



# COMMON GROUND

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

## MEET THE K-9 UNIT

**WELCOME**  
To Our New  
Officer Graduates

**OVERCOMING VIOLENCE**  
Department Hosts East Boston  
High School Students







# Sheriff's Statement

In this issue, we highlight the work of one of our specialized units within the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department – our K-9 Division. Along with their role in providing security in our facilities and searching for narcotics and other contraband, the K-9 Division also assists other law enforcement agencies in pursuing fleeing felons, finding lost children, and detecting narcotics. Over the years, our K-9 teams have aided in the recovery of illegal weapons, drug arrests, school sweeps, finding missing children and a host of other achievements. I applaud their efforts and invite you to read more about them here, in pages of *Common Ground*.

**-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

## Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Celebrates National Peace Week

**T**he Suffolk County Sheriff's Department participated in the National Peace Week celebration, "Youth Standing Strong Against Violence Peace Rally/Anti-Violence Contest Awards." The event was hosted by the The Boston Interagency Committee on Violence Prevention which consists of representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Office of the Governor of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, City of Boston Mayor's Office, Boston Police Department and Boston Centers for Youth & Families. Members of the Department were on the scene at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, passing out Sheriff Steve Tompkins' "Safety Tips" coloring books, bags and crayons for the young people in attendance.



*The first place winner of the Poster Contest Emma Perez with Representative Russell Holmes, Roxbury Community College President Valerie Roberson, Governor Charlie Baker, Sheriff Steve Tompkins, and U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz.*



*The second place winner of the Poster Contest Lens Farfan with Representative Liz Malia, Representative Russell Holmes, U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, Governor Charlie Baker, Sheriff Steve Tompkins, Police Commissioner William Evans, Police Superintendent-in-Chief William Gross, and Deputy Superintendent Joe Harris.*

# DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS

**S**heriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently graduated 28 new correction officer trainees to the ranks of sworn officers. The members of the Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) Class 16-01 were welcomed to the Department during a ceremony held at the Aloft Boston Seaport Hotel.

The event was attended by several members of Sheriff Tompkins' executive staff, including Nashua Street Jail Superintendent and Special Sheriff Eugene Sumpter, Superintendent-In-Chief Michael Harris, House of Correction Superintendent Yolanda Smith, Assistant Deputy Superintendent and Supervisor of Training Jose Mojica and several members of the Training Division and Honor Guard.



As part of the Department's COTA, the officer candidates in Class 16-01 participated in a 13-week training that tested them physically and mentally, as they completed instruction in subjects that included ethics and professionalism, suicide prevention, the use of force continuum, firearm safety and handling, inmate education and programming, contraband control, courtroom testimony, Criminal Offender Record Information and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, sexual harassment, cross-gender supervision and report writing, among others.

Before delivering the Correction Officer's Oath to COTA Class 16-01, Sheriff Tompkins instructed the group to rise and recognize the family members and friends who helped to support them throughout their training, and also spoke to the class about the work ahead.



Among those receiving special recognition: Kasey O'Connell received the Drill Instructor's Award; Luke McCaffrey received the Physical Training Award as well as Top Gun Award; Timothy Beaupre received the Academic Excellence Award; and Shawn O'Brien received the Academy Unit Citation.

Speaking directly to the friends and families of the recently sworn officers, Sheriff Tompkins shared his perspective about the importance of working in corrections, and also his expectations for the graduates sitting before him.

"We want you to know that we appreciate your support, because it has meant a lot to these men and women over the past 13 weeks," said Sheriff Tompkins. "To the officers: you are outstanding. You will help the Department to be great. We know that we've trained you to be the best and we expect you to strive to be the best. You're now part of our family here at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department."





# Meet Lt. Cornell Lewis and Jax



**L**ieutenant Cornell Lewis currently serves as the K-9 Unit Supervisor for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. A 20-year veteran, Lt. Lewis is a shining testament to the idea of syncing your day job with your passion.

"I'm an animal lover and I've always loved dogs, but I started out as a correction officer in the Maximum Security Unit." In his time before joining the K-9 Unit, Lt. Lewis was a member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, as well as the SCSD Honor Guard. After working a number of years at the South Bay House of Correction,

the opportunity presented itself to apply for the K-9 Unit.

