

Common Ground

The Newsletter of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff Andrea J. Cabral



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Sheriff Cabral Hosts First Community Forum

Residents gather to discuss females and crime at the first installment of
Directions for Corrections

In the crowded auditorium of the Roxbury Community College Media Arts Center, Sheriff Andrea Cabral welcomed Suffolk County residents to the first in a series of community forums, Thursday, June 22. The forum series, entitled "Directions for Corrections," is designed to address crime and corrections issues with the community, sharing information, and exploring the causes and effects of crime. Sheriff Cabral's first installment of **Directions for Corrections** centered around crime trends of females and was called **The Hand That Rocks the Cradle: The Rise of the Female Offender**.

"I felt it was important to address female crime trends at the first forum," Sheriff Cabral said. "In recent years, we have seen an alarming increase in violent crime among female offenders. Women and girls are becoming more involved with the types of crime that have traditionally been associated with males: assault, weapons possession, and gang participation."

Sheriff Cabral invited a panel of professionals in the law enforcement and public safety fields to discuss the disturbing trends, which included: Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Associate Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health; John Auerbach, Executive Director of the Boston Health Commission; Robert Lewis Jr, Director of Boston Centers for Youth and Families; Paul Joyce Jr, Superintendent and Chief of Investigative Services for the Boston Police Department; and Monica Fernandez-Castro, Regional Clinical Director for the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

In addition to the panel discussion, the forum also featured a video presentation made by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. The video included interviews with female inmates from the South Bay House of Correction, who spoke about their lives

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Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Officer Awarded at Correction Officer of the Year Ceremony

Deputy Michael White receives Meritorious Conduct award for his actions in 2005

At a ceremony held in the House Chambers of the Massachusetts State House, Monday, June 26, thirty-five correction officers from across the Commonwealth were honored as part of the **Ninth Annual Correction Officer of the Year** awards. The honorees were selected by a committee that includes leaders from the Executive Office of Public Safety, the Massachusetts General Court, the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association, Massachusetts Correction Officer Federation Union, and the International Brotherhood of Correction Officers. At the invitation of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, the officers gathered to receive recognition for heroic and brave acts during 2005. Among them was Deputy Michael White, one of Suffolk County's own.

Deputy White, who works the 7-3 shift at the South Bay House of Correction, was one of seven officers to receive an individual meritorious award. He was granted the award for his actions at the scene of a car accident on July 5, 2005. Deputy White was returning to South Bay from the Bristol County House of Correction when he approached the sight of the accident and discovered a nineteen-year-old woman suffering from a head injury, lying on the ground. He received permission to remain on the scene, and then began to administer first aid to the victim while EMS and the Massachusetts State Police were dispatched.

Deputy White has worked for the Sheriff's Department for fourteen years and was promoted to Deputy in November of 2002. He was presented with his award by Sheriff Cabral.

"I am so happy to be able to present this award to Deputy White," Sheriff Cabral said. "His actions on July 5, 2005 were both honorable and heroic, and illustrate what a dedicated and professional officer he is."

Members of Deputy White's family attended the award ceremony, including his mother, Barbara White, and fiancée, Kimberly Callender. Also present



Above: Deputy Michael White stands with Sheriff Cabral and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard after receiving a Meritorious Conduct award at the Massachusetts Correction Officer of the Year awards.

were officers from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard, who participated in the posting of colors with guards from Barnstable and Middlesex Counties and the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety has presented the award ceremony for the past nine years to honor individuals for their bravery, but it also serves to recognize all correction officers for their daily efforts.

"The role of the Correction Officer is continually changing," Secretary of Public Safety Robert Hass told the officers in attendance. "These awards give us the opportunity to show the community as a whole, the versatility of your job and the commitment that you put forth day in and day out to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth."

Congratulations to all the officers receiving awards for their hard work and dedication in 2005!

Inmates Celebrate Accomplishments at House of Correction Graduations

The South Bay House of Correction played host to a number of graduations, Friday, June 30, as forty inmates received diplomas for their participation in various programs. The programs included the Offender Re-entry Program (ORP), the Common Ground Institute (CGI), and the Therapeutic Community Recovery Unit.

