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Forbes Secures \$584,000 in Federal Funds for Workforce, Public Safety and Recreation Projects in Suffolk

Washington, DC, January 04, 2008 - Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced today that \$584,000 in funding for City of Suffolk projects has been included in the federal appropriations bill that passed the House and the Senate and was signed into law by the President. Funding includes \$243,000 for workforce development, \$141,000 for improved police technology, and \$200,000 for the development of a recreational center.

"I am very pleased that both the House and Senate included the City of Suffolk funding in the appropriations bill. Funding these projects for the City of Suffolk will go a long way in expanding the economic, public safety, and recreational activities that the city can offer its residents. Now that the funding has been secured, the City can begin implementing these important programs," Forbes said. "From job training to better law enforcement tools to recreational opportunities for city youth, every one of these projects makes a significant investment in our community that will help the City continue to grow and attract more residents and businesses."

The Suffolk Employment and Training Initiative will continue and expand a valuable program started by the City of Suffolk that invests in local citizens through workforce development and employment training services. Since the program began, the demand for employment training services has been extremely high with close to 4,000 individuals receiving various levels of services including job training, school programs, General Equivalency Diplomas and employment assistance. This funding will allow the city to continue the program and expand current services with a special emphasis on providing universal access to the regional and state workforce system for low income, minority, women, and youth populations.

The police department funding will enable the city to equip police department vehicles with mobile data terminals and in-car cameras that will allow police officers to connect remotely to gather information on site. In-car video cameras will also aid law enforcement by providing a method for obtaining on-road evidence and resolving possible allegations of officer misconduct.

The East Suffolk Recreation Center project will allocate funding to transform the former East Suffolk High School complex into a community and recreation center. The high school has been abandoned since its closure in the 1970s and redevelopment of the site will address the lack of recreational opportunities for residents of East Suffolk, particularly youth in need of positive alternatives to gang violence. Plans include

renovation of the school for a multipurpose learning center with classrooms and game rooms, and auxiliary gymnasium.

Forbes requested funding from the House Appropriations Committee for the City of Suffolk projects. The funding was included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill that passed the House and the Senate on December 19, 2007. The President signed the bill into law on December 26, 2007.

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