

NEWS RELEASE
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SUFFOLK ANNOUNCES DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUFFOLK, Virginia (January 8, 2025) Suffolk City Manager Al Moor is pleased to announce the selection of Captain Janet Days, USN (Retired), as its new Director of Suffolk Economic Development effective February 7, 2025.

Days culminated her military service as the first African American commanding officer of Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval base, and was among the few African American women to command a guided missile destroyer, the USS McFaul (DDG 74). Her exemplary leadership has earned her numerous accolades, including two Legion of Merit Medals and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

In addition to her decorated naval career, Captain Days holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Old Dominion University and an MBA from the prestigious Monterey Navy Postgraduate School. She is also a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff College and the CIVIC Leadership Institute. In recognition of her extraordinary contributions, Old Dominion University awarded her a Doctor of Humane Letters. Days has been widely celebrated for her post-military achievements, earning honors such as the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Dreamer Award, the Library of Virginia's Strong Men, Strong Women of Virginia Award, and the Woman of the Year Award from Women in Transportation. Her leadership extends beyond accolades, as she actively mentors emerging leaders and serves on the boards of the Norfolk State University Social Work Advisory Committee and the Planning Council.

Days' will spearhead Suffolk Economic Development initiatives to attract and retain businesses, foster economic growth, and enhance job creation opportunities for its citizens. The Department of Economic Development portfolio includes the Economic Development Authority, Division of Tourism and the Suffolk Executive Airport.

Headshot attached.

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