Today, Lt. Lewis leads four other officer and canine teams driven by a primary responsibility to protect and serve the SCSD. "We work diligently to protect and patrol the perimeters of both Sheriff's Department facilities which include the Nashua Street Jail and South Bay House of Correction. We work inside the units for additional searches of narcotics and contraband."

Speaking of his initial desire to join of joining the K-9 Unit, Lt. Lewis expressed an interest in

the training element which allowed canines to perform both patrol and search tasks. "It was so interesting to learn that canines are able to track people; it's really not something we need to train them to do. When you see a dog constantly sniffing around and leaving its scent, it's all about communicating with other dogs."

Imagining the future of the Unit, Lt. Lewis explained, "With this team, I really see us having a bigger role in the community and we're definitely on track to do just that."



# Suffolk County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit

## Meet Our K-9 Teams



Deputy Julie Wilder has served with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for 11 years and has spent the last three years partnered with her yellow Labrador retriever Tucker.

"While I was deployed overseas with the military, I was inspired watching how canines worked and protected the lives of service men and women."

Deputy Julie Wilder and Tucker



Deputy William Jackson has served with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for the last 16 years and has spent the last nine months partnered with his canine Kai.

"I've always had a passion and love for dogs. It was really my experience working as a decoy during a canine training that sparked my interest."

Deputy William Jackson and Kai



Corporal Robert Connelly has served with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for 26 years and has been partnered with his most recent canine for the last three years.

"I find that with working law enforcement canines, you can be as great as you want to be. Monthly K-9 trainings are the most important part of maintaining and developing the bond between my canine and I."

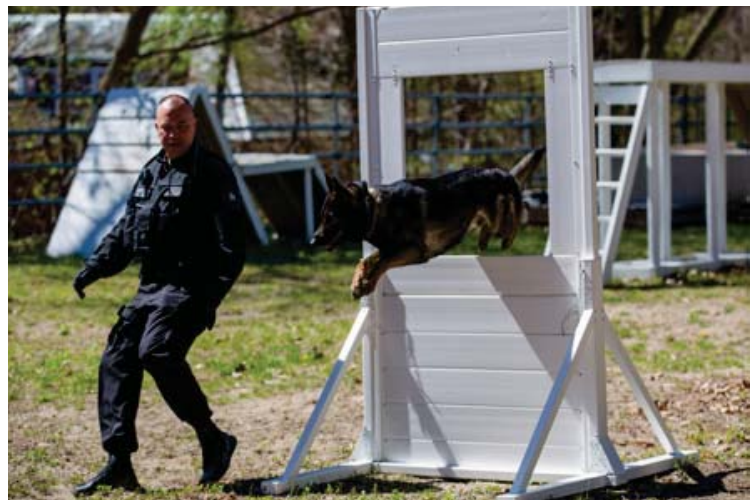
Corporal Robert Connelly and Shadow



Corporal Timothy Frates has been with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for the last 25 years and has been partnered with his canine Joka for the past five years.

"I take great pride in the training that I put into my partner, and we are always ready to work. Our training doesn't end when we go home for the day, but I'm happy to have 'man's best friend' as my partner. It doesn't get much better than that."

