

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Newby named director of Unity Commission

July 15, 2016 - Synetheia Newby, a native of Hampton with degrees in criminal justice and human resources management, is the new executive director of the Citizens' Unity Commission.

Created almost 20 years ago, the Commission promotes and sponsors activities and events that bring diverse citizens together in Hampton. The Commission promotes diversity education throughout the year, and sponsors the Hampton Diversity College and annual Unity Awards.

In announcing the appointment earlier this month, City Manager Mary Bunting noted that Newby is a “self-motivated, personable and innovative professional committed to excellence in developing people, organizations and programs. She has achieved notable success, throughout her career, by bringing diverse groups of people together to work toward achieving common goals.”

Newby, who previously served as youth violence prevention coordinator for the city, said, “receiving this opportunity to partner with the community... is one of the ways that I choose to give back to the community that gave me so much.” The Commission “brings together diverse people and diverse cultures to create a unified community, without threatening the value of individual contributions! I’m working to see Hampton not only be the most livable city, but to also be the most hospitable and peaceable city. A city where everyone feels welcomed, accepted, embraced, and included.”

Before joining the city, Newby was director of Victim Services at the Newport News Commonwealths Attorney’s office. She has also served as community outreach and education coordinator at Avalon: A Center for Women and Children in Williamsburg.

Over the years, Newby has provided educational and awareness services, workshops, training and presentations to the general public, faith-based organizations, secondary

and post-secondary students, professionals and civic leaders. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in strategic leadership from Regent University.

Visit www.hampton.gov/unity to learn more about the Commission.

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