

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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SUFFOLK ANNOUNCES AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 5, 2025) Suffolk City Manager Al Moor is pleased to announce the hiring of Julia Hillegass as the new Agricultural Specialist working with the Economic Development Department effective January 22, 2025.

During her professional career, Hillegass has been employed by the Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and most recently with the City of Virginia Beach, coordinating their Agricultural Reserve Program to maintain a vibrant agricultural economy in southern Virginia Beach. She has a B.A. in Rhetoric and Communications Studies from the University of Virginia and an MPA from Old Dominion University.

Working for the City of Suffolk, Hillegass will be responsible for building relationships with Suffolk's agriculture, forestry, and horticulture businesses while promoting local products, retail efforts, and agricultural tourism. She will also coordinate farm-to-table programs, farmers' markets, and food access initiatives by collaborating with schools, local eateries, and government agencies. As well, she will lead agricultural marketing efforts, rural preservation initiatives, and partnerships with tourism and film industries to support Suffolk's agricultural economy.

Headshot attached.

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Julia Hillegass