ORP and CGI are both re-entry programs that prepare participants for the transition back into the community after release. Directed by Kamillah Drummond, ORP provides inmates with life skills and employment education, case management, and mentoring. Students work on writing skills and finish the course with a portfolio of fiction pieces and a cover letter. They also take computer courses and work with a job placement instructor. Case managers stay in touch with the students for up to six months after they are released and they are tracked through the Suffolk County Office of Community Corrections. Fifteen participants graduated from ORP in June, marking the end of the thirty-third cycle of the program. CGI, a ten-week course currently in its second year, offers vocational training for participants in carpentry, building maintenance, painting, and landscaping, and also provides Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) certification.

John D'Amore, Director of Vocational Education, commended the twelve graduates of CGI, saying, "It took courage for you to be here today. I now challenge you to have the courage to hope and to dream. Dream of the day you will be up on your feet again. Dream of the day you are free of this place."

The thirteen inmates who completed the six-month addiction recovery program in the therapeutic community were also given a challenge, this time by State Representative Martin Walsh, who was invited to speak at the graduation by Program Supervisor John Dolan. Representative Walsh encouraged the graduates to learn from their mistakes and use their experiences to teach others.

"You can take your message to kids in the community," he said. "You can make a difference."



Top: Mary Beth Cahill, an ORP teacher, addresses the ORP graduating class.

Middle: John D'Amore and Sheriff Cabral display a plaque made by the CGI graduates.

Bottom: State Representative Martin Walsh speaks at the Recovery Unit graduation.

SCSD Employee Assistance Program

This information is provided as a service of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Employee Assistance Program. Information will be provided monthly in *Common Ground* on employee assistance topics.

Important EAP Phone Numbers

Lt. Dan Ryan
EAP Coordinator
617-328-0096
Pager: 617-478-8706

Peer Support:

On Call
HOC: 617-486-2757
Jail: 617-486-2275

The peer support team is comprised of men and women, officers and civilians, who volunteer to help their fellow employees in need of assistance.

All calls are completely confidential.

Keeping Your Hot Buttons on Ice

Sometimes the workplace feels like home, especially if the personalities of our coworkers become as familiar as those of family members. We may then be tempted to push colleagues' "hot buttons" and communicate or behave in ways that create annoyance and aggravation, or provoke back-and-forth, less than civil behavior in the workplace. This common struggle among coworkers makes books about dealing with "difficult people" popular. So how do you keep your cool when a coworker knows how to be as annoying as your kid brother? While avoidance works, it may not always be practical. It is better to develop coping skills to help you understand your own behavior in the workplace. Ask yourself: do you act or react? Choosing to respond to toxic communication, rather than reacting to it with a knee-jerk style, empowers you to make personal changes, de-escalate conflict, and reduce feelings of victimization. Getting a grip on what "sets you off" also helps you take back control of your responses and inoculates you against future incidents. Learn to interrupt the cycle of incivility that could one day lead to violence in the workplace. To avoid pushing buttons, say what you mean and be honest, seek more advice than you offer, and avoid making assumptions about your coworkers and their motives.



Increasing Your Influence

Employees with influence get their ideas heard and, more importantly, have ideas accepted. You don't have to be charismatic in order to be influential. You simply need to apply principles of influence:

- 1) Strive to be an authority by staying well informed about your area of expertise.
- 2) Plan well thought out, logical arguments for your ideas that consider the needs and wants of others so you win their hearts and minds.
- 3) Develop a genuine interest in others' values, and grow a network of mutually productive relationships.
- 4) Practice looking, sounding, and acting confident so you are seen as an authority.
- 5) Observe influential people in your organization, noting their social interactions.
- 6) Be open to feedback, negotiate with others, and practice self-discipline in managing your emotions in response to disappointments.



Symptoms of Gang Involvement

As your child matures, drugs and alcohol are not the only dangers you must watch for. You must also be aware of the potential for gang involvement. Signs you child may be involved include the following: secrecy about activities away from home; new, uncomfortable friends in their life; possession or use of weapons; a new “street” name; graffiti on personal belongings; gang symbol tattoos or drawings on their skin; lower school grades or declining interest in school activities; diminished interest in the family; possession of unexplained money or things they can’t afford; wearing the same colors every day or wearing certain articles of clothing specifically to one side; and negative contact with law enforcement officials.



