



# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**DATE:** January 6, 2006

**REF:** FYI

**PC:** Departmental Directors, etal

1. The Elizabeth City Police Department is exploring a pilot program designed to locate missing individuals that suffer from Alzheimer's that may wander from home or other care facilities. The ECPD learned of the program, "Project Lifesaver" from searchers participating in the search of the 86-year-old Alzheimer's patient, Mr. Herbert Moore, Sr. Project Lifesaver was established in 1999 as an initiative of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Search and Rescue Company, a component of the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office. Project Lifesaver works by placing a transmitter wristband that emits an automatic tracking signal every second on the arm of a patient suffering from Alzheimer's or other related disorders, or children with Down syndrome or autism. The signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air for several miles. A search team armed with a receiver can positively locate and identify a person who has wandered away from home or a care facility within a matter of minutes. Chief Anderson and the Elizabeth City Police Department are exploring the possibilities of bringing the program to the Albemarle Region and will be soliciting support from local law enforcement agencies that may want this valuable tool in their communities. A meeting of interested parties will be planned in the near future. The cost of implementation is \$5,510.00 and the ECPD will be soliciting private funding to support the program. Anyone wishing to contribute can contact Captain G. Frank Koch for more information.
2. Nextel, the City's new cellular phone carrier, was on-site this week to provide training to employees on the new phones. A total of 102 phones were distributed. The new plan will provide savings to the City with free

calls from employee to employee and the elimination of pagers in the Police Department. All police officers received rugged, solid black cell phones, while utility employees received a rugged yellow and black phone. Department directors were given the option of several phones from which to choose. Three department directors and I received a Blackberry, which will allow us access to our email and calendar at all times. Eric Weatherly received a camera phone, which will allow him to take pictures in the field and email them to the appropriate staff person. Although we have increased the number of cell phones we have, we still will experience a substantial decrease in our overall bill.

3. On January 5, 2006, City staff was contacted by the engineers, Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, concerning a problem, which was discovered on the Airport Sewer Main Extension project. It has been determined that a section of gravity sewer from the Airport Terminal Building to the Tamsco facility was installed at less than the minimum grade and will have to be reinstalled at the proper grade. The engineers have discussed the problem with the DENR-Division of Water Quality (State regulatory agency) and have been given verbal agreement to allow Tamsco to use the sewer temporarily until the corrections are made. Meetings were held today with Tamsco and the engineers to review possible alternatives, which we expect to have finalized by January 10, 2006.
4. I am pleased to announce that the Elizabeth City Fire Department has a new addition to its fleet of fire trucks. Engine 23 is now in service as a class A pumper. Engine 23 went on its first fire run on Wednesday, January 4, 2005. The new truck will be on display on Monday, January 9 at 6:15 pm before the Council Meeting. We look forward to people coming out and seeing the new apparatus.
5. As of this date, 2,200 "rental" dwelling units have been registered with the City as required by the recently adopted Rental Housing Code. The \$25 registration fee for those units has also been collected, for a total of \$55,000. Approximately 125 rental inspections have been performed. Until recently, these inspections were initiated mainly by complaints and electrical turn-on requests. The property verification process was found to be extremely time consuming. Once this process is completed, however, the number of inspections is expected to increase.
6. The City's Fire Prevention Bureau has completed fire inspections this week for two major construction projects. The Winslow Memorial Nursing Home and the Gateway Bank Operations Center have both received their final construction inspections from the department.

7. Through the fund raising efforts of Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc., eighteen lamppost banners with the City's "Harbor of Hospitality" logo have been purchased and will be installed next week. I would like to thank ECDI for their continuing efforts toward downtown beautification.
8. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that each polling place have one accessible voting system for voters with disabilities effective with the 2006 elections. There will be a demonstration of the proposed new voting system for Pasquotank County on Friday, January 13, 2006 from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Agricultural Extension Building located at 1209 McPherson Street.
9. The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host an open house to celebrate the opening of Montero's Restaurant, located at 414 McArthur Drive, on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 5 p.m. If you plan to attend, please RSVP directly to the Chamber by calling 335-4365 or by email [info@elizabethcitychamber.org](mailto:info@elizabethcitychamber.org).

RCO/vdw