Corporal Timothy Frates and Joka





# Meet Our Canines



**Joka**



**Shadow**



**Tucker**



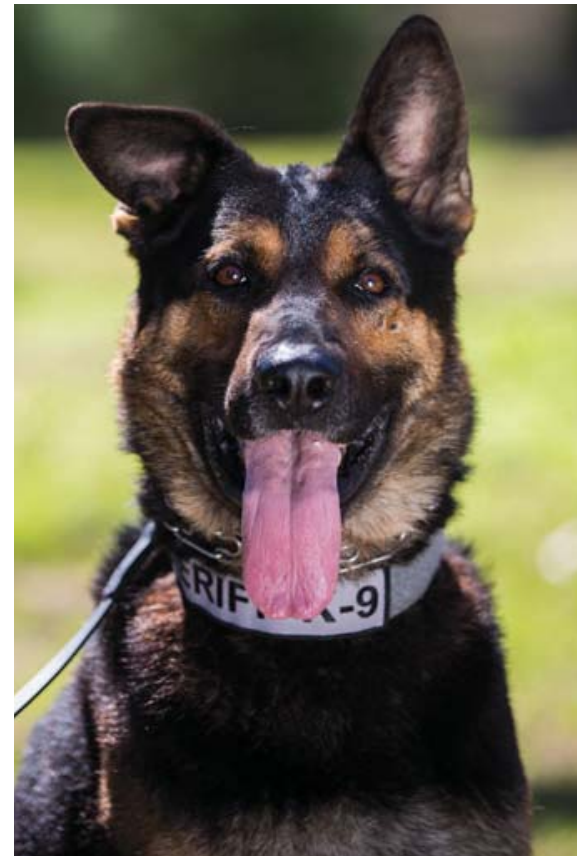
**Kai**

## About the K-9 Unit

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department currently consists of five officer and K-9 teams. Four of the canines are dual purpose and trained in Patrol and Narcotics including Shadow, Joka, Kai and Jax. Tucker, the golden Labrador, currently specializes in Narcotics. These K-9 teams provide additional security for Department facilities, and search for narcotics inside the House of Correction and the Nashua Street Jail, as well as assist other law enforcement agencies in searches for narcotics, fleeing felons, and lost children.

Lieutenant Cornell Lewis, K-9 Supervisor, explained, "Being a part of the K-9 Unit is a 24/7 job. We are not clocking out when we leave these doors and our job doesn't end when we go home for the day. I take pride in the training that my whole team puts into its canines and we are always ready to work. We have 'man's best friend' as our partners and it doesn't get much better than that. What is there not to like about being a K-9 officer? I love that I get to work with an animal, and he's always ready and wants to go to work."

Speaking about the extensive canine training, Deputy William Jackson detailed, "We train with our canines every day and twice a month for in-service training. When we aren't on the clock, we are still spending time playing and bonding with our canine partners, and we bring them with us to our homes with our families."



**Jax**



# OVERCOMING VIOLENCE

**S**uffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins welcomed a group of students from East Boston High School for a tour and ceremony, held to recognize their completion of the *Overcoming Violence* curriculum.

First created in 2004 by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office as a reality-based curriculum called *Understanding Violence*, the *Overcoming Violence* curriculum teaches about "the importance of education and direction in keeping teens and young adults away from gangs and violence." In collaboration with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, the City of Boston, and UMass Boston, the program shows participants a video with inter-

views featuring criminal justice professionals, survivors of violent crime, incarcerated offenders and others, to illustrate the long-term consequences of positive and negative choices, along with an educational component that facilitates discussion about strategies for success, aimed directly at today's young people.

Accompanied by Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley, State Representative Adrian Madaro, Boston City Councillor Salvatore LaMattina, and East Boston High School teacher Richard LaCara, the class visit included a tour of the Nashua Street Jail, a sit-down meeting, and question and answer session with an inmate, and a lunchtime speaking program delivered by Sheriff Tompkins and his fellow elected officials.

To learn more about the *Overcoming Violence* curriculum, visit:

<http://www.suffolkdistrictattorney.com/overcoming-violence/>



## SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CONGRATULATES FELLOW OFFICERS



**S**uffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Department would like to congratulate the graduates of the New England Law Enforcement Training Center, which included four members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Tompkins joined with Assistant Deputy Superintendent Jose Mojica to congratulate and recognize the hard work and dedication of the training center's third class. Congratulations again to Sergeant Brendan Walsh, Deputy Paul Greene, Sergeant Tyler Peters and Deputy Nicholas Lopriore on a job well done.

### UPCOMING EVENT

**SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
**SELF-DEFENSE TRAINING FOR WOMEN**

**PLEASE REGISTER**  
**BEFORE MAY 10TH**

**DEFENSIVE AID IN SITUATIONS OF HELP**

**TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016 | 6:00PM - 9:00PM**  
**EAST BOSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
120 LIVERPOOL STREET, EAST BOSTON, MA 02128

D.A.S.H. is a FREE self-defense training seminar offered by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. This program is only open to women 18 years of age and up, and will offer a greater sense of security and confidence utilizing basic hands-on defense training. THIS IS NOT A MARTIAL ARTS PROGRAM.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:**  
NADIA LOVINSKY ☎ 617-704-6656 ✉ [NLOVINSKY@SCSDMA.ORG](mailto:NLOVINSKY@SCSDMA.ORG)



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*NEWSLETTER*

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