If you notice these types of changes, seek help for gang intervention, available through your child’s school as well as through local law enforcement agencies.

Involuntary Psychiatric Hospitalization

Hospitalization, even against the will of the individual concerned, is usually necessary when a psychiatrically ill person won’t accept help and their behavior makes them dangerous to themselves or to others (planning suicide, harming self or others, etc.) Hospitalization is usually necessary when a person is not in control of his or her emotions and/or has lost contact with reality.



State laws differ regarding involuntary hospitalization, but would you know how to help a family member or loved one if it was necessary? In an emergency, a call to the police should be your first step, but if you are growing concerned about the behavior of a loved one, and their unwillingness to accept help, talk to the EAP.

Relationship Rainbows

To maximize the value of relationships, be sure to include the following in your life:

- 1) **Life-skill mentors**- people whose life experiences have brought them wisdom that they can share with you to enhance your life,
- 2) **Role models**-people whose achievements match your own dreams and aspirations,
- 3) **Friends**-people you bond with through affection and mutual high regard,
- 4) **Supporters**- caring people who will support you through life’s difficult experiences, and
- 5) **Peers**- people with standing equal to yours who recognize your achievements and encourage your success. Are any colors missing from your rainbow?



EAP information is provided by FrontLine Employee. It is for general information purposes only and is not intended to replace the counsel or advice of a qualified health professional. For further help, questions, or a referral to community resources for specific problems or personal concerns, contact your employee assistance professional.

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inside and outside of correctional institutions, as well as the factors that lead to their criminal behavior.

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle: The Rise of the Female Offender drew an audience of about 200 people. Among them were State Representative Gloria Fox and representatives of Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, Congressman Michael Capuano, and Boston Mayor Tom Menino, as well as members of a number of social service, health, and community organizations.

The forum ended with a question and comment session for the audience, many of whom were concerned by the rise in crime among females and glad that the issue was being recognized.

“It’s about time we acknowledged this problem,” one audience member said. “I want to thank Sheriff Cabral for bringing this subject to the community’s attention.”

A special thanks to the Directions for Corrections panelists:

- **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**, Associate Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health
- **John Auerbach**, *Executive Director of the Boston Health Commission*
- **Robert Lewis Jr.**, *Director of Boston Centers for Youth and Families*
- **Paul Joyce Jr.**, *Superintendent and Chief of Investigative Services for the Boston Police Department*
- **Monica Fernandez-Castro**, *Regional Clinical Director for the Massachusetts Department of Social Services*

Discounted Tickets Available to SCSD Staff for Summer Fun!

The Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department Office of Communications and External Affairs is pleased to offer discounted rates on tickets to parks and museums this summer. Tickets are currently being offered for the following venues:

Canobie Lake

Located in Salem, New Hampshire. Canobie Lake has a number of roller coasters, water slides, and features special events each weekend. Tickets are available for \$21.50 each.

New England Aquarium

Located in downtown Boston. NEA exhibits include the 200,000-gallon Giant Ocean Tank and a hands on petting tank. NEA also has a 3D Imax theater. Adult tickets are available for \$15.95 for general admission, \$8.50 for Imax, and \$19.95 for a combo ticket. Tickets for children (ages 3-11) are available for \$7.95 for general admission, \$6.50 for Imax, and \$11.95 for a combo ticket.

Six Flags New England

Located in Springfield, Massachusetts. Six Flags features roller coasters, children’s rides, and the Hurricane Harbor Water Park. Tickets are available for \$30 each. Meal tickets are also available for \$9 each.

Water County

Located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Water County is a twenty-six acre water park. Tickets are available for \$23 each.

Tickets can be purchased Monday through Friday at the House of Correction from Allison MacPherson (x 2124) or Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Nashua Street Jail from Jill Oliver (x 6655).

