner at the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel.

The Greater Suffolk Council and the Suffolk Department of Economic Development provided the VDDA Nomination Committee with a synopsis and history of projects and new and expanding businesses that have greatly impacted Downtown Suffolk. The official submission included details on over 70 projects and businesses in Downtown Suffolk that has led to more than 792,889 sq. ft. of impacted commercial and residential space, 480 new jobs and \$162,244,000 in capital investment. Some of the projects highlighted included:

- College Court
- Hilton Garden Inn and Suffolk Conference Center
- One Foot Two Foot
- Pender and Coward
- Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts
- Jefferson School Lofts

Department of Economic Development, 127 East Washington Street, Suite 200, Suffolk, Va. 23434

- Primo 116
- Montgomery Lofts
- Suffolk Health and Human Services Building

Dave Arnold, Chairman of the Greater Suffolk Council shared, "This award is an honor for all of Suffolk and a tribute to the businesspeople and citizens who have invested their talent and resources into this community. Downtown Suffolk has made incredible strides over the last five years, and this success strengthens our tax base and improves quality of life for the city's central commercial core. The VDDA has recognized the achievements of this community, and we can all take pride in being part of a great success story."

"The City of Suffolk continues to focus on working with developers to encourage renovation of historic structures for new development in our Greater Downtown" states Suffolk Mayor Linda T. Johnson. "We are proud of the ongoing development and activity that is occurring in Downtown and I congratulate the Greater Suffolk Council and our Department of Economic Development in working together to win this award and spread the word about all the achievements in Downtown Suffolk."

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