Suffolk County Officers Work With the Boston Area Church League to Keep Local Youths Off the Streets

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is continuing its community outreach efforts this summer, connecting with local youths playing in the Boston Area Church League baseball league. Usually, the Sheriff's Department reaches out to area youths through initiatives like the Choice Program, which sends officers to schools to speak to students about making smart decisions. This summer, with school out of session, officers will be delivering that message on the baseball field.

The Boston Area Church League was launched in 2002 to re-establish relationships between the church and the community. Entering its sixth season, the mission has expanded to improve the relationships between kids and law enforcement agencies.

"We wanted to involve officers so that our kids can get to know them and recognize them outside police stations and jails," said Boston Area Church League Director of Baseball Operations Raphael Deas. "Usually, the kids see the officers for the first time when they've gotten into some trouble, and there's a perception that the officers are out to get you. Having officers involved in the league lets the kids know that they're regular people and that they care about the kids' welfare."

The league, which runs from July 1 through September 23, targets 10 through 14 year-olds; when most

are faced with peer pressure to become involved in dangerous or criminal activities. With twenty-four teams of up to thirty players, the league is able to positively influence between 600 and 800 adolescents each summer. In addition to playing games every Saturday, teams hold practices several times a week, giving the players an alternative to drug use and crime.

Thirteen officers from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, as well as officers from the Boston Police Department, will be at the baseball games each Saturday, acting as umpires and spending time with the players. Games are played at Franklin Park, Orchard Park, the Boston Common, Franklin Fields 1 and 2, and the American Legion Field. The Sheriff's Department is also participating in the Boston Area Church League fundraising luncheon at the Back Bay Hilton on July 28 and the second annual Unity in the Community Parade on July 29.

The SCSD officers include Corporal Tom DeRosa, Corporal Ismael Velez, Deputy Anthony Andrews, Deputy Abe Ayuso, Officer Shane Boyer, Officer Eric Burton, Officer Jessie Cabrera, Officer Geraldo Carasquillo, Officer Chris Kiley, Officer Willie Lugo, Officer Justin Plaza, Officer Dave Thompson, and Officer Malcolm Wynn.

"I really look forward to the games each weekend," said Deputy Abe Ayuso, who worked with Deas to get Suffolk County officers involved in the league. "Some of these kids don't have a lot of positive role models. By coming to the games, we can let them know they can come to us, and that we're on their side. It feels really good to do that."

Left: Officers from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department marched in last summer's Boston Area Church League Unity in the Community Parade. This summer, officers will also serve as umpires for the Boston Area Church League, developing relationships with area youths.



Nashua Street Detainees Participate in Jail's First Baptisms

On June 11 and June 18, twenty-nine Nashua Street Jail detainees took part in a unique and special ceremony, becoming the first men to receive baptism at the Jail. In a room normally used for night court hearings, the men immersed themselves in holy water, freeing their souls from judgment.

The baptisms were performed by Reverend Laura Buchanan, who has spent the last seven years volunteering each Sunday at the Jail. Reverend Buchanan was ordained in February, enabling her to not only provide counseling and solace to the detainees, but also to baptize them.

After praying with the detainees, Reverend Buchanan offered advice on how to live a holy life and gave words of encouragement to each man before baptizing him.

"Make up your mind to live right. Not perfect, but right," she advised the men. "Today in Heaven they are rejoicing because of what you have decided to do."

Several men shook as they stepped into the water, though they assured Reverend Buchanan they were not afraid and fully committed to their decision. As one man came back out of the water, his smile offered proof.

"Praise God," he said. "Praise the Lord."

Top: A detainee emerges from the water after being baptized

Bottom: Reverend Laura Buchanan blesses a detainee and watches as he is submerged in water.



The Common Ground Newsletter is available monthly for Department employees by the Communications and External Affairs Division at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. The newsletter is available to staff and external audiences, and is available at www.scsdma.org. It is printed as part of an inmate rehabilitation program at the South Bay House of Correction.

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is committed to becoming the national model for providing effective offender supervision and re-entry services that ensure public safety. The Department serves the cities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and the town of Winthrop. Employee suggestions are always welcome.

Contact Us:

If you have story ideas, please contact Emily Shortt (x6682).

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